



# Wellness Court turns 10: Celebrating success

By Tim Heydinger  
Southern Ute Tribal Court

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Southern Ute tuuCai Wellness Court.

Of all programs offered by the Tribal Court, the tuuCai (pronounced "too-eye"; Ute for "well-being") Wellness Court is one of the longest lasting programs and, arguably, the most successful.

Wellness Court is designed primarily for those individuals dealing with substance abuse issues, including alcohol. Wellness Court offers to offenders an alternative to incarceration. If an individual chooses to participate in Wellness Court (and is accepted into Wellness Court), he or she faces less potential jail time and, in many cases, can avoid jail altogether.

Wellness Court, at its core, is an intense form of probation. However, it differs from traditional probation in at least two

important ways. Perhaps it is these three components that make Wellness Court effective.

First, Wellness Court participants (unlike regular probationers) are subject to frequent testing to ensure the participant is not using any alcohol or illegal substances. It is not unusual for participants to be tested at least twice daily.

Participants come to Court much more frequently than regular probationers and, if testing shows a particular participant has been using alcohol or drugs, or if the participant misses any tests, sanctions (including jail time) are imposed immediately. Constant monitoring with immediate consequences are key components to Wellness Court's effectiveness.

Second, Wellness Court tries to adopt a more holistic approach to recovery. It requires that participants engage in activities not normally associated with regular probation. Wellness Court requires that participants exercise

regularly at the SunUte Community Center and attend certain cultural activities. The participant chooses which cultural activities they will attend, which include anything from bead working and drum making to sweats and powwows.

Wellness Court is a collaborative effort between the Tribal Court, the Probation Office, the Tribal Prosecutor, the Public Defender, the Southern Ute Police Department, Social Services, the Multi-Systemic Therapy ("MST") program, Tribal Education, various treatment programs, Tribal elders, and concerned community members.

Statistics show that individuals who complete Wellness Court are much less likely to reoffend. Now in its 10th year, Wellness Court not only is going strong, the Southern Ute Wellness Court is a model for other tribes seeking to implement a similar program of their own.

## The Johnson O'Malley Committee has two (2) vacancies

Eligible and interested parents are urged to submit a letter of intent to the JOM Committee.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Must be a parent or guardian of a currently enrolled student in the Ignacio or Bayfield school district.
- Children must be enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe with a certificate of Indian blood (CIB) or have proof of 1/4 descendency.
- 18 years of age or older.
- Commit to a two-year term.



Interested parties please contact Ellen Baker at 970-563-0235 ext. 2793 or email Ellen at [esbaker@southern-ute.nsn.us](mailto:esbaker@southern-ute.nsn.us).

## Transportation services available to tribal members

- **Tribal elder services:** Rides for Southern Ute tribal elders. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Number to call: 970-563-0156. Call the day before.
- **CHR (community health representative):** Rides to medical appointments for Native Americans (Southern Ute tribal member priority). 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Number to call: 970-563-0154.
- **Dialysis transport:** Dialysis transportation provided six days per week for Native American dialysis clients (Southern Ute tribal member priority). 5 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday. Number to call: 970-563-0154.
- **Road Runner Transit Dial-a-Ride:** Rides available to the general public. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 7 – 9:30 p.m., Monday – Friday; 4 – 9 p.m. Weekend Dial-a-Ride coming soon. Fares: \$0.50 in town, \$1 from surrounding area. Number to call: 970-563-4545. Call the day before.

## Museum hosts 'fright nights'



The Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum is hosting a haunted house during this year's Halloween festivities. Arriving by transport truck from the West Coast on Tuesday, Oct. 11, coffins and other props were unloaded by museum staffers. The elaborate maze of dark alleys and spooky figurines opened to those brave enough to enter on Thursday, Oct. 20. The attraction is advertised as "too frightening for those under age 12."

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

# ROAD RUNNER TRANSIT

## New Fall Schedule begins October 11<sup>th</sup>

Schedules available at [www.sucap.org/roadrunner](http://www.sucap.org/roadrunner)

### IGNACIO - DURANGO

Depart Ignacio	Arrive Durango	Depart Durango	Arrive Ignacio (Library)
6:00 AM	6:59 AM	7:08 AM	8:03 AM
8:30 AM	9:27 AM	10:08 AM	11:03 AM
11:55 AM	12:59 PM	1:08 PM	2:03 PM
4:55 PM	5:54 PM	6:03 PM	7:02 PM

### BAYFIELD - DURANGO

Depart Bayfield (Library)	Arrive Durango	Depart Durango	Arrive Bayfield
6:50 AM	7:28 AM	7:38 AM	8:11 AM
8:30 AM	9:08 AM	9:38 AM	10:16 AM
11:30 AM	12:08 AM	12:38 PM	1:36 PM
4:30 PM	5:08 pm	5:18 PM	5:58 PM

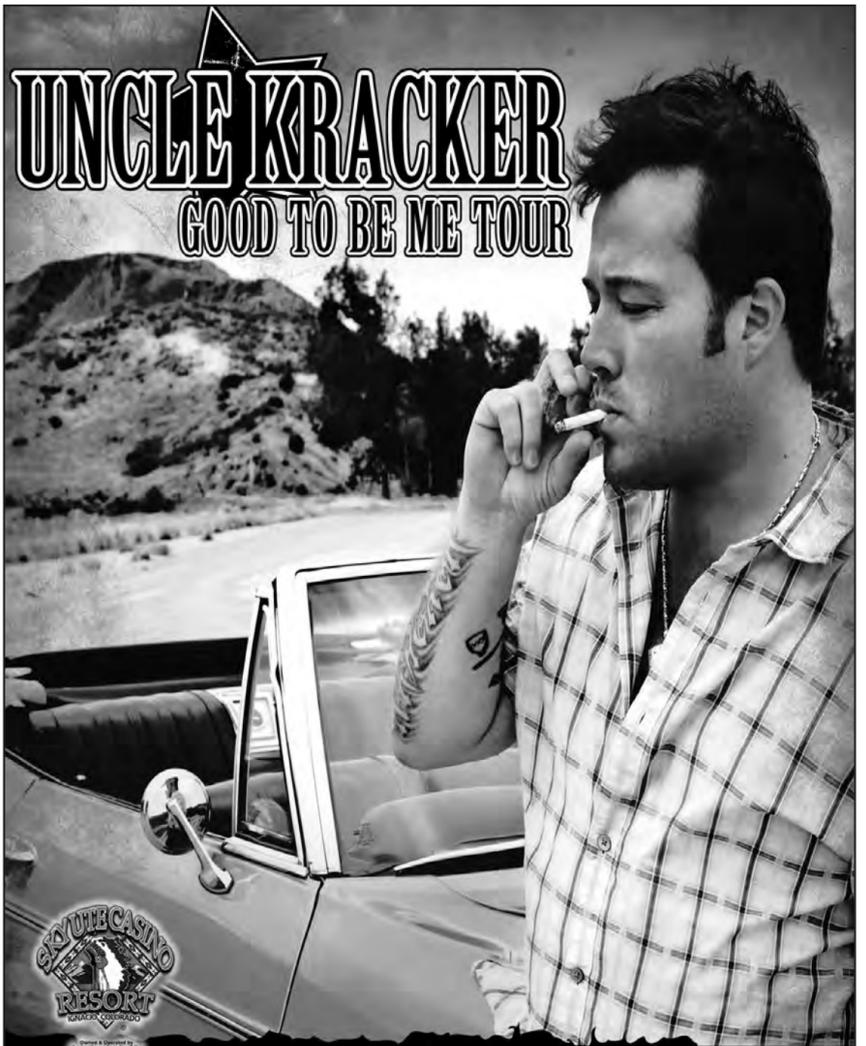
### IGNACIO - AZTEC

Depart Ignacio (Casino)	Arrive Aztec	Depart Aztec	Arrive Ignacio (Casino)
5:40 AM	6:35 AM	6:54 AM	7:41 AM
3:05 PM	3:58 PM	4:14 PM	5:28 PM
5:13 PM	6:04 PM	6:20 PM	7:16 PM



Road Runner Transit is a program of Southern Ute Community Action Programs, Inc., and is supported by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, Towns of Bayfield and Ignacio.

2011 Winner of the Small Transit System of the Year, Colorado Association of Transit Agencies



## 3RD ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Saturday, November 12, 2011

Sky Ute Casino Resort presents Uncle Kracker live in concert Saturday, November 12, 2011. Tickets are \$50 for Reserved Seating and \$35 for General Admission. Tickets can be purchased at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com), by visiting the Sky Ute Casino Gift Shop or by calling 888-842-4180 ext. 6269

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970-563-7777 [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com)



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