



Trumpeter swans visit Scott's Pond



A trio of trumpeter swans, rare visitors to Colorado, showed up on Scott's Pond in Ignacio in mid-March. The primary breeding range of the Rocky Mountain population extends into Canada and Alaska, though they winter across the central Rockies and upper Midwest. According to Southern Ute Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson, the birds were probably blown off course by some of the recent storms and needed a place to set down and rest. There are two adults and a young bird, which may be a family group, he said.

photos courtesy Aran Johnson/SU Natural Resources

Traditions live on in buffalo harvest • from page 1



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Bill and Virginia Crangle (left) stand by their ranch house on land neighboring the Historic Fort Lewis Indian School outside of Hesperus, Colo. The Crangles provided the venue for this year's Buffalo Harvest. Manuelito "Chief" Garbiso (above) is one of the members of the Fort Lewis Buffalo Council, composed of Native American students involved in organizing cultural activities throughout the region including the annual Buffalo Harvest.

healthy animal with strong genes.

Nathan Strong Elk was one of a handful of Southern Utes who attended the annual harvest, offering a blessing over the animal once it arrived. Strong Elk emphasized the importance of calming the animal to prepare it for harvest after such a long journey.

The sound of drums could be heard around the early morning campfires, mingling with the smell of burning cedar in the air and the singing of the young participants who would soon harvest the buffalo.

A pair of gunshots broke the still morning silence. Members of the Buffalo Council and their helpers began to cut and clean the great bison, heaving his mass onto tarps.

While the men used knives and tools to section the meat, women worked in teams to separate the vital organs and entrails, each with its own place and purpose, its own destination. Practical efficiency was evident in the collaborative process.

Neighboring dogs became less shy, stealing away with the occasional discard. The winter sun began to warm the ground as expert hands worked in traditional ways.



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Swonger withdraws from House race

Media release Swonger for Colorado

On Tuesday, March 13, Patrick Swonger of Silverton announced an end to his campaign for the Colorado House of Representatives. "I am withdrawing from the race to support Mike McLachlan

in his bid to represent the 59th District," Swonger said. "Thank you to everyone that worked on my campaign and gathered signatures. It's been an amazing experience to meet and work with so many people dedicated to progress and prosperity for Colorado." Swonger and campaign volun-

teers were on schedule to collect the 1,000 signatures needed by April 2 to petition on the ballot for the June Democratic primary.

"It takes financial resources to make a successful run for state office," he said. "The need to fund a district-wide primary and a fall campaign made this race too expensive for me to continue."

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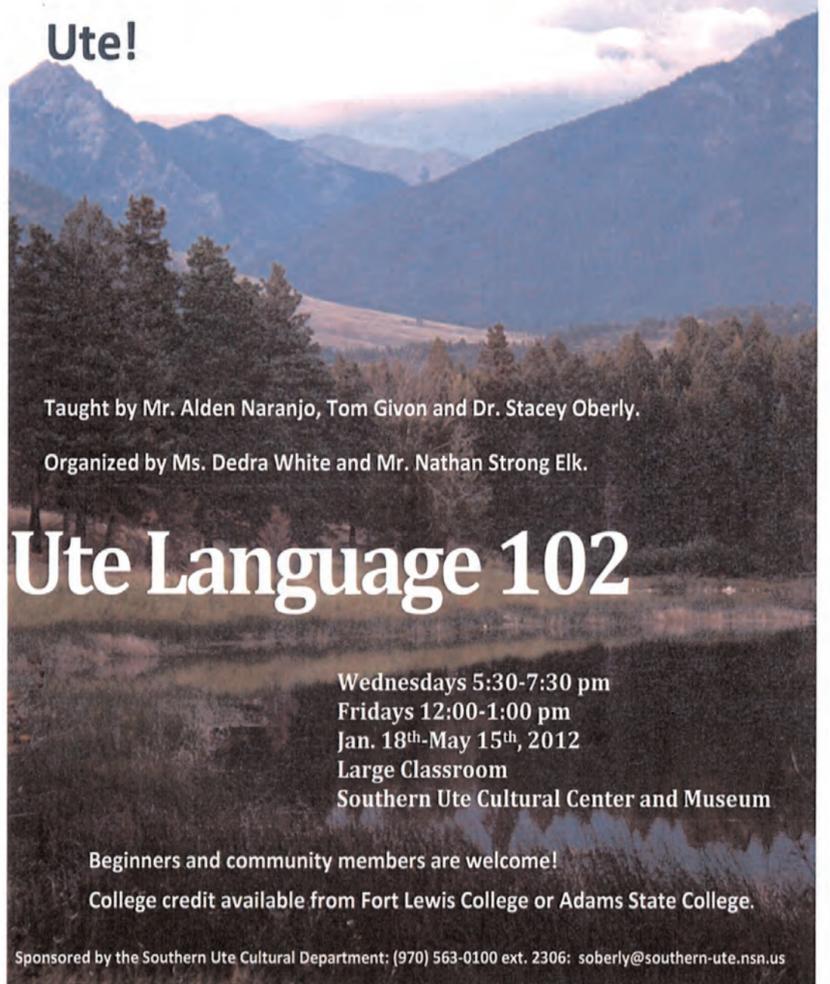


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