

The Southern Ute Drum

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Natives Of American Continents Gather In Colorado



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

A heartfelt handshake and mutual respect between Southern Ute tribal member Kenny Frost and Native American Consultant Dr. Nimia Ana Apaza, president of the Jujuy College of Law in Argentina, marked the sincere, positive approach each delegate brought with them to the 11th Annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. The meeting took place at Colorado State University's Native American Center in Fort Collins.

Southern Utes Advise Apache Nation on Health Center Takeover

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

Delegates from New Mexico's Jicarilla Apache Nation met with Southern Ute Indian Tribe officials on Dec. 7 to seek advice on how to assume control over their local health center.

The Jicarilla people, headquartered in Dulce, N.M., currently receive health care from Indian Health Services. But under the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, they have the option to take the reins – as SUIT did earlier this year. In a meeting with local administrators and Tribal Council members, President Levi Pesata said they plan to do exactly that.

Apache page 6



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

President Levi Pesata of the Jicarilla Apache Nation asks Southern Ute Indian Tribe officials for advice on assuming control of his people's local health center during a Dec. 7 meeting. Pesata and other Jicarilla representatives made the trip from Dulce, N.M., to learn about the process by which the Tribe took over the Southern Ute Health Center on Oct. 1. Pesata said he hopes to see the same thing happen at some point in Dulce.

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum

Earlier this month, the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas took place in the Native American wing of the Colorado State University's Lory Student Center in Fort Collins. On Dec. 3, indigenous delegates from across North, Central and South America came together to discuss issues of sovereignty.

After an opening prayer and song, keynote speaker and Southern Ute representative Kenny Frost talked about spiritual issues that often confront native peoples as they fight to retain sacred sites and the rights to maintain spiritual grounds.

Frost was followed by a conference panel with Ambassador Ronald Barnes, member of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous People. Barnes hails from Alaska and now resides in Geneva, Switzerland from where he was addressing the Indigenous Conference. Barnes talked about the laws and treaties that have been written and broken over the course of United States history and how those docu-

ments are the grounds by which native nations must continue to pursue their rights for individual sovereignty.

South American representatives from Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina spoke in their individual dialects of Spanish, some donning the traditional attire common to the Andean highlands: serapes of Alpaca wool and brightly colored fedoras adorned with peacock feathers. Mayan women came north to represent the struggles in Guatemala and the ongoing issues concerning indigenous rights.

Juana Menchu, niece of 1992 Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, came to the summit to share women's achievement stories. Representatives from Puerto Rico and Panama each came forward to voice concerns and represent their indigenous peoples.

Representatives from South Dakota, Alaska and Southern Ute tribal member Frost voiced the North American indigenous rights struggle. Each shared their own experiences with the laws and policies that govern native peoples and lands within the borders of the United States.

An energetic cultural presenta-

tion took place during the lunch session. The Lory Student Center was filled with drumming and cultural dance by the Grupo Tlaloc Danza Azteca, a group of Aztec Mexica dancers dedicated to keeping their cultural dances alive and strengthening the role of tradition within their community. Carlos Castaneda, on behalf of the Danza Azteca, invited the dignitaries of the indigenous summit to join them in one last dance.

The Cayambe Ecuadorians also checked and tuned their own stringed instruments, which had traveled with them from South America to be played at times throughout the weeklong conference.

A serious panel discussion on sovereignty ensued after lunch. Panel members included Dave Bald Eagle, Lakota; Dewayne Good Face, Lakota; Humerto Pagan, Taino of Puerto Rico; Dalene Pipeboy, Dakota; and Maryan Mills, Kenaitze. Dr. Ramone Nenadich of Puerto Rico mediated the panel, and comments throughout the day were faithfully translated from Spanish and English.

The discussions at CSU were intended to set the groundwork for a larger cultural experience, one that would take the participating dignitaries on a tour of sites relevant to Native American culture and spirituality across the state of Colorado. The networking possibilities of the conference and the power of a unified voice among indigenous nations will hopefully set a precedent for the political times.

The importance of our sovereign nations and native peoples has never been more relevant than in these political, economic and environmentally sensitive times. These issues span the Americas and can perhaps set a precedent for global community as our world powers continue to look for answers that will ensure peace, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

All Is Calm, All Is Bright



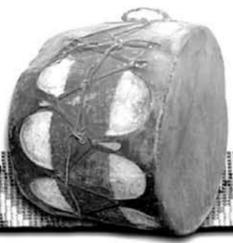
The Ignacio Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its 11th annual Taste of Christmas event at the Ignacio Town Hall and the Ignacio Elementary School Gymnasium on Dec. 4. Local families stood in awe as the event kicked off with a giant Christmas tree lighting outside, and then moved quickly inside to the warmth of the gym for delicious food and drinks, crafts for the kids, and a visit from none other than Santa Claus himself. Parents and children of all ages stopped in to enjoy the holiday atmosphere and visit with friends and neighbors. Even the Salvation Army was there, ringing its famous bells and inviting residents to share a little spare change with less fortunate members of the community this holiday season.

photo Ace Stryker/SU DRUM



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Hailing from Puerto Rico, Dr. Ramone Nenadich served as organizer, mediator and cultural liaison for the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas conference in Fort Collins.



Southern Ute Indian Tribe Applauds Cobell Settlement

Media Release
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council supports the settlement of the Cobell litigation that was announced last week by the class of tribal member plaintiffs and the government. That litigation, a long-running

dispute over the government's mis-management of Indian trust assets, does not have a direct impact on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, although there may be some individual tribal members and other local Indians who may be affected. "While not directly involved in the case, we support those who have sought to call the govern-

ment to account for its decades of trust management failures," said Chairman Matthew J. Box. The settlement, announced last week, still requires Congressional and court approval; however, Chairman Box noted that resolving the case could free up more time and resources for the federal agencies that work with the Tribe.

So You Want the Tribal Judicial System to Act Like the State or Federal System?

By Tim Heydinger
Southern Ute Public Defender

The term "full faith and credit" means that judicial decisions rendered in one jurisdiction are recognized and honored in other jurisdictions. State and federal jurisdictions frequently are hesitant to give full faith and credit to decisions rendered by tribal courts. For some reason, tribal courts often are viewed as inferior systems. If the tribal court looks and acts like a state or federal court, however, it is more likely that the tribal decisions will be given full faith and credit.

deliberations. The jury foreman reportedly said that he used to live on or near a reservation, and that "when Indians get alcohol, they all get drunk," and that "when they get drunk, they get violent." Another juror agreed with the foreman's statement about drunken Indians. Finally, it was learned that the jury discussed the need to "send a message back to the reservation," and that the verdict may have been influenced on this perceived need to send a message.

ceptions, racism and biases. Yet this is precisely what happened to Benally, and the Supreme Court let it happen. The Supreme Court refused to hear his case, and his conviction was allowed to stand: not because it was the right thing to do, but because of a technical point of law.

Looking and acting like a state or federal court isn't necessarily a worthwhile pursuit. Consider the recent case of Kerry Benally. Benally was accused of assaulting a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer on the Utah portion of the Ute Mountain Ute reservation. He was tried in federal court, and a jury convicted him.

Based on these statements, Benally asked for a new trial. He argued that his right to an impartial jury, as guaranteed by the Constitution, had been violated. Benally argued that some of the jurors had lied about their racial bias when they failed to reveal their past experiences with Native Americans and their preconception that all Native Americans get drunk and then violent. His request ultimately was denied when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear his appeal.

The decision in Benally's case reminds us of the unique nature of tribal courts in general, and the Southern Ute Tribal Court in particular. Benally's case reminds us that tribal courts are not inferior to other systems, but in many ways are superior to them. Individuals appearing in Tribal Court are treated with a level of courtesy and respect frequently missing in the other systems. Tribal courts know that they are dealing with human beings, and tribal courts do not lose sight of this fact. Had Benally's case been heard in Tribal Court, there is little doubt that he would have received a new trial.

After the verdict was rendered, it was learned that two of the jurors, including the foreman, had made racist statements about Native Americans during jury

It is not acceptable for jurors to be racist and biased. Nor is it acceptable for jurors to reach a decision based on their precon-

It is important that tribal courts in general, and our Tribal Court in particular, preserve this unique nature. It's what makes tribal judicial systems better than the other systems.

BLM Lands Adjacent To Durango Will Close To Protect Winter Wildlife

Media Release
Colorado Division of Wildlife

Winter snow conditions and wildlife migrations have triggered Bureau of Land Management closures on Animas City Mountain on the northwest edge of Durango, and Grandview Ridge on the southeast edge of Durango. BLM lands in these areas adjacent to Durango will close to public entry on Thursday, December 17, 2009. These seasonal closures provide safe havens for deer and elk when snow depth forces herds to migrate to lower elevations seeking shelter and forage.

trailhead to Crites Connection and continuing onto only the portion of the Telegraph Trail leading into Horse Gulch (these trails are all on private property).

finer. The seasonal closures will remain in effect until at least March 1st or possibly as late as April 15th, depending on the timing of spring snowmelt and green up.

In the Grandview Ridge area:
• Sale Barn and Big Canyon trailheads off U.S. Highway 160 are closed to the public.
• Carbon Junction Trail remains open from its Highway 3

• South Rim Trail, Telegraph, Sidewinder and other trails on BLM lands are closed and cannot be accessed from the Carbon Junction Trail or otherwise.

Many other public lands immediately adjacent to Durango remain open in winter for recreation, including the Horse Gulch and Raiders Ridge areas, Fort Lewis College Rim, Durango Mountain Park, and Dalla Mountain Park.

On Animas City Mountain:
• All BLM lands are closed, except for a 1.5-mile trail loop on the lower portion of the mountain, which remains open to public use. This loop can be accessed from the Birkett and 32nd Street trailheads or Dalla Mountain Park. Signs are posted at the top of the loop indicating the extent of the closure area boundary.

These temporary closure areas provide undisturbed resting and feeding areas for deer and elk herds during heavy winters. The BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife thank the public for respecting the seasonal closures by recreating in nearby areas that remain open throughout the winter. For more information, please contact the Columbine Ranger District/Field Office at 884-2512 or Colorado Division of Wildlife at (970) 247-0855.

Closure signs will be posted at affected trailheads and intersections. The closure areas will be patrolled, and violators risk federal

Express Your Opinions

Deepest Apologies

The Miss Southern Ute Royalty Committee would like to extend our deepest apologies to Liz Kent, a tribal elder, who also

helped with the interpretation and writing of our Ute language in the Miss Southern Ute Royalty Christmas cards.

time and all your hard work!
Southern Ute Royalty Committee
2009-2010

Thank you Liz for taking the

EDITORS NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS THEY ARE SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE. The Southern Ute Drum accepts and encourages letters from its readers on any subject or issue whatsoever. We ask that letters submitted for publication be 500 words or less, and be signed by the writer. Letters deemed to be libelous or tasteless will not be published. Letters need to be signed and submitted to media manager for the Southern Ute Drum 970-563-0100, ext. 2255 or send an e-mail to astryker@southern-ute.nsn.us during normal business hours.

So. Ute Royalty Quarterly Report

Miss Southern Ute



Maiki, Nu Na Nia Samantha Maez, Naa Waapuina Naanaasichi (Beautiful Butterfly), Miss Southern Ute 2009-2010:

I am honored to represent my people and the community I live in. Since I began my reign, I have been busy. I had the great experience of meeting Wes Studi. For those that are not familiar with him, Wes Studi is an actor known for his great roles in "Pow Wow Highway" and "Last of the Mohicans," to name a couple. He really had some encouraging words for all us young people. His upbringing was very interesting to

me and the way he captured the audience with his speech was what I admired the most.

On Nov. 7, I was in attendance at our Veteran's PowWow. Again I was very honored to shake the hands of the men and woman who unselfishly fought for our country and freedom.

I hope to bring more great news to my people as I go on my journey as Miss Southern Ute 2009-2010. Thank you for your time, and happy holidays to all!

May our Creator bless you all,
Samantha Maez
Miss Southern Ute 2009-2010

Merry Christmas My Friend

To all military personnel who are serving overseas during this holiday season, we would like to submit the following poem. We have also served our country with pride and honor.

You are in our thoughts,
Cpl Alden J. Weaver, USMC
Cpl Joseph M. Weaver, USMC
Rudley Weaver, USN

Merry Christmas, My Friend
by James M. Schmidt

Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year, because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home. Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye. I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice, "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more. My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give and to see just who in this home did live

I watched him for hours, so silent and still. I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill. So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, and covered this Marine from his toes to his head. Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold, with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold. And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride, and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand. On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight. But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure, said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure." One look at my watch and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and good-night

With medals and badges, awards of all kind, a sobering thought soon came to my mind. For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen. This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more, so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door. And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone, Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene, Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine. Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan. I soon understood, this was more than a man. For I realized the families that I saw that night, owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play, And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright

New Employees



Ace Stryker
Media Manager
Description of Duties: Editor-in-chief of the Southern Ute Drum.
Hobbies: Writing, playing guitar, tinkering with computers, exploring my new home in southwest Colorado.
Family: Wife Lacy Ann Stryker.
Comments: I'm happy to be here and excited to take the Drum to the next level. I feel privileged to work for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Russell Howard
General Manager for ALP
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, camping.
Family: Wife Julie.



Next Drum Dec 31 DEADLINES

Display/Classified Ads & Jobs Dec 24

Stories & News, Announcements Wishes/B-Days! Dec 24

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Dean Dischler
M.D.
(No Photo Available)
Description of Duties: Physician.
Hobbies: backpacking, cycling, traveling.



Holiday Fire Safety Warnings

*Media Release
Southern Ute Risk Management*

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 1,650 Americans and cause over \$990 million in damage. There are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be

more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Important. Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended!

All decorations should be non-flammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Artificial Christmas Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles.

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

StarWheels

January 2010 Horoscopes by "The Starlady"

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, CAPRICORN! In spite of MERCURY and MARS launching the month on a backward note, you still have ample opportunities to make this a period of growth. VENUS, THE SUN, MERCURY and PLUTO gather in your sign early in the month, boosting your popularity and earning you much-deserved recognition for your talents. Additionally, the solar eclipse in CAPRICORN sets a positive cycle into motion. Clear the slate of old ideas and focus your sights on a sparkling new year.

♋ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

The first half of the month may not meet your expectations, AQUARIUS. Obstacles and delays could block your every turn. MERCURY's confusing influence makes it difficult to determine which direction to take. The bottom line is when in doubt, wait it out. After Jan. 15, your direction may become crystal clear. MARS kicks up clouds of opposition all month; patience will be necessary when dealing with close personal relationships.

♊ PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Get ready for a BIG year ahead, Little Fishes. JUPITER, the generous giant, enters your sign on Jan. 19 and sticks around for about a year. Consider it the start of a new 12-year cycle. Set your intention, PISCES: favorable conditions give life to your hopes, wishes, and dreams. But it's the dynamic solar eclipse on Jan. 14 that turns the tide. New ideas are incubating. Take advantage of this favorable month: it's yours for the taking.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Typically, this is not always the best time of the new year for Rams. With THE SUN, MERCURY, VENUS and PLUTO amassed in the responsibility sign of CAPRICORN, you might be feeling some pressure on the job. Superiors may be demanding more from you. And as you well know, ARIES is not a sign to be pushed. Be cool, Rams: there are better planetary conditions ahead. The solar eclipse on Jan. 14 ushers in a fresh perspective connected to finances and employment matters.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Action-oriented MARS is not living up to its name this month. Moving in slow motion, the red planet may bog you down with domestic delays. Flexibility will be your greatest asset in getting your year off to a good start. Future prospects look much brighter after Jan. 14, when a very friendly new moon alters your perception and steers you directly toward your hopes and goals. As always, Taurus, rely on your instincts. They almost always help you to achieve your objectives.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Slow down, Twins! MERCURY, your favorite planet, puts a damper on your progress through Jan. 14. On that day, an intense new moon signals a dramatic turn of events regarding your financial affairs. Money may be tight, Twins, but later this month good news comes in the form of JUPITER. After Jan. 17, job opportunities improve when the giant planet enters the career and recognition section of your chart.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 22)

It's a brand new year, Moon Kids. Best bet is to start out with a clean slate, particularly where personal relationships are concerned. Be open and honest. On Jan. 17, beneficial JUPITER enters the compatible sign of PISCES, setting you up with a more perceptive mindset concerning your love connections. Magically, you'll be able to express your feelings with exactly the right words. Take it slow and easy, Moon Kids. Others may be seeing things from a totally opposite point of view.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Feeling a little stuck this month, Lions? MARS continues its stay in your sign and it has one foot on the brakes, hence the reason for your sluggish progress. But it's not a complete wash. Pay attention to your conversations with others around you. SATURN does an about-face on Jan. 13 and that's when your words could be taken out of context. On the positive side, good news may be forth coming on Jan. 29 with the full moon in LEO! A long-term goal is finally attained. Yee-haw!

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

MERCURY, ruling planet of Virgo, starts the month off on a retrograde note. But the good news is that on Jan. 15, your little planet wakes up and gets you and your plans moving forward again. Loving VENUS joins your pal MERCURY on Jan. 5, encouraging you to spend more time with loved ones. Keep an eye on finances on Jan. 31. SATURN squares off with PLUTO on that day and you may need to make a few adjustments to your record-keeping.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

SATURN, the planet of work and limitation, puts a damper on your playtime activities this month. Instead, your attention is diverted to family and household matters. On Jan. 5, MERCURY joins forces with VENUS, your personal planet, enabling you to have heart-to-heart talks with family members or relatives. Try to sidestep domestic arguments on Jan. 27: that's when MARS enters into a standoff with VENUS.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

A pack of planets pile into the communications section of your chart early in the month. Suddenly your daily routine multiplies and may have you running in all directions, SCORPIO. On Jan. 15, a powerful solar eclipse helps to clear away old ideas, while the seeds of new thought are planted. This is a great time to get your point across. The planets are in your favor, and you should be able to make great progress. Don't let procrastination get in the way. Your decisions are likely to be clear and well thought out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

A plethora of planets pack the financial area of your chart this month. But it's not time for that spending spree just yet. Practicality is the key. JUPITER, your own lucky planet, slips into the sign of PISCES on Jan. 17, promoting positive growth regarding home and family interests. There may be some of you considering a move to a larger space. Having more room may be greatly appealing to you now.

Carole Maye is a Certified Astrology Professional with over 30 years of astrological study and practice. Private horoscope consultations can be arranged by appointment, via email: starwheels2@comcast.net

Tri-State Energizes Bayfield-Durango Power Line

*Media Release
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association*

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the power supplier to La Plata Electric Association, energized its Bayfield-Durango 115-kilovolt transmission line Dec. 8 after completing a \$5.3 million rebuild project of the aging line.

Originally constructed in 1958, the line was taken out of service in late July before construction began. Sturgeon Electric Company served as Tri-State's line contractor for the reconstruction. The contractors removed 145 H-frame poles and replaced them with newer structures. The conductor was replaced with new wires that are more reliable and can carry more electricity.

The 16-mile-long project is one of many improvements the association has made to southwest Colorado's power delivery system to improve reliability and increase capacity to meet growing energy demand in the region.

"I think of this project like installing a new, more energy-efficient heating system in your home," said Stephen Mundorff, Tri-State's senior manager of transmission engineering. "We feel more secure knowing this essential line that supports the region's power needs now has an extended lifespan and will operate more reliably."

Crews also made improvements to the access roads to ensure compliance with national reliability standards. In the event of an outage, maintenance crews can now more easily access the

line to make repairs.

"Tri-State commends the construction crews for completing this project safely and on time - just in time for winter heating needs," Mundorff said.

In addition to ongoing improvements such as the Bayfield-Durango rebuild, there is a tremendous need to import additional power into the region. Tri-State also is planning a new 230-kilovolt transmission line from Farmington, N.M., to Ignacio. Still in the planning phases, which included public meetings in October, the proposed San Juan Basin Energy Connect is needed to meet load growth, improve reliability and relieve transmission constraints.

For more information on this and other Tri-State transmission projects, visit online at www.tristate.coop/transmission.

Holiday Greetings, Wishes & Memories

In Loving Memory of My Two Brothers

Both went to Vietnam to fight for peace,
Both came home, Only!
Both went to fight again, Only!
Both had to fight the fire, a raging fire,
Both were crossing a swift river,
Only one fell, never to return home,
Only one came home,
My two Brothers,
I love My Brothers.

*Love Always and Forever
Your Sister
Maxine Silva*

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year

To our parents Marjorie, Joe & Debbie, our children, Tyler, Grace & Andrew, all of our siblings Pres/Nora, Yo/Seo, Joe II/Danielle, Hats/Nuf, Jen, Chili Girl, Auntie & Uncle Ray, all of our nieces & nephews & all of our extended family. May the Creator watch over you all.

Amy & Mario

To my grandma Eagle, Bones, Douglas, Linda, Carolyne, Daisy, Rhonda, Larry, T.J., Jimmy & our friends Leann, Mico, Rachel & her family, Nancy W., Chris & Jess family, Cel & her family, Marie & her family, The Seibel family & my co-workers at work. A Happy Merry Christmas and Have a great New Years... We love you all!

"Remember Me" In memory of Stella Mae Santistevan

Feb. 1, 1933-Dec. 17, 2007
You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

*You are greatly missed,
sweet lady,
your children, grandchildren & great grandchildren*

To Our Terrance in Phoenix
Merry Xmas & Happy New Year, we miss you. I hope you get everything you want because you are such a great nephew. Think about you all of the time!!

Auntie Amy & Family

To Our Lovely Children Stais, Dermarr, Autumn-Bahozho

Mom and dad really loves you guys, Even though we don't say "I love you" everyday and we are very proud of you guys. Stais thank you for being a wonderful "big brother" and trying to keep everyone happy, Dermarr thank you for being yourself and being a "big brother" to your little sister", Autumn-Bahozho thank you for teaching us the moment of "patience" and for loving us back. Keep up the good work!!!

*With lots of love,
MOM and DAD*

We would like to say "Merry Christmas and Have a great New Year's Eve" to Larenz, Silas, Neto, Little Henry & Jamie.

*We love you little guys,
From the Harlan family*

To our grandpa Harlan & Debbie S.

Grandpa & Debbie we love you two, Thank you for everything you do for us,

From the Harlan Kiddos

In the words of Frosty the Snowman... Happy Birthday!
May each and every one of our family members have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you walk in Peace.

Love always, Blenda, Asa, Saph, Alexis, Angel, Melinda, Mataya, Adrienne, Avery, Miracle, KJ & Bobby

Southern Ute Tribal Offices Holiday Closures

Friday, December 25, 2009 "Christmas"

Friday, January 1, 2010 "New Years Day"



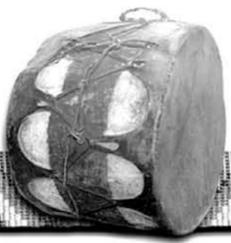
**Annual Tribal Christmas Dinner
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center
December 19, 2009 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe invites ALL Tribal Membership and Families, Permanent Fund, Growth Fund and Sky Ute Casino employees to the Annual Christmas Dinner to be held at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center.

Meet and greet our Southern Ute Royalty and take a minute to catch up with friends & family who are visiting during the holiday season. If you are unable to attend due to a handicap or disability constraint, please contact Southern Ute Elder Services so arrangements can be made to have your meal delivered during the day. Their phone number is (970) 563-0100 Ext. 2323.

**Annual Tribal Christmas Program
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center
December 19, 2009 3:00pm - 5:00 pm**

For questions, please contact Amy Barry, Public Relations Division for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe at (970) 563-0100 Ext. 2251.



Of Four Corners Interest

Durango Parks and Rec Accepting Youth Basketball Registrations

Durango's Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the youth basketball program. The program is open to boys and girls in first through sixth grades, and girls in seventh and eighth grades. Cost of the program is \$35 for first and second grades (\$40 after Dec. 18), and \$40 for third through sixth grades (\$45 after Dec. 18). Games will begin Saturday, Jan. 23, and run for six weeks (no games on Saturday, Jan. 30). Register at the Durango Community Recreation Center or online at (<https://web.durangogov.org>). Volunteer coaches are still needed. Call John Robinette at 970-375-7323 for more info or if you would like to be a coach.

Durango Independent Film Festival Announces Film Festival Package

The Durango Independent Film Festival and local restaurants have partnered to give film enthusiasts and holiday shoppers this year's most unique and creative gift! The Dinner and a Film Festival package includes a 2010 Durango Independent Film Festival 6-Punch Pass and a \$50 gift certificate from your choice of Guido's Favorite Foods, the Irish Embassy Pub, Mutu's Italian Kitchen, or Cosmopolitan restaurants. The festival and participating restaurants are offering the package for \$95, which is 10 percent less than if purchased separately. Dinner and a Film Festival packages are on sale now through the end of February and can be purchased at participating restaurants or the Film Festival office. The Durango Independent Film Festival will be held in downtown Durango from Wednesday, March 3 through Sunday, March 7, 2010. Other festival passes are also on sale at durangofilm.org. For more information, call 970-375-7779.

Durango Parks and Rec, Chapman Hill Openings

Durango Parks and Recreation has several openings in the Kid's Days Childcare Program during the holiday break. Kid's Days activities include ice skating at Chapman Hill, gymnastics at the Mason Center, swimming at the Recreation Center, craft projects, lots of games and much more! These supervised activities keep your child(ren) safe, happy and entertained during the holidays.

Durango Parks and Recreation has several openings in our new ski and snowboard camps during the holiday break. Levels 1 & 2 Snow Surfer Camps offer instruction in snowboarding. Levels 1 & 2 Snow Bombers Camps offer instruction in ski lessons. The camps run the weeks of December 21 and December 28. Don't forget a ski pass to Chapman Hill for that stocking! Check out the Park and Recreation Winter Activities Guide for more information about these and many more great programs. Sign up today at the Recreation Center, Mason Center or Chapman Hill or online at (www.durangogov.org). For more information on these great programs, contact the Durango Community Recreation Center at 970-375-7300.

Vallecito Nordic Trail System Open

The Vallecito Nordic Trail System is now open for cross-country skiing. The trail system offers more than 9 miles of trails groomed for classic and skate skiing. Skating conditions are currently soft, but the track should be packed down over the weekend. Special thanks to Roger Pennington with the San Juan Sledders Club for the Snowcat grooming this week. The trail system is operated by the Vallecito Nordic Club, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a groomed recreational trail system for non-motorized use by outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities through recreation, education and community building. The trail system is operated under a special-use permit with the San Juan National Forest. The Vallecito Nordic Club provides no services other than trail grooming. Dogs are welcome, but owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior and are asked to toss droppings off the trail. The Vallecito Nordic Trail System can be accessed from Durango by taking Florida Road to Helen's Store, taking a right on CR 240 and a left on CR 501. At Vallecito Reservoir, turn right on CR 501A, cross over the dam and continue to the trailhead at Old Timers Campground. Vehicles should be able to negotiate snow-packed conditions on CR 501A, and drivers should be aware that the road across the dam is narrow and exposed. Parking is roadside only, and skiers are asked not to block the driveway entrance at Ellington Lane across from Old Timer's Campground. Donations are encouraged. All trails are maintained by volunteer groomers, with the Nordic Club receiving no other funding. All donations go toward maintaining the trail system. For information on current conditions or for information on how to make an online or mail-in donation, please go to (<http://skivallecito.wordpress.com>).

With Snow... Comes Snow Removal

Cooperation from the community is essential to the effective removal of snow from Durango city streets. While we are enjoying the snow and everything it brings to the city, residents and businesses are reminded to remove snow from public sidewalks abutting their property. City code states that property occupants are required to remove all snow and ice from all public sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours after it stops snowing. Snow from private parking lots, private driveways and private sidewalks may not be placed in the street. Prompt removal of the snow is important for the safety of residents and especially for children walking to school. When snow is forecasted, the city's snow removal team is on-call. During snowstorms, plowing and sanding is done around the clock, but much of the plowing is done at night when there is less traffic. Per city code, cars parked on city streets are required to be moved every 24 hours. During the winter snow months, it is particularly important that cars be moved to allow for effective snow removal. Residents are asked to move their cars to an area that has already been plowed. Vehicles that are not moved are subject to towing at the owner's expense. Certain high-traffic streets throughout the city are designated snow routes and are marked with snow route signs. To determine if you live or work on a snow route, please visit our new interactive map at (<http://156.108.156.46/SnowRoutes>). Parking is allowed on snow routes; however, when snow starts to accumulate, a Red Alert may be declared. A Red Alert is a state of emergency requiring vehicles to be removed from certain city streets so that the snow accumulation can be removed. When a Red Alert is declared, parking is prohibited on the snow routes and any vehicle parked on a designated snow route may be towed at the owner's expense. Residents may find out if a Red Alert has been declared by listening to the local radio stations, watching City Span 10, visiting the City's website (www.durangogov.org) or by calling the 24-hour Snow Hotline at (970) 375-4646 for a prerecorded message. To report icy conditions after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, please call the Durango/La Plata Emergency Communications Center's non-emergency number, (970) 385-2900. For more information please call the Public Works Department, 970-375-4800.



Photo Archives/DRUM

10 years ago...

On Dec. 6, past Chairman Clement Frost was given a reception to thank him for his 21 years of service to the Southern Ute Tribe. Frost was tribal councilman for 18 years and chairman for 3 years. Andy Howell and Edna Frost from Tribal Information Services presented Frost with a Pendleton blanket emblazoned with the Southern Ute Tribal Seal. This photo was published in the Dec. 3, 1999, issue of *The Southern Ute Drum*.



Photo Archives/DRUM

20 years ago...

Southern Ute Head Start children perform at the Tribal Christmas Program in the Southern Ute Community Center. This was published in the December 22, 1989, issue of *The Southern Ute Drum*.



Photo Archives/DRUM

30 years ago...

Harry Richards celebrates his 94th birthday at the Tribal Christmas party, where the crowd sang Happy Birthday. He was born in 1885, making Richards the oldest living Tribal member at that time. This photo was published in the Dec. 21, 1979, issue of *The Southern Ute Drum*.

PowWow Trails 2009

6th Annual New Years Eve PowWow
December 31, 2009
120 W 1300 S • Salt Lake City, UT
Contact: Winston Mason
Phone: (801) 655-3396
Email: medicinechild1@hotmail.com

9th Annual Sobriety PowWow
December 31, 2009
100 Civic Center Downtown, Tulsa Convention Center • Tulsa, OK
Contact: Niles Bosin
Phone: (918) 639-1816

Shonto PowWow Annual Celebration
December 30-31, 2009
Hwy. 160 & 98 • Shonto, AZ
Contact: Harrison Miles
Phone: (928) 672-3522
Email: hmiles@mail.shonto.bia.edu

Santee Dakota Omaka Teca Wacipi
December 31-January 1, 2010
207 Frazier Ave. • Santee, NE
Contact: Sidney A. Tuttle, Sr.
Phone: (402) 857-2327
Email: sid_tuttle01@yahoo.com

14th Annual New Years Day Dance
January 1, 2010
Kickapoo Tribal Gym • McCloud, OK
Contact: Diana Plumley
Phone: (405) 598-0636



Ute Language

tavayitÜ "Day"
tugwanatÜ "Night"

Editor's Note: The Ute Language and "Translation" are transcribed from the 2000 Ute Dictionary, ©1996



Tri-Ute Leaders Share Plans at State Capitol



All photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

By **Jeremy Wade Shockley**
The Southern Ute Drum

Representatives of the Southern Ute, Northern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes met at the state Capitol on Dec. 4 to update each other on plans and affairs of mutual interest, includ-

ing the preservation of Ute language and culture.

Among the officials at the meeting were Chairman Matthew Box of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Chairman Ernest House Sr. and Tribal Council members from the Ute Mountain Utes, and Mariah Cutch of the Northern Utes. Ute Mountain Ute Council

members present were Christina Lehigh and Leona Eytoo. Each tribe was given time to bring topics and updates to the table for discussion.

Box kicked off the meeting with a prayer and opening remarks. After that, Bridget Ambler, curator of material culture for the Colorado Historical Society, offered a brief presentation. Her address concerned the funding for the Ute Indian Museum expansion project, which has been put on hold. Ambler stated that the earliest funding could be reinstated for the expansion project would be July 2011.

Box addressed the continued progress of the construction of the Southern Ute Cultural Center. He also spoke of the process by which the Southern Utes have been able to take over the Southern Ute Health Center and continue operations without any gaps in service and

shared future plans for the Tribal Clinic.

He then discussed the memorandum from President Obama and offered encouraging words about the continued relationship that this presidency has so far had with the native tribes and sovereign nations of the United States. The last matter of business from the Southern Ute Reservation was to reinforce the teaching and safeguarding of the Ute language through education, Ute elders, and the possibility of using new technology as a teaching tool for the Ute language.

House began by reiterating the importance of language preservation and the value of all three Ute tribes working together to create a common language standard. He talked about renewable energy as a key source of possible revenue and infrastructure on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and considerations to build on to the existing casino. Wastewater management, hydropower and the Animas-La Plata Project were also brought up.

Chairman Box offered closing remarks and a closing prayer. The Ute delegates finished with an informal lunch at the University Clubhouse adjacent to the Capitol.



Southern Ute Chairman Matthew Box opens discussions during recent Tri-Ute meeting in Colorado's Capitol (top left). Bridget Ambler of the Colorado Historical Society gives an update on Ute Museum project funding (top right). Ute Mountain Ute Chairman Ernest House Sr. listens to the topics of discussion at Tri-Ute (above).

Employees Enjoy Christmas Feast



Permanent Fund employees of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe sought refuge from the winter weather on Dec. 9 at the Sun Ute Casino Resort, where an extravagant employee appreciation luncheon was served. Members of all departments mingled to share holiday plans as they enjoyed a traditional buffet of turkey, sliced ham, potatoes, stuffing, gravy and more. During the event, employees also lined up to collect their long-awaited annual bonus checks. During the meal, Tribal Council Chair Matthew Box took a moment to express his gratitude: "I wanted to personally thank everybody today," he said. "It means a lot to every one of us that you show up every day, that you do what you do."

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Education Christmas Party A Hit



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

The Southern Ute Education Department's after-school tutoring program hosted its annual Christmas party for participating students. Students grade levels ranged from the first through the eighth. The young members of Ignacio's community celebrated with hot pizza and various hands-on arts and crafts-related activities. Fifth-grader Serena Fournier and fourth-grader Carlos Herrera work diligently at creating Tile Stamp Art pieces using ceramic tiles, rubber stamp kits and plenty of holiday glitter. This after-school event took place on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

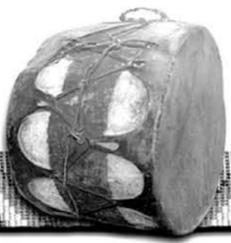
Attention All Tribal Members Listed

James L. Box
Ashley A. Brooks
Sandra Burch
Little War Casias
Cheryl Frost
Ron Frost
Gary L. Jefferson
Orval C. Joe

DeAnn O'John
Yolanda Williams Joy
Mathew S. Olguin
John A. Payne
April Rivas
Maria Rivera
Justin Romero
Christopher T. Taylor

Scott E. Taylor
Mary Velasquez
Izaya J. Washington
Joseph Williams-Durant

Please call
Tribal Information Services
(970) 563-0100 ext. 2302



H1N1 Vaccination Opportunities Opening Up For General Public

Media Release
San Juan Basin Health

Community members who want the H1N1 vaccination now have a variety of venues in which they can get it. San Juan Basin Health Department is holding a community clinic at the Durango Mall from 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18. Vaccinations are for everyone and are free at this clinic. City Market and Walgreens are also now providing H1N1 vaccina-

tions for an administrative fee. Additionally, Durango Family Medicine, Fort Lewis College Health Center and Pediatric Partners have the vaccine available for their patients.

San Juan Basin Health Department has successfully met demand for vaccine from those in priority groups through its 14 community clinics held throughout La Plata County and offering 17 in-school clinics at every elementary, middle and high school in the county. Over 7,500 individuals have already been vaccinated

against H1N1 in our community.

"While we're seeing lower levels of flu now, we know that historically pandemics have come in multiple waves and therefore the potential exists for higher levels of flu later in the season," said Adam Dreyfuss, San Juan Basin Health's Emergency Preparedness coordinator. "We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated against H1N1."

For H1N1 updates, visit the San Juan Basin Health website at (www.sjbhd.org) or call the FluLine 970-247-5702 ext. 1520.

The Kidney Corner: "Causes of CKD: Part III"

By Dr. Mark Saddler
Durango Nephrology Associates



In the last two articles, we discussed diabetes and hypertension, the two most common causes of chronic kidney disease. What other conditions can cause kidney disease?

Glomerulonephritis (a long word!) means "inflammation of the filtering parts of the kidneys." There are many different types of glomerulonephritis. The most common in the Native American population is called "IgA nephropathy." IgA stands for "Immunoglobulin type A." It is a protein that is present in the blood in all normal people. The type of IgA found in patients with IgA nephropathy is abnormal, and this can cause the protein to be deposited in the kidney, causing damage.

This condition can sometimes be relatively harmless. Some people with this condition get blood in their urine intermittently, especially when they have an upper respiratory infection, or common cold. Although this can be alarming, it usually does not cause serious consequences.

However, other forms of IgA nephropathy can cause protein in the urine, which can be much

more serious and can lead to kidney failure. The more serious forms of IgA nephropathy can be treated with medications that suppress the body's immune system, though most patients with IgA do not need this. Similarly, other types of glomerulonephritis may or may not need specific treatment, depending on their causing damage.

For most cases of glomerulonephritis, the cause is unknown, even though most are treatable. As one might expect, the earlier it is diagnosed and treated, the better the outcome is likely to be.

Lupus, also called "systemic lupus erythematosus" or "SLE," is another common cause of chronic kidney disease. It is more common in women than

men. The cause of lupus is unknown; it can cause disease of many different systems in the body, including the joints, skin, heart and lungs. It is also usually treatable with medications that suppress the immune system, though these medications can have numerous side effects that must be monitored carefully.

Various medications can damage the kidneys, causing chronic kidney disease. The most common may be over-the-counter pain medications such as ibuprofen. Many people incorrectly think that these medications are harmless, but in fact, if they are taken for long periods of time, they can cause a variety of kidney problems, including kidney failure. Occasional use in people who do not have underlying kidney disease usually does not cause problems.

Urine obstruction, for example due to prostate enlargement in men, is another common cause of chronic kidney disease. Problems with urination should therefore usually be evaluated by a physician.

There are also genetic causes of kidney disease, for example polycystic disease. Generally, these are less common in Native American patients.

So. Utes Advice Apache Nation • from page 1

"We've already passed a resolution to take the first step on that," he said. "I think now is a really opportune time because of the position of [President] Obama."

That position, as made clear during a summit with Native American leaders at the White House on Nov. 5, is strongly pro-self-determination.

"I believe Washington can't – and shouldn't – dictate a policy agenda for Indian Country," Obama told a room full of Native American leaders. "Tribal nations do better when they make their own decisions."

But the process for taking over a health center can be a long and complicated one, as Southern Ute leadership knows all too well. The Tribe took the reigns of the Southern Ute Health Center from IHS on Oct. 1, but it took a nearly five-year legal battle.

Initially, IHS had refused to forfeit control of the clinic as mandated by law, citing costs. The meat of the argument was over how much the federal government must provide after the Tribe took over for administrative costs, or "contract support costs." The Tribe eventually prevailed.

Once the legal qualms were settled, the process of switching administration only took a few months, said Executive Officer Johnny Valdez.

"You should be able to do it in one year," Valdez told the Apache delegation, which included several members of the



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Southern Ute Health Center Director Tom Duran explains the legal and financial intricacies involved in taking control of the clinic to a delegation from New Mexico's Jicarilla Apache Nation during a meeting Dec. 7. Tribal Council Chairman Matthew Box and Executive Officer Johnny Valdez also attended to offer advice to the Jicarilla officials, who are hoping to take control of their own health center in the near future.

Legislative Council. "That amount of time is really the time it should have taken."

Valdez said it has been a difficult process to make the change, but that the ability to govern how the health center is run has been worth it.

"You need a couple of people who will go out of their way. It's not going to be an 8-to-5 job," he said. "But you make the decisions. That's what self-determination is about."

In Ignacio, one such person has been Health Center Director Tom Duran. Duran spent long hours working out the legal and finan-

cial aspects of the transition. He urged the Apache representatives to take advantage of the favorable political climate.

"It's an opportune time for tribes because the White House is very pro-tribal government and pro-self determination."

Jicarilla Councilman Wainwright Velarde summed up why his people are so interested in controlling their own health center.

"What you guys are doing is what we want done," he said. "In order to get that self-determination in gear, you have to do it yourself. You have to make sure it's done right."

Winter Safety: Don't Slip and Fall!

Media Release
Southern Ute Risk Management

Rain, snow, and ice can create slippery conditions within the parking lots and along walkways and stairs. The best way to avoid a serious slip and fall this winter is to recognize hazardous conditions and take the proper

precautions.

Wear the appropriate footwear. Flat shoes with slip-resistant soles or rain/snow boots are best since they provide traction.

Watch where you are stepping. Watch out for ice that may be covered by snow. Take note of buildings that have snow and ice accumulation on the roof.

Walk slowly and stay alert. Take short, flat steps with your feet slightly spread.

Stay alert for warning signs in areas where danger is most prominent. Use handrails on steep inclines and stairways.

When entering buildings, clean your footwear.

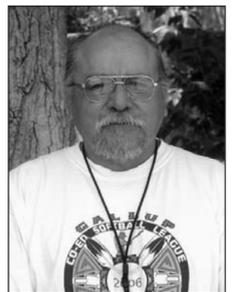
Report unsafe conditions to your supervisor.

Fathers' Voices Inc.

In Partnership with:
Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado
University of Denver-Four Corners MSW Program
Ignacio Community Collaboration

presents
A Two-day workshop: January 15 & 16, 2010
"How Service Providers Can Work With Native Americans"

presented by
Dr. Maria Braveheart and Ray Daw



at Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Sky Ute Casino & Resort's Event Center in Ignacio, CO
Space is Limited

Please visit the Fathers' Voices Website to print registration form.
www.fathersvoices.org
Please send registration form with payment by December 18, 2009

For further information please call (970) 764-5631

Registration Form • Space Limited-Register Early

Name (print clearly): _____
Title: _____
Name of Organization (if student, name of College/University): _____
Address of Individual/Organization: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____ Cell: _____
Indicate if you would be interested in receiving Continuing Educational Units for this workshop: YES or NO
Please note that we will provide further information to interested participants before workshop
Registration Fees: \$ 40.00/Day One Only ___ \$ 40.00/Day Two Only ___ \$ 60.00/Both Days ___
Student Registration: \$ 20.00 /Day *Will need to send current year student photo ID with registration
Payment Method: Check ___ Money Order ___
Office Use Only: Received ___/___/___ Check Number: _____
Mail registration form and payment to: Fathers' Voices, Po Box 1177, Durango, Colorado 81302



Southern Ute

Strengthening Families Health Program



All Families are welcome to join and participate.

Southern Ute Family Court Support Office & Shining Mountain Diabetes Program

The Strengthening Families Health Program teaches skills that focus on your family's physical and emotional wellness. SFHP promotes closer relationships, effective communication, empathy and understanding, healthy nutrition, fitness, and family recreation. Learn family skills from caring and experienced trainers, in a supportive educational setting. Please join us for lots of learning and fun for the whole family!

Benefits for Teens & Kids...

- Learn how to resist negative peer pressure.
- Develop personal goals and know how to make them happen.
- Have fun playing fitness games and activities with your family.

For Parents...

- Learn how to set limits and use appropriate discipline.
- Increase enjoyable and positive time with your children & teens.
- Improve coping skills and stress management.

and Families!

- Nurture your family's physical and emotional well being.
- Build closer relationships among family members.
- Communicate and foster your family's values and traditions.

WHO

Families with teens, younger children and expecting.

All family members are welcome.

WHAT

Strengthening Families Health Program

Dinner and childcare provided!

Skills groups for Parents, Teens, and Children.

WHEN

Tuesday eves., 5:30-8:30 pm
Jan. 19-April 13, 2010

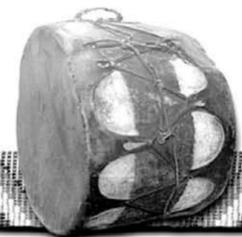
WHERE

Will be announced
Ignacio, Co

CALL TO REGISTER

Crystal Thompson
563-0240, ext. 3255





Thank You, Cassandra Yazzie Boys and Girls Club Slam Bios

A Digital Smoke Signal

By Mari Villaluna

Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

"I hope I get another opportunity to do this again with you guys, 'cuz all of you are great."

There I was: writing thank-you notes to the sponsors of Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Native Hip-Hop Workshop. I finished one note, and then opened another to write one to Cassandra Yazzie. Then Robert Ortiz from the tribal newspaper, the Southern Ute Drum, came into my office and told me he needed to talk to me about Cassandra Yazzie.

I first met Cassandra at my homie Klee Benally's wedding. I asked if I could sit at their table. Little did I know that even though I was on the Navajo Nation, the whole table was around from where I live. I noticed her kids, and her husband Jason Hotchkiss told me all about their organization, Four Rivers Institute. It was all about teaching Native American youth about the outdoors and getting job experience. I thought it was a much-needed program here in this tribal community.

A week or two went by and I thought about Cassandra again. I was planning this media workshop called Native Hip-Hop Workshop and was looking for a photographer. We had music and writing covered, but just needed photo. I talked to Jason again, and he thought it was a great idea.

He then gave me Cassandra's number and I gave her a call to ask her to be a photographer for a project I was organizing media classes that I called Native Hip-



photo courtesy M. Villaluna/SUB&GC

Cassandra Yazzie is with students from the film workshop of the Southern Ute Boys and Girls Club's Native Hip-Hop Workshop.

Hop Workshop. She told me that was a great idea, but that film was better for the youth. I remember her contacting me by chatting or calling and her wanting to do a film workshop with the youth, and then I remember telling her I couldn't fund-raise anymore money for a third presenter.

I remember how shocked I was by her answer: "Don't worry Mari, I'm local. I just want to start doing film workshops with youth. Don't fund-raise for me." Cassandra and I started to form an organizing friendship centered around the youth in the Southern Ute Tribal Community.

I believe Cassandra's spirit knew she had to do a Native Hip-Hop Workshop before she left this world. She had this determination to do the film even when I was still thinking about photography. It was her first workshop for youth, and she was so excited.

"Like Mari said, um, I'm here with Four Rivers Institute as part of their media connection," she said. "This was just a little some-

thing I wanted to do, and it was my first time connecting a workshop with some young people. I am very fortunate to be here with all these good people, but I wanted to say thank you to every one of you who participated in the workshops and to the ones that allowed myself and my little filmmakers - my lil' peeps - to interview you, because I know it takes a lot of courage to step up and say 'I'll be interviewed.'"

I remember when she met me and Ras (the music presenter) at the casino; she had the biggest smile on her face while networking about the film.

Cassandra's selfless spirit was felt by the kids in her film class. I remember how she was a person of her word, and how she kept her promises to the youth. Many times we forget about what we tell our youth and don't hold ourselves accountable. I remember her e-mailing me to talk to one of her students because she promised him a clip of the video, and since he couldn't get the video yet, she asked me to talk to him. Her students shared her passion of film, and it showed in their creative media art and investigative journalism.

So there I was at my desk, about to write her a letter, and Robert Ortiz walked in my office. He asked me if I knew what happened to Cassandra. I thought he was going to tell me the film tapes from Native Hip-Hop Workshop were destroyed, or maybe that she got the cold or flu. He told me she got in a car crash and died right away. Three of her and her partner's five kids were in the car.

Smoke Signal page 10



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Protecting You, Protecting Me



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Don Folsom of the Southern Ute Police Department met with students from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy on Dec. 14 to issue certificates to students who were involved in an eight-week session of six classes on "Protecting You, Protecting Me." The program includes an alcohol-prevention curriculum from Mothers Against Drunk Driving that was tailored for schools across Indian Country. The program begins with an introduction of your brain and how it functions in your daily life, then deals with the negative effects that alcohol can have on the development and functions of the brain at an early age. The course also addresses responsible driving, seatbelt safety and the importance of making smart decisions. Grades one through six participated in the program, and one spokesperson from each class was asked to speak on behalf of their peers. Also involved in the educational program was Gail Pena of SUPD, not pictured.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe collaborated with Tiny from POOR Magazine, Ras K' Dee (Pomo/Afrikan) from SNAG Magazine and Cassandra Yazzie (Dine') from Four Rivers Institute to lead their Native Hip-Hop Workshop.

The workshop included hip-hop writing, poetry, beat-making, film and consciousness training for young people 6-18. It was a very powerful exchange of intergenerational knowledge, culture, art and indigenous resistance on occupation, land, poverty and decolonization.

Here are some of the written pieces. To get involved in BGC of SUIT's Native Hip-Hop Workshop, hit up Mari at (970) 563-0214.

For these poems, each youth wrote a "slam bio," which is a quick autobiography.

Santana

Purple
Brown
Spicy
BitterSweet, Sour
Soft hard
Scaley

Pink Panther
My culture is Latina/Mexican
And they are the _____

I live con mi mami y mi abuela y mi _____

My struggle is becoming the person everyone is becoming
Sometimes I wish I could give my life like I am a donor
I rub the struggle in like toner

Valerie Armstrong

Pink
Spicy
Fry bread
Soft

Polar Bear

My culture is the Caddo tribe of Oklahoma
I live with mama
And brother

They are so funny
And we are so into our culture

I struggle with keeping
My whole family together without
Having them fight

Alana

Blue Sweet
Apples
Smooth

Im a grizzly bear
Strong

Southern Ute
Strong

Ignacio
I live in a big house

I struggle with loving
My mom and my dad

I live with my mama
She's a single mama raising two kids
Just so hard

Love is pink
Fighting is hard

Kaylah

Blue
Sour
Sweet

A bird that can fly over my mistakes

Ignacio

Down town neighborhood
My baby sis, my bro, my mama

My mind is making everything a struggle

Josh Jones

Color Green
Taste Green Chili
Tortillas smell like sage after the rain

A bull elk running lots of power
And freedom

My tribe is anywhere in nature

I live out of town in the woods
With my dad
Our house is made of stone and its always comfortable there

I struggle with alcohol and anger

Tricia

My color is brown
My taste is spicy
My smell is _____
My touch is soft

I think I would be a cute little fish
That swims with lots of other fish
My tribe is Ute
I think we function very well with lots of things im grateful for that other tribes don't have

Jacob Frost

Green
Like a newly grown apple
Sour like lemons kiss
The smell of rain
Kissed leaves after a nights rain
Touch of soft silk

A red panda
Not many cultural centered people left of my ute people

My home is beautiful
I live in my world
My family fights to keep our culture alive

My sisters death was a difficult time to deal with
I was forced to grow up
At age 11

The treaming green light reminds me
To live in reality
But dream
like im asleep

Kayleen Monroe

Tan
Orange
Orange
Orange

Caterpillar

P
S
C
O
S
L
S
U

WFOAH
WFOAH

Takoda Armstrong

My color is blue
My smell is apples
My touch is tough

I'm a bear
Got strong power

I live with my sister and my mom
Sometimes my sister could be a stupid punk
My mom cool

I struggle with school
Sometimes life could be like gun shootings

Lakota Two Crow

I like the color green
My taste is sour
My smell is pizza
My touch is hard

Chameleon

I'm from many tribes

I live with my mom
I live with my dad sometimes

Ricardo Rivera

My colors red representing depicting burn & desire like I gotta have it
My taste can only be described as a tall 40
Keep it so real I can smell the reality
My touch is ice cold just don't know and wont tell

I would be a rabbit in a turtle race to riches

I am Ute Mountain Ute from Towaoc

I live with my moms

Emotions

Kylie

Blue
Spicy
Watermelon
Soft

Panda Bear

Latinos are very tuff

I live with my mom and my brothers
They are crazy and loving

Tears drop from my eyes
The pain in my heart
Knowing that you're gone
Watching me from above
I miss my lil angel

Ian Twiss

I am as red as the tide tingles off your tongue letting it lick your ankles in the softness of a new moon

Eagle

My culture is of a burnt thigh, that's why we're Sicangu

Sometimes I forget where home is
I could drive the 2 blocks but still be a 1,000 miles from home

Sometimes I'm white, sometimes I'm not
Sometimes I'm red, sometimes I'm not

I think sometimes circles aren't coherent, like the ones we have to run in

Talia Porambo

Blue
Sour sometimes
Vanilla
Soft

A big fierce bear

My Southern Ute culture is creative, and very festive

I live with my dad
He's always being funny
My home is always warm and as spiritual as the Sundance ground

I struggle with life, like not being on time, not doing the right, and what life throws at me

Like a ball being thrown at me but I don't want it to be thrown at me

Destiny Lucero

Green
Cherry
Flower
Soft

Teddy Bear

Ignacio

Big 2 story house
Live wit my ma, my 2 brothers, my sister

My grandpa's death is a big struggle to me

Bridges To Success: Classes Offered

Computers 1

- Computer orientation
- Keyboarding
- Internet basics
- Word 1
- Word 2
- Introduction to Publisher

Computers 2

- Web research
- Introduction to Excel
- PowerPoint basics

College Connection

- Intensive college preparation
- Reading

- Math
- Study skills
- Financial Literacy
- Banking and finance skills
- Consumer rights
- Online transactions
- Loans, mortgage and credit management
- Budgeting
- Technology Applications
- Adobe Photoshop/PDF
- Dreamweaver
- Graphic Design
- Digital camera

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Workplace Professionalism
- Face-to-face communication skills
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- Conflict resolution
- Team building
- Ready to improve your job readiness? Call today!
- Bayfield/Ignacio
- Deb Pace (970)563-0681
- Cortez
- Diana Buza (970) 564-1195
- Durango/Silverton
- Tim Birchard (970) 385-4354



Ignacio Residents Savor the Taste of Christmas



photos Ace Stryker/SU DRUM

Layla Novak, 3, and Ameya Novak, 5, (top photo) are on their best behavior while sitting on Santa's lap during the Taste of Christmas event Dec. 4. Four-year-old Ernesto Dominguez (bottom photo) decorates a snowflake at one of the arts-and-crafts tables during the 11th annual Taste of Christmas event Dec. 4 in the Ignacio Elementary School Gymnasium.

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

Santa Claus made an early stop in Ignacio on Dec. 4 to get the scoop on what local kids want for Christmas this year.

Apparently someone caught word, though: coinciding with his visit were dozens of tables set up at the Ignacio Elementary School Gymnasium offering a feast of holiday goodies and arts and crafts for the children. It may not have been hard to predict his coming: this is, after all, the 11th year the Ignacio Area Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Taste of Christmas event.

The festivities kicked off with a grand Christmas tree lighting at Ignacio Town Hall. Onlookers gasped as the switch was flipped and the lights on the giant tree



came to life, basking the area in a warm, hearthlike glow.

Among the volunteers making the event possible was Eileen Wasserbach, director of Southern Ute Community Action Programs. She said she enjoys helping out because it brings the community together in a way few

other events do.

"A lot of Ignacio people come. It's kind of special that way," she said. "I think it's just fun."

Ignacio resident Dezaray Schofield said her son, 6-year-old Trevor Easley, was excited about the event for one reason: "The goodies."



Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! From the staff of the Southern Ute Drum & Public Relations.

Ignacio High School Winter Sports Schedule

Wrestling Schedule 2009-2010				Basketball Schedule 2009-2010				
December				December				
3	Durango	V,JV	A	7 PM	18	Ridgway	H B/G JV/V *B	4 PM
4	Pagosa Dual	V,JV	H	6 PM	19	Ouray	A B/G JV/V	2 PM
5	Bayfield Tourney		A	9 AM	January			
11,12	Bloomfield Tourney	V,JV	A	TBA	9	Dove Creek	H G JV/V	2 PM
19	John Mall (Walsenburg)	V		TBA	12	Pagosa Spgs.	H B/G JV/V *B	4 PM
January					15	Mancos	A B/G JV/V	4 PM
9	Rocky Mountain (Pagosa Springs)	V		9 AM	16	Telluride	A B/G JV/V	3 PM
14	Bayfield Dual	V,JV	A	6 PM	19	Bayfield	H B/G JV/V *G	4 PM
16	Shiprock Tourney	V,JV	A	TBA	19	Winter Royalty		
22	Paonia Duals	V,JV	A	6 PM	22	Norwood	H B/G JV/V *G	4 PM
23	Paonia Tourney	V,JV	A	9 AM	23	Nucla	A B/G JV/V	2 PM
29	League Tournament	V	H	5 PM	26	Dolores	A B/G JV/V	4 PM
30	Ignacio Invite	V	H	9 AM	29	Dove Creek	A G JV/V	4 PM
February					30	Ridgway	A B/G JV/V	2 PM
6	Bayfield JV Tourney	JV	A	9 AM	February			
12,13	Regional Tournament (Center)	V		TBA	4	Durango	A B C/JV	5:30 PM
18-20	State Tournament (Denver)	V		TBA	6	Ouray	H B/G JV/V	2 PM
					12	Mancos	H B/G JV/V *B	4 PM
					13	Telluride	H B/G JV/V	2 PM
					19	Norwood	A B/G JV/V	4 PM
					20	Nucla	H B/G JV/V	2 PM
					26, 27	Districts (Dove Creek)	B/G V	TBA
					March			
					5, 6	Regionals (Durango)	B/G V	TBA
					11-13	State (Pueblo)	B/G V	TBA
					All Schedules Subject to Change			
					*No JV Girl's Teams - Ouray, Ridgway & Telluride			
					*No JV Boy's Teams - Dove Creek and Nucla			
					*No Varsity Boy's Team - Dove Creek (at present time)			

Southwest COLORADO Community College
and the Southern Ute Tribe Higher Education Department are offering an Office Professional Certificate

Program runs January 11 through July 23, 2010

This is a 23 college credit certificate program. Student will earn an Office Professional Certificate and take courses in Accounting, Business Management, Business Technologies, Computer Applications and English.

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

East Campus (Durango)
710 Camino del Rio | 970.247.2929

West Campus (Mancos)
33057 Hwy 160 | 970.565.7496

Burn Wise
Program of U.S. EPA

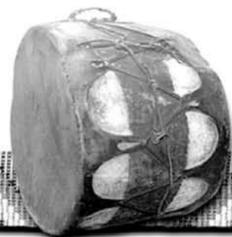
BURN THE RIGHT WOOD, THE RIGHT WAY, IN THE RIGHT WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE

Did you know that by changing the way you burn wood you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health?

Here are a few simple tips to make your fire burn hotter, keep your wallet fatter and keep your local air cleaner and healthier.

- Season all firewood.** All firewood should be split, securely covered or stored, and aged for at least six months. Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke your appliance produces.
- Choose the right firewood.** Hardwoods are the best. Never burn trash or treated wood which can emit toxic air pollutants.
- Start it right.** Use only clean newspaper or dry kindling to start a fire. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch.
- Don't let the fire smolder.** Many people think they should let a fire smolder overnight. But reducing the air supply does little for heating and increases air pollution.
- Clean ashes from your wood-burning appliance.** Excess ashes can clog the air intake vents reducing efficiency. Be sure to dispose of ashes in a metal container away from the house or any flammable material to reduce the risk of fire.
- Keep your chimney clean.** A clean chimney provides good draft for your wood-burning appliance and reduces the risk of a chimney fire. Have a certified professional inspect your chimney once a year.
- Be a good neighbor.** Follow best practices for burning wood and always remember to comply with state and local codes.
- Follow instructions.** Operate your wood-burning appliance according to the manufacturer's instructions and follow all maintenance procedures.
- Upgrade to cleaner equipment.** EPA-certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts burn cleaner and burn wood more efficiently emitting less particle pollution than older models.
- Size matters.** Choose the right-sized appliance for your needs. If your wood-burning appliance is too big for your room or house, the fuel will smolder and create more air pollution.

For more information on how to burn wise, go to www.epa.gov/burnwise



Boys Pull Fourth From Tangled Webb

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Two evenings running, the clock's final fractions determined their actions.

And though Ignacio had already opened eyes wide with an 11-point defeat of Gallup, N.M., in the tournament's opener, back-to-back bonus-ball battles in their ensuing encores had more than fans wondering "what if" about the Class 2A team from Colorado.

"I don't care if they're 2A or not," said Farmington head coach Kevin Holman after his Scorpions avoided becoming Bobcat victims. "They could win a state championship in Colorado, I guarantee you. I really thought coming in ... they were the best team I've seen in the Four Corners area."

In last Saturday's third/fourth place contest, Farmington held off Ignacio 44-41. In one of the previous night's semifinals, Montwood (El Paso, Tex.) avoided what would have been, bar none, the greatest upset in recent Webb Toyota/Farmington Boys' Invitational annals with a 48-46 escape over Ignacio.

Both affairs required a fifth quarter to decide a victor. And with a record of 1-2 (and plus-6 point differential) against a 5A-5A-4A series of opponents, the 'Cats will surely go down as one of - if not the - toughest fourth-place teams to emerge from the prestigious event.

"They might have been a little worn out, so I've got to thank Montwood a little," Holman joked.

"It boosts our confidence for the next game ... and any other game that comes up for us at State, during the regular season, anywhere," said Bobcat guard Terrence Whyte. "Our regular competition at home - it's really not like this, so it's better playing this way."

Forward Shane Brooks agreed. "This tournament is a lot better than playing the Dove Creeks, because we learn a lot more," he said.

Not dissing the 'Dogs - who aren't fielding a boys' team this season - just stating the obvious. But it was also obvious that the three games were Ignacio's very first of 2009-10.

Ignacio lost leads they held through three-plus quarters against both Montwood and Farmington. And the Bobcats' final hope for double-OT with the local hosts faded the same way their first possession did against Gallup: on a lengthy pass that sailed well high over its intended target and into an end wall of Scorpion Gymnasium. Deion Hudson's buzzer-beater bank shot seconds later was inconsequential.

"Well, we know now we have to work harder in the gym," said forward Ryan Brooks. "And we're rusty a bit. This is only our third game... We tried hard, and hopefully it will pay off down the stretch."

Guard Oakley Hayes said the team ended up with a terrible shooting percentage.

"Everybody just couldn't get it in," he said.

To the Bobcats' credit, neither could Farmington, who made only ten field goals and none from beyond the arc (while Ignacio sank five 3-pointers). What they did make, however, was free throws, and guard D.J. Cook was stellar: 14 of 17 at the stripe, and 18 points total.

"I actually felt pretty calm," he said after hitting four of six in overtime. "Wasn't really nervous."

Hayes finished with seven points before fouling out - as had fellow backcourt starter Trae Seibel - with fewer than five ticks left in OT. Both Brookses scored six, and center Alex Herrera led with eight points. Luis Acosta added 11 points for Farmington (2-4 overall), who overcame a 29-25 deficit starting

the fourth frame.

Four-time reigning champions Montwood (29-4 last season) climbed from a deeper hole, trailing Ignacio 31-25 after three quarters, and 35-27 when guard Justin Vasquez incurred his fourth foul with 5:39 left in regulation. Forward Ricky Nava and eventual tourney MVP Mark de la Cruz fouled out over the next 3:47, but guard Anthony Valdez canned a triple with under a minute remaining to suddenly give the Rams a 41-40 lead.

Ignacio's Pedro Vigil hit one of two free throws with 10 seconds left to force overtime.

Vasquez fouled out just seconds in, and Hayes sank four freebies around a Robert Lopez inside bucket for a 45-43 Bobcat lead. Valdez countered with another threatening three, but Herrera hit a free throw to tie at 46. And after Valdez unexpectedly missed a foul shot, and Ignacio was unable to capitalize, Montwood guard Gabriel Licon converted a second-chance layup off a fast break with five seconds remaining.

"It was a very physical game, but we ended up pulling it off," said Nava, who finished with eight points. "With our defense, and with Anthony and Robert there for us at the end - just a great effort for the whole team."

Valdez said he was just happy he came through in the end.

"The momentum of the game got me through it," he said. "All the guys on the bench came ready to play, and everyone's ready to play no matter what. If we lose someone, we always have someone to step up."

Vigil backed his 27-point eruption against Gallup with 18 against Montwood. Herrera and Ryan Brooks each dropped in a hard-fought nine, Hayes totaled six, and Shane Brooks scored four.

"They were pretty physical," he said. "We had them by, like, eight points and their main player, 24 [de la Cruz], hit some big shots and they started coming back. But I think our team played pretty good."

De la Cruz, who scored 16, said he thought his team was a bit sluggish during the first half.

"Coach Harper got after our butts real good," he said. "Made us work and told us if we don't defend it [the championship] - 'We've got something to play for.' That's exactly what he said."

Ignacio certainly had something to play for right away against Gallup, outscoring the Bengals 9-0 out of the gate and leading 16-12 after one quarter. A late sputter in the second gave Gallup a 32-29 halftime lead, but Ignacio stormed back to lead 50-43 after three. Herrera (nine points) threw down the first dunk of the season, while Ryan Brooks (13) and Seibel dropped in triples during the rally.

Whyte opened the fourth with a crippling trey, and the highlight reel-minded Bengals didn't manage a field goal until Nicholas August (nine points) scored with 1:11 left in the game. Patrick Saltwater and Ryan Becenti led the team (now 3-3 overall) with 11 each, while Jonathan Fields chipped in eight. Shane Brooks added 10 more for the Bobcats in the foul-plagued tilt.

"We just didn't get frustrated and kept our heads up," Brooks



photo Joel Priest/DRUM Freelance

Ignacio's Pedro Vigil (2) lifts off on one of many drives to the basket during last Thursday's season-opener at the Webb Toyota/Farmington Invitational against Gallup, N.M. Trying to keep pace is Bengal Jonathan Fields. Vigil hung 27 on 5A Gallup in a 69-58 win, and was later named to the All-Tournament Team.

said. "In practice we play hard, so we're kind of used to the punishment that we take."

Ignacio head coach Chris Valdez said he was happy his team was able to limit the Bengals on 3-pointers.

"We watched those guys knock down about 15 threes against Espanola [Valley, Nov. 21 at Gallup, a 72-60 Espanola victory], and so we took that away from them. I think they had one or two - at the most, two," he said. "So we did our job defensively, our scouting job helped out - that we had seen them and they hadn't seen us. That might have been the difference."

Vigil, who along with Herrera was an All-Tournament selection, said the 'Cats made such an impact because they played their game.

"We went out and played our game like Coach said, and played together," he said. "These guys are like what we see at State, and we wanted to come out and show what we can do. And I just did what I could do when I got the rock."

A sentiment also echoed and followed by the now five-time champs, who routed Mullen (Denver) 57-35 in the grand finale to improve to 10-2 already. The Mustangs dropped to just 2-1.

"We've got to do our thing and play 'D.W.W.D.' That means 'do what we do,'" said de la Cruz, who scored 13 to compliment Nava's 15. "Continue to play hard and do what we do every year - play and defend - and we'll have a good chance of winning."

Montwood head coach Tony Harper said he's worked hard over the past 20 years to build the program and acknowledges his team is often considered a standard for others to meet.

"We accept that - very, very much so - because we know everybody's going to bring their best to play us."

Seibel said his team has to get over the losses and look forward.

"The record's a record; it's about moving to the next step," he said. "Just get over it, back to practice, and work harder, you know?"

Ignacio begins San Juan Basin League play this week at home against Dolores (12/15) and Ridgway (12/18), then at Ouray (12/19) to complete their pre-Christmas schedule.

RESULTS: 1. Montwood 2. Mullen 3. Farmington 4. IGNACIO 5. Gallup 6. San Juan (Blanding, Utah) 7. Durango 8. Piedra Vista (Farmington).

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM (announced in reverse order): Valdez, Mont; HERRERA: Saltwater; VIGIL; Cook; Kendall Corley, Farm; Erik Giacomozzi, Mull; Nava; Cameron Shumway, SJ; Blair Holley, Mull; de la Cruz.

Rising Up, IHS Now #4 In 2A

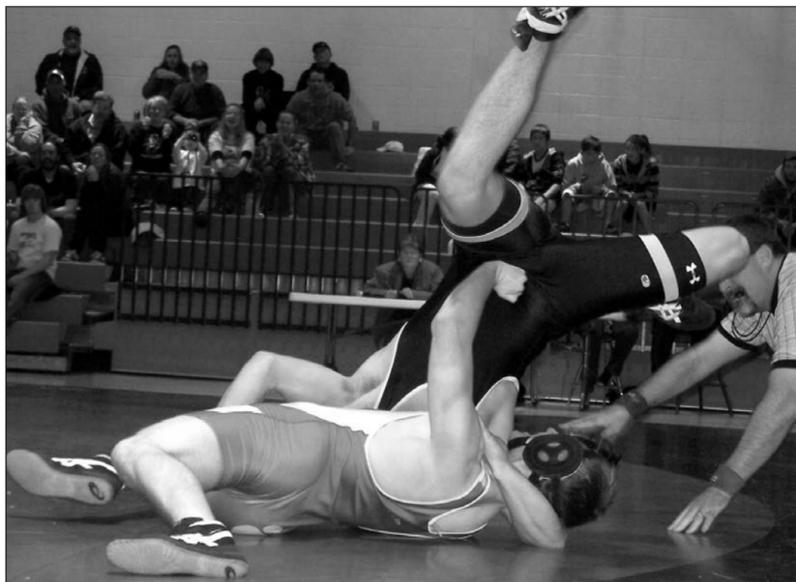


photo Joel Priest/DRUM Freelance

The image that might best sum up the Bobcats' early-season resolve. On the verge of being pinned by 3A Pagosa Springs' Jordan Neulieb during nonleague dual action at Ignacio on Dec. 4, sophomore 171-pounder Colton Wyatt virtually bench-pressed the Pirate off with one hand, then stuck him to the mat seconds later. And though forfeits conceded at four weight classes helped Pagosa Springs win 39-38, as 5A Durango had done the night before (42-36), Ignacio has only improved since. Now No. 4 in the most recent On The Mat Class 2A team rankings (12/10), Ignacio took fourth at the Bloomfield (N.M.) Invitational last weekend. Wyatt and older brother Chance (215 pounds) both won their brackets, as did Josh Plehinger (140) and Casey Haga (135). Colton Wyatt was also named Most Valuable Wrestler for the upper weights, while Plehinger joined Alex Pena as holding down OTM's top rankings in their divisions.

Congratulations to our son Tristan Wolf Rael

Who played in the 2009 Pigskin Tournament on Thanksgiving Day in Las Vegas. The Junior Pee Wee Raiders team from Mesa, Ariz., played in the tournament and took the championship for their division. Tristan was one of the captains named for the championship game, which was played on Friday, Nov. 27. During the regular season, Tristan's Arizona Competitive Youth Football League JPW Raiders team was the East Conference champ for fall 2009. They were just one game shy of winning the Arizona State Championship. Tristan plays on both the offensive and defensive line and he has worked very hard this season! His playing skills have developed tremendously and he is an explosive and strong young football player! Keep up the good work, Tristan, and we will someday be watching you on Monday Night Football!

We would also like to thank our families who made the trip to Las Vegas to cheer Tristan and the rest of the JPW Raiders team on to a championship victory. Tristan's grandmothers are Mary Ann Newton Weaver and Phyllis Escalante and his grandfather is Wilford Weaver Sr. Once again, a big thanks to Tristan's aunts, which include his great-aunt Louisa Newton, Rebecca Rael, Yvonne Phillips, Misha Weaver and, of course, Ron and all the cousins who all supported and cheered their hearts out!

We love you, Tristan, and wish you all the luck in the future!
Love mom and dad



SunUte Recreation Presents:
Free Youth Ski Trips
Area youth ages 10 - 18, interested in skiing/snowboarding at Durango Mountain Resort.
December 19, 2009 • January 10, 2010
Participating youths will be provided passes, lessons, and rentals (if needed).
No lunch will be provided, please pack your own.
Register at SunUte Community Center, as trips will be limited to first 25 kids.
For more information please contact recreation Staff at (970) 563-0214.

Bobcats' Box-out

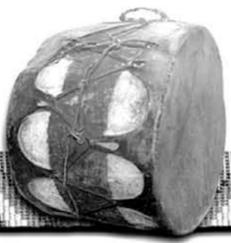
Webb Toyota/Farmington HS Boys' Invite
At FHS' Scorpion Gymnasium

Dec. 10, 2009: **IGNACIO** 69, at Gallup, N.M. 58
I (16-13-21-19): Seibel 2 0-0 5, Hayes 0 2-5 2, S. Brooks 5 0-0 10, Herrera 4 1-4 9, R. Brooks 5 1-3 13, Vigil 8 8-10 27, Hutchinson 0 0-0 0, Richmond 0 0-0 0, Whyte 1 0-0 3, Black 0 0-0 0, Hudson 0 0-0 0, Watts 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 25 12-22 69. 3-PTR'S: Seibel, R. Brooks 2, Vigil 3, Whyte.**
G (12-20-11-15): Hildreth 0 0-0 0, Sowers 2 0-0 4, Bahe 0 0-0 0, Loisel 2 0-0 4, Fields 2 4-7 8, Saltwater 2 6-8 11, August 4 1-4 9, Summy 0 0-0 0, Becenti 2 7-10 11, Gutierrez 2 1-4 5, Kinsel 1 2-6 4, Begay 0 0-0 0, Troncoso 1 0-0 2. **TOTALS: 18 21-39 58. 3-PTR'S: Saltwater.**

Dec. 11, 2009: Montwood (El Paso, Tex.) 48, at **IGNACIO** 46 (overtime)
M (11-6-8-16-7): de la Cruz 7 1-2 16, Nava 4 0-0 8, Vasquez 1 2-2 4, Valdez 2 0-1 6, R. Lopez 4 0-1 8, Licon 1 2-2 4, Davis 0 0-0 0, Vargas 1 0-0 2, H. Lopez 0 0-0 0, Menchaca 0 0-1 0, Romo 0 0-0 0, Lugo 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 14 8-13 41. 3-PTR'S: de la Cruz, Valdez 2.**
I (8-12-11-10-5): Seibel 0 0-0 0, Hayes 1 4-4 6, S. Brooks 1 2-2 4, Herrera 2 5-13 9, R. Brooks 3 2-2 9, Vigil 4 7-10 18, Whyte 0 0-0 0, Hudson 0 0-0 0, Richmond 0 0-0 0, Black 0 0-0 0, Watts 0 0-0 0, Hutchinson 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 11 20-31 46. 3-PTR'S: Vigil 3, R. Brooks.**

Dec. 12, 2009: **IGNACIO** 41, at Farmington, N.M. 44 (overtime)
I (11-7-11-5-7): Seibel 1 0-0 3, Hayes 3 0-0 7, S. Brooks 2 1-2 6, Herrera 3 2-4 8, R. Brooks 1 4-4 6, Vigil 1 1-3 4, Hutchinson 1 0-0 2, Hudson 2 0-0 5, Whyte 0 0-0 0, Richmond 0 0-0 0, Black 0 0-0 0, Watts 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 14 8-13 41. 3-PTR'S: Seibel, Hayes, Vigil, Hudson, S. Brooks.**
F (12-9-4-9-10): Corley 0 0-0 0, Howerton 1 0-0 2, Cook 2 14-17 18, Hilliard 1 2-2 4, Joe 1 1-3 3, Acosta 3 5-8 11, Lacey 0 1-2 1, Kowalik 1 0-0 2, Hazzard 0 0-0 0, Lewis 0 0-0 0, Villa 0 0-0 0, Tsosie 1 1-1 3. **TOTALS: 10 24-33 44. 3-PTR'S: None.**

Compiled by Joel Priest



November Meteorological Data

UTE I Monitoring Station • Ignacio BIA Forestry Compound

AVERAGE (Day) HIGH TEMP.		AVERAGE (Night) LOW TEMP.			
November	11.4 C	52.5 F	November	-4.9 C	23.2 F
AVERAGE WINDSPEED		AVERAGE DAILY TEMP.			
Monthly Average		November	2 C	35.6 F	
November	4.1 MPH				
Maximum Hourly Average		PRECIPITATION DATA			
November 23, 2009	13.5 MPH	Date	Daily Total		
		November 4	.04"		
		Monthly Total	.04"		

Request For Proposal

RESERVATION-WIDE RAPTOR NESTING SURVEY
SOUTHERN UTE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management is requesting proposals for a reservation-wide raptor nesting survey to be performed in March 2010.

The focus of the survey will be the identification of nesting sites and activity by golden eagles, bald eagles, peregrine and prairie falcons, and red-tailed hawks.

The proposal must include approximately 20 – 25 hrs. of helicopter survey time, and the contractor will be responsible for providing the helicopter service.

The proposal must also include a plan for follow-up, on-the-ground visits to nest sites to verify territory occupancy and reproductive status of the birds.

Acceptable bids will reflect costs for helicopter services, and the contractor's billable time for the aerial survey, on-the-ground follow up visits, and draft and final report writing.

Please submit proposals to the Wildlife Resource Management Division by December 23rd, 2009. Please call (970) 563-0130 for more information.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO Code has established a preference for Indian owned businesses.

To receive preference, native owned businesses must be certified by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO Division, prior to the closing date. For certification information contact TERO at (970) 563-0117.

Thank You, Cassandra Yazzie • from page 7

Tears started to drop from my face, and I couldn't believe she was gone.

I thought to myself: "I mean, I just talked to her yesterday morning, and we were supposed to meet that morning to go over the film at her house."

She told me how she needed to go on a hike on the Animas River Trail and that she would come to Boys and Girls Club that afternoon so we could look over the film. She never showed up, because she left to the spirit world. Currently, those three children are recovering in the hospital. I still shed tears about Cassandra.

The next day, one of her students asked, "Mari, is Cassandra dead or alive? Just tell me."

Her students are proud of the filmmaking process they created, and Cassandra committed to an ongoing relationship to teaching film at our Southern Ute Boys and Girls Club. She was going to teach claymation and have the kids tell their stories through that art form.

"What I liked about the film is when we all got together and we said what we liked to do," said Amada Hotchkiss, one of their chil-

dren and a participant in the film class. "I like to do art, and I hope we can do this workshop again."

Amada gave me one of the toughest interviews I have ever seen. She is currently in the hospital healing from her injuries.

Many people believe that kids are not capable of creating media, much less getting published. Cassandra held the vision that Native Hip-Hop Workshop should have young peoples as media producers and recognized them as her "lil' peeps," which in the hip-hop world means very close friends. Cassandra wanted to be a part of creating a world where kids were using film as indigenized storytelling.

Cassandra once told the kids: "As I went through each of these [film] clips, I got to see and feel

a lot of your stories come alive and it was really, really good to see. And I got to know each of you in a way – in a more personal way – because of your words, because of your music. It was really beautiful to see, and I hope I get another opportunity to do this again with you guys, 'cuz all of you are great."

It is in this spirit of Native Hip-Hop Workshop I am sending you a digital smoke signal that is filled with the same creative, passionate, indigenous energy you used to create your world every day.

Rest In Power, Cassandra Yazzie.

You will always live through Native Hip-Hop Workshop.

This article was printed by Poor News Network on Nov. 30.

CenturyLink offers telephone assistance to individuals living on Tribal Lands

CenturyLink is energizing its efforts to inform residents of two assistance programs that provide discounts on initial telephone installation and basic monthly telephone service to qualifying low-income consumers. Link-Up helps these consumers pay the initial costs of getting telephone service. Lifeline provides certain discounts on monthly service for qualified subscribers.

Lifeline and Link-Up are available to qualifying consumers in every U.S. state (territory and commonwealth). Qualifications for participation vary by state. States with their own programs have their own criteria. In states that rely solely on the federal program, the subscriber must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start, the National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or if the Household annual gross income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty level.

The amount of the discounts also varies by state. Link-Up helps qualified low-income consumers to connect to the telephone network. This federal program offsets 1/2 of the initial hook-up fee, up to \$30, for qualified households.

Residents of American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal lands may qualify for an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and up to \$70 of expanded Link-Up support beyond current levels. An individual living on tribal lands may also qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up discounts if he or she participates in one of the above programs or one of the following federal programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance or Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

Individuals living in a CenturyLink service area should call 800-201-4099 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline to inquire about eligibility.



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SUIT Wildlife Division Seeks Tribal Member Advisory Board

The Southern Ute Tribal Council and Wildlife Division are presently seeking interested enrolled SUIT members wishing to fill two (2) vacant seats on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board.

This 7-member Board, first established by the Council in 2005, works closely with the Wildlife Division and Rangers in planning, reviewing, and recommending various actions related to Tribal hunting and fishing programs. Board members who are not already employed by the Tribe are compensated at an hourly rate for meeting participation. Meetings are held several times throughout the year, and a commitment to participate in all meetings is expected.

To be eligible to serve on the Board, a Tribal Member must not have committed a hunting or fishing related violation in the past 5 years. Also, knowledge of the Tribe's hunting and fishing resources and its approach to wildlife management is preferred.

Eligible Tribal Members interested in serving on the Board must submit a brief letter of interest to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. Interested eligible applicants will be considered for a Board appointment by the Tribal Council. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at (970) 563-0130.

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Southern Ute Growth Fund - Job Announcements

Obtain complete job descriptions and applications from the Growth Fund Human Resources, 14933 Hwy. 172 • PO Box 367 • Ignacio, CO • (970) 563-5064 • rtaylor@sugf.com
Tribal Member Employment Preference, Must Pass Pre-employment Drug Test & Criminal History.

Gas Control Administrative Assistant
Closing Date 12/22/09 - Red Willow Production Co. Assisting Gas Control staff in a variety of administrative duties including copying, distributing and filing documents, and organizing and maintaining filing system.

Dispatcher - Concrete
Closing Date 12/23/09 - Sand Ute Sand & Gravel Gallup, NM. Assists in the operation of the red-mix batch plant and plant facility. Responsibilities include coordination and dispatching of workers engaged in the manufacturing and delivery of red-mix concrete and aggregate products, quote prices, schedule and input customer orders.

Applications Development Manager
Closing Date 1/4/10 - SU Growth Fund
Leading the internal application development of PeopleSoft Human Capital Management (HCM), Finance and Supply Chain Management (FSCM), Kronos and all other enterprise applications where necessary. Coordinate users groups, managing

identified projects, upgrades or development as necessary to provide the highest level of customer support. Supervises technical development staff.

PeopleSoft Senior Payroll Developer
Closing Date 1/4/10 - SU Growth Fund
Development and production support of PeopleSoft Human Capital Management (HCM) North America and related interface to General Ledger and Accounts Payable, providing enterprise-wide PeopleSoft Payroll technical support and consultation. Will focus on the technical view of the North America Payroll application.

PeopleSoft Senior Finance and Supply Chain Management Developer
Closing Date 1/4/2010 - SU Growth Fund
Development and production support of PeopleSoft Finance and Supply Chain Management applications, providing enterprise-wide PeopleSoft Payroll technical support and consultation. Will focus on the technical view of the Finance and Supply Chain applications

Southern Ute Indian Tribe - Job Announcements

Please refer to the complete Job Announcement and Requirements in the Human Resources Dept. P.O. Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 Phone: (970) 563-0100 • Fax: (970) 563-0396
*Human Resources accepts applications for Temporary Employment on an on-going basis.

Patrol Officer
Open Until Filled - Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community.

Lifeguard
Open Until Filled - This position is responsible for lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director.

SU Indian Tribe Job Hotline • (970) 563-4777

A great new way to find out about job opportunities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The job hotline lists the job title and closing date for both Permanent Fund and Growth Fund positions. Full job announcement including qualifications in Human Resource Department. Hotline is updated weekly.
*Applications for Temporary Employment are accepted at the Human Resources Department on an on-going basis. Applications are kept on file for 6 months.

City Boards & Commissions Seek Volunteers

The Durango City Council is seeking individuals interested in serving on the following City Boards and Commissions:

Durango's Boards and Commissions provide a foundation for public input and are a great way for citizens to get involved with their community. Boards and Commissions generally meet on a monthly basis. Brief interviews with applicants will be conducted by City Council in January.

- Airport Commission
- Business Improvement District Board
- Design Review Board
- Election Commission
- Established Neighborhood Design Review Board
- Historic Preservation
- Land Use Development Code Board of Appeals
- Library Advisory Board
- Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Commission
- Retirement Plan Board
- Transit Advisory Board
- Water Commission

For applications or more information, including any special requirements, please visit our website at www.durangogov.org/boards. Applications are due by close of business on Friday, January 8, 2010, and may also be obtained from the City Manager's Office, 949 East 2nd Ave.

For more information, contact Karen Ramirez, at (970) 375-5001 or by email at RamirezKS@durangogov.org.

SUCAP

Southern Ute Community Action Program
Central Office • 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO • (970) 563-4517
Obtain complete job description/application from SUCAP offices.

Substitute Transit Driver
Open Until Filled - SUCAP
Part-time. Must have High School Diploma or GED required. Transit or school bus exp. preferred. Must have valid CO Drivers License and be insurable by SUCAP. Must pass drug/alcohol test, criminal history & child abuse/neglect background checks and pre-employment drug/alcohol screen. Applicants are required to submit a Motor Vehicle Report with application. EOE.

Residential Assistant
Open Until Filled - Peaceful Spirit/SUCAP
Full-time. Must have High School Diploma or GED required. Minimum 2 years of continuous sobriety. Must be available to work weekends, nights, mid-night shifts, irregular shifts and holidays. Great benefits. Must pass criminal history background check.

SunUte Christmas Holiday Hours

December 24, 2009 - 6am-5pm (Christmas Eve)
December 25-27 - Closed (Christmas Weekend)
December 31 - 6am-5pm (New Year's Eve)
January 1 - 10am-2pm (New Year's Day)

Normal business hours will resume on Mon., Dec. 28, 6am-9pm.
For more information please call (970) 563-0214.

Hay For Sale

The Southern Ute Bison program has 2000 bales of surplus hay for sale at \$5.00 per bale. This is barn stored grass and alfalfa mix, if you have any questions or are interested in purchasing hay contact Chris Olguin at (970) 563-0130 or (970) 749-5088.

KSUT Seeks Board Member

KSUT Public Radio is seeking a Southern Ute Tribal Member to fill a vacancy on its Board of Directors. This is a non-paid position which requires attending monthly meetings with additional special meetings as needed. Dinner is provided. KSUT is a 501-C3 non-profit organization. Please send a letter of interest to Eddie Box, Jr. at KSUT, Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137.

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(970) 563-0240

In the Estate Of, Case No.: 2009-151-PR
NOTICE OF PROBATE
Bertha Marie Greco, Deceased
NOTICE TO: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: GREETINGS: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010 at 10:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and

offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 20th of November, 2009
Kelly Herrera, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2009-199-NC
NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE
Nevaeh Begay-Pena, Civil Subject
NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Nevaeh Begay-Pena filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Nevaeh Angel Pena. As of **December 15, 2009** no person filed an objection to the request, and therefore notice is hereby given that Nevaeh Begay-Pena name shall be and is hereby legally changed to Nevaeh Angel Pena.
Dated this 16th day of December, 2009.
Scott Moore, Southern Ute Tribal Judge

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- Human Resources**
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Cultural Values, Sovereignty Takes Stage at Indigenous Summit



Ecuadorian dignitaries at the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas take a break from politics to tune their instruments. Southern Ute Elder Kenny Frost opens the conference in Fort Collins on Dec. 4 as the keynote speaker for the weeklong summit. Humerto Pagan of Taino-Puerto Rico, Dave Bald Eagle of Lakota-South Dakota and Anibal Alberto Pena of Cayambe-Ecuador each voice their sovereign rights as indigenous peoples of the Americas during a panel discussion on sovereignty.

All photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM



Aztec Dancers Grace Summit



Aztec Mexico (pronounced me-she-ka) Dancers performed to the visiting dignitaries during the first day of the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. Pictured above, Carlos Castaneda, of the Denver based cultural dance group, opens the ceremony with respect to the four directions of the Earth. The fast-paced drumming and energetic dances are tied back to the strong cultural traditions of Mexico and Central America. Pictured at left, an Azteca dancer shakes her ankle in rhythm to the drums, adding to the vibrant sound of this cultural dance. Grupo Tlaloc: Danza Azteca is a non-profit traditional Mexical/Azteca group composed of Chicano/Mexicano families and students of all ages dedicated to preserving and nourishing the ancient knowledge of their ancestors.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

The Southern Ute Drum

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Ignacio, Colorado • 81137-0737

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Natives Of American Continents Gather In Colorado



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

A heartfelt handshake and mutual respect between Southern Ute tribal member Kenny Frost and Native American Consultant Dr. Nimia Ana Apaza, president of the Jujuy College of Law in Argentina, marked the sincere, positive approach each delegate brought with them to the 11th Annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. The meeting took place at Colorado State University's Native American Center in Fort Collins.

Southern Utes Advise Apache Nation on Health Center Takeover

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

Delegates from New Mexico's Jicarilla Apache Nation met with Southern Ute Indian Tribe officials on Dec. 7 to seek advice on how to assume control over their local health center.

The Jicarilla people, headquartered in Dulce, N.M., currently receive health care from Indian Health Services. But under the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, they have the option to take the reins – as SUIT did earlier this year. In a meeting with local administrators and Tribal Council members, President Levi Pesata said they plan to do exactly that.

Apache page 6



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

President Levi Pesata of the Jicarilla Apache Nation asks Southern Ute Indian Tribe officials for advice on assuming control of his people's local health center during a Dec. 7 meeting. Pesata and other Jicarilla representatives made the trip from Dulce, N.M., to learn about the process by which the Tribe took over the Southern Ute Health Center on Oct. 1. Pesata said he hopes to see the same thing happen at some point in Dulce.

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum

Earlier this month, the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas took place in the Native American wing of the Colorado State University's Lory Student Center in Fort Collins. On Dec. 3, indigenous delegates from across North, Central and South America came together to discuss issues of sovereignty.

After an opening prayer and song, keynote speaker and Southern Ute representative Kenny Frost talked about spiritual issues that often confront native peoples as they fight to retain sacred sites and the rights to maintain spiritual grounds.

Frost was followed by a conference panel with Ambassador Ronald Barnes, member of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous People. Barnes hails from Alaska and now resides in Geneva, Switzerland from where he was addressing the Indigenous Conference. Barnes talked about the laws and treaties that have been written and broken over the course of United States history and how those docu-

ments are the grounds by which native nations must continue to pursue their rights for individual sovereignty.

South American representatives from Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina spoke in their individual dialects of Spanish, some donning the traditional attire common to the Andean highlands: serapes of Alpaca wool and brightly colored fedoras adorned with peacock feathers. Mayan women came north to represent the struggles in Guatemala and the ongoing issues concerning indigenous rights.

Juana Menchu, niece of 1992 Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, came to the summit to share women's achievement stories. Representatives from Puerto Rico and Panama each came forward to voice concerns and represent their indigenous peoples.

Representatives from South Dakota, Alaska and Southern Ute tribal member Frost voiced the North American indigenous rights struggle. Each shared their own experiences with the laws and policies that govern native peoples and lands within the borders of the United States.

An energetic cultural presenta-

tion took place during the lunch session. The Lory Student Center was filled with drumming and cultural dance by the Grupo Tlaloc Danza Azteca, a group of Aztec Mexica dancers dedicated to keeping their cultural dances alive and strengthening the role of tradition within their community. Carlos Castaneda, on behalf of the Danza Azteca, invited the dignitaries of the indigenous summit to join them in one last dance.

The Cayambe Ecuadorians also checked and tuned their own stringed instruments, which had traveled with them from South America to be played at times throughout the weeklong conference.

A serious panel discussion on sovereignty ensued after lunch. Panel members included Dave Bald Eagle, Lakota; Dewayne Good Face, Lakota; Humerto Pagan, Taino of Puerto Rico; Dalene Pipeboy, Dakota; and Maryan Mills, Kenaitze. Dr. Ramone Nenadich of Puerto Rico mediated the panel, and comments throughout the day were faithfully translated from Spanish and English.

The discussions at CSU were intended to set the groundwork for a larger cultural experience, one that would take the participating dignitaries on a tour of sites relevant to Native American culture and spirituality across the state of Colorado. The networking possibilities of the conference and the power of a unified voice among indigenous nations will hopefully set a precedent for the political times.

The importance of our sovereign nations and native peoples has never been more relevant than in these political, economic and environmentally sensitive times. These issues span the Americas and can perhaps set a precedent for global community as our world powers continue to look for answers that will ensure peace, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

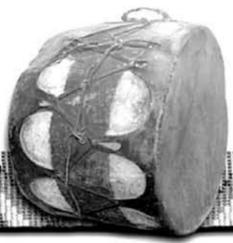
Hailing from Puerto Rico, Dr. Ramone Nenadich served as organizer, mediator and cultural liaison for the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas conference in Fort Collins.

All Is Calm, All Is Bright



The Ignacio Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its 11th annual Taste of Christmas event at the Ignacio Town Hall and the Ignacio Elementary School Gymnasium on Dec. 4. Local families stood in awe as the event kicked off with a giant Christmas tree lighting outside, and then moved quickly inside to the warmth of the gym for delicious food and drinks, crafts for the kids, and a visit from none other than Santa Claus himself. Parents and children of all ages stopped in to enjoy the holiday atmosphere and visit with friends and neighbors. Even the Salvation Army was there, ringing its famous bells and inviting residents to share a little spare change with less fortunate members of the community this holiday season.

photo Ace Stryker/SU DRUM



Southern Ute Indian Tribe Applauds Cobell Settlement

Media Release
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council supports the settlement of the Cobell litigation that was announced last week by the class of tribal member plaintiffs and the government.

That litigation, a long-running dispute over the government's mis-management of Indian trust assets, does not have a direct impact on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, although there may be some individual tribal members and other local Indians who may be affected.

While not directly involved in the case, we support those who have sought to call the government to account for its decades of trust management failures," said Chairman Matthew J. Box. The settlement, announced last week, still requires Congressional and court approval; however, Chairman Box noted that resolving the case could free up more time and resources for the federal agencies that work with the Tribe.

So You Want the Tribal Judicial System to Act Like the State or Federal System?

By Tim Heydinger
Southern Ute Public Defender

The term "full faith and credit" means that judicial decisions rendered in one jurisdiction are recognized and honored in other jurisdictions. State and federal jurisdictions frequently are hesitant to give full faith and credit to decisions rendered by tribal courts. For some reason, tribal courts often are viewed as inferior systems. If the tribal court looks and acts like a state or federal court, however, it is more likely that the tribal decisions will be given full faith and credit.

Looking and acting like a state or federal court isn't necessarily a worthwhile pursuit. Consider the recent case of Kerry Benally. Benally was accused of assaulting a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer on the Utah portion of the Ute Mountain Ute reservation. He was tried in federal court, and a jury convicted him.

After the verdict was rendered, it was learned that two of the jurors, including the foreman, had made racist statements about Native Americans during jury deliberations. The jury foreman reportedly said that he used to live on or near a reservation, and that "when Indians get alcohol, they all get drunk," and that "when they get drunk, they get violent."

Based on these statements, Benally asked for a new trial. He argued that his right to an impartial jury, as guaranteed by the Constitution, had been violated. Benally argued that some of the jurors had lied about their racial bias when they failed to reveal their past experiences with Native Americans and their preconception that all Native Americans get drunk and then violent. His request ultimately was denied when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear his appeal.

It is not acceptable for jurors to be racist and biased. Nor is it acceptable for jurors to reach a decision based on their preconceptions, racism and biases. Yet this is precisely what happened to Benally, and the Supreme Court let it happen. The Supreme Court refused to hear his case, and his conviction was allowed to stand: not because it was the right thing to do, but because of a technical point of law.

It is important that tribal courts in general, and our Tribal Court in particular, preserve this unique nature. It's what makes tribal judicial systems better than the other systems.

BLM Lands Adjacent To Durango Will Close To Protect Winter Wildlife

Media Release
Colorado Division of Wildlife

Winter snow conditions and wildlife migrations have triggered Bureau of Land Management closures on Animas City Mountain on the northwest edge of Durango, and Grandview Ridge on the southeast edge of Durango. BLM lands in these areas adjacent to Durango will close to public entry on Thursday, December 17, 2009. These seasonal closures provide safe havens for deer and elk when snow depth forces herds to migrate to lower elevations seeking shelter and forage.

trailhead to Crites Connection and continuing onto only the portion of the Telegraph Trail leading into Horse Gulch (these trails are all on private property).

• South Rim Trail, Telegraph, Sidewinder and other trails on BLM lands are closed and cannot be accessed from the Carbon Junction Trail or otherwise.

On Animas City Mountain:

• All BLM lands are closed, except for a 1.5-mile trail loop on the lower portion of the mountain, which remains open to public use. This loop can be accessed from the Birkett and 32nd Street trailheads or Dalla Mountain Park. Signs are posted at the top of the loop indicating the extent of the closure area boundary.

Closure signs will be posted at affected trailheads and intersections. The closure areas will be patrolled, and violators risk federal

penalties. The seasonal closures will remain in effect until at least March 1st or possibly as late as April 15th, depending on the timing of spring snowmelt and green up.

Many other public lands immediately adjacent to Durango remain open in winter for recreation, including the Horse Gulch and Raiders Ridge areas, Fort Lewis College Rim, Durango Mountain Park, and Dalla Mountain Park.

These temporary closure areas provide undisturbed resting and feeding areas for deer and elk herds during heavy winters. The BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife thank the public for respecting the seasonal closures by recreating in nearby areas that remain open throughout the winter. For more information, please contact the Columbine Ranger District/Field Office at 884-2512 or Colorado Division of Wildlife at (970) 247-0855.

New Employees



Ace Stryker
Media Manager
Description of Duties: Editor-in-chief of the Southern Ute Drum.
Hobbies: Writing, playing guitar, tinkering with computers, exploring my new home in southwest Colorado.
Family: Wife Lacy Ann Stryker.
Comments: I'm happy to be here and excited to take the Drum to the next level. I feel privileged to work for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Dean Dischler
M.D.
(No Photo Available)
Description of Duties: Physician.
Hobbies: backpacking, cycling, traveling.

Russell Howard
General Manager for ALP
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, camping.
Family: Wife Julie.



Express Your Opinions

Deepest Apologies
The Miss Southern Ute Royalty Committee would like to extend our deepest apologies to Liz Kent, a tribal elder, who also

helped with the interpretation and writing of our Ute language in the Miss Southern Ute Royalty Christmas cards. Thank you Liz for taking the time and all your hard work!
Southern Ute Royalty Committee
2009-2010

EDITORS NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS THEY ARE SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE. The Southern Ute Drum accepts and encourages letters from its readers on any subject or issue whatsoever. We ask that letters submitted for publication be 500 words or less, and be signed by the writer. Letters deemed to be libelous or tasteless will not be published. Letters need to be signed and submitted to media manager for the Southern Ute Drum 970-563-0100, ext. 2255 or send an e-mail to astryker@southern-ute.nsn.us during normal business hours.

So. Ute Royalty Quarterly Report

Miss Southern Ute



Maiki, Nu Na Nia Samantha Maez, Naa Waapuina Naanaasichi (Beautiful Butterfly), Miss Southern Ute 2009-2010:
I am honored to represent my people and the community I live in. Since I began my reign, I have been busy. I had the great experience of meeting Wes Studi. For those that are not familiar with him, Wes Studi is an actor known for his great roles in "Pow Wow Highway" and "Last of the Mohicans," to name a couple. He really had some encouraging words for all us young people. His upbringing was very interesting to me and the way he captured the audience with his speech was what I admired the most.
On Nov. 7, I was in attendance at our Veteran's PowWow. Again I was very honored to shake the hands of the men and woman who unselfishly fought for our country and freedom.
I hope to bring more great news to my people as I go on my journey as Miss Southern Ute 2009-2010. Thank you for your time, and happy holidays to all!
May our Creator bless you all,
Samantha Maez
Miss Southern Ute 2009-2010

Merry Christmas My Friend

To all military personnel who are serving overseas during this holiday season, we would like to submit the following poem. We have also served our country with pride and honor.

You are in our thoughts,
Cpl Alden J. Weaver, USMC
Cpl Joseph M. Weaver, USMC
Rudley Weaver, USN

Merry Christmas, My Friend
by James M. Schmidt

Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year, because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home. Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye. I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice, "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more. My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

Twass the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give and to see just who in this home did live

I watched him for hours, so silent and still. I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand. On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, and covered this Marine from his toes to his head. Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold, with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind, a sobering thought soon came to my mind. For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen. This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride, and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more, so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door. And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone, Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight. But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure, said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene, Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine. Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

One look at my watch and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and good-night

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan. I soon understood, this was more than a man. For I realized the families that I saw that night, owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

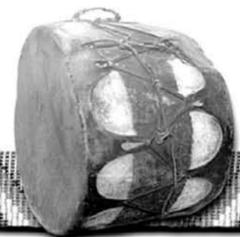
This special poem was written by Marine Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt while he was stationed in Washington, D.C., in 1986. We need to take time every day to be thankful to our military and the sacrifices they make to keep you safe.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play, And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright

Please pass this powerful poem on to anyone you think could use a reminder about the hardships faced in the military and how thankful we should be.

Next Drum Dec 31 DEADLINES
Display/Classified Ads & Jobs
Dec. 24
Stories & News, Announcements
Wishes/B-Days!
Dec. 24

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Holiday Fire Safety Warnings

Media Release

Southern Ute Risk Management

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 1,650 Americans and cause over \$990 million in damage. There are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be

more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Important. Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended!

All decorations should be non-flammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Artificial Christmas Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles.

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

StarWheels

January 2010 Horoscopes by "The Starlady"

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, CAPRICORN! In spite of MERCURY and MARS launching the month on a backward note, you still have ample opportunities to make this a period of growth. VENUS, THE SUN, MERCURY and PLUTO gather in your sign early in the month, boosting your popularity and earning you much-deserved recognition for your talents. Additionally, the solar eclipse in CAPRICORN sets a positive cycle into motion. Clear the slate of old ideas and focus your sights on a sparkling new year.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

The first half of the month may not meet your expectations, AQUARIUS. Obstacles and delays could block your every turn. MERCURY's confusing influence makes it difficult to determine which direction to take. The bottom line is when in doubt, wait it out. After Jan. 15, your direction may become crystal clear. MARS kicks up clouds of opposition all month; patience will be necessary when dealing with close personal relationships.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Get ready for a BIG year ahead, Little Fishes. JUPITER, the generous giant, enters your sign on Jan. 19 and sticks around for about a year. Consider it the start of a new 12-year cycle. Set your intention, PISCES: favorable conditions give life to your hopes, wishes, and dreams. But it's the dynamic solar eclipse on Jan. 14 that turns the tide. New ideas are incubating. Take advantage of this favorable month: it's yours for the taking.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Typically, this is not always the best time of the new year for Rams. With THE SUN, MERCURY, VENUS and PLUTO amassed in the responsibility sign of CAPRICORN, you might be feeling some pressure on the job. Superiors may be demanding more from you. And as you well know, ARIES is not a sign to be pushed. Be cool, Rams: there are better planetary conditions ahead. The solar eclipse on Jan. 14 ushers in a fresh perspective connected to finances and employment matters.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Action-oriented MARS is not living up to its name this month. Moving in slow motion, the red planet may bog you down with domestic delays. Flexibility will be your greatest asset in getting your year off to a good start. Future prospects look much brighter after Jan. 14, when a very friendly new moon alters your perception and steers you directly toward your hopes and goals. As always, Taurus, rely on your instincts. They almost always help you to achieve your objectives.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Slow down, Twins! MERCURY, your favorite planet, puts a damper on your progress through Jan. 14. On that day, an intense new moon signals a dramatic turn of events regarding your financial affairs. Money may be tight, Twins, but later this month good news comes in the form of JUPITER. After Jan. 17, job opportunities improve when the giant planet enters the career and recognition section of your chart.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 22)

It's a brand new year, Moon Kids. Best bet is to start out with a clean slate, particularly where personal relationships are concerned. Be open and honest. On Jan. 17, beneficial JUPITER enters the compatible sign of PISCES, setting you up with a more perceptive mindset concerning your love connections. Magically, you'll be able to express your feelings with exactly the right words. Take it slow and easy, Moon Kids. Others may be seeing things from a totally opposite point of view.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Feeling a little stuck this month, Lions? MARS continues its stay in your sign and it has one foot on the brakes, hence the reason for your sluggish progress. But it's not a complete wash. Pay attention to your conversations with others around you. SATURN does an about-face on Jan. 13 and that's when your words could be taken out of context. On the positive side, good news may be forth coming on Jan. 29 with the full moon in LEO! A long-term goal is finally attained. Yee-haw!

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

MERCURY, ruling planet of Virgo, starts the month off on a retrograde note. But the good news is that on Jan. 15, your little planet wakes up and gets you and your plans moving forward again. Loving VENUS joins your pal MERCURY on Jan. 5, encouraging you to spend more time with loved ones. Keep an eye on finances on Jan. 31. SATURN squares off with PLUTO on that day and you may need to make a few adjustments to your record-keeping.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

SATURN, the planet of work and limitation, puts a damper on your playtime activities this month. Instead, your attention is diverted to family and household matters. On Jan. 5, MERCURY joins forces with VENUS, your personal planet, enabling you to have heart-to-heart talks with family members or relatives. Try to sidestep domestic arguments on Jan. 27: that's when MARS enters into a standoff with VENUS.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

A pack of planets pile into the communications section of your chart early in the month. Suddenly your daily routine multiplies and may have you running in all directions, SCORPIO. On Jan. 15, a powerful solar eclipse helps to clear away old ideas, while the seeds of new thought are planted. This is a great time to get your point across. The planets are in your favor, and you should be able to make great progress. Don't let procrastination get in the way. Your decisions are likely to be clear and well thought out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

A plethora of planets pack the financial area of your chart this month. But it's not time for that spending spree just yet. Practicality is the key. JUPITER, your own lucky planet, slips into the sign of PISCES on Jan. 17, promoting positive growth regarding home and family interests. There may be some of you considering a move to a larger space. Having more room may be greatly appealing to you now.

Carole Maye is a Certified Astrology Professional with over 30 years of astrological study and practice. Private horoscope consultations can be arranged by appointment, via email: starwheels2@comcast.net

Tri-State Energizes Bayfield-Durango Power Line

Media Release

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the power supplier to La Plata Electric Association, energized its Bayfield-Durango 115-kilovolt transmission line Dec. 8 after completing a \$5.3 million rebuild project of the aging line.

Originally constructed in 1958, the line was taken out of service in late July before construction began. Sturgeon Electric Company served as Tri-State's line contractor for the reconstruction. The contractors removed 145 H-frame poles and replaced them with newer structures. The conductor was replaced with new wires that are more reliable and can carry more electricity.

The 16-mile-long project is one of many improvements the association has made to southwest Colorado's power delivery system to improve reliability and increase capacity to meet growing energy demand in the region.

"I think of this project like installing a new, more energy-efficient heating system in your home," said Stephen Mundorff, Tri-State's senior manager of transmission engineering. "We feel more secure knowing this essential line that supports the region's power needs now has an extended lifespan and will operate more reliably."

Crews also made improvements to the access roads to ensure compliance with national reliability standards. In the event of an outage, maintenance crews can now more easily access the

line to make repairs.

"Tri-State commends the construction crews for completing this project safely and on time - just in time for winter heating needs," Mundorff said.

In addition to ongoing improvements such as the Bayfield-Durango rebuild, there is a tremendous need to import additional power into the region. Tri-State also is planning a new 230-kilovolt transmission line from Farmington, N.M., to Ignacio. Still in the planning phases, which included public meetings in October, the proposed San Juan Basin Energy Connect is needed to meet load growth, improve reliability and relieve transmission constraints.

For more information on this and other Tri-State transmission projects, visit online at www.tristate.coop/transmission.

Holiday Greetings, Wishes & Memories

In Loving Memory of My Two Brothers

Both went to Vietnam to fight for peace,
Both came home, Only!
Both went to fight again, Only!
Both had to fight the fire, a raging fire,
Both were crossing a swift river,
Only one fell, never to return home,
Only one came home,
My two Brothers,
I love My Brothers.

**Love Always and Forever
Your Sister
Maxine Silva**

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year

To our parents Marjorie, Joe & Debbie, our children, Tyler, Grace & Andrew, all of our siblings Pres/Nora, Yo/Seo, Joe II/Danielle, Hats/Nuf, Jen, Chili Girl, Auntie & Uncle Ray, all of our nieces & nephews & all of our extended family. May the Creator watch over you all.

Amy & Mario

To my grandma Eagle, Bones, Douglas, Linda, Carolyne, Daisy, Rhonda, Larry, T.J., Jimmy & our friends Leann, Mico, Rachel & her family, Nancy W., Chris & Jess family, Cel & her family, Marie & her family, The Seibel family & my co-workers at work. A Happy Merry Christmas and Have a great New Years... We love you all!

"Remember Me" In memory of Stella Mae Santistevan

Feb. 1, 1933-Dec. 17, 2007

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

**You are greatly missed,
sweet lady,
your children, grandchildren & great grandchildren**

To Our Terrance in Phoenix Merry Xmas & Happy New Year, we miss you. I hope you get everything you want because you are such a great nephew. Think about you all of the time!!

Auntie Amy & Family

To Our Lovely Children Stais, Dermarr, Autumn-Bahozho

Mom and dad really loves you guys, Even though we don't say "I love you" everyday and we are very proud of you guys. Stais thank you for being a wonderful "big brother" and trying to keep everyone happy, Dermarr thank you for being yourself and being a "big brother" to your little sister", Autumn-Bahozho thank you for teaching us the moment of "patience" and for loving us back. Keep up the good work!!!

**With lots of love,
MOM and DAD**

We would like to say "Merry Christmas and Have a great New Year's Eve" to Larenz, Silas, Neto, Little Henry & Jamie.

**We love you little guys,
From the Harlan family**

To our grandpa Harlan & Debbie S.

Grandpa & Debbie we love you two, Thank you for everything you do for us,

From the Harlan Kiddos

In the words of Frosty the Snowman... Happy Birthday! May each and every one of our family members have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you walk in Peace.

Love always, Blenda, Asa, Saph, Alexis, Angel, Melinda, Mataya, Adrienne, Avery, Miracle, KJ & Bobby

Southern Ute Tribal Offices Holiday Closures

Friday, December 25, 2009 "Christmas"

Friday, January 1, 2010 "New Years Day"



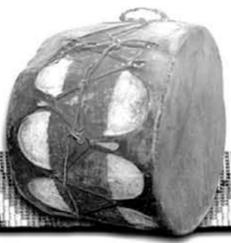
**Annual Tribal Christmas Dinner
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center
December 19, 2009 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe invites ALL Tribal Membership and Families, Permanent Fund, Growth Fund and Sky Ute Casino employees to the Annual Christmas Dinner to be held at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center.

Meet and greet our Southern Ute Royalty and take a minute to catch up with friends & family who are visiting during the holiday season. If you are unable to attend due to a handicap or disability constraint, please contact Southern Ute Elder Services so arrangements can be made to have your meal delivered during the day. Their phone number is (970) 563-0100 Ext. 2323.

**Annual Tribal Christmas Program
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center
December 19, 2009 3:00pm - 5:00 pm**

For questions, please contact Amy Barry, Public Relations Division for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe at (970) 563-0100 Ext. 2251.



Of Four Corners Interest

Durango Parks and Rec Accepting Youth Basketball Registrations

Durango's Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the youth basketball program. The program is open to boys and girls in first through sixth grades, and girls in seventh and eighth grades. Cost of the program is \$35 for first and second grades (\$40 after Dec. 18), and \$40 for third through sixth grades (\$45 after Dec. 18). Games will begin Saturday, Jan. 23, and run for six weeks (no games on Saturday, Jan. 30). Register at the Durango Community Recreation Center or online at (<https://web.durangogov.org>). Volunteer coaches are still needed. Call John Robinette at 970-375-7323 for more info or if you would like to be a coach.

Durango Independent Film Festival Announces Film Festival Package

The Durango Independent Film Festival and local restaurants have partnered to give film enthusiasts and holiday shoppers this year's most unique and creative gift! The Dinner and a Film Festival package includes a 2010 Durango Independent Film Festival 6-Punch Pass and a \$50 gift certificate from your choice of Guido's Favorite Foods, the Irish Embassy Pub, Mutu's Italian Kitchen, or Cosmopolitan restaurants. The festival and participating restaurants are offering the package for \$95, which is 10 percent less than if purchased separately. Dinner and a Film Festival packages are on sale now through the end of February and can be purchased at participating restaurants or the Film Festival office. The Durango Independent Film Festival will be held in downtown Durango from Wednesday, March 3 through Sunday, March 7, 2010. Other festival passes are also on sale at durangofilm.org. For more information, call 970-375-7779.

Durango Parks and Rec, Chapman Hill Openings

Durango Parks and Recreation has several openings in the Kid's Days Childcare Program during the holiday break. Kid's Days activities include ice skating at Chapman Hill, gymnastics at the Mason Center, swimming at the Recreation Center, craft projects, lots of games and much more! These supervised activities keep your child(ren) safe, happy and entertained during the holidays.

Durango Parks and Recreation has several openings in our new ski and snowboard camps during the holiday break. Levels 1 & 2 Snow Surfer Camps offer instruction in snowboarding. Levels 1 & 2 Snow Bombers Camps offer instruction in ski lessons. The camps run the weeks of December 21 and December 28. Don't forget a ski pass to Chapman Hill for that stocking! Check out the Park and Recreation Winter Activities Guide for more information about these and many more great programs. Sign up today at the Recreation Center, Mason Center or Chapman Hill or online at (www.durangogov.org). For more information on these great programs, contact the Durango Community Recreation Center at 970-375-7300.

Vallecito Nordic Trail System Open

The Vallecito Nordic Trail System is now open for cross-country skiing. The trail system offers more than 9 miles of trails groomed for classic and skate skiing. Skating conditions are currently soft, but the track should be packed down over the weekend. Special thanks to Roger Pennington with the San Juan Sledders Club for the Snowcat grooming this week. The trail system is operated by the Vallecito Nordic Club, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a groomed recreational trail system for non-motorized use by outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities through recreation, education and community building. The trail system is operated under a special-use permit with the San Juan National Forest. The Vallecito Nordic Club provides no services other than trail grooming. Dogs are welcome, but owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior and are asked to toss droppings off the trail. The Vallecito Nordic Trail System can be accessed from Durango by taking Florida Road to Helen's Store, taking a right on CR 240 and a left on CR 501. At Vallecito Reservoir, turn right on CR 501A, cross over the dam and continue to the trailhead at Old Timers Campground. Vehicles should be able to negotiate snow-packed conditions on CR 501A, and drivers should be aware that the road across the dam is narrow and exposed. Parking is roadside only, and skiers are asked not to block the driveway entrance at Ellington Lane across from Old Timer's Campground. Donations are encouraged. All trails are maintained by volunteer groomers, with the Nordic Club receiving no other funding. All donations go toward maintaining the trail system. For information on current conditions or for information on how to make an online or mail-in donation, please go to (<http://skivallecito.wordpress.com>).

With Snow... Comes Snow Removal

Cooperation from the community is essential to the effective removal of snow from Durango city streets. While we are enjoying the snow and everything it brings to the city, residents and businesses are reminded to remove snow from public sidewalks abutting their property. City code states that property occupants are required to remove all snow and ice from all public sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours after it stops snowing. Snow from private parking lots, private driveways and private sidewalks may not be placed in the street. Prompt removal of the snow is important for the safety of residents and especially for children walking to school. When snow is forecasted, the city's snow removal team is on-call. During snowstorms, plowing and sanding is done around the clock, but much of the plowing is done at night when there is less traffic. Per city code, cars parked on city streets are required to be moved every 24 hours. During the winter snow months, it is particularly important that cars be moved to allow for effective snow removal. Residents are asked to move their cars to an area that has already been plowed. Vehicles that are not moved are subject to towing at the owner's expense. Certain high-traffic streets throughout the city are designated snow routes and are marked with snow route signs. To determine if you live or work on a snow route, please visit our new interactive map at (<http://156.108.156.46/SnowRoutes>). Parking is allowed on snow routes; however, when snow starts to accumulate, a Red Alert may be declared. A Red Alert is a state of emergency requiring vehicles to be removed from certain city streets so that the snow accumulation can be removed. When a Red Alert is declared, parking is prohibited on the snow routes and any vehicle parked on a designated snow route may be towed at the owner's expense. Residents may find out if a Red Alert has been declared by listening to the local radio stations, watching City Span 10, visiting the City's website (www.durangogov.org) or by calling the 24-hour Snow Hotline at (970) 375-4646 for a prerecorded message. To report icy conditions after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, please call the Durango/La Plata Emergency Communications Center's non-emergency number, (970) 385-2900. For more information please call the Public Works Department, 970-375-4800.

Many Moons Ago



Photo Archives/DRUM

10 years ago...

On Dec. 6, past Chairman Clement Frost was given a reception to thank him for his 21 years of service to the Southern Ute Tribe. Frost was tribal councilman for 18 years and chairman for 3 years. Andy Howell and Edna Frost from Tribal Information Services presented Frost with a Pendleton blanket emblazoned with the Southern Ute Tribal Seal. This photo was published in the Dec. 3, 1999, issue of *The Southern Ute Drum*.



Photo Archives/DRUM

20 years ago...

Southern Ute Head Start children perform at the Tribal Christmas Program in the Southern Ute Community Center. This was published in the December 22, 1989, issue of *The Southern Ute Drum*.



Photo Archives/DRUM

30 years ago...

Harry Richards celebrates his 94th birthday at the Tribal Christmas party, where the crowd sang Happy Birthday. He was born in 1885, making Richards the oldest living Tribal member at that time. This photo was published in the Dec. 21, 1979, issue of *The Southern Ute Drum*.

PowWow Trails 2009

6th Annual New Years Eve PowWow
December 31, 2009
120 W 1300 S • Salt Lake City, UT
Contact: Winston Mason
Phone: (801) 655-3396
Email: medicinechild@hotmail.com

9th Annual Sobriety PowWow
December 31, 2009
100 Civic Center Downtown, Tulsa Convention Center • Tulsa, OK
Contact: Niles Bosin
Phone: (918) 639-1816

Shonto PowWow Annual Celebration
December 30-31, 2009
Hwy. 160 & 98 • Shonto, AZ
Contact: Harrison Miles
Phone: (928) 672-3522
Email: hmiles@mail.shonto.bia.edu

Santee Dakota Omaka Teca Wacipi
December 31-January 1, 2010
207 Frazier Ave. • Santee, NE
Contact: Sidney A. Tuttle, Sr.
Phone: (402) 857-2327
Email: sid_tuttle01@yahoo.com

14th Annual New Years Day Dance
January 1, 2010
Kickapoo Tribal Gym • McCloud, OK
Contact: Diana Plumley
Phone: (405) 598-0636



Ute Language

tavayitÜ "Day"
tugwanatÜ "Night"

Editor's Note: The Ute Language and "Translation" are transcribed from the 2000 Ute Dictionary, ©1996



Tri-Ute Leaders Share Plans at State Capitol



All photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

By **Jeremy Wade Shockley**
The Southern Ute Drum

Representatives of the Southern Ute, Northern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes met at the state Capitol on Dec. 4 to update each other on plans and affairs of mutual interest, includ-

ing the preservation of Ute language and culture.

Among the officials at the meeting were Chairman Matthew Box of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Chairman Ernest House Sr. and Tribal Council members from the Ute Mountain Utes, and Mariah Cutch of the Northern Utes. Ute Mountain Ute Council

members present were Christina Lehigh and Leona Eytoo. Each tribe was given time to bring topics and updates to the table for discussion.

Box kicked off the meeting with a prayer and opening remarks. After that, Bridget Ambler, curator of material culture for the Colorado Historical Society, offered a brief presentation. Her address concerned the funding for the Ute Indian Museum expansion project, which has been put on hold. Ambler stated that the earliest funding could be reinstated for the expansion project would be July 2011.

Box addressed the continued progress of the construction of the Southern Ute Cultural Center. He also spoke of the process by which the Southern Utes have been able to take over the Southern Ute Health Center and continue operations without any gaps in service and

shared future plans for the Tribal Clinic.

He then discussed the memorandum from President Obama and offered encouraging words about the continued relationship that this presidency has so far had with the native tribes and sovereign nations of the United States. The last matter of business from the Southern Ute Reservation was to reinforce the teaching and safeguarding of the Ute language through education, Ute elders, and the possibility of using new technology as a teaching tool for the Ute language.

House began by reiterating the importance of language preservation and the value of all three Ute tribes working together to create a common language standard. He talked about renewable energy as a key source of possible revenue and infrastructure on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and considerations to build on to the existing casino. Wastewater management, hydropower and the Animas-La Plata Project were also brought up.

Chairman Box offered closing remarks and a closing prayer. The Ute delegates finished with an informal lunch at the University Clubhouse adjacent to the Capitol.



Southern Ute Chairman Matthew Box opens discussions during recent Tri-Ute meeting in Colorado's Capitol (top left). Bridget Ambler of the Colorado Historical Society gives an update on Ute Museum project funding (top right). Ute Mountain Ute Chairman Ernest House Sr. listens to the topics of discussion at Tri-Ute (above).

Employees Enjoy Christmas Feast



Permanent Fund employees of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe sought refuge from the winter weather on Dec. 9 at the Sun Ute Casino Resort, where an extravagant employee appreciation luncheon was served. Members of all departments mingled to share holiday plans as they enjoyed a traditional buffet of turkey, sliced ham, potatoes, stuffing, gravy and more. During the event, employees also lined up to collect their long-awaited annual bonus checks. During the meal, Tribal Council Chair Matthew Box took a moment to express his gratitude: "I wanted to personally thank everybody today," he said. "It means a lot to every one of us that you show up every day, that you do what you do."

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Education Christmas Party A Hit



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

The Southern Ute Education Department's after-school tutoring program hosted its annual Christmas party for participating students. Students grade levels ranged from the first through the eighth. The young members of Ignacio's community celebrated with hot pizza and various hands-on arts and crafts-related activities. Fifth-grader Serena Fournier and fourth-grader Carlos Herrera work diligently at creating Tile Stamp Art pieces using ceramic tiles, rubber stamp kits and plenty of holiday glitter. This after-school event took place on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

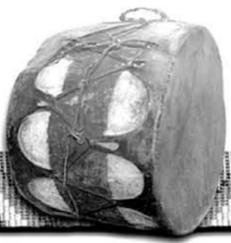
Attention All Tribal Members Listed

James L. Box
Ashley A. Brooks
Sandra Burch
Little War Casias
Cheryl Frost
Ron Frost
Gary L. Jefferson
Orval C. Joe

DeAnn O'John
Yolanda Williams Joy
Mathew S. Olguin
John A. Payne
April Rivas
Maria Rivera
Justin Romero
Christopher T. Taylor

Scott E. Taylor
Mary Velasquez
Izaya J. Washington
Joseph Williams-Durant

Please call
Tribal Information Services
(970) 563-0100 ext. 2302



H1N1 Vaccination Opportunities Opening Up For General Public

Media Release
San Juan Basin Health

Community members who want the H1N1 vaccination now have a variety of venues in which they can get it. San Juan Basin Health Department is holding a community clinic at the Durango Mall from 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18. Vaccinations are for everyone and are free at this clinic. City Market and Walgreens are also now providing H1N1 vaccina-

tions for an administrative fee. Additionally, Durango Family Medicine, Fort Lewis College Health Center and Pediatric Partners have the vaccine available for their patients. San Juan Basin Health Department has successfully met demand for vaccine from those in priority groups through its 14 community clinics held throughout La Plata County and offering 17 in-school clinics at every elementary, middle and high school in the county. Over 7,500 individuals have already been vaccinated

against H1N1 in our community. "While we're seeing lower levels of flu now, we know that historically pandemics have come in multiple waves and therefore the potential exists for higher levels of flu later in the season," said Adam Dreyfuss, San Juan Basin Health's Emergency Preparedness coordinator. "We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated against H1N1." For H1N1 updates, visit the San Juan Basin Health website at (www.sjbhd.org) or call the FluLine 970-247-5702 ext. 1520.

The Kidney Corner: "Causes of CKD: Part III"

By Dr. Mark Saddler
Durango Nephrology Associates



In the last two articles, we discussed diabetes and hypertension, the two most common causes of chronic kidney disease. What other conditions can cause kidney disease?

Glomerulonephritis (a long word!) means "inflammation of the filtering parts of the kidneys." There are many different types of glomerulonephritis. The most common in the Native American population is called "IgA nephropathy." IgA stands for "Immunoglobulin type A." It is a protein that is present in the blood in all normal people. The type of IgA found in patients with IgA nephropathy is abnormal, and this can cause the protein to be deposited in the kidney, causing damage.

This condition can sometimes be relatively harmless. Some people with this condition get blood in their urine intermittently, especially when they have an upper respiratory infection, or common cold. Although this can be alarming, it usually does not cause serious consequences.

However, other forms of IgA nephropathy can cause protein in the urine, which can be much

more serious and can lead to kidney failure. The more serious forms of IgA nephropathy can be treated with medications that suppress the body's immune system, though most patients with IgA do not need this. Similarly, other types of glomerulonephritis may or may not need specific treatment, depending on their causing damage.

For most cases of glomerulonephritis, the cause is unknown, even though most are treatable. As one might expect, the earlier it is diagnosed and treated, the better the outcome is likely to be.

Lupus, also called "systemic lupus erythematosus" or "SLE," is another common cause of chronic kidney disease. It is more common in women than

men. The cause of lupus is unknown; it can cause disease of many different systems in the body, including the joints, skin, heart and lungs. It is also usually treatable with medications that suppress the immune system, though these medications can have numerous side effects that must be monitored carefully.

Various medications can damage the kidneys, causing chronic kidney disease. The most common may be over-the-counter pain medications such as ibuprofen. Many people incorrectly think that these medications are harmless, but in fact, if they are taken for long periods of time, they can cause a variety of kidney problems, including kidney failure. Occasional use in people who do not have underlying kidney disease usually does not cause problems.

Urine obstruction, for example due to prostate enlargement in men, is another common cause of chronic kidney disease. Problems with urination should therefore usually be evaluated by a physician.

There are also genetic causes of kidney disease, for example polycystic disease. Generally, these are less common in Native American patients.

So. Utes Advice Apache Nation • from page 1

"We've already passed a resolution to take the first step on that," he said. "I think now is a really opportune time because of the position of [President] Obama."

That position, as made clear during a summit with Native American leaders at the White House on Nov. 5, is strongly pro-self-determination.

"I believe Washington can't – and shouldn't – dictate a policy agenda for Indian Country," Obama told a room full of Native American leaders. "Tribal nations do better when they make their own decisions."

But the process for taking over a health center can be a long and complicated one, as Southern Ute leadership knows all too well. The Tribe took the reigns of the Southern Ute Health Center from IHS on Oct. 1, but it took a nearly five-year legal battle.

Initially, IHS had refused to forfeit control of the clinic as mandated by law, citing costs. The meat of the argument was over how much the federal government must provide after the Tribe took over for administrative costs, or "contract support costs." The Tribe eventually prevailed.

Once the legal qualms were settled, the process of switching administration only took a few months, said Executive Officer Johnny Valdez.

"You should be able to do it in one year," Valdez told the Apache delegation, which included several members of the



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Southern Ute Health Center Director Tom Duran explains the legal and financial intricacies involved in taking control of the clinic to a delegation from New Mexico's Jicarilla Apache Nation during a meeting Dec. 7. Tribal Council Chairman Matthew Box and Executive Officer Johnny Valdez also attended to offer advice to the Jicarilla officials, who are hoping to take control of their own health center in the near future.

Legislative Council. "That amount of time is really the time it should have taken."

Valdez said it has been a difficult process to make the change, but that the ability to govern how the health center is run has been worth it.

"You need a couple of people who will go out of their way. It's not going to be an 8-to-5 job," he said. "But you make the decisions. That's what self-determination is about."

In Ignacio, one such person has been Health Center Director Tom Duran. Duran spent long hours working out the legal and finan-

cial aspects of the transition. He urged the Apache representatives to take advantage of the favorable political climate.

"It's an opportune time for tribes because the White House is very pro-tribal government and pro-self determination."

Jicarilla Councilman Wainwright Velarde summed up why his people are so interested in controlling their own health center.

"What you guys are doing is what we want done," he said. "In order to get that self-determination in gear, you have to do it yourself. You have to make sure it's done right."

Winter Safety: Don't Slip and Fall!

Media Release
Southern Ute Risk Management

Rain, snow, and ice can create slippery conditions within the parking lots and along walkways and stairs. The best way to avoid a serious slip and fall this winter is to recognize hazardous conditions and take the proper

precautions.

Wear the appropriate footwear. Flat shoes with slip-resistant soles or rain/snow boots are best since they provide traction.

Watch where you are stepping. Watch out for ice that may be covered by snow. Take note of buildings that have snow and ice accumulation on the roof.

Walk slowly and stay alert. Take short, flat steps with your feet slightly spread.

Stay alert for warning signs in areas where danger is most prominent. Use handrails on steep inclines and stairways.

When entering buildings, clean your footwear.

Report unsafe conditions to your supervisor.



Southern Ute

Strengthening Families Health Program



All Families are welcome to join and participate.

Southern Ute Family Court Support Office & Shining Mountain Diabetes Program

The Strengthening Families Health Program teaches skills that focus on your family's physical and emotional wellness. SFHP promotes closer relationships, effective communication, empathy and understanding, healthy nutrition, fitness, and family recreation. Learn family skills from caring and experienced trainers, in a supportive educational setting. Please join us for lots of learning and fun for the whole family!

Benefits for Teens & Kids...

- Learn how to resist negative peer pressure.
- Develop personal goals and know how to make them happen.
- Have fun playing fitness games and activities with your family.

For Parents...

- Learn how to set limits and use appropriate discipline.
- Increase enjoyable and positive time with your children & teens.
- Improve coping skills and stress management.

and Families!

- Nurture your family's physical and emotional well being.
- Build closer relationships among family members.
- Communicate and foster your family's values and traditions.

WHO

Families with teens, younger children and expecting.

All family members are welcome.

WHAT

Strengthening Families Health Program

Dinner and childcare provided!

Skills groups for Parents, Teens, and Children.

WHEN

Tuesday eves., 5:30-8:30 pm
Jan. 19-April 13, 2010

WHERE

Will be announced
Ignacio, Co

CALL TO REGISTER

Crystal Thompson
563-0240, ext. 3255



Fathers' Voices Inc.

In Partnership with:
Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado
University of Denver-Four Corners MSW Program
Ignacio Community Collaboration

presents

A Two-day workshop: January 15 & 16, 2010
"How Service Providers Can Work With Native Americans"

presented by

Dr. Maria Braveheart and Ray Daw







at Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Sky Ute Casino & Resort's Event Center in Ignacio, CO
Space is Limited

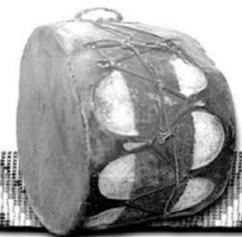
Please visit the Fathers' Voices Website to print registration form.
www.fathersvoices.org
 Please send registration form with payment by December 18, 2009

For further information please call (970) 764-5631

Registration Form • Space Limited-Register Early

Name (print clearly): _____
 Title: _____
 Name of Organization (if student, name of College/University): _____
 Address of Individual/Organization: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____ Cell: _____

Indicate if you would be interested in receiving Continuing Educational Units for this workshop: **YES** or **NO**
Please note that we will provide further information to interested participants before workshop
Registration Fees: \$ 40.00/Day One Only ___ \$ 40.00/Day Two Only ___ \$ 60.00/Both Days ___
Student Registration: \$ 20.00 /Day *Will need to send current year student photo ID with registration
Payment Method: Check ___ Money Order ___
Office Use Only: Received ___/___/___ **Check Number:** _____
Mail registration form and payment to: Fathers' Voices, Po Box 1177, Durango, Colorado 81302



Thank You, Cassandra Yazzie Boys and Girls Club Slam Bios

A Digital Smoke Signal

By Mari Villaluna
Boys and Girls Club
of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

"I hope I get another opportunity to do this again with you guys, 'cuz all of you are great."

There I was: writing thank-you notes to the sponsors of Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Native Hip-Hop Workshop. I finished one note, and then opened another to write one to Cassandra Yazzie. Then Robert Ortiz from the tribal newspaper, the Southern Ute Drum, came into my office and told me he needed to talk to me about Cassandra Yazzie.

I first met Cassandra at my homie Klee Benally's wedding. I asked if I could sit at their table. Little did I know that even though I was on the Navajo Nation, the whole table was around from where I live. I noticed her kids, and her husband Jason Hotchkiss told me all about their organization, Four Rivers Institute. It was all about teaching Native American youth about the outdoors and getting job experience. I thought it was a much-needed program here in this tribal community.

A week or two went by and I thought about Cassandra again. I was planning this media workshop called Native Hip-Hop Workshop and was looking for a photographer. We had music and writing covered, but just needed photo. I talked to Jason again, and he thought it was a great idea.

He then gave me Cassandra's number and I gave her a call to ask her to be a photographer for a project I was organizing media classes that I called Native Hip-



photo courtesy M. Villaluna/SUB&GC

Cassandra Yazzie is with students from the film workshop of the Southern Ute Boys and Girls Club's Native Hip-Hop Workshop.

Hop Workshop. She told me that was a great idea, but that film was better for the youth. I remember her contacting me by chatting or calling and her wanting to do a film workshop with the youth, and then I remember telling her I couldn't fund-raise anymore money for a third presenter.

I remember how shocked I was by her answer: "Don't worry Mari, I'm local. I just want to start doing film workshops with youth. Don't fund-raise for me." Cassandra and I started to form an organizing friendship centered around the youth in the Southern Ute Tribal Community.

I believe Cassandra's spirit knew she had to do a Native Hip-Hop Workshop before she left this world. She had this determination to do the film even when I was still thinking about photography. It was her first workshop for youth, and she was so excited.

"Like Mari said, um, I'm here with Four Rivers Institute as part of their media connection," she said. "This was just a little some-

thing I wanted to do, and it was my first time connecting a workshop with some young people. I am very fortunate to be here with all these good people, but I wanted to say thank you to every one of you who participated in the workshops and to the ones that allowed myself and my little filmmakers - my lil' peeps - to interview you, because I know it takes a lot of courage to step up and say 'I'll be interviewed.'"

I remember when she met me and Ras (the music presenter) at the casino; she had the biggest smile on her face while networking about the film.

Cassandra's selfless spirit was felt by the kids in her film class. I remember how she was a person of her word, and how she kept her promises to the youth. Many times we forget about what we tell our youth and don't hold ourselves accountable. I remember her e-mailing me to talk to one of her students because she promised him a clip of the video, and since he couldn't get the video yet, she asked me to talk to him. Her students shared her passion of film, and it showed in their creative media art and investigative journalism.

So there I was at my desk, about to write her a letter, and Robert Ortiz walked in my office. He asked me if I knew what happened to Cassandra. I thought he was going to tell me the film tapes from Native Hip-Hop Workshop were destroyed, or maybe that she got the cold or flu. He told me she got in a car crash and died right away. Three of her and her partner's five kids were in the car.

Smoke Signal page 10



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Protecting You, Protecting Me



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Don Folsom of the Southern Ute Police Department met with students from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy on Dec. 14 to issue certificates to students who were involved in an eight-week session of six classes on "Protecting You, Protecting Me." The program includes an alcohol-prevention curriculum from Mothers Against Drunk Driving that was tailored for schools across Indian Country. The program begins with an introduction of your brain and how it functions in your daily life, then deals with the negative effects that alcohol can have on the development and functions of the brain at an early age. The course also addresses responsible driving, seatbelt safety and the importance of making smart decisions. Grades one through six participated in the program, and one spokesperson from each class was asked to speak on behalf of their peers. Also involved in the educational program was Gail Pena of SUPD, not pictured.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe collaborated with Tiny from POOR Magazine, Ras K' Dee (Pomo/Afrikan) from SNAG Magazine and Cassandra Yazzie (Dine') from Four Rivers Institute to lead their Native Hip-Hop Workshop.

The workshop included hip-hop writing, poetry, beat-making, film and consciousness training for young people 6-18. It was a very powerful exchange of intergenerational knowledge, culture, art and indigenous resistance on occupation, land, poverty and decolonization.

Here are some of the written pieces. To get involved in BGC of SUIT's Native Hip-Hop Workshop, hit up Mari at (970) 563-0214.

For these poems, each youth wrote a "slam bio," which is a quick autobiography.

Santana

Purple
Brown
Spicy
BitterSweet, Sour
Soft hard
Scaley

Pink Panther
My culture is Latina/Mexican
And they are the _____

I live con mi mami y mi abuela y mi _____

My struggle is becoming the person everyone is becoming
Sometimes I wish I could give my life like I am a donor
I rub the struggle in like toner

Valerie Armstrong

Pink
Spicy
Fry bread
Soft

Polar Bear

My culture is the Caddo tribe of Oklahoma
I live with mama
And brother

They are so funny
And we are so into our culture

I struggle with keeping
My whole family together without
Having them fight

Alana

Blue Sweet
Apples
Smooth

Im a grizzly bear
Strong

Southern Ute

Strong

Ignacio
I live in a big house

I struggle with loving
My mom and my dad

I live with my mama
She's a single mama raising two kids
Just so hard

Love is pink
Fighting is hard

Kaylah

Blue
Sour
Sweet

A bird that can fly over my mistakes

Ignacio

Down town neighborhood
My baby sis, my bro, my mama

My mind is making everything a struggle

Josh Jones

Color Green
Taste Green Chili
Tortillas smell like sage after the rain

A bull elk running lots of power
And freedom

My tribe is anywhere in nature

I live out of town in the woods
With my dad
Our house is made of stone and its always comfortable there

I struggle with alcohol and anger

Tricia

My color is brown
My taste is spicy
My smell is _____

My touch is soft
I think I would be a cute little fish
That swims with lots of other fish
My tribe is Ute
I think we function very well with lots of things im grateful for that other tribes don't have

Jacob Frost

Green
Like a newly grown apple
Sour like lemons kiss
The smell of rain
Kissed leaves after a nights rain
Touch of soft silk

A red panda
Not many cultural centered people left of my ute people

My home is beautiful
I live in my world
My family fights to keep our culture alive

My sisters death was a difficult time to deal with
I was forced to grow up
At age 11

The treaming green light reminds me
To live in reality
But dream
like im asleep

Kayleen Monroe

Tan
Orange
Orange
Orange

Caterpillar

P
S
C
O
S
L
S
U

WHOAH

WHOAH

Takoda Armstrong

My color is blue
My smell is apples
My touch is tough

I'm a bear
Got strong power

I live with my sister and my mom
Sometimes my sister could be a stupid punk
My mom cool

I struggle with school
Sometimes life could be like gun shootings

Lakota Two Crow

I like the color green
My taste is sour
My smell is pizza
My touch is hard

Chameleon

I'm from many tribes

I live with my mom
I live with my dad sometimes

Ricardo Rivera

My colors red representing depicting burn & desire like I gotta have it
My taste can only be described as a tall 40
Keep it so real I can smell the reality
My touch is ice cold just don't know and wont tell

I would be a rabbit in a turtle race to riches

I am Ute Mountain Ute from Towaoc

I live with my moms

Emotions

Kylie

Blue
Spicy
Watermelon
Soft

Panda Bear

Latinos are very tuff

I live with my mom and my brothers
They are crazy and loving

Tears drop from my eyes
The pain in my heart
Knowing that you're gone
Watching me from above
I miss my lil angel

Ian Twiss

I am as red as the tide tingles off your tongue letting it lick your ankles in the softness of a new moon

Eagle

My culture is of a burnt thigh, that's why we're Sicangu

Sometimes I forget where home is
I could drive the 2 blocks but still be a 1,000 miles from home

Sometimes I'm white, sometimes I'm not
Sometimes I'm red, sometimes I'm not

I think sometimes circles aren't coherent, like the ones we have to run in

Talia Porambo

Blue
Sour sometimes
Vanilla
Soft

A big fierce bear

My Southern Ute culture is creative, and very festive

I live with my dad
He's always being funny
My home is always warm and as spiritual as the Sundance ground

I struggle with life, like not being on time, not doing the right, and what life throws at me

Like a ball being thrown at me but I don't want it to be thrown at me

Destiny Lucero

Green
Cherry
Flower
Soft

Teddy Bear

Ignacio

Big 2 story house
Live wit my ma, my 2 brothers, my sister

My grandpa's death is a big struggle to me

Bridges To Success: Classes Offered

Computers 1

- Computer orientation
- Keyboarding
- Internet basics
- Word 1
- Word 2
- Introduction to Publisher

Computers 2

- Web research
- Introduction to Excel
- PowerPoint basics

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- Intensive college preparation
- Reading

- Math
- Study skills
- Financial Literacy
- Banking and finance skills
- Consumer rights
- Online transactions
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- Diana Buza (970) 564-1195
- Durango/Silverton
- Tim Birchard (970) 385-4354



Ignacio Residents Savor the Taste of Christmas



photos Ace Stryker/SU DRUM

Layla Novak, 3, and Ameya Novak, 5, (top photo) are on their best behavior while sitting on Santa's lap during the Taste of Christmas event Dec. 4. Four-year-old Arnesto Dominguez (bottom photo) decorates a snowflake at one of the arts-and-crafts tables during the 11th annual Taste of Christmas event Dec. 4 in the Ignacio Elementary School Gymnasium.

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

Santa Claus made an early stop in Ignacio on Dec. 4 to get the scoop on what local kids want for Christmas this year.

Apparently someone caught word, though: coinciding with his visit were dozens of tables set up at the Ignacio Elementary School Gymnasium offering a feast of holiday goodies and arts and crafts for the children. It may not have been hard to predict his coming: this is, after all, the 11th year the Ignacio Area Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Taste of Christmas event.

The festivities kicked off with a grand Christmas tree lighting at Ignacio Town Hall. Onlookers gasped as the switch was flipped and the lights on the giant tree



came to life, basking the area in a warm, hearthlike glow.

Among the volunteers making the event possible was Eileen Wasserbach, director of Southern Ute Community Action Programs. She said she enjoys helping out because it brings the community together in a way few

other events do. "A lot of Ignacio people come. It's kind of special that way," she said. "I think it's just fun." Ignacio resident Dezaray Schofield said her son, 6-year-old Trevor Easley, was excited about the event for one reason: "The goodies."

Southwest COLORADO Community College
and the Southern Ute Tribe Higher Education Department are offering an **Office Professional Certificate**

Program runs **January 11 through July 23, 2010**

This is a **23 college credit certificate program**. Student will earn an **Office Professional Certificate** and take courses in Accounting, Business Management, Business Technologies, Computer Applications and English.

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

East Campus (Durango)
710 Camino del Rio | **970.247.2929**

West Campus (Mancos)
33057 Hwy 160 | **970.565.7496**

Happy Holidays!

*Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
From the staff of the Southern Ute Drum & Public Relations.*

Ignacio High School Winter Sports Schedule

Wrestling Schedule 2009-2010				Basketball Schedule 2009-2010				
December				December				
3	Durango	V,JV	A	7 PM	18	Ridgway	H B/G JV/V *B	4 PM
4	Pagosa Dual	V,JV	H	6 PM	19	Ouray	A B/G JV/V	2 PM
5	Bayfield Tourney		A	9 AM	January			
11,12	Bloomfield Tourney	V,JV	A	TBA	9	Dove Creek	H G JV/V	2 PM
19	John Mall (Walsenburg)	V		TBA	12	Pagosa Spgs.	H B/G JV/V *B	4 PM
January				January				
9	Rocky Mountain (Pagosa Springs)	V		9 AM	15	Mancos	A B/G JV/V	4 PM
14	Bayfield Dual	V,JV	A	6 PM	16	Telluride	A B/G JV/V	3 PM
16	Shiprock Tourney	V,JV	A	TBA	19	Bayfield	H B/G JV/V *G	4 PM
22	Paonia Duals	V,JV	A	6 PM	19	Winter Royalty		
23	Paonia Tourney	V,JV	A	9 AM	22	Norwood	H B/G JV/V *G	4 PM
29	League Tournament	V	H	5 PM	23	Nucla	A B/G JV/V	2 PM
30	Ignacio Invite	V	H	9 AM	26	Dolores	A B/G JV/V	4 PM
February				February				
6	Bayfield JV Tourney	JV	A	9 AM	29	Dove Creek	A G JV/V	4 PM
12,13	Regional Tournament (Center)	V		TBA	30	Ridgway	A B/G JV/V	2 PM
18-20	State Tournament (Denver)	V		TBA	March			

*No JV Girl's Teams - Ouray, Ridgway & Telluride
*No JV Boy's Teams - Dove Creek and Nucla
*No Varsity Boy's Team - Dove Creek (at present time)

Burn Wise

Program of U.S. EPA

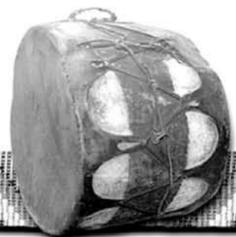
BURN THE RIGHT WOOD, THE RIGHT WAY, IN THE RIGHT WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE

Did you know that by changing the way you burn wood you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health?

Here are a few simple tips to make your fire burn hotter, keep your wallet fatter and keep your local air cleaner and healthier.

- Season all firewood.** All firewood should be split, securely covered or stored, and aged for at least six months. Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke your appliance produces.
- Choose the right firewood.** Hardwoods are the best. Never burn trash or treated wood which can emit toxic air pollutants.
- Start it right.** Use only clean newspaper or dry kindling to start a fire. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch.
- Don't let the fire smolder.** Many people think they should let a fire smolder overnight. But reducing the air supply does little for heating and increases air pollution.
- Clean ashes from your wood-burning appliance.** Excess ashes can clog the air intake vents reducing efficiency. Be sure to dispose of ashes in a metal container away from the house or any flammable material to reduce the risk of fire.
- Keep your chimney clean.** A clean chimney provides good draft for your wood-burning appliance and reduces the risk of a chimney fire. Have a certified professional inspect your chimney once a year.
- Be a good neighbor.** Follow best practices for burning wood and always remember to comply with state and local codes.
- Follow instructions.** Operate your wood-burning appliance according to the manufacturer's instructions and follow all maintenance procedures.
- Upgrade to cleaner equipment.** EPA-certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts burn cleaner and burn wood more efficiently emitting less particle pollution than older models.
- Size matters.** Choose the right-sized appliance for your needs. If your wood-burning appliance is too big for your room or house, the fuel will smolder and create more air pollution.

For more information on how to burn wise, go to www.epa.gov/burnwise



Boys Pull Fourth From Tangled Webb

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Two evenings running, the clock's final fractions determined their actions.

And though Ignacio had already opened eyes wide with an 11-point defeat of Gallup, N.M., in the tournament's opener, back-to-back bonus-ball battles in their ensuing encores had more than fans wondering "what if" about the Class 2A team from Colorado.

"I don't care if they're 2A or not," said Farmington head coach Kevin Holman after his Scorpions avoided becoming Bobcat victims. "They could win a state championship in Colorado, I guarantee you. I really thought coming in ... they were the best team I've seen in the Four Corners area."

In last Saturday's third/fourth place contest, Farmington held off Ignacio 44-41. In one of the previous night's semifinals, Montwood (El Paso, Tex.) avoided what would have been, bar none, the greatest upset in recent Webb Toyota/Farmington Boys' Invitational annals with a 48-46 escape over Ignacio.

Both affairs required a fifth quarter to decide a victor. And with a record of 1-2 (and plus-6 point differential) against a 5A-5A-4A series of opponents, the 'Cats will surely go down as one of - if not the - toughest fourth-place teams to emerge from the prestigious event.

"They might have been a little worn out, so I've got to thank Montwood a little," Holman joked.

"It boosts our confidence for the next game ... and any other game that comes up for us at State, during the regular season, anywhere," said Bobcat guard Terrence Whyte. "Our regular competition at home - it's really not like this, so it's better playing this way."

Forward Shane Brooks agreed. "This tournament is a lot better than playing the Dove Creeks, because we learn a lot more," he said.

Not dissing the 'Dogs - who aren't fielding a boys' team this season - just stating the obvious. But it was also obvious that the three games were Ignacio's very first of 2009-10.

Ignacio lost leads they held through three-plus quarters against both Montwood and Farmington. And the Bobcats' final hope for double-OT with the local hosts faded the same way their first possession did against Gallup: on a lengthy pass that sailed well high over its intended target and into an end wall of Scorpion Gymnasium. Deion Hudson's buzzer-beater bank shot seconds later was inconsequential.

"Well, we know now we have to work harder in the gym," said forward Ryan Brooks. "And we're rusty a bit. This is only our third game... We tried hard, and hopefully it will pay off down the stretch."

Guard Oakley Hayes said the team ended up with a terrible shooting percentage.

"Everybody just couldn't get it in," he said.

To the Bobcats' credit, neither could Farmington, who made only ten field goals and none from beyond the arc (while Ignacio sank five 3-pointers). What they did make, however, was free throws, and guard D.J. Cook was stellar: 14 of 17 at the stripe, and 18 points total.

"I actually felt pretty calm," he said after hitting four of six in overtime. "Wasn't really nervous."

Hayes finished with seven points before fouling out - as had fellow backcourt starter Trae Seibel - with fewer than five ticks left in OT. Both Brookses scored six, and center Alex Herrera led with eight points. Luis Acosta added 11 points for Farmington (2-4 overall), who overcame a 29-25 deficit starting

the fourth frame.

Four-time reigning champions Montwood (29-4 last season) climbed from a deeper hole, trailing Ignacio 31-25 after three quarters, and 35-27 when guard Justin Vasquez incurred his fourth foul with 5:39 left in regulation. Forward Ricky Nava and eventual tourney MVP Mark de la Cruz fouled out over the next 3:47, but guard Anthony Valdez canned a triple with under a minute remaining to suddenly give the Rams a 41-40 lead.

Ignacio's Pedro Vigil hit one of two free throws with 10 seconds left to force overtime.

Vasquez fouled out just seconds in, and Hayes sank four freebies around a Robert Lopez inside bucket for a 45-43 Bobcat lead. Valdez countered with another threatening three, but Herrera hit a free throw to tie at 46. And after Valdez unexpectedly missed a foul shot, and Ignacio was unable to capitalize, Montwood guard Gabriel Licon converted a second-chance layup off a fast break with five seconds remaining.

"It was a very physical game, but we ended up pulling it off," said Nava, who finished with eight points. "With our defense, and with Anthony and Robert there for us at the end - just a great effort for the whole team."

Valdez said he was just happy he came through in the end.

"The momentum of the game got me through it," he said. "All the guys on the bench came ready to play, and everyone's ready to play no matter what. If we lose someone, we always have someone to step up."

Vigil backed his 27-point eruption against Gallup with 18 against Montwood. Herrera and Ryan Brooks each dropped in a hard-fought nine, Hayes totaled six, and Shane Brooks scored four.

"They were pretty physical," he said. "We had them by, like, eight points and their main player, 24 [de la Cruz], hit some big shots and they started coming back. But I think our team played pretty good."

De la Cruz, who scored 16, said he thought his team was a bit sluggish during the first half.

"Coach Harper got after our butts real good," he said. "Made us work and told us if we don't defend it [the championship] - 'We've got something to play for.' That's exactly what he said."

Ignacio certainly had something to play for right away against Gallup, outscoring the Bengals 9-0 out of the gate and leading 16-12 after one quarter. A late sputter in the second gave Gallup a 32-29 halftime lead, but Ignacio stormed back to lead 50-43 after three. Herrera (nine points) threw down the first dunk of the season, while Ryan Brooks (13) and Seibel dropped in triples during the rally.

Whyte opened the fourth with a crippling trey, and the highlight reel-minded Bengals didn't manage a field goal until Nicholas August (nine points) scored with 1:11 left in the game. Patrick Saltwater and Ryan Becenti led the team (now 3-3 overall) with 11 each, while Jonathan Fields chipped in eight. Shane Brooks added 10 more for the Bobcats in the foul-plagued tilt.

"We just didn't get frustrated and kept our heads up," Brooks



photo Joel Priest/DRUM Freelance

Ignacio's Pedro Vigil (2) lifts off on one of many drives to the basket during last Thursday's season-opener at the Webb Toyota/Farmington Invitational against Gallup, N.M. Trying to keep pace is Bengal Jonathan Fields. Vigil hung 27 on 5A Gallup in a 69-58 win, and was later named to the All-Tournament Team.

said. "In practice we play hard, so we're kind of used to the punishment that we take."

Ignacio head coach Chris Valdez said he was happy his team was able to limit the Bengals on 3-pointers.

"We watched those guys knock down about 15 threes against Espanola [Valley, Nov. 21 at Gallup, a 72-60 Espanola victory], and so we took that away from them. I think they had one or two - at the most, two," he said. "So we did our job defensively, our scouting job helped out - that we had seen them and they hadn't seen us. That might have been the difference."

Vigil, who along with Herrera was an All-Tournament selection, said the 'Cats made such an impact because they played their game.

"We went out and played our game like Coach said, and played together," he said. "These guys are like what we see at State, and we wanted to come out and show what we can do. And I just did what I could do when I got the rock."

A sentiment also echoed and followed by the now five-time champs, who routed Mullen (Denver) 57-35 in the grand finale to improve to 10-2 already. The Mustangs dropped to just 2-1.

"We've got to do our thing and play 'D.W.W.D.' That means 'do what we do,'" said de la Cruz, who scored 13 to compliment Nava's 15. "Continue to play hard and do what we do every year - play and defend - and we'll have a good chance of winning."

Montwood head coach Tony Harper said he's worked hard over the past 20 years to build the program and acknowledges his team is often considered a standard for others to meet.

"We accept that - very, very much so - because we know everybody's going to bring their best to play us."

Seibel said his team has to get over the losses and look forward.

"The record's a record; it's about moving to the next step," he said. "Just get over it, back to practice, and work harder, you know?"

Ignacio begins San Juan Basin League play this week at home against Dolores (12/15) and Ridgway (12/18), then at Ouray (12/19) to complete their pre-Christmas schedule.

RESULTS: 1. Montwood 2. Mullen 3. Farmington 4. IGNACIO 5. Gallup 6. San Juan (Blanding, Utah) 7. Durango 8. Piedra Vista (Farmington).

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM (announced in reverse order): Valdez, Mont; HERRERA; Saltwater; VIGIL; Cook; Kendall Corley, Farm; Erik Giacomozzi, Mull; Nava; Cameron Shumway, SJ; Blair Holley, Mull; de la Cruz.

Rising Up, IHS Now #4 In 2A

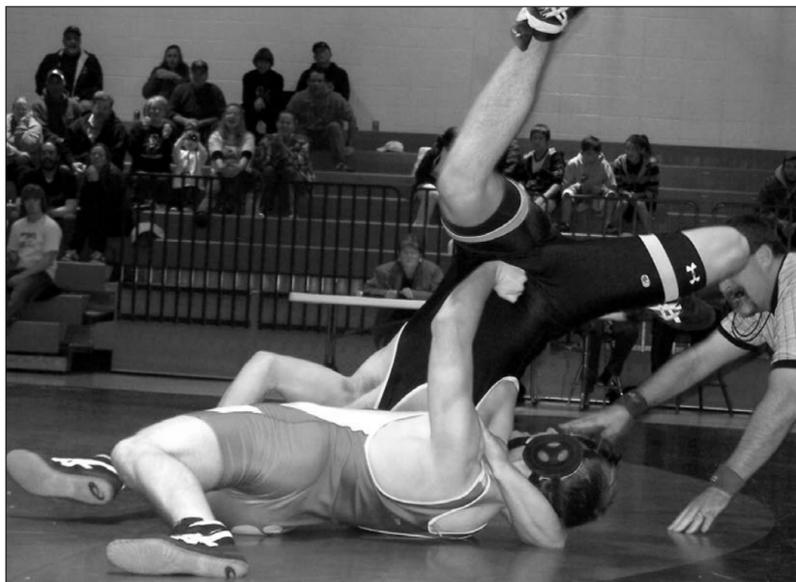


photo Joel Priest/DRUM Freelance

The image that might best sum up the Bobcats' early-season resolve. On the verge of being pinned by 3A Pagosa Springs' Jordan Neulieb during nonleague dual action at Ignacio on Dec. 4, sophomore 171-pounder Colton Wyatt virtually bench-pressed the Pirate off with one hand, then stuck him to the mat seconds later. And though forfeits conceded at four weight classes helped Pagosa Springs win 39-38, as 5A Durango had done the night before (42-36), Ignacio has only improved since. Now No. 4 in the most recent On The Mat Class 2A team rankings (12/10), Ignacio took fourth at the Bloomfield (N.M.) Invitational last weekend. Wyatt and older brother Chance (215 pounds) both won their brackets, as did Josh Plehinger (140) and Casey Haga (135). Colton Wyatt was also named Most Valuable Wrestler for the upper weights, while Plehinger joined Alex Pena as holding down OTM's top rankings in their divisions.

Congratulations to our son Tristan Wolf Rael

Who played in the 2009 Pigskin Tournament on Thanksgiving Day in Las Vegas. The Junior Pee Wee Raiders team from Mesa, Ariz., played in the tournament and took the championship for their division. Tristan was one of the captains named for the championship game, which was played on Friday, Nov. 27. During the regular season, Tristan's Arizona Competitive Youth Football League JPW Raiders team was the East Conference champ for fall 2009. They were just one game shy of winning the Arizona State Championship. Tristan plays on both the offensive and defensive line and he has worked very hard this season! His playing skills have developed tremendously and he is an explosive and strong young football player! Keep up the good work, Tristan, and we will someday be watching you on Monday Night Football!

We would also like to thank our families who made the trip to Las Vegas to cheer Tristan and the rest of the JPW Raiders team on to a championship victory. Tristan's grandmothers are Mary Ann Newton Weaver and Phyllis Escalante and his grandfather is Wilford Weaver Sr. Once again, a big thanks to Tristan's aunts, which include his great-aunt Louisa Newton, Rebecca Rael, Yvonne Phillips, Misha Weaver and, of course, Ron and all the cousins who all supported and cheered their hearts out!

We love you, Tristan, and wish you all the luck in the future!
Love mom and dad



SunUte Recreation Presents:
Free Youth Ski Trips
Area youth ages 10 - 18, interested in skiing/snowboarding at Durango Mountain Resort.
December 19, 2009 • January 10, 2010
Participating youths will be provided passes, lessons, and rentals (if needed).
No lunch will be provided, please pack your own.
Register at SunUte Community Center, as trips will be limited to first 25 kids.
For more information please contact recreation Staff at (970) 563-0214.

Bobcats' Box-out

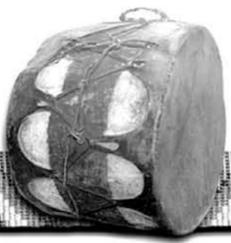
Webb Toyota/Farmington HS Boys' Invite
At FHS' Scorpion Gymnasium

Dec. 10, 2009: **IGNACIO** 69, at Gallup, N.M. 58
I (16-13-21-19): Seibel 2 0-0 5, Hayes 0 2-5 2, S. Brooks 5 0-0 10, Herrera 4 1-4 9, R. Brooks 5 1-3 13, Vigil 8 8-10 27, Hutchinson 0 0-0 0, Richmond 0 0-0 0, Whyte 1 0-0 3, Black 0 0-0 0, Hudson 0 0-0 0, Watts 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 25 12-22 69. 3-PTR'S: Seibel, R. Brooks 2, Vigil 3, Whyte.**
G (12-20-11-15): Hildreth 0 0-0 0, Sowers 2 0-0 4, Bahe 0 0-0 0, Loiselle 2 0-0 4, Fields 2 4-7 8, Saltwater 2 6-8 11, August 4 1-4 9, Summy 0 0-0 0, Becenti 2 7-10 11, Gutierrez 2 1-4 5, Kinsel 1 2-6 4, Begay 0 0-0 0, Troncoso 1 0-0 2. **TOTALS: 18 21-39 58. 3-PTR'S: Saltwater.**

Dec. 11, 2009: Montwood (El Paso, Tex.) 48, at **IGNACIO** 46 (overtime)
M (11-6-8-16-7): de la Cruz 7 1-2 16, Nava 4 0-0 8, Vasquez 1 2-2 4, Valdez 2 0-1 6, R. Lopez 4 0-1 8, Licon 1 2-2 4, Davis 0 0-0 0, Vargas 1 0-0 2, H. Lopez 0 0-0 0, Menchaca 0 0-1 0, Romo 0 0-0 0, Lugo 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 14 8-13 41. 3-PTR'S: de la Cruz, Valdez 2.**
I (8-12-11-10-5): Seibel 0 0-0 0, Hayes 1 4-4 6, S. Brooks 1 2-2 4, Herrera 2 5-13 9, R. Brooks 3 2-2 9, Vigil 4 7-10 18, Whyte 0 0-0 0, Hudson 0 0-0 0, Richmond 0 0-0 0, Black 0 0-0 0, Watts 0 0-0 0, Hutchinson 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 11 20-31 46. 3-PTR'S: Vigil 3, R. Brooks.**

Dec. 12, 2009: **IGNACIO** 41, at Farmington, N.M. 44 (overtime)
I (11-7-11-5-7): Seibel 1 0-0 3, Hayes 3 0-0 7, S. Brooks 2 1-2 6, Herrera 3 2-4 8, R. Brooks 1 4-4 6, Vigil 1 1-3 4, Hutchinson 1 0-0 2, Hudson 2 0-0 5, Whyte 0 0-0 0, Richmond 0 0-0 0, Black 0 0-0 0, Watts 0 0-0 0. **TOTALS: 14 8-13 41. 3-PTR'S: Seibel, Hayes, Vigil, Hudson, S. Brooks.**
F (12-9-4-9-10): Corley 0 0-0 0, Howerton 1 0-0 2, Cook 2 14-17 18, Hilliard 1 2-2 4, Joe 1 1-3 3, Acosta 3 5-8 11, Lacey 0 1-2 1, Kowalik 1 0-0 2, Hazzard 0 0-0 0, Lewis 0 0-0 0, Villa 0 0-0 0, Tsosie 1 1-1 3. **TOTALS: 10 24-33 44. 3-PTR'S: None.**

Compiled by Joel Priest



November Meteorological Data

UTE I Monitoring Station • Ignacio BIA Forestry Compound

AVERAGE (Day) HIGH TEMP.		AVERAGE (Night) LOW TEMP.			
November	11.4 C	52.5 F	November	-4.9 C	23.2 F
AVERAGE WINDSPEED		AVERAGE DAILY TEMP.			
Monthly Average		November	2 C	35.6 F	
November	4.1 MPH				
Maximum Hourly Average		PRECIPITATION DATA			
November 23, 2009	13.5 MPH	Date	Daily Total		
		November 4	.04"		
		Monthly Total	.04"		

Request For Proposal

RESERVATION-WIDE RAPTOR NESTING SURVEY
SOUTHERN UTE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management is requesting proposals for a reservation-wide raptor nesting survey to be performed in March 2010.

The focus of the survey will be the identification of nesting sites and activity by golden eagles, bald eagles, peregrine and prairie falcons, and red-tailed hawks.

The proposal must include approximately 20 – 25 hrs. of helicopter survey time, and the contractor will be responsible for providing the helicopter service.

The proposal must also include a plan for follow-up, on-the-ground visits to nest sites to verify territory occupancy and reproductive status of the birds.

Acceptable bids will reflect costs for helicopter services, and the contractor's billable time for the aerial survey, on-the-ground follow up visits, and draft and final report writing.

Please submit proposals to the Wildlife Resource Management Division by December 23rd, 2009. Please call (970) 563-0130 for more information.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO Code has established a preference for Indian owned businesses.

To receive preference, native owned businesses must be certified by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO Division, prior to the closing date. For certification information contact TERO at (970) 563-0117.

Thank You, Cassandra Yazzie • from page 7

Tears started to drop from my face, and I couldn't believe she was gone.

I thought to myself: "I mean, I just talked to her yesterday morning, and we were supposed to meet that morning to go over the film at her house."

She told me how she needed to go on a hike on the Animas River Trail and that she would come to Boys and Girls Club that afternoon so we could look over the film. She never showed up, because she left to the spirit world. Currently, those three children are recovering in the hospital. I still shed tears about Cassandra.

The next day, one of her students asked, "Mari, is Cassandra dead or alive? Just tell me."

Her students are proud of the filmmaking process they created, and Cassandra committed to an ongoing relationship to teaching film at our Southern Ute Boys and Girls Club. She was going to teach claymation and have the kids tell their stories through that art form.

"What I liked about the film is when we all got together and we said what we liked to do," said Amada Hotchkiss, one of their chil-

dren and a participant in the film class. "I like to do art, and I hope we can do this workshop again."

Amada gave me one of the toughest interviews I have ever seen. She is currently in the hospital healing from her injuries.

Many people believe that kids are not capable of creating media, much less getting published. Cassandra held the vision that Native Hip-Hop Workshop should have young peoples as media producers and recognized them as her "lil' peeps," which in the hip-hop world means very close friends. Cassandra wanted to be a part of creating a world where kids were using film as indigenized storytelling.

Cassandra once told the kids: "As I went through each of these [film] clips, I got to see and feel

a lot of your stories come alive and it was really, really good to see. And I got to know each of you in a way – in a more personal way – because of your words, because of your music. It was really beautiful to see, and I hope I get another opportunity to do this again with you guys, 'cuz all of you are great."

It is in this spirit of Native Hip-Hop Workshop I am sending you a digital smoke signal that is filled with the same creative, passionate, indigenous energy you used to create your world every day.

Rest In Power, Cassandra Yazzie.

You will always live through Native Hip-Hop Workshop.

This article was printed by Poor News Network on Nov. 30.

CenturyLink offers telephone assistance to individuals living on Tribal Lands

CenturyLink is energizing its efforts to inform residents of two assistance programs that provide discounts on initial telephone installation and basic monthly telephone service to qualifying low-income consumers. Link-Up helps these consumers pay the initial costs of getting telephone service. Lifeline provides certain discounts on monthly service for qualified subscribers.

Lifeline and Link-Up are available to qualifying consumers in every U.S. state (territory and commonwealth). Qualifications for participation vary by state. States with their own programs have their own criteria. In states that rely solely on the federal program, the subscriber must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start, the National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or if the Household annual gross income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty level.

The amount of the discounts also varies by state. Link-Up helps qualified low-income consumers to connect to the telephone network. This federal program offsets 1/2 of the initial hook-up fee, up to \$30, for qualified households.

Residents of American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal lands may qualify for an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and up to \$70 of expanded Link-Up support beyond current levels. An individual living on tribal lands may also qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up discounts if he or she participates in one of the above programs or one of the following federal programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance or Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

Individuals living in a CenturyLink service area should call 800-201-4099 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline to inquire about eligibility.



lifeline NON-SAU

www.centurylink.com

SUIT Wildlife Division Seeks Tribal Member Advisory Board

The Southern Ute Tribal Council and Wildlife Division are presently seeking interested enrolled SUIT members wishing to fill two (2) vacant seats on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board.

This 7-member Board, first established by the Council in 2005, works closely with the Wildlife Division and Rangers in planning, reviewing, and recommending various actions related to Tribal hunting and fishing programs. Board members who are not already employed by the Tribe are compensated at an hourly rate for meeting participation. Meetings are held several times throughout the year, and a commitment to participate in all meetings is expected.

To be eligible to serve on the Board, a Tribal Member must not have committed a hunting or fishing related violation in the past 5 years. Also, knowledge of the Tribe's hunting and fishing resources and its approach to wildlife management is preferred.

Eligible Tribal Members interested in serving on the Board must submit a brief letter of interest to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. Interested eligible applicants will be considered for a Board appointment by the Tribal Council. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at (970) 563-0130.

Home for the Holidays

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\$6.00
Offer good Monday-Friday
11 am to 2 pm, from
September 28 to
December 31, 2009.

Sunday Family Day!
11 am-11pm
\$10 dollars (per person) all
you can bowl up to three
hours. Five persons per
lane including shoes

Monday Couples Night!
6-9pm Dinner for two
in the Rolling Thunder
Grill Steak & Shrimp
Special, bowl two
games and shoes
rental for \$20.
(must be 21 or older)

Tuesday Guys Night Out!
6pm-10pm
\$2.50 a game and 2 for
1 pizza slice, not
including shoes

Wednesday Ladies Night Out!
6pm-10pm
\$2.50 a game. 50%
off Appetizer
Sampler
(shoes not included)

Thursday Buddy Night!
6pm-11pm
\$12 Bring a friend and
both you and your
friend will bowl two
games including
shoe rental

Friday Cosmic Bowl!
10pm to close
Win prizes and so
much more!

Saturday Cosmic Bowl!
10pm to close
Win prizes and so
much more!

PEPSI

For information call **970-563-1707**

14324 Hwy 172 N. Ignacio, CO 81137 970-563-7777
www.skyutecasino.com

See SkyUteCasino.com for all gaming promotions & entertainment information!

Celebrate New Year's Eve

with Sky Ute Casino Resort

Thursday, December 31, 2009

ROOM PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

Dance the night away to the sounds of the Mark Rendon Band. Tickets are \$15/single and \$25/couple and will be available at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9 p.m. Included with the ticket is the live music, appetizers, refreshments, party favors, and a champagne toast at midnight. A cash bar will be available. For further information, go to skyutecasino.com

Mark Rendon Band
with Special Guest Tequilla Smoke

PEPSI

Bear Club
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www.skyutecasino.com



Southern Ute Growth Fund - Job Announcements

Obtain complete job descriptions and applications from the Growth Fund Human Resources, 14933 Hwy. 172 • PO Box 367 • Ignacio, CO • (970) 563-5064 • rtaylor@sugf.com
Tribal Member Employment Preference, Must Pass Pre-employment Drug Test & Criminal History.

Gas Control Administrative Assistant
Closing Date 12/22/09 - Red Willow Production Co. Assisting Gas Control staff in a variety of administrative duties including copying, distributing and filing documents, and organizing and maintaining filing system.

Dispatcher - Concrete
Closing Date 12/23/09 - Sand Ute Sand & Gravel Gallup, NM. Assists in the operation of the red-mix batch plant and plant facility. Responsibilities include coordination and dispatching of workers engaged in the manufacturing and delivery of red-mix concrete and aggregate products, quote prices, schedule and input customer orders.

Applications Development Manager
Closing Date 1/4/10 - SU Growth Fund
Leading the internal application development of PeopleSoft Human Capital Management (HCM), Finance and Supply Chain Management (FSCM), Kronos and all other enterprise applications where necessary. Coordinate users groups, managing

identified projects, upgrades or development as necessary to provide the highest level of customer support. Supervises technical development staff.

PeopleSoft Senior Payroll Developer
Closing Date 1/4/10 - SU Growth Fund
Development and production support of PeopleSoft Human Capital Management (HCM) North America and related interface to General Ledger and Accounts Payable, providing enterprise-wide PeopleSoft Payroll technical support and consultation. Will focus on the technical view of the North America Payroll application.

PeopleSoft Senior Finance and Supply Chain Management Developer
Closing Date 1/4/2010 - SU Growth Fund
Development and production support of PeopleSoft Finance and Supply Chain Management applications, providing enterprise-wide PeopleSoft Payroll technical support and consultation. Will focus on the technical view of the Finance and Supply Chain applications

Southern Ute Indian Tribe - Job Announcements

Please refer to the complete Job Announcement and Requirements in the Human Resources Dept. P.O. Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 Phone: (970) 563-0100 • Fax: (970) 563-0396
*Human Resources accepts applications for Temporary Employment on an on-going basis.

Patrol Officer
Open Until Filled - Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community.

Lifeguard
Open Until Filled - This position is responsible for lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director.

SU Indian Tribe Job Hotline • (970) 563-4777

A great new way to find out about job opportunities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The job hotline lists the job title and closing date for both Permanent Fund and Growth Fund positions. Full job announcement including qualifications in Human Resource Department. Hotline is updated weekly.
*Applications for Temporary Employment are accepted at the Human Resources Department on an on-going basis. Applications are kept on file for 6 months.

City Boards & Commissions Seek Volunteers

The Durango City Council is seeking individuals interested in serving on the following City Boards and Commissions:

Durango's Boards and Commissions provide a foundation for public input and are a great way for citizens to get involved with their community. Boards and Commissions generally meet on a monthly basis. Brief interviews with applicants will be conducted by City Council in January.

- Airport Commission
- Business Improvement District Board
- Design Review Board
- Election Commission
- Established Neighborhood Design Review Board
- Historic Preservation
- Land Use Development Code Board of Appeals
- Library Advisory Board
- Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Commission
- Retirement Plan Board
- Transit Advisory Board
- Water Commission

For applications or more information, including any special requirements, please visit our website at www.durangogov.org/boards. Applications are due by close of business on Friday, January 8, 2010, and may also be obtained from the City Manager's Office, 949 East 2nd Ave.

For more information, contact Karen Ramirez, at (970) 375-5001 or by email at RamirezKS@durangogov.org.

SUCAP

Southern Ute Community Action Program
Central Office • 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO • (970) 563-4517
Obtain complete job description/application from SUCAP offices.

Substitute Transit Driver
Open Until Filled - SUCAP
Part-time. Must have High School Diploma or GED required. Transit or school bus exp. preferred. Must have valid CO Drivers License and be insurable by SUCAP. Must pass drug/alcohol test, criminal history & child abuse/neglect background checks and pre-employment drug/alcohol screen. Applicants are required to submit a Motor Vehicle Report with application. EOE.

Residential Assistant
Open Until Filled - Peaceful Spirit/SUCAP
Full-time. Must have High School Diploma or GED required. Minimum 2 years of continuous sobriety. Must be available to work weekends, nights, mid-night shifts, irregular shifts and holidays. Great benefits. Must pass criminal history background check.

SunUte Christmas Holiday Hours

December 24, 2009 - 6am-5pm (Christmas Eve)
December 25-27 - Closed (Christmas Weekend)
December 31 - 6am-5pm (New Year's Eve)
January 1 - 10am-2pm (New Year's Day)

Normal business hours will resume on Mon., Dec. 28, 6am-9pm.
For more information please call (970) 563-0214.

Hay For Sale

The Southern Ute Bison program has 2000 bales of surplus hay for sale at \$5.00 per bale. This is barn stored grass and alfalfa mix, if you have any questions or are interested in purchasing hay contact Chris Olguin at (970) 563-0130 or (970) 749-5088.

KSUT Seeks Board Member

KSUT Public Radio is seeking a Southern Ute Tribal Member to fill a vacancy on its Board of Directors. This is a non-paid position which requires attending monthly meetings with additional special meetings as needed. Dinner is provided. KSUT is a 501-C3 non-profit organization. Please send a letter of interest to Eddie Box, Jr. at KSUT, Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137.

For Sale

'91 Custom Harley Davidson Softail. Asking \$8,500.
(970) 759-6453

FOR SALE

2007 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic Motorcycle, Black Cherry & Pewter, 1584 cc, true dual exhaust & other extras, 13,357 miles, \$16,800.
(970) 759-0145



Firewood For Sale

Dry Cedar rounds or split. 1/2 Cord \$100.00 Full Cord \$180.00. Delivered.
(970) 729-4680

IN THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COURT
OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE • ON THE SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION
PO BOX 737 #149, CR 517, IGNACIO, CO
(970) 563-0240

In the Estate Of, Case No.: 2009-151-PR
NOTICE OF PROBATE
Bertha Marie Grove, Deceased
NOTICE TO: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: GREETINGS: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010 at 10:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and

offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 20th of November, 2009
Kelly Herrera, Deputy Court Clerk

In the Legal Name Change of, Case No.: 2009-199-NC
NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE
Nevaeh Begay-Pena, Civil Subject
NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Nevaeh Begay-Pena filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Nevaeh Angel Pena. As of **December 15, 2009** no person filed an objection to the request, and therefore notice is hereby given that Nevaeh Begay-Pena name shall be and is hereby legally changed to Nevaeh Angel Pena.
Dated this 16th day of December, 2009.
Scott Moore, Southern Ute Tribal Judge

SKY UTE LODGE & CASINO - POSITIONS

Human Resources Department: (970) 563-3387 • Fax: (970) 563-3367
PO Box 340 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • Office Hours 8 am - 5 pm
Indian Preference Employer • All Applicants Welcome • Apply online: www.skyutecasino.com

- Bingo**
Bingo Staff - OC/PT
Count
Count Team Staff - PT
Facilities
Electrician - FT
Facilities Technician - FT
Food & Beverage
Baker - FT
Banquet Staff - TMP
In-Room Wait Staff - FT
Kitchen Utility Steward - FT
Graveyard - FT
Restaurant Busser - PT
Restaurant Cashier - FT
Restaurant Wait Staff - FT/PT

- Human Resources**
Career Development Program Manager - PT
Employee Relations Specialist - PT
Purchasing
Inventory Clerk - FT
Salon
Cosmetologist - PT/OC
Table Games
Box Person - PT
Craps Dealer - FT
Multi-Game Dealer - FT
Multi-Game Supervisor - FT/OC
Poker Dealer - FT
Poker Supervisor - FT



Preference Given To Qualified Southern Ute Tribal Members & Other Native Americans.
FT: Full-time, PT: Part-time, OC: On-Call, TMP: Temp

Community Business Section

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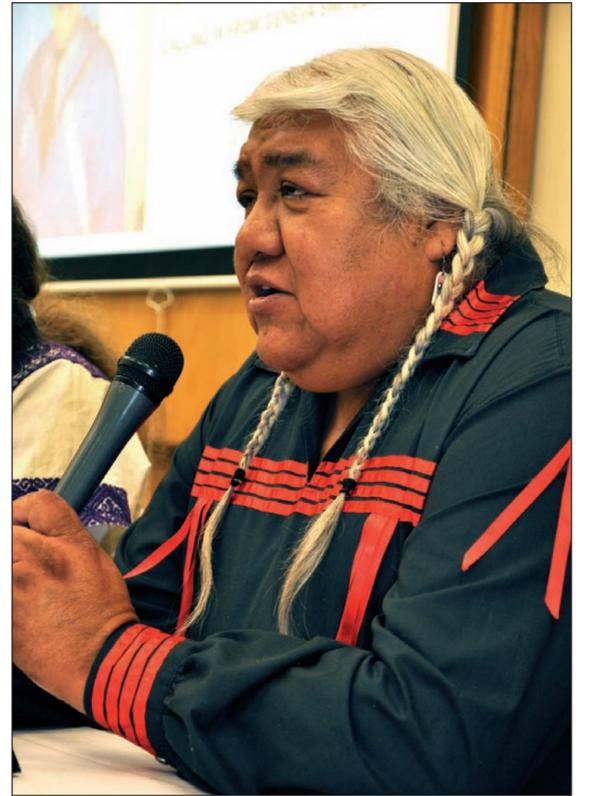
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diamondlady@frontier.net
Hrs : tues-sun 10-7 pm closed Mon



Cultural Values, Sovereignty Takes Stage at Indigenous Summit



Ecuadorian dignitaries at the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas take a break from politics to tune their instruments. Southern Ute Elder Kenny Frost opens the conference in Fort Collins on Dec. 4 as the keynote speaker for the weeklong summit. Humerto Pagan of Taino-Puerto Rico, Dave Bald Eagle of Lakota-South Dakota and Anibal Alberto Pena of Cayambe-Ecuador each voice their sovereign rights as indigenous peoples of the Americas during a panel discussion on sovereignty.

All photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM



Aztec Dancers Grace Summit



Aztec Mexico (pronounced me-she-ka) Dancers performed to the visiting dignitaries during the first day of the 11th annual Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. Pictured above, Carlos Castaneda, of the Denver based cultural dance group, opens the ceremony with respect to the four directions of the Earth. The fast-paced drumming and energetic dances are tied back to the strong cultural traditions of Mexico and Central America. Pictured at left, an Azteca dancer shakes her ankle in rhythm to the drums, adding to the vibrant sound of this cultural dance. Grupo Tlaloc: Danza Azteca is a non-profit traditional Mexical/Azteca group composed of Chicano/Mexicano families and students of all ages dedicated to preserving and nourishing the ancient knowledge of their ancestors.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM