



## 7. Ute Park

The characteristically quiet, tranquil lawn of Ute Park bustled with activity at several times during the year. Under the shade of its massive trees, Ute Nations Day returned to the tribe on May 27, honoring the elders from the three Ute tribes responsible for designing their respective seals. The well-known tipi also received a facelift from Orval Joe, nephew of original artist McGarey Gallegos.



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

## 3. Youth leadership

On the far end of the age spectrum from the elders is the tribe's youth, who this year also played an important role in shaping the ongoing culture of the tribe. The Southern Ute Education Department, with help from its counterparts at the other Ute tribes, hosted the first ever Tri-Ute Leadership Conference at Fort Lewis College, a resounding success. The Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council also met for the first time with the Tribal Council in October.



photo Robert Ortiz/SU DRUM

## 6. Museum's first year

The Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum opened for business in May, drawing interest from around Indian Country with its unique layout inspired by traditional forms such as eagles and tipis. Through the year it played host to various engaging exhibits and events, including an antique Indian bike show in August and a haunted house in October.



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

## 5. Culture in the classroom

Students at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy continued to learn the difference between a "payuku" and a "payukari'napi" alongside their English reading, writing and arithmetic in 2011, but this year the Ignacio public schools also got involved, hosting several cultural workshops for students.

## 4. Honoring our elders

The wisdom of elders is a unique and irreplaceable treasure. This year, the tribe recognized that fact in a variety of venues, including Ute Nations Day and the Tribal Fair. The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council made it official in the spring when it reintroduced an official body for elders' issues in the form of the Elders Language and Cultural Committee, tasking the group with teaching language and traditions to the rest of the tribe.



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

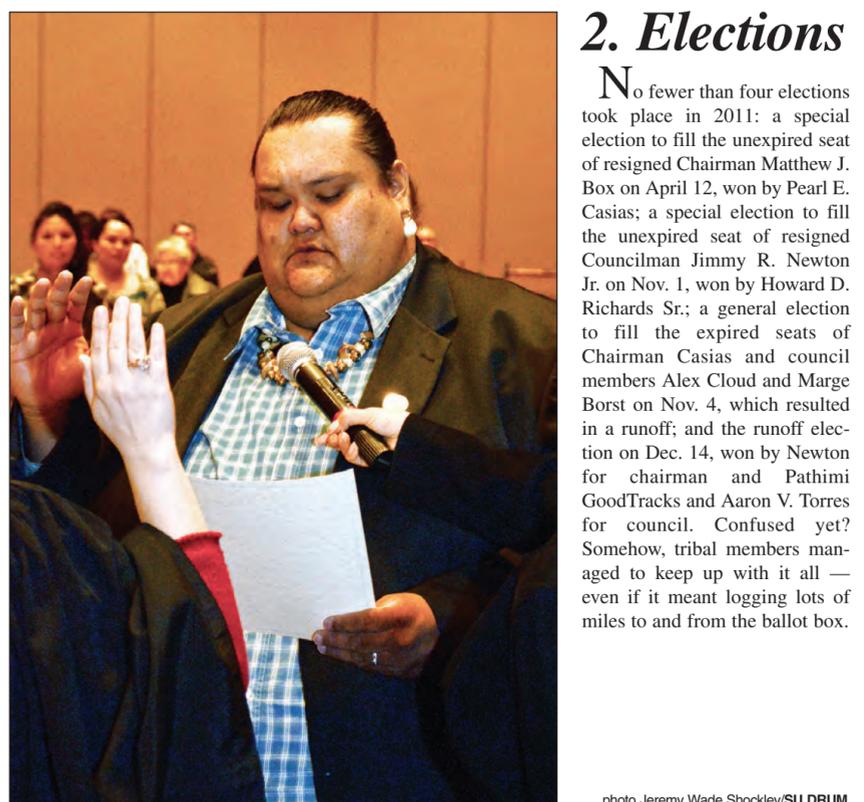


photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

## 2. Elections

No fewer than four elections took place in 2011: a special election to fill the unexpired seat of resigned Chairman Matthew J. Box on April 12, won by Pearl E. Casias; a special election to fill the unexpired seat of resigned Councilman Jimmy R. Newton Jr. on Nov. 1, won by Howard D. Richards Sr.; a general election to fill the expired seats of Chairman Casias and council members Alex Cloud and Marge Borst on Nov. 4, which resulted in a runoff; and the runoff election on Dec. 14, won by Newton for chairman and Pathimi GoodTracks and Aaron V. Torres for council. Confused yet? Somehow, tribal members managed to keep up with it all — even if it meant logging lots of miles to and from the ballot box.

## 1. Madam chair

No single story in 2011 had greater implications both at home and afar than the election of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's first female chairman, Pearl E. Casias, on April 12. Her election proved that gender was no barrier to the leadership of the tribe, and that a woman can be every bit as much a "warrior in the halls of Congress" as a man. Though her tenure was a relatively short 8 months, her impact and legacy as a pioneer will be remembered much longer.



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

### Other important stories we'd be remiss to forget:

**Bobcat triumphs:** Tribal member Alex Pena secured his third high school wrestling state championship in as many years, leaving just one more season between him and admission to the four-crown club; and who could forget the IHS boys' basketball team's thrilling run in the state tournament?

**Ethics Commission:** After a hiatus, the Tribal Council reinstated the Ethics Commission, affirming its commitment to fairness and transparency.

**Body in Lake Capote:** The tribe's recreation site became the scene of a tragic mystery in July when the body of a young Navajo man was found floating in the water.

**Rocky Mountain State Games:** The 2011 North American Indigenous Games in Milwaukee didn't go off as planned, but that didn't stop Southern Ute athletes from competing. Instead, they made the trip to Colorado Springs for the state games in late July.

**Demolition of old casino:** When the sign finally came down, it was as if Ignacio had lost one of its longest-standing, most-recognized landmarks.