



# Express Your Opinions

## Jacket Drive for students

During the month of December, 2011, the Southern Ute Police Department reached out to other tribal departments as well as the Ignacio community for donations of new or gently used jackets for those in need during this winter. The jackets donated will be given, based on sizes received, to the Early Head Start, Ignacio Intermediate and the Women Shelter.

Thank you to those who helped this year. We look forward to making this event a bigger success in the coming year.

*Southern Ute Police Dept.*



## New Year's celebration thank you

Over the past few weeks our N.A.Y.O. organization has been working countless hours to put together a New Year's Eve celebration for the community to enjoy. This celebration was the second year in a row that the school has put on a positive function for families and children to attend, an alternative to drinking and partying. It started with Gourd Dancing at 1:30 (Indian Time), dinner break at 5:00 p.m. and grand entry starting at 7:00 p.m. At midnight we asked four Sundance leaders to honor the community with a blessing. Each person was smudged off and prayed for; this was how the New Year was brought in.

The celebration would have been possible without the gracious support and donations from the local organizations of Ignacio, Bayfield and Durango. We would like to give a special thank you to Floral Shop, True Value, Shur-Value, Marcella's, Smokin' Moe's, Patio, Casino, Maddawg's, Style Shoppe, El Dorado, Mom's Hidden Closet, Heroes, Casino Spa, Haircrafters, Glow's Salon, Knit One, The Grocery Store, Salon Del Sol, City Market, Boot Barn, Cowboy Trading Co., T-shirt Off My Back, Candy Factory, Toy Depot, Durango T-shirt Co., Del Sol, Shared Blanket, Spaah Shop,

Animas Trading Co., Affordable Picture Frame, Native Revealed, Mountain Bike Specialists and The Tippy Canoe, The Southern Ute Boys and Girls Club, Southern Ute Tribal Court and the JOM committee, Elise Red and Crew for the great meal, Neida Ray for the outfits, Angela Diaz dress's, Duane Schrock hides and fans and without them, it would not have ran as smooth as it did. We would also like to thank the individual persons that donated and supported the celebration from the beginning to the end. Jimmy Newton, the Frost Families, Gail Cross, Alice Neash, Elwood & Liz Kent, Ardie Eleck our NAYO sponsor, Fort Lewis College students, Clarence Smith, Marissa Rocha, Bruce LeClair, the student head men, women dancers, the student drum group and the Southern Ute Veterans Association. We had a many people donate and are very thankful; if we left anyone out we apologize.

With the help of all the donations and time put into planning this celebration we were rewarded by seeing approximately 400 people in attendance between the hours of noon and midnight. Every person who was there received a free t-shirt and many people were given other things from the numerous giveaways throughout the night.

The vision of this celebration was aimed to the youth and toward giving them an opportu-

nity to be involved in something positive with their peers and families. We learned many things during the planning process as an organization and we would like to thank everyone who helped make this vision a reality. We hope to put it on again next year!

*Thank you,*

*Ignacio High School NAYO club*

## Sharing Tree thanks community

Dear Sky Ute Casino, tribal programs, merchants, and Ignacio Intermediate School fourth grade classes:

The Ignacio Sharing Tree Program would like to say a big thank you to all the wonderful people and great programs that helped us make Christmas a special day for 13 Head Start and Early Head Start families this year.

Thanks to the Sky Ute Casino, Petra Wasinger, Teri Miller and Annie McGraw for all their fabulous work on the slot tournament. Ignacio Intermediate fourth grade classes, your efforts were deeply appreciated. Six hundred-plus cans! Wow!

Tribal programs, casino workers, individuals and Ignacio merchants: With your tireless assistance, we were able to make Christmas brighter for these families. This large of a project could not have happened without your support.

Wishing you all a wonderful new year in 2012, and again, thank you.

*The Sharing Tree Program*

# Who am I?

*By Tim Yaw*

*Nuuciu Bible Baptist Church*

We began this series in search of genuine love by concluding that the lack of properly loving each other is the root cause of unrest in the world.

We have shown that humans are not capable of genuine love because human love is self-centered: directed toward and focused inward. In the last article, we saw genuine love as sacrificial because it is based on the needs of others before our own needs and comes from an external source.

This sacrificial love was illustrated by God when he left his spiritual realm and manifested himself as a sinless human while still being God. He walked with his creation in the name of Jesus Christ. Why? Because God loves his people who he created with which to have an eternal loving relationship.

Our inward focus on our self-satisfaction makes us impure and unholy. The penalty for that impurity is an eternal existence without God. A pure and holy person is the only creature with whom God can have a relationship.

Through a natural focus we see ourselves as not perfectly good, but rationalize that truth by viewing ourselves as being not as bad as some people in order to make us feel good. Yet this causes problems, because we now project ourselves as being better than others.

This view is far from the perfection of God, which is the standard God set for humans to be able to co-exist with him in this life and the next. History has proven that God's standard cannot be met through self-achievement and self-effort.

In other words, no matter how hard we try, we cannot be righteous and holy under our own power. But through God's mercy and grace, he uses his power to bring us to perfect goodness and holiness thus reconciling us into

a loving relationship with him.

How? By sacrificing himself in order to live in us and regenerate our old sinful nature into a relational nature acceptable to God. This is the meaning of the term "born again" used by believers. The old sinful nature in us (focus on self) is transformed into a harmonious relationship with God through God's Holy Spirit.

So if God is willing — and he is — to transform us into righteousness and holiness, what is our part?

In the last four articles, we have taken a look at ourselves by answering the three basic questions of human existence as to where we came from, what our purpose is, and where our soul is going after the body is deceased. We did this in order to get a clearer picture of ourselves and of God.

Only when we see ourselves as falling short of perfection, and compare our imperfection to God's perfection, can we realize a change must be made in order to be in a relationship with him. As we have already pointed out, we cannot accomplish that goal through our own effort.

Because God understands our shortcoming, through his mercy and love he provided a means of reconciliation. That reconciliation comes through Jesus Christ, who took our sins that separated us from God upon himself and died, thus paying the penalty of spiritual death that we were to pay.

This spiritual death is eternal separation from the almighty God: Hell. Better yet, God raised Jesus from the dead and Jesus now lives to mediate between humans and God!

Our part is to simply acknowledge our self-righteousness that has separated us from God, confess that sin, and be willing to allow God to cleanse us and live through us, transforming our soul into the likeness of his purity and righteousness. This is called repentance, and it simply means

making a turn or a 180-degree change from our self-centeredness to a spiritual or Godly focus.

That's it: We just need to see ourselves as the unrighteous person we are and be willing to allow God to change us. Again, the important part is to admit to God that we cannot change ourselves and must rely on him.

God tells us that if we believe in our heart that Jesus took our sin on himself, paying our debt; confess that we are sinners; and be willing to repent from our sinful lifestyle and live for him, we will never be separated from God again and will live with him forever.

When this belief is enacted, God lives in the believer through his Holy Spirit, who cleanses us of our unrighteousness, sanctifying the believer toward perfect holiness and purity.

If you see yourself as the rebellious, self-centered person you are, making you an enemy of God, and want to change that, talk to God and ask him if what we have been talking about is the truth.

Admit your sin of unfaithfulness; confess your heartfelt belief that Jesus died for you, paying your sin debt and making him the Lord of your life. Then ask God to come into you and transform you into his child.

How God makes the change in the genuine believer will be the discussion of the next issue's article. You will be amazed at the new person that is transformed from the old you. All we have to do is trust God and obey his two simple commands: Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.

Remember, we are talking about true love, which is sacrificial and can only come from God through us. If you are willing, God will share this love with you to share with others.

Imagine a world with this kind of love. You can have it through God, our creator.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE.**

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# KENNY "KD" DOBBS THE DUNK INVENTOR

*Dunk Performance  
February 9, 2012*

*SunUte Community Center  
Show Starts 7:00 pm*

**Admission to this event is FREE!!!!**

**Come check out some amazing dunks!!**

For more information contact

SunUte Recreation  
970-563-0214

[www.kennydobbs.com](http://www.kennydobbs.com)



# Membership memories



*photo courtesy Stanley Frost*

*Long ago, in 1946 or 47, Stanley Frost — here leading his horse with his brother, Jack Frost, in tow — enjoyed the summer thusly: "Saddles will be put on, and away we'll go to the Dry Creek area to check on our cattle. Good ol' summer and no school." The ranch was located between Ignacio and Bayfield. Jack Frost Sr. passed away on Dec. 12, 2011.*

**Feb. 10  
Drum  
DEADLINES**

**Display/Classified  
Ads & Jobs  
Feb. 6**

**Stories & News,  
Announcements  
Wishes/B-Days!  
Feb. 6**

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