

WINNER OF FOUR NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION AWARDS INCLUDING GENERAL EXCELLENCE IN 2011

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## Inside The Drum

Update	2
Culture	3
Health	4
Education	5
Sports	7
Wedding	11
Hunting	12-16
Voices	17
Notices	18
Classifieds	19
Back Page	20

# Traditions live on in Buffalo Harvest

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

A young bison was blessed and harvested under the traditional guidance of the Fort Lewis Buffalo Council on Saturday, March 17, as part of an annual three-day ceremony.

The spirit of the harvest is to promote food sovereignty and education under the guidance of the Buffalo Council and participating tribal elders.

"It really strengthens us as students," said Amoretta Pringle, president of the Buffalo Council.

The three-day ceremony included a sweat lodge, prayer, bison harvest, and distribution of medicine, finishing in Durango on Sunday with a presentation by longtime Native American activist Russell Means, who voiced the importance of truth and sovereignty to his audience.

This year's ceremony coincides with the 100th year anniversary of Fort Lewis College, according to organizers.

In recent years, the Buffalo Harvest has taken place at the site of the historic Fort Lewis Indian School near Hesperus, Colo. This year, the event moved to a neighboring ranch house owned and operated by Bill and Virginia Crangle. The Crangles have made Hesperus their home since 1974, and have hosted the Buffalo Council on numerous occasions,

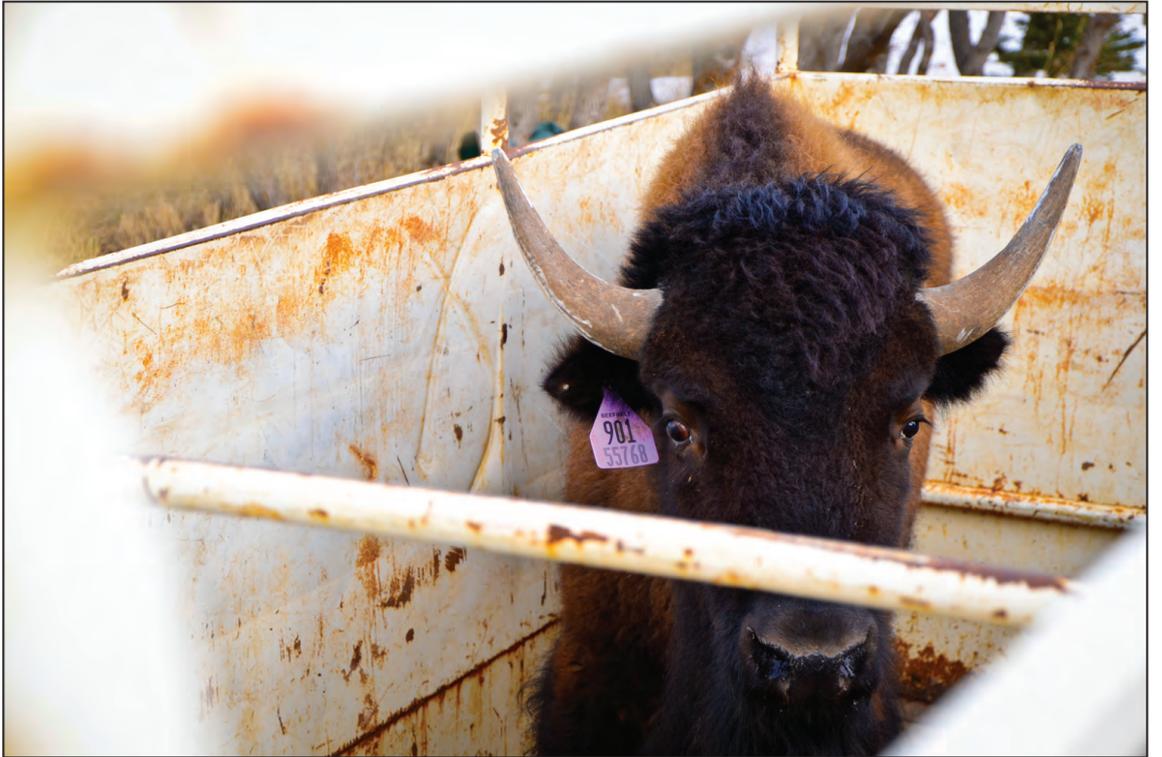


photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

A young bison awaits his fate in the ceremonial Buffalo Harvest, a traditional ceremony undertaken annually by the Fort Lewis Buffalo Council. Southern Ute tribal member Nathan Strong Elk (below) prepares a blessing for a young bison before the annual Buffalo Harvest begins.

giving them a place to perform the ceremonies.

Manuelito "Chief" Garbiso is one of the more recent members

to the council and a Fort Lewis alumnus.

"Basically everything goes back to the community," he said, explaining that the meat will be parceled out to families who qualify, and whatever remains will be used for fundraising events, cooking the bison meat to benefit the community.

The young bison was trucked in from Oklahoma. Raised on a ranch, he was culled from a herd numbering in the hundreds. Michael Mithlo, owner of the company Mighty Good Bison, has delivered a buffalo to the council for the traditional harvest on numerous occasions.

Mithlo, a pragmatic and knowledgeable man with a clear understanding of the butchering process, is of the Comanche and Chiricahue Apache nations. He said it's good to keep a few bulls in together and let them fight, because it helps build testosterone. He also noted that thick meat on the ribs is a sign of a

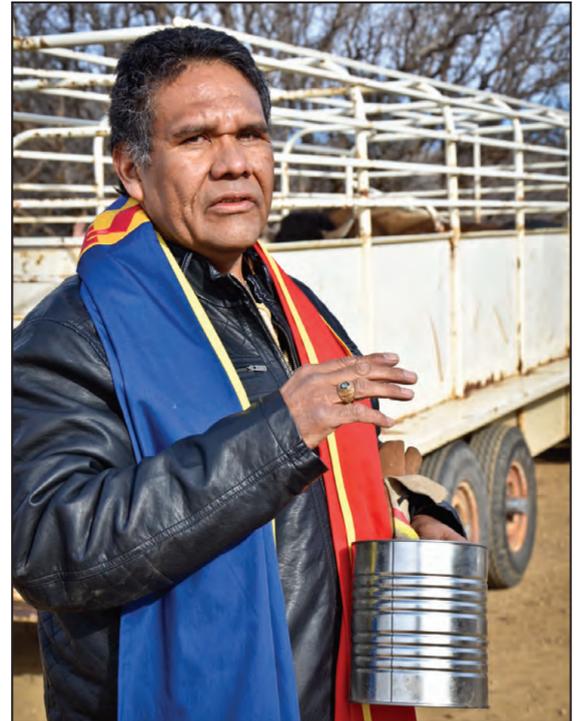


photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Buffalo page 10



## Southern Ute flag to fly in Capitol



Members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association Howard Richards Sr., Rod Grove and Larry Tucker gathered in the Southern Ute Veterans Park on Monday, March 19 to perform a blessing on a Southern Ute tribal flag prior to its dedication at the Colorado State Capitol in Denver on Thursday, March 29. Tucker performed the ceremonial blessing.



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

## Bishop visits tribe



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

On Wednesday, March 14, Bishop Fernando Isern of the Catholic Church's Diocese of Pueblo paid a visit to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council honored the visiting dignitary with a Pendleton blanket in the Leonard C. Burch Building's Hall of Warriors.