



Studying Ute culture firsthand



photo Robert Ortiz/SU DRUM

Tour guide Jonathan Canty (right) talks to Ignacio High School students as they visited the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum on Friday, March 16. The English class is continuing its studies of the Utes by reading "When the Legends Die" by Hal Borland, the story of Thomas Black Bull, who vowed to never return to the white man's world. The 1972 movie based on the book was filmed primarily in the Ignacio area, with appearances of Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council and tribal members.

Prepping for transition



Members from Ignacio's education community gathered with students and parents from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy at the Sky Ute Casino Resort for a luncheon on Tuesday, March 20 to discuss the upcoming transition ceremonies for academy students. Julie Stone, junior high teacher with the Southern Ute Education Department, presented an interactive website for students and parents to track school records and student progress online.



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Dorothy Gore Scholarship available

The Dorothy Gore Scholarship sponsored by PEO Chapter CS is available to any La Plata County graduating senior girl who has shown academic promise, leadership potential, serves her community and has at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average. This \$1000 scholarship honors Dorothy Gore, a retired, long-time Durango teacher. Although priority is given to applicants to Cottey College, all applicants to an academic college are considered. Cottey College is a two-year women's college in Nevada, Missouri, owned by the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Applications are available at high school counseling offices or by requesting a copy from PEO Chapter CS Philanthropic Committee at jeaninegae@gmail.com. The application deadline is April 16.

Johnson O'Malley Committee Meeting

Monday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m.
Southern Ute Education Dept. Building

Meeting open to parents/legal guardians of Native American students K-12 in the Ignacio and Bayfield School District. If you need more information call the Southern Ute Education Department contact Ellen S. Baker 970-563-0235 ext. 2793.

Education update

Education announces GED test dates

The Department of Education would like to announce the GED test dates for the upcoming months: April 6, May 4 and June 1. The test is held the first Friday of every month at the Southern Ute Education Building at 330 Burns Ave. Registration and payments are due by Tuesday before the test. Scholarships are available for Native Americans who live within 50 miles of the service area, spend 12 hours in class, score a 450 on practice tests and submit paperwork two weeks in advance. For more information, call Pine River Community Learning Center at 970-563-0681 or Donna Broad at 970-563-0237 or 970-749-1953.

The GED test will be changing January 2014. All previous test scores will be thrown out and students will need to retake all 5 sections. It is important that students complete all 5 sections of their GED before the January 2014 date.

Also, the Education Department has an online GED Academy classroom that is available for at home GED test preparation. Please call Donna Broad at 970-563-0237 ext 2784 or 749-1953 for passwords. There is a minimum time requirement each week to be allowed to use this program.

Education Dept. community class for April

- Dress and ribbon shirt workshop: Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m

Participants will learn to measure, cut out and sew a simple ribbon dress, or a ribbon shirt. Participants will receive the material and the ribbons to complete your project. Participants must know how to operate a sewing machine and have basic sewing skills.

For more information, and to sign up, call Luana Herrera at the Department of Education 970-563-0237.

Spring Break schedules

Ignacio School District: April 2 – 9
Southern Ute Indian Academy & Head Start: April 2 – 6
Bayfield School District: March 26 – 30
Ignacio School District schools will return on Tuesday, April 10

STEM after-school open house at The Southern Ute Education Department



After school March 28 from 2:15 – 4:45 p.m.
Similar open house STEM programs will run the last Wednesday of each month, same time, and same place:

- Last Spring session – April 25
- 2 Summer sessions are in the works!

Is your 3rd-8th grader into science?
Are they not sure what to do after-school?

Come discover your inner scientist in this fun and interactive experiment-filled open house program!
FREE FOR SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL STUDENTS. \$10 EACH FEE PER SESSION FOR JOM STUDENTS.

Believe it or not, Durango Discovery Museum after-school programs have taught students new science concepts and vocabulary, enhanced students' science skills and allowed them to have loads of fun! The tradition will continue, with **science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)** programs at the Southern Ute Education Department one Wednesday a month during Early Release. March's STEM program will focus on ecosystems, climate patterns, and geography. Students will focus on locating countries, making flags, and building their own ecosystem. They will use the computer lab at the beginning of the workshop ... so students be on time please! Do-it-yourselfers, watch out – here comes the next generation of inventors!

The Durango Discovery Museum's education staff will guide students through inquiry and hands-on activities. Parents are more than welcome to come and enjoy the fun! We'll meet at the Southern Ute Education Building the last Wednesday of every month from 2:15-4:45 p.m. Stop in, say hello, and stay as long (or as short) as you'd like! Discovery Museum classes have sparked students' interest in science, engineering, math and technology, and they have inspired students to notice, wonder and learn. Parents, asked in the past, have responded that their children enjoyed the experience, their children became more interested in science while learning new vocabulary, and they were highly likely to bring their children to other programs offered by the Museum. Join us and have some fun.

Student participants give these programs 2 thumbs up!

spark curiosity, ignite imagination, and power exploration

For further questions please contact Sarah Margoles at the Discovery Museum 970-403-1863, sarah@durangodiscovery.org or Carrie Vogel at Southern Ute, 970-563-0235, cvogel@southern-ute.nsn.us



Announcing the 2012 Young Native Writers Essay Contest

The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation is proud to welcome entries for the Young Native Writers Essay Contest, which we organize each year in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. This essay contest for Native American high school students is designed to encourage young Native Americans to think about the most important issues affecting their tribal communities, as well as ways in which challenges can be addressed. Hundreds of Native American high school students participate each year. While all participants receive a Certificate of Honor for submitting their essays and adding their voices to this important dialogue in Indian Country, the five first-place winners are awarded an all-expenses-paid "Scholar Week" trip to Washington, D.C., accompanied by a teacher or mentor nominated by each winner, to visit the National Museum of the American Indian and other prominent Washington, D.C. sites. Each winner also receives a \$2,500 college scholarship. Please help us spread the word about this year's contest by forwarding this email to groups and individuals who might be interested in submitting an essay. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2012. We look forward to reading this year's essays! For more details please visit: <http://www.nativewriters.hklaw.com/>