



Colorado Springs Indian Center News

THE CAMP CRIER

Vol. 1, Issue 11

INDIAN CENTER NEWS

October 2009

STEERING COMMITTEE

The next steering committee will be at 6 pm, Wednesday, October 7, at White Bison, 6145 Lehman Dr. Several important issues are on the agenda, including looking at the second draft of the by-laws. Be sure to attend and bring your input for the by-laws draft.



Jim Ramirez and Lorenzo Tsosie made the new CSIC booth at the Woodland Park Powwow in September.

Board of Directors Appointed

Don Coyhis has appointed the following people to serve on the CSIC Board: Jim Ramirez, Don Coyhis, Marguerite Cantu, and Karen Medville. Lorenzo Tsosie will serve as the financial officer. This board will serve until CSIC receives their 501c3 tax exempt status and can hold a Board election under the by-laws.

eBay

New donations are being listed weekly, so drop by and check out what is being offered online each week. There may be something you cannot resist and your purchase helps CSIC.

We also welcome any donations you have that we can offer to interested buyers on eBay. Both these ways of contributing are always very welcome.

Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in volunteering to help with any programs or events that CSIC is doing, please contact Christine Barilla at 685-1019 or christine@exit66.com. Volunteers are needed

for youth group snacks and baked good sales, the CSIC office on Fridays, and general muscle power several places periodically. For more info on volunteer needs, please watch for the volunteer coordinator corner on our new website when it is up and running.

Community Alliance Committee

Currently our community connections activities involve Christine Briggs meeting and working with local outside agency on mutual health care issues, Jim Ramirez working with the Air Force Academy on their November 13 Native American Heritage Day event and Nov. 21 5K early morning run, attending the Diversity Forum planning meetings to give Native input to their activities, and working with El Pomar's ELD Native American Committee on the November MYLI program highlighting Native American culture held at Colorado College.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Community Dinners

The next CSIC community dinner will be from 1-3 pm on Saturday, October 17th at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th St. Please plan to bring attend and bring a dish to share for lunch, if you can. If you cannot, please come anyway. The after lunch program will be Austin Box demonstrating the martial arts he has taught for 30 years. He will also talk about the national recognition he received this summer for his achievement and teaching skills in martial arts.

Also, don't forget to bring non-perishable food for Trinity's food bank if you can, and old cell phones and other electronics for the youth recycle fundraising drive (see list on page 8.)

Newsletter

We are up to around 426 subscribers now. We will soon be working on the look and content of how the newsletter will be presented on the new website.

The youth have started a picture file of CSIC meetings and activities to use as graphics/photos on the website as they are gaining experience in writing and submitting news articles, both for the newsletter and other publications locally and nationally. We are excited at the possibilities the website will be offering in the process of keeping everyone informed and updated on the CSIC news.

Youth Group Teams

At our September meeting, the youth enjoyed creating and eating their own fry bread taught by Lorenzo Tsosie, scrimmaging in basketball taught by Andy Barilla, and taking pictures for the website taught by Eulala Pegram. There was also an excellent program by Amber Cote, Cherokee, on the Future Self art program, free classes offered to youth interested in art.

At next month's meeting, Oct. 18, in art they will get a chance to design a t-shirt graphic for the youth group t-shirts; in basketball they will practice some cool basketball moves; and in media, they will write some short articles for the newsletter or website. The speaker after classes will be a surprise you won't want to miss, so come and have fun where "cool meets culture."

OUR THANKS TO....

The Benedictines of Colorado for donating several eBay items in memory of Fr. William Thompson, O.S.B....Sheenasha and Tim Warner of OfftheRez for including us in the Sept. 5th Woodland Park Powwow vendors. Our youth group made out well....The Barilla family, Carissa Gonzales and Patti Tsosie for the baked goods the youth sold at the Woodland Park Powwow....All Native families contributing non-perishable products to the Trinity United Methodist Church for their food bank for needy families. These are appreciated by those receiving them.



COMMUNITY NEWS

The Camp Crier

Published By
 Colorado Springs Indian Center
 6145 Lehman Dr., Ste. 200
 Colorado Springs, CO
 Phone: (719) 599-8630

Web Site
www.coloradospringsindiancenter.org/

Editor: Eulala Pegram, Creek

Illustrator: Arnetta Hartman, Navajo

Photography:

Legal: Sandra Mokine, Potawatomi/
 Cherokee

Camp Crier news is a monthly online newsletter for the Pikes Peak region. Long ago, Camp Criers were respected people who went through the camp announcing important news of interest to the people.

How to submit material:
 If you are interested in submitting news to us for publication consideration, we would be glad to hear from you. Our email address is thecampcrier@aol.com

Due to lack of space, we will be able to cover local news only and powwow information will be a link that lists upcoming regional powwows.

Youth Newsletter Section:

Youth Editors:
 Virgil Weil, Navajo

The youth articles and art section of the newsletter will be created and edited by Native youth in the area and they will be the sole creators of this section. The adult editors and staff will check for good journalistic taste, standards and procedures. Young writers and artists are encouraged to submit their articles, jokes, reviews, news and other material of interest to their Native peers. We hope to have regular information from different schools, as well as good stories, interviews, etc. We will feature a different school in each issue for a while and we have a form for you to fill out to give your ideas about what to tell about your school. If you are interested in seeing the form, call or write us to receive a copy.

TITLE VII DISTRICT 11 Carolena Jackson, Navajo, has coordinated a series of five workshops on **information for D11 Native students and their parents** giving some excellent information on preparing for college or getting a good job. The first session was held **Sept. 24 at Doherty** about "Where do I Begin?" If you missed this, contact Carolena about copies of the handouts at 520-2364.

Upcoming workshops will be worth your time if you have a student in high school or middle school. All run from 6 to 8 pm. Here are the dates and places:

10-1, Mitchell, "I'm Native, what choices are there for me?" Tribe related info.

10-15, Wasson, "What kinds of jobs are available?" Guest speakers include **D.J. Vanas**, Odawa, excellent motivational speaker. See more about him under Congratulations on this page.

10-29, Palmer, "Now and my future, job readiness." Vision for their future.

11-12, Coronado, "How to's-Portfolio, Reference Letters and Essay." Info on forms needed with college applications.

NAWA

The next Native American Women's Association meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 11 at Penrose Library, Cascade and Kiowa. On the agenda is visiting and preparing for the busy season ahead: elections in November, selection of the next princess, and the installation of new officers in December. Native women and

the mothers and teachers of Native children are invited.

UCCS

Parents' Weekend at UCCS is October 8-11th.

Alvin Chee, Navajo, will soon begin a weekly radio program on the **UCCS Internet Radio Station**. It is titled "Visions from the Bluffs" and will take place at **10:30 am on Fridays**. The content will include culture, traditions, and issues Natives face throughout North and South America. The online site is <http://radioliccs.edu/> Check the Friday schedule.

Chee is also working with current UCCS students on starting a **Native student organization called SNAP** (Student Native American Program). More info on this in our November issue.

For more info on these, you can reach Alvin at 1-349-338-0354 or achee@uccs.edu.

Colorado College

It seems that the number of Native student at CC has started to recover after so many students graduated two years ago. There are currently **eighteen Native students** enrolled this year. No information about their tribes yet and the NASU Face Space has not been updated with their names and other info.

PPCC

The advisor for Native students at PPCC is Joanna Grey in room F353 at Centennial Campus, or by phone at 520-3190.

CONGRATULATIONS

On August 1st, **Austin Box**, So. Ute, was inducted as "Native American Grandmaster of the Year 2009" into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in Nashville, TN. Austin has taught martial arts since 1968/69

and is still demonstrating and teaching classes regularly.

At the end of October and the first of November, **DJ Vanas, Odawa**, and his wife Arienne will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on the island where they were married. This celebration will also include their two daughters and the occasion of the completion of DJ's new book soon to be submitted to a publisher.

FIRST NATIONS DAY

Rock Ledge Ranch will celebrate First Nations Day from 10 am-3 pm October 11. There will be booths, drumming and dancing, and performances throughout the day. This is an annual celebration. Booths will be manned by local Native artists/artisans and food.

RECYCLE INFO

Here is a great site to know about if you want to know more about what and where to **recycle all kinds of items**. Visit <http://earth911.com/> fill in what and near where. Some great choices for a wide range of things that are both needed and things that you don't ever want to throw away because they are hazardous to our environment. Our own youth group teams are collecting cell phone, ink jet printer cartridges (the ones small enough to fit into your hand), laptop computers, Apple iPods, digital cameras and digital video cameras (see page 8). For everything else, check this site out and help keep our earth safe.

SCHOLARSHIPS

QuestBrige, offers many options for schools and funding for low income, high achieving, motivated students with good grades. Top line schools are interested in such students and this program can get students connected. For info, visit www.questbridge.org/cps/info.php

I N D E X	Page 1 FYI	Page 2 Community News	Youth Pages Page 4 The Corn...er	Page 6 Indian Person Interview	Page 8 Community Resources
	Wellbriety Indian Center News	Page 3 Native News From Here and There	Page 5 Teen Topic Page	Page 7 Indian Business Interview	Calendar of Native Event

NATIVE NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

KUKOS TO THREE OF OUR OWN

Jim Ramirez, So. Ute, was one of three postal employees winning the highly coveted Benjamin Award recognizing excellence in working with the public in their jobs at the US Post Office.

A new counseling service offering individual, couples, families, teens and children counseling has begun in the area called 4 Feathers Counseling. **T.Tirona**, Eastern Cherokee, is the contact person. You can read about the services they offer at their website at:

<http://www.fourfeatherscounseling.com/>

Andy Barilla is doing an excellent job at working with 720Media to create our new website. He works for Verizon and their Verizon Foundation program encourages community service. He will soon be awarded \$750 for his time so far. He has pledged to donate that award to the Colorado Springs Indian Center.



Photo courtesy Chickasaw Nation

Bill Anoatubby, Chickasaw Governor, received the Jay Silverheels Achievement Award from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development during the 34th Annual Indian Progress in Business (INPRO) event Sept. 16 – 18 in Tulsa, Okla. Anoatubby is the Chickasaw Nation's 30th governor and has served the nation over the past 30 years during a period of immense growth. The Chickasaw

“Telling Our Stories”

Three films mentioned in our August newsletter are among the films to be shown as part of the 2009 IIIRM 6th Annual Denver Indigenous Film and Arts Festival “Telling Our Stories” in Denver October 13-18.

The highly acclaimed “**Barking Water**” will kick off the festival 6 pm, Tuesday Oct. 13, with director Sterlin Harjo in attendance. This screening is free.

“**4 Wheel Pony**,” shows at 7 pm, Fri., Oct. 16, at Starz Film Center at Auraria; “**For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska**,” screening is 6 pm, Sun., Oct. 8. Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

There are many other films scheduled to be shown also. Check here for info on titles, times, places and dates for these and the other award winning films.

http://www.iiirm.org/Events/Film%20Festivals/2009_film_festival/2009_film_festival.htm

ALL PIKES PEAK READS



John Herrington, Chickasaw Astronaut

The year long 2009 All Pikes Peak Reads theme is space. But what is missing in all the fun activities are the Native American contributions and participation in learning about space.

Besides knowing about how advanced we were in astronomy and math compared to the rest of the world at the time of contact in 1492, here are a couple of Native space trail blazers all American children, and the rest of the world, should know about.

John Herrington earned his BS degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He was the first Native Astronaut in space when he flew on the Endeavor mission STS-113 in September 2002. You can read about that mission at www.rocketrek.com/index.php?pg=about.

John currently is on the Board of Directors at the American Indian Institute for



Mary G. Ross, Cherokee Space Science Pioneer

Innovation, a program that will eventually have a seven year Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) school program for Native students from 9th grade through the first two years of college. www.theaaii.com/index.php?page=education

Mary G. Ross, a descendant of Chief John Ross, was the first prominent woman scientist of the space age and earned many titles and award for her work. She earned a bachelors and masters degrees in math, taught math and was hired as a mathematician at Lockheed Corp in 1942. She had become a registered professional engineer, and by the time Sputnik was launched she was quickly pressed into service on the ground floor of the U.S. space program because of her well earned reputation.

For more on her remarkable life, visit: <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/national/36625879.html> Mary died last year at age 99.

Tarbell Tells Mohawk Story

Reaghan Tarbell, Mohawk, is a young film maker who took the Best Feature Documentary prize at the 2009 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival for her first film “To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey.”

It is the story of the families of the famous Mohawk ironworkers who built most of the skyline of New York City over the decades, traveling back and forth from their Reserve in Canada. Since the early 1800s, Mohawk families lived and thrived in a ten city block area of Brooklyn called Little Cughnawaga and they became a community there. Many of the families still live and work in that area.

Her producer on the film is Paul Rickard, Cree, who runs Mushkeg Media, Inc., in Montreal. He convinced her to also narrate the film she had written.

Tarbell researched, wrote, interviewed, filmed, narrated and found funding for the story.

Her award winning story of this era and her family's role in it will be aired November 2 on PBS stations. Visit here for more info: www.nativetelecom.org/print/1722



Speak your Peace Pipe

Our question for you to speak your peace pipe about this month is "Who is someone you know or know about that has inspired you and how have they impacted your life?"

Send your answer to: thecampcrier@aol.com and we will publish the best answers.

Anonymous sent the following caption for last month's cartoon of a metal safe 'piñata' and the blind-folded boy is saying "Stand back while I break the bank!"

All Pikes Peak Reads Events

Space is the theme for the books this year. Here are some events:

Oct. 14: Mitchell High School, view the sky at their planetarium. **All month long.** Free.

Oct. 20: Astronauts and Aliens, Sand Creek Library, 4:30-6 pm.

Oct. 21: Storytelling under the Stars, Mitchell High School, 6:30-8:30 pm, younger age kids?



NATIVE FASHION

By Guest Editor

Steppin' out in style in Phoenix on a night to raise awareness for AIDS. Lookin' young, lookin' good and lookin' Indian in a corn stalk design jacket that shows off those broad shoulders.

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At the CSIC youth group meeting this month, the media team has been challenged to submit their stories and photos to places wanting and needing material for the public-including our own soon to be up website. We would also like to extend that challenge to all our Native youth. See Ideas on page 7 for ideas on some places to submit photos and news about your self or your family. If you need help with ideas, writing or photos, let us know at thecampcrier@aol.com

Cookie Fundraiser

The First Nations Day at Rock Ledge Ranch, on the east side of Garden of the Gods, falls on the same day as our October Youth Group meeting. Christine Barilla has volunteered to sell cookies there during the morning while we have our regular meeting and, some of us who can, will come over after the meeting to help sell baked good. We need cookies from all you cookie bakers out there and, those who can, will meet at Rock Ledge afterwards to sell some baked goods and join the fun.

A SATURDAY OF HAVING FUN AT CSIC YOUTH GROUP



Brandon Tsosi, Navajo

We had fun getting down with the fry bread dough.



We fried the bread.

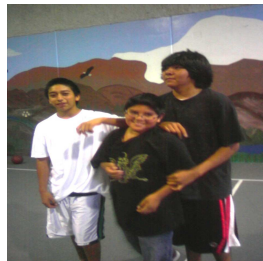


Brianna Barilla, Cherokee

We ate the bread.

We played basketball.

Tommy Lovern, Navajo, Brandon and Jensen Hartmann, Tohono O'odham, are friends and first cousins.



We hung with friends and cousins.



Jayda Hartmann, Tohono O'odham, and Destiny Smith, Navajo, are friends and first cousins.

We worked.

We took pictures and interviewed people for the newsletter and the website.



Valantina Goergen, Navajo



Daisy Lopez, Navajo

And some of us got tired, but didn't want to miss anything. Join us next time for more fun where cool meets culture.

TEEN TOPICS PAGE

Good Job Medicine Bear Group!

On Monday, September 25th, Dr. Karen Medville and a group of American Indian youth from the Medicine Bear Program in Canon City came to the Turkey Creek sweat lodge at Ft. Carson and spent the day completing a community service project.

The lodge was recently ravaged by fire and only some of the work had been done on cleaning the area.

The energetic class loaded and hauled trash, cut and cleared out burned wood, moved picnic tables, cleared weeds, raked, and built steps in the ladies' dressing area where they change clothes before and after the sweat.

A very special thank you is extended to these very conscientious Medicine Bear Program students and Dr. Medville for their hard work on improving the sweat lodge area in our community.

The group often takes field trips together to learn more about the subjects they study in their after school Medicine Bear Program. They often work on cultural arts and crafts and Dr. Medville regularly asked speakers from the Colorado Springs community to work with the students by doing projects with them or programs for them.

WIDEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

By Valantina Goergen

Widefield High School is in School District 3. It is the oldest of three high schools in the district.

We have the usual mix of subjects, sports, student clubs and extra-curricular activities available in most high schools.

Our school mascot is a gladiator warrior and our newspaper is called Widefield Gladiator. Our school colors are baby blue, dark blue and white.

We enjoy having the opportunity to play a wide variety of sports and a good following of loyal Widefield sports fans.

Our school club includes some unusual ones like the **Cultural Club** that celebrates and promote diversity. They put on a cultural show each year and they have a step team. They are working on members being able to letter in cultural club, just like in sports. One percent of Widefield High School students are Native American.

Community of Caring has two recycle programs. Becca's Closet is a program that takes new or gently used formal wear that can be passed on free to any student in the area who need formal wear for school functions like dances or proms. C of C also recycles paper.

I am active in **DECA** which is a business marketing club. We run the student store and concession stands as we learn how to run all different parts of a business.

I play a forward on the Widefield girls' basketball team and also in an outside league. I have traveled with this league to games in Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Florida.

I am involved in music, sing in the choir and play violin in the school orchestra. We play at school assemblies and have already begun practicing holiday music. I enjoy the Chanti and Japanese Lullaby we are practicing now.

I did not want to get involved with too many things my freshman year, but after this year I am interested in peer counseling, reporting news on KWSH, working on the yearbook staff and possibly working on the newspaper.

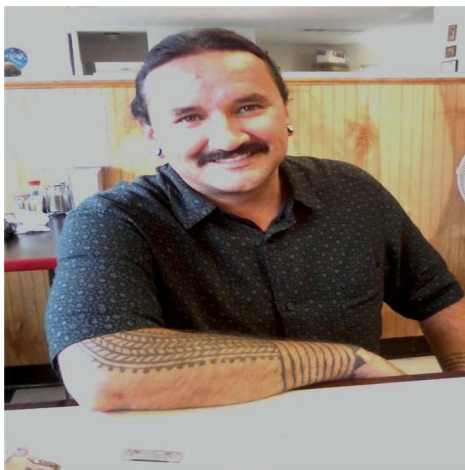


Out and About

Maranda McGowan, Navajo/Aleut, is a junior at Palmer High School. She plays violin in the orchestra. She is also attending the D11 TVII Indian Education workshops offered this fall on getting into college....

Marcus McGowan, Navajo/Aleut, is in preparation to compete in the next Special Olympics in both bowling and volleyball games. Good luck Marcus!.... **Kayla Briggs** auditioned to dance in The Nutcracker ballet this year. She was selected to dance as a sugar cane with the Sugar Plum Fairy group in Act II. It will be performed over the Thanksgiving holiday at the Pikes Peak Center this year. Congratulations, Kayla.... **Jayda Hartmann**, Tohono O'odham, made the cheerleading team this year at her school, Pikes Peak Prep. Her brother, **Brandon Hartmann** also attends Pikes Peak Prep.

A MAN WITH MANY TALENTS INVOLVED IN MANY INTERESTS



Jeff Lujan is Isleta/Ysleta Pueblo, but during his lifetime he has also been a part of many other rich cultures that have become part of his life.

He was born in Stuttgart, Germany, to a father who was career U.S. Army with ancestry on both side of the US/Mexico border, Isleta in New Mexico and Ysleta, a federally recognized tribe on the Texas side of the Mexico border. His dad's paternal grandfather is Nawat from Tlaxcala, Mexico, his Paternal grandmother was Tigua from Ysleta Pueblo, TX. His maternal grandfather was Tiwa from Isleta Pueblo, NM, and his maternal grandmother was Mexican and Tulareño (foothill Yokuts) from Tulare, CA.

His parents were Joseph and Judy Lujan and Jeff grew up experiencing a rich cultural heritage by birth, by family military travel, and by marriage to his former wife, Gina Lujan, who has Hawaiian roots and is also the mother of his son, Damian. Gina's paternal grandfather is Japanese and Hawaiian, although she grew up in El Paso and both her parents grew up in Mexico.

Jeff spent 20 years living, going to school, and experiencing the many diverse cultures of Hawaii, then eventually teaching Hawaiian culture and language.

He lived on the island of O'ahu. He says he spent most of his time in high school on the beaches, surfing, body surfing and body boarding. He also was involved in martial arts and earned his way through college teaching martial arts classes.

During his college years at the University of Hawaii, he also danced the traditional hula with Ka Pa Hula Hawai'i and competed in the King Kamehameha and Merry Monarch Hula competitions. He later studied a short time with John

Ka'imikaua in his halau Kukunoakala, the hula school.

He is a fluent speaker in Hawaiian and was very active in language preservation and cultural revival movements when in college.

After beginning his teaching career in Hawaii, he was the first to teach high school science entirely in the Hawaiian language as part of the regular classroom curriculum in over 100 years.

He made sure that his son learned all about his Hawaiian heritage and language, but he also taught him about his Native American roots.

From 1996 until 2005 Jeff and his son sang with the Red Thunder Singers at all the annual powwows on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Kaua'i and O'ahu. This drum was composed mostly of guys from all branches of military services stationed in Hawaii and a few civilian Native Americans then living in Hawaii.

In 2000, Jeff stopped teaching professionally in order to devote more time to doing traditional skin tattooing, a skill he learned under Kahuna Uhi and Kumu Hula Keone Nunez. This traditional art form uses very ancient methods and specific traditional tools and his teachers insist on strict observation of traditional protocol. You will notice this beautiful art work on his arms when you meet him.

In 2005, he moved to Colorado to earn his Master's degree in social work at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins.

As you might expect, through the years Jeff has been active in cultural preservation and stories from his own heritage as well as that of his son, and now his grandson.

He counts among his friends some members of the World Council of Elders and Frank Satee, Cree/Ojibwe/Lakota, who runs the sun dance Jeff attends at Pryor, MT, each year. Jeff recently participated in his third sun dance there.

Jeff's father began his military career by being drafted into the Vietnam conflict, reached the rank of Lt. Colonel, and spent all of his military service in Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces units. He also earned a MBA and Master's degree in accounting.

In 1987, his father was killed while serving in El Salvador. The family knew he was on a highly classified mission when he died, but at his father's funeral, Jeff

learned his father was in Delta Force and was involved in the attempted hostage rescue during the Carter Administration.

Jeff says that information explained a lot of things about the stress behavior his father exhibited when living at home with his family between assignments. His father's story has now become woven into the warp and weft of his and his family's traditional multicultural heritage, history and stories.

Jeff's son Damien is now 27 years old. He is married with a 6 month-old son of his own. He lives in Colorado Springs and works in Pueblo as a tinner for an HVAC company. Jeff sees them often. Damien speaks Hawaiian and worked at the Hawaiian language immersion school as a teacher's aide in the special education department before leaving Hawaii.

Jeff recently spoke at the Colorado Springs Indian Center's September community dinner where he was asked to describe the work of the SET (Serve, Empower, Transform) program where he works currently after graduating with his Master's degree in social work.

Lujan is the coordinator of the Comprehensive Healthcare Re-entry Program (CHRP) at SET, a program for prison ex-offenders needing health care services, but he is knowledgeable about the many other health and other related programs offered at or through SET. He says there are currently at least three Native ex-offenders receiving health benefits through his program. SET recently received a four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to expand program capacity and to study the success of this visionary health program.

The SET offices are located at 825 E. Pikes Peak, Building 29 (just south of the old St. Francis Hospital.) Jeff's phone number is 776-8850, ext. 1013.

Jeff reports he enjoys hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and snowboarding – and he truly enjoys being a grandfather at this busy stage of his life. He will certainly have a lot of interesting family and cultural stories to tell his grandson when he is older – and he can tell them to him in at least a couple of languages.

SET provides a variety of medical services to uninsured, underinsured and low-income people, without discrimination. They will also be offering a **free immunization clinic** for 4-18 year old children from 4:30 to 6 pm on October 22, 2009. Call 776-8850 for an appointment. www.setofcs.org.

An Artist With Deep Cultural Roots



Debra Box, Ute, has lived in Black Forest, CO, for the past twenty-five years. She has steadily built a well-

deserved reputation for her Ute inspired artwork and is represented in several major public and private art collections.

She is the daughter of Austin and Sally Pawwinnee Box, long time residents of the Pikes Peak area. Her father is Southern Ute from Colorado and her mother is Ute from Ft. Duchesne, Utah.

Since her father was career U.S. Army, Debra and her family lived many places while she was growing up. She was born in Anchorage, Alaska, and between here and there has called many places home. But it is here where she settled with her family when her father, also an artist, retired in 1968.

She graduated from Widefield High School in 1974 and attended nine months of vocational school. Shortly after that, several pivotal things happened in her life.

As a young adult, she was employed at Current in 1978 and met her husband, Michael Branson, in 1980. Michael was a history teacher and very involved in the popular Mountain Man organization, which reenacts regular historical rendezvous from the opening of the west era as a hobby, or passion.

Michael was also a rifle maker and by 1981 the couple were making rendezvous around the area in an 1840's era in an 18' Cheyenne lodge tipi. Participants in

the camp can only use clothing, tools, food and cooking methods of that period. In creating her period dress and the articles in and around the tipi, Debra began her first venture into traditional art of that period.

Creating such pieces meant doing research into the art and material of the era and Michael and Debra became very involved in that research, as well as recreating original pieces reflecting the period. From there, as they say, the dye was cast, in both production of camping accouterments and the recreation of art methods and art pieces.

As Debra's art production was increasing, Michael became her agent in all things related to keeping records, scheduling, photographing, promoting, and all of the technical side of the art business. Through the years, the couple built a very positive reputation in the art world and at art shows.

For her paint work, Debra works with paint she makes from earth pigments and egg whites on rawhide. For her beadwork, she uses tiny beads sewn on leather in the overlay method (one needle, sewing five beads down, then back stitching again through three of the beads before stringing and sewing the next five beads).

In addition to Debra's family and tribal exposure to Ute Art, she applied for and received research grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Southwestern Association of Indian Arts, to research, and she and Michael were privileged to spend three days in the vaults at the Chicago Field House Museum on a grant to study the museum's Ute art collection.

Sadly, Michael was stricken with a brain tumor and died in 2005. Over the years since then, Debra has gradually learned to do all the business end of the art business and still continues her remarkable success.

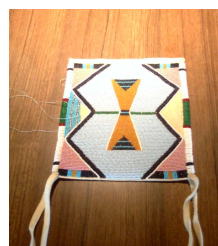
Debra is well collected in both private and public collections and signs all of her art work pieces. She is one of the featured

artists in the new Santa Fe Indian Market Gallery's "Modern Heritage" collection. She has pieces in our local Fine Arts Center. She has been represented in the annual Santa Fe Indian Market for at least 22 years. She also has had pieces in the Heard Museum in Arizona. And over the years she has garnered 40 prize ribbons in highly respected art competitions.

In 2004, she received the great honor of being chosen to represent the South Ute Nation with a parfleche bag in a showcase along side Ben Nighthorse Campbell's jewelry, at the grand opening of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Also in 2004, Governor Owens presented one of her parfleche boxes to represent Colorado as a gift to Prince Andrew of England.

In 2005, She was one of twelve featured artists doing traditional art in the Nov./Dec. issue of Native Peoples magazine and several of her pieces have appeared in several movies, including "Dances With Wolves."

Debra is currently remodeling her Black Forest home, but she still finds some time and some space amid the construction to create well researched pieces that represent the art of both herself and her heritage.



Work In progress



Painted parfleches



Business card holder



Beaded Tea Cozy

IDEAS FOR PARENTS

We have challenged our youth to submit news about themselves and their family for publication locally and nationally. Here are the places they can send material if they are interested. We would love to help them and hope you will let us know if they submit or get published.

Locally: Both stories and photos

Camp Crier: thecampcrier@aol.com .

Gazette newspaper: **Fresh Ink pages** <http://www.csfreshink.com/page/site-guidelines> how to submit info, <http://www.csfreshink.com/profiles/blogs/a-cool-freshink-trick>

Nationally:

Teen website for creative work of all kinds: <http://www.teenink.com/> very impressive site.

News about Native youth: **Native Youth Magazine** http://www.nativeyouthmagazine.com/index.php?option=com_mjfrontpage&Itemid=117 \

Indian Country Today newspaper, Your Indian Country section: <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/yourict>

Community Resources to Know About

Resources

2-1-1 Referrals for assistance:

The Wellbriety Indian Center is creating a resource list to help Native's in the area who need assistance. It is a long process and the finishing date for the project is not yet clear. However, in the meantime, we would like to furnish you with information about how to search online to get the help you may need.

First, follow these directions to reach an agency that may be able to help
Second, in the search box on your computer, type in

<http://211colorado.org/>

Click #5 area on the first two maps that appear.

Third, You should now be on the Pikes Peak United Way page. Click the words "Get Help With 2-1-1" on the top left side of the page.

Fourth, in the Get/Give Help With 2-1-1 area on the left side of the page, click the underlined word "search." Either type in the type of assistance you need in the top keyword box, or click the one of the quick topics choices in the quick search box below. This will bring up all the agencies in the area that can help you with the needed assistance.

If you need help with this, the contact person for El Paso County is Annette Blackhart at Pikes Peak United Way, or email tapestry@ppunitedway.org, or call the Call Center at 719-955-0742.

One Nation Walking Together:

Offers local Natives assistance through their Project Pride Program. Donated items available include **food, clothing, appliances, housewares, school supplies, medical supplies, hygiene products, building materials, furniture**... whatever they have in stock. No need for personal information, they just ask that recipients help them by working at their warehouse for an agreed amount of labor. They are located at 45-A Commerce St. Phone 329-0251, email onenationwt@qwestoffice.net, website www.onenationwt.org/

Recycling information

The WICCS Youth Group is recycling the following items.

Cell phones, ink jet printer cartridges, laptop computers, Apple iPods, digital cameras and digital video cameras.

Unusable donations are fine. Proceeds from this fund raiser go to fund Youth Group Activities. You can drop them off at the collection box at either **White Bison** or the **Conservation Hardware store** at 409 N. Tejon. Pick up some energy saving supplies while you are there. You can visit their website here: <http://www.conservationhardware.org/>
Recycle Anything go to <http://earth911.com/>, fill in what and near where. Good info and lots of choices, i.e. 14 kinds of oil.

SET Family Medical Clinics

825 E. Pikes Peak Ave., Bldg. 29 (so. of old St. Francis Hosp) Health care treatment and referral service for basic health care for uninsured, underinsured, elders, ex-offenders, and low income people. Free child immunization clinic. Homeless clinic at 14 W. Bijou. 719-776-7750.

Local Substance Abuse Treatment Centers

Go to <http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/>, click on state, fill in location info (you can just use the cities name or your zip code), click distance from your location (from 5 to 100 miles). The programs are displayed 10 at a time (there are 36 programs within 20 miles of downtown C/S).

Local Alcoholics Anonymous meetings

Visit here <http://www.coloradospringsaa.org/> and click on "meeting schedule" for a list of when and where meetings are going on each day of the week. One Native American meeting is "Down By the Creek" that meets Thursdays at 7 pm. All are welcome.

Education resources

Pikes Peak Community College

Multicultural Retention Program for Men at PPCC
Coach Eddie Hughes, Room A306, Centennial Campus,
Phone: 502-2265 office 494-7891 cell

Native American Student Alliance, Carisa Gonzales-Yazzie.
cerisegonz77@hotmail.com, or Prof. Joanna Grey, 502-3190.

UCCS

Pre-Collegiate Development Program (PCDP)

Middle school and beginning high school student preparation for college.
<http://www.uccs.edu/~pcdp/> Rm. 303A, 262-3039, Main Hall, Josephine Benevidez Aragon.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

All Native American students, sponsor Marguerite Cantu, Rm. CoH 3042, phone 255-4124 ext. 3042.

Colorado College

Native American Student Union

Sponsor **Susie Nashida**, Southwest Studies building, 389-6649. **Rochelle Mason** is Director of Minority Student Life, 389-6338.
<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/students/nasu/index.htm> NASU website, audio on CC <http://www.tigerbca.com/2008/12/taa-dixon-speaks/>
Face Space <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/students/nasu/NASU%20Face%20Space.htm> (info on current Native students.)

Ft. Lewis College, Durango, CO

Offers free tuition to any Native student. Has several Native student organizations, understanding instructors and lots of support. For Info http://www.fortlewis.edu/student_life/native_american_center/scholarships_internships.aspx (scholarships)
http://www.fortlewis.edu/student_life/native_american_center/clubs_organizations.aspx (Native clubs)
http://www.fortlewis.edu/student_life/native_american_center/gallery.aspx (link to video and slide show)

CPCD Free Preschool Program

Free pre-school education programs preschool and infant/toddlers prepare children for school. special needs children are welcome. Families must qualify, however income is not a limiting factor for programs.
www.cpcdheadstart.org

REZKAST INFORMATION

All Indian website. You can visit or post your own info, music/videos. Categories include: members, videos, comedy, activities, politics, or you can start your own community group. www.rezkast.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 7, 6 pm, **Steering committee** meeting, White Bison office, 6145 Lehman.

Oct. 10, 10-12 am, **Youth Group** Team meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th.

Oct. 11, 2-4 pm, **NAWA monthly meeting**, Penrose Library, SW corner of Cascade and Kiowa St.

Oct. 11, 10 am-3 pm, **First Nations Day** celebration at Rock Ledge Ranch, east side of Garden of the Gods. Booths, music & dance.

Oct. 15, 9:30-11:30 am, TVII Indian educators (**NATIVE**), will meet this month at Adams 12 Five Star, Educational Support Center, in Denver, 1500 E. 128th Ave., 2nd flood, Sno Mass Conference Rm. **John Emhoolah**, 972-4015, called to invite Dist. 11 to attend.

Oct. 17, 1-3 pm, **Community Dinner**, Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th (north & west of 19th and Uintah).

Oct. 17, 4 pm, **Inipi (sweat lodge)** at Turkey Creek recreational area, south of Ft. Carson. Men and women both. Watch for signs.

Oct. 21, 6-8 pm, **Cultural Committee meeting**, White Bison office, 6145 Lehman.

Nov. 4th, 6 pm, **Steering Committee meeting**, White Bison offices, 6145 Lehman.