

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 — Last update: 1:10 p.m. MDT

SIGN IN | REGISTER | SUBSCRIBE | E-EDITION | ARCHIVES (DAILY INDEX) | MOBILE

Salt Lake City  
Scattered Clouds  
51°



# Deseret News

SEARCH DESERETNEWS.COM

GO

Site Web: powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

**In sickness or in health:**  
DESERET NEWS HEALTH SERIES

Go to **superpages.com**® to find a **superguarantee**™ business

SEARCH

**Food**  
HARMONY  
your neighborhood grows

ADVERTISEMENT

- Home
  - Utah
  - Sports
  - Life
  - Entertainment
  - LDS Newsline
  - Movies
  - Multimedia
  - Opinion
  - Business
  - World & nation
  - Blogs
  - Obituaries
  - Classifieds
- Education Salt Lake County Utah County Davis County Crime Politics Legislature Weather Columnists

From Deseret News archives:

## Utes thriving after nearly going broke

By **Lucinda Dillon Kinkead and Dennis Rombo**  
Deseret Morning News

Published: Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006 12:11 p.m. MDT

1 comments

f b | E-MAIL | PRINT | FONT + -

Page: 1 2 3 4 Next >

FORT DUCHESNE, Uintah County — The Ute Indian Tribe nearly went broke four years ago. The summer of that year, it had only enough money to run the tribal government and its many social programs for one month.

Today, the tribe is prospering.

At its annual Northern Ute Powwow on July 4, the tribe handed out checks totaling \$6.3 million to its members, three times as much as was distributed the previous year.

There are several other noteworthy benchmarks of success since 2002.

- Since then, tribal coffers have swelled enough to double the number of members employed by the tribe. About 600 now have jobs.
- The tribe now has a flourishing retirement fund for its elders.
- Its worth has swelled tenfold to more than \$100 million, not including several hundred million in water settlement rights.
- The tribe has increased the amount directed to college scholarships and vocational training from \$200,000 to \$300,000 since 2002.
- The tribe started its own oil company, Ute Energy. It has 60 producing wells and plans to drill 128 more, making it the fourth-largest producer in the Uintah Basin.
- The tribe will invest \$80 million in exploration in 2007.

Story continues below

2 photos



Keith Johnson, Deseret News

Clifford Duncan leads the Grand Entry during the 38th Northern Ute Powwow in July in Fort Duchesne. The tribe handed out checks totaling \$6.3 million to its members, three times as much as 2005.

GALLERY (2 PHOTOS)

Related content

Article

- [A new day in Utah's Indian Country](#)

Latest updates

Most popular

Most commented

- [Terror suspect appears in court](#) 1:10 p.m.
- [Teen blood donations guidelines set](#) 1:08 p.m.
- [Hospital to host breast cancer event](#) 1:08 p.m.
- [Teen shooting case progressing](#) 12:24 p.m.
- [Alzheimer's event is Friday](#) 12:23 p.m.
- [Utah hurt by unanswered census](#) 12:18 p.m.
- [Charges for chaining boy to couch](#) 12:17 p.m.

ADVERTISEMENTS



FOLLOW THEIR EVERY MOVE AT CELEBRITY XRANK.

bing celebrities

bing.com Microsoft



[New scientific discovery fuels muscle building](#)



[Obama will give you \\$2,500 a year to go to school](#)

• The tribe's \$24 million annual budget rivals the combined budgets of Duchesne and Uintah counties combined. "I don't think people realize the economic impact the tribe has on the state," says Cameron Cuch, a Ute Energy analyst. "We drive the economy off the Wasatch Front."

"There has been a tremendous change," says Ute chairwoman Maxine Natchees. "Without doing something, we would have had to close down the government."

**Success story**

The past four years have amounted to a Cinderella story for the Utes. Before that, years of inattention and bad deals nearly led to disaster for the 3,100-member tribe.

"They were just not on top of their expenses and revenues," says Forrest Cuch, a Ute who heads the Utah Office of Indian Affairs. "They just had no idea what their obligations were, and it caught up with them."

Enter John Jurrius, a polished Texan whom the tribe hired away from the Southern Utes in Colorado after he made them one of richest Indian nations in the country.

"He stretched some of his own finances to pull them out of that," Forrest Cuch said. "He's a true American. I really mean that."

Jurrius doesn't consider himself a savior. He says he's just an investment banker preaching simple math.

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [Next >](#)

**Recent comments**

1 comment

I think what John Jurrius has done for the Ute Indian Tribe in Utah...  
Kinzey Jenks | Nov. 6, 2007 at 11:51 a.m.

[Add your comment](#)

- [Scientists debate global warming](#) 12:13 p.m.
- [Artist killed in crash remembered](#) 12:10 p.m.
- [Bus driver asked kids to sing hymns](#) 12:09 p.m.



**Dad blog: 'Wild' movie lessons**  
The movie "Where the Wild Things Are" reminded me of what



**Mom blog: Naked Swank**  
Hilary Swank casually mentioned that her boyfriend's 6-year-old son sees...



**Guide to Haunted Houses and Mazes**  
Check out a list of haunted houses and corn mazes throughout Utah

Latest comments



**Utah Jazz trim roster by 3 players**

Anonymous said:  
+ 1 KEEP MATTHEWS

ADVERTISEMENT

**[Drop 30 Pounds in 3 Weeks](#)**  
Fastest Way to Drop Pounds.  
Guaranteed! As Seen on CBS  
LosingWeightEasily.net

**[Super Cheap Car Insurance](#)**  
Get Discount Car Insurance Quotes  
Online - Rates from \$15  
Discount-Car-Insurance-Rates.com

**[Refinance Now at 4.25% Fixed](#)**  
No hidden fees-4.4% APR! No obligation.  
Get 4 free quotes.  
MortgageRefinance.LendGo.com

Ads by Yahoo!

deseretnews.com: [Home](#) | [Subscription services](#) | [Contact us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Purchase photos](#) | [RSS](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

ADVERTISEMENT