



**Honoring former Deputy Lucero**  
**PAGE 2**



**Girls wrestling dominates in Arizona**  
**PAGE 13**

PRSR STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ignacio, CO 81137 Permit No. 1  
 Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118  
**\$29 one year subscription**  
**\$49 two year subscription**  
**January 26, 2024** Vol. LVII, No. 2

**Winner of 10 Colorado Press Association & five Indigenous Journalists Awards in 2023**



courtesy Danny Powers/SU Air Quality

The passing of a recent Clean Air Act (CAA) settlement marks a significant moment in which the Tribe and federal agencies collaborated to ensure environmental stewardship, safety, and compliance for the betterment of regional air quality in the Four Corners. Violations at fifteen facilities, including Harvest's Ignacio Gas Plant, situated on the Southern Ute Reservation southeast of Durango, Colo. prompted action by the Tribe.

**AIR QUALITY**

**Tribe celebrates milestone agreement to safeguard air quality on the reservation**

*Tribe and federal to ensure environmental stewardship*

By **Summer Begay**  
 TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe recently reached a historic agreement to protect air quality on the reservation and in Southwest Colorado. The Tribe, alongside the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), concluded a Clean Air Act (CAA) settlement with Williams Companies, Inc., and Harvest Four Corners, LLC.

This significant step, approved by the United States District Court for Colorado on Dec. 27, 2023, addresses alleged violations at fifteen facilities, including Harvest's Ignacio Gas Plant. The focus of concern was a process flare at the Ignacio Gas Plant, which, if not properly maintained, could be a major source of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions within the reservation and a contributor to degraded air quality and ground-level ozone formation. VOCs,

emitted from various process equipment, presents serious risks to the environment including human health and wildlife.

The Tribe, along with the EPA, expressed concerns beginning in 2015 about the flare's performance and compliance with Clean Air Act requirements. In resolving these issues, Williams Companies and Harvest agreed to mitigation projects, compliance measures, and a civil penalty payment. Notably, Harvest committed to a mitigation project for the Ignacio Gas Plant's flare. This includes installing a new prescribed flare monitoring system for a one-year test period, aiming to demonstrate compliance with CAA standards. If successful, it validates the effectiveness of Harvest's existing monitoring system.

Should the one-year test period reveal issues, Harvest is obligated to continue using the prescribed monitoring system indefinitely, securing this requirement in a federal CAA permit. Chairman Melvin J. Baker is

proud of the Tribe's dedication to resolving concerns about the Ignacio Gas Plant's flare. This success marks a significant moment in which the Tribe and federal agencies collaborated to ensure environmental stewardship, safety, and compliance for the well-being of all. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, recognized for its environmental leadership, holds authority under the CAA to regulate air pollution sources within reservation boundaries. This includes implementing and enforcing standards for air quality.

The Tribe operates an extensive air quality monitoring network, providing real-time data and EPA Air Quality Index forecasts to the public through their Air Quality Division website. For more technical information, please contact Daniel Powers, Air Quality Division Head at 970-563-2265. For media inquiries, please contact Summer Begay, Communication Specialist, at 970-563-2313.

**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT**

**Sky Ute Casino Resort adopts new substance use and testing policy**

*Effort aimed to enhance employment opportunities*

By **Summer Begay**  
 TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Tribal Council unanimously approved a new Substance Use and Testing Policy for the Sky Ute Casino Resort in Resolution 2024-009 on Monday, Jan. 22. This new policy comes after careful review and collaborative analysis involving Sky Ute Casino Resort Management, Human Resources, and the Legal Department. The policy supersedes the Casino's former Drug Free Workplace Policy.

This new policy solely applies to Sky Ute Casino Resort and its employees effective Tuesday, Jan. 23. Previously, every position at the Casino required pre-employment and random drug testing, even for marijuana which is legal in the State of Colorado. This practice was not consistent with industry standards and was affecting the Casino workforce. It was increasingly difficult to find employees to fill open positions.

Tribal Council approved a revision to this policy after carefully considering its commitment to employee and guest safety and the need for the Casino to attract and retain skilled staff to continue to provide excellent customer service. Under the new Substance Use and Testing Policy, pre-employment



courtesy Scott Smith

and random drug testing is still required for safety-sensitive and security-sensitive positions, which encompass roles including heavy machinery operation, electrical work, transportation, video surveillance monitoring, and positions that have access to confidential information related to finances and operation. This pre-employment and random drug testing for safety and security-sensitive positions will not include testing for marijuana.

Notably, Tribal Council remains committed to ensuring the safety of its Casino employees and guests. As a result, all Sky Ute Casino Resort employees will remain subject to testing based on reasonable suspicion of impairment or following an accident, including testing for marijuana. Therefore, no employee is allowed to be working at the Casino under the influ-

ence of alcohol, marijuana, or any other prohibited substance. It is still illegal to possess or use marijuana on Tribal property.

The Substance Use and Testing Policy will assist in addressing concerns about testing that historically limited local applicants from exploring careers in the gaming and hospitality industry. By streamlining the testing requirements, the Sky Ute Casino Resort aims to fill vacant positions efficiently. The new Substance Use and Testing Policy will be subject to quarterly assessments by Tribal Council. These evaluations will provide insights into the policy's impact on staffing, safety, and overall operational efficiency, ensuring ongoing alignment with the Casino's goals and industry best practices.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2313.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Local artist and Southern Ute tribal member, Conrad Thompson prepares to fly his DJI Mavic 2 Pro drone during a test flight on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Recently he has applied to the Tribe's Apprenticeship Committee, he was able to begin working with SunUte Community Center to film a holiday greeting video and will create other multimedia projects for them.

**APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE**

**Southern Ute Apprenticeship Committee dedicated to assisting tribal members**

*Thompson to create multimedia projects with SunUte*

By **Divine Windy Boy**  
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

This past holiday season, SunUte Community Center shared a holiday greeting video with all the Southern Ute tribal entities via email. The video project featured SunUte staff promoting their services and wishing viewers a joyous holiday season. The video was completed using a variety of high-quality equipment and even included a drone shot. The project was made possible through collaboration with local artist and tribal member Conrad Thompson. On a recent job hunt, Thompson was able to secure a position creating media content for SunUte Community Center with the assistance of the Tribe's Apprenticeship Committee.

Conrad Thompson is a Southern Ute tribal member who has been perfecting his art since a young age. In a recent interview with the Southern Ute Drum, he shared that he credits other local artists who encouraged and influenced him to learn art along with cultural teachings. Those artists include Orion Box, Russell Box, Austin Box and Kathy and Johnson Taylor to name a few. Thompson, a Met-

ber who has been perfecting his art since a young age. In a recent interview with the Southern Ute Drum, he shared that he credits other local artists who encouraged and influenced him to learn art along with cultural teachings. Those artists include Orion Box, Russell Box, Austin Box and Kathy and Johnson Taylor to name a few. Thompson, a Met-

Conrad Thompson is a Southern Ute tribal mem-

*Southern Ute page 7*

**MPF brings community together**



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Jr. Miss Southern Ute Maleina Carel stands alongside fellow Powwow and other dancers during the Gourd Dance portion of the MPF Community Powwow held on Saturday, Jan. 13. This gathering sought to bring local and surrounding communities together to enjoy traditional singing and dancing. The event gave powwow attendees the opportunity to dust off their regalia in lieu of the upcoming powwow season.

See more powwow photo coverage on page 11.

## Saluting Lucero



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Members of the Southern Ute Police Department and the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office stand together to pay recognition to former Deputy William "Bill" Lucero on his final patrol of Archuleta County on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Law Enforcement procession from Hood Mortuary in Durango, Colo., to Mountain Valley Mortuary in Monte Vista, Colo. was symbolic, as he had served in various capacities across Southwest Colorado for 30 years as a peace officer.



Southern Ute Police Chief, Michael Barrow, Justice and Regulatory Director, Chris Mimmack, SUPD Criminal Investigator, Tom Boyce and SUPD Police Lieutenant, Mark Kempinski stand together for a photo ahead of the procession for former Deputy William "Bill" Lucero along Highway 160 en route to Pagosa Springs, Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Deputy William "Bill" Lucero served with the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, and previously as a Lieutenant for the Southern Ute Police Department.

## Many Moons Ago



### 10 years ago

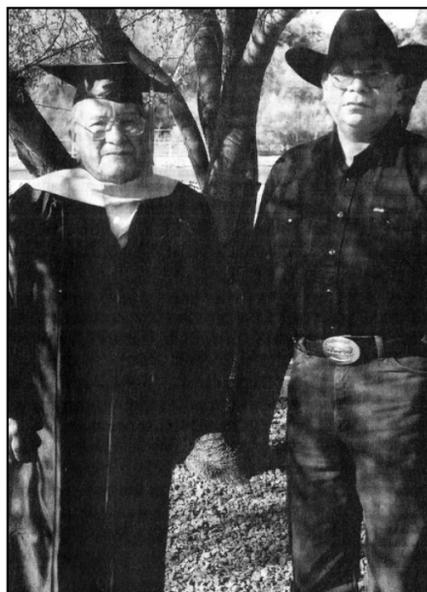


After 30 years in the Colorado Department of Transportation program, Alice Baker says her goodbyes in the Southern Ute Council Chambers on Tuesday, Jan. 21. La Titia Taylor and Luana Herrera of the Education Department presented Baker with a Pendleton blanket for her years of service. Baker was the regional civil rights manager and began her work with CDOT in 1983 before retiring on Nov. 1, 2013. She also assisted the Tribe in establishing the Tribal Employment Rights Office.

This photo was first published in the Jan. 24, 2014, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

### 20 years ago



Southern Ute Tribal Elder James M. Jefferson is now the holder of a Doctor's Degree in Education. He earned the honor at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and is shown here with his son, Tim, on the day of his graduation ceremonies, December 20, 2003. Congratulations, Doctor!

This photo was published in the Jan. 23, 2004, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

courtesy J. Jefferson/SU Drum archive



## Tribal Office Closure

In observance of President's Day, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024.

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

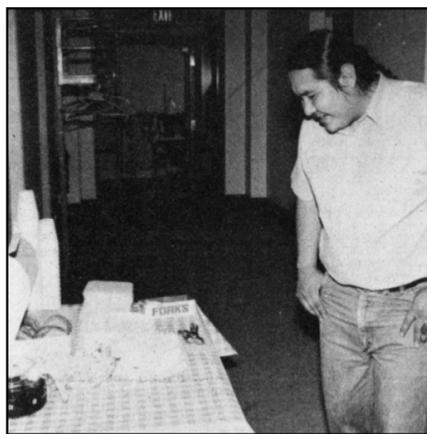


Robert Baker/SU Drum archive

### 30 years ago

Triple teamed! Amber Ross is surrounded by a flock of Blue Jays. The Bobcats will be in action this weekend in Bayfield with the Jay Vee starting at 4 p.m.

This photo was published in the Jan. 21, 1994, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

### 40 years ago

What is this? - Byron Red is asking when he saw his birthday cake and a smile broke out when he found out whose cake it was.

This photo was published in the Jan. 27, 1984, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL**  
Contact Information

Tribal members are welcome and encouraged to contact any Tribal Council Member regarding tribal information. Tribal Council Members are available for individual meetings, both in-person and virtually. To arrange a meeting, please contact Mrs. Sunshine Whyte at (970) 563-2319 or via email at [swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov)

<b>Melvin J. Baker, Chairman</b> 970-563-2320 <a href="mailto:mjbaker@southernute-nsn.gov">mjbaker@southernute-nsn.gov</a>	<b>Marvin Pinnecoose, Treasurer</b> 970-563-2402 <a href="mailto:mpinnecoose@southernute-nsn.gov">mpinnecoose@southernute-nsn.gov</a>
<b>Lorelei Cloud, Vice Chairman</b> 970-563-2405 <a href="mailto:locloud@southernute-nsn.gov">locloud@southernute-nsn.gov</a>	<b>Marjorie Barry, Council Member</b> 970-563-2304 <a href="mailto:mbarry@southernute-nsn.gov">mbarry@southernute-nsn.gov</a>
<b>Andrew Gallegos, Council Member</b> 970-563-2403 <a href="mailto:agallegos@southernute-nsn.gov">agallegos@southernute-nsn.gov</a>	<b>Vanessa Torres, Council Member</b> 970-563-2404 <a href="mailto:vtorres@southernute-nsn.gov">vtorres@southernute-nsn.gov</a>
<b>Marty Pinnecoose, Council Member</b> 970-563-2407 <a href="mailto:mapinnecoose@southernute-nsn.gov">mapinnecoose@southernute-nsn.gov</a>	

Photo Credit | Jeremy Wade Shockley, Southern Ute Drum

**SUIT ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Southern Ute Shared Services developed cell phone text and email alerts for emergency notifications and indement weather alerts.

We would like to remind tribal employees to sign up to receive the alerts and/or to update their contact information. Staff are encouraged to use their personal cell phones for text messaging alerts. Alerts will be sent to an employee's work email. Please see below to sign up today!

- 1 Go to the SUIT Portal
- 2 Under "Global Applications" Select "SMS Alerts Signup"
- 3 Enter your cell phone number & email address
- 4 Verify with text authentication
- 5 Confirm information is correct & exit application.

If you need assistance, please contact the SUSS Help Desk at 970-563-5050



## Ute storytelling welcomes all



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute elder, Russell Box Sr. shares a Ute story about See-atch, or Sasquatch with attendees, Monday, Jan. 22. Box also recalled his times attending the Ignacio Boarding school as a young boy, and the experiences and relationship he made in that time. Box is a recognized for his artwork and cultural knowledge, often giving presentations on culture and oral history. Coordinated by the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum's Cultural Education Coordinator, Izabella Cloud and Education & Outreach Coordinator, Raelynn Frauenhoff, the community event was well attended.



Velma Armijo and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel helps serve pork red chili stew and frybread at the storytellers event. Carel also spoke about the Ute Bear Dance and its significance in Ute culture

Miss Southern Ute, Autumn Sage shares a story she learned while attending the Southern Ute Montessori Academy in her youth.

## HISTORY COLORADO

# History Colorado gallery dedicated to the photography of John Fielder

Staff report  
HISTORY COLORADO

History Colorado Center opened *Flow: On the River with John Fielder*, Thursday, Jan. 25, an exhibition focusing on the many uses and importance of the Colorado River. *Flow: On the River with John Fielder*, is the first in a five-year run of rotating exhibitions in the new John Fielder Mezzanine Gallery which will be dedicated to the stunning photography and conservation work of John Fielder, who devoted his life to documenting and protecting the natural beauties of the Centennial State.

Using photos from John Fielder's Colorado Collection, the John Fielder Mezzanine Gallery will explore how the premier landscape photographer of the Centennial State went beyond making "pretty pictures" and became a driving force in environmental advocacy and conservation of what he felt was the most beautiful place on Earth: Colorado.

"Flow is a remarkable chance to see the breathtaking beauty of the Colorado River system through John's eyes," said Jason Hanson, chief creative officer and director of interpretation and research at History Colorado. "In these photos, some so big it will feel like you could step right into them, John invites us to join him inside majestic canyons and atop



courtesy History Colorado

the most awe-inspiring vistas along the Yampa, Gunnison, and Dolores Rivers as they flow toward their confluence with the Colorado."

In addition to a number of iconic large-format Fielder prints, *Flow: On the River with John Fielder* features quotes from the landscape photographer gathered carefully from his publications and interviews over the years.

"Anyone who spoke with John recognized his commitment to protecting the natural resources that make Colorado such a special place to call home. It only makes sense that we let his words of wisdom guide us as we welcome the John Fielder Mezzanine Gallery to the History Colorado Center," Hanson said.

In addition to the John Fielder Mezzanine Gallery, visitors can still travel with Fielder across glacial cirques and over 13,000-foot passes where the high alpine lakes re-

flect riotous wildflowers and spectacular sunrises, in REVEALED: John Fielder's Favorite Place before it closes on Sunday, Feb. 11.

In REVEALED: John Fielder's Favorite Place visitors encounter stunning scenery through Fielder's iconic large-format prints, and are taken behind the lens to explore his personal reflection as they travel to see the place the photographer felt was the most sublime in all of Colorado.

*Flow: On the River with John Fielder* opens to the public on Thursday, Jan. 25, at the History Colorado Center in the John Fielder Mezzanine Gallery. Access to the John Fielder Mezzanine Gallery is included with general admission to the History Colorado Center, which is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and provides free admission to kids 18 and under.

## UTE STORY TELLING

Join us and listen to stories told by Ute Elders

- Monday, January 22, 2024
- Monday, January 29, 2024
- Monday, February 5, 2024

Located in the Large Classroom at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Dinner will be provided

For more information contact

Cultural Education Coordinator: Izabella Cloud (970) 563.2984

or

Education & Outreach Coordinator: Raelynn Frauenhoff (970) 563.2998



**SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM**  
503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583  
WEB | museum@southernute-nsn.gov | IG | southern ute museum -sum

# SAVE THE DATE

2024 TRIBAL EVENTS

BEAR DANCE  
MAY 24 - MAY 27

SUN DANCE  
JULY 19 - JULY 22



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
SHERISA VALDEZ | 970-563-2988

## CALLING ALL SOUTHERN UTE ARTISTS

### 102ND ANNUAL SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR LOGO & THEME CONTEST

Open to all Southern Ute Tribal Members

Artwork shall be no bigger than 8.5in x 11in. Selected artwork will be featured on all items involved with the 102nd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair.

DEADLINE

**MARCH 8, 2024**

For questions, please contact:  
SHERISA VALDEZ | 970-563-2988



## ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDER TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

Prep your Home for Winter Weather

Construction Services Division would like to remind everyone with the weather getting colder to plug in your Heaters at your pump house and to heat tape your water lines to prevent any freeze-up on your home this winter and maintain your chimney.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please contact us at 970-563-0260 if you need assistance.



HEALTHY RECIPES

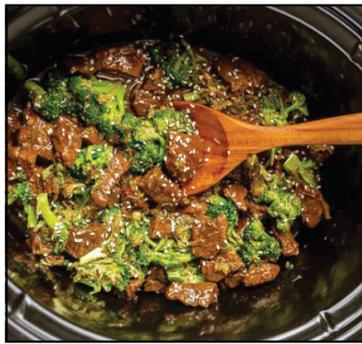
Crockpot beef and broccoli

By Lisa B. Smith, RDN, CLC
Shining Mountain Health & Wellness

Another one of those delicious Chinese meals you can make at home! A dish with protein and non-starchy veggies over whole grain rice makes this a balanced meal.

Enjoy this yummy homemade goodness! The tender beef melts in your mouth.

Lisa B. Smith, RDN is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with the Southern Ute Shining Mountain Health and Wellness.



courtesy Eating On A Dime

Baked Oatmeal Cups

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. sirloin steak, thinly sliced
1 c. low-sodium beef broth
1/2 c. low-sodium soy sauce
1/3 c. brown sugar
3 tbsp. sesame oil
1 tbsp. siracha
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 green onions, thinly sliced, plus more for garnish
2 tbsp. cornstarch
3 c. broccoli florets
Sesame seeds, for garnish
Cooked whole grain jasmine rice, for serving

Directions:

- 1. In a large slow-cooker, add steak. Add beef broth, soy sauce, brown sugar, sesame oil, Sriracha, garlic, and green onions.
2. Cover and cook on low until beef is tender and cooked through, 3 1/2 to 4 hours.
3. When the steak is tender, spoon a few tablespoons of the slow-cooker broth into a bowl and whisk with cornstarch. Pour into slow cooker and toss with the beef until combined. Add broccoli and cook, covered, 20 minutes more.
4. Garnish with sesame seeds and green onions and serve over rice.

Serves 4-6.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Blue light and sleep

By James Wilson
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Welcome back reader! For those of you who read the previous piece from BEE HEARD on sunlight and its role in our total wellness, this is a continuation of that story. But do not worry if you missed it. Today we are exploring the many beautiful colors of light, and how they have different effects on us, especially now in the age of artificial light in our homes.

The sun's light contains a broad spectrum of light from the highest wavelengths, producing red, orange, yellow, and green, as well as shorter wavelengths which include blue, violet, and ultraviolet. You can observe this in nature when you see a rainbow and notice how the water droplets break up the sun's light waves into separate colors from the spectrum.

Artificial light, by contrast, is less powerful and can contain a broad or narrow spectrum of light depending on how it was designed. We now can have lights that are only blue, or only red, or some combination and make them brighter or softer to our liking.

We know that the light of the sun is beneficial to us, and that modern technological lights have allowed us to brighten dark places and take control of when and how long we have access to light. Much attention is now being placed on how the different kinds of light affect us, and you may have heard

about how the shorter waves of blue light, but also violet and UV light affect our ability to sleep at night. Let me share with you what I've learned about these issues.

Blue light suppresses natural melatonin production in our bodies, which is a process our body must work up to slowly via the circadian rhythm. All kinds of bright light can do this, but according to a study out of Harvard medical school, the impact of blue light was about three times more powerful at reducing our melatonin and shifting our circadian rhythm later into the evening. Depending on your sleep schedule (and where in the world you live) avoiding bright light of any kind, and blue light from artificial lights, between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., will help to set a circadian rhythm that aligns with the cycle of sun.

Dim, red light is shown to be much less disruptive to our melatonin and circadian rhythm, and better yet is having these lights placed in our homes lower than eye level. How does that help? Well, think about how when the sun is high overhead that means its peak daytime; and in the evening it sinks below the horizon. So, in effect we are trying to bring the natural horizon and the sunset into our homes by placing dim, natural or artificial lights near or on the floor with this little trick. How dim is dim enough? Some examples of dim light from Dr. Andrew Huberman are candlelight and moonlight, which are much less intense and great for evening light reduction.

Dr. Huberman reminds us that any bright light, regardless of color, will delay our natural melatonin creation and make it harder for us to fall and stay asleep.

Blue light blocking glasses are also helpful for those of us who have late shifts and work on computers at night, but please do not use blue light glasses as a trick to continue scrolling on your phone at bedtime, because at the end of the day, it's time to go to sleep!

Here's to your good health!

It's okay not to feel okay.

If you or someone you know has been struggling with their emotions, behaviors, or substance use please reach out to us. We can help you find appropriate tools and services that could help you overcome obstacles in your life. We are here for you. Please contact the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division at 970-563-5700 for more information or to set up an appointment to see a counselor or therapist.

Reminder: If you need to talk to someone, please reach out.

And for those interested in opioid use education, harm reduction, and support, please contact us for quick Naloxone (Narcan) training and fentanyl test strips. We can schedule individual, family, or friends training times at our Southern Ute Behavioral Health Building, or we can come to you, and the training is around 30 minutes. Please call us at 970-563-5700 to set up a training appointment.



Sign up for a FREE, healthy meal kit for you and your family with Shining Mountain Health and Wellness's monthly program



Chicken Noodle Soup



Meal Kit Includes:
Primary ingredients
Recipe / Prep Tips
Kitchen Hacks

Sign up for your meal kit now! Use the link below, or scan the QR code to quickly register in under 2 minutes!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFreshJan24

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, January 29, 2024

Pickup Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Contact:

Lisa B. Smith (970)-563-2344

\*If you need to schedule a different pickup time/date, please reach out to Lisa\*

Important Notice for Tribal Members Receiving Medicare Reimbursements

This notice is to clarify the Medicare Premium Reimbursement program policy administered by the Tribal Health Department. The Social Security Administration (SSA) sends out a statement with the monthly premium amount due each calendar year. The Tribal Health Department policy (THD.RS.6.2) requires a copy of the SSA statement be submitted to the Tribal Health Department Benefits Coordinators to have the reimbursement processed. It is important that Benefits Coordinators receive this information to continue the process of monthly reimbursements in a timely manner. The SSA 2024 statement should have been received by participants between October 2023 and January 2024. If the Benefits Coordinators have NOT received a copy of the 2024 SSA statement, monthly reimbursements will discontinue until the 2024 SSA statement is provided. The deadline to provide SSA statements to the Benefits Coordinators without interruption of reimbursement is January 31, 2024. If you should have any questions, or need clarification, please contact the Tribal Health Department's Benefits Coordinators, Ms. Lori Herrera at 970-563-2371 or Ms. Phyllis Rhodes at 970-563-2211.

Breastfeeding & Parent Support Class

Heart 2 Heart
Ways to Bond with Baby



Join us on February 8th for food, education, and good company

♥ Dress up 4 photos ♥ Heart Healthy Lunch ♥ Raffle Giveaway

We invite anyone to attend. Please feel free to bring your support group and children

Where: Mouache-Capote Building (116 Capote Drive, Ignacio, CO)
When: Thursday, February 8th
Time: 12-1pm

Contact: Shawmarie (970)-563-2163

Community Health Education & Resiliency Program @ AAIB

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



For Adults Assisting Young People
\*Must be 18 years or older to attend

Space is limited to 30 people

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024
Time: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
Multi-Purpose Facility
256 Ute Rd, Ignacio, CO, 81137
Instructors: Savannah Gene & Tony Quintana

Why We Are Offering This Class
The Community Health Education & Resiliency Program (CHERP) at the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board recognizes that anyone can make a difference in the life of an adolescent struggling with mental health or substance use issues. We aim to provide tools and education to help people recognize signs of mental health challenges, and to support and respond to youth in distress.

One-Day In-Person Training

- \*What is YMHA?
\*The YMHA Action Plan
\*Signs & Symptoms
\*Risk Factors & Protective Factors
\*Applying the YMHA Action Plan to Scenarios
Crisis Situations
Non-Crisis Situations

Who Should Take the Training

- Teachers
School Staff
Coaches
Parents
Camp Counselors
Youth Group Leaders
People Who Work with Youth

What It Covers

Common signs and symptoms of mental illnesses in this age group, including:
Anxiety
Depression
Eating Disorder
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
Common signs and symptoms of substance use. How to interact with an adolescent in crisis. How to connect the adolescent with help.

In order to get a certificate of completion, you must be present for the full day day.

Sponsored by:



REGISTRATION

For registration or questions about the training, please contact:
Tony Quintana
aquentana@aaihb.org
505-808-0423



## PRANAYAMA WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH**  
@ SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER  
10AM-12PM

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE POWERFUL AND PROVEN PRACTICE OF PRANAYAMA. DURING THIS TWO HOUR WORKSHOP WE WILL EXPLORE AND PRACTICE FOUR BREATHING TECHNIQUES THAT YOU CAN THEN IMPLEMENT INTO YOUR DAILY WELLNESS PRACTICE.

PLEASE WEAR COMFORTABLE LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. FREE FOR MEMBERS, \$6 DAY PASS FOR NON-MEMBERS.

CONTACT SAGE FRANK @ 2656 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**Fatherhood is Sacred/Motherhood is Sacred** was uniquely designed with culturally relevant material to teach parents how to be responsibly involved in their child's life and the vital impact it has on their family.

The goal of the program is to strengthen families through responsible parenting. NAFFA teaches parents to connect with their heritage as they become actively involved in the lives of their families.

Families are at the heart of all cultures. There is no work more important than fatherhood & motherhood.

*Parents, your children are right behind you and they will follow you.*

**Classes Start Jan 16 2023 and will be: 18, 22, 25, 29, Feb, 1, 5, 8, 19, 22, 26, 29**  
2-4 PM

This class is free of charge and consists of 6, 2 weekly sessions that will last up to two hours. We ask that you commit yourself to completing each session. You will need access to a video camera and speaker (smart phone or laptop computer will work) and an area free from distraction. Download "Microsoft Teams" for access.

**For more info:**  
Angelina Whitehorse  
970-563-2335  
awhitehorse@southernute-nsn.gov

**Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred**  
TAUGHT VIRTUALLY BY SOCIAL SERVICES

# Human Trafficking Awareness

**Monday, January 29, 2024**  
**8:30a.m. - 12:00p.m.**

The Ute Mountain Victim Support Services will be providing a Human Trafficking Training. All Service Providers and community are welcome to attend.

This Training will be Presented by Heidi Chance, Retired 25+ years as a law enforcement. Nationally Recognized Keynote Speaker | SME Sex Trafficking Trainer | Retired Undercover Detective .

Transform Your Understanding about Sex Trafficking and Join the Fight! She will bring light to what human Trafficking is? And what can you can do to help.

**Course Description**

Title: "Power of Awareness and Human Trafficking 101" (with case study included)

"Identifying the Unseen: Recognizing & Responding to Sex Trafficking Indicators"

"Identifying the Unseen: Recognizing & Responding to Sex Trafficking Indicators"

For More Info. And Sign up contact VSS  
**970-564-5470**  
CO-Sponsored By Ute Mountain Social Services

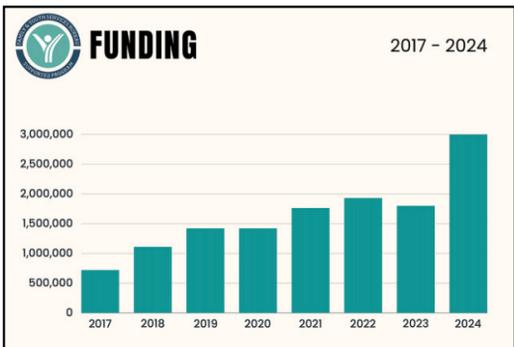
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**

## Vital funding increases culturally appropriate support and advocacy

*Staff report*  
**STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE**

On the cusp of its seven-year anniversary, StrongHearts Native Helpline is building partnerships and gaining support from grants awarded to sustain culturally appropriate support and advocacy for Native Americans impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

"The service we provide is being felt by our relatives in a good way and enhanced by newly forming partnerships dedicated to ending violence against Native Americans and Alaska Natives. As the beneficiaries of generous donations – our advocates are better trained and more readily available to meet the needs of our people," said CEO Lori Jump, StrongHearts Native Helpline. "It's hard to deny culturally appropriate support and advocacy is a top priority."



itable donations as StrongHearts became more recognizable in Tribal communities across the nation.

**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Donates \$100,000**

On Nov. 28, 2023, GivingTuesday and in honor of NativeAmericanHeritageMonth, the San Manuel Band of Missions Indians of Southern California donated \$100,000 to StrongHearts to facilitate a great impact on underserved communities.

signify a deep and mutual appreciation for the well-being of our relatives," said Jump. "All donations will be used to support our vision to eradicate domestic and sexual violence against all Native peoples and a return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe and sacredness is restored."

**Helping All of Our Relations**

StrongHearts advocates provide culturally appropriate support and advocacy to every contact, including non-Natives who reach out for help. We understand that domestic and sexual violence originated from sources outside of our communities and that by helping those who would do us harm, we also help ourselves.

StrongHearts Native Helpline serves all individuals

**Seven Years of History**

Over the course of seven years, StrongHearts established the first-ever phone and internet-based national helpline for Native Americans impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

To begin with, the need for a national helpline was recognized by The National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline) in 2012, realizing that Native Americans were not reaching out for help. This fact became even more disturbing when a study conducted by the Department of Justice (2016) revealed that Native Americans and Alaska Native women and men suffer violence at alarmingly high rates and predominantly at the hands of non-Natives.

With seed money from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Verizon, The Hotline provided a training ground for StrongHearts in Austin, Texas, where culturally appropriate support and advocacy was developed by and for Native Americans.

Since March 6, 2017, StrongHearts has continued in growth and development with funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and an increasing flow of char-

"California is home to the largest population of Native Americans in our nation," said Jump. "Our demographics are a reflection of Native peoples being pushed from the east to west. California has consistently been in the top five locations from where our relatives are reaching out for help."



The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians recognized StrongHearts as a viable resource by providing support for building infrastructure, expanding community outreach, and increasing training opportunities for staff and advocates.

**Together Rising Donates \$50,000**

Together Rising also donated \$50,000 as part of their mission to transform collective heartbreak into effective action. Together Rising is a non-profit organization entrusted by donors to identify and provide support services for those in need.

**Source**

André B. Rosay, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men," June 1, 2016, [nij.ojp.gov](https://nij.ojp.gov/):

<https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>

"These generous donations

## Foster Love, Foster Life

**Southern Ute Indian Tribe is recruiting families who have a stable home, energy and LOVE to share.**

**BECOME A FOSTER PARENT.**

For more information call Southern Ute Social Services: 970-563-2337 – Kellie

BOBCAT BULLETIN

## Happy New Year from IHS

By Barb Fjerstad, Principal  
IGNACIO HIGH SCHOOL

As I sit and write this, in my final semester in the educational world, it is easy to feel nostalgic. A lot has changed since I walked into Ignacio High School in the fall of 2000. Computers and electronic boards have replaced books and chalkboards. What has stayed the same is the passion and drive of teachers to educate our youth. I hope that in all those years, I have positively impacted student's lives because they have profoundly impacted mine.

We ended 2023 with the "Jingle Jam" winter concert led by Mr. Alec Perrotti and Ms. Samantha Walker. Combining the high school and middle school bands resulted in a terrific holiday production. The elementary school had a tremendous Fifth-grade choir program. The beauty of a small school district makes these productions so very special and personal.

Basketball and wrestling are currently about halfway through their seasons. I was able to attend the basketball games last week and truly enjoyed watching the boys and girls on the court. At one point, I was watching the girls playing in the auxiliary gym, and my timing was perfect to watch a young freshman athlete sink a perfect three-pointer. Returning to the main gym, I watched

the varsity boys beat Bayfield. The best part of that game was the student spirit section cheering on their classmates with great gusto. Early mornings and late afternoons, I can hear the practice music's thump and the coaches' encouragement in the wrestling room. Our wrestlers just returned from the Sand Devil and She Devil Classic Wrestling Tournament in Page, Ariz. Coaches and athletes were both looking forward to challenging matches and an opportunity to compete against athletes outside of our region.

Meanwhile, in the classrooms, we have started the second semester, which means we are halfway through the school year. For seniors, this leads to serious conversations with teachers and counselors to ensure they are on track for graduation. Seniors who may have failed a class in the first semester have a few opportunities to recover that failing grade. Our counselor, Mrs. Reinhardt, and her hard-working team have started meeting with each senior to double-check that each senior and their families know exactly where they stand at this critical midpoint. Should you as a family member have any questions regarding your student's graduation standing, please feel free to contact the high school counseling department.

I cannot end without giv-

ing a shoutout to my terrific team that I have the privilege and honor of working with at the high school. Education has become a very challenging profession. The teachers and support staff I work with are some of the hardest working individuals I know. The teaching shortage has forced teachers and paraprofessionals to step in and cover classes when we are still looking for subs or, in some cases, full-time teachers. Teachers have offered to help mentor, support, and just be a friend to new teachers who are just entering their educational careers. The job of an educator is never easy, but the rewards can be overwhelmingly fulfilling.

I would also like to give a giant thank you to Robin Duffy-Wirth and two of her staff for presenting, to our students, another year of free memberships to the Sun Ute Recreation Center. It truly takes a village to raise today's youth.

After 24 amazing years in the Ignacio School District, it's time to trade my principal hat for a riding helmet and sun hat. To the students, staff, and parents who made each day a joyride, thanks for the laughs and lessons. As I ride off into the sunset, remember — life's too short for dull moments. So long Ignacio High School. Keep the humor alive, and may your future be filled with endless laughter.

SUIMA

## Kwanachigani pə'əkwatu Eagle's Nest

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy history, cont.

By Mari Jo Owens,  
Principal  
SO. UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI  
ACADEMY

As I mentioned in the last Drum, for the next few weeks, the focus of these articles will be on the history of the school.

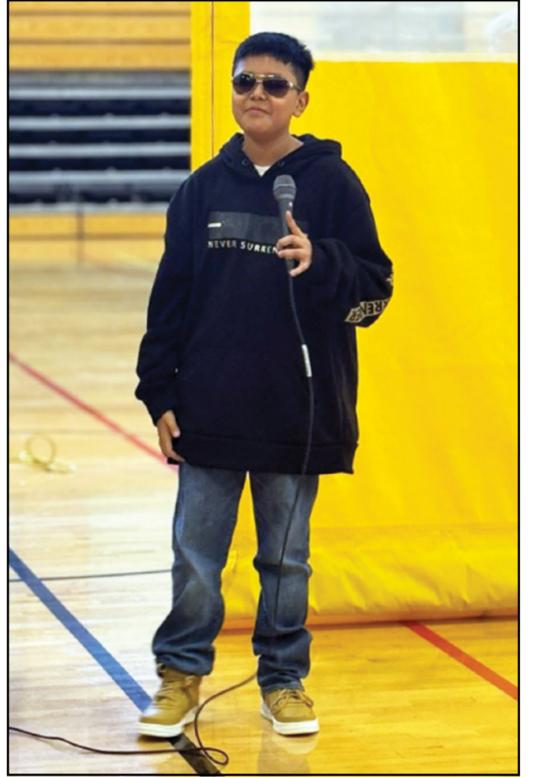
As you may recall, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy took place on Oct. 25, 1999, but let's go back a few years before this. Based on what information I have, in 1997, the development of a private school (future "Family Center" aka SUIMA) and a 24-hour childcare center, were beginning to be looked into.

In 1998, it was recommended that the Family Center be incorporated into the Tribe's Campus Plan. That same year, Tribal Council approved the opening of Blue Sky, the predecessor of SUIMA. It was considered a school within a school under the administration of the Ignacio School District and housed at the SUIT Education Center.

This school remained in place until SUIMA's construction was complete. In April 1999, the Education Department was divided into three segments to include private, public, and higher education. In August of 1999, Tribal Council decides against a 24-hour childcare facility.

SUIMA School Board

With the school year at the half-way point, our School Board hosted a talent show for the students. We had at least 15 students who participated with displays of humor, singing, exercising, puppetry, and reading their self-authored stories. We also had a teacher who acted out the book "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" written by Judith Viorst. Thank you to the Southern Ute



courtesy SUIMA

Mesklvlv Wesley provides entertainment by telling several jokes during SUIMA's talent show.

Royalty for opening up the show and coming to support these students. We plan on making this an annual event.

Please consider helping with upcoming fundraiser opportunities as we are looking to make improvements to our playgrounds.

Reminders

Send winter clothing for outside play: boots, snowpants, coat, gloves, hats. The students go outside every day when the temperature allows.

Family Night group

Thank you to the parents and staff of SUIMA who helped with our recent concession stand and to those who have volunteered to help with the upcoming concessions stands. The money being raised will help us continue to provide fun activities and events for the school as well as support the upgrades we see are needed to our playgrounds.

Parent Advisory Group

The next PAG meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. via Zoom. These meetings are typically held every third Tuesday of the month.

Upcoming events

- Early Release at 2 p.m. every Friday!
- Feb. 2: Ute Language fishing project
- Feb. 7 & 8: Possible field trips for primary
- Feb. 14: School Board meeting
- Feb. 16: End of second trimester
- Feb. 19: No school in honor of Presidents Day
- Feb. 20: AG meeting
- Feb. 26 – Mar. 1: Parent/family teacher/guide conferences

## SU Ed. students visit EPD



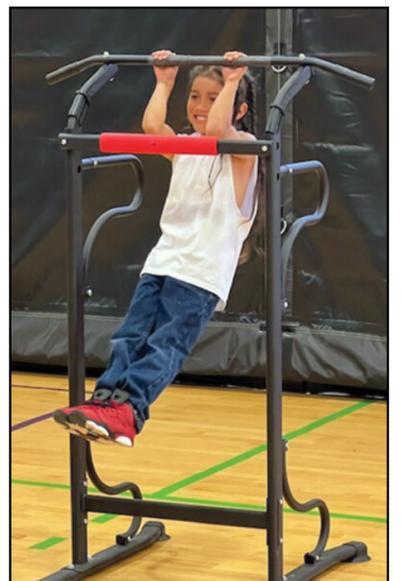
Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Students with the Southern Ute Education Department (SUED) visit with employees of the Environmental Programs Department to conduct interviews on Thursday, Jan. 18. SUED has been working to introduce youth to the many different tribal departments within the organization. Fifth-grade students alongside SUED Teacher, Kelly Fiddler interviewed with department staff to learn about each division's responsibilities. Students pictured – Shayne White Thunder, Destiny Hayes, A'Liviah Sage, Ivan Joseph, Archer Konkol, and Raelynn Watts.



courtesy SUIMA

Jinora Mills amazes the audience by singing, "Don't You Worry" by Black-Eyed Peas.



courtesy SUIMA

Christian "Cash" Velasquez-Rodriguez demonstrates his strength by doing pullups

## SUIMA CLOTHING DRIVE

SUIMA's Upper Elementary is collecting winter clothing of all sizes to help the Pine Ridge schools in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. With this project, students are:

- exercising their Character Counts 'Caring' Pillar
- learning how to be future tribal leaders
- taking action to lend a helping hand

Please help us by bringing new or gently used winter clothing to the locations listed below.

**Ending:**  
2/9/2024

**UE Classroom**  
SUIMA Office  
SunUte Rec.

**LCB: Hall of Warriors**  
SU Museum  
Sky Ute Casino

**DONATE WINTER CLOTHES**

### ISD Students, Parents & Staff

If Ignacio School District decides to call a snow day, there will be a mass notification sent around 5:30 a.m. The message will be sent via simultaneous phone call, text message and email to staff and students' primary contacts.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS CORRECT!**

Please go into Infiante Campus and confirm your information so you will receive these important alerts. Notice will also be sent out on social media and the local television and radio stations.



**SOUTHERN UTE APPRENTICESHIP • FROM PAGE 1**

ro Tech alumnus, completed school in commercial art and graphic design – he further studied at the Art Institute of Seattle for Multimedia and Web Design, his time in Seattle marks the beginning of delving into the videography and photography fields.

For roughly a year, Thompson has been searching for a job position applicable to his art skills and knowledge. After approaching the Apprenticeship Committee, he was able to begin a media project with the SunUte Community Center. “One of the reasons why I started working with SunUte was because I have been trying to find work for about a year now, when I ran into that situation, I was told that the Apprenticeship Committee might be able to help me out,” Thompson said. “When I went to meet with them, I discussed my education as well as my desire for work and that’s when Robin [Duffy-Wirth] ended up introducing the idea of filming a video for [SunUte Community Center].”

“I use a Nikon as well as a Canon, with this video I used the iPhone 15 Pro Max and what’s good about that one is that I really didn’t have to adjust any—they call it colorizing, all I did was just the editing as far as putting the clips all together on the time-



**Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum**

Local artist and Southern Ute tribal member, Conrad Thompson performed a test flight outside of SunUte Community Center on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Recently he worked to complete a video project for SunUte utilizing the DJI Mavic 2 Pro drone, Thompson says he looks forward to working on future public relations projects.

line,” Thompson said. “With the photography aspect of the project– I used the DJI Mavic 2 Pro (drone).”

SunUte Community Center Director, Robin Duffy-Wirth looks forward to working with Thompson for future public relations projects. “[Conrad Thompson] has very special talents, so I talked to Morgann [Graham] and said ‘hey, we could do a video’,” Duffy-Wirth said. “We do them all the time, but we wanted to see what a professional video could look like.”

“He applied to the Apprenticeship Committee and as he was talking, I was like ‘wow! [SunUte] could really use him,’ because I would love to do

more PR,” Duffy-Wirth continued. “We have three or four video projects that we can use him for – he does things that our normal videos don’t have, like the drone shots, he has amazing equipment that he works with, and he works really diligently and hard.”

Thompson looks forward to completing other projects in the future and is grateful for the opportunity provided by SunUte Community Center as well as the Apprenticeship Program. “I’m very fortunate to be given this opportunity to work and have people that are wanting to help me out in the sense that they’re willing to give me these types of jobs as far as work goes.”

**LA PLATE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**

**LPEA awards \$146,000 to non-profits in La Plata and Archuleta Counties**

*Staff report*  
**LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**

In a major initiative to support local communities, the LPEA Round Up Foundation Board has allocated grants totaling approximately \$146,898 to 48 non-profit organizations within La Plata and Archuleta counties for the year 2023. This funding is a part of the Foundation’s ongoing commitment to enhance the quality of life in these areas.

Round Up Grants are made possible by the generosity of LPEA members, who choose to round up their electric bill each month to the next highest dollar. Approximately 16,888 LPEA members donated \$87,516 to the Foundation in 2023. Each month \$5,000 in Unclaimed Capital Credits totaling \$60,000 annually is also allocated by the LPEA Board of Directors to support Educational Grants.

Recipients of the 2023 Round Up grants (in alphabetical order) were:

- Archuleta Seniors, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Colorado
- Boy Scout Troop 538
- Calvary Presbyterian Church
- Durango 9-R Food and Nutrition
- Durango Area Youth Hockey Association
- Durango Arts Center
- Durango Baseball & Softball
- Durango Rocky Mountain Swimming

- Durango Trails
- Durango Wrestling Club
- Fort Lewis College Athletics
- Fort Lewis College Foundation
- Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County
- KUTE, Inc
- La Plata Open Space Conservancy
- Music in the Mountains, Inc.
- People Improving Communities and Kids Foundation
- Region 9 Economic Development Dist. of SW CO
- Riverview Christian Fellowship
- San Juan Symphony Chamber Singers
- Seed Studio
- Southwest Colorado Humanities Roundtable
- TARA Historical Society
- The Powerhouse
- Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County

- Local First Foundation
- Miller Middle School Durango 9-R SD
- Pagosa Community Initiative
- Pine River Shares/Community Foundation Serving SW CO
- San Juan BOCES
- San Juan Symphony
- Stillwater Music
- The Powerhouse
- Upper San Juan Search and Rescue
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership
- Women’s Resource Center in Durango

A percentage of Round Up Foundation funds is distributed to community assistance programs each year. In 2023, the Round Up Foundation allocated approximately \$29,544 to the Community Emergency Assistance Coalition and \$9,808 to the Pagosa Outreach Connection to provide families and individuals with emergency assistance funds.

Grants are available to registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations in La Plata and Archuleta counties and usually range from \$500 to \$5,000. Application forms are available online at lpea.coop/grant-programs.

LPEA members wishing to round up their bill can sign up on SmartHub or at lpea.coop/round-foundation. The average LPEA member contribution is just \$6.00 annually. Members can also elect to donate more each month if they would like to contribute additional money to local non-profits automatically.

Recipients of the 2023 Educational grants (in alphabetical order) were:

- Archuleta Seniors, Inc.
- Boys and Girls Club of La Plata County
- Dancing Spirit, Inc.
- Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering Inc
- Durango High School
- Durango High School Parent Teacher Organization
- Durango Instrumental Music Booster Club (DIMBC)
- Durango Montessori School
- DURANGO PLAYFEST
- Kute, Inc, DBA KSUT Public Radio

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARDS

**Ignacio Elementary School**

Each month, students with **95% or better attendance** are recognized with a special day.

**Attendance is IMPORTANT!**

We encourage all families to get your students to school on time and daily for a proper education and to earn special rewards.

[HTTPS://IES.IGNACIOSCHOOLS.ORG/](https://ies.ignacioschools.org/)

**In the event the Southern Ute Health Center’s phone lines are down. Patients may use the RefillPro App to order prescriptions/refills.**

**How to Use the RefillPro App**

1. Download the RefillPro app from your smart phone’s app store, available on Google Play Store and Apple Store.
2. Enter the pharmacy’s phone number and select continue. When a match is found, the RefillPro home screen is displayed. Pharmacy phone number is 970-563-4781.
3. Enter the prescription number or scan the vial barcode and select continue. Add your next prescription by pressing “Add Rx” at the bottom of the screen. Select “continue” when finished.
4. Enter additional comments on the order confirmation screen, if applicable, and select complete order.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 970-563-4781.

# Good Vibes Tie-Dye Launch

**Saturday, Feb. 10th 10am-2pm.**

**come ready to slay new LesMills workouts in your best tie-dye!**

The perfect opportunity to try a new class or jump into one of your favorites.

30min. each and in the order below!

BodyCombat, BodyStep, RPM, BodyPump Core, SPRINT, BodyBalance!

Free for members or \$6 for a SunUte day pass!

**Create your future CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE certificate program**

**Program runs January 22-February 25**

Class lectures are online. In-person labs Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am-1 pm at the PCC Southwest Bayfield site, 110 E. South St.

For more info or to apply, contact **Bethany.Powell@pueblocc.edu** **970.385.2098**

**Pueblo Southwest Community College**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. To make a request, please notify the PCC Disability Resources Center at (719) 549-3446 or Disability.Resources@pueblocc.edu at least five (5) working days before the event.

## HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

# Sasquatch's Past, Present and Future in the High Desert Region

Explored in works by five Indigenous artists

Staff report

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

What does Sasquatch – also known as Bigfoot – represent to you? The unknown? Adventure? Mystery?

Sensing Sasquatch is a major new exhibition opening Saturday, March 2, at the High Desert Museum examining the primate-like, reclusive and elusive being in the context of the High Desert region. The exhibit will be on view through January 12, 2025.

Native peoples of the Plateau have long known about, encountered, depicted and told stories about Sasquatch. Sensing Sasquatch will explore Sasquatch's past, present and future in the High Desert region through an Indigenous lens. Works by five Indigenous artists will be on view, including: Phillip Cash Cash, Ph.D. (Nez Perce, Cayuse), HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull (Yakama, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Cree), Charlene "Tillie" Dimmick (Warm Springs), Frank Buffalo Hyde (Nez Perce, Onondaga) and Rocky LaRock (Salish).

"Sasquatch has captivated people in the region and, indeed, throughout the world," says Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "However, what many people don't know is that Native Americans have had deeper relationships with Sasquatch throughout time."

"Rather than the popular, mainstream view of Sasquatch, this exhibition will show Sasquatch as a protective entity for many Indigenous peoples of the High Desert," says Whitelaw. "The exhibit will reflect the reverence that Native peoples have for Sasquatch and will be centered on Indigenous art, voices and storytelling."

The original word for Sasquatch is "Sasq'ets," which comes from the Halq'emeylem language of Coast Salish First Nation peoples from southwestern British Columbia. Sasquatch is bipedal and much taller than a human. Sasquatch's habitat is often associated with the wet rainforests of the coastal Pacific Northwest, but Sasquatch also lives beyond the green, lush climate. In the High Desert region, Sasquatch strides among the dry canyonlands, ponderosa pine forests and shrublands.

Popular depictions of Sasquatch can be found everywhere across America. Sasquatch is emblazoned on everything from t-shirts and road signs to beer cans and traveling mugs. Before entering the exhibition there will be an homage to the pop culture icon that Sasquatch has become, but visitors will be asked to leave these ideas and perceptions behind to consider another side of Sasquatch's story. Outside the exhibition, a "bring-your-own" sticker interactive will encourage visitors to reflect on the popularity and kitsch of mainstream Sasquatch representations. Visitors will place their stickers on the back of a car that's driving away into the distance – symbolically transporting away their Sasquatch stereotypes and entering into



courtesy High Desert Museum

Sensing Sasquatch will explore Sasquatch's past, present and future in the High Desert region through an Indigenous lens. Works by five Indigenous artists will be on view, including, Frank Buffalo Hyde (artwork pictured above).

a new realm of experience and insight.

Visitors will be introduced to the Indigenous Plateau of the High Desert and the arid forests and canyonlands where Native peoples have long come into contact with and exchanged stories about Sasquatch. They will see representations, stories and artwork about Sasquatch and how they vary between tribes and across regions. A contemporary carved mask by Rocky LaRock (Salish) will show visitors that knowledge of Sasquatch is both ancient and contemporary. A digital language map will show the various names for Sasquatch across the Indigenous Plateau and beyond.

The question of whether or not Sasquatch exists is irrelevant to the exhibit's theme since in many Indigenous traditions, Sasquatch is a bona fide living, breathing, sentient being. Indeed, for many tribes across North America, Sasquatch is regarded as an elder, a relative and a spiritual guide who appears to deliver important messages to humans. So, when Sasquatch suddenly comes into view and interacts with humans, it can be a life-changing experience.

Sasquatch as a conscious being with the agency to communicate with humans will be shown in direct opposition to the popular view of Sasquatch as shy and who runs and hides when humans approach. Phillip Cash Cash's (Nez Perce, Cayuse) commissioned 13-foot-tall "Bigfoot Rattle," made of cottonwood, that Sasquatch would use. Cash Cash is an artist, writer, endangered language advocate and linguistic anthropology scholar, with doctorates in linguistics and anthropology. As a fluent Nez Perce speaker, he works with communities and professional organizations on projects of cultural advocacy, identity and communication.

Many Indigenous people say that a Sasquatch encounter is a blessing. In turn, many Indigenous peoples have sought to protect Sasquatch's anonymity and prevent human access to its wilderness habitat. HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull's (Yakama, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Cree) commissioned "Protector" sculpture – will depict Sasquatch as a protective "big sister" – not a predator but one who deserves respect and safeguarding. CougarTracks is an avid hunter and gatherer, grew up on the Yakama Indian Reservation and considers herself "a protector of Kwikwiyai, or Bigfoot. Bigfoot is considered the protector of all living things." As a contemporary and traditional artist, CougarTracks has many creative pursuits – illustration, animation, saddle making, beadwork, storytelling and writing.

Other art will show visitors that Sasquatch is a being that exists in the past, present and future. Sasquatch has appeared in Indigenous artworks and stories for thousands of years and this continues today. Frank Buffalo Hyde's (Nez Perce, Onondaga) commissioned large-scale futuristic Sasquatch painting with 3-D relief elements will illustrate the perception of Sasquatch as an interdimensional enigma who lurked in the forest for millennia to a modern being that continues to live among humans in the present. Buffalo Hyde attended the Santa Fe Fine Arts Institute and Institute of American Indians Arts in New Mexico. His artwork, he says on his website, combines modern culture and technology with Indigenous themes and tradition.

Sensing Sasquatch will include a yearlong series of associated public programs at the Museum that will explore and reflect on the past, present and future of Sasquatch as seen through an Indigenous lens.

Sensing Sasquatch is made possible by Bigfoot Beverages, the Bend Cultural Tourism Fund, Bend Magazine, Brooks Resources Corp., Central Oregon Daily, the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, the Old Mill District, the Visit Central Oregon Future Fund and The X 100.7 FM with support from Bend Pet Express, Travel Oregon and Waypoint Hotel. Learn more at [highdesertmuseum.org/sensing-sasquatch](http://highdesertmuseum.org/sensing-sasquatch).



# Welcome to Connect

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

LOCATION: ELHI BUILDING  
ROOMS 13, 14, 15  
115 UTE ST. IGNACIO, CO  
IGNACIO YOUTH SERVICES

CONTACT:  
PEGGY, NOELLE, OR CAITLYN  
970-759-6515 OR  
970-759-2011  
FACEBOOK: SOCOCAA YOUTHS

## CV FULL VALUE COMMITMENT

1. BE HERE
2. BE SAFE
3. SET GOALS
4. SPEAK YOUR TRUTH
5. CARE FOR SELF AND OTHERS
6. LET GO AND MOVE ON



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ◆ SNACKS, FOOD, CAMARADERIE/SAFE INVITING SPACE
- ◆ COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS/MENTORING ADVENTURES
- ◆ OUT-OF-TOWN OVERNIGHTS/LOCK-INS/COLLEGE TOURS
- ◆ LIFE SKILLS/LEADERSHIP TOOLS AND TRAININGS
- ◆ ADVENTURES/6-DAY CAMP/WHITEWATER RAFTING



## MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ATTEND: WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 6:00
- LEARN AND LEAD GROUP GAMES AND C.V. CIRCLES
- ATTEND 2 CV OUTINGS AND SUMMER CAMP (JUNE 10-15)
- BE GOOD ROLE MODELS FOR YOUTH
- HELP WITH PLANS/ACTIVITIES/GEAR/YOUTH

## PERSONAL GROWTH

- BE USEFUL AND HELP
- BE CURIOUS AND LEARN

## Hunter Education Course - Internet-Based

**Date:** Saturday March 9th, 2024

**Time:** 8am – 2pm

**Location:** Sun Ute Community Center, 390 Mouache Drive, Ignacio

The Southern Ute Wildlife Division is offering this Internet-Based Hunter Education Course. Students will earn their Colorado Hunter Education Certificate and be eligible to purchase hunting licenses in Colorado and elsewhere.

Pre-registration is required at [register-ed.com/events/view/207867](http://register-ed.com/events/view/207867)

**Course fee:** Total \$39.50 (\$29.50 for the online course and \$10 for the conclusion class)

Class size is limited to 20 students.

Minimum age requirement is 12 or older. Parents of younger students are encouraged to attend with their child.

The major portion of this course must be completed online at [hunter-ed.com/colorado/](http://hunter-ed.com/colorado/)

**Students must complete the online portion before the class meets on March 9th.**

Class time on Saturday is 8am-2pm with a lunch break. In addition to the online course, students must attend the class, and pass written and live fire tests.

**Do not bring any firearms or ammunition to class;** all supplies will be provided.

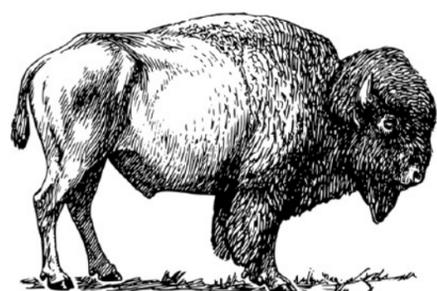
For more information, please call the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.



**THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION WILL BE COLLECTING SEALED BIDS BY TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY FOR (5) LIVE BISON.**

**FIVE FEMALE BISON (3-9 YRS. OLD) 100% GRASS FED**

**BIDS ARE SET AT A \$500 MINIMUM AND MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024, BY 5:00 P.M.**



**BUYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A SALES AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE WILDLIFE DIVISION AT (970) 563-0130**



### 2023-24 SOUTHERN UTE ROYALTY Process for requesting attendance

To our tribal elders, tribal membership, and to our surrounding communities. We would like to introduce the new incoming Southern Ute Tribal Royalty for 2023-2024. We were crowned at our 101st Southern Ute Tribal Fair and Powwow on the first night of the powwow. We were all honored to hold our respective titles and began our duties as ambassadors for the Southern Ute Tribe.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The 2023-24 Southern Ute Royalty consists of (left to right):

- Miss Southern Ute – Autumn Sage
- Jr. Miss Southern Ute – Maleina Carel
- Little Miss Southern Ute – Shayne White Thunder
- Southern Ute Brave Alternate – Theoden Greany
- Southern Ute Brave – Henry WhiteSkunk II

As the newly crowned Tribal Royalty, we are willing, happy, and honored to attend different events within the tribal and non-tribal communities. To request Tribal Royalty attendance, a Southern Ute Royalty request form can be picked up at the Cultural Preservation Department, located on the second floor of the Southern Ute Museum or by contacting the Cultural Preservation Director, Crystal Rizzo at 970-563-9583 crizzo@southernute-nsn.gov.

We look forward to meeting everyone at all tribal events, holiday gatherings, and community requests.

Tog'oiak'  
Southern Ute Royalty, 2023-2024

### THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## Nonprofit grant application for the Durango Wine Experience opens

Staff report  
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The application for the Durango Wine Experience nonprofit grant opened Jan. 15 and is available online at swcommunityfoundation.org under the nonprofit resources tab. The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 9.



The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado offers a nonprofit grant component to their largest fundraising event, the Durango Wine Experience (DWE). Guests of the event will enjoy getting a taste of wine and a taste of SW Colorado's nonprofit sector. The Community Foundation will select 10 nonprofits to receive a \$2,500 grant for provid-

ing volunteers for the DWE Walkabout on Friday, April 26 and at the DWE Grand Tasting on Saturday, April 27. Grantees are required to provide four volunteers for four hours each day. "This is the perfect opportunity for a nonprofit to share their mission with key community members, so it's a bonus to know how to work a crowd," says Rachel Rosenthal Community Out-

reach Manager for the Community Foundation. Organizations across multiple nonprofit sectors and geographic locations will be selected. To be eligible, organizations must be a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization. If you received this grant in 2023, you are not eligible to apply in 2024. To learn more about the Durango Wine Experience, visit DurangoWine.com.

### Multi-Purpose Facility February Senior Breakfast

**Wednesday February 7, 2024**  
**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Open to all Community Senior Citizens  
55 years and older

256 Ute Rd. Ignacio CO 81137  
970-563-2640 - multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

### ACTIVE KID CARE!!

Sign-up for a 3-, 6-, or 12-month membership during the month of January 2024 and receive Active Kid Care FREE for 3 months!

Open to new and current SunUte Members!

Promotion period: January 2nd - January 31st, 2024. The free 3-month AKC period will start the day of the new membership or when a current member renews the free 3-month AKC promotion. Promotion must be activated before January 31st, 2024, to be valid. For more information, please contact: Abel Valdesquez - Fitness Director at 970-563-2650 or abelval@southernute-nsn.gov

### Multi-Purpose Facility Elder Craft Day

**Wednesday February 14, 2024**  
**10:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

Crafting - Treats - Socializing - Fun

Elders - Adults Only Please

Please call to sign up - space is limited -

256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
970-563-2640, e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

### Multi-Purpose Facility Valentine's Day Pow Wow

Photo Credit: Jeremy Wade Shockley SU Drum

Gourd Dance - 3:00 PM - Dinner Break - 5:00 PM - Grand Entry - 7:00 PM  
**Saturday February 10, 2024**

So. Drum: Southern Defiance, Rae Steven Scott, Lead Singer, Navajo, Ft. Defiance AZ  
No. Drum: Red Spirit Lead Singer AJ Kanip, Ute, Ft. Duchesne UT  
Master of Ceremonies: Reffel Kanip, Ute, Ft. Duchesne UT  
Apprentice MC: Stais Harlan, So. Ute / Omaha / Dine, Ignacio CO  
Head Man: Austin Jacket, Ute Mtn. Ute, Towaoc CO  
Head Lady: Miss Autumn Sage, Miss Southern Ute, So. Ute / Dine, Ignacio CO  
Head Gourd Dancer—Hunter Frost, So. Ute / Pawnee / So. Cheyenne, Ignacio CO  
Arena Director: Micco Wesley, Mvskoke / Seminole, Ignacio CO

Color Guard—So. Ute Veteran's Association  
All Drums Welcome—Drum Day Money  
Raffles—50 / 50

Two-Step / Owl Dance - Cake Dance - Potato Dance - Musical Chairs

Limited Vendor space available - Arts & Crafts Only - call Stais at 970-563-2640

Drug & Substance Free Event - Family Fun, Everyone Welcome

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
970-563-2641 or 970-563-2640 - email: multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

### Multi-Purpose Facility February Indoor Yard Sale

**Saturday February 3, 2024**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

No Admission Fee No Set-up Fee Doors open 8:00 AM

Make and Take Crafting  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
Call the MPF to reserve your table 563-2640  
e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

# Library hosts Denim & Diamonds Gala



Original artwork and prints on display, Southern Ute elder and artist, Russell Box Sr., takes moment to do some light reading ahead of the Denim and Diamonds event at the Ignacio Community Library.



Mari Jo Owens, Principal at the Southern Ute Montessori Academy, peruses the silent auction items, while checking on items she and her husband bid on. The auction raised money for Friends of the Library and other programs of the library.



Diné artist, Lydia Johns, originally from northern Arizona, stands with satisfied customer, Sunshine Baker, wearing a beaded hat created by Johns.



Local artist, Veryl "Nadya" Rosenbaum shows two of her watercolor pieces, "The Dancers" and "Thunderbird." Rosenbaum sends her son Ronald Blatt her original artwork, who then creates digital images of her paintings.

**The 2nd annual Denim & Diamonds Gala Fundraiser was hosted by the Ignacio Community Library, to benefit the Friends of the Library, while also supporting programs of the library. Artists exhibited their artwork, and some donated pieces for the silent auction. Various Ignacio businesses also donated items to the fundraiser. The event was catered by Christine Wynn, and cheese trays and tables were donated by the Sky Ute Casino Resort.**

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum

## FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS

**BIG SCREEN+  
BIG BUFFET+  
GIVEAWAYS**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH | \$25 PER PERSON  
DOORS OPEN 3:30PM | KICK-OFF 4:30PM

**\$58 INSTANT CASH  
WINNERS EVERY TOUCHDOWN!**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH | DURING THE BIG GAME

**\$1,000 INSTANT CASH  
FOR 14 WINNERS**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14TH | 2:30PM - 9PM | DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MIN

**EARN & WIN UP TO \$250 SKY UTE LOOT**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH | 9AM-MIDNIGHT

14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137 | [skyutecasino.com](http://skyutecasino.com)

Disclaimer: Prizes are non-transferrable. Sky Ute Casino reserves the right to modify or cancel promotions at any time without notice. Must be 21 or older to enter casino. Rules apply. See Ace's Club or promotional kiosk for details.

Ignacio Community Library

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

WITH:

**DRAGONS  
LOVE  
TACOS**

by Adam Rubin  
illustrated by Daniel Salmieri

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Taco night is on us this month!  
Bring the family for dinner, a fun story and hands-on activities for all to enjoy.

**-ADVANCED SIGNUP REQUIRED-**  
A deposit is required with signup for the family for the event to secure a spot. \$20 deposit that can be retrieved when you come to the program, otherwise it is a donation to the library.

Love is in the air, and so are crafts at our

## Valentine Craft Day

Friday, February 9 from 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Drop into the library and make a fun Valentine craft with our friendly staffers!

# REPAIR CAFE

A neighborhood initiative that promotes repair as an alternative to tossing things out. Bring your broken items to fix them on the spot with the help of voluntary repairers!

**First Saturday every month 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



# Powwow brings focus back to community



Tiny tot dancers take to the floor to show their best moves for all in attendance on Saturday, Jan. 13. Young dancers enjoy dancing for one song provided by host drum KCA Singers. During the event each category is highlighted in a non-contest style or traditional powwow style.



Dancing the Southern traditional style – Southern Ute tribal member, Hunter Frost showcases his dance style during the MPF Community Powwow.



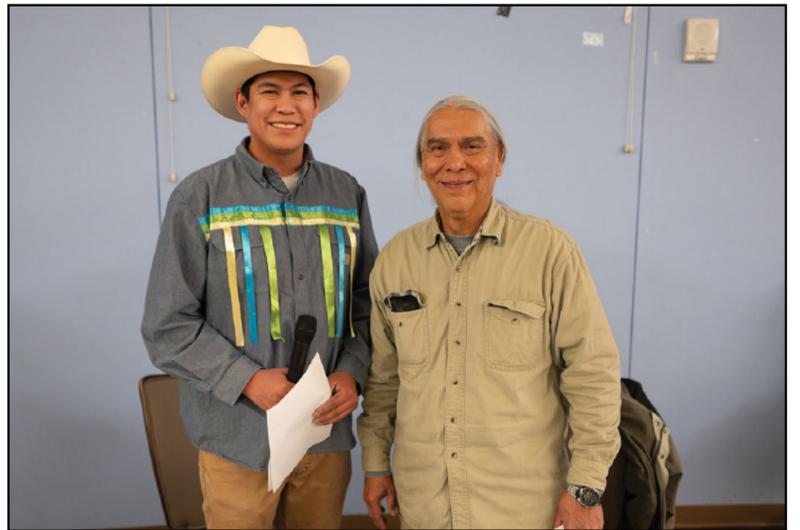
Southern Ute Royalty and visiting royalty participated in the Head Lady's special contest, the ambassadors danced to multiple songs in honor of the Head Lady – Miss Indian New Mexico, Kelsey Quintana.



U.S. Army Veterans Bruce LeClaire, Bruce Valdez, and Grace Jacket bring in the United States of America flag, Southern Ute tribal flag, and Ute Mountain Ute tribal flag during the Grand Entry at the MPF Community Powwow.

**The Multi-Purpose Facility welcomed surrounding community members to the Community Powwow on Saturday, Jan. 13, focusing on bringing locals together to enjoy each other's company and dust off their regalia in lieu of the upcoming powwow season. This gathering featured various styles of dancing, and a variety of singing. Head staff included MC Marty Pinnecoose; Co-MC Stais Harlan; Head Lady Miss Indian New Mexico, Kelsey Quintana; Head Man Southern Ute Brave, Henry Elkriver Whiteskunk II; Head Gourd Dancer Bradley Hight; and Arena Director Henry Whiteskunk.**

**Photos by Divine Windy Boy**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Co-MC Stais Harlan and MC Marty Pinnecoose stand alongside one another for a photo before the start of Grand Entry. Harlan gained more insight to the role of MC during the event as the apprentice to Pinnecoose, Harlan assisted in keeping the event running smoothly and on schedule.



Winners of the Head Lady – Miss Indian New Mexico Kelsey Quintana–special, were Maleina Carel, Aubrey Keeswood, Shayne White Thunder, and Theoden Greany.



Gourd Dancers shake their gourds in tempo with the drum as they honor Head Gourd Dancer Bradley Hight, during the MPF Community Powwow held on Saturday, Jan. 13.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# Biden-Harris Administration to shorten path to debt relief

**Staff report**  
BIDEN AND HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

The Biden-Harris Administration announced that next month it will start providing forgiveness after as few as 10 years of payments for borrowers on the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan who originally took out \$12,000 or less for college. Borrowers enrolled in SAVE who are eligible for early forgiveness will have their debts cancelled immediately starting next month, with no action on their part. To help as many borrowers as possible benefit from this action, the (Department) is kicking off an outreach and email campaign to encourage borrowers who are not currently enrolled in SAVE to sign up because they may benefit from this shortened repayment period.

The Administration is also announcing today that there are now 6.9 million borrowers enrolled in the SAVE Plan as of early January, more than double the enrollment on the Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) plan it replaced in August.

The shorter time to forgiveness benefit will particularly help borrowers who attended community colleges; these students typically borrow smaller amounts. Overall, the Department estimates that the SAVE Plan will make 85% of future community college borrowers debt free within 10 years. The SAVE Plan will also help borrowers who are more likely to struggle with their loans, as most borrowers in default originally borrowed \$12,000 or less.

"Beyond being the most affordable student loan repayment plan ever available, the Biden-Harris Administration designed the SAVE Plan to put community college students and other low-balance borrowers on a faster track to debt forgiveness than ever before," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "Our ability to deliver this relief to borrowers months ahead of schedule is a testament to the Biden Ad-

ministration's commitment to delivering relief to as many borrowers as possible, as quickly as possible. Today's announcement gives borrowers an even greater reason to check out the SAVE plan and find out if they may qualify for earlier debt relief. With lower monthly payments, protection from runaway interest, and faster timelines to debt forgiveness, President Biden's SAVE plan is not only benefitting millions of current borrowers but also providing the students of today and tomorrow with a more affordable pathway to college degrees and credentials."

The Department is accelerating this benefit months ahead of the date previously laid out in the Biden-Harris Administration's final regulations for implementing the SAVE plan, which is July 1, 2024. Borrowers enrolled in SAVE who have made at least 10 years of monthly payments and originally took out \$12,000 or less for undergraduate or graduate postsecondary studies are eligible for forgiveness. For every \$1,000 borrowed above \$12,000, a borrower can receive forgiveness after an additional year of payments. That means a borrower who originally borrowed less than \$21,000 will be eligible for forgiveness faster than the 20-year timeline for undergraduate borrowers on SAVE. The benefit is based upon the original principal balance of all federal loans borrowed to attend school, not what a borrower currently owes or the amount of an individual loan. Periods that count toward the forgiveness benefits include months during the payment pause and time in repayment as determined through the payment count adjustment.

"Today's announcement will help struggling borrowers who have been making loan payments for years, including many who never graduated from college," said Under Secretary James Kvaal. "Giving borrowers with smaller loans a faster path to being debt free will help many borrowers avoid financial distress and have

peace of mind."

The Biden-Harris Administration is also kicking off a wave of outreach to encourage more borrowers to enroll in SAVE, particularly those who may be able eligible for immediate forgiveness. Today, the Department will begin emailing borrowers whose balances and time in repayment indicates they may benefit from the shortened time to forgiveness provision. The Department will also work with the SAVE on Student Debt coalition and other supportive organizations to conduct further outreach in the coming months.

In February, the Department will start notifying borrowers on SAVE who are eligible for forgiveness that their loans are being discharged automatically with no action needed on the borrower's part. The Department will also email borrowers not on SAVE who can receive forgiveness as soon as they sign up for the plan. Moving forward, the Department will continue to identify and discharge the loans of eligible borrowers on a regular basis. The Department strongly encourages all eligible borrowers who originally borrowed \$12,000 or less to apply for SAVE as soon as possible.

For student borrowers, the SAVE Plan remains the most affordable repayment option in most cases. Under the SAVE Plan, single borrowers who earn less than \$32,800 per year or those in a family of four making less than \$67,500 have a \$0 payment. The SAVE Plan also ensures that a borrower's balance will never grow due to unpaid interest as long as they are making their monthly payments. The improved application allows borrowers to have their income securely accessed through the Internal Revenue Service so they do not need to re-certify their income or reapply for plans like SAVE each year. Savings for borrowers will increase again when the Department implements further payment reductions for borrowers with undergraduate loans in July 2024.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

# Biden-Harris Administration announces \$623M for electric vehicle charging network

**Staff report**  
BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

The Biden-Harris Administration recently announced \$623 million in grants to help build out an electric vehicle (EV) charging network across the U.S., which will create American jobs and ensure more drivers can charge their electric vehicles where they live, work, and shop. This is a critical part of the Biden Administration's goal of building out a convenient, affordable, reliable and made-in-America national network of EV chargers, including at least 500,000 publicly available chargers by 2030 ensuring that EVs are made in America with American workers.

Under President Biden's administration, EV sales have more than quadrupled, the number of publicly available charging ports has grown by nearly 70 percent, and more than four million EVs are now on the road. Spurred by the President's historic investments, private companies have announced more than \$155 billion in the EV and battery supply chain under the Biden-Harris Administration. EVs are critical to our rapid and equitable transition to clean transportation systems, producing zero tailpipe emissions, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – major contributors to climate change and key contributors to respiratory ailments.

The grants being announced today are made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's \$2.5 billion Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI)



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Ignacio Community Library Service Desk Manager, Ron Schermacher had the honor of cutting the ribbon on the new EV charging station in the heart of Ignacio's Creative District, Friday, Feb. 12, 2021.

Discretionary Grant Program, a competitive funding program, and will fund 47 EV charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure projects in 22 states and Puerto Rico, including construction of approximately 7,500 EV charging ports.

"America led the arrival of the automotive era, and now we have a chance to lead the world in the EV revolution – securing jobs, savings, and benefits for Americans in the process," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "This funding will help ensure that EV chargers are accessible, reliable, and convenient for American drivers, while creating jobs in charger manufacturing, installation, and maintenance for American workers."

As part of the recent announcements, the Federal Highway Administration is awarding \$311 million to 36 "community" projects, including two Indian Tribes in Alaska and Arizona. These projects invest in EV charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure in urban and rural commu-

nities, including at convenient and high-use locations like schools, parks, libraries, multi-family

"From my time working at the local level, I know that finding electric vehicle charging in a community is different from finding charging along highways," said U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg. "USDOT is proud to make an investment that will provide Americans with convenient, straightforward charging options in their communities."

"The Federal Highway Administration is pleased to announce these grants that will bring EV charging and alternative fuels to people and communities all across the nation," said Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt. "These investments through the CFI Program will grow our national EV charging network, support President Biden's goals of achieving net-zero emissions for the nation by 2050 and promote opportunity for all Americans to enjoy the benefits of EV charging."

## Go Donuts for books!

**Join us for coffee and donuts 9:00 am - 10:00 am every Friday!**

# Updated Boys & Girls Club Fees Beginning Spring 2024

**Spring Registration**

- Covers January-May
- \$5/Southern Ute Tribal Member & First Descendant
- \$10/ General Community
- Registration will begin mid-December

**Summer Registration**

- Covers Summer Program
- \$10/week Southern Ute Tribal Member & First Descendant
- \$30/week General Community, \$20/week second child, \$10/week each additional child
- Registration will begin mid-April

**Fall Registration**

- Covers Start of school-December
- \$5/Southern Ute Tribal Member & First Descendant
- \$10/ General Community
- Registration will begin early August

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

(970)563-4753 • bgcstaff@southernute-nsn.gov

## DANCING SPIRIT COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

# POTTERY

**WHEEL THROWING (beginner / intermediate) \$260/class**  
Learn how to make pottery with the use of a potters wheel and the various processes required to complete work. Projects will be based on level of experience. Open Studio is included for the duration of the class and extra practice is encouraged. For making pieces above and beyond the scope of the class, extra clay can be purchased separately. Materials and firing for class projects included in class cost. (class dates may be postponed due to low enrollment)  
Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm (max 6 students/class)  
Class #1: 5 weeks: Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 14, 21, 28 (no class Feb. 7)  
Class #2: 5 weeks: Mar. 6, 13, 27, Apr 3, 10 (no class Mar 20)  
Class #3: 5 weeks: Apr 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22

**INTRO TO CLAY AND HANDBUILDING \$140/class**  
Material and firing included. Learn the basics of making things with clay using the slab roller, tools and your hands. Take a completed project home at the end.  
Saturday 1:30 am - 3:00 am  
Class #1: Mug & Pieces Bowl 3 weeks: Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3  
Class #2: Planter and Garden Stakes 3 weeks: Feb. 17, 24, Mar 2  
Class #3: Coil and Slab Vases 3 weeks: March 9, 16, 23

**OPEN STUDIO / STUDIO MEMBERSHIP**  
\$50/2 punch pass \$200/10 punch pass \$75/monthly member with studio approval  
Open Studio is for potters, hand-builders WITH prior experience to use the equipment in the studio independently. It is also time for students to practice what they have been learned in class and finish projects. Sign-off will be required for use of equipment. One punch per single day time slot, punch card may be used by more than one person. Clay purchased separately.  
Wednesdays and Saturdays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**INDIVIDUAL WHEEL THROWING INSTRUCTION**  
\$85/person or \$150/2 people  
Learn the basics of wheel throwing. Make 2 pieces that can be picked up at a later time. 1.5 hours of private lesson with materials. Pre-arranged single class with one or two people with 1 instructor.  
Call 970-563-4600 to arrange time.

**EXTRA CLAY**  
\$50 for 25lb-bag of clay -or- \$28 for 12.5lb-half bag of clay  
Clay must be purchased at the studio. We use New Mexico Cone 5-6 Columbine Clay. Cost includes clay, bisque fire, use of glazes, and glaze firing. Only studio white clay is allowed.

pottery.dancingspiritgallery@gmail.com (970)563-4600  
www.dscac.org 115 Ute Street Room #19, Ignacio, Co 81137



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Larissa Espinosa prepares to pin teammate Soriah Perez during a bout held Wednesday, Jan. 17, inside IHS Gymnasium as an added attraction to the boys' La Plata County Duals. Espinosa would go on to place first in her division at the 1/19-20 She Devil Classic in Page, Ariz.

**BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING**

**IHS girls on the attack in Ariz.**

*Espinosa wins, Lady 'Cats take tenth*

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Certainly not pleased over both Durango and Pagosa Springs deciding not to send any competitors to the Ignacio-hosted La Plata County Duals on Wednesday, Jan. 17, to give the event more of a girls' feature, the Lady Bobcats converted frustration into aggression and maximized the action they saw a couple days later at Page, Arizona's 2024 She Devil Classic.

And despite having only four wrestlers make the trip, IHS still tallied 62

team points and placed a solid tenth out of 27 teams represented at the 1/19-20 tournament. Ninth-place St. George, Utah, Desert Hills was only two points ahead, and eighth-place Kayenta, Ariz., Monument Valley three in what ended up being a very competitive tournament.

Placing first overall was Queen Creek (AZ) Casteel – third place at last season's AIA Girls' Wrestling State Championships – with 157 points, only three more than runner-up Cedar City (UT) Canyon View. Enterprise, Utah, piled up 113

points and came in third, followed by Phoenix, Ariz., Desert Vista (109) and PHS (99). PSHS (45 points), meanwhile, also attended the event and finished 14th, while Durango (25) placed 17th.

Leading the way for IHS, Larissa Espinosa (16-10 overall) went 4-for-4 at 235 pounds and pinned all her opponents in placing first. Two foes couldn't last a full 30 seconds against the sophomore, while the other two survived well into the second two-minute period be-

*IHS girls page 20*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aven Bourriague prepares to finish off Durango's Isaiiah Aguilar during the teams' clash Wednesday, Jan. 17, during the IHS-hosted La Plata County Duals. Bourriague would go 2-0 at the event, pinning Aguilar and Bayfield's Connor Martindale, then go unbeaten at the 1/19-20 Sand Devil Classic in Page, Ariz. DHS won the Duals, defeating Ignacio 42-27 and Bayfield 41-30, and BHS concluded the event defeating the Bobcats 46-28.

**BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING**

**Bobcats tenth at Sand Devil Classic**

*Bourriague, deKay conquer all for IHS*

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Traveling to the 33rd Annual Sand Devil Classic in Page, Arizona, Ignacio's boys wrestled to two individual championships and ultimately a tenth-place finish after the January 19-20 spectacle at last concluded.

Totaling 98.5 team points, the Bobcats trailed ninth-place St. George, Utah, Dixie by just one, but were 24.5 behind eighth-place Phoenix, Ariz., Barry Goldwater (123). Placing first was Cedar City (UT) Canyon View, by a slim 280.5-278.5 margin over Queen Creek, Ariz., Casteel, with Phoenix, Ariz., Desert Vista (235) coming

last season's Classic champion over Casteel and CVHS – had placed top-five at last season's AIA Division I State Championships; Canyon View placed eighth in UHSAA Class 3A.

Blanding (UT) San Juan finished fourth at the Classic, totaling 172 points, and Kayenta (Ariz.) Monument Valley rounded out the 24-team standings' top five with 158.5 points. Both Ignacio and Dixie had nine wrestlers entered, as did 11th-place Montezuma-Cortez (83 points), while the crews above them in the standings all had 13 or more (Canyon View, for example, entered 23 individuals).

At 106 pounds, IHS sophomore Aven Bourriague went

3-0 and placed first. His first two foes – including M-CHS' Bodie Stieglmeyer in the semifinals – fell via pin, and he then edged Casteel freshman Dionicio DePaolo 6-5 in the finale, to improve to 28-2 overall (DePaolo dipped to 23-3) this season.

Now 28-1 on the year, Bobcat sophomore 150-pounder Lincoln deKay also copped a SDC title by going 4-0 and ending his run with an 8-3 win over CHS junior Mike Johnson, after defeating CVHS senior Jack Cavalieri 6-3 in the semifinals. Fellow sophomore Zane Pontine (25-7 overall) went 3-2 and placed fifth at 144 by pinning M-CHS senior Air-

*Bobcats page 20*

**Return of the Rep Wars!**



photos courtesy Abel Velasquez/SunUte

Rep Wars participants and faculty stand together following the weightlifting competition, Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Sun Community Center in Ignacio; pictured left to right (back row) SunUte Apprentice Director, Morgann Graham; Fitness Trainer-Trainee, Jakob Box; Rainey Longhair; Brandy Navanick; Bonnie Hardinger; Deljean Libby, Vodne Whiteskunk-Chapoose; and Lauren Lomahaftewa (Front Row) Fitness Director, Abel Velasquez; Fitness Trainer Elijah Lucero; Recreation Manager, Kelsey Frost; Raylene House; and Cody Arrowchis.

Raylene House attempting 160lbs on the bench press. Kelsey Frost, spotter, and Elijah Lucero, lifting judge, watch closely during the Rep Wars event that took place, Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Sun Community Center in Ignacio. Rep Wars participants traveled from Towaoc, Colo. and Fort Duchesne, Utah to compete in the weightlifting competition.



**Tribal members take to the ice**



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Keevin "KJ" Reynolds #27, shoots the puck past a Glenwood Springs player during JV high school ice hockey action at the Chapman Hill Ice Rink in Durango, Colo. The Durango Demons hosted the Glenwood Springs Demons, Friday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 6 losing two games, 0-4, and 2-4. In more recent action, the Demons tied the Aspen Skiers on Friday, Jan. 12, 3-3, and defeated the Skiers on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2-1. The Durango Demons JV boys ice hockey team are currently 2-4-2 Overall, and 2-4-2 in League standings, according to MaxPreps.



courtesy Keelyn Reynolds

Southern Ute tribal member, Keelyn Reynolds of the Glenwood Springs Girls Grizzly Hockey team, proudly holds the championship banner of the 10th annual MLK Tournament. The Glenwood Springs Girls 15U Grizzly hockey team won the tournament in Vail, Colo., over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, Jan. 12-13. Just turning 14 years old, Reynolds plays on multiple hockey teams aside from the Glenwood Springs Grizzlies Girls 15U – she also plays for the Mountain Select 14U Girls, Durango Ice Devils Bantam, and the Durango Demons Girls 19U ice hockey teams.

**Save The Date!**  
**Saturday, May 11th, 2024**

SunUte Fitness Presents:  
**REP WARS 2.0**

More information coming soon!

## BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Lady 'Cats blast Bayfield at home

*Sizzling start powers IHS to 40-point win*

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

With 2:21 remaining in the first eight-minute quarter of play Thursday evening, Jan. 18, senior post and team captain Solymar Cosio was hit with already her third personal foul – a situation Ignacio head coach Trae Seibel normally wishes to avoid.

Substituting her out of the lineup, he did what any basketball coach would have done in such a spot.

But he also didn't worry much; including an unexpected bank-shot three-point-er with 6:41 left, plus three later free throws in as many tries, Cosio had already netted ten points – of the Lady Bobcats' eventual 24 before time expired, with visiting Bayfield managing only a free throw by senior guard Genesis Barrera in reply.

Coming with 5:57 left, as a result of Cosio's second personal, Barrera's make brought the Lady Wolverines back to 9-1 – the closest BHS would get in what ended up being a 58-18 loss inside IHS Gymnasium.

"It was good to see the girls bounce back after our practice last night," said Seibel, whose squad lacked regulars Marissa Olguin and DaLaney Wesner. "We were just in our heads, we were missing a ton of shots, our offense wasn't flowing ... What I wanted to reiterate to them was 'Hey, next play!' Keep moving forward, whether it's a great play or you don't make a great play – always have that mindset."

"So, the girls came ready to play tonight and earned this one."

Including a conventional three-point play with just 4.5 seconds left in the second stanza, chipping IHS' lead at halftime down to 35-8, Bayfield junior guard/forward Renae Foutz, hounded primarily by Ignacio senior Maci Barnes, battled for a team-leading seven points in defeat.

"Maci always has a job, and her job is to take their best player and put the clamps on her," Seibel stated. "And everybody else can then do their jobs. We needed the league win; that's what was most important to me. We've got to pick up as many wins as we can in the tough IML."



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Lily Quintana (11) pulls down a rebound Thursday evening, Jan. 18, inside IHS Gymnasium against Bayfield during the teams' first of two scheduled games this winter.

Senior guard Darlyn Mendoza-Lechuga sank two threes and totaled nine points during the third quarter – which ended with the Lady 'Cats up 48-16 – and ultimately finished with a game-high 16 points for Ignacio (5-6 overall, 1-2 3A/4A Intermountain). Cosio coasted to a 12-point outing, while Barnes (who got the game started with a three-pointer), sophomore guard Alyssa Atencio and junior forward Victoria Brown each scored seven points.

Freshman Lily Quintana nailed a three and finished with five points, and senior Lauren deKay and freshman Maliyah Martinez booked two points apiece.

"I think we really improved from practice," said Mendoza-Lechuga. "It was a good game. We fixed our attitude, definitely, and just our ball movement and not giving up on the ball."

Senior forward Madison 'Maddie' Mead scored four points for Bayfield (3-7, 0-3 IML), Barrera ended up with three (via 3-of-6 free-throw shooting), and reserves Sylvia Hestford and Kimball Anderson each tallied two. Bayfield finished 6-of-12 from the charity stripe; with Mendoza-Lechuga going 4-of-7 and Cosio 3-of-3, Ignacio ended up 10-of-16.

The Lady 'Cats are slated to next see action Friday, Jan. 26, in La Jara at Centauri, and remain in the San Luis Valley to visit Alamosa the next afternoon. Bayfield, meanwhile, was to host Pagosa Springs on the 20th, with the Lady Pirates (10-3, 3-0) having won 41-26 at Alamosa (8-5, 2-1) the previous evening.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez yanks a rebound away from Bayfield's Cody Ross (2) Thursday night, Jan. 18, inside IHS Gymnasium. The Bobcats prevailed in the teams' first of two regular-season meetings.

## BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

# Bobcats outlast Wolverines 42-33

*Valdez defeats former aide in first meeting*

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Content to simply sit on the bench and observe assistant coaches Travis Nanaeto and Clay Seibel orchestrate play during Ignacio's junior-varsity boys' game Thursday afternoon, Jan. 18, Bobcat boss Chris Valdez couldn't help but laugh and zip a barb around the scorer's table in the direction of Bayfield JV coach Bryce Finn after watching the visiting Wolverines score a basket off an inbounds play Valdez himself had called for Finn and others dozens of times throughout their Bobcat careers.

In fact, the friendly I-taught-you-well was probably directed at not only Finn, but fellow former 'Cat-turned-BHS-assistant Dylan Labarthe and also varsity skipper Damon White Thunder – fully aware he might receive a little ribbing during his return to IHS Gymnasium, but ready to accept it all as just part of the job.

"I put in a lot of years in here, so it's good to be back – and go against my mentor," White Thunder said later, following the highly-anticipated varsity showdown. "The gym, the attitudes, everything ... It was a fun game; it was electric in here."

Blanked for the opening 5:40 of play, Bayfield and its new brain trust faced an



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Sophomore Neatris Wilbourn (23) dribbles the ball down the court on Thursday, Jan. 18 during the game against Ignacio High School.

uphill climb for most of the contest, until senior guard Cody Ross sank a difficult baseline jumper – while being fouled – with 6:51 left in the fourth and last eight-minute quarter, tying the score at 24.

Ignacio would answer, and rebuild a 32-26 lead before Wolverine guard Cooper Roderick – IHS' must-stop target – sank a clutch three-pointer with 3:41 to go. But with 2:09 remaining, sophomore post Vin McCullough, tasked with shadowing Bobcat big Gabe Cox, was called for his disqualifying fifth personal foul (all were called during the final frame), allowing Ignacio to focus more intensely upon Roderick and fellow perimeter threat Kingston Martinez down the stretch.

"30 still hit two deep ones on us," Valdez noted, referring to Roderick – whose

other trey had initially gotten the guests on the scoreboard, down 7-3 – by jersey number, "and that was just our people not responding and getting out on him. And they threw some screens on us to try to get those kids open, so I was excited about the fact that we were able to keep him from scoring four, five threes, you know? Number 30, Number 13 (Martinez) ... we wanted to take that away."

And in the end, neither Roderick nor Martinez scored another point as the duo managed just eight points (all by Roderick) combined in a 42-33 road loss. McCullough ended up with a team-leading nine points, Ross registered seven before fouling out with 28.3 ticks left, and leaping Lincoln Williams chipped in four while collecting (unof-

*Bobcats to page 20*

## IHS' Coaches Hall of Fame



photos Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Accompanied onto the court by extended family (including current Bobcat junior forward Charley Pargin, blue coat, and senior Grace Pargin), former Ignacio Boys' Basketball head coach Lee Larson addresses fans gathered inside IHS Gymnasium on Saturday, Jan. 13, when he was inducted into Ignacio's Coaches Hall of Fame. Larson led the 'Cats to the 1988 CHSAA Class A-I State Championship – via a title run including wins over Aurora Christian (78-64), Calhan (70-65) and, ultimately, Basalt (73-65) – as well as a runner-up finish in 1989 (IHS fell 71-68 to Akron in the grand finale), with Mike Ball his assistant coach in both seasons.

Inducted into Ignacio High's Coaches Hall of Fame earlier in the afternoon, former Ignacio Boys' Basketball head coach Lee Larson (center) converses Saturday, Jan. 13, with 2008 inductee Juvie Jones (left) during a pause in the Bobcats' game versus Pagosa Springs as 2019 inductee Doug Little listens.



The Southern Ute Education Department,  
Public Education

# THE SUNSHINE CLOUD SMITH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

SCSYAC is looking for new council members, tribal members aged 11-17

Needs to be enrolled in public, private or home school program and maintain a 2.0 GPA

The youth council meets twice a month for regular meetings

Contact Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council  
Coordinator | Dustin Weaver 970.563.2786  
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov



# OBITUARY



**A Eulogy for Richard L. Jefferson**  
May 9th, 1960 – January 6th, 2024

My family and I thank you for coming to celebrate my father's Life. Especially those of you who traveled far to join us. I also want to thank everyone that has reached out to offer condolences and respect to our father that could not be here.

Richard Lee Jefferson was born in 1960, to Robert Jefferson and Catherine Jefferson. He grew up here on the Southern Ute Reservation with his siblings Robbi Mann and Robert Jefferson. A son, father, brother, uncle, grandfather are just a few of the things he was.

He had four loves in his life, his family, his community, basketball, and knowledge.

His four loves started and evolved from a very young age.

He had so much love for his family and would do anything for them. Family meant everything to him. One of his favorite ways to show his love was to pass on knowledge. Whether it was a 30-minute rant about different ways to cook eggs, different stories of the coyote trickster or different Indigenous history. His love language was passing on knowledge, no matter what it was about, if he knew about something, he wanted to share it. I am sure all family members, friends and many community members can remember a time of hearing his stories or moments of him passing on what knowledge he wanted to share. As a kid, I didn't always want to sit and listen to the stories, but I knew it meant a lot to him and I learned to love the knowledge he was passing to me.

Throughout his upbringing, he was a very ambitious and determined individual. He took extreme value in his education and his community. This showed through his achievements of becoming the youngest tribal member to be elected to Tribal council, (at the time). He then served as director of the Southern Ute Education Dept. From there, he then moved on to becoming the Executive Director of the largest nonprofit organization in the four corners area, (at the time). Every job he took, he wanted to make an impact, he wanted to help his community. His love for basketball started as a

child as well, always excelling in basketball all through high school. That passion never faded as he would later run up and down the courtside coaching youth AAU. I can hear him now, yelling "BOOM" every time someone made a 3-pointer, and that was a lot because we liked shooting 3's, haha. He took pride in his coaching, his AAU team was named, K.U.T.E. (Kids United in Team Excellence). He brought together young ladies from all towns around and from our sister tribe, Ute Mountain Utes. His goal was to not only help our team excel on the court but off the court as well. He wanted to see all youth excel in life.

His passion for knowledge continued throughout his life as well. He wanted to educate and spread indigenous presence and knowledge to other Natives and non-natives. His passion for this led him into plays, one where he moved his family to Dever to star in a play as Chief Ouray and producing and putting on his own play in Ignacio, called the Eye Juggler". He loved production. In his later years, he went back to college to continue his education, earning an A.A. in Art in Human Services, a B.A. in Southwest Studies with a minor in Anthropology and was working on an MFA in Film/documentary Production from Hofstra University in New York. He wanted to produce a documentary about the Southern Ute Tribe. He pressed education to all youth he crossed paths with. He is the reason why I am pursuing my PhD now. He challenged me to see who would get their PhD first. His competitive side will still be pushing my completion and now I will have to finish it, just to say I won, haha.

Despite his later years of battling with alcoholism. My father was a very influential person in our family, for his kids and the community for a long time. It is because of him my brother and I love our community so much and we would do anything for our family. My brother and I embody different parts of him and that is the beauty, together we are what our dad was.

After his father and mother passed, Aunt Misty and Uncle Jim, you guys were his center, his rock, and grounded him when he needed it, he hated to disappoint you, you both meant so much to him. Thank you for being that for him. To Aunt Robbi, you were his protection and his heart's comfort, no matter what he would always listen to you. You meant the world to him. To Uncle Robert, though you guys had your differences, he truly did love you from the bottom of his heart. To all his nieces and nephews, you were his happiness, there is not one time could talk about memories with you that he wouldn't cry tears of happiness, reminiscing.

In closing I want to share two of his favorite quotes with you, "You will miss 100% of the shots you don't take" and "There is more than one way to the top of the mountain".

My brother and I are honored to be his children.

# COMMUNITY GREETINGS



**Wishing Henry Elkriver Whiteskunk II a Happy sweet 16!**

May the Creator bring you endless joy and happiness. We are so proud of you and what you have accomplished. Continue doing great things with your life!

*Love mom,  
Also your family In all four directions...*



**Happy 12th Birthday!**

Landyn Cody Bravo,

You have grown into such a smart, loving and determined young man! You have the funniest things to say. You're such a caring big brother and cousin!

Here's wishing you lots of love, hugs, cake, ice cream and cool presents on your special day! May the Creator always watch over you and lead you to exciting new things to learn & explore! We all love you very much!

*Always,  
Grandma Cookie, auntie Natalie, Ronnie, auntie Mavis,  
and your cousins, Cassidy, Romeo & Sam*

## 2024 SOUTHERN UTE DRUM DEADLINE

DEADLINE	PUBLISH	FEDERAL & TRIBAL HOLIDAYS
Jan. 8	Jan. 12	
Jan. 22	Jan. 26	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 15)
Feb. 5	Feb. 9	
Feb. 16*	Feb. 23	President's Day (Feb. 19)
Mar. 4	Mar. 8	
Mar. 18	Mar. 22	
Apr. 1	Apr. 5	
Apr. 15	Apr. 19	
Apr. 29	May 3	
May 13	May 17	
May 24*	May 31	Memorial Day (May 27)
Jun. 10	Jun. 14	Juneteenth (Jun. 19)
Jun. 24	Jun. 28	
Jul. 8	Jul. 12	Independence Day (July 4)
Jul. 22	Jul. 26	
Aug. 5	Aug. 9	
Aug. 19	Aug. 23	
Aug. 30*	Sept. 6	Labor Day (Sept. 2)
Sept. 16	Sept. 20	
Sept. 30	Oct. 4	
Oct. 11*	Oct. 18	Indigenous People's Day (Oct. 14)
Oct. 28	Nov. 1	
Nov. 8*	Nov. 15	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Nov. 22*	Nov. 27	Thanksgiving (Nov. 28)
Dec. 6*	Dec. 13	Leonard C. Burch Day (Dec. 10)
Dec. 20*	Dec. 27	Christmas (Dec. 25)

\*Denotes Early Deadline

**NOTICE:** All content, including classifieds ads, display ads, RFP/RFB notices, job announcements, stories and articles, press releases, letters, birthday greetings and holiday wishes must be submitted by the posted deadline. Anything submitted AFTER DEADLINE will be considered for the next issue. Requests for design work must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the above posted deadline dates. The Drum reserves the right to edit all materials for spelling, grammar, clarity and libel.

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM  
www.sudrum.com • 970-563-0118

Email: sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov • Mailing: PO Box 737, #96, Ignacio, CO 81137  
Physical Address: 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, Colo. (Leonard C. Burch Building, 2nd floor)

## STAY TUNED! The Southern Ute Drum is rolling out a new online look and interface in the coming days.

New website features include:

- Improvements to smartphone and tablet interface.
- Clean modern aesthetic and ease of navigation.
- Dedicated community notices section.
- Redesigned visuals emphasizing photography.
- Social media sharing icons across all platforms.
- Custom search features and keywording.

Check out SUDRUM.com for latest news stories, photo essays and tribal events.



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE Early Cut-Off For Minors Birthday Distributions

Requests received after the published cut off will be processed the following week – please contact Anne Flanigan, 970-563-2454, aflanigan@southernute-nsn.gov if you have questions or want to make a withdrawal.

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Distribution: Friday, June 21    | NOON, Friday, June 14 |
| • Distribution: Wednesday, July 3  | NOON, Friday, June 28 |
| • Distribution: Wednesday, Nov. 20 | NOON, Friday, Nov. 15 |
| • Distribution: Friday, Dec. 20    | NOON, Friday Dec. 13  |
| • Distribution: Friday, Dec. 27    | NOON, Friday Dec. 20  |

\*\*Unless listed the cutoff for a Friday Minors distribution is 5pm on Tuesday

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Feb. 9**

Deadline:  
**Feb. 5**

Articles, photos, advertisements, public notices, letters and greetings may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email to: [jsdockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jsdockley@southernute-nsn.gov)

**THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM**  
A biweekly newspaper owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Ignacio, Colo.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years**  
MAIN: 970-563-0100 • DIRECT: 970-563-0118  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-772-1236 • ADVERTISING: 970-563-2251

**MAILING ADDRESS**

The Southern Ute Drum: PO Box 737 #96, Ignacio, CO 81137

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

356 Ouray Drive, Leonard C. Burch Building, Ignacio, CO 81137

**STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES**

- The Southern Ute Drum**  
([sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Jeremy Wade Shockley** • Editor, ext. 2255  
([jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Krista Richards** • Administrative Assistant, 2251  
([krichards@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:krichards@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Divine Windy Boy** • Reporter/Photographer, 2252  
([dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Robert Ortiz** • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253  
([rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Rosaleigh Concepcion** • Media Archivist, ext. 2274  
([rconcepcion@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rconcepcion@southernute-nsn.gov))

The Southern Ute Drum does not assume responsibility for unsolicited material and does not guarantee publication upon submission.

Published biweekly and mailed 1st class from Ignacio, Colo.  
Printed by Gannett Publishing Services in Phoenix, Ariz.  
The Southern Ute Drum is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, the Society of Professional Journalism and the Colorado Press Association.



## Notice of Tribal Council Adoption of Title 32-Civil Truancy Code

By Resolution No. 2024-003, the Tribal Council adopted **Title 32 – Civil Truancy Code**. Title 32 is a new code that will be included in the SUIT Law and Order Code. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approved the code on December 21, 2024. The Civil Truancy Code is effective as of **January 2, 2024**. The Civil Truancy Code can be found online at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/>

Printed hard copies of the codes may be obtained from the Tribal Information Services Department at:  
**Email:** TIS@southernute-nsn.gov  
**Mail:** Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137  
**Phone:** 970-563-2208  
**Website:** <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/>

**For further information please contact:** Amy Barry, Tribal Information Services Department, [abarry@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:abarry@southernute-nsn.gov), 970-563-2250.

Southern Ute Shared Services | 14929 HWY 172 | Ignacio, CO, 81137

## The Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP) would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

SUDEP would like to remind Southern Ute Tribal Members that we have Dell Laptops available.

If you have not received your **"Free" laptop (18+) or Chromebook (under 18)** we still have some available.

We will ship to those members who live out of the local area.

Visit: [www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP) once the questionnaire is completed and submitted SUDEP will process your laptop request in the order its received.

If shipping is required for your laptop a member of the SUDEP team will reach out to you for shipping confirmation and tracking information.

For questions or technical support please reach out to the SUDEP team at 970-563-5555 or [sudepservice@southernute.com](mailto:sudepservice@southernute.com)

Sincerely,

Southern Ute Shared Services Team



### "BE AWARE OF MICROSOFT SCAMS"

It has come to the attention of the SUDEP team that Southern Ute Tribal Members (SUITMs) have been hit with some possible Microsoft scams. These scams often involve individuals posing as Microsoft support representatives, contacting unsuspecting users via email, phone calls, or pop-up messages. These scammers are attempting to convince the SUITM that their computer has a problem.

Please know that Microsoft will **NEVER** reach out to you to provide unsolicited computer technical support. Any communication claiming to be from Microsoft requesting such information should be considered fraud.

1. Keep your software updated and use strong passwords.
2. **Never allow** control of your computer to a third party. Stay cautious if someone who solicited you wants control over your device.
3. **Never provide** your credit card or financial information to someone from an unsolicited representative.

If you have any concerns and feel that Microsoft or any other company is soliciting information from you that you have not requested, please contact SUDEP and let the team help you.

## Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP)

14929 HWY 172  
Ignacio, CO, 81137  
970-563-5555



SUIT Risk Management is giving away one Emergency Go Kit per Southern Ute Tribal Member Elder (55 y/o or older), while supplies last. The Go Kit comes readily stocked in a convenient, easy to carry dry bag and includes:

water, an energy bar, hygiene kit, first aid items, emergency blanket, tissue, face mask, natural disaster handbook & reference guide, flashlight & whistle. You can also add other personal items as necessary.

**Call Risk Management today at: 970-563-2449 for more information.**

# GIVEAWAY EMERGENCY GO KITS



## 2024 Southern Ute Trash Collection Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3							1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
														31							
APRIL							MAY							JUNE							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4							1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
														30							
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					

Please contact Republic Services in Southern Ute at 505.444.2410 or visit [RepublicServices.com](http://RepublicServices.com) for more information.



# FREE Table Games Dealer School

**Tuesday, February 27 - April 4, 2024**  
**3:30PM - 7:30PM**  
**Classes: Tues, Wed and Thurs each week**  
Games taught will be Shoe Blackjack, Three Card Poker and Roulette

Contact David Oelschlaeger to Register  
970.749.6257 or [david.oelschlaeger@skyutecasino.com](mailto:david.oelschlaeger@skyutecasino.com)  
Must be registered prior to February 27!

*Must be 21 years of age or older. Students who successfully complete the course will receive a dealer certificate, however, no employment is guaranteed for completion. Must complete full course to receive certificate.*





**In The Southern Ute Tribal Court**

Of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe • On the Southern Ute Reservation  
PO Box 737 #149, CR 517, Ignacio, CO • 970-563-0240

**NOTICE OF PROBATE**

**In the Estate Of,  
Case No.: 2024-0005-CV-PR  
Tooley Box, Deceased**

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **FEBRUARY 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2024.  
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

**NOTICE OF PROBATE**

**In the Estate Of,  
Raymond C. Frost Jr., Deceased  
Case No.: 2024-0004-CV-PR**

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **FEBRUARY 26, 2024 at 2:00 PM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2024  
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

**NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE**

**In the Legal Name Change of,  
Case No.: 2024-0011-CV-NC  
Shoshone Dove Glory Thompson, Civil Subject**

Notice is hereby given that Shoshone Dove Glory Thompson has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Shoshone Dove Glory Rael. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than **FEBRUARY 26, 2024 at 5 pm**. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2024.  
BY THE COURT, Paula Trujillo, Court Clerk

**NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE**

**In the Legal Name Change of,  
Christian Sheldon Thompson, Civil Subject  
Case No. 2024-0010-CV-NC**

Notice is hereby given that Christian Sheldon Thompson has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Christian Sheldon Yellowflower. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than **MARCH 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM**. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2024.  
BY THE COURT, Elizabeth Benally, Court Clerk

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE  
Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies**

**APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Open until filled – The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) and Apprentice Program Committee has two (2) vacancies. The Committee shall include 5 members which shall be appointed by Tribal Council. Include employees of the Permanent Fund who have a level of expertise and familiarity with the goal of Tribal member mentoring and employment in order to make a positive contribution to both the Committee and to the objectives of the Program. A majority of the Committee shall be Tribal members. The Permanent Fund Apprenticeship Committee (Committee) shall be appointed to administer the Apprenticeship Program (Program) which provides higher education, training, on-the-job experience, and mentoring to eligible Tribal members employed in the Permanent Fund. All interested Southern Ute tribal members, currently employed with the Tribe, who would like to serve on this committee are urged to submit a letter of intent to the Human Resources Dept. at PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or in person at the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD**

Open Until Filled – The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is currently looking to fill two (2) volunteer Board Member positions. The Board of Directors is responsible for knowing and effectively articulating the mission, vision, core values, goals, policies, and program areas of the Club. Members of the Board must attend meetings regularly and attend applicable committee meetings on a regular basis; also attend a minimum of one Priority event and one Club event annually. Members must maintain confidentiality of sensitive information and conduct oneself as a model for children in a manner that exemplifies high character. Interested parties must pick up an application available on the [www.bgsu.org](http://www.bgsu.org) website or by request from Mr. Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or [bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov). Applications must be returned to Mr. LeClaire.

**ELECTION BOARD**

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking one (1) Alternate Board Member. Qualifications: 11-2-102, (1) & (3); Must be a Southern Ute Tribal Registered Voter. Must reside within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Shall not have been convicted of a felony, and shall not have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or fraud within five years immediately preceding appointment to the Election Board. The Election Board is a paid committee, IRS Guidelines, a Criminal Background Check is necessary. Southern Ute Employee benefits are offered, and you will be considered an Official of the Southern Ute Tribe. Please submit your letter of Intent to: Southern Ute Indian Tribe- Election Board P. O. Box 709, Ignacio, CO 81137. Physical Location: 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO 81137. Contact the Election Board at 970-563-0100 ext. 2303/2305 or via email: [electionboard@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:electionboard@southernute-nsn.gov)

**ETHICS COMMISSION**

Open Until Filled – The Ethics Office is accepting letter of interest from tribal members to fill One vacancy for “Alternate Member-At-Large” positions on the Ethics Commission. Qualifications are: Be a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe at least 18 years of age or older; Have a reputation for fairness and impartiality; Have a familiarity with tribal government; and Satisfactory completion of a background investigation for criminal history showing no convictions or guilty pleas for felonies or any misdemeanor involving dishonesty. Please submit letters of interest to the Department of Justice & Regulatory, PO Box 737-MS#10, Ignacio, CO, or in person at the Justice and Regulatory Administration Building, 71 Mike Frost Way. All letters will be presented to the Southern Ute Tribal Council for their consideration.

**GAMING COMMISSION**

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking 2 Full time and 1 Alternate positions for specified terms, must be Southern Ute Tribal Members. Applicants must possess the following attributes pursuant to the Regulation One of the Gaming Commission Rules and Regulations: Applicants must be at least twenty-one years of age. Applicants must possess a basic knowledge and understanding of gaming activities authorized on the Southern Ute Indian reservation. Applicants must have experience or expertise in regulatory matters or in administrative hearing procedures. Applicants must have the ability to observe restrictions concerning conflicts of interest and confidentiality. Applicants must submit an application form and a letter of interest explaining why the applicant wishes to be appointed to the Commission; and Applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications may be obtained at the Division of Gaming Office – Licensing in the West Wing of the Justice Complex, 149 County Road 517, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137. Applications and letter of interest are required to be turned into the Division of Gaming Office. If you are interested, contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

**JOHNSON O'MALLEY COMMITTEE**

Open Until Filled – JOM has TWO (2) vacant seats that need filling. If you are interested, please submit a letter to Ellen Baker at the Southern Ute Education Dept. or if you have any question you can contact her at 970-563-0235. Email: [esbaker@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:esbaker@southernute-nsn.gov). Requirements: Two-year term; Meet once a month as a committee; You must have a student(s) attending Ignacio and/or Bayfield School District K-12 (enrolled in JOM program); Write a letter of interest on why you would like to be a part of the committee; and What changes do you want to see in order to help our JOM students?

**KSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The KSUT Board of Directors is seeking a Southern Ute tribal member to serve on the Board of Directors. The tribal member does not have to live in the region and may attend

board meetings remotely, as needed. As a board member you will serve a three-year term, attend monthly meetings, and perform with decision-making in the best long-term interests of KSUT and the community of listeners, and other responsibilities of serving on the board of directors. KSUT Tribal Radio, [www.tribalradio.org](http://www.tribalradio.org), is an affiliate of NativeVoice1, and can be heard in Southwest Colorado at 91.3 FM (Ignacio) and 100.9 FM (Towaoc), and in Northwest New Mexico at 89.7 FM. KSUT Four Corners Public Radio, [www.ksut.org](http://www.ksut.org), serves 14 communities in the Four Corners, including Durango at 90.1 FM, Cortez 106.3 FM, Farmington and northern New Mexico at 88.1 FM, Pagosa Springs at 88.1 FM and Silverton at 91.1 FM. Both KSUT stations air news, eclectic music, entertainment, storytelling, and documentary programming, and are an affiliate of NPR, the BBC, American Public Media, and Public Radio International. The KSUT Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 P.M. at KSUT, 15150 Colo. Highway 172 in Ignacio. Meetings are open to the public, unless prior notice is given to allow members to conduct confidential station business. If you are a Southern Ute tribal member and are interested in serving on the KSUT Board of Directors, submit a letter of interest to KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham. Letters can be emailed to [tami@ksut.org](mailto:tami@ksut.org) or mailed to PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137. Seat is open until filled. More information on the KSUT Board of Directors, including a current board list and recent board minutes can be found at: <https://www.ksut.org/ksut-board-of-director>

**TERO COMMISSION**

Open Until Filled – The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) is accepting letters of interest for two (2) commissioners; A person with Tribal Regulatory knowledge and experience and; Southern Ute Tribal member at-large to serve on the Tribal Employment Rights Commission which are compensated positions. Southern Ute tribal member/Applicants must have the following requirements: Tribal Regulatory Knowledge and Experience; Does not own or operate a certified Indian Owned Business; Experience or expertise in administrative hearing procedures; Eighteen (18) years of age or older; Good character; Ability to observe restrictions concerning conflict of interest and confidentiality. Tribal Member At-Large: Not currently employed by the Tribal Government or the Growth Fund; Does not own or operate a certified Indian Owned Business; Experience or expertise in administrative hearing procedures; Eighteen (18) years of age or older; Good character; Ability to observe restrictions concerning conflict of interest and confidentiality. Submit your Letter of Interest to the TERO Division or send to TERO Division, P.O. Box 737, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio, CO 81137. If you have any questions, call TERO, at 970-563-0117 or 970-563-0100 ext. 2291. TERO is located in the J&R Admin. Bldg., 71 Mike Frost Way.

**TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE**

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Tribal Credit Committee (“Committee”) is looking for eligible tribal member applicants to serve on the Committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. This is a compensated Committee, and you will be considered an employee of the Tribe, per IRS guidelines. Individuals seeking to serve on the Committee must demonstrate a reputation of personal integrity, dependability, honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to perform in a non-biased, confidential and fair manner. They must be familiar with the objectives of the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund and must maintain good financial standing with the Tribe. Applicants must also pass criminal background and reference check, per the Tribal Credit Committee By-laws. The primary purpose of the Committee is to evaluate and render decisions regarding Secured Home Loan applications and monitor and evaluate the Tribal Credit loan programs and make recommendations to Tribal Council. Some of the duties of the Tribal Credit Committee are: Approve loans as required by the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund (“Declaration”); Monitor compliance with the Declaration; Monitor all approved loans for performance; Make recommendations to the Tribal Council on program revisions and updates regarding Committee operations; Maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness in conducting all Committee business; Hold regular meetings and other special meetings, as needed; and Coordinate the Committee’s annual budget with Tribal Credit Staff. Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Credit Committee, PO Box 737 #60, Ignacio, CO 81137 or by email to [chudgens@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:chudgens@southernute-nsn.gov). If you have any questions, please speak with Christine Hudgens, CFO, at 970-563-2444.

**WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD: YOUTH ALTERNATE**

Open Until Filled – The Tribe is seeking an enrolled Southern Ute youth wishing to fill a special youth-only seat on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. The 1-year position may only be filled by a Tribal Member between the ages of 14 and 18, and the position may be renewed annually, by request, until age 19 is reached. The Wildlife Advisory Board works closely with the Wildlife Division in planning and recommending actions related to Tribal hunting and fishing programs, both on-reservation and within the Brunot treaty area. This special youth seat provides an outstanding opportunity for a young tribal member to learn about wildlife management, including traditional Ute and contemporary scientific perspectives. Meetings are held several times throughout the year, and a commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. The participant is eligible to receive \$20/hour compensation for meeting attendance provided he or she is not already employed by the Tribe. Interested tribal member youth must submit a brief letter of interest to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. For information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.

**Multi - Purpose Facility  
February 2024 Events**

**Indoor Yard Sale—Saturday February 3, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM**

**Senior Breakfast—Wednesday February 7, 10:00 –11:30 AM**

**Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday February 9, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM**

**Youth Cookie & Candy Making Sunday February 11, 11:00 AM—2:30 PM**

**Cooking With Chef Bill—Tuesday February 13, 10:30 AM—2:00 PM**

**Elder Craft Class –Wednesday February 14, 10:00 AM—2:30 PM**

**Quilting Class—Tuesday & Thursday February 13 & 15, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM**

**Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith—Tuesday February 22, 10:30 AM—2:00 PM**

**Traditional Beading & Sewing—Tuesday—Thursday**

*Day Session - 10:00 AM—3:30 PM Evening Session 5:30 PM—7:30 PM*



**Special Events**



**Community Sweetheart Pow Wow—Saturday  
February 10, 2024**

**MPF Valentine Day Old Fashioned “Sock Hop”**

**Wednesday February 14—7:00 PM—9:00 PM**

**Monthly MPF Food Sale—Friday February 23, 11:30 AM—2:30 PM**



**Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
970-563-2640 - [multiurpose@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:multiurpose@southernute-nsn.gov)**

**KSUT IS YOUR RADIO STATION!  
KSUT seeks one (1) enrolled Southern Ute tribal member  
to serve on the KSUT Board of Directors**

KSUT was founded by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in 1976.  
KSUT was one of the first Native American radio stations in North America.



Frances Densmore recording Blackfoot Chief, Mountain Chief, on a cylinder phonograph for the bureau of American Ethnology (1916). – photo Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)

The KSUT Board of Directors is seeking a Southern Ute tribal member to serve on the Board of Directors. The tribal member does not have to live in the region and may attend board meetings remotely, as needed.

As a board member you will serve a three-year term, attend monthly meetings, and perform with decision-making in the best long-term interests of KSUT and the community of listeners, and other responsibilities of serving on the board of directors.

The KSUT Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in Ignacio at the Eddie Box Jr. Media Center. Meetings are open to the public, unless prior notice is given to allow members to conduct confidential station business.

To apply, submit a Letter of Interest to Tami Graham, KSUT Executive Director via email: [tami@ksut.org](mailto:tami@ksut.org) or by mail P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colo., 81137. Questions, call 970-563-0255.



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the the tribe's website at [www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs) for complete job descriptions. ALL EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.

If you need help filling out an online application, please come the Human Resources office and we are happy to assist you on our applicant computer stations.

Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file. Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis. Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Human Resources • P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137 • Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424 • Fax: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

### Grounds Maintenance Worker

Closes 2/2/24 – Performs daily grounds maintenance and repair of the Tribal grounds and buildings. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.

### Lifeguard (Part-time)

Closes 2/1/24 – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N5; Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

### Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute members only)

Closes 2/1/24 – A trainee position for uncertified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the Tribal Ranger position. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

### Swimming Instructor – Part-time

Closes 2/1/24 – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the SunUte aquatics facility. Preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.

### After School Program Leader

Open Until Filled – A regular full-time position that provides education and physical activities for the After-School program to meet the needs of children ages 3 through 13 years. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

### Air Quality Scientist II – Enforcement

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Division Head, coordinates and tracks air quality enforcement order packages and provides subject matter expertise on technical and regulatory tasks within the Enforcement Section of the Tribal Title V Operating Permit program and Tribal Minor New Source Review program. Pay grade E16; Pay starts at \$77,627/year.

### Air Quality Scientist II – Permitting

Open Until Filled – Under general Supervision of the Air Quality Program Manager, supervises, and conducts technical and regulatory tasks within the Permitting Section of the Tribal Air Quality Division. Pay grade E16; Pay starts at \$77,627/year.

### Boys & Girls Club Aide – Part-time

Open Until Filled – Assists in the implementation, planning, and supervision of activities provided within the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) program. Pay grade N5; Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

### Clinical Supervisor

Open Until Filled – A senior level position that provides Clinical Supervision to staff Caseworkers providing a full range of intake and/or ongoing social casework services for a variety of program areas such as child abuse and neglect cases, youth-in-conflict cases, and adults unable to protect their own interests. Provides clinical supervision and oversees Family Preservation and the Foster Care Program Coordinator. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

### Community Health Representative

Open Until Filled – Providing assistance and the coordination and development of activities for elderly and physically or mentally disabled Tribal members. Performs community health duties to include patient transport and monitoring, home visits, conducting classes, and providing community education on Tribal health issues. Home Care may include house cleaning, personal hygiene, preparing meals, and other health and wellness related activities. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

### Construction Services Repairman

Open Until Filled – Assists in home repair to Tribal Home Rehab Programs, Elders Maintenance Program, Tribal Member and Elderly/Handicapped Emergency Repair, and Tribal Rental Units. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour.

### Dentist – Part-time w/benefits

Open Until Filled – Providing, clinical, health promotion and disease prevention, and educational services for the Dental Division. Pay grade E22; Pay starts at \$189,817/annually.

### Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (Southern Ute members only)

Open Until Filled – Under the general supervision of the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, performs a variety of complex and specialized work to preserve and protect Southern Ute Tribal resources and materials to include, but not limited to, cultural sites/lands, artifacts, funerary and sacred objects, and human remains. Completes all work in accordance with the Southern Ute Tribal Historic Preservation Plan and all associated process, procedures, and relevant codes and law. Pay grade E13; 59,494/annually.

### Detention Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all activities within the detention center. Pay grade N12; Pay starts at \$26/hour.

### Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates

and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

### Director of Strategic Planning

Open Until Filled – Working with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Council to define, plan, implement, and achieve the strategic and financial plan objectives and priorities determined by Tribal Council. Researching and critically analyzing past strategies and modifying and developing those plans and strategies to address current circumstances; developing training material for Tribal Council Members regarding the Tribe's Financial Plan and other strategic plans; and communicating the financial and strategic plans to the Tribal Membership. In coordination with Tribal Council, facilitates strategic planning, including but not limited to tribal entities and tribal membership when deemed appropriate. Acts as a liaison between the Tribal Council and the Tribal Entities; accessing and gathering information as authorized by Tribal Council. Reports functionally to the Tribal Council and administratively to Tribal Council Affairs management. Pay grade E23; Pay starts at \$235,373/annually.

### Dispatcher

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour.

### Dispatcher Trainee (So. Ute members only)

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for a Southern Ute Tribal member interested in a career in Law Enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. While in the trainee status, participates and engages in in-house training and work activities specifically designed and chosen to train and indoctrinate the individual to work an emergency communications dispatch center. Work is performed under the guidance of an experienced dispatcher. Length of this program is designed to last one (1) year but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, will assume the Dispatcher position. Will start at 20% below entry level for a grade N10 and be subject to quarterly evaluations and pay increases.

### Education Department Assistant

Open Until Filled – Under the direction of the Executive Assistant, the Education Program Assistant will assist the Education Staff in the teaching and tutoring responsibilities for K-12 Tribal students. Will provide the employee with direct teaching experience through student contact in the public schools and in after school tutoring programs, opportunities to participate with professional teaching staff in the public schools and within the SUIIT Education Department and other experiences relative to a career in the teaching field. Will also assist the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council "Youth Council" Coordinator and with summer enrichment programs. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

### Elementary Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade E12; Pay starts at \$54,086/year.

### Gaming Investigator I

Open Until Filled – An entry level position located under the Southern Ute Division of Gaming (DOG). Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, incumbent works in coordination with other DOG Investigators to learn and perform Law Enforcement/Regulatory duties for the enforcement of Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

### Grants Financial Analyst

Open Until Filled – Working closely with Tribal staff members on all financial grant and related Tribal budget and spending matters. In addition, the Grants Financial Analyst is responsible for assisting in monitoring programs to ensure compliance with grant or contract regulations. Pay grade E13; Pay starts at \$59,494/annually.

### Group Exercise Instructor

Open Until Filled – Provides group exercise instruction and fitness activities to members of the SunUte Community Center, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

### Health Center Support Services Manager

Open Until Filled – Supervision and management of front office operations within the Southern Ute Health Center to include reception, registration, scheduling, medical records, and referral services. A key focus will be to always establish and maintain superior customer service communications and support. Pay grade E14; Pay starts at \$64,155/year.

### HVAC Technician

Open Until Filled – Provides maintenance support, troubleshooting, and preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems including machinery, boilers, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, steam humidifiers, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers, and variable volume systems located in Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

The Cultural Preservation Department

## IS SEEKING TEACHERS FOR:



Funding and supplies are available!

- Oral Ute Language
- Cradle Board Making
- Butchering
- Beading (Loom, Peyote)
- Drumsticks and Hand Drum
- Hide Tanning
- Basket Weaving
- Ute History and Traditions
- Dress Making (Shell, Elktooth, Buckskin)
- Jamming and Canning
- And More!

If you or someone you know is interested in teaching, please call: (970) 563-2984.



## Career Starter

Upskill. Reskill. New skills. Start your journey at PCC Southwest.

- Get the degree without the debt
- Pay one-third the price of a university
- Get real-world skills
- Remote and online options with PCC Flex

- EMT and Advanced EMT
- LPN
- Medical Assisting
- Nurse Aide
- Radiologic Technology
- Nursing
- Early Childhood Education
- Behavioral Health
- Wildland Fire Fighter
- Construction Trades



Grants & scholarships available!

LEARN MORE [pueblocc.edu/southwest](http://pueblocc.edu/southwest) Mancos 970.564.6201 | Durango 970.385.2020 | Bayfield 970.385.2098

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

### Medical Assistant – Part-time w/benefits

Open Until Filled – Providing professional and clinical services. Position is grant funded; continued employment is contingent on grant funding. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour.

### NAGPRA Technician (So. Ute members only)

Open Until Filled – Assists NAGPRA Coordinator(s) with new and on-going projects, including, but not limited to, duties such as: technical data entry, records management, research, and other duties as assigned. Must be organized and able to maintain a complicated work and deadline calendar for new, on-going, short term, and long-term projects by providing timelines to NAGPRA Coordinator(s) to participate in consultations in face-to-face consultations or teleconferences. Assists with consultation with tribal, state, and federal consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) when needed. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour.

### Patrol Officer I

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

### Police Sergeant

Open Until Filled – Coordinates the efforts of the officers and dispatchers to achieve the objectives of the Police Department and in the absence of the Police Lieutenant will command the Southern Ute Police Department. Pay grade N16; Pay starts at \$37.32/hour.

### Project Manager – Construction

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Housing Department Director, incumbent assists in the management and coordination of all functions and activities required to initiate, manage, and complete all phases of construction related and other various projects. This position will assist the Department in delivery of professional project management and support services to the Tribe. Pay grade E19; Pay starts at \$114,968/annually.

### Receptionist – Tribal Information Services

Open Until Filled – Performs reception duties for the Southern Ute Tribal organization, including, but not limited to, operation of the telephone switchboard, greeting visitors, providing information about the Tribal government, and referring callers or visitors to the appropriate office for assistance. Performs clerical duties for the Tribal Information Services Director and other Departmental Divisions as needed, including mail processing and distribution. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

### Scorekeeper – Part-time

Open Until Filled – Keeps accurate scores for sporting events held by SunUte Recreation Dept. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

### Special Needs Aide – Part-time w/benefits

Open Until Filled – Assists Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy disabled and special needs students with educational, physical, emotional, and social growth and development un-

der direction of a certified guide or specialists. Assists with life skills, academic success, and meeting IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

### TEAM Worker (Southern Ute members only)

Open Until Filled – The TEAM program is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

### TERO Worker

Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office. It is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members and other local Native Americans to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

### Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute members only)

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Tribe is accepting applications for SUIIT Tribal Members interested in pursuing their career interests through the Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the program is to build a career foundation for SUIIT members to pursue further educational goals or career development. Apprentices may be placed within Permanent Fund departments or divisions dependent on career interests, educational level and/or length of prior relevant and appropriate work experience. After your application is submitted, you will receive an email asking for detailed information about your career interests. The Apprentice Committee will review applications and assess what options may be available for applicants.

### Tribal Attorney – Prosecutor

Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the Legal Department Director, attorney will serve as a member of the Tribe's Legal Department, with principal responsibility for the effective, efficient, and fair prosecution of violations of the Tribal Code to include criminal, gaming, and wildlife cases. In addition, the attorney will represent the Tribe in other matters that require the Legal Department's attention, including code review and drafting, civil litigation, contract review, employment matters, and the consideration of social services cases. A strong command of Tribal jurisdiction, and understanding of tribal sovereignty, and an ability to provide accurate legal advice in a fast-paced environment is essential. Pay grade E19; Pay starts at \$114,968/annually.

### Tribal Health Department Director

Open Until Filled – Must have a MA/MS in Health Care Administration or related field and 7 years of experience in an administrative capacity in a health services/medical related field OR BA/BS in Health Care Administration or related field and 9 years of experience in an administrative capacity in a health services/medical related field.

### Umpire/Referee

Open Until Filled – Maintains rules and regulations on the playing field and courts during SunUte Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.



**Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements**

Visit our website at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com) to view job openings and apply online.  
 Human Resources • Phone: 970-563-1311 • PO Box 340, Ignacio, CO 81137  
 TERO-Native American Preference • All Applicants Welcome • Must pass pre-employment drug test, background check, qualify for and maintain a Division of Gaming License and be able to work all shifts, weekends or holidays.

**\*Buyer (Full-time)**

Compiles information and records to prepare orders for the procurement of material, including all food and beverage products. Will research and evaluate products to be purchased for the Casino, making it cost efficient, and maintains and regulates cost for Casino operations. Verify Classification and specifications of all purchase order requests, search inventory records and/pr warehouse to determine if materials on hand are in sufficient quantity. Maintains vendor database in inventory management software and handles all incoming invoices.

**\*Café Cashier – Shining Mountain Cashier (Full-time)**

Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Taking guests food orders, accurately totaling food and beverage purchases and collecting payments. Assists in preparing and serving all foods necessary for the Café kitchen. Prepares coffee and pizza from the hot food line in the front area of the Café. Will balance the register at end of the shift, with proper report of discrepancies and complete paperwork.

**\*Casino Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)**

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, and employee break rooms. All areas must be disinfected, swept, mopped, vacuumed, and dusted.

**\*Deep Cleaning Staff (Full-time)**

Cleanliness of the entire Kitchen as instructed by the Facilities Manager and/or Supervisor. Will clean Food and Beverage facilities and equipment.

**\*Dishwasher (Full-time)**

Will perform multiple tasks and duties within the entire kitchen as instructed by Food and Beverage Management and/or Supervisor. Washing dishes, cleaning facilities and cooking in several capacities.

**\*Event Staff**

Assisting in set-up, serving, tear down, clean-up, and re-set of events in all Banquet areas. Will act as a guest service representative at Banquets and related events. Achieve and maintain the highest level of guest service as well as maintaining professional interactions, safe working conditions, and teamwork.

**\*Facilities Staff (Full-time)**

Operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building. Assists in repair and maintenance of equipment within the facility. Cleanliness of kitchen areas and equipment, facility equipment, carpets, building and grounds. Shuttles Hotel guests to and from the airport as needed.

**\*Facilities Tech (Full-time)**

Electrical and mechanical functions, operations of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works as part of a team to ensure smooth operations of the facility, equipment and building by providing maintenance support, troubleshooting and repair, preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

**\*Front Desk Staff (Full-time)**

Providing quality guest services that include reservations, registration and check-out, PBX operations, mail, and message service for hotel guests. Responds to telephone and in person inquiries regarding reservations, hotel information and guest concerns. Assistance with guests include but is not limited to luggage assistance, di-

rections/maps, driving guests to/from the airport.

**\*Ground Supervisor (Full-time)**

Daily ground's maintenance of all areas at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Maintaining all roads, grounds, landscaping, plan, assign, and review work activities of assigned grounds personnel as directed by the Facilities Manager.

**\*Kitchen Steward Supervisor (Full-time)**

Training, supervising, and working with utility staff to provide a clean and safe working environment, exceeding all health and sanitation requirements from the county and state. Ensures proper receiving, storage, and rotation of food products; schedules utility staff with proper coverage; and adheres to control procedures for cost and quality.

**\*Multi-Games Dealer (On-call)**

Deals blackjack (Class 3), three card poker, roulette and specialty games while providing a positive guest experience through accurate, prompt, courteous and efficient service. Reports to the Table Games Manager or as otherwise designated.

**\*Laundry Attendant (Full-time)**

Perform the required operations with laundry equipment; ensuring products are clean and acceptable for hotel use. Maintaining laundry for the hotel rooms and other departments as needed. Operate flatwork ironers, laundry equipment, iron, and fold linens by hand, and inform supervisor of any equipment malfunctions or problems with safety mechanisms of equipment.

**\*Line Cook (Full-time)**

Works under direct supervision of the Lead Cook. Preparation of the menu and accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness.

**\*Rolling Thunder Grill Busser (Full-time)**

Perform multiple tasks and duties within the restaurant and kitchen as instructed by supervisor and management. Clearing off and sanitizing tables for next group guests, disposing of trash and other waste and keeping the restaurant stocked with adequate supplies such as plates, glasses, silverware, and napkins. Will help cooks, servers and dishwashers perform small tasks as needed.

**\*Room Attendant (Full-time)**

Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel room by wiping, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping all areas of the guest rooms.

**\*Senior Facilities Staff (Full-time)**

Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

**\*Slot Technician II (Full-time)**

Day-to-day maintenance, repair, installation, and relocation of slot machines and related devices. Ensure a positive guest experience by maintaining optimal gaming device performance. Reports to the Slot Technician Supervisor. Performs preventative maintenance, cleaning, and testing on all gaming devices. Assists with the installation, removal, break-down, relocation, set-up of relocated slot machines and trouble shoot defective equipment.

**\*Surveillance Video Tech (Full-time)**

Installs, repairs, and performs preventative maintenance on all surveillance CCTV systems and related equipment to industry and internal standards.

**Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements**

Please visit our website at [www.sugf.com/jobs.asp](http://www.sugf.com/jobs.asp) for full job details and to apply online.  
 Tribal Member employment preference • Must pass pre-employment drug test/background check.  
 Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO  
 Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-4777.

**Controller – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 2/2/24 – Directing and managing all accounting functions in an oil and gas exploration and production environment, including establishing and maintaining Red Willow's accounting principles, practices, and procedures. Directs and manages the preparation of monthly and annual financial statements and the annual audit report. Manages monthly accounting tasks including accounts receivable, accounts payable, general ledger management, bank reconciliations and cash management, calculation

and payment of taxes. Directs and manages the internal audit of joint interest operations.

**Maintenance Worker I – Sky Ute Fairgrounds (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 2/9/24 – Repair and maintenance of the Sky Ute Fairgrounds grounds and buildings while assisting with the daily operations of the RV park and horse stalls to include contracts and payments. Provides excellent customer service while maintaining a safe and pleasurable environment for our customers and their animals.

**SoCoCAA Job Opportunities**

To apply now, visit our website at [www.sococaa.org](http://www.sococaa.org) or call 970-563-4517.

**Ignacio Early Learning Program:**

• Substitute Teacher \$15.79/hr. – Open Until Filled

**Multisystemic Therapy (MST):**

• Community Based Therapy \$51,917 – \$56,950/yr. – Open Until Filled (MA degree or within one year of finishing master's degree in social work, counseling or other behavioral health related field required. Up to \$5,000 in relocation expenses available.)

**Road Runner Transit:**

• Transit Driver \$18.94/hr. – Open Until Filled  
 • ICB Operator \$22.76/hr. – Open Until Filled  
 • Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance \$18.94/hr. – Open Until Filled

**Ignacio School District – Job announcements**

Application/Information: 970-563-0500 ext. 221  
 Job descriptions and applications: [www.ignacioschools.org/employment-cdac2310](http://www.ignacioschools.org/employment-cdac2310)

- High School Principal 2024/2025 (closes 2/16/24)
- High School Custodian
- High School Baseball Head Coach
- High School Boys/Girls Track & Field Head Coach
- High School Girls Soccer Head Coach
- Secondary Aide
- Secondary Math/Science Teacher
- Secondary Language Arts Teacher
- Secondary Social Studies Teacher

**NASNTI and Student Engagement Program Coordinator**

Native American Center, Fort Lewis College, Durango Colorado. Full time Job Opening.  
 Complete Job Description and how to apply at: [careers\(myworkdayjobs.com\)](http://careers(myworkdayjobs.com))  
 For more information contact: [NAC@fortlewis.edu](mailto:NAC@fortlewis.edu)  
 Application materials received by Jan. 28, 2024, will receive full consideration.  
 The position will remain open until filled.

**HIRING ALERT!**  
 IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Seeking High School Principal**

Join our Bobcat team and inspire & support young minds.

Find & Submit your application at:  
<https://www.ignacioschools.org/en-US/employment-cdac2310>



**JOB FAIR**

**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT**

**NOW HIRING**

**Tuesday, February 13 10AM-1PM**

**John S Williams & Vida Peabody Rooms**

**CURRENT JOB OPENINGS**

**Line Cooks**

**Facilities**

**Front Desk Staff**

**Room Attendants**

**Housekeeping**

**Dishwashers**

**And many more!**

**We will be interviewing and hiring on-the-spot!**

Apply on-line in advance at

[www.skyutecasino.com/employment](http://www.skyutecasino.com/employment)

You can also apply at the job fair, HR representatives will be there to assist you.

**Benefits We Offer:**

**Medical, Dental and Vision, Life Insurance, LTD, Paid Leave, 401(k)**

**TERO-NATIVE AMERICAN PREFERENCE; ALL APPLICANTS WELCOME.**



United States Department of the Interior  
 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
 Southern Ute Agency  
 P.O. Box 315  
 Ignacio, Colorado 81137-0315

**ATTENTION!**

**Southern Ute Agency Firefighter/Support Staff Recruitment**

For the 2024 Fire Season

Applications for the 2024 Fire Season for Southern Ute Agency are available. Visit the BIA Fire Management office at:

575 County Road 517,  
 Ignacio, CO or call (970) 563-4571

Drug Screening and valid driver's license required.

A physical exam followed by a fitness test (3-mile hike carrying 45 pounds within 46 minutes) will be administered once screened.

Please bring two (2) forms of identification.

Wildland Firefighting is a great career choice if hiking, camping, hunting, and outdoor activities are your interests. Hard core individuals should come check it out.

ALSO

**FIRE SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED!**

Finance, Logistics, and Planning staff needed for the fire season.

Stop by the BIA Fire Management Office or call (970) 563-4571 for more information.

## FLY FISHING

# It's snowing

**Don Oliver**  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



I realize, to say that it is snowing seems silly. I imagine you are thinking, "Don's lost it, who cares, we see it snow all the time, it is not a big one, go out and play in it." Those are a few of the printable responses to my statement. The problem is that I am in Tennessee where it is supposed to be sunny, in the low fifties, with lots of fly fishing available. I am in the depths of despair and want to adopt the winter whine of those that live in Alaska, "I want to go to Hawaii." However, Hawaii is too far, too expensive, and over-run with Alaskans. For those of us that fly fish for a full-time activity, these can be challenging times.

With the published weather patterns showing most of the United States dealing with non-fly fishable situations, I do have a few suggestions of how to fill your time. Your first activity is to rearrange the fly boxes that live in your vest. If, like me, you have not done this in a long time it could take a day or two. Rearranging your fly boxes will take some real courage and an uncompromising attitude. Start by removing any fly that you do not know the name of, or have not used in three years. Your subconscious will try to take over and make you keep those unused, nameless

flies. Be strong, get rid of them.

Once you have cleansed your fly boxes arrange the remaining flies by name and size. This now presents a new conundrum, how many of the right size and name does anyone really need? Since I don't use anything smaller than a size 18 (eye-sight), I'm already creating more room in my box. As an example, I'll put four size 18's, 16's, and 14's Royal Wulffs, in neat rows in my box. I'll follow that with parachute adams, purple hazes, caddis, and so forth. Remember, use only flies that you know the names of and use on a regular basis. Since you are going to have new empty slots in your box, you will be tempted to add the non-used, nameless flies back. Be strong, don't do it.

The above activity is certainly a great way to deal with the inclement weather. Another way is volunteer your time and talent to a nonprofit that uses fly fish-

ing in its program. There is a long list of nonprofits that use fly fishing. They include, but are not limited to, Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery, Warriors and Quiet Waters and the Adaptive Sports Association.

You might also find appreciative folks within the school systems, parks and recreation programs, or the people in your neighborhood. You would be amazed how many people will tell you they have wondered about fly fishing.

After giving you all this good advice you are probably thinking Don should reread the title of this column, "It is snowing." How do I find people that need instruction fly fishing in bad weather? I say, "You need to think outside the box." Fly tying and rod building are done indoors. If you have access to a gym with a high ceiling it is a great place to teach basic fly casting. Want to really feel good about teaching indoors? Find someone in a wheelchair or using a walker, and give them some basic casting skills. After getting these folks making basic casts indoors, make a date to take them to a pond, stream, or lake.

When you are gearing up at the pond with your new fly fishing friends you can use this time to show off your slimmed-down fly boxes. Seems like a good win-win situation for weather that is no fun.

## BOBCATS OUTLAST WOLVERINES • FROM PAGE 14

ficially) an impressive 13 rebounds.

"He's one of the best rebounding guards I've seen," said White Thunder. "And we had Vin tied to Cox the whole game, so that was a big thing for us to have Lincoln rebound. And we played pretty well; we've got some defensive stuff that we ran at them ... but we just couldn't hit a shot. Tough night from the outside."

Sophomore Ambrose Valdez's corner three-pointer late in the first quarter put Ignacio (6-5 overall, 2-1 3A/4A Intermountain) up 10-3 going into the second, and the Bobcats' lead quickly grew to a dangerous 17-6 with 6:00 left until halftime when senior Trajan Garcia sank two technical-foul free throws - awarded due to BHS' Chad Vasgird checked in without having been entered prior to tip-off in the official scorebook.

The Wolverines (1-10, 0-3 IML), however, fought back with an 11-2 burst bringing them all the way back to 19-17 at intermis-

sion, after Roderick stole the ball, passed to Williams, who then passed ahead to McCullough for a close-range hoop.

"Their 2-3 (zone defense) stifled us for a while and they crawled back into the game," Valdez said. "And I then talked about the first three minutes of that third quarter being our best three minutes, and we got a nice seven-point lead which really helped us keep them in check."

With Cox scoring five fast points, the Bobcats went up 24-17 with 4:52 left in the third before Williams made a short jumper after gathering in a Roderick three-point miss. But with 1:10 remaining, IHS junior Coty Webb responded with a corner three off a Cox kick-out pass, and senior Philip Quintana followed with a runner in the paint - increasing Ignacio's lead to 29-19 before BHS junior Austin Wilmer canned a corner three at the buzzer ... and shot defender Ambrose Valdez a stare hinting the Pine River Rivalry was very

much alive and well, even if the Wolverines weren't destined to prevail.

All told, Cox finished with a game-high 16 points and grabbed (unofficially) 15 rebounds. Garcia (4-4 FT) and Valdez (2-6 FT) each totaled seven points, Quintana contributed five, Webb three, junior Charley Pargin two and sophomore Sonny Flores two. From the charity stripe, IHS ended up 14-of-23 and BHS 6-of-11. "The kids played hard," Chris Valdez said. "We made some mistakes - tons of mistakes - and there's stuff we've got to work on, but I thought we did a good enough job to get the win - which was all we wanted to do."

The Bobcats are slated to next see action Friday, Jan. 26, in La Jara at Centauri, then remain in the San Luis Valley to visit Alamosa the next evening. Bayfield, meanwhile, was to host Pagosa Springs on the 20th, with the 4A Pirates (12-1, 3-0) having won 53-43 at 4A Alamosa (8-4, 1-2) the night before.

## IHS GIRLS ON THE ATTACK • FROM PAGE 13

fore Espinosa bested them. Last to fall was MVHS senior Cheyanne Jones, stuck 1:30 into the second.

Pinned in the placing phase at 132 pounds by Chinle, Ariz., freshman Raidanna Sutton, Ignacio senior Kacey Brown finished fourth and posted a 2-2 meet record improving her to 17-10 overall this winter. Brown did notch one pin, coming at Casteel

junior Tyli Clark's expense in the consolation semifinals (Clark would soon bounce back and save fifth place).

Sophomore Marlene Martinez-Perez (14-11) also placed fourth at the Classic, going 3-2 at 138. Including a 20-second stick of Canyon View sophomore Arrian Seeley in the first round, Martinez-Perez pinned all three of her vic-

times before losing by pin to Page junior Mya Tsinnijinnie in the third-place bout.

And at 235, senior Soriah Perez (5-16) went 2-2 with pins of Kanab, Utah, senior Nakita Gonzales and Casteel freshman Miquela Salas, but was pinned in the quarterfinals by Espinosa, and later by PHS' Kiiyana Huskie in the third consolation round.

## BOBCATS TENTH AT SAND DEVIL • FROM PAGE 13

oughn Morris 39 seconds into the third period.

Junior Kendrick Nossaman (19-13) ended up 2-2 with two pins at 165 pounds but did not place. One of his losses came against eventual weight champ Zachary Fankhanel, a senior at Casteel, and the other came against Page junior Landon Mansker - who went on to finish fourth (he took third in '23) after eliminating Nossaman one win short of the placing round.

Senior heavyweight Kyle Rima (21-5) also went 2-2 with two pins, and also did not place after being elimi-

nated by Monument Valley senior Leander Tsinigine (2-2 at the 2023 AIA Div. IV State Championships), who went on to place sixth.

IHS sophomore Joshua Kerrigan (11-17) went 0-2 at 120, but was a tough out against fellow 2A San Juan Basin Leaguer Jaiden Green of Dolores, who prevailed 3-2 by ultimate tiebreaker. Freshman Brandon Blevins (4-14) went 2-2 at 157 pounds, pinning both his victims, but did not place at the weight.

Bobcat sophomore Dillon Brann (8-19) went 2-2 at 132 including an 18-3

technical-fall defeat of Tuba City, Arizona's Jordan Adson. And at 126, freshman Judah Ashley (3-14) went 0-2 including a 16-0 tech administered by Page sophomore Connor Peterson, who placed fourth at the weight last season in AIA Div. IV. Peterson ended the SDC winning third place and improving 30-3 overall; he went 25-8 last winter.

Ignacio will next compete Saturday, January 27, when the 'Cats host the Butch Melton Memorial Invitational. IHS will also host the 4 Corners Women's Invitational that same day.

## The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		
8				9		10				
11					12					
13				14				15	16	
		17	18				19			
20	21					22				
23					24					
25				26				27	28	29
	30		31				32			
	33					34				
	35						36			

### Across

- 1 Harmless simpleton
- 5 Arcing shot
- 8 Alloy also known as 64FeNi
- 10 One of Columbus's ships
- 11 Abstinent one
- 13 Nation on the Med.
- 14 Hunky-dory
- 15 Start for east, west or wife
- 17 Assisted
- 20 Drain to the limit
- 22 College housing
- 23 Spring tradition
- 25 Barfly
- 26 "--- we there yet?"
- 27 Not yet finally set
- 30 Alternative to pajamas
- 33 JFK --- Airport
- 34 Used medicinally by native Americans, it might be smooth or fragrant
- 35 Durango, Mexico, airport code
- 36 Coat hangers

### Down

- 1 Wall Street bank, familiarly
- 2 Washingtons
- 3 Enraged vintage hero might make your engine stop
- 4 Form of body art
- 5 "--- Liza Jane" (old glee club favorite)
- 6 From the top
- 7 Metal in witherite
- 9 Author of "James and the Giant Peach"
- 10 Exposed state
- 12 NHRA drag-racing class, --- Fuel
- 16 Result of drying out, maybe
- 18 "I am worse than --- I was": "King Lear"
- 19 One of Snow White's seven
- 20 Ammo for a Red Ryder
- 21 Shooting star
- 24 Petroglyphs or quillwork, for example
- 28 Show off, vocally
- 29 They reduce tax for businesses
- 31 Former Pontiac option
- 32 Command to a horse

Answers will appear in the Feb. 9 issue of the Drum.

### Answers for Jan. 12 Crossword Puzzle

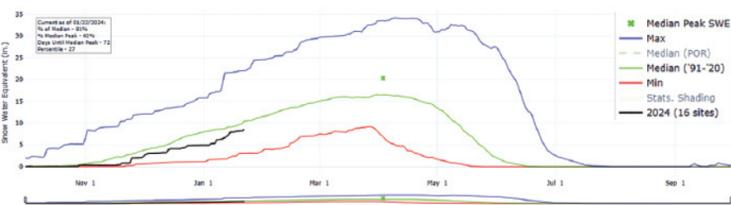
**Across:** 1 Yea, 4 Or I, 7 Moll, 8 Penman, 12 Eyak, 13 Pacino, 14 Tomato plant, 16 Las, 17 Mar, 18 Assiniboine, 23 TLC, 24 Tin, 25 Toughened up, 31 Ladles, 32 Iota, 33 Ensure, 34 Dray, 35 Mex, 36 Aah.  
**Down:** 1 Yo-yo, 2 Elam, 3 Alkali, 4 Opposite sex, 5 Reap, 6 Incl, 7 Met, 9 Miami, 10 Annan, 11 Notre, 15 Tan, 18 Attle, 19 Sloan, 20 Scuds, 21 Bin, 22 Oneida, 26 Glum, 27 Here, 28 Dora, 29 Utah, 30 Pay.



## Did you know?

The Upper San Juan River Watershed includes all the rivers and small streams that run into the San Juan River. Snowmelt in the Spring helps fill these rivers and streams, the amount of water available for drinking water and agriculture is heavily dependent on how much snow we receive in the Winter.

The San Juan Watershed has received 81% of average snowfall



Please contact the Environmental Programs Division at 970-563-0135 with any questions or comments.

## LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

**Friday, Jan. 26**



Partly sunny 40°F  
Afternoon winds

**Saturday, Jan. 27**



Sunny 40°F  
Morning winds

**Sunday, Jan. 28**



Sunny 44°F

Weather forecasts collected from [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

