

SUHC lab modulars take shape

PAGE 5



Book Fair encourages reading

PAGE 6

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\$49 two year subscription
April 5, 2024 Vol. LVII, No. 7

The Southern Ute Drum unveils new website design at sudrum.com

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Student led Wanbli O'ta carries on tradition



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Local artist and current FLC student, Elisia Cruz sold her handcrafted jewelry during the 58th Annual Hozhoni Days Powwow held on March 29-30 at Fort Lewis College. This event is student-led by the Wanbli O'ta club, bringing the community together to celebrate Native culture with dance, song, and art.

By Rosaleigh Concepcion

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM
 Fort Lewis College held its 58th annual Hozhoni Days Powwow in Durango, Colo., March 29-30. This year's theme "Embracing our Identities" focused not

only on where the attendees come from, but also on "inclusion and building a community" as Fort Lewis College President Tom Stritikus beautifully said. Autumn Sage, the current Miss Southern Ute, has been attending this

powwow for about 10 years with her mother and grandmother. "It's a great powwow, and everyone should attend," Sage said. Sage and many others have watched the powwow grow

Wanbli O'ta page 13



courtesy DAGFoto/FCNL

Kristean Velasquez joined 300 plus young advocates who set out for Washington, D.C. to lobby their members of Congress to support a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies on Capitol Hill, March 16-19.

INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Velasquez speaks on Capitol Hill during Spring Lobby

By Robert L. Ortiz
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Kristean Velasquez was one of 300 plus young advocates who were in attendance on Capitol Hill to lobby their members of Congress to support a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies.

Heather Shotton, vice president of Diversity Affairs at Fort Lewis College, invited four Fort Lewis students to Washington, D.C. for the Spring Lobby Weekend 2024 in March to lobby for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024. The commission was sponsored by Rep. Sharice Davids (KS-03) and Rep. Tom Cole (OK-04) and endorsed by the National Native American Boarding School Coalition (NABS), and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

Purpose of this lobby is to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools and Policies and the long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American peoples; develop recommendations for federal participation based on the Commission's findings; and promote healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, their descendants, and their communities. Kristean Velasquez (Ute)



courtesy Kristean Velasquez

Heather Shotton, vice president of Diversity Affairs at Fort Lewis College, sent four Fort Lewis Students to Washington D.C. for the Spring Lobby Weekend, March 16-19, to Lobby for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024. The FLC students (pictured left to right), Brittany Bitsilly (Diné), Associated Students of Fort Lewis College (ASFLC) President; Destiny BigCrow (Diné/Oglala Lakota); Kristean Velasquez (Ute), Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Sponsor; Matthew Schaeffer (Hopi), Political Engagement Project (PEP) President; and Dominick Damper (Diné) in front of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

from Ignacio, was joined by Fort Lewis College students, Brittany Bitsilly (Diné), Associated Students of Fort Lewis College (ASFLC) President; Destiny BigCrow (Diné/Oglala Lakota); Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Sponsor; Matthew Schaeffer (Hopi), Velasquez page 8

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT

Tribe welcomes new Sky Ute Casino Resort General Mngr.

Staff report

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe welcomes Thomas Frank as the new General Manager of the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Frank started his position in Ignacio, Wednesday, April 3, following an impressive career of more than thirty years of experience in business development and casino operations spanning four states and three countries including: Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador. Throughout his career, Frank has played a key role in the development and implementation of over ten gaming start-up projects. This impressive track record includes work with the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe of California, Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation, and at the Dakota Sioux Casino.



Thomas Frank
 General Manager
 Sky Ute Casino Resort

As General Manager, Frank will oversee the daily operations of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and all its amenities, including gaming and entertainment, hotel, restaurants, conference center, and bowling. "We believe his extensive experience and proven leadership will be instrumental

in driving positive change and will continue Sky Ute Casino Resort's legacy as the premier entertainment destination in Southwestern Colorado," said Chairman Melvin J. Baker.

Echoing this sentiment, Frank expressed, "I am incredibly honored to step into this role as the General Manager. The legacy of excellence at Sky Ute Casino Resort is truly inspiring. Together, we will keep the excitement rolling for our guests and ensure this resort continues to be a leader in hospitality and gaming for years to come."

Please join Tribal Council in welcoming Thomas Frank. Thank you for your continued patronage and support during this transition. For more information, please contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2313.

Honor Vietnam veterans



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Vietnam Combat Veteran, Ronnie C. Baker (Army) performed "Taps" to conclude the formal Vietnam Veterans Day program on Friday, March 29 at the Southern Ute Veterans Park. The event brought local veterans, families, and tribal dignitaries together for a day of remembrance for all those who fought in the Vietnam War. Baker served in the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army during the war.

See more Vietnam Veterans coverage on page 11.

Easter egg roundup



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Miss Southern Ute, Autumn Sage welcomed family, friends and community members to the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23 at SunUte Park. The current Southern Ute Royalty and Southern Ute Tribal Council member, Marge Barry, welcomed participants to the annual family-friendly event. The annual program is made possible through collaboration between the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Southern Ute Police Department.

See more Easter egg hunt coverage on page 12.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson talks about the scope of work and the importance of the remediation projects taking place in the critical riparian areas adjacent to SunUte Park. Funding for the cleanup is made possible through the Tribe's Clean Air Act penalty funds; monies received from companies fined for environmental noncompliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

Bear Dance Fire burn area trail closed for remediation

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

On June 3, 2022, the Bear Dance Fire ignited on tribal trust land and burned eighty-nine acres north of the Bear Dance grounds and along the Los Pinos River. In the aftermath, the Environmental Programs Division (EPD) observed hazardous materials mixed in with the burn area debris on the ground surface in areas parallel to Ute Road. The fire exposed these areas and the presence of hazardous materials, which created a concern for public health. Out of an abundance of caution, Tribal Council closed the Bear Dance Fire burn area.

EPD and various environmental professionals have assessed air, soil, water, and vegetation samplings and

determined that there is currently minimal risk to human health and the environment. With a commitment to environmental stewardship, Tribal Council has directed EPD to remove these surface materials and remediate the area. Remediation commenced on Monday, April 1, and the project will consist of debris pile removal and the capping of any remaining material in place.

While the risk to human health and the environment from the material remains low, certain remediation activities have the potential to generate dust that could contain hazardous material. To protect the public from potential dust inhalation, Tribal Council has authorized the temporary closure of the Piinu Nuuchi skatepark and a portion of Ute Road during dust-generating activities.

To mitigate this issue, soil within the site will be suppressed with water. The road and skatepark closure will occur during daytime hours and is anticipated to last one to two days. Closure dates were scheduled to occur between Tuesday, April 2 and Friday, April 5.

In addition to the closure, Tribal Council has authorized temporarily closing the hiking trail and access to the Los Pinos River in the project area during all remediation activities. The remediation project is expected to last for up to three weeks. The trail and Los Pinos River access will be reopened following completion of remediation activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Siesser, Cottonwood Consulting, at 970-764-7356.

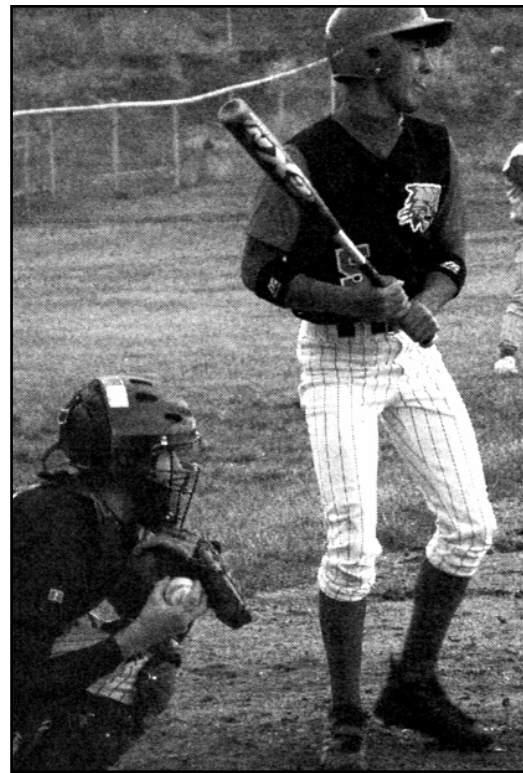


Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

DJ Hendren has his eyes set on the ball and a goal in mind as he intercepts the ball during soccer action Saturday, March 29 in Bayfield, Colo. The Bayfield youth soccer games have begun with action every Saturday.

This photo was first published in the April 4, 2014, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Adrian Abeyta steps up to the plate and prepares to contribute to the Ignacio High School baseball victory over the Dolores Bears last weekend. The Bobcats defeated the visiting team 7-4.

This photo was published in the April 16, 2004, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

General Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

<p>In-Person Registration is not required, & we look forward to seeing you there!</p>	<p>Live Stream Please use the link or QR code below to register:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> https://bit.ly/2024suitGm <small>*Link is case-sensitive</small> </p>	<p>Recording Not able to attend? The live stream recording will be available on the Tribal Member Portal.</p>
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For more information, please contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-562-2313.

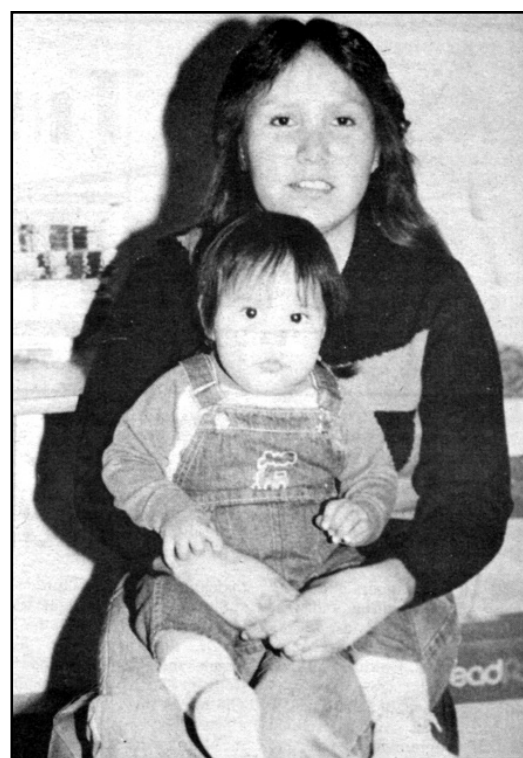


Obbie Box/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

C'mon mom, the little kids always find the easy ones! Jordan Rock doesn't seem to be too happy with his mom, Debra; but Grant Baker is hopping to go. Head Start sponsored the Easter egg hunt.

This photo was published in the April 1, 1994, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Visiting the area - Leonora Burch Bravo and son, Cody Cloud Bravo, of Peach Springs, Ariz. Leonora was former Miss Southern Ute from 1977-78 and a 1978 Ignacio High graduate.

This photo was published in the April 6, 1984, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

TRIBAL BUSINESS EXPLORATION PROGRAM

See's Candies Fundraising

Students for the Tribal Business Exploration Program are fundraising for their free activity day in Oceanside, CA.

Scan the QR code below
or visit

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/tribalbep_tribal_business_exploration_programs6/julsto2544/

For questions please contact Julie Stone: jstone@southernute-nsn.gov

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Bear is Still Dancing

Kwiyaget Tago Mamkonuhka Wa'Ipagayus

135th ANNUAL UTE MOUNTAIN BEARDANCE

MAY 31- JUNE 3

TOWAOC, CO

Bear Dance Chiefs:

- Terry Knight Sr.
- Mark Wing
- Austin Jacket
- Farley Ketchum Sr.
- Terry Knight Jr.

Merchandise regarding the Beardance will be sold at the event. Ladies MUST wear a shawl and dress for women Powwow May 31 and June 1 Handgames

Reserve Your Hotel stay @ <https://utemountaincasino.com>

Language class welcomes all



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Grace Gonzales shares her Ute language knowledge with a Southern Ute Growth Fund employee, during the Ute language class held in the Buckskin Charlie Room, Friday, March 22. Gonzales took part in the class alongside her mother, Amy Barry and grandmother, Marge Barry (not pictured).

Southern Ute Elder, Lynda D'Wolf is teaching a Ute Language class in collaboration with the Southern Ute Education Department. Hour-long classes are held every Friday in April at the Leonard C. Burch Administrative building, classes are free and open to tribal members and employees. Refreshments are also provided for participants.



Randlett Ute Beardance

Everyone Welcome!

U&O Agency

May 2-5, 2024

Randlett, UT

Chiefs: Skyler Lomahaftewa, Henry Cesspooch, Nelson Colorow, Lloyd Arrive

Sponsors:
Ute IndianTribes, Sunbelt Rentals, Uncompahgre Tribal Entertainment, Chiefs' families

Thursday: 10:30AM Headstart Mini-beardance and Start of Beardance. Beardance all day to early evening.

Friday: Beardance starts at 11AM. Afternoon saak lunch provided by chiefs' families. Youth Beardance singers in the evening.

Saturday: Beardance starts at 11AM. Fun run/walk by Painted Horse at 9AM. Horseshoe tourney during the day. Feast sponsored by chiefs' families in the afternoon. Youth Beardance singers in the evening.

Sunday: Last day of Beardance starts at 11AM. End of Beardance feast sponsored by the Ute Indian Tribe at 2PM. Ute Turkey Dance Contest with Spring Creek Singers of Ft. Hall, Idaho after Beardance has ended.

Specials to be held at the Ute Turkey Dance after the Ute Beardance has ended on Sunday.

Ute Tribe, Chiefs, Randlett Community not responsible for accidents, injuries, lost monies, warrants, divorces and break-ups.

Vendor Info: Lauren - (435) 823-4666

Beardance & Turkey Dance info: Skyler - (970) 300-8991, Lloyd - (435) 823-8659, Nelson - (435) 219-1254, Henry - (435) 219-4020

Horseshoe info: Ute Recreation - (435) 722-2249

Fun Run/Walk info: Painted Horse Diabetic Center - (435) 725-5040

Ute Language Classes

When : Every Friday starting **March 22nd – May 31st**

Where : Buckskin Charlie Room @ Leonard C. Burch Bldg.

Time : 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Open to all employees of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Classes will be instructed by Tribal Elder, Lynda D'Wolf

A light lunch and materials will be provided.

Sponsored by Southern Ute Education Department

For more information contact La Titia Taylor @ ext. 2781

Ultra Health

TINGLE COLISEUM, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

APRIL 25-27, 2024

41st INTERNATIONAL WORLD CELEBRATION

HEADLINING CAST

- Donna Rowen, Sr. - Sedona, AZ
- Yana Bell - Fresno, CA
- Helen Littlefield - Lawrence, KS
- Paula Hamilton - Young Blood - Stevens, OK
- Jason Edwards (Armonia) - Santa Fe, NM
- Jason Whitehead (Hoop) - Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Larry Young - Portland, OR

ARINA DIRECTORS: Kandy Maholie Bear - Trinidad, CO
Doreen Chicks Skelton - Oklahoma, OK

HEAD OF DANCE JUDGE: Patrick Manning - Arizona, OK

HEAD OF DANCE JUDGE: Cheryl Ross - Ft. Collins, CO

HEAD OF DANCE JUDGE: Demarion Jones - St. Collins, CO

HEAD OF DANCE JUDGE: Ryan Brady - Phoenix, AZ

HEAD JUDGES: Jeffery Cole - Ft. Collins, CO
Doreen Chicks Skelton - Oklahoma, OK
Patrick Manning - Phoenix, AZ
Doreen Chicks Skelton - Oklahoma, OK
Doreen Chicks Skelton - Oklahoma, OK

MISS UTE WORLD 2023-24: Tali McConall - London, CA

CASH AWARDS
Over \$200,000 in Cash Prizes to be Awarded
1st Cash Prize: \$15,000
2nd Cash Prize: \$10,000
3rd Cash Prize: \$5,000
4th Cash Prize: \$2,500
5th Cash Prize: \$1,000
6th Cash Prize: \$500
7th Cash Prize: \$250
8th Cash Prize: \$100
9th Cash Prize: \$50
10th Cash Prize: \$25
11th Cash Prize: \$10
12th Cash Prize: \$5
13th Cash Prize: \$2
14th Cash Prize: \$1
15th Cash Prize: \$0.50
16th Cash Prize: \$0.25
17th Cash Prize: \$0.10
18th Cash Prize: \$0.05
19th Cash Prize: \$0.01
20th Cash Prize: \$0.005
21st Cash Prize: \$0.001
22nd Cash Prize: \$0.0005
23rd Cash Prize: \$0.0001
24th Cash Prize: \$0.00005
25th Cash Prize: \$0.00001

SPECIAL CONTESTS
WORLD'S SMALLEST TINDERBOLT STATIONARY
Ages 15+ - Sponsored by Dr. Lisa Meadows
MISS SOUTHERN UTE
Ages 15+ - Sponsored by GON Online Services
HARD DRUM SPECIAL
(Saturday Afternoon) First 10 Registered
Sponsored by Social Outcomes Shared Values

"WORLD CLASS" COMPETITION
Peach and Companion Hall Daily at Ages 13-18
1st Place: \$1,000 (3 Places)
2nd Place: \$500 (3 Places)
3rd Place: \$250 (3 Places)
4th Place: \$125 (3 Places)
5th Place: \$62.50 (3 Places)
6th Place: \$31.25 (3 Places)
7th Place: \$15.62 (3 Places)
8th Place: \$7.81 (3 Places)
9th Place: \$3.90 (3 Places)
10th Place: \$1.95 (3 Places)

STAGE 49
Managed by Entertainment Productions
Schedule released Early April 24 - Applications to Perform open Jan 28, www.gatheringofnations.com

TRAVEL
Ages 18+ - www.gatheringofnations.com
Reservations Open 1/18/24 (10am-11pm) BY all bookings and team-booking services available - Reservations to Southern Ute, Bureau, Okla., & N. Mex. Only. No. 1-800-438-3788. 3 Night Lodging Only - No. 1-800-438-3788.

HOUSING GROUP - Visa holders for more info www.gatheringofnations.com
Reservations Open 1/18/24 (10am-11pm) BY all bookings and team-booking services available - Reservations to Southern Ute, Bureau, Okla., & N. Mex. Only. No. 1-800-438-3788. 3 Night Lodging Only - No. 1-800-438-3788.

SOUTHERN UTE POWWOW COMMITTEE:
Tara Vigil - Chairman
Rochelle Aguilar - Vice Chairman
Rhianna Carel - Treasurer
Valerie Armstrong - Recording Secretary
Committee Members:
Donna Frost, Karen Washington, Lisa Jacket, Malena Carel
S.U. Councilman, Marty Pinnecoose - Tribal Council Ex-Officio

For information contact: Tara Vigil, 970-799-0615 or Valerie Armstrong, 970-317-3585

DRUM CONTEST: OVERALL PAYOUT \$23,000
1st - 5th Place, Split Northern / Southern
*Singers who are under 18 yrs. and register for the Drum Contest MUST have ONE 18 yrs. or older member as the payout representative.

DANCE AND DRUM CONTEST REQUIREMENT:
For payout purposes ONLY, MUST show your Social Security Card AND current valid State/and or Tribal I.D. with your address. You must also provide a current phone number.

NEW MEXICO TRUE

Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow

May 24 & 25, 2024

Sky Ute Casino Resort, Events Center
14324 Hwy 172, Ignacio, CO

GRAND ENTRY:
• Fri., May 24: 7 pm; Sat., May 25: 1 pm & 7 pm

REGISTRATION:
• Fri.: Opens 5 pm, Closes 7 pm; Sat.: Opens 12 pm, Closes 1 pm

HEAD STAFF:

- Head Lady - Miss Southern Ute
- Head Man - Picked Daily
- MC - TBD
- Arena Director - Michael Grant
- Drum Judge - Darren Cuch

POWWOW COMMITTEE SPECIALS
WINNER TAKE ALL!

Iron Man Fancy (18+) - \$1,000
Iron Woman Fancy Shawl (18+) - \$1,000

DANCE CATEGORIES:

- Golden Age (55 yrs.+): Men & Women
- Men (18-54 yrs.): Fancy, Grass, Chicken, Northern Traditional, Southern Traditional
- Women (18-54 yrs.): Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Northern Traditional, Southern Traditional
- Teen Boys (13-17 yrs.): Fancy, Grass, Chicken, Combined Northern & Southern Traditional
- Teen Girls (13-17 yrs.): Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Combined Northern & Southern Traditional
- Jr. Boys (6-12 yrs.): Fancy, Grass, Chicken, Combined Northern & Southern Traditional
- Jr. Girls (6-12 yrs.): Fancy Shawl, Jingle, Combined Northern & Southern Traditional
- Tiny Tots (5 yrs. & Under)

ARTS & CRAFTS / FOOD VENDOR INFO:
Registration & Fees: Sky Ute Casino Resort Sales Dept.
970-363-3000 ext. 1759
(First come, first serve)

HOST HOTEL INFO:
Sleep Inn Durango
1260 Escalante Dr., Building A Durango, CO 81303
Use Code: Southern Ute Beardance Powwow
2 Nights only total \$228
10-Rooms Available
Breakfast included 5 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Photos: Divina Windy Bay/SU Drum
Design: Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum



HEALTHY RECIPES

Chai Tea: A healthy beverage!

By Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC
SHINING MOUNTAIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Chai Tea (or Masala Tea) is an Indian tea with a combination of black tea (you can use green tea as well), ginger, and variety of spices. These ingredients contain compounds that may be beneficial in several ways, from heart health to anti-bacterial properties.

Keep it minimally sweetened and enjoy the warmth, spiciness, and benefits of Chai Tea!



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

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

Chai Tea for two

Ingredients:

- 2 cups water
- 1 inch ginger, peeled and sliced
- 6 whole green cardamom pods, crushed
- 4 black peppercorns, crushed
- 4 whole cloves
- 1/4 cinnamon stick
- 2 tea bags, black or green
- 1/2 cup milk of choice (cow, almond, soy, etc.)
- Sugar or honey as desired for taste

Directions:

1. Using a mortar and pestle, crush the cardamom and peppercorns.
2. Add water to a small pot and place the sliced ginger, crushed cardamom and peppercorns, whole cloves and the 1/4 cinnamon stick.
3. Bring water to a boil for 1 minute. Turn down to simmer for 10-20 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, heat milk over low heat, just until hot.
5. Strain water and spices into cups. You can use a coffee filter into a carafe.
6. Strain milk through same strainer, into same cups.
7. Sweeten as desired.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Flourish!

By Rebecca Gale
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Way back in the 1960s, Erik Erikson defined eight stages of psychosocial development. His theory was that if a person were to have a healthy sense of self, each stage would need to be completed successfully in order to move on to the next one. These stages would ideally be mastered within a given time frame. However, stages can be mastered at any point in a person's life.

Erikson called the stage of life between the ages of 30-64 "middle age." Being firmly planted in my middle age years and working with many clients of a similar age, one theme keeps coming up time and time again. "How do I continue to stay relevant as I age?"

The challenge here as defined by Erikson is "Generativity vs. Stagnation." In other words, how does one continue to contribute to one's family, one's workplace, the community, and the world in general as one ages? How does one continue to generate ideas and remain relevant?

There are several ideas in the research literature I have come across that seem to not only work for me but work for others as well. I will list a few of them below:

- **STAY CURIOUS!** According to psychologist Todd Kashdan, "Choosing to explore the unknown rather than avoid it is the key to a rich, meaningful life." When you explore an idea and curiosity is satisfied, the brain is rewarded with a hit of dopamine. In other words,

it feels good to be a life-long, curious, learner. And it can make you a real hit at social events!

- **MARVEL!** Allow yourself to find awe and wonder in your environment. Have you ever heard the expression, "Stop and smell the roses?" Have you ever really looked at the way a rose is constructed and allowed yourself to feel the awe and wonder that is nature? This unique neurobiological response when the system is flooded with stimuli that are visual, auditory, tactile, or olfactory is known as awe. Allowing yourself to enter a state of awe helps the brain to downregulate and allows neurotransmitters to flood the system causing a state of euphoria. You feel a part of something much bigger than you. Some people even describe this as a religious experience.

- **PLAY!** Play positively impacts cognitive function. Whether you join a sports league, finish a difficult crossword puzzle, or learn a new computer game, playing improves your reaction speed, critical thinking, and communication skills. These are important in keeping the mind sharp and you'll have fun doing it!

- **CREATE!** Creativity is the ability to imagine and come up with original ideas that open you up to what is possible. It could be coming up with a new recipe from the ingredients in your pantry or telling your grandchild a made-up bedtime story. Letting go of "how

it's supposed to be" and entering into a creative mind set is known as a "flow state." Entering a flow state increases alpha brain waves which are connected to mindfulness and meditation. Flow states are what enhance peak performances whether you are writing a piece of music, creating an artistic masterpiece, or, as I always say, "solving all the world's problems on a nice, long, run."

In summation: Be CURIOUS, MARVEL, PLAY, and CREATE! It's good medicine! 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.

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS:



RECOVERY AND WELLNESS IS POSSIBLE!

2ND ANNUAL RECOVERY RETREAT



SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 • 8:00AM-5:30PM

SKY UTE CASINO - CONVENTION CENTER
14324 HWY 172 NORTH, IGNACIO, CO 81137

Are you in your recovery journey and looking for support or connections? We welcome all persons at any stage of their recovery journey. Come find FELLOWSHIP, SKILLS, SUPPORT, RESOURCES, and INSPIRATION!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MARVINA OLGUIN: (970).563.2359

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 200 PARTICIPANTS!



For a discounted Sky Ute Casino room, make your reservation using discount code: "RECOVERY RETREAT"

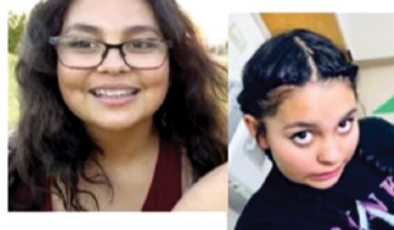
COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSON ALERT

MISSING PERSON:
AUDRINA BARTLEY

IF SEEN CALL 911

OR

THE SOUTHERN UTE
POLICE DEPARTMENT AT
970-563-4401



LAST SEEN: Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 11:30 AM in Albuquerque, NM possibly headed to Durango, CO.

DESCRIPTION

- FEMALE
- 13 YEARS OLD
- BROWN HAIR / BROWN EYES
- INDIGENOUS
- TRIBAL AFFILIATION: SOUTHERN UTE
- 5'05" / 125 LBS

ADDITIONAL DETAILS: She has braces and was wearing a white hoodie with "faith over fear" on the front, black skinny jeans, pink shirt and "Nicki Minaj" print, black basketball shoes and a white Puma backpack. She was not wearing glasses when she left. She also has some medical conditions which may require medication.

If you have media inquiries about this alert, please contact the requesting law enforcement agency at 970-563-4401. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbia/alerts-2>

Vocational Rehabilitation and Behavioral Health present...

LOOKING FOR HELP IN APPLYING FOR EMPLOYMENT?

1:00-4:00PM

OCCURS THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING FEBRUARY 23 AT THE BH BUILDING

A representative from Voc Rehab will be here to help with job applications, resume writing, etc. No appointment needed. Just drop in!

VR'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE DEDICATED, QUALITY AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE SERVICES TO NATIVE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES RESIDING ON OR NEAR THE SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND INDEPENDENCE.

4101 CR 222, Durango, CO 81301

970-563-5700



SAVE THE DATE!

Mother's Day Celebration
May 9, 2024

SunUte Rec-Capote Room
12-1 PM

Shining Mountain Health and Wellness
970-563-2163
smtso@southernute-nsn.gov





SUHC laboratory takes shape



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The crane set for the new Southern Ute Health Center's modular laboratory building took place Friday, March 29. The building was delivered onsite as three form fitted units, strategically set on its stem walls, or permanent foundation, by Eagle Crane out of Durango, Colo.

Crews from NUNN Construction worked hand in hand with Eagle Crane to expertly set the three modular units as part of the Southern Ute Health Center's expansion of their laboratory facility. The three integrated modular units were delivered to Ignacio and set in place, Friday, March 29.



Tai Chi & Chai Tea



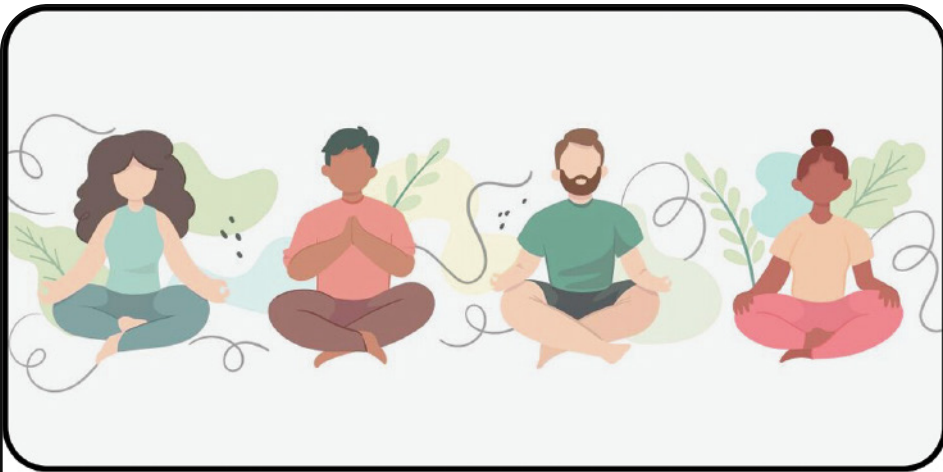
photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Luana Herrera practices Tai Chi movements during the Tai Chi and Chai Tea event on Thursday, March 28 at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. Attendees learn the health benefits of training Tai Chi during the event.



Lisa Smith serves healthy snacks along with her Chai Tea during the Tai Chi and Chai Tea event.

Lisa Smith with Shining Mountain Health and Wellness uses a mortar and pestle to grind ingredients for Chai Tea during the Tai Chi and Chai Tea event. Chai Tea or Masala Tea is used for various health benefits.



Meditation Workshop

Saturday, April 13th

10am-12pm

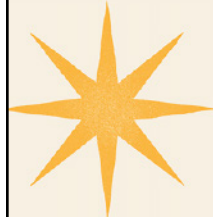
SunUte Community Center

Meditation is a grounding practice that helps you to know yourself better, appreciate yourself and others more and allows you to get a more, relaxed and sound sleep. Through meditation you can begin to notice your body and mind more easily let go of daily stressors and challenges leaving you calmer, more clear, balanced, and comfortable in your own skin and life.

What to expect from this workshop:

- Learn the foundational practices of meditation to calm and steady the mind.
 - Develop meditation techniques.
- Explore ways you can be more present and mindful in everyday life.
- Learn and practice together with others, ask questions and share in the experience.

For more information call Sage @ 563-2656



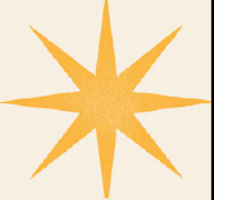
FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT



The Southern Ute Division of Social Services is recruiting foster homes in Ignacio and nearby communities to help provide safe and stable family home care to children in need of protective services.

Will you help?

CONTACT DSS TODAY!
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
CALL/TEXT: Cell/Text: 970-749-7420
Email: kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov



CALLING ALL PARENTS



Parenting isn't easy. Come connect with other caregivers and local professionals over locally-catered dinner and learn tools to support yourself and your family.

RSVP below to let us know your food and childcare needs!

LOVE AND LOGIC: FEBRUARY 28

with Ignacio School District's Bree Duran

Utilize a balanced, loving approach that puts parents back in control and teaches children of all ages to be responsible and prepared to live in the real world.

FOURTH WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:15-6:45PM AT SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

INTERNET SAFETY: MARCH 27

With La Plata Youth Services' Chris Brown

Learn supportive tricks for your family's online safety in our social media infused world! Learn how to recognize and track hurtful and helpful behaviors within your family.

ATTEND ALL THREE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE: \$200 GIFT CARD

CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS: APRIL 24

with Communication Coach Rachel Turiel

learning practical tools to create more honesty, trust and openness around challenging conversations with your children.

DINNER AND CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

PRIZE DRAWINGS: restaurant and grocery gift cards, activity passes, gas cards, and more! Prizes at every event.

Scan or visit unitedway-swco.org/workshops to register



SCAN ME

QUESTIONS? EMAIL CAROLINEH@UNITEDWAY-SWCO.ORG

APRIL IS STI AWARENESS MONTH

Learn about sexually transmitted diseases

We are waiting for you at:
Southern Ute Health Center

69 Capote Drive
Ignacio, CO 81137
(970)563-4581

Health center Services available to eligible Native Americans upon application

JUST BECAUSE U DON'T SEE IT DOESN'T MEAN U DON'T HAVE IT. GET TESTED!



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Upper elementary students Jacobi Scott and Lawrence Santistevan browse the chapter book section of the Scholastic Book Fair held in the SUIMA Dining Hall ahead of their lunch break on Wednesday, April 3.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani pø'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Training SUIMA staff

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

As the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy started to become a reality, the incoming staff had to be trained in the Montessori method – the chosen curriculum for the school.

There were 19 people obtaining their Montessori training at the Southern Ute Head Start in hopes that some of those people would become teachers at SUIMA. These participants spent a full summer, several weekends during the school year, and a portion of the following summer getting trained so that they could become certified. Because this training took place at the Head Start, Montessori materials had to be purchased so that hands-on learning could take place.

With the change from a typical pre-school to a Montessori pre-school, the title of Montessori was then included in the name of the Southern Ute Head Start. You can imagine the confusion once SUIMA opened! As the training was coming to an end and the reality of SUIMA opening its doors, a school within

a school opened to further the Montessori training for the teachers.

This school was Blue Sky and had been housed in modulars at the Education Center. It was the stepping-stone to move towards SUIMA. Tribal and non-tribal students attended Blue Sky, but once SUIMA opened, Blue Sky closed. The objective of the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy has been to offer another opportunity for tribal members to pursue an education separate from the public schools.

SUIMA School Board

The School Board is currently updating policies and procedures as well as discussing the 2024-2025 school calendar. Their next meeting will be at 12 p.m. on April 10. If you'd like to bring something to their at-

ention, you can find a tab on our school's website (www.suima.org) to submit your concern. A board member will get in touch with you.

Reminders

The book fair was a success! Thank you to everyone who helped our students become awesome readers!

Parent Advisory Group

The next PAG meeting will be Tuesday, April 23 from 6 – 7 p.m. via Zoom. These meetings are typically held every third Tuesday of the month.

Family Night group

Our next Family Night will be Wednesday, April 24 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Come join us for dinner and family fun! Drum group will be held in the Ute Language room that night from 6 – 7 p.m.

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early release at 2 p.m.
- March 27: UE Taco Sale; Family Group; Drum Group
- Apr. 9: Golden High School group tour
- Apr. 10: School Board meeting
- Apr. 10-12: UE overnight field trip to Denver
- Apr. 15: FLC tour group
- Apr. 16: PAG meeting
- Apr. 19: No school for students
- Apr. 24: Family Night

PCC SOUTHWEST

CSU Extension host forest health symposium

Staff report 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 12. The event will be held at the CSU Extension office at the La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave. in Durango, Colo. It is free and open to the public. There will be a panel discussion with forestry, education and industry professionals and breakout sessions to discuss workforce opportunities and wildfire mitigation. PCC Southwest also will have information about its new wildland fire mitigation programs. Info: 970-564-6233.



Friday, April 12 | 5:30-7:30 pm
CSU Extension Office, La Plata County Fairgrounds

- **FREE admission**
- **Panel discussion** with forestry, education, and industry professionals
- **Breakout sessions** on workforce opportunities and wildfire mitigation
- **Learn about PCC Southwest's new Wildland Fire Mitigation programs** and potential employment opportunities



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Heather.Houk@pueblocc.edu | (970) 379.9933
PCC Southwest Agriculture program coordinator
Gregory.Felsen@colostate.edu | Colorado State University Rural Initiative specialist

Annual Elbert J. Floyd Award Nominations

Nominations for the Elbert J. Floyd award are open, requirements for the nominees are:

- An enrolled member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- An enrolled student in any formal education program
 - This student can be of any age
 - Those planning to immediately enroll in such a program are also eligible
- Student has interest in continuing their education
- Has interest in serving their community and Tribe
- Has qualities of a dedicated student
- Is approved by the Southern Ute Education Department

Eligible recipients do not need to reside on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation; however, it is asked that they can be available to receive the award in person, which will take place at the Tribal Council Chambers in Ignacio, CO.

Nominations may be received from any teacher, Tribal member, or community member, and they must be submitted to the Southern Ute Education Department.

Submission is to be in writing stating the basis of nomination and returned to Chasity Bean at the Southern Ute Education Department by 5:00 pm **Friday, May 03, 2024.**

For questions or more information please contact Chasity Bean at 970-563-2793 or email cbean@southernute-nsn.gov.

Recipient will be determined by a committee of two members consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

This annual award is done in memory of Elbert J. Floyd and is presented by Mr. Floyd's children and grandchildren to the selected nominee.



Summer Tutoring

Rising into Fourth, Fifth and 6th Grade Students



I am offering 1-1 summer tutoring at the Southern Ute Education Department to students entering 4th, 5th and 6th grade for the school year 2024-2025. These are students who will have just completed 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade in May of 2024. I look forward to helping your child learn this summer!

Summer Hours: Please contact me about your child's specific needs. This offer is filling up with my Ignacio Elementary students and SUIMA students, but it is open to all Southern Ute, Descendants and JOM.

Kelly Fiddler, Masters in Education
Southern Ute Education Department, 330 Burns Ave
kfiddler@southernute-nsn.gov
970-563-2779

Applications Open for Rodney Ems Memorial Scholarships for Graduating Seniors

The Rodney Ems Memorial Scholarship committee is seeking scholarship applications from area students who demonstrate their love of the game of golf and how it has had an impact on their lives. Scholarships are a minimum of \$1,000. Applicants must be a graduating senior from a public, private or charter school located in Southwest Colorado. The applicant must be accepted to a two- or four-year college or university, or a vocational/technical school. Applications can be found at www.remsgolf.com and should be emailed to rems.scholarship@gmail.com by April 15. For information, visit the website or email rems.scholarship@gmail.com. A group of golfers from Dalton Ranch Golf Club established the nonprofit fund in memory of Durango resident Rodney Ems.

Scholarships are available for the 2024-2025 academic year

Southern Ute Scholarship Program

Certificate, Associate, Bachelor, Master or Doctorate

- Deadline for completed full-time applications is July 1, 2024
- Part-time scholarships– applications are due 30 days prior to start of school term.
- Certificate Scholarships-applications are due two weeks before classes start
- Scholarship applications are now available on-line or you can pick them up at the Education Center



Southern Ute Education Department
330 Burns Ave. Ignacio, CO 81137

For more information: Michael Kirsch
Assistant Director
970-563-2783
E-mail: mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov



Alive At 25

Defensive Driving Course

Saving Lives
Through Education

4/14/24
Sunday

Time: 12:30 to 5:00

Ignacio Library
Community
Room



Enroll Online
www.aliveat25.us
Call 866-605-3900

Instructor: Don Folsom SUPD
Cell: 970-769-9431

Automobile Crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds. The life you save may be your own.

Sign up now for this defensive driving educational course and become a better driver. You may use this course for getting your learner's permit under the graduated licensing law. You can satisfy a court ordered defensive driving course requirement. You may ask your insurance company for a discount after completing this course. You learn how to take control when driving.

Fundraising with tacos!



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

SUIIMA teacher, Maethalia Yazzie hands out orders of Indian Tacos during the SUIIMA Taco Sale held on Wednesday, March 27. This fundraiser was held for the benefit of the SUIIMA Upper Elementary students as they begin to save for their end of the year field trip to Denver. Throughout the rest of the school year, students will continue to fundraise for this year's field trip.

Students assemble Indian Tacos during the SUIIMA Taco Sale held on Wednesday, March 27 outside of the SUIIMA Dining Hall. Students work to raise funds for their upcoming end of the year field trip to Denver.



Forestry, Wildfire Mitigation and Natural Resources

Why study this program?

- Engaging courses
- Small class sizes
- Dedicated faculty and student support
- Hands-on practice and field experience opportunities
- Gain essential workforce skills like communication, teamwork and critical thinking
- Help protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations
- Varied career paths - education, community engagement, conservation, land stewardship and others

Options:

- **Entry-level Wildland Fire certificate** (through Wildland Fire Academy)
- **Two-semester certificate** in Forestry & Wildland Fire
- Two-year degree coming soon

Upcoming programs

Wildland fire academy **FREE, with a 20-person limit**

- Will be held the **first week in June** in Pagosa Springs; registration details TBA
- **Job possibilities:** apply for Red Card, front line fire crew, junior wildland firefighter

Forestry & Wildland Fire certificate (two semesters) **FREE to the first 20 participants**

- **Job possibilities:** forest product/timber industry, logging crew, thinning operations, work with arborists and small businesses
- **Two options to take the courses for free:**
 - Take the **Wildland Fire courses** (during the fall semester or as a Wildland Fire Academy) FSW 1043, FSW 1000 and FSW 1001.
 - Take the **entire certificate** in fall 2024 and spring 2025.
- Anyone who applies for the certificate starting Spring 2025 or later will be eligible for remaining Career Advance money, if funds are available, and will be eligible for financial aid.

Contact us to learn more.

- Perry.Pepper@pueblocc.edu | 970.564.6205
Regional Director of Academic Services
- Heather.Houk@pueblocc.edu | 970.564.6230
Agriculture program coordinator



Native Education Forum

Monday, June 3 – Friday, June 7, 2024

APRIL 5 IS THE DEADLINE FOR PRIORITY REGISTRATION

The Native Education Forum (NEF) is a pre-collegiate program for Native American high school students. The five-day summer program is designed for rising high school seniors and incoming CSU freshmen.

Through this on-campus residential program, students will gain university classroom experience, earn one academic credit, research issues critical to tribal communities, and begin navigating the university application process.

Career Pathways
By participating in NEF, students learn more about the different majors and careers available at CSU by engaging with Native American faculty and current CSU undergraduates through open dialogue lectures, laboratory tours, and hands-on workshops. Program highlights include Animal Sciences, Agribusiness, Land Conservation, Indigenous Studies, and Indigenous STEM education and research.

Academic Research
NEF participants gain university classroom and research experience by conducting small group research projects on contemporary issues in tribal communities. NEF students present their research to family and friends at the closing reception.

Preparation for Admissions
NEF students receive tailored support from CSU admissions and financial aid officers to gain a better

understanding of the admissions process. Participants also learn about outside scholarship opportunities available through regional and national tribal scholarship organizations.

NEF Program Highlights

- Work with CSU faculty, staff and students
- Live and study on a university campus for five days
- Strengthen your college/university application
- Improve your academic research skills
- Earn one college credit

Community of Excellence Partnership Award
Students who participate in the Native Education Forum may be eligible to receive a Community of Excellence Partnership Award of \$2,500-\$5,000 per year. The Partnership Award is an annual award that is renewable for up to 5 years.

CONTACT: Tyrone Smith
tyrone.smith@colostate.edu

A equal access and equal opportunity university.

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

**IGNACIO YOUTH SERVICES
SUMMER CAMP IS 100% FREE!**

JUNE 10-15

**5-NIGHT, 6-DAY
YOUTH
SUMMER
CAMP**

**TEAM BUILDING & OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH
ENTERING GRADES 7-12**

Interested in signing up?
Scan the QR code to fill out an inquiry form. This will help us get the registration packet to you.

ACTIVITIES:

- White Water Rafting
- Salida Arcade
- Low & High Ropes Course
- Eco Service Project
- Canoeing, Kayaking, SUPs
- Archery & Nature Walks
- & SO MUCH MORE!

WHERE?:

- Camp will be held at 100 Elk Outdoor Center in Buena Vista, CO.
- Transportation to/from Ignacio is provided.
- Participants will stay in Yurts & Large Canvas Tents.

Questions? Call/Text: 970.759.2011 or email cgrandonesococaa.org

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

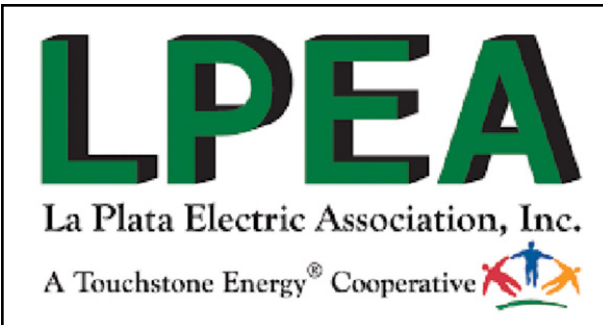
LPEA votes to leave Tri-State

Staff Report

SAN JUAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE

On Monday, March 25, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) made the historic decision to exit its contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. This move will give LPEA the freedom to secure more affordable and renewable energy that benefits our local economy.

LPEA's contract with Tri-State required the co-op to buy 95% of its power from Tri-State, limiting local generation to just 5%. On top of that, Tri-State doubled down on its coal investments in the past years, leading to financial



hardships and a negative credit rating for the G&T. This year, Tri-State raised rates for all its member co-ops, forcing LPEA to do a pass-through rate increase for its members. In the past several years, several co-ops have left their Tri-State seeking freedom from its expensive power. LPEA can now follow in

those footsteps and secure a more flexible and affordable power supply.

This exit could not have been done without the strong leadership of the board and the hard work of LPEA's staff. We hope you join us in thanking LPEA for taking this monumental step towards securing a better energy future for its members!

VELASQUEZ SPEAKS ON CAPITOL HILL • FROM PAGE 1

Political Engagement Project (PEP) President; and Dominick Damper (Diné).

Velasquez, a senior at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. will be graduating in May with a major in Marketing and a minor in Native American & Indigenous Studies. Velasquez currently sits on the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy's school board, and is a sponsor of Native Love, a non-profit whose mission is to "empower Native youth by providing culturally responsive programming." Native Love seeks to preserve culture through providing services to indigenous people and indigenous youth by supporting culturally sustaining practices in the Four Corners region.

Native Love is heavily involved in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) movement, combating systemic issues that afflict Native American reservations and communities across Indian Country.

Velasquez is also an intern with Social Studies/Native American Studies teacher, Teresa Lewis at the Ignacio High School and is active in the Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) at the Ignacio High School, averaging 15-25 students who partake in the Native American organization.

Velasquez wants to help the youth of the community, "I want to spark that little fire, so the student can say 'I can do that,' so that the students stay curious." Velasquez said. In NAYO, Velasquez stated they were currently working on organization titles, a mission statement, and hoping to debut an event in late April or early May.

"We need to instill leadership qualities in the students, validating their voices and opinions," Velasquez said. Velasquez sights the Hendren brothers, DeWayne, Nate and Elliot as well as Leandra Litz for their leadership qualities they garnered from their time on the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council (SCSYAC).

"I am curious ... where's our leadership from the adults? They are doing the minimum, they should be doing the maximum, the youth are our future," Velasquez stressed. "The importance, as native people, we are community based as relatives, not just as parents, to hold each other accountable." Velasquez was invited to

go to Washington, D.C., by Brittany Bitsilly of the Fort Lewis College Civic Engagement Collaborative. The Fort Lewis College Civic Engagement Collaborative is a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members dedicated to civic engagement and civil dialogue. The purpose of the student presence in D.C. was to lobby on behalf of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024. The act is endorsed by the national Native American Boarding School Coalition (NABS), and the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI).

"I was not going to say no to this opportunity!" exclaimed Velasquez.

The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024 provided background on boarding schools, "Between 1819 through the 1970's, in which the United States implemented policies establishing Indian boarding schools across the nation. The purpose of these boarding schools was to assimilate Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian children by forcibly removing them from their families, communities, and beliefs."

A broader understanding of these historical traumas is only now coming to light, decades later. On Dec. 3, 2023, PBS aired a program on Indian Boarding Schools. "For decades, Native American children were taken from their homes and forced into boarding schools where they were also forced to give up their native language and culture," read the description of Episode 13 of Season 13.

"My grandmother, [Alberta Thompson], went to the Southern Ute Boarding School. The faith based [religious] groups and the federal government pushed policies and politics to oppress Native communities," Velasquez said.

The Truth and Healing Commission's purpose is to "formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, and policies, and the long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American peoples; and to develop recommendations for federal participation based on the findings of the commission; and to promote healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, the descendants of those sur-

vivors, and the communities of those survivors."

The National Native American Indian Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) has identified six Indian boarding schools in Colorado. There are two federally recognized tribes in Colorado, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribes.

Of the six-boarding schools, Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School (Fort Lewis College) from 1892-1956 in Hesperus, Colo; Southern Ute Boarding School (Ignacio Boarding School) from 1886-1981 in Ignacio, Colo; Ute Mountain Boarding School from 1907-1942 in Towaoc, Colo. are within reservation boundaries.

"Where are we at in these conversations?" asked Velasquez. "We need to inform our youth [in] our community of our boarding schools, including the Ignacio Boarding School."

The boarding schools were run by various operators including, Catholics, Christians, Quaker and the U.S. Federal Government.

"We need to educate and to listen to the importance of the community, 'what do you need?' and hope within in the community. I need to practice what I preach, to not only represent myself but our nation."

The Truth and Healing Commission requires members of the commission to be selected by the majority leaders of the House and Senate, appointed with members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Native American Survivors Truth and Healing subcommittee and will consist of members from various federal agencies including, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Education, and archivists from the Library of Congress and the Department of the Interior.

"The commission will hold the federal government accountable and contribute to the healing of Native communities. Not one voice – but many! Power in numbers!" Velasquez emphasized.

When asked about her biggest take-away from her recent visit to D.C., Velasquez stated, "I'm here in D.C., I'm here as a representative of my tribe. We need innovation, to think differently. We are in a position to turn to the community, why do we not have a whole team of youth here? How do we bring these voices together?"



Sinclair shines bright



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Ignacio's Thriftway gas station and mini mart has already begun to take on a newer, more modern look in recent months. A worker with Ram Studios Signs out of Farmington, N.M. puts the finishing touches on the new Sinclair branding which now adorns the fuel pump canopy, Thursday, March 21.

Workers with Ram Studios Signs out of Farmington, N.M. use a Skyjack to replace canopy lighting at the new Sinclair branded Travel Center. This is just one facet of a \$2 million overhaul of the entire facility that will take place over the course of the four to five months, including a full renovation of the existing building and paved parking areas.



2024 TRI-UTE GAMES

Save the Date: **July 10-13, 2024**

Sporting Events Include:

Basketball, Co-Ed Volleyball, Archery, Swimming, Skateboarding, Golf, Wrestling and Traditional Hand Games
Participate in the Tri-Ute Ultimate Challenge

Packets due: Friday, May 03, 2024!!!

Who: For Enrolled Tribal Members and/or 1st Descendants with CIB (Certificate of Indian Blood)

For: Boys and Girls Ages: 9-18

We are looking for Athletes & Coaches for the upcoming Tri-Ute Games to be held in Ignacio this year! Come and be a part of Team Southern Ute as a Player or Coach.

For more information or questions on Player/Coaches packets stop by the SunUte Community Center and/or contact the SunUte Recreation Team at 970-563-0214, Darnell x2667; Elijah x2655; Kelsey x2660 or Bird x2664.

"The Purpose of the Games is for Our Youth to Come Together, To Get to Know One Another, and to Foster Friendships between the Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe."



ELHI Community Center Ongoing and Upcoming Activities & Events April 2024

The ELHI Community Center (contact: 970-563-4100)

- La Plata Co. Health Dept. info & Narcan distribution: April 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (typically every Tuesday)
- Community Cleanup Event: Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
- Community-wide Yard Sale Event: booths available for \$25; set up 8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 18; event 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Free Food Mobile Market: May 22, 2 - 3 p.m.
- Free Food Mobile Market: June 12, 10 - 11 a.m.
- Rise & Shine Teamwork Tuesday - first Tuesday of every month (10% of sales support ELHI!)
- ELHI Board of Directors meeting - second Monday of every month

Dancing Spirit Community Arts Center (contact: 970-563-4600)

- Wheel Throwing Class: Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 p.m. (NO Class April 17th)
- Open Studio/Studio Membership: Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Intro to Clay and Hand building: Saturdays 1:30 - 3 p.m.
- Individual Wheel Throwing Instruction and Extra Clay are also available

HCCA (contact: 970-563-0692)

- Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser \$5/student, \$10/adult, Multi-Purpose Room: April 4, 4:30-5:45
- followed by the play, Three Trees - FREE to the public: April 4, 6 p.m.

HSC Training (contact: Cora, 970-903-4813)

- BLS/Heartsaver Skills Checks: Mondays, April 1 and 15, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Call or text to schedule)
- Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED In Person Certification Classes: NO Class in April - typically last Saturday of the month 9a.m. - 5 p.m. (Call or text to schedule)

Ignite Gymnastics (contact: 970-403-2636)

- *Registering new students at anytime*
- Classes Monday through Saturday, typically
- State meet - Platinum competition: April 5 - 7
- State meet - Gold competition: April 12 - 14
- Regionals meet? - cheer on all the gymnasts!: April 26 - 28
- Medal Count as of 3/10/24 (all levels): 26 Gold, 23 Silver and 34 Bronze. CONGRATS!

JT's Studio (contact: Jessica, 480-818-0779)

- Card making classes in Room 21, Mondays 2 - 6 p.m.

Pine River Shares (contact: 970-884-6040)

- FREE food distribution every 2nd Saturday of the month (next date: April 13, 11 a.m. - noon)

SASO (contact: raven@durangosaso.org)

- MMIR Awareness, Inspiration Square: April 22, 12 - 2 p.m.

SoCoCAA Youth Services (grades 6-12; contact: 970-759-2011)

- Ignacio Youth Services: Monday - Thursday, after school until 6 p.m.
- Friday activities

The Clothing Closet

- Open for FREE clothes shopping (for all ages) Tuesday & Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information contact the ELHI Community Center at 970-563-4100, or via the web at www.theelhignacio.org. ELHI is located at 115 Ute Street, Ignacio, CO, 81137



WILDFIRE ADAPTED PARTNERSHIP

Join us with Ryan Cook & Alex Graf from Wildfire Adapted Partnership, while we learn the latest strategies & techniques for protecting our homes and properties from the danger of wildfires.

April 11 at 6:00 p.m.



Southern Ute Indian Tribe

POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

Honoring our Tradition by Honoring our Children

Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) has been used for over 35 years and remains popular today because the teachings are timeless. Historically, we had rich teachings that helped children grow up safe with strong families. Colonization threatened those teachings—our Native families were being separated and traditional practices were at risk of being lost. PIP was developed in the 1980s to fill this void and was designed to help parents and families remember our traditional teachings and apply them in the modern world.

In part one of each session we will discuss examples of traditional practices and teachings from several different tribes. Instructors also share teachings from local areas and communities. Part two of each session discusses how to apply those teachings and values today. Complete all 8 sessions to receive a certificate.

WHERE: Online - Virtual sessions -

Download the "Microsoft Teams" App for access

WHEN: Tuesdays and Thursdays in May 2024

May 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th, and 30th

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Call or email Kellie at Southern Ute Division of Social Services to sign up

(970) 563-2337

kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov

APRIL ACTIVITIES

April 2, 2024

Movie Day - Durango
Van will depart Elder Services @ 1:00 p.m.

April 11, 2024

Casino - Towaoc
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

April 16, 2024

Movie Day - Durango
Van will depart Elder Services @ 1:00 p.m.

April 26 - 28, 2024

Elder's Trip to the Gathering of Nations Powwow
We have 8 rooms blocked for Elders who would like to book a room at the Hilton Garden Inn Uptown Albuquerque. Please call Elder Services for more information.

Call Elder Services @ 970-563-2309 to have your name added to the activities list or if you have any questions.

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Artificial Intelligence and your library

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

“This mission is too important to let you jeopardize it.” With these words the computer HAL explains his reason for preventing an astronaut from returning to the ship and for killing the crew of Discovery One in the 1968 movie, 2001 a Space Odyssey.

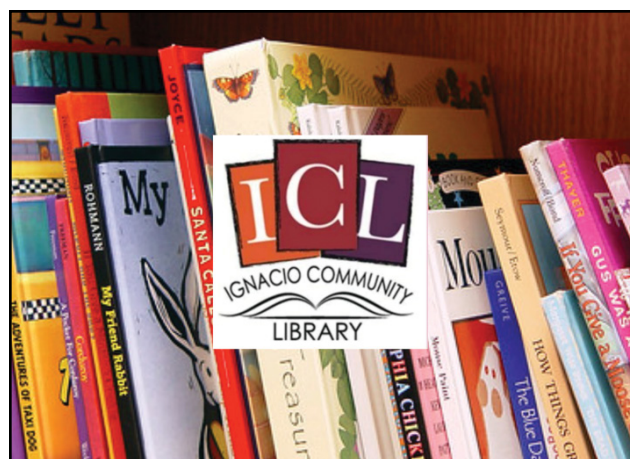
However, this is hardly the only example of computer intelligence wreaking havoc on their human creators. As far back as 1927, long before computers were even possible, the Movie Metropolis included a thinking robot (mobile computer) up to no good and this idea is visited again in a long list of popular movies that includes, Westworld, The Matrix, Terminator, Blade Runner, and even the accessible WALL-E, to name a few.

The point is, as humans, we seem to have a lot of anxiety about the machines we build.

Yet, it is not the machines themselves that we fear but the uncertainty of the outcome. Psychologists have long known through afflicting a series of slightly perverse experiments on humans that we have a great intolerance of uncertainty. Any ingredient of unpredictability greatly increases people’s discomfort. This is not a fault in the human condition but a direct result of evolutionary pressure through constantly trying to predict what will happen next and prepare in the most practical way possible. Unfortunately, this will often lead us to a decision that is more cautious than effective by having us choose to avoid the situation or if that is not possible, put us in a state of stressful arousal, ready to respond to the changing conditions.

Tools are instruments to make material changes on other objects. Whether this change is constructive or destructive is not generally the tool’s choice but that of the person wielding the tool. Many medieval battlefield weapons were agricultural implements not necessarily designed for the purpose but brutally effective, nonetheless.

As technology has progressed our tools have be-



come more complicated and now include many devices and machines to make our work less taxing and time-consuming. When I was in high school there was a lot of concern over the negative effects of using a calculator. As such we were not allowed use of this practical tool and my experience since those days has led me to believe that my education was diminished as a result of this cautious thinking.

Today the topic is Artificial Intelligence and tools such as writing and art generators are a major concern. A number of organizations reacted quickly, banning the use of AI, and were caught unaware of the ramifications as popular software started introducing AI assistants causing conflicts with students and employees using these programs. Also, the recent writer’s strike was largely over issues concerning the use of AI in media and movies. So, what are we to do with this new tool and how can we use AI-assisted technology to be more effective and productive?

First let’s be honest when we are using the tool. Just as handcrafted items may hold more value to some than machine created products, human produced writing holds more value to many people who have expressed that they are not interested in reading machine generated essays and articles. Also, AI has an invisible negative cost in the power and water that it consumes. It is estimated that a Chat GPT query uses 15% more energy than a similar google search.

Next, I suggest that we not fear AI, but learn to use this new tool in responsible ways. Just as we can decide whether or not to cut and paste, use the writing

prompts, or grammar correction in Word and Docs, we can edit generated writing to give it our authentic voice. A successful artist friend of mine has found that working with AI art has further opened his imagination and he feels it has sparked his creativity even after decades of working in the design and technology industry.

Just as a power tool can save time and energy as compared to a hand tool, generated writing and art can save time and make you more productive. Producing forms and letters, converting text to tables, writing code, and answering questions are all within the purview of these tools. Just make sure you check the information provided. AI programs often generate fictional citations and create images with nonsensical features.

Here at Ignacio Community Library, we are adopting a policy where we welcome the responsible use of AI-assisted technology, and to promote transparency and help set readers expectations, we require that any story created with AI-assisted technology be clearly labeled as such. When staff members are writing for the newsletter and newspaper you can rest assured that you are reading authentic human produced text.

New technologies are usually accompanied by fear and trepidation when introduced, only to become accepted and then crucial to our everyday lives. My great-grandparents would not have even noticed if the power went out. Today our world is paralyzed without it. It is my hope that AI-assisted technology will help us to solve our greatest problems and not just create more of them.

Visit to Phoenix printing press



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Drum Editor/Media Manager, Jeremy Wade Shockley views sheets of paper on the “web” as they rise through multi-colored presses during a visit to the Arizona Republic owned and operated by Gannett Co. On Tuesday, March 26 the Southern Ute Drum staff traveled to Phoenix, Ariz. to tour the Arizona Republic facility.

Arizona Republic staff view freshly printed newspapers, the employees pay close attention to the quality of print actively adjusting press settings as the papers move along the press.



ATTENTION

Pine River Irrigation Project

- **SPRING WATER USERS MEETING**
Sky Ute Casino • Wednesday, April 17, 2024 • 6 – 8 p.m.
- **DR. MORRISON (gradual turn-on) April 8**
- **BIA Ditches of Pine River Canal (turn on) April 22**

Branch of Irrigation, BIA, Southern Ute Agency
For more information call (970) 563-9484

2024 Annual Spring Clean-Up

April 15-19, 2024
By Appointment Only No pickups over the weekend or the week after.
Save the date! Fall Clean-up Oct 7-11, 2024!

Tribal Members, Tribal Departments, and any tenant of the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority. We will not pick up for non-tribal tenants living in Tribal Member owned rental homes. All pickups must be within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation only. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN ONE AREA and general trash **MUST BE BAGGED FOR PICK UP**. No Pickups will be made without prior scheduling with the homeowner or department. **APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

If you have tires, only 4 tires per household will be picked up. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** No semi-truck or heavy equipment tires accepted. We will not pull your trailer to the transfer station for you.

Tribal Elders: **Please contact Elder Services at (970) 563-2323** if you need help with bagging and piling of your trash.

All vehicle disposals please call **Building Maintenance at 970-563-0265.**

HAZARDOUS WASTE. If think your trash is hazardous waste, or you cannot identify the waste, please call **Environmental Programs at 970-563-2272.** If the pickup teams suspect that your trash may contain hazardous waste, or it is not identifiable, we will call Environmental Programs.

LARGE SITE or DANGEROUS or HAZARDOUS WASTE testing and cleanup will be completed at the **HOMEOWNER'S EXPENSE.** This will be on a case-by-case basis and scheduled dependent on program availability.

Areas of Operation

- Motor Pool, 970-563-0280, Tribal Member homes **west of the Pine River except those areas listed below.**
- Building Maintenance, 970-563-0265, Tribal Departments, **Tribal Member homes on Cr 314, Cr 315, Cr 316, and Cr 311 and ALL VEHICLES.**
- Grounds Maintenance, 970-563-0272, Tribal Departments, **Tribal Member homes located in Cedar Point East & West, Ignacio Peak and the La Boca area west of the Pine River, Tribal Member tenants of Quichas Apartments.**
- Construction Services, 970-563-0260, Tribal members within the **Town of Ignacio and Tribal Member homes east of the Pine River.**
- Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority, 970-563-4575, Southern Ute Housing Authority renters and Senior Center.

Southern Ute Property and Facilities, Tyson Thompson, 970-563-2945

Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP)

~MAY 2024 TRAININGS~

- **Microsoft Teams: May 13**
- **Microsoft Word: May 20 & 21**

Time: 9am – 5pm each day

Location: Southern Ute Growth Fund
14929 HWY 172
Ignacio, CO, 81137

Call: 970-563-5555 to sign up.

“Seating is limited and open to Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members. First 10 people to sign up and attend each training will receive a \$25 gift card”

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

The courses will provide you with the fundamentals of MS Teams & MS Word. Training is taught by San Juan College. If you attend any of our offered trainings, SUDEP has the desktop version of MS 365 which is available for you FREE to download.

NIGHT AT THE UTE INDIAN MUSEUM

Join the Cultural Preservation Department for a spectacular night at the Ute Indian Museum on **June 3rd-4th!**

History Colorado

Experience Ute culture with exciting activities including a Shavano Tour, hands-on crafts inspired by Ute traditions, and a museum scavenger hunt.

SLEEP IN A TIPI UNDER THE STARS

Open to the first ten (10) Tribal Members or first descendants ages 8-11 years old.
Application is due May 28th at 5:00 PM.

CAMPERS WILL NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN SLEEPING GEAR

To sign up contact Izabella Cloud:
(970)563-2984
icloud@southernute-nsn.gov



A salute to Vietnam Veterans



Southern Ute Veterans Association Commander, Howard D. Richards Sr. reflects on his time serving in the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam from Jan. 1 to Aug. 16 of 1969. Richards also took time to recognize all current and past members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association who fought in the Vietnam War.



Members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association, Bruce Valdez, Gordon Hammond, and Raymond Baker stand at attention as the national anthem is performed by Marlena Valdez on Friday, March 29.



Tara Vigil and her father Pete Vigil (Army) stand together for before the start of the Vietnam Veterans Day recognition held at the Southern Ute Veterans Park.

The Southern Ute Veterans Association hosted the formal Vietnam Veterans Day on Friday, March 29 at the Southern Ute Veterans Park. Southern Ute Veterans Association Commander, Howard D. Richards Sr. and Vietnam Combat Veteran Rod Grove served as the emcees for this year's event. Beginning with an invocation by Terry Knight, the event proceeded with performance of the national anthem by Marlena Valdez, honor songs by Yellow Jacket Singers, and closed with a presentation of "Taps" by Southern Ute Vietnam Veteran Ronnie C. Baker. The event brought local veterans, families, and tribal dignitaries together for this day of recognition and remembrance.



Little Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder carries the military burial flag for her grandfather Vietnam combat veteran, Ross Denny. Denny was a member of the Southern Ute Veterans Association and like other members of the association, his family received recognition during the event.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum

APRIL PROMOTIONS

RAINY DAY RICHES

WIN \$200 CASH ON FRIDAYS

FRIDAYS IN APRIL
2PM - 9PM

TAX DAY EARN & WIN

Win Up To \$100 Sky Ute Loot

APRIL 15TH
9AM - MIDNIGHT

HIGH FIVE HOT SEATS

Win \$55 Sky Ute Loot!

APRIL 18TH
5PM - 9PM

14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137 | skyutecasino.com

Disclaimer: Prizes are non-transferable. 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.

Share Your Story!

The Southern Ute Culture Center and Museum (SUCCM) is looking for Ute Tribal Members interested in sharing familial oral histories or information related to cradleboard making, the cultural significance, and the historical importance of the cultural item for an upcoming exhibit. If you are interested in participating and sharing your story and knowledge, please contact any of the following SUCCM staff members to learn more about the project.

- **Collections Manager, Tallias Cantsee**
970-563-2996, tcantsee@southernute-nsn.gov
- **Museum Education & Outreach Coordinator, Raelynn Frauenhoff**
970-563-2998, rfrauenhoff@southernute-nsn.gov
- **Museum Special Projects Support Staff Member, Rhonda Price**
970-563-2972, rprice@southernute-nsn.gov

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.

MEAL PLANNING WITH CONFIDENCE:

Learn to plan meals to save time and money and benefit your health!

Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Visit the library for this one-hour class where you can learn how to create a meal plan, gain access to helpful templates, and discover how to use available ingredients to cook once and eat twice or more. This class will equip you with the knowledge and skills to make meal planning a breeze!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE, IGNACIOLIBRARY.ORG, TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE

(970) 563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org | 470 Goddard Ave.



Easter egg-stravaganza!



The older group (9-14) race each other, trying to find the eggs that contain paper slips inside, which guarantee a prize.



BGC Site Director, Bruce LeClaire, along with his daughter Kaylyn LeClaire, help his grandson gather eggs during the 0-4 age group.

The Boys and Girls Club and the Southern Ute Police Department hosted the 2024 Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23 at SunUte Park in Ignacio. The Easter Bunny arrived in a Los Pinos fire truck to start off the community egg hunt at 10am. The event had 25,687 eggs for all age group hunts and the majority of the eggs were filled with prize slips to win prizes that were donated for the event.

Photos by Krista Richards
The Southern Ute Drum



Joe Howell and Aeden Richards help Avalina Frost gather eggs during the Easter Egg Hunt at the SunUte park.



Kids race off to gather as many eggs as they can during the Easter egg hunt for age group 5-8 in the SunUte baseball field.

Rep Wars 2.0

Bench Press and Deadlift IRM Challenge

Men's Divisions	Women's Divisions
164.9lbs & Under (SLW)	120lbs & Under (SLW)
165lbs-190lbs (LW)	121lbs-140lbs (LW)
191bs-220lbs (MW)	141lbs-160lbs (MW)
221-250lbs (HW)	161lbs-185lbs (HW)
251lbs+ (Open)	185lbs+ (Open)

Men's Senior (55+)	Women's Senior (55+)
Open Weight	Open Weight

Date: May 11th 2024
Weigh Ins: 7-9am
Lifters meeting: 9:45am
Lifting starts at 10am

*Optional pre-weigh in May 10th 1-5pm

Cost: \$20/Participant (Southern Ute Tribal Members Free)




For questions or more information, please contact:
Fitness Trainer - Jakob Box at (970)563-2658

Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 04/01/24

UPDATES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- MAY 27TH MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED
- JUNE 19TH JUNETEENTH — CLOSED
- JULY 4TH/ 5TH INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED
- SEPT. 2ND LABOR DAY — CLOSED
- OCT. 14TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 11TH VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 28TH THANKSGIVING — CLOSED
- DEC. 9TH/10TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
- DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY

Tribal Members: Pick up 2024 Trash Permits—call office or contact Mr. James Red at Transfer Station Ramp. Show Tribal ID.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8 AM to 5 PM
Lobby closed 12p -1p on Fridays

Reach a staff member by phone at (970) 563-5500

Friendly Reminders

- Questions on your bill? Need help setting up your online payments? Call us.
- Monthly Shut-offs are the first Wednesday of each month:
April 3rd/ May 1st / June 5th

Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments before 10am on Shut-off Day

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SPRING CLEANUP: April 15th—April 19th. Limit 4 tires per household. Tires cannot be on rims.
- Dump all tree/shrub branches at the Burn Pile
- Leave electronics, such as TV's, & radios at the ramp to be properly disposed
- Dumping old mattresses or appliances? Ask attendant for assistance.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.
PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio, CO 81137 (970) 563-5500 www.suitutil.com



'Days of Beauty' return to Fort Lewis College



Gourd dancers filled the Whalen Gymnasium ahead of each Grand Entry during the 58th Annual Hozhoni Days Powwow held at Fort Lewis College.



Southern Ute Veterans Association members Gordon Hammond, Bruce Valdez, and Raymond Baker bring in the colors during Grand Entry, Friday, March 29 at Fort Lewis College for the annual Hozhoni Days Powwow.



Host northern drum, Shiprock Agency sings during Grand Entry on Saturday, March 30 bringing in dancers of all ages and styles onto the floor of the Whalen Gymnasium.



Fort Lewis College President, Tom Stritikus gives a welcoming address to all singers, dancers, and visitors of the Hozhoni Days Powwow on Friday, March 29.

WANBLI O'TA CARRIES TRADITION • FROM PAGE 1

more with both vendors and attendees into something beautiful. "The vendors used to be in the gym and only one side of the bleachers was out, but now both sides of the bleachers are out – the vendors are in the Student Life Center."

Hozhoni Days is one of the powwows that Sage gets to reconnect with her family and friends, while seeing her fellow students participate in their Native culture.

Hozhoni Days has always been student organized from the very beginning. Clyde Benally, who is referred to as the "Father of Hozhoni Days," was asked by the college's Deans to come up with ideas to make Shalako Club more active for the students. Benally then came up with a week-long slate of activities including a multi-day powwow. That powwow was

then named Hozhoni Days, and the name "Hozhoni" comes from a roughly translated Diné (Navajo) term for "beauty." As the years went on, Shalako Club then changed the club's name to what is now known as Wanbli O'ta back in 1991. Wanbli O'ta means "many eagles" in the Lakota language.

The students in the Wanbli O'ta club have done a fantastic job bringing the community together to celebrate Native culture by organizing different dance category competitions, drum contests, and inviting local vendors. Vice President of Diversity Affairs, Heather Shotton, along with President Stritikus, are both proud of this club and the students who participate. "Our students are amazing, and it's student led because our students

are leaders," Stritikus said. Hozhoni Days is one of the longest-running powwows in the Four Corners, and it's not surprising since Wanbli O'ta puts so much thought and care into this multi-day event each year. Even with how much the powwow has grown over the years, it has never failed to make everyone feel welcomed.

Hozhoni Days welcomes everyone to enjoy the events and contests, even if you are not Native American. The MC (Master of Ceremony) shares stories and information about the powwow and you can learn a lot from them. Wanbli O'ta encourages students and community members to come out and experience the Hozhoni Days Powwow – hoping participants learn about Native American culture, ask questions, and participate.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute Brave Alternate, Theoden Greany welcomes his fellow royalties and all visitors with a welcome on Friday, March 29 at the Whalen Gymnasium.



Dance contestants from near and far gather to compete inside the Skyhawk's home gymnasium, dancers from many Native nations showcased their best moves and handmade regalia during this annual celebration.



Jr. Boys Southern Straight dancer, Pricey Cozad competes on Friday, March 29 during the 58th Annual Hozhoni Days Powwow.



ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Autumn Sage

Miss Southern Ute

Maykh,
My name is Autumn Sage, and I am the 2023-2024 Miss Southern Ute.

My Ute name is Pachukwi (River Otter), I am 19 years old, and I graduated from Ignacio High School. My parents are Roger Sage Jr. and Lynnette Sage. My paternal grandparents are Roger Sage (Christine Baker Sage) and the late Vera Mae Cuthair. My maternal grandparents are the late Leonard C. Burch and the late Irene C. Burch.

So far into my Reign as Miss Southern Ute it has been an honor to represent the Southern Ute Tribe at many different Events and Powwows, also being able to meet many different people at all of the events I have attended and I will continue to do my best as being Miss Southern Ute and representing the Tribe at the different events in the future.

This is my second quarterly report and I want to inform the Southern Ute Tribal membership on the events and powwow I have attended from last year in December into the new year from January and February.

December 2023

- Dec. 1: Attended the End of Term Celebration for Chairman Melvin Baker and Council Members Linda Baker and Dr. Stacy Oberly.
- Dec. 2: I was a part of the 1st annual Sky Ute Casino Christmas Tree lighting ceremony.
- Dec. 2: Participated in a Round Dance hosted by the Durango Native American Education Program at the Durango High School in their Aux Gym.
- Dec. 16: The Southern Ute Royalty greeted the Tribal Membership and visitors at the Tribal Christmas dinner. We also helped serve and carry plates for elders.
- Dec. 16: Watched the SUIMA Christmas Program
- Dec. 18: Attended the Inauguration Ceremony for Chairman Melvin Baker and Council Member Marty Pinnecoose
- Dec. 22: Attended the Christmas Sit Chat and Chew sponsored by Tribal Council located at the Multi-Purpose.
- Dec. 24: Attended a Christmas Eve Powwow held at the Ute Mountain Rec. Center in Towaoc, Colo.
- Dec. 31: Participated welcoming in the New Year at the New Year's Eve Celebration at the



Autumn Sage
Miss Southern Ute
2023-2024

Multipurpose.

January 2024

- Jan. 13: Attended the Multi-Purpose Community Powwow
- Jan. 19: Opened for the SUIMA talent show at the SunUte Rec Center
- Jan. 19: Attended the Sit Chat and Chew for January
- Jan. 22 and 29: Attended and told stories at the Story Telling located Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum

February 2024

- Feb. 5: Took part in telling one of the Dine cultural stories at the last Ute Story telling at the Southern Ute Museum.
- Feb. 9: Participated in giving out Valentines gifts to the Tribal Community at the Sit Chat and Chew
- Feb. 10: Participated the February Community Powwow hosted at the Multi-Purpose and was also asked to be Head Lady for the Powwow
- Feb. 26: I took part in an interview with Native Lens to which Royalties interviews would be used to create a film directed by the Native Lens members and the film would be displayed at the Durango film festival.

I have had a wonderful time representing the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and pledge to always respect my crown as Miss Southern Ute. I have met some great people and had a great time attending the different events. I would like to thank the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, my fellow Royalty members, and my family for helping me fulfill my duties. I hope to have many more great moments at all the upcoming events and powwows.

Tog'oiak'
Autumn Sage
Miss Southern Ute
2023-2024

ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Maleina Carel

Jr. Miss Southern Ute

My name is Maleina Carel and I'm currently the Jr. Miss Southern Ute for 2023- 2024. I am 16 years old and in the 10th grade. My bands are Mouache-Capote and Weeminuche. My maternal grandparents are Hardy Joy Sr. and the late Anna Weaver. My great grandparents on my paternal side are James Price Sr. and Linda Lopez of Towaoc, Colo. My paternal grandparents are the late Vernest Carel and Marlene Price Carel. My parents are Marie Joy (Carel) and Vern Carel. I have an older sister, Rhianna Carel and I currently serve on the Powwow Committee.

I would like to share my quarterly report of the events that I have attended and participated in so far this year.

December 2023

I attended the End of Term Celebration for Council members Dr. Stacy Oberly and Linda Baker and for Chairman Melvin J. Baker, the inauguration ceremony for the newly elected council member Andrew Gallegos, the Southern Ute Tribal Christmas Dinner, the inauguration ceremony for the newly elected Chairman Melvin J. Baker and Tribal Council member Marty Pinnecoose.

January 2024

- Jan. 13: Community Powwow at the Multi-Purpose Facility in Ignacio, where I did my introduction and welcomed everyone to the powwow.
- Jan. 19: Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy talent show, I participated in dancing and did an introduction to welcome everyone that was there.
- Jan. 22: Storytelling at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. I shared a story about the Bear Dance.

February 2024

- Feb. 5: Story telling at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. I shared a story about the Ute Creation story told by the late Alden Naranjo egap.
- Feb. 9: I participated in dancing and did an introduction at the Jicarilla Day Powwow in Dulce, N.M.
- Feb. 10: I attended the Sweetheart Powwow at the Multi-Purpose Facility here in Ignacio. I participated in the two-step contest with my dancing



Maleina Carel
Jr. Miss Southern Ute
2023-2024

partner Glen Garcia and we took second place. I also participated in the potato dance with my sister Rhianna Carel and we won first place. That was a fun powwow and I really enjoyed myself.

- Feb. 26: We were asked to do an interview by Native Lens Media Fellowship for their short film and short story. They wanted royalty to share their experiences as Tribal Royalty so it may inspire and be educational for the younger people. It was an honor and a fun experience to be interviewed. I enjoyed sharing the things that I know about our culture and my past and present experience of representing as royalty.

My last event that I want to include was on March 2nd – the viewing of the film at the Durango Arts Center located in Durango, Colo. It was exciting to watch the film and see myself on the big screen. This is something that I will always remember, and I would like to thank the following group that worked with us: Sommer Lopez, Elyse Frederick's, Tony Tolino and Evan Smith, also Kree Lopez, I was glad that she was there during my interview. I was very nervous but just having someone I know there really made it much more comfortable for me to talk and feel at ease. They all did a great job!

This concludes my travels and events for my quarterly report. I hope you all enjoyed reading about my participation in the past events that I was invited to attend.

Happy Ute New Year to the membership and I'm looking forward to seeing you as we all gather to celebrate during the Bear Dance.

Tog'oiok,
Maleina J. Carel
Junior Miss Southern Ute
2023-2024

ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Shayne White Thunder

Little Miss Southern Ute

Mique Nuchu,

My name is Shayne Morning Star White Thunder. My Ute name is Tomesi'iru "Winter Rose." My grandmother Mikki gave me that name because I was born in winter and the rose signifies our people. My Cheyenne name is Azem'heh "Rearing Woman." I am named after my Nishgit (grandma) Bobbie. I am the current 2023-2024 Little Miss Southern Ute.

I am 10 years old, and I attend school at Florida Mesa Elementary in Durango, Colo. in the fourth grade. My mother is Heather White Thunder, and my father is Seth Roubideaux. My paternal grandmother is Mikki Naranjo, and my great-grandparents are the late Eugene Naranjo and the late Dixie Naranjo. My maternal grandparents are Bobbie White Thunder from El Reno, Okla. and the late Ross Denny. I come from the Moache-Capote bands and I'm a descendent of Buckskin Charlie. I am also Cheyenne and Arapaho from my mother's side.

I like to read, play video games, draw/paint, play basketball, and I am learning how to bead and sew. I enjoy representing the Southern Ute Tribe and I continue to learn every day.

The following are events that I have attended and participated in this quarter:

December 2023

- Dec. 1: Attended a Tribal Council event that recognized council members who concluded their terms.
- Dec. 2: Attended the First Annual Christmas Tree lighting at the Casino.
- Dec. 2: Attended and danced at the Durango



Shayne White Thunder
Little Miss Southern Ute
2023-2024

School Round Dance.
• Dec. 16: Represented at the Eugene White Thunder descendants benefit dance in Concho, Okla.

January 2024

- Jan. 13: Attended and danced at the January community powwow.
- Jan. 19: Represented and danced for SUIMA students at the SUIMA talent show.
- Jan. 22 & 29: Attended and told stories at the Ute storytelling events.

February 2024

- Feb. 10: Attended and danced at the February community powwow.
- Feb. 27: I did an interview with Native Lens for Royalty to be featured in a film.

I have enjoyed attending different events and traveling to represent the Southern Ute Tribe and meeting new people. I am excited to attend upcoming events.

Tog'oiak'
Shayne Morning Star
White Thunder
Little Miss Southern Ute
2023-2024

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

Poster Art Contest

Deadline: June 14th

Must be enrolled member of a Federally recognized tribe.



+ NATIVE LOVE 2ND ANNUAL INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW
Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum 08/09/24



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Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box

Sky Ute Casino, Event Center

Thursday, May 16, 2024

9:00am-12:00pm

Everyone Welcome!!

Questions Contact:
Sherisa Valdez
shvaldez@southernute-nsn.gov
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2024

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SHIRTS & SKIRTS WORKSHOP

Classes will be held in the **SUCCM Craft Room**.
Mondays 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
First class expected to start April 15th.
Open to 6 participants.
Due to limited sewing machines.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
WILLETTE THOMPSON
970-317-8784 | BOBCATWWS@GMAIL.COM
IZABELLA CLOUD
970563-2984 | I.CLOUD@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV

ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Henry Whiteskunk II

Southern Ute Brave

Myhke Nuuchiu,
Greetings to the Tribal membership and all Indian Country!

Hello, my Name is Henry Elkriver Whiteskunk II. I am the Southern Ute Brave for 2023-2024. I'm 16 years old and I am a sophomore at Ignacio High School. My Ute name is Supurnay. Whiteskunk.

My parents are Henry Whiteskunk and Daisy House Eagle. My paternal grandparents are Willette Thompson and the late Edward Whiteskunk. My maternal grandparents are Linda Eagle and Bradley Hight. My great paternal grandparents are the late Doris Red and William Thompson. My great maternal grandparents are the late Clifford & Annabell Eagle.

I have attended the following events for this quarter:

December 2023

- I applied to be on the Wildlife Youth Advisory Board for the alternate position for the Southern Ute Tribe. I was accepted into the position this month.
- Dec 1: I attended the lighting of the tree at the Casino.
- Dec.10: I participated in the Christmas Hand game tournament in Towaoc, Colo. My team took first place! At the time I was also gifted three sets of hand game sticks from various people.
- Dec. 24: I was asked to be Head Man at the Christmas Powwow in Towaoc, Colo. I was very honored to be taking on that role.
- Dec. 31: I attended the New Year's Eve Celebration held at the Multi-Purpose facility.

January 2024

- Jan. 13: I was asked to be



Henry Whiteskunk II
Southern Ute Brave
2023-2024

Head Man for the Community Powwow at the Multi-Purpose. Thank you to Elise and her staff for allowing me to take this role on.

- Jan. 19: Royalty was the opening act for the talent show hosted by SUIMA.

February 2024

- Feb. 2-10: I attended the Valentine's Day powwow at the Multi-Purpose.
- Feb. 24: I attended the Awareness Powwow held in Alamosa, Colo. I was also Head Man for this powwow.
- Feb. 26: I along with my fellow royalty members did interviews for Native Lens media.

This concludes my report for this quarter. I'd like to thank Ruth Horn of the San Luis Valley Indian Center. Ute Mountain Ute Royalty and Rayyni Badback. Elise Red and the Multi-Purpose staff and the powwow volunteers.

Thank you all for allowing me to represent the Southern Ute Tribe as Head Man for these past powwows.

Tiivüchi Togwayok(a)
Henry Whiteskunk II
Southern Ute Brave
2023-2024

SOUTHERN UTE BEAR DANCE POWWOW

MAY 24 + 25, 2024

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT, IGNACIO, CO

INFORMATION: TARA VIGIL: 970-799-0615 or
VALERIE ARMSTRONG: 970-317-3585
VENDOR INFO: 970-563-3000 EXT. 1759

ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Theoden Greany

Southern Ute Brave Alternate

My name is Theoden Greany. I am the 2023-2024 Southern Ute Brave Alternate. I am five years old; I proudly attend the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy. My mother is Dominika Joy, my father is Bryan Greany. My siblings are Starlitt Greany and Mykel-Zain Greany.

My maternal Grandmother is Ella-Marie Ramos. My paternal Grandfather is the late Clifton "Butch" Greany Jr. My maternal Great Grandparents are the late great Anna L. Weaver, and Hardy Joy. My Paternal Great Grandparents are Clifton Greany Sr. and Hazel Greany.

My father's lineage comes from the Southern Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes from El Reno, Okla.

Some of my hobbies include round dancing with my grandma, working out, fishing, riding my scooter/skateboard, going to the movie theater, and traveling.

Here is a list of all the events and performances I have had the privilege to be a part of thus far:

January 2024

- I attended the Mile High New Year's Eve Celebration Powwow in Denver. Where I placed 1st in a Boys Youth Enrichment Special, 1st in a switch dance special and round danced the new year in with my family.
- I attended and participated in all SUIMA Eagle Wing drum practices for the month of January.
- Jan. 13: I attended and participated in the MPF Community Powwow. Where I placed in the Head Lady – Miss Indian New Mexico Kelsey Quintana – Special.
- Jan. 19: I did a Fancy Dance performance alongside Southern Ute Brave Henry Whiteskunk II at the SUIMA 1st annual Talent Show. I also participated in the talent show by showcasing my athleticism by completing 10 incline push-ups and 26 chin ups.

February 2024

- I attended and participated in all SUIMA Eagle Wing drum practices for



Theoden Greany
Southern Ute Brave Alternate
2023-2024

the month of February.

- Feb. 9: I attended the MPF Sip, Chat, and Chew, where I handed out my special valentines to those who attended.
- Feb. 9 and 10: I attended and participated throughout both days at the Jicarilla Day Powwow.
- Feb. 14: I attended and participated in the Valentines Day Round dance in Towaoc, Colo.
- Feb. 17: I attended and participated in the 13th Annual AIPAC Powwow in Thorton, Colo. Where I placed 3rd in a Jr Boys Combined Special.
- Feb. 26: I participated in an interview for a film by Native Lens.
- Feb. 27: I attended "The Powwow Circle: Creating a Shared space built on trust and Collaboration" which featured Tribal Council Member Marty Pinnecose at Fort Lewis College.

March 2024

- Mar. 2 and 3: I attended and participated in the Apache Gold Powwow in San Carlos, Ariz. I had so much fun at this powwow!
- Mar. 6: I attended a special meeting with fellow royalty members and Tribal Council.
- Mar. 9: I attended and participated in the MPF Community Powwow.

I'm looking forward to attending many more events in the future and I hope that you are all doing well.

Tog'oiak'
Theoden Greany
Southern Ute Brave Alternate
2023 – 2024

Nagha'napu WORKSHOP

FRIDAY
April 19th, 2024
5:30pm - 7:30 pm

SATURDAY
April 20th, 2024
10:00am - 3:00 pm

CRAFT ROOM AT SUCCM

OPEN TO 6 PARTICIPANTS
DUE TO LIMITED SEWING MACHINES

To register, contact:
Izabella Cloud | icloud@southernute-nsn.gov

For questions, contact:
Willette Thompson
970-317-8784 | bobcatwws@gmail.com

Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department

NÚU'APAGHATU PӨ'ӨGHANI TAVĀY

PHOTO CREDITS: FABIAN MARTINEZ | SU.DRUM

Classes will be held **Wednesdays** in the **Library** at SUCCM from **5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**.
Lesson plans will include topics of the sound system, numbers, colors, phrases, conversation, etc.
Refreshments will be provided.

FIRST CLASS EXPECTED TO START APRIL 17TH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Willette Thompson
970-317-8784
bobcatwws@gmail.com

Izabella Cloud
970-536-2984
icloud@southernute-nsn.gov



STATE OF COLORADO

Ignacio Mayor Clark Craig earns Republican Assembly nomination

Heads to ballot as State House District 59 Representative

Staff report

REPUBLICAN HOUSE DISTRICT 59

It is with great honor that the Republican Party House District 59 Officers and team announce Clark Craig as the Republican nominee for State House District 59 Representative to the primary ballot June 2024.

The Republican House District 59 Assembly was held on March 23, at 11:30 a.m. at the VFW Hall - 1550 Main Ave, Durango, Colo. The delegates to that assembly nominated and designated Clark Craig of Ignacio, Colo.

Craig has a commitment to our community's prosperity and values and stands ready to serve as our voice in the State legislature. He brings a wealth of leadership experience, with the skills and determination to effectively advocate for our district's needs and priorities at the state level.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Clark Craig was elected Mayor of the Town of Ignacio in 2022. Before this, he served as chair of the Town of Ignacio Planning Commission. He is the Vice Chair of the La Plata County Planning Commission, President of the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the Ignacio Community Library.

Craig is a graduate of Durango High School

and completed his Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. He held various leadership positions in Oil and Gas Information Technology and Production Automation for nearly 25 years. These different roles took him, his wife, and three children to several states including New Mexico, Texas, and Okla-

homa, including a short five-year assignment in Alberta, Canada.

Craig and his wife, Sharon returned to Southwest Colorado in 2016 and are co-owners of Meadow Brook Mobile Home Park in Ignacio, Colo. After serving the local community, they have accepted the challenge to run for Colorado House District 59 in November 2024.

Multi-Purpose Facility April Quilt & Sewing Class



Tuesday -Thursday April 9 - 11, 2024

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Plumage Mini Quilt

Beginner & Intermediate Beginner

Call Elise to sign up & get supply list 970-563-2641

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



Multi-Purpose Facility Traditional Sewing and Beading



April 16 - 18, 2024

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday & Thursday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Call Elise to sign up & get supply list 970-563-2641

Beaded Shawl Pins,

Supply list: size 11 beads, beading needles, thread, wax

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



Multi-Purpose Facility April Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday April 6, 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



Multi-Purpose Facility April Elder Craft Day



Wednesday April 15, 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 APRIL SIP, CHAT & CHEW

Friday April 19, 2024 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



The Dinner is open to members of the 3 Ute Tribes, and their families, all ages are invited.

Door Prize donations are appreciated.



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

Multi - Purpose Facility April 2024 Events

Indoor Yard Sale—Saturday April 6, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Quilting Class—Tuesday— Thursday April 9—11, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Elder Craft Day Wednesday April 15, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Traditional Beading & Sewing—Tuesday—Thursday April 16—18

Day Sessions - 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Evening Sessions Wed & Thurs. 5:30 PM—7:30 PM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday April 19, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Special Events

MPF Food Sale—Wednesday April 17, 11:30 AM—2:30 PM

Youth Craft Day—Saturday April 20, 2024 10:00 AM—2:30 PM

Shining Mountain Diabetes Healthy Cooking & Passover Foods

Tuesday April 22, 10:30 AM—1:00 PM

Shawl Making Class—Tuesday April 30, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Classes are open to the public—call to sign -up & for a supply list

Events are subject to change—please check Social Media or call the MPF



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



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Corey Gomez, center, reacts with parents Chandel (left) and Miguel to a joke made Thursday, March 28, during a ceremony inside the IHS Gymnasium commemorating his decision to continue his student-athlete career – in both cross-country and track-and-field – at the NCAA level for Division III member Lake Forest (Ill.) College.

IGNACIO BOBCATS

Gomez a-goin' to Illinois

Senior now a two-sport college commit

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

One Colorado product appeared on Lake Forest College's men's cross-country roster in 2023.

One was all it took to apparently convince the coaching staff that they needed another.

Never relied upon to be the No. 1 runner at 5A Regis Jesuit in Aurora before graduating in Spring '21, Bart Brophy will begin his senior year as a Forester having been named LFC's Most Valuable Performer in 2022 as a sophomore, and also having logged the program's fastest race time in three years this past fall as a junior.

And ready to learn from the unquestioned leader in Fall 2024 will be 2A Ignacio's Corey Gomez. Accompanied by family and seated at a table inside IHS Gymnasium before coaches, friends, school personnel and other backers, the senior made known Thursday afternoon, March 28, his confirmed intent to attend the Lake Forest, Ill., school and compete on its cross-country and track-and-field teams.

"To be that far from home, but to just be somewhere new, have my own opinions and thoughts without family and friends ... influencing everything

... It's very nerve-wracking, but I'm very excited," Gomez said. "I'm excited to having committed. The transition to that next level of education and athletics ... it's going to be a big step, but the people that I met there made me feel very welcome. That definitely helps."

"I have had the pleasure to coach Corey the last three years – this is going to be our fourth year," IHS Boys' Track & Field head coach Alfonso 'Ponch' Garcia said. "I'm so happy and proud that he's going to go to college – and do some running, take advantage of what he's done at our school."

"And if Corey thinks it's going to be good for him, I believe it's going to be good for him," said a smiling Karri McCarter, Ignacio Cross-Country's head coach the past two seasons. "Because in all this he found self-confidence, and ... so I hope the distance and the hard work – and the education he's going to get – just continues to grow that confidence."

With this fall marking the 50th anniversary of its joining the Midwest Conference (formerly Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference, established in 1921 and called such until the 1994-95 academic year), Lake Forest will clad Go-

mez in Ignacio-esque red-and-black as the squad hopes to improve its standing within the MWC.

Under second-year boss Patrick Austin in 2023, LFC's men finished eighth out of nine teams at the MWC Cross-Country Championships held in Grinnell, Iowa, and won by host Grinnell College. (Prior to the COVID-canceled 2020 campaign, Lake Forest had ranked third in conference four of the pandemic-preceding six seasons.) Two weeks later the Foresters ended their season 31st out of 31 at the NCAA Div. III Midwest Regional in Waverly, Iowa.

With Wartburg College hosting that particular 8-kilometer race, Brophy finished a team-leading 153rd overall but clocked 27 minutes, 59.5 seconds – more than 26 ticks quicker than his team-best, 45th-place time at the MWCs.

Lake Forest's best result came in Wisconsin at Beloit College's Olde English (featuring creek crossings, plus jumps consisting of logs and hay bales) Race, where LFC – paced by Brophy's sixth-place 29:54.1 – finished third but ahead of the meet-hosting Buccaneers, who did not have enough entries to score as a team.

Gomez page 7



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Seated second from right, Ignacio's Solymar Cosio revealed Thursday, March 28, that she'll be continuing her student-athlete volleyball career at NAIA member Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan. Amongst those inside IHS Gymnasium to witness the announcement were (from left) mother Gina, father Oscar and IHS Volleyball head coach Jennifer Seibel.

BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL

With Heart and 'Sol'

Benedictine to benefit from Cosio's declaration

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Benedictine College may not have landed a more enthusiastic recruit during the past couple weeks than Solymar Cosio. She was interested, contact was established, information/statistics/video exchanged, an offer was made ... and BOOM! Just like that, the Ravens scored a middle blocker eager to progress on multiple levels.

"I went on a youth travel group there last summer ... and it just kind of helped me realize that it was such an awesome place to grow my faith," Cosio noted. "And right after I decided in my heart that I was ready to go to Benedictine, they offered me a position ... on their volleyball team.

That was my last, like, sign that I was ready."

"I love sports so much, and I'm so excited to go to a college that I love – I know I'll love being there and love playing volleyball too," she said, after being saluted before family, friends, coaches, teammates and supporters Thursday afternoon, March 28, for signing paperwork to become a BC student-athlete this fall. "And being back in this gym for, like, one last 'little' thing ... I want to thank everyone that's had a part in helping me become such an athlete; I'm just over-filled with joy. I just feel very blessed for all the experiences that I've had."

Under third-year head coach Victoria Hurtt (now 51-39 overall at BC), a former NCAA Div. I play-

er at Iowa State University, Benedictine – located roughly 45 minutes north-west of Kansas City, Kan., in iconic aviator Amelia Earhart's hometown of Atchison – finished a solid 21-9 overall in 2023 after reaching the NAIA National Tournament for the first time in program history, but failing to advance into the 24-team pool-play phase or beyond.

Finishing 10-3 upon Dugan Jones Court inside Ralph Nolan Gymnasium, and posting a 12-5 mark in Heart of America Athletic Conference play, the Ravens' historic season was cut short by an 18-25, 21-25, 6-25 loss to Park University in the Heart tournament's semifinals, and then a 25-23,

Heart page 7



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Standing between Trinity Baptist College Volleyball head coach Carlin Poyner (left) and Ignacio High School Volleyball head coach Jennifer Seibel, IHS senior Kacey Brown displays her National Letter-of-Intent committing her to become a TBC (located in Jacksonville, Fla.) student-athlete. Brown signed the document Tuesday afternoon, March 26, at a ceremony inside IHS Gymnasium.

IGNACIO BOBCATS

Eastbound and 'Brown'

Ignacio senior taking v-ball skills to Florida

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

The structure appeared sound. Until she learned its foundation was compromised. So seriously, in fact, that to Kacey Brown it couldn't be brought satisfactorily up to code.

And when things began crumbling in Creston, Iowa, for NICAA Div. II member Southwest Community College's volleyball program, Brown started examining alternate blueprints for where she'd begin her post-Ignacio life – and perhaps continue her student-athlete career.

"I was pretty set, but then there was some stuff with that school that wasn't going good ... and then the coaches quit," Brown recalled after fully committing inside IHS Gymnasium Tuesday after-

noon, March 26, to her approved Plan B. "I still had a scholarship and everything, but I didn't want to go unless it was for those same coaches. And I ended up finding a way better place, so it worked out great."

A place not in America's Heartland, but mere minutes away from its Atlantic Coast.

Known for versatility which enabled her to play during her Volleycat career as a libero, defensive specialist, setter, and – in 2023 – middle blocker, Brown officially inked her National Letter-of-Intent to study at and play for Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Fla. And, along with a couple additional TBC Volleyball representatives, making the trip to La Plata County for the occasion was Eagles head coach Carlin Poyner.

"Just to be here and ex-

perience everything around the area, meet the community and be a part of it ... I know it's only been a few days that we've been here, but it's been so welcoming and I'm so excited to be able to bring girls who are from a town or an area that is so welcoming," said the second-year skipper, hired as such not long after she graduated the school in Spring '23.

"And Kacey, in meeting her family and talking just about her character and family culture ... we're really excited to have that brought into our program," she continued. "I think that was one of the strongest points made about Kacey, was her work ethic. And I'm very excited about someone who's willing to do what they need to do, to be the best that they can be. Anything she tries and puts

Taking it to the mat at State!



photos Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Escalante Middle School eighth grader and Southern Ute tribal member, Keelyn Reynolds takes a quick glance at her coaches during wrestling action. Reynolds defeated her opponent earning a win to take fifth place in the 116 lb. girls' weight class, during the Colorado State Middle School Wrestling Championships in the National Western Sports Complex in Denver, Colo, March 22 and 23. Reynolds finished the two-day tourney with a 4-2 record. Escalante had five wrestlers place in the championships.

Ignacio Middle School eighth Grader and Southern Ute tribal member, Neki Box has his hand raised in victory in early action. Other Bobcats seeing action during the championships were, Darren Brunson, Tytan Loudenburg, and older brother Zach Loudenburg.



BOBCATS GIRLS SOCCER

IHS girls forfeit first league match

CB refuses to face depleted Lady 'Cats

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Undermanned, but eager enough to begin 2A Intermountain-South play on their home pitch, the Ignacio Lady Bobcats ultimately had no opponent at high noon Saturday, March 30.

And though defending league champion Crested Butte Community School's unwillingness to make the long trip south through the mountains if it meant playing anything less than 11-v-11 soccer could be, logistically speaking, considered understandable. Pressing IHS – which could still have had nine or ten Lady 'Cats in uniform – into forfeiting, rather than agree on an alternative time/place (even on neutral ground in, say, Montrose) in the near future, seemed presumptuous if not petty.

Granted, falling on their collective sword may have proved the least painful option for Ignacio, likely to have been bent over the blade by the red-hot Lady Titans – off to a 5-1 overall start, and standing 1-0 in league via a 'home' win in Gunnison over Telluride at Western Colorado University's snow-free Katy O. Rady Field. But to first-year IHS skipper Tori Burch and her team, filled with new faces in 2024 after Commencement '23 hit the program hard, any game action – even against an on-paper power – is valuable action, irreplaceable if lost.

As of press time Monday,



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

With Bayfield's Genesis Barrera (7) closely observing, Ignacio sophomore goalkeeper Bella Lorenzini saves both a shot taken by, and the leg of BHS' Hailey Robinette during non-league action Tuesday afternoon, March 26, at IHS Field. The rebuilding Lady 'Cats lost 9-0 to the Lady Wolverines.

April 1, there was no word on any reconciliation and/or possible reschedule date – leaving the Lady Bobcats standing 0-3 overall, 0-1 in league prior to their trip Thursday, April 4, to Del Norte. Blasted 8-0 at Bayfield (3-0, 1-0 3A Southwestern) on the 1st in a last-minute schedule add for BHS, the Lady Tigers stood 0-4, 0-1 prior to the 4:30 p.m. kickoff. Results were unavailable at press time.

After returning from the San Luis Valley, Ignacio will then travel westward on the 5th for a 2 p.m. start at Montezuma-Cortez (0-3, 0-1 3A Southwestern), then pause from play until hosting 3A Pagosa Springs on the 16th at 4:30 p.m. IHS' journey to Crested Butte – the Lady Bobcats' probable season finale – is presently set for Saturday, May 4, with kickoff targeted for 12 p.m.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio Baseball head coach Isiah Valdez (holding bat) and the Bobcats recorded their first win of the 2024 season Saturday, March 30, at home against Del Norte. IHS split the non-league doubleheader with DNHS, winning 4-2 but then losing 16-10.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

Bobcats book first victory

IHS halves home pair with Del Norte

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Trained wildlife biologists probably even struggle differentiating tigers based solely on their stripes.

And after facing the hungry Aztec, N.M., Tigers Friday afternoon, March 29, the Ignacio Bobcats may have hoped in-state Del Norte's Tigers would be somewhat tamer the next day after making the long drive west from Rio Grande County ... but definitely knew they, too, would follow their own carnivorous instinct.

Again defending their own den, the 'Cats came ready for battle and, after being dealt a 14-5 defeat by AHS – a New Mexico Ac-

tivities Association Class 4A crew at the time playing their 16th game this spring while IHS (CHSAA Class 2A) was in action for just the second time – returned to work on the 30th at noon and at last logged Win No. 1 in the 2024 baseball season.

First-year head coach Isiah Valdez's pitching depth was truly tested and taxed considering Ignacio was to have played four games in five calendar days, but the Bobcats took the first half of the doubleheader 4-2. The 2A Tigers, however, licked their wounds enough to claim the closing contest 16-10 – thanks to an eight-run sixth inning erasing IHS' 8-7 advantage. Individual statistics for both teams had

not been reported as of press time Monday, April 1.

Making their '24 diamond debut even later than the 'Cats, DNHS nonetheless improved to 1-1 overall prior to beginning 2A/1A Southern Peaks League work Saturday, April 6, with two games at 2A Trinidad.

Presently slated to visit the Miners on the 20th, Ignacio (1-3 overall) will next play at 3 p.m. Monday, April 8, at 4A Kirtland, N.M., Central, with the Broncos (2-6 as of 4/1) scheduled to have played four games – three away from home – in the days leading up to IHS' arrival. The Bobcats' first 2A/1A San Juan Basin game will be a single on the 12th at 1A Nucla.

HEART AND 'SOL' • FROM PAGE 17

11-25, 25-12, 8-25, 7-15 loss at University of Jamestown (N.D.; 2022 NAIA National Champion) inside a nervous Harold Newman Arena in the Nationals' 48-team opening round.

Recruited as a front-row force, Cosio realized she'll have to show and prove to earn court time for such a squad – set to graduate both a First Team and a Second Team All-Conference pick – but expressed readiness to go for each minute, not unlike the drive which helped her power Ignacio to a 21-8 finish and CHSAA Class 2A State Championships appearance in '23.

"In the NAIA they definitely stress ... not sitting on the bench – that's why (teams) have a JV and a varsity," she said. "And there's a lot of JV teams in (Benedictine's) area. They want to play as a middle on their JV team? Improve on

your skills, you never know where you could end up!"

Cosio credited current IHS head coach Jennifer Seibel with putting her over the top in terms of favoring volleyball over basketball – in which she was recently named Honorable Mention All-3A for the '23-24 campaign.

"She was kind of a little bit shocked that I wasn't going to play basketball!" Cosio recalled, accompanied by an amazed laugh. "She really instilled that new love of volleyball – like she did in middle school – with me, and just made me fall back in love with the sport this year. And that's why I took no second (thought) to go play volleyball."

"I love both sports so much and I've put so much time in. She and (IHS assistant coach) Cloe Vallejo have just helped me grow so much as an athlete and to

want to keep improving." Academically, Cosio sounded as though she'd already commenced her studies.

"I'm interested in being an athletic trainer or a P.E. teacher," she said, "so I want to study Exercise Science because I feel like it can lead me to many different pathways. I'm really interested to stay in sports and stay learning about the body – and help other athletes later on in life."

"I definitely think we have a lot of gifted athletes here, and in the area in general," Cosio said, "and it's just been so awesome to see, like, since I was a freshman to a senior, the gym fills up more and more. I think just putting our names out there – looking here at athletes to come – is very important. If athletes want to go play in college, then they can do it! They just have to put their work in."

GOMEZ A-GOIN' TO ILLINOIS • FROM PAGE 17

And through it all, the Foresters appear to have bought into the instruction of Austin and assistants Jill Wilkerson and Ryan Mount. "He's a very good coach ... outgoing and warm with his athletes," said Gomez, who first made contact with Lake Forest via the Next College Student Athlete (NCSA) website. "And I had the chance to talk with a couple of his runners there, by themselves, and they had nothing mean to say. All positive things."

Half a mile from Lake Michigan and roughly 30 miles north of Chicago, and with an enrollment approaching 1,800 students, LFC also made Austin head of its track team just a couple months after joining both sports' coaching staffs before the 2022 track season. And in late February,

Lake Forest's men closed out the indoor T&F season at the Ripon (Wis.) College-hosted MWC Championships. Helped by Brophy becoming the first Forester to break two minutes (clocking a ninth place 1:59.61; the top eight runners earned team-scoring points) in the 800 meters (four 200m laps), LFC placed eighth out of nine teams.

"I've definitely taken to the 800; that's right now my best bet of making State – the open 8 and the 4x8," Gomez said, alluding to the still-young CHSAA track-and-field season. "Austin ... thinks that's my best option; since I do have a longer stride and a little bit of speed, he believes that's good for me."

"I'll also be running the mile, and I've been talking with Austin for, like, a train-

ing regimen – in correlation with how I'm training now – and all my coaches think I'll thrive anywhere I go."

"Under good coaching he just continues to get better," said McCarter. "I'm really proud of his hard work, and the dedication he put into himself and our team. He absolutely deserves this; he worked really hard for me for two cross-country seasons – and a track season – and shows right here that hard work pays off."

"They have very small class sizes; I think 14-15 is average, so ... I'm very excited about that," Gomez noted. "I have chosen a major in history, with a minor in pre-law. Hoping to go that 'law' route after college, after (getting) my bachelor's. So hopefully it's ... challenging enough for me to move forward."

EASTBOUND AND 'BROWN' • FROM PAGE 17

her mind to, she excels."

Which in turn helped Ignacio excel in '23 at a level not experienced in decades; the 'Cats finished 21-8 overall and reached the three-day, 12-team CHSAA Class 2A State Championships – as did Mancos and senior middle Haylie Higgins, who committed to Trinity Baptist (with Poyner & Co. present at MHS) the previous morning – phase. Based upon order of elimination prior to the final-day Final Four, IHS went 2-2 inside the Denver Coliseum and 'placed' eighth after a Day 2 evening loss to Strasburg (which had ousted Mancos in the 8 a.m. match, making the Lady Jays the first squad out).

Brown totaled 121 kills for the season, ranking third on the team, and totaled a second-most 41 blocks (29 solo). She was also credited with 259 digs (third-most), 44 assists and an Ignacio-most, 2A/1A San Juan Basin League-earned 80 service aces.

"Most our conversations have been talking about the way we run our program – to allow the girls to work and fight towards positions they want," Poyner explained. "We were looking to sign her as a libero/setter but there are opportunities for her to win out and play ... different positions in the future."

"She is willing to do whatever the team needs – you can't coach that. Wanting to help the team, she'd go from any role – setting to DS to libero to being a middle blocker, because she knew that's what the team needed," said IHS head coach Jennifer Sei-

bel, set to begin her second season in that capacity this fall. "So, I think having all those different experiences with those positions is going to help her flourish into a great volleyball player for Trinity Baptist."

A Division II member of the National Christian College Athletic Association, TBC soldiered through a trying 1-22 slog in 2023, ended by a 17-25, 21-25, 18-25 South Region Tournament loss in Greenville, S.C., to unrelated Trinity College of Florida (New Port Richey, Fla.) at tourney-hosting Bob Jones University. The Eagles' win had come on September 23, via a sweep of Georgia Highlands (Rome, Ga.) College's first-year program after losing earlier that day to NJCAA Div. I Andrew College, hosting the triangular in Cuthbert, Ga. For Poyner it was her first 'W' as a collegiate boss not much older than her players – now including Brown and Higgins.

"I've talked to her a little bit," Brown said, referring to her fellow SJB� standout. "It's cool, though, that she's going; I think it'll be really fun to have her there, know somebody there already."

Other than extended family, that is.

"There's a lot in Gainesville, some between there and Jacksonville ... they're all over – so I already love the state," she said. "And the school's great, the kids are great; I feel like I connected the moment I stepped in there. Like, it was just different from other schools I was looking into."

"I knew Haylie was going there and ... I knew this was one of the schools on Kac-

ey's list," said former Ignacio head coach Shasta Pontine. "So when I contacted the coach that was one selling point – that it would be awesome to get them together. And I'm so proud of Kacey; this was something she wants and to get to this point ... it's something you have to want and strive for every day. And she's that type of kid."

Anticipating beginning her TBC career as a back-row player, Brown said she wasn't yet sure about an academic interest but expressed hope that incoming Volleyscats in years to come will aspire to maintain the program as one of the area's best.

"I can't wait to see how future girls do," Brown said. "I feel like our senior class has always been good, energy-wise, and I think that's why we were so good. But I really hope that the underclassmen could see our energy and take that with them; I really hope that they can continue this."

"What I believe she's bringing to our team: A level-headed fire," said Poyner. "She has a 'peace' about her, and knowledge. That's one thing we're looking for as we build our program, girls who have knowledge and are willing to put that to use – as a team rather than just individually."

"I know what she wants from me coming into the season," Brown stated. "I can go anywhere they need and ... do what I can for them."

"Her volleyball I.Q. is really strong. She reads the ball really well ... on the floor," said Pontine. "She's going to be able to lead."



SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST

Colorado elk migration corridor conserved; public access expanded

Staff report
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK
FOUNDATION

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation worked with a family to acquire and then simultaneously convey a 160-acre inholding to the San Juan National Forest; ensuring that a key chunk of elk and mule deer habitat that also serves as a migration corridor is now conserved and opened to the public in southwest Colorado.

“This would not have happened without the conservation vision, ethic and passion of the Saunders family that resides in Albuquerque, N.M. We salute and thank them as well as our San Juan National Forest partners for working together to conserve this important landscape,” said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO.

The transaction will improve habitat management, public access in an important hunting and recreation area, forest planning and wildlife management for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

“Conserving land in the public trust is at the core of the Forest Service mission,”



said Dave Neely, Forest Supervisor for the San Juan National Forest. “With the invaluable assistance from our partners at RMEF, this acquisition enhances that conservation mission for current and future generations.”

Found on the shoulder of scenic V Rock Mountain southeast of Pagosa Springs, and less than two miles from the South San Juan Wilderness, the property features aspen stands, mountain meadows, scattered ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests, two ponds and intermittent streams. As such, it supplies vital summer and winter range habitat for many wildlife species and serves as an elk migration corridor.

The USFS utilized Land

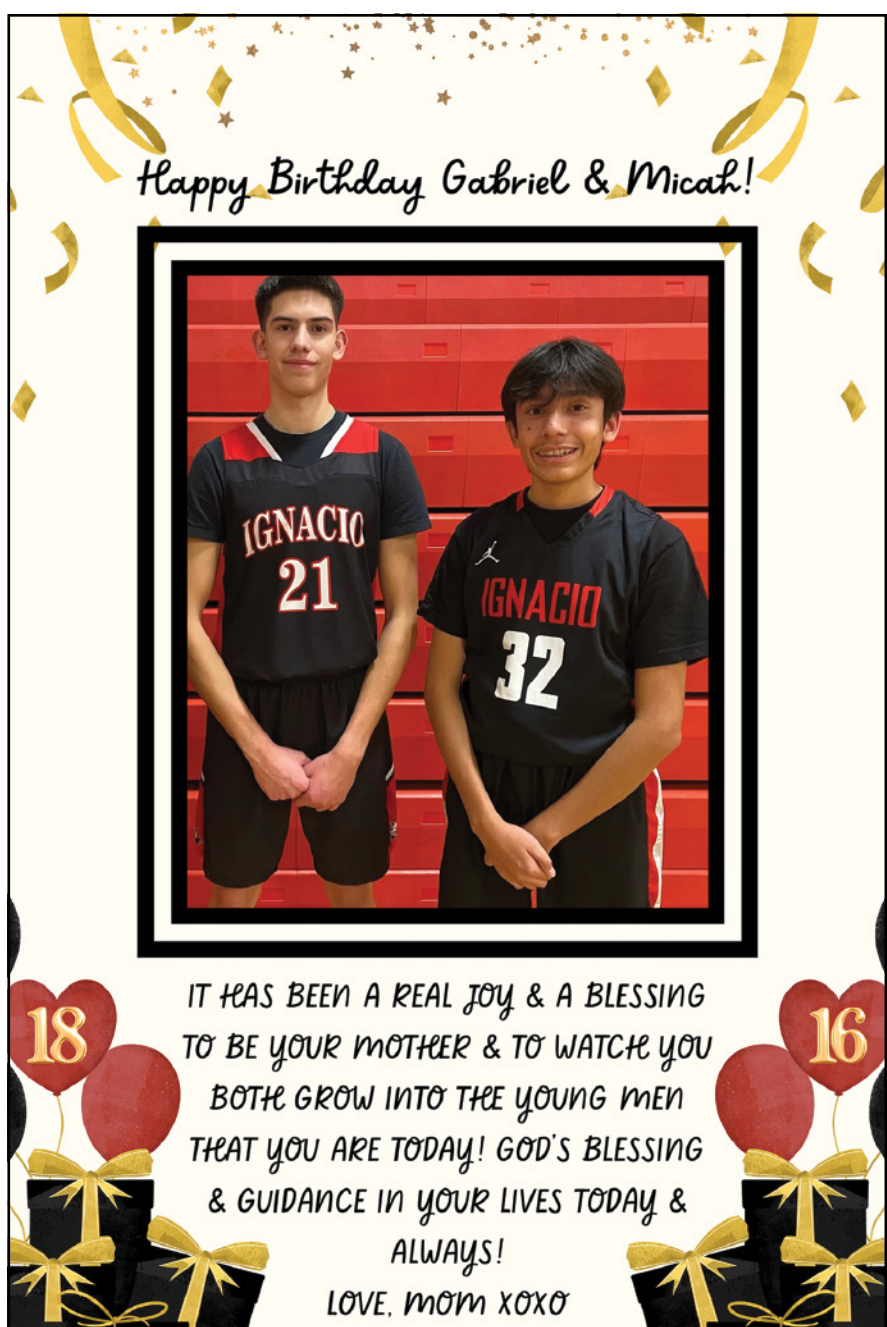
and Water Conservation Fund funding to complete the project.

RMEF carried out extensive conservation work in this part of the state over the years and holds four voluntary conservation agreements protecting 12,119 acres of wildlife habitat just 10 miles to the south of V Rock Mountain.

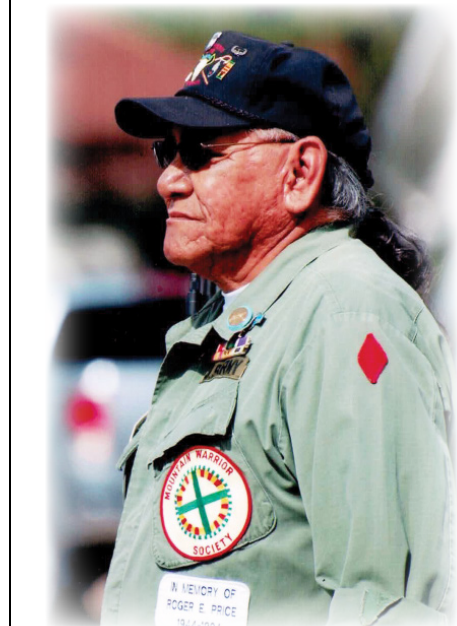
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Founded in 1984 and fueled by hunters, RMEF has conserved more than 8.9 million acres for elk and other wildlife. RMEF also works to open and improve public access, fund and advocate for science-based resource management, and ensure the future of America’s hunting heritage.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS



OBITUARY



WATTS – Tim Watts, 74, of Ignacio, Colorado, died March 31, 2024, passed away in his home, surrounded by family. He was born October 17, 1949 to Ed and Rosa Watts in Ignacio, Colo. A preceded the Mass on Wednesday at his home, 23146 HWY 172, Ignacio, Colo. The Mass of Christian Burial was held, Thursday, April 4, 2024, at St. Ignatius Church, Ignacio, Colo., followed by burial at La Boca Cemetery with full military honors.

He is survived by his siblings: Ralph (Edwina) Watts, Sr., Gloria Watts, and Marshall Watts; nieces & nephews include, Geneva Gomez, Marietta Watts, Derrick Watts, Xavier Watts, Loren Watts, Craig Box, Orion Watts, Bo Watts, and many, many more. Preceded in death by parents: Ed & Rosa; siblings: Virginia Watts, Suzanne Watts, Robert Watts; and numerous nephews and nieces.

New enrollee, Sofia Grace



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

The Southern Ute Tribal Council welcomes a new Southern Ute tribal member, Sofia Grace, accompanied by her parents, Gracie King and Larenz Wilbourn. The enrollment took place during the Tribal Council Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 26 in Tribal Council Chambers in Ignacio.

Correction

In a photo published in the March 22 issue of the Drum, the date for the pinning of Sgt. Wauneka was incorrect, the date of the pinning was Friday, March 8.

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.: 2024-0022-CV-PR
Arthur Johnny Weaver, 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 **APRIL 30, 2024 at 10:00 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 22nd of March, 2024.
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

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

Notice is hereby given that Christian Sheldon Thompson filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Christian Sheldon Yellowflower. As of March 04, 2024 no person filed an objection to the request, and therefore notice is hereby given that Christian Sheldon Thompson name shall be and is hereby legally changed to Christian Sheldon Yellowflower.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2024.
Paul Whistler, Southern Ute Tribal Judge

NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

In the Legal Name Change of,
Case No.: 2024-0014-CV-NC
Aubrey Thompson, Civil Subject

Notice is hereby given that Aubrey Thompson filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Aubrey Alivia-Rae Romero. As of 03/18/2024 no person filed an objection to the request, and therefore notice is hereby given that Aubrey Thompson name shall be and is hereby legally changed to Aubrey Alivia-Rae Romero.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2024.
Paul Whistler, Southern Ute Tribal Judge

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
Case No.: 2024-0019-CV-PR
Mary Ann Weaver, 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 **APRIL 29, 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 15th of March, 2024
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk



Native American Mass

April 28, 2024
11:00 am

St. Ignatius Church
Ignacio, CO

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Apr. 19

Deadline:
Apr. 15

Articles, photos, advertisements, public notices, letters and greetings may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email to: jshockley@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
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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

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Audit Services

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (SUIHA) is requesting proposals from qualified firms and individuals for providing audit services. Interested parties must submit written proposals to the SUIHA. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on April 16, 2024. Proposals received after this time will be considered non-responsive and returned to the sender. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

BACKGROUND: The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the Southern Ute Tribe. Our primary sources of income are rental income and Federal financial assistance received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Indian Housing Block Grant program. SUIHA currently uses Aliba and HDS software. SUIHA has 115 Low Rental Units. The SUIHA receives an annual Indian Housing Block Grant of approximately 1.4 million.

SCOPE OF SERVICES: The audit services to be provided will be for the twelve-month period ending September 2024. The audit shall be completed and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearing House by December 27th, 2024. With onsite visit being done week of October 28, 2024. We expect an exit conference at the end of the audit fieldwork to discuss any findings, questionable costs, reportable conditions and adjusting journal entries. The audit shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements described in the Single Audit Act and the audit must be in compliance with the Uniform Administrative Guidance at 2 CFR Part 200. The audit services to be provided will be for the twelve-month period ending September 2025. The audit shall be completed and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearing House by December 26th, 2025. With onsite visit being done week of October 27, 2025. We expect an exit conference at the end of the audit fieldwork to discuss any findings, questionable costs, reportable conditions and adjusting journal entries. The audit shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements described in the Single Audit Act and the audit must be in compliance with the Uniform Administrative Guidance at 2 CFR Part 200.

CONTENT OF THE PROPOSALS: In selecting the firm or individual who will best serve the needs of SUIHA we will be reviewing the experience of the respondent(s) along with reviewing the expertise and qualifications of the individual(s) who will be providing the services. To meet these objectives, the proposal must contain a resume of all individuals who would be performing the services, with special attention to the experience related to Indian Housing Authorities or similar organizations. Four (4) copies of the proposal shall be submitted.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS: Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on a 100 point system with the proposal receiving the most points being determined the most responsive. The cost of conducting the audit will be the main criteria used in evaluating the proposals. The SUIHA Board of Directors will make the final selection and the successful firm or individual will be notified shortly thereafter so that the audit process can begin as soon as possible. SUIHA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals if it is in the best interest of the SUIHA.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The criteria for evaluating the proposals will include points given in the following areas: Qualifications of firm or individual to conduct Federal audits in accordance with 2 CFR 200 (0-10 points); Ability of firm to conduct the audit in a timely manner (0-30 points); Experience and knowledge of Indian Housing Authorities (0-15 points); Cost (0-45 points); Indian Preference (0 or 10 points if proposal includes proof showing that the firm is at least 51% Indian owned).

Responses shall be addressed to Eric Spady, Executive Director, P.O. Box 447, Ignacio CO 81137. E-Mail: espady@suiha.org

REQUEST FOR BID Geotechnical Engineering Study

GF Tuunimi, LLC ("Owner's Representative") is accepting bids from qualified contractors to conduct a geotechnical engineering study on a 3.75-acre parcel of land located at the Buckskin Charlie Drive and Ute Road in Ignacio, CO. Reynolds Ash + Associates ("Architect") is designing the project. Bids must be submitted no later than **3:00 pm MDT on April 15, 2024**. The Owner's Representative reserves the right to reject late bids. Email bids to Owner's Representative and Architect or, if contractor is not able to email, hard copies must be delivered to Owner's or Architect's office. See contact info below:

Owner's Representative: GF Tuunimi, LLC, Attn: Tim Zink, 65 Mercado Street, Suite 250, Phone: 970-764-6442 Email: TZink@sugf.com

Architect: Reynolds Ash + Associates, Attn: Lauren Davis, 564 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 201, Phone: 970-259-7494 Email: LDavis@ra-ae.com

The geotechnical engineering study will include a field study, laboratory testing, and a report to support foundation design, retaining wall and footing design, and concrete flatwork design for the proposed site development. It is anticipated that the field study will include 5 to 6 soil borings completed with truck or track-mounted drilling equipment as well as 4-5 shallow borings in proposed pavement areas. Contracting Preference for certified Indian Owned Businesses, in accordance with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) will apply. Selected contractor must comply with all local, state, federal and tribal law as applicable to the work, including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO. For all questions, and to obtain the complete set of construction drawings and bid documents, please contact Architect or Owner's Representative. The Owner's Representative reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to reject bids containing substantial computational errors, to reject bids not deemed in the best interest of the owner, and to re-advertise for bids, and further reserves the right to waive any informalities and minor irregularities in its acceptance of bids.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD Remediation of the old KSUT Radio Station

The Brownfields Program of the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department is providing a public comment period concerning the site cleanup of the old KSUT Radio Station. The property is located at 123 Capote Drive in Ignacio, Colorado. The southern limit of the property is bounded by Ouray Drive, the western limit by Highway 172, and the eastern limit by Capote Drive. Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) conducted in July 2014 and September 2020 identified asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) and lead-based paint (LBP) as contaminants of concern. The goal of this project is to remove and properly dispose the contaminants of concern that could pose a threat to human health and the environment. The old KSUT Radio Station will be remediated of the regulated building materials to the fullest extent possible without compromising the building structure. For all interested tribal members and the community, a comment period for the remediation of the old KSUT Radio Station will begin on March 22, 2024, and will end at the close of business on April 22, 2024. To submit request for the cleanup plan, ESAs or to provide written comments, please contact the Remediation Program at the address below. You can submit your requests/comments by one of the following methods:

- E-mail: ckelly@southernute-nsn.gov or meskelson@southernute-nsn.gov
- Mail: Brownfields Program, Environmental Programs Division, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737 #81, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137.

REQUEST FOR BIDS Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow Services

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is requesting bids for the 2024 Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow for the following services:

CLEANING CREW

Sky Ute Casino Resort – Events Center
Friday, May 24 – 6 to 11 p.m.
Saturday, May 25 – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Cleaning supplies will be provided.
Must provide One Million Dollar Insurance with the Sky Ute Casino Resort as the Insurer.

SOUND SYSTEM

Sky Ute Casino Resort – Events Center
Friday, May 24 – 5 p.m. (set up) to 11 p.m.
Saturday, May 25 – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DEADLINE SUBMISSION

April 19, 2024 at 5 p.m.
Please submit bids to: Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16, Ignacio, CO 81137 or soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov

SECURITY

Sky Ute Casino Resort – Events Center
Friday, May 24 – 6 to 11 p.m.
Saturday, May 25 – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Must provide One Million Dollar Insurance with the Sky Ute Casino Resort as the Insurer.

For questions please contact:
Vice-Chairman, Rochelle Aguilar: 970-563-2990 or Secretary, Valerie Armstrong: 970-317-3585.

2024 SOUTHERN UTE BEAR DANCE POWWOW Special's Requests

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee will be taking a limited number of requests for individual's wanting to have a Special for the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow held May 24th & 25th with a time limit of fifteen minutes. Any individuals interested must submit a letter to the Southern Ute Powwow Committee. The Committee Secretary will contact you with a day and time so please include a current phone number where you can be reached. Deadline to submit requests will be May 3 at 5 P.M. Please send your request to: Powwow Committee Secretary, Valerie Armstrong @ PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR email: soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov.

NOTICE EPD seeking input on GHG reduction strategies

The Southern Ute Air Quality Division has received a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the USEPA and is working on evaluating strategies for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on the Reservation. The Division is seeking input on potential GHG reduction strategies. Please visit the Division's webpage to provide your input and learn more about the CPRG program. <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/climate-pollution-reduction-grant/>

45-day Notice of Availability Bear Dance Agricultural Assignment

Applications are now open for Tribal Land Assignments for Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members who are eligible.

SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-104(1)(c) availability of the land. 29-2-104(3) If, after review by the department...the land is determined to be available for assignment, the department shall publish and post notice of availability...

Posting Date:
April 5, 2024



Expiration Date:
May 20, 2024

To apply for a Land Assignment, eligible¹ Tribal member applicants must submit an Application for Assignment of Tribal Lands, a Farm Plan², and a drawing card containing their name, address, and contact information (including phone number and email).

The Lands Division will review the submitted applications and drawing cards to ensure only eligible Tribal members' names are placed in the drawing.

Once the 45-day Notice of Availability ends, a drawing date will be scheduled immediately. Two names will be chosen - one Primary Name and one Secondary Name. The Secondary Name will act as a backup in the event the Primary Tribal member declines the land at any point in time after the drawing. The drawing for the land will provide all eligible applicants with an equal opportunity to apply and be selected. The selection process will not be determined by Tribal staff or Tribal Council but rather through a randomized process known as the "Lottery Drawing." The chosen applicant will be assigned the land.

The selectee's documents formalizing the assignment will be presented to the Tribal Council as soon as possible to approve the resolution granting the assignment or lease. The selectee will adhere to the 5-year farm plan.

If you are a tribal member and want to confirm your interest in an assignment, you can submit a card along with an application and a 5-year farm plan. If you have any comments or objections about the assignment, you can submit them as well. You can either mail, email, or deliver in person your submission to the Department of Natural Resources - Lands Division at PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or contact us at 970-563-0126.

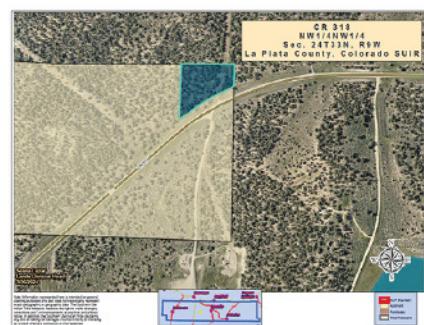
¹ SUITC – Title 29-2-102(1). Any individual tribal member 18 years of age or older...
² SUITC – Title 29-2-108. Issuance of Denial of Assignment. After review of the department's recommendation... the Tribal Council shall grant, deny, or partially deny the assignment applied for, taking into consideration the following: (2) The size and number of assignments held by the applicant and the history of the applicant's compliance with grants of assignment. (4) ...adequacy of the applicant's farm plan...

45-day Notice of Availability CR 318, Ignacio, CO, SUIR

Applications are now open for Tribal Land Assignments for Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members who are eligible and currently do not have a homesite assignment.

SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-104(1)(c) availability of the land. 29-2-104(3) If, after review by the department...the land is determined to be available for assignment, the department shall publish and post notice of availability...

Posting Date:
April 5, 2024



Expiration Date:
May 20, 2024

To apply for a Land Assignment or Lease Request, eligible¹ Tribal member applicants must submit an Application for Assignment of Tribal Lands and Homesite Development Plan along with a drawing card containing their name, address, and contact information (including phone number and email).

The Lands Division will review the submitted applications and drawing cards to ensure only eligible Tribal members' names are placed in the drawing².

Once the 45-day Notice of Availability ends, a drawing date will be scheduled immediately. Two names will be chosen - one Primary Name and one Secondary Name. The Secondary Name will act as a backup in the event the Primary Tribal member declines the land at any point in time after the drawing. The drawing for the land will provide all eligible applicants with an equal opportunity to apply and be selected. The selection process will not be determined by Tribal staff or Tribal Council but rather through a randomized process known as the "Lottery Drawing." The chosen applicant will be assigned to occupy the land.

The selectee's documents formalizing the assignment or lease (whichever is applicable) will be presented to the Tribal Council as soon as possible to approve the resolution granting the assignment or lease. The selectee will have two years to develop the lot, according to the Homesite Development Plan.

If you are a tribal member and want to confirm your interest in an assignment or lease, you can submit a card, an application, and a Homesite Development Plan. If you have any comments or objections about the assignment, you can submit them as well. You can either mail, email, or deliver in person your submission to the Department of Natural Resources - Lands Division at PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or contact us at 970-563-0126.

¹ SUITC – Title 29-2-102(1). Any individual tribal member 18 years of age or older...
² SUITC – Title 29-2-102(4). A Tribal member may hold only one assignment for use as a homesite at a time...



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 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 5 p.m. on Tuesday**



SOUTHERN UTE DIGITAL EQUITY PROGRAM

SUDEP has free Dell laptops/Chromebooks available for Southern Ute Tribal Members of all ages!

If you would like to receive a Dell Laptop (Over 18 Years) or a Chromebook (Under 18 Years):

- 1 laptop per Southern Ute Tribal Member is allowed.
- We will ship to those who live outside the local area.
- The team will process requests in the order they are received.
- All laptops have a 3-year warranty through Dell.
- We can not replace lost, stolen, or damaged laptops or chargers.

Please complete a questionnaire at www.southernute-nsn.gov/sudep or scan this QR code:



SUDEP has a dedicated staff available for technical support at 970-563-5555.

2024 Home Rehabilitation Program

The Construction Services Division is accepting applications for the 2024 Home Rehabilitation Program. The deadline for applications to be considered for this year is April 26, 2024. All applications received after April 26th will be considered for the 2025 selection. If you have previously submitted a Home Rehabilitation application and were not selected, you will need to submit a new application to be considered again. Applications do not automatically roll-over to the next year.

You must meet all the eligibility requirements and fill out the Home Rehabilitation application to be considered. This program is offered to all Southern Ute Tribal members. (those who reside within AND outside of Southern Ute Indian Tribal land). Once the selection panel meets and makes its decision, you will be notified in writing if you were selected for the 2024 Home Rehabilitation Program.

Please contact Construction Services Division for applications. If you have any questions, you can email us at dabeyta@southernute-nsn.gov or call 970-563-0260.

Thank you, Construction Services Division

KSUT IS YOUR RADIO STATION! KSUT seeks one enrolled SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBER to serve on the KSUT Board of Directors.



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 or by mail P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colo., 81137. Questions, call 970-563-0255.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies

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.bgcsu.org website or by request from Mr. Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov. Applications must be returned to Mr. LeClaire.

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. 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, 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, 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 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

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. 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.



The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking two (2) Regular Board Members and two (2) Alternate Board Members

The Election Board is a paid committee that follows IRS guidelines, and eligibility for Southern Ute Employee benefits are based on hours. A criminal background check is required and as an appointed official of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, you are subject to the Code of Ethics.

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
- Shall not have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or fraud within five years immediately preceding the appointment

Please submit your Letter of Intent to:

Human Resources, PO Box 737 Ignacio, CO 81137
Physical Address: 356 Ouray Dr. Ignacio, CO 81137

Closing Date: Open until Filled

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2319 or email whyte@southernute-nsn.gov

To apply please submit a Letter of Intent with the following:

- Full Name
- Contact Information (i.e. address, phone number, email address)
- Date
- It is suggested and helpful to include one or more of the following details:
 - Description of why you are a good fit for the position
 - Explanation of your motivation to join the Committee
 - List relevant experience
 - Outline ideas of how you can improve this committee
 - Disclosure of any other Boards/Committees you currently serve on



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the tribe's website at 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 to 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

Detention Cook

Closes 4/12/24 – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

Heavy Equipment Operator

Closes 4/17/24 – Provides routine maintenance and safe operation of heavy equipment in carrying out project assignments for the Construction Services Division. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

Manager – Aquatics

Closes 4/11/24 – Under supervision of Fitness Director, management and supervision of aquatics facility, to include day-to-day operations of facility, in-service training, pool maintenance, supervision of lifeguards, performing lifeguard duties, and set high expectations of safety. Pay grade E11; Pay starts at \$49,160/year.

Planning Project Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Closes 4/8/24 – Daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

Air Quality Scientist II – Permitting

Open Until Filled – Under general Supervision of the Air Quality Program Manager – Permitting & Regulatory, coordinates, 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 program. Pay grade N5; the Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

Boys & Girls Club Summer Aide

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

Building Maintenance Technician

Open Until Filled – Provides maintenance support, troubleshooting, installation, preventative maintenance, and repairs, including correcting safety hazards, in the Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

Chief Judge Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – An apprentice position for a Southern Ute Tribal member to learn all the requirements and duties of the Chief Judge position in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Mentoring, training, and all aspects of employee supervision will be performed by the current Chief Judge or delegate in accordance with SUIT Personnel Policies and Procedures. For purpose of employment, the successful candidate shall be classified as an apprentice. The Judicial Review Committee shall also provide insight, guidance, and recommendations when needed. The length of the trainee program is two years to five years depending upon experience and individual progress. Performance will be evaluated pursuant to the requirements of the Tribal Apprenticeship Program and annually with the Tribal Judicial Committee. Eligible for wage increase based on performance evaluations and policies governing this position. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, incumbent will transition into the Chief Judge Lay position. Non-exempt and starts at 20% below a grade E22.

Clinical Applications Coordinator

Open Until Filled – Under general direction of the Health Center Support Services Manager, serves as the Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) for the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department and the Southern Ute Health Center. Maintaining the Electronic Health Record (EHR)/Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the Health Department, coordinating up-grades, and providing training to all users. Pay grade E14; Pay starts at \$64,155/year.

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 \$113,890.20/year.

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; the 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. Will be responsible for 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, in-

cluding 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 E22; Pay starts at \$189,817/year.

Dispatcher

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

Dispatcher Trainee (Southern Ute tribal 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, the employee 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. The 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, incumbent 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.

Elementary Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). 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. To communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade E12; the Pay starts at \$54,086/year.

Grants Financial Analyst

Open Until Filled – Working closely with Tribal staff members on all financial grant and related Tribal budget and spending matters. Assisting in monitoring programs to ensure compliance with grant or contract regulations. Pay grade E13; the Pay starts at \$59,494/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.

Lands Technician Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for a Southern Ute Tribal Member. Will learn how to provide technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provide general information to the Tribal Membership and public regarding land status issues, Crossing Permits, and general land management related issues. The length of this program is designed to last one (1) year but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. This position will start at 20% below entry level for a grade N8 and receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases to assure that key goals are met. Upon successfully completing the training curriculum, the incumbent will assume the Lands Technician position.

Lifeguard (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – 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.

Museum Director

Open Until Filled – Leading overall operations, and day-to-day management of the museum. Plans, develops, coordinates, implements, and evaluates all aspects of the museum's activities and operations, including public relations, marketing and promotional aspects. Following the Museum's statement, strategic planning, implementing policies, developing programs, budget management, and identifying new funding sources. Pay grade E18; Pay starts at \$99,984/year.

NAGPRA Technician (Southern Ute tribal 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; the Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at 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.

Health & Safety Manager – Red Cedar Gathering (Durango, CO)

Closes 4/12/24 – Managing the Health and Safety programs for both Red Cedar Gathering Company and Aka Energy Group to ensure safe operations and strict compliance with tribal, federal, and other applicable rules and regulations, including safety policies and procedures, pipeline operations and maintenance manuals, US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), 49 CFR Parts 192 and 195, and other applicable Health and Safety programs.

Investment Accountant – GF Private Equities (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/15/24 – Assisting in the management of all accounting operations and financial reporting of the GF Private Equity Group. Performs complex, professional-level accounting and analytical work that includes, investment transaction processing and reconciliation; financial analysis and reporting; data and systems processing and review; maintenance of accounting records and practices; support of monthly and quarterly close processes; budgeting and forecasting; and assisting with the annual audit.

Wastewater Plant Operator I Trainee – GF Utilities Division (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/12/24 – A trainee position, designed to provide training and experience for up to one year in order to learn and be responsible for performing duties in support of the day to day operations of the Southern Ute Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System.

Wastewater Plant Operator III – GF Utilities Division (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/12/24 – Day-to-day operations of the Southern Ute Tribal Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System ensuring safety and compliance with all federal regulations.

Accounting Technician – GF Private Equity Group (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/15/24 – Finance and accounting support of the Company's investment program with primary responsibility for processing capital calls, distributions and financial reports related to a growing portfolio of private equity fund investments, recording investment transactions and relevant data into internal systems for accurate reporting, coordinating investment wire activity, and preparing appropriate reports and analysis to support the company's objectives.

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

To apply now, visit our website at www.sococaa.org or call 970-563-4517.

Road Runner Transit

- **Transit Driver:** \$18.94/hr. – Open Until Filled
- **Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance:** \$18.94/hr. – Open Until Filled

SoCoCAA Central Administration:

- **Executive/Development Director:** \$75,275 - \$82,638/yr. – Open Until Filled (Up to \$3,000 in relocation expenses available.)

Ute Mountain Ute Personnel Dept.

Application submission: 420 Sunset Blvd. Towaoc, CO 81334 or by email to: GRLopez@utemountain.org or cayetoo@utemountain.org or fax to 970-564-5528. Thank you.

Employment Announcements as of April 3, 2024

- Transportation, Mechanic II – Closing 4/5/24
- Transportation, Mechanic III – Closing 4/5/24
- Gaming Commission, Auditor – Closing 4/5/24
- Environmental, Water Quality Specialist – Closing 4/5/24
- Weenuche Smoke Signals, Journalist – 4/10/24
- Judicial Services, Bailiff – Closing 4/17/24
- Recreation, (5) Bushwhacking Supervisor – Closing 5/3/24
- Recreation, Bushwhacking Head Coordinator – 5/3/24
- Brunot Wildlife, Wildlife Officer – Open Until Filled
- Child Development Center, Education Manager – Open Until Filled
- Child Development Center, Lead Headstart Teacher – Open Until Filled
- Counseling & Treatment, CAS Counselor – Open Until Filled
- Diabetes, Diabetes Nurse – Open Until Filled
- Energy, Director – Open Until Filled
- Higher Education, Adult Education Instructor – Open Until Filled
- KCA, Ute Language & Culture Teacher – Open Until Filled
- KCA, Elementary Teacher – Open Until Filled
- Moguan Behavioral Health, Community Trainer – Open Until Filled
- Public Health, Community Health Nurse – Open Until Filled
- Public Health, Community Health Representative – Open Until Filled
- Public Safety, Security Officer – Open Until Filled
- Public Safety, WM- IPA Police Officer – Open Until Filled
- Public Safety, EMT Paramedic/ Fire Fighter I – Open Until Filled
- Public Safety, EMT Paramedic/ Fire Fighter I & II – Open Until Filled
- Public Safety, EMT-B IV/ Fire Fighter – Open Until Filled
- Public Works, Director – Open Until Filled
- Public Works, PT- Relief Propane Delivery Driver – Open Until Filled
- Public Works, PT- Janitorial – Open Until Filled
- Public Works, Plumber – Open Until Filled
- Water Resource, Water Resource – Open Until Filled
- WM-Public Works, Maintenance – Open Until Filled
- WM- Education, Public School Lead Liaison – Open Until Filled

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Patrol Officer II

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 N14; Pay starts at \$30.84/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 under 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.

Swimming Instructor (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – 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, break down 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.

Teacher Aide

Open Until Filled – Supporting the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) through a variety of duties including providing classroom coverage and supervision of children in the After-School Program, being assigned to differing duties on an as-needed basis. Pay grade N4; Pay starts at \$14.67/hour.

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – The TEAM program is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to find temporary employment with-

in 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. 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 tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Tribe is accepting applications for SUIT Tribal Members interested in pursuing their career interests through the Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the program is to build a career foundation for SUIT 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. The Apprentice Committee will review applications and assess what options may be available for applicants.

Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified 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, will assume the Tribal Ranger position. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$18.90/hour.

Umpire/Referee

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



Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at 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. *21 years or older to apply.

Bell Person (Part-time)

Assisting our Casino guests upon check in and check out and throughout their stay under the direction of the Rooms Division Manager. Luggage assistance, directions/maps, providing our guest at Sky Ute Casino Resort with a warm welcome, helping the front desk with daily operations, driving guests to/from the airport, and assisting with phones as needed.

***Bowling & Rec Counter Clerk (Full-time)**

Multi-tasks and thrives in a fast paced and high energy environment. Is the initial point of contact for customers, always providing superior and friendly customer service. Proactively builds customer relations through soliciting feedback and addressing and resolving customer complaints. Continuously improves operational execution through attention to detail. Reports to the Bowling and Recreation Manager.

Bowling & Rec Counter Clerk (Part-time)

Multi-tasks and thrives in a fast paced and high energy environment. Is the initial point of contact for customers, always providing superior and friendly customer service. Proactively builds customer relations through soliciting feedback and addressing and resolving customer complaints. Continuously improves operational execution through attention to detail. Reports to the Bowling and Recreation Manager.

***Bowling Mechanic I - Entry Level (Full-time)**

An entry level position to allow mechanically oriented, but less experienced individuals an opportunity to get familiar with pinspotter machines. Will improve operational execution through attention to detail and experience. Follows the direction and trainings of the Lead Technician. Repairing automatic pin spotters and related bowling equipment.

***Bowling Mechanic I (Full-time)**

An entry level position to allow mechanically oriented, but less experienced individuals an opportunity to get familiar with pinspotter machines. Will improve operational execution through attention to detail and experience. Follows the direction and trainings of the Lead Technician.

***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 Cafe 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.

***Count Team Staff (Full-time)**

Retrieves, counts, and calculates the daily revenue produced by the gaming revenue departments. Pull the containers, and count or verify the funds according to the regulatory requirements and procedures set by the Southern Ute Division of Gaming's Internal Control Minimum Procedures and the Sky Ute Casino Resort.

***Event Staff**

Assisting in set-up, serving, tear down, clean-up, and re-set of events in all Banquet areas. In this position you will act as a guest service representative at Banquets and related events. Requires that you achieve and maintain the highest level of guest service as well as maintaining professional interactions, safe working conditions, and teamwork.

***Facilities Staff Level I (Full-time)**

Entry level position that reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift, supporting the operation of equipment, environmental condition, and appearance of the overall facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

***Facilities Staff Level II (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.

***Facilities Technician (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 Associate (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, directions/maps, driving guests to/from the airport.

***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.

***Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)**

Electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works as the lead 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 including boilers, AHU's, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, cooling towers, walk-in coolers, and freezers. Reports to the Director of Facilities while sharing the responsibility to train and lead activities of departmental employees; technicians, shift supervisors, and facilities staff in appropriate Service Standards and Facility operations/maintenance.

***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.

***Night Auditor (Full-time)**

Provides outstanding customer service to internal and external customers, promotes the Casino hotel to the guest throughout all stages of the guest's stay. Answering phone calls, assisting guests with questions regarding Casino services, taking reservations and charging for services.

***Players Club Representative (Full-time)**

Performs all administrative functions of a Players Club Representative. Signing up new members, player's account maintenance, answer player club and general property questions, administering redemption, complimentary and access rewards, and benefits to qualified players club members. Maintain the highest standard of guest service, problem resolution and confidentiality. Develops and creates a long-lasting experience for all Club Card members.

***Retail Staff (Full-time)**

Opening, operating, and closing the Gift Shop and Tix System. Provides excellent customer service to Casino guests and customers. Maintains a well-stocked, clean, and attractive retail environment.

***Rolling Thunder Grill Server (Full-time)**

Provide an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service of food and beverages. Taking the order and delivering food and beverage items. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Shift covers Breakfast and Lunch only.

***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.

***Security Officer (Full-time)**

Safeguarding the assets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Ensures that all company policies and internal control procedures are followed. Responsible for guest and employee safety on property.

***Seven Rivers Line Cook (Full-time)**

Works under direct supervision of the Executive Chef, Executive Sous Chef, and/or Kitchen Manager. Preparation of the A la Carte menu in Seven Rivers and is accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality, and freshness.

***Surveillance Agent I (Full-time)**

Ensuring a safe and secure environment for Casino customers and employees by observing, reporting, and recording gaming and non-gaming activity using surveillance equipment to abide by all procedures, gaming regulations, and policies and protect the Southern Ute tribal assets from illegal and questionable activities.

***Surveillance Agent II (Full-time)**

Ensuring a safe and secure environment for Casino customers and employees by observing, reporting, and recording gaming and non-gaming activity using surveillance equipment to abide by all procedures, gaming regulations, and policies and protect the Southern Ute tribal assets from illegal and questionable activities.

***Willows Host (Full-time)**

Provide an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service by greeting and ensuring timely and appropriate seating of guests. Will assist Supervisor and/or Manager with table management to maximize seating and assist guests with special requests. Will answer phone calls and return messages, track reservations and comps and assist servers when needed.

Pueblo Community College

Coordinator, CTE Pathway and Career

Mancos, CO, Salary: \$47,457/annually, Job Number: 200560-0124
 Open until filled – The CTE Pathway and Career Coordinator will serve as a liaison for the CTE programs offered at the Southwest Pueblo Community College campus which include: Agricultural, Health, Construction Trades, STEM, and Welding programs and any new programs that arise. Implementing initiatives for CTE outreach, which is focused on special populations, non-traditional students and students in non-traditional fields. This position will support and inform stakeholders of CTE objectives, policies, procedures and outcomes of projects directed toward the success of students enrolled in CTE programs as well promote effective and efficient communication between PCC Southwest, other PCC campus locations, and the high schools within the community/service area in the Southwest region. The position will also work with regional employers to secure job shadows, internships, and apprenticeships for Pueblo Community College Southwest students.

Faculty, Natural Resources

Mancos, CO, Salary: \$49,035 – \$59,035/annually, Job Number: 301060-0324
 Open until filled – Provide student-centered instruction for the Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources (NRE) program in the classroom and field. Teaching responsibilities include (but are not limited to) the following areas: organize and deliver practical and technical instruction, including lectures, labs and field study in the subject areas of forestry, wildlife, range, GIS and natural resources; develop student skills including the safe use of tools and equipment related to the Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources industries; work in close partnership with the community as well as with other programs and faculty on campus to develop and maintain curriculum that is current and based on a changing job market and industry standards. Provide program leadership and adherence to accreditation standards. Engage in student recruitment, conduct assessments, select texts and collect student follow-up data.

See complete job descriptions and how to apply at: www.schooljobs.com/careers/pueblocc

TERO – Job announcements

Application/Information 970-563-0117 • Native American Preference Applies
 Job descriptions and applications available at TERO 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colo.

TERO is assisting M&M Construction in filling the following positions for the broadband project. Contact TERO for application: lsanchez@southernute-nsn.gov

- General Excavation and Utility Laborers
- CDL Drivers
- Equipment Operators

Pay Rate: \$20 – \$35 based on experience and position.



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 the 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 folled by a fitness test (3-mile hike carrying 45 pounds with 46 minutes) will be administered once screened.

Please bring two (2) forms of identification.

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

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 info.

NOW HIRING



JOB FAIR

Wednesday, April 24th

10AM-1PM

**John S Williams & Vida Peabody Rooms
 14324 Hwy 172 N, Ignacio, CO**

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

- Line Cooks
- Front Desk
- Housekeeping
- Facilities
- Surveillance
- Security

And many more!

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

Apply on-line in advance at www.skyutecasino.com/about/careers
 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.

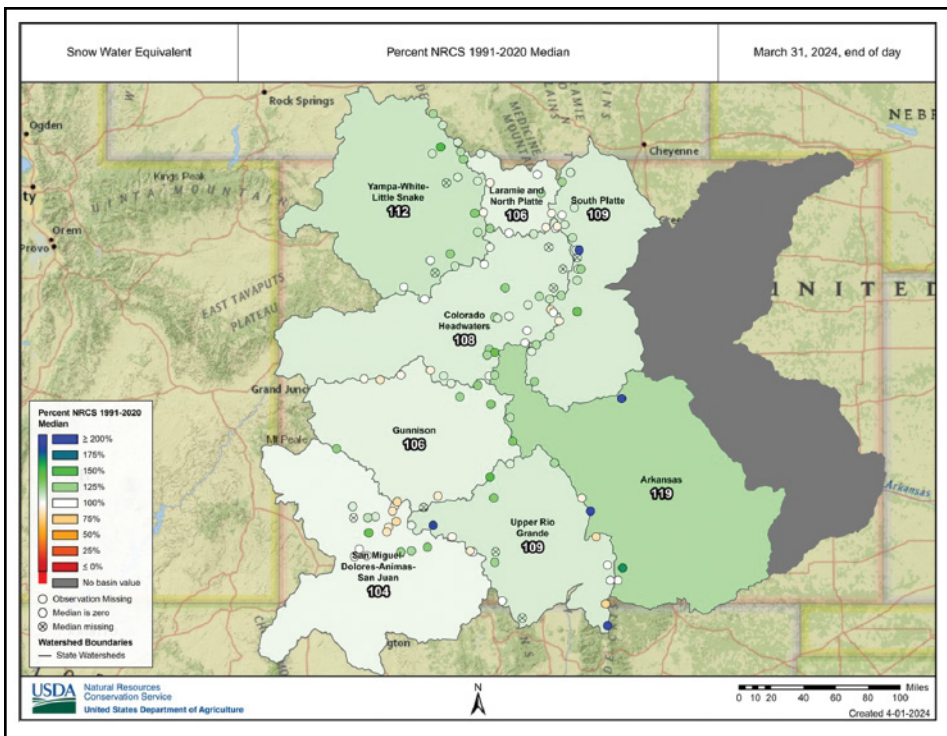
Sky Ute Casino Resort is located on the Southern Ute Indian reservation, located in Ignacio, CO



Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- District Aide
- Elementary Teacher (24/25)
- Elementary SpEd Teacher (24/25)
- MS Track Assistant Coach
- Secondary Language Arts Teacher (24/25)
- Secondary PE Teacher (24/25)
- Title VI Native American Studies Teacher (24/25)



courtesy USDA

Figure 1: Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal for Colorado watersheds.

WATER RESOURCES

Regional update on snowpack, drought conditions

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE WATER
RESOURCES

With irrigation season around the corner, the Water Resources Division (WRD) has decided to provide a quick drought update on current conditions. Below is information on snowpack, drought conditions, and forecasts for our area.

Snowpack

Through February, snowpack in Colorado was below average, causing concerns for water managers in the state. However, March had some snowstorms that boosted snowpack in the high country and some rain and snow mix in the lower elevations helped out soil moisture.

Throughout the update, I will use "Normal" to refer to the 30-year median. For example, 101% of Normal snow-water equivalent (SWE) is referring to 101% of the 30-year median SWE. As of April 1, 2024, snowpack across the western United States is currently doing well, especially the Colorado River Basin which has 101-281 % of Normal SWE across the basin. Watersheds in Colorado also have great snowpack levels right now, with Southwest Colorado doing well at 104% of Normal

SWE (Figure 1). The March precipitation helped snowpack a lot and hopefully April will produce some valuable moisture as irrigation season begins. Figure 2 below shows annual snowpack trends for the last 30 years. I have highlighted the 30-year median (bright green), last winter (purple), and this winter (black) for reference. Although this winter has not been as great as last winter, we are still trending towards a normal winter which is good. A normal winter and decent snowpack will be important during runoff season.

There are three SNOTEL sites above Lemon and Vallecito reservoirs that are very important in modeling snowpack and runoff in our area. Those SNOTEL sites include Stump Lakes, Vallecito, and Weminuche Creek. For those interested in snow depth, snow-water equivalent, and % of Normal SWE for these three sites, visit the NRCS National Water and Climate Center's Colorado Snow Survey Products webpage, which contains a lot of valuable information (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/colorado/snow-survey>).

The 7-day forecast shows some precipitation arriving this week, so an-

other boost to snowpack is always welcomed.

Drought

The western U.S. currently has regional drought conditions with some areas experiencing Extreme to Exceptional droughts. Southwest Colorado currently has Abnormally Dry to Moderate drought conditions. We are in much less stressful drought conditions than we were in January before the extra snowpack arrived. Future precipitation may improve these conditions further.

Forecasts

The current forecasts show average precipitation with slightly warmer than average temperatures throughout the Spring (April-May-June). The seasonal drought forecast shows no changes to Colorado drought conditions.

In early discussions with Lemon and Vallecito water managers, both reservoirs are likely to fill this year. However, things can change, so the WRD will provide updates as we receive information and/or conditions change.

If you'd like more information on snowpack, drought, and forecasting resources, feel free to reach out to George Gavrielides, Water Resources Specialist, at 970-563-2932.

FLY FISHING

It's spring, sort of

By Don Oliver
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



As you read this column the calendar says it is April. By my reckoning that makes it springtime. However, if you are watching the weather map, the entire country is not warm and good fly fishing weather doesn't appear near. In fact, it seems to be either raining or snowing all over the country. I remember different weather patterns when I was a kid. That was a really long time ago and I could be mistaken. Regardless, no matter where you live, I think spring means it is time to go fly fishing. With new weather patterns that can be challenging, if not downright dangerous.

Therefore, I think some self-imposed rules are in order. These rules should be looked at as ways to stay safe. I believe the rules should start with: don't believe the published weather forecast. I have experienced a day starting out bright and sunny, then get cloudy, have the wind pick up, watched the temperature drop by twenty degrees, rain start, get even colder, snow falling, then clear up, all in a two-hour timeframe.

Needless to say, if you have experienced weather like this, and left your rain jacket and sweater in the

truck, you are going to be wet and cold. In some situations, so wet and cold as to be life-threatening. That scenario can be avoided by making sure you have a sweater and rain jacket in your vest. Neither weighs much and can be a lifesaver.

If you are fly fishing during the early spring season try to find out what the conditions are upstream from you. Just because the weather all around you is clear and pleasant does not mean the weather is nice where you can't see. I have been knee-deep in a great small stream when suddenly I was thigh-deep in cold, brown, icy, rushing water. This happened when an ice dam upstream broke loose and had nowhere to go but downstream. While this experience was not dangerous, it could have been and certainly got my attention.

To carry "know what is going on upstream" a step further, don't put yourself

into a stream that doesn't have any easy way out. There are lots of places to fly fish that require a hike down steep paths. These paths can become inaccessible if the river rises quickly and without warning. While the thought of fly fishing where it is very hard to get to, therefore having few if anybody else fishing, sounds appealing, it can be very dangerous. Steep canyon walls, while pretty, can block your view of moving storms that can suddenly make the river high and fast. Plan on the worst happening in early spring weather.

Now that I have painted some ugly thoughts about fly fishing in the early spring, don't be discouraged. Know the area you are planning to fish. If you don't know the area get someone to go with you that does know the area. Dress properly and take clothes and rain gear with you that might come in handy. Without the rain gear you can end up like the bicycle rider tapping on my truck window to get in as I sat out a sudden rainstorm by a stream. She didn't have any rain gear and hypothermia was closing in on her.

It is spring. Enjoy the warmer weather and bug hatches. Just stay safe as you enjoy the fly fishing.

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			

Across

- Long Russian river
- Exclamation of contempt
- Museshoe ---, Creek War battle
- Horscat resident
- Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
- "Land of a million elephants"
- Chosen by chance
- Old record company
- Separate article
- Code-breaking org.
- Hive liver
- Statute
- Fastens a knot
- Grandmother Spider stole it, in Cherokee myth
- In among
- Server's game point
- Stupidity
- Flogged
- Skin eruption
- Fresno-to-Bakersfield direction
- "Swiss Family Robinson" author Johann ---

Down

- Maritime hazards in WWI and WWII
- Changes of place
- "--- It Goes" (Billy Joel song)
- Mormons, initially
- Salt of element #5
- "Excavating for ---"
- Female attendants
- A charity, for example
- Doctrine
- Family
- Leaders of the masses
- By
- Stressful times
- Painkilling machine
- Does absolutely nothing
- Feather, Ponca dance style
- Aviator's award
- Na Hon Ga, Iowa chief of the early 1800s
- Instruction to a horse to turn left

Answers will appear in the April 19 issue of the Drum.

Answers for March 22 Crossword Puzzle

Across: 1 Tug, 4 Ache, 8 Cora, 9 Whulge, 12 Ariz, 13 Eagles, 14 Access point, 16 Bio, 17 Ore, 18 Wagon-master, 23 I do, 24 Edm, 25 Year and a day, 31 Online, 32 Rage, 33 Taints, 34 Thus, 35 Ekes, 36 Sla.
Down: 1 Torc, 2 Uric, 3 Gazebo, 4 Awesomeness, 5 Chap, 6 Hugo, 7 Elliot, 8 Caa, 10 Genre, 11 Ester, 15 Sin, 18 Wiyot, 19 Adena, 20 Goalie, 21 Add, 22 Smarts, 26 Rink, 27 Ante, 28 Dahl, 29 Agua, 30 Yes.

Did you know?!

Beginning on April 1, 2024, the Los Pinos River Trail and access to the Los Pinos River from Ute Road will be closed. The project is expected to last for up to three weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Remediation Program Manager Mitch Dorsk at (970) 563-2272 or mdorsk@southernute-nsn.gov. Thank you for your patience.

Cottonwood
Map by E. Miller, 10/2023
Created by Mitch Dorsk
SUD 191-1732, June 13, 18
Location: Indian 1 T10N 87E, NSNM

Please contact the Environmental Programs Department at 970-563-2272 with any questions or comments.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, April 5

Mostly sunny 61°F
Windy

Saturday, April 6

Partly sunny 39°F
Chance of snow showers, breezy

Sunday, April 7

Sunny 50°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

April 8

April 15

April 23

May 2

May 7