



Tribe rocks it's mocs

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NB3Fit hosted by SunUte

PAGE 11

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# The Southern Ute Drum

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### ENVIRONMENT

## Tribe, EPA give updates on Gold King Mine and Bonita Peak Mining District

By Sacha Smith  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Environmental Programs Agency (EPA) Region 8 and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe hosted a meeting to update the tribal membership on the impacts from the Gold King Mine (GKM) Spill and the EPA's newly designated Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) Superfund Site.

The update meeting held on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the Sunnyside Elementary School in Durango, Colo. and focused on the impacts on Animas River over a year after the spill and how the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site effects the reservation and the Brunot Treaty Area.

The meeting started with a brief history of the spill and how things have evolved over the last year since the spill.

"The ultimate thing is 'what's the impact?,'" Curtis Hartenstine, Water Qual-

ity Program manager said. "The best thing we can say is we never saw one dead fish, we never saw any bugs die ... we never saw deer that were impacted ... but we will keep monitoring."

Hartenstine continued, "the fisheries and wildlife are alive and vibrant and we hear that from lots of different people."

Tribal member Cassandra Naranjo asked about how much longer the tribe would be collecting samples and monitoring the river to track the impacts of the GKM spill.

According Hartenstine, the Water Quality Program has been actively monitoring rivers on the Reservation for over 20 years. The data from the last 20 years came in handy after the spill and really showed what is "normal" here on the reservation, Hartenstine said. Monitoring frequency has declined since the spill. Monitoring usually slows during the winter months

and picks back up in time for spring runoff.

Hartenstine said it costs almost \$2000 to sample each site and the Water Quality Program usually tests three sites every time they go out. Further more, the program has to take into account other needs of the tribe and what else may need to be monitored.

"We will still stay on it, we'll reduce the frequency, but we will still stay engaged in all the same activities," he said. "If data give us some cause for concern then we will [increase] the frequency back up."

Executive Officer Andrew Frost asked about the agriculture and the impact on those south of the reservation including the Navajo Nation.

Hartenstine said it all comes down to perspective. "Southern Utes don't do a whole lot of irrigation and farming on the Animas River. A lot of that activity

Mining updates page 8

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Veterans recognize donors

By Damon Toledo  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Veterans Association recently held a special ceremony in honor of donators who have contributed their benefits in support of the tribal veterans from around La Plata County. Honorees who donated the most to the Veterans Association include Lynda Grove D'Wolf, Pearl Casias, Ramona Y. Eagle, and Lalena Weasel. Veterans Howard D. Richards Sr., Rod Grove, Bruce LeClaire, and Bruce Heller recognized the contributors at Sky Ute Casino Resort on Saturday, Nov. 12.

"We veterans are still surviving amongst our people, and we are still fighting after many years. It's been a struggle," stated veteran Howard D. Richards Sr. "Along with these



Damon Toledo/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Veterans Association recognized donors who have contributed to the Southern Ute Veterans Association on Saturday, Nov. 12. Tribal elder Pearl Casias (right) is honored by Southern Ute Veteran Rod Grove.

struggles, we didn't have any money to hold events in remembrance of our brothers and sisters. And tonight, we honor those members who have donated money to our cause."

Tribal veteran Rod Grove commended the donators by stating, "This is our first time hosting an

Veterans page 16

### DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Southern Ute Tribal Water: A key resource

Staff report  
S.U. DIVISION OF WATER  
RESOURCES

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Division is pleased to present the first article in our Tribal Water series. The purpose of the articles is to provide current and historic information related to the Tribe's water rights.

In light of the continuing drought in the Colorado River Basin and the recent completion of the State of Colorado's Water Plan it is a good time to consider the Tribe's significant role in managing this vital resource. Tribal allocations make up a large part of the Colorado River Basin water. The Southern Ute Tribe is a proud member of the Ten Tribes Partnership (TTP) which was formed to increase Tribal participation and involvement in Colorado River Basin decision making. The TTP is working with the federal Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to complete a Colorado River Basin Tribal Water Study that will focus on issues related to Tribal water in the Basin. Publication of the study is scheduled for release in January 2017.

The following brief history of the Tribe's water rights is an excerpt from the Southern Ute section of the BOR-TTP Tribal Water Study document, which is currently being finalized.

### HISTORY

"The signing of the 1868 Treaty (Treaty with the Ute Indians, 15 Stat. 619) created a reservation that encompassed roughly the western third of present day Colorado, including the vast watersheds of the Western Slope. But the discovery of gold and silver in the San Juan Mountains and



courtesy/Dept. of Natural Resources

the accompanying influx of miners led to the forcible relinquishment of the San Juan area and its mountainous headwaters under the Brunot Agreement of 1873 (Agreement of Sept. 13, 1873, ratified by Act of April 29, 1874, ch. 136.). Subsequent agreements and events in the 1870s and 1880s further reduced the Ute lands in Colorado, resulting in the relocation of the Northern Ute Bands to Utah and the Southern Ute Bands to a narrow strip along the New Mexico border in the southwestern portion of Colorado (www.southernute-nsn.gov/history). The implementation of the allotment policy under the Hunter Act of 1895 (28 Stat. 677, signed February 11, 1895, ch. 113) ultimately led to the Ute Strip being divided into two reservations, with the eastern allotted portion becoming the current Southern Ute Reservation and the western un-allotted portion becoming the current Ute Mountain Ute Reservation (The Southern Utes: A Tribal History, J. Jefferson, 1972).

Beginning with the Brunot Agreement, the government sought to discourage the hunting economy of the Southern Utes by transitioning them to farming (Report of the Secretary of the Interior, Carl Schurz, 1877). Because of this policy, water, and access to it, has played a large role in shaping and defining the settlement and development patterns on the Southern Ute Reservation. As early as 1880, as the concept of allotment was being debated, Indian Agent Henry Page pointed out in his annual report that, "land on the Southern Ute Reservation could not be cultivated without the use of irrigation ditches" (Ordeal of Change, F.L. Quintana, 2004). The first irrigation ditches to serve Southern Ute lands were built around 1885 and by 1888 almost 600 acres were reported to be in cultivation along the Pine River.

With the enactment of allotment on the Southern Ute Reservation, the construction of irrigation ditches took on a new priority. The majority of allotments were taken along the Pine River, but even with tracts laid out in long, narrow strips to maximize access to the riparian corridor, many Tribal members ended up with little access to irrigation water. In late 1896 the Indian Service (the predecessor to the BIA) began work on the Spring Creek Ditch to serve the majority of allotments east of the Pine River. Around the same time, the Animas Ditch was constructed to serve allotments along the Animas River.

In 1899 lands not already allotted on the Southern Ute Reservation were opened to homesteading and settlers quickly moved in to claim

Tribal water page 6

## Schools celebrate heritage



Damon Toledo/SU Drum

Drum group Yellow Jacket give an energetic performance for students at Ignacio High School in honor of Native American Month on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

See more Native American Heritage Month photos on page 3.

## Tribe shares Thanksgiving



Damon Toledo/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe hosted its annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 19. Amir Cesspooch (left) and Deon Bilsie have a smile together as they get a plate of food at the Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner.

See more Thanksgiving photos on page 6 and 9.





PROPERTIES & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Baidwan receives National Manager Distinction award

Damon Toledo  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has recognized Jess Baidwan (Custodial Supervisor for the Southern Ute Permanent Fund) by honoring him with the National Manager Distinction Award for his and his fellow staff members’ dedication to providing a clean environment.

Baidwan’s award in cleanliness was given by the Facility Cleaning Decisions Magazine along with five other recipients, who were nominated among 100 individuals total.

Baidwan who has serviced the tribe since January 2009, starting as supervisor for the Wood Yard, stated that he felt overwhelmed to be nominated out of the many individuals and gave thanks to community members and his fellow staff.

“It was humbling to even be nominated,” he said. “My crew members nominated me back in the spring, and I didn’t even know I was even going to win, so I was overwhelmed by getting the award. I really want to thank my team, because without them going out and embracing the changes we’re making, it just really



Damon Toledo/SU Drum

Chairman Clement J. Frost awards the National Manager Distinction Award to Jess Baidwan, Custodial Services Supervisor on Thursday, Nov. 10.

wouldn’t have been possible ... it does tell me we’re doing a lot of things right as a crew. I also want to thank the tribal executives who supported me in pushing for higher standards of cleaning – it’s definitely beneficial to everyone.”

He gained recognition by encouraging the use of NanoSeptic cleaners in the Permanent Fund facilities, which have been praised in creating cleaner, healthier places to live, work and play by using nanotechnology-powered, self-cleaning surfaces. One example that was given is the NanoSeptic Peel-and-Stick Skins, which provide a self-cleaning touch point for door push pads, push bars, han-

dle wraps, desktop skins, or even grocery cart handle wraps.

Another cleanliness tool that has been added is the Franke spray, which is ozone generated sanitizing spray for cleaning in various rooms.

All NanoSeptic products can be purchased in their generic form or branded specifically for any business or organization.

Baidwan stated that he encourages community members to undertake in a clean living space by stating, “I have a constant education for hand hygiene, so I always encourage the same for the community membership as well – please wash your hands.”

SUPD

Keeping children safe

By Don Folsom  
SU POLICE DEPT.

You can learn a lot about safety in just a few minutes. Car seat technicians from the Southern Ute Police Department and SUCAP Southern Ute Head Start observed parents dropping their students off one morning. The observers were able to look at 48 of the vehicles as they arrived at the drop off location on a Wednesday morning. Only 58 percent of the parents or family members properly protected their children as they arrived for class.

Colorado law requires that a child be properly protected in an age appropriate child seat. Here is a summary of the law:

Children must be restrained in boosters – or other appropriate child car seats – until they reach the age of 8. Parents searching for an appropriate child safety seat to meet the requirements in Colorado need to make sure the car seat matches the child’s weight, height and age:

- Birth to 1-year-old and less than 20 lbs: Rear-facing seat, in the back seat only (no exceptions). While this is the law in Colorado, most experts recommend keeping your child in a rear-facing seat until 2 years old.

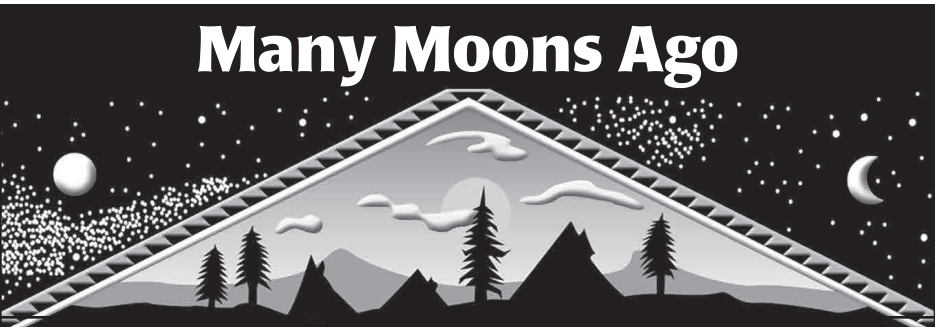
- You should never place a rear-facing child seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active airbag; this includes single-cab pickup trucks.
- One through 3-years-old and at least 20 lbs: Forward-facing seat in the back seat of the vehicle. Your child should remain in the forward-facing seat only until they reach the upper weight limit set by the car seat manufacturer.
- 4 through 7-years-old: Booster seat.
- Beginning at 8-years-old: Standard vehicle safety belt.
- While Colorado law allows children to use a standard seat belt at 8-years-old, it is recommended that you wait until your child is at least 4 ft 9 inches tall before transitioning to a seat belt, so as to avoid injury in case of an accident.

The car seat technicians found that the majority of the unsafe violations observed were placing children under eight in the backseat without a forward facing seat or a booster seat and seating children without a seat belt to protect them. Forty-five percent of children this age arrived to school unprotected this way. Younger students fared bet-

ter. All infants in rear facing seats were protected properly. Forward facing seats were used properly 75% of the time when they were in the vehicle. If the booster or car seat was not visible in the car, the child would be left either unprotected or inadequately protected.

As car seat technicians we were not surprised by the findings. Only 46 percent of the drivers were seat belted. Adult passengers in the vehicles were worse off with only 25 percent of the vehicle passengers arriving seat belted. When fewer adults remember to buckle up for their own safety, it shows that fewer children are also buckled. Law enforcement cannot pull a vehicle over for just a seat belt violation (secondary offense). A child inadequately protected can be a (primary offense) cause for immediately pulling a vehicle over. This also is true for under 18 drivers as well (primary offense).

SUCAP Head Start is a car seat fitting station with low cost car seats available. Head Start has two technicians and the Southern Ute Police Department has one car seat technician. If anyone in the community needs help in installing car seats or questions about their fit and usage, Head Start can be reached at 970-563-4566, ext. 29 and the Southern Ute Police Dept. at 970 563-0246.



Many Moons Ago



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Councilwoman Ramona Eagle and Miss Southern Ute Jalisa Paul, present Essie Kent with a blanket at the Annual Southern Ute Thanksgiving Dinner.

This photo first appeared in the Nov. 22, 2006, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



Roberta Cook/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Litefoot was hit with all of Ignacio. He took time to talk to the kids at the Southern Ute Education Center and didn’t skip a beat with elder Naomi Red.

This photo first appeared in the Nov. 22, 1996, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Councilman Leonard C. Burch giving welcoming address at CERT.

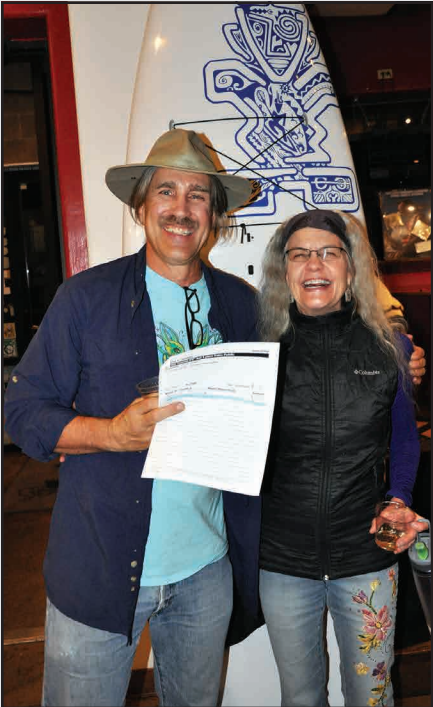
This photo first appeared in the Nov. 26, 1986, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.

A silent auction for KSUT



photos Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

KSUT held it’s annual silent auction at the SKA Brewing Headquarters in Durango on Saturday, Nov. 5. Gross proceeds from sales at the silent auction amounted to \$27,455 with 388 people attending which accounts for \$4,535 in ticket sales, plus \$2000 from a First National Bank sponsorship. Total revenue raised for the KSUT Silent Auction amounts to \$29,455.



KSUT staff members, Membership Manager/Development Assistant, Gram Wohlst and Four Corners Station Manager/Music Blend & ‘Barrelhouse Blues’ Programmer, Rob Rawls pose for a quick photo during KSUT’s silent auction.

Former Ignacio Elementary School Principal, Karl Herr who served as principal for 8 years poses with his wife Mary Lynn in front of the paddle board they won at the KSUT Silent Auction, donated by 4Corners Riversports.

### CEDAR POINT HOUSING INITIATIVE LOGO

Logo Submissions Have The Following Requirements

- Final Submission Shall Be No Larger Than 8.5" x 11"
- Format (i.e. Photoshop vs. Pastel) Is At The Artist's Discretion
- Must Contain The Words "Cedar Point Housing Initiative"
- Submissions Are Due December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Any Questions Should Be Directed To April Toledo@ (970) 563-0138

The Winning Artist Will Be Compensated For Their Artwork!

Please Submit Artwork To Annex Building Located At 116 Memorial Drive, Ignacio CO 81137  
Attn: April Toledo  
atoledo@southernute-nsn.gov





The Ignacio Intertribal Powwow Association held a Veterans Day Gourd Dance Friday, Nov. 11 honoring all those who have served.



Gourd Dancers gathered for a Veterans Day Gourd Dance. The Southern Mountain Intertribal Singers of Towaoc, Colo. was the host drum.



Dominick Howe Goodtracks dances beside Tom Alires at the Ignacio Intertribal Powwow Association's (IIPA) Veterans Day Gourd Dance.

## Honoring Veterans at Gourd Dance

***The Ignacio Intertribal Powwow Association held a Veterans Gourd Dance on Friday, Nov. 11 honoring all the men and women who have served in the military. The Gourd Dance was held at the Multi-Purpose Facility and included an afternoon and evening session as well as a community potluck dinner.***

**Photos by Sacha Smith**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Fellow gourd dancers pay their respects to veterans during the Veterans Gourd Dance Friday, Nov. 11.

## ‘Rock Your Mocs’



photos Damon Toledo/SU Drum

In honor of “Rock Your Mocs”, the community met at SunUte Park on Wednesday, Nov. 16. Participants walked a total of six laps around the playing field while sporting their specially designed moccasins. Additionally, tribal member Sky Dawn hosted a concessions booth that consisted of various treats, with all proceeds being donated to the Dakota Pipeline protesters at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. “Rock Your Mocs,” an event that honors the indigenous ancestors and people from around the world while encouraging the participation of Native Americans. Tribal member Marjorie Borst (front) keeps in pace with fellow “Rock Your Mocs” participants Lisa Burch Frost, Vanessa Torres, Lexi Young, Sarafina Chackee, and Neda Chackee.



Tribal members Agatha Bison and son Kris White enjoy a walk together.

“Rock Your Mocs” participants bring their crafted moccasins full circle.

## Native heritage in school



photos Damon Toledo/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal members joined one another at Ignacio High School on Tuesday, Nov. 22 to inform students about Native American Heritage month, which is celebrated nationally throughout November. Tribal elder Eddie Box Jr. (above) tells a story about his Southern Ute heritage to Ignacio High School students.



Ignacio High School students welcome Southern Ute Tribal member Hunter Frost and fellow dancers during grand entry.



Grace Gonzales gives a smile as she dances during the women's traditional dance presentation.

## CULTURAL UPDATE

### 101 Ute Language Classes

Ute Language classes will be every Monday, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in the Cultural Center, Large/Small Classroom. Refreshments will be served. All class dates may be changed or canceled.

- Nov. 28

### Tribal Membership Classes

Classes will be held in the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum (SUCCM) in the Craft Room, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Class is Limited to the first (20) participants who sign up.

- Nov. 28, 29: Make up class/Beginning Loom Beadwork

### Southern Ute Tribal Christmas Dinner & Program

Saturday Dec. 17, 2016

Sky Ute Casino Event Center

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Christmas program at 4:00 p.m.







SENIOR CENTER

# Herrera appointed to Colorado Commission of Aging

Damon Toledo  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Colorado Commission on Aging is a commission appointment by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper that conducts studies of problems of the states elderly, while assisting government and private agencies in coordinating their efforts on behalf of the aging and aged in order to ensure that effects are efficient and non-duplicative on the state’s older people. The commission promotes and assists in the establishment of local programs and services for the elderly, with the addition of conducting promotional activities/ programs of public education on the complications of the elderly.

Debra Herrera, Division Director of the Ignacio Senior Center, has been appointed as a commission member of the Colorado Commission on Aging and hopes to spread awareness to commission representatives in Denver about the needs of seniors in Ignacio.

“Being appointed to this position has been a totally different world,” she said. “When I see what is done in the larger communities, the things they do in terms of what we do here are totally different. Some communities don’t do a “Meals on Wheels” like we do here, and we have 50 clients that we deliver to a day. The congregate meals in the cities are going down for their clients, whereas the numbers here in our areas are not going down. We work with our seniors as efficiently as we can, but we still know there’s



Damon Toledo/SU Drum

a lot more that needs to get done.”

Herrera stated that the commission meets six times a year, where guests speakers from the state speak and give ideas on what can be brought to the local community. Additionally, the committee hosts two events, the Centenarian Celebration and Alan Buckingham Award, both of which honor individuals who have provided ongoing care and courtesy to the elderly for a number of years.

“Most of the meetings we host are held in Denver, but the Centenarian Celebration and Alan Buckingham move around to different parts of the state. Last year the Centenarian was held in Durango where 12 individuals were awarded and received a special

certificate from [Governor Hickenlooper].”

According to the Colorado Commission on Aging’s website, the state of Colorado has one of fastest growing aging populations in the U.S. It has been evaluated that there will be more than 1,350,000 older adults age 60 years and older by the year 2021. From the years 2011 to 2010, the number of older adults in Colorado could reach to 54 percent. By the year 2050, the Census Bureau predicts there will be over 850,000 centenarians in the United States, which is also the fastest growing segment of the American population. The U.S. additionally predicts that by the year 2050, over two million people in the world will be 100 years or older.

TRIBAL HEALTH

# Tribe welcomes new physician

By Sacha Smith  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Dr. Soma Grotefend has joined the Southern Ute Health Center as the newest physician.

Grotefend is no stranger to the southwest; she was born raised in Albuquerque, N.M., where she completed medical school. She has also spent the majority of her career practicing in the Four Corners region from 1998-2013, and has more recently worked overseas in New Zealand.

Grotefend practiced in New Zealand for a year and a half, where she took on the tasks of learning a new culture, language and medical system. She prides herself on the experience, but says that she is glad to be home in South-



west Colorado.

Dr. “G”, what Grotefend goes by in the clinic, is excited to be working in the Southern Ute community. She says she has a more a natural approach to healing and believes it will mesh well with the community.

“I believe in the human body. It’s intelligent and al-

ways trying to heal itself, so I teach more natural ways of healing,” Grotefend said. “What’s our relationship with the Earth, what’s our relationship with our mind ... to me those are absolutely primal and critical and they get ignored in western medicine.”

Grotefend said she loves interacting with patients and being a “health partner; not a health dictator.”

“I love just working with people. ‘How can we support your health’, instead of ‘how are you broken’ and ‘how can I fix you,’” she said. “What can we do to support your body, because it knows how to fix itself.”

On her free time, Dr. G enjoys exploring the outdoors and spending time with her family who reside in Durango.

## BCG food drive blitz



photos Trennie Collins/SU Drum

On Thursday, Nov. 17 kids from the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe held donation signs outside of the Ignacio Community Library in the hopes of receiving donations for their Thanksgiving Food Drive, which ended on Monday, Nov. 21.

Peyton Pierre-Louis and Curtis Lucero proudly hold signs to at the Ignacio Community Library to help get food donations.



## Girls on the Run



photos Sacha Smith/SU Drum

Some staffers and club members of the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe joined over 800 participants at the Girls on the Run Durango 5k run Saturday, Nov. 12 at Fort Lewis College. The purpose of Girls on the Run is to help young girls build confidence, appreciate individuality, have a healthy body image, build peer relationships and care for the community.



Club member, Krystyn Weaver and Program Coordinator, Cassandra Sanchez make their way down a hill to the finish line.

Kaycee Jefferson makes her way through the Girls on the Run 5k course on Saturday, Nov. 12.

# LEONARD C. BURCH

## 5TH ANNUAL WALK/RUN

Saturday, December 10  
Sun Ute Community Center  
Registration: 9 a.m.  
Start: 10 a.m.

Special thanks from the Leonard C. Burch family  
Sponsored by:  
The Southern Ute Growth Fund  
Law Firm of Maynes, Bradford, Shipp and Sheftel

Door prizes and employee incentives will be awarded after walk.

The first 100 adults to register will receive a free hoodie!

Children (10 and under) will receive a special prize!

Refreshments provided by Shining Mountain Health and Wellness.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Health Department  
Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council

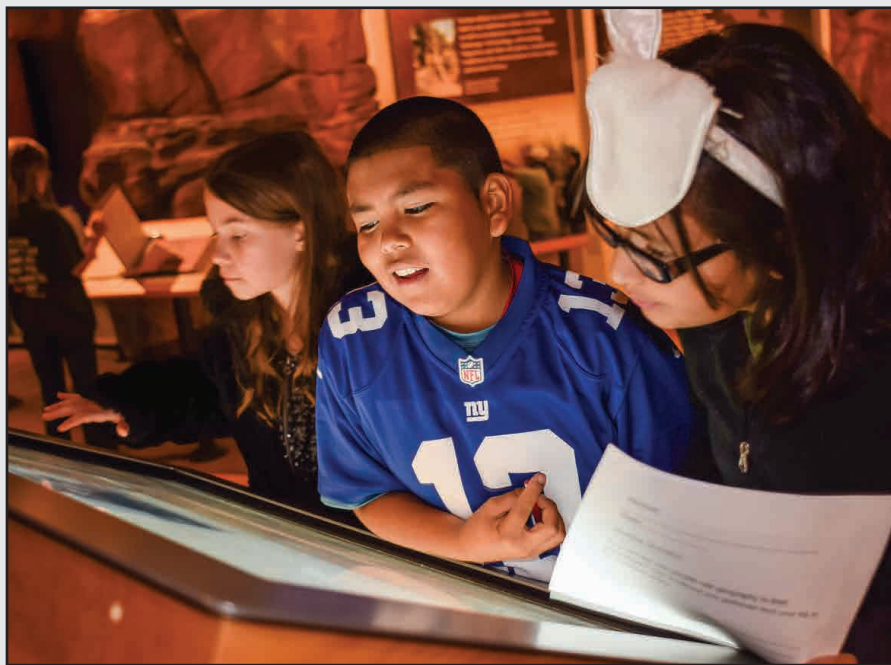
For more info contact Leonora Burch at 970-799-3498 or Lisa Frost at 970-799-2056.

Advertise in the Drum!  
Call today for more info 970-563-0118.





## IES gets a lesson in Ute culture



photos Damon Toledo/SU Drum

Ignacio Elementary School paid a visit to the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum on Wednesday, Nov. 16, where the students learned about the history of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and culture as part of their academics. Museum Director Linda Baker hosted the visit, along with 4th grade teachers Deb Otten, Kerry Melrose, Tanner Pilette, and Sarah Kappel. Ignacio Elementary School students study Southern Ute history using the virtual kiosk.



Ignacio Elementary School teacher Kerry Melrose gives help to her student Derek Halstead.

Elementary student Ethan Barry studies his history at the Southern Ute Culture Center and Museum.

### POTENTIAL GED STUDENTS!

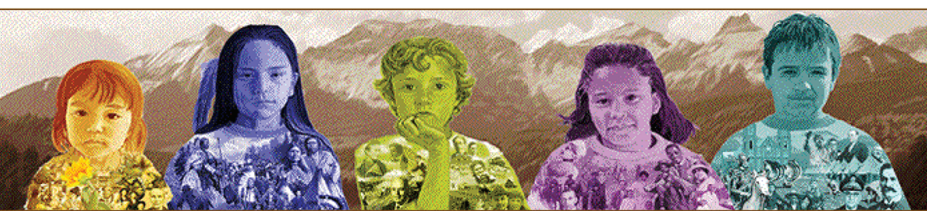
If you have not received a high school diploma, but would like to, then you may consider working toward your High School Equivalency credentials.

Ashley wanted to earn her GED® credential not just for herself, but to show her daughter the importance of education. Currently a medical assistant, she loves working in the medical field and wanted to further her career. She depended on the online resources and study books she purchased to help her pass the test. Now that she's earned her GED® credential, she plans to go to college and realize her dream of becoming a physician's assistant. Ashley encourages others to go for their dreams, too.



**"Anybody can succeed if they put their mind to it!"**

If you have any questions or need help, call the Adult Education Center and talk with Dr. Jonathan Hunstiger (Adult Education Program Manager) at 970-563-0237.



### 10th Annual

## Educating Children of Color Summit – 2017

The purpose of the Educating Children of Color Summit is to encourage all youth, especially children of color and children in poverty, to pursue higher education; to support teachers to be successful educators; and to educate parents on what it takes to be college-ready and to hold their child accountable for their future.

This 10th annual flagship event – themed "We Can't Wait" – provides a unique opportunity for educators, juvenile justice, and child welfare professionals to enhance their ability to inspire the students they serve and to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline. It is also an opportunity for high school and undergrad students 21 and under to learn about themselves while they explore higher education. Finally, this Summit offers a chance for parents to learn to communicate with schools and with their children in order to maximize their child's success.

**Colorado College**  
**Colorado Springs, CO**  
**Saturday,**  
**January 14, 2017**  
**8am-5pm**

**30-40 workshops for professionals**  
 designed to enhance their ability to retain and inspire the students they serve

**48 workshops for students**  
 college prep, career options, goal-setting, staying motivated

**14 workshops for parents**  
 how to hold their child(ren) and educational system accountable for success

**Lunch**  
**Motivational Speakers**  
 Craig Boykin, student & educator advocate  
 Lance Allred, first legally deaf player of NBA

### We Invite You to Join Us

High school juniors and seniors	Free
Undergraduate students (21 and under)	Free
Parents   Families	Free
Educational, child welfare, and juvenile justice professionals	\$35*

**Registration Deadline**  
**December 23, 2016**

Attendees (in 2015)	1,252
Students	678
Parents	87
Professionals, Educators	387
Volunteers, Committee Members	100

\*Educators receive 8 Continuing Education Credits for attending. 75% of registration dollars is returned to youth as scholarship and educational gifts for post-secondary education. Since 2008, \$120,000 in scholarships and 120 laptops have been awarded.

Register today at [www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org/ecoc-summit.html](http://www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org/ecoc-summit.html)  
[EducatingChildrenofColor.org](http://EducatingChildrenofColor.org)

719.640.6633 | [info@educatingchildrenofcolor.org](mailto:info@educatingchildrenofcolor.org)



## Bobcat Awards



These Ignacio Elementary School students were honored as Bobcats of the first trimester for demonstrating the six pillars of 'Character Counts' at IES: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Congrats Lil' Cats!



Kindergarten  
**Shyla Cloud**



Kindergarten  
**Kirstyn Jameson**



Kindergarten  
**Forrest Vega**



First Grade  
**Mirra Bourriague**



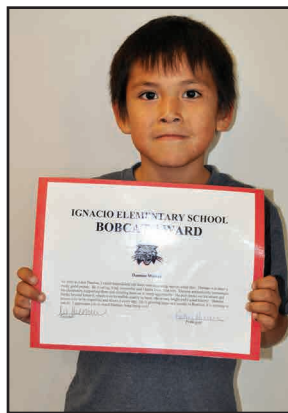
First Grade  
**Marquis Castro**



First Grade  
**Aubriella Herrera**



First Grade  
**Larissa Howel**



First Grade  
**Damian Moguel**



Second Grade  
**Jaelyn Alston**



Second Grade  
**Moni Cesspooch**



Second Grade  
**Shannon Howell**



Second Grade  
**Peyton Pierre-Louis**



Second Grade  
**Leland Richards**



Third Grade  
**Kaya Bison**



Third Grade  
**Tavian Box**



Third Grade  
**Maleina Carel**



Third Grade  
**Nataya Lovato**



Third Grade  
**Zane Pontine**



Third Grade  
**Shay Vigil**



Fourth Grade  
**Matthew Jameson**



Fourth Grade  
**Ryan Naranjo**

Students awarded but not present for photo:

Kindergarten: **Silas Richards**

Fourth Grade: **Amaira Brown-Watts**





# Thanksgiving

naveeini (6)

November 23, 2016



## A head start on Thanksgiving



The Southern Ute Montessori Head Start & Early Head Start served up a Thanksgiving for Grandparent's Day on Wednesday, Nov. 16.



Families joined their little ones for food and entertainment at this year's Thanksgiving lunch at the Southern Ute Montessori Head Start & Early Head Start.

**Photos by Sacha Smith**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Before feasting on turkey students sang turkey songs for their grandparents and families.

## SUIMA serves Thanksgiving



**Sacha Smith/SU Drum**

SUIMA Upper Elementary student Christen Whiteskunk Heart enjoys an early Thanksgiving meal with her uncle Henry and grandma Willette.



**Trennie Collins/SU Drum**

Leandro Litz and Alyssa Nez enjoy their Thanksgiving lunch with their sons, Leandro Jr. and Dwight.



**Trennie Collins/SU Drum**

Andre Baker smiles as he carries his turkey lunch at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy's Thanksgiving lunch.



**Trennie Collins/SU Drum**

Ernest (Muz) Pinnecoos enjoyed the thanksgiving lunch with his granddaughter, Jayla Jackson at SUIMA's lunch.

## Elementary gives thanks



**Sacha Smith/SU Drum**

Families joined their youngsters for an early Thanksgiving meal at Ignacio Elementary School on Thursday, Nov. 17. The Ignacio Elementary school food service staff served 600 of the 625 meals prepared for the 350 students and families in 80 minutes, with the help of 12 Ignacio High School students from the Student Senate and Brittany Banwart a volunteer from Farmer's Fresh.



**Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum**



**Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum**

Student Senatemebers, Makayla Howell, Clay Seibel and Larissa Gallegos serve plates with all the fixins' to the hundreds of students and families that attended the Ignacio Elementary's Thanksgiving lunch.

Lainey Espinoza (right) and fellow Ignacio High School Student Senate members serve a Thanksgiving meal to the students and their families at the Ignacio Elementary School on Thursday, Nov. 17.

## Seniors, students share meal



**Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum**

With the fragrant smell of cedar smoke from the fireplace, and the familiar scents of Thanksgiving, Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students shared a meal and helped serve a Thanksgiving meal to residents of the Ignacio Senior Center on Thursday, Nov. 17.



The Pinnecoos family shares a meal together at the Ignacio Senior Center, (left to right) Shaleena Parambo, Samantha Pinnecoos, Cleone Voit, Georgia McKinley and Vanessa Pinnecoos.

Andres is chillin' with grandpa Sam Maez during the Ignacio Senior Center Thanksgiving meal.





## VOTE SOUTHERN UTE RUN-OFF ELECTION 2016

**FRIDAY, DEC. 16 • SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER • 7 A.M. – 7 P.M.**



Joycelyn Peabody Dutchie



Kevin R. Frost



Adam Red



Shane Seibel

### SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE RUN-OFF ELECTION

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016**

Sun Ute Community Center  
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Candidates for Tribal Council Seats  
Notice – Vote for (2) Two

**Adam Red  
Joycelyn Peabody Dutchie  
Shane Seibel  
Kevin R. Frost**

**NOTE: THE CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE HIGHEST  
NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED**

\* \* \* \* \*

- Polls open, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the SunUte Community Center.
- Voting is by secret ballot.
- Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- Person(s) waiting in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

- Official Voter Registration Deadline – Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 by 5 p.m.
- Absentee Ballot Request Deadline – Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 by 5 p.m.
- Emergency Absentee Deadline – Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 by 5 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, phone 970-563-0100 ext. 2303 or 2305.  
Off-Reservation Tribal members please phone 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303.  
Email is [election@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:election@southernute-nsn.gov) Direct Line (970) 563-4789.

The Election Board is open Monday through Friday at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m

### What part of Mouache-Capote Ute History Inspires You?

#### Leonard C. Burch Art and Literacy High School “Hashtag and Photo” Contest

##### Contest Rules:

1. Take a photo
2. Write a caption for the photo on which part of Mouache-Capote Ute History inspires you.
3. Upload to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag **#LCBUteHistory**.

**Contest ends December 2, 2016**

Students who do not have access to social media can print their photo with a caption and bring it to The Southern Ute Drum Office in the Leonard C. Burch Building, 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO.

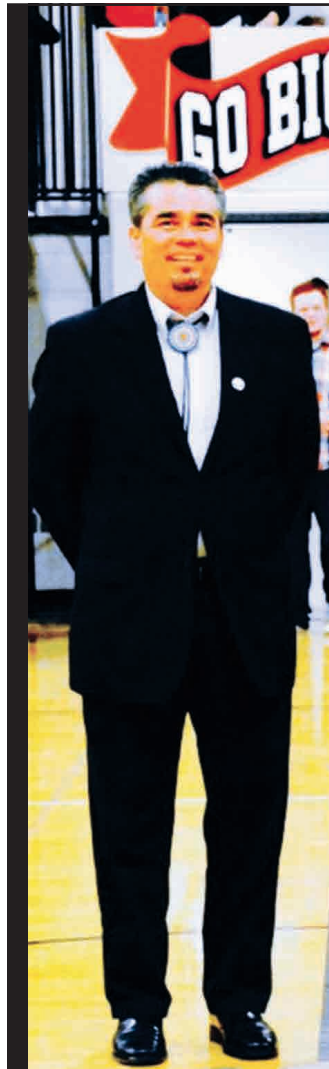
**Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place photos and captions.**

Photos without captions will not be considered for prizes.  
Please make sure when you use the hashtag the picture and caption are public on your profile.  
We will not be able to see private posts.

For questions contact Trennie Collins, Public Relations Coordinator at 970-563-0118 or [tcollins@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tcollins@southernute-nsn.gov).



\*\*\* CONTEST IS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY \*\*\*



### SHANE SEIBEL

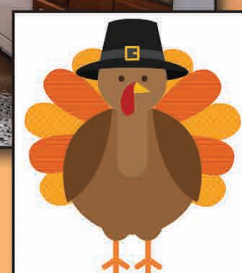
**FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**DEC. 16TH, 2016**

IF ELECTED, THE ASPECTS BELOW ARE  
WHAT I WILL ADVOCATE FOR THROUGH  
PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY:

1. Financial Transparency / Literacy for all internal voices of the Tribe. (Council, Employees, Members).
2. Be a voice of opportunity for the membership.
3. I will bring EXPERIENCE (20+ Years in Business Management, EDUCATION (AA, BA in Business Management)
4. I have a plan for discussion about the 1st Generation Descendants (Health Care, Higher Education, TERO Preference).
5. I have a plan for discussion on the financial vehicle to help create security for the Elders Retirement Fund.

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ANIMAS RIVER

# San Juan Basin Health Reports on Animas River Sediment Testing Results

*Staff report*  
SAN JUAN BASIN HEATH

San Juan Basin Health (SJBH) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) completed their summer testing of sediment in the Animas River.

Results showed that metals in sediment remain at safe levels for typical recreational use of the river.

SJBH and CDPHE took 67 samples over this period and analyzed each one for the levels of thirteen different metals, providing 871 individual results. None of these data points indicated an unsafe level for river recreation. The metals studied include lead, arsenic, cadmium, uranium and nine others that can create a risk of health problems if present in sediment at high enough levels.

SJBH and CDPHE took weekly sediment samples at four locations from Silverton to Durango, and monthly samples at five popular recreational areas within Durango city limits, as part of CDPHE's comprehensive Long-Term Monitoring Plan for the Animas River. This plan was created in response to community concerns

about public health impacts from the presence of metals in the river. Laboratory analysis of samples taken from April through August, as metals moved downstream in high runoff, is now complete.

The established safe levels for recreation are based on the impact of ten to twenty years of repeated accidental ingestion of sediment. This is a conservative level of comparison for most typical recreational users, but individuals should still take common-sense precautions:

- Do not deliberately swallow sediment on any river bank or beach.
- Parents should closely supervise their children when using beaches to prevent them from eating large amounts of sediment.
- It is always good public health practice to wash with soap and water after exposure to untreated river water or sediment.

The complete data set for sediment and water quality can be accessed at [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/animas-river-water-quality-sampling-and-data](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/animas-river-water-quality-sampling-and-data), and tools to help interpret data are available at [http://sjbhd.org/public-](http://sjbhd.org/public-health-news/animas-river-health-updates/)

[health-news/animas-river-health-updates/](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ_Fish-Tissue-RR-incl-03-16.pdf).

Overall, the 2016 data are consistent with the historical state of the river: metals are present in the Animas River at different levels throughout the year. These levels tend to impact fish habitat but are always at a safe level for recreation. Furthermore, recent testing confirmed Animas River fish are safe to eat and have levels of metals consistent with fish from around the state. The fish tissue report can be accessed here: [www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ\\_Fish-Tissue-RR-incl-03-16.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ_Fish-Tissue-RR-incl-03-16.pdf)

While the recreation season is coming to a close, SJBH and CDPHE will continue sampling water and sediment to evaluate risks to human and environmental health over the winter and through next year's runoff, until August 2017.

San Juan Basin Health is a local public health agency, governed by a seven member local Board of Health, serving all residents of La Plata and Archuleta counties. For over 75 years, San Juan Basin Health has improved the health and environment of the Southwest Colorado community.

## SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL WATER • FROM PAGE 1

land and water (Quintana, 2004). Settlers and developers, under Colorado water law statute, enlarged some of the existing government ditches and claimed rights in them. The water situation was rapidly becoming complicated and contentious. Local Indian Agents pressed officials in Washington to act quickly to secure the necessary water rights for all Tribal allotments, but as Easterners, the officials didn't appreciate the value of water in the West and the need for urgent action.

By 1914, Tribal and non-Tribal water claims on the Pine River, many of which were speculative, totaled more than ten times the natural flow rate of the river (BIA] Irrigation Report, H. F. Robinson, 1914). Under the Winters Doctrine, the Tribe had first rights on the Pine River, based upon the 1868 Reservation establishment date, but the amount of water the Tribe was entitled to was not yet determined. This was ultimately decided on the Pine River in the 1930 case United States v. Morrison Consolidated Ditch Co. But the question of reserved rights on other rivers across the Reservation remained and would not be fully answered for another 56 years.

The need for reservoirs, both to control seasonal flooding and to ensure a steady supply of irrigation water throughout the growing season, was recognized early in the settlement of the Reservation, but authorization of funding wouldn't come for several decades. Vallecito Dam was the first to be authorized in 1937, and completed in 1941. Lemon Reservoir, on the Florida River, was also contemplated at this time, but World War II and other political priorities delayed its construction authorization until 1960.

The question of the Tribe's reserved water rights were finally settled in 1986 with the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Final Settlement Agreement ("1986 Settlement Agreement"). A significant portion of the settlement, both for the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes (referred to collectively as the Colorado Utes), was the final authorization of the Animas-La Plata Project (ALP). Initially authorized in 1968, the final scaled-down version of the project was not completed until 2013.

Since the Colorado Utes' reserved water rights under the Winters Doctrine were senior to all other rights in the San Juan and Dolores Basins in Colorado, the resolution of these reserved water rights claims was critical to all water users in both basins in Colorado. The 1986 Settlement Agreement, signed on December 10, 1986 quantified the Southern Ute Tribe's rights on several rivers and projects, including both direct diversion and storage rights with priorities ranging from 1868 to 1976. Congress implemented portions of the 1986 Agreement when it enacted the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988, Pub. L. No. 100-585, 102 Stat. 2973 (1988 Settlement Act). That legislation was amended by the Colorado Ute Settlement

Act Amendments of 2000, enacted as Title III of Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-258 to B 266 (codified as a note to 22 U.S.C. '2452) (Dec. 21, 2000) ("2000 Amendments") (with minor amendments in Pub. L. 110-161, Section 130 (Dec. 26, 2007)).

The Tribe's settlement-based water rights are decreed by river basin or watershed, and include direct diversion and depletion-based surface water rights, Reservation-based storage rights, tributary groundwater rights, and allocations in three federal reservoir projects. The 1986 Settlement Agreement, as implemented by the 1988 Settlement Act and as amended by the 2000 Amendments and the Colorado State Court consent decrees, contains important provisions that address, among other things, the nature of the Tribe's reserved water rights, administration of the Tribe's water rights, and changes of water rights.

The Tribe's settlement-based water rights, as described above, include allocations from the following federal reservoir projects:

**Animas-La Plata Project** – The ALP Project was a key component of the 1988 Settlement Act. The primary objective of the ALP at that time was to supply irrigation, municipal and industrial water to the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes. However, due to concerns over the potential adverse effect of the Project on two endangered fish, the 1988 Settlement Act provisions were amended in 2000 and provided for the completion and implementation of a downsized Project and elimination of the irrigation component. Approval to begin construction was granted in October 2001, initial site work began in April 2002, and the work was completed in 2013. The ALP Project off-channel reservoir, Lake Nighthorse, which filled in 2011, stores water diverted from the Animas River. The Tribe's allocation in the ALP Project is 38,108.5 acre feet (AF) of storage with a depletion right of 16,525 AF for municipal and industrial use.

**Florida Project** – The Florida Project, operated by the Florida Water Conservation District, delivers storage water from Lemon Reservoir to 1,054 irrigable acres of Tribal lands in the Florida drainage. Lemon Dam and

Reservoir, located on the Florida River, was completed in 1963 by the Bureau of Reclamation as a key part of the Florida Project. The reservoir has a capacity of 40,146 AF to provide irrigation water and flood control and, of the full capacity, 2,563 AF is allocated for Tribal parcels. The Reservoir is operated based on shared shortage and often fails to fill, resulting in a diminished supply to all irrigators.

**Pine River Indian Irrigation Project** – This Bureau of Indian Affairs-operated project serves both Tribal and non-Tribal irrigators across 16,966 acres of irrigable land. Most of the irrigated lands receive direct diversions through approximately 175 miles of project ditches and laterals. Vallecito Dam and Reservoir was completed in 1940 by the Bureau of Reclamation primarily to provide storage water for irrigation purposes along with some other uses. One sixth of the 129,700 AF Reservoir capacity belongs to the Tribe; the other 5/6ths belong to the Pine River Irrigation District, which operates the Reservoir."

There is much more to the history of Tribe's water rights than can be presented in this article given space limitations, but our staff enjoys talking with Tribal Members about water, the history of irrigation on the reservation, and the Tribe's long fight to protect their water rights.

The Tribe's Water Resources Division is excited about the chance to engage with Tribal members about water and what it means to them. Please come by our office any time to meet our team and share your thoughts. If you have any questions or concerns about water delivery please do not hesitate to contact us at (970) 563-9482. To assist with Tribal planning efforts surveys will be sent to the membership soon- some of the questions will discuss Tribal water; Please help us better serve your needs by completing the survey.

The Dr. Morrison Canal diversion on the Pine River circa 1927. This same diversion structure is still in use, despite its antiquated condition.

*[Irrigation Reports, 1907-1946. Phoenix Area Office. Branch of Irrigation. Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75). National Archives at River-side, Perris, CA.]*

## UPDATE ON MINING DISTRICT • FROM PAGE 1

is concentrated on the Pine [River]," he said. "But Navajo [Nation] has a very strong use of that water for irrigation and agriculture ... So their perspective and the level of importance they're going to put on water quality for agriculture I think is going to be a lot higher than Southern Ute ... for [Southern Ute] the level of concern for agricultural use is not very high because the uses aren't very high."

Another concern was voiced about the fisheries.

Wildlife Division Head Steve Whiteman, explained that right after hearing of the spill his division and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife went out and put fish in sentinel cages along the river before the plume hit. The fish were monitored throughout the event and none of the fish died, Whiteman said.

"That was really encouraging," he said. "Initially with the acute plume coming through we didn't see any impact to the fisheries."

As for long-term effects, Whiteman said it becomes very difficult to distinguish what is the impact of Gold King Mine and what is the chronic impact of all the decades of the mines leaking into the Animas.

EPA Remedial Project

Manager Rebecca Thomas talked about the impact the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site has on the Animas River. A total of 48 mines make up the site and all together the mines contribute 5.4 million gallons of acidic water a day into the Animas River, she said.

"This is water impacting all these tributaries and Animas River 24/7- year round and has been doing so for around 100 years," Thomas said. "The river has the power to regenerate itself, but that is a lot of highly contaminated water."

Thomas said, the EPA is really interested in looking at all of the 48 sources and identifying those which contribute the most contamination and trying to do some cleanup, while looking for the opportunity of quicker fixes. The EPA will work over the winter and prioritize projects with the help of stakeholders, including the tribe. Thomas said resources and time will be an issue, but the EPA is aiming to start one to two big projects a year.

Now that the BPMD is a Superfund Site the tribe and the membership will need to think about how the tribe wants to be involved in the process the EPA is working

on, Environmental Programs Division Head Tom Johnson said.

According to Johnson, the EPA is going to start off accessing human health in Silverton and once they see what the impacts are they can move down river, they will also be doing ecological assessments.

"As EPA starts to do these evaluations it is in the Brunot area ... there are cultural sites in that area that the Culture Department will be looking at supporting the EPA, BLM and Forest Service," Johnson said.

Culturally, NAGPRA Coordinator Alden Naranjo would like to see all three Ute tribes involved in the consultation with EPA, since they all have interests in the same region.

Over the next 2 to 3 weeks plans are to host a meeting with the Executive Office and Tribal Council in order to provide different recommendations on tribal involvement for consideration. Of priority importance is the protection of cultural resources in the Brunot area and human/aquatic health on the reservation. The tribe will be allowed to comment and participate in the EPA process to the extent it desires.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Permanent Fund Hours

Departments open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Natural Resources Administration
- Wildlife Resource Management
- Water Resources
- Tribal Information Services
- Tribal Housing
- Vocational Rehab
- Dental Clinic
- Tribal Court – Clerks Window, Probation
- Tribal Services Administration
- TERO

Departments open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Lands Division
- Agriculture Division
- Social Services
- Building Maintenance
- Environmental Programs
- Public Health Nursing
- Tribal Court – Family Court
- Environmental Programs
- SUSS (Southern Ute Shared Services)

Departments open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Legal Services
- Construction & Project Management

Remaining Departments/Divisions will be open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



*Happy Thanksgiving  
from the staff of The Southern Ute Drum  
What did the turkey say to the hunter?  
Quack, quack!*





# Turkey time for the tribe



Tribal member Jennifer Goodtracks smiles for a photo as she serves up a meal.



Heather Short and Juwan Wilson from SkyUte Casino serve ham to members from the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Northern Ute Tribes during the annual Southern Ute Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner.

**The Southern Ute Indian Tribe hosted its annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 19, inviting Southern Ute families, Ute Mountain Ute and Northern Ute tribal members to the Sky Ute Casino Resort for an afternoon of enjoying a warm holiday meal. Tribal Council Chairman Clement J. Frost and Councilman Alex S. Cloud wished the attendees a happy holiday along with Southern Ute Royalty Members Miss Southern Ute Lorraine Watts, Jr. Miss Alexandria Roubideaux, and Southern Ute Brave Dominick Howe Goodtracks. In addition to the meal, the Culture Department handed out prizes to raffle winners throughout the afternoon.**

**Photos by Damon Toledo**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Tribal elder Dona Frost (left) serves herself mashed potatoes alongside Jr. Miss Southern Ute Alexandria Roubideaux.



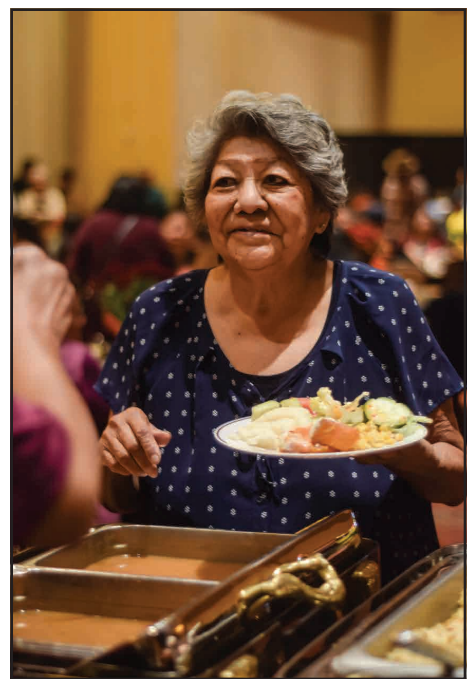
Southern Ute Councilman Alex Cloud gives a blessing.



Russell Blackbird (left) is served ham from Juwan Wilson.



Tribal member Kellis Wilbourn joins her family for her very first Tribal Thanksgiving dinner.



Tribal elder Evalyn Russell has a conversation as she stands in line.



Southern Ute tribal members Keiston and Keifer GoodTracks-Alires serve themselves a holiday meal.

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe holiday office closures

- Thursday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving) & Friday, Nov. 25
- Friday, Dec. 9 (Leonard C. Burch Day, 12/10)
- Monday, Dec. 26 (Christmas, 12/25)
- Monday, Jan. 2 (New Year's Day, 1/1)

## IGNACIO'S TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

**December 2, 2016**

❄️ **Community Light Parade @ 5:30PM**

(Line up @ 4:30 at Ignacio High School)

**Immediately following at the ELHI Community Center, 115 Ute St. Ignacio, CO...**

❄️ **Pictures with Santa**

❄️ **Gingerbread House Competition**

❄️ **Christmas Bazaar**

❄️ **Tree Lighting**

❄️ **Fill Your Bowl Fundraiser**

❄️ **Horse Drawn Carriage Rides & more!**

Parade Entry: Contact Cass @ 970.563.2692 or casanchez@southernute-nsn.gov  
Gingerbread Houses: Contact Kasey @ 970.563.4100 or dancingspiritgellery@gmail.com  
Bazaar Booth: Contact Lindsay @ 970.563.2666 or lbox@southernute-nsn.gov



# The Blue Babies

By Ronald YellowBird

*Editors Note: “The Blue Babies” by Ronald Yellow-Bird has been divided into two parts. Please check back in the December 8 Drum for part two of the story.*

I am the oldest son of the late John S. Williams (Mouache Capote) and Wanda Accuttroop American Horse (Uncompahgre). My beginnings start at Little Chicago in Ft Duchesne, UT. I lived there with all my Ute grandmothers & aunties, all the grandfathers & uncles, and through their teachings have I realized how much we have lost.

## PART 1

In the Valley of the Red River People, there came a time of famine affecting every family in the Western Slope. The weather was changing and the mountain springs, along with the berries and herbs were drying up. Grandfather Raven could see into the future when he slept and traveled about in spirit. One morning he gathered the different family leaders to his home beneath the biggest and oldest Ponderosa pine tree, a simple meal and drink of tea was what he would offer. Everyone’s attention was on Grandfather Raven, when he spoke and he was direct to the issues. The dreams I have been experiencing are of greatest concern and I’m afraid that we all will suffer. Those of you who are quite elderly must sacrifice your share, so that we may continue as a people. You who have lived our lives far too

long, must prepare to travel to a place where our lives began. Give away your possessions to those deserving the memories of time! I do not think lightly of the next place where we will end and begin a life in the spirit world. Instead, I look forward in standing with my great grandparents and to look into a realm of Spiritual balance: that which is of comfort, while being with all those relatives who exist in my bloodline.

The winter has been quite warm and already the sky is alive with insects, with them the waa-cheech-u, These small birds gather and have always talked with the People of the Red River. They have said, the shift in the winds will only bring dry air and some rains. We have traveled from our winter grounds in the south and it is warm. Many of us have made this trip and it is unusual to not leave an old one behind. See there, the old generation who are happy to have made it here with all of you. Our relatives from the Never Summer Mountains and Red Mountain, the nuch-u from Blue Mesa and those who had witnessed, a crazy white man came a walking out of the wilderness. The Ute People warned him of hard conditions on man and animal. He was struck in the head with this determination to finding his lost party, those ill prepared greenhorns and the blatant trespass into which they didn’t return.

Some say that this white man, who had a look of a nervous critter, went into the Blue Mountains and with

every step an image and a thought of reasons why he had to travel back. With no provisions he calculated his chances of surviving in a land covered by winter’s wet snow. True to his nature and with the stench of a sociopath, there was only one way to make it out. Not feeling the cold in his labored breath, he pushes his legs until there is no more burn. His spirit is consumed by greed. His weak mind would find a calm, then he turned his will and pleasure in eating his meal. Every day on way to the outhouse, he would return with a steak and quickly consumed it. He has become a beast who is too old to hunt and will feast a forbidden satisfaction. A full stomach and dried meat in his pack, he left the Blue Mountains.

Soon the summer was upon us and the heat from the winds chaffed the face. In all the life of humans, there remains the existence of who we are. Those moments where the decisions are carried out and remembrance of the spirit within. Grandfather Raven is conducting a long ago ceremony of which, enters into him a bond of life forces, that enters in each of us. Drawn to the center, you must close your eyes and purge all impurities from your soul. Only then can you leave the body behind and evoke the impulse that only belongs to you. Once, Grandfather Raven, become a star held up by the black in the universe. He could see his reflection in the lake, he existence was a pulse of energy. His time

was short compared to the life of his origins and forever cast into the great circle of life. The gray around his cheek and head gave him a look of distinction. The eyes though were bright, clear and could see through you. Given a great gift, he used it for the good of all but felt demons approaching. When crazy people are about, they always told us, to give them lots of ground. The great council of Birds was to convene in a few days and Grandfather Raven was to inform everyone of his forecast and warning.

Traveling with grandfather was the mischievous nephews and their cousins the magpies. There was plenty of talk from the magpies and entertainment from the nephews. This kept his mind occupied and remembering of younger times when he was growing. He could testify to images of the future. The next blind corner revealed a self preservation of the four legged creatures. Mothers were aborting the generations to come, a missing son or daughter. We cannot feed our babies when the grass burns up; it has become a necessary act. Before bonding can occur they are thrown into the cold river, they become the blue babies, this sacrifice will not be forgotten nor the missing be remembered. Our lives continue, later there will be a gathering of the spiritual leaders. Those who are in balance with all the forces, place great reverence upon those in the Creator’s garden. For now, the challenge is to rendezvous with the others at the headwaters of the Arkansas River. There is a spring that always flows and the nu-pa is cold, tasting of melted snow.

It is that time of year when the smallest birds return from their winter grounds and the air is full of sounds. The great gathering is attended by those bandleaders and are trusted by all. In this valley the river is lined with great cottonwood trees. At the river’s edge are the willow trees where even the dippers manage to find good sitting. All those who reside beyond timberline and lowlanders are present. Those relatives who have migrated here are all talking with Grandfather Raven and they sound concerned. One can hear the forte of whispers that become louder with each voice, a new concern.

Can you imagine the sound of all these birds in the valley. Each voice adds to the gossip and becomes full song. I can still hear the meadow larks, the mourning doves, the red-winged blackbirds, the ring necked pigeon and

the list goes on. Let me see, how many can you name? This is a dangerous place to be if you are a bug, however, the great gathering is a blessed place to be. Soon, the chitchat subsides and a clear voice emerges to greet everyone present.

Grandfather Raven talks of this spiritual travels and forecasting harder times for all those living upon the lands. There is word that the western winds have changed and that there will be little rain or snow for the next coming years. I have foreseen and will witness a greater hardship for the humans and even more so, because they depend so much on what mother earth provides, this includes Mother Nature’s fruit trees and other herbs.

In my spiritual travels have I seen how desperate the humans will get. Already, the four-legged creatures have changed their ways. Acceptance to change is hard and even harder for those who cannot make lifestyle sacrifices. We the winged brothers and sisters have the ability to travel to places where we can endure. We will miss the People from the Red River and we will remember them of what has to happen. You have to counsel with them and learn them of our inheritance. They will be stubborn and will think that you are deceiving them. Your songs will teach them of the changes that will happen and ultimately their demise, should they choose not to listen. My heart then will be saddened; a pain remains deep inside of me. I believe in them, of what they have to do. If necessary, I will stay behind with the oldest of them and sing their death songs. I will rub their bodies with cedar smoke and smudge their souls for the travel.

Always, the old will choose the right path and with great joy, visit their relatives in the spiritual word. These people all agree that they have lived a long and good life. Their sacrifice makes room for the next person and are honored in taking their place in the Circle of Life.

Long ago the humans would find a cave and place the relatives in their finest clothes, with water baskets, dried deer meat and berries. This, so that they may feed the spirit on their long journey to the great beyond. Sometimes, you can hear the spirits when the wind blows through the canyons and Aspen trees quake when they walk about in the Creator’s garden. Grandfather Raven, has always said that it was inside of us, all this time. It’s just that, we have to learn how to con-

nect with the inside.

Our minds while in a balance, finds the true essence of our being. We are a part of the greater continuum, which never ends, in the Circle of Life. Never forget that you come from the earth when the spirit life is released. Your body of muscle, bone and sinew go back to the earth. The spirit you have has made you different from all others, your personality, your smile, and all the emotions that your eyes express, are what your relatives will remember and miss. You continue to live in them especially when a smell, or a sound or a place that brings back memories.

This is not so with the blue baby’s, Grandfather Raven will explain what the humans have to do. He will speak with the leaders of each family band of Utes. The Ute man they call the “Mist In The Mountains” was the first to awaken and hearing grandfather call his name. He offered grandfather bread and soup, before he sat down to hear his concerns. Grandfather Raven, told “Mist In The Mountains” what had to be done or perish. It is unthinkable of what you must do, the Creator will be watching. I have been told of your woman and the baby she carries in her womb. You have many children and they are of the age to know how to survive on their own. Just as your nephew, who is a good man and travels well in the wilds of your country. His new pa-winn is also carrying a little soul in her and the child is her first. They are living with her mother and your nephew, “Sees The Mountain Lion” is a good provider. However, even with his abilities he will not understand the reasons, of what must be done and that the family has the will continue to endure. This is to ensure a place in the Circle of Life and occupy the land of which was created for the Utes.

As in all life, choices have to be made and forgiveness from the Creator of what Mother Nature is capable of doing. Now listen with your mind and heart, of what I am going to tell you. Later, you must decide whether to share my dream and let them decide their fate. Come let us walk to the river, over to the deep pool you can fish for tonight’s meal. I like fish very much and find them delicious with a little mint. I will offer a prayer for the sustenance they will provide. After the meal, I will then counsel those who wish to hear my words. Look there, over by the edge of the whirlpool, a good size paa-gu.



**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**  
**\$1000 CASH**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**  
**\$500 SKY UTE LOOT**

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**  
**\$250 SKY UTE LOOT**

**REGISTRATION:**  
**4:30PM-7:30PM**

**\$20 entry fee or**  
**NEW toy valued at**  
**\$20 or more.**

Open to all guests 21 and over. Players must have a Bear Club Card to qualify for the 2nd and 3rd place prizes (SUL). All toys are donated to the Sharing Tree Project and stay within the Bayfield, Ignacio and Allison communities.

**Sky Ute Casino**  
RESORT  
Owned & operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

**SKYUTECASINO.COM**  
**888.842.4180**  
**IGNACIO, COLORADO**

Management reserves the right to modify or cancel this event with notice.

## LA PLATA EXTENSION OFFICE CSU Master Gardener Program deadline Dec. 31

By Darrin Parmenter  
LA PLATA COUNTY CSU  
EXTENSION

The Colorado State University Extension Office in La Plata County is excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2017 Colorado Master Gardener (CMG) program until Dec. 31.

Students will receive training in tree care, vegetables, soils, native plants, water wise gardening, pruning and much more. The training

utilizes on-site and distant education experts to teach a series of multiple classes.

The 12-week series starts Thursday, Jan. 26 at the La Plata County Fairgrounds every Thursday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The cost is \$170 if you intend to volunteer, or \$530 for a certificate without volunteer time.

The CMG training is equivalent to a four credit hour course. In comparison, tuition for an in-state resident, undergraduate, four-credit class is \$1729 at CSU, plus

books and fees. CMG volunteers are expected to complete 50-hours of volunteer time in the first year and 24 hours in subsequent years.

To receive an application packet, please contact or stop by the La Plata County Extension office. Applications, as well as additional information on the program, are also available online at [www.laplataextension.org](http://www.laplataextension.org) and are due no later than Dec. 31 to the Extension Office: 2500 Main Avenue, Durango, Colo., 81301.





# National Day of Native Health

**The Notah Begay III Foundation hosted NB3Fit Day: National day of Native Health and Fitness, on Sunday, Nov. 13. The foundation's goal was to get more than 10,000 Native American youth from all across the country to participate in a shared day of physical activity. Here on the Southern Ute Reservation, SunUte hosted a basketball skills camp and a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament giving local youth a chance to participate in the countrywide event.**

**Photos by Sacha Smith**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Aubree Lucero eyes the basket as she prepares to shoot during the skills portion of the Nothah Begay III Foundation's National day of Native Health and Fitness (NB3Fit Day) hosted at SunUte Community Center.



Cadell Thompson goes up for a reverse layup during 3-on-3 play at SunUte gym.



Silas Wilbourn shoots a jumper from the paint during NB3Fit Day.



Triston Thompson keeps his eyes up while he works on his ball handling skills at the NB3Fit Day at SunUte.



Tribal elder, Ann Weaver takes her turn at free throws during the NB3Fit Day adult free-throw contest.



Dermarr Harlan follows through on a jump shot during the skills portion of the NB3 Fit Day.



JULY 16 - 23

**2017**

TORONTO, ONTARIO

## 2017 NAIG

### Registration

**Nov 1– Dec 15, 2016**

**The North American Indigenous Games Summer 2017 is coming and Team Colorado wants you!**

#### **When:**

Games will be held July 16th-23rd, 2017

#### **Who's Eligible?**

Any Native American with a Tribal I.D. card or Certificate of Indian Blood (C.I.B.) who will be **13-19 years old DURING THE YEAR 2017** residing in OR resident of the State of Colorado.

For more information about Team Colorado contact

**Kevin Winkler, SunUte Recreation Manager or Shalaunda Roan, SunUte Recreation Coordinator at 970-563-0214**

Visit the NAIG link on [www.naig2017.to](http://www.naig2017.to) for game updates



JULY 16 - 23

**2017**

TORONTO, ONTARIO

## 2017 NAIG

### Informational Meeting

**November 30, 2016**

**6:00pm**

**At Multi-Purpose Facility**

For more information about Team Colorado contact

**Kevin Winkler, SunUte Recreation Manager or Shalaunda Roan, SunUte Recreation Coordinator at 970-563-0214**

Visit the NAIG link on [www.naig2017.to](http://www.naig2017.to) for game updates





## Youth bull riders strap in



photos Damon Toledo/SU Drum

The American Youth Bull Riding (AYBR) finals made it's opening on at the SkyUte Fairgrounds on Thursday, Nov. 17 and brought in approximately 100 youth bull riders to Ignacio. A blessing was given by Chairman Clement J. Frost and Southern Ute Royalty members Lorraine Watts (Miss Southern Ute) and Dominick Goodtracks (Southern Ute Brave). The American Youth Bull Riding tournament is strictly a non-profit organization and commits to promoting youth rodeo, provide leadership/ sportsmanship, and self discipline. American Youth Bull Riders pay their respects to the color guard represented by Bruce LeClaire, Rudley Weaver, and Bruce Heller from the Southern Ute Veterans Association.



Tribal Chairman Clement J. Frost joins Southern Ute Royalty members Lorraine Watts (Miss Southern Ute) and Dominick Goodtracks (Southern Ute Brave) during the opening ceremonies of the American Youth Bull Riding finals.

Bruce LeClaire, Rudley Weaver, and Bruce Heller from the Southern Ute Veterans Association represented the Southern Ute Indian Tribe at the American Youth Bull Riding finals on Thursday, Nov. 17 at the SkyUte Fairgrounds.

## IHS FOOTBALL

# Banquet hypes grididders' success in '16

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Winners, winners, and... yep...chicken dinners. That could have summed up Bobcat Football's catered end-of-season awards banquet Thursday, Nov. 17, well enough. Or quickly enough. "There's a football game on right now," keynote speaker Steve Thyfault quipped to that effect, during a heartfelt address to a team most deserving of one last admiring look from family and friends for helping put the program back on a forward track in 2016.

And with all that was needed – or wanted – to be said by the Ignacio coaches and the special guest, who began by showing a group of players seated in the IHS Performing Arts Center's front row a picture of current head coach Alfonso Garcia in seventh grade, the 2.5-hour-long event was as much about reflection as commemoration.

"We did so well," said Garcia, of Ignacio's 3-6 overall mark – up from 0-9 in '15 and 1-8 in '14. "Last year we got our butts kicked. This year the kids competed ... gave themselves the opportunity to be successful."

"We started the season with 43, we finished with 28. I wish we could have finished with 43 – we're going to make different plans for next year!"

"Football ... if it was easy, you'd have 100 kids out," said Thyfault, a coach in football and other sports in the Durango area for nearly four decades. "It's a tough sport. You take advantage of your opportunities!"

"Do as much as you possibly can," he continued, during a part of his talk focusing on the seniors. "Football will mold you. You'll be prepared to go 'out there' because you played the great game of football. You'll be prepared to go out there and be successful."

First on the itinerary was a thank-you from Garcia and assistant coach/co-presenter Bill Gwinn to 'team mothers' Stephanie Witt (mother of manager Quincy Witt) and Kellie McCaw (mother of junior WR/DB Cole McCaw), preceding Thyfault's speech.

"Guys, appreciate your



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio Football seniors Dalton Labarthe (77) and Timmy Plehinger-Williams (86) share a quick comment on a coach's comment, as senior Zach Weinreich (11) applauds near the end of the Bobcats' end-of-season banquet/ ceremony Thursday, Nov. 17. Labarthe was named Second Team All-SPC in 2016 while Plehinger-Williams and Weinreich were named First Team. All seniors received – if possible – their jersey from the 2015 season, as well as a framed commemorative photo layout.

parents and what they do for you," he said. "Don't be afraid to tell them thanks – they're a part of your 'football family!'"

He also included a quote from three-sport collegiate athlete, later World War II General of the Army Douglas MacArthur – also appreciating how closely the banquet followed Veterans Day weekend – to that effect:

Sports is a vital character builder. It molds the youth of our country for their roles as custodians of the republic. It teaches them to be strong enough to know they are weak and brave enough to face themselves when they are afraid ... It gives them a predominance of courage, over timidity, of appetite for adventure over loss of ease. Fathers and mothers who would make their sons into men should have them participate in sports.

After then stressing the importance of character, courageousness, commitment, competitiveness and common sense – his 'Five Cs' – Thyfault closed his speech with a quote from legendary NFL head coach Vince Lombardi, as it appeared on a small football replica given to him by his father, which he then passed on to Garcia:

"The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender."

Twelve Bobcats, with Garcia stating a memory of each, then received their first athletic letter in the sport:

Freshmen – Colten Jackson, Cesar Pedregon, Grayson Gosney, Ocean Hunter, Clay Campbell, Kee-

gan Schurman, Ian Weinreich; Sophomores – Clay Seibel; Juniors – Daniel Weaver, Pablo Garcia, Trace Lovelace; Seniors – R.J. Sanchez.

Earning another letter upon last year's work were: Seniors – Zach Weinreich, Lucas Monroe, Dalton Labarthe, Colten Smithson, Ethan Appenzeller, Timmy Plehinger-Williams, Lorenzo Pena, Stocker Robbins, Mark Kempinski, Dalton Mickey; Juniors – Natoni Cundiff, Marcus Chapman, McCaw, Cesar Corona; Sophomores – Lucas Roderick, Mike Archuleta, Dustin Sanchez.

CHSAA Academic All-State honors were announced next, with Zach Weinreich, Cundiff and McCaw all posting grade-point averages around 4.0 to receive First Team status, and Chapman, Monroe and Smithson named Honorable Mention with GPA's between 3.3 and 3.59.

Voted Most Coachable Player this season, Cundiff received Honorable Mention All-Southern Peaks Conference. Labarthe received Second Team status, and Most Improved Player Plehinger-Williams joined the elder Weinreich – voted Team MVP – as First Team All-SPC selections.

Recognized in absentia with a special All-Position Player award was Robbins, whose cameo at quarterback late in the season-finale versus Center earned him the distinction of having played every offensive position during his four-year IHS career. Also receiving letters were managers Witt, Heile Pearson and Tori Archuleta.

## BOBCAT SPORTS



Look for full Bobcat sports coverage, including box scores and additional photos, at the Southern Ute Drum's website at [www.sudrum.com](http://www.sudrum.com)

## SETTING THE TABLE(S) FINAL Standings as of Nov. 12, 2016

VOLLEYBALL: 2A/1A San Juan Basin League							
Team	OVERALL			SJBL		SETS	
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	W	L
Ridgway	20	4	.833	13	1	62	19
Nucla**	23	2	.920	11	0	69	10
Norwood	12	12	.500	8	7	42	42
Telluride	14	10	.583	8	7	49	33
Dolores	9	13	.409	7	7	33	41
IGNACIO	7	14	.333	6	7	28	49
Dove Creek	11	13	.458	4	9	39	43
Mancos	2	19	.095	1	13	9	54
Ouray	2	15	.118	0	9	12	46

FOOTBALL: 1A Southern Peaks Conference							
Team	OVERALL			SPC		SCORING	
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	US/THEM	
Monte Vista	5	5	.500	4	1	260/205	
Centauri	6	3	.667	4	1	196/105	
Center	6	4	.600	4	1	220/266	
John Mall	3	6	.333	2	3	101/197	
IGNACIO	3	6	.333	1	4	168/215	
Dolores	3	6	.333	0	5	163/266	

– compiled by Joel Priest



# SunUte



Will be celebrating  
all week Dec. 12th - 16th  
For more details visit [SunUte.com](http://SunUte.com)



## MEMBER VS. STAFF CHALLENGE

WHEN  
Dec. 12th— Dec. 15th, 2016

WHERE  
SunUte Community Center  
Fitness Floor, Gym, Group Ex. Room, Pool, etc.

FEATURING • Ian Thompson • Robin Duffy-Wirth • Josh Batchelor • Lisa Olguin • Abel Velasquez • Shalaunda Roan • Virgil Morgan • Kevin Winkler • Sage Frano • Lisa Allen • Kelsey Frost

BRING IT ON!!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE TRAINER'S DESK AT (970)563-0214, OR STOP IN AND TALK TO A TRAINER TO SIGN-UP!

HERE IS YOUR  
CHANCE TO  
CHALLENGE ONE OF  
SUNUTE'S STAFF

MEMBERS:

WHAT THEY ARE  
GOOD AT,

WHAT THEY ARE  
TERRIBLE AT,

OR, AT JUST PURE  
CRAZINESS!

SIGN UP AT THE  
TRAINER'S DESK  
DECEMBER 5TH-8TH.

15 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION!



# EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

**THANK YOU, FROM BYRON FROST**

I would like to thank all the tribal members that voted for me during the past tribal council election. It was an honor representing you during this election. I want to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and Christmas. May the creator be with you and your families?

Byron Frost

**THANK YOU, FROM BYRON FROST, (LEFT HOOK PROMOTION, LLC)**

I would like to thank the following volunteers who were part of the “Fright Night Professional Boxing” event held on October 29,2016. These individuals are Deanna Frost (Boxing Coordinator,) Tara Vigil, Claudette Casaus, Jessica Chanblee, Mandy Naranjo, Darren Loudenburg, Steven Herrera Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David Silva, Anthony Manzaneres, George Manzaneres and Brian Frost, for a job well done. I appreciate everything you have done for this event.

I also want to thank my wife Etta Frost for hanging in there with me along with my grandsons Richard and Ivan Joseph.

I would like to thank the following sponsors, Morehart/Murphy, Nissan of Durango, Tucson’s Barber Shop, Side Kick Lounge, The Rose Café, The Patio Restaurant, Fiesta Mexicana Restaurant, Healing Hands Medical Massage Therapy, and College Plaza Hair Design.

I would like to thank all the professional boxers; Elco Garcia, Bladimir Hernandez, Steve Marquez, Daniel Gonzles, Miguel Gallegos, Zamir Young, Edgar Palma Pedraza, Steve Victor for providing a good show for the audience.

I would like to thank Ray Dekay boxing announcer, Elroy Vigil, marine veteran flag carrier, Jon Chavarillo for playing the Star-Span-gled Banner on his electric guitar, the boxing ring card girls, Eddie and Betty Box for providing the sound system, referee, judges and time keeper Tony Zaino, Federico Encinas, Ruben Taylor, Steve Sandoval, and Roger Woods, Dr. Kayse Lake, Ignacio EMT, and Hanley Frost for the blessing of the boxing ring and event center.

I also would like to thank the Sky Ute Casino and their staff and security for their help and their hospitality given to the boxers and their families.

If I left anyone out its not intended to be disrespectful.

God Bless you all, with many prayers for a good life.

Byron Frost

**DUTCHIE CANDIDACY**

Maiku,

My name is Joycelyn Peabody Dutchie, I am the daughter of the late Joseph Sr. and Elizabeth Peabody. I humbly come to my Nuchu, my people, for your support in the upcoming runoff election. Your concerns are my concerns, I value your issues, and input. All your questions, concerns, and issues can be addressed. Tribal council has the ability to provide the answers and to ensure the longevity of our people.

I will listen, communicate, and support my people and strive to answer your

questions. Currently communication between the council and the people has been minimal. I will take the opportunity to open that door of communication between the people and the leadership for effective growth for our people.

As an employee of the tribe I have seen and experienced the operation of the tribe first hand. The non-Indian staff makes all the decisions in policy making, and hiring. The rules and policies put in place are not in the best interest of hiring and retaining the employment of the tribal membership. I will work to increase hiring and keeping the membership to be employed. Our tribal membership needs a voice with condensation in making decision for the best interest for our tribal members.

Our Entities such as the Casino and Growth Fund have been on a decline in regards to building revenue. These entities have a need to be evaluated in order to make change or stay the course but always in the betterment of the tribe.

The Growth Fund has met the goals set for them many years ago. The Financial plan has a need to be updated and developed new goals for the future generations to come. I pushed for the renewal of goals which was not completed in my former Council terms. The growth fund needs to know how it is expected to operate, and each business needs to be profitable and held to the standard of increasing the profitability annually. Bonuses should not be given to the employees until they can perform at the expected level of performance.

I have had 9 years’ experience as a Tribal Leader and one year as a Vice Chairman. I have always been honest and put my people first, I took the time to listen and look for the answers, never did I say I will check into to it without responding with an answer, I have put my Nuche first. I come with transparency, the ability to communicate and to listen, the motivation to always seek answers to your questions and concerns as I have stated your concerns are mine concerns too.

If elected I will work in the leadership position to the best of my ability, to be a voice for you my people! With a heart for my fellow tribal members; we are the priority now and into the future generations.

Together we walk in our Nuupacha (Moccasins) may the Creator watch over all of us Tribal members and take care of us in our daily lives and carry us through our rough times, from the youngest to the oldest. Your vote’s counts, your input is important! Vote Joycelyn Peabody Dutchie on December 16th 2016.

*Tog’oiak*  
*Joycelyn Peabody Dutchie*

## DAVIS CONCERNS

This commentary is my own, my personal opinion, my perceptions, my experience and my ability to voice my personal observations on my own time so as to not be politically incorrect and at risk of the loss of employment.

Recently, I had an urgent situation whereby, I was faced with the harsh news of hearing that I needed further testing and a possible biopsy. When

I heard biopsy, I became alert and intent on hearing every word. I thought this is confusing, horrifying, concerning and I feel like I need to speak at length with my primary care physician, Dr. Reece. I called the clinic in a panic, afraid and uncertain of the meaning of malignant, benign, and risk of cancer. I knew that I was familiar with her as she was with me. She has been my family’s primary care physician for over a year. She is Native and from the same place I am. She is qualified, she is personable, educated, and familiar with Native culture. She is an asset to our health care system and I trust her. Currently, I understand she is no longer available to provide service to our Native people. Initially, I thought she was on training, I think what I am understanding now, without anyone stating or affirming, is that she is on leave indefinitely. I could be wrong however, no one ever tells us anything, you find out eventually through the realization that no one offers a definitive answer. The lack of transparency allows one to surmise that this is yet, just another “witch hunt” for another Native that non-Indians would rather see at Side Kick, Tee Pee, or the local liquor store then to be placed in a position of influence and positivity. One might ask who is next to be written up, put under suspension or terminated. One can only wonder who will follow suit, how many more Natives will offend the system beyond possible resolve and find themselves under the auspice of a grievance committee within their own government or as I would prefer to call it, their own house. I have stated this before and I will say it again. If there were policies in place that stated directors were evaluated according to the success of their employees, I guarantee you there would be less write ups and more willingness to seek resolve within departments. If bonuses were available to division heads according to Native employee retainment, I again guarantee you there would be less disciplinary strategies utilized and more creative options toward resolve. How can one walk up in here, state that they have all this experience running entire departments with an education to match and yet, can’t find resolve with one Native? Dismissal and write ups are utilized far too frequently than one who states they are capable of problem solving. I ask then what and where is the level of competency for division heads? At this point, what I want to know is, why is it so easy for a non-Native to come into our house and decide which of those that live here cannot stay? We own the house but are only allowed use of the kitchen with permission from someone who does not reside here. I want to know why it is that Natives who are educated and have earned the same degrees, certifications, and recognition as our white counterparts are less valued. I’m curious, and what is even more imperative and disheartening is why our tribal leadership allows the harassment, deliberate menacing of and dismissal of our Native employees

and membership. I for one am outraged and saddened at this action by our health services director and the complacency of our leadership to act on behalf of our physician. I’m asking myself where is Kaylor. We seem to need him again. I am sure that I am not the only one who is deeply feeling the loss of our Native physician, I for one would like to have her back immediately if not yesterday.

I recently voiced to the administration that when one has targeted us as employees for possible dismissal, we are discredited, demeaned, determined to be unsound, inept and the system fully supports division heads without seeking truth or determining resolve through mediation or arbitration. This system is biased and unjust. While non Natives receive the blatant impact of racism, bitterness, and bullying toward them, the Native feels the sting of oppression while in their own home. The two conflicts increase with a house divided where we continue to be on the losing end. We are invisible, a non-factor but yet without us this house would not exist. I understand that for many, employment is uncomfortable. It’s time that we begin to talk to one another in order to find resolution. Where there is an unequal power base conflict will continue to erupt. We need to get on the same page. Policies need to be put into place to prioritize obtainment and retainment of employment for Southern Utes first and then Natives from other tribes. If a member is lacking the skills to qualify for a position, the person should be able to request an apprenticeship, obtain skills training, and attend specific classes that would prepare an individual for competency. As a condition of employment the division head should be contractual in order to accommodate the tribe and its members for the purpose of achieving self-determination. However, this would never happen. If you interviewed someone for a lead position and you told them that the position would call for a contract with the tribe at a generous salary for the purpose of preparing an intern to eventually take on the position. The interviewee would more than likely respectfully decline the position because employment longevity, stability, financial security, and a benefits package is what is sought. A potential employee is not interested

in aiding a Native Nation to seek self-determination. They would seek to help themselves. Why then, would we be denied the very things that would be available to someone who seeks employment with the tribe but who is not Native? We are targeted at every turn and I am tired of the injustices of a government that supposedly belongs to The Southern Ute Indian Tribe with a seven member panel in place to protect us and yet, there is no protection. We are headed for a run-off election and I am praying that we will vote for educated, competent candidates that are interested in change from the present oppression that serves as a stumbling block to self-determination. Currently, Southern Ute Members and Natives continue to get written up, placed in positions of least importance, there are no apprenticeships/ internships available without the initiation of department heads and several others that ultimately have to agree. I say good luck with that, don’t hold your breath you’re liable to suffocate. However, I do want to commend Josh Batchelor for being a division head who demonstrates the compassion, empathy, integrity and willingness to allow a tribal member the opportunity to apprentice under his department with the intention of stepping down from his current employment to allow self-determination for a member and a tribe. They are far and few between who demonstrate such selflessness.

Currently, we have Council members who pick and choose who they will or will not speak to, who they will or will not help. I even had one Council member say to me in order to help me it would require Council to care. I say to you that as a representative of the constituents that placed you in office to represent their interests. If it is the luxury of choice that you seek to either help, speak to, care for or not, when you entered into the elected position of those you profess to serve, your obligation was to the tribe in its entirety and not just a select few. Perhaps with further consideration of the obligations set before you, you might find that Council is not the place for you. As a Council member you are all under an obligation to seek resolve for the discrepancies, concerns and injustices within the tribal government and those entities that compromise the integrity of the tribe. What happens if the vulnerability

is experienced from within the tribe and its current government? The disrespect repeatedly from Council directed toward the membership is a prime example as to why we never get any better as a people. We came from a wounded place and we are still wounded, it is evident by the way we treat each other and the continued blatant disregard for a tribe and its people by its own and others. I told Kevin Frost when you get in there, teach us how to file grievances, teach us about how to write a referendum to take on decision making with regard to outdated policies, teach us how to speak our minds without the threat of intimidation and potential termination. We have been taught not to speak out for fear of being written up, suspended, and reprimanded or the like. If we cannot depend on Council to protect our interests then teach us to protect ourselves. The drum is our ability to utilize our voice and our freedom of expression without repercussion. We should not hesitate to approach the leaders in place that govern our tribe for advice or otherwise, there should be an open door policy. A degree of cordiality, courteous professionalism and an interest to utilize your powerful position to help those who seek your assistance and not to hurt or demean. This should go without saying. I also believe that an evaluation policy should be put into place to determine Council’s level of competency, qualifications, education and experience. If employees are continually scrutinized, evaluated, randomly drug tested, written up, put on suspension, ostracized and made to see a grievance committee in order to preserve your position. I think you would then be on the receiving end of what many of us experience on the outside looking in. I think this shared insight would allow Council to fully understand the impact of a hurtful system. I believe you are in a position to change it but neglect your duties to do so and you need to be accountable as well. I for one am disillusioned at the bullying that takes place among those elected to serve our members. If we can’t look to you as a tribe to find resolve for us then what is Council for? What is your purpose, what is your mission through your complacency what you are basically saying is that you condone and are consciously choosing to continue the hurt.

Yvonne Davis

**EDITOR’S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE.**

Early  
Drum  
Deadline

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Dec. 8  
Deadline:  
Dec. 2

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

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

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

**STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES**  
The Southern Ute Drum ([sudrum@southernmute-nsn.gov](mailto:sudrum@southernmute-nsn.gov))  
Sacha Smith • Editor, ext. 2255 ([sasmith@southernmute-nsn.gov](mailto:sasmith@southernmute-nsn.gov))  
Robert Ortiz • Composition Tech., ext. 2253 ([rortiz@southernmute-nsn.gov](mailto:rortiz@southernmute-nsn.gov))  
Damon Toledo • Reporter/Photographer, ext. 2252 ([dtoledo@southernmute-nsn.gov](mailto:dtoledo@southernmute-nsn.gov))  
Trennie Collins • Administrative Assistant, ext. 2251 ([tcollins@southernmute-nsn.gov](mailto:tcollins@southernmute-nsn.gov))

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

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# Notices

tog'omsuwiini-wachuku-chipikwag'atü (14)

November 23, 2016



## Logo for the Cedar Point Housing Initiative

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Cedar Point Housing Initiative Team would like submissions from Southern Ute Tribal Members for a logo to represent the Cedar Point Housing Initiative project, which is a Tribal Council initiated project committed to providing housing to the Tribal Membership. Logo will be used for a variety of project correspondence, wearable items, and could potentially be displayed at Cedar Point in the future. **Logo submissions have the following requirements:** Final submission shall be no larger than 8"x11"; Medium & Format (i.e. Photoshop vs. Pastel) is at the Artist's discretion; Must contain the words "Cedar Point Housing Initiative"; All submissions are due Friday, Dec. 16 2016. Drop off at Annex Bldg. located at 116 Memorial Dr., Ignacio, CO or emailed to [atoledo@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:atoledo@southernute-nsn.gov). Questions, call 970-563-0138.

## 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.: 2016-PR-0139

Notice Oliver 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 December 5, 2016 at 3:00 PM. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 3rd of November, 2016  
Kara Cuthair, Deputy Court Clerk

## 5th Annual Leonard C. Burch Art and Literacy Contest



**THEME: MOUACHE-CAPOTE  
- UTE HISTORY -**

### CATEGORIES:

**K-3 GRADE- ART PROJECT  
4-5 GRADE- POEM  
MIDDLE SCHOOL- 500-700 WORD ESSAY**

### GRAND PRIZES:

**K-2ND GRADE- FIRE KIDS EDITION TABLET  
3RD GRADE- FIRE HD 8 TABLET  
4-5 GRADE- FIRE HD 8 TABLET  
MIDDLE SCHOOL- FIRE HD 10 TABLET**

**STARTS: OCTOBER 10, 2016      ENDS: DECEMBER 2, 2016**

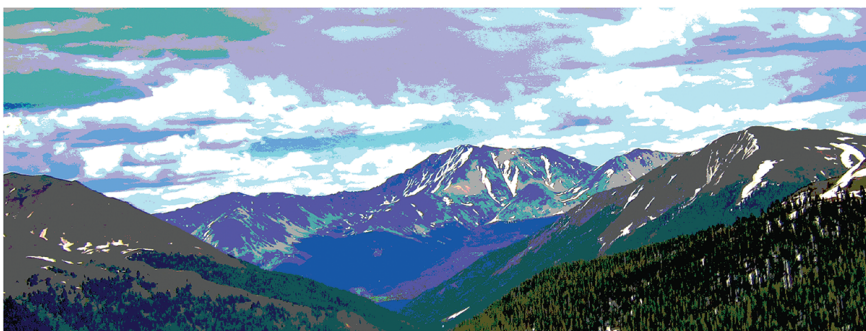
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is inviting all elementary and middle school students to participate in this awesome contest! It's a celebration of the life of a honest and highly respected leader, youth supporter and overall visionary for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

All entries must pertain to the theme- Mouache-Capote "Ute History"

Deadline to submit all work is December 02, 2016, at 5 p.m. to

The Southern Ute Drum office in the Leonard C. Burch Administration Building or  
PO Box 737 #96, Ignacio, CO 81137.

For more information or questions please contact  
Trennie Collins, Public Relations Coordinator at  
970-563-0118 or [tcollins@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tcollins@southernute-nsn.gov).



**KSUT**  
public radio

Serve Your Community

## Board Member Wanted

KSUT seeks an individual to fill the open  
**Southern Ute Tribal Member seat**  
on the Board of Directors.

### Did you know...

The Southern Ute Tribe was one of the earliest pioneers of Native American radio? When KSUT signed on for the first time on June 14, 1976, it was one of only eight tribal stations in the country.

### Interested?

Please submit a letter of interest to KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham at [tami@ksut.org](mailto:tami@ksut.org) or mail to PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137. This seat will be open until filled.

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Boards And Committees Vacancies

### SUIT TRIBAL MEMBER – WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD VACANCY

The Tribe is seeking an enrolled Southern Ute tribal member to fill ONE vacant seat on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. This is a special recruitment to fill the remaining eight months of a three year seat, with the option of applying for a full three year term beginning in Aug. 2017. The 8-member Board works closely with the Wildlife Division on planning and recommending actions related to tribal hunting and fishing programs. Board members not already employed by the Tribe receive \$20 per hour of meeting attendance. Meetings are held roughly on a quarterly basis throughout the year, and a commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. Interested Tribal Members must submit a brief letter of interest that includes a description of the applicant's knowledge and experience with wildlife, hunting, or fishing, on and off of the Southern Ute Reservation. Please submit letters to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130. Letters of interest will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 30.

### ROYALTY COMMITTEE

Attention Past Royalty, Fair Rodeo Queens & Tribal Elders. The tribe is seeking former Miss Southern Ute/Fair Rodeo Queens and tribal Elders to serve on the Royalty Committee. There are two positions open for a former Royalty/Fair Rodeo Queen. Initial terms are staggered, thereafter three-year terms will be served. To support the Royalty, by providing education in Ute culture and history, to promote and recruit applicants, to plan and host the annual pageant and royalty dinner, other duties associated with the committee. Will review/revise and as appropriate develop Royalty handbooks, code of ethics, review complaints and address disciplinary issues associated with the committee. Meets monthly, and works closely with the Culture Director, this is a non-paid committee. Interested Tribal members should submit a letter to the Human Resource Department at the Leonard C. Burch Bldg., in person or mail your letter to Human Resource Dept. at PO Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. Open until filled.

### KSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Open Southern Ute Tribal Member Seat on KSUT Board of Directors. KSUT is seeking an individual to fill the "Southern Ute Tribal Member at large" seat on the KSUT Board of Directors. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham. Letters can be emailed to [tami@ksut.org](mailto:tami@ksut.org) or mailed to PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137. Seat is open until filled .

## Advertise in the Drum!

Our rates are the  
best in the county!  
**970-563-0118**

**8TH ANNIVERSARY**

**\$50,000 JUBILEE**

**SATURDAYS 5PM-9PM**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE AND WIN!**

**Earn Entry Tickets when you play the slots with your Bear Club Card.**

**\$500 WINNERS EVERY HOUR!**

**FINALISTS ARE ENTERED IN THE \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING AT 9:30PM!**

**Sky Ute Casino**  
RESORT  
Owned & operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

**SKYUTECASINO.COM**  
888.842.4180  
IGNACIO, COLORADO

Promotional period October 30-November 26, 2016. Hourly drawings every Saturday from November 5-26, 2016 from 5PM-9PM. Grand Prize drawing Saturdays at 9:30PM. Rules apply. See Players' Club for details.



*\*Must be at least 21 years old.*

Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis.

Under the direct supervision of the TIS Director represents the TIS Department in a positive, professional manner while providing Administrative/Secretarial and advertising support. Pay grade 16; \$15.65/hour.

Provides advanced administrative support for the CFO to assist with financial analysis and preparation of financial information. Scheduling, facilitating, recording, and summarizing meetings. Manages the flow of information to the offices of the CFO, Director of Investments, Director of Budgeting and Planning, and Controller. Pay grade 18; \$18.96/hour.

Performs administrative, secretarial, and clerical support to the Department of Private Education. Pay grade 16; \$15.65/hour.

Providing professional and clinical services at the Southern Ute Detention Center. Pay grade 21; \$26.45/hour.

Southern Ute tribal member only. Providing guardian ad litem, special advocacy, parent coordination, and mediation services as assigned through Court appointment and/or supervisor. Case management activities involving assigned adults and juveniles. Time frame for this program's completion is twelve-fifteen (12-15) months, unless there are circumstances requiring an extension or reduction. Pay rate is \$18.81/hour, eligible for quarterly increases during the training period, up to the regular position's minimum rate of pay grade 20; \$23.51/hour. Full time job status is contingent on grant funding.

Provides technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provides general information to the Tribal Membership and general public regarding land status issues, Crossing Permits and general land management related issues. Pay grade 16; \$15.65/hour.

Assists in home repair to Tribal Home Rehab Programs, Elders Maintenance Program, Tribal Member and Elderly/Handicapped Emergency Repair, and Tribal Rental Units. Pay grade 15; \$14.22/hour.

Manages the onshore reservoir engineering function for Red Willow Production Company. Oversees the preparation of and maintenance of reserve bookings for RWPC onshore exploration and development activities. Assures quality of technical and economic evaluations performed within the Engineering organization. Manages the evaluation of new investment opportunities. Coordinates the continuous post-appraisal of investment activities and provides insights to RWPC management regarding the quality of the capital investment program. Works with the Executive Vice Presidents, Production/Drilling Managers, and Asset Teams to coordinate capital and production forecasting for monthly, annual and long-range planning processes. Minimum qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in Engineering and twelve years' experience in Reservoir Engineering and/or Engineering Operations or related fields. Must have experience evaluating economics of oil and gas investment opportunities, with expertise in the associated forecasting and economic analytical tools. Must have experience with exploitation/exploration analysis. Must have experience with risk analysis tools and techniques. Must be able to manage multiple concurrent projects, work in a team environment, and be able to communicate openly and candidly. Must have strong computer-based data management and analysis skills. Must have valid driver's license for state of residency and be insurable under RWPC's vehicle insurance policy. Must pass a pre-employment drug test and criminal history background check.

Information, job descriptions and application can be found  
at: [www.ignacioschools.org](http://www.ignacioschools.org)

Ignacio School District is accepting applications for a Social Studies Teacher.

P.O. Box 1495, Ignacio, CO 81137  
720-233-6459 • 720-988-4384  
atucson76@yahoo.com

1725 CR 326 Tiffany, CO 81137

**Email: [sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov)**

**Or swing by the Drum offices  
on the second floor of the  
Leonard C. Burch Tribal Building.**





Veterans presentation at BGC



photos Damon Toledo/SU Drum

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, the Boys & Girls Club hosted a special meeting with their club members and Native veterans Bruce LeClaire (U.S. Army) and Gregory Hall (Airborne Division) in honor of Veterans Day. LeClaire and Hall led the club members through a theory of drills to build up stamina, while reminding them to give thanks to the veterans who served the U.S. Boys & Girls Club members (above) salute with Native veteran Bruce LeClaire.



Bruce LeClaire leads the Boys & Girls Club members in a physical drill.

Native veterans Bruce LeClaire and Gregory Hall smile for a photo with club member Ada Renee Cruz.

Honoring vets with breakfast



photos Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Veterans and students of the Hope Community Christian Academy pose for a group photo after the HCCA veteran's Breakfast at ELHI on Saturday, Nov. 12.



Local veterans Pete Lopez and his daughter, Paula Lopez-Trujillo and their families and community members enjoy the breakfast spread provided by the Hope Community Christian Academy.

Kendrick Nossman and Brayden McEwen lead the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the Hope Community Christian Academy Veteran's Breakfast.

VETERANS RECOGNIZE DONORS • FROM PAGE 1

Veterans Day, and we want people to be recognized."

The Southern Ute Veterans Association was recently given a budget in relation with the Southern Ute Permanent Fund that aides in providing income to finance veteran associated events, including the Veterans Powwow, parades, bull riding events, and visits to the schools in the Ignacio district. The budget goes through a regular financial process where a budget committee reviews a request before sending it to Tribal Council for approval.

Bruce LeClaire, veteran's association member, commented about the support the association has received.

"The Veterans Association has had many volunteers come out and help us, not necessarily through donations, but with pulling stuff together and helping out with different events," he said. "We're getting funds now, and the Veterans Association are the ones who decide how to utilize the funds, which are not mandated by the tribe ... we veterans just wanted to express our gratitude for the donors as we continue to try and be as active as we can to represent the



Damon Toledo/SU Drum

Southern Ute Veterans Rod Grove and Howard D. Richards Sr. recognize the donators who contributed to the Southern Ute Veterans Association.

tribe and the sister tribes of Northern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute."

Award recipient Lale-na Weasel gave personal thanks to the veterans for their acknowledgement.

"I feel privileged in receiving this," she said. "I come from a family of veterans from both sides. It's a small

thing I can do for the big thing they've done for us. They put their lives on the line for our freedom, and I think people take that for granted."

Lynda Grove D'Wolf added, "I too have a family of veterans, and I respect everything they have done. It was a privilege to donate to their cause."

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Your weekend forecast!

Thursday, Nov. 24



44°F sunny

Friday, Nov. 25



48°F sunny

Saturday, Nov. 26



48°F mostly sunny

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov



Ambient Monitoring:

Current up to date, daily readings for Temp, Wind, Precipitation can be found on the Southern Ute's Environmental Programs Division, Air Quality Program website at www.southernute-nsn.gov/environmentalprograms/air-quality/ambient-monitoring.

Air quality: As of 10/27

AQI – Ignacio: 17  
AQI – Bondad: 28

Correction: Southern Ute Veterans omitted from the original list published in the Nov. 10, 2016 issue of the Drum.

WWII

William Bean †

VIETNAM

Daniel Baker †

Artheru Johnny Weaver

KOREA

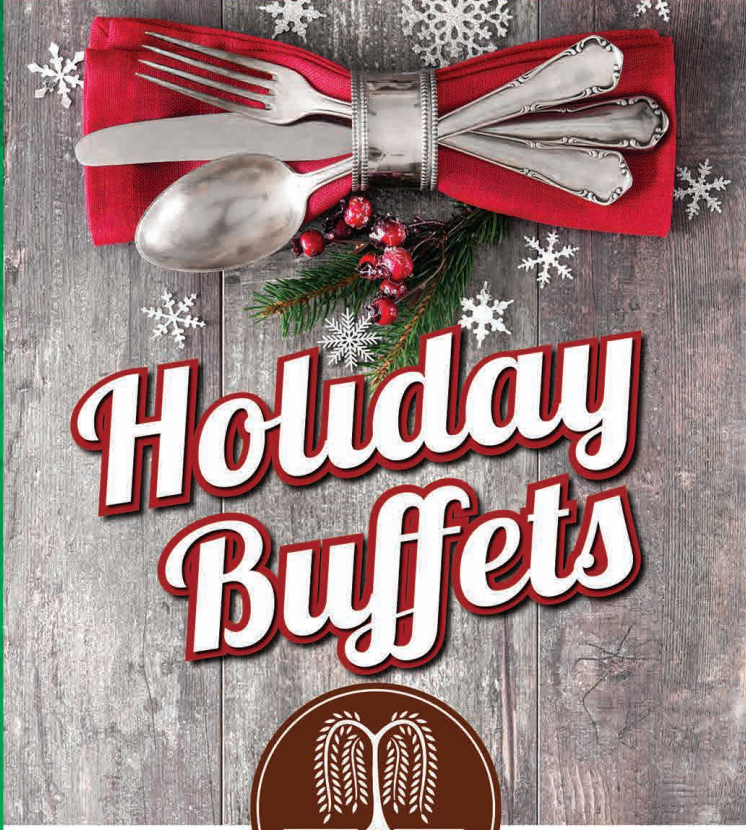
Harvey Frost Sr. †

Lawrence South Weaver †

PRESENT

Vernon S. Frost

Raymond Wells Kuebler



JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS FEAST

Christmas Day Buffet

SUNDAY • 11AM-8PM  
DECEMBER 25, 2016

Slow Roasted Prime Rib of Beef with Au Jus, Sliced Turkey, Grilled Swordfish Glazed with Honey Soy, Coconut Shrimp, Beef Chasseur, Christmas Tamales, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Candy Cane Mousse, Chocolate Cake Glazed with Peanut Butter Caramel

\$24.95 per person  
Reservations recommended.

REEL IN A DELICIOUS MEAL

Holiday Seafood Buffet

FRIDAY • 5PM-10PM  
DECEMBER 30, 2016

Alaskan King Crab Legs with Drawn Butter Shrimp Scampi Chilled Shrimp Cocktail Stuffed Sole Hollandaise Braised Sliced Beef Key Lime Pie Warm Apple Brown Betty

\$32.95 per person  
Reservations REQUIRED.

RESERVATIONS: 888.842.4180

Menu items are subject to change. Prices do not include tax or gratuity. All Bear Club discounts apply.



SKYUTECASINO.COM  
888.842.4180  
IGNACIO, COLORADO