

Ignacio  
lights up the  
town

PAGE 15



Colo. High  
School sports  
on hold

PAGE 16

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*The Southern Ute Drum, winner of 16 Native American Journalist Association Media Awards*

## HEALTH & FITNESS

# SunUte introduces Get Fit from Home!

By **Jeremy Wade Shockley**  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

When SunUte temporarily closed due to COVID-19 back in March, staff wanted to find a way to serve the membership with activities to keep them healthy. Since that time, they have created a comprehensive list of home workouts for their members to try through SunUte Fitness with live links on the SunUte website.

SunUte stepped up their game in recent weeks with the ability to offer workout videos online — dubbed as the “Get Fit from Home!” exercise program.

“We started posting “at home” workouts and challenges on our Facebook page,” explained SunUte Fitness Director, Abel Velasquez. “We got requests for a video option, which we knew we would really have to host on our website. Now anyone can access it, anyone who can get to the SunUte website can view our group exercise videos — free of charge.”

“What we wanted was to extend our services to people to keep them healthy,” he emphasized. [Our staff] are leading the videos, the



Sage Frane/SunUte Community Center

SunUte fitness instructors, Rob Gram and Cindy Valdez at the SunUte Community Center; programs like theirs have taken a virtual approach in recent weeks through a new series of online video workouts hosted on SunUte’s website titled — Get Fit from Home!

same instructors that our community knows and is motivated by!”

The backbone of the video series is the famous Les Mills workout program — which SunUte

already uses for all group exercise classes. The variety of workouts include: Bodypump, Sprint, Bodycombat, Bodyflow, RPM,

*SunUte page 2*



SU Drum archive

Southern Ute Chairman Leonard C. Burch holds the plaque and certificate he was awarded – the Durango Community Citizen Award in 1997. Burch also received the 15th Annual Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award (2000) and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes’ Achievement Award (2002).

## LEONARD C. BURCH

# La Plata County joins Tribe in recognizing Leonard C. Burch Day – December, 10

By **Robert L. Ortiz**  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The La Plata County Commissioners met on Tuesday, Dec. 8 to hear a proposal brought forth by County Commissioner Julie Westendorff to recognize Dec. 10, as Leonard C. Burch Day throughout La Plata County.

Westendorff set the mood of the virtual Zoom meeting by naming the various endeavors and accomplishments of Leonard C. Burch, not only as Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, but as a community member and resident of La Plata County.

The La Plata Board of Commissioners approved the proclamation to recognize Dec. 10, 2020 and subsequent years as Leonard C. Burch Day.

The family of Mr. Burch were present to hear the words by Westendorff and the Southern Ute Tribal Council members who attended the meeting, where they recounted various memories of the late Mr. Burch and their time working with him.

Daughters of Mr. Burch: Lisa Burch, Leona Burch, Leonora Burch, Lena Gallegos, Lynette Sage and Granddaughter Rachael Burch were present alongside their mother, wife of the late Chairman, Irene Burch in their family home.

Southern Ute Tribal Council members, Marge Barry, Ramona Eagle, newly appointed Chairman, Bruce Valdez and recent elected Council member Vanessa Torres were also present in the Zoom meeting.

Westendorff spoke of Mr. Burch and his 32 years as a

leader of the Southern Ute Tribe. She spoke of his influence in the State of Colorado and across the country.

Westendorff spoke of his leadership, “he was not only important to the Southern Ute Tribe and Native people, but to all Americans, that reached beyond his time as elected by the Southern Ute tribal people.”

Westendorff spoke of Leonard. Burch’s strong sense of substance, his humbleness and dignified presence to secure the well-being and represent the Southern Ute Tribe. As chairman, Mr. Burch oversaw the economic success of the Tribe, not only in La Plata County, but nationally, “he made great strides in sovereignty — participating in conferences at the White

*Burch page 10*

## SOUTHERN UTE POLICE DEPT.

# Defendants plead guilty to drug trafficking on Southern Ute Reservation

Staff report  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe hired a full-time drug investigator, playing a key role in both investigations.

United States Attorney Jason R. Dunn announced that two unrelated individuals have pleaded guilty to methamphetamine trafficking on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Trisha Herrera, age 40, of Ignacio, Colo., and Rita Clark, age 31, of Arboles, Colo. entered their guilty pleas before Magistrate Judge James Candelaria. These investigations were developed in part as a result of the Southern Ute Police Department’s hiring of a full-time drug investigator. Southern Ute Police Chief Raymond Coriz joined in this announcement.

According to court documents, in March of 2020, Herrera arranged drug deals on four separate occasions with other individuals on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Over the course of those four deals, Herrera exchanged 38 grams of narcotics for \$1,130 in cash.

In an unrelated case, court documents show that on July 17, 2020, Clark



arranged a meeting with an individual on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation to exchange methamphetamine for money. Clark delivered 56.49 grams of narcotics in exchange for \$1,200 in cash.

Both Herrera and Clark face up to forty years imprisonment. Herrera is scheduled to be sentenced on February 2, 2021, with Clark being scheduled to be sentenced on April 5, 2021. Both sentences will be pronounced by U.S. District Court Judge Robert E. Blackburn.

“Federal prosecutors have the important responsibility to work in tandem with our tribal partners to promote public safety on tribal land,” said U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn. “These prosecutions, and the continuing effort to combat narcotics on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, show that endan-

gering the community by profiting from dangerous narcotics does not pay.”

“The Southern Ute Police Department will not tolerate the continued destruction of lives caused by these unscrupulous drug dealers,” said Southern Ute Police Chief Raymond Coriz. “We will continue to aggressively investigate low to high level drug traffickers anywhere within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and beyond.”

These cases were cooperatively investigated by the Southern Ute Police Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Division of Drug Enforcement. The defendants are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Graves.

A copy of this press release is located on the website of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado. Related court documents can be found on PACER by searching for Case Numbers 20-cr-234 and 20-cr-235.

*The year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Department of Justice. Learn more about the history of our agency at www.Justice.gov/Celebrating-150Years.*

## Tribe receives Pfizer vaccine



photos Lindsay J. Box/SU Council Affairs

The much-anticipated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is removed from the freezing temperatures to be placed in the Southern Ute Health Center’s freezer storage by Pharmacy Director, Emily Flores. The Tribe’s Health Center received only a handful of vaccines which have been prioritized to front-line healthcare workers.

Southern Ute tribal member and Indian Health Service employee, Vernon Frost, provided the very important courier service delivering the COVID-19 vaccine to both Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Indian Tribe.







CORONAVIRUS

Colorado successfully completes vaccine dry run exercise

Staff report  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR POLIS

Today, Governor Polis and state officials discussed the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and provided an update on the response to the pandemic. Gov. Polis was joined by Scott Bookman, Incident Commander for the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment; Brigadier General Scott Sherman, Dir. of Joint Vaccine Task Force, Colorado National Guard; and Joni Reynolds, Gunnison County Public Health Director.

“The focus of this plan is to save lives and end the crisis as soon as possible. Which means prioritizing our most at-risk health care workers and individuals. Our state has been carefully planning this process, working closely with local public health agencies and engaging with providers and communities to prepare for the day when the vaccine would be approved for distribution and arrive in Colorado,” said Gov. Polis. “This vaccine is the gateway to a life

without this crisis, but it will take time until everyone can access it because of the limited supply of vaccines so we must continue to do what we know works to slow the spread of the virus.”

Scott Bookman, Incident Commander for CDPHE and Brigadier General Scott Sherman discussed vaccine distribution phases, and Joni Reynolds, Gunnison County Public Health Director provided local public health perspective on vaccine distribution and education.

Colorado is about 1.69% of the population of the U.S. and each week the state is expecting to receive 1.69% of the available vaccines. It will take careful planning and time to vaccinate Colorado’s nearly six million people. From a nationwide and worldwide perspective, distributing the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the biggest undertakings in history.

The majority of Phase 1 early recipients of the vaccine will receive it through their employer, local public health agency, or through the federal Pharmacy Partnership for

Long-term Care (LTC) Program if they are residents of a long-term care center. More information about provider settings and options for Phase 2 and Phase 3 recipients will be coming soon.

Additionally, this week, the Colorado Unified Coordination Center completed an exercise to test its ability to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to a distribution facility from Denver International Airport. In a four-hour end-to-end exercise, the Pfizer vaccine arrived at Denver International Airport where it was loaded onto a secure vehicle and driven to Vail Health, one of several distribution centers across the state. The training allowed simultaneous trainings to take place: Colorado Unified Coordination Center, CDPHE and CDPS staff focused on the hand-to-hand transport of the vaccine, experiencing each logistical milestone, while the Unified Coordination Center conducted a tabletop exercise to game out problematic scenarios such as disruptions to transportation routes.

### COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

#### PHASE 1

Winter

1A

Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:

- People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Long-term care facility staff and residents.

1B

Moderate-risk health care workers and responders:

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients.
- Workers in home health/hospice and dental settings.
- EMS, firefighters, police, correctional workers, dispatchers, funeral services, other first responders, and COVID-19 response personnel.

#### PHASE 2

Spring

2

Higher-risk individuals and essential workers:

- People age 65 or older.
- People of any age with obesity, diabetes, chronic lung disease, significant heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer, or are immunocompromised.
- People who interact directly with the public at work, such as grocery store workers and school staff.
- People who work in high density settings like farms and meat-packing plants.
- Workers serving people that live in high-density settings.
- Other health care workers not covered in Phase 1.
- Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial.

#### PHASE 3

Summer

3

The general public:

- Anyone age 18-64 without high risk conditions.

\*Timeline subject to change based on supply chain. Prioritization subject to change based on data, science, availability.

SUNUTE GET FIT FROM HOME • FROM PAGE 1

CX Worx, and Bodystep; plus, favorites like Zumba and yoga classes.

The nice thing about the Get Fit from Home program, is it’s led by the professional team of SunUte group exercise instructors — therefore many SunUte members already know them and are familiar with their instruction styles and techniques. Les Mills music, with an instructor leading the class — just on a video platform.

“Same music, and cues that our members have come to expect from an instructor — they are going to get that same type of experience,” Velasquez emphasized. “How excited we are at SunUte to be able to offer this to our members, the tribal membership or anyone that wants to take advantage of it!”

One of the biggest highlights, is that members can watch it at any time they want. One of the benefits of the video vs. livestream.

“What we realized was that people were either working out from home or not at all. Depending on their situation,” Velasquez said.

“We’re pretty excited, because our members have been struggling at home,” explained Sage Frane, a Fitness Trainer with SunUte’s Group Exercise Program.

“You have a face they know and trust, that can guide them from a home screen,” she said. “Instruc-

tors from the facility, like body pump class online, just with your teacher — adding that personal connection.”

“Video has been an inevitable thing,” Frane emphasized. “Les Mills has “on demand” workouts, they also have a virtual piece that allow sports clubs to project programs if an instructor is out, or during off-peak time — members have the opportunity to do that class on their own. We can successfully fulfill the needs of our members, when staff is unavailable, giving more opportunities to stay fit and motivated. Plus — It’s a great resource to feed people back into SunUte.”

Launching the online video series has taken some time to get cleared through the Tribe’s Legal Department in order to fully protect SunUte. Hosting the videos in house, on the SunUte website, was another challenge that SunUte had to overcome with the help of Southern Ute Shared Services (SUSS.)

“We would really like to thank SUSS and the Legal Dept., they helped us get this going, they made it possible for us,” Velasquez stated. “I do see this continuing, once SunUte is back open. Even before the closures happened, a lot of stuff was going online, and this allowed us to pursue that option as well.”

“Since March, we have

tried digital with Facebook,” Frane said. “This platform seems to work out better — better access for members and non-members. The technology has been awesome, big thanks to Dana Kopf and SUSS.”

“With elder and youth classes, we’ve tried to design some stuff that uses less equipment,” Frane said. “Modified versions might omit equipment altogether or use whatever you have within your space. Plus, some shorted classes. Gradually work back into it — 30 mins, 45 mins, up to a full hour. We pride ourselves here at SunUte for being here for the tribal members, and the community — we want to keep those connections.”

The videos became available in early December. Since the workouts are video based, the live feedback is a missing component. If participants want feedback or have any questions, they can call SunUte Community Center at (970) 563-0214 and ask for Sage Frane to reach a trained exercise coordinator or Abel Velasquez and connect with a fitness trainer to get personalized advice on how to — Get Fit from Home!

Access workout videos directly from the SunUte website here: <https://www.sunute.com/2020/12/02/get-fit-from-home/>

Many Moons Ago



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

The air was filled with Christmas Spirit at the annual Taste of Christmas program held in the Elementary Auditorium on Dec. 3, 2010. The event hosted many vendors selling their Christmas goods. Santa also made a guest appearance as many a child shared their wishes with him. Pictured here with Santa is Keevin “KJ” Reynolds.

This photo was first published in the Dec. 17, 2010, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Dave Brown/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Coach Irv Taylor gets ready to send his Bayfield 13–14-year-old girls’ basketball team on the floor against Ignacio in the final game of the season.

This photo was published in the Dec. 15, 2000, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

30 years ago

The picture was used as part of a collage depicting “Winter Fun” as youth around the area enjoyed one of the first snows in the region. None of the individuals were identified.

This photo was published in the Dec. 21, 1990, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Santa explains to the MC and Miss Southern Ute, Verna Velasquez the problems he had getting to Ignacio for the Annual Christmas Program that year. The program also featured other skits with Santa, the youth group singing Christmas carols and a performance from Chaski, a South American music group.

This photo was published in the Dec. 19, 1980, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

Southern Ute Tribal Offices Holiday Closures

Dec. 24 & 25 • Christmas Holiday

Jan. 1, 2021 • New Year’s Day





## NAGPRA

## Museum returns objects to San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Staff report

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The San Bernardino County Museum announces the repatriation of culturally significant objects made by matriarchs of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Coinciding with the annual National Native American Heritage Month, the approval for the transfer took place at the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors' Nov. 17 meeting.

At a time when socio-cultural awareness is on the rise, the nationally accredited San Bernardino County Museum is applying its collections management policy in a manner that foregrounds the principles of diversity, equity, access and inclusion.

The museum's decision also demonstrates what the champions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) intended when it was passed 30 years ago. Enacted on Nov. 16, 1990, this Federal law granted rights and established procedures for tribal governments to request the repatriation of ancestors' remains and certain cultural material in museum collections. The San Bernardino County Museum regularly consults with tribes regionally and across the country to ensure that all their indigenous collections are in compliance with this federal mandate.

"The transfer of these objects, which the Museum acquired in the 1980s, is a meaningful step in the acknowledgment that the Museum's historical collecting practices have had negative impact on the Tribal community's self-reliance and control of their own cultural heritage," said Museum Director Melissa Russo. "We offer reconciliation and healing with this



courtesy sbcounty.gov

repatriation and propose a positive and transparent future partnership with San Manuel centered on our mutual goal of building cultural literacy in our region."

San Manuel has long supported public education about Serrano culture and California Native history. Educating partners and the public about the Native Californian experience is ingrained in their tribal values. The Tribe has also established several departments and committees dedicated to the protection, preservation, and promotion of Serrano history and culture. San Manuel is also an advocate for the sovereign stewardship of tribal land and the cultural resources that it contains, including resources removed over the last 200 years from the tribe's ancestral territory and their living community.

The decision was welcome news to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "These items are representative of the Serrano way of life and have deep meaning for us. We are bringing home the work of the hands of prominent women in our community—works that have their prayers, songs, and spirits embedded within them. It is a bittersweet homecoming, but one that will bring healing and joy for generations to come. We appreciate the San Bernardino County Museum staff for recognizing

how significant these items are to our Tribe and for their ongoing partnership," stated Chairman Ken Ramirez.

"The Board of Supervisors is gratified by the positive relationship that has been building between the County Museum and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, underscored by this repatriation," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. "We fully support the Museum's recommendation to transfer this cultural material, especially in light of the considerable meaning they hold for our Tribal partner."

The San Bernardino County Museum's exhibits of regional cultural and natural history and the Museum's other exciting events and programs reflect the effort by the Board of Supervisors to achieve the Countywide Vision by celebrating arts, culture, and education in the county, creating quality of life for residents and visitors.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at 2024 Orange Tree Lane, at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. Parking is free. The Museum is currently closed to the public due to the Governor's orders. For more information, visit [www.sbcounty.gov/museum](http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum). The museum is accessible to persons with disabilities.

### Have You Checked This Out Yet?

Ignacio Community Library is pleased to share with you the digitization of the **IGNACIO CHIEFTAIN** newspapers from the years 1931 to 1970. This has been made possible by a grant through the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection, which is a service of the Colorado State Library.

Gain access to this to find information, explore the area's history, and more at [www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org)

### Native American Heritage Mass

## SAINT IGNATIUS PARISH

on the SOUTHERN UTE Indian Reservation



### KATERI CIRCLE

intercultural liturgy

WED / Dec 23  
6:00 PM / ST. IGNATIUS PARISH  
Ignacio, CO

Join us by signup at  
[www.stignatiuschurchignacio.com](http://www.stignatiuschurchignacio.com)  
Masks required



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe



### Southern Ute Indian Tribe COVID-19 Call Center

#### Christmas Holiday Hours

In observance of the Christmas Holiday, the Southern Ute COVID-19 Call Center will be CLOSED on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, 2020. Modified Tribal Operation will resume Monday, December 28, 2020. You can reach the Call Center by dialing 970.563.0214.

**TAWI NUUCHU NA-GUKWI-VANI COVID-19**

"Together, we will fight COVID-19"

## Tribal Community Prayer



## Prayers in Unity

December 20, 2020  
Sunrise Prayer

Sundance Chief, Byron Frost and Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box will be doing a Sunrise Prayer for the Tribal Community and All Nations to overcome COVID-19.

The Chiefs request that everybody Pray from their residence at Sunrise.

For more information contact  
Events Coordinator, Tara Vigil at (970) 563-2985

## Announcing Virtual Fashion Show

January 18 - January 29, 2021

The Cultural Preservation Department and the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum is hosting a Virtual Fashion Show which is open to all Ute members and descendants. The Virtual Fashion Show is NOT a contest.

Those interested in participating may submit a maximum of five (5) photos of Ute Traditional hand-made items or regalia by mail to the Cultural Preservation Department, Special Events Coordinator Tara Vigil at PO Box 737 Ignacio, CO 81137 or email [photols\) to tvigil@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:photols) to tvigil@southernute-nsn.gov) Photos need to be sent in a JPG format. Along with the photols) please add a description, your name and if you would like, you may add your address, phone number and names of any individual(s) that model your item.

The Virtual Fashion Show will be on display January 18 thru January 28, 2021 on the Southern Ute Tribal Website. The Deadline for submissions will be December 31, 2020 at 5pm.



For more information contact:  
Event Coordinator Tara Vigil at (970) 563-2985 or  
Education Outreach Coordinator for SUCCM, SkyDawn Moccasin-Flower  
email [sflower@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:sflower@southernute-nsn.gov)

# GATHERING OF NATIONS

## PRE NYE - ZOOM DANCE PARTY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 - 9 PM TO 11 PM EASTERN TIME

FREE EVERY ONE INVITED

Dance Host - Jason Whitehouse  
MUSIC BY: DJ LOGIC SPECIAL GUEST - NYE DANCERS  
SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY: CLAN TYNKER CIRCUS

REGISTRATION & INFO - [WWW.GATHERINGOFNATIONS.COM](http://WWW.GATHERINGOFNATIONS.COM)





## HEALTHY RECIPES

### Cooking and baking for the holidays!

By Lisa B. Smith, RDN

SHINING MOUNTAIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Don't let the amount of ingredients listed in a recipe stop you from trying it. You'll see that most of the ingredients are typically herbs, spices and other baking/cooking ingredients like oil, baking powder, etc.

The trick is to get everything out on the counter that you will need. This makes the process much easier and more efficient. It's what the French call "Mise en place" or "everything in its place".

Take this dessert muffin for example.

One thing you will notice is that the only real prepping is mashing bananas and whisking eggs. Everything else is a matter of measuring out, mixing and baking.

I encourage you to read the whole recipe first before thinking it is too much for you (although you should always read the whole recipe anyway before you start!) You may be surprised that it's easier than you think!



courtesy Fox and Briar.com

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

#### Banana Pumpkin Dessert Muffins

(these are naturally gluten free)

##### Ingredients

3 ripe bananas, mashed  
3 cups old fashioned oats  
¼ cup pumpkin puree  
1 ½ cups milk (cow, almond, rice...)  
2 large eggs, whisked  
3 tablespoons brown sugar  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil, butter or coconut oil (butter/coconut oil should be softened)  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 cup chopped nuts (try walnuts, pecans...) (optional)  
½ cup mini chocolate chips (optional)  
½ cup shredded unsweetened coconut (optional)

##### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350, line muffin pan with liners or spray with non-stick spray.
  2. Combine all ingredients and gently mix together (except nuts, chocolate chips and coconut), until dry ingredients are just moistened.
  3. Fold in nuts, chocolate chips and coconut.
  4. Fill each muffin cup 2/3 full of batter.
  5. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden. Cool 5-10 minutes then remove.
- May be stored in an airtight container after completely cooled for up to five days.

## BEHAVIOR HEALTH

### BEE HEARD: Technology and Mental Health

By Precious Collins

NATIVE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Before the pandemic, there was a steady increase in people using apps and the internet to seek out advice, tips, and information on things like mental health issues, conditions, signs and symptoms, and treatment. This use of technology has increased dramatically since the hit of the pandemic. Virtual assistance and services seem to be a safe way to access mental health services and information right now. With that said, many people have turned to phone apps to be a click away from games or platforms that can help improve thinking skills, coping skills, breathing and meditation techniques, and even track your progress and remind you to take some time out of every day for self-care.

There are apps like "MY3" which has been designed to help those stay safe while they are having a mental health crisis or thoughts of suicide. Other apps like "What's Up" have methods and tips to help reduce stress or anxiety and can also help you maintain good habits. There is also an app called "PTSD Coach" that was created by the VA's National Center for PTSD. This app is a portable stress management tool that can help you manage life with PTSD.

Even with the abundance of apps and online tools, it is very important that you do your research or talk to a professional about what apps might be beneficial to you.



#### TECHNOLOGY AND SUBSTANCE USE

The same is true for those who want support and services for addictions. Many people have been attending virtual support or talking circles to help them stay on track with their plans. If they need added support, they are just a call away from a peer recovery coach that can help them anytime of the day or night. There are also many virtual trainings and workshops available free of cost to assist in your knowledge and skills regarding substance use and how to support yourself or a family or friend.

One app called "Quit That!" helps track your habits and overcome bad habits or addictions.

Keep in mind, apps do not substitute professional help, rehab programs or treatments.

#### What does the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division say?

The Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division recognizes all the advances and accessibility of services, information, and tips around mental health and substance use via the internet and apps. There are plenty of opportunities to understand what the signs and symptoms are if someone is experiencing a mental health crisis or even a substance use disorder.

We want to stress that technology and apps do not take the place of professional mental health or substance use assistance. You can plug in and search as much as you want on the internet to find out why you're feeling the way you do or to gather information about what you can do to feel better. However, there is one thing missing: a person on the other end of the line, a professional who is committed to listening to you, hearing you explain what you're going through, helping you process and eventually recover and build resiliency. It's important to keep in mind that many people suffer from mental health issues and even addictions; with proper counseling, rehab programs and support, these issues can be treatable.

The Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division and the Native Connections Program would like to stress that mental health is health. Just as we have our yearly check-ups and even when we experience a toothache emergency, we go see a doctor to make sure we are staying healthy. Mental health is the same thing. Maybe we just need someone to talk to, just to check in, or we've just lost a loved one, or we're noticing anxiety or stress in our life. Mental health applies to everyone no matter the age. We encourage you to seek out someone to talk to even if it's every now and then.

#### LOCAL RESOURCES

- **Southern Ute Health Center – Behavior Health:** 69 Capote Dr., Ignacio, CO 970-563-4581. For local Native Americans, call to schedule a counseling appointment.
- **Southern Ute Division of Social Services:** 116 Capote Drive, Ignacio, CO 970-563-2331 for local Native Americans needing assistance with child welfare needs and family support.
- **24/7 Axis Crisis Line:** Southwest Colorado 970-247-5245 or text 741741.
- **St Ignatius Catholic Church:** Pastor Cesar Arras, 14826 CO-172, Ignacio, CO 970-563-4241.
- **Ignacio Community Church:** Pastor Randall Haynes 405 Browning Ave, Ignacio, CO (currently located inside ELHI) 970-759-3633
- **Second Wind Fund of the Four Corners:** Believes that every child and youth at risk of suicide should have access to the mental health treatment they need. We match children and youth at risk for suicide with licensed therapists in their communities, 720-962-0706.
- **Women's Resource Center:** Creates personal, social, and professional growth opportunities for all women in La Plata County, 970-247-1242.

#### 24/7 STATE OR NATIONAL RESOURCES

- **Colorado Crisis Line:** 844-493-8255 or Text "TALK" to 38255. You'll immediately be put in contact with a trained counselor, ready to text with you about anything.
- **The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Has both an online chat and a 24/7 phone line at 1-800-273-8255 if you are thinking of suicide or need help for a loved one.
- **The Trevor Project:** Seeks to serve LGBT youth, has a 24/7 suicide prevention line at 866-488-7386.
- **We R Native:** Join the movement by liking them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/weRnative), signing up for the text messaging service (text NATIVE to 24587).

#### Upcoming Community Events:

Native Connections Program will be hosting another "Acting All Some How Show" on Dec. 23, from 6–7 p.m. Open to all community members. Topic for the show will be: How to talk to youth about drugs and alcohol. We will have two guest speakers: Rich Herrera, Southern Ute tribal member and Southern Ute Police Department Detective; Angelina Whitehorse, Navajo tribal member and Southern Ute Division of Social Services Family Therapist. We will also have a special performance from Olyvia Watt's, Southern Ute Youth Powwow Performer. Zoom ID: 871-9824-1301. You can use the Zoom ID on the day/time of the event, or you can email Precious Collins at prcollins@southernute-nsn.gov or call 970-563-2487 and a link will be sent to you.



## Southern Ute Social Services

Child Abuse is paramount during this time, if you need to make a child abuse report please call Southern Ute Social Services at **970-563-KIDS (5437)**. You can also reach Social Services through Southern Ute Dispatch at **970-563-4401**.

We also understand mental health is important, if you need to speak to a licensed therapist, please call social services main line **970-563-2339**.



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Health Center Hours

Due to the evolving Covid 19 Outbreak the Southern Ute Health Center has updated all operational hours, until further notice.

All PATIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CALL AHEAD FOR APPOINTMENTS 970-563-4581.

- **S.U. HEALTH CENTER (CLINIC):** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Daily. **Covid-19 Testing:** Mon. & Fri., 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tue., Wed., Thur., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; **Lab hours:** Mon. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tue. – Fri., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **PHARMACY:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Only window service will be offered. No Pharmacy access from inside the clinic.
- **NURSING VISITS:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Appointment only. NO WALK-INS!
- **DENTAL:** CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 2, 2021. No appointments.
- **OPTOMETRY:** All Optometry visits are canceled until further notice.
- **PSYCHIATRY:** Visits are no longer being offered; Patients will be treated via tele-medicine.
- All **SPECIALTY MEDICINE:** All appointments will take place via tele-medicine. SUHC staff will be calling patients to make arrangements for service.
- All **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** Patients are treated by phone, no in-person or group meetings at this time.

## S.U. Vocational Rehabilitation Program

We are here and available for support via phone, fax, or email!

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Phone: 970-563-4730

Fax: 970-563-4840

Email: brosa@southernute-nsn.gov



*Making Change Work for You!*





TRANSPORTATION

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week aims to keep seniors safe on the road

77 older drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2019

Staff report  
COLO. DEPT. OF  
TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation joined with local programs to observe Older Driver Safety Awareness Week from Dec. 7 to Dec. 11, 2020. By proclamation, Governor Polis designated the week to promote understanding of the importance of mobility and transportation for older adults and to ensure they can remain active in their communities without transportation becoming a barrier to their mobility.

It is critical to note that older adults are advised to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines when considering travel options. Individuals who are 65 years and older are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. Older adults are twice as likely as younger people to develop serious symptoms. More information is available at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/resources-for-older-adults-and-their-families>.

In 2019 there were 122 drivers over 65 years old involved in fatal crashes. In that same year 77 older drivers died in car crashes. Older drivers are more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a crash due to the greater fragility of their aging bodies.

Research suggests that older adults can expect to outlive their ability to drive safely by seven to ten years.

A proactive way for older adults to enhance their safety behind the wheel is to be sure their car is properly adjusted. In 2019 CDOT

sponsored 57 CarFit events around the state. At these events volunteers check for:

- A seat belt that holds the driver in the proper position and remains comfortable while driving.
- The tilt of the steering wheel and position of the airbag.
- Plenty of room (at least 10 inches) between the chest and the airbag.
- A properly adjusted head restraint.
- A clear line of sight above the steering wheel and dash.
- Easy access to gas and brake pedals.
- Properly adjusted mirrors.
- Ability to see around the vehicle by reducing the driver's blind spots.
- The ability to turn the vehicle's ignition key with ease or operate an ignition system.
- Easy operation of vehicle controls including turn signals, headlights, emergency flashers, windshield wipers, and the parking brake.

Due to COVID-19, the CarFit program is hosting a series of virtual workshops to provide an in-depth look at several key aspects

involved in getting a proper fit in your vehicle. Learn about what to look for when it comes to fit, the everyday household objects you can use to measure and make adjustments, and how this may keep you safer on the road. Seniors can register for a virtual workshop at [www.car-fit.org](http://www.car-fit.org).

"With increasing age come changes in physical, mental and sensory abilities that can challenge a person's continued ability to drive safely," said Sylvia Cordy, a traffic safety advocate with the Denver-based Reaching Older Adult Drivers program. "But there are a variety of safe travel options and focusing on these solutions is key."

Colorado's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families is available for free and can serve as an excellent resource to answer most questions including license reexamination and laws, resources for Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, Area Agency on Aging centers. The guide can be downloaded at: [www.drivesmartcolorado.com](http://www.drivesmartcolorado.com/info@drivesmartcolorado.com).

In Western Colorado, a good resource is [olderwiser.org](http://olderwiser.org) for information on public transit discounts.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

New Behavioral Health Provider

Staff report  
SOUTHERN UTE  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Southern Ute Health Department's Behavioral Health Division is excited to announce the addition of a new psychologist to meet behavioral health needs; Patricia Hamrick, PSYD.

Dr. Hamrick is a Clinical Psychologist providing individual and group therapy to adults with a wide range of issues including substance abuse, trauma, PTSD, bereavement, psychosis, bipolar, depression, anxiety, chronic health issues, diabetes, inter-relational, career, educational, stress management, couples, family, elder, and developmental delay.

She is a supervisor for other psychologists, therapists, psychology post doctorate residents and interns, and LPC interns. She has presented on national, state and local levels on issues such as diversity, stress management, conflict resolution, coping with chronic health



Patricia Hamrick, PSYD  
Clinical Psychologist

problems, diabetes, Alzheimer's/elder care, mindfulness/wellness, and other mental health concerns.

Dr. Hamrick comes to us with broad experience working with Native American clients, including eleven years with the San Carlos Apache Tribe Wellness Center.

How To Schedule?

Therapy sessions (through video or telephone) can be scheduled by contacting our new Administrative Assistant, Kayla Wing, at 970-563-5700.

Kayla is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and has worked for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for eight years. "My goal is to support the staff and make sure all client's needs are met," Wing said.

We are excited to have Kayla join our team. As the Administrative Assistant for the Behavioral Health Division, she will help us expand the Behavioral Health Division and will be the initial point of contact for individuals and families seeking mental health and substance abuse treatment.

QUESTIONS? Call Mary Trujillo Young, Behavioral Health Manager, at 970-563-2370.

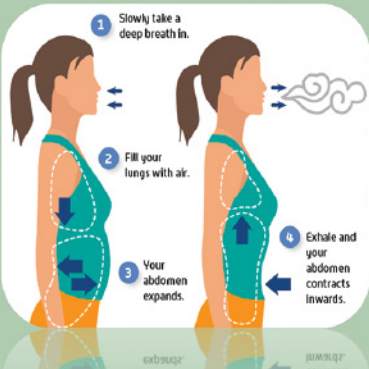


Diaphragmatic Breathing To Help in Recovering from Coronavirus

COVID-19 attacks the lungs and respiratory system and will sometimes result in significant damage to the lungs. It can also lead to pneumonia and even acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), a severe lung injury. Recovering lung function is possible but can require therapy and exercises for months after the infection is treated.

Deep breathing can help restore diaphragm function and increase lung capacity.

The goal for this exercise is to build up the ability to breathe deeply during any activity, not just while are rest.



Deep breathing exercises can also lessen feelings of anxiety and stress, which are common for someone who experienced severe symptoms or was admitted to a hospital.

Help the Wisdom Keepers keep their Wisdom.

Get health screening tests and wellness check-ups each year at your local Urban Indian Health facility.



Watch the video and learn more at [ncuih.org/wisdomkeeper](http://ncuih.org/wisdomkeeper)



No time to deal with the flu?

Get the shot instead.

Make your health and the health of your community a priority this year. Get your flu shot now. Doing so may reduce strain on the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic and protect you, your family, and our communities' most vulnerable from health complications.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the US are hospitalized each year because of the flu. Let's keep people out of the hospital.

When to get your flu shot

The early fall is a great time to get your flu shot. But if you didn't get it early, there is still time to get the shot.



Community Flu Clinics

Several drive through clinics and community based clinics will be happening this fall. Reach out to SJBPH for more information about upcoming flu vaccine events at 970.247.5702.

Cost

No cost for patients with:  
• Medicaid (Health First Colorado)  
• Medicare  
• Most private insurances



Who should get the flu shot?

Everyone. If you have small children or are an older adult it is even more important you get the flu shot this year.



No insurance?

Your employer may cover your flu shot. Ask your HR manager. SJBPH provides vaccines for uninsured adults and children.

Still need help finding where to get your flu shot?

Call SJBPH at 970.335.2003 to help find the best location for your specific needs.



SAN JUAN BASIN  
public health

[sjbpublichealth.org](http://sjbpublichealth.org)

Durango Office  
281 Sawyer Drive  
Durango, CO 81303  
970 247 5702

Pagosa Springs Office  
502 S 8th Street  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81447  
970 264 2409

How  
are  
you?

RECOVERY TALKING CIRCLE

FREE TO ALL IGNACIO COMMUNITY MEMBERS 18 YEARS OR OLDER.

COPING STRATEGIES  
DEC. 03, 2020

RELAPSE PREVENTION PLAN & SAFETY NET  
DEC. 10, 2020

THINKING ERRORS  
DEC. 17, 2020

SPECIAL TOPIC: NEW HOLIDAY ROUTINES  
DEC. 30, 2020

CONTACT MARVINA OLGUIN FOR ZOOM INFORMATION.

Mission Statement

It is my mission to inspire and empower other sisters and brothers in treatment and help those in recovery live a life of integrity, honesty and resiliency. Knowing that honesty is the foundation of change, if we live our lives one moment at a time and rationalize every thought before it becomes an action, WE WILL CHANGE.

You don't have to do it alone, we can do this together.

-Marvina Olguin | Peer Recovery Coach

HEALTHY MINDS. HEALTHY CHOICES.

HEALTHY UTES.

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPT.

TO SIGN UP OR FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT MARVINA OLGUIN, PEER RECOVERY COACH @ 970-563-2359 OR [MAROLGUIN@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV](mailto:MAROLGUIN@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV)





Ignacio Community Library Updates

New From The Library!

Homebound Delivery is a service designed to offer library materials to patrons with disabilities, medical conditions, or anyone staying home during the times of COVID-19. The service is available to all ages for anyone who lives within a 10 mile radius of the library. Items are sent to you through the mail and it is completely free. If you are interested in this service all we need is for you to fill out a form! Please call 970-563-9287 or visit, [ignaciolibrary.org](http://ignaciolibrary.org), to learn more.

Library Holiday Closures

The library will be closed various days this month.

- In observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will be closed all day Dec. 24 and 25.
- In observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, we will be closed all day Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2021.

We will be happy to see our patrons again in the new year! We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Donations To ICL

We are gladly accept donations that are current and in good condition. We do not accept textbooks, encyclopedia sets, Reader's Digest Condensed, VHS, or cassette materials. However, we appreciate DVDs as well as current books and magazines.

Master of Social Work available summer 2021

The University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work Four Corners Program is accepting applications for the Advanced Standing MSW program starting this summer 2021. Students with a bachelor's degree in social work are eligible for the one-year program. Complete your application by January 15, 2021 and we waive the \$65.- application fee. Stipends in child welfare and opioid workforce expansion and Native American tuition support to eligible students are available. For more information, email [janelle.doughty@du.edu](mailto:janelle.doughty@du.edu).

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public health

[SafeCare@sjbpublichealth.org](mailto:SafeCare@sjbpublichealth.org) • 970.247.5702 • [sjbpublichealth.org/safecare-colorado](http://sjbpublichealth.org/safecare-colorado)

A program of the Colorado Office of Early Childhood

Join Us in Our Mission to

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ TEACH



★ December 19, 2020 ★

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY



American Heritage Girls CO2517

To sponsor a wreath in honor of a veteran, please visit  
[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CO0190P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CO0190P)  
or scan the QR code below.



[wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org)

SUIMA

From the Eagle's Nest

Christmas time at the Academy

Staff report  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN  
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Christmas is quickly approaching and the students at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy are looking forward to their break and playing outside is the snow — let's hope we have some!

As in years past, SUIMA has incorporated holiday activities into the month of December, this year has been no different.

During the Ute Language lessons, the students have been working on the food blessing prayer, the toddler classrooms put together candy cane activities to do at home, the primary classrooms are using cotton balls to count how many "hairs" are on Santa's beard; and both the primary and elementary levels are building gingerbread houses via Zoom.

For our Parent Advisory Group Family Night, the school had a Christmas stocking decoration contest — it was an evening filled with holiday cheer, laughter, and music. The Grinch even showed up for a little while! Even though Christmas may look a little different this year, traditions can still be kept. Family, food, Christmas songs, memories of past celebration and the opening of gifts can all help keep those traditions intact and help us feel a sense of normalcy.

Everyone have a wonderful Christmas!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Katrina Richards is from Ignacio and has worked at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy for 12 years.

She has been married to Kenneth Richards for 33 year and has four children: Gabe, Greg, Seth and Jade. She also has seven grandchildren that range in ages from 4-13 years old!



courtesy SUIMA

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy made Christmas activities that were sent home for the students to complete during remote learning lessons.



courtesy SUIMA

Ms. Katrina Richards  
SUIMA Infant Guide

When Katrina is not at work, her favorite thing to do is to be with her family and her five dogs.

Before she came to SUIMA, Katrina worked as a volleyball and basketball coach

for Ignacio High School.

Katrina says that the best part of working at SUIMA is that she gets to work with kids. Her favorite quote is, "Good, better, best; never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best."

Thank you, Katrina, for being part of the SUIMA family.

CHRISTMAS BOOK SUGGESTION

As SUIMA and the Ignacio School District work together to promote a reading community, here are a couple of Christmas books for your enjoyment: For younger readers — Pete the Cat Saves Christmas; For older readers — How to Catch Santa, How to Catch an Elf.

SUIMA food blessing/prayer

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Nuumaroghomapugatu, | – Creator,            |
| təuvəchiu toghoyaah | – Thank you very much |
| 'ichay tukapi       | – [for] this food     |
| Nəm̩y tukakhapaanay | – [that] we will eat. |
| 'uu                 | – Amen/yes            |

There's  
lots to  
learn

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with a free personal nurse

that can give you the support, advice and information  
you need as a new mom, pregnant with your first baby.

Contact Us

CALL(970) 335-2061  
TEXT(970) 317-4840  
[sjbpublichealth.org](http://sjbpublichealth.org)

SAN JUAN BASIN  
public health







CORONAVIRUS

San Juan Basin Public Health reports continued increase in cases

More outbreaks, and deaths related to COVID-19

Staff report  
SAN JUAN BASIN PUBLIC HEALTH

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) is reporting a continued increase in COVID-19 cases and outbreaks as well as spike in deaths of people with COVID-19.

Since Nov. 1, SJBPH has confirmed 1,388 new cases of COVID-19 in La Plata County, for a total of 1,821 cases to date, and 306 new cases in Archuleta County for a total of 376 cases to date.

Additionally, SJBPH has confirmed an additional 28 outbreaks in La Plata County since November 1st for a total of 35 outbreaks in the county since the pandemic started, and 2 outbreaks have been identified in Archuleta County over the same time frame for a total of 3 outbreaks to date.

Yesterday, SJBPH confirmed 2 additional deaths of people with COVID-19 in La Plata County, bringing total deaths in that category to 10, with 8 deaths added since November 1st. No COVID-related deaths have been identified in Archuleta County.

With the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, outbreaks, and deaths locally, statewide, and nationwide, steps must be taken now to slow the spread to protect public health and speed

up economic recovery. Controlling the pandemic requires a multipronged approach of science-based strategies that include; universal face mask use, social distancing, avoiding non-essential indoor spaces, increasing testing, quick quarantine of exposed people, protecting people at high risk for severe illness or death, protecting essential workers, postponing travel, and enhancing ventilation and hand hygiene.

These strategies are now the components of national recommendations for fighting the pandemic and will protect people, the health-care system, essential businesses, and schools, leading to a future with high community coverage of effective vaccines and a safe return to more activities in a range of settings. (see the Centers for Disease Control’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report for Dec. 4, 2020)

“SJBPH is extremely concerned with the increase in cases, outbreaks, and deaths related to COVID-19”, said SJBPH Executive Director, Liane Jollon. “But there is a path forward and it will require commitment from all of us. We realize that over 9 months of this pandemic has been deeply challenging for so many in our community. The only way we will be able to see eco-

nomie recovery, go back to in-person learning, and be able to safely socialize with our loved ones is to act now to slow the spread of the virus,” Jollon emphasized.

The necessary steps that must be taken now by everyone to slow the spread of COVID-19 are:

- Universal use of face masks
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet
- Avoiding nonessential indoor spaces
- Getting tested if you are symptomatic, think you’ve been exposed, or if you work in a high-contact position
- Prompt following of quarantine guidance if exposed
- Protecting people at higher risk of severe illness or death
- Postponing travel
- Improving indoor ventilation and hand hygiene
- Protecting essential workers
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available

See the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report for Dec. 4, 2020 here: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949e2.htm>

For more information see: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/coronavirus/>

CORONAVIRUS

CDC publishes options to reduce quarantine length

Staff report  
COLO. DEPT. PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published additional options to reduce the length of quarantine, while continuing to recommend a full 14-day quarantine as the most effective way to reduce disease spread. CDC and CDPHE continue to recommend a full 14-day quarantine as the ‘gold standard.’ CDPHE will be updating its guidance to explain when other, less protective options might be appropriate.

A quarantine could only be shortened in the following situations:

- If exposed people do not develop symptoms, they may be released from quarantine after completing day 7 if they have a negative molecular or antigen test collected within 48 hours of ending quarantine. The test should be collected at least 5 days after their exposure.
- People may stop quarantining after completing 10 days of quarantine without a test if they do not develop any symptoms.

Under no circumstances should the quarantine duration end before seven days have fully passed.

“We need everyone to do everything possible to avoid



all in-person interactions with people they don’t live with, whether they’ve had a known exposure to COVID-19 or not. The risks are too high right now with 1 in 41 Coloradans infected.

The additional quarantine options provided by CDC give the public more flexibility on quarantining, which is sometimes necessary to sustain the response, allowing folks to do essential activities. But the gold standard remains to be a 14-day quarantine after any possible exposure,” said Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, CDPHE.

While people may leave quarantine earlier, if they follow these additional safety precautions, they should continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19 for a full 14 days. Some people may not get sick until 14 days after their exposure. That is why it is also important to wear a mask and keep physical distance (at least six feet) from others.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.

The new quarantine options also advise people to wait at least five days after their exposure date before getting tested, unless symptoms develop. Testing immediately after exposure isn’t helpful because it may be too early in the incubation period, and there isn’t enough viral material for the test to detect.

Follow the instructions on how to quarantine after exposure to prevent further transmission.

Anyone with symptoms should get tested as soon as possible, stay away from others, and follow the instructions on how to isolate. Isolation is different from quarantining and is for people who are ill.

We appreciate Coloradans’ patience while we update our webpages and guidance documents to explain the additional options provided by the CDC. Continue to stay up to date by visiting covid19.colorado.gov.

Wash YOUR HANDS!

Hands that look clean can still have icky germs!

1 Wet  
2 Get Soap  
3 Scrub  
4 Rinse  
5 Dry

[www.cdc.gov/handwashing](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing)

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE COVID-19 Call Center

Hours of Operation  
Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
970.563.0214

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING  
STAY HOME  
STAY IN TOUCH  
PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

If you are sick self-isolate. If your symptoms get worse call your healthcare provider. Tribal members & Southern Ute Health Center patients can call the Health Center at 970.563.4581 to schedule an appointment.

COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.

ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19

- Stay home until 14 days after your last contact.
- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19

- Stay home until after
  - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
  - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
  - Symptoms have improved
- If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms
  - Stay home until after
    - 10 days have passed since your positive test
- If you live with others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom, if available.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS  
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people.

6 ft

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)





CORONAVIRUS

Community testing sites: location and hours

Staff Report  
SAN JUAN BASIN PUBLIC HEALTH

La Plata County free community COVID-19 testing in two locations:

- La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave., Durango. Testing is available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday. Test center staff ask that people be in line for testing no later than 3 p.m. so that all cars can be moved through the site when it closes at 4 p.m.
- Upper Pine Fire Protection District Administration Bldg., 515 Sower Drive, Bayfield on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Other partners contributing to La Plata County community test sites are; SJBPB, La Plata County Emergency Operations Center, Animas Surgical Hospital, Axis Health System, Mercy Regional Medical Center, City of Durango, Upper Pine Fire Protection District, and the La Plata County Sheriff's Department.

Archuleta County Free Community Test Sites: SJBPB is working with

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs to provide free COVID-19 testing at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84 in Pagosa Springs.

Testing at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds will be held Wednesday through Friday through Dec. 18 from 10 am - 2 pm. The schedule will be modified during the holiday weeks and posted at PagosaSUN.com.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, those who believe they may have been exposed either through known contact or general community interaction, and people in critical sectors who are in frequent contact with the public – early childhood, K-12, first responders, and critical government services should get tested at free community testing sites. No appointment is needed.

Since its opening on Aug. 4, 9,920 (+915) tests have been performed in Durango, Bayfield, and Pagosa at community test sites and pop-up testing sites. Locally, 40,311 total COVID-19 tests have been completed, with 5,477 diagnostic (PCR) tests conducted in Archuleta County, 30,883 diagnostic tests conducted in La Plata County, and 3,951 antibody tests conducted.

\*\*The testing numbers above do not reflect all tests conducted as a wider range of testing options and locations have become available. See all testing locations and information here: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/testing/>.

CONTACT TRACING

To streamline COVID-19 disease investigation and control and decrease the time between positive case investigation and notification of close contacts, SJBPB has launched an automated text-message system to notify close contacts of their exposure to COVID-19 and rapidly deliver quarantine instruction.

People identified as COVID-19 positive close contacts may receive a text message from 855-681-1645 notifying them of their exposure and providing a link to quarantine and testing instructions.

SJBPB is hiring contact tracers. See our employment page for more information.

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 outbreak identified at Hilltop House in Durango

Staff report  
SAN JUAN BASIN PUBLIC HEALTH

Through a combination of laboratory testing and epidemiological investigation, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPB) has identified a COVID-19 outbreak at Hilltop House, a community corrections and rehabilitation facility in Durango. Twenty-five residents and six employees have been confirmed as COVID-19 cases. There has been one death of a resident associated with this outbreak.

SJBPB and Hilltop House management took immediate action to limit the further spread of disease and involved the Colorado Department of Public Safety, which regulates community corrections, and the state Staffing Shortage Fusion Center, which provides staff

assistance to residential facilities. In addition, SJBPB and the state are providing infection control guidance to management, which has cooperated with the outbreak investigation and is taking all appropriate measures to stop spread of the virus.

The outbreak investigation is ongoing, and additional cases or contacts may be identified. As with any communicable disease, this investigation will take some time to complete. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, identifying information and medical information about the persons involved will not be released to the public.

“For almost nine months SJBPB and the congregate facilities in our region have worked hard to keep our most vulnerable populations safe from the virus. We’ve

seen congregate facility outbreaks in many other counties since March, so we knew that this was a place to devote testing, education, and close coordination with our partners,” said Liane Jollon, executive director of SJBPB. “We hope that with quick action on the part of SJBPB and Hilltop House management, this outbreak will be quickly contained and resolved. With the virus so prevalent in our community, it remains critical that people take the virus seriously, stop socializing outside their households, wear face masks in public and at work, monitor their symptoms, and get tested if they are feeling any symptoms of COVID-19. We know these steps can help protect more vulnerable populations such as those living in congregate facilities,” Jollon said.

CORONAVIRUS

State health officials release tips for safer winter holidays

Enjoy the holidays by celebrating at home or virtually

Staff report  
COLO. DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

As we approach the winter holidays, it's important to think about the best ways to keep our loved ones and communities safe during our celebrations.

This year is an opportunity to reimagine what togetherness can look like. To help slow the alarming spread of COVID-19, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) advises Coloradans to only interact in-person with people from their household this holiday season.

The top three most important things to remember during the holidays are:

1. Only interact in-person with people from your household (defined as those who normally live and sleep under the same roof).



courtesy Covid19 Colorado.gov

2. Refrain from traveling. Celebrate virtually with the people who don't live with you.
3. Avoid crowded stores. Shop for gifts online and have them delivered or pick them up curbside. Find local Colorado businesses to support via the #Shop-LocalColorado campaign. Wear a mask and keep your distance whenever you do leave your home.

Just because we keep physical distance doesn't mean we have to be distant in other ways. There are many creative things you can do to make those closest to you feel loved while making sure they stay healthy for many more seasons to come. For more ideas about enjoying a safe holiday season, see all our holiday tips at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/winter-holiday-tips>.

Stay up to date by visiting [covid19.colorado.gov](https://covid19.colorado.gov).




# HAND SANITIZER DISTRIBUTION

The Southern Ute Tribal Council and Incident Management Team (IMT) have worked hard to secure hand sanitizer for distribution.

Individuals who are going through the December Voluntary Drive-thru Viral Testing Event have, and will receive a bottle of hand sanitizer that looks similar to bottles which can be purchased from a store for consumption. Please read the advisory message below.

**PLEASE be sure to store the hand sanitizer in a safe location that cannot be reached by children and where label is visible. Have a conversation with members of your household explaining the contents and how to use the product safely.**

Tribal Members not participating in the testing event, and who would like to request a bottle of hand sanitizer, please call the Vital Statistics office at 970.563.2248. Limit 1 bottle per household, while supplies last. For questions, please call the Southern Ute COVID-19 Call Center at 970.563.0214 Monday through Friday from 8am until 5pm.



## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### All tribal buildings on the tribal campus are

# CLOSED

### to all visitors in accordance with the “Stay at Home” Order issued on March 25, 2020 which remains in effect until further notice.


Tribal members who require entry to conduct business with a tribal department must call ahead to schedule an appointment with tribal staff. If you have arrived for your scheduled appointment, please call the tribal department or staff to notify them of your arrival. Tribal staff will allow access only under these circumstances. All visitors and staff are expected to comply with the tribal public health order requiring the use of appropriate face covering while inside the building. Please practice social distancing and other public health guidelines.

### TAWI NUUCHU NA-GUKWI-VANI COVID-19

“Together, we will fight COVID-19”

Designed and Published by Lindsay J. Box

The Southern Ute COVID-19 Call Center is available from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by dialing 970.563.0214.






## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### COVID-19 Holiday Guidance

In normal circumstances, the holiday season is a time spent gathering with loved ones and to celebrate reconnecting with friends. Unfortunately, the fight to end the current pandemic is now at a pivotal point as cases continue to rise within the tribal community and across the Country. The Tribal 'Stay at Home' Order limits group gatherings to 5 individuals or less to protect the health of the tribal membership. Please celebrate the upcoming holidays together but from afar. Here are some tips to celebrate a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

### Túukrismes! Merry Christmas!

 <p>Share a meal with your immediate household members only. If you must prepare a meal for others, call and arrange a time to deliver the meal while limiting close contact.</p>	 <p>Connect with loved ones by calling or Facetiming as a way to catch up and celebrate in a safe, virtual way. Exchange gifts before the holiday by dropping presents off at the front doorstep when family members are home.</p>	 <p>Be sure to wear your face covering when shopping for the holidays. Continue to practice social distancing and washing your hands or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p>
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### TAWI NUUCHU NA-GUKWI-VANI COVID-19

“Together, we will fight COVID-19”

Designed and Published by Lindsay J. Box

The Southern Ute COVID-19 Call Center is available from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by dialing 970.563.0214. The Call Center will be CLOSED 12.24 and 12.25, returning to operation 12.28.





# Tribe conducts Dec. testing



Southern Ute tribal elders were given preference each morning, and a well-oiled system kept cars moving each day with minimal delays.



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) hosted the December program in Ignacio, Colo. Testing services were provided free of charge.



Volunteers tested over four hundred individuals on the first day, with a slightly smaller turnout for the second. A total of 664 tests were administered over the two-day drive-through event at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



Diabetes Program Coordinator, Morgann Box lends a hand at the testing event, checking individuals in for testing and giving out hand sanitizer.



With an uptick in regional infection rates and widespread Covid-19 cases throughout Southwest Colorado, the need for testing has become even more paramount ahead of the upcoming Holidays. Especially as cold winter weather pushes families and activities indoors. Tribal volunteers help to keep thing moving each day, while also providing important information on Covid-19.

Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley  
The Southern Ute Drum

**D**edicated volunteers from across the tribal organization come together once again for the Tribe's fourth multi-day drive-through testing event at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. The two-day outdoor testing event was held from Monday, Dec. 7 – Tuesday, Dec. 8. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) hosted the December program in Ignacio, Colo.



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe

COVID-19 Cases	
<b>Southern Ute Health Center Cases</b>	<b>Southern Ute Tribal Member Cases</b>
<b>124 Positive Individuals</b>	<b>44 Positive Individuals</b>
<b>78 Recovered</b>	<b>27 Recovered</b>

**TAWI NUUCHU NA-GUKWI-VANI COVID-19**  
"Together, we will fight COVID-19"  
(As of December 16, 2020)



**TAWI NUUCHU NA-GUKWI-VANI COVID-19 CHALLENGE**

Together, we fight COVID-19



## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### Effective Public Health Orders

# Stay at Home Order



## YOU CAN:



Care for Family & Pets



Buy groceries or supplies for your home.



Obtain medical supplies



Engage in banking



Go to work or get things from work



Exercise and engage in non-group activities



Get or buy educational supplies



Maintain or buy things for the household

## Face Covers Required



Indoors and Outdoors when social distancing measures are not possible

**Both orders remain in effect until further notice.**

SOUTHERN UTE COVID-19 CALL CENTER - 970.563.0214 MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

Designed & Published by Lindsay J. Box





LA PLATA COUNTY JOINS TRIBE IN RECOGNIZING LEONARD C. BURCH • FROM PAGE 1

House,” said Westendorff. Southern Ute Tribal Councilmember Marge Barry spoke of the honor she had to work alongside Mr. Burch many years ago. How she was impressed and honored by him. Barry also spoke of his dedication to traditional values. “He was a Sun Dancer, and a Sun Dance Chief. He was also a veteran.”

Mr. Burch is a U.S. Air Force veteran and served four tours of duty in Turkey in the late 1950’s.

Recently appointed Chairman, Bruce Valdez thanked the Commissioners. “It is an honor and a privilege to speak here today,” Valdez said.

Valdez thanked the family for allowing Mr. Burch to share his time and his vision with the Tribe.

Councilmember Ramona Eagle, spoke of her first meeting with Mr. Burch while employed in the Summer Youth Employment program, and first working with Mr. Burch and Vida Peabody, who served as Council Secretary at that time.

Eagle also spoke of the sacrifice Mr. Burch’s family made over the years; Leonard Burch worked tirelessly in his accomplishments for the Tribe.

“Seeing his accomplishments for the Tribe, his importance as a person, a visionary in place as a leader,” said Eagle.

She also thanked the County Commissioners for sharing this day [Dec. 10]



with the Southern Ute Tribe.

Recently elected Councilmember Vanessa Torres thanked the Burch family and thanked the County Commissioners for recognizing Leonard C. Burch. She spoke of his many accomplishments including Gaming Compact, taxation, the Animas La Plata Water Project and the many investments for the Tribe’s future.

“Mr. Burch supported the Ute culture and language and the care of his people,” Torres said, speaking of his traditional values and as a Sun Dancer.

Torres closed by recognizing his accomplishments for the Tribe with the support of his wife Irene.

The first of Burch’s daughters to speak, Lynette Sage said of her father, “his legacy is far reaching, he was working to better the lives of his people. He would say, ‘I won’t be here though to see these things.’”

“His dreams and how far they reached, for his people to be honored in this way. He was a wonderful human

being, husband, father and uncle.” Sage said.

Daughter Lisa Burch said, “We’re all here with mom [Irene] at the family house. We are all thankful for this day.” Lisa Burch had been working with Westendorff via email in setting up the meeting with the County Commissioners. Lisa announced it had been 17 years since her father’s passing. He was a visionary for his Tribe, the employees, and his early work with the Growth Fund.

She thanked the Commissioners as well, for honoring her father on Dec. 10, “we honor our father every day.” Lisa has hopes that the Tribe honors Mr. Burch in a good way this year, as the annual activities and events the Tribe normally hosts have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The annual events include a community memorial walk/run and an Art & Literacy Contest for area students honoring Leonard C. Burch.

Lisa also thanked past council for their dedication to the Tribe and thanked former Chairman Christine Sage for keeping the Tribe safe during her term, stating that the family appreciates the Southern Ute Tribal Council and La Plata County Commissioners.

Eldest daughter, Leonora Burch thanked all who participated and thanked all those who backed her Father, Mr. Burch. Leonora shared fond memories of her father.

“We have to keep the ball



SU Drum archive

Leonard C. Burch and his wife Irene, with one of his 14 grandchildren enjoy one of many meals together.

rolling; rolling for our people, for our tribe,” Leonora said of her father, remembering the respect her father garnered as he walked into a room for a meeting. “He was always reading other Tribe’s newspapers across Indian Country, always interested in Native people, to see how he could continue to be a leader in his tribe,” Leonora said.

La Plata County Commissioner Board President, Gwen Lachelt said,

“this is a very special day, we are leaving a legacy, we are establishing Leonard C. Burch Day.”

County Commissioner board member, Clyde Church said, “hearing the words spoken today speak to the wisdom of Leonard Burch. I hope to continue the warm working relationship with the Tribe.”

Westendorff shared, “being an elected official, I recognize the sacrifices the family made.” Thanking Mrs. Burch and the family for sharing

their father.

High School sweetheart and wife of the late Leonard C. Burch, Irene Burch closed the meeting telling all present, “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!” while waving to the camera.

Irene and Leonard have seven daughters and 14 grandchildren. Aside from his role as a leader of the Southern Ute, Mr. Burch focused on family values and spending quality time with his wife, daughters and grandchildren.

PROCLAMATION

LEONARD C. BURCH DAY

December 10, 2020

WHEREAS, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and tribal members are valued neighbors and an important part of our community; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch served as Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribal Council for more than 32 years commencing with his first election as Chairman in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch was a national advocate for sovereignty, respect and self-determination for Native Americans and Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch oversaw countless examples of community development and improvements in education, health and social programs available to tribal members; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch was committed to building and maintaining cooperative relationships with other governments and was invited by five United States Presidents to attend conferences on Indian policy; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch worked tirelessly in defense of tribal water rights which resulted in the development of the Animas-La Plata Project and Lake Nighthorse; and the taxation compact among the State of Colorado, the County of La Plata and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe were negotiated during Chairman Burch’s tenure in office and;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Leonard C. Burch, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe grew to become a major economic force in the Four Corners region and the largest employer in La Plata County; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch was a great leader and an outstanding La Plata County citizen, leading a life of dedication and service to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Native American people and tribes across the United States and citizens in the Four Corners region.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the leadership and legacy of Leonard C. Burch, La Plata County hereby proclaims December 10 in 2020 and subsequent years as:

“Leonard C. Burch Day”

APPROVED AND ADOPTED in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado this 8th day of December, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO



WHEREAS, the State of Colorado was originally the homeland of the Ute (Nuuchu) people; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe has contributed to the history, culture, economy, and prosperity of the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch served as Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribal Council for more than 32 years commencing with his first election as Chairman in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch also proudly served and was honorably discharged from the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Leonard C. Burch, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe grew to become a major economic force in the Four Corners region; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch oversaw countless examples of community development and improvements in education, health, and social programs available to tribal members; and

WHEREAS, his work positively impacted not only the Southern Ute tribal membership but also the local community, the State of Colorado, and Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch was committed to building and maintaining cooperative relationships with other governments, including the State of Colorado, and was invited by five United States Presidents to attend conferences on Indian policy at the White House; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch was committed to water resource development within the State of Colorado and was an advocate for the construction of the Animas-La Plata Project; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Town of Ignacio, and La Plata County have each established an annual holiday on December 10 of every year in recognition and remembrance of Leonard C. Burch; and

WHEREAS, Leonard C. Burch was a great leader and an outstanding citizen of the State of Colorado, and he led a life of dedication and service to his family, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and Indigenous people and tribes across the United States;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim December 10, forevermore, as

LEONARD C. BURCH DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this tenth day of December, 2020



Jared Polis  
Governor



REMINDER to HUNTERS  
BIG GAME VALIDATIONS  
ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL  
HARVESTED BUCKS & BULLS

Please call to make an appointment:

Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 p.m.  
970-563-2416 or 970-563-2418

Or during office hours at:  
Tuesday-Thursday 8:00-12:00 p.m.  
970-563-0130



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Big Game Hunting Season

Big Game permits will be available beginning Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please call (970) 563-0130 to make arrangements for pick-up. Due to Covid-19 we are also encouraging tribal members to have them mailed, if possible.

Big Game Season Dates:

SUIT Reservation

Deer, Elk & Fall Turkey

Early Archery Aug.29–Sept.11

General Sept.12 – Dec.31

Brunot Area

Deer, Elk & Fall Turkey

Sept. 2nd – Nov. 22nd





2020 Southern Run-Off Election Candidates

Chairman Candidates



Melvin J. Baker  
Candidate for Chairman



Lorelei Cloud  
Candidate for Chairman

Tribal Council Candidates



Linda K. Baker  
Candidate for Council



Lindsay J. Box  
Candidate for Council



Dr. Stacey Oberly  
Candidate for Council



James M. Olguin  
Candidate for Council

Vote Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 • 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. • SunUte Community Center

VOTE 2020



Save the Date  
2020  
Inauguration  
Newly Elected Tribal Chairman  
and Tribal Council Members (2)  
Monday, the twenty first of December  
two thousand twenty  
10:00 am  
Virtual WebEx Event

The ceremony will be available via WebEx Event and is open to the public. Please use the registration information below to access the live event.  
Link: <https://bit.ly/3a6VN9v> No password required.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Run-Off Election 2020

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & VOTING DAY PROCEDURES

Due to COVID-19 and winter coming up, the Election Board will be supervising and administering the **Southern Ute Indian Tribe Run-Off Election 2020** at SunUte Community Center, Ignacio CO.

- Voting will take place inside SunUte meeting rooms as in previous elections due to winter conditions
- 2 voters in the polling place at one time.
- Temperature check will be conducted upon entering Voting area at SunUte Community Center.
- An “X” will be located outside on the sidewalk next to the meeting room outside doors, marking every (6) feet where voters will stand when more than one voter is present.
- We ask all voters to please wear a mask. If you do not have one we will provide a disposable one for your use.
- Sanitizing of the voting booths will occur throughout the day, please be patient.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for your use, please sanitize before coming to the election area.



The counting of the ballots will be a closed session, only the board members and personnel assisting the board in this process will be allowed for safety due to it being in an enclosed area.

Election Board: 970-563-2303 or ext. 2305/2729/2728  
Off Reservation Tribal Members phone 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303  
Email: [election@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:election@southernute-nsn.gov)



VOTE MEL BAKER  
FOR CHAIRMAN

Put your trust in a candidate who has demonstrated leadership to the Southern Ute people throughout his career.

When you're voting for Mel, you're voting for:

- TRUSTED LEADERSHIP
- PRINCIPLES
- EXPERIENCE
- INTEGRITY
- SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE



VOTE



LORELEI  
CLOUD



CHAIRMAN

DEC. 18, 2020



“Together we can create the change we need for our future.”

INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY





VOTE  
LINDA K. BAKER  
TRIBAL COUNCIL



EXPERIENCE + EDUCATION  
CULTURAL COMMITMENT

Empowerment  
Communication  
Sustainability  
Language



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18



JAMES M. OLGUIN

WISDOM  
LEADERSHIP  
EXPERIENCE  
SERVICE  
DEDICATION  
KNOWLEDGE  
VISION

No. 0000

OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE  
RUN-OFF ELECTION  
DECEMBER 18, 2020

TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN  
NOTICE: VOTE FOR 1 (ONE)

- ☐ Melvin J. Baker
- ☐ Lorelei Cloud

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS  
NOTICE: VOTE FOR 2 (TWO)

- ☐ Lindsay J. Box
- ☐ Linda K. Baker
- ☐ James M. Olguin
- ☐ Stacey Oberly

NOTE: THE CANDIDATE(S) RECEIVING THE HIGHEST  
NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE  
2020 RUN-OFF ELECTION  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN AND TWO (2) COUNCIL SEATS

The Election Board has determined these are the dates for the upcoming  
2020 RUN-OFF ELECTION according to the Constitution and Election Code

RUN-OFF ELECTION- Friday, December 18, 2020 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE- Monday, December 07, 2020 by 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE- Monday, December 07, 2020 by 5 P.M.

EMERGENCY ABSENTEE REQUEST DEADLINE- Thursday, December 17, 2020 by 5 P.M.

THE 2020 RUN-OFF ELECTION will be held at SunUte Community Center, Ignacio, CO

Contact the Election Board at (970) 563-2303 or 2305, 2729, 2728  
Off Reservation Tribal Members: 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303  
Email: [election@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:election@southernute-nsn.gov)

VOTE 2020



Finance  
Department

DROP-BOX

The Finance Department has installed a mail drop-box to accommodate tribal membership needs for delivery of Finance-related documents or payments to the Finance Department. The drop-box is located at 365 Quay Drive, on the west side of the Leonard C. Burch Administration Building. Documents that can be deposited into the drop-box include:

- COVID-19 Relief Grant Program applications
- Tribal Distribution documents
- Tribal Credit loan documents
- Accounts Receivable check payments
- Other Finance-related documents
- NO CASH PAYMENTS can be put in the drop-box

The drop-box will be checked at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All documents received in the drop-box will be stamped with the date they are received. For payments on customer accounts, the payment will be posted to the customer account on the date it is received (if received by 5:00 p.m.), and a receipt will be mailed by US Postal Service to the customer. All documents deposited in the drop-box will be forwarded to the appropriate tribal staff for timely processing.

If you have questions for Accounts Receivable/Customer Account please contact the Cashier at 970.563.0110; if you have questions for Tribal Credit please contact Tribal Credit at 970.563.4744; and if you have questions on the Tribal Distribution/COVID Relief Grant Program please contact the GL Manager at 970.563.2443

Tribal Member Portal  
Account Set Up

The Southern Ute Tribal Member Portal is a resource available to only enrolled members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Any request for access to the Tribal Member Portal will be verified. For access to the Tribal Member Portal please follow these steps:

1. Go to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's website.
2. In the header, click on "Members"
3. Under login, click on the blue highlighted link "Register New Account"
4. Complete all forms. Staff are working quickly to verify and approve new accounts while working remotely from home and while working under the tribal "Stay at Home" Order.
5. Use the login information found in your email to access the Tribal Member Portal.
6. Once you gain access you can change your password to your profile.

For assistance, please contact Ms. Lindsay Box at 970.563.2313 or via email [lbox@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:lbox@southernute-nsn.gov)







COLORADO GIVES DAY

The Community Foundation announces \$485,134 in donations in Southwest Colorado

Staff report

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado spearheads regional participation in Colorado Gives Day – an easy, online initiative for donors to contribute to nonprofits across Colorado. This year’s Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, Dec. 8, was record-breaking, with \$50 million donated to nonprofit organizations statewide and more than \$485,000 donated to organizations in the southwest corner of the state.

Local donors are able to choose from 88 organizations listed on the website, [www.swcogives.org](http://www.swcogives.org), and make safe, secure, online gifts to local organizations directly serving the five-county region of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

“Each of the last four

years that the Community Foundation has led this effort we have seen giving increase substantially,” says Briggen Wrinkle, Executive Director of the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado. “This year the jump in donations was astounding ° \$200,000 more than last year’s giving, a 70 percent increase. Our community clearly understands how hard 2020 has been for so many people, and local donors really stepped up to support nonprofits.”

The Community Foundation’s mission is to power philanthropy, encouraging people to give where they live. This year’s collaborative marketing efforts prompted 2,499 individual donations, a 60 percent increase over last year’s number of donations.

“It will be interesting, as we dig into these numbers, to determine how many individual donors we had

this year,” says Tracy Pope, Director of Marketing and Grants for the Foundation. “I think we will find out that we had both new donors and repeat donors who gave more this year. The overall generosity has been incredibly inspiring.”

“In addition to these generous donations, we will also see our portion of the \$1 million incentive fund shared with local organizations,” adds Pope. “I expect to see another \$20,000 or so awarded to our local organizations, thanks to the statewide sponsors of Colorado Gives Day, Community First Foundation and FirstBank. That means we will see an infusion of approximately a half-million dollars into Southwest Colorado in just one day!”

Online donations may still be made at [swcogives.org](http://swcogives.org), as this is a year-round electronic giving platform to benefit local nonprofits.

NATIVE VOTE

Secretary of State highlights 2020 voter turnout on tribal lands

Staff report

COLO. SECRETARY OF STATE

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold highlighted the increase in active voter turnout on tribal lands in Colorado for the 2020 General Election. Turnout for active voters living on the Ute Mountain Ute tribal lands increased from 36% in 2016 to nearly 50% in 2020, while for the Southern Utes turnout increased from 46% in 2016 to 70% in 2020.

“The 2020 general election saw a large increase in turnout of voters living on tribal lands in Colorado,” Secretary Griswold said.

“I am proud of my office’s work and close partnership with the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute, and look forward to continuing to work together to further increase participation and access to voting on tribal lands.”

Native Americans living on tribal lands in Colorado did not have guaranteed voting rights until as late as 1970. As part of continuing efforts to improve voting access for Native Americans in the wake of this historic suppression, Secretary Griswold helped pass one of the largest democracy reform packages in the nation in

2019 which included guaranteeing voting centers on tribal lands. Native Americans who do not have an address recognized by the U.S. Postal Service are also now able to register to vote using the unrecognized address, the tribal council headquarters address, or any other address approved by the tribal council. They now can also drop off their voter registration application to their tribal council, who will then forward it to the county clerk and recorder.

For more election-related information, please visit [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov).

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Victim Assistance Team receives Superior Performance in Indian Country award

Staff report

U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

United States Attorney Jason R. Dunn announced that Amy Connor, a paralegal assigned to the U.S. Attorney’s Durango Branch Office, Savannah Joe, former victim specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and now a Victim Advocate with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Mexico, and Lisa Manzanares, Victim Services Program Coordinator for the Southern Ute Police Department have received the Superior Performance In Indian Country Award from the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, a division of the Department of Justice.

“Amy, Savannah and Lisa are exceptional at their job, have big hearts and work hard to help victims of violent crime in Indian Country,” said U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn. “Amy and her colleagues deserve this prestigious recognition as they focus on crime originating from both reservations.”

In its commendation, the Department of Justice described the Colorado Indian Country victim assistance team’s work in the following manner, “Amy Connor, a paralegal



assigned to the Durango Branch Office for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Colorado, Savannah Joe, who was assigned to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and is now with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Mexico, and Lisa Manzanares, with the Southern Ute Police Department have won the Director’s Award for Superior Performance in Indian Country.”

According to the statement from the Department of Justice, “Amy, Savannah and Lisa transformed the prosecution of violent crime in Indian Country in Colorado. By ensuring collaboration between the Ute

Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes and the U.S. Attorney’s Office, they have worked together to overcome cultural barriers that hinder Indian Country victims from accessing justice. Their collective efforts ensure that victims are identified and counseled through culturally informed processes. Historical distrust that previously discouraged native victims from seeking justice is now addressed. They keep victims informed, direct them to appropriate services and – when necessary – even transport the victims to court. In two separate sex assault trials, several sentencing, as well as in numerous ongoing investigations this year, this team educated and empowered victims to speak out against those who harmed them. By doing this, they deliver superior service for vulnerable victims in Indian Country, making communities safer and enabling victims to heal.”



SOUTHERN UTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

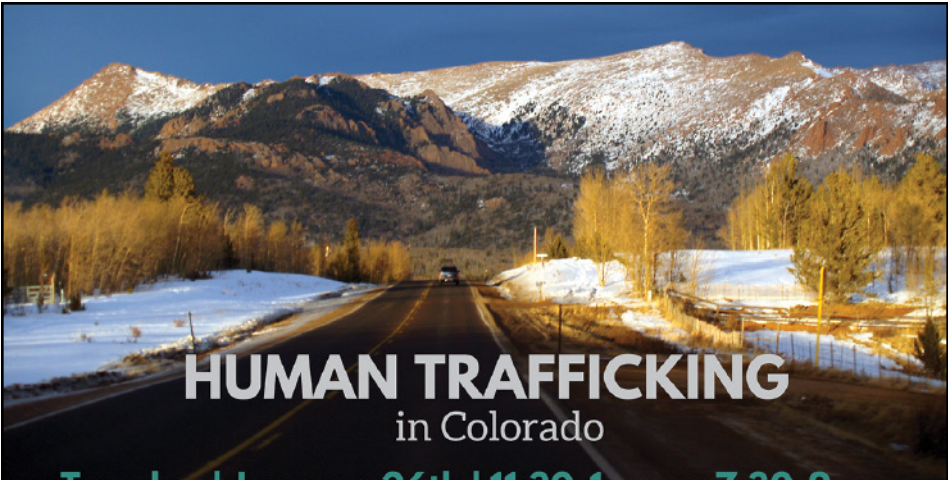
SUBMIT A TIP

Anonymous Tip Submissions

Do you have information about a crime?

Please call the Southern Ute Police Department Anonymous Tip Line - (970) 563-4999. This “Tip Line” was designed to allow you the ability to provide law enforcement with information, anonymously if need be, regarding criminal, drug, or suspicious activity. The “Tip Line” is monitored around the clock by SUPD Investigators, but it DOES NOT replace 9-1-1 or the non-emergency police number (970) 563-4401.

If you prefer, you may also submit an anonymous tip online by visiting: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/supd>



HUMAN TRAFFICKING in Colorado

Tuesday | January 26th | 11:30-1pm or 7:30-9pm

Please join the **Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking** for an important training on how human trafficking is impacting our state and region. This human trafficking awareness training will cover federal and local laws, root causes of trafficking, identification and complexities of disclosure, and local resources to support survivors.

These trainings will be hosted online. Please RSVP to receive the link to the virtual event.

RSVP to this event by clicking on one of these links: [AM training](#) [PM training](#)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Anyone and everyone interested in joining the fight against human trafficking in Colorado
- Healthcare providers
- Behavioral and mental health providers
- First responders (Fire and EMS)
- Victim service providers
- People who work with systems-involved youth
- Law enforcement

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to identify human trafficking situations and potential victims
- How communities across Colorado are responding to human trafficking
- How to connect to local anti-trafficking and victim support resources and develop protocols to protect victims

The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking ([combathumantrafficking.org](http://combathumantrafficking.org)) is a leader in Colorado’s anti-trafficking movement. Since 2005, we have trained over 35,000 professionals and community members; conducted research to drive action and inform policy change; operated the statewide 24/7 human trafficking hotline; and developed over 150 future human rights leaders.



GUN SAFETY

REDUCING MEANS TO SUICIDE AND HARM.

PROJECT



COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE’S NATIVE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION, WILDLIFE DIVISION AND SOUTHERN UTE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

PLEASE CALL ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP YOUR GUN LOCK.

SOUTHERN UTE WILDLIFE DIVISION 970-563-0130

SOUTHERN UTE POLICE DEPARTMENT 970-563-4401

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER 970-563-4581

FOR ALL NATIVE AMERICANS LIVING ON THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN RESERVATION.

For more information, please contact the Southern Ute Native Connections Program at 970-563-2487.





Grounds Maintenance crews work together on Tuesday, Dec. 8, lighting the trees outside of the Leonard C. Burch Building in what has become an annual tradition on Tribal Campus. From Bear Dance prep each spring to Snow removal each winter, these crews work hard to keep Tribal Campus looking its best, and other tribal events running smoothly.



Southern Ute tribal member, Deichman Dean Hudson, Jr., helps string Christmas lights ahead of the holiday season. Hudson is a Grounds Maintenance Worker with Property and Facilities Management, the team responsible for Christmas decorations on Tribal Campus.

## Christmas on campus



Marie Morterud, a Grounds Maintenance Worker with Property and Facilities Management, works with her team to decorate trees around the Tribal Campus each year.

Photos by **Jeremy Wade Shockley**  
The Southern Ute Drum


### SOUTHERN UTE UTILITIES NOTICE Payment Options

The Southern Ute Utilities Division would like to send a friendly reminder on payment options for utilities customers.

Payments can be processed in the following ways:


1. Online at <https://www.suitutil.com/pay-my-bill/>
2. Over the phone with a credit/debit card
3. Via Wells Fargo Bill Pay at the Ignacio branch.
4. Tribal Deduction through the Finance Department.
5. COVID-19 Relief Grant Program is available to the tribal membership who require assistance due to COVID-19. Please contact the Finance Department or visit the Tribal Member Portal for more information on the grant program.


The Utility office can be reached by dialing **970-563-5500**. The office and Transfer Station is currently operating under the modified hours. Hours of operation have been modified due to the coronavirus pandemic. Modified hours while under the tribal "Stay at Home" Order are: **Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.**




## Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 12/07/20






### HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### TRANSFER STATION DECEMBER 2020 HOLIDAY HOURS

DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH DAY - **CLOSED**  
 DEC. 11<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH HOLIDAY - **OPEN**  
 DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE - **OPEN**  
 DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY - **CLOSED**  
 DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S EVE - **OPEN**  
 JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S DAY - **CLOSED**

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
**MONDAY—FRIDAY, 8 AM TO NOON**  
**SATURDAY — 8 AM TO 5PM**



*Season's Greetings!*

*Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season!*  
~ The Utilities Staff ~

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

**Pay your Utility Account**

- ⇒ **NEW! Access Online at:** [www.suitutil.com](https://www.suitutil.com)  
Choose "Pay My Bill" tab.
- ⇒ Wells Fargo Drive-Thru (Ignacio Branch)
- ⇒ Automatic deductions via Tribal Distribution (call Utilities office or Tribal Finance for application).
- ⇒ Mail payment made payable to "Southern Ute Utilities Division" PO Box 1137 Ignacio, CO 81137

**Due to COVID-19, Modified Hours of Operation**

**Utilities Office**  
8AM to Noon, Mon–Fri

**Transfer Station:**  
8AM to Noon Monday ~ Friday  
8AM—5PM ~ Saturday  
Closed ~ Sunday

PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio, CO 81137 (970) 563-5500 [www.suitutil.com](https://www.suitutil.com)

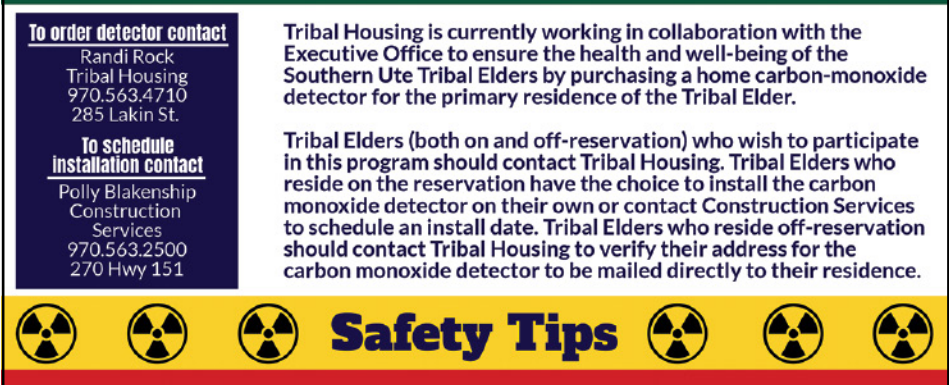


**To order detector contact**  
 Randi Rock  
 Tribal Housing  
 970.563.4710  
 285 Lakin St.

**To schedule installation contact**  
 Polly Blakenship  
 Construction Services  
 970.563.2500  
 270 Hwy 151

Tribal Housing is currently working in collaboration with the Executive Office to ensure the health and well-being of the Southern Ute Tribal Elders by purchasing a home carbon-monoxide detector for the primary residence of the Tribal Elder.

Tribal Elders (both on and off-reservation) who wish to participate in this program should contact Tribal Housing. Tribal Elders who reside on the reservation have the choice to install the carbon monoxide detector on their own or contact Construction Services to schedule an install date. Tribal Elders who reside off-reservation should contact Tribal Housing to verify their address for the carbon monoxide detector to be mailed directly to their residence.



### Signs of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, confusion, drowsiness, increased heart rate, unconsciousness, convulsions, cardio-respiratory failure, and death.

### Warning Signs of a Carbon Monoxide Leak


- Yellow or orange flames, rather than blue.
- Dark stains on/around appliances.
- Increase condensation around windows.
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out.

### In the event of an Emergency

Immediately leave the home and dial 911 for assistance. Do not return to the home until emergency responders have authorized you to do so.

SUPD - 970.564.4401

Created & Published by Lindsey J. Box






## 2021 Trash Permits HAVE ARRIVED

Tribal members should request a permit to be mailed by contacting the Southern Ute Utilities Division at 970.563.5500, M-F from 8 am to 12 pm. Please verify the address on file. Permits are required to dump waste.

Permits are for enrolled Southern Ute tribal members only.





The Ignacio School District featured a larger-than-life Rudolph — the red-nosed school bus, fully decked out in lights, with Ignacio School District staff waving from inside the bus.



Santa rode atop the Los Pinos Fire Department’s ladder truck, accompanied by his helpers and Los Pinos Fire Dept. personnel.

# Parade Lights Up Ignacio

***ELHI Community Center and the Town of Ignacio collaborated to ‘Light Up the Town’ of Ignacio, Friday, Dec. 4. Giving his reindeer a break before Christmas, Santa arrived via helicopter just in time to be in the parade. Local businesses donned lights and various Christmas icons, the decorated parade floats rolled through Ignacio to a fully lined street of spectators, observing the procession from inside their vehicles. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the parade was held in place of the traditional Taste of Christmas event, usually held in the ELHI Community Center during the holidays.***

**Photos by Robert L. Ortiz**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Trennie Collins, Ryan White and Edward Box III, representing Southwest Rainbow Youth and Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance, waved a ‘Beary’ Merry Christmas hand to the parade watchers as they made thier way along Goddard Ave.



Southern Ute Royalty representative, Miss Southern Ute, Jasmine Carmenoros, waves to the crowd as she rolls through town.

## SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS Cutting Your Own Christmas Tree

A free-use permit cutting permit may obtained from the Forestry office (by appointment due to COVID-19) for all interested Southern Ute Tribal members that wish to harvest a Christmas tree from the reservation.

The tree species suitable for Christmas trees on the reservation include ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, and pinon pine. Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, and pinon pine may be found on the east side of the reservation. There is also an abundance of pinon pine on the west side of the reservation.

All of the cutting regulations are attached to the permit issued by the Forestry Division and interested Tribal members may contact Forestry’s Executive assistant at 970-563-4780 to make an appointment.

Our approved office hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.



## SOUTHERN UTE FORESTRY Firewood for Southern Ute members

The 2020/2021 firewood season began Oct. 1, 2020 and will run through April 30, 2021. Firewood will only be distributed (made available for pickup or delivery) Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. during COVID-19 Phase 1 restrictions. To qualify for the firewood program, you must be an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal member 18-years or older and have a means (firewood place or wood stove) to burn firewood at your primary residence. In order to qualify for delivery, you must be a Tribal elder and live within the exterior boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation (a copy of the approved procedures is available upon request from the Forestry Division). For questions call 970-563-4780.

\$ave some  
dough this  
holiday season

More than 4,500 LPEA members have already switched to our Time-of-Use rate, which charges different prices for electricity based on when you use it.

Call us to get a personalized rate analysis (970) 247-5786, and save a little extra dough this holiday season.

LPEA

La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





BOBCATS FOOTBALL

2020 All-SPC Football Team lists released

Three Bobcats earn First Team honors

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Asked following their Senior Night victory over Del Norte what they'd remember 10-15 years into the future about not just a blowout win but the bizarre 2020 football season as a whole, multiple Ignacio seniors' answers were quite similar.

"We've had some amazing coaches that's been with us since I was a freshman; I wouldn't want any other coaches than them," running back/linebacker Joe Garcia said. "The brotherhood we had, and my coaches."

"The guys on the team and the coaches," agreed wide receiver/defensive back Lawrence Toledo. "Basically, the guys on the team and how they played together, and the coaches ... how they got along so well."

"Just how much we came together and ... stayed together," WR/DB Dylan Labarthe added. "Didn't fight, and played our hearts out. All the seniors I played with, I want to remember us as a family ... and how much of a good time we had."

"I thought we just had a great season overall."

Rewarded recently for their contributions in helping the Bobcats post the program's first winning season since 2013, Garcia, Toledo and Labarthe were named First Team All-Southern Peaks Conference, along with junior WR/DB/K/P Shawn Campbell.

"We thought we could compete. And that's the idea, when you have a schedule like that," head coach Alfonso 'Ponch' Garcia said, alluding to IHS' SPC-only slate and resulting 3-2 overall/conference record, good for third place in the loop behind superpower Centauri and perennial runner-up Monte Vista. "So, I think ... that was a plus, really, for us."

Enduring through the COVID-altered fall season in both cross-country and football, junior quarterback Gabe Tucson was named



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Gabe Tucson (11) focuses in on his task prior to the Bobcats' season-opening road game at Center. The junior quarterback was recently named Second Team All-SPC for 2020.

Second Team All-SPC. "I had a lot more confidence – especially after watching film," he said, of his first season as the clear-cut starter under center. "I was just comfortable, a lot more, this time."

Sophomore offensive/defensive lineman Jace Carmenoros was also a Second Team selection, while Honorable Mention All-Conference went to senior OL/DL Jawadin Corona.

"We came into [2020] wanting to do it for all our seniors, and just wanted to finish on a positive note," said Joe Garcia. "And we did that pretty good!"

Yet again, the SoPeaks' Coach-of-the-Year Award went to Centauri's Kyle Forster, while Falcon junior RB/DB Mason Claunch received Offensive Player-of-the-Year. Completing the superlatives' sweep, junior RB/LB Zach Buhr earned Defensive POY in the wake of CHS' 4-0 romp through the SPC and 7-1 overall finish – after a 20-17 Class 1A State Playoffs first-round win over Florence (5-1, 3-0 Tri-Peaks), and then a 27-14 home loss to Strasburg – Centauri's ultimate kryptonite during the last half-decade – in the semifinals.

Also named First Team All-Conference for Centauri were senior QB/DB/K McKay Russell, junior WR/DB Baron Holman, junior WR/DB Byron Shawcroft and junior WR/LB Danny Brady.

SHS (8-1, 5-0 Foothills) then lost 28-0 to Limon (7-0, 3-0 North Central) in the State Championship played Saturday, Dec. 5, inside CSU-Pueblo's Neta & Eddie DeRose Thunder Bowl. Capping their run through a reduced 8-team bracket, the Badgers earned not only a third straight crown but also an 11th straight win since losing 14-12 last Nov. 1 at Holyoke.

(The last time Limon fell in the postseason, coincidentally, was in the 2017 semis when Centauri prevailed 20-12. CHS then lost – in double-overtime, no less – that year's grand finale to Strasburg, which has now reached the penultimate showdown an amazing five seasons running, with supreme triumphs in 2016 and '17.)

Led by junior QB/LB Colton Mellott plus senior RB/LB Cobi Garcia, junior tight end/defensive end Dusty Duran, senior WR/DB Tyrese Otero and junior RB/LB Hunter Pacheco – each tabbed First Team All-SPC – Monte Vista went 5-2 overall, 4-1 SPC, and ended their season defeating non-conference Olathe (2-5, 1-4 Western Slope) 30-18 as part of CHSAA's special 'six plus one' scheduling allowance for Fall 2020 – meaning the Pirates could pick up a bonus seventh 'regular-season' contest if they failed to make

All-SPC page 20

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

State's COVID stance benches Lady 'Cats ... again

CHSAA now fingering February for hoops start

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

With an intra-Valley showdown against Bayfield first up on her Lady Bobcats' slimmed-down 2020-21 schedule, Ignacio's Justa Whitt couldn't wait for CHSAA's approved Jan. 4, 2021, date for official practices to begin – even if that left her team with just three calendar days before the Lady Wolverines' 1/8 visit.

"Those girls are a strong enough unit that it won't take long for us to ... get them back in shape," she said last week. "That's going to be the trick. Honestly, we had a little bit of stuff in the summertime, but it was mostly just some outdoor shooting, we had weight-room stuff going – that's mostly what it was ... whatever the kids wanted to come work on themselves."

After going 18-6 overall in '19-20 and reaching the Class 2A State Championships' initial 'Great 8' phase – before the double-elimination tourney was abruptly canceled after its first day due to growing COVID-19 concerns nationwide – routine maintenance would have appeared to be about all the Lady 'Cats would have needed to prep for their season-opener.

"You know, we have a strong senior group and definitely have the chance to be contenders again this year," said Whitt, 34-13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio head coach Justa Whitt tries conveying energy to her Lady Bobcats in a timeout against Holyoke during last season's Class 2A State Championships' 'Great 8' round up in Loveland. If and when the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season tips off again, she'll have plenty of returning talent with which to work and potentially earn another State berth.

since the 2018-19 season, when she took over for Trae Seibel, and 50-22 in three total IHS varsity campaigns (she'd first taken the reins from Brice Searles for the '12-13 run, and led Ignacio to State for the first time in years) to date.

"That group, getting a chance to show their stuff one more time – they didn't quite get to finish showing what they had last year – that should be fun."

If and when they're finally allowed to take the court.

Following communication Sunday night, Dec. 6, between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado High School Activities Association, it was decided that the prospective 'Season B' start dates would be pushed back – again – to Jan. 25 for practices and Feb. 1 for

competition.

In a letter sent to CHSAA Commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green, CDPHE Executive Director Jill Hunsaker Rye stressed, "The pandemic has reached an all-time high in terms of disease transmission both in Colorado and around the nation. The Colorado School of Public Health estimates that 1 in 40 Coloradans are currently infectious. Hospital admissions are steadily increasing, and the past six weeks have produced a significant increase in the number of deaths statewide."

"With the Thanksgiving holiday just behind us and the impending December holiday festivities, we are very concerned that the rate of transmission will continue to increase."

Covid page 20

BOBCATS WRESTLING

'Cats are off the mats ... for now

Wrestlers hope for Jan. start to re-postponed season

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

In Jordan Larsen's classroom world of mathematics, values for variables are determined regularly.

But in rare occasions, sometimes it seems there's just no solving for 'x.'

With no formula yet found to help answer the COVID-19 problem stumping the Centennial State, the Colorado High School Activities Association recently gave Ignacio Wrestling's mastermind – and all other coaches north, south, east and west – word that the 2020-21 campaign has again been postponed.

And, adding to the veteran skipper's dismay, the already-revised schedule will be pared down another week, further limiting both the amount and type of competition his Bobcats can – to say nothing yet of will – face this winter.

"Wrestling season will now only be duals (10 maximum) during the regular season, with no tournaments allowed," he revealed online via a Facebook post, later giving permission for excerpt usage. "This is definitely a blow, and I'm a little at a loss for words on what this means for our wrestlers across Colorado this year."

"I have been consistently a part of wrestling and the season as a coach or athlete for over 20 years at this point, and this is a huge blow ... across the state in general for our current athletes at all levels."

But should a targeted mid-January meeting between CHSAA, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Gov. Jared Polis' COVID Response Team determine that sufficient advances have been made towards reining in the disease, the official go-ahead could be given for prep matmen to finally resume working towards a trip to Denver and the State Championships inside renamed Ball Arena.

"We are still slated to have a season with a potential postseason regional and State tournament," Larsen continued. "While this is obviously not ideal in any way, I am extremely hopeful and optimistic that we will be able to wrestle."

Noting the Association's proposal to permit all 'Season B' sports, wrestling included, to begin practices on Jan. 25, 2021, and then see first competition on Feb. 1, Larsen did say that for the immediate time being, informal open-room grappling and weight-training schedules have been put on hold, pending approval from the Ignacio School District and San Juan Basin Health to be conducted as "non-school-affiliated" club-style activities.

"As soon as I hear the word to proceed ... we will get back to the grind," declared Larsen, who did mention that weight certifications would still take place following the student-athletes' return from

the holiday break – a time frame health personnel will surely be monitoring.

"At this time, we do not have enough information about what disease incidence and hospitalization capacity will look like in January, and therefore are unable to make a determination regarding indoor high school athletics in Season B," read the letter sent to CHSAA Commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green from CDPHE Executive Director Jill Hunsaker Rye. "Season B high school sports would operate based on the restrictions in the level of the Dial [sic] in the county in which the school resides. For counties in Level Red, this means no indoor group sports are authorized."

"I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe as we near the end of the year, and please contact me with any questions," said Larsen. "Also, please spread this information to whomever I may have missed, athlete or parent, that has interest in wrestling. It is the best sport in the world for kids to learn; it teaches discipline, perseverance, dedication, and hard work ethic."

Under the proposed timeline, the slimmed-down 2021 State Championships – from shotgun start to podium finish(es) – would be staged on one frenetic March 20, as opposed to being the famed three-day spectacle familiar to fans.

Keep reading the Drum for all schedule alterations.

ATTENTION

All Tribal Parks and Playgrounds Are Closed Until Further Notice



photo: Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, and for your Health and Safety, By authority of the Southern Ute Tribal Council all parks are closed. Violation may result in a citation for trespassing. Southern Ute Tribal Code: Title 5; 5-1-104 Trespassing. Penalty of \$150.00 fine and/or up to 30 days in jail. Please practice social distancing.





TRANSPORTATION

Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement cites 1,336 drivers

Staff report  
COLO. DEPT. OF  
TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and 61 law enforcement agencies across Colorado recently teamed up for a statewide Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement period. A total of 1,336 drivers were cited from Nov. 16 to Nov. 29 for unrestrained vehicle occupants. This includes 98 drivers who had improperly restrained children under the age of 15 in their vehicle.

Among the agencies that issued the highest number of citations were the Loveland Police Department with 197 citations, Greeley Police Department with 178 citations, and Denver Police Department with 132 citations. In addition, Colorado State Patrol cited 214 drivers.

Fines for not buckling up start at \$65, and parents or caregivers caught with an improperly restrained child can receive a minimum fine of \$82.

“Nearly 300 Coloradans have been killed in passenger vehicle crashes this year,” said Chief Matthew Packard, Colorado State Patrol. “Although hard to believe this is occurring in 2020, over half of those involved unbuckled drivers or passengers. Buckling up would have helped them survive.”

In 2019, 196 unbuckled drivers and passengers were killed in crashes in the state, accounting for more than half of Colorado’s 377 total passenger vehicle deaths. Unbuckled drivers and passengers represent 14% of vehicle occupants, according to a recent CDOT survey on seat belt usage. Colorado’s seat belt use rate is 86%, below the national average of 90%.

From 2015-2019, Denver

County had 60 unbuckled vehicle fatalities, accounting for over half of the 108 total passenger vehicle deaths. Denver County’s seat belt use rate has improved to is 93%, one of the highest in the state.

From 2013 to 2017, 30 children under 8 years old were killed in passenger vehicle crashes in Colorado. Among these, more than half were in an improperly used or installed car seat — or no car seat at all. Parents and caregivers can learn more about Colorado child passenger safety laws, recommendations and recalls at CarSeatsColorado.com.

With COVID-19 cases continuing to grow dramatically, CDOT is also urging people to cancel gatherings with people who don’t live together. People are also reminded to always wear a mask if they must go out in public and stay six feet apart from others.

The last statewide Click It or Ticket enforcement period was in July 2020. 60 participating law enforcement agencies cited 2,504 drivers for not buckling up.

For the November enforcement period, CDOT partnered with Colorado State Patrol troopers and law enforcement agencies across Colorado to record messages on why buckling up is so important. To view these videos, visit: [www.dropbox.com/sh/ceqyux447h33z93/AAAi8vTmnKu3NXzzd-vt1pE9Pa?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/ceqyux447h33z93/AAAi8vTmnKu3NXzzd-vt1pE9Pa?dl=0)

CDOT’s new seat belt campaign, Common Bond, launched in July 2020. It highlights that while Coloradans hold passionate opinions and may not agree on everything, we can all get behind seat belts and the importance of buckling up. The campaign was featured on bill-

boards, posters, bus tails, social media, and radio PSAs. The Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement is a critical component of CDOT’s Whole System — Whole Safety initiative and the agency’s vision to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on Colorado roadways.

COLORADO’S SEAT BELT LAWS

- **Adults** — Colorado has a secondary enforcement law for adult drivers and front-seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.
- **Teens** — Colorado’s Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of their age, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.
- **Children** — Colorado’s Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child under age 16 in the vehicle.

ABOUT CLICK IT OR TICKET

Click It or Ticket is a nationwide campaign from NHTSA. Since Click It or Ticket was introduced in Colorado in 2002, statewide seat belt use has increased from 72% to 86%. For more information about seat belt safety, visit [SeatBeltsColorado.com](http://SeatBeltsColorado.com).

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

DEAR SOUTHERN UTE COMMUNITY

Təvəchiu toghoyaqh from the bottom of my heart for your support during the 2020 tribal election cycle!!

Your votes, intelligent questions and caring encouragement make my heart and spirit soar!!

Peace, love and strength always,  
Dr. Stacey Oberly

MAIKU PINO NUCHHI

I hope everyone is doing good and taking care of yourselves. I realized some of you may not have social media, therefore I would like to thank the tribal membership for your votes. Thank you for reaching out

with texts, phone calls, and warm wishes on social media. I want to thank my family for all their support as well.

I am humble and very appreciative for having the tribal members who have faith in voting for me. It has been over a month being on council. It is challenging and rewarding at the same time in order to make the best decision for the highest good for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and membership. As we move into 2021 may the year bring forth good health, prosperity and abundance. Happy Holidays!

Make sure to wear your mask, practice good hygiene and social distance!

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Torres

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 IN ANY WAY.

The Southern Ute Drum encourages letters from readers on any topic. We ask that letters be 500 words or less. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters should be submitted by email to Jeremy Shockley at [jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov) by the end of the day Monday preceeding publication.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS



HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY MOMMA NUCHU

Big shout out to my wife, Best Friend and Queen to this King. I love and miss you baby with all my Bloody heart!!!

You Go, I Go 8691  
Poppa Nuchu  
Andre M. Baker

Santa Claus is toming to town

The Bayfield Lions Club will have Santa Claus visiting the neighborhoods from 6 – 8 p.m. on Dec. 18 and 21, 2020. He will be socially distant on an antique fire truck provided by Upper Pine River Fire District. Families are asked to not gather in large groups, but stand on their front lawn, or wave at Santa from insider their homes.

Santa has requested that all kids in Bayfield School District write him a letter. Letters will be accepted until Dec. 20, 2020.

Be sure to include child(s) name, age and phone number. Santa will be surprising (contacting) children with a personalized phone call (Facetime also available) please include method of contact. Santa is excited to hear from all of you! He plans on starting calls as the lists start flying in! There will be a text sent prior to phone call to alert for this very important call from North Pole!

Santa has a mailbox at the Bayfield Lions Hall located at:  
451 Church St., Bayfield, Colo.

Bayfield Lions Club is Happy to Serve!

SOUTHERN UTE DRUM HOLIDAY DEADLINES

DEADLINE	ISSUE	HOLIDAY/OFFICES CLOSED
Dec. 14	Dec. 18	Christmas, Dec. 25
Dec. 23*	Dec. 30	New Year’s Day, Jan. 1, 2021

\*Early deadline and distribution

Drum Deadline

Next issue  
Dec. 30

Deadline  
Dec. 23

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

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

A biweekly newspaper owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Ignacio, Colo.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years  
PHONE: 970-563-0100 • DIRECT: 970-563-0118  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-772-1236 • FAX: 970-563-0391

MAILING ADDRESS

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

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

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INTERNET  
connectivity  
ISSUES?

Collecting data is important to the Tribe to evaluate where service needs to be implemented and/or improved!



The Tribe needs your help collecting data about your internet connection and speed. This data will be used to evaluate where internet service can be improved in order to keep you connected to your school, work, and healthcare providers. The Tribe is applying for grant funding in order to build the infrastructure required to increase internet availability and usability across the Reservation and surrounding areas.

IF YOU DO HAVE INTERNET

If you live on the reservation, or near its borders, please visit this site from home to conduct this test:

<https://bit.ly/20SUbsT>

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET

If you do not have access to the internet where you live (not including cellular data), please contact the SUSS Help Desk at 970.563.5050.





## Ignacio Creative District Board Vacancy

Open until filled – Put your creativity and opinions to use in helping our community! Ignacio Creative District has an opening for a new Board Member position. Applications can be picked up and submitted at the Ignacio Community Library.

## SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPT. Johnson O'Malley Committee Vacancy

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

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Credit Committee Member Vacancy

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Tribal Credit Committee is looking for eligible tribal member applicants to serve on the Committee. The appointment is for up to three (3) years. This is a compensated Committee, and, you will be considered an employee of the Tribe, per IRS guidelines. The Credit Committee submits approved applicant recommendation to the Tribal Council for final appointment. Individuals seeking to serve on the Committee must demonstrate a reputation of personal integrity, dependability, honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to perform in a non-biased, confidential and fair manner. They must be familiar with the objectives of the Declaration and must maintain good financial standing with the Tribe. These individuals must also pass criminal background and reference checks, per the Credit Committee By-laws. Some of the duties of the Tribal Credit Committee are: Approve loans as required by the Credit Division Declaration; Monitor compliance with the Declaration; Monitor all approved loans for performance; Make recommendations to the Tribal Council on program revisions and updates regarding Committee operations; Maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness in conducting all Committee business; and Hold weekly regular meetings and other special meetings, as needed; and Coordinate the Committee's annual budget with Tribal Credit Staff. Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Credit Committee, PO Box 737 #60, Ignacio, CO 81137 or by email at [dlarsen@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dlarsen@southernute-nsn.gov). If you have any questions, please speak with Daniel Larsen, Tribal Credit Division Head, at 970-563-2458.

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Gaming Commission Vacancy

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking (2) Full time and (1) Alternate positions, must be Southern Ute Tribal Members. One Full-time Gaming Commission position term is 2 years 6 months. Second Full Time Gaming Commission position 11 month term. One Alternate Gaming position is a 3 year term. Applicants must possess the following attributes pursuant to the Regulation One of the Gaming Commission Rules and Regulations: Applicants must be at least twenty-one years of age; Applicants must possess a basic knowledge and understanding of gaming activities authorized on the Southern Ute Indian reservation; Applicants must have experience or expertise in regulatory matters or in administrative hearing procedures; Applicants must have the ability to observe restrictions concerning conflicts of interest and confidentiality; Applicants must submit an application form and a letter of interest explaining why the applicant wishes to be appointed to the Commission; and Applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications may be obtained at the Division of Gaming Office – Licensing in the West Wing of the Justice Complex, 149 County Road 517, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137. Applications and letter of interest are required to be turned into the Division of Gaming Office. These positions are open until filled. Any questions can be answered by the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Wildlife Advisory Board Vacancy Southern Ute Tribal Members

Open until filled – The Tribe is seeking enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to fill TWO seats on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. 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. In addition, as a condition of appointment to the Board, applicants must submit a standard job application through the Tribe's Human Resources Department, as well as agree to a State of Colorado background check. Please submit letter of interest 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.

## 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,  
**Juniper Goodtracks, Deceased**  
Case No.: 2020-0164-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **January 25, 2021 at 10:30 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 4th of December, 2020  
Marlene Price, Deputy Court Clerk

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION NOTICE Free Wooden Pallets

Food Distribution provides free pallets every month, the pallets are open for anyone to come and pick up and are at a first come first serve basis.



Please call 970-563-2531 for more information.

photo by Possum1500

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE Early Cut-off for Minors Birthday Distributions

Due to the upcoming **holidays** the cutoff times for requesting a Minors distribution are as follows.  
Requests received after the published cut off will be processed the following week:

- Distribution Thurs., Dec. 24: NOON, Monday, Dec. 21, 2020
- Distribution Thurs., Dec. 31: NOON, Monday, Dec. 28, 2020

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Southern Ute Indian Tribe Building Maintenance – Justice Center

Proposals requested for the construction and installation of a new backup generator & control system to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Justice Center.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Building Maintenance/Property and Facilities  
970-563-0261/970-563-2945

Proposals due no later than Dec. 31, 2020  
New backup generator to include all associated controls. The Southern-Ute Indian Tribe's (SUIT) Building Maintenance Division requests a written response to the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Please call Building Maintenance to schedule on site visits for building your proposals. Please email your proposals to the entire project team. All services to be provided by the selected contractor shall be in accordance and agreement with the Southern Ute Tribes contract process with specific requirements for working on the reservation. Project managers can answer questions. The selected contractor will be responsible for procurement and payment for any subcontracted services, reports, materials, surveys, documents, copies, public notices, public meetings, travel, expenses, and any other item(s) or services required to complete the scope of work.

### SUIT TERO Requirements/Native American Preference/Crossing Permits

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has adopted a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Code, which is to be observed by all businesses operating on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

This RFP is an unrestricted solicitation, with Indian preference given to qualified Indian Owned economic enterprises and Indian Organizations. Firms desiring Native American preference for selection must be certified through the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO Office as an Indian-Owned Business. For those firms seeking Native American preference, this is a mandatory requirement, regardless of any other registration or certification that may exist with other tribal TERO offices, agencies, or affiliations. The TERO policy must be applied to your selection of consultants and/or sub-contractors when putting together your bid proposal. For the purposes of this bid solicitation a 5% bid preference will be given to all TERO Certified Indian Owned Businesses. The firm awarded the contract will be responsible for paying a TERO fee at the end of the project which will amount to 4% of the final contract amount. This should be included in your Fee proposal. The firm awarded the contract and all subcontractors will be responsible for obtaining and paying for crossing permits for the duration of the project. This should be included in your Fee proposal. For more information about crossing permits please contact the Southern Ute Lands Division at 970-563-0126

For more information Contact TERO at; Southern Ute Indian Tribe TERO Office  
970-563-0117  
P.O. Box 737  
Ignacio, CO 81137

## Bison Jerky For Sale

Hello my name is Dawna Ross I'm reaching out from Ute tribal enterprises in Ft. Duchesne Utah we are selling Bison Jerky it is 100% grass fed hormone free, no GMO'S. Bison is a healthier choice then beef. If You are interested in getting some you can contact me at 801-599-6701 or email: [dawnar@utetribe.com](mailto:dawnar@utetribe.com). We are very proud of our high quality Bison Jerky products and would like for your people to enjoy this healthy snack as well. It is priced for buying and selling at a very low cost.

## Where to listen to KSUT Tribal Radio

- KSUT Tribal Radio 91.3 FM (Ignacio)
- KUUT 89.7 FM (Farmington/n.w. N.M.)
- KZNM 100.9 FM (Towaoc)
- [www.KSUT.org](http://www.KSUT.org) (Streaming live)



**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Friday**  
**8am – 12pm**

**CURBSIDE SERVICES AVAILABLE  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Mail run – 10:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

**PLEASE BE COURTEOUS AND ALLOW THE POST  
OFFICE AMPLE TIME TO DISTRIBUTE MAIL**

**AVAILABLE BY EMAIL/PHONE**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**8am-5pm**

**'TIS is not responsible for the content of distributed information'**

**ALL TRIBAL  
BUILDINGS ARE  
CLOSED TO THE  
PUBLIC**

**PLEASE BE  
ADVISED: THE STAY  
AT HOME ORDER  
REMAINS IN  
EFFECT UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE!**

### EDNA FROST

TIS Director  
[efrost@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:efrost@southernute-nsn.gov)  
970-563-2250

### HEATHER FROST

Vital Statistics Clerk/IMT PIO  
[helfrost@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:helfrost@southernute-nsn.gov)  
970-563-2248

### VICTORIA FROST

Administrative Assistant  
[vfrost@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:vfrost@southernute-nsn.gov)  
970-563-2208

### ADELLE NIGHT

Receptionist/Mail Clerk  
[anight@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:anight@southernute-nsn.gov)  
970-563-2249





Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at [www.sugf.com/jobs.asp](http://www.sugf.com/jobs.asp) for full job details and to apply online.  
Tribal Member employment preference • Must pass pre-employment drug test/background check.  
Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO  
Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-5024.

Gas Measurement Technican– Red Cedar Gathering Co. (Durango, CO)

Closing 12/30/20 – Completing all gas measurement related activities and work tasks. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent is required. Must have 5 years’ experience with installation, operation, calibration, maintenance and troubleshooting of natural gas measurement equipment, including orifice meter tubes, remote terminal units (RTUs), solar panels, batteries, and radio telemetry communication equipment. Must have proficiency in sizing meter tubes in accordance with industry and regulatory codes and standards, installation and programming of RTUs (Kimray, TotalFlow, and FlowBoss), and installation and troubleshooting of radio telemetry equipment. Must have working knowledge of cathodic protection construction, installation, and maintenance operations. Must have basic knowledge of instrument controls and control valves. Must be capable of interpreting pipeline plat drawings and maps, as well as electrical schematics and valve set drawings. Must have good computer skills, with experience in Microsoft Windows based word processing and spreadsheet applications. Must have good mathematical skills and be detail oriented. Must be able to work under a rotating workweek schedule, including an on-call schedule and be available for overtime and weekend duty as needed. Must be willing to assist coworkers on call outs, outages, or as needed. Must live within a 50-mile radius of the Bondad office facility. Must have valid driver’s license for state of residency and be insurable under Red Cedar’s vehicle insurance policy. Must pass criminal history background check and pre-employment drug test.

Ute Mountain Ute Personnel Dept.

Attention: We prefer all applications by email [Carla.Cuthair@utemountain.org](mailto:Carla.Cuthair@utemountain.org) or [ceyetoo@utemountain.org](mailto:ceyetoo@utemountain.org) or fax to 970-564-5528. Thank you.

Job Openings as of Dec. 14, 2020

- Public Safety, WM-Security – Open Until Filled
- Counseling and Treatment, CAC II Counselor – Open Until Filled
- Shelter, FT/PT House Parent – Open Until Filled
- Public Health, COVID Nurse Case Investigator – Open Until Filled
- Child Development Center, PT Assistant Cook – Open Until Filled
- Child Development Center, FT Day Care Teacher – Open Until Filled
- Diabetes Program/White Mesa, CNA/Health Technician – Open Until Filled
- Judicial Services, Bailiff – Open Until Filled
- Social Services, Case Worker I – Open Until Filled
- Social Services, Preservation Case Worker – Open Until Filled
- Diabetes Prevention, Diabetes Nurse – Open Until Filled
- Child Development Center, Family Service Manager – Open Until Filled
- Mineral Audit, Auditor – Open Until Filled
- Public Safety, Police Officer – Open Until Filled

TERO Business Hours

8 a.m. – 12 noon • Monday – Friday, unless a Tribal/Federal holiday  
Call 970-563-0117

If you come to the TERO office in person, wear a mask,  
and temperature will be taken upon entry of the department.

NOTICE OF RE-OPENING  
OF THE LA BOCA BRIDGE



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the the tribe’s website at [www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs) for complete job descriptions.  
If you need help filling out an online application, please come the Human Resources office and we are happy to assist you on our applicant computer stations.

ALL EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE

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

Caseworker II

Closes 12/21/20 – An advanced level position that requires knowledge of the theories, principles, and concepts of social casework practice (assessment and treatment oriented) related to all of the assigned program areas, including child and adult protection services. Pay grade 20; \$48,898/year.

Data Manager

Closes 12/22/20 – Data, budget, & grant management within the Southern Ute Tribal Social Services Division. Will provide intake coordination; process and manage data; and use manual file systems, computer applications, and database systems to collect, manipulate, and manage data. Pay grade 17; \$17.20/hour.

Dispatcher

Closes 12/21/20 – Under general supervision of the Sr. Communications Officer, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade 17; \$17.20/hour.

Foster Care Program Coordinator

Closes 12/22/20 – Supervise and manage the kinship/foster care program. Recruit and train Southern Ute and other Indian foster families. Provide counseling services to families, focusing on parenting skills, resolving family-child problems, and addressing abuse and neglect issues according to Family Preservation principals. Pay grade 19; \$44,347/year.

Air Quality Analyst

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Program Manager, provides oversight and management of the Air Quality Monitoring Program and technical assistance to the Air Quality Planning and Assessment team within the Tribal Air Quality Program. Position is grant funded; continued employment is contingent on renewed funding. Pay grade 19; \$21.32/hour.

Associate Internal Auditor Trainee

Open Until Filled – Southern Ute tribal member only. A trainee position for a Southern Ute tribal member interested in a career in Internal Audit with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will learn how to perform beginning level professional internal auditing procedures for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of routine difficulty involving a variety of auditing tasks that include, but are not limited to, assessing risk and identifying control deficiencies, unnecessary spending, and inefficient operations. Length of program is designed to last one (1) year but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, will assume the Associate Internal Auditor position. Will start at 20% below entry level for a grade 20 and be subject to quarterly evaluations and pay increases.

Clinical Supervisor

Open Until Filled – A senior level position that provides Clinical Supervision to staff Caseworkers providing a full range of intake and/or ongoing social casework services for a variety of program areas such as child abuse and neglect cases, youth-in-conflict cases, and adults unable to protect their own interests. Provides clinical supervision and oversees Family Preservation and the Foster Care Program Coordinator. Pay grade 22; \$61,872/year.

Community Health Representative

Open Until Filled – Providing assistance and the coordination and development of activities for elderly and physically or mentally disabled Tribal Members. Performs community health duties to include patient transport and monitoring, home visits, conducting classes, and providing community education on Tribal health issues. Home Care may include house cleaning, personal hygiene, preparing meals, and other health and wellness related activities. Pay grade 13; \$12/hour.

Detention Cook

Open Until Filled – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade 13; \$12/hour.

Detention Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant, maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all activities within the detention center. Pay grade 17; \$17.20/hour.

Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade 18; \$18.96/hour.

Elementary Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Private Education Dept. Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child’s progress in each domain area. Paid on the Education Scale.

Medical Assistant (Temporary)

Open Until Filled – Providing professional and clinical services. Pay grade 17; \$17.20/hour.

Patrol Officer

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade 19; \$21.32/hour.

Patrol Officer Trainee

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for uncertified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon completion of the required trainings and certifications, will assume the position of Patrol Officer. Pay grade 17; \$17.20/hour.

Perio-Dental Assistant

Open Until Filled – Under dentist supervision, responsible for a wide range of tasks in the Southern Ute Health Center dental office including, but not limited to, providing chair side dental assistance, administrative and records duties and radiology functions. Pay grade 20; \$23.51/hour.

Physical Education Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Private Education Dept. Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child’s progress in each domain area, primarily in the context of Physical Education. Paid on the Education Scale.

Physical Therapist (Part-time w/benefits)

Open Until Filled – A professional position within the Department of Private Education. Works with Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students in need of physical therapy services. Pay grade 20; \$23.51/hour.

Security Officer

Open Until Filled – Will provide security for throughout tribal campus. Patrolling and observing the activities of persons in and around the Moache Capote building. Work involves assessing problem situations and exercising tact and judgment in bringing about their resolution. Pay grade 15; \$14.22/hour.

Social Services Division Head

Open Until Filled – Day-to-day operation and management of the Southern Ute Tribal Social Services Division, in accordance with the guidelines (fiscal, philosophical, and programmatic) established and approved by the Tribal Council. Manages programs and services including child/adult welfare protective services, family, group, and individual therapy, BIA General Assistance, Low Income Energy Assistance Program, Title IV B–Foster Care Program, Colorado State Human Services and related Programs and Contract/Grants. Pay grade 23; \$69,597/year.

Substance Abuse Program Lead Therapist

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Behavioral Health Manager, provides mental health, substance abuse, and dual diagnosis treatment. Will supervise day-to-day services, counselors, and therapists within the Substance Abuse program, including CAC-I/ CAT and CAC-II/CAS counselors working to achieve CAC-III/CAS credentialing. Grant funded; continued employed is contingent on grant funds. Pay grade 23; \$69,597/year

TEAM Worker

Open Until Filled – Southern Ute tribal member only. An opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute tribal members to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. For both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

TERO Worker

Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office. An opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute tribal members and other local Native Americans to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. For both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION NOTICE  
Wasted Produce

Food Distribution wasted produce: available, open to anyone.  
Please call 970-563-2531 to schedule a pick up.  
Produce is great livestock or garden composting.

<https://www.usda.gov/foodwaste/faqs>

CREATE YOUR FUTURE

Become a  
**CNA**

PCC Southwest in Bayfield  
will offer a **four-week**  
**Certified Nurse Aide**  
certificate program.

Program begins **January 25**

Classes held **Monday through Friday**  
from **4-8:30 pm** at the  
**Bayfield site, 110 E. South St.**

For more information or to apply, call  
**Bethany Powell at 970.385.2098**



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





COVID BENCHES LADY 'CATS • FROM PAGE 16

“In addition, our top goal for the new year is to support a return to in-person learning,” she continued. “Season B sports are conducted mainly indoors during the colder months, which reduces the ability to assure social distancing. This in turn may further promote disease transmission at a time when we need to ensure that students and teachers are protected, and that in-person learning is the highest priority.”

Whitt wasn’t at all surprised by the re-postponement. “I just had a feeling this was going to happen; it was going to be inevitable we wouldn’t be able to start right now,” she said. “There’s just too much inconsistency ... and we really don’t know what’s going to happen the next two months?”

“The virus — I do my best to try to ward against that, but certainly it’s a problem. And basketball is a ‘contact’ sport, you know?”

Incredibly, by the time the Lady ‘Cats finally see action — against BHS or another team; 2A/1A San Juan Basin League play was slated to begin 1/12 at home versus Dolores, but the proposed delay would shorten Season B by one week, leaving just seven in which to conduct an entire season — they could conceivably have been waiting close to a calendar year to re-join forces.

“Before all the quarantine stuff happened ... we were going to have a whole month — all of December — where we could have had open gyms,” said Whitt. “We’d had the volleyball girls and soccer girls doing stuff after school during late October, November —



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Ebonee Gomez (23) puts on a proper game face prior to second-half play inside IHS Gymnasium during the 2019-20 season. Now a senior, as were Elizabeth Valdez, Bella Pena and Makayla Howell (all visible at rear) last winter, she’ll be one of the Lady Bobcats’ primary leaders ... if and when the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season tips off. The season was delayed for a second time as of Dec. 6.

after cross-country ended — to kind of give them a little bit of time; they weren’t going to really have any lead-in to their seasons once we got to that, you know, after [basketball].”

“So that made sense to me, that it was their turn to have a little gym time, but with basketball starting in December ... things started changing. With the catawumpus way things are, there’s no telling what could happen.”

CHSAA, CDPHE and Gov. Jared Polis’ COVID Response Team plan to meet again in mid-January to continue discussing variances for Season B and reassess COVID-19 data at that time, but variances will not be considered until then.

Specifics for each sport will be communicated upon approval from the CDPHE, while county health departments and school districts will determine their respective open-gym policies, per state guidance.

“Of course,” agreed Whitt. “We have a whole different world situation going on; we have a com-

plete about-face from what we’re used to. If we do get to play, or whether we get to play, it’s going to be ... no fans, regulated to where there’s few people in the gym. So, it’s going to be very different, and it’s going to create a different game element as well.”

Should the season finally get underway and IHS’ shrunk schedule remain as is, the Lady ‘Cats could conceivably be standing 13-0 entering postseason play — providing they can claw through a tricky mid-season stretch including a trip to non-league 2A Sanford (16-7 overall in ’19-20), followed by a visit from 3A Cedaredge (19-5), and a home test against SJBL 1A power Dove Creek (18-4).

At present, Ignacio’s schedule (very much subject to change) shows regular-season action then winding down with a visit to Telluride, followed by home games versus Mancos and Ridgway — all fellow SJBL 2A members, who registered an aggregate 20-42 record last year.

ALL SPC-FOOTBALL TEAM • FROM PAGE 16

the Playoffs.

Powered back into both the SoPeaks and 11-man football by First Team-selected seniors Isaac Peerman, Fletcher Madrid and Logan Cestone, DNHS (1-4, 1-3 SPC) did likewise in picking up a late visit from Gunnison, but out of health-safety concerns chose not to face the Cowboys (3-3, 3-2 WSC), completing their first varsity-level campaign since ’17 when GHS went 0-5 in the 2A Intermountain — dominated that season by undefeated and eventual State Champion Bayfield — and 0-9 overall.

Junior QB/DB Wyatt Koskie and junior RB/LB Caleb Montoya represented Dolores (0-5, 0-4 SPC) as First Team All-SPC members, as did Center junior RB/DB Abraham Echauri and senior TE/DL Carlos Almeida despite the Vikings (0-3, 0-2) not getting to visit the Bears in what would likely have been the season finale for both overwhelmed squads.

ADDITIONAL SECOND TEAM ALL-SPC

Centaury — senior WR/DE

Jordan Martin, junior WR/DB Peyton Polzin, senior OL/DL Hunter Berggren; Monte Vista — junior OL/DL Blair Vanderpool, sophomore OL/DE Alejandro Felix; Del Norte — sophomore Ryder Whitehorn, junior Carter Simon; Dolores — senior Joseph Summers, junior Chase Phillpot; Center — sophomore RB/LB Cael Ruggles, junior OL/LB Omar Hernandez.

ADDITIONAL HONORABLE MENTION ALL-SPC

Centaury — junior OL/DL Jownes Archuleta; Monte Vista — senior OL/DL Daniel Vargas; Del Norte — freshman Gage Trujillo; Dolores — freshman Ty Gaddis; Center — sophomore OL/LB Cruz Reyes.

DID YOU KNOW

All seven 2020 State Football Championship clashes were, for the first time in CHSAA-sanctioned gridiron history, contested at the same site in order to limit as much exposure to and spread of COVID-19 as possible.

“Friends of Football and CSU-Pueblo Athletics are

very proud and excited to work through the challenges of 2020 for the benefit of student-athletes from 6-man schools to 5A schools,” Pueblo-based Friends of Football president Dan DeRose had said in a CHSAA press release. “The Pueblo community will do all we can to make this a weekend that will never be forgotten.”

DeRose had been Ponch Garcia’s head coach when he suited up for the semi-pro Pueblo Crusaders, prior to his entering coaching in 1991 as alma mater Fort Lewis College’s receiver’s mentor.

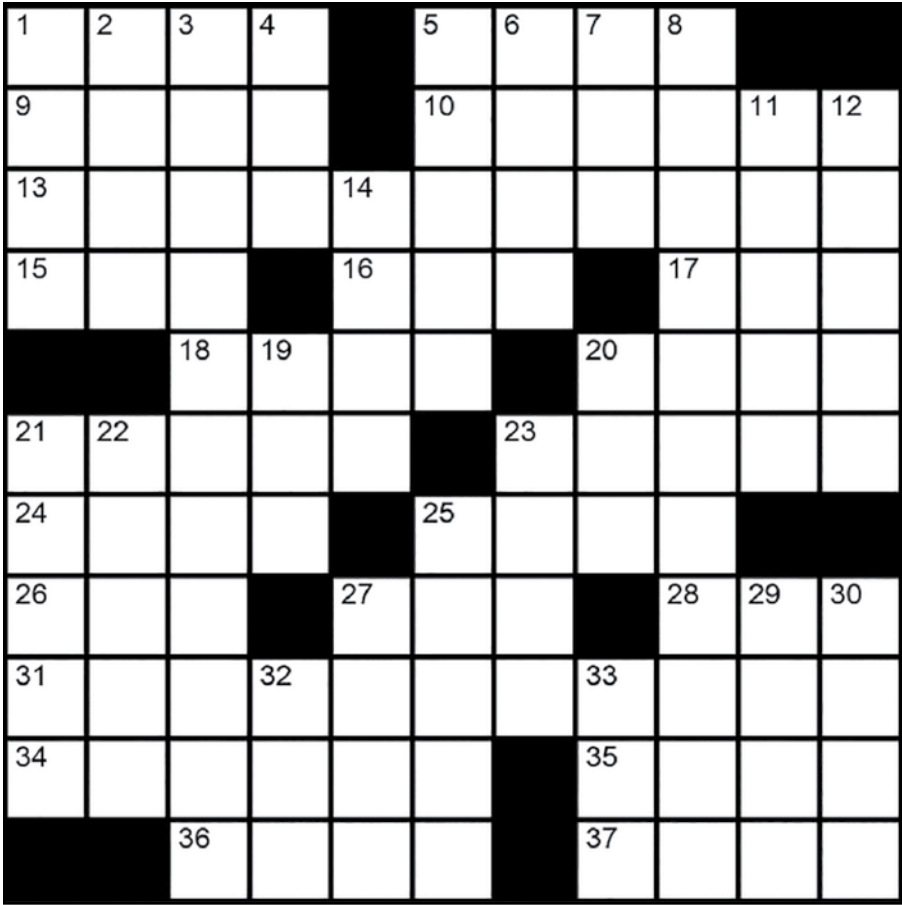
SPRING FOOTBALL UPDATE

Football teams having elected to play in Spring ’21 will also play six regular-season games during the upcoming Season “C,” with crews not making the postseason able to schedule a seventh. Practices can begin on March 4, 2021, with competition to run between the Ides of (both) March and May, when State Championship games will be played again at CSU-Pueblo.

More Bobcats Online

For complete Bobcats sports Standings and Rankings online at [www.sudrum.com](http://www.sudrum.com)

The Southern Ute Drum’s Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Indifferent
- 5 Ship’s company
- 9 Greenland’s capital
- 10 The type of education UMUT scholarships assist
- 13 People also known as the Hohe
- 15 Controversial driving video game
- 16 Like Teslas
- 17 Big burden
- 18 “The Big Board,” initially
- 20 Old horror movie star --- Lugosi
- 21 Tricks
- 23 Ethical
- 24 Black, in poetry
- 25 An old Spanish Ute?
- 26 French turndown
- 27 Bon --- (clever remark)
- 28 Racket
- 31 Capable of being withdrawn
- 34 Old Testament book and prophet
- 35 They called themselves Othama a long time ago
- 36 Federal loan guarantee agency
- 37 Bake sale organizations

Down

- 1 Obstacle
- 2 Expel
- 3 “Illness As Metaphor” author
- 4 “--- get the picture!”
- 5 Herb often found in dips
- 6 Spare items at a barbecue?
- 7 Self-esteem
- 8 Late Lewis Carroll character
- 11 Name on the plane that dropped “Little Boy”
- 12 Kidney-related
- 14 A headland
- 19 Japanese money
- 20 Autonomous computer program
- 21 --- Matisse
- 22 Bassoons’ little brothers
- 23 Mongrel dog
- 25 --- DeHe Wintun Nation
- 27 “Just the facts, --- “
- 29 --- mater
- 30 Afternoon socials
- 32 --- Tin Tin
- 33 Smartphone download

Answers for this crossword will appear in Dec. 30 issue of the Drum.

Answers for Dec. 4, 2020 Crossword Puzzle:

Across: 1 Neck, 5 Boggy, 10 EULA, 11 Yellow, 13 Wren, 14 Trough, 15 To a tee, 17 Stay, 18 Opt, 19 As is, 21 Nests, 23 Mylar, 27 Etch, 29 Emu, 30 Agua, 33 O’odham, 35 Sorrel, 37 Urns, 38 Lugano, 39 Cede, 40 Peter, 41 Tray. Down: 1 Newton, 2 Europe, 3 Cleats, 4 Kant, 5 Bytes, 6 O’er, 7 Glossy, 8 Glut, 9 Yoga, 12 Why, 16 East, 20 IMHO, 22 Tear at, 24 Lehrer, 25 Amanda, 26 Rumsey, 28 Color, 30 ASL, 31 Go up, 32 Urge, 34 Duct, 36 E NE.



did you know?

Both male and female reindeer grow antlers!



Source: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/fun-facts-about-reindeer-and-caribou>

Please contact the Environmental Programs Division General Assistance Program Manager, Jeff Seebach at 970-563-2272 or [jseebach@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jseebach@southernute-nsn.gov) with any questions, comments or concerns.

Air Quality in real time!

Friendly reminder — you can visit the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Environmental Programs Division Ambient Air Quality Monitoring page to find updates on air quality throughout the Southern Ute Indian Reservation as well as real-time EPA Air Quality Index health forecasts.



The link to the Tribe’s Air Quality Stations:

[www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/)

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Your weekend forecast!

Friday, Dec. 18



37°F cloudy

30% chance snow showers in a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19



35°F mostly sunny

Calm morning winds

Sunday, Dec. 20



38°F sunny

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

