



Baker newest member of SCSYAC

PAGE 8



Snowdown fills Durango for parade

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February 7, 2025

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Southern Ute Drum multimedia features now on Vimeo



Steffina Kingsley/Weenuche Smoke Signals

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council and delegates, as well as members of the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation and NAGPRA Office were on hand to honor Ute Mountain Ute tribal members, Terry Knight and George Wells on their respective retirements.

UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

Terry Knight and George Wells retire, leaving a legacy of service to UMU Tribe

By Kayce Tom
WEENUCHE SMOKE SIGNALS

Terry Knight and George Wells were recognized for their extensive and noteworthy years of service to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Knight, who has served as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Director, has dedicated an impressive 32 years to preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. His commitment to safeguarding our history and traditions has had a lasting impact on our community.

George Wells has made significant contributions as the Brunot and Wildlife Director, serving for an extraordinary 42 years. His expertise in wildlife management



Steffina Kingsley/Weenuche Smoke Signals

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe retirees, George Wells, Brunot and Wildlife Director (left) and Terry Knight, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Director.

and conservation has been crucial in fostering sustainable practices and ensuring the responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Both individuals exemplify dedication and profes-

sionalism, and their contributions have fundamentally enriched the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. We extend our sincere gratitude for their years of service and unwavering commitment.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Former Ignacio Wrestling coach Rocky Cundiff, who also coached track-and-field, plus volleyball at IHS, and served as its athletic director, speaks to all attending IHS' 2025 Butch Melton Memorial (Ross Melton, left, introduced Cundiff) Invitational after being inducted Saturday, Jan. 25, into the school's Coaches' Hall of Fame prior to the tournament's final round.

WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

Cundiff joins IHS' coaching greats

Multi-sport mentor enshrined at Melton meet

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Familiar to just about every wrestler, coach, or aficionado in the building Saturday, Jan. 25, lifelong Ignacio Bobcat athlete, coach and administrator Rocky Cundiff was inducted into IHS' Coaches Hall of Fame.

Preceding the final round of the 2025 Butch Melton

Memorial Invitational, he watched as current Ignacio grapplers Lincoln deKay and Zane Pontine pulled down the black shroud covering a newly installed panel alongside the one filled up by last year's induction of former boys' basketball skipper Lee Larson.

And saw his own name directly across from none other than 2001 inductee Melton's.

"One of my original mentors ... he coached me in second grade," Cundiff, presented to the crowd by Ross Melton, said afterwards. "That's pretty awesome to be 'next to' Mr. Melton; I still don't know if I deserve it, to be honest with you. It was a real honor to see people I've worked with, played with,

Cundiff page 14

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Tribal organizations urge Administration to respect Tribal sovereignty amid executive actions

By Ned Johnson
NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

A coalition of Tribal organizations, representing Tribal Nations and their citizens and communities, is calling on the Administration to ensure that recent executive actions do not undermine the unique sovereign political status of Tribal Nations as sovereign nations with which the federal government has trust and treaty obligations, or disrupt federal funding that flows from those relationships for essential Tribal programs.

Following the issuance of multiple executive orders and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directives, concerns arose over freezes on federal funding that Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations, including urban Indian organizations, rely on to provide critical healthcare, economic development, education, and so-

National Indian Health Board



cial services to Tribal communities. While OMB has since rescinded the initial memorandum, questions remain about how federal agencies will interpret and implement the Administration's executive orders and policies moving forward. Tribal Nations are not special interest groups – they are sovereign governments with a unique legal and political relationship with the United States and with their own Tribal communities. The trust and treaty obligations of the federal government are political

and debt-based in nature. Tribal Nations' sovereignty and the federal government's delivery on its trust and treaty obligations must not become collateral damage in broader policy shifts.

The coalition emphasizes that federal funding for Tribal programs is not discretionary, but rather a legal mandate owed under the United States' trust and treaty obligations and the many statutes that carry them out. The organizations urge the Administration to explicitly recognize Tribal sovereignty and trust and treaty obligations in the implementation of all executive orders and priorities and to ensure that federal agencies provide clear guidance that protects Tribal programs from unnecessary disruption. As the Administration advances its priorities, it must do so in a way that respects Tribal sovereignty, strengthens self-determination, and delivers on trust and treaty obligations. We stand ready to work with federal partners to ensure that all policies and decisions uphold the government-to-government relationship between the U.S. and Tribal Nations.

The coalition will continue to advocate for Tribal sovereignty and fulfillment of the trust and treaty obligations and ensure that the voices of Indian Country are heard in Washington.

A full copy of the sign-on letter can be found here: <https://qrcd.co/letter2225>.

List of National Tribal Organizations

- American Indian Higher Education Consortium
- Association on American Indian Affairs
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- California Tribal Chairpersons Association
- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- Great Plains Tribal Chairmans Association
- Indian Gaming Association
- Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona
- Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
- Native American Finance Officers Association
- National American Indian Court Judges Association
- Native American Rights Fund
- National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
- Native Forward Scholars Fund
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Council of Urban Indian Health
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- National Indian Education Association
- National Indian Health Board
- Northern California Tribal Chairperson's Association
- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
- Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- United South and Eastern Tribes

MPF hosts youth powwow



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Southern Ute Veterans Association members Gordon Hammond and Bruce Valdez show Teneke Wesley and Blanca Velasquez the protocol on how to bring in the flags during Grand Entry on Saturday, Jan. 25 during the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility's Honor Our Youth Powwow.

See more Youth Powwow photos on page 12.



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Tribal Council welcomes Representative Hurd

By Summer Begay, TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Tribal Council met with Representative Jeff Hurd (CO-3) on Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Tribal Council Chambers. The meeting was both productive and insightful, fostering a meaningful dialogue on how both the Tribe's leadership and the newly elected Representative can work together to serve both the Tribal membership and the region.

This marks Representative Hurd's second visit with Tribal Council, and his first such meeting with a governmental entity in his capacity as a Member of Congress. Tribal Council commended his commitment to maintaining an open line of communication and his willingness to engage with the issues that matter most to the Tribe and the surrounding community.

The discussions covered

several key topics of shared interest and importance:

- Recent Presidential executive orders and their impact on Tribal sovereignty and governance and the wellbeing of the community,
- The protection of vital water rights,
- Concerns regarding the implementation and adequacy of federal programs serving Tribal needs,
- Collaborative approaches to energy development and sustainability.

"We appreciate Representative Hurd's willingness to engage in open and honest discussions with Tribal Council," Chairman Melvin J. Baker said. "It is critical that we work together to ensure the protection of Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and the rights of our people. Our past and current leaders have long fought to preserve our water, land, and resources for future genera-

tions, and we will continue to advocate for policies that respect our inherent rights. Collaboration with federal leaders is essential, but our priority remains steadfast: protecting the interests of our Tribal membership and ensuring that our voice is heard at every level of government."

"I was honored to meet again with Chairman Baker and members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council," Representative Jeff Hurd said. "As Chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, I am committed to fostering a positive working relationship with Indian Tribes, especially with those I am honored to represent in Congress."

Both parties look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the needs of Tribal members are prioritized, while fostering growth and development across Southwest Colorado.

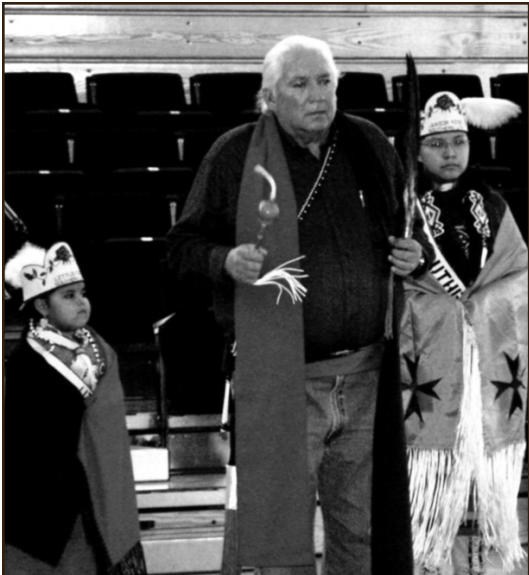


Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

The theme for this year's Snowdown is Steampunk, which requires fashionable Victorian era style clothing.

This photo was first published in the Feb. 7, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Gourd Dancer Larry Tucker dances with Southern Ute Royalty Kelsi Monroe and Breanna Pinnecoose at the 2nd Annual Gourd Dance of the Four Corners Gourd Dance Society on Jan. 22 at the SunUte Community Center. This year the Four Corners Gourd Dance Society honored fallen dancers Gerald Howe, Jeffery Price, and Ruby Tallbird.

This photo was first published in the Feb. 4, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Tom Morgan eyeballs the squareness of his saw cut. The students of the Building Trades Program constructed the stairways of the new SUCAP modulars.

This photo was published in the Feb. 3, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.




SU Drum archive

40 years ago


Howard Richards is no rookie at this type of work. Officer Richards first worked for the Southern Ute Police Department in January of 1975, graduated from the Police Academy in 1980 and worked as an officer until October of 1981. He then worked as a Wildlife Officer for some time. Officer Richards is now a full-time employee of the Southern Ute Police Department as of December 1984.

This photo was published in the Feb. 8, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Immigration and Custom Enforcement Concern

January 24, 2025



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is aware of information, posts, and articles circulating regarding the actions of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, stopping individuals who they believe may be illegal immigrants. There has been a recent federal response on illegal immigration in this country and those who are citizens may be improperly detained as part of these operations. **There have been no reports of ICE presence or improper detentions in our area.**

What is ICE?
Since 2003, ICE has been the division of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for enforcing federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration. ICE was created by combining the investigative and enforcement arms of the former US Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Ways to empower yourself and your families:

1. Ensure your state and Tribal identification are up to date. For Southern Ute Tribal identification, please contact Tribal Information Services at 970-563-2248.
2. Always carry identification with you, including your Tribal ID and at least one (1) other form of identification such as a driver's license.
3. If you are detained, make sure you request identification to verify that the individual stopping you is actually an enforcement officer with ICE.
 - a. If you are on-Reservation, you may contact the Southern Ute Police Department Non-Emergency Dispatch at 970-563-4401.
 - b. If you are off-Reservation, please contact 911.
4. Keep contact information readily available, so you can notify friends and family of your location.
5. Also contact Congressional members of the Colorado delegation. Below is their contact information:

Jeff Hurd
US Representative - CO 3rd District
DC Office: 202-225-4676

John Hickenlooper
US Senator
DRO Office: 970-880-7236

Michael Bennet
US Senator
DRO Office: 970-259-1710

Multi-Purpose Facility
Sweetheart Community Pow Wow



Saturday February 15, 2025

Round Dance 1:00 PM - Dinner Break - 5:00 PM - Grand Entry - 7:00 PM

Pow Wow Head Staff

So. Drum: Cruisin' South , Adrian Yazzie Lead Singer, Ft. Defiance AZ

No. Drum: Zuni Knife Wing , Zuni, NM

MC: Stais Harlan, So. Ute / Omaha, Dine, Ignacio, CO

Head Man: Kenny Brown Sr., No. Arapahoe / Cree, Ft. Defiance, AZ

Head Lady: Raenell Scott, Dine, Ft. Defiance, AZ

Arena Director: To be Announced

Invited Honor Guard : Southern Ute Veterans Association

Round Dance Head Staff

Stick Man—Herwin Begay MC: Kenny Brown Sr.

All Drums Welcome—Drum Day Money

Two Step - Owl Dance - Potato Dance

Limited Vendor space available - Arts & Crafts Only- call Stais at 970-563-2642

 Drug & Substance Free Event - Family Fun - Everyone Welcome

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

103RD

SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR

LOGO CONTEST

Open to all Southern Ute Tribal Members


Submission Deadline: March 14, 2025

GUIDELINES

- Artwork no larger than 8.5 in x 11 in
- One submission per artist
- Artwork must be accompanied with Artist Statement explaining theme
- Must include "103rd Southern Ute Tribal Fair" in artwork
- Artwork submission must include a digitized copy via PNG. or PDF.
- Winner will receive a monetary prize

Membership will vote on logo entries at S.U. General Meeting

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
THE CULTURAL PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT AT 970-563-2985



ALL SINGERS INVITED



COME DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Fort Duchesne
Round dance
And craft fair
2025

Sponsored by Brooke
and Emma Powaukē Kanip

For craft info call:
(435)-401-0505
Reffel Kanip
Or
(435)-401-3680
Brooke Powaukē

Mc: Francis Sherwood
Denver, Colorado
Co.Mc: Reffel Kanip
Hilltop, Utah
At fort Duchesne
community building

February 28 -March 1 7pm

Come eat and join yourselves
with friends and family

Feast starts at 5pm
POTLUCK bring a dish

Fort Duchesne community building
860 small loop Rd. fort Duchesne Ut 84066

Seminole Powwow & gators!



photos courtesy Jalisa Paul

Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts danced a round of Intertribals at the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla. during the annual Seminole Tribal Fair & Powwow. In addition to representing the Tribe, Watts was also contesting in the Junior Teen Fancy Shawl category during the powwow, Friday, Jan. 31 – Saturday, Feb. 1.

Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts holds an alligator at the Seminole Tribal Fair & Powwow following the Alligator Demonstration on Friday, Jan. 31. Alligator wrestling performances are a cultural tradition of the Seminole people of Florida; the performances showcase the Seminole's bravery and respect for alligators.

UNLV

POWOW FOR THE PLANET

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 12-13, 2025

COX PAVILION

PRESENTED BY:

Native American Alumni Club (NAAC)

Native American Student Association (NASA)

American Indian Alliance (AIA)

Native American Alumni Club





Let's Learn Ute

Nú' 'umuy piyomichitü!
I love you!

Nú' 'umuy taa'asti i!
I like you!

Nú' káatisi 'asti i!
I want candy!

Núnay sœaak'!
Kiss me!

piwari napu
my sweetheart

píwanu
my spouse





HEALTHY RECIPES

Spanish chickpea stew

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

The spices make it “Spanish,” particularly the smoked paprika.
Try this meatless meal, it’s a great way to get your fiber and protein plus the veggies. One meat lover stated, “Wow, this is really good”!

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



courtesy PhotoStk/AdobeStock

Spanish Chickpea Stew

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 14.5oz can diced tomatoes
- 8 oz can tomato sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 ½ teaspoons cumin
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 15.5oz can chickpeas (garbanzo beans), rinsed and drained
- 12 oz frozen chopped spinach

Directions:

1. Heat olive oil in large skillet.
2. Add diced onion and sauté on medium-high heat for about 3 minutes, stirring frequently.
3. Add diced peppers and sauté for an

- additional 3 minutes, stirring frequently.
4. Add canned tomato, tomato sauce, smoked paprika, cumin, garlic, salt, pepper, cayenne pepper and chickpeas, stir to combine.
5. Bring to a simmer, cover and let cook for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
6. Add frozen spinach, stir and cover. Continue to cook for an additional 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add more cayenne, salt and pepper as needed for taste.

Serves 6
Nutrition per serving: 325 calories, 17.5g fat, 36.5g carbohydrates, 11g fiber, 12g protein
Serve over rice, barley or your favorite grain. If you like it spicy, add more cayenne.
This can be a good meal prep and can stay in the fridge for 3-4 days.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: New Breath and Movement Group starting

By Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Behavioral Health team is starting up a new group this week to begin on Wednesday, Feb. 5! This six-week, repeating peer group focuses on centering and grounding through breath and gentle movement. It aims to bring curiosity and awareness to our mind and body as we gently stretch and move.

In such a fast-paced world, it can be helpful to have time set aside for calming and quieting. Simple practices like following the breath or just noticing sensations in the body can help immensely with stress relief and coping skills.

It’s easy to forget to breathe when we are stressed! It’s also easy to build up tension in our bodies from holding stress and difficult emotions. One of the key goals of this group is to help build a stronger connection with our internal sources of power and calm. This is what therapists sometimes call “self-regulation.” It’s about being able

to regulate intense emotions and increase our ability to stay centered, especially in tough times. One of the key philosophies is just practicing what we give our attention to. This can be as simple as little connections we make like: “Wow, I’m holding my breath right now,” or “wow, every time I remember that, my stomach hurts.” As we get better at noticing what’s going on in our bodies and bringing our attention to it, the intensity of difficulty often dissipates.

We welcome you to join the Breath and Movement group! Don’t worry, this is not “yoga” or exercise, and no experience is necessary. We will focus on gentle movements that can be done from a chair if necessary, with all kinds of adaptations built in for all comfort levels.

The group will meet every Wednesday for six weeks from 10a.m. until 10:50a.m. We will keep the first two weeks open for enrollment. If you miss us this time, you can catch it the next time around. Please call us at 970-563-5700 to reserve

your spot!
Here’s to your good health!

It’s okay not to feel okay
If you or someone you know has been struggling with their emotions, behaviors, or substance use please reach out to us. We can help you find appropriate tools and services that could help you overcome obstacles in your life. We are here for you. Please contact the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division at 970-563-5700 for more information or to set up an appointment to see a counselor or therapist.

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

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

DIALECTICAL BEHAVIORAL (DBT) GROUP THERAPY

WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY

WHERE: Youth Groups Will Be Held At The IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY
&
Adult Groups Will Be Held VIRTUALLY

TIME: 1:00PM - 2:00PM (Youth)
2:30PM - 3:30PM (Adult 18+)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Cedra Etesam (970).563.2297

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Dial 988

for mental health emergencies.

Text **INDIGENOUS** to 741741
for free, 24/7 support.

#WeNeedYouHere

Shining Mountain Fresh

February 2025

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

Chocolate Avocado Mousse

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFreshFeb25>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, February 24, 2025
Pickup Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

Contact:

Lisa B. Smith (970)-563-2344

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

The CDC website link below is provided to access additional information related to the Norovirus for those who are interested.

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html>

Norovirus season is November through April. This means we are in the middle of it. How can you protect yourself and others? Wash your hands! Norovirus is the most common “GI bug” that causes vomiting and diarrhea. Hand sanitizer is not the best defense against Norovirus. The best way to ensure staying healthy is to wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. Soap actually lifts the virus off your hands and washes it down the drain. Work up a good lather and scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. Also, you should not prepare food for anyone else while you are sick and until at least two days after you are feeling better. For further inquiry, please call (970) 563-4581.

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

69 Capote Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137
(970) 563-4581
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-health/health-center/>

Clinic Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed 12-1PM for lunch)

Pharmacy Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Lunch Closure: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

**** The Health Center is closed from 12-5PM every 1st Thursday of the month for department meetings**



SUIMA

Pawaaghani po’ekwatu – Eagle’s Nest

Montessori celebrates 65 years!

By Mari Jo Owens
PRINCIPAL, SUIMA

This year, 2025, the American Montessori Society will celebrate its 65th anniversary. This milestone reflects decades of championing Montessori education and creating pathways for children, educators, and communities worldwide. It is a testament to their desire to “teach” differently and an invitation to look forward. This school year is SUIMA’s 25th anniversary. This is milestone reflects our commitment to preserve and share the Southern Ute language and culture within a Montessori environment, while creating future Tribal and world leaders. With the Southern Ute language being the cornerstone of the school, we support our students so they can appreciate their culture, language, and lifelong learning.



Mari Jo Owens
Principal

Southern Ute Indian
Montessori Academy

understanding, and respect flourish – qualities the world needs now more than ever. Maria Montessori believed in setting ground rules. The rights of every student in a Montessori classroom can be seen in the “rights” listed below. These are fundamental to the operation of our classrooms.

- “The right to be safe.”
 - Part of the prepared environment is the safety of the students.
- “The right to be undisturbed.”
 - Order and self-discipline are important, and each student has the right to maintain order and concentration while being involved in their learning.
- “The right to choose any lesson that has already been presented to them.”
 - Once a lesson is taught to a student, it is available for choice whenever the student wants to do the lesson. The student’s ability to choose a lesson assures interest in the lesson. The ability to build on the lesson, assures the student can continue the lesson to mastery.

Montessori Tidbits

Through the dedication of the guides and teachers, the Montessori philosophy takes root, nurturing each child’s journey and empowering families. As Montessori educators, the staff create environments where empathy,

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early Release at 2 p.m.
- Feb. 12: Family Night activity
- Feb. 14: Teacher Workday – No school for students
- Feb. 17: No school in honor of Presidents’ Day
- Feb. 18: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Feb. 19-21: Parent-Teacher Conferences



courtesy SUIMA

Upper elementary student, Ethan Rohde-O’Leary gets some snowboarding tips from one of the instructors at Purgatory Resort.



courtesy SUIMA

Lower elementary student, Billy Albo, shows off his style before he heads to the slopes at Purgatory Resort.

BOBCAT BULLETIN

Happy February from Ignacio Middle School!

Focus on attendance, a growth mindset, and pride

By Dayna M. Talamante-Montoya, (MA, Ed.S)
PRINCIPAL, IGNACIO MIDDLE SCHOOL

I am excited to share some middle school information. We are currently working on three areas in the school to help build a strong learning community. These three: attendance, a growth mindset, and pride. Each of these pillars contributes not only to individual success but also to the collective progress of our middle school family.

First, attendance. Every day students come to school, they open the door to new learning opportunities, friendships, and experiences. Regular attendance is the foundation of academic success. Regular attendance allows students to not only be present, but engage in the lesson, ask questions, hear other students’ thoughts/responses and participate in the discussions that can help build their understanding of the material they are learning. When a student misses even just one day, they are missing vital information or activities that occurred which contribute to the overall learning. Having students in school on time every day builds strong executive functioning skills.

Next, our district has adopted the idea of a growth mindset. A growth mindset allows us to look at things in a different way. A growth mindset is a way of looking at learning as a way to develop over time. We may not be where we want to be yet, but with time and practice we will get there. This mindset allows students to take on challenges, make mistakes, and learn from them. The best way to use a growth mindset is to not look at mistakes as failures, but as opportunities to learn and improve. Through practicing a growth mindset, every challenge allows us to explore new ideas, take risks



Dayna Talamante-Montoya/IMS

Ignacio Middle School Bobcats, Kataleya Pena and Alaura Williams square off on the mat.

and eventually learn in areas that were once difficult.

Also, I want to discuss the importance of pride in our school and community. I know we are a small community and most of us know each other well. Sometimes this can be hard because we can get stuck or caught up with those around us. I feel lucky to have lived and grown up in Ignacio for the experiences I had with summer rec, internships, and athletic events with friends. Even though things have changed, the opportunities our students have are awesome, for such a small district. It is important for us to talk positively about the place we live, work, and go to school in. We need to cheer for each other and not pull each other down. Taking pride spills out to those around us. We do great things in this community, and we provide students with many opportunities in the district, we need to always celebrate those oppor-

tunities. Pride is also about taking responsibility for our actions and showing respect for not only ourselves, but others we are around.

Finally, I would like to finish up with our extracurricular activities. Currently, at IMS, we have chess club, athletics, knowledge bowl, spelling bee, and garden club in the spring. Our wrestlers had a great showing at our first meet that was the Ignacio Tournament held on Saturday, Feb. 1. We have a large team with 27 wrestlers, both boys and girls. Girls basketball is in its last two weeks and gearing up for leagues. We also provide students with Friday Academy to help with grades so that our students can be eligible for games.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to talk more, please feel free to reach out and schedule an appointment. You can reach me at dtalamantemontoya@ignacio-schools.org.

Picturing a Winter Wonderland



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

The Fourth-grade class at the Ignacio Elementary School made glittery winter wonderland art pieces, Wednesday, Jan. 22. Elementary Art teacher, Lisa Brown, helps Amonnie Johnson to reuse glitter for his art piece during class.

Alternative Horizons

Alternative Horizons needs 15 or more volunteer advocates, including those who are bi-lingual, to staff our 24-Hour hotline. Do impactful work and build new relationships. Flexible scheduling available. AH supports and empowers survivors of domestic violence. If you’d like to make a difference in the lives of others, call the office for more information at 970-247-4374.



Fort Lewis College Visit
With the Southern Ute Education Center

Friday February 28th

- Southern Ute Tribal members, Southern Ute 1st Descendants, and JOM students in 5th – 12th grade

Join us for a Friday field trip to Fort Lewis College!

- › Tour the Campus
- › Enjoy the Art Gallery at the Southwest Studies and Native American Center
- › Free Lunch and a special stop on the way home!
- › Find out what a college campus is like and have some fun!
- ★ Turn in your signed permission slip by February 26th so we can be sure there is space for you!

For registration information please contact Julie Stone at 970-563-2778 or jstone@southernute-nsn.gov

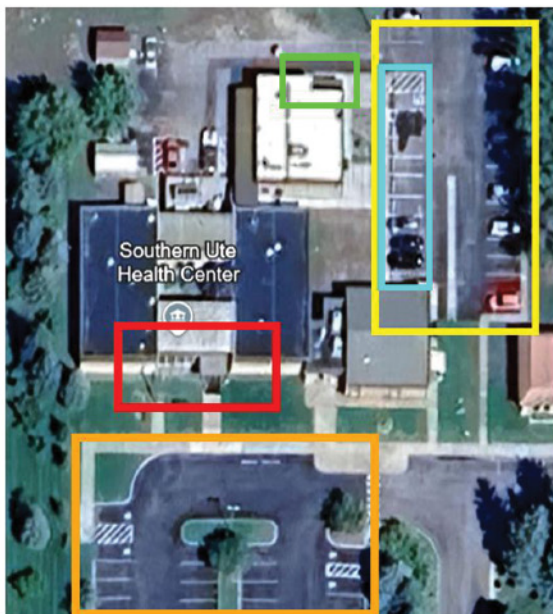


ATTENTION

THE SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

MAIN ENTRANCE WILL BE CLOSED
FEBRUARY 3RD-MARCH 3RD

The main entrance and lobby will be closed for a heating system replacement. Patients will use the back parking lot and enter through the lab lobby.

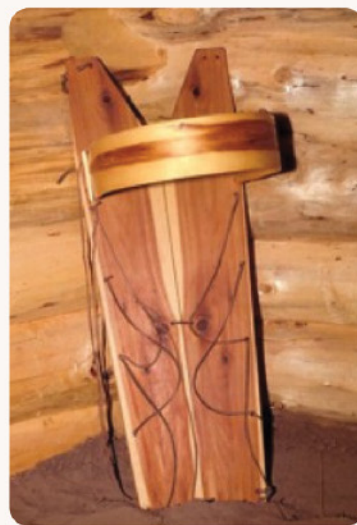


- TEMPORARY MAIN ENTRANCE
- PATIENT PARKING
- ELDER PARKING
- MAIN ENTRANCE CLOSED
- EMPLOYEE PARKING

For any questions or concerns, please call the SUHC main line (970)563-4581. Thank you!



Shining Mountain Health & Wellness Breastfeeding and Parenting Class



JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT THE NAVAJO CRADLE BOARD

PRESENTER: ZJANI JOHNSON, SWCAHEC INTERN

- presentation on the cultural significance of cradleboards
- Engaging activities: swaddling and making miniature cradleboards
- **cradle boards from other tribes are welcome for display and teaching!**

February 20, 2025
Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum- Large Classroom
11:00 am to 1:30 pm
-LUNCH INCLUDED-

Register Here!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cradleboard2025>

Questions? ShawMarie (970)563-2163 or Lisa Smith (970) 563-2344

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

HOSTED BY: REBECCA GALE

Join Rebecca for this 9-week session

This is a group for adults who have a loved one who struggles with substance use. Teaching skills to help with positive communication, setting effective boundaries, decrease stress and anxiety, and increase your own happiness



Start Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
(Taking place EVERY Tuesday)

Time: 4:00PM - 4:50PM

Location: Behavioral Health Building
(4101 CR 222, Durango, CO 81301)

FOR MORE INFORMATION / RSVP:

CONTACT:
Behavioral Health's Mainline:
970.563.5700



MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

Sip, Chat & Chew

Friday February 14, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Sponsored by: Tribal Information Services



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

Door Prize donations are appreciated.



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



FINDING A MISSING LOVED ONE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1



Stay Calm & Contact Law Enforcement

- Call the Southern Ute Police Department Dispatch at 970.563.4401.
- In an emergency, call 911.

2



Gather Information

- Talk to friends & family about last known locations.
- Be prepared for questions from law enforcement:
 - Physical description, health conditions, current photo, & possible destinations.

**Note this list is not all-inclusive*

3



Designate a Point of Contact

- Establish a single person to communicate with law enforcement and to provide updates with family & friends.

4



Seek Support

- Remember, you are not alone.
- The MMIR Task Force of Colorado | 970.553.0337
- SUPD Victim Services | 970.563.0245

5



Alerts

- The law enforcement agency in charge of the investigation is the only entity with authorization to request & cancel an official Missing Indigenous Person Alert broadcast by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

For questions or concerns regarding a missing person, contact SUPD at 970-563-4401



Multi-Purpose Facility Valentine Goodies Workshop



Fun - Socializing - Treats

Thursday February 13, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Adults only please

Call to reserve to reserve your space



256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
Call 970-563-2640 to sign-up, or
e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

LOOKING TO STUDY ABROAD?

Southern Ute Education, Open Horizons and AFS-USA would like to encourage Southern Ute Tribal Member Youth to apply to Study Abroad



Open to three (3) Southern Ute Tribal Members living on or off the Southern Ute Reservation
Students need:

- To be enrolled in High School
- To be ages 15-18
- To have a 2.5 to 3.5 GPA
- Letter of interest can be emailed or dropped off.
- (2) letters of recommendation can be emailed or dropped off.
- Extracurricular activities or employment
- Use QR Code for Application.
- SUE Application is due February 14, 2025
- AFS-USA Application is due March 1, 2025



Resignation Form

CONTACT US
For More
Information

- ShaRay Rock 970-563-2794
Michael Kirsch 970-563-2783
- ShaRay Rock srock@southernute-nsn.gov
Michael Kirsch mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov

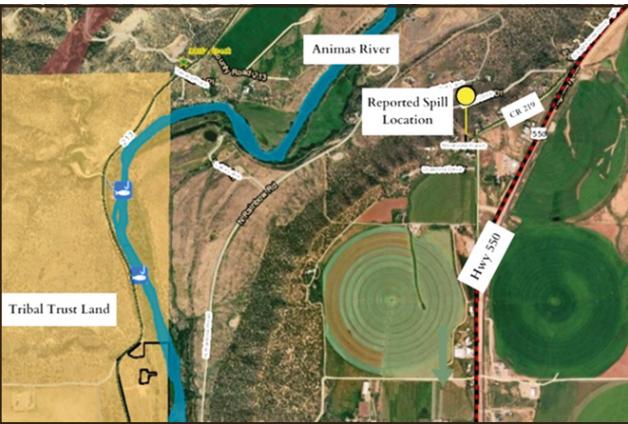
PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Monitoring underway after pipeline spill near Riverview Ranch Road

By Summer Begay,
TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A pipeline owned and operated by Enterprise Products, out of Houston, Texas, experienced a fracture resulting in a gasoline spill on County Road 219 near Riverview Ranch Road on Dec. 5, 2024. The spill occurred on fee land within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation. As of Jan. 31, it is estimated that 22,000 gallons of gasoline were released, and groundwater has been impacted. The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) is the lead agency and is working with Enterprise to mitigate risks and damage to surrounding private property.

Because this spill occurred within the Reservation boundaries, the Tribe immediately reached out to CDPHE to ensure it was consulted. Since that time, the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department has been heavily engaged and is proactively monitoring the



spill to ensure the continued protection of Tribal members, Tribal resources and community health.

"We deeply value our strong and robust relationship with CDPHE and La Plata County," Executive Officer Lindsay J. Box said. "Their commitment to keeping the Tribe involved throughout this process, even while the Tribe remains currently unaffected, is invaluable to ensure a comprehensive response should the need arise."

This incident is not currently impacting Tribal member homes, Tribal

Trust, or Tribally owned fee land. Should the Tribe become aware of any changes to the situation, notifications will be provided promptly through multiple channels, including social media, local news outlets, and direct communication with affected individuals if needed. The Tribe will continue to work closely with local and state authorities to coordinate response efforts and protect community members from any further harm. For more information or questions, Tribal members may contact the Executive Office at 970-563-2314.



CLOSE UP: NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE YOUTH SUMMIT

April 27- May 2, 2025

Enrolled High School Students
Must have 2.0 GPA or Better

Five Spots Open to Southern Ute Tribal Members
Five Spots Open to Community Students

For more information please contact Dustin Weaver 970-563-2786
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov

NEW DATE ANNOUNCED! 2025

Scan this QR code to register students

23RD ANNUAL
CAREER FAIR

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

JOIN THE SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO MEET LOCAL EMPLOYERS, TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS, AND PARTNER COLLEGES.

9AM-2PM
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT

CONTACT ANDREA SCHULTZ FOR MORE INFORMATION
(970)563-2784
ASCHULTZ@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV

Scan this QR code to register as a vendor



Free Virtual Parenting Q+As

with Communication Coach Rachel Turiel



Parenting isn't easy, and we know not everyone has the time or access to in-person parenting supports. Join us virtually with local coach Rachel Turiel for monthly small-group sessions to get your parenting questions answered! All parents and caregivers across Southwest Colorado are welcome. To ensure parents get the most out of these sessions, there will be a 12-person limit.

RSVP ahead of time for the Zoom link and to let us know your parenting questions and concerns!

SECOND MONDAYS OF THE MONTH
JANUARY THROUGH MAY
FROM 5:30-6:30PM:

- January 13th
- February 10th
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th

Registration
opens on the
1st of the
month



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

QUESTIONS? EMAIL RACHELBTURIEL@GMAIL.COM OR CAROLINEH@UNITEDWAY-SWCO.ORG



FREE 2025 CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS IGNACIO



Parenting isn't easy. Come connect with other caregivers and local professionals over dinner and learn tools to support yourself and your family. Bring a friend! Dinner and childcare provided.

INTERNET SAFETY

with La Plata Youth Services' Chris Brown

Learn supportive tools and tech tricks to improve your family's online safety in our screen-time hungry world. Learn how to recognize and track hurtful and helpful online behaviors within your family.

February 12th | 5:15-7:00pm | ELHI Community Center

BULLYING AND PEER PRESSURE

with local experts Al Wolfe and Taylor Moorehouse

Supporting your child and community in difficult situations can feel scary. Walk away from this interactive workshop with new skills to help your family navigate bullying, boundary setting, and being an active bystander.

April 9th | 5:15-7:00pm | ELHI Community Center

DE-ESCALATE CONFLICT WITH YOUR CHILDREN

with Communication Coach Rachel Turiel

Learn to de-escalate challenging situations with your child and work together to find solutions that everyone can live with.

April 30th | 5:15-7:00pm | ELHI Community Center

Gift card
Drawings at
every event

New this year:
Free monthly,
hour-long
parenting Q+As
with Rachel
Turiel!

Can't make it? Check online for our
Bayfield and Durango workshops!

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



Like us on Facebook for updates:
Facebook.com/TeamUPSWCO

QUESTIONS? EMAIL CAROLINEH@UNITEDWAY-SWCO.ORG



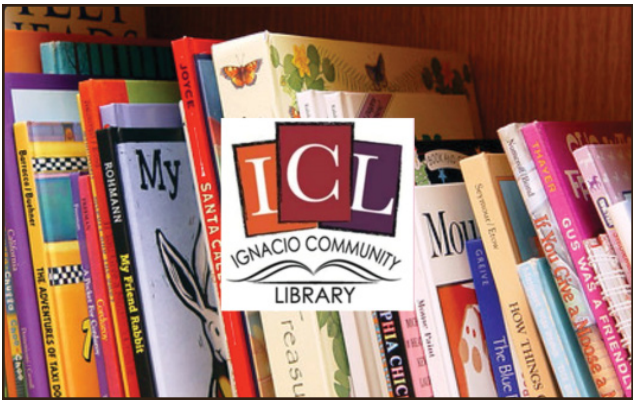
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Thank you Southern Ute Shared Services

By Liz vonTauffkirchen
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

If you have been to a public library in the last 10 years, you know that libraries are much more than books. One of our biggest secondary purposes is to facilitate a bridge in the digital divide. We do that in multiple ways, including: technology classes; one-on-one, drop in, or by-appointment digital services; and most commonly by providing ready access to technology and the internet with public computers.

When we held the recent Internet event in partnership with Southern Ute Shared Services (SUSS) back in September, we were fortunate to meet and start to get to know the kind folks working over there. I mentioned that I had been looking for more ways to partner with them and to my delight, they told me they were actively looking for ways to partner with us, too! Better yet, they



had a project in mind; they wanted to help us refresh our public computer workstations! We eagerly agreed to the project, and we are now in the early stages of the actual installation process.

We would like to profusely thank Southern Ute Shared Services for the valuable partnership! SUSS has provided nine brand-new desktop computers and one laptop for public use, as well as two technicians who are helping with this massive installation. The library has also purchased six new workstations; so, together we are completing a near

100% refresh of the public computers throughout the library. Keep your eyes peeled over the next few weeks as these beautiful workstations gradually become available for public use.

Here at Ignacio Community Library, we are always looking for new ways to partner with other local nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses to better serve our community. A huge thanks again to SUSS for the willingness to coordinate and partner with us and we look forward to many more shared projects in the future!

Baker sworn into Youth Council



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

Zuriah Baker stands before Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker as she sworn in at her oath of office to the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council (SCSYAC) on Friday, Jan. 24 in Chambers. She joins Amos O'John Jr, Malenia Carel, and Aug'uwey O'John who are currently on the Youth Council for a yearlong position to learn from the current Southern Ute Tribal Council and meet the needs of the Southern Ute Tribal youth. The SCSYAC was created in 2003 by Tribal Council to engage Tribal youth in government learning.

Newly elected Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council member Zuriah Baker stands with her family, Hailey (Mother), Zach (Stepdad) and her little brother Sebastian – following her swearing in ceremony, Friday, Jan. 31, in the Southern Ute Tribal Council Chambers.



Cabin Fever Charcuterie



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Permanent Fund Benefits Division hosted the Cabin Fever Charcuterie event in their office on Friday, Jan. 31. This event featured an assortment of meats, cheeses, crackers, fruit, and other treats for employees to enjoy.

Benefits Manager Veronica Lasater and Benefits Coordinator Erika Kososik organized the Cabin Fever Charcuterie event, hosting and welcoming all Permanent Fund employees to try new snacks and explore charcuterie. On Friday, Jan. 31 the Don Thomas Room was filled with employees who came to enjoy a wide variety of snacks.



2025 Agriculture Division Educational Presentations

The Southern Ute Tribe's Agriculture Division is happy to be presenting, the fourth year of agriculture/garden classes beginning Feb. 19. We are covering both agriculture and home gardening topics. Classes will be held during the lunch hour with a light lunch to be served. We will be asking attendees to RSVP so meals can be planned. These classes are very informal and are open to Tribal members, and other natives. Presentations will be at the Environmental Programs Department Classroom. The first two classes are in February.

Applying for an Agricultural Assignment and Developing a Farm Plan
February 19, 12 p.m. – The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Agriculture Division is offering a presentation on applying for agriculture assignments and developing a farm plan. This presentation will go over deadlines, beneficiary requirements, required documentation, and eligibility for agricultural assignments. We will also show examples of five-year farm plans and what is required for a farm plan to be approved. The goal is to help Tribal members gain a better understanding of what they must do when applying for an agricultural assignment. A light lunch will be provided for all participants. We are requesting that you RSVP before 5 p.m., February 14. RSVP by calling the Agriculture Division at 970-563-0220. This presentation will be at the Environmental Programs Department Classroom. Park north of the Environmental Programs Department Building in Casino parking area. Enter the north door of the building.

Understanding USDA Agricultural Assistance Programs
February 26, 12 p.m. – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff and USDA Farm Service Agency staff will provide information on USDA program participation. This will cover the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program, first time farmer grants, emergency assistance and others. This will help guide Tribal member agricultural producers through the programs and how to navigate the application processes. This will be a great opportunity for Tribal members to gain a better understanding of what assistance is available through the USDA and how the program may work for your specific situation. A light lunch will be provided for all participants. We are requesting that you RSVP before 5 p.m., February 21. RSVP by calling the Agriculture Division at 970-563-0220. This presentation will be at the Environmental Programs Department Classroom. Park north of the Environmental Programs Department Building in Casino parking area. Enter the north door of the building.

The following classes are scheduled for March and April, all classes will be at 12 p.m.
Irrigated Hay Production: March 5 • Growing Fruit Trees & Shrubs: March 12
Gardening in SW Colorado: March 26 • Raised Bed Gardening: April 2

Please mark your calendars and join us. If you have questions or want to rsvp early contact the Southern Ute Agriculture Division at 970-563-0220.



Uplifting in-home senior care

- Personal care
- Companionship
- Grocery shopping and errands
- Meal preparation
- Medical Care Management
- Alzheimer's and Dementia care
- Respite care

Contact us for free consultation:
(975) 515-7055
ComfortKeepers.com

Resolve to Electrify from LPEA

Learn about LPEA's new and updated rebates!

Attend the Webinar:

- January 29 at 1 PM

Or go to Ask-an-Expert in-person Events:

- February 5, Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- February 20, LPEA offices in Durango, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

lpea.coop/rebates

TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement concerns

By Summer Begay
TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is aware of information, posts, and articles circulating regarding the actions of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, stopping individuals who they believe may be illegal immigrants. There has been a recent federal response on illegal immigration in this country and those who are citizens may be improperly detained as part of these operations. **There have been no reports of ICE presence or improper detentions in our area.**

What is ICE?
Since 2003, ICE has been the division of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for enforcing federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration. ICE was created by combining the investigative and enforcement arms of the former US Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Ways to empower yourself and your families:
• Ensure your state and Tribal identification are



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- up to date. For Southern Ute Tribal identification, please contact Tribal Information Services at 970-563-2248.
- Always carry identification with you, including your Tribal ID and at least one (1) other form of identification such as a driver's license.
 - If you are detained, make sure you request identification to verify that the individual stopping you is actually an enforcement officer with ICE.
 - If you are on-Reservation, you may contact the Southern Ute Police Department Non-Emergency Dispatch at 970-563-4401.
 - If you are off-Reservation, please contact 911.
- Keep contact information readily available, so you can notify friends and family of your location.
- Also contact Congressional members of the Colorado delegation. Below is their contact information:
- Jeff Hurd**
US Representative
CO 3rd District
DC Office
202-225-4676

John Hickenlooper
US Senator
DRO Office
970-880-7236

Michael Bennet
US Senator
DRO Office
970-259-1710

Committee of Elders



photos Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Melvin J. Baker and Tribal Council were delighted to attend this morning's kick-off meeting for the Committee of Elders! Tribal Council supports the Committee's important work in promoting the continuation of the Nuuchiu language, heritage, and traditions. Congratulations to the Committee of Elders officers: Chairman Byron Frost (second from left), Vice Chairman Judy Lansing (second from right), and Secretary Willette Whiteskunk (center). Also pictured are committee members, Nathan Strong Elk (far left) and Denise Thompson (far right).

Reminder: Two (2) Board Member seats remain vacant. Eligible Tribal members interested in serving may submit a letter of interest by emailing swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov, delivering it in person to the Tribal Council Affairs receptionist at the Leonard C. Burch building, or mailing it to Tribal Council Affairs at PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137.



Attention Parents, Caregivers in Southwest Colorado!

Join Team UP Southwest Colorado for FREE workshops designed to support you in navigating today's parenting challenges: Internet Safety; Bullying & Peer Pressure; De-escalating Conflict with Your Children; Open Q&A – Your Questions Answered!

IGNACIO INFO: April 9 & 30, ELHI Community Center, 5:15 – 7 p.m.

Let's come together to learn, share, and build stronger connections with our children. Don't miss this opportunity to grow as a caregiver and strengthen your family dynamic. Find other available times & classes in Bayfield & Durango

UTE STORY TELLING
Join us in listening to stories told by Ute Elders



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Located in the Large Classroom at the
SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum's
Education & Outreach Coordinator: Raelynn Frauenhoff
(970)563-2998 | rfrauenhoff@southernute-nsn.gov

February Activities List

February 11, 2025
Shopping Trip (Durango)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

February 14, 2025
Happy Valentine's Day

February 18, 2025
Movie Day (Durango)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 1:00 p.m.

February 25, 2025
Shopping Trip (Farmington)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

Call Elder Services @ 970-563-2309 to have your name added to the activities list or if you have any questions. Activities are subject to change due to inclement weather.

UTE ELDERS AND THEIR FRIENDS

OPEN TO ALL SUNUTE MEMBERS
WORKOUT CLASSES - SUNUTE CAPOTE ROOM

NO UPCOMING NOTICES


Tuesday's and Thursday's 10am-10:45am

CONTACT ELIYAH
970-563-2658
FOR ANY QUESTIONS


WE ARE UTE



SOUTHERN UTE Cultural Center & Museum



503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583
EMAIL | museum@southernute-nsn.gov
IG | [southern_ute_museum_sum](https://www.instagram.com/southern_ute_museum_sum)
WEB | southernutemuseum.org





HUMAN RESOURCES

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Permanent Fund employment

General information

Staff Report
SOUTHERN UTE HUMAN RESOURCES

The subject of Tribal employment receives regular interest on the Southern Ute Reservation. This article will provide you with information regarding Southern Ute Tribal member employment within the Permanent Fund.

Over the years, the Tribe has experienced great change and growth. New buildings have been constructed, technological advancement has been implemented, and the Tribe has modernized with the times. The Tribe continues to prosper, increase efficiencies, and explore new business opportunities and programs. Many of these changes have created an interesting situation that impacts employment within the Tribe's Permanent Fund. Some employees who have resigned from the Permanent Fund did so to accept jobs with the Growth Fund or Casino. Some may see the Growth Fund as a provider for more diverse employment opportunities with higher compensation. This can make it challenging to

retain employees within the Permanent Fund. In addition, continued growth in Durango and La Plata County will create more employment opportunities that the Permanent Fund must compete with.

In 2024, the Permanent Fund hired 315 employees. Among all hires, rehires and transfers 119 were Southern Ute Tribal members, 82 were other Native Americans, and 114 were non-Native. Sixty-four percent (64%) of all hires, rehires and transfers in 2024 had Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) preference, which means these employees were Southern Ute Tribal members or other Native Americans. In 2024, the average percentage of the Permanent Fund workforce categorized as TERO preference was 51%.

Permanent Fund statistical employment information for 2024 is shown below.

The Human Resources Department continues to make efforts to increase the number of employees classified as TERO preference. During the summer months, fluctuations in employment numbers can be attribut-

ed to the changing need for manpower required to accomplish projects during the warmer months and the Summer Youth Program, which provides employment for Tribal youth and first descendants during the summer break.

As a method to increase employment opportunities for Southern Ute Tribal members and Native Americans, the HR Department works with department directors and supervisors to review job descriptions closely to keep job qualifications as reasonably low as possible to prevent unnecessary barriers to employment and yet maintain the qualifications at a level necessary to perform the job. Because qualifications on most jobs have already been reduced as much as possible, the number of positions that include qualifications that can be lowered is minimal. Lowering job qualifications is a delicate task and reducing qualifications too much can place everyone in a no-win situation. An untrained and/or uneducated employee in some instances is not capable of providing quality services for the

Tribal membership; for example: an uninsurable driver cannot transport clients; inexperienced or uneducated staff may mismanage Tribal finances or natural resources; and an unqualified teacher cannot educate our Tribal youth properly.

Although the HR Department and hiring managers make efforts to hire Tribal members and Native Americans whenever possible, there are obstacles that diminish employment opportunities such as: not disclosing all criminal background information, failing the pre-employment drug test, poor driving records, or poor work performance in previous jobs. Although the employment application emphasizes the importance of disclosing all criminal background information, we still receive applications that are incomplete or missing required information necessary for the recruitment and job placement process. It is vitally important that applicants explore their own criminal backgrounds to ensure they have disclosed all their criminal background information on the employ-

ment application. Rochelle Aguilar, the HR Career Coordinator, has been successful in a new process that helps Tribal member applicants review their criminal background results and provides information on how to get some convictions expunged (removed) from criminal records, which has helped with their employment endeavors.

The HR Department and the Tribe's Legal Services Department continually review the background check and recruitment procedures to ensure our processes are as simple as possible yet also efficient and compliant with necessary requirements, Tribal Code, and Federal law. In order to be in compliance with all legal requirements, the Tribe must conduct multiple background checks which vary dependent upon the job. The entire recruitment process is TERO compliant and designed to hire qualified employees capable of providing excellent services for the Tribal membership. In addition, all recruitment background checks are performed to ensure the safe-

ty of Tribal employees, the Tribal membership, our children, and the public.

We hope this article provides some insight on Permanent Fund employment and the functions and responsibilities of the HR Department. Please know the HR Department, Tribal Council, and the rest of the Tribal administration understand the importance of Southern Ute Tribal Member and Native American employment in the Permanent Fund. All of us will continue to work together and make every attempt to facilitate Southern Ute Tribal Member and Native American employment whenever possible. While it can be difficult to please everyone, we will make every attempt to address any employment issues that exist. If you have any employment issues or concerns, please feel free to contact:

- **Brian Sheffield**
HR Director:
970-563-0100 ext. 2422
- **Lindsay Box**,
Executive Officer:
970-563-0100 ext. 2314
- **Hilda Burch**,
TERO Division Head:
970-563-0100 ext. 2291

Permanent Fund	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tribal Members	180	181	176	179	178	192	186	171	172	171	174	171
Local Native Americans	156	158	155	161	159	162	159	148	153	157	158	157
NA - spouse of a Tribal Member	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	9	9	9	8
Non-Native	319	323	325	326	329	329	327	317	324	322	323	324
TOTAL	662	669	663	673	673	690	679	644	658	659	664	660
% TERO Preference	52%	52%	51%	52%	51%	52%	52%	51%	51%	51%	51%	51%
% No TERO Preference	48%	48%	49%	48%	49%	48%	48%	49%	49%	49%	49%	49%

JOIN US FOR BIG GAME DAY EVENTS AT SKY UTE CASINO RESORT! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9



PLAY TOUCHDOWN FOR LOOT!
4PM - 8PM

Join the excitement during the big game for your chance to win \$59 Sky Ute Loot instantly! Starting at 4PM, Ace's Club members playing slots are eligible for random hot seat drawings every 30 minutes! See Ace's Club for details.

One win per person daily. Prizes are non-transferable. Sky Ute Casino Resort reserves the right to modify or cancel promotions at any time without notice. Must be 21 or older to enter the casino. Rules apply.

GAME DAY FUN AT 49 LOUNGE!
4PM - 10:30PM

Come watch the Big Game on the big screen with a featured state-of-the-art video wall, plus 10 additional screens, you won't miss a minute of the action. We'll have drawings for fun door prizes.

Must be 21 or over to be in the 49 Lounge. Door prize drawings are subject to change and may be cancelled by management without notice. Three alcoholic beverages in 24-hour period will be in effect.

SCORE BIG AT ROLLING THUNDER GRILL!
DRAWINGS START AT 4PM | GAME STARTS AT 4:30PM

Come watch the Big Game with the whole family! Rolling Thunder Grill features a large screen on the Rolling Thunder stage, so you won't miss a minute of the action. We'll have drawings for fun game day prizes. All ages are welcome!

Door prize drawings are subject to change and may be cancelled by management without notice. Three alcoholic beverages in 24-hour period will be in effect. See Ace's Club for full event details.



14324 Hwy 172 North Ignacio, CO 81137
SkyUteCasino.com



Snowdown lifts spirits with Light Parade



Fidel and Rhiannon Velasquez stand with their family ahead of the light parade on Friday night. Velasquez’s float, representing Drop Tine Trucking and Excavation out of Ignacio, Colo., pulled a ‘67 Pontiac GTO on a flatbed trailer, adorned with colorful balloons and lights.



Real life Mario Karts racers – such as Donkey Kong – gathered near the gaslight theater ahead of the Snowdown light parade.



Life size Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robots were featured by this year’s MakerLab team float, same folks that took home the prize in last year’s Snowdown parade.



Inflatable frogs could be seen cruising the parade route on Friday evening. This year’s Snowdown theme – The Board Game Edition: It’s Your Move brought out some unexpected costume ideas.

La Plata County comes together each winter for the time-honored tradition of Snowdown, filling the streets, taverns, and restaurants of Durango with a weeklong slate of activities, culminating with the Friday night light parade along Main Street. This year’s Snowdown theme – The Board Game Edition: It’s Your Move brought out the best of the community, with a variety of board game themed costumes and floats.

Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum



Hungry, Hungry Hippos bring a smile to their team’s float, made from paper mâché, these larger-than-life hippos had articulating mouths ready to swallow volleyball sized marbles.

Todd retires from J&R



photos courtesy Marge Barry

DeWayne Todd receives a large plaque, Wednesday, Jan. 29, recognizing his years of service as the Director of Southern Ute Detention. Todd was hired in 2015 as a Tribal Ranger under Justice & Regulatory. In 2020 he was temporarily reassigned as the acting Detention Division Head, formally accepting the position in 2021. In 2024 DeWayne was temporarily reassigned as the acting Director of Justice & Regulatory, until that position was filled.

DeWayne Todd receives a Pendelton blanket for his years of dedicated service to the Tribe, standing together with Executive Officer, Lindsay Box and Justice & Regulatory Director, Elliott Salazar, following his retirement party on Wednesday, Jan. 29.



STAY TUNED TO OUR

Radio TALK SHOW

FEEDING THE SPIRIT EVERY TUESDAY

12:00PM - 1:00PM

ON 91.3 FM KSUT TRIBAL RADIO

Hosted by

MARVINA OLGUIN

PEER RECOVERY COACH

PRESTON BARRY

PEER RECOVERY COACH

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

MENTAL HEALTH

RECOVERY AND SOBRIETY

KSUT TRIBAL RADIO

TUNE IN

91.3 FM IGNACIO, COLORADO; SOUTHERN UTE; JICARILLA APACHE LANDS

100.9 FM TOWAOC, COLORADO; UTE MOUNTAIN UTE; NAVAJO TRIBAL LANDS

89.7 FM FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO; NAVAJO TRIBAL LANDS

LISTEN LIVE @ TRIBALRADIO.ORG

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



MPF hosts Honor Our Youth Powwow



Tribal Council member Marty Pinnecoose does the prayer during the evening Grand Entry for the MPF Youth Powwow on Saturday, Jan. 25



The afternoon session of the powwow at the Multi-Purpose Facility finished off with a series of round dance sessions before the dinner break on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Photos by Krista Richards
The Southern Ute Drum




Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz, introduces herself along with fellow royalty from across the Four Corners during the MPF Youth Powwow in Ignacio, Colo.


The Multi-Purpose Facility started the year off with the January Youth Powwow held in Ignacio, Saturday, Jan. 25. Headstaff for the afternoon session included Mesklwvw and Micco Wesley, Teddy Wing, Henry Whiteskunk II, Jayme Hammitt and the Southern Ute Veterans Association helping the youth bring in the flags for the powwow. Throughout the afternoon and evening spectators and dancers enjoyed round dances, inter-tribals, numerous specials and the Grand Entries.




Rae Steven Scott and his southern drum group sings during the Grand Entry for the MPF Honor Our Youth Powwow.



Save the Date
General Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2025
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center
Details on attendance options and the agenda are forthcoming.
970.563.2319 + P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137 + www.southernute-nsn.gov





Tribal Office Closure

In observance of President's Day, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025.

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

★
★

Save the Date!

La Plata + San Juan Futures Fair

Tues Feb. 11, 2025



at the
La Plata County Fairgrounds

An expo of regional employers, organizations, and higher education partners - giving middle and high school students the opportunity to interact with their community, learn about local resources, explore career pathways, and plan for their futures.

★
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Join Us!



Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Zane Pontine controls Dolores' River Wickstrom during 157-pound action Saturday, Jan. 25, at IHS' 2025 Butch Melton Memorial Invitational. Pontine would defeat Wickstrom 15-0 to polish off a first-place 5-0 run through the division.

BOCATS WRESTLING

Bobcats save seventh at Melton meet

Pontine, deKay titlists at home tourney

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Barely 15 seconds apart, Ignacio's final two wrestlers finished their final matches Saturday evening, Jan. 25, at the team's own 2025 Butch Melton Memorial Invitational.

Both came out victorious, clinching IHS' only individual titles at the fast-moving meet.

Locking up a 5-0 day at 157 pounds, junior Zane Pontine methodically pinned his first four foes inside IHS Gymnasium before defeating Dolores' River Wickstrom by 15-0 technical fall. On the adjacent mat at 165, fellow junior Lincoln deKay also sought to go 5-for-5 and did so via 12-2 major decision over Kirtland (N.M.) Central's Nathan Tom.

"Today he got to watch me," joked deKay, whose win increased the Bobcats' points total up to 67 – which ultimately held up to earn seventh place out of 17 teams. "It's kind of sad sometimes because we wrestle at the same time every tournament; I don't ever get to watch him, unless I finish quickly and then I can catch the end of some of his matches. But it's always fun."

"I think that was awesome," observed senior Kendrick Nossaman, of his teammates' unplanned timing. "They're both practice partners, they push each other every day and I think they're going to be really good going into regionals and State."

"We're just working towards regionals right now and I'm working as hard as I can with my wrestling partner," Pontine said, referring to deKay (named the Melton's Upper Weight Outstanding Wrestler). "And I...think I'm pretty ready; just need to get a little bit better conditioning and a little bit better technique and I'm there."

Finishing 3-2 on the day, Joshua Kerrigan pinned three opponents – including final foe David Prettyboy of Bloomfield, N.M., 1:26 into the second period – and placed fifth at 126 pounds. Dillon Brann went 1-4 and ended up eighth at 138 after a 13-1 major-decision loss to Dove Creek's Chad Kline, but Norman Hackett (144) and Cameron Bell (132) each went 0-3 and did not place in their respective divisions.

Unfortunately for Ignacio – which had hosted and placed fifth at the 2A San Juan Basin League Championships just two nights

before – neither Nossaman (left knee) nor junior Aven Bourriague (upper left chest/rib) could compete due to injury.

Including Lower Weight Outstanding Wrestler Ethan Hice (4-0, first at 132), Cedaredge piled up 314.5 points and easily captured first place, while SJBLers Mancos snatched second away from Bayfield, 108.5 to 108. KCHS (102.5) and Bloomfield (87) filled out the standings' top five, and SJBL champion Dolores (70) came in sixth.

Beginning February taking a weekend off from competing, IHS' boys will next host the 2A-Region II Championships. First-day action, Friday, Feb. 7, is set to begin at 4 p.m. and, after concluding later that night, resume the next morning at 9:30 a.m.

Cedaredge, obviously, will be a heavy favorite to earn the event's team title, but will definitely be pushed by teams such as Meeker and Monte Vista. In addition to Ignacio, all SJBL teams will be attending, as will Western Slope schools Olathe, Hayden, Oak Creek Soroco and Rangely. Also making the trip will be Kremmling West Grand,

Bobcats save page 14



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez, left, steals the ball away from Montezuma-Cortez's Trey Hall during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Tuesday, Jan. 28 inside IHS Gymnasium. The Bobcats lost 77-61 to the visiting Panthers, but bounced back with road wins at Alamosa (1/31) and Monte Vista (2/1). In the latter victory, Valdez racked up a game-high 26 points.

BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

Bobcats score a sweet SLV sweep

IHS boys win at Alamosa, Monte Vista

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Breaking at last into the win column in 3A/4A Intermountain play, Ignacio's boys did so in a big way.

Traveling out to the San Luis Valley, the Bobcats ended one month and began another defeating 4A Alamosa – which ended IHS' uncharacteristic four-game losing streak – on Friday, Jan. 31, and then 3A Monte Vista on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Improving to 9-8 overall and 2-4 IML via the two victories away, 3A Ignacio defeated AHS 49-43 and MVHS 63-48 – dropping the Pirates to 8-6, 1-4 prior to their own 2/4 trip to Alamosa, which crashed to 2-14

overall (0-5 IML) with a 51-19 home loss to non-league 4A Lamar (12-2 overall) the day after falling prey to the 'Cats.

Not letting a good night's sleep slow them down after winning at AHS, Trae Seibel's 'Cats raced out to an 18-8 lead during the first eight regulation minutes at MVHS. Taking advantage of Pirate standout junior Azariah Hurtado's absence, the 'Cats then grew their advantage slightly to 29-17 at half-time, then outgunned the Pirates 23-14 during the third quarter to carry a 52-31 advantage into the fourth.

Eight players scored for Ignacio in the victory, and junior Ambrose Valdez paced both crews with his

game-high 26 points. Nine came via three three-pointers, and nine from the free-throw line where he finished 9-of-15. Sophomore Cayson Burcham drilled two threes and finished with 12 points, and seniors Charley Pargin and Lincoln Gillespie ended up with six points apiece. Junior Trace Crane chipped in five, D.J. Hendren and Sonny Flores each scored three and Angelo Frost two.

Booking nine points during the fourth quarter, senior Alex Marquez totaled 12 for Monte Vista, while junior Kobe Jiron (who fouled out), senior Kaden Mellott and senior Ismael Medina each scored seven.

Bobcats score page 14

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady 'Cats struggle at Alamosa and Monte

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Senior DaLaney Wesner scored eight points Saturday afternoon, Feb. 1, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Lady Bobcats from losing 41-20 at Monte Vista.

Senior Marissa Olguin and junior Alyssa Atencio each registered four points, but both were blanked after the first quarter. Which actually went well for Ignacio; the 3A Lady 'Cats battled 3A MVHS to a 14-14 draw through eight minutes, only to then manage just six points during the following 24 in slipping to 6-10 overall and 2-4 in 3A/4A Intermountain League action.

Senior Victoria Brown and junior Juliann Avila each recorded one basket in the loss, which didn't really appear the likely outcome until the third quarter; neither side had mustered much during the second – the Lady Pirates went into halftime leading 16-14 – but Monte Vista then took the third by a 10-4 margin, pressuring the visitors to produce in the first half.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Passing Bayfield's Natalie Osendorf (rear), Ignacio's Marissa Olguin drives in from the three-point line during 3A/4A Intermountain League action, Thursday, Jan. 23 inside BHS Gymnasium. The Lady Bobcats defeated Bayfield 47-20 but then lost three of their next four—including games at Alamosa (1/31) and Monte Vista (2/1). Olguin totaled 15 points during that weekend road trip.

Lady 'Cats page 14

SUNUTE & FLC PRESENTS

FREE ADMISSION

IGNACIO RESIDENTS

VS

THURSDAY FEB 13TH

WHALEN GYMNASIUM
1000 RIM DRIVE, DURANGO, CO

START 5.30PM

FREE ADMISSION AND PIZZA FOR IGNACIO RESIDENTS!
SHOW ID UPON ENTRY

TICKETS ARE FREE!!

Celebration of Women's and Girls Youth Hockey

Celebrate the Durango Betties 20th anniversary and help raise funds to grow the girls youth program. The Betties will be facing off against DAYHA's Girls U19 team in an epic Valentine's Day game. \$10 entry and kids under 12 get in for free. Beer/concessions and will be available. Interested in being a corporate sponsor? Email admin@durangohockey.org. Want to donate to support youth girls hockey? Donate at durangohockey.org/donate and use the comment "girls".



CUNDIFF JOINS GREATS • FROM PAGE 1



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Former Ignacio Wrestling coach Rocky Cundiff, who also coached track-and-field plus volleyball at IHS, and served as its athletic director, accepts congratulations Saturday afternoon, Jan. 25, on his induction into IHS' Coaches Hall of Fame from former Bobcat State Champion – and current Bayfield assistant coach – Jacob Appenzeller. The ceremony took place before the 2025 Butch Melton Memorial Invitational's final round.

wrestled with, coached with ... that helped me become who I was as a coach. But you can't put it all in words."

Ross Melton, a 2004 IHS grad and twice a State Championships sixth-place wrestler, tried to.

Listing many of Cundiff's accomplishments, he spoke of Cundiff's 13-year run as IHS Track & Field's head coach – noting that Cundiff and previous inductees Juvie Jones (2008) and Doug Little (2019) had coached the majority of the school's state champions/placers. There was recognition of a five-season stretch as IHS Volleyball assistant coach, and two seasons as the skipper, and of course Cundiff's dozen seasons as assistant to IHS Wrestling boss Chris deKay.

Melton mentioned that the duo were responsible for winning more than 115 duals, coached 27 State placers and four State champs – more State placers than any individual coach or pair before them – and reminded spectators that Cundiff had been named the Colorado High School Coaches Association's (all-sport) Assistant Coach-of-the-Year in 2008.

"Rocky's coaching style was to train mental toughness, preparedness," Melton said during his speech. "Pushes athletes beyond



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Former Ignacio Wrestling coach Rocky Cundiff stands with, from left, son Naton, wife Shudy and daughter Hannah after being inducted Saturday afternoon, Jan. 25, into IHS' Coaches Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place before the 2025 Butch Melton Memorial Invitational's final round.

their limits they ever thought they could attain. He does this while taking no credit for himself and insists that ... young athletes have merely discovered existing potential within themselves."

"If you were an athlete of Rocky's," he added, speaking not from his prepared notes, "one of the best compliments you could ever receive would be that you were dumb and stupid. It meant that you worked hard, that you had self-discipline, and that you did the right thing – even though it was the hard thing or there was no reward for it."

"I'd like to thank my family for putting up with me being gone a lot," Cundiff

said, following the unveiling. "And I'm being put in because of the names of the State champions, State placers – and I want you to know that I really appreciate all those athletes ... that are honored and, also, the athletes that aren't. And right now, I just want to see some great wrestling!"

"The kids that I'd coached deserve (this) kind of thing," he said afterwards, while tipping the proverbial hat to his own coaching influences – particularly, as far as wrestling goes, including Aztec, N.M. and Bayfield icon Herb Stinson. "And, like, just to have these people here was wonderful to see. That honor was really mine."

BOBCATS SAVE SEVENTH • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Joshua Kerrigan is declared the winner after pinning Bloomfield, New Mexico's David Prettyboy in the 126-pound division's fifth-place bout Saturday, Jan. 25, at IHS' 2025 Butch Melton Memorial Invitational. Kerrigan went 3-2 at the event.

Bailey Platte Canyon and even Black Hawk-based Gilpin County.

LADY 'CATS TAKE EIGHTH

On the girls' side of the tournament, Ignacio tallied 35 points and placed eighth. Atop the standings was Bloomfield (193.5), with Gallup, N.M., scoring a second-place 113 and KCHS a third-place 106.

Leading the way for IHS was Krysten Neil, who went 3-1 with three pins at 135 pounds and placed second. At 235, Larissa Espinosa needed to wrestle just once, but lost by pin to Bloomfield's Caylee Miller and thus finished second. And at 100 pounds, Madison Egger ended up 2-2 and in fifth place after pinning Monte Vista's Elena Baumgardner. The Lady 'Cats will next

travel all the way east to La Junta for the Girls' 4A-Region I Championships, February 7-8. Expected to join them and the hosting Lady Tigers will be (in alphabetical order): Antonito, Calhan, County Line (Eads/Cheyenne Wells/McClave/Wiley), Del Norte, Dolores, Florence, Gilpin County, Lamar, Las Animas, Monte Vista, Pueblo Central, Trinidad, Walsenburg and Woodland Park.

San Juan Basin League Championships (1/23)

1. Dolores 67.5, 2. Dove Creek 60.5, 3. Mancos 54.5, 4. Norwood 52.5, **5. IGNACIO 49.5**, 6. Nucla 39.

SJBL Champions

106 – Traycer White, Mancos; 120 – Jackson McCabe, Nucla; 126 – Cael Beanland, Dove Creek; 132 – Teagan Larimore, Dove Creek; 138 – Jackson Dinsmore, Norwood; 144 – Owen Tackett, Norwood; 150 – Nathan Hill, Dolores; **157 – ZANE PONTINE, IGNACIO**; **165 – LINCOLN deKAY, IGNACIO**; 175 – Colton Kepley, Norwood; 190 – Jacob Martin, Mancos; 215 – Paxtin Caruso, Nucla.

LADY 'CATS STRUGGLE • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Alyssa Atencio jumps into the passing lane, preventing Bayfield's Kimball Anderson from dishing off to Sylvia Hesford (22) during 3A/4A Intermountain League action, Thursday, Jan. 23 inside BHS Gymnasium. The Lady Bobcats defeated Bayfield 47-20 but then lost three of their next four – including games at Alamosa (1/31) and Monte Vista (2/1). Atencio totaled nine points during that weekend road trip.

nal frame.

Making three three-pointers, MVHS junior guard Heyseenny Beltran finished with a game-high 17 points but was the only player in double figures. Senior Angeleigha Mora ended up with eight and senior Allesah Archuleta five.

Preparing to visit 4A Alamosa – which followed up its home win the previous evening over IHS by blasting non-league 4A Lamar 56-12 the next day – on the 4th by booking their third straight win, the Lady Pirates improved to 9-5 overall, 3-2 IML; AHS finished

the weekend standing 11-5, 3-2.

Hosting the Lady 'Cats Friday, Jan. 31, Alamosa outscored Ignacio 11-1 during the first quarter and charged into halftime leading 25-5 en route to a 46-26 victory.

Sophomore Audrina Knorr scored 15 points to pace the Mean Moose, and sole senior Morgan Ortega scored six (plus distributed eight assists). Junior Aubrey Rothermich logged five points (plus seven rebounds) and sophomore Arreli Felix another five as ten of AHS' 11 players received

varsity minutes contributed at least a point.

Kept in check throughout the first half, Olguin then broke free for three treys and all her 11 points. Atencio ended up with five points (four after intermission), while Wesner and Avila each contributed four and sophomore Maliyah Martinez two.

The Lady Bobcats will next see action Saturday, Feb. 8, at 4A Pagosa Springs (12-4, 6-0 IML as of press time), then host 3A Bayfield on the 13th and 3A Centauri on the 14th as league play intensifies.

BOBCATS SCORE A SWEEP • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's D.J. Hendren tries twisting his way out of a trap applied by Bayfield's Cooper Roderick (4) and Lincoln Williams (rear) during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Thursday, Jan. 23 inside BHS Gymnasium. The Bobcats lost 50-49 to the Wolverines, and then 77-61 at home to Montezuma-Cortez, but bounced back with road wins at Alamosa (1/31) and Monte Vista (2/1).

Making two fourth-quarter threes during MVHS' comeback bid, sophomore Connor Mellott finished with six points, as did senior Kaden Madrid. Senior Darrien Archuleta contributed three points as the Pirates –

who'd begun the New Year winning three straight – lost for the fourth time in five outings.

Statistics from the Bobcats' triumph at Alamosa had not been verified and reported by press time.

Ignacio will next see action on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 4A Pagosa Springs (4-12, 2-4 IML as of press time), then host 3A Bayfield on the 13th and 3A Centauri on the 14th as league play continues.

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OBITUARY



WATTS – Benda K. Watts was born January 22, 1957 in Cortez the daughter of Irene Hammond and Ben Pargin Watts Sr. She passed away on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at CommonSpirit Mercy Hospice House at the age of 68.

Surviving Benda is her son DeRoy Watts (Alma), Grand Daughter, Karma Watts of Ignacio, Colo.; by her siblings, Benjamin Watts (Trudy) of Farm Creek, Utah, Joyce Frost (Vernon) of Ignacio, Colo., and Jody Hulligan (Jonathan Nez) of Towaoc, Colo.; niece Bendorra Wall (Arvin), Towaoc, Colo.; Nephew Adrian Laner Sr (Julie), of Towaoc, Colo.; Grandchildren, Sandora Watts, Man-nie Watts, Pharro Laner, and Adrian Laner Jr. and by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Benda was preceded in death by her parents; by her husband, Wayne Cuthair; by her sons, Delroy Johnson and Paul Dutchie III; and by her siblings, Benton Watts, Jack Watts, Joe Hulligan Jr., Jolanda Hulligan, and Sandra Watts.

Funeral services for Benda Kaye Watts were held at on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at the Southern Ute Memorial Chapel. Interment was Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 2 p.m. at Ouray Cemetery.



DICKSON – Carole May Dickson, age 84 of Aztec, Passed away at her home on Saturday February 1, 2025, with her husband and children by her side.

Carole was born on August 14, 1940, in Staten Island, New York to the late Robert John Podolak and Rosina “Rose” Vincenza Perricone. And had one sister Lore-

lei who preceded her in death. She was a renowned astrologer with a clientele worldwide till her passing.

Carole meet her husband Bob in 1982 and they stayed together for 40 plus years traveling all over the United States. While living in Durango, Colorado, Carole and Bob created a home where she loved the mountains, wild animals, rivers and her beloved cat Comet.

She was friends with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe writing an Astrology column in The Southern Ute Drum under “Star Wheels”.

She also was an avid reader, collector of stuff and loved a good joke.

Surviving are her husband Bob, daughter Cherie of North Carolina, son Shawn of Florida, daughters Sandi and Tammie of Idaho. Five Grandchildren and Ten Great Grandchildren.

Per her wishes, cremation will take place and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Services are entrusted to Farmington Funeral Home, Farmington, N.M.

In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

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

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
Case No.: 2024-0125-CV-PR
Effie Monte, Deceased

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **MARCH 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 3rd of February, 2025
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
Gerard Mario Rael, Deceased
Case No.: 2025-0006-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **FEBRUARY 24, 2025, at 10 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate

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

Dated this 15th of January, 2025
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Case No.: 24-CV-142
Wayne Wiebe and Cindy Wiebe, Plaintiffs, V. Esther Rima and Jeremy Rima, Defendants. THIS MATTER CAME BEFORE THE COURT for a hearing on January 13, 2025, in the above-captioned matter. The Court hereby FINDS AND ORDERS:

1. Plaintiffs Wayne-wiebe and Cindy Wiebe appeared in court January 13, 2025. Defendants Esther Rima and Jeremy Rima did not appear. However, Defendants had not yet been served with service of process.
2. Based on the statements made by Plaintiffs and Bailiff Tomas Vasquez regarding the attempts to serve made by the SUPD, the Court FINDS reasonable efforts have been made to serve Defendants, but personal service has not been possible.
3. Therefore, the Court hereby ORDERS Defendants Esther Rima and Jeremy Rima shall be served by publication pursuant to Southern Ute Indian Tribal Code (“SUITC”) §2-1-103(2)(d). Plaintiffs shall cause notice of the complaint and exhibits, with notice of the next court hearing, to appear in the Southern Ute Drum, a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the Defendant’s last known address for three (3) consecutive publications, and shall return proof of such publication on or before the next hearing date.
4. This matter is set for hearing on MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Done and signed this 13th day of January, 2025
By the Court: Paul W. Whistler, Tribal Court Judge

NEW EMPLOYEES



Angelo C. Valdez
Job Title: Lands Technician Trainee
Description of job duties: Assist Tribal members, the public and land and resources manager with land-related questions. Issuing crossing permits and assisting in processing right of way, service line agreements, leases and land assignments.
Hobbies: Camping, Mountain Biking, Fishing, Coaching my daughter, attending Native Ceremonies.
Family: My wife Pam, Daughters Selena and Saniyya, my son Deion.
Tribe: Southern Ute Tribe
Additional Comments: I would like to thank the Lands Division and the So. Ute Tribe for the opportunity to work in this role as a Land Tech.

New Enrollee: Raiden Cloud



Krista Richards/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Tribal Council welcomes a new Southern Ute Tribal enrollee, Raiden Cloud. Young Cloud is pictured with his mom, Gabrielle Velasquez and family during the Tribal Council Regular Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28 in the Southern Ute Tribal Council Chambers.



SOUTHERN UTE ROYALTY COMMITTEE

2024-2025 Southern Ute Royalty

Miss Southern Ute	Maleina Carel
Jr. Miss Southern Ute	Leandra Litz
Little Miss Southern Ute	Malia White Thunder
Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate	Olyvia Watts
Southern Ute Brave	Theoden Greany

We are honored to represent the Southern Ute Tribe at our cultural and community events, locally and throughout the region. To ensure we receive requests efficiently and can respond in a timely manner, we have a digital *Southern Ute Royalty Request Form* that can be found on the Southern Ute Royalty Committee website, or you can contact the Royalty Committee Secretary, Alyssa Nez, at suroyalty@southernute-nsn.gov. The committee recommends all organizations, and/or departments, submit the form at least two weeks in advance of your event to allow time for review and scheduling.

We look forward to visiting with everyone at our Tribal & community events!

Toghoyaqh,
Southern Ute Royalty & Southern Ute Royalty Committee

Drum
Deadline

Next issue:
Feb. 21

EARLY
Deadline:
Feb. 14

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



THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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



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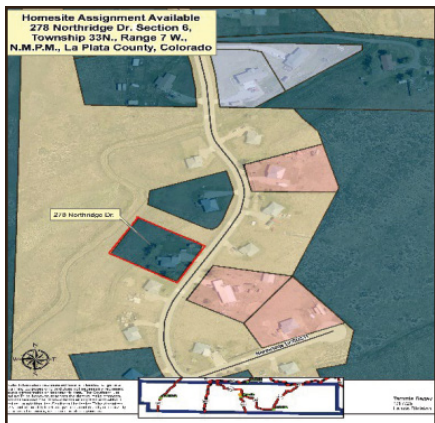
Estate Planning 101
Monday, February 10 at 5:30 pm

Hosted by Karina Guerrero of Foundational Wealth Partners at the Ignacio Community Library
470 Goddard Ave. Ignacio, CO
(970)563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org



45-day Notice of Availability 278 Northridge Dr., Ignacio, CO, SUIR

Applications are now open for Tribal Land Assignments for Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members who are eligible and currently do not have a homesite assignment.
SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-104(1)(c) availability of the land.
29-2-104(3) If, after review by the department the land is determined to be available for assignment, the department shall publish and post notice of availability.



Posting Date:
February 7, 2025

Expiration Date:
March 24, 2025

To apply for a Land Assignment or Lease Request, eligible Tribal member applicants must submit an Application for Assignment of Tribal Lands and Homesite Development Plan along with a drawing card containing their name, address, and contact information (including phone number and email). The Lands Division will review the submitted applications, homesite development plans, and drawing cards to ensure only eligible Tribal members' names are placed in the drawingⁱ.

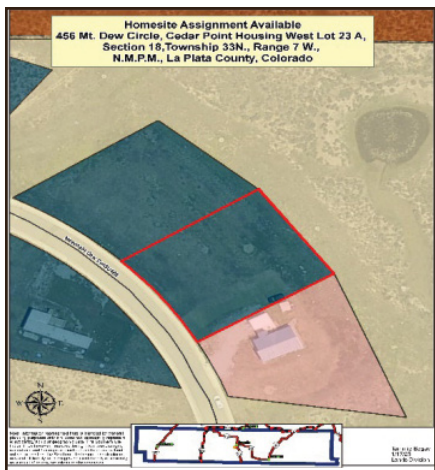
Once the 45-day Notice of Availability ends, a drawing date will be scheduled. Two names will be chosen – one Primary Name and one Secondary Name. The Secondary Name will act as a backup in the event the Primary Tribal member declines the land at any point in time after the drawing. The drawing for the land will provide all eligible applicants with an equal opportunity to apply and be selected. The selection process will not be determined by Tribal staff or Tribal Council but rather through a randomized process known as the “Lottery Drawing.” The chosen applicant will be assigned to develop and occupy the land. The selectee's documents formalizing the assignment or lease (whichever is applicable) will be presented to the Tribal Council to approve the resolution granting the assignment or lease. The selectee will have two years to develop the lot, according to the Homesite Development Planⁱⁱⁱ.

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

i SUITC – Title 29-2-102(1), Any individual tribal member 18 years of age or older...
ii SUITC – Title 29-2-102(4), A Tribal member may hold only one assignment for use as a homesite at a time...
iii SUITC – Title 29-3-105(1), Improvements that are described in an approved assignment application, homesite development plan...can be made without additional department consent. (2) Improvements shall be constructed in accordance with generally accepted professional standards.

45-day Notice of Availability 456 Mt. Dew Circle, Ignacio, CO, SUIR

Applications are now open for Tribal Land Assignments for Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members who are eligible and currently do not have a homesite assignment.
SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-104(1)(c) availability of the land. 29-2-104(3) If, after review by the department the land is determined to be available for assignment, the department shall publish and post notice of availability.



Posting Date:
February 7, 2025

Expiration Date:
March 24, 2025

To apply for a Land Assignment or Lease Request, eligible Tribal member applicants must submit an Application for Assignment of Tribal Lands and Homesite Development Plan along with a drawing card containing their name, address, and contact information (including phone number and email). The Lands Division will review the submitted applications, homesite development plans, and drawing cards to ensure only eligible Tribal members' names are placed in the drawingⁱ.

Once the 45-day Notice of Availability ends, a drawing date will be scheduled. Two names will be chosen – one Primary Name and one Secondary Name. The Secondary Name will act as a backup in the event the Primary Tribal member declines the land at any point in time after the drawing. The drawing for the land will provide all eligible applicants with an equal opportunity to apply and be selected. The selection process will not be determined by Tribal staff or Tribal Council but rather through a randomized process known as the “Lottery Drawing.” The chosen applicant will be assigned to develop and occupy the land. The selectee's documents formalizing the assignment or lease (whichever is applicable) will be presented to the Tribal Council to approve the resolution granting the assignment or lease. The selectee will have two years to develop the lot, according to the Homesite Development Planⁱⁱⁱ.

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


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TRIBAL WILLS CLINIC • MARCH 2025


NEAR FARMINGTON, N.M.
Nenahnezad Chapter House • March 24-28, 2025
To make appointment call: John Roach, 505-716-6788

REQUEST FOR BID Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority Shoshone Apartments Painting & Repair Project

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority is requesting bids for Shoshone Apartments Painting & Repair project for 3 - 2 story apartments buildings on the Southern Ute Reservation. The bid should include the cost of labor and materials in completing this project. A project specification packet can be obtained at the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority office at 760 Shoshone Ave, Ignacio CO. Monday – Friday. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may also request a Bid Packet by emailing rtorres@suiha.org. A mandatory site walk through is required. You may reach Rebecca at (970) 442-6353 to schedule a walk through before February 21. Bid deadline February 24 @ 12 p.m. Bids must be sealed and labeled. Bid opening is February 24 @ 3 p.m. All bids must adhere to the Southern Ute Indian TERO Ordinance and the Federal Indian Preference Statutes. 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Davis-Bacon Wage Rate for LA Plata County are in effect. Uniform Builders Code to be followed. Tribal Crossing Permits must be obtained. Bidders who are not responsive and responsible will be rejected.



ATTENTION: SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBAL MEMBERS. DID YOU GET FIBER FROM FTI OR XMISSION? DO YOU WANT YOUR ROUTER PAID FOR BY THE SOUTHERN UTE DIGITAL EQUITY PROGRAM (SUDEP)?




SUDEPs Limitations:

- SUDEP will not pay late fees on your monthly internet bill.
- SUDEP will not pay your disconnection fees.
- SUITMs are responsible for payment of full internet bill amount.
- SUDEP employees can not go into your residence to help with a router or any other wireless devices.
- SUDEP can not handle any hook up or fiber issues.
- Please contact Bonfire Fiber or your internet provider directly for questions or concerns.

Contact SUDEP at 970-563-5555 to receive forms or if you have questions.

- Fill out, sign and return forms to SUDEP:
 - Broadband Router Voucher Request Form
 - Broadband Router Release Form
- SUDEP can NOT pay for the router unless both forms are returned completed and signed.
- SUDEP will send the approved voucher to (FTI or XMission). The internet providers will send the invoice directly to SUDEP.
- SUDEP will send payment for the cost of the router only to the internet provider.



The Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP) would like to inform the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members (SUITMs) and clarify programs that are available to you. Please use the outline below to verify that you are utilizing the program and the technological opportunities.

1) Laptop Program Defined - SUDEP received a new shipment of Dell Laptops January 2025

- Laptops are free to all SUITM's.
- One laptop per SUITM no exceptions.
- Fill out questionnaire online: www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP
- If you're filling a questionnaire out for a minor (under 18) put the grade in comments section. Under 18 years of age will receive a 2-1 Chromebook.
- SUDEP will call when your laptop is ready for pick up. Prompt pickup is requested.
- Shipping is available for the SUITMs that live out of the area. SUDEP will contact you for shipping.

2) \$75 Internet Reimbursement Program Defined - program has been extended for 6 months (June 2025)

- Internet program is available to all SUITM's (one voucher per service address only.)
- Steps:
 - Fill out internet voucher request. Form is available by contacting SUDEP.
 - Send a copy of your detailed internet bill with service address and Southern Ute Tribal Members name on it.
 - Send both items to: sudepservice@southernute.com.
 - SUDEP will pay the internet provider directly after the completed internet voucher and internet bill have been verified and approved.
 - It may take up to two billing cycles for the \$75 credit to appear on your internet bill.

3) Router Program Defined

- Must connect with the local fiber through Bonfire Fiber (FTI or X Mission). To sign up visit: <https://bonfirefiber.net> - enter your physical address and confirm.
- Decide which speed of internet you are purchasing monthly. Click "communities" to learn about each Internet provider's services offered (FTI or XMission).
- SUDEP will reimburse the internet provider (FTI or X Mission) for the router directly.
- Once you have signed up with bonfirefiber.net
 - Fill out and sign "Router Voucher Request" & "Router Agreement" Form - contact SUDEP for forms.
 - Bonfire will contact you to schedule the fiber hook up to your house when they are in your area.
- Approved voucher will be sent to FTI or XMission.

4) MS 365 E3 Desktop Program Defined

- SUDEP received 100 MS 365 Desktop licenses for SUITMs (18+).
- Contact SUDEP to request the license and guidance to install the software on your laptop. These licenses are limited and available until gone.




5) Norton LifeLock Program Defined - Deadline to enroll for Norton LifeLock is March 31, 2025

- <http://southernute.norton-benefits.com>
- SUDEP will pay 3 years of LifeLock must enroll by deadline.

6) Technical & Laptop Support Defined

- SUDEP is available for laptop support & troubleshooting, software updates, training, education, and technical support.

Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP)
(970) 563-5555
sudepservice@southernute.com



Enrollment Deadline:

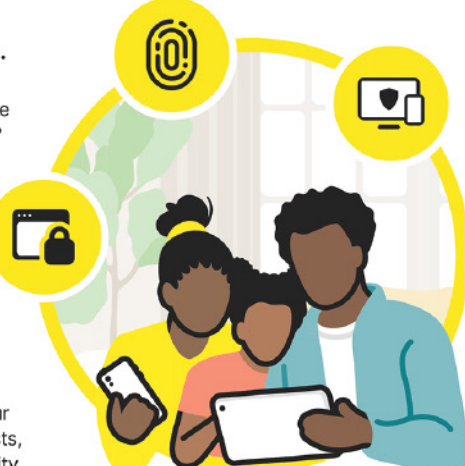
Southern Ute Tribal Members: you have until March 31, 2025 to sign up for Norton LifeLock. This is a 3 year offer paid for by SUDEP.
Contact SUDEP or click "Enroll Now" below to sign up for LifeLock.
970-563-5555


Are you worried about the health of your digital life?

\$ We help protect your personal information and finances.
Your identity is valuable, regardless of what you own or how much money you make. We help protect your finances by monitoring your personal information for possible identity theft and financial fraud.


🛡️ We provide protection when you connect online.
Everybody is scrolling. How do you know if the ad you see online could take you to a harmful site? We block thousands of digital threats every minute - even before they can infect your computers, phones, and tablets.

⚙️ We're here to help when you need it.
If your identity got stolen, would you know who to call? Or where to turn for support? Our U.S.-based Restoration Specialists, will personally handle your identity theft case until it's resolved.





Has your personal info been exposed in a data breach?
Try our free [Threat Detector](#) tool to uncover potential threats to your identity.



Enroll Now! <http://southernute.norton-benefits.com>



FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Early Cut-Off for Minors Birthday Distributions

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

Distribution date	Request cut-off date
Friday, March 28	NOON Friday, March 21
Friday, April 25	NOON, Friday, April 18
Wednesday, July 3	NOON, Friday, June 27
Friday, Sept. 26	NOON, Friday, Sept. 19
Friday, Nov. 14	NOON, Friday, Nov. 7
Wednesday, Nov. 26	NOON, Thursday, Nov. 20
Wednesday, Dec. 24	NOON, Friday, Dec. 19
Wednesday, Dec. 31	NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 24

***Unless listed the cutoff for a Friday Minors distribution is 5 p.m. on Tuesday.*

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies

WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD – YOUTH

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

WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD – YOUTH ALTERNATE

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

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

GAMING COMMISSION

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

KSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The KSUT Board of Directors is seeking a Southern Ute tribal member to serve on the Board of Directors. The tribal member does not have to live in the region and may attend board meetings remotely, as needed. As a board member you will serve a three-year term, attend monthly meetings, and perform with decision-making in the best long-term interests of KSUT and the community of listeners, and other responsibilities of serving on the board of directors. The KSUT Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 P.M. at KSUT, 15150 Colo. Highway 172 in Ignacio. Meetings are open to the public, unless prior notice is given to allow members to conduct confidential station business. If you are a Southern Ute tribal member and are interested in serving on the KSUT Board of Directors, submit a letter of interest to KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham. Letters can be emailed to tami@ksut.org or mailed to PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137. Seat is open until filled. More information on the KSUT Board of Directors, including a current board list and recent board minutes can be found at: <https://www.ksut.org/ksut-board-of-director>

TERO COMMISSION

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

ELECTION BOARD

The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking one (1) Full Time and one (1) Alternate Board Members. The positions will be open until filled. Qualifications: 11-2-102, (1) & (3): Must be a Southern Ute Indian Tribal Registered Voter. Must reside within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Shall not have been convicted of a felony and shall not have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or fraud within five years immediately preceding appointment to the Election Board. The Election Board is a paid committee: IRS Guidelines and a Criminal Background Check are necessary. Southern Ute Employee benefits are offered, and you will be considered an Official of the Southern Ute Tribe. Please submit your letter of Intent to: Election Board P.O. Box 709 Ignacio, CO 81137. Physical location: 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO. Contact the Election Board at 970-563-2305/2729/2730/2303 or via email: election@southernute-nsn.gov.

Multi-Purpose Facility
Quilting & Sewing Class



Tuesday & Wednesday
February 11 & 12, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Leprechaun Table Runner

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



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



Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 2/01/25



FEBRUARY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



TRANSFER STATION
2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

New 2025 Trash Permits are ready—Pick up at Office or Ramp

FEB 17TH PRESIDENT’S DAY — CLOSED

MAY 26TH MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED

JUNE 19TH/20TH JUNETEENTH — CLOSED

JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 1ST LABOR DAY — CLOSED

OCT 13TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY — CLOSED

NOV 10TH/11TH VETERAN’S DAY — CLOSED

NOV 27TH THANKSGIVING DAY — CLOSED

DEC 10TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED

DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

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

TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER/ TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Be aware of FREEZING TEMPERATURES. Protect your water lines. Tip: Allow indoor faucets a slow drip to avoid frozen pipes.
- Water Fill Station Users: Pre-Pay features coming soon. Stay tuned or check website for updates at <https://www.suitutil.com>
- During inclement weather, Water Haul deliveries may be delayed and Transfer Station may be closed. Always be cautious on the Ramp, it may be slippery.
- Some delays in mail are possible due to postal service routes, please do not overlook your billing statements. Call office if you have questions.



OFFICE HOURS

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

Reach a staff member by phone at
(970) 563-8500

Utilities Division Manager, Julian Baker
AP/AR Manager, Wahleah Frost

Monthly Shut-Off Day is the first
Wednesday of each month.

Feb. 5th / March 5th / April 2nd
Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments
before 10am on Shut-off Day

NEW UTILITIES DIVISION MANAGER!

Congratulations,
Julian Baker!

"Jube" was promoted to
the Utilities Manager in
January 2025.



PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at: www.suitutil.com
Choose "Pay My Bill" tab
- Utilities Drive-Up Window
- Utilities Drop Box at Office
- Wells Fargo Drive-Thru (Ignacio Branch)
- Automatic deductions at Tribal Distribution
- Mail payment made payable to "Southern Ute Utilities Division"

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

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

SOCOCAA BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

If you're passionate about making a difference in the community, SoCoCAA is currently seeking Board Members for their Board of Directors. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with valuable programs that support our community. The Board meets every other month, making it a manageable commitment. For more information about our organization and the programs we offer, please visit our website at www.sococaa.org. If you're interested in applying, please reach out to Nita Emerson at 970-563-4517 or request an application by emailing hr@sococaa.org. Join us in making a positive impact in Southern Colorado!



Committee of Elders

Tribal Council has reestablished the Committee of Elders and seeks Letters of Interest from eligible Southern Ute Tribal Elders to fill two (2) remaining seats of the seven-member board and serve on the Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to promote a continuing and growing heritage of language and traditional way of life through collaboration with the Cultural Preservation Department to maintain the Southern Ute language, heritage, and traditions of the Southern Ute people and to convey knowledge and experience. The Committee of Elders will act in a volunteer advisory capacity that does not intervene or interfere in the administration of the Tribal organization. The Committee comprised of seven (7) members and there are currently two (2) vacant seats.

Qualifications:

- Any enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member who is 55 years of age or older is eligible to serve, whether living on or off the Reservation.
- An understanding of the Tribe's language and culture is preferred, but not required.
- If selected and appointed, members should attend all committee meetings and special meetings as scheduled and adhere to the Tribe's approved Code of Conduct and Ethics Code.
- Appointments will last 1-3 years.

Please submit your Letter of Intent:

- Email: swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov.
- In-person with the Tribal Council Affairs Receptionist located in the Leonard C. Burch Building: 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO.
- Mail to Tribal Council Affairs, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137.

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

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

Letters of Intent will be accepted until the two (2) seats are filled.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2319 or Council Member Marjorie Barry at 970-563-2304



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file.

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

Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Human Resources • P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137

Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424 • Fax: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

Administrative Assistant II

Closes 2/18/25 – Under general supervision of the Construction Services Division Head, provides accounting and secretarial support to Southern Ute Tribe Construction Services Division; performing basic accounting and clerical duties. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

Custodian

Closes 2/10/25 – Daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

Detention Division Head

Closes 2/11/25 – Under general supervision of the Director of Justice and Regulatory, plans, organizes, directs, and reviews the administrative activities of the Southern Ute Detention Program and Facility. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

Senior Probation Officer

Closes 2/7/25 – Under direct supervision of Chief Probation/Wellness Coordinator & Tribal Court Administrator represents the Tribal Court in a positive and professional manner in the provision of probation counseling to Tribal Members and serves as Wellness Court Case Manager. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

Social Worker

Closes 2/11/25 – 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 E14; Pay starts at \$64,155/year.

Training & Development Coordinator

Closes 2/7/25 – Performing work and providing program oversight associated with employee training, education, career development, and succession planning for all tribal departments. Independently defines, creates, and implements strategies, through core resources, for the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs that facilitate professional development, leadership development, and continuous learning for all employees. Performs as a lead resource and coach to Directors, supervisors, and managers on matters of staff capability, bench strength assessment initiatives and organizational development. Provides internal consulting with managers on motivational strategies, and personal career development. Pay grade E15; Pay starts at \$70,570/year.

Administrative Assistant II

Open Until Filled – Will assist Boys & Girls Club management with administrative needs of the organization. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

Air Quality Scientist II – Permitting

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

Bus Driver (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Provides Bus driving services for the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

Chief Judge Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Controller

Open Until Filled – Integrity and timeliness of the financial information of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Prepares financial statements for distribution for internal and external reporting, including consolidated statements. Supervision and oversight of the accounting staff in the preparation of financial information. Responsible for the offices of General Ledger/Fixed Assets, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, and Contracts and Grants. Pay grade E19; the salary range begins at \$114,968/year.

Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Will be responsible for transportation of

inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N13; pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 5k DOE sign-on bonus.

Dispatcher

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; the Pay starts at \$21.89/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

Early Childhood Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicating effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

Elementary Teacher

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

Gaming Investigator I

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

Grants Financial Analyst

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

Group Exercise Instructor

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

HVAC Technician

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

Lake Capote Manager Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – The objective of this Apprenticeship Program is to provide the Southern Ute Tribal Member Apprentice with training, education, and hands-on experience in all phases of managing the Lake Capote Recreation Area (LCRA). The time frame for program completion is planned for 1 year, unless there are circumstances requiring an extension or reduction in the training period. Will start at 20% below the grade for Lake Capote Manager and receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases.

Legal Assistant I (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Southern Ute Public Defender, is responsible for routine office duties which also include the preparation of criminal, traffic, juvenile delinquency, and involuntary commitment cases for hearings, trials, and appeals. Pay grade N12; Pay starts at \$26/hour.

Lifeguard Full-time

Open Until Filled – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Director. Pay grade N5; pay rate starts at \$14.90/hour.

Museum Registrar and Archivist

Open Until Filled – Under the general supervision of the Southern Ute Museum Director, this position is responsible for the management, accuracy, and accessibility of the Museum's collections records and archives. Pay grade E14; pay starts at \$64,155/annually.

Patrol Officer I

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N13; the Pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

NOW HIRING



DISPATCHER Southern Ute Police Dept.

Position Summary: Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Starting Pay Range: N10; \$21.89/hour

SIGNING BONUS UP TO \$5,000

Excellent Benefits. Apply online at
<https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>



photo Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Human Resources

P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137

Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424

Hotline: 970-563-4777

<https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

Visit our website to apply at www.sococaa.org or call 970-563-4517. Jobs open until filled.

Ignacio Youth Services:

- Program Coordinator (Full-time) \$17.29/hr., DOE

SoCoCAA Central Administration:

- Executive/Development Director \$75,275 – \$82,638/yr., (Up to \$3,000 in relocation expenses available.)
- Program Developer (Part-time) \$32.97/hr.

SoCoCAA Board of Directors

If you're passionate about making a difference in the community, SoCoCAA is currently seek-

ing Board Members for their Board of Directors. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with valuable programs that support our community. The Board meets every other month, making it a manageable commitment. For more information about our organization and the programs we offer, please visit our website at www.sococaa.org. If you're interested in applying, please reach out to Nita Emerson at 970-563-4517 or request an application by emailing hr@sococaa.org. Join us in making a positive impact in Southern Colorado!

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Patrol Officer II

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N14; Pay starts at \$30.84/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

Permits & ROW Specialist

Open Until Filled – Negotiations/management of rights-of-way needed to construct ingress/egress, utilities, and surface leases for the Tribe with outside entities or persons and ensure compliance with laws, rules, regulations, and policies. Manages Crossing Permits and its database for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Department of Natural Resources. Pay grade N13; the Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

Property Manager

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Economic Development Director, this position will manage the day-to-day operations of various Tribal properties including leasing activities, marketing, maintenance, and administrative functions. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/annually.

Public Health Nurse

Open Until Filled – A Registered Nurse position responsible for providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N15; the Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

Receptionist

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

Recreation Assistant (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Lake Capote Resident Manager, the Recreation Assistant will greet guests, collect fees for fishing/camping/small concessions, clean, maintain, and repair grounds, facilities, and buildings, and assist with site development and improvements. Seasonal/full time, 8-month schedule. Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

Scorekeeper (Part-time)

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

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – The TEAM program is an

opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. This is for both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

TERO Worker

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

Transportation Division Head

Open Until Filled – Directs, oversees, and coordinates all functions and activities related to the Southern Ute Transportation Division for road and bridge improvements and maintenance of Tribal transportation facilities. Provides oversight and management of transportation projects from conception through completion including P.L.93-638 projects. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Umpire/Referee

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

Water Quality & Remediation Division Head

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Environmental Programs Director, responsible for the planning and management of Southern Ute Indian Tribal Water Quality, Brownfields, and General Assistance Programs. Pay grade E18; Pay starts at \$99,984/year.



FOR RENT – SOUTHERN UTE MEMBERSHIP ONLY
60 Shadow Spirit East, Ignacio, CO 81137

- Tribal Housing Department has two (2) units available for rent:
- Single-story 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom unit for \$1,000/mo. Security Deposit \$1,000
 - Single-story 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom unit for \$1,000/mo. Security Deposit \$1,000

Visit our website at www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/cedar-point-townhomes/ to complete an application or stop by our office to pick up an application. Paper applications can be emailed to: tribalhousing@southernute-nsn.gov or hand-delivered to our drop box located at 285 Lakin Street Ignacio, CO 81137. If you have any questions, please call our office at 970-563-4710 or visit our office at 285 Lakin Street, Ignacio, CO 81137.

PLACEMENT SUBJECT TO BACKGROUND CHECK & RENTAL HISTORY VERIFICATION
Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on February 21, 2025

S-130
Firefighter Training (Wildland)
S-190
Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
L-180
Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
FIELD DAY.
EARN YOUR Firefighter Type 2
FFT2
FEB 24-28 2025
@BIA BUILDING 335
CONTACT TRAVIS SCHMITT
970-749-6072
TRAVIS.SCHMITT@BIA.GOV



NOTICE OF DRAFT TITLE V OPERATING PERMITS
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Notice is hereby given that five (5) renewal applications have been submitted to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Environmental Programs Department’s Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137, for the following sources of air pollution:

- Applicant: El Paso Natural Gas Company, LLC**
Facility: Bondad Compressor Station
Section 13, T33N, R9W, 8.00 miles west of Ignacio, Colorado
This source is a natural gas compression facility.
- Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Company**
Facility: Diamondback Compressor Station
Section 8, T32N, R9W, 13.50 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colorado
This source is a natural gas compression facility.
- Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Company**
Facility: Homestead Compressor Station
Section 4, T32N, R8W, 8.00 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colorado
This source is a natural gas compression facility.
- Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Company**
Facility: Trail Canyon Compressor Station
Section 1, T32N, R9W, 10.00 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colorado
This source is a natural gas compression facility.
- Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Company**
Facility: Worford Ridge Compressor Station
Section 16, T33N, R8W, 5.00 miles west of Ignacio, Colorado
This source is a natural gas compression facility.

The Air Quality Division (AQD) has prepared the draft Title V operating permits based on the information submitted by the applicants. The draft permits and accompanying statement of basis are available on the AQD’s website at <http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/environmental-programs/air-quality/air-permitting/>, and at the Environmental Programs Department office at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio CO, 81137 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and request a hearing. Written comments and requests for hearings may be sent to the AQD in care of Daniel Powers, Air Quality Division Head, at P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137; or emailed to dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov. Any hearing request should: 1) identify the individual or group requesting the hearing, 2) state his or her address and phone number, and 3) state the reason(s) for the request. Notice of any public hearing will be provided at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. The AQD will consider the written public comments and requests for a hearing that are received within 30 days of this notice (February 7, 2025).

MINI
LAW
SCHOOL



SPRING REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
This is a virtual class every Wednesday
beginning February 12 - March 5, 2025.



The University of Colorado Law School will present a brand-new program:
What is Legal Education?
This is an ideal opportunity for those considering legal education to gain insights into the foundations of legal study and what to expect.

REGISTRATION IS FREE for Tribal Members and Tribal employees or anyone looking into pursuing a Law degree.
Please click the link below to register.

<https://forms.office.com/r/4S4Ah6ZZX5>

Contact: Heather White Thunder at hwhiteth@southernute-nsn.gov or 970-563-2780 for any questions.

Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at www.skyutecasino.com to view job openings and apply online.
Human Resources • Phone: 970-563-1311 • PO Box 340, Ignacio, CO 81137
TERO-Native American Preference • All Applicants Welcome • Must pass pre-employment drug test, background check, qualify for and maintain a Division of Gaming License and be able to work all shifts, weekends or holidays. **21 years or older to apply.*

- *Buyer (Full-time)**
Compiles information and records to prepare orders for the procurement of material, including all food and beverage products. Will research and evaluate products to be purchased for the Casino, making it cost efficient, and maintains and regulates cost for Casino operations. Verify Classification and specifications of all purchase order requests, search inventory records and/pr warehouse to determine if materials on hand are in sufficient quantify. Maintains vendor database in inventory management software and handles all incoming invoices.
- *Casino Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)**
Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, and employee break rooms. All areas must be disinfected, swept, mopped, vacuumed, and dusted.
- *Facilities Technician (Full-time)**
Electrical and mechanical functions, operations of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works as part of a team to ensure smooth operations of the facility, equipment and building by providing maintenance support, troubleshooting and repair, preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.
- *Kitchen Utility Steward (Full-time)**
Will perform multiple tasks and duties within the entire kitchen as instructed by Food and Beverage Management and/or Supervisor. Washing dishes, cleaning facilities and cooking in several capacities.
- *Level II Facilities Staff (Full-time)**
Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.
- *Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)**
Electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works the lead of a team to ensure smooth operations of the facility, equipment, and building; by providing maintenance support, troubleshooting and repair, preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems including boilers, AHU’s, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, cooling towers, walk-in coolers, and freezers. Reports to the Director of Facilities while sharing the responsibility to train and lead activities of departmental employees; technicians, shift supervisors, and facilities staff in appropriate Service Standards and Facility operations/maintenance.
- *Player Development Host (Full-time)**
Identifies, develops and creates relationships with Sky Ute Casino Resort gaming patrons. Facilitates VIP events that enhance the overall gaming experience. Fosters an environment that results in generating gaming related revenue measured by more trips and increased spending. Assists with all facets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort Bear Club and Player’s Center as needed. Reports directly to the Player Development Manager.
- *Project Cleaner (Full-time)**
Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other areas as assigned. Reports directly to the Housekeeping dept. and will be assigned to take on specific projects as assigned.
- *Revenue Auditor (Full-time)**
Daily auditing of revenue transaction records that are turned into the accounting department from the Casino’s profit centers. Will be required to follow written procedures and conduct an independent and in-depth review of: cash receipts, register tapes, sales records, gaming summaries, shift balancing reports, and other raw documentation submitted to accounting by the outlets.

Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

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

- Red Willow Production Co. – Joint Interest Billing Accountant II (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Reviewing and recording transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and/or prepare the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow’s oil and gas exploration operations. Must have a working knowledge of the joint interest process and be able to apply analytical skills to complete complex accounting assignments. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- Red Willow Production Co. - Joint Interest Billing Accountant III (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Reviewing and recording transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and/or prepare the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow’s oil and gas exploration operations. Must have a working knowledge of the joint interest process and be able to apply analytical skills to complete complex accounting assignments. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- Red Willow Production Co. – Revenue Accountant II (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Performs moderately complex revenue accounting assignments, creates new revenue agreements, and is responsible for knowledge of oil and gas revenue accounting practices. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- Red Willow Production Co. – Revenue Accountant III (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Performing complex revenue accounting assignments, creates new revenue agreements, and responsible for knowledge of revenue accounting practices. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- Red Willow Production Co. – Receptionist/Office Assistant (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Performing reception and miscellaneous office duties for Red Willow Production Company. Receptionist function, under direction of the Senior Office Manager, maintaining positive and effective working relationships with coworkers, supervisors, and the public. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- GF Admin/SECMG – Sr. Environmental, Health & Safety Specialist (Durango, CO)**
Closes 2/18/25 – Promoting EHS awareness and compliance throughout the organization to all employees. Will lead multiple programs which help ensure worker safety, and environmental, and regulatory compliance for the Growth Fund and its business enterprises. Will develop, execute, and train EHS programs and initiatives; lead environmental and safety compliance and remediation projects, within one or more disciplines: Clean Water Act (CWA); National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, etc. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

Please visit our website at www.southernute.com/careers 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.

- Senior Payroll Developer – SUSS (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Development and production support of the Human Capital Management (HCM) software program and related interface to General Ledger and Accounts Payable, providing enterprise-wide Payroll technical support and consultation. Will focus on the technical view of the North America Payroll application with emphasis on the impact, implications, and functional/technical benefit of enhancements, as well as the design and implementation of customizations and fixes to the production system. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- Senior Geographic Information Systems Programmer Analyst – SUSS (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Provides technical and development support on spatial technology projects for staff and business unit customers. Provides support for GIS database creation and maintenance, project coordination, application development, hard and soft copy production mapping, and GPS technology coordination. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.
- Information Technology Security Analyst II – SUSS (Ignacio, CO)**
Closes 2/14/25 – Collaborating with various SUSS teams to actively monitor, detect, and respond to security incidents for the entire Southern Ute Indian Tribal organization; leveraging extensive experience in incident response, vulnerability management, and threat intelligence to enhance the organization’s security posture; and conduct proactive threat hunting, support Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) activities, and contribute to Third-Party Risk Management. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- High School Head Soccer Coach
- High School Football Head Coach
- Middle School Soccer Head Coach
- Route and Activity Bus Driver
- Substitute Bus Driver
- Substitute Teacher



SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Baker appointed as the Utilities Manager for the Southern Ute Utilities Division

By Pooja Rao-Pennington
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

It is with immense pleasure that the Southern Ute Growth Fund announces Julian “Jube” Baker, as the new Utilities Manager of the Southern Ute Utilities Division.

Baker’s journey with the Growth Fund spans an impressive 27 years. He began his career at Red Willow Production Co. as a Roustabout Trainee, steadily advancing through the ranks as Lease Operator I & II, ultimately becoming the Senior Operations Foreman. For the past 12 years, Baker has been an integral part of the Utilities Division, serving as the Assistant Utilities Manager and, most recently, as the Interim Manager for the



Julian “Jube” Baker
Utilities Manager
Southern Ute Utilities Division

past five months. Baker brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role. His dedication to providing quality products and services to the Tribal membership is unparalleled. He consistently addresses their concerns with genuine care and always keeps their best interests in mind.

“Julian’s 27-year journey with the Growth Fund highlights his career development and commitment from Roustabout Trainee to Sr. Operations Foreman with Red Willow to key roles within the Utilities Division, including Interim Manager,” said Shane Seibel, Executive Director, Southern Ute Growth Fund. “His dedication to providing excellent customer service to the tribal membership and teamwork has been integral to his success and the success of the team. I look forward to the coming years and the positive transformation of the Utilities Team.” “Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Jube as he steps into his new position.”

The 2025 Southern Ute Calendar, now available for purchase while supplies last!

The Southern Ute Growth Fund
Charting 25 Years

Come into the Southern Ute Tribal Information Services or The Southern Ute Drum offices to purchase the 2024 calendar, \$10 each, while supplies last! Contact TIS at 970-563-2208 or the Drum at 970-563-0118 for more information.

Southern Ute Utilities Division
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

RETIREMENT NEWS January 9, 2025

Mr. Ron Davis, long-term employee of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is retiring after 17 years of dedication and growth with the Southern Ute Utilities Division.

Thank you for 17 years, Ron.
Good luck and best wishes!!

Ron Davis (left) accepting his retirement gift from Julian Baker, Utilites Manager (right)

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

Multi-Purpose Facility
February Beading & Traditional Sewing Class
"Ribbon Shirts & Vests"
Tuesday & Thursday, February 25 - 26, 2025

Two Day Sessions: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Two Evening Sessions: Tuesday & Wednesday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

The class will focus on Shirts and Vests, if you need help with an another beading or traditional sewing project, bring It with you.

Space is limited call to sign-up.
970-563-2640 or 970-563-2641
email: multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

did you know?!

Household Hazardous Waste
Certain household cleaning products may contain chemicals that pose a threat to human health or the environment. Proper disposal is necessary for these products.

TIPS

- Check the ingredients before purchasing
- Buy only the amount you need
- Safely store products and keep the labels on

Cleaning products that have one or more of these images are considered hazardous:

Source: CDPHE, "What is a Household Hazardous Waste?"

Cleaning products that are considered hazardous should be safely stored and disposed of at the Tribe's Spring/Fall Clean-up event.

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

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Feb. 7
Sunny 57°F
Variable to gusting winds

Saturday, Feb. 8
Mostly sunny 54°F

Sunday, Feb. 9
Mostly sunny 52°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

MPF Pow Wow
Fundraiser Food Sale
People's Choice Menu
Wednesday February 19, 2025
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Call Elise or email your vote 970-563-2641, eredd@southernute-nsn.gov

—Brisket on Frybread or tortilla with Fried Potatoes
—Spaghetti with salad, corn & Garlic Bread
—Fajitas, chicken or beef
—Chicken Salad on Croissant

E-mail and Early Orders accepted until 5:00 PM Tuesday February 18th at 970-563-2640, or multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

Call in Orders accepted Wednesday February 19th at 970-563-2645. Please specify time for Order Pick-up.

Cash or Check Only
All Proceeds go to the MPF Pow Wows

The Southern Ute Drum’s crossword puzzle will be on hiatus until further notice.