



Ignacio celebrates Valentine's
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Bobcats near end of Winter season
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Southern Ute Drum multimedia features now on Vimeo



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Custodial Services Division Head, Jess Baidwan presented the official Rock Stars of Cleaning award to recipient Benito Ruybal during a team meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Ruybal is the winner of this award for the whole state of Colorado, earning recognition for his hard work and commitment to providing a clean and safe environment for the Tribal organization.

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Ruybal receives 'Rock Stars of Cleaning' award

By Divine Windy Boy
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Custodian Benito Ruybal, with the Southern Ute Clean Team, is being recognized for his outstanding service at the state level. Ruybal was recognized with a Rock Stars of Cleaning award from the Academy of Cleaning Excellence on Wednesday, Feb. 12 during a meeting with the Clean Team. Ruybal received the official award from Custodial Ser-

VICES Division Head, Jess Baidwan at the Property & Facilities building.

Presented by the Academy of Cleaning Excellence, the award recognizes rock star custodianship, outlining nine personality traits of a standout individual within the industry. Traits include optimism, determination, integrity, excellent service to others, and great communication skills. Nominees come from all over the nation, in K-12 schools, uni-

versities, service contractors and many others.

During a training held last September for the Clean Team, Academy of Cleaning Excellence Director, David Thompson identified Ruybal as a great candidate for the award and Thompson expressed how impressed he was with Ruybal's performance. Baidwan shared his pride with Benito and is thankful to have him as part

Ruybal page 7



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Education Department's Director, Dr. Joseph Claunch gives a presentation to the Ignacio Elementary School's Third grade class on Wednesday, Feb. 5, talking about the challenges he went through trying to achieve his goals from childhood to adulthood. Dr. Claunch emphasized the importance of education and not forgetting your self-worth as you work towards your dreams.

EDUCATION

Empowering the youth for a better future

By Rosaleigh Cloud
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Tribe's Education Director, Dr. Joseph Claunch has been going school to school – to encourage students of all ages to have dreams. Dr. Claunch has been giving presentations speaking about his own challenges in achieving his dreams during the hardships of growing up on a reservation, while expressing his support to the students on behalf of the Education Department. "We remind our students that they are worthy of having big dreams and that our education department is here to support them along the way," Claunch said.

started working with the various school districts was the realization that students are becoming less and less vocal about their dreams, especially as they get older. "What we noticed is that almost all elementary students are eager to share their dreams, but fewer middle and high school students will do the same," Claunch said. "This decline may be due to increased peer pressure, but it's also likely that many of our students are having experiences as they grow up that affect their outlook on the future."

Southern Ute Education has been working closely with the Ignacio, Bayfield, and Durango School Districts to ensure that Native American students have the tools and support needed to persevere their dreams, by of-

fering multiple programs. Tutoring is offered to Indigenous students, K-12. The Southern Ute Tribe also hosts a career fair annually for students from La Plata County to seek new career opportunities or pursue higher education. The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) begins teaching students how to enjoy learning from a young age. "SUIMA offers our youngest students the opportunity to explore and develop their natural love for learning in an environment that centers [around] Ute language, values, and traditions," Claunch said.

The students of today will be the leaders of the future, and it is important that they have

Empowering page 5

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Spotlight on Tribal Health: Pharmacy Technicians

Turner, Arellano offer decades of combined experience

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

For over a decade, Denise Turner and Julia Arellano have been dedicated to providing exceptional service to the patients of the Southern Ute Health Center Pharmacy; both Certified Pharmacy Technicians. More often than not, the friendly face at the pharmacy window or the voice on the phone belongs to one of them – the Southern Ute Health Center's outstanding pharmacy technicians.

Turner and Arellano have built strong, lasting relationships with their patients, going above and beyond to remember the little details that ensure each patient receives the best possible care. They work diligently to provide necessary medications and supplies, while handling critical behind-the-scenes responsibilities, such as processing insurance claims, managing inventory, and collaborating with the CHR department for medication deliveries. They also work closely with pharmacists and other healthcare professionals to ensure seamless patient care.

"We fill 250 prescriptions a day on average," Julia Arellano said. "Denise and I work closely with the pharmacists (Emily, Michelle, and Kristen) to help with patient safety



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Health Center's Certified Pharmacy Technicians, Julia Arellano (left) and Denise Turner (right), share decades of experience in their respective fields; each building strong, lasting relationships with their patients – going above and beyond to ensure patients receives the best possible care.

and direct the workflow so the pharmacist can focus on more clinical tasks such as – reviewing labs and doses, training patients, and counseling patients."

Beyond their technical expertise, the pharmacy technicians take pride in making medication access as convenient as possible. They personally deliver prescriptions—whether to exam rooms or directly to waiting vehicles—no matter the weather. Their dedication to serving the Southern Ute Tribal membership makes their work deeply rewarding, and they are honored to continue building strong connections within the community.

Turner has 23 years of experience as a pharmacy technician and has worked

with the Tribe for 11 years. Arellano has been with the SUHC for nine years and went to San Juan College in Farmington, N.M. to obtain a pharmacy technician certificate. Both became certified through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and are required to renew their certifications every two years.

Pharmacy services available through the SUHC include autofill (this is where patients prescriptions automatically fill close to the time they will run out of their meds), text messaging, so patients know when they have medication ready, option on the Southern Ute website to refill medication, and a smartphone app to refill medication called "refill pro."

SOUTHERN UTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tribe leads the way in addressing MMIR crisis through collaborative partnerships

By Summer Begay
 TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) crisis continues to be a devastating issue impacting Indigenous communities across the nation. However, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is taking significant strides to address this issue head-on, demonstrating a commitment to the safety and well-being of the Southern Ute Tribal membership through proactive measures and collaborative partnerships.

In the past year, the Tribe has made significant progress in its efforts to combat MMIR, achieving a 100% success rate in the recovery and conclusion of all missing and runaway cases to date. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the Tribe's dedication and the effectiveness of its comprehensive approach.

A cornerstone of this success is the Tribe's updated Standard Operating Pro-



cedure (SOP) for handling missing and runaway person cases. This updated SOP provides clear guidelines and protocols for Tribal law enforcement and other relevant departments, ensuring a swift and coordinated response in every case. The SOP includes a public awareness template for reporting and documenting cases, facilitating efficient information gathering and investigation on public platforms including social media.

Recognizing the importance of timely communi-

cation, the Tribe has established clear communication channels to keep families and community members informed throughout the process. These channels include regular updates from law enforcement and a dedicated point of contact for families to address their concerns and questions.

Collaboration is key to the Tribe's approach. Under the leadership of Chief of Police, Michael Barrow, the Southern Ute Police Depart-

Tribe page 2



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Southern Ute Tribal Council welcomed the Jicarilla Apache Legislative Council to the Growth Fund, fostering collaboration and strengthening the relationship between the two Tribes.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Tribal leaders discuss shared interests and opportunities

By Summer Begay
TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Chairman Melvin J. Baker and the Southern Ute Tribal Council welcomed Jicarilla Apache Nation President, Adrian Notsinneh and the Jicarilla Apache Legislative Council to the Growth Fund on Wednesday, Feb. 12 for a productive meeting. The meeting included a presentation by Growth Fund Executive Director, Shane Seibel and Operating Director,

Kourtney Hadrick. The meeting focused on fostering collaboration and strengthening the relationship between the two Tribes. Discussions included sharing ideas and experiences, recognizing that mutual cooperation is crucial for identifying solutions and advancing shared goals.

“True progress comes from collaboration,” Chairman Baker said. “We gained valuable insights from the Jicarilla Apache Nation’s ex-

periences, and we were able to share our own. These exchanges are essential for building a solid foundation of understanding and cooperation, enabling us to tackle complex issues and achieve meaningful results for our Tribes. President Notsinneh and I look forward to future meetings and opportunities.”

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe looks forward to continuing this important dialogue and working together with the Jicarilla Apache Nation.



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Ignacio High School students: Wyatt Mickas, Hunter Frost, and Krislynn Thompson are just a few of the young individuals who were able to bring the Subway franchise to Ignacio. They pose with their Service-Learning class instructor, Lynn Blakesley.

This photo was first published in the Feb. 21, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

TRIBE LEADS THE WAY • FROM PAGE 1

ment has strengthened its partnerships with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), ensuring seamless coordination and information sharing across jurisdictions. This collaboration has been instrumental in the successful and timely resolution of missing and runaway cases. The Tribe’s commitment to collaboration, clear communication, and continuous

improvement is yielding remarkable results, bringing hope and healing to families and the community.

While the Tribe celebrates its success in recent cases, they remain vigilant and committed to the ongoing work of preventing future disappearances and ensuring the safety of all their members. Together we strive to be a beacon of hope in the

fight against MMIR, demonstrating that through dedication and collaboration, progress is possible.

If a loved one goes missing, please consult our guide outlining the suggested steps to take in this difficult situation. For any questions or further assistance, please contact the Southern Ute Police Department dispatch at 970-563-4401.



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

The Southern Ute Veterans plaque in the Leonard C. Burch Building’s Hall of Warriors has recently been refurbished. Southern Ute Veterans Association Commander Randy Baker, Sr. (left) Vice Commander Ronnie C. Baker (center) and Veterans Service Officer Roderick Grove (right) invite everyone to come by and view it.

This photo was first published in the Feb. 18, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Robert Baker/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Clowning for peace – Clown Hinton Harrison is part of a group marching for peace and healing for the people of the Americas. Their journey led them to the Education Center for a brief visit and will continue on to Chile and then back north to Alaska.

This photo was published in the Feb. 17, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

The Southern Ute Tribe is very proud of Mr. Victor Monte and Ms. Rebecca Thompson, who have completed their training with the Colorado State Highway Department. Shown here is Mr. Al Shalbo, Victor Monte and Alice Baker with a Certificate of Completion. Mr. Monte became a fulltime employe with the Colorado State Highway Department on Feb. 1, 1985. Mr. Monte had this comment, “It’s a job with lots of hard work and good benefits.”

This photo was published in the Feb. 22, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

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

IGNACIO COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2025
10:00AM
SUNUTE PARK
(FIELDS BEHIND COMMUNITY CENTER)
AGES CATEGORIES
0-5 YEARS 6-9 YEARS 10-14 YEARS
STOP BY THE WRISTBAND BOOTH FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GRAND PRIZE
COME MEET THE EASTER BUNNY!
PLUS FOOD VENDORS, GAMES, & TONS OF OTHER PRIZES
BRING YOUR OWN BASKET FOR HUNTING
FOR MORE INFORMATION, BOOTH INFO, OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
DON FOLSOM AT (970) 563-2839
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Brave dances in Dulce, Ignacio



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany, dancing behind the flags being retreated at the Jicarilla Day Powwow in Dulce, N.M. Friday, Feb. 14.



Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany, Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz and Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder dance during the round dance portion of the Valentine's Powwow at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility, Sat. Feb. 15.



courtesy Cultural Survival

Rosy Sul González (Maya Kaqchikel) interviewing Pataxó leader in Brazil.

UNESCO

Indigenous Rights Radio celebrates 10 years of amplifying Indigenous voices

By Agnes Portalewska
CULTURAL SURVIVAL

On World Radio Day, Cultural Survival is celebrating 10 years of amplifying Indigenous people's voices through the Indigenous Rights Radio Program (IRR).

Today marks the 14th annual celebration of World Radio Day, as proclaimed by UNESCO. On the first celebration of World Radio Day in 2012, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples James Anaya (Apache and Purépecha) emphasized the importance of community radio for the world's Indigenous Peoples, "Radio has been a fundamental means for Indigenous Peoples to maintain their languages and to exercise and defend their rights."

In many parts of the world, despite the risk of police raids, jail time, threats, and even death for community journalists, community radio stations serve a vital function by distributing information about important news and educational programming like emergency disaster relief, voter registration, and public health campaigns. The power of radio reaches even the most rural areas, providing Indigenous communities with access to programming in their own languages and serving as a voice that promotes Indigenous cultures, traditions, and belief systems.

"Because knowledge is power," Indigenous Rights Radio, a program of Indigenous Peoples' rights organization Cultural Survival, uses the power of community radio to inform Indigenous communities of their rights. Cultural Survival's team of Indigenous producers collect and produce stories from Indigenous Peoples worldwide in English, Spanish, and over 140 Indigenous languages. Since 2015, the Indigenous Rights Radio Program has been bringing

the voices of the Indigenous Peoples around the world in a dynamic dialogue about the meaning of Indigenous Peoples' rights, their common struggles, and the innovative solutions they develop to deal with the problems they face. IRR produces educational radio programming for distribution reaching between 12-50 million listeners annually through the global network. The Indigenous Rights Radio website houses over 3794 podcasts and radio programs. The content is also available on several platforms, including Soundcloud, Spotify, Apple podcast, YouTube Music, Amazon Music, Podimo, Spreaker, iHeartRadio, Deezer, Podcast Addict, and Podchaser.

Through Indigenous Rights Radio, Indigenous radio producers from Cultural Survival bring the latest information on Indigenous Peoples' rights and how they are being implemented around the world. Programs are available for listening, downloading, and sharing for free. These include public service announcements, interviews, reports on international rights, and the strategies that Indigenous communities are using to make their rights a reality. Over the past 10 years, 1200+ radio stations worldwide have received IRR programs across 55 countries in 140+ languages. IRR produced and sourced over 610 Public Service Announcements on COVID-19 in 140 Indigenous languages.

Cultural Survival envisions a world in which Indigenous communities, equipped with the knowledge of their rights, are empowered to protect their lands, languages, and cultures.

Rosy Sul González (Maya Kaqchikel), Indigenous Rights Radio Program Manager, said, "Community radio led by Indigenous Peoples is part of the good living

of our communities. Radio provides the opportunity to continue developing the capacities of men and women, to make spots, podcasts, and special programs in our own languages with topics that affect us, and also to share good practices in the care of the land and the territory, mainly, traditional medicine, food security, among others. Community radio is a tool that many communities can use and in turn be connected and exchange their cultures, leadership, and care of natural resources in their territories. Indigenous community radio is the voice and identity of our Peoples."

"Community radio provides access to information in extremely rural areas and, for these communities, serves as a tool for local organizing, cultural and language revitalization, educational opportunities, information on lands and natural resources issues, women's rights, and Indigenous rights. We are committed to uplifting Indigenous voices and information about Indigenous Peoples' rights via Indigenous Rights Radio," said Aimee Roberson (Chickasaw and Choctaw), Executive Director of Cultural Survival.

"Cultural Survival has been working with the Indigenous radio movement since 2005. Today, Indigenous-controlled media is needed more than ever, especially when mainstream media often overlooks and marginalizes Indigenous languages and issues. Daily, Indigenous radio journalists risk their lives to communicate essential information about human rights to their communities to defend their ways of life, lands, and resources. As an advocacy organization for Indigenous rights, it is our duty to support these efforts in claiming freedom of expression and access to information," said Mark Camp, Cultural Survival Deputy Executive Director.

Ute storytelling at SUCCM



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

On Saturday, Feb. 8 the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum hosted a Ute Storytelling event. Visitors gathered in the large classroom to hear stories and share stories, a Ute tradition that is practiced each year during the winter season. Jr. Miss Southern Ute Leandra Litz shares a personal story with members of the audience during the event.

Alyssa Nez shared stories about her knowledge of yarn figures made with the hands and fingers, here she shows a design depicting two coyotes running opposite directions. During the Ute Storytelling event, attendees also heard stories from elders and visitors from neighboring Tribes.

UNLV
POWWOW 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)

UNLV Alumni
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
LAS VEGAS

Native American Alumni Club

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan is a community driven, living document. It is the Tribe's guide for reducing the impacts of natural hazards.

The plan identifies the natural hazards that pose a risk to the Tribe and actions we can take to protect our people, important places, and infrastructure.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

An updated draft of the 2025 Southern Ute Indian Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for public comment through Thursday, February 19, 2025.

To share comments or feedback, email Don Brockus, Risk and Emergency Manager, at dbrockus@southernute-nsn.gov

REVIEW THE DRAFT DOCUMENT AT THE LINK BELOW.

[SUIT-HMP Public-Review-Draft-wAppendices](#)



HEALTHY NEWS You Can Use!

FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH

Did you know?

- Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day
- Heart disease is the #1 killer of both men and women
- Heart disease is largely preventable by addressing lifestyle like diet, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol use
- Spending time with friends and family may lower your heart attack risk
- Your heart is a muscle, so making it work harder with exercise will make it stronger



NATIONAL Heart Month

FEBRUARY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: New Breath and Movement Group starting

By Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Recently I attended a meeting with the La Plata County Public Health Department and, as an icebreaker with our introductions, everyone in the room was asked to speak briefly about a small but effective new action, habit, or practice they had started that had been quite helpful. For one person, it was drinking one less cup of coffee a day and starting the day with a huge glass of water. For another, it was just remembering to breathe more. A few times, we heard small actions around listening carefully before assuming we know what another person is going to say or what they mean. Other small actions were practicing like just a few minutes of meditating a day or, before bed, listing five things one is grateful for that day.

This small activity was a powerful reminder that, many times, our lives can be greatly improved by just one single, small habit change. Feeling better doesn't have to (and usually doesn't) require huge changes in life or completely reworking your diet, exercise, or other daily routines. It is so much more manageable and encouraging to just do one small thing differently per day.

Maybe it's picking one person each day to say, "I love you." Or paying one person a genuine compliment. Maybe it's the commitment that the next time someone asks you for help that you will say yes. Or maybe it's setting timers on your phone to remind you to get up and stretch, drink water, and breathe every hour.

Whatever it is, one small habit change can make a big difference. And how encouraging that is!

On that note, below is a bit more information about a practice called "habit stacking" where you can add something small to a routine that you already have, making it even easier to make a small, positive change in the right direction.

Are you finding it difficult

to change existing habits or introduce new ones? Finding an effective technique for building, breaking, and keeping habits can be challenging because habit-building is hard. The neuronal connections in our brains are strongest for those behaviors we already practice, and weak (or non-existent) for those we don't (yet!). We are wired for what we're used to, already good at, or familiar with. But just because something is hard does not mean that you cannot change.

Out of all the helpful tips and tricks out there, there's one brilliantly simple and effective technique you may not have heard of yet: habit stacking. It involves "stacking" the new behavior you're trying to adopt onto a current behavior in order to help you remember to do it and/or perform it with less mental effort. It utilizes the strong synaptic connections we already have.

You probably have very strong habits and connections that you take for granted each day. For example, your brain is probably very efficient at remembering to take a shower each morning or to brew your morning cup of coffee or to open the blinds when the sun rises ... or thousands of other daily habits. When you are trying to accomplish goals, you can take advantage of these strong connections that you already do daily and use them to build new habits.

How? You can use the connectedness of behavior to your advantage. One of the best ways to build a new habit is to identify a current habit you already do each day and then stack your new behavior on top. This is called habit stacking.

Habit stacking is a special form of an implementation intention. Rather than pairing your new habit with a particular time and location, you pair it with a current habit.

Do you want to start a journal? Meditate? Cook dinner at home every night? Take 10 minutes for yourself? Tackle a looming work project? The possibilities are

endless! Try out the habit stacking formula:

After/Before [CURRENT HABIT], I will [NEW HABIT].

- For example:
- After I brush my teeth, I will floss.
 - After I floss, I will meditate for 10 minutes.
 - After I meditate, I will stretch for 15 minutes.
 - After I stretch, I will review my to-do list for the day.

Again, the reason habit stacking works so well is that your current habits are already built into your brain. You have patterns and behaviors that have been strengthened over years. By linking your new habits to a cycle that is already built into your brain, you make it more likely that you'll stick to the new behavior.

Once you have mastered this basic structure, you can begin to create larger stacks by chaining small habits together. This allows you to take advantage of the natural momentum that comes from one behavior leading into the next.

How to Start Habit Stacking Your Way to a Better You

1. Start small – the smaller the better.

Research shows that consistency of practice is more effective than the duration of practice in helping us make changes in our lives. Doing something every day for five minutes is more likely to result in sustainable change than practicing something once a week for 30 minutes. With that in mind, it's easier to be consistent when the goal or task is attainable. The existing habit can be as seemingly insignificant as, "When I get out of bed, I will ..." In fact, this is a great one – you have to get out of bed every day (in theory). The new habit, too, should be small: "While my coffee brews, I will delete five emails." The more re-

BEE Heard page 7

All Parents & Caregivers Are Welcome POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

Honoring Our Children By Honoring Our Traditions

Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) has been used for over 35 years and remains popular today because the teachings are timeless. Historically, we had rich teachings that helped children grow up safe with strong families. Colonization threatened those teachings—our Native families were being separated and traditional practices were at risk of being lost. PIP was developed in the 1980s to fill this void and was designed to help parents and families remember our traditional teachings and apply them in the modern world. In part one of each session, we will discuss examples of traditional practices and teachings from several different tribes. Instructors also share teachings from local areas and communities. Part two of each session discusses how to apply those teachings and values today. Complete all 8 sessions to receive a certificate.

SOUTHERN UTE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL OR EMAIL (970) 563-2337
kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov

MARCH 2025

8 Sessions on Tuesdays & Thursdays
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1-MARCH 4, 2025 | 2-MARCH 6, 2025 |
| 3-MARCH 11, 2025 | 4-MARCH 13, 2025 |
| 5-MARCH 18, 2025 | 6-MARCH 20, 2025 |
| 7-MARCH 25, 2025 | 8-MARCH 27, 2025 |

THIS IS A VIRTUAL CLASS – MicroSoft Teams App
Please call Social Services to sign up (970) 563-2337

Each participant needs the following to attend:

- A working email
- A solid internet connection
- A smart phone, tablet or laptop with a mic
- Download the Microsoft Teams App




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



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



SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Family activity

Staff report Literacy ideas from www.naeyc.org and www.homeliteracy.com
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Looking for something fun to do as a family activity? Try making and playing with playdough. Kids love to play with playdough, and it is a great way to support your child's learning. Find a fun and yummy smelling playdough recipe at the end of this article.

When you make a batch of playdough together, your child learns about print and why people write. Following the recipe helps them to connect written and spoken words and learn that writing can be used for different purposes. In this case, the writing explains how to make playdough.

Other literacy activities you can do with playdough include:

- Roll snakes and use them to form letters.
- Form letters and arrange them to spell simple words or to form their name.
- Roll a ball of playdough to represent each sound in a word.
- Allow kids to manipulate playdough quietly while listening to a story. It keeps busy hands occupied and if they create objects to represent what is being read, it can help them to visualize the text.

Talking through "cooking"/play activities in the following ways allows children to grow in their understanding and use of words/sentences, helping them to effectively communicate their thoughts across contexts and communication partners.

- Name ingredients/tools/objects used (flour, water, bowl, spoon, beads, googly eyes, etc.)
- Describe actions (take off, pour in, mix, mix, roll, smash, cut, etc.)
- These two ways of modeling language should be used while making the playdough and while playing with it ("pour water," "mix dough," "smash dough," "roll dough," etc.)
- Model complete sentences that incorporate verbs, descriptors, and spatial concept words ("Pour the flour in the bowl," "Let's put the googly eyes on

top," "The playdough is sticky," etc.)

The following activities and exercises will help your child to develop his/her hand and finger skills.

- Roll balls of dough between the thumb and pointer/middle fingers.
- Hide beads and race to find them.
- Create an obstacle course for the fingers with hurdles and jumps.
- Make a playdough pie. Pinch the crust and create playdough berries.
- Build structures using popsicle sticks and playdough.
- Cut with cookie cutters.
- Press googly eyes, buttons, pegs, feathers, or straws into the playdough.

SUIMA article authors: Debbie Lamoreaux and Lori Smith, Reading Interventionists, Mallory Pilcher Gillan, Occupational Therapist, and Cherayah Sutton, Speech Therapist

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early Release at 2 p.m.
- Feb 27 – Shining Mountain staff member comes to cook with students.
- Feb 28 – Education Department staff and students tour Fort Lewis College.
- March 12-14 – SUIMA closed – staff attending National Montessori Conference in Denver.
- March 17-21 – Spring Break.

No Cook Kool Aid Playdough

Recipe from TwoPinkPeonies.com

Not only does this no cook Kool Aid playdough smell amazing, but it's also easy enough for kids to help make! Total prep time 5 minutes. Servings: 1 batch
 Equipment - Mixing bowl

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 packet unsweetened drink mix such as Kool Aid, 0.13 oz
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 tablespoon cream of tartar

Instructions

In a large mixing bowl combine all the dry ingredients and stir well. Next, add in your wet ingredients. Stir well. The play dough may be sticky at first. I found that after letting it sit out for about 5 to 10 minutes it helped the playdough air out and it was much more like commercial Playdough.

Notes

If your playdough seems too dry, add a few more tablespoons of water at a time until it is the right consistency. If your play dough seems too wet, try adding more flour. Let your play dough set out for a few minutes before playing with it. It may seem sticky at first. We let it "air dry" for about ten minutes before playing.



courtesy SUIMA

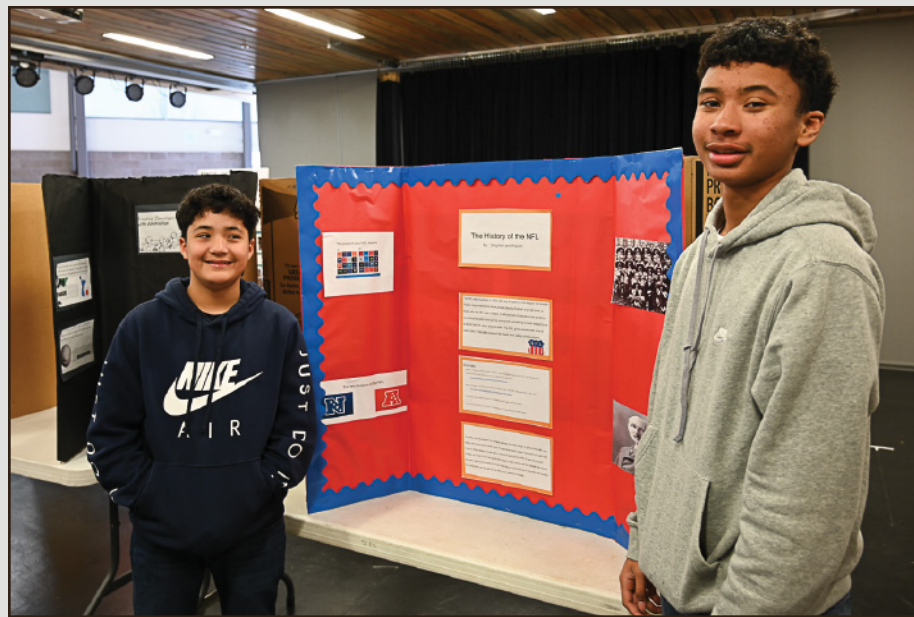


courtesy SUIMA

Lower elementary student, Bryan Howe, gets fitted with ski boots for a day of skiing at Purgatory Resort.

Kindergartener, Kingsley Martinez, listens patiently to directions before heading to the ski hill at Purgatory Resort.

History Day at IMS!

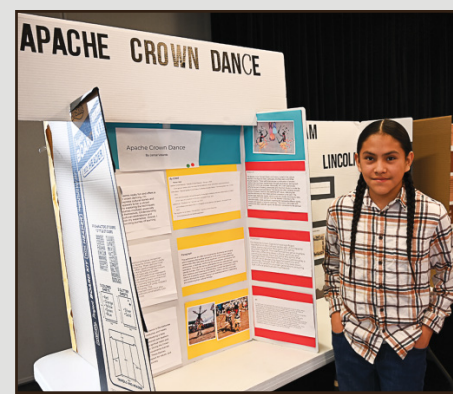


photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Stephen Romero and Keyon Alston presented their board about NFL history on Thursday Feb. 13, at Ignacio Middle School; both are very passionate about football and were excited to present their project.



Carley Martinez stands next to her board "Traditions in Motion" on Thursday, Feb. 13, during History Day at the Ignacio Middle School. Martinez excitedly shared the significance of Native American dances with the judges.



On the morning of Thursday, Feb. 13, Jamal Velarde gave a presentation of the Apache Crown Dance and its significance to the judges.

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH • FROM PAGE 1

the tools and support from the adults and staff around them to reach their potential.

Education doesn't end with the youth. The Education Department has worked diligently to ensure they are facilitating higher education and helping adults reach their dreams. GED classes, college, career counseling, financial aid, and scholarships are all offered through the Tribe's Education Department.

The Ignacio School district offers multiple pro-

grams to ensure all students K-12 receive the help they need to get the education they deserve. "We do the career fair, and then we host another career fair for the elementary kids here at the middle school," Ignacio Middle School Principal, Dayna Talamante-Montoya said. Various sports clubs are offered, along with many clubs that help students find new interests and hobbies that can spark their dreams; chess club, garden club, and

other activities are offered at the Ignacio Middle School.

The Ignacio High School has numerous programs to help support students to help them find something they are passionate about. "We have our CTE program, to help kids get into trades, FFA stuff and vet sciences, and sports" Ignacio High School Principal, Alisha Gullion said. "I think it also helps kids to understand, like, here is how this connects to the real world."

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. Alternative Horizons 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.

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 or higher GPA
- Letter of interest can be emailed or dropped off.
- (2) letters of recommendation can be emailed or dropped off.
- Extracurricular activities or employment



Registration Form For SUED

Use QR Code for Application.
 SUED Application is extended to February 21, 2025
 AFS-USA Application is due March 1, 2025
<https://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/>

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

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

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

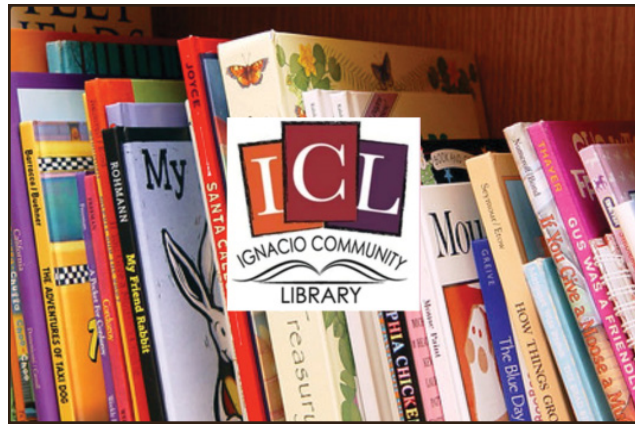
Get ready for an exciting March at the Ignacio Community Library

By Cheyenne Munns
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We have an incredible lineup of programs that you won't want to miss. Kick off the month by joining us for "Making Your Own Cucumber Sushi" on Tuesday, March 11. Then, get crafty with us, Thursday, March 13 and celebrate St. Patrick's Day by building a "Leprechaun Trap." Don't miss the captivating program from the SW Sierra Group and Natural Resources Conservation Services of La Plata County on "Beavers and Land Restoration" presented by Nichole Fox with Kate Grayson, Thursday, March 20 – expand your knowledge and engage with nature!

Every month, we introduce fresh programs and events designed for your enjoyment and learning. Our regular weekly programs and book clubs are eager to welcome new participants. Dive into the mystery with our Mystery Book Club or join our Science Fiction Book Club for stimulating discussions each month.

For our crafters and artists, we have ongoing workshops that are perfect for unleashing your creativity. Join the Sewing Workshop every Monday at 1:30 p.m., tap into your imagination at the Open Art Studio on Tues-



days at 10:30 a.m., or knit with the ICL Knitters Group every Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Community Room.

We proudly support our veterans with dedicated office hours held by Greg Dotson from La Plata County Veteran Services every first Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plus, take advantage of our free legal clinic with volunteer attorneys, available online every third Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. Make sure to RSVP for a spot at (970)563-9287. If you're looking for support, our Grief Support Group meets every first Tuesday at 3 p.m. led by Sara Barnes, LPC from Hospice of Mercy – no regular commitment is required.

Younger patrons have exciting opportunities, too! Bring your little ones to Storytime on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for engaging songs, crafts, and stories. Get ready for hands-on fun with Silly Science on the

first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. Middle and high school students are invited to the Teen Café every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. for snacks, homework help, and fun activities. And don't miss our action-packed monthly Teen Night on March 24, featuring exciting themes and delicious dinners!

Explore the IDEA LAB – a dynamic space for hands-on learning and skill-building for all ages. Join Mr. Ron, our IDEA LAB Educator, who will lead an array of classes in our Makerspace. Every Friday and Saturday this month, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., dive into programming with Raspberry Pi. We also offer personalized coaching – call us to schedule your appointment and unlock the full potential of this amazing space! 970-563-9287.

We can't wait to see you at the library – come and be part of our community!

LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Community Foundation celebrates 25th anniversary

Announces granting for local nonprofits

Staff report
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is excited to celebrate 25 years of supporting the nonprofit community in Southwest Colorado. One of the ways we will celebrate this milestone is to grant \$25,000 to organizations serving a different sector for each quarter of 2025. The Foundation supports nonprofits serving in five counties, two sovereign nations, and nine towns across our region, and quarterly granting will be distributed across the communities we serve.

For the first quarter, the Foundation supported nonprofits with a focus on basic needs, committing to providing 10 nonprofits with a grant from our SPUR Fund (Special Projects, Uniquely Responsive).

In addition to the funds already committed by the Foundation, a generous donor in the community contributed \$50,000 to further

the impact of granting for the first quarter.

"We are beyond grateful to the Michael and Elaine Moravan Foundation for their donation which triples the impact of granting this quarter," says Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. "We know these funds are greatly needed, especially during the coldest months of the year."

The Community Foundation will distribute \$7,500 to each of the organizations listed: San Juan Public Health (Silverton, San Juan County), Good Sam (Cortez/Ute Mountain Ute, Montezuma County), Mancos Food Share (Mancos, Montezuma County), Dolores Family Project (Dolores, Montezuma County), Dove Creek Care and Share Food Pantry (Dove Creek, Dolores County), Healthy Archuleta (Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County), Pine River Shares (Bayfield, Ignacio, Southern Ute Tribe, La Plata County), Commu-

nity Emergency Assistance Program and Housing Our Workforce Locally (Durango, La Plata County), and the Warming Center (Durango, La Plata County).

Quarterly funding will focus on a different aspect of community need for each granting cycle, and the grants are unsolicited.

If you would like to support the Community Foundation's SPUR Fund with a donation or learn more about how you can partner with us, go to our website www.swcommunityfoundation.org and select the "Donate" button.

The Community Foundation inspires hope, leadership and generosity in the community by bringing economic stability, professional development and collaboration to the nonprofit sector. As a community facilitator, the Community Foundation works to increase efficiency, sustainability and success for nonprofits, while maximizing effective grant-making for philanthropists.

Multi-Purpose happenings



Make and take crafting with Sandy at the Multi-Purpose Facility was held on Saturday, Feb. 8; Tribal elder Denise Thompson puts ribbon on her heart during the Valentines themed crafting day.



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum
Jayme Harden shows off her handmade goods during the Multi-Purpose Facility Yard Sale on Saturday, Feb. 9.

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

CLOSE UP WASHINGTON DC



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



Scan this QR code to register as a vendor

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



RUYBAL RECEIVES AWARD • FROM PAGE 1

of the Clean Team.

“Back in September, Dave Thompson from the Academy for Cleaning Excellence Orlando, Fla. came and did in person training for the team, and he was impressed with Benito. He asked the team if they were willing to nominate Benito for the National Rock Star Custodian award, and the Clean Team agreed,” Baidwan said. “The voting was open for some time and then Benito was made a finalist in the competi-

tion, later we were notified that he was the top vote getter for the state of Colorado. We are proud to have Benito on our staff and for the excellence he pursues each and every day, well done!”

Benito Ruybal works hard to maintain the cleanliness of the Annex Building and for all of the other buildings on Tribal Campus. Along with other members of the Clean Team, Ruybal helps provide a clean and safe environment for all building occupants.

“It felt amazing to know

that my team and the organization were rooting for me to win this award, when I found out that I had won the Rock Stars of Cleaning Award I was very happy,” Ruybal said. “I believe I am the first custodian to win this award for the Clean Team, it is a huge honor. I am so happy to have an amazing boss, Jess Baidwan, to be able to learn from him has been really great for my being able to grow within the Tribal organization.”

BEE HEARD • FROM PAGE 4

alistic, the more likely you are to do it, feel successful, do it again, and so on, until you’re a pro – and maybe even ready to stack on another habit or make the challenge slightly harder.

2. Consider all your options

When first getting started, to get a sense of all your cue options, James Clear recommends making two lists: one of the things you do every single day (drink coffee, eat dinner, listen to a news podcast), and another of events that occur or things that happen to you every day (the sun rises, the phone rings, you get hungry). Now you can choose the best building block on which to stack another one.

3. Be extremely specific.

If either your new goal or current cue (or both) are too vague, you’ll struggle. If you tell yourself you’re going to take a 10-minute walk outside every day during your lunch break, it would be helpful to decide exactly when you’ll go outside – right after you end the session with your client? Five minutes after you finish lunch? And don’t forget to make contingency plans, like what you’ll do if the weather’s bad or you’re feeling pressure to work through lunch.

4. Choose a realistic cue.

To set yourself up for success, select your current hab-

it wisely, taking into account the realities of your life. For instance, you want to read 10 pages every night after you brush your teeth. Sounds great. But if you tend to fall asleep immediately reading at night, or your children have inconsistent bedtimes that affect your bedtime routine, choosing nightly teeth brushing as the cue may not be optimal. You’ll want to go back to your list of existing habit options to think of a better anchor.

5. Give yourself a timeline.

It’s not totally necessary, but it’s helpful to set yourself a concrete window of time. It could be arbitrary (one week, one month, until your birthday) or an actual deadline for an event (the race you’re training for, when a work project is due). “When goals are too open-ended you can feel less motivated to work on them. Like SMART [Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Relevant; Time-Bound] goals, establishing a timeline helps reinforce the commitment you’re making to work on this new habit. Plus, setting a time limit can feel less daunting because it’s more of a short-term commitment with an end in sight. It also creates an excellent moment for you to pause and reflect on your progress. Did you successfully meditate for three minutes after taking your morning vitamins for the entire month? Celebrate

that! Or did you drop off after a few days? Ask yourself why, modify the goal, or consider choosing a different old habit to link to.

Here’s to your good health!

**This article was published with permission from the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line*

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.

Nominate an Artist for Dancing Spirit’s First Friday Art Shows!

We know there’s incredible talent all around us, and we want to spotlight YOU! If you know an artist (or a group of artists) whose work deserves to be seen and celebrated, we invite you to nominate them for our First Friday Art Shows at Dancing Spirit’s Center for the Arts! Here’s how it works: Nominate an artist (or yourself) by commenting on the Dancing Spirit’s Facebook Messenger with their name and why you think their work would be perfect for our First Friday Art Shows. Share the post and tag an artist you admire! The more nominations, the better! We’ll select featured artists each month to showcase their talent, connect with the community, and inspire others. Event Details: First Friday of every month, 5 – 8 p.m. Dancing Spirit’s Center for the Arts, Ignacio, CO. Let’s come together to celebrate local creativity and support artists in our community! We can’t wait to see who you nominate. Nominate now and let’s fill the space with art, passion, and inspiration!



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



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.

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



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

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

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
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- Companionship
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- Medical Care Management
- Alzheimer’s and Dementia care
- Respite care

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



courtesy Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative

Over 400 students engaged with 78 businesses, organizations, and colleges at the Futures Fair, hosted at the La Plata County Fairgrounds and Event Center. The event, organized by the Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative, provided hands-on career experiences and networking opportunities to help students explore their future career paths.

CAREER FAIR

Futures Fair sparks career, college aspirations for local students

Staff report
SOUTHWEST COLORADO
EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

More than 400 students took a step toward their futures at this year's Futures Fair, where they engaged with 78 businesses, organizations, and colleges to explore career pathways and opportunities. Held at the La Plata County Fairgrounds and Event Center, the event provided hands-on career experiences, valuable networking opportunities, and inspiring conversations with industry professionals across multiple sectors. Schools in attendance included Miller Middle School, Durango High School, Big Picture High School, Silverton High School, Bayfield High School, and Ignacio High School.

The Futures Fair is designed to empower students with the knowledge and connections needed to make informed decisions about their futures. From interactive exhibits to one-on-one discussions with industry experts,

students gained real-world insights into potential career paths. The event was hosted by the Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative, a non-profit organization that works to create equitable access to career-connected learning opportunities for students across the region. The Collaborative partners with schools, industry, and higher education to ensure that students are equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to thrive in their future career pathway.

"This event is a powerful reminder of the breadth of our regional community and endless opportunities ahead for our students," said Jenna Mulligan, Career and College Coordinator. "We are incredibly grateful to our partners for investing in the next generation and to the students who showed up with curiosity and enthusiasm."

The event was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. A special thank you to our Sil-

ver Level Sponsors – Durango Urgent Care, FCI Constructors Inc., La Plata Electric Association, and Clearnetworx – as well as our Bronze Level Sponsors – Express Employment Professionals and ERO Resources Corporation. Additionally, we appreciate our Coffee Sponsor, Desert Sun Coffee Roasters, for keeping attendees energized throughout the morning and to the La Plata County Fairgrounds for hosting this impactful program.

The Futures Fair continues to serve as a bridge between education and industry, ensuring that students have access to the tools and connections they need to thrive in the workforce.

For more information about the Futures Fair and how to get involved in future events, please contact info@swcoedcollaborative.org. To learn more about the Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative visit swcoedcollaborative.org.

Craft Fair

9am-4pm

1st Saturday of Every Month

Saturday March 1st
Southern Ute Museum
Large Classroom

Have a birthday or special occasion coming up?
Want to get started on Easter ideas?
Come see what unique finds our vendors have.
Concession, Goodies, and more.

Have questions or for Vendor Information
Please call:
Mandy
970-238-0838

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

MARCH Activities

March 4, 2025
Northern Edge (Farmington)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

March 11, 2025
Movie Day (Durango)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 1:00 p.m.

March 17, 2025
Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - 23, 2025
49th Annual Denver March Pow Wow
We have 6 rooms available. Please call Elder Services at 970-563-2309 for more information.
Van will depart Elder Services @ 8:00 a.m.

March 25, 2025
Shopping (Durango)
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.

ATTENTION

THE SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER
MAIN ENTRANCE **WILL BE CLOSED**
FEBRUARY 3RD-MARCH 3RD

FINDING A MISSING LOVED ONE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Stay Calm & Contact Law Enforcement**
 - Call the Southern Ute Police Department Dispatch at 970.563.4401.
 - In an emergency, call 911.
- 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
- Designate a Point of Contact**
 - Establish a single person to communicate with law enforcement and to provide updates with family & friends.
- Seek Support**
 - Remember, you are not alone.
 - The MMR Task Force of Colorado | 970.553.0337
 - SUPD Victim Services | 970.563.0245
- 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



Southern Ute Indian Tribe Snow Clearing Frequently Asked Questions

When do crews go out?

Driveway clearing crews will begin when snow accumulation is over 5". Dialysis/Individuals with disabilities/Frail Tribal Member snow shoveling will begin when snow accumulation is over 3".

Which SUIT team covers my home and how do I contact them?

Reference the color-coded map or the detailed flyer published in the Drum, Tribal Member Experience, or on the Tribal Housing website. You may also call Tribal Housing at 970-563-4710 to request appropriate contact information.

It snowed, and my driveway has not been plowed, what do I do?

There are 604 total structures served by this program, please be patient as our teams work to assist everyone in the program. If your driveway has not been plowed by 2pm please notify the listed contact for your route. Also, please bear in mind, that as snow accumulation continues throughout the day, there may be instances where additional snow accumulation has occurred after crews have visited your home and may require multiple days to fully work through all routes and snow clearing through the duration of, and following completion of each storm event.

I saw crews working at my neighbor's home but did not stop at my home, why did they skip me?

Dialysis and Frail elders are the first priority. Also, there are several different routes and crews for each, and their schedules may be different. Please allow your appropriate crew time to work their way through their respective routes.

Why aren't they plowing to my propane tank/wood pile/cistern?

Service is to provide primary access in/out; if you would like to request these additional services, submit a request with the SUIT team designated for your home so they can evaluate access and availability to assist.

What if I don't want the service all the time?

Notify the SUIT team designated for your home. You can note that you will call when needed.

The plow truck ruined my driveway, who will pay for it?

The service provided does its best to clear the snow without pushing up gravel or creating ruts; the homeowner must regularly maintain gravel or dirt driveways. You will not be reimbursed for damages incurred from normal snow clearing.

When will crews remove snow from my roof?

The service is for the elderly and individuals with disabilities and does not occur until snow accumulation is over 12" as a safety precaution to prevent damage to roof structures. Snow clearing will only be performed from the ground through use of a roof rake for staff safety.

COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

Resurfacing and culvert improvement project to begin on CO 151 east of Ignacio

Motorists should plan for 15-minute delays

Staff report

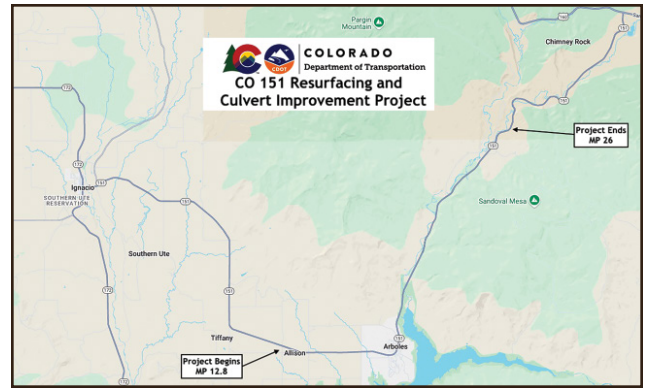
COLO. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation and contracting partner, Elam Construction, began resurfacing and culvert improvements Monday, Feb. 17 along CO Highway 151 east of Ignacio from the La Plata/Archuleta county line to south of the "old coal mine." Motorists should plan for 15-minute delays during construction hours. The project is expected to be completed at the beginning of September 2025.

The project will improve approximately 13 miles of CO 151 from Mile Point 12.8, east of Ignacio at the La Plata/Archuleta county line, to MP 26, south of the old coal mine. Work will include milling old asphalt, paving with new asphalt, shouldering, rumble strip installation, guardrail replacement and road sign replacement. Additional work will consist of six culvert improvements including repairing one culvert, cleaning out two culverts and replacing three culverts throughout the project limits.

Project Benefits

The new asphalt will add approximately 10 years of life to the highway, provide a smoother road surface and increase durability by increasing the resistance of ruts and road damage. The installation of a new guardrail that will be 31 inches high, designed to meet new safety standard requirements. The higher railing will help veering vehicles remain on the road more effectively, making the highway safer for the traveling public. The former standard height of guardrail was 27 inches. Improvements and replacement of culverts will accommodate higher accumulations of rainfall and lower the risks associated with flooding to maintain safe driving conditions.



courtesy CDOT

Map of CO 151 work zone area east of Ignacio, from mile point 12.8 to mile point 26.

vide a smoother road surface and increase durability by increasing the resistance of ruts and road damage. The installation of a new guardrail that will be 31 inches high, designed to meet new safety standard requirements. The higher railing will help veering vehicles remain on the road more effectively, making the highway safer for the traveling public. The former standard height of guardrail was 27 inches. Improvements and replacement of culverts will accommodate higher accumulations of rainfall and lower the risks associated with flooding to maintain safe driving conditions.

Traffic Improvements

Daytime work hours are Monday through Friday

from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Traffic impacts will include:

- Motorists should plan for 15-minute delays.
- Motorists must obey a speed reduction of 40 mph.
- Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel.
- Travelers will encounter 24/7 one-lane alternating traffic guided by a temporary portable traffic signal with a speed reduction of 25 mph at culvert locations.

Project Information

- For additional information about this project, contact the project team.
- Project information hotline: 970-456-1361
- Project email: resurfacingproject@gmail.com

2024/2025 SNOW CLEARING SERVICES

12"- Roof-Raking

Our drivers do their best to serve you and many others during snowstorms, please be patient as they work through their routes. It is not uncommon for work on routes to extend through the early afternoon.

If you are a Tribal Member Elder who is frail or disabled and need assistance with snow shoveling, please contact:

Tribal Housing - (970) 563-4710

5"- Tribal Members

3"- Dialysis Patients, Frail Elders, & Tribal Members with a Disability

Please call the **Tribal Hotline (970) 563-4800** for information regarding office closures, weather reports, and clinic updates.

WINTER WEATHER TIPS!

As winter approaches, the Construction Services Division wants to remind you to prepare your homes. Turn heaters to a minimum of 60 degrees. Plug in your heaters at the pump house and apply heat tapes to your water lines to prevent freezing.

If you need assistance, contact Construction Services at **970-563-0260**.

2024 SNOW CLEARING SERVICES FOR ELDERS

The order of priority is: 1st) Dialysis Patients; 2nd) Those with disabilities or Frail Elders; 3rd) Tribal Member Elders.

Note: 1st and 2nd Priority Only: Please contact responsible department to notify them of early morning doctor appointments.

General Information:

SNOW PLOWING – FOR SU TRIBAL MEMBERS – DRIVEWAY for HOME ACCESS – SU Campus – Live Stock: The Tribe will make every attempt to plow snow quickly and properly. The order of priority is: 1st) Dialysis Patients; 2nd) Those with disabilities or Frail Elders; and, 3rd) Tribal Member Elders. Snow plowing for all other Tribal Members is performed by dividing plow routes into designated areas shown below. Snow plowing will begin when snow accumulation is over five (5) inches. Dialysis/Those with disabilities/Frail Elders snow shoveling will begin when snow accumulation is over three (3) inches. This service is provided to Southern Ute Membership only (No Rentals). Member must be living in residence. Please be patient during heavy snows, the drivers are making every attempt to get to you quickly.

Walkways & Roof – Snow Clearing

Snow clearing from walkways will only be done for those with disabilities or Frail Elders.

Snow clearing service from the roof of the home is for those with disabilities and Elders. In general, roof snow will be removed if the snow depth accumulates more than twelve (12) inches or to a level where safety concerns are evident or potential damage to roof or structures may occur. Snow will ONLY be removed from areas where the crew can reach safely from the ground. **If you believe you need this service, please contact Forestry Fuels (970) 563-4780 or the Agriculture Division at (970) 563-0220.**

Tribal Housing: (970) 563-4710

Construction Services: (970) 563-0260

Agriculture Division: (970) 563-2900

Forestry Fuels Crew: (970) 563-0270

Motor Pool: (970) 563-0280

Tribal Planning: (970) 563-2280

BIA: (970) 563-9484

SUIHA: (970) 563-4575

TRIBAL Hotline: (970) 563-4800

Please call the hotline for inclement weather updates to request snow clearing and/or to report any issues or concerns related to your primary residence.

Construction Services Route: (970) 563-0260 - Cedar Point East and West, Cedar Point Townhomes, Chief Shavano Ignacio Peak, HWY 172 South from County Rd 318 to La Boca, East of Pine River, South of Bayfield to La Boca Allison & Arboles area.

Motor Pool Route: 563-0280 - North of Ignacio, West of Pine River Breen & Red Mesa Area, Airport & Weaselskin area.

BIA / Tribal Planning Route: (970) 563-9484 / (970) 563-2283 - BIA / Tribal Planning does not clear driveways: Roads include Ute Road, Cedar Point East and West, Ignacio Peak, Howe Dr., Sunset Circle Loop, Pow Wow Circle, Sunset Meadows, Tamuche, Piwood, Shoshone Avenue, Bear Dance Road, & North Ridge. **Please remove all vehicles off of the road to allow the Motor Grader to plow snow.**

Housing Authority Route: (970) 563-4575 - Snow clearing for those with disabilities, & elders driveways ONLY: Roadways include Sunset Circle, Senior Center, and Shoshone Avenue

Livestock Snow Clearing: (970) 563-0220 - Plowing snow for livestock feeding is done, *but is low priority*. There is a minimum charge of \$ 35.00/1st hour then \$ 30.00/hour; \$ 35.00 is due in advance. \$.35/mile one way travel will also be charged.

Forestry Fuels Crew: (970) 563-4780; Agriculture Division: (970) 563-4780 - WALKWAYS - (Roof snow at entry only) Shovel walkways for: **1 – Dialysis Patients 2– Those with disabilities/Frail.** ROOFS: Roof rake at entry only with accumulation of 12" or more.

Please remember to move personal items such as bikes, lawn mowers, water hoses, planter boxes or any other item out of the way, so that they do not get damaged by the snowplows.

Southern Ute TRIBAL Hotline: (970) 563-4800

Please call the hotline for inclement weather updates and to request snow clearing and/or to report any issues or concerns related to snow clearing at your primary residence.

2024 SNOW CLEARING SERVICES

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STATE OF COLORADO

Senator Hickenlooper statement on Executive Actions

Staff report
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR
HICKENLOOPER

U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper released the following statement after multiple actions by the Trump Administration to give DOGE officials access to the federal

payment system, dismantle USAID, and freeze federal funding:

“Last week the Trump Administration tried to illegally freeze federal funding that would go to our rural hospitals, local public schools, and law enforcement agencies in Colorado. This week,

they’re threatening to shut down entire agencies without transparency or congressional approval and allowing access to Americans’ sensitive data.

“Our founders put checks and balances in place for a reason. We’re all for making government more efficient, but vi-

olating our laws is not the way to do it. We’ll fight these attempts in the courts, on the Senate floor, and anywhere else we can to defend Colorado and the Constitution.

“Enough with the chaos and headline chasing. We should be working to solve problems, not create more.”

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement Update

February 19, 2025



Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose and Tribal Council participated in a productive virtual meeting this afternoon with a local representative from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Also present were Executive Officer Lindsay J. Box, Justice and Regulatory Director Elliott Salazar, and Chief of Police Michael Barrow.

This meeting established a foundation for ongoing collaboration and information sharing between the Tribe and ICE. Discussions focused on mutual areas of interest and priorities, with both parties expressing a commitment to open communication. Tribal Council welcomed ICE's recognition of Tribal sovereignty and its willingness to work cooperatively with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's law enforcement.

This initial dialogue is a positive step towards building a stronger working relationship and underscores the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's proactive approach to community safety and well-being.

There is no indication of any immediate threat to the Tribal Membership.



Immigration and Customs 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

POKER IS BACK!

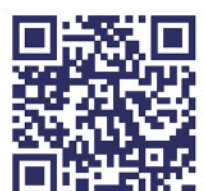
STARTING FEBRUARY 27

THURSDAY – SUNDAY | 3PM – 2AM

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Love is in the air!



Members of Southern Ute Royalty lead rows of dancers during the round dance session of the Sweetheart Community Powwow, the round dance took place ahead of the powwow earlier that afternoon.



Alana and Tricia Cries for War share a dance during the Two-Step special during the Sweetheart Community Powwow on Saturday, the couple went on to take first place in this special competition.



Southern Ute Tribal member, Linda Baker and her grandson, Ethan Rohde O'Leary compete in the Potato Dance special on Saturday, sharing a laugh as the pair try to keep their potato held steady between them.



Kenny Brown Jr. takes a lead during a round dance song on Saturday, Feb. 15, singing loud and bringing dancers to the floor during the Sweetheart Community Powwow.



The Southern Ute Veterans Association led the Grand Entry during the annual Sweetheart Community Powwow at the MPF on Saturday.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Head dancers, Raenell Scott and Kenny Brown Sr. follow in behind the Southern Ute Veterans Association during Grand Entry on Saturday. The couple hails from Ft. Defiance, Ariz. representing the Diné, Northern Arapahoe, and Cree nations.

The Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility (MPF) hosted its annual Sweetheart Community Powwow on Saturday, Feb. 15, featuring a round dance session, two step special, and potato dance. The MPF was packed with dancers, singers, and spectators making for a lively event to celebrate the Valentine's Day holiday, sharing the feeling of love amongst all including couples, friends and families. This powwow is a fan favorite here in the community, made possible through the hard work of the MPF staff and community volunteers.

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

..... **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



LOCAL NONPROFITS

Community Foundation infused over \$5.2 Million into SW CO nonprofits

Staff report

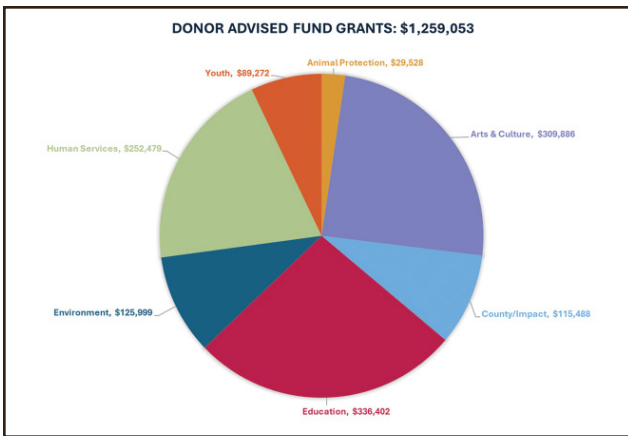
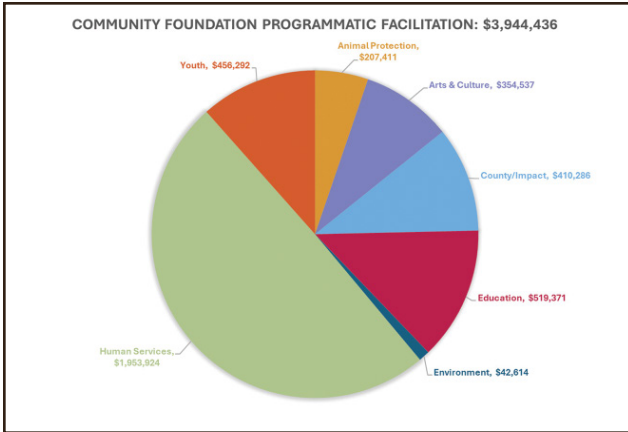
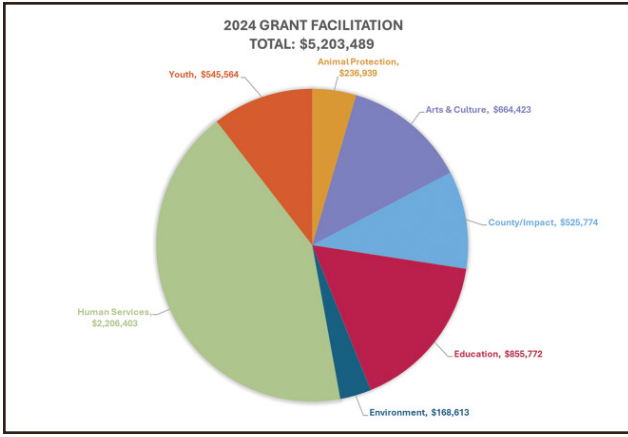
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In 2024, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado infused \$5,203,489 into Southwest Colorado's nonprofit community. Those giving totals are broken down as follows:

- \$3,944,436 was facilitated through Community Foundation projects and programmatic granting.
- \$1,259,053 was granted from the Community Foundation donor-advised funds (DAFs).

Funding was disbursed across various nonprofit sectors throughout Southwest Colorado. The top three sectors in which the Foundation facilitated granting were human services, youth, and education. Here is the breakdown by sector:

- Animal Protection 5% (\$236,939)
- Arts and Culture 13% (\$664,423)
- County/Impact 10% (\$525,774)
- Education 16% (\$855,772)
- Environment 3% (\$168,613)
- Human Services 42% (\$2,206,403)
- Youth - 10% (\$545,564)



“These dollars help cultivate a stronger nonprofit sector that is poised to support and enhance our community.” The Community Foundation serves Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties. For more information, please visit swcommunityfoundation.org.

DANCING SPIRIT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
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\$35/month + 10 hours required volunteer time
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- Digital membership card
- Monthly e-newsletter
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- Recognition on our website
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Stop by the gallery or call us for more information
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www.dscac.org | www.facebook.com/dscac

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

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)?

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

SUDEPs Limitations:

- 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.
- 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.

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Battery rebates up to \$3,000, plus increased EV rebates up to \$500, and expanded all-electric home incentives!

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BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ignacio girls pull away from Bayfield

Lady 'Cats win exciting rematch, 46-25

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Three-pointers by senior DaLaney Wesner and junior Juliann Avila helped Ignacio outscore Bayfield's girls 15-4 during the final 6:48 of regulation Thursday evening, Feb. 13, and the Lady Bobcats – with almost four players in double figures offensively – ultimately claimed victory by a 46-25 margin.

“Our offensive game was really good in the beginning. Towards the end we got tired; we had to switch it up because they figured out what we were doing,” said IHS sophomore Maliyah Martinez, “and our shots weren't falling. But we learned that fast breaks are our best friend, pretty much.”

“We were just playing slow today; for some reason we were just not 'into' it,” head coach Travis Nanae-to said. “But, yeah, the girls started working together towards the end. Working the ball, finding the right shot and taking it – I always give them the green light: When no one's on you, take it!”

And in the early goings, both sides thrived with that mentality. Particularly the visiting Lady Wolverines, and especially sophomore guard Kimball Anderson. Shooting with confidence right from the outset, Anderson took advantage of Ignacio's extra attention paid to senior Renae Foutz and drained two three-pointers, giving BHS



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Marissa Olguin dribbles hard Thursday evening, Feb. 13, through both midcourt and Bayfield's Renae Foutz during the teams' second of two regular-season clashes. The Lady Bobcats won 46-25 inside IHS Gymnasium, to sweep this winter's home-and-home.

a 6-5 lead. Wesner then answered with a late triple regaining IHS an 8-6 lead by the first quarter's end.

It then grew to 14-8 with 5:00 left in the second, but Bayfield would re-tie the score at 14-all via an Anderson jumper with 1:47 to go. Lady 'Cat senior Victoria Brown, however, almost immediately regained the home team the upper hand, then added a pair of free throws with 1:15 left.

Seven ticks later, Ignacio's lead had increased to 20-14 thanks to Martinez converting a steal of BHS' inbounds pass into another basket, and Brown would cap the first-half scoring with two FTs resulting from junior Alyssa Atencio prolonging a possession with a clutch offensive rebound.

Atencio then found her shot early in the third quar-

Ignacio girls page 14



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's D.J. Hendren (2) goes airborne Thursday night, Feb. 13, for a tough shot in the lane against Bayfield's Isaac Forsythe during the teams' second of two regular-season rumbles. Thanks to a 53-46 road win inside IHS Gymnasium, however, the Wolverines took both.

BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

Bobcats lose battle with Wolverines

IHS boys fall 53-46 at home to Bayfield

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Ambrose Valdez had most definitely watched some NBA hoops the previous night.

Rocking star Denver guard Jamal Murray's No. 27 jersey – and perhaps replaying in his mind just how the Nuggets' star put a career-high 55 points on the Portland Trail Blazers – before and after Ignacio High's long-anticipated rematch with local/league rival Bayfield Thursday night, Feb. 13, IHS' junior guard certainly evoked Murray with some of his longer makes, detonating powder kegs' worth of applause from supporters stuffing IHS

Gymnasium. The Wolverines ... yeah, they didn't want to see that.

“I know what they can do, what they're capable of here, and our defensive scheme held up pretty well throughout the game. But (Valdez) just got loose,” BHS head coach Damon White Thunder said afterwards. “Those kids are so good – we kept Trace (Crane) pretty well contained – but we didn't expect Ambrose to go off, hitting those deep bombs like he did.”

Valdez would rain down three threes in totaling an IHS-best 13 points, but he wasn't alone in a contest where anyone could end up

being the hero, and everyone seemed to have heroics in store.

After the Bobcats gained a 9-8 lead in the first quarter, via a jumper with 0:58 left by senior reserve Lincoln Gillespie, the visiting Wolverines closed out the exciting eight minutes with a baseline reverse layup by senior Lincoln Williams, plus a buzzer-beating Williams trey assisted by senior Austin Wilmer.

BHS' lead then grew to 15-9 before IHS junior Stoney White Thunder cashed a three. Steadily rallying, Trae Seibel's Bobcats then crept ahead, 21-

Bobcats page 14



Becky Canterbury/Ignacio School District

Ignacio Ladycat Larissa Espinosa takes a knee while receiving vital instruction from coach Brad Egger during her match at the 2025 CHSAA State Wrestling Tournament at the Ball Arena in Denver. Espinosa placed fifth st State in her respective weight class.

BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING

Espinosa leads Lady 'Cats in Denver

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

In it for the long haul, Larissa Espinosa's three-day stay at the 2025 CHSAA State Wrestling Championships, February 13-15 in Denver, ended with the Ignacio junior grabbing fifth place at 190 pounds in the Class 4A Girls' division.

Starting out on Day 1 with a pin of Olathe senior Teresa Galvan just one tick before the first two-minute period expired, Espinosa then lost by pin to Wiggins senior Mackenzie Steinbar with just 17 seconds left in the third and last regulation period. No less motivated to continue her pursuit of the podium, Espinosa bounced back in the second round of consolation action with a 15-0 technical-fall rout of Las Animas sophomore Jazlynn Duran.

Espinosa then moved into the consolation semifinals by pinning Yuma ju-

nior Gese Sanchez in 1:25, but then ran into another roadblock in Pagosa Springs sophomore Laykyn Baxstrom, who prevailed via pin midway through the second period.

Still in position to place on Day 3, Espinosa took it to Fort Lupton junior Dahlila Tijerina and finished the '24-25 grind standing 15-11 overall after sticking Tijerina (33-15) 1:31 into the second period. Steinbar (30-8 overall), meanwhile, went on to blank Greeley University freshman McKinlee Collett (19-9) 7-0 in that night's first-place bout.

All told, Espinosa's efforts helped IHS tally 24.5 points and rank 30th (out of 60 scoring squads) in the final team standings. Pueblo Central (194 points) finished atop the table, with Thornton Skyview (82.5) second and Lamar (76.5) third.

Ignacio junior Marlene Martinez-Perez (11-12 overall) began well at

140 pounds, pinning Mofat County's Amanaki George 33 seconds into the third period, but then lost via first-period pin to Manitou Springs' Kara Donegan in the quarters, and then to Evergreen's Avery Cox in Round 2 of consolation.

IHS junior 135-pounder Krysten Neil (15-16 overall) also won her first bout inside Ball Arena, pinning Wray's Lauren Gdanitz 1:33 into the third period, but was then pinned in 1:02 by Cañon City junior Kate Doughty – who went on to capture the crown and cap an undefeated 34-0 season – and eliminated via a 21-8 major decision courtesy Evergreen's Margaret Burrier.

And at 100 pounds, Lady 'Cat junior Madison Egger (13-10 overall) lost via pin 1:27 into her opening bout against Sedgwick County/Fleming's Lily Torres, then was pinned by Brush's Nayeli Cardenas as the first two-minute period expired.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Lincoln deKay is presented as the 2025 Butch Melton Memorial Invitational's 165-pound champion after defeating Kirtland (N.M.) Central's Nathan Tom (right). Most recently, deKay concluded his 2024-25 season placing second amongst Class 2A's best 165s at the CHSAA State Wrestling Championships in Denver.

BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING

IHS' deKay second at State

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

The ink could make ya think.

Even if it was difficult to read as Joe Probst competed during the Ignacio-hosted Class 2A Boys' Region II Championships. During one of the Feb. 7-8 event's 157-pound semifinals, IHS junior Zane Pontine may not have even got a clear look at the Kremmling West Grand senior's left forearm, tattooed with a motto both wrestlers could follow – from a packed IHS Gymnasium all the way up to Ball Arena in Denver: I will become what I know I am.

Pontine, however, became the regional's champion at the weight – via an 11-4 win over Probst, followed by a 12-9 sudden-victory triumph over Mancos senior Brandon Vannest – and thus advanced to the 2025 CHSAA State Championships hoping to become what every high-school wrestler dreams of being.

And on Day 1 of the Feb. 13-15 spectacle, Pontine took the first step towards the top of the podium by pinning Swink senior Dalton Casper one minute, 26 seconds into the first period of their first-round bout. Unfortunately, Pontine's title run was cut short in the

quarterfinals as Hotchkiss North Fork senior Charlie Miller pulled out an 8-5 win after six hard minutes.

And as fate – or at least irony – would have it, Pontine found himself squaring off against Probst to begin his attempted run through the consolation rounds, with third place now his objective. Upset 13-11 in the opening Round-of-16 by Del Norte junior Paul Neal, but able to stay alive via a medical-forfeit win over Stratton senior Stockton Fye, Probst then got the better of Pontine and dealt the Bobcat a season-ending 14-9 defeat.

IHS' deKay page 14

BOBCATS LOSE BATTLE • FROM PAGE 13

20, via a Valdez triple with 2:15 left until halftime. Bayfield sophomore Hayes Malone countered with a three re-tying the score at 23-all with 1:00 to go, and after Malone then fed Cameron Queen for a go-ahead hoop inside, IHS' White Thunder converted a Crane assist into a bucket sending the game into intermission deadlocked at 25-25.

An early three-pointer by senior Charley Pargin put the 'Cats up 30-29, and after Queen again struck inside, Valdez dropped in a layup. Nearly indefensible in the post, Queen then pumped in another two points, only to see Valdez respond with a straight-on three. Down 35-33, the Wolverines stayed committed to Queen, who converted a pass from senior Cooper Roderick into his fourth two-pointer of the quarter, and after Valdez was hit with his fourth personal foul with just 18.2 ticks left, senior Neatris Wilbourn nailed one of two free throws – giving BHS a 36-35 lead going into the fourth.

"On Cameron's side, it just worked out for him," Valdez admitted. "We just tried to go out there and have our best game, put the ball in the hoop. But our battles in the paint could have been a little bit better."

"The first half was very slow for me ... and I realized that, you know, this is going to be tough," said Queen. "Ignacio's a good team and they play tough the whole game, so I knew I had to step up and help our team ... get its offense going."

Assisted by senior Isaac Forsythe, Wilbourn got the final frame underway with a two-pointer, but IHS junior reserve Rance Rathjen answered with an offensive rebound and put-back. Senior Coty Webb, also coming in off Seibel's bench, then buried a three but BHS junior Kingston Martinez re-tied the score at 40-40 with a two-pointer (fouled by Rathjen, Martinez failed to add the 'and-one' bonus FT) and 5:03 remaining.

Pargin put Ignacio back up 42-40 with 4:12 to go, but like Martinez, failed to tack on an extra point after being fouled by Queen. Almost able to physically lean back on his own student section, spilling out from the seats and onto the floor close to the baseline, Malone then swished a go-ahead three from the cor-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez (22) lines up a three-pointer Thursday night, Feb. 13, over Bayfield's Hayes Malone during the teams' second of two regular-season rumbles. Thanks to a 53-46 road win inside IHS Gymnasium, however, the Wolverines took both. Valdez drained three threes and totaled a team-high 13 points for the Bobcats in defeat.

ner. With 1:26 still to play, the Wolverines' 43-42 lead had grown slightly to 47-44, and boss White Thunder knew it was time to force the Bobcats (9-10 overall, 2-6 3A/4A Intermountain) to begin fouling.

Martinez made two FTs with 53.5 seconds left, and Malone added another with 0:26.6 remaining, expanding the margin to 50-44. Taking a pass from Valdez, the well-guarded Crane at last made his first basket with only 15.8 left, but Bayfield (12-7, 6-3 IML) closed out a 53-46 road win with one Williams FT and two from Roderick.

Williams finished with ten points while Roderick registered nine and Malone seven. Queen, meanwhile, ended up totaling a game-high 14, with a dozen of those points coming during the second half.

"He's put in a lot of work – he got his shot earlier in the season, and he's taken full advantage ... and now he's one of our go-to guys," Damon White Thunder said. "He's a game-changer down there, and he's only going to get bigger."

"You know, it's a crazy atmosphere; you've got to be here to witness it. You can't even hear yourself think," Queen said. "When Coach was calling plays

I'm not hearing him – so I'm getting yelled at – but it's a great atmosphere. It really is."

"The first half, you know, we just weren't stepping out on Ambrose and he's a great shooter. He's going to hit those shots," Queen said. "Second half, we started realizing that he was on fire, so having Lincoln and Kingston step out ... was huge to limit him."

Stoney White Thunder finished with eight points as IHS' substitutes actually outscored BHS' 16-13. Pargin ended up with seven points and sophomore Cayson Burcham six, but like Crane, starter D.J. Hendren was held to just two.

"It was a pretty good game; the other team just had more than us," Valdez said. "And they came here and showed it."

Looking ahead, Ignacio will continue league work hosting 4A Alamosa (3-17, 1-8 IML) on Friday, February 21, and 3A Monte Vista the following afternoon. Results from the Bobcats' trip on the 18th to 4A Montezuma-Cortez (15-5, 7-2) were unavailable at press time. Postponed by a weekend snowstorm, IHS' 2/14 home game versus 3A Centauri (at the time 18-0, 8-0) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25.

IGNACIO GIRLS PULL AWAY • FROM PAGE 13

ter, and in short order sank a deuce and a trey – inflating Ignacio's pad to 27-14 with 5:57 left. And the Lady 'Cats found themselves breathing even easier during the next two minutes as Foutz, still scoreless, not only missed four consecutive FTs but then picked up her fourth personal foul with 3:59 to go.

BHS sophomore Vivien Clance managed to convert an Anderson steal into a layup only nine seconds later, but IHS (7-11 overall, 3-5 3A/4A Intermountain) countered with two-pointers by Brown and Wesner to take a 31-18 lead into the final frame ... only to discover the Lady Wolverines hadn't been sufficiently subdued. Mercifully, Foutz made one of two FTs with 7:07 remaining, and Anderson followed with a short jumper bringing the guests back to 31-21 with 6:48 left.

Highlighted by Wesner's aforementioned straight-on three, Ignacio finally broke free via an 11-0 burst, and Anderson would sit out the penultimate 2:29 with a cramped left calf (junior Sylvia Hesford fouled out on the same play).

"Coach just said we need to come out with confidence," said Anderson, who totaled a team-high 12 points. "Slowing it down in our minds really made the difference between a shot going in or not."

Clance and freshman Grace Brown each totaled four points for Bayfield, Hesford and Foutz managed two apiece, and freshman Natalie Osendorf chipped in a fourth-quarter free throw. The charity stripe was anything but giving, however; the Lady Wolverines (5-14, 0-9 IML) made only three of 23 FTs, with Foutz finishing 2-of-12, Hesford 0-of-6 and



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Juliann Avila grabs a rebound Thursday evening, Feb. 13, over Bayfield's Vivien Clance (2) during the teams' second of two regular-season clashes. The Lady Bobcats won 46-25 inside IHS Gymnasium, to sweep this winter's home-and-home.

Anderson 0-of-3.

Ignacio, meanwhile, finished 8-of-16. Despite going 2-of-6 from the foul line, Victoria Brown still ended up equaling Anderson's 12 points. Wesner, Atencio and Martinez each finished with nine points and Avila seven. Senior Marissa Olguin went scoreless but grabbed no fewer than nine rebounds, nabbed six steals and also dished out six assists.

Looking ahead, the Lady 'Cats will continue league work hosting 4A Alamosa (15-5, 7-2 IML) on Friday, February 21, and 3A Monte Vista the following afternoon. Results from IHS' trip on the 18th to 4A Montezuma-Cortez (5-15, 1-8) were

unavailable at press time. Postponed by a weekend snowstorm, IHS' 2/14 home game versus 3A Centauri (at the time 15-3, 7-1) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 25.

"We have to really push and focus on these next few games; in order to go to regionals, we have to be (ranked) 32 or higher," Martinez stated. "For our seniors, we want to make this their best last season and have fun with it."

"We'll take it step by step, you know, and work on what we need to work on," Nanaeto said. "Right now, it's mostly just about communication, and covering in the paint."

IHS' DEKAY SECOND AT STATE • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Zane Pontine, right, congratulates Kremmling West Grand's Joe Probst for being a worthy opponent in the 157-pound division's semifinals at the 2025 Class 2A Boys' Region II Championships. Pontine defeated Probst inside IHS Gymnasium, but most recently lost to him at the CHSAA State Wrestling Championships in Denver.

But the Mustang also would not finish amongst the weight's top six as Cedaredge senior Wylee Lorimer then eliminated him 5-3 in the consolation quarters. Lorimer (40-15 overall) would end up placing sixth while, much later on Day 3, Miller (47-5 overall) outlasted Wray senior Casey Midcap (38-3) in the first-place bout, 16 to 14.

Finishing his third varsity season stuck on 99 career victories, Pontine concluded his '24-25 campaign standing 37-7.

Ready to make amends for a 2-1 loss to Vannest in last season's third-place bout at 150 pounds (coincidentally, Vannest had ousted Probst earlier in the second round of consolation action), Ignacio junior Lincoln deKay

– now one of the classification's best at 165 – started his new title quest with a 14-3 major-decision win over Limon sophomore Carlos Nunez, then dominated NFHS senior Peyton Armstrong by 16-1 technical fall in the quarterfinals.

Pit against Sedgwick County/Fleming senior Grant Statz in one semi, deKay logged a 15-12 sudden-victory win to earn himself a spot in the weight's grand finale against Holly's Tripp DuVall. King amongst the 150s in 2024, DuVall – who'd also placed second in '22 to Fowler's Traven Sharon as a freshman 106-pounder – was as tough a customer as expected and finalized his senior-year record at 41-3 via an 11-2 major.

deKay, meanwhile, fin-

ished the winter standing an outstanding 44-6 overall. As a 'team,' IHS' dynamite duo earned 24.5 points and tied Colorado Springs Christian for 27th place out of 49 scoring squads. Atop the standings, Cedaredge racked up 141.5 points but needed every one of them to edge runner-up North Fork (138) and third-place Wray (126). Rocky Ford (110.5) and Ault-based Highland (102.5) filled out the top five.

Helping Fowler finish 11th overall with 48.5 accumulated points, Sharon became the 33rd gent in CHSAA annals to win four individual crowns when he pinned Meeker sophomore Koy Weber 1:52 into the second period at 126 pounds.

Bobcats rep at State



courtesy Darren Brunson

"The 2025 CHSAA State Wrestling Tournament ended Saturday evening, Feb. 15, and the Ignacio Bobcat boys and girls wrestling teams represented our school and community extremely well!" Coach Jordan Larson said. Front Row: Marlene Martinez-Perez, Madison Egger. Middle Row: Krysten Neil, Larissa Espinosa, Coach Brad Egger. Back Row: Coach Mitch Napier, Lincoln deKay, Zane Pontine, Coach Jerrid Brann, Coach Jordan Larsen, and Coach JayDee Brunson



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.

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.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

CORLEEN RAE TRUJILLO'S FAMILY – THANK YOU

The Trujillos would like to thank the following family and friends for your tremendous support during our difficult times. Aunt Pearl, Aunt Geraldine and John, Aunt Becky, Phyliss and Shoshone Rael, Uncle Ervin, Lynda D'Wolf and Lalena Weasel, Anna Baca, Jim and Benny Benavidez.

*Sincerely,
Christine, Israel and Ray Trujillo*

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

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

NEW EMPLOYEES



Rose Valencia

Job Title: Economic Development Administrative Assistant II

Description of job duties: Assistant for Mr. Colton Black
Hobbies: Painting, fishing, camping, traveling, attending concerts, comedy shows, and an avid collector of all things The Nightmare Before Christmas.

Family: I have a huge family connection in the Ignacio area on both my Mother's (Jacqueline Harris) and Father's (Dale Valencia) side. All my siblings, nieces, nephews, and Godson reside in the area. My daughter Keira is in High School here in Ignacio. My Goddaughter Elizabetha resides in California with my Granddaughter.

Tribe: Northern Ute (Uncompahgre) and Southern Ute descendant.

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. Prior to becoming an Administrative Assistant, I was a Preschool Teacher for 10 years. I have had other various jobs in the area such as Surveillance Agent, Housekeeper, Housekeeping Supervisor, Cook, Cashier, Banquet server, and an attendant for a movie shop Linda Meisner owned. I would like to thank Colton Black, Roman Seibel and the Southern Ute Tribe for this opportunity to work in this role as an Administrative Assistant. It is such an honor and blessing to begin this new journey! I am looking forward to all the amazing things we will accomplish as a team!

Inspiration: My sister Candi Valencia and my best friend Chantell Toledo have been such amazing cheerleaders for me and inspired me to take a chance on myself, my dreams, and learn all these new skills.

My Hero: Music. Music is heroic to me because it inspires, motivates, and empowers me.



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.

- 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.
- \$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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

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.

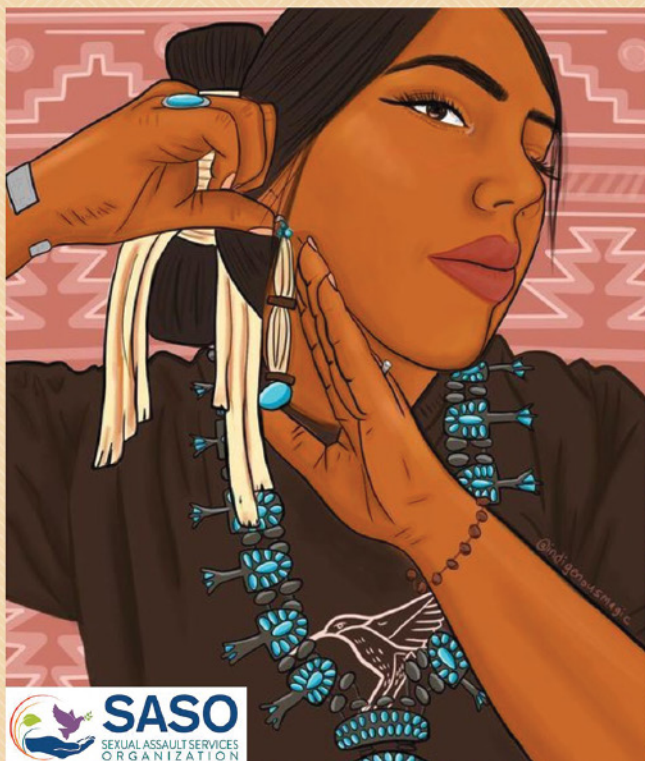
We look forward to visiting with everyone at our Tribal & community events!

**Toghoyaqh,
Southern Ute Royalty & Southern Ute Royalty Committee**

Deadly Aunties Tea and earring making

March 5th, 12 - 1 pm

SASO Office - Elhi Community Center 115 Ute Street, Room 22, Ignacio, CO



Come sip tea with us while we talk about community issues and how to solve them.

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Mar. 7

Deadline:
Mar. 3

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

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

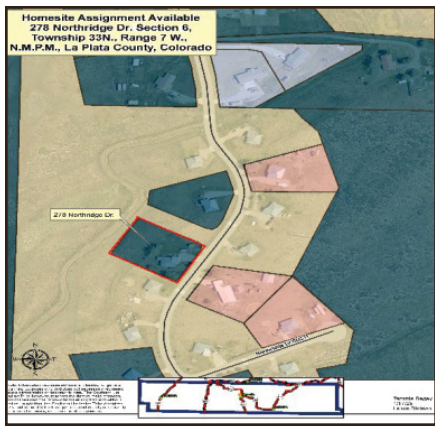
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45-day Notice of Availability 278 Northridge Dr., Ignacio, CO, SUIR

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 drawingⁱⁱ.

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...

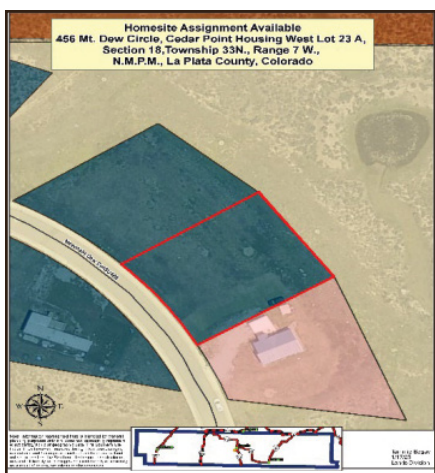
ⁱⁱ SUITC – Title 29-2-102(4), A Tribal member may hold only one assignment for use as a homesite at a time...

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

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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...

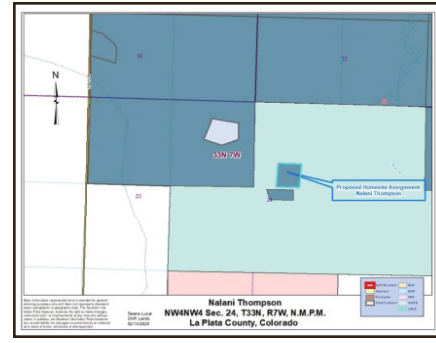
ⁱⁱ SUITC – Title 29-2-102(4), A Tribal member may hold only one assignment for use as a homesite at a time...

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 Comment and Objection Assignment Application Request Nalani Thompson

SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-105(1) the department shall publish and post, notice of a proposed assignment for comment and objection. The notice shall include the applicants name, a description of the property for which an application for assignment may be filed, and a description of the use to be made 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 21, 2025

Expiration Date:
April 7, 2025

The Department of Natural Resources has received an application from Ms. Nalani Thompson for an assignment on tribal lands. The land she has applied for is a relinquishment of a homesite assignment from a non-immediate family member. The easement to this assignment is off of CR 324 and it will be included in the proposed assignment.

SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-106. Objections to and Comments on Assignments. (1) Within the 45-day posting period described above, any tribal member may file with the department a written objection or written comments on the land assignment.

(2) An objection shall include the name and mailing address of the party objection, a description of the assignment objected to, a short and plain statement of reasons why the land should not be assigned or should be assigned only in a modified form, and any suggested conditions which should be included in the grant of assignment.

Tribal members wishing to submit comments or objections regarding this assignment request may do so by mail or email to the Department of Natural Resources – Lands Division, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or sluzar@southernute-nsn.gov, on or before April 7, 2024.

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.**

SAN JUAN COLLEGE Southern Ute Shared Services

Cybersecurity and Internet Safety Basics Training

Date: Friday, February 28, 2025
Friday, March 7, 2025
2 sessions each day

Time: 9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm

Location: Southern Ute Growth Fund
First Floor Conference Room
14929 HWY 192
Ignacio, CO, 81137

Webex will be available for SUIITMs who can't attend in person

For questions or to sign up for the training contact:
Southern Ute Digital Equity (SUDEP)
970-563-5555

Snacks will be provided

In today's digital landscape, understanding cybersecurity is essential for safeguarding personal assets. Our Cybersecurity Basics course offers an introduction to the fundamental concepts of cybersecurity and internet safety.

What You'll Learn:

- Essential Cybersecurity Concepts
- Identifying Threats: Explore common cyber threats, including phishing, malware, and insider threats, through real-world examples and learn how to recognize and mitigate these risks.
- Practical Security Measures: Discover strategies to enhance your security practices, from creating strong passwords to implementing effective data protection techniques.
- Learn how to navigate the internet safely.
- Identify e-mail safety and security.

Those in attendance either in person or Webex for a full session will be eligible to win an iPad. A drawing will occur after each session.

"WIN ME"

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

norton
LifeLock Benefit Solutions

Southern Ute Shared Services

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.

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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

Request for Public Comment Environmental Remediation Old Casino Site

The Environmental Programs Department requests comments concerning remediation at the Old Casino Site. The property is located at 14826 State Highway 172 in Ignacio, Colorado. The northern limit of the property is bounded by Ouray Drive and the "vestem limit by Highway 172. An environmental site assessment conducted in July 2020 identified asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) as contaminants of concern. This project will remove and properly dispose of the contaminants such that they "will no longer pose a potential threat to public health or the environment. For all interested tribal members and the community, a comment period for the project will begin on February 18, 2025, and will end at the close of business on March 20, 2025. To provide comments, please contact the Remediation Program using the information below. You can submit your comments by one of the following methods:

- E-mail: ckelly@southernute-nsn.gov or mdorsk@southernute-nsn.gov
- Mail: Remediation Program, Environmental Programs Department, S011them Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737 #81, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137.

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).

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

POWWOW COMMITTEE

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as a volunteer on the committee. The purpose of the Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee shall be to nurture and promote the positive image of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe through their dances and other activities to preserve our culture. The vacancy is open to Southern Ute tribal members or any interested Native Americans who would like to be actively involved in planning, promoting, and executing Powwows on Southern Ute land. Must be willing to work hands on, attend all scheduled meetings and powwow events with a professional / traditional attitude towards committee members, tribal departments, and visitors. Please submit letters to: Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov

SUIHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (SUIHA) is currently seeking two individual to serve on the SUIHA Board of Directors. The Board adopts policies and enacts resolutions of the SUIHA. Individuals interested in serving as a Board Member should submit a letter of intent to SUIHA stating their qualifications and why they would like to serve on the Board. All letters of intent need to be submitted to SUIHA, P.O. Box 447, Ignacio, CO 81137, emailed to rtorres@suiha.org, or hand deliver to the SUIHA office located at 760 Shoshone Avenue, Ignacio, CO. Proof of Southern Ute Tribal Member required. Letter of intent will be accepted until 2 p.m., March 7, 2025.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

Open Until Filled – The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is currently looking to fill four (4) volunteer Board Member positions. Responsible for knowing and effectively articulating the mission, vision, core values, goals, policies, and program areas of the Club. Members of the Board must attend meetings regularly and attend applicable committee meetings on a regular basis; also attend a minimum of one Priority event and one Club event annually. Members must maintain confidentiality of sensitive information and conduct oneself as a model for children in a manner that exemplifies high character. Interested parties must pick up an application on the www.bgcsu.org website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov.

ELECTION BOARD

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking one (1) Full Time and one (1) Alternate Board Members. 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.

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

Open Until Filled – 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. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

KSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Open Until Filled – 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: 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).

WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD – YOUTH

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

WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD – YOUTH ALTERNATE

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

Southern Ute Shared Services

Book Your Fiber Installation Today

- Town of Ignacio
- Cedar Point – Ignacio Peak EQUA

BONFIRE FIBER INTERNET
INTERNET SERVICE UPLOAD AND DOWNLOAD SPEEDS
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Email	3 Mbps
Advanced Browsing	1 Mbps
Netflix & Hulu SD	1.5 Mbps
Netflix & Hulu HD	5 Mbps
Online Video Games	1-4 Mbps
Streaming Music	1.5 Mbps
YouTube & Streaming Video SD	5 Mbps

Scan the QR Codes to Learn More!

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!



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.

Family Court Case Manager

Closes 2/25/25 – Providing guardian ad litem, special advocacy, parent coordination, and mediation services as assigned through Court appointment and clinical supervisor. Responsible for psycho-social educational classes for youth as assigned by clinical supervisor. Case management activities and/or counseling services involving assigned adults and juveniles. Pay grade E13; salary is \$59,494/annually.

Health Center Support Services Manager

Closes 2/25/25 – Supervision and management of front office operations within the Southern Ute Health Center to include reception, registration, scheduling, medical records, and referral services. A key focus will be to always establish and maintain superior customer service communications and support. Pay grade E14; salary is \$64,155/annually.

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 member 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 Division Head

Open Until Filled – 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.

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. 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, incumbent works in coordination with other DOG Investigators to learn and perform Law Enforcement / Regulatory duties for the enforcement of Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

Grants Financial Analyst

Open Until Filled – Working closely with Tribal staff members on all financial grant and related Tribal budget and spending matters. Responsible for 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 member 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 member 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.

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.

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.

Road Runner Transit:

- Transit Driver (Part-time) \$18.94/hr.
- Inter-city Bus Driver (Full-time; Class B CDL with P2 & Airbrake endorsements) \$24.52/hr.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

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.

Recreation Assistant (Southern Ute tribal member 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. This position is 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 Dept. Pay grade N6; pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

Social Worker

This is 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.

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

TERO Worker

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

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 \$86,943.00/year.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal member 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 Apprenticeship Committee will review applications and assess what options may be available for applicants.

Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal member 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, 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 Sun-Ute Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; 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.

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.

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>



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
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@BIA BUILDING 335
CONTACT TRAVIS SCHMITT
970-749-6072
TRAVIS.SCHMITT@BIA.GOV

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 3/7/25 – 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.

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

- Elementary SpEd Teacher
- Elementary Teacher
- High School Head Soccer Coach
- High School Football Head Coach
- Middle School Soccer Head Coach
- Middle School Track Assistant Coach
- Middle School Soccer Assistant Coach
- Route and Activity Bus Driver

TERO – Job announcements
Application/Information 970-563-2294 • Native American Preference Applies
Job descriptions and applications available at TERO 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colo.

BIA Irrigation (Seasonal)
Qualifications: Must be enrolled in a FEDERALLY recognized Native American tribe; Must have High School Diploma or equivalent; Must pass pre-employment drug test and background check; Valid Driver's license for state of residency and be insurable under the Tribal vehicle insurance policy, if driving a tribal vehicle; and Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Horicultural Aide
Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must have knowledge of, power and hand tools, and other machinery used in agriculture. Ability to work both independently and collaboratively with the capacity to be a self-starter, take initiative, and know when to ask for help. Possesses writing, communication and organizational skills. The ability to read and understand technical information and to provide this information to tribal members and staff in a clear and concise format. Valid Driver's License and must be insurable under the Tribal vehicle insurance policy. Must pass a background check.

OUR Mission
We offer two programs to promote employment.
60 days of employment at 40 hours per week
6months of employment at 23 hours per week

With any position applied for, TERO preference is given to QUALIFIED Southern Ute Tribal Members as well as Local Native Americans.

TERO preference
Enrolled Southern Ute TRIBAL Member
Local Native American LEGALLY married to an Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member
Enrolled members of the Ute Mountain Ute & Northern Ute Tribes
Local/Non-Local Native Americans

Contact Information
Southern Ute TERO
71 Mike Frost Way
PO Box 737, #34
Ignacio Co, 81137
P: (970) 563-0117
W: TERO – Southern Ute Indian Tribe (southernute-tnn.gov)

Without continual growth and progress, such words as Improvement, Achievement, and Success have no meaning...
– Ben Franklin

TERO
Employment, Compliance, and Native American Owned Business

Our Success Stories
Over the years TERO has been successful in placing individuals in jobs through training throughout the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and its entities along with other outside companies listed below:
• SUSS Developer
• GF Accountant
• Carpenter Heavy Construction
• Lands Technician

When you take the opportunity to come into our office, we're able to help with submitting an employment application, resume building, interviewing key points, on-the-job-training and look for a job that right for you!

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.

***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.

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.

***Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)**
Electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works as the lead of a team to ensure smooth operations of the facility, equipment, and building; by providing maintenance support, troubleshooting and repair, preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems including boilers, AHU's, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, cooling towers, walk-in coolers, and freezers. Reports to the Director of Facilities while sharing the responsibility to train and lead activities of departmental employees; technicians, shift supervisors, and facilities staff in appropriate Service Standards and Facility operations/maintenance.

***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.

***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.

***Revenue Auditor (Full-time)**
Daily auditing of revenue transaction records that are turned into the accounting department from the Casino's profit centers. Will

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. – Receptionist/ Office Assistant (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 2/28/25 – 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.

Red Cedar Gathering Co. – Senior Gas Measurement Technician (Durango, CO)
Closes 2/28/25 – Completing all gas measurement related activities and work tasks; performs work related to operation and maintenance of measurement equipment at plant and field facilities, including processing plants, compressors, compressor stations, and dehydration equipment; and maintains and calibrates measurement equipment and facilities. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Red Willow Production Co. – Production Foreman (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 2/28/25 – Daily operation of Red Willow's San Juan basin gas and water production and associated equipment and facilities. Ensuring that production rates, injection rates, lease operating expense, lifting costs, gas, oil and water balancing and all necessary state, government and company reporting is accurate and prepared within the expected deadlines. Works to ensure that the department performance meets or exceeds the expected goals and objectives. Ensuring that daily operations are run in a safe and efficient manner and while maintaining compliance with Red Willow standard operating procedures, environmental, health, and safety standards. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

AKA Energy Group, LLC. – Vice President of Engineering & Development (Durango, CO)
Closes 3/7/25 – Managing business development and commercial activities for Aka Energy Group, LLC, including development of new assets, investment in non-operating assets, expansion of future assets, and executing the business strategy for Aka's energy transition objectives, including power generation, CCUS, and hydrogen production. This is a key management team position providing leadership and helping to formulate Company strategies, goals, and budgets. Will manage, develop, and supervise technical, business development and commercial team personnel.

Red Cedar Gathering Co. – Gas Measurement Technician (Durango, CO)
Closes 2/28/25 – Completing all gas measurement related activities and work tasks. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Growth Fund Private Equity, LLC. – President & COO (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 3/7/25 – Managing the day-to-day activities GF Private Equity Group, LLC, as well as sourcing and recommending on new investments in accordance with approved budgets and business plans. Developing, leading, and motivating a team of investment and accounting professionals. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Red Cedar Gathering Co. – Gas Measurement Technician II (Durango, CO)
Closes 2/28/25 – Completing all gas measurement related activities and work tasks; performs work related to operation and maintenance of measurement equipment at plant and field facilities, including processing plants, compressors, compressor stations, and dehydration equipment; and maintains and calibrates measurement equipment and facilities. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

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



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

The Animas River, before and after the 2015 Gold King Mine spill, an environmental disaster that caught the attention of media across the nation.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Legislation to compensate communities affected by Gold King Mine disaster

Staff report

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BENNET

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and Colorado U.S. Representative Jeff Hurd introduced the Gold King Mine Spill Compensation Act to help communities in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona that were affected by the Gold King Mine disaster of 2015. “The effects of the Gold King Mine disaster were felt far beyond the banks of the Animas River. The blow-out hurt families, farmers, and outdoor recreation companies in Durango and throughout Southwest Colorado who depend on the river for their livelihoods,” Bennet said. “A decade later, too many Coloradans still feel its effects. Our legislation is a necessary step to help Coloradans finally recover certain remaining costs and damages incurred from the spill and make Southwest Colorado communities whole again.”

“In 2015, the Gold King Mine spill impacted local farmers, hurt homeowners, and crippled outfitters,” Hickenlooper said. “Many are still waiting for the compensation they need to fully recover. Our bill will help restore the local outdoor economy.”

“The Gold King Mine Spill Compensation Act will safeguard communities throughout Western Colorado,” Hurd said. “Since 2015, Coloradans have endured the lasting effects of this catastrophic disaster, and it’s time for the EPA to allocate funding to address the outstanding claims resulting from the spill.”

On August 5, 2015, the Gold King Mine spill released three million gallons of polluted mining wastewater into the Animas and San Juan rivers, affecting waterways in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, the South-

ern Ute reservation, and the Navajo Nation. Though the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was able to partially compensate some claims, its ability to meet the needs of affected businesses, farmers, and homeowners is constrained by existing laws. This legislation would provide the EPA with the necessary authority and funding to compensate certain outstanding claims from the spill.

“The Gold King Mine Compensation Act clears the procedural barriers that kept businesses that suffered economic losses due to the spill nearly 10 years ago from being made whole,” said Marsha Porter-Norton, Chair, La Plata County Board of County Commissioners. “The Board of County Commissioners are grateful that the impact felt by those businesses has not been forgotten and that a remedy is possible through this much-appreciated legislation. We appreciate our congressional delegation of Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper and Representative Hurd coming together in a bipartisan way on this legislation to address this long-standing priority for our county.”

“Durango residents were stunned when our beloved Animas River turned orange after the Gold King Mine spill. It has been a long road toward recovery,” said Jessica Buell, Mayor of Durango. “This bill will help local business owners who suffered because of the spill, and show residents the key role the federal government plays in protecting a resource that is the lifeblood of this community. A huge thank you to Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper and Representative Hurd for this legislation to finally recover costs and to make our community whole again.”

“The work that Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and their teams have done

on the Gold King Mine Bill is restoring my faith in government,” said Alex Mickel, President, Mild to Wild Rafting and Jeep Tours. “After all these years to see the promise of our government concerning the Gold King Mine incident and its ensuing economic damage was not forgotten, is refreshing. The wheels of government turn slowly. We at Mild to Wild Rafting and Jeep Tours are thankful that Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and their teams are keeping them turning. And we deeply appreciate our new Congressman Jeff Hurd hearing our concerns on this issue and joining the effort to pass this bill.”

The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners shared a letter in support of this legislation. The City of Durango also shared letters of support.

Immediately after the Gold King Mine disaster, then-Governor Hickenlooper declared the affected area a disaster zone. The following month, Bennet requested and testified at a Senate hearing regarding the cause, response, and effects of the Gold King Mine disaster. He also introduced the Gold King Mine Spill Recovery Act to ensure the EPA continued to work with states, local communities, and Tribes to compensate those who were affected and implement long-term water quality monitoring. The following year, Bennet worked to pass legislation to support recovery efforts from the spill.

On its second anniversary, Bennet and New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, alongside then-Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), introduced legislation to reform the nation’s antiquated mining laws and prevent future hardrock mine disasters.

Bennet and Hickenlooper first introduced the Gold King Mine Spill Compensation Act in 2024.

TIPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

As we welcome the season of tomaty (winter), please see our helpful tips to protect your home and prevent frozen pipes. As temperatures drop, water slowly expands and builds internal pressure that may result in bursts.

- **Keep the heat on:** Maintain a consistent indoor temperature, even when you are away. A minimum of 65°F is recommended.
- **Insulate exposed pipes:** Use pipe insulation or heat tape to protect pipes in unheated areas like basements, attics, and crawl spaces.
- **Seal air leaks:** Close off any gaps around windows, doors, and vents to prevent cold air from entering your home.
- **Let faucets drip:** During very cold weather, allow a trickle of water to flow from faucets served by exposed pipes.
- **Open cabinet doors:** Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warmer air to circulate around the pipes.

Please stay safe and warm! For more information or assistance, contact the Construction Services Division at 970-563-0260. For emergencies or after-hours calls, contact SUPD at 970-563-4401. Tribal Elders, may contact Elder Services at 970-563-2309 for additional assistance.

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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

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.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Feb. 21

Mostly sunny 49°F
Light to variable winds

Saturday, Feb. 22

Sunny 52°F

Sunday, Feb. 23

Sunny 57°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

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