



Marvin Pinnecoose/SU Tribal Council

UNITY Council: Similar to our Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council, there is a national youth council for Native Americans to research, practice, and present leadership skills.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2025 Reservation Economic Summit: Beyond Boundaries

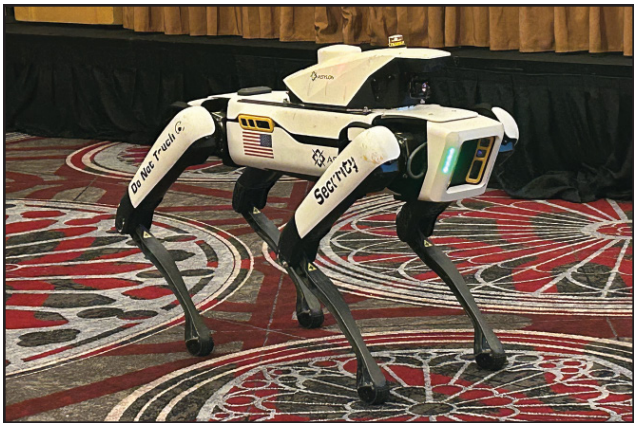
By Marvin Pinnecoose, Vice Chairman SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Native American Tribes, entrepreneurs, businesses, lending companies, and government departments come together each spring in Las Vegas, Nev. to attend the Reservation Economic Summit. This is an opportunity to talk about best practices and celebrate wins across Indian Country. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) hosted this year's 2025 Reservation Economic Summit (RES 2025) with the motto Beyond Boundaries, March 10-13. I wanted to briefly talk about some sessions, people, and programs that made an impression on me at this year's conference.

Art & tourism as catalysts for Indigenous economic resilience & growth

This panel discussion focused on the idea that sometimes some Tribes start with only an ability to make money through tourism and arts & crafts. Sometimes that's all a Tribal nation has. This grassroots idea acknowledges the entrepreneurs who hand craft items to sell piece-by-piece. I know of at least one young entrepreneur descendant that we have here at the Southern Ute Tribe who sets up her table at Hozhoni Days, at the high school, and for Tribal events. Revenue isn't promised; some days are good for sales, and some are not.

The RES 2025 panel acknowledged the pressure of people who travel to areas, set up their booths or tables, and spend the weekend or the duration of the event chasing a vendor fee. Sales are hard enough to make, but having excessively high fees can be the difference between someone choosing to set up and those who don't. My suggestion is that we need to amplify the idea of the Santa Fe Indian Market all over the country. There should be a predictable selling circuit that a



Marvin Pinnecoose/SU Tribal Council

This robotic dog can patrol events or casino areas and is equipped with facial recognition technology, chemical detection sensors, and the ability to detect firearms. All signals are sent to dispatch with an average response time of just three seconds!

vendor can travel week after week, similar to the powwow circuit. The focus of the vendor circuit should be to have minimal fees to encourage vendors to show up and to make as much money as possible. The hope is that this focus will increase higher attendance and vendors wanting to return year after year. Pricing needs to be reasonable but also needs to be stern. We, as Native people, should not be willing to wholesale our items and then find out later that someone else sold it for a higher price.

Native youth leading with vision

United National Indian Tribal Youth is a national council comprised of Native American youth councils and/or individual Tribal members who are interested in, or currently participating in, leadership roles. The panel selected to speak was made up of representatives from various Tribes and each spoke very confidently and with enthusiasm for projects that they have championed on their own reservations.

One project that stuck with me was where a young high school lady had conflict within her own community about not being "Indian enough." She saw ridicule from the non-native people toward Indians, but she also saw negative comments and perception coming from within the Tribe toward the "mixed blood" citizens. She

put together a workshop to address the concern and was surprised when the result was a room full of people who shared the sentiment. A second workshop was added and then a third. This confirmed the suspicion that this problem is big and within the discussion of the room, we find that it echoes across many Tribes.

Here, on the Southern Ute Reservation, we have the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council (SCSYAC) which has just recently found a new breath with new members and is up and running. I have passed along information about UNITY: United National Indian Tribal Youth and other materials from RES 2025 to the youth council in their regular meeting held, Wednesday, March 19. These materials provide an opportunity for participation for our young membership who serve on the SCSYAC and even for those who do not.

First Nations Experience

FNX is a 24/7 television network that provides Native American content through the internet. To access, simply type in FNX.org into your browser and click on "live stream". The official launch of the smartphone app will be on May 1, at the Agua Caliente Resort, Rancho Mirage, Calif.

During RES 2025, it was encouraged to have partici-

2025 RES page 10



Trennie Collins/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Nathaniel Hendren fast breaks down the court determined to score a basket for the Thunder at this year's MAYB Basketball Tournament Saturday, March 21 at Ignacio Middle School.

This photo was first published in the April 3, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Clement J. Frost addresses the crowd at the Pepsi Center during halftime of the Denver Nuggets game against the Los Angeles Clippers on March 18. Mr. Frost, as well as several dancers from the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribes, participated in the Nuggets' Third Annual "Salute to the American Indians of Colorado Night."

This photo was first published in the April 1, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

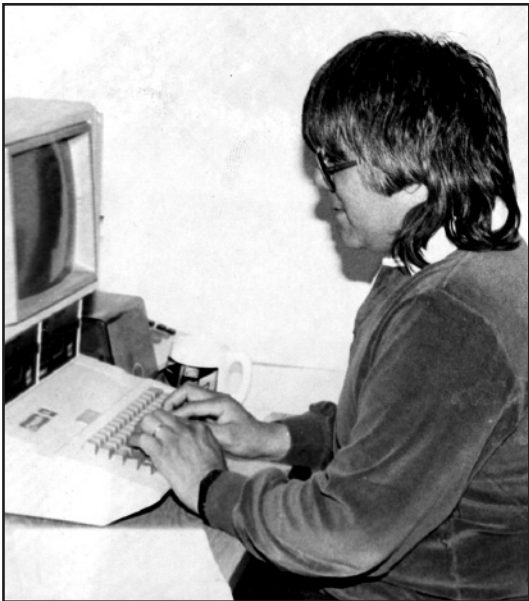


Robert Baker/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Ignacio Intermediate School students attended the afternoon session of the Community Nutrition Fair held at the HeadStart gym. Several of the Southern Ute Health, SUCAP, and IHS departments had booths demonstrating good health habits. The tables had everything from handouts to nutritional snacks to eat.

This photo was published in the March 31, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

New computer Specialist trainee - Eddie Box Jr. His office is located in the computer room in the basement. Some of his duties will be to assist Tribal employees and Tribal members in learning the use and operation of computers.

This photo was published in the April 5, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

General Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025 | Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

In-Person

Registration is not required, & we look forward to seeing you there!

Live Stream

Please use the link or QR code below to register:

<https://bit.ly/2025gm>
*Link is case-sensitive

Recording

Not able to attend? The live stream recording will be available on the Tribal Member Portal.

The agenda is forthcoming and will be made available on the Tribal Member Portal in advance of the General Meeting.

970.563.2319 + P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137 + www.southernute-nsn.gov

Let's Learn Ute

si'ichi
bloom

tamaritꞑ
spring

saghwagharꞑ
green

tꞑvꞑachi
seed





HISTORY COLORADO

History Colorado hires senior director of Tribal and Indigenous engagement

Staff report
HISTORY COLORADO

History Colorado is pleased to announce the hiring of Phillip Gover III (Pawnee/Choctaw), as senior director of Tribal and Indigenous engagement. Gover brings nearly two decades of experience in Native American advocacy and engagement work to this brand-new position at History Colorado, including most recently serving as the Tribal Affairs Specialist for the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS).

“We are grateful to announce that Phil has joined History Colorado to lead the necessary effort to uncover and reckon with the histories and ongoing traumas related to American Indian Boarding Schools in our state,” said Dawn DiPrince, president/CEO of History Colorado and state historic preservation officer. “Phil embodies a rare combination of professional and academic experience, a commitment to community and relationships, a gift for patience and good listening, plus his own deep connection to tradition and knowledge that make him the right leader for this work”

In addition to his service at CDHS – where he engaged in government-to-government consultation with Colorado’s resident Ute Tribes and worked closely with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs – Gover has a legal background and was the Native Youth Advocate for Adams 12 Five Star Schools from 2015 to 2023. He has a B.A. in American Studies from Stanford University and a Juris Doctor from Arizona State University’s College of Law.



Phillip Gover III
Senior Director
History Colorado

Gover’s legal experience includes serving as an advocate for both the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of Arizona. He is currently a member of the Denver American Indian Commission and serves on the board of directors for the Denver Indian Health & Family Services.

“I am so happy to have joined History Colorado to assist with the important work they are doing in partnership with Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and the 49 other sovereign nations who have history tied to Colorado,” Gover said. “There are so many layers and levels of Colorado’s history to understand starting with the stories of the Tribal nations. Uncovering this multifaceted history is crucial to understanding how we got to where we are and informing our decisions for the future.”

As the senior director of Tribal and Indigenous engagement, Gover will help History Colorado as it strives to meet its broad obligations and goals to faithfully consult with — and present the histories of — Indigenous, Native and Tribal

communities and histories. A central portion of Gover’s efforts over the next two years will be working closely with the American Indian Steering Committee created by House Bill 24-1444, and impacted Tribal nations and American Indian communities, to complete research into the physical abuse and deaths that occurred at federal Indian boarding schools in Colorado.

“I hope to help give voices to students who were voiceless while at these schools,” Gover said. “In the coming years, I will work with the communities impacted by Colorado boarding schools to preserve their stories and create avenues for understanding the lasting impacts of this history while being cautious of the trauma that was endured by the communities. This is important and long overdue work which has been needed ever since the first children were taken from Native families and forced to attend boarding schools.”

This ongoing effort is a continuation of the research conducted in 2022 and 2023 under House Bill 22-1327.

Gover will also serve History Colorado as a key team member in ongoing organizational compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act that was passed into law by Congress in 1990. Under Gover’s leadership, History Colorado will continue to partner with the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute and the 49 other Tribal nations with historic ties to Colorado as well as the urban Native communities and other members of the Native diaspora connected ancestrally or contemporaneously to the state.

BEAR DANCE WORKSHOP

“Be aware. Be good to each other and do not bring any anger, hate, or jealousy to the sacred grounds.”

Bear Dance Chief, Matthew J. Box




Saturday, April 12, 2025

8:00am - 12:00pm

Sky Ute Casino Event Center

14324 Hwy 172 North
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Open to Tribal Members & the Community



Questions, contact: Bear Dance Chief, Matthew J. Box | 970-563-2271
Vending, contact: Eugene Bereza | 970-563-2307

Celebrating with our Ute Sister Tribes

The Southern Ute

BEAR DANCE POWWOW

May 23 & 24, 2025

DRUM CONTEST
TOTAL PAYOUT
\$30,000
1st - 5th Place

GRAND ENTRY
Friday, May 23: 7 pm
Saturday, May 24: 1 pm & 7 pm

GOURD DANCE
Friday, May 23: 4:45 – 6:30 pm
Saturday, May 24: 10 am – 12:30 pm & 5 – 6:30 pm

DANCE CONTEST
TOTAL PAYOUT
\$25,000

HEAD STAFF
MC – Afrem Wall
Arena Director – Dorsey Dick
Head Judge: Hyrum Kanip
Drum Judge – Thomas Ridley
Head Gourd Dancer: Selwyn Whiteskunk
Gourd Drum Group: Southern Mountain Inter-Tribal – Alfred Wall, Jr.
Host Southern Drum: Yellow Jacket – Johnson Taylor
Host Northern Drum: Catching Eagle – Reggie Lopez

REGISTRATION
Friday, May 23: 5 – 7 pm
Sat., May 24: 12 – 1 pm

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

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

POWWOW COMMITTEE SPECIALS
• Old Ute Style – Traditional Women: \$1,000
• Old Ute Style – Traditional Men: \$1,000
Tribal Members Only & 1st Descendants

SOUTHERN UTE POWWOW COMMITTEE
• Rochelle Aguilar – Chairman: 970-759-1722
• Karen Washington – Vice-Chairman: 970-759-5880
• Carolyn Grey Eagle – Treasurer: 970-799-6268
• Kirsten Langmade – Recording Secretary: kirsten.autra@outlook.com
• Lisa Jacket – Committee Member: 970-560-1157
• Sherisa Valdez – Committee Member: 720-621-4117
• Marty Pinnecoose: S.U. Councilman – Tribal Council Ex-Officio
For information contact Powwow Committee members.



DANCE AND DRUM CONTEST REQUIREMENTS
18 and up, with photo I.D. at time of registration. For payout purposes: ONLY MUST show your Social Security Card AND current valid State/and or Tribal I.D. with your address. You must also provide a current phone number.

ARTS & CRAFTS / FOOD VENDOR INFO
Registration & Fees: Sky Ute Casino Resort, Sales Dept. 970-563-3000 ext. 1753.

FREE CAMPING & SHOWERS
Sky Ute Fairgrounds 200 E. Hwy 151, Ignacio, CO 81137.
Contact: JayDee Brunson 970-563-5540.


OVERFLOW HOTEL
Sleep Inn Durango
Contact: Matt Charlie, 1260 Escalante Dr. Building A, Durango, CO 81303, 970-844-1357
Check In: May 23, 2025 – Check Out: May 25, 2025
\$454.00, Double Queen Beds: Breakfast 6 a.m. – 10 a.m., Pool & Hot Tub, Fitness, Laundry Area, Walmart within walking distance.



The Southern Ute Powwow Committee, Sky Ute Casino Resort, and Southern Ute Indian Tribe, will not be responsible for accidents, theft, injuries, food borne illnesses or death.

Photo: Jeremy Wade Shockley | SU Drum

Design: Robert L. Gritz | SU Drum



SOUTHERN UTE
BEAR DANCE

Open to the public
May 23-26, 2025

Bear Dance Grounds are located between Ute Road and HWY 521 in Ignacio, CO

Bear Dance Corral Blessing: May 23 at 10am
Bear Dance Feast: May 26 at 12pm




Photo: History Colorado

“Be aware. Be good to each other and do not bring any anger, hate, or jealousy to the sacred grounds.”

Bear Dance Rules

No short dresses, baggy pants, or shorts while dancing. Photography, video, and audio recording is strictly prohibited, except by members of the Ute Tribes.

No pets of any sort.

The Southern Ute Tribe will not be responsible for accidents, injuries, or theft.

The Pine River is RESTRICTED.

Questions, contact: Bear Dance Chief, Matthew J. Box | 970-563-2271
For camping/vending information, contact: Eugene Bereza | 970-563-2307



Royalty representing at powwows & more



courtesy Heather White Thunder

Southern Ute Royalty who attended the FLC Hozhoni Ambassador Exhibition on Tuesday, March 25; Kiera McCabe – 1st Attendant and Michelle Luevano – Hozhoni Ambassador.



courtesy Marie Carel

The Southern Ute Veterans Association Color Guard – Gordon Hammond, Bruce Valdez and Rudley Weaver, stands proudly with Southern Ute Royalty – Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel; Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder and Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany at the Grand Mesa Powwow in Grand Junction, Colo.



courtesy Dominika Joy

Junior Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz and Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany stand with Denver Nuggets mascot “Rocky” at the Denver March Powwow.



courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Ute Mountain Ute Little Brave at the Denver March Powwow.



courtesy Jalisa Paul

Little Miss Southern Ute 1st Alt., Olyvia Watts and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz with Miss Avikan at Hozhoni Days Powwow, Friday evening, March 28.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany after placing second in the Matt “Kills Enemy” Dillon Memorial Jr. Boys Fancy Dance special.



courtesy Marie Carel

Junior Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz; Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder; newly crowned Miss Denver March Powwow princess, Mash-ta Littlecook; Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel; outgoing Miss Denver March Powwow Princess, Meah Little Sky and Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts after the crowning of Miss Denver March.

INSPIRING YOUNG MALE DANCERS WORKSHOP

RSVP

SCAN ME

JAI'MARKUS HEIGHT

UTE MOUNTAIN UTE

2024-2025

THEODEN GREANY

SOUTHERN UTE BRAVE

2024-2025

HENRY WHITESKUNK II

FANCY DANCER

2022-2023 2023-2024

KIWON CANTSEE

UTE MOUNTAIN UTE

2024-2025

POWOW DANCE STYLES

A workshop for male youth who are wanting to learn more about powwow.

POWOW INFORMATIVE INFORMATION

- REGISTERING
- GRAND ENTRY
- VARIOUS DANCE CATEGORIES

MALE ROYALTY INFORMATION

BRINGING YOUTH INTO THE CIRCLE

APRIL 13TH 2025

10am @ Multipurpose Facility

Ignacio, CO 81137

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED

QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT 970-553-0196



HEALTHY NEWS You Can Use!

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

- Alcohol and Weight Gain:** Alcohol is high in calories, contributing to weight gain and slowing metabolism. A standard drink contains about 150 calories. Use the [Alcohol Calorie Calculator - Rethinking Drinking | NIAAA](https://rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov/tools/calculators/alcohol-calorie-calculator) to see how cutting back can benefit your health. (<https://rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov/tools/calculators/alcohol-calorie-calculator>)
- Alcohol and Mental Health:** Alcohol can worsen anxiety and depressions, impair memory, disrupt sleep, and increase the risk of self-harm and relationship challenges.
- Alcohol and Chronic Disease:** Alcohol use is linked to over 200 diseases, including liver disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancer. Reducing alcohol intake lowers your risk and improves long-term health.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL

April Activities List

April 15, 2025
Pagosa Hot Springs
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.
Lunch will be provided

April 20, 2025
Happy Easter

April 22, 2025
Shopping Trip (Farmington)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

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

Breastfeeding & Parent Support Class

The effects of Alcohol on pregnancy and breastfeeding

Join us on April 10th for food, education, and good company

Nutritious Lunch

We invite anyone to attend. Please feel free to bring your support group and children

Where:
Mouache Capote Building
(116 Capote Drive, Ignacio, CO)

When:
Thursday, April 10th
Time:
12-1pm

Contact: Shawmarie (970)-563-2163

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Don’t wait for life to get easier to cultivate happiness

By Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A popular quote was recently circulating on social media: “If you wait until you feel better to start living, you might be waiting forever. Go live your life. Do it sad, do it anxious, do it uncertain. Because healing doesn’t always come before the experience. Sometimes the experience is what heals you.” I heard a similar sentiment once: “You can’t wait until life isn’t hard anymore before you decide to be happy.”

These quotes are such helpful reminders that we don’t have wait to take action until everything feels okay. In another example, it means that we can do really difficult things even if we are scared. We can feel anxious *and* still proceed. If we wait-

ed until we were no longer scared to try something, we might not ever try anything.

These reflections aren’t really about “being positive” or the “don’t worry, be happy” trend that pop psychology has often promoted. What appeals so much about these two quotes above is the acceptance they ask of us. They point out that “happiness” is not some point we arrive at when we have solved all the problems or issues. On that note, we might consider thinking of happiness as a verb, a process, or as actions that depend on us, rather than some state we want to reach. It also calls to mind the notion that “the inbox will always be full, there will always be more on the way. Live your life anyway.”

Life is always a mix. There will always be the good with the difficult. Sometimes in

the same day, hour, or breath. And that’s okay. In fact, it seems like wellbeing depends on that. Accepting that there will always be loss, death, struggle, failure, hurt, and pain can allow us to be present and appreciate those times when we feel the beauty of life, success, growth, and reward. Living a full life means we will have to taste it all.

Here’s to your good health!

It’s okay not to feel okay

If you or someone you know has been struggling with their emotions, behaviors, or substance use please reach out to us. We can help you find appropriate tools and services that could help you overcome obstacles in your life. We are here for you. Please contact the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division at 970-563-5700 for more information or to set up an appointment to see a counselor or therapist.

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

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

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Dial 988

for mental health emergencies.

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

#WeNeedYouHere

HSC Training/Due Diligence Instruction

(contact: Cora, 970-903-4813, hsctraining.us@gmail.com)

Providing First Aid/CPR/AED, Basic Life Support, SafeSitter, Safe@Home, Stop the Bleed, Eddie Eagle & CCW. Call or text to register. Classes may be scheduled for an organization at your location or ours. BLS or CPR Skills Checks: every Tuesday/Thursday 5-7 p.m., (by appointment). 1st Aid/CPR/AED classes: Last Saturday of each month, (by appointment). Babysitter Training: (by appointment).

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS
in collaboration with Southern Ute Vocational Rehabilitation and Tribal Information Services

3rd Annual RECOVERY RETREAT

MAY 17, 2025
8:00 am - 5:30 pm

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT EVENTS CENTER
14324 HWY 172, Ignacio, CO 81137

FREE EVENT
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Adults 18 & Over
No childcare will be provided.
First 200 participants will receive a free gift at the registration table.
Limited Booth space! Reserve now!

**** THIS IS A SOBER EVENT! ****

Looking for ways to enhance your recovery journey or not sure where to start?

"Join us for a recovery-centered day with engaging activities, presentations, and resources for all that are on their recovery journey. Family and friends are welcome as well."

Breakfast & Lunch will be provided!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Marvina Olguin
marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov
or Preston Barry
pbarry@southernute-nsn.gov
or call 970-563-5700

Discounted room block using code: **RECOVERYRETREAT**

988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

GUEST PRESENTERS & ENTERTAINMENT

Lil Mike & Funny Bone
from 'Reservation Dogs'

MikeBoneMedia.com

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Robert Ortiz

ALSO FEATURING
White Bison's "The Hoop of 100 Eagle Feathers & Forgiveness Staff"



courtesy SUIMA

Upper elementary students, Jayceon Richards and Leandro Litz, enjoy some time finding books during SUIMA's Scholastic Book Fair.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'ekwatu – Eagle's Nest

SUIMA staff attend National Montessori Conference

by Mari Jo Owens
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Maykh pa'amanuni! Taa'ayaqh'amay puchuchugway. Hello everyone! It is good to know you.

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy uses Pawaaghani Po'ekwatu for its heading of this article. These words literally translate into Eagle House Book. As Ute Language is the cornerstone of the school, we do our best to put words together, so they make the most sense. Using the approved Ute Dictionary, reaching out to elders, and going off of the language knowledge that the staff have, we often come close to the desired outcome. Though it hasn't been by leaps and bounds, we have grown the language.

We have students who are challenging their families at home. We have staff who can be found using it for day-to-day tasks in the classroom. And we are collecting data. Using a simple system, we



Mari Jo Owens
Principal
Southern Ute Indian
Montessori Academy

can show how many words students have grown the language from the beginning of the year to the end.

By self-created assessments, we can show how the elementary students have moved from one word knowledge to sentence knowledge. That might seem silly and look like we aren't moving in the right direction, yet considering there is no national or standardized assessment tool we have found for this, we are

collecting data in the best ways we can.

Recently, with the American Montessori Society conference in Denver and the Indigenous Montessori Institute in Albuquerque, we have encountered other Tribes and Indigenous nations who must rely on creating their own language growth assessments also. It was good to know that we are not alone in this journey.

Tuvuchi toghoyaqh.

Montessori Tidbits

Dr. Maria Montessori spoke about the "normalized" child, which is a term that is used in all Montessori schools. The normalized child is able to function appropriately in the environment and this results in a well-balanced child, capable of achieving their goals.

Characteristics of a normalized child are:

- Shows self-discipline
- Demonstrates concentration
- Acts independently
- Is self-motivated
- Enjoys repetition
- Finds pleasure in work
- Has no need for external rewards
- Prefers work to play
- Has a love of learning.

To attain these characteristics, it takes time, patience, consistency and a positive attitude. And often, it is a life-long practice.



courtesy Cheyenne Munns/Ignacio Community Library

On Wednesday, March 26, the Ignacio Community Library were able to host their first event at SUIMA. 14 families attended with over 30 children participating.

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

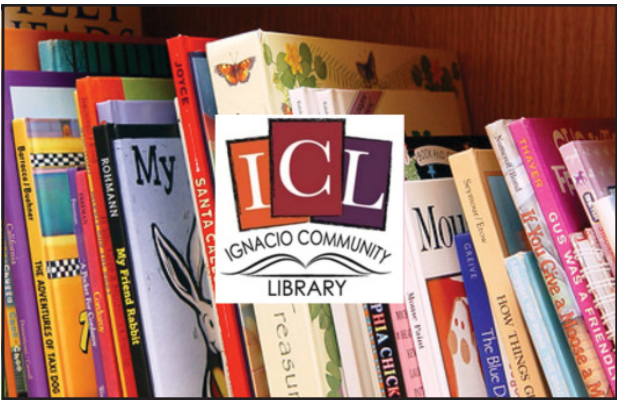
Growing literacy through community partnerships

By Marcia Vining
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We've had a busy spring so far here at the Ignacio Community Library (ICL). With a new staff member, two new interns, and some fun new programs we have been racing through this spring that already feels like summer.

One of our new programs was recently held at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). The ICL received a Ballantine Family Foundation Core Values Grant to support literacy in the area. With these funds we are able to provide dinner, a free book and literacy supplies as well as incentives for attending families.

On Wednesday, March 26 we were able to host our first event for the grant at SUIMA; 14 families attended with over 30 children participating. We offered dinner, story time, art projects and literacy tips for parents. Families took home a copy of the



book The Squiggle by Lexa Schaefer. This is a fun read aloud for both caregivers and kids as the child in the story finds a string and imagines all it can be. It is a wonderful story that children can easily identify with and a great way to help children connect stories with everyday life.

The participants shared their stories of learning to read, sharing reading with their families, and learned about the five practices that help build prereading skills; talking, reading, writing, singing, and playing. While each child received some art supplies, parents also re-

ceived a Farmers Fresh gift card for attending. The next event is open to all families with young children and will be held at the library on Wednesday, April 23 at 5:30 pm. Attending families will again receive a book to keep, dinner, incentives and activities for their children.

The library staff is grateful for the opportunity to work with SUIMA and to get to know some of the families whose children attend school there. We appreciate the help of SUIMA staff and administration to get our literacy project off to a successful and fantastic start.

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early Release at 2 p.m.
- March 31 – April 4: Book Fair & Native Spirit week
- April 3: Ute Day and Career Fair
- April 8: Golden High School students tour SUIMA
- April 15: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- April 16: Primary Easter egg hunt
- April 16: Family Night event
- April 18: No school for students – staff workday



photos courtesy SUIMA

Emiliano Melgarejo (left), helps a fellow primary student climb up the slide during recess. Kindergartener, Enrique Silva (center), dressed up as Pete the Cat during Book Fair week. SUIMA primary student, Jaxton Hayes (right), works on math skills in his classroom.

SUIMA, Reading Rainbow



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy's alumni Joseph Howell and Aeden Richards help Reading Teacher Debra Lamoreaux, pick out books to help donate to the different level classrooms for the students on Tuesday, April 1. SUIMA's annual Scholastic Book Fair was open Monday, March 31 – Friday, April 4 in school's dining hall.

Jaymez Washington browses books during the annual Scholastic Book Fair in the SUIMA Dining Hall.



Rose Rivera and her daughter, Symone Barry, visit SUIMA's annual Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday April 1.

MAKE YOUR OWN:

Crepes

TUES, APRIL 15 AT 4:30 PM

ICL (970)563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org

470 Goddard Ave.



IES gives recognition!



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

The Ignacio Elementary School held an assembly, Thursday, March 27, to give recognition for Character Counts, attendance, and academic achievements for students from kindergarten through fifth grade. The students with their Character Count awards received applause from their fellow classmates.

Oscar Cosio holds up Jude Parambo’s hand after winning a friendly game amongst the other classes to see who the winner of the “Attendance Stick” would be during the IES Rise & Shine Assembly, Thursday, March 27.



courtesy Shauna Branch/Ignacio Elementary School

Kindergarten students take a bow after reading their writing at the Writing Celebration.

BOBCAT BULLETIN

Ignacio Elementary School: Bobcat update

By Dana Stanley
IGNACIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hi, from Ignacio Elementary School. My name is Dana Stanley, and I am the Vice Principal of Ignacio Elementary School. This is my second year in the district, and I enjoy coming to work more and more every day. I have met many of the parents at IES, but I would like to share more about myself. My husband and I moved to this area five years ago and took over my parents’ ranch. I spent much time in Ignacio growing up because my father was raised here and graduated from Ignacio High School. When not working at the school, you can find me riding horses, working on the ranch, and spending time with my family.

I worked for 25 years in New Mexico before coming to IES, where I taught and then was a principal for 13 years. I have a very strong background in English Language Arts and that has been my focus the last two years at IES.

We are working very hard to help students with their reading skills. We must create strong readers

in their elementary years. We also want kids to love to read. We have set up rewards for students when they accomplish reading goals, and we are always finding ways to make reading fun. This year, the schools as a whole have read 23,293,392 words.

This year, our focus in reading has been on how you talk about reading. Our goal is that students can talk about what they read then they have better comprehension, and it improves how they write. Just before spring break we had a Writers Celebration where many of our students showcased their writing. Each grade level was able to pick eight-12 students to showcase their work. The writing pieces spanned from informational writing to short stories and poems.

We are gearing up for CMAS testing from April 7 – 17. We are encouraging the students to BEAT CMAS this year by doing their best. Some things students and families can do to help prepare are getting a good night’s sleep the night before testing days, eating a balanced breakfast on testing days, and being on time to school.

Upcoming events:

- **Calling all Future Kindergarteners for next year!** Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before August 1, 2025? If you do, they are ready for kindergarten! Please join us for our annual Kindergarten transition dinner and tour of the school on Wednesday, April 16, from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Fun for the whole family! We will be serving dinner and future kindergartners and families can meet with the current Kindergarten teachers and tour the school and classrooms. Next school year Kindergarten registration will be open on April 17 after the transition dinner.
- The **5th grade Continuation Ceremony** will be on Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- **Kindergarten Graduation** will be on Wednesday, May 21, at 10 a.m. at the high school.
- The **last day of school** for all students, including kindergarten and 5th grade, is May 22.

Thanks for all you do for your kiddos ... together We Can Do Great Things!

JOHNSON-O'MALLEY
2025 MEETING DATES:

- April 7th
- May 5th
- June 2nd
- July 7th
- August 4th
- September 1st
- October 6th
- November 3rd
- December 1st

First Monday of the Month

Time
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Public Education Office
330 Burns Avenue



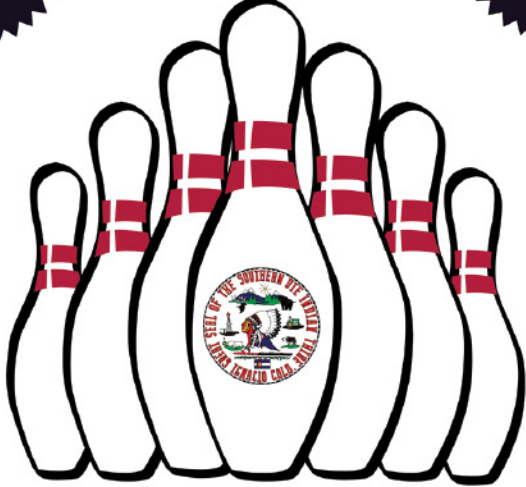
JOIN US

(970)563-0235
Kaylyn LeClaire
kleclair@southernute-nsn.gov

April 11, 2025

Joint initiative by Southern Ute Education Department, Bayfield Title IV, Durango Title IV and Ignacio Title IV

11:30am to 1pm



Native High School Seniors Join Us For
BOWLING
& Lunch Sponsored by SCSYAC
at Rolling Thunder Lanes at Sky Ute Casino Resort

Native Seniors from Bayfield, Durango and Ignacio High School

Please RSVP with your school coordinator by March 27, 2025
Bayfield High School: Bill Hesford bhesford@bayfield.k12.co.us
Durango High School: Orlando Griego ogriego@durangoschools.org
Ignacio High School: Faustino Terjo ftrejo@ignacioschools.org

Southern Ute Education

San Juan
College Campus
Field Trip

Join us for a tour around San Juan College!
Open to Southern Ute Tribal Members, Southern Ute 1st Descendants and JOM Students

- 10 spots available for eligible students in 9th-12th grade.
- Lunch will be provided.

DATE
Friday, May 9th, 2025

TIME
8:30AM-1:00PM



For questions and applications
contact: ShaRay Rock

srrock@southernute-nsn.gov

970-563-2794

Signed permission forms
need to be turned in by
Friday May 2, 2025



Easter egg preparation



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

SUPD Community Resource Officers, Don Folsom and Jasper Abeyta work diligently with members of the Victim Services Dept. – Joanne Gomez and Lisa Manzanares to finish packing goodies into plastic eggs for this year's Easter Egg Hunt, set for Saturday, April 12.

A glimpse of the large quantity of eggs and prizes to be handed out during the Tribe's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12 at SunUte Park.



ANNUAL
ELBERT J. FLOYD AWARD
NOMINATIONS



- NOMINEE REQUIREMENTS:
- 1) AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
 - 2) BE ENROLLED IN ANY FORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
 - THIS STUDENT CAN BE OF ANY AGE
 - STUDENTS PLANNING TO IMMEDIATELY ENROLL IN SUCH A PROGRAM ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE
 - 3) HAS INTEREST IN CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION
 - 4) HAS INTEREST IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY AND TRIBE
 - 5) HAS QUALITIES OF A DEDICATED STUDENT

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS DO NOT NEED TO RESIDE ON THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN RESERVATION; THEY MUST BE AVAILABLE TO RECIEVE THE AWARD IN PERSON. PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN IGNACIO, CO.

NOMINATIONS MAY BE RECIEVED FROM ANY TEACHER, TRIBAL MEMBER, OR COMMUNITY MEMBER. THEY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN WRITING STATING THE BASIS OF NOMINATION AND RETURNED TO THE SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2025.

(970)563-0235

kleclair@southernute-nsn.gov

THE SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL APPROVE NOMINATIONS

RECIPIENT WILL BE DEETERMINED BY A COMMITTEE OF TWO MEMBERS CONSISTING OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

THIS ANNUAL AWARD IS DONE IN MEMORY OF ELBERT J. FLOYD AND IS PRESENTED BY MR. FLOYD'S CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN TO THE SELECTED NOMINEE

MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

Easter Sip, Chat & Chew

Friday April 18, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



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

Door Prize donations are appreciated.



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

Summer Program
Scholarships

For La Plata County students
K-12



APPLY ONLINE



Team UP La Plata scholarships provide **free and reduced cost summer programming** to support working class families in La Plata County so ALL kids can experience life-changing programs.

Apply now to match with any of our **13 participating organizations** for the summer of 2025!

Scan the QR code or visit
teamupsw.org/summer-scholarship
to apply

2025 PARTNERS:



Multi-Purpose Facility
Easter Youth Craft Day and Egg Hunt



Saturday April 19, 2025
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Youth 6 - 17
Parents - Grand Parents Welcome

Call to sign-up 970-563-2640



258 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

970-563-2640, e-mail multipurpose@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

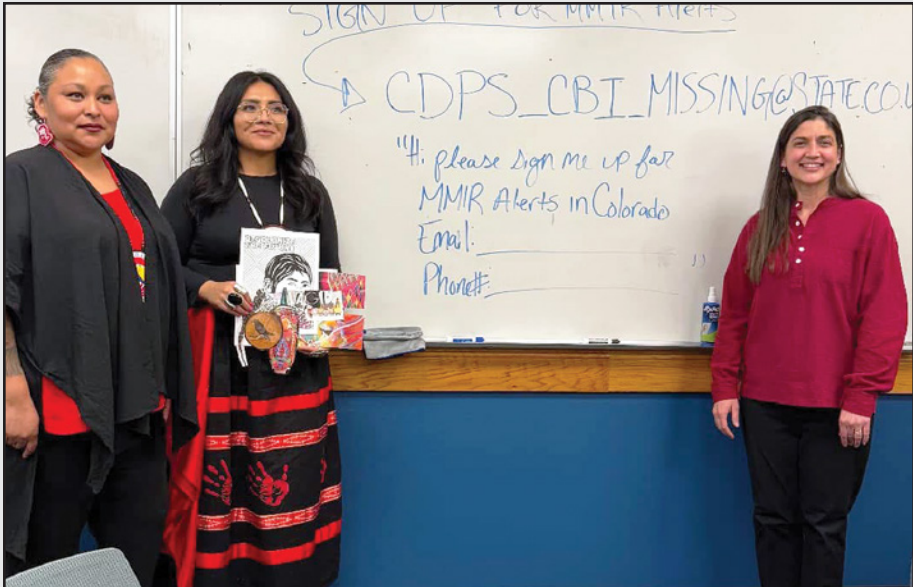
COME MEET THE EASTER BUNNY!
PLUS FOOD VENDORS, GAMES, & TONS OF OTHER PRIZES
BRING YOUR OWN BASKET FOR HUNTING



FOR MORE INFORMATION, BOOTH INFO, OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
DON FOLSOM AT (970) 563-2639



Addressing the MMIR crisis



courtesy Kristean Velasquez

Native leaders host a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives event to address the crisis affecting all Native relatives to spotlight that the MMIR crisis affects not only women, but all Native relatives; pictured are Kristean Velasquez, Daisy Bluestar, and Deanne Grant. In Colorado, statistics reveal that more Native men are missing or murdered than Native women, prompting community leaders to call for increased safety, healing, and justice. The event also focuses on community empowerment, enhanced awareness and education, robust advocacy, and the development of policy changes aimed at curbing this ongoing tragedy. To sign up to receive Missing Indigenous Person Alerts, please email: dps_cbi_missing@state.co.us

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB Club Connect: Congrats graduates!

Staff report
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Youth of the Month
Our Youth of the Month focuses on acknowledging and making club members aware of their own unique character and abilities. As staff, we want to recognize them by their positive attributes seen in their club driven experience.
For the month of March, our Youth of the Month award goes to Avreyen Hight! (See photo below.) Congratulations on behalf of the BGCSU staff!



courtesy BGC

Youth of the Month award recipient, Avreyen Hight.

BGC Announcement
The Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m. at SunUte Park. Vendors, games and prizes!

BGC highlights
Crystal Kelly was recently hired as the new BGC Administrative Assistant II. BGC Program Coordinator, Nick Sanchez, will receive

certification in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention from the Crisis Prevention Institute. BGC KSUT radio announcements happen on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:15 a.m.

Board highlights
BGC CEO, Bruce LeClaire, was appointed as the National Chair of the Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group (see the Drum, March 21, 2025 issue). The 2025 Colorado Youth of the Year event is happening on Tuesday, April 8 in Denver, Colo. BGC Board Chair, Amy Barry, and BGC CEO, Bruce LeClaire will be attending.



Consider becoming a foster parent with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

FOSTER PARENTS CAN BE:

- >Single or Married
- >LGBTQIA+ Community Members
- >Any Race, Ethnicity or Religion
- >Families with children or not
- >Homeowners or Renters
- >Adults 18 years old and older

Call or email
Southern Ute Social Services
(970) 563-2337
kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov

What is the licensing process?

- > Complete a Foster Home Application packet
- > Complete our Home Safety Inspection.
- > Submit background checks for criminal history and child abuse/neglect history.
- > Complete foster care pre-service training – 8 hours
- > Complete an in-home interview with the Foster Care Coordinator
- > Get certified in 1st Aid & CPR
- > All processed through Southern Ute Division of Social Services

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS:

YOUTH SKATEPARK MURAL PROJECT

A VIBRANT, YOUTH-DRIVEN MURAL IS SET TO GRACE THE RAMPS AT PIINU NUUCHI SKATEPARK!

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY AND ENTER YOUR ARTWORK MASTERPIECE FOR A CHANCE TO SHINE ON THIS WALL OF ENCHANTMENT.

THE WINNING DESIGN(S) WILL BE FEATURED IN THIS COMMUNITY MURAL!!

THERE WILL BE TWO EVENTS:
BRAINSTORMING PIZZA PARTY & ART SHOW
BOTH FOR IGNACIO'S NATIVE YOUTH TO CONNECT, COMMUNICATE, AND CREATE IDEAS FOR A MURAL DESIGN AT THE PIINU NUUCHI SKATEPARK LOCATED IN IGNACIO, CO. COME MAKE ART AND LET YOUR IDEAS SOAR!!

PIZZA PARTY:

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH

12:30PM - 3:30PM

MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, IGNACIO

ART SHOW:

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

6:00PM - 8:00PM

MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, IGNACIO

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (970).563.5700

SASO
SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES ORGANIZATION

ART SHOW 2025
Resilience

Inspired by "The Rose That Grew From Concrete" by Tupac

Grand opening:
Friday April 11, 2025
@6:00 PM

Art Show will be hosted by
DURANGO ARTS CENTER
802 E 2ND AVE,
DURANGO, CO 81301

SCAN HERE

If QR Code is not working, please see our website www.durangosaso.org

ART SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN
DEADLINE: APRIL 8, 2025

Contact tahleiahdurangosaso.org for more information.
Durango Office: (970) 259-3074
Follow our social media [@](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#) [u](#) [r](#) [a](#) [n](#) [g](#) [o](#) [_](#) [s](#) [a](#) [s](#) [o](#)

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT OPEN TO EVERYONE!

FREE FOOD FREE FUN FREE ENTERTAINMENT

COLOR US WITH LOVE
COLOR RUN

Photo by: Jeremy Shockley | SU Drum

- Piinu Nuuchi Skate Park
- May 2, 2025
- Registration: 3-4 pm | Event Start: 4 pm

SCAN FOR LIABILITY WAIVER

(FROM THE SHOW RESERVATION DOGS)
SPECIAL GUEST: MATO WAYUHI

- MUSIC PERFORMANCE
- SELLING MERCH!

Starts at 5:30 PM

For more information or to sign up for a color station contact:
Augusta Torres @ 970.563.2328 or atorres@southernute-nsn.gov



IGNACIO

Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts welcomes Joe Toledo

Staff report
DANCING SPIRIT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Renowned artist, Joe Toledo will have his artwork featured in Ignacio during April's First Friday at Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts. Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts is proud to present an extraordinary evening celebrating the work of Joe Toledo, renowned artist of the American Southwest, proud Native of the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico and beloved Ignacio local.

Toledo paints what brings him solace. His deep connection to the community and his absorption with life and art is as rich and enduring as the sunlight that bathes the Southwestern Colorado landscape he calls home. His work reflects a rich cultural heritage and a profound reverence for the natural world.

Come enjoy an evening of stunning artwork, community connection, and cultural celebration on April 4, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, located at 465 Goddard Ave in Ignacio, Colo. The event is free and open to the public, with refreshments provided.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the work of



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

a master artist whose voice and vision continue to shape the spirit of the Southwest.

Whether he was your high school teacher, an inspiring mentor, a joyful reprieve, or a dear friend, Joe Toledo is a beloved figure in our community. This evening will be a celebration of his remarkable artistry and the profound impact he has had on so many.

Come celebrate Joe's legacy and enjoy a gallery of his stunning work – an evening of art, memories, and connection.

For more information, contact us at 970-563-4600 or dancingspiritgallery@gmail.com or visit us online at www.dscac.org

P.S. Happy 96th Birthday to Joe on March 17, 2025!

Multi - Purpose Facility April 2025 Events

Indoor Yard Sale—Saturday April 12, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Quilting Class—Tuesday—Wednesday April 15 & 16, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Adult Easter Crafts Thursday April 17, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday April 18, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Traditional Beading & Sewing—Monday, Tuesday & Thursday April 28-29 & May 1, Shawls, Applique

Day Session - 10:00 AM—3:30,PM Evening Session 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Happy Easter
Special Events

Youth Easter Crafts—Saturday April 19, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM

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

Volunteers to Honor Veterans Food Sale—TBA

Events are subject to change—please watch for announcements

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

SOUTHERN UTE RODEO WORK GROUP PERMANENT RODEO ★ LOGO CONTEST ★

Open to all Southern Ute Tribal Members
& First Descendants

Winning logo will be awarded a \$1,000 prize

Deadline: April 11, 2025

★ GUIDELINES ★

- One submission per artist
- Artwork no larger than 8.5 x 11 in
- Ute language & cultural elements should be incorporated in logo
- Winning logo will be chosen by Southern Ute Rodeo Work Group
- Submission should include a digitized copy of artwork

For more information, contact:
Eugene Bereza | 970-563-2307



2025 RES: BEYOND BOUNDARIES • FROM PAGE 2

ipation from all Tribal nations. This can be in the form of content creation, media submission, production and job creation, and interest in the field. This session was high energy, and the future looks promising to promote Native American issues, events, programming, and awareness. This material was also given to our SCSYAC in hopes that they might be the ones to help drive this channel to our youth. I highly encourage anyone to take a look at this website. It highlights the Native culture and is a positive outlet for all ages.

Utilizing technology to combat security concerns, human trafficking, and MMIR

munities are seeing increasing concern and instances of missing people, runaways, and human trafficking. Two companies that were highlighted in the conference are taking a stand with Tribes in terms of software, digital solutions, and interagency cooperation. These companies are Swift Creek and Proximus. Muskogee Creek has partnered with Clear Creek in various ways that has led to efficient recovery and trafficking awareness. Native casinos can serve as pick up and exchange areas for criminal activity. This session highlighted deficiencies that may currently exist on reservations and reservation casinos. In many instances there is an absence of awareness that crime may even be taking place. Tribes

focus on their membership and citizens and may not know that outside individuals, narcotics, and such are being exchanged roadside, in parking lots, and in hotel rooms. Both companies are reaching out to Native Tribes to showcase their results and offer solutions.

These four breakout sessions are a small sample of some of the great things being done in Indian Country. It is always beneficial to communicate with our membership some of the ideas and inspirations that exist. Just recently, Tribal Council formalized the creation of Economic Development as a department of the Permanent Fund. The goal is to bring on-reservation wins and opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE

MMIR AWARENESS PRAYER WALK

Saturday May 3, 2025



Photo credits: Southern Ute Drum
Robert Ortiz and Krista Richards



CONTACT US
mmirtaskforceco.com
mmirtaskforceofco.com

Do you have a Boarding School story to tell?

Living Heritage Anthropology (Jessica Yaquinto, Erica Walters, and Reshawn Edison) and Keystone Policy Center (Ernest House, Jr.) are recording oral histories from Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes about the Boarding School era in Colorado. You are invited to participate if you or your community has been impacted by the Boarding School Era. This project is being administered by History Colorado, a state agency, and funded by the NEH.

The interviewers (photos below) will meet with you at a time and place of your choosing and ask you to share your story.

- Your interview will be your own intellectual property
- You may choose to remain anonymous
- You can choose if you want your interview recorded or not
- You can stop the interview at any time
- You can bring others with you to the interview if you would like
- You will be compensated for your time

If you wish, your interview can be housed in the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, or History Colorado archives. You can restrict access to your interview.

This project can benefit Tribal communities by creating a space for stories to be heard, helping future generations to understand the past, and by documenting this time in history. This project will create a collection of oral histories from Indigenous communities and Nations impacted by Colorado's boarding school era. This will help the state better understand this chapter of Colorado history. This work has been approved by Tribal Council. If you or your community have been affected by a boarding school, we invite you to share. Interviews will occur in April and May of 2025. To schedule an interview time, please call or email us.



Jessica Yaquinto
JESSICA@LIVINGHERITAGEANTHROPOLOGY.ORG
970-570-9005



Erica Walters



Reshawn Edison



Ernest House, Jr.
EHOUSE@KEYSTONE.ORG
303-968-7630



Denver March Powwow fills Coliseum



Miss Southern Ute Maleina Caryl waves to the crowd ahead of Grand Entry during the visiting royalty introductions on Friday, March 21.



Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz and Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts wave to a packed crowd during Saturday's Grand Entry.

The 49th Annual Denver March Powwow featured more than 1,500 dancers from over 100 Tribes from 38 states and three Canadian provinces. Held, Friday, March 21 through Sunday, March 23 this three-day event packed the Denver Coliseum with singing, dancing, storytelling, food vendors and artisans. Each session of the powwow had strong representation from members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; including Southern Ute Royalty and the Southern Ute Veterans Association.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Dancers competing in the 2024-2025 Miss Denver March Powwow princess Meah Little Sky's special contest participate in a head-to-head spotlight competition. Similar to March Madness dancers representing two teams compete to advance their respective teams, jingle and non-jingle. Friends Tatiana Wright (left) and Red Star Cavanaugh share encouragement ahead of their competition.



Traditional dancers hit the floor to compete in the Martina 'Teema' LaDeaux Men's Northern Traditional special on Saturday.



Tiny tot dancers hit the floor on Friday evening, ready to showcase their styles and enjoy the dance floor all to themselves. Young traditional dancer Flint Bear shows his excitement.



Members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association Color Guard, Raymond Baker, Bruce Valdez, and Austin Box represented their organization during the Denver March Powwow. Dressed to the nines on Saturday night live, they lead dancers during the celebration.



Men's Northern Traditional dancer tells his story during the adult contest sessions on Saturday evening at the 49th Annual Denver March Powwow.



Outgoing Denver March Powwow Princess, Meah Little Sky exhibitions during the Jr. Women's Jingle contest on Saturday evening. Later Little Sky and her family hosted a "March Madness" style competition for jingle and non-jingle dress dancers in her honor.



Vietnam Veterans Day



Ute Mountain Ute Vietnam veteran, Terry Knight gave the invocation in Ute and welcomed attendees to the annual Vietnam Veterans Day recognition celebration.

Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum



Shiri Howell, Krista Richards, and Marlena Valdez were all recognized for their years of service to the Veterans Association, each presented with an embroidered shawl bearing the Vietnam veteran colors.



Vietnam combat veteran, Rod Grove speaks on his experiences serving overseas and the difficulties that many Tribal veterans faced upon returning home.



Southern Ute Veteran's Association Princess, Alyiah Jacket gives her welcome address.



Ceremony closed with a presentation of the "Taps" by Vietnam combat veteran, Ronnie Baker.

A formal Vietnam Veterans Day recognition celebration was held at the Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park in Ignacio, Saturday, March 29. Hosted by the Southern Ute Veterans Association, the event brought veterans, families, and Tribal dignitaries together for this day of recognition and remembrance.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE TO WINS!



FALL INTO FORTUNE.
TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL | ALL DAY
Dive down the rabbit hole for a chance to snag a mystery jackpot that must be paid before it hits \$250!



A CURIOUS GAME OF CHANCE.
FRIDAYS IN APRIL | 6PM - 11PM
You could be one of the lucky hourly winners chosen to pick three envelopes — each holding a different number of points that could earn you up to \$500!



HATS OFF TO YOUR NEXT WIN.
SATURDAYS IN APRIL | 5PM - MIDNIGHT
You would have to be mad as a hatter to not join us for your chance to win \$250 – and the best part is you can win multiple times!



SPIN TO A WONDERLAND WIN!
SUNDAY, APRIL 20 | 1PM - 9PM
Every 30 minutes, a lucky guest will be whisked away for a madly delightful hot seat win where they'll get to reveal a prize up to \$350!





FLC celebrates Hozhoni Days Powwow



Local and visiting dancers fill the Whalen Gym for the 59th Annual Hozhoni Days on Saturday, March 29 for Grand Entry.

The student-led organization Wanbli Ota of Fort Lewis College hosted the 59th Annual Hozhoni Days Powwow this past weekend on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29 at the Whalen Gymnasium. For generations students have been organizing this event, bringing the opportunity for dancers and singers to showcase their styles at the school, continuing to acknowledge the neighboring Tribal communities and all Native students at Fort Lewis College.



Veterans post the colors during Saturday evening's Grand Entry,

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Men's Traditional dancers go head-to-head and showcase their styles during competitions on Saturday evening in the Whalen Gymnasium.



Tiny tots and their families hit the floor on Friday, March 28 ahead of the competition dancing.



Men's Traditional Dancer competes at the 59th Annual Hozhoni Days Powwow on Saturday, March 29 at Fort Lewis College.



Corey Robinson/Special to The Colorado Trust

The Pine River Shares Community Food Farm; the 10-acre farm in Bayfield, Colo. is part of a push to transform the Pine River Valley by increasing the production of fresh food.

FOOD SECURITY

No off-season for greens in the Pine River Valley

Pine River Shares expands food program

By Mark Stevens
SPECIAL TO THE COLORADO TRUST

Inside the seedling house is a study in green. Buttercrunch lettuce, beet greens, baby chard, mini broccoli, sweet peas and the tops of heirloom carrots thrive in their warm quarters, protected from the cold outside.

At 10 a.m. on a Friday in early January, Grow Manager Chris Rasmussen watched for aphids, sap-sucking insects. Touching soil and feeling various leaves as she assessed the crops, Rasmussen talked about the persistent mice that want to snack on what she's grown. She revealed that baby bok choy, while easy to grow, is a crop on the do-not-plant list because the community prefers basics like spinach.

From all appearances, the interior of the seedling house looked like it could be July or August despite it being the first month of the year. The morning low temperature in Gem Village, 18 miles east of Durango and two miles west of Bayfield in Southwest Colorado, was 28 degrees. But that's just a snippet of what was to come in the months ahead.

The seedling house is part of the Pine River Shares Community Food Farm, a 10-acre tract behind the Kubota tractor dealership in Gem Village. The farm has been preparing for an extended growing season starting this month. The plan is to produce vegetables late into the fall using space inside the 9,000-square-foot triple house – three conjoined high-ceiling green-

houses – and two outdoor 1,700-square-foot low tunnels.

The renovations of the buildings and initial work to prep the soil on the 10-acre farm are part of a push to transform the Pine River Valley by increasing fresh food production. In this case, transform means to restore. The farm will serve as both a demonstration of the land's potential and a significant, steady source of local food and produce. The farm is a project of Pine River Shares, which aims to bring people and resources in the valley together to promote a healthy community.

The Pine River Valley – roughly 275 square miles and stretching 23 miles from Vallecito at the north to Ignacio, on the Southern Ute Reservation – was once a bountiful source of food. In the 1920s and 1930s, Pine River Shares director Pam Willhoite said, Native populations and non-Native settlers lived off the land. As highways and roads were built after World War II, many residents left their homes and farms for jobs in the wage economy. That led to fewer home gardens, grain crops, dairies and mills.

The Pine River Shares Community Food Farm is part of the Field2Fork project, a blueprint for rebuilding the Pine River Valley food system. The plan identifies actions individuals and communities can take to overcome barriers to accessing affordable, healthy food and increase local food production and processing.

The opportunity to buy the farm came in 2022. Will-

hoite loved the property and brought the idea back to her team. Lengthy negotiations led to a price reduction from generous sellers who appreciated Pine River Shares' vision.

In January 2024, Pine River Shares purchased the farm for \$450,000. The nonprofit received American Rescue Plan Act funding, which covered a third of the cost. Local donors supplied another \$150,000. Grants and the organization's reserves provided the final third. Additional funds have been raised to support 24 months of farm operating costs and improve the infrastructure.

"There's an incredible communal feeling. It's unique," said Paul Pavich, a volunteer at the farm who recently retired from a career as an English professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. "I have never felt this kind of intensity around a project."

Simon Miglinas, a 14-year-old who attends Bayfield Middle School, also volunteers and said he sees the need in the community. "I like helping people. It's the kind of thing that I found that would be fun," he said. "It makes me feel like I'm actually doing something to help."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of community members utilizing the Pine River Shares food support programs has increased from 700 people per month to 2,500. The organization, now in its 12th year of oper-

Off-season page 16

SMHW serves Buffalo Meatballs



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Lisa Smith and Heather Sorensen hosted a food tasting event to celebrate National Nutrition Month in the Hall of Warriors, Thursday, March 20. Buffalo meatballs and homemade hummus with vegetables were provided, along with a bison cookbook for those who attended.



Erik Tsosie lines up to get a plate of delicious food made by Lisa Smith and Heather Sorensen during the food tasting event held by the Shining Mountain Health and Wellness in the Hall of Warriors, Thursday, March 20.

Hop and Shop During Our Nighttime Easter Egg Hunt!

Come kick off ELHI's summer event season with us at a fun-filled night market & Easter event! Before sunset, we'll enjoy shopping, eating, music and games, and when the sun sets, the flashlights come out, and the real fun begins! While the tweens and teens are hunting, parents can shop and kids 12 and under can visit with the Easter Bunny while doing crafts and playing games. Make sure you join us for this special kick off to our summer events!

Friday, April 11
The ELHI Community Center, 115 Ute Street, Ignacio
Vendor Market & Games: 6 PM- 9 PM | Egg Hunt Begins at Sundown

The Easter Egg hunt is for ages 12 and up (bring a flashlight and Easter basket!), but we will have activities for the whole family! Vendor spaces are \$20 and crafters, farmers, artisans, fundraisers and food are welcome. We'll have music, lawn games, crafts and more. Can't wait to see you there!

Saturday
April 12
2025



Earth Day
Dia de la Tierra
AFROBEATNIKS

Buckley Park
11-3pm
Parade -10:30am
earthdaydurango.com

FREE! | Parade | Family Fun | Food | Music





**Our Power
Our Planet**

EARTH DAY

CELEBRATION!

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, FROM 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Join us with the Sierra Club for an exciting event!

- Engaging displays from IHS students
- Alternative energy demonstrations
- Hands-on Maker activities
- Free books
- Planting activities
- Earth-themed videos
- Activities for the little ones

There's something for everyone!



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



COLORADO RIVER AGREEMENT • FROM PAGE 1

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation can consider the proposal as part of its longer process.

That process aims to identify different ways to manage the river's key reservoirs, like lakes Mead and Powell, share water cuts, assess environmental impacts and more for years to come.

Lakes Mead and Powell make up about 92% of the total reservoir capacity for the basin. The reservoirs' water levels dropped to historic lows in recent years, threatening a vital storage system that helps pace the flow of water for 40 million people across the West.

If the seven basin states cannot come to consensus, they will forfeit a chance to have a strong, united voice in their own water future. Without a basin wide proposal, the federal government will move forward with its own management options based on a variety of proposals, letters, climate models and more.

Without a basin states' agreement, the federal government's approach will lead to significant cuts in the Lower Basin states – Arizona, California and Nevada, Cullom said, based on a report from the Bureau of Reclamation.

With or without basin state consensus, the Bureau of Reclamation does not plan to continue its current management approach, which would run the system "into the mud" according to the federal analysis, Cullom said.

The Bureau of Reclamation has already outlined five "Franken-alternatives," as Cullom described them, which combine facets of various proposals, including those submitted by Tribal na-

tions, environmental groups, the Upper Basin states – Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming – and the Lower Basin states.

All of the federal alternatives aim to avoid the chance that water levels in lakes Mead and Powell would drop so low that the reservoirs' dams could not generate hydropower, Cullom said.

Some Lower Basin officials called in February for a new review of the future management options, saying their proposal was not adequately considered by former President Joe Biden's administration.

Their proposal includes larger cuts in the Upper Basin than officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming want to see.

"For someone to come and tell you, 'You need to shrink,' would be antithetical, anathema to what you were promised in 1922," Cullom said, referring to the 1922 Colorado River Compact, which outlined water sharing in the basin. "The Lower Basin has achieved its full use – some would argue maybe a skosh more ... But you all have not."

Regardless of the outcome of the state negotiations, officials agree new Colorado River management rules must be finalized by August 2026 so they can be used starting in October 2026, Cullom said.

These state negotiations are only one part of the larger Colorado River conversation. Mexico-U.S. negotiations over Colorado River water are being held through a separate process.

The Trump administration is making unprecedented

moves in Colorado River relations with Mexico. This month, the administration denied a special request to deliver Colorado River water to the city of Tijuana for the first time in 81 years because Mexico is behind on water owed to the U.S. from the Rio Grande River under a 1944 treaty, according to news reports.

Thirty Tribal nations have a stake in the Colorado River's future and are advocating for their own water rights, usage and priorities in proposals and letters to the federal government.

Alongside the basin's increasingly complex challenges is an opportunity for innovation, Melvin Baker, chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, said during Friday's symposium. "You're all here today to work together, to strategize, to think about things because not one person just has the right answer," he said. "It takes many minds to make sure we're doing the best with what we have."

Chairman Manuel Heart of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe called for people to take action. Funding is on hold. Change is inevitable, he said. People in southwestern Colorado should come together as partners to advocate for the needs of the Colorado River Basin.

At a conference like this, we need some action items, he said Friday.

"How do we really educate our legislators? How do we really educate this administration to look at our needs here in the Colorado River Basin?" Heart said. "I'm concerned. I'm trying to look out for the future."

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Tribal advocacy in Colorado legislature to address key priorities

By Summer Begay
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Colorado General Assembly, the state legislature of Colorado, which is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, began its 2025 legislative session in January. To protect the Tribe's interests, the Tribal Council remains consistently involved in advocating for and tracking legislation that is of interest or may have an impact on the Tribe. Tribal Council prioritizes building collaborative relationships with state legislators to ensure Tribal sovereignty and rights to self-determination are respected and upheld. This session, Tribal Council has participated in the following House bills with testimony:

House Bill 25-1163: Free Access to State Parks for Colorado Ute Tribes

This House bill is sponsored by Representatives Katie Stewart and Rick Taggart and Senators Dylan Roberts and Cleave Simpson. The bill allows enrolled members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to enter state parks in Colorado without having to pay an entrance fee. This bill has passed the House Committee on Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources and is under consideration by the House Appropriations Committee. To ensure Ute Tribal members can reconnect with their ancestral homelands and access culturally significant plants, Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose provided tes-

timony supporting the proposed legislation. There were efforts to expand this legislation to members of all federally recognized Tribes. However, those Tribal members do not have the historical and cultural connection to the land that the Nuuchu do. In addition, those Tribes do not have the unique government-to-government relationship with the State that the resident Ute Tribes do. Therefore, that request was rejected by the Legislative Committee.

House Bill 25-1204: Colorado Indian Child Welfare Act

The federal Indian Child Welfare Act has constantly been under attack. The Tribal Council wanted to be proactive and protect the federal legislation by including it in state law. For the past year the Tribe has been consulting with key stakeholders and worked on the bill's introduction this year. This bill codifies the federal "Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978" into state law as the "Colorado Indian Child Welfare Act" (COICWA) and provides additional protections for Indian children and children known to be Indian children under state law. This bill is sponsored by strong advocates for the Tribe, House Majority Leader Monica Duran and Representative Junie Joseph in the House and Senator Jessie Danielson in the Senate. This bill has passed the Health & Human Services and Appropriations Committee in the House and is now un-

der consideration by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

- Chairman, Melvin J. Baker provided virtual testimony to highlight four critical aspects:
- One, the bill requires state and county agencies to assist with enrolling Native children if they are eligible for enrollment.
- Two, the bill establishes an order of placement preferences for children that need to be placed outside their home, including family members, foster homes in the same Tribe, and Tribal members that are culturally similar to the child's Tribe, among others.
- Three, when adopting or granting guardianship over a Native child, the court may require the parties to enter into a cultural compact or plan for participation in cultural activities.
- Finally, a Tribe, parent, or custodian may seek a Tribal customary adoption as an alternative to terminating the parental rights in state court.
- Chairman Baker concluded his testimony by stating this bill is, "a promise to our Native children that their identity matters, their heritage is sacred, and their future is worth fighting for."

These House bills, while progressing through the legislative process and receiving Tribal Council advocacy, are currently in progress and have not yet been enacted into state law; a subsequent article will detail the status of Senate bills.

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION-HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Application Deadline:
April 28, 2025 5:00 pm

Any questions, contact CSD at (970) 563-0260

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABLE!

SCAN CODE BELOW FOR AN APPLICATION:

Apply @ : www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/construction-services-division/

The ELHI Community Center

- (contact: 970-563-4100, admin@theelhiignacio.org)
ELHI Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9am-5pm
- Easter Event: Friday, April 11, 6-9 p.m. Vendors, crafts, games for all ages plus an Evening Easter Egg Hunt for ages 12+
 - ELHI Board of Directors meeting: Monday, April 14, 10-11 a.m.
 - Free Caregiver Workshop: Wednesday, April 9 and 30, 5 p.m. in the Commons. Dinner and childcare provided. Presented by Team Up La Plata.
 - Care and Share Mobile Market: Friday, April 25, 1-2 p.m. in the ELHI parking lot.
 - Rise & Shine Teamwork Tuesday: First Tuesday of the month (10% of sales support ELHI!)

ASHLEY

GE APPLIANCES

Whirlpool

Apple

NO CREDIT CHECK

120 DAYS SAME AS CASH

FREE DELIVERY

\$1 DOWN ON ANY NEW RENTAL

PRIORITY
SALES & RENTALS

970-259-3630
802 CAMINO DEL RIO
DURANGO, CO 81301
www.prioritysalesandrentals.com

Offer subject to application approval - Valid Now - 5/9/25

ACES AUTO & TRAILERS

0 DOWN WAC

BLOW OUT SALES MOVING 2024

TRACTORS TO MAKE ROOM FOR 2025

2024 BRANSON/TYM
2515H TLB

\$37,995
STOCK#: KE24354

2024 BRANSON/TYM
2515R W/LOADER

\$29,995
STOCK#: KE24408

Aces Auto & Trailers

KIRTLAND
4218 US-64
KIRTLAND, NM 87417
505-493-7700

CORTEZ
7500 HWY 160-491
CORTEZ, CO 81321
970-565-7394

WWW.ACESAUTOCO.COM



No off-season for greens • FROM PAGE 14

ation, is based in the former Bayfield Primary School, which was turned into a hub for community groups after voters approved a bond to build new schools.

Pine River Shares staff and volunteers run a long-standing community food-sharing program, filling backpacks every week so 200 students can bring home the equivalent of six meals, and operate a “freecycle” shop that provides residents with a source of free clothing and housewares, among other resource-sharing efforts.

The farm purchase and ambitious plan to provide fresh produce to the valley has created a massive to-do list spearheaded by Rasmussen, a river ecologist with a doctorate from the University of Oregon.

The work has intensified this year. Design the irrigation systems outdoors and inside. Build water storage for greenhouses during non-irrigation seasons. Improve the triple house’s floor grade to eliminate areas where groundwater seeps in. Drill a well for potable and backup irrigation water. Explore grant options for solar development. Improve business relationships and collaborations with other local producers.

Rasmussen said the first year served as a proof of concept. Volunteer teams planted seeds, watered, nurtured, harvested and distributed 5,000 pounds of food (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beets, turnips, broccoli, cabbage, squash and greens) to community members. The team also learned what works. While romaine lettuce is “absolutely gorgeous,” Rasmussen said, it’s a slow grower, and the farm team learned to plant spinach or faster-growing lettuces such as buttercrunch instead.

Rasmussen is undaunted by the prospect of shifting to a larger operation. She said that’s partly because the current food production system makes no sense.

“We take water from the Colorado River Basin, and we ship it all the way to California to grow our greens, put them on a truck, to ship them all the way back up here and put them in our grocery stores – in cellophane,” Rasmussen said. “That whole system is so fragile. It’s convenience now, but if you start digging



Corey Robinson/Special to The Colorado Trust

Pine River Shares Director, Pam Willhoite inspects old potting soil for reuse at the Pine River Shares Community Food Farm in Bayfield, Colo.

into the system, it’s fragile. That’s insecurity to me.”

An economic class issue exists in rural America, Willhoite said. The demand for Pine River Shares services, including food sharing and free meals, proves that the valley needs to reclaim its ability to feed itself. Low-income community members who hold down two or three jobs still can’t keep up with housing, utility and fuel costs, according to Willhoite, “so we offer one free thing: food.”

The community farm is designed to demonstrate that food insecurity can be addressed.

“The thing that thrills me the most is when groups of people take control of their lives by identifying barriers to their well-being, looking for the root causes of those barriers and developing a shared analysis that informs collective action for change,” Willhoite said. “That’s the model of success that Pine River Shares is reaching for with the Community Food Farm.”

Heather Houk, horticulture and agriculture production specialist in La Plata County for the Colorado State University Extension office, said she is “wildly impressed” with the Pine River Shares Community Food Farm. Houk has consulted with Willhoite and Rasmussen on eradicating the tobacco mosaic virus from the farm’s indoor growing spaces.

“It’s definitely important that we have spaces like Pine River Shares that are creating more thriving means of getting food, fresh vegetables and fruits in people’s hands,” Houk said.

Houk, an agricultural consultant for 25 years, has also helped recruit volunteers,

connected the community farm with master gardeners and provided technical support to keep the greenhouses free of pathogens.

“Whenever there’s a call, the community chips in and helps,” volunteer Kim Winsett said. “I know some of it’s a learning curve, and that happens with everything you do, so there might be some little snafus along the way, but we learn from it, and we move on. We adapt.”

Volunteer Brittany Miller runs her 35-acre farm with ducks, chickens and alpacas a dozen miles north of Gem Village. The farm includes a large grow dome chock full of vegetables. She sells eggs to the Grub Hub Food Pantry at Fort Lewis College, which provides free food to students experiencing food insecurity. Originally from Oklahoma, Miller previously worked mapping leases for oil and gas companies and moved to Colorado during the pandemic.

With her deep knowledge of poultry breeds and breeders, Miller is helping the community farm develop a hen share program. She said she started volunteering at the farm because she’s nervous about how the economy will fare in the near future.

“It would be good to have some capacity here to provide and meet the needs,” Miller said. “If Chris [Rasmussen] can envision it, she can make it happen. She’s a force.”

Willhoite said the food farm looks like any other agricultural effort, but it’s more than that.

“We’re creating a new system of autonomous community food production,” she said, “where the food and any profit from the food remain in our community to benefit the people living there.”

Safe hunting skills



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Wildlife division held an Internet-Based Hunter Education Class on Saturday, March 22 at the Sun Ute Community Center. Students were shown a variety of videos on how to be safe when hunting and how to load and unload ammunition using realistic training rifles. Southern Ute Fisheries Biologist, Ben Zimmerman shows students how to hold a rifle the correct way prior to testing their skills shooting .22 rifles.

Southern Ute Tribal Ranger and student Krystofer Carrillo shares her stories working as a Tribal Ranger on the Southern Ute Reservation, Saturday March 22 at the SunUte Community Center.



Youth Hunter Outreach & Scoring Night

Wednesday, April 9th
1:00 p.m. to about 7:00 p.m.
Sky Ute Casino Event Center

Please join us to meet with the
Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board
& The Wildlife Division Staff to talk about
and learn more about your Wildlife Resources

Official B&C Scorers from the Jicarilla Apache G&F will be
on hand to score your trophies.
Please call (970) 563-0130 for more information

Piinu Nuuchi
FARMERS
MARKET
& Outdoor Biz Lab
CALLING ALL
VENDORS

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
is seeking ALL local
Agriculture farmers, food
vendors and Artisans who
would like to participate in
the weekly Piinu Nuuchi
Farmers Market this season.

Reach out to
awall@southernute-nsn.gov
or 970.563.2281 to learn more

The Southern Ute Department of
Natural Resources

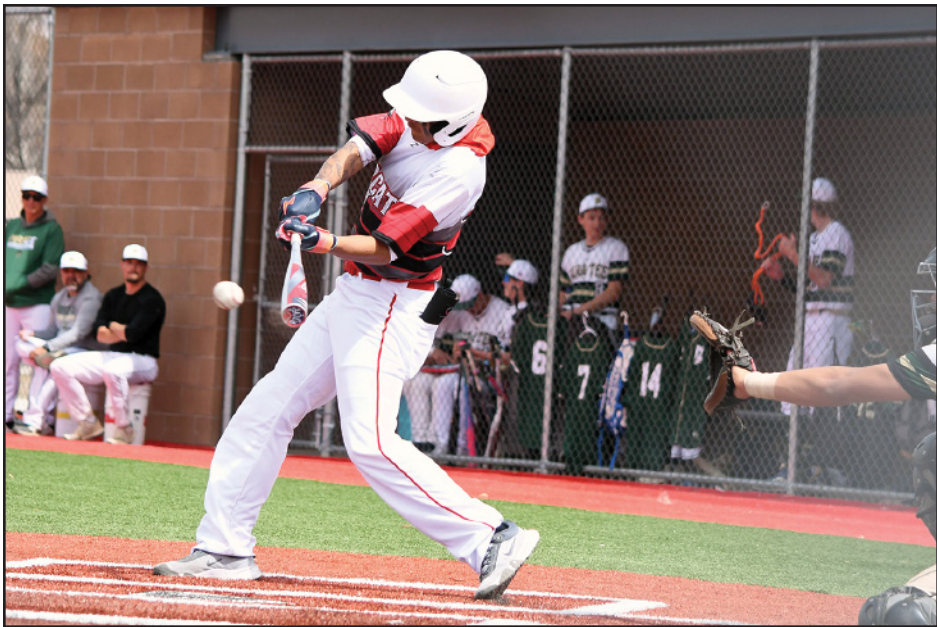
has been tasked with a Comprehensive Agricultural Land
Management Plan with long-term and short-term ideas for the plan
that includes conceptual goals and objectives for further planning
and development.

The Department would like to invite
Southern Ute tribal members to participate in
a survey regarding agriculture production as
it relates to assigned tribal land and will
assist the Department with developing the
Management Plan. Input received will be
implemented in the conceptual goals and
objectives within the Plan.



To participate in the survey through
June 30, 2025, please scan the QR
code or click on the link below:
<https://forms.office.com/r/dT5v0Kj1-KC5>

The survey will be available at the
Southern Ute General Meeting in April.
For further information, questions or
concerns regarding the survey,
please call: 970-563-2237



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez rips a run-scoring base hit during the first of two games Friday afternoon, March 28, against Monte Vista at IHS Field.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

Late-charging 'Cats drop two to Pirates

IHS swept in varsity's first doubleheader

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Willing to fight like a cornered, well, bobcat, Ignacio's 'Cats made sure to make their last-inning at-bats Friday afternoon, March 28, as fierce and productive as possible.

Unfortunately, visiting Monte Vista was already too far gone in both games of the non-league doubleheader at IHS Field, for junior Gabe Archuleta's fourth-inning RBI-triple in Game 1, and fifth-inning RBI-singles by junior Stoney White Thunder and senior Cole Wagner in Game 2 to truly have the needed prolonging effects.

And after Wagner's knock up the middle-plated Archuleta, bringing the home team back to within a dozen runs, junior Ambrose Valdez went down swinging against MVHS' Michael Hensley, and Easton Smith did likewise – with catcher Kaden Madrid retrieving the dropped third strike, then throwing it to first baseman Landon Sanchez to complete a 17-4, 14-2 sweep.

White Thunder and Smith each went 1-for-3 in Game 2 – which was actually tight through three innings, with the Pirates leading by just a 2-0 margin – and Wagner was 1-2 with a walk. Archuleta went 0-2 with a



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Stoney White Thunder pitches during the first of two games Friday afternoon, March 28, against Monte Vista at IHS Field.

walk and a run scored, while Joseph Atencio drew two walks and finished 0-0 with a run.

One run was enough to gain IHS the lead after one frame in Game 1, but Monte Vista responded with two in the top of the second and then broke things wide open by scratching out six runs in the top of the third. Valdez and White Thunder each ended up 2-for-3,

with Valdez credited with two RBI and White Thunder one (plus a run scored). Archuleta (2 R) and Wagner each finished 1-3, and Max Mendoza went 0-2 but reached via error and scored once.

Having defeated 2A/1A San Juan Basin League rival Dolores 13-3 on the 25th, Ignacio slipped to

Late-charging page 24



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Marissa Olguin stands with parents Jerone and Lisa while listening to a pre-game recognition preceding the Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-State Games' Class 3A feature Sunday afternoon, March 23, inside Thornton Skyview's Al Hower Gymnasium.

BOBCATS SOCCER

IHS' pride boosts play against Crested Butte

Lady 'Cats almost spoil guests' shutout

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

The Crested Butte Community School JV defender knew she'd been caught red-handed.

Probably literally, too; her right palm may have been stinging somewhat after she'd instinctively – albeit incorrectly – swatted down Ignacio's attempt at chipping a pass overhead and deep into the visitors' 18-yard box late in the first half of the teams' encounter Friday afternoon, March 28.

And in the 10-v-10 (agreed to by both coaches before kickoff) match, the hosting Lady Bobcats looked to

their own No. 10 to potentially get them on the scoreboard. Awarded a 30th-minute free kick just outside the aforementioned perimeter's 'elbow,' 20 yards away from Lady Titan goalkeeper Ella Davis' right, sophomore Maliyah Martinez put a solid shot on target but was denied as freshman Davis tracked its trajectory all the way.

It would, unluckily for Ignacio's varsity, be the only save she needed to make.

And CBCS, perhaps reawakened by the close call, promptly tacked on freshman Siri Wight's 36th-minute goal plus freshman Jessica DeRoche's in the 38th to expand their lead to 7-0 before

halftime began at IHS Field. Senior Kate Duryea then knocked in a second-chance score in the 48th minute, and classmate Kaitlin Rasmussen split two defenders in the 57th to win a 1-v-1 skirmish with IHS junior goalie Bella Lorenzini.

Illustrating Ignacio's willingness to finish the match in full, freshman Amiyah Martinez – victim already of a hard, but clean 43rd-minute slide-tackle which required her removal from play for a few relieving minutes – received a breath-taking Crested Butte boot barely above her beltline late in the action

IHS' pride page 24

BOBCATS TRACK & FIELD

Look What We 'Dunn' Did

'Cats prep in G.J. for home track meet

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

With their own Abel Velasquez Invitational just a week away, Ignacio Track & Field journeyed to Grand Junction on Saturday, March 29, to assess their readiness at GJHS' 2025 Mickey Dunn Invite.

And goings inside Stocker Stadium at Lincoln Park, particularly for the boys, were plenty tough as IHS competed against the hosting Tigers and 26 other teams, some traveling from as far away as the Denver and Colorado Springs areas, and one (Little Snake River) coming from Baggs, Wyo. In the end, the Bobcats managed to score just seven points at the meet and finished in 19th place, ahead of Edwards Battle Mountain (five points), Basalt (three) and Olathe (three).

Durango won the boys' title by scoring 88 points and clipping Gypsum Eagle Valley by only three. Grand Junction was only another two points behind in third place, with Highlands Ranch ThunderRidge (71) and Steamboat Springs (48) rounding out the top five.

Seeded into the 800-meter run's fourth and final heat, sophomore Cayson Burcham ended up with IHS' best individual result as he clocked a fourth-place 2:08.51 – good for five team points – and ranked behind only GJHS senior Bryce Flanagan (2:03.21), Rangely senior James Talbot (2:06.96) and Montrose senior Jose Chavez (2:08.24).

Also, fourth-heat inclusions, IHS juniors James Martin (2:15.09) and Trace Crane (2:15.14) nearly crossed the finish line si-

multaneously and ended up placing 22nd and 23rd, respectively, while Thunder Windy Boy (2:26.04) took 35th. The 4x800 relay (Crane, Burcham, Martin, junior Lincoln deKay) clocked 9:17.20 and earned a point for eighth place as the quartet closest to, but unable to break nine minutes.

deKay earned Ignacio another point by taking eighth in the 110-meter hurdles, posting a time of 16.84 seconds. He also tied for 42nd in the 100 meters (12.25), and junior Dillon Brann (12.83) was 71st in an event with 99 entrants also including IHS junior Norman Hackett (87th, 13.45). In the 300-meter hurdles, deKay tied for 14th (46.08) and Brann – 17th (19.89) in the 110m feature – took 21st (47.27).

In the 400, Burcham dashed around the track in 53.98 seconds and placed tenth. Crane took 20th in 56.24, and junior Evan Perkins 58th in 1:07.85. Crane also placed 16th in the triple jump (35'7.5"), and Hackett 23rd (32'9.75").

In the 1,600-meter run, Martin clocked 5:00.66 and earned 26th place, while sophomore Judah Ashley finished 40th (out of 69 entrants) in 5:31.37. At twice the distance, Cameron Bell logged an 11:58.34 and placed 25th, with Windy Boy (12:15.64) not terribly far behind in 29th.

Brann placed 53rd in the 200 meters with a time of 26.80 seconds, and Hackett was 59th in 27.59. Evan Perkins placed 51st in the shot put, his best throw floating 28 feet, 11.5 inches, and Matrim Jones finished 61st (12'11.5").

On the girls' side of the meet, ThunderRidge amassed 94.5 points and placed first. Durango scored 75.5 and settled for second, with Fruita Monument (62.5), Grand Junction Central (57) and GJHS (52.5) filling out the top five.

IHS, unfortunately, did not register a team point, though junior Juliann Avila nearly did so in the high jump. Finishing tied with four others clearing four feet, six inches, she ultimately shared ninth place while a sixth entrant clearing 4'6" did so in fewer attempts and was thus awarded eighth place and a point.

Posting a time of 20.98 seconds, Avila placed 20th in the 100-meter hurdles but she managed to rank just 60th (15.12) in the 100-meter dash. Sophomore Kelly Sirios tied for 46th (14.82) in that 85-runner event, senior DaLaney Wesner took 50th (14.88) and sophomore Maliyah Martinez 77th (16.28).

Wesner placed 44th in the 200 (31.38), Neil was 53rd (31.67) and Martinez was 70th (35.20). The Lady Bobcats' 4x100 relay (Avila, Martinez, Sirios, junior Krysten Neil) clocked 58.31 seconds and placed 19th out of 24 represented schools.

In the 400 meters, Sirios sprinted to a 22nd-place time of 1:09.85. Neil tied for 27th place (1:11.18), and Martinez finished 40th (1:20.05). Caitlin Perkins finished 36th in the shot with a best throw of 21 feet, 3.5 inches, and Mirra Bourriague ended up 59th (12'1"), but neither managed a distance in the discus.

Action Saturday, April 5, at the aforementioned 2025 AVI is set to begin at 9 a.m. with field events.

RECREATION
SPORTS FOR LIFE

ATTENTION

INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN COACHING

Come out and Coach Team Southern Ute during the 2025 Tri-Ute Games. July 6-10, 2025, in Fort Duchesne, Utah. Coach Athletes 9-18 years of age in Basketball, Volleyball, Golf, Archery, Bowling and Hand Games. Compete for the Inaugural Tri-Ute Games Traveling Trophy. **Applications will be available the first week of April @ SunUte.** Background Checks are required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SUNUTE RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT (970) 563-0214



courtesy Esther Rima

The 2025 Middle School State Wrestling Tournament concluded Saturday evening, March 22. The Ignacio Bobcat girls and boys wrestling teams, which has been the largest middle school team taken to State, represented Ignacio Middle School and the community extremely well!

BOBCATS MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

Mid-schooler climbs State podium in Denver

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Representing the largest Ignacio Middle School wrestling team yet taken to Rocky Mountain Nationals' Colorado State Elementary & Middle School Championships, Kodi Mae Rima not only led the young Lady 'Cats but was the only one of six total qualifiers to earn a podium finish after two days' worth of work and wait in Denver.

Concluding competition Saturday evening, March 22, inside the National Western Complex Events Center, Rima finished her run at 130 pounds with a loss via pin to Gunnison's McKayla Singer in the fifth-place bout. But even with a 13-4 major decision going against her in consolation-semifinal action – against Aurora Spencer of Steel City (Pueblo) Reloaded Wrestling Club – as well, Rima still ended up 3-3 overall including a forfeit victory, then first-period pins over Melina Gutierrez Loya (Greeley United) and Adriana Smith (Windsor) moving her into the winners' semis.

Rima's fellow first-year State qualifier Katalaya Peña finished 0-2 at 94 pounds, falling by pin to Severance's Quinly Vondy and Heaton (Pueblo) Middle's Ava Manzanares, and fellow State rookie Addison Quintana ended up 0-2 at 88 after being pinned by Boltz (Fort Collins) Middle's Shaina Hyatt and Wiggins' Mia Fierros.

In the team standings, Ignacio earned 11 points and finished in 56th place out of 81 squads scoring at least one point. Atop the ta-



courtesy Esther Rima

A very special thank you to Ignacio coaches, Peña and Silva for their amazing efforts, travel, and time commitment to the young athletes this season.

ble, Windsor amassed 92.5 points to defeat runner-up Greeley United (84) and third place Las Animas (78). On the boys' side of things, 130-pounder Wyatt Martin lost by pin to Platte Valley (Kersey) Middle's Christopher Johnson and then was eliminated via pin by Cedaredge's Braxton Lorimor. Fellow first-time qualifier Phillip Velasquez lost by pin to unattached entrant Jeremiah Kalcevic, then stayed alive at 165 by picking up a forfeit before losing via pin to University (Greeley) Middle's Rhett Shoemaker.

Finally, 200-pounder Zackariah Loudenburg be-

gan his State run receiving a bye into the weight's Round-of-16, then picked up a no-show forfeit win, but then encountered trouble in the quarterfinals and lost via pin to Widefield WC's Chase Sullivan. Needing to win to remain in the hunt, it just wasn't to be as Cortez's Jakobe Begay built up a double-digit points lead before recording a pin.

IMS' boys were credited with two team points, landing the trio in a five-way tie for 133rd place in the boys' standings. Claiming first place was Wind-

Mid-schooler page 24



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Marissa Olguin stands with parents Jerone and Lisa while listening to a pre-game recognition preceding the Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-State Games' Class 3A feature Sunday afternoon, March 23, inside Thornton Skyview's Al Hower Gymnasium.

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Locals, Olguin and Brown hold their own at All-State

Olguin, Brown justify CCGS selections

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Marissa Olguin's layup in the closing seconds of the 2025 Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-State Basketball Games' Class 3A feature may have indeed been a cherry-pick.

But for the Ignacio senior guard and her 3A 'Blue' teammates assembled in Thornton, it was a necessary evil.

Triggered by a three-pointer with 2:29 left in the fourth quarter by, as fate would have it, Bayfield's Renae Foutz, 3A 'Red' (comprised of players wearing their schools' darker uniforms; 'Blue' rocked their respective whites) went on a 7-0 run cutting the enemy's lead down to just 55-51.

But after Wiggins' Kennedy Kerr, assisted by Kersey Platte Valley's Lauryn Uyemura, netted a two-pointer with 0:25.1 left on the scoreboard clock inside Skyview High's Al Hower Gymnasium, Blue guard Olivia Klein (Loveland Resurrection Christian) quickly dribbled through Red pressure and, before nearing midcourt, spotted Olguin all alone and slung a perfect pass resulting in an easy two points ultimately securing Blue a 57-51 victory Sunday after-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Watched at rear by Bayfield's Renae Foutz (14), Ignacio's Victoria Brown (12) drives in from the wing against Monte Vista's Allesah Archuleta during the 2025 Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-State Basketball Games' Class 3A feature Sunday afternoon, March 23, at Skyview High School in Thornton, Colo. Including the pictured trio, eight total Intermountain Leaguers participated in the Games' 3A or 4A contests.

noon, March 23.

Made a Games starter by head coach Russell Coleman (Cedaredge), Olguin finished with nine points. Abigail Perry (Colorado Springs Christian) tallied ten, Klein 11 and RCS' Callie Gillespie 15. Nine points of her game-high total came during the opening eight minutes as Blue built up an imposing 20-7 lead.

Having initially checked in with 5:04 left in the first quarter as a reserve for skipper Andy Schon (Wiggins), Foutz helped keep Red alive early by converting an 'and-one' three-point play after being fouled by – surprise, surprise – Ignacio's

Victoria Brown (who'd first entered with 5:36 left) with 4:00 remaining. But with Red trailing 9-5, she was reminded moments later that she was amongst the state's best as Blue's Carley Malinowski (Cedaredge) picked Foutz's proverbial pocket and netted a statement-making layup.

Brown rebounded a missed shot by fellow Intermountain Leaguer Braelyn Tucker (La Jara Centauri) to begin the second stanza, but with Kerr and Uyemura each booking five points before halftime, Red battled back to 26-21. Olguin

Locals page 24

Hard work and Unity!



courtesy Kristean Velasquez

The 2024-2025 SunUte Basketball Rec 10-12 Co-Ed Team – "I want to highlight their incredible performance, proving that hard work and unity create an unbeatable spirit. Undefeated and determined." – Kristean Velasquez In celebrating, the team embraced an inspiring message, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. We are all meant to shine. As we let our light shine, we give others permission to do the same Be fearless. Be brilliant: Be you!"

Coming Soon

Save the Date



CALLING ALL ATHLETES 9-18 YEARS OF AGE
COME REPRESENT "TEAM SOUTHERN UTE" IN BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, ARCHERY, GOLF, BOWLING, HAND GAMES AND THE UTE WARRIOR CHALLENGE.
COMPETE IN AN ACTION-PACKED WEEK OF TEAM SPORTS, INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES, AND BRAGGING RIGHTS BY
BRINGING HOME THE INAUGURAL TRI-UTE GAMES TRAVELING TROPHY.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE
THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL @ SUNUTE.

JULY

6-10


2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SUNUTE RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT
(970) 563-0214

TRIBAL MEMBERS



1ST DESCENDANTS

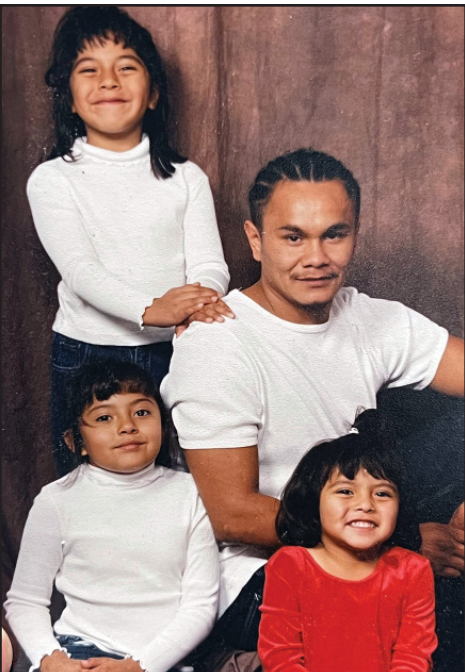




COMMUNITY GREETINGS

In Loving Memory of Robin Demmert Baker – A Journey to the Spirit World
January 23, 1976 – February 5, 2025

With sorrow in our hearts but deep gratitude for his life, we honor the passing of Robin, a beloved father, mentor, and warrior. Though he was our adopted father he gave us his name, spirit, and heart, he was our true father – who walked beside us and guided us with love. We know that his journey does not end here. He walks now with our ancestors, his spirit free like the eagle soaring high above the mountains. The drumbeat of his heart may have stilled in this world, but it echoes in the wind, the flowing rivers, and the sacred songs we sing. He taught us the ways of strength, honor, and kindness – how to walk in balance with the Earth and respect the wisdom of those who came before us. Father, you will forever be remembered. Your spirit lives on in the stories we share, the lessons you passed down, and the fire you lit within us. Though you have journeyed to the Spirit World, we will always carry your name, love, and teachings. May the Creator welcome you with open arms. May the ancestors guide you home. May your spirit forever soar like an eagle.



Never goodbye; it's a See you later
From your three little birds



Cash Rodriguez-Velasquez secured an impressive third place finish in the highly competitive 2024-25 Aztec Motocross Championship Series.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

Matthew Box Thank You

I would like to thank all the Sun Dancers and their families that participated in the Spring Blessing of the buildings. You all did a fabulous job. This is very necessary and appreciated by the people. This does help to prepare for the new year, cleanse the space of negativity or stress and gives strength to all the employees, so that they can be compassionate, resilient, and capable to serve the people in a rejuvenated state of being. Please carry on individually in your office space or area throughout the year to enhance this great effort as we prepare for our spring and summer ceremonies.

Matthew Box
Sun Dance/Bear Dance Chief

SUPF Custodial Division: International Cleaning Week, March 23-29

Greetings to all,
Join your peers in celebrating International Cleaning Week, March 23-29. The week-long event hosted by ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, is a global celebration to honor frontline cleaning professionals and raise awareness of the value of clean.

For five years, ISSA has hosted this celebration to introduce innovative new resources to empower cleaning-industry professionals globally. This year, ISSA will expand engagement opportunities by showcasing the cleaning industry's critical role in protecting public health and boosting economic impact.

"International Cleaning Week 2025 represents a transformative moment for our industry," said ISSA Executive Director John Barrett. As the culminating celebration of International Cleaning Week, ISSA will host the Clean Advocacy Summit on March 31-April 1 in Washington, D.C. This Capitol Hill fly-in event empowers attendees with advocacy training and direct access to congressional delegations. The summit provides a unique opportunity for industry professionals to engage with policymakers and advance the interests of the cleaning and facility solutions industry.

Here on the Permanent Fund Tribal Campus, quite a few innovations have been implemented:
• Nanoseptic applications on high touch

- surfaces.
- NASA engineered Vollara Active Pure cubes – that kill COVID-19 in a matter of minutes.
- HEPA filtration units by Honeywell and Air Queen to clean occupant air.
- Protexus electrostatic sprayers for specialty disinfectant applications.
- Tersano SAO stabilized aqueous ozone – a highly effective natural and safe sanitizing cleaner.

We also wanted to highlight for you the current Clean Team; all of which hold one or more Cleaning Industry Certifications.

- Jeremy Rock – Supervising Lead and custodian to Multi-Purpose Facility
- Jared Meier – Supervising Lead and custodian to SunUte Community Center
- Benito Ruybal – Custodian to Dental and Tribal Annex
- Nyla Abaroa – Custodian to Southern Ute Health Center
- Sherry Castillo – Building Lead LCB
- Ramada Cloud – custodian to LCB and Central Receiving
- Elaine Trujillo-Taylor – custodian to Museum and Cultural Center
- Loretta Chee – custodian to MCB
- Eric Chee – custodian to Justice Center
- Anthony Martinez – Building Lead SunUte Community Center
- Chip Bradford – custodian to Higher-Ed, Construction Services and Tribal Housing
- Charlotte Augustine – custodian to J&R Administration
- Patrick Gallegos – custodian to SUIMA
- Tony McCook – custodian to Annex and Utility
- Olin Goodtracks – custodian to SunUte Community Center

I want to especially recognize the hard work of this team as we have been short-staffed for a very long time, for example, in February we were short over 750 man hours of work and this amazing team stepped up to care for the cleaning and safety of the Permanent Fund campus, for which we are privileged to serve. On behalf of the Property and Facilities Director, Tyson Thompson and myself, we remain proud of them all.

Thank You,
Jess Baidwan, MESCE, FMP

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.

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,
Jessika Dawn Bigleggins, Deceased
Case No.: 2025-0027-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **APRIL 28, 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 7th of March, 2025
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

Drum
Deadline

Next issue:
Apr. 18

Deadline:
Apr. 14

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



THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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



SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years
MAIN: 970-563-0100 • DIRECT: 970-563-0118
TOLL FREE: 1-800-772-1236 • ADVERTISING: 970-563-2251

MAILING ADDRESS

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

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Southern Ute Drum

(sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov)

Jeremy Wade Shockley • Editor, ext. 2255

(jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov)

Krista Richards • Administrative Assistant, 2251

(krichards@southernute-nsn.gov)

Divine Windy Boy • Reporter/Photographer, 2252

(dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov)

Robert Ortiz • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253

(rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov)

Rosaleigh Cloud • Media Archivist, ext. 2274

(rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov)

Conrad Thompson • Reporter/Videographer, ext. 2241

(cothompson@southernute-nsn.gov)

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

Published biweekly and mailed 1st class from Ignacio, Colo.

Printed by The Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, N.M.

The Southern Ute Drum is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, the Society of Professional Journalism and the Colorado Press Association.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Allison Wall

Economic Development is pleased to announce that Allison Wall has joined the Department as our new Economic Development Project Coordinator. Please welcome Mrs. Wall to the Permanent Fund team! In this role Mrs. Wall will primarily be responsible for developing and administering programming that encourages and supports Tribal member entrepreneurship, as well as performing other work that helps promote the small business and economic development interest of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Allison is originally from Dallas, Texas and moved to Durango, Colo. in 2008. Her and her husband Jeff have two children – Hunter (13) and Hollis (10). They

have also owned The Balcony Bar & Grill in Durango since 2009. She graduated from The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) with a degree in Hospitality Management. She also sits on the board for Durango Youth Soccer Association and currently holds the position as President of the board of directors.

Hobbies: Traveling, cooking, seeing live music, playing and teaching Mahjong, playing golf and tennis ... and spending time with family.

Courtney Stevens (no photo requested)

The Southern Ute Health Center would like to introduce our new part-time dentist, Dr. Courtney Stevens DDS. Dr. Stevens completed dental school at University of Missouri-Kansas City and has 17 years of experience in practicing clinical dentistry. Dr. Stevens will start seeing patients soon and we look forward to this new addition to our team. Courtney is a Dentist (Part-time) and will be involved in all aspects of general dentistry. Allison's main hobby is Baking! and spending time with her Cattle Dog, Lady J.



Request for Bids
Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is requesting bids for the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow on May 23, & May 24, 2025.

CLEANING CREW

Sky Ute Casino Resort – Events Center
• Friday, May 23: 6 PM to 11 PM
• Saturday, May 24: 11 AM to 12 PM
Cleaning supplies will be provided, Cleaning Crew should consist of (3) cleaning staff. Must provide One Million Dollar Insurance with the Sky Ute Casino Resort as the Insurer.

SOUNDSYSTEM

Sky Ute Casino Resort – Events Center
• Friday, May 23: 3 PM (set up) to 11 PM
• Saturday, May 24: 9 AM to 11 PM
Must provide One Million Dollar Insurance with the Sky Ute Casino Resort as the Insurer.

DEADLINE: APRIL 18, 2025 AT 5 PM

Submit bids to: Southern Ute Powwow Committee, P.O. Box 737 #16, Ignacio, CO 81137 or soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov Questions? Contact: Vice-Chairman: Karen Washington 970-759-5880.

Request for Bids
Porta-potty Services during Bear Dance

Attn: Eugene Bereza
PO Box 737, MS 88
Ignacio, CO 81137
ebereza@southernute-nsn.gov
970-563-2307

The Cultural Preservation Department is requesting bids for porta potty services during the Southern Ute Bear Dance on May 23-26, 2025. For consideration, the bid must contain the following information: Business name and contact information; Scope of Work; Services provided; Pricing estimate; Estimated timeline; A copy of business W-9; A copy of current business

general liability insurance. For TERO businesses, please provide a letter of good standing. Indian Preference: The Tribe's Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) has established a preference for contracting and subcontracting to certified Indian-owned business. To receive this preference in the award of the Contract, Native American-owned companies must be certified by the Tribe's TERO office. Any Native American-owned business not certified by the due date will not be given preference. For information on certification, contact the TERO office at 970-563-2290.

Request for Proposal
Southern Ute Growth Fund Department of Energy
Grant Funded Orphan Well Inventory on Tribal Lands

Proposal Due Date: April 9, 2025
Contract Performance Period: April 28, 2025 – June 30, 2026

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking qualified firms to submit proposals for the completion of an orphan well inventory project funded by a Department of Interior Tribal Orphaned Wells Program Implementation Grant. Funding was awarded to the Tribe to identify additional orphaned wells located on Tribal Lands. The project includes a desktop and field inventory of historic wells located on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, including wells in Plugged and Abandoned, Temporarily Abandoned and Abandoned

Location status. The field inventory involves conducting site investigation, including measurement of any observed methane emissions, completion of soil gas surveys, and documentation of any site conditions indicative of impacts due to presence of orphan wells. A prospective bidders meeting will be held April 1, 2025. To register for the prospective bidders meeting and request bidding documents, contact Doug Krueger, Environmental Manager, at dkrueger@sudoe.us or Graham Stahnke, Regulatory Manager gstahnke@sudoe.us. Unsolicited gifts are strictly prohibited per Southern Ute Indian Tribe Procurement Policy.

Request For Bid
Shoshone Waterline Replacement Phase 1 Project

Owner: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) Utilities Division
PO Box 1137
16360 Highway 172
Ignacio, CO 81137
970-563-5500

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of the SUIT Shoshone Waterline Replacement Phase 1 Project will be received by the Owner at the offices of the SUIT Utilities Division, until 3:00 p.m. (M.D.S.T.), Thursday, April 17th 2025. The bids shall be reviewed by the Utilities Division and all Contractors shall be notified of the qualified low bidder. This Project is subject to Prevailing Wage Rates and associated compliance and reporting criteria. Minimum wage rates can be found at: <https://sam.gov/>

Bidder Prequalification requirements: Contractor must have a minimum of five (5) years' experience. Bidder must provide five (5) examples of prior or current projects in which a similar scope of work was performed. Example projects should demonstrate experience with horizontal directional drilling projects exceeding 1,000'. Preference will given to contractors with experience working in rocky conditions.

Bid security: A Bid security, in the form of a Bid Bond, Cashiers Check or Certified Check in the amount of 5% of the bid amount, must accompany each Bid. The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Construction Performance and Payment Bonds as security for the faithful performance of the Contract.

Description of Work: Project requires installation of 3,500 feet of potable water utility pipeline (bored and trench), and connection to existing water distribution

network.
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has established a preference for contracting and subcontracting to certified Indian Owned businesses. A bid preference of 5% will be given to any qualified Native American owned company. To receive this preference, Native American owned companies must be certified by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's TERO. Any Native American owned business not certified by the due date will not be given a preference. For information on certification, contact the TERO office at 970-563-0117. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informality in the bid process and to accept the bids deemed, in the opinion of the Tribe, to be in the best interest of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Prospective BIDDERS are REQUIRED to attend the MANDATORY pre-bid meeting on Wednesday April 9th at 2:00 PM at the SUIT Utility office, located at 16360 Highway 172 Ignacio, CO 81137 .

THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following location:

- **GOFF ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, INC.** 126 Rock Point Drive, Suite A, Durango, Colo. 81301. 970-247-1705
- **The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Utilities Division:** 16360 Hwy 172, Ignacio, Colo. 81137. 970-563-5500

A \$50 (fifty dollars), non-refundable deposit will be required for each printed set. Digital (PDF) plans are available by sending an email request to [clamberson@goffengineering.com](mailto:goffengineering.com) or written request to the above address.

Request for Proposal
Southern Ute Growth Fund Department of Energy
NEPA Consulting Services for Mancos Shale Development

Proposal Due Date: April 11, 2025
Contract Performance Period: April 18, 2025 – December 31, 2026

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking qualified firms to submit proposals for the preparation of documents related to a Programmatic NEPA analysis assessing the potential impacts from full scale development of the Mancos Shale formation on approximately 60,000 acres of Tribal Trust land within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. A prospective bidders meeting will be held April 2, 2025. To register for the prospective bidders

meeting and request bidding documents, please contact Graham Stahnke, Exploration and Regulatory Manager at gstahnke@sudoe.us. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Tribal Employee Rights Office (TERO) has established a preference for contracting and subcontracting to certified Indian owned businesses. For information on certification, contact TERO at 970-563-0117. The Tribe reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept the bid deemed, in the opinion of the Tribe, to be in the best interest of the Tribe. Unsolicited gifts are strictly prohibited per Southern Ute Indian Tribe Procurement Policy.



Temporary Closure of the
Pine River Hiking Trail

March 31-April 30, 2025

Southern Ute Utilities Division
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 3/21/25

APRIL UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TRANSFER STATION
2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**
New 2025 Trash Permits are ready—Pick up at Office or Ramp
MAY 26TH MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED
JUNE 19TH/20TH JUNETEENTH — CLOSED
JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 1ST LABOR DAY — CLOSED
OCT 13TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED
NOV 10TH/11TH VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
NOV 27TH THANKSGIVING DAY — CLOSED
DEC 10TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION
MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY
TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SPRING CLEAN-UP:** April 21—25, 2025. MUST LABEL LIQUIDS such as paint, oils, solvents, etc. Limit of 4 tires per household —No exceptions!
- Alert: Recent vandalism at HWY. 172 Water Fill Station, beware of your surroundings. Reminder: No CASH kept at Water Fill Stations.
- Natural Gas staff will conduct annual gas leakage survey thru April 2025. Crews will need access to your yard to check the service lines for leaks up to residential meter. Any concerns, call Utilities Office.
- Planning Outdoor Spring Projects? Call 8-1-1 **BEFORE** you dig!

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

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.
April 2nd / May 7th / June 4th
Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments **before 10am on Shut-off Day**

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"

Bulk Water Fill Station Users
Pre-Pay features are here!
Starting March 31st,
NO CASH—NO COIN ACCEPTED
Set up your Pre-Paid Account by scanning the QR Code.
Check website for updates at <https://www.suitutil.com>

**2024
Spring
Clean Up**
April 21-25, 2025

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

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

If you have tires, only 4 tires per household will be picked up. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
No semi-truck or heavy equipment tires accepted. Tires only, no wheels.

We will not pull your trailer to the transfer station for you.
Tribal Elders. Please contact Elder Services at (970) 563-2323 if you need help with bagging and piling of your trash.
All vehicle disposal requests can contact Building Maintenance at 970-563-0265.

HAZARDOUS WASTE. If think your trash is hazardous waste, or you cannot identify the waste, please call Environmental Programs at 970-563-2272.
If the pickup teams suspect that your trash may contain hazardous waste, or it is not identifiable, we will call Environmental Programs. Liquids will only be picked up if in a sealed and labeled container.

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

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

Save the date!
Fall Clean-Up
October
13-17, 2025

For questions or clarification, please contact the Southern Ute Property and Facilities Director, Tyson Thompson, 970-563-2945



Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State Of Colorado
Environmental Commission

Closing 4/21/25 by 5 pm – The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is seeking applicants to fill a Commission member vacancy on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and State of Colorado Environmental Commission. The selected applicant would serve a three-year appointment to the Commission. Determining and prescribing the types of air quality rules and regulations that should apply on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Reviewing appealable administrative actions; and Any other duties necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado Concerning Air Quality Control on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

Summary of Commission Duties: Conduct public hearings pertaining to adoption of rules and regulations for the Reservation Air Program or review of appealable administrative actions, and issue subsequent orders. Determining which administrative actions are appealable to the Commission. Review and approve the long-term plan of the Reservation Air Program. Facilitate relationships between the EPA, State, County and Tribal agency liaisons and representatives. Approve and adopt fees for permits and other regulatory services conducted by the Tribe or the State. Ensure consistency and adherence to applicable standards and resolve disputes involving third parties. Request administrative or clerical assistance from tribal staff when necessary to issue orders and conduct Commission business; and Review emission inventories developed by the Tribe and State.

Preferred Commission Member Qualifications: Knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order; Knowledge of Federal, State and Tribal air quality regulations; Ethical, strong integrity; Ability to identify conflicts of interest; Knowledge of environmental issues affecting the Reservation; Able to attend regular Commission and stakeholder meetings; and Cooperative and able to work as a team player.

Commission Member Appointment Terms and Conditions: Commission members are appointed by the Tribal Council. Commission members serve for three-year appointment terms and are not subject to term limits. Commission meetings are generally held twice per year, but more frequent meetings are possible. Stakeholder meetings occur on an as-needed basis and may require Commission participation. Meetings are to be held in person or on virtual meeting platforms. Failure to attend two consecutive Commission or Stakeholder meetings or demonstrated unethical conduct may result in appointment removal by Tribal Council. Compensation is \$100 per half-day meeting for Commission members who are not employees of the Tribe. If employed by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, a short letter or email from the employee’s supervisor approving of appointment to the Commission is required.

Meeting Location: Justice & Regulatory Administration Building, EPD Large Conference Room, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, CO 81137 or Virtual Meeting Platform.

How to Apply: Send letter of interest via email to: airquality@southernute-nsn.gov or by mail to (must be postmarked by the closing date) Air Quality Division Office, PO Box 737 MS# 84, Ignacio, CO 81137

For Questions about the Commission Vacancy or Environmental Commission: Contact Air Quality Division Head, Danny Powers at dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov or 970-563-2265 or visit the Environmental Commission Website at <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/env-commission/>

Attention PRIIP
Water Users

- PRIIP water bills for Assignments will be sent by the Tribe to Assignment holders in the mail in July.
- BIA plans on PRIIP water being available for many users by April 15th. Water will be available on the east side of the PRIIP about a week later due to Pine River Canal’s schedule
- BIA has new phone numbers: Main Office (970-200-8613) and Branch of Irrigation (970-236-4161)

If you have any questions, please contact the
Southern Ute Water Resources Division at
970-563-9482

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

Open Until Filled – The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is currently looking to fill 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

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

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.

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

Friday, March 28
Friday, April 25
Wednesday, July 3
Friday, Sept. 26
Friday, Nov. 14
Wednesday, Nov. 26
Wednesday, Dec. 24
Wednesday, Dec. 31

Request cut-off date

NOON Friday, March 21
NOON, Friday, April 18
NOON, Friday, June 27
NOON, Friday, Sept. 19
NOON, Friday, Nov. 7
NOON, Thursday, Nov. 20
NOON, Friday, Dec. 19
NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 24

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



Book Your Fiber Installation Today

- Town of Ignacio

Cedar Point – Ignacio Peak EQUA

INTERNET SERVICE UPLOAD AND DOWNLOAD SPEEDS




BONFIRE FIBER INTERNET
250-2000 MBPS
PERFECT FOR GAMING!!

Scan the QR Codes to Learn More!

For this...

you need at least this.

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





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 4/14/25 – 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 rate is \$20.26/hour.

Custodian

Closes 4/4/25 – Daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; the pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

Patrol Officer Trainee

Closes 4/7/25 – A trainee position for uncertified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon completion of the required trainings and certifications, incumbent will assume the position of Patrol Officer. Pay grade N11; salary is \$23.63/hour.

Youth Employment Worker (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Closes 4/11/25 – Under general supervision of the Youth Employment Program Coordinator, Youth Employment Program Aide, or Tribal Department Directors, Division Heads, or Managers, the Youth Employment Worker performs job duties as directed and participates in activities provided within the SUIT Education Youth Employment Program. This summer program is designed to provide employment from June to August 2025, with extensions available to make up hours missed due to illness or absence.

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; salary is \$77,627/year.

Air Quality Scientist III – Planner

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Program Manager – Monitoring and Planning, coordinating and conducting technical, regulatory, and air quality improvement planning tasks and regulation development for the Tribal Air Quality Monitoring and Planning Program. Pay grade E17; salary is \$86,943/annually.

Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)

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

Boys & Girls Club Summer Aide

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

dio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; 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). An employee in this position 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 rate is \$54,086/year.

Family Court Case Manager

Open Until Filled – Providing guardian ad litem, special advocacy, parent coordination, and mediation services as assigned through Court appointment and clinical supervisor. 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.

Gaming Investigator I

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

Gaming Investigator I 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 Gaming Investigator I position. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

Grants Financial Analyst

Open Until Filled – Working closely with Tribal staff members on all financial grant and related Tribal budget and spending matters. In addition, the Grants Financial Analyst is responsible for assisting in monitoring programs to ensure compliance with grant or contract regulations. Pay grade E13; 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

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 col-



Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Job Fair

The Permanent Fund Human Resources Department will be hosting a Job Fair.

The Growth Fund and Sky Ute Casino are also invited.

April 30, 2025

Sky Ute Casino Event Center

10:00AM to 3:00PM

Contact: Rochelle Aguilar – HR Career Coordinator

970-563-2990

raguilar@southernute-nsn.gov

4-H PRESENTATION

On Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to noon the Mount Allison Grange, located at 2622 CR 229 in Allison, Colorado (off of Highway 151, next to the Alison Community Presbyterian Church), will host a presentation by local youth about their 4-H projects. Come support and encourage our youth, find out about what they have been doing, and learn about opportunities with 4-H if you are interested in participating. This is a free event for all ages open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

lections records and archives. Pay grade E14; salary is \$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; 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; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

Property Manager

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

Public Health Nurse

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

Recreation Assistant

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

Scorekeeper (Part-time)

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

Social Worker

Open Until Filled – 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. 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.

Training & Development Coordinator

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

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 PL-93-638 projects. Pay grade E17; salary is \$86,943/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. May be placed within Permanent Fund departments or divisions dependent on career interests, educational level and/or length of prior relevant and appropriate work experience. The Apprentice Committee will review applications and assess what options may be available for applicants.

Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal 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 SunUte Recreation Dept. 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; salary is \$99,984/year.



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.

Controller – Growth Fund. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/9/25 – Directing the Growth Fund’s accounting and financial reporting functions, to include establishing and maintaining the Growth Fund’s internal controls, accounting policies, practices, and procedures. Coordination of accounting and finance related training and development, coordinating with IT regarding information systems, and implementing accounting and financial reporting policies. Coordinates with outside auditors, tax and valuation consultants, monitors capital spending and budget compliance, and presents findings and recommendations to the Growth Fund Finance Director, other Growth Fund Directors and the Growth Fund Management Committee. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Tribal Member At-Large – Growth Fund Management Committee (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/11/25 – Assisting in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Growth Fund, as established by Tribal Council, and in accordance with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Financial Plan. Serves as a representative of the Growth Fund and assists in providing recommendations, updates, business plans, and attending Growth Fund Management Committee, GFMC, LLC, and Tribal Council meetings. The At-Large committee member reports to Tribal Council and must be a Southern Ute Tribal member.

General Accountant – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/11/25 – Provides general accounting support, to include preparation of journal entries, coding review and reconciliation of selected General Ledger accounts on a monthly basis. Reconciliation of bank statements to the General Ledger and providing support for monitoring ongoing cash activity. Supports the monthly close process. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Controller – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/11/25 – Directing and managing all accounting functions in an oil and gas exploration and production environment, including establishing and maintaining Red Willow’s accounting principles, practices, and procedures. Directs and manages the preparation of monthly and annual financial statements and the annual audit report. Manages monthly accounting tasks including accounts receivable, accounts payable, general ledger management, bank reconciliations and cash management, calculation and payment of taxes. Directs and manages the joint venture audit operations. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Accounting Manager – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/11/25 – Supervision of the oil and gas accounts payable function, including the timely payment of all invoices and the maintenance of accurate records and reports. Provides support for general accounting, joint interest billing, material transfer and revenue accounting processes. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Assistant Controller – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/25/25 – Assisting the Controller as directed in managing all accounting functions, to include establishing and maintaining accounting principles, practices, and procedures; managing monthly accounting tasks including AR, AP, general ledger management, and generation of financial statements; bank reconciliations and cash management; calculation and payment of taxes; establishing and maintaining credit records; assisting in the preparation and reconciliation of annual financial statements, and reporting as required. Supervises the joint interest billing function in the accounting department. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

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

Road Runner Transit:

- Clerical/Dispatch (Full-time) \$18.94/hr., DOE
- Inter-city Bus Driver (Full Time) \$22.76/hr.
- Transit Driver, (Full-time) \$18.94/hr., DOE

SoCoCAA Central Administration:

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

SoCoCAA Board of Directors

If you’re passionate about making a difference in the community, SoCoCAA is currently 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 information about our organization and the programs we offer, please visit our website at www.sococaa.org. If you’re interested in applying, please call 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!

FOR RENT

SOUTHERN UTE MEMBERSHIP ONLY

60 Shadow Spirit East, Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Tribal Housing Department has the following units available for rent: No pets and no smoking unit(s).

- (1) single-story, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom ADA unit for \$1,000/mo. Security Deposit \$1,000
- (1) single-story, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom unit for \$1,000/mo. Security Deposit \$1,000

Please visit our website at www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/cedar-point-townhomes to complete an application. Paper applications can be emailed to: tribalhousing@southernute-nsn.gov or hand-delivered to our drop box at 285 Lakin Street, Ignacio, CO 81137. If you have any questions, please call our office at (970) 563-4710 or visit our office at 285 Lakin Street, Ignacio, CO 81137 *PLACEMENT SUBJECT TO BACKGROUND CHECK AND RENTAL HISTORY VERIFICATION* Applications will be accepted until 5:00pm on April 17, 2025.

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.

Barista (On-Call)

Greet and provide exceptional guest service to all guests. Preparing specialty coffee drinks, beverages and menu service in a Bistro and coffee operation. Take and prepare orders. Strong guest service skills, baristas need to be able to listen carefully to guest orders and prepare drinks correctly. Accountable for accurately totaling food and beverage purchases, collecting payment and making change while ensuring that each guest receives superior guest service.

*Count Team Staff (Full-time)

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

*Deep Cleaning Staff (Full-time)

Cleanliness of the entire Kitchen as instructed by the Facilities Manager and/or Supervisor. The Deep Cleaning Staff will clean Food and Beverage facilities and equipment.

*Facilities Supervisor (Full-time)

Reports to the Facilities Manager and was established for the purpose/s of supervising individual shifts to include facility and deep cleaning staff within the maintenance department. Coordinating all repair and alterations of the property including the exterior and grounds and to work in conjunction with facility technicians. Ensuring that jobs are completed efficiently and within regulatory guidelines and projected deadlines. Collaborates with others, coordinates schedules, and performs other related duties as assigned. facilities equipment required, be able to read, interpret, and utilize technical information (e.g., data sheets, blueprints, etc.) required, and be able to lift and move up to 100 pounds.

*Front Desk Associate (Full-time)

Providing quality guest services that include reservations, registration and check-out, PBX operations, mail, and message service for hotel guests. Responds to telephone and in person inquiries regarding reservations, hotel information and guest concerns. Assistance with guests include but is not limited to luggage assistance, directions/maps, driving guests to/from the airport.

*Level II Facilities Staff (Full-time)

Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Responsible for the operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

*Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)

Electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works 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.

*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 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.

*Rolling Thunder Grill Busser (Full-time)

Perform multiple tasks and duties within the restaurant and kitchen as instructed by supervisor and management. Clearing off and sanitizing tables for next group guests, disposing of trash and other waste and keeping the restaurant stocked with adequate supplies such as plates, glasses, silverware, and napkins. Will help cooks, servers and dishwashers perform small tasks as needed. Cross-train to perform multiple food and beverage functions as directed by supervisors and managers.

*Room Attendant (Full-time)

Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel room by wiping, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping all areas of the guest rooms. Requires the ability to bend, lift, stand and walk throughout the shift. Duties of this job are physically demanding and may be stressful at times, particularly during peak season periods. Cleaning an average of 16 guest rooms, and during peak season, up to 20 guest rooms per shift, depending on whether you are working as an individual or a pair. Cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

*Specialized Facilities Technician (Full-time)

Maintaining the electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility. Works as a professionally trained individual with the team to ensure smooth operations of the facility. Trained and certified or holds a license that is construction/maintenance specific.

WE’RE HIRING

Flexible, safety-minded individuals

Not certified?
Not a problem, paid
training available!!

OPEN POSITION



LIFEGUARD–FULL AND PART
TIME OPTIONS AVAILABLE



SWIM INSTRUCTOR– PART TIME

Full time benefits:
PTO, sick leave, 401(k)
match, and health
insurance.

Part time benefits:
contributes to 401(k)

APPLY NOW



Call 970-563-2653

Email

tnapier@southernute-nsn.gov



Subscribe to The Southern Ute Drum

For subscription or advertising information, call 970-563-0118.

\$29 one year • \$49 two year

Southern Ute tribal members may receive the Drum for FREE.

Please ensure your address is up to date.

Check us out online at www.sudrum.com

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>



FLY FISHING

Nervous water, a sign of fish

By Don Oliver
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

If you fly fish in saltwater, you are aware of what the words “nervous water” mean. If you only fly fish in fresh water, you may also be aware of the term. However, if you don’t fly fish, you are probably thinking, Don has lost his mind. How can water be nervous? To help you understand what nervous water is, I found a definition from the ever truthful and reliable Google. It says nervous water is, “Dimples, splashes and wakes are the surface disturbances that define nervous water. They mean one or more fish is displacing water volume in a specific area by moving around.”

Nervous water is usually used when a saltwater guide, while standing on a poling platform, tells you he sees it way off, and to get ready to cast. If you are like me, you do not see it until it is twenty yards from the boat. The distance lapse gives me plenty of time to do all sorts of things to mess up my cast and miss the fish.

So, how does the term nervous water help someone who is fly fishing in warm fresh water? I contend that instead of just blindly casting hoping for a strike, if Google’s definition is applied in warm water situations, your skills in seeing and catching fish will be enhanced.

If I am standing on the deck of a bass boat, or sitting in my float tube, watching the sur-



face of a lake or pond where there is no wind, the first thing I look for are dimples. Dimples are the disturbance small bait fish, minnows, make as they move just below the surface looking for anything to eat. They will also move when a larger fish, looking to eat them, is close by. If the pod of bait fish appears to be staying in one spot, chances are there are larger fish holding below them waiting to move in for dinner.

When I see this, I will cast a sinking fly that looks similar to a minnow in hopes that whatever is swimming around under the pod will attack my silver imitation. Or, if I am feeling really lucky, I will put a bass popper in the middle of the dimple in hopes something big will come and see what all the commotion is about.

If the wind picks up, I will move closer to the shore in search of a wind break that reduces the wind to a gentle breeze. My plan is that the breeze will move the surface of the water in one direc-

tion, while the wake caused by feeding fish moves in the opposite direction. If I see a larger wake, my thoughts go to either small bass or carp working the shoreline, or sometimes a large school of pan fish following grasshoppers or ants that the wind blew into the water.

A splash, the bigger the better, can occur anytime in any condition. The big splash is usually a large fish engulfing something floating or swimming on the surface. When I see a big splash, I will always head to it. Being the optimist that all who fly fish are, I am always thinking that whatever just showed himself will be on the hunt for dessert. I will spend a good deal of time, probably use several different flies, offering up dessert. I will not go into the number of times the big fish decided to go elsewhere.

If you are thinking all the above is well and good, but I only get to fly fish in cold water for trout, do not be discouraged. Google makes no distinction to water temperature. Use these tactics when you find a beaver pond or a high mountain lake you hiked to get to. When standing in a stream, I pay close attention to steep banks or banks having a deep undercut.

Since you can fly fish for anything that swims, do not be afraid to put nervous water tactics to the test wherever you find yourself fishing. I bet it will help you find more fish. Catching them will be up to you.

Wilbourne, Bayfield Senior



courtesy Andy Duffy/Bayfield High School Athletics

Southern Ute Tribal member and Bayfield High School senior, Neatris Wilbourn pictured with parents, Rhonda and Lawrence Wilbourn, during Bayfield Basketball Senior Day, Saturday, Feb. 22.

MID-SCHOOLER CLIMB PODIUM • FROM PAGE 18

sor (173 points), with Johnstown-based Roosevelt Middle (146) and Severance (139) settling for second and third.

Win or lose, however, IMS coaches Alex Peña and Brandon Silva’s shared efforts and commitments to their wrestlers paid off; the State contingent, proudly representing its community, is believed to be Ignacio’s largest yet and certainly bodes well for future growth of the program.



courtesy Esther Rima

In the Girls Division, first year qualifier Kodi Mae Rima led the Bobcats with a sixth-place finish at 130 lbs., making her the first State placing Middle Schooler for Ignacio Middle School. First-year qualifiers Kataleya Peña (94 lbs.) and Addison Quintana (88 lbs.), battled hard in each of their brackets, but came up a little short to podium. The three girls represent the largest number of girls middle school wrestling state qualifiers Ignacio has ever had.

IHS’ PRIDE BOOSTS PLAY • FROM PAGE 17

but was able to remain on the pitch.

But the day ultimately belonged to the enemy. Playing in admittedly just her second match, junior Zoe Knox’s first-ever attempt at converting a penalty kick came up short and left of Lorenzini in the 62nd minute, but CBCS still would polish off a 10-0 road victory with time to spare when freshman Ruby McKeever completed a 75th-minute breakaway.

Freshman Kaylin Buckel netted the Lady Titans’ first

two goals within the opening five minutes, and Wight converted a seventh-minute rebound for a 3-0 advantage. Freshman Ellen Wimmert recorded Crested Butte’s fourth score via a 23rd-minute shot which glanced off Lorenzini’s gloves, then clanged off the keeper’s back post and across the goal line.

Junior Ainsley Stewart then quickly converted a pass in the 21st from freshman Sidra Anderson into a strong 5-0 lead.

Unofficially, Lorenzini

totalled 25 shots-on-goal and 15 saves in defeat – which the Lady Bobcats (0-3 overall) and their coaches pretty much agreed was an improvement upon their 10-0 home loss on the 25th to Del Norte.

Looking ahead at the schedule, Ignacio will next host 3A Alamosa on Tuesday, April 8, with kickoff scheduled for 4 p.m. Results of IHS’ trip to, and 4:30 p.m. start at 3A Montezuma-Cortez (1-0-1 overall) on the 1st were unavailable at press time.

LATE CHARGING ’CATS DROP TWO • FROM PAGE 17

1-2 overall (1-0 SJBL) in the still-young 2025 season. Coming to town rested from, but still motivated by, a 2-1 showing at the 3/21-22 Crowley County/Fowler Tournament, Monte Vis-

ta improved to 4-2 (0-0 2A Southern Peaks).

Looking ahead at the schedule, the Bobcats will travel Saturday, April 5, to Dolores for an 11 a.m. doubleheader at Joe Rowell

Park, and then visit Nucla on the 8th for a singular 2 p.m. test. Results from IHS’ 2:30 p.m. home SJBL game on the 1st against Dove Creek (0-2, 0-0) were unavailable at press time.

LOCALS OLGUIN AND BROWN • FROM PAGE 18

expanded the margin to 35-23 via a short-range deuce with 5:27 left in the third quarter, but Foutz cashed a three with 3:57 left and IMLer Allessah Archuleta (Monte Vista) also connected from deep to keep Red’s comeback on track.

Brown, however, would assist Cedaredge’s Abby Brooks on an inside basket with 3:10 to go, then earned another assist when Olguin, fittingly, drilled a three-pointer with 1:25 left – giving Blue a 44-33 lead, which grew to 46-33 by quarter’s end.

Foutz ended up with nine points in defeat, trailing only Uyemura (11) and Strasburg’s Peighton Marrero

(12) for the team-high. Kerr finished with seven points and Archuleta her three, but Tucker – like Brown – was somehow held scoreless.

Red finished 8-of-10 (Marrero 4-4) from the free-throw line, while Blue ended up 4-of-8 (Perry 4-4).

In addition to the five mentioned Intermountain-eers, Pagosa Springs’ Karsyn Shahan and Elizabeth Currier hooped in the Games’ Class 4A contest along with Alamosa’s Morgan Ortega. Ortega netted nine points and Paige Kehmeier (Delta) a game-high 13 in helping Blue best Red 64-47, despite Shahan also scoring 13 and Currier three in defeat.

SWEET SALUTES

Present and recognized but unable to play due to injury, Blue’s Kassiah Ducworth and Red’s Natalie Damron still received court time and took advantage. By a pre-game agreement between the coaching staffs, Blue won the initial jump ball and zipped it forward to Ducworth (Ellicott; formerly of Colorado Springs Mesa Ridge) for an uncontested layup. Red’s subsequent inbound pass then went the opposite direction to Damron (Strasburg) for an uncontested layup tying the game at 2-2. Each player was then substituted out and received appropriate applause.

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

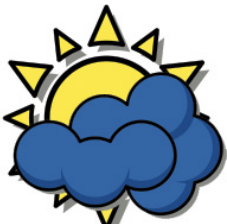
LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, April 4



Mostly cloudy 50°F
Snow likely, 60% chance

Saturday, April 5



Mostly cloudy 48°F
Snow likely, 70% chance

Sunday, April 6



Mostly sunny 54°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov



BRUNOT RARE GAME PERMITS

3 Big Horn Sheep
2 Mountain Goat
2 Moose

The Wildlife Division will be accepting
Brunot Rare Game Applications the month of MAY.
The drawing will be held in June.

All applications will be submitted online:

<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/rare-game-app/>

Members can also visit the Brunot Hunting website to find the link
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/natural-resources/wildlife-resource-management/hunting/brunot-area-hunting-and-fishing/>

If you have any questions, please call the Wildlife Division at
(970) 563-0130