



## Community rallies behind MMIR

PAGE 11



## 'Color Us With Love' Color Run

PAGE 13

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ignacio, CO 81137 Permit No. 1	Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118  <b>\$29 one year subscription</b> <b>\$49 two year subscription</b>
May 16, 2025	Vol. LVIII, No. 10

### Southern Ute Drum wins nine media awards at Top of the Rockies



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson explains how fuel spills affect the water table, and the importance of mitigating environmental impacts.

#### ENVIRONMENT

## Massive gasoline spill on Southern Ute Reservation seeps toward Animas River

By Michael Booth  
THE COLORADO SUN

Benzene from a 23,000-gallon gasoline spill is apparently creeping toward the Animas River, as Southern Ute Tribal leaders say cleanup work by the state and the pipeline owner is moving too slowly and federal authorities have now warned they are watchdogging progress.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said Thursday the pipeline spill is the sixth largest it has handled in recent history, and Southern Ute environmental officials said some private wells were flooded by 12 feet of gasoline atop drinking water. The spill started Dec. 5 amid a checkerboard of private and Tribal land inside the bound-

ary of the Southern Ute Reservation, headquartered 20 miles away in Ignacio.

The spill is atop Florida Mesa, hundreds of feet above the Animas River. Detectors are now finding benzene seepage in intermittent springbeds running down the hillsides toward the river, said Mitchell Dorsk, water quality and remediation division head for the Southern Ute Tribe.

Tribal leaders fear the benzene threatens thriving fishing and farming areas along the Animas, as farming and sod operations begin watering land on the mesa with flood and center-pivot irrigation.

Benzene is a component of crude oil products and is a caustic short-term threat for headaches and nausea, and a longer-term exposure threat for leukemia and oth-

er conditions.

"The Tribe is being proactive, because we don't think they move fast enough, so we've initiated our own attempt to locate seeps and get a baseline sample before the irrigation system comes up," Dorsk said.

While the pipeline operator, Enterprise Products, is focused on bringing temporary cisterns and water filters to homeowners and other immediate damage, Dorsk added, "the Tribe's point of view is a little different, because we're stewards of this land, and this is the Southern Ute peoples' land. Damages to wildlife and vegetation, those are long-lasting impacts that are not being accounted for or respected by Enterprise."

Massive page 2

#### EDUCATION

## Native students get 'Close Up' in D.C.

By Divine Windy Boy  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Education Department chaperoned five Native American students to Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual Close Up: Native American and Alaska Native Youth Summit, which took place Sunday, April 27 through Friday, May 2. Students, Zuriah Baker, Samantha Elk, Leandra Litz, Sonny Flores, and Rayen Muniz spent one week exploring Washington, engaging in workshops with students from different tribal communities, examining the historical relationship between tribes and the U.S. government, and creating Tribal Action Initiatives to address their concerns to tribal leaders, political experts, and policy makers.

This trip is focused on teaching Native youth how to develop the skills and attitudes to become active citizens within their tribe and communities. During their tour of Washington, D.C., Southern Ute and other Native students interact with students from other tribes



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Leandra Litz, Samantha Elk, Zuriah Baker, and Sonny Flores work together to design an introductory poster for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and its tribal government to share with other visiting students and faculty on the Close-Up Native Youth Summit trip in Washington, D.C.

creating new friendships as they work to create a "Tribal Action Initiative" poster and presentation – addressing various topics of concerns within tribal communities, later to be presented to tribal leaders, political experts, senators, and policymakers.

Southern Ute tribal member and Bayfield High School student, Zuriah Baker said "This portion of Close-Up that we are on is for Native American students, and basically [Close-Up] takes Native American students or other

students who attend Native schools to the nation's capitol, Washington D.C., so we can have in-depth version or view of what our government looks like."

"Students learn what the government does for us," Baker said. "Even all the hardships and massacres that have happened—we view the monuments for a reason, and that is to learn what these people have done and what they haven't done, also what they might have done to our

Native page 4

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

## Box III earns hospitality degree through UNLV

Perseverance pays off – Now it's time to pay back

By Matt Jacob  
UNLV NEWS CENTER

After 26 years, Edward Box III has finally completed his hospitality degree. Now the 58-year-old is ready to pursue two missions: running a tribal casino and helping to steer youths from his reservation to his alma mater.

The exhale.

It's as much a part of the graduation celebration as caps, gowns, long speeches, and the beaming smiles of proud loved ones.

Rest assured, those who attend commencement May 16-17 at the Thomas & Mack Center will hear more than a few of these "Whew – I did it!" exhales.

It's unlikely, however, that any graduate has been waiting to unleash that sigh of relief as long as Edward Box III, who began pursuing his hospitality management degree more than a quarter century ago.

"It's just hitting me now," Box said recently. "'Wow, I'm actually completing that dream I've always had.'"

It's a dream that dates back to the mid-1980s, when a then 18-year-old Box departed his lifelong home on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Ignacio, Colo. and made his way to Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

That's where Box got a hotel job as a front desk night auditor. Intrigued by the guest services part of the gig, he began thinking about a career in tourism. Then in the early 1990s, a



Josh Hawkins/UNLV

Edward Box III, who is graduating with a bachelor's in hospitality management, added UNLV elements to his traditional Native American dance regalia.

casino opened on the Southern Ute Reservation.

Soon after, Box's casual interest in tourism morphed into a full-on passion for hospitality. He went to work for what is now the Sky Ute Casino Resort in 1993, eventually rising to the position of property shift manager. Taking advantage of a scholarship program offered by the Southern Ute Tribe, Box enrolled at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo.

At this point, Box not on-

ly was all-in on a hospitality career, but he had already settled on his ultimate goal: to be a general manager of a Tribal casino.

Enter UNLV. In 1999, upon learning of the university's top-ranked hospitality school, Box transferred from Fort Lewis College.

Two years into his journey as a full-time UNLV student, Box landed a position as a record retention clerk at The Venetian on the

Box III page 4

#### SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

## Spotlight on Tribal Health: Stephen Stockhausen

By Jeremy Wade Shockley  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Dr. Stephen Stockhausen PT, DPT, OCS joined the Southern Ute Health Center in 2020 and now works with a full roster of patients seeking Physical Therapy services in Ignacio. He primarily sees clients in the clinic but also makes home visits and has built a relationship with SunUte Community Center to perform aquatic therapy and gym-based services there as needed.

"I pride myself on being able to provide our patients with a personalized hands-on approach to physical therapy," Stockhausen said. "Working here allows me to provide one on one care at the patient's own pace, that other commercial clinics cannot."

Stockhausen has a broad background and is a highly respected member of the medical community nationwide. His expertise has been called on for numerous physical therapy publications and even GQ Magazine.

He is a Board-Certified Specialist in Orthopedics and has utilized that skill-set to develop new and inno-



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Dr. Stephen Stockhausen, PT, DPT, OCS – The Southern Ute Health Department's in-house physical therapist for the clinic in Ignacio.

vative ways to help patients feel better faster.

"New highlights include being able to provide dry needling to patients," Stockhausen said. Dry needling is a technique physical therapists use to treat pain and movement impairments. Stockhausen has also recently been certified by the American Institute of Balance in Vestibular Rehabilitation and Concussion Therapy.

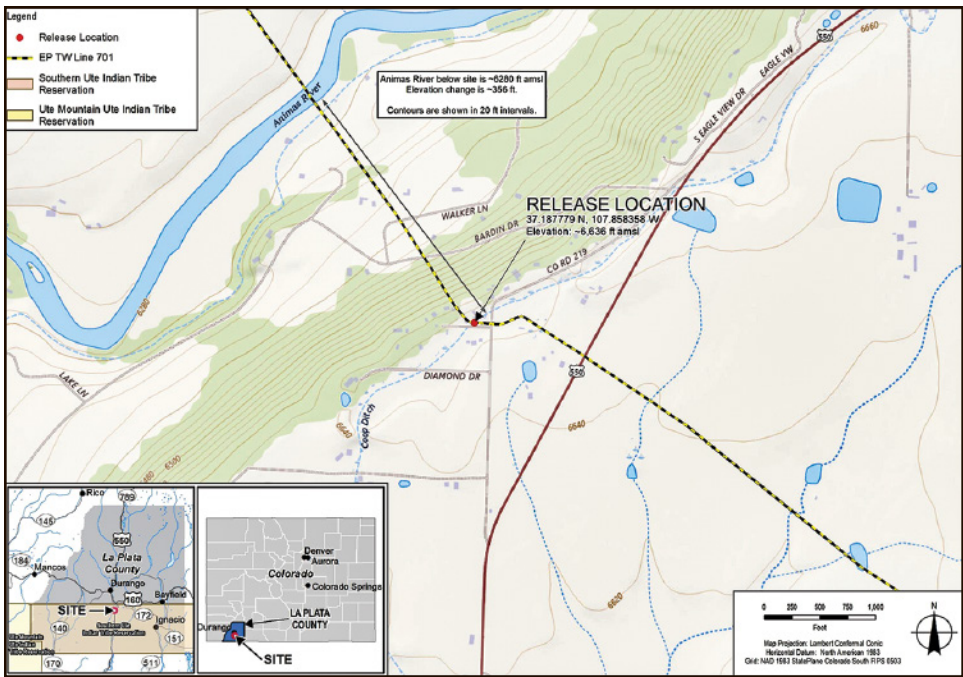
After receiving his doctorate from the University of Kentucky in 2011 he moved to Southwest Colorado to begin his career and explore the San Juan Mountains. In 2014, he and his wife – who

is also a physical therapist, began careers as travel physical therapists, moving multiple times a year providing care in underserved areas throughout the country. They returned to the Four Corners in 2020 and now live in Durango with their daughter and two dogs. An avid trail runner, he has completed numerous ultra-marathons and enjoys being outside as much as possible.

Stephen Stockhausen has greatly enjoyed being part of the Southern Ute team for the past five years and looks forward to further improving the health and mobility of the community.



## MASSIVE GASOLINE SPILL • FROM PAGE 1



A map of the spill location near Durango shows the elevation above the Animas River on Florida Mesa, as well as insets with locators for the region. (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment La Plata spill incident reports)

Representatives of Enterprise responded to questions about the spill with a link to updates it gives in a community bulletin. Those bulletins are also available on a state website. The May update says, “Since the incident, Enterprise and its contractors have worked diligently with various stakeholder groups, including state and federal regulators, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and local residents, to address the issue fully, safely, and as quickly as possible.”

“Currently, there are no indications that the Animas River has been impacted or will be impacted in the future,” the state health department said in written responses to questions.

The company’s update says it is preparing drone flights over potential seepage areas and other subsequent rounds of monitoring. To date, the company said it has analyzed weekly water samples at 36 residential wells and taken more than 500 soil samples at more than 40 locations. “At any given time, there are approximately 30 staff and crew on site” in various specialties, Enterprise said.

Five private residential wells have tested above acceptable limits for gasoline chemicals, state officials said Thursday, out of 30 wells sampled so far. Company contractors have excavated thousands of yards of contaminated soil at the spill site and are injecting air underground to help push gasoline toward extraction wells.

Enterprise is a Houston-based, publicly traded partnership handling midstream distribution of gasoline, natural gas and other petroleum products. The company’s NYSE stock is worth \$66 billion, and the partnership reported net profits of \$1.4 billion in the most recent quarter.

The section of the Enterprise pipeline that flows near Durango goes from New Mexico up toward Grand Junction, Tribal officials said, carrying refined, unleaded gasoline.

### Wells fouled by gasoline might never be useable again

Tribal leaders have said that while the state employees who have engaged on the cleanup efforts are well-meaning, they are understaffed and moving slowly in demands on Enterprise. The Tribe called out the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which oversees hazardous waste cleanups, for not sending anyone in person to handle the cleanup until May 1.

“We will not stand by while our ground and surface water, Tribal resources, and the health of our Tribal members are put at risk,” Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin

Baker said May 5, in a release targeting the state and company response. “The citizens of southwestern Colorado and the reservation deserve the same swift government response as the rest of the state,” the Tribal release said.

State officials said in interviews Thursday, May 8, they have been meeting remotely multiple times a week with company and Tribal officials to help direct the cleanup, and that the hazardous waste division frequently conducts spill operations through remote connections.

That said, “based on the concerns that the Tribe has put forward, we will now begin conducting regular, more frequent site visits moving forward,” said Tracie White, director of the state Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initially said it did not have jurisdiction over the spill or cleanup because it apparently affected groundwater that was not connected to “waters of the U.S.” that the agency oversees, Tribal and EPA officials said. The potential of seepage toward a major river like the Animas has changed that.

EPA spokesperson Katherine Jenkins on Wednesday said the agency’s on-scene coordinators have since engaged with the Tribe, the company and state officials. “At this time, we are still working on determining if the spill will reach waters of the U.S. EPA has issued a Notice of Federal Interest and are engaged in oversight of Enterprise’s cleanup with CDPHE and the Tribes,” the EPA said in an email.

There are currently 20 homes in the area that have received storage tanks, filters or some form of alternate water supply, Tribal environment officials said. They expect that number to grow as the plume of gasoline spreads underground and seeps into more wells.

Enterprise paid for hotel rooms when homeowners confronting choking pools of gasoline fled their property, and is supplying the replacement water.

The groundwater supplies that had multiple feet of gasoline floating on top will likely never be usable by affected homes, officials said. “Not in our lifetime,” Dorsk said.

### Pipeline company drilling “sentry” wells to monitor the plume

State health officials said they are carefully monitoring the cleanup and leaning on Enterprise to do more monitoring and assessment, in addition to the mitigation required in trying to absorb the spilled gasoline.

“Efforts are underway to evaluate the seep and oth-

er seeps in the area,” CDPHE spokesperson Branden Ingersoll said, in written responses to questions.

“At CDPHE, we are committed to protecting public health, holding polluters accountable, and partnering with impacted communities and governments,” Ingersoll said.

“We take the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s concerns seriously and are providing ongoing oversight to ensure the Enterprise Products cleanup continues until environmental standards are met and affected residents are protected,” Patrick Cummins, state director of Environmental Health and Protection, said in comments emailed by the health department.

“The Animas River is located about a half mile from the release site,” the state written statement said. “There’s currently no evidence of impact.” Enterprise is preparing a “contingency plan,” which must be approved by CDPHE, “to ensure the river remains protected,” the state said.

Enterprise will be drilling a series of “sentry” wells down the mesa to watch for any more spread of the plume. Those wells can also serve to remove gasoline that migrates from the site, White said.

The cause of the spill and whether there is any fault to assign is investigated by the federal Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The initial report to that agency dated May 5 said the spill was from a crack around the circumference of the 10-inch pipeline that appeared corroded from the outside, Southern Ute Environmental Programs director Mark Hutson said. Most pipeline cracks are along the length of the pipe, he said.

In their initial incident report to the pipeline agency, Enterprise estimated spill damages and costs at more than \$6 million.

The Enterprise community bulletin said the company is well aware of the importance of the Animas River in the area. “Enterprise and its contractors are taking additional proactive steps in cooperation with (the Tribe) and CDPHE to protect the Animas River in the unlikely event gasoline were to reach the river. This includes installing an interceptor trench, and other technologies are under consideration.”

The company’s timeline in the bulletin said well monitoring began Dec. 8, construction on an alternative potable water supply began Dec. 27, and the state approved a site assessment plan on March 19.

*See page 16 for the official response from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.*

## Many Moons Ago



Sacha Smith/SU Drum archive

### 10 years ago

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D) takes a photo with the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council during the Senator’s visit with the Tribe, Friday, May 1.

This photo was first published in the May 15, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

### 20 years ago

These student athletes represented the Southern Ute Tribe at Ignacio High School during the 2004-2005 academic school year. Each student participated in one more sports and are members of the Southern Ute Tribe. Pictured from left to right are Anthony Ortiz (football and basketball), Lindsay Box (volleyball and cheerleading), Maria Rivera (basketball), Justin Gilbert (football and baseball) and Abel Romero (football, basketball and baseball) Not pictured are Shonda Abeyta (volleyball) and Nick Naranjo (football and wrestling).

This photo was first published in the April 29, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

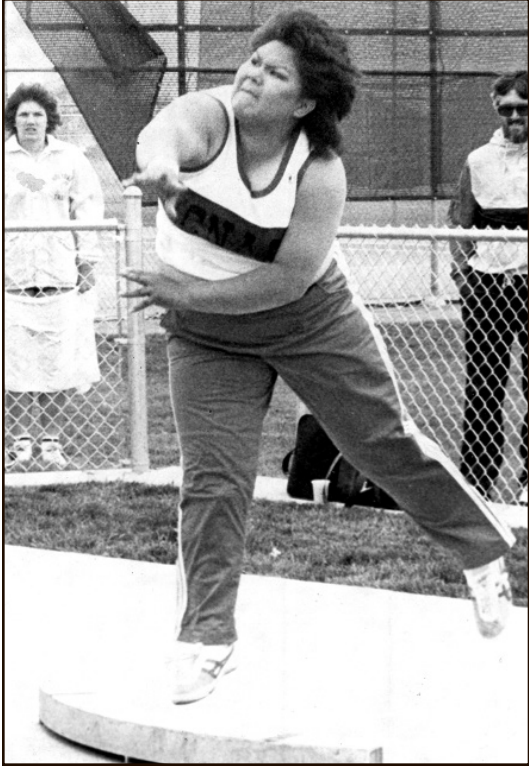


John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

### 30 years ago

Molly Cloud gives a smile while Jan Smith braids her hair. The Southern Ute Heritage Performers performed in Durango last week at LPEA’s Customer Appreciation Day.

This photo was published in the May 12, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

### 40 years ago

Lori Monte – daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Monte, the new State Champion for shotput. Congratulations Ms. Monte.

This photo was published in the May 17, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.





courtesy Jalisa Paul

Ember Vigil takes color from Southern Ute Royalty members – Malia White Thunder and Olyvia Watts, and SCSYAC member Shayne White Thunder at the Color Run booth at SunUte Park.



courtesy Jalisa Paul

Little Miss Southern Ute Alt., Olyvia Watts, Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder, and SCSYAC member Shayne White Thunder host the Royalty/Youth Council Booth during the Color Run.

# Royalty make rounds



courtesy Jalisa Paul

Tribal Council members, Marty Pinnecoose, Marge Barry, Linda Baker and Andrew Gallegos joined by Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder, and Little Miss Southern Ute Alt., Olyvia Watts pose with special guest Mato Wayuhi before the “Color Us with Love” Color Run.



courtesy Jalisa Paul

Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder, Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz, and Little Miss Southern Ute Alt., Olyvia Watts pose in front of Behavioral Health booth at SUIMA Field Day, Thursday, May 8.



courtesy Jalisa Paul

Little Miss Southern Ute Alt., Olyvia Watts, Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder, and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz visit the bubble booth hosted by Behavioral Health during SUIMA's Field Day.



courtesy Marie Carel

Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel, at the Randlett Bear Dance, in Randlett, Utah, held May 1 through May 4. Carel helped serve food during the Bear Dance feast, she also participated in their walk.



## SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM



### GIFT SHOP SALE

25% off sale for the month of May

Sale excludes B. Yellowtail merchandise, books, hides, and hand drums

WE ARE UTE



SOUTHERN UTE  
Cultural Center & Museum

503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583

EMAIL | [museum@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:museum@southernute-nsn.gov)

IG | [southern\\_ute\\_museum\\_sum](https://www.instagram.com/southern_ute_museum_sum)

WEB | [southernutemuseum.org](https://southernutemuseum.org)





courtesy Marie Carel

Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel and her mother Marie in the Randlett Bear Dance Walk.




courtesy Marie Carel

Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel, at the Randlett Bear Dance, in Randlett, Utah.

## Winning Tribal Fair Logo

Alissa White, child of Imogene & Gerard White and grandchild to Adrian Weaver & Olive O'John and Jerry & Lillian White, is a multi-talented artist ranging from paint to piping. She has been creative all her life, from beginning baking at a young age she's developed her skills from box to made-from-scratch and has her higher-education within the culinary realm. Her artistic skills amplify her craft in the kitchen and she applies her love for learning to other arts such as painting, digital art, and hands on crafts. Her knowledge of precision aides her in her work at the Southern Ute Museum, working within collections, which is an important task which benefits the Tribe in preserving our past's delicate items. In her spare time Alissa enjoys gaming, baking, reading, beading, and taking care of her two cats.




103RD  
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR  
BLOOMING CREATIONS

Máykh! “Blooming Creations” is inspired by my love for baking and creating, whether it be journaling, crafting, painting, beading (I’m learning still), basically anything I can do with my hands. I view beginning a project like a flower blooming, hence the title I chose, and I specifically chose the rose as it’s an icon that we Piinunúuchiu use to identify us and use in our art. The rose is lavender, as it’s my favorite color and has a history of representing royalty and I placed it atop a light blue that’s representative of our flag, the sky, and water which is vital to us Nüuchiu and essential in creating life. The surrounding flowers have shades that mimic our Circle of Life and are various silhouettes found within beading. The subjects are contained within a circle barrier that represents a medallion, yet another piece of iconography that is very much prominent in our Native identity. Togoyagh.

The Southern Ute Tribal Fair will be held September 12-14, 2025

The Tribal Rodeo will be held September 19-20, 2025





## Box III EARNs DEGREE • FROM PAGE 1



Josh Hawkins/UNLV

Hospitality management student Edward Box III was named head man for UNLV Powwow for the Planet event in Las Vegas, Nev., April 12 -13.

Las Vegas Strip. As his responsibilities at The Venetian increased, Box reduced his course load before eventually deciding to press the pause button in the early 2000s.

Box would rise to the role of group housing coordinator at The Venetian and was part of the team that helped open the resort's sister property, The Palazzo.

Then came The Great Recession. Although he survived the first two rounds of layoffs, Box sensed his days at The Venetian were numbered. So, he re-enrolled at UNLV part time, but economic circumstances forced his return to his Native homeland prior to the fall 2010 semester.

Making his second departure from UNLV all the more difficult was the fact that Box was the equivalent of one semester away from graduating.

He would spend the next 13 years working in various capacities for both the Southern Ute Tribe (including serving as chairman of the Gaming Commission) and Sky Ute Casino Resort. As the years passed, Box never gave up on his dream of someday being the boss of a Tribal casino. He had, however, more or less given up on completing his hospitality degree.

"I had gotten to the point where I convinced myself, 'Oh, I don't need a degree. I can just continue working. It'll work out,'" he said.

Then came a dose of reality: A little more than a year ago – while working in his current role of assistant general manager intern at the Sky Ute Casino Resort – Box scored interviews for a general manager position at two Tribal casinos. Both times, he said, the properties were ready to make him an offer ... Just one problem.

"One of the requirements in both job descriptions they sent me was a bachelor's degree in hospitality," Box said. "I was like, 'Oh. I don't have that.'"

So, nine months ago, he asked for and received an educational leave of absence from his assistant GM intern job at Sky Ute Casino Resort, then contacted UNLV in hopes of resuming his studies.

He received a good news-bad news response: Come on back. However, because the Hospitality College revamped its curriculum several years ago – even changing the hotel administration major that he initially was pursuing to hotel management – Box was now two semesters shy of graduation, not one.

Undeterred, Box returned to UNLV for the Fall 2024 semester – this time, as a

57-year-old student.

"When I initially came back, I was nervous because of the big age difference between myself as a nontraditional student and the general [student body]," Box said. "For instance, I don't go out and party and those kinds of things. So that generational gap was concerning.

"The classes also were a challenge because a lot of the teaching methods had changed – what we're studying, how we study, online presentations, the fact everything is digital. But it's a much broader education than it was when I first came to the university."

Ultimately, though, Box fit in seamlessly, even sharing his lengthy work experiences with fellow students and leveraging that institutional knowledge during classroom discussions and group assignments.

Just as important, Box said he felt more at home here than when he initially arrived on campus – a campus that sits on the Indigenous land of the Southern Paiute Tribe.

Not only does the university's diverse general student population feature more Native American representation than it did a quarter century ago, but academic research in areas specific to Indigenous people and land has expanded over the years.

So, too, have the curriculum offerings. For instance, thanks to the generosity of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, UNLV students can now seek degrees related to Tribal gaming through both the College of Hospitality and the William S. Boyd School of Law.

"When I first got here [in 1999], there wasn't any Native American presence here – at least I didn't see one," Box said. "That's no longer the case, though."

Another example of UNLV's growing and thriving Indigenous community: the Native American Student Association (NASA), a social organization dedicated to preserving Native culture and supporting Native students during their UNLV journey.

During Native American Heritage Month celebrations last year, Box danced at a UNLV football game at Allegiant Stadium, then was invited by a NASA member to do the same at a Runnin' Rebels basketball game at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Box's latter performance so impressed onlookers that he was nominated to be the head man dancer for the fourth annual UNLV Powwow for the Planet. The two-day cultural celebration held in April at Cox Pavilion promotes leadership

development among local youth and advocacy for environmental justice and protection of Indigenous land in Nevada.

Once chosen for the honor, Box made some modifications to his traditional Southern Ute dance regalia.

"I take so much pride in being a UNLV student and being a Rebel that I said, 'You know what? I'm going to reflect that pride in my outfit,'" he said. "So, I made this ribbon shirt where one sleeve says 'UNLV' and the other sleeve says 'Rebels,' and it was all UNLV colors, as were my breast plate and apron."

"I did it because UNLV is also now part of my tradition, and I want to show pride in where I received my education."

He intends for that pride to extend far beyond graduation day.

Although Box will soon return to his job at Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio – and have the "intern" part of his assistant general manager title removed, thanks to his degree completion – he has expressed a desire to join the university's Native American Alumni Club. Moreover, he insists he will be an involved alum, determined to give back so that others who share his cultural background, his experiences as a nontraditional student, or his passion for hospitality can follow in his footsteps.

"My grandmother and grandfather taught me in our traditional ways that, in order to be successful in life, you have to continuously – there's no end to it – give back and create that connection and support [for future generations]," Box said. "The youth are most important and whom you have to groom to become leaders."

In fact, Box already has laid the groundwork for Southern Ute Tribal youth to make their way to his alma mater and to pursue professional careers in hospitality by connecting his Tribe's Education Department with Tammi Tiger, director of the Hospitality College's Tribal Education Initiative.

"Now that I have seen and experienced the university's support of Native American interests ... I want to encourage our Tribal membership to start coming to school here to strengthen [Sky Ute Casino's] hospitality and gaming programs," he said. "Because that path [to UNLV] has now been paved."

Of course, it's only paved because Box chose to return to UNLV last August and finish what he started.

Now, two semesters and eight completed classes later, he's finally ready to exhale.

## NATIVE STUDENTS, 'CLOSE UP' • FROM PAGE 1



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute students, Samantha Elk, Leandra Litz, and Zuriah Baker present their Tribal Action Initiative focused on Native American curriculum in public schools to a group of government officials at the Nation's Capitol on Thursday, May 1, during their trip to Washington, D.C. for the Close-Up Native Youth Summit.

people in the past."

Throughout the six-day trip, students worked together to highlight issues pertinent to tribal communities by creating informational poster boards to be presented to tribal leaders, political experts and policy makers. Tribal Action Initiatives focused on topics such as Missing Murdered Indigenous Peoples, introducing focused Indigenous curriculum into public schools, and lowering substance abuse. Outside of work sessions for Tribal Action Initiatives, students also toured the National Mall, focusing on monuments and memorials with historic ties to Native peoples. Tours included viewing the White House, Capitol Hill, World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials.

"One of my favorite things about this program is meeting a group of people you've never met before, and you're put to work together and slowly over the time period of this week we all become closer and gain that sense of brotherhood or sisterhood," Baker said.

"Personally, I just love coming to D.C., this is where I want to live in the future and history is my true passion, so being here helped me see that every other corner of this city something historic has happened," she said. "Doing our presentations, we were in a room of the Capitol building where the Watergate readings had happened regarding President Nixon that would later cause him to resign, it is just really interesting to see all of that history in person. One of our Close-Up program chapters has a political science degree and is working to get a position at Capitol Hill, that inspired me because that is something I would like to get involved in."

Samantha Elk, a sophomore at Bayfield High School, shared what Close-

Up means to her and her experience attending the trip for the first time. "Close-Up is the opportunity to connect with people that come from a similar background as you and really advocating for the same issues you face and also having those conversations that may be more vulnerable," Elk said. "With my experience here, I feel like I have grown a lot over the past couple of days—the highlights of my week were connecting with Zuriah [Baker] and Leandra [Litz], and I felt heard, I have gained a sense of advocacy now more than ever and I definitely want to practice that more in my community – I just felt so inspired and connected to this environment."

"My highlight for this week was presenting today at Capitol Hill, our focus for this whole week was making our presentations and what we had to look forward to as far as sharing our work with other government officials," Ignacio High School student, Sonny Flores said, "I have really enjoyed getting to meet with everyone that is on this Close-Up trip and getting to know other Native cultures—quick shout out to all the friends that I have made here, I also want to shout out my mom and my dad, Sunshine and Terence Whyte. I have had their full support going on this trip, they knew it was going to be hard letting me travel by myself here, but they helped me to maintain school and helped prepare me to take this journey—I am really thankful for them."

Leandra Litz is a Southern Ute tribal member and student at Ignacio High School, in reflecting on this trip to the Capital she said, "Understanding how everyone is different, they come from different tribes throughout Indian Country

and yet we get to talk about issues from back home and know that they are almost similar and we are all similar as people, that was my favorite part."

"I have really enjoyed making new friends on this trip," Litz said. "I would like to thank my Muan (father) Leondro Litz and my Piyan (mother) Alyssa Nez also my grandmas because they all took part in helping me prep for this trip, they all encouraged me to be here, and I am very thankful. I would also like to thank our chaperones Dustin, Kaylyn, and ShaRay they are all so goofy and silly, but they have made this trip so much fun, and I am thankful they gave us the opportunity to be [in Washington, D.C.]; I love them so much."

Rayen Muniz attends Big Picture High School in Durango, Colo. He extends his encouragement to try new things and shares his thanks to those who helped make this trip possible. "To me Close-Up is getting to be more interactive with new people that you may have never had the opportunity to meet before," Muniz said. "I would like to thank my dad for telling me about this chance to travel to D.C., also [DustinWeaver, ShaRay Rock, and Kaylyn LeClaire] and the students that I came with, they are all so nice and so welcoming—they all helped me to try something new and not be scared, if you want to try something new ... just go for it."

"I would like to thank my mom and stepdad, Hailey and Zachary Yesslith, also my grandma," Zuriah Baker said. "I would also like to thank our beautiful chaperones; Dustin always has my back, Kaylyn always has me smiling and I love her auntie laugh, ShaRay just makes me so happy and

*Native page 24*



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Students visited the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to study various Native cultures on Monday, April 28, during their visit to Washington, D.C.





HEALTHY NEWS  
You Can Use!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Food and mood affect one another. Healthy choices full of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins can keep depression away. While ultra processed foods full of unhealthy fats and added sugars like chips, crackers, cakes, and cookies can contribute to bad moods and anxiety. Try to increase these good mood foods and see if you notice a difference!

Good mood foods include:

- Fruits and vegetables – An abundance of these foods have been linked to higher levels of happiness.
- Omega-3 Fatty Acids – Found in foods like fatty fish, nuts, and chia seeds. Can reduce inflammation and improve cognitive function.
- Chocolate – May have properties that improve mood and reduce tension. Dark chocolate is best and eaten in moderation.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

By Tamara D. Turner  
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

May is Mental Health Awareness month! Let's start by asking, what does mental health mean to you? That might seem like an odd question, but definitions and practices of mental health vary immensely across history and cultures. For example, some cultures have no concept or word for "depression" and what we call "disorders" in Western culture are often viewed in different ways in other parts of the world.

The point is, it's important to think about what mental health feels like to YOU. Is it time with family? Time in the natural world? Laughing with friends, riding horses, tending your garden, cooking a big meal?

One common theme that does seem to be present in many different approaches to mental health is the necessity of human connection. Our nervous systems are wired for connection. Isolation is a sure way to stress human resilience, which is why COVID social distancing created such a lasting and devastating impact on mental health across the nation.

We also know that even though we have the term "mental health" that it is inseparable from other kinds of health like physical health and spiritual health. When we're sick it's easier to feel depressed. And if we don't have a spiritual or religious or meaningful practice and focus in our lives, it's also easier to feel down. We didn't need science to tell us that meaning and purpose are powerful antidotes to anxiety and depression, to say the least. Many cultures have known for centuries – and never forgotten – the importance of giving thanks, of humility, and greater purpose as powerful tools for flourishing.

At Southern Ute Behavioral Health, we challenge you this month to think about – and maybe keep a list or journal – of all the activities and blessings in your life that bring you mental wellness. What does it take in your life to help you flourish? Not just be "okay" or "survive" but actually flourish? What would it take for you to feel like the world cannot live without you?

We took a little poll at our Behavioral Health Division and here are some responses from our staff about what mental health means to them:

- "Moving from Surviving to Thriving"
- "Growing through life's challenges meaningfully."
- "Living life on life's terms."
- "Giving back to others daily."
- "Balancing what I can control."
- "Living at the center of myself."
- "Living in the knowledge that I matter."

Will you accept the challenge to spend the month reflecting on your own mental health, as well as spiritual health and physical health? Spring is such a ripe time for rebirth and growth. What better time to commit to your own health!

If you feel so inclined, here's a free mental health toolkit you can download for ideas on educating and taking care of yourself as well as helping others: <https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month>

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.

Shining Mountain Fresh

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

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFMay2025>

**Sign-up Deadline:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025

**Pickup Date:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Contact:  
Lisa Smith 970-563-2344

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

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE SKATE PARK MURAL ART COMPETITION!**

The Southern Ute Behavioral Health ART SHOW originally set for May 1, 2025 has been POSTPONED to allow time for more youth art submissions.

**NEW DEADLINE WILL BE JUNE 1 TO SUBMIT YOUR ART FOR THE MURAL.**

You can bring it to the Behavioral health Building (4101 CR 222) or email it to [tturner@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tturner@southernute-nsn.gov) BY JUNE 1, 2025.

**Call 970-563-2487 for more info or contact Tamara Turner [tturner@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tturner@southernute-nsn.gov)**

What's all the buzz about? Join us to find out!

Postpartum Depression and Anxiety

by Aly Seibel - CHS Dept (resources provided)

Shining Mountain Breastfeeding & Parenting Class

June 12, 2025

12-1 pm

M/C building-near the lactation room-downstairs

healthy lunch

Q's: Shawmarie 970-563-2163, Lisa 970-563-2344  
[smtso@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:smtso@southernute-nsn.gov); [lsmith@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:lsmith@southernute-nsn.gov)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Community Baby Shower & Breastfeeding Walk

August 14, 2025

Let us know if you would like to be a vendor or join us a participate.

call Shawmarie 970-563-2163

Lisa 970-563-2344

**FREE EVENT-FREE EVENT!**





Brandi & Gabe Archuleta with their new bikes.

SOUTHERN UTE SOCIAL SERVICES

Child Abuse Prevention Month: 2025 Parent Dedication

Staff report

SOUTHERN UTE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Southern Ute Division of Social Services held their annual Parent Dedication event in conjunction of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Parent Dedication is a time family in our community are recognized for leading their family in a healthy lifestyle, supporting their children in reaching their full potential, and contributing their own time and energy to bettering the community at large.

This year, the Division of Social Services honored three families by gifting each family with bicycles, including parents. Here are the Parent Dedication nominees for 2025. Thank you to participating entities, including The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, SunUte Community Center, and the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.

- Brandi and Gabe Archuleta and family
- Gabriela Garcia and family
- Dominika Joy and family



Brandi & Gabe Archuleta's family photo.



Gabriela Garcia and family.



Dominika Joy and family.

Celebrating Earth Day




photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum


Many participants gathered in front of the MCB Building in support of the Earth Day Walk hosted by the Southern Ute Community Home Health Services on Tuesday, April 22. Tribal employees, community members, and Southern Ute Montessori Academy students joined in the one mile walk to celebrate the international event. Earth Day was first held on April 22, 1970, and it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally, including one billion people in more than 193 countries.

Southern Ute Community Home Health Services hosted an Earth Day Walk in recognition of the international celebration, starting at the Mouache and Capote Building. This event demonstrated support for environmental protection, with participants from the tribal organization and a handful of SUIMA students. CHS Admin Assistant, Aly Seibel leads the one mile walk during the event.





## May is Asthma Awareness Month




### Air Quality Index (AQI)

AQI is a rating used to quantify how clean the air is and how safe it is to be outdoors. People with asthma are more sensitive to changes in the AQI.


### TIPS


- **Look!** Can you see far off into the distance or is haze, smoke, or dust limiting your view?
- **Browse!** EPD's Ambient Monitoring website has **real time AQI values** for Ignacio and surrounding areas. AQI is also available on most weather reports.





### Do you know about asthma triggers?

Asthma affects more than 25 million people of all ages and races in the United States. Although asthma is widespread, public awareness of common asthma triggers and effective asthma management strategies remains limited.

**Second hand smoke:** Not allowing smoking inside your home or car is the only way to prevent second hand smoke from creating an asthma trigger.


**Mold and chemical irritants:** Keep indoor humidity low by eliminating moisture sources. Follow instructions for cleaning products and ventilation.

**Pet dander, dust mites, and cockroaches:** Dust your house often, use a HEPA filter vacuum, and wash bedding once/week.

**Outdoor air pollution and wildfire smoke:** Make sure to check the AQI before you plan your next day of outdoor activities!

Source: [epa.gov "Asthma Awareness Month"](https://www.epa.gov/asthma-awareness-month)

Use these methods and work with a healthcare provider to identify your asthma triggers and develop an asthma action plan to reduce triggers in your day-to-day life.

**For real-time AQI air quality data visit the EPD website:**



Visit our website to learn more!



## Save the date

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP



& KNOWLEDGE SEMINAR

### E.L.K.S. June 10-13, 2025

### NEW 2025 Programming

E.L.K.S. provides hands on and interactive science activities, demonstrations, and games, to grow environmental awareness!

### TWO AGE GROUPS

- Two days for students in **grades 3-5**
  - June 10th + 11th
  - Games, mini fields trips, & more!
- Two days for students in **grades 6-8**
  - June 12th + 13th
  - Guest speakers & a raft trip!

Please contact the Environmental Programs Department at [mdorsk@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:mdorsk@southernute-nsn.gov) with any questions or comments.

AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Environmental Programs Department is now accepting applications for the Cost Share Program (CSP). The purpose of the CSP is to work cooperatively with landowners to implement agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on lands within the Reservation. BMPs are designed to improve local water quality, conserve agricultural lands, and protect wildlife habitat.

Examples include:

- ❖ Improved efficiency of on-site irrigation methods
- ❖ Development of off-stream livestock watering infrastructure
- ❖ Planting of vegetation buffers along fields and streams
- ❖ Installation of riparian livestock fencing

The CSP pays 95% of the cost of the selected BMPs and the participant provides 5% cost assistance via monetary or "in-kind" labor/materials.

Due to limited funding, not all applications may be approved. Projects are scored based on their potential to reduce agriculture-related water pollution and improve water quality.

Applications due August 25th, 2025

Contact Dylan Ruckel for applications at (970) 563-2295 or [Druckel@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:Druckel@southernute-nsn.gov)  
Digital link: [Cost-Share Program Application](#)



## Brain Health

### Did you know...

Your brain isn't fully formed until age 25. Brain development begins from the back of the brain and works its way to the front. Scan to learn more!



If you have any questions please contact the Southern Ute Tribal Health Public Health Nurses at: 970-553-0917 or [ckellymiller@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:ckellymiller@southernute-nsn.gov)







HIGHER EDUCATION

150 to graduate from Pueblo Community College Southwest

Staff report  
PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SOUTHWEST

Pueblo Community College Southwest (PCCSW) will recognize its 2025 graduates, Saturday, May 17 at Montezuma-Cortez High School in Cortez, Colo.; the ceremony is set to take place at noon. Graduates from PCC's four divisions – arts and sciences, business and advanced technology, medical and behavioral health, and health professions and

public safety – will receive their degrees and certificates. The event is free and open to the public.

Of the 150 students graduating this year, seven earned a bachelor's degree. The 2025 graduating class also includes 69 high school students who participated in PCC's concurrent enrollment program. Through concurrent enrollment, high schoolers earn college credit and tuition is paid by their school district, potentially saving them and their families

thousands of dollars. Each year, a PCC committee selects one Southwest campus graduate as the President's Distinguished Scholar. The award goes to a student who demonstrates exceptional academic achievement and commitment to excellence. This year's recipient is April Salvatore. Salvatore will graduate with an associate degree in elementary education and transfer this fall to Fort Lewis College to earn her bachelor's degree.



courtesy SUIMA

SUIMA staff and parents came together to care for the school playgrounds, Saturday, May 3. Charise Hunter, Ocean Hunter, Randi Foster, Laura Tomcek, Scott Halsband, and Alyssa Nez have wheelbarrows full of topsoil ready to take to the well-loved tree on one of the SUIMA playgrounds.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

SUIMA playground gets an update

by Mari Jo Owens  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN  
MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Mari Jo Owens  
Principal  
Southern Ute Indian  
Montessori Academy



courtesy SUIMA

Mary Taylor and Tina Valdez take time out of their day to stand for a photo during the Parent Workday at SUIMA, Saturday, May 3.

Working through the SUIT Grants Department, we were able to secure some funding to do some upgrades on our playgrounds. We've purchased some stand-alone pieces of equipment as well as topsoil for our large, beloved tree and playground wood chips.

With the help of parents, community members, and many wheelbarrows, we were able to get the soil and woodchips into the school yard. I'd

like to thank Cody and Jerna Mills, Tina Valdez and family, Alyssa Nez and Leandro Litz, Sr. and family, and Davian Herrera, along with Scott, Randi, Laura, Mary, Ocean, and Charise, for taking time out of your day to help with getting the piles moved. You all worked tirelessly to get the task done.

As mentioned in previous

articles, the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy was established in 1999, with the very first day of school being Sept. 6, 2000. On May 23, we will be celebrating our students and recognizing our past 25 years. Please join us in the SunUte gym at 8:10 a.m. After the ceremony, we will walk together to the Bear Dance grounds.

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early Release at 2 p.m.
- May 20: Parent Advisory Group meeting.
- May 21: Family Night end of the year event.
- May 22: Upper elementary students prep for Bear Dance.
- May 23: Transition Ceremony in SunUte gym at 8:10 a.m./Last day for students.

ISD recognizes six retirees



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Retirees recognized during the event included: Deb Otten (29 years of service), Angela Ballew (21 years of service), Susie Ruybal (23 years of service), Kate Owens (24 years of service), Norma Conley (51 years of service), and Alfonso "Ponch" Garcia (10 years of service).



Elementary teacher, Deb Otten smiles with excitement after receiving gifts from friends and family during the Retiree Presentation at the Ignacio School Board Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 8.

Following the presentation of gifts and brief speeches from the retirees, invited guests chat with each other and congratulate retirees. Ignacio School Board Vice President, Jim Bulwan shares his well wishes with retiree Susie Ruybal.

# HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- ASSOCIATE
- BACHELOR
- MASTER
- DOCTORATE

Available to Southern Ute Tribal Members

Full-Time Deadline: July 1, 2025

Part-Time Deadline: 30 days prior to course start date

FULL-TIME AWARD	PART-TIME AWARD	PROFESSIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Living Stipend</li><li>• Cost of Tuition</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost of Tuition</li><li>• Books</li><li>• Applicable fees</li><li>• Mileage Reimbursement<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Max 100 miles roundtrip</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>For those in pursuit of a second graduate degree. Please contact the Higher Education Department for requirements</p>

APPLY TODAY

Visit the following link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/education/scholarships/>

CONTACT

Michael Kirsch | 970-563-2783  
mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov

# Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

## TRANSITION CEREMONY

### Soaring For 25 Years

### May 23rd — 2025 —

### 8:30 AM

Location: SunUte Community Center  
(390 Mouache Dr, Ignacio, CO 81137)





Environmental stewards



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Sage Velaquez gives her answers to Water Quality Program Manager, Geoffrey Hensgen during a water quality demonstration. Students used a 3D model to see the effects of pollutants and their environmental impacts firsthand. By placing materials on the landscape and adding water, they simulated runoff and the effect it has on rivers, streams, watersheds and critical wildlife habitats.

Anilah Hight takes part in a water quality demonstration at EPD, Friday, May 9. Elementary School teachers from the Southern Ute Education Department organized a fieldtrip for students to visit the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Environmental Programs Department; where students had a chance to observe and interact with air and water quality scientists in the laboratory.



Fresh snow blankets La Platas



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

A view of the La Plata Mountains above Durango, Colo., Thursday, May 8 from the vantage point of Florida Mesa. A series of light storms passed through the Four Corners region last week, adding a dusting of much needed precipitation in the high country where snowpack is still below average following a mild winter. Downstream water users rely heavily on the annual snowpack for seasonal irrigation.

GRADUATING SENIORS!  
Southern Ute & JOM\* Students

Your 2025 Senior photo is requested for The Southern Ute Drum!

As part of our annual Special Feature of Graduating Seniors, The Southern Ute Drum publishes photos of graduates of: 1) Southern Ute tribal members and 2) Johnson O'Malley (JOM)\* students who are graduating from High School in 2025. Southern Ute tribal members who are graduating off the Southern Ute Indian Reservation are also encouraged to submit a photo to be included in the Drum's annual graduates feature.

Please submit photo via email to Robert Ortiz: rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov

**DEADLINE MONDAY, MAY 19 BY 5 P.M.**

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

- Digital photos: 4"x 6" @ 300 dpi, or (1200 x 1800 pixels @ 300 dpi).
- Cellphone photos: Please set camera to "Fine" (Large) image.
- Photos can be scanned if brought to the Drum offices, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Please include the following: Student's Name; Name of School; Town and State. (i.e. John Smith, Ignacio High School, Ignacio, Colo.)
- Note: Photos may be color corrected, cropped or resized for print.

\*Native American students enrolled in a Federally recognized Tribe, graduating from either Ignacio or Bayfield schools qualify as Johnson O'Malley (JOM) students.



Exploring new horizons at SJC



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Students piece together a model plumbing pipe system during their visit to San Juan College on Friday, May 9. Pictured left to right: James Reynolds, Phillip Velasquez, Dominick GoodTracks, and Ryan Naranjo.





John Oberly III, Aspen Naranjo, and Riley Lang race to complete their model plumbing pipe system to beat the other team of students during their visit to San Juan College on Friday, May 9. San Juan College offers over 140 programs, training, development and personal enrichment – on Friday, local Native students had the opportunity to experience a hands-on trip and explore a future at San Juan College.

Phillip Velasquez and James Reynolds take a lesson in psi, and its importance in natural gas compression technology, during their trip with the Southern Ute Education Department to San Juan College, Friday, May 9.



Local & Regional High School Graduations

- Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy: May 19, 7 p.m.
- May 23, 8:30 a.m.
- Ignacio High School: May 24, 10 a.m.
- Bayfield High School: May 18
- Durango High School: May 23, 6 p.m.
- GOAL High School: May 30, 1:30/5:30 p.m.
- Bloomfield High School: May 19, 7 p.m.
- Piedra Vista High School: May 19
- Farmington High School: May 20
- Aztec High School: May 21, 7 p.m.
- Montezuma-Cortez: May 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Kirtland High School: May 23, 7 p.m.



# NATIVE YOUTH COLLEGE CAMP



JUNE 22 - 26, 2025

This summer camp provides rising Native American students (10th -12th grade) with a unique and fun college & career readiness experience.

Camp participants will:

- ✓ Explore the UNLV campus & learn about degree programs and campus life
- ✓ Meet other Native youth from across Indian Country
- ✓ Enjoy off-campus tours of Las Vegas
- ✓ Delve into topics like tribal hospitality & gaming, Indian law, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)

The Southern Ute Education Department has four (4) openings for Southern Ute Students to participate in this event. Deadline to sign up is Friday May 22, 2025. For more information contact Michael Kirsch at 970-563-2783, mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov





# Field Days: Kindergarten & SUIMA



Ms. Strohl’s kindergarten class goes head-to-head with Ms. Pepper’s class for a chance to hold the annual tug of war championship title and bragging rights for the remainder of the year, small but mighty these Kinders pulled with all their strength in hopes to win.



Students from lower elementary participate in the obstacle course hosted by SunUte staff on Friday, May 9.



This year, Ms. Pepper’s kindergarten students were victorious and took home the annual tug of war championship title, Kinders jump for joy as they celebrate their victory during the IES Kinder Field Day on Thursday, May 8.



SUIMA’s primary class kept themselves busy with a game of “Ring Around the Rosie” while waiting for the bouncy house.



Ms. Pepper’s Kinders gather for a celebratory photo after their big win in the annual tug of war event during this year’s IES Kinder Field Day.

**The Ignacio Elementary School hosted its Kinder Field Day on Thursday, May 8 at the Ignacio High School Bobcat Stadium. Students showcased their athletic skills in a variety of field events, including a relay race, toy javelin throw, sack race, and more. To wrap up this year’s field day, Ms. Pepper’s kinder class pulled against Ms. Strohl’s kinder class for a chance to win the tug-of-war champion title. Ms. Pepper’s class was then named this year’s winning class, and they took home the title and a year’s worth of bragging rights. Families also stood alongside the football field to support their Kinders as they enjoyed their field day fun.**

**Photos by Divine Windy Boy**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Ailisa Naranjo hops down the Bobcat football field in a 20-yard race during the IES Kinder Field Day events on Thursday, May 8.



Raphael Herrera Jr. is first to pass off the baton during the Kinder relay race on Thursday, May 8 during the Ignacio Elementary School Kinder Field Day. Students and their families filled the Ignacio High School stadium and track to participate in the annual end of the year event.



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Behavioral Health department offered kids face paint during Field Day.



Jaymez Washington joins his fellow classmates at the bubble station during SUIMA’s field day.



Southern Ute Tribal Council Chairman, Melvin Baker watches over students during SUIMA’s field day.





# Bear Dance

toghomasuwiini (10)

May 16, 2025

## Let's Learn Ute

káachoghopu  
hat

Núuvacha  
moccasins

mamachi Núutáa  
ribbon dress

ta'wachi Núutáa  
ribbon shirt

táaparuvu  
shawl

'awaráa  
vest



## Multi-Purpose Facility Annual Bear Dance Arts & Crafts Fair



Sunday & Monday May 25 & 26, 2025  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Artists, Artisans, Crafters, Bakers**

Space—10 X 10 with 2 chairs \$75/day or \$125/both days

Lobby Space \$40.00/day or \$60.00/both days

Space is assigned at time of payment—Cash, Check, Money Order

Limited number of tables available to rent \$10

Doors open 7:30 AM

Call Stais at 970-563-2642 or 970-563-2641 to reserve your space.

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
Call for more information 970-563-2640 or 970-563-2641

## 136<sup>th</sup> Ute Mountain Bear Dance

Spirit of the Mountain Makes the Bear Dance - Kaava nuu'aa Kwiyaqatu wu'iti



Powwow  
Parade  
Hand Games  
Softball

Walks/Runs  
Monday Feast  
Food/Art Vendors

**June 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Towaoc, Colorado**

**Everyone Welcome**  
**Public Event**

Bear Dance Chiefs:  
Terry Knight Sr.  
Mark Wing  
Austin Jacket  
Farley Ketchum Sr.  
Terry Knight Jr.

UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR: ACCIDENTS, THEFT, INJURIES OR DIVORCES, NO SOLICITORS, NO Videos or photography Without Chief's Permission. This event is a public event and photos will be taken by our media department. THIS EVENT IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT. Absolutely no dogs allowed on the bear dance or powwow grounds during this event.

## BEAR DANCE KICK OFF MEAL

Friday, May 23, 2025  
11:00am - 2:00pm  
Open at 10:30am

**Sky Ute Casino Event Center**  
14324 Hwy 172 North  
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Open to members of all Ute Tribes  
& Southern Ute Staff (Permanent  
Fund, Casino, & Growth Fund)

Questions, contact: Eugene Bereza | 970-563-2307

## 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

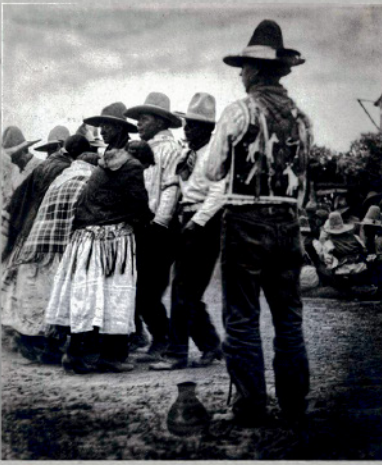


Photo: History Colorado

**"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

## 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

**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 Descendents

**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.aura@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  
\$454.60, Double Queen Beds. Breakfast 6 a.m. - 10 a.m.,  
Pool & Hot Tub, Fitness, Laundry Area, Walmart within  
walking distance.

**SOUTHERN UTE POWWOW COMMITTEE**  
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. Ortiz | SU Drum



# Walking with MMIR prayers



MMIR Prayer walkers and runners assemble prior to walking to Ute Park together after completing the 15 mile-walk from Elmore's Corner to Ignacio.



Kristean Velasquez, Native Love Board member and Matthew Carrillo; Carrillio, a student at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, carried the Southern Ute flag at the beginning of the walk.

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum



Native Love founder, Daisy Bluestar acknowledges all who hear the prayers of those who have lost a loved one. Elder Hanley Frost said a prayer and with David Tallbird, sang a sunrise song prior to the walk.



Walkers begin the trek to Ignacio in the early morning of Saturday, May 3. Walkers are led by Lorelei Cloud and Daisy Bluestar.



Rebecca Price carries a staff of the Nahui Ollin Runners during one of the legs. The runners initially walked with the larger group to airport hill, then backtracked by vehicle to Elmore's Corner, and began running towards Ignacio, eventually catching up to the group of walkers at the former Peaceful Spirit building in Ignacio.



Zaliyah Bluestar runs the last stretch carrying the Nahui Olin Runners' sacred braid. Zaliyah is nine-years old, and a student at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.



Social Services Division Head, Vera Blackwater and Lorelei Cloud lead walkers along CR 172 towards Ignacio.

**The 4th annual MMIR Walk/Run saw around 30 participants begin the 15-mile trek from Elmore's Corner (Hwy. 160/CR 172) to Ignacio, Saturday, May 3. The walk was established in 2022 by Native Love, an Ignacio non-profit to "Build Awareness" to the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) epidemic that plagues Native American communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. This year's walk saw support from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Police Dept./Tribal Rangers, Division of Social Services and other Tribal departments, and local volunteers. Twelve Nahui Ollin Runners from Denver joined the walk again this year. The walk ended in the Ute Park with a welcome by Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder, guest speakers, SUPD Chief Barrow, Preston Barry and Marvinina Olguin of Southern Ute Behavioral Health, a prayer by Councilwoman Marge Barry and a meal, prepared and served by Ignacio volunteers concluded the event.**



Nick Diaz of the Nahui Ollin Runners, from Denver, speaks at the closing ceremonies of the MMIR Prayer walk, with Native Love members, Daisy Bluestar and Kristean Velasquez.



Local volunteers Velma Armijo and Melinda Ortiz, serve participants of the MMIR Walk/Run. Roman and Alyssa Seibel, and Keevin Reynolds also assisted with the meal.





# Bear Dance workshop hosted at SUCR



During the Bear Dance Workshop, men and boys demonstrated the sound a bear makes when its scratching on a tree. During the story telling portion by Matthew Box, he explained how the homemade growler box has changed over the years.



SUIMA students, teachers and Southern Ute Royalty lined up to show the spectators what Bear Dance looks like.



Southern Ute Royalty participated in the Bear Dance Workshop at the Sky Ute Casino's Events Center on Tuesday, May 13. Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz, Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts and Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany introduces themselves to attendees.



Tribal elder, Ramona Eagle spoke about the roles the women have during the Bear Dance on Tuesday, May 13.

Photos by Krista Richards  
The Southern Ute Drum



Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box explains the protocols of being the Bear Dance Chief at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.

**The Southern Ute Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box hosted his annual Bear Dance Workshop at the Sky Ute Casino Resort on Tuesday, May 13. Participants and spectators learned about the Southern Ute Bear Dance history, the roles of the men and women, the rules of dancing, and demonstration on how to Bear Dance. The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) students filled the room in their traditional regalia to help the Bear Dance Chief show spectators how to dress as both men and women dancers.**

ADVENTURE  
AWAITS  
GIVEAWAY

## UNLEASH YOUR INNER EXPLORER!

SATURDAYS IN MAY | 3PM - 10PM  
GRAND PRIZE DRAWING: MAY 31 | 10:30PM  
EARN 3X ENTRY TICKETS: TUESDAYS IN MAY | 9AM - 9PM

Hourly hot seat winners will roll the dice to win cash, prizes, and bonus entries! Earn one entry for every 750 slot points. Grand prize includes a \$25,000 adventure voucher or \$10,000 cash!

MAY'S  
MAGICAL  
MYSTERY JACKPOTS

## SPIN, WIN, & LET THE MAGIC BEGIN.

SUNDAYS - TUESDAYS IN MAY | ALL DAY  
Go on an exciting journey where random jackpots of \$225 to \$275 will drop at any moment.

THE  
MIDNIGHT  
EXPRESS

## ALL ABOARD FOR \$10 BLACKJACK.

THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS IN MAY | 12AM - 2AM  
At the stroke of midnight, hop aboard the Midnight Express and explore the blackjack tables where the minimum bet drops from \$15 to just \$10.

COMPASS  
OF CASH  
MYSTERY JACKPOTS

## YOUR JACKPOT JOURNEY STARTS HERE.

FRIDAYS IN MAY | 4PM - MIDNIGHT  
\$500 jackpots will be scattered across all machines.

BEAR DANCE  
BONANZA  
HOT SEATS

## DANCE INTO A \$250 WIN!

FRIDAY, MAY 23 - MONDAY, MAY 26 | 6PM - 10PM  
Every hour, one lucky slot player will be a hot seat winner chosen to win \$250 cash instantly!

JOB FAIR

## TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28 | 10AM - 1PM  
Visit our job fair located at Sky Ute Casino Resort in the Human Resource Department on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. We will be interviewing and hiring on the spot! Apply online in advance at [skyutecasino.com/about/careers](https://skyutecasino.com/about/careers) or in-person at the job fair.







# ‘Color Us With Love’ returns to Ignacio



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

A dramatic and colorful – birds eye view of the participants during the “Color Us with Love” Color Run highlights the power of community, where local youth and their families came together to help raise awareness about child abuse.



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Indigenous musical artist Mato Wayuhi gave a wonderful performance to attendees at the Color Run event. Wayuhi is the musical composer for the hit television series “Reservation Dogs.”



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Police Chief, Michael Barrow and Melinda Ortiz stand for a quick photo while grabbing grilled hamburgers, both participants got splashed with a wide assortment of bright colors during the Color Run.

**The Southern Ute Division of Social Services hosted the 2025 Child Abuse Awareness Color Run on Friday, May 2, at the Piinu Nuuchi Skate Park. The annual event is held to help raise awareness about child abuse under the theme “Color Us with Love.” This year’s guest presenter was Indigenous musician Mato Wayuhi; composer for the hit television series “Reservation Dogs.” This year’s community Color Run was a collaboration between Social Services, Behavioral Health, Tribal Council, SUPD, BGC, Los Pinos Fire Department and Shining Mountain Health & Wellness.**



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Kirsten Lopez puts her arms in the air as she runs through the Tribal Court’s Color Run booth.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Community youth show off their colorful attire, these young kids made it through a series of color stations before the grand finale of color rained down in SunUte Park. Pictured left to right – Gabriela Perez, Ana Naranjo, Gia Perez, Nena Perez, and Fabian Perez, Jr.



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Tribal Councilman Andrew Gallegos creates a purple fog for participants of the Color Run to run through.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

An explosion of color took place at SunUte Park at the end of the community Color Run, when participants released their packets of colorful dye in unison, creating a visually powerful statement.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy PE Teacher, Gabriela Garcia mixes it up with the students during the annual “Color us with Love” Color Run event hosted by the Division of Social Services.





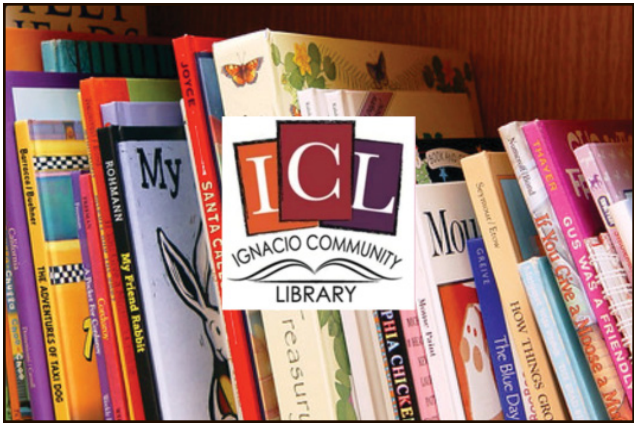
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Finding a strategy

By Ron Schermacher  
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Ignacio Community Library is in the preliminary stages of creating a strategic plan for the future – for both the library as a whole and specifically for the Idealab, our makerspace and education center. The most important aspect of this process is gathering feedback and getting residents involved in helping the staff create a store of services and opportunities to keep our library in a position to help our community thrive. It is not about what our library has provided in the past, it is about how we plan for the future. We want to know what has been working for you and how we could make your library even more useful and relevant.

The staff at ICL is dedicated to public service and is committed to providing the greatest good in a fiscally responsible manner. We are grateful for the support the residents of the library district provide and will continue to work hard



to find additional resources and grant funds to bring the greatest benefit to our community with a minimal use of resources. We are also supported by our Friends of the Library group. Their hard work provides us with equipment and program funding through their bookstore and fundraising efforts. This volunteer group can also use additional help with all parts of their organization. All these actions help us bring a wide variety of programming to the community with no fees to the patrons.

Employing resources effectively is both a science

and an art. The pace of technological advancement and change makes this especially challenging. Strategic planning can be a useful tool in this goal. But we cannot do it without you. The Ignacio Library is a hub of productive and creative work and play. Our community of consumers and contributors is rapidly expanding in many exciting and positive ways. If you are interested in adding your talents to this vision, please contact the library and discuss what you have to offer. Please join our efforts to refine and improve upon our mission to be a positive center of growth in any way you can.

NAPAC update at ISD Board



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Native American Parental Advisory Committee (NAPAC) presents committee updates and budget insights during the Ignacio School Board Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 8 at the school's admin building. NAPAC members and Southern Ute tribal members, Byron Frost and Kristean Velasquez stand before the school board to provide their updates. Also present, NAPAC Title VI Liaison Cori Stevens. NAPAC, is a collaborative group of Native American parents, students, and district representatives who work together to support the educational experience of Native American students attending the Ignacio School District.

SBDC: Innovating Locally



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Colorado Small Business development Center (SBDC) invited Southern Ute Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose to give opening remarks and a welcome address at the 13th Annual Southwest Colorado Small Business Conference on Wednesday, May 7, at the Sky Ute Casino Resort's event center in Ignacio. The annual program is a collaboration between the Southwest Colorado Small Business Development Center and The Fort Lewis College Center for Innovation.

Themed "Innovating Locally: Elevating Business Leadership, Strategy and Technology," the regional conference welcomed hundreds of small business professionals representing all sectors of the community, including Colton Black and Allison Wall with Southern Ute Economic Development.



Multi-Purpose Facility

"Unfinished Bear Dance Sewing"

Tuesday - Thursday May 13 - 15, 2025  
Tuesday - Thursday May 20 - 22, 2025



Day Sessions:  
Tuesday - Thursday  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Evening Sessions:  
Tuesday - Thursday  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Need help finishing your beading or sewing projects?  
Bring your unfinished beading and sewing projects.

Space is limited call to sign-up.



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

SOUTHERN UTE  
CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

HOURS OF OPERATION

GALLERIES AND MUSEUM STORE

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	9AM - 4PM
WEDNESDAY	9AM - 4PM
THURSDAY	9AM - 4PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 4PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 3PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

MONDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
TUESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
WEDNESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
THURSDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
FRIDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED



WE ARE UTE  
503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583  
EMAIL: [info@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:info@southernute-nsn.gov)  
IG: [southernute\\_museum\\_snm](https://www.instagram.com/southernute_museum_snm)  
WEB: [southernutemuseum.org](https://southernutemuseum.org)



SOUTHERN UTE  
Cultural Center & Museum



Save the Date! Elder Day  
at the  
Multi-Purpose Facility  
Wednesday May 28, 2025  
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM



What will be happening at the event?

- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- Informative sessions, informative speakers.
- Sharing Elder Knowledge—Elder Panels—Elder led activities.
- Relaxed , Informative, Fun, Social.
- Three Ute Tribes—Elders 55 Years and above
- Info Booth / Vendor space available to Ute Members—Cost: door prize donation.

More Information call Elise at 970-563-2641  
or email [eredd@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:eredd@southernute-nsn.gov)

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO



# Recognition of Tribal Law Enforcement



Staff from the Southern Ute Detention, Division of Gaming, Tribal Rangers, and SUPD stood in front of the Casias Newton Justice Center on Monday, May 3, to get blessed off by Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box.



Southern Ute Tribal Treasurer, James "Mike" Olguin speaks to the crowd and staff during the Law Enforcement Memorial Day ceremony.



Southern Ute Executive Officer, Lindsay Box, shakes hands with members of the Southern Ute Tribal Rangers during the vehicle inspections on Monday, May 13.



Justice and Regulatory Director, Elliott Salazar presents Southern Ute Lieutenant Gary Maestas and Sergeant Mark Kempinski certificates during the ceremony on Monday, May 13.

**A**recognition ceremony for the men and women who serve in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe took place on the lawn in front of the Casias Newton Justice Center in Ignacio, Colo. on Monday, May 12. The annual Law Enforcement Memorial Day program started off with Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box blessing off Justice and Regulatory (J&R) staff and their respective vehicles. Justice & Regulatory Director, Elliott Salazar; Chairman, Melvin J. Baker; Executive Officer, Lindsay Box and other councilmembers were present during the ceremony.

Photos by Krista Richards  
The Southern Ute Drum



Yellow Jacket drum group sings a flag song during the lowering of the flags during the Law Enforcement Memorial Day program at the Casias Newton Justice Center.



Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker inspects the Tribal Ranger's trucks during the Law Enforcement Memorial Day program.





courtesy Southern Ute Growth Fund

Jerone Olguin is wrapped in a Pendelton blanket during his retirement celebration at the Southern Ute Growth Fund building in Ignacio.

GROWTH FUND

# Olguin retires following 27 years of dedicated service to the Tribe

By Pooja Rao-Pennington  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

After 27 years of dedicated service to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Jerone Olguin retired, Thursday, May 1. Olguin started working for the Tribe in 1999 and served eight years with Justice & Regulatory, fifteen years with Red Cedar, and three years with Red Willow.

Olguin's most recent role as an Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Technician II in the Red Willow

EHS Department, played a pivotal part in ensuring field EHS compliance by conducting safety inspections and spill kit checks. He provided EHS oversight to both Red Willow employees and contractors engaged in high-risk activities. Olguin was an active member of Red Willow's internal Safety Committee team and the Growth Fund's Safety Leadership Team, contributing to the development and implementation of safety protocols and initiatives. Ol-

guin's dedication and expertise have been instrumental in fostering a culture of safety and compliance within Red Willow. His contributions have set a high standard for EHS practices, and he leaves behind a legacy of excellence. Additionally, he served on the Tribal Member Employment & Recruitment Advisory Committee.

The Southern Ute Growth Fund is grateful for Olguin's dedication to the Tribal organization and wishes him a happy retirement.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

# Tribe calls for urgent action from Enterprise Products to address pipeline spill

By Summer Begay  
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is calling on Enterprise Products to immediately act with more urgency and transparency to address and mitigate the gasoline pipeline failure that occurred five months ago on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

The pipeline failure, which happened on Dec. 5, 2024 near County Road 219 and Riverview Ranch Road, has resulted in the largest gasoline spill from a pipeline in Colorado history with an estimated 23,000 gallons of gasoline being released on fee land within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation. This call-to-action was mandated by Chairman Melvin J. Baker, Tribal Council, and Tribal staff during a meeting on Thursday, May 1 with representatives from Enterprise and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

"We will not stand by while our ground and surface water, Tribal resources, and the health of our Tribal members are put at risk," Chairman Melvin J. Baker said. "Enterprise must treat this with the seriousness and urgency it deserves – not just from a regulatory standpoint, but from a moral and environmental one. Failure to move now will impact our water rights, wildlife, cultural sites and properties for years to come. It is our duty as leaders and original stewards to protect the land that has been home to our ancestors since time immemorial and will be home for our future generations to come."

The Tribe has been actively engaged from the beginning to address the pipeline failure and spill. The Tribe's Environmental Programs Department immediately contacted CDPHE upon learning of the spill to ensure the Tribe was fully consulted and included in the response. Since then, although CDPHE has taken the lead in coordinating mitigation efforts with Enterprise, Tribal staff have worked tirelessly to monitor the situation and advocate for the protection of Tribal members, natural resources, the environment

(particularly water quality), and the local community.

As a result of the spill and poor recovery efforts from Enterprise, benzene – a known carcinogen found in gasoline – has migrated away from the release and has been increasingly detected in a spring approximately 0.3 miles away from the Animas River. To date, current levels of groundwater contamination from the spill has forced Enterprise to install 12 cistern systems for homes whose wells have been completely contaminated and install 15 Point of Entry Treatment (PO-ET) filtration systems, with many more under threat of the same. If the spill were to reach the nearby Animas River in elevated concentrations, the danger to plant, animal, and human life in the local area and potentially downstream along the river could be widespread. Despite this, Enterprise still does not have a site-specific contingency plan in place to protect the Animas River.

Due to the severity of the spill, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has also issued a Notice of Federal Interest in the pipeline failure and spill, underscoring the Tribe's call for urgency and the need for immediate action to protect the Reservation, Tribal members, and surrounding communities from the escalating harms of continued inaction.

As the original stewards of this land, the Tribe has made multiple formal requests for data and timely information to assess and respond to the spill's current and potential impacts. Additionally, with the limited data the Tribe has received, technical experts from the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department and Growth Fund's Department of Energy have requested specific action items to address discrepancies associated with the inadequate data associated with the geologic evaluation and engineering aspects of the response. These action items included a site-specific contingency plan which will assist in determining the actual threat and cleanup measures that would be implemented if this spill migrates to the Animas River and methods for gasoline source removal and recovery from the spill location. Despite these efforts, the response from Enterprise has lacked the urgency and transparency this situation demands to minimize impacts and risk to the Animas River and Tribal resources. Chairman Baker and Tribal Council emphasized this fact at the May 1 meeting.

At that meeting, Tribal Council also expressed concerns with CDPHE about why no one from the State had ever visited the site of the spill considering that it occurred five months ago, is the largest gasoline spill from a pipeline in Colorado history, and CDPHE has been the lead regulatory body. CDPHE visited the site for the first time on May 1. In comparison, Tribal staff and consultants have visited the site numerous times and have been collecting their own samples. Because the spill occurred on the Southern Ute Reservation and near the Tribe's water resources, the Tribe cannot ignore it and has proactively mobilized significant resources to address it. The citizens of Southwest Colorado and the Reservation deserve the same swift government response as the rest of the State, and where the Tribe sees an inadequate response to an environmental issue on the Reservation, the Tribe will address it.

Tribal Council made clear during the meeting that, because of the potential spread of contamination, the Tribe would continue to work closely with the State as a stakeholder and would be monitoring the progress and ensuring it was adequately evaluated and addressed. Tribal Council informed both Enterprise and CDPHE that the Tribe's technical experts are ensuring that all scientific and engineering aspects of the spill will adequately address the release. It would further hold Enterprise accountable for all damage to the Tribe and Tribal members, and any impact on natural and cultural resources.

The Tribe remains committed to ensuring a thorough and accountable cleanup process and will continue to advocate for the health, safety, and rights of its community.

CALLING ALL GROWERS, PRODUCERS, AND MAKERS

Piinu Nüuchi  
FARMERS  
MARKET  
& Outdoor Biz Lab

FIRST MARKET OF THE SEASON  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 11-2pm  
KSUT - 15150 HWY 172  
For ALL questions or to SIGN UP as a vendor please contact Allison  
(awall@southernute-nsn.gov or 970.563.2281)  
SEE YOU THERE!

YOUR CO-OP  
YOUR VOTE

Don't forget to vote in the  
LPEA elections!

Online voting closes at  
Noon on May 20

Learn more:  
lpea.coop/elections

## Tribal Office Closure

In observance of Memorial Day, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025.

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

*"Home of the free, because of the brave"*





Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aspen Naranjo (24) tries passing to the outside of Bayfield's Kambrie Byrd (6) during the Lady Bobcats' 2025 season finale Thursday night, May 1, beneath the lights of BHS' Wolverine Country Stadium.

BOBCATS SOCCER

Soccer closes up shop in Bayfield

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

For perhaps the first time in the 2025 soccer season, the Lady Bobcats found themselves in a fair fight. Even if that simply meant an 11-v-11 match.

Sending out a full starting lineup Thursday night, May 1, on the road at neighboring, non-league Bayfield, Ignacio was still no match for the home side on its Senior Night and concluded the campaign falling 10-0 in an abbreviated contest called off by rule after a completed 40-minute first half.

Beginning with her fifth-minute icebreaker – which held up as the match-winner – BHS senior Sydney Rey netted three goals and classmate Briauna Lawton-Chavez matched Rey's hat trick with her own 36th-minute finish, increasing the Lady Wolverines' lead to 9-0.

Moved back in interim head coach Cody Kiss' formation later in the match to shore up the defensive midfield and also avoid injury, Rey then curved a 38th-minute pass some 30 yards through midfield to the far side and landed it perfectly in front of fast-attacking Jessie Rey. The sophomore cousin then netted, in stride, BHS' tenth goal with time still remaining before intermission and both crews apparently ready for relief from the



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Amiyah Martinez (2) goes knee-to-knee with Bayfield's Kambria Bailey (25) while battling for the ball Thursday night, May 1, beneath the lights of BHS' Wolverine Country Stadium. It was the Lady Bobcats' last match of the 2025 season.

chilling wind.

With a season finale against non-league Telluride scheduled for the next afternoon, Bayfield (0-6-0 3A Intermountain, a.k.a. Southwestern) improved at the time to 2-11-0 overall.

Ignacio, meanwhile, ended up 0-11-0 overall and finished its incomplete 2A Intermountain-South slate – recalling multiple for-

feits last year courtesy of IHS and Del Norte, THS and Crested Butte Community School chose not to face the Lady 'Cats in '25, though CBCS' junior varsity visited IHS Field back on March 28 – with 0-4-0 figures. Two losses came against DNHS, and two against seemingly willing Ridgway (which, oddly, faced Del Norte only once).

BOBCATS TRACK & FIELD

Tracksters make last bids for State berths

Burcham, Pontine win titles in Montrose

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Fast as sophomore Cayson Burcham has been, he showed in Ignacio's last regular-season track-and-field appearance that fast can get even faster when State Championships seeding is on the line.

Clocking a sizzling time of one minute, 57.52 seconds Saturday, May 10, Burcham not only placed first in the Montrose Invitational's 800-meter run but did so by nearly six seconds ahead of second-place Bryce Flanagan, a Grand Junction senior. Coming in fourth was IHS teammate Trace Crane; the junior legged out a 2:07.70 as the event ended up being the Bobcats' most fruitful – and a major source of the gents' 48.5 team points.

All told, Ignacio placed seventh in the 22-team standings behind Basalt (52.5), Bayfield (66.5), Montezuma-Cortez (72), Hotchkiss North Fork (74), the hosting Red Hawks (75) and champion Palisade (84).

Junior Zane Pontine fared well in the pole vault, winning the specialty with a best clearance of 11 feet, nine inches, and Josh Kerrigan took seventh with his 8'9" best. With a measured tailwind exceeding CHSAA's limit, excluding his effort from State seeding consideration, junior Lincoln deKay nevertheless laid down a 15.72 in the 110-meter hurdles and placed second behind only Basalt senior Jared



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Norman Hackett takes flight during the 2025 San Juan Basin League Championships' long jump competition Tuesday, April 29, at IHS. Most recently the track-and-field team traveled Saturday, May 10, to Montrose in a last-chance bid to qualify as many athletes as possible for the upcoming State Championships in Lakewood, Colo.

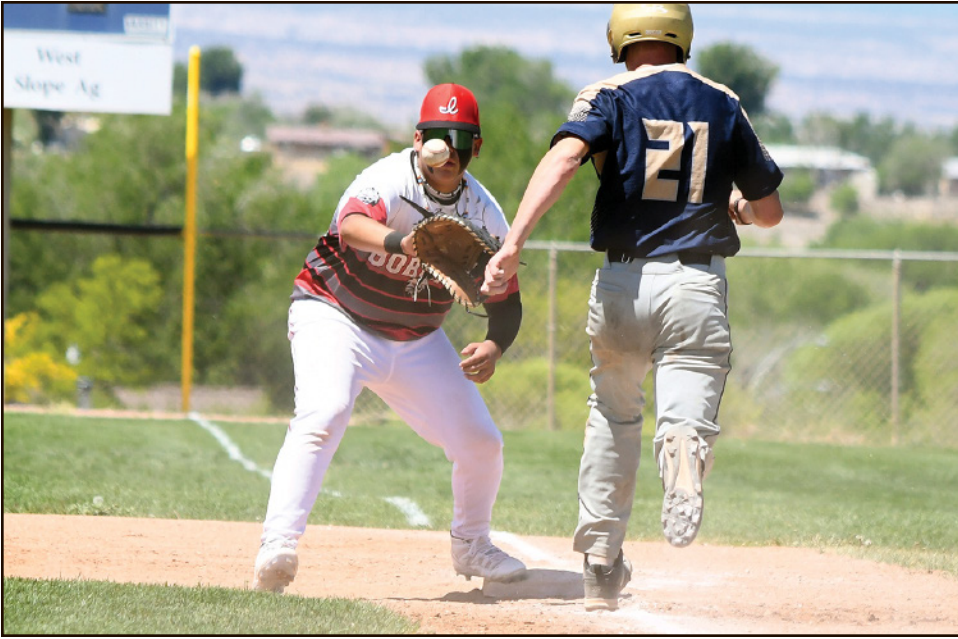
Tennenbaum's wind-boosted (the two ran in the same fourth heat) 14.93.

12th in the 800 (2:14.67), IHS junior James Martin clocked a 4:48.68 in the 1,600-meter run and placed fifth behind PHS junior Hyrum DeFord's winning 4:34.16. He also joined deKay, Crane and Pontine in comprising IHS' 4x400 relay, which took fifth in

3:40.90. Burcham, Crane, sophomore Thunder Windy Boy and junior Dillon Brann made up the Bobcats' fifth-place (8:24.99) 4x800.

Additional top-tens came from Brann in the 300m hurdles (eighth, 44.48), junior Norman Hackett in the triple jump (eighth, 35'0.5"), junior Evan Perkins in the

Tracksters page 18



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio first baseman Stoney White Thunder eyes the ball into his glove to retire Olathe's Westan England (21), who'd dropped down a sacrifice bunt. The Bobcats closed out regular season work Saturday, May 10, with an 11-1 road loss to the Pirates.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

'Cats flat in regular-season finale

Postseason placement TBD after road loss

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Tagged by a pitch while leading off the top of the second inning, Sonny Flores then stole second base with a feet-first slide, advanced to a vacated third when William Mendoza-Lechuga grounded out to Olathe third baseman Adrian Luna and then scored via a wild pitch to Easton Smith.

The junior's run Saturday morning, May 10, was about as old-school as it gets in baseball. Unfortunately, it would be Ignacio's only run.

Held to just one hit by Pirate senior right-hander Evan Eddy and forced to leave two runners on base after rally-killing catches in both the first and fourth frames by

sophomore shortstop Jack Combs, the visiting Bobcats were summarily tamed at sunny Hubbard Field and concluded regular-season play losing 11-1 in a shortened five-inning game.

"We thought it was going to be easy; everyone was talking about it, but it turns out that's now how it goes every time," admitted Flores. "Definitely a lot of jacking around last night in the hotel, not enough paying attention or locking-in to what we came here to do, and it clearly showed on the field."

And Flores was including himself in his postgame comment, knowing his muff of Eddy's bases-loaded fly in the bottom of the second allowed Olathe's Bryce Good to score – offsetting Flores'

run. OHS' Westan England then bounced a ground-er IHS third baseman Cole Wagner couldn't collect, granting Bridger Vincent safe passage to the plate and increasing the home team's lead to 6-1.

Bobcat junior righty Ambrose Valdez (L; 3 IP, 5 H, 7 R, 4 BB, 4 K) managed to leave the sacks packed by getting Braylon Lujan to pop up to first baseman Stoney White Thunder, and Combs to second baseman Joe Atencio, but the damage done became even more irreparable when Eddy (W, CG; 5 IP, H, R, BB, HB, 5 K) retired IHS' 9-1-2 batters (Tanner Smith, Gabe Archuleta, Stoney White Thunder) consecutively in

'Cats page 18

RECREATION  
EST. 2001  
SPORTS FOR LIFE

PATRICK SILVA MEMORIAL  
SOFTBALL FIELD IGNACIO, CO

RECREATION  
EST. 2001  
SPORTS FOR LIFE

55TH  
LOS PINOS  
SPRING CLASSIC  
SOFTBALL  
TOURNAMENT  
MAY 23-25, 2025  
MEN'S- WOMEN'S- CO-ED  
ENTRY FEE: \$350  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 19, 2025  
240 BATS ONLY  
CLASSIC M/PRO M  
CLASSIC W  
CONTACT RECREATION:  
KELSEY- (970) 563-2660  
ELIJAH- (970) 563-2655  
DARNELL- (970) 563-2667





'CATS FALL FLAT • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Declared safe by the home-plate umpire with dirt from the play still settling, Ignacio's Sonny Flores grins after successfully sliding underneath the tag of Olathe's Evan Eddy-- whose wild pitch to Easton Smith allowed Flores to score. It would, however, end up being IHS' only run in an 11-1 road loss Saturday, May 10.

the top of the third.

OHS' Luke Robertson then singled to start the home half, and after Luna struck out, advanced to third base via wild Valdez pitches to leadoff man Good. After Good drew a walk and promptly swiped second, Vincent popped up to White Thunder for the second out. But an errant offering to Jeyden Estrada -- who'd ripped an infield single off the mound, perhaps grazing Valdez's cleats as well, in his previous plate appearance -- then allowed Robertson to score, putting Ignacio down 7-1 before Estrada grounded out to Wagner.

Valdez would work a one-out walk off Eddy in the guests' fourth but, after receiving second base via an Eddy balk to Flores, would be stranded as Eddy froze Flores with a called third strike, then got Mendoza-Lechuga to line out to Combs.

"He's tall, so he can get to that stuff," said Good. "So, yeah, that was a great play to get us out of that inning."

"Everyone's a star in their own way but Jack really helped me quite a few times," Eddy said. "The (scorekeepers) probably would have put, like, four extra runs on the board for Ignacio if it wasn't for Jack."

Eddy then walked against reliever Archuleta to begin the bottom of the fourth,

and courtesy runner Hunter Lynch -- who, along with Lujan, had scored in OHS' four-run first via Combs' two-out double to left -- reached second via England's sacrifice bunt placed in front of home plate, leaving new catcher Mendoza-Lechuga no choice but throw to White Thunder.

Lujan then walked and Combs was plunked, and Robertson then worked an RBI-walk scoring Lynch. Luna then grounded to Wagner, but the ball managed to dart beneath the big senior's glove and into shallow left field -- allowing Lujan and Combs to score and Robertson to hustle to third base. Good then grounded out to new shortstop Valdez, but Robertson scored easily and the 'Cats were -- after Vincent flew out to centerfielder Flores -- down to their last, fruitless at-bat.

"We took our loss yesterday and used what we did wrong today," Eddy said, referencing the Pirates' 1-0 loss to Meeker the previous afternoon. "Got the pressure put on us and we kind of crumbled yesterday, so we kind of ... did the opposite and put pressure today onto the other team -- make them crumble under their own mistakes. When you make one mistake it kind of causes a ripple effect, so we just kept adding pressure."

Combs finished 1-2 with a

run and two batted in, Robertson went 1-2 with two runs and one ribbie, and Good ended up 0-1 with three walks, two runs and one RBI. Vincent was 1-4 with two runs, Estrada went 1-3 and Eddy 1-2 with one RBI.

White Thunder went 1-2 with a first-inning single down the right-field line, Flores finished 0-1 with a run and Valdez 0-1 with a walk as the San Juan Basin League champion Bobcats dipped to 15-5 overall (8-1 SJBL). Finishing 5-5 in Western Slope League play, Olathe improved to 12-11 overall.

Both, however, would next have to wait until Wednesday, May 14, for their respective seedings in the 32-team 2025 CHSAA Class 2A State Tournament, and both squads departed knowing that neither can afford any more off-days.

"We've worked hard all year, and to go up here and not do our best. We just have to wake up the sticks and our defense a hundred percent," White Thunder said. "That's about it."

"We really want to clean up our batting; we struggle a lot with strikeouts. But things like this really help us show ourselves that we can do it, you know?" Eddy said. "If we keep our confidence and we keep pressure on the other team -- if it's, like, a ten-run lead or even a one-run lead -- we can take the victory."

TRACKSTERS MAKE LAST BID • FROM PAGE 17

discus (ninth, 110'3") and the deKay-Crane-Burcham-Brann 4x200 (ninth, 1:35.83).

Ignacio's girls, meanwhile, were led by sophomore Kelly Sirios' seventh-place 1:08.08 in the 400m dash, her wind-aided ninth-place 28.94 in the 200, and an eighth-place 1:59.41 clocked by the 4x200 quartet of juniors Juliann Avila and Kristen Neil, plus Sirios and fresh-

man Alleah Neil.

Avila also managed a tenth-place 4'6" in the high jump, but the Lady 'Cats officially tallied just four points and ranked 22nd out of 24 scoring teams. Atop the stack sat Montrose (96 points), followed closest by Palsade (78), Cedaredge (64.5), Grand Junction (56) and Montezuma-Cortez (49.5).

Sirios finished 11th in the 100 meters, posting a time of 13.94 seconds, Al-

leah Neil took 14th in the 400 (1:10.11) and Avila did likewise in the 100m hurdles (18.91) for the IHS girls' last top-15 result.

The 2025 Class 2A State Championships will be hosted Thursday through Saturday, May 15-17, at Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood. Representing Ignacio will be Burcham (400, 800), deKay (110H, 300H), Pontine (pole vault) and the boys' 4x8.



ATTENTION

INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN COACHING

Come out and Coach Team Southern Ute at the 2025 Tri-Ute Games July 6-10, 2025, in Fort Duchesne, Utah. Coach Boys and Girl Athletes 9-18 years of age in Basketball, Volleyball, Golf, Archery, Bowling and Hand Games. Compete for the Inaugural Tri-Ute Games Traveling Trophy.

Application Deadline has been extended to May 23rd, 2025. Pick-Up @ the SunUte Community Center.

Background Checks are required.

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



INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

\$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS. THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government. \$38 million is available to pay heirs and awards could be significant.



- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.

A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate's Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds may be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by June 30, 2025. More details are available on the website.

Here's what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or

You must act quickly.

The deadline to file is June 30, 2025.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

LEARN MORE

CobellSettlement.com 800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement c/o Kroll Settlement Administration P.O. Box 5324 New York, NY 10150-5324

TRIBAL MEMBERS



1ST DESCENDANTS

2025 TRI-UTE GAMES

BOYS AND GIRL ATHLETES 9-18 YEARS OF AGE COME REPRESENT "TEAM SOUTHERN UTE" DURING AN ACTION-PACKED WEEK OF TEAM SPORTS & INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES. PARTICIPATE IN: BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, ARCHERY, GOLF, BOWLING, HAND GAMES AND THE UTE WARRIOR CHALLENGE.

COMPETE FOR THE INAUGURAL TRAVELING TROPHY.

JULY

6-10

2025

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 23RD, 2025; PICK-UP @ THE SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER.

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







courtesy Nathan Strong Elk

Nathan Strong Elk and Sacred First Nations delegates including, Pastor Frank Walter, and other leaders sightseeing in Seoul and Cheon, South Korea.

SOUTH KOREA

Spiritual journeys and pilgrimage

By Nathan Strong Elk,  
edited by Dr. Nishikawa

Sacred First Nations for Peace (SFNP) was founded by Rev. Dr. Linda Lucero Nishikawa under the vision of one God, (Creator, Great Spirit, Heavenly Parent), one home (Mother Earth) and one family, (all human beings) to work toward leaving our ancestors and religious ways for the next seven generations. In solidarity with those working for peace in the family, marriages, tribes, nations, and the world. You can join the monthly Zoom SFNP meeting by giving your email to [sacredfirstnationsforpeace@gmail.com](mailto:sacredfirstnationsforpeace@gmail.com).

The American Clergy Leadership conference and SFNP delegation of Native American spiritual leaders, pastors, reverends, and governmental dignitaries to bless one of the newest spiritual prayer sanctuaries in South Korea. I was invited to be a part of a spiritual delegation that traveled to Seoul, South Korea to bless the Cheon Won Gung Cheon Il Sanctum temple that is a culmination of a Mother Earth, Father Sky, and a heavenly place for inter-faith of all denominations and religions including the Native American Church and Sun Dance ways of life. The vision is to promote peace in the families, unity, and peace under our "Heavenly Parent," known to the Utes as Numaghomapughat or Tuvunipighat (Maker of all people and Mother Earth).

I traveled with Dr. Linda Nishikawa, Pastor Walter Frank, Chief Arvol Looking Horse and his wife of the Lakota Nation, and ten others to South Korea. We had various ceremonies, worship services, and Chief Looking Horse led a prayer in one of the temples, and I shared Ute culture in the World Peace Center, which holds 10,000 people. I wish I had brought my Native Ute flute to play as people from Europe asked me to play a traditional flute song. I did bring my drum and Bear Dance growler in case I was called upon, but our focus was on Korean Culture; they did acknowledge us, and we are a part of the world's global community of humankind.

Prior to traveling to Korea I was blessed by the Ute Mountain Ute Sun Dance chief for a safe journey and I got dirt or soil from the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation, the Southern Ute Reservation and Ute treaty grounds and took this as an offering to the Temple area and placed upon Mother Earth for a prayer for all Indigenous Native American Tribes for the next sev-

en generations.

The journey began on April 8, and I returned back to the states on April 15. We enjoyed lots of Korean Food, blessed the lands, and made new friends. I was invited back again to conduct a Native American Church ceremony. For many years the sacred movement led by our Trusted Parents is to unify North and South Korea as many families have been separated for years.

The principal concept of the Unification Church is that Adam and Eve were to be the first parents of humanity, but did not live up to their full vision by the Creator. The Korean War is when Sun Myung Moon, who was born in North Korea, received a vision from Jesus, was imprisoned in the 1940s and 50s for his belief, was saved by UN soldiers, then married his wife, Hak Ja Han in 1960 and began the Holy Blessing vision. A vision to bring order and peace to our world, and are transformed into True Parents, taking the place of Adam and Eve. Their vision of peace and unity has transformed many people, and at one of the ceremonies, it was announced that the Holy Mother Han is now stepping up to be my mother, a universal mother for all in this time and place, or a true parent since my mother, Selma Baker Winder, is in heaven now. All the details were explained in the Korean language, and it is a beautiful story of how Mother Han wants to bring all the spiritual leaders of Africa, North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia together so that we can have peace. The Moon's have blessed many political leaders, and now we have a new temple, Cheon Won Gung, which is located on the lower slopes of Cheonseong Mountain.

The Temple is built so that Creator, our Heavenly Father/Mother, Heavenly Parent, has a place to stay. Cheon means heaven. The union of Earth and sky. Before attending the entrance ceremony, I sang some Bear Dance songs in the early morning. It was supposed to rain all day, and the event had to be modified. Instead of raining all day, it snowed, but the snow did not stick, and the opening ceremony of the Cheon Il Sanctum temple continued; this was on April 13. I actually saw an Eagle, a young bald eagle, and other birds, including water birds, on my walk to the Temple. It was a blessing, and I wished I could have brought my entire family. The Cheon Won Gung is an architectural masterpiece. It was an honor to be at the

Cheon Won Gung Cheon Il Sanctum Entrance Ceremony and Cheonshim Peace World Center. The next step is to run a Native American Peyote Ceremony there, but I said perhaps "when I turn 90 years old." But in hindsight, I do not have to wait that long, as I have gained more friends in South Korea, and some of the women of South Korea are willing to bless the water for me in the morning.

We also went to shop in one of the marketplaces, I stayed in Dragon City, said Ute prayers early in the morning, and blew a wooden whistle as the United States Fish and Wildlife cautioned me about bringing sacred eagle parts. But now, I know that I can bring my sacred Native American Church and sacred instruments into the country as I did bring my sacred buffalo calf water bird peace pipe into and out of South Korea.

I was able to take a few photos; I was very busy. Chief Mary Murdock Meyer of the Timpanogos Nation was also a part of the Sacred Nations delegation, and as I stated, Paula and Arvol Looking Horse were there as representatives of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations.

"My lifelong goal and determination is to fulfill the dream of God. Our Heavenly Parent longs to live together with all of us, as generations of good and loving people forming the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, one family under God. I'm determined to bring that dream into reality during my remaining years." Holy Mother Han quote from: Mother of Peace, and God shall wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I pray for world peace, the unification of North and South Korea without interference of other Nations, and thankful for my Holy Mother Han until such a time that I see my real mother Selma Baker Winder Egaype and both of these sacred women will become sisters in the Happy Hunting Grounds with our Creator.

World Peace and Prayer Day is June 21, 2025. We need to pray for Mother Earth, sacred sites, all humankind, and peace in our lives. It was awesome to worship the Great Spirit with all the colors of humanity in unity, peace, and love. All my relations.

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.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

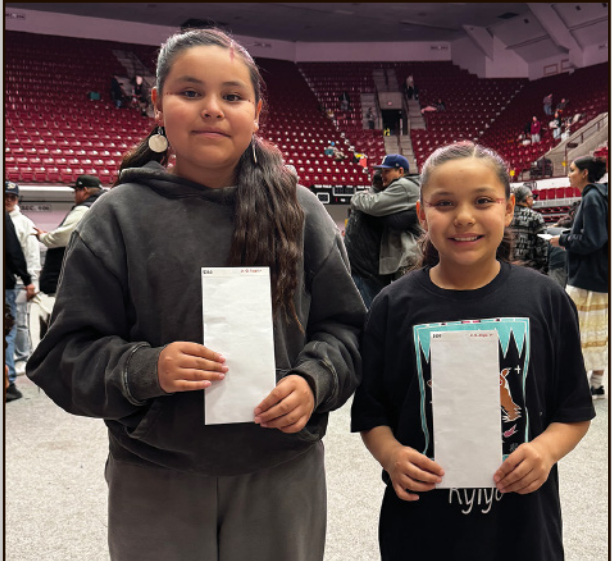


Congratulations Allisianna!

I would like to give a shout out to my daughter Allisianna for graduating May 3 from Fort Lewis College with her Bachelor's in Psychology. I'm proud of you and all your accomplishments. I can't wait to see you reach your next education goals in the medical field. Keep thriving and being you!

Love Mom

Kyiyo Powwow winners



courtesy Heather White Thunder

Shayne White Thunder placed 1st in the Junior Girls Traditional category and Malia White Thunder placed 1st in the Junior Girls Jingle category at the University of Montana Kyiyo Powwow, April 18-19.

Correction

In the May 2 edition, Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder was misidentified as Shayne (Pictured at the Kyiyo Powwow).

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 LEGAL NAME CHANGE (AMENDED)

In the Legal Name Change of  
Zahlayah Kristen Cloud, Civil Subject  
Case No.: 2025-0016-CV-NC

Notice is hereby given that Angelica Prairiechief on behalf of Zahlayah Kristen Cloud filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Zahlayah Kristen Prairiechief-Cloud. As of April 7, 2025 one person filed an objection to the request. Notice is hereby given that Zahlayah Kristen Cloud name shall be and is hereby legally changed to Zahlayah Kristen Prairiechief-Cloud.  
Dated this 7th day of April, 2025.  
Paul Whistler, Southern Ute Tribal Judge

NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

In the Legal Name Change of,  
Cyana Elkriver Whiteskunk, Civil Subject  
Case No.:2025-0039-CV-NC

Notice is hereby given that Daisy House Eagle on behalf of Cyana Elkriver Whiteskunk has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Cyana House Whiteskunk. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than 06/08/2025. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.  
Dated this 15th day of April, 2025.  
BY THE COURT, Elizabeth Benally, Court Clerk

NOTICE OF LEGAL NAME CHANGE

In the Legal Name Change of,  
Case No.: 2025-0041-CV-NC  
Marquise Cibrian, Civil Subject

Notice is hereby given that Marquise Cibrian has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known

hereafter as Marquise Aaron Watts. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than May 23, 2025. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.  
Dated this 17th day of April, 2025.  
BY THE COURT, Paula Trujillo, Court Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE.

TO: NOREEN ROCK. In the Case of SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY, Plaintiff v. NOREEN ROCK, Defendant, Case No. 2025-0020 CV, NOTICE OF TRIAL. Take notice that Plaintiff has filed in this Court a complaint seeking damages against you. You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of Plaintiff by filing with the Court Clerk an answer or other response to the complaint within twenty-one (21) days after service of this summons upon you, or before your hearing date of Monday, June 16, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. Service will be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint and all filings in the case may be obtained from the Court Clerk. Trial in this matter is set for June 16, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. at Southern Ute Tribal Court, 149 CR 517, Ignacio, CO 81137, 970-563-0240. If you fail to answer, or appear for said trial, the Court may grant the relief sought by Plaintiff. On the trial date, you should bring with you all books, papers, witnesses needed by you to establish any defenses you might have to Plaintiffs claims. If you wish to present a counterclaim, you must pay a fee of \$50.00. Signed David Liberman, CO Atty. Reg. No. 23284, Attorney for Plaintiff, Address and Telephone: 1099 Main Avenue, Suite 312, Durango, CO 81301, (970) 375-6265.

Drum  
Deadline

Next issue:  
May 30

EARLY  
Deadline:  
May 23

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

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years  
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](mailto:sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov))  
Jeremy Wade Shockley • Editor, ext. 2255  
([jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov))  
Krista Richards • Administrative Assistant, 2251  
([krichards@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:krichards@southernute-nsn.gov))  
Divine Windy Boy • Reporter/Photographer, 2252  
([dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov))  
Robert Ortiz • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253  
([rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov))  
Rosaleigh Cloud • Media Archivist, ext. 2274  
([rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov))  
Conrad Thompson • Reporter/Videographer, ext. 2241  
([cothompson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto: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.





Notice of Revised Title 12 - Range Code  
Effective April 22, 2025

By Resolution No. 2025-075, the Tribal Council adopted revisions to Title 12 – Range Code. Title 12 is an existing code where the revised version will replace the prior version in the SUIT Law and Order Code. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approved the code on March 12, 2025. The Range Code is effective as of April 22, 2025. The Range Code can be found online at: [www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/). Printed hard copies of the codes may be obtained from the Tribal Information Services Department at: Email: [TIS@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:TIS@southernute-nsn.gov). Mail: Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, Colo., 81137. Phone: 970-563-2208. Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/>. For further information please contact: Amy Barry, Tribal Information Services Department, [abarry@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:abarry@southernute-nsn.gov), 970-563-2250.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS  
Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is seeking Community Members who would like to be a Volunteer or needing Community Service hours or Graduating credits can get those by helping out during the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow at the Sky Ute Casino Resort – Event Center, May 23 and 24, 2025. Various hours.If you are interested, please contact Rochelle Aguilar at 970-563-2990. Or email: [raguilar@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:raguilar@southernute-nsn.gov)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing,  
Construction & Project Management

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management Team is requesting a written response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) to perform General Contracting Services for improvements to the Ouray Cemetery, End of Trail Road, Ignacio, Colorado 81137. Scopes of work will include:

1. Excavation and concrete foundation work
2. Erection of a 46' x 26' metal building (provided by the Tribe)
3. Electrical work – lighting installation for metal building and underground service in conjunction with LPEA
4. Structural fill import, grading and asphalt work
5. Parking striping and signage
6. Ditch clean-out & repair work
7. Jet-rod cleaning of buried drainage line

The project must be complete by September 30, 205. Proposals must include all scopes of work. Partial bids will not be accepted. For the full RFP, Project Plans and Information contact [dlindey@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dlindey@southernute-nsn.gov) A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held May 20th, 2025, at 10:00AM at the Ouray Cemetery. Invitations will be sent to all respondents. Proposals will be due no later than 3:00 P.M., Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

For Sale

Quonset Hut: New on crate 30"x60' open front. \$24,000 new, \$11,500 OBO takes. Call 970-749-3075.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Forestry Fuels Wood Yard Services

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) requests a written response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for surface improvements and installation of stormwater institutional controls at the Forestry Fuels Wood Yard for the Environmental Programs Department. All work requested by the Tribe under this RFP will occur on the Reservation. The Tribe will engage the Contractor, as needed, to perform services, including: site engineering improvements (stormwater controls, grading, installation of road base), waste management infrastructure, and herbicide treatment for noxious weeds. Email proposal submittals and questions to the SUIT Environmental Programs Department: Attn: Mitchell Dorsk, EPD Remediation Program Manager [mdorsk@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:mdorsk@southernute-nsn.gov) or call 970-563-2272. Full RFP details are found online at [www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/public-comments/](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/public-comments/). Proposals will be received through June 6, 2025. 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 SUIT. Published Online: May 2, 2025

Notice Of Draft Title V Operating Permits  
And Request For Comments

Notice is hereby given that one (1) renewal application and two (2) initial applications have been submitted to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Environmental Programs Department's Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137, for the following sources of air pollution:

**Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC**  
Facility: Florida River Central Delivery Point; Section 25, T34N, R9W, 8.50 miles northwest of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a natural gas central delivery point.

**Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC**  
Facility: Tiffany 2 Pad; Section 17, T33N, R6W, 6.00 miles east of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a natural gas well pad.

**Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC**  
Facility: Tiffany 5 Pad; Section 20, T33N, R6W, 6.75 miles east of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a natural gas well pad.

The Air Quality Division (AQD) has prepared the draft Title V operating permits based on the information submitted by the applicant. The draft permits and accompanying statement of basis are available on the AQD's website at [www.southernute-nsn.gov/environmental-programs/air-quality/air-permitting/](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/environmental-programs/air-quality/air-permitting/), and at the Environmental Programs Department office at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio CO, 81137 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and request a hearing. Written comments and requests for hearings may be sent to the AQD in care of Daniel Powers, Air Quality Division Head, at P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137; or emailed to [dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov). Any hearing request should: 1) identify the individual or group requesting the hearing, 2) state his or her address and phone number, and 3) state the reason(s) for the request. Notice of any public hearing will be provided at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. The AQD will consider the written public comments and requests for a hearing that are received within 30 days of this notice (April 18, 2025).

Mamakwanhkapu  
Bear Dance



- Whiterocks Old Style Ute Beard Dance, May 15-18, Whiterocks, UT
- Southern Ute Bear Dance • May 23-26 • Ignacio, CO
- Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance • June 6-9 • Towaoc, CO
- White Mesa Bear Dance • Aug. 29-Sept.1 • White Mesa, UT

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

 **Meet & Greet Social**  
BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURS



**Come meet Allison Wall**

Allison administers a program to provide support for Tribal Member entrepreneurs

Are you an entrepreneur looking to start or grow your small business? Join us at the Sky Ute Casino Resort for an exclusive meet and greet where you can meet and connect with small business resources to learn how they can help.

Appetizers and refreshments will be served!

**May 29**

5:30 pm-7:00 pm

**RESOURCE GUESTS:**

Allison Wall  
Southern Ute Economic Project Coordinator

Mary Shepherd  
Colorado SBDC

Stan Sams  
The National APEX Accelerator

Wendy Stewart Martinez  
Office of Economic Development & International Trade

Sara Tober  
Economic Development Alliance

Brian Rose  
Region 9

**RSVP's are appreciated but not required to attend. For more information email Allison at [awall@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awall@southernute-nsn.gov)**

 **Southern Ute Utilities Division**  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 05/01/25 

**MAY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

 **TRANSFER STATION  
2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

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

MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED

JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>/20<sup>TH</sup> JUNETEENTH — CLOSED

JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> LABOR DAY — CLOSED

OCT 13<sup>TH</sup> INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED

NOV 10<sup>TH</sup>/11<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED

NOV 27<sup>TH</sup> THANKSGIVING DAY — CLOSED

DEC 10<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED

DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> 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

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

**PAYMENT OPTIONS** 

- Online at: [www.suitutil.com](http://www.suitutil.com)
- Choose "Pay My Bill" tab
- Utilities Drive-Up Window
- Utilities Drop Box at Office
- Wells Fargo—Ignacio Branch
- Automatic deductions at Tribal Distribution
- Mail payment made payable to "Southern Ute Utilities Division"
- Phone **(970) 563-5500**

**Water Haul Delivery Program Facts**

- Only Tribal Member residents are serviced with water haul deliveries
- Water is treated and tested before delivery to ensure quality standards
- Residents are encouraged to routinely clean and disinfect their cisterns

**Questions? Call Utilities Office**

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





Committee of Elders Announcements

The Committee of Elders (COE) would like to announce our meeting dates and a Logo Contest we will be having.

**Meeting Dates:** Our meeting dates are first Monday of each month, held at the Museum library at 9 AM. We invite all elders to attend.

**Logo Contest:** We are sponsoring a Logo contest for the COE. The submissions will be accepted from Southern Ute enrolled tribal elders; the contest will run for 3 months. The winner will receive a monetary amount yet to be determined.

If you have any questions, please call 970-946-4061, Byron Frost, Chairman of the Committee of Elders.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State Of Colorado Environmental Commission

Closing 5/21/25 by 5 p.m. – 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; 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 to: by email to: [airquality@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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/>

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice services or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits (up to an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and a credit of up to \$100 on their initial installation charges) if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs.

The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



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](http://www.bgcsu.org) website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or [bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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) 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](mailto: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](http://www.ksut.org/ksut-board-of-director)

POWWOW COMMITTEE

Open Until Filled – Two vacant positions. 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](mailto:soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov)

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

Closes 5/19/25 – The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (SUIHA) is currently seeking an individual to serve on the SUIHA Board of Directors. The Board adopts policies and enacts resolutions of the SUIHA. Individuals interested in serving as a Board Member should submit a letter of intent to SUIHA stating their qualifications and why they would like to serve on the Board. All letters of intent need to be submitted to SUIHA, P.O. Box 447, Ignacio, CO 81137, emailed to [rtorres@suiha.org](mailto:rtorres@suiha.org), or hand deliver to the SUIHA office located at 760 Shoshone Avenue, Ignacio, CO. Proof of Southern Ute Tribal Member required. Letter of intent will be accepted until 2 p.m., May 19, 2025.

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.

Attention PRIIP Water Users

- PRIIP water bills for Assignments will be sent by the Tribe to Assignment Holders in the mail in July.
- BIA has new phone numbers: Main Office (970-200-8613) and Branch of Irrigation (970-236-4161)

Questions, contact the Southern Ute Water Resources Division at 970-563-9482.





## Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the the tribe's website at [www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs) for complete job descriptions.  
**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

### Air Quality Scientist II – Enforcement

Closes 5/16/25 – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Division Head, the Air Quality Scientist II – Enforcement prepares, coordinates and tracks air quality enforcement order packages and provides subject matter expertise on technical and regulatory tasks within the Enforcement Section of the Tribal Title V Operating Permit program and Tribal Minor New Source Review program. Pay grade E16; Salary is \$77,627/annually.

### Behavioral Health Therapist

Closes 5/14/2025 – Under general supervision of the Behavioral Health Manager, provides behavioral health treatment, including mental health, substance abuse, and dual diagnosis in accordance with all applicable code, laws, policies, guidelines, and any grant requirements. Pay grade E15; Salary starts at \$70,570/annually.

### Director of Justice & Regulatory

Closes 5/16/25 – Under direction of the Executive Officer, this position is responsible for overall supervision of the Department of Justice and Regulatory, to include the Division of Gaming, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Detention Division, Tribal Rangers, Tribal Public Defender, Ethics, Tax & Liquor, the Southern Ute Police Department, and Tribal Coroner. Pay grade E22; Salary is \$189,817/annually.

### Environmental Programs Summer Intern

Closes 5/19/25 – This program involves working within the Air and Water disciplines within the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Department. Technical aspects include working with and performing various tasks within ambient air monitoring, air permitting and compliance, stream monitoring and riparian restoration resulting is a well-rounded, technical understanding of a tribal environmental program. The length of the internship is 8 weeks. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.

### Health Center Clerk

Closes 5/19/25 – First line of communication for the Southern Ute Health Center. Interfaces with patients, other service centers, departments, outside agencies, hospitals, clinics, etc. Provides clerical/administrative support. Greets patients, answers telephones, data entry, and performs a variety of complex scheduling activities. Pay grade N9; pay rate is \$20.26/hour.

### Land Surveyor

Closes 5/19/2025 – Conducts all administrative surveys and surveys as a licensed Professional Land Surveyor, needed to meet the needs of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade E15; salary is \$70,570/annually.

### Remediation Program Manager

Closes 5/19/25 – Under the supervision of the Water Quality & Remediation Division Head, plans, develops, and administers the General Assistance Program and environmental Tribal Response/Brownfields Program for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade E17; salary is \$86,943/annually.

### THPO – Preservation Officer (So. Ute tribal members only)

Closes 5/19/25 – The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer is responsible for ensuring the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) operates in accordance with the Southern Ute Tribal Historic Preservation Plan and all associated processes, procedures, and relevant codes and law. Performs a wide variety of high-level specialized duties to preserve and protect Southern Ute Tribal resources and materials to include, but not limited to, cultural sites/lands, artifacts, funerary and sacred objects, and human remains within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation and throughout the Tribe's ancestral territory. This job is a grade E15; salary is \$70,570/annually.

### Air Quality Scientist III – Planner

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Program Manager – Monitoring and Planning, responsible for 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 starts at \$14.90/hour.

### Chief Judge Apprentice (So. Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – An apprentice position for a Southern Ute Tribal member to learn all the requirements and duties of the Chief Judge position in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Mentoring, training, and all aspects of employee supervision will be performed by the current Chief Judge or delegate in accordance with SUIT Personnel Policies and Procedures. For purposes of employment, the successful candidate shall be classified as an apprentice. The Judicial Review Committee shall also provide insight, guidance, and recommendations when needed. The length of the trainee program is two years to five years depending upon experience and individual progress. Performance will be evaluated pursuant to the requirements of the Tribal Apprenticeship

Program and annually with the Tribal Judicial Committee. The trainee 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. This position is non-exempt and will start at 20% below grade E22.

### Controller

Open Until Filled – Responsible for the 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 Cook

Open Until Filled – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

### Detention Division Head

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

### Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Responsible for transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N13; pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 5k DOE sign-on bonus.

### Dispatcher

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; 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). 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. Communicating effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

### Education Department Assistant

Open Until Filled – Under the direction of the Executive Assistant, the Education Program Assistant will assist the Education Staff in the teaching and tutoring responsibilities for K-12 Tribal students. Will provide the employee with direct teaching experience through student contact in the public schools and in after school tutoring programs, opportunities to participate with professional teaching staff in the public schools and within the SUIT Education Department and other experiences relative to a career in the teaching field. This position will also assist the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council "Youth Council" Coordinator, summer enrichment programs, and the Distance Learning Program. Pay grade N9; pay is \$20.26/hour.

### Elementary Teacher

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

### Grants Financial Analyst

Open Until Filled – Working closely with Tribal staff members on all financial grant and related Tribal budget and spending matters. Assisting in monitoring programs to ensure compliance with grant or contract regulations. Pay grade E13; 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.

### Housing Project Administrator

Open Until Filled – Works under the supervision of the Director of Housing to coordinate all functions and activities related to construction projects, providing oversight to projects through completion. Pay grade E16; Pay starts at \$77,627/annually.

### 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 sys-



## FREE LAPTOP BAG

*SUDEP is providing a laptop bag to Southern Ute Tribal Members who have received a laptop through the program. You can choose from five different styles. Supplies are limited. Only one per Tribal Member.*

## NEW LAPTOPS HAVE ARRIVED

*If you have not received your free Dell laptop from SUDEP there are more available to Southern Ute Tribal Members.*

**If you have questions or would like a laptop bag, Dell laptop or need technical assistance, please contact SUDEP at 970-563-5555 or fill out the forms online at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP>**



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

tems, 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 (So. Ute tribal members only)

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

### Lifeguard (Part-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 Center Director. Pay grade N5; Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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. This position is seasonal/full time, 8-month schedule. Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

### Registered Nurse – Detention

Open Until Filled – A Registered Nurse position responsible for providing professional and clinical services at the Southern Ute Detention Center. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

### Scorekeeper (Part-time)

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

### Social Worker

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.

### Summer Youth Employment (So. Ute tribal members & First descendants only)

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Youth Employment Program Coordina-

tor, 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.

### Swimming Instructor (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the SunUte aquatics facility. Responsible for preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.

### TEAM Worker (So. Ute tribal members only)

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

### TERO Worker

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

### Transportation Division Head

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

### Tribal Administrative and Operations Director

Open Until Filled – Supports the fiscal and operational management of the Permanent Fund, aligning its functions with the Tribe's long-term strategic goals and vision. Key responsibilities include assisting the Executive Officer and tribal leadership in shaping policies, procedures, and strategic initiatives that foster sustainable growth, operational efficiency, and enhanced outcomes for tribal members. Assists the Executive Officer and serves as a liaison between Department Directors, tribal membership, tribal entities, and tribal leadership. Assists with identifying and creating innovative, efficient, and effective programs and services within established program policies, procedures, and approved budgetary limitations. Pay grade E23/\$235,373/annually.

### Tribal Apprenticeship Program (So. Ute tribal members only)

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

### Umpire/Referee

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





Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

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

**Accounting Specialist – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closing 5/23/25 – Review and recording of transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow’s oil and gas exploration operations. Also provide support for monthly general ledger adjustments, account reconciliation of selected accounts, annual audit support, and other duties, as needed.

**Assistant Controller – Growth Fund Accounting/Finance (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closing 6/8/25 – Management of accounting functions, to include general ledger and all related subledgers, as well as supervision of assigned accounting staff. Growth Fund accounting principles, practices, and procedures, and assisting in the annual audit and budget process.

**Compression Operations Technician I, Compression Operations Technician II, and Senior Compression Operations Technician – Red Cedar Gathering (Durango, CO)**  
Closing 5/30/25 – Operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

**Division Order Analyst II – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closing 5/23/25 – Obtaining and maintaining orderly and accurate land and division order records, including all related documents and contracts, for Red Willow interest properties, both operated and non-operated. Advises other departments of changes related to Red Willow holdings. Works with Red Willow landmen and partners to obtain and maintain accurate records. Provides a wider scope of support to more senior level Division Order Analysts.

**Joint Interest Billing (JIB) Supervisor – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closing 5/23/25 – Supervising the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow’s oil and gas exploration operations as well as the recording of transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties.

**Reclamation Technician Trainee – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closing 5/23/25 – Trainee program designed to provide training, mentoring and on the job experience for up to two years in order to learn and support reclamation design and permitting for the plug and abandonment program; required reclamation plan development, soil sampling and analysis, recontouring, reclamation design and implementation. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

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

**Support Analyst I – Help Desk – Southern Ute Shared Services (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closes 6/6/25 – Providing technical assistance and support related to computer systems, hardware, or software. Responds to queries, runs diagnostic programs, isolates/troubleshoots problems, and determines and implements solutions.

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

Visit our website to apply at [www.sococaa.org](http://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:**  
• Inter-city Bus Driver (Full Time) \$22.76/hr.  
• Transit Driver, (Full-time) \$18.94/hr., DOE

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- 6th Grade Teacher
  - Middle School Assistant Volleyball Coach
  - Secondary Music Teacher
- Secondary Paraprofessional
  - Secondary Spanish Teacher

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>

**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>

Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://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.*

**Bingo Staff (Part-time)**  
Servicing guests during Bingo games, including selling additional special games and pull tabs, instructing customers in Bingo play, calling Bingo games, beverage service and other duties promoting guest satisfaction and play. Verifying winning Bingo cards and makes payouts accordingly.

**\*Beverage & Cocktail Server (Full-time)**  
Must maintain the highest level of guest service while providing cocktail and beverage service to Casino guests. Will prepare beverages prior to serving and will be required to lift and move up to 60 pounds regularly and will be responsible for monetary transactions. Monitoring guest consumption of alcohol and intervenes as needed according to guidelines, following guidelines of the liquor laws as defined by the Southern Ute Tribal Council, and reporting all inventory shortages to the Beverage Manager.

**\*Café Cashier (Full-time)**  
Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Responsibilities include taking guests food orders, accurately totaling food and beverage purchases and collecting payments. Assists in preparing and serving all foods necessary for the Cafe kitchen. Prepares coffee and pizza from the hot food line in the front area of the Café. Will balance the register at end of the shift, with proper report of discrepancies and complete paperwork.

**\*Compliance/Safety Officer (Full-time)**  
Under the direction of the General Manager, assists in monitoring that the Casino departments conduct their operations in compliance with the Internal Control Minimum Procedures (ICMP) as prescribed by the Southern Ute Division of Gaming (SUDOG) and the Casino Policies and Procedures. Assists with ensuring that the Casino is in compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act, and any applicable health and safety standards and assists with monitoring gaming and non-gaming operations to ensure compliance with existing internal control regulations associate with the ICMP or any other Internal Violations.

**\*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.

**\*Director of Human Resources (Full-time)**  
Ensuring that all Human Resources functions for the Sky Ute Casino Resort are accomplished in a legal and professional manner. Functions include but may not be limited to the following: Compensation and Benefits, Employee Relations, Unemployment Insurance, Internal Investigations, Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Compliance, Performance Evaluations, Training and Development, Policies and Procedures and Employee Handbook Management, and Human Resource Strategy. Will ensure compliance with the Casino’s policies and procedures and applicable Gaming regulations. Will maintain a high standard of guest service (both internal and external customers) within the HR department and actively promotes positive guest and employee relations by ensuring that excellent guest service is continually provided.

**\*Event Staff (Full-time)**  
The Banquet Event Staff’s primary responsibilities include assisting in set-up, serving, tear down, clean-up, and re-set of events in all Banquet areas. In this position you will act as a guest service representative at Banquets and related events. Requires that you achieve and maintain the highest level of guest service as well as maintaining professional interactions, safe working conditions, and teamwork.

**\*Front Desk Staff (Full Time TEMP)**  
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.

**\*Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)**  
Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, and employee break rooms. All areas must be disinfected, swept, mopped, vacuumed, and dusted.

**\*Level II Facilities Staff (Full-time)**  
Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

**\*Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)**  
Electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works 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.

**\*Rolling Thunder Grill Supervisor (Full-time)**  
Monitor and supervise the day-to-day operations of the Rolling Thunder Grill and Lounge area, ensuring guests are provided with an exceptional guest service experience. Supervise all floor staff including host/hostess, servers and bussers. Ensure staff is working together as a team to provide optimum service for guest needs. Complete opening and closing duties. Monitor dining room for seating availability, service, safety and well-being of guests. Assist management in training, scheduling, evaluating and/or disciplining, motivating and coaching employees and serve as a role model.

**\*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. This position requires the ability to bend, lift, stand and walk throughout the shift. The 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.

**\*Shining Mountain Line Cook (Full-time)**  
Work under direct supervision and support of the Sous Chef or Lead Cook. Preparation of the Al La Carte menu in the Shining Mountain Café and accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness. Ensure all guidelines are followed according to the established specifications and standards in food safety and sanitation. Requires one to be an excellent team player and trustworthy.

**\*Slot Operations Floor Person (Full-time)**  
Providing excellent guest service to all slot guests and ensures that all gaming devices are monitored on a continual basis for full capacity operation. Will at times require the employee to work without direct supervision. Job knowledge and the ability to “self-start” are essential. Reports to the Slot Floor Manager or designee, ensures guest relations through prompt, and assists guests with slot machine usage, educating them regarding play, wagers, and pay tables.

**\*Surveillance Agent I (Full-time)**  
Ensuring a safe and secure environment for Casino customers and employees by observing, reporting, and recording gaming and non-gaming activity using surveillance equipment to abide by all procedures, gaming regulations, and policies and protect the Southern Ute tribal assets from illegal and questionable activities.



**NOW ★ HIRING**

**START YOUR FEDERAL CAREER WITH USPS TODAY!!**

**HIRING EVENT AT**  
**DURANGO POST OFFICE**

222 W. 8th ST.  
DURANGO, CO  
81301

**STARTING WAGE**  
**RURAL CARRIER**  
**ASSOCIATES \$20.38**

**APPLY ON SITE**  
**RCA POSITIONS**

**SATURDAY, May 17th, 2025**  
**8:30am - 11:30pm**  
**NO NEED TO PRE-REGISTER**

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
**COMPUTERS AND TECHNICAL**  
**SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE!**

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](mailto:aflanigan@southernute-nsn.gov) if you have questions or want to make a withdrawal

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

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





KSUT PUBLIC RADIO

FEMA lifts hold on funds for Next Generation Warning System grants

Including \$537,288 KSUT grant

Staff report  
KSUT

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) recently announced that it has awarded five grants totaling \$9.6 million to statewide public broadcasting networks in Louisiana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, as well as KSUT Public Radio in Ignacio, Colo.

The announcement comes after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), working with CPB, lifted a 65-day hold on \$38 million in contract reimbursements to CPB for public media stations seeking to update their equipment to create a more resilient and secure public alerting system.

“In times of disaster, the American people need to know they can depend on public media to be there in their communities, providing emergency alerts and essential information,” said Patricia Harrison, President and CEO of CPB. “These grants fund critical infrastructure that ensures our stations can warn people to take cover, seek higher ground, and head for safety. Families can feel safer knowing that public media has their safety as a top priority.”

The latest stations recently receiving NGWS funding:

- South Dakota Public Broadcasting, Vermillion,

S.D., pending final contract negotiation, up to \$3,369,443 to buy and install 12 digital alert encoders/decoders, upgrade 10 FM stations so the entire statewide radio network can transmit in HD radio, and install equipment providing backup redundancy for the radio network in case of an emergency.

- Wyoming PBS, Riverton, Wyo., pending final contract negotiation, up to \$2,263,457 to replace outdated and unreliable equipment at 39 of their 53 locations to ensure timely and accurate emergency alerting across the state.
- Louisiana Public Broadcasting Network, Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Baton Rouge, La. up to \$1,985,213 to buy and install transmitters and antennas for KLTL-TV in Lake Charles and KLTM-TV in Monroe and update alerting equipment to enable statewide delivery of alerts and warning messages.
- Wisconsin Network (PBS Wisconsin/Wisconsin Public Radio), Wisconsin Educational Communications Board, Madison, Wis. up to \$1,445,686 to buy and install decoders and other equipment that will make the Wisconsin Network more resilient, expand coverage in ru-

ral areas, and upgrade the emergency alerting.

- KSUT Public Radio (KSUT Tribal Radio and KSUT Four Corners Public Radio), Ignacio, Colo., \$537,288 to replace equipment at nine locations to create backup systems to broadcast emergency information during extended power outages.

“We are thrilled to be able to move forward again with this project,” said Tami Graham, Executive Director of KSUT Public Radio. “We thank CPB for the continued investment being made in the critical infrastructure we need to deliver vital alerting information to help keep our communities safe during emergencies.”

In 2022, Congress directed FEMA to award CPB funding to establish and implement the competitive grant program. CPB has been awarded \$136 million over three years to administer the program on FEMA’s behalf according to federal requirements. With the five new grants, approximately \$24.9 million has been awarded to 45 organizations in 24 states in this initial round of funding, which drew from the \$40 million allocated by Congress for Fiscal Year 2022. Congress subsequently appropriated \$56 million in funding in FY 2023 and \$40 million in FY 2024.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Los Pinos Fire Protection District strengthens regional emergency coordination

Staff report  
LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

In an effort to further streamline emergency response communications and enhance service delivery, Los Pinos Fire Protection District will begin utilizing dispatch services provided by the Durango Emergency Communications Center starting Wednesday, May 28. This transition represents the Los Pinos Fire Protection District’s continued commitment to improved coordination, efficiency, and service provision tailored to the specific needs of their jurisdiction.

This move aims to align with response protocols for the National Fire Pro-

tection Association (NFPA) standards and Insurance Services Office (ISO) requirements for emergency service communications while creating a more robust framework for public safety. By consolidating dispatch services, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District will benefit from increased coordination and communications with mutual aid partners in the region, fostering better teamwork, effectiveness, and response times during emergency incidents.

While this change introduces new procedures and practices, it also ensures the Los Pinos Fire Protection District’s continued provision of excellent service to all members of the community. This partnership

with the Durango Emergency Communications Center serves as a strategic step in reinforcing emergency preparedness across all populations and fosters meaningful collaboration between local and Tribal communities as a key component of regional safety efforts.

Los Pinos Fire Protection District acknowledges and respects the importance of community relationships during this transition and is committed to maintaining trust and transparency throughout the process.

For further information, please contact: Chief Lorenzen, Los Pinos Fire Protection District – 970-563-9501 or Katherine Fox, Durango Emergency Communications Center – 970-375-4629.



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

NATIVE STUDENTS, ‘CLOSE UP’ • FROM PAGE 4



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Samantha Elk and Leandra Litz sit before the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, kicking off their tour of the National Mall viewing lightened memorials during the Close-Up Native Youth Summit on Monday, April 28.

she’s like another mom to me, ShaRay cares about all of us so much.”

Local Native students and other students throughout Indian Country came together to make long lasting connections with the people and places that represent our democracy, Close-Up’s

once in a lifetime program opportunities are designed to inspire and empower students to become active participants and voices in the democratic process. With the help of program instructors and the Southern Ute Education Department, these students had opportu-

nity to gain a hands-on experience with history and government, consider a variety of viewpoints on current Native issues, and build the skills of an engaged citizen who wants to make a change, advocating for people throughout Indian Country.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, May 16



Sunny 70°F  
Breezy morning winds

Saturday, May 17



Sunny 74°F  
Light to variable, gusts in afternoon

Sunday, May 18



Partly sunny 67°F  
Afternoon showers, 30% chance

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



Memorial Day 2025  
Day of Remembrance  
Honoring All Who Served



Presented by  
The Southern Ute Veterans Association  
in cooperation with  
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe



May 26, 2025



Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park  
10am