



Clean Team
Service
recognition
PAGE 10



Ute 63
Fire 95%
contained
PAGE 12

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ignacio, CO 81137 Permit No. 1	Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118 \$29 one year subscription \$49 two year subscription
July 25, 2025	Vol. LVIII, No. 15

Southern Ute Drum wins six media awards from Indigenous Journalists Association

Tri-Ute Games 2025



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Charles Alston plays defense during his game against team Ute Indian Tribe on Monday, July 7.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Team Southern Ute athlete Dominic Good Tracks takes a turn in the open handgames session on Tuesday evening, hiding bones for Team Ute Indian Tribe.

Youth athletes representing Team Southern Ute traveled to the Ute Indian Tribe in Fort Duchesne, Utah to compete in the annual Tri-Ute Games. Kicking off Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 10 athletes went head-to-head in basketball, volleyball, golf, archery, and handgames. Athletes then wrapped up the event with the Ute Warrior Challenge, the ultimate test of athleticism and sportsmanship.

See more photos, pages 16-17.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham emphasizes the multitude of benefits that each aspect of KSUT's new facility will provide, from updated broadcasting and recording equipment to climate-controlled workspaces. Southern Ute Tribal Council toured the new facility Tuesday, March 10 to see the Media Center first hand.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING
Cuts to public broadcasting leave 52 Colorado stations staring at massive budget holes

By Parker Yamasaki and
Kevin Simpson
THE COLORADO SUN

"They get it. I mean, they got it. They got it until now."

President Donald Trump is not the first Republican in office to go after the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Kennedy-era nonprofit that manages federal funding to thousands of local TV and radio stations. But he is the first one to succeed.

On July 18, Congress approved a \$9 billion rescissions request that will claw back \$1.1 billion in CPB funding, eliminating all federal support from NPR and PBS – which Trump has repeatedly called politically biased – and inflicting collateral damage on hundreds of local member stations.

"Federal funding has had bipartisan support for almost 50 years because of senators understanding the importance of public TV and radio to their very rural communities," said Tami Graham, executive director of KSUT in southwestern Colorado.

KSUT was one of the first radio stations in the nation to be founded by a tribe, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and has continually focused its coverage on Indigenous affairs for the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Jicarilla Apache in northern New Mexico and a large portion of the Navajo Nation. The radio is an important resource for connecting tribal nations in the region, Graham said, while also providing hyperlocal news and emergency alerts.

Graham runs one of 52 stations in Colorado that had its federal funding revoked in the bill, with many anticipating their next fiscal year on Oct. 1 with a sudden shortfall.

KSUT will be down \$330,000, about 20% of its overall budget.

Nearby station KDUR, located on Fort Lewis College

Budget page 14

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Spotlight on Tribal Health: Julie Olexa

Staff Report
SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Hello, my name is Julie Olexa. I have been working for the Southern Ute Tribe as a Registered Nurse since 2016, both as a Public Health and Clinic Nurse. I previously worked as the Health Educator in the Shining Mountain Health & Wellness Program for five years, all together I have been working within the community since 2009.

My career has always focused on assisting others. Prior to nursing, I worked as a Special Education Teacher in Oregon, Wyoming, and West Virginia. In working with students with disabilities, my interest focused on the medical aspects of their care and coordination of the related health and wellness needs, services, and therapies. I decided to ex-



Julie Olexa
Registered Nurse
Southern Ute Health Center

pand my education into the health field, graduating with a Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

My work in Public Health Programming focused on health promotion and disease prevention, mainly in rural areas and communities where people have difficulty with access to health-

care and preventive services. I also worked as a Medical/Surgical RN at Southwest Memorial Hospital and Mercy Medical Center before returning to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Additional training and education I have received includes Wound Care Certification, Health Care Case Management Certification, Chemotherapy administration, Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, and X-Ray Technician. Currently I am working on certification in Infection Prevention and Control.

Most days you can find me in the clinic working directly with patients in any of these aspects, and I am happy to help you with your health-related needs the best I am able. It has been a wonderful experience working in this community and getting to know so many people here!

Native graduates honored



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Education Department hosted its annual Graduation Banquet on Friday, July 18 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Durango. During the presentation of graduates, Stoney White Thunder-Lucero sings an honor song for all the graduates during the event.

See additional Graduation Banquet photos on page 8.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe 2025 General Election

Friday, Nov. 7, 2025 • 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Contact S.U. Election Board at 970-563-0100 ext. 2302/2305/2729/2730



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Concerns surrounding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity

Dear Southern Ute Tribal Members,

In light of continuing concerns surrounding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity across the country, the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is providing this update to reassure our tribal membership of our active engagement with federal and local authorities. We understand the anxiety and unease national events have caused – especially among our youth, elders, and families – and want to assure you that we are actively monitoring the situation and engaging our staff to respond appropriately.

Our Justice & Regulatory Department is in regular communication with ICE officials to monitor and respond to any potential activity by ICE on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. ICE has confirmed that its current efforts are focused solely on undocumented individuals who have committed serious crimes, have existing deportation orders, and pose a threat to public safety. Should ICE operate within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation, it will be done in adherence with the required prior notification and coordination with tribal authorities, in deference to our treaty rights, and with full respect for our sovereignty.

We strongly encourage all tribal members—whether living on or off the Reservation—to carry their Tribal ID and at least one additional form of identification that follows Real ID requirements. Tribal Information Services (TIS) remains available to

assist tribal members with obtaining and/or updating their Tribal ID information. For assistance, please contact TIS at 970-563-2250/2248.

The Southern Ute Tribal Council remains steadfast in our commitment to protect the rights of our members and uphold our sovereignty. The Tribal Council continues to honor the dignity and strength of our people by carefully monitoring the situation and providing updates. The Tribe must carefully evaluate all actions through the lens of our sovereignty, legal jurisdiction, intergovernmental relationships, and long-term responsibilities to our people. While we acknowledge the resources shared by other tribal nations, our guidance is tailored to the unique circumstances of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe – including our land status, location, and our complex jurisdictional issues.

Tribal Council stands with you and remains committed to your safety and well-being. Should you have any concerns regarding ICE activities on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, please contact Justice & Regulatory Director, Leonard Redhorse III, at 970-553-0995 or Chief Michael Barrow, Southern Ute Police Department, at 970-563-2811.

Best,
Melvin J. Baker
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council



Anthony Suina YEP/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Kim Hardesty congratulates Trajan Garcia after successfully mounting his horse, Harley.

This photo was first published in the July 24, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

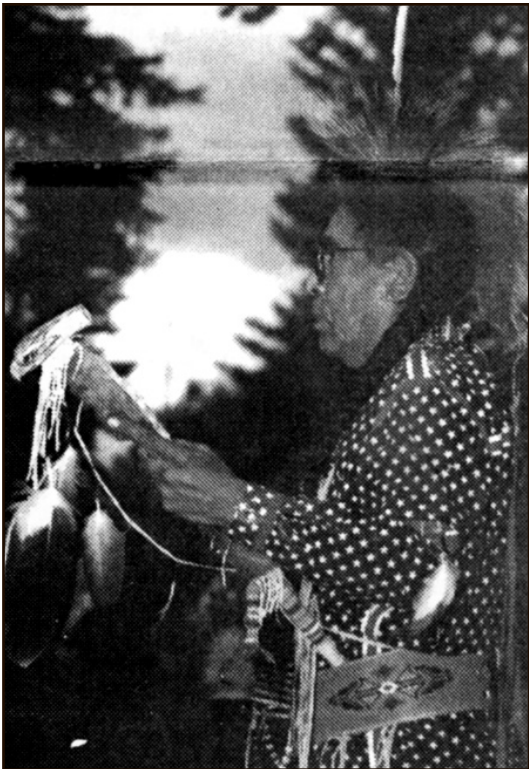


Blenda Ortiz/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Southern Ute Tribal Councilman Matthew Box speaks to the students from the Albuquerque Indian Public School on July 15. The group of approximately 60 students was visiting Ignacio and took a tour of the Tribal Campus.

This photo was first published in the July 22, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Robert Baker/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Heritage Dancer Russell Box performs for an EAP participant during the last day of a three-day seminar. The afternoon rain cleared out in time for the evening dinner and some traditional dancing.

This photo was published in the July 21, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Representing the Southern Ute Tribe at the Little Beaver Powwow – were our royalties, Little Miss Southern Ute, Francis Bison, second from left, and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leigh Sage, No. 51.

This photo was published in the July 26, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Southern Ute Indian Tribe

2025 General Election

Two (2) COUNCIL MEMBER SEATS

Out Going Council Members: Marjorie Barry & Marvin Pinnecoose

General Election-	Friday, November 07, 2025, 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
General Election Residency Deadline-	Saturday, August 09, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
Statement of Intention Deadline-	Monday, September 08, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
Determined Eligibility Deadline-	Tuesday, September 23, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
Notice of Election Deadline-	Wednesday, October 08, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
(New) Voter Registration Deadline-	Wednesday, October 29, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline-	Wednesday, October 29, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
Emergency Absentee Ballot Request Deadline-	Thursday, November 06, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.

The 2025 General Election will be held at 285 Lakin St. Ignacio, CO
Contact Election Board (970)-563-0100 ext. 2303/2305/2729/2730
Off-Reservation Tribal members phone 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303
Email: election@southernute-nsn.gov



2025 Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund General Meeting

Save the Date

Thursday, September 18, 2025

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

Details on attendance options and the agenda are forthcoming.

This is a closed meeting for the Southern Ute Tribal Membership only
sugf.com * 14929 Highway 172, P.O. Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137. * Ph: (970) 563.5000



Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Effective: July 1, 2025 at 6:00 AM, and will remain until conditions improve

Due to high fire danger resulting from prolonged hot and dry conditions. Stage 1 Fire Restrictions have been implemented and the following acts are prohibited:
Open Burning, Agricultural Burning, Campfires, and Fireworks



To report fires or violations of restrictions, please contact:
Durango Zone Dispatch at (970) 385-1324 or Southern Ute Police Department Dispatch at (970) 563-4401

2025

Southern Ute Royalty Pageant



August 21, 2025
5:30pm
Dinner & Pageant to Follow
Sky Ute Casino Event Center

Royalty Categories:

Miss Southern Ute
Ages: 16-25
Jr. Miss Southern Ute
Ages: 10-15
Little Miss Southern Ute
Ages: 5-9
Southern Ute Brave
Ages: 5-15


Applications Due:
August 8, 2025
Applications are available at the Cultural Preservation Department
For more information, contact: 970-563-2983

Photo Credit: Divine Windy Boy | The Southern Ute Drum

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Statement regarding public use of sacred ceremonies

By Summer Begay
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) is aware of a video and social media posts recently circulated by Congressional District Three Candidate Hope Schepelman, following a sweat ceremony held on the Southern Ute Reservation. The video and accompanying post inaccurately suggested that the Tribe had issued an invitation to the ceremony and have since been used as campaign material, further misrepresenting the nature of the event and the Tribe's involvement.

Sweat ceremonies hold deep spiritual and cultural significance for our people. They are sacred spaces of healing, reflection, and renewal. While certain ceremonies may be open to the broader community, we ask that all visitors approach them with reverence, honoring the traditions and protocols that guide these sacred practices.

The Tribe reaffirms its unwavering commitment to authentic, respectful, and government-to-government consultation – a process rooted in our sovereignty, cultural integrity, and the protocols of our duly authorized leadership. Any engagement that does not follow these formal channels is not recognized as legitimate or representative of the Tribe.

We respectfully clarify that the perspectives or invitations extended by individual tribal members do not represent the official views or position of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The Tribe strongly condemns the exploitation and tokenization of our people, culture, language, and sacred ceremonies for personal or political purposes. These actions are not only misleading, but they are also deeply disrespectful and will not be tolerated.

We call on all individuals and organizations seeking to engage with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to do so in good faith, through appropriate and respectful channels, and with a full understanding of and respect for our sovereign status and the dignity of our people. Candidates who are running for office and wish to seek support or meet with Tribal Council should directly contact the Office of the Chairman at 970-563-2319.

Let's Learn Ute

'am̥ysaa?
And you?



'aghaarayna?
How are you?

'ap̥'a 'inikh?
What are you doing?

'upa'ara 'icha?
What is this?

'am̥ 'ara 'ini niaghat̥?
What is your name?

'am̥ 'ara 'ini Núuchi?
What is your tribe?



Multi-Purpose Facility

Beading & Traditional Sewing Class

Tuesday & Wednesday, July 29 - 30, 2025



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

Two Evening Sessions:
Tuesday & Wednesday
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

The class will focus on making cabochons, bring a good quality photo or copy of your image on quality paper. Glossy photos work well.

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



Ute Language News

NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP



'ip̥
Núuruachi
'asti'ir̥?
What does baby like?



m̥asaana
apple

Ute baby book
*audio is available

Ute household labels
(kitchen edition)



SCAN TO ACCESS UTE LANGUAGE AUDIO & VISUALS

Ute language materials are available for pick up at the Cultural Preservation Department Office
Questions, contact: 970-563-2985



UTE MOUNTAIN CASINO

POW-WOW

and HANDGAME TOURNAMENT



Attention New Date:
AUGUST 1ST - 3RD

DANCE \$28,000 - DRUM \$12,000

Master of Ceremonies: Dustina Abrahamsom - (Lemhi Shoshone) Fort Hall, Idaho
Drum Judge: Mike Wagner - (Blackfeet) Browning, Montana
Arena Director: Henry Howell - (Northern Ute) Fort Duchesne, Utah

GOURD DANCE Master of Ceremonies: Mike Salabiye - (Dine') Window Rock, Arizona
Gourd Arena Director: Reginal Akeen - (Kiowa, Cheyenne) Anadarko, Oklahoma
Gourd Head Dancer: Andrew Frost (Southern Cheyenne, Southern Ute) Montezuma Creek, Utah
Gourd Drum: Southern Style - Red Mesa, Utah

Golden Age 60+, Men's 40-59, Women's 40-59, Men's 18-39, Women's 18-39
Teen Boys 12-17, Teen Girls 12-17, JR Boys 7-11, JR Girls 7-11, SPECIALS

HAND GAME - AUGUST 2nd - REGISTRATION 11:30am - 1:30pm
TOURNAMENT STARTS AT 2pm / TRUE DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

\$10,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
POW-WOW - Everisto Lehi - 970-564-6141
UTEMOUNTAINCASINO.COM
VENDING INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: KATIE BEGAY 970-564-6128
HAND GAME: Dennis Whiteman Jr 970-560-4494
UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBE AND CASINO IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS, ACCIDENTS OR LOSS



TRIBAL WATER

Senators introduce bill to expand and improve access to clean water in tribal communities

Staff report
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR
MICHAEL BENNET

U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), alongside U.S. Representatives Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) and Gwen Moore (D-Wis.), introduced the Tribal Access to Clean Water Act to dramatically expand access to clean water in tribal communities by investing in water infrastructure. This bill would increase funding through the Indian Health Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Reclamation to support water infrastructure projects in tribal communities and help provide clean water to Native American households that currently lack access.

“Too many tribal communities in Colorado and across the country cannot access clean, safe water,” Bennet said. “This legislation builds on our efforts to improve access for tribes in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It fulfills the federal government’s promise to provide these communities with the clean water they deserve.”

“Nearly half of Native American households lack access to clean and reliable water supplies. That is completely unacceptable,” Heinrich said. “By addressing

a significant backlog of infrastructure projects and removing barriers to federal programs that provide technical and financial assistance to tribes, this legislation is an important step toward delivering clean drinking water to all families in Indian Country.”

“Clean drinking water is a basic necessity. Yet, so many of our tribal communities have been left without the infrastructure. It’s unacceptable,” Hickenlooper said. “Let’s cut red tape and invest in modern resources to finally deliver safe, accessible water to every tribe.”

“Access to clean water is a basic human right—and yet for far too long, Native American tribes have lacked access to safe and affordable water and reliable wastewater infrastructure. Our tribal communities deserve better,” Neguse said. “That’s why I’m honored to join Senator Bennet in introducing the Tribal Access to Clean Water Act, a bill that takes meaningful steps to close the gap between Native American households and access to clean and reliable water supplies.”

“An estimated 48 percent of homes on tribal lands lack access to clean drinking water or sanitation services. This is a serious public health issue that demands a federal response. I join my colleagues in support-

ing this important legislation, which will help tribes improve longstanding water infrastructure challenges and uphold trust and treaty obligations under the Constitution,” Moore said.

Lack of access to clean drinking water is a significant barrier for many Native American communities. According to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Native American households are 19 times more likely than white households to lack indoor plumbing. A 2021 report commissioned by the Colorado River Water and Tribes Initiative documents the different barriers to accessing safe and reliable drinking water among tribes in the Colorado River Basin, along with some of the deficiencies in the federal programs designed to address this problem and offers recommendations for improvement. Lack of access to drinking water negatively impacts health, education, economic development, and other aspects of daily life.

The bill will:

Authorize the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development, to make grants and loans for technical and financial assistance, as well as for construction.

Senators page 10

‘Healing Ways’ dedication



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

Indigenous artist, Oreland Joe Sr. speaks with Lindsay Box about the story of the ‘Healing Ways’ mural on Tuesday, July 15 in the new Durango Surgery Center building in Three Springs during the dedication ceremony.

CommonSpirit Mercy Hospital invited Oreland Joe Sr., a Southern Ute tribal artist, to paint a mural he calls, ‘Healing Ways’ in the new Durango Surgery Center building at Three Springs. In 2006, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe donated land that would become the Mercy Hospital, Joe commemorated that gift into his mural. “The bear is the foundation of the whole mural. Because of my tribe, the Southern Utes; the bear is included into our ceremonies with the songs, the dances and prayers. I hope that there are other young artists that follow and create murals, ceremonial murals,” he said.





2nd ANNUAL UNCOMPAHGRE

POW WOW


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER

1036 N 7TH ST, MONTROSE, CO 81401



Hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center and the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, Colorado.



DANCE CONTEST

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

POW-WOW: 11 A.M. TO DUSK

Dance Registration 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gourd Dancing until 1 p.m. Grand Entry 1 p.m.
Winners will be announced after the last dance.

VENDORS: 10x10 vendor spaces are available for \$200 each. Food vendor spaces are \$300 each.
There will be limited space for food vendors, so please sign up early!

DANCE CATEGORIES / PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

- TINY-TOTS: 0-6 yrs
- JR. GIRLS: 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- JR. BOYS: 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional
- TEEN GIRLS: 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- TEEN BOYS: 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional
- ADULT WOMEN'S: 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- ADULT MEN'S: 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional
- GOLDEN AGE WOMEN'S: 50+ / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- GOLDEN AGE MEN'S: 50+ / Fancy, Grass, Traditional

TITLE SPONSOR \$25,000 | GOLD SPONSOR \$15,000 | SILVER SPONSOR \$5,000
You may also sponsor any of the individual dance categories.

Please visit wsnarc.org/pow-wow-sponsorships or call 970-773-4765 or 970-249-3098
for sponsorship information and to donate items for the Silent Auction.



HEALTHY NEWS
You Can Use!

Deanna Frost Memorial Spiral Garden

Have you seen the Deanna Frost Memorial Spiral Garden in front of the Southern Ute Health Center? Originally created by Shining Mountain Health & Wellness program manager, Deanna Frost, our current spiral garden is a sweet little gem outside the clinic. Please enjoy a snip of our herbs which include basil, dill, cilantro, mint, and chives. They can really add fresh flavor to your homemade dishes. We also have some pretty flowers and a few tomatoes, and (hopefully) peppers. Deanna loved fresh and healthy foods, and we do too! We'd also like to thank Jake Fixico, one of our Community Health Representatives, for helping us tend the garden as well as those at the health center!



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Tomorrow is National Aunt and Uncle Day

By Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Do you have an auntie or uncle who has been a big part of your growth and support over all your years? Well tomorrow, July 26, honors all those aunties and uncles out there. That's right: just like Mother's Day and Father's Day, let's also recognize the critical role of those supportive, unconditionally loving aunties and uncles. Take a little extra time to show them appreciation, remembering that raising healthy, happy children is a collective effort of families and our kids need those additional role models and supports.

Maybe you're one of those people who had a closer relationship with an auntie or uncle than your mom or dad. Or maybe you had a certain affinity or admiration for that relative who inspired you and reminded you to be yourself. When I think of legendary aunts or uncles, I think of the storyteller and folklorist, Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes, who writes and speaks about her

beloved Aunt Edna. This auntie taught her how to be alive, question her perceptions, and dare to be boldly herself. Estes describes Aunt Edna as dressing like a pirate and wearing big red shoes. While the other adults sometimes recoiled at Edna, she represented something else for the kids: confidence in being different, in being grateful to stand out and be an individual.

Do you have an auntie or uncle who has played a significant role in your sense of self-worth, too?

If you are blessed to have these special relatives in your life, make a little extra time to reach out to them and thank them. Showing gratitude is not only good for them but it is good for us: it's one of the single best things you can do for your own mental health and trust in life.

And if you happen to be that very special auntie or uncle, give some love and gratitude to yourself, knowing that you make a difference in your niece(s) and nephew(s) lives. Thank you to all the special relatives out there who give so much

to the youth and kids.

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.



COOKING MATTERS AT THE STORE
GROCERY STORE EVENT

A guided store tour to help families buy healthy, affordable foods!

Do you want to get more food for your money?
Want to purchase healthier options for your loved ones?
Want to learn to read nutrition facts labels, use unit pricing, understand the difference between fresh, frozen and canned, and identify whole grains?

If you said **YES**, join us for a free *Cooking Matters at the Store* grocery store event!

After the in-store event you will receive a:

- **FREE** reusable Cooking Matters grocery bag
- **FREE** Cooking Matters cutting board
- **FREE** Shining Mountain Health & Wellness measuring spoons

FARMERS FRESH GROCERY STORE TOUR

Who: Anyone interested in learning to shop healthy
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2025
Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Location:
Farmer's Fresh Market
535 Goddard Ave
Ignacio, CO 81137

Questions?
Contact:
Lisa B. Smith, RDN, CLC
970-563-2344
lsmith@southernute-nsn.gov

SIGN UP:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMATSJuly2025>



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



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/SMFJuly2025>
Sign-up Deadline: Monday July 28, 2025
Pickup Date: Wednesday, July 30, 2025



Meal Kit Includes:
• Primary ingredients
• Recipe / Prep Tips
• Kitchen Hacks

Contact:
Lisa Smith 970-563-2344

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

Breastfeeding Awareness
Walk & Community
Baby Shower

WHERE: MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

256 UTE ROAD, IGNACIO

WHEN: AUGUST 14TH

WALK TIME: 12PM - 1PM

Join us after the 1-mile walk for light
Refreshments and goodies at MPF!

The community baby shower is
Open to all who want to attend

BF/childhood organizations
From the 4-Corners area
will be in attendance

Contact: Shawmarie (970)-563-2163
or Lisa (970)-563-2344

**sign up starts at 11:45 AM



2025 ANNUAL
HEALTH FAIR

Join us for a day of healthier living with interactive workshops, expert discussions, and free health screenings!

Thursday
November 13th

Time
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sky Ute Casino Resort
14324 CO-172
Ignacio, CO 81137

REGISTER
HERE!



970-563-0154

Check out our website!





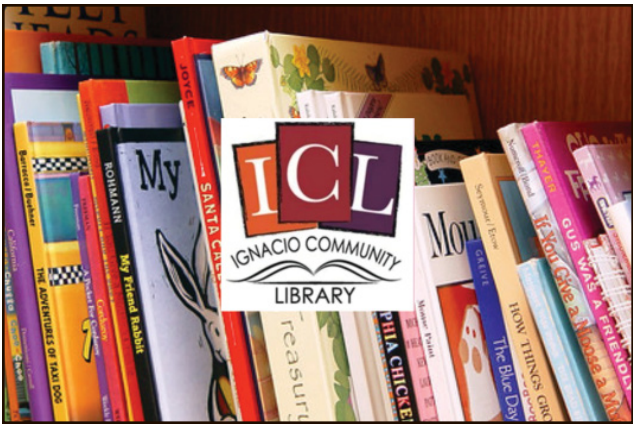
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Welcome to August at your library!

By Cheyenne Munns
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We're so excited to kick off another month filled with engaging programs for our community! Check out what we have planned.

- Build Your Own Miniature Gnome Garden: Thursday, Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. We'll provide the supplies, and you're welcome to bring any special items to add your personal touch. Each participant will get a mini animal, a mushroom, and a mini gnome. This event is perfect for all ages.
- Crafternoon: Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 3:30 p.m. Spend a delightful afternoon with us and our craft supplies stash!
- Glowforge Class: Wednesday, Aug. 13. Curious about glass engraving? Join us for a fun introduction to the Glowforge! Class Times: 2 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
- Make Your Own Tortillas on Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 4:30 p.m. We'll provide everything you need; this event is open to all ages, so bring the family along!
- Extending the Gardening Season: Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. Join us to learn tips for "Growing Under



der Cover" to keep your plants cozy in changing weather and more.

- Estate Planning 101: Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. We'll cover the basics – like the difference between a will and a trust, how to pass assets to loved ones without tax hassles, and ways to create a meaningful legacy for your family. Hosted by the knowledgeable Karina Guerrero of Foundational Wealth Partners.

Then round out the month with our new VR Adventure program, to enjoy the sights of multiple locations in a VR-only setting on Thursday, Aug. 28 at 10 a.m.

We also offer a wonderful lineup of monthly and weekly programs just for you! Be sure to check out our website at ignaciolibrary.org to see all the exciting things we have in store.

With local schools starting back this month, we would love to be a part of your family's resources! Whether you're looking for technology, classes, or even internships, we have plenty to offer. Come by and say hi – we can't wait to help you explore everything we have!

Save the date for An Evening with Harriet Tubman on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. Prepare to be inspired! Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring Chautauqua Speaker Becky Stone, who will bring the legendary abolitionist and Underground Railroad operator, Harriet Tubman, to life. Experience a powerful presentation and engage in a thought-provoking Q&A session. This is a unique opportunity to connect with history – don't miss out!

We can't wait to see you at the library for these exciting events!

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

Open Enrollment for the 2025-2026 School Year!!!

SUIMA is now accepting registration applications for the upcoming school year for new and returning students. You can apply online at suima.org under the For Parents tab or pick up an application at SUIMA. (Call the office before stopping by to ensure someone is on campus (970) 563-0253.)

- Must be an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member or First Descendant.
- All returning students need a new application completed.
- All levels have space: Infants, Toddler, Primary and Elementary.
- Open Enrollment will close on August 11, 2025.



Participate in our scavenger hunt

Door Prizes!!

SOUTHERN UTE
EDUCATION
CENTER

OPEN
HOUSE


WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 27, 2025
5 PM - 8 PM

SOUTHERN UTE, FIRST DESCENDANTS & JOM
PRE K-COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WELCOME

MEAL WILL BE SERVED

330 BURNS AVENUE, IGNACIO CO 81137
FOR INQUIRIES CALL (970)563-0237






BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

END OF SUMMER BBQ

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

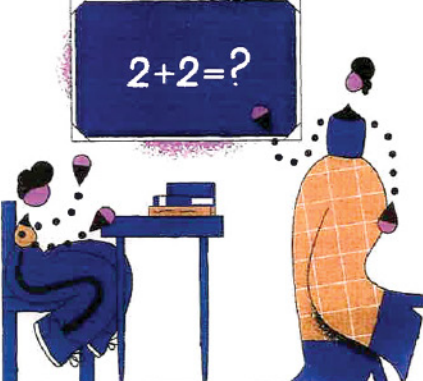


Tasks

- Event Set-Up
- Meal Prep
- Servers
- Grillers
- Event Clean-Up

August 1, 2025
Sun Ute Field
10:30am - 1:30pm

Click [HERE](#) to sign up!



NEED A MATH TUTOR FOR YOUR Middle School KIDS ?

Get ready for the new school year! Let's practice together!

6th-8th grade Tribal, JOM or 1st Descendant students welcome to contact Mrs. Stone at the SUED Center. A variety of session hours are available (1.5 hr time blocks) throughout June and July!

Contact Julie Stone at the SUED Center for more info
970-563-0237 Ext 2778 or email:
jstone@southernute-nsn.gov

FILM WORKSHOP

For Southern Ute High School Students

Looking for 10 Southern Ute High School students grades 9- 12
Two Week Camp! July 30-August 8, 2025

Don't miss the opportunity to earn a stipend, learn real-world film making skills, get hands-on work experience, earn a credit on a short film, get inspired and have fun!

Please Contact:
ShaRay Rock
srock@southernute-nsn.gov
970.563.2794
Dustin Weaver
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov
970.563.2786





STATE OF COLORADO

Statement in Support of Danielson for Secretary of State

Staff Report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Last week, State Senator Jessie Danielson announced her candidacy for Colorado Secretary of State. Based on Sen. Danielson’s experience, proven record on issues important to the Tribe, and commitment to defending the Tribe’s sovereignty, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe supports her candidacy. In her decade in the State legislature, Sen. Danielson has been the prime sponsor of major legislation protecting voter access and strengthening Colorado’s election laws. These efforts reflect a long-standing dedication to this work. Prior to joining the legislature, Senator Danielson helped develop the Voter Access and Modernized Election Act of 2013 and ultimately served on the Commission overseeing its implementation after being appointed by then Governor Hickenlooper.



The Tribe also deeply appreciates Sen. Danielson’s legislative focus on families, workers, and the environment. She has also been a major proponent of critical legislation protecting workers and families in Colorado and has supported key efforts to protect our environment. She has been a leader in the Colorado legislature in recognizing and protecting the sovereign rights of both the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Colorado and

has also worked to support all Indigenous communities in this State. Her voting record demonstrates a commitment to protecting the Tribes’ land and water, ensuring crimes committed against our Native population are addressed, and preserving Native culture and families. “Senator Danielson has been a powerful voice for our Tribe – defending our lands, honoring our heritage, and standing with us in action, not just words,” Chairman Melvin J. Baker said. “She is a powerful voice for justice and equity.” It is rare for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to officially endorse a candidate for office. But Jessie Danielson has demonstrated her integrity and earned our respect. She is a true leader who will work collaboratively with the two sovereign tribes within the exterior boundaries of the State of Colorado and who will be a strong advocate for all citizens in this state.

Jimmy Newton Jr. Conference



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council and the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council introduce themselves during the opening welcome at the Jimmy Newton Jr. Youth Leadership Conference held on Thursday, July 17.



Keynote Speaker, Christian Wassana kicks off the Jimmy Newton Jr. Youth Leadership Conference on Thursday, July 17. Wassana is a motivational speaker, actor, director, writer, and Native activist. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.



Auq-uwey O’John gives his welcome to attendees of the Jimmy Newton Jr. Youth Leadership Conference, Maleina Carel and Shayne White Thunder stand alongside O’John while he gives a welcome. All three serve on the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council.

ISD recognizes local media



courtesy Ignacio School District

In its third consecutive year, the Ignacio School District administrative staff hosted their Media Appreciation BBQ, Monday, July 7, recognizing local media outlets in Ignacio. Ignacio School District Superintendent Chris deKay presented Certificates of Appreciation to The Southern Ute Drum, Tribal Council Affairs, KSUT Tribal Radio and regional sports correspondent, Joel Priest (not pictured), for their support of the Ignacio School District’s athletic and academic programming throughout the school year.

SoCoCAA Ignacio Youth Services

Helping youth reach their full potential with free, high quality learning experiences for grades 6-12. Programs are 100% free. Fall schedule to be announced soon!
Contact: 970-759-2011, Caitlyn at SoCoCAA Ignacio Youth Services

JOHNSON-O’MALLEY
2025 MEETING DATES:

August 4th
September 1st
October 6th
November 3rd
December 1st

First Monday of the Month

Time
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Public Education Office
330 Burns Avenue



JOIN US

(970)563-0235
Kaylyn LeClaire
kleclaire@southern
nsn.gov

Camp Creative is BACK!

10am-3pm • August 11th-15th

Cost for each week is \$175 and limited scholarships are available through Team UP La Plata.



465 Goddard Ave, Ignacio CO. 81137
970-563-4600 | www.dscac.org
www.facebook.com/dscac
dancingspiritgallery@gmail.com



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

FALL
2025
REGISTRATION

FALL CLUB HOURS
M-TH: Afterschool-6:30pm
Fridays: 7:30am-5:30pm

We will provide transportation from Ignacio Schools and run club afterschool until 6:30pm on the Fridays Ignacio schools are in.



- SU Tribal Members/First Descendants- \$5
- Community Members- \$10

Registration begins August 4th at 8:30AM and will close when capacity is reached. We will NOT accept ANY registrations before this time. Club will begin August 11th.

Registration will take place at the BGC office inside of SunUte. All members will need to fill out a registration card. New 2025 members will need to fill out a full membership packet.

Registration cards and member applications will be available online at bgcsu.org or in the BGC office.
For more info, contact us at 563-4753 or visit bgcsu.org.





Celebrating Native graduates



JOM student, Marissa Olguin is wrapped in a celebratory Pendleton blanket by her mother Lisa Olguin, who serves on the JOM Committee. Marissa is a graduate of Ignacio High School.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Lindsay Box stands with members of Tribal Council and Assistant Director of Education Michael Kirsch following her recognition for academic achievements. Box has received her certificate of Tribal Courts and Justice Administration from the University of Arizona, and she also received two master's degrees – Master of Communication Management from the University of Southern California and Master of Business Administration from the Boise State University.

The Southern Ute Education Department hosted its annual Graduation Banquet on Friday, July 18 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Durango. Southern Ute and Johnson-O'Malley students were recognized for their graduation at all levels, from high school diplomas to master's degrees each student received custom Pendleton blankets, celebratory cards, and some received plaques. Emceed by Sheila Nanaeto, students and their families enjoyed a meal while hearing from guest speaker and recent college graduate Edward Box III, remarks from Southern Ute Tribal Council, Education Director Dr. Joseph Claunch, Southern Ute Royalty and the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute tribal students and Johnson-O'Malley students who have recently graduated, receive embroidered Pendleton blankets, celebratory cards, and some students receive plaques in recognition of their academic achievements.



TyLee Pinnecoose is presented with a Pendleton blanket in celebration of graduation from Wolverine Academy; Executive Officer Lindsay Box wraps Pinnecoose in the blanket.



Lisa Weaver received a plaque and blanket for earning her certificate of Medical Billing and Coding from Gateway Community College in the summer of 2024.



Edward Box III is recognized for his Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Box also served as guest speaker for the banquet.

UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE
END THE CYCLE
STOP
GUN
VIOLENCE!

YOUTH: AUGUST 5TH 3:00 - 9:00
ADULTS & ELDERS: AUGUST 6TH 3:00 - 9:00
UTE MOUNTAIN CASINO HOTEL BINGO ROOM

HEALING, EQUITY, ACCOUNTABILITY.
FREE DINNER, GUN LOCKS, SWAG, HEALING
CIRCLES, CHANGE MAKING CONVERSATIONS

REGISTER

Southern Ute Elder Services
August Activities

August 4, 2025
Mesa Verde
Van will depart Elder Services @ 9:00 a.m.
Lunch will be provided

August 12, 2025
Fishing at Capote Lake
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.
BBQ lunch will be provided

August 19, 2025
Northern Edge Casino
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

August 26, 2025
Movies (Durango)
Van will depart @ 11:00 a.m.

August 29, 2025
Totah Festival (Farmington)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

Call Elder Services @ 970-563-2309
to have your name added to the activities list or
if you have any questions.



BGC Summer JAM



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Each year, Boys & Girls Clubs around the country participate in the annual Summer JAM challenge period and use the critical summer months to elevate for their elected officials, and their communities, the amazing and impactful work their Club is doing throughout the year. Ignacio Mayor, Clark Craig and Colorado State Representative, Katie Stewart tour the SunUte Community Center, Wednesday, July 16.



Ignacio School District Superintendent, Chris deKay was one of three invited dignitaries who attended the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe as part of their summer outreach to local elected officials.



Colorado State Representative, Katie Stewart and her daughter (who also happens to be a BGC Club member in Durango, Colo.) attended the Boys & Girls Club for a presentation and tour on Wednesday, July 16 at SunUte Community Center.

Community Resources at ELHI

Sexual Assault Services Organization (SASO)

Offering free, 24 hour, confidential support, advocacy, support groups and cultural outreach. 970-259-3074, raven@durangosasos.org

- Online Women's Support Group, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- Deadly Aunties Tea - (every other Wednesday), Room #22

Native Love

Empowering Native youth by providing culturally responsive programming and services to indigenous peoples and supporting culturally sustaining practices. Contact: 970-533-0662; 970-247-3720.

IGNACIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

9th annual Ignacio Green Chile Fest slated for June 27

Staff report
IGNACIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We are excited and diligently working to make our 9th Annual Green Chile Fest an awesome celebration for Ignacio.

Green Chile Fest is an event organized by the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Farmers Fresh grocery store in Ignacio. Started in 2017, Green Chile Fest has grown every year, and this event serves as the major fundraiser for Ignacio Chamber of Com-

merce. The event is geared to be affordable for the entire family, which includes amazing local Green Chile from Kerrigan Farms, Farmers Fresh hosts a BBQ Cook-off, Beer and Wine Tent (with local beer and wine offerings included), local entertainment, free children's activities, Annual Corn Hole Tournament, as well as numerous vendors. Your company will have the opportunity for great exposure during this event. Our goal is to be an event that you should not miss in the area.

The Ignacio Green Chile Fest is not only an event that brings our community together but reaches out to our neighboring communities to work together. Proceeds from the Green Chile Fest are used for scholarships for local kids. Thank you for your help and consideration. We also always welcome volunteers to help with this yearly celebration.

Respectfully,
Ignacio Green Chile Fest
Committee

REGISTRATION OPEN

PINO NUCHE

INDIGENOUS ARTIST MARKET & JURIED SHOW

SEPTEMBER 5TH • 6TH • 7TH

at the

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT

PRESENTED BY THE

SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

WWW.SOUTHERNUTEMUSEUM.ORG

APPLY ONLINE

FUN IN THE SUN

July 26, 2025

10am-3pm

VENDORS MARKET | FOOD TRUCKS
GAMES | BOUNCE HOUSE | ACTIVITIES
AND MORE!

115 Ute Street, Ignacio CO
www.theelhiignacio.org
970-563-4100

NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

SAVE THE DATE

Hosted by the Southern Ute Tribe

37TH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

AUGUST 11-14, 2025

"SELF-SUFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE TEACHINGS OF OUR ELDERS AND THE CREATOR"

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT
IGNACIO, COLORADO

More Information Contact SW Regional Directors:
Darren Talayumptewa talayumptewadarren@gmail.com 928-380-5372
Kal-t Blue-Sky klv.bluesky@gmail.com 505-463-4933

SAN IGNACIO Fiesta

July 26 & 27, 2025
Ignacio, CO

PARADE - 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, July 26, 2025

Parade Theme - "Growing Friendships, Families & Faith"

PARADE GRAND PRIZE - \$150.00

• LINE UP AND REGISTRATION begins at 9:00 a.m. at IGNACIO HIGH SCHOOL

• REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.stignatiuschurchignacio.com

• Or REGISTER THE DAY OF THE PARADE

• No registration fee Cash Prizes - Several Categories.

IMPORTANT NOTICE : No candy can be thrown from your parade entry, you must hand it out.

For Dance Info
Contact Tom Atencio
(970)-442-1553

FOR INFO OR
RAFFLE TICKETS
PLEASE CALL (970)563-4241
OR (970)749-6830

Sunday, July 27, 2025

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA PARISH FESTIVITIES

15449 HWY 172, Ignacio, CO

FIESTA MASS - 10:00 A.M.

LUNCH - Approximately at 11:30 a.m.

MUSIC BY "RED SHADOW"

SILENT AUCTION ACTIVITIES ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAWING AT 1:00 P.M. AT ST. IGNATIUS

San Ignacio Fiesta Raffle Prizes

GRAND PRIZE: \$500 CASH

2nd Prize: Blink Security Cameras

3rd Prize: \$250 Cash

4th Prize: Handmade Quilt

5th Prize: \$200 Seven Rivers Restaurant

6th Prize: Cornhole Board Set

7th Prize: 3 Designer Handbags

8th Prize: Handmade Quilt

9th Prize: \$150 Cash

10th Prize: \$100 Cascade Car Wash

11th Prize: \$100 Farmers Fresh Card

12th Prize: Asian Food Basket

13th Prize: Sterling Silver Pendant

14th Prize: \$100 Gift Card

15th Prize: Southwestern Pottery

16th Prize: Salon Gift Basket

17th Prize: Queen of Heaven Statue

18th Prize: George Foreman Grill

19th Prize: Air Fryer

20th Prize: \$50 Cash



LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LPEA secures 10-year deal for local hydropower from Vallecito Dam

Staff report
LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) has signed a new 10-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Ptarmigan Resources and Energy Inc. for locally generated hydropower from the Vallecito Dam, reinforcing the cooperative’s commitment to clean, reliable, and community-focused energy.

Effective April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2036, the agreement will provide approximately 5.8 megawatts of renewable capacity onto LPEA’s system – enough to power around 2,500 homes per year. It’s the first time LPEA has been able to purchase power directly from

Vallecito, thanks to new flexibility under its evolving power supply strategy.

“This is a win for our members and our mission,” said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. “For the first time, we’re contracting directly with a local hydropower provider right in our backyard.”

The hydropower facility at Vallecito Dam, located northeast of Bayfield, has long provided clean energy to the regional grid. However, LPEA’s previous long-term wholesale power contract limited its ability to work with independent producers like Ptarmigan.

“This project is exactly what we envision for the future of energy for our members: affordable, responsibly generated power pro-

duced right here in our community,” said Nicole Pitcher, LPEA Board President. “It’s meaningful that the same water sustaining our ranches and farms and bringing joy to recreationists will also be generating clean energy for homes across our service territory.”

“Selling power locally is a win-win,” said Sam Perry, CEO of HydroWest (contracted by Ptarmigan to oversee plant operations). “With this new partnership, Vallecito can provide consistent, renewable energy and grid stability to LPEA.”

This PPA follows LPEA’s launch of a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) earlier this year, seeking additional long-term energy resources to serve its load after 2028.

SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL • FROM PAGE 4

Increase funding authorizations for USDA’s Rural Development Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program by \$100 million per year for five years, provide \$30 million per year specifically for technical assistance, and ensure that Native communities are treated equitably and appropriately when considered for grants and loans.

Increase funding authorizations for existing programs of the Indian Health Service for water and sanitation facilities construction over a five-year period, including for community facilities (\$2.5 billion), technical assistance (\$150 million), and operation and maintenance assistance (\$500 million).

Authorize \$90 million over five years for the Bureau of Reclamation’s existing Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program.

“It is far past time to ensure that Native people have the same level of basic water service most Americans take for granted,” said Manuel Heart, Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. “This bill’s recognition of the need for technical support and operation and maintenance assistance for tribal water supply facilities is not only essential to realizing the benefit of investment in water infrastructure, but also a critical step toward increasing tribal independence and governance capabilities.”

“Some of the starkest examples of the public health impacts from not having clean, running water in the home are right in our backyards,” said Anne Castle, co-founder of the initiative on Universal Access to Clean Water for Tribal Communities. “Higher incidence of respiratory disease, gastroin-

testinal infections, diabetes, and cancer are all linked to ‘water poverty’ - the lack of access to secure and healthy household water - which is particularly acute for Native American households. With targeted resources and federal agency coordination, we have the ability to solve this longstanding inequity in Indian Country.”

“For far too long, many indigenous Americans - American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians - have gone without access to a clean and safe drinking water supply,” said John Echohawk, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Native American Rights Fund and member of the Pawnee Nation. “These are not isolated or regional deficiencies, but rather a nationwide disparity in access to a basic ingredient of life. This bill will help to address gaps in current support for tribal drinking water access and help to fulfill the Federal government’s treaty and trust responsibility to Native American Tribes.”

“Every American is entitled to access to clean drinking water,” said Ken Norton, Chairman of the National Tribal Water Council. “But this undeniable truth simply does not hold for far too many tribal households. It is well past time to bring the necessary resources to bear that will allow all tribal families to enjoy the same basic services most Americans take for granted.”

“Water is a basic human right and this bill fulfills the government’s trust obligation to tribes and Indigenous communities to ensure all Native populations have access to clean drinking water,” said Garrit Voggeser, Senior Director of Tribal

Partnerships and Policy, National Wildlife Federation. “For far too long more than half of the country’s Indigenous peoples haven’t had access to clean drinking water. Water must be accessible to not only support public health, but also meet historical, cultural, ecological, and rights-based needs.”

In 2021, Bennet introduced the Tribal Access to Clean Water Act and successfully fought to include funding to improve tribal access to clean water in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL included \$3.5 billion for the Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction program to address needs for tribal sanitation facilities and services, \$1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation to support legacy rural water supply projects, which will benefit tribes, and increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Funds. In 2023, Bennet reintroduced the Tribal Access to Clean Water Act and revised the bill to reflect the significant funding contained within BIL as well as the need to provide more technical assistance to implement the funding. In 2024, he championed the Tribal Access to Clean Water Act during a U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing, in which Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Chairman Manuel Heart testified in support of the legislation.

In addition to Bennet, Heinrich, and Hickenlooper, this legislation is also co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Alex Padilla (D-Calif.).

Clean Team recognition



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Clean Team employees gathered at Ute Park to celebrate with each other and longtime employees Elaine Maria Trujillo-Taylor and Loretta Chee over lunch provided by KD’s Barbeque on Tuesday, July 22.



Property and Facilities Director, Tyson Thompson presents a Pendleton blanket to longtime employee Loretta Chee for 30 years of service during the Clean Team employee recognition luncheon.

Elaine Maria Trujillo-Taylor received a Pendleton Blanket in recognition of her 23 years of service to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Property and Facilities Director, Tyson Thompson presented Trujillo-Taylor with the blanket, thanking her for her years of service.

ATTENTION

Pine River Indian Irrigation Project SPRINGWATER USERS MEETING

@ SKY UTE CASINO
Thursday, July 31, 2025
6:00pm - 800pm

Branch of Irrigation
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southern Ute Agency
For more information call
(970)-200-8613

Calling all Volunteers September 13, 2025

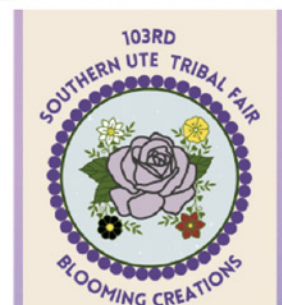


We need help with:

- Parade Judges
- Registration sign up
- Set up/tear down booth
- Category placement
- Pace/flow management
- Tallying of votes for parade entries

September 20, 2024 by [Jeremy Wade Shockley](#) |
[The Southern Ute Drum](#)

Do you need community service hours or just enjoy volunteering? This is the perfect opportunity to give back to the community!



**For any questions and to sign up to volunteer contact Candi Valencia at:
email: cvalencia@southernute-nsn.gov
telephone: 970-563-2237**

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>



Photo Credit: Jeremy Wade Shockley, The Southern Ute Drum



WHY WE SERVE

Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces

This national exhibition highlights the contributions Native Americans have made to the US military since the American Revolution and throughout our country's history.

★ Visit Today! ★



Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center
29477 CO-159
Fort Garland, CO 81133
FortGarlandMuseum.org





courtesy Type 2 Team/Ute 63 Public Information Office

Type 2 Interagency firefighters mop up lingering hotspots — a critical step in securing the fireline and preventing reignition. Their work continues long after the flames are gone.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
Ute 63 Fire update

By Summer Begay
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

July 24, 2025 – Firefighters have continued to make excellent progress on the Ute 63 Fire, increasing containment to 95%. The fire remains at 530 acres. Crews continue to work diligently on mop-up operations, and repair efforts are now underway along the dozer lines.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the firefighters, support personnel, and partner agencies whose hard work and dedication have brought us to this point. Your tireless efforts are deeply appreciated by the community. Further updates can be accessed via the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/southernute>.

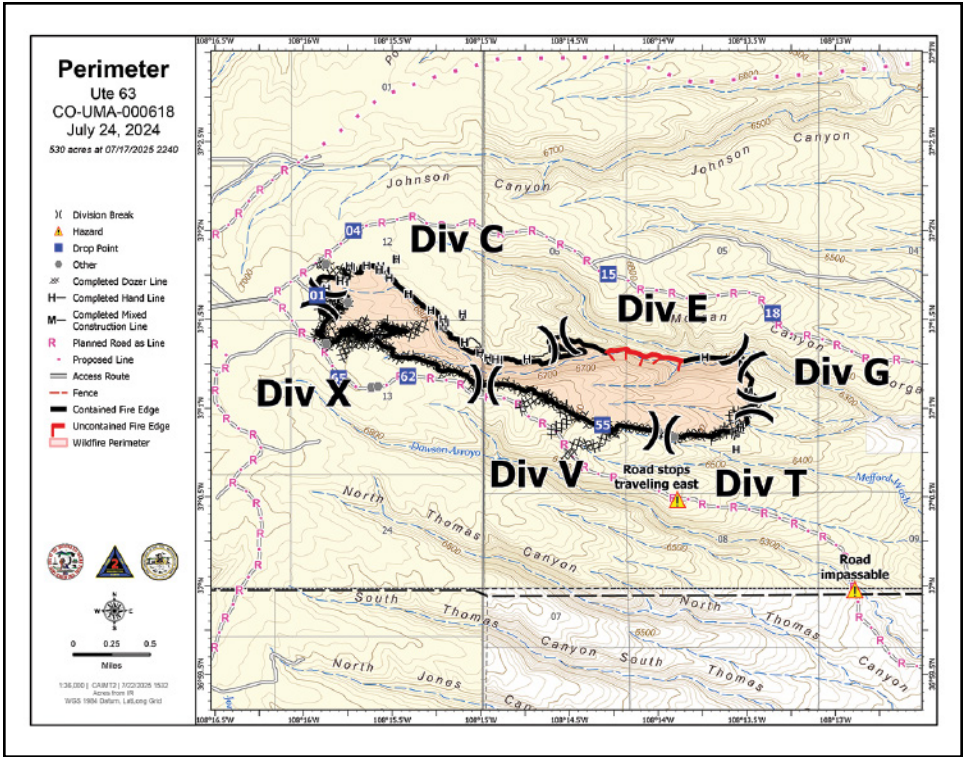
La Plata County and the Southern Ute Indian Reservation remain under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions; for details, visit https://www.lpc.gov.org/departments/emergency_management/fire_restrictions.php. For air quality information, visit <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/> and <https://fire.airnow.gov>.

To report fires, please contact: Durango Zone Dispatch: 970-385-1324 or Southern Ute Police Dispatch: 970-563-4401



courtesy Type 2 Team/Ute 63 Public Information Office

Drones were utilized during fire suppression efforts to enhance situational awareness and support safe, strategic decision-making from above.



RIDE A WAVE OF WINNINGS!

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS IN AUGUST | ALL DAY

Your play on any of our electronic table games could trigger a mystery Hot Hand payout ranging from \$100 – \$250.

SUMMON YOUR LUCK.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, & 22 | 4PM – 12AM

We’re heating up the casino floor with random hot seat drawings every hour. If you’re chosen, you’ll step up to the Tiki Tumble game board for a chance to win big! You’ll get three pucks to drop down the board, but the prize your last puck lands on is yours to keep!

DIVE INTO PARADISE.

SUNDAYS – THURSDAYS IN AUGUST | ALL DAY

This is your chance to win between \$500 – \$750 in cash — just for enjoying the games you love. Kick back, relax, and let the good times roll on our penny slots.

CATCH A CASH WAVE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 10, 17, & 24 | 12PM – 6PM

Starting August 1, Ace’s Club members earn one entry for every 250 slot points. Sundays from 12PM–6PM, hourly winners spin the prize wheel for free play, gas cards, or cash! Top point earners win up to \$3,000 on August 24 at 7PM.

X MARKS THE SPOT TO SKY UTE LOOT!

WEDS. IN AUGUST | 5PM – 9PM | **GRAND PRIZE DRAWING: WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27 | 9PM**

Earn one entry into our hourly drawings for every 150 slot points. If your name is called, pick from 10 tiki idols to reveal your prize! But the biggest treasure of all awaits on Wednesday, August 27 at 9PM, when the final winner drawn will walk away with \$1,000 in cash!

ACE CLUB THROTTLE UP!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 | 6PM – 12AM

Starting August 29, Ace’s Club members earn one entry for every 200 points. Every hour, Friday – Sunday, one winner gets 45 seconds in the cash booth — grab a specially marked \$2 bill to score a bonus gift card from Harley-Davidson or Speedway!





ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Smoke on the horizon: Understanding wildfire smoke, air quality monitoring

How to protect your health

By James Temte, Angelina Miller, and Patty Peña
SOUTHERN UTE AIR QUALITY

Each summer, the skies over the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Southwest Colorado are increasingly hazed with smoke. This isn't just an aesthetic change to the beautiful San Juan Mountains—it's a growing public health concern, one that environmental scientists, and health professionals are tackling head-on through a better understanding of wildfire smoke, air quality monitoring, and its impacts on community health.

Every year, as the weather turns warmer and drier, the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and surrounding Four Corners region enter what is now commonly known as fire season – a stretch from late spring through early fall marked by heightened wildfire risk, dry vegetation, and increasingly smoky skies.

Summer fire season has always been a natural part of the ecosystem, but in recent decades. Warmer temperatures, reduced snowpack, and prolonged drought have combined to create ideal conditions for wildfires to ignite and spread quickly. Fires can be sparked by lightning storms or human activity that may cause a flare up under dry conditions. Preventing hazardous wildfires can take many different forms.

“As a forester and natural resource manager I view fire as a management tool that is a necessary part of fire adapted ecosystems such as ponderosa pine,” said Brian Gideon, Forestry Division Head for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. “Because we have been suppressing wildland fires for approximately 120 years, prescribed burning is a necessary tool used to restore ecosystem function in the ponderosa pine forests of the southwest. The impacts from smoke due to prescribed burning are relatively short lived compared to catastrophic wildland fires that may have the potential to burn for months. Please realize this next time smoke from a prescribed burns impacts you.”

Even when the flames themselves are far away, smoke can travel vast distances, affecting air quality on the Southern Ute Reservation. While land managers use prescribed fire to reduce the risk of larger, more destructive wildfires, it's also important for individuals to be prepared when smoke impacts occur.

Monitoring local air quality conditions is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family during fire season. The Southern Ute Air Quality Division actively tracks pollutants found in smoke to help the community stay informed and make safer choices – like staying indoors, using – air purifiers, or limiting strenuous outdoor activities – especially on days when air quality levels are poor.

Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of gases and fine particles. The most concerning component for human health is PM2.5 – particulate matter that is less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, or about 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair. Because these particles are so small, they can travel deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream.

Together, they pose a risk to public health, especially for sensitive populations such as children, elders, people with asthma or heart conditions, and outdoor workers. Unhealthy pollution levels are communicated using Air Quality Index values.

Understanding the Air Quality Index (AQI)

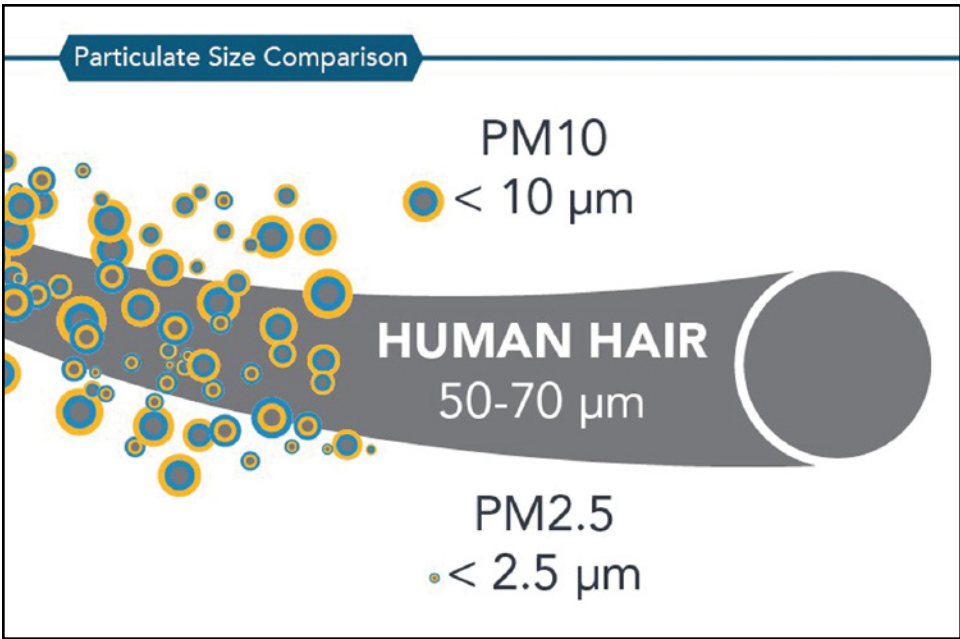
Air Quality Index (AQI) is a number that is calculated based on the concentration of different pollutants detected in the air. These numbers, along with the associated color-coded scale, provide a quick way to determine whether the air is safe to breathe. The lower the number, the cleaner the air and less pollution. Alternatively, higher numbers indicate higher levels of air pollution.

Good air quality has an AQI between 0-50 and is indicated by the green shade. When wildfire smoke drives the AQI into the orange, red, or purple zones, the Tribe's



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Indian Reservation — Due to minimal monsoon moisture, current high temperatures, dry fuel conditions and the occurrence of recent wildland fires, Stage I fire restrictions have been implemented for all trust lands throughout the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Everyone on reservation land is asked to be very cautious and use common sense with fire this time of year.



Air Quality Program issues advisories through the Tribal Information Services urging residents to take precautions, which may include limiting outdoor activity, especially during peak smoke hours in the early morning and evening.

Prolonged exposure to

wildfire smoke can lead to a variety of health issues, ranging from mild to severe. Short-term effects include coughing, sore throat, headaches, itchy eyes, and fatigue. For individuals with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or cardiovascular disease,

smoke can trigger serious complications, hospital visits, or worse.

There is also growing concern about long-term impacts. Recent studies suggest that repeated smoke exposure may contribute to the development of asthma in children and increase the risk of stroke or heart attack in individuals with preexisting conditions.

When air quality is poor, the most effective action is to reduce exposure. That can mean staying indoors, using air purifiers, sealing windows and doors, and avoiding physical exertion outdoors. N95 masks can also help filter out fine particles during heavy smoke events, although they are not recommended for routine use unless needed.

If you notice that people in your home are feeling the effects of wildfire smoke – like coughing, headaches, or breathing issues – using

even one portable air cleaner can make a big difference if you use it in the room where you spend the most time. Think of it like creating a small “clean air” zone in your home, instead of trying to clean the air in the whole house, which can be harder to do. This EPA web page has helpful, easy-to-read info on how to use air cleaners in your home: <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/guide-air-cleaners-home>.

“We’re all in this together,” Southern Ute Air Quality Division Head, Danny Powers said. “Taking care of ourselves and looking out for our neighbors – especially our elders, youth, and those with health conditions.”

As wildfire seasons become longer and more intense, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Air Quality Program is adapting through preparedness, monitoring, and education. Air quality monitoring – powered by tools like Particulate Matter sensors and understanding the Air Quality Index – is just one piece of a larger effort to protect the land, and the people, who call this place home.

To stay updated on air quality conditions on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, visit the Tribe’s Air Quality Program Monitoring website for real time Air Quality Data and Health Notifications (<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/>).

When the smoke rolls in, knowledge is power – and community is everything.

US AQI Level	Value	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
Good	0-50	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
Moderate	50-100	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
Unhealthy For Sensitive Groups	101-150	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
Unhealthy	151-200	Increased likelihood or adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
Hazardous	301+	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

The Air Quality Index, its corresponding values, and their meaning.

California Air Resources Board

Multi-Purpose Facility Youth Craft Day

Saturday August 2, 2025
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM



If you have a stained white or light colored T-shirt, bring it and revitalize it!
-Not Required - Lunch Provided for Participants.

Youth 6 - 17
Parents - Grand Parents
Please call to sign up
- Supplies are limited -




256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO 970-563-2640, e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

Annex Rehabilitation Project

Construction Schedule, Closures & Alternate Entry

(Dates are approximate)



July 14 - August 1
Front entrance, sidewalk and parking stalls closed where indicated, due to construction activities. Building access relocated to southwest rear entrance.
During this time, 6 parking spots in the gravel lot will be reserved for visitor parking, 2 reserved for Elders.

July 14 - September 24
Sidewalk and parking stalls closed where indicated, due to construction activities.

July 7 - July 11
Lower level rear stairs closed for repairs

IMPORTANT: Bathrooms on the lower level will be closed July 22 - August 11. The only available bathrooms in the building will be upstairs, and are not handicapped accessible.

Access route to temporary southwest rear entrance



CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Ouray Cemetery infrastructure improvement project

By Derrell Lindsey
CONSTRUCTION & PROJECT
MANAGEMENT

Dear tribal members and tribal staff,
The purpose of this letter is to provide notification of upcoming construction work at the Ouray Cemetery, starting Monday, July 21.
Over the course of the next three months, several upgrades will be made to the cemetery to improve access and maintenance facilities for the benefit of tribal members and their loved ones. At the south end of the cemetery, several old, dilapidated sheds will be removed and replaced with an engineered metal building which will protect vehicles, machinery and tools, and provide shelter for maintenance crews. A shallow berm will be constructed just inside the new fence to help alleviate the occasional flooding from heavy rains and irrigation. The gravel drive-through

will be reworked and paved with asphalt, with several new handicap parking stalls, an ADA safe pathway, and area for porta-potties. Additionally, a well and cistern will be installed at the north end of the cemetery to improve irrigation water supply for the grounds.
During construction activities, construction crews will work with due respect for the history of this cemetery. Crews will not be working among the gravesites; they will be restricted to the immediate construction areas, which are adjacent to some gravesites. Any visitors to the cemetery during normal construction hours of 7a.m.-5p.m. will likely see the crews working. Our sincere apologies if this disrupts any visits.
We are also prepared for the possibility of funerary services during the next few months. During any funerary service, construction services will shut down entirely.

We will ensure proper access for funeral vehicles and others to the cemetery grounds and move construction materials and equipment to unobtrusive locations north and south of the cemetery, to the extent possible.
If you or a loved one need to schedule a funeral service at the cemetery during construction, please contact Southern Ute Vital Statistics, Grounds Maintenance, and/or Tribal Housing.
The goal is to complete these upgrades quickly and efficiently so that tribal members can resume normal visitation of the cemetery without the disruption of construction crews.
We ask for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Derrell Lindsey at Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management, via email: dlindsey@southernute-nsn.gov or via cell phone: 970-759-4939.

BUDGET CUTS • FROM PAGE 1

campus, is also slated to lose about 20% of its operating budget due to the cut, as reported by the Durango Herald. And KSJD, a third Durango-area station, lost one-third of its budget.
At KSUT, the 20% reduction means they have to reconsider national and international news segments, like Morning Edition and BBC programs, and programs like Native Voice 1, an hourlong call-in talk show produced in Alaska that focuses on Indigenous issues.
Tribal stations reportedly have an opportunity to retrieve the revoked funds through a carveout in the bill, but Graham is skeptical that it will amount to anything.
“It’s sort of, at best, a Band-Aid, and at worst a backroom deal to get this bill to pass,” Graham said. “Even though we’re on that list I doubt we’ll ever see funds.”
In May, KSUT along with Colorado Public Radio and Aspen Public Radio sued Trump over an executive order to cut funding for NPR and CBS, arguing that the order violates their free speech.
“It’s especially difficult (with Native Voice 1) because, I mean, talk about an underserved community,” Graham said. “People in these areas don’t get their voices elevated nearly enough as they should.”

NOT OUT OF THIN AIR

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has been a target of various Republican presidents and lawmakers since its formation in 1967.
Fearing a decline of TV and radio shows from informational, educational and cultural programs to more saccharine content driven by ad revenue, Congress passed the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, solidifying funding for stations to focus on programs “of human interest and importance.”
It didn’t take long – only five years and one administration change – before the newly formed network faced its first existential crisis. In 1972, President Richard Nixon vetoed continued funding for the network and continued to attack the corporations, upset by a news program, then anchored by Robert MacNeil and Sandra Vanocur, that he called “the liberal hour” in internal White House memos.
Some think that Trump was able to push the cut through because people simply don’t rely on public media as much as they used to, making it less of a political risk to cut its funding.
But that argument doesn’t seem sound to Graham.
“This argument we’ve been hearing a lot from Republicans is like, ‘Hey, it’s the modern day, people have access to lots of ways of getting information,’” Graham said. “Well, in rural areas, especially tribal communities, we may not have reliable internet or broadband signal, we may not have cell service. If there’s an emergency happening – a wildfire, a flood – people absolutely tune in to the radio. Their local radio.”

Tim Russo, station manager at KGNU in Boulder, made a similar point. KGNU lost \$155,000, or 15% of its budget, for the upcoming fiscal year.
Their CPB funds are divided into unrestricted funds, which they use for facility maintenance, staff and equipment, and restricted funds, which are spent on program access from different stations and the public radio satellite system, where emergency alerts come in.
“You remember the Four-mile fires, the Gold Hill fires, the Jamestown flooding,” Russo said. “We’ve had our fill of climate-driven catastrophes, and we’ve got so many people that live in those rural foothills that turn to KGNU, because our volunteers can jump on that hyperlocal coverage in a way that the bigger stations can’t because they have to focus on the whole state.”
A mosaic at the KGNU studios in Boulder on July 21, 2025, that reads “You are the U in KGNU,” a slogan that the station says to their listener community.
“People always love this wall,” Tim Russo, station manager, said. (Parker Yamasaki, The Colorado Sun)
It’s this expansive volunteer network – Russo said they have more than 400 active volunteers at the station, about 200 of them producing on-air content as DJs or hosts – that allows them to be more nimble and community-driven than some other stations.
But it also means there isn’t much room for cuts.
“I bring that up to say that we run an extremely frugal budget as it is,” Russo said. “It’s thanks to all the volunteer and community support that we can run on a very tight budget. But that just means it’s going to be that much more difficult for us to balance a budget. Like many stations, we don’t have deep reserves.”

A RURAL DOUBLE WHAMMY

High Plains Public Radio operates KCSE, 90.7 FM in Lamar, reaching large portions of Prowers, Kiowa and Bent counties, as well as KZNK, 90.1 FM out of Brewster, Kansas, that reaches much of Yuma, Kit Carson and Cheyenne counties – covering a vast swath of Colorado’s Eastern Plains.
The funding takeback could stifle the reach of stations impacted by the loss of nearly \$500,000 over two years, or about 15% of the budget, starting in October, Garden City, Kansas-based HPPR said. Its stations also blanket western Kansas and part of the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles.
Another roughly \$68,000 in shared technology and support services that CPB has funded – things like music licensing fees – will have to be covered in other ways. In an announcement last week on HPPR’s website, executive director Quentin Hope outlined a plan to examine and cut costs while also using re-

serve funds to continue operations and plan for the future. He also noted that private fundraising work would be intensified and an endowment campaign developed with an eye toward financial independence.
In the short term, the HPPR station in Brewster could be affected because of the massive cost of its 100,000-watt facility – and one option for controlling expenses would be to dial down the power, said Abby Killingsworth, development director for HPPR.
“So instead of reaching the entirety of Kit Carson County, it could be, ‘Oh, you just crossed the state line and now you lost the service,’” she said. “It’s about that rural access, because one of the things we can control is how much we spend on power, and if we are forced to reduce our expenses, then that’s a lever we may have to pull.”
Given the region’s often extreme weather, she added, engineering and utility costs run much higher than the national average, even though its stations serve a small population relative to the geographic reach.
The CPB money largely allows public radio to reach areas that can’t sustain a broadcast through underwriting or membership, making the finances “a completely different equation” from larger metropolitan areas, Killingsworth explained. Even though HPPR reports a higher percentage of donors in its coverage areas than the national average and a higher average gift per donor, the lower population means that those areas are more reliant on public funding.
“These are committed folks in this region who want this service,” Killingsworth said. “We just simply don’t have the financial base to offset the loss of this funding in ways that the metro stations may have available. So that gets to the argument of the impact really weighing the heaviest on the rural stations.”
She noted that these changes have pointed HPPR toward getting back to the basics of its mission to enrich the educational, cultural and community life of our region, but the methodology will have to be adapted.

“Our focus is looking forward,” Killingsworth said. “We can’t change what’s been done, and it’s up to us to reinvent and redefine what the future of High Plains Public Radio looks like.”
At KGNU in Boulder, Russo said he has already seen community support start to fill in the gaps that the federal cuts are leaving behind. The same goes for KUNC, based in Greeley, covering northern Colorado. It’s the smaller, rural and tribal stations that Russo worries about.
“Community radios are very resilient, and I know that KGNU is going to lean into the community,” Russo said. “I just hope the community leans back, not just to KGNU, but all the community radio partners.”

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO

COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH
8:30-10:00 AM
Willows Cafe at Sky Ute Casino



SIP, CHAT, & DISCUSS YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

Join Us for a Morning of Coffee, Connection & Small Business Conversation!
Start your day with great coffee and even better company. Whether you're a local entrepreneur, small business owner, or just passionate about supporting the community, this is a perfect opportunity to connect, share ideas, and build meaningful relationships!

FOR MORE INFORMATION REACH OUT TO ALLISON -
AWALL@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV/970.563.2281



PÍINU NÚUCHI FARMERS MARKET & OUTDOOR BIZ LAB IS HERE!



EVERY WEDNESDAY
11AM - 2PM
JUNE 4-OCTOBER 8, 2025
15150 Hwy 172 Ignacio, CO 81137
(Parking lot in front of KSUT)

Support local entrepreneurs and enjoy fresh, homemade food, baked goods, and more. Our Outdoor Biz Lab will be from 12-2pm.

For more information please reach out to Allison -
awall@southernute-nsn.gov or 970.563.2281
southernute-nsn.gov/eco-dev

HSC Training/Due Diligence Instruction

Providing First Aid/CPR/AED, Basic Life Support, SafeSitter, Safe@Home, Stop the Bleed, Eddie Eagle and CCW. Call or text to register, Cora, 970-903-4813, hsctraining.us@gmail.com. Classes may be scheduled for an organization at your location or ours.

- BLS or CPR Skills Checks: every Friday 5-7:00 pm, *by appointment only*
- 1st Aid/CPR/AED classes: Last Saturday of each month, *must register in advance*
- Babysitter Training: *by appointment only*

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LPEA and Farmington Electric partner to strengthen emergency response

Staff report
LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and the Farmington Electric Utility System (FEUS) have entered into a formal mutual aid agreement, deepening cross-border cooperation and enhancing regional response capabilities in the event of major outages or infrastructure emergencies.

The agreement enables both utilities to share crews, equipment and expertise when severe events, such as wildfires, storms, or large-scale system failures exceed one utility’s capacity to respond alone. This partnership will allow for faster power restoration, reduce service disruptions, and improve resource coordination across the region.

“This is about neighbors helping neighbors,” said Chris Hansen, CEO of LPEA. “Whether it’s responding to a wildfire in Pagosa Springs or restoring power after a storm near Farmington, this agree-

ment ensures we can act quickly, safely, and together. It strengthens not only our systems, but the communities we serve.”

Though LPEA is a member-owned electric cooperative in Southwest Colorado and FEUS is a municipally owned utility in Northwest New Mexico, both organizations share a common mission: to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power. With just 50 miles between headquarters, this agreement creates a foundation for more agile responses during regional emergencies, particularly as the Four Corners area faces increasing wildfire risks and extreme weather conditions.

FEUS Utility Director Hank Adair echoed that sentiment: “Mutual aid is about answering the call when our fellow utilities are in need. FEUS and LPEA are long-standing neighbors in an interconnected energy landscape, and this agreement is a natural fit for both utilities’ shared commitment to safe, reliable service.”

The Four Corners region is a critical transmission hub for the western grid, and a growing center for energy transition efforts. This pact recognizes the increasing interdependence of utilities in ensuring service continuity, especially during times of crisis.

In addition to mobilizing field crews and equipment, the agreement outlines clear expectations for communication, safety standards and cost accountability during joint response efforts.

“Utilities today must be flexible, coordinated, and prepared,” Hansen added. “This agreement reflects those priorities and demonstrates the real-world value of partnership, whether cooperative or municipal.”

The mutual aid framework also leaves room for collaboration on large-scale projects and opens the door for future partnerships with other nearby utilities. Both LPEA and FEUS hope this model can serve as a template for expanded regional cooperation.

Elder Day at MPF



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility invited Billie Tohee, a member of the National Indian Council on Aging and actor. Other sessions that day were from informative speakers, sharing knowledge, elder activities, and fun give away activities at the end of the day.

Southern Ute Committee of Elders secretary, Willette Whiteskunk, spoke to attending elders at the event about what the Committee of Elders does and if they had any concerns to get ahold of them through the Southern Ute Museum and Cultural Center.



Multi - Purpose Facility August Events

- Senior Breakfast—Wednesday August 6, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- Quilt & Sew—Wednesday & Thursday August 13-14, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM
- Sip Chat & Chew—Friday August 15, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM
- Fair Sewing UnFinished Objects—Wednesday & Thursday, August 19 & 20 10:00 AM—3:00 PM
- Traditional Sewing—Tuesday—Thursday August 26-28
- Day Session - 10:00 AM—3:30 PM Evening Session 5:30 PM—8:00 PM



Special Events

- Youth Crafting—Saturday August 2, 10:30 AM—2:00PM
- Haunted House Food Sale Thursday August 28, 11:30 AM—2:30 PM
- Events are subject to change—please watch for announcements



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

Multi-Purpose Facility August Quilt & Sew Class



Baby Steps Quilt

August 13 & 14, 2025
Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Supplies for Baby Steps Quilt

7 Fat Quarters coordinating colors,
You can also use a Jelly Roll

Call to sign- up.



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

MPF Haunted House Fund Raiser Food Sale Thursday July 31, 2025 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM



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

Multi-Purpose Facility Senior Breakfast



Wednesday August 6, 2025
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Open to all Community Senior Citizens
55 years and older



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



Ute Tribe hosts 2025 Tri-Ute Games



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The annual Tri-Ute Games was a success this year in Utah, with the three Ute sister tribes taking time out from competing in the various events to pose for a group photo at Bottle Hallow.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Tribe was represented at this year's golf tournament by coaches Tyler Young and Arnulfo Pardo III, look on with excitement as Cristovan Gonzales takes his putt on the green.

The Tri-Ute Games was held Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 10 hosted this year by the Ute Indian Tribe. Athletes from the three Ute tribes gathered to compete head-to-head in basketball, volleyball, golf, archery, and handgames. Athletes also completed the Ute Warrior Challenge filled will obstacle courses, long distance running, and swimming. The Tri-Ute Games encourages friendly competition and interconnection as the young athletes compete, making time to meet their fellow Ute relatives and play their respective sports. Next year, the Tri Ute Games will be held in Towaoc, Colo. by the neighboring Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Team Ute Mountain goes up against Team Ute Indian Tribe during the handgame portion of this year's Tri Ute Games.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Team Southern Ute in the 9-11 age group, discuss game plan with coach Stais Harlan on Monday, July 7.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Levi Lopez makes a three-point shot during his game against Team Ute Mountain on Tuesday, July 8.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Tri Ute Games is held to create unity between the youth, on Monday, July 7, Team Southern Ute player Olyvia Watts suits up to play with Team Ute Indian Tribe.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Eva O'John warms up before her first game at the Tri Ute Games held in Fort Duchesne.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Ambrose Valdez dribbles around a Ute Indian Tribe team member during game one of the Tri Ute Games on Monday, July 7.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Team Ute Mountain versus Team Ute Indian Tribe in Ft. Duchesne.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Representatives from team Ute Indian Tribe are taking practice shots ahead of the archery shoot at this year's Tri-Ute Games.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The participants all received various prizes and merchandise to commemorate the event, Matthew Carillo is pictured here alongside some of the other competitors.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Saul Jenkins represented team Ute Indian Tribe on the golf course in Roosevelt, Utah at this year's Tri-Ute Games.



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Charles Alston and his pals needed to cool off in Bottle Hollow Lake while awaiting Ute Warrior participants at the finish line.



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Miss Ute Tribe, Antheeona Appawoo, is pictured here with the Ute Warrior Overall Winner, Cyriah Begay, who participated in basketball and volleyball all week long!



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Fellow classmates and Southern Ute Tri-Ute Games participants Cristovan Gonzales and Orion Watts await the closing ceremonies for the 2025 Tri-Ute Games.



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Southern Ute Tribal Council Member, Marjorie Barry, waits at the dock to greet the Ute Warrior Relay participants on the last day of the Tri-Ute Games. Sun Ute Recreation Aide, Elijah Weaver, is pictured here with Council Lady Barry. Team SunUte participated in the Ute Warrior Challenge to motivate the youth to join in, and it worked! Recreation Manager, Kelsey Frost, and Trainer, Elijah Lucero, also participated with their fellow colleagues in the race. The race involved a 1.5-mile run, followed by a bike ride, and finishing with a 300-yard swim across Bottle Hollow Lake.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Creates and supports one-to-one relationships that ignite and empower the promise of youth. Interested in becoming a Big Brother or Sister? If you are at least 18 years of age, have 4 hours per month to give, and can commit to at least one year, we would love to talk to you! Contact us at 970-247-3720 or mentor@bbig.org, or explore the process at: bbig.org/mentor”

BRIDGE THE GAP Week #2

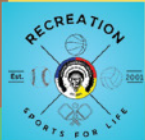
August 4th – 8th, 2025

Join our Rec team for a week full of fun and adventure! We welcome all community youth, ages 7-14 years old. Please sign up in-person at our Front desk. No over the phone sign-ups. \$5 per child. (SU Tribal Member and 1st descendant sign-ups are free.)

ADVENTURES

SPORTS

ARTS & CRAFTS



For More Info:
Kelsey: (970) 563- 2660
Elijah: (970) 563- 2655



BUCKSKIN CHARLIE APARTMENTS PROJECT | July 2025 Ongoing Work Update

Project Scope:
The project consists of two apartment buildings with 60 units (30-units in each building). There will be a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments with ADA units on the ground floor. The project is progressing in two phases. Phase 1 (site prep and utility work) wraps up mid-July 2025, while Phase 2 (building construction) began in spring 2025 and will take about 13 months.

Future Updates:
Future updates to include floor plans, rental costs and agreement information.



GF Properties Group
65 Mercado Street, Suite 250, Durango, CO 81301
www.gfpropertiesgroup.com
Ph: (970)385-7770



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE GROWTH FUND

July 2025

MANCOS SHALE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – TRAFFIC PATTERN AT TEXACO HILL & HERRERA HILL

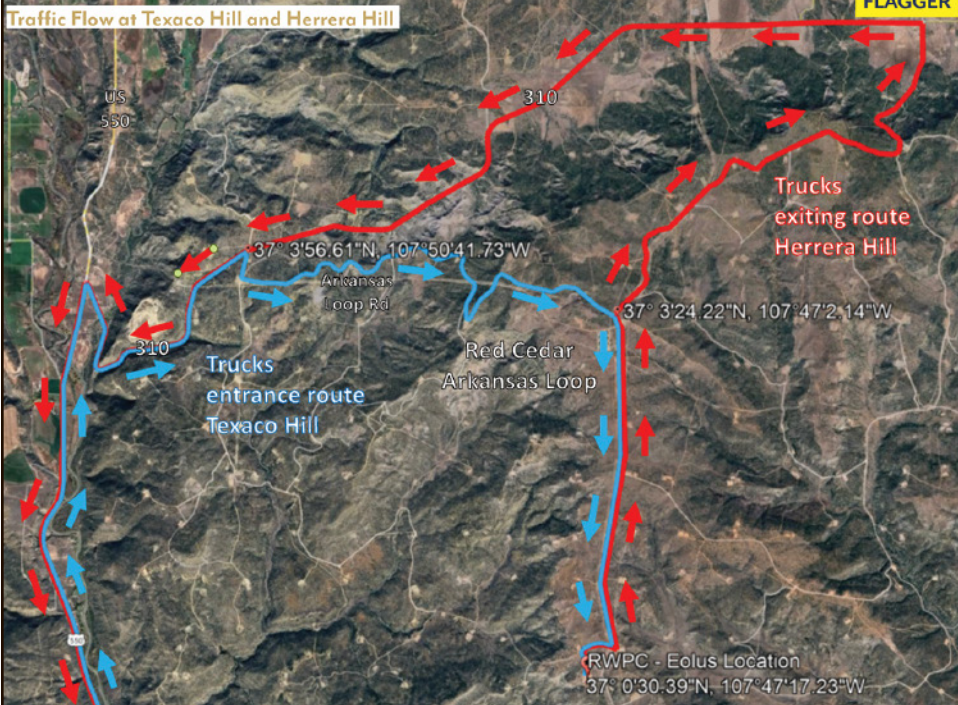
Traffic Pattern at Texaco Hill and Herrera Hill – Now to End of July

The Water Utilization phase for the Mancos Shale Development is in full swing – we currently have multiple producers utilizing the Tribe's water for completion activities within the Reservation boundary. **Heavy traffic alert! Please be careful when driving and review the map below that shows the traffic flow.** Frac operations will move approximately 1,000 sand trucks over the course of the job. There will be heavy traffic at Texaco Hill and Herrera Hill between now and end of July. There will be a traffic spotter at the intersection of CR318 and Herrera Hill.

If you have any questions, please utilize the contact information below:
For Operational Matters – Red Willow Production Company
During Business Hours: (Main Office) 970-563-5100
After Business Hours: (24-Hour Dispatch Line) 713-470-1126
For General Energy Items – Southern Ute Growth Fund Department of Energy (DOE)
During Business Hours: (Main Office) 970-563-5550

Traffic Flow at Texaco Hill and Herrera Hill

FLAGGER



SOUTHERN UTE RODEO

Sept. 19 & 20, 2025
7 pm & 2 pm

Sky Ute Fairgrounds
Ignacio, Colo.



EVENTS (Open)	ENTRY FEE	ADDED
Saddle Bronc	\$100	\$1,000
Ranch Bronc	\$100	\$1,000
Bull Riding	\$100	\$3,000
Novice Bull Riding	\$100	\$1,000
Tie Down Roping	\$100	\$1,000
Team Roping -w/ #9 Incentive	\$100	\$1,250
Ladies Breakaway	\$100	\$1,000
Ladies Barrels	\$100	\$1,000
Jr. Barrels	\$60	\$250
Jr. Bull Riding	\$60	\$250
Steer Riding	\$60	\$250
Mutton Busting	\$25	

PRIZES
100% Payback,
\$11,000 Added!
Pendleton Blankets,
Champion Buckles!

103RD ANNUAL SOUTHERN UTE FAIR
Horsing Around Events:
Open to all!
Chicken Pull \$1500
Watermelon Race \$500
Best Hand Painted Horse \$500
Sam Burch Memorial Horsemanship
Sky Ute Fairgrounds, Saturday, 12 PM

Contestants may enter two times, entries must be paid one hour prior to Rodeo.
Please text your entry info to: (505) 860-7191.

Flyer by Divine Windy Boy

Logo by Aaleena Nanaeto

2025 SUNUTE LEAGUES

AUGUST 19, 2025

\$350 REGISTRATION FEE/ TEAM
Deadline August 15, 2025

SOFTBALL LEAGUES

MEN'S

COED

Tuesday Night Wednesday Night

COME JOIN THE SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR OUR ANNUAL MEN'S AND CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE. WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE ATHLETES, FROM ALL AROUND, TO SIGN-UP AND HAVE A GREAT SEASON.

Call for More Information:

Kelsey Frost . Elijah Weaver
(970)563- 2660 (970)563- 2655

Aaron Henry
(970)563- 2667

Patrick Silva
Memorial Field



2025 FLC SOCCER CAMP AT SUNUTE

\$10

PER CHILD
(TM & 1st DESC. FREE)

COMMUNITY YOUTH
GRADES
1ST-8TH

AUGUST
1ST, 2025

SunUte Recreation welcomes all community youth to join us for our 2025 Fort Lewis Youth Soccer Camp. We will be covering fundamental skills including passing, dribbling, and shooting. Pizza and bowling will be included after the clinic, giving the kids a chance to hang out with the Fort Lewis Soccer team.

SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 – 11:50 am: Soccer Clinic
- 12:00 pm: Kids will be transported to the Sky Ute Casino Bowling Alley
- 2:00 pm: End of camp (Pick up time)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 29th, 2025
• In-person signups only (No over the phone)
• Please sign a liability form when you pay.

For more info:
Front Desk: (970) 563 – 2661

OBITUARY



JEFFERSON – Dr. James Mitchell Jefferson, 91, of Ignacio Colo., born on September 24, 1933, passed away peacefully on July 12, 2025 in Durango, Colo. He is survived by his sons: Dan, Tim & Gary Jefferson; Sister Misty R. Jefferson; nephews Robert M. (Teena) Jefferson & Jeffery L. Jefferson; nieces, Robbi (Jefferson) Mann & Tileta Jefferson; Granddaughter’s: Lyndsey Jefferson, Christina Jefferson (Justin) Mhley; great-grandchildren: Ryder Hanna, James, Joshua, Lucas & Gaby Mhley. And numerous cousins,

great-nephews & great-nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents: Lee Joe and Jessie Richards Jefferson; wife Ingrid Webster Jefferson; son: Joel Jefferson; brothers: Robert R. Jefferson & Jeffery Lee Jefferson; and nephew: Rick Jefferson. Jim is a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and lived on the Southern Ute reservation most of his life. Jim graduated from Ignacio High School and was always involved in all sports activities. After High School he enlisted in the Army where he was stationed in Germany during the Korean War Conflict. After his discharge from service, he returned home and began working in various Southern Ute tribal programs. Jim had an extensive educational career earning his Bachelors, Masters and his PhD degrees. He loved to do research which took him all over the country. “Jim was one of three founders of the Native American Sacred Trees and Places, which he was currently the president of the organization. This organization made awareness and preservation of sacred sites and trees.” Jim’s hobbies included hunting, fishing, farming & ranching, rodeo, traditional dancing and playing basketball with the Southern Ute Braves. Services were held Friday, July 17, 2025 at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility in Ignacio.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

Express Our Gratitude

Our family would like to express our gratitude for the prayers, flowers, food brought to the house, love, and kind words of support during this difficult time. We would like to thank Eddie & Betty Box, Jr., the Southern Ute CHR Dept., Durango Davita staff, the ICU staff of Mercy

Medical Hospital, the Los Pinos Fire District’s Operations Division, the Sky Ute Casino, Hood Mortuary staff, the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose staff, and her family and friends. *Thank you, The family of Felecia Cleone McKinley*

EDITOR'S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE IN ANY WAY. The Southern Ute Drum encourages letters from readers on any topic. We ask that letters be 500 words or less. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters should be submitted by email to Jeremy Shockley at jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov by the end of the day Monday preceeding publication.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Heston Allred
Job title: AQD Remediation Program Manager
Description of job duties: Plan, develop, and administer the GAP and Brownfields Program/Environmental Tribal response.
Hobbies: Snowboarding, hiking, bush crafting, reading, and data.
Additional comments: Looking forwards to interfacing with other employees, tribal members, and departments/programs.

William Farmer
Job title: Remediation Scientist I
Description of job duties: Administers the Tribal Brownfields grant program and supports compliance activities throughout Southern Ute Tribal lands. Works with EPA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, tribal staff, and other agencies to implement program specific guidance.
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, cycling and camping.



Patricia Peña
Job title: Air Quality Specialist
Description of job duties: Job duties include operation and maintenance of air quality monitoring equipment as well as conducting calibrations and collecting precise measurements. This position also includes database management and analysis to help with the production of reports.
Hobbies: Hiking, camping, sewing, and reading.

James Tempte
Job title: Air Quality Planner III
Description of job duties: Job duties include leading technical and regulatory planning efforts to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support tribal climate resilience and self-determination. I'll also be reaching out to departments soon as we begin putting together a Climate Action Plan.
Hobbies: I love being outside – hiking, fishing, biking, skiing, and camping! I also enjoy creating murals and am an abstract oil painter.
Tribe: Member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Additional comments: I'm excited to be back working with the Tribe's Air Quality Program! I was part of the program 15 years ago before moving to Alaska to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Science. It feels great to return.



All Are Invited to “A New Beginning” Conference Towaoc, Colo., August 15-17

The Association for Native American Sacred Trees and Places will hold its annual conference at the Mountain Ute Hotel/Casino in Towaoc, Colorado, beginning Friday, August 15. According to NASTaP’s president, Dr. James Jefferson, “This will be an opportunity for the tribes and people to come together and celebrate a new beginning to work together toward our common benefit and interests.” Members, nonmembers, and friends of the organization are invited to join in the event, which begins with a gathering on Friday evening. On Saturday, a full day of speakers, listening sessions, group meals, and goal-setting are planned, including talks by Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk and Dan Clark. There will also be a youth pow-wow planned and carried out by children and young people attending the conference. A special rate of \$70 plus tax per night has been arranged at the hotel for registered members of Ute tribes. The nightly rate for other attendees will be a discounted \$129 plus tax. To receive the discounted rate, call the hotel at 800-258-8007 and mention that you are part of the NASTaP group. Reservations should be made as soon as possible, because a limited number of rooms are available. The discount is offered only until August 1. Conference registration will be open soon

at <https://www.nastap.org/>. The registration fee will be \$150 with discounts for students and youth. Fees for registered tribal members are waived, but we would still appreciate your registration so that we can plan for meals and occupancy. The hotel is located at 3 Weeminuche Dr., Towaoc, CO 81334. NASTaP’s mission is to inspire discovery, acknowledgment, and conservation of Native American sacred places and culturally modified trees. We envision widespread awareness, respect, understanding, and appreciation of Native American sacred trees and places. Our purpose embraces:

- Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs)
- Modified stones, stacked rocks, rock art, and rock writing
- Ceremonial landmarks and landscapes
- Native American natural science and western science
- Stewardship of the earth, land, water, and sky

We value:

- Cultural appreciation
- Experiential learning
- Multidisciplinary research
- Inclusivity
- Mentorship
- Stewardship

2024 Annual Report Now Available



The 2024 Southern Ute Annual Report is now available to interested Southern Ute Tribal Members for pickup at the Southern Ute Tribal Information Services (TIS) Office, 398 Ouray Dr., Ignacio, Colo., during normal business hours, (Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.). A digital file will be uploaded to the Tribal Member Experience Portal to access online. If you have any questions, call the TIS Office at 970-563-2208.

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Aug. 8

Deadline:
Aug. 4

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



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



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

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

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

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

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Specials Request – Southern Ute Fair Powwow September 12, 13, and 14, 2025

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is taking special requests during the Southern Ute Fair Powwow of Sept. 12, 13, and 14, 2025. Submit request in writing to the Southern Ute Powwow Committee. Specify the date and time, include a phone number, and submit to the Committee's Secretary Sherisa Valdez at P.O. Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 or you can email to: soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov. Should you have any questions please call 720-621-4117. Deadline to submit is August 8, 2025, at 5 pm.

Thank you,
Sherisa Valdez – Powwow Committee Secretary

REQUEST FOR BIDS The Southern Ute Powwow Committee Southern Ute Fair Powwow: Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 2025

CATERING:

The Southern Ute PowWow Committee is requesting bids for Catering approximately 75 people, set up and take down.

- **FRIDAY, Sept. 12:** Dinner beginning at 5 – 7 p.m.
- **SATURDAY, Sept. 13:** Brunch beginning at 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **SATURDAY Sept. 13:** Dinner beginning at 4 – 6 p.m.
- **SUNDAY Sept. 14:** Brunch beginning at 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

All cooks will be required to have an up-to-date food handlers' card. Cater's responsibility to provide receipts for menu (include snacks for diabetics) and, negotiate pay with their helpers. No change in menu.

CLEANING CREW:

The Southern Ute PowWow Committee is requesting bids for Cleaning Crew.

- **FRIDAY, Sept. 12:** Friday Evening, Check-in 7 – 10 p.m.
- **SATURDAY, Sept. 13:** Check-in at 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. or 1-hour after closing of powwow.
- **SUNDAY, Sept. 14:** Check-in at 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. or 1-hour after closing of powwow.

The Cleaning Crew will consist of (4) cleaning staff. The Powwow Committee will provide trash bags. **Cleaning crew will have to have a one-million dollar liability insurance. Including two-million dollar workers compensation insurance.**

SECURITY:

The Southern Ute PowWow Committee is requesting bids for Security around parking lot, outside the arena and inside the arena.

- **FRIDAY Sept. 12:** Check-in at 7 – 10 p.m.
- **SATURDAY, Sept. 13:** Check-in at 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **SUNDAY, Sept. 14:** Check-in at 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Security must have a one-million dollar liability insurance. Including two-million dollar workers compensation insurance.

SOUNDSYSTEM:

The Southern Ute PowWow Committee is requesting bids for Sound-system.

- **FRIDAY, Sept. 12:** Friday Afternoon, Set-up before 5 p.m.
- **SATURDAY, Sept. 13**
- **SUNDAY, Sept. 14, 2025:** Sunday Evening: Take down after the conclusion of powwow.

The Soundsystem must have a one-million dollar liability insurance. Including two-million dollar workers compensation insurance.

PORTABLE TOILETS:

The Southern Ute Pow-wow Committee is requesting bids for Portable toilets.

- **FRIDAY, Sept 12:** Friday Evening, Set-up before 5 p.m.
- **SATURDAY, Sept. 13**
- **SUNDAY, Sept. 14:** Sunday Evening: Take down after Powwow.

The Portable Toilet company must have one-million dollar liability insurance. Including two-million dollar workers compensation insurance.

DEADLINE JULY 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Please submit bids to **Alfreda Armstrong, Treasurer**, Southern Ute Pow-Wow Committee. P.O Box 737 # 16, Ignacio CO 81137 or email: alfredaarmstrong405@gmail.com. Should you have any questions, contact Alfreda Armstrong 405-764-4198

INSURANCE QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Emmanuel Lewis, Southern Ute Human Resource, Risk Specialist at 970-563-2421.

SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL CREDIT
SKYUTE CASINO | BANQUET ROOMS 1&2



Tribal Credit Homebuyers Class

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6 @ NOON



Webex QR Code
for August 6

THURSDAY, AUG. 7 @ 5:30 PM

Join Southern Ute Tribal Credit to learn about the homebuying process. A meal will be provided for both dates. This event is open to enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members and their spouses.



Webex QR Code for
August 7

Zeb Vogenthaler

970.563.2458

zvogenthaler@southernute-nsn.gov

A virtual attendance is available via WebEx. Please log-in using the QR Codes above.



Call for MURALIST

Piinu Núuchi market mural



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 31st, 2025

Artist payment: \$2,500 Paints provided!
Mural size: 360 sq.ft. 40'x 9' Shipping container
Location: KSUT parking Lot: 15150 Hwy 172, Ignacio CO



Hosted by Southern Ute Economic Development

For details visit:
IGNACIOCREATIVEDISTRICT.ORG

Springboard's
Youth Arts Festival & Makers Market

Free Youth Entrepreneur Workshops

Get Ready to Shine! Attend a Workshop Before the Youth Makers Market on October 4th!

Money Moves

Saturday, July 19th, 10:00am-12:00pm Durango Public Library

- Q&A: For youth interested in joining the Youth Makers Market, October 4th.
- Entrepreneur Speaker Laurie Sigillito, owner of Durango Local NEWS Network.
- Financial Literacy Skills for Youth Entrepreneurs Workshop with Know Your Dough.

Marketing & Logistics Workshop Launch Party

Saturday, September 6th, 2025 4:00pm-7:00pm
Fort Center for Innovation on Main

- Market Rules and logistics.
- "Booth Set Up and Marketing Workshop.
- Youth Maker Demo Photoshoot & Head shots.
- Youth Cottage Laws Presentation and Labeling.
- Local Entrepreneur Mentors Chats.

APPLY FOR THE
YOUTH MAKERS MARKET
HERE!



This project is made possible by the City of Durango's Lodgers' Tax Arts & Culture Fund and the Durango Creative District.

Southern Ute Economic Development
cordially requests that you

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, September 22nd 5-7pm

&

Tuesday, September 23rd 8am-4pm
at Sky Ute Casino Resort



Leeds School of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
Presents

RURAL COLORADO WORKSHOP SERIES DEMISTIFYING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Join us for an exciting event focused on demystifying entrepreneurship, designed to provide valuable insights, practical tips and networking opportunities. Taught by Erick Mueller and Eric Bruno, entrepreneurs and award-winning professors at the University of Colorado, Leeds School of Business.

For more information contact:

Allison Wall

awall@southernute-nsn.gov

970.563.2281



Southern Ute Indian Tribe Election Board Vacancy

The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking two (2) Board Members: One (1) Regular member and one (1) Alternate member. The positions will be open until filled. Qualifications: 11-2-102, (1) & (3): Must be a Southern Ute Indian Tribal Registered Voter. Must reside within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Shall not have been convicted of a felony, and shall not have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or fraud within five years immediately preceding appointment to the Election Board. The Election Board is a paid committee, IRS Guidelines, a Criminal Background Check is 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 970-563-2303 or via email: election@southernute-nsn.gov.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

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

ELECTION BOARD

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

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

GAMING COMMISSION

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking 1) 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

The KSUT Board of Directors currently has two openings, including a community-member-at-large and a seat for a Southern Ute Tribal Member OR a first descendant of a tribal member. Board meetings occur on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. For more information or to submit a letter of interest, contact KSUT Executive Director Tami Graham at tami@ksut.org or by calling 970-563-0255. KSUT was founded in 1976 by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and now has two distinct signals – KSUT Tribal Radio and Four Corners Public Radio. KSUT became an independent non-profit organization in 1986 and an NPR-affiliate in 1988.

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

SOCOCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is seeking enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to fill two seats on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. The 8-member Board works closely with the Wildlife Division on planning and recommending actions related to tribal hunting and fishing programs. Board members not already employed by the Tribe are compensated \$20 per hour for meeting attendance. Meetings are held roughly on a quarterly basis throughout the year, and a commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. Interested Tribal Members must submit a brief letter of interest that includes a description of the applicant’s knowledge and experience with wildlife, hunting, or fishing, on and off of the Southern Ute Reservation. In addition, as a condition of appointment to the Board, applicants must submit a standard job application through the Tribe’s Human Resources Department, as well as agree to a State of Colorado background check. Please submit letters 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

Open Until Filled – The Tribe is seeking an enrolled Southern Ute youth wishing to fill a, Alternative Position 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.

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 a.m. 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 members; the contest will run for an additional two 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.


The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's
Air Quality Division is

SEEKING A CANDIDATE
for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Closing 08/11/2025 at 5:00pm


For more information visit the SUIT AQD
Environmental Commission Website
or Scan the QR code below!



Shape the Future of Tribal Air Quality
Help lead the way in air quality protection and tribal self-governance as a member of the oversight board for AQD.



Be a Voice for the Community
Review and approve AQD regulations to help make Reservation air quality healthy for all.




Get to Know the Air!
Become more familiar with the AQD programs already in place to protect our air.

We are seeking a qualified individual for a Tribal appointment to the Environmental Commission. This six-member joint Commission has equal Tribal and State representation and meets approximately twice a year to vote on rules and regulations for the SUIT Air Quality Division (AQD).

Scan the QR code to learn more about the commission, the position, and how to apply!

SCAN ME !



or contact:
970-563-2265
airquality@southernute-nsn.gov



Southern Ute Utilities Division
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 07/25/25



AUGUST UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**TRANSFER STATION
2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

SEPTEMBER 1ST LABOR DAY — CLOSED
OCT 13TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED
NOV 10TH/11TH VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
NOV 27TH THANKSGIVING DAY — CLOSED
DEC 10TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

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



AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, Aug. 6th. Payments must be received before 10am.
- Bears are out!** Please keep your trash polycart safe or under lock so bears cannot access trash. Utilize the Transfer Station if your trash is overflowing.
- Ignacio Peak & Chief Shavano Dr. Residents: A 1-day Water Outage is forthcoming in August. Proper notification will be given in advance.
- Calling the Utilities Office and no answer?** If staff is busy with other customers, calls are now routed to Growth Fund Front Desk. Explain your concern to Shelenia, Hillary, or Debbie and they will get a message transferred to Utilities, and a staff member will soon contact you to discuss your request or concern. (970) 563-5500. If after-hours, leave a message and the on-call staff will return your call.
- Upcoming Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project at Northridge & Sunset Circle Housing area to commence in September. More information and proper notification will be given in advance to residents.



OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Friday 8 AM to 5 PM
Lobby closed 12p -1p on Fridays
Reach a staff member 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.
Aug. 6th / Sept. 3rd / Oct. 1st
Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments before 10am on Shut-Off Day

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at www.suitutil.com Choose “Pay My Bill” tab
- Utilities Drive-Up Window
- Utilities Drop Box at Office
- Wells Fargo—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—Part 2

- Please clear a path to your cisterns so water truck can easily access—remove any trash or debris
- Check your cistern levels before week-ends and holidays to avoid emergency hauls, which cost extra
- Residents are responsible for the operation & maintenance of their cistern

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



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

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

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

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

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

Administrative Assistant II

Closes 8/1/25 – Assists Multi-Purpose/Chapel/Ute Park Facility Operations Manager with the operations and internal coordination of the Multi-Purpose/Chapel/Ute Park activities and basic office management. Assisting in the oversight/coordination of all regularly scheduled events and special events for the Multi-Purpose Facility, Memorial Chapel, and Ute Park. Pay grade N9; Pay rate is \$20.26/hour.

Communications Manager

Closes 7/25/25 – Under general supervision of the Chief of Police, this position provides day-to-day management and oversight to the Communication Center operations staff (Dispatchers) including planning, developing, coordinating, supervising, and reviewing all aspects of the work of employees. Pay grade E16; pay is \$77,627/annually.

Gaming Investigator I

Closes 8/1/25 – An entry level position located under the Southern Ute Division of Gaming (DOG). Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, incumbent works in coordination with other DOG Investigators to learn and perform Law Enforcement/Regulatory duties for the enforcement of Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N13; Pay rate is \$28.60/hour.

Gaming Investigator II

Closes 8/1/25 – Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, regulates and controls Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N14; Pay rate is \$30.84/hour.

Advanced Practice Provider PT w/Benefits

Open Until Filled – Provides direct and comprehensive primary, preventive and therapeutic medical care to individuals across their lifespan. Clinical supervision will be provided by the Chief Medical Officer. Part-time with benefits, pay grade E19; Pay starts at \$68,976.96/year.

AP/AR Clerk

Open Until Filled – Processing accounts payable including vendor invoices, travel per diems, and check requests, including creating payment vouchers, matching to PO's and receivers, and generating checks. Processing accounts receivable transactions including invoicing, cash receipts, account adjustments, and printing invoices and statements. Pay grade N9; Pay rate is \$20.26/hr.

Behavioral Health Therapist

Open Until Filled – 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.

Chief Judge Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

Community Health Representative

Open Until Filled – Providing assistance and the coordination and development of activities for elderly and physically or mentally disabled Tribal members. Performs community health duties to include patient transport and monitoring, home visits, conducting classes, and providing community education on Tribal health issues. Home Care may include house cleaning, personal hygiene, preparing meals, and other health and wellness related activities. Pay grade N9; Pay rate is \$20.26/hour.

Controller

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

Detention Division Head

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Director of Justice and Regulatory, plans, organizes, directs, and reviews the administrative and operational activities of the Southern Ute Detention Program and Facility; ensures compliance with all applicable laws, policies, and procedures; develops and implements Division policy and programmatic changes as required. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

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

Elementary Teacher

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

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 systems, circulation pumps, steam humidifiers, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers, and variable volume system located in Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

Lake Capote Manager Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

Land Surveyor

Open Until Filled – 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.

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.

NAGPRA Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Open Until Filled – Develops and administers procedures for determining the affiliation of Native American Remains, funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony, as well as the protection of archaeological and sacred sites. Pay grade N12; Pay starts at \$26.00/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.

Physician

Open Until Filled – Providing comprehensive medical services and primary care to the patients at the Southern Ute Health Center (SUHC). Pay grade E23; Pay starts at \$235,373/annually.

Public Health Nurse

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

Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at www.sugf.com/jobs.asp for full job details and to apply online.

Tribal Member employment preference • Must pass pre-employment drug test/background check.

Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO

Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-4777.

Maintenance Specialist – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)

Closing Date: 08/02/2025

Responsible for the coordination of maintenance activities between Red Willow operations and maintenance vendors, to include assisting in providing oversight to vendors. Will support the needs of the Operations team and monitor projects/progress to assure schedule coordination with Operations.

Portfolio Manager – GF Properties – Denver, CO

Closes 8/18/25 – Effectively managing income properties within the GF Properties Group portfolio. Portfolio management includes all facets of real estate operations including asset management, financial analysis, leasing, contract negotiation, construction management, financing and reporting. Will work closely with senior management to analyze and implement strategies that maximize the value of the entire real estate portfolio.

Real Estate Investment Analyst – GF Properties (Denver, CO)

Closes 8/11/25 – Assists in the general management of all assets managed by GF Properties Group and works closely with the Portfolio Manager and Vice President to assist with the general oversight of the properties, leasing, contract administration, placement, and monitoring of loans, routine site, and property inspections, site analysis and due diligence, construction management, budgeting, financial analysis, acquisition and disposition support, market and industry research, and reporting functions.

Lease Operator I Trainee – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 8/1/25 – Trainee position is designed to provide training and experience for up to one year to acquire the proficiency and skill set necessary to assume the responsibilities of a Lease Operator I position.

Senior Gas System Controller/Scheduler – Red Cedar (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 8/6/25 – Monitoring gas flows, volumes and activities related to the operation of pipelines and plant facilities including treating plants, gathering pipelines, gas compressors, remote electric generators and dehydration equipment; will also coordinate scheduled volumes for delivery to interstate pipelines.

Gas System Controller/Scheduler – Red Cedar (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 8/6/25 – Monitoring gas flows, volumes and activities related to the operation of pipelines and plant facilities including treating plants, gathering pipelines, gas compressors, remote electric generators and dehydration equipment; will also coordinate scheduled volumes for delivery to interstate pipelines.

Human Resources Assistant – Growth Fund – Ignacio, CO

Closes 8/1/25 – Provides clerical support to the Growth Fund Human Resources office, including maintaining an orderly and efficient office environment, assisting with special events, and presents a positive, courteous, and professional image to Growth Fund employees, applicants, Tribal members, and the public.

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

Application/Information: 970-563-0500 ext. 221

Job info, descriptions and application: www.ignacioschools.org/employment-cdac2310

- District Mechanic
- High School Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Middle School Head Football Coach

- Middle School Assistant Football Coach
- Route and Activity Bus Driver
- Secondary Spanish Teacher

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

Ignacio Early Learning Program:

Teacher Assistant (Full-time) \$15.79-20.76/hr.

Ignacio Youth Services:

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

Road Runner Transit:

- Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance Tech (Full-time) \$18.94/hr.
- Inter City Bus Driver (Full-time) \$22.76/hr., CDL with credentials required

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Registered Nurse – Detention

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

Southern Ute Tribal Ranger

Open Until Filled – Under the general supervision of Tribal Ranger Sergeant and Ranger Captain, assures compliance of all Tribal Natural Resource Codes, Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Polices. Pay grade N13; Pay is \$28.60/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.

Security Officer

Open Until Filled – Will provide security for throughout Tribal Campus. Patrolling and observing the activities of persons in and around the Moache Capote building. Work involves assessing problem situations and exercising tact and judgement in bringing about their resolution. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$21.89/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.

Special Needs Aide

Open Until Filled – Assists Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy disabled and special needs students with educational, physical, emotional, and social growth and development under direction of a certified guide or specialists. Assists with life skills, academic success, and meeting IEP (individual Education Plan) objectives. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$16.09/hour.

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 (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

THPO – Preservation Officer – Southern Ute member Only

Open Until Filled – 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. Pay grade E15; Salary is \$70,570/annually.

Transportation Division Head

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

Tribal 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. 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; Salary is \$235,373/annually.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program(Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

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.



TERO – Job announcements

Application/Information 970-563-0117 • Native American Preference Applies
Job descriptions and applications available at TERO: 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colo.

Building Carpenters And Laborers

- 1 - Laborer for site clean up and general construction maintenance
 - 1 - Lead Carpenter – MUST be experienced of at least 5 years’ experience with 2 being a Lead Carpenter.
 - 1 - Framing and Siding Carpenter – Must have some knowledge and experience of at least 1 year.
- ALL POSITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO DRUG TESTING. If interested contact TERO for a full job description and to submit your application or resume.

Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

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

49 Lounge Bartender (Part-time)

Provide exceptional lounge experience by delivering first-class guest service of beverages and cocktails. Mix and serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and interact with guests. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Provide beverage and cocktail service to bar patrons and restaurant guests.

Beverage & Cocktail Server (On-call)

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.

*Café Cashier (Full-time)

Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Taking guests food orders, accurately totaling food and beverage purchases and collecting payments. Assists in preparing and serving all the food 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 the end of the shift with a proper report on 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 associated with the ICMP or any other Internal Violations.

*Cage Staff (Full-time)

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls.

*Deep Cleaning Staff (Full-time)

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

*Executive Chef (Full-time)

Oversee all functions of the main kitchen, including production, food safety, staff training and development, and product management. Ensures the highest quality and consistency as it relates to food handling, sanitation, food quality, service in the dining room, and food presentations. Supervising, training and development of all kitchen personnel.

*Director of Marketing (Full-time)

Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for overseeing the Marketing Manager and the Guest Services Manager as well as the overall operations of the Marketing Department including but not limited to, promotions, sales, entertainment, advertising, and player development program. Carries out responsibilities in accordance with the organization’s policies and procedures. Manages all areas of database analysis to target the areas of player data to enhance and retain the gaming market and is responsible for all marketing expenses.

*Front Desk Associate (Temp.)

The Front Desk Staff is responsible for 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 includes but is not limited to luggage assistance, directions/maps, driving guests to/from the airport.

*Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)

Duties consist of 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.

Housekeeping Staff (Part-time)

Duties consist of 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.

*Kitchen Utility Steward (Full-time)

Will perform multiple tasks and duties within the entire kitchen as instructed by Food and Beverage Management and/or Supervisor. Washing dishes, cleaning facilities and cooking in several capacities.

Level I Facilities Staff (Part-time)

Entry level position, reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift and supporting the operation of equipment, environmental condition, and appearance of the overall facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

*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.

*Multi-Games Dealer (Full-time)

Deals with blackjack (Class 3), three card poker, roulette and specialty games while providing a positive guest experience through accurate, prompt, courteous and efficient service. Reports to the Table Games Manager or as otherwise designated.

*Project Cleaner (Full-time)

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other assigned areas. Will be responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor, in Laundry, and as a Room Attendant to further assist the housekeeping department when needed and as assigned. Reports directly to the Housekeeping Department and will be assigned to take on specific projects as assigned.

*Revenue Auditor (Full-time)

Daily auditing of revenue transaction records that are turned into the accounting department from the Casino’s profit centers. Will be required to follow written procedures and conduct an independent and in-depth review of: cash receipts, register tapes, sales records, gaming summaries, shift balancing reports, and other raw documentation submitted to accounting by the outlets.

Rolling Thunder Grill Cashier (Part-time)

Greet guests in a friendly manner, take and deliver orders, calculate checks, and receive payment for the Bowling Grill Window and Restaurant.

*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 the areas of the guest rooms. 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. Will be 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. Will be responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

*Security Officer (Full-time)

The Security department is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Ensures that all company policies and internal control procedures are followed. The department is responsible for guest and employee safety on property. The first identifiable representatives of the Casino whose conduct and customer service skills must be of the highest quality. Must present themselves professionally, assisting and helping customers with their problems and concerns.

Seven Rivers Bartender (On-call)

Provide an exceptional fine dining/lounge experience by delivering first class guest service of beverages and cocktails. Possess an extensive knowledge of mixed drinks and wine. Mix and serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and interact with guests. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely, and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Provide beverage and cocktail service to bar patrons and restaurant guests.

*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.

*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.

Slot Operations Floor Person (On-call)

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 designer, ensure guest relations through prompt, and assists guests with slot machine usage, educating them regarding play, wagers, and pay tables.

*Willows Host (Full-time)

Provide an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service by greeting and ensuring timely and appropriate seating of guests. Will assist Supervisor and/or Manager with table management to maximize seating and assist guests with special requests. Will answer phone calls and return messages, track reservations and comps and assist servers when needed.

NOW HIRING



COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER
Southern Ute Police Dept.

Position Summary: Under general supervision of the Chief of Police, incumbent provides day-to-day management over the Communications Center staff (Dispatchers) and operations including planning, developing, coordinating, and staff supervision.

Starting Pay Range: E16; \$77,627/annually

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>

For full position information and how to apply:
Visit the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s job vacancy website at

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

Hiring qualified applicants shall follow those preferences set forth in the TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CODE (“TERO CODE”) in order of priority (the TERO preferences).



Detention Division Head

Southern Ute Detention Center
Southern Ute Reservation

Closing Date: Open Until Filled
SALARY: \$ 86,943

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

AA Degree in Criminal Justice OR related field OR progressive experience in law enforcement and/or detention with combination of education, training, supervisory, and leadership experience. Must have 6 years in Criminal Justice, 3 years must be in Detention. Must demonstrate 3 years of progressive supervisory experience in Criminal Justice or related area. Must pass a thorough background check.

TASKS:

Under general supervision plans, organizes, directs, and reviews the administrative and operational activities of the Southern Ute Detention Program and Facility; ensures compliance with all applicable laws, policies, and procedures; develops and implements Division policy and programmatic changes as required.

For full position information and how to apply:

Southern Ute Permanent Fund Human Resources
P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137 Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424
Hotline: 970-563-4777
<https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>

Hiring qualified applicants shall follow those preferences set forth in the TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CODE (“TERO CODE”) in order of priority (the TERO preferences).

TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY
SUIHA – Indian Artwork Drawing

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority will be having a drawing on Indian Artwork, approximately seventeen pictures on July 31, between the hours of 11:30 to 1:30 for viewing. The drawing will be at 1:30 p.m. You do not need to be present, however should your name be called, you must have a good working phone number to call, and you will have till Monday, August 4, before noon to pick up the artwork. Should you not pick it up by then, the next name will be pulled.

In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

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

NOTICE OF PROBATE
In the Estate Of,
Case No.: 2025-0052-CV-PR
Felicia Cleone McKinley, Deceased

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **SEPTEMBER 8, 2025** at 9:00 AM. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 21st of July, 2025
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Avoiding black bear encounters

Staff report
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Black bear calls to Tribal Wildlife generally start to increase in the late summer around the Ignacio area and we have been made aware of increased activity in the Cedar Point neighborhood. The mild spring and summer weather should have produced ample natural food sources, but we still see bears coming into neighborhoods searching for easy food sources.

Unfortunately, human food sources can often become easy meals for black bears during this time. Although it may seem humane to provide food to hungry bears, it is truly a disservice to both the bear and the community. Black bears that habitually receive food from human sources often become used to close contact with people and begin to lose their natural fear of people. Black bears will often return to the area where food was previously available. If food is unavailable on their return, they can become destructive or even aggressive in their search for additional food. It is important to remember that black bears have the ability to withstand years of natural food shortages without human intervention.

The most effective meth-

od to avoid black bear encounters and to reduce the incidence of bears visiting residential areas is to remove any potential food or attractant available to them. Store trash until the morning of scheduled pick-up in a secure container, preferably inside a garage or shed. Tribal members may contact the Tribal Utilities Division to upgrade their trash cans to bear-proof models for a small additional monthly expense. If used properly, these upgraded cans are very effective at keeping all wildlife out of the trash. Additionally, we ask people to store pet food indoors and pick up any uneaten food remaining in pet dishes in the evening. Remove bird feeders each evening. Also, store barbecue grills indoors and clean up any spilled grease. Pick ripe fruit from fruit-bearing trees and pick up any fruit that falls to the ground.

It is important to remove any potential source of black bear food from residential areas. In the absence of human food sources, black bears will almost always look elsewhere for food, hopefully utilizing their natural sources.

The Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management believes in removing attractants (e.g., trash, pet food, bird feeders, and grills) prior to taking

steps to remove a bear. If attractants aren't removed, then another bear or other wildlife will likely continue to take advantage of the source. The Wildlife Division does have the ability to trap and relocate nuisance bears, but this is treated as a last-resort option and only if all prevention measures have been tried.

If people see a black bear from a distance, it is important that they do not approach it. If a close encounter occurs, some general guidelines to follow are:

- Stay calm.
- Stop and back away slowly while facing the bear.
- Avoid direct eye contact. Direct eye contact may be perceived as threatening by a black bear.
- Speak softly to identify yourself as a human and to show that you are not a threat to the bear.
- Fight back if the bear attacks.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management at 970-563-0130.

To report black bear encounters, contact the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management at 970-563-0130; the Southern Ute Tribal Rangers at 970-563-0133; or Southern Ute Dispatch at 970-563-4401.

EPD dedicates River Trail



Savannah Elk/SU Drum YEP

Volunteers work together to place native plants along the River Trail, in an effort to help restore the trail back to a more natural state following the Bear Dance Fire which burned along the river in 2022.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Executive Officer, Lindsay Box helps plant trees and shrubs as part of the Grand Re-Opening of the River Trail, which encouraged participation from tribal departments and the community.

The Tribe's Environmental Programs Department hosted a Grand Re-Opening of the River Trail on Wednesday July 9, capping off the reconstruction and improvements to the trail system following the 2022 Bear Dance Fire and subsequent remediation efforts. The Environmental Programs Department, in conjunction with Cottonwood Consulting, LLC worked to expand the trail network that connects Scott's Pond to Ute Road. The project was spearheaded by Mitch Dorsk, EPD Remediation Program Manager in partnership with Emma Miller, a staff scientist with Cottonwood Consulting, LLC.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Nathan Strong Elk prepares a Native shrub for planting along the River Trail; Strong Elk also provided a traditional blessing ahead of the morning program.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

EPD air quality scientists, James Temte and Patty Peña, view the recently added informational signs that adorn the trail system along the pine river leading towards Scotts Pond. The trail signs highlight various topics such as Ute culture, traditional plants, regional wildlife and the role of wildfire on the natural landscape.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Division of Wildlife Resource Management

Let us work together to protect our wildlife and our community

Be Bear Aware – Cedar Point & Ignacio Area

As summer rolls on, black bear sightings are on the rise—especially around the Cedar Point neighborhood. Even with a good natural food season, bears are still venturing into neighborhoods looking for easy meals.

Human Food = Bear Trouble

Feeding bears, even unintentionally, puts both the animals and our community at risk. Bears that get used to human food lose their natural fear of people and can become aggressive when food isn't available.

Help Keep Bears Wild and Our Neighborhoods Safe:

- Store trash in bear-proof containers or keep it inside until pickup day.
 - **Tribal Members:** Contact Tribal Utilities at 970-563-5500 to upgrade to bear-proof trash cans for a small monthly fee.
- Bring pet food indoors at night.
- Take down bird feeders in the evening.
- Clean grills and store them inside.
- Pick ripe fruit and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

If You See a Bear:

- Stay calm.
- Back away slowly - do not run
- Avoid eye contact.
- Speak softly.
- If attacked, fight back.

To Report Bear Activity Contact

Tribal Rangers 970-563-0133	Wildlife Resource Management 970-563-0130	SUPD Dispatch 970-563-4401
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LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, July 25

Sunny 88°F
Light to afternoon wind gusts

Saturday, July 26

Sunny 87°F
Light to afternoon wind gusts

Sunday, July 27

Sunny 90°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

July 24

August 1

August 9

August 16

August 23