THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

FREE

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NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

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Southern Ute Drum wins six media awards from Indigenous Journalists Association

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Southern Ute Reservation to initiate Stage II Fire Restrictions

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Due to the continued drought, extremely dry fuel conditions and the occurrence of recent large wildland fires, Stage II fire restrictions will be 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.

Stage II Fire Restrictions prohibits acts for the general public, commercial operators and industrial oil and gas operators performing work on the Southern Ute Reservation.

The following acts are prohibited for the general public on reservation lands:

STAGE II
General Public:
Prohibited acts:

1. **OPEN BURNING:** Burning of trash and/or

Fire restrictions *page 12*

Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Kayaking Guide, Sage Nicolai stands with students, Leandro Litz Jr. and Matthew Carrillo at the end of their weeklong kayaking class on Friday, Aug. 1.

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Spotlight on Tribal Health: Kristen Anderson

Staff Report
SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Kristen Anderson
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmcist
Southern Ute Health Center

Continuing in the effort to provide the highest quality medical care for the Southern Ute tribal membership, the Southern Ute Health Center would like to introduce you to Dr. Kristen Anderson, PharmD, BS Pharm, BCGS. Dr. Anderson joined our team in September of 2022 as our Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist, bringing 30 years of pharmacist experience, and is currently seeing patients in the Southern Ute Health Clinic.

Kristen is a pharmacist and medication expert specializing in diabetes and the healthcare of elders. Clinic providers refer patients to Kristen who have been diagnosed with a medical issue that requires more frequent medication management and follow-up. Through a collaborative practice agreement with medical doctors and nurse practitioners in the clinic, she helps patients access some of the most state-of-the-art medications and diabetes care available today. She also educates patients on insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors, enabling them to manage their blood sugars on a whole new level.

Dr. Anderson received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver in 1996 and completed her ASHP Residency in Hospital Pharmacy Practice at the Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Mich. in 1997. She has held Clinical Pharmacist positions at several large teaching hospitals around the country, developing Clinical Pharmacy Services, working in adult, pediatric, and neonatal ICUs, general medicine floors, and emergency rooms. In 2013, after 20 years of practice, she went back to school to get her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida and then became Board Certified in Geriatrics.

In 2016, she joined the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, N.M., working in outpatient clinic settings, in-patient hospital floors, and the emergency room. While there, she trained and became a Pharmacist Clinician through UNM Med School and 500 hours of patient contact at NNMC. Eventually, she began seeing patients independently in various areas of specialty. This role was very helpful in preparing her for her current position at the Southern Ute Health Center.

Anderson has called Durango home since she was three years old and has had the fortune of enjoying all the area has to offer for many years. She enjoys skiing, cycling, spending time with friends, enjoying the outdoors in the Colorado mountains, and traveling. She currently lives in Durango and will be welcoming a new puppy into her home this month!

Kristen has enjoyed getting to know people in the Southern Ute community and being able to serve as a member of the healthcare team at the Southern Ute Health Clinic. Her favorite thing about her job is the time she gets to spend listening to her patients and helping them meet their health care goals.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Ute youth hit the Animas River Whitewater Park

By Divine Windy Boy
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Matthew Carrillo paddles down the Animas River at Santa Rita Whitewater Park during a weeklong kayaking class with Four Corners River Sports.

Just northwest of Ignacio, at the Santa Rita Whitewater Park, the Animas River flows throughout the Southern Ute Reservation and into northern New Mexico. The river has long been a prime destination for recreational water sports, where locals and tourists enjoy rafting, tubing, fishing, and kayaking. To increase diversity on the water, Four Corners River Sports offered programming specific to Ute youth, supported by grant funding, to teach them how to kayak. Led by Native kayaking guide, Sage Nicolai, the youth spent a week on the river gaining an immersive kayaking experience.

Southern Ute tribal members – Matthew Carrillo and Leandro Litz Jr. spent time with Nicolai and other guides out on the Animas River, Monday, July 28 through Friday, Aug. 1, learning the ins and outs of the sport. The Animas River is one of the best rafting and kayaking locations in Colorado and brings in nearly 10% of Colorado's rafting revenue. Located in Durango, Colo., the Santa Rita Whitewater Park is an artificially designed area of rapids in the Animas River. The park also features viewing areas, public open space, and more.

"In collaboration with Kristean Velasquez and Ashleigh Tucker, who helped secure our grant funding, we were able to identify 'Tuk' [Matthew Carrillo] and 'Jr.' [Leandro Litz Jr.] as two Southern Ute kids that would really benefit from this experience," Nicolai said. "Just watching them evolve over those five days, from taking a stroke and having a spinout to kayaking down a class three wave on the Smelter, was incredible."

Nicolai is a kayaking guide with Four Corners River Sports in Durango, hailing from the Flathead

Youth *page 7*

It's a fiesta!

Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel waves to the crowd and judges during the San Ignacio Fiesta Parade on Saturday, July 26. Carel went on to place first in the horses-single category of the parade. This year marks the 127th annual San Ignacio Fiesta. Downtown Ignacio was lined with spectators eagerly waiting for the parade to kick off – families, royalty, and local organizations graced the streets on Saturday morning, sharing various goods along Goddard Ave.

See more San Ignacio Fiesta photos on page 13.

Colors leading Grand Entry

Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Leading Grand Entry, the color guard, composed of veterans carrying the colors into the Ute Mountain Casino Powwow arbor during the Saturday evening Grand Entry, Aug. 2 in Towaoc, Colo. Left to right are Owen House, Jeffery Whiteskunk, Bruce Valdez, Rudley Weaver, Gordon Hammond and Willard Light.

See more Ute Mountain Casino Powwow photos on page 11.

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Growth Fund to hold annual General Meeting in Sept.

By Pooja Rao-Pennington
Southern Ute Growth Fund

You are invited to the upcoming Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund General Meeting.

This General Meeting is for the enrolled Southern Ute tribal membership and will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18.

The meeting will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center. Breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 a.m.

Details below on attendance options:

- **Attend in person** – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center.
- **Join us online via Webex** – The event will be streamed via Webex for the tribal membership only. To ensure this information is only shared with the appropriate individuals, tribal members must register for the Webex event separately. Scan the barcode via your smart device to take you directly to the registration page. You can also register by following the link on one of these locations. Tribal Member Experience (TMX), tribal social feed (Instagram, Facebook), and the Southern Ute Drum's website. **Registration is required if you want to gain access to the Webex event.** Webex Registration Link (case sensitive): https://bit.ly/2025sugfgm

Before the Webex Event, it is advisable to visit the following help site to test your browser and connection: https://bit.ly/3e7p7Ne. Should you have additional technical problems, don't hesitate to get in touch with the SUSS helpdesk at 970-563-5050.

If you are not able to attend, the recording will be available on Tribal Member Experience (TMX). **As a friendly reminder, this is a closed meeting for the Southern Ute tribal membership only.** We hope you will join us.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Jymmy Haddon, Executive Assistant, at 970-563-5025 or jhaddon@sugf.com

Many Moons Ago

Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Club members shared in some laughs, smiles and some hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, juice and watermelon during the Last Days of Summer BGC BBQ.

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

Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

The 3rd Annual Velasquez Football Camp was held Thursday and Friday, July 21 and 22 at the SunUte Multi-Purpose Field. Ignacio Junior High football coach Abel Velasquez Sr., coach Roger Mestas, and Gus Velasquez coached a group of approximately thirty boys.

This photo was first published in the Aug. 5, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

A grand display of Ute royalty, Miss So. Ute Twyla Blackbird and Jr. Miss-1st Attendant, Melanie Lucero.

This photo was published in the Aug. 4, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Sadie Frost – Little Miss Sunset, was San Ignacio Fiesta parade winner in the children's horse and rider category.

This photo was published in the Aug. 9, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

PRESERVATION THROUGH PRINT WORKSHOP

Preserving Indigenous Cultures and Histories through Affordable Self-Publishing Projects

Sponsored by the

UTE INDIAN MUSEUM
Saturday, September 13, 2025
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

PLEASE RSVP: 970-249-3098

Interactive Workshop Presented by

Vickie Leigh Krudwig,
Award-Winning Author and
Self-Publishing Consultant

Books should not only be a teaching tool but also a means to preserve and protect the history of indigenous cultures for future generations. Historical books presented from a tribal perspective offer native children an opportunity to gain and retain knowledge about their ancestral history, culture and traditions. We believe it is critical that indigenous children are able to identify with their ancestral roots and realize the importance of their power and presence in the world today. This workshop is geared to inspire and to help tribal educators grow young leaders through creative and innovative written materials and lessons through a native point of view. Help children learn how to tap into the ancient wisdom of their ancestors and their deep understanding of the land and its resources. Create lessons based on science, math, language, art, storytelling, songs, poetry, and nature, all from a tribal perspective.

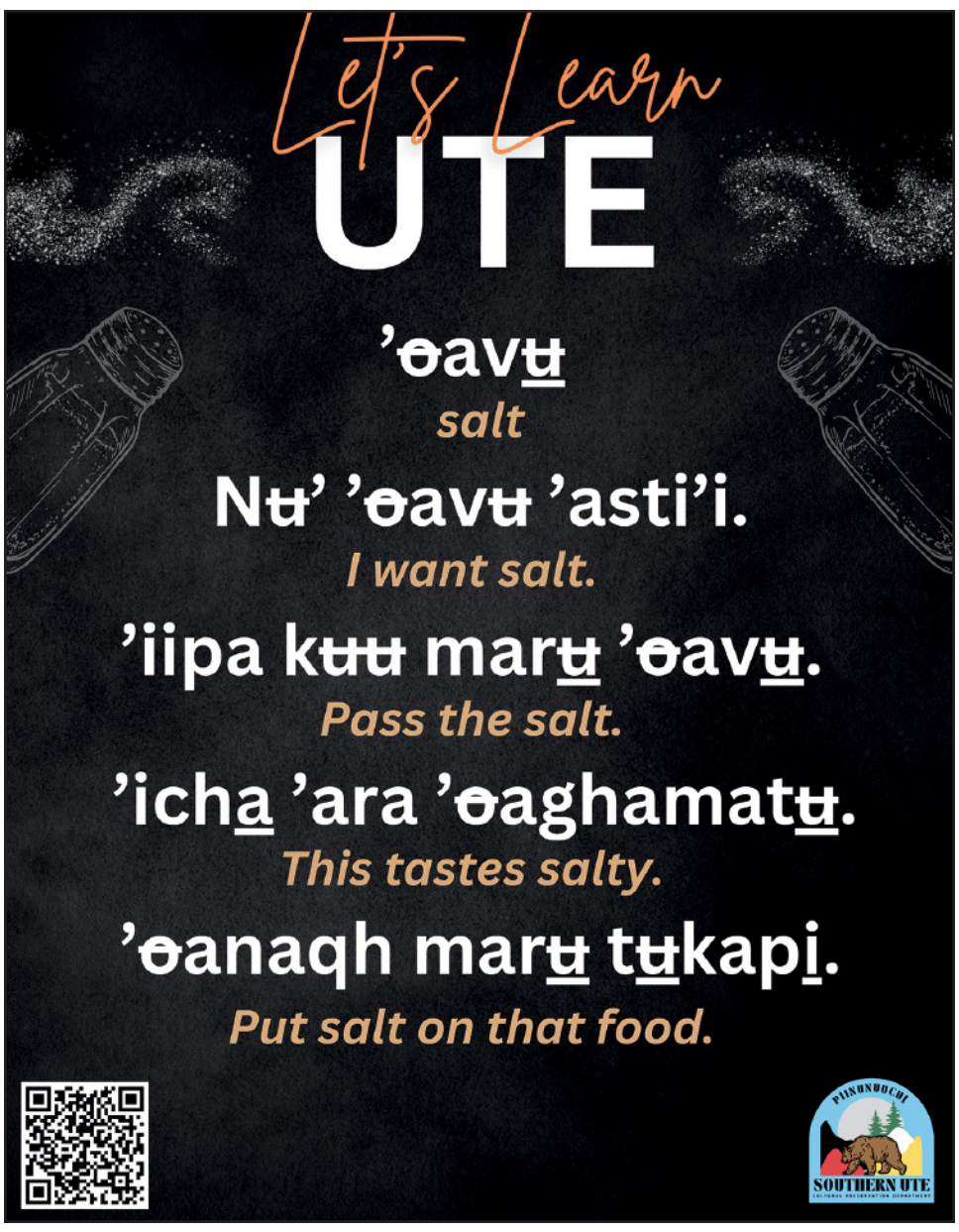
Learn how to assess your ideas and turn them into viable resources for young indigenous children and their families. Learn how to get started, work with collaborators, and get support from community members. Find out what steps are needed to produce a book and how to manage the project once it is in motion. Learn how to utilize electronic printing or print on demand for books.

The Ute Indian Museum (History Colorado) is a perfect location for our one-day workshop. It has established a successful STEM program for students, teachers, and visitors. and shows them Ute Indians have applied science, technology, engineering, and math to survive and thrive in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. After the workshop visit the Native Plants garden across from the museum to learn about Colorado's native plants beneficial to the Ute and other indigenous tribes. Stop by our outdoor classroom designed to connect children to the land and the Ute history. Our outdoor classroom also features Shavano Ute rock art like the rock art found in the Shavano Valley.

Price for the workshop is only $25.00!
Includes light refreshments, lunch and workshop materials.

Read more about the Preservation Through Print Workshop on https://www.harmonyhousestudio.com/events

Questions? Email Vickie at harmonyhouseartstudio@gmail.com
Or call The Ute Indian Museum at (970) 249-3098



2025 WHITE MESA BEAR DANCE

LABOR DAY WEEKEND—AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

SUNRISE PRAYER & BLESSING
FRIDAY AUGUST 29 @ 6:00 A.M.
BEAR DANCE CORRAL

WHITE MESA BEAR DANCE CHIEFS
JACK CANTSEE JR.*TALLAS CANTSEE*ALDEAN KETCHUM

FRIDAY AUGUST 29
BLESSING OF BEAR DANCE GROUNDS
BEAR DANCE CELEBRATION BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M.
BEAR DANCE (ALL DAY)

SATURDAY AUGUST 30
BEAR DANCE (ALL DAY, ALSO NIGHT DANCE) BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M.
DIABETES WALK CONTACT SLEEPING UTE DIABETES PROGRAM (970) 564-5391
REGISTRATION 7:00-8:00 A.M.—BEAR DANCE GROUND ENTRANCE
WALK AT 8:00 A.M.—FINISH/START AT BEAR DANCE GROUND ENTRANCE
DEPARTMENT WILL BE DOING BLOOD SUGAR CHECK
PARADE CONTACT WHITE MESA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE (970) 560-4326
BEGINS AT SOUTH BEAVER LANE AT 10:00 A.M., END AT THE BEAR DANCE GROUND
HANDGAME TOURNAMENT CONTACT KERLYN DUTCHIE OR CONTESSA TILLAHASH (970) 238-0625 OR (970) 238-6917
REGISTRATION OPENS AT 10:00 A.M. CLOSES AT 12:30 P.M.
TOURNAMENT BEGINS AT 1:00 P.M. (NO INDIAN TIME)
CONTEST POW-WOW CONTACT JAQUE CANTSEE (970) 696-1442 OR RACHELLE FITIAO (435) 419-0436
GRAND ENTRY AT 1:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.
COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONTACT VERONICA LANG (970) 238-0590
LIGHTNING ROCK COUNTRY BAND 9:00 P.M.-1:00 A.M. AT WHITE MESA RECREATION CENTER

SUNDAY AUGUST 31
BEAR DANCE (ALL DAY, ALSO NIGHT DANCE) BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M.
CONTEST POW-WOW CONTACT JAQUE CANTSEE (970) 696-1442 OR RACHELLE FITIAO (435) 419-0436
GRAND ENTRY AT 1:00 P.M.
ADULT & YOUTH HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT CONTACT LAUANA MORRIS (970) 238-0943 OR LMorris@utemountain.org
TOURNAMENT AT WHITE MESA SOFTBALL FIELD AT 5:00 P.M.
COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONTACT CONTESSA TILLAHASH (970) 238-0625 OR (970) 238-6917
BRYON RAMONE BAND 9:00 P.M.-1:00 A.M. AT WHITE MESA RECREATION CENTER

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1
BEAR DANCE (ALL DAY) BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. ENDING AT SUNSET
FEAST 12:00 P.M. (NOON) LOCATED NEXT TO POW-WOW GROUNDS

CONCESSION INFORMATION:
CONTACT WHITE MESA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE (970) 238-0591

ALL SINGERS WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS CALL (970) 238-0591, (970) 238-0624 OR (970) 238-0625
BEAR DANCE CHIEFS, WHITE MESA ADMINISTRATION AND UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURIES, ACCIDENTS, THEFTS, AND UNDERFUNDED TRAVELERS.
EVERYONE WELCOME!
13 MILES SOUTH OF BLANDING, UTAH

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.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEALTH PLANS® A UnitedHealthcare Company

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.

Royalty at region's powwows

courtesy Dominika Joy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and fellow royalty after giving introductions at the Little Beaver Powwow.

courtesy Dominika Joy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany with his friend and fellow fancy dancer, Jace Harrison, in Dulce, N.M. during the Little Beaver Powwow.

courtesy Marie Carel

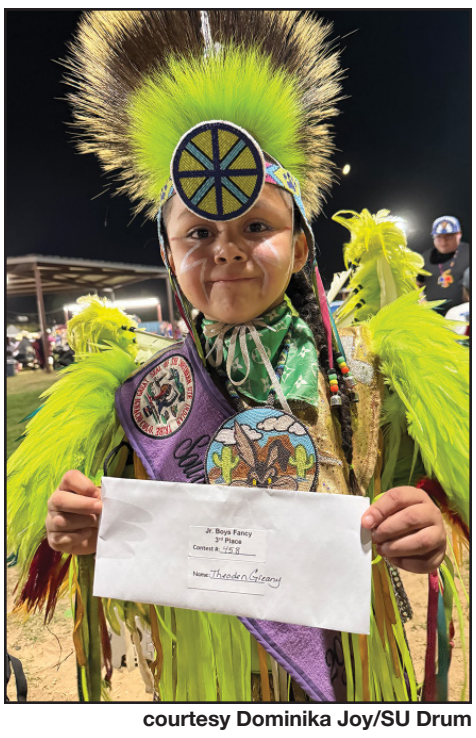
Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel and Little Miss Southern Ute Alt., Olyvia Watts stand with the newly crowned Miss Indian Colorado, Aliyah Jacket. The crowning was held at the Ute Mountain Casino Powwow Friday, Aug. 1, following Grand Entry.

courtesy Dominika Joy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and fellow fancy dancer Simon Washee.

courtesy Dominika Joy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany after placing first in Junior Boys Fancy in Dulce, N.M. during the Little Beaver Powwow.



courtesy Dominika Joy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany placed third in the Junior and Teen Boys Fancy Dancer contest.

HEALTHY RECIPES

Mediterranean tuna salad pitas

By Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC
Shining Mountain Health and Wellness

Ikhsan/AdobeStock

The Mediterranean Diet has been shown to promote heart and brain health as well as lower the risk of diseases such as diabetes, among other benefits. This dish, simple and healthy with a twist to the usual tuna salad, fits the bill.

With the changes of Greek yogurt instead of mayonnaise, you lower calories and increase protein. Kalamata olives add a dose of healthy fat, and the herbs and spices add anti-inflammatory compounds. Using whole grain pita brings fiber, and any veggies you add to the sandwich are a bonus!

Great for lunch or a quick weeknight dinner.

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

Mediterranean Tuna Salad Pitas

Ingredients:
- 12oz. can of tuna, drained
- 3 tablespoons plain Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, roughly chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground mustard
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 4oz kalamata olives, chopped
- 2 tablespoons red onion, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Sliced tomatoes and cucumbers
- 4 whole wheat pita bread (pocket or flat)

Directions:
1. Drain tuna.
2. In a medium bowl, flake tuna to break up.
3. In a small bowl whisk Greek yogurt, dill, mustard, cumin, and lemon.
4. Stir kalamata olives and red onion into yogurt mixture.
5. Add yogurt mixture to tuna and stir to combine, breaking up any chunks, until tuna is coated (add more yogurt as desired for consistency).
6. Salt and pepper to taste.
7. Place ¼ of the tuna mixture in pita pocket or on half of pita flatbread.
8. Add slices of tomato and cucumber, enjoy!

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Blue light & sleep

By James Wilson
Southern Ute Behavioral Health

Welcome back reader! For those of you who read the previous piece from BEE HEARD on sunlight and its role in our total wellness, this is a continuation of that story. But do not worry if you missed it. Today we are exploring the many beautiful colors of light, and how they have different effects on us, especially now in the age of artificial light in our homes.

The sun's light contains a broad spectrum of light from the highest wavelengths, producing red, orange, yellow, and green, as well as shorter wavelengths which include blue, violet, and ultraviolet. You can observe this in nature when you see a rainbow and notice how the water droplets break up the sun's light waves into separate colors from the spectrum.

Artificial light, by contrast, is less powerful and can contain a broad or narrow spectrum of light depending on how it was designed. We now can have lights that are only blue, or only red, or some combination and make them brighter or softer to our liking.

We know that the light of the sun is beneficial to us, and that modern technological lights have allowed us to brighten dark places and take control of when and how long we have access to light. Much attention is now being placed on how the different kinds of light affect us, and you may have heard about how the shorter waves of blue light, but also violet and UV light affect our ability to sleep at night. Let me share with you what I've learned about these issues.

Blue light suppresses natural melatonin production in our bodies, which is a process our body must work up to slowly via the circadian rhythm. All kinds of bright light can do this, but according to a study out of Harvard medical school, the impact of blue light was about three times more powerful at reducing our melatonin and shifting our circadian rhythm later into the evening. Depending on your sleep schedule (and where in the world you live) avoiding bright light of any kind, and blue light from artificial lights, between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., will help to set a circadian rhythm that aligns with the cycle of sun.

Dim, red light is shown to be much less disruptive to our melatonin and circadian rhythm, and better yet is having these lights placed in our homes lower than eye level. How does that help? Well, think about how when the sun is high overhead that means its peak daytime; and in the evening it sinks below the horizon. So, in effect we are trying to bring the natural horizon and the sunset into our homes by placing dim, natural or artificial lights near or on the floor with this little trick. How dim is dim enough? Some examples of dim light from Dr. Andrew Huberman are candlelight and moonlight, which are much less intense and great for evening light reduction. Dr. Huberman reminds us that any bright light, regardless of color, will delay our natural melatonin creation and make it harder for us to fall and stay asleep.

Blue light blocking glasses are also helpful for those of us who have late shifts and work on computers at night, but please do not use blue light glasses as a trick to continue scrolling on your phone at bedtime, because at the end of the day, it's time to go to sleep!

TRIBAL HEALTH

Do your brain a favor, learn something new!

By Karen Forest RN, BSN
Community and Home Health Services

The August theme of our year-long focus on brain health is the importance of continuous learning and cognitive engagement in keeping our brains healthy. There is a common misperception that after a certain age, our brains stop growing and developing. In fact, due to two incredible capabilities, neurogenesis and neuroplasticity, our brains can continue to not only create new cells but even form new neural pathways throughout our lifetimes.

You might ask, so what? But laying down new neural pathways doesn't just mean you are acquiring information. It means you are enhancing your brain's resiliency in all kinds of ways. Studies show that individuals who challenge their brains with regular stimulation (i.e. learning) demonstrate enhanced attention span and memory retention. Problem solving and critical thinking are improved. And perhaps most importantly, engaging in lifelong learning has been shown to decrease a person's risk of developing dementia.

The best part is that stimulating neurogenesis and plasticity in your brain is something we can all do every day. Simply by exposing yourself to new ideas and experiences, you can exercise your brain to be more adaptable, resilient, and healthy. All it takes is a little curiosity, and a willingness to try something new.

Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

- Visit the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. Take a tour of their incredible permanent gallery or check out the current online exhibit here: Online Exhibit – Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum.
- Read a book! Did you know that the Ignacio Public Library has an extensive Native American collection, both fiction and nonfiction? Check one out today and discover the magic of reading.
- Try a new recipe. Don't know where to start? Sign up for Shining Mountain Fresh, a monthly meal kit that includes a new recipe and everything you need to make it. Contact Lisa Smith at 970-563-2344.
- Start a new hobby. Traditional crafts like painting, beading and basketmaking all stimulate the brain, improve eye-hand coordination and if done with friends, can provide valuable social connection.

Lifelong learning can be fun, fulfilling and even therapeutic. Do your brain, and yourself, a favor and learn something new!

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 p.m., *by appointment only*
- 1st Aid/CPR/AED classes: Last Saturday of each month, *must register in advance*
- Babysitter Training: *by appointment only*

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

This advertisement was produced by StrongHearts Native Helpline with Grant No 15POVC-23-GK-01582-TVAG, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this ad are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ute youth hit Animas • from page 1

Indian Reservation he has been active in water sports since age 16. Nicolai got started rafting through his father, then later got into kayaking, this year he completed his certification to become a kayak guide through Four Corners River Sports. In his time on the river, Nicolai noticed a lack in diversity amongst the classes he was leading – being Indigenous himself, it became a goal to introduce this water sport to other Indigenous youth.

"I didn't really notice that big of a diversity within the classes, and myself being Native, I had the idea that maybe I can help get some neighboring Ute kids out here to come and kayak and have fun," Nicolai said. "Kayaking is such a fun sport for me, I really enjoy it, and I wanted to be able to spread that wealth a bit – so after talking to my bosses about the idea we discussed getting the kids sponsored through the Animas River Days nonprofit, empowering youth through whitewater paddling scholarships."

Matthew Carrillo and Leandro Litz Jr. kicked off the week out at Lake Nighthorse learning to wear their safety gear and becoming familiar with the different parts of the kayak. As the week progressed, they moved to the Oxbow Park at the north end of Durango, to discuss important river safety, mapping out their paths and learning the river – days three and four consisted of learning different paddles strokes down the river from 29th street at Memorial Park to 9th street at Schneider Park. On the final day, the youth ventured to the Santa Rita Whitewater Park where they navigated the waterslide features of the river in their kayaks. The youth used that day to focus on having fun, while putting their new skills to the test.

"I haven't had a class all year that has done Smelter one time, these kids had progressed so fast compared to my other classes, they are quick learners," Nicolai said. "Some of the kids were scared at first but just seeing them slowly go further down the river and persevere that made me really proud – these things can apply in life too, not just in kayaking."

In the future Nicolai and Four Corners River Sports hope to continue to bring more Ute relatives and other Natives out on the river. This opportunity also allowed for the students to challenge themselves, explore their ancestral Ute lands, create friendships, and get outdoors.

Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum archive

O'Hozhoni Larry serves herself dessert during the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy's (SUIMA) traditional meal in the dining hall. In past years, SUIMA students celebrated the start of Native American Heritage Month with a traditional meal of buffalo stew and fry bread or yuvaana. Throughout the month of November, Montessori students also participate in a variety of activities learning about Ute culture and the importance of why Native American Heritage Month is celebrated.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani pə'ɵkwatu – *Eagle's Nest*

Welcome to the new school year!

By Mari Jo Owens
Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

Historically, the first day is the most anticipated day of the year, the 2025-2026 school year will be no different. Kindergartners, and new students, are apprehensive, curious, and eager. Returning students are excited to see their friends, their teachers, show off their new clothes and have backpacks full of school supplies.

Between now and the end of August, all the schools in our state will have welcomed their new and returning students. SUIMA's first day of school for the 2025-2026 school year will be Monday, Aug. 25. It's going to be an awesome year!

Enrollment information

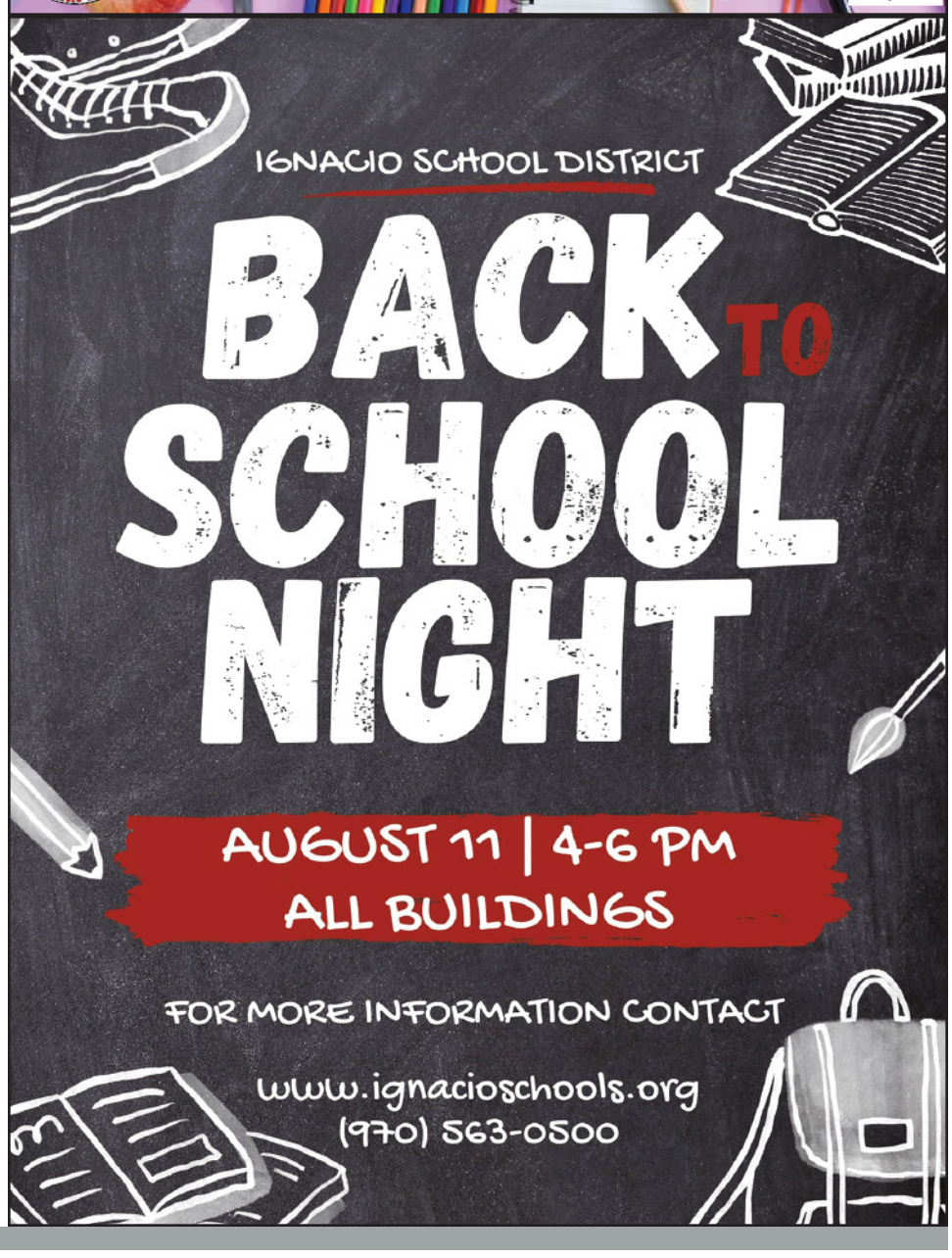
We have openings in all levels and all classrooms. Registration packets can be found at www.suima.org under the For Parents tab. Registration closes Aug. 11.

School Supply Lists

These can be found at www.suima.org under the For Parents tab.

SUIMA Alumni and past employees

On Friday, Sept. 5, we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of our school with the community. If you attended the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy for any period in your life, please come join us for part of the day. On that day, we will have some fun activities and be serving lunch that everyone can participate in – more information will be sent out in the next edition of the Drum. Please call the school at 970-563-0253 for more information.



IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Together we will engage, empower, and prepare all our learners for the future

By Christopher W. deKay
Ignacio School District

Greetings from the Ignacio School District,

The staff and students are excited to get started this school year. We are committed to making this year one of the best yet. We are in year four of our District's Strategic Plan which was developed in collaboration with parents, staff, and community stakeholders. The plan has smart goals in each of four focus areas which include Academic Achievement, Climate and Culture, Staff Retention and Development, and Facilities. Our mission remains steadfast: "Together, we will Engage, Empower, and Prepare all of our Learners for the Future."

School is starting early this year. Aug. 11 will be a transition day for students who are new to each building. On that day, Kindergarten, 6th grade, 9th grade, and all brand-new students will be required to attend school at their buildings. School will start for all grades on Aug. 12. Both days have a normal start and release time.

Attendance at school is very important and one of the district goals is to decrease the chronic absenteeism rate. Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student who has missed 15 days or more during the school year whether excused or unexcused. Children who achieve a rate of 93% attendance or higher consistently have strong academic growth and are more prepared for the next grade level. Parents can help by ensuring students have a good night's sleep and show up at school on time and ready to learn. Please reach out to your building leadership if you need support getting your children to school.

All of our district principals and directors are returning this year. Consistent and effective leadership is very important to any system. This group of leaders is committed to improving our schools and supporting our community. Each school building will be focused on improving academic growth through tiered support for our students by challenging and supporting them.

Our continued focus for the coming school year is to enhance student engagement through research-based strategies. Regularly scheduled Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will utilize data to refine skill-specific instruction. We will concentrate on improving student academics by implementing safety nets for struggling and/or advanced learners across the district. Professional development this year will also focus on formative and summative assessments to gauge student growth and understanding. We are fortunate to have such an incredibly talented and dedicated staff who have already done much of the groundwork in these areas.

We look forward to an excellent school year. We are committed to making a positive impact on every child who walks through our doors. Together, we will engage, empower, and prepare all our learners for the future.

Higher education roundtable

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Pueblo Community College (Southwest Campus) and the Colorado State University extension office held a Native American Community Listening Session in Ignacio, Friday July 25. The session was looking to hear from Native community members on their thoughts on how to access higher education resources and opportunities. The session was moderated by Greg Felsen, CSU Accessible Education Specialist for the Western Region; Alex Linden, PCC SW Testing & Academic Support Coordinator and Imo Succo, PCC SW Tribal Liaison.

Rochelle Aguilar, Career Coordinator for the Permanent Fund's Human Resources Dept, was among the Southern Ute tribal members who shared their thoughts on educational opportunities and career advancement within the tribal community. The program was held at the Sky Ute Casino Resort, and lunch was provided to attendees.

JOHNSON-O'MALLEY
2025 MEETING DATES:
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@southernute-nsn.gov

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!
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.

IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2025-2026 CALENDAR

School Day: IHS 7:50 am-4:15 pm, IMS 7:50 am-4:05 pm, IES 7:55 am-3:55 pm

1-3 Admin office closed for cleaning
4 Independence Day

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1 New Staff In-Service
4-8 Staff In-Service
11 Transition grades begin (K,6, 9)
Open House all schools, all grades (4:00-6:30 PM)
12 School Begins All Grades

Student Days -12 Teacher Days -18.5

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 NO SCHOOL Labor Day
12 Professional Development Day
22 District Accountability Meeting
29-30 Parent Teacher Conferences
1 evening 4:30-7:00 PM
Friday morn 7:30-11:30 AM

Student Days – 17 Teacher Days -18

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-3 Parent Teacher Conferences
1 evening 430-7 PM
Friday morn 7:30-11:30 AM
3 Professional Development (PM)
9 End of 1st Quarter (35 days)
13 NO SCHOOL Indigenous Day
27 Indian Policy Meeting

Student Days-17 Teacher Days-18.5

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

7 Veterans Day Observed
14 Professional Development Day
26-28 Thanksgiving Break

Student Days – 14 Teacher Days - 15

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

5 Professional Development Day
10 NO SCHOOL Leonard Burch Day
18 End of 2nd Quarter (36 days)
22-31 Christmas Break

Student Days – 11 Teacher Days - 12

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2026

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1-2 Christmas Break
5 School Begins 2nd Semester
9 Professional Development Day
19 Martin Luther King Jr Day
22 District Accountability meeting

Student Days -15 Teacher Days – 16

FEBRUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

6 Snow day make-up if needed
13 Presidents Day Observed
23-27 Parent-Teacher Conferences
One evening 4:30-7:00 PM
Friday morn 7:30-11:30 AM
27 Professional Development PM

Student Days -16 Teacher Days – 17.5

MARCH 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

5 End of 3rd quarter (35 days)
8 Daylight Savings Time
16-19 Spring Break
27 Professional Development Day

Student Days -14 Teacher Days – 15

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1-23 State Testing Window
5 Easter Sunday
10 Professional Development Day
13 District Accountability meeting
22 Earth Day
24 Snow Day make-up if needed

Student Days – 18 Teacher Days -19

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 Professional Development Day
21 Students Last Day
21 End of 4th quarter (40 days)
22 Staff Last Day/PD day
23 Graduation
25 Memorial Day

Student Days – 12 Teacher Days - 14

JUNE 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Total Student Days - 146
Total Teacher Days – 164
(including after-hour assignments)

19 Juneteenth

Contact Hours:
High School 1095 (7.5X146)
Middle School 1080 (7.4X146)
Elementary 1022 (7X146)

Adopted: 2/11/25

2025-2026 School Calendar

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY

275 Mouache Circle, P.O. Box 737 ms52
Ignacio, CO 81137
Phone: (970) 563-0253

Aug 11-21	Staff Returns/Preservice Days
Aug 21	Round-Up
Aug 22	Staff Appreciation Day
Aug 25	First Day of School for Students
Sep 1	Labor Day - No School
Sep 5	Open House-25th Year Celebration Lunch
Sep 13	So. Ute Tribal Fair Parade
Sep 19	Professional Development Day
Oct 3	Professional Development Day
Oct 13	Indigenous Peoples Day - No School
Oct 24	End of First Trimester
Oct 24	Teacher Work Day
Oct 27-31	Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov 10-11	Veterans Day - No School
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 10	LCB Day - No School
Dec 22 - Jan 2	Christmas Break
Jan 5	Students and Staff Return
Jan 19	MLK Jr. Day - No School
Jan 30	Professional Development Day
Feb 13	End of Second Trimester
Feb 13	Teacher Work Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day - No School
Feb 17-20	Parent Teacher Conferences
Mar 16-20	Spring Break
Apr 17	Professional Development Day
May 21	End of Third Trimester
May 22	Transition Ceremony
May 22	Bear Dance - 1/2 Day for Students
May 25	Memorial Day
May 28	Last Day for Staff

August 2025

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31						

September 2025

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October 2025

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November 2025

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December 2025

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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February 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

April 2026

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26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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July 2026

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Total Student Days 162.5
Total Staff Days 180.5

Family Night to be scheduled
Early Release is at 2:00 PM on Friday's

Staff Preservice Days
Family Night Event
Parent Advisory Group Meeting
SUIMA School Board Meeting
Parent Teacher Conferences
First & Last Day of School
No School
PDD (Professional Development Day) NO SCHOOL
Early Release
Transition Ceremony/Bear Dance

IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025 Ignacio School Board Elections

Open Seats & Term Length. Two seats available for a 4-year term, with elections on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. Eligible candidates must reside in the school district.

- **Dates and Deadlines:** Nomination petitions available: Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Deadline to file petitions (and optional write-in affidavits) Friday, Aug. 29, 2025
- **Candidate Requirements:** Must have lived in the district for at least 12 months before the election; Must be a registered voter; Cannot have a sexual offense conviction against a child; and This is a nonpartisan election - candidates may not list political party affiliations.
- **Petition Requirements:** Collect 25 valid signatures from registered voters. Petitions must include a notarized circulator affidavit. Optional: file a write-in affidavit by the same deadline as a backup.
- **Filing & Campaign Requirements:** File these forms with the District's Designated Election Official (DEO): Notice of Intent; Affidavit of Qualifications; Petition with required signatures; Acceptance of Nomination; and File a candidate affidavit within 10 days of announcing your candidacy and use the TRACER system to report campaign finances.
- **Nomination petitions may be obtained at:** Ignacio School District Administration Office, 455 Becker Street, Ignacio, Colo.

During these times and dates:
- August 6: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- August 11: 7:15 a.m. – Noon
- August 12, 13, 14: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- August 18, 19, 20, 21: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- August 25, 26, 27, 28: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- August 29: 7:30 – 11 a.m.

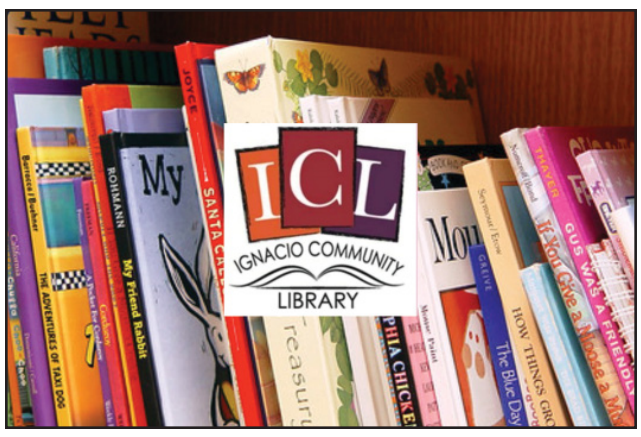
Completed petitions must be submitted to: Ignacio School District Administration Office 455 Becker Street, Ignacio, Colo.

NO LATER THAN 11 A.M. ON AUGUST 29, 2025

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Little things we do in our everyday life that keep us safe and healthy

By Liz vonTauffkirchen
Ignacio Community Library



Nathan Aguilar and Sierra Roe from the La Plata County Health Department come to Ignacio Community Library (ICL) twice a month to provide Harm Reduction Services (HRS) for the public. To be honest, when they first started coming here, I didn't really understand what HRS was, so I took the opportunity to interview them. They were kind enough to field my questions and provide some clarity around the topic.

HRS "is simply, little things we do in our everyday life that keep us safe and healthy. This could be staying hydrated, going on walks, speaking with friends and family, wearing a seatbelt or a helmet when on a motorcycle. Our program focuses on HR related to substance use, whether that be teaching people about naloxone/FTS, safe use supplies, and reducing internal and external stigma within SU," according to Aguilar and Roe.

FTS refers to Fentanyl Test Strips, which can be used to avoid accidental fentanyl ingestion. Along with FTS, Naloxone, an otherwise harmless medication that can reverse an opioid overdose, is one of the products HRS provides. It's important to remember that "naloxone is not just for individuals who are using illicit substances," according to Aguilar and Roe, citing a recent case of an older adult who accidentally overdosed by mistakenly double taking a prescribed opiate after a recent surgery. This type of accidental overdose is not uncommon. Any household with prescribed opiates in the medicine cabinet should consider also keeping naloxone.

Aguilar and Roe stress that one of the primary goals of HRS is "reducing internal and external stigma" around substance abuse. They added, "By decreasing stigma, people would be able to talk about substance use and how it affects themselves and their family. We understand that people always have and will continue using substances. Our main goal is to ensure the safety of individuals within this community." They shared that although the primary goal of HRS is not to get individuals into recovery, "participants are five times more likely to enter into recovery" than those who do not seek HRS.

You can find these HRS folks at ICL on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 10-12 in the board room at the top of the stairs, but ICL isn't the only location to access these services. "Once a week we will offer services at our home office in Durango (185 Suttle St) and at Community Compassion Outreach, and once a month at Lumien Apartments. Other than that, we offer naloxone distribution and STI testing at Manna Resource center three times a month and are expanding testing efforts to CCO an additional two days a month," they said. CCO stands for Community Compassion Outreach, which is in Durango, Colo.

Even if you don't need these services for yourself or your family, feel free to say hello when you see them in the community!

Cheyenne Munns/Ignacio Community Library

Sierra Roe and Nathan Aguilar from the La Plata County Health Department.

Space Camp & Aviation Challenge Meeting

Danny's Rocket Ranch is hosting an organizational meeting, for students, 9 to 17 years in age, who are interested in attending Space Camp/Aviation Challenge, May 30 – June 5. This meeting be on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 2 p.m. at Shoshone Park in Ignacio, CO. Parents are encouraged to attend. Food will be provided.

CONTACT KELSEY FROST @ (970) 563-2660

103rd So. Ute Fair Softball Tournament

SEPT. 12th-14th, 2025

ENTRY FEE: $375

$100 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DUE AUG. 29TH, 2025

MEN'S-WOMEN'S-CO-ED

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPT. 8TH, 2025

USSSA 240 Bats

CLASSIC M or PRO M
CLASSIC W or PRO W

RECREATION
Est. 2001
SPORTS FOR LIFE

PATRICK SILVA MEMORIAL SOFTBALL FIELD IGNACIO, CO

103RD SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR

BLOOMING CREATIONS

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025 • IGNACIO, CO

SOUTHERN UTE RODEO

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

Sky Ute Fairgrounds
Ignacio, Colo.

BUCKING H RODEO

Adults $15
Children (6-12) $10
5 and under FREE

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 $750
Best Hand Painted Horse $500
(Three age groups, 1st, 2nd, 3rd)
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 Avaleena Nanaeto*

Winning Tribal Fair Logo

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

103RD SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR BLOOMING CREATIONS

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

The Southern Ute Tribal Fair will be held September 12-14, 2025
The Tribal Rodeo will be held September 19-20, 2025

Southern Ute Tribal Fair

RODEO QUEEN

HOSTED BY THE SOUTHERN UTE RODEO WORK GROUP

Pageant — Friday, September 12, 2025
Crowning — Saturday, September 20, 2025

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Native American Woman
- Enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe
  - Must provide proof of Tribal enrollment
- Ages 15-25 years old
- Live within 50 miles of the Southern Ute Reservation

PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Crown, Saddle, Buckle, and Sash

COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

Horsemanship, Personality, Essay, and Public Speaking

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

August 25, 2005

*The selected Queen must provide her own horse and transportation

For more information or questions please contact:
LuRhea Ramone
(970) 553-1514
email: rodeoqueenmsu@gmail.com

SCAN TO APPLY
https://forms.gle/2bvAkHrN7vpSb8YZA
Application Link

Calling all Volunteers

September 13, 2025

September 20, 2024 by Jeremy Wade Shockley | The Southern Ute Drum

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

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

103RD SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR BLOOMING CREATIONS

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

Dancers dust it up at Ute Mountain Casino Powwow

Royalty at Saturday evening's Grand Entry at the annual Ute Mountain Casino Powwow. Royalty was led by newly crowned, Miss Indian Colorado, Aliyah Jacket, Miss Ute Mountain Pachun Collins, Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts and Southern Ute Veterans Princess, Jazlynn Jacket.

Willard Light (left) stands with Rudley Weaver and Gordon Hammond prior to entering the powwow arbor at the Ute Mountain Casino Powwow. Light was honored earlier in the afternoon for his dedicated years of services as security officer for the Ute Mountain Casino.

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz
The Southern Ute Drum

Carrying the eagle staff, Matthew Sheka, leads the color guard and royalty ahead of the dancers into the powwow arbor to begin Saturday's Ute Mountain Casino Grand Entry.

Rusty Cozad gave the invocation prior to Saturday evening's Grand Entry during the Ute Mountain Casino Powwow.

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!

FortGarlandMuseum.org
29477 CO-159
Fort Garland, CO 81133

History Colorado | Fort Garland Museum 75 Years | Smithsonian

Fire restrictions • from page 1

yard waste is prohibited.

2. **AGRICULTURAL BURNING.** Burning of crop land, fields, rangeland, debris burning, slash piles, prescribed burning and weed burning are prohibited.
3. **CAMPFIRES.** Building, maintaining or using a warming fire or campfire outside of officially designated or developed camp sites is prohibited. Charcoal broilers and wood and coal stoves used outside of dwellings are classified as campfires and prohibited. Fires for ceremonial sweats are allowed upon notification of the local fire authority and/or BIA Fire office and approval from them.
4. **FIREWORKS.** Possession, discharging or use of any type or fireworks is prohibited. SMOKING. Smoking is restricted to designated areas, within structures or within vehicles equipped with ashtrays.
5. **OPERATING EQUIPMENT.** Operating or using any internal combustion engine (chainsaws, generators, etc) without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order.

STAGE II
Commercial Operators (logging, thinning, firewood gathering, etc.):

All Prohibited Acts included for Stage I.

1. All field personnel shall carry local emergency dispatch phone numbers with them at all times. All fires must be reported to local emergency dispatch immediately.
2. "Hoot-Owl" is in effect. Operating or using any internal combustion engine between the hours of 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM local time is prohibited.
3. Motorized vehicle travel off developed roads is prohibited during the same "Hoot-Owl" period.
4. A patrol is required for a period of two hours after cessation of activities. The patrol is responsible for watching for emerging fires, reporting fires and initiating initial suppression.

Industrial restrictions are attached and also can be obtained from the BIA Fire Office at 575 County Road 517. Anyone violating the provisions of this fire ban may be subject to prosecution outlined in the Southern Ute Indian Criminal Code. The Restrictions will become effective at 0600 on August 8, 2025, and will remain until conditions improve.

LA PLATA COUNTY
La Plata County Colorado
ACCOUNTABILITY · INTEGRITY · RESPECT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM)
CRITICAL INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW
- Text "LPCOEM" to 99411 to sign up for CodeRED
- CodeRED Number: 866-419-5000 - save the number in your phone as CodeRED
- Community Call Center for information on emergencies: 970-385-8700 or visit www.readylaplata.org
- Wildfire Resource Center: www.lpcfireprepared.org
- Get Prepared: www.ready.gov
- La Plata County: www.lpcgov.org for more information

SCAN ME
Sign up for... CODE RED Keeping citizens informed.

Fire breaks out near Ignacio

photos Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Two Airtankers, or very large airtankers (VLATs), deliver fire retardant to the Rim Road Fire aiding in the suppression of the fire on Saturday, July 26. As reported on WatchDuty.org, the Rim Road Fire is 90% contained, per the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). In a report released by the BIA Southern Ute Agency, as of July 31, 106 personnel were still assigned securing containment lines and mop-up operations.

Flames rose high into the air from winds fanning the flames and creating huge plumes of smoke. Residents were placed on evacuation notice around 3700 Country Road 318 and all residents on Lenyx Lane, west of Ignacio. Escalante Middle School in Durango served as evacuation shelter for both the Rim Road and Elkhorn fires. Both fires broke out simultaneously. The Elkhorn fire began as a structure fire on private property before spreading onto the San Juan National Forest. The Middle Mesa Fire, a lightning-caused wildfire in the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest, continues to burn with over 3,000 acres burned. The Waters Canyon Fire also continues to burn as of Aug. 5, as reported on WatchDuty.org., which is located one mile outside Mesa Verde National Park, with 175 acres burned per the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC).

Sky Ute CASINO RESORT
AWAKEN YOUR ADVENTURE

FOUR CORNERS TATTOO CONVENTION
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT EVENT CENTER
AUGUST 29 – 31, 2025
Event Times:
Friday: 11AM – 11PM
Saturday: 11AM – 11PM
Sunday: 11AM – 9PM
Admission: $15 for a single day or $25 for a 3-day pass.
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT PRESENTS
The First Annual Four Corners Tattoo Convention coinciding with the 32nd Annual Four Corners Motorcycle Rally. Just 20 minutes away, Sky Ute Casino Resort will have a variety of artists, daily tattoo competitions, merchandise booths, and exclusive resort amenities!

The Talent Behind the Needles

Heart & Soul
Max's Tattoo Zone
Certified Tattoo Studios
Forged in Flesh Tattoo and Piercing
Tats~N~Talons
Cloud 9
Little Miss Ink
Sun City Tattoos
Los Locos
Inked Temptations Tattoo
Obsidian Tattoo Studio
Thommy Toys
Wicked Heart Art Collective
Thorn Tattoo
Forever Tattoos
Lokote Tattoos
Lantern Tattoo
Tha Skull Duggery Tattoo
Raven Keeper
Chrysalis Tattoo
Long Live
Get Inked LLC
Brother Bear Designs
Chokecherry Tattoo
Cathartic Arts Tattoo
And More!

Parading down Goddard Avenue

The Southern Ute Veterans Association leads the parade on Saturday, July 26. Left to right; Bruce LeClaire, Bruce Valdez, Gordon Hammond, and Howard Richards Sr.

Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts waves to the crowd and hands out snacks during the parade.

"Miracles Happen" by Maria Gurule and friends. Gurule, who leads on her red physical therapy trike, wanted to give a thank you to all who have prayed with her over the years while she recovers from illness and works to walk again.

Agatha Bison rides a top of her dinosaur decorated ride, promoting her "Dino Run" event set to take place again this year during the Southern Ute Tribal Fair.

The Bayfield Belles dance down the street during the parade, the Bayfield Belles went on to tie for the grand prize.

Downtown Ignacio was lined with spectators patiently waiting for the San Ignacio Fiesta Parade on Saturday, July 26. Families, royalty, and local organizations graced the streets sharing goods with the attendees. Grand Prize in the parade came down to a tie between the Isador Band and the Bayfield Belles. This year marks the 127th Annual San Ignacio Fiesta, and this year's theme reflects on growing friendships, families, and faith.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum

San Ignacio Fiesta Raffle Results

2025

Grand Prize Winner

Lucas Rael - $500.00 Cash

2nd Prize	Valarie Mancinas	Security System
3rd Prize	Sarah Sutton	$250 Cash
4th Prize	Dave Silva	Pendleton Blanket
5th Prize	Jane Jones	$200 Seven Rivers
6th Prize	Amethyst Weaver	Cornhole Board Set
7th Prize	Kris Mantey	3 Designer Handbags
8th Prize	Marie Valdez	Handmade Quilt
9th Prize	Paula Le	$150 Cash
10th Prize	Lucas Rael	$100 Car Wash
11th Prize	Annette Gallegos	$100 Farmers Fresh
12th Prize	Amethyst Weaver	Asian Food Basket
13th Prize	Bill Waters	Sterling Silver Pendant
14th Prize	Wendy Butler	$100 Gift Card
15th Prize	Belinda Villanova	Southwestern Pottery
16th Prize	Christine Sage	Salon Gift Set
17th Prize	The Standley's	Queen of Heaven Statue
18th Prize	Gigliotti's	George Foreman Grill
19th Prize	Bill Waters	Air Fryer
20th Prize	Renee Cuthair	$50 Cash

Thank you! to all those who donated prizes for our Fiesta Raffle and to everyone who purchased tickets. Congratulations to our winners!

San Ignacio Fiesta Parade Results

Grand Prize Winners

We have a tie!!

Isador Band &

Bayfield Bells

Auto	1949 International Truck - Chris Ribera	1st
	1965 Ford Mustang - Maya Espinosa	2nd
	Navajo Boat Storage	3rd
Commercial	Farmers Fresh	1st
	Williams Funeral Home	2nd
Memoriam	Silva Foundation	1st
Children Riding	Ignite Gymnastics	1st
Non-Commercial	Volunteers For Veterans	1st
Horses-Pair	Carrie & Maggie	1st
Horses - Single	Miss So. Ute - Maleina Carel	1st
Royalty	Little Miss So. Ute - Olyvia Watts	1st
	So. Ute Brave - Theoden Greany	2nd
Civic Comm.	Ignacio Community Library	1st
	Rez-olution Radio Hour	2nd
	Dino Run 2025	3rd
	ElHi Community Center	4th
Senior Citizen	Miracles Happen - Maria Gurule	1st

Congratulations to all participants. We thank everyone who put an entry in the parade and to all of you who came to watch the parade. We hope that you will join us again next year. Participants - Please allow 5-7 days for your cash prize.

San Ignacio Fiesta

Piinu Núuchi FARMERS MARKET & Outdoor Biz Lab

WE ARE MOVING

We are moving the Farmers Market to the Sky Ute Casino (lot B)
Our first market there will be Wednesday, August 13th 11-2pm
See you then!

Sky Ute Casino (lot B) Igancio, Colorado

For More Information
awall@southernute-nsn.gov
Call Us
(970)563-2281

Southern Ute Elder Services

August Activities

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.

Southern Ute Shared Services
Digital Equity Program

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

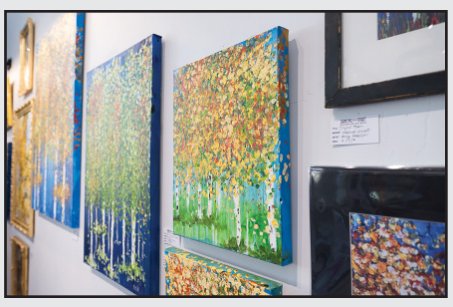
If you have not received your free Dell laptop from SUDEP there are more available to Southern Ute Tribal Members.

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

Dancing Spirit First Friday

photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Mother-son duo, Carolyn and Andy Arnold stand together before their art showcase on Friday, Aug. 1. Carolyn is a lifelong artist and teacher; she has mentored her son Andy for over eight years. Together they share art with disabled children and veterans through the No Limits Ranch, an immersive art-filled experience and equine-assisted adventure; additionally, proceeds from the duo's art sales will go to the No Limit Ranch.



Andy Arnold utilizes the finger-painting technique to create vibrant Aspen trees. His canvases, watercolor cards, and prints are available for purchase at the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts.

Featured artist, Andy Arnold stands next to an original piece created with acrylic paint on Friday, Aug. 1. Andy and his mother Carolyn are the featured artists at Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts for the month of August, the mother-son duo will be donating all proceeds to support disabled veterans and fund programs at the No Limit Ranch.

Ignacio Community Library Resources

Grief Support Group
Led by the compassionate Sara Barnes, LPC from Hospice of Mercy. This is not a group that demands a regular commitment; it's a supportive space available whenever you need it most. Join us every first Tuesday of the month to connect with others who understand what you're going through.

Community Resource
La Plata County Harm Reduction will be at ICL every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Their services include Norean, HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C rapid tests, safer use supplies, as well as resource navigation. Call 970-759-7047 for more information!

Free Legal Clinic
Every third Tuesday, volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for civil legal issues. The volunteer attorneys do not represent you just because they help you at this clinic. This clinic is informational only and is no substitute for legal representation. We will be hosting it every third Tuesday of the month this year! Reservations required. Sign up today because spots are limited! 970-563-9287.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe EDUCATION CENTER

The Southern Ute Education Center offices will be CLOSED on the following dates and times for Mandatory Training for all Education Center Staff.
Staff can be available by phone if needed - Please call 970-553-0558

12 AUG	Tuesday 8:00 am - 10:00am
13 AUG	Wednesday 11:00 am -12:00 pm
14 AUG	Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
15 AUG	Friday 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Thank you for your understanding & cooperation

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—Tuesday August 5, 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

Multi-Purpose Facility Beading & Traditional Sewing Class

Tuesday - Thursday, August 26-28, 2025

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

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

Bring projects you need to complete or start a new project.

If you need a supply list call Elise 970-563-2641

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

Multi-Purpose Facility UnFinished Objects

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 19 & 20, 2025
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Do you have projects you haven't finished?

Items you started but forgot how to finish the item?

Bring your unfinished objects and finish before the Fair.

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

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Bipartisan bill to improve snowpack monitoring, help manage water

Staff report
Office of U.S. Senator Hickenlooper

U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and John Curtis introduced the bipartisan Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Reauthorization Act of 2025 to help better predict and measure water supply to manage drought in the West, including on the Colorado River. July 25 was Colorado River Day, which celebrates the day when the river was officially renamed to the Colorado River in 1921.

"You can't manage what you can't measure," Hickenlooper said. "Snowmelt is Colorado's largest reservoir. Leveraging advanced snow monitoring tech will give us more accurate water predictions and unlock a better understanding of how to make the most of our water in an era of extreme drought."

"In the West, water is everything – our economy, our communities, and our way of life depend on it," Curtis said. "This bill brings 21st century tools to one of the oldest challenges we face: knowing how much water we'll have and when. By reauthorizing this program, we're embracing new technology like airborne snow surveys and advanced modeling to give our water managers the clarity they need to prepare, allocate, and respond."

More than 80% of Colorado's annual surface water supply comes from snowmelt runoff. Accurate measurements of snowpack are necessary to have a clear picture of the snowmelt that feeds rivers and streams across the West.

The bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program which provides grants to advance emerging snow monitoring technology that improve water supply predictions.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Reauthorize BOR's Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program through 2031.
- Increase authorization from $15 million over five years to $32.5 million over five years.
- Update language in existing authorization to emphasize water supply forecasting activities that inform interstate water management decisions.

Yesterday, Representatives Joe Neguse and Jeff Hurd's companion legislation advanced out of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

As governor, Hickenlooper helped negotiate the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan, which helped protect critical levels at Lake Powell and Lake Mead and ensured continued compliance with the 1922 Colorado River Compact. In the Senate, Hickenlooper convened the bipartisan Colorado River Caucus to help address the Colorado River crisis.

The bipartisan Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Reauthorization Act of 2025 is supported by American Rivers, the Southwestern Water Conservation District, Colorado River District, Denver Water, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Congress, Colorado Municipal League, Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado, the Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the National Ski Areas Association, the Family Farm Alliance, the National Audubon Society, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

Summer ends, BGC style

photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

Families of students who participated in this summer's BGC club were welcomed to enjoy some barbecue and spend time with one another before school starts back up in the following weeks.

The BGC staff gave flowers to Councilmember Marge Barry during the end of summer barbecue for her support for the club.

Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel welcomed everyone to the end of summer barbecue held by the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe on Friday, May 1 at SunUte Park in Ignacio.

TRIBAL NATIONS

FEMA announces $1 Billion in disaster preparedness grants

Staff report
National Congress of American Indians

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for 15 grant programs, making nearly $1 billion available to communities across the country. These funds will enable states and tribal nations to strengthen their preparedness for natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes, as well as human-caused incidents including terrorist attacks and cyber disruptions. Since Friday, July 25, FEMA has announced more than $2.2 billion in total funding opportunities for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments working to safeguard their communities.

To support Tribal Emergency Directors and Managers in navigating these funding opportunities, FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) held a webinar for tribal leaders, Tribal Emergency Management Directors, and Managers on Thursday, Aug. 7.

For additional information or support, contact FEMA's Tribal Affairs team at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov.

Volunteers serve lunch at BGC

photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Crystal Kelly and Candi Valencia help to serve BGC summer club kids' lunch on Wednesday, July 30 at the SUIMA cafeteria. This summer, volunteers gathered to help serve lunch to club members every Wednesday and Friday.

Council member Linda Baker serves juice to BGC Club members on Wednesday, July 30.

Ignacio Community Library Board Meeting

The Ignacio Community Library District Board of Trustees invites you to attend their upcoming regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20. Your participation is encouraged, as it's a valuable opportunity to engage with community leaders and contribute to important discussions.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Early Cut-Off For Minors Birthday Distributions

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

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

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

COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

Scams continue via texts posing as Colorado Express Lanes, ExpressToll and EZ Pass

Staff report
COLORADO DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Over the last two years, attempts to scam toll road and Express Lane users across Colorado and the U.S. through fraudulent text alerts have remained unceasing. The scammers typically pose as a toll service, such as Colorado's ExpressToll, and request users to pay an outstanding toll amount to avoid a late fee.

The Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO), the independent organization within CDOT responsible for Express Lanes, never uses text messaging to collect any payments or personal information from customers. If you receive a text message asking for payment of a toll or an Express Lanes violation in Colorado, it's a scam.

Text recipients could be deceived into giving away sensitive personal information, including credit card numbers. For their own security, Coloradans are advised to avoid clicking on any links or providing personal information if they receive a text message regarding tolling matters similar to the one below:

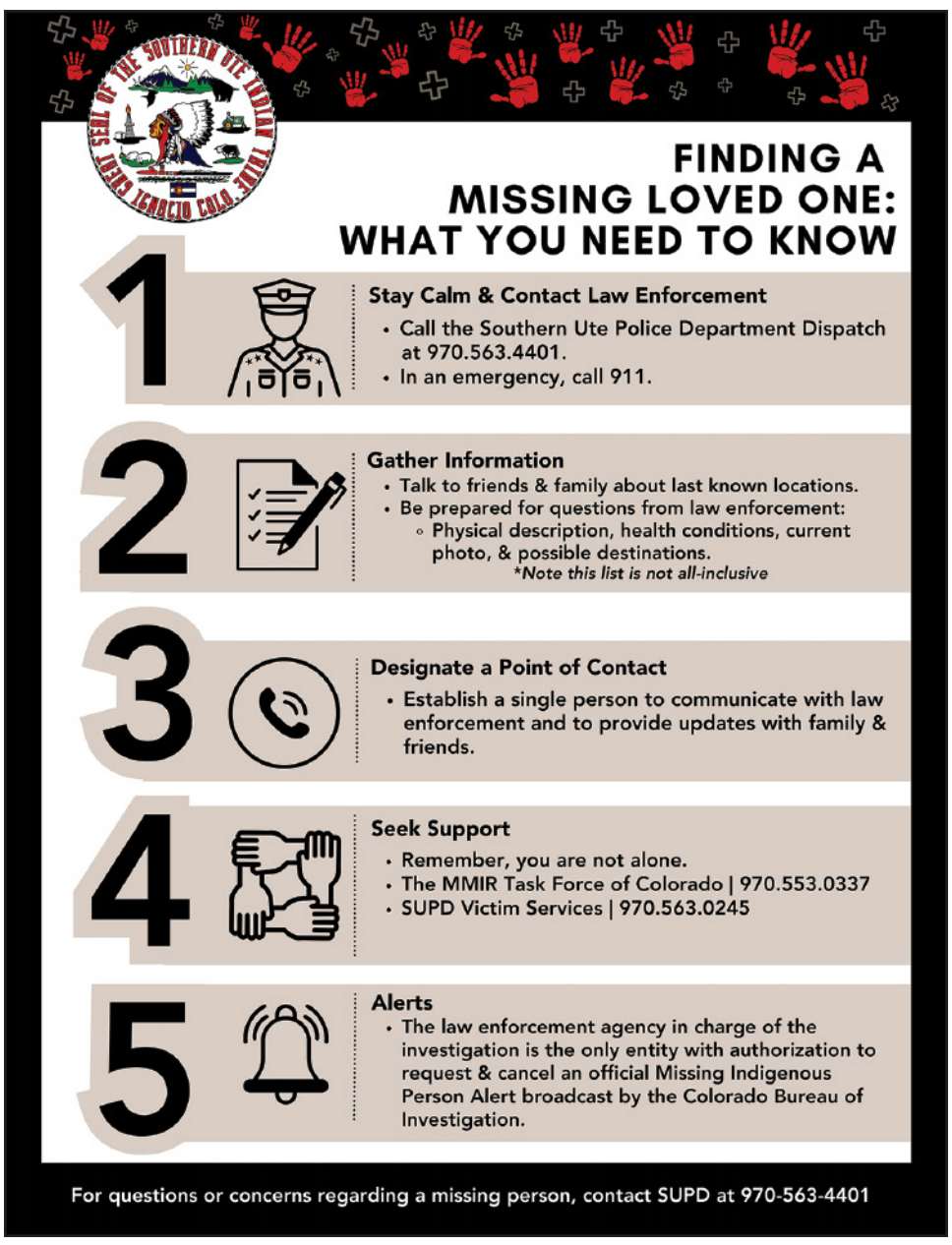
Example: ***"ExpressToll final reminder: You have an outstanding toll account balance. If you fail to pay by Aug. 26, 2025, you will face additional charges or legal action. Pay your balance now at [scam website address]."***

A number of these texts have come from numbers with a +63 country code, which indicates the message was sent from a number in the Philippines.

While there have been many instances of Colorado residents receiving these scam texts, because they are originating outside of CDOT and CTIO, the state cannot stop their distribution. This issue remains under active investigation with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and people who receive one of these texts are advised to take the following steps:

- File a complaint with the IC3 at www.ic3.gov, and include:
- The phone number from where the text originated.
- The website listed within the text.
- Check your toll account for your actual toll balance at ExpressToll.com.
- Check for any Express Lane safety violations at expresslanesafety.com.
- Delete any fraudulent texts received.

If you clicked any links or provided your information, make efforts to secure your personal information and financial accounts. Dispute any unfamiliar charges.



Do you want to make a difference in your community and the lives of others?

Volunteer! Alternative Horizons is always in need of volunteers to staff our 24/7 support line. Alternative Horizons supports and empowers survivors of domestic violence. Do impactful work and build new relationships. Learn real life skills. Training and ongoing support provided. Next training will be September 19, 20, and 26. For more information call the office at 970-247-4374 or visit our website https://alternativehorizons.org

Community Resources at ELHI

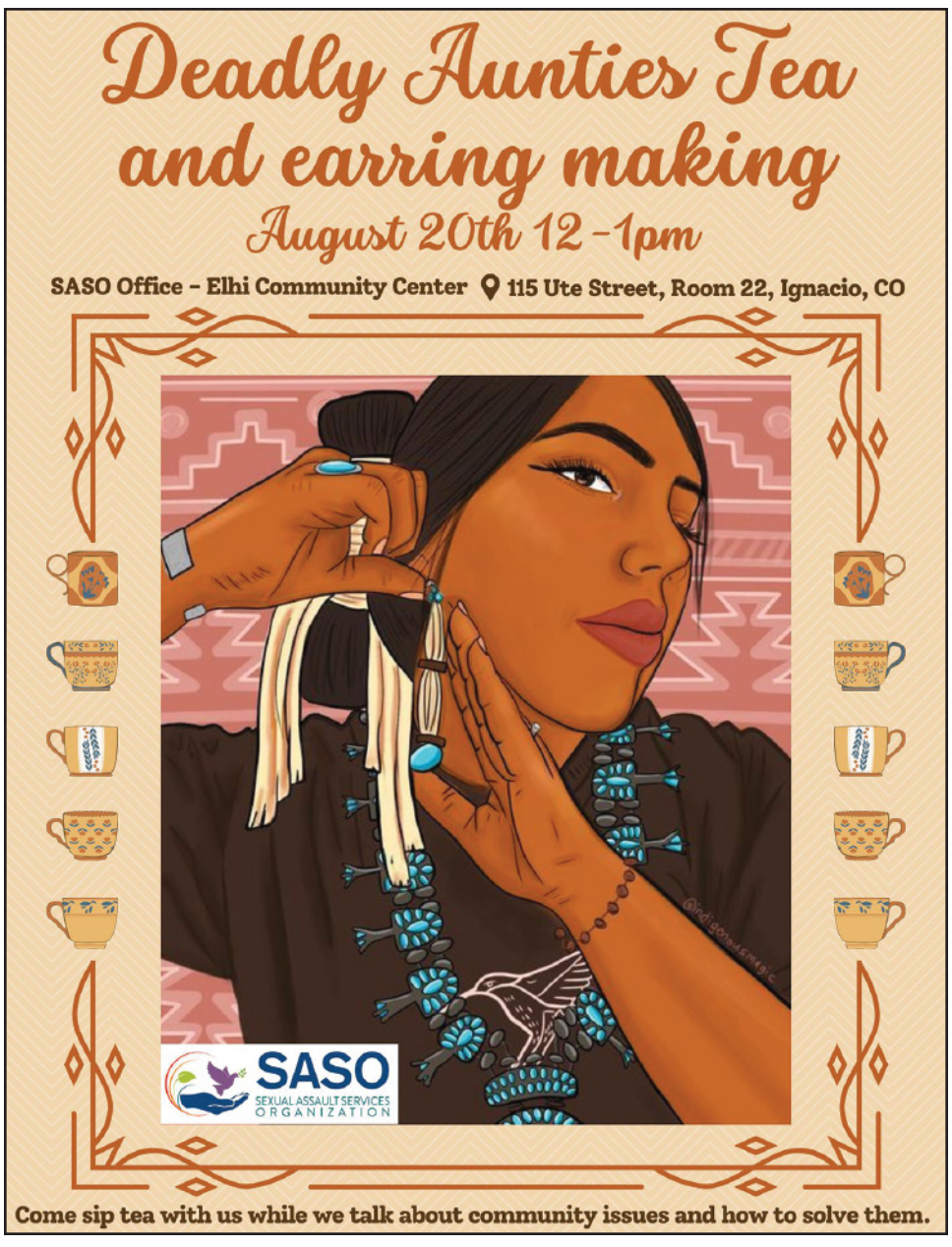
Sexual Assault Services Organization (SASO)

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



Lifeguards on duty!

photos Savannah Elk/SU Drum YEP

Lifeguards engage with the swimmers at the SunUte Community Center, during a recognition for their dedication on Lifeguard Appreciation Day, held on Thursday, July 31.

Lifeguards and swimmers gather at SunUte Community Center to celebrate Lifeguard Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 31 with a group photo in the swimming pool.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Create and support one-to-one relationships that ignite and empower the promise of youth. Interested in becoming a Big Brother or Sister? If you are 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 970-247-3720 or mentor@bbig.org, or explore the process at: bbig.org/mentor"

Home Run Derby a success!

photos courtesy Brandi Archuleta

Thank you for making our first Home Run Derby a success! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our first Home Run Derby, proudly sponsored by the family of Dathan Lovato, during the San Ignacio Co-Ed Softball Tournament.

Your support, energy, and enthusiasm made the event a tremendous success. We are especially grateful to all who came out to swing, cheer, and contribute. Thanks to your generosity, all proceeds benefited the Ignacio High School baseball team, helping support our local student-athletes. We truly appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to making next year's event even bigger and better! With gratitude – the Family of Dathan Lovato.

Kickin' it at SunUte

courtesy Robin Duffy-Wirth

On Wednesday, July 30, the Fort Lewis Men's Soccer team held a soccer camp at SunUte, free of charge for local youth in Ignacio.

OBITUARY

RICHARDS – Kean Goodman "Snow" Richards was born May 30, 1948, to Bob Richards and Alice Williams Richards, at their home on the Southern Ute Reservation in Ignacio, Colo. Surrounded by his family, Kean passed away peacefully at Mercy Medical Center on Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 8:40 a.m., at the age of 77 years old.

He was preceded in death by his mother Alice Williams Richards, father Bob Richards, Uncle Harry Richards, half-brother Frank Benicroft, half-sister Essie Kent, his oldest son Robert Richards, foster children Donald and Philip Martinez, and his grandson Johnathan Lee Winlock.

He is survived by his wife Rena Ortiz Richards, six children: Ross Jacket, Laura Richards, Kenneth Richards, Calvin Richards, Frances Richards and Esther Richards, his 15 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and extended family.

Kean Goodman Richards AKA "King Kong" was a proud tribal member of the Southern Ute Tribe. He was also part Ute Mountain Ute and was a direct descendant to Chief Severo. He worked for the Southern Ute Tribe for 30 plus years. Kean fulfilled his civic duty in the community as a former pastor. He was devoted to his family, his culture, the traditions, and was a true believer in Sundance - that he never missed.

On July 30, 1962, Kean married the love of his life Rena. He had many passions from being a drummer for various blues bands, using his green thumb to grow and maintain his lawn, trees, and garden, riding his motorcycles, and the list goes on. But the one passion he loved the most was being a teacher, a father figure to his grandchildren and a strong leader for his family.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 28, 2025, at the Southern Ute Memorial Chapel in Ignacio, Colo. Burial followed at the Southern Ute Ouray Cemetery. All were invited to a reception following the service at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

The Utes and Jicarilla Apache

The Utes and Jicarilla Apache were very upset with the Americans who did not keep a promise to protect Native lands from invading settlers.

At an 1854 a treaty council, the chiefs received soldier Jackets as gifts for signing a peace treaty the chief's and hundreds of us Utes died with smallpox. Nearly half of the 700 Moache Ute band died. In revenge us Utes attacked San Luis Valley on Dec. 24, 1854, the chief Tierra Blanca and his band of Utes and Jicarilla Apache attacked and killed everyone at (EL-Pueblo Trading Post.) Four of the Apache and Utes also died they captured two boys-felix Sandoval, age 12 and his brother Juan Isidro, age 7, - and a woman, Chipeta Miera who soon died. Felix was rescued eight months later when the Utes and Apache asked for a peace council at Abiquiu, New Mexico Juan Isidro had been traded to the Navajos.

He Lived with them for nearly six years, a Mexican trader saw him during a trade visit to the Navajo camp he bought the by and sold him back to his mother in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 300 silver dollars, for 12 years, EL Pueblo trading post offered a place to trade and a base camp for traveling traders and their families, the Cheyenne, (us Utes) Kiowa and a Arapaho often camped nearby and brought their valuable animal hides and beaded clothing to trade. After the 1854 attack, the post was deserted, its adobe bricks of later used to build the new town of Pueblo Colorado as we know it today.

Joseph Rael. Jr.

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.

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

Notice of Closure

The Southern Ute Drum office will be closed for a newsroom training conference, Drum staff will be unavailable from Tuesday, Aug. 12 – Friday, Aug. 15. Thank you.

For general inquiries, contact Tribal Information Services Admin. at 970-563-2208.

Graphic Design : Savannah Elk

Drum Deadline

Next issue: **Aug. 22**

Deadline: **Aug. 18**

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

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

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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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NOTICE OF DRAFT TITLE V OPERATING PERMITS AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

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

Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Co.
Facility: Bondad Compressor Station. Section 24, T33N, R10W, 14.00 miles west of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a natural gas compression facility.

Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Co.
Facility: Ponderosa Compressor Station. Section 7, T33N, R6W, 5.00 miles east of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a natural gas compression facility.

Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Co.
Facility: Pump Canyon Compressor Station. Section 11, T32N, R8W, 7.00 miles south of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a natural gas compression facility.

Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Co.
Facility: Sambrito Compressor Station. Section 3, T32N, R6W, 9.25 miles southeast of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a natural gas compression facility.

Applicant: Red Cedar Gathering Co.
Facility: Spring Creek Compressor Station. Section 31, T33N, R6W, 6.50 miles southeast of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a natural gas compression facility.

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

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 September 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 p.m.

Thank you, Sherisa Valdez – Powwow Committee Secretary

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

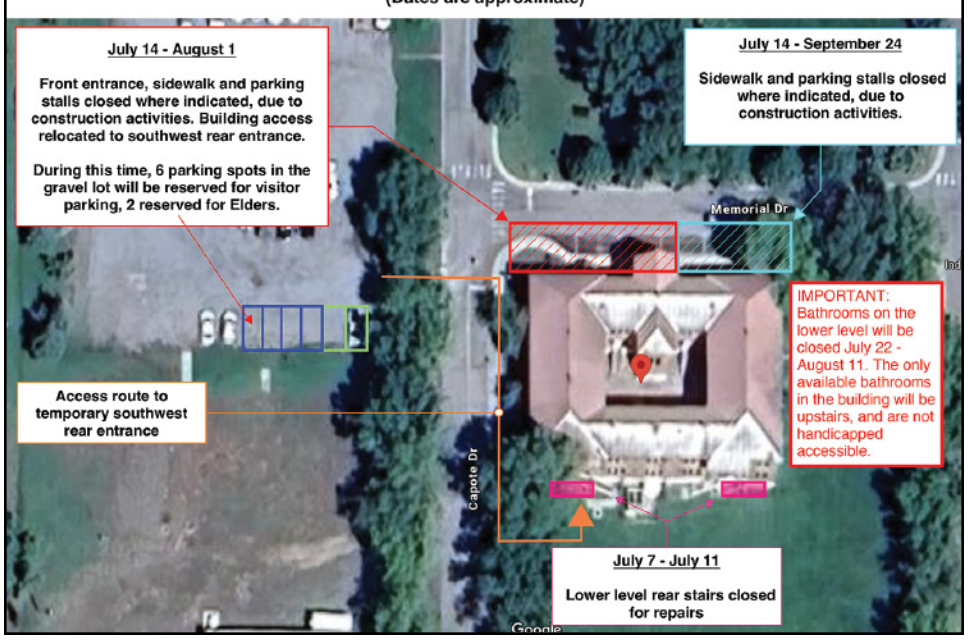
NOTICE OF PROBATE
In the Estate Of,
James M Jefferson, Deceased
Case No.: 2025-0068-CV-PR
Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **SEPTEMBER 23, 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 29th of July, 2025.
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

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

Annex Rehabilitation Project
Construction Schedule, Closures & Alternate Entry
(Dates are approximate)



IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Ongoing Events and Resources

Veteran Services
Every first Wednesday, Greg Dotson, the La Plata County Veteran Services Officer, holds his regular office hours with us from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Community Coffee & donuts
Fridays at 9 a.m. Join us for a morning of coffee and donuts! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to stay informed about all the amazing resources available to you at the library!

Southern Ute Shared Services

Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP)

August 2025 -TRAININGS

2 Sessions offered each day
9am to 12pm or 1pm to 4pm

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

August 5: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Microsoft Trainings

August 19: Microsoft Word
August 25: Microsoft Outlook
August 26: Microsoft PowerPoint
August 27: Microsoft Excel (training is from 9am to 4pm)

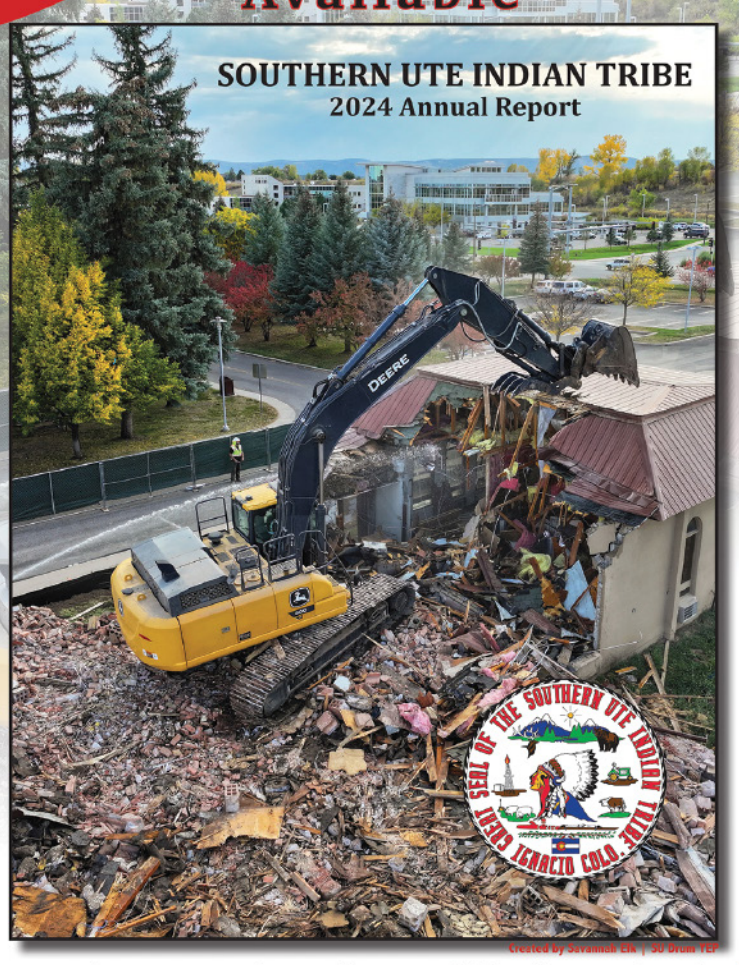
Location: Southern Ute Growth Fund
14929 HWY 172
Ignacio, CO, 81137

For more information or to sign up:
970-563-5555

SAN JUAN COLLEGE
Success Matters

All trainings are open to Southern Ute Tribal Members and First Descendants. If space is available trainings will be offered to SUIT employees. The training are taught by San Juan College.

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.

Southern Ute Economic Development cordially requests that you

SAVE THE DATE

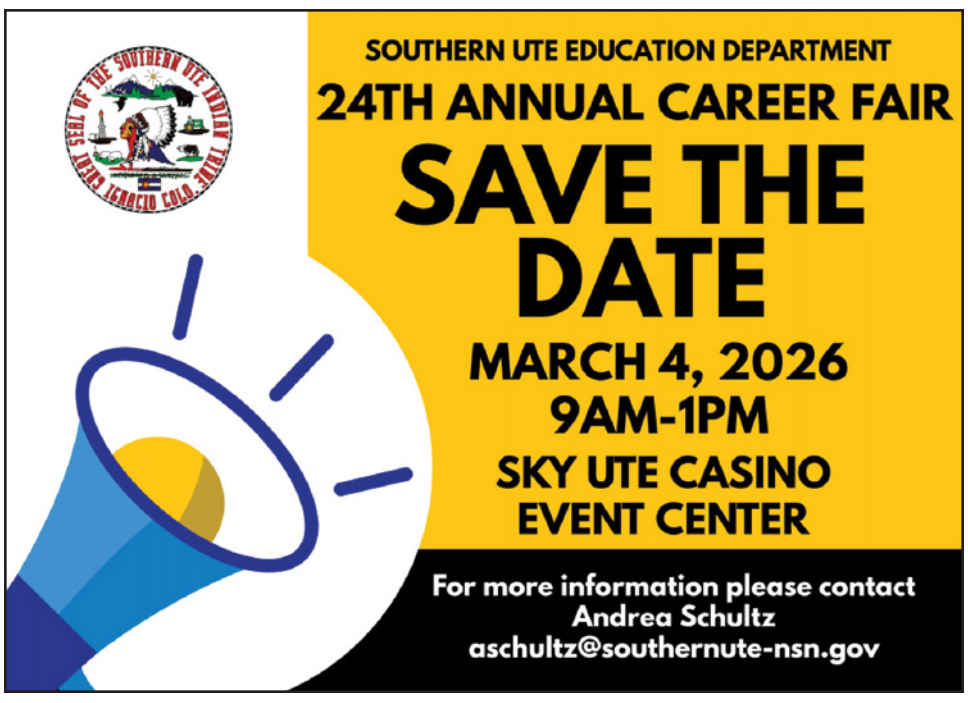
Monday, September 22nd 5-7pm
&
Tuesday, September 23rd 8am-4pm
at Sky Ute Casino Resort

Leeds School of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**
Presents

RURAL COLORADO WORKSHOP SERIES
DEMYSTIFYING 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.

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.

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.

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

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

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).

TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE
The Southern Ute Tribal Credit Committee ("Committee") is looking for eligible tribal member applicants to serve on the Committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. This is a paid Committee: IRS Guidelines and a Criminal Background Check are necessary. Individuals seeking to serve on the Committee must demonstrate a reputation of personal integrity, dependability, honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to perform in a non-biased, confidential, and fair manner. They must become familiar with the objectives of the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund and must maintain good financial standing with the Tribe. Applicants must also pass a criminal background and reference check, per the Tribal Credit Committee By-laws. The primary purpose of the Committee is to evaluate and render decisions regarding Secured Home Loan applications and monitor and evaluate the Tribal Credit loan programs, and make recommendations to Tribal Council. The Committee has scheduled weekly meetings. Some of the duties of the Tribal Credit Committee are: Approve loans as required by the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund ("Declaration"); Monitor compliance with the Declaration; Monitor all approved loans for performance; Make recommendations to the Tribal Council on program revisions and updates regarding Committee operations; Maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness in conducting all Committee business; Attend regular meetings and other special meetings, as needed; and Coordinate the Committee's annual budget with Tribal Credit Staff. Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Credit Committee, PO Box 737 #60, Ignacio, CO 81137, or by email to zvogenthaler@southernute-nsn.gov. The letter should include the full name and contact information of the applicant, along with a detailed explanation of their relevant experience that would aid in making credit decisions, as well as a description of why they would be a good fit for the position. If you have any questions, please speak with Zeb Vogenthaler at 970-563-2458.

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.

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

Assistant Lab Technician
Closes 8/12/25 – Provides clinical laboratory support services for the Southern Ute Health Center. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at $20.26/hour.

Benefits Coordinator (Part-time)
Closes 8/12/25 – Under the general supervision of the Benefits Manager, performs billing, data entry, customer service, and administrative duties associated with employee benefits administration. Performs benefit administration duties for the employee benefit plan which includes medical, dental, vision, life, long term disability, flexible spending account, supplemental benefits, leave plans, and the retirement plan. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at $23.63/hour.

Construction Services Repairman
Closes 8/8/25 – Assists in home repair to Tribal Home Rehab Programs, Elders Maintenance Program, Tribal Member and Elderly/Handicapped Emergency Repair, and Tribal Rental Units. Pay grade N10; Pay is $21.89/hour.

Cook
Closes 8/11/25 – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay is $18.76/hour.

Detention Officer
Closes 8/11/25 – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all activities within the detention center. Pay grade N12; Pay is $26/hour.

Farm Supervisor
Closes 8/12/25 – Under general supervision of the Agriculture Division Head, ensures Custom Farm services are provided for Tribal members in a prompt efficient and effective manner. Pay grade E14; Salary starts at $64,155/annually.

Grounds Maintenance Worker
Closes 8/8/25 – Performs daily grounds maintenance and repair of the Tribal grounds and buildings. Pay grade N7; Pay rate is $17.37/hour.

Heavy Equipment Operator
Closes 8/12/25 – Provides routine maintenance and safe operation of heavy equipment in carrying out project assignments for the Construction Services Division. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at $23.63/hour.

Lake Capote Manager Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal member only)
Closes 8/14/25 – 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 2 years, unless there are circumstances requiring an extension or reduction in the training period. The Apprentice will start at 20% below the grade for Lake Capote Manager and receive bi-annual evaluations and pay increases.

Teacher Aide
Closes 8/13/25 – Supporting the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) through a variety of duties including providing classroom coverage and supervision of children in the After-School Program, being assigned to differing duties on an as-needed basis. Pay grade N4; Pay starts at $14.67/hour.

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; the salary starts at $70,570/annually.

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

Communications Manager
Open Until Filled – 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.

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

Detention Division Head
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Director of Justice and Regulatory, plans, organizes, directs, and reviews the administrative 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.

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

Gaming Investigator II
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, incumbent regulates and controls Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N14; pay rate is $30.84/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.

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/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.

Reclamation Program Manager – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 8/18/25 – 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.

Reservoir Engineering Manager – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 8/18/25 – Providing strategic and technical leadership for all reservoir engineering activities within the San Juan Basin (SJB), with a focus on maximizing the value of both conventional and unconventional resources, including the Fruitland Coal and Mancos Shale formations. Guiding the evaluation, development, and optimization of the company's subsurface assets through detailed engineering analysis, economic modeling, and collaborative planning. Supporting the preparation of reserve reports, identifying acquisition and divestiture (A&D) opportunities, and advising executive leadership on development strategies.

Senior Plant Process Operator – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
Closes 8/22/25 – Operating one or more gas plant processes, including widely diversified job tasks within the same process, in a safe manner; responsible for assisting in shutdown planning. Plant facilities could include gas processing plants, plant compressors, electric generation, dehydration equipment, control systems, treating systems as well as other processes. A senior position will provide guidance and mentoring on existing processes to lower-level Plant Process Operators.

Plant Process Operator II – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
Closes 8/22/25 – Operating one or more gas plant processes, including widely diversified job tasks within the same process, in a safe manner; responsible for assisting in shutdown planning. Plant facilities could include gas processing plants, plant compressors, electric generation, dehydration equipment, control systems, treating systems as well as other processes.

Plant Process Operator I – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
Closes 8/22/20 – Operating one or more gas plant processes, including widely diversified job tasks within the same process, in a safe manner; responsible for assisting in shutdown planning. Plant facilities could include gas processing plants, plant compressors, electric generation, dehydration equipment, control systems, treating systems as well as other processes.

Utilities Project Manager – Growth Fund (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 8/29/25 – Providing project manager services for multiple projects related to Water, Wastewater, Natural Gas, and Solid Waste, or other utility programs within the Southern Ute Utilities Division to ensure successful delivery with scope, budget, and schedule. Ensuring project success in the areas of schedule, budget, quality, safety, and regulatory requirements; will provide necessary support for complex project duties in support of the Utilities Manager, acting as a liaison between many departments to create and maintain a master schedule, coordination of staffing, and creation of documents and presentations.

Executive Assistant – Growth Fund (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 9/8/25 – Providing comprehensive support to the Executive Director including but not limited to managing scheduling, correspondence, data management, report generation, and coordinating travel. Manage the information flow for the Executive Director, exercising critical thinking, resourcefulness, and efficiency in handling affairs with a high level of professionalism and confidentiality, in a courteous manner.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

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.

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.

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. 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. This is for both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

THPO – Preservation Officer (Southern Ute tribal 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 P.L.93-638 projects. Pay grade E17; Salary is $86,943/year.

Tribal Administrative and Operations Director
Open Until Filled – Supports the fiscal and operational management of the Permanent Fund, aligning its functions with the Tribe's long-term strategic goals and vision. 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; Pay $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. The purpose of the program is to build a career foundation for SUIT members to pursue further educational goals or career development. Apprentices may be placed within Permanent Fund departments or divisions dependent on career interests, educational level and/or length of prior relevant and appropriate work experience. The Apprentice Committee will review applications and assess what options may be available for applicants.

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.

NOW HIRING

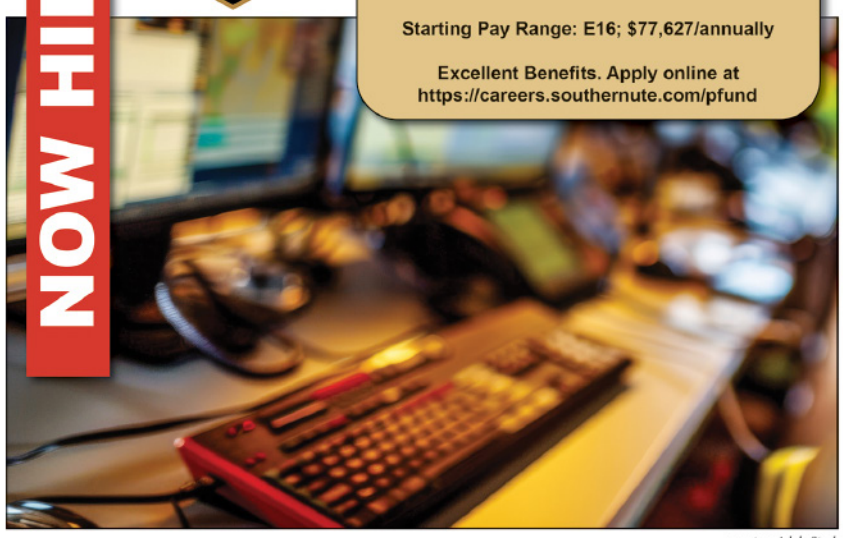
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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



courtesy AdobeStock

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 int he TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CODE ("TERO CODE") in order of priority (the TERO prefences).

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 enforement and/or detention with combination of eduation, 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 oeprational 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).

Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

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

CIO – Southern Ute Shared Services (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 8/27/25 – Oversight of operations of the Tribe's Shared Services (SUSS) organization. Serving as the shared information technology service provider for the Tribe's Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and Sky Ute Casino Resort. Reports directly to the SUSS Committee, composed of the Permanent Fund Executive Officer, the Growth Fund Executive Director, the Casino General Manager and, in the Tribal Council's discretion, an appointed member of the Tribal Council.

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
- 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
- Transit Driver (Full-time/Part-time) $18.94/hr., CDL w/out credentials & $20.76/hr. CDL w/ credentials.

TERO – Job announcements

Application/Information 970-563-0117 • Native American Preference Applies
Full 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.

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. Responsibilities include 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, this position 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. Will clean Food and Beverage facilities and equipment.

***Director of Human Resources (Full-time)**
Ensuring that all Human Resources functions for the Sky Ute Casino Resort are accomplished in a legal and professional manner. Compensation and Benefits, Employee Relations, Unemployment Insurance, Internal Investigations, Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Compliance, Performance Evaluations, Training and Development, Policies and Procedures and Employee Handbook Management, and Human Resource Strategy. Will ensure compliance with the Casino's policies and procedures and applicable Gaming regulations. Will maintain a high standard of guest service (both internal and external customers) within the HR department and actively promotes positive guest and employee relations by ensuring that excellent guest service is continually provided.

***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.

***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.

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

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

***Kitchen Utility Steward (Full-time)**
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 that reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift and will be responsible for 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.

Multi-Games Dealer (On-call)
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. 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 & On-call)
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, 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.

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. Line Cook is responsible for the preparation of the Al La Carte menu in the Shining Mountain Café and accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness. Ensure all guidelines are followed according to the established specifications and standards in food safety and sanitation. Requires one to be an excellent team player and trustworthy.

Slot Operations Floor Person (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.

FLY FISHING

A fly fisher two-steps to help Hill Country

By Don Oliver
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

It seems natural disasters, whether seen coming or suddenly appearing, can be, and usually are, horrific. I have been in, or seen, the end results of tornados, floods, and hurricanes, in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Colorado. The recent sudden flooding in the Hill Country of Texas, resulting in the loss of life and property, is unimaginable to those that have never seen something like this. Even for those that have seen disasters like this before, it is still heart- wrenching. Hopefully, you are asking yourself, "What can I do to help?" I have a two-step suggestion.

The Texas Hill Country is known for blue bonnets, Blue Bell ice cream, and great fly fishing. By my count, there are 14 rivers and numerous lakes to fly fish. I have floated and waded some of them multiple times. This flood has caused guide services, fly shops, motels, and restaurants to close. However, having seen previous disasters first-hand, I can tell you the people that have been knocked down by these events always, get back up. They will put their lives and businesses back together. It will be much easier with your help.

For step one: get your fly rod, a copy of Fly-Fishing the Texas Hill Country, a Guide to Fishing and Lodging on Texas Rivers by Kevin Hutchison, and head for the Hill Country of Texas. Once there you will have the opportunity to fly fish for bass, panfish, trout, carp, and maybe a gar. Since it is a long way to Texas, I suggest you book three or four days of guided fly fishing. Find a fly shop in the area, there are many, and buy fly fishing "stuff." Eat and sleep at places above your normal budget level. Tip at a percentage level you consider excessive. All of those acts will help the local economy as it struggles to get back to normal. By the way, plan on doing this for two or three years. It will take that long for life in the Hill Country to get back to some type of normalcy.

Now, step two. For every day you fly fish, spend a day volunteering your time and talents helping the people affected by this natural disaster. Once the initial surge of people using chain saws and front-end loaders passes there will be a need for lots of help, in all sorts of ways, for a long time. I'm not particularly handy, in fact, I have been forbidden from operating chain saws. So, some of the ways I have helped at other sites is to hold sheetrock as someone else nails it into place. I know pushing a broom as the mud dries in homes and businesses is helpful. Natural disasters have a way of destroying victims' means of transportation. Use your car or truck to run errands for those needing it. Sometimes, just sitting quietly with someone who has lost everything near and dear to them is really helpful.

The opportunities are endless, just use your imagination. To find areas to volunteer stop at any local church. Also, you can check with a Chamber of Commerce or just pull up to a house or business where people are trying to get back to normal. You can be as creative in step two as you were in step one finding places to cast your fly.

Once you have completed steps one and two head to a local bar. Make sure there is a band playing country and western music. Now, spend the evening dancing a Texas two-step. You'll really enjoy it after following my two step method for helping. I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION
HAY FOR SALE!

The Southern Ute Tribe's Agriculture Division has hay for sale to Tribal Members ONLY.

SMALL BALES:	$9.00/BALE	70#
LARGE BALES:	$160.00/BALE	1500#
21 BALE BUNDLER:	$180.00/BUNDLE	1260#

Hay is available FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

Contact the SUIT Agriculture Division at (970) 563-0220 for more information.

CALL FOR APPLICANTS
FOR THE
AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM

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

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

BMPs may include:

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

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

Applications are due August 25th, 2025

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: Cost-Share Program Application

Contact project coordinator Dylan Ruckel at (970) 563-2295 or Druckel@southernute-nsn.gov for more information.

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	Wildlife Resource Management	SUPD Dispatch
970-563-0133	970-563-0130	970-563-4401

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Aug. 8	Saturday, Aug. 9	Sunday, Aug. 10
Sunny 91°F	Sunny 91°F	Mostly Sunny 91°F
Afternoon wind gusts up to 35 mph	Afternoon wind gusts up to 30 mph	

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

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:
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