



SUIMA celebrates 25 years!

PAGE 6



Volleycats sweep Telluride

PAGE 9

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The Southern Ute Drum wins 13 media awards from Colorado Press Association

103rd Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Utilities Division featured handmade flowers and trees, loom, and water feature on their float. They came second in the Float-Service Group category.

This year marks the 103rd annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair with the theme "Blooming Creations" held in Ignacio, Colo. from Friday, Sept. 12 through Sunday, Sept. 14. The event packed weekend was accompanied by heavy rainfall, which led to some contests and events being cancelled or postponed for safety reasons. Rainy or not, the weekend was filled with excitement for highly anticipated events such as the Tribal Parade, Powwow, and the Native Rezolution Youth Concert XV and much more!



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Amethyst Violet Weaver waves to her family before she tests her might on the grease pole challenge, Sunday, Sept. 14!

See more Powwow photos on page 14.

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Spotlight on Tribal Health: Sonja Silva Lucero

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Hello, my name is Sonja Silva Lucero, and I grew up here in Ignacio. I've been a Registered Nurse (RN) for 20 years and have worked at the Southern Ute Health Center for four and a half years.

In 1987 I graduated in the top three of my high school class. In 1991 I graduated from Colorado College with a BA in Religion and a minor in Urban Studies. After college, I obtained certifications in both Herbal Studies and Massage Therapy. Finally, in 2005 I became an RN through Front Range Community College.

During my first five years as an RN, I worked at the public hospital, Denver



Sonja Silva Lucero
Registered Nurse

Southern Ute Health Center

Health. There, I worked on a chemo, telemetry and dialysis unit where I obtained amazing nursing experience. Then, for the next 10 years, I worked as a Home Health and Hospice nurse. During COVID-19 pandemic, I considered leaving

nursing and briefly opened "Sonja's Restaurant." This restaurant about killed me because my employees kept getting sick. Eventually, someone told me about the RN position opening at the Southern Ute Health Center. I applied and was hired in the fall of 2021.

I teach Basic Life Support for the Tribal Health Department at the Southern Ute Health Center, and I have obtained my Wound Care Certification. During college, a friend came to visit me here in Ignacio and she said, "I always wondered why you talked to everyone on campus. This whole town is friendly!"

I feel blessed to call Ignacio my home. I love my job at the Southern Ute Health Center, and I feel honored to serve the Tribe as an RN.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Forestry Fuels Crew – Pictured from left to right: Norman Harlan III, Ryan Cook, Jefferey Herrera, Matthew Archuleta, Roger Mestas, Nathaniel Howe, and Tom Morgan. The Forestry Fuels Crew was instrumental in the woodyard cleanup project this summer, meanwhile these folks are also working year-round to provide firewood to the tribal membership for heating homes and for ceremonial events.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Forestry teams up with EPD, DNR on woodyard reclamation project

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Forestry Fuels Yard got a clean slate this fall, literally. A joint effort between the Tribe's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Environmental Programs Department (EPD) helped to remove 2,000 tons of accumulated wood waste from decades of onsite firewood processing. The runoff from stormwater events was causing the nearby Pine River watershed to become overloaded with nutrients and sediments from these decomposing wood piles, which had negative impacts for the river. Meanwhile, workable space at the woodyard was at a premium.

"The collaborative project between DNR and EPD will

provide direct benefits to the Tribe," said Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson. "Nutrient and sediment runoff to the adjacent Pine River will be reduced, improving water quality, while the fuels yard surface improvements will have a profound, positive impact on the working conditions for the Fuels Yard Team."

The fuelwood that is produced on the Reservation is processed at the Forestry Fuels Yard and distributed to the tribal membership for firewood and for ceremonial purposes. Firewood is distributed to the membership to heat their homes from October through April of each year. The program also provides sweat wood to a portion of the tribal membership that have a sweat lodge

at their primary residence, while also providing firewood for the Bear Dance, Sundance, and Tribal Fair.

"The program fulfills an average of 250 to 300 firewood and ceremonial wood orders annually, this does not include the [firewood for] Bear Dance and Sun Dance," said Forestry Division Head, Brian Gideon.

The purpose of the Tribe's Forestry Fuels Program is to achieve multiple natural resource objectives, including fuels reduction, forest health improvement, commercial forest stand improvement, and wildlife habitat improvement, through the thinning of the Tribe's commercial forests and woodlands. The fuel wood produced through these

Forestry page 2

988 Youth Skate Paint Party



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

All hands on deck to help finish the mural during the 988 Youth Skate Deck Art Paint Party and Mural Painting event. See more Mural Painting photos on page 4.

FORESTRY TEAMS UP WITH EPD • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson shakes hands with Matt Archuleta, thanking the Forestry Fuels Crew for their hard work and collaborative efforts on the massive woodyard cleanup which took place over the summer, a joint effort led by EPD & DNR.

activities is then made available to the tribal membership.

“The purpose of this project and grant application was to assist the Forestry Division with responsibly managing and disposing of a large accumulation of wood waste generated from over two decades of processing wood for firewood use,” said William Farmer, Remediation Scientist I with the Environmental Programs Department.

“The Forestry Fuels Yard entire team was a tremendous help in this project,” Farmer said. “They helped with moving the uncut firewood piles around the yard, as we would finish an area, they would move the uncut firewood piles onto the finished area ensuring that we only had to move the wood piles once. With their hard work, we were able to keep this project moving smoothly and work around this logistical challenge. We want to give them a huge thank you.”

EPD remediation program provided all the contractor oversight and helped coordinate with all the different entities involved through the entire project. “The For-

estry Fuels project was the result of successful collaboration between two Permanent Fund Departments, DNR and EPD,” Hutson said. “The efforts resulted in a win-win for the Tribe; the project will reduce impacts to the environment from fuels processing and improve the work area for the Fuels Yard Team.”

The accumulated wood waste presented several environmental concerns including sediment/nutrient loading into the Pine River, fire hazard, rodent infestation, a noxious/invasive seed bank and health and safety environmental risks to the community. The goal of this project was to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the Pine River, eliminate fire and air quality hazards, reduce the storage of noxious and invasive seeds, improve working conditions and enhance the visual appeal of the Forestry Fuels Yard.

This was a two-phase project that used two different grants. One of those grants was from Colorado Department Public Health and Environment and the other was from The Nature Conservancy. The first phase

of the project was removing the accumulation of wood waste. EPD contracted Dekon Environmental to provide professional excavation and hauling services.

“We started phase 1 on July 7 and finished up on July 17,” Farmer said. “Dekon Environmental hauled almost 2,000 tons of wood waste from the Forestry Fuels Yard to Bondad Landfill. They finished ahead of schedule and did a great job.”

“We contracted Spriggs Excavation Inc. to implement phase 2 of the project, the improvements,” Farmer said. “Spriggs began work on July 28 and finished on Sept. 9. This included re-grading the site, hauling in road base gravel, construction of mulch berms, rock outfalls, and replacing culverts.”

“All these implementations helped reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading into the Pine River during stormwater events; while also improving the site’s working conditions,” he said. “The improvements allow for better management of stormwater and drainage which is a huge positive impact to the environment and working conditions.”



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

For the improvements project, EPD used a grant from the Nature Conservancy and hired Spriggs Excavation, Inc. to grade the area to improve stormwater drainage direction and prevent nutrient heavy water from contaminating the Pine River. Spriggs Excavation was also contracted to put down road base to prevent rutting, pooling of water, erosion, and create a better working surface for the Forestry Fuels Yard.

Many Moons Ago



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Tribal elder, Georgia McKinley marches with a smile along with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy during the SUTF parade.

This photo was first published in the Sept. 18, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Dave Brown/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Isabelle Pena, daughter of Kenneth and Shasta Pena, strikes a beautiful pose during the Southern Ute Fair Baby Contest on Sunday, Sept. 2 at Sky Ute Event Center. Isabelle ended up taking 4th place in “Best Native Dressed” category.

This photo was first published in the Sept. 2, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Crystal Wolfchild (foreground), Teresa Cox (at computer), and Clarissa Herrera (standing) are eighth grade students at Ignacio Junior High. They are familiarizing themselves with the newly installed system in their computer lab.

This photo was published in the Sept. 15, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Participants in the 5K Run, Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Chavez. The run was held on Saturday morning, Sept. 14. Trophies were presented at the Rec. Hall.

This photo was published in the Sept. 20, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



2025 Southern Ute Indian Tribe

General Election



No. 0000

OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 07, 2025

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Notice - Vote for Two (2)

☐ Edward Smith (see list)

☐ Marvin Pinnaceous

☐ Christine Smith

☐ Robert Jackson Frost

☐ Marjorie Barry

☐ Ryan Frost

☐ Cassandra J. Arnold

☐ Carolyn Gray Eagle

☐ Heather Frost

NOTE: THE CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE MAJORITY OF VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED.

Two (2) Tribal Council Seats

Outgoing Council Members: Marjorie Barry & Marvin Pinnaceous

The Election Board has determined these are the dates for the upcoming 2025 General Election according to the Constitution and Election Code.

General Election: Friday, November 07, 2025, from 7 AM to 7 PM

New Voter Registration: Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 5:00 PM

Absentee Ballot Request: Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 5:00 PM

Emergency Ballot Request: Thursday, November 06, 2025, at 5:00 PM

The 2025 General Election will be held at 285 Lakin St. Ignacio, CO Contact the Election Board at (970) 563-0100 ext. 2303/2305/2728/2729/2730.

Off-Reservation Tribal Members call 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303 or email election@southernute-nsn.gov



Pino Nuche Indigenous Artists



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Southern Ute Museum Director, Fabian Martinez along with Native Lens Tewa filmmaker, Charine Pilar Gonzales opened the Native short films showcase with a brief history about Native Lens and its contributions.



Artist and their work were on display at this year's Pino Nuche Indigenous Art Market and Juried Show.



Local artist, Elisia Cruz enthusiastically connected with guests when they stopped by her table to view her artwork.

Royalty at C&A Powwow



photos courtesy Heather White Thunder

Shayne and Malia White Thunder traveled to Colony, Okla. to attend the 2025 Cheyenne and Arapaho Labor Day Powwow, Aug. 29 – Sept. 1. Shayne White Thunder placed 1st in the Junior Girls Traditional Buckskin/Cloth Category.



Malia White Thunder placed 1st in the Junior Girls Jingle/Fancy Category.

Malia White Thunder represented the Southern Ute Tribe as Little Miss Southern Ute at the 2025 Cheyenne and Arapaho Labor Day Powwow.

OUTGOING ROYALTY REPORT
Miss Southern Ute
Maleina Carel

Maykh' Hello
My name is Maleina Carel and I'm the outgoing Miss Southern Ute for 2024-2025. I'm 17 years old and I'm a Senior at Goal High School located in Durango, Colo. My bands are Mouche-Caputa and Weenuche. My maternal grandparents are Hardy Joy Sr. and the late Anna Weaver egap. My great paternal grandparents are James Price Sr. and Linda Lopez of Towaoc, Colo. My paternal grandparents are the late Vernest Carel and Marlene Price Carel egap. My parents are Marie Joy Carel and Vern Carel. I have an older sister, Rhianna Carel. I also have served on the Sunshine Smith Cloud Youth Advisory Council.
I would like to share my final quarterly Royalty report on the events, powwows and trips that I have attended for the months of June, July, August and September of this year.

June: My month started with the Towaoc Powwow and Bear Dance in Towaoc, Colo. I traveled to Colorado Springs to attend the "Forever Comes" exhibit opening ceremony in Colorado Springs at the Pioneer Museum. I enjoyed looking at the exhibits and was super proud to see some of our tribal members' beautiful exhibits being showcased. You must see it for yourself if you are ever traveling through Colorado Springs. I was in attendance for the summer kickoff Boys & Girls Club BBQ, I was in attendance for the Inaugural Tero worker trainee recognition luncheon that the TERO department hosted, Elder Appreciation Symposium that was held by the Social Services department.

I traveled to Jicarilla, N.M. to attend their Jicarilla Day Powwow where I placed first in the teen girl Northern Traditional category, I also attended the Christian Women's conference at the Southern Ute Museum. I did an introduction, danced in a Grand Entry along with the heritage dancers and we did a round dance with the participants. I enjoyed this because I reunited with one of my teachers from grade school, Mrs. Sutton Gallegos. I also took pictures with ladies that were part of this conference and enjoyed visiting with them.

July: First week of July I traveled to Fort Duchesne, Utah and attended the 2025 Northern Ute Celebration during the 4th of July weekend, while I was there, I also attended the 4th of July Princess Pageant and the Youth Powwow that was held on Thursday evening. That week I also stayed and participated in the Tri-Ute Games held in Fort Duchesne, Utah. I played basketball and participated in bowling. I was in attendance for the Jimmy Newton Jr. Youth Conference; I rode in the San Ignacio Parade on a horse during the parade and I placed first place in the horse rider category.

August: I started this month by attending the Boys & Girls Club End of Summer BBQ, Ute Mountain Casino Powwow and welcomed the newly crowned Miss Indian Colorado, Aliyah Jacket, and the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society



Maleina Carel
Outgoing Miss Southern Ute
2024-2025

SW regional conference. The Southern Ute Wildlife Department hosted it this year, and I was honored to be in attendance to do a welcome and provide a farewell at the end of their conference. I also attended the Southern Ute Royalty pageant and was the MC for our event; it was my very first time doing this and I enjoyed it.

I was very honored to be in attendance for the 13th annual Durango Veterans Bike Run that was held at the Southern Ute Veterans Park. I was gifted a beautiful Southern Ute Veterans mug and a Southern Ute Veterans challenge coin by Mr. Howard Richards Sr. He thanked me for always showing up and supporting them. It's always an honor to see the Southern Ute Veterans representing at the powwows and events. They are always welcoming, and I admire all they have done and still do for our people. Lastly, for the month of August I attended the White Mesa Powwow for one of their Grand Entries and I attended the last Bear Dance of the year.

September: I'm including this month because I attended and represented as much as I could. I attended the Pino Nuche Art Market & Juried Show. They did a showing of a short film of the Royalty, which I was a part of when I was Jr. Miss Southern Ute last year. I'm glad I got to view it one last time and on this same day I stopped by the Behavioral Health celebration for the youth at the Pinnu Nuuchi skatepark with mural painting and deck painting. I enjoyed seeing the youth enjoying themselves painting their skateboards and listening to some awesome music by The Blissins and The Illegal Aliens.

The final events I attended were the Southern Ute kickoff meal and the Southern Tribal Fair & Powwow. I was the head lady for Friday, Sept. 12th Grand Entry. My last day of representing as the Miss Southern Ute 2024-2025. I had a special to honor four elders and a giveaway on Friday evening. On Saturday I held my outgoing Miss Southern Ute special "Ute women shawl & shell dress with a sky-blue scarf." It was an honor to dance along 12 beautiful Ute women and made me feel proud to see them par-

ticipate in honor of my outgoing special. I can't forget the Jr. Miss Ute Mountain, Wohpe Plentyholes for coming out to dance along with us.

This is my final Royalty quarterly report, and I did a lot more this year of representation. It's been an honor to represent the Ute people and the Southern Ute Tribe, the elders, the membership, the youth and my family. I have represented for a continuous three years as an ambassador. I honorably held the Junior Miss Southern Ute Alternate 2022-2023, Jr. Miss Southern Ute 2023-2024 and Miss Southern Ute 2024-2025. It's been an experience of many challenges & obstacles – both negative and positive. I can say it's not easy being an ambassador, it comes with a lot of responsibilities and knowledge.

I'm thankful for everyone who supported me throughout my three years of representation. To the Elders who gracefully taught me and guided me when you felt that I was ready to take on your teachings. I learned from the youngest to the oldest. I want to thank my mother Marie Joy for making me things and always gifting me with beautiful items when you felt I was ready for them. You have taught me to always stay strong, stand tall and represent the Ute people and be proud of who I am. My sister who I look up to for her guidance and her positive attitude.

I was honored to hold these three different royalty titles and I'm glad to have had this honor to be your Miss Southern Ute for 2024-2025. Many people from family, friends, Tribal Council, Executive Officer and my relatives; I would like to thank for your unconditional support and your guidance that has made me the proud young Ute woman that I have become. My final fair well wishes it has been an HONOR to serve and represent my Southern Ute people and as I pass on my crown, I also leave behind my legacy. Many blessings to all my relatives and the membership, tuvuchi togwayak.

Maleina Carel
Outgoing Miss Southern Ute
2024-2025



HEALTHY RECIPES

Shaved brussels sprouts salad for autumn

By Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC
SHINING MOUNTAIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Brussels sprouts are a fall and winter vegetable. They are low in calories, high in potassium and even have some protein! Paired with walnuts and cranberries, this easy recipe can become a favorite!

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



Mirivox/AdobeStock

Shaved Brussels Sprouts Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Brussels sprouts, washed, trimmed, thinly sliced or shredded
- ½ cup walnuts*
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries

Dressing:

- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

Garnish:

- ¼ cup finely grated Ramano pecorino*
- Freshly ground black pepper (optional)

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the thinly sliced Brussels sprouts, walnuts and cranberries.
2. In a small bowl, add olive oil, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Whisk vigorously to combine.
3. Pour dressing over the Brussels sprouts and toss to coat. Garnish with grated Ramano cheese and serve.

Serves 4-6

Tips: Plate separately and then add the grated cheese and freshly ground black pepper for a restaurant appearance. If making ahead, leave off the grated cheese until serving. This can be made a day in advance. *For a nuttier flavor, try toasting the walnuts. Just place them in a skillet at medium heat, stirring until browned, about 2-4 minutes. *If you don't care for Ramano, you can use parmesan instead.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Piinu Nuuchi Skate Park has received a brand-new mural featuring a 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline theme, artwork completed by community artists and youth. The mural is set to be fully finished by Monday, Sept. 15.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Youth-designed mural at the Piinu Núuchí Skatepark!

by Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

It was a long time coming and involved many layers of preparation but, at last, Piinu Núuchí Skatepark now features a new, striking mural designed by Southern Ute youth!

On Saturday, Sept. 6, Southern Ute Behavioral Health sponsored a free day of art, live music, and sports led by prevention specialist, Dr. Tamara Turner, whose efforts were funded by a Native Connections federal grant for youth mental health. This colorful mural reflects some of the ways that Southern Ute youth conceive of heritage and belonging.

The day included two live punk bands, The Blisins (Tuba City, Ariz.) and The Illegal Aliens (Santa Fe, N.M.), as a soundtrack to painting the mural in addition to skateboard deck painting and free lunch, generously provided by a 988 Crisis prevention grant and facilitated by SUBH staff and peer recovery coaches. Other generous donations from the community at large came from the La Plata



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Each painted skate deck features a 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline theme, bringing awareness to the resource. Later skate decks will be used to create a promotional banner and stickers.

County Health Department ROAR Coalition (Recognizing Opportunities Around Resilience) and The Hive in Durango, Colo. – another skateboarding hub and supportive partner of all youth in our region.

Thank you to all who turned out to make the day fabulous, including Councilwoman Marge Barry and Emcee Robert Ortiz! We also extend our thanks to those who donated prizes for the skateboard competition, Southern Ute Education, Boys and Girls Club, and SunUte Community Center. If you weren't able

to make it, stop by the skatepark and check out the new mural. The late afternoon rain on Sept. 6 prevented its completion, but by the time you are reading this, it will be finished.

Southern Ute Behavioral Health looks forward to future events where we can support critical youth spaces like the skatepark and provide opportunities for youth to claim and uplift these spaces with their own voices and expressions of art and belonging.

Here's to your good health!

It's okay not to feel okay

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

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



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Starlitt, Theoden, and Mykel Greany paint skate decks alongside their mother Dominika Joy on Saturday, Sept. 6.

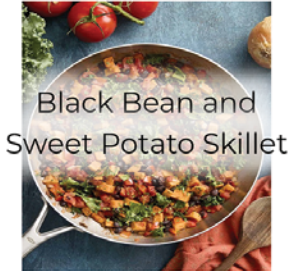


Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Local youth paint skate decks at the Piinu Nuuchi Skate Park on Saturday in support of the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Department and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



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



Black Bean and Sweet Potato Skillet

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFSept2025>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, September 22nd
Pick-up Date: Wednesday, September 24th



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

Contact:
Lisa B. Smith 970-563-2344
*If you need to schedule a different pickup time/date, please reach out to Lisa

RESILIENT KIDS
SAFE KIDS
HAPPY KIDS

Help our community raise resilient children by becoming a foster parent

>Raising children in a “family home environment” is more positive than an “institutionalized” setting, and promotes resilience

>Helping children “fit in”, and remain part of their home community promotes happiness and wellness

> We need this in our community

> Call me for details about licensing

We are seeking families to provide foster care for children in need. Please call Kellie @ 970.563.2337 for more information.

WHO CAN BE FOSTER PARENTS?

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



SUHC’s new onsite laboratory



photosKrista Richards/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal elder, Byron Frost gave the blessing for the new Southern Ute Health Center’s onsite laboratory located on the north side of the existing building, Wednesday, Sept. 3. Southern Ute Tribal Councilmembers, as well as Southern Ute Executive Officer, Lindsay Box, attended the grand opening of the new laboratory.



Southern Ute Health Center’s Chief Nursing Officer, Loni Acevedo shows Tribal Councilmembers Marty Pinnecoose, Marge Barry and Linda Baker the new laboratory that opened for the community.



Dr. Ryan Duvall, SUHC Physician and Lizette Langefels, Tribal Health Director attended the grand opening of the Southern Ute Health Center’s new onsite laboratory.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

New therapist at Behavioral Health

Shelly Solopow, LPC, CAS

I am Little Shell Chippewa, a therapist and a social justice warrior, and advocate with more than 10 years of behavioral health counseling experience. I attended college at UC Davis and graduate school at DU in Denver.

I have worked largely with American Indians and Alaska Natives that live with intergenerational and historical trauma and the results of which are largely trauma and substance use struggles. My approach is based on a foundation of Structural Competency, which simply means I bring awareness of all the ways a person’s health equity is affected in our world so we can overcome barriers to



Little Shell Chippewa, new therapist at Behavioral Health.

living a happy and healthy life. I have worked at a systems level and have returned to a direct counseling role and am very excited to work with the people here.

My main goal is to make a safe space and be authentic in the therapeutic relationship, which could include group counseling and individual therapy as well.

A farewell to Preston Barry



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Preston Barry’s departure from Southern Ute Behavioral Health left many feeling his loss; Behavioral Health co-workers – Administrative Assistant, Jolene Martinez and Patient Care Coordinator, Kiana Chavez, stand with Barry for a photo ahead of the farewell luncheon, Friday, Sept. 5.

Southern Ute Behavioral Health hosted a farewell potluck style luncheon for long time Peer Recovery Coach, Preston Barry at the Mesa Building, Friday, Sept. 5. Preston was joined by his mother, Councilwoman Marge Barry, and his sister, Tribal Information Services Director, Amy Barry, who each offered words of support and encouragement. Barry has been instrumental in his role at Behavioral Health, advocating for community outreach and coordinating events around substance abuse prevention.



Multi - Purpose Facility
October Events

- Senior Breakfast—Wednesday October 1—10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- Quilt & Sew Class—Tuesday—Thursday October 7-9—10:00 AM—3:00 PM
- Yard Sale Saturday October 11—9:00 AM—4:00 PM
- Sip Chat & Chew—Friday October 17—11:30 AM—1:30 PM
- Traditional Sewing—Monday & Tuesday October 27 & 28
- Day Session - 10:00 AM—3:30 PM Evening Session 5:30 PM—8:00 PM Youth
- Halloween Treats—Friday October 30—10:30 AM—1:00 PM

Haunted House
October 24, 25, 31
& November 1

Zombie Walk
October 31

Multi-Purpose Facility Haunted House & Zombie Walk - 2025

Special Events

- Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith Tuesday October 14, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM
- Youth Halloween Treats—Friday October 24, 10:30 AM—1:30 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

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, 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.

FREE CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS



UNDERSTANDING YOUTH MENTAL WELLNESS

September 30th
5:30-7:15pm
at Pine River Library
Bayfield

with Genevieve Travis, MAEC, MSW, LCSW

FINDING COMMON GROUND WITH YOUR YOUTH

October 9th, 5:30-7:15pm
Team Up office, Durango

with Rachel Turiel, Nonviolent Communication Coach

PROTECT YOUR PEACE

Building Healthy Relationship Dynamics

October 7th, 5:30-7:15pm
at Pine River Library
Bayfield

with Liza Williams, Domestic violence Services Advocate and Lisa Donelan, MA, NLC

In partnership with:



DON'T MAKE IT WEIRD: BEING WHO YOU NEED US TO BE

October 15th 5:30-7:15pm
at the Hive DGO
Durango

with Vale Zins, MSW, LSW

In partnership with:



¡Interpretación simultánea disponible!



Scan or visit
teamupsw.org/parenting
to learn more and register



QUESTIONS? EMAIL CAROLINEH@TEAMUPSW.ORG



courtesy Berndadine Tso/SUIMA

Staff from the Education Department (Ed. Center and SUIMA) pause from decorating their float at the Tribal Fair Parade to take a group picture.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po’ekwatu – Eagle’s Nest

SUIMA celebrates 25 years!

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) had a birthday/anniversary celebration, Friday, Sept. 5, which recognized the 25 years of the school being open. Along with enjoying Frito Pie, a SUIMA favorite...there was also delicious cake, a raffle, and the original architectural drawings of the school on display. Along all of the classroom windows, there were photos from the years 2000 through 2025. Many smiles, and a few tears, could be seen as past students were reminded of their childhood, the field trips that were taken and the many cultural events and activities which makes SUIMA special.

There were also conversations about how the Montessori method was chosen for the school, what was different about our curriculum versus a traditional classroom, and how traditional classrooms have been incorporating more hands-on learning than they did when SUIMA opened. What continues to hold true for SUIMA is the fact that the curriculum is based upon principles developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. The focus of her method



Mari Jo Owens
Principal
Southern Ute Indian
Montessori Academy

was the creation and theory behind the materials, educational techniques, and observations, which support the natural development of children. Some of the classroom materials are still her original design and can be found in every Montessori classroom around the world.

Because the method is based upon developmentally appropriate activities, the child often learns the process of education by doing and learning through trial and error. The environment becomes the “teacher,” with the child as the initiator of their own education. Montessori classrooms are designed to accommodate various stages of development in children, from birth to three years of age, three to six years, six to nine, and so on and because the child goes through these various stages, Montessori classrooms are organized into three-year groups.

Early Release Days are every Friday at 2 p.m.

SUIMA School Board is seeking people to sit on their school board. If you are interested, please reach out to the school, or better yet, bring a letter of intent to the SUIMA office.

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Sept. 19: No School – Professional Development Day
- Sept. 24: School picture day
- Sept. 24: Family Night
- Oct. 3: Professional Development Day
- Oct. 9: SUIMA School Board meeting
- Oct. 13: No School – Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- Oct. 21: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Oct. 29: Family Night
- Oct. 31: Halloween

Happy birthday SUIMA



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy or SUIMA celebrates its 25th Birthday on Friday, Sept. 5 with a variety of activities. Dominika Joy views photo albums in the dining hall, photos are from the last 25 years of operation.



Mamakwa Valdez was one of the first students to attend SUIMA since its opening in 2000, she stands with SUIMA teacher Debra Lamoreaux. ‘Ms. Debbie’ has also been working with the school since its opening.



SUIMA Principal Mari Jo Owens shares stories with families visiting for the 25th Birthday on Friday, Sept. 5. Families enjoyed lunch, classroom tours, campus wide bingo game, and photo books.

Dancing Spirit October 3rd art opening

Join Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts on Friday, October 3rd, from 6–8pm as we celebrate the creative talents of local artists Ann Salviazul and Lissa Lee! Enjoy a vibrant Southwest-themed art opening featuring new works, light refreshments, and an opportunity to meet the artists.

Southern Ute Shared Services
Southern Ute Digital Equity Program

Canva Graphic Design

Unleash your inner design wizard and learn the art of crafting eye-popping social media posts, snazzy signs, killer presentations, and jaw-dropping videos! Oh, and did we mention logos and more?

Let the creative magic begin!

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming training session! This is a fantastic opportunity to expand your skills, gain new insights, and connect with like-minded individuals. Whether you're looking to refine existing skills or learn something entirely new, this session promises to be both informative and engaging. Don't miss out on this chance to invest in your growth and development. We look forward to seeing you there!

OCTOBER 21, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND
14929 HIGHWAY 172
IGNACIO, CO 81137

If you are interested in learning how to use Canva, click on the QR Code, sign up online at www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP or call 970.563.5555. Space is Limited!

Springboard
Youth Arts Festival & Makers Market

Saturday, October 4th
12:00pm-3:00PM
Fanto Park
445 E Seventh Ave Durango, CO

Join us and let your imagination run wild at our free interactive art stations!

Shop young artist & entrepreneurs ages 8–18, showcasing their art, handmade goods and youth services at our 2nd Annual Youth Makers Market.

Felt Craft - Beading - Ceramics - Weaving
Culinary Workshops - Screen Printing - Music
Performance Arts - Community Mural and More!

Questions on how to be a youth vendor or sponsor email - Springboard.yeap@gmail.com



Families visit Education



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Lisa Pratchett signs off on scavenger hunt cards while greeting parents during the Southern Ute Education Open House on Wednesday, Aug. 27. Open to Southern Ute, First Descendant, and JOM students along with their families, participants filled out a meet the staff member scavenger hunt; after completing, students were entered into a raffle for door prizes.



Education Tutor, Ramona Etsitty signs off scavenger hunt cards and hands out free books during the Southern Ute Education Open House, Wednesday, Aug. 27.



Dustin Weaver greets families at the Southern Ute Education Department's Open House. Families at the event met with all members of the staff, learned about the services offered, and enjoyed a free meal. Families who completed the scavenger hunt had the opportunity to win a variety of prizes.

BOBCAT BULLETIN

Ignacio School District celebrates 'Accredited' rating on the 2025 Performance Framework

By Cori Stevens
IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Ignacio School District has once again proven that dedication, collaboration, and high expectations pay off. According to the 2025 Performance Framework, the district has received the rating of Accredited for a second year in a row – a milestone that reflects the hard work of students, staff, and the entire community.

The Colorado Department of Education releases the Performance Framework reports annually to rate schools and districts based on student outcomes such as Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, and Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness. The highest rating for a school district to receive is Accredited.

The 2025 Performance Framework indicates steady improvement across the

board. Since 2022, Ignacio School District has shown an 8.2% increase in points earned in the Academic Achievement category, a 16.1% increase in Academic Growth, and a 16.7% increase in Postsecondary Readiness. The district maintains a 95% participation rate for students taking the state assessments, which is another outcome that factors into the overall Performance Framework rating.

Particularly noteworthy is the strong growth in English Language Arts at the middle and high school levels and continued progress in graduation and dropout rates. These successes highlight the district's commitment to preparing every student for lifelong success.

Of course, there is always more work to do. The district continues to focus on raising achievement and growth in math, strengthening supports for elementary learners, and

ensuring students with disabilities receive the targeted interventions they need. With initiatives such as updated curriculum and pacing guides, meaningful professional development, and a focus on active engagement strategies, the district remains on track for improving academic outcomes.

Ignacio Schools are moving forward with confidence and excitement! On behalf of the Ignacio School District, we want to thank our parents and community for your ongoing support and partnership in educating our students. As a reminder to parents, please be on the lookout for two surveys, the Indian Policies and Procedures survey and the S-CAP survey, which will be emailed out this month. These surveys are just one way that the district collects your feedback. Together, we're building a future that looks brighter than ever.

Multi-Purpose Facility
Beading & Traditional Sewing Class
Monday & Tuesday September 22 & 23, 2025



Two Day Sessions: Monday & Tuesday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Two Evening Sessions: Monday & Tuesday 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Supply List
2 Yards of Fabric, 3 yards of Fringe, crochet hook or large needle
Embellishments, create your own applique—
Call for supply list—970-563-2641



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

OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT
Telescopes | stargazing
displays | activities | rockets
food & beverages
OCT. 4 AT 7:00 PM | SHOSHONE PARK

LET'S LEARN UTE

'ivi'aqh.	Drink it.
Tuka'.	Eat.
Karukway.	Go sit down.
Po'ekwatupunini.	Read. (book-look)
Paghayway.	Walk.
Ma'naqh.	Wipe it.
Wuka'.	Work.
Po'o.	Write.

QR code and Southern Ute logo

RESILIENT KIDS
SAFE KIDS
HAPPY KIDS

Help our community raise resilient children by becoming a foster parent

- > Raising children in a "family home environment" is more positive than an "institutionalized" setting, and promotes resilience
- > Helping children "fit in", and remain part of their home community promotes happiness and wellness
- > We need this in our community
- > Call me for details about licensing

WHO CAN BE FOSTER PARENTS?

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

We are seeking families to provide foster care for children in need. Please call Kellie @ 970.563.2337 for more information.

Southern Ute logo



IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Dixie Cook wins award for excellence

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In front of a cheering crowd of hundreds of Library Workers from across the state, Ignacio's own Dixie Cook walked to the podium to accept the Lucy Schweers Award for Excellence in Support Services. A highlight of the annual Colorado Association of Libraries Conference (CALCON), the awards ceremony is held on the second day and honors outstanding work provided by a dedicated group of librarians and library paraprofessionals.

Every year library workers from across the state gather at CALCON in an effort to improve the service and programs we can provide to our communities. This year ICL sent four staff members to participate in three days of presentations by colleagues and outside experts, wander the exhibit hall looking for new products and services, and listen to inspiring speeches by state representatives and industry leaders.

Conferences like these are working vacations. Staff get a break from their regular duties and have time to recharge the batteries and return to their libraries with new energy and ideas. One of the standout moments was a talk by Shelly Read, author of the book, "Go as a River." A Colorado fifth generation resident, Shelly's talk focused on how it is never too late to write your story. Her bestselling book was not



Cheyenne Munns/Ignacio Community Library

Dixie Cook accepted the Lucy Schweers Award for Excellence in Support Services.

published until her late 50's after a career in teaching and raising a couple of children.

But the highlight for ICL staff was watching our colleague Dixie Cook receive the "Lucy Schweers Award for Excellence in Support Services." To recognize support services staff who demonstrate outstanding leadership and service in a Colorado library, information, or school media field. This award honors Lucy Schweers, who recognized the importance of all people who work in libraries. Requirements for nominations are that the nominated candidate either is or was a Colorado support services staff person. Nominations for this award evaluated based on the following criteria: directly or indirectly serves patrons and communities in a way that goes beyond basic requirements of their job; makes, enables or manages positive changes which benefit Colorado libraries and other support staff; exhibits optimism;

and consistently leads and inspires other support staff; any other relevant data.

Dixie has been working at the library longer than anyone and is not only loved by patrons but also the staff's favorite co-worker. After many years cataloging our collection of materials and working as the facilities manager, Dixie took on a new role providing outreach to underserved communities as the lead of our bookmobile program. Driving "Dewey" to local schools and special events around the district has allowed Dixie to share her enthusiasm and warmth to a wider group of library patrons. As an extra bonus our Marketing Supervisor, Cheyenne, (Dixie's daughter) was also in attendance with her camera to record the award ceremony.

Congratulations to Dixie! Let her know how much you appreciate her efforts on behalf of the Ignacio community next time you're in the library or see her out on the road.

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO

COFFEE &
CONNECTIONS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

8:30-10:00 AM

Willows Cafe at Sky Ute Casino



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

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



HAUNTED
HOUSE



VOLUNTEER MEETING



Multipurpose Facility

September 22, 2025

5:00-7:00 pm



2nd ANNUAL UNCOMPAHGRE
POW WOW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025
MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER / 11A.M. TO DUSK
1036 N 7TH ST, MONTROSE, CO 81401



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



DANCE CONTEST
CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

DANCE CATEGORIES:

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

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!

Vendor Sign Up: wsnarc.org/2025-uncompahgre-pow-wow-vendors

SPONSORSHIPS:

TITLE SPONSOR \$25,000 | GOLD SPONSOR \$15,000

SILVER SPONSOR \$5,000

You may also sponsor any of the individual dance categories.

Sponsorship information: wsnarc.org/pow-wow-sponsorships

Please visit wsnarc.org/2025-uncompahgre-pow-wow
or call 970-773-4765 or 970-249-3098 for more information.

Mobile Market
Distribution



The Care and Share Mobile Market is back at the ELHI Community Center this summer! Free, fresh food for you and your family. Don't miss out on this amazing resource—come by, stock up, and share with your loved ones!

September 26th
11 AM - 12 PM



115 Ute Street, ignacio CO. 81137
970-563-4100
www.theelhhiagnacio.org
admin@theelhhiagnacio.org



Public Comment Period
Proposed Amendments to Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Severance Tax Code

The Southern Ute Department of Energy is now accepting written comments on proposed amendments to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Severance Tax Code, Title 21 of the Southern Ute Tribal Code. Among other proposed amendments to the Code, the proposed amendments to Section 21-2-108 would establish index-based values as the primary method of valuing minerals for purposes of the tax. The proposed amendments are available for review and comment at <https://www.suitdoe.com>. Comments must be received by 5PM MT on Monday, October 6, 2025.

Notice Of Draft Ambient Air Monitoring
Annual Network Plan And Request For Comment

Notice is hereby given that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Department's (EPD) Air Quality Division (AQD) has prepared the calendar year 2025 draft Ambient Air Monitoring Annual Network Plan. Under 40 CFR 58.10 (relating to annual monitoring network plan and periodic network assessment), air quality monitoring agencies must adopt an annual air monitoring network plan and make the plan available for public inspection for at least 30 days prior to final submission to the EPA Regional Administrator. This public comment period is open for 30 days from the date of this notice (August 22, 2025), ending on September 21, 2025. The draft plan is available for review on the EPD's public comment website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/public-comments/>. Any interested person may submit written comments on the plan via email to airquality@southernute-nsn.gov.

Multi-Purpose Facility
Senior Breakfast



Wednesday October 1, 2025
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Open to all Community Senior Citizens
55 years and older



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



MANCOS SHALE DEVELOPMENT TOWH HALL
TRIBAL MEMBERS INVITED

SAVE THE DATE
09.30.25

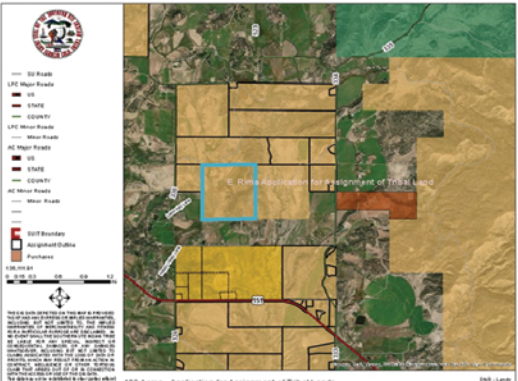
GROWTH FUND BUILDING, FLOOR 1
CONFERENCE ROOM 103 (DINNER WILL BE SERVED)

www.sugf.com • 14929 Highway 172, P.O. Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137 • Ph: (970) 563.5000

45-day Notice of Comment and Objection
Assignment Application Request
Esther Rima

SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-105(1)...the department shall publish and post...notice of a proposed assignment for comment and objection. The notice shall include the applicants name, a description of the property for which an application for assignment may be filed, and a description of the use to be made of the land... 29-2-104(3) If, after review by the department...the land is determined to be available for assignment, the department shall publish and post notice of availability...

August 18, 2025



October 2, 2025

The Department of Natural Resources recently received an application from Esther Rima for an assignment of tribal lands in the E2NE4 of Sec. 11, and the W2NW4 of Sec. 12 in T33N, R7W, N.M.P.M., La Plata County, Colorado, Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The land applied for is a 160-acre parcel that has been maintained under an improvement lease for the last ten years. The easement for this land will be incorporated as part of the proposed parcel, thereby granting access to the existing parcel.

SUITC – Title 29, Land Assignment Code 29-2-106. Objections to and Comments on Assignments.
(1) Within the 45-day posting period described above, any tribal member may file with the department a written objection or written comments on the land assignment.
(2) An objection shall include the name and mailing address of the party objection, a description of the assignment objected to, a short and plain statement of reasons why the land should not be assigned or should be assigned only in a modified form, and any suggested conditions which should be included in the grant of assignment.

Tribal members wishing to submit comments or objections regarding this assignment request may do so by mail or email to the Department of Natural Resources—Lands Division, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or sluzar@southernute-nsn.gov, on or before **October 2, 2025**.

AMERICANS



Sept. 13 - Nov. 9, 2025

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



Discover the unexpected ways American Indians have been embedded in the history, pop culture, and identity of the United States.

Visit Exhibition Today!





Sign Up for the Tribal Member Experience

1

Go to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s website at
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/>

2

Select “Members” at the top of the screen

3

Select “I need an account”

4

Complete the Tribal Member Access Request Form
& click Submit

Account holders must be enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members and 18 years of age or older.

Your request will be sent to TIS for verification. SUSS will approve your account.

The login credentials will be sent to the email listed on the form. You may then create your password.

For information, contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2313 or TIS Vital Statistics at 970-563-2248.

For technical assistance with existing accounts, contact SUDEP at 970-563-5555.



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) Ignacio, Colorado

For More Information
awall@southernute-nsn.gov

Call Us
(970)563-2281



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 bleclair@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

TERO COMMISSION

Open Until Filled – The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) is accepting letters of interest for two (2) Southern Ute Tribal member at-large Commissioners to serve on the Tribal Employment Rights Commission which are compensated positions. Southern Ute tribal member/ Applicants must have the following requirements: TRIBAL MEMBER AT-LARGE: Not currently employed by the Tribal Government or the Growth Fund; Does not own or operate a certified Indian Owned Business; Experience or expertise in administrative hearing procedures; Eighteen (18) years of age or older; Good character; and Ability to observe restrictions concerning conflict of interest and confidentiality. Submit your Letter of Interest to the TERO Division or send letter to TERO Division, P.O. Box 737, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio, CO 81137. If you have any questions, please call TERO, at 970-563-0117 or 970-563-0100 ext. 2291. TERO is located in the J&R Administration Building, 71 Mike Frost Way, (north of the Tribal Court building).

WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is seeking enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to fill two seats on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. The 8-member Board works closely with the Wildlife Division on planning and recommending actions related to tribal hunting and fishing programs. Board members not already employed by the Tribe are compensated \$20 per hour for meeting attendance. Meetings are held roughly on a quarterly basis throughout the year, and a commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. Interested Tribal Members must submit a brief letter of interest that includes a description of the applicant’s knowledge and experience with wildlife, hunting, or fishing, on and off of the Southern Ute Reservation. In addition, as a condition of appointment to the Board, applicants must submit a standard job application through the Tribe’s Human Resources Department, as well as agree to a State of Colorado background check. Please submit letters to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.

WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD – YOUTH

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

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY

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
- 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.

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.



FIRE RESTRICTIONS


Southern Ute Reservation rescinds Stage I Fire Restrictions

Staff report
BIA FORESTRY

Due to recent rain and moderating fuel conditions, Stage I fire restrictions will be rescinded for all trust lands throughout the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. While most areas have received rain, there are some areas that have only received a small amount and are still relatively dry. Drought con-

ditions persist in those areas and so everyone on the Reservation is still asked to be cautious and use common sense with fire. This fire season has been long and challenging for firefighters with seven large fires occurring within the area and two impacting Southern Ute Reservation lands. The Ute 63 (550 acres) and the Rim Road (97 acres) fires required incident management organizations and were suppressed successfully. All other fires (34 total fires) were kept under 10 acres with no injuries or accidents.

For more information regarding fire restrictions, please visit Southern Ute Agency Fire Management at 575 County Road 517, Ignacio, CO 81137. Stage II Restrictions were rescinded at 6 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025.




Fire Restrictions Rescinded

Effective: September 10, 2025 at 6:00 AM

Due to recent rain and moderating fuel conditions, Stage I fire restrictions will be rescinded for all trust lands throughout the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. While most areas have received rain, there are some areas that have only received a small amount and are still relatively dry. Drought conditions persist in those areas and so everyone on the Reservation is still asked to be cautious and use common sense with fire.

This fire season has been long and challenging for firefighters with seven large fires occurring within the area and two impacting Southern Ute Reservation lands. The Ute 63 (550 acres) and the Rim Road (97 acres) fires required incident management organizations and were suppressed successfully. All other fires (34 total fires) were kept under 10 acres with no injuries or accidents.

For more information regarding fire restrictions, please visit
Southern Ute Agency Fire Management at 575 County Road 517, Ignacio, CO 81137.





SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

24TH ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 4, 2026
9AM-1PM

SKY UTE CASINO
EVENT CENTER

For more information please contact
Andrea Schultz
aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov

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#

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103rd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow

“Blooming Creations”

The Southern Ute Drum presents
Southern Ute Tribal Fair

Powwow	14
Parade	15
Contests	16 – 18
Events	19



Southern Ute tribal member, Zuriyah Baker takes her reign as the newly crowned Miss Southern Ute 2025-26.

Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum



Powwow time at Tribal Fair



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Odyssey Baker-Silva dances a contest song during Women's Northern Traditional on Saturday, Sept. 13.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

The 65th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair Powwow Gourd Dance kicked off on Friday, Sept. 12 in the Sky Ute Fairground Arena. This year's Gourd Dance drum was Yellow Jacket Singers who represent the Southern Ute, Ponca and other tribes across Indian Country.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Gourd Dancers from the Four Corners and other areas across Indian Country attended different Gourd Dance sessions throughout the weekend.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Dancers line up for judging, following the "Old Ute Style" special hosted by the Southern Ute Powwow Committee.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Zuriah Baker is the newly crowned Miss Southern Ute for 2025-2026, on Friday night following Grand Entry, the passing of the crown was completed by the previous reigning Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel.

The 65th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair Powwow returned on Friday, Sept. 12 – Sunday, Sept. 14, presented by the Southern Ute Powwow Committee, Sky Ute Fairgrounds, Cultural Preservation Department, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Dancers, singers, and powwow enthusiasts gathered to enjoy meeting with friends, top notch singing, competitive dancing, specials, and a variety of vendors. The "Old Ute Style" traditional dance contest was the highlight of the weekend, showcasing the original style of dress and dance specific to the Ute people.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Brand White Eyes competes in the Men's Northern Traditional category.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Women's Fancy Shawl dancer, Katy Isenock competes during the Saturday night contests.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

This year's Head Gourd Dancer for the 65th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair Powwow was Dewayne C. Richards. Richards served as the Headman Dancer during the Grand Entries throughout the Southern Ute Tribal Fair weekend.

Parade adds splash of color to Ignacio



Winners of this year's Chairman Award – Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy and Southern Ute Education.

Floats, families, and parade fans gathered in downtown Ignacio for the 103rd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair Parade event on Saturday, Sept. 13, hosted by the Department of Natural Resources. This year's parade theme is "Blooming Creations" and featured 14 categories, including newly added "Kiddie Categories," horse category, the highly sought-after Chairman's Award and Executive Office Award. Contestants at the 65th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair Powwow also participated in the parade for a chance to earn extra points. This year's parade had over 40 different floats from across the Tribal organization and community. Winners of the Chairman's Award go to Southern Ute Education/SUIMA – Executive Office Award goes to Vocational Rehab.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute Rodeo Queen candidate, Tatum Bebo rides through the parade encouraging young ladies to try for the title next year.



Contestants of the 65th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair Powwow show off their different dance styles during the parade on Saturday.



Tribal Council elect, Edward Box III rides through the parade, waving to parade attendees.



Ramona Eagle waves to the crowds as she rides along with Southern Ute Housing Authority.



SunUte Community Center's Aaron Henry dressed as the facility's sasquatch mascot for the parade. After a quick photo with emcee Betty Box, sasquatch went dancing down the route and shooting free t-shirts into the crowd with his t-shirt cannon.





103rd Annual Tribal Fair Contests



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Taking aim with her compound bow, Dezbah Washinawatok sets her sights on the 3D targets carefully placed along the Bear Trail, taking home first place in her division. Dezbah is the daughter of James Washinawatok (Senior Tribal Attorney) and Brenna Clani-Washinawatok of Farmington, N.M.



courtesy Nuche Photography

Dinos race off to the finish line during the Dino Run event hosted by Agatha Bison and family on Saturday, Sept. 13. This is the event's second year and is growing to become a popular event during fair time.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Christian "Cash" Rodriguez-Velasquez turns up the heat on his BMX bike, during the annual Skate Park Competition hosted by SunUte Community Center; Cash went on to win a new bike after taking a first-place win in his category!



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Snagging the biggest fish, just minutes before the buzzer sounded, ending the annual fishing Derby, Joe Herrera brings his carp up for weigh in and a shot at the prize money.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The ladies won a hard-fought battle at this year's Tug-O-War sponsored by Southern Ute Behavioral Health and Tribal Information Services.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Despite heavy rainfall, fans of the annual Jalapeño Eating Contest waited to watch and compete on Saturday, Sept. 13. Ladies fight through the heat of five jalapeños for a chance at a \$500 cash prize and other gift prizes.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

An archer lines up his shot, while others look on with anticipation, at this year's Sasquatch Archery Shoot held at Scott's Pond, Sunday, Sept. 14.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal elder, Ernest "Muz" Pinnecoose shoots traditional in the men's category during the annual 3D Archery Challenge, Sunday, Sept. 14, sponsored by the SunUte Community Center.



103rd Annual Tribal Fair Contests



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Marcus Height swings and hits the ball during the Co-Ed game on Sunday, Sept. 14.



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

A “Traditional Girl” lines up for the Southern Ute Tribal Fair Baby Contest, Saturday, Sept. 14.



courtesy Nuche Photography

Racers in the teen division of the Dino Race take off to the finish line in hopes to take first place during the Dino Run as part of the 103rd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair contests.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Krista Richards took home first place in her division, shooting traditional at Sunday morning’s 3D archery competition. Richards teamed up with Shiri Howell and Jack Frost III for the early morning archery event in Ignacio.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Tipi Raising Contest is overseen by superintendent Byron Frost, with the help of his wife Etta. Teams are judged on speed and presentation of their tipi; each year this contest takes place on Sunday morning near the Grease Pole Climb and Frybread Making contests.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Romeo Thomas sports an Ignacio team jersey during the annual Tribal Fair Fishing Derby, Friday, Sept. 12, which welcomed anglers of all ages to compete.



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

The team “Tigers” work together to try and win during the grease pole contest, trusting in one another’s strength to hold each other up!



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Cecilia Stubbs lines up with her and Thomas Romero’s son for the “Western Boy” category of the Southern Ute Tribal Fair Baby Contest.



courtesy Nuche Photography

Participants in the Dino Race wear newly designed t-shirts and banners following the races on Saturday, Sept. 13 during the 103rd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair.



103rd Annual Tribal Fair Contests



Krista Richards/SU Drum
Jasper Abeyta gets called safe during the Co-Ed portion of the softball games on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the SunUte Baseball field in Ignacio, Colo.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum
Gia Velasquez and Kairi Ruybal pose up while fishing together in the early morning hours of Friday's annual Fishing Derby sponsored by the Southern Ute Wildlife Resource Management Division.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum
Skaters from 505 Shredz Skate Shop in Farmington, N.M. came up to Ignacio to support the youth and compete in the adult categories at the annual Skate Park Competition hosted by SunUte Community Center.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum
Archers paid close attention to the rules of the contest at this year's Sasquatch Archery Shoot, Sunday, Sept. 14.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum
Teams work together to raise a tipi as fast as possible on Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds, as one of the contests held during the 103rd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair.



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum
Southern Ute tribal member and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory (SCSYAC) council member, Auc-uwey O'John selling ducks on behalf of SCSYAC during the evening on Saturday, Sept. 13.

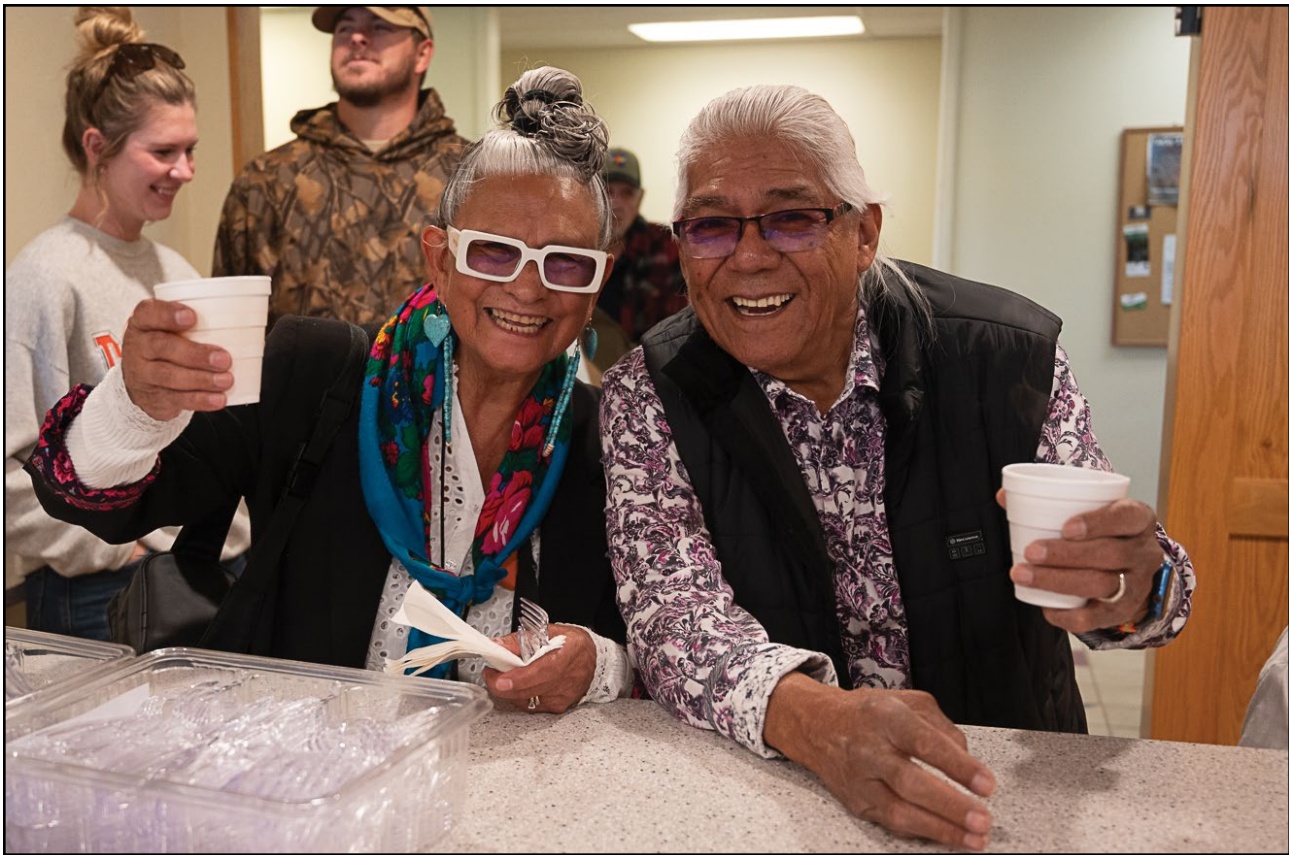


Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum
Trying to out-run the ball during the Employee Softball game, Deja Herrera sprints to home base, as Heather Valenski reaches out, ready to get Herrera out!



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum
The 23rd Annual Jalapeño Contest is hosted and emceed by superintendent Robert Ortiz, along with the assistance of many volunteers, the fan favorite contest takes place each year as part of the Southern Ute Tribal Fair.

Other Southern Ute Tribal Fair Events



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Eddie and Betty Box wait for their pancake breakfast tray. The meal was a fundraiser for the Ignacio Boys' Basketball team.



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

EcoTone opened for the Native Rez-olution Youth Concert XV and gave a fantastic performance to kick the night off, Saturday, Sept. 13!



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Trae and Melanie Seibel cook sausages for the breakfast fundraiser that included pancakes, hashbrowns, eggs, and sausages along wit a choice of coffee or orange juice.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Becki Jones, lead vocalist and guitarist of the punk band from Albuquerque pulled out all the stops with their blistering set during the Native REZ-olution Youth Concert XV.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Dancers watch the highly anticipated fireworks show on Saturday evening, outside of the exhibit hall at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds.



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Connie Baker smiles with Aspen Powell and Chairman Melvin Baker poses with his grandson Rex Olguin at the Kick-off Meal.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

In a collaborative effort between the Southern Ute Legal Department and Internal Audit, staff members carefully paint a large canvas ahead of the Southern Ute Tribal Fair parade, which took place on Saturday, Sept. 20. Tribal Water Attorney, Lisa Yellow Eagle and Internal Auditor, Jamie Rivera and Alissa White work to finish hand painting their banner, coordinating their designs with this year's 103rd annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair theme – Blooming Creations! Alissa White is also this year's Tribal Fair Theme & Logo Winner, "Blooming Creations' came about from my love for crafting and creating." White said "Whether it be journaling, painting, beading, or baking, I view my projects as flowers. They start off as ideas such as a seed, and like all flowers they take time and nurturing to create a beautiful bloom."



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Tribal member, Jared Ruybal and his daughter get a burger patty for lunch at the Kick-off Meal for the 103rd Southern Ute Tribal Fair on Friday, Sept. 12 at Ute Park.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Ute Language Program Manager, Dr. Stacey Oberly stands beside the sign, honoring her advocacy and tireless contributions during her current role and her time on Tribal Council.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Ute language signs installed on Tribal Campus

A step toward cultural revitalization

Staff report

TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Exciting changes are underway on Tribal Campus as Ute language signs are being installed, bringing a renewed sense of culture, tradition, and belonging to the campus. This meaningful project was initiated by Dr. Stacey Oberly during her time on Tribal Council, reflecting her deep commitment to language preservation and cultural revitalization.

“It’s a powerful act of linguistic sovereignty to post our beautiful Ute language in all our Tribal buildings. It honors all our past and current Ute speakers who so graciously shared their Ute knowledge with us to ensure it continues into perpetuity. Special thanks go to Council Member Marjorie Barry for following through on this important initiative,” said Dr. Stacey Oberly, Ute Language Program Manager.

The signs serve as daily reminders of the Ute language, encouraging its visibility and use in everyday life. They are more than just markers – they are symbols of identity and resilience. Having the language present in public spaces



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Southern Ute Property & Facilities Director, Tyson Thompson and Maintenance Technician, Chris Walker, hang the welcoming sign at the Leonard C. Burch building.

reinforces its value and helps normalize its use, especially among the youth. This is a powerful way to honor the past while shaping the future. “The installation of Ute language signage across our tribal buildings is more than symbolic; it reflects a commitment to integrating our language and culture into the daily operations of tribal government,” Executive Officer Lindsay J. Box said. “It is tangible preservation, pride, and creating a future where our language is visible, spoken, and lived.”

Property and Facilities (P&F) began the installa-

tion process at the Leonard C. Burch Building on Sept. 10, with P&F Director Tyson Thompson assisting the building maintenance team. His leadership ensured that the signs were not only prominently displayed, but also met ADA compliance standards, ensuring access to all.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in the Tribe’s ongoing efforts to strengthen cultural connections and promote language acquisition. By integrating the Ute language into the physical landscape, the Tribe takes a step toward preserving its heritage.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Southern Ute Chairman Melvin J. Baker and Executive Officer, Lindsay Box observe the newly installed signage.

COLORADO RIVER

‘The American Southwest’ documentary film debut

Call to action on water and wildlife conservation

Staff report
FIN AND FUR FILMS

The official trailer gives audiences a first look at The American Southwest, blending remarkable wildlife scenes with a powerful narration that brings the region’s story to life.

The film opened on Sept. 5, in commercial and independent theaters – including AMC, Harkins, Regal, and others across the southwest region – with showings in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, California, Texas, and Colorado. Select screenings will feature community engagement opportunities, educational programming, and Q&As with conservationists, Indigenous leaders, and the filmmaking team.

Directed by Ben Masters (The River and the Wall, Deep in the Heart), the documentary takes audiences on an expedition from the Colorado River’s headwaters to its historic delta, highlighting both charismatic species – like beavers, elk, and jaguars – and the diverse human relationships with the river over millennia. Alongside its vivid portrayal of desert biodiversity, the

film boldly addresses water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and the impacts of a warming climate.

“The American Southwest is a love letter to the landscapes and wildlife that have shaped me,” said director Ben Masters. “It’s my best attempt to inspire audiences to conserve, protect, and rewind the region’s ecosystems and the Colorado River. This is a social nature film, one that confronts the challenges of the West, while offering a vision of restoration and hope.”

Narrator Quannah ChasingHorse (Han Gwich’in and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota) brings her personal connection to the land into every frame.

“Being asked to narrate this film – to lend my voice to the Colorado River, its tributaries, the life it nourishes, and the people who have stewarded it for generations – is such a huge honor,” ChasingHorse said. “Showcasing how essential Indigenous voices are when telling these stories means everything to me. I’m incredibly proud to be part of this wildly beautiful and inspiring film, knowing the impact it will have on those who already love The

American Southwest – and those who are just beginning to experience it.”

Developed in collaboration with NativesOutdoors, producer Len Necefer, Ph.D. (Diné), and his team helped shape the storytelling and cinematography to reflect a deep respect for the cultural and ecological richness of the region, as well as the urgency of the film’s message.

“The issues facing the Colorado River are not isolated – they’re a preview of what’s unfolding around the world,” Necefer said. “Freshwater systems are under pressure globally, but what’s happening in the Southwest offers a test case: when we give ecosystems the chance to heal, they respond. Stewardship is a choice, and The American Southwest shows us we still have the power to choose wisely.”

For screening times and ticket information, please visit <https://theamericansouthwest.film>. The film will be released on digital platforms later in the fall.

The production is partnering with American Rivers, which works to make every river clean and healthy for people and wildlife.

SOUTHERN UTE RODEO

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

Sky Ute Fairgrounds
Ignacio, Colo.

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

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(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 Araleena Nanaeto

UNVEILING HISTORIES:

Boarding Schools and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (1870-1980)
(SUCCM Archive)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 5:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Location: Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum, LARGE CLASSROOM
Contact: Raelynn Frauenhoff, rfrauenhoff@southernute-nsn.gov, 970.563.2998

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Sept. & Oct. 2025

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Wednesday	9/24/25	5 PM - 7:30 PM
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Tuesday	9/30/25	5 PM - 7:30 PM
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OBITUARY



BAKER – With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Michael Baker, age 50, on the late summer day of August 27, 2025.

Michael took great pride in his family and Southern Ute heritage. In Southern Ute folklore, there is a trickster god known as Coyote, whose curiosity is the origin of humanity. He represents boldness, curiosity, playfulness, and adaptability in the face of hardship. While it is difficult to summa-

rize a life, those who knew Michael best would agree he had the spirit of Coyote in overwhelming abundance.

As a lifelong student of the world, Michael’s curiosity spanned the outdoors, science, mechanics, and Native American culture. However, his greatest accomplishments are best measured by how he spent meaningful time with others. As a father, he instilled within his children that love transcends all hardship. He showed them that laughter can be found even in the darkest of places, and that he would always be in their corner. As a brother, he was an elder, a prankster, an adventure seeker, and a bellwether. As a friend and beloved, he was a lovable misfit, a joker, a lionhearted companion, and a source of unbridled fun.

Michael was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 2, 1975. He was preceded in death by his mother Katherine M. Neely (2011), and his father, David James Baker (2003). He is survived by his children, Donovan and Aurelia; his brother Brian; and his sisters, Sarah and Viah.

We came together September 11, 2025, to lay to rest a father, brother, and a friend at 10 a.m. at the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Memorial Chapel in Ignacio, Colo. A graveside service followed at the Ouray Memorial Cemetery, close to his father David.



ORTIZ – Melinda Ortiz (Mel) passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 at her home in Ignacio, Colo., at the age of 53. Mel was born in Salida, Colo. on Aug. 23, 1972 to her mother, Vera (Red) and Robert Ortiz. Melinda grew up and attended school in Buena Vista, Colo., and Ignacio, Colo. and graduated from Ignacio in 1990. Mel lived in Ignacio, Colo.

Mel is an enrolled member of the Taos Pueblo Indian Tribe in Taos, N.M. and a Southern and Ute Mountain descendent. Mel enjoyed going home on occasion for feast days, and holidays. She enjoyed Bear Dancing, attending powwows, and watching and cheering on her grandchildren, nieces and nephews participate in their respective activities.

Mel was a mother to her daughter, Mataya Rock, and grandmother to three grandchildren, Adrienne, Alicia, and Avery, who were her world and who she was very proud of, in everything that they did.

Mel enjoyed spending time with her

family and friends. Mel worked at the Sky Ute Casino, both on the floor and in B-I-N-G-O! She also worked in various restaurants in Ignacio as a waitress.

She cleaned houses and helped others by volunteering her time in the Bayfield and Ignacio communities.

Mel especially loved her cat-babies, “Ezusa,” “Rousey” and “Tigger.” She enjoyed listening to 80’s Rock music, especially KISS, and her idol – “the Purple One,” Prince, and of course cheering on “America’s Team” the Dallas Cowboys.

Mel was known for her friendly, caring nature, her infectious smile and crazy sense of humor – laughing and joking around with friends and family. She lived life her own way and lived life to the fullest. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Mel is proceeded in death by her father, Robert L. Ortiz, mother Vera (Red) Ortiz, daughter Alicia Weston, and nephew Kyace Ortiz-Watts.

Mel is survived by her daughter Mataya, and Darren Rock, whom she called her “son.” Grandchildren Adrienne, Alicia, and Avery. Brother, Robert (Bobby) Ortiz, and sister, Blenda Ortiz, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Procession will depart from Hood Mortuary in Durango, Colo., at 4:30 p.m., to Mataya (Darren) Rock’s residence on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, with a Wake to be held at the Rock residence that evening.

A recitation of the Rosary will take place at 9:30 a.m., by Gina and Oscar Cosio, prior to funeral services. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m., at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Chapel, in Ignacio, Colo. Eddie and Betty Box will officiate the services. A meal will be served after the services in the Multi-Purposes Gathering Room.

Melinda’s ashes will be returned to the Earth in a private ceremony at a later time.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Zuriah Baker
Job title: Southern Ute Drum Education Intern
Description of job duties: My job duties include helping out around the Drum office as well as shadowing some of my coworkers.
Hobbies: Spending time with my family, studying history, art, taking pictures, and traveling.
Family: My stepfather is Zachary Yesslith and my mother is Hailey Yesslith. I have a little brother, Sebastian Yesslith. My maternal grandparents are Carole Valdez and the late Chandler Herrera. My paternal grandparents are Bonnie Baker and the late Bob Smith.
Tribe: Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Elma Brown
Job title: Project Aware Manager
Description of job duties: The Project Aware Manager helps leverage partnerships to implement mental health-related promotion, awareness, prevention, intervention, and resilience activities to ensure that school-aged youth have access and are connected to appropriate and effective mental health services. The Project Aware grant allows the creation of a sustainable infrastructure for local school-based mental health programs and services of the Southern Ute Education Department.
Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends.
Family: I descend from William and Elma (Hannah/Smith) Spoonhunter and Buster and Geraldine (Runs Medicine) Brown. The mother of, SathTa Tiioxsei and Noh’ookonoo’oo NiiBei.
Tribe: Northern Arapaho



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,
Mary Ann Scott, Deceased
Case No.: 2025-0072-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 **OCTOBER 6, 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 5th of September, 2025
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

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And More!

Proudly Hosted by VFW Post 5231
Saturday, September 20, 2025
9:00am until 3:00pm County Annex Building

To learn more about this event, sponsoring a vendor table, donating funds or materials or volunteering to staff this event or any general questions please call Crystal at 970-394-9157 or Tom at 970-560-5242

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Oct. 3

Deadline:
Sept. 29

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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STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Southern Ute Drum
(sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov)
Jeremy Wade Shockley • Editor, ext. 2255
(jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov)
Krista Richards • Administrative Assistant, 2251
(krichards@southernute-nsn.gov)
Divine Windy Boy • Reporter/Photographer, 2252
(dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov)
Robert Ortiz • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253
(rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov)
Rosaleigh Cloud • Media Archivist, ext. 2274
(rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov)
Conrad Thompson • Reporter/Videographer, ext. 2241
(cotompson@southernute-nsn.gov)

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Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy Seeking School Board Candidates

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy is seeking interested candidates to submit a letter of interest to fill one (1) position on their school board. Interested persons must be over the age of 18. Are you interested in helping shape the future? What about serving children and your community? The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy is seeking members for its school board. Being on a school board can be a rewarding experience when you realize you are helping ensure a good education for the tribal member youth in our community. If you are interested in working with a team of like-minded individuals who wish to bring excellence to academics, then being a SUIMA School Board member is for you. With Resolution 2020-142, signed on October 13, 2020, the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy has been given permission to form their own School Board Separate from Tribal Council. With the majority of the Board being tribal members, the School Board will uphold SUIMA's mission as it provides a strong educational foundation to preserve and share the Southern Ute Indian culture and language within a Montessori environment. The purpose of the SUIMA School Board is to work with the Tribal Council to ensure that SUIMA has sufficient resources; helps oversee SUIMA's operations and administration; and regularly updates the Tribal Council. Interested parties may submit a letter of interest by November 5, 2025 to the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, PO Box 737 #52, Ignacio, CO 81137; by bringing the letter of interest to the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy office; or by emailing the letter of interest to the SUIMA Principal at mjowens@southernute-nsn.gov.

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.**

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.

*Bowling & Rec Counter Clerk (Full-time)

Multi-tasks and thrives in a fast paced and high energy environment. Is the initial point of contact for customers, always providing superior and friendly customer service. Proactively builds customer relations through soliciting feedback and addressing and resolving customer complaints. Continuously improves operational execution through attention to detail. Reports to the Bowling and Recreation Manager.

***Café Cashier (Full-time)** Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Taking guests food orders, accurately totaling food and beverage purchases and collecting payments. Assists in preparing and serving all the food necessary for the Café 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 follows 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.

*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. In addition, the HR Director 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 (Full-time)

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

*General Manager (Full-time)

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is seeking qualified applicants for the position of General Manager of the Sky Ute Casino Resort ("Casino"). Will be responsible for the overall day-to-day operations of the entire Casino, under the supervision of the Tribal Council. Will be hired pursuant to an employment contract that will set forth the terms of the successful candidate's employment.

*Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, and employee break rooms. All areas must be disinfected, swept, mopped, vacuumed, and dusted.

*Entry Level I Facilities Staff (Full-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. Responsible for the operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

*Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)

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

*Project Cleaner (Full-time)

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

Rolling Thunder Grill Cashier (Part-time)

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

*Rolling Thunder Grill Server (Full-time)

Provide an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service of food and beverages, taking the order and delivering food and beverage items. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Shift covers Breakfast and Lunch only.

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.

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- District Mechanic
- Middle School Soccer Head Coach
- Middle School Basketball Assistant Coach
- Middle School Track Assistant Coach
- Middle School Language Arts Teacher
- Route and Activity Bus Driver
- Middle School Science or Math 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

Ignacio Senior Center

- Assistant Cook (Full-time) \$14.81/hr.

Road Runner Transit:

- Transit Driver (Full-time) \$18.94/hr.
- Inter City Bus Driver (Full-time) \$22.76/hr.

SoCoCAA Seeking Board Members for 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 nemerson@sococaa.org. Join us in making a positive impact in Southern Colorado!



Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 09/01/25



SEPTEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



TRANSFER STATION 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY

TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

SEPTEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, Sept. 3rd. Payments must be received before 10am.
- New rate sheets will be mailed out early September. Look out for the mailing. Call office and update your account with any changes to your mailing address.
- Southern Ute Fair Parade, Sept. 13th: Look out for the Utilities Division Float — staff will be handing out goodies & candy along the parade route!
- September 18th General Meeting for Growth Fund: Look forward to the Utilities Division Update
- Upcoming Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project at Northridge & Sunset Circle Housing area to commence in November. More information and proper notification will be given in advance to residents.
- Transfer Station Reminders
 1. Make sure all trash is bagged and securely enclosed in the polycarts
 2. Any liquids or chemicals need to be properly labeled before dropping off



OFFICE HOURS

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

Reach a staff member at
(970) 563-5500

Utilities Division Manager, Julian Baker
AP/AR Manager, Wahleah Frost

Monthly Shut-Off Day is the first
Wednesday of each month.

Sept. 3rd / Oct. 1st / Nov. 5th

Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments
before 10am on Shut-Off Day

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

Southern Ute Tribal Members

Tour the Tribal Water

Treatment Plant

October 23, 2025

10am

RSVP at (970) 563-5500 to

confirm spot.

Learn how your water is treated
and tested!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio, CO 81137 (970) 563-5500 www.suitutil.com



\$75 Registration Fee
(Scholarships Available)

2025

SW Colorado Demystifying Entrepreneurship Launch Your Idea - Entrepreneurship 101 Work Shop



with the
Leeds School of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Take Your Business to the Next Level

- Learn from entrepreneurs and award-winning professors
- Develop the framework to turn your idea into a business
- Network with other local business owners
- Learn to create value, avoid common pitfalls and get funding to turn your idea into a reality
- Innovation and design thinking exercises
- Special guests sharing insights on the entrepreneurial path



Monday, September 22nd

5:00pm-7:00pm

Welcome Reception

Sky Ute Casino Resort

(Appetizers & Drinks Served)

Tuesday, September 23rd

8:00am-4:00pm

Full Day Workshop

Sky Ute Casino Resort

(Breakfast & Lunch Provided)

For more information please reach out to Allison -
awall@southernute-nsn.gov (970) 563-2281



REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-sw-colorado-demystifying-entrepreneurship-tickets-1564332864709?aff=ODDTDTCREATOR>



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

Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)

Closes 9/30/25 – Assists in the implementation planning, and supervision of activities provided within the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) program. Pay grade N5; Pay rate \$14.90/hour.

Chief of Police

Closes 9/30/25 – Under general supervision of Justice and Regulatory Director, provides consistent and fair law enforcement and public safety services for persons living within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Pay grade E20; Salary starts at at \$133,054/year. Potential sign on bonus depending on experience.

Clinical Applications Coordinator

Closes 10/1/25 – Under general direction of the Health Center Support Services Manager, serves as the Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) for the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department and the Southern Ute Health Center. Maintaining the Electronic Health Record (EHR)/Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the Health Department, coordinating up-grades, and providing training to all users. Pay grade E14; Pay \$64,155/annually.

NAGPRA Technician (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Closes 10/1/25 – Assists NAGPRA Coordinator(s) with new and on-going projects, including, but not limited to, duties such as technical data entry, records management, research, and other duties as assigned. Must be organized and able to maintain a complicated work and deadline calendar for new, on-going, short term, and long-term projects by providing timelines to NAGPRA Coordinator(s) to participate in consultations or teleconferences. Assists with consultation with tribal, state, and federal consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) when needed. Pay grade N10; Pay rate \$21.89/hour.

Optometric Assistant

Closes 9/22/25 – Under dentist supervision, Optometric Assistant is responsible for a wide range of tasks in the Southern Ute Optometry Clinic including, but not limited to, providing chair side optometry assistance, administrative and records, duties, Optos, Lensometry, FDT, Tonometry, OCT, and Dilation of patients. Pay grade N11; Pay is \$23.63/hour.

Public Education Middle School Techer Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Closes 9/25/25 – Under the mentorship of the Public School Middle School Teacher, the Apprenticeship Program is designed to provide training, education, and hands-on experience for a Southern Ute Tribal member in performing the work duties of the Public Education Middle School Teacher. Will develop the skills to teach/tutor Southern Ute or Johnson O'Malley Program students in the Middle School during and after school throughout the school year and develop the skills to design and implement summer enrichment programs, performing student instruction and supervision, managing the programs, and reviewing their success. Position is based on a regular work year (261 days). Will start 20% below the grade for the Middle School Teacher and will receive quarterly evaluation and pay increases. Starting pay rate for the Apprentice is \$22.88/hr. The duration of this program is designed to last 12 months and may be extended or reduced as appropriate. Upon successful completion of the apprentice curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the position of Public Education Middle School Teacher.

Receptionist

Closes 9/25/25 – Performs reception duties for the Southern Ute Tribal organization, including, but not limited to, operation of the telephone switchboard, greeting visitors, providing information about the Tribal government, and referring callers or visitors to the appropriate office for assistance. Performs clerical duties for the Tribal Information Services Director and other Departmental Divisions as needed, including mail processing and distribution. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$16.09/hour.

Social Worker

Closes 9/30/25 – 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 rate \$64,155/annually.

Benefits Coordinator (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – 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.

Chief Judge Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Open Until Filled – An apprentice position for a Southern Ute Tribal member to learn all the requirements and duties of the Chief Judge position in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Mentoring, training, and all aspects of employee supervision will be performed by the current Chief Judge or delegate in accordance with SUIT Personnel Policies and Procedures. For purposes of employment, the successful candidate shall be

classified as an apprentice. The Judicial Review Committee shall also provide insight, guidance, and recommendations when needed. The length of the trainee program is two years to five years depending upon experience and individual progress. Performance will be evaluated pursuant to the requirements of the Tribal Apprenticeship Program and annually with the Tribal Judicial Committee. Will be eligible for wage increase based on performance evaluations and policies governing this position. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, 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. Home Care may include house cleaning, personal hygiene, preparing meals, and other health and wellness related activities. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$20.26/hour.

Construction Services Repairman

Open Until Filled – 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.

Controller

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

Detention Cook

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

Detention Division Head

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

Detention Officer

Open Until Filled – 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 \$26.00/hour.

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.

Elementary Teacher

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

Gaming Director

Open Until Filled – Acts as the administrative head of the Division of Gaming. Attends meetings of the Gaming Commission or Tribal council. Annually prepares and submits to the J&R Director, for approval, a proposed budget for the succeeding fiscal year. Takes such action as may be determined by the Gaming Commission or J&R Director to be necessary to protect the security and integrity of gaming. Monitors and oversees gaming on the reservation to ensure compliance with the Tribal/State compact and the National Indian Gaming Commission. Oversees the licensing and background investigation of individuals and companies involved in gaming. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$86,943/annually.

Gaming Investigator I

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

Attention: Southern Ute/Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Member Staff

It's that time of the year to order Produce. Please complete the attached Produce Order form and return it to the Ag office by the DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025. The pick-up dates are October 16-17, 2025. ALL items MUST be picked up by OCTOBER 17, 2025, or they will be sold – unless prior arrangements have been made. The Ag office does NOT accept credit cards/debit cards for payment. Payment is accepted and made to the Ag office in the form of a personal checks/cashier's check or cash in the exact amount. Please check your order for accuracy before you submit it to the Agriculture Division. Should you have any questions, please call the Ag office at 970.563.0220.

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.

General Accountant – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)

Closing 9/26/25 – Provides general accounting support, to include preparation of journal entries, coding review and reconciliation of selected General Ledger accounts monthly. Reconciliation of bank statements to the General Ledger and providing support for monitoring ongoing cash activity. Supports the monthly close process.

Senior Engineering Design Technician – Red Cedar Gathering (Durango, CO)

Closing 9/12/25 – Developing and maintaining hydraulic models and flow assurance related models for pipeline gathering systems, compression, and treating facilities to support ongoing commercial and engineering business needs. Assists the Commercial and Engineering teams with development of new drawings for Red Cedar Gathering Company facilities, to include generation of process flow diagrams, piping and instrument drawings; site layout drawings; development of conceptual drawings; review of detailed project drawings developed by third parties engineering firms. Maintain and manage existing drawings and drawing database for engineering and operations teams.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

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 is \$30.84/hour.

Group Exercise Instructor

Open Until Filled – Provides group exercise instruction and fitness activities to members of the SunUte Community Center, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

Housing Project Administrator

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

HVAC Technician

Open Until Filled – Provides maintenance support, troubleshooting, and preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems including machinery, boilers, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, steam humidifiers, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers, and variable volume system located in Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

Land Surveyor

Open Until Filled – Conducts all administrative surveys and surveys as a licensed Professional Land Surveyor, needed to meet the needs of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade E15; Salary is \$70,570/annually.

Lifeguard (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N5; Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

NAGPRA Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

Patrol Officer I

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

Patrol Officer II

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$30.84/hour.

Patrol Officer Trainee

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police training course. Upon completion of the required training and certifications, will assume the position of Patrol Officer. Pay grade N11; Salary is \$23.63/hour.

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. Man-

ages Crossing Permits and its database for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Dept. 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 position responsible for providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

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.

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.

Teacher Aide

Open Until Filled – 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.

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

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; \$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. 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 Sun-Ute Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.



VOLLEYCATS CRACK DOWN • FROM PAGE 9



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio sophomore Aubriella Herrera (2) balances herself while passing a tricky Telluride serve to her front-row teammates during SJBL action Saturday afternoon, Sept. 13, inside IHS Gymnasium. The Volleyscats prevailed, 3 sets to 0.

Watched by Telluride's Ellarose Aplin (23), Ignacio junior Kelly Sirios (3) tries passing a ball out of and away from the net Saturday afternoon, Sept. 13, during SJBL action inside IHS Gymnasium. The Volleyscats won, 3 sets to 0.

an ace by IHS libero Tarah Baker brought the 'Cats back to 17-17. The sides then swapped errors and a netted Noel tip gave Ignacio a 19-18 lead which they'd not lose the rest of the way. And after Maliyah Martinez served at set point, 24-19, THS managed nothing offensively and Sirios was then able to set Bradley for a clinching kill.

Aplin terminated a Mahoney set to level Set 3 at 2-2, but after IHS won the next point, Bradley held serve for the next five – one coming via an ace deflected sideways by Metheny and sharply into junior libero Ford Fenton's face. Still not

ready to surrender, the Lady Miners soon fought back to 12-8 before Ignacio strung together six straight points including two Bradley kills and two netted Sanders tries. The 'Cats closed out the match with a 5-0 run capped by a Gustafson scoring attack, and ultimately an Aplin netted try after Sirios served Rikkers at match point, 24-13.

"I like that we're swinging, for sure; we're definitely going to work on it in practice – more than we already do," Fenton said. "But we'd had a couple not-as-tough teams leading into this, and we came in kind of – I think – a bit cocky. They were good; I mean, when we

hit, they got everything up. That was a big part of it, and it was frustrating for sure."

"Energy's the biggest thing that kept us up tonight – my serves in particular," Martinez said. "We are a defense-built team and so we knew that we couldn't let the ball drop; we had to focus on our digs ... and go for anything and everything."

Looking ahead, Ignacio will host rebuilding 1A Dove Creek, with just one win (zero in SJBL play) in eight outings to date, on Saturday, Sept. 20. Results from the Volleyscats' 9/18 trip to Norwood (2-7; 0-2 SJBL, 0-1 1A SJBL) were unavailable at press time.

Gallegos fills Brunot tag



photos courtesy Andrew Gallegos

Lorenzo "Woody" Pena, Cody Kimsey and Andrew Gallegos, together in the high country with a 2025 South Brunot moose, harvested by Gallegos, Sunday, Sept. 7.

Southern Ute tribal member, Andrew Gallegos harvested his 2025 South Brunot moose, on Sunday, Sept. 7.



Internet-Based Hunter Education Class

Saturday October 4th, 8 AM - 2 PM
SunUte Community Center
390 Mouache Drive, Ignacio CO

Course fees: \$34.95 for the online course and \$10 for the conclusion class

The major portion of this course must be completed online, before attending class on October 4th.

Class size is limited to 20 students. The suggested minimum age for students is 12. Parents of younger students are encouraged to attend with their child.

Pre-registration is required; register online at register-ed.com/events/view/233734

Please contact the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130 with any questions.



The 2025 First Descendant Antlerless Elk Hunt

The First Descendant Antlerless Elk Hunt is a limited-draw hunt held from December 1st – December 31st, 2025, on the Southern Ute Reservation. There will be only ten permits allotted for this hunt.

Important Information

- All hunters must comply with all rules set forth in the Southern Ute Reservation Hunting Proclamation.
- Permitted 1st Descendants are only allowed to hunt on tribal trust lands within the exterior boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Access permission must be obtained to hunt on tribal land assignments. Private property (including allotted parcels) and San Juan National Forest lands are not available for 1st Descendant hunting.
- All applicants must submit a Descendancy Letter to the Wildlife Division. These can be obtained from Tribal Information Services (TIS).

Hunt Information

- The hunt is open only to Southern Ute First Descendants.
- Season Dates: December 1 – 31, 2025.
- Weapon Type: Any Legal Weapon.
- Application Period: October 1 – 31, 2025 (Applications must be submitted by October 31st, 2025).
- Application fee is non-refundable.
- Applicants must submit a descendancy letter from Tribal Information Services.
- Ten permits will be available by limited draw only.
- The drawing will be in early November.
- Permits will be issued beginning November 17th, 2025.
- Successful hunters must have their elk validated.
- Bag Limits: 1 Antlerless Elk.

For More information and to find a link to the SUIT Store please visit the Website at:

[First Descendant Antlerless Elk – Southern Ute Indian Tribe \(southernute-nsn.gov\)](https://southernute-nsn.gov)

Please call the Wildlife Division (970) 563-0130 for more information

PUMPKIN SPICE & COOLER NIGHTS,
WATCH FOR WILDLIFE IN
YOUR LIGHTS
Driving Safety Tips

- Slow Down
 - Animals are active during early morning & evening hours.
- Watch for Herds
 - If you see one animal, there may be more nearby.
- Brake, Don't Swerve
 - If an animal crosses you, brake firmly but avoid swerving.
- Follow Posted Signs
 - Wildlife crossing signs are placed in high-activity areas.
- Use High Beams Wisely
 - When safe, use your high beams to better spot wildlife.
- Stay Alert Near Water and Forests
 - Deer and other wildlife often travel near water sources & wooded areas.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Sept. 19

Partly sunny 76°F
20% Afternoon showers/thunderstorms

Saturday, Sept. 20

Sunny 77°F

Sunday, Sept. 21

Sunny 79°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

August 23 August 31 September 7 September 14 September 21