



Tribe rolls out
Mobile Health
Unit

PAGE 5



Professional
jump roping
showcase

PAGE 12

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October 17, 2025 Vol. LVIII, No. 21

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

2025 Southern Ute General Election

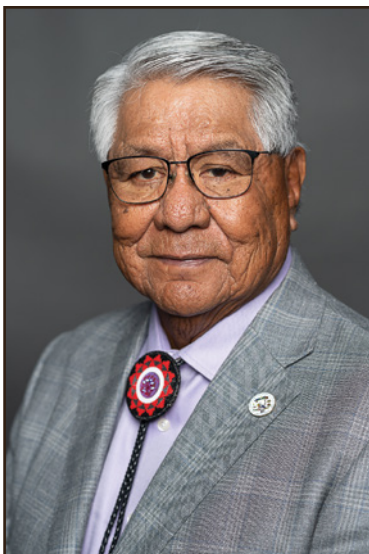
Tribal Council Candidates



Edward Box III



Marvin Pinnecoose



Byron Frost



Marjorie Barry



Christine Sage



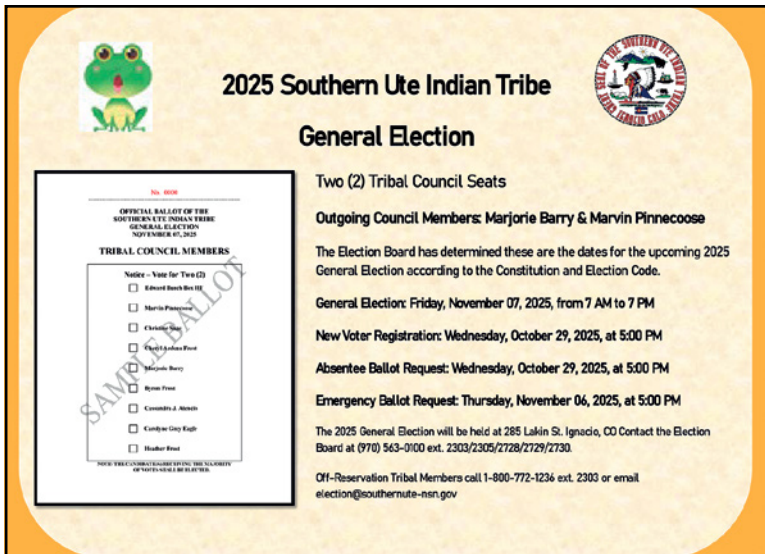
Cassandra Atencio



Cheryl Frost



Heather Frost



*Not pictured: Carolyn Grey Eagle

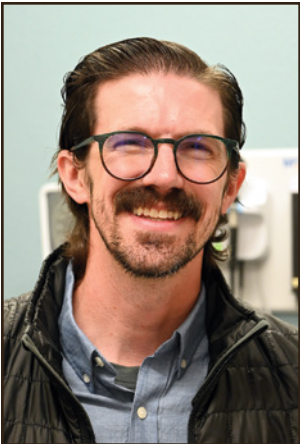
SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Tribe appoints Dr. Duvall as Chief Medical Officer

By Summer Begay
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southern Ute Tribal Council, in a special meeting, approved Dr. Ryan Duvall, MD, to serve as the new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the Southern Ute Health Center.

Dr. Duvall is an experienced family medicine physician with over 15 years of experience. A graduate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 2009, Dr. Duvall has dedicated his career to providing experienced, comprehensive care to



Dr. Ryan Duvall
Chief Medical Officer
Southern Ute Health Center

families on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, the local

community and beyond.

“Dr. Duvall has served our Tribe with compassion for over five years,” Chairman Melvin Baker said. “We are confident that in this new role, he will continue to uplift and improve the health of our tribal membership.”

“Welcoming a physician who already knows our people and their needs, strengthens the foundation of trust that is essential to quality care in Indian Country,” said Executive Officer Lindsay Box. “As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Duvall’s leader-

Tribe page 4

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

Spotlight on Tribal Health: Danielle Ortega

Staff Report
SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

I am Danielle Ortega, a board-certified Physician Assistant. I am Diné and I grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. I completed my undergraduate education at Fort Lewis College and completed my Physician Assistant studies at Western Michigan University. My goal for being a PA has always been to serve and empower Native American communities through evidence-based medicine.

Over the last few years, I have practiced in both Urgent Care and Occupational Medicine settings, and when the opportunity arose to join the Southern Ute Health Center as a primary care provider, I seized the oppor-



Danielle Ortega
Physician Assistant
Southern Ute Health Center

tunity. I have been with the Southern Ute Health Center since August 2025.

In the clinic, I see patients of all ages for acute and chronic healthcare management by creating treatment plans, prescribing medica-

tion, and placing referrals to specialty offices when needed. I am highly motivated to advocate for well-being through preventative services which include healthcare screenings, health education, and annual examinations. I look forward to building relationships with my patients and colleagues as we all work together for a healthier future.

I have so much gratitude for the trust patients and families provide to me to care for them and their loved ones in the most vulnerable of times. I do feel that through my work I can make a positive impact on the lives of the people I serve.

When I am not at work, I enjoy hiking, traveling, working out, and watching movies with my family and friends.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Officer in training, Lydia Jerry makes light work of the obstacle course on Friday, Sept. 24.

JUSTICE & REGULATORY

Police recruit assessments and physical testing sets high bar for cadets

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Culturally responsible community policing is a high priority for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Justice & Regulatory Department, which oversees numerous aspects of law enforcement on the Southern Ute Reservation – Tribal Rangers, Tribal Police, Detention, and the Gaming Division.

Recently, the Tribe invited five new recruits to undergo police recruit assessments and physical testing prior to their interviews. Of those five, three made the initial cut.

“The testing is something that shows what we are kind of exposed to on a daily basis; the exercises are something that would be representative of what we do as officers in the field,” said Lieutenant Gary Maestas



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

SUPD Lieutenant Gary Maestas explains the written portion of qualifications to cadets Jose Attencio and Lydia Jerry prior to administering the exam.

of the Southern Ute Police Dept. Those physical agility tests are also what our officers have to do once a year he explained.

The recruitment assessments include an agility course, written testing, which are then followed by formal interviews.

“This is to complement

our renewed effort as a police program to get local community members to consider employment with the Southern Ute Police Department; where we train them, prepare them and mentor them for the privilege of serving in a Native

Police page 7



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Tribe prepared amid federal government shutdown

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

The United States federal government was officially shut down as of 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1, due to a lack of agreement in Congress on a Continuing Resolution for federal government funding.

Despite this development, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe will continue to operate as usual. Through prudent financial management, the Tribe is well-positioned to maintain essential services and support for

the tribal membership. The Southern Ute Health Center, operated under a 638 contract, is tribally managed and will continue normal business operations.

It is important to note that this update is specific to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Other tribal nations may experience different impacts depending on their funding structures and federal agency involvement.

At the federal level, essential services such as active-duty military, law enforcement, air traffic control, VA hospitals, and Social

Security and Medicare payments are expected to continue. However, non-essential services – including National Parks and Monuments – are likely to be suspended.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Ute Agency will not be operational during federal shutdown. However, Fire Management and Branch of Irrigation will remain on-duty for emergencies only.

The Tribe remains committed to serving the Southern Ute membership and will continue to provide timely updates and support throughout this federal disruption.



Save the Date

Meet the Candidates Night: Tribal Council Seats (2)

Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

Multi-Purpose Facility

Elder Craft Halloween Treats

Halloween Treats

Thursday October 30, 2025
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Treats - Socializing - Fun

Elders - Adults Only Please

Please call to sign up - space is limited -

256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
Call - 970-563-2640 for more information or
e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov





FALL MAINTENANCE

As the seasons shift and temperatures drop, it's time to prepare your home for the colder months ahead.

Schedule your Fall Maintenance today.

This vital service is designed specifically for **TRIBAL ELDERS**, helping protect their homes from the chill and maintain efficiency throughout the season.

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION

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IGNACIO, COLORADO 81137

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Noise, low performance & incorrect temp.



WATER HEATER FLUSH
Inspect, drain, and flush

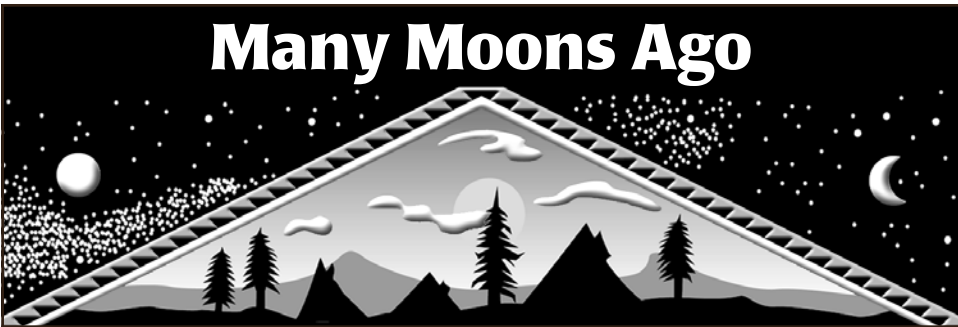


FILTER REPLACEMENT
Install and replace filters.



WATER SUPPLY
Plug-in heat tape, winterize/protect hose bibs.





Trennie Collins/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Little Bobcat Cheerleaders take center stage during the Ignacio Bobcats Homecoming football game's half-time show, as they perform the cheers they learned over the course of the week at cheer camp, put on by IHS Cheerleaders.

This photo was published in the Oct. 17, 2015, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Thomas Cain/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Michael Elk River and Ernest House, Sr. of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council and Southern Ute Tribal Councilman Mathew J. Box stand for the Flag Song at NIEA opening ceremonies.

This photo first appeared in the Oct. 14, 2005, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Southern Ute Heritage Performers and Ute Mountain Dancers take a break in the sun with Splash girl Daryl Hannah.

This photo was published in the Oct. 13, 1995, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Part of the Grand Entry at NCAI Powwow held Thursday night in the Council Oaks Ballroom. The visiting Princesses followed behind the traditional dances and flag bearers.

This photo was published in the Oct. 18, 1985, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

Cowboy Gathering parade



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker, Little Miss Alternate, KaiLanii Graham, and Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Autumn Sage wave to the crowd during the Cowboy Gathering Parade in Durango, Colo., on Main Street, Saturday, Oct. 4.

Southern Ute Royalty, Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker and Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Autumn Sage pose together before the Cowboy Gathering Parade in Durango, Colo., Saturday, Oct. 4.

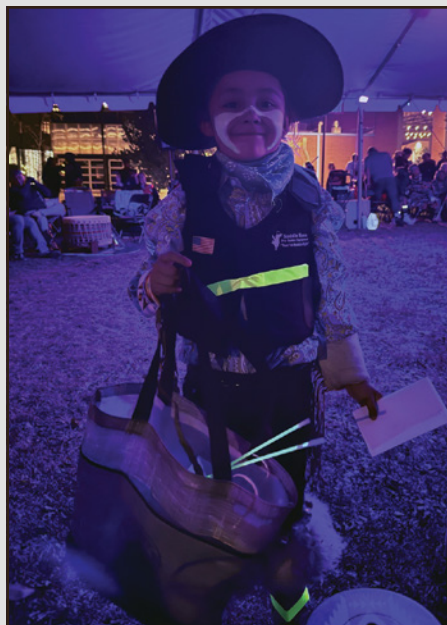


Blacklight Powwow in Denver



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany at the Black Light Powwow at ayA Con, Colorado's Indigenous Comic and Art Festival in Denver, Saturday, Oct. 4.



Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany
after winning 1st in Headman Dancer
Marcus Cyrus's 17 and under, hat and
boot special

SOUTHERN UTE ROYALTY

Introducing Miss Southern Ute

Zuriah Baker

Maykh Puan,
Nu naynunia Zuriyah Baker, nu niniya
Sagar Ayov. Nu Muache, Capota, Wemmu-
niche. Muan Zachary Yesslith Puan Hailey
Yesslith Whichichin Bonnie Baker Kagu-
chin Carole Valdez.

Greetings relatives near and far,

My name is Zuriah Baker, and my Ute name is Sagar Ayov which means White Dove given to me by my maternal grandmother Carole Valdez. I am an enrolled member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe as well as a descendant of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. I am the newly crowned 2025-2026 Miss Southern Ute. I am also the current Chairwoman of the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council. My parents are Zachary Yesslith my mother is Hailey Yesslith and my biological father is Grant Baker. My maternal grandparents are Carole Valdez and the late Chandler Herrera. My great maternal grandparents are the late Sylvian Valdez and Shirley Esparza. My paternal grandparents are Bonnie Baker and the late Bob Smith. My great paternal grandparents are Chris and Esther Baker. I would like to let the community know more about me. I am 17 years old, and I attend Bayfield High School as a Senior. At Bayfield High School I represent as the Native Student Representative for NAPAC. I would like to go to college to be a diplomat. During the summer I also worked in the United States Capitol Page Program as Senator Bennet's Page.

It is an honor to be crowned the new 2025-2026 Miss Southern Ute. I would like to thank everyone who made the Southern Ute Fair possible. I would like to thank the Powwow Committee for the beautiful powwow; I had an amazing time during the powwow! I hope everyone who attended the Fair had a great time and made it home safe! I would also like to thank the outgoing Royalty and committee. Thank you to all my family, friends, and community members



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

who helped me during the Fair and extended a helping hand to me. I would like to thank my uncle Axe for his help, Leandra Litz, Alyssa Nez and the Litz family, Marvin Pinnecoose, the White Thunder family, Divine Windy Boy, Krista Richards, Autumn Sage, Eddie and Betty Box, Lindsay Box, the Burch Family, Dustin Weaver, ShaRay Rock, Venessa Carel, Jarred Carel, the Herrera family, the Valdez family, and the Baker family. I am deeply grateful to everyone! I am looking forward to my reign this year and representing the Tribe in a positive way! I plan on attending as many powwows and cultural events as possible. Thank you for reading this letter & please have a great day!

Stay safe out there and be good to each other!

Zuriah Baker
Miss Southern Ute
2025-2026

Indigenous People's Day in AZ



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany at The Museum of Indigenous People in Prescott, Ariz., where they were asked to be a part of a three-day event celebrating Indigenous People's Day.



Southern Ute Brave,
Theoden Greany and
Little Miss Southern Ute,
Starlitt Greany attended
the Phoenix Indian
Center's 4th Annual Gourd
Dance & Social Powwow,
Saturday, October. 11.

Committee of Elders to host Sunrise Ceremony

The Committee of Elders will have a Sunrise Ceremony November 3, 2025 to recognize Native American Heritage Month which is November. It will be held at the Southern Ute Museum and Cultural Center's outdoor firepit, everyone is invited.



HEALTHY RECIPES

Winter meal: Lentil and sweet potato stew

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

Lentils are packed with protein and fiber and make a nice addition to your winter meal rotation. Sweet potatoes are nutrient rich and include immune supporting Vitamins A and C along with several antioxidants. This easy recipe can be done on the stove, crockpot or instant pot. This makes a hearty meal that even meat lovers will enjoy but costs a lot less! As with any cooking, particularly soups and stews, try various additions or substitutions to make it your own.



courtesy I Heart Vegetables

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

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Saving lives through Harm Reduction

By Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

I recently polled some of my colleagues at Behavioral Health about how they would sum up Harm Reduction in a couple of words or a phrase. "Saving lives" was one that really cut to the chase. Some others were "cultivating compassion" and "humanizing those suffering." Ultimately, harm reduction prioritizes keeping people as healthy as possible, all things considered, and moving those who use substances towards any positive direction, even if it's one small step at a time. You might have heard the phrase "meeting people where they're at." We commonly use this phrase when speaking of harm reduction to mean a kind of compassionate honesty with those suffering. We avoid condemning people for their struggles. While harm reduction does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger that can be associated with drug use, it is a way of saying, "Look, we know that condemning people and demanding a rapid, 180-degree change in behavior is usually unrealistic." We know that people do not usually respond well to this type of regiment. We know that positive reinforcement and support have a higher rate of success. All in all, we strive to provide the best possible environment, resources, and support to get a person through their journey, onto the other side of clean living. Again, any step, however small, in the direction of healing and health – and thus, less harm – is a win. The humanizing factor is to come to terms with, first, the fact that life is hard. For some, it's particularly difficult. We know that realities like racism, poverty, and trauma "affect both

people's vulnerability to and capacity" to deal with harm and to change their behavior quickly, if at all. Again, while objectors suggest that there should be an absolute "no use, period" approach, harm reduction practices accept that this formula seldom works. And that means people lose their lives. They die when they didn't have to. When I asked our new therapist, James Wilson, to expound upon his view of harm reduction, he had this to say: "Harm reduction is a perspective shift to seeing the lives of people with value, such that they are worth saving. On the face of it, you might think that is obvious, but through the lenses of mass media, ableism, productivity at any cost (late-stage capitalism), we tend to think of people more like numbers than, well, people. So, when people encounter harm reduction ideas, like needle exchanges, Narcan hubs, and other lifesaving interventions, if they think, 'Well that is a waste of ...' then they have fallen prey to those lenses I mentioned above, and it happens to the best of us'." Indeed, if we're going to help people recover and lead healthy, rewarding lives, we first have to focus on saving those lives in the first

place and moving them in any positive direction that is possible in the moment. Here's to your good health! It's okay not to feel okay If you or someone you know has been struggling with their emotions, behaviors, or substance use please reach out to us. We can help you find appropriate tools and services that could help you overcome obstacles in your life. We are here for you. Please contact the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division at 970-563-5700 for more information or to set up an appointment to see a counselor or therapist. Reminder: If you need to talk to someone, please reach out. And for those interested in opioid use education, harm reduction, and support, please contact us for quick Naloxone (Narcan) training and fentanyl test strips. We can schedule individual, family, or friends training times at our Southern Ute Behavioral Health Building, or we can come to you, and the training is around 30 minutes. Please call us at 970-563-5700 to set up a training appointment. Sources: National Harm Reduction Coalition. <https://harmreduction.org/about-us/principles-of-harm-reduction/>

TRIBE APPOINTS DR. DUVAL • FROM PAGE 1

ship will guide us in delivering care that is accessible, culturally grounded, and focused on the long-term wellness of our patients." In his new role as Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Duvall will lead the Southern Ute Health Center's clinical operations and strategic medical initiatives. Dr. Duvall's key responsibilities include: Direct Patient Care: Providing primary and comprehensive medical services to patients. Clinical Oversight: Supervising clinical services to ensure the highest standards of patient care.

- Strategic Alignment: Aligning medical strategies with the health center's broader business objectives.
 - Regulatory Compliance: Ensuring all medical services meet applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards.
 - Collaboration: Working closely with the Chief Nursing Officer to support day-to-day operations and patient care.
- Tribal Health Director, Lizette Langefels said, "Dr. Duvall has been providing excellent patient care since 2019 when he first started with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Dr. Duvall brings

extensive knowledge; he is personable, provides excellent, and compassionate care. It will be an honor to have him lead our provider team. Dr. Duvall is dedicated to improving health for all tribal members." "I am proud of the care we provide at the Southern Ute Health Center, and I am excited that this new role will offer opportunities to both continue and expand that care," Duvall said. His appointment signifies a pivotal advancement in the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's dedication to delivering exceptional, culturally responsive healthcare services.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Dial 988

for mental health emergencies.

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

#WeNeedYouHere

NPAAHB | THRIVE | WESTNATIVE

Southern Ute Tribal Holiday Dinners

Thanksgiving Dinner – Nov. 15, 2025

Christmas Dinner and Program – Dec. 13, 2025

Shining Mountain Fresh

October 2025

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

Peanut Butter Pumpkin Cookies

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/SMFOct2025>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, October 27th

Pick-up Date: Wednesday, October 29th

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

Contact: Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349

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

Tribal Health Department presents:

FLU & STEW

Don't FALL for the FLU!

WHEN: October 7th AND October 23rd, 11:30am-1:30pm

WHERE: SunUte Community Center

Flu Shots available if eligible!

Come learn about the benefits of protecting yourself from flu AND taste a warm Fall stew recipe

**Flu shots available ONLY for adults 18+ previously seen at Southern Ute Health Center

**Resources provided for where to receive flu shots for other community members

Questions: Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349 or Carla Kelly Miller 970-563-2293

SMHW highlights programs



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Shining Mountain Health and Wellness went around campus to advertise their upcoming October events; Southern Ute Tribal Council members also attended the booth to learn about Shining Mountain’s upcoming programs and events.

Shining Mountain Health and Wellness employees (Pictured left to right), Dietitian, Lisa Smith; Diabetes Patient Coordinator, Shawmarie Tso and Health & Wellness Program Manager, Heather Sorensen pose for a photo at their booth.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

In a formal dedication ceremony, Southern Ute Chairman, Melvin J. Baker and Executive Officer, Lindsay J. Box, hold the “key” to the new Mobile Health Unit, standing alongside Behavioral Health Peer Recovery Coach, Marvinina Olguin; Chief Nursing Officer, Loni Acevedo; Tribal Health Director, Lizette Langefels, Dr. William Finn; Tribal Council member Andrew Gallegos and Vice-Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose, Tuesday, Sept. 30.

TRIBAL HEALTH

Introducing the new Mobile Health Unit

Bringing care to every corner

By Summer Begay
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker and Executive Officer, Lindsay J. Box joined Tribal Health for an exciting first look at the new Mobile Health Unit – a game-changing step toward health equity and community-centered care.

This isn’t just a vehicle – it’s a mobile health solution designed to meet people where they are. Whether it’s rural neighborhoods, community events, or those hesitant to visit a traditional clinic, this unit breaks down barriers and brings essential services directly to our people.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

The Tribe’s new Mobile Health Unit is a mobile health solution designed to meet patients where they are, reduce transportation barriers, and make health care more accessible. This initiative was made possible through full funding from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, reflecting a strong commitment to improving health equity.

The Mobile Health Unit will offer:

- Vaccinations
- Mobile therapy sessions
- Blood pressure checks
- Lab work
- Pediatric visits

Operated by Shining Mountain Health and Wellness, the unit will be a vital presence at community events and available for most health and behavioral health programming.

This initiative is fully funded by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, reflecting a powerful commitment to health equity and access for all.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

2025 ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

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

Thursday, November 13th
from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the
Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center

First 100 attendees
get a free T-Shirt!

Speaker sessions on fall prevention, financial wellness, mental health, and free screenings including:

- Blood Drive Donation Bus
- Blood Pressure Readings
- Dementia Screenings
- HIV Rapid Testing
- Hearing Tests
- Flu Vaccines



For more information, please call
Aly Seibel at 970-563-0154

Breast Cancer Screening Awareness Dinner and Presentation

October 21, 2025 6-7:30pm
Sky Ute Casino Resort-Banquet Room A



Women between the ages of 40-64 are encouraged to join us for dinner and learn about the importance of screening for breast cancer



RSVP Required, sign up with the link below or the QR Code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XNQ7XTR>



BLOOD DRIVE



SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH SERVICES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

FOR AN APPOINTMENT

- Scan QR Code
- Online at vitalant.org
- Call Vitalant @ 1-877-258-4825

For Questions contact
Aly Seibel, Coordinator
aseibel@southernute-nsn.gov

Thank you, Southern Ute Tribe
for Saving Lives!

For more information visit us at [Vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) or call 877-258-4825
Because of you, life doesn’t stop



BLOODMOBILE
Located @
The Bowling Alley Parking Lot
@ Sky Ute Casino
14324 State Highway 172
Ignacio, CO





SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'ekwatu – Eagle's Nest

Halloween is here!

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

In just a few short weeks, Halloween will be here! The students at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy will be trick-or-treating around Tribal Campus on Friday, Oct. 31! There are three starting times: 8:30 a.m. for the elementary level, 9 a.m. for the pre-K/K level, and 9:30 a.m. for the infant/toddler level.

On Thursday, Oct. 3, we enjoyed the SUIT Agriculture Farm. With their help, we created a pumpkin patch for our youngest students in a grassy area between the school and SunUte. The toddlers had a wonderful time picking out their pumpkins. The students in the preK/K and elementary levels were bused to the farm where they picked out their pumpkin as



Mari Jo Owens
Principal
Southern Ute Indian
Montessori Academy

well as harvested other fruits and vegetables.

During this autumn season, we plan several activities around hunting and gathering. One event in particular is field dressing of an elk or deer where the older students actively participate in the skinning,

butchering, and wrapping of the meat. Later, they make stew or jerky from the animal. We also started our Fishing Club, which runs three days a week with one or two of the students catching something each day – though it might just be some lake weeds!

We continue to collect data on academic areas and growth of the Ute language. All of this drives our instruction and provides insight as we work on our Strategic Plan. With the beginning of the year's assessment period ending, we look forward to the results as we compare this time of year to the same time last year. Our next assessment period will be mid-year.

Attendance is always an area that schools know they can make improvements in; SUIMA is no different. Working with parents, we know we can reach our goal of a 90% attendance rate this year.

SUIMA School Board, Parent Advisory Group, and Family Nights

The SUIMA school board meets on the second Tuesday of the month during lunch hour. They are seeking a candidate to fill the secretary position. If you would like to contact the Board, go to our website: www.suima.org, click on the School Board tab, and submit your question, concern, or comment.

Our PAG meetings will be on the third Tuesday of every month. This is a good time to find out what all the levels are doing as well as what events or activities are happening.

Family Nights will be held on Wednesdays. Check the school calendar for dates as there are some exciting events planned.

Nuu'apaghapi – Ute phrases and sentences

With the weather changing, we now see students and staff getting autumn colds. And what a perfect time to practice our Ute Language! Here are some phrases to use at home.

‘ámu_ ‘áa’ naghami?
Are you sick?

‘áu naghamin.
Yes, I am sick.

Kachin, naghami wa.
Not me, I am not sick.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Leandra Litz, escorts her younger brother Tavach through the decorated halls of the Leonard C. Burch building during the Tribal Campus trick or treat event on Oct. 31, 2024.

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Oct. 21: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Oct. 23: Elementary students participating in the Bison Blessing and Field Dressing
- Oct. 24: No school for students – Teacher Workday
- Oct. 27-30: Conference week
- Oct. 31: Halloween – Trick or Treating on Tribal Campus

Elk earns Citizen of the Month



courtesy Nathan Strong Elk

Jayden Ezekiel Elk was awarded the “Citizen of the Month” award for responsibility on Tuesday, Oct. 7; pictured here holding his award with school counselor Rob Stafford. He follows his brother Nathan Strong Elk III, Savannah Elk and Samantha Elk in getting this award when they attended Bayfield Intermediate School. Jayden's parents are Nathan Strong Elk and Z Meyannie Elk.

SCSYAC hosts student luncheon



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Southern Ute Tribal Council member, Andrew Gallegos speaks to the crowd of Junior and Senior High School students that came from schools in the surrounding area.

Ignacio High School Junior, Leandra Litz serves herself food during the Junior-Senior Luncheon, hosted by the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council at the Sky Ute Casino Event Center on Thursday, Oct. 9.



LOOKING TO STUDY ABROAD?

Southern Ute Education, Open Horizons and AFS-USA are offering Southern Ute students an opportunity to Study Abroad



OPEN HORIZON

Open to three (3) Southern Ute High School Students living on or off the Southern Ute Reservation

Eligibility:
Southern Ute
Enrolled in High School
Ages 15-18
2.5 or higher GPA



Use QR Code if you want more information

If interested, submit a letter of interest (including academic, extracurricular, community, work experiences) and two letters of recommendation to the Education Center by November 21, 2025.

CONTACT US
For More
Information

ShaRay Rock 970-563-2794
Michael Kirsch 970-563-2783
ShaRay Rock srock@southernute-nsn.gov
Michael Kirsch mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov

AMERICAN INDIAN SENIOR DAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
STUDENT UNION BUILDING
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

College-bound American Indian/Indigenous High School seniors are invited to learn about:

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Overview of financial aid types
- Where & how to find scholarships

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

- How to apply
- Application requirements

CAMPUS LIFE

- Campus resources
- Social events & activities

The Southern Ute Education Department would love to take 10 Seniors (Tribal member, First Descendant, JOM) who are interested in attending this event at The University of New Mexico on Wednesday October 29, 2025.

Registration for SUED deadline is: October 17, 2025

For more information please contact
ShaRay Rock
970-563-2794 or
srock@southernute-nsn.gov



@aissunm



American Indian Student Services
1119 Mesa Vista Hall
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
Phone: 505.277.6343 Fax: 505.277.0033
aiss.unm.edu aiss@unm.edu

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified signed language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in American Indian Senior Day, please contact American Indian Student Services (AISS) prior to the event. Public documents can be provided in various accessible formats.

Public speaking for youth



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council member Shayne White Thunder works on her public speaking abilities during a public speaking training hosted by SCSYAC Coordinator, Dustin Weaver on Friday, Sept. 26.

Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council members – Chairwoman Zuriah Baker and Council member Shayne White Thunder stand together for a photo after finishing a public speaking training, Friday, Sept. 26.



POLICE RECRUITMENT • FROM PAGE 1

American community and to outline the benefits of being a Permanent Fund regular status employee,” said Justice & Regulatory Director, Leonard Redhorse III.

Recruit drives let the public know that the Tribe has open positions to serve in the tribal community, with potential for career longevity and enhanced healthcare benefits. Selected applicants will also gain a better understanding and awareness of state, federal and tribal jurisdictions and how that relates to Tribal Sovereignty.

“Our recruit drive is to create an opportunity for those who want to serve their community,” Redhorse said. “It demonstrates their passion to serve, how they carry themselves.”

The current goal is to bring in new hires under the Tribe’s Justice & Regulatory Department in time to send them to the United States Indian Police Academy (USIPA) in Artesia, N.M. for their formal training at the end of December. USIPA is the leading training provider for law enforcement in Indian Country; housed at Artesia’s Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

“The Southern Ute Indian Tribe welcomes peo-



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

SUDC Sgt. Ryan Carothers timed all the participants, including Sgt. Khaera Wauneka, who easily accomplished the task of running the course, while making a qualifying time.

ple who desire to serve in a public safety environment, who are motivated and dedicated to learning new processes to meet the needs of our community,” Redhorse said. There is a culture change in policing that Jus-

tice and Regulatory hopes to achieve, rooted in empathy and compassion, and it starts with recruiting.

“Through the recruitment process, we can achieve this ... that’s our future,” Redhorse said.

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Bookmobile making the rounds

By Daniel Frauenhoff
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The busy summer outreach season for Dewey – the Ignacio Community Library’s bookmobile - is coming to an end. Dewey recently made its final appearance for the year at the Pínu Núuchi Farmers Market. Library staff Dixie Cook, Dorothy Williams, and Daniel Frauenhoff took the bus to the market every Wednesday to promote library programs, services, and events. They also brought activities including Legos, coloring books, and bubbles, which consistently proved to be popular attractions among the younger crowd.

Dewey made appearances at several special events as well. It was decorated by local kids for the San Ignacio Parade, while library staff handed out candy and popicles to spectators. The bus was also present at the Green Chili Festival in September to promote upcoming library events.

A recent partnership between the library and Southern Ute Museum has employed the bookmobile for joint outreach. It can be seen cruising around town on select Thursday evenings with newsletters and upcoming program flyers from both institutions. Both library and museum represen-



tatives will be on board and available to answer questions. The evening drives will continue as long as the weather cooperates.

But Dewey is more than just an outreach mobile. The bus functions as a completely self-sufficient miniature library, with many of the same capabilities as the permanent location. It carries several hundred books and DVDs on board that can be checked out by anyone with a library card. No card? No problem! The onboard library staff can register anyone for a library card right on the bus. Visitors may also search ICL’s online catalog and place requests for books, DVDs, and other library items. Some senior residents of Arboles took advantage of this service to have their book requests delivered to the TARA Community Center.

Library staff are already looking ahead to the spring season and brainstorming ways to better serve their

community. They hope that the bookmobile can help to address one of the library’s greatest challenges: connecting with working parents and local professionals with tight schedules. Even though library programs are designed for everybody, the majority of visitors continue to be retirees and children. Since everybody has a right to this shared public service, staff are eager to improve the accessibility of library programs for working folks. Evening trips on the bookmobile, outside of normal working hours, are just the first step in this new outreach effort.

The library understands the challenges that workers face in their time management. If you have been interested in library services in the past, but were unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, tell us about it! The bookmobile might be able to help. Call 970-563-9287 if you would like to see Dewey in your area more often.

LET’S LEARN UTE

pavokwachichi
dime

panaqaarᵘ
dollar

təraghwaachi
fifty cent piece

panaqaarᵘ
money

túpᵘkyerᵘ
nickel

súyis mé’ᵉ panaqaarᵘ
one hundred dollars

’akatúpᵘkyerᵘ
penny

kwáraachi
quarter

turaghwaachi kwáraachi
seventy-five cents



VOTE CHRISTINE SAGE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL ~2025~





ART & CULTURE

SPUR funding to enhance Indigenous-specific reporting at KSUT Tribal Radio

Regional funding for arts and culture organizations

By Barbara McLachlan
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SERVING SW COLORADO

Orchestra performances, plays, lectures, art museums, movies, comedy shows, concerts in the park, powwows, dances and sculptures; the arts are essential to our way of life and mental health. They make us happy, aware, and grateful. They offer social connections, time for reflection, and space to both laugh and cry. Art opportunities in our region are thriving, and the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is proud to support this growth.

The Foundation will address arts and culture needs across five counties and two sovereign nations with our third quarter SPUR funding. This will help drive revenue for local businesses and strengthen our local economy. In doing so, we are supporting locals with an artistic bent while also addressing positive mental health and well-being.

According to a national public opinion survey conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, 80 percent of Americans visited or watched an arts or culture event in person within the last year. And more than 75 percent of them said they consider arts and culture personally important, contributing to their joy, sense of well-being, and creativity.

According to the same survey, about 73 percent of Americans believe arts and culture provide shared experiences with people of different races, ethnici-

ties, ages, beliefs, and backgrounds. Thus, making the arts a beneficial aspect of society, branching well beyond individual benefits.

An overwhelming 92 percent of Americans believe every student should have access to a quality arts education. By contrast, only 52 percent believe those opportunities are sufficient in our schools. This emphasizes the need for community-based arts events that provide space for local creativity and connection.

Across political lines, Americans strongly support government funding for the arts, with bipartisan majorities approving of local (70 percent), state (66 percent), and federal (66 percent) investments in nonprofit arts organizations and community-based arts programs.

The Community Foundation is helping to fill in some of those gaps with quarter three funding from the SPUR Fund. Here are some highlights of how this funding will benefit our community.

Regionally, funding will support:

- Colorado 250/150 Project in recognition of the 250th birthday of the United States and the 150th birthday of Colorado.
- KSUT Tribal Radio to enhance indigenous-specific reporting.

In LaPlata County, funding will support:

- The Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts in Ignacio to match funds for youth

programming in collaboration with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.

- Merely Players to help cultivate local talent for costume design and creation.
- Bayfield High School Theatre to assist with production costs for their fall show.

In Archuleta County, funding will support:

- Thingamajig Theater to provide professional theater productions for the community as well as educational opportunities for local children for the fall/winter season.

In Montezuma County, funding will support:

- The Mancos Creative District Opera House to help enhance the theater's lighting.
- The Cortez Cultural Center to purchase items to better display historical artifacts and local artists' creations.
- City of Dolores School District Music Department to support music students' travel expenses for competitions.

I am proud to be on a working board that does so much for so many. You can support this effort by donating to the Community Foundation's SPUR Fund at swcommunityfoundation.org. We can do so much good when we all work together.

To see the complete list of recipients visit www.sudrum.com

HALLOWEEN DECORATING

Contest

Free Entry!

Open to residents of Cedar Point, Ignacio Peaks, Shoshone and Quichas

Judging October 18th to 31st

Information and Entry 970-563-2899

HALLOWEEN

WITH SUIMA

COME JOIN US FOR TRICK OR TREATING
Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

OCT

CANDY.COSTUMES
TREATS.FUN TIME

31ST

8:30 AM ELEMENTARY

9:00 AM PRIMARY

9:30 AM INFANT/ TODDLER

COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

6:00-9:00 PM

COSTUME CONTEST BEGINS AT 7:30PM

SKY UTE CASINO EVENT CENTER
IGNACIO, CO

FREE ENTRY- BOOTHS MAY CHARGE

THIS YEAR'S THEME **COCO**
INSPIRED BY

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

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

TRICK OR TREATING

Friday Oct 31st, 2025

Club members will be Trick or Treating around Tribal campus following SUIMA.

We are estimating about 30 club members to participate.



Northern Navajo Fair Powwow



(Left to right) Southern Ute tribal member, Leandra Litz and Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker pose with Southern Ute Tribe's Cultural Center and Museum Registrar & Archivist, Malorie King following Saturday's Grand Entry.



Women's Traditional fills the outdoor arena during the Northern Navajo Fair Powwow.

The 112th Northern Navajo Fair Powwow took place Thursday, Oct. 2 – Saturday, Oct. 4. The outdoor powwow grounds brought dancers from near and far to Shiprock, N.M. Southern Ute tribal members and ambassadors attended the powwow which included, Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker and newly crowned Ms. Indigenous San Juan College, Rhianna Carel.

Photos by Zuriah Baker
The Southern Ute Drum



Teen Jingle Dancers wait anxiously for their contest to start at the Northern Navajo Fair powwow grounds.

Holiday Bazaar

Fort Duchesne UT

December 12th & 13th 2025

Fort Duchesne Community Building

Doors Open 8 am to 6 pm

Breakfast Burritos at 8 am

Full Menu
Friday & Sat
11 am to 5 pm

- ★ Ute Burgers
- ★ Ute Tacos
- ★ Classic Ute Stew
- ★ Ute Bearclaw
- *And More*

Beadwork, Jewelry, Homemade Crafts, Local Artists, Baked Goods, Sweet Treats and Much Much More
Don't Miss Out

Nu-Santa on Sat. 13th. 25
10:30a.m to 2:30p.m.

★Bingo★
TBA

Vendor Info Call
Daniel Santio (435) 823-2901



Teen Grass Dancer Kenan Begay waits for his contest to start at Shiprock Fair Powwow.



Southern Ute tribal member, Leandra Litz poses for the camera during the Shiprock Fair Powwow.

SAVE THE DATE

UTE INDIAN TRIBE

THANKSGIVING POW WOW

NOVEMBER 27, 28 & 29 2025

FORT DUCHESNE, UTAH

Vendor Info Contact:
Daniel Santio. Vendor Coordinator
Phone-(435) 823-2901
Email- dsantio2025@gmail.com
Vendor space limited

Annual Community Veterans Pow Wow

Ignacio High School - Ignacio CO

"Honoring All Who Served"

November 8 & 9, 2025

Head Dancers:

- Dean Webster Sr. US Marine Corps
- Ojibwe-Oneida, Milwaukee WI
- Cecelia Price US Army
- Navajo/Dine, Phoenix AZ
- Head Gourd Dancer:
- Selwyn Whiteskunk US Army
- Ute Mountain Ute, Towaoc

Host Drums:

- Omaha White Tail - Rennard Grant
- Black Lodge Singers - Erwin Scabbyrobe
- Master of Ceremonies - Ruben Little Head
- Arena Director - Dick Dorsey

Veterans Day Brunch
Tuesday November 11, 2025
10:00 AM - Noon
MPF - 256 Ute Road
All Veterans Welcome

Southern Ute Veterans Association Special Veterans Honoring ***Saturday 1:30 PM***
Teddy Baker, US Army, So. Ute ** Russell Blackbird, US Army, Omaha***

Saturday, November 8

Doors Open at 10:30 AM

Gourd Dance: 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Grand Entry 1:00 PM

Supper Break: 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Grand Entry: 7:00PM

Sunday, November 9

Doors Open at 10:30 AM

Gourd Dance: 11:00 AM

Grand Entry 1:00 PM

Closing—5:00 PM

Veterans Street Clothes & Traditional Dress Contests - Special Memorial Honoring Contests
All American Veterans are invited to attend and participate regardless of race or ethnicity.

More Information: Elise Redd, 970-779-8149, 970-563-2641 or the Multi-Purpose Facility 970-563-2640
Arts & Crafts Vendor Space: \$75/day \$125/full event: 970-563-2640 or 970-563-2641

Sponsored by the Southern Ute Veterans Association - the Volunteers to Honor Our Veterans
Ignacio High School, District 11JT- Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Edward Box III

Tribal Council Candidate

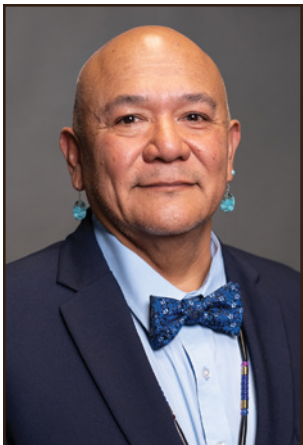
Let me first introduce myself. I am Edward Burch Box III. I am the son of Edward and Betty Box, grandson of Edward and Dorothy Box, Sr. – egap, great-grandson of Jacob and Bertha Box – egap and Sam and Clara Burch – egap, and great-great-grandson of Edwin Cloud – egap and Ruth Nash Cloud – egap.

I am committed to academic excellence. I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), where I gained foundational knowledge and skills essential for professional growth. My Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management degree equipped me with expertise in customer service, business operations, and organizational management within the hospitality industry.

I intend to pursue my Master of Hospitality Administration Degree with a concentration in Gaming Management. This advanced degree will enhance my knowledge and experience in the hospitality and gaming industry.

A tribal leader gains a deep understanding through the Tribe’s history and identity, an insight into cultural practices, and guidance in resolving conflicts with equity and integrity. As tribal leaders, we need to focus on how we strengthen employment growth and opportunities for the membership we represent. Tribal members must be encouraged and supported throughout their career journeys, with opportunities available in the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and Sky Ute Casino Resort. Many tribal members have earned their degrees. We need to open opportunities for them to work, grow, and serve their community from within.

We need to advocate for extended job training and placement programs that empower tribal members to secure meaningful employment opportunities both within and beyond tribal enterprises. I firmly believe that with support and encouragement, the community will benefit significantly from tribal members who work within the Tribe, fos-



tering economic self-sufficiency, and strengthening cultural ties through active participation. This practice not only promotes economic self-sufficiency but also fosters a sense of community and shared purpose, strengthens cultural relations, and preserves traditions through active participation, while empowering individuals by providing meaningful employment opportunities. Ultimately, this approach cultivates robust Tribal Council leadership that is deeply connected to its members and committed to advancing the Tribe’s vision.

I will protect and support not only our future, but also our legacy – the young people who will carry this legacy forward and the elders who safeguard it in their hearts and minds.

A leader does not speak solely for themselves or their immediate family; they represent the collective will and welfare of the entire community.

My commitment is grounded in this principle. I understand that leadership is a passionate advocacy that reflects the needs and aspirations of all tribal members.

My vision aims to uplift and empower our people. I honor our traditions while embracing progress and innovation to secure a prosperous future.

Vote for preserving our heritage. Vote to strengthen our future. Vote for me.

Please support my candidacy on November 7, 2025.

Vote Box – “Honor Heritage - Embrace Progress”

My favorite quote is from music artist Pitbull – “If you don’t know where you from, you don’t know where you are going.”

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Marvin Pinnecoose

Tribal Council Candidate

Maykh, Nuuchiu. My name is Marvin Pinnecoose. I am the son of Leona Red-Pinnecoose (egap) and Guy Pinnecoose Jr. (egap). I was born and raised on the Southern Ute Reservation and am a proud graduate of the Ignacio School District. Following high school, I moved to Las Vegas, Nev. to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where I received a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship. I was halfway through pursuing my Master of Business Administration with a focus on Finance when the passing of my two brothers and my mother encouraged me to return home to take care of our family farm.

I was elected to Tribal Council at the end of 2022 and was immediately voted into the role of Treasurer. In 2023, I led the wage comp restructuring with the goal to stop the bleeding of qualified personnel going to other jobs, families working multiple jobs to make ends meet, and putting people in uncomfortable positions just to get by. My idea came from the practice that we put into place at Amazon in 2018. This was the \$15 hourly minimum wage rate. For the Tribes’ purposes, I proposed to Council we establish a \$5 per hour wage increase to all personnel who made less than \$60,000 per year. People making over that would receive a 10% increase. The reason for this is because a \$5 increase at \$10 per hour takes a person to \$15 per hour. If that same person only received a 10% increase, they would have just moved up to \$11 per hour. The goal was to make it meaningful to our staff and demonstrate our commitment to strengthening our overall capacity. The impact targeted many of our manual labor and task-oriented jobs, which is where we do see quite a lot of our tribal membership. It was designed to allow people to stay where they liked working and still be able to make ends meet. My thoughts were to help Grounds Maintenance, Building Maintenance, Wood Yard, Cus-



tom Farm, Construction Services, SunUte employees, etc. These are the employees who go home dirty every day. These are the people who show up to plow snow at 4 a.m. in the morning while the rest of us sleep.

In 2023 and into 2024, I also brought about the concept of the 2% interest rate for the home loan program. Many people know me for being frugal with the endowment (our financial future that I believe needs protection), but I also believe in appropriate spending. At 2% interest, tribal dollars will probably lose a little bit of value over a 25-to-30-year mortgage, but more importantly is that it gives an opportunity for an enrolled Southern Ute tribal member to buy a permanent home to pass down to their non-enrolled tribal children and their grandchildren. It’s the beginning of the bend to help envelop the descendants and beyond. It has seen over 100 applicants to the home loan program, and plans are being made for future benefits and greater reach of this program. We need to start exploring this same mindset in education.

Though I have many more accomplishments to mention, this statement gives a couple brief examples, tells you where I stand, and where I want to go. In terms of where I stand, my three main focuses on Tribal Council are Financial Service & Products, Agricultural Revitalization, and Economic Development. Off-reservation home loan lending is being explored to allow people to live anywhere in the country. The vehicle loan program is being redevelop-

Pinnecoose page 12

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Byron Frost

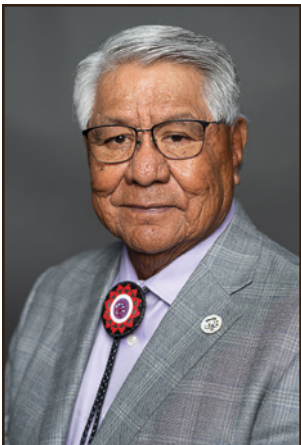
Tribal Council Candidate

Mique Pino Nuchu, My name is Byron Frost, and I am running for the Southern Ute Tribal Council for the upcoming election. I am the son of Jack and Annetta Frost, my wife is Etta Red Frost, and my sons are Brian and Aaron (deceased), and my daughter is Deanna (deceased). I am the guardian of our two grandsons Richard and Ivan Joseph. I am of the Moache/Capota and Uncompaghe Ute Bands.

In today’s world we are constantly fighting for our Tribal Sovereignty, which is the inherent right and authority for tribes to govern themselves. This includes practicing our traditional and cultural way of life. It is important that elected council members have knowledge of treaties and agreements that were made with United States Congress, we must maintain the concept that treaties were “the supreme Law of the Land.” Jurisdictional issues will be an issue as time goes on. We as leaders must fight to protect our natural resources from encroachment from non-tribal entities.

We are now in a government shutdown, which means our tribal funds will be used to keep federal programs running as time goes on, although we are okay for now, we as leaders must always prepare for the worst. Our concern should be checking on the off reservation tribal members. The federal programs they use could be on shut down mode. The cost of living has risen, groceries, gas, housing rental etc. Tribal members need assistance in health care, education, and transportation. These issues I mention also apply to the members living on the reservation. I would advocate the tribal administration to review and present a plan to increase the Emergency grant funds to \$1,000.00-\$1,500.00.

Leaders must always have a vision so that our tribal members are moving forward in a positive way. It has always been said that one day our gas and minerals will run out and funds for tribal member dividends



will decrease. This is true; we have a business venture right here, which is the casino. I would advocate increasing funding for the casino, especially in the marketing department. It’s important to review the business plan of the casino and make changes so that it becomes profitable.

There are real time issues today that need to be addressed: Education for our tribal members and tribal member descendant students in the public school system both here and off reservation must be a priority. The Tribal Truancy Code is now in effect for tribal and Native American students that miss too many days from school. To better understand this code, I will advocate having a meeting with all parents and students.

My background: I have my education in Civil Engineering, and this has led to my career of 20 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Roads Department as the head of the Engineering Department for the agencies in Western Washington and Fort Hall, Idaho. I have been employed with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in various departments, my last was with the Natural Resource Department, Lands Division Head. During my tenure as Lands Division Head, I purchased property for the Land Consolidation Program, reviewed NEPA compliance issues, and archaeological clearances. I serve as a chairman for the following programs: Gaming Commission, Committee of Elders, Native American Parent Advisory Committee (NAPAC) for the Ignacio School District, I also sit on the on the

Frost page 12



ELECT
MARVIN
PINNECOOSE
for Southern Ute Tribal Council





CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Marjorie Barry

Tribal Council Candidate

Mique Nuchu, Nunay nia Marjorie Barry, Capote-Mouache nu mamuch. I am seeking your vote for re-election to the Tribal Council. I have lived and worked on the SUIT reservation all my life, along with my family. I do not promise you, but I will do all I can to represent your voice to the best of my ability, working diligently for you and making sound decisions. I will be accountable, continue to remain humble, treat others with respect and compassion, and listen with an open mind.

My professional work experience includes working with government agencies, BIA Southern Ute Agency in Forestry and Irrigation, and the Office of the Superintendent, as well as the IHS Southern Ute Health Center prior to its P93-638 contract status.

My tribal government experience includes Tribal Council, Executive Office, Education, Natural Resources, Division of Gaming, Culture Department and the Tribal Health Department. I have served on the Education Committee, and as Gaming Commissioner for the Tribal Gaming Commission. I have served as a liaison to the Powwow and Royalty Committees, and am now a liaison to the SUIMA School Board, Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council, Committee of Elders, and JOM Committee.

As one of the two voting members on Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. I attend all quarterly meetings and consultations with various state agencies regarding education, health and wellness, Natural Resources, Environmental Issues, MMIR, etc. Work with CCIA allows the tribe to participate in consultations concerning issues with Health and Wellness including Medicaid/Medicare, Natural Resources, Mitigation plans regarding Wolf Reintroduction, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, Environmental issues and other areas.

I am a member of the Albuquerque Indian Health Board which consists of six



tribes in the Albuquerque area. The health board provides health services and programs through a grant process and sub-awards to qualifying tribes. Services our tribe receive include the opioid response grant, health and wellness such as the Cooking Matters nutrition program, audiology exams and hearing aids, the 988-emergency response program and train the trainer services for our health staff and CHR program just to name a few. Various programs also attend our community health events, setting up informational booths for the membership and community.

Accomplishments include housing initiatives to provide affordable housing for the tribal membership. Soon to be completed is a 60-unit apartment complex for our people. The complex will include two- and three-bedroom units along with ADA handicap units as well. Another rental unit is near completion at the Quichas site.

More work needs to be done in our language revitalization efforts. A special project by Tribal Council began during my first term and included signage in our Ute language in all of our tribal government buildings and the casino. Although the project took longer than it should have, it is now complete. Work on language and ensuring that efforts continue to keep our language alive is vital. I will continue to support the efforts now in place using traditional methods and taking advantage of new technically enhanced teaching applications that will soon be available.

Barry page 12

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Christine Sage

Tribal Council Candidate

I am running for Southern Ute Tribal Council. Maykw-Hello my name is Christine Sage. I have seen and heard many concerning issues happening within our Tribal organizations. Do I sit back and do nothing or do I run for office, I run for office.

My platform is still the communication and lack of accountability with our tribal leaders. Without the communication to our tribal membership, we as tribal elders and members are always wondering what is our leadership working on and when are we going to be informed of their decisions.

I do hold myself accountable, I have and will inform and be transparent to the tribal membership. The decision to vote for our leaders is totally up to you, the tribal members. The vote accounts for your voice in all decision making to ask questions and get the answers directly to the members. I have again sat back and watched and listened to some of the tribal leaders and I do not believe what they are doing or even saying. There comes a time when someone needs to stand up to all of this. I know I can and I will stand up for my tribal membership in all situations. I have done this before many times. Being a tribal elder, I feel I have been placed on the back burner with no chances to get the support of my tribe.

Our younger tribal members are needing more support with their finances. The economy that we are challenged with today is overwhelming for all. I have testified in Washington, D.C. and with our state representatives, I am willing to speak out to be the voice of the tribal people. This involves our Sovereignty that we are entitled to. When I was Chairman of our tribe, I dealt with COVID (not at all what I wanted) but it happened. My biggest challenge was to keep all my tribal membership and staff safe from this pandemic. I fought and called my constituents to assist us with finances and needed supplies. We got what we needed and I then pushed for more. Al-



ways on the phone, talking to Governor Polis, former Secretary of Interior, David Bernhardt, and former Regional Office Director Patricia Mattingly. The funds that I got for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe were helpful but when I wasn't reelected what happened to those funds? The Cares Act funds were not all used when I left, so what happened to those? I was going to give these remaining funds out to all tribal membership. I asked about these funds and got no answers. I know this was awhile back, but my question still applies.

My platform also consists of our finances for all, our elders, our Veterans, and our land. The resources we use and need our water.

I had many tribal members on and off the reservation ask me to run for Tribal Council. I see what our former Chairmen, my dad, Chris Baker Sr. and Leonard C. Burch and past Council members prepared for us, and it looks like we are losing it little by little. Our resources, Ute language, concerns, the value of the Growth Fund, the Permanent Fund, and the Casino. We as Southern Ute people should continue and prosper in the future with much gratitude. With your vote, I can assure you this will be a reality. Our future needs to be better for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

I would appreciate your vote on Friday, November 7, 2025, to become the new Tribal Council member. Let's get our tribe back to accountability.

Togwayak - Thank you,
Christine Sage

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Cassandra Atencio

Tribal Council Candidate

Maykh Nuuchiu, tuguvun, and peyan! (Hello, Ute people, my friends and relatives).

My name is Cassandra Atencio, most of you know me by Cassie/KC Naranjo. I am a sister, mother, aunty, grandmother, storyteller, traditional knowledge keeper, Northern Traditional Dancer and tribal elder.

I am the daughter of the late Alden Naranjo, Jr-egap and the late Dorothy (Frost) Naranjo-egap. On my mother's side, my kagu-chin (grandmother) was the late Annetta B. Frost-egap, her mother was the late Ada Burch-egap. My grandfather was the late Jack Frost-egap. His mother was the late Marie Frost-egap and his father was the late Moav'-egap. Marie's mother was the late Theodosha Frost-egap and her father was the late White Frost-egap.

On my father's side, my whichichin (grandmother) was the late Bertha M. (Burch) Grove-egap. Her mother was the late Clara Cloud-egap and her father was the late Sam Burch-egap. Clara's dad was the late Edwin Cloud-egap. My grandfather was the late Alden Weaver Naranjo, Sr-egap and the late Vincent Grove-egap. My grandfather Alden's mom was the late Bessie Weaver-egap.

Bessie's mom was the late "the Original" Francis Buck-egap. Francis' mom was Sarah-egap and her father was the late Charles Buck-egap aka Chief Buckskin Charley-egap. My grandfather's dad was the late Joseph Naranjo-egap

I am running for a seat on Tribal Council, based on what I think I can bring to the table. I was brought up here on the reservation in a very traditional Ute household that practiced our Ute Lifeways-Bear Dance, Sun Dance, Native American Church, Sweatlodge, Powwow Dancing, etc. Utilizing the land for ranching, hunting (deer, elk, turkey) and gathering (plants, berries, nuts, minerals). These are practices I still do today.

These lifeways come from both sides of my family; I have lived here for most of my life. I bring the experience and knowledge about the struggle



of single parenthood, domestic violence, addiction, health issues and utilizing our ceremonies, family, traditions and Creator-to come back to them to heal and go forward in life positively.

I was involved in sports most of my young life, playing sports like softball with the family team, volleyball and basketball for Ignacio Middle School and Bayfield High School where I graduated in 1983. I have attended the University of Kansas, Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, PCC, and Institute of American Indian Arts. I lived briefly in Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico.

I worked under the Southern Ute Tribal Apprenticeship Program as the Native American Graves Protections and Repatriations Act Coordinator (NAGPRA) beginning in November 2013. I completed the program in 2017 and assumed the position of NAGPRA Coordinator in April 2017. I shadowed my mentor in meetings, conferences and presentations and went to training on Cultural Resources laws and regulations (NAGPRA, NHPA, NEPA, DOI-Cultural Resources, etc.). I became the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in 2021. Shadowing and training helped to instill in me confidence to speak up in regional meetings, listening sessions and on the national level, such as National NAGPRA Review Committee when it came to voicing concerns and discussing the reburial and repatriation of our Ancestors. I have assisted to change and include tribal perspectives when it comes to impact and effects on Cultural Resources.

Atencio page 12

VOTE: MARVIN PINNECOOSE

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

- 1 Year as SUIT Vice Chairman
- 2 Years as SUIT Treasurer
- 20+ Years of management experience in operations, logistics, sales, & human resources

EDUCATION:

- TWO Bachelor Degrees in Business Management & Entrepreneurship

STRONG IN CULTURE!



Photo by Jeremy Wade Shockley



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Cheryl Frost

Tribal Council Candidate

Dear tribal members;
It's that time of year when we all get the opportunity to vote for the Tribal Council candidates who will best represent our Tribe. Hopefully, council members will work together making decisions in the best interest of the Tribe, refusing personal enrichment and refusing judgment of others.



Being on Council is challenging. Having been a former Vice-Chairman, I know; but, it's a job that is worthwhile. Tribal Council members are no more or more less important than any other tribal employees.

I would appreciate a second opportunity to serve the people of the Southern Ute Tribe. I want to continue the work I started during my first term, and I would appreciate the opportunity to help decide tribal issues that affect us all. There are a lot of issues, but I will address three, out of respect to the requirements of print media.

The first is health care. Many of our people need or require specialty health care. Medical costs, pharmaceutical costs, and medical equipment have increased yearly. New and safer vehicles transporting individuals to medical appointments and/or facilities is much needed. Also, a tribal member health care committee should be formed.

Health insurance and the health care marketplace are of concern. It's important that we bill for care since each dollar collected helps reduce the cost to the Tribe. Let's be honest, Native people's health care is not free. It never has been. We may not have ever been billed for services, but someone is paying. We also do not have tribal health care insurance but rather a health benefit with minimal co-pays. As patients, we may not pay for services or our patient responsibility is a small percentage of overall costs. We need to start engaging and speaking out about our health care system.

Secondly, and this is a difficult and emotional issue but, the Tribe must address how people are enrolled. In other words, do we continue to use blood quantum to qualify children for enrollment, or do we adopt a new standard? There is patrilineal, matrilineal, or direct descent that could be used. Maybe a different alternative? Also, there are many families who have stated, their parent(s) or grandparent(s) were enrolled with a high blood quantum only to find their blood quantum was lowered. This needs to be addressed to give families peace of mind but how

Cheryl Ardena Frost

FROST • FROM PAGE 10

do we, as a tribe, move forward on this issue? How do we bring everyone together on this issue? I will be honest, I do not have the answers; but, as a Tribe with a close-knit community, we need to support each other when it comes to membership. The only thing I know is it will take time, require patience, and people will need understanding to listen to one another.

Thirdly, is the casino. There is a lot to dissect. Issues related to management, serving alcohol in the casino and the restaurants, Human Resources, and overall leadership of the casino are areas of concern. Drugs in the casino and an unsafe work environment on the gaming floor. As customers, staff is well-trained and do not let the drugs affect customers but it's a concern. Employees are willing to speak out but are afraid of retaliation. That's all I will say out of respect for those employees who have spoken out.

There are other issues to talk about. Solar power of which I am for and, grateful to former Councilwoman Amy Barry for bringing as an option to the Tribe. Water, oil & gas, the tribal fleet —the tribal budget is still a concern.

I found that my first term on council was a learning experience. As a councilor, you learn the processes council members must work and abide by, or should abide, and the protocols of council. I've always read so it comes naturally to me and you have to read or should read as much as possible. Not just materials related to our Tribe but to other tribes and, really, the world. You meet people and while I consider myself shy and reserved, being the Miss Southern Ute helped me when it came to greeting the Governor of Colorado and other dignitaries.

Oh, I understand some Ute words but don't expect me to respond in Ute. I'll be honest, not hearing it every day anymore makes me have to think hard about the words. Thank you for your time. Thank you for reading and have a good day.

Casino Resort Event Center. I possess a deep appreciation for the culture and tradition, and values of the Southern Ute Tribe and recognize the importance of preserving the tribal sovereignty, promoting economic development, and ensuring long term success and vision of the tribal government and tribal members. I assure you that I will make decisions that will benefit all tribal members and tribal resources.

If you are looking for progress and vision for the tribal members, I ask for your vote on November 7, 2025.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Heather Frost

Tribal Council Candidate

Nuchu,
My name is Heather Frost, I am the daughter of Edna and Raymond Frost Sr. The granddaughter of the late Jeanette Eaton Joy and Preciliano Barry, and the late Mamie Frost and Julius Cloud. I am the mother of four children and a grandmother to one beautiful grandson of whom will inherit the decisions we make today.



I am one of nine candidates vying for a seat on Tribal Council. I have over 15 years' experience in tribal government serving the tribal membership in different capacities within the tribal organization and a lifetime of knowledge in my culture and traditions taught by my elders; teachings I will use in making present decisions to further our future generations. I would like to bring further knowledge of tribal governance to our membership, so they have a voice in the direction of our tribe. The constitution has been a focal point for many years and bringing that knowledge to the people

can help lead the way to making necessary changes. Along with changes to the codes, policies, procedures, and ordinances to be more beneficial to the tribal membership in all areas of tribal government. I will also bring forth not only honesty and integrity but will also serve the membership with fairness and equality as stated in the constitution.

Vote Heather Frost November 7, 2025, for the people, by the people. For our past, present, and future. United not divided!

PINNECOOSE • FROM PAGE 10

oped and should be coming back online soon. I was instrumental in securing over \$4 million dollars in government assistance for the range program through an alternative funding arrangement through the USDA. We are also working on projects that will help drive revenue on to the reservation and allow people to spend money here instead of running off to Durango and Farmington. The Buckskin Charlie apartment units are part of this economic driver. The goal is to have multiple revenue streams that enhance the tribal membership's quality of life, not just money. My vision is to be the reservation that other Native Americans visit and then go home and say, "why can't we have that"?

In 2025, as Vice-Chairman, I testified before the state of Colorado Senate and/or House of Representatives on four separate bills: HB25-1163 Free Access to State Parks, HB25-1266 American Indian Recognition Day, SB25-061 Construction of

Laws Regarding Tribes, and SB25-009 Recognition of Tribal Court Orders. I prevailed on all of them. I have experience engaging with city, county, state, and national representatives. I understand the importance of working as a team with Tribal Council, listening to other points of view, and respecting their votes on what they believe. I work with our departments and staff on initiatives and appreciate their hard work, rather than just waiting for them to bring in things to vote on. I listen to the thoughts and opinions of tribal members and always try to stay open-minded and optimistic about their issues. I always lean on my background of education, outside experiences, and confidence to help make rational decisions for our tribe. I would appreciate your support to keep going forward and to continue representing our people.

Thank You
Marvin Pinnecoose

ATENCIO • FROM PAGE 11

es whether they be on tribal lands, federal lands, state lands and some town/city municipalities. I held the THPO position until recently-April 2025. Tribal Sovereignty, ... We have always had it; it wasn't given to us by the government. It is the way we govern ourselves when we had Headsmen before being moved to the reservation, and later, through our Constitution and accompanying Tribal Codes. It is not the right to do whatever we want. It is the responsibility to Protect the Gifts we have been given.

Tribal Sovereignty:
Empowering Our People. Bringing Your Voice to the table before decisions and Resolutions are made. Becoming more proactive and not reactive. Inclusion of all our people from the oldest to the youngest, to those not yet born, in the schools, for employment, housing needs, etc.

Protecting Our Home. Looking through a holistic lens. Our Reservation is the only place we have left where we should have

the most say. The Reservation is not our only Homelands, our People covered five states-Colorado, Northern New Mexico, Southern Wyoming, Western Kansas, Eastern Utah, also the Oklahoma/Texas panhandle.

Strength Through Tradition. Our Ute Identity is important and the core of who we are. Our Younger Generations did not grow up the way we did, they are asking. Our Oral History predates our Written History. Preservation of our culture, language and history is vital to our existence without it we have assimilated into the "Melting Pot." Cultural Resources IS Natural Resources.

Vision for Tomorrow. How prudent are we being with development? What are we doing to the landscape we live on? What are other sources of financial opportunities in Indian Country that we can also incorporate?

Micanoos

"Strong Roots, Building the Future Our Ancestors Dreamed Of!"

BARRY • FROM PAGE 11

able to our membership.
In 2024 the Committee of Elders (COE) was appointed comprised of seven tribal elders. The COE meets once a month with open meetings the membership is welcome to attend. The COE is working on projects that will engage elders, tribal members, and target the youth to participate and learn about our people and our way of life. The COE will bridge the gap between our elders and youth, while instilling the importance of communication and mentorship by creating more opportunities to work together. I will continue to actively engage with the COE to achieve the goals they are working on.

My work with the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council offers youth an opportunity to participate with the tribal government. Our youth are the stewards of the future; we need to encourage them through mentorship. The Youth Advisory Council consists of students from middle school through high school. Discussion has been held to increase the age limit to include our college/university students. Youth Advisory Council members are invited to participate in meetings with Tribal Council and other entities. The council is always looking for new members who are interested in learning about our tribe and the governmental processes. The youth are the future of our tribe, and we need to work together for youth success.

As a liaison to the SUI-MA School Board, I attend monthly board meetings. The Board recently completed their policies, which will be submitted for final approval. I also attend monthly Parent Advisory Group meetings which allow parents to discuss all classroom activities and programs and interact with the teachers. I also attend family nights with activities that feature tradition, culture and seasonal festivities.

Work continues on revising outdated tribal codes. Updated tribal codes will allow our tribe to work with outside government agencies with codes to better address issues as they arise. Codes in review include the Range Code, Land Assignment Code, Tero Code, Protective Custody, Liquor, and Enrollment Code. Once final drafts are completed, public meetings will be held for input by the membership. We have had very successful tribal member meetings on the codes and your input is crucial.

Our tribe is facing critical water shortages. We have been in a 20-25 year drought and Mother Earth is suffering. Although we are entitled to storage water in Vallecito Reservoir, the availability of irrigation water depends on how full the reservoir fills each year from snowfall and accumulated rainfall. The Tribe's irrigation rights are satisfied with this storage; however, options need to be determined for use of water the Tribe does not utilize.

We need to ensure irrigation water is available and provided to our farmers and ranchers to successfully run their agriculture enterprises. We must continue working on obtaining funds to maintain and upgrade The Pine River Indian Irrigation Project to run an efficient successful irrigation program.

Recently the Tribe began development on the Mancos Shale energy project, and some of our tribal water was used for preliminary project work. Not only will the Mancos Shale project address energy development, it has allowed us to use water as per our water rights settlement. We need to continue our work regarding our water priorities and participate in negotiations concerning our water issues. What I envision as a benefit of the Mancos Shale project is the development of environmental programs to restore and improve our lands. To seek development projects on how to get water to our dry west side of the reservation, to seek means to get water from the Nighthorse reservoir to our reservation and our sister tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. I envision future revenue from the Mancos Shale project to allow our tribal programs to continue as well as fund tribal benefits.

Tribal Sovereignty is more important than ever before. With more and more budget cuts coming from the federal level, we can no longer rely on a government who is throwing their trust responsibilities to the side. We must continue to work with state and federal agencies to guarantee our tribe is included when decisions are made legislatively that will affect the Tribe. We have been actively involved to protect our hunting rights in the Brunot Treaty area, that funding is provided for urgent repairs for the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project, continue to prevent land encroachment by outside entities, continue working on affordable housing, and work on supporting legislation that will address potential cuts to Medicare/Medicaid funding that could drastically affect comprehensive health care for our people. We need to continue working on generating economic development and increasing employment for our people.

Our most important resource is you, the tribal membership. You are our most precious resource and asset. Your considerations cannot be put on the backburner; your voices are important, and it is our responsibility to listen to you. My work is not done; more opportunities need to be made for the tribal membership to voice concerns. I wish all of the candidates running good luck. I urge all of you to register and come out to vote in our tribal election. May the Creator bless you and your families.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at any time, my office telephone number is 970-563-2304, and my email is mbarry@southernute-nsn.gov

2025
Southern Ute General Election
Friday, November 7, 2025





DISASTER RELIEF

Emergency Relief Fund activated for residents impacted by recent flooding

By Rachel Rosenthal
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SERVING SOUTHWEST
COLORADO

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado with the City of Durango and La Plata County are activating the Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to assist in the distribution of monetary donations to support the community of La Plata County after unprecedented rain brought flooding and significant damage earlier this week.

Two CERF funds have been opened for La Plata (CERF) and Archuleta (Archuleta CERF) to assist the community in recovering from recent flooding and give individuals who would like to help a safe option to donate money. CERF is designated for broad-based community emergencies in

Southwest Colorado. Community stakeholders deploy funds, as needed and as available, to community-based organizations supporting our region through emergency situations.

Donating through CERF ensures that donations are collected in an efficient manner, and that they are directed to the appropriate areas of need. Online donations can be made through the Community Foundation's website, swcommunityfoundation.org, by clicking on the "Donate" button under the specific CERF you would like to support. Checks made out to the Community Foundation – Memo: CERF – can be mailed to the P.O. Box 1673 Durango, CO 81302.

“We have activated CERF for local emergencies such as the 416 fire and COVID to deploy funding to assist in recovery efforts

in the past,” said Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. “CERF ensures that all donations support local residents and businesses.”

Additional flood recovery resources can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1, texting to 898-211, or visiting 211colorado.org. You may also call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcross.org to see if you are eligible for Red Cross Recovery Assistance.

The Community Foundation inspires hope, leadership and generosity in the community by bringing economic stability, professional development and collaboration to the non-profit sector. As a community facilitator, the Community Foundation works to increase efficiency, sustainability and success for non-profits, while maximizing effective grant-making for philanthropists.



courtesy Alma S

Alpine Bank Youth Photography Showcase submission by Mountain Middle School student Alma S. This event highlights youth photographers and their art.

ART & CULTURE

Open Call for Alpine Bank Youth Photography Showcase

Opportunity for local students to showcase photography

By Divine Windy Boy
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

La Plata County middle and high school students, who have an interest in photography, are encouraged to apply for the Alpine Bank Youth Photography Showcase. This event, held Nov. 17-22, offers a chance for students to exhibit their talent in a professional setting. up to 100 student made photographs will be selected for a weeklong gallery show at the Durango Arts Center and students may offer their work for sale. In collaboration with the upcoming Colorado Pro Photography Showdown, selected entries will be featured online and showcased at the main event on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at Fort Lewis College, in addition they will also receive two complimentary tickets to attend the showdown. The entry deadline for this opportunity is Monday, Oct. 20.

Jack Turner is the Director and owner of the Colorado Pro Photography Showdown. He began a career within the ski business, working in the Olympic Games, World Cup events, adventure traveling, producing various shows and races. In 1997, after a snowboarding expedition in Iran, Turner assisted in creating a slideshow for the World Ski & Snowboard Festival's Pro Photographer Showdown. Wanting to bring the show to his hometown of Durango, he is kick starting his event modeled after the Pro Photographer Showdown held annually in Whistler, British Columbia. In part, he also wanted to introduce the opportunity for local youth to participate and be highlighted in this inaugural event.

"I am just so excited that our sponsors and the community have made it possible for kids all across La Plata County in middle and high

Youth Photography Showcase

Rules:

- Entry is FREE.
- One entry per student.
- Photograph must be taken by the student.
- Entry deadline: October 20, 2025.
- Parental permission required for students under 18.
- Political or inappropriate photos are prohibited at the sole discretion of the Colorado Pro Photographer Showdown.

Photograph specifications:

- Submit digital JPG or PNG files only (no prints or other file types accepted).
- All photographs will be printed at 8"x10" (portrait or landscape) for gallery display.
- Aspect ratio: 4:5 (portrait) or 0.8:1 (landscape).
- Minimum resolution: 1200 x 1500 pixels at 150 DPI.

schools to have an opportunity to not only participate and showcase their work during the [Colorado Pro Photography Showdown], but to introduce themselves to the community.” Turner said. “Students can log on to photoshowdown.org/youth-showcase to submit their work – our deadline is Monday, Oct. 20 and we are looking to take 100 student submissions, their work will be blown up and exhibited at the Durango Arts Center in a gallery exhibition from Nov. 17 to Nov. 22, which is the week of the Showdown, and all 100 students will be getting two tickets to the event on Wednesday. Students will also be allowed to sell their image displayed at the Durango Arts Center and will not be charged a commission fee.”

"This will be an amazing opportunity for our young people who love photography and want a larger platform to express [their love for photography], this is also an entryway to meet local professional photographers, hang-out with our sponsors, and enjoy a really fun evening on Wednesday, Nov. 19 for the Colorado Pro Photography Showdown." Turner said.

The deadline for La Plata County students to apply is Monday, Oct. 20 and all submissions can be turned in at <https://photoshowdown.org/youth-showcase/>. Entry is free and students may submit one photo entry each. Photographs submitted must be taken by students; parental permission is required for students under 18 years old, and political or inappropriate photos are prohibited at the sole discretion of the Colorado Pro Photographer Showdown. Photograph specifications and official rules can be found online.

For more information, students and families can contact; contact@photoshowdown.org or Southern Ute Drum Photographer, Divine Windy Boy at dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov or 970-563-2252.

The Alpine Bank Youth Photography Showcase is free to apply to and is open to all middle and high school students in La Plata County, including public, charter, private, and home schools. This opportunity turns the spotlight onto youth photographers, serving as a platform for students to gain inspiration and positively impact their photography journey.

Historic Vallecito floodwaters



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/The Colorado Sun

David Small, with La Plata County Roads, uses a shovel to clear debris from County Road 500 as a vehicle passes through water flowing over the road at the north end of Vallecito Valley Saturday, Oct. 11.

Vallecito Creek flows at historic levels Saturday afternoon following heavy rainfall sent by Hurricane Priscilla. Photographed at the north end of Vallecito Valley, near the Vallecito Campground, trees and other debris are seen in the fast moving, turbulent water estimated at close to 7,000 CFS.



Roc your Mocs!

Rock your Mocs week November 9-15th



Celebrate your heritage and your style



courtesy Claire C

Nature photo submission to the Alpine Bank Youth Photography Showcase, by Mountain Middle School student Claire C. Deadline to submit images for the showcase is Monday, Oct. 20 and is open to all middle and high school students in La Plata County.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Local students learn the ropes!

SUIMA and IES meet with pro athlete

By Divine Windy Boy
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) and Ignacio Elementary School (IES) welcomed professional athlete and owner of Learnin’ the Ropes jump rope program, Nick Woodard on Wednesday, Sept. 17 and Thursday, Sept. 18. All students learned the fundamentals of jump roping skills, gaining an understanding of the sport and its benefits. Students worked on developing strong character qualities such as leadership, integrity, teamwork, communication, and perseverance. Learnin’ The Ropes is a non-profit corporation that exists to inspire, educate, and serve others through jump

rope in order to promote active, healthy lifestyles for all. Learnin’ The Ropes provides exciting shows, classes, camps, and professional developments for schools, recreation centers, organizations, and more. They strive to promote the sport and all the positive qualities it provides. Coach Nick Woodard is one half of the non-profit he shares with his wife Kaylee; he has been part of the sport of jump rope for 30 years and has won several national and world championships throughout his career. Woodard has traveled the world promoting the sport through workshops, shows, and camps. He has also performed for Cirque Du Soleil, multiple NBA teams, schools and summer camps nationally.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, elementary level SUIMA students gathered at SunUte Community Center to meet with coach Nick Woodard, students got to hear stories of Coach Woodard’s success within the sport of jump roping, ask questions, and then moved on to learning fundamentals of jump rope. Working with Woodard gave students an inside look at the world of jump roping and helped them gain the understanding that this sport is not limited to schools but is prevalent throughout the world. The following day, programming continued at Ignacio Elementary School. P.E. Teacher Oscar Cosio felt that the experience had a positive impact on students and inspired them to improve



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Coach Nick Woodard warms up with SUIMA students during his programming on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at SunUte Community Center.



courtesy Oscar Cosio/Ignacio Elementary School

Learnin’ The Ropes coach Nick Woodard meets with Ignacio Elementary School kindergarteners on Thursday, Sept. 18 to share his story and teach students about the sport of jump roping.

their skills. “[P.E. Teacher Cindy Valdez] and I traveled to the SHAPE America National Convention & Expo a few years ago in Seattle, which is the largest physical educators, health, and fitness recreation conference in the U.S. and Nick Woodard was there promoting his business ‘Learnin’ The Ropes’” Cosio said. “We told him ‘we want to get you to Ignacio, as soon as possible’ and after speaking with principal Shauna Branch, the school district, and curriculum director we were able to make it happen – after speaking with Education Director Joe Claunch he expressed interest in hosting Coach Nick Woodard as well, and so we were able to get them in contact so he could also perform at both SUIMA and IES.”



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Coach Nick Woodard met with SUIMA students.

“The day [Nick Woodard] performed and taught at IES, it was just high energy from the get-go, he was so on point and really got each class engaged from our fifth graders to our little kinders Coach Nick wowed us,” Cosio said. “Nick even shared some of his moves

that he created during his career, moves that won him his multiple world championships. We learned a lot from him. It was really cool ... having someone at his level come into our school was amazing, he truly inspired and motivated our kids to try something new.”



STEP INTO THE STRANGE.

SUNDAYS - WEDNESDAYS | ALL DAY

From dusk ‘til... well, all day long, the MADMAX Mystery Jackpots are on the loose. Spin the reels during the promotional period and you could be randomly hit with a jackpot drop worth \$300 – \$400. Only the bold dare to play when the unknown lurks around every corner. Will the next spin pull you into the mystery — or into the money?



GET YOUR RIGHTEOUS REWARDS!

THURSDAYS | 9AM - 3PM

We’re cranking up the Walkman and flashing back to the ‘80s — with a twist. Ace’s Club members who earn 80 points can head to any promo kiosk to play Hawkins Lab Loot, our exclusive scratch-off game packed with retro thrills and Sky Ute Loot Rewards.



ENTER THE UPSIDE DOWN — IF YOU DARE.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 & 24 | 5PM - 10PM

We’re dragging you into the void to snatch some serious cash. Ace’s Club members actively playing slots may be randomly selected for The Upside Down Cash Grab. If your name is called, journey to the Ace’s Club and reach into one of ten eerie portals, each hiding a mystery prize straight from another dimension... but beware the Demogorgon. If you grab the beast, you’ll have to try again! Are you brave enough to claim your fortune?



A DARKNESS DESCENDS... AND IT PAYS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 6PM - 11PM

Something strange is slithering into Sky Ute Casino Resort... and it’s bringing cash. Join us Halloween night for a terrifying descent into Mirkwood Madness progressive hot seats — where Ace’s Club members could be randomly chosen every hour to win! Prizes start at \$250, then climb \$50 each hour as the night grows darker and the Upside Down draws nearer. Play if you dare — Mirkwood is calling.



BEWARE WHAT LURKS INSIDE!

SATURDAYS | 7PM - 11PM

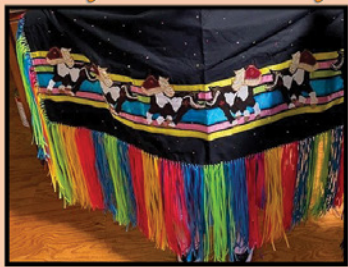
Welcome to Ignacio, CO where the Sky Ute Pumpkin Farm returns with hidden prizes. Join us at 6PM, where Ace’s Club members earn one entry for every 100 points earned on slots. From 7PM – 11PM, we’ll draw one name each hour. If your name is called, you have 4 minutes to report to the Ace’s Club and pick your pumpkin — each one hiding Free Play, cash, exclusive merch, and more!



Multi-Purpose Facility

Beading & Traditional Sewing Class

Monday & Tuesday October 27 & 28, 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 for Shawls:

2 Yards of Fabric, 3 yards of Fringe crochet hook or large needle

Embellishments, create your own applique—

Vests:

2 Yards of 2 colors fabric (1 for lining, 1 for Outer)

Embellishments, create your own applique—



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

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Water to watts: Explore the future of power with LPEA’s energy experts

Staff report
LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is bringing energy experts to the stage for CommunityPowerX, a TEDx-style evening exploring the technologies and innovations shaping the future of power in the Four Corners region. The event will take place Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Gaslight Theatre in Durango, Colo.

Attendees will hear from leading voices in regional power markets, hydro-electric energy, and battery storage, all framed in the context of how these innovations benefit LPEA members through cleaner, local, and more reliable electricity. Seating is limited, and advance registration is required.

CommunityPowerX is part of LPEA’s effort to educate and engage members as the cooperative embarks on two major milestones. On April 1, 2026, LPEA will leave its outdated and restrictive wholesale contract with Tri-State, gaining more control over energy decisions. At the same time, the co-op will join a brand-new Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), Southwest Power Pool, which officially begins operations on the same day. These steps open the door to broad-

er, more competitive energy markets and give LPEA new tools to manage electricity use during high-demand periods. It also paves the way for innovations like utility-scale battery storage bringing members cleaner, more reliable power at lower costs.

CommunityPowerX Program:

The Power of Connection
Carrie Simpson, VP of Markets, Southwest Power Pool (SPP)

Simpson will explore how RTOs connect utilities across the West, enabling access to cleaner, lower-cost electricity while improving grid reliability. Her talk will highlight how LPEA could leverage regional markets to bring more value and flexibility to local members.

Hydroelectric: The Original Renewable Power
Sam Perry, CEO, HydroWest

Perry will showcase the enduring role of hydro-electric power in delivering clean, local energy. A fourth-generation hydro pioneer, Perry continues his family’s Colorado legacy by restoring and operating grid-scale hydro systems that provide reliable, sustainable electricity close to home.

The Grid’s New Ally: Battery Storage

Katie Guerry, SVP of Regulatory and Government Affairs, Convergent Energy + Power

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) act like a giant battery for the grid, storing clean energy when it’s abundant and releasing it when demand is high. This talk will explain how utilities use batteries to keep the lights on, integrate more renewable energy, and make the grid more flexible and reliable. Guerry from Convergent Energy + Power, a New York City based developer with experience in utility-scale batteries and Colorado co-ops like United Power, will share insights on how this technology is shaping the future of energy.

“CommunityPowerX is about connecting people, ideas, and innovation,” said LPEA’s CEO Chris Hansen, who will offer opening remarks. “We want our members to see how local hydro projects like Vallecito dam, battery storage at Shenandoah, and regional markets are all part of building a cleaner, more resilient energy future for our communities.”

CommunityPowerX is part of LPEA’s Co-op Month celebration, marking over 85 years of service while looking ahead to a more independent, flexible, and sustainable energy future.

Preview Nights
Friday & Saturday
October 24 & 25, 2025
6:30 PM- 10:30 PM
Cost: \$15

Art by: Terena Hight

Zombie Walk
Friday October 31, 2025
meet in front of the LCB at 4:30 PM

Halloween Weekend
Friday & Saturday
October 31, - November 1, 2025
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM
Cost: \$20

Longest and Scariest
in the area

Zombie Contest Winners
will lead the walk

Multi-Purpose Facility Haunted House & Zombie Walk - 2025

Western Slope
Native American Resource Center

2nd ANNUAL UNCOMPAGHGRE
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.

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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!

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



103rd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair: Contest Results

DUCK RACE

1st Kateri Largo
2nd Elise Redd
3rd Edward Box III

PARADE

FAMILY FLOAT
1st Kela Hernandez
2nd Tiffany Cozad
3rd Kendrick Silva

COMMERCIAL FLOAT

1st Republic Service
2nd Red Cedar Gathering
3rd Red Willow Production

BEST NATIVE DRESSED FEMALE

1st Darrica Walker

BEST NATIVE DRESSED MALE

1st Edward Box III

BEST NATIVE GROUP

Louis Valencia

ROYALTY

1st Zuriah Baker
2nd Starlitt & Theoden Greany
3rd Byleigh Little Bear

BEST CAR

Axel Joseph

HORSE

Best Dressed Native Rider
1st Malia White Thunder

Best Dressed Cowgirl Rider

1st Tatum Bebo

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Southern Ute Education Dept./SUIMA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE AWARD

Southern Ute Vocational Rehab

KIDDIE PARADE

Youth Group

1st Roderick Walker

Best Native Dressed

1st Darrica Walker

SKATEPARK COMPETITION

1st Jaxson Vigil
2nd Malaki Short

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WEDNESDAY	9AM - 4PM	WEDNESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
THURSDAY	9AM - 4PM	THURSDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 4PM	FRIDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY	CLOSED	SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED	SUNDAY	CLOSED

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AMERICANS



Front images left to right: Pocahontas after 1616. Unknown artist after engraving by Simon van de Passe. Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery | Chief Hollow Horn Bear postage stamp, 1923. Smithsonian's National Postal Museum | Thanksgiving postcard, ca. 1915. Courtesy of The Strong, Rochester, NY

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Immerse yourself in objects and imagery from popular culture that illustrate the complexity of our nation's relationship with American Indians.

EXHIBITION CLOSING SOON



Smithsonian



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio junior Maliyah Martinez (10) attacks against Mancos freshman Tymbri Priestley during action Thursday, Oct. 9, inside the IHS Gymnasium. The Volleyscats prevailed, 3 sets to 0, then fared likewise on the 11th at Nucla to remain undefeated in 2A/1A San Juan Basin League play.

BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyscats knock off Nucla in three

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Closing out the Colorado High School Activities Association’s Fall Sports Officials Appreciation Week with a trip Saturday, Oct. 11, to Nucla, the Ignacio Volleyscats tried making the referees’ day go as smoothly as possible and swept the hosting Lady Mustangs 25-16, 25-17, 25-22.

While remaining 5-0 in 2A San Juan Basin League work – thanks to a controlling 25-13, 25-15, 25-20 home win on the 9th over Mancos – IHS improved to 7-0 in all 2A/1A SJBL action, and to an outstanding 13-3 overall.

In the sweep of the Lady Jays, sophomore middle Aleah Neil hammered eight kills, while juniors Reggi Gustafson and Laine Bradley each totaled seven. Senior Juliann Avila was credited with five, as was junior setter Kelly Sirios, who al-

so totaled 21 assists and came up with nine digs.

Junior libero Tarah Baker ended up making eight digs, while Bradley and junior Maliyah Martinez were credited with four apiece. At the net, Avila logged two solo blocks and one assist (with Sirios), and Neil made two solo stuffs.

“They kept tipping around me almost every time I’d go up on the outside, so that was frustrating; I could only just watch (the ball) pass my fingers, you know? It was a little tough,” said a grinning Neil, “but I was like ‘I’m going to block them!’ That was the mentality the whole time.”

“And Juliann did really good! I feel like we’ve been working a lot on it in practice, so it’s really paying off.”

At NHS, Martinez and Gustafson each cracked seven kills, Neil downed six and Bradley five. Sirios

totalled 23 assists and came up with eight digs, trailing only Baker (9) and Martinez (12) in that department. Bradley and Gustafson each came up with six digs, Neil made three solo blocks and Avila two as Nucla slipped to 3-3 in 2A/1A SJBL play (remaining 2-0 in 1A SJBL work) and to 9-8 overall.

Looking ahead, IHS will host Ridgway for a pair of 2A SJBL matches on Friday, Oct. 17, beginning at 3 p.m., then travel to 1A Ouray the next day. Results from Ignacio’s 10/16 away match at 3A Pagosa Springs were unavailable at press time.

“We’re just going to keep building on what we have ... and the variety of things we can do,” Martinez said.

“This team is a lot of fun; all the girls get along really well,” said Gustafson. “And I think the more fun we have, the better we play and better (our) connection.”



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Aven Bourriague (11) leaps for a catch over Trinidad’s Jose Moreno and Zayden King (85) during Homecoming Week 2025 action Friday night, Oct. 10, at IHS Field. The Bobcats defeated the Miners 14-0.

BOBCATS FOOTBALL

Bobcats book first win in '25

Ignacio trips Trinidad on HoCo/Senior Night

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Three outfielders converged on the incoming deep ball. Seeing an accidental, yet potentially problematic convergence – in which all would collide, and none would make the grab – materializing, Ignacio’s fans held their breath. And to their relief, the speedster manning the middle made a fine running catch.

But this wasn’t Bobcat Baseball; this was how IHS Football at last secured its first victory in the 2025 campaign. Three ‘Cats, knowing visiting Trinidad junior quarterback Isaiah Moreno had no choice but throw long in the waning minute, dropped back into coverage and effectively surrounded Moreno’s intended receiver. The throw

sailed long, and right to Ignacio senior Aven Bourriague.

“Man, that was my last play on that field ever!” he said afterwards, well aware that Ignacio’s next – and last – three regular-season games will all be out of town. “And that moment ... I’m really, truly grateful and blessed to be able to play. Everybody knew this was really important to us to get a win on our field for the last time.”

Following Bourriague’s short return farther away from his own end zone, senior quarterback Zane Pontine was able to take a victory-formation knee from IHS’ 23-yard line, burn off the remaining 9.1 seconds, and lock up a 14-0 win less than a week after beginning 1A South Central Conference play losing 48-13 to Centauri.

“We were kind of down,

honestly,” Pontine said, recalling the prevailing vibe as preparations for THS began Monday in earnest. “But we came into Homecoming (Week) and knew we had to show out. And I knew from practice that we had to throw the ball. That’s what we did in the second half, and it worked out for us.”

Second half, but first the second quarter. After neither side managed to break through during a ball-control first quarter, which was preceded by IHS’ Senior Night player recognitions, the Bobcats (1-5 overall, 1-1 SCC) at last struck not long before intermission and the Homecoming Royalty coronations.

Pinned back at their own 19 with 7:26 left in the second quarter by Miner senior

Bobcats page 18

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(Open to youth grades Pre K-6th)

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BOBCATS CROSS-COUNTRY

Harriers muscle through Mancos mud

IHS boys endure, emerge as SJBL kings



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Thunder Windy Boy (468) summits a slight incline during the approach to the finish line Saturday, Oct. 11, at Mancos’ 2025 Chicken Creek Challenge. Despite fighting the worst weather yet encountered this season, IHS’ boys placed second in the overall standings, but first in the San Juan Basin League Championships’ standings.

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Even with non-stop rain, its intensity fluctuating, leading to Mancos’ 2025 Chicken Creek Challenge being re-routed away from its regular forested course – muddied beyond belief in many spots – and onto nearby Montezuma County Road 40, Ignacio High’s boys’ cross-country team nevertheless ran well Saturday, Oct. 11.

And with the word ‘finish’ becoming almost as important as ‘flood,’ three Bobcats ended up placing top-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Judah Ashley (463) squints through the non-stop rain confronting runners throughout Mancos’ 2025 Chicken Creek Challenge on Saturday, Oct. 11. Despite fighting the worst weather yet encountered this season, IHS’ boys placed second in the overall standings, but first in the San Juan Basin League Championships’ standings.

ten as IHS ended up, at first glance, second in both the meet’s overall standings and amongst 2A/3A San Juan Basin League teams.

Leading the ‘Cats (overseen at the event by interim coach Beau Moore; Kent Gillin was out of town) was senior Trace Crane, who clocked a third-place time of 18 minutes, 20.51 seconds. Dolores sophomore Joseph Padilla won in 18:12.42, and Pagosa Springs freshman Rylan Ash earned second in 18:18.20 – or barely 2.3 ticks ahead of Crane, who fortunately out-kicked Monticello, Utah, senior Kooper

Nielson (18:21.66) to the almost-invisible finish line.

IHS junior Thunder Windy Boy came in fifth, posting an 18:48.41, and roughly ten ticks later, senior James Martin (18:58.57) placed sixth. Junior Judah Ashley was the next ‘Cat in, taking 25th in 21:04.49, with freshmen Matthew Maestas (35th, 23:01.26) and Kanoa Thompson (50th, 26:58.06) finishing further back in the pack.

Paced by the SJBL’s individual champ, DHS ended up with an adjusted score-5 total of 59 points and won

Harriers page 18

Homecoming Royalty



Seniors Lincoln deKay (44) and Alyssa Atencio were named IHS' Homecoming 2025 King and Queen during halftime of Bobcat Football's 14-0 victory Friday, Oct. 10, over Trinidad.

Gabe Archuleta (21) and Isabella Lorenzini were named Senior Royalty, 1st Attendants during halftime of Bobcat Football's 2025 Homecoming Week Friday night, Oct. 10.



Thunder Windy Boy and Lily Quintana were named IHS' Junior Prince and Princess during halftime of Bobcat Football's 2025 Homecoming Week Friday night, Oct. 10.

Miguel Red (58) and Veronica Brown were named IHS' Sophomore Prince and Princess during halftime of Bobcat Football's 2025 Homecoming Week Friday night, Oct. 10.



Truman Lee (25) and Ava Sage-Morgan were named IHS' Freshman Prince and Princess during halftime of Bobcat Football's 2025 Homecoming Week Friday night, Oct. 10.

HARRIERS MUSCLE THROUGH • FROM PAGE 17

both the league title and the Challenge overall. Ignacio tallied 68 points and ranked second in both categories, and Monticello (69) finished third overall, ahead of PSHS (96) and SJBL third-place Telluride (132).

In score-4 mathematics, however, the standings read differently; Monticello rocketed up to first overall with just 33 points and Ignacio ascended to second – but to first amongst SJBL squads – with 37. Dolores (39) dipped to third overall and thus to second in league, while PSHS (70) and THS (94) remained unchanged.

On the girls' side only three teams were, in score-5 terms, title-eligible at the Challenge and, to no-

body's surprise, SJBL force Ridgway – led by sophomores Natasha Hessler (19:58.13, 2nd), Ariel Hessler (20:18.25, 3rd) and Emery Cornell (21:36.95, 4th) – totaled a meet-low 22 points.

Led by senior Austin Cook's winning 19:08.91, Telluride (40) left as the league runner-up and placed second overall, with Montezuma Creek, Utah, Whitehorse (61) taking third. But in score-4 figures RHS' total improved to 15 points and THS' to 33, while Pagosa Springs (45) popped into the standings and swiped third away from WHS (56).

Individually, Ignacio freshman Ireland Cates clocked a 38th-place 38:19.99.

Bayfield had been sched-

uled to compete but chose, as did at least three other teams, to withdraw (Bayfield Middle's runners, however, did participate – as did Ignacio Middle's – and splashed their way along the original course).

Looking ahead, both IHS and BHS are scheduled to run next Friday, Oct. 17, at the Sargent-hosted Eric Wolff Invitational, with its high-school girls' feature at the Monte Vista Golf Club slated for 10:15 a.m. and the boys' following at 11.

Ignacio will then begin final preparations to both host and compete on the 24th at the Class 2A-Region IV Championships. Start time that day at Jack-a-lope Acres is presently scheduled for 10 a.m.

BOBCATS BOOK FIRST WIN • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Sonny Flores (40) fights through Trinidad's C.J. Sandoval (20) to sack quarterback Isaiah Moreno (7) during Homecoming Week 2025 action Friday night, Oct. 10, at IHS Field. The Bobcats defeated the Miners 14-0.

Dominic Edwards' 40-yard punt, Ignacio covered the 81 yards in 13 plays, including two Pontine completions to Bourriague for 24 yards, one to senior Lincoln deKay for 21, and ultimately a 26-yarder up the near sideline hitting junior Shaun Sanderson in stride for the score.

"It was, like, my first touchdown ever—I was pretty anxious," said Sanderson. "I just tried to do my job and keep as active as possible ... then I finally saw the ball coming to me. I opened my hands, and thanks to my QB it was in the right spot at the right time."

Junior William Mendoza-Lechuga kicked the extra point, putting the 'Cats up 7-0 with 1:54 to go. Trinidad (1-5, 1-1 SCC) then dodged disaster when Edwards fumbled Mendoza-Lechuga's kickoff, but recovered at THS' 22 just before, coincidentally, Bourriague could do so. And the relieved Miners worked quickly, but not quickly enough as, on the sixth play of the drive, time expired following senior Xavier Garcia's 17-yard dash around right end down to Ignacio's 25.

Wary of any possible Trinidad trickery greeting them to start the third quarter, the 'Cats correctly anticipated an onside kick by Edwards and sophomore Jayden Scott – who switched jerseys during the break – smothered it at IHS' 49 with 11:57 left. Helped by an eight-yard Bour-

riague carry on a wide-receiver reverse handoff from Sanderson, Ignacio began another push to paydirt and, aided by a pass-interference infraction preventing Pontine from hitting sophomore Max Mendoza, plus a roughing-the-passer call on a Pontine incompletion three snaps later, penetrated the 'red zone' at THS' 15.

And after two deKay carries, plus a six-yard pass to Bourriague, Pontine completed the drive with a three-yard keeper and 7:20 left. Mendoza-Lechuga's PAT, lower than the first and luckily not blocked, was good and doubled IHS' earlier advantage.

Edwards then rekindled Trinidad's hopes with a 38-yard kickoff return to Ignacio's 41, but the series ended on downs at the 9. Two subsequent drives, both during the fourth quarter, would also die on downs as the Miners became less reliant on Garcia's and sophomore C.J. Sandoval's backfield legs and more so on Moreno's right arm.

Including a clutch 42-yard reception beginning Ignacio's last third-quarter possession, Bourriague finished with five catches for 84 yards. Sanderson finished with two grabs for 38 yards and deKay two for 31 as Pontine totaled 153 yards on nine completions. deKay rushed for 87 yards on 17 carries and Pontine, often dropped behind the line of scrimmage, finished with minus-9 on ten (but

stripped the ball from Sandoval once and returned it ten yards with 2:03 left in the first quarter).

Sandoval racked up, unofficially, 73 yards in defeat on 15 carries. Garcia gained 77 on nine, but Moreno (7-9 rushing) ended up with just 58 yards passing on 4-of-17 (he threw only twice before halftime, completing neither) accuracy.

"We knew that whenever they had two backs in the backfield, they were 95 percent run. So, we'd try to load up the box," explained Homecoming King deKay. "Our 4-front/linebackers (defensive scheme) wasn't working too hot, so we had to move to a 5-front on the d-line."

Looking ahead, the Bobcats will next begin a season-ending three-game away stretch Friday night, Oct. 17, at Center (0-6, 0-2 SCC). Shut out for a fifth consecutive game; the Vikings fell 56-0 on the 10th at Centauri (5-1, 2-0).

"Our team morale's definitely high," Sanderson said. "And so coming off a win and a weekend with the (Homecoming) dance and everything, I think we're going to be pretty hyped."

"It's going to be a battle, just like this one," said Pontine. "But I think we've got it in us; we've just got to work hard in practice, watch some film and hope it'll turn out good."

Ignacio will then travel on the 24th to Monte Vista, and on the 31st to Del Norte.



HALLOWEEN SOFTBALL

CO-ED SOFTBALL

10-31-2025, 11-1-2025

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For

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11:00am to 12:30pm

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COMMUNITY GREETINGS



Happy Birthday!

Big shout out to my little man's Andre Baker Jr ...


I love and miss you with all my bloody heart son, all day every day.

Dad

Mt. Allison Grange – Harvest Supper


The Harvest Supper is back this year in its full glory on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 5 until 7 pm. We will have a complete, reasonably priced family menu, unlike anything that you will see in a restaurant these days. The menu will include Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Tossed Salad, the world-famous (at least in the Allison area) homemade pies and cobblers, and the never-ending Grange coffee & drinks. It'll be a fun evening with a chance to fellowship with your neighbor. We promise that you will not go away hungry! If you have never been to a Grange dinner, you don't know what you have been missing. We welcome the city-folk from Pagosa and Durango and other surrounding communities; in the past, many have driven the 45 minutes for a meal and visiting that is well worth it. And you are supporting a good cause – these dinners are our way to keep our doors open, and our building maintained for our community. Adults are \$15, Children (6 to 12) are \$7 (under 6 Free). For further information, you can call Norma at 970-749-7530 or email Larry_Corman@hotmail.com. The Mt. Allison Grange is located at 2658 County Road 329, Ignacio.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Ashley Dailey

Please join us in welcoming Ashley Dailey, our new Social Worker with the Division of Social Services. We're excited to have Ashley as part of our team. Ashley holds a Master of Social Work degree from Arizona State University and brings five years of experience in the Behavioral Health field. Her background includes work as a therapist with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, and an Urban Integrated Health Care Center in Phoenix, Ariz. Ashley was born and raised on the Navajo Nation in Shiprock, N.M., and has a deep passion for serving tribal communities. She enjoys learning about diverse cultures and teachings. Outside of work, Ashley is a proud mother of two amazing boys. Together, they love building forts, solving puzzles, exploring the outdoors, visiting parks, and discovering new coffee shops.



Josh Antal

Job title:

 Risk Manager, Permanent Fund Human Resources Department

Description of job duties:

 I handle anything insurance related from work comp, general liability, property, etc. I hope to be a resource for employees for any questions risk/ safety related.

Hobbies:

 Dirtbikes, fly fishing, and the outdoors.

Family:

 I have two identical twin daughters that just turned one.

In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

Of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe • On the Southern Ute Reservation

PO Box 737 #149, CR 517, Ignacio, CO • 970-563-0240

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,

Case No.: 2025-0080-CV-PR

Valentino Ray Vasquez Sr., Deceased

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

on NOVEMBER 18, 2025, at 11:00 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 2nd of October, 2025.


Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

Correction

In a photo published in the Sept. 19 issue of the Drum, Cecilia and Sammy Romero's son was misidentified as the son of Thomas Romero.



NOVEMBER
2025



POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

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Drum
Deadline

Next issue:
Oct. 31


Deadline:
Oct. 27

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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Public Notice of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission Meeting

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission (Commission) will meet on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.. at the Justice & Regulatory Administration Building- EPD Large Conference Room located at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137. The draft agenda includes a Call to Order/Introductions, New Business, Tribal Air Quality Division Updates, CDPHE Updates, Open Discussion/Questions, Public Comment, and the Scheduling of the Next Commission Meeting. For more information on the meeting, how to attend virtually, or to obtain a copy of the meeting agenda please contact Ms. Angelina Miller, Air Quality Scientist at (970) 563-2258 or visit the Commission website at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/air-quality/env-commission/>

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.

Questions, call 970-946-4061, Byron Frost, Chairman of the Committee of Elders.

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 Cutoff 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.*

SOUTHERN UTE MONTESSORI SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

SUIMA School Board is looking to fill (1) board member position

☒ Interested in helping shape the future?

☒ Care deeply about serving children & your community?

REQUIREMENTS:

- MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD
- MUST BE ABLE TO PASS A MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECK
- MUST SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST

SUBMIT LETTER OF INTEREST TO: MJOWENS@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV

OR DROP IT OFF IN SUIMA OFFICE

Questions? Please feel free to reach out to any school board members or Mari Jo 970-563-0253

Hear from national energy experts!

where local energy meets big Ideas

Be there!
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Gaslight Theatre
Durango, CO

FREE popcorn, chance to win electric powered prizes!

Get amped and RSVP at LPEA.coop/CommunityPowerX

Limited seats remaining!

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies

APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Open until filled - The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) and Apprentice Program Committee has one (1) vacancy. The Committee shall include 5 members which shall be appointed by Tribal Council. The Committee shall include employees of the Permanent Fund who have a level of expertise and familiarity with the goal of Tribal member mentoring and employment in order to make a positive contribution to both the Committee and to the objectives of the Program. A majority of the Committee shall be Tribal members. The Permanent Fund Apprenticeship Committee (Committee) shall be appointed to administer the Apprenticeship Program (Program) which provides higher education, training, on-the job experience, and mentoring to eligible Tribal members employed in the Permanent Fund. All interested Southern Ute tribal members, currently employed with the Tribe, who would like to serve on this committee are urged to submit a letter of intent to the Human Resources Department at PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or in person at the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building.

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

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

GAMING COMMISSION
Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking 1) Alternate position for specified terms, must be Southern Ute Tribal Members. Applicants must possess the following attributes pursuant to the Regulation One of the Gaming Commission Rules and Regulations: Applicants must be at least twenty-one years of age; Applicants must possess a basic knowledge and understanding of gaming activities authorized on the Southern Ute Indian reservation; Applicants must have experience or expertise in regulatory matters or in administrative hearing procedures; Applicants must have the ability to observe restrictions concerning conflicts of interest and confidentiality; Applicants must submit an application form and a letter of interest explaining why the applicant wishes to be appointed to the Commission; and Applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications may be obtained at the Division of Gaming Office – Licensing in the West Wing of the Justice Complex, 149 County Road 517, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137. Applications and letter of interest are required to be turned into the Division of Gaming Office. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

KSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The KSUT Board of Directors currently has two openings, including a community-member-at-large and a seat for a Southern Ute Tribal Member OR a first descendant of a tribal member. Board meetings occur on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. For more information or to submit a letter of interest, contact KSUT Executive Director Tami Graham at tami@ksut.org or by calling 970-563-0255. KSUT was founded in 1976 by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and now

has two distinct signals – KSUT Tribal Radio and Four Corners Public Radio. KSUT became an independent non-profit organization in 1986 and an NPR-affiliate in 1988.

POWWOW COMMITTEE
Open Until Filled – Two vacant positions. The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as a volunteer on the committee. The purpose of the Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee shall be to nurture and promote the positive image of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe through their dances and other activities to preserve our culture. The vacancy is Open to Southern Ute tribal members or any interested Native Americans who would like to be actively involved in planning, promoting, and executing Powwows on Southern Ute land. Must be willing to work hands on, attend all scheduled meetings and powwow events with a professional / traditional attitude towards committee members, tribal departments, and visitors. Please submit letters to: Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov

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.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE SKY UTE FAIRGROUNDS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
SKY UTE FAIRGROUNDS & RV PARK, 200 CO-151, IGNACIO, CO 81137

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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR
THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
PEACEFUL SPIRIT BUILDING RENOVATION

Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management
Ignacio, CO 81137

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management team is soliciting proposals for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) services for the Boys and Girls Club – Peaceful Spirit Building Renovation. The A/E will provide design and construction administration services in collaboration with the Tribe, Tribe's Project Manager, and the selected Construction Manager at Risk to successfully design and construct the renovation of the currently vacant 8,600 sf Peaceful Spirit building, built in 1987, for the Boys and Girls Club in Ignacio, Colorado. The full RFP will be posted October 17, 2025, on the Southern Ute Construction and Project Management Webpage (select the RFP tab): www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/construction-and-project-management/ Please direct all questions, by email only to, Derrell Lindsey and Kerri Stewart both at dlindsey@southernute-nsn.gov and kestewart@southernute-nsn.gov. Deadline for questions is 12:00 pm MST on October 29, 2025. All addenda will be issued and posted on the Tribal Construction and Project Management website listed above. **A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on-site on Oct. 27, 2025, at 2:00 pm MST.** Responses to this RFP are due, by email, no later than 3:00 pm MST on November 7, 2025. Late responses will not be considered.

Notice of Proposed Amendments to Title 17 –
Employment Rights Code & Request for Tribal
Member Comments

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is seeking comments from Southern Ute Tribal members on proposed amendments to the Southern Ute Tribal Employment Rights Code (TERO Code). A copy of the amended TERO Code can be found on the Tribe's main website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>. Please use the contact numbers at the end of this notice to obtain a hard copy of the proposed TERO Code amendments or to submit comments. The TERO Code amendments were developed by the TERO Division and reviewed by the TERO Commission, the Justice & Regulatory Department, the Growth Fund, Internal Audit, SUSS, and the Legal Department. The TERO Code is Title 17 in the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Law and Order Code.

Public Comments:
The Tribal Council requests that all Tribal Members review the revised code and provide comments no later than November 12, 2025, to the Legal Department at:
Email: [JacobKeyesat: jkeyes@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jkeyes@southernute-nsn.gov).
Mail: Jacob Keyes or Feather Astor, Legal Department, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137.
Hand delivery: Legal Department, Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137
Phone: (970) 563-2144
Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>
For further information please contact: Jacob Keyes, Tribal Legislative Attorney, Legal Department, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; telephone (970) 563-2141; email: jkeyes@southernute-nsn.gov

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FOR THE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
PEACEFUL SPIRIT BUILDING RENOVATION

Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management
Ignacio, CO 81137

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management team is soliciting proposals for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) services for the Boys and Girls Club – Peaceful Spirit Building Renovation. The CMAR will provide design and construction administration services in collaboration with the Tribe, Tribe's Project Manager, and the selected Architectural/Engineering Firm to successfully design and construct the renovation of the currently vacant 8,600 sf Peaceful Spirit building, built in 1987, for the Boys and Girls Club in Ignacio, Colorado. The full RFP will be posted October 17, 2025, on the Southern Ute Construction and Project Management Webpage (select the RFP tab): www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/construction-and-project-management/ Please direct all questions, by email only to, Derrell Lindsey and Kerri Stewart both at dlindsey@southernute-nsn.gov and kestewart@southernute-nsn.gov. Deadline for questions is 12:00pm MST on October 29, 2025. All addenda will be issued and posted on the Tribal Construction and Project Management website listed above. **A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on-site on Oct. 27, 2025, at 2:00 pm MST.** Responses to this RFP are due, by email, no later than 3:00 pm MST on November 7, 2025.

Notice of Proposed Amendments to Title 8 –
Protective Custody Code & Request for Tribal
Member Comments

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is seeking comments on proposed amendments to Title 8 - Southern Ute Protective Custody Code. A copy of the code with amendments and a table showing key changes to the Code can be found on the Tribe's main website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>. Please use the contact numbers at the end of this notice to obtain a hard copy of the proposed amendmentsto the Protective Custody Code or to submit comments. The proposed amendments were developed by the Tribal Services Department and the Legal Department and reviewed by representatives of: Tribal Health, Behavioral Health, SUPD, the Tribal Detention Division, the Justice and Regulatory Department, and the Tribal Court. The Protective Custody Code is Title 8 in the Southern Ute Indian Law and Order Code. The proposed amendments will repeal and replace the entire Title 8 - Protective Custody Code.

Summary of the proposed amendments to the Code:
The purposes of the proposed amendments are to update the Code to reflect the current practices and incorporate best practices when working with adults suffering from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and adults and minors suffering from mental health disorders, alcohol, and substance abuse disorders.
The amendments restructure the Code by adding a General Provisions article and relocating articles in the current Code as follows:
• Article1. General Provisions (new article);
• Article2. At-Risk Adult Protection (relocated from Article 4);
• Article3. Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship (relocated from Article 1);
• Article4. Mental Health Services (relocated from Article 2); and
• Article5. Alcohol and Substance Use Treatment (relocated from Article3).
The proposed amendments:
• Consolidate all definitions in to one definition section.
• Allow for jurisdiction over Tribal members on and off the Reservation.
• Allows for the transfer of court proceedings from other jurisdictions toTribal Court.
• Allows Tribal Services to apply for guardianships or conservatorship over At-risk adults when no one else is able.
• Allows Tribal Court to appoint attorneys for those subject to guardianships, conservatorships, and involuntary commitments under this Code.
• Clarify and expand the Tribal Court procedures for guardianship and conservatorship proceedings.
• Allows for theT ribal Court to appoint a Guardian adlitem to represent the best interest of the At-risk adult, person under guardianship or conservatorship.

A table showing key changes to code is available at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>.
PublicComments:
The Tribal Council requests that all Tribal Members review the entire code and provide comments no later than November 12, 2025 on a form at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>. You can also provide comments to the Legal Department by:
Email: jkeyes@southernute-nsn.gov
Mail: Jacob Keyes, Legal Department, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137.
Hand delivery: Legal Department, Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137.
Phone: (970) 563-2144
Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>
For further information please contact: Jacob Keyes, Legal Department, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; telephone (970) 563-2144; email: jkeyes@southernute-nsn.gov

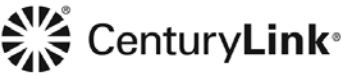
Phone and Internet Discounts
Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$36.00 per month and business services are \$58.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACES
FOR RENT IN BAYFIELD

658 S. East Street, Bayfield, CO

Are you a community-focused organization serving residents of the Pine River Valley?

Consider space in the NEW Pine River Community Resource Center (CRC).

Limited Space NOW Available on the CRC Campus, at 658 South East Street in Bayfield, formerly the old primary school.

The CRC Management Group is seeking community-based, family, and/or youth-focused social service organizations to lease or share available spaces. Ideal tenants will share our mission of supporting community well-being by providing critical services to Pine River Valley individuals, youth, and families.

Rooms available for \$525, \$425, \$325, and \$225 per month, utilities included. Ask us about rates for two modular buildings co-located on campus.

Join the NEW Pine River Community Resource Center, connect with like-minded organizations, and start feeling part of the community from day one!



Call Nicole Johnson 970-749-3323
bayfieldtreehouse@gmail.com



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



Southern Ute Economic Development Invites you to
Financial Literacy with
DreamCatchers Financial Solutions

Smart
Finance,
Bright
Futures

JOIN US FOR AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL
LITERACY AND TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE!

Learn the techniques of budgeting, retirement, and securing your financial future. DreamCatcher Financial Solutions will guide you through the essentials in a fun and beginner-friendly environment.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE WORKSHOP:

- Understand the fundamentals of creating a budget tailored to your lifestyle.
- Learn about creating and understanding retirement planning
- Understand life protection & general wealth

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

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 28TH

9-11am

Sky Ute
Casino
Ignacio, CO



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.

*Beverage & Cocktail Server (Full-time)

Must maintain the highest level of guest service while providing cocktail and beverage service to Casino guests. Will prepare beverages prior to serving and will be required to lift and move up to 60 pounds regularly and will be responsible for monetary transactions.

*Bingo Coordinator (Full-time)

Directs and oversees the day-to-day activities of the Bingo Department. Has oversight in staffing, training, scheduling, reward and disciplining employees, addressing complaints and resolving problems/concerns; and to ensure high quality customer service. Ensure compliance with the Casino's policies & procedures and applicable Gaming regulations. Maintains a high standard of guest service within the Bingo Department and actively promotes positive customer and employee relations by ensuring that excellent customer service is continually provided. Reports to the Casino General Manager.

*Bowling & Rec Counter Clerk (Full-time)

Multi-tasks and thrives in a fast paced and high energy environment. 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.

*Cage Staff (Full-time)

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

*Compliance/Safety Officer (Full-time)

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

*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.

*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.

*Housekeeping Staff (Part-time)

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

*Kitchen Utility Steward (Full-time)

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

*Level II Facilities Staff (Full-time)

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

*Project Cleaner (Full-time)

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

*Property Shift Manager (Full-time)

Key License coverage for the Casino gaming area, providing leadership and oversight in the operation of all Casino activities in the absence of the General Manager. Assists in maintaining efficient gaming operations in accordance with the Division of Gaming Regulations of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Assists and monitors that appropriate actions are taken to ensure the safeguarding of company assets and the health and safety of guests and employees of the property.

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.

Seven Rivers Bartender (On-call)

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

*Shining Mountain Line Cook (Full-time)

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

*Security Supervisor (Full-time)

Always ensures the safety and welfare of the guests and employees. Supervision of Security officers for day-to-day operations on the casino floor and surrounding property. Must maintain a professional, courteous and communicative relationship with the Casino customers and employees. Must carry out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with Gaming Code, Internal controls and Casino policies and procedures.



Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 10/01/25



OCTOBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- 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

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

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 15, 2025
10am

RSVP at (970) 563-5500 to
confirm spot.

Learn how your water is treated and
tested! Ask your questions.
Light refreshments will be available.

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

Southern Ute Elder Services

OCTOBER

Activities List

October 21, 2025

Shopping (Durango)

Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

October 28, 2025

Movie Day (Durango)

Van will depart Elder Services @ TBD

October 31, 2025

Happy Halloween

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



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

Criminal Justice Information System Specialist
Closes 10/20/25 – Under general supervision, performs administrative work of moderate difficulty in maintaining the Criminal Justice Information System/National Crime Information Center (CJIS/NCIC) system for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (“SUIT”); implements and maintains required policies regarding access to confidential information; trains system users; liaisons with CJIS/NCIC access entities. Pay grade N14; Pay \$30.84/hour.

Director of Investments
Closes 11/1/25 – Participates in the oversight and management of the endowment portfolio and work closely with the CIO, Investment Analyst, and Investment Operations Manager to carry out job duties. Monitoring existing investments and diligence of new investment opportunities. Participate in investment research/analysis, liquidity management, asset allocation, risk management, and performance reporting. Pay grade E22; Salary \$189,817/annually.

Emergency Manager
Closes 10/20/25 – Under general supervision of the Justice &Regulatory Director, plans, prepares, and performs emergency management, homeland security, and disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery activities and projects; formulates and implements policies and procedures; ensures compliance with applicable tribal code, state, federal and other relevant guidelines and requirements. Pay grade E17; Pay \$86,943/annually.

Investment Analyst
Closes 11/1/25 – Assist in planning and providing general direction to the conduct of the Permanent Fund Endowment which includes the care and custody of funds and other financial assets, money manager selection and evaluation through consistent communication and due diligence review. Assist in management of the Permanent Fund Endowment Asset Allocation in collaboration with the Tribe’s investment advisors and the Director of Investments. Pay grade E18; Salary \$99,984/annually.

Lands Compliance Technician
Closes 10/24/25 – Performs administrative, clerical, and technical support to the Lands Division. Manages the implementation, administration, and enforcement of codes, and land governing documents for the Lands Division. Pay grade N12; Pay \$26.00/hour.

Lands Technician
Closes 10/24/25 – Provides technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provides general information to the Tribal Membership and general public regarding land status issues, Crossing Permits, and general land management related issues. Pay grade N10; Pay \$21.89/hour.

Maintenance Superintendent
Closes 10/21/25 – Under the general direction of the Property Manager, will provide and oversee all maintenance, janitorial, and grounds care for various rental properties to ensure the best living standards possible for the residents by providing a safe, sanitary, and well-maintained environment. Pay grade E16; Pay \$77,627/annually.

Property Manager
Closes 10/17/25 – Under general supervision of the Economic Development Director, this position will manage the day-to-day operations of various Tribal properties leasing activities, marketing, maintenance, and administrative functions. Pay grade E17; Pay \$86,943/annually.

After School Program Leader
Open Until Filled – A regular full-time position that provides education and physical activities for the After-School program to meet the needs of children ages 3 through 13 years. Pay grade N6; Pay \$16.09/hour.

Benefits Coordinator (Part-time w/Benefits)
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. Incumbent 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 \$23.63/hour.

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

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

mance 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.

Clinical Applications Coordinator
Open Until Filled – 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.

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. House cleaning, personal hygiene, preparing meals, and other health and wellness related activities. Pay grade N9; Pay \$20.26/hour.

Detention Cook
Open Until Filled – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay \$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 \$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 \$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; the Pay \$21.89/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

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

Family Court Case Manager
Open Until Filled – Providing guardian ad litem, special advocacy, parent coordination, and mediation services as assigned through Court appointment and clinical supervisor. Psycho-social educational classes for youth as assigned by clinical supervisor. Case management activities and/or counseling services involving assigned adults and juveniles. Pay grade E13; Salary \$59,494/annually.

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

Gaming Investigator II
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, regulates and controls Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N14; Pay \$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 \$20.26/hour.

HVAC Technician
Open Until Filled – Provides maintenance support, troubleshooting, and preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems including machinery, boilers, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, steam humidifiers, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers, and variable volume system located in Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N15; Pay \$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 \$70,570/annually.

PINE RIVER INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT (PRIIP)

End of 2025 Irrigation Notice

There will be a reduction in flows in the Pine River from now to shut-off.

A tentative date of OCTOBER 15, 2025 has been set for water shutoff. This date may change due to colder temperatures and reduction of water flows.

For More Information:

Contact the BIA, Southern Ute Agency
Vickie Begay at (970) 236-4161

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

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 \$14.90/hour.

NAGPRA Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal members 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 \$26.00/hour.

Optometric Assistant
Open Until Filled – 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 Dilatation of patients. Pay grade N11; Pay \$23.63/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; the Pay \$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 \$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 \$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. Manages Crossing Permits and its database for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Department of Natural Resources. Pay grade N13; Pay \$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 \$235,373/annually.

Public Education Middle School Techer Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)
Open Until Filled – 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. The Apprentice 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. Based on a regular work year (261 days). The Apprentice will start 20% below the grade for the Middle School Teacher and will receive quarterly evaluation and pay increases. The starting pay rate for the Apprentice is \$22.88/hour. 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.

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; the Pay \$33.93/hour.

Receptionist
Open Until Filled – 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 \$16.09/hour.

Scorekeeper (Part-time)
Open Until Filled – Keeps accurate scores for sporting events held by SunUte Recreation Department. Pay grade N6; Pay \$16.09/hour.

Social Worker
Open Until Filled – An advanced level position that requires knowledge of the theories, principles, and concepts of social casework practice (assessment and treatment oriented) related to all of the assigned program areas, including child and adult protection services. Pay grade E14; Pay \$64,155/annually.

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 \$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 \$14.67/hour.

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

TERO Worker
Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office, it is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members and other Native Americans to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. For both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program – Southern Ute Tribal Members Only
Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Tribe is accepting applications for SUIT Tribal Members interested in pursuing their career interests through the Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the program is to build a career foundation for SUIT members to pursue further educational goals or career development. Apprentices may be placed within Permanent Fund departments or divisions dependent on career interests, educational level and/or length of prior relevant and appropriate work experience. The 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 \$17.37/hour.

