



All Hallows' Eve in Ignacio

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Volleycats win Regionals

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The Southern Ute Drum celebrates 56 years of excellence in tribal media coverage



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Former Chairman Manuel Heart gives the office keys to newly elect Chairman Selwyn Whiteskunk, during the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council Swearing In ceremony, Friday, Nov. 7.

UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

Chairman Heart honored during Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council Swearing In ceremony

By Divine Windy Boy
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

At the toe of the Sleeping Ute Mountain lies Towaoc, Colo., home to the Ute Mountain Ute people, where Manuel Heart served on Tribal Council for 27 years both as a council member and as Chairman. On Friday, Nov. 7 at the Ute Mountain Casino, new members of council were sworn in and began their terms of service, during the ceremony for-

mer Chairman Heart handed over the keys to new elect Chairman Selwyn Whiteskunk marking the start of a new era for both leaders. During the ceremony, visiting tribal nations, sister tribes, government officials, and community guests all paid their respects to Heart with prepared gifts, songs, and speeches. Nov. 7 will now remain, "Chairman Manuel Heart Day" as proclaimed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis, as for Man-

uel Heart he will now turn his focus to rest and spend more time with his beloved family.

The Ute Mountain Casino's Bingo Hall was filled on Friday, Nov. 7 as many gathered to watch newly elected members of council – Gwen Cantsee, Marilyn House, and Selwyn Whiteskunk – take their oath of office, but also to give a warm farewell to longtime Ute

Chairman page 14



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Colorado Senator Michael Bennet speaks with Southern Ute Chairman, Melvin J. Baker during his visits to the site of the gasoline pipeline spill, Friday, Oct. 17. While the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the lead regulatory authority for the spill, EPD remains at the center of coordination and continues to push for transparent and timely remediation actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Tribe continues to coordinate cleanup efforts near Animas River

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Environmental Programs Department (EPD) is at the center of the Tribe's response to the gasoline pipeline spill that took place near Durango late last year. EPD staff immediately recognized the threats to

tribal lands, waters, and resources and although the release occurred on private lands, worked with Tribal Council to make sure the Tribe's interests and members remain protected. "EPD quickly brought together technical experts from across the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and outside consulting to

form the coalition needed to respond to such a large scale and dynamic event," said Mitchell Dorsk, Water Quality & Remediation Division Head with the Southern Ute Environmental Programs Department. While the Colorado Department of Public Health

Tribe page 2



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Showcasing all the colors of air quality, or the Air Quality Index (AQI), Southern Ute Air Quality Scientists, Angelina Miller and Reyes Shendo, stand together with Ignacio Community Library employees – Idea Lab Educator, Ron Schermacher; Assistant Director/Librarian, Liz vonTaufkirchen and Library Assistant, Jackie Flores, Friday, Nov. 7.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Tribe partners with ICL on air quality initiative

Colorful flags denote regional air quality

By Angelina Miller and
Patty Peña
SOUTHERN UTE AIR QUALITY
DIVISION

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Air Quality Division (AQD), in collaboration with the Ignacio Community Library, has begun to fly color coded flags that represent air pollution levels. The flags will be flown outside the Ignacio Community Library and the Environmental Programs/Justice and Regulatory Administration building. The AQD hopes that flying the brightly colored flags near the center of town will gain attention for air quality safety in the Ignacio community. The flag colors correlate with a nationally recognized method



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Idea Lab Educator, Ron Schermacher raises the green flag to denote good air quality, Friday, Nov. 7. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Air Quality Division, in collaboration with the Ignacio Community Library, has begun to fly color coded flags that represent air pollution levels.

od for quantifying air quality called the Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI value is calculated based on the levels of five criteria pollutants

found in the air. These air pollutants can pose health risks to the public.

Tribe page 7

JUSTICE & REGULATORY

Tribe welcomes Noon as Chief of Police

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

The Department of Justice and Regulatory is proud to announce the appointment of Daryl T. Noon as Chief of Police for the Southern Ute Police Department. Chief Noon brings more than 30 years of law enforcement experience and a proven record of leadership to his new role. As a member of the Navajo Nation, his clans are Honágháahnii, born for Bilagáana.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Noon has demonstrated expertise in managing complex operations, developing personnel, and implementing strategic initiatives. He previously served as Police Commander with the Navajo Nation Police Department (NNPD), where he spent seven years in executive leadership. Most recently, he held the position of Chief of Police for NNPD, overseeing a force of more than 300 employees and ensuring public safety across a vast and diverse jurisdiction.

"I am thrilled and honored to serve the people of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe," Noon said. "In my 31 years of law enforcement experience, I have found my time in serving Native American people to be the most rewarding. I am looking forward to bringing the police services the community deserves."

During his tenure, Chief



Daryl T. Noon
Chief of Police

Southern Ute Police Dept.

Noon spearheaded several key initiatives, including:

- Adding a Patrol Detective role focused on supporting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) initiative.
- Launching the department's first K-9 team, trained for cadaver detection to strengthen investigations.
- Introducing a Civilian Investigator position to handle routine calls, freeing officers for urgent cases.
- Forming a resource team that used federal funds to upgrade vehicles and equipment, and implemented hiring bonuses, education incentives, and retention programs to improve staffing.

"Chief Noon's lifetime commitment to the health, safety, and protection of Indian Country will bring tremendous value to our community," said Executive Officer, Lindsay J. Box. "I am

excited to welcome him to the Tribe because he is deeply qualified, demonstrates strong and steady leadership, and is prepared to elevate policing on the Reservation to the next level."

As Chief of Police, Noon will oversee all operations of the Southern Ute Police Department (SUPD), ensuring the protection of Southern Ute tribal members, residents, and visitors within the Reservation. Noon's leadership will focus on strengthening partnerships, enhancing public safety initiatives, and fostering trust between law enforcement and the community. During this transition, the Southern Ute Police Department remains fully committed to providing professional, culturally sensitive law enforcement services that uphold the Tribe's traditions and protect its sovereignty. The department will continue to prioritize community engagement, safety, and responsive service.

"Chief Noon has a proven history of building collaboration and trust where community and program voices guide meaningful change," said J&R Director, Leonard Redhorse III. "He has embraced transparency and shared responsibilities in developing proven police change."

For additional information, please contact Justice and Regulatory Department Director Redhorse at 970-553-0995.

TRIBE CONTINUES TO COORDINATE • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

During Bennett’s site visit, Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson (right) details how the gasoline plume is affecting groundwater above the Animas River, Friday, Oct. 17. Hutson works closely with the Growth Fund Department of Energy (DOE) and outside consultants to review reports, respond to technical requests, and track ongoing cleanup activities.

and Environment (CD-PHE) is the lead regulatory authority for the spill, EPD remains at the center of coordination and continues to push for transparent and timely remediation actions. The team, led by Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson works closely with the Growth Fund Department of Energy (DOE) and outside consultants to review reports, respond to technical requests, and track ongoing cleanup activities.

“Concerns about the size of the spill have been raised by EPD and DOE since the initial report,” Dorsk said. “The soil and groundwater concentrations observed at the site did not add up to the first two release estimates, and spatial impacts of the spill continued to expand during the investigation. After the Tribe’s spill coalition pressed Enterprise to justify their original estimates, the company revised its estimate from 23,000 gallons to as much as 97,000 gallons of refined gasoline.”

“This major increase significantly raises the potential risk to tribal receptors and the overall cleanup timeframe,” he said. “It also requires more remediation activity to clean up more product. Tribal Council, tribal representatives, and state regulators remain united in ensuring the Tribe’s land and people are protected for generations to come.”

“Senator Michael Bennett’s recent visit in October showed increased interest from the federal government and the strong ties between tribal leadership and our state senators,” Dorsk said. “He expressed his willingness to escalate things if needed on our behalf and was interested to see the largest gasoline pipeline spill in Colorado history. He is the most prominent government offi-

cial to visit the site yet.” According to EPD, the situation has improved following the Tribe’s efforts to push both Enterprise and CDPHE to act; significantly as a result of EPD and Tribal Council’s direct involvement following the May 1 meeting with Enterprise and CDPHE. Potential threats remain for downstream water users and the Animas River floodplain, but these risks are being carefully assessed and addressed by EPD and CDPHE to reduce their potential over time. EPD also provides regular briefings to Tribal Council to ensure that leadership has the information needed to guide the response and protect the Tribe’s lands, waters, and people.

As Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson brings over 20 years of project management experience in environmental remediation, both with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and his previous work with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on similar scale projects. Hutson contributes institutional and industry knowledge along with hands-on expertise in environmental sampling and regulatory compliance. His decades of experience have strengthened the Tribe’s ability to hold the responsible party accountable in areas requiring close scrutiny of data quality, analysis, and adequate documentation.

Mitchell Dorsk is an expert in hydrogeology and the fate and transport of chemicals in the environment. He serves as the technical lead for the Tribe’s spill response and has led numerous site investigations over the past decade, including work on the Bonita Peaks Mining District (Gold King Mine Spill), oil shale mine restoration, uranium-related risk assessment, and aquifer pro-

tection planning. With his extensive background in regional geology, surface water, and groundwater systems, Dorsk brings sharp technical insight and critical responses to the spill’s site characterization and remedial investigations.

Working together, they form a strong and balanced team that allows the Tribe to independently evaluate the work of industry experts leading the clean-up on behalf of the responsible party, while empowering tribal leadership to make informed science-based decisions to prioritize the health of the tribal membership and the protection of watersheds while addressing this spill.

“There was a bit of lag in the cleanup response early on, but that changed over the summer,” Dorsk said. “The responsible party has since committed many resources to the response and brought in a large team of specialists to address the evolving situation.”

The gasoline plume affecting groundwater in the area is a complex and constantly changing system and will continue to evolve for decades. “That does not mean the Tribe will ease oversight or our involvement, but it does mean progress is being made and the situation is moving in the right direction,” he said.

“In a large spill such as this, it is impossible to say there is no risk, as conditions could change, but there does not appear to be an imminent threat to tribal members or the Animas River at this time,” Dorsk said. “If that changes, EPD will work with Tribal Council to take necessary actions to ensure the safety of the membership and the lands we call home. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe remains committed to the ongoing protection of its people, waters, and lands.”



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Following the gasoline pipeline spill that took place near Durango late last year, Enterprise has since committed numerous resources to the response, while bringing in a large team of specialists to address the evolving situation in an effort to mitigate long term environmental impacts.



Trennie Collins/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

SUIMA students stretch with SunUte Fitness Director Robin Duffy-Wirth as part of SunUte’s booth at the health fair, where SunUte promoted healthy eating, living and exercise. The Health Fair was held at Sky Ute Casino Resort’s Event Center on Nov. 10.

This photo was published in the Nov. 13, 2015, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Dave Brown/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Students from the Southern Ute Indian Academy look over the informational and educational wares being given away by the Los Pinos Fire Protection District during the Health Fair.

This photo first appeared in the Nov. 10, 2005, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Krystopher Winterhawk and Lataura Porambo buzzed around the halls of the Annex building, accosting its workers for treats.

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



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Temporary Wildlife Conservation officers – will assist the wildlife officers during the hunting season: (L-R) Barbara Scott, Raphael Watts Sr., and Bryce Red. Not available for picture was Robert Taylor, another Wildlife officer.

This photo was published in the Nov. 15, 1985, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

Heritage for Early Learning



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

R.C. Lucero and Stoney White Thunder Lucero came to the Early Learning classroom, Wednesday Nov. 12, for a small drum performance for Native American Heritage Month. They shared the importance of the drum with the students and answered any questions the students had.

R.C. Lucero and Stoney White Thunder Lucero perform on their drums while singing a song together for the Early Learning students on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 12 as part of Native American Heritage Month.



Elders hold sunrise ceremony



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The sunrise ceremony on Monday, Nov. 3 brought Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute elders together. Pictured here from left to right is Marge Barry, Neida Chakee, Willette Whiteskunk, Vera Suma and Beverly House.



Little Miss Southern Ute alternate, KaiLanii Graham and her mother Shiann Graham patiently stand in line for breakfast at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum.



Zuriah Baker, representing her title as Miss Southern Ute, serves breakfast to the guests following the sunrise ceremony, Monday, Nov. 3.

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

Dont 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

SAVE THE DATE

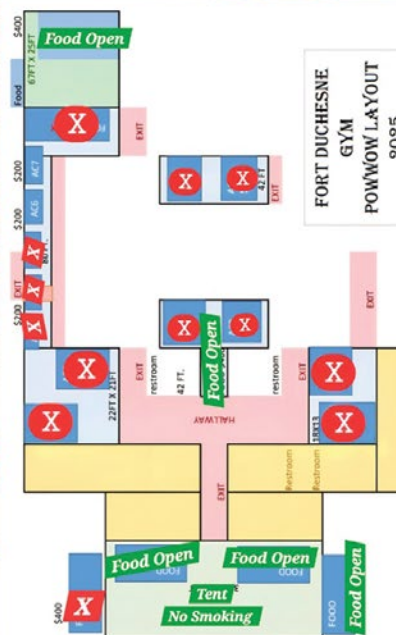
UTE INDIAN TRIBE

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

BEGINNER BEADING CLASSES

The Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum will be offering beading classes for beginners as we learn to make a beaded Tribal Seal pin and learn about the significance of the Southern Ute Tribal Seal.

BEGINNERS BEADING – Two Needle Method

This class will involve beading your own Tribal Seal pin using two needles.
Materials will be included.
Open to all.

Monday, November 17th from 4pm – 7 pm

Location: SUCCM Library

13 spots available, please RSVP for a spot at (970) 563-2998 or rfrauenhoff@southernute-nsn.gov.

STORYTIME

FRIDAY THE 14 AND 21 @ 2 PM – 3 PM
LOCATION: SUCCM LIBRARY

Join the Museum staff for an hour of reading and crafts as we highlight Native American Children books for the month of Native American Heritage Month!



SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM



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EMAIL | museum@southernute-nsn.gov
IG | southern ute museum_sum • WEB | southernutemuseum.org



HEALTHY NEWS
You Can Use!

SPOT THE SIGNS –
FIGHT DIABETES EARLY

NOVEMBER – DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH



A1C News:

So, do you often wonder what the heck did my doctor just tell me, my A1C is high? Let us enlighten you about the A1C test.

What is the A1C test?

The A1C test-aka the hemoglobin A1C, HbA1C test, is a simple blood test. Your A1C is used to diagnose prediabetes and diabetes, plus monitor your progress.

What does the A1C test measure?

When you check your blood sugar at home, it's a snapshot of a single point in time. But your blood sugar constantly changes, so this doesn't give you a complete picture. The A1C test measures your average blood sugar levels over the past 3 months.

It helps your providers: Detect prediabetes; help diagnose Type 2 diabetes; get an idea of how well your management plan is working, and whether you have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Your A1C level can help determine treatment strategies or what might need to be changed.

A1C Results

An A1C test result is reported as a percentage. The number represents the portion of hemoglobin proteins that are glycated or holding glucose.

The following ranges are used to diagnose prediabetes and diabetes:

- Normal: below 5.7%
- Pre-Diabetes: 5.7% to 6.4%
- Diabetes: 6.5% or above

A1C goals: For most people with diabetes, the A1C goal is 7% or less. Higher A1C levels are linked to health complications, so reaching and maintaining your goal is key to living well with diabetes.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Native American Heritage Month

By Tamara D. Turner
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH

November is National Native American Heritage Month!

What started out as a day and then a week eventually evolved into a month. Red Fox James of the Blackfoot Tribe got the idea off the ground as he rode on horseback from state to state to garner support for a day of recognition. He eventually secured the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House on December 14, 1915 although no record shows that a day was established. Soon after, Dr. Arthur C. Parker of the Seneca Tribe, convinced the Boy Scouts to establish a day for "the First Americans" which lasted three years. Moreover, in 1915, having approved a plan concerning American Indian Day, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to recognize such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation in September 1915, declaring the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day. <https://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about.html>

But it was only in 1990 that President George H. W. Bush approved a resolution designating "National Amer-

ican Indian Heritage Month."

Various national organizations are recognizing the holiday in a number of ways, from arts and culture events to those raising awareness on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. In our own community, Fort Lewis College has a full calendar of events, and the Southern Ute Cultural Center is organizing a Rock Your Mocs event on Friday, Nov. 14.

When we think of the relationship between heritage, culture, and health, this month is also a chance to remember the perspective of "culture is prevention." What that means is culture is a protective factor against mental health struggles and strengthening culture supports community belonging and wellness.

Particularly given concerns of health equity, Native American Heritage Month highlights Indigenous Determinants of Health and the need to recognize, once again, that as we commemorate Native American lives and histories, we need to remember that these histories had and continue to have impact on flourishing. In other words, this month should be forward-looking, asking "how can heritage, culture, and community forge paths of health and thriving for indigenous communities?"

What does this month mean to you and how would you like to see it commemorated?

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.

Resources

<https://www.fortlewis.edu/life-at-fle/student-life/diversity-collaborative/native-american-center/activities-programs/native-american-heritage-month>

<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/event/su-cultural-preservation-fancy-friday-roc-your-mocs-event/>

YOUTH DBT GROUP

IGNACIO PUBLIC LIBRARY 4:30PM TO 5:30PM

November 19th
December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th
January 7th
January 14th

In this supportive group youth will learn mindfulness, coping and communication skills to handle life's challenges with confidence and balance

Please Contact

Amber Richardson

Phone: 970-563-2297

Email: arichardson@southernute-nsn.gov

Dial 988
for mental health emergencies.

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

#WeNeedYouHere



NPAIHB



THRIVE



WE NATIVE

Shining Mountain Health & Wellness

presents:

OUT RUNNIN' DIABETES
FUN RUN & WALK

Date:
November
21st

Time:
12PM

Where:
SunUte
Community Center

Join us as we FIGHT Diabetes and
Run or Walk 1 Mile with us!

Free and all are welcome

Snacks and giveaways provided



For more information contact Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349



Shining Mountain Fresh



Fall/Winter 2025

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



Roasted
Sweet Potato &
Cranberry Salad



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/SMFNov-Dec2025>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, December 1st
Pick-up Date: Wednesday, December 3rd

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

Contact:

Lisa Smith 970-563-2344

lsmith@southernute-nsn.gov

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

BRAIN HEALTH

The importance of quality sleep for brain health

By Karen Forest, Public Health RN
COMMUNITY AND HOME HEALTH SERVICES

More evidence is emerging almost every day regarding the importance of adequate, high-quality sleep for brain health. Numerous studies have now shown a strong correlation between frequent sleep disturbances – i.e. difficulty falling asleep, difficulty remaining asleep through the night, or other issues such as sleep apnea – and an increased risk of dementia. At least one third of all adults report not getting enough sleep on a regular basis, and incidence of sleep disturbances tends to increase with age. Therefore, recognizing sleep disruptions, and taking steps to address them are a priority for protecting brain health and longevity.

While much remains unknown about the relationship between sleep and brain health, recent research has focused on the role of the glymphatic system in removing waste – such as beta amyloid and tau proteins - from the brain that otherwise can accumulate and cause problems. Like the lymphatic system, which is responsible for filtering and removing waste throughout the body, the glymphatic system works specifically in the central nervous system. What is different about the glymphatic system, however,



is that it mainly functions during sleep, and specifically deep sleep. Sleeping less than six hours per night interrupts this process and can accelerate deterioration of the parts of the brain associated with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

OK, so you want to improve your sleep habits, but how? “Sleep hygiene” is an umbrella term for various routines and behaviors that, if performed consistently, can support getting more and better sleep. Sleep hygiene is basically creating the conditions required for healthy sleep.

Some tried and true sleep hygiene strategies include:

- **Consistency** – Maintaining a consistent schedule of bedtime and waketime helps train your body’s circadian rhythm to know when to fall asleep and when to wake.
- **A relaxing environment** – Experts recommend that your bedroom should be just that – a room where you go to sleep. Keep your home office, or home entertainment center, in

another part of the house. Your bedroom should be quiet, dark, and cool.

- **Calming down** – Start winding down about an hour before you go to bed. It takes time for our bodies to transition from the hectic, fast paced daytime routine to a slower, calmer, bedtime pace. Turn off all devices, including the tv and phone. Consider a daily, relaxing bedtime ritual such as meditation or reading.
- **Avoid food and other substances** – alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, etc. – at least three hours before bedtime if possible. Because caffeine can stay in your system for up to twelve hours, it’s best not to consume caffeinated beverages after lunch time. Though alcohol may initially help you relax and fall asleep, it interferes with the quality and duration of sleep, especially REM sleep, which is so important for mental health and restoration.

Getting a good night’s sleep is not a luxury or indulgence; it is a requirement for our bodies and minds to function optimally. Just like putting effort into eating right and exercising, putting effort into our sleep hygiene can have big payoffs when it comes to protecting our brain health, now and in the future.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Charles “Chuck” Rock, a longtime swimmer and Anchorage native, now lives near Pagosa Springs and has been swimming at SunUte for over 20 years.

SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

SunUte hosts first swim challenge

Local swimmer completes 50 miles at age 79

Staff report

SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

This summer, SunUte Community Center launched its first-ever swim challenge with a simple goal: swim as far as you can in six weeks. Fifteen swimmers participated, but one stood out above the rest – Charles “Chuck” Rock, who completed an astounding 50 miles at 79 and a half years old.

Rock, a longtime swimmer and Anchorage native, now lives near Pagosa Springs and has been swimming at SunUte for over 20 years. His story is one of endurance, resilience, and deep personal meaning. Over the course of the challenge, he averaged 8.33 miles per week, or 2,900 yards per day, five days a week. “It was great fun,” Rock said with a smile. “And I got to drink a lot of chocolate milk!”

This was Rock’s first six-week endurance swim, a milestone in a swimming journey that began in 1980. At age 34, he dove into the sport and never looked back. By 40, he was swimming 20 miles a week in preparation for Alaska’s 1,000-yard event, which he completed in just 13 minutes and 42 seconds – just shy of the all-state record.

“I’m just an ordinary guy attempting to accomplish the extraordinary through consistent dedication and hard, enjoyable work,” he said.

Rock’s journey hasn’t been without hardship. He has survived cancer and endured two head-on car collisions – each one a moment that could have ended his swimming career. But he persevered, continuing to swim freestyle distance events across Alaska and Colorado for more than 45 years.

He’s also competed in tri-



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Rock, age 79, completed an astounding 50 miles during the SunUte Community Center’s first-ever swim challenge.

athlons, including a memorable second-place finish in an open water event. “I always said we had a slow runner, or we would have taken first,” he joked. Today, each swim carries deeper meaning, as Rock dedicates every stroke to his late wife, Sandy, who passed away on July 29, 2020. “At each start, I look to the heavens and swim for her.”

The challenge brought together swimmers of all ages and backgrounds, and Rock was proud to be part of it. “It was a proud swim,” he said. “And I was honored to be part of it.” As he looks ahead, Rock has no plans to slow down. “I truly love my swimming and hope to continue for many more years.” His story is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and community.

Rock’s journey is a reflection of the spirit that lives within SunUte Community Center – a place where individuals of all ages come to heal, grow, and strive toward their goals. His story is just one of many that unfold within SunUte’s walls, where wellness is nurtured and community is celebrated.

SunUte Community Center is more than just a fitness facility – it’s a vibrant, intergenerational hub rooted

ed in the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s values of wellness, connection, and resilience. Located in Ignacio, SunUte serves tribal members and the broader community, welcoming patrons from nearby towns like Durango, Aztec, Bayfield, and Pagosa Springs. The center is known for its clean, inviting environment, friendly staff, and inclusive spirit that makes everyone feel at home.

SunUte offers a wide range of programs designed to support the physical, emotional, and cultural well-being of the community. From youth sports and elder fitness classes to aquatics, wellness workshops, and traditional movement programs, SunUte is a place where all generations come together to grow stronger – physically, mentally, and spiritually. Whether you’re training for a triathlon or just beginning your wellness journey, SunUte is here to support you every step of the way.

As a cornerstone of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s vision for a healthy, active community, SunUte continues to inspire individuals to pursue their goals and celebrate every achievement – whether it’s a first lap or a fifty-mile milestone.

“Swim On!”

Diabetes Awareness
Lunch and Learn
November 18th, 2025
11:30am-1:00pm
Multi-Purpose Facility
256 Ute Rd, Ignacio CO 81137
RSVP using QR code or link.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/855Y3TK>

Join us for a healthy lunch and learn about diabetes basics and ways to take care of your diabetes!
Questions: Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349

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

Southern Ute Elders
Luncheon
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025
Time: 12:00 -1:00 PM
Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum
(Large Classroom)
Join us for a warm, welcoming lunch catered by Zia Taqueria and an open conversation with the Elder Services Program.
We'll be available to discuss the Elder Questionnaire, hear your thoughts, and answer any questions you may have.
This is not a formal presentation; come and go as you like.
Please RSVP by December 1, 2025 to help us plan for food: 970-565-2309
With respect and appreciation,
The Southern Ute Elder Services Program
See you there!



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) students who had perfect attendance for the month of October were given awards for not missing a single day of school. Good job, SUIMA students!

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po’okwatu – Eagle’s Nest

Parent teacher: Culturally, socially and academically

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Mari Jo Owens
Principal
Southern Ute Indian
Montessori Academy

SUIMA’s parent/teacher conferences were held during the last week of October with an almost 100% attendance from the families. The purpose of conferences is to help set goals: culturally, socially, and academically.

Conferences also help build partnerships between home and school. But these partnerships involve more than just attending conferences. These partnerships build as soon as parents step through the door of the SUIMA office or their child’s classroom. I know that parents lead very busy lives and thank you for taking the time to attend the conferences.

Helping your children get to school every day when they are not sick and getting them to school on time is such an important step and a strong message that you are sending to your children. As you may have seen throughout the area, and on almost every lit-up marquis, atten-

dance has been a community focus. I believe SUIMA can have a daily average attendance of 90% on most days because we have some awesome parents!

Comments heard during the conference week:

- I am so happy to see how far my child has progressed.
- It is good to hear the staff speaking Ute, my child is speaking more at home.
- He/she keeps testing us on math!

- My child enjoys reading and reads at home all the time.

SUIMA also had an assembly on Thursday, Nov. 6 in their dining hall. The students enjoyed a performance from Navajo (Diné) magician, Brian Yazzie, who is the only Native magician in the country. With magical tricks that included cards, keys, crayons, and markers, all of the students and staff were amazed at the antics, while also celebrating the beginning of Native American month.

Reminder

The cold and flu season has arrived. Please check that your child is up to date with their immunizations and consider a flu vaccination of nasal spray.

Nuu’apaghapi – Ute phrases and sentences

To help the families continue using Ute language at home, refer to these sentences next week.

- taa’ayaqh’umuy puchuchugway – It is good to know you.
- Nu’ nuu apag’vach asti’i – I want to learn how to speak Ute.
- Nu’uchi – Ute People
- pa’amanni – all/everyone
- nu’upacha – moccasin
- takay – eat
- kumuy – corn
- nu’uaghatuaghochi – spirit plate

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Nov. 18 – Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Nov. 19 – Family Night
- Nov. 20 – Annual Thanksgiving meal
- Nov. 21 – Field dressing
- Nov. 24-28 – Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday Field Trip to FLC



photos courtesy SU Education

The Southern Ute Education Department took 16 tribal students on a Friday Field Trip to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., on Oct. 24. On their field trip to Fort Lewis College students enjoyed touring, playing, and having lunch on campus.



Students were learning about why leaves change color in the fall, and they were doing a leaf rubbing with different leaves that they found on campus.

The students then participated in a science lesson taught by Fort Lewis College Teacher Education students, learning about chemical reactions, and they made slime.



DRIVE UP
DROP OFF
FOOD DRIVE

EVERY SATURDAY, 12-2PM
STARTING NOV 15
658 S EAST STREET



SUPPORT YOUR PINE RIVER VALLEY NEIGHBORS
AFFECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND
SUSPENSION OF FOOD BENEFITS

EVERYONE CAN HELP.
WE’RE COLLECTING FOOD ITEMS,
HOUSEHOLD/HYGIENE NECESSITIES, DIAPERS,
FORMULA, PET FOOD, AND CASH

For more information 970-884-6040
Please make checks out to Pine River Shares.
PRS will be distributing all items received.



LOOKING TO
STUDY ABROAD?

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



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 srrock@southernute-nsn.gov
Michael Kirsch mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS IN
HIGH SCHOOL THAT ARE SOUTHERN UTE
TRIBAL MEMBERS, 1ST DESCENDANTS
AND JOM.



- Day trip to Alamosa, Colorado
- Leave Southern Ute Ed. Center at 9am, we plan to return between 5pm and 6pm
- Lunch will be provided
- Application will be due December 12, 2025

For application and more information please
contact:
ShaRay Rock
srrock@southernute-nsn.gov
970-563-2794



TRIBE PARTNERS WITH ICL • FROM PAGE 1

Similar to the brightly colored signs seen on the side of roadways that help residents understand daily fire danger, the AQI flags represent the potential daily risk that poor air poses to the public. Green corresponds to good air quality while red corresponds to unhealthy air quality. AQD worked with the Cultural Preservation Department to include Ute language in an air quality flag informational flyer that outlines these color ratings and their corresponding recommendations. Dr. Stacey Oberly, Ute Language Program Manager, who provided Ute translations for the Air Quality Colors flyer, believes that this is “a wonderful way to get Ute Language out into our community”.

The AQI ranges from 0 to 300 and is divided into 5 colors. The colors come with activity recommendations and communicate the AQI scale in a clear and concise way.

Ignacio and the surrounding areas can experience air quality impacts from small particles suspended in the air called Particulate Matter (PM). Common sources of PM include regional forest fires in the summer and woodfire smoke in the winter. Air quality isn’t solely determined using PM pollution; ozone is also used to calculate the local AQI. Ozone is a colorless gas that is harmful to the heart and lungs when inhaled. The concentration of ozone in the air is highest in the summer months and is responsible for a majority of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation’s moderate to unhealthy AQI days. On especially poor air quality days the AQD sends out notifications. While poor winter air quality days can occur, the majority of these notifications are sent during the summer months. The AQD hopes that starting this flag program will help to



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Tribe’s Air Quality Division hopes that flying the brightly colored flags near the center of town will gain attention for air quality safety in the Ignacio community. The flag colors correlate with a nationally recognized method for quantifying air quality called the Air Quality Index (AQI).

show residents these seasonal shifts in air quality.

Every day, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), forecasts a predicted peak AQI level for locations across the US. The staff at the Ignacio Community Library will be raising the corresponding colored-flag to match the AQI forecast for Ignacio. The assistant director of the Ignacio Community Library (ICL), Liz vonTauffkirchen, expressed ICL’s eagerness to participate in this collaboration saying, “it allows us to provide important, valuable information to the community, it raises public awareness about air quality, and it further strengthens our relationship with the Southern Ute Tribe; so it’s a perfect fit for ICL.”

Community members are advised to start considering the colors of these flags when planning outdoor physical activities. While these forecasts are estimations generated by regional scale models, AQD has real-time data for the local AQI available on their ambient monitoring website here <https://www.southern-ute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/>.

These real-time measurements may not always match the forecasted peak AQI for a given day. For example,

on a day the flag is yellow, the morning AQI may start off as green and then shift to yellow as pollutant levels increase. This pattern is often seen when ozone is the primary contributor to poor air quality. The shift in ozone throughout the day is due to change in sunlight. Sunlight is the primary ingredient for the chemical reaction that creates ozone. As a result, ozone levels on shady mornings are often lower than the forecasted AQI.

Some days it can be obvious that the air quality is poor, like during forest fire events with strong-smelling thick smoke. Other times it is less obvious, such as when ozone levels are high. The AQI flags help to make the invisible visible by offering a warning to the public on days when air is forecasted to be bad. Luckily, our air here in Southwest Colorado is generally clean. AQD encourages residents to be prepared for days when the red or orange flags are flying, but most days you can expect to see a green flag raised high and proud! Having the flags visible in the center of town will help provide valuable information needed to protect ourselves and our loved ones when air pollution reaches unhealthy levels.

Pathways Rising Academy



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Pueblo Community College (Southwest Campus) and the Colorado State University extension office held their Pathways Rising Academy program in Ignacio, Friday, Nov. 7. The session was led by Greg Felsen, CSU Accessible Education Specialist for the Western Region and Imo Succo, PCC SW Tribal Liaison.

Aimed at High School youth, Pathways Rising Academy seeks to help students explore college and career paths that honor Native American heritage. Southern Ute Tribal Council Treasurer, James “Mike” Olguin speaks to his experiences growing up on a working farm, and the role of agriculture in the community.



SUIMA welcomes magic show



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) had Diné magician Brian Yazzie come to perform a magic show for the students and teachers in the dining hall.



Yomaris Albo looks on in shock as she stares at the empty crayon box after she was just holding the box that was originally full of crayons.

Brian Yazzie performed a magic card trick, where he had a student pick a card and not tell him what the card was, where he then had the card appear on the drawn card slowly as Yazzie shook the notebook.

AIR QUALITY FLAGS

for the Air Quality Index (AQI) Colors

 <p>Good (0-50)</p>	<p>TUU'AYAQH. “IT’S FINE.”</p> <p>It’s a great day to be active outside! The air quality poses little to no health risk.</p>
 <p>Moderate (51-100)</p>	<p>TOGHOYAQH. “IT’S OK.”</p> <p>It’s a good day to be active outside. Sensitive individuals may experience some symptoms.</p>
 <p>Unhealthy for sensitive groups (101-150)</p>	<p>KA'AYWA'. “NOT GOOD.”</p> <p>It’s OK to be active outside for shorter periods. For longer activities take it a little easier.</p>
 <p>Unhealthy (151-200)</p>	<p>'USUS! “STOP!”</p> <p>Take it easier if you do any outdoor activities. Noticeable respiratory symptoms are likely.</p>
 <p>Very Unhealthy (201-300)</p>	<p>NAGHAMITIVAANI! “IT WILL MAKE YOU SICK!”</p> <p>Try to keep active activities inside. Depending on sensitivity, adverse health effects are likely.</p>

*Ute language translations courtesy of the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department

Southern Ute Education

FILM Showing FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

For more information contact:
Dustin Weaver 970-563-2786
or
ShaRay Rock 970-563-2794

Southern Ute Student Film-Making Projects:
Speaking Ute
Tri-Ute Games
&
A Place To Explore

FUNDRAISER DINNER!!

Ignacio High School Auditorium
Dinner starts 5:30pm
Showing 6:15pm

Fundraiser dinner will be provided
Bake sale by IHS NAYO



ARTS & CULTURE

Ignacio Creative District earns official state certification

By Eva Lewis, Director
IGNACIO CREATIVE DISTRICT

The Ignacio Creative District (ICD) has been certified by Colorado Creative Industries (CCI), Colorado’s designated state arts agency and a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), joining a total of 37 certified creative districts across the state. Each district is recognized for strengthening local economies and civic life through creativity, culture, and collaboration. “This achievement represents years of dedication from our community,” said Eva Lewis, Director of the ICD. “It’s a proud moment for so many people who have been part of the journey and proof that a collaborative community can truly shape the future. We are both honored and optimistic to be joining CCI.”

The road to certification was a long and determined one as the ICD steadily built its foundation through numerous partnerships, projects, and community engagement initiatives. With state certification, the ICD gains access to expanded resources that will help strengthen the region’s growing creative economy. The ICD plans to continue developing innovative, community-centered programs that celebrate art, culture, and creative enterprise — ensuring that the district continues to “grow with, and for, the community.”

“The certification of the Ignacio Creative District is a milestone moment for southwest Colorado and an authentic demonstration of how creativity strengthens communities,” said Josh Blanchard, Director of Colorado Creative Industries. “Ignacio’s leadership in the arts drives local economies, deepens cultural identity and reflects the collaborative spirit that defines Colorado’s growing network of creative districts”

In Colorado, the creative industries are recognized as a key contributor to quality of life and a significant contributor to the state’s economy. Arts and culture contribute \$19.7 billion, or 3.7% of the state’s economy, and support over 121,000 jobs across Colorado. The ICD is



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

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proud to add its energy, vision, and creativity to that statewide momentum.

Ignacio Creative District

The Ignacio Creative District (ICD) is a collaborative of artists, creatives, and community partners dedicated to fostering creative expression, cultural vitality, and economic growth in Southwest Colorado. Through innovative programming and partnerships, the ICD celebrates local talent and strengthens our collective identity as a thriving creative community. For more information about the Ignacio Creative District and upcoming programs, visit ignaciocreativedistrict.org

Colorado Creative Industries

Colorado’s Creative Industries Division, Colorado’s state arts agency, is a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Established to capitalize on the immense potential for our creative sector to enhance economic growth in Colorado, the mission of Colorado Creative Industries is to promote, support and expand the creative in-

dustries to drive Colorado’s economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life. oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-creative-industries

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) works to empower all to thrive in Colorado’s economy. Under the leadership of the Governor and in collaboration with economic development partners across the state, we foster a thriving business environment through funding and financial programs, training, consulting and informational resources across industries and regions. We promote economic growth and long-term job creation by recruiting, retaining, and expanding Colorado businesses and providing programs that support entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes at every stage of growth. Our goal is to protect what makes our state a great place to live, work, start a business, raise a family, visit and retire – and make it accessible to everyone. Learn more about OEDIT.

Litz joins Youth Council



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Leandra Litz raises her hand as she takes her oath of office from Southern Ute Chairman Melvin Baker for Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council on Thursday, Oct. 30.

Newly sworn in Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council member, Leandra Litz. Litz holds gifts from attendees at the event.



Breakfast to honor Veterans



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Veterans Association Commander, Howard Richards Sr. gave welcoming remarks during the Honoring Veterans Breakfast, on Thursday, Nov. 6 in the Hall of Warriors. Hosted by the Southern Ute Tribal Council, this breakfast was held in recognition of Veterans Day inviting all who served to enjoy a token of appreciation for their service, duty, and honor.



Veterans and employees of the Tribe, Ysela Garcia, Dana Kopf, and Bruce LeClaire enjoy breakfast on Thursday, Nov. 6 in the Hall of Warriors.



Shane Seibel greets Howard Richards Sr. during the free breakfast event on Thursday, Nov. 6 in the Hall of Warriors, tribal employees gathered to also show their appreciation for veterans during the event.

Upcoming Early Holiday Deadlines

Please be aware the Drum is requesting early submissions prior to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Thanksgiving deadline Nov. 21
Christmas deadline Dec. 19



Tribal Water Media Fellowship Showcase

Friday, November 14th
6:00-8:00pm
Fort Lewis College
Student Union Ballroom
Free and open to the public



View projects and apply to next year’s fellowship!

An evening of storytelling, a celebration of our 2025 fellows, and the launch of our 2026 program!



Designated Donut Day!



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Tribal Information Services provided free donuts to employees on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in the Hall of Warriors in celebration of Donut Day and the Salvation Army Lassies who historically served donuts and other necessities to soldiers on the front lines in World War I helping to boost morale among troop.



TIS Employee, MariaEliza Trujillo serves donuts to Sylvia Paul on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in the Hall of Warriors.



MariaEliza Trujillo and Sylvia Paul on Wednesday, Nov. 11 during the TIS Donut Day giveaway.

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

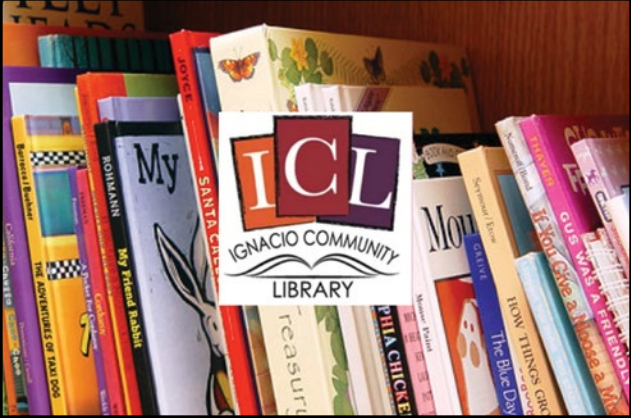
Merchandise at the library

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Your hometown library is not only a superb place to find the information and entertainment you seek, but I bet you didn't know we can be a source for interesting and unique gifts and merchandise.

First and foremost is our bookstore. The bookshelves upstairs are filled with an eclectic collection of new and old fiction and non-fiction books, audio books, DVDs, and rare selections you might not find anywhere else. The selection is constantly changing as we process the donations and collection deletions we receive. Hardcover, audio books, and DVDs are only a dollar, and softcovers are \$.50.

The library also has been having art auctions usually featuring a piece by one of our local artists. This is a silent auction format, so stop by and make a bid for a one-of-a-kind personal work. We also have artists' work on display around the library, and many of these talented artisans are willing to part with their masterpieces given the proper incentive. Contact library staff if you would



like to make a deal with any of these regional artists.

Our crafting classes are a great opportunity for making quality items that anyone would be happy to receive. In November you can learn to make personalized kitchen towels using the Cricut Machine. November's class with Glowforge Laser Engraver & Cutter will feature holiday ideas. We also have weekly opportunities to learn crafting skills. Mondays feature a sewing class with machines available for you to use. Tuesdays are for electronics, Wednesdays the art group meets, and Thursdays are time for the fiber arts with our knitters.

Did you know the library sells items on eBay? We currently have over 80 products listed and the money raised

from this sale helps to support activities and purchases in the IdeaLab, ICL's engaging makerspace. Items listed on our eBay sale include books, record albums, electronic devices, and other odd items donated or taken out of service by the library. If you are interested in viewing any of the items in our eBay sale, contact Ron at the IdeaLab.

Giving is a positive action that provides benefits for both the giver and receiver, improving mental, physical and social well-being. Giving can help produce "happy hormones" and reduce stress hormones and blood pressure and strengthen the immune system. As you make plans for holiday giving this season, consider shopping locally and supporting our community in the process.

Southern Ute Elder Services November Activities

November 15, 2025

Annual Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner
Sky Ute Casino Event Center
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November 18, 2025

Movie Day (Durango)
Van will depart Elder Services @ TBD

November 25, 2025

Shopping (Durango)
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

November 27-28, 2025

Tribal Offices Closed
in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Call Elder Services @ 970-563-2309 to have your name added to the activities list or if you have any questions. Activities are subject to change due to inclement weather.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Southern Ute Tribal offices will be closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28.
Normal business office hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 1.

SOUTHERN UTE FOSTER CARE

Foster Parent Recruitment



The Southern Ute Division of Social Services is recruiting foster homes in Ignacio and nearby communities to help provide safe and stable family home care to children in need of protective services.

Foster homes are needed for children in need of a warm bed, caring adults and attention to needs that sometimes get neglected when families are struggling or going through crisis. Can you help?



It takes a village to raise strong, healthy and resilient children.

- Foster Home Licensing Requirements:
- Application, Assessment, & Training
 - Background checks for all adults in the home
 - Home Inspection
 - Physical exam
 - Home study
 - Training

CONTACT:
kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov
Southern Ute Foster Care
(970) 563-2332
(970) 563-2337

NOVEMBER
2025

POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

HONORING OUR CHILDREN BY HONORING OUR TRADITIONS
ALL PARENTS & CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME

Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) has been used for over 35 years and remains popular today because the teachings are timeless. Historically, we had rich teachings that helped children grow up safe with strong families. Colonization threatened those teachings—our Native families were being separated and traditional practices were at risk of being lost. PIP was developed in the 1980s to fill this void and was designed to help parents and families remember our traditional teachings and apply them in the modern world. In part one of each session, we will discuss examples of traditional practices and teachings from several different tribes. Instructors also share teachings from local areas and communities. Part two of each session discusses how to apply those teachings and values today. Complete all 8 sessions to receive a certificate.

This class is VIRTUAL
Please call Social Service to sign up (970) 563-2337
Each participant needs the following to attend:

- A working email
- A solid internet connection
- A smart phone, tablet or laptop with a mic
- Download the Microsoft Teams App

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 12:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

November 4, 2025	November 6, 2025
November 12, 2025	November 13, 2025
November 18, 2025	November 20, 2025
November 24, 2025	November 26, 2025



Call or email
Southern Ute Social Services
(970) 563-2337
kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov



Southern Ute Tribal campus welcomes



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

The community Halloween Carnival took place at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. A costume contest took place for ages under 1 to 18+. Pictured are the winners of the age category 18+.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Tribal Council Treasurer, Mike Olguin is dressed as a “Flying Monkey” from the iconic Wizard of Oz film.



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Annex Building decorated their building for Halloween which was themed for the Day of the Dead.

Trick or Treaters were heard all across Southern Ute Tribal Campus on Halloween. SUIMA students walked around Tribal Campus on Friday, Oct. 31, visiting the tribal buildings collecting candy; Boys and Girls Club members also participated in the events. Following the daytime events, the Tribe held their annual Community Halloween Carnival, which took place at the Sky Ute Casino Resort and featured fun family games as well as a Halloween Costume contest that was organized by age.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

“ET” wows the crowd during the Employee Costume Contest hosted by the Southern Ute Tribal Council on Friday, Oct. 31.



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Treasurer Mike Olguin passes candy out to tricker treaters dressed as a flying monkey from the Wizard of Oz.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Oompa Loompa’s make an appearance during the Employee Costume Contest, passing out Willy Wonka Candy Bars to members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council and other fellow employees.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Karina Piche shows off her costume during the Sky Ute Casino Resort Halloween Carnival on Friday, Oct. 31



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Edward Box III, Assistant General Manager Trainee, greets guests at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Halloween Carnival on Friday, Oct. 31. Community members gathered to enjoy family friendly games, music, dancing and candy giveaway during the annual event.



Halloween trick or treaters of all ages



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Environmental Programs Department employees pose with the Halloween pumpkins they entered into the employee Pumpkin Carving Contest.



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council and TCA Executive Office Manager, Sunshine Whyte orchestrated themed costumes, depicting characters from the Wizard of Oz.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Chairman Melvin J. Baker, or “The Wizard of Oz,” announces winners of the Employee Costume Contest on Friday, Oct. 31.



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Tribal Credit employees – Sylvia Paul, Ricardo Arrieta-Carrasco and Zebulan Vogenthaler pose for a photo during the morning.

Halloween Co-Ed Tourney



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Despicable Me's, Gru, was the umpire during the softball games on Saturday, Nov. 1.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

The SunUte Recreation Department held a one-day Halloween Softball Tourney on Saturday, Nov. 1 in Ignacio, Colo. There were five teams that signed up and the majority of them dressed up in their Halloween best!



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Sky Ute Casino Resort employees show off their Día de los Muertos themed costumes during the Halloween Carnival on Friday, Oct. 31.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Families and community members attend the Sky Ute Casino Resort Halloween Carnival on Friday, Oct. 31 to enjoy family friendly trick-or-treating, games, music and dancing.



MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY
NOVEMBER SIP, CHAT & CHEW DINNER

Friday November 21, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Sponsored by the Southern Ute Growth Fund

*The Dinner is open to members of the 3 Ute Tribes,
and their families, all ages are welcome.*

In honor of Native American Heritage Month
Rock your mocs, ribbon skirt, or ribbon shirt.



Show Appreciation to our Veterans for their Service.




Storytelling Session:
*Share a Traditional Story
or Childhood Remembrance.*


*Door prize donations are appreciated.
There will be a youth door prize table,
feel free to donate an item for the youth.*

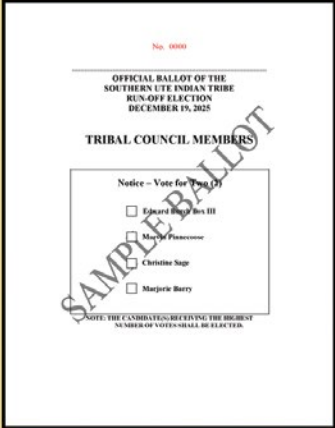


256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO - 970-563-2640



2025 Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Run-Off Election





Two (2) Tribal Council Seats
Outgoing Council Members: Marjorie Barry & Marvin Pinnecoose
The Election Board has determined these are the dates for the upcoming 2025 Run-Off Election according to the Constitution and Election Code.
Run-Off Election: Friday, December 19, 2025, from 7 AM to 7 PM
New Voter Registration: Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM
Absentee Ballot Request: Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM
Emergency Ballot Request: Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM
The 2025 Run-Off Election will be held at 285 Lakin St. Ignacio, CO. Contact the Election Board at (970) 563-0100 ext. 2303/2305/2728/2729/2730.
Off-Reservation Tribal Members call 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303 or email election@southernute-nsn.gov

Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Run-Off Election
December 19, 2025



NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE CELEBRATION.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Join us for a week of art, music, culture, and community
as we honor the traditions and history of Native
Americans — especially the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

November 15 & 22 | 10AM – 2PM | Main Hall
Shop handcrafted gifts and holiday décor.

ART EXHIBIT

November 16 – 22 | 8AM – 8PM | Bonny Kent Room
Explore an immersive gallery featuring Native American art,
instruments, artifacts, and an educational video presentation.

AWARENESS SHOWCASE

November 16 – 22 | Player's Club Area
Learn about important issues impacting
Native American communities.

MUSIC

November 17 – 22
Curated selection of Native American music in the gallery.
November 21 | 6PM – 8PM
Native Drum Group performance at the Rolling Thunder Stage.

ROSETTE MEDALLION MAKING CLASS

November 19 | 10AM – 12:30PM | Seven Rivers Bingo Hall
Create a traditional beaded medallion with
Edward B. Box III. \$15 per person; supplies included.





Veterans Powwow graces Ignacio High School



Local and visiting veterans lead in Grand Entry on Saturday, Nov. 8.



Southern Ute tribal member, Rudley Weaver (U.S. Navy) gourd dances during the second session.



Head drum groups and all head staff gather, after the Community Veterans Powwow.

The annual Community Veterans Powwow returned to Ignacio High School on Nov. 8 - 9, honoring all who served. Sponsored by the Southern Ute Veterans Association, the Volunteers to Honor Our Veterans, Ignacio High School, Ignacio School District, and the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility, the community powwow welcomed veterans, dancers, singers, and the community in celebration of the Veterans Day holiday weekend. Head staff included Dean Webster Sr. (U.S. Marine Corps), Cecilia Price (U.S. Army), Selwyn Whiteskunk (U.S. Army), Omaha White Tail singers, Black Lodge Singers, Emcee Ruben Little Head, and Arena Director Dorsey Dick. Southern Ute Veterans Association Princess, Jazlynn Jacket was also selected to serve another year long reign as the ambassador.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Emcee Ruben Little Head keeps the energy high during the Community Veterans Powwow; Little Head is well known throughout Indian Country for his years as an emcee.



Ignacio School District staff were honored during Grand Entry on Saturday, as they joined behind the head dancers.



Women's traditional dancers hit the floor during the second Grand Entry session during the Community Veterans Powwow.



Southern Ute tribal member, Starlitt Greany showcases her traditional dance style on Saturday, Nov.



Michelle Ware competes in the Women's Traditional Special in honor of head woman dancer Cecilia Price, (U.S. Army).



CHAIRMAN HEART HONORED • FROM PAGE 1



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Former Chairman, Manuel Heart stands in recognition by Chairman Selwyn Whiteskunk as the newly elect gives his opening remarks and honors all former members of Tribal Council to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Mountain Ute leader, Manuel Heart. Among the seated attendees were Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Lieutenant Governor of Colorado Dianne Primavera, Southern Ute Royalty and other visiting royalty. Ahead of the swearing in process, Chairman Heart gave his final address to the people, foremost thanking his wife Marie Heart, his family, his fellow government officials, and the Ute Mountain Ute tribal membership.

“I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to the Ute Mountain Ute enrolled tribal members for giving me the honor and the privilege to serve you on the Tribal Council and also as your Tribal Chairman. I have been on the Tribal Council for 27 actual years, but it all started 31 years ago at the age of 34, that adds up to a little short of three decades. It has been a long journey and I can’t believe how time has flown by while working for [the Tribe] as an elected official,” Heart said. “We have had a lot of challenges, and we have had a lot of successes for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe throughout the years. We have led and set benchmarks, setting great examples. Creating legislation for other tribes to adopt for their tribal governments, we have also partnered with other tribes and state governments to reach and share common visions.”

“I have developed a great relationship and built a connection with key people in Washington, D.C., including U.S. Senators, congressman, and secretaries of different departments [within] the federal government. Also, working with three states [Colorado, Utah, New Mexico] that we have land based in, their senators and state representatives, county commissioners, mayors, each of the counties and cities,” Heart said. “I have also worked with and sat on national boards and committees, advocating for a voice for all 574 federally recognized tribes within the United States.”

“As we move forward, even during these challenging times – we must remember that change is going to come about at the speed of the trust of all of us, even as we see programming being kept such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Medicaid/Medicare, other programs for housing, education, economic development, and our nat-

ural resources, we have all of these as our priorities – so it is based on the speed of trust of all of us,” Heart said. “I thank all of you for trusting me from 1994 to 2025, may our Creator continue to bless you all including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, every tribal, state, federal government and leaders around this world. Our priority is world peace, we must take care of one another from the youngest to the oldest, so with that I thank you as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Chairman, Manuel Heart – tivüchi tog-wayak (thank you).”

With the conclusion of his final remarks, Heart then handed the keys to the tribal office to newly elect Chairman Selwyn Whiteskunk, following the swearing in, and shared a warm embrace with him as he steps into his new leadership position. The crowd also heard kind remarks on Heart’s leadership from Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker, Chairman of the Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee, Shaun Chapoose, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Chairman, Selwyn Whiteskunk, Jicarilla Apache Nation President, Adrian Notsinneh and Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, Dianne Primavera.

Primavera takes the stand to share her gratitude for the former Chairman’s service throughout the years and also reads a proclamation from Governor of Colorado, Jared Polis. “Chairman Heart, your leadership has left a legacy that will be felt for generations, you’ve shown all of us what it means to lead with heart, to stand firm in your values, to do so with grace and respect – so on behalf of the State of Colorado, and from me personally, thank you Chairman Heart for your years of dedication, your collaboration, and now your friendship,” Primavera said. “With that I would like to read a proclamation from Governor Jared Polis – ‘And Where As, his lifelong commitment to public service reflects the values of strength, wisdom, and unity leaving a lasting legacy for future generations of Ute Mountain Ute people and all Coloradoans. Therefore I, Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado, do hereby proclaim November 7, 2025 as Chairman Manuel Heart Day’ – so as we welcome the new council on to the path ahead, let us do so with unity and optimism, may this new chapter bring continued strength, growth, and opportunity for the Ute

Mountain Ute Tribe and all who call this beautiful state home. Congratulations once again to the new leadership and thank you to everyone who continues to carry forward the spirit of service and sovereignty.”

Earlier this month, Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper both individually gave tribute to Chairman Heart for his leadership and dedication, on the Senate Floor. “Chairman Heart led the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, a sovereign Nation of the Weeminuche band of Utes, with reservation land in Southwest Colorado, as well as New Mexico and Utah, with humility, perseverance, and a deep love for his people,” Bennet said. “Chairman Heart never let the United States forget its promises to tribal nations. He ensured that national conversations about water, education, economic development, healthcare, and justice include the voices of sovereign tribes. He taught me what true government-to-government respect means. I remain deeply grateful for his friendship, his wisdom, and his example. Colorado and the United States owe Chairman Heart profound gratitude for his decades of service and leadership. We also thank his wife Marie and his entire family for their support of his leadership. His heart of service for his people has inspired me, and working with him remains one of the greatest honors of my time in the Senate. I wish him well in his retirement as he enjoys well-deserved time with his entire family, including his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.”

“In my years in service in Colorado, as a mayor first but then as a Governor, I can think of very few leaders that have been as successful and insightful and as diligent as Chairman Heart,” Hickenlooper said. “He has always stood up when the time for it called. He has been unshakable in his passion and drive to help Ute people. I know that his deep commitment and his love for the Ute people and for the Ute community is not going to end now as he steps down as Chairman. He will continue to be a leader in his community and in the state of Colorado. We wish him the very best in his retirement, and we want to make sure to thank him for all his dedication and all his service, not just to the Utes, but to all of Colorado.”

Multi - Purpose Facility
November Events

Sip Chat & Chew—Friday, November 21—11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Traditional Sewing—Monday & Tuesday, November 24 & 25

Day Session - 10:00 AM—3:30 PM Evening Session 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Holiday Pie Workshop Wednesday, November 26—10:30 AM—3:30 PM

Native American Heritage Month



Ute Cradle Board, The Metropolitan Museum

Special Events

Fall Arts & Crafts Fair—Saturday November 15,

9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Jerky, Drying & Pounded Meat Workshop

Monday November 17 10:30 AM—3:30 PM

Lunch & Learn with Lisa Smith

Tuesday November 18, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Events are subject to change—Please watch for announcements.



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

NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH

Southern Ute Education Department
Invites You to Come and Celebrate

Night with
NUUCHIU

Experience Culture, Community, and Creativity

November 18, 2025

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

5:30PM– 6:30PM

DINNER

Provided by

Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council

6:00PM – 7:00PM

CRAFTS IN CLASSROOMS

6:00PM – 7:00PM

READING WITH SOUTHERN UTE ROYALTY



Southern Ute Education Department
330 Burns Ave, Ignacio, CO 81137
(970) 563-0237
www.southernute-nsn.gov

HALLOWEEN DECORATING



Home Contest Winners:

1st Zachary Rock

2nd Bernadine Cuthair

Happy Thanksgiving from The Southern Ute Drum staff
Jeremy, Robert, Divine, Krista, Rosaleigh, Conrad and Zuriah.

Please join us during

Taste of Christmas

FILL YOUR BOWL

for Art

UNIQUE HANDMADE POTTERY BOWLS.
HOMEMADE SOUP, FRESH BREADS & A
GOURMET COCOA BAR BY HOSTED BY
RISE & SHINE COFFEE AND BURRITOS

DECEMBER 5, 2025

5PM - 8PM

DANCING SPIRIT

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

465 CORDARD AVE.
IGNACIO CO. 81137
970-563-4600

465 CORDARD AVE.
IGNACIO CO. 81137
970-563-4600

Multi-Purpose Facility

Fall Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday November 15, 2025

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Crafters, Artists, Artisans, Bakers

\$75 per space approx. 10' X 10'

Limited Table Rentals for \$10 / day

Chairs are provided.

Limited Outdoor Food Vendor Space \$150

256 Ute Road - Ignacio CO

to reserve a space - 970-563-2640, 970-563-2642 or 970-563-2641

2025

Thanksgiving

GIVING BASKETS

Boys and Girls Club is collaborating with Southern Ute
Victim Services and SUPD to help provide families with
a Giving Basket this Thanksgiving. We need your help
this year to sponsor a Giving Basket. Each sponsor will
be given a list of items to purchase for their basket.

What is a Giving Basket?

Each Basket will contain food items
for your typical Thanksgiving meal
such as:
Vegetables, Turkey, Ham, Potatoes,
Pie, etc.
baskets will be an entire
thanksgiving meal for nominated
families

Who can Sponsor a Basket?

- Any group of people
- Family / Friends
- Department / Organizations
- Any one with a giving heart

Drop off for baskets will be

November 20 & 21

For sponsor sign up please contact Nick Sanchez at

nsanchez@southernute-nsn.gov
(970)553-0752

Food

Donation

Drive

Help support your community members!

Ready to eat foods & non-perishable foods

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

ELHI Community Center - Tuesday-Thursday 10-5PM
Enter the front doors and place your donation in the bin

Farmers Fresh

Ignacio Community Library

ICL

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Ignacio Youth Services

SoCo CAA

SOUTHERN COLORADO Community Action Agency

Hope Community Christian Academy

elhi

Community Center

FARMERSFRESH

Think Local. Shop Fresh.

SunUte

GIVING TREE

Do you or someone you know need a little extra love this season?
Come sign up to be a part of our annual Giving Tree. SunUte is
accepting 5 families from the community to help sponsor.
Sign up by the deadline below to qualify!

Wednesday,
November 26th

SunUte Community Center
290 Mouache Drive
Ignacio, CO 81137

More Information:
Call us at (970)-563-0214

Santa Claus

Snowman

Gifts

Southern Ute Tribal

Christmas Program

December 13, 2025

Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center

Start Time: 3:30p.m.

CANDY BAG DELIVERY

Southern Ute Elders and Tribal Members with disabilities
unable to attend in person may sign up for home
delivery with Southern Ute Elder Services 970-563-2323.

Candy bags will be available after the program

Holiday Cookies and Hot Cocoa will be served

For more information contact 970-563-2208

Southern Ute Tribal

Christmas Program

Southern Ute Tribal

Christmas Dinner

Open to all Southern Ute Tribal Members &
Immediate Family, Ute Mountain Ute &
Ute Indian Tribal Members.

Home Delivery

Southern Ute Elders & Tribal Members with disabilities unable to attend
in person may contact the Southern Ute Elder Services 970-563-2322
For more information contact 970-563-2208

December
13th

11a.m. to
3p.m.

Sky Ute Casino
Events Center

MENU

Prime Rib, Ham, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes (gravy)
Sweet Potatoes, Plain Corn, Fresh Fruit, Garden Salad,
Dinner Rolls, Chocolate Mousse Cups, Pumpkin & Apple Pie



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio junior Kelly Sirios holds the desired prize as teammates – including junior Reggi Gustafson (7), junior Maliyah Martinez (10), sophomore Amira Montoya (5) and sophomore Alleah Neil (11) – mug for fans’ cameras in the wake of a four-set win Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, over Rye in the Class 2A-Region XI tournament finale. IHS will play next in the upcoming CHSAA State Championships.

BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL

‘STATE’ OF AFFAIRS

IHS Volleyball hosts, wins regional to advance

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Michele Roy knew something was terribly wrong. And after having already seen her team fall behind 7-1 in the Class 2A-Region XI tournament finale’s opening set Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, but having done nothing at the time to slow the foe’s roll, Rye’s head coach was quick in Set 4 to spend her first allotted timeout after Ignacio again surged ahead by six. Unfortunately for RHS, the Volleycats had – and Roy could probably sense that – reverted to their dominating, wire-to-wire Set 1 form. And as the pace after the pause continued mimicking that which had put the event-hosting side up 1-0 in what was expected to be a heated best-of-five, IHS’ players ensured the ending would be relatively, and pleasantly anticlimactic. Two kills in short order by sophomore Alleah Neil keyed a 6-0 burst increasing Ignacio’s lead to 18-7, and having wisely used her second – and, as things turned out, last – stoppage in hopes of halting the run, Roy could only hope her Lady Thunderbolts could force Jennifer Seibel’s ‘Cats – seeded 11th in the Round-

of-36; Rye was the No. 14 – to, well, short-circuit. Not a chance. Ignacio first reached match point, 24-13, when Rye senior Taylor Pye netted an attempted roll shot. With all the available leeway a team could want, the ‘Cats barely blinked after senior Alyssa Atencio’s potential match-clinching kill sailed long, and on the very next exchange, senior Juliann Avila placed a hard roll shot deep into the center of RHS’ back row, out of sophomore Gloriana Ruiz’s reach – finalizing a 25-12, 23-25, 25-19, 25-14 victory advancing IHS into the 2025 CHSAA State Championships. “Hosting was awesome; it offered a lot of challenges that we had to move through, and we get to build on that experience for...whatever the future holds for us! This experience is a stepping stone for that,” Seibel said. “We have to fight from here on out; nothing’s going to come easy. We’re going to have to depend on what works for us, and that’s playing smart, just really focusing on what’s in front of us.” “We’d obviously watched a lot of film on Ignacio, so we kind of expected a lot of what we saw today. They are a very scrappy team

and have fantastic defense, so we knew that’s what we were going to see – and that we would have to match it,” Roy said. “Unfortunately, we just made too many mistakes overall to be able to pull out the win.” “This is my fourth year coaching, and this group of seniors I’ve had since (they were) freshmen. My daughter (libero Seine Roy) is one of them, so unfortunately it was not the ending we’d wanted as a family but also me as a coach,” she added. “They’ve played together since they were little, so it’s been great to see them grow and develop over the years into the team they were. Losing seven seniors... Next year it’ll be an interesting dynamic when I come back for summer ball and see what I have and who’s willing to step into those roles.” “To get to this point, that means a lot to me especially because we only have two seniors,” noted IHS sophomore reserve Aubriella Herrera, whose serving off the bench allowed Seibel to rest junior regular Reggi Gustafson’s hurting, but well-wrapped rib cage. “Our team’s pretty young so I think that just shows, like,

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Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Judah Ashley (69) and Matthew Maestas (71) match strides during the final mile of the 2025 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships’ boys’ race Saturday, Nov. 1, in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Bobcats placed 14th as a team.

BOBCATS CROSS-COUNTRY

Bobcats 14th in Colorado Springs

Crane leads Ignacio at State Championships

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Not quite yet in the full heat of the day, but in conditions much warmer than at the start of competition Saturday morning, Nov. 1, the Ignacio Bobcats ran to a 14th-place team finish in the 2025 CHSAA State Cross-Country Championships’ Class 2A Boys feature. Never separated by much, senior Trace Crane (18:02.2) and junior Thunder Windy Boy (18:09.5) led the way and placed 38th, and 42nd respectively on the Norris-Penrose Event Center course. Senior James Martin (19:27.0) ended up 98th and freshman Matthew Maestas (21:02.0) 135th as IHS accumulated an adjusted score-4 total of 236 points – bettering Rocky Ford (253), Leadville-based Lake County (253), Rye (255), Olathe (278), Rangely (288) and Bailey Platte Canyon (315). Despite not having a top-five placer in Colorado,

Bobcats page 18



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Thunder Windy Boy (right) runs with Dolores’ Joseph Padilla during the first mile of the 2025 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships’ boys’ race Saturday, Nov. 1, in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Bobcats placed 14th as a team.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Tallias Cantsee (75), Lincoln deKay (44) and Sonny Flores (40) have a quick word between their Senior Night introductions preceding IHS’ home game Friday, Oct. 10, against Trinidad. Most recently, the Bobcats’ 2025 season ended Friday, Oct. 31, with a loss at Del Norte.

BOBCATS FOOTBALL

IHS’ football season ends in Del Norte

Turnovers torpedo ‘Cats in Halloween loss

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Rumors reaching some Ignacio players’ ears, after the Bobcats had lost at Monte Vista on Friday, Oct. 24, had it that upcoming opponent Del Norte might forfeit the slated regular-season finale. Not necessarily because of player shortage or even track record (the troubled Tiger program had forfeited eight games in 2024 and

had done so in ’25 on 10/17 when victory was conceded to 1A South Central powerhouse Centauri); the temptation to instead participate in Halloween hijinks was the reason. Had DNHS lost on the 25th to Center, the rumblings regarding discontent and lack of motivation would certainly have been louder and perhaps even carried weight. But after the Tigers trampled the visit-

ing Vikings 40-8, there was no doubting that Del Norte would, on the 31st, field a team to face IHS. And, unfortunately, one which would stun the ‘Cats. Neither side managed to score during the opening 12-minute quarter, but freshman Brendan Hemmerling’s seven-yard touchdown carry put DNHS up 6-0 with 11:57 left in the

IHS page 18

SUNUTE RECREATION
2025-2026
YOUTH BASKETBALL
LEAGUE

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5TH
(Open to youth grades Pre K-6th)

- \$30 SU Tribal/ 1st descendants
- \$40 Community Members

FIRST 50 TO REGISTER WILL
RECEIVE A FREE GIFT.

Practices start December 15th
Games start January 10, 2026

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!!
(Coaches Meeting December 9th)

PLEASE CONTACT RECREATION FOR MORE INFO

KELSEY- (970) 563-2660
ELIJAH- (970) 563-2655
AARON- (970) 563-2667
JAKE- (970) 563-2664



STATE OF AFFAIRS • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio junior Maliyah Martinez stuffs back Rye senior Olivia Donlon's off-balance attempted tip shot during the Class 2A-Region XI tournament's finale Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, inside IHS Gymnasium. The Volleycats won in four sets, earning them a spot in the upcoming 2025 CHSAA State Championships.

how hard-working we are.”

“Yeah, I don’t know how they were (seeded) so low,” said junior setter Kelly Sirios. “They were a very good team, and I think we really didn’t expect that. So, we really had to persevere; every ball was up and we were just really scrappy.”

“It’s a big weight lifted off my shoulders,” she added, letting the reality of going to State for a second time start to sink in. “Practice was rough this week, and it worked out.”

“It was like we were playing a doppelganger; they only had a little height on us, but their defense was the same...basically everything that they’d done was the same as us,” said junior Laine Bradley, who began the match with consecutive scoring shots, and later iced IHS’ Set 1 win with an emphatic service ace.

“I just felt like we all had something to prove, and that...really made me want to go and push even more, be the best I could,” she continued. “Like, I was telling everyone ‘Leave everything on the floor! This could be our last game!’”

But in order to bounce back from a Set 2 loss, in which the ‘Cats never led, forged just one tie (17-17, after completing an arduous climb out of a 10-3 hole), but still came as close as 24-23 before Rye senior Bella Bond won a battle at the net, Ignacio had to recall what worked to avoid a tourney-beginning, first-set loss to underdog Hoehne.

Seeded 26th, the Lady Farmers started the day taking a 2-1 lead and building it up to as great as 12-5. HHS still held leads of 14-8 and 15-9 before back-to-back Bradley kills, plus a Neil block on HHS sophomore Paisley San Roman keyed a 7-0 run turning the tide of not only the set, but the still-young match. Ignacio regained the lead again at 18-17 and reached set point, 24-20, via an Avila roll shot off Hoehne freshman Kaylee Schlensker’s block.

HHS sophomore Jazlynn Ossola then netted a weakly-attempted roll, giving the ‘Cats a 1-0 match lead which became 2-0 after a more methodical 25-16 Set 2 win. San Roman began Set 3 with a rare solo block on Neil, but after the Lady Farmers went up 3-1, IHS countered with a 6-0 run – including junior Maliyah Martinez’s tying tip shot, followed by go-ahead aces by junior libero Tarah Baker – earning a lead which wouldn’t be lost.

In fact, Hoehne got no closer the rest of the way than 7-4, before Ignacio tore the set wide open with an



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio sophomore Aubriella Herrera (2) gives an emphatic high-ten to junior Maliyah Martinez (10) after a point scored Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, against Rye in the Class 2A-Region XI tournament's finale inside IHS Gymnasium. The Volleycats won in four sets, earning them a spot in the upcoming 2025 CHSAA State Championships.

8-0 spree, and Herrera holding serve for its last seven points before Schlensker put down a kill. But the ‘Cats reached match point, 24-10, via Neil tooling a kill off San Roman’s block, and after HHS junior Braylee Foster managed a roll shot, secured a 25-20, 25-16, 25-11 sweep when San Roman then served long.

“I was proud of them pulling themselves together after the initial shock of ‘Oh my gosh, we’re hosting in our gym!’ and all those butterflies that they had. I called a timeout...and gave them the option of ‘Are you going to respond? Or crack? Ultimately, it’s your choice, collectively.’ We could either be embarrassed in our gym or we could get it together,” Seibel said.

“We’re in this together, win or lose, and they had the fire; I could see it in their eyes, that determination – and the realization of ‘Oh wow, we’re down pretty far.’ And battling like that really shows how much fight they have when we’re tested. I didn’t ‘love’ it, but going through it...was needed to get them back to reality.”

“I think we were a little scared at first and then we gained confidence throughout the match,” Neil admitted. “Me and Kelly kind of started off slow...needed to figure out our connection, and then...just seeing the court – that’s something I’ve been trying to work on in practice, changing up my shots and seeing what is open. So, yeah, it was good.”

“I feel like a lot of our energy stems from talking, and if we’re not communicating balls get dropped and we just are, like, all over the place and it looks a mess, you know? So we started talking more, kept our energy up and played relaxed.”

Rye then eliminated Hoehne (11-14 overall) in the second match, winning 25-12, 25-16, 25-14 over their Santa Fe League rival, before the loss to IHS left the Lady Thunderbolts

standing 18-7 and looking ahead to 2026.

“All of the seniors came in, gave it to the rest of our team, like, in effort. And I think our underclassmen saw that and took that as, like, ‘I want to win for them.’ We all just wanted to win,” said RHS’ Bond, “and after a set loss kind of kicks you in the butt you try your hardest; you don’t want to go out in three, you want to fight.”

“I love everybody on my team and they’re what makes the game fun for me; they come to practice and bust their butt, make it fun and make me laugh,” she added. “I won’t remember wins or losses because that’s not the memorable part; I’ll remember friendships I made and people who’ve impacted me throughout my time.”

Having improved to 21-4 overall, the Volleycats will have the chance to make even more memories while competing inside the Denver Coliseum. Re-seeded tenth out of the remaining 12 teams, Ignacio was to first face No. 7 Sedgewick County (19-6 overall) Thursday afternoon, Nov. 13, but results were unavailable at press time.

“I think here at the end of the season we’re really tight and trust each other. And we play our game well,” Gustafson said. “We’re all very focused – not only on State, but focused on our next game; the fight’s not over yet.”

“Oh yeah. I think we’re going to have to play just like today,” Bradley said. “Using our I.Q. and playing the best game that we can play – that we know we can play.”

The winner was to then face 2-seed Denver Christian (21-4) that same evening, while the loser would next play on the 14th at 9:30 a.m. against the loser of No. 1 Simla (23-2) and either No. 8 Wiggins (18-7) or No. 9 Buena Vista (21-4).

The State Championship match is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

BOBCATS 14TH IN COLORADO • FROM PAGE 17

do Springs, Golden View Classical Academy ended up with a winning low of 30 points. Springs-based Thomas MacLaren School – also lacking a top-five finisher – came in second with 34, and Arvada Forge Christian (41) took third, paced by junior Titus Kammerlohr’s fifth-place 16:55.6.

Fourth place individually went to Rye senior David Maroney (16:39.7) and third to Highlands Ranch SkyView Academy junior Rylan Griffith (16:36.0). The top two runners, however, were separated by hardly a hundredth of a second, with Colorado Springs St. Mary’s sophomore Ethan Kiptui’s 16:20.1 ultimately besting Oak Creek Soroco senior Nick Clark’s.

For Ignacio, Maestas actually ended up running alongside junior Judah Ashley, who placed 136th in 21:04.5. Freshman Kanoa Thompson ended up 145th in 24:54.1.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Kanoa Thompson (73) runs during the final mile of the 2025 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships’ boys’ race Saturday, Nov. 1, in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Bobcats placed 14th as a team.

IHS’ FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS • FROM PAGE 17

second and put the Tigers on track to a 20-6 victory.

Set up by junior quarterback Morgan Howell’s deceptive 23-yard bootleg keeper around left end, freshman Liam Kreutzer then scored – from out of the same multi-back look which produced Hemmerling’s TD – from a yard out with 3:23 to go. And on a third-down play mere moments from halftime, Howell rolled to his right, evaded Ignacio senior Sonny Flores and flung a 13-yard TD, paralleling the far sideline, into high-rising senior Paul Neal’s hands with only 8.7 seconds remaining.

Senior Trenton Woolf added the night’s first two-point conversion, and the Tigers entered intermission leading 20-0.

Having informally expressed worry that his fourth-quarter TD run against MVHS might have been his last, senior Lincoln deKay at last got the Bobcats on the scoreboard at DNHS with a scoring run roughly midway through the third quarter, but Ignacio failed to generate any more points the rest of the way.

Repeatedly pressured by Neal, senior Wyatt Vanzalinge and others, senior quarterback Zane Pontine was intercepted three times (twice by Howell, once by freshman Jaiden Garcia) and held to under 100 yards passing in the loss – dropping IHS to 2-3 in SCC action and to 2-7 overall.

deKay reportedly finished with 123 yards rushing on just 14 carries and joined senior Aven Bourriague and junior Shaun Sanderson in snaring two receptions apiece.

Playing a reduced schedule this fall in the wake of a tumultuous, winless ‘24, Del Norte improved to 2-3 in conference play and to 2-4 overall with the program’s first win over Ignacio since 2012 (current head coach Austin McDonald’s senior season). DNHS lost horribly to IHS in ‘13, and then dropped in to CHSAA’s 8-man football realm from 2014-19.

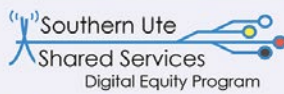
ADDITIONALLY

Also playing in the San Luis Valley, Oct. 31, Centauri hosted Monte Vista with the conference title at

stake and edged the Pirates – last season’s champ – by a 20-18 margin. Bound once again for the Class 1A Play-offs, the Falcons improved at the time to 8-1 overall (5-0 SCC) while postseason-ready MVHS slipped to 6-3 (4-1).

Seeded fourth in the 16-team bracket, CHS hosted Hotchkiss North Fork on Saturday, Nov. 8, and eliminated the No. 13 Miners 35-21. Monte Vista, meanwhile, was seeded tenth and, on the 7th, ousted No. 7 Colorado Springs Christian 21-0 inside University of Colorado at Colorado Springs’ Mountain Lion Stadium.

The Pirates will next welcome perennial State contender Limon on Saturday, Nov. 15, and battle the second-seeded Badgers (9-1 overall) upon Harvey Sullivan Field at 1 p.m. The Falcons, meanwhile, will haul north to Ault and face No. 12 Highland (7-3) on the 15th at 1 p.m. The State Championship is presently scheduled to be played on the 29th inside CSU-Pueblo’s ThunderBowl, with kickoff set for 1:30 p.m.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SUDEP has done it again. We have decided to bring technology and health monitoring together. SUDEP is offering all SUITMs a Garmin Fitness Tracker. We would like for you to be able to monitor your health with a watch. This device allows you to:

- track your steps, heart rate and energy levels
- walk, run, yoga - break a sweat with preloaded sports apps
- monitor your sleep cycles
- connect to your smartphone GPS and track daily activities

One per Tribal Member - Supplies are Limited



Contact SUDEP at: 970-563-5555 or scan the QR Code to receive your watch.

FOOD SECURITY

Southwest Colorado SNAP
Emergency Response continues
as benefits are being issued

Staff report
THE GOOD FOOD COLLECTIVE

“Coloradans who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help purchase healthy food will begin receiving full payments for the month of November 2025,” according to the Colorado Department of Human Services. “CDHS will start loading payments onto Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards and SNAP participants will see payments on their EBT cards by Thursday afternoon. Visit cdhs.colorado.gov/SNAP for the latest information on SNAP.”

The Southwest Colorado SNAP Emergency Response is continuing to monitor the needs of our community as

benefits are restored. The effects of this program’s disruption have rippled far and wide throughout our food system, affecting the financial wellbeing of individual households and small independent grocers, as local food assistance providers have seen remarkable increases in demand. For example, Good Sam’s Food Pantry in Cortez’s demand for food has increased 160% over the last two weeks. The community’s donations have been helping to meet that demand.

For up-to-date information, a list of food resources, and ways to support this effort, visit www.goodfoodcollective.org/snap-relief. To get involved with the relief effort, contact Regional

Relief Coordinator, Rachel Landis at rachel@goodfoodcollective.org.

The Good Food Collective
At The Good Food Collective, we build partnerships with folks throughout Southwest Colorado, and work together to create a prosperous future, where: Everyone can access nourishing food, no matter where in our region they live; Households have financial wellbeing, so they can buy the food they want; Farmers and food businesses are thriving; Power is in the hands of our community, so we’re connected and guiding food systems work. Learn more about us and get involved at <http://www.goodfoodcollective.org>.

Romero graduates Academy



Southern Ute tribal member, Samuel Romero graduated Tuesday, Oct. 14, from the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M., and is sworn in to be a Southern Ute Tribal Ranger.

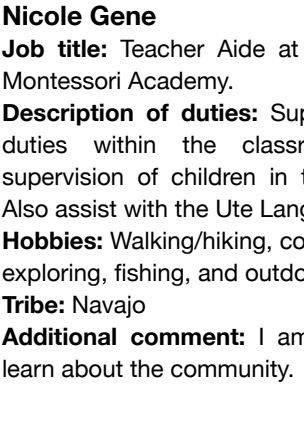


photos courtesy Cecilia Stubbs
Samuel Romero (center) is pictured with Southern Ute Tribal Ranger Corporal, Jason Scott and Southern Ute Justice and Regulatory Director, Leonard Redhorse III after the graduation ceremonies in Artesia, N.M.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Patricia Lakota Rose CriesForWar
Job title: Admin Assistant II at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.
Description of duties: Managing office tasks while assisting Principal Mari Jo Owens.
Hobbies: Singing and dancing at powwows, cooking and crafting.
Family: Granddaughter of the late Johnson and Kathleen Taylor, wife of Alana CriesForWar, daughter of Johnita Taylor and momma to two fur babies, Tip Rose and Bumi Ruth.
Tribe: Southern Ute descendant, Ponca and Lakota Nakota.
Additional comments: I’m really excited to join the team! As a former student here at SUIMA I am looking forward to relearning my Ute language.



Nicole Gene
Job title: Teacher Aide at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.
Description of duties: Support the SUIMA through duties within the classroom, provide coherent supervision of children in the after-school program. Also assist with the Ute Language program.
Hobbies: Walking/hiking, cooking/baking, reading and exploring, fishing, and outdoor activities.
Tribe: Navajo
Additional comment: I am excited to support and learn about the community.



MJ Jeremiah Reid
Job title: Early Childhood Teacher at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.
Description of duties: Provides reading instruction to students at SUIMA.
Hobbies: Reading and content creation.



Corrections

In a photo published in the Oct. 31 issue of the Drum, Kean Cantsee was misidentified as a Southern Ute tribal member.

In a photo published in the Oct. 31 issue of the Drum, John Bradley Washington III was misidentified as John Washington Jr.

Drum
Deadline

Next issue:
Nov. 26

EARLY
Deadline:
Nov. 21

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Southern Ute Food Distribution Program

740 Goddard Avenue
Ignacio, Colorado 81137
970-563-2530

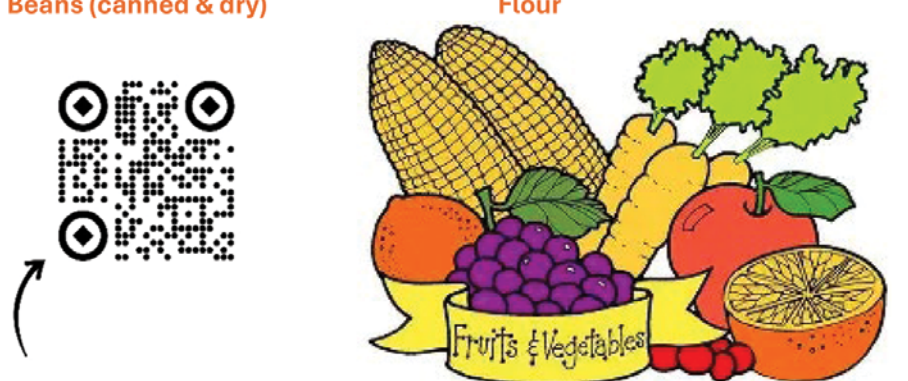
The Southern Ute Food Distribution Program offers nutritional and good quality food. The program is for La Plata and Archuleta County residents who reside on or near the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The program is distributed monthly for qualifying community members.

How can I qualify?

- Completed application by stopping by our office, Scanning the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/SUITfood25>
- Proof of Income
- Proof of Colorado residency
- Photo Identification Card

What food selections are available?

Meats (chicken, beef, pork & bison)	Fish
Oil (vegetable & olive)	Grains
Dairy (milk, cheese, & butter)	Pasta
Fruits (frozen, canned, & fresh)	Juice
Vegetables (frozen, canned, & fresh)	Eggs
Beans (canned & dry)	Flour



SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL

THANKSGIVING DINNER
November 15, 2025
11a.m. - 3p.m.
Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center

Open to all Southern Ute Tribal Members & Immediate Family, Ute Mountain Ute, & Ute Indian Tribal Members.

-Main- Turkey, Chef carved ham with pineapple cherry sauce, stuffing, mashed potatoes w/gravy, garden salad w/dressing, plain corn, sweet potatoes, fruit, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls w/ butter

-Desserts- Pecan, Pumpkin & Sugar Free Apple Pie

-Home Delivery-
Southern Ute Elders & Tribal Members with disabilities unable to attend in person may contact Southern Ute Elder Services (970) 563-2322

For more information contact: (970) 563-2208



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,
Tasha Rae Lee, Deceased
Case No.:2024-0151-CV-PR

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

Dated this 22nd of October, 2025
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
Case No.: 2025-0066-CV-PR
Nova Dene Burch, 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 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM.** All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 17th of October, 2025.
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

Notice of Draft – Title V Operating Permits
And Request for Comments

Notice is hereby given that four (4) renewal applications have been submitted to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Environmental Programs Department's Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137, for the following sources of air pollution:

Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC

Facility: Treating Site #1 Compressor Station. Section 13, T32N, R8W, 7.50 miles south of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a central natural gas facility.

Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC

Facility: Treating Site #2 Compressor Station. Section 20, T32N, R8W, 10.00 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a central natural gas facility.

Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC

Facility: Treating Site #4 Compressor Station. Section 24, T32N, R9W, 11.50 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colorado. This source is a central natural gas facility.

Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC

Facility: Treating Site #6 and Southern Ute 32-9; 8-4 Wellsite. Section 8, T32N, R9W, 13.25 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colorado.

This source is a central natural gas facility. The Air Quality Division (AQD) has prepared the draft Title V operating permits based on the information submitted by the applicant. The draft permits and accompanying statement of basis are available on the AQD's website at <http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/environmental-programs/air-quality/air-permitting/>, and at the Environmental Programs Department office at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio CO, 81137 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and request a hearing. Written comments and requests for hearings may be sent to the AQD in care of Daniel Powers, Air Quality Division Head, at P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137; or emailed to dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov. Any hearing request should: 1) identify the individual or group requesting the hearing, 2) state his or her address and phone number, and 3) state the reason(s) for the request. Notice of any public hearing will be provided at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. The AQD will consider the written public comments and requests for a hearing that are received within 30 days of this notice (October 31, 2025).

TRIBAL WILLS CLINIC • WINTER 2025
Southern Ute, Ignacio, Colo • Dec. 17 – Dec 20, 2025

To make appointment call: John Roach 505-716-6788

WHY WILLS?

- Federal law includes provisions that say how Indian Trust Lands pass after a Tribal Member passes on.
- Over time, parcels may have been split into hundreds of small shares as Indian Trust Land passed from generation to generation. This process is called “fractionation.”
- A federal law, A.I.P.R.A., is now attempting to decrease fractionation by providing that most Indian Trust Land will go only to the one oldest descendant – unless the owner writes a will.
- To make sure that your Trust Land, and other important items of property go to the people you want to have that property, you should write a will.

Celebrate a well-lived life by making sure that your wishes are carried out by the next generation. To make sure that your wishes are respected after you pass, please consider drafting a will, either through our program or with a local attorney
The Tribal Wills Clinic is a group of volunteers including law students and licensed attorneys, who donate their time to help Tribal Members write wills.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

- Our services are entirely free.
- At a law firm in Denver, the cost for a will would be about \$5,000 and the process would take about a month.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

- About two hours on two different days.
- On the first day you will talk with a law student about what you would like to have included in your documents. You will have plenty of time to ask questions.
- That night the law student will write up all of the documents, and have them checked by a licensed attorney.
- On a second day, when the documents are ready, you will come back for the signing ceremony, which will take at least an hour, as the law student goes over everything to be sure that it is right.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT FOR A WILL

- **Names of Friends and Family who will be Included in the Will** – To save time at the interview, write down the names of the friends and family you want to mention in the will. Include the birthdate, address, cellphone number, enrollment or census number for each person, if you know it.
- **Special Gifts** – What is important for specific family members to have?
- **Personal Representative**—Who should take charge to make sure your wishes are carried out after you pass on?
- **Joint Tenants or Tenants in Common**—If you want to give a piece of land to be owned by several people at the same time, you will need to decide whether you want them to own the property as **Joint Tenants** or as **Tenants in Common**.
- **Joint Tenants** means that the last person surviving will own all of the land. **Tenants in Common** means that as each person passes on, that person's share goes into his or her estate. The law student will explain more about this.

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

The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking One (1) Regular Full-time positions for specified term, 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. These positions are open until filled. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

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.

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.*

Multi-Purpose Facility

Beading & Traditional Sewing Class

Monday & Tuesday November 24 & 25, 2025



Two Day Sessions: Monday & Tuesday

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Two Evening Sessions: Monday & Tuesday

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

This session will focus on beading, you are welcome to start a new project or you can bring one you are working on.

Please call Elise for a project supply list—based on your specific project, it can be beading or sewing. Some supplies are available.


970-563-2641 or email: eredd@southernute-nsn.gov



Space is limited call to sign-up.

970-563-2640 or 970-563-2641

email: multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

PUBLIC NOTICE [November 2025]

Telecommunications Construction Work

Date: November 5, 2025
Subject: Notice of Telecommunications Construction Work

Dear Community Members,

Bonfire Engineering & Construction, on behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, will be conducting telecommunications construction work as part of the Tribe's ongoing fiber network expansion project. This effort is part of a broader initiative to enhance broadband connectivity and improve communications infrastructure within the region.

Construction work will occur between November 12 and December 20, 2025, along the following routes:

- Section 1: Starting at County Road 142 and heading South from Durango until HWY 140.
- Section 2: Starting at the intersection at HWY 140 and CR 129 working south to CR 128.
- Section 3: Working on CR 134 and working south from the intersection on HWY 140.


During this period, residents may observe field crews and vehicles performing construction activities within public rights-of-way. Minor ground disturbance will occur during this phase, and all personnel will carry appropriate identification and operate in accordance with local and Tribal safety standards. We appreciate the community's cooperation and understanding as we complete this important phase of work to bring high-speed fiber connectivity to the area.

For questions or additional information about the project, please contact:

Dane Dooley
Bonfire Engineering & Construction
307-431-6699
dane.dooley@bonfireig.com

Sincerely,
Bonfire Engineering & Construction
On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe


bonfire




BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION

COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

PROTECT PIPES




- Apply heat tape to water lines to prevent freezing.
- Activate heaters at the pump house.
- Keep a slow drip on faucets during freezing temperatures if out of town or traveling.
- Open cabinet doors to allow warm air circulation near pipes if out of town or traveling.



HEATING SYSTEM

- Set your home heaters to a minimum of 60 degrees.
- Inspect and seal windows/doors to prevent drafts and heat loss.
- DO NOT overload outlets and power strips with space heaters and do not leave unattended.
- Install fresh batteries in your thermostat.
- Clean your chimney to prevent carbon monoxide from being trapped in your home.



VEHICLE SAFETY

- Keep a blanket, flashlight, shovel, ice melt, jumper cables and tire chains in your vehicle.
- Keep your vehicle maintained by checking fluid levels, battery health, tire thread & pressure.
- Fuel Management-keep your gas tank at least half to prevent fuel line freezing.

If you need assistance, please contact Construction Services at (970) 563-0260

Presented by Tribal Housing in Partnership with :

LIMITED-Air Purifier Distribution





Debris Defense

Pet Particle Barrier

Removes 99.98% of micro-sized particles

Four layers of powerful filtration- NeverChange™ Filtration System

(3) Ways to make a Request:

- Call Tribal Housing at (970) 563-4710
- Visit Tribal Housing office to speak with staff member
- Complete the request form via the QR Code below

Request Deadline:

December 5, 2025, 5:00 pm



Available at NO COST for Tribal Elders and/or Tribal Members with health conditions that could benefit or be mitigated by the use of an air purifier

AGRICULTURE DIVISION ---- HAY FOR SALE!



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

LARGE BALES:	\$160.00/BALE	1350#
21 BALE BUNDLER:	\$165.00/BUNDLE	1260#

Hay is available FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

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



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the the tribe's website at www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs for complete job descriptions. ALL EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. If you need help filling out an online application, please come the Human Resources office and we are happy to assist you on our applicant computer stations. Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file. Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis. Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Human Resources • P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137 Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424 • Fax: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

Administrative Assistant II

Closes 11/17/25 – Performs administrative, clerical and office support to the Agricultural Division including reception, secretarial and office records management services. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$20.26/hour.

Medical Assistant (Part-time)

Closes 11/14/25 – A Medical Assistant position responsible for providing professional and clinical services. Grant funded; continued employment is contingent on grant funding. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$21.89/hour.

Police Sergeant

Closes 11/18/25 – Coordinates the efforts of the officers and dispatchers to achieve the objectives of the Police Department and in the absence of the Police Lieutenant will command the Southern Ute Police Department. Pay grade N16; Pay is \$37.32/hour.

Remediation Program Manager

Closes 11/21/25 – Under the supervision of the Water Quality & Remediation Division Head, plans, develops, and administers the General Assistance Program and environmental Tribal Response/Brownfields Program for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$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 is \$16.09/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 rate is \$14.90/hour.

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. The CAC position is responsible for 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 is \$64,155/annually.

Clinical Supervisor

Open Until Filled – A senior level position that provides Clinical Supervision to staff Caseworkers providing a full range of intake and/or ongoing social casework services for a variety of program areas such as child abuse and neglect cases, youth-in-conflict cases, and adults unable to protect their own interests. Provides clinical supervision and oversees Family Preservation and the Foster Care Program Coordinator. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$86,943/annually.

Community Health Representative

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

Construction Services Repairman

Open Until Filled – Assists in home repair to Tribal Home Rehab Programs, Elders Maintenance Program, Tribal Member and Elderly/Handicapped Emergency Repair, and Tribal Rental Units. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$21.89/hour.

Detention Cook

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

Detention Division Head

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

Detention Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all activities within the detention center. Pay grade N12; Pay is \$26.00/hour.

Dispatcher

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

Elementary Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively

with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade E12; pay rate is \$54,086/year.

Emergency Manager

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the J&R 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 is \$86,943/annually.

Gaming Investigator I

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

Gaming Investigator II

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

Group Exercise Instructor

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

Land Surveyor

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

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 Dilation of patients. Pay grade N11; Pay is \$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; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

Patrol Officer Trainee

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

Physician

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

Public 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. Will develop the skills to teach/tutor Southern Ute or Johnson O'Malley Program students in the Middle School during and after school throughout the school year and develop the skills to design and implement summer enrichment programs, performing student instruction and supervision, managing the programs, and reviewing their success. Position is based on a regular work year (261 days). Will start 20% below the grade for the Middle School Teacher and will receive quarterly evaluation and pay increases. 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 providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

Scorekeeper (Part-time)

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

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 rate is \$64,155/annually.

House For Sale

Tribal Members Only. 4 bed, 2 bathroom. Spacious fenced yard for sale in Cedar Point. Call 970-403-2856 for more information.



Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

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

Portfolio Manager-Investments – GF Private Equity Group, LLC (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 11/28/25 – Providing support in analyzing, selecting, closing and managing Private Equity investments.

EHS Regulatory Compliance Director – SECMG (Durango, CO)

Closes 11/28/25 – Working with Growth Fund companies and departments to ensure Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) regulatory compliance with all applicable regulations, laws, and guidelines. Remains current on changes in the EHS regulatory environment and proactively updates the programs to maintain compliance and continual improvement. Will lead the development and implementation of strategic compliance programs and processes.

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

To apply now, visit our website at www.sococaa.org or call 970-563-4517.

Central Administration:

- Program Developer-Grant Writer (Full-time) \$32.97/hr.
- Executive Development Developer (Full-time) \$75,275 /yr., (Up to \$3,000 in relocation expenses available.)

Ignacio Early Learning Program:

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

Road Runner Transit:

- ICB Bus Driver (Full-time) \$22.76/hr.
- Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance (Full-time) \$18.94/hr.

Ignacio Youth Services:

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

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
Maintenance Mechanic

Reports to Working Forman for Maintenance Department/Division. FLSA Status is Non-Exempt. Full-Time. Position Summary: Responsible for semi-skilled to skilled maintenance of buildings/houses, facilities, and light equipment. Performs general carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and other repairs in response to service requests and results of inspections of units in accordance with HUD required standards. Performs interior work on units to include sheet rocking, painting, and working and troubleshooting HVAC and boiler systems. Performs maintenance on mechanical equipment and/or machinery. On-call duties are assigned on a rotating basis. Qualifications and Knowledge: High school graduate (or GED) or possess a vocational technician certification beyond high school, with five (5) years' experience or training in building construction or maintenance, or in the repair or maintenance of mechanical equipment or an equivalent combination of technical training and experience. Preferably licensed in one or more trades and certified HVAC. Must have a valid Driver's License, remain insurable, successfully pass a pre-employment drug test, and submit to random drug testing per the Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy. Pick up applications at 760 Shoshone Ave., Ignacio CO 81137, or email ctwedt@suiha.org to request an application and a copy of the full job description. Questions can be directed to Eric Spady or Crystal Twedt at 970-563-4575. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 pm, December 1, 2025.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Special Needs Aide (Part-time)

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

Swimming Instructor (Part-time)

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

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal 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. Both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

TERO Worker

Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office. 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. 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 starts at \$17.37/hour.

CALLING

ALL

NATIVE

ENTREPRENEURS



Are you a proud Native business owner? Make sure your business is recognized, supported and connected within our community!

Why Register?

- Preference for Bidding
- Support with qualified employment
- Training to enhance your business
- Listed on the Indian Owned business listing

Who Can Register?

- Any Enrolled Native American Business owner
- Within a 2- hour driving distance

HOW TO REGISTER

Come to TERO

Fill out an application

Application can be found online at <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/tero/>

Visit us at 71 Mike Frost Way
Ignacio, CO, 81137

Questions please call Roland Nez

970.563.2292 or

email tero-staff@southernute-nsn.gov



Southern Ute Education Department & Southern Ute Growth Fund Present

Tribal Business Exploration Program

Careers in Energy



Explore Career and College Pathways Mentorship from professionals in the field

Join Us for a Growth Fund Field Trip

- Tours of Red Willow and Red Cedar Field Locations
- December 5, 2025
- 6th to 12th grade
- Southern Ute, 1st Descendants, JOM students.
- Lunch Included
- Meet at SUED at 8:45am, Return by 4:15pm



For more information contact:

Julie Stone

jstone@southernute-nsn.gov

970-563-2778

Power Your Future!



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.**

Bingo Staff (Part-time)

Servicing guests during Bingo games, including selling additional special games and pull tabs, instructing customers in Bingo play, calling Bingo games, beverage service and other duties promoting guest satisfaction and play. Verifying winning Bingo cards and making payouts accordingly.

Beverage & Cocktail Server (On-call)

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

***Café Cashier (Full-time)**

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

***Fine Dining Host/Hostess (Full-time)**

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

***Grounds Supervisor (Full-time)**

Daily ground's maintenance of all areas at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Maintaining all roads, grounds, landscaping, planning, assigning, and reviewing work activities of assigned grounds personnel as directed by the Facilities Manager.

***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.

***Housekeeping Supervisor (Full-time)**

Will act in the leadership and training capacity. Will direct employees and help them to complete their tasks and goals defined by the Housekeeping Manager. Training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. Responsible for office structure, budgetary administration and employee relations as assigned by the Housekeeping Manager.

***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.

***Rolling Thunder Grill Busser (Full-time)**

Perform multiple tasks and duties within the restaurant and kitchen as instructed by supervisor and management. Clearing off and sanitizing tables for next group guests, disposing of trash and other waste and keeping the restaurant stocked with adequate supplies such as plates, glasses, silverware, and napkins. Will help cooks, servers and dishwashers perform small tasks as needed. Crosstrain to perform multiple food and beverage functions as directed by supervisors and managers.

Rolling Thunder Grill Cashier (Part-time)

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

***Rolling Thunder Grill Server (Full-time)**

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

***Room Attendant (Full-time)**

Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel room by wiping, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping all areas of the guest rooms. Requires the ability to bend, lift, stand and walk throughout the shift. Duties of this job are physically demanding and may be stressful at times, particularly during peak season periods. Cleaning an average of 16 guest rooms, and during peak season, up to 20 guest rooms per shift, depending on whether you are working as an individual or a pair. Cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

***Seven Rivers Bartender (Full-time)**

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.

***Security Officer (Full-time)**

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

***Senior 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.

***Willows Line Cook (Full-time)**

Works under direct supervision of the Lead Cook. Preparation of the menu and accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness.



Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 10/31/25



NOVEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, Nov. 5th! Payments must be received before 10am.**
- Cold weather is upon us— Avoid FROZEN PIPES! Winterize your homes. Insulate your pipes. Use foam padding or insulation sleeves, heat tape, and spigot covers, Be prepared. Make sure outside pipes are shut off properly, and drain excess water. Know where your shut-off valve is located.
- Transfer Station closed on November 10th, 11th, & 27th, **Reopens on Friday, Nov. 28th** during Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Upcoming Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project at Northridge / Sunset Circle / Powwow Circle Housing area is in planning stages. More information and proper notification will be given in advance to residents.
- Any billing questions? Call the office for assistance.

Prevent Frozen Pipes

- ✓ Open cabinet doors to circulate warmer air around plumbing.
- ✓ Let cold water drip from the faucet at a trickle.
- ✓ Don't set your temperature below 55° F.

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.

Nov. 5th / Dec. 3rd / Jan. 7th

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

November 11, 2025

Veteran's Day



Utilities Office Closed

Nov. 10th & 11th

November 27, 2025

Thanksgiving Holiday



Utilities Office Closed

Nov. 27th & 28th

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

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

Ignacio School District

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

AT ISD, OUR SCHOOLS AND STAFF ARE CELEBRATING WITH FUN LEARNING ACTIVITIES, ASSEMBLIES, PRESENTATIONS, AND MORE!

ALL HIGHLIGHTING THE RICH TRADITIONS AND CULTURE OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. WE'RE PROUD TO HONOR AND SHARE THIS HERITAGE WITH OUR STUDENTS AND TO EMBRACE THE CULTURE THAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY SO SPECIAL.





MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

Jerky, Drying and Pounded Meat Workshop

Monday November 17, 2025

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Beef, Elk & Bison Jerky - Fruits

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

Call for more information 970-563-2640

Multi-Purpose Facility

Shining Mountain Health & Wellness

With Lisa Smith

Tuesday November 18, 2025

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Lunch & Learn

Enjoy a healthy meal

and learn about Diabetes Wellness

Call 970-563-2640 to sign-up.

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

970-563-2640 - email: multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

9TH ANNUAL CHARITABLE

ELK HUNT RAFFLE

DRAWING DECEMBER 1, 2025 AT 5PM AT SKY UTE CASINO RESORT

TWO SHOTS AT A GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE & MANY OTHERS

Grand Prize (2): Hunting Trip including 1 Cow Elk tag, 2 night stay at Sky Ute Casino, & \$150 to Seven Rivers Steakhouse

Wood Burning Fire Pit

Outdoorsman Gear

Pendleton Blankets

Various Gift Certificates

Custom Benchmade Knife

...and many more!

Hunt will take place on the Southern Ute Reservation in the Sandoval unit from Dec. 13th - 21st, 2025. One free guest allowed. Additional guest requires an additional fee. Both require crossing permit which can be obtained from the Southern Ute Wildlife Division. Ages 12-21 will need to have their Hunters Safety license. Need not be present to win.

All funds raised will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

To purchase tickets, call (970) 563-4753, stop by the Boys & Girls Club Office at SunUte, or catch us out in the community.

970-563-4753

casanchez@southernute-nsn.gov

Ignacio, CO

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Nov. 14

Partly sunny 63°F

Calm winds

Saturday, Nov. 15

Mostly sunny 62°F

Sunday, Nov. 16

Mostly cloudy 53°F

Showers likely

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

October 21

October 29

November 5

November 12

November 20

Tribal Member

Hunting Crossing

Permits

Now Available Online on the

Southern Ute Store Website

These Crossing Permits are for non-members

assisting Tribal Member Hunters. Valid for 30

days, for up to two guests, and cost \$20 per

person.

Link to Website:

<https://store.southernute-nsn.gov/product/hunter-accompany-crossing-permit/>

Please call the Wildlife Division for

more information

(970) 563-0130.

The Southern Ute Drum's

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
10					11					12
13					14					
15					16					
17					18				19	
			20			21	22			
23	24			25	26				27	28
29			30				31			
32							33			
34							35			
	36						37			

Across

1 False god

5 From the largest continent

10 The governing body at Turtle Bay

11 Instilled

13 Quarter of an acre

14 Kansas city attacked by Quantrill's Raiders in 1862

15 Navy capt.'s superior, once

16 Hit the sack

17 Tribal leaders

19 One sixteenth of a gallon

20 Peroxyacetic acid (Abbr.)

21 Russian composer César ---

23 "Baloney!"

25 Extensive treeless plains

29 19th century Shiawasee band (Ojibwa) leader

31 Janet Campbell ---, author of "Bloodlines: Odyssey of a Native Daughter"

32 Grotesque spirit

33 Raison d'---

34 Feel sorrow for a loss

35 Agitate

36 Vice President with Coolidge

37 Cupid, to Plato

Down

1 Founding advisor of First Nations Composer Initiative, Sharon ---

2 Positive electrode

3 Morbid fear of being in the open

4 Pretentiously refined

5 Venerate

6 No talking!

7 For those listening --- home...

8 One expecting something to happen

9 Jawaharlal ---, subcontinental Prime Minister

12 An oceanic low point

18 Bulky and heavy

22 Cry from a balcony, maybe

23 David ---, Parkland shooting survivor who became an activist

24 And now, --- from our sponsor

26 Pitches

27 Spanish river

28 Blinds a hawk

30 Did in, in Biblical times

Answers will appear in the Nov. 26 issue of the Drum.