



THE

# SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Community round dance

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A Taste of Christmas

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

Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Southern Ute Education representatives, Kaylyn LeClaire, Heather White Thunder and Stais Harlan stand with members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association following the National Johnson-O'Malley Association banquet and awards dinner in Denver, Monday, Nov. 10 in the Hyatt Regency's Centennial Ballroom. The Southern Ute Education Department's Johnson-O'Malley program was chosen as the National Johnson-O'Malley Association Exemplary Program of the Year for Region 1.

## EDUCATION

### Southern Ute Education awarded at NJOMA conference

*Recognized as JOM Exemplary Program, Region 1*By Jeremy Wade Shockley  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The National Johnson-O'Malley Association banquet and awards dinner was held in Denver, Monday, Nov. 10 in the Hyatt Regency's Centennial Ballroom, where outstanding education programs and educators were recognized throughout Indian Country. The Southern Ute Education Department's Johnson-O'Malley program has been chosen as the National Johnson-O'Malley Association (NJOMA) Exemplary Program of the Year for Region 1. The awards were presented as part of the 2025 NJOMA Conference, which convened in Colorado this year.

The Johnson-O'Malley Program, housed in the Southern Ute Education Department, supports Native American students in the Ignacio and Bayfield School Districts through academic services, cultural recognition, and family engagement.

"The Johnson-O'Malley Program is one of the Tribe's longest-running educational efforts, and this award reflects the lasting impact of collaboration among Native families, the Southern Ute



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Bruce LeClaire leads the Southern Ute Veterans Association in retiring the colors, following the National Johnson-O'Malley Association banquet and awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency.

Indian Tribe, Ignacio and Bayfield school districts, and our federal partners, and our shared commitment to supporting Native students," said Southern Ute Education Department Director, Joseph Claunch.

"I would like to add that I am extremely grateful to have inherited a program with such a strong foundation and I want to acknowledge all of the Southern

Ute Education past and current employees involved in the long standing success of the Southern Ute Johnson-O'Malley program as well as all of the parents and guardians who have committed their time and efforts into helping our Native American students," said Kaylyn LeClaire, Public Education Specialist with

SU Education page 7

### Gratitude for outgoing Council



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose and Council Member Marjorie Barry were honored during the End of Council Term Celebration on Monday, Dec. 1, Friends, family, colleagues and other members of Tribal Council took time to share words of gratitude for the honorees during the celebration, commending each member's hard work throughout their term. The event was capped off with refreshments and a presentation of gifts to the two outgoing Council members.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Water Quality Scientist, Dylan Ruckel has spearheaded numerous stream restoration projects for the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department, including those along Spring Creek. Ruckel stands on the southern portion of Salabar Draw, where previous restoration efforts have already taken hold, exemplifying a healthy watershed and habitat for wildlife, including endangered species that rely on the stream.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

### First steps in habitat restoration for 'Spring Creek Pasture'

By Jeremy Wade Shockley  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The 350-acre "Spring Creek Pasture" has been home to the Tribe's bison herd since the early 2000s. Over that time the herd numbers have fluctuated, but generally the carrying capacity of the pasture is about 100 bison, and that is where the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Wildlife Resource Division likes to keep herd numbers today.

Salabar Draw is a small perennial stream that bisects the pasture. "The north-



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Construction Specialist, Danny Candelaria with Alpine Enterprise, LLC uses a float to finish off the concrete pad, ahead of culvert installation on Thursday, Nov. 20. The improved crossing now boasts three large culverts set with concrete into the bedrock on the stream that will allow for easy crossing for larger farm equipment and improved waterflow during the wet season.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Southern Ute Royalty and heritage dancers performed during the Denver Nuggets basketball half time show in Denver on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Ball Arena. Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder showcased her dance style.

## NATIVE PRIDE

### Southern Utes join Denver Nuggets to celebrate Native American Heritage Month

*Halftime program honors Nuuchiu culture*By Staff Report  
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

November marks Native American Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Tribes across the United States. In that spirit, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe proudly partnered with the Denver Nuggets for the Native American Heritage Game, Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Ball Arena in Denver.

The halftime program honored the enduring presence of the Nuuchiu and Native communities in Colorado through a vibrant showcase of culture and youth. The celebration featured traditional heritage dancers, performances by the Yellowjacket Singers, heritage dancers, and Southern Ute Royalty. Representatives from the Southern Ute Tribal Council and the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council were also in attendance, alongside the Ignacio High School Boys Bas-

ketball team.

"This partnership is about more than basketball – it's about sharing our story and honoring the resilience of Native communities," said Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose. "It's a moment to showcase our enduring presence and build positive community relations."

The full halftime performance is available to view on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's official website, social media channels, and the Tribal Member Portal.



Tyrone Turner/NPR

From left to right, Tami Graham, Stewart Vanderwilt, Steve Zansberg, Breeze Richardson, and Mike May walk into the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Court House in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Dec. 4. Graham, Vanderwilt, and Richardson lead three Colorado public radio stations suing the Trump administration alongside NPR over an executive order issued in May.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

### NPR v. Trump case moves forward after judge hears arguments

*KSUT, other stations also on the suit*

**By Halle Zander**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY RADIO**

An executive order in May prohibited federal agencies from providing funding to NPR and prevented public radio stations from using federal funding to pay for NPR programs. KSUT is a co-plaintiff and argues that the lawsuit remains relevant, despite Congress's rescission package this summer.

U.S. District Judge Randolph D. Moss heard oral arguments on Thursday regarding the federal lawsuit National Public Radio, Inc. v. Trump.

The lawsuit, filed in May, claims that President Trump's executive order issued earlier that month infringes on the First Amendment rights of NPR and its member stations. The judge's decision will have direct financial implications for the public media system.

KSUT Public Radio, Aspen Public Radio, and Colorado Public Radio signed on as co-plaintiffs alongside NPR and have been represented by Steve Zansberg, a Colorado-based First Amendment attorney.

Judge Moss heard from both sides of the case for two hours, according to Zansberg.

"I think our side argued very persuasively that this is a blatantly unconstitutional order that is on its face evidence of retaliatory discrimination against NPR as a result of the president's displeasure with its editorial content," Zansberg said in a phone call fol-

lowing the hearing.

The executive order directs federal agencies to stop providing funding to NPR and instructs public radio stations to cease spending federal funds on NPR programs.

Since then, Congress rescinded funding it previously allocated to public media, leading to the dissolution of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Despite public media stations losing their most significant source of federal funding, Zansberg said the lawsuit remains relevant.

"All three stations have funds in their hands obtained from CPB right now to which the order applies — prohibits them from acquiring and broadcasting NPR programming," Zansberg said. "That's aside from all of the other ways in which the chilling effect of this order impacts the free speech rights of the three Colorado NPR stations."

KSUT executive director Tami Graham, in a separate statement, said, "The First Amendment, including freedom of the press, is absolutely foundational to a functional democracy. KSUT is proud to have taken a stand against the overt overreach of this administration, on behalf of public media everywhere."

In a supplemental declaration filed Tuesday, Breeze Richardson, executive director of Aspen Public Radio, identified several ways in which the executive order still applies to her station.

"Aspen Public Radio has used portions of its federal funding from CPB to pay for NPR membership fees,

including a portion of a final payment from CPB of \$12,658 that Aspen Public Radio received in September 2025," Richardson said. "The executive order continues to create uncertainty about the consequences Aspen Public Radio may face as a result."

In justifying the executive order, the Trump administration claimed NPR was "biased," which plaintiffs argue amounts to viewpoint-based discrimination.

Attorneys for the Trump administration filed a response Thursday arguing that "any harm that Plaintiffs suffer is a result of their own actions to surrender control over those editorial choices."

They added that the executive order does not outline exactly how federal agencies could control a station's programming, nor does it threaten enough harm to "justify a change in Plaintiffs' programming."

Judge Moss did not provide a timeframe for when he would issue a ruling, but Zansberg does not expect to see a decision before 2026.

In a text message following the hearing, Richardson said she would continue showing up to defend the independent press.

"When the government tries to decide what news can or can't be broadcast, every American should be concerned."

*Editor's Note: KSUT, Aspen Public Radio, and Colorado Public Radio report on themselves like any other organization. No administrative staff reviewed this story before publication.*

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## Many Moons Ago



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

## 10 years ago

Ignacio High School band, "Jealousy" performs during the Taste of an Old-Fashioned Christmas event at the ELHI Community Center Friday, Dec. 4. The band performed various songs including a cover of Pink Floyd's 'Wish You Were Here'.

This photo was first published in the Dec. 9, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

## 20 years ago

Outgoing Tribal Councilwoman, Vida B. Peabody is full of smiles as she receives her going away present from Tribal Council. Ms. Peabody had been on Council for 20 years.

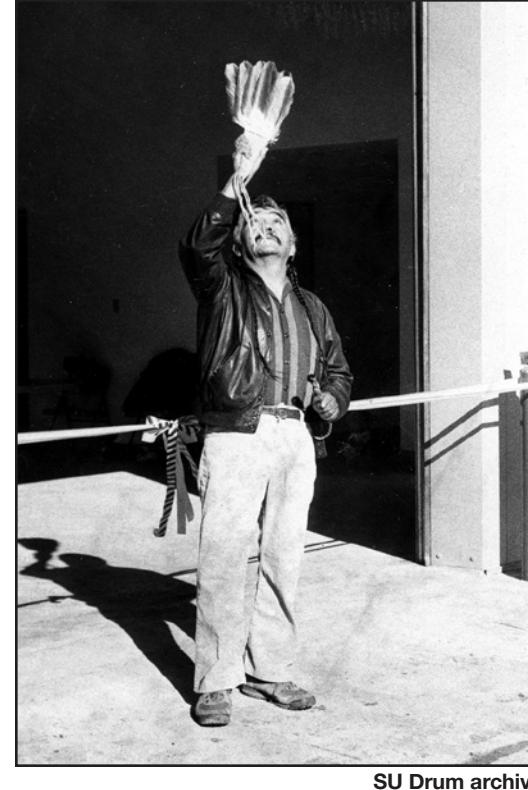
This photo was first published in the Dec. 12, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



## 30 years ago

Lisa Weaver waits for an open girl to pass to during the Ignacio Invitational. The lady cats finished second.

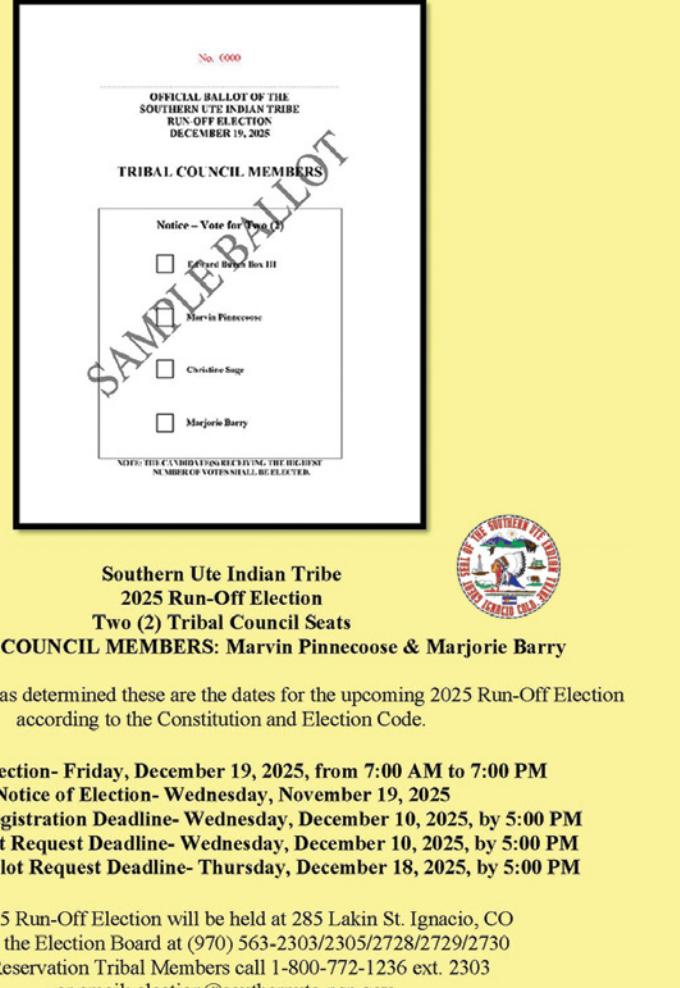
This photo was first published in the Dec. 8, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



## 40 years ago

Councilman Eddie Box Sr. — did the honors of blessing the tribal shop building.

This photo was first published in the Dec. 13, 1985, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



**Greanys at Cabazon Powwow**

photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany (above) and Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany at Cabazon Indio Powwow in Indio, Calif., Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.



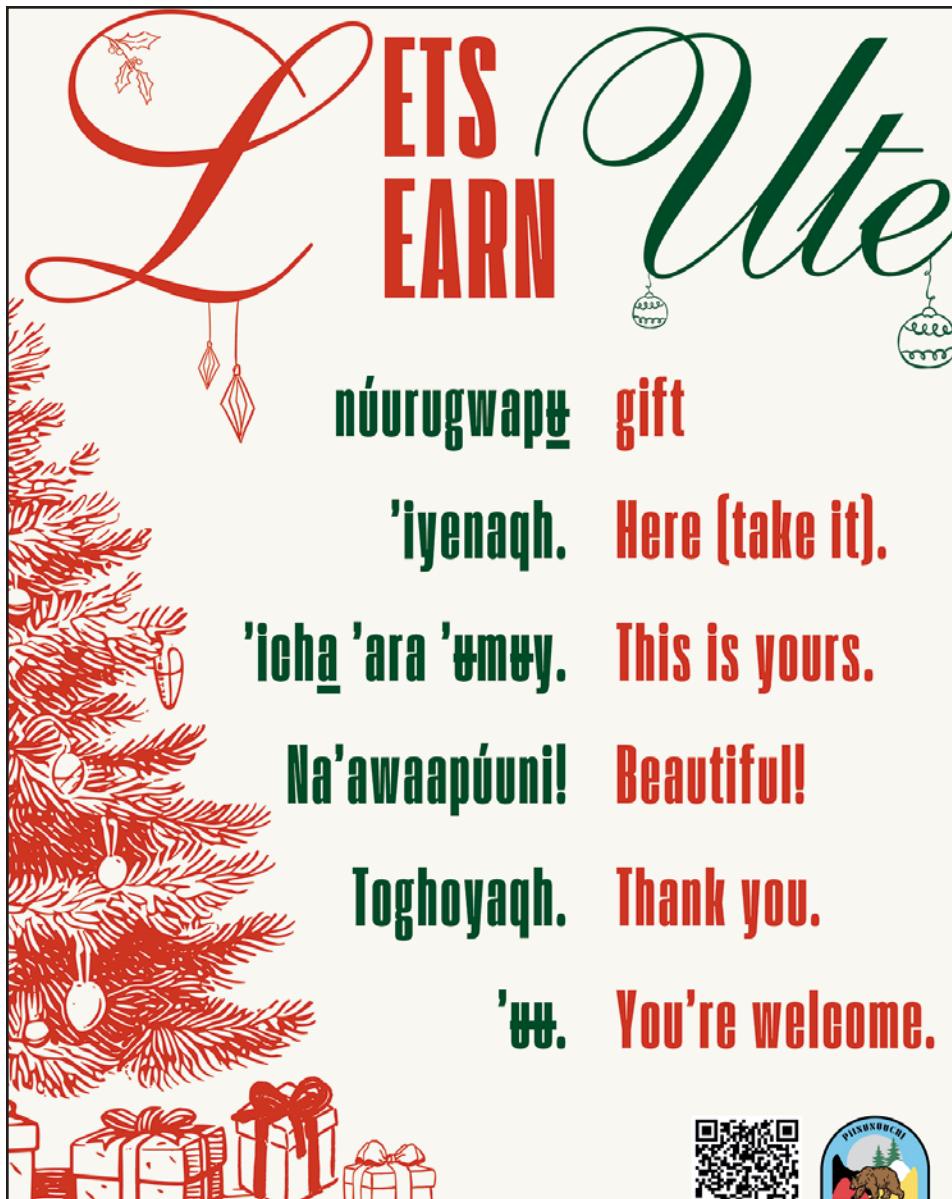
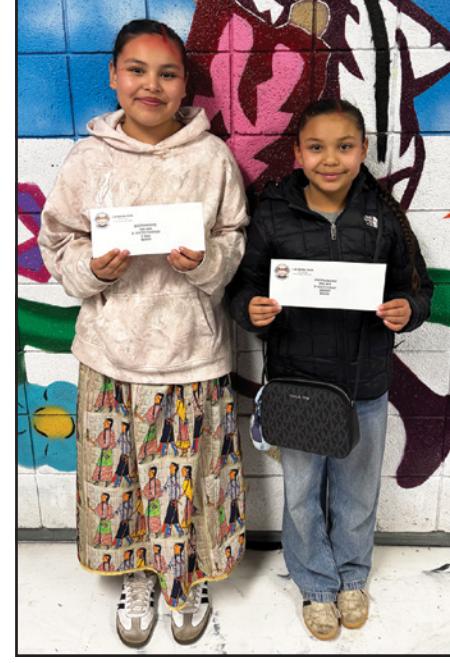
Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany after placing fourth in Junior Girls' Traditional at Cabazon Indio Powwow in Indio, Calif., Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.



Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany after placing first in Junior Boys' Fancy at Cabazon Indio Powwow in Indio, Calif., Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.

**Tuu Krismas from the Southern Ute Drum Staff**

Jeremy Wade Shockley, Robert L. Ortiz, Divine Windy Boy, Krista Richards, Rosaleigh Cloud, Conrad Thompson & Zuriah Baker

**White Thunders in Utah**

photos courtesy Heather White Thunder

Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker and Junior Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder during the Grand Entry at the Ute Indian Tribe's annual Thanksgiving Powwow on Saturday, Nov. 29.

Shayne White Thunder placed first in the Junior girls' traditional category, and Malia White Thunder placed fourth in the Junior girls' jingle category at the Thanksgiving Powwow.

**Art Market & Round Dance**

photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Durango Native American Education Program and NAPAC hosted the Native American Arts Market & Round Dance on Saturday, Nov. 15. Singers, dancers, and artists filled the Durango High School aux gym for a night of fun during Native American Heritage Month.



Jalisa Paul and Orion Watts competed in the potato dance during the Native American Arts Market & Round Dance in Durango, Colo.



Dancers hold hands and move to the beat of hand drums on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Native American Arts Market & Round Dance.



Sisters, Rhianna and Maleina Carel hold hands and round dance the night away on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Native American Arts Market & Round Dance held at Durango High School.



# Health

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December 12, 2025

## HEALTHY RECIPES

### Roasted sweet potato and cranberry salad

Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC

SHINING MOUNTAIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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



Get It/AdobeStock

#### Roasted Sweet Potato and Cranberry Salad

##### Salad Ingredients:

- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into  $\frac{1}{2}$ " cubes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dried cranberries
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup toasted pecans
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
- 4 oz arugula

##### Dressing Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon each salt and pepper

##### Directions:

1. Roasted Sweet Potatoes
2. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
3. Peel and cut sweet potatoes into  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch cubes. Place in a large bowl.
4. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil, salt and pepper. Toss to coat.
5. Spread potatoes in one layer evenly onto large baking sheet.
6. Bake for 30 minutes, flip potatoes at 10-minute intervals.
7. Remove from oven. Let cool.

##### Toasted pecans

1. Place pecans in a medium sized pan over medium heat.
2. Toss frequently for about 4- 5 minutes or until pecans become fragrant. You do not want them to burn.
3. Set aside to cool.

##### Putting it all together

1. Place all dressing ingredients (olive oil, apple cider vinegar, maple syrup, Dijon mustard, salt and pepper) in a bowl and whisk together.
2. In a large bowl combine sweet potatoes, pecans, cranberries and parsley.
3. Pour dressing over mixture and stir to combine. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve over arugula or place in the fridge overnight. Other items you can try: Feta cheese, red onion, roasted beets, apples or goat cheese.



Rachel Shockley/SU Behavioral Health

A demonstration sand tray is set up to illustrate the process of Sand Tray Therapy. "Sand tray therapy helps people tap into their unconscious, inner worlds, using miniature figures of people and objects," said Rachel Shockley, Substance Abuse Therapist with Southern Ute Behavioral Health. "During the session, participants build their own 'small worlds,' replete with meaning, to represent the thoughts, feelings, and memories, bubbling up inside of them."

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### BEE Heard: Increase your peace

By Rachel Shockley

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL

HEALTH

Mid December is wearing on, and wearing me down. The busyness of the holidays, the pressure of the end of the year, and the cold bite of winter is making me threadbare instead of merry. I find myself bah humbugging the dirty, slushy snow leaking into my boot, while ignoring the star lit night, as swirl with gentle snowflakes, each one unique. I'm teetering on becoming the Grinch, while the spirit of the season seems to be filling everyone else with awe and peace.

To all my fellow Scrooges and overworked Christmas elves, I invite you to schedule some well-deserved "me time," perhaps by experiencing sand tray therapy here at Behavioral Health. But you protest, "therapy is for working on your issues!" And it is. Especially when your issue is burn out. Mental health support focused solely on recharging your batteries and increasing your peace, is therapy too, and sand tray therapy is especially well suited to this task.

Sand tray therapy helps people tap into their uncon-

scious, inner worlds, using miniature figures of people and objects. During the session, participants build their own "small worlds," replete with meaning, to represent the thoughts, feelings, and memories, bubbling up inside of them. This time of quiet introspection can be deeply meaningful and restoring.

During a typical appointment, participants spend some time choosing objects, then they arrange them in the sand tray, just so, creating a scene, while their therapist observes. When the person feels they've finished, they may want to talk with their therapist about what they made, and what they felt while making it.

The scene in the sand tray serves as a concrete representation of the complicated, and often mysterious inner worlds we all have inside of us. The creation in the tray helps the participant share with another person the complex, often wordless parts of their experience that yearn to be shared and known, but often are too private or confusing to express in words.

The act of deep introspection and vulnerable sharing, in a safe caring relationship, people experience during sand tray therapy often

makes people feel profoundly seen and heard, with a greater appreciation of their own experience. This can be very healing.

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.



2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH  
DECEMBER 12: INTRODUCTORY SESSION

JANUARY 9

FEBRUARY 13

MARCH 13

APRIL 10

MAY 8

2:00PM - 3:30PM

AGES 18+



SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

MESA BUILDING

FACILITATED BY LORRENA DURAN & BOBBI MAIERS

COUNSELOR INTERNS

REGISTRATION: 970-563-5700



## Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

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Text INDIGENOUS to 741741  
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## SOUTHERN UTE AIR QUALITY

## Woodsmoke can lead to elevated levels of Particulate Matter



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Air Quality Scientists, James Temte, Patty Peña, and Angelina Miller at the Ute 1 air quality monitoring station in Ignacio, Wednesday, Dec. 3 during a heavy snowstorm. The air quality monitoring sites have been picking up elevated levels of Particulate Matter pollution in the early mornings, caused by residential fireplace burning or woodsmoke.

**By James Temte, Patty Peña, and Angelina Miller**  
SOUTHERN UTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

With the onset of colder weather, brisk mornings and chilly evenings can hold the fragrant scent of woodsmoke coming from neighborhood homes.

"This morning as I walked my four-legged friend and she tiptoed around the crisp white patches of frost, the cold clear blue sky held the fragrant earthy smell of woodsmoke," said James Temte, Air Quality Scientist for the Tribe's Air Quality Division. "Suddenly I was transported back to the living room of my parents' house, stomping the snow off my shoes and opening the front door to a toasty living room. The warm welcome glow of the woodstove rested in the corner."

As we enter this cozy season, the Air Quality Division would like to share a few tips to keep our families and friends healthy when heating a home by woodstove or fireplace. As woodstove users, we are familiar with the importance, nostalgia, and coziness of woodfire heating. As air quality scientists, we also know the potential health risks associated with woodsmoke. We are going to share a few tips to help any wood burning homes this winter stay warm, while also minimizing poor air quality exposure.

## The health risks of woodsmoke

Patty Peña, Air Quality Specialist for the Tribe's Air Quality Division, reminisces on the comfort and quality time spent around the woodfire stove, "My first house in college had a woodfire stove. It became a place where my roommates and close friends would gather to debrief the day and exchange stories. The orange glow and warm embrace of the fire created an inviting atmosphere to share and create special memories. I cherish these memories and am reminded of them every winter."

Similar to the forest fire smoke we experienced this summer, smoke coming from our woodstoves and fireplaces can contribute to indoor and outdoor air pollution. Burning wood in stoves and fireplaces can release a mixture of pollutants. The two pollutants most likely to impact breathing are fine and coarse particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM 10). These microscopic particles, just a fraction of the diameter of a human hair, are small enough to bypass the body's natural defenses, allowing them to travel deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. At high concentrations, these particles can pose health threats, especially to vulnerable populations including children, our elders, and individuals with breathing problems like asthma, bronchitis, and

## Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

For more information on the health impacts of particulate matter, visit the Air Quality Division's Resource Webpage. As part of the Environmental Programs Department's public health efforts, the Tribe's Air Quality Division monitors outdoor air for particulate matter pollution.

## Particulate Matter Monitoring

Peña operates the Tribe's air quality monitoring stations. She explains that Particulate Matter (PM) and Visibility monitors are used to keep the community informed on community health risk outside of homes. The AQD operates three air monitoring stations throughout the reservation, near Ignacio, Bondad, and Lake Capote. The Ignacio and Bondad monitoring stations, Ute 1 and Ute 3, measure PM10 and PM2.5. The stations are equipped with real-time PM monitors. The Bondad monitoring station is equipped with a Nephelometer which measures visibility (often affected by PM concentrations) above the residential Animas River valley.

The AQD also recently installed PurpleAir sensors at the Ignacio Community Library and the Lake Capote campground to increase the scope of PM measurements. PurpleAir sensors are low-cost PM sensors that upload



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Patty Peña, Air Quality Specialist for the Tribe's Air Quality Division, explains how the T640 Particulate Matter units operate at the Ute 1 air quality monitoring station, Wednesday, Dec. 3. Peña oversees the Tribe's various air quality monitoring stations, which are strategically situated across the reservation, near Ignacio, Bondad and Lake Capote.

PM data in real-time to the PurpleAir map linked on the AQD's ambient Monitoring Webpage.

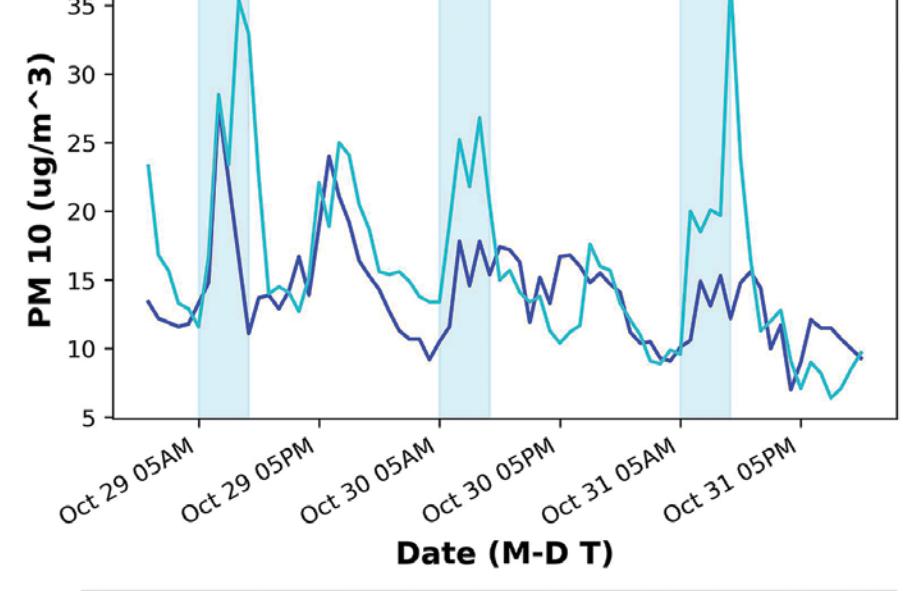
## Show Me the Data

The air quality monitoring sites have been picking up elevated levels of Particulate Matter pollution in the early mornings.

caused by temperature inversions. An inversion, common in winter, occurs when cold air becomes trapped in valleys beneath a "cap" of warmer air. We suspect that because Ute 3 is located along the rim of the deeper Animas River Valley, it may experience stronger inversions that trap pollutants below, resulting in high-

"green" wood makes larger amounts of smoke and less heat. Store your wood smartly by stacking it under a cover, off the ground, with space for air to move, so it dries correctly. When you light a fire, start hot and bright; a strong flame burns up pollutants, while a weak, smoldering fire produces more smoke. Avoid clos-

## PM 10 Concentrations Oct 29 - Nov 1



The figure above shows how PM10 concentrations (measured by the AQD ambient air monitoring stations) can spike in the mornings on cold days. The blue shaded regions highlight the morning hours between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. During these hours we see a spike in PM concentrations.

These spikes are likely associated with morning woodstove fires which release PM to the ambient air through chimneys. The figure shows higher concentrations at Ute 3 (Bondad) compared to Ute 1 (Ignacio). We believe the more pronounced morning spikes at the Bondad site are

er observed PM concentrations. These conditions typically form under cold, stable morning weather and often break by late morning, allowing pollutants to disperse, lowering pollutant concentrations at the site.

## Simple solutions: Best practices – cleaner burning

To keep the outdoor and indoor air cleaner and your home warmer this season, using simple, smart burning methods makes a big difference. The most important step is choosing the right fuel. Try to only burn dry, seasoned wood. Wet,

ing the air vents completely overnight to keep the fire from idling. Finally, remember to never burn garbage, plastics, cardboard, or painted or pressure-treated wood, as these items release dangerous, toxic chemicals into the air.

## Community Resources and Next Steps

Angelina Miller Air Quality Scientist for the Tribe's Air Quality Division reflects, "I have very fond memories starting a roaring fire in the fireplace with my family, fol-

Winter page 14

# Wellbriety TREE OF HOPE.

Celebrate Sobriety This Holiday Season

This year, the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division is participating in the White Bison's WELLBRIETY TREE of HOPE PROJECT. We invite you to help adorn our Behavioral Health Christmas Tree with beautiful White Bison ornaments. Please provide your name or that of a cherished one along with their sobriety date or year to Marvina Olguin. Let's celebrate and show our community that sobriety is something to be proud of! Send your details to marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov.

White Bison

SEAL OF THE  
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBE  
LITTLE SAN JACINTO, COLORADO

IMPORTANT ALERT FROM  
**Sky Ute Fairgrounds**

The indoor arena will be closed to the public until further notice as a precautionary measure due to recent outbreaks of Equine Herpesvirus Type 1 (EHV-1).

For any questions, please call the Sky Ute Fairgrounds & RV Park office, (970) 563-5540.

[www.skyutefairgrounds.com](http://www.skyutefairgrounds.com)



# Education

naveeini (6)

December 12, 2025



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Sakari Goodtracks finishes a "sledding" run on her snowboard just for fun. The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy shuttled their students to the slopes of Purgatory Resort for a fun filled day of snowboarding, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020.

## SUIMA

### Pawaaghani po'ekwatu – Eagle's Nest

*Keeping your student focused*

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN  
MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Mari Jo Owens  
Principal  
Southern Ute Indian  
Montessori Academy

Just as most schools, the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy makes every attempt at keeping the students focused on their academic work. With parental support, our students have continued building their reading skills by logging the number of minutes they read at home and at school.

As a reward for reaching their goal, the students wanted to have lunch with a

school administrator. With a meal of bison stew and delicious blue cornmeal muffins, the students and their guests had quality conversations, spent time together, and celebrated with the joy of reading.

What a wonderful way to celebrate reading.

#### Upcoming SUIMA events

- Dec. 13: Tribal Christmas dinner and program
- Dec. 16: Parent Advisory Group meeting at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 17: Family Night activity at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18: Swim with Santa
- Dec. 22 – Jan. 3, 2026: No School due to Christmas/winter break
- Jan. 5, 2026: Students return



**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](mailto:aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov)

**LUMINARY LIGHTS**  
& ORNAMENT DECORATING  
**MONDAY, 12/22 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**SOUTHERN UTE MUSEUM'S WELCOME GALLERY**  
PLEASE CONTACT Museum Education & Outreach Coordinator  
Raelynn Frauenhoff at 970-563-2998 | [rfrauenhoff@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rfrauenhoff@southernute-nsn.gov)

503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737  
Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583  
EMAIL | [museum@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:museum@southernute-nsn.gov)  
IG | [southernute\\_museum/](https://www.instagram.com/southernute_museum/)  
WEB | [southernutemuseum.org](http://southernutemuseum.org)

naveeini (6)

## Bobcats Rise & Shine



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Ignacio Elementary School students perform the Character Counts song, singing lyrics that represent outstanding character during the Rise & Shine Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 25.



Alyssa Wagner and her son perform a hand game song in honor of Native American Heritage Month during the Rise & Shine Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

The Ignacio Elementary School Bobcat mascot greets students and their families during the Rise & Shine Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 25. During the assembly, students are recognized for their achievements. From attendance to reading goals, students in all grades gather to cheer each other on.

## SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Johnson O'Malley Parent Committee members gathered at Southern Ute Education in Ignacio to celebrate their recently earned award on Monday, Dec. 1.

Southern Ute Education.

"We currently have a supportive parent committee," LeClaire said. "And I also always want to take the opportunity to extend the invite to any parent or guardians who want to be on the committee as we currently have two vacancies that need to be filled." The parent committee meets on the first Monday of every month at the Public Education Office at the Southern Ute Education Center from noon-1 p.m.

The Mission of the Johnson-O'Malley program is to address the unique cultural needs of American Indian students attending the Ignacio and Bayfield Public schools through a supplemental program of services planned, developed and approved by the Johnson-O'Malley committee.

The last award that was presented to the Southern Ute Johnson-O'Malley program was dated October 1991. "The award we received was the Exemplary Program of the Year for Region 1," LeClaire said. "The award from 1991 is a 'Recognition of Excellence' presented by the Office of Indian Education Programs and a 100% graduation rate among JOM seniors."

The Johnson-O'Malley Act was an Act of the United States Congress passed on April 16, 1934, to subsidize education, medical attention, and other services provided by States or Territories to Native Americans living within their borders. It also helped to provide for Native Americans in rural areas, where it was more difficult for the Federal Government to provide education, medical attention, and other services.

Southern Ute JOM provides tutoring, school supplies, and educational support items such as lab/testing fees, graduation regalia, athletic shoes, and glasses. JOM graduates are honored with stoles, Pendleton blankets, and an honor song at the annual Southern Ute Education Department Graduation Banquet.

Johnson-O'Malley 2024-2025 Program Highlights include: 215 students enrolled in JOM, 129 JOM students received school supplies, 69 JOM students received in-school academic support, 15 JOM students participated in after-school tutoring and a 100% graduation rate among JOM seniors.

The program's parent committee and coordina-

tor actively engage in tribal and district events, including open houses, the Tribal Fair, general tribal membership meetings, Career Fair, and Native student check-ins. JOM also collaborates with Title VI programs in Ignacio and Bayfield School Districts, receiving regular updates and aligning efforts to support Native students. In Ignacio, Native Studies teacher Faustino Trejo serves as a key liaison, strengthening connections between students, schools, and the Tribe.

*Historically, the Johnson-O'Malley Program provided assistance with:*

- Parent Involvement: Parents wish to be involved but are not knowledgeable about the educational system and the way it works. Additionally, cultural differences are a large part of the parent's lack of comfort in their interaction with school personnel.*
- School Supply distribution/Educational Support Items: Each year JOM eligible students have the unique opportunity to obtain their school supplies through funding from the JOM program.*

## Students tour Growth Fund



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Education Department and local Native students toured the Growth Fund on Friday, Dec. 5; students had the opportunity to gain insight into the organization's operations and learn about potential future job positions.



Matthew Carrillo, Jacoby Scott, and Lawrence Santistevan II show off their new Growth Fund merch after the tour program on Friday, Dec. 5.



The Southern Ute Education Department and local students gathered at the Southern Ute Growth Fund building in Ignacio for a tour and presentation on Friday, Dec. 5.

## BOBCAT BULLETIN

# Ignacio celebrates strong finish to fall sports

ISD looks ahead to winter competition

By Jennifer Moore,  
Athletic Director  
IGNACIO HIGH SCHOOL

The fall sports season at Ignacio High School has officially wrapped up, and what a season it was. With cross country and volleyball both advancing to their respective state competitions, and numerous student-athletes earning league and state honors, the Bobcats have much to celebrate.

Ignacio had the privilege of hosting two major postseason events this year, beginning with the regional cross country meet at Jack-a-lope Acres. The Bobcat boys cross country team delivered an outstanding performance, finishing second in the region and securing their place at the state meet. Their success extended beyond competition day, as the team earned the title of SJBL Team Champions, and head coach Kent Gilin was named SJBL Boys Coach of the Year. Individually, Trace Crane, Thunder Windy Boy, and James Martin were selected to the All-Conference First Team, with Crane and Windy Boy also earning All-State Honorable Mention.

Ignacio also hosted the regional volleyball tournament, where the Lady Bobcats dominated the competition and claimed the regional championship. Their victory punched their ticket to the CHSAA State Volleyball Tournament, marking another exciting milestone for



the program. The accolades continued as Kelly Sirios earned SJBL Player of the Year, and head coach Jennifer Seibel was named SJBL Coach of the Year. Sirios, along with Tarah Baker and Alleah Neil, were selected to the First Team All-Conference. Sirios went on to receive All-State Second Team honors, while Neil earned All-State Honorable Mention.

On the gridiron, the Bobcat football team also saw significant postseason recognition. Lincoln deKay, Gabe Archuleta, Aven Bourriague, and Zane Pontine earned First Team All-Conference honors. Dillon Witt and William Mendoza-Lechuga received Second Team All-Conference, and Jayden Scott earned an Honorable Mention. State football honors are still pending as playoffs continue, though Ignacio's league is now out of contention.

Success extended across middle school as well, where the Ignacio Middle School 2025 fall sports season proved highly productive. A total of 83 students participated across cross country, football, and volleyball. The cross-country team featured three runners

who competed in six meets, and with two athletes moving up to high school, coaches hope to bring in more sixth graders next season. Football saw major growth with 35 players, the highest turnout in years, competing in their second season of eight-man football.

Although the team did not secure a win, coaches were proud of the athletes' development and teamwork. Volleyball thrived with 45 girls spread across four teams, with the A team – mostly seventh graders – proving competitive against older opponents. Boys basketball is nearing the end of its season with 45 athletes filling four teams and three wins so far. With two games left, the team awaits League Championship placement on Saturday, Dec. 13. Middle school girls' basketball will begin practice, Monday, Dec. 15 with games starting Jan. 8, and middle school wrestling will open their season with practices beginning Jan. 20.

With fall sports concluded at the high school, the focus now shifts to winter athletics. Both boys' and girls' wrestling will open their season at Bayfield High School on Saturday, Dec. 6. Basketball will follow with the first home game on Tuesday, Dec. 9 as Ignacio hosts Mancos.

As excitement builds, the Bobcat community looks forward to another season of growth, pride, and competitive spirit.

## Sharing heritage with Ignacio students



Ignacio students join dancers for a round dance during the heritage performance on Tuesday, Nov. 25, dancers teach students how to move to the drum during the event.



Monika Seibel guides her daughter Zara as she dances during the heritage performance held at the Ignacio Middle School.



Stoney White Thunder-Lucero sings as part of the performance held at the Ignacio Middle School on Tuesday, Nov. 25, hosted by the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department. Students learned about powwow etiquette, dance styles, and singing during the event as part of Native American Heritage Month.



Southern Ute tribal members, Eddie Box Jr. and Edward Box III perform the men's northern traditional dance for IELP, Ignacio Elementary, and Ignacio Middle School students on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum

**T**he Cultural Preservation Department and local heritage dancers paid a visit to the Ignacio Middle School on Tuesday, Nov. 25 where students learned about powwow etiquette, dance styles and their origins, and singing. The event took place in recognition of Native American Heritage Month and aimed to share cultural teachings and traditions with the students. Each year local dancers and singers gather to showcase their heritage with students from Ignacio School District. Following the performance of each dance category, dancers and students joined hands to dance the round dance together to complete the event.



## LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

# LPEA's 2026 budget holds rates flat, protecting members from rising costs

Staff report

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board of Directors has unanimously approved the cooperative's 2026 budget, which includes no rate increase for members. This decision comes even as Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State), LPEA's wholesale power supplier until April 2026, implements a rate increase that would have raised costs by \$9 per month for the average residential member starting in January.

"Our members count on stability, and we are proud to announce that LPEA is holding rates flat for 2026," said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. "Through disciplined financial management and forward planning, we're protecting our members' wallets at a time when costs are increasing nearly everywhere else."

Utilities nationwide continue to face rising cost pressures due to inflation, supply chain challenges, infrastructure demands, and tariffs.

With careful planning and sound governance, LPEA will continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power as it prepares for a more flexible, locally driven energy future.

In addition to holding rates steady, the 2026 budget reinforces LPEA's cooperative values and long-term financial strength. It includes a patronage capital allocation, ensuring margins are returned to members over time in alignment with cooperative principles. The budget also meets the Board's policy expectation of achieving a 3% operating margin, sustaining financial stability while enabling continued investment in infrastructure and member programs.

"This is the cooperative difference," said LPEA Board President Nicole Pitcher. "As a locally governed cooperative, not a corporation, we make decisions that put our members, not shareholders, first. Holding rates steady in 2026 is the result of disciplined, long-term planning in preparation of our transition to a new

business model."

The budget also reflects growing flexibility as LPEA prepares for its transition away from its wholesale contract with Tri-State. It maintains and optimizes member rebates, launches a new, opt-in, peak management program, and expands investments in wildfire mitigation, local energy generation, and system reliability across LPEA's service territory.

The decision to keep rates flat also aligns with LPEA's updated strategic goal of striving to keep members' cost of electricity lower than 70% of other Colorado electrical cooperatives, and by 2030, reducing carbon emissions by more than 80% from 2005 levels, surpassing state climate goals.

"As we enter this next chapter, LPEA is focused on protecting our members and building a stronger, more resilient cooperative," Hansen said. "We're not just keeping the lights on, we're ensuring long-term affordability, lower emissions and high reliability for Southwest Colorado."

## Breakroom make over



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Building Maintenance employees, Christopher Walker and Lance Lucero, install new flooring in the Sunshine Cloud Smith Room on Tuesday, Nov. 18 as part of a renovation project taking place in the Leonard C. Burch Building.



Travis Nanaeto preps tools for the renovation project in the Sunshine Cloud Smith Room on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Southern Ute Building Maintenance worked diligently to remodel flooring, wall paint and replace furniture to the Sunshine Cloud Smith Room located on the second floor of the Leonard C. Burch Building. Gabe Archuleta cuts flooring pieces for the entry to the breakroom.

## WEATHER CLOSURE/DELAY INFORMATION

4:00AM Multiple Agencies assess the risk to public safety due to weather.

5:00 AM Multiple sources report on road conditions throughout the school district and county.

5:30 AM Superintendent makes the call on whether to close or delay school based on weather conditions.

5:45 AM Communication Department shares Snow Day closure or delay information with families and public via: text, voicemail, email, social media channels, district website and local media outlets.

**6:00 AM - If no communication- buses run on normal schedule.**

**TIPS FOR FAMILY:**

- Make sure your contact information is correct in Infinite Campus.
- Watch the forecast and prepare for driving in snow. Dress warmly and with good footwear.
- Leave early, drive safely, don't pass snow plows, buses or slow drivers.

## FIRST STEPS IN REHABILITATION • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The northern portion of Salabar Draw, a small perennial stream that bisects the pasture, has been open to unrestricted grazing by the herd since the bison were first introduced. Reinforced metal pipe fencing will allow for stream restoration efforts to take hold in the coming years.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Construction specialists with Alpine Enterprise, LLC look on as the concrete pour is finished, Thursday, Nov. 20.

ern portion of the stream has been open to unrestricted grazing by the herd since animals were introduced," said Aran Johnson, Southern Ute Wildlife Resource Division Head. "The southern portion of the stream has had varying levels of fencing to restrict bison access, but wire fencing is not particularly effective if bison want what is on the other side, so there were frequent 'break-ins.'"

In 2015, through survey work, the Wildlife Division learned that the southern, more protected portion, of Salabar Draw is home to an endangered species, the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, a unique mouse that is tied to healthy riparian ecosystems in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. As the bison herd grew larger, the animals began break through the wire fencing more frequently and to impact the southern part of the stream, so the Wildlife Division secured grant funding to protect the southern portion of Salabar Draw with pipe fencing that ensured protection of a healthy watershed and habitat for wildlife, including endangered species that rely on the stream. At that time the northern portion of Salabar Draw was still open to unrestricted access by the bison for watering.

"In 2025, the Environmental Programs Division (EPD) approached us and asked about our needs on the bison pasture; how could they assist us with promoting and restoring the watershed on Salabar Draw?" Johnson said. "They had grant funds that they were willing to use on the bison pasture if we could put our heads together on good projects. We ultimately decided on several projects that were separate ... but all related to water quality on Salabar Draw."

Pipe exclusion fencing has now been installed on the entire northern portion of the stream, but with two separate low water crossings that allow bison access to specific watering points, without allowing access to the rest of the habitat. Time and targeted habitat restoration techniques will ultimately allow the habitat along that portion of the stream to recover and be effective for all the wildlife species that use riparian habitats, including the endangered jumping mouse.

"EPD appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the Wildlife Division to improve habitat for the bison herd," Environmental Programs Director, Mark Hutson said. "A project of this magnitude enhances tribal resources and improves communication between Tribal Departments."

The Tribe's Environmental Programs Department also funded a new heavy equipment crossing with cul-

verts that will allow the Bison Program more secure access across the stream. "Prior to this work, there were two small culverts with a road crossing that were marginally effective for getting our tractor and haying equipment across the stream," Johnson said. "These culverts would periodically overtop when the stream was subject to high storm flows. With the improved crossing there are now three large culverts that have been set with concrete into the bedrock on the stream that will allow for easy crossing with our biggest equipment needs and will easily handle the largest storm flows that come down Salabar Draw."

"In addition to the low water crossings on the northern section of the stream, EPD

also worked with us to push a small dirt tank/pond southeast of our hay barn, which will allow bison to water off the stream during the irrigation season, which will be a great option for the herd."

The Wildlife Division has also been working with EPD on plans for a stream restoration project on the southern portion of Salabar Draw for the coming year. According to Johnson, the project will essentially mimic the work that beavers do with small brush dams along the stream that will back up water to raise the wet zone of the stream and promote riparian plants like willow as well as other grasses and forbs to grow and secure the stream banks. Other structures will divert the energy of the stream flows away from eroding banks.

"The 319 Program works to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution that enters tribal waters," said Water Quality Scientist, Dylan Ruckel. "NPS Pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, drainage, and other dispersed sources. It is reported that NPS pollution is the leading cause of water quality issues across the nation. The 319 Program was searching for projects that promoted collaboration between Tribal Divisions and could achieve multiple important goals.

"EPD is thrilled to partner with Tribal Departments such as the Wildlife Resource Management Division, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and The Nature Conservancy to improve the Tribe's water quality and enhance its wildlife," said Water Quality Program Manager, Geoff Hensgen.

Planned completion of road improvements, exclusion fencing and bison crossings are set for later this winter. The in-stream restoration work is set to take place over the course of the next five years, from 2026-2031.

"EPD is thrilled to partner with Tribal Departments such as the Wildlife Resource Management Division, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and The Nature Conservancy to improve the Tribe's water quality and enhance its wildlife," said Water Quality Program Manager, Geoff Hensgen.



### 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



## 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



### PINE RIVER INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT – Water Users Meeting



#### Hosted by the BIA, Southern Ute Agency

Each year the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Irrigation is required to hold two meetings: one at the beginning of the irrigation season and another at the end. These meetings are to discuss with the water users the program's budget, costs, savings, and projects.

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m. –**

**8:00pm**

**Location: Sky Ute Casino, Ignacio, Colorado**

**For more information please contact: Vickie Begay, PRIIP**

**Manager at (970) 236-4161 or contact the Southern Ute Agency**

**at (970) 200-8613, select option 1 for general inquires.**



courtesy Pine River Shares

Sara Keen (left), Food Services Coordinator at Pine River Shares and Grant Andrew, owner of the Smiley Café in Durango. Andrew provided a food donation from the community fund they have through Smiley Café.

### PINE RIVER SHARES

## Pine River Shares hold annual Food, Friends & Funds Drive

#### Staff report

PINE RIVER SHARES

Pine River Shares (PRS) works to ensure healthy, thriving communities in the Pine River Valley. From the headwaters of the Vallecito and Los Pinos to the banks of Navajo, from the Piedra to the Florida, and the 275 square mile valley that lies in between, our communities are united by a river.

Over the past decade, PRS has brought together the people in the Pine River Valley to share knowledge, skills and resources to help our communities thrive, neighbor to neighbor, hand in hand. Remarkable positive change has occurred. Our lives have been transformed. Facing significant funding cuts that amounted to 30% of our overall 2025 budget, Pine River Shares experienced the most challenging year to date. In response, we worked with communities to redesign our workplans and make difficult program cuts or modifications. These changes enabled us to maximize our assets to provide the greatest good for the most people in challenging economic times. We are especially proud of all we accomplished in 2025!

Recognizing the economic challenges PRS faces are similarly faced by everyone living in the Valley, we strengthened our food support and mutual aid programs, while building alternative economic drivers for Pine River Shares.

Field to Fork Project (F2F) With the installation of Grow Domes in Allison and Vallecito, we completed the allocation of ARPA funds given to PRS by our County Com-

missioners to make legacy investments in community food production and food processing capacities. We celebrate our shared efforts to improve access to affordable healthy food for all residents and rebuild our food system which now includes three community owned and managed food production sites located in the north (Vallecito), south (Allison) and mid valley (Bayfield); and a 10-acre Community Food Farm, owned and managed by PRS.

PRS Food Support Programs are a critical lifeline to approximately 20% of PRS residents annually who struggle to make ends meet amidst rising costs of living and stagnant incomes. Over the last year, our programs included backpack projects for Ignacio and Bayfield schools, monthly Food Shares, USDA

Commodities distributions, and a new project that supplied 18 weeks of fresh Community Farm produce to seniors. All together these programs provided emergency food support to 31,000 residents despite dramatic funding cuts to our food programs that totaled over \$35,000.

Resource Sharing and Mutual Aid are important sources of economic support when household budgets are tight. More than 600 people visit our Freecycle thrift shop for free gently used clothing and housewares each year. We distributed over \$25,000 in emergency financial assistance to help residents with past due energy and utilities bills, and gas cards to get to work or medical appointments. Most recently, we worked with the Red Cross to house Vallecito

flood evacuees.

New economic drivers for PRS are necessary for small non-profits to survive in times of dramatic economic change. When traditional sources of non-profit funding are no longer viable or sufficient to meet the needs of a growing number of vulnerable neighbors, we must be creative, collaborate, and identify new ways of funding our work. The Community Food Farm purchased last year, and the recent development of the Pine River Community Resource Center to host providers of services not currently available in the Valley, are examples of new social enterprises designed to create modest profits that go back to the non-profit to fund the delivery of PRS' critical services. We believe these innovative local initiatives will

ensure foundational support for services that all thriving communities require.

Pine River Shares was founded on the belief that "When everyone shares no one goes without," a belief that continues to guide our work. We believe that everyone has something to share.

We count on your FOOD drives to help feed neighbors in need. We count on our FRIENDS to help power our all-volunteer-run projects.

And we count on FUNDS from local contributions to ensure that the work of creating healthy Pine River Valley communities continues.

Working together, everyone thrives. It's a great time to get involved!

We are once again blessed to have a generous local benefactor matching financial contributions up to \$40,000 until Dec. 31!





## TRIBAL HOUSING

# Snow Clearing: Frequently asked questions

by Gavin S. Martinez, Director  
TRIBAL HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Please see the below list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as a quick reference sheet of common snow clearing questions and their answers:

**Q: When do crews go out?**

A: Driveway clearing crews will begin when snow accumulation is over 5". Dialysis/individuals with disabilities/frail tribal member snow shoveling will begin when snow accumulation is over 3"

**Q: Which SUIT team covers my home and how do I contact them?**

A: Reference the color-coded map or the detailed flyer published in the Drum, Tribal Member Experience, or on the Tribal Housing website. You may also call Tribal Housing at 970-563-4710 to request appropriate contact info

**Q: It snowed, and my driveway has not been plowed, what do I do?**

A: There are 604 total structures served by this program, please be patient as our teams work to assist everyone in the program. If your driveway has not been plowed by 2p.m., please notify the listed contact for your route. Also, please bear in mind, that as snow accumulation continues throughout the day, there may be instances where addi-

tional snow accumulation has occurred after crews have visited your home and may require multiple days to fully work through all routes and snow clearing through the duration of, and following completion of each storm event.

**Q: I saw crews working at my neighbor's home but did not stop at my home, why did they skip me?**

A: Dialysis and frail elders are the first priority. Also, there are several different routes and crews for each, and their schedules may be different. Please allow your appropriate crew time to work their way through their respective routes.

**Q: Why don't they plow all of my driveway?**

A: The crew is to provide you with primary access in/out; for further snow clearing and/or removal around other buildings, we recommend contacting a contractor at your expense. Please also bear in mind location of parked vehicles, buildings, and other obstacles that affect driver's ability to maneuver and plow.

**Q: Why aren't they plowing to my propane tank/wood pile/cistern?**

A: Service is to provide primary access in/out; if you would like to request these additional services, submit a request with the SUIT team designated for your home so they can evaluate access and availability to assist.

**Q: What if I don't want the service all the time?**

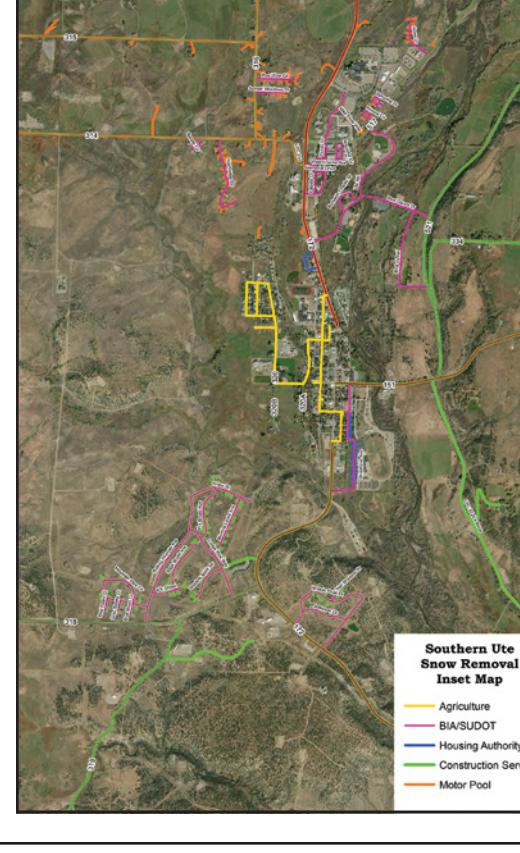
A: Notify the SUIT team designated for your home. You can note that you will call when needed.

**Q: The plow truck ruined my driveway, who will pay for it?**

A: The service provided does its best to clear the snow without pushing up gravel or creating ruts; the homeowner must regularly maintain gravel or dirt driveways. You will not be reimbursed for damages incurred from normal snow clearing.

**Q: When will crews remove snow from my roof?**

A: The service is for the elderly and individuals with disabilities and does not occur until snow accumulation is over 12" as a safety precaution to prevent damage to roof structures. Snow clearing will only be performed from the ground through the use of a roof rake for staff safety.

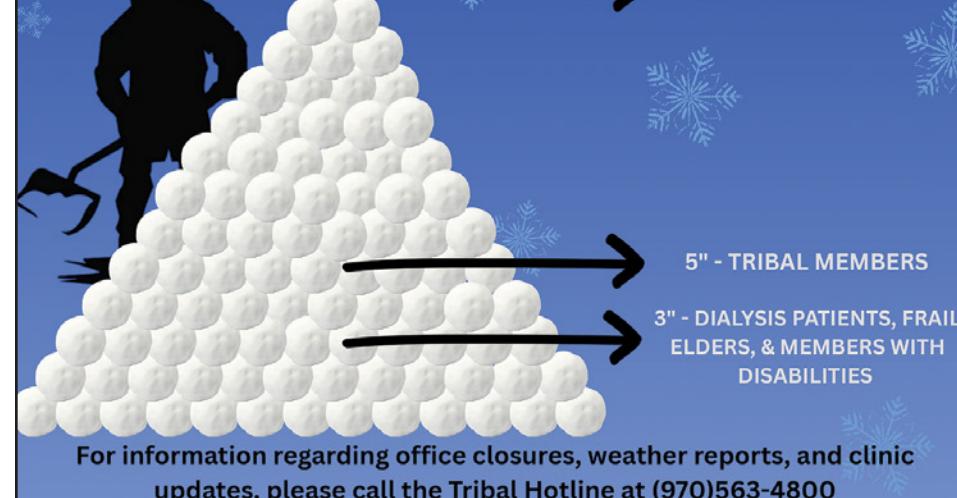
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## 2025/2026 SNOW CLEARING SERVICES

Our team works hard to serve the Southern Ute Membership during the winter season. We kindly ask for your patience as routes are completed during the winter storms. It's not uncommon for work to extend into the early afternoon.

Southern Ute Elders who are frail, disabled, or on dialysis and need added to the list for snow clearing assistance, please contact Tribal Housing at (970)563-4710



For information regarding office closures, weather reports, and clinic updates, please call the Tribal Hotline at (970)563-4800



## 2025 SNOW CLEARING SERVICES

**SNOW PLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR Southern Ute Tribal Members Driveways for Home Access, Tribal Campus, & Live Stock**

The Tribe will make every attempt to plow snow quickly and properly. The order of priority is: 1st) Dialysis Patients; 2nd) Those with disabilities or Frail Elders; and, 3rd) Tribal Member Elders. Snow plowing for all other Tribal Members is performed by dividing plow routes into designated areas shown below.

Snow plowing will begin when snow accumulation is over five (5) inches. Dialysis/Those with disabilities/Frail Elders snow shoveling will begin when snow accumulation is over three (3) inches. This service is provided to Southern Ute Membership only (No Rentals) Member must be living in residence. Please be patient during heavy snows, the drivers are making every attempt to get to you quickly.

**Construction Services Route: (970) 563-0260**  
Cedar Point East and West, Cedar Point Townhomes, Chief Shavano Ignacio Peak, HWY 172 South from County Rd 318 to LaBoca, East of Pine River, South of Bayfield to La Boca Allison & Arboles area.

**Motor Pool Route: 563-0280**  
North of Ignacio, West of Pine River Breen & Red Mesa Area, Airport & Weaselskin area.

**BIA / Tribal Planning Route: (970) 563-9484 / (970) 563-2283**  
BIA / Tribal Planning does not clear driveways

Roads include Ute Road, Cedar Point East and West, Ignacio Peak, Howe Dr., Sunset Circle Loop, Pow Wow Circle, Sunset Meadows, Tamuche, Piwood, Shoshone Avenue, Bear Dance Road, & North Ridge.

Please remove all vehicles off of the road to allow the Motor Grader to plow snow.

**Housing Authority Route: (970) 563-4575**

Snow clearing for those with disabilities, & elders' driveways ONLY: Roadways Include Sunset Circle, Senior Center, and Shoshone Avenue

**Livestock Snow Clearing is Provided by the Agriculture Division (970) 563-0220**  
Plowing snow for livestock feeding is done, but is low priority. There is a minimum charge of \$35.00/1st hour  
then \$ 30.00/hour; \$ 35.00 is due in advance. \$.35/mile one way travel will also be charged.

**WALKWAYS & ROOF RAKE Services**

**Services provided by Forestry Fuels Crew: (970) 563-4780; Agriculture Division: (970) 563-4780**  
Roof snow at entry only! Shovel walkways for: 1 - Dialysis Patients 2- Those with disabilities/Frail.

ROOFS: Roof rake at entry only with accumulation of 12" or more.

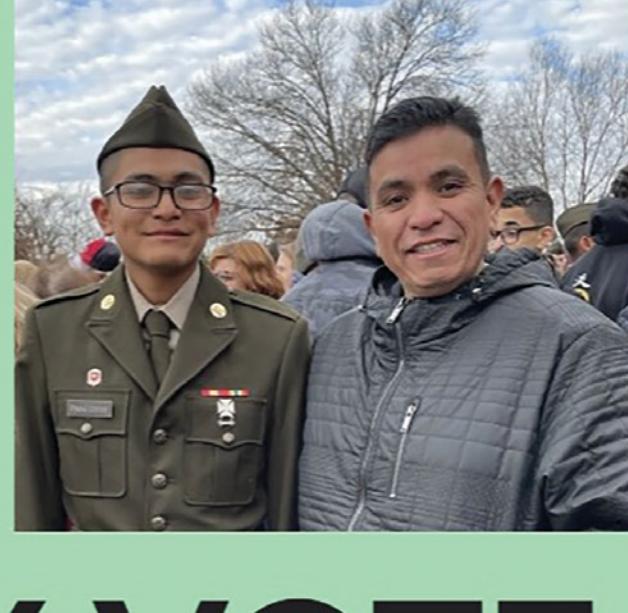
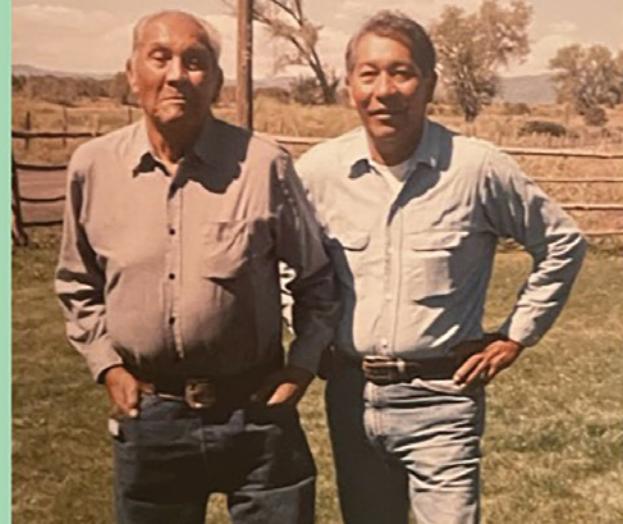
Please remember to move personal items such as bikes, lawn mowers, water hoses, planter boxes or any other item out of the way, so that they do not get damaged by the snowplows.

**Southern Ute TRIBAL Hotline: (970) 563-4800**

Please call the hotline for inclement weather updates and to request snow clearing and/or to report any issues or concerns related to snow clearing at your primary residence.

<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/snow-clearing/>

# Respecting the Past, Preparing the Future



**EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**  
**VOTE for Marvin Pinnecoose**

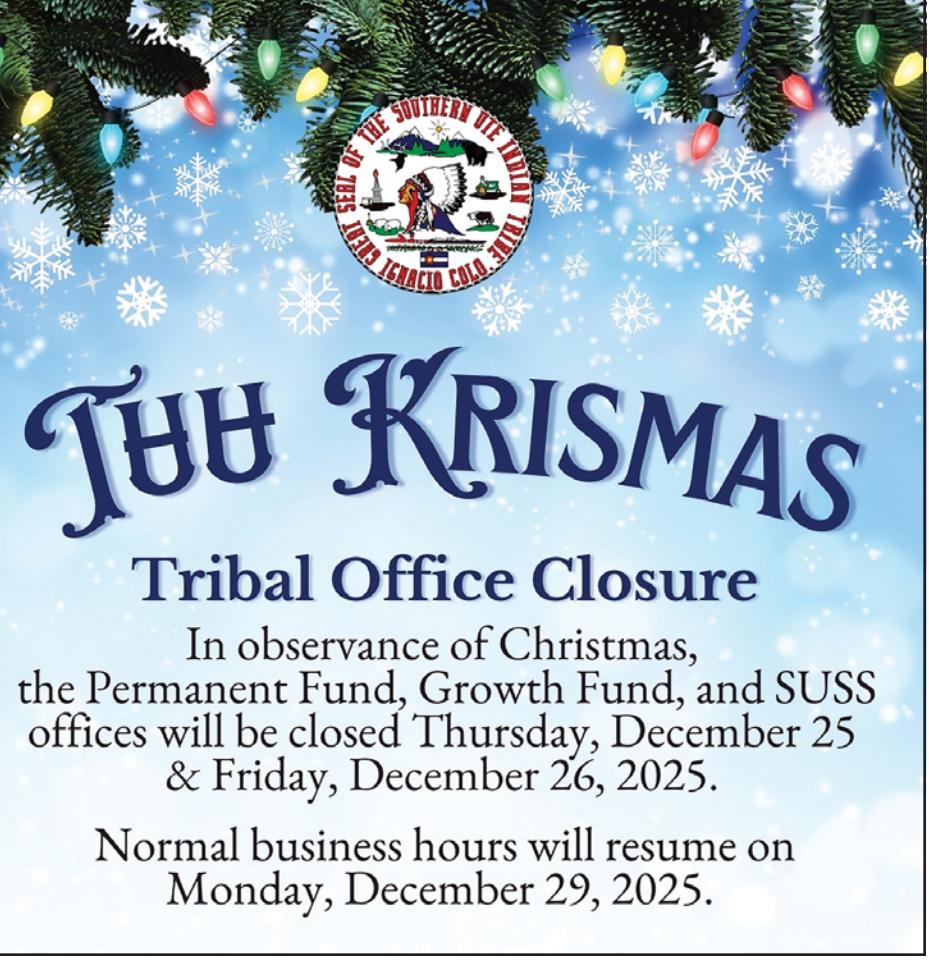


## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Run-Off Election



December 19, 2025

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO

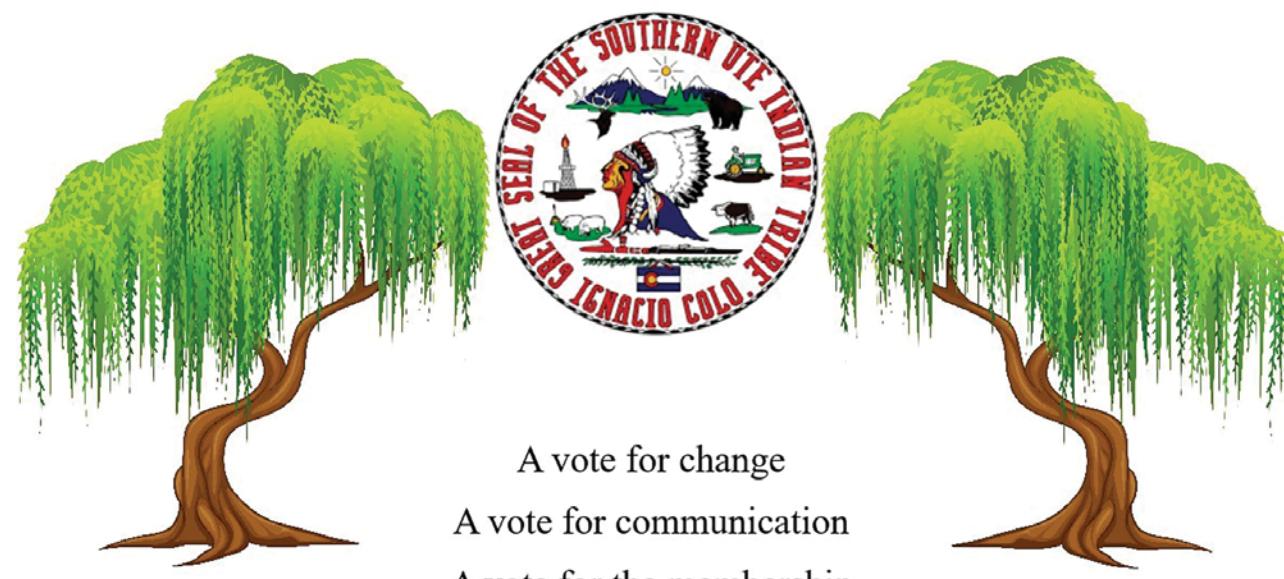


## THE KRISMAS Tribal Office Closure

In observance of Christmas, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26, 2025.

Normal business hours will resume on Monday, December 29, 2025.

VOTE  
Christine Sage  
For  
Southern Ute Tribal Council



**Seeking Progress  
Not Perfection**  
**VOTE  
MARVIN  
PINNECOOSE**



Photo: Divine Windy Boy



## Honoring Barry and Pinnecoose



Southern Ute Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose gives his remarks to attendees at the End of Council Term Celebration in the Hall of Warriors. Vice Chairman Pinnecoose shared his gratitude to his colleagues, friends, family, and members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for their years of support during his term.



Council Member, Marjorie Barry is joined by her brother Tyson Thompson during the End of Council Term Celebration, honoring the terms of Barry and Marvin Pinnecoose.



Leonard Redhorse III greets Marvin Pinnecoose, congratulating him for his time served on Southern Ute Tribal Council.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum

***The End of Council Term Celebration took place on Monday, Dec. 1 in the Hall of Warriors, honoring Council Member Marjorie Barry and Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose for their service to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Friends, family, colleagues and other members of Tribal Council took time to share words of gratitude for the honorees during the celebration, commending each member's hard work throughout their term. The event was completed with refreshments and the presentation of gifts to the two outgoing Council members.***



Executive Officer, Lindsay Box gifts an embroidered shawl to council member Marjorie Barry in honor of the many years Barry has been serving on the Southern Ute Tribal Council.

### GIVE JOY & GET REWARDS!

NOW - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14  
GRAND PRIZE DRAWING ON DECEMBER 24 AT 8PM

We've partnered with Toys for Tots to bring hope and joy to families in need this December. Embrace a moment of holiday warmth and connection as we join hands with our community.

When you bring in an unwrapped toy (worth \$10 or more), we'll add your name to the Giving Tree and the **Grand Prize Drawing Drum**. Plus, every member who donates a toy will receive: \$15 in Sky Ute Loot and one entry into our **Grand Prize Drawing** where three lucky winners will walk away with \$500 in cash!

**Sky Ute Casino Resort — The #1 Entertainment Destination in the Four Corners.**

**Sky Ute CASINO RESORT**  
Owned and Operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

14324 Hwy 172 North Ignacio, CO 81137  
[skyutecasino.com](http://skyutecasino.com)

# Denver Nuggets hosts Southern Utes



Southern Ute Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose gives the welcome speech during the Denver Nuggets halftime show on Saturday, Nov. 22 in Denver's Ball Arena. Pinnecoose was joined by Southern Ute Councilmembers Marge Barry and Andrew Gallegos.

The Denver Nuggets basketball team invited the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to headline the Native American Heritage Month halftime program, Saturday, Nov. 22, at Denver's Ball Arena. Southern Ute heritage dancers, Tribal Council, Royalty and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory members were all on the court during the halftime performance while tribal community members were in attendance with free tickets. The Ignacio High School Basketball team was invited to give out the game ball at the beginning of the game. The Color Guard for the event was the Native American Women Warriors Association; the National Anthem sung by Indigenous singer, Leeann Brady in her native language of Arikara. The Denver Nuggets played against the Sacramento Kings.



Southern Ute tribal member and Ignacio High School P.E. Teacher, Trae Seibel welcomes attendees to the Native American Heritage Night in Denver. The Ignacio High School boys' basketball team was given the honor of passing in the game ball at the beginning of the Denver Nuggets game.

Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker joins tribal members from Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute as well as fellow Southern Ute Royalty during the Native American Heritage Night in Denver.

Photos by Krista Richards  
The Southern Ute Drum

Heritage dancers and family dance during the Denver Nuggets Halftime show on Saturday, Nov. 22.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Christmas Cookie Workshop

**Monday December 15, 2025  
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM**



**Call to sign-up: 970-563-2640**

**Make and bake at MPF  
or make & take home to bake.  
Trade and share cookie recipes**



**Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
call for more information 970-563-2640**

### Help the Ignacio Senior Center

Could you please help Ignacio Senior Center reach their goal? Every share brings us closer to supporting our older Americans with meals, activities, and meaningful community connections. Thank you so much for your help and support!

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/soccaa>

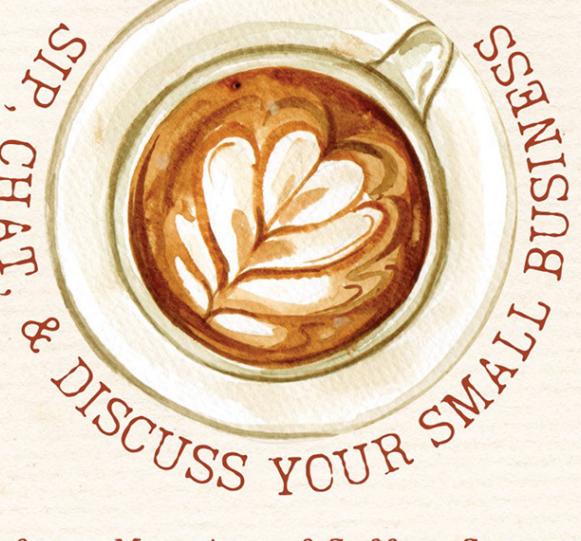
SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO

## COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

8:30-10:00 AM

Willows Cafe at Sky Ute Casino



Join Us for a Morning of Coffee, Connection & Small Business Conversation!

Start your day with great coffee and even better company. Whether you're a local entrepreneur, small business owner, or just passionate about supporting the community, this is a perfect opportunity to connect, share ideas, and build meaningful relationships!

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





## HIGHER EDUCATION

### MOLAS Scholarship aimed at college students in La Plata and San Juan Counties

Staff report

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has opened the application for a significant scholarship opportunity for first-generation students, with a deadline to apply by March 1, 2026. The MOLAS Scholarship (Meaningful Opportunity through Learning and Advancement Scholarship) is a need-based scholarship for La Plata and San Juan County, Colorado students – including nontraditional students.

"This will be the fourth year we have offered this impactful scholarship which has already helped three talented individuals attend top Colorado schools like CSU, School of Mines, and Mesa State," says Brigen Wrinke, Executive Director of the Community Foundation. "We encourage people to share this life changing opportunity with any eligible students in their lives."

The deadline to apply for the MOLAS scholarship is Sunday, March 1, and decisions will be announced in early April. The 2026 scholarship winner will be a La Plata County or San Juan County, Colorado resident. The online application can be accessed on the Community Foundation's website, [swcommunityfoundation.org/scholarships](http://swcommunityfoundation.org/scholarships). Please review eligibility requirements and call Rachel at 970-375-5807 Ext. 3 if you have any questions.

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado inspires hope, leadership and generosity in the community by bringing economic stability, professional development and collaboration to the nonprofit sector. As a community facilitator, the Community Foundation works to increase efficiency, sustainability and success for nonprofits, while maximizing effective grant-making for philanthropists. Learn more at [swcommunityfoundation.org](http://swcommunityfoundation.org).

# Taste of Christmas lights the town!



The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe decorated their float as the Polar Express for Ignacio's Taste of Christmas Light Parade held on Friday, Dec. 5. BGC Club members handed out goodies and waved to the crowd during the parade.



Tatum Bebo, the current reigning Southern Ute Rodeo Queen, waves to parade watchers during Ignacio's Taste of Christmas Light Parade on Friday, Dec. 5.



Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker shares goodies and waves to the crowd during the light parade held on Friday, Dec. 5 in celebration of Ignacio's Taste of Christmas event.



Santa Claus greets children and their families atop a Los Pinos Fire engine during Ignacio's Taste of Christmas Light Parade on Friday, Dec. 5.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum

## Multi-Purpose Facility Christmas Sip, Chat & Chew



**Friday December 19, 2025  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

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

**Sponsored by the  
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council**



**Join the Reindeer Games**

**Cake Dance - Sponsored by MPF Volunteers**

**Door Prize donations are welcome and appreciated**



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



**Families and local community members gathered for the Ignacio's annual Taste of Christmas Light Parade on Friday, Dec. 5. Various floats lit up the chilly evening as children eagerly awaited to see Santa Claus as the event's grand finale. Multiple families, local organizations, Tribal departments and divisions, and committees joined in on the parade, sharing treats and spreading holiday cheer to all in attendance.**



## Multi-Purpose Facility Quilt & Sew Class

**Lone Star - Quiltsmart Method**

**Tuesday - Thursday  
December 16-18, 2025  
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**



Quiltsmart Pattern & Instructions—\$25 Finished size 48" X 48"

Beginner Level—use sewing machine, able to sew straight lines

Fabric:

1 yard each 4 colors

1 yard for Border

1 1/2 yard of Background Fabric

Add Quarter Ruler (Optional)

Rotary cutter

Questions? or need help in planning your quilt? Call Elise 970-563-2641

256 Ute Rd. Ignacio CO 81137 - 970-563-2641, eredd@southernute-nsn.gov



# News

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December 12, 2025

**Department of Youth Christmas Pow Wow**

Saturday- December 13th, 2025  
Dulce Community Center, Dulce NM  
Grand Entry- 12pm & 6pm

DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

Head Young Man Dancer- Sonny Jackson  
Head Young Girl Dancer- Stone Lake Powwow Princess Skylar Petago

\*Invited Drums\* DAANZHO SINGERS & SOUTHERN OUTLAWS \*Host Drum\* SHARPSHOOTER

Outgoing Department of Youth Powwow Princess Mia Maestas Specials  
\*Red Jingle Dress Special- (Open to all ages)  
\*Jicarilla Cloth Dress Special- (Ages 6-25)

Department of Youth Powwow Princess Crowning Will Take Place During Supper Break @ 5pm

The Jicarilla Apache Nation & Dept. of Youth, D.C.C Are NOT Responsible For Theft, Injury, Accidents IN or OUT Of the event. For more Information contact the Dept of Youth at 575-759-4313 OR Email JICDOY12@GMAIL.COM / Instagram- departmentofyouth\_

**Special Guest SANTA CLAUS**

DAANZHO HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION 505-403-0202

\*Tiny Tots  
\*Jr. Girls Combined Jingle, Fancy, Traditional  
\*Jr. Boys Combined Grass, Fancy, Traditional  
\*Teen Girls Combined Jingle, Fancy, Traditional  
\*Teen Boys Combined Grass, Fancy, Traditional

*SunUte Presents:*

**The Polar Express Train Ride**  
for Southern Ute Tribal Member Families

Sign up at SunUte Front Desk.  
Family members must be listed in your SunUte household.  
(In-person Registration Only)

**Trip #1:**  
December 10, 2025- Train departs at 6:30 pm  
(Deadline: December 8th @ 5 pm)

**Trip #2:**  
December 18, 2025- Train departs at 6:30 pm  
(Deadline: December 15th @ 5 pm)

Cost: \$10 / ticket (regular price is \$66)  
Must specify which day you're signing up for. SPACE IS LIMITED

Tickets are purchased in advance. If you cancel your RSVP within 48 hours of the trip, you will be subject to paying the full price of \$66/ ticket.

**SOUTHERN UTE VICTIM SERVICES & BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PRESENT**

**Winter Wish Exchange**

**FOR IGNACIO AREA FAMILIES IN NEED OF EXTRA HOLIDAY CHEER**

**DEADLINE TO DONATE**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 15**

CHOOSE TO GRANT A WHOLE FAMILY'S WISHES OR INDIVIDUAL WISHES

**HOW TO DONATE**

CONTACT LISA OR AMANDA TO CHECK OUT ORNAMENTS WITH WISHES ON THEM. RETURN THE ORNAMENTS AND ITEMS BY THE DEADLINE ABOVE. IF YOU'D PREFER, WE WILL ACCEPT MONETARY DONATIONS AND DO THE SHOPPING FOR YOU.

**LISA- LMANZANA@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV**  
**AMANDA- ALEE@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV**

**SOUTHERN UTE ELDER SERVICES**  
December Activities List

**DECEMBER 13, 2025**  
Annual Tribal Christmas Dinner  
Sky Ute Casino Event Center  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 16, 2025**  
Movie Day (Durango)  
Van will depart @ TBD

**DECEMBER 25 - 26, 2025**  
*Merry Christmas*

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.

**DECEMBER UPCOMING CLOSURES**

- 12/24 (Christmas Eve): CLOSING @ 5:00pm
- 12/25 & 12/26 (Christmas): CLOSED
- 12/31 (NYE): CLOSING @ 5:00pm

**\*24/7 AVAILABLE\***

**Multi - Purpose Facility December Events**

Holiday Cookies—Monday December 15, 10:30 AM—3:30 PM

Lonestar Quilt Class—Tues.—Thurs., December 16—18, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday, December 19—11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Yeast Bread Class—Tuesday, December 23—10:30 AM—3:30 PM

**Happy Holidays**

**Special Events**

Holiday Bazaar—Saturday & Sunday December 13 & 14, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Arts & Crafts Fair—Benefit for the Veterans Pow Wow Saturday & Sunday December 20-21, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Youth Cooking, Monday December 29, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM

Youth Crafts Tuesday December 30, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM

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

**Craft Fair**  
9am-4pm

**Sat- Sun Dec 20 & 21**  
**\*Set up on Saturday Morning\***  
Southern Ute Museum Large Classroom

The Holidays are coming up!  
Need to find the perfect gift?  
Come see what unique finds our vendors have.  
Concession, Goodies, Gifts & more.

Have questions or  
for Vendor Information  
Please call: Mandy  
970-238-0838



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio Boys' Basketball head coach Trae Seibel, right, emphasizes the mental aspect of the sport to now-senior Rance Rathjen during last season's game at Montezuma-Cortez. Rathjen will be counted upon to provide depth and veteran leadership in 2025-26; the season was to begin Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home versus Mancos.

### BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

## 'Cats, birds to clash in season-opener

*Ignacio boys beginning against Mancos*

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

As much as an Ignacio Basketball team can typically – and traditionally has – out-run an opponent, or wants to, conditioning always proves most crucial and thus allows coaches to properly train players in the ways of the Bobcat.

It's basically Trae Seibel's favorite time of year.

"Right now it's just about getting everybody into stellar shape, and we're working on that," he'd said during an early interview last season – which ended with IHS going a fifth-place 4-8 in the 3A/4A Intermountain League and ultimately 11-13 overall after falling to Loveland Resurrection Christian in the Class 3A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32.

Which wasn't surprising; the Cougars, which went on to capture the State Championship and complete a 28-0 season, were the 1-seed while the 'Cats were the 32. Unfortunately, the loss ended the prep careers of five seniors including usual starter Charley Pargin, plus regular reserves Angelo Frost, Coty Webb, Lincoln Gillespie and Marquise Cibrian.

But much established tal-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez (22) prepares for contact on a take to the hoop during last season's home game against Pagosa Springs. Now a senior, Valdez will be relied upon in 2025-26 – which was to get underway Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home versus Mancos – to again provide offensive punch and defensive stability.

ent will be back for the 2025-26 grind. Now-senior Trace Crane returns to anchor the offense, we're hammering on (getting) high-percentage shots," Seibel said near the close of the '24-25 season.

*'Cats page 18*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio Girls' Basketball head coach Travis Nanaeto keeps the mood light while making a point during a timeout in last season's road game at Bayfield. The Lady Bobcats' 2025-26 season was to begin Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home versus Mancos.

### BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Pursuing potential: Atencio, Avila to power developing Lady 'Cats

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Good enough to sneak into last season's CHSAA Class 3A Girls' Basketball State Tournament as the No. 29 seed in the opening Round-of-32, but not strong enough to then upset fourth-seed Cedaredge, Ignacio's Lady Bobcats, young as most of the team was, at the very least gained extra experience which hopefully will come in handy this winter.

And without a pair of Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-State selections, a vital post presence and an important reserve – all since graduated – head coach Travis Nanaeto knows some big shoes need filling for the 2025-26 run. But between

his returning varsity players and an influx of youth, volunteers to do so shouldn't be in short supply.

"This year I have, like, nine freshmen that came in," he estimated during a pre-season interview on Thursday, Dec. 4, "nine juniors and a couple seniors. Maybe one sophomore, but that's about it. I've got a young bunch and so we're getting things in order. Got a lot of things to work on, but we're doing pretty good."

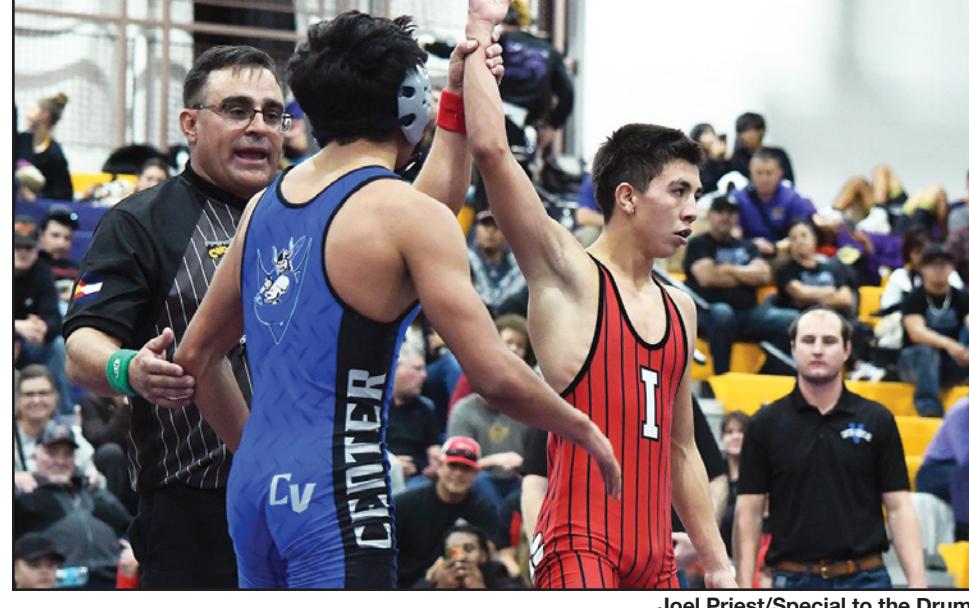
Joined on the bench by new assistant coach Stephanie Goodtracks and new JV skipper Gabriela Garcia, Nanaeto will look, at present, to build his squad around senior guard Alyssa Atencio and senior guard/forward Juliann Avila – the

on-paper replacements for CCGS selections Marissa Olguin and Victoria Brown, respectively.

Guard/forward DaLane Wesner also finished her IHS career last season, as did backup forward/center Addison Kremer, allowing now-junior F/C Catori Aasland to contend for a starting role in '25-26. Classmate Aubree Lucero received more and more minutes as the '24-25 grind began winding down, and is also poised to potentially join Nanaeto's first five.

Junior guard/forward Maliyah Martinez, sophomore post Veronica Brown and junior guard Leandra Litz could also be in the mix

*Pursuing page 18*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aven Bourriague is pronounced champion of the 2025 Bayfield Wolverine Classic's 120-pound division Saturday, Dec. 6, inside BHS Gymnasium. Bourriague finished the tournament an unbeaten 5-0 after defeating Center's Michael Archuleta 6-1.

### BOBCATS WRESTLING

## Mat 'Cats star at season's first stop

*Three boys, one girl take titles in Bayfield*

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Despite being just the first wrestling tournament of the 2025-26 grind, Bayfield's Wolverine Classic might end up being looked at by the Ignacio Bobcats as the event where a special season was set in motion.

For after seven hours of wrestling and waiting, three of head coach Jordan Larsen's men had qualified for the championship round. And when all was said and done, each had emerged as the best at his respective weight in helping IHS place sixth out of 15 scoring teams.

With seniors Aven Bourriague (120 pounds), Zane Pontine (157) and Lincoln deKay (165) leading

the way, the 'Cats earned 80 points, ranking them behind Pagosa Springs (82.5), Bayfield (83), Olathe (89.5), Farmington (N.M.; 105) and Gunnison (127).

Bourriague went 5-for-5 on the day with three pins and didn't allow a point to be scored against him until Monticello, Utah's Diego Cortez did so in Bourriague's fourth bout. Bourriague, however, proceeded to defeat Cortez by a 16-1 technical fall and advanced to challenge Center's Michael Archuleta for first place. Forced to work the full six minutes, Bourriague nonetheless prevailed 6-1.

Pontine got underway building up a 12-3 lead on Pagosa Springs' Trevor Faber, then pinning the Pi-

rate 1:58 into the opening two-minute period to book his 100th varsity victory. He then pinned Center's Jonas Valadez in 1:01 for No. 101, notched an 18-2 tech over Montezuma-Cortez's Orion Martineau, and defeated Durango's Mikael Hofman 18-1. Pit against BHS' Coan Naranjo in the weight's finale, Pontine completed his mission by building up a 7-0 lead and then pinning the Wolverine 1:03 into the second period.

deKay then stepped onto the center mat and completed a 4-0 run through his division by pinning BHS' Jack Waters 19 ticks into the second period. None of deKay's opponents managed to score

*Mat page 18*

## PURSUING POTENTIAL • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Alyssa Atencio fights to retain possession during last season's home game versus Centauri. Now a senior, Atencio's backcourt leadership will be key to the Lady Bobcats' success in 2025-26; the season was to begin Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home versus Mancos.

as Ignacio looks to build up on last winter's 8-15 record – which included a fifth-place 4-8 mark in 3A/4A Intermountain League play.

"We're going to see how it works," said Nanaeto, who hinted a couple freshmen may actually be in his initial few lineups once action begins Tuesday, Dec. 9, with a visit from 2A Mancos, "and I'm hoping these girls get ready to progress towards the end of the year."

"We're working hard, with a lot more conditioning," he said. "Because for the young girls this is high-school basketball, not junior-high, and they'll play girls a lot older so I'm telling them 'Just toughen up!'"

Tip-off time against MHS was scheduled for 6 p.m., with the Lady Jays – who lost their first six games last winter before finishing 6-6 in the 3A/2A/1A San Juan Basin and ultimately 7-13

overall – having already seen their first action on the 5th against the two-day Sargent tournament's host team.

"So I'm going to watch that," Nanaeto said, "on the NFHS (Network) ... to get us ready for those guys."

Results from inside IHS Gymnasium were unavailable at press time.

After facing Mancos, a 'Receiving Votes' team in the preseason CHSAANow.com Class 2A rankings (Sargent checked in at No. 6), Ignacio will then venture into the San Luis Valley to compete at Center's 12/12-13 C-Town Showdown. Awaiting the Lady 'Cats at 8 p.m. on its first day will be Blanca-based Sierra Grande (a 'Receiving Votes' crew in 1A, as are the 2A Lady Vikings), which went 6-0 in the 1A Southern Peaks last season and ended up 14-10 overall after losing to Cheyenne Wells in the Class 1A State Tournament's

Round-of-32.

"I'm glad we're playing two schools there; I'm hoping to be even with them, you know?" Nanaeto said. "And get a little experience for our younger ones, to get them ready for the Aztec tournament."

Indeed, IHS' next stop after Center will be Aztec, New Mexico's Rumble in 'The Jungle,' Dec. 18-20.

"We'll play Piedra Vista in the first round, see how that goes," Nanaeto said.

After going 3-8 in NMAA District 1-5A and 12-17 overall – after a harsh 106-22 loss to Hobbs in the NMAA/Nusenda Credit Union Girls' Basketball State Championships' opening Round-of-16 – in 2024-25, the Lady Panthers were to get '25-26 underway in the Land of Enchantment at defending 4A State Champion Gallup's 50th Annual John Lomasney Invitational, Dec. 4-6.

Up first, IHS' boys will host 2A Mancos on Tuesday night, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

With nowhere to go but up after a brutal 0-22 (0-12

3A/2A/1A San Juan Basin

campaign last winter, the

Class 1A rankings), which went 6-0 in the 1A Southern Peaks last season and ended up 19-6 overall after losing to Elbert in the 1A State Tournament's Sweet 16.

Ignacio's Sonny Flores (1) looks to pass over a Pagosa Springs defender during last season's game inside IHS Gymnasium. Now a senior, Flores' experience will benefit the Bobcats in 2025-26; the season was to begin Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home versus Mancos.

And while read-and-react may again drive Ignacio's attack, the 'Cats may again rely defensively on a zone-based look.

"The boys got it down really well, and that goes to (former head) coach (Chris) Valdez who taught them a great zone," said Seibel, who officially succeeded his mentor last season. "We were just building on that strength, really, but we still know how to match up (man-to-man) if we have to."

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**Máykh Santa,**

**Tuu'ayaq 'umuy puchuchugway.**

**Núnay nía** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.**

**Nú'** \_\_\_\_\_ **kanigyetu.**

**I have been very good this year.**

**This year for Krismas I would like:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**I can't wait for you to visit me this year!**

**Toghoyaqh,** \_\_\_\_\_



## 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.



Watch X 3  
Black White Ocean  
Peach Leopard Digi Camo Max Forest Blue Stars  
Little Mermaid Black Panther Iron Man





## IOEA Rise and Lead: Youth Leadership Cohort

### INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Join the IOEA Rise & Lead Youth Leadership Cohort!

Rise & Lead empowers 2SLGBTQ+ youth and allies through leadership skills, mentorship, and community connection. Build confidence, explore identity, and learn advocacy and teamwork in a supportive, affirming space.

Register Here!



Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 6 PM - 7 PM

Location: ELHI - RM 19

Dinner Served

Cohort Ages: 13-17

Paid Opportunity for Youth!

IGNACIO  
OUT & EQUAL ALLIANCE  
[www.ignaciooutandequal.com](http://www.ignaciooutandequal.com)

For any questions please contact Trennie at [Ignaciooutandequal@gmail.com](mailto:Ignaciooutandequal@gmail.com) or 970-306-3555.

## Gaming welcomes Weaver

Krista Richards/SU Drum

Tommy J. Weaver is sworn in as an Alternate Gaming Commission Member, Friday, Nov. 14 at the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Pictured left to right - Bryon Frost, Gaming Commission Chairman, Tommy J. Weaver, Alternate Gaming Commission Member, Chief Judge, Scott Moore and Tara Vigil, Gaming Commission Vice-Chair.

## 2026 SOUTHERN UTE DRUM DEADLINES

DEADLINE	PUBLISH	FEDERAL & TRIBAL HOLIDAYS
Dec. 31*	Jan. 9	New Year's Day (Jan. 1)
Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 19)
Jan. 30	Feb. 6	
Feb. 13	Feb. 20	President's Day (Feb. 16)
Feb. 27	Mar. 6	
Mar. 13	Mar. 20	
Mar. 27	Apr. 3	
Apr. 10	Apr. 17	
Apr. 24	May 1	
May 8	May 15	Memorial Day (May 25)
May 22	May 29	
June 5	June 12	Juneteenth (June 19)
June 18*	June 26	Independence Day (July 4)
July 2*	July 10	
July 17	July 24	
July 31	Aug. 7	
Aug. 14	Aug. 21	Labor Day (Sep. 7)
Aug. 28	Sep. 4	Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow (Sep. 11-12)
Sep. 11	Sep. 18	Southern Ute Tribal Fair Rodeo (Sep. 18-19)
Sep. 25	Oct. 2	Indigenous People's Day (Oct. 12)
Oct. 9	Oct. 16	
Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Veteran's Day (Nov. 11)
Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Thanksgiving (Nov. 26)
Nov. 19*	Nov. 25	Leonard C. Burch Day (Dec. 10)
Dec. 3*	Dec. 9	Christmas (Dec. 25)
Dec. 17*	Dec. 24	

\*Denotes Early Deadline

PLEASE NOTE - DEADLINE IS NOW THE FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE PUBLISHING DATE. All content; including classifieds ads, display ads, RFP/RFB notices, job announcements, stories and articles, press releases, letters, birthday greetings and holiday wishes must be submitted by the posted deadline. Anything submitted AFTER DEADLINE will be considered for the next issue. Requests for design work must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the above posted deadline dates. The Drum reserves the right to edit all materials for spelling, grammar, clarity and libel.

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM  
www.sudrum.com • 970-563-0118  
Email: [sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov) • Mailing: PO Box 737, #96, Ignacio, CO 81137  
Physical Address: 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, Colo. (Leonard C. Burch Building, 2nd floor)

## THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM Upcoming Early Holiday Deadlines

Please be aware the Drum is requesting early submissions prior to the Leonard C. Burch and Christmas holidays.

- Christmas deadline Dec. 19
- New Year's deadline Dec. 31

## SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ANNOUNCEMENT

As of January 1, 2026, The Southern Ute Drum DEADLINE for submissions will be the FRIDAY prior to publication.

(See deadline schedule above)

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Dec. 24**

EARLY  
Deadline:  
**Dec. 19**

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

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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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# Notices

waamasuwiinini (20)

December 12, 2025

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY

The Southern Ute Tribal Credit Committee ("Committee") is looking for eligible tribal member applicants to serve on the Committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. This is a paid Committee: IRS Guidelines and a Criminal Background Check are necessary.

Individuals seeking to serve on the Committee must demonstrate a reputation of personal integrity, dependability, honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to perform in a non-biased, confidential, and fair manner. They must become familiar with the objectives of the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund and must maintain good financial standing with the Tribe. Applicants must also pass a criminal background and reference check, per the Tribal Credit Committee By-laws.

The primary purpose of the Committee is to evaluate and render decisions regarding Secured Home Loan applications and monitor and evaluate the Tribal Credit loan programs, and make recommendations to Tribal Council. The Committee has scheduled weekly meetings.

Some of the duties of the Tribal Credit Committee are:

- Approve loans as required by the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund ("Declaration")
- Monitor compliance with the Declaration
- Monitor all approved loans for performance
- Make recommendations to the Tribal Council on program revisions and updates regarding Committee operations
- Maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness in conducting all Committee business
- Attend regular meetings and other special meetings, as needed
- Coordinate the Committee's annual budget with Tribal Credit Staff

Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Credit Committee, PO Box 737 #60, Ignacio, CO 81137, or by email to [zvogenthaler@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:zvogenthaler@southernute-nsn.gov).

The letter should include the full name and contact information of the applicant, along with a detailed explanation of their relevant experience that would aid in making credit decisions, as well as a description of why they would be a good fit for the position.

If you have any questions, please speak with Zeb Vogenthaler at 970-563-2458.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Seeks Two Tribal Member-At-Large Committee Members

Do you have interest in supporting economic development and enhancing the standard of living on the Southern Ute Reservation? Do you want to help shape the future of our Tribe's economic initiatives? If so, we invite you to apply for one of two open At-Large Tribal Member seats on the new Southern Ute Economic Development Committee (SUEDC).

### About the SUEDC

The SUEDC is an advisory board to the Tribal Council, providing oversight and guidance for economic development projects and affiliated LLCs. Members help develop and revise the Tribe's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), evaluate investment opportunities, and support development projects that improve the quality of life and create opportunities for Southern Ute Tribal Members and the community.

### Who Should Apply?

• We are looking for eligible Southern Ute Tribal Member applicants who are willing to serve for a three (3) year term on the Committee. Applicants should:

• Demonstrate a strong interest in supporting development that elevates the standard of living and increases economic opportunities on the Reservation

• Be familiar with the Tribe's CEDS and strategic goals for economic development

• Be able to pass a criminal background check

### Preferred Qualifications

• Hold an associate's degree (or higher) with at least two years of progressively responsible experience in business management, real estate, or finance - OR -

• Have at least four years of progressively re-

sponsible experience in business management, real estate, or finance (degree not required).

- Note: The SUEDC may recommend the best-suited applicants to Tribal Council for appointment, regardless of background or education. All interested Tribal Members are encouraged to apply.

### Responsibilities

- Provide oversight and direction for economic development projects and LLCs.
- Attend and actively participate in one regular monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month and special sessions as needed.
- Maintain confidentiality and uphold the Tribe's Code of Conduct and Ethics Code.

### Compensation

This is a paid Committee. Compliance with IRS Guidelines is required. At-Large members will be compensated in accordance with Tribal policy.

### How to Apply

Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of intent to Southern Ute Economic Development, PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or by email to [cblack@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:cblack@southernute-nsn.gov). The letter should include the full name and contact information of the applicant, a detailed explanation of their relevant education and experience, as well as a description of why they would be a good fit for the position. Applications will be accepted for at least 30 calendar days or until the positions are filled.

The SUEDC will review applications, nominate qualified candidates, and the Southern Ute Tribal Council will make final appointments. If you have any questions, please reach out and speak with Colton Black at 970-563-2275.

## ATTENTION

The 2025 Indian Housing Plan is ready for public review. You may turn in any comments in writing at SUIHA. Your comments will be submitted with Annual Performance Report to the United States Department of Housing (HUD). If you have any questions please ask to speak to the Executive Director, Eric Spady, 970-563-4575 Thank-you for your interest in the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority.

## SOUTHERN UTE MONTESSORI SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

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



Interested in helping shape the future?



Care deeply about serving children & your community?



### REQUIREMENTS:

MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD

MUST BE ABLE TO PASS A MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECK

MUST SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST

SUBMIT LETTER OF INTEREST TO: [MJOWENS@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:MJOWENS@southernute-nsn.gov)

OR DROP IT OFF IN SUIMA OFFICE

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

## 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.

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](mailto: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).

### 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.bgsu.org](http://www.bgsu.org) website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or [bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov).

### 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.

### 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.

### POWOW COMMITTEE

Open Until Filled – Two vacant positions. The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as

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](mailto:aflanigan@southernute-nsn.gov) if you have questions or want to make a withdrawal

### Distribution

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Wednesday, Dec. 31

### Request Cutoff Date

NOON, Friday, Dec.19

NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 24

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



## Notice Of Direct Final Rulemaking On Changes To Article II: Part 2 Of The Reservation Air Code

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission is publishing notice of revisions to the Commission's Reservation Air Code ("RAC").

### I. Dates.

The revisions to the RAC became effective on October 29, 2025.

### II. Authority under which the changes are proposed.

Authority is vested in the Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission by the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado Concerning Air Quality Control on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation dated December 13, 1999 ("IGA"), tribal law (Resolution of the Council of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe No. 00-09), state law (C.R.S. § 24-62-101), and federal law (Act of October 18, 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-336, 118 Stat. 1354) to adopt rules and regulations for air quality programs applicable to all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The Commission's rulemaking procedures can be found in section IV of the Commission's Procedural Rules.

The Commission's Procedural rules can be viewed at the following website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2018/04/Procedural-Rules-Amended-4.12.17.pdf>

### III. Supplementary information and summary description of RAC changes.

The Commission revised RAC Article II Part 2 by:

- (1) adding, in RAC Article II Part 2, New Source Performance Standard Subpart ("NSPS") OOOOb, unchanged and as published as of July 31, 2025; and
- (2) updating the effective end date of NSPS Subpart OOOOa; and
- (3) updating the "published as of" date of the NSPS standards incorporated in the RAC to match the most recent publication date of NSPS Subpart OOOOb.

### These revisions are described in more detail below.

The Commission adopted the NSPS Subpart OOOOb, titled Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities for Which Construction, Modification, or Reconstruction Commenced After December 6, 2022, unchanged into RAC Article II Part 2.

The Commission updated the applicability date of NSPS OOOOa, titled Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities for Which Construction, Modification, or Reconstruction Commenced After September 18, 2015 and On or before December 6, 2022, to align with the most current rule version.

Lastly, the Commission updated the "published as of" date in RAC Article II Section 3-102 to July 31, 2025, the date of publication of the most current NSPS OOOOa and OOOOb versions. Updating the "published as of" date, was necessary for the inclusion of the NSPS OOOOb rule and to include the most current applicability ending date of NSPS OOOOa. The update also ensures that all NSPS standards previously adopted by the Commission and incorporated by reference in the RAC reflect the most current published versions.

### IV. Finding for Good Cause

Subsection IV.G of the Procedural Rules allows the Commission to take final actions without the need for public comment and notice, when good cause for such action is determined by the Commission. Here, there is good cause because these adoptions and revisions fulfill federal delegation terms, prevent regulatory duplication, preserve tribal primacy, and deliver regulatory certainty without altering any technical or policy provisions of the federal standard.

### V. Notification to the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA")

The Tribe's Air Quality Division Head was directed to (1) ensure that a notice of direct final rulemaking for the above mentioned changes to the RAC is published in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Procedural Rules and (2) send a letter notifying EPA, with a copy to the State of Colorado, of the Environmental Commission's incorporation of New Source Performance Standard Subpart OOOOb, unchanged, into the Reservation Air Code.

### VI. Where a complete copy of the RAC and RAC changes can be obtained.

A redlined version of the RAC showing the changes is available upon request from the Tribe's Air Quality Division Head who can be contacted by e-mail or phone, as noted below. The final revised RAC is available at the following website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2024/12/240929-Reservation-Air-Code-FINAL.pdf>

For further information contact: Danny Powers, Division Head, Air Quality Program, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colo., 81137; telephone number 970-563-2265; e-mail [dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov).

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Multifamily Property Management Ignacio, Colorado

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund ("Owner's Representative") is seeking a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified companies for property management services of a newly constructed 60-unit multifamily property located at Buckskin Charlie Drive and Ute Road in Ignacio, CO. The RFP must be submitted no later than 3:00 pm MDT on December 19, 2025. The Owner's Representative reserves the right to reject late RFPs. Email RFPs to Owner's Representative. If contractor is not able to email, hard copies must be delivered to Owner's Representative. Contact the Owner's Representative to request the full RFP package.

#### Owner's Representative:

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund

c/o GF Properties Group

Attn: Tim Zink

65 Mercado Street, Suite 250

Phone: 970-764-6442

Email: [TZink@sugf.com](mailto:TZink@sugf.com)

Property management services will include leasing, accounting, maintenance, management of service contracts, and other services as necessary to provide full-service management of the property. The initial scope includes 60 units on Buckskin Charlie Drive but may be expanded to include up to an additional 54 units between two separate properties in Ignacio. Preference will be given to Indian Owned Businesses certified with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) per the TERO code. For all questions, please contact Owner's Representative.

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Upcoming Tribal Office Closures

Christmas: Dec. 25 & 26  
New Years Day: Jan. 1 & 2, 2026  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Jan. 19



## 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:

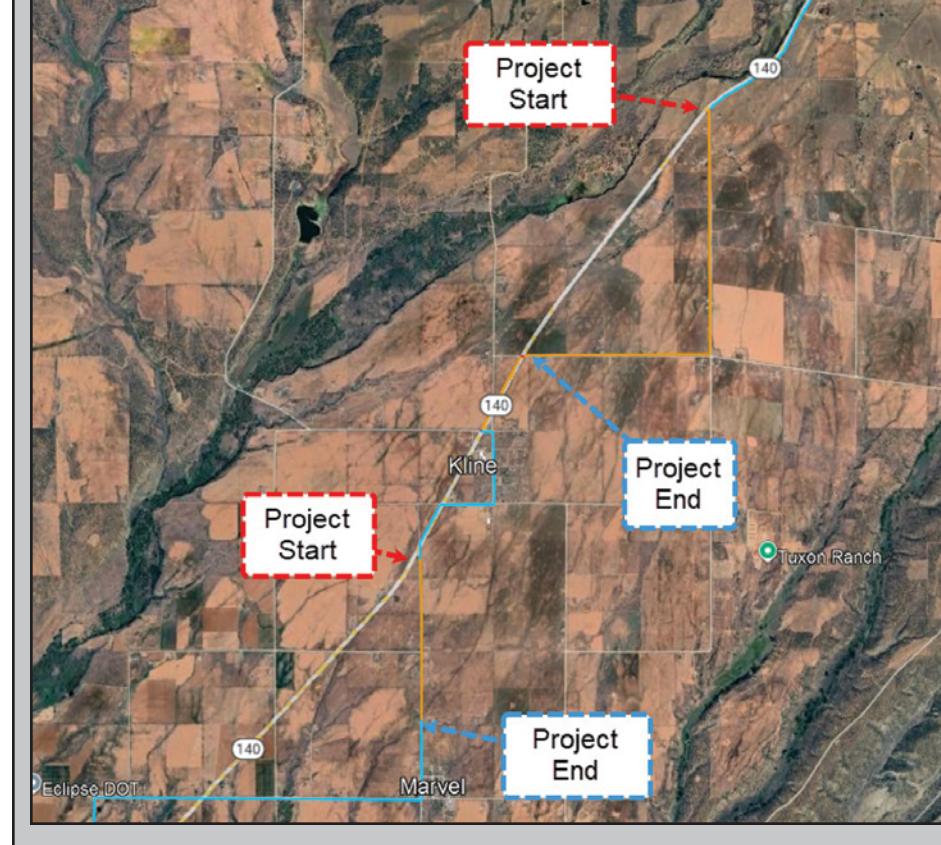
- Section 1: Starting at County Road 142 and heading South from Durango until HWY 140.
- Section 2: Starting at the intersection at HWY 140 and CR 129 working south to CR 128.
- Section 3: Working on CR 134 and working south from the intersection on HWY 140.

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](mailto:dane.dooley@bonfireig.com)

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



## 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.



# Classifieds

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December 12, 2025

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the tribe's website at [www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs](http://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: 970-563-4777

### Administrative Assistant II

Closes 12/12/25 – Under the direct supervision of the Tribal Information Services (TIS) Director represents the TIS Department in a positive, professional manner while providing secretarial and administrative support to the Director, Vital Statistics, and the Records Division. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$20.26/hour.

### Adult Education Program Specialist

Closes 12/16/25 – Administers the Adult Education Program, provides assistance to Tribal adults and other eligible Native Americans to improve educational levels and assists with the Distance Learning Program. Pay grade E12; Pay is \$54,086/annually.

### Bison Heard Manager

Closes 12/12/25 – Under general supervision of the Wildlife Resource Division Head, is responsible for the overall management and conservation of the Tribal Bison Herd. Pay grade N13; Pay is \$28.60/hour.

### Detention Transport Officer

Closes 12/19/25 – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. The Transportation/Detention Officer will be responsible for transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

### Public Defender

Closes 12/19/25 – Represents eligible Native American or other defendants as authorized by applicable Tribal or federal law in criminal proceedings prosecuted in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Respondents in involuntary commitment proceedings, representing juveniles in delinquency proceedings, truancy proceedings, and serving as guardian ad litem in dependency and neglect proceedings brought in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Pay grade E19; Pay is \$114,968/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.

### Air Quality Scientist II – Enforcement

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Division Head, the Air Quality Scientist II – Enforcement prepares, coordinates and tracks air quality enforcement order packages and provides subject matter expertise on technical and regulatory tasks within the Enforcement Section of the Tribal Title V Operating Permit program and Tribal Minor New Source Review program. This job is a grade E16; salary is \$77,627/annually.

### 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 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. 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. Also 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 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.

**Criminal Justice Information System Specialist**  
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision, performs administrative work of moderate difficulty in maintaining the Criminal Justice Information System/National Crime Information Center (CJIS/NCIC) system for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe ("SUIT"); implements and maintains required policies regarding access to confidential information; trains system users; liaisons with CJIS/NCIC access entities. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$30.84/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 range starts at \$86,943/year.

### Dispatcher

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

### Elder Services Supervisor

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Tribal Services Department, provides program management for the Elders Services Program, including supportive services to elderly and disabled tribal members. Pay grade E12; salary is \$54,086/annually.

### 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 is \$54,086/year.

### Gaming Investigator I

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

### Gaming Investigator I Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The trainee will be required to attend and successfully complete and approved basic police-training course. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the Gaming Investigator I position. Pay grade N11; pay will be \$23.63/hour.

### Gaming Investigator II

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

### Lands Compliance Technician

Open Until Filled – Performs administrative, clerical, and technical support to the Lands Division. Manages the implementation, administration, and enforcement of codes, and land governing documents for the Lands Division. Pay grade N12; Pay is \$26.00/hour.

### Lands Technician

Open Until Filled – Provides technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provides general information to the Tribal Membership and general public regarding land status issues, Crossing Permits, and general land management related issues. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$21.89/hour.

### Medical Assistant (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – 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.

### Optometric Assistant

Open Until Filled – Under dentist supervision, Optometric Assistant is responsible for a wide range of tasks in the Southern Ute Optometry Clinic including, but not limited to, providing chair side optometry assistance, administrative and records, duties, Optos, Lensometry, FDT, Tonometry, OCT, and Dilatation of patients. Pay grade N11; Pay 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.

### 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.

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## GAMING INVESTIGATOR TRAINEE POSITION

Southern Ute Tribal members only



### OUR PROGRAM:

- Paid trainee pathway into Tribal law enforcement
- Complete an approved academy in 1 year
- All training provided:
  - Police Academy
  - Handgun qualification
  - SLEC & Tribal Commission credentials
- Promote to **Gaming Investigator I** upon completion
- Starting pay: **\$23.63/hr**

### WHY CHOOSE US?

Build a meaningful career serving & protecting the Southern Ute community  
Academy & certifications fully provided  
Hands-on training with experienced investigators  
Clear advancement path  
Federal & Tribal law enforcement credentials  
Strong team environment & long-term career opportunities

Review Qualifications & Apply Online:  
[CAREERS.SOUTHERNUTE.COM/PFUND](http://CAREERS.SOUTHERNUTE.COM/PFUND)

TERO Preference



## Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe UMUT Grocery Store & Workforce Innovation Center

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) is focused upon raising funds to complete Phase 1 of the project and to maximize community engagement to ensure the success of the store. Construction of the store was initiated in November of 2023 with an anticipated grand opening in the Summer of 2024. Once the Phase I grocery store is fully established and shows the anticipated growth potential, the Tribe will fundraise for the Phase II grocery store. The Phase II grocery store is anticipated to be approximately 6,000 SF and will function exactly like a small local grocery store. The units that contained the Phase I groceries will be repurposed into addition small business incubators.

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

### Public Education Middle School Teacher Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)

IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$16.09/hour.

### Swimming Instructor (Part-time)

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

### Teacher Aide

Open Until Filled – Supporting the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) through a variety of duties including providing classroom coverage and supervision of children in the After-School Program, being assigned to differing duties on an as-needed basis. Pay grade N4; Pay is \$14.67/hour.

### TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

### TERO Worker

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

### Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

### Umpire/Referee

Open Until Filled – Maintains rules and regulations on the playing field and courts during SunUte Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.



### Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at [www.sugf.com/jobs.asp](http://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.

### Senior Landman – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 12/19/25 – Obtains and maintains orderly, accurate, and appropriate land records for all Red Willow interest properties, both operated and non-operated, including leases, joint operating agreements, divisions of interest, and title opinions. Negotiates leases and partnership documents. Works with Red Willow land personnel, partners, and others in the correct use of land data; responds to communications from interest owners; and prepares reports as needed.

### Joint Interest Billing Accountant II – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/2/26 – Performs assignments pertaining to the review and recording of transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow's oil and gas exploration operations.

### Senior Landman – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/2/26 – Reviewing and recording transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and/or prepare the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow's oil and gas exploration operations. Must have a working knowledge of the joint interest process and be able to apply analytical skills to complete complex accounting assignments.

### SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

To apply now, visit our website at [www.sococaa.org](http://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 Youth Services:

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

#### Ignacio Early Learning Program:

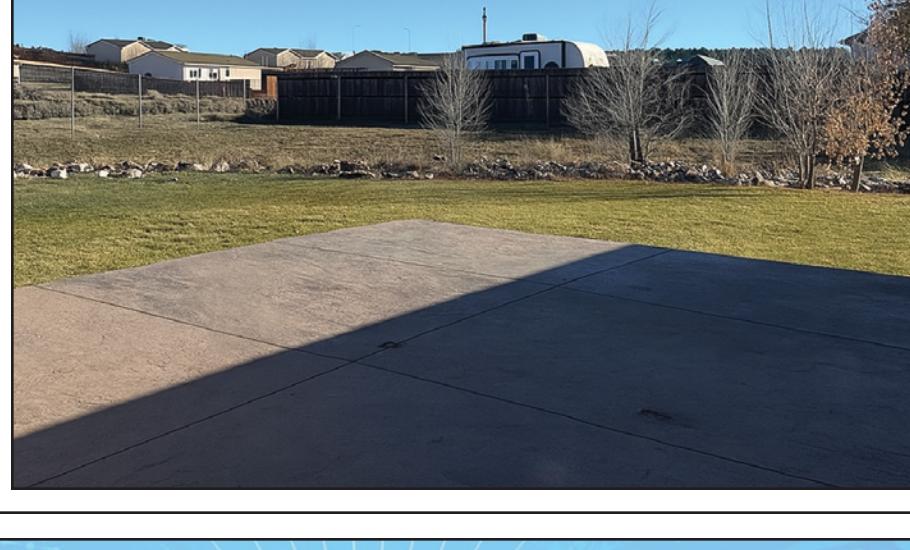
- Teacher Assistant (Full-time) \$15.79-\$20.76/hr.
- Substitute Teacher (Full-time) \$14.81/hr.

#### Road Runner Transit:

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

### 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 Utilities Division**  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 11/26/25

### DECEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TRANSFER STATION**  
**2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- DEC 10<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — **CLOSED**
- DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE — **OPEN**
- DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY — **CLOSED**
- DEC. 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — **OPEN**
- DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S EVE — **OPEN**

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY**

TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

**DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, Dec. 3rd!**  
**Payments must be received before 10am.**
- Tribal Elders & Handicapped Customers: Please contact the Utilities Office **in advance** if you plan to have a non-tribal member dump your trash. Please put the request in writing to give to a staff member. Call office with any questions.
- Polycart Reminders:
  - Must be placed out by 6AM for curbside pickup.** If Republic does not pick up your polycart because it is not out in time, and you request a pickup by Utilities, a \$30 charge will be added to your next monthly bill for the missed pickup.
  - All trash must be bagged in the polycarts
  - Please keep polycarts clean—wash them out occasionally
- Transfer Station closed on Dec. 10th & 25th, Reopens on Friday, Dec. 26th during Christmas Holiday.
- Upcoming Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project at Powwow Circle Housing area is in planning stages. Construction set-up will start in December. More information and proper notification will be given in advance to residents.

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

**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.**  
Dec. 3rd / Jan. 7th / Feb. 4th

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

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- Online at [www.suitutil.com](http://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

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY CLOSURES**  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Utilities Office Closed Dec. 10th, 25th & 26th

### Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com) to view job openings and apply online.

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

#### Beverage & Cocktail Server (On-call)

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

#### 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.

#### Café Cashier (Full-time)

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

#### Front Desk Associate (Full-time)

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

#### Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)

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

#### Housekeeping Staff (Part-time)

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

#### Housekeeping Supervisor (Full-time)

The 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. Will be 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. Responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

#### Rolling Thunder Grill Cashier (Part-time)

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

#### Room Attendant (Full-time)

Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel room by wiping, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping all 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. Will be cleaning an average of 16 guest rooms, and during peak season, up to 20 guest rooms per shift, depending on whether you are working as an individual or a pair. Cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

#### 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 accounts for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness.

### Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

#### Secondary SpEd Teacher

- Secondary SpEd Teacher
- District Mechanic
- High School Track Head Coach
- Mid. School Basketball Assistant Coaches (Boys and Girls)

#### Mid. School Soccer Head Coach

- Mid. School Track Assistant Coach
- Mid. School Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid. School Volleyball Assistant Coach.

### 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 Utilities Division**  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 11/26/25

### DECEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, Dec. 3rd!**  
**Payments must be received before 10am.**
- Tribal Elders & Handicapped Customers: Please contact the Utilities Office **in advance** if you plan to have a non-tribal member dump your trash. Please put the request in writing to give to a staff member. Call office with any questions.
- Polycart Reminders:
  - Must be placed out by 6AM for curbside pickup.** If Republic does not pick up your polycart because it is not out in time, and you request a pickup by Utilities, a \$30 charge will be added to your next monthly bill for the missed pickup.
  - All trash must be bagged in the polycarts
  - Please keep polycarts clean—wash them out occasionally
- Transfer Station closed on Dec. 10th & 25th, Reopens on Friday, Dec. 26th during Christmas Holiday.
- Upcoming Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project at Powwow Circle Housing area is in planning stages. Construction set-up will start in December. More information and proper notification will be given in advance to residents.

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

**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.**  
Dec. 3rd / Jan. 7th / Feb. 4th

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

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- Online at [www.suitutil.com](http://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

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY CLOSURES**  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Utilities Office Closed Dec. 10th, 25th & 26th



# Back Page

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December 12, 2025



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

## FLY FISHING

### The end

By Don Oliver

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

As I write this column I am reminded of the saying, "All good things come to an end." I am saddened, and grateful, to say Flies and Lies is coming to an end. It saddens me to know that I will no longer be writing for you. It gladdens my heart to know that I have been able to write 234 columns in nearly 20 years.

Having made a full-time move to Tennessee, to be closer to three-fifths of the Wild Bunch, it is time for SWMBO and I to "move on."

With this last column I want to say thank you to the owners and editors of The Durango Herald and The Southern Ute Drum. Without the owners signing my paychecks and the support of numerous editors, I would not have been able to write this column for all these

years. The editors, for the most part, never made large corrections, nor changed the content of what I had written in Flies and Lies. If they had questions, and there were some, they did me the courtesy of calling for clarification of my intent or asked why I had worded a sentence in such a way. In my opinion, this attitude was a positive way to do business and a great encouragement. Even when I climbed on my short soap box, to pontificate, my thoughts and words almost always passed their scrutiny. To those men and women, I say, "Thank You."

Lastly, and most importantly, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who read Flies and Lies for all these years. Your encouragement and positive thoughts via texts, emails, phone calls, and word-of-mouth meant the world to me. And, when someone disagreed with something I said,

Thank you and farewell.

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



### 2025 ELK HUNT RAFFLE WINNERS

**GRAND PRIZE- LEONARD REDHORSE**

**GRAND PRIZE- CINDY WINDER**

**\$500 DSG GIFT CARD- RAYMOND BAKER**

**\$250 CABELA'S GIFT CARD- LEONARD REDHORSE**

**PENDLETON BLANKET- STEVEN LABOWSKI**

**PENDLETON BLANKET- JOE GABBARD**

**FIRE PIT- MARK ROBINSON**

**CAMPING GRILL- KIM TACKETT**

**BENCHMADE KNIFE- JASON SANCHEZ**

**HEATED CAMPING CHAIR- BEN ZIMMERMAN**

**\$25 RISE & SHINE- EIRK TSOSIE**

**\$25 RISE & SHINE- BLAKE MAMICH**

**\$25 RISE & SHINE- REBECCA HOWARD**

**\$25 RISE & SHINE- RAY SANCHEZ JR**

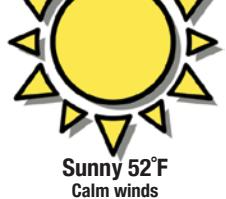
**Sky Ute CASINO RESORT**  
AWAKEN YOUR ADVENTURE

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE**  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
REVENGE JACKALOPE

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE  
IGNACIO, CO

## LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

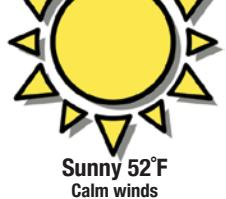
Friday, Dec. 12



Sunny 52°F

Calm winds

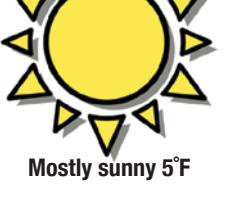
Saturday, Dec. 13



Sunny 52°F

Calm winds

Sunday, Dec. 14



Mostly sunny 5°F

Weather forecasts collected from [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

November 20

November 27

December 4

December 11

December 19



## Tribal Member Hunting Crossing Permits

Now Available Online on the Southern Ute Store Website

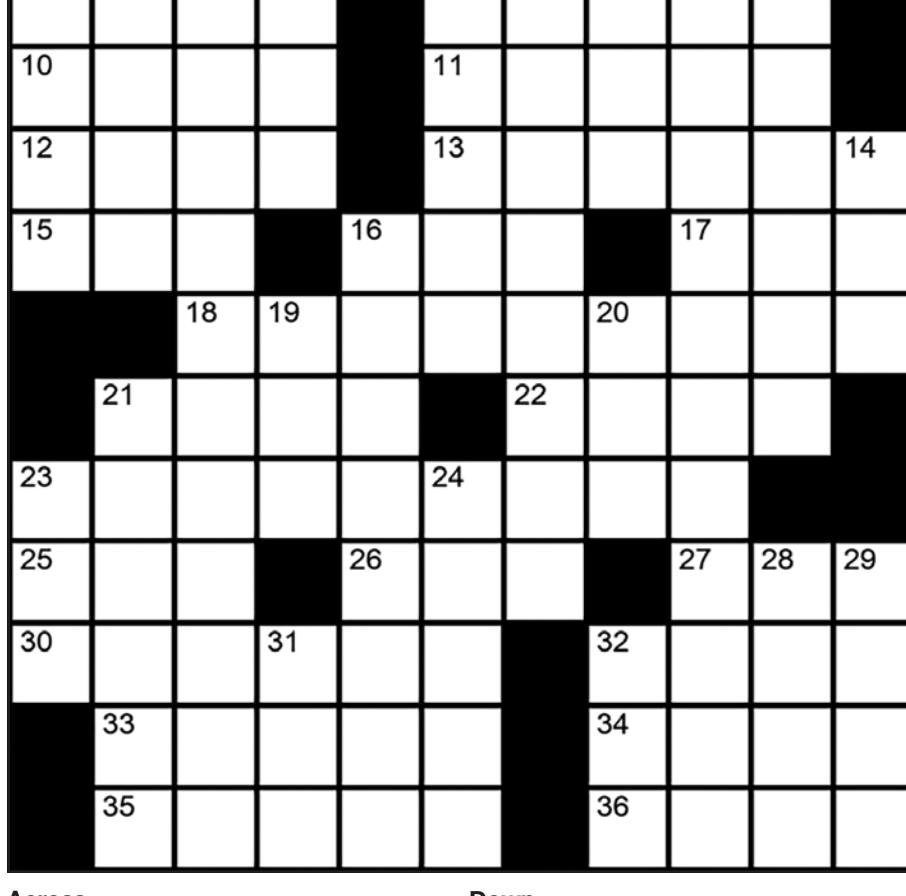
These Crossing Permits are for non-members assisting Tribal Member Hunters. Valid for 30 days, for up to two guests, and cost \$20 per person.

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



### Across

- 1 Nutmeg-based spice
- 5 Rights to keep possession until debts are paid
- 10 Pop singer Aubrey ---
- 11 Site of the surrey's fringe
- 12 Roller coaster cry
- 13 Hector rebuilt Ancestral Puebloan great house
- 15 Words from the sponsor
- 16 Shade or tone
- 17 Explosive sound
- 18 Odd
- 21 "Confound it!"
- 22 Immense
- 23 Evidence of having a short fuse
- 25 Space excursion
- 26 One percent of a yen
- 27 Traveler's stop
- 30 The Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Native Americans
- 32 Dallas Goldtooth's award for "Between Two Knees"
- 33 Touch a base before running
- 34 A patron saint of sailors
- 35 Cube boundaries
- 36 German possessive

### Down

- 1 Band whose name is a portmanteau of two Alabama counties
- 2 Issue associated with inattentiveness
- 3 Roman dressing place?
- 4 This has a pupil, but no teacher
- 5 Stand-in clergyman
- 6 Beyond elated
- 7 "L'heure d'---" (2008 Juliette Binoche film)
- 8 Unachievable
- 9 Plant shoot
- 14 Military missions
- 16 Much-discussed topic
- 19 Myanmar spirit
- 20 Scale notes
- 21 Allocate
- 23 Old-time gumshoe
- 24 Aspen quivers twice a month at sea
- 28 "The people", in the Bannock/Northern Paiute language
- 29 Former Chrysler compact
- 31 Fleecy boot brand
- 32 Disaster-handling agency

Answers will appear in the Dec. 24 issue of the Drum.

### Answers for November 26, 2025 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Bats, 5 Avril, 10 Et al, 11 Leonid, 13 Nebo, 14 Pee Dee, 15 Duluth, 17 Situ, 18 Special, 20 Fox, 21 The buff, 23 Ace, 25 Regress, 28 Luna, 30 Tear up, 31 Annuli, 33 Ceil, 34 Shiraz, 35 Anti, 36 A sage, 37 Stet.

Down: 1 Bends, 2 Ate up, 3 Table tennis, 4 Slouch, 5 Alphabetize, 6 Vee, 7 Roes, 8 Indifferent, 9 Lie to, 12 Deux, 16 Tier, 19 Luge, 22 Fracas, 23 Alas, 24 Cunha, 26 Suite, 27 Split, 29 Aura, 32 Lag.