



THE

# SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Culture 3-5 • Health 6 • Education 7 • Sports 17-18

FREE

NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

FLC fall 2025  
graduatesStockings for  
foster youth

PAGE 8

## Tuu Krismas from The Southern Ute Drum staff

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



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Featured artist of the "Unhinged Art" exhibition at Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, Nanas Fuller, stands proudly with one of her paintings, which she painted as representative of beauty expectations in society. Fuller is a descendant of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and resides in Towaoc, Colo.

### ARTS & CULTURE

## Nanas Fuller debuts original artwork in Ignacio

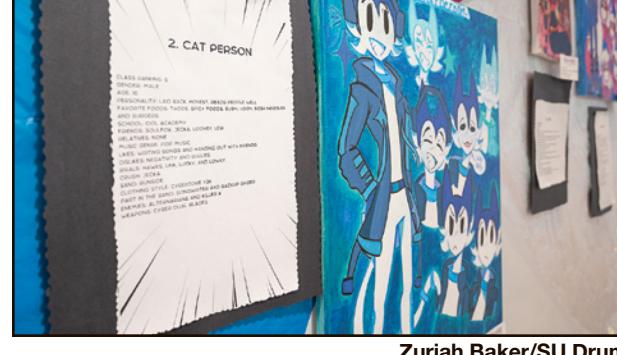
*'Unhinged Art' featured at Dancing Spirit*

By Zuriah Baker

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The "Unhinged Art" exhibition at the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts features the artwork of Nanas Fuller, a descendant of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The art gallery in Ignacio was filled with family, friends and community members, Friday evening, Nov. 7, where Fullers' art was on full display. Fuller opened the show with a short speech, where she thanked her family, as well as Dancing Spirit, for making the event possible. Fuller, who is 18 years old, is currently an intern at the gallery as well as a senior at Big Picture High School in Durango, Colo.

On opening night, twelve canvases were on display as part of the new exhibit at Dancing Spirit; the selection of paintings included characters created by Fuller as well as pieces that took inspiration from some of Fullers' favorite role models. Fuller said of one of her art pieces, "Fox represents another version of me. He represents, like, that chaotic little kid or teenage version of me." Her character fox was created by her 2021. In the beginning he had a different design and over the years she changed his look, until his debut at her recent art show. Pink and blue paper were used as



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

The "Unhinged Art" exhibition took place Friday, Nov. 7, at the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts in Ignacio.

a background that helped to further highlight the art on display. Half of the pieces were sold during the opening of "Unhinged Art."

"Unhinged Art" was inspired by Fuller wanting to challenge creativity, as well as look at creativity from another perspective. "I looked at creativity in a different way other than, like your normal typical standard way," Fuller said.

The road to this art show took a long time, taking a full year to complete. Fuller has been involved in art since she was around eight years old, which helped spark her passion. Unhinged Art is Fullers' first time displaying her art professionally. In an interview, Fuller said "I'm very excited, this is my first time. I didn't think that, like a simple hobby, would just get me to this point."

Dancing Spirit Executive

Director, Kasey Correia was also fundamental in organizing this event. "The depth, I mean, she's so rich in depth; it blows my mind," Correia said. "If I had, you know, a sliver of the talent that this

this young woman has, I'd be blessed." Correia hopes that more Native American students will come to the art center looking for opportunities to explore or display their art in Ignacio.

Throughout the entire process of creating and promoting "Unhinged Art," Fuller emphasized that her family was always there to help her. Whether it was her mother Kateri Largo, who traveled back home to help with Fullers' art show, or her grandma, Karen Washington who helped her stay on track during the last couple months of preparing for the art show. "You know, she's going to go

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## Tuu Krismas from The Southern Ute Drum staff

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

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December 24, 2025

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Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Food Distribution Program offers a variety of grains, dried fruit, non-perishables, dairy, poultry, and more at their warehouse located in downtown Ignacio.

### FOOD EQUITY

## Food Distribution provides fresh food for qualifying residents

*Program continues to breakdown stigmas*By Divine Windy Boy  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Food Distribution Program provides fresh produce and more to the local community, while continuing to break down stigmas and prevent food waste. Their overall mission is to create a grocery shopping experience with the goal of making quality foods accessible for all. The program prides itself on offering healthy and nutritional food options – such as fresh bison meat, seasonal fruits and vegetables, name brand foods, and a variety of non-perishables – available to La



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Fresh fruits and vegetables are always available to clients participating in the Food Distribution Program. Seasonal produce such as squash, tomatoes, melons and more are cycled throughout the year.

Plata and Archuleta County residents who reside on or near the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

Food Distribution Spe-

Food page 9

## Leaders re-elected in run-off



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Newly elected Council Member Marge Barry signs her Oath of Office alongside Chief Judge Scott Moore in Tribal Council chambers, Monday, Dec. 22. Barry was re-elected for a second term in Friday's Run-off election.



Taking in the moment, Marvin Pinnecoose couldn't help but smile once Chief Judge Scott Moore swore him in. Pinnecoose served in the capacity of Vice Chairman during his first term on council and was re-elected for a second term in Friday's Run-off election.



**Tuu Krismas**  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Southern Ute Royalty. We extend our warmest wishes to the tribal membership for a safe and joyful holiday season, filled with love, laughter, and a meaningful time with your loved ones.

Photo Credit: Divine Windy Boy | Southern Ute Drum || Card Design: Coven White | Cultural Preservation Dept.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Fabian Martinez became the Southern Ute Museum's Director Trainee in December of 2024, he received the full Museum Director position on December 1 of this year. Martinez was one of 17 employees that were selected to take part in the recent Project Run leadership course for the Permanent Fund.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### Project RUN hones leadership skills for tribal employees

*Cohorts hail from Pagosa, Ignacio and Durango*

By Jeremy Wade Shockley

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Project Rural Upskill Network (RUN) is a workforce collaboration between the La Plata Economic Development Alliance and Fort Lewis College. Supported by a three-year, \$1.25M Opportunity Now grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), the program develops microcredentials with direct collaboration from employers and industry partners across Southwest Colorado.

According to Project RUN, "Fundamentals of Leadership & Management 1: People" is a six-week training designed to build the leadership capacity that a strong regional workforce depends on." Led by professional leadership coaches, the training helps participants clarify their leadership style, communicate with intention, support team accountability, and navigate workplace dynamics. The training has been offered three times, with the most recent taking place from Oct. 15 to Nov. 19. Project RUN hosted cohorts in Pagosa Springs, Ignacio, and Durango to ensure leadership development is available across the region.

"I went into the Project RUN cohort with every intention of honing my managerial skills while transitioning into my role as the Museum Director," Fabian Martinez said. Martinez became the Southern Ute Museum's Director Trainee in December of 2024, he received the full Museum Director position on December 1. Martinez was one of 17 employees that were selected to take part in the recent Project RUN leadership course for the Permanent Fund. "I was genuinely surprised by the content that was introduced during the six weeks as I was able to learn skills relating to handling conflict and putting



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

TIS Records Retention Manager, Shiri Howell works alongside Jack Frost III in the Records Division, which she oversees. Howell was one of 17 employees that were selected to take part in the Project Run leadership course for the Permanent Fund.

forth meaningful conversations with my staff."

"Being a part of the cohort and keeping up with the additional homework was a big challenge, especially while working full-time," Martinez said. "Through this experience, I was also able to learn how to prioritize my work and narrow my to-do list to make sure I was not multi-tasking too often. Learning not to multi-task has been helpful for me to ensure I am giving my best every day."

There were 17 Permanent Fund employees from Health, Tribal Services, TERO, Facilities, TIS, Education, HR, Finance, Culture and Natural Resources who completed the Fundamentals of Leadership & Management series.

The course was co-taught by Dr. Christine Fonner and Michael de Lisser.

Fonner, who hails from Silverton, Colo., offers on-going leadership development coaching, workshops, and training options for one-to-one sessions and team building needs. With a master's degree in change management and transformational leadership, a PhD in Organizational Leadership, and 25 years of experience (including experience in rural communities across the country), Fonner has dedicated her career to supporting leaders in the everyday workplace.

Lisser, based in Durango, Colo., is a strategic leadership consultant with over 20 years of experience helping organizations and individuals improve performance in several industries. Lisser earned his Bachelor's (University of Rhode Island) and Master's (University of Utah) degrees with a focus on interpersonal, intercultural, and organizational communication. He also spent over a decade as an adjunct professor in the Professional MBA and Executive Education Programs at the University of Utah David Eccles School of Business. He is currently the Managing Director and co-founder of de Lisser Leadership Consulting, a strategic leadership consulting firm, and is the author of "Leadership Accelerators: High-Impact Communication Skills That Strengthen Relationships and Drive Results."

"The portion of the course I teach focuses on increasing emotional intelligence, improving communication self-awareness and skills, and understanding how to improve team performance and relationships," Lisser said. "Many of the topics I cover in the program are the same topics as I teach in MBA programs and in senior leadership development training."

"The Permanent Fund Human Resources team is proud to have partnered with Project RUN to deliver a valuable training class for staff," said Michelle Wagner, HR Training and Development Coordinator for the Permanent Fund. "This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to investing in employee development and fostering growth. We look forward to continuing this partnership and creating future opportunities that enhance the skills and knowledge of our workforce."

"Learn more by visiting Projectrunco.work

courtesy SU Human Resources Dept.

HR Training and Development Coordinator, Michelle Wagner congratulates the Permanent Fund's Project Run cohort with a celebratory class to finish off the six-week leadership course, which was held in person, Wednesday, Nov. 19.

waini (2)

Learn more by visiting Projectrunco.work

courtesy SU Human Resources Dept.

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courtesy



## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

## Miss Southern Ute Alternate

Autumn Sage

Maykh,  
My name is Autumn Sage and I am the 2025-2026 Miss Southern Ute Alternate. My Ute name is Pachukwi (River Otter). I am 21 years old and currently attending Pueblo Community College, working towards an associate's degree in general education. My parents are Roger Sage Jr and Lynnette Sage, and my brother is Derek Sage. My grandparents on my father's side are Roger Sage, Christine Sage, and the late Vera Mae Cuthair. On my mother's side, my grandparents are the late Leonard C. Burch and the late Irene C. Burch.

I am honored to serve as the Miss Southern Ute Alternate. This year marks my sixth year representing the Southern Ute Indian Tribe as an ambassador. It has been a privilege to represent the Southern Ute membership, and I am proud to be part of the Royalty Court for the 2025-2026 year. I would like to provide the tribal membership with an update on my participation in events and travels from September to November. I sincerely thank the Royalty Committee and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for granting me this incredible opportunity.

## September

- I was crowned Miss Southern Ute Alternate at the 103rd Southern Ute Tribal Fair and Powwow. I participated in the fair parade, as well as all the grand entries and inter-tribals.
- Attended the Southern Ute Tribal Fair Rodeo.
- Public Speaking class held at Fort Lewis College.

## October

- Royalty participated in the Durango Cowboy Parade.
- I attended the Breast Cancer Awareness Dinner



Autumn Sage  
Miss Southern Ute Alternate  
2025-2026

hosted by Shining Mountain Health and Wellness at the Sky Ute Casino.

- The Royalty Committee hosted a pageant for the Jr. Miss title, and we crowned Jr Miss Shayne White Thunder and Jr Miss Alternate Cyana WhiteSkunk.
- I attended the Sip Chat and Chew for October.
- I attended the 25th Growth Fund Anniversary at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds.

## November

- The Royalty attended Leandra Litz's SCSYAC Inauguration in November.
- I attended a dance performance at Needham Elementary in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

I've had some wonderful experiences so far in my reign. I promise to do my best as Miss Southern Ute Alternate and uphold my crown and title with dignity and respect. I want to thank my family, friends, tribal membership, and the Royalty Committee for their support. I look forward to the upcoming events and powwows.

Tog'oiak'  
Autumn Sage  
Miss Southern Ute  
Alternate  
2025-2026

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### Upcoming Tribal Office Closures

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

## SHELL DRESS WORKSHOP

**DATES:**  
JANUARY 14, 2026  
JANUARY 21, 2026  
JANUARY 28, 2026

MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND ALL 3 SESSIONS

4:00PM - 7:00PM

SUCCM LARGE CLASSROOM

#### SUPPLY LIST:

-cloth (wool, broadcloth, velvet, or upholstery [dress liner should be cotton])

dress sizing:  
14-16: 2 yds  
16-18: 2.5 yds  
18-20: 3 yds  
20-22: 3.5 yds

-shells, coins, elk teeth (2 packs of 100)

-upholstery thread

-big eye needles

#### CLASS SIZE:

**10**

TO REGISTER, CALL:

970-563-2983

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED



## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

## Miss Southern Ute

Zuriah Baker



Zuriah Baker  
Miss Southern Ute  
2025-2026

able to represent the Tribe

in the state of New Hampshire at Dartmouth College. The night before Indigenous Peoples Day, Native students visiting Dartmouth for the IFI fly-in program go to the "Green" and share stories and songs from back home, these stories represent tribes from all over the U.S., I gave a speech and wished everyone a Happy Indigenous Peoples Day.

- 41 Annual Aises Powwow: I traveled to Colorado State University to attend this powwow where I gave a welcome speech and danced in intertribals.

• Elders Association Sunrises: I was invited by the Elders Committee and participated in this blessing. I would like to thank the Committee for this invitation as well as those who prayed for us.

- Juniper School Dance Demonstration: I gave a dance exhibition to the students of Juniper. It was amazing to see them so interested in our culture.

• Veterans Celebration Breakfast: It was a great honor to be able to talk to our Veterans.

- Ute Mountain Ute Council Inauguration: I would like to thank the outgoing council for their dedication and work to our sister tribe. I would like to congratulate the new council members.

• Bayfield High School Veterans Day Breakfast: I invited the Southern Ute Veterans Association to breakfast at my school. I was so honored and happy when they arrived. During this I gave a speech that I prepared for this day.

- MPF Veterans Day Breakfast: I attended this meal and thanked all of our veterans in our community for their service.

• Veterans Powwow: I attended our community powwow and participated by dancing and giving speeches. I would like to take this time to thank the veterans who fought for our freedom for their service.

MSU page 5

## UTE LANGUAGE NEWS

The Cultural Preservation Department is excited to announce the new *Let's Learn Ute* Instagram account. We encourage folks to follow as we venture in this digital avenue of the Ute language being present on social media. Scan the QR code below, to be directed to the account. Toghoqaq.



@LetsLearnUte





# Culture

## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

### Jr. Miss Southern Ute

Shayne White Thunder

Mique Nuuchiu,  
My name is Shayne Morning Star White Thunder. My Ute name is Teme-si'iru "Winter Rose." My grandmother Mikki gave me that name because I was born in winter and the rose signifies our people. My Cheyenne name is Azem'eh "Rearing Woman." I am named after my Nishgit (grandma) Bobbie.

I am 11 years old, and I attend school at Escalante Middle School in Durango, Colo. in the 6th grade. My mother is Heather White Thunder, and my father is Seth Roubideaux. My paternal grandmother is Mikki Naranjo, and my great-grandparents are the late Eugene Naranjo and the late Dixie Naranjo. My maternal grandparents are Bobbie White Thunder from El Reno, Okla., and the late Ross Denny. I come from the Moache-Capote bands, and I am also Cheyenne and Arapaho, Lakota, and Oneida from my mother's side.

On October 16, I participated in the Junior Miss Pageant. I was crowned as the new Junior Miss Southern Ute for 2025-2026! I'm excited to begin my reign and represent as best as I can. I take pride in being a positive role model and being a voice for our youth. It is very important that we keep our traditions and culture strong. I am also a council member of the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council.



Shayne White Thunder  
Jr. Miss Southern Ute  
2025-2026

The following are events that I have attended and participated in this quarter:

#### October

- October 16: Participated in Junior Miss Pageant.
- October 30: Attended Swearing-in Ceremony SCSYAC member – Leandra Litz.

#### November

- November 4: Attended and danced at Juniper School in Durango, Colo.
- November 7: Attended and danced at Needham Elementary School in Durango, Colo.
- November 13: Attended and danced at Bayfield Primary School in Bayfield, Colo.
- November 14: Attended the Roc your Mocs event at the Southern Ute Museum. I presented the different styles of moccasins I wear to attendees.
- November 15: I greeted and introduced myself at

the Southern Ute Annual Thanksgiving Dinner to tribal members and guests. I helped pass out dinner plates to elders. When that concluded my family and I went to the Durango Native American PAG Round Dance. It was fun dancing with my brother Curtis and my friends with other Royalty.

- November 17: All Royalty took a group photo
- November 18: Attended and read to younger students at the Education Center Night with Nuuci event.

- November 22: Attended and danced at the Denver Nuggets half time show for Native American Heritage night. It was so fun and exciting. Thank you to those who made this happen.

- November 27-29: My mom, sister, and I traveled to Fort Duchesne, Utah to attend and dance at the annual Ute Tribe Thanksgiving Powwow. This powwow is one of my favorites.

I have enjoyed my time so far, and I look forward to more travels and representing the Tribe. Remember to always be kind and respect one another. Always have good intentions in your heart. Stay warm and safe this winter and Happy Holidays!

Tog'oiak'  
Shayne Morning Star White  
Thunder  
Junior Miss Southern Ute  
2025-2026

wHchuwiini (4)

December 24, 2025

## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

### Jr. Miss Southern Ute Alternate

Cyana House Whiteskunk

Maykw, my name is Cyana House Whiteskunk, I'm the newly crown Jr. Miss Southern Ute Alternate, 2025-26.

My Ute name is Muchtachi, which means hummingbird, given to me by my grandma Lorrain House from Towaoc. My parents are Daisy House Eagle and Henry Whiteskunk. My brother is Henry Elkriver Whiteskunk II. My maternal grandparents are Linda Eagle and Bradley Hight. My Paternal grandparents are Willette Thompson and the late Edward Whiteskunk.

I'm 12 years old and I'm in the 6th grade at Ignacio Middle School.

My first Quartey report as 2025-2026 Jr. Miss Alternate:

#### October

- Oct. 16, I was crowned at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility during the Jr. Miss and Jr. Miss Alternate pageant.
- Nov. 25 – I attended the dance performance held at the middle school on behalf of Native American Heritage Month.



Cyana House Whiteskunk  
Jr. Miss Southern Ute Alt.  
2025-2026

Chew. I greeted fellow tribal members as well as our sister tribe.

#### November

- Nov. 22 – I attended the Denver Nuggets game and danced in the half time show along with my fellow royalty and the heritage dancers.
- Nov. 25 – I attended the dance performance held at the middle school on behalf of Native American Heritage Month.

This concludes my first quarterly report serving as Jr. Miss Southern Ute Alternate, 2025-26. I enjoyed all the performances and events that I attended and am looking forward to upcoming events and powwows. I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! May you all receive the gifts and blessings of this Holiday Season!

Cyana House Whiteskunk  
Jr. Miss Southern Ute  
Alternate  
2025-2026

## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

### Southern Ute Brave

Theoden Greany



Theoden Greany  
Southern Ute Brave  
2025-2026

Maykh Nuuchiu,  
Hello, I hope all the Southern Ute tribal membership and rest of the community has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years. I'm thankful to have my community's love and support.

My name is Theoden Greany. I am the Southern Ute Brave for 2025-26. I'm seven years old and I attend school at the Southern Ute Montessori Academy. My mother is Dominika Joy, my father is Bryan Greany. My siblings are Starlitt Greany and Mykel-Zain Greany. My grandma is Ella Ramos. My Great Grandma was the late Ann Weaver. My Great grandpa is Hardy Joy. My Paternal Grandpa was the late Clifton "Butch" Greany. My father's lineage comes from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma.

#### September

- September 12: I was sashed at the 2025 Southern Ute Fair and Powwow.
- September 19 and 20: I attended the Southern Ute Rodeo.
- September 24: I attended the pageant for Miss Indigenous.

#### October

- Oct. 4: I Ayacon Blacklight Powwow in Denver, where I placed 1st in headman dancer Marcus Cyrus's hat and boot special.
- Oct. 10-13: My sister Little Miss Southern Ute Starlitt Greany and I were invited to The Museum of Indigenous People in Prescott, Ariz. to share our dance styles with the people of Prescott, Ariz.

#### November

- Oct. 23: I attended the Bison Field Dressing at the bison pasture in Ignacio.
- Oct. 25: I attended the Red Ribbon Week Youth dance in Clinton, Okla. Where I placed 1st in Jr boys fancy.
- Oct. 26: I attended the 6th annual youth powwow in Moore, Okla. Where

SU Brave page 5

### Ute storytelling at SunUte



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Cassandra Atencio shared a variety of Ute oral stories passed down from her family on Wednesday, Dec. 17 during the Ute Storytelling event at SunUte Community Center. Storytelling is culturally significant to the Ute people and other Indigenous peoples during the winter months, this lunchtime event hosted by the Cultural Preservation Department featured both personal and culturally significant stories.



Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany, greets listeners at the Ute Storytelling event at SunUte Community Center.

**THE KRISMAS**  
Tribal Office Closure

In observance of Christmas, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 1:00 PM through Friday, December 26, 2025. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, December 29, 2025.



## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

## Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate

KaiLanii Graham

Maykh' Nuchu, family and friends, My Name KaiLanii Kamea Pearl Graham and I am the 2025-26 Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate. I am six years old, I attend Needham Elementary in Durango, Colo. as a first grader. My mother is Shann Graham (Baker), my father is Neki Graham. My maternal grandparents are Dorene Baker & Leslie Weaver. My paternal grandparents are Loucinda Graham also of Jeddito, Ariz. & Jacob Graham of Marjoo (capitol of the Marshal Islands). I come from the Mouache and Capota bands, and a direct descendant of Buckskin Charlie. I am an enrolled Southern Ute member, I am also Diné and Marshallese (Hawaiian).

This is my first quarterly report. I am honored to have attended these events in the first few months of my reign. I look forward to the new year and events to come.

## September

- Our Annual Southern Ute Fair Parade & Powwow
- I helped with the royalty dinner and entered the parade. I partook in Grand Entry and inter-tribals for the remainder of the weekend.
- The Southern Ute Fair Rodeo. All of us representatives attended both days of the rodeo.
- Durango's annual Cow-



KaiLanii Graham  
Little Miss Southern Ute Alt.  
2025-2026

boy Parade. I attended this event with my fellow representatives Miss Southern Ute and Miss Southern Ute Alternate.

## October

- Phoenix Indian Center, "Our people must keep dancing" Gourd Dance & Social Powwow. I attended this event with my family.

- Southern Ute Royalty Committee Junior Miss Pageant. My representatives and I attended the pageant & crowning of our Jr. Miss & Jr. Miss Alternate.

- The Southern Ute Multi-Purpose monthly Sip, Chat & Chew.

## November

- Elders Committee Fall sunrise blessing at the SUCCM.

- Juniper School perfor-

mance for NAHM. Southern Ute Royalty and the Southern Ute heritage dancers.

- Needham Elementary School also for NAHM. Southern Ute Royalty and the So. Ute heritage dancers.
- Southern Ute Veterans Powwow. I attended this for the whole weekend with other representatives.
- Culture Preservation Departments Roc your Mocs event.
- Ignacio Elementary & Middle School.
- The Po'Pay's pueblo dancers at the SUCCM.
- Annual Tribal Thanksgiving dinner.
- Durango High School Round Dance & Art Market.
- Mercy Hospital for NAHM.
- Denver Nuggets NAHM half time show.

## December

- Annual Tribal Dinner & Christmas Program.

It has been an honor to attend these events and showcase our culture and connect with people. I look forward to the new year and the events I plan to attend. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Toghoyaqh,  
KaiLanii Graham  
Little Miss Southern Ute  
Alternate 2025-26

## MISS SOUTHERN UTE • FROM PAGE 3

vice. I am very thankful that you are here with us today. May creator bless you and your family. I would also like to take a moment to mention those veterans who have passed on or who never came home. As well as families of veterans who support them.

- Rock Your Mocs: It was so lovely to see the SUIMA students with their moccasins and shirts. I was the emcee for this event.

- Tribal Thanksgiving Meal: I helped serve the food as well as giving a welcome speech. It was a wonderful event I would like to thank the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Casino for making this event possible.

- Round Dance at Durango High School: I enjoyed dancing with the Durango community.

- Rock Your Mocs Ignacio: Royalty was invited by

Ignacio's NAYO group to present our moccasins and what they mean to us.

- SUIMA Dance Demonstration: Royalty gave a dance demonstration to the SUIMA students. All the students participated and were so kind, I enjoyed this event!

- Pueblo Dancers Demonstration: I started with a welcome speech; it was an honor to be able to watch this dance.

- Nuggets Halftime Show: This was a great honor to be able to dance at this event. I was so happy to see members of the Southern Ute Indian be able to dance as well. I would like to thank the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ignacio High School Basketball team for this opportunity.

- Mercy Hospital Dance Demonstration: It was wonderful to be able to display our culture to the

workers of the hospital. I was so thankful for this as well as their hospitality.

- Ignacio Middle School Dance Demonstration: I was able to give a dance demonstration and speech.

- Reading with Nuuuchiu: I enjoyed reading to the attendees and had a great time participating in education events.

- Fort Duchesne Thanksgiving Powwow: I had a great time attending this event. I was excited to be able to visit our sister tribe in Utah.

I am so grateful to be able to hold this title, I look forward to 2026 and continuing my representation of the Southern Ute People, traditions, and culture! Thank you for your time. Have a great day!

Zuriah K. Baker  
Miss Southern Ute  
2025-2026

## Shop with a Cop brings cheer



courtesy Summer Begay

Durango Walmart was buzzing with excitement as 125 children from 50 families teamed up with local law enforcement officers for the annual "Shop with a Cop" event, Wednesday, Dec. 10. Southern Ute Police Chief, Daryl Noon was honored to join fellow officers from the Durango Police Department, La Plata County Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol, Ignacio Police Department, Fort Lewis College Police, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bayfield Police Department to make the season brighter.

## ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

## Little Miss Southern Ute

Starlitt Greany



Starlitt Greany  
Little Miss Southern Ute  
2025-2026

Maykh Nuuchiu,

I would like to say happy holidays to each and every one of you, I wish you all a happy new years and I hope your holidays are full of love.

My name is Starlitt Greany. My Ute name is Sanapukuraachi. I am the Little Miss Southern Ute for 2025-26. I'm six years old and I attend school at the Southern Ute Montessori Academy. My mother is Dominika Joy, my father is Bryan Greany. My siblings are Theoden Greany and Mykel-Zain Greany. My grandma is Ella Ramos. My Great Grandma was the late Ann Weaver. My Great Grandpa is Hardy Joy. My Paternal Grandpa was the late Clifton "Butch" Greany. My father's lineage comes from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma.

## September

- September 12: I was Crowned at the 2025 Southern Ute Fair and Powwow.

- September 19 and 20: I attended the Southern Ute Rodeo.

- September 24: I attended the pageant for Miss Indigenous San Juan College.

- September 26-28: I attended Morongo Thunder and Lightning Powwow in Cabazon, Calif.

## October

- Oct. 4: I Ayacon Blacklight Powwow in Denver.

- Oct. 10-13: My Brother Southern Ute brave Theoden Greany and I were invited to The Museum of Indigenous People in Prescott, Ariz. to share

## November

- Nov 4: I danced with the heritage dancers for a presentation at Juniper School in Durango, Colo.

- Nov 5 I attended the Ute

Roc your Mocs event hosted by the Cultural Department.

- Nov 14: I attended La Cosecha Powwow in Albuquerque, N.M. where I placed 1st in Teen Boys Fancy and 3rd in Headman Jasiah Whitegoat's all ages grass dance special.

- Nov 15: I attended our Southern Ute Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner.

- Nov 15: I attended the Native American Round Dance in Durango, Colo.

- Nov 18: I attended the Night with Nuuchiu hosted by the Education Department in Ignacio, where I had a lot of fun reading to everyone.

- Nov 19: I attended a royalty presentation and dance at SUIMA.

- Nov 20: I attended the Po'Pay's Pueblo Dancers presentation.

- Nov 22: I performed for the Denver Nuggets half-time show.

- Nov 24: I shared my dance style alongside heritage dancers at Mercy Medical Center in Durango, Colo.

- Nov 25: I performed at Ignacio High School.

- Nov 25: I performed at the Ignacio Middle School with the heritage dancers.

- Nov. 28-30: I attended the Cabazon powwow in Indio, Calif., Where I placed 4th in Jr girls traditional.

Mountain Ute Tribal Inauguration in Towaoc, Colo.

- Nov 8-9: I attended the Community Veterans Powwow in Ignacio.

- Nov 13: I attended a heritage dance performance at Bayfield Primary School in Bayfield, Colo.

- Nov 14: I attended the Roc your Mocs event hosted by the Cultural Department.

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Starlitt Greany  
Little Miss Southern Ute  
2025-2026

## SOUTHERN UTE BRAVE • FROM PAGE 4

I placed 1st in Jr boys chicken.

- Oct. 30: I attended the swearing in of Leandra Litz to the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council.

## November

- Nov 4: I danced with the heritage dancers for a presentation at Juniper School in Durango, Colo.

- Nov 5: I attended the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Inauguration in Towaoc, Colo.

- Nov 8-9: I attended the Community Veterans Powwow in Ignacio, Colo.

- Nov 13: I attended a heritage dance performance at Bayfield Primary School in Bayfield, Colo.

- Nov 19: I attended a royalty presentation and dance at SUIMA.

- Nov 20: I attended the

Po'Pay's Pueblo Dancers Presentation.

- Nov 22: I performed for the Denver Nuggets half-time show for my 2nd year in Denver, Colo.

- Nov 24: I shared my dance style alongside heritage dancers at Mercy Medical Center in Durango, Colo.

- Nov 25: I performed at Ignacio High School.

- Nov 25: I performed at the Ignacio Middle School with the heritage dancers.

- Nov. 28-30: I attended the Cabazon powwow in Indio, Calif., Where I placed 1st in Jr boys Fancy.

Theoden Greany  
Southern Ute Brave  
2025-2026



25% off sale for the month of December

Sale excludes B. Yellowtail merchandise, books, hides and hand drums.



503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583

EMAIL | museum@southerntutemuseum.org • IG | southern\_ute\_museum • WEB | southerntutemuseum.org



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# BEE Heard: Alexithymia, an emotional colorblindness during the holidays

By James Wilson  
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Late December brings on a series of holidays recognized in the so-called United States aimed at bringing families and friends together in the spirit of joy, kinship, gratitude, and hope for the future of a new year to come. These emotions and the sharing of experiences with the people we care about are often called the reason for the season. However, what if those feelings do not arise even when we think they ought to? Why do some people feel empty or experience the absence of any feeling at all when others seem to be laughing, smiling, or in awe of these holiday festivities?

We might point to the rise of commercialism that encourages people to consume and purchase mountains of gifts that may not even be appreciated. We might also think about the history of broken promises around the holidays, when we had to do with less than our neighbors. Those experiences are real and valid. However, if we take a step back and think to ourselves, "that's how it is in every season, not just now," then it could be a mental health challenge; when emotions and their associated feelings are out of reach or don't happen the way they seem to happen in others.

Alexithymia is a symptom of many mental health challenges, and it affects many people in our community. It is sometimes called emotional colorblindness, and that describes what it's like for some people who have it. There are three elements of alexithymia, 1) It's hard to know what emotion you are feeling in a situation, 2) Putting the emotions you feel into words is hard or impossible, 3) When we feel overwhelmed or stressed, we tend to look for answers in the material

world around us.

So, people who have alexithymia often have this experience that they have no emotion throughout their day, they wake up, go to work, things happen, and for all or most of it they could not tell you any feelings that went with those experiences. Then, whenever someone asks them how they feel in that moment, they may answer "okay," or "good," or "fine," but these aren't really emotions. Oftentimes, that question has been asked of people with alexithymia, and instead of saying "I'm not sure," or "I don't know," which tends to lead to more questions, they learn to say, "I'm okay," or similar things, to progress the conversation or stop the questions.

Lastly, the person who has alexithymia tends to see talking about emotions and experiences as a waste of time and that feelings are mostly irrelevant to solving problems in life and making decisions. For many with alexithymia life is about the results of their hard work and effort, and that stress is the product of not having enough or not trying hard enough to get what they want.

People with alexithymia often show up for other people in their lives as stoic, steady, confident, and

calm. Nothing ever seems to bother them. However, the emotions aren't really gone, they are just being stored up in a pressurized tank. Inside that tank, the pressure forces all the feelings to mix so that they can't be easily separated, and the pressure builds up in the form of stress. People with alexithymia try to find ways to ventilate this pressure without talking about it and this is particularly true for men who are heavily discouraged from talking about feelings. If this sounds like you, or someone you know, it can be helpful to talk to a professional to decide if you might need new ways to release that pressure.

As always, we at the Behavioral Health Center are here for you if you would like to talk to someone. 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.

For crockpot: Place all ingredients in crockpot, cook on low for 4 hours. Remove bay leaf and serve with your favorite toppings.

For instant pot: place all ingredients and cook on high pressure for 25 minutes. Release naturally. Remove bay leaf and serve with your favorite toppings. As an alternative, you can sauté the onions and peppers on "sauté mode" prior to placing remaining ingredients and pressure cook as indicated above.

Serves 6-8. Double up for a larger crowd!

## HEALTHY RECIPES

# Leftover turkey & pumpkin chili

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

What a great way to use up the leftover ingredients from your holiday turkey and pumpkin pie!

Chili is a healthy combination of protein and fiber. Adding the anti-inflammatory herbs, spices, and vegetables makes this a warm, healthy and inviting dish. Pumpkins have been used in the Southwest for thousands of years!

Feel free to swap your favorite beans or add some of your other leftover veggies.



Brent Hofacker/AdobeStock

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

## Turkey & Pumpkin Chili

### Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 orange or red pepper, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-2 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 cups leftover roasted turkey, cubed or shredded
- 1 15oz can great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15oz can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup to one 14oz can pumpkin puree, fresh or canned (according to taste preference)
- 4oz green chili, chopped (fresh, frozen or canned)
- 1-2 cups water (or chicken broth)
- Salt and pepper to taste

### Directions:

1. In a large skillet over medium-high heat add 1 teaspoon olive oil.
2. Add diced onion, sauté for 2-3 minutes.

3. Add remaining olive oil, red pepper, chili powder, cumin and oregano, sauté for 2-3 minutes.

4. Add remaining ingredients, stirring for a few minutes on medium-high heat to let flavors mix.

5. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Add more liquid (water or broth) as needed for moisture. Remove bay leaf before serving.

6. Serve with your favorite toppings such as cilantro, plain Greek yogurt, green onions, or roasted pumpkin seeds!

For crockpot: Place all ingredients in crockpot, cook on low for 4 hours. Remove bay leaf and serve with your favorite toppings.

For instant pot: place all ingredients and cook on high pressure for 25 minutes. Release naturally. Remove bay leaf and serve with your favorite toppings. As an alternative, you can sauté the onions and peppers on "sauté mode" prior to placing remaining ingredients and pressure cook as indicated above.

Serves 6-8. Double up for a larger crowd!



## Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division

## About Us

The Behavioral Health Division of the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department provides a continuum of services to individuals with a wide variety of concerns, including:

- Family stress
- Life stress
- Mental health disorders
- Alcohol and Substance use disorders.

## Services We Provide

- Assessment of mental health and substance use disorders
- Integrated visits with medical providers
- Individual, family and group therapy
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT Services)
- Education and distribution of Narcan to prevent opioid-related deaths
- Peer Recovery Coaching
- Case Management
- Crisis interventions
- Psychiatric evaluations and medication management
- Educational presentations and outreach in the community
- Assistance with residential substance abuse or inpatient mental health treatment

**988**

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

**Let's Learn Ute**

**Tapaghqaqh núurugwapu.**  
*Open the gift.*

**Karuti'aqh piaváana ta'aviwa.**  
*Put out the milk & cookies.*

**Putiri'aqh pana'natí'napu**  
**yáváptu'vaana.**  
*Put the lights on the tree.*



FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

## Center of Southwest Studies presents 'Constellations of Place'

### Staff report

FLC CENTER OF SOUTHWEST STUDIES

The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College (FLC) is pleased to present *Constellations of Place*, a major exhibition rooted in the landscapes and layered histories of Southwest Colorado. Guest curated by scholar, writer, and independent curator Dr. Meranda Roberts (Yerington Paiute, Chicana), *Constellations of Place* will feature a selection of over 60 textiles, pottery, beadwork, 2D, and mixed media from the Center's museum and archival collections alongside the work of 13 invited contemporary Native American, Indigenous, and Latinx artists.

*Constellations of Place* will open with a reception on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. featuring live music by Diné sound artist Kino Benally (DJ Béeso). The exhibition will be on display and freely accessible to the public through Dec. 18, 2026.

*Constellations of Place* is a collaborative project between the Center of Southwest Studies, Department of Reconciliation, and Four Corners Bridging Institute at Fort Lewis College, and the result of over a year of planning, listening sessions, and research. *Constellations of Place* is made possible with generous support from the Belonging Colorado initiative of The Denver Foundation and the Greater Good Science Center and is in partnership with the America 250-Colorado 150 Southwest regional "Power of Place" initiative.

Loaned works will span

mediums of sculpture, screenprint, video projection, digital collage, painting, photography, beadwork, and textiles from invited artists:

- Solange Aguilar (Mescalero Apache, Yo'eme, Filipinx)
- Venancio Aragón (Diné, FLC alum)
- Linda Baker (Southern Ute, FLC alum)
- Karen Clarkson (Choctaw)
- Demian DinéYazhi (Diné)
- Jason Garcia (Tewa-Santa Clara Pueblo)



"Bleeding Sky," acrylic on canvas, 2008, James Joe (Diné), Center of Southwest Studies permanent collection, 2008:104.001

- Layli Long Soldier (Oglala Lakota)
- Charine Pilar Gonzales (Tewa-San Ildefonso Pueblo, FLC alum)
- Darby Raymond-Overstreet (Diné)
- Cara Romero (Chemehuevi)
- Tyrrell Tapaha (Diné)
- Vicente Telles (Latinx)
- José Villalobos (Latinx)

### Exhibition Overview

Southwest Colorado holds stories in its mountains, rivers, and canyons – stories that long predate colonization. For generations, the Nuuchuu (Ute), Diné, Apache, Hopi, and Pueblo people lived in relation to this land, moving through networks of kinship, trade, and care.

In time, these routes were crossed and redirected by settler expansion. Trails became highways; rivers were renamed, and the region was romanticized as a land of beauty and freedom – narratives that erased both displacement and exploitation.

Yet movement also carried memory: routes of return that endured even through separation and loss.

As Colorado marks 150 years of statehood and the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, *Constellations of Place* offers a different kind of reflection – not a celebration of milestones, but an invitation to look closely at how we understand place, memory, and belonging. The land itself is a witness – a record of kinship, endurance, and return.

Fort Lewis College sits at the heart of this story. Once a military outpost and later a federal Indian boarding school (1891–1911), it is now a public institution serving Indigenous, Native American, and Latinx students, these works remind us that survival is not passive, but an active practice of creation, adaptation, and care.

dure.

Rather than presenting a linear story of progress, *Constellations of Place* gathers an interconnected field of artistic practices rooted in this region – works that hold space for grief and endurance, rupture and repair, beauty and burden. Drawn from the Center's collections and from contemporary Indigenous, Native American, and Latinx artists, these works remind us that survival is not passive, but an active practice of creation, adaptation, and care.

Grounded in conversations with students, artists, and community members, the exhibition affirms that art is not merely a reflection of the past – it is a map, tracing lines of endurance and return, and offering routes toward truth-telling, shared responsibility, and collective imagination.

Visitors will be invited to move beyond reflection toward responsibility – to see how art can become a map

for truth-telling, repair, and renewed belonging, and urge us to consider:

- What does this place carry – and what have we been taught to forget?
- What truths remain unspoken, unsettled, or obscured?
- And how might we carry them – together – into a future that honors the beauty of this region, confronts its layered histories, and deepens our responsibility to one another and the land?

*Constellations of Place* also intentionally connects to the ongoing reconciliation and belonging efforts at Fort Lewis College, aiming to create a space where truth is spoken with care, where memory is held with accountability, and where the work of reconciliation is extended through art, story, and relation. Rather than treating reconciliation as a conclusion, this exhibition understands it as an ongoing responsibility – one that requires institutions, communities, and visitors alike to step into deeper forms of belonging.

### Center of Southwest Studies

The Center of Southwest Studies shares the mission of Fort Lewis College to promote inclusive, experiential learning that fosters innovation, growth, and community engagement. As a museum, archives, and library dedicated to the diverse cultures, histories, and environments of the Southwest, the Center provides collections-based learning opportunities and internships for students, preserves and provides access to its research collections, and offers exhibits and educational programs for the College and the public.



"The Wild Wild West," oil on paper, 2021, Karen Clarkson (Choctaw). Image courtesy of Blue Rain Gallery.

Southwest Colorado holds stories in its mountains, rivers, and canyons – stories that long predate colonization. For generations, the Nuuchuu (Ute), Diné, Apache, Hopi, and Pueblo people lived in relation to this land, moving through networks of kinship, trade, and care.

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**CONSTELLATIONS OF PLACE**

Guest Curated by Dr. Meranda Roberts  
(Yerington Paiute, Chicana)

OPENING RECEPTION:  
**Thursday, January 15**  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Center of Southwest Studies  
Fort Lewis College  
1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301  
swcenter.fortlewis.edu | (970) 247-7333  
Free Admission

**JANUARY 15 - DECEMBER 18, 2026**

This exhibition is supported by the Belonging Colorado initiative of The Denver Foundation

**CENTER OF SOUTHWEST STUDIES**  
Fort Lewis College

**BELONGING COLORADO**

**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**  
RECONCILIATION

**Happy Holidays!**

SUIMA WILL BE CLOSED  
DEC. 22<sup>ND</sup> - JAN. 2<sup>ND</sup>.  
STUDENTS WILL RETURN  
JAN. 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT 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.



## EDUCATION

# Pueblo Community College Southwest names new vice president

Staff report

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SOUTHWEST



**Lisa Molina**  
President  
Pueblo Community College Southwest

Lisa Molina has been named the new vice president of Pueblo Community College Southwest. She will begin her role on Monday, Jan. 5.

Molina is the current director of student services at PCC Southwest, overseeing student support, enrollment-related efforts and regional partnerships. She has been with the college since 2018 and was named one of PCC's employees of the year in 2024.

"Lisa's seven years with, and demonstrated commitment to, PCC Southwest, her strong history of leadership in student affairs and her strong references made her the obvious choice for this position," said PCC President Chato Hazelbaker. "I'm excited for her to begin her work as we create our new strategic plan which includes specific plans for the branch campuses."

## 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/sococaa>

## SUCR celebrates employees



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Employees who were recognized for their five plus years of service, hit the stage to receive a specialized plaque during the Years of Service event on Thursday, Dec. 4.



The Sky Ute Casino Resort celebrates employees during their annual Years of Service event. On Thursday, Dec. 4, Casino employees gathered in the event center to enjoy lunch, various activities, and celebrate with their peers.



Sky Ute Casino Resort employees, who received a plaque for their service, gathered on stage for a celebratory photo during the Years of Service event on Thursday, Dec. 4.

## NANAS FULLER DEBUTS • FROM PAGE 1



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

In total, 12 of Nanas Fuller's paintings were featured as part of the "Unhinged Art" exhibition; half of those were sold during the show's opening night, Friday, Nov. 7.

places if she still stays on this path, and her mom and I are here to support her and guide her," Washington said.

Fuller would like to be-

come an animator or manga artist in the future. She would also like to try this out in a big city like New York or Tokyo. "Unhinged Art" is on display

at the gallery through December. Fuller hopes to have another art show in the future with Dancing Spirit. "Creativity doesn't have limits. It's supposed to be unhinged, and it's supposed to be like scary ... but yet beautiful at the same time," Fuller said.

### Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts

Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts is a 501(c)3 in Ignacio, Colo. that is dedicated to providing our community with programs that enhance creativity and fellowship, that promotes education, appreciation and enjoyment of the arts and that celebrates the cultural heritage of our unique population.

## Fort Lewis College graduates!



photos courtesy SU Education Dept.

Southern Ute graduates, Namichen Oberly (above) at Whalen Gymnasium in Durango, Colo. Southern Ute tribal member LeAnn Wesley (below) graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies from Fort Lewis College. Chairman Baker was there to support the tribal graduates in their academic success!



Southern Ute graduates, Namichen Oberly and LeAnn Wesley pictured together with Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker during the Fort Lewis College commencement ceremony, Friday, Dec. 12

Namichen Oberly graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. Oberly is an enrolled member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

**Southern Ute Elder Services**

**January Activities List**

**January 1-2, 2026**  
Tribal Offices Closed  
Happy New Year!

**January 6, 2026**  
Pagosa Hot Springs  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 9:00 a.m.

**January 13, 2026**  
Movie Day (Durango)  
Van will depart @ TBD

**January 19, 2026**  
Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**January 20, 2026**  
Cowboy Tuesday  
Cowboy poetry, music and storytelling in an old west saloon. (Lunch provided)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 11:00 a.m.

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.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROVIDED • FROM PAGE 1



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Food Distribution Program features healthy and nutritional foods – such as fresh Bison meat, seasonal fruits and vegetables, name brand foods, and more – to La Plata and Archuleta County residents who reside on or near the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

years, overseeing the warehouse and the property located in downtown Ignacio at 740 Goddard Ave., she is assisted by Crystalee Wagner who serves as the stock clerk for the Food Distribution Program. Together, they work to provide fresh food for the community.

"When I started working here, I was really impressed by everything we had to offer," Cook-Hiett said. "Growing up, when I would see the commodities, they were all white color labeled – it is much different now, we actually have a few name brand items that you can find in a grocery store like Walmart or other grocery stores, so I really encourage people to come see what our program offers for you."

The qualifications for those who would like to utilize the federal food program in Ignacio are straight forward, "Applicants will qualify as long as they live within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, even if you live in Archuleta County, however it does exclude Durango – local Native Americans also qualify for the program as well," Cook-Hiett said.

"The applications can be found on the Tribe's website with all the complete details, we ensure it is an easy process to help applicants qualify – it is a federal government program, so after the applications are finished the approval decision is completed by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service."

Foods available include:

- Vegetables: carrots, cabbage, lettuce (romaine

ly recognized Indian tribe

#### 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/SUIT food25>
- Proof of Income
- Proof of Colorado residency
- Photo Identification Card

#### What food selections are available?

Meats (chicken, beef, pork & bison)

Oil (vegetable & olive)

Dairy (milk, cheese, & butter)

Fruits (frozen, canned, & fresh)

Vegetables (frozen, canned, & fresh)

Beans (canned & dry)

Fish

Grains

Pasta

Juice

Eggs

Flour

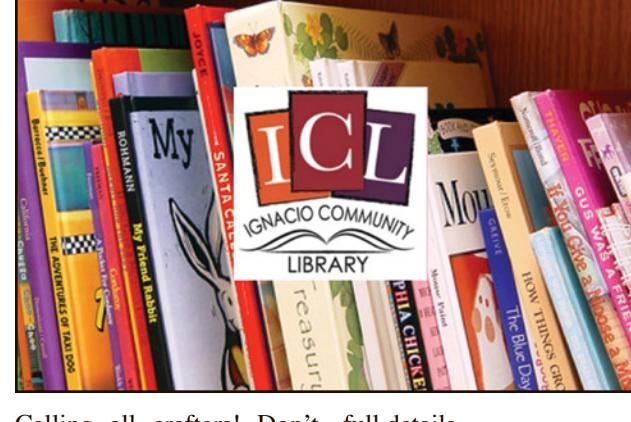


## IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## We wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

By Cheyenne Munn  
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

From all of us at the library, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with love and cherished moments! As we get ready for an exciting start to 2026, we invite you to be part of our exceptional programs and classes. Kick off the year by joining Karianna Guerrero of Foundation



full details. Calling all crafters! Don't forget to swing by on Jan. 13 at 6 p.m.

Don't miss the return of Mr. Ron, our dedicated IdeaLab Educator, on Jan. 14 for another captivating Glowforge class. It's your chance to dive into the world of design, engraving, and cutting custom projects with our amazing tool!

The very next day, Jan. 15 at 3 p.m., we'll welcome guest speaker Michael Dougherty for an enlightening discussion on immigrant rights, gun violence prevention, hate crime prevention, and more at our "Know Your Rights" session.

On Jan. 16 at 11 a.m., join us for our Puzzle & Game Swap – a fantastic opportunity to refresh your collection without the need to bring something to trade.

Be sure to check out our monthly highlights, such as the Grief Support Group with Sara Barnes, LPC, from Hospice of Mercy, available every first Tuesday at 3 p.m. whenever you need support.

Our Free Legal Clinic Program on Jan. 20 (held every third Tuesday) offers you free 20-minute consultations with attorneys to tackle your legal questions – just call 970-563-9287 to schedule your appointment.

We also have special programs just for teens, including the after-school hangout, Teen Café on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., and a fun-filled Teen Night on Jan. 22 with dinner and Minecraft!

Thank you for being part of our community. We can't wait to see you soon!



## Tribal Office Closure

In observance of the New Year, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed from Thursday, January 1, 2026 to Friday, January 2, 2026.

Normal business hours will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026.

# 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





Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe placed second in the Ignacio Taste of Christmas Light Parade.

## CLUB CONNECT

### BGC updates and announcements

#### Staff report

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBE

#### Youth of the Month

Our Youth of the Month focuses on acknowledging and making club members aware of their own unique character and abilities. As staff, we want to recognize them on their positive attributes as seen in their club driven experience.

For this month ... our Youth of the Month award goes to Kaylee Granger and our Jr. Youth of the Month goes to Navarro Delgado Torres!

Congratulations on behalf of the BGCSU staff!

The winners of the light parade for the Taste of Christmas are listed below, with a tie for 3rd place this year!

- 1st – Farmers Fresh Market
- 2nd – Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- 3rd – Southern Ute Rodeo Queen
- 3rd – Justice & Regulatory of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Program Aide Vacancies: Interested applicants apply on Southern Indian Tribe's website.
- CEO, Bruce LeClaire,



courtesy BGC

At the Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 18, the ASH Foundation presented a \$5,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club.

will join the Boys & Girls Clubs of America – Native Advancing Philanthropy (AP) Network.

- Tune in to KSUT Tribal Radio at 91.3 on the first Wednesday of each month for an "on-air" broadcast.

#### BGC Shoutouts

A huge shout out to Faye Hackett and Soriah Perez for helping BGC out on their Christmas break!

Another shoutout to all Permanent Fund and Growth Fund Employees that support our Club through payroll deductions.

#### Boys & Girls Club update

Board highlights – Board of Directors vacancies. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please visit [bgcsu.org](http://bgcsu.org) for application.

December 18 – at the Board of Directors meeting the ASH Foundation presented a \$5,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club.

#### Program Highlights

The program staff have created clubs to run on Fridays when we have all-day club. Some of these clubs include anime club, run by DMO, bowling club run by Mamie, cards club run by Cass, and volleyball club run by Sam!



courtesy BGC



courtesy BGC

Jr. Youth of the Month, Navarro Delgado Torres. Youth of the Month, Kaylee Granger.

**NEW YEAR PRAYER & SOBRIETY WALK**

The family of Saa-Swanis Hiswaqs (Robert Buckskin) will be having their annual New Year's Day spiritual walk on January 1, 2026, starting at 8 a.m. from the Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park in Ignacio, CO. Please dress warm.

This walk is in memory of the late Saa-Swanis Hiswaqs-egap.

Saa-Swanis Hiswaqs (Robert Buckskin), began this walk in 1990. His intentions were to help our community with an option to celebrate sobriety, without judgment, but with prayer for healing and hope.

Additional information: Oolcu Buckskin, 970-946-7024

**NATIVE LOVE**

Photo: SU Drum Archive

### Inauguration ceremony



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Southern Ute Tribal Council Members, Marge Barry and Marvin Pinnecoose share a moment of appreciation in being re-elected for another term following Friday's Run-off election. Barry won handily with 181 votes, followed by Pinnecoose with 144 votes.

**Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
2025 Run Off Election Unofficial Vote Count**

	118		94		144		181
Edward Box III	Christine Sage	Marvin Pinnecoose	Marjorie Barry	<i>Toghooyagh!</i>			

The 2025 Run-off Election vote count has been tallied. The official results for Tribal Council are Edward Box III: 118; Christine Sage: 94; Marvin Pinnecoose: 144; and Marjorie Barry: 181. A special meeting was scheduled by the Election Board for Monday, Dec. 22, to certify the vote count. The Inauguration Ceremony for Marjorie Barry and Marvin Pinnecoose was held on Monday, Dec. 22, at 10 a.m., in Tribal Council Chambers. Thank you for casting your ballot!

**SINGING INTO THE NEW YEAR  
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31  
SOUTHERN UTE MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY**

**POTLUCK STYLE DINNER AT 6 PM  
INFO: NEIDA CHACKEE 505-686-9728**

PHOTO: ROBERT L. ORTIZ/SU DRUM

**JANUARY  
2026**

**POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING**

**HONORING OUR CHILDREN BY HONORING OUR TRADITIONS**

**ALL PARENTS & CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME**

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

Complete all 8 sessions to receive a certificate.

This class is VIRTUAL  
Please call (970) 563-2337 to sign up

Each participant needs the following to attend:

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

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

**January 6, 2026**

**January 8, 2026**

**January 13, 2026**

**January 15, 2026**

**January 20, 2026**

**January 22, 2026**

**January 27, 2026**

**January 29, 2026**



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

## Santa makes a visit to IELP



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Ignacio Early Learning Program students gathered with Santa Claus during his visit on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Students took time to greet Santa and share their Christmas wishes before Santa headed back to the North Pole.



Santa Claus visited the Ignacio Early Learning Program on Wednesday, Dec. 17 to sing Christmas carols and hand out stockings to the students. Southern Ute tribal member, Edward Box III dressed as Santa this year to bring holiday cheer.

Southern Ute tribal member, Edward Box III visited the Ignacio Early Learning Program as Santa Claus to surprise the students ahead of the upcoming holiday.

## An LCB Christmas!



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Southern Ute Tribal Information Services Department (TIS) hosted the annual Ugly Sweater contest on Monday, Dec. 22 in the Hall of Warriors for tribal employees. Velma Armijo, Emergency Family Services Program Coordinator, won first place in the contest.



Erma Lewis, Finance cashier won second place with her ugly sweater submission. She also won first place in the Door Decoration contest that TIS held as well. Lewis is pictured with the gift she won for placing first!



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Erma Lewis, Finance cashier, is pictured with her door decoration which earned first place in this year's Tribal Information Services door decoration contest.



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Christmas stockings made by Ramona Eagle and her family and decorated by the elders at the Ignacio Senior Center were filled with goodies by the Department of Social Services, Thursday, Dec. 18.

### DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## Eagle delivers a Christmas miracle to foster youth

By Rosaleigh Cloud  
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

For the past 10 years, Southern Ute tribal elder Ramona Eagle has been creating Christmas stockings for the Southern Ute foster youth. With the help of her family and the community, Eagle has been able to bring a Christmas miracle to the children in the foster care system. Each year, Eagle gathers the materials and sews the stockings with the help of her family members, then asks for help from different departments or community groups to decorate the stockings.

This year, the seniors at the Ignacio Senior Center came together to decorate the stockings. "I have had Sunshine Smith Youth Council, and then I've had some others, like the multipurpose group decorate," Eagle said. "I'm just really thankful that people in different groups ... were excited about making doing the decorations because they come with a lot of different ideas. I buy all the decorations, so I'm always appreciative of what they can step up and do themselves. But I think some of the people that I've asked, they were in a foster program too when they were really young and so I think it means a lot to them when I ask them [to help]."

Along with the creation of the stockings, the Division of Social Services assists Eagle by providing the items that are stuffed into the stockings. Kellie Yazzie, Foster Care Coordinator for the Division of Social Services, works with Eagle to ensure the correct amount of stocking are



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Southern Ute elder, Ramona Eagle with her grandson, Bradley King, stand proudly with the Christmas stockings they made to donate to those in the foster care system.

made for the current youth in the foster care system. "We fill the stockings for our youth who we are serving here," said Augusta Torres, Division of Social Services Data Manager, Torres made sure to fill each stocking to max capacity.

Eagle has fostered nine children over the years from

them, they introduced me to the person they're with and they tell them, 'this is the lady that fostered' me and that person says, 'I hear good things about what you did with them.'"

"I just hope I had a good impact in their life, you know ... at some point in their time, and I'm pretty sure I did," she said.

Eagle plans to foster more children and teens in the future to continue helping the local youth. "I want to foster more kids in the future ... I have only fostered teens, but never the younger kids. Once I have things in order I want to continue helping these kids."

## 'Tis the Season



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Tribal Information Services Receptionist, Angela Baker adorns the large Christmas tree in the Hall of Warriors with ornaments, Thursday, Dec. 11. Among those are individual pictures of students from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, a collaborative project between Tribal Information Services, The Southern Ute Drum and the school.



## 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?**

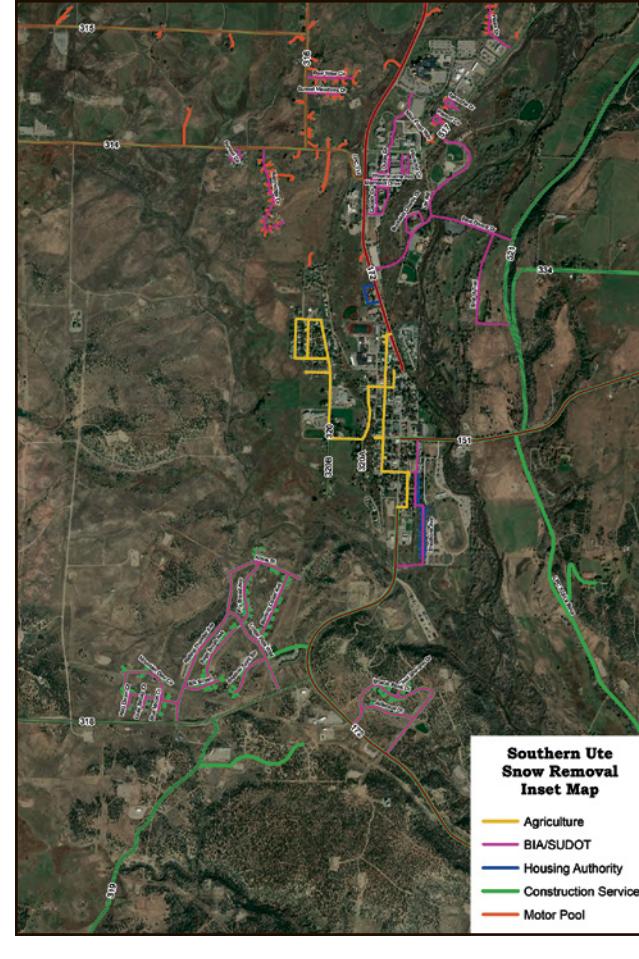
A: Driveaway clearing crews will begin when snow accumulation is over 5". Dialysis/individuals with disabilities/fraile tribal member snow shoveling will begin when snow accumulation is over 3"

**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 additional snow ac-



cumulation 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.

## 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

# PASSWORD REQUIRED: A SPEAKEASY NEW YEAR'S EVE!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 6PM - 12AM

Ring in the New Year, roaring '20s style. The jazz is live, the French 75s are flowing, and the stakes are high. Step into an exclusive speakeasy to start the night with a meal, then sip on classic 1920s cocktails and Charleston the night away.

Join us for a climactic midnight countdown featuring:

Live jazz and swing band

Speakeasy bar menu with 1920s drinks

Costume contest and photo booth — be seen in your best 1920s glad rags

Midnight countdown featuring confetti, a balloon drop, and champagne toast

An exclusive Italian evening at The Winner's Table for \$175/couple and \$100/individual, tickets and menu available at [skyutecasino.com](http://skyutecasino.com)

**Sky Ute CASINO RESORT**

Owned and Operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

# Yuletide cheer on display at Christmas program



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Southern Ute elders, Austin Box and Vida Peabody were given a chance to share words of wisdom and speak about their life experiences.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

SUIMA students sang, danced, played ukuleles and entertained the crowd with the Ute Language prayer, Christmas songs, and memorable interactions with the room full of Ute tribal members and parents.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal elders, Austin Box and Vida Peabody were honored by the Tribe for being the wisest of our elders and gifted Star blankets made by Southern Ute artisan Mike Santistevan.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

SUIMA students shined brightly with excitement and enthusiasm as they performed the various songs of Christmas.



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made a trip from the North Pole to handout boardgames and various gifts to the good boys and girls of Ignacio and lumps of coal to the naughty kids!

**S**miles were in abundance as Ute relatives got together to celebrate the upcoming holidays and share a meal, Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's annual Christmas Dinner and Program held at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Christmas music provided by Sandman and Hummingbird Productions set the tone as gifts were shared in celebration. Families enjoyed a prime rib meal with various desserts to choose from ahead of the Christmas Program opened by Southern Ute Royalty, giving the Lord's Prayer in sign language. Keeping our winter traditions alive, elders Cassandra Atencio and Byron Frost presented Ute tribal stories to the membership in attendance. The Ignacio Elementary school choir and SUIMA students sang various holiday songs, soon after Mr. and Mrs. Claus dropped by with smiles. TIS staff members handed out gift bags filled with candy, fruit, peanuts, popcorn balls and good tidings.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Southern Ute Tribal Council, Southern Ute Royalty, Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council, Justice & Regulatory Director, Leonard Redhorse III and employees from Sky Ute Casino Resort gather to take a group photo before the Tribal Christmas Dinner started on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Matthew Box said the prayer during the Southern Ute Tribal Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 13, at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

# Tribal Council approves scoring system for agricultural land assignments

Staff report

SOUTHERN UTE LANDS DIVISION

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council has approved a significant change in how the Department of Natural Resources will award agricultural land assignments. At a work session held on Nov. 13, Tribal Council agreed that a graded scoring sheet, rather than a lottery drawing, will now determine the Southern Ute tribal members who will receive agricultural assignments.



Under the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Code (SUITC) Section 29-2-105(1), the Department of Natural Resources is required to publish and post notice of land available for assignment. Historically, Natural Resources relied on a lottery system to randomly select applicants. While the lottery ensured fairness in chance, Natural Resources noted that it did not adequately evaluate an applicant's qualifications, resources, or ability to manage land effectively. This often led to challenges in land stewardship and, in some cases, poor agricultural outcomes.

grazing practices, irrigation, crop planning, cost management, and realistic timelines.

Council members expressed confidence that this method will better align land assignments with applicants who are prepared to succeed in agricultural operations, ensuring long-term productivity and sustainability.

The lottery drawing process will continue to be used for homesite assignments, maintaining fairness in residential land distribution.

This is one of many efforts the Tribe is undertaking to make tribal lands more productive and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the land assignment process. The Tribe is currently reviewing and revising the Land Assignment Code. In the next few months, the revised Land Assignment Code will be circulated among tribal members for comment. Tribal members are encouraged to review it carefully, attend public meetings addressing the proposed code, ask questions of the Lands Department, and make suggestions for improvement.

The newly adopted weighted selection model is designed to prioritize applicants who demonstrate the ability to manage and rehabilitate land sustainably and productively. The approach emphasizes sustainable agriculture and resource stewardship, benefiting both tribal land and the environment.

The scoring sheet will be evaluated by the Department's Agriculture, Lands, and Range Divisions. Applicants will be assessed on several criteria, including:

- Whether they currently hold an assignment or lease, with points awarded for compliance.
- The strength of their farm plan, scored on a scale of 1 to 5.
- Considerations such as weed control, fencing,

## Annex gets a new facade!



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Tribe's Annex Rehabilitation Project was largely completed earlier this fall. This included renovations of common areas inside the building, as well as the addition of a brand-new roof structure over the existing front entry ramp. The roof was designed by FBT Architects to blend in with the architecture style of the historic Annex Building. The project was managed by Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management, in conjunction with Tyson Thompson, Director of Properties & Facilities. FCI was the primary contractor, who worked weekends and nights to get the project completed on time and under budget.



The rehabilitation project was extended into late 2025, when additional funds were granted to facilitate exterior painting of the building and a section of heated gutter to further protect the ramp access from ice and water runoff. Steve, with Durango Electrical Services, puts the final touches on a new gutter system, designed to deter ice and water from impeding the ramp along the north entrance.

Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

## Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 12/24/25

### JANUARY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TRANSFER STATION

#### 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- 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
- JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S DAY — CLOSED
- JAN. 2<sup>ND</sup> — OPEN
- JAN. 19<sup>TH</sup> MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY — CLOSED
- FEB. 16<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT'S DAY — CLOSED
- MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED
- JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNETEENTH — CLOSED
- JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED
- SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup> LABOR DAY — CLOSED
- OCT. 12<sup>TH</sup> INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 11<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> THANKSGIVING — CLOSED
- DEC. 10—11 LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
- DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS — CLOSED

#### TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

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

TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

#### JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, JANUARY 7th! Payments must be received before 10am.
- Upcoming Project: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project begins on January 5th at Sunset Meadows Housing area followed by Powwow Circle. Door to door notification to residents will start December 22nd. Questions? Call Utilities Office (970) 563-5500
- Any billing questions? Call the office for assistance.
- NEW 2026 Trash Permits are available! Stop by the office or the ramp and obtain your new trash permit.

#### 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.

Jan. 7th / Feb. 4th / March 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

#### UTILITY OFFICE CLOSURES

Dec 25th &

26th for the

Christmas

Holiday

January 1st &

2nd of 2026 for

the New Year

Holiday

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)

## 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)

## AIR QUALITY FLAGS

for the Air Quality Index (AQI) Colors



Good

(0-50)

TUU'AYAQH.

"IT'S FINE."

It's a great day to be active outside! The air quality poses little to no health risk.



Moderate

(51-100)

TOGOHQAQH.

"IT'S OK."

It's a good day to be active outside. Sensitive individuals may experience some symptoms.



Unhealthy

for sensitive groups

(101-150)

KA'AYWA'.

"NOT GOOD."

It's OK to be active outside for shorter periods.

For longer activities take it a little easier.



Unhealthy

(151-200)

'HVHS!

"STOP!"

Take it easier if you do any outdoor activities.

Noticeable respiratory symptoms are likely.



Very

Unhealthy

(201-300)

NAGHAMITIVAANI!

"IT WILL MAKE YOU SICK!"

Try to keep active activities inside. Depending on sensitivity, adverse health effects are likely.

Ute language translations courtesy of the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department

To find out more about the AQI visit the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Air Quality Division Website at <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/ambient-monitoring/>

## Multi - Purpose Facility January Events

Senior Breakfast—Wednesday, January 7, —10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday, January 9, —11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Quilt & Sew Class—Tuesday—Thursday January 13-15, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Traditional Sewing and Beading Session 1, Tuesday—Thursday

January 20-22, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM & 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Session 2, Tuesday-Thursday January 27—29,

9:30 AM—3:30 PM & 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Yard Sale Saturday January 24, 9:00 AM—3:30 PM



### Special Events

January Community Pow Wow—For the Youth Saturday January 17, 2026

1:00PM—10:30 PM

Events are subject to change—Please watch for announcements.



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

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO

## COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

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



## Tamales: Start to finish



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Participants of the tamale making class, working as a group, quickly made short work of the bowls of masa and red chili pork, turning them into delicacies of delight. It's pretty safe to say the homemade tamales were a hit!



A pot of red chili pods sat simmering on the stove before it went into the blender with some herbs and spices. The mixture was then added to the roasted pork during the tamale making process at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility, Tuesday, Dec. 9.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Youth Activities

All youth 6 - 17 years old are welcome to attend, Parents & Grandparents are encouraged to attend, younger children are welcome and must be with parent or guardian.

### Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith

Monday December 29, 2025 - 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Participants will learn to make healthy snacks and drink.

- Hands on learning experience with Lisa and her staff.
- After preparing the food participants will enjoy tasting & sharing.
- Lunch will be provided.



### Craft Projects for Youth Tuesday December 30, 2025 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM



Crafts projects

- Peyote stitch key chain
- Sage stuffed animals
- Projects are easy and fun for the whole family.
- Lunch will be provided.



Please call 970-563-2640 to sign-up.  
Call 970-563-2641 for more information.

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

## CALLING ALL NATIVE ENTREPRENEURS



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

### Why Register?

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

### Who Can Register?

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

#### HOW TO REGISTER

Come to TERO

Fill out an application

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

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

Questions please call Roland Nez  
970.563.2292 or  
email [tero-staff@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tero-staff@southernute-nsn.gov)



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION

## COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS PROTECT PIPES !



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



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



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

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



## Blue bird skies grace Leonard C. Burch Walk



Landon Bravo, an eighth grader at Ignacio Middle School, carries the Eagle Staff that belongs to the late Leonard C. Burch, leading participants down the hill from the SunUte Community Center.



Glenn Walker and Leora Lucero keep each other company during the annual walk from SunUte to the end of Ute Road and back.



Southern Ute Chairman Melvin Baker and Carol Baker walk together as the Leonard C. Burch Walk-Run makes its way down Ute Road.



The Box family sings together at SunUte Community Center ahead of the Leonard C. Burch Walk-Run. Pictured left to right, Trae Seibel, Eddie Box Jr., Matthew Box and Jakob Box.



Young Emiliano Rivera and Stellaluna Irene Burch, sport tiny LCB T-shirts during Wednesday's event, as the youngest members of the Burch family. Pictured with their mothers, Natalie Bravo and Tori Burch respectively.

**T**he 11th annual Leonard C. Burch Walk-Run drew participants from across Ignacio to participate in the fitness event, Wednesday, Dec. 10. This event commemorates Burch for his exceptional leadership and achievements while serving as the Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for many years. Furthermore, every December 10th is dedicated as Leonard C. Burch Day. This year's program was sponsored by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, SunUte Community Center, the Sky Ute Casino Resort and MBSS Attorneys.

**Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley**  
The Southern Ute Drum



SunUte Recreation Manager, Kelsey Frost helps sign up participants ahead of the 11th annual Leonard C. Burch Walk-Run.

### Special Burch recognition



photos courtesy Leonora Burch and Family

The Burch family held a special recognition for Trennie Burch for the work she put into the Leonard C. Burch Art & Literacy contest, which spanned almost a decade. The annual Leonard C. Burch Art and Literacy Contest honored Leonard C. Burch and his life. A Public Relations initiative for students from the Ignacio Public School District and the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, with the goal of bringing awareness to the younger students regarding the significance of Leonard C. Burch Day. Burch was gifted with a Pendleton blanket and acknowledged for her commitment to the legacy of the late Leonard C. Burch, Wednesday, Dec. 10.



The Burch family, spanning numerous generations, gathered together for a group photo following the 11th annual Leonard C. Burch Walk-Run event, Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the SunUte Community Center.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Juliann Avila (11) loads up a long-range shot over Tuba City, Ariz., Greyhills Academy's Hailey Russell (23) during third-day play Saturday morning, Dec. 20, at Aztec, New Mexico's 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

### BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Lady 'Cats log first win in Aztec IHS girls save seventh at AHS' Rumble

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Beaten up, down and around Lillywhite Gymnasium by northwestern New Mexico heavyweights during the first two days of Aztec, New Mexico's 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle,' Greyhills Academy seized its chance during the decisive Saturday, Dec. 20, session to finally fight back.

Located in Tuba City, Ariz., but a perpetual punching bag for in-state Class 2A powers such as St. Johns, Sanders-based Valley, Round Valley and Many Farms, the Lady Knights ably went toe-to-toe with a nearly-unknown Colorado foe called Ignacio – also hoping to pick itself up off the proverbial canvas after a pair of pummelings and win at least a round while wrapping up its pre-holiday schedule.

But after earning a win earlier in the month for the first time since, based on all available accounts, Jan. 3, 2020, Greyhills was denied a second. Letting the Lady Knights – a tourney replacement for Wingate – get no closer than 26-24 with 5:07 left in the third quarter, IHS later began the final frame up 37-26 and ultimately won the tournament's seventh-place contest 45-36.

Including two crucial



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aubree Lucero (44) shoots in the paint over Tuba City, Ariz., Greyhills Academy's Taylor Lake (24) during third-day play Saturday morning, Dec. 20, at Aztec, New Mexico's 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

three-pointers driving the

to a left ankle injured during

Lady Bobcats' surge sewing up the third, junior guard Aubree Lucero totaled three treys and an impressive 18 points. Junior Maliah Martinez, frequently filling the point guard role with senior Alyssa Atencio unavailable

drained a lifesaving four threes and scored 18 of IHS' 23 first-half points en route to racking up a game-high 21.

Freshman guard Makayla Red converted an 'and-one' and senior Juliann Avila lost

Lady 'Cats page 18



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez (22) prepares to shoot over Aztec, New Mexico's Alejandro Valerio (5) during first-day action Thursday night, Dec. 18, at AHS' 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

### BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

## Bobcats struggle, place fourth in Aztec

### IHS boys humbled by Bloomfield, Tohatchi

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Almost picking up where they'd left off in a hard-to-swatch, one-point loss the previous afternoon, in which they lit Bayfield up in the fourth quarter for 23, the Tohatchi, N.M., Cougars atoned for just their second loss this winter by outgunning Ignacio 76-44 Saturday evening, Dec. 20, in the third-place game of Aztec, New Mexico's 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

Upset in the Great Eight phase of last season's NMAA/Nusenda Credit Union Class 3A Boys' Basketball State Championships, and irked over having given up 53 points to BHS (Rehoboth, N.M., Christian had scored 56 in dealing the Cougs their first defeat back on Dec. 6), Tohatchi improved to 8-2 – putting them on pace to approach last winter's 25-4 overall (12-1 in District 1-3A) record – prior to a Jan. 2, 2026, game at, coincidentally, Aztec.

Ignacio, meanwhile, began the Rumble allowing

just 41.25 points per game defensively but again struggled after suffering a wicked 62-19 loss on Day 2 to Bloomfield, N.M. Minus senior Trace Crane, who'd netted 19 points in IHS' first-round rout of AHS on



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Sonny Flores (1) considers crossing up Aztec, New Mexico's Jaton Sims (3) during first-day action Thursday night, Dec. 18, at AHS' 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

the 18th, boss Trae Seibel's 4:00 left until halftime.

Two free throws by senior

Sonny Flores plus one by senior Stoney White Thunder rebuilt the Bobcats' lead to

ten points just 40 ticks later, and with senior Ambrose Valdez racking up 11 points in the quarter Ignacio entered intermission leading 36-22.

Able to score all his eight points during the third quarter, AHS senior Christian Jacquez unluckily picked up his fourth personal foul with 2:29 left, and Valdez converted the resulting 'and-one' three-point play rebuilding IHS' lead to 48-35.

The Tigers started the

fourth frame facing a 51-37 deficit, but took a crippling

hit when Jacquez fouled out trying to deny Windy Boy a

Bobcats page 18

GROUP EXERCISE  
**NEW YEAR LAUNCH!** JANUARY 3RD  
2026

Ring in the New Year With a Fitness Bang! Group Exercise is thrilled to launch one new program BodyPump Heavy, bring the intensity with Sprint, and welcome back Strength Development! Your 2026 glow-up starts here.

**Schedule:**

- 10:00 AM – Strength Development- 30min  
Break - 30min
- 11:00 AM – Sprint - 30 min  
Break- 30min
- 12:00 PM – Bodypump Heavy- 30 min





**JOHNSON-O'MALLEY**  
2026 Meeting Dates



**January 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**July 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**August 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

 Education Center- Public Education Office  
330 Burns Avenue, Ignacio, CO 81137

 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

 First Monday of the Month  
(w/ the exception of August and September)

For more information contact:  
Kaylyn LeClaire  
Education Specialist  
kleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov  
(970)563-0235





# Sports

tog'omsuwiini-wawHchuku-chipikwag'atu (18)

December 24, 2025

## BOBCATS STRUGGLE PLACE FOURTH • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Thunder Windy Boy (0) picks up speed while dribbling past Aztec, New Mexico's Alejandro Valerio (5) during first-day action Thursday night, Dec. 18, at AHS' 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

defensive rebound with 4:55 remaining in regulation. Moments later at the other end of the floor, Windy Boy drew a foul against AHS junior Jaton Sims and completed a three-point play making the score 57-41 with 4:19 to go.

Able to then outscore Aztec 6-1 the rest of the way, the 'Cats clinched a 63-42 victory. Finishing 5-of-7 from the free-throw line, Valdez ended up matching Crane's 19 points and Windy Boy (6-9 FT) totaled 12. Flores and senior Rance Rathjen each contributed four points, junior William Mendoza-Lechuga chipped in three, while White Thunder and sophomore Joseph Atencio each knocked down one of two FTs.

Tiger seniors Edgar Hinojos-Perez and Eathen Hengst each booked seven points in defeat, and Valerio totaled five.

Now 3-3 overall and still yet to begin 3A/4A Intermountain League work, Ignacio will rest and recharge for a January 3 visit from 5A Durango (3-4 overall,



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Joseph Atencio (10) tries shaking free from Aztec, New Mexico's Deagan Brashear while dribbling towards the three-point perimeter during first-day action Thursday night, Dec. 18, at AHS' 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

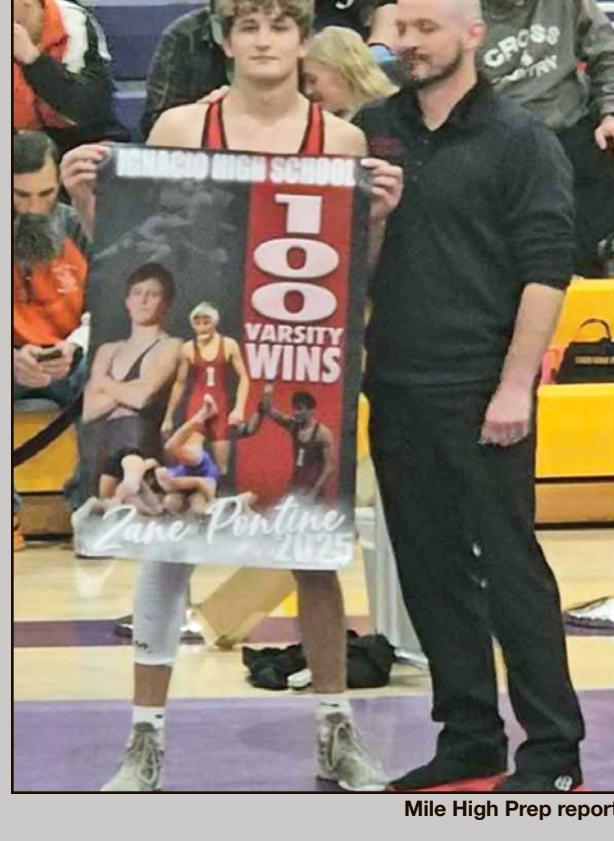
0-0 5A/6A Southwestern) 55 overtime win over de – which overcame a Day 1 fending NMAA Class 3A loss to Bloomfield and ultimately placed fifth via a 56-

Robertson.

### 2025 Rumble In 'The Jungle' Boys' Standings

1.Bayfield, 2.Bloomfield (N.M.), 3.Tohatchi (N.M.), 4.IGNACIO, 5.Durango, 6.Las Vegas (N.M.) Robertson, 7.Kirtland (N.M.) Central, 8.Aztec. CHAMPIONSHIP – Bayfield 76, Bloomfield 67 (3OT); THIRD-PLACE GAME – Tohatchi 76, Ignacio 44; FIFTH-PLACE GAME – Durango 56, Robertson 55 (OT); SEVENTH-PLACE GAME – Kirtland Central 55, Aztec 48.

## Pontine wins 100!



Mile High Prep

MileHigh Prep Report: Congratulations to Zane Pontine of Ignacio High School on winning his 100 match at Wolverine Classic. Pictured with his coach Jordan Larsen.

**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

## LADY 'CATS LOG FIRST WIN • FROM PAGE 17

three-point play with 6:12 left in the third, while sophomore guard Julia Torrecilla Bernal chipped in two points and sophomore forward Veronica Brown one as Ignacio recovered comparatively well from a 51-12 loss to 5A Farmington, N.M., Piedra Vista on the 18th and a 67-23 loss to 5A Durango the next morning.

Junior guard/forward Taylor Lake led GA (1-7 overall, 0-2 AIA 2A North) with 11 points, grabbed no fewer than 11 rebounds and, thanks to making two of three free throws during the first quarter, helped the Lady Knights take an early 10-8 lead into the second.

Back-to-back Martinez takes to the hoop, however, regained skipper Travis Nanaeto's Lady 'Cats a 12-10 lead with roughly 6:30 left until halftime, but after a Martinez triple increased said lead to 17-10, Greyhills Academy strung together eight unanswered points, including a go-ahead trey by senior Rhyonna John.

Assisted by junior forward/center Catori Aasland, Lucero countered with a three, and after two Lake FTs re-tied the game at 20-20 with 1:01 remaining, Martinez received a Lucero pass and cashed a three from the right wing only a couple ticks before the buzzer.

And despite Aubrey Lake totaling ten points, John four and senior Hailey Russell four – including a revitalizing triple early in the fourth quarter – the Lady Knights, blasted 51-4 by 4A Aztec on Day 1 and 64-15 by 4A Montezuma-Cortez the next afternoon, never again had the upper hand.

Statistics from the loss to PVHS had not been reported in as of press time, but Avila scored a team-best eight points against Durango and Lucero was right behind with seven. But after falling behind 21-5 af-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

With Tuba City, Ariz., Greyhills Academy's Aubrey Lake (5) approaching to defend, Ignacio's Makayla Red (1) attempts a 15-foot jumper during third-day play Saturday morning, Dec. 20, at Aztec, New Mexico's 2025 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

ter eight minutes and still trailing 34-17 through 16, the Lady 'Cats went almost completely silent after intermission, making just three two-point shots and earning zero free-throw attempts. Red and freshman Neeka Howe each made a three-pointer in defeat, as did Lucero and Avila, and Brown booked two points.

DHS senior guard Claire Goodwin, meanwhile, made three threes and totaled a 2A Del Norte.

### 2025 Rumble In 'The Jungle' Girls' Standings

1.Farmington (N.M.) Piedra Vista, 2.Aztec (N.M.), 3.Grants (N.M.), 4.Belen (N.M.), 5.Durango, 6.Montezuma-Cortez, 7.IGNACIO, 8.Tuba City (Ariz.) Greyhills Academy. CHAMPIONSHIP – Piedra Vista 43, Aztec 39; THIRD-PLACE GAME – Grants 62, Belen 28; FIFTH-PLACE GAME – Durango 50, Montezuma-Cortez 35; SEVENTH-PLACE GAME – Ignacio 45, Greyhills Academy 36.

## Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts

Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts in Ignacio strives to create programs that enhance creativity and fellowship, promotes the education, appreciation and enjoyment of the arts, and that celebrates the cultural heritage of our population. When you join Dancing Spirit at any level, you become an integral part of bringing arts and culture to our community and your help supports arts programming for under-resourced youth and adults in our community.

## 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*

</



## OBITUARY



**PRICE-RODRIGUEZ** – Wilandra Price-Rodriguez beloved daughter, mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, and friend, passed away on December 10, 2025, in the comfort of her own home in Lakewood. Born on May 28, 1974, in Durango, Colorado. She was a member of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

She is survived by her husband Gerardo, her kids Jemyni, Santos, and her grandkids; Alexander, Yarelia, Selene, Arian, Genesis, also by Wilinda, Willard, Ronald, Toby, and her mother Glenda, and her seven nieces, four nephews, and other extended family from Ignacio, and Towaoc, Colorado.

Wilandra was proceeded in death by her dad Willard Price, her grandparents Artie Allen Carel and Margaret Cuthair, and Burton Price. Her aunts Robeta Garcia and Ruth Valdez

## EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

### The coming of the horse in our Ute Country

By 1700 many horses had been traded or had drifted north through eastern Ute country into Comanche hands. Also, there were 40,000 Comanches and the first Comanches arrived in New Mexico in 1705. They fought the Jicarilla Apache in eastern New Mexico as a defense against us Utes, Comanches, Jicarilla Apache, and Pueblo such as picurise pueblo next the Utes fought the Navajos east of Farmington, New Mexico. Amid the constant turmoil among the tribes of New Mexico, the French were giving guns to the Comanches ... next to come into our country were the Kiowa Apache.

Written by Joseph Rael

### EDITOR'S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE IN ANY WAY.

The Southern Ute Drum encourages letters from readers on any topic. We ask that letters be 500 words or less. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters should be submitted by email to Jeremy Shockley at jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov by the end of the day Monday preceding publication.

## Correction

In a photo published in the Dec. 12 issue of the Drum, Waynoka Whiteskunk was mis-identified – pictured with her son Koda Wall-Whiteskunk.

## SOUTHERN UTE DRUM PHOTO USE NOTIFICATION

If the Southern Ute Drum provides a photo made by the Drum, in physical or digital format, please add proper photo credit (attribution) for the photo whenever the image is used or republished. The Drum staff works hard to provide a service to the tribal membership and community and takes pride in the work produced. Please refer to the signed Southern Ute Drum's Media Release form for clarification.

## 2026 SOUTHERN UTE DRUM DEADLINES

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

<sup>\*</sup>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 • Mailing: PO Box 737, #96, Ignacio, CO 81137

Physical Address: 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, Colo. (Leonard C. Burch Building, 2nd floor)



## Have Your Voice Heard!

Complete the  
**SoCo CAA**  
SOUTHERN COLORADO  
Community Action Agency

Community Needs Assessment and  
get entered into our prize drawing!

Win Awesome Prizes Like:  
• Farmer's Fresh gift cards  
• Gift cards from local partners  
• Etc.

Participation is Quick & Easy —  
Just Scan Below:



## 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!



For any questions please contact Trennie at Ignaciooutandequal@gmail.com or 970-306-3555.

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Jan. 9**

Deadline:  
**Dec. 31**

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 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

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

### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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# Notices

waamasuwiinini (20)

December 24, 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



## 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

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.

## In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

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

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

### NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,

Case No.: 2025-0078-CV-PR

Michael Jay Baker, Deceased

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

hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **FEBRUARY 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 19th of December, 2025.

Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

## 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	Request Cutoff Date
Wednesday, Dec. 31	NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 24

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

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



## 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).

## 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.**

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Open Seats: Apply for CDA Advisory Committees

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is seeking experts in their respective fields to fill vacancies on several advisory committees that give input to the Department on issues relevant to agriculture in Colorado. Multiple advisory committees at CDA are seeking Coloradans interested in serving as members. Additionally, there are other opportunities for Coloradans to get involved, including the State Fair Board of Authority, the Colorado Human Trafficking Council as well as the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council. See below for details on each committee's vacancies. Coloradans who fit the categories for each committee can apply online at any time, using CDA's digital application form, which can be found on the CDA website. Read more about each committee and vacancies below.

### PESTICIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Pesticide Advisory Committee is accepting nominations for the following three positions:

- Registered Limited Commercial Applicator
- General Public - Urban Agriculture
- Agricultural Worker

The Pesticide Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of fifteen members representing industry, applicators, producers, ag workers, pollinator groups, and the public. Committee members are appointed to 3-year terms to help advise on the implementation of rules associated with the Pesticide Applicators' Act and Pesticide Act.

**Nominations must be submitted no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**

### WILD HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Wild Horse Advisory Committee is looking to fill all positions. This brand new advisory committee consists of at least fourteen members, including the following representation:

- Two (2) representatives of nonprofit advocacy organizations who advocate for wild horses
- Two (2) at-large representatives
- A resident of the Western Slope
- A representative of a nonprofit environmental conservation organization
- Two (2) representatives of the ranching and grazing permit holder community

A representative from each of the local on-range wild horse organizations that maintain memoranda of understanding with the Bureau of Land Management to conduct on-range activities. These additional seats will be made through appointments:

- A representative of the governor's office
- A representative of the Department of Natural Resources
- A representative of the Colorado tourism office
- A representative of the Colorado Department of Agriculture
- A representative of the Bureau of Land Management
- A representative of the State Land Board
- A member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- A member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- A representative of region two of the US Forest Service

The committee will provide ongoing guidance on financial support, outreach, and compliance measures, ensuring a modern, coordinated approach to wild horse management in Colorado.

**Nominations must be submitted no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**

### AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The Agricultural Water Quality Program Advisory Committee has 14 members who provide guidance and feedback to CDA on issues impacting ground and surface water quality. The AWQAC helps guide program objectives, evaluate effectiveness of program activities, and provide a direct link to local perspectives from consumers and producers across Colorado.

**Nominations are being accepted on an ongoing basis until all positions are filled.**

The Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee is accepting applications for all positions:

- General Public (1)
- Agricultural Chemical Supplier (1)
- Municipal/Stormwater (1)
- Water Resource Professional (1)
- Commercial Pesticide Applicator (1)
- Green Industry (2)
- Agricultural Producer (6)

### HEMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hemp Advisory Committee (HAC) will be seeking to fill vacant positions in 2026. The following positions will expire on July 31, 2026:

- Farmer from a Cooperative
- Commercial Farmer
- Research Institution/ Higher Education
- Seed Development and Genetics

This committee advises CDA on matters regarding the regulation of hemp, including offering advice and consultation on an inspection program to determine THC concentration levels. The HAC is made up of 10 members who serve three year terms. **Nominations are being accepted now.**

### STATE FAIR BOARD OF AUTHORITY

The State Fair Board of Authority is looking to fill a vacant seat for a resident of District 1. This seat is open to residents of Ag District 1: Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. The appointed individual would serve until November 1, 2029, with an opportunity for reappointment through 2033. Individuals with a background in agriculture, fairs and expositions, or fundraising are encouraged to apply through the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions website.

### Other opportunities

There are two other opportunities for Coloradans from agricultural communities to be involved in statewide policy discussions.

### COLORADO HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL

The Colorado Human Trafficking Council is housed within the Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs and is designed to:

- Bring together leadership from community-based and statewide anti-trafficking efforts;
- Build and enhance collaboration among communities and counties within the state;
- Establish and improve comprehensive services for victims and survivors of human trafficking
- Assist in the successful prosecution of human traffickers; and
- Help prevent human trafficking in Colorado.

CDA has one representative seat on the Council. Interested ag community members can apply for a seat on the Council by submitting an application to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions:

- Board Application (English)
- Board Application (Spanish)

For additional language versions, please complete Language Request Form. Individuals from historically excluded communities are encouraged to apply. Imposter syndrome can sometimes keep people from applying for such a position and we believe there is no such thing as a "perfect" candidate. For questions about the application process or serving on the Council, please email Maria Trujillo with the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

### COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC) gathers and lifts diverse and representative voices from across the Colorado food system to help craft research, guidance and recommendations for food systems-related policy and state initiatives. COFSAC members are appointed by the General Assembly or the governor to three-year terms and are required to attend full Council meetings quarterly. Applications are open for the following seats whose current terms will expire 10/31/2025:

- Member with expertise in federal food and nutrition service programs (General Assembly Appointed).
- Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers (Appointed by the Governor's Office).
- Representative of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Appointed by the Governor's Office).
- Representative of a food distributor or a food hub (General Assembly Appointed).

The council will request to review all submitted applications and provide recommendations to the appropriate office. The General Assembly or the Governor will then make the final decision (over which they have full discretionary power) and inform those appointed as Council members. The council will follow up with those not appointed to explore other opportunities for participation such as committee and working group initiatives. All COFSAC members are expected to participate in one or more working groups during their tenure. Council Members are also expected to participate in at least one public engagement event per year. Please reach out to Alex DeJoy with any questions [alex.dejoy@colostate.edu](mailto:alex.dejoy@colostate.edu).

## SUIT Environmental Programs Department:

### Request for Proposal

The Environmental Programs Department requests written proposals from qualified organizations to provide on-demand project management, construction services for stream restoration, and general civil construction services under the Tribe's §319 Program

#### Examples include:

- ❖ Transportation of river restoration materials (stone, wood, brush, etc.)
- ❖ Installation and removal of fencing
- ❖ Removing non-hazardous materials from project site (wire, metal, etc.)
- ❖ Earthwork services (grading, filling, shaping)

The selected organization will enter into a three (3) year Professional Service Agreement contract. All work requested by the Tribe under this RFP will occur on the Reservation.

For full RFP details, please contact:  
 Geoffrey Hensgen - Water Quality Program Manager  
 (970) 563-2805 - [ghensgen@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:ghensgen@southernute-nsn.gov)

Proposals due by 5:00 PM - January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

SUIT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals because of non-conformance and to re-advertise when it is in the best interest of the Tribe.



# Classifieds

waamasuwiinini waini (22)

December 24, 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: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

### After School Program Attendant

A regular part-time position that provides education and physical activities for the after-school program to meet the needs of children ages 7 months through 12 years. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$16.09/hour.

### After School Program Leader

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

### Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)

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

### Clinical Applications Coordinator

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

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

### Community Health Representative

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

### Construction Services Repairman

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

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

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

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.

### Detention Transport Officer

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. 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.

### Dispatcher

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

### Elementary Teacher

A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade E12; Pay rate is \$54,086.00/year.

### Gaming Investigator I

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

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

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

### Gaming Investigator II

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

### Land Surveyor

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

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/hour.

### Lands Technician

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.

### Optometric Assistant

Under dentist supervision, 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.

### Medical Assistant (Part-time)

A Medical Assistant position providing professional and clinical services. Position is grant funded; continued employment is contingent on grant funding. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$21.89/hour.

### Patrol Officer I

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

### Patrol Officer II

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

### Physician

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

### Public Defender

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. Representing 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.

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

Under the mentorship of the Public School Middle School Teacher, the Apprenticeship Program is designed to provide training, education, and hands-on experience for a Southern Ute Tribal member in performing the work duties of the Public Education Middle School Teacher. Will develop the skills to teach/tutor Southern Ute or Johnson O'Malley Program students in the Middle School during and after school throughout the school year and develop the skills to design and implement summer enrichment programs, performing student instruction and supervision, managing the programs, and reviewing their success. Based on a regular work year (261 days).

Will start 20% below the grade for the Middle School Teacher and will receive quarterly evaluation and pay increases. The starting Pay rate for the Apprentice is \$22.88/hour. The duration of this program is designed to last 12 months and may be extended or reduced as appropriate.

Upon successful completion of the apprentice curriculum requirements, will assume the position of Public Education Middle School Teacher.

### Public Health Nurse

A Registered Nurse position providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

### Recording Secretary

Takes minutes and transcribes both regular and special council sessions, which also includes Council work session notes and provides support to the Executive Office Manager of the Tribal Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Tribal Council. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$20.26/hour.

### Scorekeeper (Part-time)

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

waamasuwiinini waini (22)



## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### SOUTHERN UTE UTILITIES DIVISION

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS [December 2025]

Northridge Sewer Improvement Project



## Northridge Sewer Improvement Project

**Beginning January 5, 2026**, we will start a sewer main rehabilitation project to improve the reliability and performance of your neighborhood's sewer system. This schedule is subject to change depending on weather conditions. You can view all affected areas on our Service Map. As work moves closer to your property, we will provide timely, address-specific updates so you know what to expect throughout the construction process.

The project is scheduled to begin in the area south of Sunset Meadows Drive. If weather conditions are unfavorable, work will likely start along Pow Wow Road. Alternatively, we can designate the entire area as the starting point.

Please review the attached maps. **Map #1 highlights the area in red, while the Map #2 includes comments and serves as the engineering drawing. Additional maps can be provided upon request. Please be aware that construction activities may result in increased noise and traffic in the area.**

Please feel free to call Peter Hayes, Southern Ute Utilities Division, Project Manager at (970)563-5502, with any questions.

**SOUTHERN UTE UTILITIES DIVISION**  
Main Line: 970-563-5500

Page 1

MAP #1



MAP #2

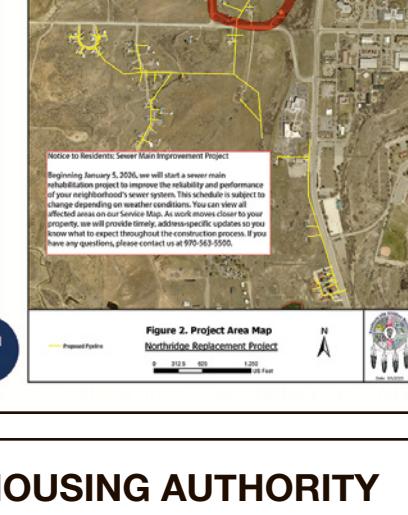


Figure 2. Project Area Map

Northridge Sewer Main Replacement Project

2025

SOUTHERN UTE UTILITIES DIVISION  
Main Line: 970-563-5500

Page 2

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY Maintenance Mechanic (Part-time)

Reports to Working Forman in Maintenance Dept., this is Non-Exempt FLSA Status. Responsible for semi-skilled to skilled maintenance of buildings/houses, facilities, and light equipment. Performs general carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and other repairs in response to service requests and results of inspections of units in accordance with HUD required standards. Performs interior work on units to include sheet rocking, painting, and working and troubleshooting HVAC and boiler systems. Performs maintenance on mechanical equipment and/or machinery. On-call duties are assigned on a rotating basis. Qualifications and Knowledge: High school graduate (or GED) or possess a vocational technician certification beyond high school, with five (5) years' experience or training in building construction or maintenance, or in the repair or maintenance of mechanical equipment or an equivalent combination of technical training and experience. Preferably licensed in one or more trades and certified HVAC. Must have a valid Driver's License, remain insurable, successfully pass a pre-employment drug test, and submit to random drug testing per the Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy. Pick up applications at 760 Shoshone Ave., Ignacio CO 81137, or email [ctwedd@suiha.org](mailto:ctwedd@suiha.org) to request an application and a copy of the full job description. Questions can be directed to Eric Spady or Crystal Twedd at 970-563-4575. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m., January 9, 2026.

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

### Special Needs Aide

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

porary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

### TERO Worker

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. Both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

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

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

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

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

The TEAM program is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to find tem-



### 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.

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

Closes 1/26 – 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.

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

Closes 1/26 – 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.

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

Closes 1/5/26 – Promoting EHS awareness, compliance and stewardship throughout the organization to all employees with an emphasis on health and safety programs. Will assist and have limited scope of responsibility with the implementation of programs which minimizes or eliminates work safety, environmental, and regulatory risks to Red Willow Production Company; and may assist senior EHS team members with the development, execution and training of EHS programs and initiatives.

#### Senior EHS Specialist-Safety – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/9/26 – Promoting 'EHS' awareness, compliance and stewardship' throughout the organization to all employees. Position is the lead for multiple programs which minimizes or eliminates worker safety, environmental, and regulatory risks to Red Willow Production Company. Development, execution, and training of EHS programs and initiatives. Will have an emphasis on health and safety aspects and will be the health and safety program lead.

#### EHS Specialist II-Health & Safety – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/9/26 – Promoting EHS awareness, compliance and stewardship throughout the organization to all employees. Will assist and have limited responsibility for multiple programs which minimizes or eliminates worker safety, environmental, and regulatory risks to Red Willow Production Company. Will assist and may be responsible for the development, execution, and training of EHS programs and initiatives with emphasis on health and safety programs and compliance.

#### Onshore Geoscience Manager – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/12/26 – Leading a team of geoscientists and technicians in ongoing exploration, development, and production-related assignments and will provide technical leadership for all onshore geoscience activities. Oversees geoscience contributions to both operated and non-operated onshore projects, as well as to new ventures opportunity evaluations. Provides technical expertise for individual projects as required. Collaborates

with other onshore managers to ensure communications between land, engineering and geology disciplines to ensure sound business decisions and recommendations to executive management.

#### Real Estate Investment Analyst – GF Properties Group (Durango, CO)

Closes 1/19/26 – Assists in the general management of all assets managed by GF Properties Group and works closely with the Portfolio Manager and Vice President to assist with the general oversight of the properties, leasing, contract administration, placement, and monitoring of loans, routine site, and property inspections, site analysis and due diligence, construction management, budgeting, financial analysis, acquisition and disposition support, market and industry research, and reporting functions.

#### Asset Manager – GF Properties Group (Durango, CO)

Closes 1/19/26 – Effectively performing a variety of real estate functions for a regional portfolio of mixed-use, multi-family, and development projects. Will support the asset management, property management, and construction management functions including financial analysis, project management, contract negotiations, budgeting, and forecasting. Will also assist with special projects and ad hoc analyses and will have the opportunity to support the national portfolio team on an as-needed basis.

#### Drilling & Completion Engineer III – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/16/26 – Drilling, completions, and petroleum engineering support focused on horizontal unconventional resource development in the San Juan Basin. Supports wellbore and completion design and execution, along with internal processes related to budgeting, post-appraisals, and performance optimization. Works collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary team to optimize field development and reservoir depletion strategies.

#### Lead Royalty Auditor – Department of Energy (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/2/26 – Independently performing audits and ensuring effective auditing practices related to Southern Ute Tribal oil and gas royalties. Reviews and analyzes royalty data, evaluates compliance, and oversees the work of Royalty Auditors by providing feedback, guidance, and training. Plays a key role in maintaining audit integrity, accuracy, and continuous improvement across royalty auditing functions.

#### Vice President – Growth Fund Properties Group (Denver, CO)

Closes 1/16/26 – Leading acquisitions, dispositions and asset management activities for approximately half of the portfolio including negotiation of joint venture partnerships, management of key strategic relationships, debt financings, and reporting. Leads portfolio management and planning efforts on a national basis and is an integral part of a collaborative team that utilizes a combination of financial, qualitative, and quantitative analyses to support strategic portfolio decisions.

### FOR RENT – SOUTHERN UTE MEMBERS ONLY

Address: 60 Shadow Spirit East, Ignacio, CO 81137

The Tribal Housing Department currently has the following unit available:

- Single-story townhome
- 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- Monthly Rent: \$875
- Security Deposit: \$875
- No pets | No smoking

Apply online at: [www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/cedar-point-townhomes](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/cedar-point-townhomes).

Paper applications are available outside our office 24/7 and can be: Emailed to: [tribalhousing@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tribalhousing@southernute-nsn.gov) or Hand-delivered to: Drop box at 285, Lakin St., Ignacio, CO

#### Applicant Requirements:

All applicants 18 years and older must complete a Release of Information form. Background check and rental history verification are required.

Questions? Call us at 970-563-4710 or visit our office at 285 Lakin Street, Ignacio, CO 81137. Applications accepted until: Jan. 2, 2026, at 5 p.m. \*Placement is subject to background check and rental history verification\*



### Scam Warning: Report Suspicious Calls

The Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP) has received reports that individuals are getting phone calls from someone claiming to represent SUDEP.

Please be aware that these calls are not coming from SUDEP.

SUDEP will never call a Tribal Member to request personal information. The only time you will hear from SUDEP is if:

- You have applied for one of our programs and we need to verify details, or
- An item needs to be picked up.

If you receive a suspicious call, do not share any personal information. Contact SUDEP immediately at 970-563-5555 and inform a staff member about the call. You may also contact SUPD Non-Emergency at 970-563-4401.



### 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.**

#### \*49 Lounge Bartender (Full-time)

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

#### \*Cafe Cashier (Full-time)

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

#### Cage Staff (On-call)

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

#### \*Deep Cleaning Staff (Full-time)

Cleanliness of the entire Kitchen as instructed by the Facilities Manager and/or Supervisor. Will clean Food and Beverage facilities and equipment.

#### \*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 Supervisor (Full-time)

Will act in the leadership and training capacity. Will direct employees and help them to complete their tasks and goals defined by the Housekeeping Manager. Training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. Responsible for office structure, budgetary administration and employee relations as assigned by the Housekeeping Manager. Transportation, be able to stand for prolonged periods of time, and be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds.

#### 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.

### Ignacio School District – Job announcements

Application/Information: 970-563-0500 ext. 221

Job info, descriptions and application: [www.ignaciосhools.org/employment-cdac2310](http://www.ignaciосhools.org/employment-cdac2310)

- District Mechanic
- Mid-school Soccer Head Coach
- Mid-school Track Assistant Coach

- Mid-school Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid-school Volleyball Assistant Coach
- Secondary SpEd Teacher

### Quichas – Brand New Duplex Units for Rent

2 BR/2 BA newly constructed duplex units. \$1,800/mo. + utilities. No Pets. Southern Ute Tribal Member Preference. Must pass credit and background checks and have excellent references from previous landlords. Applications are available by email. [kcastellot@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:kcastellot@southernute-nsn.gov). Use the subject line: Quichas Duplex Application. You can also pick up an application in person at the Economic Development office: 116 Memorial Dr., Ignacio, CO 81137 during working hours Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. All applications must be filled out completely and legibly and submitted by 5 p.m., 1/8/2026. You must complete a new application even if you have filled one out in the past.

### 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



## NATURAL RESOURCES

# Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act

*Act passes Senate Committee with bipartisan support*

### Staff report

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BENNET

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR), celebrated the Committee's unanimous passage of their Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act out of ENR.

"For the people of Southwest Colorado, the Dolores River is more than just a landmark – it's the lifeblood of their communities and way of life," Bennet said. "This bill was written by Coloradans who live, work, and depend on the Dolores River. It represents a balanced, sensible way forward to resolve many long-standing disagreements, protect the river for all parties, and provide long-term certainty for generations. I am glad to see that it has once again passed out of Committee unanimously, and I will keep pushing to ensure this becomes law."

"Southwestern Coloradans care deeply about the Dolores River," Hickenlooper said. "Leaders on the ground have spent years deciding how to best protect and invest in the Dolores. We worked with them side by side to design a bipartisan bill to preserve this landscape."

The Dolores River National Conservation Area

and Special Management Area Act, which passed the ENR Committee by a unanimous bipartisan voice vote, would protect over 68,000 acres of public lands in the three Colorado counties of Montezuma, Dolores, and San Miguel.

For over a decade, Senator Bennet has led congressional engagement with local stakeholders to craft legislation that could garner broad support.

As a result, more than two dozen stakeholder groups and local and tribal governments have sent letters to Senator Bennet in favor of the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act. In 2021, Bennet invited Coloradans to share suggestions to improve the bill during a 45-day comment period and introduced the bill in July 2022 with Senator Hickenlooper. This is the second time the bill has been passed out of the Senate ENR Committee with a unanimous bipartisan voice vote.

"The Tribe is intent on protecting our Dolores Project allocations," said Selwyn Whiteskunk, Chairman Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. "We believe the proposed NCA legislation supports this goal by legislatively addressing the potentially conflicting authorities of Reclamation over the Dolores Project contracts and the jurisdiction of the Forest Service

and BLM below McPhee Reservoir. This legislation also protects tribal cultural rights and practices within the NCA and provides for a Ute Mountain Ute representative on the Resource Advisory Council that will be involved in developing a Resource Management Plan for the NCA."

"For over a decade, San Miguel County has been engaged in discussions with Dolores and Montezuma Counties, the Ute Mountain Utes, and other regional stakeholders to determine a locally driven long-term management solution for the Dolores River," said Lance Waring, San Miguel County Commissioner. "Collaboration and compromise have brought all these parties together on this issue. The Dolores County NCA is a locally built and broadly supported proposal that protects both natural resources and existing uses. I'm grateful to Senator Bennet for leading this effort and to Senator Hickenlooper for supporting this bill to ensure the protection of this magnificent river canyon."

"This legislation has been in the works for many years, involving careful consideration and compromise of the needs of every involved interest," Whiteskunk said. "The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe believes that now is the time to move this legislation forward."

## 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**

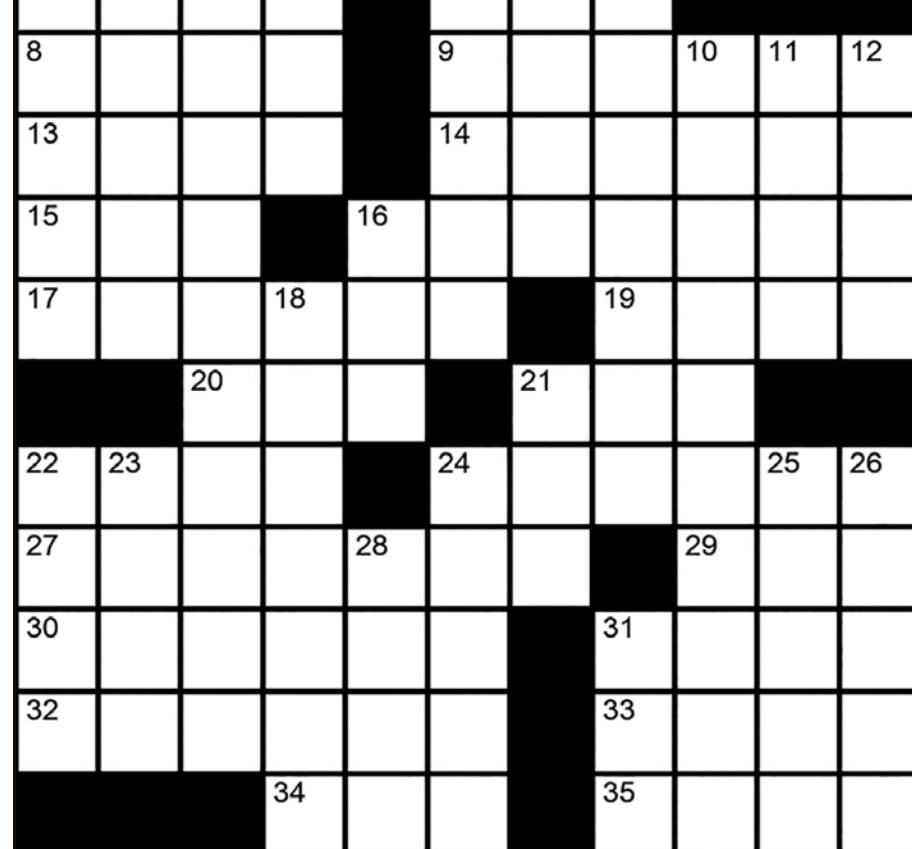
**Location: Sky Ute Casino, Ignacio, Colorado**

**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.**

## The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle



### Across

1 People who use a Shapatwan  
5 Club for weatherpeople  
8 Prince --- of the Southern Isles  
9 Eastern Siouan people whose name  
13 Ancillary worker or assistant  
14 Secure, like a baby seat  
15 Hallucinogenic drug  
16 Top dogs  
17 Dr. Robert ---, recently-retired President  
20 Board flaw  
27 Shocked sounds  
30 Where Kevlar was invented  
32 Relinquish  
34 Move about violently  
27 Before  
29 Confucian path  
30 Gratis  
31 Largest uninhabited US island  
32 Sort of plane, to the spiritually-inclined  
33 Swarm  
34 Army ailment  
35 Difficult-to-kill bacterium

1 Big gulf  
2 Subcontinental cucumber condiment  
3 Assembly line output  
4 Angel Fire direction from Ignacio  
5 Ugly ---  
6 Wailaki pilot and astronaut Colonel  
"Duke" ---  
7 Schooner sail  
10 Widely-shared piece of mail  
11 Kia subcompact  
12 Of the current month  
16 America's dairyland  
18 Average level of development  
21 One-time rival of UPS and FedEx  
22 Central American people who weave  
molas  
23 Till technology  
24 Lord or Lady  
25 Gratifies fully  
26 "Red" people, according to the Choctaw  
28 Anastasia's father  
31 Dough dispenser

1 Mace, 5 Liens, 10 O'Day, 11 On top, 12 Whee, 13 Chetro, 15 Ads, 16 Hue,  
17 Pop, 18 Anomalous, 21 Drat, 22 Vast, 23 Testiness, 25 Eva, 26 Sen, 27 Inn,  
30 Colusa, 32 Obie, 33 Tag up, 34 Elmo, 35 Edges, 36 Mein.

1 Mowa, 2 ADHD, 3 Caesar salad, 4 Eye, 5 Locum, 6 In heaven, 7 Ete,  
8 Not possible, 9 Sprout, 14 Ops, 16 Hot issue, 19 Nat, 20 Las, 21 Devote, 23 Tec,  
24 Neaps, 28 Nimi, 29 Neon, 31 Ugg, 32 OEM.

Answers will appear in the Jan. 9 issue of the Drum.

### Answers for December 12, 2025 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Mace, 5 Liens, 10 O'Day, 11 On top, 12 Whee, 13 Chetro, 15 Ads, 16 Hue,

17 Pop, 18 Anomalous, 21 Drat, 22 Vast, 23 Testiness, 25 Eva, 26 Sen, 27 Inn,

30 Colusa, 32 Obie, 33 Tag up, 34 Elmo, 35 Edges, 36 Mein.

Down: 1 Mowa, 2 ADHD, 3 Caesar salad, 4 Eye, 5 Locum, 6 In heaven, 7 Ete,

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8 Not possible, 9 Sprout, 14 Ops, 16 Hot issue, 19 Nat, 20 Las, 21 Devote, 23 Tec,

24 Neaps, 28 Nimi, 29 Neon, 31 Ugg, 32 OEM.

Answers will appear in the Jan. 9 issue of the Drum.

Answers for December 12, 2025 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Mace, 5 Liens, 10 O'Day, 11 On top, 12 Whee, 13 Chetro, 15 Ads, 16 Hue,

17 Pop,