



**FLC features Indigenous artists**  
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**Youth take the court at SunUte**  
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Visit The Southern Ute Drum online at [www.sudrum.com](http://www.sudrum.com)



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker outlines priorities before the 75th General Assembly in Denver.

**STATE OF COLORADO**

**Chairman Baker addresses Colorado General Assembly in Denver**

*Staff report*  
 TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker concluded a productive week in Denver by delivering his third annual address to a joint session of the Colorado General Assembly, alongside Council Member Marilyn House of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The annual State of the Tribes addresses were established under Senate Bill 22 105 to strength-



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

During his trip to Denver, Chairman Baker met with several legislators, including Senate Majority Leader, Robert Rodriguez as he heads into his final term in the Colorado General Assembly.

**Chairman page 2**

**LIFT THE LABEL**

**Southern Ute Tribe: Recovery Stories**  
*DeLaina*

“People say addiction is a choice, but they ignore that it’s a disease. Getting help isn’t as simple as deciding to stop – it takes deep commitment and trust.”

My name is DeLaina, and I’m enrolled with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. I grew up in Towaoc and Ignacio, Colo. I’m currently preparing to start a position with Tribal Services, helping Social Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Emergency Family Services, and Food Distribution. My days are flexible, going where I’m needed, and I’m proud I can serve the community while I continue to build my life.

My addiction began in 2019 with a single oxycodone pill laced with fentanyl. At the time I didn’t know much about fentanyl nor how dangerous it could be. One quarter of a pill gave me minor symptoms of an overdose, and yet that didn’t stop me. Over the next two years, I used many substances: pills, alcohol, and more; losing myself along the way. I stayed isolated and was ashamed, no one really knew what was going on in my life. I thought I could manage it on my own, but my addiction was something that couldn’t be handled alone.

In 2021, I finally decided to ask for help. With guidance from Behavioral Health Services, I was introduced to therapy and treatment called Suboxone, a medication to help opioid disorder. I was asked to flush what I had. I took a piece of suboxone, and



LIFT THE LABEL

courtesy Lift the Label

DeLaina

threw myself into withdrawal, that moment I realized I was done. I never wanted to feel that again. I began the road to recovery. It wasn’t easy, nor was it instant, but it was the moment I reclaimed my life. I’ve been sober for four years.

Recovery has taught me the value of life, support and community. My baby sister has been my confidant, holding me accountable and reminding me that I am not alone. I’ve also sought spiritual healing through ceremonies, and sweats, which

also helped me connect with my culture and strength.

Today, I feel grounded, resilient and hopeful. I’m committed to sharing my story to help others understand the dangers of addiction and the possibility of recovery. I want people to know that it’s okay to ask for help, to set boundaries, and walk the Red Road in their own way. I survived addiction and I’m thriving not only for me, but my son, my family and anyone who might see their own journey reflected in mine.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Melvin J. Baker joins members of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, along with Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera and Governor Jared Polis at the State Capitol for the 2026 State of the State address on Thursday, Jan. 15.

**TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY**

**Tribe calls on Colorado Attorney General to address unlawful use of tribal lands by Lumen**

*Staff report*  
 SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Melvin J. Baker presented his annual State of the Tribes address to the Colorado General Assembly, Friday, Jan. 16. In his remarks, he called on the Colorado Attorney General to work with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to investigate and address Lumen Technologies, Inc.’s unlawful trespass on tribal lands. After an extensive investigation, the Tribe determined that Lumen Technologies, which was formerly known as CenturyLink, had covertly installed over 100 miles of telecommunications infrastructure on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation

without required approvals. Following a comprehensive review of Lumen’s telecommunications infrastructure on the Reservation, the Tribe documented more than 170 miles of Lumen’s telecommunications lines on tribal lands, including nearly 100 miles installed illegally by Lumen, and its predecessor companies. Many of these facilities were constructed without obtaining required tribal or federal authorization or were maintained by Lumen after approved rights-of-way had expired. Lumen often accesses the Tribe’s land through state rights-of-way and uses tribal lands as a corridor to access other areas of the state. Lumen’s unlawful use of tribal lands is ongoing.

Even after more than a year of engagement by tribal staff to resolve these issues cooperatively, Lumen continues to conduct unsanctioned work. Although the Tribe has repeatedly informed Lumen that it is not authorized to enter tribal lands, contractors working for Lumen were observed as recently as last week installing fiber infrastructure on tribal property without a lawful right-of-way. In performing their work, Lumen struck a waterline, disrupting water service to tribal government offices. Lumen’s management has not responded to the incident. The Tribe has a demonstrated history of working

**Tribe page 2**

**SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND**

**Celebrating 25 years of vision and growth**

*By Pooja Rao-Pennington*  
 SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

In 2025, the Southern Ute Growth Fund proudly marked its 25th anniversary – a milestone built on vision, resilience and an unwavering dedication to the Tribe’s long-term prosperity. From its modest beginnings managing natural resources to becoming a cornerstone of economic strength, the

Southern Ute Growth Fund reflects disciplined planning and responsible stewardship that will benefit generations to come.

To honor this milestone, the Southern Ute Growth Fund warmly invites the Southern Ute tribal membership to join us for a special luncheon, celebrating 25 years of excellence and success, Thursday, April 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon

at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center.

This gathering provides an opportunity to reflect on the Growth Fund’s journey, recognize notable achievements, and celebrate the continued strength and resilience of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

This event is exclusively for Southern Ute tribal members. Invitation to follow – we hope to see you there.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE & SUCCESS**  
**SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND**  
**SPECIAL LUNCHEON FOR TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
**11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM (Lunch served at noon)**  
**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT, EVENT CENTER**  
 www.sugf.com • 14929 Highway 172, P.O. Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137 • Ph: (970) 563.5000

## TRIBE CALLS ON ATTORNEY GEN. • FROM PAGE 1



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council members, Tawnie Knight and Kathryn Jacket look on as the State of the Tribes Addresses were delivered on the House floor at the State Capitol, Friday, Jan. 16.

cooperatively with business partners to ensure lawful access to tribal lands. In this case, however, Lumen has failed to sufficiently engage with the Tribe on finding an appropriate resolution. When the Tribe requested a meeting with Lumen's CEO, Kate Johnson, to address the company's ongoing trespass, the request was declined.

Lumen's conduct reflects a continued disrespect for Tribal Sovereignty, one experienced by other tribes. Most recently the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Or-

gon reported that Lumen was, likewise, trespassing on their land. Lumen's ongoing unlawful use of tribal lands brings to mind a dark period in this nation's history when tribal land was accessed illegally and used for personal economic benefit, a practice that has no place in today's world.

In Chairman Baker's January 16th address, he raised these concerns directly with the Colorado General Assembly and called on the Colorado Attorney General to work with the Tribe to investigate Lumen's activ-

ities statewide. Baker told the legislature that "the age of illegally using tribal land should have ended long ago. But Lumen does not understand that."

Meanwhile, as the Tribe considers its legal options, all contractors and other representatives of Lumen are being put on notice that if they cross tribal lands without a valid right-of-way, the Southern Ute Department of Justice & Regulatory will escort them off the Reservation and legal proceedings against those individuals for trespass will be initiated.

## CHAIRMAN BAKER: ASSEMBLY • FROM PAGE 1

en government to government relations with Colorado's two resident tribes.

In his remarks, Chairman Baker reflected on the history and enduring presence of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and outlined key priorities, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR), support for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Enterprise Spill remediation efforts, addressing unlawful use and trespass on tribal lands by Lumen, and sports betting related resolutions.

Referencing the upcoming

anniversaries of Colorado 150 and America 250, Chairman Baker said, "Long before statehood and long before the founding of this nation, the Ute people have been here since time immemorial. Our history did not begin with these anniversaries, but our shared future continues well beyond them." He closed by thanking state leaders for their continued partnership and inviting lawmakers to visit the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

While in Denver, Chairman Baker met with state

and local leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez, House Majority Leader Monica Duran, Senators, Jessie Danielson and Dylan Roberts and Denver Mayor Mike Johnston. Additionally, at the invitation of Senate Majority Leader James R. Coleman, Chairman Baker offered remarks and delivered a land acknowledgement during the opening ceremonies of the Second Regular Session of the 75th Colorado General Assembly, Wednesday, Jan. 14.



Sacha Smith/SU Drum archive

### 10 years ago

On Wednesday, Jan. 20 the Mayor of Ignacio, Stella Cox signed a proclamation declaring that the Town of Ignacio will observe Leonard C. Burch Day as a Town holiday.

This photo was published in the Jan. 22, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

### 20 years ago

There was not an issue of the Southern Ute Drum printed for the corresponding Many Moons Ago, 20 Years Ago section. Look for the 20 Years Ago picture in the February 6th issue.

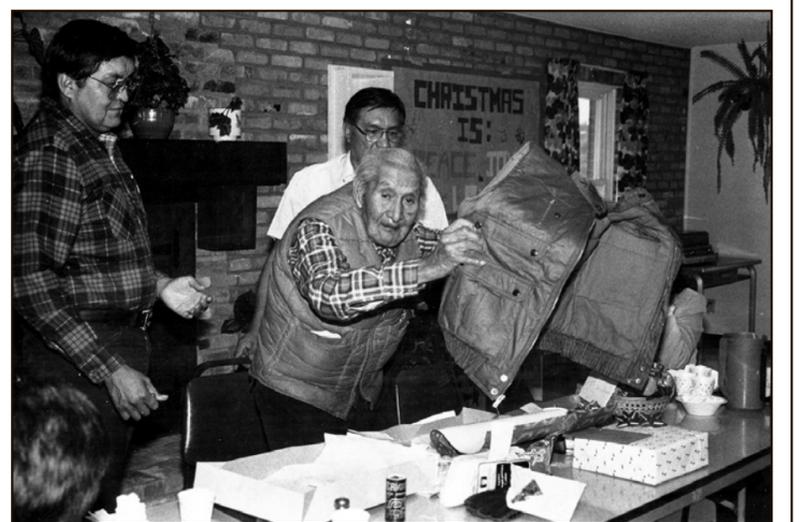


John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

### 30 years ago

Marty Pinnecoose danced and talked about life on the powwow circuit and touring with the American Indian Dance Theater. Executive Officer Eugene Naranjo and daughter Brandi gave him a robe on behalf of the membership and Tribal Council.

This photo was published in the Jan. 19, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

### 40 years ago

Oldest elder of the Southern Ute Tribe – Harry Richards celebrated his "101" birthday on Wednesday, Jan. 15, three days before his real birthday. Harry is happily showing off his gifts as Dusty Baker and Jim Jefferson look on.

This photo was published in the Jan. 10, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

## 104TH SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR LOGO CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 3, 2026

### GUIDELINES

- Artwork no larger than 8.5in x 11in
- One submission per person
- Artwork must include "104th Southern Ute Tribal Fair" & theme title
- Artwork must be accompanied with Artist Statement
- Artwork submission must include a digitized copy via PNG or PDF
- Winner will receive a monetary prize

MEMBERSHIP WILL VOTE ON LOGO ENTRIES AT THE S.U. GENERAL MEETING

For further information, contact: 970-563-2985



### 2026 Scheduled Southern Ute Cultural Dates

- Southern Ute Bear Dance: May 22 – 25
- Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow: Sept. 11-13
- Southern Ute Tribal Fair Rodeo: Sept. 18 – 19

Additional information: Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Dept. at 970-563-2985.

### COUNTY ROAD 524 TO CLOSE INDEFINITELY DUE TO FAILING CULVERT

La Plata County Road 524, which connects County Roads 521 and 523 south and east of Bayfield, will be closed at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 16. The closure is due to a failing culvert that is causing safety concerns. The Road & Bridge Department will replace the culvert when materials arrive, but the closure expected to continue at least through the end of February. Non-local traffic can use County Roads 521, 522 and 523 as alternate routes during the closure. The Southern Ute Department of Natural Resources – Lands Division, Water Resource Division, Wildlife Division, and Environmental Programs are working with La Plata County Road & Bridge and the La Plata County Drainage Team.

If you have any questions, please call 970-563-2236.



CULTURAL PRESERVATION

# Cultural Preservation welcomes Andrews as THPO

Staff Report  
CULTURAL PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT

The Cultural Preservation Department is pleased to announce Tribal Council's appointment of Ms. Audrey Andrews as the Southern Ute Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). Andrews brings an impressive background, including archaeological fieldwork, university teaching, while most recently participating as a National NAGPRA Program Fellow.

Andrews holds an M.A. in Anthropology and Gender, Race, and Identity Studies and is completing her



**Audrey Andrews**  
Tribal Historic Preservation  
Officer

Cultural Preservation Dept.

Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Nevada.

She completed her dissertation work on Reno divorce ranches with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe near Reno, Nev.

As the THPO, Andrews will lead the Tribe's historic preservation efforts, including identifying and protecting historic properties, consulting with federal, state, and local government entities on undertakings and oversight of the NAGPRA program. In her new role, the Cultural Preservation Department looks forward to strengthening tribal member engagement in the protection and preservation of Ute cultural resources.

RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT

# 2026 Native American 40 Under 40 class announced

Representing diverse professions and regions

Staff report  
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
AMERICAN INDIAN ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is proud to announce the 2026 class of Native American 40 Under 40 recipients. Nominated by their peers, 40 Under 40 honorees exemplify leadership, initiative, and dedication and have made significant contributions to their professions and communities. The 40 Under 40 awards are now in their 17th year.

"The 2026 honorees embody the spirit of rising together, achieving excellence while lifting up others and creating opportunities for their communities to thrive," said Chris James, President and CEO of The National Center. "Their accomplishments remind us that progress is the result of collaboration, innovation, and shared visions. I'm thrilled to celebrate the 2026 class at RES and con-



tinue to follow their success in the years ahead."

This year's awardees will be recognized at the Reservation Economic Summit (RES) from March 23-26, 2026, at Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev. To learn more about RES and register, visit [res.ncaied.org](http://res.ncaied.org). The early bird discount is available through Wednesday, Feb. 11.

"There is no doubt that Native talent and determination are shaping a bright future for Indian Country," said Lillian Sparks Robinson, Vice Chair of The Na-

tional Center's Board of Directors and chair of the committee that reviews 40 Under 40 nominees. "The creativity, perseverance, and achievements of the 2026 class of Native American 40 Under 40 awardees are an inspiration for us all, demonstrating that we can rise together when passion meets purpose."

For the complete list of 2025 honorees check out the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development website at [ncaied.org/what-we-do/40-under-40.html](http://ncaied.org/what-we-do/40-under-40.html)

## Art of the shell dress



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Jennifer Goodtracks explains to her daughter, Brianna Goodtracks, how to create a pattern for a shell dress.



Malorie King irons out her fabric so she can start cutting her patterns out on Wednesday, January 14, during the shell dress making workshop.

On Wednesday, January 14, a shell dress workshop was held in the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum's Large Classroom. Participants were instructed on how to create patterns and cut out fabric for their dresses. Vanessa Pinecoose carefully measured her dress.

## Winter storytelling with Tanaya



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Winter Storytelling is a tradition within the Ute community – musician, poet, and author Tanaya Winder was featured as the guest speaker for the Winter Storytelling event hosted by the Cultural Preservation Department. Winder sings an original to a large crowd at SunUte Community Center on Wednesday, Jan. 21.



The Winter Storytelling event featured a performance by Tanaya Winder and a catered lunch for all attendees by Mi Hitos and Amber Baker-Valdez.



Winter Storytelling guest, Tanaya Winder reads an original children's book she wrote to SUIMA students in attendance at the event on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at the SunUte Community Center.

## LET'S LEARN UTE

'á? Who?

'ip#? What?

'anekwa? When?

'aghavaa? Where?

'aghanigya? Why?

'aghani? How?

'ip# 'aa 'um# 'ásti'i?

What do you want?

'á 'ará ay?

Who is it?



### Committee of Elders Meetings Announcements

The Committee of Elders (COE) would like to announce our meeting dates. Our meeting dates are first Monday of each month, held at the Southern Ute Museum Library at 9 a.m. We invite all elders to attend. Questions, call 970-946-4061, Byron Frost, Chairman of the Committee of Elders.



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# BEE Heard: Psychology isn't all about the mind

*How our bodies affect our wellbeing*

By Shelly R. Solopow, LPC, CAS  
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

As I awoke this morning, I was instantly aware of a pain emanating from my knee, before I even took a step. I slowly got out of bed and groaned my way around the house. "Damn knee, it must be going to snow soon," I mumbled. And "Good golly I am old." I grabbed the Ibuprofen and proceeded onward, slowly and with a pronounced limp. Not the best start to the day.

In the world of behavioral health, we often think of our minds, that is, our thoughts and feelings being the main drivers of how we behave and how we feel. However, the body we live in is very important to our mental health. If we were an old-fashioned car, the brain might be the battery, and the knee joint might be something like a part of the suspension. If it is malfunctioning, it will be a bumpy ride. If we take this analogy to a new-fangled car, we see how the computer system is more like a brain and the little dash lights take messages from the various parts and relay them to the computer so we can see, "oops, my right tire is low." One of the main differences being that the car doesn't usually feel sad or lonely, or giddy, etc.

In a human, our functioning body does affect how we feel. Messages go to the brain and with those messages and a little negative thinking ("Gosh I am old"), we start our day feeling a bit of sadness and a touch of dread.

These days more attention is being paid to how the body tells the brain various things and how this can alter our emotions. In a recent study published in JAMA Psychiatry, yoga proved to be a useful intervention. This is summarized in Psychology Today: "Yoga and meditation were already considered promising adjunctive approach-

es by some clinicians, but new randomized clinical trial results provide the strongest evidence to date for yoga as an adjunctive intervention. In this study, OUD patients receiving standard buprenorphine treatment were randomized to usual care or usual care plus structured daily yoga. Notably, the yoga patients achieved stabilization of their withdrawal symptoms much faster than controls and showed significant improvements in levels of anxiety, sleep onset latency, and pain. These yoga-related benefits occurred independently of medication/dose, showing yoga provided additive therapeutic value." (Gouthem et al., JAMA Psychiatry, Jan 7, 2026).

Similar benefits have been found for breathing work and meditation which are also believed to affect our nervous systems and ultimately help to improve our mental state and lessen the effects of stress.

Shiatsu (a message with pressure at certain points) and Acupressure have recently demonstrated more robust findings than in the past as it relates to mental health. Aroma Shiatsu improved cognitive functions amongst adolescents (Deepa et al., Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies, V. 46, 2026) and acupressure has been shown to improve movement with persons with schizophrenia.

Recently in the Harvard magazine called Staying Healthy, yoga was found to be associated with a thicker cerebral cortex and they summarized that all exercise can help mood by lowering stress hormones (assuming you are not running from a bear). In addition, one session of yoga was found to increase positive emotions and decrease exhaustion in a study published in Complementary Therapies in Medicine (2020).

Overall, it seems various kinds of structured movement, breathing and meditation are associated with improvements in various areas of mental health. These are not all causal studies, but the evidence is adding up. In short, consider your body when thinking about your behavioral health. It does not have to be strenuous to be a big help to you and your knee.

As always, 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.

## DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

# Social Services would like to introduce our new division head, Cody Buck

Staff Report  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Kodee (legally Cody) Buck graduated from The University of Denver School of Social Work in 2008 with a master's degree in social work. Buck started her healthcare career as a hospital social worker at The Medical Center of Aurora, Colo. In 2011 Kodee and her husband moved to a small mountain community outside of Denver where she worked for Park County Department of Human Services for seven plus years as a Lead Social Caseworker and Adult Protection Supervisor. During this time, Buck obtained her LCSW (in 2012) and has supervised other LCSW and LPC candidates. In August of 2018, Buck, her husband



Cody Buck  
Division Head  
Social Services Department

and their two boys (born in 2012 and 2017) moved to Pagosa Springs for her husband's job. Their family enjoys all that Southwest Colorado has to offer ... beautiful mountains, snowboarding, hiking and camping.

Initially, Kodee Buck worked for the Archuleta County Department of Human Services in child welfare and adult protection. In 2019, she was very excited to follow her passion of working with older adults full time when the Social Services Director position opened at Pine Ridge in April 2019. As a natural leader, Buck moved into the Nursing Home Administrator position where she loved to work with both residents and employees. Following the pandemic in 2023, Buck decided to take a more clinical role as a Behavioral Health Case Manager through Elevance Health (aka Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield) until now, returning to her roots in social services.

## Shining Mountain Health & Wellness Breastfeeding & Parenting Class present: "Nurturing Mothers Naturally" Rebekah Roanhorse, Dine' Herbalist, Certified Holistic Health Practitioner (CHHP)



February 12, 2026, Thursday  
Time: 12 to 1 pm  
Southern Ute Cultural Center/Museum  
503 Ouray Dr. Ignacio, Co  
All are Invited to learn, smell and taste the herbs provided!



Q's: Shawmarie, RN, CLC 970-563-2163, smiso@southernute-nsn.gov  
Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC, 970-563-2344, lismith@southernute-nsn.gov



## Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

# Dial 988

for mental health emergencies.

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

#WeNeedYouHere



## SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



In-person meetings will begin on  
Tuesday, January 27, 2025  
5:30 - 7:30pm  
So. Ute Cultural Center & Museum  
in the large classroom

Please note the group will close after the third session.

### Facilitators:

Marvina Olguin, Peer Recovery Coach  
marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov  
Ben Lopez, Addictions Counselor  
blopez@southernute-nsn.gov  
970.563.5700



### Mission Statement

It is our mission to inspire & empower other sisters & brothers in treatment and help those in recovery live a life of integrity, honesty, & resiliency. Knowing that honesty is the foundation of change, if we live our lives one moment at a time & rationalize every thought before it becomes an action, WE WILL CHANGE.

## Shining Mountain Fresh



# January 2026

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



Heartwarming Three Sisters Soup

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFJan2026>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, January 26  
Pickup Date: Wednesday, January 28



Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

Contact:

Lisa B. Smith (970)-563-2344

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



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Linda Baker stands next to her art at the Constellations of Place exhibit at the Center of Southwest Studies of Fort Lewis College during the opening reception on Thursday, Jan. 15.

CENTER OF SOUTHWEST STUDIES

Baker's art featured in new FLC exhibit

'Constellations of Place': Indigenous, Latinx artists

By Divine Windy Boy THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College premiered the Constellations of Place art exhibit on Thursday, Jan. 15, a major exhibition that is rooted in the landscapes and layered histories of Southwest Colorado. This exhibit is guest curated by Dr. Meranda Roberts and features a selection of over 60 textiles, pottery, beadwork, 2D work, and mixed media pieces from both the Center of Southwest Studies' permanent collection and the work of 13 invited contemporary Native American, Indigenous, and Latinx artists - including the beadwork of Southern Ute tribal member, Linda Baker.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Beaded gauntlets created by a Ute artist once known, from the Homer Root Collection lay next to beaded cuffs created by artist Linda Baker. Baker's artwork is featured in the Constellations of Place exhibit at Fort Lewis College and will remain there until the end of this year.

Baker is a historian and beadwork artist, while also actively serving as a member on the Southern Ute Tribal Council - she is the granddaughter of Cassimero "Casey" Baker and Edna Russell Baker, she is the eldest daughter of six children born to Archie and Diana Baker (Cambridge), and is a proud grandmother to six. As an artist, Baker creates intricate beadwork, specializing in Ute regalia and Bear Dance accessories - her work has been featured in juried and invitational exhibitions including Santa Fe Indian Market and the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market.

"My beadwork journey began when I was a young

girl, my grandmother would show me her older pieces of beadwork, for example a buckskin dress, and then she would point out the construction of each piece of beadwork and what made the item uniquely Ute," Baker said. "Then after that, it was my mother's influence by providing various tools for me to use and then eventually my own creativity from that point on - for myself I like to stick to the 'older' style of beadwork and art so that I can pass down these teachings just as they were to me," she said. "I like making cuffs and gauntlets, I am also known for making cradleboards, canister purses, which we don't see too often anymore. I like to make men's ties and now I am currently working on a Ute style buckskin dress and a fully beaded vest."

In the Constellations of Place exhibit, Baker's work

is featured next to a pair of beaded gauntlets created by a Ute artist 'once known' (from the Homer Root Collection). "When asked to submit a piece to this exhibit - first off, I was really surprised to even have a piece requested from me - I immediately thought of these cuffs that I made for Tony, the background actually has a five-point star pattern at the top and when you move them you can see the change in direction of the beads," Baker said. "Then there is a hunter on horseback chasing a bison on top of an eight-point star - that is my contribution to the exhibit and lying next to my piece is a pair of full gauntlets from the Homer Root Collection, so there is that older style that you can contrast and compare to the modern art."

Baker page 20

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu - Eagle's Nest

It's January!

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Mari Jo Owens Principal

It's January, the time in a school year that can bring doldrums, frustration, and havoc to a young child. One way to help them get through the next few months of school is to get them organized.

Here are a few tips to assist in these days of winter.

Break tasks, school projects or household chores into smaller, more manageable steps. This will show your child that each project has a beginning, middle and end, which can make projects feel less overwhelming. For example, if your child's nightly chore is to clear the table, explain first they should scrape leftovers into the garbage, then load the dishes into the dishwasher, then wipe the counters.

Make checklists and to-do lists. Once your child knows all the steps involved with a task, help them add it to an overall to-do list. Encourage them to keep the list in a place

where it will be seen often and to check off accomplishments as they go along.

Teach calendar and time management skills. Encourage your child to write down important tasks in a digital calendar or on a paper one.

Establish daily routines. Creating a regular schedule can help your child learn what to expect throughout the day. Use picture schedules for younger children.

With the holidays over and new toys in the house, purging and giving away older,

less used items can be the beginning of helping your child become organized. Getting organized can make life easier for children, younger and older. Enjoy the journey of organization!

Sumay (Remember)

The cold and flu season has arrived. Please check that your child is up to date with their immunizations and consider a flu vaccination or nasal spray. Sneezing or coughing into your elbow is a good habit. And remember to wash hands often.

Núu'apagha (Speak Ute)

- təkapi - food
kapi - coffee
chirət - chili
Maykh - Hello
'aghavaa kanigyatə? - Where do you live?
Nə' Pínuvaa kanigyatə. - I live in Ignacio.
Tətə'ayaq h'umuy puchuchugwa - It is good to know you.
Pághanukwichaantə. - I am taking off.



courtesy SUIMA

SUIMA infant, Atlas Seibel, sits for a photo opportunity with his 100% attendance certificate of recognition.



courtesy SUIMA

SUIMA toddlers, Sofia Wilbourn and Aria Romero, proudly hold certificates they received for their 100% attendance during the month of November 2025.

Muatagop'e'okwatavana (On our calendar)

- Jan. 30: No School for students - Professional Develop Day for staff.

Johnson: Stars of Honor



photos courtesy Candi Valencia

Zalissa Johnson was chosen by her (2nd Grade Teacher) as a "Stars of Honor" recipient for her hard work in the classroom and her commitment to excellence. The awards were presented inside Fort Lewis College's Whalen Gymnasium, Saturday, Jan. 10, following the Westminster University vs. Fort Lewis College basketball game.

Awardees were recognized publicly at the sporting event and presented with a certificate recognizing their outstanding accomplishments in academics. Zalissa is the daughter of Candi Valencia (and Brandon Johnson), and she attends Ignacio Elementary School.

STARS OF HONOR
Congratulations! Your child has been chosen by their school as a Stars of Honor award recipient for their hard work in the classroom and commitment to excellence!
Fort Lewis College will be honoring Stars of Honor award recipients at the following Men's Basketball Game: Westminster University vs. Fort Lewis College
Saturday, January 10th at 3:00pm
Whalen Gymnasium- 150 Skyhawk Avenue, Durango, 81301
Each Stars of Honor recipient is eligible to receive four complimentary tickets to the game!
All Stars of Honor award winners will receive a certificate recognizing their outstanding accomplishment and will be recognized with an ovation from the crowd during a break in the action.
We look forward to hosting you for a memorable day with the Fort Lewis Skyhawks! We will contact you closer to the game with parking and game day information. For additional inquiries please email tvevor@starsofhonor.com.
To claim your complimentary tickets to the game, please visit www.starsofhonor.com prior to December 29th and input the following code on the RSVP bar (case-sensitive): J2610FL.
More information to come on purchasing additional tickets!
Complimentary tickets are provided solely for the personal use of the Stars of Honor award recipient and their guests. The recipient of such tickets is strictly prohibited from selling, bartering, trading, or otherwise transferring tickets to another for anything of value.

Thank you, Food Service Staff!



courtesy Ignacio School District

From the Ignacio High School Kitchen: "We are incredibly proud to share that our Food Service Department received ZERO violations on our health inspections conducted yesterday. This outstanding result is a direct reflection of the daily commitment, professionalism, and pride our food service staff bring to their work. Our kitchens are pristine because our teams are diligent, organized, and deeply committed to maintaining clean, orderly environments - most importantly, ensuring that food is handled safely for the students and staff we serve every day. The inspection spanned 4 1/2 hours of scrutiny, and despite an exhaustive search, the inspector came up empty-handed on violations."

STATE OF COLORADO

## Colorado appeals President's denial of major disaster declarations for historic fires and flooding

*Impacts to La Plata, Archuleta, and Mineral Counties*

**Staff Report**

OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet led his colleagues Colorado U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper and Colorado U.S. Representatives Jeff Hurd, Jeff Crank, Jason Crow, Lauren Boebert, Joe Neguse, Gabe Evans, Brittany Pettersen, and Diana DeGette in support of Governor Jared Polis' appeal to President Donald Trump's decision to deny Major Disaster Declarations for the Lee and Elk Fires in August 2025 and the Southwest Colorado flooding in October 2025.

"The State's appeal underscores a critical and urgent reality: without federal assistance to stabilize river channels and repair damaged infrastructure, these communities face a cycle of repeated flooding and recurring losses. Failure to address the underlying damage now will virtually guarantee continued destruction during future high-water events, increasing costs to taxpayers while placing residents, businesses, and local economies at ongoing

risk. Federal assistance at this stage is not only necessary for recovery, it is essential to prevent foreseeable and preventable damage from disasters in the years ahead," wrote the lawmakers.

The Lee and Elk Fires burned for 27 days in August 2025 and affected more than 150,000 acres. These fires caused widespread destruction to homes, rangeland, transportation infrastructure, and critical energy infrastructure, with FEMA validations of more than \$27 million in damages.

In October 2025, La Plata, Archuleta, and Mineral Counties' record-breaking rainfall caused catastrophic flooding, debris flows, and channel instability. Many homes, businesses, wastewater systems, roads, and drinking water infrastructure sustained extensive damage, with FEMA confirming more than \$13.8 million in damages.

In their letter, the lawmakers emphasize that both the Lee and Elk Fires and flooding in Southwest Colorado meet the statutory and practical criteria for a Major Disaster Declaration as well as

FEMA's administrative and legal threshold for federal assistance. They demand urgent action in the face of President Trump's decision to deny the people of Western Colorado the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs that are indispensable to recovery, mitigation, and long-term resilience. The consequences of continued denial will be severe, long-lasting, and far more costly if left unaddressed.

"We respectfully urge you to reconsider your initial denials and approve Governor Polis's appeals for Major Disaster Declarations for the Lee and Elk Fires and the Southwest Colorado flooding. Doing so will help protect communities, reduce future federal and local costs, and ensure that rural Coloradans are not left to shoulder the financial burden of disaster recovery alone," concluded the lawmakers.

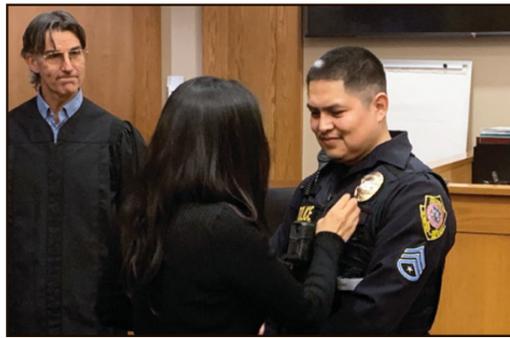
The lawmakers previously sent letters in support of Governor Polis' initial requests for Major Disaster Declarations for the Lee and Elk Fires and Southwest Colorado flooding.

## Wauneka makes Sergeant



Sgt. Gary Maestas/SU Police Dept.

Adrian Wauneka was sworn in as an SUPD Sergeant, Wednesday, Jan. 7. Wauneka smiles proudly with Chief Judge Scott Moore, his wife Sgt. Khaera Wauneka, their daughter Amaya Wauneka and Chief of Police, Daryl Noon.



Wauneka smiles as he is pinned as a Sergeant by his wife Sgt. Khaera Wauneka. Sgt. Adrian Wauneka worked for the Southern Ute Division of Gaming for a year but returned to the Southern Ute Police Department on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



Sergeant Adrian Wauneka shakes hands with Chief of Police Daryl Noon. Sgt. Wauneka first came to SUPD in December of 2019 from the Navajo Nation Police Department.



## 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**  
suwaroghomgsuwiini wawHchuwiini wawHchuwiini

**SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

## IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**BLOODMOBILE**

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT CONTACT

SCAN QR CODE

VITALANT @ 1-877-258-4825

DOROTHY WILLIAMS, COORDINATOR, 970-563-9287



THANK YOU, IGNACIO COMMUNITY, FOR SAVING LIVES!!!

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# 4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RETREAT

May 2026

SAVE THE DATE

FRI 15

**PROFESSIONALS DAY**  
SKY UTE CASINO AND RESORT, IGNACIO CO

SAT 16

**RECOVERY RETREAT**  
SKY UTE CASINO AND RESORT, IGNACIO CO

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SHARED AS THE DATE GETS CLOSER.

INTERESTED IN BOTH INFORMATION?

CALL 970-563-5700 FOR  
MARVINA OLGUIN - PEER RECOVERY COACH  
OR  
KIANA CHAVEZ - PATIENT CARE COORDINATOR



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



Tyron Turner/NPR

NPR v. Trump case: Pictured left to right, Breeze Richardson, Aspen Public Radio Executive Director, Tami Graham, KSUT Executive Director, Steve Zansberg, attorney for the co-plaintiffs, Stewart Vanderwilt, Colorado Public Radio CEO outside the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Court House in Washington, D.C., Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. Graham, Vanderwilt, and Richardson lead three Colorado public radio stations suing the Trump administration alongside NPR over an executive order issued in May 2025.

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

Where things stand in NPR v. Trump, of which KSUT is a co-plaintiff

By Adam Burke

FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC RADIO

In May, NPR and three public radio stations sued the Trump Administration, arguing that the President's executive order violated their First Amendment rights. Three Colorado-based stations are co-plaintiffs in the suit: Colorado Public Radio, Aspen Public Radio, and KSUT Public Radio in Ignacio.

Trump's May 1 executive order requires the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and other federal agencies to cease direct funding of NPR and PBS. The order also prohibits indirect funding of the networks, stating that public radio and television stations cannot use federal funds to pay for programming from NPR and PBS.

On Dec. 4, 2025, attorneys for both sides offered arguments to Judge Ran-

dolph D. Moss in a federal court in Washington, D.C.

During the hearing, the plaintiffs argued that President Trump's executive order is unconstitutional and violates the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

US Justice Department lawyers told Judge Moss that the President was acting within his authority, and that the case became moot once Congress clawed back funding for public media in July.

NPR Media Correspondent David Folkenflik, who was in the courtroom on December 4, told KSUT that the Judge appeared concerned about the potential harm done to NPR and the co-plaintiffs.

"The judge made pretty clear that (the executive order) seemed to violate their freedom of expression," Folkenflik said in a recent interview.

In this 29-minute segment,

KSUT producer Adam Burke talks with Folkenflik about the lawsuit and what unfolded in court on December 4. Folkenflik also explains some of the implications for public media stations.

KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham and Attorney Steve Zansberg, the attorney representing the co-plaintiff member stations, tell the story of how three Colorado stations joined NPR's lawsuit, and the risks they had to consider before doing so.

Disclosure: Under KSUT's protocol for reporting on itself, no member of KSUT's executive team reviewed this story before it was posted publicly.

Listen to the audio segment by Adam Burke, Where things stand in NPR v. Trump, of which KSUT is a co-plaintiff: www.ksut.org/2025-12-19/where-things-stand-in-npr-v-trump

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Looking back and looking ahead

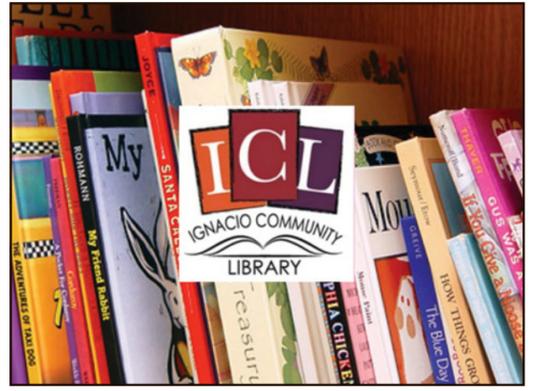
By Daniel Frauenhoff

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding with the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For Colorado, it also marks the 150th anniversary of the Centennial State's admission into the Union. The Ignacio Community Library will recognize both occasions with its 2026 programming. Our focus, however, will remain squarely on the community.

On March 25, we will host Ruth Lambert and Wendy Allen for a Genealogy Workshop to help you get started on researching your own family history. During the summer, presentations by local historians and community members will focus on the cultures and stories that make Ignacio so unique. The events will culminate with a party at the library on Saturday, Aug. 1, where we honor the past and look toward the future, alongside the San Ignacio Fiesta.

As with any diverse community, Ignacio has a checkered past. The Southern Ute Indian Reservation that surrounds the town represents only a tiny fraction of the ancestral lands of the Ute people. These



lands were taken from them, often by force, and that legacy cannot be forgotten. The southwest also bears the scars of the Mexican-American War. Countless Hispanic settlers lost their land, their rights, or both, after Mexican territory was annexed into the United States. Though the path was thus opened for Anglo settlers and ranchers, their road was not an easy one. Often displaced from eastern agricultural lands themselves, many arrived with little more to offer than the product of their labor and the hope for a better life. Conflict between these groups was, unfortunately, common; but so too was friendship and cooperation.

The anniversaries come during a period of profound uncertainty for our

country. Political divides feel deeper than ever before, and reconciliation appears to be increasingly out of reach. But despite tensions at the national level, our little town of Ignacio appears relatively unchanged. The Sky Ute Casino still buzzes with activity every night; Farmers Fresh continues to provide delicious local food options; the post office still gets busy during the lunch hour; and, if you look closely, you can still spot kids reading books in the library, rather than staring at their phones. Perhaps our community has more in common than politicians and social media influencers would have us believe. If you feel the same, please join us for another year of great programming at your local library.

Kanopy at Ignacio Community Library

Enjoy free streaming movies and documentaries with your library card using Kanopy. Watch critically acclaimed films, independent cinema, foreign films, documentaries, and family-friendly favorites – at no cost. Get started by visiting kanopy.com or downloading the Kanopy app and signing in with your library card. Stream on your phone, tablet, computer, or TV at home or on the go.

'Truth be Told' screening at FLC



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Filmmaker Brian Malone (left) visited Fort Lewis College on Wednesday, Jan. 14 as part of a statewide screening tour of the film "Truth Be Told." This public event held at the college was co-hosted by KSUT Public Radio, Local NEWS Network and Fort Lewis College. Executive Director of KSUT Public Radio, Tami Graham (right), leads the round table discussions following the screening of the documentary.



Opinion Editor for the Durango Herald, Ellen Stein, shares her groups' discussion notes during the "Truth Be Told" screening event at Fort Lewis College.



Southern Ute tribal member and KSUT Board Member, Beth Santistevan shares discussion points and reflections from her group's round table talk on Wednesday, Jan. 14 during the "Truth Be Told" event.

RADIO SHOW LIVE ON AIR! FEEDING THE SPIRIT Every Tuesday 12:00 - 1:00 PM Tune into KSUT at 91.3FM in Ignacio, CO, KUUT at 89.7FM Farmington, NM, and KZNM at 100.9FM in Towaoc, CO or on the web at tribalradio.org HOSTS: • Marvin Olguin, Peer Recovery Coach • James Wilson, Lead Substance Use Counselor



Feeding the Spirit has introduced a Mailbag feature, allowing you to ask questions, share comments, and recommend topics for discussion on the radio show (anonymity is an option). Kindly send your inquiries, remarks, and suggestions to feedingthespirit@southernute.com.

## NONPROFIT SECTOR

# Ballantine Fund granted more than \$455,000 to nonprofits across SW Colorado

Staff report

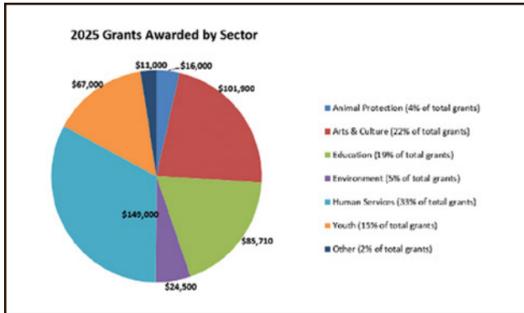
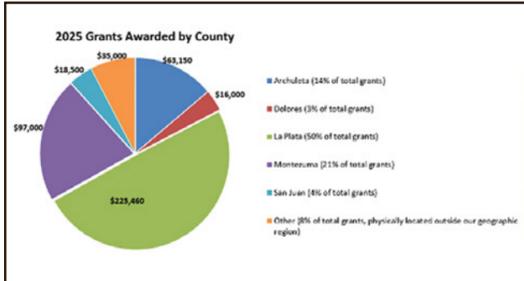
BALLANTINE FAMILY FUND

In 2025, the Ballantine Family Fund awarded \$455,110 - including six unsolicited Core Value grants - to 156 nonprofits in Southwest Colorado, which encompasses Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties. Unsolicited Core Value grants went to nonprofits focusing on supporting Colorado 250/150 festivities as identified by the BFF trustees. These grants included support for Animas Museum in Durango, Montezuma Heritage Museum in Cortez, Dolores County, Rico Historical Society, San Juan County Historical Society in Silverton, and San Juan Historical Society and Museum in Pagosa Springs as they commemorate our state's milestone in 2026.

The average grant size for regular granting was \$2,917. Trustees award grants across a broad spectrum of sectors, including arts and culture, environment, animal protection, education, human services, and youth.

"After nearly seven decades, our commitment to supporting the nonprofits of Southwest Colorado is unwavering," said Richard Ballantine, of the Ballantine Family Fund's board of trustees. "We appreciate our partnership with the Community Foundation which helps ensure our granting supports a healthy nonprofit sector for our whole region."

Trustees awarded grants across all five counties encompassing Southwest Col-



orado, as well as organizations that support the region and are located elsewhere.

"The Community Foundation is uniquely positioned to provide grant management services to the Ballantine Family Fund trustees," says Briggen Wrinkle, Grant Manager for the Ballantine Family Fund and Executive Director of the Community Foundation. "Our work with nonprofits and boards as well as our grant making for the region provide us with the expertise needed to be a trusted advisor."

Trustees meet quarterly to review and award grants. A full listing of Ballantine Family Fund grant recipients can be found on their website, BallantineFamilyFund.com. To apply for funding, nonprofits in Southwest Colorado may submit grant applications online at the same web address.

The Ballantine Family Fund was established in 1957 by Morley C. Ballantine and Arthur A. Ballantine Jr. for the purpose of providing financial assistance to nonprofit causes that benefit the human condition in Southwest Colorado. For more information, visit their website.

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado acts as grant managers for the Ballantine Family Fund providing knowledge in nonprofit management and financial review. The Ballantine Trustees make independent decisions in granting allocations and funding priorities. In 2024, the Community Foundation facilitated \$5.2 million in grants to SW Colorado nonprofits. Learn more about the Community Foundation's work at SWCommunityFoundation.org.

## Cultural orientation



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

SUCCM Education/Outreach Coordinator, Raelynn Frauenhoff explained the significance of the centerpiece in the main lobby of the museum represents the seven bands of Ute Tribes during the cultural orientation held for all new Southern Ute tribal employees, Wednesday, Jan 7.



Employees from the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe look on during the cultural orientation presentation held on Wednesday, Jan 7. The orientation gave the new employees a bit of exposure to the Tribe's history and its culture.



Southern Ute Museum Director, Fabian Martinez presented information on the culture and history of the Southern Ute Tribe during the employee cultural orientation, Wednesday, Jan 7.

### Ignacio Community Library

- Mystery Book Club:** Join us as we meet over the book *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley, Monday, Jan. 26 at 11:30 a.m. "A wedding celebration turns dark and deadly in this deliciously wicked and atmospheric thriller reminiscent of Agatha Christie."
- Online Author Talks:** Register for upcoming talks from bestselling authors and thought leaders every month through us! Visit the ONLINE LIBRARY tab on our website, ignaciolibrary.org. This month, you can enjoy: *Secrets and Second Chances* with Liz Moore on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 5 p.m.
- Virtual Reality Travel Program:** Join us for a celebration of India, Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. ! We'll explore Indian culture, enjoy a delicious meal, learn to wear a sari, and more. Virtually travel to India using Quest Pro VR Headsets! Signup at 970-563-9287.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Traditional Sewing and Beading

Session One:

Tuesday - Thursday January 20 - 22, 2026

Session Two:

Tuesday - Thursday January 27 - 29, 2026

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Call Elise to sign up & get supply list 970-563-2641



The class will focus on Moccasin making.  
High tops or low moccasins.

Supply List:

buckskin hide for tops and leather for sole.



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

## Southern Ute Elder Services February Activities List

**February 3, 2026**

Casino (Farmington)

Van will depart Elder Services at 9:00 a.m.

**February 12, 2026**

Native Arts & Crafts Valentine's Market (San Juan College)

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

**February 14, 2026**

Happy Valentine's Day!

**February 16, 2026**

Office CLOSED in observance of President's Day

**February 17, 2026**

Movie Day (Durango)

Van will depart Elder Services at TBD

**February 22, 2026**

Mozart & the Romantics

(San Juan Symphony in Farmington, NM)

Please RSVP before **February 17, 2026**, 3:00 p.m.

Van will depart Elder Services at 1:00 p.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.



## Scam Warning: Report Suspicious Calls

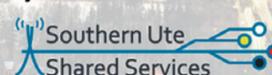
The Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP) has received reports that individuals are getting phone calls from someone claiming to represent SUDEP.

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.





“Healing from addiction brought me back to my heritage and gave me the strength to move forward.”

Hanley | In Recovery  
Southern Ute Elder

When we connect back to ourselves we find hope. Find addiction recovery resources today at [LTLSouthernUte.org](http://LTLSouthernUte.org) (970) 563-5700



LIFT THE LABEL®



NATURAL RESOURCES

# Southern Ute ‘Water Use Options Team’ to be proactive in the development of the Tribe’s unused water rights

Staff report  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

The Water Use Options Team (WUOT) was created in response to a request from Tribal Council to the Water Resources Division (WRD) to be proactive in the development of the Tribe’s unused water rights. The goal of the WUOT is, “To assist and advise the WRD in the exploration and analysis of available markets and options for the Tribe’s unused federal reserved water rights.”

The WUOT consists of four tribal member representatives who are selected by Tribal Council, and tribal staff that include the Department of Natural Resources Director and staff from Water Resources and Legal. The team may also include representatives from other tribal departments such as Economic Development, Cultural Preservation, Finance, GIS, Agriculture, Utilities, etc.

Since 2022, the WUOT has met 11 times. Many of the early meetings were educational meetings regarding the Tribe’s water rights and tours of local water infrastructure to help the group better understand the Tribe’s complex water rights and water resources. The group is currently working on developing a process to evaluate if potential water development opportunities align with the Tribe’s unique water rights portfolio. The intent of this process is to as-

sess if water development opportunities are compatible with the Tribe’s water rights and to determine their feasibility, so an informed recommendation on those opportunities can be provided to the Tribal Council. Currently, the WUOT has a working draft of the evaluation process and is refining it by working through mock water development scenarios in order to ensure the final process is effective and beneficial.

Recently, one of the tribal member representatives for the WUOT has resigned, and the WRD is seeking interested candidates for the WUOT. Interested applicants must be 18 years old and be an enrolled member of the Southern Ute Tribe. Tribal members with water resources knowledge and/or experience are preferred. WUOT members will serve at least one year with the possibility of continuing past one year. Members will be compensated for meeting attendance at the current rate of pay (\$20/hour) and will require at most approximately four to six hours per month. Please submit all letters of interest via email to pnylan@southernute-nsn.gov or mail them to Water Resources Division, ATTN: Water Use Options Team, P.O. Box 737 #63, Ignacio by February 27, 2026. All qualified applicants will be presented to Tribal Council for their consideration and WUOT member selection. Please contact Pete Nylander, 970-563-2931 with any questions.



courtesy Pete Nylander/SU Water Resources Division

Views of Vallecito Reservoir looking northeast from the dam; the reservoir supplies water to downstream users in the Pine River Valley. Since 2022, the Southern Ute Tribe’s Water Use Options Team has met 11 times. Many of the early meetings were educational meetings regarding the Tribe’s water rights and tours of local water infrastructure to help the group better understand the Tribe’s complex water rights and water resources.

## WATER USE OPTIONS TEAM

Southern Ute WATER USE OPTIONS TEAM Vacancy. The Southern Ute Water Resources Division has one (1) opening for a tribal member to serve on the Water Use Options Team (WUOT). The tribal member will serve on the WUOT with SUIT Water Resources Division (WRD) staff and other stakeholders. The goal of the WUOT is “to assist and advise the WRD in the exploration and analysis of available markets and options for the Tribe’s unused federal reserved water rights”. Members must be 18 years old and be an enrolled member of the Southern Ute Tribe. Tribal members with water resources knowledge and/or experience are preferred. WUOT members will serve at least one year with the possibility of continuing past one year. Members will be compensated for attendance at the current rate of pay (\$20/hour) and will require at most approximately 4 to 6 hours per month. Please submit all letters of interest via email to pnylan@southernute-nsn.gov or mail them to Water Resources Division, ATTN: Water Use Options Team, P.O. Box 737 #63, Ignacio by February 27, 2026. All qualified applicants will be presented to Tribal Council for their consideration and WUOT member selection. Please contact Pete Nylander, 970-563-2931 with any questions.

**NACHO AVERAGE GAME DAY!**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | EVENTS CENTER  
DOORS OPEN 3:30PM | KICK-OFF 4:30PM

**\$40/person for stadium style buffet (5 and under free). Tickets available at skyutecasino.com.**

Big screens, bold bites, and good vibes all day long. Bring your crew to catch every play — and every bite. Fuel up for the big game with loaded nachos, spicy wings, other mouthwatering game-day food specials, drink deals, and chances to win prizes!

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





## Honoring Our Youth Powwow



Southern Ute Veterans Association members help guide Tenetke Wesley (US flag) and Jai'Markus Height (Southern Ute flag) as they present the flags during Grand Entry, learning the role and responsibilities of the color guard in powwow.



Spectators watched closely as the adults took their turn, having some fun during the musical chairs special at the Honor Our Youth Powwow. With a night full of games, singing and dancing, attendees were able to enjoy themselves.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Host drum, Catching Eagle sings an intertribal song for all in attendance to come out to the dance floor.



Children and families try their luck in the Cake Walk dance during the Honor Our Youth Powwow. Moving to the beat of a round dance song, dancers hope to land on the lucky numbered plate for a chance at a free dessert.

**The Multi-Purpose Facility hosted the Honor Our Youth Powwow on Saturday, Jan. 17 in Ignacio, with head staff including Catching Eagle singers, youth emcee Meskvlwv Wesley, emcee Micco Wesley, arena director Phillip Moosomin, Southern Ute Veterans Association, Southern Ute Brave Theoden Greany, Bayleigh Paige Littlebear, Mark Wing, and Cassandra Atencio. This youth powwow gave the opportunity for Indigenous youth to shadow in the different roles of powwow including; emcee, color guard, head dancer positions, singing and dancing. Throughout the night families enjoyed intertribal dancing, exhibition dancing, musical chairs, cake walks, and an afternoon potluck.**



Southern Ute Royalty and visiting royalty gathered following the evening Grand Entry during the Honor Our Youth Powwow.

The Ute Indian Museum Presents

# ORELAND C. JOE SR.

A Multi-Award Winning Ute/Navajo Artist speaking on Ute/Cheyenne Warrior "Yellow Nose"

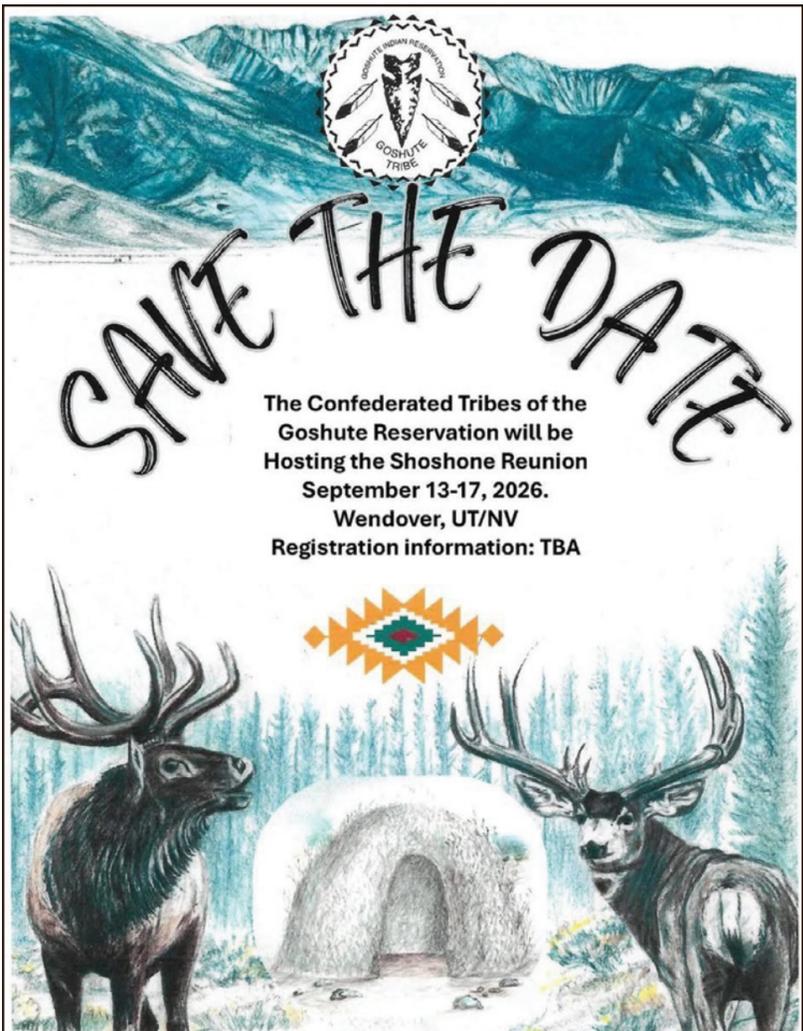


In 1889, a Mennonite missionary acquired a ledger book filled with depictions of early Cheyenne life. The drawings, made by Yellow Nose, presented dramatic scenes of the plains, including the Battle of Little Big Horn, of which Yellow Nose played an important role.

Yellow Nose was a warrior of Ute/Cheyenne heritage, and Oreland Joe is of Ute/Navajo heritage. It's that Ute connection that would lead Oreland on a great adventure of his own, deep into the heart of ledger art as he studied many of these historic works around the country and then used those examples to create his own interpretations for his ledger-inspired oil paintings.

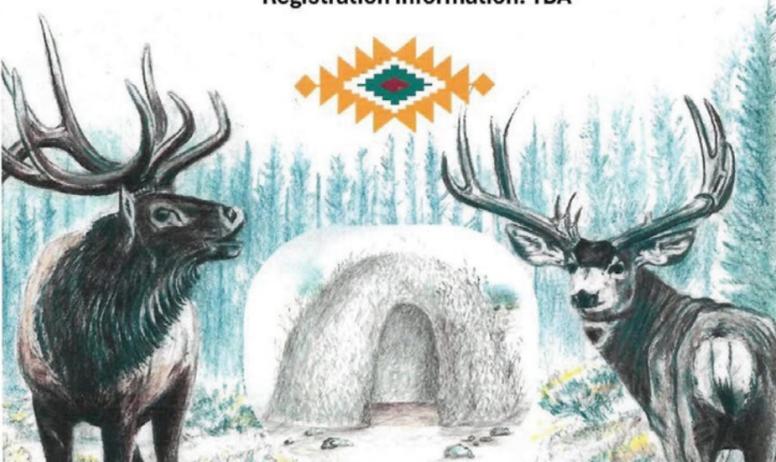
Ute/Navajo Artist: Oreland C. Joe Sr.

**FREE PUBLIC EVENT**  
**Date:** Monday, February 2, 2026  
**Location:** Ute Indian Museum  
**Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
**Doors Open:** 6:30 PM  
**For more information call:** 970-249-3098


# SAVE THE DATE

The Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation will be Hosting the Shoshone Reunion  
**September 13-17, 2026.**  
 Wendover, UT/NV  
 Registration information: TBA





## Ignacio youth hold court at SunUte



Competition was fierce as the kids participated in the league games on Saturday morning.



Kelsey Frost and Erika Kososik ran the children through warmups on the court before the game started.

Photos by Conrad Thompson  
The Southern Ute Drum



Basketball referee, Oscar Cosio looks on as the ball is thrown into play.



Coach Gabriella Garcia handed out good snacks and gave advice following the game on Saturday.

**O**n a cold Saturday morning in January, parents and children arrived at the SunUte Community Center ready to compete in the annual youth basketball league. SunUte Community Center's 2025 youth basketball season got off to a great start on Saturday, Jan. 17 thanks in part to the parents volunteering their time and skills to the youth, as well as the SunUte staff operating the facility with open communication, quick service and friendly smiles! The event brings young athletes, parents and coaches together on the courts each year to teach youth the game of basketball and the skills needed to compete with sportsman like conduct.



Team Kwyagat pushes past the competition during the league opener on Saturday morning.

### IOEA RISE & LEAD YOUTH LEADERSHIP COHORT

6 SPOTS AVAILABLE

A SPACE FOR 2SLGBTQ+ YOUTH & ALLIES TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY.

**WHAT IS THIS COHORT?**

The IOEA Rise & Lead Youth Leadership Cohort is a program for youth that builds leadership skills, confidence, and community through hands-on activities, cultural learning, and collective care in a safe, affirming space for 2SLGBTQ+ youth and allies.

- Youth from Southwest Colorado
- Ages: 13-17
- Paid Opportunity
- April - October 2026
- Field Trips and Outdoor Experiences
- Time Commitment: Monthly Gatherings + Activities
- Cost: Free (and paid participation!)
- Explore Career Paths

**WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:**

- Leadership & confidence-building activities
- Creative projects & group challenges
- Cultural learning & storytelling
- Community projects led by YOU
- Exploring identity, values, and voice
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Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Thunder Windy Boy (0) drives around Pagosa Springs' Creede Dozier and into open space nearer the hoop during 3A/4A Intermountain League action Saturday afternoon, Jan. 17, inside IHS Gymnasium.

**BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL**

# Bobcats foiled by four points, Pirates

*IHS' IML opener decided in last 10 ticks*

**By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM**

Disheveled as one would expect an exhausted low-post player to look after a difficult game, Trace Crane's face Saturday night, Jan. 17, was that of a player not distraught but still faulting himself for his team's fate.

To be sure, he was replaying in his mind a missed finger-roll which would have regained Ignacio's boys a 44-42 lead on visiting Pagosa Springs with barely 32 seconds left in regulation. Instead, the Pirates snatched the rebound away, called timeout with 0:31.3 to go, and went up by the aforementioned margin when senior Jeremiah Jones, taking a pass from classmate Creede Dozier, drove in for a backside layup.

Fouled on the shot by, ironically, Crane, Jones clanked the 'and-one' bonus free throw but PSHS caught a critical break when junior Duke Ketchum controlled the rebound, passed it out of danger and saw it end up in senior teammate Jayton Ross' hands. Needing to stop the clock, IHS junior Thunder Windy Boy had no choice but foul Ross, and did so with 19.3 ticks remaining.

Ross, however, swished both resulting FTs – leaving the 'Cats needing something miraculous to steal victory



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

With Rance Rathjen (20) lining up to do likewise, Ignacio's Sonny Flores congratulates Thunder Windy Boy (0) after Windy Boy's successful 'and-one' take to the hoop late in the first half of the Bobcats' 3A/4A Intermountain League game Saturday night, Jan. 17, versus Pagosa Springs.

upon their own court. Crane came through with a high-light-reel, mid-range fall-away jumper paralleling the baseline, bringing Ignacio back to 46-44 with 0:08.5 left, and timeout was called.

Needing to predict which Pirate would receive senior Ty Richey's inbound pass, Ignacio's group guess was wrong.

"We kind of lined up in a 'stack' and had Creede run off to an open lane, and they saw that," Richey recalled afterwards. "So they took Duke's guy off ... but it gave us an easy pass in."

Catching the ball while unguarded, Ketchum stayed motionless until Bobcat senior Sonny Flores fouled him with 0:06 left. Able to ignore the home fans' loudest razzing, Ketchum canned both FTs and re-

built Pagosa Springs' lead to 48-44. Running the risk of being called for a foul and giving IHS a chance at a tying four-point play, Jones nevertheless tried to ... and narrowly succeeded in swatting Bobcat senior Rance Rathjen's desperation three-pointer into Ignacio's bench as time expired.

"This is a tough place to play. Coach Trae's got them prepared, ready to go – did his homework; these guys battled because Ignacio's a tough team," said PSHS head coach Brandon Forster. "We really just had to find our composure – that's something we'd talked a lot about this week, being composed when things get sped up – and that helped us out a lot."

"We started off slow, but

**Bobcats page 14**



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Justina Jessepe (10) stretches out a running shot over two Pagosa Springs defenders during 3A/4A Intermountain League action Saturday afternoon, Jan. 17, inside IHS Gymnasium.

**BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL**

# Lady 'Cats prove problematic to Pagosa

*Ignacio girls yield in fourth, fall 44-31*

**By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM**

Tasked with hounding Pagosa Springs seniors Alex Campbell and Kaila Limebrook, Justina Jessepe's evening Saturday, Jan. 17, probably wasn't going to end without a bump or bruise.

She'd have been fortunate if that was all she had to show for such battles in the paint.

Active from the moment head coach Travis Nanaeto inserted her into Ignacio's 3A/4A Intermountain League opener, and lucky not to have cracked her forehead against a bleacher step late in the fourth quarter after falling out of bounds trying to regain possession, the freshman forward finally made an exhausted exit mere moments later when, while shadowing PSHS' Ximena Garcia as the junior guard tried driving into the lane, she abruptly crashed down onto the court after a teammate also in hot pursuit accidentally collided with her from behind.

Jessepe required some help to hop/hobble back to

the Lady Bobcats' bench, but her earlier impact was probably the reason Garcia's two made free throws – resulting from contact with Jessepe – increased the visiting Lady Pirates' lead to just ten points, 41-31, with 1:58 remaining in regulation.

"She got hurt in Center, so this was her first game back since December," Nanaeto said. "She just came here – out of Kansas – in the ... beginning of the season, and she's been turning out pretty good. You can still see that 'freshman' in her game, but if we can work through that she'll be alright."

"I don't even know what happened," Jessepe said afterwards, her left knee well-wrapped. "Someone was behind me (overhearing the question, senior forward Juliann Avila interjected briefly and accepted responsibility) and I went down, landed on my knee really hard. But I'll be ready for Tuesday."

"We've improved a lot on our finishing and our shooting," she continued, already looking ahead to Ignacio's slated 1/20 visit from 2A Dolores, "so I think with

that we'll probably score more than we did this time."

Or even the game previous, a 50-31 home loss on the 15th to 2A Southern Peaks power Sargent – preceding what ended up being a 44-31 loss inside IHS Gymnasium to 4A Pagosa Springs.

"We have stints where we do really well – yesterday's game against Monte Vista we had a great first half, then we came out in the third quarter and had five turnovers to start," said PSHS head coach Sarah Osborn. "Today I think it was different; we were super-slow in the first quarter, then in the third all the way through the fourth we picked it up."

The Lady Pirates (5-6 overall, 2-0 IML) took a 4-0 lead early, but a three-pointer by junior Aubree Lucero not only got the Lady 'Cats (1-9, 0-1) on the scoreboard but set in motion a series of possessions all ending with Jessepe putting the ball in the hoop: two FTs giving IHS a 5-4 lead, an Alyssa Atencio-assisted two-point take regaining IHS a 7-5

**Lady 'Cats page 14**



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Kodi Mae Rima pins Bayfield's Delilah Zink during 130-pound action Thursday evening, Jan. 15, on the girls' side of the BHS-hosted La Plata County Championships. Rima went 1-1 at the event, losing to Durango's Aleia Fenberg by pin.

**BOBCATS WRESTLING**

# IHS wrestlers prep for home meet

*Boys, girls rumble in N.M. at Clash*

**By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM**

Gearing up to host its annual Butch Melton Memorial Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 24, Ignacio Wrestling traveled down to Farmington, N.M., on the 16th and 17th to McGee Park for the Aztec, N.M.-hosted 2026 Clash at the Coliseum.

Competing initially at the 32-team spectacle in Pool C, IHS' boys – who entered

the weekend ranked No. 5 in CHSAA's Class 2A – first defeated Gallup, N.M., 35-24, but then lost 32-24 to Kirtland, N.M., Central. The 'Cats then fell 63-8 to in-state Montrose, and 48-36 to Taos, N.M. Los Lunas, N.M., Valencia then dealt IHS a 48-29 defeat, and southwestern-Colorado familiar Pagosa Springs prevailed 52-16 before Ignacio finished with a 39-18 win over Shiprock, N.M.

In the placing phase, the recharged 'Cats were regrouped and proceeded to go 3-0 in clinching 21st place overall with a 5-5 duals record. Ignacio first defeated Montezuma-Cortez 40-24, then knocked off Albuquerque, N.M., Legacy Academy 38-12 before nipping Fort Defiance, Ariz., Window Rock via tiebreaker after the dual ended deadlocked at 36.

**IHS wrestlers page 14**

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courtesy Stephanie GoodTracks

Sakarii GoodTracks and Christian Cosio proudly holding their first-place trophies following the annual Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw basketball contest was held in Durango, Colo.

## FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

# Annual Elks Hoop Shoot contest returns to FLC

By Stephanie GoodTracks  
COURTESY TO THE DRUM

The annual Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw basketball contest was held in Durango, Colo. on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Fort Lewis College in the Whalen Gymnasium for youth ranging in age from eight- to 13. Five Ignacio students attended the event, with two tak-

ing first place and advancing to the District/State Contest to be held in Olathe, Colo., Saturday, Feb. 7.

Christian Cosio and Tommy Seibel, a Southern Ute tribal descendant were in the 12-13 boy's category.

Kai Seibel and Charles Alston, both Southern Ute tribal descendants, competed in the 10-11 boys category. Sakarii GoodTracks, a Southern

Ute tribal member, was in the 10-11 girl's category.

Both Christian and Sakarii placed first in their divisions, which advance them to Districts. Cosio went 24 for 30 in free throws, which included a 3-way tie breaker shoot out. GoodTracks went 15 for 25 in her division, putting her in first place.

Good luck at Districts Christian & Sakarii!"



courtesy Stephanie GoodTracks

Christian Cosio and Elk Hoop Shoot Director, Dewey Waldron on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Fort Lewis College's Whalen Gymnasium in Durango, Colo.



courtesy Stephanie GoodTracks

Sakarii GoodTracks at Fort Lewis College with her first-place trophy following the annual Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw basketball contest held in Durango, Colo.

## IHS WRESTLERS PREP FOR MEET • FROM PAGE 13

Going 3-0 in the final 1-4 group, Alamosa – ranked No. 1 in CHSAA Class 3A – completed a dominant 10-0 tourney run by besting 4A Aztec, N.M., 41-29. Montrose then earned third place overall by defeating Farmington, N.M., 51-30.

On the bracket-style girls' side of things at the Clash, Ignacio's Larissa Espinosa went 2-1 at 235 pounds, losing only to Bloomfield, New Mexico's Caylee Miller by third-period pin in the first-place bout. Krysten Neil placed second at 135, posting a 3-1 record including three pins and losing only by pin to KCHS' Hailey Robinson in the weight's finale.

140-pounder Ireland Cates lost her first bout by 9-2 decision, but then defeated Farmington's AyaAnne Gonzalez 6-2 before bowing out of the competition on the short side of a 6-1 verdict against Bloomfield's Lilyana Scott. Eliska Prokopova went 3-2 at 145, and earned fifth place via a 12-8 win over Monument Valley's Arianna Maimone.

All told, the Lady 'Cats tallied 59 points and placed 11th out of 23 scoring crews – led by Farmington (205.5), with Bloomfield (180), Farmington Piedra Vista (145), Kirtland Central (122.5) and Durango (105) filling out the top five.

### COUNTY ACCOUNT

Prior to the Clash, Ignacio's boys and girls wrestled in



Drum Photographer/SU Drum

Ignacio's Aven Bourriague tries pulling Durango's Blaze Aguilar down to the mat during action Thursday evening, Jan. 15, at the Bayfield-hosted La Plata County Championships. Wrestling at 113 pounds, Bourriague won both his bouts at the triangular by first-period pin.

Bayfield the previous evening at the La Plata County Championships. IHS' ladies lost 36-12 to Durango, but fared better against the hosting Lady Wolverines; Kodi Mae Rima pinned Delilah Zink at 130 pounds, Neil followed with a forfeit win, Prokopova pinned Ashlynn Bravo at 140, and Espinosa won by forfeit as Ignacio's won 24-22.

The gents, meanwhile, lost 40-30 to Bayfield, though Aven Bourriague pinned Brody Zieske at 113 and Dillon Brann pinned Tyler Berry at 144. Zane Pontine (157 pounds), Brandon Blevins (165) and Philip Velasquez (190) received forfeit wins.

Against Durango, the 'Cats led 9-6 early after Bourriague pinned Blaze Aguilar and Joshua Kerrigan edged Isiah Aguilar 9-7.

The Demons, however, then claimed a forfeit followed by three pins in building a 30-9 advantage before Pontine – ranked No. 4 in 2A at 157 going in – pinned Dax Kunch in just 24 seconds.

Standing in for the injured Lincoln deKay (2A's No. 1 at 165), Blevins then pinned Jaylem Wianuka 44 ticks into the third period and brought IHS back to 30-21, but DHS' McKennon Ingle then defeated Moise Grogard by 11-1 major decision. Velasquez then stepped onto the mat as the dual's last competitor and claimed six forfeit points, but Durango still ended up ahead 34-27.

Having beaten DHS 45-18, Bayfield ended up earning boys' bragging rights; the Lady Demons' 30-18 win over BHS locked up top billing on the girls' side.

## 'CATS PROVE PROBLEMATIC • FROM PAGE 13

lead, and a Maliyah Martinez-assisted layup putting the home side up 9-7.

"I felt confident; I knew they were going to get me good passes," Jessepe said, a move-in from Lawrence, Kan., and younger sister of two who played at that basketball-crazed city's Haskell Indian Nations University. "So I'm thankful for them; they're really good guards."

Martinez, a junior guard/forward, then closed out the opening eight minutes receiving a lob into the paint from senior point guard Atencio and converting the catch into an unexpected 11-7 advantage. But an even more unexpected three-pointer by Limebrook cut Ignacio's lead back down to 13-12 with 6:18 left until halftime, and Garcia followed a Nanaeto timeout with PSHS' second trey, giving the guests a 15-13 edge with 3:47 to go.

Taking a feed from Avila, Martinez would later re-tie the score at 17-all, but Limebrook immediately countered with a buzzer-beating jump-hook close to the baseline. Junior guard Adelyn Hittle then got the third quarter underway with a two-point drive, and PSHS' lead soon reached 23-17 before Ignacio again began chipping away at it.

A Martinez three pulled the Lady 'Cats back to 25-22, and a nearly-vertical, close-range shot by sophomore forward Veronica Brown somehow fell through the net and kept IHS within three points, 27-24. The Lady Pirates, however, concluded the quarter with baskets by Hittle and senior reserve Charity Domingo and began the fourth quarter up 31-24.

Hittle's three-pointer, assisted by Domingo, with 3:26 left in the game effectively offset a combined seven-point effort by Atencio and Avila and actually increased Pagosa Springs' lead to 39-31.

"We've been pretty high this season with turnovers, while transitioning to new



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Maliyah Martinez (34) fights her way around Pagosa Springs' Ximena Garcia during 3A/4A Intermountain League action Saturday afternoon, Jan. 17, inside IHS Gymnasium.

point guards Adi and Ximena. They've been doing a great job but ... the offense doesn't flow the whole game," Osborn said. "What I'd like to see more is us being more consistent all four quarters."

Hittle finished with a game-high 16 points, while Garcia and Limebrook each totaled nine. Domingo and senior Amberlynn Snarr each scored four points, while Campbell booked two while snaring no less than a dozen rebounds. Martinez registered nine points for Ignacio and Jessepe totaled eight. Atencio chipped in five points and Avila four.

"It was a good game. We worked hard and we're almost to the step where we can progress, but we need a little more," Nanaeto said. "They're working as a team and ... we really saw it on defense. Plus movement off each other, making more shots, communication in the plays a bit more – I'm

very proud of them."

IHS will go to La Jara on Friday, Jan. 23, to continue league play at 3A Centauri. Results from the Lady Bobcats' IML clash with 3A Bayfield the previous night, as well as against Dolores (5-6 overall, 2-1 3A/2A/1A San Juan Basin) were unavailable at press time.

### AGAINST SARGENT

Atencio scored ten points, Martinez nine and Lucero six in the loss to SHS, but after starting the second quarter down 10-8, the Lady 'Cats would go into halftime trailing 27-8 and couldn't rally all the way back – despite winning the fourth quarter 16-11. Lady Farmer junior Denver Holman piled up a game-breaking 27 points and classmate Kandace Pargin scored ten. The two combined go to 7-of-7 from the free-throw line, while junior Kimberly Pargin (seven points) netted Sargent's only three-pointer.

## BOBCATS FOILED BY FOUR • FROM PAGE 13

as a team we know that we're better than that," Richey said, referencing the 10-3 deficit facing the Pirates after the opening 5:43 of the first quarter, which PSHS didn't erase until tying at 13-13 with 6:06 left in the second. "This was an amazing team win; we didn't play our best – we're not proud of that – but we stepped up."

Pagosa Springs (4-7 overall, 2-0 3A/4A Intermountain) actually went up 17-13 late in the second quarter after a near-dunk two-pointer by Jones and a Ketchum fade-away jumper, but sophomore reserve Joseph Atencio drained a needed three-pointer with 2:21 left until halftime and sparked a surge which saw Ignacio (6-4, 0-1) go up 23-18 after Windy Boy completed a three-point play with 1:30 left and Flores banked in a reverse baseline layup, with Rathjen assisting on both buckets.

Baskets by Richey and Dozier, however, quickly chopped the Bobcats' lead down to just a point, 23-22, at intermission. Crane got the third quarter underway with a confident hook shot, assisted by senior Stoney White Thunder-Lucero, and after Rathjen converted a Crane feed into a 27-22 advantage, the teams then trad-

ed the lead with PSHS coming out ahead and taking a 36-33 edge into the fourth and final frame.

Which began at a reduced pace; IHS' fans started booing vehemently when the Pirates wasted roughly 45 seconds simply running and re-running a play – which didn't fool or confuse the 'Cats – before Forster finally used a timeout with 4:26 left and Pagosa Springs up 39-35.

Nothing came of the pause, and Crane then rattled in a fade-away with 3:35 remaining. PSHS countered with a free throw, but Crane re-tied the score at 40-all with 1:30 remaining – then dropped a perfect back-door pass to a cutting Windy Boy, whose layup put the 'Cats – hoping to follow up on their 62-39 win over 2A Sargent two nights earlier – up 42-40 with 1:14 left.

But after another extended possession, the Pirates drove in for a back-door layup, assisted by Richey, with 0:42.8 remaining. Ignacio skipper Trae Seibel immediately burned a timeout, anticipating the last-second drama but unable to predict exactly how it would unfold.

Richey totaled 15 points to power PSHS (which went a collective 12-of-17

from the foul line), while Ketchum totaled nine and Jones eight. Ross ended up with seven, senior post Bode Hubbard five and Dozier four.

"We went from usually having a lot of turnovers to only having nine; that helped us out, being able to hold onto the ball, and finishing at the end," Forster said.

Windy Boy ended up with ten points and White Thunder-Lucero six, via two first-quarter threes. Flores and Rathjen each logged four points and Atencio his trey, while Crane finished with a game-high 17 points.

"We put Jeremiah on him, to get a little bit of length, and we kind of cycled through different guys ... that were a little bit quicker, maybe a little bit stronger," Forster said, "but credit it to him. Hard guy to guard; we were just trying to throw multiple things at him. Trace is a special player."

Looking ahead, Ignacio will travel out to La Jara on Friday, Jan. 23, to continue league play at 3A Centauri. Results from the Bobcats' IML clash with 3A Bayfield the previous night, as well as the team's 1/20 visit from 2A Dolores (8-4 overall, 3-1 3A/2A/1A San Juan Basin) were unavailable at press time.



## EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

### Thank you for your support

Tu Tavay Nuchu,

I would like to thank all of the tribal membership who supported me in the election.

I will continue to govern and make the best possible decisions on behalf of you, the tribal membership. I will continue working on issues such as housing, health, education, natural resources, energy resources and the myriad of matters that come before us. I recognize the need to support the revitalization of our language and recognize the efforts of the tribal members who are working diligently on this. Thank you, Shelly and Dr. Oberly, for your efforts as well.

Many politicians make empty promises they are unable to keep, I will not make any promises I cannot fulfill. But I will do the best I can to keep the Southern Ute People a priority, from the youngest to the oldest.

Please contact me at 970-563-2403, or come to the office to see me. I am available to talk with you about your concerns or visit with you.

Due to a recent personal matter, I have not been able to visit with the Elders. But my visits will resume soon.

I pray for all of your well-being and blessings for you and your families each and every day to come.

Thank you,  
Marjorie Barry

### Prayers & Kind Gestures Appreciated

Dear Relatives and Friends,

Our family experienced a medical emergency a few days before Christmas. Things have calmed down somewhat, and we continue praying for our little one and his continued improvement. I would like to thank all of you who have kept our family in your thoughts, prayers and hearts.

Our family cannot express the appreciation we have for your kind words, prayers and the donations to the Ronald McDonald house. Starlene thank you for the home cooked meal you made for us the first week we were in Denver. Michelle thank you for the awesome meal you delivered to us. Estelle and family, we appreciate the donations you made to the RMH. We are sending a heartfelt thank you to Mandy, Twyla and ALL of you who were there for us during this time and who continue to pray with us. Thank you to Eddie and Betty Box, Father Cesar and the Denver Catholic Diocese who had a prayer vigil for us and to St. Ignatius Parish who has added our little "Ace" to the prayer list.

Creator Bless all of you, our relatives, our friends both far and near. Your prayers, warm words, and kind gestures are deeply appreciated; you are truly people who take care of one another.

Tavuch Toguaoak  
Marjorie Barry & Family

### 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](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov) by the end of the day Monday preceding publication.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



### David Martin

**Job title:** Gaming Investigator II

**Description of job duties:** Investigate gaming related crimes. I help regulate and control the Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. This includes the ICMP's, federal and state regulations, the liquor code, Rules 2-13, and Title 16 gaming codes. Other duties as assigned, assisting SUPD and tribal entities.

**Family:** Ashley Martin (Wife)

### Eric Nelson

**Job title:** Gaming Investigator II

**Description of job duties:** I help regulate and control the Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. This includes the ICMP's, federal and state regulations, the liquor code, Rules 2-13, and Title 16 gaming codes. Other duties as assigned, assisting SUPD and tribal entities.

**Hobbies:** Hockey, rodeo, hunting, fishing and spending time with my family.

**Family:** Married to my wife Samantha and have one eight-year-old son.



### Ansley Chesebro

**Job title:** Benefits Coordinator, Human Resources – Benefits Division.

**Description of duties:** Focusing on supporting our health and wellness initiatives, assisting with employee onboarding, and providing guidance and education around benefits to help our employees make informed decisions.

**Family:** Married for five years, one wild child, and a fur baby.

**Hobbies:** I love anything and everything outside - we spend the nice months camping, hiking, and fishing. I am also a serial hobbyist. I enjoy sewing, painting, knitting and clay.

**Additional info:** I moved here from southern Indiana in search of a small happy place to raise my family. We are happy we found our home!



## 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

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## SOUTHERN UTE DRUM DEADLINE CHANGE!

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

(See deadline schedule at [www.sudrum.com](http://www.sudrum.com))

If you have any questions please call the Drum at **970-563-0118**.

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Feb. 6**

Deadline:  
**Jan. 30**

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

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## FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE Early Cut-Off for Minors Birthday Distributions

Requests received after the published cut off will be processed the following week – please contact Anne Flanigan, 970-563-2454, aflanigan@southernute-nsn.gov if you have questions or want to make a withdrawal

Distribution Date:	Cut-Off Time & Date
• Friday, May 29	Noon, Friday, May 22
• Friday, Aug. 28	Noon, Friday, Aug. 21
• Friday, Nov. 13	Noon Monday, Nov. 9
• Wednesday, Nov. 25	Noon, Friday, Nov. 20
• Wednesday, Dec. 9	Noon, Friday, Dec. 4
• Thursday, Dec. 24	Noon, Monday, Dec. 21
• Thursday, Dec. 31	Noon, Monday, Dec. 28
• Thursday, Dec. 24	Noon, Monday, Dec. 21

*\*\*Unless listed the cutoff for a Friday Minors distribution is 5pm on Tuesday*

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Boards, Committees and Commissions 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.

Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR [soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov)

**SOCOCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
If you're passionate about making a difference in the community, SoCoCAA is currently seeking Board Members for their Board of Directors. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with valuable programs that support our community. The Board meets every other month, making it a manageable commitment. For more information about our organization and the programs we offer, please visit our website at [www.sococaa.org](http://www.sococaa.org). If you're interested in applying, please reach out to Nita Emerson at 970-563-4517 or request an application by emailing [nemerson@sococaa.org](mailto:nemerson@sococaa.org). Join us in making a positive impact in Southern Colorado!

**SUIHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (SUIHA) is currently seeking two individual to serve on the SUIHA Board of Directors. The Board adopts policies and enacts resolutions of the SUIHA. Individuals interested in serving as a Board Member should submit a letter of intent to SUIHA stating their qualifications and why they would like to serve on the Board. All letters of intent need to be submitted to SUIHA, P.O. Box 447, Ignacio, CO 81137, emailed to [rtorres@suiha.org](mailto:rtorres@suiha.org), or hand deliver to the SUIHA office located at 760 Shoshone Ave., Ignacio, CO. Proof of Southern Ute Tribal Member required. Letter of intent will be accepted until 2 p.m., Jan. 27.

**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).

**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).

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

**TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ADVISORY BOARD**  
The Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is seeking to fill four positions on the THPO Advisory Board. A member of Tribal Council will be appointed as an ex-officio Board member. Board members will serve as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer's Advisory Review Board and will be appointed by Tribal Council. The initial terms will be as follows: one member term will expire in one year, two member terms will expire in two years, and two member terms will expire in three years. Members of the THPO Advisory Board shall possess Ute cultural and historical knowledge and understand Tribal, state, and federal historic preservation laws, regulations, and policies. The THPO will ensure that, as appropriate, the Advisory Board will have the benefit of advice from consultants who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards. For more information or to submit a letter of interest, please contact Audrey Andrews at 970-442-1852 or [aandrews@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:aandrews@southernute-nsn.gov).

**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.

**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.

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

**CALL FOR VENDORS**  
PIINU NÜUCHI FARMERS MARKET

Are you interested in being a vendor at this seasons Piinu Nüuchi Farmers Market? Please reach out to Allison :: [awall@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awall@southernute-nsn.gov) for more information

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
JUNE 3 - OCTOBER 8, 2026  
11-2PM - SKY UTE CASINO

**WE WANT YOU!**

**ON THE ELHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**

**3 EASY WAYS TO APPLY!**

1. Scan the QR code to download an application
2. Send an email to [admin@theelhiignacio.org](mailto:admin@theelhiignacio.org)
3. Stop by the ELHI office Tuesday - Thursday between 10:00am-5:00pm

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

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](mailto:kleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov)  
(970)563-0235

### Ignacio Community Library Services

- **Free Legal Clinic:** This is a free legal clinic for people who do not have an attorney. Free attorneys will meet with you virtually for 20 minutes to answer questions and explain legal processes. The attorneys do not represent you, and this clinic is informational only. Sign up today, spots are limited. By appointment only 970-563-9287.
- **Grief Support:** We invite you to our monthly Grief Support Group, led by the compassionate Sara Barnes, LPC from Hospice of Mercy. This is not a group that demands a regular commitment; it's a supportive space available whenever you need it most. Join us every first Tuesday of the month to connect with others who understand what you're going through.
- **Libby & Overdrive:** Your library card gives you free access to ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines through Libby and Over Drive. Download the Libby app or visit [libbyapp.com](http://libbyapp.com), sign in with your library card, and start borrowing. Enjoy automatic returns, adjustable reading and listening options, and access on your phone, tablet, or computer – no late fees, ever. Read, listen, and enjoy the library wherever you are!



**Notice of Proposed Amendments to Title 13 – Wildlife Conservation Code**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is seeking comments on proposed amendments to Title 13 - Wildlife Conservation Code. A copy of the amended Wildlife Conservation Code can be found on the following website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>. Please use the contact number at the end of this notice to obtain a hard copy of the proposed Wildlife Code amendments. The link below will direct you to the amended Code showing the proposed changes and a summary of the proposed changes. Use the form on the website to submit comments. You can also provide comments by phone, email, or in-person by contacting Aran Johnson, Wildlife Resource Division Head, at the contact information below.

**Public Comments:** The Tribal Council requests that Tribal Members review the amendments and provide comments no later than February 23, 2026, to the Wildlife Resource Division at: Email: Aran Johnson at: [ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov); Mail: Aran Johnson, Wildlife Resource Division, 116 Memorial Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137; Hand delivery: Tribal Annex Building, 116 Memorial Drive, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; Phone: 970-563-2413; Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>

**Public Meetings:** One public meeting is scheduled to discuss the amendments. Tribal members and family members of Tribal members are encouraged to attend. The meeting date and time is: January 29, 2026 at the Multi-Purpose Building, 256 Ute Rd, Ignacio CO 81137, 12:00 – 3:00 PM. Food will be provided. For further information please contact: Aran Johnson, Wildlife Resource Division Head, Wildlife Resource Division, 116 Memorial Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137; Telephone 970-563-2413; email: [ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov).

**Notice of Proposed Amendments to Title 17 – Tribal Employment Rights Code**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is seeking comments from Southern Ute Tribal members, First Descendants, and the public on proposed amendments to Title 17 - Southern Ute Tribal Employment Rights Code (TERO Code). A copy of the amended TERO Code can be found on the following website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>. Please use the contact number at the end of this notice to obtain a hard copy of the proposed TERO Code amendments. The link will direct you to the TERO Code showing the proposed changes, a summary of changes, and a survey. Use the form on the website to submit comments and answer the survey. You can also provide comments and answer the survey by phone, email, or in-person by contacting Hilda Burch, TERO Division Head, at the contact information below.

**Public Comments:** The Tribal Council requests that Tribal Members, First Descendants, and family members of Tribal members review the amended code and provide comments no later than February 23, 2025, to the TERO Division at: Email: Hilda Burch at: [hburch@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:hburch@southernute-nsn.gov); Mail: Hilda Burch, TERO Division, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; Hand delivery: Justice and Regulatory/TERO Building, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; Phone: 970-563-2144. Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>

**Public Meetings:** Two public meetings are scheduled to discuss the TERO Code amendments. Tribal members, First Descendants, and family members of Tribal members are encouraged to attend. The meeting dates and times are: February 19, 2026 at the TERO Building, (71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, CO, 81137) from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Food will be provided. February 19, 2026 at the Bonnie Kent Meeting Room, Sky Ute Casino (14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137) from 5:30-7:00 PM. Food will be provided. For further information please contact: Hilda Burch, TERO Division, Head, TERO Division, 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; telephone (970)-563-2291; email: [hburch@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:hburch@southernute-nsn.gov).

**SOUTHERN UTE HOUSING AUTHORITY Request for Proposals for Audit Services**

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (SUIHA) is requesting proposals from qualified firms and individuals for providing audit services. Interested parties must submit written proposals to the SUIHA. Proposals will be accepted until 4 p.m. on March 6, 2026. Proposals received after this time will be considered non-responsive and returned to the sender. Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

**BACKGROUND:** The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the Southern Ute Tribe. Our primary sources of income are rental income and Federal financial assistance received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Indian Housing Block Grant program. SUIHA currently uses Aliba and HDS software. SUIHA has 115 Low Rental Units. The SUIHA receives an annual Indian Housing Block Grant of approximately 2 million.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES:** The audit services to be provided will be for the twelve-month period ending September 2026. The audit shall be completed, finalized by November 25, 2026, and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearing House by December 28th, 2026. With onsite visit being done week of October 26, 2026. We expect an exit conference at the end of the audit fieldwork to discuss any findings, questionable costs, reportable conditions and adjusting journal entries. The audit shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements described in the Single Audit Act and the audit must be in compliance with the Uniform Administrative Guidance at 2 CFR Part 200. The audit services to be provided will be for the twelve-month period ending September 2027. The audit shall be completed, finalized by November 26, 2027, and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearing House by December 27th, 2027. With onsite visit being done week of October 25, 2027. We expect an exit conference at the end of the audit fieldwork to discuss any findings, questionable costs, reportable conditions and adjusting journal entries. The audit shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements described in the Single Audit Act and the audit must be in compliance with the Uniform Administrative Guidance at 2 CFR Part 200.

**CONTENT OF THE PROPOSALS:** In selecting the firm or individual who will best serve the needs of SUIHA we will be reviewing the experience of the respondent(s) along with reviewing the expertise and qualifications of the individual(s) who will be providing the services. To meet these objectives, the proposal must contain a resume of all individuals who would be performing the services, with special attention to the experience related to Indian Housing Authorities or similar organizations. Six (6) copies of the proposal shall be submitted.

**EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:** Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on a 100 point system with the proposal receiving the most points being determined the most responsive. The cost of conducting the audit will be the main criteria used in evaluating the proposals. The SUIHA Board of Directors will make the final selection, and the successful firm or individual will be notified shortly thereafter so that the audit process can begin as soon as possible. SUIHA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals if it is in the best interest of the SUIHA.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:** The criteria for evaluating the proposals will include points given in the following areas: Qualifications of firm or individual to conduct Federal audits in accordance with 2 CFR 200 (0-10 points); Ability of firm to conduct the audit in a timely manner (0-30 points); Experience and knowledge of Indian Housing Authorities (0-15 points); Cost (0-45 points); Indian Preference (0 or 10 points if proposal includes proof showing that the firm is at least 51% Indian owned).

Responses shall be addressed to Eric Spady, Executive Director, P.O. Box 447, Ignacio CO 81137. E-Mail: [espady@suiha.org](mailto:espady@suiha.org)

**CSD "Did You Know" Series 1: Pipes and Freezing Temperatures**

Frozen pipes are a common issue during the winter months. They are often caused by water freezing inside the pipes and expanding, leading to cracks and leaks.



Frozen pipes can cause extensive water damage, flooding, and structural damage. These damages are costly and are often excluded from the homeowner's insurance coverage

**If you have frozen pipes**

- Check all faucets and determine if the situation is widespread.
- If it's one pipe, turn on the faucet to get the water moving once the pipe thaws. Only turn off the water if there is a break.
- Try the hairdryer trick. Locate the frozen area in the pipe and run the hair dryer back and forth from the faucet to the frozen area. Continue to warm the pipe until full pressure has returned to the open faucet.
- If you find a leak while warming the pipe, unplug the hair dryer, locate and close the water shut off valve, and call a plumber.

**Preventative Measures**

- Set your thermostat to 68-70° to help keep indoor pipes from freezing
- Leave your faucets dripping; 3-5 drips per minute
- Leaving cabinet doors open will help heat reach your pipes
- Insulate your water lines in unheated areas such as garages, attics and basements, and skirted modular homes
- In case of a leak, know how to locate and shut off your homes water valve



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



**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE GROWTH FUND Sky Ute Fairgrounds**



**SILENT AUCTION (4) WORK TRUCKS**

**Bids open to SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS**  
Submit bid by email to Dawn Fahrion, GF Finance at [dfahrion@sugf.com](mailto:dfahrion@sugf.com)

Bids should be submitted in writing by **January 30, 2026, 5PM** and include:  
1. Name, Address, Census Number, Contact Number, and Email Address  
2. Bid Amount - Indicate Vehicle Number

Highest Bid will be notified **February 2, 2026**  
Full Payment due on Feb. 6, 2026 via Cashier's Check (No Cash / No Credit Card)

Address any vehicle questions to Jay Dee Brunson, Fairgrounds Mgr. at (970) 563-5541  
Each vehicle has been used for business purposes at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds



**Vehicle #1**  
1986 Dodge Truck - 250 Power Ram  
Mileage: 42,135



**Vehicle #2**  
1994 Ford F-250  
Mileage: 166,292



**Vehicle #3**  
2013 Ford F-350  
Mileage: 108,731



**Vehicle #4**  
2014 Ford F-350  
Mileage: 101,546

VEHICLES ARE SOLD "AS-IS". THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE GROWTH FUND MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS AS TO THE CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE OR WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE.

200 CO Hwy. 151 Ignacio, CO 81137 [www.skyutefairgrounds.com](http://www.skyutefairgrounds.com) (970) 563-5541

**AGRICULTURE DIVISION – HAY FOR SALE!**

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

**LARGE BALES: \$160/BALE 1350#**  
**21 BALE BUNDLER: \$165/BUNDLE 1260#**  
Hay is available **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE**.

Contact the SUIA Agriculture Division at 970-563-0220 for more information.



**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)



## 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

### Education Director

Closes 1/28/26 – Day-to-day administrative operation for the Department's Higher Education, Vocational Training and Adult Education, Public Education, Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council (SCSYAC), Youth Employment, and the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) programs, including promoting and providing education opportunities to tribal members from infancy through adulthood, supporting Indigenous children in the public schools and private schools to reach their educational goals. Pay grade E20; Pay is \$141,037/annually.

### Field Technician

Closes 1/23/26 – Performs work to assess, coordinate, and facilitate agricultural crop production for Tribal lands currently served by Custom Farm. Evaluates agricultural noxious weed management needs; completes weed management plans. Conducts cropland evaluation and develops farm plans. Provides technical assistance and irrigation water delivery information to Tribal agriculture producers. Pay grade E14; Pay is \$68,004/annually.

### Lifeguard (Part-time)

Closes 1/27/26 – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N5; Pay is \$15.79/hour

### Victim Advocate

Closes 1/23/26 – Provides counseling referrals for resources available to victims of crime within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N12; Pay is \$27.56/hour.

### Water Quality Program Manager

Closes 1/27/26 – Under the general direction of the Water Quality & Remediation Division Head, plans, develops, and administers multi-media environmental programs for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe with focus on Clean Water Act (CWA) Water Quality §106 and §319 Programs and Animas River Program. Pay grade E18; Pay is \$105,983/annually.

### Administrative Technician

Open Until Filled – Under the direct supervision of the Vital Statistics Enrollment Officer represents the Vital Statistics Division in a positive, professional manner while providing administrative and technical support. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$21.48/hour.

### After School Program Attendant

Open Until Filled – 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 \$17.05/hour.

### After School Program Leader

Open Until Filled – A regular full-time position that provides education and physical activities for the After-School program to meet the needs of children ages 3 through 13 years. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/hour.

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

Open Until Filled – Assists in the implementation, planning, and supervision of activities provided within the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) program. Pay grade N6; Pay rate is \$17.05/hour.

### Clinical Applications Coordinator

Open Until Filled – Under general direction of the Health Center Support Services Manager, serves as the Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) for the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department and the Southern Ute Health Center. Maintaining the Electronic Health Record (EHR) / Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the Health Department, coordinating up-grades, and providing training to all users. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$86,943/annually.

### Clinical Supervisor

Open Until Filled – A senior level position that provides Clinical Supervision to staff Caseworkers providing a full range of intake and/or ongoing social casework services for a variety of program areas such as child abuse and neglect cases, youth-in-conflict cases, and adults unable to protect their own interests. Provides clinical supervision and oversees Family Preservation and the Foster Care Program Coordinator. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$92,160/annually.

### Community Health Representative

Open Until Filled – Providing assistance and the coordination and development of activities for elderly and physically or mentally disabled Tribal members. Performs community health duties to include patient transport and monitoring, home visits, conducting classes, and providing community education on Tribal health issues. Home Care may include house cleaning, personal hygiene, preparing meals, and other health and wellness related activities. Pay grade N9; Pay rate is \$21.48/hour.

### Construction Services Repairman

Open Until Filled – Assists in home repair to Tribal Home Rehab Programs, Elders Maintenance Program, Tribal Member and Elderly/Handicapped Emergency Repair, and Tribal Rental Units. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$23.20/hour.

### Detention Cook

Open Until Filled – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$19.89/hour.

### Detention Division Head

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Director of Justice and Regulatory, plans, organizes, directs, and reviews the administrative and operational activities of the Southern Ute Detention Program and Facility; ensures compliance with all applicable laws, policies, and procedures; develops and implements Division policy and programmatic changes as required. Pay grade E18; pay range starts at \$105,983/year.

### Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – 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 N14; Pay starts at \$32.69/hour.

### Dispatcher

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$23.20/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

### Early Childhood Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicating effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade N9; Pay rate is \$21.48/hour.

### Elementary Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade E13; Pay rate is \$63,064/year.

### Gaming Investigator I

Open Until Filled – An entry level position located under the Southern Ute Division of Gaming (DOG). Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, 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 N14; Pay rate is \$32.69/hour.

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

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for uncertified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete and approved basic police-training course. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, will assume the Gaming Investigator I position. Pay grade N12; Pay is \$27.56/hour.

### Gaming Investigator II

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, incumbent regulates and controls Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N15; Pay rate is \$35.96/hour.

### Land Surveyor

Open Until Filled – Conducts all administrative surveys and surveys as a licensed Professional Land Surveyor, needed to meet the needs of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade E15; Salary is \$74,804/annually.

### Lands Compliance Technician

Open Until Filled – Performs administrative, clerical, and technical support to the Lands Division. Manages the implementation, administration, and enforcement of codes, and land governing documents for the Lands Division. Pay grade N12; Pay is \$27.56/hour.

### Lands Technician

Open Until Filled – Provides technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provides general information to the Tribal Membership and general public regarding land status issues, Crossing Permits, and general land management related issues. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$23.20/hour.

### Medical Assistant (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – A Medical Assistant position responsible for providing professional and clinical services. This position is grant funded; continued employment is contingent on grant funding. Pay grade N10; Pay is \$23.20/hour.

### Patrol Officer I

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N14; Pay starts at \$32.69/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

### Patrol Officer II

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N15; Pay is \$35.96/hour.

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For more information/register reach out to Allison - [awall@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awall@southernute-nsn.gov)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH**

🕒 11am to 1pm

📍 Sky Ute Casino Ignacio, CO

(lunch provided)

Your paragraph text



SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## 24TH ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

# SAVE THE DATE

**MARCH 4, 2026**  
**9AM-1PM**  
**SKY UTE CASINO EVENT CENTER**

For more information please contact **Andrea Schultz**  
[aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov)

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

### Patrol Officer Trainee

Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N12; Pay rate is \$27.56/hour.

### Physician

Open Until Filled – Providing comprehensive medical services and primary care to the patients at the Southern Ute Health Center (SUHC). Pay grade E23; Pay starts at \$249,495/annually.

### Public Defender

Open Until Filled – 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 \$121,866/annually.

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

Open Until Filled – Under the mentorship of the Public School Middle School Teacher, the Apprenticeship Program is designed to provide training, education, and hands-on experience for a Southern Ute Tribal member in performing the work duties of the Public Education Middle School Teacher. Will develop the skills to teach/tutor Southern Ute or Johnson O'Malley Program students in the Middle School during and after school throughout the school year and develop the skills to design and implement summer enrichment programs, performing student instruction and supervision, managing the programs, and reviewing their success. Position is based on a regular work year (261 days). Will start 20% below the grade for the Middle School Teacher and will receive quarterly evaluation and pay increases. The starting pay rate for the Apprentice is \$26.15/hour. The duration of this program is designed to last 12 months and may be extended or reduced as appropriate. Upon successful completion of the apprentice curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the position of Public Education Middle School Teacher.

### Public Health Nurse

Open Until Filled – A Registered Nurse providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N16; Pay starts at \$39.56/hour.

### Recording Secretary

Open Until Filled – 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 \$21.48/hour.

### Swimming Instructor (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the Sun-Ute aquatics facility. Responsible for preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$18.42/hour.

### Teacher Aide

Open Until Filled – Supporting the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) through a variety of duties including providing classroom coverage and supervision of children in the After-School Program, being assigned to differing duties on an as-needed basis. Pay grade N4; Pay is \$15.55/hour.

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

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

### TERO Worker

Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office. 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)

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



**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.

**Financial Reporting Manager – Growth Fund (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 2/9/26 – Supports all aspects of routine and non-routine accounting, auditing, and reporting processes and projects; reviews and analyzes FASB accounting pronouncements and determines the impact on Growth Fund business entities; serves as an accounting expert in advising Growth Fund management, Controller and business entities on complex accounting issues. Assisting in the development of Growth Fund accounting policies.

**Financial Planning & Analysis Manager – Growth Fund (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 2/9/26 – Heavily involved in the compilation and analysis of the annual budget and the five-year plan. Updating the Tribe's financial plan annually and every three years. Manages the annual Growth Fund bonus and Long-Term Incentive plan (LTIP) processes for all Growth Fund entities and SUSS. Would track and analyze capital spending and prepare return analysis for Growth Fund investments.

**Assistant Controller – Growth Fund (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 2/9/26 – Management of accounting functions, to include general ledger and all related subledgers, as well as supervision of assigned accounting staff, Growth Fund accounting principles, practices, and procedures, and assisting in the annual audit and budget process.

**Senior SCADA and Measurement Administrator – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and measurement systems maintenance, repairs, upgrades and design; performs work on SCADA and measurement components located among several different locations and environments; and performs SCADA programming, measurement and environmental data collection and reporting, and operational data collection and reporting for natural gas treating plants and compressor stations. Will provide training to lower level employees.

**SCADA and Measurement Administrator – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Provides support for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and measurement systems maintenance, repairs, upgrades and design; performs work on SCADA and measurement components located among several different locations and environments. Performs SCADA programming, measurement and environmental data collection and reporting, and operational data collection and reporting for natural gas treating plants and compressor stations.

**Pipeline Systems Operator I – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Performing all pipeline equipment and facility operations, maintenance, and installations including specific DOT tasks; completes all One Call pipeline locates.

**Pipeline Systems Operator II – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Performing all pipeline equipment and facility operations, maintenance, and installations including specific DOT tasks; completes all One Call pipeline locates.

**Procurement Manager – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Negotiating major national and regional material and/or service agreements for use throughout Red Cedar Gathering Company (RCGC). Expected to be a subject matter expert regarding assigned commodities, focusing on strategic sourcing, negotiation, research and the measurement of results.

**Reservoir Engineer II – Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Works as a member of a multi-discipline team to evaluate reservoir performance and optimize development, and depletion plans for assigned areas. Contributing to project evaluations and supporting internal processes associated with reserve evaluations, budgeting, approvals and post-appraisals.

**Senior Reservoir Engineer – Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Works as a member of a multi-discipline team to evaluate reservoir performance and optimize development and depletion plans for assigned areas. Contributing to project evaluations and supporting internal processes associated with reserve evaluations, budgeting, approvals and post-appraisals.

**Gas Measurement Technician II – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Completing all gas measurement related activities and work tasks; performs work related to operation and maintenance of measurement equipment at plant and field facilities, including processing plants, compressors, compressor stations, and dehydration equipment; and maintains and calibrates measurement equipment and facilities.

**Gas Measurement Technician I – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – Completing all gas measurement related activities and work tasks; performs work related to operation and maintenance of measurement equipment at plant and field facilities, including processing plants, compressors, compressor stations, and dehydration equipment; and maintains and calibrates measurement equipment and facilities.

**Senior EHS Technician – Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 1/30/26 – 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 minimize 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.

**Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements**

Visit our website at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com) to view job openings and apply online.  
Human Resources • Phone: 970-563-1311 • PO Box 340, Ignacio, CO 81137  
TERO-Native American Preference • All Applicants Welcome • Must pass pre-employment drug test, background check, qualify for and maintain a Division of Gaming License and be able to work all shifts, weekends or holidays. \*21 years or older to apply.

**Beverage & Cocktail Server (On-Call)**

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

**\*Café Cashier (Full-time)**

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

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

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

**\*Director of Marketing (Full-time)**

Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for overseeing the Marketing Manager and the Guest Services Manager as well as the overall operations of the Marketing Department including promotions, sales, entertainment, advertising, and player development program. Carries out responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies and procedures. Manages all areas of database analysis to target the areas of player data to enhance and retain the gaming market and is responsible for all marketing expenses.

**\*Executive Chef (Full-time)**

Oversee all functions of the main kitchen, including production, food safety, staff training and development, and product management. Ensures the highest quality and consistency as it relates to food handling, sanitation, food quality, service in the dining room, and food presentations. Supervising, training and development of all kitchen personnel.

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

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

**\*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. Will be responsible for office structure, budgetary administration and employee relations as assigned by the Housekeeping Manager.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Safeguarding the assets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Ensures that all company policies and internal control procedures are followed. The department is responsible for guest and employee safety on property. The first identifiable representatives of the Casino whose conduct and customer service skills must be of the highest quality. Must present themselves professionally assisting and helping customers with their problems and concerns. Investigates, takes photos and secures incidents, monitors access to secured areas allowing entry to only authorized personnel, observes and monitors all activity and movement in and around the casino, and performs drug and alcohol testing.

**Tribal Wills Clinic**

March 23 – 27, 2026 in Chinle, Ariz. Located at the Holiday Inn, BIA Route 7, Garcia Trading Post, Chinle, AZ 86503. To make appointment call: John Roach 505-716-6788.

Celebrate a well-lived life by making sure that your wishes are carried out by the next generation. To make sure that your wishes are respected after you pass, please consider drafting a will, either through our program or with a local attorney.

**SoCoCAA Job Opportunities**

To apply now, visit our website at [www.sococaa.org](http://www.sococaa.org) or call 970-563-4517.

**Central Administration**

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

**Ignacio Youth Services**

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

**Ignacio Early Learning Program**

- Teacher Assistant (Full-time) \$15.79-\$20.76/hr.
- Substitute Teacher (Full-time) \$15.16/hr.

**Road Runner Transit**

- ICB Bus Driver (Full-time) \$22.76/hr.
- Transit Driver (Full-time) \$18.94/hr.
- Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance (Full-time) \$18.94/hr.
- Operations Manager (Full-time) \$52,645-\$63,211

**Ignacio School District – Job announcements**

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

- Secondary Special Ed Teacher
- District Mechanic
- Mid. School Soccer Head Coach
- Mid. School Track Assistant Coach
- Mid. School Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid. School Volleyball Assistant Coach
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Bus Drivers
- Substitute Cooks



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**YOUTH & COMMUNITY ADVOCATE**

**What We're Looking For**

- Experience understanding, prioritizing, and implementing youth and community voice.
- An understanding of historical trauma caused by oppressive systems and how one's own identities impact multicultural and multigenerational spaces.
- Humility and a desire to be uncomfortable, learn, grow, educate, and build lasting relationships.
- Strong communication, organization, & leadership skills.
- Passion for building uplifting spaces for all youth.
- Part-time position | Located in Durango, CO



Send Your Resume:  
[vale@hivedgo.org](mailto:vale@hivedgo.org)

STATE OF COLORADO

## Bennet, Hickenlooper honor Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's legacy

Staff report  
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BENNET

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper introduced a resolution to honor Ben Nighthorse Campbell, former U.S. Senator for Colorado, who passed away on December 30, 2025. The Senate unanimously passed the resolution.

"Ben Nighthorse Campbell was a trailblazer – not just for Colorado but for the entire country," Bennet said. "Over his two decades in Congress, he was a tireless advocate for working families and children, brought

Native American issues to the forefront of American politics, and was instrumental in protecting Colorado's public lands. He was never afraid to stand up to his own party – and even change parties – when he believed it was right for Colorado. He showed me and every elected official in our state what it truly meant to serve your community. I am proud to see his life and accomplishments honored through the unanimous passage of our resolution, and thank my colleagues for coming together to recognize his achievements."

"Ben Nighthorse Camp-

bell from the Northern Cheyenne tribe served six years in the House and 12 years as a U.S. Senator. He was a master jeweler with a reputation far beyond the boundaries of Colorado. He was always generous with his time and wisdom. I will not forget his acts of kindness. He will be sorely missed," Hickenlooper said. "This resolution honors his legacy of service to Colorado, his achievements, and the tremendous human being he was."

Nighthorse Campbell served three terms in the House of Representatives before serving two terms in the Senate.

### BAKER'S ART FEATURED • FROM PAGE 5



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Associate Professor Political Science, Paul Debell and FLC Tribal Nations Coordinator, Matthew Schaeffer stand with guest curator Meranda Roberts during the opening reception for "Constellations of Place" on Thursday, Jan. 15.

The display case mentioned here features an interpretive description which reads, "The Homer Root accession ledgers and historic collection objects have long been a cornerstone of the Center of Southwest Studies, representing an era when collecting Native material culture was often driven by curiosity rather than relationship. In Constellations of Place, these objects are revisited through new lenses – brought into dialogue with living artists who continue the cultural practices they represent."

In a conversation about the Homer Root accession ledgers and historic collection objects with artist Linda Baker and exhibit curator Dr. Meranda Roberts, they reflect on what it means to reconquer such a collection today, not as relics of the past, but as part of a continuum of Indigenous creativity, care and survivance. "When you see the Homer Collection pieces, what comes up for you, and how would you want them contextualized for today's audi-

ences?" Roberts asks. "First and foremost, I'm grateful these beadwork pieces were collected and written about at all – someone cared enough to take them in and try to describe them, and I often wonder what might have happened to them otherwise," Baker said. "I think it's important not to take offense at the older catalog language, but instead to understand that it reflects the communication style and worldview of that era. Those original descriptions, even when they feel dated or imperfect, help provide historical context – Museum practices continue to evolve, and there will always be room for growth."

Roberts then asked Baker, "What do you hope visitors – especially Fort Lewis College students – take with them after experiencing your work?"

"I always think about beadwork as being like throwing pebbles into a pond – the ripples move outward in overlapping circles, connecting and expanding from that first point of impact. That's how I see

our culture and our art." Baker said. "The survival of Ute culture, language, and our dances is vital. We each have a responsibility to keep our culture close and care for it, wherever we are. "Home" can mean the land where we grew up, or it can be the space we create with our families – memory, too, can live again if we choose to pay attention – that's what I hope people feel when they see my work. Continuity, care, and the ongoing life of our stories."

Constellations of Place is a collaborative project between the Center of Southwest Studies, the Department of Reconciliation, and the Four Corners Bridging Institute at Fort Lewis College. The exhibit is the result of over a year of planning, listening sessions, and research. Constellations of Place will be on view until December 18, at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College.

For more exhibit information, visit [swcenter.fortlewis.edu/exhibits-events/exhibits/details/constellations-of-place](http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/exhibits-events/exhibits/details/constellations-of-place).

### The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	
10					11		12			
13							14			
				15		16				
17	18	19	20					21	22	
23						24				
25					26					
			27							
28	29				30		31	32	33	34
35					36					
37							38			

- Across**
- 1 Optimistic Wall Street figures
  - 6 Duke it out, in practice
  - 10 El Paso home of the Tigua
  - 12 Buenos Aires bread
  - 13 Repositories of cultural and philosophical knowledge
  - 14 "Airplane!" automatic pilot
  - 15 Biblical rod owner
  - 17 Felony or misdemeanor
  - 23 Disputed plateau between Israel and Syria
  - 24 Cruel, wicked and inhuman person
  - 25 Manifest
  - 27 They sometimes get crossed
  - 28 Chinese propagandist org.
  - 30 Executor's concern
  - 35 Clan
  - 36 Charles ---, "The Father of Arizona" and one-time Superintendent of Indian Affairs
  - 37 Footfar
  - 38 "Cape Fear" actor Nick
- Down**
- 1 "Catch ya later!"
  - 2 Largest professional soccer organization
  - 3 Legum Doctor
  - 4 George Patrick ---, first Native American to become a Mormon general authority
  - 5 Sieve
  - 6 Reeled
  - 7 Snookums or cuddle bunny, maybe
  - 8 One hour up on EST
  - 9 "Winnie-the-Pooh" baby
  - 11 Slippery --- eel
  - 16 Hilton rival
  - 17 System of ergs and dynes
  - 18 Wade's pseudonymic opponent
  - 19 Evil fortune
  - 20 Mobster
  - 21 Disadvantage
  - 22 Explosive yardstick
  - 26 Senate tie breaker
  - 28 Pepper or York, for example
  - 29 Business head honcho
  - 31 "Beethoven's Last Night" rock band
  - 32 Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
  - 33 Small drink
  - 34 Directly opposite WSW

Answers will appear in the Feb. 6 issue of the Drum.

**Answers for January 9, 2026 crossword puzzle.**  
**Across:** 1 DSU, 4 Use, 7 Aye, 10 ETA, 11 Fax, 12 Tor, 13 NPR, 14 Wupatki, 16 Tac, 17 Dote on, 18 Surprises, 21 Lili, 22 Eats, 24 Meter, 27 Kaibab, 29 Tee, 30 Ornelas, 32 Inc, 33 Baa, 34 Ira, 35 Ono, 36 Ell, 37 NBC, 38 Nay.  
**Down:** 1 Dents, 2 St Paul, 3 War criminal, 4 UFW, 5 Saudi, 6 Exposer, 7 Attestation, 8 Yoko, 9 Erin, 15 A-Team, 19 Plebe, 20 Ritalin, 23 Sienna, 25 Ebarb, 26 Decoy, 27 Kobe, 28 Aral, 31 Sac.

### LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Jan. 23



Mostly cloudy 45°F  
80% chance of snow showers

Saturday, Jan. 24



Partly sunny 41°F  
90% chance of snow showers

Sunday, Jan. 25



Sunny 35°F

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

