



“Then and Wow” Snowdown
PAGE 11



Bobcats best Pirates on home court
PAGE 13

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Visit The Southern Ute Drum online at www.sudrum.com



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Melvin Baker and Council member Marge Barry serve food at the BGC summer lunch program in Ignacio, July 18, 2025. “We appreciate all the support from the Southern Ute Tribal Council. They donate, volunteer, and have attended numerous Boys & Girls Club events,” BGC Chief Executive Officer, Bruce LeClaire said.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

BGC receives prestigious ‘Hero for Youth’ advocacy award

Emphasis on impact, creativity and innovation

Staff Report

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBE

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Tribe received a “Hero for Youth” award from Boys & Girls Clubs of America for their advocacy on behalf of Ignacio’s youth.

“Receiving the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s 2025 “Hero for Youth” award acknowledges our club’s effort to connect with elected officials; tribal, local, and state government,” BGC Chief Executive Officer,

Bruce LeClaire said. “By elevating the voices of our young people, we ensure that our elected leaders understand the critical importance of supporting our youth and the Boys & Girls Clubs who serve them. In 2025, Boys & Girls Clubs of America collectively secured over \$400 million in public funding for Clubs and kids thanks to regional advocacy.

“We appreciate all of the support from the Southern Ute Tribal Council; they donate, volunteer, and have attended numerous Boys & Girls Clubs events,” Le-

Claire said. “We also had Colorado State Representative, Katie Stewart; Ignacio Mayor, Clark Craig and Ignacio School District Superintendent, Chris deKay visit and tour our club during the summer.”

Clubs like ours have a unique role as community leaders in providing valuable afterschool programs to our country’s youth that enable them to achieve great futures. We are wholly committed to raising the visibility of the needs of the youth

BGC page 2

LIFT THE LABEL

Southern Ute Tribe: Recovery Stories

Namichen

“Ask for help without shame. Lean on others, stay honest, and show up for your recovery. Addiction affects more people than you realize, and you are deeply loved.”

My name is Namichen. I am a college student, a member of the Southern Ute Tribe, and someone in active recovery from addiction.

My journey hasn’t been easy. I started using meth when I was 17, trying to cope with anxiety, depression, and self-harm. Addiction quickly took over, and I began to lose parts of myself until my family stepped in to give me the push I needed to find recovery. They got me into a detox program that helped kick-start my healing process. Although after a month, I checked myself out early, which I truly regret.

After witnessing the tragic loss of my then boyfriend due to a self-inflicted gun shot, I relapsed for two years. Those were some of the darkest years of my life. Navigating life through that loss and relapse, I often found it hard to stay grounded or know how to move forward. There were moments that offered glimpses of hope, but one in particular has always stayed with me. One night, I stayed up until sunrise. As I watched the sun rise, I felt its warmth and love on my face, and then I saw a hawk flying overhead. Later that morning, my mom



LIFT THE LABEL

courtesy Lift the Label

Namichen

called to tell me she had prayed for me. I could feel that love. That was the moment I knew I wasn’t alone, and I wanted to change.

I’ve now been sober for five years. Sobriety has reconnected me with my culture, my spirit, and my family. I dance again at Bear Dance, join my relatives in ceremony, and pray in sweat lodges that heal me from the inside out. I also work with

my mom’s Ute Language Revitalization Program, helping teach our youth about their language and heritage. I’ve found the peace I longed for and continue to grow and nurture life again.

Recovery isn’t linear. My advice to anyone seeking it is simple: don’t give up. Ask for help. You are loved, even when you can’t feel it. You are worth saving, and you are resilient.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Patrol Officer Trainees, Lydia Jerry and Trey Lange, will soon travel to Artesia, N.M. to attend the Indian Country Police Officer Training Program at the United States Indian Police Academy. Their three-month training will develop their skills to become law enforcement officers with the Southern Ute Police Department.

JUSTICE & REGULATORY

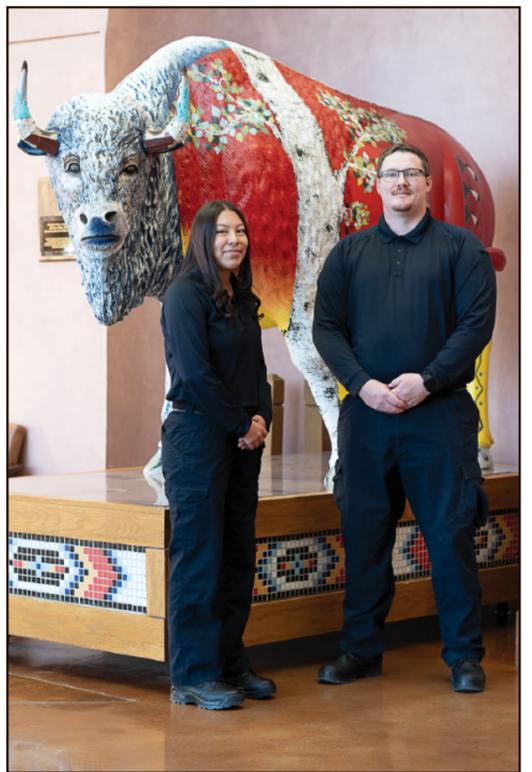
SUPD recruits head to police academy in Artesia, N.M.

Lange, Jerry to complete formal training

By Divine Windy Boy
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Since October of last year, the Tribe’s Justice & Regulatory Department had the goal of bringing in new hires just in time to send them to the United States Indian Police Academy (USIPA) located in Artesia, N.M. Now, new recruits Trey Lange and Lydia Jerry will travel south to complete their formal training and return as officers for the Southern Ute Police Department.

USIPA is the leading training provider for law enforcement in Indian Country. Originally established as the U.S. Indian Police Training and Research Center, the academy opened in December of 1968 – initially focused on training law enforcement officers serving tribal communities across the country. The program now offers specialized training for supervisors, juvenile officers, criminal investigators, and more. Recruits Lange and Jerry will complete the Indian Country Police Officer Training Program (ICPOTP) at USIPA, a program for law enforcement officers who are



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Patrol Officer Trainees, Lydia Jerry and Trey Lange have both been employed with the Southern Ute Police Department for about two months. Ahead of their training in Artesia, N.M., the pair have been studying tribal law, learning more about Southern Ute culture, while physically preparing themselves ahead of their three-month training program.

charged with enforcing law, PA website, ICPOTP will regulations, and violations span 13.5 weeks, contain Indian and tribal lands.

According to the USI-

SUPD page 8

Royalty goes to Hollywood



courtesy Heather White Thunder

Junior Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder and Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker represented the Southern Ute Tribe at the Seminole Tribal Fair and Powwow, Friday, Jan. 30 – Sunday, Feb. 1, held at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla. The Tribal Fair & Powwow started in 1971 and has continued for 55 years. The powwow hosted many notable people including singer Tia Wood, social media star DoggFace who went viral in 2020 for skateboarding while drinking cranberry juice, along with another artist like Keith Secola, Michael Spears, and Amber Midthunder.

BGC RECEIVES ADVOCACY AWARD • FROM PAGE 1



courtesy Bruce LeClaire/SU BGC

Receiving the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 2025 "Hero for Youth" award acknowledges the club's effort to connect with elected officials; tribal, local, and state government. Pictured front to back – Southern Ute Treasurer Mike Olguin, Southern Ute Chairman Melvin Baker and Council member Andrew Gallegos show their support for area youth at the BGC Summer Kick-off Barbecue, June 13, 2025.

in our community, especially the ones who need us most, and show what we can accomplish with the support of our elected officials and our community.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Club Advocacy Engagement Recognition Program recognizes the advocacy work that Boys & Girls Clubs do every day, with an emphasis on impact, creativity and innovation. The program consists of three tiers for Clubs: Ad-

vocate (first 50% of Clubs), Hero (next 40% of Clubs) and Champion (top 10% of Clubs). Clubs get points for impactful engagements, and those points determine which tier a Club is placed.

Boys & Girls Clubs champion opportunities for all youth, equipping young people with the experiences and tools they need to succeed. Our advocacy isn't just a one-day event. We are raising our voices every single day, to ensure top issues and

solutions impacting young people are prioritized in our community, our state and at the national level.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

For over 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA.org) has provided a safe place for kids and teens to learn and grow. Clubs offer caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Boys & Girls Club programming promotes academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. More than 5,500 Clubs serve over 4.2 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. National headquarters are located in Atlanta, Ga.



SAVE THE DATE
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SKY UTE CASINO RESORT, EVENT CENTER

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

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SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 9 • 10 • 11, 2026

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

Many Moons Ago



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Bruce LeClaire (right) gives two teammates instructions on how to assemble the Rubik's Cube, during the Cowabunga Wipeout on Saturday, Jan. 30.

This photo was published in the Feb. 5, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Joel Priest/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Ignacio's A.J. Vigil (3) and Kesbah Griffith battle Bayfield's Kelsey Dean (11) for this loose ball in last Saturday's shootout at BHS, won by the Lady Wolverines.

This photo was published in the Feb. 3, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

30 years ago

There was no issue of the Southern Ute Drum printed for the corresponding Many Moons Ago, 30 Years Ago section. Look for the 30 Years Ago picture in the February 20th issue.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Ramona Frost and daughter T.J. demonstrating to the head start class of Mrs. Phyllis Lucero the various Indian dresses that the Ute wear.

This photo was published in the Feb. 7, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

Tribal Office Closure
Monday, February 16, 2026
In observance of President's Day

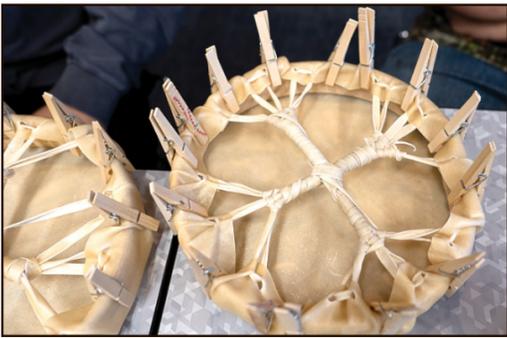


Students craft hand drums



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Bruce LeClaire, BGC Executive Director, prepares ties for the male students attending the Hand Drum Making class on Friday, Jan. 30 at the SunUte Community Center. Hosted by BGC, students learned how to tie hand drums, with all materials provided.



Students finish their hand drums and use clothes pins to help shape the drum in the drying process. With lunch provided, male students spent the afternoon crafting with Tim Ryder, Bruce LeClaire and Nick Sanchez.



Southern Ute tribal member, Tim Ryder, teaches young male students how to tie hand drums on Friday, Jan. 30 at SunUte.

Royalty at Seminole Powwow



courtesy Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Miss Indian World, Dania Wahwasuck poses with Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker at the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla., from Jan. 30 – Feb. 1.



courtesy Heather White Thunder



courtesy Heather White Thunder

The White Thunder girls competed at the Seminole Tribal Fair and Powwow, held at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla.



courtesy Heather White Thunder

Shayne White Thunder placed 1st in the Junior Girls Traditional category and Malia White Thunder placed 2nd in the Junior Girls Jingle category. Shayne is pictured with Keya Taylor, daughter of Johnson Taylor and Katy Isenock.

ELHI SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Native Love

Empowering Native youth by providing culturally responsive programming and services to indigenous peoples and supporting culturally sustaining practices. Contact Native Love at 970-533-0662 or 970-247-3720 for more information.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Creates and supports one-to-one relationships that ignite and empower the promise of youth. Interested in becoming a Big Brother or Sister? If you are at least 18 years of age, have 4 hours per month to give, and can commit to at least one year, we would love to talk to you! Contact us at 970-247-3720 or mentor@bbig.org, or explore the process at www.bbig.org/mentor

LET'S LEARN UTE

kapi
coffee

'úm̄ 'aa kapi 'asti'i?
Do you want coffee?

Nú' kapi 'asti'i.
I would like coffee.

Nú' ta'avi 'asti'i.
I would like cream/milk.

Már̄ túghamay.
It tastes good.



2026 SCHEDULED SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE CULTURAL EVENTS

- Southern Ute Bear Dance: May 22 – 25
- Southern Ute Sun Dance: July 20 – Aug. 3
- Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow: Sept. 11-13
- Southern Ute Tribal Fair Rodeo: Sept. 18 – 19
- Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner: Nov. 14
- Tribal Christmas Dinner: Dec. 12

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



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: The Mind-Body-Spirit connection

How our bodies affect our wellbeing

By Rebecca Gale, LCSW
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Many of you may have tuned in to Behavioral Health's radio show on Tuesdays at noon on KSUT. The show is called "Feeding the Spirit" and is wonderfully hosted by Marvina Olguin and James Wilson.

Have you ever wondered why the name "Feeding the Spirit?" Mental health doesn't exist in isolation from the body. The way we sleep, eat, and move each day has a powerful and measurable effect on mood, cognition, stress levels and emotional resilience.

But we are not just brains or bodies in isolation; we are also spiritual creatures. If you've ever had more than a 10-minute conversation with me, you probably already know that at some point I am going to bring up the Mind-Body-Spirit connection and how if one side of this triangle is weak, the whole system is weak.

Therefore, it is imperative that we work to keep this triangle equally balanced to bring balance to our lives.

Sleep: The Brain's Reset Button

Sleep is essential for emotional regulation and cognitive functioning. During sleep, the brain processes memories, regulates stress hormones, and clears metabolic waste. Chronic sleep deprivation disrupts these processes, increasing irritability, anxiety, depression, and difficulty concentrating. Poor sleep also heightens activity in the amygdala, the brain's fear center, while weakening the prefrontal cortex, which helps with impulse control and decision-making. Consistent, high-quality sleep supports emotional stability, improves coping skills, and reduces vulnerability to mood disorders.

Diet: Fuel for the Brain

What we eat directly affects brain chemistry. Nutrients such as omega-3 fatty acids, B vitamins, magnesium, iron, and amino acids are critical for neurotransmitter production and nervous system function. Diets high in ultra-processed foods, refined sugars, and saturated fats are associated with increased rates of depression and anxiety. In contrast, diets rich in whole foods – vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats – support steady energy levels and more balanced moods.

Exercise: Natural Medicine for the Mind

Regular physical activity is one of the most effective non-pharmacological tools for improving mental health. Exercise increases endorphins and dopamine, reduces stress hormones such as cortisol, and promotes neuroplasticity – the brain's ability to adapt and grow. It has been shown to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, improve sleep quality, and enhance self-esteem. Importantly, exercise does not need to be intense to be beneficial. Walking, stretching, yoga, and strength training all support mental well-being when done consistently!

In short, caring for mental health means caring for the whole person. Small, sustainable changes in sleep habits, nutrition, physical activity, and doing the things that "feed your soul" can produce meaningful improvements in mood, clarity, and emotional resilience.

Feeding Our Spirits

Beyond physical needs, mental health is deeply influenced by whether our inner lives are nourished. Feeding our spirits may look different for each person, but often includes connection, purpose,

creativity, time in nature, mindfulness, faith, or acts of service. These practices foster meaning, belonging, and hope – protective factors against burnout, depression, and chronic stress. When our lives feel aligned with our values, mental health is more resilient.

A Holistic Approach

Sleep, diet, exercise, and spiritual nourishment are interconnected. Together, they create a supportive environment for mental health. Small, intentional changes across these areas can strengthen not only the mind and body, but the spirit as well – promoting balance, resilience, and overall well-being. Here's to your good health!

It's okay not to feel okay

If you or someone you know has been struggling with their emotions, behaviors, or substance use please reach out to us. We can help you find appropriate tools and services that could help you overcome obstacles in your life. We are here for you. Please contact the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division at 970-563-5700 for more information or to set up an appointment to see a counselor or therapist.

Reminder: If you need to talk to someone, please reach out.

And for those interested in opioid use education, harm reduction, and support, please contact us for quick Naloxone (Narcan) training and fentanyl test strips. We can schedule individual, family, or friends training times at our Southern Ute Behavioral Health Building, or we can come to you, and the training is around 30 minutes. Please call us at 970-563-5700 to set up a training appointment.

HEALTHY RECIPES

Marinated olive medley

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

February is American Heart Month, and this recipe is packed with heart healthy ingredients including heart healthy fats, fiber and antioxidants. This is so easy and delicious. You can use any type of olive you like. These are some of my favorites.



courtesy evgenyb/AdobeStock

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

Marinated Olive Medley

Olives (3 jars ~ 5-7 oz. each)

- Kalamata olives pitted packed in water.
- Jalapeno stuffed green olives packed in water.
- Garlic stuffed green olives, packed in water.

Marinade:

- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced

Directions:

1. Drain olives and place in a medium bowl.
2. Measure all marinade items and add

them to a small bowl, then whisk together briskly until combined.

3. Pour marinade over olive mixture and stir well to coat olives.
4. Let them marinate for an hour at room temperature.
5. Serve or cover and store in the refrigerator for up to three weeks.

Tips: These are best when taken out of the refrigerator for at least 10 minutes before serving. You can use whatever type of olive you prefer, packed in water or brined, but don't use already marinated olives. If you prefer more marinade, you can easily increase the amount of olive oil and vinegar and don't forget about the spices!

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

MENDING BROKEN HEARTS

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.

SASO (Sexual Assault Services Organization)

Offering free, 24 hour, confidential support, advocacy, support groups and cultural outreach. Contact SASO at 970-259-3074, or via email at raven@durangosaso.org

- Online Women's Support Group, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- Deadly Aunties Tea - (every other Wednesday), Room #22

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RETREAT

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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,
smlso@southernute-nsn.gov

Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC, 970-563-2344,
lismith@southernute-nsn.gov



2026 YEARBOOK
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Deadline: MARCH 9, 2026

IMPORTANT DEADLINES!
ORDER YEARBOOK BY: MARCH 16, 2026
SENIOR ADS DUE BY: MARCH 9, 2026

BE PART OF THE STORY, BOBCATS!

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

It's not too late to get the flu shot

By **Scott Halsband RN,**
 SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
 MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Scott Halsband, RN
 Health, Safety, Nutrition
 Coordinator

For those of you who have not received this year's influenza shot or are still on the fence about whether you should, it's not too late!

You may be hearing about the "Super Flu" that is currently circulating and that this year's flu vaccine is not a perfect match to prevent catching the flu. Yet, the vaccine can still offer significant protection against it and other strains which can help reduce community spread, the severity, duration, and chances of ending up hospitalized.

Each year the flu makes people sick, so hedging bets by getting vaccinated may indeed lead to a win in terms of your health for the remainder of this winter and coming spring. The flu vaccine is widely available and, in most cases, covered by insurance; but remember it takes about two weeks from the time you get it for your immune system to develop antibodies needed to best protect you.

We all know that influenza is a yearly occurrence and that annual flu shots have long been recommended by healthcare professionals, so why the hesitancy? Here are the most common reasons people report for not seeking the flu shot along with rebuttals:

The flu vaccine is not safe

and can give me the flu. No, the flu shot cannot give you the flu! The flu vaccine is widely considered safe having undergone 50 years of research and hundreds of millions of doses given. There are common side effects that can occur, like muscle aches, fever, and nausea. Just remember that these symptoms are an immune system response, not the flu. The most reported side effects are swelling, soreness, and redness at the injection site.

I am healthy with a strong immune system, so I do not need it. It is true that those with chronic health conditions, are pregnant, very young or old, are at a higher risk of severe complications from catching the flu. Even so, the CDC warns that no one is completely immune from getting sick, developing serious complications, or spreading the virus to others.

I got the flu shot last year, so I do not need another one so soon. Viruses are continually changing or mutating as evidenced by the "K" strain circulating now. Scientists study these changes to best predict what strains might be predominant during the following season and tweak the formulations yearly to offer us the best protection.

As a school nurse, I focus heavily on promoting illness prevention. I frequently recommend handwashing, practicing sneezing and cough etiquette, staying home when sick, improving indoor air quality, and advocating that students receive both school required and seasonal (flu, COVID-19) vaccinations according to immunization schedule. I strongly encourage having conversations with both yours and your child's primary healthcare provider if you have questions and concerns or would like clarification regarding recent CDC recommendations. When it comes to making decisions related to our health and wellbeing, being comfortable having open and honest discussions can be especially helpful so that you are better informed.

Sources: Association of School Nurses, CDC, American Medical Association

Núu'apagha
 (Speak Ute)

- páana – bread
- karu'napu – chair
- panaqaru – money
- táasigyaru – paper
- kwáatu – car
- pe'e'napu – pencil
- navaru'gi'napu – soap

Mwatagope'okwatavana (On our calendar)

- Feb. 11: Family Night event
- Feb. 12: School Board meeting
- Feb. 13: No school for students – teacher workday
- Feb. 16: No school – President's Day
- Feb. 17: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Feb. 17-20: Family conference week

For the Artist at ELHI

Blue Sage Art: Artist and custom picture framer; private art lessons. Picture framing, art cards and artwork available. Contact Ann to make an appointment at 435-590-1441, or via email at ann@bluesageart.com

Studio Savvy: A community art studio, a place to learn, explore, and grow artistically – empowering people of all ages to develop skills, express themselves boldly, and become savvy creators in a supportive, inspiring environment. At ELHI – Room 21. Watch for upcoming announcements and class schedules. Contact Chantalle at 970-880-2637, or via email at studiosavvycolorado@outlook.com

Southern Ute Economic Development
 invites you to our

Spring Craft Fair & Market

April 2nd | **THURSDAY** | 11-4PM

Sky Ute Casino

Come celebrate creativity and community at our Spring Craft Fair & Market.

For more information contact
 Allison :: awall@southernute-nsn.gov

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:

- Marvina 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.

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

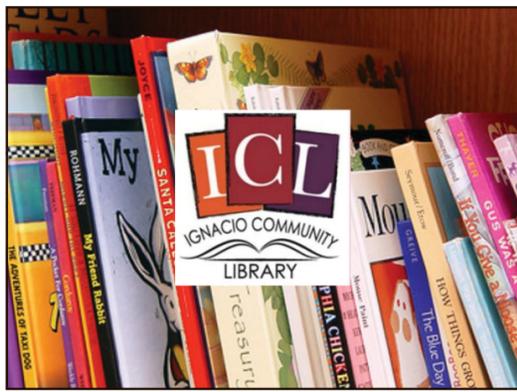
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Library jargon and all that biz

By Liz vonTauffkirchen
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Like many professionals across varied industries, as a librarian, I often find myself inadvertently and unconsciously slipping into professional jargon when speaking with laypersons. I was in a gathering of professionals from across various sectors recently, and I noticed several instances where participants used jargon during the discussion and lost everyone in the room not in their industry. I was one of those offenders. Unfortunately, after twenty years in the library world I've become surrounded by mostly other librarians and library staffers and using jargon has become embedded into my habits and vocabulary.

For example, when we talk about the skill and process of helping a person select appropriate and enjoyable reading materials, we call that Reader's Advisory, or RA. RA is probably my favorite part of library work and I have spent many hours at workshops, conferences, trainings, and in my graduate school studies honing and refining my RA skills. However, when I am speaking with library users and offering to help them find something to check out, it behooves me to either not mention what the process is called at all, or to call it something else,

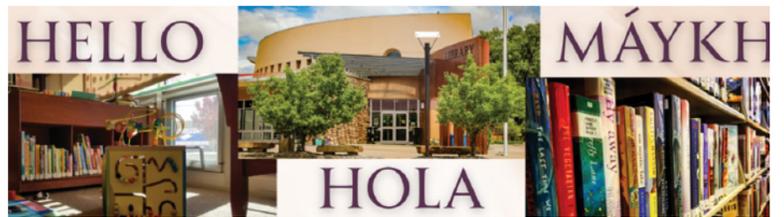


because "Reader's Advisory" doesn't mean anything to the average person. Perhaps I should rechristen RA as "Recommendation Assistance" or something else clearer and more accessible.

Another example of librarians and library staffers using jargon that confuses (and sometimes upsets) members of the general public is when we talk about weeding (or sometimes culling, pruning, or deaccession). These are the terms we use to describe the collection development process of removing old, damaged, out of date, or unpopular items from the library to make room for the new, hot items that our users want to check out. Not only does this language confuse and upset library users sometimes, the practice itself is often upsetting to members of the general public if they don't understand the purpose and importance of the practice.

When I encounter other

professionals (particularly in education and medical fields), I often find that they use acronyms and other jargon that's completely incomprehensible to me, so I know how it feels to be on the other side of this equation, and it's uncomfortable. One of our biggest goals as professionals in a public library setting is to create a welcoming environment for everyone; so, it's quite important we use understandable language so people feel at home. I am actively working to modify my embedded vocabulary choices to be more widely understandable and also making an effort to pay attention to nonverbal cues to ensure understanding from the person I'm conversing with. If you come into the library and hear some jargon, please ask us to explain what it is, so we can be sure everyone understands us and everyone feels welcome here.



Ignacio Community Library Services

- **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, 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!
- **Kanopy:** 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.
- **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.

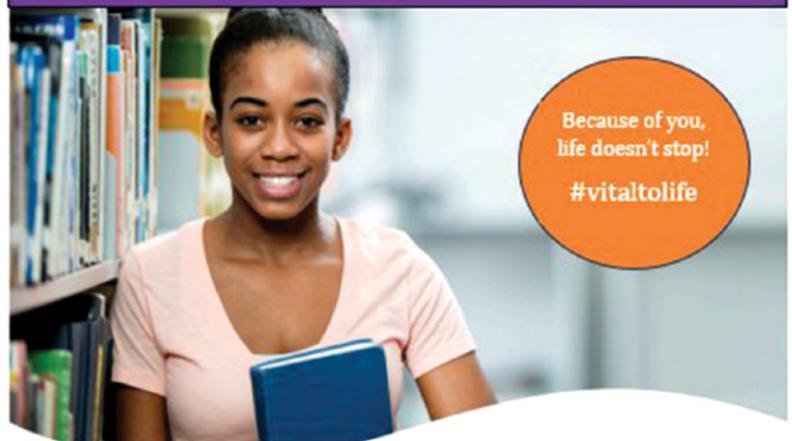
Blind Date With a Book!



buy a book – support the library

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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!!!

For more information or to schedule a donation, visit vitalant.org. Find us @vitalant.



VETERANS BENEFIT

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
EVERY 1ST & 3RD
SUNDAY | 9 AM - 11 AM

VFW Post 4031 invites you to come enjoy some delicious food with your loved ones, local veterans, neighbors and more!

Donations of only \$11 for adults, \$10 for veterans & \$7 for kids 12 & under!

1550 MAIN AVENUE, DURANGO
ENTER THRU EAST LOWER DOOR



TEEN NIGHT

A PLACE FOR GOOD FOOD, FUN, AND FRIENDS

Thursday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m.



This month, show us your best voice for karaoke night!
Frito pie for dinner.



FOR AGES 11 & UP | PLEASE PICK KIDS UP BY 7:45 PM
(970)563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org | 470 Goddard Ave.



Love is Stronger
FREE EVENT
FEBRUARY 14TH
SATURDAY FROM 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Gather in love. Create connection. Strengthen community.

Love is stronger than fear or hate.
Let's gather in care for one another and our neighbors - creating space to reconnect with our hearts and generate hope, peace, and love in our community.

PLEASE RSVP
Bring yourself, a friend, and something to share if you'd like: a light potluck item, a poem, a practice, a prayer, a song...
Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts will provide art supplies.
Come as you are. All are welcome.

DANCING SPIRIT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
IGNACIO, COLORADO
465 Goddard Ave. Ignacio, CO

Sagebrush

Deadly Aunties Tea and Crafting
February 18th from 12-1pm
SASO Office - Elhi Community Center 115 Ute Street, Room 22, Ignacio, CO

SASO
SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES ORGANIZATION

Come sip tea with us while we talk about community issues and how to solve them.

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?

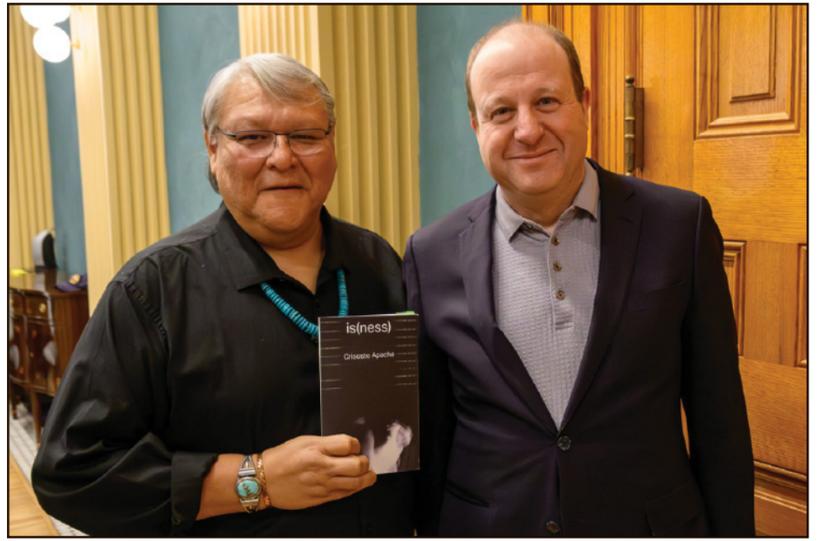
- Youth from Southwest Colorado
- Ages: 13-17
- Paid Opportunity
- April - October 2026
- Field Trips and Outdoor Experiences
- Time Commitment: Monthly Gatherings + Activities
- Cost: Free (and paid participation!)
- Explore Career Paths

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
- Outdoor adventures around Colorado

Registration deadline is: February 27, 2026

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: TRENNIE @ 970-306-3555 OR IGNACIOOUTANDEQUAL@GMAIL.COM



courtesy Office of Governor Jared Polis

Governor Jared Polis and the Colorado Creative Industries division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade announced that Crisosto Apache (left) has been selected as the new Colorado Poet Laureate.

STATE OF COLORADO

Governor Polis announces new Colorado Poet Laureate

Apache seeks to share poetry's transformative power

Staff report
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

Governor Polis and the Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OED-IT) announced that Crisosto Apache has been selected as the new Colorado Poet Laureate, succeeding the late Andrea Gibson. Apache, an indigenous poet and Associate Professor at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design, will serve in the role for two years with a special emphasis on honoring America 250 - Colorado 150 in 2026, a year-long commemoration of the United States' 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary of statehood.

"Colorado's Poet Laureate is our statewide ambassador of the arts, inspiring and uplifting the next generation of artists and poets in our state. Crisosto will be a strong advocate for the arts and art education, helping youth discover poetry, and bringing Coloradans together," said Governor Polis. "I am grateful for Andrea Gibson's service as our previous Poet Laureate and we posthumously continue to honor Andrea's artistic influence and unwavering conviction as powerfully shown in the 2026 Oscar nominated film *Come See Me in the Good Light*."

The Poet Laureate is a celebrated position that serves as an ambassador for poetry, engaging with communities across the state, conducting readings and workshops, and inspiring a love for the art form. As the new Colorado Poet Laureate, Apache plans to help a diversity of youth discover poetry and collaboratively work with county Poets Laureate across the state.

"I am deeply honored to step into the legacy of Colorado's Poets Laureates as the 11th and to walk this path. For me, this service is more than a title; it's about sharing the quiet miracle of poetry and the transformative power poetry holds for our lives," Apache said. "Today, perhaps more than ever, our young people need poetry. When a young person finds their voice through a poem, they aren't just writing - they are building the vision for a more compassionate society and future. I hope my time in this role can serve as a bridge, helping young people discover the voices that will shape our futures."

Apache is Mescalero Apache, Chiricahua Apache and Diné (Navajo). Apache is the author of the poetry collections "GENESIS," "Ghostword," winner of the Betty Berzon Emerging Writers Award and finalist for the Colorado Authors League in Poetry, and "is(ness)." Apache is also an Editor-at-large for *Offing Magazine*.

"We are thrilled to announce the selection of Crisosto Apache as our state's new Poet Laureate. Crisosto's profound work as a poet and commitment to a Colorado for All will help strengthen our creative economy and reinforce the vital role arts and culture play in driving economic vitality and place-based growth across the state," said OEDIT's Executive Director, Eve Lieberman.

Apache succeeds Andrea Gibson, who was appointed Poet Laureate in September 2023 and served until their passing on July 14, 2025 from ovarian cancer. Their powerful voice and presence leave a lasting impact through their work as Poet Laureate, author, health care advocate with Power to the Patients, subject of the award-winning documentary "Come See Me in the Good Light" and much more.

In a 2024 OEDIT Impact Story, Gibson said of being Poet Laureate, "I have learned that just about everyone is a poet, and it is absolutely thrilling to watch people of all ages discover their own personal talent for writing. I cherish the look in someone's eyes when they realize that what they've written is not just beautiful, but a gift to others who read their words. Because of this, I have found myself falling newly in love with poetry many times, and that enthusiasm has made its way into all of my recent poems."

Gibson's work continues to be honored in "Begin Where You Are, The Colorado Poets Laureate Anthology." This new collection commemorates Colorado's Poets Laureate by featuring work from all 10 Colorado Poets Laureate that preceded Apache, including never-before-published poems by Gibson. Proceeds are being directed toward an endowment for the Colorado Poet Laureate position to provide additional funding for travel, with an emphasis on visiting rural communities and more schools and libraries across the state.

"We are honored and overjoyed to welcome Crisosto

Apache as Colorado's next Poet Laureate. As Colorado reflects on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 150th anniversary of our entrance into the Union, Crisosto Apache's critical work and inspiring voice will invite all Coloradans to reflect upon our storied histories, contextualize the realities of today and boldly imagine a future where all Coloradans can be long and thrive," said Josh Blanchard, Director of Colorado Creative Industries.

The Poet Laureate position was created to promote an appreciation of poetry in Colorado and to honor outstanding Colorado poets. Colorado Humanities, Center for the Book and Colorado Creative Industries jointly support the honorary position, providing \$10,000 annually to cover honoraria and travel expenses related to public presentations for each term. This year, an additional \$5,000 will be available as part of the 250/150 Commemoration work. The Word, A Storytelling Sanctuary, administered the application and selection process.

Colorado is among the first states to have a Poet Laureate when Governor Oliver Shoup appointed Alice Polk Hill in 1919. Since then, ten other people have served: Andrea Gibson (2023-2025), Bobbie LeFebre (2019-2023), Nellie Burget Miller (1923-1952), Margaret Clyde Robertson (1952-1954), Milford E. Shields (1954), Thomas Hornsby Ferril (1979-1988), Mary Crow (1996-2010), David Mason (2010-2014), Joseph Hutchison (2014-2018), and Bobby LeFebre (2019-2023).

"We are thrilled to welcome Crisosto Apache as the new Colorado Poet Laureate. The Poets Laureate helps us remember the past, process the present, and inspire us to dream of the future we hope to create. We are fortunate to have Crisosto fill a role that is so vital in this current moment," said Sarah Olivier, Executive Director of Colorado Humanities.

Colorado Humanities: To learn more, visit coloradohumanities.org.

Colorado Creative Industries: For more information, visit oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-creative-industries.

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade: Learn more about <https://oedit.colorado.gov/>.



courtesy BGC

BGC of Colorado Alliance Representative, Stewart Jenkins made a site visit to the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Tribe; (pictured left to right) Cassandra Sanchez, Cadiance Sam, Mamie Ruth Burch, Stewart Jenkins, Bruce LeClaire, Nicholas Sanchez, Samara O'John and Lillianna Baker.

CLUB CONNECT

Club updates and news

Staff report

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBE

Our Youth of the Month focuses on acknowledging and making club members aware of their own unique character and abilities.

As staff, we want to recognize them on their positive attributes seen in their club driven experience.

For this month, our Youth of the Month award goes to Hunter Sisson and the Junior Youth of the Month is Juniper Isaacson! Congratulations on behalf of the BGC-Southern Ute staff!

Board highlights

Edward Box III was recently appointed to the BGC Board. Congratulations and thank you for joining our board!

Program Highlights

BGC held a hand drum making class with Tim Ryder and Bruce LeClaire on Friday, Jan. 30.



courtesy BGC

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Tribe held volleyball club with Samara O'John.



Juniper Isaacson
Junior Youth of the Month



Hunter Sisson
Youth of the Month



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Tribe held a hand drum making workshop led by Tim Ryder and Bruce LeClaire.

SUPD RECRUITS TO ACADEMY • FROM PAGE 1

ing 575.5 hours of instruction and 22 hours of administrative time for a program total of 597.5 hours. The program is designed to progressively develop law enforcement officers with core courses in report writing, court testimony, federal and tribal criminal law and application, emergency response driving, basic marksmanship and more, all relative to Indian Country.

Lydia Jerry, originally from California, is a member of the Karuk Tribe of California and is also Mexican American. For Jerry, family and community have always played a big role in her life and shaped how she shows up for the people around her – while pursuing college in New Mexico, she worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; gaining a deeper understanding of public service and the responsibility that comes with protecting Native communities. That experience helped to confirm her interest in law enforcement.

“I went to school for a little bit in Albuquerque, then decided that wasn’t something I was interested in at the time – so I did some job shadowing with some

of the Albuquerque officers and then I had met someone who worked as a tribal police officer for Laguna Pueblo, their experience really inspired me,” Jerry said. “I look forward to helping people and [the Southern Ute Police Department] is a good place to start, everyone’s been really helpful sharing information with us before we go to the Academy – we will perfect our craft, and growing up in my tribal community has shaped who I am. I believe effective policing starts with trust, serving as a Native officer will allow me to approach the role with familiarity, respect, and a genuine connection to the people I will serve.”

Trey Lange, born in Durango and a graduate of neighboring Bayfield High School, is the husband of Tatiana and father of three plus their family companion: a seven-year-old black labrador retriever. Lange worked in the construction industry previously; drawing inspiration from his family and friends, Lange now looks forward to becoming an officer with the Southern Ute Police Department. “I have grown up in this community – playing sports, hunt-

ing, and being involved, I also have friends who are members of the Tribe, so that really interested me in learning more about their culture and the [organization],” Lange said. “I also have many family ties, lots of them have been in law enforcement including my father – they have taught me how important [law enforcement] is to all communities. I really look forward to helping people in our area and the Southern Ute people.”

The importance of culturally responsible community policing is high priority for both Jerry, as an Indigenous woman, and Lange as a longtime resident and community member. Their qualities go hand in hand with the mission for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Justice & Regulatory Department, which oversees numerous aspects of law enforcement within the Southern Ute Reservation. Following their 13.5 weeklong training at the United States Indian Police Academy located in Artesia, N.M., the pair will return to the Southern Ute Police Department where they will be sworn in as officers and begin serving the community this summer.

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY YOUTH

BUY A HEART!!

\$1.00 OR \$5.00



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

We appreciate your support!

2026 Participating Locations

- Tribal Information Services
- Ignacio Community Library
- Rolling Thunder Lanes
- Sweet Tooth Grill
- Dubs Auto Body
- Sun Ute Community Center
- Farmers Fresh Market
- Rise & Shine Coffee and Burrito
- Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum
- Pine River Chiropractic, Massage & Acupuncture

Southern Ute Elder Services February Activities List

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

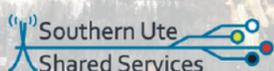
The Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP) has received reports that individuals are getting phone calls from someone claiming to represent SUDEP.

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.



“There’s always a chance to find recovery. People love you, support you, and want to see you heal.”

Namichen | In Recovery
Southern Ute Tribal Member

The support you need in your recovery from addiction is here. Visit LTLSouthernUte.org to learn more. (970) 563-5700



LIFT THE LABEL®



PERMANENT FUND

Internal Audit welcomes William Weaver

Staff Report

INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT

Please join us in welcoming William Weaver as the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's new Director of Internal Audit.

Weaver brings extensive public-sector experience across tribal, municipal, state, and federal government, including service as a Tribal Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, a municipal and state government administrator, and a government accounting, auditing, and policy regulator. In other words, he's been the person who built the budget, the person who had to live with it, and the person who later asked, "So ... what was the plan here?" Having worked on all sides of the table – and occasionally under it looking for missing documentation – Weaver brings a balanced, practical, and value-focused approach to internal audit that respects real-world constraints while maintaining strong oversight.

Weaver attended college in Oklahoma, where he earned his degree and began what would become



William Weaver
Director
Internal Audit

a career devoted to public service, accountability, and governance. He holds multiple professional certifications, including CI-SA, CFS, CCA, and CI-CA, reflecting deep expertise in auditing, information systems, financial oversight, and government accountability.

Our vision is to continue transforming Internal Audit from a traditional compliance function into a true strategic partner. Rather than focusing solely on checklists and hindsight, Internal Audit will deliver risk-based, value-added assurance services

and advisory/consulting support in the areas that matter most to the Tribe. By aligning audit work with tribal priorities, the goal is to strengthen governance, improve efficiency, and enhance accountability – while reducing surprises, shortening the occasional "uh-oh" moments, and helping leadership sleep better at night knowing risks are identified early and managed thoughtfully.

Outside of work, Weaver enjoys the outdoors, staying active, and officiating college and high-school basketball games, which he describes as excellent preparation for making tough calls under pressure – and occasionally being disagreed with loudly and with great enthusiasm. He is also a proud father of two adult sons – one serving in the U.S. Air Force, and the other completing his senior year of college.

Weaver is excited to begin listening, learning, and partnering across the Tribe to ensure Internal Audit delivers insights that are not only independent and objective – but also useful, timely and constructive.

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PCC names new manager for SW Law Enforcement Academy

Staff report

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHWEST

Lawrence Hilton is the new manager for the Pueblo Community College Southwest Law Enforcement Academy. "I'm excited to have Lawrence join the team," said Leroy Mora, department chair of PCC's law enforcement academies. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will not only aid in the future success of Mancos LEA but also enhance the partnerships with the Southwest area law enforcement agencies."

Hilton has more than 20 years of experience as a leader and educator with the Colorado State Patrol specializing in high-level command, curriculum development and tactical instruction. He also oversaw the statewide Evidence Section and the Smuggling, Trafficking and Interdiction Section.

"I'm grateful for being given the opportunity to help shape the future of law en-

forcement in the southwest corner of Colorado," Hilton said. "Having been an educator for most of my career, this position allows me to stay in touch with the profession that I committed myself to as well as watching new officers step into this world. Being able to oversee this process has always been a passion of mine."

Hilton earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Ashworth College in Georgia and is a graduate of the Northwestern College School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI Rocky Mountain Command College. He was recognized with the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Trilogy Award for his commitment to executive leadership excellence. He served as a governor-appointed representative on the Colorado Human Trafficking Council and as longtime co-chair of the patrol's Youth Academy.

"Lawrence brings exceptional experience into this

role, and the timing could not be better. He spent the fall semester working closely with our Pueblo leadership and alongside Southwest students to fully understand PCC's vision, our academy, and the community it serves," said PCC Southwest Vice President Lisa Molina. "With his leadership, we are well positioned to move the academy forward in a way that honors our past while meeting the needs of our students and communities."

Hilton replaces Doug Parker, who retired in 2025.

Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence, without discrimination, to help its students acquire the 21st-century skills needed to better their lives. An educational and technological leader, PCC fosters economic development and utilizes strong partnerships in the communities it serves through its Pueblo, Fremont and Southwest campuses.

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.

Ignacio Out & Equal Alliance

Offering a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, their families and allies. Programming centers on identity-affirming resources, mental health support, and cultural connection, with an emphasis on inclusivity, belonging, and empowerment. ELHI – Room 19. IOEA contact 970-306-3555, or via email at trennie.burch@gmail.com

- **IOEA Youth Drop-In:** For Two-Spirit & LGBTQ+ youth and friends to hang out, bring homework, play games, relax, and enjoy snacks: Tuesdays, Ages 13–15, 3 to 6 p.m.; Thursdays: Ages 16–17, 3 to 6 p.m.
- **Pride Up:** Parent and Caregiver Education and Support Group, every third Thursday of the month, 6 to 7 p.m.



SHAKE, RATTLE, & ROLL INTO VALENTINE'S NIGHT!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 6PM | EVENT CENTER

Dress to impress in your best '50s attire and kick off Valentine's night with a doo-wop dance contest, photo booth, and more!

Tickets available here:





Snowdown celebrates 150 years of statehood

The Durango Snowdown theme this year was “Uniquely Colorado – Then and Wow,” celebrating 150 years of Colorado statehood. The weeklong slate of events for Snowdown culminates with the annual light Parade, which runs through Durango, Colo. The annual Mardi Gras style celebration brings out the zany character of this mountain town and its residents, showing that while no longer the small burg it once was, the spirit of Durango is alive and well. This year’s light parade took place on Friday, Feb. 30.



Durango Health and Rehabilitation went full “Jurassic Park” with their dino themed jungle float.



Winning the “Judge’s Choice” award, members of the float entry titled, “General Palmer and the Victorians” make their way downtown.



Fidel and Rhiannon Velasquez stand with family and friends ahead of the light parade on Friday night; representing Drop Tine Trucking and Excavation out of Ignacio, Colo.



Members of the U.S. Forest Service gathered for a picture with long time Forest Service icons, Woodsy Owl and Smoky Bear.

Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum



Colorado’s crisp winter air beckons the Yeti, who could be seen cruising along Main Street on Friday night as part of CDOT’s Snowdown ensemble, which included a fully decorated plow truck, taking home the prize for “Most Creative” at the Snowdown light parade.



Representing five generations of the Woodson family, a beautifully restored ‘34 Ford truck was on full display in Friday night’s parade.



Lighting up the night sky, a float operator runs the fuel tanks from a hot air balloon to hype up parade spectators.



SUPD recruit drive



photos courtesy Leonard Redhorse III/SU Justice and Regulatory

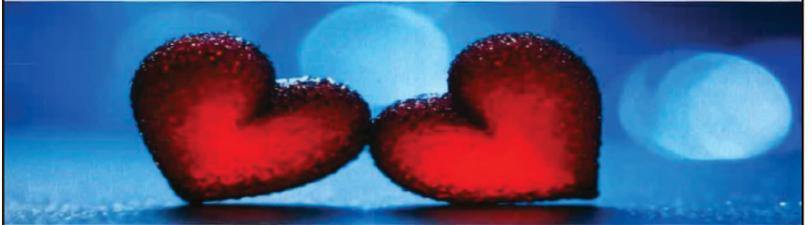
Southern Ute Executive Officer, Lindsay Box, gives a motivational talk to Justice & Regulatory applicants ahead of their physical agility testing on Friday, Jan. 30.

There were a total of five Justice & Regulatory applicants, three with SUPD, one for Detention, and one with the Division of Gaming; all applicants passed their physical agility testing on Friday, Jan. 30.



Multi - Purpose Facility February Events

- Yard Sale—Saturday, February 7,—9:00 AM—3:00 PM
- Valentine Treats & Crafts—Thursday, February 12,—10:00 AM—3:00 PM
- Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday, February 13,—11:30 AM—1:30 PM
- Learn to Applique—Tuesday & Wednesday, February 17—18
10:00 AM—3:00 PM or 5:30 PM—8:00 PM
- Traditional Sewing “Vests” —Tuesday—Thursday, February 24—26
10:00 AM—3:00 PM or 5:30 PM—8:00 PM



Special Events

- Valentine's Day Community Pow Wow—Saturday February 14, 2:00PM—11:00 PM
- The MPF Will be closed Monday February 16, for President's Day
- Events are subject to change—Please watch for announcements.



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

AGRICULTURE DIVISION
 PRESENTS
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
 12:00pm-1:00pm
 Thursday, March 5, 2026
 12:00pm-1:00pm
 Multi-Purpose Building Gathering Room, 258 Ute Road

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
 RSVP @ 970-563-2900 to reserve your seat by 4pm February 23rd, 2026
 For more information, please call Eric Nez, Agriculture Division Head at 970-563-2901

Multi-Purpose Facility Valentine Treats & Crafts



Fun - Socializing - Treats

Thursday February 12, 2026
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Call to reserve to reserve your space



256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
Call 970-563-2640 to sign-up, or
e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

Multi-Purpose Facility Community Pow Wow Saturday February 14, 2026

Gourd Dance - 2:00 PM - Dinner Break 5:00 PM - Grand Entry - 7:00 PM

Save the Date Head Staff to Be Announced

Pot Luck Dishes are welcome and appreciated.
 Bring your dishes for left-overs.

Vendor space available
 Pow Wow - \$40 Lobby - \$25
 Call 970-563-2640

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
 Call for more information 970-563-2641 or 970-563-2642

Multi-Purpose Facility February Indoor Yard Sale



Saturday February 7, 2026
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
No Admission Fee - No Set-up Fee - Doors open 8:00 AM

Make and Take Crafting with Sandy
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



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





Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Juliann Avila (11) scans for options beyond Monte Vista's Heysenny Beltran (12) during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Saturday afternoon, Jan. 31, inside IHS Gymnasium.

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady 'Cats lose by 15 to Monte Vista

Fourth-quarter rally at home not enough

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Held to single-digit scoring during the first two quarters, and still trailing Monte Vista by 19 points with only eight minutes remaining in regulation Saturday afternoon, Jan. 31, Ignacio's Lady Bobcats suddenly caught fire.

Like magnesium exposed to oxygen in a high-school chemistry experiment, their burn was quick but hot; starting freshman Justina Jessepe pumped in three three-pointers and totaled a thrilling 11 of her game-high 13 points – all coming after halftime – and freshman reserve Jordan Wing sank one three particularly surprising the visitors.

Junior regular Maliyah Martinez also made one of two free throws, but MVHS countered by getting the basketball inside to sophomore post Sienna Daniel, whose height and size alone made her a match-up nightmare. Daniel managed two baskets and a free throw during the 3A/4A Intermountain League game's final frame, offsetting IHS' effort just enough to allow head coach Shawna Larson to empty her bench with 3:53 left – after two FTs by senior Reagan Futrell rebuilt the Lady Pirates' lead to 43-23.

Ignacio senior guard Al-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Neeka Howe (20) flings a pass over Monte Vista's Stephanie Beltran (1) during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Saturday afternoon, Jan. 31, inside IHS Gymnasium.

yssa Atencio (8 points; 2-6 FT) fouled out only 14 seconds later, allowing Monte Vista to breathe much easier and, with Martinez well-watched defensively, try focusing on Jessepe. And in the end, IHS' work wasn't enough to overcome a scoreless first quarter and an early 9:47 scoring drought as MVHS left

with a 45-30 road win.

After trailing the Lady Pirates (9-5 overall, 3-2 IML) 10-0 through the opening eight minutes inside a hushed IHS Gymnasium, the Lady 'Cats finally got on the scoreboard via sophomore forward/center Veronica Brown's free throw made

Lady 'Cats page 14



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Sonny Flores (1) goes hard to the hole and takes a hack from Monte Vista's Kelby Mondragon (2) during 3A/4A Intermountain League action Saturday evening, Jan. 31, inside IHS Gymnasium. Flores was one of three Bobcats reaching double digits offensively as the team won its first IML game this winter.

BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

Bobcats spring upset on Pirates

First IML win comes at home, 53-47

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Even after sophomore reserve guard Joseph Atencio's monster second quarter – which helped Ignacio take a ten-point lead near the end of the first half – and even with opposing Monte Vista minus senior star Azariah Hurtado, the Bobcats were forced to fully earn their first 3A/4A Intermountain League victory this winter.

For when the fourth quarter Saturday evening, Jan. 31, inside IHS Gymnasium commenced, the visiting Pirates had pulled themselves level with the 'Cats at 39-39, shaking off 3A Ignacio's 5-0 burst beginning the third. Which actually came as an answer to 3A MVHS' 8-0 run – capped by junior



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Thunder Windy Boy (0) prepares to shift direction and get around Monte Vista's Domyon Naranjo (3) during 3A/4A Intermountain League action Saturday evening, Jan. 31, inside IHS Gymnasium. The Bobcats won their first IML game this winter by beating the Pirates 53-47.

John Jake 'J.J.' Naranjo's buzzer-beating three-pointer – that had chopped IHS' 28-18 advantage down to practically nothing.

But after senior Son-

Flores began the final frame with a tie-breaking two-pointer, Atencio followed with his third trey –

Bobcats page 14

BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING

IHS grapplers ninth at Valley Classic

Seniors score three top-two results

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Solidifying his No. 1 status amongst Class 2A's 165-pound wrestlers, senior Lincoln deKay won all three of his bouts and helped the seventh-ranked Ignacio boys place ninth at the Center-hosted 2026 Valley Classic.

deKay started the two-day tourney off well, pinning San Juan Basin League familiar Keegan Tackett of Norwood in 54 seconds after building up a 7-0 lead, and then defeated Salida's Jacob Johnson 8-1. Pit

against Colorado Springs-based Sierra's Donnie Herrera in the weight's finale, deKay completed his run with a 4-2 victory.

Ranked No. 2 in 2A at 113, IHS senior Aven Bourriague went 3-1 at the meet and placed second. He made short work of Cedaredge's Patricio Molina, pinning the Bruin in 1:20, then dominated SJBL rival Jace Bonacquista of Nucla via 19-2 technical fall. Bourriague then defeated La Jara Centauri's Erik Garcia via 12-0 major decision but lost 9-2 to Monte Vista's Matthew Rodriguez.

Ignacio senior Zane Pontine brought his top-ten-caliber talent to the mat at 157 pounds and also ended up a Classic runner-up. It took him just 38 ticks to stick Sierra's Benny Saiz in the first round's only bout, then barely two periods to tech hometown Viking Derriq Thompson 17-1. Semifinal opponent Tucker Montoya of Buena Vista proved much more difficult to subdue, but Pontine pulled out a 10-8 win to advance. Salida's Samuel Johnson, however, proved too much and

IHS Grapplers page 14

BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING

Girls dig deep at Cañon City meet

Lady 'Cats top-20 at loaded event

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Preceding Cañon City's 2026 Duff Seaney Invitational by a day, CCHS' Ladies Cañon Classic drew a whopping 42 teams from all the state's expanses into east-central Fremont County on Friday, Jan. 30, with Ignacio amongst them.

And the Lady Bobcats held their own, tallying 77.5 points and placing 17th overall between Colorado Springs Mesa Ridge (79) and both Colorado Springs Doherty and Meeker (77 each). La Junta racked

up 134.5 points and finished atop the table, but by only 2.5 points over runner-up Olathe. Ranked eighth in Class 5A going in, Castle Rock-based Castle View (125.5) earned third place, with Mead (113) and 4A No. 2 Las Animas (109.5) filling out the standings' top five.

No. 5 in 4A before the spectacle, the hosting Lady Tigers scored 84.5 points and shared 13th place with No. 10 Fort Lupton.

For IHS, senior Krysten Neil captured first place at 135 pounds with five victories in as many bouts. Her first four foes all went down

via pin, and each within two two-minute periods, and Neil secured the weight's title by doubling up Lamar's Addy Krug on the scoreboard, 14 to 7.

Senior Larissa Espinosa conquered the 235-pound division, going 3-0 with pins of Antonito's Abigail Gray, Doherty's Xayona Townley and Las Animas' Elizabeth Gallegos – Espinosa's only opponent enduring into the second period, but who trailed 12-4 before being affixed to the mat.

IHS junior Laine Brad-

Girls page 14

March Madness

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League

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MARCH 23, 2026

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Hoop dreams



photos Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Elks National Hoop Shoot Out Free Throw Contest participants (l-r), Christian Cosio, Tommy Seibel, Kai Seibel, Sakarii GoodTracks and Charles Alston were honored for competing in the annual contest during the Ignacio High School boys' varsity basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 22 in the Ignacio High School Gymnasium. The annual free throw contest was held in Durango, Sunday, Jan. 18 at Fort Lewis College.



Christian Cosio, Tommy Seibel and Kai Seibel share a laugh as they were recognized for competing in the annual Elks Shoot Out at Fort Lewis College.

Both Christian Cosio (left) and Sakarii GoodTracks placed first in their divisions respectively, which advance them to Districts. Cosio won in the 12-13 boys' category, and GoodTracks won in the 10-11 girls' category.

BOBCATS SPRING UPSET • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Congratulated by Stoney White Thunder-Lucero (32), Ignacio's Joseph Atencio (10) celebrates one of his three successful three-point shots – helping produce the Bobcats' first 3A/4A Intermountain League win this winter – Saturday evening, Jan. 31, against Monte Vista inside IHS Gymnasium.

assisted by senior Stoney White Thunder-Lucero – in the game, increasing Ignacio's edge to 44-39 with 6:22 left in regulation. Senior Trace Crane added another two points to the pad with a close-range basket, but Naranjo struck back with a triple and sophomore Manny Jiron followed with an inside basket assisted by senior Domyon Naranjo.

The Bobcats caught a major break not long after, when Pirate senior guard Kelsey Mondragon (11 points) fouled out with 4:09 remaining, but Atencio failed to sink either resulting free throw. Jiron (4 points) then fouled out with 2:10 to go, but IHS again failed to benefit on the scoreboard when Crane inexplicably missed a pair.

He would, however, drain two with 56.4 seconds left, and Monte Vista head coach Jaime Hurtado used a timeout with 52.2 remaining and the Pirates trailing 48-44. Whatever was planned, however, didn't have the time to properly develop, and Domyon Naranjo (8 points) fouled out with 0:42.9 left.

Red-hot in the early go-

ings with seven of IHS' 11 first-quarter points, Flores missed both awarded FTs and the Pirates yet again were not sufficiently sunk. That is, until Bobcat senior Rance Rathjen stole the ball back seconds after the guys in green had snagged the rebound after Flores' second miss.

Rathjen then got the rock to junior guard Thunder Windy Boy, who was fouled. Able to make one of two tries from the sort-of-charitable stripe, Windy Boy more importantly expanded Ignacio's lead to five points – pressing Monte Vista to begin thinking deep.

Not deepLY, but deep as in from beyond the three-point line, needing no less than two long bombs to perhaps snatch victory from defeat. But with no Azariah Hurtado (who sprained an ankle during a 63-30 home loss the night before to 4A Montezuma-Cortez) and three other regulars disqualified and out of the mix, MVHS' options were quite limited. It all became moot, however, when the Pirates were hit with an intentional foul trying to prevent Windy Boy

from netting a game-clinching breakaway layup with 0:11.9 left.

Having made another free throw moments before, Windy Boy (4 points; 4-6 FT) then swished both freebies resulting from the infraction, and after the 'Cats then inbounded, Crane was hacked and proceeded to make one of his last two FTs – increasing IHS' solidified lead to 53-44 before J.J. Naranjo (13 points) shut the show down with another last-second three-ball.

Crane (5-11 FT) finished with a game-high 17 points and Atencio (0-3 FT) ended up with 13. Flores (3-6 FT) ended up with ten points, Rathjen chipped in six and White Thunder-Lucero three. The Bobcats ended up making just 12 of 26 free throws, while the Pirates (8-6 overall, 1-4 IML) knocked down nine of ten.

Looking ahead, Ignacio (8-8, 1-5) will next travel on Saturday, Feb. 7, to 4A Pagosa Springs, then on the 12th to 3A Bayfield before starting a critical three-game homestand on the 13th against La Jara-based 3A Centauri.

LADY 'CATS LOSE BY 15 • FROM PAGE 13

with 6:13 left until halftime. MVHS senior Hannah Henderhan responded with a free throw, resulting from a Brown foul, and Daniel added another after bulldozing Brown, unluckily whistled for blocking.

Complicating matters, both junior center/forward Catori Aasland (with 4:18 left) and Brown (3:24 left) each picked up her third personal foul – essentially inviting Monte Vista to utilize Daniel, Henderhan and senior Madison Henderhan even more. Junior Janessa Marquez made both free throws – offsetting Ignacio's long-awaited first field goal, finally netted by Atencio – after being bumped by Brown, giving MVHS a 14-3 advantage which grew to 21-7 by half's end.

Jessepe began the third quarter with a two-pointer but the girls in green responded with a trey by senior Heysenny Beltran, went on to outscore IHS 13-8 and started the fourth quarter up by an imposing 34-15 margin.

Daniel (3-6 FT) ended up with a team-leading nine points, Marquez (6-6 FT) followed with eight and junior Destiny Pacheco seven. Beltran booked six points and senior Evie Hinds – a Colorado Coach-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

es of Girls' Sports All-State Volleyball Games (Class 2A-Red team) selection in the fall – five as nine individuals contributed to the victors' total. Brown (3-4 FT) scored three points and senior Juliann Avila (2-2 FT) two for IHS in defeat.

Looking ahead, the Lady 'Cats (3-13 overall, 1-5 IML) will next travel on Saturday, Feb. 7, to 4A Pagosa Springs, then on the 12th to 3A Bayfield before beginning a three-game homestand on the 13th against La Jara-based 3A Centauri.

IHS GRAPPLES NINTH • FROM PAGE 13

prevalled via 14-3 major.

Senior Joshua Kerrigan also placed at the event, taking fourth at 126. He went 4-2 overall, winning two bouts via major decision, but SJBL rival Conner Horn-Beanland of Dove Creek dealt him both his losses – a 15-0 tech in the 16-man bracket's quarterfinals, then a 7-2 decision in the third-place test.

Senior Dillon Brann went 2-2 with a pin and a major at 144 pounds, but did

not place. Neither did Emmanuel Lucero (0-2 at 132), Stephen Romero (0-2 at 138), Moise Grogard (0-2 at 165), Phillip Velasquez (0-2 at 175) and Zackariah Loudenburg (0-2 at 215).

All told, the Bobcats earned 90 points and trailed only eighth-place Norwood (107.5) amongst SJBL squads attending the Classic. First place overall went to 2A No. 1 Cedaredge (234), with Centauri (128), Trinidad (120.5), Limon

(119) and 2A No. 6 Buena Vista (117.5) filling out the 22-team standings' top five.

Looking ahead, Ignacio was set to travel to Nucla on Thursday, Feb. 5, for the SJBL Championships, but results were unavailable at press time. After returning and fine-tuning even more, the 'Cats will then head north into Delta County to vie for State berths at the Cedaredge-hosted 2A-Region I Championships on the 13th and 14th.

GIRLS DIG DEEP AT CANON CITY • FROM PAGE 13

ley won her first two bouts at 130 but was then pinned in 0:53 by Mead's Grace Sierra and eliminated via an 18-0 technical fall courtesy Colorado Springs Sand Creek's Karris Carter. Also, in the 130-pound division, Ignacio's Kodi Mae Rima was an unlucky 0-2 and eliminated by CCHS' Eleanor Thorson via pin.

At 140, Ireland Cates also ended up 0-2 after being pinned by LJHS' Mel-

ny Garcia-Castillo but came within two ticks of lasting the full six minutes in her opening-round clash with CVHS' Alizah Piasecki, who won via pin (Garcia-Castillo needed an elapsed 2:25 to pin Cates).

And at 145 pounds, Eliska Prokopova pinned CVHS' Annalie Carlson in 43 seconds, but then was pinned in 51 by Lamar's Jacquelyn Avila and eliminated 9-5 by Olathe's Wit-

tney Lawrence.

Looking ahead, the Lady 'Cats were to journey to Nucla on Thursday, Feb. 5, for the SJBL Championships, but results were unavailable at press time. After returning, Ignacio will begin final preparations to then go north into Delta County to vie for State berths at the North Fork-hosted, February 13-14 Class 4A-Region III Championships in Hotchkiss.

SoCoCAA Ignacio Youth Services

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- Tuesday-Wednesday: After school until 6 p.m.
- Fridays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ATTENTION PATRONS

STARTING FEBRUARY 1ST, THE POOL HOURS ARE CHANGING

MONDAY - FRIDAY:
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WE GREATLY APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE,
SUNUTE STAFF





OBITUARY



of Buck Highway. Marianne attended school in Bayfield, Colo. and Home Economics was one of her favorite classes as she enjoyed baking and sewing. Marianne walked to the beat of her own drum and would spend many hours outdoors or helping take care of her younger twin sisters, nieces and nephews.

Ultimately Marianne found her way to Salt Lake City, Utah and spent many years working in the hospitality industry and senior living facilities. In this sprawling city, she carved out a life for herself and her children – Clarence Newcomb, Iolkie Baron, Jamie Williams, Kyle Williams, and Spencer Williams. Her friends and relatives described her as a tough cookie, talkative – you know, resilient, determined and caring. Marianne was devoted to her family, relatives and friends.

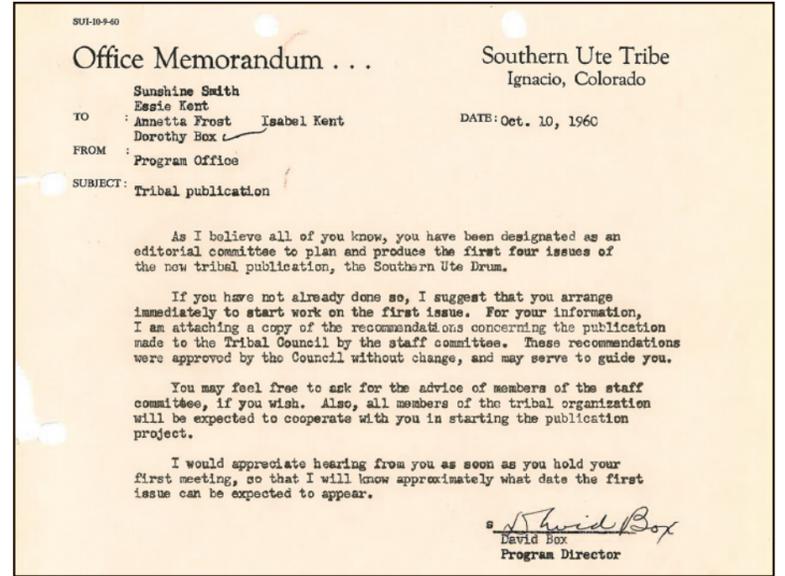
Marianne's memory will be cherished by all as well as her surviving children Clarence, Iolkie, Jamie & Spencer, brothers Rodrick & Eric Williams (her twin brother), sisters Elizabeth, Michelle & Susan Williams, Aunt Helen Wash, Uncle Armand Accutroop, Mae Williams & girls, numerous aunts, uncles and relatives.

Marianne has proceeded in death by her parents, sons Kyle & Nicholas Williams, brothers Ronald Yellowbird (Williams), Michael S. Williams, Stanley M. Williams, John C. Williams, half-sisters Emily Taylor & Shirely Goodtracks and half-brother Glenn Williams.

WILLIAMS – In the early morning hours of January 16, 2026, Marianne Williams, age 62, began her journey home to be with our Heavenly Father. Marianne was born on July 7, 1963, to John S. Williams and Wanda Accutroope American Horse in Durango, Colo. Marianne was a proud member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Denver Broncos was her team.

Marianne along with her twin brother, Eric Williams, and older siblings were raised on the family farm just off

And so it began...



courtesy Eddie Box Jr.

In a memo dated, Oct. 10, 1960 and signed by David Box, Program Director, the designated Editorial Committee was given the green light to plan and produce the first four issues of The Southern Ute Drum. The memo was recently shared by Eddie Box Jr., with Southern Ute Drum staff. Issue 1, Vol. 1 was published on Friday, May, 1969.

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,
Kean Goodman Richards, Deceased
Case No.: 2026-0011-CV-PR

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

hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **MARCH 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM.** All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 23rd of January, 2026
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk



The Survivors' Way

Tuesday, February 17 | 7:30pm

An immersive live digital performance—Survivors is a real-time cinematic experience streamed online, blending film, storytelling, and visual art to create a shared journey. It tells one family's story and invites reflection on what truly matters: time, connection, and finding beauty even in the midst of grief and uncertainty.

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NEW EMPLOYEES



Chuck Foutz

Job title: Housing Project Administrator

Job duties: Coordinate activities related to planning and construction of new homes, remodels, and various home improvement projects for tribal members.

Hobbies: I enjoy exploring the great outdoors that Southwest Colorado offers, as well as traveling to new places. I also enjoy a good meal and a good book.

Family: My wife Andrea is originally from central Montana; we have a grown son living and working in this area, another son attending college in Connecticut, and a daughter who is attending Fort Lewis College.

Additional comments: Everybody in life has a story and it's usually pretty interesting if you take the time to listen to it.

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Feb. 20

Deadline:
Feb. 13

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



THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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Committee of Elders Meetings

Mondays at 9 a.m. in Conference Room at Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 14

October 5

November 2

December 7

COMMITTEE OF ELDERS LOGO CONTEST
We are sponsoring a Logo Contest for the COE. Submissions will be accepted from Southern Ute enrolled tribal members. The winner will receive a monetary amount yet to be determined. Contact the Committee of Elders at 970-946-4061 for more information.

For information or to be placed on the agenda, call Byron Frost, Chairman of the Committee of Elders at 970-946-4061.

photo: SU Drum archive



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JOHNSON-O'MALLEY

2026 Meeting Dates

March 2nd

April 6th

May 4th

June 1st

July 6th

August 10th

September 14th

October 5th

November 2nd

December 7th

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

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

For more information contact:

Kaylyn LeClaire
Education Specialist
kleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov
(970)563-0235



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.

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 website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov.

ETHICS COMMISSION

Open Until Filled - The Ethics Office is accepting letter of interest from tribal members to fill One vacancy for "Alternate Member-At-Large" 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.

GAMING COMMISSION

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

POWWOW COMMITTEE

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

Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov

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. 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. 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, 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.

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).

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.

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.

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*

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.



Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 02/01/26

FEBRUARY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

FEB. 16TH PRESIDENT'S DAY — CLOSED
 MAY 25TH MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED
 JUNE 19TH JUNETEENTH — CLOSED
 JULY 3RD INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED
 SEPT. 7TH LABOR DAY — CLOSED
 OCT. 12TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED
 NOV. 11TH VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
 NOV. 26TH & 27TH THANKSGIVING — CLOSED
 DEC. 10TH–11TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
 DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS — CLOSED

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION
 MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY
 TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8 AM to 5 PM
 Lobby closed 12p—1p on Fridays

Reach a staff member at
 (970) 563-5500

Utilities Division Manager, Julian Baker
 AP/AR Manager, Wahleah Frost

The February Bulletin

- Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, February 4th! Payments must be received before 10am.
- High Water Bill? Fix your water leaks - it will save you money!
- Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project started at Sunset Meadows Housing area. Work involves installing new HDPE sewer line, repairing manholes and fusing new service taps. Work will be in the Powwow Circle & CR314 area during February. Expect heavy equipment onsite. Questions—Call Utilities Office.
- NEW 2026 Trash Permits are available! Stop by the office or the ramp and obtain your new trash permit. Limit 2 per household.

PAYMENT OPTIONS
 • Online at www.suitutil.com
 • Utilities Drive-Up Window or Drop Box
 • Wells Fargo—Ignacio Branch
 • Automatic deductions at Tribal Distribution
 • Mail—make payable to "Southern Ute Utilities Division"
 • Over the Phone—Call Office (970) 563-5500

The Hidden Cost of WATER LEAKS

How much water is wasted by leaks?

14% of the average household's water use is lost to leaks

The Toilet
 Is the #1 source of leaks in the home

The United States wastes 1,000,000,000,000 gallons of water per year

One trillion gallons of water per year

Owners of multi-family properties can save 10-20% on water bills

FIXING LEAKS MAKES "CENTS"

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

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; **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/>

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.

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 the 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; **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.

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO

COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
8:30-10:00 AM
Willows Cafe at Sky Ute Casino

SIP, CHAT, & DISCUSS YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

Join Us for a Morning of Coffee, Connection & Small Business Conversation!
 Start your day with great coffee and even better company. Whether you're a local entrepreneur, small business owner, or just passionate about supporting the community, this is a perfect opportunity to connect, share ideas, and build meaningful relationships!

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

SOUTHERN UTE 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 27, 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

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

Smart Finance, Bright Futures

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

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

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 24TH**

11am to 1pm

Sky Ute Casino
 Ignacio, CO
 (lunch provided)

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE WORKSHOP:

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

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



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

Visit the the tribe's website at www.southernute-nsn.gov/jobs for complete job descriptions. ALL EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.

If you need help filling out an online application, please come the Human Resources office and we are happy to assist you on our applicant computer stations. Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file. Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Human Resources • P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137
Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424 • Fax: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

Advanced Practice Provider

Closes 2/12/26 – Provides direct and comprehensive primary, preventive and therapeutic medical care to individuals across their lifespan. Clinical supervision will be provided by the Chief Medical Officer. Pay grade E19; Pay is \$121,866/annually.

Building Maintenance Project Supervisor

Closes 2/6/26 – Provides trade specific team management and support, troubleshooting, and preventive maintenance services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Building Maintenance Division. Collects and categorizes information on systems and equipment. Tracks preventive maintenance, work orders, time, and materials for select operations. Directs and supervises the work and day-to-day activities of tradesmen, as well as special projects. Assists Division head and other managers in project planning and oversight as needed. Pay grade N16; Pay is \$39.56/hour.

Carpenter

Closes 2/6/26 – Provides daily carpentry maintenance, troubleshooting, installation, preventative maintenance and repairs, including correcting safety hazards, in the Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$32.69/hour.

Contracts & Grants Manager

Closes 2/9/26 – Ensures that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is in financial and regulatory compliance with all contracts and grants awarded by Federal, State, and Private funding agencies. Will actively manage the Tribe's grant portfolio, oversee the process to pursue new grant funding opportunities, and secure the renewal of current awards, as necessary. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$92,160/annually.

Elder Services Driver

Closes 2/6/26 – Provides transportation and services for Southern Ute Indian Tribal Elders and Disabled individuals. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/hour.

Receptionist

Closes 2/17/26 – Performs reception duties for the Southern Ute Tribal organization, including, but not limited to, operation of the telephone switchboard, greeting visitors, providing information about the Tribal government, and referring callers or visitors to the appropriate office for assistance. Performs clerical duties for the Tribal Information Services Director and other Departmental Divisions as needed, including mail processing and distribution. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/hour.

TERO Division Head Apprentice Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Closes 2/6/26 – Under the mentorship of the TERO Division Head, the Apprentice will learn the responsibilities involved in the administration and enforcement of existing Southern Ute Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) and TERO Code, as well as administering the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) contract. Will start at 20% below the grade for the TERO Division Head and will receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases. The duration of the program is designed to last 12 months and may be extended or reduced as appropriate. Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship curriculum, will assume the position of TERO Division Head. Starts at \$31.65/hour.

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 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 \$92,160/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 is \$21.48/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. The Transportation/Detention Officer 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 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 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 is \$32.69/hour.

Gaming Investigator I Trainee Program (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, incumbent will assume the Gaming Investigator I position. Pay grade N12; pay will be \$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 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 for 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.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE PERMANENT FUND JOB FAIR

Your Future Starts Here!
Competitive Wages. Benefits. Culturally Inclusive.

WEDNESDAY
April 15, 2026

Time
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location
Sky Ute Casino Resort,
Event Center
14324 CO 172
Ignacio, CO 81137

JOIN US

(970)-563-4750

southernute-nsn.gov/careers



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

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Part-time Medical Assistant (Part-time)
Open Until Filled – A Medical Assistant position responsible for providing professional and clinical services. 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.

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. Responsibilities include 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 Program (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 position 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, break down 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 SUI Tribal Members interested in pursuing their career interests through the Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the program is to build a career foundation for SUI 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.



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

Beverage & Cocktail Server (On-Call)
 Must maintain the highest level of guest service while providing cocktail and beverage service to Casino guests. Will prepare beverages prior to serving and will be required to lift and move up to 60 pounds regularly and will be responsible for monetary transactions.

Bingo Staff (Part-time)
 Servicing guests during Bingo games, including selling additional special games and pull tabs, instructing customers in Bingo play, calling Bingo games, beverage service and other duties promoting guest satisfaction and play. Responsible for verifying winning Bingo cards and making payouts accordingly.

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

***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 overseeing the Marketing Manager and the Guest Services Manager as well as the overall operations of the Marketing Department including but not limited to, 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.

***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.

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

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

Senior Environmental, Health & Safety Technician- Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 2/13/26 – Promoting EHS awareness, compliance and stewardship throughout the organization to all employees with an emphasis on health and safety programs. Will assist and have limited scope of responsibility with the implementation of programs which minimizes or eliminates work safety, environmental, and regulatory risks to Red Willow Production Company; and may assist senior EHS team members with the development, execution and training of EHS programs and initiatives.

Environmental Compliance Specialist-Growth Fund (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 2/20/26 – Performing inspections for the oil and gas compliance program for the Department of Energy, ensuring compliance with applicable Tribal and Federal stipulations and regulations associated with energy-related projects.

CAD Designer & Document Control Manager- Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
 Closes 2/13/26 – Creating, updating, and organizing drawings for Red Cedar Gathering Company (Company) facilities, including process flow diagrams, piping and instrumentation diagrams (P&IDs), site layouts, and mechanical, civil, and electrical drawings. Manages CAD/design standards, performs drawing updates, oversees drafting deliverables from engineering firms, and ensures proper documentation and filing of construction records (e.g., weld maps, hydrotest reports, third-party drawings). Acts as the primary contact for drawing and record retrieval during audits and supports updates to construction standards and specifications.

Senior Drilling & Completions Engineer- Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 2/13/26 – Drilling, completions, and applicable petroleum engineering support primarily focused on horizontal unconventional resource development in the San Juan Basin. Responsible for wellbore and completion design, execution, and supporting internal processes associated with budgeting and post-appraisals. Works collaboratively as a member of a multi-discipline team to optimize field development and depletion.

Director of Environmental, Health and Safety- Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 2/13/26 – Ensuring that Red Willow Production Company and Red Willow Production, LLC operations comply with health, safety, and environmental policies, procedures, laws, regulations and permits to prevent detrimental incidents. Responsible for maintaining accurate, up-to-date knowledge of regulatory issues, assisting personnel in complying with regulations, managing Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) training, and preparation of timely, accurate, and complete permit applications. As a senior leader within the organization, participates with the senior leadership team in developing and executing corporate strategy and goals and promoting EHS awareness and compliance throughout the organization. Leads or supports sustainability projects as needed.

Southern Ute Education Department

24th Annual Career Fair

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

ABOUT THE EVENT

Join the Southern Ute Education Department to meet local employers, Tribal Departments, and partner colleges

For more information

Stais Harlan
sharlan@southernute-nsn.gov
 Dustin Weaver
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov

Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center

9:00 AM
TO
2:00PM

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

Central Administration:

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

Ignacio 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

- District Mechanic
- Mid-School Soccer Head Coach
- Mid-School Track Assistant Coach
- Mid-School Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid-School Volleyball Assistant Coach
- Secondary SpEd Teacher – 26/27 school year

Quichas Apartment for Rent

2BR/2.5 BA. \$1,130/mo. + Utilities. Available March 1, 2026. No Pets. Southern Ute Tribal Member Preference. Must pass credit and background checks and have excellent references from previous landlords. Rental Applications are available by email at kcastellot@southernute-nsn.gov. Use the subject line Quichas Application. You can also pick up an application in person at the Economic Development office: 116 Memorial Drive, Suite 209, Ignacio, CO 81137 during working hours Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. All applications must be filled out completely & legibly and submitted by 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026. You must complete a new application even if you have filled one out in the past.

WE ARE HIRING

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

CALL FOR VENDORS

PIINU NÚUCHI FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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



Jeremy Wade Shockley/Special to The Colorado Sun

Flood waters crept up to boarded up homes along County Road 501 on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025 in Vallecito, Colo. The unprecedented flooding caused substantial damage to residential roads, homes and infrastructure.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

Financial support needed for Vallecito road repairs following historic flooding

Staff report
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SERVING SW COLORADO

In October, relentless rain turned Vallecito Creek into a torrent, washing over roads, forcing evacuations, and upending daily life for hundreds of residents. Nearly 9.5 inches of rain fell over the course of several days, pushing creek flows to historic levels and leaving behind damaged infrastructure that many neighborhoods are still struggling to repair months later.

While emergency response, debris removal, and initial recovery efforts helped stabilize the area, long-term needs remain – particularly for residents facing extensive damage to private roads.

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado reminds the public that the Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) La Plata Flood Relief Fund remains open to support Vallecito residents as recovery continues. The fund has currently raised \$7,736, and the Foundation's Board of Directors has committed a \$15,000

matching gift, doubling donations once the community reaches that goal.

One of the remaining needs for residents is road repairs north of County Road 501, including Vallecito Valley I and II, Mushroom Lane, and Mushroom Drive, where floodwater caused significant road damage.

Residents have said that they're mostly in need of road repairs in the areas that are not part of a traditional HOA. Many neighborhoods rely on road HOAs that collect dues only for snow plowing and routine maintenance, which do not have the reserves to cover the amount of damage caused by the flood.

Unlike roads maintained by counties or HOAs with capital reserves, these private and semi-formal road systems lack the financial capacity to absorb major flood impacts. Unrepaired roads pose ongoing safety concerns, limiting emergency access, and daily travel.

Funds raised through the CERF La Plata Flood Relief Fund will be used specifically to support critical road restoration and access

improvements, helping residents safely remain in their homes and connected to their community.

During the October flooding, 390 homes were evacuated; emergency crews worked around the clock, and Vallecito and Grimes creeks surged to unprecedented levels. While disaster assessments and other aid sources continue to unfold, local philanthropy remains one of the fastest and most flexible ways to address unmet recovery needs.

Now is a critical moment to give. Every dollar donated will be matched up to \$15,000, immediately doubling its impact for Vallecito residents still navigating recovery.

Donations to the CERF La Plata Flood Relief Fund can be made here. Checks made out to the Community Foundation – Memo: La Plata County CERF – can be mailed to the P.O. Box 1673 Durango, CO 81302.

Together, Southwest Colorado can ensure Vallecito residents are not left to shoulder essential repairs alone – and that recovery continues where it's needed most.

Internet-Based Hunter Education Class

Saturday March 7th, 8 AM - 2 PM
SunUte Community Center
390 Mouache Drive, Ignacio CO

Course fees: \$34.95 for the online course and \$10 for the conclusion class

The major portion of this course must be completed online, before attending class on March 7th.

Class size is limited to 20 students. The suggested minimum age for students is 12. Parents of younger students are encouraged to attend with their child.

Pre-registration is required; register online at
register-ed.com/events/view/240431

Please contact the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130 with any questions.



Mt. Allison Grange: Pancake Supper & Game Night

It's time for a cabin fever buster! Come join your neighbors on Friday, Feb. 6 for a pancake supper and game night at the Mt. Allison Grange Hall (2622 County Road 329, Ignacio). Pancakes will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. and will also include eggs, sausage, and juice and coffee. Games will follow the dinner (or coincide a bit with the dinner). Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for children (6 to 10) and free for children under 6. Proceeds will go toward stabilizing the east side foundation of the Grange Hall. For additional information, please contact Larry at 970-749-8438 or Larry_Corman@hotmail.com

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						39			

Across

- 1 Sheltered inlet
- 5 --- Culture National Historical Park, NM
- 10 Yemeni port
- 11 Little products
- 13 Not at all typical
- 14 Spirits
- 15 "--- to the wise is enough"
- 17 Governessy
- 18 Door of Africa
- 21 Small Japanese vehicles
- 22 Naval agreements?
- 24 "Silent Spring" topic
- 26 Famished
- 29 "These lands are ---" (Tecumseh)
- 31 Gullible
- 32 Designed to click into place and fit tightly
- 35 Food fit for a pig
- 36 "--- Man" (1992 Sean Astin film)
- 37 "The Heart of Northeast Nevada"
- 38 "The Crane and the ---", Assiniboine legend
- 39 It keeps mosquitoes off

Down

- 1 200 milligrams
- 2 Anishinaabeg people of Ontario, Michigan and Oklahoma
- 3 Part of a Miwok reservation near Placerville, CA
- 4 Zip
- 5 Golden diggers' training site?
- 6 Care coverage corp.
- 7 Over-50s group
- 8 Monkees' railroad station
- 9 Kukla's puppet colleague
- 12 Big rig
- 16 Fizzles out
- 19 "Don't let it get cold!"
- 20 Rescued fictional WWII private
- 23 Rubbed out
- 24 Medical unit
- 25 Ain't got a clue
- 27 Conjure up
- 28 Greyhound terminus
- 30 Partner of polish
- 33 "The clock struck --- ..." (Nursery rhyme)
- 34 "Neither a borrower --- a lender be"

Answers will appear in the Feb. 20 issue of the Drum.

Answers for January 23, 2026 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Bulls, 6 Spar, 10 Ysleta, 12 Peso, 13 Elders, 14 Otto, 15 Aaron, 17 Criminal act, 23 Golan, 24 Demon, 25 Self-evident, 27 Wires, 28 Scio, 30 Estate, 35 Gens, 36 Poston, 37 To-do, 38 Nolte.

Down: 1 Bye, 2 USL, 3 LLD, 4 Lee, 5 Strainer, 6 Spooled, 7 Pet name, 8 AST, 9 Roo, 11 As an, 16 Radisson, 17 CGS, 18 Roe, 19 Ill wind, 20 Mafioso, 21 Con, 22 TNT, 26 Veep, 28 Sgt, 29 CEO, 31 Tso, 32 ATL, 33 Tot, 34 ENE.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION – HAY FOR SALE!

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



LARGE BALES: \$160/BALE 1350#

Hay is available **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.**

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

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Feb. 6



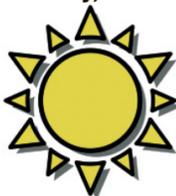
Mostly sunny 58°F
Light winds

Saturday, Feb. 7



Sunny 58°F
Light afternoon winds

Sunday, Feb. 8



Sunny 58°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

