



Jefferson retires from Red Cedar
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Tribe welcomes Toledo
PAGE 15

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

Richards provides rendering of Bell Honors

Bell tolled for Teddy Baker, Edward Lee Brown

By **Jeremy Wade Shockley**
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Southern Ute Veterans Association Commander and Vietnam combat veteran, Howard Richards Sr. recently had the privilege of ringing the Honor Bell in Colorado Springs on Sept. 28, 2025, at the invitation of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1075. Richards provided the rendering of Bell Honors in recognition of local Vietnam veterans, Teddy Baker and Edward Lee Brown. Richards was accompanied by his grandson, Joseph Howell, an associate member of Chapter 1075.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1075 presented the Southern Ute Veterans Association with a small replica of the Honor Bell during a visit to Ignacio last year.

"I was tolling the bell for two Vietnam veterans locally, Teddy Baker (U.S. Army) and the other was Edward Lee Brown (U.S. Army), both Vietnam combat veterans who are since deceased," Richards said. "The [Vietnam Veterans of America] 1075 Chapter respects me for being a Vietnam combat veteran, and they gave me the privilege and honor of ringing that bell in honor our two local veterans."

Richards was accompanied by his grandson, Joseph Howell, an associate member of Chapter 1075. Richards was accompanied by his grandson, Joseph Howell, an associate member of Chapter 1075.

Richards was accompanied by his grandson, Joseph Howell, an associate member of Chapter 1075.

Southern Ute tribal members, Baker and Richards shipped out together in December 1968, right after Christmas Day from Oakland Army Base. Both left Vietnam at approximately the same time and coincidentally met up at Denver's

Richards was accompanied by his grandson, Joseph Howell, an associate member of Chapter 1075.

Richards page 5



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Associate Judge, Paul Whistler reviews the Tribal Code book with Judge Apprentice, Natelle Thompson. In the apprentice position, Thompson will shadow Whistler and Chief Judge Scott Moore for the next two years.

TRIBAL COURT

Thompson steps into new role as Chief Judge Apprentice

By **Divine Windy Boy**
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

In December of last year, Natelle Thompson accepted the position of Chief Judge Apprentice – working alongside current Chief Judge Scott Moore and Associate Judge Paul Whistler, she will learn about the tribal judicial system furthering her understanding of tribal law and court procedures. With a passion for learning and justice, Thompson will continue to train for the next two years and looks forward to serving the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Judges, Scott Moore (far left) and Paul Whistler (far right) gather on the bench with Judge Apprentice, Natelle Thompson ahead of a court session to share tips and information.

Thompson's journey into tribal law and Tribal Court began during her studies at Fort Lewis College, she took a course in sexual assault advocacy sponsored by the Sexual Assault Services Organization (SASO), which led her to become a volunteer advocate with the organization – post graduation and later in her career, she began working with Victim Services and started learning more about law as she guided victims through the court system.

Chief Judge Scott Moore shares his excitement for Thompson as she pursues this career path and looks forward to her taking the bench at a future date. "I think it's been too long since we've had a Southern Ute tribal member leading the Tribal Court. We are a separate and important arm of the [Tribal] Government, so it is essential to have a tribal member carrying forth the vision," Moore said. "One of Natelle's greatest assets I have seen so far is perseverance, she has a strong work ethic and she never gives up – that is truly what will get you to reaching your goals, Natelle is doing great and we are so excited to have her."

Thompson, a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, is the daughter of Shawn Thompson and Sophia Wilson – She is the mother of five and is the wife of ten years to Jared Ruybal. Thompson graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Criminology and a minor in Psychology from Fort Lewis College and is now pursuing a certificate in Tribal Court and Justice Administration at the University of Arizona. Before accepting her new position, Thompson had eight years of experience working in different capacities within the Trib-

al Government, four of which focused on crisis support and navigating the legal system.

"I wanted to transition from Victim Services into Tribal Court, so after the birth of our fifth child I went through the TEAMS program and began working in the Tribal Court Administration and with Probation – I had seen the Judge Apprentice [position] open and I kept joking 'well maybe I could do it' and my husband told me that I should just try [for the position]." Thompson said. "Then one day, Judge Moore came to the front window – where I used to work with Probation at the time – and I had talked with him about what I was studying and [Moore] asked me 'would you ever think about applying for the open position?', I was unsure if I could do it, I felt really intimidated, but eventually I just tried for it and about a month later I got a call for an interview."

After receiving confirmation that she got the position offer, Thompson agreed to join the Tribal Court as the Judge Apprentice and began working closely with Chief Judge Scott Moore, Associate Judge Paul Whistler, Court Administrator Lindsay Romero, and the Court Clerks. The apprenticeship program is set for two years in length broken up into three month segments, the first segment Thompson is focused on learning judicial ethics, studying Tribal Code and law, completing mock hearings alongside Judge Moore and Whistler to become more comfortable with doing arraignments, etc. – she is also working with Court Clerks to observe how cases are created and their day to day tasks. At the end of February, Thompson will be attending

the National Judicial College to take a course in advanced Tribal Bench skills, competence, confidence and control, the same course Judges Moore and Whistler attended before taking the bench.

Following her completion of courses at the National Judicial College, Thompson will return home where she will be sworn into Tribal Court in March. She looks forward to shadowing Judge Moore and Whistler and is excited to be serving her tribe. "I'm most excited to be working with Judge Moore and Whistler, they are both so knowledgeable and they are always willing to answer my questions, I really enjoy having conversations with them." Thompson said. "I'm also excited to be serving the Tribe, still a little nervous because it's such a big role, but if I can do it than anybody can do it, you just have to take the big step – having tribal members in positions like this is important and I believe it will benefit our tribe."

"Stepping into this role, Lisa Manzanares was a huge mentor to me, I've always looked up to her and she's someone I can always lean on when I need help – Mary Gunther was my previous mentor, because of her I have gained a strong work ethic and I still talk to her to this day whenever I need a little push or guidance," Thompson said. "I would also like to thank my husband Jared, for always being in my corner and supporting me – he always encourages me when I'm feeling scared or need reassurance, I would also like to mention my kids for always motivating me. I am thankful for my whole family, my dad, my sisters, they all inspire me to do better, follow my dreams, and be great."

LIFT THE LABEL

Southern Ute Tribe: Recovery Stories

Linda

"My message for those struggling with a loved one's addiction is keep reaching out, even when it feels like no one is listening. Let them know they are loved, they are valued, and you still have hope for them."

I'm Linda and the mother of a daughter who struggles with substance use disorder. As a parent, my journey has always been about family, community, and culture, and this journey included my daughter until substance use took her away. Her departure impacted every member of our family.

I've learned that the most important thing to do is keep reaching out. Even if I don't get a response, I remind my daughter that she is loved, valued, and that we are still here for her. She knows she has a family that misses her and friends who ask about her. She is reminded of past memories and that there are more memories waiting to be created.

I've learned that recovery is personal for those trying to heal. It can be found in unexpected places, people or experiences, and doesn't always follow a straight, defined path. Recovery can happen by stepping outside of one's comfort zone, even leaving the familiarity of our small community to find a support system that works. I've seen it happen – people leave, build connections elsewhere, and



courtesy Lift the Label

Linda

come back stronger. It takes courage to trust yourself, to know that the choices you make for your healing are your own, and that the journey doesn't have to be decided by what others think.

Through all of this, I am thankful to my family. My grandchildren – her children – are my priority, but I want my daughter to know, without shame or judgment, that she is still my child and will always be loved by me. I am thankful for her brothers

who reach out to her. I am thankful for my tribe and community who ask about her and want to see her well, happy and thriving.

Being a loved one of someone in active addiction isn't easy, but hope is what carries me forward. I hope that my daughter will find her path; hope that she'll remember the love waiting for her. Recovery isn't a destination; it's a journey we can walk together, one day at a time.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Understanding household hazardous waste

What it is, what it isn't, and why it matters

Staff report
Southern Ute Environmental Programs

Household hazardous waste – better known as HHW – is found in nearly every home, often tucked under sinks, stored in garages, or forgotten in sheds. While many of these products are staples of routine maintenance and cleaning, they contain ingredients that can pose significant risks when misused or improperly discarded.

What Counts as Household Hazardous Waste

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), household hazardous waste includes leftover or unwanted household products that contain toxic, corrosive, ignitable (flammable), or reactive chemical ingredients. Common HHW items include paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, pesticides, and solvents. These products can catch fire, react, explode, or pose toxicity risks under certain conditions. [epa.gov]

Experts note that many everyday products become hazardous only once they are no longer needed or are improperly stored or disposed of. For example, items like motor oil, paint thinners, fluorescent bulbs, and pesticides all meet the criteria for HHW once discarded.

What HHW Is NOT

Not all waste from the home is considered hazardous. Products that do not contain reactive, toxic, flammable, or corrosive chemicals are not classified as HHW. Materials such as ordinary paper, textiles, plastics, or food scraps fall outside this category. Regulations define hazardous waste based on chemical characteristics – not on where the product is used.

Why Labels Matter

Products labeled with words such as “warning,” “danger,” “toxic,” “flammable,” “corrosive,” or “poison” should be treated as potentially hazardous. These signals are designed to alert consumers to chemical hazards and highlight safe handling and storage practices. They can also guide consumers on how to properly dispose of HHW and what to do if an accident occurs, such as spills, ingestion, etc.

(If you need immediate poison assistance, call 1-800-222-1222 or visit Poison Help)

Dangers of Improper Handling and Disposal

Improper disposal – such as pouring chemicals down drains, tossing them in household trash, or dumping them outdoors – can create serious environmental and human health hazards. Household hazard-

ous waste can pollute soil, contaminate water supplies, and release harmful gases, endangering sanitation workers, wildlife, and community health.

Many hazardous waste items can leach toxic substances into the ground or emit fumes that degrade indoor and outdoor air quality. Batteries can release toxic heavy metals, paints and solvents can contaminate groundwater, and pesticides can harm unintended plants and animals.

Potential Health Risks

The consequences of exposure to household hazardous waste can be severe. The EPA has documented over 1,600 hazardous waste contamination sites in the U.S. where toxic chemicals have created ongoing health risks. These exposures have been linked to neurological damage, respiratory illnesses, and other long-term health problems, particularly among children – more than 245,000 of whom live in areas affected by hazardous waste pollution.

Toxic fumes from improperly stored chemicals, accidental mixing of reactive substances, or contamination of household surfaces can also pose acute risks as well, including chemical burns, poisoning, and fire hazards.

Household page 8

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE LABEL ICONS



courtesy SU Environmental Programs

Look for these labels and keywords as indicators that a product may be a household hazardous waste.

CSD “DID YOU KNOW” SERIES 2: HOME HEATING SAFETY

HOME HEATING SAFETY

Prevention of Home Fires

HOME FIRES OCCUR MORE IN THE WINTER MONTHS THAN ANY OTHER TIME OF THE YEAR



SPACE HEATER



- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off. If it tips over, it shuts off.
- DO NOT plug heaters into extension cords. Heaters should be plugged in to wall outlets only.

WOOD STOVE



- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet away from anything that can burn or combust easily.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a certified professional.
- Keep wood stove doors closed unless you’re adding wood or stoking the fire.

SAFETY FIRST:

- Install & maintain smoke detectors.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors. The dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning are higher during the winter months due to doors and windows staying closed.



QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION AT (970) 563-0260



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Shiri Howell enjoys breakfast with her son, Joe Howell at the SUIMA family breakfast on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

This photo was published in the Feb. 19, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Dave Brown/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Members of the 2006 North America Indigenous Games Opening Ceremonies Committee meet in Denver on Friday, Feb. 10. Recognizable at the back of the table, from the Southern Ute Tribe are Al Cloud, Tribal Councilman Jim Newton Jr., and Andrea Taylor (Sky Ute Lodge and Casino).

This photo was published in the Feb. 17, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell was on the homestead in Ignacio early last week. An Olympian in judo, Campbell said he is a supporter of the North American Indigenous Games. Campbell was dining at the Patio Restaurant last Tuesday when Deichman Hudson had the pleasure of meeting him.

This photo was published in the Feb. 16, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Participation Coed League Trophies – went to Alex Cloud, Judy Lansing, Martha Monte, Vennie Valdez.

This photo was published in the Feb. 21, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Royalty visit Jicarilla Powwow



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany dancing during Grand Entry at the Jicarilla Day - Valentines Powwow in Dulce, N.M. (Theoden placed 2nd in Junior boys fancy and Starlitt 2nd in Junior girls traditional).



Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany and Tiny Tot 4th of July Princess, Bonni Height at the Jicarilla Day - Valentines Powwow in Dulce, N.M.

NATIVE FILMMAKERS

Vision Maker Media celebrates 50 years

Staff report
VISION MAKER MEDIA



Vision Maker Media (VMM), the world's premier source of media by and about Native Americans since 1976, is celebrating fifty years of successfully empowering and engaging Native filmmakers to chronicle Native lives, sharing Native knowledge and accomplishments, and presenting Native historical and cultural films for the benefit of all Americans.

As the leading American provider of Native American content, Vision Maker Media has enjoyed a robust and lasting partnership with public television stations across the nation. Films produced and supported by VMM have reached an average 89% of American television viewers and 98% of VMM films have been broadcast within the nation's top 50 markets. Later this year, Vision Maker Media will launch a new public television series, "First People, First Stories," featuring the work of young Native filmmakers.

Initially conceived by founder Frank Blythe as a means to support, promote, and distribute films by and about Native Americans, in 2020 the organization expanded its mission to identify and support young Native filmmakers with training, funding, and professional development opportunities and to present their films at film festivals, community gatherings, and on public media. Since its founding, VMM has worked with Native filmmakers representing 72% (or more than 400) of North America's tribal communities.

"My father, Frank, believed that the world could be changed and healed by

understanding Native stories and knowledge. He worked hard to build lasting connections with hundreds of Native filmmakers and tribal leaders, with like-minded non-profits, with public media programmers, and with the larger American filmmaking community. He built a creative ecosystem that supported hundreds of talented Indigenous storytellers and ensured that our Native stories would not be sidelined or lost," said Blythe's daughter, Francene Blythe-Lewis (Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota, Diné, Eastern Band Cherokee), who is Vision Maker Media president and CEO. "I am honored to carry forward the legacy of his good and hard work."

While public media has historically provided the primary platform for sharing films presented by Vision Maker Media, today the company is adapting to embrace new opportunities. Blythe-Lewis and her team are expanding the company's work to bring Native stories to additional platforms, including Fast Channel streaming, mobile apps, university partnerships, and festival screenings and museum exhibitions in the United States and internationally.

Supporting promising new Indigenous talent remains key to Vision Maker Media's mission. Since 2020, VMM continues to champion its self-sustaining iNative

7th Generation (iN7G) youth media programs to support aspiring and emerging young filmmakers.

"Fifty years is an exciting achievement for Vision Maker Media and it comes at a pivotal moment for our organization," Blythe-Lewis said. "As we celebrate our many past accomplishments, we're also welcoming exciting new opportunities. We look forward to many years to come."

For information about Vision Maker Media or to interview Francene Blythe-Lewis, please contact Chris Kelly, Fifth House PR, at ckelly@fifthhousepr.com or 617/510-2333.

VISION MAKER MEDIA

Vision Maker Media (VMM) is the premier source of media by and about Native Americans since 1976. Vision Maker Media's mission is empowering and engaging Native people to share stories, envisioning a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate. VMM works with its funded producers to develop, produce and distribute programs for all media. VMM supports training to increase the number of Native Americans and Alaska Natives producing programs across a variety of platforms.



SAVE THE DATE
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE & SUCCESS

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

SPECIAL LUNCHEON FOR TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP
THURSDAY, APRIL 9th 2026
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM (Lunch served at noon)
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT, EVENT CENTER

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

SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Reflections of Honor Exhibition Temporarily Closed

The Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum (SUCCM) will begin the process of installing the expansion to the Reflections of Honor Exhibition within the Permanent Gallery on Thursday, February 19 through early March. During this time, the exhibition will be closed to public viewing. Please stay tuned for a statement detailing the opening of the expanded exhibit in early Spring 2026. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause in the meantime. For more information, please contact SUCCM Collections Manager, Tallias Cantsee at 970-563-2996, tcantsee@southernute-nsn.gov, or SUCCM Director, Fabian Martinez at 970-563-2973, fmartinez@southernute-nsn.gov.

Let's Learn Ute

Karṭ'.
Sit down.

Karṭ' 'ivee nṭveekhwṭ.
Sit by me.

'ivee karṭ.
Stay/sit here.

'ivee 'unikya.
Wait here.






104TH SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR LOGO CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 3, 2026

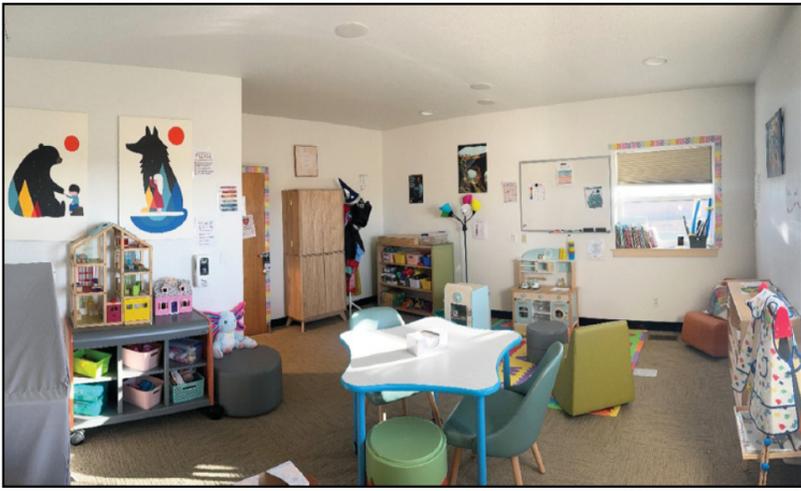
GUIDELINES

- 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





courtesy Amber Richardson/SU Behavioral Health

A therapist creates a safe and welcoming space for a child. The room may include toys, games, art supplies, dolls, sand trays, or pretend-play items. Each item is chosen on purpose to help children express themselves.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Playtime with a purpose

Why play matters: Supporting children through play

By Amber Richardson, LPCC
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Play is more than just something children do for fun. For children, play is how they learn, share feelings and understand the world around them. Play therapy is a type of counseling that uses play to help children talk about thoughts and feelings they may not have words for yet. It is especially helpful for children who are having a hard time expressing themselves or managing big emotions.

In play therapy, a therapist creates a safe and welcoming space for a child. The room may include toys, games, art supplies, dolls, sand trays, or pretend-play items. Each item is chosen on purpose to help children express themselves. While it may look like regular play, the therapist is paying close attention. The therapist watches how the child plays and gently responds in ways that help the child feel understood, supported and safe.

Play therapy works because play is a child's natural language. Adults usually talk about their problems, but children often act them out through play. When a child feels stressed, scared, sad or confused, these feelings may show up during play. With the help of a therapist, children can work through big feelings, learn new ways to cope and feel more in control

of their emotions.

Families may choose play therapy for many reasons. It can help children who feel anxious, sad, angry or overwhelmed. It can also support children who are dealing with grief, family changes such as divorce or moving, school struggles, medical issues or hard life events. Play therapy can be helpful for children who have trouble following rules, making friends or adjusting to new situations.

One of the biggest benefits of play therapy is that it helps children build important life skills. Children learn how to name their feelings, calm their bodies, solve problems and build healthy relationships. They also practice making choices and building confidence in a safe setting. Over time, families often notice positive changes at home and school, such as better behavior, stronger communication, improved focus and increased self-esteem.

Parents and caregivers play an important role in play therapy. Therapists often meet with families to share progress, answer questions, and offer ideas that can help at home. This teamwork helps adults better understand their child's needs and respond with patience and support. When children feel supported, both in therapy and at home, growth happens more quickly.

Play therapy reminds us that children do not need to be fixed. They need

safe spaces, caring adults and chances to be heard in ways that feel right to them. Through the power of play, play therapy helps children feel stronger, more confident and hopeful for the future. It is a gentle and effective way for families and communities to support the emotional well-being of children.

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.

SMHW shares heart health



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Karen Forest, PHN takes Councilwoman Marge Barry's blood pressure during Shining Mountain Health & Wellness' healthy dessert tasting on Friday, Feb. 6 in the Hall of Warriors. All attendants were welcomed to check their blood pressure with one of SMHW professional staff members.



Director of Financial Planning & Analysis, Tina Velasquez came to learn about heart health, while also enjoying delicious healthy snacks provided by Dietitian, Lisa Smith in the Hall of Warriors.

Crystal Kelly receives a plate of strawberries with homemade chocolate avocado mousse and a cream cheese fruit dip from Lisa Smith, RDN. Information about maintaining blood pressure and a healthy heart was provided to help the community stay informed during Heart Health Month.

SHINING MOUNTAIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

NATIONAL Heart Month

♥ FEBRUARY ♥

February is Heart Health Month

What can you do to take care of your heart?

- Eat a health diet that includes fruits and vegetables, whole grains, healthy protein sources, minimally processed foods
- Limit added sugar
- Cut down on salt
- Limit alcohol
- Get active

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RETREAT

May 2026

SAVE THE DATE

<div style="border: 1px solid white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 5px;"> FRI 15 </div>	<p style="margin: 0;">PROFESSIONALS DAY</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">SKY UTE CASINO AND RESORT, IGNACIO CO</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 5px;"> SAT 16 </div>	<p style="margin: 0;">RECOVERY RETREAT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">SKY UTE CASINO AND RESORT, IGNACIO CO</p>

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

Vegetable Spiralizer Class

Have you wondered how to make zucchini noodles? Are you looking for a lower carbohydrate alternative to pasta? It's easier than you think! Come join us for hands-on learning! Spiralizers provided!

March 6th

12:10-12:50pm

RSVP required:

Southern Ute Cultural Center-Large Classroom
503 Ouray Drive, Ignacio
Contact Lisa Smith 970-563-2344



Positive Indian Parenting

March 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| March 3, 2026 | March 5, 2026 |
| March 10, 2026 | March 12, 2026 |
| March 17, 2026 | March 19, 2026 |
| March 24, 2026 | March 26, 2026 |



Honoring our Children By Honoring Our Traditions
All Parents & Caregivers Are Welcome

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

- This class is VIRTUAL
Please call Social Service to register.
Each participant needs the following to attend:
- A working email
 - A solid internet connection
 - A smart phone, tablet or laptop with a mic
 - Download the Microsoft Teams App



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

RICHARDS PROVIDES RENDERING • FROM PAGE 1



courtesy Howard Richards Sr.

Southern Ute Veterans Association Commander, Howard Richards Sr. provided the rendering of Bell Honors in recognition of local Vietnam veterans, Teddy Baker and Edward Lee Brown in Colorado Springs on Sept. 28, 2025. Richards was accompanied by his grandson, Joseph Howell, an associate member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1075.

Lee served in the Army from 1970-1972 as a Combat Engineer with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam. Born and raised in the Durango area, Lee is the father of long time Ignacio resident Shannon Brown, who organizes the annual Durango Veterans Poker Run.

Additionally, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1075 presented the Southern Ute Veterans Association with a small replica of the Honor Bell in June of 2025 during a formal visit to Ignacio. The Association plans to display the bell in the Hall of Warriors at a future date.

Richards is a lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1075 out of Colorado Springs, Joseph Howell is an associate member, a title bestowed on him by Chapter President, Thomas Dowell and Chapter Vice President, James Ramirez several years ago. "He was presented with a yellow polo shirt in recognition of his willingness to sit at the meetings and interact with the veterans from that chapter," Richards said. "And for his participation in his own traditions, such as Bear Dance, gourd dance and attending powwows around the region. Association members at times also do invite Joseph to march in with them as part of the Color Guard, which is a privilege of its own ... to march with the colors."

The Honor Bell Foundation, based in Colorado Springs, was founded in 2014 by a team of veterans. The Foundation forged a bronze bell, which weighs approximately 1000 pounds and is permanently housed in a mobile unit, affording the flexibility of travel to memorial services and veterans' programs; primarily serving Fort Logan National Cemetery and Pikes Peak National Cemetery. Future expansion of their programming looks to extend those services to Southern Colorado.

According to the Honor Bell Foundation's website, the founding principle of the Foundation is to provide an opportunity for the rendering of a respectful, final honor at military funerals and memorial services. This is accomplished with the tolling of a bell, The Honor Bell, in a manner based on tradition and respect. This practice, known as rendering Bell Honors, is the last sound heard at a funeral and is tolled with an understated, solemn and clear tone.

"The Bell Honors follow the 'ancient tolling method,' blending smoothly with the dignity of military traditions. Once the folded United States flag is presented to the next of kin, the Bell Guard pays tribute with the Seven Solemn Tolls of the Honor Bell. Each toll, seven seconds apart, represents different phases in a veteran's journey. Once Bell Honors are finished, the Honor Bell falls silent until its next tolling mission."

The Meaning of The Honor Bell's Seven Tolls

During every veteran's funeral or memorial service, the Bell Guard solemnly tolls the Honor Bell seven times, with seven seconds of silence between each toll. Each toll signifies a distinct stage in a veteran's life, conveying specific meanings:

- **Toll One: The Choice to Serve**
The Choice to Serve symbolizes the veteran's readiness to sacrifice their life for their country – a dedication that only a few are chosen for.
- **Toll Two: Camaraderie**
Camaraderie represents the bonds of friendship, family ties, and unity to unite all service members.
- **Toll Three: Patriotism**
Patriotism symbolizes the veteran's pride in their country, a commitment to defend it, and the happiness in cherishing the freedoms protected by our Constitution.
- **Toll Four: Respect**
Respect embodies the reverence bestowed upon a veteran by their community, earned through their service and rightfully honored by us.
- **Toll Five: Dignity**
Dignity symbolizes the respectful treatment that a veteran's community accords to their fallen hero.
- **Toll Six: Honor**
Honor signifies the respect owed to a deceased veteran by their fellow service members and community.
- **Toll Seven: The Value of Life**
The Value of Life embodies the ultimate sacrifice made by the veteran. Whether lost in combat or after years of dedicated service, the worth of a veteran cannot be fully expressed in words.

Southern Ute Social Services

Seeking loving families to become Foster Parents

Open your home and your heart

Fostering is an AMAZING Way to show LOVE!

Why is this important?

- We can keep children in their community by licensing local homes
- We can keep children surrounded by tradition and culture
- All families/individuals are welcome to inquire and learn more!



Call or email us at 970.563.2337 or kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov

Multi-Purpose Facility Shining Mountain Health & Wellness Healthy Cooking Class

With Lisa Smith

Tuesday February 24, 2026
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM



"Heart Healthy Sides"

Hands on learning - Lunch is provided

Call 970-563-2640 to sign-up.

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

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



DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Open House

Welcome in spring & our new Team

- Receive a packet to become a licensed foster home
- Meet our new employees
- Learn about our programming
- Gather resources
- Ask questions

Join us on the 2nd floor of the
Mouache-Capote Building

9AM-2PM

MARCH 19, 2026



Contact Social Services if you have any questions at (970) 563.2332



courtesy Kathy Overman/SUIMA

Primary student, Darius Smith spells words with the Montessori moveable alphabet.

SUIMA

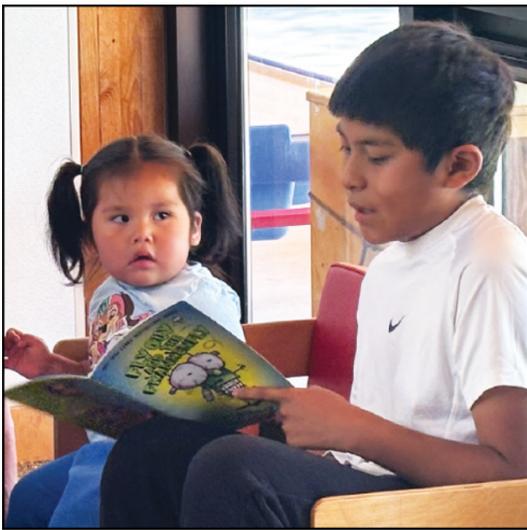
Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Montessori education as a pathway to peace

By Randi Foster,
Curriculum Coordinator
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

More than a century ago, Italian educator Maria Montessori put forward a radical idea: lasting peace begins in the classroom. While the world around her was shaped by war and political upheaval, Montessori believed that educating the whole child – intellectually, emotionally, culturally, and morally – was humanity's best hope for a more peaceful future.

At the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, these ideas are woven into daily classroom life. Students learn at their own pace while caring for their environment and supporting one another. Lessons encourage problem-solving, respect, and a strong sense of belonging, reflecting both Montessori princi-

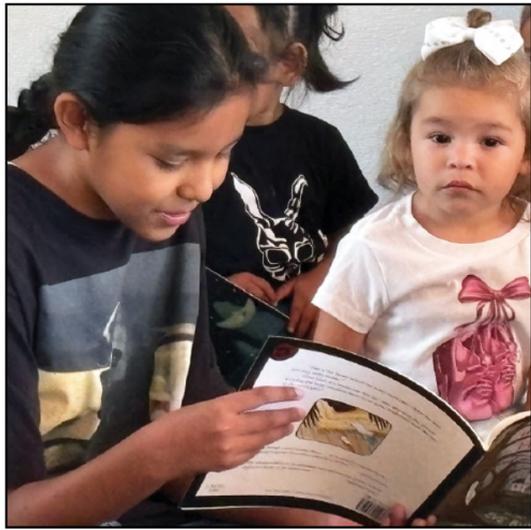


courtesy SUIMA

Upper elementary student, Jayceon Richards reads to toddler, Naomi Taylor.

M̄atagope'okwat̄vana (On our calendar)

- Feb. 17: Parent Advisory Group meeting, 6 – 7 p.m.
- Feb. 17–20: Family Conference week
- Feb. 24: Primary level field trip
- Feb. 27: Lower Elementary field trip



courtesy SUIMA

Upper elementary student, John Washington reads to toddler, Sofia Wilbourn.

ples and Southern Ute traditions. SUIMA's vision is to "create future tribal and world leaders who appreciate and support their culture, language, family, and lifelong learning."

By focusing on the whole child – mind, body, and spirit – the academy reflects Montessori's belief that peaceful education begins early and grows outward into families, communities and eventually the world. In this way, Montessori's century-old message remains alive and relevant, teaching that peace is not cultivated through words alone, but practiced every day in how children learn together at SUIMA.



courtesy Shasta Pontine/Ignacio Middle School

Middle School A Team Coaches, Archie Archuleta and Adam Tucson stand together with students – Landon Bravo, Tommy Seibel, Adian Scott, Isaias Cuthair, Wes Nossaman and Liam Moore. (Not pictured: Osias Goodtracks, Christian Cosio and Tobias Romero)

BOBCAT BULLETIN

IMS shows growth on the court and in the classroom

By Shasta Pontine, IMS Athletic Director
IGNACIO MIDDLE SCHOOL

In February, we are proud to celebrate the continued success and growth of our students at Ignacio Middle School. This year remains focused on academic excellence and strong communication, while building pride throughout our school community.

Ninety-five percent of our students successfully completed their History Day projects, demonstrating dedication and academic growth. We recently hosted History Day Night, which had strong family participation and showcased the hard work of our students. In addition, students have completed the middle of the year's STAR Benchmark testing for math and language arts and are showing measurable growth in both areas.

Athletics continues to be a strong source of pride for IMS. Boys Basketball re-

cently finished their season, taking 2nd place in the League Tournament in Bayfield after a hard-fought two-point loss to Miller. Girls Basketball also wrapped up an impressive season with 35 girls participating. The A team finished 4th in the league for the season. Currently, 20 students are participating in Boys and Girls Wrestling, and we are excited that Ignacio will host the League Tournament on Saturday, March 7 at Ignacio High School, which will include the first-ever Middle School Girls bracket championship.

As we look ahead, we have several important events coming up:

- Math Night – March 4
- End of 3rd Quarter – March 5
- Band Concert – March 10
- 3rd Quarter Honor Breakfast and Character Counts Assembly – March 12
- Building Accountability (BAC) Meeting – March 2

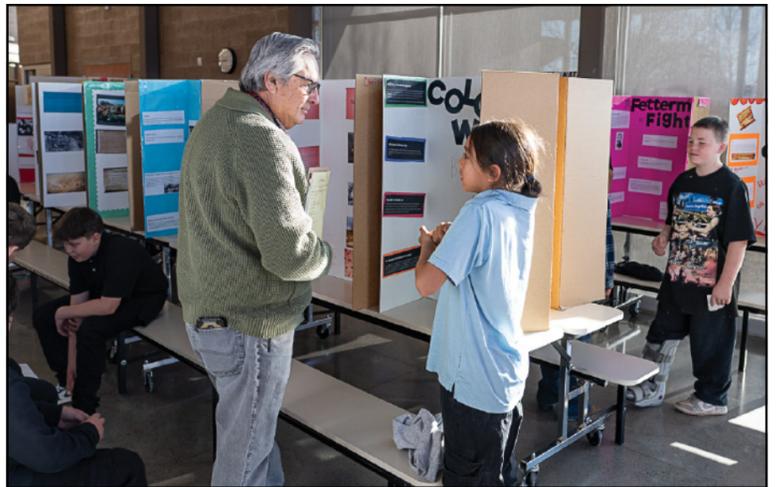
These events will lead us into spring break and provide additional opportunities to celebrate student achievement and community involvement.

We continue to focus on increasing academic rigor through a strong curriculum and ongoing staff development. Friday Academy remains available to provide additional academic support for students who need it. Communication continues through weekly updates, social media reminders, and our next Building Accountability (BAC) meeting, Monday, March 2. We encourage all families to participate.

Building pride in our school remains a top priority. As always, we encourage our students, staff and families to speak positively about our school and celebrate the many accomplishments happening each day.

Thank you for your continued support of Ignacio Middle School. Together, we are building a strong, successful school community.

Sharing history at IMS



Photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Tribal Council Treasurer, Mike Olguin, guest judges the Ignacio Middle School History Day on Thursday, Feb. 12. Cedar Konkol presents his board to judge Olguin, sharing his research.



Photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Orion Watts focused his history project on the Industrial Revolution. Ignacio Middle School students of all grades researched topics of their choice, designed poster boards, and shared their historic knowledge with guest judges in hopes to move on to the regional competition.

The Southwest Civic Winds Presents

Southwest Civic Winds
A SYNCRIC COMMUNITY BAND

Celebrating our 14th Season!

AN AMERICAN OVERTURE

COLORADO/150 USA / 250

Join the celebration of America's 250th anniversary and Colorado in its 150th year of statehood! Performing music that exemplifies America & Colorado, the Southwest Civic Winds presents a family friendly program for all ages. Join us for a very special concert!

Friday, Feb. 27 7:00pm
Ignacio HS Performing Arts Center
Tickets: General Adm. \$20, Students FREE
SouthwestCivicWinds.org/concerts



Jefferson retires from Red Cedar



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Dan Jefferson, his daughter Lyndsey, and members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council gathered for a photo following the presentation of Jefferson's Pendleton. During the event, attendees took time to enjoy breakfast and celebrate all of Jefferson's achievements.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Dan Jefferson retires after 30-plus years of remarkable dedication, the community gathered to celebrate not just Jefferson's career, but the lasting and meaningful legacy he leaves behind. Council members, Marty Pinnecose (left) and Marge Barry (right) wrap an honorary Pendleton blanket around retiree Dan Jefferson (center) on Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Former Growth Fund Executive Director, Bruce Valdez gifts a beaded medallion to Dan Jefferson in honor of his many years of service at Red Cedar Gathering Company. Current Growth Fund Executive Director, Shane Seibel took time to also congratulate Jefferson on this achievement and give well wishes to him before he turns his focus to traveling the world.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Honoree, Dan Jefferson serves up his breakfast plate during the retirement celebration honoring his many years of service to the Red Cedar Gathering Company on Thursday, Feb. 5. Held at the Sky Ute Casino Resort, Jefferson's friends, family, coworkers, and former colleagues gathered to celebrate Jefferson's impact left on the organization.



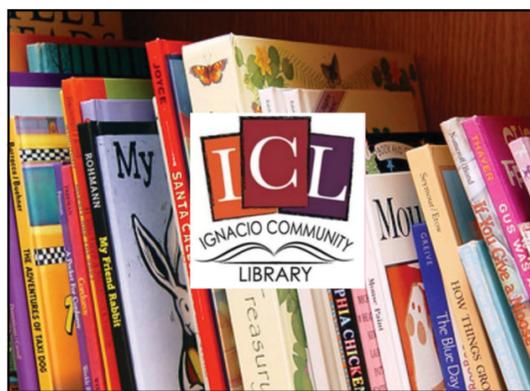
Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Dan Jefferson is pictured alongside his daughter Lyndsey Jefferson and Tribal Council member Marge Barry along with members of the drum group, Yellow Jacket, with whom he spent many years traveling the powwow trail.

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Library as a place to repair

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Another winter morning and you trudge out to the corral to feed the livestock, and you notice the water tank has frozen over. After muttering a few choice words, you wonder, did the breaker get flipped? But after checking, you find the power is fine, but the cord to the heater is damaged. Just great, now what am I going to do? Never fear, the Repair Cafe is here – for you.

The Repair Cafe is a group of volunteers that meets once a month to make simple fixes to a wide variety of devices and clothing, keeping your favorite items working and out of the landfill. To date, we have repaired dozens of items from stock tank heaters and timers to battery-operated toys. Clothing alterations and mending have been very popular, along with help with your cell phone or computer. We can't guarantee that your item can be repaired; but we at least give you an honest assessment of possible outcomes.

Volunteers are the heart of the Repair Cafe, and we can always use more help. If you enjoy helping people and have an interest, we would be delighted to have you join us. Repair skills are helpful but not necessary. We can always use folks to help register items and keep track

of paperwork. There are also opportunities for volunteers to learn repair skills and become part of the repair team. We always have electronic devices that need to be taken apart which can be done by anyone of any age, so you can bring your kids along too. The valuable components are separated and sold to help provide funding for the Repair Cafe. We also accept donations of aluminum cans, brass and copper. We find that almost everyone loves the idea of the Repair Cafe, but we cannot sustain it without the continued support of the community and especially our volunteers.

Colorado's Right to Repair law took effect at the beginning of January. This law expands the rights of consumers and independent repair providers by requiring manufacturers of digital electronic equipment to provide necessary resources for repairs. Hopefully this will give us even more access to

the information we seek to effect successful repairs at the Cafe. Colorado is again leading the nation with these right to repair actions, and Ignacio Community Library is active in the effort to help our patrons reduce cost and keep Colorado green by supporting sustainability.

Repair Cafe is held on the first Saturday of each month starting at 1 p.m. Folks with items to repair should bring them in before 2 p.m. so we have sufficient time to work on them. It is expected that you will stay and be involved with the repair of your item so that you can assist with decisions and possibly learn how to fix it yourself if it becomes necessary. We usually have light snacks and drinks and are always happy to receive help in this area also. The Cafe in the name points to the social aspect of these events – you don't have to have something to repair to join us if you would like to see what's going on.

Elders host Sip, Chat & Chew



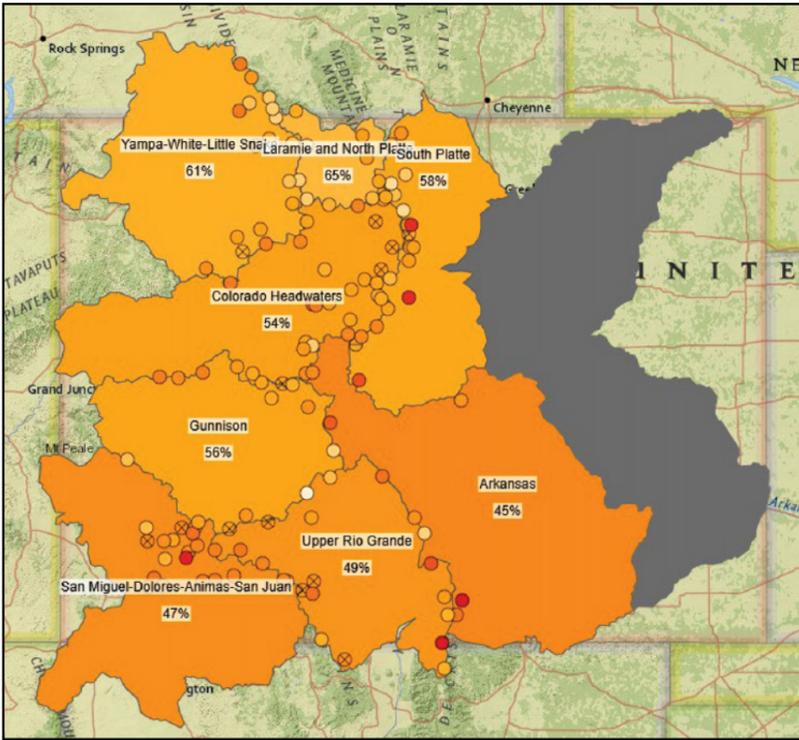
photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Tribal Elders Committee members: Judy Lansing, Byron Frost, Denise Thompson, Nathan StrongElk and Hilda Burch shared a few words before the meal and prayer during the Sip, Chat & Chew, which they hosted on Friday, Jan. 23.

The newest addition to the Tribal Rangers, Donald Area, looked on with anticipation as Multi-Purpose Facility staff, Terena Hight and Marcus Archuleta serve him a plate of food during the Sip, Chat & Chew.



Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, KaiLanii Graham was all smiles as she enjoyed her Mother Shiann Baker-Weaver and Grandmother Dorene Bakers' company.



graph courtesy SU Water Resources Division

Percent of Median SWE for Colorado's watersheds (2/6/2026).

WATER RESOURCES

Southern Ute Water Resources: Drought update

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

This Winter has been below average, so the Water Resources Division (WRD) decided to update the community on current snowpack, drought conditions and weather outlooks. The last Drought Update was published, Oct. 16, 2025.

SNOWPACK

Currently, the San Juan Basin in Southwest Colorado is at 46.5% of the 1991-2020 Median Snow Water Equivalent (SWE). Our basin had a delayed start to Winter as we didn't receive any significant snowpack until late November 2025. All winter our basin has been below normal, but with the lack of precipitation since the holidays, we've dropped well below normal. Figure 2 shows this winter's

SWE trend (black line) compared to the 1991-2020 median (green line) and the trends for the last three winters (2025 blue line, 2024 orange line, and 2023 purple line). Our basin needs a lot of snow to at least reach normal. Figure 2 also shows that there are 56 days until the median snowpack peak. We have approximately two months until peak snowpack, so hopefully February and March will have greater precipitation to at least reach normal. The Weather Outlooks section below will describe what the current weather models are showing for the next couple of months. Water professionals use the term "Water Year" which is Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 to align with the natural hydrologic cycle (Generally including precipitation, accumulation, runoff, infiltration and evapotranspiration). In Water Year 2026 (10/1/2025 to present), the rain gage at

the Water Resources Division (WRD) office has received 6.13 inches of liquid precipitation. Our region received a few snowstorms in November and December of 2025. However, many of you probably remember the big rainstorms we received in mid-October that resulted in significant flooding. Since Water Year 2026 started 10/1/2025, that rainstorm was captured in the current water year which is why the WRD office and surrounding rain gages show such high liquid precipitation records. For comparison, since Jan. 1, 2026, the WRD office rain gage has received 0.62 inches of liquid precipitation.

The October 2025 rainstorms increased reservoir levels a lot. Local reservoirs are currently doing well, which will help the 2026 irrigation season a lot if snow-

Drought page 10

NATURAL RESOURCES

Senators re-intro bipartisan bill to help tribes, access funding for water conservation

Staff report
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR HICKENLOOPER

U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Jerry Moran along with Representatives Brittany Pettersen and Juan Ciscomani reintroduced the bipartisan Water Project Navigators Act. The bill would establish a new program at the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to fund grant navigators who would help states, tribes, and rural communities secure resources for projects that improve water efficiency, reduce water consumption, and enhance ecosystem resilience. "Communities needing the most federal support for their water supply are often the ones who don't get it," Hickenlooper said. "Water project navigators will help get more projects developed, funded, and built for our rural and tribal communities."

Across the West, rivers and streams are threatened by severe drought and persistent wildfire. In western rural and tribal communities, aging infrastructure faces challenges from increasing water demand and changes in hydrology. The Bureau of Reclamation currently has grant programs to help states and local governments with water management challenges such as drought and persistent wildfire, but even with funding available, many rural and tribal communities lack the necessary capacity and resources to apply for and access these federal resources.

Water project navigators would provide the technical assistance these communities need to plan, implement, and secure resources for projects

that improve water efficiency. "Over the past few years, families, farms and communities across Kansas have been impacted by drought," Moran said. "While there are federal resources available to help preserve water, accessing these resources can be a challenge for tribal and rural communities. This legislation will connect these communities with the resources available to them to help combat the impact of droughts."

"Water is life in Colorado, but as federal clean water programs face devastating cuts, rural communities need our support now more than ever," Pettersen said. "Climate change is making droughts more frequent and more severe, and communities shouldn't be left to navigate complex funding processes on their own. The Water Project Navigators Act ensures tribes, rural towns, and local water districts have the support they need to draw down federal dollars, making sure the next generation can grow up in a secure, resilient Colorado."

"In Arizona, water is our most precious resource. As the drought worsens in the West, it is now more important than ever that impacted communities have the necessary tools to secure federal dollars for critical multi-benefit water infrastructure projects," Ciscomani said. "I am proud to have worked with a bipartisan, bicameral group of my colleagues on this legislation that will create a community navigator position through the Bureau of Reclamation to assist our constituents that need it the most in funding their water

conservation efforts." Specifically, this bill would:

- Help communities build capacity to develop and implement multi-benefit water projects.
- Accelerate creation of projects that support a variety of water supply and sustainability goals.
- Prioritize applicants with the most need, including tribes and rural communities.
- Work within eligible entities such as states, tribes, regional local governments, special districts, conservation districts, and non-governmental organizations, tapping into local expertise to maximize federal resources on the ground.

The Navigators Program is inspired by Colorado's Federal Technical Assistance Grants for Colorado Water Projects and the Colorado River District's Water Conservation District's Accelerator Grant Program.

"The Water Project Navigators Act builds on successful efforts in Colorado to provide critical investments in enhancing local capacity that, in turn, will promote the responsible stewardship of water resources for fish and wildlife while enhancing water security," said Alex Funk, Director of Water Resources, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "We applaud Senators Hickenlooper and Moran's leadership in working to reduce barriers facing our rural communities in accessing critical federal resources for water projects that are necessary to address the constant threat of drought and increasing pressure on water supplies in the American West."

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE • FROM PAGE 2

Staying Safe at Home

Experts and environmental agencies recommend the following steps to minimize risks:

- Keep products in original containers with labels intact to avoid misuse or dangerous mixing.
- Store HHW away from heat, children, and pets and separate flammable, corrosive, or reactive products.
- Never mix chemicals, as some combinations can ignite, explode, or release toxic gases.
- Use local hazardous waste collection programs instead of throwing HHW into regular trash or dumping down drains, many communi-

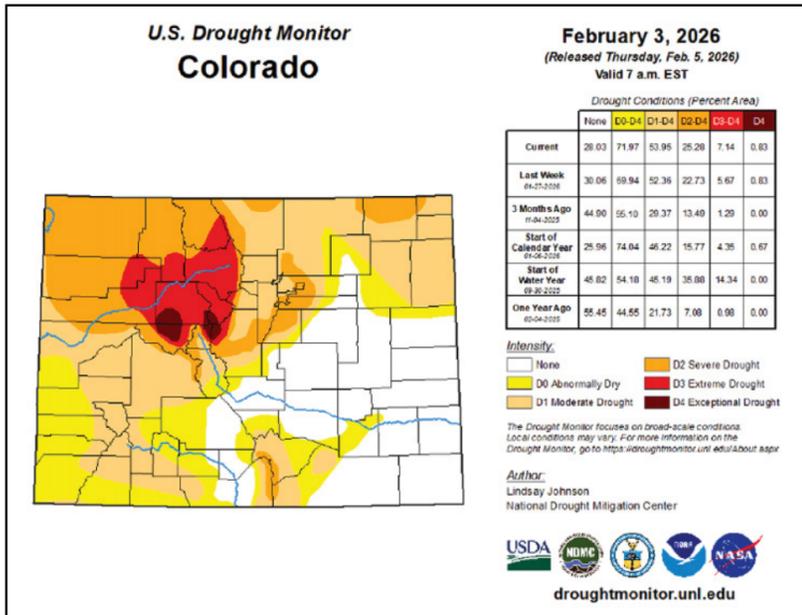
ties offer spring and fall cleanup events to support safe disposal.

- Each spring/fall the Tribe holds a cleanup event to support safe disposal of HHW.
- City of Durango offers an annual HHW collection event each fall. Details can be found on their website at <https://www.durangoco.gov/373/Household-Hazardous-Waste>
- Choose safer alternatives when possible, reducing the amount of hazardous material stored at home is a good way to reduce overall HHW. More information can be found at <https://ecologyactioncenter.org/hhw/hhw-alternatives/>

Understanding what qualifies as household hazardous waste – and how to manage it responsibly – is an important step toward protecting our health, communities, and environment.

By properly storing, using, and disposing of HHW through designated collection programs, households can reduce pollution, prevent accidental exposure, and keep harmful chemicals out of landfills, waterways, and the air we breathe. Small actions at home can make a meaningful difference, helping create safer homes and healthier communities for current and future generations.

Please utilize the Southern Ute spring and fall cleanups to safely dispose of HHWs.



graph courtesy SU Water Resources Division

State of Colorado Drought Monitor.

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

AGRICULTURE DIVISION – HAY FOR SALE!

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

MEDIUM BALES: \$164/BALE #900-1000

Hay is available FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, AFTER FEB. 18.

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



“My message for loved ones of those struggling with addiction is: keep reaching out, even when it feels like no one is listening. Let them know they are loved, they are valued, and you still have hope for them.”

Linda | Loved One
Tribal Council Member

Learn how to support loved ones on their journey to recovery from addiction at LTLSouthernUte.org
(970) 563-5700



LIFT THE LABEL®



COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

Colorado DMV completes major digital upgrade

Modernized platform and customer portal now live

Staff report

COLORADO DEPT. OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is pleased to announce that its major digital transformation is complete. As of today, the myDMV online services and CO MV Express kiosks are fully operational and running on a brand-new, modernized platform, with in-person appointments at state DMV offices set to resume, Wednesday, Feb. 18.

This milestone marks the end of a scheduled transition period and the beginning of a more streamlined, secure, and user-friendly experience for Coloradans. The upgrade replaces outdated technology with a robust system that simplifies how residents manage their driver and vehicle needs. “We are incredibly excited for residents to experience this modern, secure, and user-friendly system,” Colorado DMV Senior Director Electra Bustle said. “This represents more than just a technological change; it’s a major step forward in our commitment to providing Coloradans with the efficient and accessible service they deserve.”

The most visible change for Coloradans is the overhauled myDMV platform,



with easier navigation and a logged-in customer portal, improving the customer experience significantly. Customers will see a comprehensive front-page display of all driver and motor vehicle service options, with the ability to access services not featured on the front page via the site’s search functionality.

The new secure myDMV customer portal lets users create a unique login to enroll in renewal reminders and securely interact with the DMV. Customers can easily view details specific to their account, such as license expiration and renewal status.

Backed by the latest cybersecurity measures, the portal ensures secure interactions, especially for high-risk actions such as address changes or driver record requests, providing Coloradans with greater control and protection of their accounts.

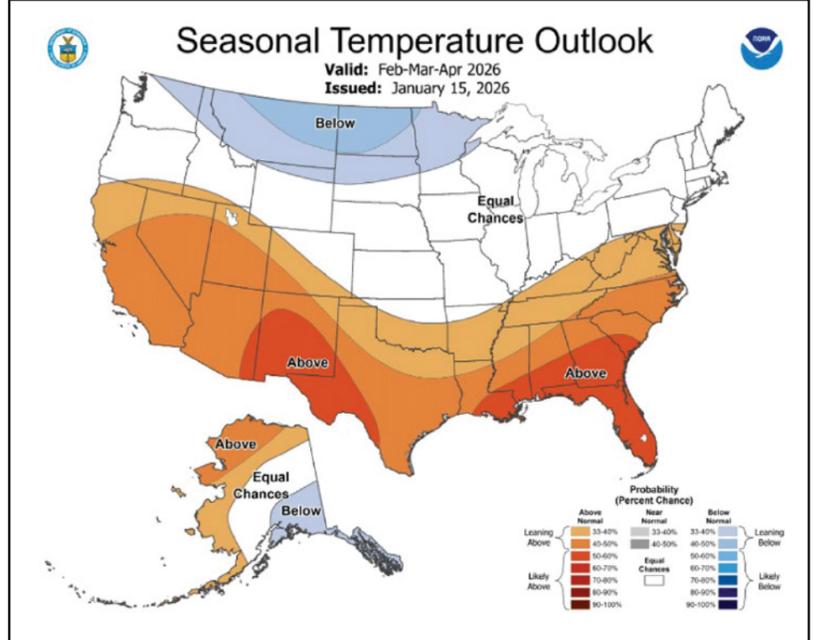
“This upgrade is criti-

cal,” Bustle added. “The new platform allows for enhanced cybersecurity, simpler maintenance, and significant improvements to customer experience and accessibility. We are thrilled to move away from obsolete technology to a modern platform that will deliver superior service for years to come.”

Residents planning to visit a county-run location for vehicle registration are still encouraged to check their local County Clerk & Recorder websites for specific office availability, as individual counties manage their own post-upgrade schedules.

The DMV thanks the public and agency partners for their patience during the brief transition period required to launch this vital technology. To learn more about the new system and how to create a secure account, please visit dmv.colorado.gov/mydmv.

DROUGHT UPDATE • FROM PAGE 8



graph courtesy SU Water Resources Division

U.S. temperature outlook through April 2026.

pack doesn’t significantly improve. Vallecito is currently 84% full, and Lemon is currently 70% full, which are great water levels for this time of year.

DROUGHT

Most of western Colorado is in some level of drought including the southwestern part of the state which has drought conditions ranging from Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought. The Southern Ute Reservation currently has Abnormally Dry conditions with a very small amount of Moderate Drought in the NE and SW corners. The U.S. Drought Outlook shows southwest Colorado drought persisting and further development likely from now until April.

The ENSO Neutral conditions do seem to be increasing each month with El Niño conditions being most probable over the summer months, so hopefully conditions and weather patterns will change soon, and we will receive some much-needed precipitation throughout the year. In past ENSO probability forecasts, the blue bars (La Niña) have been the highest over the last few years. In the current forecast, the blue bars are the lowest so maybe we will have a change in weather patterns this year, but only time will tell.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

The outlooks for February to April 2026 show southwest Colorado experiencing

below average precipitation with above average temperatures. If the models are accurate, the remainder of Winter could stay below average, but keep in mind things can change. NOAA’s previous seven-day forecast predicted the recent precipitation in our region, which will certainly boost snowpack in the mountains. Snow in the mid and low elevations would be great, but right now any precipitation below 10,000 feet is welcome.

The Water Resources Division will keep track of drought conditions and forecasts and update the Task Force when major changes occur. If you’d like more information, feel free to reach out to George Gavrielides, Water Resources Specialist, at 970-563-2932.

7-7

RETRO FUN WITH BIG REWARDS!

KEEP ON TRUCKIN' TO THE \$500 JACKPOT!

SUNDAYS, MONDAYS, & TUESDAYS | ALL DAY

Spin your favorite penny slots and you could snag a surprise cash drop from \$250 – \$500. No combos, no stress — just be playing when the moment hits. Watch the jackpot climb on the card reader or casino signs... it’s guaranteed to drop before \$500.

VINTAGE VIBES, MODERN WINS.

THURSDAYS | 1PM – 8PM

Use your Ace’s Club card starting Thursday, March 5 at 12AM and once you’ve earned 72 points, you’ll be eligible to play the Old School Sky Ute Loot 3-reel kiosk game! Give the game a spin for your chance to win up to \$110 in Sky Ute Loot. Prizes are awarded directly to your account.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR ROOTS.

SATURDAYS | 11AM – 6PM

This month, we’re honoring Pino Nuche Pu-rá-sa’s legacy by bringing the vintage spirit of ‘72 back to the floor. If you’re caught in a hot seat, you’ll have four minutes to get to the Ace’s Club to choose from seven specially marked envelopes. Every pick is a winner!

LET THE THUNDER ROLL TO \$1,984!

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 7PM – 11PM

Every hour, we’ll draw one Ace’s Club member actively playing the slots to choose a bison from our herd to reveal their reward: from \$175 up to \$500 cash. Pick the special bison, Rolling Thunder, and you’ll instantly win \$1,984 cash!

YOUR LUCK IS ON A ROLL!

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 4PM – 10PM

Play at any slot machine from 4PM – 10PM and every hour, one lucky name will be drawn. If you’re called, you’ll have four minutes to reach the Ace’s Club and claim your roll! Roll two giant dice and we’ll multiply the total by \$50. If you land on doubles, we’ll double your prize!



MPF hosts 'Sweetheart Powwow'



Henry Whiteskunk II carries the Native Staff leading the Grand Entry at the Valentine's Day powwow.



Smiles were contagious at the Valentine's Day event, LeAnn Wesley and her son couldn't hide their enjoyment!



A tough decision was made after winning a cake during the event held at the Multi-Purpose Facility.



Lead singer of Catching Eagle, Reggie Lopez took a break to pose with his father Norman Lopez alongside family and singers.

In celebration of the Valentine's Day holiday, a Sweetheart Powwow was held on Saturday, Feb. 14 at the Multi-Purpose Facility. The event featured a potluck style dinner, gourd dance, cake walk and some Native two-step! The day-long event started with Head Gourd Dancer, Delvin Bennett leading off the gourd dance in the afternoon; followed by a powwow later in the evening. Additional Head Staff included Master of Ceremonies Mikko Wesley, and arena director Kenny Brown Sr. Hosting Drums, Cruisin' South and Catching Eagle provided the songs while Head Man Dancer, Phillip Moosomin and Head Lady Dancer, Debra Tsosie Moosomin lead the intertribal dancing.

Photos by Conrad Thompson
The Southern Ute Drum



Native two-step dancers enjoyed themselves, while showing off their moves during the two-step on Saturday!



Head Lady Dancer, Debra Tsosie Moosomin and Head Man Dancer, Phillip Moosomin pictured during the Grand Entry.



After the dance was over, Kenny Brown Sr. beamed with pride when his son Tristan Brown got up and spoke on himself and his dance partner as the winners of the Native two-step contest during Saturday's community event.



Southern Ute Veteran, Rudley Weaver accepts a giveaway item from Head Gourd Dancer, Delvin Bennett during the afternoon session.



DURANGO ARTS CENTER

Rachel Garlin's original show sheds light on queer history

One-night benefit, Saturday, March 1

Staff report
DURANGO ARTS CENTER

Join us for The Ballad of Madelyne & Therese – singer-songwriter Rachel Garlin's newest piece for the stage. With recent showings in NYC and San Francisco, Garlin's new work is coming to Colorado for a one-night benefit at the Durango Arts Center. The piece will be presented by Garlin and her live band on March 1, at 7 p.m., with doors at 6:30 p.m. Tickets (\$20-30) are available for advance reservation.

All proceeds to benefit the Armida Huerta Adventure Fund. The performance will run approximately 90 minutes.

Part concert, part one-person play, The Ballad features original songs and intimate storytelling as Gar-

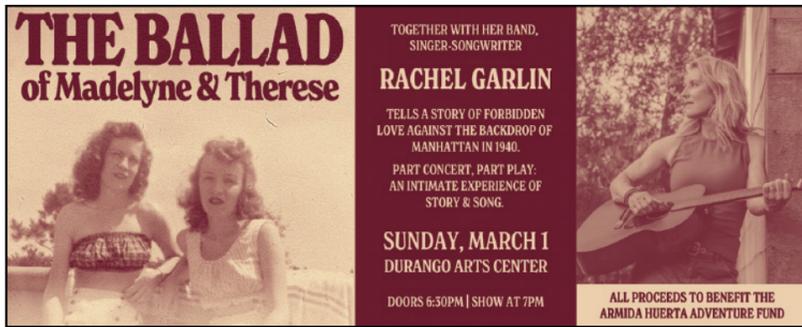
lin explores what happens when queer desire collides with 1940s conventions in the lives of characters Madelyne and Therese.

Garlin will be joined on stage by Mai Bloomfield, a Los Angeles-based cellist and singer-songwriter, as well as local musicians Jim Belcher on bass, Patrick Dressen on guitar and David Sachs on drums.

Rachel Garlin (Writer & Lead Performer) is a singer and songwriter who has been making music professionally for more than twenty years. Garlin has toured internationally, released nine independent albums, and been hailed by critics at the San Francisco Chronicle, Americana Highways, and Country Queer. She lives in San Francisco with her wife and kids.

The Armida Huerta Adventure Fund is a Mancos-based non-profit dedicated to increasing access to outdoor adventures for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC individuals. The fund was created in honor of Armida Huerta, who passed away in 2024. Armida led a life of adventure, was a gifted athlete, and worked at Alpaca Raft for 10 years.

The Durango Arts Center is a nonprofit visual and performing arts organization located in Durango, Colo. We enrich the community through innovative visual arts exhibits, live performing arts shows, and youth/adult arts education. Our goal is to advance appreciation and participation in the arts while promoting the amazing talents of local artists and performers.



THE BALLAD of Madelyne & Therese

TOGETHER WITH HER BAND, SINGER-SONGWRITER
RACHEL GARLIN

TELLS A STORY OF FORBIDDEN LOVE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF MANHATTAN IN 1940.

PART CONCERT, PART PLAY: AN INTIMATE EXPERIENCE OF STORY & SONG.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
DURANGO ARTS CENTER

DOORS 6:30PM | SHOW AT 7PM

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ARMIDA HUERTA ADVENTURE FUND



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Southern Ute Economic Development invites you to our

Spring Craft Fair & Market

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

Sky Ute Casino

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



IGNACIO COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2026
10:00AM
SUNUTE PARK
(FIELDS BEHIND COMMUNITY CENTER)

AGES CATEGORIES
0-5 YEARS 6-9 YEARS 10-14 YEARS

STOP BY THE WRISTBAND BOOTH FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GRAND PRIZE

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Southern Ute Elder Services
February Activities List

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.



FORT LEWIS COLLEGE COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL

REFLECTION Performing Arts Series

International Guitar Night XXVI: World on a String

Thursday, February 26 | 7:30pm

North America's longest-running mobile guitar festival, with THU LE heading an all-star lineup: LUCAS IMBIRIBA, ALEXANDR MISKO and TAIMANE.

\$35, \$40, \$45

970-247-7657 | DurangoConcerts.com
Official Ticketing Source for Community Concert Hall



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Kodi Mae Rima works to turn Nucla's Cooper Andrews onto her back during one of the four girls' bouts held at the 2026 San Juan Basin League Championships, Feb. 5 inside NHS Gymnasium. Rima won via pin, but her season then ended at the Class 4A-Region III Championships on the 14th, when she finished fifth (the top four advanced to State) at 130 pounds.

BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING

Four Lady 'Cats Denver-destined

IHS girls fifth at North Fork regional

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

When boys' basketball head coach Trae Seibel, amongst others, advocated for the return of the numerous red and/or white tapestries commemorating titles of various degrees in all sports to IHS Gymnasium's ceiling, he didn't get to see all the originals ultimately re-hung over the hardwood floor.

Three of those redesigned, however, detail IHS Wrestling's placers at State Championships past.

And senior Larissa Espinosa can this year become the first Lady Bobcat to have her name up three times – after clinching yet another State berth by winning the 235-pound division at the Class 4A-Region III Championships, February 13-14 at North Fork High School in Hotchkiss.

Espinosa needed just 1:01 to subdue Olathe's Zayla Lawrence and earn the title – helping Ignacio's girls more than hold their own and post a fifth-place score of 94 points. OHS, however, piled up a winning 155, with Meeker (114), NFHS (108.5) and Alamosa (97.5) also finishing above the Lady Bobcats in the meet's 19-team standings.

IHS' Krysten Neil continued adding to her own memorable senior season and will also next travel to Ball Arena in Denver for the February 19-21 grand finale after earning the regional's 135-pound crown. After receiving a first-round bye she then pinned AHS' Adrianna Griego 53 seconds into the second period, defeated Gunnison's McKayla Singer by 11-2 major decision and ultimately pinned Gypsum Eagle Valley's Julia Borejszo – who'd led 3-2 on the score-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Laine Bradley gives Nucla's Kynnie McCabe a literal lift while attempting a takedown during one of the four girls' bouts held at the 2026 San Juan Basin League Championships, Feb. 5 inside NHS Gymnasium. Having already pinned NHS' Cooper Andrews earlier in the evening, Bradley would also pin McCabe in her last competition tune-up before the 2/13-14 Class 4A-Region III Championships – at which she clinched a State berth at 125 pounds by placing second.

board – with ten ticks left in the first period.

Competing at 125, junior Laine Bradley reserved herself a State spot by going 2-1 and placing second to Olathe's Nevaeh Cortez – who'd led 7-0 before pinning Bradley 1:35 into the finale's second period. Freshman Ireland Cates, however, surprised Ignacio's staff most by securing fourth place – and thus a State berth – at 140.

Following a first-round forfeit win over OHS' Tairyn Lowenberg, Cates then lost to EVHS' Nora Abbott via second-period pin (rather than via technical fall; Abbott was leading 14-0 at the time) but then recomposed herself to not only go up 3-0 on North Fork's Danika Queen, but pin Queen in an elapsed 2:39 and take the most important bout to date in her young IHS career.

Two more Lady 'Cats but both Kodi Mae Rima

and Eliska Prokopova ended up placing fifth in their respective divisions.

Foreign-exchange student-athlete Prokopova actually won her final actual bout in an Ignacio singlet, defeating NFHS' Kenleigh Keller 12-8 at 145, but upcoming opponent Ellie Ford of Meeker, who'd pinned Prokopova in the weight's opening round, was then awarded a no-contest victory with fourth place at stake – leaving Prokopova with, effectively, a 2-3 tourney record.

In the mix at 130 pounds, Rima's first IHS Girls' Wrestling winter ended in much the same manner; she overcame a one-point deficit against Olathe's Azure Wallace to pin the Lady Pirate in an elapsed 3:46 and improve her Region III record to 2-2 before a no-contest loss to Gunnison's Tea Waggoner – who'd pinned Rima in the second period of Rima's previous bout – left Rima on the proverbial outside looking in.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aven Bourriague tries pinning Norwood's J.D. Johnson during the 2026 San Juan Basin League Championships, Feb. 5 in Nucla. Bourriague ended up winning the SJBL's 113-pound title by 18-5 major decision and then secured himself a trip to the CHSAA State Championships in Denver by ruling the weight at the 2A-Region I meet on the 14th in Cedaredge.

BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING

Five 'Cats are State Wrestling-bound in Denver

Boys' senior core qualifies in Cedaredge

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

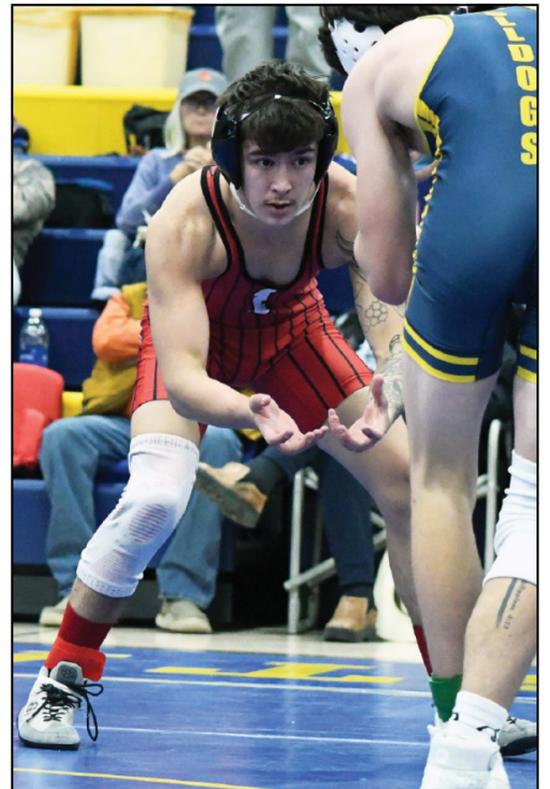
A weekend in Delta County couldn't really have gone too much more efficiently for IHS Boys' Wrestling.

And after all the 'blood rounds' at the Cedaredge-hosted Class 2A-Region I Championships played out Saturday afternoon, Feb. 14, an impressive five of six entered individuals had earned the right to represent Ignacio at the 2026 CHSAA State Championships – to be held February 19-21 in Denver at Ball Arena.

"It went great for us," head coach Jordan Larsen said. "We had a good couple days."

Senior Lincoln deKay continued his push for a State crown by placing first at 165 pounds. He first dominated Wray's Osmany Roman by 15-0 technical fall in the bout's opening two-minute period, then did likewise to Meeker's Orion Mussler in an elapsed 3:44 before clinching the tourney title with a 7-0 victory over WGHS' Walker Howell.

IHS senior Aven Bour-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Joshua Kerrigan looks for an opening to attack Dove Creek's Conner Horn-Beanland during the 2026 San Juan Basin League Championships, Feb. 5 in Nucla. Kerrigan lost the SJBL's 126-pound title to Horn-Beanland but, via his second-place finish at the 2A-Region I meet on the 14th in Cedaredge, advanced to the CHSAA State Championships in Denver.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Zane Pontine, right, looks to sweep a leg out from underneath Dolores' River Wickstrom during the 2026 San Juan Basin League Championships, Feb. 5 in Nucla. Pontine won the SJBL's 157-pound title, then placed second at the 2A-Region I meet on the 14th in Cedaredge to advance to the CHSAA State Championships in Denver.

riague established himself as a serious State contender by going 3-0 at 113. Wray's Isayah Rivera stood no chance and lost via 15-0 tech in just 1:58, and Hayden's Is-

rael Perez lost via 8-0 major decision before Bourriague completed his first-place work defeating Cedaredge's Jared Roberts 11-6.

Senior Zane Pontine will

also rep Ignacio one last time at State; though denied first place at 157 pounds by WGHS' Landon Lockhart, who prevailed 11-6, Pontine still went 3-1 in Cedaredge with a first-round 17-0 tech of Olathe's Bridger Vincent, then first-period pins of Oak Creek Soroco's Ryder Smith and Hayden's Noah Weber.

Additionally, senior Joshua Kerrigan will head to the Mile High City after finishing second at 126. Pinned 26 ticks into the second period by CHS' Liam Martin in the weight's finale, Kerrigan ended up 3-1 including a 51-second pin of initial opponent Ethan Noll of Hayden, plus a 7-4 triumph over semifinal foe and San Juan Basin League rival Conner Horn-Beanland (who'd beaten Kerrigan on the 5th at the Nucla-hosted 2026 SJBL Championships)

Five 'Cats page 20

ATTENTION PATRONS

STARTING FEBRUARY 1ST, THE POOL HOURS ARE CHANGING

MONDAY - FRIDAY :

ENTIRE POOL AREA CLOSED 1PM-3PM

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS :

ENTIRE POOL AREA OPENS AT 8AM

MONDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY :

POOL WILL CLOSE AT 5PM, BUT THE HOT TUB & SAUNA

WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 6:45PM

** 10 PATRON MAX IN HOT TUB **

WE GREATLY APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE,
SUNUTE STAFF



2026 SJBL Championships (2/5)
Boys' Team Standings

1. Norwood 56.5, 2. Dolores 46.5, 3. IGNACIO 44.5, 4. Dove Creek 20.5, 5. Mancos 10.5, 6. Nucla 5.

CHAMPIONS: 106 – Keaton Banks, Dove Creek; 113 – AVEN BOURRIAGUE, IGNACIO; 120 – Adam Hicks, Dolores; 126 – Conner Horn-Beanland, Dove Creek; 132 – Kenji Edwards, Dolores; 138 – Cael Beanland, Dove Creek; 144 – DILLON BRANN, IGNACIO; 150 – Jackson Dinsmore, Norwood; 157 – ZANE PONTINE, IGNACIO; 165 – LINCOLN DEKAY, IGNACIO; 175 – Colton Kepley, Norwood; 190 – MOISE GROGNARD, IGNACIO; 215 – Kannon Sherman, Norwood; 285 – Uriah Cook, Norwood.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Justina Jessepe attempts a three-point shot over Bayfield's Kielely White Thunder (4) during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Thursday evening, Feb. 12, inside BHS Gymnasium.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's William Mendoza-Lechuga sneaks in behind Centauri's Dallyn King (10) to challenge Jayse Maestas (2) for possession during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Friday evening, Feb. 13, inside IHS Gymnasium.

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady 'Cats bested at home by birds

Centauri girls flock, rock IHS by 33

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Ignacio sophomore center/forward Veronica Brown won the initial tip.

Junior Rylie McCarroll and visiting Centauri – ranked No. 4 in Class 3A – won just about everything else Friday afternoon, February 13, inside IHS Gymnasium and denied the Lady Bobcats a chance to fully follow up their victorious effort the previous evening by dealing Ignacio a 58-25 loss before most would-be attendees' work days had concluded.

After Brown gained IHS the 3A/4A Intermountain League contest's first possession (at roughly 2:45 p.m., rather than the typical 5:30 or so), which yielded no points, La Jara-based CHS then went on a freakishly-fast 10-0 run – featuring three layups by sopho-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aubree Lucero (44) considers picking up her dribble upon seeing Centauri's Lyndie Sowards (12) closing in Friday afternoon, Feb. 13, during 3A/4A Intermountain League play inside IHS Gymnasium.

more Paityn Sowards, with the last coming after she intercepted a pass meant for Ignacio senior Juliann Avila, who was kneeling to re-tie one of her shoes.

In something of a comic coincidence Sowards had to do likewise mere seconds later – but wisely did so during a dead-ball pause.

Avila, fittingly, then got the Lady 'Cats on the scoreboard with a jumper assisted by junior forward Aubree Lucero, but Sowards answered with two more close-range conversions – as did McCarroll and sophomore Lyndie Sowards,

Lady 'Cats page 20

BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

Falcons bring down Bobcats, 50-33

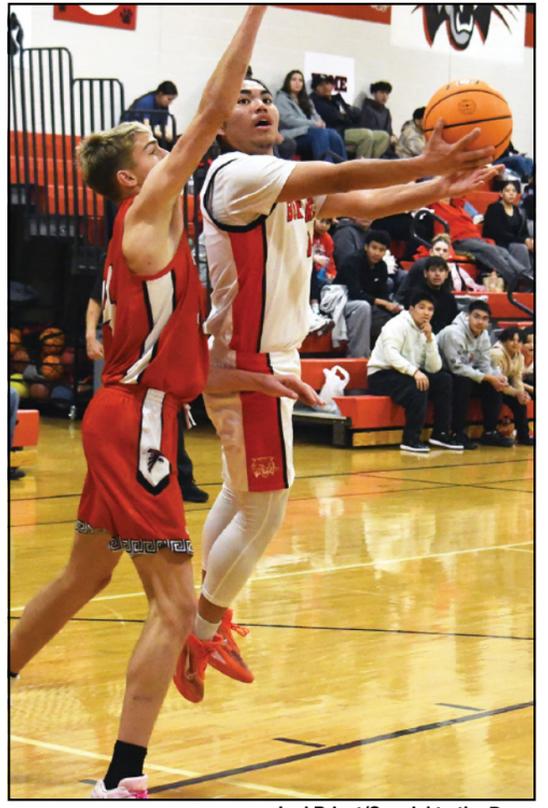
IHS boys nearly erase early deficit

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Burned almost immediately from beyond the three-point perimeter not 24 hours before at local 3A/4A Intermountain League rival Bayfield, Ignacio's boys were presented with the same problem Friday evening, Feb. 13, when Centauri junior guard Keadon McGinnis connected not once or twice, but three times from downtown in helping the guests race out to a 13-0 lead inside IHS Gymnasium.

Three minutes, 26 seconds still remained in the first quarter when head coach Trae Seibel used a timeout following McGinnis' third triple (three BHS players had combined for four during the previous night's opening eight minutes), but whereas the Bobcats had buckled inside BHS Gymnasium under the pressure of an early 18-2 deficit, they suddenly sprang into action upon their home court.

Senior guard Sonny Flores got Ignacio on the scoreboard with a three, and after the Falcons' lead regrew to 15-5, IHS' comeback truly commenced behind two inside baskets by senior forward/center Trace Crane, plus a trey by sophomore guard Joseph Atencio. Down 15-10 after the first



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Sonny Flores (1) angles himself just enough away from a Centauri defender to attempt a mid-air scoop shot during 3A/4A Intermountain League play Friday evening, Feb. 13, inside IHS Gymnasium.

frame, the 'Cats crept back to 18-15 via Crane's 'and-one' conversion – resulting from being fouled by CHS senior Sean Jarvies while willing in a two-pointer – with 5:46 left until halftime. And though unable to gain the upper hand, Ignacio continued

working and, after senior forward Rance Rathjen's free throw made with 0:25 left, remained just three points back, 22-19, at the break.

IHS then clawed back to only a single point early in

Falcons page 20

GoodTracks qualifies for State



photos courtesy Stephanie GoodTracks

Sakarii GoodTracks stands with her first-place trophy in Olathe, Colo. GoodTracks placed 1st in the 10-11 girls Division, shooting 16 of 25 made free throws. She participated in a shoot-out because of a tie. Out of the five free throws in the shoot-out, she went 3 for 5, beating her opponent by one free throw! That one free throw sends her to Salida, Colo. for the State portion of the contest that will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21. Good luck at State Sakarii!

Win or lose, Sakarii GoodTracks and Christian Cosio are all smiles at the Elk Hoop Shoot Contest. Sakarii GoodTracks, a Southern Ute tribal member, and Christian Cosio, attended Districts for the Elk Hoop Shoot Contest in Olathe, Colo., Saturday, Feb. 7. Cosio was in the 12-13 Boys Division with students from the Four Corners, Montrose and Grand Junction areas. Cosio made 16 out of 25 free throws, just missing out on the shoot out for the first-place spot by one free throw. Regardless we are still proud of you Christian!



BASKETBALL

March Madness

BASKETBALL

League

RECREATION

SPORTS FOR LIFE

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

EST. 2001

MEN AND WOMEN

MARCH 23, 2026

PER TEAM | START TIME

\$ 375 | 6 PM

MONDAYS: MEN

WEDNESDAYS: WOMEN

8 Player Roster

SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

For more information: (970) 563-2667

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 18TH @ 5PM



Tribe gains new enrollee



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Laylani Toledo and her mom Marisa Carmenoros gather with Southern Ute Tribal Council on Tuesday, following the announcement and presentation of Toledo's enrollment.



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe welcomed a new enrollee on Tuesday, Feb. 10 in the Tribal Council Chambers. Laylani Toledo and her mother Marisa Carmenoros gathered to meet members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council and celebrate Toledo's enrollment.

Early morning lights



courtesy Jess Badwin/SU Clean Team

In the first hours of dawn, the moon can be seen winking slyly behind the glowing promenade on Tribal Campus, Thursday, Feb. 12, a moment that long time tribal employee, Jess Baidwan felt compelled capture. Baidwan is the Environmental Services Division Head, overseeing the Southern Ute Clean Team.



NEW EMPLOYEES



Bryan Boyett

Job title: Lands Division, Permits & ROW Specialist
Job duties: Reviews, prepares and presents documents related to land use & ROW to the Tribal Council. Coordinate and participate in field on-site assessments, manage crossing permits and crossing permit database for the division. Prepare and process ROW documentation, surface leases and other land use agreements within the Code of Federal Regulations, Tribal Codes, and regulations.
Hobbies: Spending time outdoors, hunting and fishing – I also enjoy cooking and spending time with close friends and family when I get the chance.
Family: I am a father of two beautiful daughters who are 15 and 17 years old, and I am extremely proud of them. They are my whole world.
Additional comments: I have really enjoyed working here so far and have come to feel at home here, with the Lands Division team. I look forward to working with the community and our customers for many years to come.



Julia Keefe Indigenous Jazz Ensemble

Wednesday, March 4 | 7:30pm

Julia Keefe (Nez Perce) is an internationally acclaimed Native American jazz vocalist, actor, activist, and educator currently based in New York City. Her professional career has spanned over 18 years and she has headlined marquee events at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C., and National Museum of the American Indian, New York.



970-247-7657 | DurangoConcerts.com
 Official Ticketing Source for Community Concert Hall

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Mar. 6

Deadline:
Feb. 27

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

Correction

An incorrect photo was published in the Feb. 6 issue of the Drum, from the Seminole Powwow, the correct photo and corresponding outline are at right.

In a notice published in the Feb. 6 issue of the Drum, the date for the 2026 Southern Ute Sun Dance was incorrect, the dates are scheduled for July 30 – Aug. 3, 2026.



Malia White Thunder (left) placed 2nd in the Junior Girls Jingle category and Shayne White Thunder placed 1st in the Junior Girls Traditional category.



THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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



SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years
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PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

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So. Ute Committee of Elders (COE)

Seeking tribal elders to be a part of COE.

Open Positions:

One - 2 year position

Two - 3 year position

If you are interested please submit a letter of intent to Tribal Council.

Thank you,
COE Chairman Byron Frost
970.946.4061

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Boards, Committees and Commissions Vacancies

APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Open until filled - The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) and Apprentice Program Committee has one (1) vacancy. The Committee shall include 5 members which shall be appointed by Tribal Council. The Committee shall include employees of the Permanent Fund who have a level of expertise and familiarity with the goal of Tribal member mentoring and employment in order to make a positive contribution to both the Committee and to the objectives of the Program. A majority of the Committee shall be Tribal members. The Permanent Fund Apprenticeship Committee (Committee) shall be appointed to administer the Apprenticeship Program (Program) which provides higher education, training, on-the job experience, and mentoring to eligible Tribal members employed in the Permanent Fund. All interested Southern Ute tribal members, currently employed with the Tribe, who would like to serve on this committee are urged to submit a letter of intent to the Human Resources Department at PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137, or in person at the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building.

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

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.

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 bleclair@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:



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
kleclair@southernute-nsn.gov
(970)563-0235



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

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.



Notice of Proposed Amendments to Title 8 – Protective Custody Code & Request for Public Comments

The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is seeking comments on proposed amendments to Title 8 - Protective Custody Code. A copy of the code with amendments can be found at: <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 amendments to the code. The link will direct you to a draft of the amended code, a summary of changes, and a comment form. Use the form on the website to provide comments. Written comments must be received no later than March 23, 2026.

You can provide comments using any of the following methods:

Notice of Proposed Codes website: Go to: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/proposed-southern-ute-tribal-code/>. Scroll to "Protective Custody Code" and click the link that says "Provide comments HERE."

1. Email: Send comments to: jkeyes@southernute-nsn.gov.
2. Mail: Send comments to: Shannon Eastwood, Tribal Services, 116 Capote Drive, PO Box 737, #47, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137.
3. Hand delivery: Take comments to the Mouache-Capote Building, 116 Capote Drive, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Tribal holidays.
4. Phone: (970)-563-2324

Town Hall Meetings: There will be two town hall meetings to provide information about the proposed amendments and allow opportunities to ask questions and provide input on the proposed amendments. Food will be provided.

The Town hall meetings are scheduled on the following dates and times:

- March 5, 2026, at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum (503 Ouray Dr., Ignacio, CO, 81137) from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
- March 11, 2026, at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum (503 Ouray Dr., Ignacio, CO, 81137) from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

For further information please contact: Shannon Eastwood, Tribal Services Director, 116 Capote Drive, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137; telephone 970-563-2324.

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 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 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 Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 02/01/26

FEBRUARY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

<div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;"> TRANSFER STATION 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY <small>TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY</small> </div> <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> The February Bulletin </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> PAYMENT OPTIONS </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;"> OFFICE HOURS </div> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Monday—Friday 8 AM to 5 PM Lobby closed 12p—1p on Fridays</p> <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> Reach a staff member at (970) 563-5500 </div> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Utilities Division Manager, Julian Baker AP/AR Manager, Wahleah Frost</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">The Hidden Cost of WATER LEAKS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">How much water is wasted by leaks?</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">14% of the average household's water use is lost to leaks</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">The Toilet Is the #1 source of leaks in the home</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">The United States wastes 1,000,000,000,000 One trillion gallons of water per year</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">FIXING LEAKS MAKES "CENTS"</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Owners of multi family properties can save 10-20% on water bills</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">h2odegree.com</p> </div>
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UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

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

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 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 to 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

Head Cook

Closes 2/24/26 – Under general supervision of the Food Service Manager; prepares meals for the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$21.48/hour.

HVAC Technician

Closes 2/26/26 – Provides maintenance support, troubleshooting, and preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems including machinery, boilers, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, steam humidifiers, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers, and variable volume systems located in Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N15; Pay is \$35.96/hour.

Ranger Captain

Closes 2/20/26 – Under general supervision of the Director of Justice & Regulatory, performs a variety of administrative and field supervisory functions over the Natural Resource Enforcement Division comprising the Southern Ute Tribal Rangers and Animal Control Program in accordance with all applicable Tribal, State, and Federal laws, rules, and regulations. Will train and mentor a Southern Ute Tribal member to assume the Ranger Captain position and displace the incumbent. The training and mentorship should be completed within 2 to 3 years but can be shortened or extended, as necessary. Pay grade E18; Pay is \$105,983.00/annually.

Special Needs Aide

Closes 2/26/26 – Assists Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy disabled and special needs students with educational, physical, emotional, and social growth and development under direction of a certified guide or specialist. Assists with life skills, academic success, and meeting IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/hour.

Special Needs Aide (Part time)

Closes 2/24/26 – Assists Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy disabled and special needs students with educational, physical, emotional, and social growth and development under direction of a certified guide or specialist. Assists with life skills, academic success, and meeting IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/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.

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.

Construction Services Repairman

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

Detention Cook

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

Detention Division Head

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

Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of

the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Will be responsible for transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N14; Pay starts at \$32.69/hour.

Dispatcher

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

Early Childhood Teacher

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

Field Technician

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

Gaming Investigator I

Open Until Filled – An entry level position located under the Southern Ute Division of Gaming (DOG). Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, incumbent works in coordination with other DOG Investigators to learn and perform Law Enforcement / Regulatory duties for the enforcement of Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$32.69/hour.

Gaming Investigator I Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Gaming Investigator II

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

Land Surveyor

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

Lands Compliance Technician

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

Lands Technician

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

Lifeguard (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N5; Pay is \$15.79/four.

Medical Assistant (Part-time)

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

Coming Spring 2026

*60 Units * Pets Welcome * Balconies *

* 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms * Patio & Grill Area *

* Community Lounge * Fitness Center *



For More Information Contact

Kathleen Castellot
970-563-2325



172 Buckskin Charlie Rd, Ignacio, CO 81137 kcastellot@southernute-nsn.gov

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

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

JOIN US

(970)-563-4750

southernute-nsn.gov/careers



Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Patrol Officer Trainee

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon completion of the required trainings and certifications, incumbent will assume the position of Patrol Officer. Pay grade N12; Salary is \$27.56/hour.

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 (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. Based on a regular work year (261 days). The Apprentice will start 20% below the grade for the Middle School Teacher and will receive quarterly evaluation and pay increases. The starting pay rate is \$26.15/hour. The duration of this program is designed to last 12 months and may be extended or reduced as appropriate. Upon successful completion of the apprentice curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the position of Public Education Middle School Teacher.

Public Health Nurse

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

Suicide & Substance Use Prevention Coordinator

Open Until Filled – Coordination of suicide and substance use prevention programming. Incumbent will work in close coordination with the Behavioral Health staff and Manager to complete community needs assessments and administer the program in accordance with associated Grant requirements. Pay grade E13; Pay is \$63,064/

annually.

Swimming Instructor (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the SunUte aquatics facility. Preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$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. This is for both part-time and full-time temporary positions.

TERO Worker

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

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Water Quality Program Manager

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



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.

***Count Team Staff (Full-time)**

The Count Department retrieves, counts, and calculates the daily revenue produced by the gaming revenue departments. It is the job of the Count Team to pull the containers, and count or verify the funds according to the regulatory requirements and procedures set by the Southern Ute Division of Gaming's Internal Control Minimum Procedures and the Sky Ute Casino Resort.

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

Cleanliness of the entire Kitchen as instructed by the Facilities Manager and/or Supervisor. The Deep Cleaning Staff will clean Food and Beverage facilities and equipment.

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

Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for overseeing the Marketing Manager and the Guest Services Manager as well as the overall operations of the Marketing Department including 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.

***Project Cleaner (Full-time)**

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other assigned areas. Responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor, in Laundry, and as a Room Attendant to further assist the housekeeping department when needed and as assigned. Reports directly to the Housekeeping Department and will be assigned to take on specific projects as assigned.

Rolling Thunder Grill Cashier (Part-time)

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Automation Specialist- Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 2/27/26 – Lead automation position, assisting with assessments and making recommendations on daily automation tasks based on economics and efficiencies while remaining in compliance with Red Willow Production Company's priorities and procedures. May direct the work of contractors and assist with providing direction to lower-level Automation team members.

Automation Engineering Specialist – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 2/27/26 – Responsible for instrumentation, controls, and electrical power systems

maintenance, repairs, upgrades, and design while working collaboratively with the Engineering team. Performs work in office with field work including, but not limited to, well sites, field compression and water disposal facilities.

Contract and Insurance Manager – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 3/13/26 – Managing all contractor issues related to master services agreements, contracts, work orders, insurance and legal review for Red Willow Production Company and affiliated companies (RWPC). Conducts regular reviews of contract-related activities to ensure compliance. Assists all departments with development of new contracts and adding new contractors to the approved contractor list. Works collaboratively with RWPC's broker to manage all aspects of RWPC's insurance program. Performs a variety of administrative functions, many in a team setting, for the planning, evaluation, management and development of contracts, insurance and business opportunities.

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) \$33.32/hr.
- Executive Development Developer (Full-time) \$76,003 /yr., (Up to \$3,000 in relocation expenses available.)

Ignacio Early Learning Program:

- Teacher Assistant (Full-time) \$16.14-\$21.11/hr.
- Substitute Teacher (Full-time) \$16.14/hr.

Road Runner Transit:

- Operations Manager (Full-time) \$52,645-\$63,211

Ignacio Youth Services:

- Program Coordinator (Full-time) \$17.64/hr., DOE

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

Job info, descriptions and application: www.ignacioschools.org/employment-cdac2310

- District Mechanic
- Elementary School Custodian
- Mid School Soccer Head Coach
- Mid School Track Assistant Coach
- Mid School Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid School Volleyball Assistant Coach
- Secondary Spanish Teacher 26/27
- Substitute Bus Drivers
- Substitute Cooks
- Substitute Teachers

Tribal Wills Clinic – Chinle, Ariz.

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.

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 5 p.m. on Tuesday*

SunUte Community Center Pool Notice

Due to ongoing staffing shortages, SunUte Community Center will be adjusting pool hours beginning Monday, Feb. 9. While we recently implemented a new Feb. schedule, these staffing challenges have been ongoing for the past month, and it has become clear that the current schedule is not sustainable with our current staffing levels. SunUte lifeguards and aquatic staff have been working extremely hard, and in order to prevent burnout while continuing to operate safely, we must reduce and restructure coverage. These changes will help ensure we can keep the pool open more consistently and maintain proper staffing standards. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as our team continues doing everything possible to provide safe and reliable access.

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

CALL FOR VENDORS

PÍINU NÚUCHI FARMERS MARKET



Are you interested in being a vendor at this seasons Piinu Nuuichi 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

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

Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center

9:00 AM TO 2:00PM

For more information

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





FIVE 'CATS ARE STATE BOUND • FROM PAGE 13

of Dove Creek. Bobcat senior Dillon Brann also will be making the trip after placing fourth at 144 pounds. Able to tech Cedaredge's Blake Ryan 22-7 in first-round action, Brann then lost 17-12 to SJBL nemesis Nathan Hill – whom he'd defeated for the first time ever at the SJBLs – of Dolores, but then managed to pin West Grand's Luke Hickam early in the third period after gaining a 16-14 lead. But after falling behind

3-0 to Hayden's Danek DeMorat, Brann was pinned at the one-minute mark. Slated to next face, as luck would have it, Ryan, Brann's season was prolonged via a no-contest result. In fact, only young Emmanuel Lucero was unable to qualify for State; competing at 132 pounds, he went 0-2 with both losses coming via first-period pin against SJBL familiars Jackson McCabe of Nucla and Tegan Mestas of Mancos.

All told, Ignacio – which entered the event still ranked No. 7 in 2A – scored 109.5 points and, by half a point over Hayden, ultimately stood sixth out of 15 attending teams. Top-ranked Cedaredge, to no surprise, topped the table with 205, while No. 10 Wray racked up a second-place 177. Third-ranked Meeker tallied 163 and came in third, with SJBL kings Norwood (159) fourth and Kremmling West Grand (138) fifth in the standings.

FALCONS BRING DOWN BOBCATS • FROM PAGE 14

the third quarter, but Centauri countered with a lengthy run – fueled by non-sequential threes by Jarvies and sophomore Shadon Gilleland – and rebuilt the lead up to 36-25 with 1:39 remaining. When time expired, the advantage was still somewhat stable at 36-27 – and regrew to 41-27 early in the fourth before Crane spun around a defender for a short-range jumper with 5:40 left in regulation. But aided by senior Carson Shawcroft's three-point play resulting from a Flores foul on Shawcroft's drive to the hoop, CHS managed to then outscore Ignacio 9-4 the rest of the way and secure a 50-33 road win. Many of the visitors' late points came at the free-throw line, where Centauri (9-10 overall, 4-5 IML) made eight out of 11 fourth-quarter attempts to finish 12-of-19. The Bobcats (8-11, 1-8 IML), meanwhile, made four of their eight tries during the final frame and finished 7-of-13. Crane (2-3 FT) ended up with 14 points and Flores (2-6 FT) nine in defeat. Rathjen (3-4 FT) booked five points,

Atencio ended up with his trey and junior William Mendoza-Lechuga chipped in two, but senior Stoney White Thunder-Lucero was held scoreless before he fouled out with 2:15 left. Totalling 11 scorching first-quarter points, McGinnis (2-2 FT) drained his fourth three during the second quarter but nothing more as Crane eventually matched his game-high count. Junior Donovan Jarvies (5-10 FT) tallied 11 points, Gilleland and Sean Jarvies (2-2 FT) ended up with nine apiece and Shawcroft three. Backups Dallyn King (2-2 FT), a junior, and Mason Weyers, a senior, came off first-year skipper Austin Dillon's bench to each log two points. Looking ahead, Seibel's squad will – expected bad weather permitting – wrap up regular-season play hosting 4A Alamosa (8-13, 3-7 IML) at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, then journeying to 3A Monte Vista the next day for a slated 4 p.m. start. Results from IHS' 2/17 home game versus Montezuma-Cortez (20-0, 9-0), ranked No. 1 in 4A, were unavailable at press time.

BELTED IN BAYFIELD
After building up a 16-point pad through one quarter before a capacity crowd exceeding 1,000 school-counted persons, the Wolverines cranked up the heat even more during the second and roared into halftime leading the 'Cats 46-12. Helped by junior guard Thunder Windy Boy's first six points after intermission, 3A Ignacio actually played 3A Bayfield to a 17-17 draw during the third quarter, but trailed 63-29 beginning the fourth and fell 65-37. Crane (4-5 FT) scored a team-high 14 points and Windy Boy (6-6 FT) ten, while Rathjen (1-4 FT) managed seven, Mendoza-Lechuga four and White Thunder-Lucero a long, shooter's-roll two-pointer during the sides' dead-even third. Junior guard Hayes Malone made three threes and totaled 19 points for BHS, and junior guard/forward Drew Jepson drilled four threes in totaling his 18. Starting junior forward/center Cameron Queen contributed eight points and reserve junior guard Henry Ferrell six, via his two (of the Wolverines' nine total) threes.

LADY 'CATS BESTED AT HOME • FROM PAGE 14

helping the Lady Falcons close out the first quarter on a game-breaking 14-0 tear and thus begin the second stanza up 24-2. Never really easing their foot off the proverbial gas pedal, the guests responded to Brown's quarter-opening free throw, coming with 7:00 left until halftime, by outscoring Ignacio 14-3 the rest of the way and taking an insurmountable 38-6 lead into intermission. Having won 47-28 at local IML rival Bayfield on the 12th, the Lady 'Cats finally reached double figures – via senior guard Alyssa Atencio's put-back of a Brown miss – against Centauri with 6:07 remaining in the third quarter. And with the score standing 37-10, Ignacio actually battled CHS rather evenly and eventually began the final frame down 53-20. McCarroll rattled in a shooter's-roll three-pointer from the corner and Lyndie Sowards netted CHS' final two points, while Lucero drained IHS' only three and Atencio knocked down her sixth and seventh FTs (out of eight total attempts) as the sides somehow broke even during the last eight minutes of the Lady Falcons' authoritative away win. Paityn Sowards, who

played sparingly during the fourth quarter, finished with a game-high 16 points while McCarroll totaled 14. Junior Kynlei Curtis scored six points before halftime and eight for the contest, while Lyndie Sowards ended up logging six points as another of the ten players booking at least one for CHS (16-3 overall, 9-0 IML). Scoreless during the first quarter while slowed by two early fouls, Atencio still paced Ignacio (4-15, 2-7) with her 13 points – no small accomplishment considering the Lady 'Cats lacked junior regulars Maliyah Martinez and Catori Aasland, allowing the Lady Falcons to focus more exclusively on her. Lucero (2-2 FT) ended up with five points and Avila four before she fouled out with 2:03 left in regulation. Freshman Gracy Archuleta netted IHS' only two bench points via her third-quarter hoop, but starting freshman forward Justina Jessepe ended up scoreless after her court time was curtailed by four first-half fouls. Looking ahead, Ignacio will – expected bad weather permitting – wrap up regular-season action hosting 4A No. 8 Alamosa (15-5, 8-2 IML) at 5:30 p.m. Fri-

day, February 20, then traveling to 3A Monte Vista the next day for a slated 2:30 p.m. start. Results from IHS' 2/17 home game versus 4A Montezuma-Cortez (8-12, 2-7) were unavailable at press time.

BRUSHING OFF BAYFIELD

Pushed for most of the first quarter inside quickly-filling BHS Gymnasium, the Lady Bobcats were able to expand their 9-7 lead to 22-9 going into halftime of what ended up being a 19-point road win. Avila booked five of her nine total points during Ignacio's breakout second quarter, which Lucero sewed up by sinking the first of her two, and second of IHS' four total threes. Lucero would finish with a game-high 13 points, while Martinez booked 12 and Atencio (4-7 FT) eight. First to strike from long distance, Jessepe (2-4 FT) chipped in five points. Junior guard Kimball Anderson and junior forward Grace Brown each scored nine points to pace the Lady Wolverines, who then dropped to 3-17 overall, 0-10 in league the next evening after losing 44-7 at home to MVHS (11-8, 5-4).

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.



LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Feb. 20



Saturday, Feb. 21



Sunday, Feb. 22



Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov



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 Type of shop
- 6 Intergovernmental trade forum
- 10 --- Yellowhair, maltreated Navajo girl
- 11 --- Sioui, WWII Huron-Wendat activist
- 13 Laborious place for naughty boys?
- 15 Bronchial ailment
- 16 "Abdul the Bulbul ---"
- 17 Average amount
- 19 "Piece of the rock" company, informally
- 20 Great extinct seabird
- 23 Speech-sound alphabet
- 24 Bribe
- 25 Watson and Crick's lab material
- 26 "--- of the Flies"
- 28 Medicine given to the Navajo by a bear
- 30 Zip it code
- 34 Flared plants
- 36 Chopin wrote a Revolutionary one
- 37 Spokes
- 38 Swedish fighter maker
- 39 Coffee bouquet

Down

- 1 "--- Loves Mambo" (Perry Como hit)
- 2 Change for a fin
- 3 Ice cream serving
- 4 One from SLC, for example
- 5 Edible fat also used in soap and cosmetics
- 6 Often found in New Mexico pueblos, reflecting all-seeing Providence
- 7 William Faulkner's Miss --- Verner ("The Hamlet")
- 8 Lumbers
- 9 Actor ironed out
- 12 IHOP staple
- 14 Suburbanites' group
- 18 Landlocked body of water in Turkey
- 20 Taos Pueblo is made of it
- 21 Goes back to the default position, maybe
- 22 White Russian ingredient
- 27 Cordite inventor
- 29 "What Women Want" co-star
- 31 Decorate anew
- 32 In great shape
- 33 The Romans' name for Turkey
- 35 Groundhog Day mo.

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

Answers for February 6, 2026 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Cove, 5 Chaco, 10 Aden, 11 Smalls, 13 Rare, 14 Morale, 15 A word, 17 Prim, 18 Tangier, 21 Kei, 22 Aye-ayes, 24 DDT, 26 Starved, 29 Ours, 31 Naive, 32 Snap-on, 35 Slop, 36 Encino, 37 Elko, 38 Otter, 39 Deet.
Down: 1 Carat, 2 Odawa, 3 Verona Tract, 4 Energy, 5 CSM, 6 HMO, 7 AARP, 8 Clarksville, 9 Ollie, 12 Semi, 16 Dies, 19 Eat, 20 Ryan, 23 Erased, 24 Dose, 25 Dunno, 27 Evoke, 28 Depot, 30 Spit, 33 One, 34 Nor.