



**Learning the art of Jiu Jitsu**

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**Ignacio High Senior Night**

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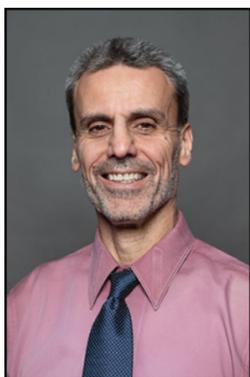
Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118  
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 Vol. LVIV, No. 5

Visit The Southern Ute Drum online at [www.sudrum.com](http://www.sudrum.com)

**SOUTHERN UTE SHARED SERVICES**

**Tribe welcomes technology leader Imad Sweidan**

By Summer Begay, Communication Specialist  
 SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



**Imad Sweidan**  
 Chief Information Officer  
 Southern Ute Shared Services

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is pleased to formally welcome Imad Sweidan, an information technology executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience in IT strategy, infrastructure and operations. Sweidan now serves as the Chief Information Officer for Southern Ute Shared Services.

Sweidan has built an accomplished international career across the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, contributing to major advancements in cybersecurity, telecommunications, and large-scale IT service delivery. He previously held senior leadership positions at the Prince Mohamed University, Abu Dhabi Media Company, AlMansoori Specialized Engineering LLC, Etisalat and McMurry University.

Sweidan holds a degree in Engineering Science from Colorado State University, providing him with a strong technical foundation that has guided his long-standing success in modernizing and managing complex IT environments. Outside of his professional achievements, Sweidan is married and a proud father of seven. He enjoys volleyball, soccer, and swim-

ming, and carries the same spirit of teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm into his leadership approach – leading by example in all that he does.

Chairman Melvin J. Baker shared, “I warmly welcome Mr. Imad Sweidan to our team. His extensive experience in global technology leadership and his commitment to strengthening digital systems will support the Tribe’s long-term vision for innovation and self-determination. I look forward to the knowledge, professionalism and collaboration he brings as we continue building a future that honors our traditions while embracing new opportunities.”

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe looks forward to the expertise, professionalism and global perspective Sweidan brings to ongoing conversations around technology, digital resiliency and future-ready infrastructure for tribal communities.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The façade of the Buckskin Charlie Apartments, which faces east towards Ute Park, is nearly complete. Stone masons work to put the finishing touches on a stone veneer, or wainscot.

**GROWTH FUND PROPERTIES**

**Buckskin Charlie Apartments eyeing springtime opening**

*Mild winter keeps project ahead of schedule*

By Jeremy Wade Shockley  
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Visibly taking shape, the modern modular style construction process fast tracked the Tribe’s most recent housing project in Ignacio. The three-story apartment buildings are located just east of Tribal Campus and sit across from Ute Park, backing up to the existing Bear Trail and neighboring wetlands. Spearheaded by the GF properties group, these modern apartments will be made available to Southern Ute tribal

members and tribal employees, with first preference being given to the membership.

“Buckskin Charlie Apartments stand as a powerful step toward securing quality and accessible housing for tribal members, tribal employees, and local families – reflecting the Tribe’s commitment to creating housing stability,” said Shane Seibel, Executive Director, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund. “This project is a vital investment in Ignacio’s future, bringing us closer each day to providing modern

homes for the people who keep this community strong.”

The new apartment complex includes a centrally located amenity building that will provide residents with a leasing office, fitness area, gathering space and an adjacent outdoor plaza – sporting grills for outdoor cooking and fire pits. The design also includes a separate maintenance building and on-site mini storage space. The Buckskin Charlie Apartments will also have

*Buckskin page 10*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Cheered on by head coach Jordan Larsen (at rear) and assistant coach Jerrid Brann, Ignacio’s Lincoln deKay begins his last walk off a high-school wrestling mat after having defeated Burlington’s Jason Saucedo in the 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships’ 165-pound grand finale Saturday night, Feb. 21, inside Ball Arena in Denver.

**BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING**

**DAY OF deKAY**

*Senior becomes IHS’ tenth State Champion*

By Joel Priest  
 SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Like waiting in line for an hour outside some city’s nightlife hot spot, then denied entry because he couldn’t flash enough cash, or wasn’t hanging with the right crowd or wasn’t even, say, wearing the right shoes, Lincoln deKay undoubtedly asked himself throughout his wrestling career, ‘How do I get in?’

With plenty of wins and tournament titles to his name, he certainly had the street cred. Yet no VIP-level access.

“My family, and all the people that’ve won State titles in wrestling, they call it ‘the club,’” a grinning deKay explained Saturday night, Feb. 21, while relaxing inside one of the Mile High City’s preeminent entertainment sites. “And so ever since I was little, in pee-wees losing every match, they’d always tell me ‘You’d better figure it out or you might not join the club!’”

“I have a real bad habit of getting into my head before, like, every match – even if the kid has, like, never qualified for State,” he admitted. “But usually when I get out on a mat and the whistle blows, I figure it out and can wrestle again.”

And before a mostly packed Ball Arena crowd, Ignacio’s senior figured out how to best one last, um, bouncer, rip the proverbial velvet rope off its hooks and at long last enter an exclusive pantheon welcoming only Colorado’s most elite grapplers.

Pit in the 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships’ 165-pound finale against Burlington senior Jason Saucedo, who qualified for State last year but did not place at 138, deKay (runner-up at 165 to Holly senior Tripp DuVall in ‘25) wasted no time and quickly went up 3-0 after bringing the Cougar down to the mat and establishing control.

Almost instantly as the first period wound down, Saucedo managed to sur-

vive into the second but only after losing another four points for the near-fall. But deKay never relented and doubled his lead to 14-0 through four minutes. Having already eliminated Fowler’s Jesse James in one semifinal via an 18-3 technical fall, as well as Rocky Ford’s Marcos Villegas in the quarters via a 17-0 tech, deKay needed to either score one innocuous point or merely avoid catastrophe in order to make Bobcat history.

And at 8:43 p.m. Mountain, one final takedown did the tech trick and polished off a thorough 17-0 triumph.

“I was planning on coming in with just another shot as soon as I got his hands past my head. But he ended up taking a shot from far away, so it just turned into a front headlock where I could spin behind him,” said deKay. “He was just being real heavy with his hands – I think he didn’t wrestle his

*deKay page 13*

**LIFT THE LABEL**

**Southern Ute Indian Tribe: Recovery Stories**

*Spencer*

“I realized the only roadblock to my recovery was me, but healing began when I chose to stop standing in my own way.”

My name is Spencer, and I am a proud Southern Ute tribal member. I grew up surrounded by culture, family, and a community that cared about me. But even with love around me, somewhere along the way I lost love for myself. Addiction didn’t hit me all at once; it was slow and silent. One escape, one coping mechanism, until it took over my life completely. People liked to say it was a choice; that I could just decide to stop. But addiction is deeper than that it takes hold of your spirit and convinces you that you’re not worth saving.

I reached a point where I barely recognized the person staring back at me in the mirror. I was tired of the pain I caused myself and the people I cared about. I didn’t want to keep waking up to the same hopelessness. So, I finally reached out to the higher power and asked, “What do I need to do to change? Why don’t I love myself?” And what I heard was this, “Go back to your childhood. Back to when you loved yourself. Back to your values, your morals, who you were before addiction.”

It sounds simple, but going back was the hardest thing I’ve ever done. I had to dig into old memories and old wounds. I had to forgive my-



LIFT THE LABEL

courtesy Lift the Label

Spencer

self for things that happened when I was too young to understand any of it. I had to figure out what I was missing and what I found was family. Connection. Belonging. I realized that to heal, I had to understand my own heart and body again. I had to reflect on what truly mattered: the roots I came from and the people who have always been there.

Today, I’m living in recovery. I’m rebuilding my life

with intention, grounded in who I am and who I want to become. I show up for myself, for those who love me, and for those still fighting.

To anyone struggling, I want you to know this: You are still in there. The version of you who believed, who loved, who hoped; that person isn’t gone. You just have to reach back and bring them forward again. You are worth every step of recovery.

## SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

# GFMC seeks Tribal Member At-Large Committee Member

By Pooja Rao-Pennington  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND



The Southern Ute Growth Fund Management Committee (GFMC) is seeking a Tribal Member At-Large Committee Member to assist in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Growth Fund.

This distinctive position, established by the Tribal Council, serves as a direct representative of the Southern Ute tribal membership. In this role, the Tribal Member At-Large contributes to key decisions by reviewing and offering recommendations on business plans, organizational updates and major initiatives. The position also participates in GFMC meetings, Tribal Council meetings and work sessions, and Growth Fund general membership meetings, ensuring that the voice and values of the tribal community are reflected in important business discussions.

As a Tribal Member At-Large, it is an opportunity to represent both the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and its membership by offering recommendations and gaining valuable knowledge through work sessions and meetings on high-value projects that benefit the Tribe. Past committee members have shared that serving on the GFMC has allowed them to contribute tribal knowledge, perspectives and cultural values to significant business conversations. The position plays a vital part in ensuring that Growth Fund decisions reflect and uphold Ute history, sovereignty and long-term community priorities.

We had an opportunity to talk with Tasha Rodriguez, the current Tribal Member At-Large on GFMC. Rodriguez shared the following about her role, "Having the opportunity as a younger

tribal member to serve on the GFMC was a great learning experience. It felt a little intimidating at first, and there was a lot of information to take in, but the Growth Fund Management Committee members – and the employees I've had the pleasure of working with along the way – were nothing short of amazing. Stepping into this position, I knew very little about the businesses within the Growth Fund, but as a tribal member, I felt it was important to take the opportunity to gain more knowledge about my own Tribe."

She added that working with Growth Fund leadership and the other entity presidents and managers helped her gain an in-depth understanding of the Growth Fund's finances, human capital, cash flow, investment strategies, governance, rights-of-way and overall operations. Serving in this position has also allowed her to support the tribal members by answering questions and voicing concerns about upcoming projects, business plans, job opportunities and the overall performance of the Growth Fund.

Rodriguez offered this advice to tribal members considering the position, "I strongly encourage you to apply. This role opens doors, builds confidence, and expands your knowledge. You'll help make decisions that support the longevity, sovereignty, and values of future tribal membership." She also echoed former Tribal Member At-Large Lindsay Box, who empha-

sized that the seat is vital to ensuring Growth Fund decisions reflect Ute people and Ute values.

A GFMC role covers many different aspects – some important elements of this role include:

- Being responsible for executing the mission and purpose of the Growth Fund (as approved by Tribal Council Resolution), as updated from time to time, in a manner that protects the interests, resources, and objectives of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.
- Attending and actively participating in GFMC meetings, providing financial direction, to include annual budgets of all Growth Fund business enterprises financial investment opportunities; mergers and acquisitions; and due diligence review.
- Monthly attendance requirement, four scheduled meetings including: two Growth Fund Management Committee/GFMC, LLC meetings, and two Tribal Council Update sessions, during regular business hours. Must also attend other Growth Fund/Tribal Council meetings such as study sessions, work sessions and Growth Fund general membership meetings as scheduled.

Visit the Careers Portal - Southern Ute Growth Fund, Tribal Members Only link to review the qualifications and apply online at [www.sugf.com/careers/](http://www.sugf.com/careers/) To be considered for this position you must be an enrolled Tribal Member. For any specific questions related to this role, please reach out to Human Resources.

We would like to thank Tasha Rodriguez for her valuable insight.



## Many Moons Ago



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

## 10 years ago

On Wednesday, March 2 the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with delightful laughs and joy. Academy students read various stories by the beloved author while dressing up as some of his most iconic characters. The Cat in the Hat (Jake Ryder) and Thing 1 (Terena Hight) hand out pencils to Academy students.

This photo was published in the March 4, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

## 20 years ago

These aspiring young cheerleaders performed during halftime at the Ignacio/Bayfield game in Ignacio on Feb. 17, 2006. Led by our own Ignacio Cheerleaders, the girls performed two cheers to the delight of the crowd in attendance for Ignacio's last home game of the 2006 season.

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



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

## 30 years ago

Ayla Olguin was crowned queen of the Valentine Penny Drive held at Ignacio Elementary School. The school raised \$5,403.16 for a special book fund. Their goal is \$10,000. Congratulations to all the princes and princesses of the contest.

This photo was published in the March 1, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

## 40 years ago

Vida Peabody and Susan Thomas coming across the finish line during the Cabin Fever Fest 5k run.

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

**SOUTHERN UTE**

**Tribal**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Town Hall**

**SPONSORED BY TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBER BARRY**

**MARCH 18**

**4:00 - 6:00 PM**

**Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility**

The Town Hall will offer an opportunity for Tribal Membership to gather and discuss matters in a courteous atmosphere. The Town Hall will allow you to share your items of interest positively.

Discussion topics will include (but will not be limited to):

- Update on Tribal Codes
- Housing Update – Buckskin Charlie Apartments
- Tribal Health Update – Behavioral Health Rehab Mesa Facility
- Off-season Cow Elk Hunt

(To alleviate pressure on Ag producing Tribal assignments/allotments)

**Contact Info: 970-563-2304**

A light supper will be provided.



# LET'S LEARN UTE

**qhaqháaruchi**  
chicken

**kanyeeruchi**  
sheep

**kuchupuku**  
COW

**sivaatuchi**  
goat

**kuchiina**  
pig

**chugachi**  
duck

**kava**  
horse



## Royalty make the rounds



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany and Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany with fellow royalties after Grand Entry at the Two-Spirit Powwow in Phoenix, Ariz.



Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany after placing 2nd in Teens' combined.



courtesy Aaron Tsosie

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany, during Grand Entry at the Two-Spirit Powwow in Phoenix, Ariz.



Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany after placing 2nd in the Sweetheart Special.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Denver March Powwow March 20-22, 2026 ★ Denver Coliseum

★ **Grand Entry** ★

A magnificent array of color, motion, and sound! "A Living Hoop" the Denver March PowWow song rendered by HeartBeat drum group begins each Grand Entry. Color guard, royalty, and dancers dressed in full traditional regalia dance into the arena.  
Fri. Sat. Sun. 11 a.m. Fri. Sat. 7 p.m.

★ **Dance Competition** ★

Witness the pageantry and beauty of traditional tribal dances as performed by over 1000 American Indian Dancers. Inspired by time-honored songs, performed by 30+ drum groups, these gifted dancers perform the historical dances of their tribal ancestors.

Throughout the day and night

★ **Tribal Storytelling & Native Author Readings** ★

Storytellers share the legacies, legends and histories of a distinguished and proud people. While in the storyteller's circle, learn the significance of dance and music in the lives and culture of America's indigenous people at the top of the hour. Native Author Book Readings at the bottom of the hour.

Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ★ Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

★ **Arts & Crafts Show** ★

Enjoy the works of Native American craftsmen during the arts and crafts show that is part of the Denver March PowWow. Nationally-acclaimed artists display their creations that reflect unique function and beauty. This is an opportunity to purchase many one-of-a-kind items.

Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ **ADMISSION** ◆

6 and under FREE  
\$7 per day ◆ \$20 for 3/day pass  
80+ \$3 per day ◆ \$9 for 3/day pass  
Tickets available online January 15, 2026  
<https://www.axs.com> (Search for Denver March Powwow)  
or at the door!

Personal checks are not accepted!  
Debit & Credit Cards accepted

\*Special Student Group Rates Available\*  
(click Student Group Rate tab for info)  
Groups of 24 & under show Student ID at window  
for \$6 day pass or \$15 three-day pass

New! Digital Parking Passes can purchased online from AXS.com

Delicious Fry Bread and Indian Tacos  
made fresh on site by The Wolf's  
Plate!

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



December 5, 2025



# 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 & no AI-generated imagery
- 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



## Land of Enchantment powwow



courtesy Dominika Joy

Royalty stand together at the Newcomb High School Benefit Powwow held in Newcomb, N.M., Saturday, Feb 28. Pictured left to right, Tiny Tot 4th of July princess, Bonni Height; Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany; Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and NCI Powwow Princess, Leandra Litz.

## 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](mailto:tcantsee@southernute-nsn.gov), or SUCCM Director, Fabian Martinez at 970-563-2973, [fmartinez@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:fmartinez@southernute-nsn.gov).

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# Bee Heard: Sleep, screens, and teen brains

*What every parent and caregiver should know*

By Amber Richardson, LPCC  
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Many parents say the same thing: "My teen is always tired." They stay up late, scroll on their phones, and struggle to wake up for school. Then they seem moody or unfocused during the day. It can feel like normal teen behavior. But sleep and screens play a big role in teen mental health.



courtesy AliciaSheli/AdobeStock

Phones, tablets, video games and TVs give off blue light. Blue light tells the brain to stay awake.

### Teen Brains Are Still Growing

The teenage brain is still developing. The part of the brain that helps with decision-making, focus and self-control is not fully grown. At the same time, the emotional part of the brain is very active. This is why teens can feel things so deeply. Sleep helps the brain reset and grow. During sleep, the brain sorts memories, processes emotions and prepares for the next day. Most teens need eight to 10 hours of sleep each night, but many are not getting enough.

### How Screens Affect Sleep

Phones, tablets, video games and TVs give off blue light. Blue light tells the brain to stay awake. It lowers melatonin, the hormone that helps us feel sleepy. When teens use screens late at night, their brains stay alert. Social media and games can also make it hard to relax. A post that makes them feel left out or worried can increase stress and delay sleep even more.

### What Happens Without Enough Sleep?

Lack of sleep affects mood, learning, and behavior.

Teens who do not get enough sleep may:

- Be more irritable or angry.
- Feel anxious or sad.
- Have trouble focusing.
- Struggle with motivation.
- Get headaches or stomachaches.

When teens are tired, small problems can feel huge. A simple disagree-

ment can turn into a big argument. Homework can feel overwhelming. Sleep gives the brain strength to handle stress.

### Sleep and Mental Health

There is a strong link between sleep and mental health. Teens who sleep well are less likely to struggle with anxiety and depression. They make safer choices and manage emotions better. Poor sleep can make mental health symptoms worse. It can become a cycle. Bad sleep affects mood and low mood makes it harder to sleep. Healthy sleep habits are one of the simplest ways to protect teen mental health.

### What Adults Can Do

The goal is balance, not removing all screens. Here are simple steps families and schools can try:

1. Set a screen curfew. Turn off devices at least 60 minutes before bed.
2. Keep phones out of bedrooms at night. Charge devices in a common area.
3. Create a calming routine. Reading, journaling, or soft music can help teens wind down.
4. Keep a regular sleep schedule. Going to bed and waking up at the same time each day helps the body adjust.
5. Talk about social media. Ask teens how online content makes them feel. Listen without judgment.

### A Community Role

Sleep may seem simple,

but it is powerful. When teens sleep well, they think clearly, feel more stable and cope better with stress. Parents, caregivers, educators and community members all play a role. By protecting sleep and setting healthy screen limits, we give teens a strong foundation for better mental health. Sometimes the first step toward a calmer, healthier teen is simply a good night's sleep. Here's to your good health!

It's okay not to feel okay

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

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

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

## HEALTHY RECIPES

# Chocolate Chia Seed Pudding: A Heart Healthy Treat!

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

An easy, delicious, make-ahead dessert with heart healthy secrets! Fiber, protein, omega 3 fatty acids along with iron, magnesium and antioxidants!

It's perfect when you want something sweet, so consider adding this to your routine!

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



courtesy katrinshine/AdobeStock

### Chocolate Chia Seed Pudding

#### Ingredients:

- ½ cup chia seeds
- ¼ cup cocoa powder
- 2 cups milk (almond, cow, etc.)
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

#### Directions:

1. Place chia seeds and cocoa in a large bowl and whisk to combine and break

up any clumps.

2. Add milk, maple syrup and vanilla, whisk well to combine.
3. Place in the refrigerator for one hour, then whisk again.
4. Cover and chill in refrigerator for at least 4 hours or overnight.
5. To serve, divide evenly into small dessert cups, top with raspberries, bananas, or any favorite topping!

## March

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

Irish Ground Beef & Cabbage

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFMarch2026>  
**Sign-up Deadline:** Monday, March 23rd  
**Pickup Date:** Wednesday, March 25th

**Meal Kit Includes:**  
 • Primary ingredients  
 • Recipe / Prep Tips  
 • Kitchen Hacks

**Contact:**  
 Lisa Smith 970-563-2344  
 \*If you need to schedule a different pickup time/date, please reach out to Lisa\*

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# 4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE

FRI  
15

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

SAT  
16

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

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SHARED AS THE DATE GETS CLOSER.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Shining Mountain Health and Wellness  
Breastfeeding and Parenting Class presents:

## Babies love sacred milk, Breast milk is the best milk!!

by Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC

🌸
**March 12, 2026**
🌸  
**Time: 12-1 pm**

M/C building-downstairs by Lactation Room

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



## SUIMA students learn Jiu Jitsu



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

On Monday, Feb. 23, SUIMA students participated in a Jiu Jitsu class. Upper Elementary students (Pictured L to R): Destiny Valdez, Jayceon Richards, Lucas Rael, Lawrence Santistevan Jr. and Ethan Rohde O'Leary practice falling, to make sure that they do not injure themselves as they learn Jiu Jitsu.

SUIMA students Lilah Olguin and December Santistevan practice how to defend themselves at SunUte Community Center. Teacher, Forrest Allen and Intern, Tobi Cook work with Elevated Martial Arts, who partnered with SUIMA to provide a 12 weeklong class that helps the students learn how to protect themselves, look out for others and stand up to bullying.



## FLC Powwow Club



courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany with Fort Lewis College Powwow Club members after attending the men's powwow categories workshop, hosted by the Powwow Club.

## SoCoCAA Ignacio Youth Services

Helping youth reach their full potential with free, high quality learning experiences for grades 6-12. All programs are 100% free. Contact Caitlyn 970-759-2011 for info.

- Tuesday – Wednesday after school until 6 p.m.
- Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Ignite Gymnastics

Offering programs in developmental and competitive gymnastics. Registering students anytime. For more information contact and current schedule, please call Liz at 970-403-2636, ignitegymnastics@mail.com

## SUIMA

# Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Reading at home, simple and powerful

by Lori Smith and Debbie Lamoreaux, Reading Specialists  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Lori Smith  
Reading Specialist  
SUIMA



Debbie Lamoreaux  
Reading Specialist  
SUIMA

Reading at home is one of the simplest and most powerful ways families can support a child's success in school.

The human brain is not hard-wired for reading. It is a skill that must be practiced over and over to become automatic. Just a few minutes of reading together each day helps build vocabulary, strengthens comprehension, and nurtures a life-long love of learning. Reading at home for 10 – 15 minutes a day can make a noticeable difference.

Yet many children, especially reluctant readers, may need extra encouragement to pick up a book. By creating positive reading habits at home and offering engaging, low-pressure ways to explore stories, families can help even hesitant readers gain confidence and discover the joy that reading can bring.

### 4th-6th grade

- Students begin reading to learn across subjects.
- Reading strengthens critical thinking skills.
- Books help children explore interests and understand the world.

It's common for students to resist reading, and their reasons can vary. Some may struggle with decoding or fluency and avoid reading because it feels hard. Others may not have found a book that truly interests them yet. Some children are active, busy or prefer screens. Understanding the hesitation helps families respond with patience and strategies that build confidence rather than pressure.

### How to encourage reading at home

- Create an inviting spot for reading and let children choose books they enjoy. Recipes, signs, directions, audiobooks, graphic novels, comics,

cereal boxes, the newspaper, etc. all count as reading opportunities.

- Keep reading pressure free and celebrate progress. Praise effort and growth. Keep sessions positive.
- Pair books with real activities such as cooking or following directions for a project.

Every child can grow as a reader with encouragement and practice. By making reading enjoyable, offering choices and celebrating growth, families help children view reading as a doorway to imagination and possibility.

### Núu'apagha (Speak Ute)

- pe'etimitə – teacher
- pe'ekwatu – book
- pe'etəkwatəgani – library
- pe'ə'naptə – pencil
- pe'etəka'naptə – desk

### Məatagopə'okwatəvana (On our calendar)

- March 16-20: Spring Break
- March 24: Parent Advisory Group meeting 6 – 7 p.m.
- March 25: Family Night event 5:30 – 7 p.m.
- March 30 – April 3: Book Fair

## ANNUAL ELBERT J. FLOYD AWARD NOMINATIONS

- Nominee Requirements:
- 1) An enrolled member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe
  - 2) Be enrolled in any formal education program
    - The student can be of any age
    - Students planning to immediately enroll in such a program are also eligible
  - 3) Has interest in continuing their education
  - 4) Has interest in serving their community and tribe
  - 5) Has qualities of a dedicated student

Eligible recipients do not need to reside on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation; they must be available to receive the award in person. Presentation will take place at the Tribal Council Chambers in Ignacio, CO.

Nominations may be received from any teacher, tribal member, or community member. They must be submitted to the Southern Ute Education Department.

Submissions must be in writing stating the basis of nomination and returned to the Southern Ute Education Department by 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 24, 2026

(970)563-2786

dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov

The Southern Ute Education Department will approve nominations

Recipient will be determined by a committee of two members consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

# SUIMA Book Fair

March 30th - April 3rd, 2026

## "Reading Opens Your Imagination"

Hours open: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 7:30-8:30am, 9:30am-3:45pm  
Tuesday: 7:30-8:30am, 9:30-5:45pm  
Friday: 7:30-8:30am

**Family Raffle!**  
1 raffle ticket will be given with each purchase

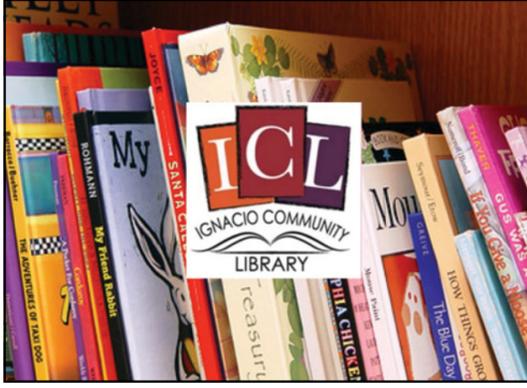


IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We're excited about our programs this month and hope you'll join us!

By Cheyenne Munns
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

On March 25 at 5:30 p.m., come along for a hands-on workshop with Wendy Allen and Ruth Lambert from the Southwest Colorado Genealogical Society.



Join us on March 18 at 2:30 and 5 p.m. for a fun Glowforge session! We'll dive into leather engraving and cutting, perfect for everyone from complete beginners to those looking to get creative.

destinations. It's going to be a fun adventure for school-aged kids!

Don't miss our virtual travel event on March 24 at 4 p.m., where we'll explore the stunning landscapes of Scotland! Get ready to indulge in delicious traditional Scottish cuisine while discovering 14 incredible new destinations.

We invite you to visit us at the Ignacio Senior Cen-

ter for our brain fitness program, Ageless Grace, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. It's all about natural movements to keep both your body and mind healthy. Everyone is welcome!

And don't forget, we have a variety of regular weekly and monthly programs, from our beloved preschool Storytime to our supportive Grief Support Group. For the full lineup of events this month, check out our website at ignaciolibrary.org. We hope to see you soon!

Southern Ute Elder Services March Activities List
March 8, 2026 Daylight saving time begins
Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour
March 10, 2026 Shopping Trip (Durango)
March 17, 2026 Pagosa Hot Springs
March 24, 2026 Movie Day (Farmington)

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY Newsletter
Intro to Genealogy Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 pm
Glowforge Class Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 & 5:00 pm
Spring Break Travel! March 16 - 19 | Every day at 4:00 pm

Multi-Purpose Facility March Indoor Yard Sale Saturday March 14, 2026 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
No Admission Fee No Set-up Fee Doors open 8:00 AM
Make and Take Crafting with Sandy 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

IOEA RISE & LEAD YOUTH LEADERSHIP COHORT
A SPACE FOR 2SLGBTQ+ YOUTH & ALLIES TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY.
WHAT IS THIS COHORT?
WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

IOEA Learning Series: Special Session! Creative Writing Workshop
SATURDAY, April 4, 2026 12 PM - 4 PM
ELHI COMMUNITY CENTER - RM 19
WITH 2026 COLORADO POET LAUREATE: CRISOSTO APACHE
Join IOEA for a special Creative Writing Workshop with Colorado's newest Native American Poet, Lourite...



### EPD receives gratitude basket



courtesy Mark Hutson/SU EPD

The Environmental Programs Department staff (left) accepts the traveling gratitude basket from Division of Gaming staff (right), Tuesday, Feb. 24. Launched in February 2023, The Traveling Gratitude Basket Campaign began as a simple, yet intentional effort to boost morale across campus. "Through this moving gratitude campaign, we are recognizing and thanking the divisions and departments whose daily dedication keeps Permanent Fund operations running smoothly," said Human Resources Benefits Manager, Veronica Lasater.

### DURANGO INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

## Native Lens announces Indigenous Film Showcase and community reception

By Colleen Thurston  
NATIVE LENS

Native Lens, in partnership with the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media, is honored to announce a special showcase of Indigenous storytelling at the Durango Independent Film Festival (DIFF) on Saturday, March 7.

The Native Lens Showcase will take place at the Durango Arts Center at 2p.m. This curated program highlights the depth and diversity of Native voices, featuring a selection of eight films that range from poignant documentaries to compelling narrative shorts and local premieres. Each work represents the vision of Indigenous creatives from across Colorado and the broader region.

Native Lens Project Producer Colleen Thurston says, "For four years we've partnered with DIFF to offer this community screening of Native film. Native Lens is thrilled to be back once again at this festival on Ute Land to celebrate Indigenous voices, histories and cultures through film and video."

#### Event Highlights

- Film Showcase: A 60-minute screening of eight diverse films produced by Indigenous creators.
- Premiere Content: Exclusive shorts not seen elsewhere in the festival.



Collaborative Spirit: Hosted in conjunction with the Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media.

#### Post-Showcase Reception at Sorrel Sky Gallery

Following the screening, the public is invited to attend a community reception at the Sorrel Sky Gallery from 4 to 5 p.m. This event offers a unique opportunity to engage with the Native Lens team and meet Indigenous filmmakers featured in various programs throughout the festival.

#### Sorrel Sky Gallery

Durango, Colo.  
March 7, 4 – 5 p.m.  
Free & open to the public.  
Light finger foods and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

#### Native Lens

Native Lens is a media project focused on providing a platform for Indigenous stories and perspectives.

By empowering Native creators to tell their own stories through film and digital media, Native Lens fosters authentic representation and community connection.

#### Durango Independent Film Festival

The Durango Independent Film Festival (DIFF) is an annual event that brings together filmmakers and film lovers to celebrate the art of independent cinema through screenings, workshops, and community events in Southwest Colorado.

#### Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media

The Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media (COFTM) attract and facilitates content creation in the state to generate economic growth. It promotes the state's film and television industry locally, nationally, and internationally while highlighting Colorado's unique rural areas.

# FILM WORKSHOP

For Southern Ute High School Students

Looking for 10 Southern Ute High School students grades 9-12

Two Week Camp! July 13-July 21, 2026

Don't miss the opportunity to earn a stipend, learn real-world film making skills, get hands-on work experience, earn a credit on a short film, get inspired and have fun!

Please Contact:  
ShaRay Rock  
srrock@southernute-nsn.gov  
970.563.2794  
Dustin Weaver  
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov  
970.563.2786

## 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 Mousache-Capote Building

# 9AM-2PM

# MARCH 19, 2026

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

## Multi-Purpose Facility

### Sip, Chat & Chew

Friday March 13, 2026

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Sponsored by: Southern Ute Human Resources Department

The Dinner is open to members of the 3 Ute Tribes, and their families, all ages are invited.

Door Prize donations are appreciated.

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

## Multi - Purpose Facility

### March Events

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday, March 13, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Indoor Yard Sale Saturday March 14, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Open Sewing—Tues., Wed. & Thurs. March 17-19, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Traditional Sewing—Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday, March 24—26, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM or 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Special Events

March Community Pow Wow—Saturday March 7, 2:00 PM—10:30 PM

MPF Food Sale—Monday March 30, 11:30 AM—3:00 PM

Healthy Cooking With Lisa Smith—Tuesday March 31, 10:30—1:00PM

Elder Committee Meeting—March 2, 9:00 AM

Events are subject to change—Please watch for announcements.

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

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



SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUEDC seeks two Tribal Member-At-Large Committee Members

By Colton Black
SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

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

Who Should Apply?

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

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

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

Be able to pass a criminal background check

Preferred Qualifications

Hold an associate's degree (or higher) with at least two years of progressively responsible experience in business management, real estate, or finance -OR- have at least four years of progressively responsible experience in business management, real estate, or finance (degree not required).

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

Responsibilities

Provide oversight and direction for economic development projects and LLCs.

Attend and actively participate in one regular monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month and special sessions as needed.

Maintain confidentiality and uphold the Tribe's Code of Conduct and Ethics Code.

Compensation

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

How to Apply

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

The SUEDC will review applications, nominate qualified candidates, and the Southern Ute Tribal Council will make final appointments.

If you have any questions, please reach out and speak with Colton Black at 970-563-2275.

Lunch & Learn with So. Ute Ag



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Agricultural Division hosted a lunch and learn event on Wednesday, Feb. 25 open to all. Led by Ag Division Head, Eric Nez, Southern Ute tribal members and community members gathered to learn about the services provided by the division, local agricultural practices and more over a free lunch. Southern Ute tribal member, Morgann Graham, asks questions about irrigation tips for her land.

Ag Division Head, Eric Nez shares information about pest control services offered by the Southern Ute Agricultural Division to attendees at the lunch and learn event on Wednesday, Feb. 25.



Let's Patch Things Up

Warmer weather is approaching and with it, road wear may become more noticeable. The La Plata County Public Works Department oversees the maintenance of 653 miles of county roads. For road concerns within Tribal jurisdiction, contact the Southern Ute Division of Transportation (SUDOT) at 970-563-4755 or email suroadmaintenance@southernute-nsn.gov. For La Plata County: https://www.lpcgov.org/road\_and\_bride.



2026 Annual Spring Clean-Up April 13-17, 2026

By appointment only, no pickups over the weekend or the week after.

Save the date! Fall Clean-up 2026 October 13-16, 2026

Tribal Members, Tribal Departments, and any tenant of the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority. We will not pick up for non-tribal tenants living in Tribal Member owned rental homes. All pick-ups must be within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation only. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN ONE AREA and general trash MUST BE BAGGED FOR PICK UP. No Pickups will be made without prior scheduling with the homeowner or department. APPOINTMENT ONLY.

If you have tires, only 4 tires per household will be picked up. NO EXCEPTIONS. No semi-truck or heavy equipment tires accepted. Tires only, no wheels (rims).

We will not pull your trailer to the transfer station for you.

Tribal Elders. Please contact Elder Services at (970) 563-2323 if you need help with bagging and piling of your trash.

All vehicle disposals please call Building Maintenance at 970-563-0265.

HAZARDOUS WASTE. If you think your trash is or contains hazardous waste, or you cannot identify the waste, please call Environmental Programs at 970-563-2272. If the pickup teams suspect that your trash may contain hazardous waste, or it is not identifiable, we will not pick up. Liquids will only be picked up if in a sealed and labeled container.

LARGE SITE or DANGEROUS or HAZARDOUS WASTE testing and cleanup will be completed at the HOMEOWNER'S EXPENSE. This will be on a case-by-case basis and scheduled dependent on program availability. No explosives/ammunition will be accepted.

There is no burn pile at the transfer station. All burnable loads will be taken directly to Bondad Landfill. Tribal Members hauling large amounts of brush on their own please take directly to Bondad Landfill.

Areas of Operation

- Construction Services, 970-563-0260, Tribal members within the Town of Ignacio and Tribal Member homes east of the Pine River.
Motor Pool, 970-563-0280, Tribal Member homes west of the Pine River except those areas listed below.
Building Maintenance, 970-563-0265, Tribal Departments, Tribal Member homes on Cr 314, Cr 315, Cr 316, and Cr 311 and ALL VEHICLES.
Grounds Maintenance, 970-563-0272, Tribal Departments, Tribal Member homes located in Cedar Point East & West, Ignacio Peak and the La Boca area west of the Pine River, Tribal Member tenants of Quichas Apartments.
Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority, 970-563-4575, Southern Ute Housing Authority renters and Senior Center.

Tyson Thompson, Property and Facilities Director (970) 563-2945

Agriculture Division Presents

GARDENING 101

\*\* Lunch will be provided \*\*

Tuesday, March 24
12 - 1 p.m.

Custom Farms Building
655 CR 517
Ignacio, CO 81137

Please RSVP at
970-563-2900
by 4 p.m., March 20.



AGRICULTURE DIVISION HAY FOR SALE!

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

MEDIUM BALES: \$140/BALE #900-1000

Hay is available FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

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

Southern Ute Economic Development invites you to our

Spring Craft Fair & Market

April 2nd | THURSDAY | 11-4PM

Sky Ute Casino

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

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





“I used to blame everyone else, but recovery began when I realized the change had to start with me.”

Spencer | In Recovery  
Southern Ute Tribal Member

Recovery from addiction is within reach.  
Find support and resources at  
[LTLSouthernUte.org](http://LTLSouthernUte.org)  
(970) 563-5700



LIFT THE LABEL®

## BUCKSKIN CHARLIE APARTMENTS • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Workers with FCI Constructors, Inc., lift a large stone slab into place using a mini excavator, Friday, Feb 13. The terrace is part of a patio area that will have fire pits and space for grilling.

some covered parking, supporting photovoltaic solar panels on the structure.

There were initially two construction phases for the project. Phase 1 included the relocation of existing on-site utilities and site preparation. Phase 2 included the foundation work and construction of buildings, which began in spring of 2025 and was scheduled to take approximately 13 months to complete. Final stages of construction are under way, including the installation of exterior materials, corridor finish work, construction of amenity and maintenance buildings, along with general site work.

With the favorable weather conditions over the winter, FCI Contractors is estimating a completion date for this spring.

“The Buckskin Charlie Housing Project will expand affordable housing options



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Interior views show spacious kitchen plans, where final details are taking shape inside the Buckskin Charlie Apartments.

for tribal members by offering flexible 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units with short-term leasing,” said Southern Ute Vice Chairman Marvin Pinecoose. “This approach supports those who prefer alternatives to long-term mortgages and provides accessible housing for new employees relocating to the area. We see this project as an important step toward future on-Reservation eco-

nommic development wins.”

“Together, these new homes will help ensure that tribal members, local workers and families can continue to live, thrive and build their lives right here at home for generations to come,” Seibel said.

To be placed on an email list for future rental information please contact Kathleen Castellot the Economic Development Property Manager, at 970-563-2325.

## 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

## FREE SERVICES AT ELHI IN IGNACIO

### Pine River Shares

Providing weekly food distribution, community dinners and freecycle clothing at ELHI. FREE food distribution Monday, March 16, 5-6 p.m. Contact PRS at 970-884-6040, pam@pinerivershares.org

### The Clothing Closet

A ministry of Ignacio Community Church located at ELHI, providing free clothing, jackets and shoes to all. Open for FREE clothes shopping (for all ages) Tuesday & Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free food bags will be available for pick up as long as food drive donations are being received. For more information contact: 970-563-4498.

## BACK TO OUR ROOTS.

This March, we invite you to step back in time. In 1972, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe redefined hospitality with the opening of Pino Nuche Pu-rá-sa. Now, we honor that legacy with a month-long celebration of nostalgia, classic winning vibes, and the enduring resilience of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF '72.

SATURDAYS | 11AM - 6PM  
 Feel the vintage energy on the floor with our hot seat hourly drawings, where you'll have four minutes to reach the Ace's Club and pick from seven marked envelopes — every pick is a winner!

## THROWBACK REWARDS.

THURSDAYS | 1PM - 8PM  
 We've revived the iconic graphics from the original Sky Ute Loot slot machine for a limited-time kiosk game. Earn 72 points to play and win up to \$110 in Sky Ute Loot.

## LET THE THUNDER ROLL TO \$1,984!

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 16, 23, & 30  
 7PM - 11PM

Celebrate the Tribe's bison herd with a chance to win a commemorative bison statue and up to \$1,984 cash.

## A TASTE OF THE PAST.

Visit Rolling Thunder Grill for a featured menu item inspired by the original Pino Nuche Pu-rá-sa dining room.

## PROGRESSIVE BINGO RETURNS.

Experience the legendary Rolling Thunder Progressive Bingo at Seven Rivers Bingo.

## GROOVY GLOW BOWL.

MARCH 19 & 20 | 7PM - 11PM  
 Head to Rolling Thunder Lanes for Glow Bowl, prizes, and a 1970s costume contest.

Must be an Ace's Club member to participate. See the Ace's Club for official rules and details.



# Seniors & Royals take center court



Senior, Alyssa Atencio is escorted by her parents during the senior night events at Ignacio High School.



Senior Royalty, Krysten Neil and Dillon Brann, crown each other as King and Queen during the presentation of Snowcoming Royalty on Tuesday at the IHS Main Gym.



Athlete, Zaine Hight smiles alongside his parents during Senior Night recognition for the Bobcats.



Seniors, Trace Crane and Larissa Espinosa are crowned First Attendant during the Snowcoming Royalty recognition on Tuesday.



Athlete, Sonny Flores stands with parents Sunshine and Terence Whyte during his recognition as a Senior on Tuesday evening.

**Ignacio High School recognized both its Senior Athletes and Snowcoming Royalty on Tuesday, Feb. 24 during the matchup with Alamosa High School. Kicking off with the Senior Athletes, each athlete was escorted onto the center court by their families and friends. Very emotional, Senior's shared written letters to be read during the recognition, individually giving thanks to all those who had an impact on them during their time as Bobcat athletes. Later during the halftime portion of the Boys' Varsity game, Snowcoming Royalty, dressed to the nines, was announced to the crowd. Snowcoming otherwise known as winter homecoming, is celebrated each year with a Royalty Court for each grade voted by their peers.**

**Photos by Divine Windy Boy**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Leandra Litz and William Mendoza-Lechuga were crowned as the Junior Class Royalty, Litz is joined by friends, Armando Richards and Aubree Lucero; Mendoza-Lechuga is joined by his mother.

## State wrestlers recognized



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Ignacio wrestlers who competed at the State Championships in Denver were recognized on Tuesday, Feb. 24 during the basketball games and following the Senior Night/Snowcoming Royalty recognitions. Recognized for their hard work and athletic achievements, wrestlers Zane Pontine, Krysten Neil, Larissa Espinosa, Aven Bourriague, and state champ Lincoln deKay gathered on center court as the crowd congratulated the group.



Freshman royalty were brought out half-court during the Snowcoming Royalty portion of Ignacio's basketball matchup against Alamosa High School. Shyla Cloud and Keyon Alston were named the Freshman Royalty.



### Northern Ute elders visit MPF



courtesy Daisy Eagle

Gathering of Northern Ute Elders reception dinner sponsored by the Eagle family and Elise Redd, pictured with Multi-Purpose Facility volunteers and members from the Southern Ute Royalty, Thursday, Feb. 26.

### Call for Male Southern Ute Sun Dancers

For Spring Blessing on Friday, March 20  
Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum's Fire Pit

Please contact Sun Dance Chief, Matthew Box

## 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

---

**COME MEET THE EASTER BUNNY!  
PLUS FOOD VENDORS, GAMES, & TONS OF OTHER PRIZES  
BRING YOUR OWN BASKET FOR HUNTING**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, BOOTH INFO, OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT  
DON FOLSOM AT ( 970) 563-2893



# SPRING BLESSING

## MARCH 20, 2026

## 7:14 AM

# FIREPIT BY SUGCM LARGE CLASSROOM

### \*CAMPUS WIDE BLESSINGS AS WELL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
EUGENE BEREZA | 970-563-2307



REMEMBERING OUR RELATIVES

## HOZHONI

### DAYS 60<sup>TH</sup>

March 27 & 28

# POWWOW



#### Head Staff

- Emcee**  
Ernie Zah
- Arena Director**  
Kenny Brown
- Head Woman**  
Samantha Marris
- Head Man**  
Chosen per Session
- Head Gourd**  
Keiyan Mann
- Host Drums**  
Northern: The Horses  
Southern: Southern Soul

#### Categories

- Golden Age (55+)**  
Women's: Combines  
Men's: Combined
- Adults (18-54)**  
Women's: Fancy, Jingle, Northern Traditional, Southern Traditional  
Men's: Fancy, Grass, Northern Traditional, Southern Traditional
- Teens (13-17)**  
Girls: Fancy, Jingle, Traditional  
Boys: Fancy, Grass, Traditional
- Juniors (6-12)**  
Girls: Fancy, Jingle, Traditional  
Boys: Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- Tiny Tots (5 & under)**

#### Drum

- Contest!!**
- Specials**
- Head Woman**  
18+ Old Style Jingle
- Committee Special**  
16+ Orange Regalia
- Hozhoni**
- Ambassador**  
18+ Red Dress Special
- Coming into the circle**  
Women's Northern Traditional 18+

#### Vendors Signup



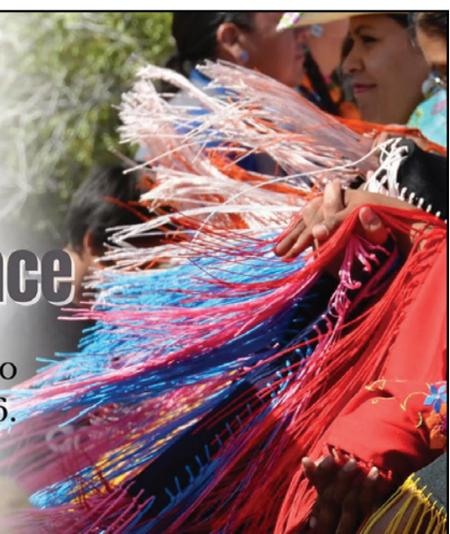
This is an alcohol, tobacco, and drug-free event Fort Lewis College are NOT responsible for any theft, accery. Absolutely NO soliciting/raffling/walking vendors.



## 2026 Randlett Ute Beardance

Thursday, April 30 to Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Vendor Booth: \$75.00  
Available All Weekend



### "Renew Our Human Spirits"

#### SAVE THE DATES

Randlett Ute Beardance Grounds  
Randlett, Utah

All additional information will be shared shortly.



For information contact: 970-300-8991 or 435-823-1736

FT. DUCHESNE

# BEAR DANCE



## MAY 8 - 11, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND  
SAVE THE DATE!

FT. DUCHESNE, UTAH  
UINTAH & OURAY  
RESERVATION



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Larissa Espinosa pins Severance's Reese Rose during consolation-round action Friday, Feb. 20, in the 2026 CHSAA Class 4A State Championships' 235-pound division.

BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING

# Espinosa, Neil lead ladies in Denver

IHS Girls' Wrestling takes 17th at State

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

There was just no feeding the meter, so to speak.

No way to purchase any additional time on the mat at the 2026 CHSAA Girls' State Wrestling Championships. And for Krysten Neil, no way to prolong her Ignacio career even 60 measly seconds more – and perhaps improve her standing amongst Class 4A's best 135-pounders.

Pit Saturday morning, Feb. 21, inside Ball Arena against Lamar senior Addy Krug with third place at the weight up for grabs, Neil – whose potential title run was ended in the previous evening's semifinals by an unstoppable force mentored, in part, by a former IHS instructor – came up just short in a see-saw bout and lost 7-5.

"I look up to her," Neil said afterwards. "We're both seniors and it was our last match, so we both wanted it. She went out there and got the first takedown, then I started scoring points. And then she scored some points – we were head-to-head! In the third period she was gassed, so I was like 'Alright! Now I've got this!' If I'd have had, you know, one more minute...I think I could have got her. But she's an awesome wrestler; previously, I'd won against her in

Cañon City."

"Aside from that, the experience was awesome, you know?" she continued. "I lost against the now two-time State Champion – Kate Doughty – then won again to go for third/fourth place, then lost to Addy. I'm heartbroken that it's over, but it's been absolutely so much fun."

Initially defeated, via pin, by CCHS senior star Doughty (coached by, among others, former Ignacio athletic director Leo Garand) in the semis, Neil (31-8) then beat consolation semifinal foe McKayla Singer of Gunnison by 11-3 major decision to set up the showdown with Krug, and ended up with a 3-2 meet record – helping IHS earn 43 points and place 17th overall.

Only Alamosa (T-12th, 51 points) ranked higher amongst teams hailing from south of both Interstate 70 and U.S. 50. Pueblo Central ended up scoring a first-place overall, with Severance (102.5) coming in second and Las Animas (102) third. Doughty and CCHS finished fourth with 95 points, while Singer and GHS filled out the top five with 68.

Happily blowing kisses to the crowd on the 21st before leaving a mat for the last time, senior Larissa Espinosa became the still-developing Ignacio girls' program's first three-time State

placer thanks to her pin, coming ten seconds into the second period, of Yuma senior Danika Dischner in the 235-pound division.

That gave Espinosa (19-4 overall) not only third place at the weight, but her fourth consecutive win following an 8-4 quarterfinals loss to LAHS freshman Elizabeth Gallegos, but later a 3-1 victory over Woodland Park senior Cheyenne Becker in the consolation semis.

Junior Laine Bradley (18-8) went 2-2 at 125 pounds, but after pinning Severance's Nevaeh Odegaard in the second consolation round, lost via third-period pin to Walsenburg senior Ivey McAlhany. Finally, freshman Ireland Cates (4-20) went 0-2 at 140 after being pinned on the 19th by Florence senior Alyce Johnson in 1:44, then defeated via 15-0 technical fall by Burlington freshman Saylor Wall.

"We're all seniors, except for Laine and Ireland, and everyone looks up to us – I take that to heart. Not only do I have brothers in wrestling that are coming up, and they're looking up to me, but ... there's so many girls that I know right now that are asking me 'Should I join wrestling?' And I'm like 'As much as possible. I'll help you with anything,'" said Neil. "Because my great-

Espinosa page 20



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Aven Bourriague concentrates on 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships finals opponent Derreck Buford of Ordway-based Crowley County before the bout's starting whistle Saturday night, Feb. 21, inside Ball Arena in Denver. The two went head-to-head for the title at 113 pounds, with Buford coming out a 7-1 winner.

BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING

# IHS' Bourriague bags second at State

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Under the 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Wrestling Championships' format, Aven Bourriague ended up with more time on his hands than he knew, or even wanted to know what to do with.

And after fans filling Ball Arena Saturday evening, Feb. 21, glimpsed Ignacio's senior 113-pounder entering the venue during the all-classification Parade of Champions, they had to wait quite a bit longer to see if the first of two finals-qualifying Bobcats could collect the ultimate prize. Whereas typically the closing phase would have commenced with ac-

tion at 106 pounds, then 113, 120 and so on, the '26 tournament's ending round got going with the 190-pounders – meaning Bourriague and opponent Derreck Buford of Ordway-based Crowley County would be the fifth title bout rather than the second.

The aforementioned POC got underway just after 4 p.m. Mountain, but Bourriague didn't get to step onto Rocky Ford's mad melon-adorned mat until 5:48 – by which point he had almost exhausted all ways he knew to remain patient.

"I was so nervous," he admitted afterwards. "I was pacing back and forth...just trying to soak in all of the

moment, because I've only got one of these. One time."

One time for his mind, but his second time in 'the show,' Bourriague was ready, but Buford more so to go. The Charger senior set the tone early and quickly built up a 7-0 lead through the first two-minute period. Bourriague began the second period in the top position, but couldn't make any headway on the scoreboard and went into the third still behind by seven points.

Squaring off against Buford in the upright, neutral position, Bourriague later avoided being blanked by earning an escape point.

Bourriague page 20

DAY OF DEKAY • FROM PAGE 1

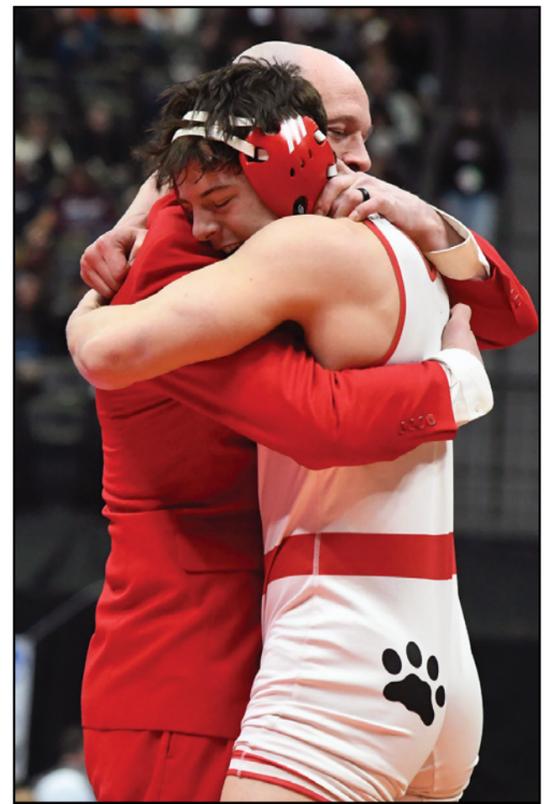
match. If he was on his best game, he would definitely have been one of the tougher opponents I've wrestled all year. But he just couldn't get momentum going."

"He was pretty fast ... and he stayed on top; he was a hammer on top," Saucedo said while waiting to join deKay on the walk to the podium for the weight's awards ceremony. "I probably should have moved my hips a little more, trying to get out, but sometimes it just doesn't work the way you want it to."

"I know that I worked for this, so there's no shame in it; nobody can take that away from me, all the blood, sweat and tears that I spent," he continued. "And, yeah, it didn't end the way I'd wanted, but hopefully my little brother can look up at the walls inside (Burlington's) wrestling room and try to beat me in that aspect."

Saucedo finished the 2025-26 grind standing 38-8 overall while deKay, whose season was interrupted by an injured right elbow (again well-protected for State), finished 27-1 in becoming Ignacio's tenth State champ – the first since three-time king Alex Peña in 2011 – and bringing home IHS' 14th individual State title.

"Regardless of how bad my elbow hurt, or if I ripped it off the bone even more, I wanted to win, so I was just going to wrestle with it like it was normal," said deKay, now a three-time State placer whose father – and former IHS head coach – Chris copped crowns inside Denver's old McNichols Arena in 1987 (Class A, 119 pounds; uncle Ray deKay conquered the 126-pound division) and '88 (A, 126). "I'm feeling pretty relieved; I'm not going to lie. It'd be



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Lincoln deKay embraces head coach Jordan Larsen after closing out his senior season with a technical-fall victory over Burlington's Jason Saucedo in the 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships' 165-pound grand finale Saturday night, Feb. 21, inside Ball Arena in Denver.

fun to wrestle again tomorrow, but I think I'm ready for a little break."

In the end, deKay's drive helped IHS tally 67.5 points and place a solid tenth. Atop the table, Ault-based Highland racked up a winning 111 points, while runner-up Hotchkiss North Fork finished with 105.5. Saucedo and BHS ended up with 94.5, as did Rocky Ford, with Buena Vista (93) and pre-meet No. 1 Cedaredge (88) following in the standings – which counted 49 scoring, and 53 represented teams overall.

AFTERMATH

His first-place finish the

determining factor, Lincoln deKay was named First Team All-2A and fellow senior teammate Aven Bourriague, runner-up at 113 pounds, was a Second Team All-2A pick.

Also representing the San Juan Basin League well, Dolores' Kenji Edwards received Honorable Mention All-2A distinction by placing third – he pinned Las Animas' Gabriel Martinez 1:23 into the second period, after holding a 13-12 lead in the high-scoring bout – at 132. Norwood's Kannon Sherman also received Honorable Mention after taking third at 215 pounds by pinning Springfield's Jett Konkel in 1:11.

## FLC VOLLEYBALL YOUTH CAMP



FRIDAY  
April 3rd, 3:15pm- 6:45pm



DROP-OFF: SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER  
PICK-UP: SKY UTE CASINO BOWLING ALLEY

Join SunUte Recreation, along with Fort Lewis Volleyball, for our annual Youth Volleyball Camp! We encourage youth from all over the area to join us, grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to teach kids about the sport of volleyball, and encourage them to step out of their comfort zone while meeting friends along the way.

- GRADES K-8TH
- SIGN UP AT SUNUTE FRONT DESK (IN-PERSON REGISTRATION ONLY).
- \$10/CHILD (\$5 SU TRIBAL MEMBERS & 1<sup>ST</sup> DESCENDANTS).

For More Information:

- Elijah: (970) 563-2655
- Kelsey: (970) 563-2660
- Jake: (970) 563-2664
- Aaron: (970) 563-2667





Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Stoney White Thunder-Lucero (32) blocks the shot of Monte Vista's Manny Jiron during the teams' regular-season finale Thursday night, Feb. 26, at MVHS. The visiting Bobcats' 2025-26 campaign concluded with a 60-41 loss, while the Pirates advanced into the Class 3A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32.

## BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

### Bobcats lose finale at Monte Vista

*IHS boys unable to sneak into playoffs*

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Even when Ignacio head coach Trae Seibel and Monte Vista counterpart Jaime Hurtado seemingly agreed to empty their respective benches for basically the last two minutes Thursday night, Feb. 26, the game still appeared far from over.

That is, the Bobcat and Pirate reserves did their best to not let the gymnasium's energy dissipate even after a razzle-dazzle, 180-degree, two-handed reverse dunk by Monte Vista senior guard/forward Azariah 'Raz' Hurtado increased the home team's lead to a secure 56-34.

But during the final 1:57, the visitors' substitutes – including senior Zaine Velasquez-Hight and sophomore Evan Maez – actually outscored MVHS' 7 to 4, cutting MVHS' overall second-half advantage down to just 28-27. And though the scoreboard showed the Pirates still up 60-41 as the final buzzer sounded, the

**Bobcats lose page 20**



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Thunder Windy Boy (0) extends a running scoop shot towards the rim during the Bobcats' 2025-26 season finale Thursday night, Feb. 26, at Monte Vista. IHS lost 60-41 to the Pirates, who qualified for the Class 3A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Joined by teammate Juliann Avila (11), Ignacio's Maliyah Martinez (34) tries pulling a rebound away from Monte Vista's Reagan Futrell (24) during the teams' regular-season finale Thursday evening, Feb. 26, inside MVHS Gymnasium. The visiting Lady Bobcats' campaign concluded with a 50-13 loss to the Lady Pirates, bound for the Class 3A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32.

## BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

### IHS girls no match for Monte's

*Season ends with 50-13 road loss*

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Even with a roster more or less back at full strength, the Ignacio Lady Bobcats were simply overpowered, often literally, at Monte Vista in a 50-13 road loss Thursday evening, Feb. 26.

Held to only two field goals – a trey and a deuce, both made during the third quarter, and both fired up and in by senior forward Juliann Avila – all game, IHS couldn't get anything to fall until junior guard Maliyah Martinez hit one of two free throws with 0:41.8 left in the second quarter.

Unfortunately, MVHS had quickly and authoritatively built upon senior guard Reagan Futrell's game-opening layup and owned a 17-0 advantage before Martinez was fouled by Lady Pirate junior Destiny Pacheco and stepped to the charity stripe. But not long after Ignacio (4-18 overall, 2-10 3A/4A Intermountain) avoided being shut out on the scoreboard, freshman forward Justina Jessepe was hit with her third personal foul, and MVHS junior Krissa Padilla made one of two FTs with 27.3 ticks left.

Down 11-0 after the opening eight regulation minutes and 18-1 through 16, the Lady 'Cats showed life early after intermission, with Martinez making one of two FTs only nine seconds after play resumed, and Avila draining her three-pointer with 6:21 left and clipping the Lady Pirates' lead down to 18-5.

But Monte Vista junior



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

With teammate Gracyn Archuleta (32) observing, Ignacio's Neeka Howe (1) tries scooping a shot over Monte Vista's Hannah Henderhan (22) during the teams' regular-season finale Thursday evening, Feb. 26, inside MVHS Gymnasium. The visiting Lady Bobcats' season ended with a 50-13 loss to the Lady Pirates, bound for the Class 3A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32.

guard Reminee Mascarenas then netted the home team's first two-pointer of the new half, junior Janessa Marquez drilled especially damaging back-to-back threes, and junior Cindy Cereceres added two FTs as the gap re-grew to 28-6 – and reached 32-10 before the third quarter expired.

And as if things seemingly couldn't worsen for the guests, senior guard Alyssa Atencio – playing, along with Avila, in likely her last game in an Ignacio uniform – picked up her disqualifying fifth personal with 6:59 left in the contest. The scoreboard even flashed as much, but due to a bizarre oversight, Atencio remained on the court – and almost until the very end.

Jessepe, however, wasn't as lucky and, having already picked up four personals during the second quarter, officially fouled out just 12 seconds later. Hit with a strange technical foul during the first frame for an appar-

ent verbal utterance, Avila then fouled out with 5:54 left, and Monte Vista (12-10 overall, 6-6 IML) all the more eager to capitalize.

Senior Heysenny Beltran nailed two threes during the fourth quarter and senior Evie Hinds one, as the Lady Pirates' only remaining Senior/Parent Appreciation Night objective appeared to be making sure that each active player booked at least one point to share in the victory.

Sophomore reserve Trinity Romero became the 12th Lady Pirate to score, via a breakaway layup off a long outlet pass from Mascarenas, who somewhat reluctantly dispossessed Atencio at the other end of the floor after Atencio (3-6 FT, 3 points) crumpled onto it, clutching her right ankle and requiring aid to at last exit the action with 2:26 still remaining.

Avila ended up with a

**IHS Girls page 20**



courtesy Stephanie GoodTracks

Sakarii GoodTracks (far right) smiles as she made it to the podium with a 3rd place finish behind Caroline Kooman (2nd place finish) and Devrah Muth (1st place finish) at the 54th Elk Hoop Shoot State Finals in Salida, Colo. All top three finishers from boys & girls 10-11-year division on the podium with their trophies and medals in hand.

## ELK HOOP SHOOT

### GoodTracks places 3rd at State in Salida!

By Stephanie GoodTracks

COURTESY TO THE DRUM

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Southern Ute tribal member, Sakarii GoodTracks attended the 54th Elk Hoop Shoot State Finals in Salida, Colo., held at Salida Middle School. She was among 35 Colorado State Finalists shooting for their chance to shoot in the West Central Region 8 Hoop Shoot Semi-Finals in Colorado Springs, Colo., on March 14, where they will be go-

ing against the top kids from Kansas, Wyoming and Nebraska.

GoodTracks was in the 10-11 girls Division with six other girls coming from Loveland, La Junta, Deer Trail, Northglenn and Leadville. She made 15 of 25 free throws, 5 of 10 the first round and 10 of 15 the 2nd round, earning her the 3rd place spot, but just missing out on a shoot out with Devrah Muth of La Junta, Colo., and Caroline Kooman of Northglenn, Colo., who

both made 17 of 25 free throws. Muth would eventually win the shoot out and Kooman would take 2nd place.

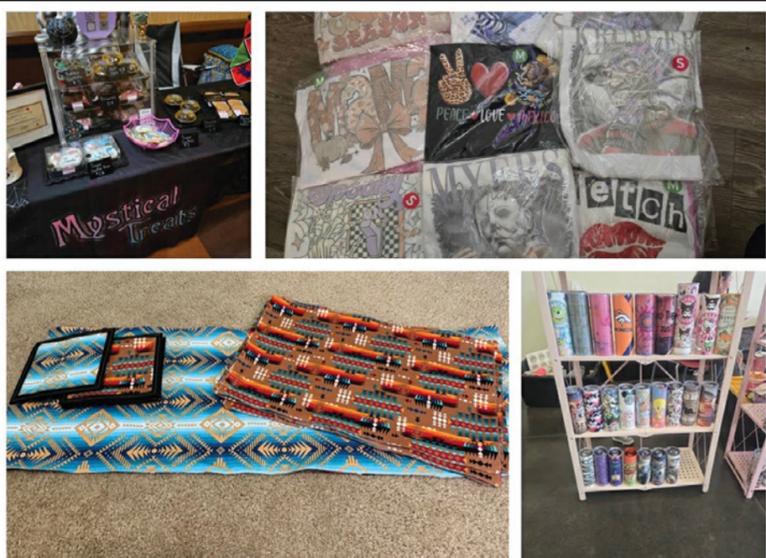
Sakarii would like to thank everyone who supported her throughout her Elk Hoop Shoot journey, and would like to thank Oscar Cosio for nudging her to join by sending the flyer to her parents. She looks forward to trying to further her journey next year and will continue to put in work on her free throws.

## Zepeda makes 1000 points!



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Alamosa High School Senior, Victor Zepeda celebrated a significant milestone of 1,000 career points on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at Ignacio High School against the Bobcats. Zepeda is joined by his family who cheered him on with customized banners. Zepeda, a guard wearing the number zero, is a captain for the Mean Moose Basketball program – congratulations!



## Museum Monthly Market Spring Time!



Southern Ute Museum  
Large Classroom  
Saturday, March 7th 9am-4pm

There will be homemade food served throughout the day as well as fresh baked goods sold. Decor, Clothing, Engraved Tumblers, Beaded & Other Jewelry, Sewn Items, Metal Work, Body Care, Grab & Go, and so much more!

For Vendor Info, contact:  
Mandy (970) 238-0838

## M.I.S. Wizards



Roberta Cook/SU Drum archive

In a photo submitted by SUSS Network Administrator, Dug Ward, of the "M.I.S. Wizards," members of the M.I.S. staff are pictured left to right, Jeffery Jefferson Jr., Aaron Torres [M.I.S. Director], Andrew Dorencamp, Tim Owens and Richard Hudson. The article "The Tribe Surfs the Web," by Joshua Moore, discusses the trials, and tribulations of the "Tribe providing its members and the Ignacio community with some of the fastest, free Internet access available [at that time] in Southwestern Colorado." The article and accompanying photo were published in the March 1, 1998, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



**Luke Protti**

**Job title:** Air Quality Scientist II – Enforcement

**Job duties:** Job duties include preparing, coordinating and tracking air quality enforcement order packages. Providing subject matter expertise on technical and regulatory tasks within the enforcement section of the Tribal Title V Operating Permit program and the Tribal Minor New Source Review program.

**Hobbies:** Cycling, hiking, exploring, soccer and camping.



## ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH

ST. PETER ST. ROSA CHURCH

## Annual Penitential Walk

Begin your 2026 Holy Week with a Pilgrimage if you are seeking spiritual growth, personal reflection, penance and fellowship.



SATURDAY – March 28, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mass at approximately 12 p.m. & lunch afterwards at Andary Hall



Our pilgrimage begins at St. Bartholomew Church in Bayfield with prayer at 8 a.m. and ends at St. Ignatius Parish in Ignacio with Mass at approximately 12:00 p.m.

- The walk is approximately 10 miles, and we will use CR 516 (Rainbow Road). Along the way we will pray the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, etc. and personal reflection. Water, snacks and porta-pot are available for all pilgrims throughout the entire walk.
- Transportation from Ignacio to Bayfield will be provided, if needed. Please show up at St. Ignatius at 7:15 a.m. and we will transport you to St. Bartholomew. If you can't complete the walk, we will have people available to transport you back to either church.
- If you can't walk the entire way, consider joining us at the beginning or end. Volunteers are always needed, such as drivers, help with lunch, donate water, Gatorades, snacks (chips, fruit snacks, crackers, etc.) See signup sheets in community room.
- We ask all pilgrims to please sign up. There is a signup sheet in the back of church, or you can sign up online at [www.stignatiuschurchignacio.com](http://www.stignatiuschurchignacio.com).
- All are welcome to attend. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For info., please call (970)563-4241 or (970)749-6830.



## PINO NUCHE INDIGENOUS ARTIST MARKET & JURIED SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 9 • 10 • 11, 2026

CONTEMPORARY & TRADITIONAL NATIVE ARTWORK

JURIED SHOW • CRAFTS • DEMONSTRATIONS

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JULY 3RD

AUGUST 6TH



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WEB | [southernutemuseum.org](http://southernutemuseum.org)



SOUTHERN UTE  
CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM



### ORIGAMI PAPER CRANE MOBILES

Tuesday, March 17  
10 AM - 12 PM

Get crafty and make a decorative cascade of origami paper cranes!  
10 spots available, please RVSP at 970-563-2998

### KIDS LOOM BEADING

Wednesday, March 18  
1 PM - 4:30 PM

Learn the skills of loom beading and create your own bracelet or keychain.  
11 spots available, please RVSP at 970-563-2998

### STORY TIME

Thursday, March 19  
10am - 11am

PROGRAMMING EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE LIBRARY.

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



## Correction

In a photo published in the Feb. 20 issue of the Drum, Dan Jefferson retired from Red Cedar Gathering Company, not Red Willow.

In a photo published in the Feb. 20 issue of the Drum, Lyndsey Jefferson's name was misspelled.

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Mar. 20**

Deadline:  
**Mar. 13**

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



### THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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



SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years  
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The Southern Ute Drum does not assume responsibility for unsolicited material and does not guarantee publication upon submission.

Published biweekly and mailed 1st class from Ignacio, Colo.

Printed by The Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, N.M.

The Southern Ute Drum is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, the Society of Professional Journalism and the Colorado Press Association.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters

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



## JOHNSON-O'MALLEY

### 2026 Meeting Dates

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

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

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

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



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

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

tribal members or any interested Native Americans who would like to be actively involved in planning, promoting, and executing Powwows on Southern Ute land. Must be willing to work hands on, attend all scheduled meetings and powwow events with a professional/traditional attitude towards committee members, tribal departments, and visitors. Please submit letters to: Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR [soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov)

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

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

**TERO COMMISSION**  
Open Until Filled – The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) is accepting letters of interest for two (2) Southern Ute Tribal member at-large Commissioners to serve on the Tribal Employment Rights Commission which are compensated positions. Southern Ute tribal member/Applicants must have the following requirements: TRIBAL MEMBER AT-LARGE: Not currently employed by the Tribal Government or the Growth Fund; Does not own or operate a certified Indian Owned Business; Experience or expertise in administrative hearing procedures; Eighteen (18) years of age or older; Good character; and Ability to observe restrictions concerning conflict of interest and confidentiality. Submit your Letter of Interest to the TERO Division or send letter to TERO Division, P.O. Box 737, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio, CO 81137. If you have any questions, please call TERO, at 970-563-0117 or 970-563-0100 ext. 2291. TERO is located in the J&R Administration Building, 71 Mike Frost Way, (north of the Tribal Court building).

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

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

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

**WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD**  
Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is seeking enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members to fill two seats on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. The 8-member Board works closely with the Wildlife Division on planning and recommending actions related to tribal hunting and fishing programs. Board members not already employed by the Tribe are compensated \$20 per hour for meeting attendance. Meetings are held roughly on a quarterly basis throughout the year, and a commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. Interested Tribal Members must submit a brief letter of interest that includes a description of the applicant's knowledge and experience with wildlife, hunting, or fishing, on and off of the Southern Ute Reservation. In addition, as a condition of appointment to the Board, applicants must submit a standard job application through the Tribe's Human Resources Department, as well as agree to a State of Colorado background check. Please submit letters to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.

**POWWOW COMMITTEE**  
Open Until Filled – Two vacant positions. The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as a volunteer on the committee. The purpose of the Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee shall be to nurture and promote the positive image of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe through their dances and other activities to preserve our culture. The vacancy is Open to Southern Ute

## 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

## 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



## SAVE THE DATE MANCOS SHALE DEVELOPMENT TOWH HALL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026  
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT  
EVENT CENTER  
DINNER WILL BE SERVED**

**NOTE: THIS MEETING IS FOR SOUTHERN UTE  
TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY**



### 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 amended code 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 amended code. The link will direct you to a draft of the amended code, a summary of changes, and a comment form. Use the comment form on the website to provide comments. Written comments must be received no later than March 23, 2026.

**METHODS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS:** 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](mailto: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 a.m. and 5 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.

**DATES OF TOWN HALL MEETINGS:** 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.
- Food will be provided.

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

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) Water Resources Division is soliciting proposals for the engineering of the Dr. Morrison Diversion Structure. Proposals will be received at the offices of the SUIT Water Resources Division until 5:00 PM (M.S.T) Wednesday, April 1, 2026. The proposals shall be reviewed by the Water Resources Division, and all Contractors shall be notified of the selected proposal. Description of Work: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is seeking a qualified engineering firm to provide an engineering design for the Dr. Morrison Canal Diversion Structure. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has established a preference for contracting and subcontracting to certified Indian owned businesses. For information on certification, contact TERO at 970-563-0117. SUIT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to accept the proposal deemed, in the opinion of the Tribe, to be in the best interest of the SUIT. For inquiries and a digital copy of the detailed RFP, contact the SUIT Water Resources Division: Attn: Joseph Bukosky, Soil & Water Conservationist, 575 County Road 517 PO Box 737 – #63, Ignacio, CO 81137, 970-563-2933 [jbukosky@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jbukosky@southernute-nsn.gov)

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

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

Distribution 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*

### 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

## 2026 Southern Ute Bear Dance Vending

For Entire Bear Dance Weekend  
**\$200**

### FIRST PAID, FIRST ASSIGNED

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

EUGENE BEREZA,  
HERITAGE & EVENT COORDINATOR,  
CULTURAL PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

970-563-2307



## SAVE THE DATE

### CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE & SUCCESS

# SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

**SPECIAL LUNCHEON FOR TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM (Lunch served at noon)  
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT, EVENT CENTER

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

## FOUR CORNERS WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

Training open to Tribal Departments & Tribal Members

Chairman Baker and Executive Officer Box are encouraging Tribal staff and members to become Red-Card certified to be available to support wildfire operations on the Reservation.

This is your opportunity to get your employees trained locally. The following courses are being offered in our area as part of the Four Corners Wildland Fire Academy.

Training is FREE, and employees may remain on the clock to attend. **Total seats available: 25**

**🕒 March 09-13, 2026**  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**📍 Sky Ute Casino Resort, Event Center**  
14324 Hwy 172 N, Ignacio, CO

**S-190: Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior**

**S-130: Wildland Firefighter Training**

**L-180: Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service**

The three courses above, along with ICS-100 and ICS-700, are the minimum requirements for Wildland Firefighter qualification. The Work Capacity Test (Pack Test) is required annually to obtain or maintain certification, but will not be offered at the Four Corners Academy.

**For More Information & To Register Contact:**

**Richard Gustafson, BIA Southern Ute Agency**  
Office: 970-749-3558

Registration Deadline: March 6, 2026

## Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 03/01/26

### MARCH UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED

JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNETEENTH — CLOSED

JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED

SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup> LABOR DAY — CLOSED

OCT. 12<sup>TH</sup> INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED

NOV. 11<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED

NOV. 26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> THANKSGIVING — CLOSED

DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup>–11<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED

DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS — CLOSED

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

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

TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8 AM to 5 PM

Lobby closed 12p—1p on Fridays

Reach a staff member at (970) 563-5500

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

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

Interested in a career in the Water Industry?

FLC@Work is hosting a "Fundamentals of Water Operations" Training.

Each Thursday in May 2026 Open to Everyone!

A hands-on, 4-day introduction to learn how water systems work, including field trips to local water plant facilities

Need more Info? Want to Register? Scan the QR code

Questions? Email Phelps Feeley at [pfeeley@fortlewis.edu](mailto:pfeeley@fortlewis.edu)

The March Bulletin

- **Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, March 4th! Payments must be received before 10am.**
- Annual Spring Cleanup is coming — April 13-17, 2026!
- Disposing any chemicals, oil, or paint? Please label the containers! This is for safety reasons in handling household hazards.
- Stop by our booth March 4, 2026—So. Ute Education Job Fair at the Sky Ute Event Center, 9am til 2pm.
- Projects: Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project will start near the NE Northridge housing area in March. Work involves installing new HDPE sewer line, repairing manholes and fusing new service taps. Expect heavy equipment onsite. Questions?—Call office.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

Tribal Elders & Physically Disabled

Please contact the Office to arrange another person to drop trash off on your behalf at the Transfer Station (970) 563-5500

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

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



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

If you need help filling out an online application, please come 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

### Cultural Education Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Closes 3/12/26 – Development and implementation of the cultural education curriculum to cultivate a deeper understanding, awareness, and respect of the traditional and contemporary culture of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (“Tribe”). Collaborates with Tribal departments, staff, and Tribal Membership in generating ideas and innovative programming that aligns with the mission, goals, and educational objectives of the Cultural Preservation Department and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Supports the Ute Language Program Manager in the logistical coordination of Ute language classes and programming. Integrates the Ute history, culture, and oral tradition into the cultural education curriculum and instruction. Pay E13; Salary is \$63,064/annually.

### NAGPRA Coordinator Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Closes 3/6/26 – Will learn how to develop and administer procedures for determining the affiliation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, and cultural items, as well as the protection of archaeological and sacred sites. The length of this program is designed to last one (1) year but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. Will start at 20% below entry level for a pay grade N12 and receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases to assure that key goals are met. Upon successful completion of the training curriculum, will assume the NAGPRA Coordinator position. Pay will start at \$22.05/hour. Due to cultural significance, a male is needed to fill this position

### 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 rate \$21.48/hour.

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

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

### Building Maintenance Project Supervisor

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

### Clinical Applications Coordinator

Under general direction of the Health Center Support Services Manager, serves as the Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) for the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department and the Southern Ute Health Center. Maintaining the Electronic Health Record (EHR) / Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the Health Department, coordinating up-grades, and providing training to all users. Pay grade E17; Salary \$92,160/annually.

### Clinical Supervisor

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

### Community Health Representative

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

### Construction Services Repairman

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

### Detention Cook

Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay rate \$19.89/hour.

### Detention Division Head

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

### Detention Transport Officer

Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Will be responsible for

transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N14; Pay rate \$32.69/hour.

### Dispatcher

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

### Early Childhood Teacher

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

### Elementary Teacher

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

### Field Technician

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; Salary \$68,004/annually.

### Gaming Investigator I

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

### Gaming Investigator II

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

### HVAC Technician

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 rate \$35.96/hour.

### Land Surveyor

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

### Lands Compliance Technician

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

### Lands Technician

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

### Lifeguard (Part-time)

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 rate \$15.79/four.

### Medical Assistant (Part-time)

Providing professional and clinical services. Position is grant funded; continued employment is contingent on grant funding. Pay grade N10; Pay rate \$23.20/hour.

### Patrol Officer I

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

### Patrol Officer Trainee

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

### Public Defender

Represents eligible Native American or other defendants as authorized by applicable Tribal or federal law in criminal proceedings prosecuted in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Representing

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](mailto: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

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

**JOIN US**

(970)-563-4750

[southernute-nsn.gov/careers](http://southernute-nsn.gov/careers)



## Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

Please visit our website at [www.southernute.com/careers](http://www.southernute.com/careers) 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: 970-563-5024.

### Support Analyst I – Southern Ute Shared Services (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 3/13/26 – Providing technical assistance and support related to computer systems, hardware, or software. Responds to queries, runs diagnostic programs, isolates/troubleshoots problems, and determines and implements solutions.

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

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; Salary \$121,866/annually.

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

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

### Recording Secretary

Takes minutes and transcribes both regular and special council sessions, which also includes Council work session notes and provides support to the Executive Office Manager of the Tribal Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Tribal Council. Pay grade N9; Pay rate \$21.48/hour.

### Special Needs Aide (Part-time)

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

### Suicide & Substance Use Prevention Coordinator

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 rate \$63,064/annually.

### Teacher Aide

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 rate \$15.55/hour.

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

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

### TERO Worker

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

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

The Southern Ute Tribe is accepting applications for SUIT Tribal Members interested in pursuing their career interests through the Apprenticeship Program. Purpose 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

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; Salary \$105,983/annually.



**Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements**

Visit our website at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com) to view job openings and apply online.  
Human Resources • Phone: 970-563-1311 • PO Box 340, Ignacio, CO 81137

TERO-Native American Preference • All Applicants Welcome • Must pass pre-employment drug test, background check, qualify for and maintain a Division of Gaming License and be able to work all shifts, weekends or holidays. **\*21 years or older to apply.**

**Bingo Staff (Part-time)**

Servicing guests during Bingo games, including selling additional special games and pull tabs, instructing customers in Bingo play, calling Bingo games, beverage service and other duties promoting guest satisfaction and play. Verifying winning Bingo cards and making payouts accordingly.

**\*Career Development Coordinator (Full-time)**

Will provide career and educational guidance to the Casino Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) employees through career skills training, mentorship and to promote management opportunities. Collaborates with Department Directors/Managers to identify training needs, source relevant resources, and track effectiveness of development activities for all SUIT employees. Will manage and actively recruit new candidates for the CDP program. Assists Human Resources staff with recruiting activities, attends staff meetings and other seminars, develops, implements, and manages a comprehensive training program per the CDP policy, schedules, organizes, and coordinates in-house training program for the SUIT member/candidate/participant.

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

Reports to the General Manager and 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.

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

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

**\*Housekeeping Staff (Full-time)**

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

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

Will act in the leadership and training capacity. Will direct employees and help them to complete their tasks and goals defined by the Housekeeping Manager. Training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures.

Responsible for office structure, budgetary administration and employee relations as assigned by the Housekeeping Manager.

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

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other assigned areas. 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.

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

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

**\*Willows Sous Chef (Full-time)**

Provides the highest quality of food, presentation, training, professionalism, and guest service that the position requires. Directs and supervises food preparation and guest services in the Restaurants, ensures quality and consistency as it relates to food handling, storage, kitchen and restaurant sanitation, food service and presentation in the dining rooms. Plans meals and menus for the restaurant, trains and supervises food preparation to include methods, storage, portion control, garnishing, and consistency of presentations. Supervises and trains kitchen staff, monitors labor costs and food costs, writes staff schedules, conducts performance evaluations and plans employee development.

**Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements**

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

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

Closed 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.

**Compression Operations Technician I - Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 3/20/26 – Operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

**Compression Operations Technician II - Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 3/20/26 – Operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

**Senior Compression Operations Technician - Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 3/20/26 – Operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

**Accounting Clerk – GF Accounting & Finance (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 3/23/26 – Providing clerical and account-

ing support to the Growth Fund Accounting and Finance department.

**Tribal Member-At-Large – Growth Fund Management Committee (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 3/23/26 – Assisting in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Growth Fund, as established by Tribal Council, and in accordance with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Financial Plan. Serves as a representative of the Growth Fund and assists in providing recommendations, updates, business plans, and attending Growth Fund Management Committee, GFMC, LLC, and Tribal Council meetings. Reports to Tribal Council and must be a Southern Ute Tribal member.

**President/COO – Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 3/20/26 – Provides oversight of day-to-day activities of Red Cedar Gathering Company, including administrative and supervisory oversight to employees and project activities. Developing and executing investment-related strategies for optimal investment performance and for complying with environmental, safety, and commercial requirements. Directs company activities to achieve approved goals and objectives; provides recommendations and reports to the Red Cedar Management Committee; works in collaboration with the Operating Director and Red Cedar Management Committee, the role also formulates investment strategy and long-term business plans.

**Administrative Assistant – GF Human Resources (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 3/13/26 – Provides general office and administrative support to the Growth Fund Human Resources office, including the recruitment process, benefits administration, and training and development, maintaining an orderly and efficient office environment. Responsible for meeting arrangements and assists with special events; interacts with Growth Fund employees, Southern Ute Indian Tribal employees, applicants, Tribal members and the public in an efficient, courteous and helpful manner.

**SoCoCAA Job Opportunities**

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

**Central Administration:**

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

**Ignacio Youth Services:**

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

**Road Runner Transit:**

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

**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.

**Ignacio School District – Job announcements**

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

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

- 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 ELA Teacher 26/27
- Secondary Spanish Teacher 26/27
- Substitute Bus Drivers; Cooks; and Teachers

**CALL FOR VENDORS**

**PIINU NUUCHI FARMERS MARKET**



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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO

**COFFEE & CONNECTIONS**

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH  
8:30-10:00 AM

Willows Cafe at Sky Ute Casino



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION REACH OUT TO ALLISON - [AWALL@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV](mailto:AWALL@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV)/970.563.2281



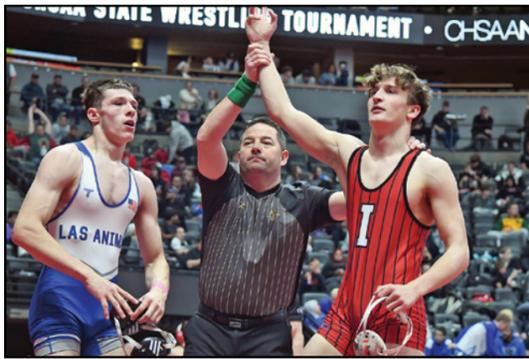
## BOURRIAGUE BAGS SECOND • FROM PAGE 13

But despite conceding nothing more to Buford, neither could Bourriague gain any additional traction in what ended up being an emotional, career-ending 7-1 loss.

"I'm always doubting myself, don't think I'm good enough to wrestle with them, don't think I'm good enough to be here," he said, "but...at that moment, like, I realized I do belong here. This work has paid off, and it was a really good moment."

"Last year was really bittersweet, me not wrestling and being injured. So this year was really all about, like, one last ride," added Bourriague, who finished the season standing an impressive 44-7; Buford improved to 37-2.

"All of us (seniors) know, like, we're not going to be wrestling later on, so we were like, 'Let's just make the most out of this! Let's not whine about practice, not whine about the workouts; let's do this and go as hard as we can.' And it obviously paid off, to have Lincoln (deKay) win State –



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Zane Pontine is declared the winner after pinning Las Animas' Salvador Cadenas in the 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships' 157-pound division Thursday, Feb. 19.

which is amazing and I'm so happy for him."

Senior Zane Pontine capped his own career earlier in the day, pinning down fifth place at 157 pounds by pinning Burlington junior Scout Humrich 17 ticks into the third period. Going 4-2 at the Championships, Pontine finished 41-11 overall and Humrich 35-8.

Fighting against not only opponents but a left collarbone injured at the previous weekend's regional in Cedaredge, senior Joshua Ker-

rigan (29-19) was a hard-luck 0-2 at 126 pounds, but received a proper appreciative hug from final foe Triston Esquivel, a Burlington junior who eliminated Ker-rigan early on Day 2 via 11-3 major decision.

Senior Dillon Brann (21-23) went 1-2 at 144, notching a 22-10 major on Day 1 against Fowler freshman Taten Phillips in the weight's first consolation round before he was then pinned early on Day 2 by Swink senior Kyler Lagregen.

## ESPINOSA, NEIL LEAD LADIES • FROM PAGE 13

er joy is not only, like, succeeding but to watch other people who I've helped be able to succeed."

"Out of anybody that I've been taught under ... I mean, I couldn't have asked for better coaches," she added. "Coach (Jordan) Larsen, he's the one that was always there comforting me. Coach Mitch (Napier) and Coach (Brad) Egger as our girls' coaches, they mean a lot to me. And then, last year, Coach (Jer-rid) Brann, with me going into wrestling not knowing anything, took the time to show me what a simple 'shot' was and what a 'sprawl' was; he had the pa-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Krysten Neil turns up her intensity while tying up with Keenesburg-based Weld Central's Amelia Nolf during first-round action Thursday, Feb. 19, in the 2026 CHSAA Class 4A State Championships' 135-pound division. Neil built a 16-3 lead before pinning Nolf early in the third period. "I'm not wrestling partner – to get in this position without my coaches – or Laine, my

## IHS GIRLS NO MATCH • FROM PAGE 14

team-leading five points, while Martinez (4-6 FT) logged four and junior forward Aubree Lucero (1-3 FT) one. Beltran and Mar-

quez finished with eight points apiece to pace post-season-bound MVHS, while Mascarenas totaled seven and senior Madison Henderhan six as 13 of head coach Shawna Lar-

son's 14 players contributed offensively. son's opening Round-of-32, will next meet No. 15 Colorado Springs St. Mary's (14-9 overall) at 7 p.m. Friday, March 6, up in Wiggins. Hosting the four-team Region II event, 2-seed WHS (19-4) will first play 31-seed Bailey Platte Canyon (12-10) at 5:30; the winning teams will then battle the next afternoon at 1 p.m.

### AFTERMATH

Monte Vista finished regular-season play standing 19th in CHSAA's Selection & Seeding Index (Ignacio was 37th), and after receiving the No. 18 seed in the Class 3A State Tour-

## BOBCATS LOSE FINALE • FROM PAGE 14

teams' starting fives actually played an overlooked 31-31 draw.

The difference was the second quarter.

After striking first via a basket by senior center/forward Trace Crane and later regaining a 5-4 lead – the Bobcats' last, as it turned out – via senior guard Stoney White Thunder-Lucero's three-pointer with 2:06 left in the first frame, Ignacio got a free, well-earned breather when Monte Vista boss Hurtado called timeout.

Pirate sophomore forward/center Landon Sanchez, however, promptly canned a corner three and senior guard/forward Domyon Naranjo closed out the quarter with a pair of free throws, giving MVHS a 9-5 edge through eight tense minutes on Senior/Parent Appreciation Night. Sanchez and Hurtado then combined to start the second stanza sinking three of four FTs before IHS senior guard Sonny Flores hit one of two with 6:07 left until halftime.

Flores, however, then picked up his third personal foul with 5:30 left and senior forward Rance Rathjen did likewise only six seconds later, infuriating Bobcat backers in the building and pressing Seibel to go deeper into his bench much earlier than he'd have liked. And after Sanchez hit one of two FTs, senior guard Kelby Mondragon followed with a take to the hoop increasing Monte Vista's lead to 16-6.

And as one hoop's diameter seemed to shrink whenever the 'Cats took aim, the other's seemed to widen; a corner trey by junior re-

serve guard Connor Mellott punctuated a game-breaking 14-5 stretch and inflated the Pirates' pad to 30-11. And as the quarter expired, junior backup forward Jeremiah McComas stole junior guard Thunder Windy Boy's high-bouncing dribble near midcourt and hurried it to the opposite end for a buzzer-beating layup giving MVHS an imposing 32-14 lead at intermission.

A Mondragon deuce plus two Hurtado FTs then offset a Crane basket beginning the third quarter, but the Bobcats responded by outscoring the Pirates 9-3 to cut the deficit down to 39-25, after sophomore guard Joseph Atencio's corner three with 2:21 to go. Monte Vista, however, countered with an 8-0 burst capped by another McComas close-range buzzer-beater – the end product of an in-bounds pass from the baseline after Crane was called for his fourth personal foul with 0:01.8 left on the clock.

Trailing 47-25 entering the fourth quarter, despite three consecutive, aggressive Windy Boy takes to the rim, the 'Cats then closed out the contest winning the frame 16-13. Crane contributed five points, including a three-pointer for what may have been his last prep-level basket; after Flores fouled out with 4:07 left in regulation, Crane did likewise with 3:22 remaining.

Hurtado – honored before the game for passing the 1,000-point mark for his MVHS career – then converted a Mondragon steal and outlet pass into the aforementioned jam, upping his count to a game-high 14

points. Sanchez (8-12 FT) ended up with 11, Mondragon and junior forward John Jake Naranjo eight apiece and McComas seven, but starters Domyon Naranjo, junior guard Kobe Jiron and sophomore guard/forward Manny Jiron were held to a combined nine.

Crane (2-4 FT) totaled 13 points in defeat and Windy Boy (2-4 FT) ten. Atencio totaled two treys and six points, but regulars Flores, White Thunder-Lucero and Rathjen managed a combined eight. Velasquez-Hight chipped in two points and Maez the game's very last two.

### AFTERMATH

While Monte Vista (12-10 overall, 5-7 IML) stayed a virtual lock for inclusion in the upcoming Class 3A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32, having begun the game as the No. 26 team in CHSAA's Selection & Seeding Index, No. 36 Ignacio (9-13, 2-10) was on the bubble but did not receive enough help during the next two days' games statewide to rise higher and ended up 35th.

Bumped up to 25th in the final Index but seeded 24th in the bracket, MVHS will next face 9-seed Wiggins (16-7 overall, 5-5 Patriot) at 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 6, up in Carbondale. Hosting the four-team Region VIII tourney, 8-seed Roaring Fork (20-3, 12-0 Western Slope) will then battle 25-seed Brush (11-12, 5-7 Patriot) at 7:30, with the games' winners to then square off the next afternoon at 12:30 p.m.

## CONGRATS BOBCATS!

On your Winter sports season! Best of luck in your Spring season!

## 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

- "South Park" co-creator --- Stone
- Hay there!
- Some cross sts.
- Saharan nomad
- "Don't just sit there, ---!"
- I owe it --- clean living
- Gratify completely
- The Death Katsina
- 16.5 feet
- The 1956 --- Reservation fire of San Diego County
- Appropriate
- Theatrical credit sharer
- Grumpy
- Classic gunfighter film set in Wyoming
- Crisp fried peelings
- Widely recognized
- Inch, foot or yard, e.g.
- Large Rio de Janeiro statue
- Restaurant with free food if you are not welcomed

### Down

- Title for a lady
- Sicilian site of Allied WWII landing
- An EV brand
- South African gangster who found a baby in a car he stole
- Sault --- Marie, MI
- Egyptian boy-king, for short
- Satisfied sighs
- Thorny plant
- Direction for playing a dirge
- When the yolk's on you, you're ---!
- Seance sound
- WWII female enlistee
- Fragrant stick
- Chief who signed the Chicago and Mississinewa Treaties
- Meat jelly
- Canine
- Instructor
- Early Bahamian native
- Gun-toting gal
- Chills
- Raja's wife
- "--- better to have loved ... " (Tennyson)
- One eighth of a standard printing sheet

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

### Answers for Feb. 20, 2026 crossword puzzle.

**Across:** 1 Pop-up, 6 OECD, 10 Anita, 11 Jules, 13 Penal colony, 15 Asthma, 16 Amir, 17 Norm, 19 Pru, 20 Auk, 23 IAPA, 24 Sop, 25 DNA, 26 Lord, 28 Osha, 30 Omerta, 34 Bellflowers, 36 Etude, 37 Radii, 38 Saab, 39 Aroma.  
**Down:** 1 Papa, 2 Ones, 3 Pint, 4 Utah, 5 Palm oil, 6 Ojo, 7 Eula, 8 Clomps, 9 De Niro, 12 Syrup, 14 Carpool, 18 Marmora, 20 Adobe, 21 Unsets, 22 Kahlua, 27 Dewar, 29 Alda, 31 Redo, 32 Trim, 33 Asia, 35 Feb.

## LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, March 6



Partly sunny 43°F  
40% chance of snow showers

Saturday, March 7



Sunny 51°F

Sunday, March 8



Sunny 59°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

