



Abeyta retires after 38 years!

PAGE 8



POWWOW season begins

PAGE 11

PRSRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ignacio, CO 81137 Permit No. 1
 Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118
\$29 one year subscription
\$49 two year subscription
March 20, 2026 Vol. LVIV, No. 6

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

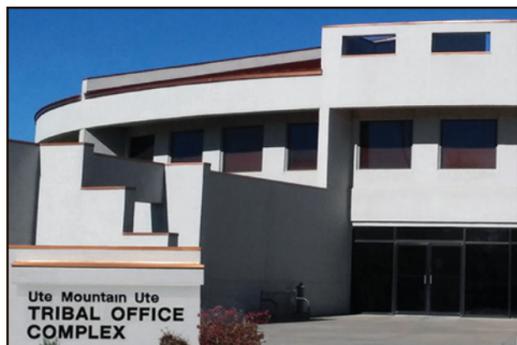
UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

Senators urge DOI to evaluate law enforcement capacity on Ute Mountain Ute Reservation

Staff report

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR
 MICHAEL BENNET

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and U.S. Representative Jeff Hurd urged the Department of the Interior (DOI) Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, William Kirkland, to evaluate the law enforcement capacity needed to keep tribal members and the community safe on the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's Reservation.



courtesy Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe

"The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, primarily located in southwest Colorado and with boundaries extending into northern New Mexico and southeast Utah, prides itself on its sovereignty and self-reliance. However, the Tribe has struggled to ensure that its members are safe in their communities – and in their own homes. The Reservation's remote nature, including an approximately 75-mile distance between the Tribe's police station in Towaoc

and its satellite community of White Mesa, Utah, contributes to delayed response times and inadequate policing," wrote the lawmakers. Tribal representatives told the lawmakers that there is only one law enforcement officer from the federal government, and one law enforcement officer employed by the Tribe patrolling the nearly 600,000-acre reservation. The lawmakers stressed that over the last two years, violent crime has increased on the Reservation. In the absence of a proper law enforcement presence, the Tribe is concerned that violent crime will continue to persist and only intensify.

"It is the legal responsibility of the United States government to fulfill its trust obligations to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and protect its resources and its tribal members. A 90-day analysis to determine the law enforcement capacity needed at the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation is essential to determining tribal and community law enforcement needs and will give the Tribe the ability to plan for future resource needs," concluded the lawmakers.

LIFT THE LABEL

Southern Ute Indian Tribe: Recovery Stories

Willette

"People judge addiction because they don't understand it. We need to learn how to talk about addiction openly, instead of treating it like a taboo"

My name is Willette Whiteskunk, and I am a proud Southern Ute woman. These days, I'm retired and appreciating the quiet peace I have in my life. It wasn't always like this, though.

I started drinking young, around 15. Back then, it felt like a way to belong, to cope. I carried a lot of hurt; growing up with a father who had a substance use disorder, losing my mother early, and hearing too often that I wasn't good enough. I married young, got sober for a while, but when the marriage turned abusive, I relapsed. That's when the depression set in deep. I got into trouble, ended up locked up, and it forced me to take a hard look at my life.

When I came home, I told myself; this is enough. I threw the bottles away, literally tossed them in the trash, and said, "No more." That was about 13 years ago, and I've been sober since. It feels like freedom. My mind is clearer, my spirit lighter and most importantly, I'm showing my children and grandchildren a better way.

It wasn't easy. I faced stigma; mostly from within my-



courtesy Lift the Label

Willette

self. Guilt, shame, and the feeling that I'd failed myself. But I learned that healing starts with trust and awareness. I relied on my faith, my family, and my culture. I've found strength in our traditional medicines, in smudging, in speaking my language, and in the ceremonies my father once led as a Sun Dancer. My culture brought me back to my-

self, to Creator, to balance, to purpose.

Addiction doesn't just touch one person; it affects everyone. That's why I talk about it openly now. I believe the more we speak, the more we heal. My message to others is simple: talk to Creator, follow your culture, and never stop believing in yourself. Healing is possible. I'm living proof.

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Celebrating 25 years of vision and growth

By Pooja Rao-Pennington
 SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

In 2025, the Southern Ute Growth Fund proudly marked its 25th anniversary – a milestone built on vision, resilience and an unwavering dedication to the Tribe's long-term prosperity. From its modest beginnings managing natural resources to becoming a cornerstone of economic strength, the Southern Ute Growth Fund reflects disciplined planning and responsible stewardship that will benefit generations to come.

To honor this milestone, the Southern Ute Growth Fund warmly invites the Southern Ute tribal membership to join



us for a special luncheon, celebrating 25 years of excellence and success.

- When: Thursday, April 9, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Lunch served at noon)
- Where: Sky Ute Casino & Resort, Event Center

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

This event is exclusively for Southern Ute tribal members.

TRIBAL MEMBERS INVITED
 JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL LUNCHEON
THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE GROWTH FUND CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE & SUCCESS
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM (Lunch Served at Noon)
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT, EVENT CENTER
 Hosted by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund, this special luncheon is for Tribal Membership, invited Tribal dignitaries, and special guests. We warmly invite you to attend.
www.sugf.com • 14929 Highway 172, P.O. Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137 • Ph: (970) 563.5000

Chi King tours reservation



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Nonprofit organization, Native Love welcomes guest artist Chi King to the Southern Ute Reservation where the artist will be filming his music video to his new song "Stolen Sisters." Chi King met members of the Southern Ute Royalty at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum on Tuesday, March 17.

DIFF shares Indigenous voices



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Native Lens, in partnership with the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media, held a special showcase featuring Native American storytelling at the Durango Independent Film Festival (DIFF) on Saturday, March 7, at the Durango Arts Center. Native Lens proudly shared the eclectic visions of filmmakers from different reservations, featuring eight films that celebrate Indigenous voices, histories and cultures through film and video. Indigenous filmmakers gathered for a group photo following the program, Saturday, March 7, at the Durango Arts Center; pictured left to right - Antonia Hatch, Annette Nowlin, John Oberly, Kaldurion Pinnecoose and Faustino Joy.

COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

Resurfacing project to begin on US 160 from Elmore's Corner to Durango

Motorists should plan for night work

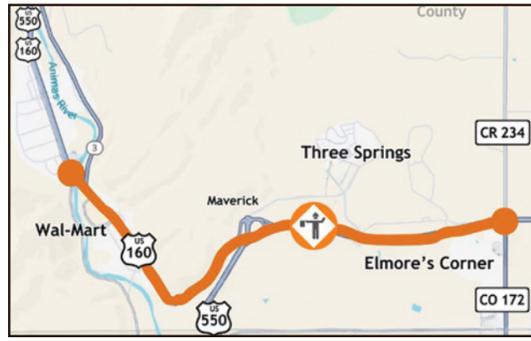
Staff report

COLO. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation and contracting partner, Elam Construction, will begin a resurfacing project on March 23 along US Highway 160, from Elmore's Corner to the Durango High Bridge. Much of this work will take place at night to minimize traffic impacts along this busy corridor. The project has an anticipated completion in November.

The project will improve approximately six miles of US 160 from Elmore's Corner at the Colorado Highway 172 intersection to the Durango High Bridge just north of Walmart (Mile Points 86 to 92). Work will include resurfacing the highway, striping, new delineators, guardrail and road sign replacement. New pedestrian ramps and crosswalks, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will be installed on US 160 at Dominguez Drive, River Road, Three Springs Boulevard and CO 172/CR 234 (Elmore's Corner).

"US 160 from Elmore's Corner to High Bridge serves as a vital corridor for Durango and southwestern Colorado," said CDOT Regional Transportation Director Julie Constan. "This highway is essential for everyday travel, tourism access and regional con-



nectivity. The improvements will help to accommodate increases in traffic volumes and enhance roadway reliability."

Work will begin with curb reconstruction work on the east end of the project area at Elmore's Corner. Work activity will continue westward toward Durango, where the project will be completed with deck repairs and resurfacing of the High Bridge. Additional work will include drainage and inlet repairs at the concrete median south of Home Depot to old Farmington Hill, with settlement repairs and resurfacing on the exit ramps at Grandview Interchange.

Project Benefits

The new asphalt will add years of life to the highway, provide a smoother road surface and will add durability by increasing the resistance of ruts and road damage. The new guardrail will be 31 inches high, designed to meet new safety standard requirements. The higher railings

help veering vehicles remain on the road more effectively, making the highway safer for the traveling public.

Other benefits of the project include the installation of ADA compliant curb ramps. The new ramps will be constructed in compliance with the federal guidelines and requirements, providing functional accessibility for multi-modal users.

Travel Impacts

Nighttime work hours are Sunday night through Friday morning from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Traffic impacts will include:

- Single lane closures with lane shifts and shoulder closures
- 15 minute delays
- Speed reduction to 45 MPH
- While most work will occur at night, motorists may experience daytime delays and congestion due to lane closures and traffic shifts that will remain in place 24/7



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Abel Velasquez, SunUte Community Center fitness trainer, watches on as Davian Richards, Tallas Cantsee and Kean Cantsee measure the amount of sugar in a soda bottle.

This photo was published in the March 18, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Sixth Graders in Mr. Tony Rhoads' class at Ignacio Intermediate School took honors at the Regional Science Fair. Second place went to Abeth Okall (left) for her project on microbiology and Honorable Mention went to Carly Barborinas (right) for her project on tree rings.

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



L. Lucero/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Preston Barry works on the computer at his new internship job for the NRD Conservation Branch.

This photo was published in the March 15, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

40 years ago

There was not an issue of the Southern Ute Drum printed for the corresponding Many Moons Ago, 40 Years Ago section. Look for the 40 Years Ago photo in the April 3 issue.

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

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

LET'S CELEBRATE

20 YEARS OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

17TH

APRIL 2026

20 YEARS

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

4 PM TO 7 PM

SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER
290 MOUACHE CIRCLE, IGNACIO, CO

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH MUSIC, FOOD, AND FUN ACTIVITIES!

FREE ENTRY OPEN TO EVERYONE!

bgcsu.org

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

SOUTHERN UTE UTILITIES DIVISION

March 2026

NORTHRIDGE SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Sewer line replacement work is underway along Northridge Drive. Please expect temporary road delays and use caution in the area. Thank you for your patience!



LET'S LEARN UTE



Tuka.

Eat.

Páyuki tukaqhay.

Come and eat.

Nú' 'áavv tükavaani.

I am going to eat now.

Nú' 'ipusapa 'tükavaachi 'ásti'i.

I want something to eat.



Armijo recognized by Chief



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Velma Armijo was honored and recognized by Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box, Friday, March 13, for her and her family's dedication to cooking the Bear Dance feast each year. Armijo was honored with a song and two new hand-crafted cooking ladles as a surprise organized by her fellow employees and Chief Box.

Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box gives hand-carved wooden ladles to Velma Armijo recognizing her and her family for their years of service to the Tribe and asking for their support during this year's Bear Dance celebration.



FT. DUCHESNE

BEAR DANCE



MAY 8 - 11, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND
SAVE THE DATE!

FT. DUCHESNE, UTAH
UINTAH & OURAY
RESERVATION

SoCoCAA Community Needs Assessment

The SoCoCAA organization is reaching out to gather input from organizations and individuals who serve our community. Your insights are essential in helping us identify current challenges, resource gaps, and opportunities for collaboration. This Community Needs Assessment will guide our future programs and initiatives to ensure they truly reflect the priorities and needs of those we serve. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey below. Your feedback will directly inform our planning and strengthen collective efforts to improve community well-being. We appreciate your valuable time and perspective. Thank you for being an active part of building a stronger, more connected community. You may navigate to the link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ku0zky_M910Ac-KZ1mMuwFNqB5To9qSt/view?usp=drive_link

Multi-Purpose Facility Traditional Sewing and Beading



**Tuesday - Thursday
March 24-26, 2026**

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

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

The class will focus on Ribbon Shirt Making. You are welcome to bring any project you would like to make.

Supply List:
Adult sizes 3 1/2 yards of fabric
Youth shirts 2 yards of fabric
Ribbons



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

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: 970-800-8991 or 435-823-1736

REMEMBERING OUR RELATIVES

HOZHONI

DAYS 60TH

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: Combined
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)
Grand Entry
March 27 & 28
Friday
Gourd: 4:00pm Grand Entry:
6:00pm
Saturday
Gourd: 1:00pm Grand Entry:
4:00pm

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, acciry. Absolutely NO soliciting/raffling/walking vendors.





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Memory

By James Wilson, LPC
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Memory is a huge part of who we are. Our memories of our lives and those of our relatives and friends bind us together and create a framework in which we come to understand our lives and our stories. As for me, I can't remember what I had for dinner and that was last night. I'm surprised I remembered where my keys were this morning, I probably can't remember, sometimes I just slap all the pockets on my pants and my jacket until something jingles.

At least, that's how I used to be. I've struggled with memory challenges for most of my life. I was diagnosed with ADD (attention deficit disorder) as a child, and now I know that I have the inattentive type of that disorder (we call it ADHD now) and it makes it harder for my brain to process, store, and recall information sometimes. My parents used to say I have a head like a steel sieve, when it should have been like a steel trap. I struggled sometimes paying attention in school and often had to spend time re-reading what I had just read in the books they gave me for class. Some things stuck with me though, mainly when the books relayed the information with some kind of story, images, and narrative. I also learned that my studies got better when I could take regular breaks to move around, especially in college.

Memory challenges affect more people than just those with ADHD, they can affect most people of advanced age, as well as people with history of traumatic brain injuries, substance use disorders, and trauma and stress related disorders as well. Lots of people have had an

experience where they felt silly or embarrassed about not remembering something important, like where they left their keys; or whether they sent an email or just thought about doing it.

With that in mind, let's be gracious and kind to each other and acknowledge that everyone has trouble with memory at some point, and let's go over a few things that can help. Physically, there is a lot of evidence that cardiovascular exercise improves memory function. When we walk, run, swim, bike, hike, or any other exercise that stimulates the heart to beat faster, it increases the amount of blood that reaches the brain. We can also help our body out by consuming certain minerals, like copper, magnesium, and sodium, and flavanols, which are antioxidants found in tea, cocoa, and fruits like blueberries that help reduce blood pressure while improving blood vessel function. This helps stimulate your brain to help improve your overall memory.

One other important part of our lives that stimulates our need for memory is our connections with other people. Social life, including school, work, doctor's appointments, and regular visits with friends and family helps improve our memory in at least two ways. Firstly, it creates experiences where we have social pressure to remember or think back on later, and secondly it creates opportunities for others to aid in our recollection. Social pressure to remember important dates, events and details about each other in conversation trains our brains for retention. Meanwhile, we can get helpful reminders from people around us when they recall information and remind us in an ac-

tive way, which strengthens our neural connections too.

Another important way people have been building up their memory for generations is via games and storytelling. Memory matching games using playing cards with numbers, words, or symbols are used to help train memory athletes who compete in challenges. Story tellers routinely re-tell stories to keep them fresh in their mind and pass those stories on to the next person and the next generation.

Memory is important to all of us, and we can all struggle to remember important things in life from time to time. Let's give each other some grace, and practice together to help each other out! 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.



ept right Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Discover the Power of Nutrition

Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backwards

Apples	N	S	L	I	T	N	E	L	O	T	B	A	D
Bok Choy	D	E	N	H	O	R	G	A	S	I	H	L	R
Carrot	M	H	O	R	N	E	D	M	E	L	O	N	Y
Cornmeal	O	U	D	O	L	S	Q	U	R	A	A	P	L
Horned Melon	T	R	Y	P	S	U	J	S	R	P	L	R	P
Jackfruit	L	E	T	H	O	F	R	H	Y	I	L	D	E
Lentils	T	D	R	K	I	R	A	R	C	A	I	C	A
Milk	O	C	U	T	L	C	K	O	P	C	T	A	H
Mushrooms	P	A	H	C	A	T	T	O	C	I	R	D	O
Pistachios	T	B	O	M	Q	E	A	M	L	S	O	E	J
Pork	T	B	C	N	U	O	O	S	A	P	T	N	A
Quinoa	C	A	R	R	O	T	P	I	B	B	H	O	C
Red Cabbage	M	G	C	Y	R	S	A	F	R	A	E	N	K
Ricotta	L	E	U	K	Q	O	M	E	U	T	M	L	F
Tilapia	G	L	R	O	N	B	K	R	N	O	I	C	R
Tortilla	R	E	F	I	J	A	C	A	G	M	L	Y	U
	L	E	U	L	A	P	P	L	E	S	T	O	I
	I	Q	N	F	I	E	I	M	L	F	R	H	T
	A	L	A	E	M	N	R	O	C	Y	O	C	Q
	B	M	I	S	A	O	G	I	R	A	C	K	A
	N	R	L	P	Y	S	E	T	L	L	B	O	T
	P	I	S	T	A	C	H	I	O	S	J	B	I
	S	F	L	E	W	U	G	M	Y	N	D	E	L



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

With Lisa Smith

Tuesday March 31, 2026
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM



"Heart Healthy Sides"

Hands on learning - Lunch is provided

Call 970-563-2640 to sign-up.



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

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS

4th Annual "Recovery is Possible" RECOVERY RETREAT

MAY 16, 2026
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT
EVENTS CENTER
14324 HWY 172, Ignacio, CO 81137

FREE EVENT!

Looking to strengthen your recovery journey or not sure where to start?

"Join us for a recovery-centered day with engaging activities, presentations, and resources for all that are on their recovery journey. Family and friends are welcome as well."

A YOUTH COMPONENT (12-18 yrs.) has been added, facilitated by the amazing Native Wellness Institute!

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
Childcare will not be available.
Breakfast & Lunch will be provided!

First 200 participants will receive a free gift at the registration table.

Limited Booth space! Reserve now!
Call Kiana Chavez 970-563-5700

THIS IS A SOBER EVENT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Marvina Olguin
marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov
or call 970-563-5700

Discounted room block code:
RECOVERYRETREAT



GUEST ENTERTAINMENT
James & Ernie

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Chance Rush

"WARRIORS SPIRIT" YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Theda & Dwight

• Join NATIVE LOVE in an MMIR WALK, Saturday morning prior to Retreat Registration. WEAR RED!
• KSUT will be hosting their 50th ANNIVERSARY ROUND DANCE CELEBRATION after the Retreat!

Shining Mountain Fresh

March

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



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



BOBCAT BULLETIN

Where little minds grow big

By **Melanie Brunson**,
Preschool Director
IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Principal and Assistant Principal. The staff will give you a tour of the school and answer any questions that you might have.

ing Program partners with Tri-County Head Start to offer Head Start slots in their preschool classroom. Apply at: <https://tchs4c.org/>

Wrapping up another preschool year. We are so PROUD of our students and their amazing teachers. The focus is on celebrating growth, creating lasting memories and making a smooth transition into kindergarten.

Leaving preschool and making the transition to kindergarten is a big event for every child and family. This transition represents a time of learning new things, mastering new skills, developing new friendships and feeling proud to be moving into the "big school."

Please add Wednesday, April 22 to your calendar and join us at Ignacio Elementary for our annual Kindergarten Transition from 5:30-7pm. This is a great opportunity to meet the kindergarten team,

NEW STUDENTS/ RETURNING STUDENTS

Tuition and Universal Preschool

Colorado's Universal Preschool (UPK) program may cover all or part of your child's tuition:

- Children who are four years old by Aug. 1 are eligible for 15 hours up to 30 hours of free preschool.
- Children who are three years old with qualifying factors may be eligible for up to 10 hours per week.

Visit the Colorado UPK website for more information and to apply.

Ignacio Early Learn-

- Head Start preschool slots
- Ages three-five
- Year-round
- Four days a week

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

- Kindergarten Transition at Ignacio Elementary School Wednesday, April 22, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
- Preschool Graduation is Thursday, May 21, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
- Little Shop of Physics is Monday, May 18 and Tuesday, May 19.

To all the families that we serve, your support has meant the world to our school family.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Celebrating attendance at SUIMA!

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Since the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, we have celebrated attendance in a variety of ways, which includes 100% attendance certificates and on-time arrival incentives. One student per month is randomly chosen for the on-time incentive from each classroom.

For the first half of the school year, we celebrated these students for their on-time arrival. Infants and toddlers: Francis, Manius, Atlas, Live, Naomi, Sofia, Xiomara, Rhys, Sandra, Aria, Emma, and Adylenn. Primary: Violet, Tavach, Maddie, Aubrey, Yomaris, Darius, Maisyn, Sylas, Chrissy, Jaxton, Jaymez and Amara. Elementary: Lilah, December, Bryan, Bianca, Izen, Josiah, Amethyst, Rex, Matthew, Lucas, Destiny, and John.

Thank you, parents, for getting your child to school on time.

For this edition of the Drum, we are spotlighting a toddler teacher, Marlene Vigil:

Tuusaghwakava
Marlene has worked as a Montessori teacher for almost 27 years! Her colleagues describe her as a great listener and someone they have learned a lot from. SUIMA Principal, Mari Jo Owens, says that "Marlene is very creative and can pull random things out of the closet so the students can build something beautiful. She is constantly thinking about ways to keep the children busy and engaged."

Where have you taught during your career?

I have been working for SUIMA 21 years now since 2005. Before I came to SUIMA, I worked at the Early Learning Center for six years, which was behind the old Headstart building when they first started the infant/toddler



Marlene Vigil
Reading Specialist
SUIMA

program. I have taught infants for 15 years and toddlers for 12 years now.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at SUIMA?

My favorite thing is when you hear your students develop their first language and they start doing the motions to the fingerplays to the songs they hear. It's amazing to hear the little ones learning to interact with you.

What brought you to SUIMA?

Well, most of the ladies I was working with at the Early Learning Center went to work at SUIMA when it first opened. And they kept encouraging me to apply at SUIMA and they said the class environment was wonderful. So, I applied and got the position as an infant/toddler guide.

What kept you here over the years?

Throughout all these years I continue to enjoy the students. I also love the infant/toddler teachers that I work with now, and some have retired or moved on. We have always worked well with each other and made sure that our level was taken care of every day. And SUIMA has a great staff that are willing to help each other when we need to.

How has Montessori education shaped your teaching philosophy?

Learning that each child is unique in their own way of learning. Instead of interrupting them, you learn to just carefully observe quietly. Teaching them to be independent and being able to set up the environment with materials to help them develop all these skills. And making materials out of simple things like a coffee can, and things they can put on and pull off, like Velcro.

How do you incorporate Ute language and culture?

We stand for the Flag Song every morning, we bless our rooms, and we count and say the days of the week in Ute. We say the meal prayer in Ute. Throughout the day we use simple commands in Ute, use students' Ute names, and provide materials for learning Ute words. By the end of the school year the students start responding to us in Ute, which is amazing.

Núu'apagha (Speak Ute)

- Tæ'ayaqh'umuy puchuchugway – It is good to know you.
- 'ipæa 'æmæ pænikyaqha? – What did you see?
- Nu' nuu apag'vach asti'i – I want to learn how to speak Ute.

Mætagogë'okwatævana (On our calendar)

- March 23 – Students return from Spring Break
- March 24 – Parent Advisory Meeting
- March 25 – Family Night
- March 17 – No school for students – Professional Development Day for staff

FLC offers a glimpse into careers



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Naomi Russell and Rochelle Aguilar interacted with interested students visiting the Permanent Fund's Human Resources booth during the FLC Career Day.

Students from Fort Lewis College and the surrounding community, eager to greet the work force, signed up to participate in this year's Career Day held in Durango, Colo., Wednesday, March 11.



Career opportunities



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Bobbie Rosa, Social Services Vocational Rehabilitation Program Manager and Mandy Brown, Property and Facilities Transportation Division Head enjoy some time looking at booths in between student drop offs during the Southern Ute Education Department's Career Fair at the Sky Ute Casino Resort, Wednesday, March 4.

Students from local and surrounding areas stopped by, visiting each booth to see what kind of careers are out there. Southern Ute Montessori Academy upper elementary student, Ethan Rohde-O'Leary is shown what some animals skulls look like at the Colorado State Wildlife booth.



SUIMA

March 30-April 3, 2026

Book Fair

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

"Reading Opens Your Imagination"



COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

They're at it again...

Colorado DMV flags new round of fraudulent texts

Staff report
COLO. DEPT. OF
TRANSPORTATION

They're at it again – and we're onto them. The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is warning residents that scammers have launched a fresh round of fraudulent texts impersonating the agency. The DMV is aware of these latest attempts and is working closely with the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) to put the brakes on this scam for good.

These scammers are directly impersonating the DMV, falsely claiming recipients have unpaid tickets and threatening severe consequences, including prosecution, the suspension of vehicle registration, and the revocation of driving privileges. These claims are entirely false and are designed to intimidate individuals into immediate compliance.

"We want Coloradans to know that we are actively monitoring these reports and collaborating with our partners in OIT and law enforcement to mitigate this threat," DMV Senior Director Electra Bustle said. "In the meantime, public awareness is our strongest defense."

While the exact wording of these messages can vary, the fraudulent texts typically:

- Claim to be from the "Colorado DMV" or a similar official-sounding entity.
- Allege outstanding unpaid tickets or driving violations.
- Threaten imminent legal action, such as criminal prosecution.
- Warn of pending suspension of vehicle registration and/or driving privileges.
- Contain a malicious link to a fake website to "resolve" the issue or make a payment.

It is critical for all Coloradans to understand that these messages are NOT from the Colorado DMV. The DMV does not initiate contact via unsolicited text messages to demand payment for tickets or to threaten prosecution or suspension of privileges in this manner.

If you receive a suspicious text message claiming to be from the DMV:

- Do NOT click on any links. These lead to "phishing" sites designed to steal your identity or financial data.
- Do NOT share any personal or financial information. This includes

your driver's license number, Social Security number, credit card details, or banking information.

- Do NOT reply. Responding only confirms to the scammer that your number is active.

If you are concerned about the status of your driver's license, vehicle registration, or any potential tickets, contact the Colorado DMV directly through its official website at dmv.colorado.gov or by phone at 303-205-5600. Do not use any contact information provided in the suspicious text.

If you have not engaged in any activity that would result in a ticket or penalty, it is almost certainly a scam.

Anyone who receives one of these fraudulent texts is encouraged to report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov. Be sure to include the phone number or email that sent the message.

The Colorado DMV urges all residents to be extremely cautious and to share this warning with friends and family. Vigilance is key to protecting your personal information from these evolving scams.

Chi King visits Southern Ute



Photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Club members and Chi King gather for a photo during King's visit on Tuesday, March 17. Chi King's "Stolen Sisters" song and video is a powerful music video created for the Native Strong Project, led by Native Love. The video is executive produced by Daisy Bluestar and Native Love; the collaboration will help to raise global awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives in Colorado initiative and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Children national campaign.



Museum Director, Fabian Martinez and SUCCM Business Manager, Samantha Maez gave a tour of the permanent and temporary galleries to artist Chi King during his visit to the Reservation ahead of King's upcoming music video production. King learned about the history of the Ute people, Southern Ute boarding school era, modern life, Southern Ute veterans, and more during his visit.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Chi King, from Brooklyn, N.Y. and Daisy Bluestar, stopped by the Eddie Box Jr. Media Center for an interview with KSUT Tribal Radio Station Manager, Sheila Nanaeto, Wednesday, March 18. King and Bluestar spoke of a video they are collaborating on, which is being filmed locally, for King's soon to be released song "Stolen Sisters," about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

CINCO DE MAYO
IGNACIO
TRI ETHNIC
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

MAY 2ND, 2026

SOY UTE FAIRGROUND
IGNACIO, COLORADO

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THOMAS ATENCIO 970.442.1953
LOOKING FOR VENDORS AND FOOD TRUCKS

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, where community members are invited to explore storytelling as a tool for self-expression and cultural connection. This hands-on session offers a supportive space to honor your voice and share your story.

Scan to Register or go to:
bit.ly/IOEACreativeWriting

15 SPOTS AVAILABLE!

- FREE WORKSHOP
- LUNCH PROVIDED

Contact us for more information:
Text Trennie @ (970) 306-3555 or
email trennie@ioea2s.org

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

Abeyta retires from the Tribe after 38 years!



A gathering of co-workers, friends and family gathered at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose facility to celebrate Preston Abeyta's retirement, held by the Water Resources Division. Pictured left to right: Joseph Bukosky, Soil and Water Conservationist, Pete Nylander, Water Resources Division Head, Preston Abeyta, Soil Conservation Technician, Betty Martinez, Water Resources Administrative Assistant, Garret Becker, Water Resources Technician and George Gavrielides, Water Resources Specialist.



Don Wickman, former Southern Ute Soil Conservationist, stopped by to wish Preston Abeyta a fond farewell. Wickman retired from the Southern Ute Water Resources Division in 2004. Wickman offered these words of wisdom to Abeyta, "Time goes by fast, enjoy it while you can."

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz
The Southern Ute Drum



Adrian Abeyta, son of retiree Preston Abeyta, read three words that best describes his father in the workplace, in the community and within their family; Work Ethic, Integrity and Friendship.

Preston Abeyta retired as a **Soil Conservation Technician from the Department of Natural Resources on Tuesday, March 10 after docking-in 38 years of service to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Abeyta was employed at the infancy of the Southern Ute Water Resources Division after it was acquired by the Tribe. Abeyta assisted in the Tribe's irrigation and waterways maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and management of the Tribe's water rights. Tribal Council members Marvin Pinnecoose and Linda Baker presented Abeyta with a blanket and Executive Officer Lindsay Box thanked Abeyta for his service to the Tribe.**



Preston Abeyta and his family, celebrate with a family photo commemorating Preston's retirement after 38 years of employment with the Southern Ute Tribe. Pictured left right are Adrian and wife Devra Abeyta, granddaughter Vesper, wife Angela and retiree, Preston, daughter Shonda Abeyta, grandsons Colt and Preston, and son Danny Abeyta. Abeyta said he'll have more time now to spend with his family and grandchildren.

Agriculture Division Presents Gardening 101
****LUNCH WILL PROVIDED****
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
12:00pm- 1:00pm
Custom Farms
655 C.R 517, Ignacio, CO 81137
Please RSVP at 970-563-2900 by 4pm, April 13, 2026.

Pine River Indian Irrigation Project Water Users

Tentative 2026 Water Turn-On Dates

- **Dr. Morrison: March 30, 2026**
- **Other PRIIP Ditches: March 30-April 3**
- **Ditches off Pine River Canat: April 22, 2026**

Note: Ditches will gradually increase flow to full service. This process helps ditch riders manage trash cleaning without the ditches becoming overwhelmed.

PINE RIVER INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT – Spring Water Users Meeting

Southern Ute Agency

Each year the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Irrigation is required to hold two meetings: one at the beginning of the irrigation season and another at the end. These meetings are to discuss with the water users the program's budget, costs, savings, and projects.

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00p.m. – 8:00pm

Location: Sky Ute Casino, Ignacio, Colorado

For more information please contact: Vickie Begay, PRIIP Manager at (970) 236-4161 or contact the Southern Ute Agency at (970) 200-8613, select option 1 for general inquiries.

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.



“When I reconnected with my culture, I began to heal, not just from addiction, but from within.”

Willette | In Recovery
Southern Ute Member

You're not alone, there's a community ready to lift you up on your path to recovery. Visit LTLSouthernUte.org to learn more. (970) 563-5700



LIFT THE LABEL®

Watching films through a Native Lens



Antonia Hatch can be seen meeting and greeting with like-minded film aficionados during the reception.



Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Autumn Sage, Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Little Miss Southern Ute Starlitt Greany stand with Faustino Joy and John Oberly, two of the featured Ute filmmakers.



Director Annette Nowlin posed alongside Brandon Nowlin – her husband and a featured actor in her film, “The Red Echoes.”



Native Lens Project Producer, Colleen Thurston was available to speak and interact with excited individuals who gathered at the Sorrel Sky Gallery following this year’s film showcase.

Photos by Conrad Thompson
The Southern Ute Drum

The Durango Independent Film Festival (DIFF) Native Lens showcase featured unique stories from the perspective of Native filmmakers. Native Lens Project Producer, Colleen Thurston said, “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.” Following the screening, the public was invited to attend a community reception at the Sorrel Sky Gallery. This event offered a unique opportunity to engage with the Native Lens team and meet the Native American filmmakers featured in this year’s film festival.

× 🥚 \$? 🎰

ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR TREASURE!

APRIL PROMOTIONS AND EVENTS

ROGUE'S RUN TREASURE HUNT

AHOY, ALL THRILL-SEEKERS!

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 – SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | GIVEAWAY: SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 10PM

Grab your official Rogue’s Run Treasure Map and chocolate doubloons at the Ace’s Club, then explore the property scanning QR codes for clues. Complete the trail for a chance to win \$1,000 or \$3,000 in the Grand Prize Drawing!

THE LOST LOOT OF EASTER ISLAND

WHY SETTLE FOR CANDY WHEN YOU CAN HAVE CASH?

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | 12PM – 8PM

Hop into the hot seat this Easter Sunday! Play with your Ace’s Club card for a chance to be selected every 30 minutes. Pick a Captain’s Egg to reveal prizes up to \$300 cash, \$75 Sky Ute Loot, or a golden ticket entry into \$900 Grand Prize Drawing at 8PM.

GIVE US THE HOOK

NO FISH TALES, JUST COLD HARD CASH.

TUESDAYS IN APRIL | 6PM – 10PM

Step up to the captain’s deck for a chance to toss three rings at the pirate hook board — each hook holds a cash prize. Land your rings, add up the hooks you snag, and claim your gold.

CLASSIC CASTAWAYS MYSTERY JACKPOTS

THE TREASURE RISES EVERY WEEKEND!

FRIDAYS – SATURDAYS IN APRIL | ALL DAY

Race for the gold! The Mystery Jackpot starts at \$300 and hits before \$400. Look for the pirate’s parrot on our classic slot machines — only those are eligible to win.

PIRATE PLUNDER

GRAB YER BOOTY!

SATURDAYS IN APRIL | 7PM – 1AM

Earn 50 points on your Ace’s Club card to play Pirate Plunder Spin & Win at any kiosk for a chance to win up to \$80 in Sky Ute Loot. Don’t let the ship sail without ye!

WILLOWS CAFE • BISTRO

EASTER BRUNCH BUFFET

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | 8AM – 4PM | ADULTS: \$39.99 | KIDS 14 & UNDER: \$17.99
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED 970-563-6238

<p>BREAKFAST FAVORITES Herb Scrambled Eggs with Chives & Ham · Hickory Smoked Bacon · Country Sausage · Breakfast Potatoes · Biscuits with Country Gravy · French Toast topped with Salted Caramel, Candied Pecans, and Bananas · Chef-Prepared Omelet Station</p> <p>CHEF’S CARVING STATION Pepper-Seared Roast Beef · Honey Pit Ham</p> <p>SEAFOOD SELECTION Seared Salmon with Fresh Lemon Dill Hollandaise Coconut-Breaded Shrimp with Sweet Chili Sauce</p>	<p>CHEF ENTRÉES Braised Beef with Egg Noodles & Merlot Sauce Breaded Pork Chops · Chicken Cordon Bleu</p> <p>CLASSIC SIDES Mashed Potatoes with Gravy · Sweet Corn Green Beans Almondine · Classic Mac & Cheese</p> <p>FAMILY FAVORITES Corn Dogs · Waffle Fries</p> <p>FRESH SALADS/ASSORTED DESSERTS Garden Salad · Fresh Fruit Salad · Desserts</p>
---	--



MPF kicks off powwow season



The Southern Ute Veterans Association brings in the flags during Grand Entry on Saturday Evening. Rudley Weaver, Raymond Baker and Gordan Hammond present colors during the flag song.

The Multi-Purpose Facility hosted its final community powwow event on Saturday, March 7. Community members, singers and dancers filled the MPF to dust off their moccasins, practice their songs, find new regalia at the multiple vendor booths and get their frybread fix at the MPF concession. The event featured inter-tribal dancing, dance exhibitions, gourd dancing, Grand Entry, and a special birthday celebration for emcee Stais Harlan. The MPF has hosted three community powwow events with the hopes to share cultural teachings to the community, specifically teaching dance styles to the youth.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Lady dancers line the dance floor during the second session of Gourd Dance on Saturday evening; members of the Southern Ute Royalty and visiting royalty danced side by side.



Gourd dancers and singers fill the MPF during the final Community Powwow event; dancers shake their gourds to the beat of the center drum.



Head Man, Kenny Brown Sr. (front right) and Head Lady, Michelle Ware (front left) lead in Southern Ute Royalty and dancers during the March Community Powwow.



Northern host drum, "The Horses" of Ft. Defiance Ariz., sing an honor song for head lady dancer Michelle Ware during her special on Saturday evening.



Henry Whiteskunk II showcases the Men's Fancy category of dancing, showing his best moves during the final MPF community powwow.



MPF Staff and family members of Stais Harlan, surprised the emcee with a birthday cake and special recognition during the event. Harlan, a former employee of the MPF, celebrated his 30th birthday with all in attendance. Harlan was recognized for his dedication to learning the role of an emcee and for his service to the Southern Ute community.



Neida Chackee dances during inter-tribals on Saturday evening.

Human Resources serve at MPF



photos Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Staff members of the Southern Ute Human Resources Department were on hand to serve lunch at the March Sip, Chat & Chew at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility on Friday, March 13. The staff present introduced themselves and invited interested attendees to visit the HR Dept., if interested in employment with the Tribe or any of the other services provided by the Human Resources Dept.



Former Southern Ute Chairman, Clement Frost, with sisters Donna and Darleen and niece Tara enjoy time together while eating lunch, which included, chicken and veggies, stewed cabbage, tamales, red chili posole with oven bread, potato salad, corn on the cob and a variety of sweet desserts.

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greaney shakes hands and greets Idelle Vacit of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe during their recent visit to the monthly Sip, Chat & Chew.



Visiting elders from the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe and White Mesa community enjoyed a meal during the March Sip, Chat and Chew at the Multi-Purpose Facility. Pictured, are Bernadine Laner, Lena Summa, Laverna Summa, Sarah Owl and Norman Lopez.

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

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

Southern Ute Tribal Members and/or Spouses

You are invited to join us
March 23rd 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
March 25th 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 Southern Ute Growth Fund
 First Floor Conference Room
 14929 Highway 172
 Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Learn how to protect your personal and financial information.

Sign up for Norton LifeLock 360 protection.

Please RSVP by March 20th
970.563.5555 or scan the QR Code below

Refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, please call SUDEP at 970.563.5555 or email us at SUDEPservice@southernute.com

104TH SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL FAIR LOGO CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 3, 2026

GUIDELINES

- Artwork no larger than 8.5in x 11in
- One submission per person
- Artwork must include "104th Southern Ute Tribal Fair" & theme title
- Artwork must be accompanied with Artist Statement & 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



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Riley Lang (3) zips a cross-field pass away from Bayfield's Avery Shipman (7) during season-opening action Tuesday, March 10, at IHS Field.

BOBCATS SOCCER

IHS Girls' Soccer season underway

Lady 'Cats embracing 'The Beautiful Game'

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

After a slated season-opening doubleheader Saturday, March 7, at 2A Intermountain League-South rival Ridgeway was postponed due to snow still blanketing all-new Cimarron Athletic Field at RHS, Ignacio Girls' Soccer managed to ease into the 2026 campaign with two home matches during the coming week.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio goalie Bella Lorenzini (26) gets low and beats Pagosa Springs' Tatiana Monterroso (10) to the ball during action Thursday, March 12, at IHS Field.

And after welcoming 3A Bayfield to IHS Field on the 10th, but falling 10-0 to the Lady Wolverines in just 55 minutes, the Lady Bobcats then hosted 3A Pagosa Springs on the 12th and displayed improvement visible to not only second-year head coach Gretchen Gruber but also PSHS counterpart Trevor Gian—whose Lady Pirates needed a few moments' worth of stoppage time at the end of the second half to finally secure a 10-0 road win.

Junior Baylee Davis' strike, placed just across the goal line at Ignacio senior keeper Bella Lorenzini's back post, sealed the deal mere ticks after the 80th minute of regulation time expired, and got Pagosa Springs—which qualified for last year's Class 3A State Tournament but, as the 32nd-seeded side in

the opening Round-of-32, was promptly pounded 10-0 by Denver-based No. 1 (and eventual State Champion) Colorado Academy – the mercy-rule victory.

Including a spectacular header of junior Ximena Garcia's 23rd-minute corner kick (one of the Lady Pirates' 12), senior Terriana Cage also marked in the 21st, 45th and 48th minutes to pace PSHS (1-0 overall, 0-0 3A Intermountain) offensively. Her last goal, scored by volleying a bouncing ball more than 30 yards, was followed up not even 60 seconds later when junior Tatiana Monterroso ripped her own 30-yarder over and through IHS' stunned and tiring defenders.

Also having struck in the 17th and 19th minutes of

play, Monterroso finished with three goals. Senior Xyra Belarmino netted her goal in the 67th after taking possession of a failed clearance inside Ignacio's 18-yard box, and Garcia got the whole show started in the 15th by pursuing a teammate's shot, initially stopped by Lorenzini, and cashing in the rebound.

Starting goalie Zariah Blankenship, a sophomore who needed to make just one save before intermission, and second-half switch Garcia shared the shutout.

Looking ahead, the Lady 'Cats (0-2, 0-0 2A Intermountain-South) will resume work, post-Spring Break, on March 23 when perennial league power

IHS Girls page 14



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Trace Crane (3) keeps his cool while hovering to shoot over a Centauri player during 3A/4A Intermountain League play this season inside IHS Gymnasium. Able to operate – and often dominate – all around the court, Crane was named First Team All-IML for his work this winter.

BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

Crane crowned an All-Leaguer

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Name it, and Trace Crane probably did it.

And the rest of the 3A/4A Intermountain League often could do little about it.

Whether using his height to post up offensively against the loop's shorter, well, posts, or using his wingspan to make opposing shooters perhaps reconsider, or using his ball-handling skills to either break through enemies' full-court pressure or help execute an offensive pattern, the versatile senior was effectively anything and everything Ignacio Boys' Basketball needed in the 2025-26 season – and, after its conclusion, was rewarded with First Team All-IML distinction.

From all available statistics, Crane averaged roughly 14 points – with

a single-game high of 28, achieved January 13 during a 62-39 home win over 2A Sargent – and ten rebounds per contest this winter, though the Bobcats went just 1-5 in February en route to ending up 2-10 in league play and 9-13 overall.

Also named First Team All-League were junior guard Trey Hall, senior guard Trace Hartsoe, junior forward Asher Bennetts and sophomore guard Ah-Dae Lang of circuit champ Montezuma-Cortez. One of the Intermountain's highest-flying talents and plenty capable of taking over at either end of the court, Hall was also chosen as IML Player-of-the-Year.

M-CHS' Michael Hall was named Coach-of-the-Year after guiding the Panthers to a 12-0 mark in regular-season IML action,

and to a historic 25-1 overall finish after a 72-63 loss to Greeley-based University late Wednesday night, March 11, inside the Denver Coliseum during the CHSAA Class 4A State Tournament's single-elimination Great Eight phase.

Montezuma-Cortez had been the 32-team tourney's initial No. 2 seed, and had eliminated No. 31 Rifle (56 to 44) and Colorado Springs-based No. 18 The Classical Academy (52-50) before battling the tenth-seeded Bulldogs.

IML runner-up Pagosa Springs (11-12 overall, 8-4 league) was also in the mix but, as the 26-seed, exited early after losing 70-46 to 7-seed Eaton in the opening Round-of-32. Senior guard Creede Dozier and senior G/F

Crane page 14



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Maliyah Martinez (34) prepares to dribble away from Montezuma-Cortez's Mia Glazner (33) during 3A/4A Intermountain League play this season inside IHS Gymnasium. Martinez was named Honorable Mention All-IML for her all-around effort.

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Martinez gets Honorable Mention nod

By Joel Priest

SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Unsure whether she'd come out to ball this winter, but convinced otherwise after doing some soul-searching and undoubtedly discussing the matter with teammates,

Maliyah Martinez ultimately proved essential to Ignacio Girls' Basketball as either a point/shooting guard or a small-forward type and, after the 2025-26 season concluded Saturday night, March 14, was announced as receiving Honorable Mention All-Intermountain League distinction.

Though not yet on the roster for IHS' Dec. 9, 2025, opener at home versus 2A Mancos, and later unavailable for the squad's Feb. 13, 2026, home game versus 3A/4A IML power Centauri, Martinez still averaged 6.4

points and 5.6 rebounds in each of her 19 appearances as the youth-blessed Lady Bobcats ended up 2-10 in league play and 4-18 overall.

CHS sophomore guard/forward Sydney Haslett and junior guard Kynlei Curtis also received Honorable Mention All-IML after helping the Lady Falcons – directed by Coach-of-the-Year Jeremy Romero – go 11-1 in league and finish 21-5 overall.

Easily qualifying for the CHSAA Class 3A State Tournament as its No. 4 seed, Centauri first bounced Fort Collins-based No. 29 Liberty Common by 41 points in the opening Round-of-32 and Kersey-based No. 20 Platte Valley by 27 in the Sweet 16 before then journeying to the Mile High City and falling 57-47 to fifth-seeded – and eventual State Champion – Salida

inside the University of Denver's Hamilton Gymnasium.

Runner-up in the Intermountain with a 9-3 league mark, Alamosa – powered by First Team All-IML pick and Player-of-the-Year Jaelin Garcia, a senior guard – ended up 18-7 overall after qualifying for the 4A State Tournament as its No. 8 seed, ousting both No. 25 Wellington and No. 9 Berthoud, then losing 45-43 in overtime to Greeley University inside the Denver Coliseum. AHS sophomore Leela Gutierrez was named Honorable Mention All-IML for her work.

Pagosa Springs (14-10 overall, 9-3 IML) also qualified for 4A's Big Dance and, as the No. 12 seed, promptly dispatched 21-seed Thornton Skyview 37-15 before then

Martinez page 14



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE




Photo: Divine Windy Boy /SU Drum

2026 TRI-UTE GAMES

Towaoc, Colorado

JULY 6-10, 2026

SIGN UP TODAY

DEADLINE: MAY 8, 2026

- ✓ Volleyball, Basketball
- ✓ Ute Warrior Challenge, Golf
- ✓ Archery, Wrestling
- ✓ Skateboarding
- ✓ Hand Games, Bowling
- ✓ Athletes 9-18 Years of Age

Sign Up at SunUte Community Center
For More Information: (970) 563-0214




Open to Southern Ute Tribal Members & 1st Descendants

PROUD TO BE A BOBCAT!

Regionals 2026 was a success!

Staff report

IGNACIO MIDDLE SCHOOL

We took seven middle schoolers and five elementary wrestlers, and they all showed up ready to battle. Wrestlers attended were:

Middle School

- Nick Blevins
- Darren Brunson
- Maddison Romero
- Rustin Swanemyr
- Hendrick Pargin

Elementary

- Cayson Wancura
- Kyce Pena
- Enrique Silva
- Jaxx Pena

We're excited to have 3 Bobcats punching their ticket to the State Tournament next weekend!

- Callie Wancura, in the el-



courtesy Ignacio School District

ementary division, Callie placed 3rd in a boys bracket. Way to represent! Let's go girls!

- Kataleya Pena, our 7th grader fought through a 14-man bracket, wrestling 6 matches and finishing 4th, only losing to one girl.

- Wilder Kelsey, our 8th grader battled through a 22-man bracket and

came out on top as your 2026 Middle School Regional Champion!

So proud of all of these athletes and the hard work they've put in this season. Let's go Bobcats!

These wrestlers will be competing next weekend at the Colorado State Tournament. Let's wish them luck!



courtesy Ignacio School District



courtesy Ignacio School District

IHS GIRLS SOCCER • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Alexa Lopez Rodriguez (15) clashes with Pagosa Springs' Julie Ortiz (20) for possession Thursday, March 12, at IHS Field.

Telluride comes to town for a 4:30 p.m. start. The Lady Miners stood 1-1 overall (0-0 Intermoun-

tain-South) before heading up to the Metro Area to battle 3A Lamar and 2A Westminster Flatirons Acade-

my – last year's State Runner-up to Loveland Classical Academy – on the 20th, and 21st respectively.

CRANE CROWNED ALL-LEAGUER • FROM PAGE 13

Ty Richey were named First Team All-Intermountain.

Third-place Centauri (12-12, 6-6 IML) qualified for the 3A State Tournament as its No. 26 seed, but despite the effort of senior guard Carson Shawcroft, named First Team All-IML, promptly lost 64-39 at No. 7 Windsor Charter Academy.

Blown out by the same Firebirds in an early-season away test, Bayfield (14-10, 6-6) made the playoffs as 3A's 21-seed but lost 81-67 to No. 12 Colorado Springs St. Mary's out in neutral Peyton. Junior guard Hayes Malone

netted nine three-pointers in racking up a game-high 33 points, and senior G/F Kingston Martinez sank two treys and totaled 11 points in the overtime heartbreaker, but both were named First Team All-IML.

Senior G/F Azariah Hurtado powered 3A Monte Vista (12-11, 5-7) also into the postseason, but the 24th-seeded Pirates ended up falling 72-44 to No. 9 Wiggins in a Round-of-32 game played in Carbondale at eighth-seeded Roaring Fork. And like Ignacio, a postseason berth wasn't

in the cards for 4A Alamosa (8-15, 3-9), which lost its last three games despite First Team senior guard Victor Zepeda's contributions.

HONORABLE MENTION ALL-INTERMOUNTAIN, BOYS

Montezuma-Cortez – Wyatt Oliver, sr. F; Pagosa Springs – Jeremiah Jones, sr. F/C, and Duke Ketchum, jr. F; Centauri – Sean Jarvies, sr. G, and Keaden McGinnis, jr. G; Bayfield – Cameron Queen, jr. F/C; Monte Vista – Kelby Mondragon, sr. G.

MARTINEZ, HONORABLE MENTION • FROM PAGE 13

losing 37-35 to No. 5 Sterling. Senior G/F Amberlynn Snarr and junior guard Ximena Garcia were named Honorable Mention All-IML after all was said and done.

Helped by Honorable Mention selection Janessa Marquez, a junior guard, Monte Vista (13-11, 6-6) earned inclusion in the 3A State Tournament and, seeded 18th, upset No. 15 Colorado Springs St. Mary's in the Round-of-32 before losing 50-39 in the Sweet 16 to second-seeded Wiggins.

Junior forward Shoshawna Washburn represented Montezuma-Cortez as an Honorable Mention All-League choice, after helping the Lady Panthers (11-13, 5-7) get into the 4A State Tournament. Seeded 24th in the Round-of-32, M-CHS' season ended with a 62-48 loss to Berthoud – before the Lady Spartans then succumbed to Alamosa.

Junior guard Kimball Anderson received Honorable Mention All-IML from Bayfield (3-20, 0-12).

MORE FIRST TEAM ALL-INTERMOUNTAIN, GIRLS

Centauri – jr. C/F Rylye McCarroll, soph. G Lyndie Sowards, soph. G Paityn Sowards; Alamosa – jr. G Audrina Knorr, sr. F/C Aubrey Rothermich; Pagosa Springs – jr. G Adelyn Hittle, sr. C Kaila Limebrook; Montezuma-Cortez – soph. G Kyndall Schmitt; Monte Vista – jr. G Reminee Mascarenas.

Multi-Purpose Facility March Food Sale

Monday March 30, 2026
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM



Eat in or Carry-out
970-563-2645

Order ahead at 970-563-2640
Cash or Check Only

Proceeds support the MPF Community Events • 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO



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-8th. 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 & 1ST DESCENDANTS).

For More Information:

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



Alive At 25

Defensive Driving Course

Saving Lives Through Education

4/19/26
Sunday

Time: 12:30 to 5:00

Ignacio Library
Community Room



Enroll Online
www.aliveat25.us
Call
866-605-3900

Instructor: Don Folsom SUPD
Cell: 970-769-9431

Automobile Crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds.

The life you save may be your own.

Sign up now for this defensive driving educational course and become a better driver. You may use this course for getting your learner's permit under the graduated licensing law. You can satisfy a court ordered defensive driving course requirement. You may ask your insurance company for a discount after completing this course. You learn how to take control when driving.



ATTENTION
Southern Ute Drum Photo Use Notification

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



OBITUARY



Throughout his life he'd like to travel to visit friends and family in Oklahoma, share his passion of cars with everyone, he'd always say "Mopar or no car". And of course, customizing his vehicles any way he could with his favorite colors red and yellow.

Jack was an active Southern Straight Dancer and Gourd Dancer with The Four Corners Gourd Dance and Southern Straight War Dance Society.

He liked to spend his days fishing the Animas and at Lake Capote when he could and when hunting season came, you'd find him looking for turkeys, glassing canyons and taking pictures of the scenery.

He loved telling stories, sharing his knowledge, and exploring nature. With his grandchildren Phillip Velasquez "his sidekick," Sage and Easton Velasquez, Audeleena, Avalina and Alina Frost, Redsky Jorgenson, Paisley and Rosie Frost.

FROST – Jack McClure Frost Jr., age 63, passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2026, in the comfort of his home surrounded by family. Jack was born March 8th, 1962, in Durango, CO to Sharon Kay Pinnecoose and Jack McClure Frost Sr.

Jack is Pawnee, Southern Cheyenne, and an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member.

He grew up in Ignacio, CO and graduated in 1980 from Ignacio High School. After high school Jack enlisted in the Marine Corp, he served for 8 years that included being on active duty in Okinawa, Japan for 15 months. He would tell stories about the Cobra Gunship attack helicopter that he would work on and how they would be used. Jack was honorably discharged as a Sergeant, grade E-5, in 1984, which he was proud of, Semper Fi.

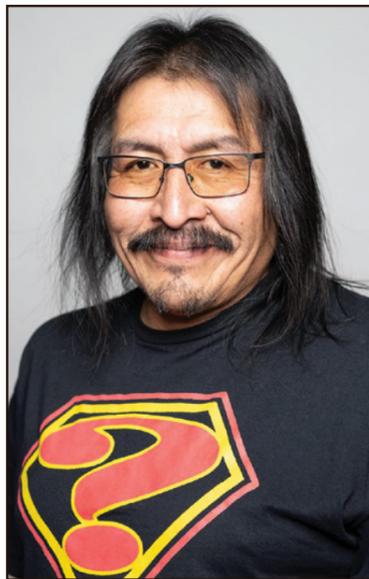
After being discharged he lived in California where his daughter Kimberly was born. After a few years he moved back to Ignacio, CO where he raised his children Rhiannon, Jack, and Hunter.

In 1991, he became a police officer for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, a job that gave him even more stories to share.

Jack is preceded in death by his mother Sharon Kay Pinnecoose, Father Jack McClure Frost SR., brother Chief PrairieChief, Sister Tyner PrairieChief, brother William Frost, Sister Andrea Richards, sister Suzette Frost, Grandmother Thelma Stonerod, and many other loved ones.

A wake was held Sunday, March 8, 2026 at the Multipurpose Facility Chapel in Ignacio, CO. A service was held at the Multipurpose Facility in Ignacio, CO on Monday, March 9, 2026. Please bring your hot rods to celebrate Jack's love of all vehicles. Jack will be cremated and his family will be spreading his ashes in "No Tell Canyon."

Happy Birthday Dad! We will continue to honor you. You always said we don't die; we multiply. We love you! OORAH!



Dance & Southern Straight Dance Society. He loved giving back to the indigenous communities that gave him so much. He spent 17 years working as a Dialysis Driver for the Southern Ute Community & Home Health Services, a job that he met with both compassion and enthusiasm. He understood the importance of his role and how integral his daily work was to helping other people.

His stature made him sometimes intimidating, but he brought a quick and warm sense of humor to break down barriers and make others feel instantly comfortable. He will be remembered with the same compassion and empathy that he gave to others throughout his life.

Henry is survived by his children, Taura SunEagle, Miranda SunEagle, Zachary SunEagle; grandson: Logan Pereira; brothers, James "Kitooks" Sun Eagle and Russell Sun Eagle; sisters, Michelle Lake, Candace Dan, Sandra Red; uncles, Barney Pinnecoose, Alfred HorseChief, Jr.; cousins, Sarah SunEagle, Jeneen SunEagle-Shawnee, Darren SunEagle, Danna SunEagle, Shiri Howell, Dewayne Richards.

He is preceded in passing by his father, Lester Henry Sun Eagle, Sr.; mother, Hazel Howell; brother, Leonard Sun Eagle; aunts, Sherri Pinnecoose, and Cynthia HorseChief Aken.

SUNEAGLE – Henry SunEagle had many passions in his life. He loved rock music, basketball, going for walks, and the community of family, neighbors, and coworkers that he had around him. The foundation of his life was always his connection to his Native roots.

He was a member of the Pitahawirata Band of the Pawnee Tribe and was involved with the Four Corners Gourd

Reminder: Update your address to receive The Southern Ute Drum.

Drum Deadline

Next issue: **April 3**

Deadline: **Mar. 27**

Articles, photos, advertisements, public notices, letters and greetings may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email to: jslockley@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
MAIN: 970-563-0100 • DIRECT: 970-563-0118
TOLL FREE: 1-800-772-1236 • ADVERTISING: 970-563-2251

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

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

STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES
The Southern Ute Drum
(sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov)
Jeremy Wade Shockley • Editor, ext. 2255
(jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov)
Krista Richards • Administrative Assistant, 2251
(krichards@southernute-nsn.gov)
Divine Windy Boy • Reporter/Photographer, 2252
(dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov)
Robert Ortiz • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253
(rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov)
Rosaleigh Cloud • Media Archivist, ext. 2274
(rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov)
Conrad Thompson • Reporter/Videographer, ext. 2241
(cothompson@southernute-nsn.gov)

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.

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.
- All are welcome to attend. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For info., please call (970)563-4241 or (970)749-6830.

FLC FORT LEWIS COLLEGE
COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL
REFLECTION Performing Arts Series



Pilobolus: Other Worlds Collection
Wednesday, April 8 | 7:30pm
Journey into the astonishing universe of Pilobolus's Other Worlds Collection, traversing the landscape of the human experience with heart-stopping grace, acrobatic power, and breathtaking artistry.

\$35, \$45, \$55

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



SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (SUEDC) Seeking Tribal Member-At-Large Members

Do you have interest in supporting economic development and enhancing the standard of living on the Southern Ute Reservation? Do you want to help shape the future of our Tribe's economic initiatives? If so, we invite you to apply for an At-Large Tribal Member seat 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. 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 cbblack@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.

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.

POWOW COMMITTEE

Open Until Filled – Two vacant positions. The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as a volunteer on the committee. The purpose of the Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee shall be to nurture and promote the positive image of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe through their dances and other activities to preserve our culture. The vacancy is Open to Southern Ute tribal members or any interested Native Americans who would like to be actively involved in planning, promoting, and executing Powwows on Southern Ute land. Must be willing to work hands on, attend all scheduled meetings and powwow events with a professional/traditional attitude towards committee members, tribal departments, and visitors. Please submit letters to: Southern Ute Powwow Committee, PO Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 OR soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov

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. If you're interested in applying, please reach out to Nita Emerson at 970-563-4517 or request an application by emailing nemerson@sococaa.org. Join us in making a positive impact in Southern Colorado!

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).

YOUTH NEEDED FOR WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD

The Tribe is seeking an enrolled Southern Ute youth wishing to fill a special youth-only seat on the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board. The 1-year position may only be filled by a Tribal Member between the ages of 14 and 18, and the position may be renewed annually, by request, until age 19 is reached. The Wildlife Advisory Board works closely with the Wildlife Division in planning and recommending actions related to Tribal hunting and fishing programs, both on-reservation and within the Brunot treaty area. This special youth seat provides an outstanding opportunity for a young tribal member to learn about wildlife management, including traditional Ute and contemporary scientific perspectives. Meetings are held several times throughout the year, and a commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. The participant is eligible to receive \$20/hour compensation for meeting attendance provided he or she is not already employed by the Tribe. Interested tribal member youth must submit a brief letter of interest to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio CO 81137. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at (970) 563-0130. This vacancy will remain open until filled.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

Open Until Filled – The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is currently looking to fill four (4) volunteer Board Member positions. Responsible for knowing and effectively articulating the mission, vision, core values, goals, policies, and program areas of the Club. Members of the Board must attend meetings regularly and attend applicable committee meetings on a regular basis; also attend a minimum of one Priority event and one Club event annually. Members must maintain confidentiality of sensitive information and conduct oneself as a model for children in a manner that exemplifies high character. Interested parties must pick up an application on the www.bgsu.org website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov.

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

GAMING COMMISSION 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.

Southern Ute Committee of Elders (COE)

Seeking So. Ute Tribal Elders to be a part of COE.

Open Terms:

Two - 3 year terms

One - 2 year term taking over the remaining term of a COE

If you are interested please submit a letter of intent by 5pm on April 3, 2026 to Hilda Burch at TERO Department.

Thank you,
COE Chairman Byron Frost
970.946.4061

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



JOHNSON-O'MALLEY

2026 Meeting Dates

April 6th

May 4th

June 1st

July 6th

August 10th

September 14th

October 5th

November 2nd

December 7th

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

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

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





Notice of Amendments
Title 26 – Liquor Code March 5, 2026

By Resolution No. 2026-029, the Tribal Council enacted amendments to Title 26 – Liquor Code. Title 26 is an existing code. The amended version replaces the prior version in the SUIT Law and Order Code.

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/.

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.
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
Engineering of the Dr. Morrison Diversion Structure

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.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Early Cut-Off for Minors Birthday Distributions

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

Table with 2 columns: Distribution Date and Cut-Off Time & Date. Includes dates from May 29 to Dec 24.

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



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 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 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

2026 Southern Ute Bear Dance Vending

\$200 For Entire Bear Dance Weekend

FIRST PAID, FIRST ASSIGNED

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

EUGENE BEREZA, HERITAGE & EVENT COORDINATOR, CULTURAL PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

970-563-2307



2026 SUDEP Trainings



Schedule

Location: Southern Ute Growth Fund First Floor Conference Room 14929 Highway 172 Ignacio, CO 81137

TRAININGS AVAILABLE:

- ✓ Norton LifeLock March 23rd 11:00 am to 12:00 pm March 25th 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
✓ Adobe Photoshop July 14th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Lunch will be provided
✓ Microsoft Word Mid-Advanced May 18th 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Lunch will be provided
✓ Microsoft Excel Mid-Advanced May 19th 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Lunch will be provided
✓ Cyber Security June 16th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm June 16th 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

To sign up for any of the classes listed, please click on the QR Code below or contact SUDEP.



Southern Ute Tribal Members have priority. Reserve your spot now. Seats are limited.

Contact Us: 970.563.5555 SUDEPservices@southernute.com www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP



Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 03/01/26

MARCH UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY

TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBER / TRIBAL DEPT. USE ONLY

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
• 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

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



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

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



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

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

Advance Practice Provider (Part-time w/Benefits)

Closes 3/20/26 – Provides direct and comprehensive primary, preventive, and therapeutic medical care to individuals across their lifespan. Clinical supervision will be provided by the Chief Medical Officer. Pay grade E19; Salary is \$73,119.60/annually.

Social Worker

Closes 3/24/26 – An advanced level position that requires knowledge of the theories, principles, and concepts of social casework practice (assessment and treatment oriented) related to all the assigned program areas, including child and adult protection services. Pay grade E14; Salary is \$68,004/annually.

Swimming Instructor

Closes 3/30/26 – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the SunUte aquatics facility. Preparation of class, instruction of individuals, break down of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/hour.

Administrative Technician

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

Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)

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

Building Maintenance Project Supervisor

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

Clinical Applications Coordinator

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

Clinical Supervisor

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

Community Health Representative

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

Construction Services Repairman

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

Cultural Education Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – 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 grade E13; Salary is \$63,064/annually.

Detention Division Head

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

Detention Transport Officer

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

Dispatcher

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

Early Childhood Teacher

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

Elementary Teacher

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

Field Technician

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

Gaming Investigator I

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

Gaming Investigator II

Open Until Filled – 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 is \$35.96/hour.

Head Cook

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

HVAC Technician

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

Land Surveyor

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

Lands Compliance Technician

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

Lands Technician

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

Lifeguard (Part-time)

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

Medical Assistant (Part-time)

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

Amache Community Archaeology Project

Summer Internship

June 15 – July 11, 2026



The University of Denver will be holding a field school in archaeology and museum studies at Amache and the Amache museum for one month in 2026. To encourage community participation in the field school, internships are available for high school or college students whose family experienced internment, with priority

given for those with a family connection to Amache. There are also internships available to members of the [14 tribal partners](#) of the site. Stipend or tuition waiver available to the students chosen for this competitive internship.

Highlights of the internship:

- *Opportunity to work on-site at Amache and Amache museum
- *Training in archaeology field methods and museum practices
- *Hands-on work with historic objects and archival materials associated with Amache
- *Work with other students, former incarcerated, and site visitors

Priority given to applications received by March 1, but they will be accepted until the internships are filled. To apply contact Dr. Bonnie Clark at bclark@du.edu or call 303-871-2875.

For more information about the Amache Community Archaeology Project go to: <http://amachearchaeology.com>

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE PERMANENT FUND JOB FAIR

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

WEDNESDAY
April 15, 2026

Time
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

JOIN US

(970)-563-4750

southernute-nsn.gov/careers



Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Patrol Officer I

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

Public Defender

Open Until Filled – Represents eligible Native American or other defendants as authorized by applicable Tribal or federal law in criminal proceedings prosecuted in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Representing respondents in involuntary commitment proceedings, representing juveniles in delinquency proceedings, truancy proceedings, and serving as guardian ad litem in dependency and neglect proceedings brought in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Pay grade E19; Salary is \$121,866/annually.

Recording Secretary

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

Special Needs Aide

Open Until Filled – 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 is \$17.05/hour.

Special Needs Aide (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – 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 is \$17.05/hour.

Suicide & Substance Use Prevention Coordinator

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

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – The TEAM program is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute tribal members to find temporary employment within the various departments of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Part-time and full-time temp. positions.

TERO Worker

Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office. 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. Part-time and full-time temp. positions.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Water Quality Program Manager

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



Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at www.skyutecasino.com to view job openings and apply online.

Human Resources • Phone: 970-563-1311 • PO Box 340, Ignacio, CO 81137

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

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.

***Cage Supervisor (Full-time)**

Under the direction of the Cage Manager, the Cage Supervisor ensures accurate record keeping, prepares reviews, and analyzes reports. Responsible for scheduling, planning, timing, and supervision of all details for the Cage Department. Provides fast, friendly, and accurate service to all internal and external customers while ensuring full compliance with regulatory controls in both Casino and Division of Gaming policies, procedures, and regulations.

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

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

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

Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for overseeing the Marketing Manager and the Guest Services Manager as well as the overall operations of the Marketing Department including but not limited to, promotions, sales, entertainment, advertising, and player development program. Carries out responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies and procedures. Manages all areas of database analysis to target the areas of player data to enhance and retain the gaming market and is responsible for all marketing expenses.

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

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

***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. Responsible for training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. 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. The duties of this job are physically demanding and may be stressful at times, particularly during peak season periods. You will be cleaning an average of 16 guest rooms, and during peak season, up to 20 guest rooms per shift, depending on whether you are working as an individual or a pair. Responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

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

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

Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at www.sugf.com/jobs.asp for full job details and to apply online.

Tribal Member employment preference • Must pass pre-employment drug test/background check.

Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO

Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-4777.

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

Closes 4/10/26 – Performs assignments pertaining to the review and recording of transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow's oil and gas exploration operations.

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

Closes 4/10/26 – Reviewing and recording transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and/or prepare the joint interest billings for partners in Red Willow's oil and gas exploration operations. Must have a working knowledge of the joint interest process and be able to apply analytical skills to complete complex accounting assignments.

Revenue Accountant II – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/3/26 – Performs moderately complex revenue accounting assignments, creates new revenue agreements, and is responsible for knowledge of oil and gas revenue accounting practices.

Revenue Accountant III – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/3/26 – Performing complex revenue accounting assignments, creates new revenue agreements, and responsible for knowledge of revenue accounting practices.

Revenue Accounting Supervisor – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/3/26 – Supervising the revenue accounting functions including the timely payment of all royalties, working interest payment and taxes, and the maintenance of accurate records and reports as well as the recording of transactions into the general ledger that pertain to the revenue accounting function.

Environmental Compliance Specialist- Department of Energy (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/3/26 – Performing inspections for the oil and gas compliance program for the Department of Energy, ensuring compliance with applicable Tribal and Federal stipulations and regulations associated with energy-related projects.

Specials Request – Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow – May 22, 2026

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is taking special requests during the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow May 22, 2026, must submit in writing to the Southern Ute Powwow Committee. Specify the time for Friday May 22, 2026; include a phone number, and submit to the Committee's Secretary Hilda Burch at P.O. Box 737 #16 Ignacio, CO 81137 or you can email to: soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov. Should you have any questions please call 970-946-5175. Deadline for submitting is May 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

Thank you, Hilda Burch – Powwow Committee Secretary

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

Central Administration:

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

Ignacio Youth Services:

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

Road Runner Transit:

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

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

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

- Secondary ELA Teacher 26/27
- Secondary Spanish Teacher 26/27
- District Mechanic

- Mid-School Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid-School Volleyball Assistant Coach

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.

Coming Spring 2026



- 60 Total Units
- Pets Welcome
- 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
- Community Lounge
- Patio & Grill Area
- Balconies



BUCKSKIN CHARLIE APARTMENTS



Kitchen

For More Information Contact
Kathleen Castellot
970-563-2325



172 Buckskin Charlie Rd, Ignacio, CO 81137

kcastellot@southernute-nsn.gov

SAVE THE DATE

2026 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

JUNE 22-26, 2026

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE YOUTH CAMP IGNACIO, COLORADO

WHO CAN APPLY?

10th-12th-grade (14-17yrs.) Native Youth interested in Natural Resources

WHAT DO WE LEARN?

You will learn more about natural resource professions, Tribal fish & wildlife management in the Southwest & professional development.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

FREE! NAFWS will pay for travel expenses to attend
• (airfare, mileage, food, and lodging)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://nafws.org/youth-early-professional/southwest-summer-youth-practicum/>



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 633 miles of county roads. To report road concerns to the County, please use the link in the caption or scan the QR code to the right:

For road concerns within Tribal jurisdiction, please contact the Southern Ute Division of Transportation, use the link in the caption, or scan the QR code below.



Southern Ute Division of Transportation
Mandy Brown | 970-563-4755

Email: suroadmaintenance@southernute-nsn.gov

CSD "DID YOU KNOW" SERIES 3 : SPRING MAINTENANCE

Spring Maintenance Checklist

SPRING IS THE IDEAL TIME TO TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO HOME MAINTENANCE. COMPLETING ROUTINE SPRING INSPECTIONS NOW HELPS PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT, PREVENT COSTLY REPAIRS, AND KEEP YOUR HOME IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. BELOW IS A CHECKLIST OF KEY ITEMS TO REVIEW.

- ROOF INSPECTION:**
 - CHECK FOR MISSING OR DAMAGED SHINGLES AND CLEAR ANY DEBRIS. LOOK FOR SIGNS OF LEAKS OR WATER DAMAGE INSIDE THE ATTIC.
- GUTTER CLEANING:**
 - REMOVE LEAVES AND DEBRIS TO ENSURE PROPER DRAINAGE. CHECK FOR ANY LOOSE OR DAMAGED SECTIONS AND REPAIR AS NEEDED.
- EXTERIOR WALLS:**
 - INSPECT FOR CRACKS, PEELING PAINT, OR SIGNS OF WATER DAMAGE. CONSIDER REPAIRING OR REPAIRING TO PROTECT AGAINST THE ELEMENTS.
- WINDOWS AND DOORS:**
 - CHECK SEALS AND WEATHER STRIP FOR WEAR AND TEAR. ENSURE THAT LOCKS ARE FUNCTIONING AND CONSIDER REPLACING ANY DAMAGED SCREENS.
- HVAC SYSTEM:**
 - SCHEDULE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO CLEAN AND INSPECT YOUR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS AND REPLACE AIR FILTERS FOR OPTIMAL EFFICIENCY.
- PLUMBING:**
 - INSPECT PIPES FOR LEAKS OR CORROSION. ENSURE THAT ALL OUTDOOR FAUCETS ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY AFTER WINTER.
- FOUNDATION CHECK:**
 - LOOK FOR CRACKS OR UNEVEN AREAS AROUND THE BASE OF YOUR HOME, WHICH COULD INDICATE POTENTIAL STRUCTURAL ISSUES.
- DECK AND PATIO:**
 - EXAMINE FOR LOOSE BOARDS, NAILS, OR SCREWS AND CLEAN ANY BUILT-UP GRIME OR MOSS. CONSIDER RESEALING WOOD SURFACES TO PROTECT AGAINST MOISTURE.
- LANDSCAPING:**
 - TRIM OVERGROWN BUSHES AND TREES, REMOVE DEAD PLANTS, AND PLAN YOUR SPRING PLANTING. ENSURE THAT DRAINAGE IS NOT BLOCKED AND THAT WATER IS DIRECTED AWAY FROM THE HOUSE.
- SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:**
 - TEST AND REPLACE BATTERIES AS NEEDED TO ENSURE THEY ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY FOR YOUR SAFETY.

BY ADDRESSING THESE MAINTENANCE TASKS, YOU'LL HELP ENSURE YOUR HOME REMAINS SAFE, EFFICIENT, AND READY TO ENJOY THROUGHOUT THE SPRING AND BEYOND.

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

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 for more information

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

FLC FORT LEWIS COLLEGE
COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL

REFLECTION
Performing Arts Series

Neil Berg's

50 YEARS OF ROCK & ROLL

Saturday, April 4 | 7:30pm

With a cast consisting of both stars from Broadway's greatest rock musicals, as well as incredible Rock & Roll singers, Neil Berg shares the often unknown stories from the fifty-year history of the music that changed the world forever!

\$35, \$45, \$55, \$65

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

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, March 20

Sunny 82°F
Light to variable afternoon winds

Saturday, March 21

Sunny 83°F
Light to variable afternoon winds

Sunday, March 22

Mostly sunny 77°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

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

Across

1 Among, in poetry

4 Adjacent over hypotenuse

7 "Gee, that feels good!"

10 "Number Four, Bobby ---!" (kids' book)

11 Caesar's breakfast, boiled maybe?

12 Kind of contract

13 Delayed reactions indicating surprise

16 "Don't Tread ---" (Gadsden flag motto)

17 Get used up

18 Sac of a sort

19 Not airtight

20 Sea swallows

22 Site of the USS Alabama

25 Since

29 Instruments never found in marching bands

30 New Mexico people known for fine lapidary work

31 Ill Pole said "arrange a shape" (anag.)

33 Eucalyptus tree

34 Unagi, at a sushi bar

35 Canonized lady

36 Mata Hari, for one

37 High-speed data storage device

38 "All right!"

Down

1 People once led by Kintpuash

2 Discomforting wit

3 They take a beating

4 Where solvers of this puzzle are likely to be

5 Adorns oneself too elaborately

6 Roman god of agriculture

7 Request from

8 Attu dweller

9 Pudding type

14 She worked to translate the Bible into the Ute language, and died in 2009

15 Controversial term for Ancestral Puebloans

21 Weds on the sly

22 Multimedia formats

23 Prepare for a Mr. Universe contest

24 Pleasant

26 Well-soaped

27 Conquistador responsible for the Acoma Massacre

28 Rasping instruments

32 Advanced in years

Answers will appear in the April 3 issue of the Drum.

Answers for March 6, 2026 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Matt, 5 Stable, 11 Aves, 12 Tuareg, 13 Do something, 15 All to, 16 Sate, 17 Maasaw, 19 Rod, 20 Inaja, 23 Apt, 26 Co-star, 30 Sour, 32 Shane, 33 Potato skins, 36 Iconic, 37 Unit, 38 Christ, 39 Moe's.

Down: 1 Madam, 2 Avola, 3 Tesla, 4 Tsotsi, 5 Ste, 6 Tut, 7 Aahs, 8 Briar, 9 Lento, 10 Egged, 14 Moan, 18 W A C, 21 Joss, 22 Ashkum, 23 Aspic, 24 Pooch, 25 Tutor, 27 Taino, 28 Annie, 29 Rests, 31 Rani, 34 Tis, 35 Oct.