



Easter traditions abound
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Hozhoni Days draws dancers
PAGE 10

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

Denver March Powwow celebrates 50 years



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Denver March Powwow celebrated its 50th year from Friday, March 20 to Sunday, March 22; over 1,500 dancers traveled to the Mile High City to celebrate Native culture and togetherness. Veterans, dancers, and visiting tribal royalties lead the Grand Entry sessions each day. During Saturday Night Live the crowd excitedly performs “the wave” and flashes their cellphone lights at the dancers.

See more Denver March Powwow photo coverage on page 15.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Chief Judge Scott Moore and newly sworn-in Tribal Court Associate Judge, Natelle Thompson sign the Oath of Office in Tribal Council chambers, Tuesday, March 24.

TRIBAL COURT

Thompson sworn in as Tribal Court Associate Judge

Tribe honors Casias, West for service

Summer Begay, Communication Specialist
 TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Southern Ute Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose and Tribal Council were honored to join Natelle Thompson and her family as she was officially sworn in as Tribal Court Associate Judge, Tuesday, March 24, during the Regular Meeting. The oath of office was administered by Chief Judge Scott Moore.

Thompson was presented with a blanket by former Chairwoman and Judge Pearl Casias, alongside retired Federal Magistrate David West, in recognition of this special achievement.

Tribal Council also recognized the distinguished and lasting service of Judge Casias, whose leadership and dedication to justice continue to uplift and strengthen Tribal Court, with a blanket presentation.

Tribal Council acknowledged the importance of honoring the matriarchal role of women and celebrated the significance of having a tribal member serve in Tribal Court, reaffirming the Tribe’s values, traditions and sovereignty.

Magistrate West was also honored with a blanket for his service to the Judicial Review Work Group. West

Thompson page 28

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Southern Utes warn against erasure in National Park signage

Staff report

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Tribal Council is aware of a circulating article from the Vail Daily and affirms the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s stance on the ongoing effort by federal agencies to remove education-

al materials that federal officials deem to be disparaging of the United States.

Many of today’s National Parks were once tribal lands, as evidenced through oral histories and countless archaeological sites. What is now known as Mesa Verde National Park was formerly

part of the Consolidated Ute Indian Reservation under the terms of a treaty negotiated with the federal government. That treaty – like many treaties between the United States and tribal nations – was ultimately violated by the federal government, resulting in the significant re-

duction of our reservation lands today.

It is important that visitors to our National Parks learn about the people who called – and still call – these places home. The United States tried to eradicate our people

Southern Utes page 20

LIFT THE LABEL

Southern Ute Indian Tribe: Recovery Stories

Hanley

“Recovery began when I looked in the mirror and chose to become who I was meant to be.” My name is Hanley, and I am a Sun Dancer, a Southern Ute elder and a person in active recovery.

My early life was deeply rooted in the traditions and values of my people. I was raised by my grandparents who were ranchers, spiritual leaders and cultural teachers. They instilled in me the strength and spirit of the Ute way. Despite that strong foundation, my path eventually led me away from those teachings. After moving to Denver, I fell into substance use at a young age. Those years of addiction were marked by violence, self-destruction, and deep pain; which eventually led me to jail.

It was in that moment of stillness that I experienced a powerful spiritual awakening. A moment that made me look within and acknowledge that I needed to change. Facing a possible prison sentence, I made a vow to turn my life around. Focusing my path on my sobriety and living a life of service and faith.

Today, I am proud to say I have been sober for 27 years. I now serve as a spiritual leader, leading sweat ceremonies, the Sun Dance, and other cultural gatherings



LIFT THE LABEL

courtesy Lift the Label

Hanley

that strengthen our people’s spirit. I also work with our Elder Services, helping care for and uplift the elders who continue to guide us.

Beyond that, I am an advocate for suicide prevention and culturally grounded recovery, working alongside our Behavioral Health team to help others heal

through tradition, language, and ceremony. These practices are not just part of our culture; they are medicine for the soul.

All in all, I am who I am because of where I’ve been; shaped by my past, guided by my traditions and continuing to grow into the person I strive to become.



courtesy Tami Graham/KSUT

Williamette “Pebs” DeKay has been involved with KSUT for several decades in numerous capacities, ranging from being a volunteer DJ in her late teens to holding the title as the first Southern Ute Tribal Radio manager.

KSUT RADIO

KSUT, the early years

Launching as a tribal radio station in 1976

By Clark Adomaitis
 FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC RADIO

This year marks KSUT’s 50th anniversary. Since its launch in 1976, the station has broadcast tribal news, local and NPR news, and different genres of music throughout the Four Corners region. But when it signed on, it barely covered the town of Ignacio with its 10-watt signal.

The idea for KSUT began with leaders and members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe who were looking for new ways to share tribal news, announcements, and cultural programming with the community.

Before KSUT was conceptualized, two tribal members, Eddie Box Sr. and Essie Kent, shared tribal news on radio station KIUP in Durango. The station was located where Walmart currently stands. Box Sr. and Kent read announcements on air in the Ute language.

Today, tribal elder Eddie Box Jr. reflects on his father’s work on KIUP in Durango.

“I used to go with my father to KIUP. He would get on the air and do his announcing in Ute. He shared with them birthdays, announcements, and anything that would be of interest to our tribal people,” Box Jr. said.

Eddie Box Sr. was instrumental in the creation of KSUT. Eddie Box Jr. says the idea for the station first came about in 1974 during a conversation between late Chairman Leonard C. Burch and Eddie Box Sr. They imagined an institution that would provide programming to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

“Approximately 100 feet from [KSUT’s current studio] was where that station started, and that’s where the Pino Nuche Purasa, which was a motel, restaurant, courier shop, and a small gymnasium and multi-

KSUT page 11



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Notice of Royalty Committee dissolution and transition

Staff report SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Effective Thursday, March 30, 2026, the Royalty Committee has been dissolved by decision of Tribal Council through Resolution 2026-060.

to conduct that did not align with the standards required of tribal representatives including parents/guardians, as well as the committee's failure to operate in accordance with its approved bylaws. These is-

issues compromised the integrity of the Royalty program and detracted from the dignity and respect our title holders are expected to embody.

Tribal Council remains committed to the well-being, growth, and success of our Royalty and believes this action encourages renewed accountability, unity and respect reflective of our values as Nuuchiu.

For questions, please contact the Chairman's Office at 970-563-2319 or swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov.

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Celebrating 25 years of vision and growth

By Pooja Rao-Pennington SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

With the celebration right around the corner, we sincerely hope tribal members will join us for this meaningful gathering.

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.

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. Please see the invitation.

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 special luncheon is exclusively for Southern Ute tribal members, invited tribal dignitaries and special guests.

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Mancos Shale Development project to hold Town Hall meeting for tribal membership

By Pooja Rao-Pennington SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Save the Date: Mancos Shale Development Town Hall Meeting. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Growth Fund and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Department of Energy (DOE) invite all Southern Ute tribal members to join us for our third Town Hall meeting on the

next phase of the Mancos Shale Development project.

- Wednesday, May 27
5 - 7:30 p.m. (Dinner will be served)
Sky Ute Casino Resort, Event Center

This informative session will provide important updates and insights into the project's progress, key mile-

stones and future direction. We invite all tribal members to join us – either in person or online via Webex – to stay engaged and informed as the project moves forward.

Please note: This is a closed meeting exclusively for Southern Ute tribal members. A meal will be served, and we look forward to your participation in this meaningful discussion.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Edidiong Ekkio (left) is followed by her cousin Brianna GoodTracks, as they enter the powwow arena during Friday evenings Grand Entry of the Denver March Powwow.

This photo was published in the April 1, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

The Southern Ute Museum and Cultural Center Board of Directors and staff hold their "Best Little Museum in Colorado" award outside the museum. Pictured from left to right are Bennett Thompson, Joyce Duran, Byron Red, Lynn Brittner, Robert Burch, Raquel Taylor, and Leann Wilson.

This photo was published in the March 31, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Austin Box among his fellow Native American Sports Council members.

This photo was published in the March 29, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

Regular quarterly Colorado State Indian Commission meeting – was attended two weeks ago by our representatives, Councilman Eddie Box Sr. and Councilwoman Lillian Seibel.

This photo was published in the April 4, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

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

SAVE THE DATE
MANCOS SHALE DEVELOPMENT TOWN 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



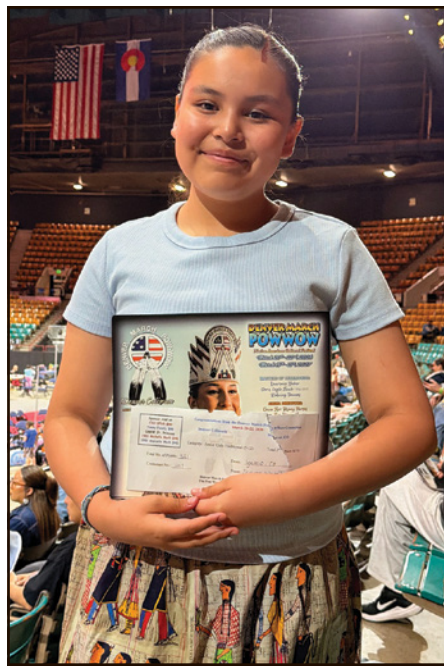
White Thunder girls at DMPW



Checking in at the Denver March Powwow

Shayne and Malia White Thunder attend the 50th annual Denver March Powwow, held March 20-22. Little Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder and sister, Malia White Thunder pictured with their cousins from Oklahoma - Adele Greeley and Cheyenne Tribal Princess, Adrina Greeley.

photos courtesy Heather White Thunder



Malia White Thunder (left) places 3rd in the Jr. Girls Jingle category. Shayne White Thunder (right) places 3rd in the Jr. Girls Southern/Northern Traditional category.

SUCCM staff learn exhibit design



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Jeanne Brako is a conservator/curator for the Museum Consultants of Santa Fe, working alongside Jack Townes, and on Tuesday, March 3, the pair visited the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum to teach staff how to refine their exhibit design techniques. The all Native staff had the opportunity to create a mannequin that resembled To-Wee's silhouette for a dress belonging to her; To-Wee was the wife of Chief Buckskin Charley.



Kree Lopez, Tallias Cantsee, Malorie King and Rhonda Price work together on Tuesday, March 3 to shape and plastic wrap a mannequin chest for display in the SUCCM's Veteran's Exhibit.



Museum staff worked with the Museum Consultants of Santa Fe on the week of Monday, March 2 to learn about exhibit design, while creating mannequins using various materials to craft a shape that reflects the people each article of clothing belonged to.

Multi-Purpose Facility Open Sewing

Tuesday - Thursday
April 14 - 16, 2026

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Make the time to finish your sewing projects.

Bring your sewing projects, work independently or with a friend.

Space is limited, call to sign up.

Call the MPF at 970-563-2640 to sign-up or for more information.

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



BEAR DANCE TIME!

- Randlett Ute Beardance • April 30 - May 3
- Ft. Duchesne Bear Dance • May 8 - 11
- Southern Ute Bear Dance • May 22 - 25
- White Mesa Bear Dance • September 4 - 7

SOUTHERN UTE BEAR DANCE WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

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

9:00 AM Refreshments
9:30 AM Bear Dance Workshop
12:00 PM Lunch

Questions:
Cultural Preservation Department
Heritage & Events Coordinator, Eugene Bereza
Ph. 970-563-2307
email: ebereza@southernute-nsn.gov



LET'S LEARN UTE

Days of the Week

S

Tumiikukh

M

Kwastavay

T

Waykutugwarikyat

W

Paykutugwarikyat

T

Whchutugwarikyat

F

Suwasavaru

S

Savaru



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Why don't we ask for help?

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

Although some people can ask for help like they are ordering a diet coke at a restaurant, the rest of us can find it just a little bit too difficult. Maybe it is being vulnerable, a fear of hearing, "no" or just the struggle to admit that we need help to begin with. In any case, it can be a challenge as many already know, putting it off can make things worse.

Here are a few reasons people choose to tackle certain things all on their own when help is a simple call or text away.

1. Others will judge my shortcomings.
Sure, sure. Although this may be true, everyone has shortcomings and most people recognize we are human. Mostly because they are too.
2. I wasn't raised to rely on others.
Well, that also may be true. But most of us prefer to live in a community and that means we do rely on each other, whether we think we do or not.
3. Other people always want to help on their terms – strings attached.

Although some situations are fraught with opportunity to get free advice or amateur therapy with the help you receive, it is mostly well-meaning. If we fear the perception that we caused our own problems, then we are already ahead of the game. Of course we did. Doesn't mean we cannot benefit from the whole ordeal with a little help from a friend (or neighbor, or brother, or pastor, etc.).

In case you are struggling in this type of situation, we've put together a few tips we hope are useful if you ever find yourself avoiding



courtesy FreePik

reaching out to others, for whatever reason.

- Consider what the exact, specific thing is you need and focus on that. Sometimes it helps others if your request is direct, limited, and specific. If you feel like you need "everything," maybe narrow it down.
- Be prepared to hear any answer. If someone does need to decline, practice that potential in your mind so you can have a pleasant response and not cause hurt feelings.
- Express gratefulness. Thanks can go a long way. Sometimes, people want that more than any "payback" or reward.
- Build yourself up. Tell yourself you are only human, everyone needs help sometimes, and other such things so you are prepared to reach out without your voice cracking and tears flowing (if you can).

We hope this is at least somewhat helpful and that you might be able to reach out the next time you are in need. Speaking of help ...

As always, we at the behavioral health center are here for you if you would like to talk to someone. It's okay not to feel okay.

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

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

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

HEALTHY RECIPES

Irish Ground Beef & Cabbage

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

This sweet and savory dish makes a quick weeknight meal, low in carbohydrates, high in protein. It can fit in with your staple meals as the ingredients are easy to have "on hand."

Cabbage is a very hearty, cruciferous vegetable with loads of health benefits and is long-lasting in the fridge.

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



courtesy Richard_Pinder/AdobeStock

Irish Ground Beef & Cabbage

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon oil (olive, avocado, canola)
- 1-pound lean ground beef (bison and turkey work great here as well)
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 15oz can fire roasted tomatoes (do not drain)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1-2 teaspoons celery seed
- ½ head green cabbage, chopped
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Black pepper to taste

Directions

1. Heat oil in a large pan over medium heat.
2. Add ground beef and cook until it starts to brown, for about 3-5 minutes,

3. Add onions and continue to cook, stirring often to let onions begin to soften, for about 3-5 minutes.
 4. Add garlic, stir to combine.
 5. Add fire roasted tomatoes, tomato paste, cumin, smoked paprika and celery seed. Stir to combine. Let cook for an additional 3-5 minutes
 6. Add chopped cabbage and salt. Stir to combine. Cover and let simmer for 15-20 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.
 7. Add pepper to taste.
- Let it sit for 5 minutes before serving. This can be refrigerated for up to 4 days.

Serves 4. Nutrition per serving: 265 Calories, 28g Protein, 17g Carbohydrates, 5g Fiber, 10g Fat

Shining Mountain Health & Wellness presents:

Healthy Brain Development in Children

Carla Kelly Miller, RN, PHN



Date: April 9, 2026

Time: 12 - 1 pm

M/C Building-downstairs near lactation room



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

SAVE THE DATE



Celebrating Our Youth

Color Run & End of year Bash!

5.15.2026

For more information on color stations or food vendors please contact Augusta Torres
970-563-2328



APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

About National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to highlight the importance of communities working together to support families and prevent child maltreatment. By raising awareness and promoting strategies that strengthen child and family well-being, we can make a meaningful difference.



Child abuse and neglect are tragic and often hidden, especially as families face isolation, stress, and financial strain. Added risks such as unsupervised children, unstable caregivers, online exploitation and bullying, reduced school supports, and mental health challenges further endanger child safety.

Ways to show support during child abuse prevention month

- Support Families**, offer short-term babysitting to help stressed parents avoid burnout. **Learn the Signs** of physical & behavioral abuse and neglect. **Report Concerns** of suspected child abuse or neglect to child protective services or the police immediately. **Use Protective Factors** such as social connections, concrete supports, and parent resilience.
- Advocate** for family-strengthening policies by contacting your elected officials. **Be a Mentor** at a youth-focused groups such as Big Brothers Big Sisters or local schools. **Raise Awareness** about Child Abuse Prevention Month by wearing blue, sharing resources, or planting pinwheel displays. **Connect with Local Resources** and support local child advocacy centers or nonprofits that help keep children safe.

On **April 10th from 12pm-3pm**, join the Southern Ute Division of Social Services to help raise awareness and prevent child abuse in our community. Stop by the **Mouche-Capote Building** to pick up a Blue Pinwheel and enjoy café style beverages from Native Grounds Coffee as a show of your commitment to protecting children and creating a safer future.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Staff members from the Southern Ute Health Center gather in the courtyard on Monday, March 23 to celebrate Nenette Robinson and recognize her years of service to the organization. Robinson, a family nurse practitioner, has worked for Tribal Health for the past ten years.

TRIBAL HEALTH

Colleagues, community gather to celebrate Robinson's retirement

Staff report

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

The Southern Ute Health Center is bidding a heartfelt farewell to Nenette Robinson, FNP C, who is retiring after nearly a decade of service to the Southern Ute Tribe and the broader Native community.

Robinson, a family nurse practitioner, has been a familiar and trusted presence at the clinic for close to 10 years. During her tenure, she built strong relationships with patients, earning respect not only for her clinical expertise but also for her compassion, warmth and sense of humor.

Clinic staff say Robinson's impact extended well beyond medical care. Her ability to connect with patients on a personal level helped foster trust and comfort, making her a valued member of the Tribal Health Team and a steady source of support for countless families.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Duvall said, "Nenette has been a defining presence at the Health Center for her entire tenure. She has provided great patient care and been an excellent colleague. She will be missed, but we wish her the best in this next chapter."

On Monday, March 23, colleagues and community members gathered to celebrate Robinson's career and dedication during a Harley



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Health Center staff gave Nenette Robinson an embroidered Pendleton blanket, wishing her the best as she embarks on new adventures, noting that her legacy of care and kindness will continue to be felt long after her departure.

themed barbecue hosted by the Tribal Health Team. The event served as both a tribute to her years of service and a joyful send-off as she begins a new chapter.

While Robinson will be deeply missed by staff and patients alike, the clinic expressed pride and support

for her decision to retire and spend more time with family. The Southern Ute Health Clinic extended its best wishes to Robinson as she embarks on her new adventures, noting that her legacy of care and kindness will continue to be felt long after her departure.

CHILD ABUSE Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

This month reminds us how important it is for families and communities to work together to keep children safe.



- **Wear blue every FRIDAY in April** to show support for preventing child abuse.

The blue pinwheel stands for safe, caring environments for all children.

Participate Locally

- Pick-up a Blue Pinwheel at our DSS office anytime in April.
- **On April 10th, 12-3pm:** Social Services will host a free event, handing out café-style drinks from Native Grounds Coffee outside the Mouche-Capote Building



Mouche-Capote Building
116 CAPOTE DRIVE
IGNACIO, CO 81137
PH: 970-563-2332



Agricultural Burning and Air Quality Effects

Agricultural Burns becomes more frequent in the Spring in preparation for the growing season, which can briefly increase smoke in the air causing unhealthy conditions.

Things to Note:

- Smoke will clear out as winds pick up throughout the day
- Consider delaying outdoor exercise until the smoke clears



Check out the **SUIT Ambient Monitoring Website** for more information.

Southern Ute Elder Services April Activities List

April 11, 2026

Gourd Dance and Intertribal Powwow (San Juan College) Powwow, Native Arts & Crafts Fair, Food Vendors, and more. Van will depart Elder Services @ 9:00 a.m.

April 14, 2026

Movie Day (Durango) Van will depart Elder Services: TBD

April 21, 2026

Shopping Trip (Pagosa) Van will depart Elder Services @ 9:00 a.m. Lunch provided

April 28, 2026

Casino Trip (Farmington) Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

Call Elder Services at 970-563-2309 to have your name added to the activities list or if you have any questions. Activities are subject to change due to inclement weather.



SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

The season of science experiments has arrived!

By Mari Jo Owens, Principal
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

With spring here, the season of science experiments has arrived! Science is the study of the world around us. The toddlers may explore outside to gather rocks for sorting, digging the soil, investigating a puddle or planting a garden.

The early childhood/primary level may explore the concept of xylem and phloem, the growth of a seed, or understanding the life cycle of a butterfly.

Our older students can be found working on STEM

projects through the Mystery Science program. The prepared environment of a Montessori classroom provides the perfect setting for scientific work, demonstrations, and experiments. Anything scientific that has to do with plants can be done in our grow-dome.

With the availability of a pond and river within walking distance, our students

can study types of water as well as any living creature that calls that environment home.

During this season, we also get to celebrate Earth Day. This celebration will provide a chance for the students to help perk up the tribal campus as they help pick up trash and debris.

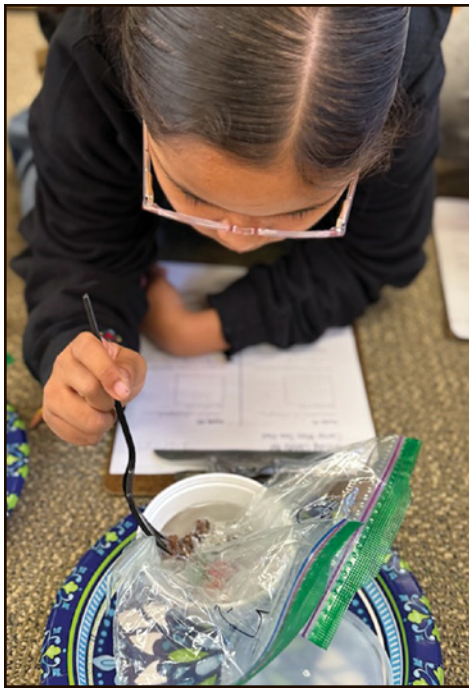
Enjoy this time of year and let's all think "rain"!

M̄atagop̄e'okwat̄vana (On our calendar)

- March 30 – April 3: Scholastic Book Fair
- April 9: Golden High School Seniors will be at SUIMA
- April 21: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- April 22: Family Night



courtesy SUIMA



courtesy SUIMA

Primary 2 students, Darius "DJ" Smith and Scarlett Rodriguez-Velasquez learning about volcanoes.

Shawnee Rizzo in Lower Elementary 1 working on her class project.

N̄u'apagha (Speak Ute)

Some phrases that are heard in the classrooms are simple commands. These phrases can also be used in your homes. If you need help with pronunciation of the letters, please check out Speak Ute Now on our website.

- Tawampar̄gi – brush your teeth
- Kavampar̄giKwa – wash your face
- M̄epar̄gikwa – wash your hands
- Napantapaunag – put on your socks
- Napanp̄achunag – put on your shoes
- Kiagway – go play

Using the approved Ute Dictionary, I have also provided a brief reference for the vowels that are encountered in the Southern Ute language. I hope you find it useful.

- ' – as in taa' – sounds like the air space between uh'oh
- _ – 'ivet̄ – underline – means these vowels are devoiced.
- a – as in taa' – sounds like a in father – means shirt, clothes
- e – as in 'ivet̄ – sounds like e in met – means 'on here'
- i – as in 'ivet̄ – sounds like i in Wii – means 'on here'
- o – as in 'aghochi – sounds like o in note – means 'dish'
- e – as in 'eaqar̄ – sounds like er in her – means yellow
- u – as in 'uwar̄ – sounds like o in who – means 'rain'
- ʉ – as in ʉʉ – sounds like oo while frowning – means 'yes'

Ignacio High School State Testing Dates



APRIL 2026

TUES 14	SAT JUNIORS
WED 15	PSAT 10 SOPHOMORES
THUR 16	PSAT 9 FRESHMAN
TUES 21	CMAS SCIENCE JUNIORS

Testing will be in the high school auditorium. Click on the above test to access study materials, practice tests, and more.

If you wish to opt your student out of testing, please sign and return the [opt-out form](#)

For more information:



areinhardt@ignacioschools.org

LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

17TH
APRIL 2026



4 PM
TO
7 PM

- @ SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER -
290 MOUACHE CIRCLE, IGNACIO, CO

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FREE ENTRY
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bgcsu.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



ANNUAL ELBERT J. FLOYD AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominee Requirements:

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

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

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

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

(970)563-2786

dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov

The Southern Ute Education Department will approve nominations

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



Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt ... Ready, set, hunt!



Pictured left to right, Tribal Rangers Captain, Robert Williams; Chief of Police, Daryl Noon; Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlet Greany; Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Autumn Sage; Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder; Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany; Miss Southern Ute, Zuriah Baker and Auq'uwey O'John all pose for a photo during the Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt.



Southern Ute tribal member, Luca Rodriguez poses with the Easter Bunny after hunting for eggs.



Community members eagerly wait for "Go" during the countdown at the Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt.



Chairman Melvin Baker of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe poses with the Easter Bunny during the Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt.

The Easter Bunny visited Ignacio, Colo., Saturday, March 28. The annual Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt, which is sponsored by SUPD and the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, brought in a large number of community members. Multiple fields of eggs were surrounded by onlookers waiting to start the hunt; the categories of youth vary from the age of 0-14. Following the hunt, the Easter Bunny made his rounds and took photos with community members.

Photos by Zuriah Baker
The Southern Ute Drum



Justice and Regulatory Director Leonard Redhorse III helps prepare for the Ignacio Community Easter Egg Hunt by hiding eggs.



The Easter Bunny gave Southern Ute Police Chief, Daryl Noon a high five during his visit.



The Easter Bunny helps hunt eggs at SunUte Park.



Lucas Rael, the Easter Bunny, Amethyst Weaver, Bianca Weaver and Miina Two Crow.



IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We're super excited about our programs this month!

Can't wait for you to join us at ICL

By Cheyenne Munns
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY



- Friday, April 10 at 1 p.m.: Let's kick off the weekend with a fun afternoon of cake decorating!
Saturday, April 11, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Unleash your creativity at our beginner's weaving class led by the amazing Sherry Woodbridge.
Wednesday, April 15 at 2:30 and 5 p.m.: Join us for this month's Glowforge class...

- Wednesday, April 29 at 1 p.m.: Did you know that AI can be used in scams to create fake content?
Tuesday, April 21 at 6 p.m.: Let's talk about estate planning!
Tuesday, April 28 at 4 p.m.: We're thrilled to invite you to our exciting virtual travel event this month...

We have a variety of regular weekly and monthly programs, from our beloved preschool Storytime to our supportive Grief Support Group.

General Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 9:00 AM | Sky Ute Casino Resort, Event Center
In-Person, Live Stream, Recording options and registration details.

SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO COFFEE & CONNECTIONS
THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH
8:30-10:00 AM
Willows Cafe at Sky Ute Casino
Join Us for a Morning of Coffee, Connection & Small Business Conversation!

Multi-Purpose Facility April Events
Indoor Yard Sale—Saturday April 4, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM
Open Sewing—Tuesday—Thursday April 14-16, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM
Special Events: MPF Food Sale, Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith, Elder Committee Meeting.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL REFLECTION Performing Arts Series
Brazil Beyond Samba
Friday, April 17 | 7:30pm
Fasten your seatbelts, you are about to take a ride on BR-101, the major highway connecting Brazil from North to South!

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.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Road Runner Transit announces temporary route adjustments

Staff report
SoCoCAA

Road Runner Transit (RRT) services will implement temporary route adjustments due to a reduction in available local non-federal funding. This funding is required in order to access and utilize state/federal (match requirement) transportation funds.

Durango routes will now operate Monday through Friday only on the following schedules:

- 2A a.m. – leaves Ignacio at 8:30 a.m.
- 2B a.m. – leaves Durango at 10 a.m.
- 4A p.m. – leaves Ignacio at 4:55 p.m.
- 4B p.m. – leaves Durango at 6:20 p.m.

- Bustang Outrider (Bayfield–Grand Junction).
- Ignacio/Bayfield Dial-A-Ride services.

Community support plays a vital role in sustaining public transportation. Individuals or organizations interested in supporting these services through donations are encouraged to contact the offices listed below or visit our website at www.sococaa.org.

For additional information or questions, please contact:
• RRT Office: 970-563-4545
• Administration Office: 970-563-4517

We appreciate the community's understanding and continued support during this time.

- Temporary changes are:
- Effective Immediately - County Dial-A-Ride (Reserve a Ride) service will now operate on a limited schedule of: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with 48 hours advance reservation needed.
 - Effective April 6, 2026 - Fixed Route service between Ignacio-Bayfield-

These adjustments are necessary to ensure the continued operation of transit services while funding challenges are addressed. Efforts are ongoing to restore full-service levels as soon as funds are available.

The following RRT Services at this time will remain unchanged:



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 pickups must be within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation only. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

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

If you have tires, only 4 tires per household will be picked up. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. No semi-truck or heavy equipment tires accepted. **Tires only, no wheels (rims)**. We will not pull your trailer to the transfer station for you.

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

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

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

LARGE SITE or DANGEROUS or HAZARDOUS WASTE testing and cleanup will be completed at the **HOMEOWNER'S EXPENSE**. This will be on a case-by-case basis and scheduled dependent on program availability. **No explosives/ammunition will be accepted.** There is no burn pile at the transfer station. All burnable loads will be taken directly to Bondad Landfill. Tribal Members hauling large amounts of brush on their own please take directly to Bondad Landfill.

Areas of Operation

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

Info, contact: **Tyson Thompson, Property and Facilities Director 970-563-2945**

Welcoming new Ranger Capt.



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Robert Williams raises his right hand and completes his oath of office on Wednesday, March 25 at the Tribal Court. Williams is sworn in as the Tribal Ranger Captain; Chief Judge Lay, Scott Moore reads his oath before a full crowd in the court room.



Ranger Captain Williams and Judge Moore sign the oath of office documents during Williams' swearing in on Wednesday, March 25 at the Tribal Court.



Following Williams' swearing in, guests took time to take photos and share words of advice with Williams ahead of his new journey. Pictured left to right; J&R Director, Leonard Redhorse III; Executive Officer, Lindsay Box; Tribal Ranger Captain, Robert Williams; Natural Resources Director, Andrew Frost and Chief Judge Lay, Scott Moore.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE Early Cut-Off for Minors Birthday Distributions

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

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

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

AGRICULTURE BURN REMINDER

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe recognizes the importance and value of open burning when conducted safely and responsibly. As a reminder, anyone planning an open burn is asked to:

- Communicate their intent to burn in advance
- Maintain full control of the burn at all times
- Ensure the burn does not endanger personal property, neighboring properties, or the community

Open burning is not permitted during fire restrictions or when a Red Flag Watch or Red Flag Warning is in effect.

If you plan to burn, please notify:

- Durango Non-Emergency Communications Center: 970-385-2900
- Southern Ute Police Non-Emergency Dispatch: 970-563-4401

FREE RABIES VACCINE CLINIC

Open to the Ignacio Community

Location: Multi-Purpose Facility
Address: 256 Ute Rd, Ignacio, CO 81137
(location may be subject to change)
Date: 05/13/2026
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WHAT TO EXPECT:
CHECK-IN WILL BE INSIDE THE FACILITY
FOLLOWED BY VACCINATIONS OUTSIDE

- ❖ DOGS: PLEASE KEEP ON A LEASH.
- ❖ CATS: PLEASE BRING IN A SECURE CARRIER.
- ❖ BRING ANY RABIES VACCINATION RECORDS (IF AVAILABLE).
- ❖ ARRIVE EARLY—SERVICE IS PROVIDED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
- ❖ BRING PHOTO ID FOR PROOF OF RESIDENCY
- ❖ PET MUST BE AT LEAST 6 WEEKS OLD

Questions? Call Southern Ute Animal Control: (970)563-0133



60th Annual Hozhoni Days Powwow



Host Southern Drum, Southern Soul sings a flag and a victory song on Friday night for all dancers and veterans in attendance.



Gourd dancers wear their best for the second session of Gourd Dance on Saturday afternoon ahead of the Grand Entry. Dancers moved to the beat of the host Southern Drum, Southern Soul.



Emcee, Ernie Zah welcomes dancers into the arena during the first Grand Entry of Friday night at Fort Lewis College. Zah worked to keep the event on schedule, organized dancers, all while keeping the crowd entertained in brief intermissions.

The 60th annual Hozhoni Days Powwow returns to the Whalen Gym at Fort Lewis College, Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28. Organized by Wanbli Ota, the student powwow committee, the Whalen Gym saw a packed crowd for both days of the celebration, bringing the opportunity for dancers and singers to showcase their styles at the college. Each year the event is held to celebrate Native culture, with competition dancing and singing, intertribal dancing, various Native art vendors, and more.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



This year's event saw a handful of Southern Ute tribal members who came out to enjoy the neighboring celebrations on both Friday and Saturday. Southern Ute tribal members, Maleina Carel and Brianna Goodtracks-Alires.



A Men's Northern Traditional dancer awaits his contest; adult competitions took place on Saturday afternoon for this year's Hozhoni Days Powwow.



Southern Ute tribal member, Olyvia Winter-Fawn Watts, competes in the Jr. Girl's Traditional category on Friday evening.



Jr. Boy's Fancy Dancer, Leo Brady competes on Friday at Hozhoni Days Powwow.



Southern Ute tribal member, Starlitt Greany also competed in the Jr. Girl's Traditional category—showing of her graceful style on Friday night.



KSUT, THE EARLY YEARS • FROM PAGE 1



courtesy Crystal Ashike/KSUT

Eddie Box Jr., Southern Ute Tribal Council Vice-Chair Ramona Eagle, Lorelei Cloud, Marge Barry, and Linda Baker talk about KSUT's history with station hosts Tami Graham and Sheila Nanaeto in 2022.

multiple buildings that were just north of the complex here. They had some rooms that were set aside for the community to use to have your birthday parties or meetings. So that's where the first 10-watt station here started," Box Jr. said.

KSUT's first broadcast on June 14, 1976, was from a small room that was a shared community space on the Tribal Campus.

"The Tribe got one of those rooms," said Box Jr. "It was on the north end. On the east side, we had a 10-by-14 room, and that's where KSUT was situated with all their equipment. So, we were all crammed in there and had the station antenna right outside the wall there."

KSUT came to life as a communications service for tribal members. Its first signal reached Ignacio and some of the Pine River Valley, providing only a few miles of listening range.

"A lot of powwow music was played. A lot of different songs from different tribes are played, and also our news," Box Jr. said.

At that time, the station was one of only eight tribal radio stations operating in the United States.

The original Board of Directors for KSUT included Leonard Burch, Eddie Box Sr., Chris Baker, Thelma Kuebler, Erwin Taylor, and John Baker. Lillian Seibel was one of the first station managers.

"We were a tribal radio. We came from the ideas and the thoughts of elders of the Southern Ute Tribe that wanted to give information to tribal members so they can understand and know what is happening in their government," Box Jr. said.

Williamette "Pebbs" DeKay was a volunteer DJ at KSUT when it started.

"When the station was in the community center, [there were] very cramped conditions. I started there as a teenager, doing a rock show. Loved it. I had a lot of fans," DeKay said.

DeKay went on to serve for many years as Tribal Radio's station manager, but she remembers her early days as a volunteer.

"I just kind of walked in and asked if they needed help, which is what I usually do when I'm interested in something. They said, 'Okay, sure, come on in, we'll put you on air. You can play, in essence, whatever you want

to do,'" DeKay said.

Jerry Zink was a KSUT board member in the 1980s. Growing up in Durango, he was a fan of listening to the radio, though he wasn't always able to tune in to KSUT when it first started.

"The 10-watt KSUT signal started. I did start picking up information from certain names... 'Hey, there's this 10-watt station, and if you're in the right place at the right time, you can, you can get it, and it's interesting,'" Zink said.

KSUT increased its signal strength in 1979 to serve neighboring communities, and Jerry Zink was finally able to hear KSUT in Durango.

"In 1981, I really start tuning in and working on getting a better reception at my house, and getting my vehicles tuned in so I could listen to it," Zink said.

On the next episode of KSUT's 50th anniversary series, we look at the station's growth in the 1980s. New transmitters expanded the signal, bringing KSUT to listeners across the Four Corners for the first time. More tribal members and DJs joined the station, and KSUT became an NPR affiliate.

Buddhist teachings shared



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

KSUT Public Radio had some very special guests in the studio, Wednesday, March 25, the Gaden Shartse Buddhist monks from southern India. Geshe Ludup Phuntsok spoke with Station Manager, Tami Graham on air, sharing some of his core values and beliefs pertaining to the pursuit of happiness, while reflecting on spirituality and our connection with the natural world.



Joining Geshe Ludup Phuntsok in the KSUT studio were the Venerable Surya Bisht (left) and Durango's own Karma Tenzing Bhotia (right) who hails a remote farming community in the Mount Makalu region of Nepal bordering Tibet. Bhotia and his wife, Kumari Jyamu Bhotia, now live in Durango, Colo.; they own and operate the Himalayan Kitchen.



Following the KSUT on air radio segment in Ignacio, the Gaden Shartse Buddhist monks return to Durango before continuing their journey home to India; the cultural exchange has taken them across the United States. Geshe Ludup Phuntsok presents KSUT Station Manager, Tami Graham with a silk scarf, as a gesture of gratitude, following the interview.



KSUT moves to larger quarters; adds studio

Within the next two weeks, FM radio KSUT expects to move into new, larger quarters, complete with production room, studio and reception area.

"The present location is too cramped, too small to operate efficiently," said the station's manager Lillian Seibel. "On top of that there is no ventilation, the equipment heats up the room making it uncomfortably hot and water leakage problems from the boiler room have caused unpleasant odors."

The new location in the Community Center, where the game room was, will include a separate production room, allowing the KSUT staff to make what they call "carts," pre-taped public service announcements and to prepare the next day's broadcasts.

"We will also have a studio, which is plugged into the broadcasting room so that we can interview more than one person at a time," added Douglas Remington, the station's program director, who at present has often appropriated whatever space he could find to prepare his daily "Spectrum '76" interview show.

"And Evalyn will have a place to type," said Seibel, noting that Evalyn Hudson, the secretary, now has to synchronize her typing with the broadcast, stopping whenever the announcer goes on the air; otherwise the sound of the typewriter could be

heard in the background.

Other additions to the fledgling, 10-watt, FM station, which has only been broadcasting about six months, include stereophonic equipment and equipment to increase the wattage, planned for next year.

"We hope to be able to move the tower to the top of Ignacio Peak to become a thousand-watt station, says Remington. The increased broadcasting range, he estimates, will extend KSUT's broadcast area into Durango.

The station has also recently purchased a piece of equipment called the "Weatherminder," which gives the announcer information about the weather conditions outside.

The Southern Ute Drum on Oct. 29, 1976, the article quotes station manager Lillian Seibel.

Advertisement for Píinu Núuchi Farmers Market. Text includes: CALL FOR VENDORS, PÍINU NÚUCHI FARMERS MARKET, Are you interested in being a vendor at this seasons Píinu Núuchi Farmers Market? Please reach out to Allison :: awall@southernute-nsn.gov for more information, EVERY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 - OCTOBER 8, 2026, 11-2PM - SKY UTE CASINO.

Advertisement for Agriculture Division Presents Gardening 101. Text includes: **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.

Advertisement for Bob Ross Cake Decorating. Text includes: Bob Ross Cake Decorating, Friday, April 10 at 1:00 pm, Come make some happy little cakes with us!



Ute Day returns to State Capitol



Southern Ute Veterans Association members join other Ute veterans to post and retire the colors including the Southern Ute tribal flag and the Colorado State flag.

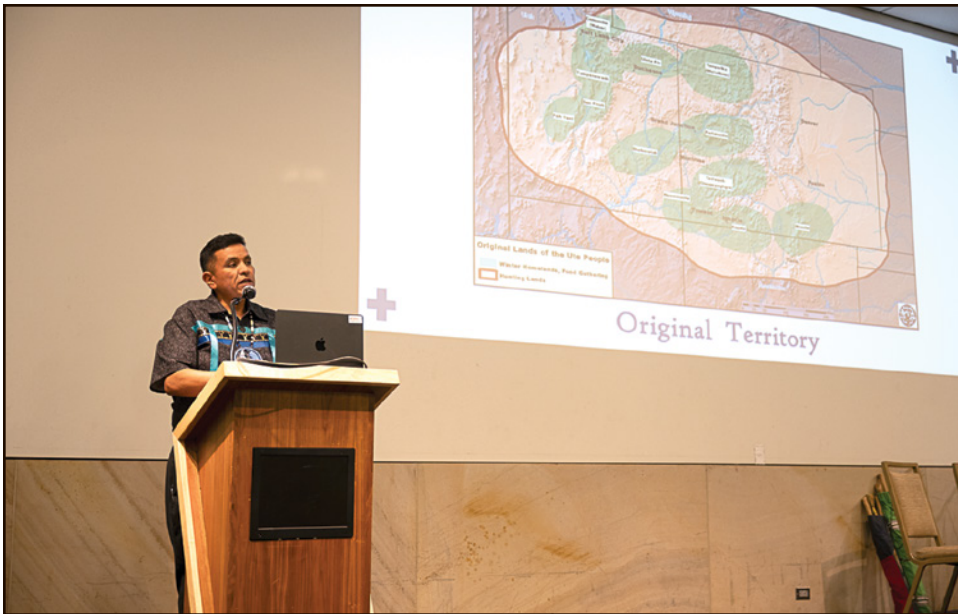


Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera takes the stand to share remarks, honoring the Ute people for all of their contributions to the State of Colorado – on behalf of Governor Jared Polis, Lt. Governor Primavera also read the proclamation marking that day as Ute Day.

Members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and their sister tribes gathered at the Colorado State Capitol to celebrate the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of the Ute people to the State during Ute Day at the Capitol on Friday, March 20. During the event, attendees heard remarks from Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose, Ute Mountain Ute Council Member Marilyn House, and Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera. Southern Ute Royalty, Ute Mountain Ute Royalty, and the Southern Ute Veterans Association were all in attendance, with honor songs performed by Yellow Jacket Singers.



Yellow Jacket singers, sing a flag and victory song during the Ute Day at the Capitol programming.



Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose gives a presentation on Ute territories at History Colorado as part of the Ute Day celebrations on Friday afternoon. Following events at the State Capitol, attendees gathered at History Colorado for a luncheon and various presentations.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Attendees had the opportunity to learn to Bear Dance and even tried “breaking” with a partner during the History Colorado Ute Day celebration. Visitors enjoyed a luncheon and various presentations from different Ute representatives.



Ute Mountain Ute Royalty and Southern Ute Veterans Association Princess, Jazlynn Jacket, give a Bear Dance presentation on Friday afternoon at History Colorado.



Southern Ute Veterans Association Princess, Jazlynn Jacket greets the crowd during Ute Day at the Capitol; other members of royalty also took time to greet attendees.



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

Hanley | In Recovery
Southern Ute Elder

When we connect back to ourselves we find hope. Find addiction recovery resources today at LTSouthernUte.org (970) 563-5700



LIFT THE LABEL[®]

NATURAL RESOURCES

Colorado lawmakers step in to urge federal action on stalled tribal water access

Calling attention to water priorities for Ute tribes

By Shannon Mullane
COLORADO SUN

The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribes have been pushing for the federal government to uphold its water-related responsibilities for years. Now, Colorado legislators are jumping back into the fight.

Lawmakers in the Colorado House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution advocating for tribal water access Friday, during Ute Day at the Capitol. The resolution – which lists a series of longheld tribal water priorities and urges federal agencies to respond – awaits consideration in the Senate.

It calls on the feds to take action on everything from releasing frozen funding for tribal water projects to repair deteriorating federal water systems and improving access to reservoirs like Lake Nighthorse near Durango.

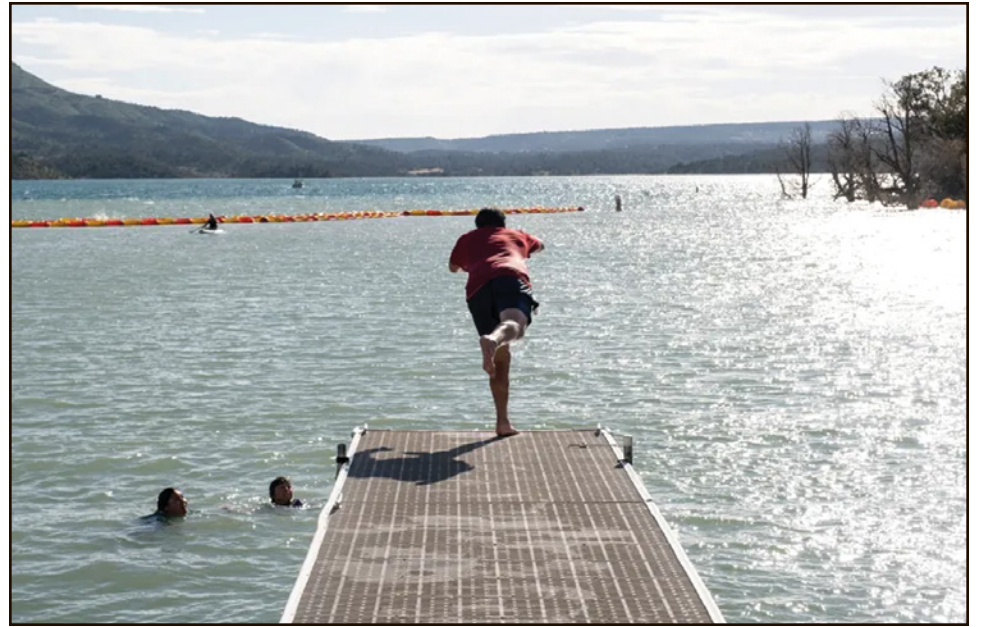
Lawmakers use resolutions to highlight priorities, but they're nonbinding – they don't require something to change, Senate Minority Leader Cleave Simpson, a Republican whose district includes both tribal reservations, said. His hope?

“That the federal government will pay more attention,” he said. “I guess it's wishful thinking, but that's what we can do at this level.”

The resolution, also sponsored

by Democrats Reps. Katie Stewart and Julie McCluskie, and Sen. Dylan Roberts, spotlighted several water projects that have been waiting for federal funding or maintenance for years, urging the federal government to address the tribes' water needs.

“The people of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe have been resilient since the start of our creation story,” Marilyn House, secretary of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, said Friday at the Capitol. “The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has seen many victories. ... We will continue to seek victory in all that we do in all of our present and future endeavors.”



courtesy Jeremy Wade Shockley/The Colorado Sun

Lake Nighthorse, located just outside of Durango in southwest Colorado, was created as a result of the Animas-La Plata Project. The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes have legal rights to water held in the reservoir but lack the infrastructure to access it.



courtesy Shannon Mullane/The Colorado Sun

A steady stream of water leaks out of Butzbaugh Flume on Jan. 19, 2024, in southwestern Colorado. The flume is part of the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project. As part of the project's main ditch, it carries water to hundreds of acres of irrigable land around the Southern Ute Reservation and La Plata County.

The Tribe was awarded federal funding to fix a failing water line that delivers the drinking and industrial water from the Cortez Water Treatment Plant to Towaoc on the tribal reservation. But the Trump administration froze the funding, according to the resolution.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has also been trying for years to get the federal government to update a deteriorating federal irrigation system on the Tribe's reservation. Some of the canals and ditches date to the late 1800s, and today, only about 15% of the 175 miles of canals are classified as being in good condition.

It would cost tens of millions of dollars, \$126 mil-

lion by some estimates, to fully address the backlog of maintenance issues. The tribal government has been footing parts of the bill for years and is calling on federal agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to fulfill their responsibilities.

The Bureau of Reclamation awarded about \$20 million in grants to the Southern Ute Tribe to repair the irrigation project, but those funds are also caught up in the federal funding freeze.

Immediately after his inauguration, President Donald Trump halted spending under a Biden-era law, the Inflation Reduction Act, to ensure that proposed projects fit the new administration's policy priorities. The move af-

ected water projects that had been awarded federal funding across Colorado and in the southwestern part of the state, where both tribal reservations are located.

The state's resolution urged the federal government to release the promised funds to both tribes.

“The lack of infrastructure, poor stewardship by the federal government, and systemic constraints create barriers to the Tribes' ability to develop their quantified and settled water rights, and, relatedly, their economies and communities,” the lawmakers wrote in the resolution, urging the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take steps by rehabilitating

Colorado page 20



EASTER BUFFET

A BRUNCH FEAST FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | 8AM - 4PM
\$39.99 ADULTS | \$17.99 KIDS 14 & UNDER

Join us for a spectacular spread where classic comfort meets gourmet flavor. Whether you're craving a hearty breakfast or a sophisticated lunch, we have a seat waiting for you this Easter Sunday.

You can also fill up on mouthwatering seared salmon with lemon dill hollandaise, coconut breaded shrimp with sweet chili sauce, braised beef with egg noodles and merlot sauce, items the kids will love, including corn dogs and classic mac and cheese. Plus a chef's carving station, fresh salads, classic side dishes, and don't forget dessert!

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY

Space fills up fast! Don't miss out on the best brunch in town. **Please call 970-563-6238 to make a reservation.**



50 Years of Denver March Powwow



Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Kailanii Graham, prepares to wave out to the crowd as emcee Lawrence Baker introduces all visiting royalty ahead of Grand Entry.



The Southern Ute Veterans Association brings in the colors during Grand Entry, helping to lead over 1,500 dancers into the Denver Coliseum.



Southern Ute tribal member, Brianna Goodtracks-Alires, competes in the Jr. Women's Northern Traditional category.



Members of Southern Ute Royalty, Autumn Sage, Shayne White Thunder, Starlitt Greany and Theoden Greany join the line of royalty during their introductions ahead of Saturday's Grand Entry.



Members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association, Ute Mountain Ute Veterans, Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Royalty get the opportunity to meet Denver Mayor Mike Johnston. On Saturday, Mayor Johnston spent time with dancers and visitors at the powwow.

Denver March Powwow returned for its 50th Anniversary on Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22 at the Denver Coliseum. Throughout the weekend, the event saw many dancers, singers, and spectators coming together to celebrate Native heritage. This event kicks off the powwow season, and each year Southern Ute Royalty, other Ute royalty, the Southern Ute Veterans Association, and Ute tribal members gather to represent their culture.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute tribal member, Leandra Litz, competes in the Teen Girls Northern Traditional category at Denver March Powwow. Litz also attended, representing her title as Miss NCI Powwow Princess.



Jr. Women's Jingle Dress dancer, Wakinyela Clairmont competes on Saturday at Denver March Powwow.



Southern Ute tribal member, Theoden Greany ties his arm bustles with the help of his mother Dominika. Greany competed in the Jr. Boy's Fancy Category and took home first place.



2026-2027 HUNTING PROCLAMATION Southern Ute Indian Reservation

SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION HUNT DATE SUMMARY table with columns: Season Type, Pick-up, Season Dates

2026-2027 REMINDERS & UPDATES

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a degenerative brain disease of deer and elk that takes time to progress but is always fatal to the infected animal.

Mountain Lion Research Project

Colorado Parks and Wildlife in cooperation with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is conducting research on the mountain lion population in SW Colorado.

Gray Wolves

In December 2023 the state began releasing gray wolves into northern Colorado. It is unknown when wolves will migrate south onto the Reservation.

White-tailed Deer

White-tailed deer are beginning to show up in southwest Colorado and on tribal lands. These deer are not native to this part of Colorado and may negatively impact the native mule deer population.

Continued Mandatory Validation on Bucks and Bulls

All bucks and bulls harvested on the Southern Ute reservation or within the Brunot Treaty Area are subject to mandatory validation by the Wildlife Division.

First Descendant Hunting Opportunity

A limited number of Southern Ute first descendants may receive a permit to harvest one antlerless elk from tribal land December 1 – 31, 2026.

Agricultural Land Depredation Hunts

The Wildlife Division and Wildlife Advisory Board have been directed by Tribal Council to develop a hunting framework to assist tribal member agricultural producers with elk conflicts on tribal agricultural lands.

HUNTING PERMITS

Southern Ute Tribal Members

Reference Title 13 the Wildlife Conservation Code for age eligibility requirements to pick up permits and for age requirements for presenting a Hunter Education card.

- 1. Must be an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member and be able to present an enrollment card when picking up permits.
2. Hunters required to possess a hunter education card must present it at the time permits are picked up.
3. Issued permits must be signed by the applicant.
4. Mail-out permits will be provided to non-resident Tribal Members only after receiving a letter including the Tribal Member's name, date of birth, copies of their enrollment card and hunter safety education card (if applicable), and a list of permits desired.

First Descendants

The following conditions must be met to obtain a First Descendant hunting permit:

- 1. Must present paperwork from Tribal Information

- Services certifying that they are a first descendant of an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member
2. Hunters under the age of 21 must possess a hunter safety card and must present it at the time permits are picked up.
3. Issued permits must be signed by the applicant.

Duplicate Permits

Lost or destroyed hunting permits will be replaced by the Division of Wildlife Resource Management for a cost of \$5.00 per permit.

New Address / Telephone Number / Driver's License Information

If you held a previous year's hunting permit and your home address, telephone number, or driver's license information has changed, you are required to provide the new information to the Division of Wildlife Resource Management.

Legal Weapons

Legal weapons for deer, elk, and mountain lion shall include:

- 1. Shotguns of 20 gauge or larger firing a single slug.
2. Any bow with at least 40 pounds of draw weight. Hunting arrows must include a broadhead with an outside cutting diameter of at least 7/8" with at least 2 blades.
3. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, and a minimum draw length of 14" from the front of the bow to the nocking point of the drawstring.
4. Muzzleloading rifles with a single barrel of at least .40 caliber for deer, and .50 caliber for elk.
5. .357 magnum or larger handguns with a barrel length of 6 inches or longer, using .357 magnum or larger caliber ammunition with soft nose or hollow point bullets.
6. Center-fire rifles or center-fire handguns chambered for a center-fired cartridge, a minimum of .23 caliber.

Legal weapons for turkey shall include:

- Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns except .410 gauge; bow and arrow, crossbow; rifles and handguns, center-fired cartridges only; and muzzleloading rifles and handguns;

Legal weapons for waterfowl shall include:

- Any shotgun 10 gauge or smaller and not capable of holding more than 3 shotshells in the chamber and magazine combined.
Legal weapons for small game (including upland birds) shall include:
Any rimfire or center-fire rifle or handgun, any shotgun, any bow and arrow or crossbow.

HUNTER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Hunter Safety Requirements

Refer to Title 13 the Wildlife Conservation Code for Hunter Education requirements. Required hunters must have successfully completed a Hunter Education course prior to issuance of permits.

DESIGNATED HUNTING

Designating Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members

Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members over the age of 12 may designate another enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member who meets the hunting permit requirements to hunt for them during the regular hunting season.

Designating Division of Wildlife Resource Management

The Division of Wildlife Resource Management will provide designated hunting services to enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member elders (55 years of age or older), single women, or physically disabled individuals.

SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

Southern Ute Tribal Season Dates and Bag Limits (Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members Only, unless specified)

DEER AND ELK

- Season Dates: Archery: August 22 – August 30, 2026
General: August 31 – December 31, 2026
Permits Issued: August 10, 2026
Bag Limits: 3 Deer (1 Buck and 2 Does*); 3 Elk (1 Bull and 2 Cows*)
*Tribal Members must have their first doe or cow validated to receive their second doe or cow tag.

FIRST DESCENDANT ANTLERLESS ELK

- Season Dates: December 1 – December 31, 2026
Weapon Type: Any Legal Weapon
Application: Apply through the Wildlife Division*
Permits Issued: November 16, 2026
Bag Limits: 1 Antlerless Elk
Permits available by limited draw only. Successful first descendant hunters must have their elk validated
Application Fee: \$25 (non-refundable)
Permit Fee: \$75
Total Fees: \$100

Applications must be submitted by October 23, 2026. If there are more applicants than permits, then permits will be issued through a random draw. If there are fewer applicants than available permits, all the applicants will receive a permit to hunt. The Wildlife Division will be accepting online applications from October 1 – October 31, 2026. To apply, please visit the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Online Store.

SPRING TURKEY

- Season Dates: March 21 – May 24, 2026
Permits Issued: March 9, 2026
Bag Limit: 2 bearded turkeys.
No beard length restrictions, but a harvested bird must have a beard naturally attached.
Validation: 1st bird must be validated prior to obtaining a 2nd permit.

FALL TURKEY

- Season Dates: Early Archery: August 22 – August 30, 2026
General: August 31 – December 31, 2026
Permits Issued: August 10, 2026
Bag Limit: 1 Turkey (either sex)

MOUNTAIN LION

- Season Dates: November 1, 2026 – August 3, 2027 or until the harvest quota is filled.
Permits Issued: September 14, 2026
Bag Limit: 1 mountain lion (either sex)
Dogs: Using trained hunting dogs in the take and attempted take of mountain lions will be allowed.
Restrictions: It is unlawful to kill mountain lion kittens or female mountain lions accompanied by kittens.
Harvest Quotas: 7 mountain lions total or 4 female mountain lions

It is the hunter's responsibility to call the harvest quota information line to check the status of harvest quotas and hunt area closures prior to hunting. Call 970-563-0130 any time for quota status.

***The mountain lion hunting season will remain open until the season ending date or until the harvest quota is filled, whichever comes first.

Crossing Permits and Guiding and Outfitting for Mountain Lions

- Non-members accompanying Tribal Member lion hunters must possess a Hunter Accompany Crossing Permit, which can be purchased from the Wildlife Division.
The Crossing Permit is specifically to accompany a permitted hunter while hunting on Tribal land.
The permittee is expressly prohibited from carrying a firearm, or providing hunter assistance in the form of equipment, specially trained dogs, pack animals, or other similar types of hunting aids commonly provided by professional guides and outfitters.

BLACK BEAR

- Season Dates: There is no open season for black bear.
**The Tribe designates the black bear as a protected, culturally sensitive species that shall not be subject to harvest by Tribal Member hunters either on-reservation or within the Brunot Treaty area under a Southern Ute Tribal-issued permit.

GRAY WOLF

- Gray wolves remain listed as Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. As such, they may not be hunted recreationally.
When delisted the Tribe will retain full management control of gray wolves and may establish hunting seasons at that time. Please report wolf conflict to the Wildlife Division.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

- (Including Dusky Grouse and Quail)
Season Dates: August 31 – December 31, 2026
Permits Issued: August 10, 2026
Bag Limit: Dusky (Blue) Grouse: 3 birds per day; Gambel's Quail: 8 birds per day
Dogs: Using trained hunting dogs in the take and attempted take of upland game birds will be allowed.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

- (including doves, pigeons, rails and snipe)
Permits Issued: Beginning August 10, 2026
Dogs: Using trained hunting dogs in the take and attempted take of migratory game birds will be allowed.
Migratory game bird season dates and bag limits will coincide with the State of Colorado migratory bird hunting seasons. Please obtain and read the Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2026 Small Game Hunting Brochure for more information regarding migratory game birds.

WATERFOWL

- (including ducks, geese and coots)
Permits Issued: Beginning August 10, 2026
Dogs: Using trained hunting dogs in the take and attempted take of waterfowl will be allowed.
Waterfowl season dates and bag limits will coincide with the Pacific flyway season framework and the State of Colorado waterfowl hunting seasons. Please obtain and read the Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2026 Waterfowl Hunting Brochure for more information. Waterfowl hunters are required to obtain a federal duck stamp before hunting waterfowl (available at the Post Office).

SMALL GAME

- (including Furbearers)
Permits may be picked up at any time during the calendar year. The season runs year-round.
Refer to Title 13 the Wildlife Conservation Code for a complete list of small game species. Small game shall include, but is not limited to, beaver, badger, bobcat, fox species, muskrat, rabbits and hares, raccoon, ringtail, squirrel species, and weasel species (excluding river otters).
While no bag limits apply to small game species, certain rules and regulations do apply to trapping:

Important Regulations for Trapping:

- 1. Permission to trap. No person shall trap furbearers on private, assigned and allotted lands without the permission of the landowner, assignee or person in charge of the property.
2. Interference with traps. It is unlawful to interfere with, disturb, remove or otherwise molest any trap, snare or other device lawfully set by a trapper, or remove any furbearer from said devices.
3. Unattended traps. It is the duty of a trapper to endeavor to prevent undue suffering by wildlife captured or trapped. It is unlawful for any person to set a trap and leave it unattended in excess of twenty-four (24) hours unless chemical or mechanical methods are provided to prevent suffering of trapped animals.
4. Traps in the field must have identification of the trapper attached and available for Enforcement to see upon checking the trap. Identification must include the trapper's name and phone number. Identification methods can include engraving into a trap or attaching an identification tag (metal preferred). Other methods can be acceptable as long as the tag is visible for inspection.

SHED ANTLER COLLECTION SEASON

- No Permit Required
Season Dates: Year Round
Shed antler collection on Tribal Lands is open to Southern Ute Tribal Members only. There is no permit required or restrictions on Tribal Members pertaining to shed antler hunting/collecting. Non-members, including spouses, immediate family or others, may not pick up and possess shed antlers while on tribal lands.



SOUTHERN UTE HUNTING PROCLAMATION • FROM PAGE 16

TAGGING AND VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

All big game animals must be tagged by the person who harvested the animal. The hunter must physically notch (cut) the **Month** and **Day** of harvest on the carcass tag and sign the permit in **Ink** immediately after harvesting the animal. The hunter must then affix the carcass tag to the carcass. All big game animals must be securely tagged with the carcass tag prior to transportation. If numerous trips are required to remove the carcass from the field, the tag should remain attached to the portion of the carcass left in camp or in a vehicle.

Validation Requirements

Validation is the inspection of a harvested animal and may or may not be required depending on the species or hunt type. Part of the validation process may also require the hunter obtaining a validation tag as proof of inspection prior to the hunter leaving the reservation with the harvested animal. Guidelines vary and are given in detail by species and hunting season below. For further information regarding validations and validation tags, please contact the DWRM.

Mandatory Validation

- **Early Archery Deer, Elk, and Turkey**
- **Buck Deer and Bull Elk** – Tribal Member hunters are required to have buck deer and bull elk validated within 5 business days of harvest. Please call the DWRM to make arrangements.
- **Mountain Lion** – Validation must take place within 24 hours of the kill. Contact the Division of Wildlife Resource Management or Southern Ute Tribal Rangers during regular business hours or contact Southern Ute Dispatch outside of regular business hours to arrange validation.
- **First Descendant Antlerless Elk**

Optional Validation

- **Doe Deer and Cow Elk** – Hunters planning to obtain a second doe tag or a second cow elk tag must have their first doe or cow validated prior to picking up additional tags.
- **Spring Turkey** – Hunters planning to obtain a second turkey permit must have their first turkey validated prior to picking up additional tags.
- **Fall Turkey**
- **Upland game birds**
- **Waterfowl**
- **Small Game**

EVIDENCE OF SEX REQUIREMENTS

Evidence of sex of harvested deer, elk, wild turkeys, and mountain lions must remain naturally attached to carcasses while transporting animals from the field, while in camp, or until the animal is validated (if necessary). Evidence of sex for deer and elk include the head and/or the testicles or udder. Evidence of sex for wild turkeys is the beard (for males). For mountain lions, the reproductive organs of both males and females must be left attached for sex identification purposes.

GUIDING AND OUTFITTING

Guides and outfitters must be permitted by the Division of Wildlife Resource Management before operating on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. To obtain a guiding and outfitting permit or to acquire a list of permitted guides and outfitters, contact the Division of Wildlife Resource Management. Illegal guiding and outfitting on the reservation is a serious offense with consequences for both the hunter and the person providing the guiding or outfitting services. Please contact the Wildlife Division immediately if you suspect illegal guiding and outfitting is taking place on the reservation.

ACCOMPANY CROSSING PERMITS

The Division of Wildlife Resource Management issues crossing permits to non-Southern Ute Tribal Members to accompany permitted hunters while hunting. Persons holding crossing permits may not hunt or carry a firearm of any type while accompanying a permitted hunter. **Persons holding a crossing permit may not provide specialized guiding and outfitting-type assistance to permitted hunters.** Contact the DWRM for more details on crossing permits or to have crossing permits issued. Non-Southern Ute Tribal Members who are not in the immediate family of a Southern Ute Tribal Member hunter must acquire a crossing permit so that they may accompany the permitted Southern Ute Tribal Member while hunting. **Non-Southern Ute Tribal Members who are in the immediate family of a permitted Southern Ute Tribal Member hunter may accompany the hunter without obtaining a crossing permit.** For the purposes of accompany crossing permits, immediate family is considered a spouse, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, son in-law, daughter in-law or legal guardian of the permitted Southern Ute Tribal Member hunter. Note that a maximum of two permittees at a time are allowed per Southern Ute hunter and the crossing permit will be valid for 30 days or until the end of the hunt season, whichever comes first. Cost for crossing permits will be \$20.00 per permittee, and each permit is valid for accompanying a single specified Tribal Member hunter.

OPEN AND CLOSED AREAS FOR HUNTING ON THE RESERVATION

Open Areas

Open areas for huntable species shall include all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. For private, assigned and allotted lands, hunters must first obtain written access permission from the landowner. For USFS lands and Navajo State Park lands contact the respective agencies for information pertaining to access restrictions.

Closed Areas

Closed areas shall include all grounds immediately surrounding the Lake Capote Recreation Area including the campground and Indian Mesa (La Boca area). For precise boundaries contact the Wildlife Division.

CLOSURE OF LAKE CAPOTE RECREATION AREA

The Lake Capote Recreation Area will be closed to all hunting. Hwy 160 borders the closure area on the north and Hwy 151 on the west. The range fence directly south of the lake (running east/west) defines the southern boundary and the east boundary will follow the eastern bank of Stollsteimer Creek running north. The map on page 18 shows the restricted area. Contact the Wildlife or Lands Divisions with questions.

CLOSURE OF INDIAN MESA

Indian Mesa (La Boca area) was closed by Resolution (2000-215) in December of 2000 and prohibits any activity which might jeopardize the cultural sensitivity of the area. Prohibited activities include firewood cutting, **hunting**, camping, leasing and grazing. The map on page 19 shows the restricted area. Contact the Wildlife or Lands Divisions with questions.

ADDITIONAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

A complete listing of regulations pertaining to hunting on the Southern Ute Indian reservation is contained in Title 13: Wildlife Conservation Code. Contact the DWRM for a current copy of Title 13 or visit our website: <http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/wrmweb/>. Additionally, the Division has a limited number of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Wildlife Laws Handbook 2008 available to Tribal hunters. Please ask about them in the Wildlife office.

Failure to wear Daylight or Fluorescent Orange or Pink Garments

During the big game hunting season, it is unlawful to hunt deer and/or elk with a firearm unless the person hunting is wearing a head covering and an outer garment above the waistline, both of solid daylight fluorescent orange or pink color, totaling five hundred (500) square inches or more of clothing. Penalties include fines and points towards permit revocation. Persons specifically hunting for fall turkey or specifically hunting for mountain lions when

big game seasons are running concurrently are not required to wear blaze orange but are encouraged to do so for their own safety in the field.

Failing to Tag Wildlife Properly

It is unlawful for any person to fail to tag wildlife properly. In its simplest form, tagging means to sign and punch the dates on your tag and affix it to the animal's carcass. Penalties include fines and points towards permit revocation.

Shooting from a Motor Vehicle

It is unlawful for any person to shoot any type of firearm from a motor vehicle to take wildlife. Penalties include fines and points towards permit revocation.

Wastage of Game Meat / Abandoning a Carcass

It is unlawful to abandon any edible portion of wildlife or permit it to go to waste. Penalties for big game include fines and points toward permit revocation. Additionally, it is unlawful to take any wildlife and abandon the carcass or take wildlife only for the head, claws, teeth, hide, antlers, horns, tusks, or organs with the intent to abandon the carcass, or to mutilate any living wildlife. Penalties include fines and points towards permit revocation.

Off-road Travel on Tribal Lands

It is unlawful to travel off of established roads and two-tracks with any vehicle while on Tribal lands. This includes ATVs. Penalties include fines and points towards permit revocation.

AUTHORITY

These hunting regulations are approved by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council under authority as outlined in Title 13, Article 1, Section 13-1-106, Subsections (1) through (3); Article 2, Section 13-2-101, Subsections (1) through (5); Article 2, Section 13-2-104; Article 2, Section 13-2-105, Subsections (1) through (3); of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Code revised and amended by Tribal Resolution No's. 89-34, 01-69, and 02-215.

Schedule of Civil Penalties Connected to Poaching Convictions on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation	
Deer	Penalties
Trophy Buck (24" or greater inside spread)	\$10,000 + 15 Points
Buck	\$5,000+ 15 Points
Doe	\$1,000+ 15 Points
Elk	Penalties
Trophy Bull (6 + points on one antler)	\$10,000+ 15 Points
Bull	\$5,000+ 15 Points
Cow	\$1,000+ 15 Points
Mountain Lion	\$5,000+ 15 Points
Shed Antlers	\$2,500+ 15 Points
Additional penalties associated with poaching convictions often include point accrual and revocation of hunting and fishing privileges on the Southern Ute Indian reservation for 2 – 5 years.	

**2026 – 2027 HUNTING & FISHING PROCLAMATION
Brunot Area Hunting & Fishing by Southern Ute Tribal Members**

BRUNOT HUNT DATE SUMMARY		
Season Type	Permitting Start Date	Season Dates
Spring Turkey	March 9	March 21 – May 24
Deer Rocky Mtn. Elk Fall Turkey	August 10	August 29 – November 22
Bighorn Sheep* Mountain Goat* Moose*	August 10	August 22 – October 31 (Sheep) September 1 – October 31 (Goat) September 1– October 31 (Moose)
Mountain Lion	September 14	November 1, 2026 – April 18, 2027
Upland Game Birds	August 10	September 1 – December 31 (Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant and Chukar)
Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds	August 10	Waterfowl season dates and bag limits will coincide with the Pacific and Central flyway season framework and the State of Colorado waterfowl hunting seasons.
Small Game	Anytime	Calendar Year
Fishing	Anytime	Calendar Year
Permitting for these rare game species takes place through a special application and drawing process each spring. For more information, see Rare Game Permitting.		

Ute Hunting Access to Lone Mesa State Park
Lone Mesa State Park (LMSP), located 23 miles north of the Town of Dolores, is a closed-access park specially managed by the State of Colorado for limited deer and elk hunting. Negotiations between the Tribe and Colorado Parks & Wildlife led to a hunting opportunity for Tribal Members within the state park. The Tribe will permit interested enrolled Tribal Members on a limited-draw basis for deer and elk hunting in LMSP for 2026. Applications for limited park access permits will be accepted at the Wildlife office during the month of May. Please contact the Southern Ute Wildlife Division for more information or visit the Park website at <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/LoneMesa>.

Rare Game application and draw schedule
Applications for rare game (Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat) will be accepted at the Wildlife office during the month of May. The draw and subsequent notification of winners for rare game permits will take place in June. Contact the Wildlife office for applications and any questions about this process.

INTRODUCTION TO BRUNOT AREA HUNTING & FISHING

In 1873, the confederated bands of Utes ceded a large portion of their 1868 reservation to the Federal government under a treaty commonly known as the "Brunot Agreement". This ceded area – or "Brunot Area" – is approximately 3.7 million acres of the San Juan Mountain region within the State of Colorado. The Agreement represented a major loss to the reservation land base and was yet another blow to the Utes' traditional hunting-and-gathering way of life. Included within the 1873 Agreement was an important provision reserving for the Utes the right to "hunt upon said land so long as the game lasts and the Indians are at peace with the white people." Despite the continued loss of lands, the corresponding reduction in the size of the Ute reservation, and the relocation of certain Ute bands outside of Colorado, this reserved right within the Brunot Area has remained undiminished to this day. Based on historical evidence and testimonials from Ute elders, this reserved right includes not only hunting but also fishing and gathering activities by which the Utes supported themselves in the region for centuries prior to the Agreement. In 2008, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe entered a new agreement – this time with the State of Colorado – addressing the Tribe's exercise of its long-held Brunot Area hunting and fishing rights. This agreement – or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – details how the Tribe and State approach Brunot Area hunting, fishing, and wildlife law enforcement, and expresses the intent of both governments to work cooperatively toward long-term conservation of wildlife within the Brunot Area. With the completion of the MOU, Tribal Members are once

again able to exercise the Tribe's long-held rights to hunt and fish within the Brunot Area, in accordance with regulations established by the Tribe. This document is an annual proclamation, approved by the Southern Ute Tribal Council, and applies only to hunting and fishing by enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members within the Brunot Area. For more information, please contact the Tribe's Division of Wildlife Resource Management.

Season Framework

Hunting and fishing seasons are established annually by the Tribe for all game species found within the Brunot Area. The table found on the inside cover of this proclamation specifies the current seasons (i.e., the start and end dates for legal harvest), as well as the permitting start dates. Most seasons will be the same or very similar from year to year, however, dates of several seasons may vary slightly. Those animal species not identified as having designated seasons, and those not protected by the Tribe from harvest for cultural or conservation reasons (see *Protected Fish & Wildlife*), may be harvested without a Tribe-issued hunting or fishing permit.

Cultural and Ceremonial Hunting

Those Tribal hunters wishing to hunt for cultural or ceremonial purposes within the Brunot Area and *outside of the regular, Tribal-approved seasons* must contact the SUI Division of Wildlife prior to hunting. Special authorization is required for any hunting outside of the established seasons, and at least two weeks advance notice of a cultural/ceremonial hunting need should be provided.

PERMITTING

All Tribal Members hunting or fishing within the Brunot Area must carry with them the appropriate permit(s) issued by either the Tribe or State of Colorado. Tribal Members who obtain Tribal permits are subject to the Tribal seasons and regulations set forth in this Proclamation, to be enforced by the Tribe. Those who obtain State hunting or fishing permits must hunt or fish in accordance with State seasons and regulations (see the Colorado Parks and Wildlife), which will be enforced by the State. It is unnecessary, but allowable, for a hunter or angler to be permitted by both entities. On-Reservation hunting and fishing permits (i.e., within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation) and off-Reservation hunting and fishing permits for the Brunot Area are **separate and non-interchangeable**. It is the responsibility of each hunter and angler to be properly permitted for the area hunted or fished, and to follow all applicable regulations for that area. Permitting for Brunot Area hunting and fishing is managed entirely through the Tribe's Division of

2026-2027 REMINDERS AND UPDATE

Chronic Wasting Disease
Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a degenerative brain disease of deer and elk that takes time to progress but is always fatal to the infected animal. CWD is most prevalent in male deer greater than two years old. In 2025, a considerable increase in CWD prevalence was detected in GMU 72, which is in the far southwest corner of the state, bordering Utah and New Mexico. The prevalence of CWD in our mule deer herd is currently very low (less than 1%), however the Wildlife Division (Division) is seeking to increase sampling of harvested adult buck deer. Division staff may ask to sample hunter's deer during a validation, and tribal members may request having any deer or elk sampled at anytime; testing is voluntary and free of. There is no evidence that CWD can spread between infected animals and humans, however the Division recommends not consuming meat of tested animals until the results are obtained. Consuming meat from CWD positive animals is not recommended.

Mountain Lion Research Project
Colorado Parks and Wildlife in cooperation with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is conducting research on the mountain lion population in SW Colorado. CPW, supported by tribal staff and tribal houndsmen will be capturing and collaring mountain lions on tribal lands 2025-2027. Radio collared mountain lions will remain **legal** to harvest during the duration of the research project.

Gray Wolves
In December 2023 the state began releasing gray wolves into northern Colorado. It is unknown when wolves will migrate south onto the Reservation. Tribal Members should be aware of the state's reintroduction effort and that wolves are now present in Colorado. Gray wolves are a federally protected species and the Tribe does not currently issue permits to hunt, trap or kill wolves for sport. Please contact the Wildlife Division for more information on gray wolves.

White-tailed Deer
White-tailed deer are beginning to show up in southwest Colorado including on tribal lands. These deer are not native to this part of Colorado and may negatively impact the native mule deer population. Continuing in 2026, Reservation and Brunot deer hunting permits will not specify mule deer or white-tailed deer allowing harvest of either. For example, a tribal member hunter may harvest either a white-tailed or mule deer doe with their Doe Deer hunting permit.

Mandatory Validation on Bucks and Bulls
All bucks and bulls harvested on the Southern Ute reservation or within the Brunot Treaty Area are subject to mandatory validation by the Wildlife Division. Bucks and bulls must be validated **within 5 business days of harvest**. Hunters can call the Wildlife Division or stop by our offices for validation. Division staff are flexible on when and where we perform validations. Please be prepared to answer some basic questions about where and when the animal was harvested.



BRUNOT AREA HUNTING PROCLAMATION • FROM PAGE 17

Wildlife office, located in the Annex Building on the tribal government campus near Ignacio, Colorado. Permits may be obtained in-person at this office or by mail for those Tribal Members living outside the Reservation area. Brunot Area hunting and fishing permits are issued free-of-charge for the first issuance. A \$5 fee applies for replacement of lost or damaged permits.

Permitting Start Dates

Brunot Area hunting and fishing permits are available to pick up at the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife office (or mail out) beginning on the start dates specified on the inside cover of this Proclamation through the end of the established season. Note: Except for Fishing and Small Game, the dates when permits begin to be issued DO NOT correspond to the actual season start dates.

For Rare Game (i.e., bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat), successful applicants in a lottery process will be notified of their permit availability through the Division of Wildlife following permit drawings held each June.

Permit Eligibility

Only Southern Ute Tribal Members may obtain Brunot Area hunting and fishing permits from the Tribe and the following criteria must be met in order to obtain a valid permit:

- Must present a Southern Ute Tribal identification card at the time of permit pick-up.
• Please reference Title 13, the Wildlife Conservation Code for age eligibility to pick up permits and for age requirements to present a hunter education card.
• The applicant's hunting and fishing privileges must not be currently suspended or revoked through the Tribe's wildlife penalty-point system.
• Issued permits are not valid unless signed by the applicant.

Permit Transferability

The transfer of Brunot Area hunting and fishing permits to other Southern Ute Tribal Members or other Native Americans is strictly prohibited. Only the individual named on the Brunot Area permit is authorized to hunt or fish, per the terms of the permit. "Designated hunting" – the transfer of certain permit types between Tribal Members – is an option only for on-Reservation hunting (i.e., hunting within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Reservation) and is not allowed within the Brunot Area.

Mail-Out Permits

Mail-out permit(s) will be provided at no-cost by the SUIT Division of Wildlife only to a non-local Tribal Member and only upon receipt of a signed letter of request from the Tribal Member. The letter must include the hunter's name, mailing address, date of birth, copies of the Southern Ute Tribal identification card and hunter education card (if applicable), and a list of the permit(s) desired. Permits will not be valid until signed by the applicant.

Permit Replacement

Lost or damaged Brunot Area permits may be obtained at the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife office for a \$5 per permit fee, regardless of permit type. Lost or damaged permits will be immediately voided, and notification of voided permits will be sent to tribal law enforcement.

Rare Game Permitting

Unlike other Brunot Area permitting, permitting for Rare Game (i.e., Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, moose, and mountain goat) is handled through a permit application and drawing process. Availability of applications will be announced through local media in the Ignacio area, and applications will only be accepted during the month of May. Random drawings from among the applicants will then determine the recipients of a very limited number of hunting permits. Notification of these individuals will occur during the month of June. Those who repeatedly apply but do not receive a permit will accrue bonus points, which will improve future chances of selection. For detailed information on the rules governing the Tribal Council-approved lottery process and bonus point system, please contact the Southern Ute Division of Wildlife office.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

Presented in this section are the 2026/27 Tribal Council-approved regulations pertaining to the harvest of Brunot Area Big Game, Rare Game, Small Game, Upland Gamebirds, and Waterfowl.

Table with 2 columns: Hunt Type and Bag Limit (per hunter). Rows include Deer, Rocky Mtn. Elk, Mountain Lion, Fall Turkey, Spring Turkey, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Moose, Small Game, and Waterfowl And Migratory Gamebirds.

Legal Weapons

Legal weapons for harvesting deer, elk, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose shall include:

- Any bow with at least 40 pounds of draw weight. Hunting arrows must include a broadhead with an outside cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch with at least 2 blades.
• Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, and a minimum draw length of 14 inches from the front of the bow to the nocking point of the drawstring.
• Shotguns of 20 gauge or larger firing a single slug;
• Muzzleloading rifles with a single barrel of at least .40 caliber for deer, and .50 caliber for elk;
• .357 magnum or larger handguns with a barrel length of 6 inches or longer, using .357 magnum or larger caliber ammunition with soft nose or hollow point bullets;
• Center-fire rifles or center-fire handguns chambered for a center-fired cartridge, a minimum of .23 caliber. No fully automatic firearm may be used.

Legal weapons for turkey shall include:

- Shotguns except .410 gauge; bows and crossbows (i.e., as specified above for deer, elk, etc.); rifles and handguns, center-fired cartridges only; and muzzleloading rifles and handguns;

Legal weapons for waterfowl shall include:

- Any shotgun 10 gauge or smaller and not capable of holding more than 3 shotshells in the chamber and magazine combined. Shotshells must not contain lead pellets.

Legal weapons for small game and upland gamebirds shall include:

- Any rimfire or center-fire rifle or handgun, any shotgun, and any bow and arrow or crossbow.

Evidence of Sex

Evidence of sex for harvested deer, elk, mountain lion, turkey, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose must remain naturally attached to the carcass while transporting animals from the field, while in camp, or until the animal is validated (if required). Evidence of sex will include the head and/or testicles or udder. For mountain lions, the reproductive organs of both male and female must be left attached for identification purposes. For wild turkey the beard must remain attached.

Carcass Tagging

The carcass of a harvested big game animal (i.e., deer, elk, mountain lion, turkey, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose) must be tagged by the person who harvested the animal. The hunter must physically notch (cut) the Month and Day of harvest indicated on the permit and sign the permit in ink immediately after harvesting the animal. The hunter must affix the permit to the carcass. All big game animals must be securely tagged with the carcass tag prior to transportation. If numerous trips are required to remove the carcass from the field, the tag should remain attached to the portion of the carcass that is first brought to camp or to a vehicle.

Deer & Elk Harvest Reporting

For 2026, hunters are still required to have buck deer and bull elk validated. Hunters should be prepared to describe generally where and when an animal was harvested. Validation must occur within five business days of harvest. The Division will work with hunters to arrange a time and place to meet to validate their animals. Doe deer and cow elk harvests still must be called into the Division; however, a full validation isn't required. Failure to report the successful harvest of any deer or elk from the Brunot Area could subject the hunter to penalties under the Tribe's Wildlife Conservation Code.

Rare Game and Mountain Lion Harvest Validation

Hunters are required to have validated any mountain lion, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose harvested from the Brunot Area. Validation is the physical inspection of the animal by the Tribal Wildlife Division staff. Validations are not available on weekends; therefore, animals must be validated during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm - 5:00pm). For mountain lions, the carcass must be inspected within 48 hours of the harvest. The hunter must present the carcass with skin attached.

horns or antlers and skull intact. The carcass may be quartered in the field. If the harvested animal is a ram bighorn sheep, the Tribal Wildlife Division will affix a permanent mark (plug) to the horn as proof of legal harvest.

Mountain Lion Hunting

Mountain lion hunting in the Brunot Area is divided into four separate units, and each unit has an associated harvest quota. The mountain lion season is open either until the season end-date or until the unit quota is filled, whichever occurs first. If the quota for a unit is filled, the season will immediately close for that unit. A Brunot Area lion permit is valid for hunting in all units that have not reached the designated harvest quota.

Lion hunters should be aware that Lion Unit 1 (L1) encompasses both the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and a portion of the Brunot Area. Even though L1 is a combination of Reservation and Brunot lands, lion hunting on the Reservation portion requires a reservation permit, while lion hunting in the Brunot portion requires a Brunot permit. The lion permits for both areas are not interchangeable.

Table: THE LION HARVEST QUOTAS BY UNIT. Columns: Lion Unit, Harvest Quota. Rows: L1 (7 lions or 4 females), L2 (1 lion either sex), L3 (2 lions either sex), L4 (2 lions either sex).

Important Mountain Lion Hunting Information

A mountain lion telephone information line is available for hunters to call to check on the status of the quotas in each unit. It is the hunter's responsibility to call the harvest quota information line IMMEDIATELY BEFORE hunting to check the status of harvest quotas and unit closures. Call 970-563-0130 at any time for quota status. It is unlawful to kill mountain lion kittens or female mountain lions accompanied by kittens.

Upland Gamebird Hunting

Hunting for upland gamebirds is allowed within the Brunot Area. Upland gamebirds include dusky (blue) grouse, ptarmigan, pheasant, and chukar partridge. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse may occur within the Brunot Area also; however, populations of these birds are very low, and hunting of these species is not allowed. Trained hunting dogs may be used to hunt upland game birds.

Waterfowl and Migratory Gamebird Hunting

Hunting for Waterfowl and other migratory gamebirds is allowed within the Brunot Area. Waterfowl includes various species of ducks, mergansers, coots, dark and light geese, snipe, and rails (Virginia and Sora). Migratory gamebirds include doves (mourning, white winged and collared) and band-tailed pigeons. Because waterfowl and migratory gamebird seasons and bag limits are set by the federal government, the Tribe does not currently have the ability to set its own season dates and bag limits for these species. Therefore, Tribal Member hunters pursuing these species must abide by season dates and bag limits set by the State of Colorado. The Brunot Area encompasses parts of both the Central and Pacific Flyways. Most of the Brunot Area is within the Pacific Flyway, while the Central Flyway portion is a much smaller area located east of the Continental Divide. Please note that, under Federal law, all waterfowl hunters are required to purchase and possess a Federal Duck Stamp. A Duck Stamp can be purchased at a local Post Office. Trained hunting dogs may be used to hunt migratory game birds.

Small Game Trapping

Trapping is a special harvest methodology that is highly regulated at the State level and is similarly regulated by the Tribe within the Brunot Area. The purpose of the regulations is to minimize the potential impacts of trapping on non-target wildlife, especially rare, threatened, or endangered species. For the Brunot Area, the species of concern with trapping are the Canada lynx and river otter, both of which are the subject of major re-introduction efforts and are protected from take throughout the San Juan Mountains region. Trapping is allowed year-round, per the established Small Game season, and a trapper must obtain a Small Game permit to engage in any trapping of wildlife in the Brunot Area. Wildlife that may be trapped are those species covered under the Brunot Area Small Game permit, including bobcat, coyote, fox, all weasels (except river otter), ringtail, raccoon, prairie dog, beaver, muskrat, rabbit/hare, marmot, and tree squirrel.

All trappers must comply with the following tribal trapping regulations:

- Trapper Notification & Reporting. A trapper must provide at least two weeks advance notice to the Tribal Division of Wildlife of any planned Brunot Area trapping effort. The notice must include approximate location of traps, number and type(s) of traps to be used, and approximate timeframe for operating the traps.
• Trap Attendance. Any individual operating a trap within the Brunot Area is required to physically inspect the trap at least once every 24 hours. Note that this is not a "once daily" requirement; a trapper cannot inspect a trap on one morning and return in the afternoon the next day, as this would be in excess of 24 hours.

- Trap Types Allowed. Only live traps may be used for trapping in the Brunot Area, which includes any non-lethal cage, box, or Snead-design colony traps.
• Bait Restrictions. Visual lures, fresh meat baits, fish oil, and anise oil lures meant to attract felids are not permitted due to the risk of injury or mortality for Canada lynx.
• Target and Non-Target Captures. All captured target species must be killed on-site when the trap is checked. All captured non-target species that are un-injured must be released.

Canada lynx and river otter that are captured but un-injured must be immediately released. Accidental capture of these species must be reported within 12 hours of discovery to the Tribal Wildlife Division.

- Interference with Traps. It is unlawful to interfere with, disturb, remove or otherwise molest any trap lawfully set by a trapper, or for a non-operator of a trap to remove any animal from said trap.

OTHER HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

- Refer to Title 13 the Wildlife Conservation Code for Hunter Education Requirements. Required hunters must have successfully completed a hunter safety education course and present their hunter education card prior to issuance of permits.
• Daylight Fluorescent Orange or Pink. For non-archery hunters hunting deer, elk, or moose within the Brunot Area, it is required that the hunter wear a head covering and an outer garment above the waistline of solid daylight fluorescent orange or pink color, totaling 500 square inches or more of clothing.
• Loaded Firearm in Vehicle. It is unlawful for any person, except those authorized by law, or by the Tribe's Department of Justice and Regulatory, Wildlife Enforcement Division, or Wildlife Management Division, to carry or possess any firearm other than a pistol or revolver in or on any motor vehicle, unless such firearm is unloaded.
• Shooting from Road. It is unlawful for any person to shoot any type of firearm from or across or onto any maintained public road.

FISHING REGULATIONS – BRUNOT AREA

Presented in this section are the Tribal-approved seasons and regulations pertaining to fishing within the Brunot Area for 2026. The fishing season is the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Except as noted under Special Management Fisheries, standard angling methods and daily bag limits apply to all Brunot Area fishing by Tribal anglers.

Important Note: Numerous creeks and rivers with sport fisheries cross over the Brunot Area boundary. It is important for anglers to remember that, upon leaving the Brunot Area, Brunot fishing permits are no longer valid; State permit requirements and regulations apply outside of the Brunot Area. When entering the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, reservation requirements apply.

Standard Angling Methods

Game fish may be taken by hook and line, as well as by bowfishing (see Bowfishing). Fishermen are allowed up to two fishing rods at a time per angler. For bait fishing, one line may be used with up to two single baited hooks attached. For lure fishing, one line may be used with one artificial lure attached. Artificial lures may have up to two hooks (single, double, or treble) attached. For fly-fishing, one line may be used with up to two flies attached.

General Fishing Restrictions

- Legal Fishing Hours/Duration. Fishing may occur 24-hours a day, unless the daily bag or possession limit is met.
• Illegal Fishing Gear / Methods. Use of the following gear or methods to catch fish is prohibited on all Brunot Area waters: all net types (excluding hand-held landing nets), trotlines, traps, explosives, poisons, guns, or any other gear or method not specified in the Standard Angling Methods section.
• Chumming. Chumming, or placing in the water any type of fish attractant for the purpose of catching fish, is prohibited in all Brunot waters.
• Bait. Permitted baits are worms, insects, crayfish, vegetable matter, artificial salmon eggs, PowerBait, fish (dead only) and amphibians (live or dead), provided that fish and amphibian species used for bait must be non-native to the Brunot Area. Check with the Wildlife Division on native species prohibited from use as bait.



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- **Planting Fish.** It is unlawful to release or move into any Brunot Area waters any fish from aquaria, ponds, bait buckets, or any other external fish source.
- **Fishing Pole Attendance.** Anglers must attend their fishing pole (be within 50 feet) at all times.
- **Minnows.** It is unlawful to take, possess, transport, or sell live minnows anywhere within the Brunot Area.

Bowfishing

Bowfishing is allowed for northern pike and carp at all times in all Brunot Area waters. Bowfishing is also allowed for kokanee salmon concurrent with times and locations designated for salmon snagging. See Salmon Snagging for specific locations and timing. Legal equipment for bow fishing shall include recurve, compound or longbows with reels and arrows attached with fishing line. Arrows must have barbed heads and be equipped with a safety slide keeping the line in front of the bow at all times.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits

The **Daily Bag Limit** is the maximum number of game fish you can take in one day. The **Possession Limit** is the number of fish you may have in your possession at any one time, including in your creel, ice chest, vehicle, camp, or home. The possession limit for all game fish is **no more than one daily bag limit** (single species or in aggregate), as indicated in the **Daily Bag and Possession Limits** table. Bag and Possession Limits do not apply to those species where “Unlimited” take is indicated.

Cr. confluence) Fishing is prohibited 100 feet upstream and downstream of the artificial waterfall (fish barrier) located 0.1 mile below the East Fork of Hermosa Creek confluence.

- **Piedra River, East Fork** (15 mi northwest of Pagosa Springs)
- **Priest Gulch** (10 mi southwest of Rico)
- **Rio Lado** (10 mi southwest of Rico)
- **Rito Hondo** (RH) Creek and RH Reservoir (14 miles west of Creede)
- **Slate Creek** (6 mi northeast of Rico)
- **Sloan Lake** (10 mi northeast of Silverton)
- **Spring Creek** (8 mi west of Rico)
- **Wildcat Creek** (5 mi south of Rico)

C. **Trophy Bass Waters** include two reservoirs where harvest is restricted to a smaller number of fish and/or specific size ranges in order to promote healthy reproductive bass populations.

- **McPhee Reservoir.** All bass (either small-mouth or largemouth) between the sizes of 10” and 15” must be immediately returned to the water. The Daily Bag and Possession Limit for bass from McPhee Reservoir is 5 fish.
- **Totten Reservoir.** Located near Cortez, anglers may only keep smallmouth and largemouth bass that are 15 inches in length or longer. Anglers must also refrain from fishing along the north shore of the reservoir from March 1 through May 31 in order to protect nesting waterfowl.

D. **Spawning Waters** are streams and lakes

protected fish species most likely to be encountered by anglers include **Colorado River and Rio Grande cutthroat trout** (designated pure populations), **Roundtail chub, flannelmouth sucker, and bluehead sucker.**

None of these protected fish and wildlife species may be harvested by Tribal Brunot Area hunters or anglers. For a complete list of protected species, please contact the Tribal Division of Wildlife. In addition to the protected species identified above, the Tribe has also designated **black bear** as a protected, culturally sensitive species that shall **not** be subject to harvest by Brunot Area hunters under a Southern Ute Tribal-issued permit. Tribal hunters, however, retain the option of obtaining a State permit for harvesting black bear.

OPEN AND CLOSED AREAS, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND INDIAN LAND

Open Areas for hunting and fishing shall generally include all public lands within the Brunot Area boundary, which consist of most Federal government and State of Colorado-owned lands (e.g., National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands, State Wildlife Areas, State Parks, State school sections). Certain exceptions apply on some Federal and State-owned properties, or portions thereof; see Closed Areas below.

Closed Areas are those lands within the Brunot Area where hunting and/or fishing is not allowed by the Tribe for (1) public safety reasons, or (2) sensitive resource protection reasons. These areas include:

- all properties within the limits of any Brunot Area town or municipality;
- all properties or areas closed by local government (i.e., city or county) for public safety reasons;
- any place in close proximity to campgrounds, boat ramps, marinas, trailheads, occupied buildings, private residences, and any other facilities where hunting presents an undue risk to users, residents, and/or the facilities;
- any areas closed by Federal or State agencies to protect archaeological, wildlife, or other sensitive natural resource sites;

Note: Additional fishing-related closures are also specifically identified in the Spawning Waters section of the Brunot Area Fishing Regulations.

Private Property represents a substantial portion, approximately 25%, of the entire Brunot Area. Although permitted Brunot Area hunters and anglers are authorized to take game species on private property, the hunter or angler must always obtain access permission from the landowner prior to entering private land. It is always the hunter’s or angler’s responsibility to know where private land occurs, even if land boundaries are not clearly marked in the field. Hunters and anglers should carefully review maps provided by the Tribe, as well as those published by State and Federal lands agencies. Always seek knowledgeable help if in doubt about land status.

Indian Land within the Brunot Area is a small portion of the Ute Mountain Ute (UMU) reservation extending to south of Cortez, Colorado and west of Mesa Verde National Park. **For purposes of Brunot Area hunting by Southern Ute Tribal Members, UMU land should be considered private property and not huntable without the expressed permission of the UMU Tribe.**

LAND USE REGULATIONS

Virtually all of the public lands within the Brunot Area – whether federal, state, or locally controlled – are subject to a wide range of land use regulations, some of which are not exclusively directed to fish and game matters. Common examples include, but are not limited to, restrictions on open fires, recreational shooting, overnight camping, wood cutting/collecting, boating, livestock use, and especially off-road vehicle use (e.g., 4x4 trucks, ATV’s, motorcycles, mountain bikes, snowmobiles). One of the more significant land use regulations affecting hunters is a vehicle ban in certain areas. Within State Wildlife Areas, federal wilderness and research areas, and specially designated portions of National Forest, vehicle access is commonly banned either seasonally or year-round. The purpose of those regulations includes public safety and the protection of natural resources from public over-use and abuse. The Tribal Council recognizes that requiring compliance with nondiscriminatory federal, state, and local land use regulations in the Brunot Area as a matter of Tribal law may limit or interfere somewhat with the exercise of the Tribe’s Brunot Agreement rights by Tribal Members, but the Tribal Council finds that requiring compliance with such regulations as a matter of Tribal law is an advisable exercise of Tribal sovereignty in the interest of comity and to:

- Avoid the applicability of such regulations to Brunot Area hunting and fishing from being determined in federal or state court;
 - Avoid potential litigation with an uncertain result;
 - Avoid potential intergovernmental conflicts.
- Such regulations, therefore, shall apply to Tribal Member Brunot Area hunting and fishing as a matter of Tribal law. The Tribal Council reserves the right to create exceptions to the general applicability of such regulations to Tribal Member Brunot Area hunting and fishing.

It is the responsibility of Tribal Member Brunot Area hunters and anglers to know and understand the various land use regulations that are in place and enforced within the Brunot Area. Violations of the regulations are not only violations of Tribal law, but also may constitute violations of state and/or federal law, and therefore may be prosecuted in Tribal, state, or federal court. In a state or federal prosecution for violation of such regulations, therefore, it may be an ineffective defense to assert that the Tribal Member was exercising Brunot Agreement rights, since those regulations are applicable as a matter of Tribal law. Hunters and anglers should contact the Tribe’s Wildlife Management Division or other appropriate management agencies for more information on applicable land use regulations (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, etc.).

GUIDING AND OUTFITTING

A “guide” or “outfitter” is a person who accepts compensation for (1) guiding, leading, packing, protecting, supervising, instructing, or training per-

sons in the take or attempted take of wildlife; or (2) providing facilities (e.g., tents, cabins, camp gear, food, or similar supplies, equipment, or accommodations), equipment or services for hunting activities, including but not limited to the transportation of individuals, equipment, supplies, or wildlife by means of vehicle, vessel, or pack animal.

The guiding and outfitting of a Tribal Member Brunot Area hunter requires special authorization of the guide/outfitter from either the Tribe OR State and Federal authorities, depending on (1) the SUIT member status of the guide, or (2) whether the hunter is hunting under authority of a Tribal or State hunting permit.

If a hunter with a Tribal Brunot hunting permit wants to utilize the service of a Tribal Member guide/outfitter, this guide/outfitter must first be permitted by the Tribe, per Tribal permitting requirements, and the guide/outfitter must comply with the Tribe’s established guiding and outfitting rules and regulations. More information on these requirements and regulations is available through the Tribe’s Division of Wildlife office.

If the hunter wants to utilize the service of a non-SUIT member guide/outfitter, OR if the hunter is hunting under the authority of a State hunting permit, the guide/outfitter must comply with all applicable State and Federal permitting requirements and regulations pertaining to guiding and outfitting. The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and/or the U.S. Forest Service should be contacted for more information. The terms “hunting” and “fishing”, as they relate to guiding and outfitting, are used interchangeably.

Things to ask to be sure your guide/outfitter is legal:

- Do you have the appropriate Tribal / State / Federal Permits?
- What are your permit and/or registration numbers?
- Will we be hunting on public lands at any time?
- Do you have a Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service Permit?

Indications of an illegal outfitter:

- The outfitter does not provide you with a written contract
- The outfitter counsels you not to talk to state or federal officers or asks you to say you’re just friends or family hunting together.

Verify an outfitter as legal:

- Contact the SU Wildlife Division for information on Tribal guides and outfitters
- Contact the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies to verify a non-Southern Ute Tribal Member guide or outfitter (www.dors.state.co.us/outfitters)
- Contact the Colorado Outfitters Association (www.coloradoutfitters.org)

If you suspect illegal guiding and outfitting contact the Southern Ute Wildlife Division immediately for assistance. Illegal guiding and outfitting are serious offenses and can have severe consequences for you and the guide/outfitter involved in the activity. The above information is provided to keep you safe and legal while hunting on and off the reservation.

INCORPORATION OF ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS BY REFERENCE

The following sections of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Wildlife Conservation Code, as amended and published as of the date of adoption of this Proclamation, are adopted by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council and incorporated by reference into this Brunot Area Hunting and Fishing Proclamation. The purpose of the incorporation is to provide for the applicability of the incorporated sections to Tribal Member Brunot Area hunting and fishing notwithstanding any on-Reservation applicability limitation that may be expressed or implied in those sections. All Tribal Members who wish to hunt or fish in the Brunot Area must comply with the requirements set forth in the incorporated sections. The regulations contained in this Proclamation shall govern in the event of any conflict with the requirements contained in the incorporated sections.

- **Article 1 (except §13-1-106):** Definitions, Organization, Regulations
- **Section 13-2-105:** Denial, Suspension and Revocation of Permit Privileges
- **Section 13-2-106:** Administrative Appeal
- **Section 13-2-107:** Judicial Review
- **Article 3:** Offenses
- **Article 4:** Penalties and Procedures
- **Article 5:** Evidence and Additional Penalties

JURISDICTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Tribe and State of Colorado have a shared responsibility for establishing appropriate hunting and fishing regulations for the hunters and fishermen under their respective authorities in the Brunot Area, as well as for enforcing those regulations. It is the Tribe’s intent to provide a law enforcement presence in the Brunot Area utilizing Southern Ute Tribal Rangers.

Tribal hunters and anglers are likely to encounter both Tribal and State law enforcement officers while in the Brunot Area and should be prepared to show appropriate identification and permits, if requested by any law enforcement officer. In general, if a violation of a Tribal wildlife regulation has been committed by a Tribal-permitted hunter or angler, that hunter or angler shall be subject to Tribal citation and prosecution in Tribal Court.

Tribal hunters and anglers are required to carry with them their Tribal identification cards as proof of Tribal-enrolled status.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The **Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR)** card is a means to voluntarily participate in funding the cost of missions, training, and equipment for search and rescue efforts in Colorado. If a card holder is lost or injured in the back country, the county Sheriff can be reimbursed for the costs of a search and rescue mission for that person. The CORSAR card costs \$3.00 for one year, or \$12.00 for five years. Two-thirds of the revenue goes to the CORSAR fund, while one-third is retained by card vendors. The CORSAR card can be purchased from local outdoors and sporting goods stores.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS	
Game Fish	Limit (All Water Types)
Trout*	
(Rainbow, Brown, Cutthroat, Splake, Golden, Lake, Brook over 8”)	4
Brook Trout (under 8”)	10
Kokanee Salmon	10
Northern Pike	Unlimited
Common Carp	Unlimited
Yellow Perch	Unlimited
Bullhead	Unlimited
White Sucker	Unlimited

* The Daily Bag and Possession Limits for trout, bass, sunfish, crappie, walleye and saugeye are **IN AGGREGATE**, meaning that the limits for each group of fish consist of one species or a mix of the different species indicated.

Game Fish	Limit	
	Lakes/Reservoirs	Rivers/Creeks
Channel Catfish	10	Unlimited
Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)*	10	Unlimited
Sunfish (Bluegill, Green, Redear, Pumpkinseed)*	20	Unlimited
Crappie (White and Black)*	20	Unlimited
Walleye and Saugeye*	5	Unlimited
Tiger Muskie	1 fish, 36” or larger	Unlimited

* The Daily Bag and Possession Limits for trout, bass, sunfish, crappie, walleye and saugeye are **IN AGGREGATE**, meaning that the limits for each group of fish consist of one species or a mix of the different species indicated.

Special Management Fisheries

Special Management Fisheries are specific streams and lakes within the Brunot Area where closures and/or special harvest and tackle restrictions are in place to protect or enhance the local fish population. These locations include **Trophy Trout Waters, Cutthroat Conservation Waters, Trophy Bass Waters, Spawning Waters, and Salmon Snagging Waters.** All anglers must comply with the special regulations in place for these designated waters.

A. **Trophy Trout Waters.** For the waters listed below, anglers may use artificial flies and lures only, with no bait fishing allowed. Unless otherwise noted, only two trout 16 inches in length or longer may be kept, per day.

- **Animas River.** From Lightner Creek to the south Brunot Area boundary located at Rivera Crossing Bridge.
- **Bear Creek.** From headwaters downstream to the Dolores River.
- **Dolores River.** From McPhee Dam downstream to the west Brunot Area boundary, near Lone Dome State Wildlife Area.
- **Emerald Lakes (Big & Little).** Located 10 mi northeast of Vallecito Res.
- **Lake Fork (of Gunnison River).** From High Bridge Gulch downstream to the north Brunot Area boundary.
- **Los Piños River.** From headwaters downstream to the Weminuche Wilderness boundary.
- **Piedra River. CATCH & RELEASE ONLY** from USFS Road 631 bridge downstream to the lower boundary of the Tres Piedra Ranch (1.5 miles above US160). All trout must be returned to the water immediately.
- **Rio Grande River.** From the lower boundary of River Hill Campground (near Rio Grande Reservoir) to the east Brunot Area boundary, just west of Creede, Colorado.
- **Vallecito Creek.** From headwaters downstream to the Weminuche Wilderness boundary.

B. **Cutthroat Conservation Waters** are streams and lakes within the Brunot Area that are managed to conserve pure-strain Colorado River and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Anglers may fish these waters with **artificial flies and lures only**, but all fish must be returned to the water immediately. Cutthroat Conservation Waters include:

- **Big Bend Creek** (8 mi southwest of Durango Mtn. Resort)
- **Clear Creek** (6 mi northwest of Hermosa)
- **Cooper Lake** (10 mi southwest of Lake City)
- **Deep Creek** (6 mi west of Telluride)
- **Disappointment Creek** (4 mi north of Groundhog Res.)
- **Elk Creek** (10 mi west of Telluride)
- **Hermosa Creek, East Fork** (at Purgatory Resort)
- **Hermosa Creek** (headwaters to East Cross

within the Brunot Area that are inhabited by spawning populations of kokanee salmon and/or wild trout. In order to conserve these important fisheries and ensure successful reproductive cycles, special seasonal fishing closures are necessary. The Brunot Area Spawning Waters and corresponding closures are listed below.

- **Big Emerald Lake Inlet Creek (CLOSURE).** All fishing is prohibited in Lake Creek inlet for ½ mile above Big Emerald Lake from April 15 thru July 15.
- **Grimes Creek (CLOSURE).** All fishing is prohibited in Grimes Creek from September 1 thru November 14.
- **Groundhog Reservoir Inlet Creeks (CLOSURE).** All fishing is prohibited in Nash Creek and Groundhog Creek inlets for ½ mile above Groundhog Reservoir from April 15 through July 15.

E. **Salmon Snagging** or using hooked devices to snag salmon in parts of their bodies other than the mouth, is only allowed for kokanee salmon in designated waters during certain times of the year. Standard daily bag / possession limits for kokanee and gear restrictions for lure fishing apply to snagging.

- **Florida River (above Lemon Reservoir).** Snagging of kokanee salmon is permitted above Lemon Reservoir from September 1 thru December 31.
- **Grimes Creek (upstream of Vallecito Res. water line).** Snagging of kokanee salmon is permitted above Vallecito Reservoir from November 15 through December 31. All kokanee salmon caught before November 15 must be returned to the water immediately.
- **Vallecito Creek (CR501 upstream to Weminuche W.).** Snagging of kokanee salmon is permitted above Vallecito Reservoir from November 15 through December 31. All kokanee salmon caught before November 15 must be returned to the water immediately.

PROTECTED FISH AND WILDLIFE

In order to ensure the long-term conservation of many rare and protected species that occur within the Brunot Area, the Tribe does not allow harvest of certain fish and wildlife by Brunot Area hunters and anglers. These include all species protected from take under the various Federal wildlife laws (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act); those species protected under State of Colorado Title 33, and designated wildlife populations that are the subject of special research or re-introduction efforts.

For the Brunot Area, the protected wildlife species that may be encountered by hunters include **Canada lynx, gray wolf, river otter, Gunnison sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, all raptors** (eagles, hawks, falcons, owls), and **all songbirds.** The



BRUNOT HUNTING PROCLAMATION • FROM PAGE 19

BRUNOT AREA MAPS

The Brunot Area maps are for general reference purposes only. Detailed boundary descriptions for specific hunt units (i.e., mountain lion, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose), as well as maps showing precise locations of Special Management Fisheries, are available to Tribal Members through the SUT Division of Wildlife office in Ignacio.

BRUNOT AREA CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergencies

- Southern Ute Police Department Dispatch: (any time) 970-563-4401
Colorado State Patrol: (any time) 970-249-4392
Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Any Service Center during regular business hours. See phone numbers listed below.

General Hunting/Fishing Information

- Southern Ute Indian Tribe: Division of Wildlife Resource Management, 116 Memorial Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137 970-563-0130
Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Southwest Region Service Center, 151 East 16th St. Durango, CO 81301. 970-247-0855
Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Gunnison Service Center, 300 W. New York Ave. Gunnison, CO 81230. 970-641-7060

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Montrose Service Center, 2300 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401, 970-252-6000

Federal Lands Offices

- San Juan Public Lands Center (USFS): 15 Burnett Court Durango, Colorado 81301. 970-247-4874
San Luis Valley Public Lands Center (BLM/USFS): 1803 W. Hwy 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144. 719-852-5941
Grand Mesa-Uncompahgne-Gunnison National Forests: 2250 Highway 50 Delta, Colorado 81416. 970-874-6600
Gunnison Field Office (USFS): 216 N. Colorado St, Gunnison, Colorado 81230. 970-641-0471
Columbine Field Office (USFS): 367 Pearl St. Bayfield, Colorado 81122. 970-884-2512
Tres Rios Field Office (BLM): 29211 Hwy. 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323. 970-882-7296
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Pagosa Field Office (USFS): P.O. Box 310 Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. 970-264-2268
Uncompahgre Field Office (USFS): 2465 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. 970-240-5300

SOUTHERN UTES WARN • FROM PAGE 1

and our culture. We still exist. Eliminating mention of tribes and our histories from educational materials is the modern-day version of Indian Boarding Schools and Tribal Termination.

The history of our tribe is not an abstract account of the past. Our lived history and its effects are carried forward by our communities today. The federal policies and actions that resulted in displacement, cultural suppression, and attempted erasure were systematic and intentional. When these realities are minimized or removed, the cycle of erasure

persists – causing harm not only to tribal communities but also to the public’s understanding of history.

This is not about politics, partisanship, or blame. Presenting a complete and accurate history is a matter of education and justice. With the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, this moment calls for the courage to share the whole truth about our history and to demonstrate that we have moved beyond such policies. Acknowledging ugly truths does not weaken us as a nation; it makes us stronger.

Acknowledging these truths raises awareness and encourages reflection to ensure that such policies are neither repeated nor forgotten.

By our presence and existence, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe continues to hold the federal government accountable for a complete and accurate depiction of history. These signs are an acknowledgment of that. Our voices, perspectives, and lived experiences are essential to an accurate and respectful interpretation, and we look forward to leading decisions and conversations that shape the public’s understanding of our homeland.

COLORADO LAWMAKERS STEP IN • FROM PAGE 14

the irrigation project.

This is the second time that Colorado lawmakers have joined in the call to action about the irrigation project. In March 2024, Colorado lawmakers passed a different resolution saying federal agencies under the Biden administration needed to do their part in addressing the cost of the repairs.

The past resolution didn’t spur much movement at the federal level, Simpson said. This time, members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation, like U.S. Rep. Jeff Hurd, are better placed to take action, he said.

Hurd, the Republican congressman representing the 3rd Congressional District, which includes both tribal reservations, serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the Indian and Insular Affairs subcommittee. Hurd did not respond to a request for comment Monday.

“I think we have an ear to-

day that we didn’t have two years ago,” Simpson said. “I’d cross my fingers that our current representation will advocate harder for the tribes.”

The resolution also highlighted water access challenges with the Animas-La Plata project, a dam and reservoir in southwestern Colorado near Durango.

Congress heavily debated the controversial project, eventually approving a scaled-down version. The final project limited the ways water could be used – for community drinking water and industries, not agriculture – and the amount of money attached for infrastructure. Now, it’s a multimillion-dollar project that has barely been used.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe can pull water directly from the Animas River, but the Tribe has to construct pipelines to carry it farther into the Tribe’s reservation. The Ute Mountain Ute Indi-

an Tribe is too far from the Animas River and the reservoir, Lake Nighthorse, to be able to use it at all.

State lawmakers urged the federal government to help the tribes access water in the reservoir.

“They certainly operate as their own sovereign nation, but they’re Coloradans as well,” Simpson said. “So it’s highly appropriate for the Colorado General Assembly to weigh in.”

Tribal officials spoke highly of their collaborations with state officials during the Ute Day events at the Capitol.

“Our tribe is fortunate to maintain a strong relationship with the state, one built on understanding, trust and collaboration,” said Marvin Pinnecoose, vice chairman of the Southern Ute Tribal Council. “Our combined purpose remains the same: to build a brighter, healthier and prosperous future for all the people.”



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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 inquires.

Earth Day Dia de la Tierra DURANGO Saturday, April 18, 2026 Acting for the Earth. Includes logos for Pinnacle Heat Pump, EarthDayDurango.com, and Southern Colorado Solar.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Catori Aasland (24) works against Telluride's Alé Espinal Martinez (16) during non-league action Monday afternoon, March 23, at IHS Field. Playing their best match yet in 2026, the Lady 'Cats were competitive from start to finish in a 6-0 home loss.

BOBCATS GIRLS SOCCER

Lady 'Cats still seeking first win

Work against Telluride JV shows promise

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Enthusiasm carried over. Performance, however ... less so as the Lady Bobcats traveled Thursday, March 26, all the way to Crested Butte, but couldn't fully replicate their promising work shown three days before upon their home pitch.

Eager to face vaunted Crested Butte Community School's junior varsity, though well aware of its talent level, Ignacio's varsity had walked off IHS Field on the 23rd with atypical optimism after lasting all 80 minutes against Telluride's JV and limiting the Lady Miners to just two first-half goals in what ended up being a 6-0 loss.

"One big difference I've noticed, since this is my second year, so far is that last year the girls weren't just playing against the other team; they were playing against each other," head coach Gretchen Gruber said. "Right now I feel like we're playing together as a team, and that's something that I want us to focus on and continue to develop."

"We've lost to (Telluride) pretty much every year, but I think that this year, even being a man down, we still had enough strength," said sophomore co-captain Ja-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Alexa Lopez Rodriguez (15) refuses to let Telluride's Addie Aura (5) stand in her way during non-league action Monday afternoon, March 23, at IHS Field. Playing their best match yet in 2026, the Lady 'Cats were competitive from start to finish in a 6-0 home loss.

da Davis. "We were working together, we were communicating, and we actually noticed Telluride getting frustrated - and we used that to our advantage and just went for it."

And in the 67th minute the Lady 'Cats were rewarded with their first earned corner kick this season. Davis was given the privilege of taking the kick, but after finding junior Catori Aasland nothing more materialized as THS' players swarmed and were able to clear the ball well away from 60th-minute goalie switch Matilda Parsons.

"I was scared," Davis admitted. "I was like, 'This is my first corner - who do I go to? How hard do I kick?'"

You know? But my main goal was just to get it there, get it to someone I knew could handle it."

Despite Ignacio still trailing 4-0 at the time - Telluride freshmen Ayleen Servin (in the 59th minute) and Marisol Ramirez (61st minute) had each converted breakaway shots, initially saved by IHS goalie Bella Lorenzini, into rebound goals - the Lady Miners sought extra insurance. And after Lorenzini denied Aylin Felix with a fine 1-v-1 diving stop in the 70th, Telluride got what they'd been after as freshman Gretchen Rosen - THS' starting keeper - netted an inter-

Lady 'Cats page 22



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez tags - the umpire ruled it wasn't in time - Monte Vista's Azariah Hurtado (1) on an unexpectedly-close play at second base Friday afternoon, March 27, during the teams' second of two games at MVHS.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

Bobcats lose first two to Pirates

IHS starts '26 with losses in Monte Vista

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Ending a wait of more than a month, Ignacio at last got the 2026 baseball season underway Friday morning, March 27, but didn't do so against some cupcake of an opponent.

And though able to reach base frequently in Monte Vista, the Bobcats couldn't convert enough baserunners into scoreboard runs and ended up falling 14-4 (in five innings) and 9-2 to the Pirates - ranked third in the CHSAA Now.com Preseason Class 2A Coaches' Poll, but either No. 1 or 2 in CHSAA's Selection & Seeding Index prior to sweeping the doubleheader.

"I don't think these guys are just a league-championship contender; I think they're a State contender," IHS head coach Isiah Valdez said afterwards. "And we came out, had some first-game jitters, committed some uncharacteristic errors - we don't usually do that; we pride ourselves on defense - but we battled back in Game 2. Kept it close and struck first."

"That's just knowing our worth right now and trying to keep rolling ... as consistently as we can," said senior third baseman/centerfielder Son-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio Baseball head coach Isiah Valdez makes sure of his batting order prior to the Bobcats' season-opening doubleheader Friday morning, March 27, at Monte Vista.

ny Flores, who went 2-for-3 with two runs in Game 1 and 3-for-3 with an RBI in Game 2. "They were better than us, but we can compete and gave them a good run."

Making his long-awaited debut after recovering from a serious football-season injury, senior catcher Gabe Archuleta led off Game 2 singling MVHS left-hander Judah Howe's first pitch into center, then took second when junior William Mendoza-Lechuga shot a grounder which third baseman Landon Sanchez couldn't handle. Senior Stoney White Thunder-Lucero, however, then grounded to Sanchez, who not only forced Archuleta at the hot

corner but then fired across the diamond to also collect White Thunder-Lucero.

But senior shortstop Ambrose Valdez then lifted a double to center, scoring Mendoza-Lechuga, then came around via a Flores single into right, putting Ignacio up 2-0. Valdez then turned a 6-3 double play off Pirate senior catcher Chayse Bouet's bat, and senior CF/1B Azariah Hurtado then flew out to Flores - solidifying IHS' early advantage and giving freshman lefty Stephen Romero, whose arm angles varied between three-quarter and full sidearm, even more confidence.

Bobcat page 22



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Photo: Divine Windy Boy /SU Drum



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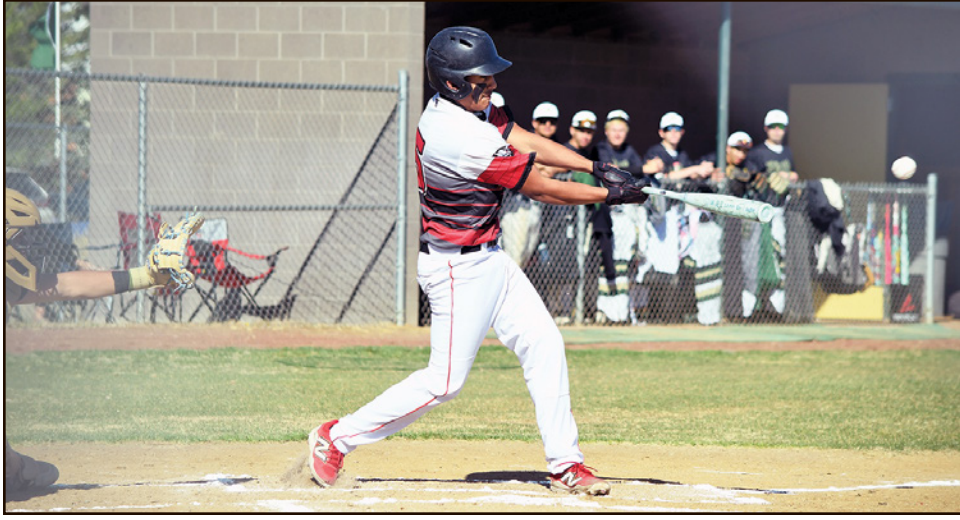
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BOBCATS LOSE FIRST TWO • FROM PAGE 21



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's William Mendoza-Lechuga (5) cracks a single Friday morning, March 27, at Monte Vista for the Bobcats' first hit of the 2026 season.

dence in his first-ever start.

But after fellow freshman Zackariah Loudenburg was stranded at first base in the top of the second, Monte Vista rediscovered first-game form and, powered by Sanchez's bases-clearing double over leftfielder Loudenburg, went up 5-2. Junior Jakoby Ross then ripped a two-RBI double in the bottom of the third, increasing the locals' lead to 7-2.

Having bounced into a 4-3 DP in the top of the fourth, Romero (L; 4 IP, 7 R, 7 ER, 2 BB, HB) began the bottom of the inning freezing MVHS senior short-stop/designated hitter Kelby Mondragon with a 2-2 fastball for his first varsity-level strikeout, and later got Hurtado to line out to Valdez and strand courtesy runner Connor Mellott at second after Bouet doubled to left with two away.

Bouet singled home both Mondragon and leadoff man Kobe Jiron with two gone in the Pirates' sixth, and Howe (7 IP, 7 H, 2 R, ER, 0 BB, HB, 4 K) allowed nothing to come of sophomore Joseph Atencio's lead single in the Bobcats' seventh in polishing off his complete-game W and improving Monte Vista's record to 5-0 overall (0-0 2A Southern Peaks).

Also a lefty, Jiron earned the Game 1 win at Adrian M. Gutterez Memorial Field by dealing four frames and conceding four runs while scattering nine hits. He walked three 'Cats and struck out two while plunking none. Tagged for three runs in the bottom of the first inning and a fast four – two via a



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Stoney White Thunder-Lucero pitches during his long-relief stint Friday morning, March 27, in the Bobcats' first of two season-opening games at Monte Vista.

Hurtado triple to left, and another via Manny Jiron's ground-rule double over the fence in left-center – in the second without recording an out, Archuleta (IP, 4 H, 4 BB, HB, K) took the season-opening loss.

Lefty White Thunder-Lucero came in to finish the second stanza, but gave up three more runs as MVHS led 10-0 going into the top of the third – when Ignacio got an RBI-double (plating Flores) from Mendoza-Lechuga, an RBI-groundout (scoring Archuleta) from White Thunder-Lucero and an infield RBI-single (driving in Mendoza-Lechuga) by Valdez.

Howe (2-3, HBP, 2 R) and Ross (2-3, SAC-FLY) each booked four RBI in the ten-run victory, with Ross clinching it by singling Howe in from second with zero outs in the home half of the fifth. Hurtado went 3-4 with two runs and as many RBI, while Bouet and Manny Jiron each scored three runs.

Designated hitter Michael Hensley went 2-2 with a double and a run, but in the bot-

tom of the fourth became a double-play victim at home plate after Romero, playing centerfield, caught Kobe Jiron's one-out fly off White Thunder-Lucero (3 IP, 9 H, 7 R, BB, K) and fired the ball in to catcher Archuleta, who applied the tag to a decelerating, surprised Hensley.

Archuleta and Mendoza-Lechuga each went 2-3 with a run in defeat, while Valdez ended up 1-1 with two walks and White Thunder-Lucero 0-2 with a sacrifice-fly and two RBI.

"Our guys can battle with anyone in the state," Isiah Valdez said. "We came out and hit the ball well against three really good arms, and moving forward I think we're going to be able to put up a lot of runs. But our defense has to be there to keep people out of games ... and we're going to improve that stuff and look forward to a great season."

"Get better? We know we can," Flores said. "Just keep on that grind and I think we can make a (postseason) run this year."

LADY 'CATS STILL SEEKING • FROM PAGE 21



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Amiyah Martinez (2) looks to push an attack forward during non-league action Monday afternoon, March 23, at IHS Field against the Telluride JV. Playing their best match yet in 2026, the Lady 'Cats were competitive from start to finish in a 6-0 home loss.

cepted goal kick in the 71st.

And in the 75th, freshman Zoe Cooper completed her hat trick (she'd scored THS' first goal back in the 12th minute, and struck again in the 35th with a Felix-assisted backside chip) and ultimately secured the Lady Miners a road win.

"It is a major improvement from our first couple games," said senior co-captain Lorenzini, who racked up an unofficial 18 saves.

"We were down a player today, and almost were down two players at the beginning – one of our teammates had a meeting, and got here in the nick of time – so I'm proud of us and very proud of what we've done."

"I was really glad to see today they were able to spread out a little bit more, trying to work and have someone to pass to and not just bunching up around the ball," Gruber said. "They

were playing pretty well together as a team, strengthening each other up."

Looking ahead, Ignacio will host Del Norte on Tuesday, April 7, at 4:30 p.m. Standing 0-4 overall (0-0 2A Intermountain-South) after a 10-0 mercy-rule loss at CBCS, the Lady 'Cats were to welcome Montezuma-Cortez (1-1, 0-0 3A Intermountain) on Tuesday, March 31, but results were unavailable at press time.

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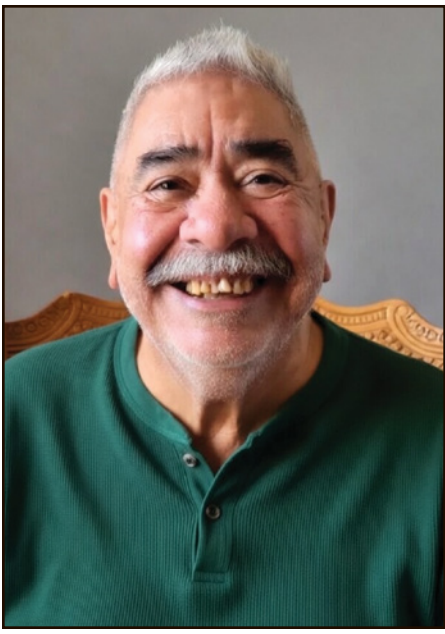
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OBITUARY



RIBERA – Patrick Ribera, 72, was granted his angel wings on March 21, 2026 in Westminster, Colorado. His last wish was to be surrounded by his family, as he would say “Happy, joy, joy, happy, happy, joy, joy!”

Patrick was born March 17, 1954, to Juan Mauricio and Maxine Ribera in Durango, CO. He married and had three children. He

was a single father, and his children, along with his grandchildren, were his world.

He graduated from Pagosa Springs High School and continued his education going to vocational school earning his welding certificate. Patrick “Prim” held various job titles: welder, roustabout, construction foreman, and handyman.

His hobbies included fishing, wood-working, watching and cheering for his Broncos and spending quality time with his children and grandchildren.

Patrick was preceded in death by his parents Juan Mauricio and Maxine, infant sister MaryAnna; brother Waldo Gomez; nephew Gabriel Ribera, granddaughters Angel and Alexis Rose.

He is survived by his children: Sheila, Archie, and Veronica. Grandchildren: Alicia, Julian, Angelo, Aleaha, Jodacie, Zalexi, and Innocence.

Brothers: Mauricio, Dan, Chris, Val; Sisters: Maxine, Ramona, Irene, Arabella, Josephine; numerous nephews and nieces and great nephews and nieces, godchildren, as well as extended family and friends.

A rosary service and funeral service were held April 1, at 9:00 a.m. at St Peter & St Rosa Church in Arboles, CO.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

DEADLY AUNTIES TEA

Hello relatives,

I hope you all had a fantastic Spring Break. Here are the dates and times for Deadly Aunties Tea. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), we are switching from our usual craft activity to decorating denim in solidarity of sexual assault survivors and the difficulties they face in reporting. Please join us in decorating our denim with fabric paint. Feel free to bring your own or use the denim we have that has been donated to us. All project materials are free and you have the choice of taking your project with you or letting us display it in our office. As always please feel free to share on your social media. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Ahe’hee (Thank you),

Raven Nyx

Cultural Outreach Coordinator

Sexual Assault Services Organization (SASO)

EDITOR’S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE IN ANY WAY.

The Southern Ute Drum encourages letters from readers on any topic. We ask that letters be 500 words or less. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters should be submitted by email to Jeremy Shockley at jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov by the end of the day Monday preceding publication.

NEW EMPLOYEES



MariaEliza “Maria” Trujillo

Job title: Tribal Information Services (TIS) Administrative Assistant II

Description of duties: Assist TIS to administer, establish and maintain accurate filing systems for TIS, Vital Statistics and the Records Department. Schedule and assist the front desk staff. Make sure that the mailroom follows all USPS requirements.

Hobbies: Cross-stitching, crochet, reading, gardening and going on random road trips with Victoria and Fabian.

Family: Daughter, Victoria Trujillo-Weaver and son, Fabian Martinez.

Reyna Cruz

Job title: Vital Statistics Administrative Technician

Description of duties: Assisting the vital stats enrollment officer. Enrollments, Tribal ID, descendency, letters, etc.

Tribe: Absentee Shawnee Tribe.



Jodi Jesseppe

Job title: Tribal Information Services (TIS) Receptionist

Description of duties: Provide quality customer service to the Tribe, its staff, and visitors. Telephone operations, mailroom operations, booking and reserving meeting rooms.

Hobbies: I love to cook; cooking is my therapy. I picked up new hobbies since moving here, sewing and beading.

Family: From the Whiteskunk and Elkriver family. Mother of three and two grandchildren, Rossley and June.

Tribe: Southern Cheyenne and Prairie Band Potawatomi.

Additional comments: Blessings to the Southern Ute Tribe, the TERO and TIS Department. Such a beautiful tribe to work for, glad to be here.



Deadly Aunties Tea Denim Day Event
 April 8th from 5-7 pm
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Come sip tea with us while we talk about community issues and how to solve them.

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In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

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NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
 Case No.: 2026-0021-CV-PR
 Emerson Keith Griffith, Deceased

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **APRIL 21, 2026 at 10:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 20th of March, 2026.
 Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
 Benda Kaye Watts, Deceased
 Case No.: 2026-0038-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **MAY 11, 2026 at 9:30 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 24th of March, 2026
 Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
April 17

Deadline:
April 10

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

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

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



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 cblack@southernute-nsn.gov. The letter should include the full name and contact information of the applicant, a detailed explanation of their relevant education and experience, as well as a description of why they would be a good fit for the position. Applications will be accepted for at least 30 calendar days or until the positions are filled. The SUEDC will review applications, nominate qualified candidates, and the Southern Ute Tribal Council will make final appointments. If you have any questions, please reach out and speak with Colton Black at 970-563-2275.

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.

POWWOW COMMITTEE

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

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 bleclair@southernute-nsn.gov.

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

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



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Professional Ethnographers To Conduct
Ethnographic Services**

The Cultural Preservation Department of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is requesting written proposals for qualified professional ethnographers to conduct ethnographic services for the creation of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. Based on a review of competing proposals, a single contract will be awarded to the preferred bidder for completing the project. The selected bidder must meet the minimum qualifications specified in this RFP. A contract award will not be final until approved by the Southern Ute Tribal Council or delegated Tribal authority. Please reach out to the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department for a copy of the request for proposals at suthpo@southernute-nsn.gov.

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

Call for Quotes

2026 Bear Dance – Sanitation

The Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department is looking for a customer service focused vendor to provide sanitation services for the 2026 Bear Dance May 22nd - May 25th.

Scope of Work:

1. 15 portable toilets delivered
2. 4 ADA/handicap toilets delivered
3. 12 hand-washing station sinks delivered
4. Daily stocking, cleaning, servicing/ pumping of toilets, before/around the main events (8-9 am) of Bear Dance and mealtimes

For consideration, the bid must be submitted by **Friday April 3, 2026**, by the close of business day at **5:00 PM**. A complete quote will include the following:

- Business name and contact information (phone number & email)
- A current copy of business W-9 Form
- A copy of current business general liability insurance
- For TERO businesses, please provide a letter of 'good standing'

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
HERITAGE & EVENTS COORDINATOR,
EUGENE BEREZA
970-563-2307**



**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

Coming Spring 2026



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



**BUCKSKIN
CHARLIE
APARTMENTS**



For More Information
Contact
Kathleen Castellot
970-563-2325



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

**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
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Adobe Photoshop**
July 14th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Lunch will be provided

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 | 04/01/26



APRIL 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 APRIL Bulletin

- **Shut-Off Day is Wednesday, April 8th! Payments must be received before 10am.**
- Annual Spring Cleanup is April 13-17, 2026! Limit 4 tires per household (no rims). No burn pile. Place debris in open tops.
- Spring is here! Prepare to see utility staff in or near your yards doing spring maintenance (i.e. painting meters, etc.)
- Projects: **Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project** will continue near the Northridge housing area in April. 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

Trash Collection Alert!

Tuesday routes will be switched to Thursdays for Tribal Residential Customers. Effective 3/24/26

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

Boys & Girls Club Summer Aide

Closes 4/7/26 – Assists in the implementation, planning, and supervision of activities provided within the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) summer program. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/hour.

Custodian

Closes 4/7/26 – Daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/hour.

Grant Writer

Closes 4/3/26 – Planning, Writing, editing, and preparing grant applications to Federal, State, and private entities, as well as conducting prospect/foundation/federal agency research. Works closely with Tribal Council, Program Directors, Finance staff, and external partners to develop funding proposals that are aligned with Tribal sovereignty and strategic goals. In addition, the Grant Writer assists with monitoring programs to ensure compliance with grant agreement terms and conditions, as well as grantor regulatory requirements, including financial and programmatic reporting. Pay grade E13; Salary is \$63,064/year.

Health & Safety Specialist

Closes 4/17/26 – Under the direction of the Risk Manager, manages and oversees the planning, design, and development of an occupational safety program to provide a safe and healthy workplace for employees and to reduce work-related injuries and accidents. Pay grade E14; Pay is \$68,004/annually.

Maintenance Worker

Closes 4/13/26 – Performs daily grounds maintenance and repair of the Tribal grounds and buildings. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/hour.

Receptionist

Closes 4/15/26 – Performs reception duties for the Southern Ute Tribal organization, including, but not limited to, operation of the telephone switchboard, greeting visitors, providing information about the Tribal government, and referring callers or visitors to the appropriate office for assistance. Performs clerical duties for the Tribal Information Services Director and other Departmental Divisions as needed, including mail processing and distribution. Pay grade N6; Pay is \$17.05/hour.

Soil & Water Conservation Technician

Closes 4/17/26 – Under the general supervision of the Soil and Water Conservationist; provides assistance in the activities of natural resource soil conservation and water resource projects; assists with the noxious weed control program on the Pine River Indian Irrigation System. Pay grade N12; Pay is \$27.56/hour.

Advance Practice Provider (Part-time w/benefits)

Open Until Filled – 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.

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 – Aiding 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; Pay 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; Pay starts at \$105,983/year.

Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. The Transportation/Detention Officer will be responsible for transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N14; Pay 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; Salary 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, incumbent regulates and controls Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N15; pay rate 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

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.

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

NAGPRA Coordinator Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

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.

Patrol Officer II

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

Public Defender

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

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 and Substance Use Prevention Coordinator

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

Swimming Instructor

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

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

TERO Worker

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

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Tribe is accepting applications for SUIIT Tribal Members interested in pursuing their career interests through the Apprenticeship Program. The purpose of the program is to build a career foundation for SUIIT 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.

***49 Lounge Bartender (Full-time)**
 Provide exceptional lounge experience by delivering first-class guest service of beverages and cocktails. Mix and serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and interact with guests. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Provide beverage and cocktail service to bar patrons and restaurant guests.

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

***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.

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

***Deep Cleaning Staff (Full-time)**
 Cleanliness of the entire Kitchen as instructed by the Facilities Manager and/or Supervisor. Will clean Food and Beverage facilities and equipment.

***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.

***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.

***Security Officer (Full-time)**
 Safeguarding the assets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Ensures that all company policies and internal control procedures are followed. Responsible for guest and employee safety on property. They are the first identifiable representatives of the Casino whose conduct and customer service skills must be of the highest quality. Must present themselves professionally assisting and helping customers with their problems and concerns. 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.

***Facilities Staff (Full-time)**
 Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

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.

Assistant Controller – Growth Fund Accounting & Finance (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 4/13/26 – Management of accounting functions, to include general ledger and all related subledgers, as well as supervision of assigned accounting staff, Growth Fund accounting principles, practices, and procedures, and assisting in the annual audit and budget process.

Revenue Accountant II - Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 4/20/26 – Performs moderately complex revenue accounting assignments, creates new revenue agreements, and is responsible for knowledge of oil and gas revenue accounting practices.

Revenue Accounting Supervisor- Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 4/20/26 – 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.

Joint Interesting Billing Accountant II - Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 4/20/26 – 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 4/20/26 – Reviewing and recording transactions into the general ledger that pertain to outside operated properties and/or prepare the joint

Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

Please visit our website at www.southernute.com/careers for full job details and to apply online.
 Tribal Member employment preference • Must pass pre-employment drug test/background check.
 Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO
 Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-5024.

Vice President IT Infrastructure & Operations – Southern Ute Shared Services (Ignacio, CO)
 Closes 4/10/26 – Day to day information systems operations for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Sky Ute Casino Resort, and Southern Ute Growth Fund including enterprise systems administration, database management, data security and cybersecurity operations, telecommunications, desktop services, enterprise application administration, wireless networks, email administration, local/wide/storage area networks, and hybrid cloud environments. Enterprise systems operations, enterprise data governance, and coordination of customer support across multiple business entities. Strategic vision to identify, evaluate, and implement emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, automation, and advanced analytics that drive operational efficiency, improve service delivery, and create measurable value across the organization.

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

Ignacio Youth Services
 • Program Coordinator (FT) \$17.29/hr., DOE

Road Runner Transit
 • Operations Manager (FT) \$52,645-\$63,211

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- District Mechanic
- Mid-School Volleyball Head Coach
- Mid-School Volleyball Assistant Coach
- Special Education Teacher 26/27
- Secondary Spanish Teacher 26/27

Service Opportunity

Do you love your community? Do you want to influence the vision and direction of the Town of Ignacio? Now you can! There are multiple openings on the Planning Commission. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit our website (townofignacio.colorado.gov), hover your mouse over Town Departments/Planning Department, and select the designated link. You can download an application for the Planning Commission from the Applications, Forms and Licenses page of the Town's website. Once your completed application is received, it will be submitted to the Town Board for review. Individuals who currently own a business or property within Ignacio town limits, but do not live within the town limits, can still serve. You will be notified when your application is up for review, as the Town Board will want to talk with you. If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall at 970-563-9494.

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/>

Tribal Member Travel Opportunity

+ Agriculture Revitalization +

As part of the Agricultural Revitalization Initiative led by Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose, the Executive Office is offering an opportunity for two (2) adult Southern Ute Tribal Members to visit a meat processing facility in Missoula, Montana. This opportunity supports ongoing efforts to strengthen and revitalize agricultural knowledge and opportunities within the Tribe.

April 14-15, 2026 **Missoula, Montana**

Adult Tribal Members interested in agriculture, food systems, or meat processing are encouraged to apply no later than **5:00 PM on Monday, April 6, 2026.**

Two participants will be selected by drawing at the Regular Meeting on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026.**

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR INTEREST

Email your name & phone number to:
 Executive Officer Lindsay Box
lbox@southernute-nsn.gov
 Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose
mpinnecoose@southernute-nsn.gov

+ APPLY BY 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 +

For more information, please contact, the Executive Office at 970.563.2314 or Vice Chairman Pinnecoose at 970.563.2402.

Southern Ute Education Department & Southern Ute Growth Fund Present

Tribal Business Exploration Program

Careers in Energy

Explore Career and College Pathways Mentorship from professionals in the field

Join Us for a Growth Fund Field Trip

- April 10, 2026
- 6th to 12th grade
- Southern Ute, 1st Descendants, JOM students.
- Breakfast and Lunch Included
- Meet at SUED at 8:00am, Return by 2:15pm

For more information contact:
Stais Harlan
sharlan@southernute-nsn.gov
 970-563-2785

Power Your Future!

THOMPSON SWORN IN • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Natelle Thompson officially being sworn in as the Tribal Court Associate Judge, Tuesday, March 24, during the Regular Meeting. The oath of office was administered by Chief Judge Scott Moore.

has been instrumental in the development and establishment of the Judicial Review Work Group, and his knowledge, expertise and steady guidance have been invaluable as the group evaluates Tribal Court judges on performance standards, integrity and ethics.

We proudly honor and celebrate Natelle Thompson's appointment as Associate Judge, celebrating her commitment to justice, leadership and service.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Former Chief Judge, Pearl Casias is recognized for her years of service to the Tribal Court, Tuesday, March 24. Marge Barry and Linda Baker present Casias with a Pendelton from Tribal Council during the recognition, noting that, "Judge Casias' leadership and dedication to justice continue to uplift and strengthen Tribal Court."



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Standing together, retired Federal Magistrate, David West; newly sworn-in Tribal Court Associate Judge, Natelle Thompson; former Tribal Chairman and Chief Judge, Pearl Casias, former Chief Judge, Patricia Hall and Chief Judge Scott Moore memorialize the occasion with a photograph. Magistrate West was also honored with a Pendelton blanket for his service to the Judicial Review Work Group.

TOWN OF IGNACIO

Ignacio welcomes Weylin Ryan as Town Manager

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

The Town of Ignacio is thrilled to introduce Weylin Ryan as the new Town Manager. Growing up in Bayfield, Colo., Ryan brings a unique blend of environmental stewardship, tourism expertise, and a genuine passion for connecting people with each other and the natural world.

Ryan is no stranger to Ignacio, having worked for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for nine years; seven at the Sky Ute Casino Resort, followed by two with Southern Ute Shared Services.

Ryan stepped into the role of Town Manager in January of this year, a position appointed by the Ignacio Town Board.

"Essentially, I act as the administrator to make sure that we have our daily business going, and that staffing is at adequate levels," Ryan said. "Another way to think of a town manager is as a CEO, or head of a company, with the Mayor and the Board of Trustees guiding policy, financial decisions and direction of the town with input from the town manager."

Ryan's journey includes earning his Eagle Scout rank, spending a decade as a raft guide, and earning degrees in



Weylin Ryan
Town Manager
Town of Ignacio

Technical Theatre and Sustainable Tourism. Most recently, he served as Sustainability & Policy Manager for Visit Durango, focusing on balancing visitor impacts with community well-being of La Plata County residents.

"The place is only as strong as its people, and the bonds and collaborations of those people," Ryan said. "With that, the Tribe is integral to Ignacio's success as a community, and that the town residents are also successful in their personal lives."

"We have some projects we are wrapping up, a gas line retrofit that we are doing, an ongoing storm drain project. Right now, we are investigating how we are going to have

a really good downtown community anchor for gathering, a place where residents can come down and enjoy their town in a community setting."

"It's still in the early stages, but we will definitely be having lots of community engagement with that," Ryan said. "There's a lot that's already been done that we can wrap into this project and get all of our residents on board."

Beyond his professional experience, Ryan is an active outdoorsman, where he enjoys many different forms of recreation. His collaborative approach and ability to bring diverse visions together make him an ideal fit for the community.

"This area of La Plata County is amazing, I'm excited to be back, and I want to see Ignacio and the surrounding area have its traditions that make it so strong and be able to support that way of life going forward," he said.

When he's not working, you might spot Ryan on the slopes, on the trails, or teaching his young son to appreciate the wonders of nature that make Southwest Colorado a unique place to live. "Please join us in giving Weylin Ryan a warm welcome as he begins this new chapter with our community."

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 The Chinook and Quinault are examples of
- 6 TV host with a role in "The Color Purple"
- 11 Imperial or Vandyke
- 12 Well done!
- 13 Mormon explorer
- 14 Dragged
- 15 The Piankashaws were members of this confederacy
- 17 Complete a contract
- 20 Structural components of cells
- 23 Reinvigorated
- 25 Oil painting
- 26 Stump in Seville
- 27 Criticize
- 29 Painter Veronese
- 31 Sondra ---, Clint's former companion
- 35 Narrow ecclesiastical vestment
- 36 Prickly plant
- 37 Vaulted church areas
- 38 Subjects of "Killers of the Flower Moon"

Down

- 1 "More info later"
- 2 Radiation unit
- 3 "I think, therefore ---"
- 4 Southernmost city in Texas
- 5 "Dame" played by the late Barry Humphries
- 6 Be prevalent
- 7 Gold seekers
- 8 Whip strip
- 9 Roman hello
- 10 Coal scuttle
- 16 Fortunate
- 17 Army E-7
- 18 --- Hayes, Iwo Jima Pima
- 19 Former word for Hindus
- 21 Clone: Abbr.
- 22 Bath with hot aerated water
- 24 Heavenly auras
- 28 Nickname for Australian PM
- 29 Non-commercial TV ad
- 30 Professional tennis governing body
- 32 The Company
- 33 It might be a pony or a Cornelius
- 34 "Able was I --- I saw Elba"

Answers will appear in the April 17 issue of the Drum.

Answers for March 27, 2026 crossword puzzle.

Across: 1 Mid, 4 Cos, 7 Aah, 10 Orr, 11 Ova, 12 SLA, 13 Double takes, 16 On me, 17 Run out, 18 Cyst, 19 Drafty, 20 Terns, 22 Mobile, 25 As of, 29 Pianos, 30 Zuni, 31 Ellipsoidal, 33 Gum, 34 Eel, 35 Ste, 36 Spy, 37 Ssd, 38 Yes.
Down: 1 Modoc, 2 Irony, 3 Drums, 4 Col, 5 Overdresses, 6 Saturn, 7 Ask of, 8 Aleut, 9 Hasty, 14 Bettini, 15 Anasazi, 21 Elopes, 22 MPEGs, 23 Oil up, 24 Balmy, 26 Sudy, 27 Onate, 28 Files, 32 Old.

Multi-Purpose Facility April Food Sale

Friday April 17, 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



LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, April 3



Mostly sunny 56°F
Afternoon wind gusts

Saturday, April 4



Sunny 63°F
Calm afternoon winds

Sunday, April 5



Mostly sunny 66°F
20% chance of afternoon showers

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

