



Fort Lewis partners with UNLV
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Golden students visit Tribe
PAGE 8

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KSUT

The many lives of former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell

By Adam Burke
 FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC RADIO

Campbell is one of only four Native Americans in U.S. history to serve in the United States Senate. On Monday, April 13, a gathering in Ignacio drew hundreds to celebrate Campbell's unusual life trajectory.

When he passed away on Dec. 30, 2025, Ben Nighthorse Campbell was surrounded by family, friends, and spiritual singing.



Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Monday, dignitaries and colleagues from across the U.S. gathered at the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio for a celebration of Campbell's life, and his extraordinary, even unlikely, trajectory. He was a U.S. Olympian, a veteran, an artist, a motorcycle enthusiast, and a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

"Once he found a path, he did not deviate from it," daughter Shanan Campbell said during her eulogy. "Not

Many lives page 13



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Buckskin Charlie Housing Project will expand affordable housing options for tribal members and tribal employees by offering flexible 1, 2, and 3bedroom units with short term leasing. The Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 1, in Ignacio.

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Buckskin Charlie Apartments ribbon cutting and tribal member open house

By Pooja Rao-Pennington
 SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Southern Ute tribal members are invited to celebrate an important community milestone with the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Buckskin Charlie Apartments, set to take place, Friday, May 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. at 172 Buckskin Charlie Drive in Ignacio, Colo.

The event will mark the official opening of the Buckskin Charlie Apartments, a new residential development designed to support the housing needs of Southern Ute tribal members and the local community. This new development will support the Tribe in recruiting and retaining personnel for positions such as education, health, and law enforcement. Tribal leadership and staff will gather to commemorate the project with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by an open house that allows tribal members to tour the new apartments and learn more about the development and future leasing opportunities, while connecting with construction partners and managing staff.

Named in honor of Chief Buckskin Charlie (also spelled Charley), a respected Southern Ute leader known for his dedication to the preservation and wellbeing of the Tribe, the apartment complex reflects a continued commitment to investing in community infrastructure and quality housing opportunities for present and future generations of tribal members.

The program will feature remarks from Tribal Council and Growth Fund leadership, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Light refreshments and guided tours will be offered throughout the event. For those unable to attend on May 1, additional open house tours will be available on Saturday, May 2, from 1 to 4 p.m., providing another exclusive opportunity for the membership. The Buckskin Charlie Apartments represent more than a new housing development – they symbolize growth, stability, and continued investment in the future of the Southern Ute community. Tribal members are warmly invited to attend and be part of this special milestone.

This is a Southern Ute tribal member-only event. Tribal members with questions or who would like more information are encouraged to contact Kathleen Castellot, Economic Development Property Manager, at 970-563-2325 or via email at kcastellot@southernutesnv.gov.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Josiah Enriquez, a three-time world champion hoop dancer, performs at Ben Nighthorse Campbell's Memorial Celebration, Monday, April 13.

LIFT THE LABEL

Southern Ute Indian Tribe: Recovery Stories

Johnathan

"A strong support system reminds you you're worth fighting for – until you learn to believe it yourself."

My name is Johnathan, and I am a first descendant of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. I grew up mostly in Ignacio, surrounded by a big family, culture and community. I always pictured myself growing into a strong father and leader. What I never pictured was addiction taking hold of my life before I even understood what was happening.

When I was 16, I hurt my back. Surgery was delayed because we didn't have insurance, so doctors prescribed me pain pills to get by. I took them the way they told me to because I trusted that they knew what they were doing. At 19, I finally got the surgery, but instead of tapering me off, they prescribed even more opioids and told me to keep taking them. I didn't realize my body had already built a dependency. I thought I was just doing what I was supposed to do.

Then one day, I decided to stop the medication. The withdrawal sickness hit quickly, but I didn't even know that word at the time. All I knew was that I needed something to stop the shaking, the sweats, the panic. I started buying pills just to function. My values, my priorities and everything shifted to surviving the day.

My lowest moment came in a jail cell. My oldest son was just a baby, and he



Jonathan

courtesy Lift the Label

reached for me through the glass. That shattered me. I knew right then and there something had to change.

I found a doctor who treated me like a human being and helped me get on Suboxone, a medication for opioid use disorder. I had some stumbles at the beginning as I navigated the road to recovery, but I knew I wanted to change for the better not only for myself, but for my family. Today, I've been in recovery

for more than 12 years.

The hardest part of recovery hasn't been the withdrawal or the cravings; it's the stigma. People saying addiction is a choice. People turning their backs instead of offering help. That judgment keeps too many people sick and silent.

So I speak up. I stay honest. I stay humble. And every day, I thank my kids because they saved my life before I even knew how to save my own.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

SunUte Fitness Trainer, Eliyah Lucero proudly watches Clement Frost use the hand and foot cycle at SunUte Community Center during their training session on Thursday, March 26.

SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Road to recovery for Frost

By Divine Windy Boy
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

In the summer of 2025, Southern Ute tribal elder, Clement Frost suffered various injuries following a car accident – now on the journey to recovery and regaining his independence, Frost can be seen each week at SunUte Community Center completing his physical

therapy. Working with Fitness Trainer, Eliyah Lucero, Frost has a customized plan geared to strengthening various muscle groups that will help restore mobility. With a positive outlook and with the support of the SunUte staff, Frost is back to walking again despite all odds.

Clement J. Frost, a former Tribal Chairman, has always considered himself an ac-

tive and independent person, growing up playing multiple sports including basketball and softball, and more recently tending to his farm. Following the accident, he began to fall into a depression as many of his daily activities became nonexistent. For three months, Frost was bedridden suffering from a

Road page 5

SUGF Celebrates 25th



Southern Ute Growth Fund Executive Director, Shane Seibel gave opening remarks and served as the emcee for the anniversary program, held at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



Former Council Member and Vice Chairman, Vida Peabody spoke on the history of the Growth Fund and its early inception; Peabody is the eldest living Southern Ute and an early proponent of the Growth Fund enterprise.

The Southern Ute Growth Fund held a special luncheon, Thursday, April 9, celebrating the Growth Fund's 25th Anniversary, inviting tribal members, guest speakers and special guests for a formal program highlighting the Growth Fund's accomplishments. In 2025, the Southern Ute Growth Fund marked its 25th anniversary—a milestone and testament to the Tribe's long-term prosperity.

Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum



Former Tribal Chairman, Howard D. Richards Sr. was among the guest speakers at the anniversary luncheon, touching on the important role that the Ute's have as stewards of the land – past, present and future.



The Yellow Jacket Singers – Tim Ryder, Ian Thompson and Tyson Thompson, open the program with a prayer song. (Not pictured are – Sam Burch, Johnathan Chavarillo and Conrad Thompson).



10 years ago

Orion Watts leads little sister Olyvia around the dance floor during an intertribal on Saturday, April 9.

This photo was published in the April 15, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

Sacha Smith/SU Drum archive



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Former Media Manager of the Southern Ute Tribe, David Brown receives his customary Pendleton blanket from Executive Officer, Byron Red and Acting Tribal Information Services Director, Larry Tucker. A dinner was held for Mr. Brown on March 30 at the Ouray Room. Mr. Brown has worked for the Tribe for approximately eight years. Brown has decided to leave the organization to pursue other interests.

This photo was published in the April 14, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

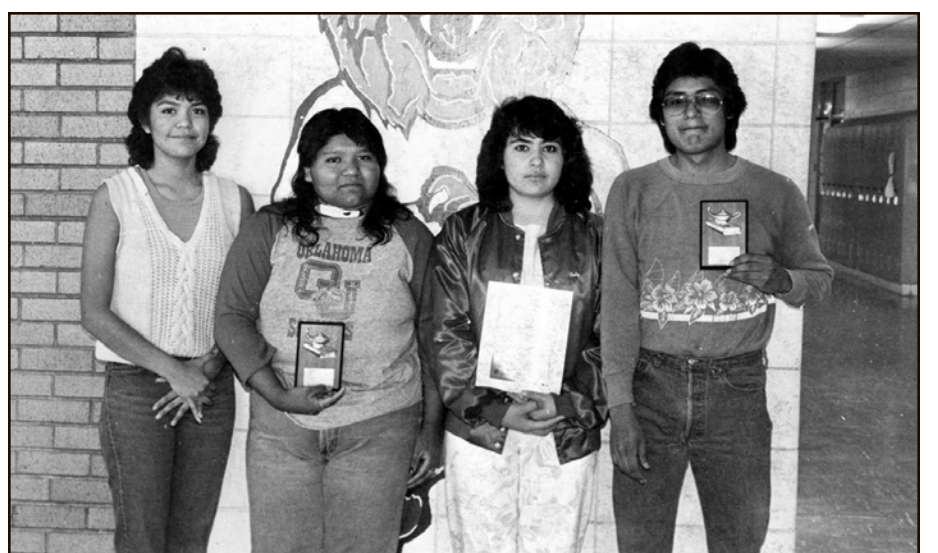


30 years ago

The Easter Bunny gets big hugs too. Jollete Peabody, along with all the other Headstart students, hunted for Easter Eggs at Veterans Park last Thursday. Over 600 colored eggs were hidden by the Easter Bunny who did such a good job that not all of them were found by the children.

This photo was published in the April 12, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

Roberta Cook/SU Drum archive



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

AWARDS – were presented by Stacey Rivera, NAYO President to Dora Hatch, Shelly Thompson, and Tommy Weaver for their outstanding contributions and hard work for NAYO during the 1985-86 school year.

This photo was published in the April 18, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



LET'S LEARN UTE

Na'awaarɩni.
Beautiful.

'iča na'awaarɩni.
This is beautiful.

'ina Núuchi na'awaarɩni.
This person is beautiful.




Utah recognizes Vietnam Vets



courtesy Joseph Howell

The Vietnam Veterans Powwow was held in Fort Duchesne, Utah, Saturday, April 4. Described as having, "an excellent honoring of Vietnam veterans following each Grand Entry by the Ute Tribe and its members," by Southern Ute Vietnam Combat Veteran, Howard Richards Sr., pictured center.

KSUT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

ROUND DANCE CELEBRATION



5-11 PM, SAT., MAY 16, 2026

MEAL at 5 PM • SINGING at 6 PM

Free and open to the public!
ALL LOCAL ROUND DANCE SINGERS ARE WELCOME!

INVITED SINGERS: MARLON DESCHAMPS, WAYNE SILAS JR., JEREMY "WORM" DEARLY AND SPAZZIN' DEWITT

INVITED DRUMS: Southern – Cozad; Youth – Iron Colt

MC: Phillip Moosomin • **STICKMAN:** Jessie Waskahat

SPECIALS:
3-Man Adult Hand Drum Contest
3-Man Youth Hand Drum Contest

Only 10 Arts & Craft Vendors will be allowed to set up.
\$20 per booth. 10'x10' space (must provide tables).
Call Sheila Nanaeto to reserve spot. 970-563-5781 or email sheila@ksut.org

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT EVENT CENTER
14324 CO-172, IGNACIO, CO, 81137

UTE LANGUAGE

The Cultural Preservation Department would like to remind folks of our new *Let's Learn Ute* Instagram account. Scan the QR code below, to be directed to our profile or search @letslearnute on Instagram.




For questions/further information, contact 970-563-2985



General Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 9:00 AM | Sky Ute Casino Resort, Event Center

In-Person Registration is not required, & we look forward to seeing you there!	Live Stream Please use the link or QR code below to register:  https://bit.ly/2026sugm	Recording Not able to attend? The live stream recording will be available on the Tribal Member Portal.
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The agenda is forthcoming and will be made available on the Tribal Member Portal in advance of the meeting.
970.563.2319 + P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137 + www.southernute-nsn.gov

SAVE THE DATE

MANCOS SHALE DEVELOPMENT TOWH HALL MEETING

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

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT EVENT CENTER
DINNER WILL BE SERVED

NOTE: THIS MEETING IS FOR SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY

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

YOU ARE INVITED

BUCKSKIN CHARLIE APARTMENTS

Ribbon Cutting & Tribal Member Open House

Southern Ute Tribal Members are invited to a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by guided apartment tours and a reception featuring light refreshments, and music. Tribal Members will also have the opportunity to learn more about future leasing opportunities for this new housing development.

Friday, May 1, 2026
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Location: 172 Buckskin Charlie Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137



Photo Credit: The Denver Public Library, Special Archives.

Additional Open House Tours on Saturday, May 2, from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Please contact Kathleen Castellot at 970.563.2325 or email at kcastellot@southernute-nsn.gov

A SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBER-ONLY EVENT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: April is Alcohol Awareness Month

By Rebecca Gale, LCSW, Behavioral Health Manager
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, a time to learn about how alcohol affects our bodies, minds and communities. In American society, alcohol may be celebrated and seen as a normal part of everyday life. People use alcohol for many reasons. They may use it to celebrate important occasions, to feel more relaxed, or to feel more confident, however, the effects are temporary. Relying on alcohol to manage one's mental wellbeing can become a problem in itself.

Alcohol is a depressant. It affects the part of your brain that controls inhibition, meaning, you may indeed feel more relaxed, less anxious, or more confident after a drink. However, these chemical changes in your brain can lead to more negative feelings over time. Alcohol uses up the neurotransmitters in our brains that help us to naturally ward off anxiety and depression. This results in needing to drink more in order to relieve ourselves of these difficult feelings. This can quickly start a cycle of dependence on using alcohol daily just to feel normal.

Addiction can make it very hard for a person to stop drinking, even if they want to. It can affect their health, relationships, and daily life. It is important to remember that addiction is not a sign of weakness. It is a health condition that needs care and support. Many people who struggle with alcohol can get help through counseling, support groups, and medical care. Talking about these issues openly helps reduce shame and encourages people to seek help.

In the short term, alcohol can lead to things such as alcohol poisoning, sleep problems (which also affects mental health), bloating and migraines. It may make you behave recklessly, which may

lead to legal problems of many kinds. Over the years, consistent alcohol use takes a toll on the physical body by increasing the likelihood of serious diseases such as diabetes, liver disease, and cancer. It is also possible to experience psychosis if you regularly drink a lot of alcohol, or if you are a heavy drinker and then suddenly stop drinking.

For young people, alcohol is especially dangerous. Their bodies and brains are still growing and developing. Drinking alcohol at a young age can cause problems with learning, memory and emotional health.

Families and communities play a big role in alcohol awareness. Parents, teachers and caregivers can talk to children about alcohol in a clear and honest way. These conversations help young people understand the risks and feel comfortable asking questions. When kids know they can talk to trusted adults, they are more likely to make safe choices.

Friends can support each other too. If someone feels pressured to drink, a good friend can help them stand strong and make safe choices. Being a good friend means looking out for each other and speaking up if something feels wrong.

There are many positive ways to handle stress and emotions. Talking to a trusted friend, family member or therapist can help. Exercise, like walking or playing sports, can boost mood and reduce stress. Creative activities like drawing, writing, or listening to music can also help people feel better. These healthy habits are better choices than turning to alcohol.

Another important part of Alcohol Awareness Month is prevention. Prevention means stopping problems before they start. By teaching people early about the risks of alcohol, we can help reduce harmful drinking.

It is also helpful to know the signs that someone may be struggling with alco-

hol. These signs can include changes in behavior, mood swings, trouble at school or work, and pulling away from friends and family. If you notice these signs, it is important to encourage the person to get help.

Alcohol Awareness Month reminds us that everyone has a role to play. Whether you are a student, parent, teacher or community member, you can help spread knowledge and support healthy choices. As April continues and spring grows, it is a great time to reflect on health and well-being. Making smart choices today can lead to a healthier future. By staying informed and looking out for one another, we can build safer and stronger communities.

In the end, Alcohol Awareness Month is about care – caring for ourselves and for others. Together, we can make a difference and help everyone stay safe, healthy, and supported.

Here's to your good health!

It's okay not to feel okay. If you or someone you know has been struggling with their emotions, behaviors, or substance use please reach out to us. We can help you find appropriate tools and services that could help you overcome obstacles in your life. We are here for you. Please contact the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division at 970-563-5700 for more information or to set up an appointment to see a counselor or therapist.

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

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

NEWS YOU CAN USE Spring into Wellness!

Use the sunshine and warmer weather to reenergize yourself and inspire action.

- **Spring cleaning** – Tidying up your living space will make your home and mind feel clearer.
- **Eat more greens** – Everything is greening up, why not add more green foods to your diet? Swap out those heavier winter dishes with salads and think about growing your own fresh veggies and herbs this year.
- **Get moving** – Springtime is a great time to reinvigorate your exercise routine or start a new one and enjoy nature at the same time.
- **Be mindful** – Spring can also be a great motivator for change by beginning a new mindfulness activity such as meditation, art, yoga, or journaling.
- **Reconnect with others** – Come out of winter hibernation and re-enter your social life by making plans with friends or family.



Image: courtesy innalimanskaya/AdobeStock

Shining Mountain Breastfeeding & Parenting Class

CELEBRATING MOM

Thursday, May 14th @ 12 pm

SunUte Rec Capote Room

290 Mouache Dr, Ignacio, Co

Bring your children & family

Healthy Lunch served!

Contact:
Shawmarie 970-563-2163
smtso@southernute-nsn.gov
Lisa Smith 970-563-2344
lsmith@southernute-nsn.gov

Shining Mountain Fresh

April 2026

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

Healthy Pasta Primavera

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFApril26>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, April 27
Pickup Date: Wednesday, April 29

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

Contact:
Lisa B. Smith (970)-563-2344
If you need to schedule a different pickup time/date, please reach out to Lisa

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 Kianna 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!

CHILD ABUSE Prevention Month

Wear Blue every Friday in April to show support!



ROAD TO RECOVERY • FROM PAGE 1



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Clement Frost trains for incline and decline on the treadmill, Thursday, March 26, at SunUte Community Center. Assisted by SunUte Fitness Trainer, Elijah Lucero, the pair work to reach Frost's goal of walking again following his car accident last year, where he sustained numerous injuries.

torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) and multiple spinal injuries. From home physical therapy stretches, to using a walker, and now using a cane for assistance, Frost kept a positive attitude throughout this journey using the strength of the support he was receiving from his family and community.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Clement Frost uses the machines at SunUte Community Center during his training session. With the goal of walking totally independently, Frost continues to strengthen various muscle groups.

"I'm not going to let my age or my injuries hold me down, I can do it - I was eventually using a walker, but I didn't like using it that much, so my son then set my physical therapy up at SunUte," Frost said. "I came to [SunUte] and met Elijah [Lucero] and we started to work on getting my balance back, one of our biggest goals was to get out and walk without the walker. So as I worked with her, I kept positive and kept saying in my mind 'don't let the age or the injury hold you down.'"

Elijah's positivity has been a part of my growing stronger. She always listens to me and lifts me up, and I know that I can trust her with how I am feeling," Frost said. "All I got to do is continue to put my mind to it, work hard, use the facility, and keep working with my trainer."

Lucero is a Fitness Trainer at SunUte Community Center, she has a passion for both fitness and assisting elders. Since January of this year, Lucero has worked with Frost to help him regain his strength and has immense pride in Frost for all his achievements thus far. "No matter what, Clement is so consistent, I know he will be here at 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday even on days when his muscles feel tired, he still does his workout with a positive attitude," Lucero said. "I really enjoy working with Clement and he has made so much progress, and I am so proud - working together, he always encourages me and tells me I am good at what I do which is so reassuring to me, soon he will be walking around SunUte without his cane."

Every week, Frost visits SunUte Community Center to complete his leg days and upper body days. At the start, Frost was using only the bike machine and an upper body machine but has transitioned into adding new warmups and exercises including walking on the treadmill and training for incline and decline. Frost is living proof that the mind is a powerful tool, and you can do anything you set your mind to.

"It's been a hard experience and now I walk with a cane, but plan to hang [the cane] up very soon. We got some ways to go but that is Elijah's and I's goal," Frost said. "I'm getting back to the way I used to be."

"Just because you're dealing with an injury, doesn't mean you have to stay in that position - with all the prayers from my family and the community, that gave me the strength and helped me to get to where I'm at now," Frost said. "The staff [at SunUte] are all so positive, and with the help of Elijah it became really enjoyable to be at the facility and do my therapy."

"Since the beginning, Elijah has always had a great attitude and personality, she makes the experience enjoyable - she greets me every day and it makes me ready to come in and do my exercises."

Child Abuse Prevention Month



photos Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Thank you to the Division of Social Services for your tireless efforts in supporting our community and advocating for patients during this afternoon's National Child Abuse Prevention Month community event. Your dedication and compassion make a meaningful difference for children and families every day. A special thank you as well to the Native Grounds Coffee team for fueling our Friday and helping keep everyone energized.



Chairman Melvin J. Baker and Tribal Council wore blue, along with pins, on Friday, April 10, to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children are our future and the most precious gifts from the Creator. Together, we stand committed to protecting, nurturing, and uplifting our children. Abuse is not welcome here, or there, or anywhere.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Native Grounds Coffee owner, Mariah Morgan (left) and Shyla Wilson serve members of the community as part of the Southern Ute Division of Social Services' Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month event, Friday, April 10 in front of the Moache-Capote Building. Native Grounds Coffee, LLC is a Dine owned business; they offer coffee, tea, specialized drinks and food.

SIGN UP NOW!

Join our Annual Color Run by signing up for a color station

Event Date: May 15th
Set up Time: 4:15 PM
Run Start Time: 4:30 PM

Contact Augusta Torres by May 8th
970.563.2328 or atorres@southernute-nsn.gov

Color & Supplies will be provided. We encourage stations to bring their own canopy

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

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON



SUIMA

Pawaaghani pø'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Teacher spotlight: Debbie Gonzales, 'à yapuchi

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN
MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Debbie Gonzales
Toddler Guide
SUIMA

Debbie Gonzales has been teaching at SUIMA since the doors opened in 2000! She worked as an Infant Guide for five years and the remaining years as a Toddler Guide. Her colleagues describe her as patient, gentle with the students, and always having good attendance. According SUIMA Principal, Mari Jo Owens, she "truly loves what she does; you can see that whenever she is with a child. Debbie understands child development, creates a calm classroom, and makes great chili!"

What is one of your favorite things about teaching at SUIMA?

Getting to know the children and being part of their learning experiences in the first years of life.

What first brought you to SUIMA, and what kept you here?

I was working as a Primary Guide at Early Head-

start. A staff member from the Education Department came to the school and offered me a job as a one-on-one Guide for a former student I had worked with when I was a paraprofessional for BOSCS. He was a student at Blue-Sky Montessori. I was honored that his mom recommended me. I was also offered two more dollars an hour than I was making at the time. I knew that Blue-Sky Montessori was closing that year and SUIMA would open in the

fall. I took a leap of faith – and I got the position. I enjoy my position here at SUIMA; it has been a good career. Working for the Tribe has been good.

What is something that reminds you why teaching in this community is meaningful?

The experiences of working with different families in the community have created fond memories and lasting impressions I will always cherish. I have been working with children for a long time and am especially honored to have taught students early in my career – and later taught their children as well.

How do you incorporate Ute into your classroom?

We incorporate Ute language using the words we know and by putting out language picture cards. Children stand for the flag song facing the East. Before meals, we say the Ute Prayer. The Ute Language Guides visit daily to teach Ute.

How has working within a Montessori environment shaped your teaching philosophy?

Working in a toddler Montessori environment, I have learned the importance of following the child and fostering independence – giving them opportunities to complete tasks before stepping in. Observation is essential in preparing an environment that supports curiosity and independence across all developmental areas.

Puchuchugwa Suku-ráachi (Recognizing Students)

Throughout the school year, SUIMA has celebrated student attendance by handing out 100% attendance awards as well as celebrating on-time arrival. Along with schools across Colorado, our goal is to reach an average of 85%-90% attendance on most days. While SUIMA has reached this goal on some days, the school typically averages between 75% - 85%. By coming to school on time, the students aren't just creating a routine for their education, but also for when they go out into the workforce. Knowing our students can't get to school on their own, we'd like to acknowledge and thank all of you parents who bring their children to school. Thank you for creating this good habit. Keep being amazing!



courtesy SUIMA

Congratulations to all 100% attendance award recipients at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy. Pictured here are a few of those students who are from the lower elementary two classroom (left to right, back to front): AnnaLicia Delgado Torres, Marley Valdez, Josiah Hight, Ember Berry, Kairi Ruybal, Amethyst Weaver and Sammy Santistevan.

Mtātāgopø'okwātāvāna (On our calendar)

- April 17 – No School for students
- April 21 – Parent Advisory Group meeting
- April 22 – Family Night
- May 13 – Spring Performance at Dancing Spirit
- May 15 – Color run
- May 20 – Field Day
- May 22 – End of the Year Ceremony

SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION

Tribal student film selected for Tonkawa Film Festival

'Speaking Ute' to be featured in Oklahoma

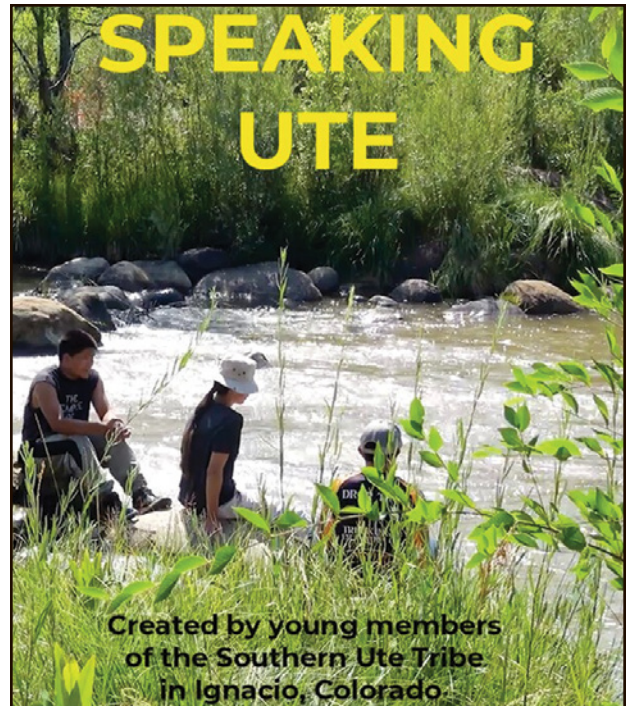
Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPT.

The Southern Ute Education Department's Filmmaking Workshop student film "Speaking Ute" will be featured at the 2026 Tonkawa Film Festival. Screening will take place April 24 and 25 at Wilkin Hall, at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, Okla.

The film "Speaking Ute" was featured previously at the Native Lens Showcase at the Durango Independent Film Festival on March 7, and the Nyack International Film Festival March 22-28.

The film was written and produced by four Ignacio High School Native American students during the summer of 2025 through the Filmmaking Workshop hosted by the Southern Ute Education Department and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council.

The Southern Ute Education Department and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council would like to thank



Created by young members of the Southern Ute Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado

Advisory Council encourage Southern Ute tribal membership, tribal leadership and the community to support the filmmakers in their production. The Southern Ute Education Department and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council would like to thank

the students for their hard work, dedication and time making this film possible.

For further questions please contact Southern Ute Education Department 970-563-0237 ShaRay Rock srock@southernute-nsn.gov or Dustin Weaver dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov

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
srock@southernute-nsn.gov
970.563.2794
Dustin Weaver
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov
970.563.2786

WELCOME TO THE BOBCAT EXPO

Where: Ignacio High School - Enter through Library Doors #8
When: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

5p-6p
Begin the evening by exploring a showcase of student work from Fine Arts and CTE

6p-8p
THEN Enjoy our school play, *Snew White* by Charlie Lovett & The Musical Sounds of the Ignacio School Band & The Voices of the Ignacio School Choir

Cost: \$5 (adults)/\$3 (students)
\$10 (Family of Four)
Free for ages 5 and younger

DINNER IS INCLUDED DURING INTERMISSION
Prepared by our Culinary Arts students

Please, do not bring large bills

IGNACIO BOBCATS

IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO WEEKS AT A GLANCE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 18 IHS Track and Field at Durango IMS Track and Field Home Meet ISD hosting Four Corners Volleyball Tournament	APRIL 19 No Events	APRIL 20 IHS/IMS Academic Banquet 5 pm at IHS Auditorium	APRIL 21 IHS Baseball Away at Nucla Varsity Double Header 2 pm	APRIL 22 IHS Sustainability Fair with Demonstrations IES Pre-K/Kindergarten Night 5:30 pm at IES IMS Soccer Home vs Durango 4:30 pm	APRIL 23 IHS Soccer Away at Pagosa 4:30 pm IMS Track Tri at Home 4:30 pm
APRIL 25 IHS Baseball Home vs Olathe Varsity followed by JV 12 pm	APRIL 26 No Events	APRIL 27 Multicultural Committee Meeting at 11:50 am at ISD Administration IHS Soccer Away at Alamosa IHS League Pole Vault 2:30 pm	APRIL 28 IHS Track & Field San Juan Basin League at Mancos IHS Baseball Home vs Bayfield Varsity followed by JV 3 pm IMS Soccer Home vs Durango 4:30 pm	APRIL 29 IMS Track and Field at Escalante 12 pm IMS Voices of Ignacio Choir Concert 6 pm	APRIL 30 IHS Baseball Away at Cedaredge Varsity followed by JV 2 pm IHS Soccer Away at Telluride 5:30 pm IMS Track and Field League Meet Away at Cortez 12 pm

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES & ALL BOBCAT NEWS!

IGNACIO SCHOOL DISTRICT @IGNACIOSCHOOLS



FLC, UNLV sign MOU



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

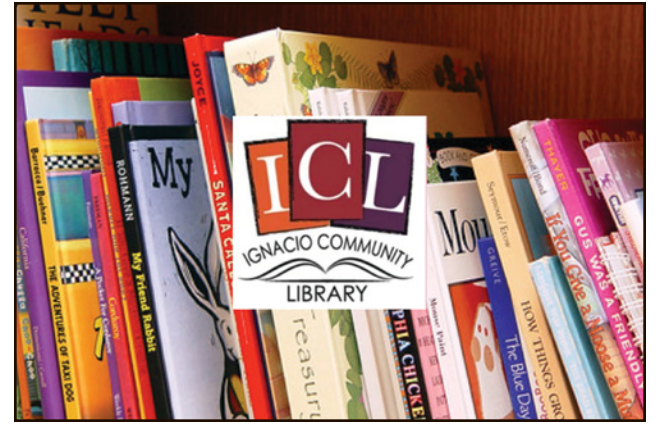
Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose, Acting Director of Education, Michael Kirsch and Southern Ute tribal member, Edward Box III, attended the signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding between Fort Lewis College (FLC) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on Wednesday, April 8. This event marked the beginning of establishing structured pathways to graduate education, supporting FLC undergraduates into UNLV graduate education.

In attendance at the signing; Mario Martinez-Provost FLC, Tammi Tiger-director of Tribal Education UNLV, Edward Box III-Southern Ute tribal member and UNLV Alumni, Heather Shotton President of FLC, Michael Kirsch-Acting Director of Southern Ute Education, Alyssa Crittenden-Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate College UNLV, and Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose. This partnership between FLC and UNLV will expand access to advanced degrees and more – particularly for students from rural communities, first-generation and students from tribal communities.



IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY Historical Ignacio

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Around 10,000 years ago the last ice age came to an end and the North American continent transformed into myriad wonderful ecosystems including the forest land of the Northeast and the Great Lakes, the immense prairies and plains of the Midwest, oceanside coasts, the mountainous west and our beloved desert southwest. What took place as people made their way into these previously unpeopled lands is the subject of a book new to the library collection, “Native America” by Kenneth L. Feder.

This is a great overview of the current accepted archaeological data regarding the history and evolution of the first people of North America. For someone who has had a lifelong interest in this subject, I find the book to be a great single source compiling the complicated story of how humans first found and then adapted to this incredibly diverse landscape. I find it even more compelling as the ancestors of some of these first people are a vital part of the present-day community where we work and play.


How historians and archaeologists piece together the past works in a scientific manner in that evidence is produced, a story based on the evidence be-

comes a paradigm. If new evidence comes to light, the current story adapts to fit a new more likely narrative. The closer we come to the present, the more details that can become part of the story. For example, we do not know any of the names of the people who lived during the archaic period (9,000 to 3,000 BP). Whereas today in our small town we can name many of the individuals who not only lived in this valley and made this town but lent their names to places and streets of Ignacio, Colo.

However, there is a mystery running right through the middle of our interesting little town. No one seems to know how Goddard Avenue came by its name or who the individual was who lent his name to the highway which becomes our main street. Recently, staff at the library renewed efforts to solve this mystery using a new tool which was not available during the last effort.

The use of chatbots has been a hot topic for a few years now and although our staff have used these tools sparingly, it only makes sense that we would be experimenting with these tools so we can better understand and help our patrons make the best use of them. So, when the topic of how Goddard Avenue received its name resurfaced, I thought it would be interesting to ask some of the chatbots if they had an answer. To shorten a long story, let’s just say the answers have not been independently verified. In his new book “How to AI”, (also on our shelves) Christopher Mims lays out 24 laws of AI. Number 6 is, “Don’t trust it, and always verify its work”.

From ancient times to modern history, from archaeological research to the use of AI, your library is here to bring people and ideas together so that our community may learn and grow toward the best possible outcomes.



ATTENTION


NO 24/7 ACCESS:

FRIDAY, 4/17/26
FROM 4:00PM-9:00PM
BGC'S 20-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

&

SATURDAY, 4/18/26
AT 6:00PM
UNTIL
SUNDAY, 4/19/26
AT 5:00AM
BAYFIELD AFTER PROM

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING,
SUNUTE STAFF



Southern Ute Elder Services

April

Activities List

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.



Sunshine Cloud Smith
Youth Advisory Council

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 28, 2026

Jimmy Newton Jr. Youth Leadership Conference
& Camp Sasquatch

More information to come!
Please contact Dustin Weaver @
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov
970-563-2786




GRADUATING SENIORS!

Southern Ute, First Descendents & JOM Students*

Your 2026 Senior photo is requested for The Southern Ute Drum!

As part of our annual Special Feature of Graduating Seniors, The Southern Ute Drum publishes photos of graduates of: 1) Southern Ute tribal members and first descendents 2) Johnson O'Malley (JOM)* students who are graduating from High School in 2026.

Southern Ute tribal members and first descendents who are graduating on or off the Southern Ute Indian Reservation are also encouraged to submit a photo to be included in the Drum's annual graduates feature.


Please submit photo via email to Robert Ortiz: rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov

DEADLINE MONDAY, MAY 18 BY 5 P.M.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS:

- Digital photos: 4"x 6" @ 300 dpi, or (1200 x 1800 pixels @ 300 dpi).
- Cellphone photos: Please set camera to "Fine" (Large) image.
- Photos can be scanned if brought to the Drum offices, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Please include the following: Student's Name; Name of School; Town and State. (i.e. John Smith, Ignacio High School, Ignacio, Colo.)
- Note: Photos may be color corrected, cropped or resized for print.

*Native American students enrolled in a Federally recognized Tribe, graduating from either Ignacio or Bayfield schools qualify as Johnson O'Malley (JOM) students.



Another 'Golden' visit with the Tribe



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Aaron Teran Hernandez explores the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum on Wednesday, April 8. Students met with SUCCM staff and the Cultural Preservation Department.

The Golden High School seniors made their annual pilgrimage to Southern Ute land, as part of their Senior Seminar, an experiential education program, which includes a seminar and trip based around the cultures and people of the desert southwest. The students have visited the Tribe since 2012. During their two-day visit, April 8 and 9, they met with various tribal departments and divisions; staff gave presentations of the services and programs they offer to the Southern Ute membership.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Golden High School's Senior Seminar class gathers outside the Eddie Box Jr. Media Center after their visit to KSUT Tribal Radio, joined by Tribal Radio Director Sheila Nanaeto on Thursday, April 9.

See more Golden High School visit photos online at www.sudrum.com



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

GHS students Alex Bittner, Cooper Barden, Dylan Kenamer and Miles Marcuson, sit and listen to words of encouragement from members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council on Wednesday, April 8 in Council Chambers.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Kacey Storey, Kholie Thomson, Lilah Kottke and Ava Ramos go on-air with host Robert Ortiz for the REZ-olution Radio Hour Takeover on Thursday, April 9 at KSUT Tribal Radio and the Eddie Box Jr. Media Center. All the students gave a live on-air interview!



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Randy Herrera, Natural Resources Tribal Apprentice speaks to the students about various animal hides. The hides were displayed with their corresponding Ute word and translation on the back of the nameplate.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Shane Seibel, Growth Fund Executive Director, spoke to the Golden High School students about the financial arm of the Southern Ute Tribe. He spoke of land, natural resources and various business ventures the Growth Fund is involved in, he also spoke of his time as a basketball coach.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Golden students round danced as they have done for many years at the museum, following the Cultural Preservation and Museum's presentations respectively. Southern Ute singers, Tim Ryder, Ian Thompson and Tyson Thompson sang round dance songs for the students.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Southern Ute Academy students challenged the Golden students to a hand game. Lollipops, trinkets, and various items were "thrown down," including a few dollars to make the game interesting, all in fun of course. Wynoka Whiteskunk led the demonstration.



2026 Randlett Ute Beardance

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

Vendor Booth: \$75.00
Available All Weekend



"Renew Our Human Spirits"

SAVE THE DATES

Randlett Ute Beardance
Grounds
Randlett, Utah

All additional
information will
be shared shortly.



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

Southern Ute Indian Tribe BEAR DANCE MAY 22 - 25, 2026 IGNACIO, COLORADO

Bear Dance Grounds (Between Ute Rd. & Hwy 521)



Bear Dance Corral Blessing: May 22, 9:30 a.m.
**Kick Off Meal: Sky Ute Casino Resort
May 22, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
Bear Dance Feast: May 25, 12 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



**"Be aware. Be good to each other, and do not bring
any anger, hate or jealousy to the sacred grounds."**

BEAR DANCE RULES

No short dresses, No baggy pants, and No shorts while dancing.
Photography, video, audio recording is strictly prohibited except by members of the Ute Tribes.
No walking Vendor - No pets of any sort.
The Southern Ute Tribe will not be responsible for accidents, injuries, or theft.
The Pine River is RESTRICTED!

Information: Bear Dance Chief, Matthew J. Box • 970-759-7038
Camping/Vending: Heritage & Events Coordinator, Eugene Bereza • 970-563-2307

FT. DUCHESNE

BEAR DANCE



MAY 8 - 11, 2026

FT. DUCHESNE, UTAH
UINTAH & OURAY
RESERVATION

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND
SAVE THE DATE!

SOUTHERN UTE BEAR DANCE POWWOW

MAY 22 & 23, 2026
SKY UTE CASINO RESORT
EVENT CENTER
14324 HWY 172
IGNACIO, COLORADO

GRAND ENTRY
FRIDAY, MAY 22 AT 6:00PM
SATURDAY, MAY 23 AT
12:00PM & 6:00PM

Head Staff
MC: Bart Powaukee
CO/MC: Stais Harlan
Arena Director: Corey Reeder
Head Man: Picked Daily
Head Lady: Picked Daily
Head Judge: Kenny Brown
Drum Judge: Michael Grant
Host Northern Drum: Mapiya Luta - Abraham Red Cloud
Host Southern Drum: Omaha White Tail Singers - Rennard Grant

DRUM CONTEST TOTAL PAYOUT
\$28,000.00
SPLIT Northern / Southern
1st - 5th PLACE

DANCE CONTEST TOTAL PAYOUT
\$17,550.00

DANCE CATEGORIES

- + Golden Age (55+): Men and Women
- + Men (18-54yrs.): Fancy, Grass, Northern & Southern Traditional
- + Women (18-54yrs.): Fancy, Jingle, Northern & Southern Traditional
- + Teen Boys (13-17yrs.): Fancy, Grass, Combine Northern & Southern Traditional
- + Teen Girls (13-17yrs.): Fancy, Jingle, Combine Northern & Southern Traditional
- + Jr. Boys (6-12yrs.): Fancy, Grass, Combine Northern & Southern Traditional
- + Jr. Girls (6-12yrs.): Fancy, Jingle, Combine Northern & Southern Traditional
- + Tiny Tots (5yrs. & Under)

POWOW COMMITTEE SPECIAL: SATURDAY MAY 23, 2026

18 Years & Up: Old Style Chicken: 1st Place \$500.00 + Old Style Jingle: 1st Place \$500.00

Dance & Drum Contest Requirements
18 & up, with photo I.D. at time of registration. For payout purposes only: must show Social Security Card & current valid State/& or Tribal I.D. with your address. You must also provide a current phone number.

Free Camping & Showers
Sky Ute Fairgrounds
200 E. Hwy 151
Ignacio, CO 81137
Contact: JayDee Brunson 970-563-5540

Arts & Crafts Vending
SOLD OUT

Registration
Friday, May 22: 5pm-7pm
Saturday, May 23: 11am-1pm

Southern Ute Powwow Committee
Rochelle Aguilar: Chairman (970) 759-1722
Edward Box III: Vice-Chairman (970) 903-9891
Karen Washington: Treasurer (970) 759-5880
Hilda Burch: Secretary (970) 946-5175
Marty Pinnecoose: SU Councilman-Tribal Council Ex-Officio

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, & Sky Ute Casino Resort will not be responsible for accidents, thefts, injuries, illnesses or death.



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



CSD "DID YOU KNOW" SERIES 4 : FIRE SAFETY

Fire Safety
CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION CHECKLIST IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD. BELOW ARE SOME HELPFUL SITES WITH INFORMATION AND CHECKLISTS TO HELP YOU PREPARE IN CASE OF A FIRE



Home Fire Preparedness Checklist



Wildfires | Ready.gov



Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters



Preparing for Wildfires | CDC



Wildfire Preparedness Checklist



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



NATURAL RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT

Tribal Rangers welcome Captain Williams

Staff report
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Robert Williams brings nearly 30 years of law enforcement and public safety experience to his new role, offering a strong background in leadership, training and operational command. Originally from Michigan, Williams has built a distinguished career through service in the military and with local, state, tribal, federal and private-sector public safety organizations. He is widely respected for his professionalism, accountability and service-centered approach to leadership.

Williams began his public service career in the United States Air Force, where he supported nuclear and conventional operations as part of B-52 aircraft maintenance. He entered



Robert Williams
Captain
Tribal Rangers

law enforcement in 1995 and went on to serve in a wide range of patrol, K-9, tactical, training, supervisory and command assignments. Much of his career was spent serving on tribal lands, where he gained extensive experience in rural policing, personnel de-

velopment and multi-agency coordination. His specialized work includes traffic safety, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) efforts, SORNA-related enforcement, K-9 operations and SWAT, including service as assistant SWAT commander.

A graduate of the University of Chicago Police Leadership Academy in 2024, Williams brings a strong commitment to professional standards and continuous improvement. "I am excited for the opportunity to serve the people of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe," Williams said. "The most meaningful and rewarding part of my career has been serving on Indigenous lands and working alongside Native communities, and I look forward to bringing my experience and commitment to this role."

Gallegos steps into retirement



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Executive Officer, Lindsay J. Box presents a gift to Gerard Gallegos in honor of his service to the tribal organization. Gerard has been employed by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe since 1995 when he started in the Food and Beverage and Security Departments at the Sky Ute Casino. He transferred over to the Permanent Fund in 1997 to join Building Maintenance, and in 2015 he became the Division Head.

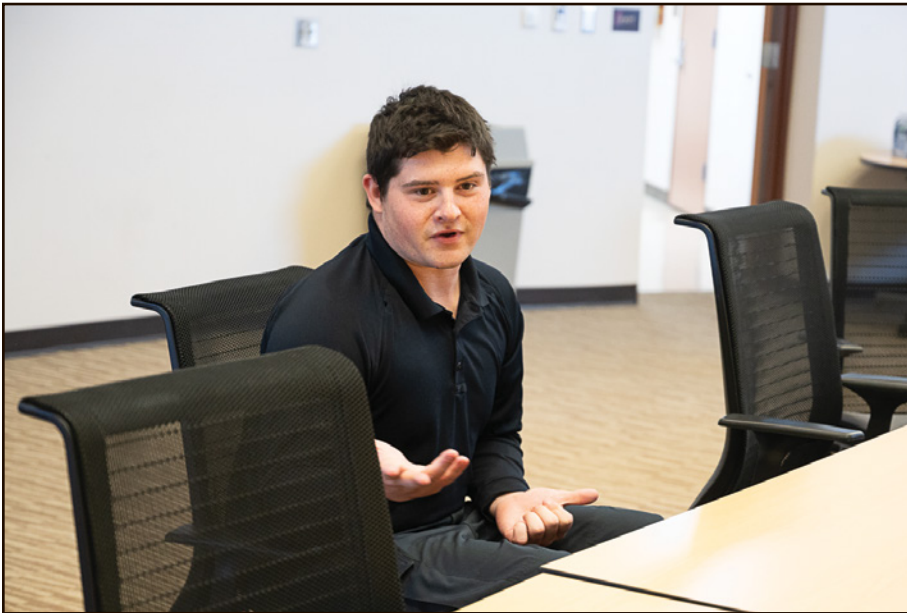


Gerard Gallegos was gifted a Pendleton blanket, presented by Tribal Council Treasurer, Mike Olguin and Property and Facilities Director, Tyson Thompson, in honor of his commitment to the tribal organization.



Chief Financial Officer, Christine Hudgens stood in the Hall of Warriors to share with the guests some words of gratitude for Gerard's many years of service, Wednesday, April 1.

McAteer heads to Artisa



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

Luke McAteer speaks about the expectations for his upcoming Federal Law Enforcement Academy (FLETC) training during his going away party on Thursday, March 19. The in-person FLETC training will take place in Artisa, N.M.

Southern Ute Police Dept. Lieutenant Mark Kempinski explains the process of what Luke McAteer will go through during his training. McAteer will have training at the FLETC for approximately 14 weeks then three months of Field Training with the Southern Ute Police Department before he becomes a patrol officer.



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

Save the Date

Department of Natural Resources, Construction Services, Tribal Credit, Tribal Housing and Economic Development are hosting an Open House

June 11th 2026

10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility

Come and learn about our programs and projects followed by lunch and raffle!
Call 970-563-2231 for any questions

CINCO DE MAYO
IGNACIO
TRI ETHNIC
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

MAY 2ND, 2026

SKY UTE FAIRGROUND
IGNACIO, COLORADO

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THOMAS ATENCIO 970-442-1953
LOOKING FOR VENDORS AND FOOD TRUCKS



Recovery from addiction starts with all of us.

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



LIFT THE LABEL[®]



THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Farewell from your Editor

By *Jeremy Wade Shockley*
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

I've been at the helm of the Southern Ute Drum newsroom for the past nine years. Today, I take a moment to reflect and share on that experience and the opportunities ahead. I'll be stepping down from my position at the end of this month to pursue profession-

al photography and photojournalism full time here in the Southwest.

I plan to continue covering stories throughout the Four Corners region, with an emphasis on photojournalism. Pursuing long term documentary projects as well as national news stories here in the West, specifically focused on water issues, wildlife management,

drought, agriculture and cultural preservation.

I also plan to rekindle my passion for teaching photography and journalism, leading workshops and sharing my knowledge with the next generation of storytellers.

In my time as Editor of the Southern Ute Drum, I like to think that we've shaped the publication to be something that resonates with our readers no matter their age or background, and when each issue hits the rack, there is something in those pages for everyone. We have an excellent team here in the newsroom, and I feel confident that new ideas and experience will lead the publication forward ... as it continues to evolve to best serve the tribal membership for the next fifty years. Further building on the legacy that was started in 1969.

The most rewarding part of my role as the Editor and Media Manager has been the opportunity to guide the overall experience of the newspaper, while setting a high bar for quality and visual aesthetic – both in print and online. I feel we provide something of great value to the community, and it is reflected by the direct feedback and peer recognition we have garnered over time.

I take immense pride in the fact that we are actively engaged with the Indigenous Journalists Association, the Colorado Press Association and the Society of Professional Journalists, giving us the guidance



Thomas Cooper/Colorado Press Association

The Southern Ute Drum staff received numerous awards during the Colorado Press Association's 145th Annual Convention in 2023, winning nine awards for individual pieces in both editorial journalism and photography as well as the "Excellence in Photo & Design" sweepstakes award in the Class 8 division. Pictured are Reporter/Photographer, Divine Windy Boy, Graphic Specialist, Robert L. Ortiz and Editor/Media Manager, Jeremy Wade Shockley.



courtesy Stefan Wachs

Photographed ahead of the Bear Dance at his home in Vallecito, Shockley wears a traditional ribbon shirt made by the late Evalyn Russell (egap) and beaded gauntlets made by the late Beulah Kent (egap). Shockley attended his first Bear Dance in Ft. Duchesne, Utah in the spring of 2009, shortly after becoming the Reporter/Photographer for the Southern Ute Drum newspaper.

to produce a tribal publication that is relevant in this moment, pays tribute to the past, while laying the groundwork for the future.

I deeply value the community and friendships I have built over the years, through my position at the newspaper. For this I am grateful. I also look forward to taking part in the upcoming Bear Dance, embracing the coming of spring as I settle into my new role!

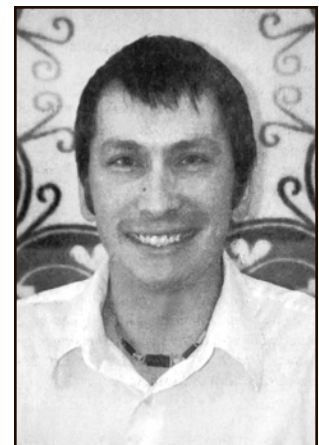
And in these uncertain times, I'll leave you with the words of the late great Rolling Stone correspondent, Hunter S. Thompson, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

Please take a moment to explore my photography

from across Latin America, Africa and the American West at jeremywadeshockley.com – or follow me on Instagram @jeremywadeshockley. Please keep in touch, and I hope to see

you in and around the community as I embark on my next adventure.

Most importantly, I'm not retiring, but instead rolling up my sleeves once more for the hard work ahead.



Jeremy Wade Shockley
Reporter/Photographer
2008



Jeremy Wade Shockley
Editor
2017

CINCO DE MAYO CHILI COOK-OFF!

SATURDAY, MAY 2 | 11AM - 4PM

Ready for a spicy, smoky showdown? Head to Sky Ute Casino Resort for our Cinco de Mayo Chili Cook-Off: a high-energy, community-driven event combining competition, food, and festive entertainment. We'll select winners for various categories to earn cash prizes, hotel or dinner vouchers, and trophies!

Bring your homemade chili and you could be voted to win:

- Ring of Fire (Hottest Edible Chili)
- Grand Champion
- Traditional
- Verde
- Homestyle
- Specialty
- People's Choice
- Best Booth Presentation





THE MANY LIVES OF U.S. SENATOR BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Shanan Campbell gives the eulogy for her father, at the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio, Monday, April 13.

for comfort. Not for convenience, not for anyone.” Ben Campbell’s Cheyenne father was an alcoholic, often absent; his mother was an immigrant from Portugal who suffered from tuberculosis. Campbell and his sister lived stretches of their childhood in a Sacramento orphanage.

“My dad grew up in real darkness,” Shanan Campbell said on Monday. “The orphanage. Constant hunger. Abandonment. Troubles with the law.”

Campbell emerged from his troubled youth to chart a course that defied expectation. He graduated college and served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He learned about judo from Japanese farm laborers he met while doing agricultur-

al work, and started practicing the martial art during his military service. He moved to Japan in the early 1960s to pursue serious study, and eventually joined the 1964 U.S. Olympic team.

For 18 years, he served as a U.S. Congressional representative and then a Senator. “Ben set a standard for elected leaders,” said Sen. Michael Bennett, one of three members of Colorado’s congressional delegation who spoke on Monday.

“As the first and only Native American to chair the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Ben forced congressional leaders to recognize and reckon with our government’s broken promises to tribal nations,” Bennett said.

Campbell used his clout as a Senator to push for the

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in eastern Colorado. He was also a leading congressional advocate for the Smithsonian’s Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

“He fought for the tribes’ sovereignty and freedom to make their own decisions,” Bennett said. “Whether that involved water rights or energy or health care.”

Pro-choice and an ardent defender of gun rights, Campbell’s beliefs crossed party lines.

He eventually crossed over himself.

He entered Colorado state politics as a member of the Democratic Party. But in 1995, two years into his first term as a U.S. Senator, Campbell switched parties. At the time, Democratic

leaders viewed his decision as a betrayal. But on Monday, Bennett praised Campbell for his strength and principles.

“He was never afraid to stand up for what was right,” Bennett said. “Even if that meant walking a solitary path, like switching political parties, an almost unimaginable act today. You hear a lot of rhetoric about that kind of courage and independence in today’s politics. Rarely do you see anybody act on it. But Ben did. It was central to who he was.”

Monday’s program included a performance of young Native hoop dancers, remarks and prayers from both Northern Cheyenne and Southern Ute leaders, and an honorary doctorate from Campbell’s alma mater, San Jose State University.

Campbell was an ardent motorcycle enthusiast, and his biker buddies showed up too.

“You know, they said he had an affinity for people who came from the other side of the tracks and the outlaw. Well, here we are,” Mike Lovato said. Lovato co-founded Four Corners Motorcycle Rally with Campbell in 1992, which he said drew an estimated 65,000 people to the region at its peak.

Lovato recounted a story of a rally he and Campbell attended in Las Vegas. “We had gotten there, beat up, long hair, dusty from the road, (and) got into a buffet line. We hadn’t eat-



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Keynote speaker, W. Richard West, Jr. (Southern Cheyenne) was also the founding director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. West worked closely with U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who was a political champion of the museum.

en all day,” Lovato said. “It just so happened they were having a bridge tournament. So as we’re waiting in the buffet line, there are like six or seven women in front of us.” Lovato said he and Campbell had struck up a conversation with the women in the buffet line. The women expressed surprise that the bikers in the hotel were so polite.

“They asked Ben, ‘So

what do you do for a living?’” Lovato recalled on Monday. “He said, ‘Well, if I told you, you wouldn’t believe me.’ They said, ‘Of course we would!’”

He goes, ‘I’m a United States Senator.’

In unison, they said, ‘We don’t believe you.’”

Monday, April 13, would have been Ben Nighthorse Campbell’s 93rd birthday.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Eddie Box Jr. shares a few words prior to giving the closing prayer at the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio; the Box and Campbell families remained close friends throughout the years.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Ben’s wife Linda Campbell shares a moment of embrace on stage with their two children, Shanan and Colin.

SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER APRIL 26 – JUNE 6 OPEN TO ALL SUNUTE MEMBERS

Stride Together 2026

SUNUTE’S ANNUAL RUNNING AND WALKING CHALLENGE

TWO CATEGORIES:
 RUNNING (TEAMS OF 5)
 WALKING (TEAMS OF 3)

ONLY RUNNING OR WALKING MILES WILL COUNT. NO ROWING, ELLIPTICAL, ARC-TRAINER, ETC.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT ELIYAH AT (970)563-2658 OR ELUCERO@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV

Jicarilla Apache Nation
6th Annual
Department of Youth Open Jr. Rodeo
Saturday & Sunday June 13th-14th, 2026
9:00am SHOWTIME
Little Beaver Rodeo Grounds, Dulce NM 87528
(Ages As Of June 30, 2026)

Midget Division 6 & Under \$15/Event	Pee Wee Division 7-10 Yrs. \$15/ Event	Junior Division 11-14 Yrs. \$15/ Event	Senior Girls Division 15-18 Yrs. \$20/ Event	Senior Boy Division 15-18 Yrs. \$20/ Event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrel Racing Flag Racing Goat Tying Wooly Riding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrel Racing Pole Bending Goat Tying Breakaway Steer Riding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrel Racing Pole Bending Goat Tying Breakaway Bull Riding Team Roping 2X 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrel Racing Pole Bending Goat Tying Breakaway Team Roping 2X 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bull Riding Bareback Riding Saddle Bronc Riding Tie Down Roping Chute Dogging Steer Wrestling Team Roping 2X

Concession & Vendors on site Friday-Sunday

Buckles & Added Money to Average Event Winners. (Must Be Entered Both Days)

Out of State Contestants Need Health Certificates and Hauling Permits

DOY Presents Added Attraction
Friday 12th, 2026 @ 7pm
Youth Co-Ed Breakaway JACKPOT
Jr / Sr Division (Enter 2X- \$20.00)

Parent & Child Team Roping
 \$20.00 / Team (Must be a Parent to Rope)
 Awards Will Be Given For Added Attractions

Drug & Alcohol FREE EVENT

For More Information Contact Joyletta Vicenti or Jimmy James 575-759-4313
 The Jicarilla Apache Nation, Department of Youth ARE NOT Responsible for Theft, Injury or Accidents In or Out of the Arena.



Tyrone Turner/NPR

Co-plaintiffs arriving to a federal court hearing in Washington, DC, on December 4, 2025, to testify as part of their suit against the Trump Administration. From left, KSUT executive director Tami Graham, Colorado Public Radio CEO/president Stewart Vanderwilt, Attorney Steve Zansberg, Aspen Public Radio executive director Breeze Richardson, and KSUT board member Mike May.

KSUT

Federal judge: Trump violated First Amendment rights of public broadcasters, including KSUT

By Adam Burke
FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC RADIO

The ruling, issued Tuesday, March 31, 2026, found that Trump's executive order unlawfully singled out public broadcasters because the President didn't agree with the content of their speech.

Judge Randolph D. Moss ruled on Tuesday that President Trump's executive order issued last year violated the First Amendment rights of NPR and three member stations.

KSUT was a co-plaintiff in the lawsuit.

"The First Amendment draws a line," Moss wrote in his memorandum opinion and order, "... which the government may not cross, at efforts to use government power – including the power of the purse – 'to punish or suppress disfavored expression' by others."

President Trump crossed that line, Moss found, when he issued a May 1, 2025, order, Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Biased Media.

The order required the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and other federal agencies to cease direct funding of

NPR and PBS. The order also prohibited indirect funding of the networks, stating that public radio and television stations could not use federal funds to pay for programming from NPR and PBS.

"The First Amendment bars the government from discriminating based on 'viewpoint,'" Moss wrote in his ruling. "Even more to the point, the government may not deny federal funding (or any other benefit) to a speaker in retaliation for conveying a message the government dislikes."

The ruling prohibits all federal agencies from adhering to Trump's executive order.

"It feels incredibly empowering," said Tami Graham, KSUT's executive director. "This was a fight worth fighting. We're on the right side of history by being a part of this lawsuit."

NPR and three member stations (KSUT, Aspen Public Radio, and Colorado Public Radio) sued the Trump Administration last year.

On Dec. 4, attorneys for both sides offered arguments.

During the hearing, Justice Department lawyers told Moss that the President was acting within his au-

thority and argued the case had become moot once Congress clawed back funding for public media in July.

In his ruling, Moss acknowledged that the lawsuit, as it relates to CPB funding, is moot. But, he said, other federal agencies may still fund public broadcasters, and those agencies shall not be restricted by Trump's unconstitutional order.

Indeed, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is administering funds to Tribal stations—part of an amendment added to the rescission legislation by US Senator Mike Rounds of South Dakota

As a tribal station, KSUT is a beneficiary of that federal program.

"Today, KSUT has no restriction on using federal funding it received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to acquire NPR programming," said Steve Zansberg, a Denver-based attorney who represented the three-member station co-plaintiffs. "Yesterday, it was restricted from doing that under the terms of this order."

"It's a tremendous victory for the First Amendment," Zansberg added.

NATIVE LOVE **CASA** **ACORNERS K-9 SEARCH & RESCUE** **SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE** **SOUTHERN UTE POLICE** **COLORADO COLD CASE TASK FORCE** **Sky Ute CASINO RESORT** **NAHUI OLLIN SPIRITUAL RUN**

2026 MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES (MMIR) PRAYER WALK/RUN

Join NativeLove, the MMIR Task Force of Colorado, the Colorado Cold Case Task Force, 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue, Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Police, Sky Ute Casino Resort, the Nahui Ollin Spiritual Run, the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASA) and TAT for a day uniting the community in raising awareness about MMIR and human trafficking. By bringing people together for this event, we hope to shed light on the struggles faced by Indigenous communities and the urgency of addressing these issues.

The day's activities will include:

- **6AM:** MMIR Prayer Walk/Run starts
- **9-11AM:** Human Trafficking and MMIR Education Session for non-walk/run participants at the Sky Ute Casino Conference Center
- **2PM:** Join us at the finish line for welcoming songs and prayers, lunch and keynote speakers
- **9AM-4PM:** TAT's Driving Change Project Mobile Exhibit open for tours at the casino

START Walk/Run Start: Sunrise (6AM) Elmore's Corner 50 Co Road 234, Durango

FINISH Finish: Sky Ute Casino 14324 CO-172, Ignacio

WEAR RED

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2026

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT ORTIZ | SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

YOU'RE INVITED

YOUTH ON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY MONTH

PROTECTING YOUTH FROM TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION IN THE FOUR CORNERS

May is TAT's Youth on Transportation (YOT) Safety Month, which unites stakeholders across North America to reach youth and caregivers with age-appropriate information about human trafficking. It's also Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Month, which is why we're headed on a weeklong tour through the Four Corners alongside local partners in an effort to raise awareness about MMIP and human trafficking. By bringing people together for these events, we hope to shed light on the unique strengths and needs of Indigenous communities when it comes to these issues and convene stakeholders to strengthen community responses to human trafficking. **We hope you'll join us!**

MAY 5	Page, AZ Youth on Transportation Coalition Build 10AM-2PM	CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO
MAY 7	Gallup, NM Youth on Transportation Coalition Build 10AM-2PM	CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO
MAY 9	Ignacio, CO MMIR Walk/Run w. Mobile Exhibit Tours 6AM-4PM	CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

Questions? Email info@tatnonprofit.org

MPF welcomes Div. of Gaming



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The Easter themed Sip Chat and Chew was hosted by the Division of Gaming on Friday, April 3, setting the stage for an enjoyable event! Shiann Baker-Weaver and Cassandra Atencio can be seen perusing the prizes as an excited spectator looks on!

Elise Redd, MPF Facilities Operations Manager, warmly welcomed guest Mel Archuleta of Seven Rivers during the Easter themed Sip Chat and Chew program hosted by the Division of Gaming, Friday, April 3.



UNCOVER HISTORY. EMBODY HEALING. COMMIT TO RECONCILIATION.

UNCOVER COLORADO'S UNTOLD HISTORY

A mobile exhibit touring Colorado

The Truth About 250-150 is an Indigenous-led mobile exhibit that brings history, art, and storytelling directly to the communities across Colorado. Through murals, youth, art, audio storytelling, video, and interactive elements, visitors encounter the history of Native land dispossession and resilience, and the voices of Indigenous communities today.

INSIDE THE EXPERIENCE

- A museum-like gallery inside a renovated school bus
- Immersive multi-media art installations
- Youth photo murals, and spoken word poetry
- Reflective space for community building

HOST THE EXHIBIT

We are currently seeking community partners and event hosts. The exhibit functions like a mobile museum and works best at public events where guests can enter throughout the day.

For More Info:



Spring Craft Fair & Market



photos Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Mystical Treats owner and operator Jerna Weaver serves up hospitality and even better treats to comfort the afternoon cravings during the Spring Craft Fair & Market event on Thursday, April 2.

Shasta Pena with The Wandering Leaf greets people with a warm smile and botanical knowledge during the Economic Developments Spring Craft Fair & Market held on Thursday, April 2.



Creative writing with Crisoto



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Workshop participants and IOEA staff gather alongside Colorado Poet Laureate and guest teacher Crisosto Apache during the IOEA Learning Series: Creative Writing Workshop on Saturday, April 4. The Ignacio Out & Equal Alliance supports, empowers, educates, and advocates for the Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ community, their families and allies in the Southwest – including the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Reservations.



The Ignacio Out & Equal Alliance gave out free merch during the IOEA Learning Series: Creative Writing Workshop on Saturday, April 4.

Maxx's Sweet Treatz

Come Support Our Fundraiser

Bake Sale

Menu:
Cupcakes:
Vanilla
Chocolate
w/whipped frosting

Mini Cheesecakes
w/ smooth
raspberry sauce

Treat yourself while helping a good cause.

Come buy delicious homemade baked goods. All proceeds will go to our fund for our trip to Gatherings of Nations. We've never been and would like to be there for the last dance.

SATURDAY APRIL 18

1 PM – 3 PM

Old Casino Parking lot



Executive Director of the Ignacio Out & Equal Alliance, Trennie Burch writes a story during the IOEA Creative Writing Workshop on Saturday, April 4 at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. Community members gathered to learn from Colorado Poet Laureate, Crisosto Apache – exploring storytelling.

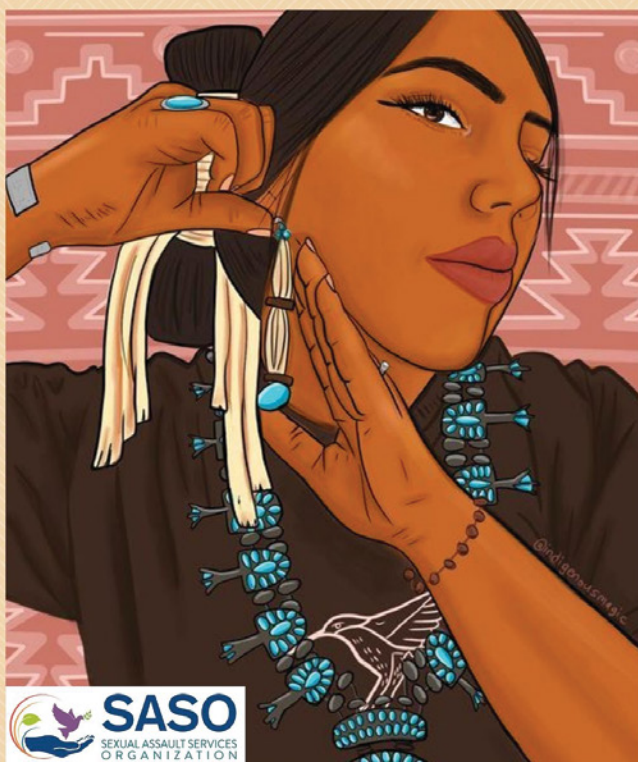


During the workshop participants took turns sharing their stories and getting tips from instructor Crisosto Apache on Saturday, April 4. The IOEA Learning Series: Creative Writing Workshop welcomed the community to explore storytelling as a tool for self-expression and cultural connection.

Deadly Aunties Tea Denim Day Event

April 22nd from 12 - 1 pm

SASO Office - Elhi Community Center 115 Ute Street, Room 22, Ignacio, CO



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

Multi-Purpose Facility Traditional Sewing and Beading



Tuesday - Thursday April 28, 29, & 30, 2026

Day Session:
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Evening Session:
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Bring any project you would like to work on. Need help starting? Finishing or you just need company to get it done. call Elise if you have questions - 970-563-2641.

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



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Celebrate Earth Day with a walk!

Join Community Health on Tribal Campus, April 22

By Karen Forest, PHN
SOUTHERN UTE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, one day each April has been designated as a day to think about and take action to affirm our responsibility for and reliance on a clean, biodiverse and ecologically functional planet. The theme for Earth Day 2026 is Our Power, Our Planet, which alludes to the essential role of individuals and communities around the globe in protecting the complex ecological web of life on Planet Earth.

Many human illnesses are caused or exacerbated by dangerous environmental conditions. Air pollution from vehicle emissions and wildfire smoke aggravates respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD. Unregulated carcinogens in pesticides and fertilizers leak into the water and food supply and have been linked to cancer clusters and neurological disorders. Even many common household cleaners contain chemicals

that have been shown to be harmful to human and animal health.

There are many small actions we can take every day that add up to big differences for Planet Earth. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Plant a tree** – Trees reduce air pollution and soil erosion, offer much needed shade in a warming world, and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** – Many of the products we use every day are made from natural resources that are finite – once they're gone, they're gone. We can reduce our impact by buying only what we really need, repurposing or donating items we don't need any more, and recycling or composting any waste possible.
- **Go meatless** – The commercial livestock industry uses a phenomenal amount of energy, water, and land and produces a disproportionate amount of waste and pollution.

Consider going meatless one day a week or cutting back on the amount of meat you eat every day. You will save money, improve your health, and maybe discover a new favorite vegetarian recipe!

- **Vote with your consumer dollar** – Purchase products that are responsibly sourced and use as little non-recyclable packaging as possible. Consider buying local and organic whenever those options are available.

These are just a few ideas of easy things we can all do every day to make a difference. For more ideas, check out Earth Day Tips: 50 Easy Ways to Help the Planet Every Day.

Please join the Community Health department on Wednesday, April 22 for a one mile walk to celebrate Earth Day. Participants will meet at 10 am in front of the Mouache Capote Building.

Water and healthy snacks will be provided.

Mobile Market Distribution



The Care and Share Mobile Market is back at the ELHI Community Center! Free, fresh food for you and your family. Don't miss out on this amazing resource—come by, stock up, and share with your loved ones!

April 9th, May 14th & June 11th 10 AM-11 AM



115 Ute Street, Ignacio CO. 81137
970-563-4100
www.theelhiignacio.org
admin@theelhiignacio.org

Join us this EARTH DAY
APRIL 22ND

For a 1 mile walk, starting at MCB front entrance.
Walk begins at 10:00am.
Light snacks provided.

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

AGRICULTURE DIVISION HAY FOR SALE!

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

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

Hay is available **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE**
Contact the **SUIT Agriculture Division** at 970-563-0220 for more information.

Lake Capote 2026 Season
The Lake is now open for the season
Thursday -Sunday
The lake will be open 24/7 through October 2026
Beginning March 30th, 2026
To reserve a campsite please visit our website:
<https://www.lakecapote.com/campground/>



YOUR CO-OP YOUR VOTE

Members can **vote** in the LPEA elections, opening April 20!

Learn more:
lpea.coop/elections



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Stephen Romero pitches in the rain during the Bobcats 11-10 away loss at Dolores on Saturday, April 11.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

Bobcats lose in extras to Bears

Weather, other elements work against Ignacio

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

If one were an Ignacio fan, one could have pointed one's finger at just about anything one desired, to explain how the Bobcats didn't depart Dolores with a 2A/1A San Juan Basin League win Saturday afternoon, April 11.

First of all, there was the weather; neither side would have disputed that, with the game-time air temperature barely in the 40s and constant wind which, aided by a steady drizzle that delayed the 12 p.m. start by 13 minutes, chilled things down into the 30s before the sun at last peeked through the dreary clouds and at least illuminated the event's later stages.

Secondly, there were some rulings which left Bobcat backers as well as IHS players and coaches all but questioning just which sport was being played before their very eyes. One call took a sure RBI-knock, ripped down the right-field line in the top of the sixth inning and appearing to clip just enough of the chalk extending beyond the infield, away from freshman Zackariah Loudenburg and denying Ignacio a regained 8-7 lead.

Another ruling held that a Joseph Atencio pitch



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Joseph Atencio, right, receives congratulations from Sonny Flores after both scored on the same third-inning play during the Bobcats' 11-10 away loss at Dolores on Saturday, April 11.

plunked a DHS batter, which wouldn't have been so much a shock – starter Gabe Archuleta plus relievers Stephen Romero, Atencio and Sonny Flores combined to bean eight Bears – if not for the fact that the delivery bounced four feet in front of home plate. And in the bottom of the bonus eighth inning, no less, with IHS having just scratched out a go-ahead tenth run in the frame's top half.

Beneficiary of the bizarre call, Dolores senior Deven Winter then stole second base. Atencio then legitimately tagged sophomore leadoff man Branson Lee, and Flores was brought in to pitch. He promptly hit junior Levi Hampton, who'd started the game on the deteriorating mound

for the Bears, to load the bases. Flores managed to get junior Augustus 'Gus' Vaughn to bounce back to the hill and flicked the ball to catcher Archuleta to retire Winter.

But with the sacks still packed via the fielder's choice, junior first baseman Declan Warren then threaded a single through the left side of IHS' drawn-in infield, plating both Lee and Hampton and securing a wet-n-wacky 11-10 victory upon their diamond at Joe Rowell Park.

Hamstrung by both pitch-count rules – a slated 4/13 SJBL doubleheader versus Dove Creek wasn't doing head coach Isiah Valdez and his assistants any

Bobcats page 18

BOBCATS TRACK & FIELD

Thinclads perform well at Cortez meet

Boys win four events at Bob Archibeque Invite

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Getting the weekend started quite well, Ignacio High Track & Field traveled Friday, April 10, to compete at Montezuma-Cortez's 2026 Bob Archibeque Invitational, with the 'Cats looking to build on successes had at their own Abel Velasquez Invite the previous Saturday.

And after succeeding on Panther Stadium's track as well as its periphery, IHS' boys left town with a fourth-place score of 76 points. M-CHS piled up a winning 148.5, with Bayfield (102) following and Monticello (86), Utah, ranking third, and the Durango JV 'A' squad (70.5) filling out the standings' top five.

Senior James Martin won the meet's 800-meter run, clocking 2 minutes, 9.1 seconds, and placed fifth in the 3,200 with his 10:59.19. Junior teammate Thunder Windy Boy, meanwhile, won that race in 10:35.89 and took second in the 1,600 with his 5:03.93. Senior Lin-

Thinclad page 18



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Thunder Windy Boy strides down the backstretch during the second and last lap of the 2026 Abel Velasquez Invitational's boys' 800-meter run Saturday, April 4, at IHS. Windy Boy ended up placing sixth in the race, helping IHS' boys to a fourth-place team finish overall. The Lady 'Cats placed eighth at the meet.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Amiyah Martinez (2) prepares to boot a pass forward and away from Del Norte's Genesis Sanchez Tena (15) during action Tuesday afternoon, April 7, at IHS Field.

BOBCATS GIRLS SOCCER

Lady 'Cats play doggedly in defeat

IHS threatens often in loss to Del Norte

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Honored along with her fellow seniors before the team's match Tuesday afternoon, April 7, goalkeeper Bella Lorenzini went on to then stop 15 enemy shots as the Ignacio Lady Bobcats turned in far and away their best performance yet this spring.

And though visiting Del Norte would ultimately prevail 10-0, with junior forward Emma Parra toeing in sophomore forward Oralic Archuleta's 76th-minute pass played just beneath a sliding Lorenzini's left glove, head coach Gretchen Gruber's gang walked off IHS Field well aware of how close they came to scoring at least two, if not three goals.

Particularly during the last ten minutes of the first half, when the Lady 'Cats generated multiple corner kicks and scoring chances. Senior Juliann Avila – informed she'd be manning Lorenzini's spot in the squad's upcoming 4/9 home match versus Montezuma-Cortez – put a quality low shot on DNHS goalie Sophia Banderas in the 35th, though the sophomore made the save.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio goalkeeper Bella Lorenzini (26) attempts to block a pass played toward the Lady Bobcats' net by Del Norte's Oralic Archuleta (6) during action Tuesday afternoon, April 7, at IHS Field.

She'd then rob IHS junior Alexa Lopez Rodriguez, running onto a perfect through ball from sophomore Jada Davis after a strong buildup through midfield, in the 37th to preserve the guests' 5-0 advantage going into halftime.

Finishing a set-up pass from sophomore Ella Cowett in the eighth minute, Parra netted what held up as the match-winning goal, but Davis had nearly drawn first blood literally one minute earlier after receiving a pass from sophomore Amiyah Martinez.

After intermission, se-

nior forward Leilany Soto increased the Lady Tigers' lead to 6-0 in the 43rd minute, but Ignacio came together defensively and avoided further damage until sophomore Damaris Almeida forced in a 67th-minute goal after the ball escaped Lorenzini's grip. Parra then headed a high-bouncing Almeida chip, lofted over IHS junior defender Paisley Vezeau, over a leaping Lorenzini in the 69th, and logged Del Norte's ninth goal in the 74th before her fifth marker

Lady 'Cats page 18



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE




Photo: Divine Windy Boy /SU Drum

2026 TRI-UTE GAMES

Towaoc, Colorado

JULY 6-10, 2026

SIGN UP TODAY

DEADLINE: MAY 8, 2026

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

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




Open to Southern Ute Tribal Members & 1st Descendants

BOBCATS LOSE IN EXTRAS • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Stoney White Thunder-Lucero slides in to score a run during the Bobcats' 11-3 home win over Nucla on Tuesday, April 7.

favors – as well as a left-foot injury sidelining senior first baseman/pitcher Stoney White Thunder-Lucero, the Bobcats actually began the 3-hour, 8-minute contest in fine fashion, with Archuleta bashing Hampton's very first pitch for an opposite-field double to deep right, then scoring on William Mendoza-Lechuga's subsequent single to left.

Mendoza-Lechuga then scored via a Flores single and the 'Cats led 2-0 after half an inning. Lee and Hampton (ND; 3.2 IP, 8 H, 6 R, 4 ER, 2 BB, HB, 7 K), however, quickly tied the game at 2-2 when both came around via freshman third baseman Kooper Thomas' single up the middle. And whereas Ignacio left two runners on base, Dolores (3-6 overall, 3-1 SJBL) left three – hinting that, considering the conditions, offense might overshadow defense.

Neither side scored in the second inning, but Valdez elected to pull Archuleta (ND; 2.1 IP, 3 H, 3 R, 2 ER, 3 BB, 4 K, HB) early in the third to save as many of the senior's pitches for the coming Bulldogs. Each team then scored two third-inning runs, IHS' via a two-run Loudenburg double, and the 'Cats kept the developing pace up with two more in the fourth to lead 6-4.

Romero then fanned DHS' Hayden Lancaster and Orin

Samulski to preserve the advantage, having stranded Warren at third base and Thomas at second. But after Ignacio failed to score in the top of the fifth, the Bears got to Romero (2.1 IP, 7 H, 4 R, 2 ER, 0 BB, HB, 2 K) for three runs before second baseman Atencio was called, with two outs and Warren at first, to the bump. And after plunking Thomas, Atencio managed to get Lancaster to pop foul to Archuleta and avoid further damage.

Mendoza-Lechuga singled and scored in the top of the sixth, via Atencio's fielder's-choice grounder retiring Flores at second, and Atencio then got out of the home half unscathed by getting both Winter and Lee to ground out to third baseman Flores.

Manning centerfield defensively, Winter then almost reversed momentum for good in the top of the seventh by twice diving to his left and coming up with back-to-back grabs robbing Evan Maez and Shaun Sanderson of potential doubles. Refusing to let that hustle be what beat the Bobcats (4-3 overall, 2-1 SJBL), Archuleta then beat out an infield single down the third-base line. With Mendoza-Lechuga up, he then stole second base and reached third via a Vaughn wild pitch.

Mendoza-Lechuga then slapped an RBI-single to

left, hurried into third when Flores singled to right, and scored IHS' ninth run when Vaughn (W; 4.1 IP, 9 H, 4 R, 2 ER, BB, HB, 5 K) pitched wild to Atencio. Flores (L; 0.1 IP, H, R, ER, HB) was thrown out at home plate attempting to take an extra base, but the 'Cats had the required edge.

Dolores, however, still had three outs with which to work and Hampton smacked the first pitch he saw for a double to left. Vaughn then traded places with him by doubling the same direction and, after Atencio froze Warren with a called third strike, then got Thomas to pop foul to first base, brought in the re-tying run when Lancaster singled to center. Atencio (2.1 IP, 0 BB, 5 HB, 2 K) then hit Samulski, but struck out freshman Isaac Samulski to wrap up regulation play with the teams deadlocked at 9-all.

Archuleta (2-4, BB) and Mendoza-Lechuga (3-5) each scored three runs in defeat, while Flores (4-5) and Atencio (1-4) scored two apiece. Mendoza-Lechuga, Flores, Romero (4-5) and Loudenburg (2-4) each finished with two RBI.

Looking ahead, Ignacio will host Dolores for a doubleheader on Friday, April 17. Results from the aforementioned twinbill against DCHS (3-7 overall, 1-2 SJBL) were unavailable at press time.

THINCLADS PERFORM WELL • FROM PAGE 17

coln deKay competed in the 300m hurdles and won with his 42.47 effort.

Senior Trace Crane again impressed in the discus, throwing a first-place 122'4" maximum, and senior Evan Perkins placed second with his 116'10" best. deKay took third in the 100m dash, clocking 11.79 seconds, and IHS' 4x400 relay posted a third-place 3:56.90. Additionally, Crane finished sixth in the 400 meters (52.86) and Perkins eighth in the shot put (33'9").

Matrim Jones took 21st in the discus (68'6") and 22nd in the shot (23'10"), Emmanuel Lucero ran 34th in the 100 (13.39) and 22nd

in the 200 (27.33), and Peyton Zieske was 27th in the 400 (1:04.91) and 21st in the 800 (2:42.64).

The Lady 'Cats, unfortunately, did not earn any team points at the meet though freshman Justina Jessepe nearly snagged one via her ninth-place 4'5" in the high jump. Teammate Alishka Prokopova finished 12th in the specialty.

Jessepe also finished 13th in the 400 meters (1:10.79), with Andie Sanders coming in 16th (1:13.80). She also placed 16th in the 200 (31.91) and 17th in the long jump (10'8.5"), booking IHS' only other top-20 result. Prokopova, however, ended up 21st in both the discus

(58'2") and shot (20'5").

Fellow thrower Ireland Cates was 26th in the shot (18'6") and 33rd in the discus (34'2"), while Mirra Bourriague took 30th in the shot (14'9") and 34th in the discus (30'11").

Racking up 183 points, Monticello held off Montezuma-Cortez (165) for the girls' team title. Bayfield (90) came in third, followed by Mancos (58) and the Durango JV (52).

Looking ahead, Ignacio will next see action Saturday, April 18, at Durango's Ron Keller Invitational, then begin preparing for the Mancos-hosted 2026 San Juan Basin League Championships on Tuesday, April 28.

LADY 'CATS PLAY DOGGEDLEY • FROM PAGE 17

ended the match early. So ended up totaling three goals and Cowett one.

DNHS (2-2, 1-0) out-cornered Ignacio 13-4 in the contest, and Banderas finished with five saves.

AFTERMATH

The Lady 'Cats were un-

fortunately forced to forfeit the aforementioned test against M-CHS (at the time 4-1 overall, 3-0 3A Intermountain), due to reportedly having only six players available. Ignacio (0-6 overall, 0-1 2A Intermountain-South) was to then resume league work the next afternoon at Ridgway, but

action at Cimarron Athletic Field was likely postponed at the very least.

Looking ahead, IHS is scheduled to visit Del Norte on Friday, April 17, with kickoff set for 4 p.m. Results from the team's slated 4/14 home match versus 3A Alamosa were unavailable at press time.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

2026 SUMMER CLUB

JUNE 8-JULY 31
NO CLUB JUNE 19TH & JUNE 29-JULY 3

Ages 6-18
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

SUMMER FEES	MEETING DATES						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30/WEEK FOR 1ST CHILD • \$20/WEEK FOR 2ND CHILD • \$10/WEEK FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD • \$10/WEEK FOR SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBER OR FIRST DESCENDANT CHILD <p>FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION, CALL (970)563-2666 OR EMAIL CASANCHEZ@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV</p>	<p>DOORS WILL OPEN ONE HOUR PRIOR TO EACH MEETING</p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">MAY 7, 2026 <small>SO UTE TRIBAL MEMBER 1ST DESCENDANT CHILDREN ONLY</small></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5:30PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">MAY 14, 2026 <small>OPEN TO EVERYONE</small></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5:30PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">MAY 18, 2026 <small>OPEN TO EVERYONE</small></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">12:00PM</td> </tr> </table>	MAY 7, 2026 <small>SO UTE TRIBAL MEMBER 1ST DESCENDANT CHILDREN ONLY</small>	5:30PM	MAY 14, 2026 <small>OPEN TO EVERYONE</small>	5:30PM	MAY 18, 2026 <small>OPEN TO EVERYONE</small>	12:00PM
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MAY 14, 2026 <small>OPEN TO EVERYONE</small>	5:30PM						
MAY 18, 2026 <small>OPEN TO EVERYONE</small>	12:00PM						

ATTENDANCE TO ONE MEETING IS MANDATORY. ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER. BE PREPARED TO PAY WHEN YOU ATTEND FOR A GUARANTEED SPOT. WE CAN ACCEPT CASH, CHECK, OR CARD PAYMENTS.

A WAITLIST WILL BE CREATED ONCE OUR SUMMER WEEKS BECOME FULL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION : BGCSTAFF@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV (970)563-4753

SUNUTE SOFTBALL LEAGUES

WE WELCOME ATHLETES AND ENCOURAGE TEAMS FROM ALL AROUND TO SIGN-UP AND PLAY!

MEN'S LEAGUE TUESDAY NIGHT
CO-ED LEAGUE WEDNESDAY NIGHT

<p>\$375 REGISTRATION FEE/TEAM</p> <p>DEADLINE MAY 28, 2026</p> <p>REGISTER AT SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER</p>	<p>LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS JUNE 2, 2026</p> <p>MULTI-SPORT FIELD & PATRICK SILVA MEMORIAL FIELD</p>
--	---

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JAKE FIXICO (970)563-2664

Contact Recreation @ (970) 563-0214

56TH ANNUAL LOS PIÑOS SPRING CLASSIC CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

MAY 24, 2026
ENTRY FEE: \$350

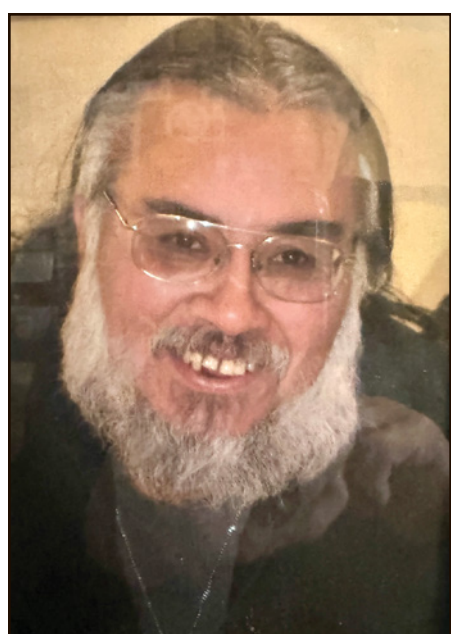
\$25 UNLIMITED HOMERUN BAND (2 PER TEAM)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 18, 2026

USSDA 240 BATS ONLY
CLASSIC M/W
PRO M/W
AWARDS: 1ST-3RD



OBITUARY



ATENCIO – Joseph “Joey” Abel Atencio died unexpectedly in his home in Ignacio on March 28, 2026. He was born in Alameda County, California on March 12, 1953. His parents, Dora C. Trujillo Atencio and Abel Francisco Atencio preceded him in death. Joey was a U.S. Army veteran.

Joey was best known as the owner of the TP Lounge in Ignacio before it was closed, and he retired. Joey’s aunt and uncle Tommie and Paul, (TP over the years it was known as the TeePee), Kenney built the TP in the 1950s and later sold it. Joey purchased it in the 1990s and was proud of his ownership, and he also loved his community of Ignacio. Through his business Joey made long lasting friendships, which were very important to him.

Joey loved music and, in his youth, taught himself to play guitar. To the day of his death, he had a guitar in his home. An important goal Joey always had was to keep his dad’s truck running and on the road. It was a challenge as he inherited the truck in the 1980s. Over the years one of Joey’s joys was to ride his Harley Davidson motorcycle with his friends. He once rode himself to California to visit his mom’s gravesite. He also wore a vest that said, “Riding for Jesus.” Joey was paid a tribute by his son, granddaughter, and fellow Harley friends as they rode together

to Durango to retrieve Joey’s ashes from William’s Funeral Home.

A friend once told Joey’s family that “Joey would give you the shirt off his back.” Joey always said, “what you see is what you get,” he was very genuine that way. Joey believed his dog was “man’s best friend.” You could find him in his vehicle around town with his boxer, JLo, in the passenger seat. He often took care of his son’s and his sister’s dogs when they were unavailable. There were even times when he was trying to find homes for dogs in need.

Above all that Joey loved; he loved his children and grandchildren the most. They were the light in his eyes, the joy in his heart, and his pride and joy. With all that love, he always had room for his extended family and friends. What a very kind tribute Joey’s friends have demonstrated in front of the TP. The family thanks you for all your tributes of love for Joey.

Besides his parents Joey was preceded in death by his grandparents, Amelindra and Abel Atencio; uncles Joe Atencio and Tony Atencio; aunts Carmen Atencio DellaBosca, Tommie Atencio Kenney, Lucille Atencio Reid, and Lillian Atencio Casias.

Joey is survived by his son, Joseph L. Atencio (Lindsey) and daughter, Lori Ann Martinez; his grandchildren, Monika B. Seibel (Clay), Alyssa C. Atencio, Joseph A.E. Atencio, Lily G. Haussamen and great granddaughter, Zara Yellow Plume Seibel; his siblings, Lucille Samford (Dudley), Geraldine Fleming (Michael deceased), Audrey Atencio, Christina Hernandez (Jaimez), Jack Moore (Linda), Robert Moore; Joey’s Aunt Ruth Atencio Beber; nephews, Roberto Samford (Janice), Nicholas Samford (Jennifer), Derek Sisneros (Alicia), JR Scott, Jack Moore Jr. (Briona), Noahlijah Moore, and great nephew Elijah Moore; nieces, Nicole Romero. Angeleah Moore, and Dove Eden Moore. Joey has many more great nieces and nephews and Trujillo cousins from his mother’s side.

Joey’s memorial will be Thursday, July 23 at 10 a.m. at the Ute Park Multi-Purpose Room, internment at Ignacio Cemetery West, and a meal to follow at the Tee-Pee Lounge.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

A GOLDEN THANK YOU!

My name is Robert Ortiz, I want to thank those who made the 2026 Golden High School Senior Seminar students’ visit to Ignacio, and the Southern Ute Tribe a memorable one this year. I have been their “tour guide” for 12 years, since 2012 (minus the two years of Covid). It takes a lot of time, coordinating, and communication to make their visit a success. I would like to thank Jay Dee Brunson and the Sky Ute Fairgrounds crew for their dedication and hospitality in housing the students every year. I could not have done it without the respective departments/divisions’ employees giving their time away from their busy schedule, to meet with the students, they appreciated it, thank you!

Mike Mendoza, Social Studies teacher wrote in a letter in 2012 about their Senior Seminar: “Senior Seminar is an experiential education program at Golden High School in Golden, Colo. The program began as a school-based version of the Outward-Bound moment of the late 60’s and 70’s. The idea of the program is to get students out of classrooms where they memorize/learn information and into settings where they can experience/learn information and move toward a life-long love of learning. Part of our curriculum includes a seminar and trip based around the cultures and people of the desert southwest. Our main area of travel includes southern Colorado, north-eastern Arizona and northern New Mexico. We visit National Parks, Historic sites, and urban settings to study the makeup of the physical and cultural landscape.”

The list is always growing every year, and those who have been a part of the students return, I owe you a “GOLDEN” thank you!

Southern Ute Tribal Council

- Chairman, Melvin J. Baker
- Vice Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose
- Treasurer, James “Mike” Olguin
- Linda Baker
- Marge Barry
- Marty Pinnecoose

Tribal Council Affairs

- Sunshine Whyte
- Summer Begay
- Executive Officer, Lindsay Box

Southern Ute Growth Fund

- Executive Director, Shane Seibel
- Jessicalyn Lewis
- Pooja Rao-Pennington
- Madilenia Chavarillo

KSUT Tribal Radio

- Sheila Nanaeto
- Colton Ashley

Sky Ute Fairgrounds

- Jay Dee Brunson and SUFG crew

Southern Ute Museum & Cultural Center

- Fabian Martinez
- Samantha Maez
- Waynoka Whiteskunk
- Malorie King

Cultural Preservation Dept.

- Izabella Cloud
- Coven White
- Eugene Bereza

Southern Ute Drum Group

- Tim Ryder
- Ian Thompson
- Tyson Thompson

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

- Mari Jo Owens
- Shawna Steffler
- Rhiannon Velasquez

Natural Resources/Wildlife

- Aran Johnson
- Ben Zimmerman
- Jon Broholm
- Christopher Jones
- Randy Herrera

Tribal Rangers

- Donald Area
- Terrance Barry
- Captain, Robert Williams

Division of Gaming

- Acie Patterson

Southern Ute Police Dept.

- Sergeant, Joel Flaugh

Southern Detention Center

- Lieutenant, Jason Harrison

The Southern Ute Drum

- Jeremy Wade Shockley
- Divine Windy Boy
- Rosaleigh Cloud
- Conrad Thompson
- Zuriyah Baker

SunUte Community Center

- Morgann Graham
- Kelsey Frost
- Elijah Lucero
- Virgil Morgan
- Elijah Weaver
- Noah Box

Tribal Information Services (TIS)

- Amy Barry
- Maria Trujillo

TIS for sponsoring the lunches

Caterers: Velma Armijo & Dwayne Reynolds
Lemonade: The Lemonade Pouch Kids

Also, I would like to thank those who stopped and said “hi,” and chatted with the students and teachers. It means a lot to just pause and chat, thank you for that as well!

*Ta-ah, Togoyak, Thank You
Robert Ortiz*

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.

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
May 1

Deadline:
April 24

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



ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

The Southern Ute Vital Statistics Division will be reaching out to all 18+ Tribal Members to gather information about you and/or your dependents. This **CONFIDENTIAL** information will be used to complete current Southern Ute census files.

- Current contact information: Current phone number, Email address, current mailing, and physical addresses
- Social Security number
- Dependents and current contact information
- Next of Kin information: Emergency Contact
- Any active Power of Attorneys
- Living Wills
- Veteran Status
- Voter Registration status confirmed for 18+
- Tribal Minutes



For more information or questions contact the Vital Statistics Office

Terence Whyte
970.563.2248

twhyte@southernute-nsn.gov

Reyna Cruz
970.563.2209

rcruz@southernute-nsn.gov

You can also submit your information online by emailing vistat@southernute-nsn.gov

Southern Ute Drum Photo Use Notification

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



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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$29 per year • \$49 two years
MAIN: 970-563-0100 • DIRECT: 970-563-0118
TOLL FREE: 1-800-772-1236 • ADVERTISING: 970-563-2251

MAILING ADDRESS

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

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

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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.



SAVE *the* DATE

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2026



MINI ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

KATERI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

For more information email: sirenabrito87@icloud.com

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE Boards, Committees and Commissions Vacancies

APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

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

POWOW COMMITTEE

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

SOCOCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

TERO COMMISSION

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

YOUTH NEEDED FOR WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD

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

Southern Ute Committee of Elders (COE)

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

Open Term:

One - 3 year term

If you are interested please submit a letter of intent by 5pm on May 8, 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 BIDS Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow

The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is requesting bids for services for the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow, to be held May 22-23, 2026, at the Sky Ute Casino Resort - Events Center.

Services Requested:

CLEANING CREW

- Friday, May 22, 2026 – 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM
- Saturday, May 23, 2026 – 2:00 PM to 12:00 AM
- Crew must consist of three (3) staff
- Cleaning supplies will be provided

SOUND SYSTEM

- Friday, May 22, 2026 – Setup at 3:00 PM, event until 11:00 PM
- Saturday, May 23, 2026 – 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Insurance Requirement:

All vendors must provide \$1,000,000 liability insurance naming Sky Ute Casino Resort as the insured.

Bid Deadline:

April 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Submit Bids To:

Southern Ute Powwow Committee

P.O. Box 737 #16

Ignacio, CO 81137

or email: soutepowwow@southernute-nsn.gov

Questions:

Edward Box III, Vice-Chairman

970-903-9891

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

Public Notice Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission Meeting

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission (Commission) will meet on Wednesday, May 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Justice & Regulatory Administration Building- EPD Large Conference Room located at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137. The draft agenda includes a Call to Order/Introductions, New Business, Tribal Air Quality Division Updates, CDPHE Updates, Open Discussion/Questions, Public Comment, and the Scheduling of the Next Commission Meeting. For more information on the meeting, how to attend virtually, or to obtain a copy of the meeting agenda please contact Ms. Angelina Miller, Air Quality Scientist at 970-563-2258 or visit the Commission website at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/env-commission/>

In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

Of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe • On the Southern Ute Reservation
PO Box 737 #149, CR 517, Ignacio, CO • 970-563-0240

NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,
Case No.: 026-0044-CV-PR
Marianne Williams, 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 **MAY 19, 2026 at 11:00 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 10th of April, 2026.
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

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,
Case No.: 2026-0052-CV-PR
Jack McClure Frost Jr., 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 **JUNE 1, 2026 at 9:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 13th of April, 2026
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

NOTICE OF PROBATE

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

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

Criminal Justice Information System Specialist

Closes 4/21/26 – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, performs administrative work of moderate difficulty in maintaining the Criminal Justice Information System/National Crime Information Center (CJIS/NCIC) system for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe ("SUIT"); implements and maintains required policies regarding access to confidential information; trains system users; liaisons with CJIS/NCIC access entities. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$32.69/hour.

Emergency Manager

Closes 4/20/26 – Under general supervision of the J&R Director, plans, prepares, and performs emergency management, homeland security, and disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery activities and projects; formulates and implements policies and procedures; ensures compliance with applicable tribal code, state, federal and other relevant guidelines and requirements. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$92,160/annually.

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.

Media Manager

Closes 4/23/26 – Under the general supervision of the Tribal Information Services Director, incumbent is responsible for the production and editing of the Tribal newspaper, annual report, calendar, and special publications; direction of news coverage; management of the Drum's website; and supervision of staff members. Pay grade E14; Pay is \$68,004/annually.

NAGPRA Coordinator

Closes 4/23/26 – Develops and administers procedures for determining the affiliation of Native American Remains, funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony, as well as the protection of archaeological and sacred sites. Due to cultural significance, a male is needed to fill Pay grade N12; Pay is \$27.56/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.

Summer Youth Employment (Southern Ute tribal member & First descendants only)

Closes 4/20/26 – Under general supervision of the Youth Employment Program Coordinator, Youth Employment Program Aide, or Tribal Department Directors, Division Heads, or Managers, the Youth Employment Worker performs job duties as directed and participates in activities provided within the Southern Ute Education Youth Employment Program. This summer program is designed to provide employment from June to August 2025, with extensions available to make up hours missed due to illness or absence.

Umpire/Referee

Closes 4/20/26 – Maintains rules and regulations on the playing field and courts during SunUte Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/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; Pay 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.

Boys & Girls Club Summer Aide

Open Until Filled – 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.

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; Pay is \$92,160/annually.

Clinical Supervisor

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

Community Health Representative

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

Construction Services Repairman

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

Cultural Education Coordinator (Southern Ute tribal member 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 is \$105,983/year.

Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. 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; Pay is \$23.20/hour.

Early Childhood Teacher

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

Elementary Teacher

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

Field Technician

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

Gaming Investigator I

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



CALLING ALL VENDORS

Reminder to turn in your applications and register!!!

Our first market will be Wednesday, June 3rd at 11am!

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

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Gaming Investigator II

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

HVAC Technician

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

Land Surveyor

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

Lands Compliance Technician

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

Lands Technician

Open Until Filled – Provides technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provides general information to the Tribal Membership and 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.

NAGPRA Coordinator Trainee (Southern Ute tribal member 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, 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; Pay is 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 & 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.

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal member 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 member only)

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



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.

Bingo Staff (Part-time)

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

Cage Staff (On-call)

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls.

***Cage Staff (Full-time)**

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls.

***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 Dept. 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.

***Facilities Staff (Full-time)**

Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Responsible for the operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

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

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor,

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

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

Will act in the leadership and training capacity. Will direct employees and help them to complete their tasks and goals defined by the Housekeeping Manager. Training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. Office structure, budgetary administration and employee relations as assigned by the Housekeeping Manager.

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

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

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

Perform multiple tasks and duties within the restaurant and kitchen as instructed by supervisor and management. Clearing off and sanitizing tables for next group guests, disposing of trash and other waste and keeping the restaurant stocked with adequate supplies such as plates, glasses, silverware and napkins. Will help cooks, servers and dishwashers perform small tasks as needed.

***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. The department is responsible for guest and employee safety on property. 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.

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.

Facilities Engineering Manager – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/24/26 – Leading and managing the Facilities Engineering Team, independently completes projects, and provides engineering support for production operations consistent with RWPC and Growth Fund priorities. Planning, design, and construction of production facilities, ensuring compliance with applicable codes, regulations, and company standards. Oversees development planning, project scoping, budgeting, and execution for new and existing production facilities. Supports permitting activities and conducts post-appraisals of completed projects. Provides assistance to other operating basins as requested and collaborates with Operations to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient field performance.

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 interest billings for partners in Red Willow's oil and gas exploration operations. Must have a working knowledge of the joint interest process and be able to apply analytical skills to complete complex accounting assignments.

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

Closes 4/20/26 – 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.

Gas System Controller/Scheduler – Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)

Closes 5/1/26 – Monitoring gas flows, volumes and activities related to the operation of pipelines and plant facilities including treating plants, gathering pipelines, gas compressors, remote electric generators and dehydration equipment; will also coordinate scheduled volumes for delivery to interstate pipelines.

Senior Gas System Controller/Scheduler – Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)

Closes 5/1/26 – Monitoring gas flows, volumes and activities related to the operation of pipelines and plant facilities including treating plants, gathering pipelines, gas compressors, remote electric generators and dehydration equipment; will also coordinate scheduled volumes for delivery to interstate pipelines.

Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist – Department of Energy (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/24/26 – Oversees the technical aspects of the compliance program for the Department of Energy. Conduct environmental and reclamation inspections in a variety of aspects of oil and gas development; drafts permit stipulations, conditions of approval, remediation actions and other documents; ensures compliance with applicable Tribal and Federal stipulations and regulations associated with energy-related projects. Coordinates and responds to spills and provides oversight of remediation actions and works with other agencies to educate Operators concerning Federal and Tribal regulations and expectations to maintain compliance.

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.

IT End User Services Manager – Southern Ute Shared Services (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 4/24/26 – Establishing and leading the End User Services function, a unified organization focused on delivering a reliable, secure, and user-centric technology experience across the enterprise. Owns the strategy, operations, and continuous improvement of end-user computing and frontline IT services, ensuring that technology enables productivity, consistency, and confidence for employees. The End User Services Manager builds and leads a modern support organization centered on outcomes, experience, and operational maturity, while partnering closely with IT Security, Infrastructure, IT Applications, and business stakeholders.

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

- **Ignacio Youth Services:** Program Coordinator (Full-time) \$17.29/hr., DOE
- **Road Runner Transit:** Operations Manager (Full-time) \$52,645-\$63,211
- **Ignacio Senior Center:** Assistant Cook (Full-time) \$15.16/hr.
- **Multisystemic Therapy (Community Based Therapist):** MST Therapist (Full-time) \$52,645 – \$57,678

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

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

- District Mechanic
- CTE Welding Teacher 26/27
- CTE Business Teacher 26/27
- High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director 26/27
- Special Education Teacher 26/27
- Secondary Spanish Teacher 26/27

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**

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY Town of Ignacio Planning Committee

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.



WE'RE HIRING

JOIN THE BERG GROUP

OPEN POSITIONS

1. Construction Project Engineer Intern - Nashville, TN; Canton, MA or New Carlisle, IN
2. Project Manager - Huntsville, AL
3. Senior Project Manager - Indianapolis, IN

Opportunities with The Berg Group, a Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund portfolio company, are independently hired. Please contact The Berg Group directly regarding all opportunities listed.

Chaska, MN (HQ): (952) 448-3130

info@berggroup.us

www.BERGGROUP.US/CAREERS/

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/>



LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LPEA exits supplier and enters regional energy market

STAFF REPORT
LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) recently announced it has successfully completed its energy supply transition, formally departing Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) and joining the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), effective April 1, 2026. With this transition, LPEA expects to achieve an additional 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, while delivering lower wholesale power costs, greater reliability, and increased local control for its members.

"This is a defining moment for our cooperative," said Chris Hansen, CEO of LPEA. "We've built a power supply portfolio that is more flexible, more local, more resilient, and more affordable while staying grounded in our mission to serve our members."

A Board-Led Decision Delivering Results

The transition follows a multi-year effort led by LPEA's Board of Directors to secure a more sustainable and cost-effective energy future.

"This is exactly why we made the decision to leave," said Board President Nicole Pitcher. "I was proud to be part of that Board vote, and we're already seeing it pay off for our members with



lower costs, stable rates, and a cleaner, locally controlled power supply."

Lower Costs and Rate Stability for Members

Through its new power supply strategy and participation in SPP's competitive wholesale market, LPEA expects to realize more than a 10% reduction in wholesale power costs. These savings allow LPEA to hold base rates stable for 2026, even as broader power supply costs across the region have increased.

"Affordability is a long-term commitment," Hansen said. "This transition gives us the tools to manage costs responsibly while continuing to improve service." Members can expect continued investment in local energy resources, expanded programs to manage energy use and costs, and a system designed to adapt to the region's evolving needs.

"We are building the future grid for Southwest Colorado," Hansen said. "And we're doing it in a way that puts our members first."

This transition marks a new chapter for LPEA; one focused on local control, innovation, and long-term value.

Continue the Conversation: CommunityPowerX on April 23

To help members better understand what this transition means for reliability, costs, and the future of the grid, LPEA will host CommunityPowerX: The Regional Energy Future Forum on Thursday, April 23, at the Durango Arts Center.

The public event will bring together regional energy leaders to discuss the future of the grid, how new energy resources work together, and what members can expect in the years ahead.

"This transition is just the beginning," Hansen said. "CommunityPowerX is an opportunity for members to ask questions, hear directly from experts, and be part of the conversation about our energy future."

Members are encouraged to attend. Additional details and registration information are available at LPEA.coop.

The Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department and the Sky Ute Fairgrounds present

Kava 101

The Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department and the Sky Ute Fairgrounds are teaming up with The Stable Life to provide Tribal Members, Descendants, and the local community with beginner and intermediate equine lessons.

- Each session will include (3) three 90-minute classes
- Participants can choose from three different session times
- Each class will be limited to 6 participants
- Snacks will be provided
- Beginner sessions will be held at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds
- Intermediate sessions will be held at The Stable Life facility

May Beginner Session Dates: 05/01 05/08 05/15 Class times: 9:00am-10:30am 10:45am-12:15pm 12:30pm-2:00pm	June Intermediate Session Dates: 06/03 06/10 06/17 Class times: 9:00am-10:30am 10:45am-12:15pm 12:30pm-2:00pm
June Beginner Session Dates: 06/05 06/12 06/19 Class times: 9:00am-10:30am 10:45am-12:15pm 12:30pm-2:00pm	July Intermediate Session Dates: 07/07 07/14 07/21 Class times: 9:00am-10:30am 10:45am-12:15pm 12:30pm-2:00pm

For more information, please contact Eugene Bereza at 970-563-2307 or scan QR code to register

E.L.K.S.

JUNE AGES 9TH-11TH 8-11

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP & KNOWLEDGE SEMINAR

HANDS-ON SCIENCE ACTIVITIES TO GROW ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS!

- Air and Water Quality hands on lessons and demonstrations.
- Outdoor games, relays, and hikes.
- Mini field trips and so much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Lucas Kline at Lkline@southernute-nsn.gov or 970-563-2256

or REGISTER TODAY AT:
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/elks/>

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			

- | | |
|--|---|
| Across | Down |
| 1 1935 Wagner Act employee rights creation | 1 Tiny drinks |
| 5 Congo dweller | 2 Tony Dalton character in "Better Call Saul" |
| 10 Agency set up following Ike's "Atoms for Peace" speech | 3 Brings back to life |
| 11 Walking buoyantly | 4 Keweenaw --- Chippewa Indian Community |
| 12 Proceed step by step depending on how things go | 5 Suite spot |
| 15 Leftist political label: Abbr. | 6 One-woman band from Denver |
| 16 Invisible line on the landscape, some say | 7 Be profitable |
| 17 Essential part of a gimlet | 8 Pitamakan had it |
| 18 Charge down the highway | 9 Thought to be the oldest continuously occupied settlement in the US |
| 20 "Ali --- and the 40 Thieves" | 13 Ailments |
| 21 Submissions | 14 Genetic code carrier |
| 22 SF transit system | 19 Keats' "---- to a Nightingale" |
| 23 Dance to jazz | 20 Sponge |
| 24 Petting zoo favorite | 21 Ground zero atoll |
| 25 Sometimes called | 22 Red planet |
| 26 Stock's face value | 23 Shoot the breeze |
| 27 Caustic alkali | 24 John Candy SCTV character Johnny --- |
| 30 John James ---, Ojibwe member killed fighting for Ukraine | 26 Home to Machu Picchu |
| 33 Prime Minister called "Pandit" | 28 Time long ago |
| 34 Arrange logically | 29 Tolkien's talking trees |
| 35 Magazine edition | 31 CDC and FDA overseer |
| 36 15th of March, May, July or October | 32 Letters on a radial |

Answers will appear in the May 1 issue of the Drum.

Answers for April 3, 2026 crossword puzzle.
Across: 1 Tribe, 6 Oprah, 11 Beard, 12 Bravo, 13 Ammon, 14 Towed, 15 Wabash, 17 Sign, 20 Lipids, 23 Freshened up, 25 Canvas, 26 Cepa, 27 Tilt at, 29 Paolo, 31 Locke, 35 Stole, 36 Brier, 37 Apses, 38 Osage.
Down: 1 TBA, 2 Rem, 3 I am, 4 Brownsville, 5 Edna, 6 Obtain, 7 Prospectors, 8 Rawhide, 9 Ave, 10 Hod, 16 Blest, 17 SFC, 18 Ira, 19 Gentoos, 21 Dup, 22 Spa, 24 Haloes, 28 Albo, 29 PSA, 30 ATP, 32 CIA, 33 Keg, 34 Ere.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, April 17



Partly sunny 54°F
Afternoon wind gusts

Saturday, April 18



Sunny 58°F
Morning wind gusts

Sunday, April 19



Sunny 68°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

