



**MMIR Walk brings awareness**  
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**Car shows revs up Casino**  
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**May 15, 2026**

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

## Utes gather for Spring Blessing



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Musa-Pitache is watching! The Ute Tribe hosted their annual Spring Bear Dance Celebration May 8-11, in Fort Duchesne, UT. Catman Bart Powaukee observes dancers partaking in the last day of Bear Dance. The weekend long event honored all mothers, past, present, and future for Mother's Day along with all veterans. A handgame tournament took place in conjunction with the Spring event.

See more Bear Dance photo coverage on page 14.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Baker and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum make history as they sign the agreement in Washington D.C. at the Department of Interior headquarters.

### TRIBAL ENERGY

## Tribe celebrates historic signing of TERA

*Tribal Energy Resource Agreement*

*Summer Begay, Communication Specialist* an historic milestone by becoming the first Tribe to sign a Tribal Energy Resource Agreement (TERA)

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) has reached

Tribe page 7



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

With mother Ava Trujillo watching at her left, Ignacio senior Larissa Espinosa commits Wednesday morning, May 6, inside IHS Gymnasium to continue her student-athlete days wrestling for Trinidad (Colo.) State College. Observing at rear, from left, are: IHS Boys' Wrestling assistant coach Ryan Boyce, IHS Girls' Wrestling assistant coach Brad Egger, IHS Boys' Wrestling head coach Jordan Larsen, IHS Girls' Wrestling head coach 'Mich' Napier.

### BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING

## 'Hopefully the first of many'

*Espinosa will be IHS' first girl grappling collegiately*

**By Joel Priest** Especially on a wrestling mat – something she initially stepped onto more or less do it with her, so I was just trying it out," Espinosa recalled Wednesday morning, as a favor. "My friend told me to

Larissa Espinosa never set out to make history.

Hopefully page 17

### SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION

## Local Native youth broaden their government knowledge



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member and JOM students from Ignacio, traveled to Washington, D.C., for the Close Up: Native American and Alaska Native Youth Summit. From Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1, students in this unique civic program learned how to create proposal solutions to Native issues, voice their priorities, and create long lasting partnerships with other students across multiple Tribal communities. Phillip Velasquez, Samantha Elk, Lillian Valdez, Leandra Litz, Zuriyah Baker, and Tim Paiz gather in front of the U.S. Capitol Building where they were slated to make proposal presentations later in the week.

**By Divine Windy Boy** tend the Close Up: Native American and Alaska Native Youth Summit in Washington, D.C. the week of Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1. During the

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM  
 The Southern Ute Education Department brought local Native youth to at-

week, students in this civic program learned how to propose solutions to Native issues, voice their priorities, and create long lasting partnerships with other students across multiple Tribal communities. Phillip Velasquez, Samantha Elk, Lillian Valdez, Leandra Litz, Zuriyah Baker, and Tim Paiz gather in front of the U.S. Capitol Building where they were slated to make proposal presentations later in the week.

Native youth page 6

## Buckskin Charlie Apts. to open



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

On May 1, 2026, Tribal Council Member, Marjorie Barry joined tribal membership, Vice Chairman Pinnecoose and colleagues Gallegos and Pinnecoose for the tribal member only Buckskin Charlie Apartment Complex grand opening and ribbon cutting. The complex is slated to house tribal members, tribal staff, and those seeking housing in the local community. This collaborative venture was carried out through Southern Ute Growth Fund Properties, LLC, Southern Ute Economic Development, and Southern Ute Construction and Property Management.

## In honor of Law Enforcement



Divine Windy Boyr/SU Drum

Southern Ute Detention Center officers and other branches line the pathway to the Casias Newton Justice Center ahead of formal inspection. Law Enforcement Memorial Day was held on Tuesday, May 12, the formal ceremony highlights individuals who have dedicated their lives to serve and protect in law enforcement past and present.

See more Law Enforcement Day photo coverage on page 13.

SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Chairman Baker announces leadership transition

*Appoints Pinnecoose Acting Chairman*

By Summer Begay,  
Communication Specialist  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

After much thought and consideration, Chairman Melvin J. Baker has announced his resignation due to personal reasons, effective Friday, May 15, 2026, at 12 p.m.

“It has been an honor to serve our people,” said Chairman Baker. “I am grateful for the trust and support of the Tribal Membership through-



**Melvin J. Baker**  
Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe



**Marvin Pinnecoose**  
Vice Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

*Chairman page 10*

### TRIBE SIGNS HISTORIC TERA • FROM PAGE 1



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Baker, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, and Tribal Council join Growth Fund leadership and Tribal Members At-Large Izabella Cloud and Tasha Rodriguez for a photo of the signed agreements.

with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Chairman Melvin J. Baker, Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose, Council Members Andrew Gallegos and Marty Pinnecoose, legal representatives including Tom Shipps and David C. Smith, Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Ute Agency Superintendent, and members of the Growth Fund leadership joined Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Billy Kirkland III this afternoon in Washington D.C., for a signing ceremony at the Department of Interior headquarters. The agreement marks a significant advancement in Tribal self-determination and formally recognizes the Tribe’s longstanding expertise in managing its own energy and mineral resources.

Under the agreement, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, through its Department of Energy (DOE), may exercise its sovereign authority to approve energy- and mineral-related leases, agreements, and rights-of-way on Tribal trust lands. Such approvals were historically administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as an extension of federal trust responsibility. The agreement applies to energy and mineral resources located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation held in trust by the United States for the Tribe.

“This agreement reflects decades of strategic institution-building, responsible energy development, and environmental stewardship,” said Melvin J. Baker, Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. “TERA formalizes what the Tribe has proven for generations – that we have the expertise and the governance systems to manage our resources responsibly while advancing the well-being of our Tribal Members and safeguarding our land, water, and culture.”

The Tribe has a long-established history in energy development and environmental management and is

widely recognized as a leader across Indian Country. Mineral leasing on the Reservation dates to 1949, and in 1980 the Tribe established its Energy Resource Division – now the Department of Energy (DOE), which currently operates under the Growth Fund. Since then, the Tribe has overseen severance tax collection, royalty auditing in coordination with the U.S. Department of the Interior, environmental review, and compliance across thousands of energy-related facilities.

“The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has spent decades building the expertise and governance systems necessary to responsibly manage its own energy resources, and this agreement formally recognizes that leadership,” said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. “Under the current Administration’s commitment to American energy strength, the Department is proud to partner with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe as the first Tribe in the nation to sign a Tribal Energy Resource Agreement, setting a strong example for Indian Country and the future of American energy development.”

“Process certainty is essential,” said Kourtney Hadrick, Operating Director for the Southern Ute Growth Fund. “We appreciate the Department of Interior’s clarity on inherent federal functions and the TERA process. A clear, transparent, and predictable framework is critical for Tribes evaluating whether a TERA is feasible, particularly given the significant investment of staff time and resources required. A TERA places decisions with Tribes, allowing them to act in the best interests of their people without being subject to shifting federal priorities.”

As part of its readiness for TERA, the Tribe has adopted and implemented strong governance frameworks, including a Tribal Leasing Code and Tribal Environmental Review Policy Code. These policies ensure that proposed projects undergo

thorough environmental and cultural review, incorporates Tribal Member input, and reflects the Tribe’s priorities before approval.

The Tribe’s Department of Energy plays a critical role in upholding these standards by conducting inspections, compliance verification, revenue auditing, and enforcement to ensure that development on the Reservation is responsible, transparent, and consistent with Tribal Code. Since 2017, the Department has conducted approximately 3,000 inspections reinforcing environmental protection and operational integrity.

“This milestone goes far beyond a single agreement,” said Shane Seibel, Executive Director of the Southern Ute Growth Fund. “It shows that when Tribes invest in expertise and are given clear, predictable authority, they can successfully govern complex energy development. We hope this sets a meaningful precedent and expands opportunities for other Tribes to pursue energy sovereignty in ways that align with their own priorities.”

The signing of the TERA marks a nationally significant milestone, affirming the capability and authority of Tribes to lead their own energy development and shape their economic and environmental futures. By removing layers of federal oversight and placing decision-making directly in Tribal hands, this agreement strengthens self-determination, protects land and culture, and ensures development benefits Tribal Members. It also honors the vision of Chairman Leonard C. Burch, whose leadership challenged the status quo and proved the Tribe could chart its own path. Above all, this achievement stands as a model for Indian Country, demonstrating that with strong institutions, sound policies, and long-term vision, Tribal governments can successfully assert greater control over energy development while safeguarding what matters most to their people.



Trennie Collins/SU Drum archive

### 10 years ago

With dad’s (Mikko) help, Meskvlwv Wesley navigates a curve at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy’s (SUIMA) Bike Rodeo Wednesday, May 4 in the south Sky Ute Casino Resort parking lot.

This photo was published in the May 13, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Joel Priest/SU Drum archive

### 30 years ago

Ignacio’s Abel Velasquez puts everything he’s got into this discus throw at the Southwest Colorado Multi-League Track meet held at Bayfield.

This photo was published in the May 12, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Monica Lujan/SU Drum archive

### 20 years ago

Smiling seniors are (l to r) Beth Santistevan, Francis Bison, April Rivas, Mary Monte, Krista Red, Lisa Weaver

This photo was published in the May 10, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

### 40 years ago

1986 Headstart class – file out after the Headstart closing ceremonies held on May 9.

This photo was published in the May 16, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



### Intro to Bear Dance



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

On Friday, May 8, The Southern Ute Montessori Academy (SUIMA) students demonstrated how the Bear Dance participants form lines of the men across from the woman who picked them to dance during the Bear Dance Workshop.



Edward Box III hosted the Bear Dance Workshop at the Sky Ute Casino Event Center. Box explained to the attendees the customs of the Bear Dance and the importance of the woman's dance.



Southern Ute Tribal member, Russell Box Sr. spoke to the Bear Dance Workshop attendees about the story of how the Bear Dance was gifted by the bear to the Ute people.

### Kava 101 returns



Photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

On Friday, May 8, Kava 101 made its return to the Sky Ute Fairgrounds. Hosted by the Cultural Preservation Department and Sky Ute Fairgrounds, the courses will offer safety and basic horse care techniques including; how to halter, lead, and groom. Southern Ute tribal member, Ivan Joseph, practices grooming during the session.



Southern Ute tribal member, Leandra Litz takes time to groom "Thor", a horse she trained with during last year's Kava 101 sessions. Summer beginner sessions will begin on Friday, June 5 at the Sky Ute Fairgrounds.



Southern Ute tribal member Leandro Litz Jr., also known as "Junior", stands with his assigned horse during the Friday, May 8 session of the Kava 101 courses. The equine training will roll into the Summer – available for Southern Ute tribal members, first descendants, and local community members; interested participants can contact Events/Heritage Coordinator, Eugene Bereza at 970-563-2307.

### Video: Ute Day at the Capitol



Ute Nations Day is an event held at the Colorado State Capitol each year celebrating the state's longest continuous residents, the Nuche, the Ute people. Members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and their sister tribes gathered on Friday, March 20, in the Denver Capitol building to celebrate the rich heritage and culture of the Ute people, and their contributions to the State of Colorado during the annual recognition. Link: <https://vimeo.com/1182082611> – Filmed & Edited by Conrad Thompson of The Southern Ute Drum.

**UTE & COMANCHE**  
Youth Camp

**SIGN UP NOW**



**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**  
**PIKE-SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST**  
**AGES 14-17**

OPEN TO ENROLLED SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBERS AND SOUTHERN UTE FIRST DESCENDANTS

TO REGISTER & FOR FURTHER INFORMATION EMAIL:  
**SUTHPO@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV**



**KSUT 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**ROUND DANCE CELEBRATION**

**KSUT**  
TRIBAL RADIO

**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](mailto:sheila@ksut.org)

**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT EVENT CENTER**  
DESIGN: ROBERT L. ORTIZ/SU DRUM  
14324 CO-172, IGNACIO, CO, 81137  
PHOTO: DIVINE WINDY BOY/SU DRUM



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### BEE Heard: Indigenizing Self-Care

By LeAnn Wesley  
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

We as Ute people are coming upon our New Year, a time for Celebration and Renewal. In preparing for our Annual Bear Dances, Grandmas, Aunties, Sisters, and Community Members are busy sewing away on machines. The beautiful colors of fabrics, ribbons, beadwork and shawls are all being made to honor the renewal that comes with Tamaritu Spring.

During the time of renewal is to create New Beautiful and Colorful to honor Mother Earth and all living beings, our Families those here and those who have passed on and for ourselves. Most importantly to leave negativity in the past, understand it, but move forward into the future unbound.

Self-care means taking care of our whole self – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. It is the foundation on which we build our care and love for one another. Without a strong foundation where we learn to identify our needs and honor them, we may feel drained and find it hard to show compassion for others.

Practicing self-care and self-compassion can help develop mental resilience, which can have a big impact on our quality of life, relationships with each other, and how much energy we have to give.

Self-care is a fluid concept, meaning that it looks different from person to person. Some people might see self-care as eating good food while with friends and family, watching Netflix, taking a bubble bath, lighting a scented candle, or going out for a jog. But did you know when we incorporate our culture, it is considered self-care?

In the process of North American colonization, many Indigenous people were banned from practicing traditional forms of self-care. Today, the traditional knowing

and world views that were once undermined by colonizers are being recognized as very valuable as more researchers find that indigenous self-care leads to better health.

For indigenous communities and our non-Native allies, engaging in certain traditional practices can have deeply healing effects.

**Spiritual Well-Being:** Having a connection between Creator and being more meaningful to yourself is very helpful in times of hardship and stress.

**Plant Medicine:** The act of harvesting, graining, and creating traditional medicines made from plants is a great way to get the body moving and to spend some time outdoors. Different berries, flowers, trees, and other plants have a variety of soothing properties. Other plants, like sage, are harvested to help heal or cleanse the mind, emotions, body or spirit.

**Blessed Water:** Water is an important and sacred element in many Native communities. Combining the important significance of water with personal religious views to create sanctified, or sacred, water may significantly help to ease any emotional or spiritual worries.

**Traditional Dance:** Traditional dance gatherings are typically held for celebration, but that doesn't mean practicing is off the table. Practicing traditional dance is a great way to get the body moving while learning the moves, stories and language of the community.

**Honoring the Past:** Understanding the way that indigenous elders and ancestors lived can lead to deeper understanding of the self. In many Native communities, newly born babies are given the names of people who recently passed away to signify that these people are "born again". Understanding the

way our community's ancestors lived may also help us to honor the past.

**Inspired Action:** Is a proactive joyful movement toward a goal stemming from passion rather than fear, force or obligation. It is where actions feel natural, exciting and spontaneous.

**Ancestral Eating:** Is a growing movement across Native country as well as other parts of the world. It could be recognized as Tribal Food Sovereignty. In short, ancestral eating means wholesome, natural, organic indigenous foods found through hunting, gathering, agriculture, meats and plants- just like what our ancestors did thousands of years ago.

Our Spiritual Selves is important to being healthy Ute People. Seek Strength, Remain Sacred, YOU are a POWERFUL Spirit.

#IWillLive  
#WeNeedYouHere

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

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

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

## HEALTHY RECIPES

### Pasta Primavera with asparagus and peas

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

Primavera means Spring! Bring bright seasonal vegetables to your table! Asparagus is plentiful this time of year. It provides nutrients such as fiber, Vitamin K, and folate to name a few.

When the vegetables turn bright green, you know you will have preserved flavor, texture, and nutrition. Using whole wheat or other whole grain pasta brings additional fiber, vitamins, and minerals. Enjoy!



courtesy Two Peas and their Pod

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

#### Pasta Primavera with Asparagus and Peas

##### Ingredients

- 12 oz whole wheat penne pasta (3/4 of a 16oz box)
- 2 tablespoons butter or olive oil
- 1/2 lb. asparagus spears, cut in 1" pieces
- 1 small head of broccoli, cut into small bite-sized pieces
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 cup Greek yogurt
- Zest of one lemon and 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated (a few tablespoons reserved for the top)

##### Directions

1. Cook pasta according to "al dente" directions, about 9 minutes. Reserve 1/2 cup pasta water before draining.
2. Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons of butter in a large skillet.
3. Add cut asparagus and broccoli and

cook for about 4 minutes, stirring often.

4. Add frozen peas and garlic, cook for an additional 2-3 minutes. When finished, the asparagus, broccoli and peas should be bright green! Add 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper.

5. Add lemon zest and lemon juice, stir.
6. Turn off heat and cover.

7. Drain pasta (reserving 1/2 cup of pasta water) and add to vegetables, stir to combine.

8. Add Greek yogurt and shredded parmesan, stir to coat. \*Add reserved pasta water, 2 tablespoons at a time, if needed for desired consistency.

9. Top each serving with remaining parmesan.

\*Pasta water helps spread and improve consistency and allows sauce to cling to the pasta and vegetables.

Serving size: 4 Nutrition per serving: 480 Calories, 24g Protein, 73g Carbs, 13g Fiber, 10g Fat



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



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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFMay2026>

**Sign-up Deadline:** Tuesday May 26, 2026  
**Pickup Date:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026



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

Contact:  
Lisa Smith 970-563-2344

\*If you need to schedule a different pickup time/date, please reach out to Lisa\*

## SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS 4th Annual "Recovery is Possible" RECOVERY RETREAT

**MAY 16, 2026**  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

### FREE EVENT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THIS IS A SOBER EVENT!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Marvina Olguin**

[marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto: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!

Stigma grows in silence.  
Healing begins in the community.



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Health Awareness Month is here.

No matter who you are or what you're facing, "You Matter."

This May, take a moment to check in with yourself and with others. Start the conversation. Share Support. Help reduce Stigma.

Need support or resources? Reach out to us at 970-563-5700.

Southern Ute Behavioral Health  
401 CR 222  
Durango, CO 81303





## Silva, Whiteskunk FLC grads!



photos courtesy Michael Kirsch/SU Education Dept.

Fort Lewis College held its graduation ceremony on the Skyhawk's Ray Dennison Memorial Field, Saturday, May 2, in Durango, Colo., for degree and certificate recipients, including a cap-and-gown ceremony and a post-event reception for families and friends. Sterlin Harjo, the award-winning filmmaker and creator of 'Reservation Dogs' delivered the keynote address.



Fort Lewis College graduate Gibran Silva, a Southern Ute tribal member, received her bachelor's degree in accounting/computer information systems.



Fort Lewis College graduate Katie Whiteskunk a Southern Ute tribal member, received her bachelor's degree in business administration.

## SUIMA

# Pawaaghani po'ekwatu – Eagle's Nest

*Liquid chalk paint, a quick washable alternative!*

By Mallory Pilcher Gillian, Occupational Therapist and Cherayah Sutton, Speech Therapist  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY

As the end of the school year comes closer, here is an idea to try with your children. Along the way, you might even have some fun!

Making chalk and painting with brushes or spray bottles are enjoyable, hands-on activities that promote learning and growth for preschool and school-aged kids. Stirring ingredients, squeezing bottles, and using paintbrushes help strengthen hands and develop coordination essential for everyday tasks like writing, eating, and dressing. This vibrant, creative activity also offers beneficial sensory experiences, such as varied textures, movement, and resistance, that help enhance focus and attention and calm the body.

Activities that involve the creation and use of some-

thing fun are excellent language-building opportunities. This activity provides the opportunity to learn and use names of kitchen tools and ingredients (whisk, muffin tin, corn starch, food coloring, etc.), verbs (measure, pour, whisk, add, mix, paint, squeeze, etc.), and descriptors (white, red, soft, slow, fast, thick, etc.) These words can be put together in different ways to make different types of sentences. Not only can grammatically correct sentences be modeled

for children to hear, but they can practice doing it themselves. Additionally, following a recipe, like the one above, allows children to practice following directions and sequencing tasks, which are essential skills across academics and everyday routines. As children paint, they have the opportunity to describe their picture, or they can share a story related to their picture; these exercises grow children's skill in effectively expressing their thoughts.

### Liquid Chalk Paint (Cornstarch)

A quick, washable alternative often used with paintbrushes or squeeze bottles.

### Ingredients

- Equal parts cornstarch and water (e.g., 1 cup of each) and food coloring.

### Instructions

1. Whisk the cornstarch and water together until the cornstarch dissolves.
  2. Divide into a muffin tin or small cups.
  3. Add drops of food coloring to each section and stir.
- Note: The cornstarch will settle over time, so you may need to stir the paint occasionally while using it

### Mt̄atagop̄'ekwat̄avana – On our calendar

- May 18 – Field Day at SunUte park and playground
- May 19 – Little Shop of Physics at the Education Center
- May 20 – Upper elementary field trip to Capote Lake
- May 22 – End of the year Transition Ceremony at 8:15 a.m. at SunUte

## Regional Graduations/Transitions

- |                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| • Bayfield High School           | May 17 |
| • Montezuma-Cortez High School   | May 21 |
| • Durango High School            | May 22 |
| • SUIMA Transition/Bear Dance    | May 22 |
| • Ignacio High School Graduation | May 23 |
| • GOAL High School (Durango)     | May 27 |

\*Graduation dates were gathered from the school's websites.



## Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy Transition Ceremony

May 22, 2026  
8:15 AM

Sun Ute Rec. Center



Where will your wings take you?

## GRADUATING SENIORS!

*Southern Ute, First Descendants & 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 descendants 2) Johnson O'Malley (JOM)\* students who are graduating from High School in 2026.

Southern Ute tribal members and first descendants 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.



# HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

**DEGREE PROGRAMS**

- ASSOCIATE
- BACHELOR
- MASTER
- DOCTORATE

**Available to Southern Ute Tribal Members**

*Full-Time Deadline:* July 1, 2026  
*Part-Time Deadline:* 30 days prior to course start date

**FULL-TIME AWARD**

- Monthly Living Stipend
- Cost of Tuition

**PART-TIME AWARD**

- Cost of Tuition
- Books
- Applicable fees
- Mileage Reimbursement
  - Max 100 miles roundtrip

**PROFESSIONAL**

For those in pursuit of a second graduate degree. Please contact the Higher Education Department for requirements

**APPLY TODAY**

Visit the following link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/education/scholarships/>

**CONTACT**

Michael Kirsch | 970-563-2783  
mkirsch@southernute-nsn.gov



Designed by Summer Begay



## LOCAL NATIVE YOUTH BROADEN GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE • FROM PAGE 1

ties, and build partnerships across Tribal communities. In attendance from Ignacio; Zuriah Baker, Samantha Elk, Leandra Litz, Tim Paiz, Lillian Valdez, and Phillip Velasquez.

Throughout the week, the group toured the National Mall visiting multiple monuments and Smithsonian museums; joined by students from other tribal nations, they examined the historical relationship between tribes and the U.S. government, engaged in workshops to discuss shared assets and challenges, investigated current policy issues impacting Indian Country, and created legislative proposals to Tribal Leaders, policy experts, and decision-makers who frequent Capitol Hill.

Students also learned to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to become engaged citizens within their Tribal nations and communities. As they explored Washington, D.C., students examined the long history and impact of Indigenous action in the nation's capital. The group also had the opportunity to share their Ute culture, as well as their other nations, during the trip – creating multiple friendships and connections with their peers from visiting tribal nations.

Southern Ute tribal member and Ignacio High School student, Leandra Litz enjoyed creating new friendships and further expanding her government knowledge. “My favorite learning experience from visiting D.C., was having the opportunity to learn more about students from other tribes – learning about their cultures but also realizing that we come from similar backgrounds and that our communities face the same issues,” Litz said. “I have attended Close Up for the last three years, the program has expanded my knowledge of the U.S.

government drastically. The Close Up program does a great job of helping [students] understand the relationships of Tribal governments to the U.S. government, and how important it is for us to engage and be aware of how our governments work.”

Southern Ute tribal member, Bayfield High School student – and now committed Howard University student – Zuriah Baker shares her highlights from this year's Close Up and Washington, D.C., visit. “Over the years, Close Up has helped me expand my insight into the U.S. government – being able to experience policy proposal at the U.S. Capitol building, it showed me how our people have fought and continue to fight for our rights as Indigenous people,” Baker said. “I was in a group with [Samantha Elk] and another student named John Haggard from Palmer, Alaska – our proposal focused on wildlife and fishing rights; advocating for co-management policies between tribes and state/federal agencies, increase funding, push for clearer legal standards to prevent state interference with treaty rights and more. I was most grateful for the advice of the Close Up guides and attendees from our Capitol Hill Policy Proposal Expo, they helped me expand my presentation skills and gave advice on how to propose this to my Tribal Council.”

Baker continues, “I would 100% recommend my younger Native peers to attend the Close Up program, this was my third year returning and this annual trip has sparked my love for Washington, D.C.” Baker said. “With the help of Close Up and the Southern Ute Education Department, I have discovered what I would like to pursue after my high school career – I even had



Close Up trip kicks off with introductions from each visiting tribal nation; Students traveling from The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, created a presentation board sharing the government history and cultural background, highlighting the Bear Dance celebration. Pictured left to right: Tim Paiz, Phillip Velasquez, Zuriah Baker, Samantha Elk, Lillian Valdez, and Leandra Litz.

the opportunity to work in the Senate Page Program – Close Up has expanded my knowledge, opportunities and love for the city. I have since committed to Howard University in Washington, D.C. for the Fall of 2026.”

The Close Up Foundation was founded in 1971 as a comprehensive, nonprofit civic education organization with the goal of helping young people understand, experience, and take part in their government. Their mission to mold informed, inspired citizens remains essential – through experiential programs in our nation's capital, professional development for educators, curriculum and resource design, Close Up has served more than one million students nationwide.

Local Native students and other students throughout Indian Country came together to make long lasting



Samantha Elk and Zuriah Baker take a moment from their monument study to show off their cherry blossom themed headbands from Washington, D.C. – the city's cherry blossoms have more than a century of history, the blossoming trees continue to serve as a symbol of spring in the nation's capital.

connections with the people and places that represent our democracy, Close-Up's once in a lifetime program opportunities are designed

to inspire and empower students to become active participants and voices in the democratic process. With the help of program instructors and the Southern Ute Education Department, these students had opportunity to gain a hands-on ex-

perience with history and government, consider a variety of viewpoints on current Native issues, and build the skills of an engaged citizen who wants to make a change, advocating for people throughout Indian Country.

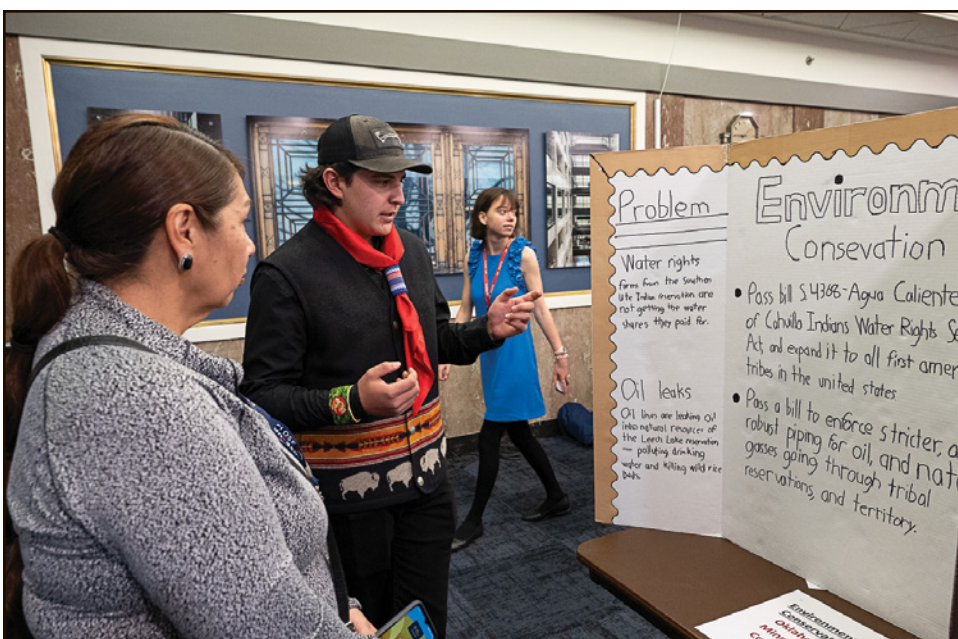
**Photos by Divine Windy Boy**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Tim Paiz and his working group created a proposal focused on substance abuse, the Capitol Hill Policy Proposal Expo took place on Thursday morning.



During the introduction night on Monday, Leandra Litz participated in an ice-breaker activity taking time to express gratitude to the other student groups for their willingness to share their cultural backgrounds.



Phillip Velasquez presents his groups Environmental Conservation proposal to attendees on Thursday morning.



Lillian Valdez and Leandra Litz created a proposal on Child Abuse and Neglect for the Capitol Hill Policy Proposal Expo.



# Students add flare to Zircon



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Boys and Girls Club members assist muralist Parker Ledford in the mural painting for the Piinu Núuchi Farmers Market zircon on Friday, May 8 in the Sky Ute Casino Resort parking lot. The mural features a variety of fruits and vegetables, designed by Ledford and painted by the local youth.



Boys and Girls Club members and SUIMA students work together to paint fruit and vegetables for the Piinu Núuchi Farmers Market zircon on Friday, May 8 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



Boys and Girls club members paint pumpkins, apples, carrots, corn, and more as part of their contribution to the Piinu Núuchi Farmers Market. The zircon they are painting helps to promote the market and serves as the location marker for the annual event. BGC club members were also joined by Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students for a collaboration – promoting community, art, and small businesses.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Effective July 1, 2026, all Southern Ute Health Center (SUHC) patients will be required to present a valid insurance card at every visit. Please ensure you bring your current insurance card to each appointment. This helps us serve you better and process your claims effectively. Thank you for your cooperation.

### IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

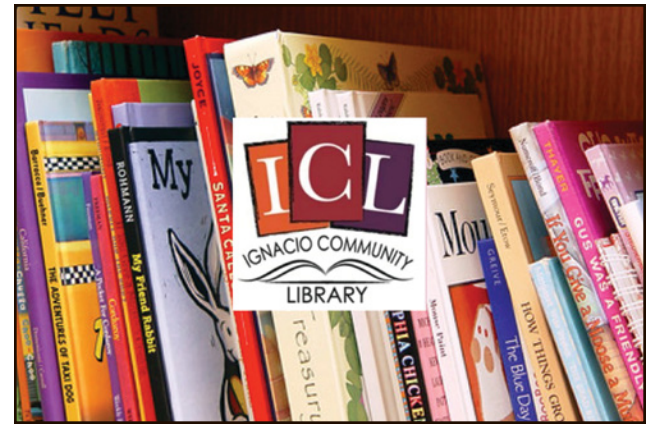
# Ignacio school students visit the library for Earth Day

By Ron Schemacher  
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Wednesday, April 22, was one of the busiest days ever at the Ignacio Community Library for our annual Earth Day celebration. With the help from Ignacio High School science students, the local Sierra Club and community volunteers. Elementary and Middle School students participated in a variety of thoughtful demonstrations, while gathering stamps and stickers used to claim an award for engaging in the lessons being taught. They also had a great time painting rocks, making buttons and pin wheels to revere the beauty and natural resources the Earth provides us all.

Successful events like this are a community effort and the library had much help from local teachers and businesses. It's not easy coordinating and safely transporting classes of young children to visit events like this and we want to recognize the effort and thank all the teachers involved. Several businesses were very generous in donating gift cards. Cuevas, Farmer's Fresh and Rise & Shine are all exemplary examples of community minded shops who not only create tasty treats but also help make this town a fun place to live.

The IdeaLab Makers demonstrated their new and improved Pumped Storage Hydroover Model. This model demonstrates how so-



lar power energy production can be stored and then released when needed even long after the sun has gone down. The student Makers not only learned the theory behind renewable energy production, but also a number of practical engineering and construction skills. Other High School student demonstrations included water filtration, wind power production, and electronic circuits.

The future is sure to bring many challenges but events like this provide our community with information to meet these trials and overcome and even thrive as we turn problems into opportunities.

Increases in oil and gas cost along with political instability give renewable energy sources advantages that will increase and create a need for even more renewable energy projects. With this in mind ICL is already planning for next year's Earth Day celebration which will include a Maker Faire.

Maker Faire is a "show and

tell" event celebrating DIY creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning across STEM, art, and technology.

The first Maker Faire was held in San Francisco 20 years ago on Earth Day. This year was their 20th year of holding what has become one of the largest Maker Faires in the world. By incorporating a Maker Faire into our Earth Day celebration ICL will be able to put more of a focus on possible solutions to the challenges of environmental stewardship. Next year we hope to expand our reach and include the entire 4-corners region. Look forward to more information on this exciting event and contact ICL if you are interested in participating.

The Library is a center for bringing people and ideas together for learning and personal growth. As we continue to focus on this mission, library staff will strive to bring valuable real-world information and opportunities through valuable and realistic programs.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Bear Dance & Traditional Sewing



**Session One:**  
Tuesday - Thursday May 12-14, 2026  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Session Two:**  
Monday - Thursday May 18 - 21, 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? Maybe you need help to get it done.  
Call Elise at 970-563-2641.

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



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](mailto:dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov)  
970-563-2786




## Positive Indian Parenting

### May 2026

Two Sessions / week - 12:00 pm - 2:00

May 5, 2026	May 6, 2026
May 12, 2026	May 14, 2026
May 19, 2026	May 21, 2026
May 26, 2026	May 28, 2026

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

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

This class is VIRTUAL  
Please call Social Service to register.  
Each participant needs the following to attend:

- > A working email
- > A solid internet connection
- > A smart phone, tablet or laptop with a mic
- > Download the Microsoft Teams App



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





INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

# ERO Resources Corporation Cultural Resource Internship

## Bayou Gulch Site Stewardship Project

**Staff report**

ERO RESOURCES CORPORATION

ERO Resources Corporation (ERO) invites applications for a four-week paid internship during the 2026 summer archaeological excavation phase of the Bayou Gulch Site Stewardship Project (project). The project will take place at the Bayou Gulch site (5DA265), a National Register of Historic Places-designated Indigenous archaeological site located near Parker (a suburb of Denver), Colo. Local lodging (single occupancy hotel rooms) and per diem will be provided, if necessary.

The hourly wage range is \$22 to \$28, commensurate with experience.

We encourage applicants from all backgrounds – whether you bring traditional knowledge, personal interest, research skills, technical training, or creativity. You may be new to archaeology, or you may already have experience. What matters most is your interest in learning, contributing, and sharing your perspectives on this project.

**Project Overview:** Bayou Gulch is a defining site in Colorado and west Central Plains Indigenous history. The site was excavated in the 1970s, yielding more than 100,000 artifacts associated with Early Archaic through Late Ceramic contexts. The original excavation records, however, are poor, and assigning stratigraphic association is currently infeasible. Furthermore, erosion threatens intact cultural deposits and requires stabilization. The project aims to meet the following goals:

**Site stabilization:** Apply noninvasive erosion-control measures to slow the erosion of sensitive areas.

**Excavation:** Excavate 12 to 15 one-meter by one-meter excavation units. These units will hopefully allow us in the future to reinterpret all the work done in the 1970s.

**Indigenous internships:** The project includes four-week paid internships (hourly wage, per diem, lodging, and travel expenses) for up to three tribal members. The internships are fieldwork-focused and provide an opportunity for the interns to learn, hone, or contribute excavation techniques as well as help interpret the site and incorporate the voices of the tribal members into the site record. During the reporting phase, we look to continue those internships so that the interns can help prepare the site documentation.

**Tribal site visits:** Funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers or other designated tribal members to visit the site and the past collections housed at the Douglas County History Repository.

In addition to protecting the Bayou Gulch site and preserving its research potential for future generations, the project aims to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into the site record for the first time. An overview of an eroding cutbank at the site, where artifacts (marked by flags) are eroding from subsurface deposits.

**Position Overview:** Through this internship, participants will join a team of archaeologists in the field to gain hands-on experi-

ence in archaeological fieldwork, mentorship from professional archaeologists, and the opportunity to determine how their own knowledge and perspectives contribute to and shape the project. Interns will build skills in their desired areas of interest while connecting archaeological practice with community stewardship. Interns, bringing their knowledge and lived experiences, will help ensure that the excavation is conducted in a way that honors diverse voices and strengthens collaboration among tribes, archaeologists, and the public.

The work is field-focused, but the ways you can contribute are flexible. Possibilities include:

- Participating in excavation, screening, notetaking, and mapping.
  - Surveying nearby landforms.
  - Analyzing the landscape, plants, ecosystems, or the wider cultural landscape.
  - Researching assemblages from past excavations (such as ceramics and stone tools).
  - Videography or photography to document the project.
  - Conducting ethnographic research or interviews.
  - Or other possibilities.
- ERO welcomes your ideas – we want to hear how you think your unique interests and skills can best contribute to the project.

As a final component of this internship, participants will be requested to contribute to a public outreach event connected to the project. This event is designed to connect archaeologists, descendant communities, volunteers, and local community members in the goals of cultural heritage preservation. It will be an opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives about the project, site, and archaeology in general, and have these insights made part of this site's history.

**Schedule:** The excavation will take place between May 26 and June 12. Approximately twelve 10-hour days of fieldwork are anticipated. Fieldwork will be followed by a week in the laboratory where interns will help with cataloging and writing site interpretations and result summaries. ERO is committed to coordinating a schedule that respects important ceremonies, family obligations, and other personal or professional commitments.

**Performance Expectations and Responsibilities:** Cultural resource interns will be able to conduct tasks efficiently under the supervision of a project manager. Interns are expected to consistently communicate with their supervisor(s) regarding tasks, workload, and availability. The following list is an example of suggested or typical field duties, but other duties may arise based on project needs and individual research pursuits:

- Support the crew chief, field director, and project manager with archaeological excavation tasks, including excavation, screening, survey, and site mapping.
- Complete digital or hard copy field forms (state site forms and artifact analysis forms).
- Assist with testing, including excavating up to

five shovel tests in a single day, using hand tools and shovels, lifting 40-pound buckets, and conducting in-field sediment analysis and screening.

- Assist in documenting project activities through notes, mapping, photography, or videography.
- Maintain a daily field journal, to be published as part of the site record.
- Identify individual goals for the project and work toward their achievement.
- Conduct independent and guided research related to cultural and historical themes, Section 106, or other areas of interest.
- Share ideas on how traditional knowledge or personal expertise can inform the project.
- Contribute to a public outreach event by sharing personal experiences and perspectives about the site and archaeology with community members.
- Author or contribute to interpretation and analysis sections of the report.
- Follow safety protocols and guidelines during field activities.
- Participate in scheduled team meetings and discussions.

**Physical Requirements:**

Applicants must be physically capable and possess the skills necessary to perform all aspects of fieldwork with reasonable accommodations. Fieldwork duties include collecting digital data, completing standard resource forms, performing in-field data analysis, and taking photographs. If participating in the excavation, interns may need to lift up to 40 pounds, move buckets of dirt into screens, and dig with hand tools such as shovels or trowels. Office-based components of the project involve exposure to computer screens and require regular use of a computer, keyboard, and mouse. Repeating motions may include the wrists, hands, and fingers.

**Application Process:** If this opportunity sounds like a good fit for you, please submit the following to apply:

A cover letter including a short description (two to three paragraphs) of the skills, knowledge, or perspectives you would bring to the internship role. In addition to sharing your background, describe what you would like to accomplish during your time with us. We are particularly interested in hearing your ideas for a small project you might propose to carry out alongside the core fieldwork—something that builds on your interests while complementing the excavation.

Your resume describing your education, experience, and interests.

Applicants selected for interviews will be asked to provide three references. For more information or questions about the application process, please contact Jonathan Hedlund at [jhedlund@eroresources.com](mailto:jhedlund@eroresources.com).

ERO participates in e-verify and pre-employment background screening services. ERO is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and covered veterans to apply. For more information about ERO, visit our website at [www.eroresources.com](http://www.eroresources.com).



## MMIR Prayer Walk bring together various tribes



courtesy Keevin Reynolds

Walker makes their way east on CO Hwy 172 from Elmore's Corner to the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio. The 15-mile walk began at sunrise with water and snack stations along the route. Snacks were provided by the Division of Social Services of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and water was donated by the La Plata County Commissioners.



Walkers stop to offer prayers at the Dominic Sandoval memorial – who was struck and killed by a motorist while working along the stretch of highway in 2022.



Walkers begin the annual prayer walk at sunrise with prayers and blessings just south of Elmore's Corner at the Roadhouse Pizza Co. before walking south on Hwy 172.

**The annual MMIR Prayer Walk/Run hosted by Native Love brought various tribes together for its fifth walk to bring awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) epidemic plaguing Indian communities across the Nation. The walk brought together 50 walkers, and supporters of all ages, and the Nahui Ollin Spirit Runners from Denver. The walk is supported in part by Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), MMIR Task Force of Colorado, 4-Corners K9 Search and Rescue, Colorado Cold Case Task Force, CASTA, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The closing ceremonies was hosted by the Sky Ute Casino Resort with resources available from Sexual SASO Assault Services organization (SASO) and The Truth about 250-150 an Indigenous-led mobile exhibit.**

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum



The Nahui Ollin Spirit Runners from Denver gather with a few local runners and walkers at the Oxford Grange. The runners walked as a group before breaking off and doubling-back to the start and begin running, eventually catching up with the walkers at the grange.



The walkers take a much needed break at the last stop by the Pine River Valley Baptist Church. The walkers then made their way to the Sky ute Casino Resort for a meal and closing ceremonies. Many walkers of various Tribes came together for the walk.



Nick Diaz of the Nahui Ollin Spirit Runners blesses the staffs they carry with them during their spiritual runs.



Alyssa Begay of the 4-Corners K9 Search and Rescue places a small American flag at the Dominic Sandoval Memorial.



Francisco Brown holds a collage of Madison Miller who was murdered on the Salish Kootenai College campus in Montana.

## STRINGS MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Call for artist: Land Acknowledgment Sculpture Commission

**Staff report**  
STRINGS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Strings Music Festival invites submissions from Ute artists for the commission of an original sculpture to serve as a permanent, physical expression of the organization's land acknowledgment.

This project is supported through grant funding and represents a long-term commitment to recognizing and honoring the Indigenous peoples whose ancestral lands include the Yampa Valley.

The selected artist will be commissioned to design and create a sculpture to be installed at or near the Strings Music Pavilion, creating a visible and enduring presence that reflects history, culture, and continued connection to this place.

Strings Music Festival brings performing artists and audiences of all ages together across the Yampa Valley to foster community and inspire connection through shared experiences. The non-profit organization provides 60% of its programming to the community for free, including its Strings School Days music education program, which impacts over 3,500 students annually, as well as community concerts for families and seniors.

### Project Intent & Context

Strings Music Festival acknowledges that it operates on the ancestral lands of the Ute Indian Tribe, including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

This sculpture is intend-

ed to: Move beyond a written land acknowledgment toward a meaningful, physical expression of recognition. Reflect the history, culture, and ongoing presence of Ute people. Foster awareness, reflection, and connection among audiences and visitors. Serve as a long-term element of the organization's campus and identity

This project is envisioned as a collaborative process, grounded in respect, dialogue, and authenticity.

### Scope of Work

The selected artist will: Develop a conceptual design for an original sculpture. Participate in dialogue with Strings staff. Fabricate and deliver the final artwork. Collaboration on installation planning. The sculpture should: Be appropriate for outdoor installation (durable materials, weather-resistant). Reflect the artist's voice, perspective, and cultural connection

### Artist Eligibility

This opportunity is open to: Enrolled members of the Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, or Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Ute artists with demonstrated connection to community and cultural practice. Emerging and established artists are encouraged to apply.

### Requirements

Submissions should include an Artist Statement. Background, artistic practice, and connection to the work. Letter of Interest. Brief response outlining in-

terest in the project and approach to a land acknowledgment sculpture.

Portfolio: 3-5 examples of past work (public art or sculpture preferred but not required); Preliminary Concept (optional). Sketches, ideas, or conceptual direction.

Submissions will be evaluated based on: Artistic merit and originality. Demonstrated ability to execute a project of this scale (or clear potential). Cultural authenticity and thoughtfulness of approach. Alignment with the intent of the project. Feasibility within budget and site considerations.

### Budget & Compensation

This is a commissioned project funded through a grant. Total project budget: \$3,000. The budget should account for: Artist fee. Materials and fabrication. Transportation and delivery. Installation coordination.

### Timeline

- Call Opens: May 1
- Submission Deadline: June 15
- Artist Selection: July 1
- Design Development: July 1 - Sept. 15
- Fabrication & Installation: Oct. 1 - Nov. 1

The timeline may be adjusted in collaboration with the selected artist. Submission Instructions

Please submit materials electronically to: Michelle Geib Marketing Director Strings Music Festival, michelle@stringsmusicfestival.com

## Perm. Fund campus clean-up



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Southern Ute Permanent Fund Departments collaborated to host the tribal campus and storage clean up May 4-8. Human Resources, Tribal Information Services, and Property and Facilities staff assisted in lunch preparation for all employees who participated in the week-long event. Pictured left to right: Molly Bellino, Tribal Council Member Marjorie Barry, Michelle Wagner, Naomi Russell, Tyson Thompson, Leon Burch, and Jermaine Charlie.

Crystal Kelly of the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe participated in tribal campus clean up. Positive contributions from tribal staff accented the day-to-day tasks of those who are responsible for tribal campus maintenance.



courtesy Bruce LeClaire/BGC

## CHARIMAN BAKER, TRANSITION • FROM PAGE 2

out my years in leadership. I extend my sincerest gratitude to my fellow Tribal Council Members, Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose, Executive Officer Lindsay J. Box, and our staff."

Tribal Council will ensure a smooth and orderly transition, and all government operations and services will continue without interruption including appointed positions such as the Executive Office. Tribal Council remains committed to serving the Tribal Membership and maintaining strong partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Southern Ute Trib-

al Council has appointed Marvin Pinnecoose as Acting Chairman, effective Friday, May 15, 2026. Chairman Pinnecoose brings extensive leadership experience and a strong record of service to his new role. He has previously served the Tribe in multiple capacities, including as a Tribal Council Member, Treasurer, and most recently Vice Chairman.

In his role as Acting Chairman, Pinnecoose will provide leadership and continuity for the Tribe until the conclusion of the upcoming Special Election. Additional information regarding the election will be released in the

coming weeks.

"It is an honor to serve the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in this capacity," said Acting Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose. "I am committed to upholding our values, supporting our membership, and ensuring stability and strong leadership during this important transition period."

Chairman Pinnecoose's proven dedication and commitment to the Tribe and the Tribal Membership position him as a valued leader during this transition period.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe thanks Chairman Baker for his years of service spanning nearly 15 years in office.

## Camp Creative is BACK!

10am-3pm

June 8th - 12th

July 7th - 10th

August 10th-14th



DANCING SPIRIT  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

465 Goddard Ave, Ignacio CO, 81137  
970-563-4600 | www.dscac.org  
www.facebook.com/dscac  
dancingspiritgallery@gmail.com

# CIRCUS CLASSIC

UNDER THE BIG TOP

Here for the **WOW!**

SHOWTIMES  
TUESDAY 7PM  
WEDNESDAY 7PM

**IGNACIO, CO  
JUNE 2-3**

SKY UTE FAIRGROUNDS  
UNDER THE BIG TOP!

CIRCUS-CLASSIC.COM

COME EARLY!!  
DOORS OPEN 2 HRS. BEFORE SHOWTIME AND ENJOY OUR ATTRACTIONS:

- KIDS FUN BOMB
- FORT RIDER
- FEELING BOO
- FISH FEELING
- FUN SHER FOOD
- AND MUCH MUCH MORE...

## SUMMER HOURS STARTING

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

GALLERIES AND MUSEUM STORE		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	
MONDAY	CLOSED	MONDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
TUESDAY	9AM - 4PM	TUESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
WEDNESDAY	9AM - 4PM	WEDNESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
THURSDAY	9AM - 4PM	THURSDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 4PM	FRIDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 3PM	SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED	SUNDAY	CLOSED

**SOUTHERN UTE  
CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM**

503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583  
EMAIL | museum@southernute-nsn.gov  
IG | southern ute museum\_sum • WEB | southernutemuseum.org



### Kari connects Nuuici



photos Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Southern Ute tribal member entrepreneurs and siblings, Alissa White and Coven White, operate their baked goods small business called Violet Moon together. Coven also runs his own business called Salem & Raven, a graphics design business. White designs and produces stickers with Ute flair. They joined Economic Development to discuss business opportunities within the local community. Coven also shared his digital knowledge and how he includes the Ute language within his graphic design for sticker creation and design layout. Coven and Alissa will be at the upcoming Southern Ute Bear Dance and will also be doing local pop-ups in Ignacio and the Farmington area.

Southern Ute Economic Development hosted the last series of Coffee and Connections at the Willows Bistro Restaurant on Thursday, May 7. Council member, Marjorie Barry attended along with Economic Development staff members Allison Wall and Rose Valencia. The event hopes to bring tribal entrepreneurs together to collaboratively communicate potential business ventures and local business creation and opportunities.



### T̄ɛɛrīan̄m̄ tavay!



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

T̄ɛɛrīan̄m̄ tavay! (Happy Mother's Day). The Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum (SUCCM) collaborated with the Cultural Preservation Department to host the Mother's Day Card Making class on Friday, May 8 ahead of the holiday. SUCCM staff Malorie King and Raelynn Frauenhoff design three-dimensional flowers to add to their personalized Mother's Day cards during the class.



Katrina Baker designs her Mother's Day card on Friday, May 8 in the SUCCM Large Classroom. Three-dimensional flower patterns and pre-designed cards were provided by SUCCM employee, Alissa White and Cultural Media Technician, Coven White.

Izabella Cloud and Audrey Andrews joined the card making on Friday, May in the SUCCM Large Classroom. The event featured light refreshments, various supplies, and a brief Ute Language lesson; practicing Ute vocabulary themed for Mother's Day.

### Multi - Purpose Facility May Events

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday May 15, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Traditional Sewing—Monday—Thursday May 18—21

10:00 AM—3:00 PM or 5:30 PM—8:00 PM



#### Special Events

Law Enforcement "Frybread Challenge" at May Sip, Chat & Chew

Sponsored by "Three Elder Ladies"

Bear Dance Arts & Crafts Fair— Monday May 25, 9:00 AM

Call the MPF to sign up— \$75. Lobby Space \$40.

Events are subject to change—Please watch for announcements.

Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
970-563-2640 - multipurpose@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



Photo Credit - Divine WindyBoy



Towaoc, Colorado

ATTENTION!!!!

JULY 6-10, 2026

EXTENDED DEADLINE

DEADLINE: MAY 22, 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 & 1<sup>st</sup> Descendants

### Multi-Purpose Facility Annual Bear Dance Arts & Crafts Fair



Monday May 25, 2026  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Artists, Artisans, Crafters, Bakers

Space—10 X 10 with 2 chairs \$75.00

Lobby Space \$40.00

Space is assigned at time of payment—Cash, Check, Money Order

Limited number of tables available to rent \$10

Doors open 7:30 AM

Call 970-563-2640 or 970-563-2642 to reserve your space.



Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
Call for more information 970-563-2640 or 970-563-2641

# Bustin' Car Show revs up local talent



The late Bernard Cuthair, a Southern Ute tribal member and car enthusiast, was honored for his good heart towards his community and his passion for classic autos and motorcycles. His beloved car and motorcycle were on display at the car show that was dedicated to his honor.



David Silva, along with family and local community volunteers, organized the first annual Bustin Car Show on May 2. The group solicited donations from local businesses to host Cuthair's event with Casino collaboration. Left to right: Wendy Butler, David Silva, Odyssey Baker-Silva, Anthony Toledo, Ashley Silva, and Jacob Silva.



Motorcycle category winners Dale Santistevan and Mike Kunz hold their trophies high for all to see. While Cuthair's motorcycle took home the 1st place trophy, Kunz came away with 2nd place, followed by Santistevan in 3rd place.

Photos by Yasandi Portillo Piña  
Courtesy to The Southern Ute Drum

**The Sky Ute Casino Resort hosted the Cinco de Mayo Bustin' Car Show on Saturday, May 2 in Ignacio. The inaugural car show was dedicated in loving memory of the late Bernard 'Bernie' Cuthair and featured lowriders, classics, exotics, lifted trucks, motorcycles and bicycles. The event started with a welcome and blessing from Marjorie Barry, greetings from Cuthair's family members and featured a chili cook-off contest with live music by Los Mitotitos and Variety Express.**



Southern Ute tribal member, Lorelei Cloud proudly participated and took home 1st place in the Class B Model category.



Southern Ute tribal member, Edwina Watts came away with a 1st place trophy in the Class C Model category.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**SEPTEMBER 4 – 6, 2026**

**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT  
EVENT CENTER**

Tattoo artists, it's time to show off your talent.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Four Corners Tattoo Convention is taking over Sky Ute Casino Resort and we're looking for bold artists to be part of it!

- Sign up early for exclusive vendor pricing
- Special room discounts for artists

This is your event to make some unforgettable work happen, are you in?

Visit [skyutecasino.com/entertainment](http://skyutecasino.com/entertainment) to lock in your spot.



Questions: 970-563-1770  
Zachary.Crady@skyutecasino.com  
or customerservice@skyutecasino.com

Official details and vendor registration coming soon.





# Tribe recognizes Law Enforcement Day



The Tribe's branches of law enforcement gathered for the Law Enforcement Memorial Day – joined by Tribal Council, Southern Ute Police Department, Tribal Rangers, Dispatch, Victim Services, Division of Gaming, Detention Officers, and Tribal Court employees joined for a commemorative moment.



Many J&R staff were also recognized for their contributions and longtime service to the department and community – Gaming Admin Assistant, Darlene Frost, is recognized for 15 years of service.



Treasurer Mike Olguin, alongside all members of Tribal Council, holds his hat during the blessing of the officers and their vehicles on Tuesday morning.



Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students also attended the event to pay their respects to the officers and staff; students take time to present gifts and shake hands with each officer on Tuesday afternoon.

**The Southern Ute Justice & Regulatory Department honored Law Enforcement Memorial Day on Tuesday, May 12 outside of the Casias Newton Justice Center. The formal ceremony recognizes the dedication of those who serve in law enforcement, past and present. The ceremony included a formal inspection of vehicles, blessing of officers, raising and lowering of flags, Memorial Day address by Director Leonard Redhorse III, remarks from Tribal Council, and closing remarks by SUPD Chief Daryl Noon. Emceed by Gaming Director, Acie Patterson, the ceremony saw a large crowd in support of Law Enforcement.**

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Ranger Captain Robert Williams (left) and Gaming Director Acie Patterson (right) present Jason Scott with a certificate honoring his 10 years of service to the organization.



Gaming License Technician, Bertha Box is recognized for 10 years of service on Tuesday afternoon.



Tribal Council member, Andrew Gallegos presents neighboring Los Pinos Fire Protection District personnel with gifts from the Tribe, showing gratitude for their service to our community.



Officer Angela Gallegos-Alualu holds her uniform hat as Yellow Jacket singers perform a flag and honor song on Law Enforcement Memorial Day.



Officer's vehicles were inspected by Chairman Melvin Baker, Vice Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose, and Executive Officer Lindsay Box outside of the Casias Newton Justice Center.



## Ute Bear Dance bring Tribes together



On Friday, May 8, the opening ceremony for the Fort Duchesne Bear Dance took place as the bear greeted children and their families.



Joseph Howell participate in the weekend long Bear Dance in Fort Duchesne.

***The Bear Dance Chief, Serenus Kanip, along with sub chief Joseph Kanip welcomed Dancers of all ages from across the three Ute tribes to this year's Northern Ute Bear Dance held in Fort Duchesne, Utah on the Uintah & Ouray Reservation Friday May 8 – Monday, May 11. At the end of the four-day celebration, the friendly competition between dancers and singers ended with the singers winning the challenge with a song lasting two and a half hours, resulting in a win for the singers!***

**Photos by Conrad Thompson**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Ready ... Set ... Go! Young women and girls move quickly to choose their dance partner.



The ladies head out to choose their dancing partners on Saturday afternoon.



Sisters Rhianna and Maleina Carel took a quick break to adjust their regalia before heading back into the corral to kick up some dust.



Adelbert Tavashutz from the Ute Tribe leads the flag lowering ceremony on Monday to start the cutting song.



Bear Dance Chief Serenus Kanip greeted visitors attending Bear Dance with words of encouragement.



Ute Tribal member Kerry Ann Cesspooch prepares to join her fellow dancers along the Bear Dance line.



## 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**

## 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  
 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$500.00 + Old Style Jingle: 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

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

## Multi-Purpose Facility Annual Bear Dance Arts & Crafts Fair

### Monday May 25, 2026 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Artists, Artisans, Crafters, Bakers**

Fantastic, Artists, Artisans, Crafters and Bakers will be participating.

Look for all genres of Arts & Crafts, baked goods, Jewelry, clothing, quilts, bead work, paintings & more.

The MPF Concession will be open for Breakfast & Lunch.

**Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO**  
**Call for more information 970-563-2640 or 970-563-2641**

## Memorial Day 2026

### "Walk of the Warrior" Honoring All Who Served

Presented by  
**The Southern Ute Veterans Association**  
 in cooperation with  
 The Southern Ute Indian Tribe

May 25, 2026

**Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park**  
**10am**

**25% off sale for the month of May**

SALE EXCLUDES  
 B. Yellowtail merchandise, books, hides, and hand drums.

**503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737  
 Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583**  
 EMAIL | museum@southernute-nsn.gov  
 IG | southernute.museum@sum  
 WEB | southernutemuseum.org

## 137<sup>th</sup> Ute Mountain BEAR DANCE

Tuwayak Nuchi Mamakurnkap

### June 5-8, 2026

Towaoc, Colorado  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Gabe Archuleta dives across home plate to score a run in Game 1 of the Bobcats' doubleheader Tuesday, May 5, against Pagosa Springs.

## BOBCATS BASEBALL

# Shiver me timbers!

*Pirates sweep Bobcats 15-4, 15-6 at IHS*

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Confident that their split of a doubleheader three days earlier in Bayfield had clinched them a place in the fast-upcoming 2026 CHSAA Class 3A Baseball State Tournament, Pagosa Springs' Pirates arrived Tuesday afternoon, May 5, in Ignacio relatively assured of inclusion, but wanting to insure themselves against exclusion.

And after the hosting Bobcats, tamed in Game 1 at IHS Field, managed to put up three runs in the bottom of the first inning beginning Game 2, PSHS answered with a tying three in the top of the second. Five more came across home plate in the guests' third, then one in the fourth, two in the fifth, and a demoralizing three in the sixth.

Down 14-3 and needing a miracle to stay alive, the Bobcats managed to scratch out two evening-prolonging runs in the home half of the inning. But Pagosa Springs countered with one run in the seventh, and Ignacio managed just one in reply as the visitors completed an authoritative 15-4, 15-6 sweep.

Senior Gabe Archuleta, who saw time both behind the dish and on the bump in Game 2 for IHS, went 3-for-4 with a triple and two runs scored in the

closing contest. Senior Ambrose Valdez whacked two doubles and ended up 2-4 with a run and one batted in, and senior Sonny Flores went 1-3 with a walk and scored twice.

Joseph Atencio went 1-2 with a walk and an RBI, and Evan Maez ended up 1-4 with a run.

PSHS sophomore Taylor Wells, who tossed a six-inning, two-hit complete game in the day's opener, with 4-5 with a double, triple and two runs scored. Sophomore Kasen Limebrook went 3-5 with two runs and as many knocked in, and junior Aaron Sowle went 2-5 with three RBI. Senior Dylan Dempster was 2-4 with a double, two runs and two RBI.

Senior Kaeden Iguchi (6 IP, 5 R, 4 ER, 2 BB, 5 K) started on the mound and earned the Game 2 win, outdueling IHS' Archuleta (L; 4.2 IP, 2 BB, HB, 3 K) and Flores (2.1 IP, 2 K).

The Pirates' raid, however, began almost immediately in Game 1; Valdez struck out leadoff hitter Zach Pouyer, but then walked Sebastian Gonzalez and starting pitcher Wells. Sowle then bounced out to shortstop, bumping his mates each up a bag, and Limebrook then belted a double to left-center to plate both. Valdez (L; 0.2 IP, H, 4 R, 4 ER) then walked Noah Bellina, and IHS head coach

Isiah Valdez elected to bring freshman Stephen Romero in from first base to try extinguishing the growing fire.

But PSHS' Jonny Moncada (2-4, 2 R, RBI) and Dempster (3-4, 2 R, RBI) cracked successive RBI-singles, and also would come around to score via a throwing error after No. 9 hitter Hudson Davis grounded to short. Pouyer then flew out to left, not missing an extra-base smash by much, and the 'Cats at last had their first chance to begin chipping in to the Pirates' 6-0 lead.

Which they ably did; Archuleta (0-2, BB, HBP, 2 R) reached via error and Flores was hit by a pitch, then Romero (0-3, R, RBI) reached via a fielder's-choice grounder scoring Archuleta but forcing Flores (0-1, HBP, BB) out at second. Valdez (1-2, BB, R) and Atencio walked, and Maez then grounded to first baseman Moncada, who chose to try starting a possible 3-6-3 double play. Atencio (1-2, BB, RBI) was thrown out at second, but Maez hustled to first and kept the inning alive.

With Max Mendoza batting, Maez was then given the sign to test catcher Sowle's arm and try swiping second. The throw, however, was off-line and Valdez scurried home via the error. Wells (W; 2 H, 2

*Shiver page 17*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Juliann Avila (13) dribbles away from Telluride JV freshman Ayleen Servin (15) while stopping an attack during non-league action Thursday, April 30, at THS' Judy Long Memorial Field. The Lady Bobcats lost their 2026 finale 4-1.

## BOBCATS GIRLS SOCCER

# That's all she wrote

*Lady 'Cats wrap with competitive away loss*

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Fans seemingly couldn't get enough of Bella Lorenzini.

Telluride's fans, that is.

Almost making the visitors' final outing of the 2026 soccer season sound like a home match for Ignacio every time the senior goalkeeper so much as touched the ball, the hosting side's supporters emphatically gave credit to whom it was due as the Lady Bobcats – all battle-hardened eight of them – put up so much more of a fight Thursday evening, April 30, than locals would have expected.

Put to the test almost immediately at Judy Long Memorial Field, Lorenzini kept the contest scoreless early with a couple confidence-building saves, including a slide-tackle stop

applied to Lady Miner freshman Stella Strand in the sixth minute.

"I'd strained my shin, so I'd done a lot of resting over Spring Break," Lorenzini had said in a previous interview, explaining an uncharacteristic early-season trepidation in net. "But I'd come to almost every Spring Break practice – I wanted to make sure my drop-kicks were back and ... just play, perform like I know how to do."

"She's done really well ... with what we ask of her," IHS head coach Gretchen Gruber had said after a previous match. "She's kind of the heart of the team right now; it's going to hurt when she graduates."

Strand, however, couldn't be silenced offensively and broke the proverbial ice in the eighth. But even as shots

and corners kicks began piling up in number for THS' junior varsity (the varsity, coincidentally, had just hosted and lost to Ridgway on Senior Day), Ignacio wouldn't concede another score for a good while – and actually drew level, 1-1, in the 23rd when sophomore Amiyah Martinez managed to break through THS' back line for an uplifting sunset strike.

Proving as problematic to contain as in the teams' March 23 meeting (for which Strand was unavailable) at IHS Field, freshman prospect Zoe Cooper regained Telluride the upper hand in the 27th minute with a well-placed shot low and to Lorenzini's vulnerable back post. Still, the match was anyone's to take as it soon reached halftime with

*That's all page 17*

## Reynolds scores lax hat-trick



photos Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Durango sophomore Keelyn Reynolds (1) scoops up the ball while evading Telluride senior McKenzie Kress (4) during late-season action Wednesday evening, April 29, at DHS. Reynolds and the Lady Demons won 13-11, then lost the rematch – the regular-season finale for both squads – Saturday, May 2, at THS by a 12-11 margin but still earned the 4A Mountain-West League title via tiebreaker over the Lady Miners.

Durango Demons sophomore Keelyn Reynolds (1) attempts to dislodge the ball from the basket of Telluride senior Parker Shea (10) during late-season action Wednesday evening, April 29, at DHS. Seeded 10th in the 24-team 2026 CHSAA Class 4A State Tournament, Durango then hosted No. 23 Pueblo West on Tuesday, May 5, and simply blew the Lady Cyclones (1-11 overall) away, 24-6, with Reynolds netting three goals. As a reward, the Lady Demons (10-4, 6-2 M-W) were to next travel to Colorado Springs for a 5/8 engagement with 7-seed Air Academy (10-4), but results of the 7 p.m. test were unavailable at press time.



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



## Box closes out Senior season



courtesy Lindsay Box

Southern Ute tribal member, Tavian Orian Box is flanked by his mother, Lindsay Box and brother Kiko Pardo during Senior Day at his baseball game in Bayfield, Colo., Tavian played shortstop for the Wolverines.

## HOPEFULLY THE FIRST OF MANY • FROM PAGE 1



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Larissa Espinosa blows a kiss to fans inside Denver's Ball Arena after recording a victory in the 2026 CHSAA Girls' Wrestling State Championships' Class 4A, 235-pound division. She officially committed Wednesday morning, May 6, inside IHS Gymnasium to continue her student-athlete days wrestling for Trinidad (Colo.) State College – making her the first IHS Girls' Wrestling alumna to grapple at the next level.

May 6, after indeed making Ignacio Girls' Wrestling history as the program's first member to accept an opportunity to continue at the collegiate level, "and I actually fell in love with the sport – I was just doing it for fun! But when I was in the wrestling room with everyone it was, like, a team but not really; you're individually working toward your goal."

"They all get along, work with each other, help each other with moves and how to refine them. If they have questions they always come to us and we help them out," said IHS Girls' Wrestling assistant coach Brad Egger. "And she's a good listener; she's willing to learn new moves and work on those moves."

Having done enough of each during her still-young career to become both a leading Lady Bobcat and the program's first three-time CHSAA State Championships placer, Espinosa put pen to paper and, in view of coaches, family, friends and school personnel assembled inside IHS Gymnasium, committed to become a scholarship student-athlete at Trinidad (Colo.) State College.

"It's never going to be easy; you always have to continue to give that second effort. And we know Larissa has that second – and third – effort, no matter what's going on within herself," said IHS Girls' Wrestling head coach Michael 'Mich' Napier. "Lots of tears, lots of blood, lots of sweat. Lots of summers and late nights – it's not something that's done easily."

"As a college athlete myself, a lot of my technical side in my experience was reinvented. Didn't lose anything necessarily, but it got reinvented to compete at

the next level," IHS Boys' Wrestling head coach Jordan Larsen said. "So I think her grit – and she's got a lot of it – will be one of the things that, if she can keep it, will lead her to some pretty high success."

"It makes me proud," continued the former Colorado School of Mines (NCAA Div. II) standout, "that we put together the coaching staff that we have and could give Larissa the tools needed to be where she's at, willing to take the next step."

"Coach Mich ['mitch'] taught me to actually trust myself on the mat, other than going with the other person's moves. He made me try different things I didn't think I could do," said Espinosa. "Larsen, he was just an amazing coach overall; he pushed everyone to their limits, pushed them towards their goals – like with Lincoln (deKay), how he got State Champion. Just, like, seeing him in the room made me think I could do so much better when he or any other coach was watching."

"I'm more scared of not doing the best I could," she noted. "I'm trying to work towards understanding the sport more – and actually having fun – than just being there; I want to work towards making a name for myself, and I'm scared of not."

At TSC she'll certainly have her chance to do so. Completing a 2025-26 campaign including a dual inside Scott Gymnasium against Wayland Baptist University – a 184-pound Napier earned NAIA All-American status for WBU in 2016, then graduated from, and started coaching at the Plainview, Tex.-based school – a skilled seven Lady Trojans totaled 21.5 points and

placed 19th at the 2026 NJCAA Women's Wrestling Invitational (a.k.a. the National Championships) held in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

"I knew that I wanted to go to college, but I wanted to do something other than study," joked Espinosa, interested in initially studying Cosmetology at TSC. "And this opportunity's really nice because it's not that far from home, but still far."

"The coaches were really nice ... more than other colleges that wanted me just to want me. They were, like, more personal, wanted to connect, and their group has, like, impact – they actually do stuff outside of school. That's what really brought me to them."

"Anytime I'm trying to help someone find their college that they want to go to, it's important to have academic and athletic goals, but (also) personal and practical goals. And it seems like Trinidad fits the criteria that Larissa needs," Napier said. "She's a hard worker, has great attitude and good work ethic; I know she'll have success in years to come."

"Physically, mentally, she's willing to power through a lot of stuff," agreed Egger, "so I think she'll be good at what she does."

"And ... hopefully the first of many, if we can keep things going with our program!" Larsen said. "Really proud of her."

"Wrestling gave me a hope that if I want to do something, I could. Because it's on my terms," Espinosa said. "And I feel amazing; I get to inspire girls that don't know if they can make it in wrestling to actually push towards goals they have in their minds. And do better than they'd think they could; if you get told 'No,' you have to work towards getting that 'Yes.'"

## SHIVER ME TIMBERS • FROM PAGE 16



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Ambrose Valdez (6) pitches during Game 1 of the Bobcats' doubleheader Tuesday, May 5, against Pagosa Springs.

ER, 4 BB, 2 HB, 7 K) then managed to get Mendoza to bounce to Moncada, and jogged over to cover the base and end the inning with no further damage.

Sowle (2-4), however, inflicted more upon Ignacio in the top of the second, hammering a one-out triple to deep left-center and plating Wells (2-3, BB, 2 R), who'd singled. Unfortunately for the Bobcats, already minus regulars Stoney White Thunder-Lucero and William Mendoza-Lechuga due to injury, Mendoza needed to be carried off after hurting a leg while trying to track Sowle's shot down.

Sowle's courtesy runner, Gabe Lister, would then score via a wild pitch to Limebrook, and though Romero (5 IP, 14 H, 11 R, 6 ER, BB, HB, K) got out of the jam by getting Limebrook (1-4, R, 2 RBI) to pop up to short and then picking Bellina (2-2, 2

BB, 3 R, RBI) off first base after issuing the sophomore a walk, time seemed to already be working against the 'Cats.

Romero held Pagosa Springs scoreless in the third – by picking Davis off first – and fourth innings, but the Pirates got to him for four in the fifth, two runs via a Gonzalez double to right-center, and then three in the sixth before Flores replaced Romero with Gonzalez (1-4, BB, R, 2 RBI) facing a 1-2 count, Davis aboard at second base and Pouyer (1-5, R, RBI) at first.

Flores needed just two pitches to get Gonzalez to ground out to second baseman Zackariah Loudenburg for the final out, but Wells, who'd given up an RBI-single (scoring Archuleta) to Atencio in the bottom of the fifth, sewed up the mercy-rule victory by striking out Mendoza replacement Armando Richards and ultimately

getting Archuleta to fly out to leftfielder Limebrook.

Closing out regular-season action with three consecutive wins, after suffering a two-game thrashing in Durango plus a loss in the first of two games at Intermountain rival Bayfield, the Pirates improved to 13-10 overall while remaining 3-5 in league.

Still with work to be done, Ignacio dropped to 10-10 overall (7-2 2A/1A San Juan Basin) – prior to receiving two forfeit wins Friday, May 8, over yet-winless 2A Southern Peaks member Trinidad – with a 5/12 regular-season finale versus La Jara-based Centauri still slated.

Gifted two Cinco de Mayo wins by the troubled Miners, the Falcons stood 0-6 in the 3A Intermountain but 11-9 overall prior to an 11 a.m. pair Saturday, May 9, at Montezuma-Cortez (16-5 overall, 6-0 IML).

## THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE • FROM PAGE 16



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio sophomore Amiyah Martinez (2) blocks a Telluride JV player's advance towards the Lady Bobcats' goal during non-league action Thursday, April 30, at THS' Judy Long Memorial Field. The Lady 'Cats lost their 2026 finale 4-1.

skipper Sheila Blakeney's Lady Miners leading 2-1.

Freshman Ayleen Servin made it 3-1 in the 47th with her 1-v-1 finish, but Gruber's unsurprised Lady 'Cats again began tightening defensively while waiting as patiently as possible for a chance to attempt a swift, cagey counterattack. Sure enough, IHS' doggedness nearly paid maximum dividends in the 72nd minute, and Telluride was fortunate junior Katelyn Shirley's shot rolled just wide of frame.

Suddenly sensing that extra insurance might come in handy, Cooper, playing with her left forearm inside a protective cast, logged her second goal in the 78th and the Lady Miners at last could truly exhale a sigh of relief with the 4-1 score not long from becoming final.

"We do a lot of bunching, so we need to have a little more ... getting open for each other, spreading out. Otherwise, just more team effort altogether," sophomore Jada Davis, a co-captain with Lorenzini. "But honestly, it's really interesting to see how much our team has progressed this year; how we were working together this game ... we're going to be strong as ever. It's going to set us up for success."

Unofficially, THS' JV fired a dozen shots on target with Lorenzini totaling eight saves. But, like her fellow Lady 'Cats who saw the ever-difficult campaign to its conclusion, many more post-match handshakes and hugs. All told, Ignacio finished 0-2-0 in varsity-level 2A Intermountain-South matches – a rescheduled April 10 trip to Ridgway was scratched in advance as it was known that, due to having only six available players, IHS would already be forfeiting on the 9th to 3A Montezuma-Cortez – and ended up 1-9-0 overall.

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### Final Regular-Season 2A Intermountain-South Girls' Soccer Standings


1. Crested Butte\*\* 3-1-0 (9-2-4 overall), 2. Ridgway\* 4-1-0 (9-3-1), 3. Telluride 0-4-0 (4-9-1), 4. Del Norte 2-1-0 (4-6-0), 5. IGNACIO 0-2-0 (1-9-0).

(\*denotes CHSAA Class 2A State Tournament qualifier; \*\*denotes plus-5 goal differential in win/loss regular-season split)




### Bug and Rodent Prevention


PREVENTING PESTS IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ELIMINATING THEM AFTER INFESTATION. YOU CAN EFFECTIVELY PREVENT AND CONTROL BUGS AND RODENTS AT HOME USING NATURAL REPELLENTS, TRAPS, AND HOME MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES WITHOUT RELYING ON HARSH CHEMICALS OR PROFESSIONAL EXTERMINATORS. BELOW ARE SOME QR CODES LINKS WITH HELPFUL INFORMATION ON HOW TO SAFELY PREVENT AN INFESTATION




15 DIY SOLUTIONS FOR A PEST-FREE HOME




12 STRATEGIES TO PREVENT PESTS



10 DIY PEST CONTROL METHODS



15 NATURAL PEST CONTROL METHODS



19 NON-TOXIC PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS

CSD "DID YOU KNOW" SERIES 5 : BUGS AND RODENTS

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

## 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.

## Save the Date

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

June 11<sup>th</sup> 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 970-563-2237 for any questions



Agriculture Division Presents  
Hay Production, lunch and learn  
\*\*Lunch will be provided\*\*  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
655 CR 517, Ignacio, CO 81137  
Please RSVP at 970-563-0220 by 4:00pm on May 15, 2026

### Wildlife Resource Management Survey

The Wildlife Resource Management Division is surveying the Tribal Membership regarding elk conflicts on tribal ag lands and attitudes towards hunting as a tool to address these conflicts. There are three separate surveys to gather information and opinions from as many tribal members as possible.

Please fill out the survey that best fits your situation regarding Ag Lands.

- Option 1: Tribal Member Assignee/Allotees who currently produce hay.
- Option 2: Tribal Member Assignees/Allotees who do not produce hay.
- Option 3: Tribal members Assignees/Allotees who do not produce hay or ag related.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.

Scan the QR or use link to join




<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/01qV8FcekR>

Copy link

**Option 1**  
TM Assignee  
Allotee  
Hay Producers

Scan the QR or use link to join




<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/0Nfps2bc8X>

Copy link

**Option 2**  
TM Assignees  
Allotees, Not Ag  
Hay Pro


Scan the QR or use link to join



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/6YM4gZW5Gm>

Copy link

**Option 3**  
TM No Assignment  
Allotment or Hay  
Production



### BRUNOT RARE GAME PERMITS

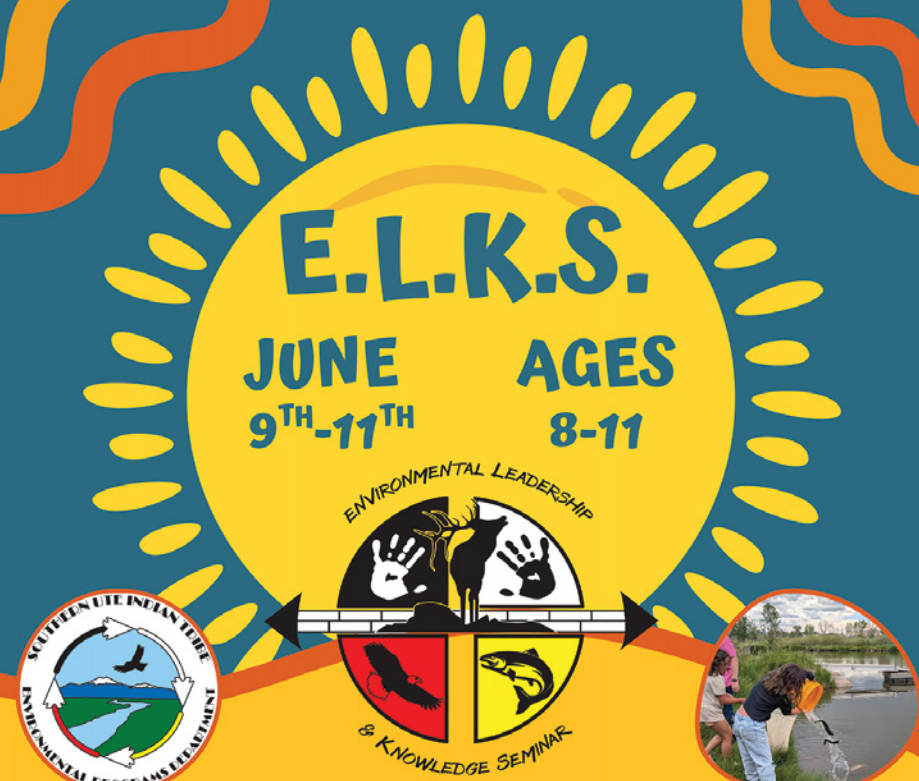
**3 Big Horn Sheep**  
**2 Mountain Goat**  
**2 Moose**

The Wildlife Division will be accepting Brunot Rare Game Applications the month of MAY. The drawing will be held in June.

All applications will be submitted online:  
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/rare-game-app/>

Members can also visit the Brunot Hunting website to find the link  
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/natural-resources/wildlife-resource-management/hunting/brunot-area-hunting-and-fishing/>

If you have any questions, please call the Wildlife Division at (970) 563-0130



## E.L.K.S.

JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> AGES 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/>



**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"> <li>Barrel Racing</li> <li>Flag Racing</li> <li>Goat Tying</li> <li>Wooly Riding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barrel Racing</li> <li>Pole Bending</li> <li>Goat Tying</li> <li>Breakaway</li> <li>Steer Riding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barrel Racing</li> <li>Pole Bending</li> <li>Goat Tying</li> <li>Breakaway</li> <li>Bull Riding</li> <li>Team Roping 2X</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barrel Racing</li> <li>Pole Bending</li> <li>Goat Tying</li> <li>Breakaway</li> <li>Team Roping 2X</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bull Riding</li> <li>Bareback Riding</li> <li>Saddle Bronc Riding</li> <li>Tie Down Roping</li> <li>Chute Dogging</li> <li>Steer Wrestling</li> <li>Team Roping 2X</li> </ul>

**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**

CES: Latasha Murphy (505)-422-3141 (CASH ONLY Accepted)  
 CALL INS JUNE 8th&9th (6pm-9pm) ONLY Local/Walk-In entries will be taken day of the rodeo. All Rough Stock Events MUST Call In. Entries close at the end of Midgets

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.

**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

**68<sup>TH</sup> LITTLE BEAVER CELEBRATION**  
**JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> 2026**  
**THEME: ROCK OF AGES WITH LITTLE BEAVER**

ARCHERY SHOOT-POW WOW- RODEO-PARADE- KIDDIE'S PARADE- DOG SHOW- D.O.Y ART SHOW- MUD BOG- PONY EXPRESS-SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT- DANCES-CRAFTS-FOOD VENDORS-WARRIOR DAY -KANDY TOWN CAR SHOW- CONCERT'S AND MORE TO COME

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL DULCE COMMUNITY CENTER 575-759-4376**

Dulce Community Center and the Jicarilla Apache Nation is not responsible for any accidents, injuries, lost or stolen items, that may occur during an event or inside building This is an alcohol and drug free event.

**MamakwànHkapÜ!**

**Southern Ute Bear Dance**  
**May 22 - 25**

**Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance**  
**June 5 - 8**

**White Mesa Bear Dance**  
**September 4 - 7**

Image: Mykola/AdobeStock

**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.: 2026-0044-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,  
 Jack McClure Frost Jr., Deceased  
 Case No.: 2026-0052-CV-PR  
 Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **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

**SAVE the DATE**  
**SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2026**

WALKING A SACRED PATH WITH St. KATERI TEKAKWITHA  
 TOGETHER IN FAITH AND HUMILITY

**MINI ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE**  
**KATERI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
**LAKEWOOD, COLORADO**

For more information email: sirenabrito87@icloud.com

**Drum Deadline**

Next issue: **May 29**

Deadline: **May 22**

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

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

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

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

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

**STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES**  
**The Southern Ute Drum**  
 (sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**Amy Barry** • Tribal Information Services Director, ext. 2250 (abarry@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**Krista Richards** • Administrative Assistant, 2251 (krichards@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**Divine Windy Boy** • Reporter/Photographer, 2252 (dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**Robert Ortiz** • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253 (rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**Rosaleigh Cloud** • Media Archivist, ext. 2274 (rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**Conrad Thompson** • Reporter/Videographer, ext. 2241 (cothompson@southernute-nsn.gov)

**The Southern Ute Drum does not assume responsibility for unsolicited material and does not guarantee publication upon submission.**

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SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

# CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

2026 Home Rehabilitation Program  
APPLICATION DEADLINE - JUNE 1, 2026



Applicants must meet all program eligibility criteria. A fully completed application is required for consideration. Individuals who have previously applied and were not selected must submit a new application. All applications are reviewed by a selection panel. Applicants will be notified in writing once selections have been finalized.

To request an application or receive assistance, please contact the Construction Services Division.

970-563-0260 | dabeyta@southernute-nsn.gov



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

### ELECTION BOARD

The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking one (1) Full Time Board Member. The position will be open until filled. Qualifications: 11-2-102, (1) & (3): Must be a Southern Ute Indian Tribal Registered Voter. Must reside within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Shall not have been convicted of a felony and shall not have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or fraud within five years immediately preceding appointment to the Election Board. The Election Board is a paid committee: IRS Guidelines and a Criminal Background Check are necessary. Southern Ute Employee benefits are offered, and you will be considered an Official of the Southern Ute Tribe. Please submit your letter of Intent to: Election Board P.O. Box 709 Ignacio, CO 81137. Physical location: 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO. Contact the Election Board at 970-563-2305/2729/2730/2303 or via email: election@southernute-nsn.gov.

### 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.bgcsu.org website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov.

### ETHICS COMMISSION

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

### GAMING COMMISSION

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.

est 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.

## 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



## JOHNSON-O'MALLEY

### 2026 Meeting Dates

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

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

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

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



### Southern Ute Drum Notice

Please update your mailing address by calling the Southern Ute Drum at 970-563-0118.

# Committee of Elders Meetings

Mondays at 9 a.m. in Conference Room at Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility

- 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



**Notice of Online Publication  
Title 21 – Severance Tax Code**

By Resolution No. 2025-212 (Nov. 18, 2025), the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council approved and adopted amendments to the Tribe's Severance Tax Code, Title 21 of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Code. The amendments will take effect June 1, 2026. The Tribe has maintained a Severance Tax Code since 1982. The Code imposes a 6.5% tax on the value of non-renewable energy minerals severed from lands subject to the taxing jurisdiction of the Tribe. Printed hard copies of the amended Severance Tax Code may be obtained from the Tribal Information Services Department at:

- Email: TIS@southernute-nsn.gov
- Mail: Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137
- Phone: (970) 563-2208

The official online version of Title 21-Severance Tax Code can be found at:  
Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/>  
For further information please contact: Veronica M. Maestas, Severance Tax Administrator, PO Box 1500, Ignacio, CO 81137. Phone: (970) 563-5562; Fax: (970) 563-5551

**Public Comment Period  
Remediation of Picnic Flats Catchment Basin**

The Remediation Division of the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department (EPD) is providing a public comment period regarding the remediation of the Picnic Flats Catchment Basin through the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Brownfields program. The site is located at 37.0145 N, -108.0434 W. The legal description is NW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 16, Township 32N, Range 11W. An asbestos sampling report was conducted in March 2026 and discovered the presence of Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) that exceeded the 1% asbestos EPA regulatory threshold as a contaminant of concern. During the asbestos sampling event, four soil samples demonstrated no ACM contamination in soils. Cleanup involves the removal of the existing ACM containing basin liner using machinery and the transport and disposal of the basin liner to a regulated landfill. The project is expected to commence during the summer of 2026 and is expected to take 1-3 days to complete. The goal of this project is to remove the ACM so risks to human health, livestock, wildlife and the environment are diminished, and allow the site to be reused in the future. For all interested Tribal members and community members, a comment period will begin on May 1, 2026, and will end at the close of business on June 1, 2026. To view the cleanup plan and/or the asbestos sampling report, or to provide written comment, please contact EPD Brownfields Program at one of the options below. You can submit your request and/or comment to [wfarmer@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:wfarmer@southernute-nsn.gov), or mail to: Brownfields Program, Environmental Programs Department, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737 #81, Ignacio, Colorado 81137.

**CALL FOR VENDORS**

**PIINU NÚUCHI FARMERS MARKET**



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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

**AVAILABLE NOW**  
\*INVENTORY IS LIMITED\*  
This offer is extended to Southern Ute Tribal Members

**My Passport External Hard Drive**

Does your laptop need more storage? Do you want to save your laptop documents, videos or family photos?

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

External hard drive request forms are available online. Please Scan the QR Code or Contact SUDEP at 970-563-5555

*\*Shipping is not available for the External Hard Drives\**

**Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers**

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice services or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits (up to an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and a credit of up to \$100 on their initial installation charges) if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs.

The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



**SOUTHERN UTE UTILITIES DIVISION  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND  
MAY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TRANSFER STATION**  
**2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**  
MAY 25TH- MEMORIAL DAY- CLOSED  
JUNE 19TH- JUNETEENTH- CLOSED  
JULY 3RD INDEPENDANCE DAY- CLOSED  
SEPT. 7TH LABOR DAY- CLOSED  
OCT. 12TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY- CLOSED  
NOV. 11TH VETERANS DAY- CLOSED  
NOV. 26TH & 27TH THANKSGIVING- CLOSED  
DEC 10TH- 11TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY- CLOSED  
DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS- CLOSED

**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? Need to register? Scan the QR code**  
Questions? Email Phelps Feeley at [pfeeley@fortlewis.edu](mailto:pfeeley@fortlewis.edu)

**ATTENTION**  
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. Work involves installing new HDPE sewer line, repairing manholes & fusing new service taps. Expect heavy equipment onsite. Questions? Call the office.  
Trash Reminder- Please bag all household trash. All chemicals must be properly labeled & sealed.

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE**  
PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio CO. 81137 (970) 563-5500 [www.suitutil.com](http://www.suitutil.com)

**YOUR CO-OP  
YOUR VOTE**

It's not too late! Vote in advance by May 19, or in-person at the Annual Meeting on May 20.

Learn more:  
[lpea.coop/elections](http://lpea.coop/elections)



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

### Grounds Maintenance Worker

Closes 5/21/26 – Performs daily grounds maintenance and repair of the Tribal grounds and buildings. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/hour.

### Peer Recovery Coach

Closes 5/22/26 – Will engage individuals with substance use disorders with a goal of referral into treatment and recovery services. The goal is to connect people in need of treatment to services within their communities and across the state. Pay grade N8; Pay is \$19.89/hour.

### Southern Ute Tribal Ranger

Closes 5/22/26 – Under the general supervision of Tribal Ranger Sergeant and Ranger Captain, assures compliance of all Tribal Natural Resource Codes, Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Policies. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$32.69/hour.

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

Closes 5/20/26 – 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 SUIT 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.

### 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 rate is \$17.05/hour.

### Clinical Applications Coordinator

Open Until Filled – Under general direction of the Health Center Support Services Manager, serves as the Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) for the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department and the Southern Ute Health Center. The CAC position is responsible for 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 \$92,160.00/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 rate is \$21.48/hour.

### Criminal Justice Information System Specialist

Open Until Filled – 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.

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

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

### Detention Division Head

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Director of Justice and Regulatory, plans, organizes, directs, and reviews the administrative and operational activities of the Southern Ute Detention Program and Facility; ensures compliance with all applicable laws, policies, and procedures; develops and implements Division policy and programmatic changes as required. Pay grade E18; pay range starts at \$105,983.00/year.

### Detention Transport Officer

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

### Dispatcher

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; the pay range starts at \$23.20/hour.

### Early Childhood Teacher

Open Until Filled – A professional teaching po-

sition 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 N9; Pay rate 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 rate 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 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 rate is \$35.96/hour.

### Grant Writer

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

### HVAC Technician

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

### Land Surveyor

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

### Lands Compliance Technician

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

### Lands Technician

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

### Lifeguard (Part-time)

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

### Media Manager

Open Until Filled – Under the general supervision of the Tribal Information Services Director, 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.

### Patrol Officer I

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

### Public Defender

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

## RURAL COLORADO WORKSHOP SERIES

# DEMISTIFYING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup> (5-7pm)  
Tuesday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> (8am-4pm)  
Sky Ute Casino Resort

## Clarity for your startup journey

Practical strategies.

Meaningful networking opportunities.

Real-world Insights.

Led by award-winning CU Boulder professors with real-world experience.

Reserve your spot- Early Bird pricing starts June 1<sup>st</sup>



Leeds School of Business

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



For more information contact:

Allison Wall

[awall@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awall@southernute-nsn.gov) | 970.563.2281

**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/>

## House For Sale

**3 Bed / 2 Bath Single-Wide Mobile Home For Sale – \$60,000**

Located in Ignacio, Colo. Well-maintained **3 bedroom, 2 bathroom single-wide mobile home** in **great condition** and ready for its next owner! **Important Information: Home must be removed from the land** at buyer's expense. **Concrete removal will be the buyers responsibility.** This is a great opportunity for someone looking to move a home onto their own property. **Text to schedule a viewing:** 970-980-4033 / 505-516-9138.

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

### 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 (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.

### Swimming Instructor

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

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

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

### TERO Worker

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

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

Open Until Filled – 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.

### Umpire/Referee

Open Until Filled – Maintains rules and regulations on the playing field and courts during Sun-Ute Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/hour.



### Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com) to view job openings and apply online.

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

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

**\*Bell Person (Full-time)**

Responsible for assisting our Casino guests upon check in and check out and throughout their stay under the direction of the Hotel Manager. Assistance may include but not limited to: luggage assistance, directions/maps, providing our guests at Sky Ute Casino Resort with a warm welcome, helping the front desk with daily operations, including checking guests in/out, assisting with retail operations, driving guests to/from the airport and assisting with phones as needed. Must have a high school diploma, be at least 21 years old, have a valid driver's license and be insurable through the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, be able to stand for prolonged periods of time, maintain strict confidentiality, and be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds. Pay grade /\$16.50 per hour +tips.

**\*Cafe Cashier (Full-time)**

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls. Must be at least 21 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, be able to demonstrate good math skills, previous banking, cashiering, or extended money handling skills are preferred, be able to lift and move up to 35 pounds, be able to identify problems, gather data, establish facts, and be able to work with minimal supervision. Must be able to obtain and maintain a Southern Ute Division of Gaming Support License. Pay grade 3/\$15.16 per hour + tips.

**Cage Staff (On-call)**

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls. Must be at least 21 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, be able to demonstrate good math skills, previous banking, cashiering, or extended money handling skills are preferred, be able to lift and move up to 35 pounds, be able to identify problems, gather data, establish facts, and be able to work with minimal supervision. Must be able to obtain and maintain a Southern Ute Division of Gaming Support License. Pay grade 3/\$15.16 per hour + tips.

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

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls. Must be at least 21 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, be able to demonstrate good math skills, previous banking, cashiering, or extended money handling skills are preferred, be able to lift and move up to 35 pounds, be able to identify problems, gather data, establish facts, and be able to work with minimal supervision. Must be able to obtain and maintain a Southern Ute Division of Gaming Support License. Pay grade 3/\$15.16 per hour + tips.

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

This position reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental conditions, and the appearance of the facility and grounds. C maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building. Must be at least 18 years old, have a High School Diploma or equivalent, have 1 (one) year of experience in either a construction or maintenance field, and be able to work all shifts including nights, weekends, and holidays, have a valid driver's license and must be insurable with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and be able to stand for prolonged periods of time. Pay grade 3/\$17 per hour.

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

Duties consist of 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. Candidates selected for this position must be at least 21 years old, be able to lift at least 50 pounds, be able to work all shifts including nights, weekends, and holidays, and be able to work with a variety of chemicals and cleaning agents. Previous experience in hospitality and retail is not required but preferred. Pay grade 1/\$15.16 per hour.

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

Will act in leadership and training capacity. Direct employees and help them complete their tasks and goals defined by the Housekeeping Manager. Training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. Responsible for office structure, budgetary administration, and employee relations assigned by the Housekeeping Manager. Must be at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, have at least six (6) months of in-house housekeeping experience, a minimum of one (1) year prior supervising experience is not required but preferred, must be able to work any and all shifts including nights, weekends, and holidays, have reliable transportation, be able to stand for prolonged periods of time, and be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds.

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

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other assigned areas. 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. Must have a high school diploma, be at least 21 years old, demonstrate previous knowledge of carpet cleaning, carpet cleaning procedures, and use of carpet cleaning equipment, be able to work nights weekends and holidays, be able to sit, stand and walk for prolonged periods of time, and be able to lift and move up to 75 pounds.

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

Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel rooms by wiping, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping all areas of the guest rooms. Requires the ability to bend, lift, stand, and walk throughout the shift. Duties of this job are physically demanding and may be stressful at times, particularly during peak season periods. Will be cleaning an average of 16 guest rooms, and during peak season, up to 20 guest rooms per-shift, depending on whether you are working as an individual or a pair. Will be responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor to further assist the housekeeping department when needed and as assigned. Must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma, be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds frequently, and be able to perform physically demanding tasks.

**\*Willows 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 the next group of 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. Must be at least 14 years old, preferably 16 years old, have reliable transportation, have a minimum of an 8th grade education, demonstrate basic math skills, and be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds. Pay grade 1/\$12.14 per hour + tips.

### Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at [www.sugf.com/jobs.asp](http://www.sugf.com/jobs.asp) for full job details and to apply online.

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

Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO  
Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-4777.

**Office Manager – Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 5/22/26 – Provides day-to-day office management and support to leadership team and managing the administrative staff across multiple locations. Maintaining an orderly and efficient office environment including interaction with building maintenance. Presents a positive and professional image to Red Cedar and Growth Fund employees, and the public.

**Plant Process Operator II – Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 5/29/26 – Operating one or more gas plant processes, including widely diversified job tasks within the same process, in a safe manner; responsible for assisting in shutdown planning. Plant facilities could include gas processing plants, plant compressors, electric generation, dehydration equipment, control systems, treating systems as well as other processes.

**Senior Plant Process Operator – Red Cedar Gathering Company (Durango, CO)**

Closes 5/29/26 – Operating one or more gas plant processes, including widely diversified job tasks within the same process, in a safe manner; assisting in shutdown planning. Plant facilities could include gas processing plants, plant compressors, electric generation, dehydration equipment, control systems, treating systems as well as other processes. This senior position will provide guidance and mentoring on existing processes to lower-level Plant Process Operators.

**Project and Materials Controls Specialist – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 6/1/26 – Supporting various materials management functions for RWPC operated properties, focusing on asset database management, systems integration/consolidation, and inventory tracking. Tracking costs, identifying deficiencies, and implementing process changes to optimize efficiencies. Will issue and receipt purchase orders, review invoices, coordinate deliveries, receive materials, report materials variances, track material movements, conduct field inventory audits, and allocate costs to the proper project and cost centers. Will require managing and manipulating large transaction data sets, advanced data analysis and occasional field or warehouse work.

**Senior Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist - Safety – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 5/29/26 – Supporting various materials management functions for RWPC operated properties, focusing on asset database management, systems integration/consolidation, and inventory tracking. Responsible for tracking costs,

identifying deficiencies, and implementing process changes to optimize efficiencies. Will issue and receipt purchase orders, review invoices, coordinate deliveries, receive materials, report materials variances, track material movements, conduct field inventory audits, and allocate costs to the proper project and cost centers. Will require managing and manipulating large transaction data sets, advanced data analysis and occasional field or warehouse work.

**Financial Reporting Manager – Accounting & Finance (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 6/12/26 – Supports all aspects of routine and non-routine accounting, auditing, and reporting processes and projects; reviews and analyzes FASB accounting pronouncements and determines the impact on Growth Fund business entities; serves as an accounting expert in advising Growth Fund management, Controller and business entities on complex accounting issues. Assisting in the development of Growth Fund accounting policies.

**Financial Reporting Manager – Accounting & Finance – Denver, CO**

Closes 6/12/26 – Supports all aspects of routine and non-routine accounting, auditing, and reporting processes and projects; reviews and analyzes FASB accounting pronouncements and determines the impact on Growth Fund business entities; serves as an accounting expert in advising Growth Fund management, Controller and business entities on complex accounting issues. Assisting in the development of Growth Fund accounting policies.

**Human Resources Generalist – Southern Ute Growth Fund HR (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 5/15/26 – Maintaining the employment life cycle including but not limited to recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and separation for the Southern Ute Growth Fund companies and departments. Provides support with performance management, policy implementation, and maintaining HR records and provides general human resources support to Growth Fund and SUSS employees, Southern Ute Indian Tribal members and the public in an efficient, courteous and helpful manner.

**Environmental Manager – Safety & Environmental Compliance Management Group (Durango, CO)**

Closes 5/15/26 – Environmental oversight of the Southern Ute Growth Fund and its business enterprises to ensure compliance with Tribal, Federal, and State environmental regulations applicable to doing business on and off the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Will lead a senior staff of environmental professionals to develop and implement strategic compliance programs and processes.

### Avenue5 Residential Employment Opportunities!

**Maintenance Supervisor**

Salary: \$38 per hour; Property: Buckskin Charlie Apartments  
We're looking for a talented maintenance supervisor who will be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance operations and physical upkeep of the assigned property, and for ensuring that the property is compliant with Avenue5 policies and standards, in addition to all local, state and federal regulations. The maintenance supervisor is responsible for ensuring compliance to the company risk management program. Also, has financial responsibilities for contributing towards and adhering to property budget. For consideration, please apply at: <https://recruit.hirebridge.com/v3/application/applink.aspx?cid=7997&jid=726782>  
Application deadline 5/22/26.

**Property Manager**

Salary: \$65,000 per year; Property: Buckskin Charlie Apartments  
The property manager is responsible for the overall operations of the property. This includes ensuring efficient operations, overseeing supplier contracts, maintenance, lease administration, and monthly reporting. This position also creates a positive experience for the residents, associates, and clients. For consideration, please apply at: <https://recruit.hirebridge.com/v3/application/applink.aspx?cid=7997&jid=726783>  
Application deadline 5/22/26.

### SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

**Ignacio Youth Services**

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

**Multisystemic Therapy (Community Based Therapist)**

MST Therapist (Full-time) \$52,645-\$57,678

**Ignacio Senior Center**

Assistant Cook (Full-time) \$15.16/hr.

### Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- CTE Welding Teacher 26/27
- District Mechanic
- Elementary Teacher 26/27
- Secondary Science Teacher 26/27
- Secondary SpEd Paraprofessional 26/27
- Secondary Spanish Teacher 26/27
- Substitute Bus Drivers
- Substitute Cooks
- Substitute Teachers

### SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL CREDIT Homebuyers Education Class Webinar

Southern Ute Tribal Credit would like to inform the tribal membership that the Homebuyers Education Class Webinar is now available through the Tribal Member Portal. This class covers many aspects of the homebuying process and essential information you need to know when considering homeownership. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Tribal Credit Department. The link is located on the Tribal Member Portal for access under the Training and Webinars tab.

Please feel free to contact the Southern Ute Tribal Credit with any questions you may have at 970-563-2460.



## JOIN THE BERG GROUP

The Berg Group (Berg) is a specialty contractor building high-profile projects across the country including hospitals, data centers, manufacturing facilities, and commercial buildings. Berg is owned by **Kava Equity Partners**, an operating unit of the **Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund**.

**SELECT OPEN POSITIONS**

1. Construction Safety Intern, Chaska, MN
2. Construction Estimator Intern, Chaska, MN
3. Construction Project Engineer Intern, Nashville, TN, Canton, MS, New Carlisle, IN

Please contact The Berg Group directly regarding all opportunities.

Chaska, MN (HQ): (952) 448-3130 info@berggroup.us

[www.BERGGROUP.US/CAREERS/](http://www.BERGGROUP.US/CAREERS/)

## Buckskin Charlie's preservation lives on



Southern Ute Growth Fund Executive Director, Shane Seibel, joined Southern Ute Tribal Council and Executive Officer, Lindsay Box for a formal acknowledgement of stewardship by the Southern Ute Growth Fund during the Grand Opening of the Buckskin Charlie Apartments.



Southern Ute tribal members gather near the outdoor plaza to partake in light refreshments during the grand opening of the new apartment complex with staff and tribal leadership. Fire pits and grilling amenities compliment the complex along with a leasing office and exercise facility. The tours were provided to tribal members throughout the afternoon on Friday and Saturday.



Southern Ute tribal elders Bobbie Sage, Elise Redd, and Renee Sage, join fellow tribal members Gabrielle Herrera and SUGFMC's Izabella Cloud as they tour one of the newly constructed apartments.

Photos by Amy Barry  
Tribal Information Services

**By Amy Barry** Properties and Economic Saturday for tribal mem-  
**SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL** Development Department to bers who were interested  
**INFORMATION SERVICES** support local housing needs in the housing complex.  
and the initiatives of the This housing initiative also  
Southern Ute Economic De- serves as an example of  
velopment Department. The Buckskin Charlie's leader-  
On May 1, Southern Ute Tribal Council's initiative for affordable housing came to fruition with the grand opening of the apartments taking place with the tribal membership.  
The Buckskin Charlie Apartment complex project is a collaborative milestone that was created through the Southern Ute Growth Fund

goal is to support local housing needs, local business and creating local business ventures with the revenue that is generated returning to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's local economy. Tribal staff and leadership provided tours of the new complex through

members who were interested in the housing complex. This housing initiative also serves as an example of Buckskin Charlie's leadership toward the preservation and dedication to the Southern Ute people.  
For more information on the Buckskin Charlie Apartments or to be placed on an email list, please contact Kathleen Castellot, Economic Development Property Manager at 970-563-2325.

### The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

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

**Across**

- 1 Lover of Daphnis
- 6 Caressed crudely
- 11 French river known for its beautiful valley
- 12 Long, woody, twining plant
- 13 The --- Mattaponi, Virginian tribe
- 14 Complete reversal
- 15 "Billy, Don't --- Hero" (Bo Donaldson and the Heywoods, 1974)
- 16 "--- a Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit, 1966)
- 18 Benatar or Boone
- 19 The Rio Grande divides it east from west
- 21 Coxcomb
- 22 Denver cemetery associated with the Sand Creek Massacre
- 24 Filing month: Abbr.
- 25 1/640th of a square mile
- 26 Chicago Loop initials
- 27 Wildebeest
- 28 Farm brooder
- 31 Befall
- 33 Hale and hearty
- 35 The --- Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria
- 36 Districts
- 37 Worried greatly
- 38 Actress --- Witherspoon

**Down**

- 1 Ball-headed weapon with ceremonial importance, particularly in the East
- 2 Bill Clinton's Arkansas hometown
- 3 Ndé Kónitsaaí Gokiyaa
- 4 Bauxite, for one
- 5 More mysterious
- 6 Jack Horner's prize
- 7 --- -SCM, San Antonio TX, established by the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation
- 8 "He who is safe" - a Chief who signed numerous treaties
- 9 Spellbound
- 10 Minor fender damage
- 17 Tree feller
- 20 Russian for "peace"
- 21 Cat coat
- 22 Rich dude
- 23 Telescope eyepiece
- 26 Stimulating shrub
- 27 Poet's cavern
- 29 JFK predictions
- 30 AMEX rival
- 32 "Respect for Acting" author --- Hagen
- 34 Midge --- who co-wrote "Do They Know it's Christmas?"

Answers will appear in the May 29 issue of the Drum.

**Answers for April 17, 2026 crossword puzzle.**

**Across:** 1 NLRB, 5 Hippo, 10 IAEA, 11 On air, 12 Play it by ear, 15 Soc, 16 Ley, 17 Gin, 18 Toll, 20 Baba, 21 Bids, 22 Muni, 23 Jive, 24 Lamb, 25 AKA, 26 Par, 27 Lye, 30 Witherspoon, 33 Nehru, 34 Sort, 35 Issue, 36 Ides.  
**Down:** 1 Nips, 2 Lalo, 3 Reactivates, 4 Bay, 5 Hotel, 6 Inby, 7 Pay, 8 Piegan blood, 9 Oraibi, 13 Ills, 14 RNA, 19 Ode, 20 Bum, 21 Bikini, 22 Mars, 23 Jaw, 24 LaRue, 26 Peru, 28 Yore, 29 Ents, 31 HHS, 32 PSI.

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

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

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

### LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, May 15



Sunny 81°F  
Light variable afternoon winds

Saturday, May 16



Sunny 80°F  
Light variable afternoon winds

Sunday, May 17



Mostly sunny 74°F  
Breezy

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

