



Run adds color of hope

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Tracksters race to State

PAGE 9

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

# Tribe Celebrates Bear Dance, Honors Memorial Day



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Bear Dance saw no shortage of dancers this Memorial Day weekend, May 22 – 25 – ladies donned their best shawls, dresses, and jewelry for this year's celebration.

See additional Bear Dance photos on page 17.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Veterans Association held the annual Memorial Day Services "Walk of the Warrior" on Memorial Day, May 25 in the Southern Veterans Memorial Park.

See additional Memorial Day photos on page 16.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal member, Rhianna Carel exhibitions in the Women's Northern Traditional category on Friday evening at the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow – May 22 and 23.

See additional Bear Dance Powwow photos on page 18.

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### Chairman Pinnecoose appoints Box as Executive Officer

By Summer Begay, Communication Specialist  
 SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS



Lindsay J. Box Executive Officer

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose has announced that Lindsay J. Box will serve as Executive Officer of the Permanent Fund. This appointment supports continued delivery of government services and operational stability during the leadership transition. Chairman Pinnecoose was confirmed as Acting Chairman through Resolution No. 2026-096.

"This appointment reflects our commitment to stability, continuity, and a strong future for our Tribe. Lindsay brings the experience, vision, and dedication needed to guide the Permanent Fund, and I am confident her leadership will help us build on our strengths while creating new opportunities for our Tribal Members," shared Chairman Pinnecoose.

Box brings a proven record of leadership and a deep understanding of Tribal operations to her new role. Having served in several key positions, she offers both institutional knowledge and a forward-looking perspective essential for guiding the Permanent Fund's strategic growth. Box most recently served as Executive Officer under Chairman Melvin J. Baker starting in January 2024.

Rooted in her Nuuchiu heritage, Box remains dedicated to ensuring that cultural values continue to guide the Tribe's development. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Criminology, Bachelor of Arts in American In-

General Studies, and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing Leadership from Boise State University. She is pursuing a master's degree in legal studies from Texas A&M focusing on Human Resources, Employment Law, and Business Law & Compliance, reflecting her commitment to continued growth and professional excellence. In her role as Executive Officer, Box will leverage her strengths in strategic planning, policy development, and organizational leadership to advance the priorities established by Tribal Council and ensure the long-term strength of the Permanent Fund. Reflecting on her appointment, Box shared, "It is an honor to continue to serve the Tribe in this capacity and help steward resources that support our membership now and into the future. I look forward to working alongside Tribal leadership to strengthen the Permanent Fund while honoring our cultural values and building opportunities for the next generations."

During her tenure, Box has advanced significant achievements and milestones aimed at strengthening and improving Tribal government, including but not limited to:

#### General Obligation Bonds & Affordable Housing

Successful issuance of the 2025 General Obligation Bonds to fund the Buckskin Charley Apartments, advancing much-needed affordable housing and reinforcing the Tribe's leadership in capital markets.

#### Government Performance, Efficiency, and Innovation Study

Launch of a comprehensive, Tribe-wide evaluation to improve accountability, service delivery, efficiency, and long-term sustainability across all programs and departments.

#### Comprehensive Agricultural Management Plan (CAMP)

Development of a long-term, multi-generational strategy to strengthen food sovereignty, land use, water rights, workforce development, and economic opportunity through agriculture.

#### Business and Operational Planning Modernization

Advanced the Tribe's Business and Operational Plans into a true strategic framework, establishing clear goals, strengthening accountability, aligning staffing and resources, and improving long-term service delivery across Tribal government.

As the daughter of Janis Smith and the late Orian L. Box, Lindsay is a proud mother to Tavian (18) and Kiko (7). Her commitment to heritage is evident in her beadwork and sewing, preserving and celebrating Ute culture with every stitch.

For more information, please contact the Executive Office at 970-563-2301.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Following the gasoline pipeline spill that took place near Durango in 2024, Enterprise has since committed numerous resources to the response, while bringing in a large team of specialists to address the evolving situation in an effort to mitigate long term environmental impacts.

## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### Recovery to resilience

Advancing safety and quality of life on the reservation

By Summer Begay, Communications Specialist  
 SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

In December 2024, a catastrophic failure was identified on a 10-inch pipeline transmitting refined gasoline operated by Enterprise Products of Houston, Texas. Enterprise currently estimates that about 97,000 gallons of gasoline were released, making it the largest pipeline spill in Colorado and one of the largest in the country. It is impacting the groundwater on which residents rely on for drinking water and agricultural development. As the contamination plume dissolves and migrates, it continues to pose a risk to the Animas River.

Because the leak occurred on private fee land within the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, the State has exercised jurisdiction, in collaboration with the Tribe and the EPA. However, due to lack of resources, the

State's ability to address the spill and require remediation has been limited. Therefore, the Tribe has been monitoring the spill to help ensure the health and safety of Reservation residents.

The Enterprise spill highlights two pressing and immediate concerns.

First, the aging Enterprise pipeline needs to be replaced. The pipeline is 40 years old and utilizes outdated technology. After discussions with the Tribe and in recognition that there are more advanced and protective technologies available, Enterprise will be replacing the pipeline within the Reservation boundaries. Enterprise will be reaching out to those landowners who have previously granted a right-of-way across their land to allow them to initiate the process of replacing the aging line. We encourage everyone to work cooperatively so the pipeline can be replaced quickly. The Tribe

believes that this step will significantly reduce the risk of another devastating release of gasoline on the Reservation and is a strong step towards community safety.

Second, the release underscores the need for Reservation residents to have access to a reliable source of clean drinking water. The Tribe is considering options to address that.

In 1988, Congress enacted the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 with the support of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the State of Colorado. That legislation, as amended in 2000, confirmed the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's significant water rights throughout its Reservation, and re-authorized the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project, which had initially been approved by Congress

Recovery page 2

## DGO welcomes new terminal



Fabian Martinez/SUCCM

The Durango-La Plata County Regional Airport (DGO) celebrated the opening of a brand-new terminal on Friday, May 15, with a small reception and ribbon cutting ceremony. Tribal Council Member, Linda Baker was a member of the advisory committee for the airport expansion and was an advocate to include representation of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and local communities. The terminal was opened to the public on Wednesday, May 20, to the public and will hold the American Airlines gate. The full airport renovation is expected to be completed in late 2026.

## Many Moons Ago



Sacha Smith/SU Drum archive

## 10 years ago

Dwight, Leandro Jr, and Leandra Litz are all smiles and laughs as they enjoy riding the ladybug at the Carnival on May 21.

This photo was published in the May 27, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

## RECOVERY TO RESILIENCE • FROM PAGE 1

in 1968. The terms of the water rights settlement included storage of a portion of the Tribe's water rights in a reservoir now known as Lake Nighthorse.

As outlined in that legislation, one of its major goals was to ensure that the Tribe had an opportunity to derive a benefit from the use of its water rights. However, over the past three decades the Tribe has faced challenges in achieving that goal due to the absence of necessary infrastructure to access its ALP Project water. Today, the Tribe is addressing that challenge as it considers the construction of a water line that would bring its ALP Project water to the Reservation.

Over the next several months, the Tribal Council

will be considering its options. Pursuant to the 2000 Settlement Act Amendments, the use of the ALP Project water is limited to industrial and municipal purposes, both categories of use that are in critical need within the Reservation community. While the Tribe operates the Southern Ute Utilities Water Program which provides reliable drinking water to members of the Tribe and the community members in Ignacio, there continue to be many Tribal members and other Reservation residents who have no access to public water distribution systems and rely on wells or water deliveries for their drinking water. This problem is exacerbated by the Enterprise spill, which has resulted in the contami-

nation of over 110 acres of the drinking water aquifer, and will continue to result in the further contamination of drinking water for numerous Reservation residents.

In addition, the Tribe must consider opportunities to provide reliable water to promote much needed economic development within the Reservation, including commercial and residential development for all community members in collaboration with our County partners. We must look at innovative ways to support economic development and employment in this area of the County. We foster positive relationships with dignity. The Tribe will be exploring all options for the benefit of the Tribe and the Reservation community.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

## 20 years ago

This photo is from the front entrance of the new Mercy Medical Center located in the Three Springs area of Grandview. The hospital is slated for opening in June 2006. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe will be honored at the hospital for its donation of the land. The Southern Ute Tribe is currently planning a grand opening ceremony for Tribal members only.

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

## 30 years ago

There was not an issue of the Southern Ute Drum printed for the corresponding Many Moons Ago, 30 Years Ago. Look for the 30 Years Ago picture in the June 12 issue.



SU Drum archive

## 40 years ago

Mikki Naranjo – was the other recipient for the Elbert J. Floyd award. Congratulations to Mikki and Clinton Baker!

This photo was published in the May 30, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

### SOUTHERN UTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Announce Buckskin Charlie Apartments

Southern Ute Economic Development is pleased to announce that the Buckskin Charlie Apartments official website is now live and accepting rental applications! You are invited to visit: [www.buckskincharlieapts.com](http://www.buckskincharlieapts.com) to explore available apartment sizes and to apply to the waitlist for the specific size apartment you'd like. Once your application is submitted and successfully completes the tenant screening process, someone from Avenue 5 will contact you to discuss your unit preferences and anticipated move-in date. Avenue 5 Property Management is a Seattle, WA based national property management firm, who Economic Development has contracted with to manage the leasing and maintenance at the Buckskin Charlie Apartments. Economic Development is excited to have them onboard, and expect a more official introduction will be coming out directly from them in the coming weeks!

**NATIVE LENS SYMPOSIUM**  
A CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS FILM  
**JUNE 13-14, 2026**  
**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**  
**DURANGO, CO**

REGISTER AT  
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REC 00:00:00:00 MWB

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**Southern Ute Indian Tribe**  
**2026 Special Election Dates**  
Chairman Seat  
Outgoing Council Member: Melvin J. Baker

Special Election-	Friday, July 10, 2026, 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Residency Deadline-	Saturday, April 11, 2026
Statement of Intention Deadline-	Monday, June 01, 2026, by 5:00 P.M.
Eligibility Deadline-	Tuesday, June 09, 2026, by 5:00 P.M.
Notice of Election Deadline-	Wednesday, June 10, 2026, by 5:00 P.M.
(New) Voter Registration Deadline-	Wednesday, July 01, 2026, by 5:00 P.M.
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline-	Wednesday, July 01, 2026, by 5:00 P.M.
Emergency Absentee Ballot Request Deadline-	Thursday, July 09, 2026, by 5:00 P.M.

The 2026 Special Election will be held at 285 Lakin St. Ignacio, CO  
Contact Election Board (970)-563-0100 ext. 2303/2305/2729/2730  
Off-Reservation Tribal members phone 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303  
Email: [election@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:election@southernute-nsn.gov)

Election Board will resume normal business hours **May 18, 2026**  
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.



### Greanys dance in Randlett



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Mykel-Zain Greany dances with his partner at the Randlett Bear Dance in Randlett, Utah. Sister, Starlitt is also dancing with her partner.



Winner takes all turkey dance winner, Theoden Greany. "Theoden would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to Bear Dance Chief Skyler Lomahaftewa for hosting the Turkey Dance special, to the singers, and to the Ute Indian Tribe and its members for their warm welcome, kindness, and support during his time in Utah"



Jai'Markus Height holds up his Randlett Bear Dance Fun Run 2026 T-shirt featuring Theoden Greany.



Mykel-Zain Greany, tiny tot 4th of July princess Bonni height, Starlitt Greany, Theoden Greany and Jai'Markus height before the turkey dance grand entry

### SUCCM curates DGO display



Fabian Martinez/SUCCM

Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum's Collections Manager, Tallias Cantsee aids both Special Projects Support Staff Members, Rhonda Price and Kree Lopez with the mounts used within the airport display case on Wednesday, May 13, at the Durango-La Plata County Airport (DGO). Both Price and Lopez created magnetic inserts and covers for the mounts to create a "floating" effect for the displayed objects.



Fabian Martinez/SUCCM

Museum Special Projects Support Staff, Rhonda Price places a replica of a Ute beaded tail bag from the John Calantonio Collection on Wednesday, May 13. The items will remain on display until late-2027, when a new display will be created.



Logan Gasdias/SUCCM

Nine replicas of real Ute items were chosen for the display to help showcase traditional Ute bags. The display was created as part of a Memorandum of Understanding with both the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum and the Cultural Preservation Department to showcase Ute history and culture for visitors to the airport.

# 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**

# LET'S LEARN

**UTE**

**Pagtcha'avaanin̄.**  
*I will fish.*

**'aviwivaanin̄.**  
*I will camp.*

**Kiyavaanin̄.**  
*I will play.*



courtesy Southern Ute Behavioral Health

Participants of the 4th annual Recovery Retreat close the event by joining hands with a prayer song.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# BEE Heard: Community in recovery – it matters!

By *Rebecca Gale, Division Manager*  
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Recovery from substance use is often described as a journey, but it's more accurate to call it a shared journey. The presence of a strong, supportive community is one of the most powerful predictors of sustained recovery. Community offers structure, accountability, belonging, and hope – four elements that research consistently identifies as essential for long term healing.

People in recovery frequently report that being surrounded by others who understand their struggles reduces shame and increases motivation. It's one thing to hear "you can do this" from a professional; it's another to hear it from someone who has walked the same path.

There is also a neurological dimension to the power of community. Substance use disorders often disrupt the brain's reward pathways, making it difficult to experience pleasure or con-

nection. Positive social interaction helps repair these pathways. When people feel seen, valued, and understood, the brain releases oxytocin and other chemicals that counteract stress and support emotional regulation. In this way, social connection becomes a biological tool for healing, not just an emotional one. Many people in recovery say that knowing someone will notice if they disappear is what keeps them engaged during difficult moments.

Recovery is not simply the absence of substances; it is the presence of connection, purpose, and belonging. A strong community provides all three. In a world where isolation is increasingly common, recovery communities remind us that healing happens together.

The Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all of those who participated in our 4th Annual Recovery Retreat. Your support at this event helps us to reduce stigma around ALL mental health and substance use disorders.

Here's to your good health!

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

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

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

## "A drive by fruiting"



courtesy Veronica Lasater/SU Employee Benefits

As part of the Summer Wellness Initiative, Southern Ute Employee Benefits hosted a Fresh Fruit Social for employees of the Southern Ute Tribe to enjoy! Ansley Chesebro, Employee Benefits Coordinator was stationed in the open space between Mouache-Capote and Annex Buildings on Wednesday, May 27, with an assortment of fresh fruit including, bananas, oranges, apples, grapes, and a variety of berries.



## Mobile Market Distribution

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

### 10 AM-11 AM

Free, fresh food for you and your family.

115 Ute Street,  
Ignacio CO. 81137  
970-563-4100  
[www.theelhignacio.org](http://www.theelhignacio.org)  
[admin@theelhignacio.org](mailto:admin@theelhignacio.org)

## HEALTHY NEWS You Can Use!

### Tips to Stay Hydrated this Summer

- Drink water before you feel thirsty
- Add flavor to water with fresh fruits, a splash of fruit juice, or low sugar electrolytes
- Eat fruits and vegetables with high water content like watermelon, strawberries, cucumbers or tomatoes
- Avoid the heat and stay in the shade or indoors between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing
- Check on children and elders who are more at risk and may need reminders to drink

\*Signs of dehydration can include dark colored urine, muscle cramps, bad breath, and feeling tired or overly fatigued.



## SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER Group Exercise Water Fitness Announcement

Starting in June, classes will move to 8:00 a.m., every Monday, Wednesday & Friday!  
**We can't wait to see you there!**



Make a connection.

# Help save a life.


Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference.

- Half-day training in suicide alertness skills
- Learn four basic steps to create a life-saving connection
- Widely used by professionals and the general public


## Upcoming safeTALK training


**Date:** June 2, 2026  
**Time:** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Location:** Leonard C. Burch – Buckskin Charlie Conference room  
356 Ouray Drive / Ignacio, CO  
**Cost:** **FREE!**, *limited seats available*

**To register call:** Bruce LeClaire at (970) 563-2694  
**or email:** [bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:bleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov)




# MEN'S HEALTH MATTERS





## MOBILE CLINIC EDUCATION EVENT

### JUNE 16TH 8AM-12PM



**SKY UTE CASINO RESORT-Entrance**  
14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio

- Men's Health Information
- Learn about Tribal Health Department Services
- Healthy Snacks & Wellness Items

Look for the Mobile Clinic Van. We will be parked outside the valet entrance.

Questions: Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349



## Wesley receives Floyd Award



courtesy Kaylyn LeClaire/SU Education

Tenetke Wesley, received the 2026 Elbert J. Floyd Award in Southern Ute Tribal Council Chambers on Friday, May 15. Tenetke Wesley a Southern Ute tribal member, completed fifth grade, and will be going into sixth grade at the Mountain Middle School in Durango, Colo. He is also a decedent of the Mvskoke and Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma. Tenetke means "Thunder" in the Mvskoke language, a name given to him by his Grandfather. Wesley likes to draw and complete Lego sets of various types. Wesley has been on the Bayfield YAFL team for 4 years and has been nominated for Student of the Week twice throughout the school year. Mrs. Hughes has stated, "Tenetke is creative and inquisitive and works hard". Mr. Luron Dean of Inclusion also stated, "Tenetke stands out as a shining example of our schools core value, which is respect, integrity, refinement, and effort."

## Little Shop of Physics returns!



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) students took an afternoon trip to visit the Little Shop of Physics experience at the Southern Ute Education Department on Tuesday, May 19. This traveling, hands-on science program is powered by undergraduate students at Colorado State University.

Izen Mills explores a light feature physics display on Tuesday, May 19 at the Southern Ute Education Department while visiting the Little Shop of Physics. Colorado State University hopes to ignite curiosity and inspire love for science through engaging experiences for all aged students.



## SUIMA

# Pawaaghani po'ekwatu – Eagle's Nest

Setting screentime, gaming and social media

By Scott Halsband RN,  
HSN Coordinator  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN  
MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Scott Halsband RN  
HSN Coordinator

Summer Break for me brings back sweet memories of sleeping in, pool time, riding bikes, and staying out until the streetlights came on. Today, the same may ring true, but now with easy online access to gaming and social media, those activities have competition for our children's attention. With increased unstructured time, it is important to find a healthy balance between screen time and other activities. Here are a few ideas to try that might be helpful.

Define what is acceptable in terms of screen time, social media use, and the amount of online time allowed to help set limits and expectations. Together come up with a list of "Must Do's," tasks that need to be completed first to earn their time. Establish clear rules specifying which websites and apps are ok, and which are off limits (Parental Controls can help).

Encourage your children to brainstorm and make a list of activities they wish to do or goals they want to accomplish over the break. Post them as reminders and

Creating a weekly schedule like what teachers use to structure the school day/week can work well for the summer too. You can find and design schedule templates at sites like Canva: Visual Suite for Everyone. Be sure to build in some flexibility and wiggle room for those things that just come up; it is summer after all, so have fun with it and don't be too rigid. Wishing you all a wonderful and safe summer break.

### Sources:

Managing Summer Screen Time – An Action Plan! | Re-Connect

Navigating Online Safety over Summer Break – National Child Protection Task Force

### REGISTRATION PACKETS

Registration packets for the 2026-2027 school year are now available at [www.suima.org](http://www.suima.org) under the parent's tab or you can call 970-563-0253 to schedule a time to pick one up at the SUIMA office.

### M̄atagop̄e'ekw̄at̄v̄ana – On our calendar

- Aug. 10 – First Day for staff
- Aug. 20 – Back to School – Open House
- Aug. 24 – First Day for students

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY**

## Registration

SUIMA is accepting new and re-enrolling student registration forms for the 2026-2027 school year.

Please go to SUIMA's website at: [www.suima.org](http://www.suima.org)  
Click on the "Parents" Tab  
Fill out the registration/enrollment packet and submit!

If you have any questions please call 970-563-0253

# 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	PART-TIME AWARD	PROFESSIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Living Stipend</li> <li>• Cost of Tuition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of Tuition</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Applicable fees</li> <li>• Mileage Reimbursement                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Max 100 miles roundtrip</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	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 Beggy

# 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.
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Contact Lucas Kline at  
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**or REGISTER TODAY AT:**  
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/elks/>



## Rain won't stop SUIMA Field Day fun!



Starlitt Greany pauses for a photo as she exits the tunnel, successfully completing the obstacle course for SUIMA Field Day held at SunUte Community Center.

**Photos by Carli Hight**  
Tribal Information Services



SUIMA student Marley Valdez carefully weighs her next move on the "steppingstones" as she works her way through this year's obstacle course at SunUte Community Center for Field Day the morning of Monday, May 18.



Sylas Herrera looks around at some of the other activities taking place before going down the slide at SUIMA Field Day Monday morning.



After the morning rain shower clears, SUIMA students have fun playing with the bubbles outside of the gym at SunUte Community Center. Joaiden Hight and Cash Rodriguez-Velasquez look up as Navarro Delgado Torres creates a big bubble.

## Ignacio Elementary Field Day 2026!



Taking off in the Hippy-Hop race Cedar Hight (left) and Lorelei Moore (right) compete to make it to their Field Day partners first.



Cassius Harlan sprints toward the finish line of the relay race on Thursday, May 14th at Ignacio Elementary's Field day.

**Photos by Carli Hight**  
Tribal Information Services



Pulling for her class Ilyana Vega smiles through the famous IES Field Day Tug-A-War challenge at SunUte park.



Mariana Wolf hops her way toward her partner at the Hippy-Hop station on the IHS football field during the IES 2026 Field Day.



# SunUte hosts Color Craze Carnival & Color Run



All Color Run participants gather for a group toss of powder, closing out the afternoon and celebrating all the runners and walkers who completed the course.



Lucas Chavez runs the course covered in various hues during this year's Color Run event.

**O**n Friday, May 15 the Color Craze Carnival and Color Run filled the Piinu Nuucci Skatepark with music, games, free food and more. The carnival kicked off the community event in the afternoon followed by the Color Run. Each year the celebration is held to encourage healthy habits amongst the local youth and bring awareness to child abuse prevention. The event was held in support by the Division of Social Services, Shining Mountain Health & Wellness, Southern Ute Police Department, Justice & Regulatory, Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Department, Tribal Information Services, and SunUte Community Center.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute Police Chief, Daryl Noon goes for a swim in the dunk tank game on the SunUte Park field, adjacent to the Piinu Nuucci Skate Park. Noon and other Justice & Regulatory Leadership took turns sitting in for the dunk tank.



Theoden Greany (left) and Robbie Lucero (right) try a round of sumo wrestling working to push each other out of the blue ring.



Drone photo Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

Participants of the Color Craze Carnival and Color Run line up for the annual event to raise awareness about child abuse, was a huge success!



The Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance also volunteered their time, facilitating a color stop on the course – sharing words of encouragement and throwing as much yellow powder as they can.



Justice & Regulatory staff and youth volunteers gather for a photo and sprinkle their red colored corn starch in the air.



SunUte Community Center staff throws pink colored powder into the air as they gather for a photo during the Color Run.

## Recovery in Ignacio



Kimberly Armstrong, talks of her experience as a survivor during the “Healing Inside Out After Surviving the Storm of DV” breakout session. The session was led by Alfredo Armstrong of Morning Star Healing.



Comedian James Junes, a Dine comedian and one half of the James & Ernie comedy duo, expresses visually the “addition” and dependency on social media, and the attachment to technology. “Someone’s grandma is out there taking photos like this,” jokes Junes.



Dwight Francisco (Tohono O’odham) and Theda New Breast (Blackfeet) of Native Wellness Institute led the Native Youth Wellness and Leadership Youth Workshop. Francisco speaks of the effects of both negative and positive speech and the effects it has on the body.



Southern Ute Behavioral Peer Recovery Coach and organizer of the 4th Annual Recovery Retreat, Marvinina Olguin (center) along with presenters and speakers, gather on stage before parting along their respective healing journeys.

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum

**The fourth annual Recovery Retreat, were honored to welcome the Native Wellness Institute to facilitate the first ever youth portion of the retreat – expanding the event to include youth participants – an important step in strengthening intergenerational healing, connection, and recovery within our communities. MC, Chance Rush guiding the day with energy and encouragement. James and Ernie, closed the retreat with Native American comedy, bringing laughter and positivity to the event. This recovery-centered gathering brought together individuals and families from across the Four Corners region to support healing, wellness, and community connection.**

## KSUT Round Dance



Invited singer “Spazzin’ Dewitt” (right) leads a session of round dance songs on Saturday, May 16 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center celebrating KSUT Tribal Radio’s 50th Anniversary. Singers and dancers alike filled the event center to jam out in support of KSUT and their years of broadcasting news to the community.



Shawn Yazzie, Price Cozad and Rusty Cozad sing a round dance song. Tiff Cozad and Sheila Nanaeto, KSUT Station Manager also join in the singing.



Ethan Rohde O’Leary competed in the Youth Hand Drum Contest held at the KSUT Tribal Radio 50th Anniversary Round Dance Celebration.



Pricey Cozad, Leo Brady, and Sebastian Cozad compete in the Youth Hand Drum Contest – singing in the “Southern” style of round dance – their group went on to win the contest. The KSUT Tribal Radio 50th Anniversary Round Dance brought the community and invited guests together to enjoy top notch singing from all over Indian Country.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Round Dance MC, Phillip Moosomin (left) and Taylor Begay, host of The Cheii Show, were on hand at the KSUT’s 50th Anniversary Round Dance Celebration on Saturday, May 16. KSUT signed on for the first time on June 14, 1976, it was one of only eight stations in the country airing tribal programming, as a communications service for Southern Ute tribal members.

## Native Love host Wellness Walk



Cody Baker and his family trek north towards Scott’s Pond during the MMIR Awareness and Wellness Walk sponsored by Native Love, a local non-profit organization who sponsor events to bring awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

“Gone but not forgotten,” Nicholas “Nicc 4” Aarates of Towaoc, Colo., is honored by Jai’Markus Height during the Native Love MMIR Awareness and Wellness Walk.



photos Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

Approximately 25 walkers venture out early on Saturday morning, May 16, from the Sky Ute Casino Resort, prior to the 4th Annual Recovery Retreat. The walkers head south on CR 517 towards Scott’s Pond, along the Pine River, then back to the Casino. Native Love hosted the inaugural MMIR Awareness Wellness Walk as part of the 4th Annual Recovery Retreat.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio junior Thunder Windy Boy (14) goes stride for stride with Crested Butte Community School's Cody Pleak (10) as both pursue Dolores' Joseph Padilla (15) into the fourth turn while completing a lap during the Class 2A Boys' 3,200-meter run Friday morning, May 15, on the 2026 CHSAA State Track & Field Championships' second day.

BOBCATS TRACK & FIELD

# Determined hurdler deKay cops title

IHS senior wins one of two hurdles' races

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Finishing his 300-meter hurdles preliminary race Friday morning, May 15, somewhat in pain, but perhaps more pained by the sight of his fellow entrants running away from him, Lincoln deKay became even more motivated to leave Jeffco Stadium and the 2026 CHSAA State Track & Field Championships with at least one triumph to his name.

Thanks to his second-place 15.41 in the Class 2A Boys' 110m hurdles prelims the previous day, he'd have a chance.

And thanks to his own resilience, he conquered.

Clocking a sterling 15.19 during the season-ending meet's definitive Saturday session, deKay – Ignacio's record-holder in the specialty after smashing the former standard, set in 1989 by then-junior Tim Mantey, of 16.00 seconds – won by two-tenths of a tick over Wray senior Aaron Tena and 0.76 over Longmont-based Twin Peaks

**Determined** page 10



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Lincoln deKay (4) guts out the second Class 2A Boys' 300-meter hurdles preliminary Friday morning, May 15, on the 2026 CHSAA State Track & Field Championships' second day. Finishing in pain, deKay ranked 17th (his time was 48.44 seconds – roughly 5.5 off the minimum required pace) after the two heats and did not advance to the next day's final. He did, however, rest and refocus himself to win the Saturday session's 110-meter hurdles final.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez pitches against Peyton during postseason action Saturday, May 16, out in Las Animas.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

# 'Cats beat the heat, but not Panthers

Late Peyton rally ends Ignacio's season

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Despite sliding feet-first and dangerously close to opposing Peyton's dugout railing, with any number of Panthers undoubtedly trying to distract him, Ignacio freshman first baseman Stephen Romero nevertheless kept his concentration and caught PHS senior David Martin's pop-up in foul territory.

Having also caught senior Bradlee Nonaka's foul pop mere moments before, Romero's risky squeeze combined with senior catcher Gabe Archuleta's celebration – meant for not only Romero's, but also the enemy's ears – not only closed out five innings of Class 2A-Region VIII semifinal action Saturday afternoon, May 16, but should have probably sufficed to subdue the Panthers at event-hosting Las Animas' Robert 'Sonny' Smith Field.

After all, the Bobcats – seeded 24th in the 2026 CHSAA Class 2A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32 – had built up and again protected a 4-0 advantage, with senior right-hander Ambrose Valdez ignoring the 94-degree heat, allowing just three PHS players to reach base and three times retiring the designated home team in order.

Ignacio freshman Zackariah Loudenburg (1-3, R) then led off the visitors' sixth doubling to left off Peyton starter Bryce Love, and scoring two batters lat-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio first baseman Stephen Romero retires Peyton's Joseph Ornelas (6) on a close play at the bag during postseason action Saturday, May 16, out in Las Animas.

er when Archuleta tripled over PHS rightfielder Martin's head. Still Valdez's equal in most aspects, save for runs against, Love then got Romero (2-4, R, RBI) to ground out to senior short-stop Zayden Ebbert, but Archuleta scored on the play and increased IHS' lead to 6-0.

"It was HOT hot – I kept having to pour water in my hair, put a water towel on my neck!" Archuleta (3-4, 3 R, RBI) said. "But knowing that the season was coming to an end, and it's my senior year, I just did my best to get on base and leave it all out there. We knew he threw hard, so ... just had to throw our hands at the ball and make contact."

Love then managed to freeze Bobcat senior Sonny Flores (1-4, RBI) with a called third strike – the senior righty's 11th K (against zero walks and zero beaned batters) on the day – and keep the ninth-seeded Pan-

thers from sinking into any deeper of a hole. There was next to no indication, however, how swiftly and shockingly they'd surface.

Valdez walked leadoff man Love to start the bottom of the sixth, and Ebbert doubled him over to third. Senior Trent Gregg (2-3, BB, R) then reached via error when second baseman Loudenburg couldn't field his high-bouncing chopper – allowing Love and Ebbert to score and get Peyton on the scoreboard. Sophomore Brennan Christiansen then flew out to rightfielder Shaun Sanderson, and PHS junior Brayden Nonaka knew he had to re-stoke the developing rally before Valdez could snuff out its spark.

"The heat kind of got to us, but other than that we just weren't locked in. We really had to focus those last few innings," said Nonaka, "and I kind of approached it

'Cats page 10

**43rd Annual Louise Hammond Memorial Ute Mountain Beardance Run**  
**Saturday, June 6, 2026**  
 Ute Mountain Recreation Parking Lot

6am - Half Marathon \$40  
 7am - 10k \$30  
 5k \$25  
 8am - Womens Walk & Kids Run  
 9am - Elder Dash (65yr & older)

In Person Registration ONLY:  
 5:30am Half Marathon  
 6:30am 10k & 5k  
 7:30am Women's, Kids & Elder

Founded in 1981 by Louise Hammond, the Ute Mountain Bear Dance Run honors her legacy of promoting community wellness and healthy lifestyles, and continues today as a memorial event drawing Native American runners from across the Southwest.

**MORE INFORMATION: 435-823-0609 Vodne 505-508-8006 Hayley**

2026 SunUte Recreation  
**SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

Starting: July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
 \$375 Registration Fee/ Team  
 (Deadline: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

**Men's TUESDAY NIGHTS**      **Co-ed WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

CALLING ALL MEN'S AND CO-ED TEAMS TO JOIN US FOR OUR 2026 SOFTBALL LEAGUES. WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE ALL ATHLETES, WHO ARE INTERESTED, TO SIGN UP.

For more information please contact:  
 Elijah: (970) 563-2655      Kelsey: (970) 563-2660  
 Jake: (970) 563-2664      Aaron: (970) 563-2667

## 'CATS BEAT THE HEAT • FROM PAGE 9



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Gabe Archuleta squares up his late-game triple against Peyton during postseason action Saturday, May 16, out in Las Animas.

like any other at-bat. I knew my guys needed me so I just stayed calm, you know?"

Nonaka (1-3, R) proceeded to single into left and Valdez inexplicably then walked the next two Panthers before head coach Isaiah Valdez decided to bring the left-handed Romero onto the mound with bases loaded and one out.

"It was pretty hot out there. But, you know, we drank a lot of water and stayed hydrated, and I think we kept our heads up," Ambrose Valdez said. "I just went out there and tried to get it over the plate. Lot of pressure ... but you've just got to keep your head, do what you've got to do."

For the Panthers, that meant staying just as, if not more disciplined at the plate against a fresh arm firing from different angles. And sure enough, senior Bradlee Nonaka (0-2) drew an RBI-walk and Martin (0-2) did likewise to bring Love up for the second time in the frame. To the Bobcats' horror, Love (1-3, BB, R, 2 RBI) singled to left, scoring Joseph Ornelas – the last batter Valdez faced – and Nonaka, and suddenly putting Peyton up 7-6.

Romero (L; 0.2 IP, H, R, ER, 3 BB, 0 HB, 0 K) then got Ebbert (1-4, 2B, R) to fly to Evan Maez in left, and after walking Gregg got Christiansen (1-4) to line to shortstop Flores. But every bit of momentum had swapped sides, and the Panthers knew it.

"Later innings ... we grind and we don't give up – that's how Peyton rolls," said Gregg. "Once you get late into a game, you want to try to get the counts super-deep, which allows you to get walks. Also, you start to see patterns with the pitcher."

"We start with the leadoff



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Watched by Peyton's Brennan Christiansen (15), Ignacio's Sonny Flores dances off of third base in anticipation of the ball being put into play during postseason action Saturday, May 16, out in Las Animas.

guys, Bryce and Zayden; they got on and made it happen," he continued. "I had to put the ball in play, and the rest? You know, baseball's like that; it just happens like that."

Brought in to relieve Love (W; 6 IP, 12 H, 6 R, 6 ER), Ebbert got Valdez to chase a third strike in the dirt, and PHS catcher Ornelas completed the strikeout by throwing to first baseman Gregg. IHS' Joseph Atencio, however, drew a walk and took second when Max Mendoza (2-4, RBI) fanned and Ornelas had to again toss to Gregg. Atencio (1-3, RBI) reached third base when Ebbert pitched wild to Maez (1-4, 2B) but was stranded 90 feet from home when Ebbert (SV; IP, 0 H, BB, 3 K) got Maez swinging.

Primed to next face 8-seed

Las Animas – the Trojans (18-6 overall) had overcome No. 25 Ault Highland (9-15) in the previous semi, 10 to 8 – in the regional's finale, Peyton improved to 17-5 while Ignacio dipped to a finalized 13-11.

"It was a very big honor to be out there, and on the mound starting for us today," Valdez (ND; 5.1 IP, 6 H, 6 R, 6 ER, 3 BB, 0 HB, 7 K) said. "We had a lot of good heart and showed good effort out there today. That's all we could do."

### DID YOU KNOW

Smith Field was voted the Colorado Dugout Club Coaches Association's 2025 Small School Field of the Year.

## DETERMINED HURDLER DEKAY • FROM PAGE 9

Classical Academy junior Micah Arndt to summit the podium in his last-ever event as a Bobcat.

The ten points accompanying deKay's first-place medal ultimately put IHS into a tie with Calhan for 31st in the final standings. Peyton racked up 70.5 points and won the team title over Julesburg-based Sedgwick County (59) and Greeley Dayspring Christian Academy (54), with Ordway-based Crowley County (37.5) and Arvada Forge Christian (37) filling out the top five.

deKay's 48.44 in the 300 hurdles left him standing 17th after the two prelims, but he technically finished ahead of Buena Vista junior Dexter Whitmore, who was disqualified for finishing in the wrong lane.

Though fouling on his first and third attempts, senior Evan Perkins winged

the discus 110 feet, three inches on his second and placed 17th. Junior Thunder Windy Boy qualified in the 3,200-meter run and on Day 2 clocked a 15th-place 10:37.53 in a race where both the winner (Colorado Springs The Vanguard junior Max Miller) and runner-up (DCA senior Cooper Osmus) broke the 2A Championships record.

Besting the 9:25.63 set just last year, Osmus finished in 9:18.54 but still couldn't catch Miller and his 9:17.67.

### AFTERMATH

When the Colorado High School Activities Association released its 2026 Boys' Track & Field All-State Teams on the 20th, deKay was revealed as having earned First Team All-2A for his achievement in the 110m hurdles. Fellow

San Juan Basin Leaguers also honored were Telluride junior Thomas Mahoney (First Team; 100m, 200m), Mancos senior Jonah Ritter (First Team; 200m), Dolores senior Michael Rantz (Second Team; 100m, 400m) and Dolores sophomore Joseph Padilla (Honorable Mention; 3,200m).

In Class 1A, Norwood junior Holten McCluer was honored (First Team; high jump) along with Ouray senior Cavan Pasek (First Team; 200m), Nucla junior Cole Bray (Second Team; long jump), Ouray junior Jeep Demuth (Second Team; 100m, 4x100 relay – with Pasek, senior Conner Hill, senior Keaton Nelson), Nucla junior Austin Garvey (Second Team; high jump), Nucla senior Drake Long (Second Team; high jump) and Dove Creek senior Mason Forst (Honorable Mention; 3,200m).

## Jicarilla Apache Nation

### 6th Annual

## Department of Youth Open Jr. Rodeo

**Saturday June 13th, 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-Saturday**

**Buckles & Added Money to Event Winners.**

**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)

*CALLINS*  
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.

# 2026 Little Beaver

## 3D Archery Shoot, Dulce, NM

\*\*\*\*Registration will start at 8:00 AM\*\*\*\*

Sat, July 18                      Sunday, July 19  
9:00 am – 30 Targets              9:00 am – 25 Targets

\*\*\*\*Pond Race & Long Distance Shoot\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*Bionic Deer Challenge\*\*\*\* (sponsored by Jicarilla Antler Addition)

**Divisions:**

<b>Top Dog:</b>	<b>Women's</b>	<b>Men's Master (65+yrs)</b>
OPEN	Open, Bowhunter, Traditional	OPEN
<b>Senior Men's (50+yrs)</b>	<b>Youth Boys (13-17)</b>	<b>Senior Women (50+yrs)</b>
Open, Bowhunter, Traditional	Open, Bowhunter, Traditional	OPEN
<b>Men's</b>	<b>Youth Girl's (13-17)</b>	<b>Pee Wee's (7 and Under)</b>
Open, Bowhunter,	OPEN	OPEN
Barebow, Traditional		<b>Cub's (8-12)</b>
<b>Team shoot—Blind Draw</b>		Open & Traditional

**Registration Fees:** Men's - \$50 ; Women's - \$40 ; Youth - \$20 ;  
Cubs \$10 ; PeeWees—FREE    Top Dawg - \$100 - 50/50\* (\$1,000 to the added winner)

Fun Shoot—\$20    Team Shoot - \$10

For more information, contact Owen Phone Sr., @ 505/801/6944

Or Jr Phone @ 505/240/5889. Check out our FB & IG Pg @ Little Beaver 3D Archery Shoot. The Jicarilla Apache Nation & Little Beaver committee are not responsible for damage, theft, injuries or accidents during or after the event.

\*\*\*\*LAST YEAR FOR KERWIN & RUSTY PHONE MEMORIAL\*\*\*\*

UPCOMING EVENTS

## JUNE

**JUNE 1-5**    **Camp Invention**  
Ignacio Middle School

**JUNE 1-5**    **Bridge the Gap**  
SunUte Community Center

**JUNE 22-26**    **Southwest Regional Summer Native American Youth Practicum**  
Southern Ute Education Dept.

**JUNE 1 - JULY 31**    **Summer School**  
Ignacio Early Learning Program

## ALL SUMMER

**JUNE & JULY**    **Boys & Girls Club Team Up IHS/IMS Sport Camps**



**Southern Ute Elder Services  
June Activities List**

June 3, 2026  
Piinu Nuuchi Farmers Market (Sky Ute Casino)  
Van will depart Elder Services at 11:00 a.m.

June 9, 2026  
Shopping (Farmington)  
Van will depart Elder Services at 10:00 a.m.

June 16, 2026  
Casino Trip (Towaoc)  
Van will depart Elder Services at 9:00 a.m.

June 19, 2026  
Tribal Offices Closed  
in observance of Juneteenth

June 21, 2026  
Happy Father's Day  
"Thank you, fathers, for your wisdom and love"

June 23, 2026  
Scenic Drive (Silverton)  
Van will depart Elder Services at 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch will be provided

June 30, 2026  
Movie Day (Farmington)  
Van will depart at: TBD

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

**COMMUNITY GREETINGS**

**Thank You  
for Being Part of Our 4th  
Annual Recovery Retreat**

Avani Dilger Shelly Solopow Amber Richardson  
Precious Collins Chance Rush James & Ernie Comedy  
Kyle Manuelito Raven Nyx Weyhan "Moon" Smith  
Alfreda Armstrong Native Love Darla Lange Frankiana Tsoisie  
Native Wellness Institute Half Price Tees WSNRC  
Sky Ute Casino & Resort Ride Care Parker Valley Hope  
Hanley Frost Matthew Box Robert Ortiz Advocates for Recovery  
Lafayette Taylor Totah Behavioral Health TIS Eugene Bereza  
Southern Ute Vocational Rehabilitation Manna Resource Center  
Stephanie Paz AASTEC Lift the Label NATSU Behavioral Health  
Volunteers of America Colorado BHA Celebrate Recovery  
Norman Lansing Colorado 988 Elisia Cruz Silver Lining Recovery  
Homes Indigenous Wellbriety Denver Recovery Group  
Animas Recovery House The Barry Family Growth Fund The  
Department of Natural Resource Tribal Council Marge Barry

**SAVE THE DATE  
Northern Ute Powwow,  
Ft. Duchesne, Utah**



**July 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2026**

**For more information contact:**  
Chairman- Sapianaze LaRose 436-724-8311  
Vice Chairman-Alonzo Jim III 435-401-3183  
Secretary- Valerie Serawop,  
435-631-1557  
Treasury- Iokie Perez,  
435-724-8362  
Vendors Coordinator-  
Daniel Santio,  
435-823-2901  
Heather Serawop,  
435-401-8580  
Florence D. LaRose,  
435-724-8310

**137<sup>th</sup> Ute Mountain Beardance  
Tuwayak Nuchi Mamakurnkap**

**BEAR DANCE**



**June 5-8, 2026**  
Towaoc, Colorado

**Friday June 5**  
Celebration Begins .....10:00 am  
**Powwow:**  
Registration 6 pm  
Grand Entry 7 pm

**Saturday June 6**  
Beardance All Day.....  
**43rd Annual Louise Hammond  
Memorial Run:**  
IN PERSON REGISTRATION ONLY  
starting @ 5:30am  
6am - Half Marathon \$40  
7am - 10k \$30 5k-\$25  
8am - Womens walk & Kids run  
9am - Elder Dash (65+)

**Softball Tournament:**  
\$250 per Team  
8am  
Deadline May 29, 2026  
Contact: UMRC 970-564-5360

**Parade:**  
line up 9am  
Recreation Center Starts 10:00 am  
Contact: (970) 739-7570

**Glucose Testing Tent:**  
10am in front of Post Office

**Saturday June 6**  
**Powwow:**  
Registration 11 am  
Grand Entry 12 pm  
Grand Entry 7 pm  
**Handgames:**  
Ute Mountain Casino  
Indian Village

**Sunday June 7**  
Beardance All Day  
Elder Honor Ceremony..... 2 pm

**Monday June 8**  
Beardance All Day.....  
Feast Day

**Beardance Chiefs:**

**TERRY KNIGHT, SR.**

**TERRY KNIGHT, JR.**

**FARLEY KETCHUM, SR.**

**MARK WING**

**AUSTIN JACKET**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, INJURIES OR DIVORCES, NO SOLICITORS,  
No Videos or photography Without Chief's Permission  
THIS EVENT IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

**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  
-RANDY 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.

**Drum  
Deadline**

Next issue:  
**June 12**

Deadline:  
**June 5**

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



**THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM**

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



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courtesy BGC

BGC kids enjoy a round of mini golf at Serious Texas in Durango, Colo. Pictured left to right, Natalia, Bradley, Ember, Ray, Amonn, Jayceon, Dmo, Robbie, Ethan and Cassidy.

## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

# CLUB CONNECT: Updates and announcements

### Staff report

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

### Youth of the Month

Our Youth of the Month focuses on acknowledging and making club members aware of their own unique character and abilities. As staff, we want to recognize them on their positive attributes seen in their club driven experience.

For this month, our Youth of the Month award goes to Robert Archuleta and Jr. Youth of the Month is Aria Sanchez!

Congratulations on behalf of the BGCSU staff!

### BGC Shoutouts

5th graders celebrated



**Robert Archuleta**  
Youth of the Month



**Aria Sanchez**  
Youth of the Month

their achievement of moving on to middle school with dinner and mini golf at Serious Texas BBQ.

Congratulations to all our fifth graders! Ray, Ember, Natalia, Jayceon, Bradley

L, Ethan, Amonn, Cassidy, Robbie A, Payton, & Nathaniel.

BGC Kindergartener, Aria, graduated on May 20. Congrats Aria and good luck in first grade!



courtesy BGC



courtesy BGC

Ember Vigil pictured with a cacti at Serious Texas in Durango, Colo.

BGC Kindergartener, Aria, graduated on May 20. Congrats Aria and good luck in first grade!

# CIRCUS CLASSIC

Here for the **WOW!**

**UNDER THE BIG TOP**

**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!

- MEET THE BEAR
- FEED THE BEAR
- FEED THE HORSE
- FEED THE PIG
- FEED THE GOAT
- FEED THE SHEEP
- FEED THE BUNNY
- FEED THE CHICKEN
- FEED THE TURKEY
- FEED THE DUCK
- FEED THE GOOSE
- FEED THE RABBIT
- FEED THE CAT
- FEED THE DOG
- FEED THE FISH
- FEED THE BIRD
- FEED THE MAMMOT
- FEED THE BEAR
- FEED THE HORSE
- FEED THE PIG
- FEED THE GOAT
- FEED THE SHEEP
- FEED THE BUNNY
- FEED THE CHICKEN
- FEED THE TURKEY
- FEED THE DUCK
- FEED THE GOOSE
- FEED THE RABBIT
- FEED THE CAT
- FEED THE DOG
- FEED THE FISH
- FEED THE BIRD
- FEED THE MAMMOT

SunUte Recreation Presents

# Bridge the Gap

Week #1

June 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

ALL COMMUNITY YOUTH, AGES 7 - 14 YEARS OLD, ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR A FULL WEEK OF FUN AND ADVENTURE.

\$15/ KID (SU TRIBAL MEMBERS & 1<sup>ST</sup> DECANDANT SIGN-UPS ARE \$5)  
IN-PERSON SIGN-UPS ONLY (NO OVER THE PHONE)

FOR MORE INFO:  
ELIAN: (970) 563-2655  
KELSEY: (970) 563-2660  
JAKE: (970) 563-2664  
AARON: (970) 563-2667

## MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

### June Sip, Chat & Chew

Friday June 12, 2026  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Sponsored by: The Southern Ute Veterans Association

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

Door Prize donations are appreciated. There will be a youth door prize table.

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

## SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

STORY TELLING · MUSIC · GAMES  
STAR GAZING · CAMPING ADVENTURE

YOUTH HIKING TRIP DESIGNED FOR AGES 12-17  
2 NIGHTS CAMPING AT WESTFORK CAMPGROUND, PAGOSA SPRINGS  
JUNE 14-16

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: JUNE 8, 2026  
18 SPOTS AVAILABLE  
\$5 FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS AND 1<sup>ST</sup> DESCENDANTS  
\$10 FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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



### 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.

### 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.

<p>Scan the QR or use link to join</p>  <p><a href="https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/01qV8FcekR">https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/01qV8FcekR</a></p> <p>Copy link</p> <p><b>Option 1</b> TM Assignee Allotee Hay Producers</p>	<p>Scan the QR or use link to join</p>  <p><a href="https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/0Nfps2bc8X">https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/0Nfps2bc8X</a></p> <p>Copy link</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> TM Assignees Allotees, Not Ag Hay Pro</p>	<p>Scan the QR or use link to join</p>  <p><a href="https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/6YM4gZW5Gm">https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/6YM4gZW5Gm</a></p> <p>Copy link</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> TM No Assignment Allotment or Hay Production</p>
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McKayla Lee/SU Drum archive

Lake Capote from the La Plata West Water Authority (LPWWA) Tour in 2018.

### WATER TEMPERATURE AWARENESS

## Ignacio and surrounding lakes

*It feels like summer, but the water hasn't caught up yet*

Staff report  
SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Warm days are finally here, and our lakes are starting to look inviting. It's the time of year when people want to jump in, cool off, and enjoy the outdoors. But here's the reality – our water is still cold enough to be dangerous, even on a hot day.

Right now, many of our local lakes are in a temperature range where your body can react within seconds. Strong swimmers, experienced boaters, and people who feel comfortable in the water can all be caught off guard at this time of year. Before you head out, take a minute to understand what you're getting into.

Our community was recently impacted by a tragedy at Lake Nighthorse, reminding us how important it is to understand the risks of cold water.

#### THE REALITY RIGHT NOW (as of May 20, 2026)

- Navajo Lake: 57–61°F
- McPhee Reservoir: 53–58°F
- Vallecito Lake: 52–56°F
- Lake Nighthorse: ~57°F

This is the most dangerous cold-water range

#### WHAT THE DATA SHOWS

- 4,000+ people drown each year in the U.S.
  - In boating deaths: 87% weren't wearing life jackets
  - Colorado has seen record drowning years (30–36+ deaths annually)
- Most incidents happen during warm weather + cold water

#### WHY 50–60°F WATER IS HIGH RISK

- "Cold shock" happens in seconds
- Breathing becomes uncontrolled
- Strong swimmers can't keep up
- 50–60°F = maximum danger zone

#### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BODY

- 1–3 minutes: gasp reflex, panic, risk of drowning
- 10 minutes: muscle failure, can't swim effectively
- 30+ minutes: hypothermia risk

#### WHEN DOES IT GET SAFER?

- May–June: still cold (50s/low 60s)
  - July–August: warming (60s–70s)
  - Late summer: best swimming temps
- Most Colorado lakes don't fully warm up until mid–late summer!

#### SMART CHOICES SAVE LIVES

- Check water temp – not just air temp
- Enter slowly – don't jump in
- Wear a lifejacket or use a float
- Stay close to shore & never go alone

#### IF YOU FALL IN – FLOAT FIRST. THEN ACT.

- Control your breathing – then get to safety!

#### REMEMBER

Warm weather doesn't mean safe water. Right now, our lakes are in the highest danger zone for cold water shock.

Stay safe, we care about you!

– SunUte Staff

## 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*

## Multi-Purpose Facility June Senior Breakfast



Wednesday June 3, 2026

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Open to all Community Senior Citizens 55 years and older

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



## ATTENTION! NEW VERSION OF INTERACTIVE GIS MAPPING WEBSITE

Try it out! Click the SUIT Land Status link below to learn about the Land Status, Assignments, Ditch Data, Addresses, Great Aerial Imagery, Fishing Accesses, and Parcel Information on the Reservation.

For More Information Contact:  
Shelly Riddle at: 970-563-0100 x2226  
Candi Valencia at: 970-563-2237

[SUIT Land Status](#)

## WATER RESOURCES

# Drought update: Southern Ute Reservation and Colorado

Staff report

### SOUTHERN UTE WATER RESOURCES

The last Drought Update was Feb. 6. This past winter in Colorado has been one of the warmest on record (the state experienced the warmest month of March in ~130 years of record) and the state's snowpack has been the worst on record. With the unprecedented poor snowpack and early runoff, the Water Resources Division (WRD) decided to update the community on current Snowpack, Drought Conditions, and Weather Outlooks.

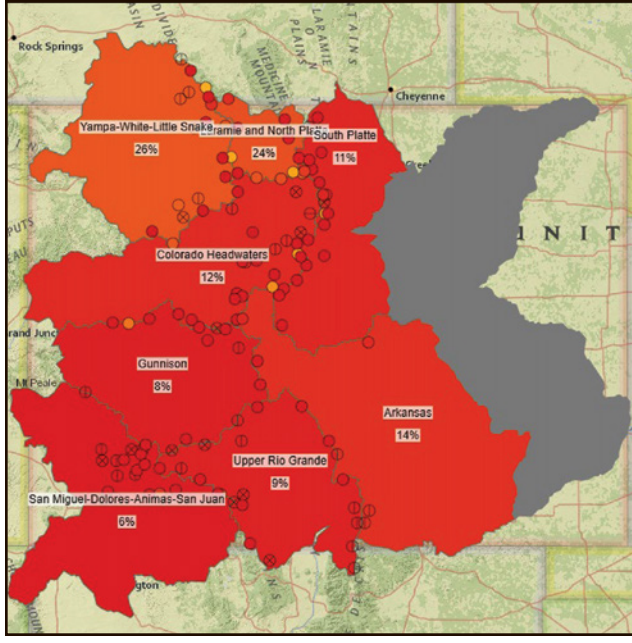


Figure 1. Percent of Median SWE for Colorado's watersheds (5/13/2026).

### SNOWPACK

Currently, the San Juan Basin in southwest Colorado is at 6% of the 1991-2020 Median Snow Water Equiva-

lent (SWE) as shown in Figure 1. For context, the winter of 2022-2023 was above-average and the snowpack in our basin on May 14, 2023 was 205% of the 1991-2020 Median SWE.

With a record warm March, runoff season started abnormally early. Rivers in our area peaked around late March; however cooler temperatures and some precipitation in April helped slow runoff and maintain some of our dwindling snowpack. This week has been warm, which has resulted in snow melting and yet another peak in runoff for many rivers in our area. The remaining snowpack will likely melt off quickly, but the weather outlooks for

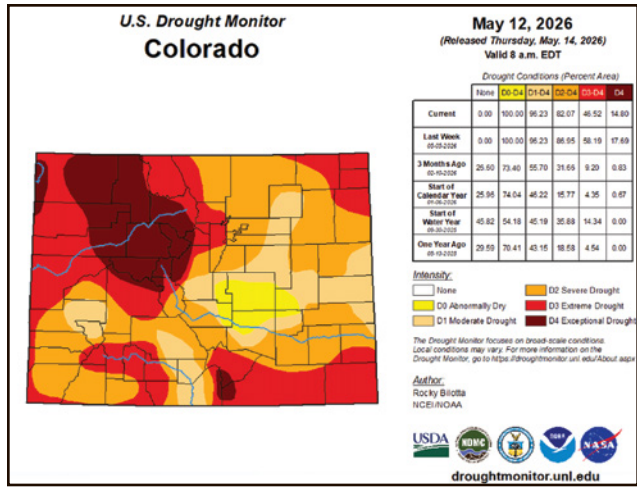


Figure 4. State of Colorado Drought Monitor.

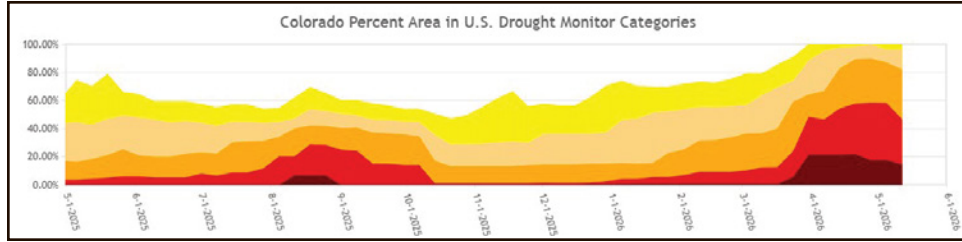


Figure 5. State of Colorado % Area in Drought (5/1/2025 – present).



Figure 6. Current drought conditions on the Southern Ute reservation.

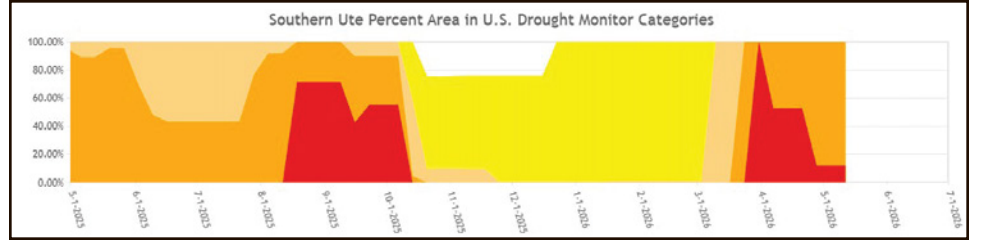


Figure 7. Southern Ute reservation % Area in Drought (5/2025 – present).

this summer look promising and more information can be found below in the Weather Outlooks section.

Since January 1, 2026, the rain gage at the WRD office has received 2.6 inches of liquid precipitation. The low snowpack, low runoff, low precipitation, and warm temperatures have resulted in our area experiencing drought for the entirety of 2026 so far. In terms of the irrigation season, although we had a very poor winter, the storage reservoirs are looking very good. The October 2025 rainstorms increased reservoir levels a lot. Vallecito reservoir filled and is currently at 92% full due to releases for increased irrigation demand. The Pine River Indian Irrigation Project (PRIIP) will have a 100% supply this season. Lemon Reservoir was close to filling but is currently at 89% full due to increased irrigation demand. The Florida Project is currently anticipated to have a 70% supply with the season likely ending around

the end of July. If the weather transitions to a wet pattern, many things could change.

### DROUGHT

The entire state of Colorado has been in some level of drought for at least a month including the southwestern part of the state which has drought conditions ranging from Moderate to Extreme Drought (Figure 4). Over half the state has been in drought conditions for the past year. The Southern Ute reservation currently has Severe to Extreme drought conditions (Figure 6) and has experienced drought conditions for most of the past year (Figure 7).

The US Drought Outlook shows southwest Colorado drought persisting through 7/31/2026. The Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts show increasing chances of El Niño probability, so hopefully we will receive some much-needed precipitation throughout the rest of the

year. In past ENSO probability forecasts, the blue bars (La Niña) have been the highest over the last few years. In the current forecast, the blue bars are the lowest so maybe we will have a positive change in weather patterns this summer and fall.

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

The outlooks for June through August 2026 show southwest Colorado experiencing above average precipitation with above average temperatures. If the models are accurate, maybe we'll have a decent monsoon season later this summer and bring some much-needed precipitation to our area to relieve some of these drought conditions.

The WRD will continue monitoring drought conditions and update the community periodically. If you'd like more information, feel free to reach out to George Gavielides, Water Resources Specialist, at 970-563-2932.

# HIT THE ROAD TO BIG CASH & SUV WINS THIS JUNE!



## CRUISE TOWARD CASH & PRIZES!

JUNE 1 - 27 | 8PM - 10PM

Ace's Club members earn one entry for every 200 points earned all month!

### GRAND PRIZE | SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Preliminary Drawings | 8PM - 9:30PM

Every 30 minutes, one lucky winner will walk away with a Road Trip Kit (cooler, \$100 gas card, and \$50 Sky Ute Loot) plus the coveted Golden Key.

### The Trunk Showdown | 10PM

Four Golden Key holders will choose their state: CO, NM, AZ, or UT. Three trunks hold \$1,000 cash, but one holds the master key to the grand prize: a brand-new SUV or \$25,000 cash!



## YOUR EPIC JOURNEY AWAITS.

JUNE 1 - 6 | 6PM - 10PM

Starting at 6PM, earn 50 points playing your favorite games, then visit a kiosk to play Pick-a-Park for a chance to win \$50 - \$100 in Sky Ute Loot and up to 10 entries into the June 27 The Great Four Corners Road Trip SUV giveaway.



## BUCKLE UP FOR BIG WINS.

JUNE 8 - 13 | 4PM - 9PM

Trade Utah's red rocks for an Arizona adventure! Ace's Club members earn one entry for every 66 points, with hourly drawings from 4PM - 9PM. If called, you'll have four minutes to play the Grand Canyon Plunge puck-drop game for a chance to win up to \$966 cash!



## GET YOUR KICKS.

JUNE 15 - 20 | 4PM - 9PM

New Mexico's Mother Road rolls onto the casino floor with hot seat drawings every hour from 4PM - 8PM. If your seat is called, spin the giant prize wheel for a chance to win cash, Sky Ute Loot, giveaway entries, and Sky Ute Casino gear!



## SCALE THE PEAKS!

JUNE 22 - 27 | 6PM - 10PM

The climb to big rewards starts here. Every hour, active Ace's Club card members can win cash prizes starting at \$300 and climbing to \$500 by 10PM. If your name is called, you'll have four minutes to claim your prize at Ace's Club. Don't miss your chance.



## PUT YOUR ENTRIES IN OVERDRIVE.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 14, & 21  
9AM - 5PM

Ace's Club members playing with their card earn 4X entries toward The Great Four Corners Road Trip SUV giveaway.



## A BURST OF WINS BEFORE BINGO!

SUNDAYS | 8AM - 1PM

### AN EXCLUSIVE TREAT FOR OUR ACE'S CLUB BINGO PLAYERS!

Earn 15 points and you'll get your shot at the Balloon Blast where everyone walks away a winner. Every single balloon is bursting with Sky Ute Loot — so act fast and claim your prize before bingo begins!



# The Southern Ute Drum Presents Graduation, Bear Dance & Memorial Day

## SPECIAL SECTION

Memorial Day	16
Bear Dance	17
Powwow	18
Graduations	20-23



Gregory Walker, Sonny Flores, and Ambrose Valdez stand engulfed in confetti at the Ignacio High School Graduation.

## Memorial Day: Walk of the Warrior



Veterans, Raymond Baker (Navy-Retired), Bruce LeClaire (Army) and Raymond Price (Army) lower the flags to half-mast during the flag song.



Veterans and community members approach the Bear Dance bridge. The procession started at the Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park and ended at the Ouray Memorial Cemetery.

**The Southern Ute Veterans Association held their annual Memorial Day Services honoring veterans with the "Walk of the Warrior," Monday, May 25 at the Southern Ute Veteran's Memorial Park. Grodon Hammond (USMC) served as MC for the event, guest speakers included Cecilia Price (Army) and Raymond Price (Army). A procession proceeded to the Bear Dance bridge overlooking the Pine River as Rudley Weaver (Navy) released a wreath in honor of those lost at sea. The event ended at the Ouray Memorial Cemetery with a closing ceremony.**



Cecilia Price (Army) of Scottsdale, Arizona, a combat veteran in the 7th Infantry, stationed in Korea speaks of her time as a communications operator. She spoke of Veterans never stop serving – veterans continue to serve and honor their people, from funerals, to parades.



Veterans Raymond Baker (Navy-Retired) and Kara Whiteskunk (Army) salute the wreath dedicated in honor to the Southern Ute veterans listed on the memorial wall at the center of the Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park.



Southern Ute Veteran, Rod Grove (Army) carrying the Southern Ute Veterans flag, with Raymond Price (Army) and Michela Alire (Army) as part of the Color Guard as they led the procession to the Bear Dance Bridge overlooking the Pine River.



Veterans from across the nation, of varying race and creed, "muster" for a photo in front of the Southern Ute Veterans Memorial. The Veterans Association organize the annual Memorial Day event.

**Photos by Robert L. Ortiz**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute Veteran, Rudley Weaver (Navy) releases a wreath into the Pine River in honor of the men and women lost at sea. Weaver was joined by active veteran, Mel Bowman (USMC).



Red Spirit, from Fort Duchesne sing an Honor Song as part of the closing ceremony for the "Walk of the Warrior" at the Ouray Memorial Cemetery. Taps was heard, compliments of Ronnie Baker (Army) and a 21-gun salute was conducted by members of the Southern Ute Police Department and Southern Ute Tribal Rangers.



Marlena Valdez sings Amazing Grace at the closing ceremonies of the Memorial Day "Walk of the Warrior" at the Ouray Memorial Cemetery. Closing prayers were offered by Father Cesar, and Hanley Frost.



## Shawls sway & swing, growlers sing



Bear Dancers approach the growler box on Sunday afternoon. The corral is filled with dancers – showing their best moves to the singers and spectators.



Ladies line up in front of their chosen dance partners on Sunday afternoon. Sarafina Chackee swings her shawl to the beat of the song; her partner follows.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Bear Dancers of all ages take to the floor to enjoy the lively songs, warm weather, and celebration of the new season and year.



Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students kicked off the weekend, gracing the Bear Dance corral and honoring the bear with the first dance. SUIMA students wore vibrant handmade regalia – crafted throughout the long winter season – as the young girls picked out their partners.

**The Southern Ute Indian Tribe welcomed the spring season, bringing all three Ute tribes together this Memorial Day weekend – Friday, May 22 through Monday, May 25. Dancers kicked up dust, moved to the rhythm of the growlers, and donned their best regalia for the four-day celebration. Local and visiting singers debuted new songs, as well as songs passed down for generations. On the final day, dancers go head-to-head with the singers for the “Last Dance” – dancing non-stop and eventually winning with a time of one hour and twenty-five minutes.**



Sisters, Ramona Eagle (left) and Linda Eagle (right) stand with their grandchildren during the opening day of this year's Southern Ute Bear Dance. Kellis Wilbourn (front) is the granddaughter of Ramona Eagle, and Henry Whiteskunk II (back) is the grandson of Linda Eagle.



Malene Avila jams out as the sun sets on Sunday evening, Avila is an avid bear dancer and powwow dancer – she guides her partner to the beat of the growlers during their dance.



Ethan Rohde O'Leary has been diligently learning the characteristics and role of the “Catman” in recent years. Rohde O'Leary volunteered his time to help keep each dancer safe, and the corral organized as the celebration went on throughout the weekend.



Southern Ute tribal member, Alyas Maez watches over the fires that warm the dancers during the night dance session on Sunday.



LaRee Avila, looks out into the corral as dancers pick their partners and line up on Sunday evening. The Bear Dance is a ladies choice dance; women will choose their dance partner by flicking their shawl fringe – the pair then move in tandem with the growlers backwards and forwards in the corral.



## Bear Dance Powwow fills Event Center



Men's Southern Straight dancer shows his best moves in front of judges at the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow on Saturday afternoon.



Mothers and daughters dance in a special contest on Saturday night. Heather White Thunder and her daughters, Shayne and Malia, wear matching regalia as they compete in the contest – the trio went on to place in the top five of the contest.



Women's Northern Traditional dancer competes on Saturday night at the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow.



Jr. Women's Jingle Dress dancer, Lalaina Becenti, graces the floor with her moves during the adult contest on Saturday evening.



Katrina Baker follows alongside her mother, Cassandra Atencio in the Mother's and Daughter's special. The pair showcased their Ute style of dress and dance during the powwow, as Atencio served as the head woman dancer.



Morgan Blackhair and her daughter, Honey Sue dance in the Mother's and Daughter's special dance contest on Saturday night of the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow.



Host Southern Drum, Omaha White Tail Singers, brings in dancers for the first session of Grand Entry on Friday evening.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum

**The Southern Ute Powwow Committee welcomed dancers, singers, and spectators to the Sky Ute Casino Resort on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 for the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow. In tandem with the Bear Dance celebration, the powwow brings in crowds from surrounding areas offering another event for visitors to enjoy. The powwow featured competition dancing and singing, a variety of vendors, and special contests for attendees.**



Emcee's Bart Powaukee and Stais Harlan, stand with Head Judge, Kenny Brown Sr. ahead of the first session of the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow. Harlan was later honored for his dedication to learning the role of emcee and for volunteering his time to the community.



Taylor "Cheii" Begay – Men's Northern Traditional dancer – jams out during the first grand entry on Friday night. Dancers throughout Indian Country visited the Sky Ute Casino Resort for the two-day powwow.



# Other Bear Dance Happenings

## *Nuuiciu eat together at Kick-Off*



Southern Ute tribal elder, former Southern Ute tribal chairwoman, and former Southern Ute Tribal Court Chief Judge, Pearl Casias, graced the Kick-Off meal's attendees with her presence and a humbling prayer in Ute amongst tribal membership and guests.

## *Bear Dance Feast feeds hundreds*



Sisters, Velma Armijo and Cathleen "Cookie" Cajero serve bowls of stew to Bear Dance attendees on the final day of the celebration held Friday, May 22 through Monday, May 25. The pair were asked by the Bear Dance Chief, Matthew Box, to make and serve the feast for this year's event.



Southern Ute tribal member, Jeremy Carmenoros attended the kick-off meal with his family members, including Southern Ute tribal elder, Donna Rock.



Southern Ute Tribal Council member, Marge Barry, serves up fresh oven bread to dancers and visitors on Monday morning at the Bear Dance Feast. Adjacent to the corral, volunteers serve up beef stew, corn, Pueblo oven bread, and cornbread.



Southern Ute Police Department Chief Daryl Noon was the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility's 1st place winner for the Frybread Making Contest that was held on May 15, at the SU MPF. The Southern Ute Justice and Regulatory Divisions faced off in live competition with winners unveiled at the meal. The facility had judges and prize sponsors for the event that included Southern Ute tribal elders, Terry Box, Linda Eagle, and Connie Baker. Ute sister tribal members also participated by serving as frybread judges.

**Photos by Amy Barry**  
Tribal Information Services



Cultural Preservation Director, Crystal Rizzo and Tribal Council member, Marty Pinnecoose serve guests and dancers at the bear Dance. The cooks prepared enough to feed 1,000 people! Working in cooperation with the Sky Ute Casino Resort staff.

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

## *Los Pinos Spring Classic brings all the hits*



Tyler Young of team "Crackheads" hit a homerun in a close game against "Smashies," on May 24, at the Patrick Silva Memorial Field. Young's hit was in the first championship game, for the 56th Annual Los Spring Classic Co-ed Softball Tournament in Ignacio, Colo.

**Photos by Terence Whyte**  
Tribal Information Services



"Crackheads" based out of Albuquerque, N.M., came out as champions as they won two games to end the tournament. "Smashies" out of Torreon, N.M., finished in second place.



"Smashies," Tierre Nez lines a homerun out of centerfield in the second championship game.

# Southern Ute Montessori Academy moves forward!



Lazarus and Lucas Chavez laugh with SUIMA Principal, Mari Jo Owens after swapping places when receiving their certificates.

**O**n the morning of Friday, May 22, friends, family, and Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) staff members gathered in the SunUte Community Center gym to celebrate the SUIMA students who are transitioning to the next level of education. The Southern Ute Tribal Council, Southern Ute Color Guard, and the Yellowjacket drum group were part of the ceremony to celebrate the SUIMA students. A beautiful start to the Bear Dance weekend.

Photos by Rosaleigh Cloud  
The Southern Ute Drum



Akasha Albo stands proud as she transitions onto lower elementary.



Lyric Herrera Thompson shows off her certificate of completion in her purple t-dress.



December Santistevan excitedly waves as she walks to receive her certificate.



Southern Ute Chairman Marvin Pinnecoose welcomes all who attend the ceremony and gave words of encouragement to the SUIMA students.



Mari Jo Owens congratulate Lawrence Santistevan II and Matthew Carrillo for completing upper elementary, as they will be transitioning into public school. Matthew will be going to Bayfield Middle School and Lawrence will be going to Ignacio Middle School.



Shiann Baker kneels to hug her son Kaleo Graham after receiving his certificate for completing the infant level; he will be moving to the Toddler level.



Manaius Valdez Cuthair walks with his grandfather Jeremiah Valdez to receive his completion certification. Manaius is moving to the Toddler level from the Infant level.

# Ignacio High School celebrates commencement



The graduating class of Ignacio High School stand for the National Anthem to begin the Commencement Ceremony.



Southern Ute tribal member, Andres Richards gave the Invocation to begin the graduation.



Gerardo Xahuentitla-Flores gave the Commencement Address, saying he was asked to keep it short, he replied in ASCII Standard Binary Code, "01100010 01111001 01100101". Flores was introduced by Gabriel Archuleta III and Stoney WhiteThunder, stating Flores "has an endless supply of ketchup."



Superintendent of Schools, Chris deKay gave the welcome to begin the Commencement Ceremonies of the Ignacio High School. deKay is also a proud parent of an Ignacio graduate, Lincoln deKay.



Family members of Gabe Archuleta III take a moment for a photo after the graduation ceremonies. Gabe Archuleta holds a picture of their late son, and brother, Dathan.

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum

**The Commencement Ceremonies for the Class of 2026 were held at the Ignacio High School, Saturday, May 23. The Invocation was given by Andres Richards to begin the ceremony. Superintendent of Schools, Chris deKay welcomed all in attendance and introduced speakers. Stoney WhiteThunder and Buckshot sang the honor song, before Gerardo Xahuentitla-Flores gave the Commencement Address. Principal Alisha Gullion honored student achievements; Masonic, Senior of the Month, 4.0+ GPA, and Salutatorian, Trace Crane, and Valedictorian, Dillon Brann. Alyssa Atencio and Madison Eggar dedicated parents, deKay presented the class of 2026 and Jim Bulwan accepted the graduates. Board members presented the diplomas to the 34 graduates, before Evan Perkins performed the tassel switch. Asherea Manuelito closed the ceremony with the Benediction.**



Marcos Brown holds a photo of the late Samantha Rock. Rock would have graduated with the Class of 2026.



Graduate Stoney WhiteThunder sings an honor song alongside his father, Robert Curtis, and drum group, Buckshot.



Graduate Aven Bourriague flexes his hard-earned diploma to his family, friends and fans.

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026



**Zero Acevedo**  
Durango High School  
Durango, CO



**Kalia Anthony**  
Durango High School  
Durango, CO



**Gabriel Joe Archuleta III**  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Lance Baker\***  
Durango High School  
Durango, CO



**Zuriah Baker\***  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



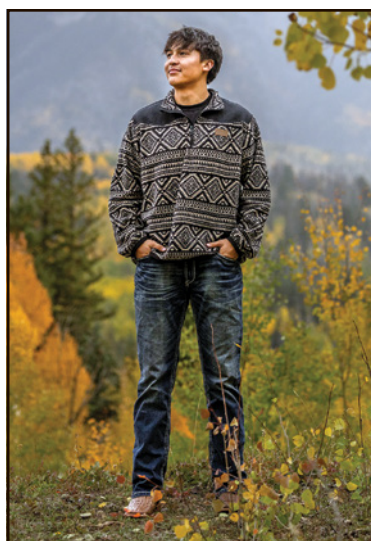
**Ayden Riley Barry\***  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Kaya Rain Bison\***  
Snowflake High School  
Snowflake, AZ



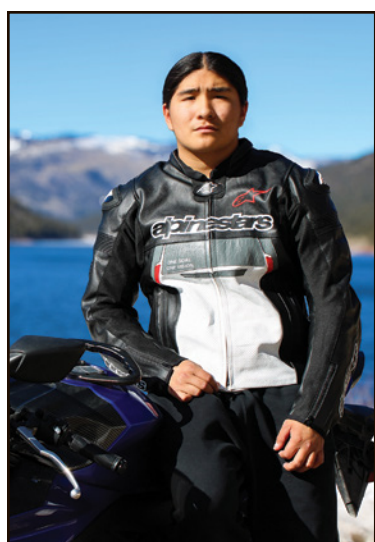
**Aven Bourriague**  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Tavian Orian Box\***  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



**Marcos Brown**  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Kean Cantsee**  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Tallias Cantsee**  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Maleina Carel\***  
GOAL High School  
Durango, CO



**Ayden Casias**  
Durango High School  
Durango, CO



**Sonny Flores**  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Dominick Goodtracks-Howe\***  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



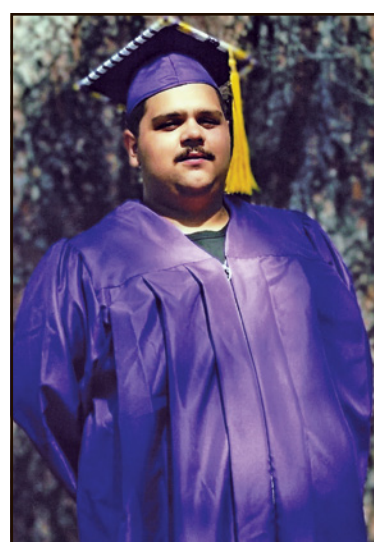
**Jonah Madril**  
Options for Youth  
Hesperia, CA



**Havin Maestas\***  
Vista High School  
Montrose, CO



**Coan Naranjo\***  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



**Auq-uwey O'John\***  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



**Eva O'John\***  
GOAL High School  
Durango, CO



**LaeLena Marie Price**  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



**Andres Richards\***  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Alicia Rock\***  
Durango High School  
Durango, CO



**Pippa TwoCrow**  
Durango High School  
Durango, CO



**Dale "DJ" Valencia**  
Bayfield High School  
Bayfield, CO



**Ambrose Valdez\***  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Zaine Velasquez-Hight\***  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Stoney White Thunder Lucero\***  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



**Henry Whiteskunk II\***  
Ignacio High School  
Ignacio, CO



# Congratulations Students!

## Hats off for Bayfield grads!



Southern Ute tribal member, Zuriyah Baker (right), and her fellow graduate Grace Barber share a smile and show off their hard-earned high school diplomas on Sunday afternoon. Baker will be attending Howard University in Washington, D.C., in the fall of this year.

## Durango celebrate graduates!



Durango High School boasted over 300 graduates and filled Durango Stadium to capacity for the Commencement Ceremonies, Friday, May 21 in Durango, Colo.



Southern Ute tribal member, Taviah Box is decorated in lei's following the graduation ceremony on Sunday.



Dominick Goodtracks-Howe is one of the many Southern Ute tribal members to join the Bayfield High School graduating class.



Southern Ute tribal member, Alicia Rock said the Land Acknowledgment at the beginning of the graduation ceremonies.



Southern Ute tribal member Lance Baker receives his diploma from Principal Dr. Jon Hoerl, one of many to receive their diplomas.



Southern Ute tribal member, Coan Naranjo, holds his diploma before celebrating with his family on Sunday afternoon.



Southern Ute tribal member, Auq-uwey O'John makes his way back to his chair after receiving his diploma on Sunday.



Former Durango High School football standout and University of Colorado Buffaloes player Ben Finneseth served as the keynote speaker. Finneseth spoke of working hard to achieve your dream, which he did earning him a starting position under CU Buffaloes football coach Deion Sanders.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum

## 5th Graders continue onward



Southern Ute tribal member, Olyvia Watts sported her ribbon skirt to celebrate her choir and student council accomplishments amongst her peers.



Southern Ute tribal member, Amonnie Johnson took a quick second to share his Ute flare before the Ignacio Elementary School Continuation event started.



Southern Ute tribal member, Aziryah Howe, leads the Ignacio Elementary Choir through their first hymn of the evening with a solo. The IES choir has performed throughout the school year for various school and community events including the Southern Ute Christmas Program and Dinner.

Photos by Amy Barry  
Tribal Information Services



## 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, 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 5pm on Tuesday

## 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 sub-

mit an application form and a letter of interest explaining why the applicant wishes to be appointed to the Commission; and Applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications may be obtained at the Division of Gaming Office - Licensing in the West Wing of the Justice Complex, 149 County Road 517, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137. Applications and letter of interest are required to be turned into the Division of Gaming Office. These positions are open until filled. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

### POWOW COMMITTEE

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

### SOCOCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### TERO COMMISSION

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

### YOUTH NEEDED FOR WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD

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



## 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



## 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

## SUMMER HOURS STARTING SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

### GALLERIES AND MUSEUM STORE

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	9AM - 4PM
WEDNESDAY	9AM - 4PM
THURSDAY	9AM - 4PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 4PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 3PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

MONDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
TUESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
WEDNESDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
THURSDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
FRIDAY	8AM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY	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



# 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

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\*





**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

**Owner: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT), Utilities Division, PO Box 1137, 16360 Highway 172, Ignacio, CO 81137 (970) 563-5500**

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of the SUIT Shoshone Waterline Replacement Project – Phase 2 will be received by the Owner at the offices of the SUIT Utilities Division, until 3:00 p.m. (M.D.S.T.), Thursday, July 2nd 2026. The bids shall be reviewed privately and all respondents shall be notified of the selected bidder within 10 days.

**Description of Work:** Project requires installation of ~3,000 linear feet of 8” potable water utility pipeline (bored and trenched), reconnection of seven (7) existing user water service lines, five (5) connections to existing watermains and two (2) existing fire hydrant reconnections. Site is to be seeded and restored to pre-construction condition.

Prospective BIDDERS are REQUIRED to attend the MANDATORY pre-bid meeting on Wednesday June 17th at 11:00 AM at the SUIT Utility office, located at 16360 Highway 172 Ignacio, CO 81137. Followed by a site walk through. This Project is subject to Prevailing Wage Rates and associated compliance and reporting criteria. Minimum wage rates can be found at: <https://sam.gov/>, Decision #CO20250003

**Bidder Prequalification Requirements:** Contractor must have a minimum of five (5) years’ experience. Bidder must provide five (5) examples of prior or current projects in which a similar scope of work was performed. Example projects should demonstrate experience with horizontal directional drilling projects exceeding 1,000 linear feet with medium diameter pipe 8 inch or larger. Preference will be given to contractors with experience working in rocky conditions. Contractor shall provide current polyethylene (HDPE) fusion certification documents from a reputable organization such as McElroy, ISCO, or Secor with bid proposal. Contractor shall ensure all fuses are data

logged and submitted.  
**Bid Security:** A Bid security, in the form of a Bid Bond, Cashiers Check or Certified Check in the amount of 5% of the bid amount, must accompany each Bid. The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Construction Performance and Payment Bonds as security for the faithful performance of the Contract.

**Tribal Employment Rights Office**  
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has established a preference for contracting and subcontracting to certified Indian Owned Businesses (as defined in the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance included in this project manual). A bid preference of 5% will be given to any qualified Native American owned company. To receive this preference, Native American owned companies must be certified by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s TERO. Any Native American owned business not certified by the due date will not be given a preference. For more information and/or questions in regard to certification, contact the TERO office at (970) 563-0117 or refer to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s TERO website at <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/tero/>. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informality in the bid process and to accept the bids deemed, in the opinion of the Tribe, to be in the best interest of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

**THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS** may be examined at the following location:  
GOFF ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, INC., 126 Rock Point Drive, Suite A, Durango, Colorado 81301. (970) 247-1705  
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Utilities Division, 16360 Hwy 172, Ignacio, CO 81137. (970) 563-5500  
Deadline for questions is 5:00 PM MDST June 30th 2026.  
Questions and requests for information are only available be per email request to [clamberson@goffengineering.com](mailto:clamberson@goffengineering.com).

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Design Build for Southern Ute Behavioral Health Mesa Building Opioid Treatment Program Remodel**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management team is soliciting proposals for Design Build services for the Behavioral Health Mesa Building Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Remodel. The Design Builder will provide design and construction services in collaboration with the Tribe’s Project Manager in the remodel of a portion of the existing Mesa Building to include an Opioid Treatment Program near Durango, Colorado. The full RFP can be accessed on the Southern Ute Construction and Project Management Webpage (select the RFP tab): [www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/construction-and-project-management/](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-housing/construction-and-project-management/) Please direct all questions, by email only to, Kerri Stewart at [kestewart@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:kestewart@southernute-nsn.gov). Deadline for questions is 5:00pm MST on June 24, 2026. All addenda will be issued and posted on the Tribal Construction and Project Management website listed above. Responses to this RFP are due, by email, no later than 2 pm MST on July 10, 2026.

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

**CATTLE VACCINATION CLINIC**

**JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> STARTING AT 9:00 AM**

Come see how cattle vaccinations are done and learn about the importance of keeping animals healthy! A Zoetis rep will be there too.

**LOCATION:**

- ✓ 927 J Road, Ignacio, CO
- ✓ Off County Road 318
- ✓ Lunch WILL be provided!

Contact Ms. Klingler at [mklingler@ignacioschools.org](mailto:mklingler@ignacioschools.org) or Brook Lee (970) 946-6230 with questions!

**Southern Ute Utilities Division**

**SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND**

**JUNE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TRANSFER STATION 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- 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. 28TH & 27TH THANKSGIVING- CLOSED
- DEC 10TH- 11TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY- CLOSED
- DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS- CLOSED

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION  
MON- SAT 8AM TO 5PM/ CLOSED SUNDAY  
TRANSFER STATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS/ TRIBAL DEPT USE ONLY

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- Online at [www.suitutil.com](http://www.suitutil.com)
- Utilities Drive-Up Window or Drop Box
- Wells Fargo- Ignacio Branch
- Automatic Deductions at Tribal Distribution
- Mail- Make payable to “Southern Ute Utilities Division”
- Over the Phone- Call Office at 970-563-5500

**Water Haul Delivery Program Facts**

- Please clear a path to your cisterns so water truck can easily access- remove any trash or debris
- Check your cistern levels before the weekends and holidays to avoid emergency hauls, which cost extra
- Residents are responsible for the operation & maintenance of their cisterns.
- Residents are encouraged to routinely clean and disinfect their cisterns.

Questions? Call the Utilities office

**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

**Monthly Shut-Off Day is the first Wednesday of each month.**  
June 3rd / July 8th/ August 5th  
Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments **BEFORE** 10 am on Shut-Off Day

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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. Household solid waste trash only! No car parts- tires ect...

**Water System Maintenance Notice**

Water staff will be performing fire hydrant & valve maintenance during June & July. Customers may experience temporary water discoloration or pressure fluctuations. **Running cold water for a few minutes can help clear any discoloration.**  
Thank you for your patience as we maintain and improve our water system.

A new billing system will be implemented in June 2027. To help us keep you informed, please update contact information.  
PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio CO. 81137 (970) 563-5500 [www.suitutil.com](http://www.suitutil.com)



**Piinu Nūuchi Market Opening Day is June 3<sup>rd</sup> 11-2pm**

Please join us for the annual Piinu Nūuchi Market at the Sky Ute Casino (outside) every Wednesday from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Come support our community and local vendors while enjoying a fun afternoon of shopping, connection, and culture!

If you are interested in being a vendor this season please reach out to Allison Wall - [awall@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awall@southernute-nsn.gov)/970.563.2281



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

AP/AR Manager

Closes 6/3/26 - Manages and oversees the operations of the accounts payable and accounts receivable division. Pay grade E17; Pay is \$92,160/annually.

Detention Officer

Closes 6/3/26 - Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all activities within the detention center. Pay grade N13; Pay is \$30.32/hour.

Stock Clerk

Closes 6/2/26 - Provides assistance to the Food Distribution Specialist in identifying, stocking and unloading shipments; cleaning of overall program building; maintaining adequate inventories; assisting in issuing, loading, distribution and transporting commodities to eligible recipients, and provides clerical support. Pay grade N5; Pay is \$15.79/hour.

Referral Coordinator

Closes 6/4/26 - Referral Coordinator maintains ongoing tracking of patient referrals for in-house/outsourced services, ensures that referrals are addressed in a timely manner, keeps physicians updated with accurate documentation in system, sets up appointments, maintains insurance authorization, ensures complete and accurate registration, demographics, and current patient insurance. Pay grade N9; Pay is \$21.48/hour.

Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)

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

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 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.

Early Childhood Teacher

Open Until Filled - A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. 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.

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, incumbent is responsible for the production and editing of the Tribal newspaper, annual report, calendar, and special publications; direction of news coverage; management of the Drum's website; and supervision of staff members. Pay grade E14; Pay is \$68,004/annually.

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.

Peer Recovery Coach

Open Until Filled - 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.

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.

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 Sun-Ute aquatics facility. Responsible for 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.

Multi - Purpose Facility June Events

Senior Breakfast—Wednesday June 3, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday June 12, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Sewing and Quilting Tuesday—Thursday June 16-18, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Traditional Sewing—Tuesday—Thursday June 23—25, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM or 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Indoor Yard Sale—Saturday June 27, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM



Special Events

Elder Committee Meeting—Monday June 1, 9:00 AM

Southern Ute Veterans Association sponsors June Sip, Chat & Chew

MPF Food Sale Monday 22, 2026, 11:00 AM—2:00 PM

Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith—Tuesday June 30, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM

Events are subject to change—Please watch for announcements.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

JUNE 1-5 Camp Invention Ignacio Middle School

JUNE 1-5 Bridge the Gap SunUte Community Center

JUNE 22-26 Southwest Regional Summer Native American Youth Practicum Southern Ute Education Dept.

JUNE 1 - JULY 31 Summer School Ignacio Early Learning Program

ALL SUMMER

JUNE & JULY Boys & Girls Club Team Up IHS/IMS Sport Camps

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/

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

TERO Worker

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

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled - The Southern Ute Tribe is accepting applications for 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.*

**\*7 Rivers Bartender (Full-time)**

Provide an exceptional fine dining/lounge experience by delivering first class guest service of beverages and cocktails. Possess an extensive knowledge of mixed drinks and wine. Mix and serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and interact with guests. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely, and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Provide beverage and cocktail service to bar patrons and restaurant guests. Pay grade 1; \$12.14/hr. + tips.

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

Mainly 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 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. Pay grade \$16.50/hr. +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. Pay grade 3; \$15.16/hr. + 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. Pay grade 3; \$15.16/hr. +tips.

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

Assisting in set-up, serving, tear down, clean-up, and re-setting events in all Banquet areas. In this position you will act as a guest service representative at Banquets and related events. Achieve and maintain the highest level of guest service as well as maintaining professional interactions, safe working conditions, and teamwork. Pay grade 1; \$15.16/hr. +tips.

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

Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental conditions, and the appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building. Pay grade 3; \$17.00 per hour.

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

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, and employee break rooms. All areas must be disinfected, swept, mopped, vacuumed, and dusted. Pay grade 1; \$15.16 per hour.

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

Will act in leadership and training capacity. Will direct employees and help them complete their tasks and goals defined by the Housekeeping Manager. Responsible for training employees,

ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. Will be responsible for office structure, budgetary administration, and employee relations assigned by the Housekeeping Manager. Pay grade 3; \$17.00 per hour.

**\*Multi-Games Dealer**

Deals blackjack (Class 3), three card poker, roulette and specialty games while providing a positive guest experience through accurate, prompt, courteous and efficient service. Reports to the Table Games Manager or as otherwise designated.

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

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other assigned areas. Will be responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor, in Laundry, and as a Room Attendant to further assist the housekeeping department when needed and as assigned. Reports directly to the Housekeeping Department and will be assigned to take on specific projects as assigned. Pay grade 2; \$16.00 per hour.

**\*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 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. Pay grade 1; \$15.16 per hour.

**\*Rolling Thunder Grill Busser (On-call)**

Perform multiple tasks and duties within the restaurant and kitchen as instructed by supervisor and management. Clearing off and sanitizing tables for next group guests, disposing of trash and other waste and keeping the restaurant stocked with adequate supplies such as plates, glasses, silverware and napkins. Will help cooks, servers and dishwashers perform small tasks as needed. Pay grade 1; \$12.14/hr. +tips.

**Slot Operations Floor Person (Full-time)**

Providing excellent guest service to all slot guests and ensures that all gaming devices are monitored on a continual basis for full capacity operation. Will at times require the employee to work without direct supervision. Job knowledge and the ability to "self-start" are essential. Reports to the Slot Floor Manager or designer, ensure guest relations through prompt, and assists guests with slot machine usage, educating them regarding play, wagers, and pay tables.

**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 5/29/26 – 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; 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 position will provide guidance and mentoring on existing processes to lower-level Plant Process Operators.

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

Closes 7/10/26 – Managing all contractor issues related to master services agreements, contracts, work orders, insurance and legal review for Red Willow Production Company and affiliated companies (RWPC). Conducts regular reviews of contract-related activities to ensure compliance. Assists all departments with development of new contracts and adding new contractors to the approved contractor list. Works collaboratively with RWPC's broker to manage all aspects of RWPC's insurance program. Performs a variety of administrative functions, many in a team setting, for the planning, evaluation, management and development of contracts, insurance and business opportunities.

**Gas Volume Analysis I – Red Willow Production Company (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 6/5/26 – Monitoring natural gas production volumes; nominates natural gas to gas gathering and transportation pipelines; maintains customer relations in scheduling process; reconciles gathering and transportation invoices/statements; enters daily gas sales and production data; maintains gathering and transportation contracts; controls wellhead and pipeline imbalances; provides the Marketer natural gas volumes available for sale.

**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. 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.

**Treasury Manager – Accounting & Finance (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 6/5/26 – Manages day-to-day activities in treasury function to meet the financial obligations of the Growth Fund and performs treasury activities related to cash flow, borrowings, advances, and capital management. Reviews policies and procedures to meet the organization's objectives, allocates cash balances, maintains records, and prepares forecasts. Works with Growth Fund Management to provide treasury advice regarding strategic endeavors.

**Assistant Accounting Manager – KAVA Equity Partners (Denver, CO)**

Closes 6/26/26 – Ensuring that entries to the general ledger, general ledger adjustments and account reconciliations are made on an accurate and timely basis. Will communicate and coordinate with portfolio companies to provide an accurate and timely monthly close. Prepares monthly financial reporting packages (analysis and presentation), provides annual audit support, annual budget support, and other duties, as needed. Supervising accounting staff, as determined necessary by the Controller.

**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
- Overnight/Youth Camp Support (Temp.) \$16.24/hr., Closes 5/27/26 by 5 p.m.

**Road Runner Transit:**

- Operations Manager (Full-time) \$52,645 to \$63,211/yr.

**Southern Ute Drum Notice**

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

**RURAL COLORADO WORKSHOP SERIES**

**DEMYSTIFYING 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



**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. Project Manager - Houston, TX
2. Traveling Superintendent - Southeast US
3. Safety Coordinator - Jeffersonville, OH

Please contact The Berg Group directly regarding all opportunities.

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

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

## New officers take Oaths of Office



Photos Amy Barry/SU Drum

Trey Lange took his Oath of Office as a Southern Ute Police Department Patrol Officer alongside family, Chief Noon, and Southern Ute Tribal Court Chief Judge, Scott Moore.

Roxanne Yanito, Southern Ute Police Department Patrol Officer, was welcomed to the department by Chief Noon and sworn in by Southern Ute Tribal Court Associate Judge, Natelle Thompson. Yanito's family attended the event.



## 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.

## SUMMER FOOD FOR KIDS IN IGNACIO

**No cost, No registration**

AVAILABLE FOR ALL PINE RIVER VALLEY KIDS AGES 18 YEARS & YOUNGER

**@ Ignacio Community Library**

**FOOD BAGS AVAILABLE TUESDAYS: 12-1PM**

In a Neighborhood Near You

FOOD BAGS FOR KIDS AVAILABLE WEEKLY IN ALLISON & SAM BRITO. CALL TO RESERVE.

**Program runs:**  
June 2nd - August 6th

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
CALL  
**970-884-6040**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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

## Kava 101

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

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

**May Beginner Session**  
Dates: 05/01 | 05/08 | 05/15  
Class times: 9:00am-10:30am | 10:45am-12:15pm | 12:30pm-2:00pm

**June Intermediate Session**  
Dates: 06/03 | 06/10 | 06/17  
Class times: 9:00am-10:30am | 10:45am-12:15pm | 12:30pm-2:00pm

**June Beginner Session**  
Dates: 06/05 | 06/12 | 06/19  
Class times: 9:00am-10:30am | 10:45am-12:15pm | 12:30pm-2:00pm

**July Intermediate Session**  
Dates: 07/07 | 07/14 | 07/21  
Class times: 9:00am-10:30am | 10:45am-12:15pm | 12:30pm-2:00pm

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

## The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	
10				11				12			
13			14						15		
16					17		18				
19					20						
			21	22							
23	24	25						26	27	28	29
30								31			
32					33		34				
35					36					37	
38					39					40	

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <p>1 "Stop" color</p> <p>4 Intel product</p> <p>7 Letters on British warships</p> <p>10 Instruction to a Spanish hen?</p> <p>11 Polite "bub"</p> <p>12 Club for a driver</p> <p>13 Men of the cloth</p> <p>15 Politically powerful people</p> <p>16 Wood used in Japanese cabinet-making</p> <p>17 Boys and girls, informally</p> <p>19 "You ain't --- nothin' yet!"</p> <p>20 Apprehensive</p> <p>21 Items for Dracula's closet</p> <p>23 Milkmaids' perches</p> <p>26 Ira Hayes was one</p> <p>30 Like streets under repair</p> <p>31 Thor's Pop</p> <p>32 Cardiologist's aid</p> <p>33 Boardroom event</p> <p>35 Tell me your location (in texts)</p> <p>36 Edward, for short</p> <p>37 Endorses</p> <p>38 Thomas, to Henry Chee</p> <p>39 They say who you are</p> <p>40 Encountered</p> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <p>1 Sways back and forth</p> <p>2 Mammoth voiced by Queen Latifah in the "Ice Age" movies</p> <p>3 Farm machinery company</p> <p>4 Las Vegas drama which ran for 15 seasons</p> <p>5 Go faster and faster</p> <p>6 Bearish?</p> <p>7 Nation known for massive canoes</p> <p>8 Traditional Native American food processors?</p> <p>9 Stylish</p> <p>14 Southern California tribe of Payomkawichum</p> <p>18 Tyrant</p> <p>22 Reunion invitees</p> <p>23 Hasenpfeffer and hot pot</p> <p>24 Where to shop on the Ginza</p> <p>25 Cathedral fixture</p> <p>27 Colorful phrase</p> <p>28 Lesser rorqual</p> <p>29 Neurotic fear</p> <p>34 Sheeran and Mr. are two of them</p> |
|---|---|

Answers will appear in the June 12 issue of the Drum.

**Answers for May 15, 2026 crossword puzzle.**  
**Across:** 1 Chloe, 6 Paved, 11 Loiret, 12 Liane, 13 Upper, 14 U-turn, 15 Be a, 16 I am, 18 Pat, 19 N Mex, 21 Fop, 22 Fairmount, 24 APR, 25 Acre, 26 CTA, 27 Gnu, 28 Hen, 31 Occur, 33 Lusty, 35 Cahto, 36 Areas, 37 Ate at, 38 Reese.  
**Down:** 1 Club, 2 Hope, 3 Lipan Apache, 4 Ore, 5 Erier, 6 Plum, 7 AIT, 8 Wau-pon-eh-see, 9 Enrapt, 10 Dent, 17 Axman, 20 Mir, 21 Fur, 22 Fat cat, 23 Ocular, 26 Coca, 27 Grot, 29 ETAs, 30 NYSE, 32 Uta, 34 Ure.

## LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

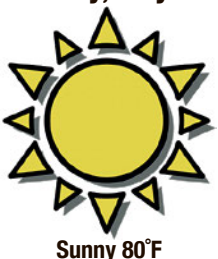
**Friday, May 29**



**Saturday, May 30**



**Sunday, May 31**



Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

