



GOAL High School Class of 2026

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The Stable Life: Learning the ropes

PAGE 8

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ignacio, CO 81137 Permit No. 1	Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118 \$29 one year subscription \$49 two year subscription
June 12, 2026	Vol. LVIV, No. 12

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



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Sonny Flores receives a Senior Day hug from head coach Isiah Valdez, following the Bobcats' home win over non-league Centauri. Most commonly positioned at either shortstop or third base during Spring 2026, Flores was named First Team All-San Juan Basin League designated hitter at season's end.

BOBCATS BASEBALL

'Cats collect All-League in baseball

Senior Archuleta voted SJBL's best

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Capable atop the pitcher's mound if needed, but most crucial to Ignacio Baseball's success when crouching behind home plate, graduated senior Gabe Archuleta was honored at season's end by being named not only First Team All-San Juan Basin League, but the 2A/1A loop's Player-of-the-Year.

Most telling was the fact that no other catcher even received a Second Team salute, as Archuleta was not only a receiver ready to work with a veteran arm like classmate Stoney White Thunder-Lucero or an eager rookie such as freshman Stephen Romero, but also a speedy and dependable leadoff hitter.

Employed as a first baseman – after White Thunder-Lucero was lost to injury – on days he wasn't pitching, the left-handed Romero was awarded First Team All-SJBL as a 'utility' player, and shared the distinction with Dolores junior first baseman Declan Warren.

No Second Team utility player was chosen, but Nuclea junior Jacob Davis was named Second Team All-SJBL Designated Hitter – behind Ignacio senior Sonny



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Stephen Romero pitches during the Bobcats' season-opening, non-league doubleheader at Monte Vista. Romero's freshman season ended with him receiving First Team All-San Juan Basin League as a 'utility' player – a nod to his work as both a pitcher and first baseman.

Flores, the First Team selection. Before also going down late in the season to injury, Bobcat junior William Mendoza-Lechuga could regular-

ly be found on the left side of head coach Isiah Valdez's infield, and performed well

'Cats to page 14

KSUT

KSUT Executive Director to receive Governor's Creative Leadership Award

Staff report
KSUT

KSUT Executive Director Tami Graham is among four individuals chosen to receive the Governor's Creative Leadership Award, Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced recently.

On Wednesday, May 27, Polis and the Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) announced the 2026 recipients of the Governor's Creative Leadership Award. This year's honorees from Colorado Springs, Mancos and Walsenburg are recognized for their significant commitment to the state's creative landscape through civic leadership.

"Arts and culture play a really important role in Colorado's thriving economy. Growing up in a family of artists, I know firsthand the impact art can have. I am thrilled to celebrate this year's award honorees and I am grateful for the amazing contributions to Colorado's culture and economy inspiring the next generation of artists," said Polis.

Graham, who will finish her first decade as KSUT's Executive Director on July 18, received the 2026 Arts and Community Action Award. In addition to her duties at KSUT, she is an ex-officio board member with the Mancos Common Press; a board member for the Durango Mesa Park Foundation; and is active with Rocky Mountain Com-



Tami Graham
Executive Director
KSUT

munity Radio (RMCR), a coalition of 21 non-commercial radio stations in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. She also co-founded the Armida Huerta Adventure Fund, which raises money to increase accessibility to pack-rafting to LGBTQ individuals and BI-POC women.

This year's other recipients include Ashley Cornelius of Colorado Springs, 2026 Arts and Advocacy Award; and Brendt Berger and Maria Cocchiarelli-Berger, 2026 Arts and Creative Placemaking Award.

Graham began her duties as KSUT's Executive Director on July 18, 2016. She led KSUT's Capital Campaign to build the Edlie Box, Jr. Media Center, which opened its doors in 2020, as well as the Mancos Common Press' recent capital campaign, resulting in the construction of the Mancos Commons, a 4,000 square foot expansion which includes three workforce housing units. The

two fundraising initiatives raised more than \$5 million for the two endeavors.

Graham served for six years as an appointee of Polis' to the Colorado Creative Industries board, representing Southwest Colorado.

"Tami's 40 years of public, community and college radio experience, wealth of knowledge about nonprofit fundraising and management, and decades of community connections across the Four Corners region has led KSUT to unprecedented growth and success despite challenging economic times, a pandemic, and the rescission of federal funding of public media," said KSUT Development Director Chris Aaland.

Graham served seven years from 1990-97 as Station Manager at KDUR, Fort Lewis College's community radio station. From 2013 until her hiring as Executive Director at KSUT, she was KSUT's Capital Campaign Coordinator. She is a 1990 graduate of Fort Lewis College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a 1999 graduate of JFK University in Orinda, Calif., with a master's degree in transpersonal psychology and organizational development. She has been a nonprofit consultant based out of Mancos, offering meditation, training and facilitation services throughout the region since 2003.

Graham has produced dozens of concerts and special events across the

KSUT page 8

Sister Tribe hosts Bear Dance



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute tribal elders and sisters, Linda Eagle (left) and Ramona Eagle (right) dance side by side as the Catman keeps a watchful eye ahead. The corral filled with dancers and spectators alike, bringing in the Ute new year, spring season, and the awakening of the bear. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe celebrated its 137th Bear Dance this year.

See additional Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance photo coverage on page 11.

Singers strike their growlers at the box during the 137th Ute Mountain Bear Dance in Towaoc, Colo., Friday, June 5 through Monday, June 8, members of the three Ute tribes, neighboring community members, and locals gathered to celebrate with each other. Dancers filled the corral each day, moving to the sounds of the growlers, showing off their best moves.



UMU Bear Dance Parade



Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany participated in the 137th Annual Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Parade, bright and early on Saturday morning, June 6, to greet attendees.

See additional Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Parade photo coverage on page 9.



SUGF achievement awards



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

The Safety and Environmental Achievement Award is an award given by the Southern Ute Growth Fund annually to an outstanding Growth Fund employee. The award is focused on health and safety that the recipient has shown throughout their work with the Growth Fund. Growth Fund Operations Director, Kourtney Hadrick, and Growth Fund Finance Director, Darrell Owen and Growth Fund Executive Director, Shane Seibel, with awardee, Growth Fund Facilities Technician, Alex Baker at the Annual Environmental Health and Safety Achievement Awards on Thursday, June 4.



Red Willow Production Company Senior Operations Engineer, Joachim Fisher, recipient of the Safety and Environmental Achievement Award, gives a speech to the nominees and nominators at the Sky Ute Casino Resort's Event Center.



Growth Fund Operations Director, Kourtney Hadrick, and Growth Fund Finance Director, Darrell Owen, National Safety Director at the Berg Group, Dave Derzab, and Growth Fund Executive Director, Shane Seibel,

Many Moons Ago



Trennie Collins/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Lakota TwoCrow, chairman of the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council, and youth Councilman Issac Suina talk about supporting the youth and the perks of being a young leader during a presentation.

This photo was published in the June 10, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Blenda Ortiz/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Stopping by the Leonard C. Burch Building, foreign exchange students get a firsthand look at the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Enjoying their guests, Eddie Jr. & Betty Box open their home to 20 foreign exchange students and their chaperones. The students come every year to share in our culture and get a chance to experience the Bear Dance weekend

This photo was published in the June 9, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Tribal artist at work. McGarey Gallegos puts the finishing touches on the Sky Ute Casino logo he painted for the Sky Ute Casino Event Center indoor arena. Look for several pieces of Gallegos' handy work at the arena next time you drop by for an event.

This photo was published in the June 7, 1996, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

The Southern Ute Bear Dance was held May 30 – June 1 in Ignacio. It was estimated that over 500 people attended the Bear Dance on Saturday and Sunday. This was the first time in a long time there was night bear dancing and dancing in the early afternoons on both Saturday and Sunday.

This photo was published in the June 13, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



2026 Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Special Election



One (1) Chairman Seat

Resigned: Melvin J. Baker

The Election Board has determined these are the dates for the upcoming 2026 Special Election according to the Constitution, Election Code, and Resolution No. 2026-095.

Special Election: Friday, July 10, 2026, from 7 AM to 7 PM

New Voter Registration: Wednesday, July 01, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Absentee Ballot Request: Wednesday, July 01, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Emergency Ballot Request: Thursday, July 09, 2026, at 5:00 PM

The 2026 Special Election will be held at 285 Lakin St. Ignacio, CO. Contact the Election Board at (970) 563-0100 ext. 2303/2305/2728/2729/2730.

Off-Reservation Tribal Members call 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303 or email election@southernute-nsn.gov

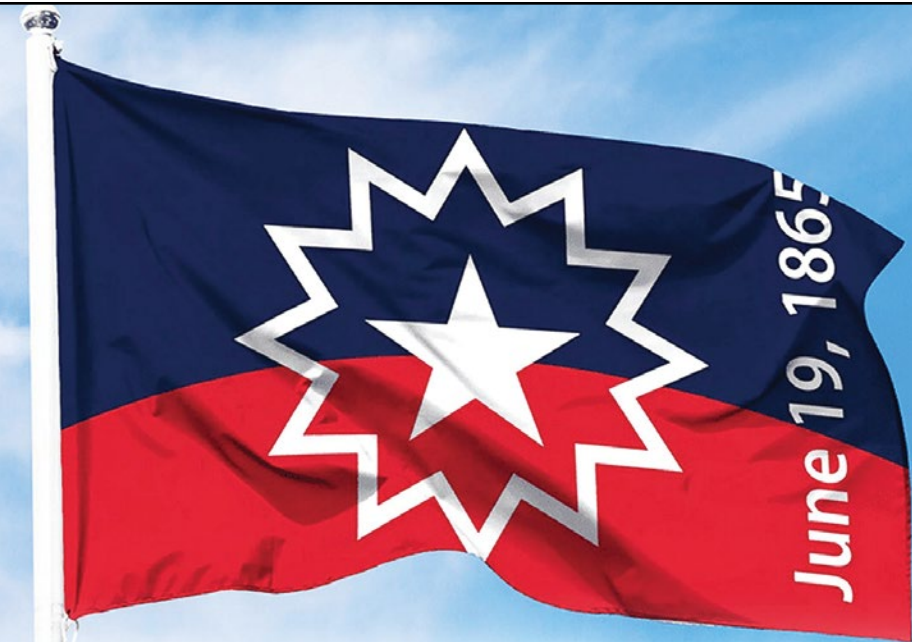
OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
SPECIAL ELECTION
JULY 10, 2026

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Notice - Vote for One (1)

- ☐ Charles A. ...
- ☐ ...
- ☐ ...
- ☐ ...
- ☐ ...
- ☐ ...

NOTE: THE CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED.



Tribal Office Closure
Friday, June 19, 2026
In observance of Juneteenth



maria's
Literary Foundation

presents

Author Talk & Book Signing

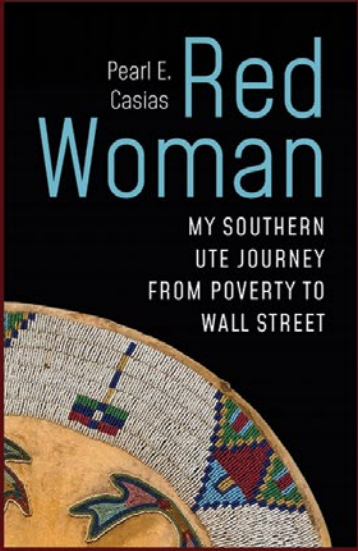


PEARL CASIAS

Thursday
June 18, 2026
6pm-8pm

 Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum





SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBER & FORMER TRIBAL JUDGE. FIRST FEMALE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL.

Greany's at UMU Bear Dance



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Theoden Greany, after receiving the Best Dressed Boy Traditional Bear Dancer at the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance in Towaoc, Colo. Greany said, "I want to say thank you to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Tribal Council for sponsoring the Best Dressed Boy Traditional Bear Dancer award. I am very grateful and honored to receive this recognition. Thank you for supporting our youth and helping keep our traditions strong. I enjoyed being part of Bear Dance and appreciate all the hard work that goes into making it special for all of us. Thank you for supporting young dancers like me and encouraging us to carry our culture forward. A big thank you to all of our Ute Mountain Ute relatives for your support and hospitality"



Theoden and Starlitt Greany after placing 2nd in the Royalty Float category in the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Parade.



ED 290
UTE PHONOLOGY
WITH DR. STACEY OBERLY

Ever wonder why Ute writing looks so scary. Or why some speakers say things differently than other speakers. Or what all those weird symbols are in the Ute dictionary.

Come learn all about the Ute sounds via fun language puzzles, immersion activities, and games! *Stipends available for So. Ute Tribal Members.*

DATES
June 5-6
June 19-20
June 26-27
July 10-11

TIMES
Fridays 5:15-8:15
Sat. 8:30-4:30

LOCATION
Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum Library
503 Ouray Drive
Ignacio CO 81137

REGISTER HERE



CONTACT
Dr. Stacey Oberly
970-563-2986







Southern Ute Royalty at the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Powwow in Towaoc, Colo., June 5 and 6. Pictured left to right, Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany, Junior Miss Southern Ute Shayne WhiteThunder, Miss Southern Ute, Autumn Sage and Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany.



Southern Ute Division of Social Services

SAVE THE DATE

3RD ANNUAL ELDER APPRECIATION SYMPOSIUM

WHO:
All Native American Elders and their caretakers

Where:
Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum Large Classroom
503 Ouray Drive, Ignacio CO. 81137

An Event in celebration of Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Lunch, Drinks, and Desert Bar Provided

FRIDAY JUNE 26TH 12 PM TO 5 PM





PINO NUCHE INDIGENOUS ARTIST MARKET & JURIED SHOW

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 7 • 8 • 9, 2026

CONTEMPORARY & TRADITIONAL NATIVE ARTWORK
JURIED SHOW • CRAFTS • DEMONSTRATIONS

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE | REGULAR DEADLINE
JULY 3RD | AUGUST 6TH



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



courtesy SU Behavioral Health

The Southern Ute Tribal Health Department's mobile medical unit will be offering health information, healthy snacks, and cultural crafts and wellness items with a focus on ways to improve men's overall health and well being on Tuesday, June 16 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort entrance from 8 a.m. to 12-noon.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Focusing on men's mental health and well being

By Rebecca Gale, LCSW
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Did you know that June is Men's Health month? Across the country, a quiet crisis continues to grow: men's mental health. While awareness has improved in recent years, many men still struggle in silence, shaped by cultural expectations that discourage vulnerability.

Mental health professionals note that many men were raised to suppress their emotions therefore they are less likely to seek help for depression or anxiety. This silence can be dangerous when it prevents people from getting support and often leads to expressing distress through anger, substance use, or withdrawal.

The statistics are sobering. Men experience higher rates of suicide than women, and in many Native American communities, those rates are even more severe. Native American men face disproportionate mental health challenges tied to generations of colonization, forced relocation, and cultural loss. These historical experiences – often referred to as intergenerational trauma – continue to impact mental well-being today.

Cultural identity plays a critical role in both the challenge and the solution. For

some Native men, disconnect from traditional practices and community structures can increase feelings of isolation. At the same time, reconnecting with cultural traditions, language, and spiritual practices has been shown to strengthen resilience and improve mental health outcomes.

Access to care remains another major barrier. Stigma around seeking help can be a barrier in tight-knit communities where privacy is a concern. Additionally, Western models of mental health care do not always align with Indigenous perspectives that view wellness as a balance of mind, body, spirit, and community.

Efforts to address these disparities are growing. Improving men's mental health requires both systemic change and personal action. Checking in on friends, talking openly about emotions, and supporting culturally grounded care can all make a difference.

The Southern Ute Tribal Health Department works to provide culturally informed care. The Behavioral Health Division works from a mind-body-spirit-community lens to integrate traditional healing practices with clinical care. Our community groups encourage open dialogue among men, helping to redefine strength as

the willingness to seek help and support others.

As the conversation evolves, one message is clear: strength is not found in silence. For all men – especially those navigating complex cultural histories – healing begins with connection, understanding, and the courage to speak.

The Southern Ute Tribal Health Department's mobile medical unit will be offering health information, healthy snacks, and cultural crafts and wellness items with a focus on ways to improve men's overall health and well being on June 16 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort entrance from 8 a.m. to 12-noon. We hope to see you there!

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.

HEALTHY RECIPES

Chickpea and avocado salad

Recipe by Lisa Smith, RDN, CLC
SHINING MOUNTAIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Whip up a refreshing and protein-packed EatingWell 5-Ingredient Avocado and Chickpea Salad in just 10 minutes. Toss rinsed canned chickpeas with diced avocado, cherry tomatoes, and red onion, then drizzle with lemon juice and olive oil for a quick, healthy, and satisfying meal.



courtesy M.studio/AdobeStock

Chickpea and Avocado Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 15oz cans chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- Small red onion, cut into quarters then thinly slice
- Baby tomatoes, cut in half
- 2 avocados, diced
- 4 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ -½ teaspoon salt

Directions:

1. In a small bowl, whisk lemon, olive oil and salt.
2. In a large bowl add drained and rinsed chickpeas, sliced onions, halved tomatoes and diced avocado.

3. Pour whisked lemon and olive oil over chickpeas mixture and toss to coat.
4. Serve immediately or place in refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Tip: Use avocados that are soft and ripe (but not brown) and they will make a "creamy dressing" for the chickpeas. You can try additional veggies and spices as desired. Crushed red pepper or jalapenos will give this an extra kick. Get creative and have fun!

Servings: 6
Nutrition per serving: 277 Calories, 8g Protein, 26g Carbohydrates, 11g Fiber, 17g Fat

Shining Mountain Fresh

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

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFJune26>
Sign-up Deadline: Monday June 22, 2026
Pickup Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. You'll build skills and confidence you need to reach out and provide initial support to those who are struggling. You'll also learn how to help connect them to appropriate support.

AFTER THE COURSE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Recognize common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a person in crisis.
- Know how to connect a person with help.
- Use self-care tools and techniques.

Join the more than 2.6 MILLION First Aiders who have chosen to be the difference in their community.

REGISTER TODAY!
Delivery Format:
8 hour in-person training. Free with all materials provided.
Lunch will be provided, courtesy of BHA Colorado 988
Date and Time:
Friday, June 26, Starts at 8am, ends by 5pm with one hour for lunch.
Location:
Southern Ute Behavioral Health Building- 4101 CR 222 Durango, CO
Where to Register:
Email James Wilson at jawilson@southernute-nsn.gov

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALGEE):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- G**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

For more information, visit MHFA.org



FREE summer club for kids

TURNED AROUND

finding hope in an upside-down world

#7

Where: Bayfield First Baptist Church 1680 Bayfield Pkwy. Bayfield, CO 81122 When: 6/30-7/2 (Tuesday-Thursday) 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Have Questions? Teresa Bagdol, 970-779-8133 *For all kids ages 5-12 years old*

#6

Where: Pine River Library 395 Bayfield Center Dr. Bayfield, CO 81122 When: 6/30-7/2 (Tuesday-Thursday) 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Have Questions? Teresa Bagdol, 970-779-8133 *For all kids ages 5-12 years old*

#5

Where: Ignacio First Baptist Church 305 Browning Avenue Ignacio, CO 81137 When: 6/30-7/2 (Tuesday-Thursday) 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Have Questions? Teresa Bagdol, 970-779-8133 *For all kids ages 5-12 years old*

#4

Where: Mesa Trails Cowboy Church 281 W. Menefee St. Mancos, CO 81328 When: 6/23-6/25 (Tuesday-Thursday) 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Have Questions? Teresa Bagdol, 970-779-8133 *For all kids ages 5-12 years old*

#3

Where: Zieske Residence 8849 CR 510 Bayfield, CO 81122 When: 6/23-6/25 (Tuesday-Thursday) 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Have Questions? Teresa Bagdol, 970-779-8133 *For all kids ages 5-12 years old*

#2

Where: Pagosa Vista Estates 308 Bonanza Avenue Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 When: 6/23-6/25 (Tuesday-Thursday) 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. Have Questions? Connie Porter, 303-901-5290 *For all kids ages 5-12 years old*

#1

Where: Pagosa Bible Church 209 Herman Park Drive Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 When: 6/23-6/25 (Tuesday-Thursday) 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m. Have Questions? Connie Porter, 303-901-5290 *For all kids ages 3-12 years old*

Seven Locations

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Avoiding the Summer Slide

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Winnie loves reading, Harriet not so much. Because of this Winnie can keep herself entertained for hours, while Harriet is always complaining, “I’m so bored I could just die!”. These characters from the book, “Wings, A Tale of Two Chickens”, by Harriet Rohmer could not be more diametrically opposed. This children’s book references the classic Dickens’ novel, “A Tale of Two Cities,” which famously begins with “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Kids love summer, it can be the best of times, but without effort to keep the brain learning students can lose academic achievement in what has been termed the summer slide. Happily, the Ignacio Community Library has another exciting Summer Reading program underway to keep everyone engaged and entertained with fabulous programs and challenges for all ages.

This summer’s theme is “Dig into Reading” and will include explorations into archaeology with an emphasis on everyone’s favorite, dinosaurs. Every Wednesday through July there are age-appropriate activities and older participants meet in the IdeaLab for STEM projects. Adults are encouraged to deposit a bookmark for each book read to be entered into a drawing for some really nice prizes. All the details of this summer’s

programs are available in the newsletter available online or at select locations.

Next time you come through the doors you might be surprised by our new addition, “The Dinosaur Shack.” The playhouse will undoubtedly attract the young at heart to expand their imaginations and hopefully find comfortable nooks to enhance the reading experience. This playhouse was donated by the Telluride Library and disassembled and reconstructed primarily by Jayden with assistance from the rest of the staff, especially when it came to setting up the roof.

Encouraging kids to read involves making reading enjoyable, interactive, and part of everyday life while giving them choice and autonomy. Children are more likely to read when it feels enjoyable rather than a chore. Use fun voices, acting out stories, or reader’s theater to bring books to life, which helps reluctant readers engage with the text and im-

proves comprehension and vocabulary. The internet is full of suggestions to help find ways to make reading more enjoyable no matter your personality type.

I may be preaching to the choir, but it is worth re-emphasizing that reading is one of the most important factors in a happy and successful life. Study after study confirms that reading builds language skills, vocabulary, and general knowledge that helps students learn more effectively in school and adults improve problem-solving skills and flexibility.

Summer reading ends on Wednesday, July 29 with a party in the park, reading minutes need to be turned in by Saturday, July 25. Reading is a skill that improves and becomes more enjoyable and easier the more you practice. Reading consistently will help keep your life from becoming the worst of times and develop pathways for making this the best of times.

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- ASSOCIATE
- BACHELOR
- MASTER
- DOCTORATE

Available to Southern Ute Tribal Members

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

FULL-TIME AWARD

- Monthly Living Stipend
- Cost of Tuition

PART-TIME AWARD

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

PROFESSIONAL

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

APPLY TODAY

Visit the following link or scan the QR code:
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/education/scholarships/>

CONTACT
Michael Kirsch | 970-563-2783
mkirschesouthernute-nsn.gov

Designed by Summer Begay

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
Click on the “Parents” Tab
Fill out the registration/enrollment packet and submit!

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

SAVE THE DATE

Sunshine Cloud Smith
Youth Advisory Council

JULY 28, 2026

Jimmy Newton Jr. Youth Leadership Conference & Camp Sasquatch

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

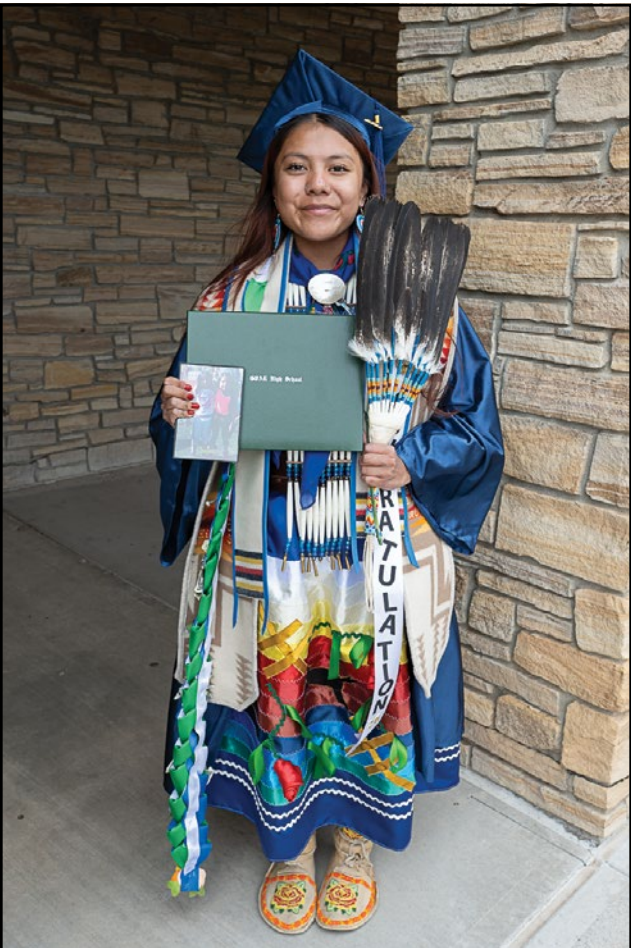
Thank you Corporate Sponsors!



GOAL Grads Grace FLC



Southern Ute tribal member, Eva O'John, hugs teachers after walking the stage to receive her diploma, sharing a sweet moment before leaving the stage.



Southern Ute tribal member, Maleina Caryl dons her regalia with her gap and gown during graduation on Thursday – she is also draped in celebratory leis and stoles for the momentous occasion.



Sisters, Katerie and Tatum Lang, shared their journey to graduation with the crowd of families during their commencement ceremony. Following the loss of their grandfather and after becoming caretakers, the pair completed their high school education and were honored by speaking at the GOAL High School graduation.



Daymien Aguilar stands with family following the commencement ceremony on Thursday afternoon. Families and friends gathered outside of the FLC Community Concert Hall to share gifts and take photos.

GOAL High School, held its commencement ceremony at the Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall in Durango, Colo., on Thursday, May 28. “Pomp and Circumstance” played as Southern Ute tribal members, first descendants, and Johnson O’Malley (JOM) graduates, among their fellow students, filled the hall. Graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas in front of their families, friends, and loved ones.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Eva O'John shares a gift with Lisa Pratchett, Lead Public Education Counselor, with the Southern Ute Education Department, following the ceremony on Thursday.



Southern Ute tribal member, Aspen Naranjo, shows off her diploma following the GOAL High School graduation.



Briel Cruz shows off hard-earned diploma following ceremony. Cruz is adorned with flowers, leis, and stoles gifted to her by friends and family.



Marcus White is a Southern Ute tribal member and graduate of GOAL High School.



Shining Mountain Health & Wellness
Breastfeeding & Parenting Class
Present: **Ignacio Community Library**



lunch provided!



1000 Books
Before Kindergarten
Read it and Reap!

**sign up is required for book distribution
through email or phone call below.**



Pick out a free
book! Enhance
your baby's mind.

June 18, 2026
Time: 12-1 pm
Location: Ute Park, 356 Ute Rd.
Ignacio, Co

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

Grow Together

At the community garden in ELHI
Community Gardening Morning



In association with
Southern Ute Behavioral Health
&
SASO

Join us in tending to the
Community Garden
in ELHI, 115 Ute St., Ignacio, CO
Mondays, Starting June 15
8:30 - 9:30 AM

We are coming together to build a stronger community. Lend a
hand, meet your neighbor, and build systems to support you in
everyday life and in emergencies.
Coffee and water provided. Please bring gloves.
For more information contact Behavioral Health (970) 563 5700

Community
Conversation
Tribal Edition ...



With Colorado
Rep. Katie Stewart

This is an opportunity to:

- Hear updates from the Colorado Legislature
- Ask questions and share your concerns
- Discuss issues affecting Tribal and rural communities
- Learn about upcoming legislative priorities
- Connect directly with your elected representative

Towaoc Community Meeting

Location: Ute Mountain Rec
Multi-Purpose Room

Date: June 23, 2026
Time: 6pm-7pm

DINNER WILL BE SERVED

Ignacio Community Meeting

Location: Multi-Purpose Facility

Date: June 24, 2026
Time: 6pm-7pm

DINNER WILL BE SERVED

Community input helps shape policies and decisions that affect our
families, Tribal communities, and future generations.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.



Celebrating outgoing SCSYAC



photos Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

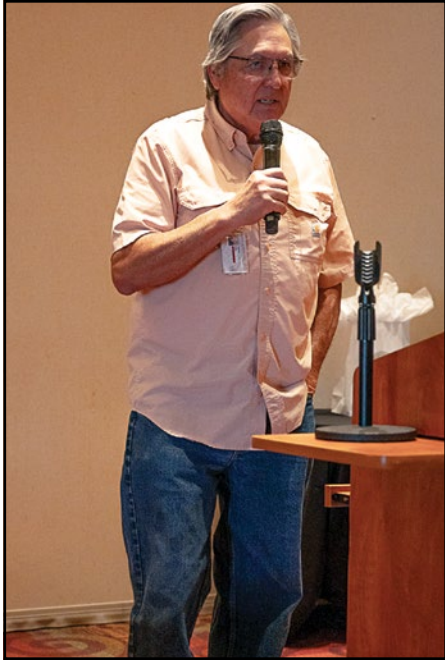
Leandra Litz, Zuriah Baker, and Shayne White Thunder – together, until they reunite in the near future, as each of the young ladies have their vision that will begin with summers abroad, riding horses, and continuing to participate in their Ute culture and ways of life.

On June 3, the Southern Ute Department of Education
invited outgoing Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory
Council's outgoing members to an honorary luncheon to
acknowledge their leadership contributions to the Youth
Council, tribal entity activities, and advocacy as a voice
of the tribal community youth. Tribal Council provided
positive remarks along with supporting family members,
and Education staff.

Photos by Amy Barry
Tribal Information Services



Southern Ute Tribal Councilmember, Marjorie Barry, provided the blessing for the event and provided a humbling message to the youth to continue on their education paths and to dream big.



Southern Ute Tribal Treasurer Mike Olguin provided the welcome for the event. Olguin thanked the youth for their commitment to their appointments and encouraged them to continue being positive stewards of Education and Leadership.

Presented by Bayfield Queers and Ignacio Out & Equal Alliance:

1st Annual

BAYFIELD + PRIDE
IGNACIO PRIDE
PRIDE
PRIDE
PRIDE
PRIDE



Katrina Benally



Host Nikko

Drag Performances By:

Nayeva Ho
Rosé Hoedjé
Blanca Hoedjé
Gemini Blaze
Illummy Naughty
Myster E

Date: June 20, 2026

Time: 10 am - 4 pm

Location:
Behind The Pine River
Community Resource Center
658 S East St, Bayfield, CO

Vendors, Food, Fun:

Rez Girls Catering
Dipped In Decadence
Plot Twist Coffee
Stitched With Love
T-Dash Beadwork
& More!

@Bayfieldqueers
: Bayfield queers
: @ignaciooutandequal
: Ignacio Out & Equal



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Learning the ropes



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Matteo Figueroa leads his horse with the help of Brook Gilbert, a Sky Ute Fairgrounds employee, on June 5 at the fairground’s indoor arena, as part of the beginner equine lessons. The classes will run through July at the fairgrounds.



Kava 101 participant Andrew Saulpaw brushes his partner, Miss Blue. The Stable Life provides tribal members, descendants and community members with beginner and intermediate equine lessons.



Lillian Valdez poses with Gilbert, after brushing the stallion. The equine lessons are sponsored by the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Dept., in partnership with The Stable Life and the Sky Ute Fairgrounds.

KSUT ED TO RECEIVE AWARD • FROM PAGE 1

Four Corners through Tami Graham Presents, including performances by Michael Franti & Spearhead, Bruce Cockburn, Zap Mama and others. She was an early board member of Durango Society of Cultural & Performing Arts in the early ‘90s, helping bring a Who’s Who list of performers to the region that included Ben Harper, Ani DiFranco, Ralph Stanley and more. She has continued producing concerts and other special events for KSUT.

Graham was a finalist for the Durango Chamber’s Morley Ballantine Award this past February. She received Fort Lewis College’s Woman of the Year Award in 1996.

The Governor’s Creative Leadership awards will be presented on Thursday, June 4, at the Colorado Creative Industries Summit in Trinidad. The CCI Summit is a two-day event that convenes more than 350 artists and creative leaders from across the state, featuring over 50 sessions, activations, and tours that explore Colorado’s creative ecosystem. The wide range of sessions examine the role of creativity in addressing shared challenges and opportunities at the intersection of business, education, health, infrastructure and policy.

“We are thrilled to recognize the incredible con-

tributions of the recipients announced today. The creative industries contribute nearly \$20 billion to Colorado’s economy and support over 120,000 jobs annually. These recipients’ work strengthens our creative economy and reinforces the vital role arts and culture play in driving economic vitality. Congratulations to the honorees!” said OEDIT Executive Director Eve Lieberman.

The awards luncheon will feature the awards presentation, a moderated conversation on local cultural movements, music performances, and a poetry reading from Colorado Poet Laureate Crisosto Apache.

“Arts and creativity play a critical role in supporting community development and cultural identity,” said CCI Director Josh Blanchard. “These outstanding artists and arts leaders uplift their communities’ and contribute to making art accessible to all. As we look toward the next 150 years, these leaders remind us that creativity in Colorado is vibrant and essential to fostering resilient local economies and communities.”

The three categories of Creative Leadership Awards include Arts and Community Action, Arts and Advocacy, and Arts and Creative Placemaking. The awards program honors and uplifts

individuals that have gone above and beyond to utilize the arts as a tool for catalyzing social change, strengthening communities, and advocating for access to the arts for all.

This year’s awards were created by Trinidad artist Thomas Laidig. Since a young age, Laidig has been on a life-long quest to carve indelible stone statements, which have evolved into a language he coined “Catastrophic Geometry”. Laidig spends every summer teaching and facilitating at the MARBLE/Marble Stone Carving Symposium.

KSUT is a community-supported public broadcasting organization dedicated to serving the multicultural community of the Four Corners by providing eclectic entertainment, education, in-depth news and community and public information services promoting multicultural awareness and understanding through two signals: Four Corners Public Radio and Southern Ute Tribal Radio.

KSUT was chosen as the Best Radio Station in Durango and La Plata County for each of the past 13 years in the Durango Herald’s annual readers’ poll.

KSUT was also a finalist for the Nonprofit of the Year award presented by the Durango Chamber this past February.

REC

00:00:00:00

MWB

NATIVE LENS

NATIVE LENS SYMPOSIUM

NATIVE LENS SYMPOSIUM

A CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS FILM

JUNE 13-14, 2026

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

DURANGO, CO

REGISTER AT

NATIVELENS.ORG





3840 X 2160

4K 23.976FPS

104th Southern Ute Tribal Fair Logo and Theme

“Coming Together”

Coming Together

“Chapikint, núuan, puwant”



104th Southern Ute Tribal Fair

The 104th Southern Ute Tribal Fair Logo and Theme “Coming Together” was designed by Southern Ute tribal member, Tanisha Figueroa. Thank you to all the artists who entered the contest. As a reminder, the Southern Ute Tribal Fair will be held September 11-13, 2026, and the Tribal Rodeo will be held September 18-19, 2026. Tribal membership can expect the Tribal Fair Premium Book to be mailed out the first week of August. Please reach out to Special Events Coordinator, Eugene Bereza at 970-563-2307 for questions and volunteer opportunities.



Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Effective: May 22, 2026 at 6:00 AM, and will remain until conditions improve

Due to high fire danger resulting from prolonged hot and dry conditions. Stage 1 Fire Restrictions have been implemented and the following acts are prohibited:

Open Burning, Agricultural Burning, Campfires, and Fireworks



To report fires or violations of restrictions, please contact:
Durango Zone Dispatch at (970) 385-1324 or Southern Ute Police Department Dispatch at (970) 563-4401

UMU Bear Dance Opening Day and Parade



All of the little girls raced to the Northeast corner of the grounds to select their partners to start the Bear Dance. The Ute Mountain Ute children were invited to start the celebration with their families, friends, and visitors.



The youth wasted no time showing off their Bear Dance attire and dance skills amongst their peers.

Photos by Amy Barry
Tribal Information Services

On Friday, June 5, Ute Mountain Ute leadership and Colorado Lieutenant Governor, Dianna Primavera, assisted the Ute Mountain Ute Royalty and children to kick-off the 2026 Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance in Towaoc, Colo. Other Ute sister-Tribes were in attendance for the annual event that included a parade, hand game tournament, powwow, softball tournament, and the 43rd Annual Louise Hammond Memorial Ute Mountain Ute Beardance Run.



Colorado Lieutenant Governor, Dianna Primavera, showed up prepared with her shawl, scarf, and ribbon skirt. Each year, the Lt. Governor visits the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation to celebrate the Bear Dance.



Ute Mountain Ute Beardance Chief Mark Wing makes a sweep of the grounds before the annual event begins through Monday afternoon to welcome Spring and celebrate the New Ute Year!



Ute Mountain Ute elders participated in Eldercise during the parade to promote positive elder activities as they wave to the crowd.



Tribal Council Member, Marjorie Barry, greets Ute Mountain Ute's eldest female member, Jean Taylor. She attended the annual event with four generations of her family including her granddaughter, and great-great granddaughter.



Smokey Bear made it the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Parade to greet friends for the annual Spring celebration. Smokey Bear continues to be a historical advocate of fire safety across the country.



Ute Mountain Ute cowboys brought horsemanship back to the annual Bear Dance Parade in Towaoc, Colo. The horse became a resourceful animal to the Utes through trade.



Bear Dance

toghomasuwiinini (10)

June 12, 2026

UTE NATION

HONORING OF THE

WARBONNETS

DURING 4TH OF JULY

POW-WOW CELEBRATION,

FORT DUCHESNE, UTAH

HOSTED BY
JOY & JONAS GRANT BULLEHEAD, SR.

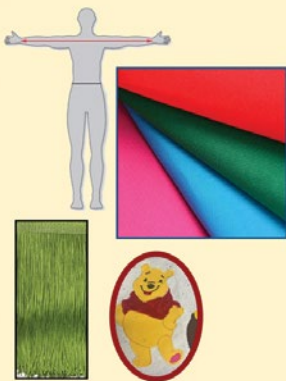
JULY 3RD, 2026 ♦ BEFORE GRAND ENTRY

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 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.

Multi-Purpose Facility Traditional Sewing & Beading Shawl Making Workshop

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
June 23-25, 2026



Day Session 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM Evening Session 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

- Supply List:
- Adult Shawl
- 2 yards of 60" wide Fabric, 3 Yards Fringe, Crochet Hook Size 11 or Large Eye Needle applique or iron-on embellishments
- Children's Shawl:
- Measure Child's arm span to determine amount of Fabric
- 2—3 Yards Fringe, applique or iron-on embellishments.
- Crochet Hook size 11 or Large Eye Needle

Space is limited, sign up is required.

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



Multi - Purpose Facility June Events

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

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

Two Free Shows. One Epic Summer.



OUTLAW. SURVIVOR. REDEEMER.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 | 6PM - 8PM
SEVEN RIVERS LAWN

They say an angel with a broken wing forgets how to fly. El Demonio flew straight through hell and came out the other side. From the gritty streets of SoCal and the fierce brotherhood of the 1%er motorcycle world, El Demonio walked away from the dark to find his salvation in the music. He beat the streets, conquered the charts, and then beat a heart attack that should have ended it all. Now, the 2025 Josie Music Awards Artist of the Year nominee brings his resurrection story to the stage. This is Urban Outlaw Country in its purest, most dangerous, most triumphant form. Backed by an all-star band of rock and country heavyweights, this isn't just a concert, it's a celebration of survival, defiance, and raw, unfiltered American music. Witness the redemption. Feel the fire. Live the music.

Jokes & Jamz 90's EDITION

THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT CROSSOVER IS HERE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 | 6PM - 8PM
SEVEN RIVERS LAWN

Jokes & Jamz is a one-of-a-kind fusion where the bass hits hard, and the punchlines hit harder. Why settle for just a concert or just a comedy show when you can experience both crashing together in one room? We're bringing the energy with legendary throwback icon Rappin 4-Tay, Buck D, Joshua Fournier, and DJ Black keeping the atmosphere electric all night. Come for the music, stay for the laughs, and leave with a vibe you won't find anywhere else. Grab your crew — this is the night everyone will be talking about.



14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137
skyutecasino.com



FREE
SHOWS!



137 Years of Bear Dance in Towaoc



Southern Ute tribal member, Leandra Litz (right) joins hands with Ute Mountain Ute tribal member, Tawnie Knight awaiting the start of a song on Monday afternoon.



Bear Dance singers from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe traveled to Towaoc to jam out at the 137th Ute Mountain Bear Dance, “Tuwayak Nuchi Mamakurnkap”. The Ignacio singers’ tunes brought dancers to the floor.



Catman keeps a watchful eye over dancers as pairs move in tandem through the corral. The Catman serves to ensure dancers stay orderly and adhere to the rules and expectations of the Bear Dance celebration.



Southern Ute tribal member, Cyanna Whiteskunk, guides her dance partner near the growler box on Monday afternoon – showing her best moves and enjoying the song.



The sun sets behind the “Sleeping Ute” as Bear Dancers move to the beat on Sunday evening. As the rays fade away, dancers continue jamming through the evening.



Southern Ute tribal elder, Linda Baker dances on Monday in Towaoc for the annual Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance. Baker moves in tandem with her selected dance partner.



Miss NCI Powwow Princess, Leandra Litz is joined by Miss Southern Ute, Autumn Sage and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Shayne White Thunder during an intertribal on Saturday, June 6. The trio attended the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Powwow in Towaoc, representing their individual titles and organizations.

The 137th Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance, “Tuwayak Nuchi Mamakurnkap”, took place the weekend of Friday, June 5 through Monday, June 8 in Towaoc, Colo. The corral filled with dancers and spectators alike, looking to ring in the Ute new year – spring season, and the awakening of the bear. The celebration kicked off students of the UMU Child Development Center, members of Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, and visiting Fountain-Fort Carson High School students. Members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe traveled to Towaoc in support of their sister tribe and to enjoy yet another weekend of Bear Dance celebration.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute tribal member and Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany, danced a few intertribal's on Saturday evening – practicing moves and dancing alongside friends at the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Powwow.



Women's jingle dress dancers graced the powwow arena on Saturday, June 6 for adult competitions at the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Powwow, coinciding with the 137th Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance celebration.



Visiting drum groups filled the Ute Mountain Ute Bear Dance Powwow with their songs for all to enjoy on Friday, June and Saturday, June 6 in Towaoc, Colo. Spectators gathered around the drum to hear the song during an intertribal session.



New enrollee: Richards-Cruz



photos Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

On the morning of Tuesday, June 9, the Southern Ute Tribal Council gathered to welcome newly enrolled member Andrea Richards-Cruz and congratulate her parents Krista Richards and Michael Cruz in the Southern Ute Tribal Council Chambers.

Andrea Richards-Cruz, surrounded by her parents and family, after her enrollment on June 9, in the Southern Ute Tribal Council Chambers.



Multi-Purpose Facility
June Quilt Class



June 16 - 18, 2026
Tuesday - Thursday
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Patriotic Door Banner

- Supplies:
- 1 Yard Pellon 987 Low Loft Fusible Fleece
 - 1 Yard Red
 - 1 Yard White
 - 1 yard star or blue fabric background for star.
 - 1 Yard Backing Fabric

Call 970-563-2640 to sign up.
For more information call Elise 970-563-2641



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

SAVE THE DATE

The Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation will be Hosting the Shoshone Reunion September 13-17, 2026. Wendover, UT/NV
Registration information: TBA

Dino-Mite LEGO Night

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 AT 5:30 PM

Gather the whole family for an exciting evening of dinner, creativity, and LEGO fun! Put your building skills to the test as you compete to create the most amazing LEGO dinosaur.

- Dinner Provided
- LEGO Dinosaur Building Contest
- Fun for All Ages



(970)563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org | 470 Goddard Ave.

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

FILM WORKSHOP

For Southern Ute High School Students

Looking for 10 Southern Ute High School students grades 9- 12
Two Week Camp! July 13-July 21, 2026

Don't miss the opportunity to earn a stipend, learn real-world film making skills, get hands-on work experience, earn a credit on a short film, get inspired and have fun!

Please Contact:
ShaRay Rock
srock@southernute-nsn.gov
970.563.2794
Dustin Weaver
dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov
970.563.2786



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.

Scan the QR or use link to join



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

Copy link

Option 1
TM Assignee Allotee Hay Producers

Scan the QR or use link to join



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

Copy link

Option 2
TM Assignees Allotees, Not Ag Hay Pro

Scan the QR or use link to join



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

Copy link

Option 3
TM No Assignment Allotment or Hay Production

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Tribe welcomes new hires

Tribal Housing welcomes O'John and Baxter

Please join the Tribal Housing Department in welcoming a few new hires to the greater Permanent Fund team and specifically to the Construction Services team: Auq-uwey O'John and Buddy Baxter.

Both have joined the CSD team as Repairmen and will primarily assist with a variety of home repair projects through Divisional Programs such as the Home Rehabilitation Program, Elderly and Handicapped Emergency Repairs and Maintenance Program, Non-Elder Emergency Repairs Program, and various maintenance activities for Tribal Housing-managed housing assets.

Auq-uwey joins the team after having worked with the Division through the Youth Employment Program over the past three years. During



Auq-uwey O'John
Repairman
Construction Services



Buddy Baxter
Repairman
Construction Services

those three years, Mr. O'John was able to gain experience and exposure to the multiple trades represented within Construction Services that ultimately prepared him for this position.

Mr. Baxter, a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, brings a strong and diverse background to the team with his most recent ex-

perience having been in compression, facilities, and related unit construction. Buddy's experience includes a strong mechanical understanding, overall problem solving, and the ability to both work with in and lead teams all of which will be directly applicable to his work within the Division on behalf of the membership.

Justice and Regulatory announce Heard

The Department of Justice and Regulatory is excited to announce Brandon Heard as the Emergency Manager. Brandon brings over 22 years of public safety experience and a record of incident command and all hazard response to this important role. He has an associate's degree in Fire Science and nearly completed his bachelor's degree win organizational leadership. Brandon started his career in public service in 2003 with Farmington Police Department as a Patrol Officer. In January of 2007, he moved to the Farmington Fire Department where he continued his public service until January 2024 when he retired as the Deputy Chief of Administration. While with FFD, he held the ranks of Firefighter, Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain,



Brandon Heard
Emergency Manager
Justice and Regulatory

AIC Battalion Chief, Training & Community Risk Reduction Officer, Deputy Chief of Operations, and Deputy Chief of Administration. During his time with FFD he was a member of the Wildland Team, a Medic/Operator on the FPD SWAT team, CPR/AED Instructor, Command & Control Instructor, and actively

involved with the San Juan County Office of Emergency Management, just to name a few. Brandon's passion for public service extended to others as he spent many years mentoring and training new Firefighters and Company Officers with a focus on safety and public service. Brandon also helped create and develop the Alternative Response Unit program utilized in Farmington, for those in need to seek shelter and acquire addiction assistance through the PMS Sobering Center. Recently Brandon worked on the Jicarilla Apache Nation with JEMS assisting with the emergency medical needs for the residents and visitors of Dulce, NM. "I enjoy helping others, and I look forward to bringing my knowledge and experience serving the people of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe."

Water Resources Division welcomes Sanchez

The Water Resources Division is pleased to announce our new Soil and Water Conservation Technician, Rowdy Sanchez.

He was born and raised in the Arboles/Ignacio area and graduated from Pagosa

Springs. He grew up in an agricultural environment which shaped his work ethic and values. He has had experience in pipeline welding, farming, ranching, and managing land improvement projects for his previous employer, Horizon Environmental.

He is excited to start work-

ing with the Tribe so he can spend more time in the area and at home with his family. He spends a lot of time chasing rodeos since his eldest daughter now competes.

Please welcome Rowdy, and Water Resources Division staff looks forward to working with him.

SOUTHERN UTE
COMMITTEE OF
ELDERS (COE)
TOWNHALL MEETING

Presentation by:
Committee of Elders Chairman
Byron Frost

ALL INVITED!

- So. Ute Tribal Members
- Sundancers
- Beardancers
- Tribal Elders

DATE:
MONDAY
JUNE 15TH, 2026

TIME:
10am - 12pm
Lunch Provided

LOCATION:
**Southern Ute Museum
Large Classroom**



For more information:

970.946.4061

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



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Krysten Neil prepares to pin Keenesburg Weld Central's Amelia Nolf during the 2026 CHSAA State Wrestling Championships inside Ball Arena in Denver. The Grand Canyon University-bound Neil placed fourth in the Class 4A Girls' 135-pound division and has been chosen to wrestle in the 2026 Colorado High School Coaches Association All-State Games' duals, to be held at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

BOBCATS WRESTLING

Two tabbed for All-State games

Graduated 'Cats called to grapple in Greeley

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Vacation plans for two graduated Ignacio seniors can truly take shape after each competes one last time. Selected along with 19 other ladies and 21 other gents, wrestlers Krysten Neil and Lincoln deKay are set to participate in the 2026 Colorado High School Coaches Association All-State Games' showcase duals, to be held midway through the June 16-20 gathering in Greeley.

Widefield's Chris Hinojosa and Desiree Kendall of Fort Collins-based Poudre School District Girls' Wrestling – comprised of individuals from PHS and FCHS as well as in-town rivals Rocky Mountain and Fossil Ridge, plus Timnath and Wellington High Schools – are slated to serve as girls' coaches.

Johnstown Roosevelt's Patrick Gore (formerly of Loveland Mountain View), Broomfield's Eric Penfold



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Lincoln deKay acknowledges a friendly face before a bout during the 2026 CHSAA State Wrestling Championships inside Ball Arena in Denver. deKay went on to win the Class 2A Boys' 165-pound title and has been chosen to wrestle in the 2026 Colorado High School Coaches Association All-State Games' duals, to be held at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Two tabbed page 20

'CATS COLLECT ALL-LEAGUE • FROM PAGE 1



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Easily beating the off-line throw, Ignacio's Gabe Archuleta dives safely into second base during late-season, non-league action at IHS Field against Pagosa Springs. Archuleta was not only named First Team All-San Juan Basin League for the 2026 season, but SJBL Player-of-the-Year.

enough for long enough to earn First Team All-SJBL Infield – as did DHS junior Levi Hampton, NHS junior Jackson McCabe and Dove Creek freshman Kycen Gritz. Second Team Infield went to DCHS junior Konner Spigner and Nucla sophomore Jace Bonacquist, while IHS' Evan Maez joined NHS junior Daniel Zurich and Dolores senior Devin Winter in earning Second Team Outfield. First Team Outfield went to Dove Creek senior Trevan Ivie, NHS junior Cole Bray and DHS sophomore Branson Lee.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

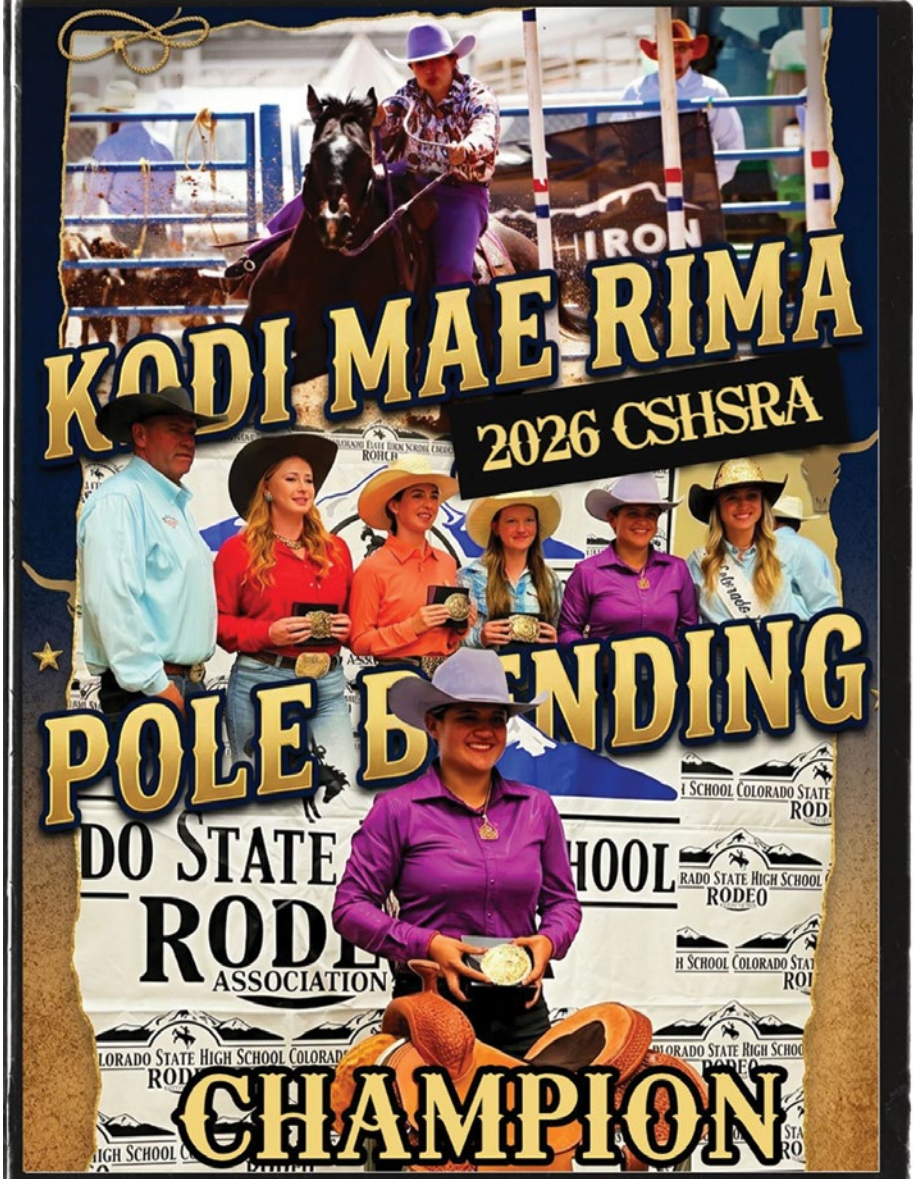
Ignacio's Gabe Archuleta enjoys an early-season laugh prior to an at-bat during the Bobcats' season-opening, non-league doubleheader at Monte Vista. Archuleta was not only named First Team All-San Juan Basin League for the 2026 season, but SJBL Player-of-the-Year.

First Team All-SJBL Pitcher praise went to DCHS junior Cael Beanland and Dolores junior Gus Vaughn, and Nucla skipper Randy Gabriel was voted Coach-of-the-Year. After a rough, suspension-marred start, his Mustangs worked their way into the postseason and, after winning the 1A-District 1 title, nipped Prairie 10-9 in the Class 1A State Tournament's opening Round-of-16. Gabriel's gang began its bracket run as the No. 5 seed, while counterpart Dean Smock's Mustangs, hailing from distant New Raymer, were the 12. NHS then eliminated 13-seed Peetz, 13 to 10, after the Bulldogs had stunned No. 4 Simla in the other Region IV semifinal. But Nucla's hopes of reaching the grand finale were then dashed at All-Star Park in Lakewood, 16 to 1, by top-seeded West-

minster Flatirons Academy – which then outlasted 7-seed Akron, 14-11, to earn the ultimate prize. Denied by Nucla (13-10 overall, 3-6 SJBL) a place in the bracket, Dove Creek went 2-7 in league play and finished 7-13 overall after a 15-6 loss to NHS – which exploded for 14 fifth-inning runs – in the aforementioned district championship. Dolores went a promising 6-3 in league but ended up 10-12 overall after losing 5-1 to Denver Christian in the Class 2A State Tournament's opening Round-of-32. The Bears began the playoffs seeded 28th, while the Thunder began as the No. 5 and thus hosted the four-team 2A-Region V tourney – which they clinched via a 10-3 win later that day over 12-seed Fowler. Ignacio, meanwhile, finished 13-11 overall and cap-

tured the SJBL title – yet again – with a 7-2 record. Seeded 24th in 2A's Round-of-32, the Bobcats' season ended early after a late-inning collapse permitted No. 9 Peyton to steal a shocking 7-6 victory in the second Region VIII semifinal way out in Las Animas. The Panthers then clipped No. 8 LAHS 2-1 to reach the double-elimination Great Eight, but after being re-seeded seventh, lost 6-1 to re-seeded No. 2 Monte Vista – the same Pirates Ignacio faced in their season-opening doubleheader – and 11-9 the next morning to No. 3 Yuma. MVHS, by the way, went on to finish 26-2 overall after finally falling, by a 12-5 margin, to top-seeded Arvada Forge Christian (27-2) in the State Championship, played Saturday, May 30, upon Hobbs Field at the Runyon Complex in Pueblo.

Not all athletes wear jerseys...



...some wear button down with boots. Congratulations to Southern Ute tribal descendant, Kodi Mae Rima on qualifying for the National High School Finals Rodeo and for going into Nationals as Colorado State High Rodeo State Champion in Pole Bending. Kodi will compete against top qualifiers from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico – showcasing the hard work, dedication, and grit it takes to compete at the national level. The Southern Ute Education Department wishes you good luck Kodi Mae!

2026 SunUte Recreation
SOFTBALL LEAGUES

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

Men's	Co-ed
TUESDAY NIGHTS	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

2026 SOUTHERN UTE BEAR DANCE POWWOW
Contest Winners

Golden Age Men

- 1st Rusty Cozad
2nd Rick Yazzie
3rd Fred Murphy
4th Charles Eisenberger

Golden Age Women

- 1st Jacqueline Cantsee
2nd Ladybird Jack
3rd Phyllisa Mansa
4th Tiffany Cozad

Adult Men Fancy

- 1st Jaron Yazzie
2nd Shoundai Poncho
3rd Izaya Bob

Adult Men Grass

- 1st Kendrick Slim
2nd Shauntay Begay
3rd Slik Nez

Adult Men So. Traditional

- 1st Mattheau Duncan
2nd Steven Pratt
3rd Wayne Longhorn

Adult Men No. Traditional

- 1st Jared Brown
2nd Quincy Smith
3rd Bud Grant

Adult Women Fancy

- 1st Carol Meltina Tallow
2nd Sage Jack
3rd Jessica Yazzie

Adult Women Jingle:

- 1st Connie Starblanket
2nd Taylor Jishie
3rd LaLaina Becenti

Adult Women So. Traditional

- 1st Roberta Smith
2nd Brittany Taylor
3rd Snow Wing Wagner

Adult Women No. Traditional

- 1st Vikki Joe
2nd Tiana Pinnecoose
3rd Marissa Woody

Teen Boys Fancy

- 1st Elias Silvce

Teen Boys Grass

- 2nd Kolton Slim
3rd Lashane Becenti
3rd Mylan Archuleta

Teen Boys Combined So. & No. Traditional

- 1st Kimo Chee
2nd Price Cozad
3rd Lennyn Begay

Teen Girls Fancy

- 1st Maleya Jishie
2nd Bubble Robinson
3rd Alihana Pezez

Teen Girls Jingle

- 1st Zauí Wagner
2nd Scarlett Scalplock
3rd Kailynn Harrison

Teen Girls Combined So. & No. Traditional

- 1st Justina Elkriver
2nd Kiahna Slim
3rd Dinay Whitford

Jr. Boys Grass:

- 1st Nate Robinson, Jr.
2nd Mistyrose Iron
3rd Levi Sandoval

Jr. Boys Combined So. & No. Traditional

- 1st Jayden Spottedwolf
2nd Taehyung Jacket

Jr. Boys Fancy:

- 1st Ini Scalplock
2nd Theoden Greany
3rd Tufftan Bia

Jr. Girls Combined So. & No. Traditional

- 1st Mikyla Howard
2nd MorningStar White Thunder
3rd Harivynn Friday

Jr. Girls Jingle

- 1st Nakohe White Thunder
2nd Candy Robinson
3rd Quinia Sweet Pine

Jr. Girls Fancy

- 1st Olyvia Watts
2nd Skye Robinson
3rd Rayleigh Red Cloud

Drum Contest – Northern

- 1st Calling Eagle
2nd Iron Bear
3rd Sun Eagle
4th Iron Colt
5th Wild Salmon

Drum Contest – Southern

- 1st Southern Style
2nd Bad Company
3rd Full Metal Jacket
4th Cruising Southern

Committee Special – Old Style – Jingle

- 1st Justina Elk River

Consolation Winners

- Morgan Blackhair
Tia Waner
Iokie Perez
Joslyn Runningwolf
Kassidy Jones
April Martin
Ladybird Jack
LaRae Avila
Cheyenne Chee
Brianna Esaw

Committee Special – Old Style – Chicken

- 1st Matthew Duncan

Consolation Winners

- Rylee Begay
Bud Grant
Archii Whitegoat Jr.
Rick Yazzie
Harley Winters
Wayne Holliday
Kenny Brown Jr.
Shantay Begay
Herb Kayes
Jashi Jasiah White Goat

The list of winners of the Southern Ute Bear Dance Powwow were submitted by the Southern Ute Powwow Committee.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

2026 Bear Dance Powwow Thanks

On behalf of the Powwow committee, we would like to thank the following Departments and individuals for making the 2026 Bear Dance Powwow a success and recognizes your hard work and dedication. This Powwow wouldn't be possible without your help, so thank you for all you do!

- Southern Ute Tribal Council
- Southern Ute Veterans and visiting Veterans
- Southern Ute Royalty – KaiLanii Graham & visiting Royalty
- Sky Ute Casino Banquet Staff & Security
- Alicia Laws – SUCR
- Shannon Brown – SUCR
- Brian Lundstrom – SUCR
- Coven White & Culture Department
- Southern Ute Finance Department
- Southern Ute Police Dept. and Rangers
- Eddie and Betty Box – Humming Bird Sound System
- Tina & Vinny Valdez Cleaning Service

- Karena Castillo – Tabulator
- Cassandra Atencio – Head Lady
- Bart Powaukee – MC
- Stais Harlan – CO/MC
- Corey Reeder – Arena Director
- Kenny Brown – Head Judge
- Michael Grant Sr. – Drum Judge
- Abraham Red Cloud/Mapiya Luta – Host Northern Drum
- Rennard Grant/Omaha White Tail Singers – Host Southern Drum
- Visting Dancers & Drums
- Southern Ute Drum
- Tribal Council Liaison – Marty Pinnecoose
- Alfreda Armstrong
- Carolyne Eagle
- Carlos Herrera
- Mark Garcia
- Sky Ute Fairgrounds

Tuuvuch Toghoyah – Southern Ute Powwow Committee

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

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

COMMUNITY GREETINGS



Happy birthday Geovany
Happy Birthday to my Geovany King Andre Baker. I love and miss you son.

– Dad

Geovany my son happy birthday!

I love you so much I hope and pray you catch all the fish on your birthday and enjoy your family, friends and people that come into your life. Know that I will always be here to see your growth and achievements in life. I am proud of the young boy you are continuing to be the best!

Love mom, Dreona, Nate, King, Grandma and Xavier

SUMMER TUTORING
Rising into 4th, 5th and 6th grade students



I am offering 1-1 summer tutoring at the Southern Ute Education Department to students entering 4th, 5th and 6th grade for the school year, 2026-2027. These are students who have just completed 3rd, 4th and 5th grade in May of 2026.

I look forward to helping your child learn and become more confident this summer!

This offer is open and free to all Southern Ute, descendents and JOM students.

SUMMER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT.

Kelly Fiddler, Master's degree in education
Southern Ute Education Dept., 330 Burns Ave., Ignacio, Colo.
kfiddler@southernute-nsn.gov
970-563-2779

SAVE *the* DATE
SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2026



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

For more information email: sirenabrito87@icloud.com

Plumbing Maintenance

DIY PLUMBING MAINTENANCE HELPS PREVENT COSTLY REPAIRS AND KEEPS YOUR HOME'S WATER SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY. MANY TASKS ARE SIMPLE AND SAFE FOR HOMEOWNERS WHEN FOLLOWING PROPER INSTRUCTIONS. BELOW ARE SOME LINKS WITH HELPFUL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS.

DIY PLUMBING REPAIRS



EASY DIY PLUMBING REPAIRS FOR COMMON ISSUES



12 PLUMBING MAINTENANCE TIPS THAT'LL SAVE MONEY



DIY PLUMBING PROJECTS & INFORMATION



7 PLUMBING MAINTENANCE TIPS



CSD "DID YOU KNOW" SERIES 6 : PLUMBING MAINTENANCE
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION AT (970) 563-0260

Drum
Deadline

Next issue:
June 26

Deadline:
June 22

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

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

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

Published biweekly and mailed 1st class from Ignacio, Colo.
Printed by The Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, N.M.
The Southern Ute Drum is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, the Society of Professional Journalism and the Colorado Press Association.



Southern Ute Indian Tribe
TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER
VACANCY

The Southern Ute Tribal Credit Committee (“Committee”) is looking for eligible tribal member applicants to serve on the Committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. This is a paid Committee: IRS Guidelines and a Criminal Background Check are necessary.

Individuals seeking to serve on the Committee must demonstrate a reputation of personal integrity, dependability, honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to perform in a non-biased, confidential, and fair manner. They must become familiar with the objectives of the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund and must maintain good financial standing with the Tribe. Applicants must also pass a criminal background and reference check, per the Tribal Credit Committee By-laws.

The primary purpose of the Committee is to evaluate and render decisions regarding Secured Home Loan applications and monitor and evaluate the Tribal Credit loan programs, and make recommendations to Tribal Council. The Committee has scheduled weekly meetings.

- Some of the duties of the Tribal Credit Committee are:
- Approve loans as required by the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund (“Declaration”)
 - Monitor compliance with the Declaration
 - Monitor all approved loans for performance
 - Make recommendations to the Tribal Council on program revisions and updates regarding Committee operations
 - Maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness in conducting all Committee business
 - Attend regular meetings and other special meetings, as needed
 - Coordinate the Committee’s annual budget with Tribal Credit Staff

Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Credit Committee, PO Box 737 #60, Ignacio, CO 81137, or by email to zvogenthaler@southernute-nsn.gov.

The letter should include the full name and contact information of the applicant, along with a detailed explanation of their relevant experience that would aid in making credit decisions, as well as a description of why they would be a good fit for the position.

If you have any questions, please speak with Zeb Vogenthaler at 970-563-2458.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
Boards, Committees and Commissions Vacancies

APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

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

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.

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

GAMING COMMISSION

Open Until Filled – The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking One (1) Regular Full-time positions for specified term, must be Southern Ute Tribal Members. Applicants must possess the following attributes pursuant to the Regulation One of the Gaming Commission Rules and Regulations: Applicants must be at least twenty-one years of age. Applicants must possess a basic knowledge and understanding of gaming activities authorized on the Southern Ute Indian reservation. Applicants must have experience or expertise in regulatory matters or in administrative hearing procedures. Applicants must have the ability to observe restrictions concerning conflicts of interest and confidentiality. Applicants must submit an application form and

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

POWWOW COMMITTEE

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

SOCOCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

TERO COMMISSION

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

YOUTH NEEDED FOR WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD

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

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

CATALYTIC CONVERTER
THEFT PREVENTION



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe reminds Tribal Members and the community to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity following a recent theft involving vehicle parts on Tribal property.

A catalytic converter is an emissions control device that is a part of the exhaust system on vehicles powered by an internal combustion engine. Catalytic converters reduce toxic pollutants by chemically converting carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen into harmless compounds.

VALUE

Catalytic converters are often targeted for the metals they contain—platinum, palladium, and rhodium—which can be quickly sold for cash. As metal prices rise, these thefts have increased across many Colorado communities.

COMMONS SIGNS

- Common signs of theft or tampering:
- A loud roaring or rumbling noise when starting the vehicle
 - A visible missing or damaged section in the exhaust system
 - The smell of exhaust fumes
 - The vehicle sitting unusually low or looking altered underneath

PREVENTION TIPS

- Etch your license plate number or VIN onto your catalytic converter
- Pay attention to unusual noises such as metal cutting or grinding near parking areas.
- Park in well-lit areas whenever possible.
- Secure vehicles and remove valuables from plain view.

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
SOUTHERN UTE NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH 970.563.4401



JOHNSON-O'MALLEY
2026 Meeting Dates

July 6th
August 10th
September 14th
October 5th
November 2nd
December 7th

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

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

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





REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Architectural/Engineering Services for
Southern Ute Animal Control Building Replacement

Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management, Ignacio, CO 81137. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management team is soliciting proposals for Architectural/Engineering services for the Animal Control Building Replacement. The Architectural/Engineering team will provide design and construction administration services in collaboration with the Tribe’s Project Manager and selected CM/GC in the replacement of the existing facility on the existing Animal Control site located in Ignacio, 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/ Please direct all questions, by email only to, Kerri Stewart at kestewart@southernute-nsn.gov. Deadline for questions is 5 p.m. MST on July 6, 2026. All addenda will be issued and posted on the Tribal Construction and Project Management website listed above. *****A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on-site, refer to RFP for date and time.***** Responses to this RFP are due, by email only to the Project Manager, no later than 2 p.m. MST on July 24, 2026.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID
Shoshone Waterline Replacement Project – Phase 2

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 trench), reconnection of seven (7) existing user water service lines, five (5) connections to existing watermain 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.

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

ITEMS FOR SALE

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority is accepting sealed bids on the following two items.

- 1) Honda HS928 Snow Blower – Purchased 2008: Minimum bid \$250.
- 2) Honda HS928 Snow Blower – Purchased 2008: Minimum bid \$250.

** All items are sold as is and will go to the highest bidder (Cash or checks, no cards)

You may reach Rebecca Torres at 970-442-6353 or Ken Richards 970-749-7534 with questions and schedule an onsite inspection. Bids must be sealed and labeled per item with name, phone number and which item you are bidding on. Sealed bids are due by noon on July 14, 2026.



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/ Please direct all questions, by email only to, Kerri Stewart at 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.

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 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
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



D&E Business Solutions in partnership with Southern Ute Economic Development Presents

Starting Smart: Business Foundations for Tribal Entrepreneurs

Interested in starting a business, side hustle, or turning a skill into income?

Join D&E Business Solutions for a hands-on workshop series focusing on building a business the right way – from setup and structure to money management, taxes, marketing, and long-term growth.

3-Part Interactive Workshop Series for Southern Ute Tribal Members & Families

June 23rd Starting Strong	July 21st Money, Taxes & Business Systems	August 25th Growing Your Business
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These workshops will:

- be Beginner Friendly
- offer Real-World Business Guidance
- Include interactive activities and worksheets

 Sky Ute Casino
 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 Lunch Provided

**For more information and to register please reach out to
Allison Wall
awall@southernute-nsn.gov or 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

Active Kid Care Leader

Closes 6/12/26 – Provides childcare and physical activities for the Active Kid Care program to meet the needs of the children ages toddler through 6 years. Pay grade N4; Pay is \$15.55/hour.

Occupational Therapist

Closes 6/12/26 – A professional position within the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy. An employee in this position works with Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students in need of occupational therapy services. Pay E17; Pay is \$92,160/annually.

Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)

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

Carpenter

Provides daily carpentry maintenance, troubleshooting, installation, preventative maintenance and repairs, including correcting safety hazards, in the Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N14; Pay is \$32.69/hour.

Community Health Representative

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

Criminal Justice Information System Specialist

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)

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 E13; Pay is \$63,064/annually.

Detention Officer

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.

Detention Transport Officer

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

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

Field Technician

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 E14; Pay is \$68,004/annually.

Grant Writer

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 E13; Salary is \$63,064/year.

Health & Safety Specialist

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

HVAC Technician

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

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

Lands Compliance Technician

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

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)

Responsible for 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

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

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

Peer Recovery Coach

Will engage individuals with substance use disorders with a goal of referral into treatment and recovery services. 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

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. Responsibilities include 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 E19; Pay is \$121,866/annually.

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.

Swimming Instructor

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

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

TERO Worker

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.



CALL FOR VENDORS



Please join us for the annual Piinu Nuchi 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/970.563.2281

Indian Business Showcase



WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Companies seeking trusted vendors and collaborators
- Indian Owned Businesses ready to showcase their work
- Tribal Departments/Entities that issue RFPs and contracts

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Business showcases and presentations
- Networking to build company relationships
- Opportunities for partnerships

DISCOVER.
CONNECT.
COLLABORATE.

Join TERO for an exclusive opportunity to connect with Indian Owned Businesses showcasing their services and expertise. Meet potential partners, explore new opportunities, and build meaningful business relationships.

DATE:
**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17TH, 2026**

TIME:
9AM - 12PM

LOCATION:
**SOUTHERN UTE MUSEUM
LARGE CLASSROOM
503 OURAY DR
IGNACIO, CO**

RSVP BY JUNE 5TH

📞 970.563.2290

✉ tero-staff@southernute-nsn.gov

SAVE THE DATE

2026 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

JUNE 22-26, 2026

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE YOUTH CAMP
IGNACIO, COLORADO**

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

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

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
FREE! NAFWS will pay for travel expenses to attend
• (airfare, mileage, food, and lodging)

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

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

Maintains rules and regulations on the playing field and courts during SunUte Recreation Dept. sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay is \$18.42/hour.



Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at www.skyutecasino.com to view job openings and apply online.
Human Resources • Phone: 970-563-1311 • PO Box 340, Ignacio, CO 81137
TERO-Native American Preference • All Applicants Welcome • Must pass pre-employment drug test, background check, qualify for and maintain a Division of Gaming License and be able to work all shifts, weekends or holidays. **21 years or older to apply.*

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

Will be 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/hour +tips.

Cage Staff (On-call)

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls. Pay grade 3; \$15.16/hour +tips.

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

Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls. Pay grade 3; \$15.16/hour +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. Requires that you 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/hour +tips.

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

Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Responsible for the 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/hour.

***Facilities Technician (Full-time)**

Electrical and mechanical functions, operations of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works as part of a team to ensure smooth operations of the facility, equipment and building by providing maintenance support, troubleshooting and repair, preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Pay grade 6; \$20 – \$23/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/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. Training employees, ensuring they abide by all policies and procedures. Responsible for office structure, budgetary administration, and employee relations assigned by the Housekeeping Manager. Pay grade 3; \$17/hour.

***Laundry Attendant (Full-time)**

Perform the required operations with laundry equipment; ensuring products are clean and acceptable for hotel use. Maintaining laundry for the hotel rooms and other departments as needed. Operate flatwork ironers, laundry equipment, iron, and fold linens by hand, and inform supervisor of any equipment malfunctions or problems with safety mechanisms of equipment. Pay grade 2; \$15.16/hour.

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

Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other assigned areas. 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/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/hour +tips.

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

Provide exceptional guest service by delivering exceptional service of food and/or beverage to include taking the order and delivering food and/or beverage items. This task is to be handled in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Pay grade 1; \$12.14/hour +tips.

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

Safeguarding the assets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Ensures that all company policies and internal control procedures are followed. Responsible for guest and employee safety on property. The first identifiable representatives of the Casino whose conduct and customer service skills must be of the highest quality. Must present themselves professionally assisting and helping customers with their problems and concerns. Investigates, takes photos and secures incidents, monitors access to secured areas allowing entry to only authorized personnel, observes and monitors all activity and movement in and around the casino, and performs drug and alcohol testing. Pay grade 3; \$18 – \$20/hour.

Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

Please visit our website at www.sugf.com/jobs.asp for full job details and to apply online.
Tribal Member employment preference • Must pass pre-employment drug test/background check.
Southern Ute Growth Fund, Human Resources • P.O. Box 367 • Ignacio, CO
Phone: 970-563-5064 • Job hotline: 970-563-4777.

Contract And Insurance Manager – Red Willow Production Co. (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.

Project and Materials Controls Specialist – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 6/19/26 – 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.

Investment Analyst – Private Equity (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 7/3/26 – Supporting investment analysis, due diligence, and portfolio monitoring for private equity primary fund commitments and co-investments.

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.

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.

Associate – KAVA Equity Partners (Denver, CO)

Closes 7/13/26 – Will report to the Managing Director and actively participate in sourcing, underwriting, structuring, and closing lower middle market private equity investments. As part of a lean investment team, the Associate will be expected to take a proactive approach and will have the opportunity to participate in every aspect of the investment process including acquisitions, portfolio management, and divestments. Will work closely with the Managing Director and other investment team members but will also be expected to operate independently with a degree of autonomy on assigned projects.

Senior Associate – KAVA Equity Partners (Denver, CO)

Closes 7/13/26 – Will actively participate in sourcing, underwriting, structuring, and closing lower middle market private equity investments. As part of a lean investment team, the Senior Associate will be expected to take a proactive approach and participate in every aspect of the investment process including acquisitions, portfolio management, and divestments. Will work closely with the Managing Director, is also expected to operate independently with a high degree of autonomy on assigned projects.

Multi-Purpose Facility June Food Sale

Monday June 22, 2026 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM



Hamburger or Cheese Burger with Fries \$15
On Frybread or Tortilla \$20



Hot Dog \$3 on Frybread or Tortilla \$6 Hot Dog with Fries \$8



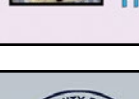
Indian Taco \$15 Chicken Strips with Fries \$15



Frito Pie Small \$7 Large \$10



Green Chile Stew w/Bread \$10 Chile Beans with Frybread or Tortilla \$10



Chicken Nuggets (10) With Fries \$15



Fries \$5 Chile Cheese Fries (Red or Green) \$10



Terry's Chips & Salsa Large \$20 with chips, Small \$10



Fry Bread or Tortilla \$5



Beverages Soda Pop, Bottled Water, \$1



Fresh Hand crafted Lemonade \$10 served with fresh fruit and a variety of flavors to choose from; raspberry, mango, lavender, etc
Lemonade, & Snow Cones are available to purchase everyday.



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



Eat in or Carry-out
970-563-2645

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

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

Ignacio Youth Services:

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

Road Runner Transit:

- Operations Manager (Full-time) \$52.645 to \$63,211/yr.

Ignacio Senior Center:

- Division Director (Full-time) \$48,069-\$57,678 /yr.. DOE

RURAL COLORADO WORKSHOP SERIES

DEMYSTIFYING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, Aug 31st (5-7pm)
Tuesday, Sept 1st (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 1st



Leeds School of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

For more information contact:
Allison Wall

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. Safety Coordinator — Jeffersonville, OH
2. Onsite Project Accountant — Multiple Locations, TX
3. Chief Estimator — Naples, FL

Please contact The Berg Group directly regarding all opportunities.



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



info@berggroup.us



www.BERGGROUP.US/CAREERS/



Piinu N uchi Market opens



photos Zuriah Baker/SU Drum

Owner, Jerrna Weaver of “Mystical Treats” holds treats that she sells at the opening day of the Piinu N uchi Farmers Market on Wednesday, June 3. Weaver is a Southern Ute tribal member entrepreneur in her second year at the farmer’s market. The Piinu N uchi Farmers Market 2026 season will run from June through October at the Sky Ute Casino Resort parking lot from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. every Wednesday.



Carre Foster of “The Ice Cream Lady Truck,” was born and raised in London, United Kingdom and now operates her ice cream truck in and around Durango, Colo.



Food Stylist, Amanda Brenneman of “Graze Colorado,” hands Mi Hito’s owner Amber Valdez a bag full of goodies at the Piinu N uchi Farmers Market’s Opening Day on Wednesday, June 3. “Graze Colorado” specializes in Charcuterie boards, party spreads, as well as various food platters and snacks.

TWO TABBED FOR ALL-STATE • FROM PAGE 1



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio’s Krysten Neil stands between father Ben and mother Krysta after committing Thursday afternoon, May 21, inside IHS Gymnasium to continue her student-athlete career as a wrestler at Phoenix-based Grand Canyon University in Ariz. Before relocating to the Grand Canyon State, however, she has been chosen to wrestle in the 2026 Colorado High School Coaches Association All-State Games’ duals, to be held at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

(long the skipper at Greeley Central) and Colorado Springs-based The Classical Academy’s Sean Collins (who recently completed his 19th year at TCA) will be the boys’ coaches, and the Games’ mat action will begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 18, inside University of Northern Colorado’s Bank of Colorado Arena at Butler-Hancock Athletic Center. The latter of those two distinguished names and often referred to as the ‘father of amateur wrestling in Colorado,’ John W. Hancock helped organize and stage the Colorado High School Activities Association’s inaugural State Wrestling Championships 90 years ago, in 1936. Already an established head football and wrestling coach at then-Colorado State Teachers College (later Colorado State College of Education at Greeley and Colorado State College before becoming ‘University of Northern Colorado’ in May 1970), Hancock had previously started UNC’s first wrestling squad during the 1925-26 academic year – making the CHSCA All-State Games’ wrestling feature a unique footnote to the 100th anniversary of those earliest Bears’ Rocky Mountain Faculty Athletic Conference (present-day ‘Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference’ wording was adopted in 1967) crown clinched in Boulder.

The Southern Ute Drum’s Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9					10				11 12
13				14					
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21	22					23			
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- Across
- 1 “The BFG” author
- 5 “Born Free” lioness
- 9 Butter substitute
- 10 They are prima in opera
- 13 Group including the Duwamish and the Puyallup
- 15 Norm
- 16 Absolute beauty
- 17 Wartime stat
- 18 Inflamed swelling
- 20 Kluti ---: “Where two rivers meet”
- 21 Fill a turkey
- 23 Potters’ ovens
- 24 “And tell me what street compares with --- Street in July...” (“Manhattan”, Rodgers and Hart)
- 25 --- Buffalo, ND Native American politician
- 26 Ballpark fig.
- 27 “Can’t Help Lovin’ --- Man” (Kern/Hammerstein song)
- 28 Leftover for Rover
- 31 Disco-era duds
- 34 Matrilineal people known for mediation
- 35 What Exxon was
- 36 Lively person
- 37 Shed tears
- Down
- 1 Holiday and Severinsen
- 2 Billions and billions
- 3 Attacking with the noggin
- 4 --- del Rio (“Macarena” singers)
- 5 Only son of Henry Ford
- 6 Good earth
- 7 “Live from New York!” letters
- 8 Kevin Bacon’s film debut
- 11 Afghan or Thai
- 12 Former Iranian rulers
- 14 “Hooray, a little R and R coming up”
- 19 “Our remedies --- in ourselves do lie” (Shakespeare, “All’s Well That Ends Well”)
- 20 Carson’s gear?
- 21 News for the nose
- 22 We’re off --- the wizard...
- 23 SLC student-run college radio station
- 25 More pink, perhaps
- 27 Mislead
- 29 Climb the corporate ladder
- 30 Shade canopy on a boat
- 32 Brazilian Saint
- 33 Make a seam

Answers will appear in the June 26 issue of the Drum.

Answers for May 29, 2026 crossword puzzle.
Across: 1 Red, 4 CPU, 7 HMS, 10 Ole, 11 Sir, 12 AAA, 13 Clerics, 15 Ins, 16 Kiri, 17 Kiddos, 19 Seen, 20 Uneasy, 21 Capes, 23 Stools, 26 Pima, 30 Torn up, 31 Odin, 32 EKG, 33 Meeting, 35 Wya, 36 Ned, 37 OKs, 38 Son, 39 IDs, 40 Met.
Down: 1 Rocks, 2 Ellie, 3 Deere, 4 C S I, 5 Pick up speed, 6 Ursine, 7 Haida, 8 Manos, 9 Sassy, 14 Rincon, 18 Despot, 22 Alumni, 23 Stews, 24 Tokyo, 25 Organ, 27 Idiom, 28 Minke, 29 Angst, 34 Eds.

Southern Ute Elder Services June Activities List

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.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, June 12



Sunny 89°F
Light/variable afternoon winds

Saturday, June 13



Sunny 90°F
Light/variable afternoon winds

Sunday, June 14



Mostly sunny 85°F
30% chance of showers

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

