THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

FREE

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Ballet Folklorico de Durango at

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SUIMA splashes with pumpkins

PAGE 11

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SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Southern Ute Chairman: Matters addressed over the last 30 days

By Christine Sage, Chairman
SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL



Christine Sage
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Actions to benefit Tribal members

a. On Sept. 2, we received approval from the BIA of the amended Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. In the coming weeks we will determine its effective date by Resolution.
b. On Sept. 1 and on Sept. 29, Tribal Council approved two home loans for Tribal members
c. Also on Sept. 29, Tribal Council approved a grant to provide tribal member assistance to make downpayments on homes.
d. On Sept. 15 and 29, Tribal Council approved three Tribal member appointments to Tribal Boards, two to the Wildlife Advisory Board and one to the Southern Ute Economic Development Committee

Protection of Environmental and Cultural Resources

a. On Sept. 4, Tribal Council issued a press release opposing the efforts to reduce both Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
b. On Sept. 8, Tribal Council filed a formal comment letter with the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") and the US Forest Service, opposing the federal government's efforts to eliminate the "Roadless Rule". If that rule is eliminated, logging activity would be allowed in areas of cultural importance to Tribes, including Southern Ute.
c. On Sept. 11, Tribal Council filed an official comment letter opposing the leasing of public lands by BLM and the US Forest Service within the Reservation. On October 1, the Chairman met with Sen. Hickenlooper, encouraging him to oppose that leasing activity.
d. On Sept. 29, Tribal Council opposed efforts by the federal government to reduce protection for waters within the Reservation under the Clean Water Act.
e. The Tribe has been monitoring and evaluating the remediation of the Enterprise oil spill that occurred within the Reservation boundaries. That spill is significantly larger and spreading more rapidly than represented by Enterprise and we intend to hold them accountable. On Oct. 6, Tribal Council met with Governor Polis to ensure that Colorado worked cooperatively with the Tribe in responding to the Enterprise gasoline spill on the Reservation for the protection of the health of tribal members and the environment.

Protection of the Health of Tribal Members

a. On Sept. 15, Tribal Council approved an agreement at no cost to the Tribe to obtain assistance in the design, implementation and long-term sustainability of the Tribe's Recovery Housing project, the construction of which was recently commenced.

Financial and Investment Matters

a. On Sept. 8, Tribal Council approved the FY 2027 budget for the Permanent Fund, and on Sept. 22 approved the FY 2027 budgets for the Sky Ute Casino Resort and Shared Services.
b. On Sept. 22, Tribal Council authorized the Growth Fund to move forward with a major commercial development for the Tribe in California.
c. On Sept. 24, The Growth Fund and the Bureau of Land Management held the first public meeting regarding the future development of tribal trust oil and gas resources within a 110,00-acre planning area located within the Southern Indian Reservation.

Meetings with Governmental Officials

a. Over the past month the Chairman has had calls with Sen. Bennet, Rep. Hurd and Attorney General Weiser, discussing the importance of collaborating on key projects in which we have a mutual interest going forward.
b. On Sept. 12, the Tribal Council met with Rep. Jeff Hurd of Colorado, Rep. Brian Babin of Texas, and Rep. Celeste Maloy of Utah, where Tribal Council had the opportunity to discuss the Tribe's history, culture and business interests.

Celebrating National Night Out



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Los Pinos Fire Rescue shows the interior of engine number 81 to Keira Trujillo during the National Night Event on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at the Piinu Nuuchi Skatepark. National Night Out is a nationwide community building campaign that promotes partnerships and camaraderie with law enforcement – Tribal members, their families, and local community members took time to meet various Justice and Regulatory department staff in addition to local law enforcement teams within the Four Corners. Music, free food, games, and more were enjoyed by all attendees.

See more National Night Out photos on page 10.



Rendering courtesy Construction & Project Management

The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe has been housed at the SunUte Community Center since its opening – now the program will be moving into a new building in the Fall of next year. This image by Reynolds Ash + Associates Architecture & Engineering is an official rendering of the building currently under construction.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

A new home for BGC

Construction begins for a new building

By Divine Windy Boy
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (BGC) has long been housed at the SunUte Community Center, coming Fall of next year the program will be relocated to a fully renovated building formally known as the Southern Ute Community Action Programs Peaceful Spirit Building. This project is headed up by Tribal Housing and Construction & Project Management (C&PM) team, and on Friday, Sept. 18 the project notification was announced to the community – construction began on Monday, Sept. 21. The new building will have many new amenities for their club members, contributing to the long-term benefit of the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

The project will consist of full interior and exterior renovations, including; landscaping, outdoor living and play spaces, and an outdoor sports court. Security and controlled access will be of high priority; all spaces open to children will be secure and monitored. The new building will have a lite-commercial kitchen, several gaming spaces, maker's lab (craft area), art lab, lounge areas, and office spaces for BGC staff. A brand-new central heating and cooling system will be installed, along with new plumbing and an ADA compliant lift for access to the upper level. A full interior fire sprinkler system and alarm will be installed for safety purposes. (According to the official Boys and Girls Club Project notice from the Tribal Housing – Construction and Project Management).

The Boys and Girls Club Project is expected to be completed in the fall of next year. Gavin Martinez is the Director of Tribal Housing and during an interview he shared, "I stepped into my role in the Spring of 2022 – when I started, [the BGC Project] was a high on Tribal Council's priority list as the previous building had been vacant for so long, the building is in such a great location that Tribal Council wanted to find a use for it," Martinez said. "The total renovation of this location keeps BGC close to SunUte Community Center and the Piinu Nuuchi Skate Park – the other positive with BGC moving into this building, it is going to change some of the security for them which drastically changes their oversight ratios."

"This is about a 12-month project, so the project is expected to be finished around the end of this new fiscal year or Oct. 1 of 2027 – I think this project reflects Tribal Councils positive sentiments towards the youth really well." Martinez said.

As stated in the official construction notice, C&PM is committed to minimizing disruptions during construction activities. Specific efforts will be taken to limit disruption to surrounding facilities, traffic, parking, pedestrian access, and Tribal operations. Construction scheduling, site access, and any temporary impacts will be coordinated and communicated as needed throughout the project.

Derrell Lindsey is the Project Manager at C&PM, and he shared "I think that Bruce [LeClaire] and his staff have done a really good job of running the BGC programming and making it a huge benefit to the membership and the community at large," Lindsey said. "This project is a massive investment in the program for the benefit of the club members, Bruce has also expressed the interest in trying to focus and include more programs for the older youth, so this project gives the BGC team that additional programmatic space for those children."

***New home** page 2*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Governor Polis addresses Enterprise Spill

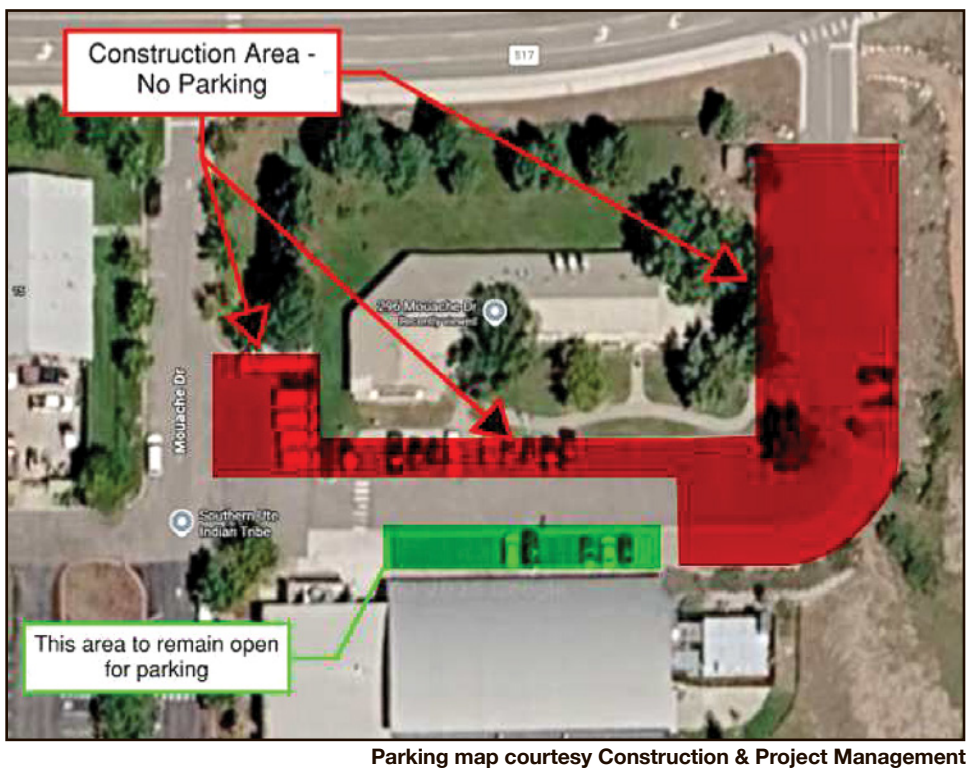
Staff report
OFFICE OF COLORADO GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

Yesterday, Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado, visited the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. That visit began with a meeting at the site of the Enterprise gasoline spill. Governor Polis was accompanied by Chairman Sage, Vice Chairman Barry, and other members of the Southern Ute Tribal Council, La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka, and representatives of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Environmental Programs Department, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Attorney General's office, and the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. The massive gasoline spill, which leaked from a pipeline operated by Enterprise Products of Houston, TX, is in close proximity to the Animas River and is estimated at over 200,000 gallons. It is the largest pipeline spill in Colorado history and one of the largest in the country. It has affected over 300 acre feet of drinking water and over a dozen property owners on the Reservation have lost their homes.

After the site visit, Governor Polis met with the Southern Ute Tribal Council. Because of the location of this spill on the Reservation, the Tribe has hired experts to evaluate the size and nature of the spill in order to safeguard the health and safety of Reservation residents and protect environmental resources. Based on that evaluation, the Tribal Council expressed serious concerns over Enterprise's repeated miscalculation of the size of the spill and the ineffectiveness of Enterprise's efforts to clean it up. Plume movement is driven by water table levels and precipitation. Current monitoring data suggest the plume has contracted over an abnormally dry winter and spring but, with the compounding precipitation in the region and a wet winter predicted, the contamination will likely spread and Enterprise is not in a position to adequately respond.

Acknowledging CDPHE's limited resources, Chairman Sage encouraged Governor Polis to use the information that the Tribe provides, hire its own experts, and to collaborate so that the State and the Tribe speak with a unified voice in addressing the spill. Governor Polis expressed appreciation for the work that the Tribe has done and looked forward to working together moving forward. He committed to hiring an independent expert to evaluate the spill and the remediation efforts by Enterprise and to address any deficiencies. The Tribe appreciates Colorado's response to this outstanding tribal request.

A new home for BGC • from page 1



Parking map courtesy Construction & Project Management

Construction fencing has been erected around the perimeter of the Boy's & Girl's Club (BGC) Renovation Project construction area and parking has been closed on the south and east side of the building. See page 12 of this issue for the Parking Addendum which to provides parking guidelines to help alleviate congestion.

Bruce LeClaire is a member of the Sicangu Lakota people (Rosebud Sioux Tribe), and he has served as the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club since 2013. When he began working, the Chairman at the time Jimmy Newton Jr. egap, had met with LeClaire and presented his vision for the Boys and Girls Club to him.

"When I met with Chairman, he stated that his administration had a priority to build a new space for the Boys and Girls Club, it sounded really exciting, so I made the decision to leave my job within the Durango School District. I have been looking forward to having our own space for the BGC members," Le Claire said. "We have been in a shared facility since the BGC doors opened in 2006. We recently celebrated our 20-year anniversary in April, so we are excited to be able to have a new secure place for our kids."

Cassandra Sanchez is the BGC Site Director and has been working within the program since 2011. Over the years she has worked as a Program Aid, Program Coordinator, Behavioral Coordinator, and finally was promoted to her current position in 2017.

"We have been part of the design team which has been a really cool process, being able to view the renderings as our designs were finalized was interesting to see – being able to contribute our input such as colors, layout, and things like that was special," Sanchez said. "In addition to that, we are looking forward to not only serving our current kids, we look forward to also serving teens as well – a lot of people are surprised to hear that we serve kids up to 18 years old, so I think it would be really nice to have the space to offer [teens] separate programming from our younger kids."

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe looks forward to moving into their new space next year; expanding their programs and having a club dedicated to the children they have served for the last 20 years. Construction is currently taking place and is expected to be completed in the fall of next year.

Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management team, and BGC would like to thank; the current and previous Southern Ute Tribal Council, including Executive Officers Lindsay Box and Tyson Thompson, Kerri Stewart of Tribal Housing, Reynolds Ash + Associates Architecture & Engineering, FCI Constructors Inc., Southern Ute Legal Department, Southern Ute Finance Department, Southern Ute Properties and Facilities, Southern Ute Utilities, Sun-Ute Community Center, and all who have had a hand in the planning process.

"With my tribal affiliation, as a Lakota, we have a strong belief that children are gifts from our Creator – so collectively we as adults have a responsibility to look after them, guide them, and keep them safe," BGC CEO, Bruce LeClaire said. "I have always taken that to heart. So, to have this opportunity to support our kids and invest in them will have a positive impact, and I think it's great."



Many Moons Ago



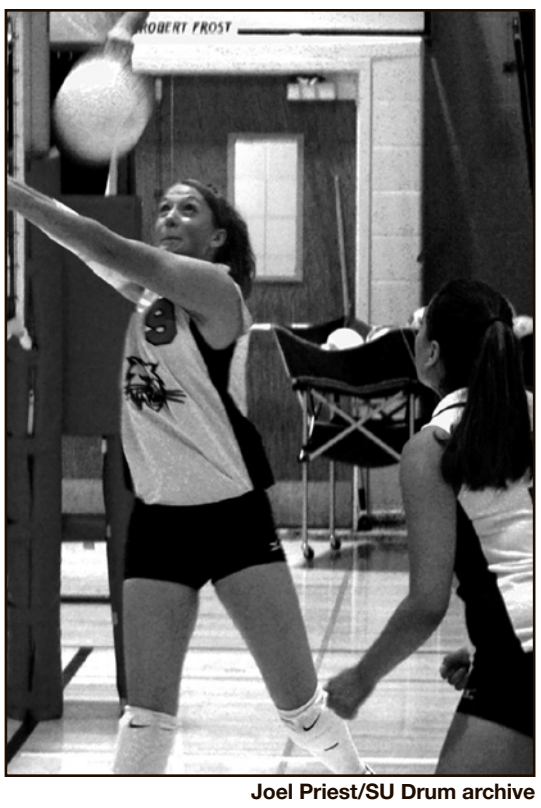


Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

Elijah Weaver smiles with his nephew Landon Miles at the Back to School Barbeque.

This photo was published in the Oct. 14, 2016, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.



Joel Priest/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

IHS Junior setter Natacia Becker hustles to save this ball out of the net to a waiting A.J. Vigil against Monte Vista at home.

This photo was published in the Oct. 13, 2006, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

30 years ago

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



SU Drum archive

40 years ago

The Southern Ute Youth Group – proudly displays their 1st place blue ribbon they won at the Cultural Heritage Festival in Farmington on Oct. 9 & 10. L-R, Sheila Ryder, Eddie Box Jr., Betty Box, Benito Casias, JoGenia Red and in front of Sarah Hudson.

This photo was published in the Oct. 17, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

Tribal Fair Rodeo Results

Ranch Bronc
Leland Gable

Saddle Bronce
Tyler Beebe

Tie Down
Bodie Hine

Breakaway
Kylie Gilbert

Barrel Racing
Nancy Velasquez

Jr. Barrels
Mattie Jo McCoy

Mutton Busting
Stetson Yazzie

Steer Riding
No qualified rides

Jr. Bull Riding
No qualified rides

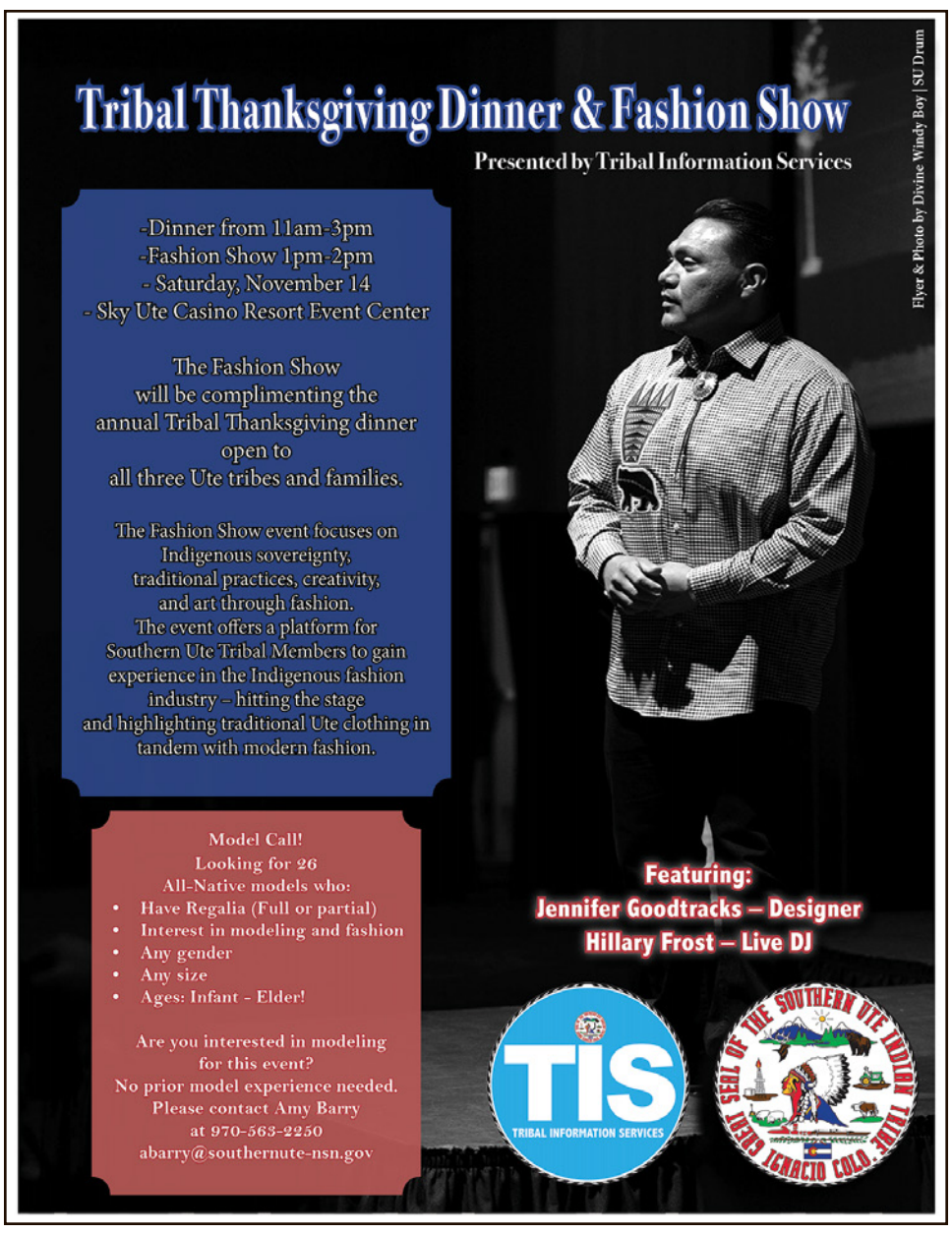
Novice Bull Riding
Yvonna Malagon (coin toss)

Open Bull Riding
Rico Enjady

All Tribal Fair Results were compiled by Event Superintendents, submitted to Cultural Preservation Department and published in the Southern Ute Drum. Accuracy is dependent on the Superintendent responsible for their respective contest or event.







Indigenous People's Day at FLC



FLC Hozhoni Ambassador, Melody Eisenberger leads an Oklahoma style two step dance during the Fort Lewis College, Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on Monday, Oct. 12. Held in the Student Union Ballroom, students and the community gathered to enjoy round dancing, special dance contests, and a pot-luck style dinner.



Students, their families, and surrounding community members gathered at the Student Union Ballroom to compete in the Hat and Boot Special on Monday, Oct. 12. Dancers of all ages competed for beaded and cash prizes in support of the Fort Lewis College, Powwow Club.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



The Hat and Boot special took place at Fort Lewis College on the evening of Monday, Oct. 12 at the Student Union – Dancers competed in their best western wear and showed off their best moves for a chance at $300 and a beaded belt buckle.



Cash Velasquez and his sister Scarlett Velasquez share a dance at the FLC Indigenous Peoples Day celebration. Attendees spent the evening learning about different types of powwow dancing among other cultural dances.



BEHAVORIAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: When hobbies feel like chores

By Brianna Henderson
Southern Ute Behavioral Health

Imagine this: you've made it to Sunday. Your chores are done, the house is quiet, and the hobby you used to live for – whether it's an unfinished canvas, a beaded earring set, or those running shoes in the corner – is sitting right in front of you. Instead of feeling excited, you just feel heavy. Looking at it feels like looking at a pile of unwashed dishes. You find yourself thinking, "I really should do that," before sighing and doomscrolling on your phone for three hours instead. If your favorite hobbies suddenly feel like an obligation, you aren't losing your passion, and you aren't being lazy. You are experiencing burnout.

When your brain is stuck in chronic, long-term stress, it enters survival mode, prioritizing keeping you afloat over everything else. Burnout depletes dopamine – the chemical responsible for motivation and pleasure – making the things you logically love fail to spark joy. Behind the scenes, your brain is out of gas. We live in an "always-on" digital world full of texts, emails, and loud screens that leave our nervous systems overwhelmed. If your day is spent taking care of everyone else – like kids, coworkers, or customers – your emotional battery is left at zero. Feeling like you have no control over your schedule at work drains your energy further. When you finally get a free hour, you feel a deep sense of guilt and pressure, worrying that you are wasting time when you "should" be cleaning, sleeping, or prepping for the next busy day.

Unfortunately, you can't force your way out of burnout. Pushing yourself to "just do" your hobby will only make you resent it more. Instead, you need to learn to lower the stakes entirely. If you don't have the energy to create, try shifting from creating to consuming. Watch someone else do your hobby on YouTube or look at what friends and family are making. Let yourself be a fan of your craft before trying to be a creator again.

You can also give yourself permission to make something terrible. Knit a messy, uneven square and unravel it, or paint something using only ugly colors and paint right over it. Removing the goal of a "good outcome" instantly strips away the mental pressure. And if your old hobbies still carry too much pressure because you remember how good you used to be at them, try something completely new. Pick something where you have no experience, like buying a clay kit, coloring book, or trying a new recipe. Being a total beginner naturally lowers your expectations because you aren't supposed to be good at it yet.

Above all, give yourself grace. Your creativity hasn't vanished permanently; it is just resting. Your brain needs deep, unstructured quiet time before it can rebuild its energy. Listen to it. It's okay to put the project back in the closet, curl up on the couch, and trust that the spark will return when your battery is actually recharged.

Here's to your good health!
It's okay not to feel okay.

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

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

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

Brianna Henderson is the Suicide and Substance Use Prevention Coordinator for the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division.

Bootacular Book Event at ICL



photos Amy Barry/Tribal Information Services

On Oct. 8, Shining Mountain Health and Wellness hosted a collaborative book event with the Ignacio Community Library to highlight the 1000 book club. New mothers and babies attended the event that provided free books, book club sign-up opportunities, and a chance for the babies to interact. The group read two books together and shared a healthy lunch. The intent of the program is to provide educational materials for new babies, new mothers, and new fathers who are becoming acclimated with parenthood. The group performed Itsy Bitsy Spider for the babies.

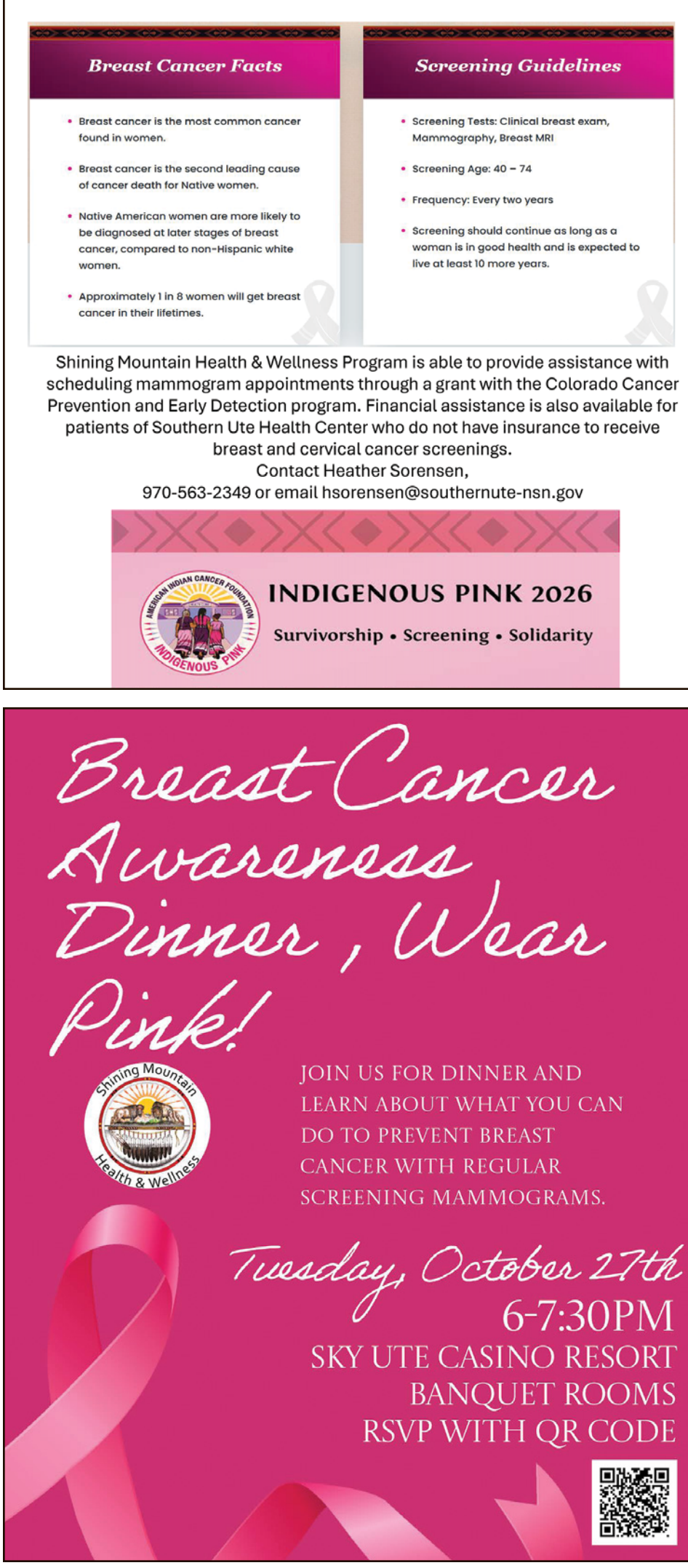


Mothers and babies, left to right, Natalie Bravo and Emiliano Rivera, Grace Gonzales and Ace Archuleta, Ramona Etcitty and Caleb Levato, D'Lynn Jacobs and Thunder Jacobs hung out for some reading time at the Ignacio Community Library for the monthly Breastfeeding and Parenting classes offered by the Shining Mountain Health and Wellness Division.

Ignacio Out And Equal Alliance Announces Four Corners Free Clinic

IOEA is excited to share that the Four Corners Free Clinic will provide no-cost primary and urgent care at IOEA beginning October 29! Our goal is to complement existing healthcare services and fill a much-needed gap for people who may not qualify for services at the Southern Ute Health Center or other programs, are uninsured, or face barriers to accessing care. We aren't seeking to replace anyone's current doctor; we're providing another option for people who need support. Starting October 29, 2026, Thursdays from 1 – 4 p.m., in the IOEA Office, Room 19 (ELHI Building), located at 115 Ute Street in Ignacio, Colo. Services include care for illnesses and injuries, chronic condition management, labs, screenings, prescriptions, rapid STI testing and treatment, LGBTQIA+ affirming care, and harm reduction services. A resource navigator can also help connect people with insurance, benefits, food, housing, and other local resources. The clinic accepts Colorado Medicaid/Medicare and uses grant funding to cover care for people without insurance. For medical or care-related questions, call 970-426-5711. For non-medical questions, contact IOEA at trennie@ioea2s.org or 970-306-3555.





New Ed. Director Meet & Greet



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Education Department's new Director, Daniella Baker, welcomed students and their families during a meet and greet event on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Guests were invited to enjoy breakfast at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy dining hall on Tuesday morning, all while meeting the new director – Baker looks forward to meeting more families at a dinner event to be announced at a later date.

ISD awards Character Counts



photos Carli Hight/SU Drum

On Oct. 8, Food Service Department Production Coordinator Sierra Velasquez was awarded the Character Counts Person of the Month award for the month of Sept. 2026. Sierra stands with Ignacio School District Superintendent Christopher deKay who presented her with her Character Counts plaque.



Ron Schermacher of the Ignacio Community Library was awarded the Aug. 2026 Character Counts Person of the Month. He is pictured standing alongside Ignacio School Districts Superintendent Christopher deKay after being presented with his award at the Ignacio School Board meeting on Oct. 8.

Folklorico de Durango at IMS



photos Carli Hight/SU Drum

On Thursday Oct. 8, Ignacio Elementary and Middle school students and staff join in the IMS gym for a performance by Fort Lewis College's Ballet Folklorico de Durango group in celebration of Spanish Heritage month. Dances were from different regions with different styles of clothing and stories.





This performer is wearing a dress from a coastal region, it is very light and flowy to stay cool. She's dancing to a song called "La Bruja" meaning the witch, the dance tells a folklore about a charming supernatural being.

Both of these dancers' dresses are very colorful and are more representative of indigenous roots but with a Spanish influence and style. They are dancing to a song which is traditionally to be danced between a male and female but currently the group is mostly females.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani pɵ'ɵkwatu – *Eagle's Nest*

SUIMA news: Learning, growing, and looking ahead!

By Jesse Olguin-Sanchez, Principal
Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy



Jesse Olguin-Sanchez
Principal
Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

The last two weeks have flown by at SUIMA! Our classrooms have been busy with learning, discovery, and growth as students continue building skills both academically and socially. It has been wonderful to see the excitement on students' faces each day as they walk through our doors ready to learn and explore.

Our students have been diving deep into reading through their reading groups. These groups allow students to work at their individual levels while strengthening comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and a love for books. It has been exciting to watch students challenge themselves and gain confidence as readers. Reading is one of the most important skills students develop, and our elementary learners are making great strides every day.

In math, we have recently implemented a new curriculum, and the results have already been encouraging. Students are engaging in hands-on lessons, problem-solving activities, and meaningful discussions that help build a strong understanding of mathematical concepts. Teachers have noticed improvements in student participation and understanding as groups work together to solve problems and explain their thinking.

Meanwhile, our elementary students are studying the fascinating Circle of Life. Through lessons, discussions, and activities, students are learning about living things, their life cycles, and how all organisms depend on one another within our world. This topic encourages curiosity and helps students make important connections between science and everyday life.

While academics remain an important focus, we also continue to emphasize the social and emotional skills that help students become respectful and responsible members of our community. All grade levels are practicing Grace and Courtesy lessons daily. One of our current focuses is shaking hands each morning. This simple act helps students develop confidence, respect, eye contact, and positive communication skills. It has been wonderful to see students greeting staff and classmates with friendly smiles and strong handshakes as they begin their day.

As we look ahead to the next two weeks, we have several exciting events coming up!

Family Night will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 21 beginning at 5:30 p.m. We invite all families to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun. Dinner will include delicious Chicken Corn Tortilla Soup, Cornbread, and Apple Dessert. After dinner, families can enjoy a variety of activities together. Family Night is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another, strengthen relationships within our school community, and create lasting memories. We hope to see everyone there!

Please note that there will be no school on Friday, Oct. 23. Teachers will be using this time to prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences, which will take place during the week of Oct. through Oct. 29. Conferences provide an important opportunity for families and teachers to discuss student progress, celebrate successes, and work together to support continued growth and achievement. We encourage all families to participate in these valuable conversations.

Another exciting event on the horizon is our annual Trick-or-Treating Day, which will take place on Friday, October 30th. Students always look forward to this fun tradition, and we are excited to celebrate together. More information about schedules and activities will be shared as the date approaches.

Finally, we would like to remind families about the importance of arriving at school on time. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends promptly at 8 a.m. for all students. School officially starts at 8:10 a.m. Students who arrive on time begin their day calm, prepared, and ready to learn. Being punctual helps students establish routines, minimizes disruptions to the classroom, and ensures they do not miss valuable instructional time. Every minute counts when it comes to learning!

Thank you for your continued support of SUIMA. Together, we are creating a positive learning environment where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We appreciate the partnership we share with our families and look forward to all the exciting learning and events ahead. Let's keep working together to make this a fantastic school year!



GENERAL ELECTION

Christine Sage

Chairman Candidate



Maykw,

Hello, Southern Ute Indian Tribal membership,

My name is Christine Sage, I am running for the Chairman seat in the General Election on November 6, 2026. My main vision for our tribal membership is COMMUNICATION. Without communication there is no productivity. Being in office for the duration of 3 months has been my task of accomplishing many concerns that the Tribal membership are facing. The biggest concern is the communication that we face, I have established the communication to be present within our Tribal Council and our Tribal community. I have a forum for after Tuesday's Council meetings the tribal membership can speak of their issues, their concerns, and these issues, concerns are being addressed through the Executive Office. Follow-up is an achievement that is present throughout these issues and concerns being heard.

I have many more important discussions that are being conducted with our committees, boards, and commissions. Along with our departments, having the Executive Office involved with our teams to ensure the best possible outcomes are met. Having an open-door policy, visits in person, answering messages both on the phones, and emails are a big part of my vision, COMMUNICATION.

Southern Ute Indian tribe needs to have the Tribal processes that has been gone for so long needs to be established into the Chairman's office, following the Tribal Constitution and being held accountable. I value our Ute language, our culture, our traditions, and our youth the future of the Southern Ute Indian tribe and our people.

With your vote, I see our future of our tribe to be better served for all Southern Ute Indian tribal membership. There are many changes that need to be discussed and addressed. With your vote in the General Election, November 6, 2026. I have the experience, the resiliency, the honesty, the accountability that has been missing, and the communication to the Southern Ute Indian people.

YOUR VOICE NEEDS TO BE HEARD!!

VOTE FOR CHRISTINE SAGE I CAN GET YOUR ISSUES AND CONCERNS ADDRESSED!!

Togwayak,
Thank you!!
Christine Sage

GENERAL ELECTION

Marvin Pinnecoose

Tribal Chairman Candidate



Maykh, Nuuchiu.

My name is Marvin Pinnecoose. I am the son of Leona Red-Pinnecoose (egap) and Guy Pinnecoose Jr. (egap). I was born and raised on the Southern Ute Reservation and am a proud graduate of the Ignacio School District.

In 2023 and into 2024, I also brought about the concept of the 2% interest rate for the home loan program. Many people know me for being frugal with the endowment (Our financial future that I believe needs protection), but I also believe in appropriate spending. At 2% interest, tribal dollars will probably lose a little bit of value over a 25-to-30-year mortgage, but more importantly is that it gives an opportunity for an enrolled tribal member to buy a permanent home to pass down to their non-enrolled tribal children and their grandchildren. It's the beginning of the bend to help envelop the descendants and beyond. It has seen over 100 applicants to the home loan program and plans are being made for future benefits and reach of this program. We need to start exploring this same mindset in education.

Though I have many more accomplishments to mention, this statement is to give a couple brief examples, tell you where I stand, and where I want to go. In terms of where I stand, my three main focuses on Tribal Council have been Financial Service & Products, Agricultural Revitalization, and Economic Development.

Off reservation home loan lending is being explored to allow people to live anywhere in the country. The vehicle loan program is being redeveloped and should be coming back online soon. I was instrumental in securing over $4 million dollars in government assistance for the range program through an alternative funding arrangement through the U.S.D.A. We are also working on projects that will help drive revenue onto the reservation and allow people to spend money here instead of running off to Durango and Farmington. The Buckskin Charlie apartment units are part of my economic driver. The goal is to have multiple revenue streams that enhance tribal membership living, not just money. My vision is to be the reservation that other Native American visit and want to copy.

In 2025, as Vice-Chairman, I testified before the state of Colorado Senate and/or House of Representatives on four separate bills: HB25-1163 Free Access to State Parks, HB25-1266 American Indian Recognition Day, SB25-061 Construction of Laws Regarding Tribes, and SB25-009 Recognition of Tribal Court Orders. I prevailed on all of them. I served many months as Acting Chairman and know how to interact with city, county, state, and national representatives. I know how to work with the rest of Tribal Council to hear their point of view and respect their votes on what they believe. I always lean on my background of education, outside experiences, and confidence to help make rational decisions for our Tribe. I would appreciate your support to keep going forward and to continue representing our people as your Tribal Chairman.

Marvin Pinnecoose

GENERAL ELECTION

Rudley Weaver

Tribal Council Candidate

Mique Nuuchiu,

Most Tribal Members know me as Rudley Weaver, or by my nickname, "Wood Tick." I am part of the Weaver family and have lived most of my life on the Southern Ute Reservation but have also lived and owned a home off the reservation. Those experiences have given me an appreciation for our community, traditions, and the opportunities and challenges we face as Tribal Members.

I have always tried to serve our people and remain connected to the values that make us Nuuchiu. I am a Sun Dancer, Bear Dance Chief, and Gourd Dancer, and I speak and understand the Ute language. Our ceremonies, language, families, and connection to the land have always been important to me because they are the foundation of who we are.

My experience includes serving in the United States Navy, working as a Tribal Wildlife Conservation Officer, an Investigator for the Division of Gaming, a heavy equipment operator, a farmer, and a member of the HUD Board. Today, I continue my service on the Credit Committee and with the Southern Ute Veterans Association.

I believe good leadership begins with listening to our Membership and bringing people together to make decisions that honor our ancestors, serve our Membership today, and strengthen our Tribe for future generations.

As I listen to our Membership, three priorities stand out:

Public Safety

Many Tribal Members have shared concerns about drugs and crime affecting our Reservation. I support increasing law enforcement visibility, strengthening coordination between public safety and social service programs, and investing in prevention and intervention programs to keep our community safe.

Elder Care

As our Elders have carried on our traditions, language, and values, we have a responsibility to care for them. I support developing a Tribal Elder independent living facility and strengthening services that help Elders remain independent and connected to their families.

Land and Agriculture

Growing up, I watched our people farm and raise livestock, which instilled self-reliance, responsibility, and respect for our resources. I support agricultural programs, equipment-sharing opportunities, mentorship for young farmers, and greater use of Tribal lands to strengthen self-sufficiency, food production, and economic opportunity.

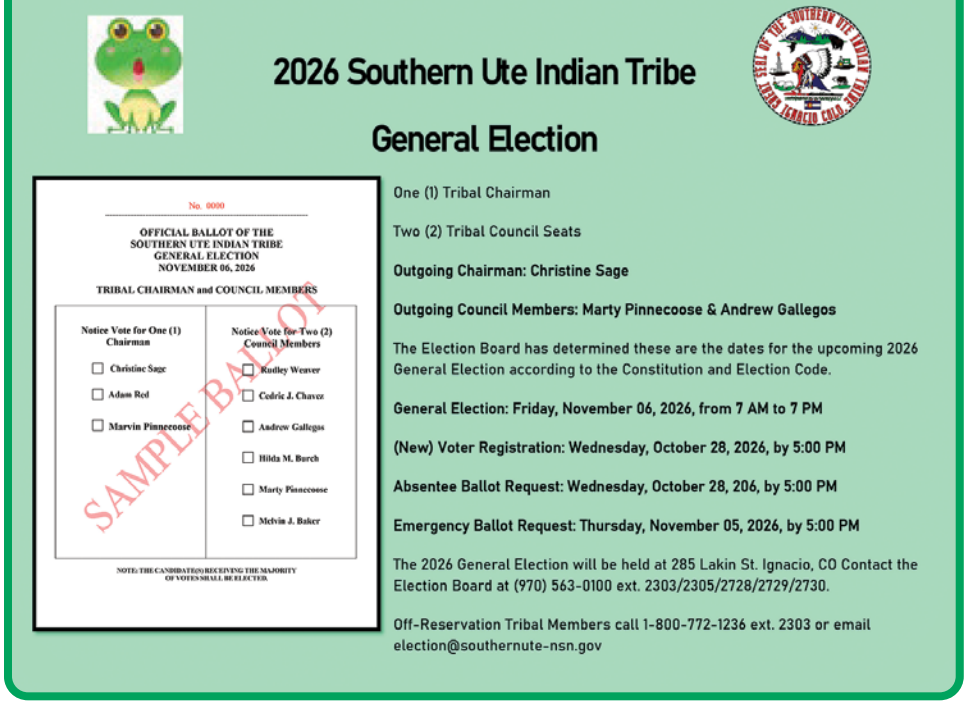
As we move forward, we must never lose sight of who we are as Nuuchiu. The teachings of our Elders, the strength of our families, our language, our ceremonies, and our connection to the land guide us every day.

I will uphold the Constitution of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, honor my Oath of Office, and lead with integrity, respect, and common sense. I do not have all the answers, but I believe our strength comes from working together. I welcome the opportunity to hear about the challenges you see facing our Tribe and the solutions you believe will help us move forward.

While one Council Member is only one vote, I promise to listen, work hard, act with integrity, and do my best to represent all Southern Ute Tribal Members fairly and respectfully.

May Grandfather bless you and your families throughout the year.

Rudley Weaver
Photo not available.



VOTE 2026

- **SPECIAL ELECTION: Friday, Oct. 30**
- **GENERAL ELECTION: Friday, Nov. 6**

Southern Ute Election Board at 970-563-0100 ext., 2303/2305/2729/2730
Off-Reservation Tribal members call 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303
Email: election@southernute-nsn.gov



GENERAL ELECTION

Hilda Burch

Tribal Council Candidate



Maykh Nuuchiu and Greetings, Southern Ute Tribal Members

Here I am again, Hilda M. Burch advocating for your vote on November 6, 2026. Let me be your voice for concerns, finding avenues of communications for those living off or on the reservation, and getting the youth involved for their future generations.

The Tribe has so much potential to be of service to the Tribal Membership but seems more focused on non-tribal wants. One area of interest is employment opportunities; the revision of the TERO Code includes 1st descendants of the Southern Ute Tribe for employment and Native American Owned Business. Another is adjudication for tribal members to assist them in gaining employment, helping them with the process of understanding the Expungement Code. And Economic Development and Small Business; have more training opportunities for those tribal members for career development, and entrepreneurship. Enhancing these areas then the tribe don't need to contract outside companies; we should be training our own tribal membership.

Getting the quarterly General Meetings back on track per the Tribal Constitution, and to rotate the tribal entities to give their updates at those General Meetings. This gives the membership a better insight into what they are and not accomplishing pertaining to the service and structure of that entity and membership can ask questions for better clarification.

It's true, our language is diminishing, our fluent knowledge keepers of our language are becoming fewer. But our language should continue to thrive within our homes, even if it's counting, identifying objects, introducing ourselves and making small simple sentences. Let's build those building blocks for our youth and our future. Let's be proud of our language. Let's be knowledge keepers and teachers of our cultural identity of our Ute language. We have the tools, we have the teachers, we have each other.

As a candidate for Tribal Council, I would be an asset and the driving force when it comes to helping you voice your concerns and ask those questions for clarification. Let's be proud of who we are, where we come from and where we are going for the future of our membership. Again, let me be your voice-asking the questions for answers and how to better communicate to all tribal membership on or off the reservation.

Vote to preserve our cultural identity, language for our future leaders; our future generation of the Southern Ute Tribe.

Vote for Hilda M. Burch – I have the passion to advocate for tribal members' needs and to communicate effectively.



GENERAL ELECTION

Melvin J. Baker

Tribal Council Candidate



To the Southern Ute Tribal Membership

Mique,

Good day, Tribal Members on and off the reservation. This is Melvin J. Baker.

I have decided to put my name in for a seat as a Tribal Council member. In May of 2026 after five and a half years as the elected Chairman I decided to step down for unforeseen circumstances due to the nature of my health. This was not an easy decision for me, but I knew the tribal membership was in good hands with the current Tribal Council and Vice Chairman Pinnecoose.

I have Fourteen and a half years of experience as a tribal leader. I have held the title of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Tribal Council Member and assisted the late Chairman "egap" Jimmy Newton Jr. in the Executive Office for a short time.

We must protect all of our investments, our Oil and Gas developments both on and off the reservation.

The Southern Ute Tribe is known as a leader in Indian country, and we must continue to maintain that status

I worked at the wood yard and at Sky Ute Downs as a labor and feeding the tribes buffalo herd.

I moved to Northern California and became a Wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service for 10- years on the Klamath National Forest. I was also selected to the Joint Apprentice of California firefighting academy.

Since 1995 I have worked for various departments of the tribe. The Conservation Crew, Building Maintenance, Construction Services, Mouache Capote Construction Company, Construction Project Management and Tribal Housing Department Director.

We need to continue our relationships with outside governments and other entities that we worked alongside with, as "egap" Chairman Leonard C. Burch would say our friends.

A few things I feel we need to take a look at:

- **The Constitution:** The Constitution was approved November 4th, 1936, to administer tribal affairs. Times have changed and we need to adjust to the future.
- **Tribal Member Services:** Are the current needs of the membership being met? I would like to propose that an overall evaluation of efficiency be done on all permanent fund departments.
- **Employment:** Provide more opportunities for our younger tribal members by working with our HR department. Create more opportunities whether they have a degree or not.
- **Language, Culture, and Traditions:** Time is of essence, because we do not have many of our elders left who have the knowledge of the of our Southern Ute Tribe. We need to capture all we can for our younger tribal members before it's too late.

I want to thank all of our Veterans as well as those who are currently serving our country in the armed forces.

I ask for your continued support in this year's general election. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

In closing I want to thank each and every one of you who has supported me as a tribal leader over the past fourteen and a half years.

Toghoyaqh,
Melvin J. Baker

VOTE 2026

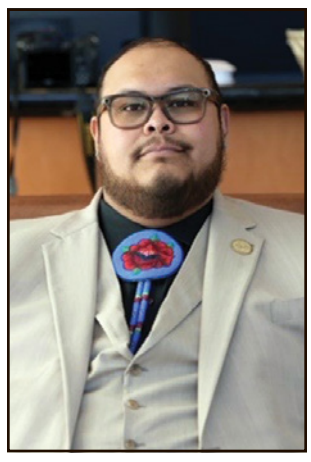
The Southern Ute Special and General Elections will be held at 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO

Election polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

GENERAL ELECTION

Andrew Gallegos

Tribal Council Candidate



Southern Ute Tribal Membership,

My name is Andrew Gallegos, son of the late Robert C. Taylor and Elizabeth L. Gallegos. Raised in Ignacio, Colorado, I was greatly influenced by my grandparents, Mary Gallegos and Antonio J. "Tony" Gallegos. They instilled in me the importance of hard work, respect, responsibility, and the value of a dollar. These principles continue to guide my life and public service.

After graduating from Ignacio High School in 2011, I began my career with the Southern Ute Growth Fund. Over the years, I gained experience in Utilities, Natural Gas Operations, Construction Services, Heavy Equipment, and Grounds Maintenance.

As Grounds Maintenance Division Head, I managed budgets, operations, and a 15-person crew. I also oversaw departments within Property and Facilities, served on tribal advisory committees, and supported our Tribe's COVID-19 response as Logistics Officer for the Incident Command Team.

In 2023, I was honored to be elected by our membership, becoming the second-youngest Tribal Council member in our Tribe's history.

Throughout my term, I have focused on supporting our youth, strengthening tribal services, improving employment opportunities, and promoting economic stability.

My efforts have included:

- **Youth and Community:** Supporting the Boys & Girls Club renovation, Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council, Royalty Committee, and rodeo working group.
- **Tribal Member Services:** Advocating for improvements to Construction Services, expanded Custom Farms assistance, Buckskin Charlie Apartments, and increased August distributions.
- **Employment:** Supporting tribal employment policy updates and implementing a new TERA code prioritizing first descendants.
- **Economic Development:** Working with Growth Fund leadership to explore investments, diversify revenue, and strengthen long-term financial stability.
- **Financial Planning:** Supporting a more predictable per capita adjustment process reflecting changes in the cost of living.
- **Water and Natural Resources:** Protecting tribal water rights, promoting responsible energy development, and advocating for environmental stewardship.
- **Tribal Sovereignty:** Supporting efforts to establish a Tribal Energy Resource Agreement (TERA), strengthening tribal authority over energy development.
- **Government Services:** Supporting tribal code updates, policy improvements, and opportunities to expand internet connectivity through outside funding.

I have represented our Tribe at state and federal levels, including testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources regarding challenges our Tribe faces in developing and managing resources such as natural gas.

By November 2026, I will have dedicated approximately 16 consecutive years of service to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

While progress has been made, important work remains. I remain committed to supporting our youth and elders, improving tribal services, protecting our natural resources, strengthening our economy, and ensuring our membership has a voice in decisions affecting our future.

I believe effective leadership requires accountability, dedication, transparency, and a willingness to listen. Every decision should reflect the best interests of our membership and future generations.

I respectfully ask for your continued support and your vote come November.

Thank you,
Andrew Gallegos



SPECIAL ELECTION

Corliss M. Taylor

Tribal Council Candidate

Maykh (Hello)

My name is Corliss May Taylor, and I am a candidate for the Southern Ute Tribal Council, "Special Election". My purpose is to improve the quality of service and benefits to the Tribal membership. I believe in communication to and from our people. That being said, I would like to see tribal membership speak freely and ask questions at our scheduled general meetings. I plan to work with the current Tribal leadership on behalf of both the Tribal membership and the organization. Most importantly I will follow the tribal constitution, oath of office, financial plan and other policies that govern the tribe with the understanding they can be amended or changed for the benefit of the tribal membership. I humbly say my knowledge and experience comes from the following:



I was born and raised here. My home and employment has always been on So Ute reservation.

I am familiar with the Tribal membership, culture, tribal organization, and local community.

I have approximately 34 plus years of employment with the Veterans Administration, BIA, IHS, and the Southern Ute Tribe.

I was elected to Tribal Council in 1997-2000 and at various times served as acting chairman and for one year as treasurer.

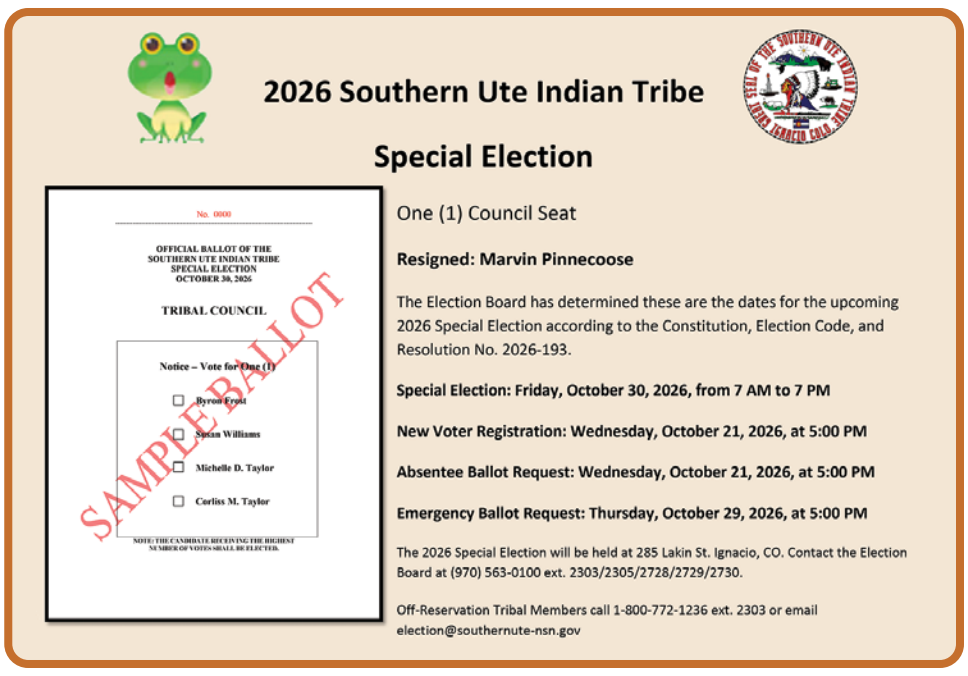
After retirement in 2014, I continued to assist Southern Ute Tribe as acting Culture Director twice, and acting Museum Director once.

I have volunteer for 3 decades on the Southern Ute Powwow Committee, and with the help of the entire committee ensured a successful powwow each year.

I have also served as a member of the Royalty committee providing guidance and direction.

I am dedicated to strengthening the Tribe now and for future generations. I would appreciate your vote on Friday, October 30, 2026.

Tuvuch Toghoyak
Corliss May Taylor



SPECIAL ELECTION

Michelle Taylor

Tribal Council Candidate

Hello, I am a candidate running for the Special Election on October 30, 2026.

My name is Michelle D. Taylor. I am continuing my statement to Tribal Membership. I would like to continue to speak on what I would like to see and do if elected to the Tribal Council. I talked about a couple of projects and topics that need to be visited and addressed to benefit the Tribal Membership and their families in my last statement and the current statement.

There are concerns that I have heard from the Tribal Membership that range from the smallest issue to the largest. I truly believe that every Tribal Member should have a voice and the ability to communicate their concerns to the Tribal Council. I would offer an open-door policy so that I may hear your concerns and what issues you are dealing with. I have also been a person who felt like I had an issue or problem and tried to have the problem addressed that at times fell on deaf ears. I have had issues with employment, housing, safety and substance abuse on the reservation and within the larger COMMUNITY.

I know that I am not the only one who feels like a concern may not be met or understood or even at times dealt with by Tribal Department heads. Problems that arise can be small but those who are dealing with the issue or concerns can feel large to that individual and need to be heard and communicate to those who can address the issue. That is where COMMUNICATION needs to be with the Tribal Membership on what can be done. If issues or concerns are not heard, then how do they get addressed for others may be having to deal with the same concern or issue.

One issue that I did not get to touch on was BIA. I have also tried many times to communicate with the BIA with regard to land issues and have not gotten things addressed. I see that there are Departments that tend to bottle neck issues and brush then aside and tell the person to take that to the Tribal Council. I would like to be able to be a voice of that concern and hope to address or at least put the topic on the table to be addressed or looked into. I know that Tribal Council does not deal with certain topics that only the Tribal Chair or the Executive Officer can address but with that being said it does need to be looked into and discussed and addressed. I hope to use the time in round table discussion that is devoted just to issues that are brought forth to the Tribal Council. Follow up is very important.

The term I am running for is for two years and I know that from being on Tribal Council and as a Executive Officer that this time goes by very fast BUT CHANGE does need to happen. I myself see that the change will take time, but it has to start somewhere. TRANSPARENCY with the Tribal minutes and Tribal Council approvals are how we as Tribal Members receive what is going on with the Tribal Departments, Tribal programs and the Tribal leadership. Those minutes help keep Tribal Membership up to date with the Tribal Organization and what is going on and what is approved or improved.

There are so many layers to problems, or concern or issues but they do need to be addressed or brought forth to be addressed or even solved or programs created to address the issues to benefit the Tribal Membership. I hope to help with your concerns.

So please come out and VOTE on October 30, 2026, let your VOTE be your VOICE. Vote for that individual who will be your voice and good luck to all those Individuals who are running for the Special election.

Thank you for your support and VOTE.

Michelle Taylor
Photo was not available.

Hello Tribal Membership,
I'm Andrew Gallegos;

I'm seeking your vote and support for the upcoming 2026 Tribal Council General Election.



My area of focus:

- Tribal Sovereignty
- Youth Mentorship
- Preserve, Protect and use our Water and Land
- Economic Development
- Environmental Stewardship
- Update Tribal Policies
- Clear Communication



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Be sure to register to vote, your vote matters!
Come Friday November 6th, 2026, I hope to have your continued support and your vote.

Thank you.







TRIBAL CREDIT

Tribal Council approved the Policies regarding Downpayment Assistance

By Zeb Vogenthaler
TRIBAL CREDIT DIVISION HEAD

At Tribal Council's regular meeting held on Sept. 29, 2026, the Tribal Council approved the Policies regarding Downpayment Assistance associated with the Tribal Credit Secured Home Loan program.

This program is made possible through the Native American Housing Initiative (NAHi) Grant Program and is contingent upon available grant funding.

The policy is to help Tribal members satisfy downpayment requirements under the Tribal Credit Division's Secured Home Loan Program. The policy establishes eligibility criteria and provides guidelines on how the funds may be used. These provisions include:

- Maximum assistance of up to $12,000 as a dollar-for-dollar match with the Tribal Member's downpayment in association with the Tribal Credit Division's Secured Home Loan Program.
- Can only be used once within a 5-year period.
- Funds are distributed on a first-approved basis.
- Applies to new purchases, construction, and home renovation/remodelloans.

Please feel free to reach out to the Tribal Credit Division with any questions. Zeb Vogenthaler, Tribal Credit Division Head, 970-563-4744.

Attention Southern Ute Tribal Members:

2026 Annual Salmon Give-Away

Friday, October 30th,

Friday, November 6th

Friday, November 13th &

Friday, November 20th

By Colorado Parks & Wildlife

With permission from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Animas-La Plata Association, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) is again conducting its annual Lake Nighthorse kokanee salmon spawning operation. This spawning operation is important for fisheries within the Southwest Region and across the State of Colorado.

CPW wants to let the Southern Ute Tribal members, as well as, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Members, know about the spawning and fish giveaways. We are inviting enrolled tribal members (SUIT & UMUT) to share this fish resource.

- Fish giveaways are scheduled for 3:00pm on Friday, October 30th, November 6th, 13th & 20th.
- Tribal Members need only to present their Tribal Census Card or Tribal Brunot Area fishing permit. Tribal members do NOT need to possess a State fishing permit.

Participants can begin lining up at the boat ramp at 2:00 p.m. giveaway starts at 3:00 p.m. When entering the lake, members should let the City of Durango staff at the entrance booth know they are there for the Kokanee giveaway. CPW staff members will distribute kokanee based on the number of fish that have been collected from the reservoir and the number of people in line.



Please, call the Wildlife Division if you have any questions at (970)563-0130.







Community meets local Law Enforcement



The Southern Ute Police Department staff served up hamburgers and hotdogs to all attendees at the National Night Out event on Tuesday. Families and community members enjoyed a free meal during the event.



The Southern Ute Behavioral Health staff handed out stress toys, snacks, and hand fans featuring the 988 Hotline information.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



La Plata Electric Association held a high voltage demonstration at the event on Tuesday. This demonstration helps children and families identify the dangers of live power lines, how to read meters, and shared emergency procedure information. LPEA staff showed what high voltage can do to the body, electrifying a hot dog on a metal mannequin.



The Ignacio Community Library brought the “Dewey Bus” to the event. Staff shared free books, stickers, and coloring sheets with families, encouraging all to visit the library.

The community gathered on Tuesday, Oct. 6 to celebrate National Night Out at the Piinu Nuuchi Skatepark. This event was organized by Community Resource Officer, Jasper Abeyta and the Southern Ute Police Department – National Night Out serves as a community-building campaign that promotes law enforcement partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Various Justice and Regulatory divisions were in attendance alongside other local law enforcement and community resource representatives. Other Tribal entities set up information booths, greeting community members.



SUIMA splash alongside pumpkins



SUIMA Primary One students show off their miniature pumpkins during their Pumpkin Splash session at SunUte Community Center. Primary One students practiced water flutter kicks while holding the pumpkin and even participated in the neighboring water aerobics class held at the same time.



Lower Elementary student, Marley Valdez, floats three pumpkins during the Pumpkin Splash event on Thursday.



Pumpkins overflow into the waters at the SunUte Community Center pool – each student got to take home one pumpkin for their choice of carving or displaying. Each year, SUIMA students and the community are invited to participate in this unique event at SunUte.



Lower Elementary student, Lucas Chavez, holds on to his large pumpkin while practicing his kicks at the SunUte pool.

Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) students splashed with pumpkins during the annual Fall season Pumpkin Splash event on Thursday, Oct. 8 at the SunUte Community Center. SUIMA students choose their own pumpkin to swim with, playing games and floating with the buoyant produce. SUIMA students also took home a pumpkin for carving or decoration in celebration of the Fall season and upcoming Halloween holiday.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Upper Elementary students splash and play in the deep end at the SunUte Community Center as pumpkins line the pool. There was no shortage of pumpkins for participants.



Lower Elementary students, kick, splash, push, and hold their bright orange pumpkins during their session of the Pumpkin Splash event – wasting no time; students jumped in with their pumpkins as soon as they entered the pool room.





CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Boys and Girls Club Project

Campus Parking Addendum

Staff report
Construction and Project Management

Recent parking closures to support the Boy's & Girl's Club (BGC) Renovation Project have led to concerns over parking congestion near the BGC, SunUte Community Center, Leonard C. Burch Building (LCB), and Southern Ute Montessori Academy (SUIMA). This article and attached map are intended to provide parking guidelines to help alleviate congestion.

SunUte & BGC Staff will have designated parking immediately north of SunUte, as well as in the west row of the SunUte lot. The remainder of that lot is reserved for SunUte patrons.

Academy staff parking and drop off areas will be immediately east of the LCB and in the parking lot south of the former Dining Hall and between the Annex and SUIMA.

Tribal Information Services staff and LCB staff & visitors are asked to use the parking lots north and west of the LCB.

Should you have any questions regarding this project or ongoing work, please feel free to call our office at 970-563-4710. Additional project information will be provided as it becomes available.



Map courtesy Construction & Project Management

STILLWATER MUSIC

IT'S ALIVE! Frank 'n' Stein

Southwest Colorado's Bach & Rock-toberfest in Bayfield

Staff report
Stillwater Music

Music is alive and thriving in Southwest Colorado! On Saturday, Oct. 17, Stillwater Music presents the 13th Annual Frank 'n' Stein: Southwest Colorado's Bach & Rock-toberfest at Eagle Park in Bayfield.

Originally brought to life by The Be FRANK Foundation as an opportunity for young performers to experience the energy of a live audience, Frank 'n' Stein has grown to become a legacy event and annual tradition for families, businesses, and neighbors to come together in celebration of the next generation of local artists. This milestone thirteenth year is the perfect way to enjoy the spooky season, and marks a new chapter with over 20 of Stillwater Music's youth bands and BFF orchestra programs performing under the same banner for the first time.

The 13th Annual Frank 'n' Stein is generously sponsored by The Town of Bayfield, Southwest Ag, First Southwest Bank, Team Up, Ska Brewery, and the Stillwater Music Board of Directors.



PIP recognizes Ramona Eagle

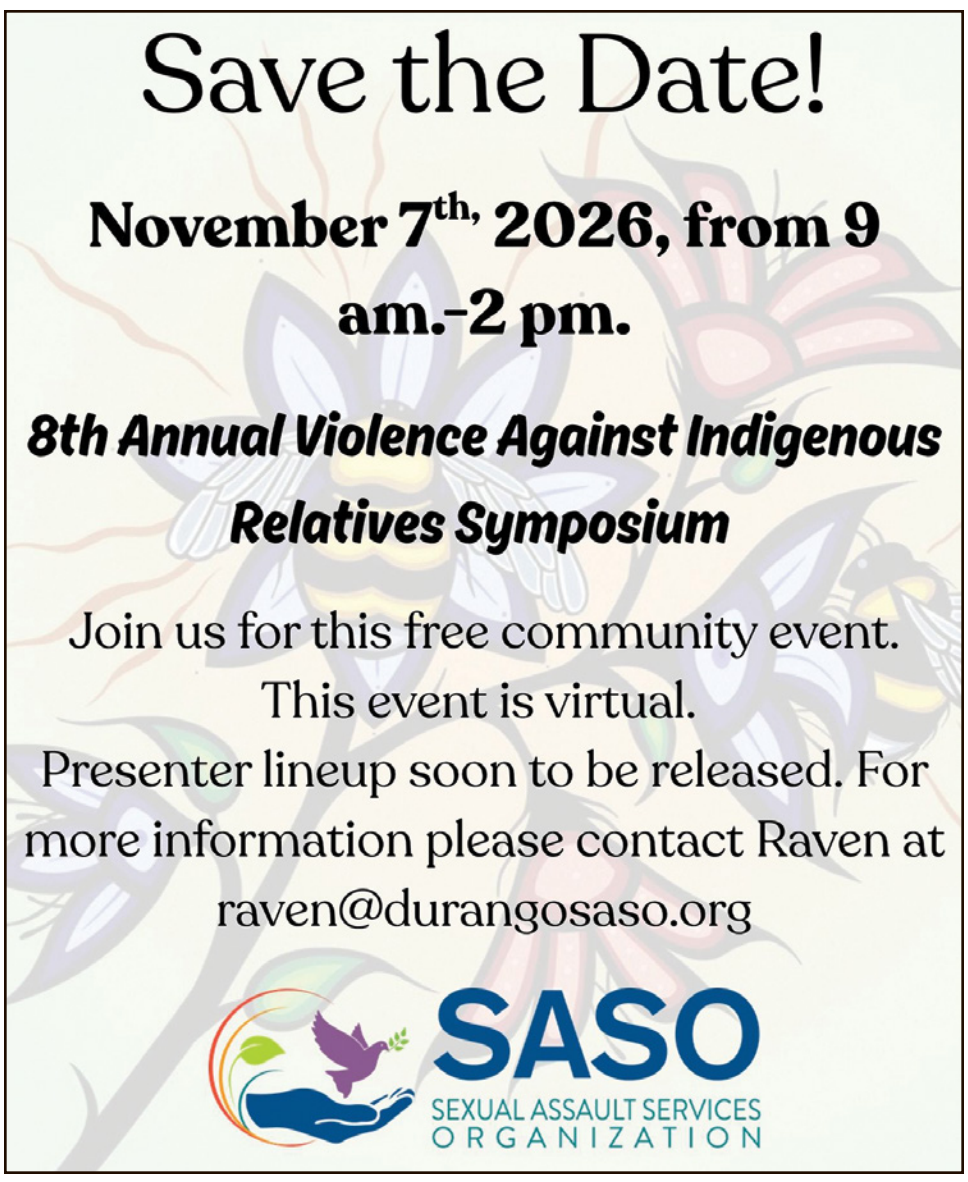


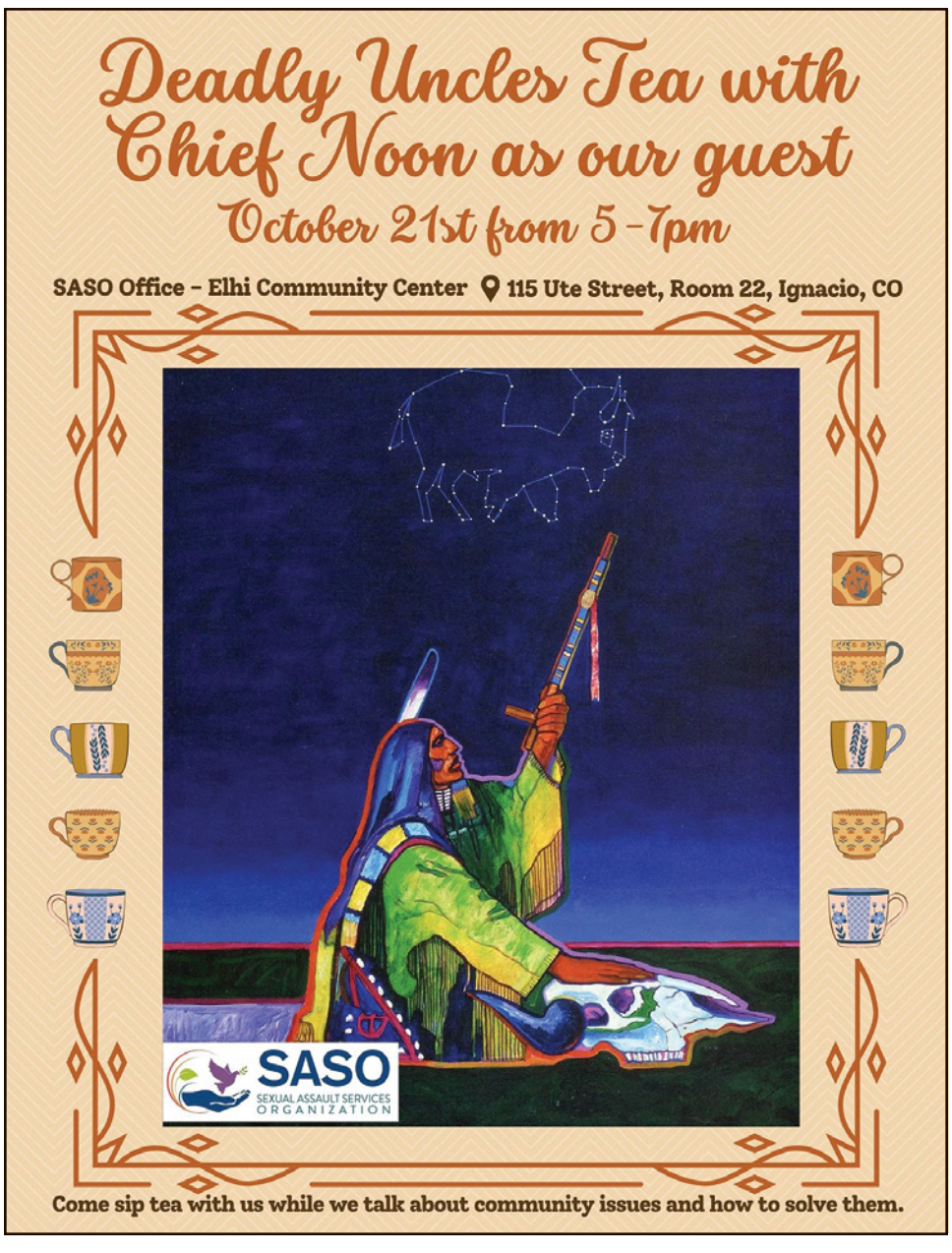
photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Southern Ute Tribal member, Ramona Eagle, was recognized on Wednesday, Sept. 30 for her contributions and lessons to the Positive Indian Parenting Class course. Eagle served as a guest instructor throughout the course, sharing stories and parental advice – Positive Indian Parenting classes are held to help parents and families apply traditional teachings within their parenting style.



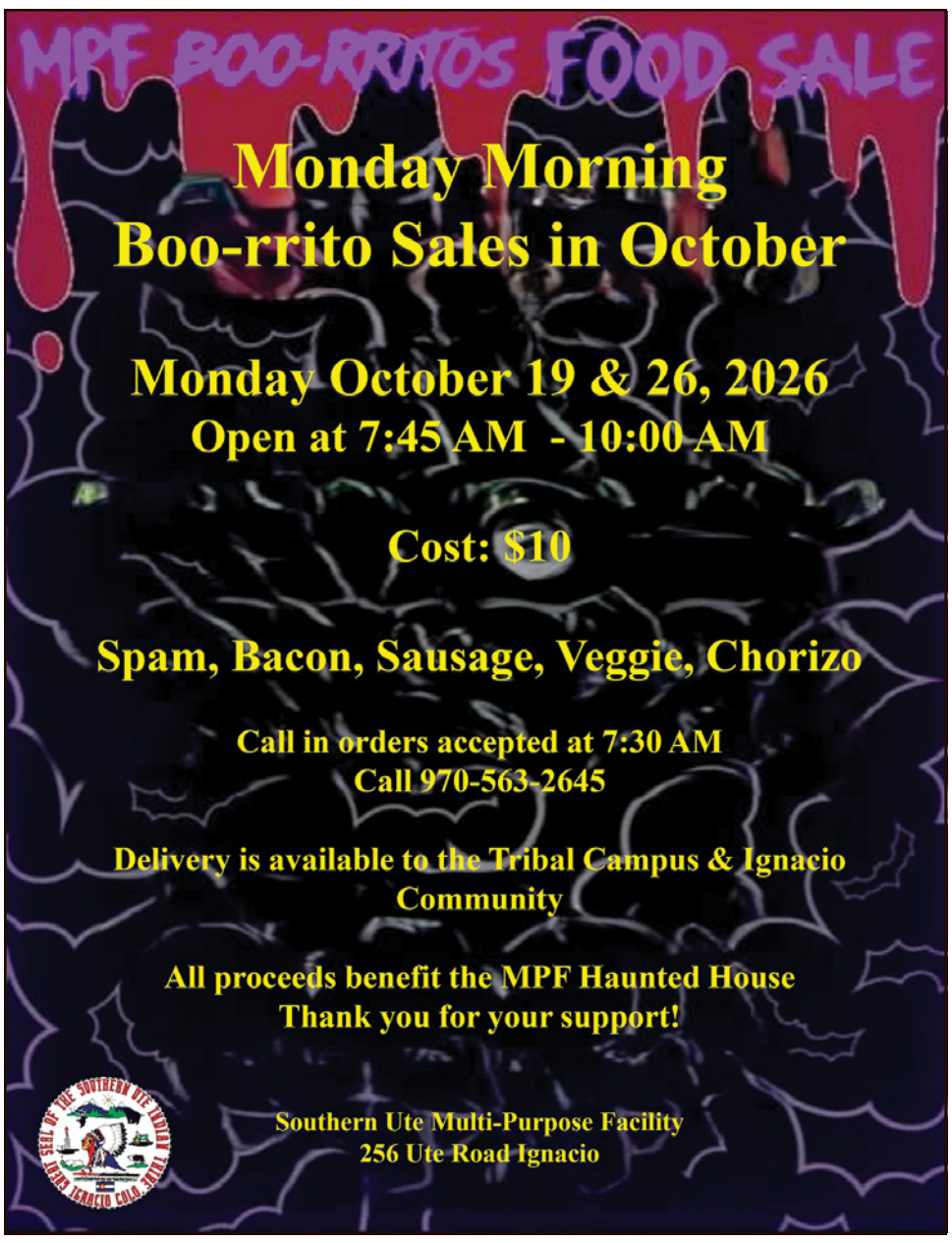
Kellie Yazzie, Foster Care Program Coordinator, presents a gift to Ramona Eagle on behalf of the Positive Indian Parenting Class students and staff on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at SunUte Community Center. During the class, parents also received their certifications for completing their course work.





THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM



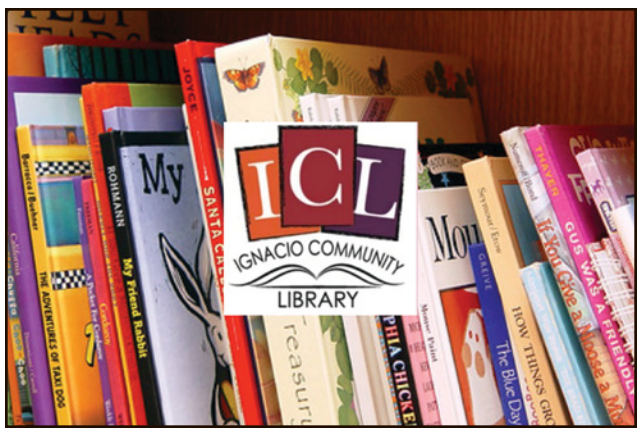




IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Why libraries embrace making

By Ron Schermacher
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Libraries still battle with the obsolete public perception that we exist only to provide access to information. The traditional concept of literacy is no longer adequate, which has implications for libraries in terms of what community members want and need from their library. Promoting literacy through instruction has long been a part of the librarian's job. Today, the concept of literacy includes much more than just reading and writing; it has evolved into "transliteracy," commonly defined as the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms and tools." (*Scott, Sarah. Public Libraries Online.*)

There is a growing concern in the U.S. that young people today are not gaining the skills they need to be successful in a modern workforce. The Maker Model has been shown to be an effective tool to help people build these skills and inspire them to consider STEM-focused careers. Libraries can increase their relevance to the community by becoming a place that provides patrons with the skills they will need to succeed and advance in the workforce.

Research supports the need for expanded and rich experiences for everyone in the library. The following are the things that all need from libraries:

- Bridge the growing digital and knowledge divide.
- Leverage patron motivation to learn.
- Provide workforce development training.
- Serve as the connector between patrons and other community agencies.

Makerspaces help address each of the above areas. Libraries can provide access not only to information, but also the skills, practice and experience necessary to be a citizen in a digital world. Providing time and space and allowing patrons to experiment with tools they might not have anywhere else.

The IdeaLab at Ignacio Community Library is your space for this exploration. The staff provides training in the use of specialized equipment and the software that runs it. We have both fused filament and resin 3D printers, a Glowforge HD Pro laser engraving and cutting machine, Cricut die cutters. There are basic tool sets, soldering sets, sewing machines and repair equipment. There are cameras, analog to digital converters, measuring tools and much more. There are classes everyday day of the week that include sewing, knitting, art, electronics and a wide range of STEM subjects. Classes and use of the equipment are free and there is rarely any cost for materials. ICL staff can empower you to take charge of your devices with tech assistance. We can also inspire confidence to repair nonworking items and keep them out of the landfill.

If you have an interest in joining the Ignacio Maker community stop by the IdeaLab and ask for a tour. Access to the space outside of scheduled events is available by reservation. Just call the service desk to set up an appointment. This is your invitation to check out what many folks are calling the "Best makerspace on the western slope of Colorado".







Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Nakai Box (51) and Brandon Blevins (12) work to bring down a Rye ballcarrier during 1A Southern road action Friday night, Oct. 9, in 'Thunderbolt Valley.'

BOBCATS FOOTBALL

Bobcats go out big against 'Bolts

IHS ruins Rye's Homecoming shutout

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Keyon Alston (8) takes a hit in the back but retains a reception during 1A Southern road action Friday night, Oct. 9, at Rye. Alston caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from Zackariah Loudenburg on the game's very last play from scrimmage.

Tasked with creating a truck-towed float tailored to a 'Hollywood' theme, one of Rye High School's four grades chose to write 'Ignacio's Final Cut' on its trailer's tail.

Like visiting Ignacio would be the victim in some sort of horror flick.

And though the Bobcats ended up beaten badly on the scoreboard, they were far from buried.

Sounds like the makings of a, well, trailer promoting next year's rematch at IHS Field ....

Giving RHS' Homecoming 2026 football game Friday, October 9, something of a cliffhanger ending, the 'Cats suddenly became the undead and denied the Thunderbolts a shutout on the night's last two plays. Initially set up at Rye's 40-yard line – after freshman Isias Cuthair's bid for a 77-yard kickoff-return touchdown was halted by RHS kicker Nicoline Larson, a senior – with 2:26 (and counting) remaining, sophomore Emmanual Lucero broke a 10-yard carry on first down.

The mercy-rule clock continued to run as each side shuffled personnel on and off the field, and as Ignacio's coaches shouted encoded commands to quarterback Zackariah Loudenburg, making his first start under center with sophomore Stephen Romero sidelined recently by a broken ankle (Romero had taken over for senior and '26 starter William Mendoza-Lechuga, lost to an early-season shoulder injury).

And though the 'Bolts were well aware to whom he'd probably look, Loudenburg had no problem targeting sophomore Keyon Alston and lobbed a pressured pass towards the 10-yard line along IHS' sideline. Not only did Alston – whose name was pronounced no fewer than three different ways – make the catch, he managed to turn around and go for the goal line. Dragging RHS freshman Noah Lewis at least four yards, Alston at last extended the ball far enough to graze the orange pylon before Lewis finally pulled him down.

"I was like, 'Just keep going! You're almost there!' He was just inching over and I was excited that he got in," Loudenburg said afterwards. "That was pretty nice."

38 seconds remained on the game clock, but seemingly disappeared even faster than much of the second half already had. Fortunately, head coach Jake Nossaman still had one timeout at his disposal and used it with 0:08 remaining. And when play resumed, Loudenburg flipped a short pass to running back Jayden Scott, who

Bobcats *page 20*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior setter Kelly Sirios (3) receives congratulations from the referee following the Volleycats' Oct. 1 home win over Mancos. Not only did IHS come out of the 2A/1A San Juan Basin League match on top, Sirios was also recognized for having recently recorded her 1,000th career dig, and two days later – at a triangular in Dolores – recorded her 2,000th assist.

BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL

Volleycats' strength renewed in Nucla

IHS bounces back forcefully from losses

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Ignacio Volleyball really couldn't have found a better way to begin a mid-month, three-match homestand then by ending an opponent's four-match winning streak. In that team's own building, no less, and by holding said team to single-digit scoring in two of the three sets played.

That unlucky team was Nucla, and Saturday afternoon, Oct. 10, the Volleycats atoned for losses to Dolores and non-league Sargent the previous weekend – both occurred at a high-profile triangular hosted by DHS; all three teams were top-10 in their respective classifications (IHS and DHS in 2A, SHS in 1A) – by whipping the Lady Mustangs 25-21, 25-9 and 25-7 way out in western Montrose County.

Going in standing No. 9 in the updated CHSAANow/

Volleycats' *page 20*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Maliyah Martinez (10) spikes the ball away from Mancos' Aurelia Bueno-Valdez (1) during the Volleycats' Oct, 1 home win in 2A/1A San Juan Basin League play.

Richards recognized in soccer



photos Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Flanked at left by Bayfield junior-varsity coach Jesse Larson and at right by BHS Boys' Soccer head coach Cody Kiss, senior Armando Richards (22) stands with family members while recognized for his four seasons with the Wolverines during halftime of 3A Bayfield's varsity match Saturday, Oct. 3, against non-league 2A Ridgway. Fellow senior and JV/varsity teammate Jesse Vega (second from right) was inactive for the match but took part in the moment – during which BHS' coaches and as many players as possible donned red practice 'pennies' over their purple jerseys in honor of the two Ignacio High School student-athletes. After play resumed, the Wolverine varsity went on to defeat the Demons 1-0.

An Ignacio High School senior suiting up for his fourth and last season with BHS Boys' Soccer, Richards – and fellow senior Jesse Vega – has seen action on the Wolverines' JV and varsity squads in 2026, and received a Senior Day recognition during halftime of 3A Bayfield's varsity match Saturday, Oct. 3, against non-league 2A Ridgway (the Wolverines defeated the Demons 1-0).



Bayfield's Armando Richards (22) receives emphatic congratulations from Cooper Nabors (20) on an improbable long-range goal scored against Pagosa Springs during junior-varsity action Monday, Sept. 21, at BHS.



OBITUARY



OLGUIN – Garnet Cuthair Olguin a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, passed away on Sept. 30, 2026, peacefully at home surrounded by family.

Garnet was born to Curtis Cuthair and Belle Williams on Feb. 8, 1937, at Taylor Hospital. Garnet graduated from the Ute Vocational school. After graduation Garnet met and married Joe Billie Olguin. Garnet held many jobs throughout her life she worked as a hostess at the Pino Nuche Pu-Rasa restaurant, worked the concession at the Sky Ute Downs and Pino Nuche Bingo Hall. She worked as a teacher with the Southern Ute Headstart and lastly the Southern Ute Montessori Academy as a Ute Language Tracher where she retired.

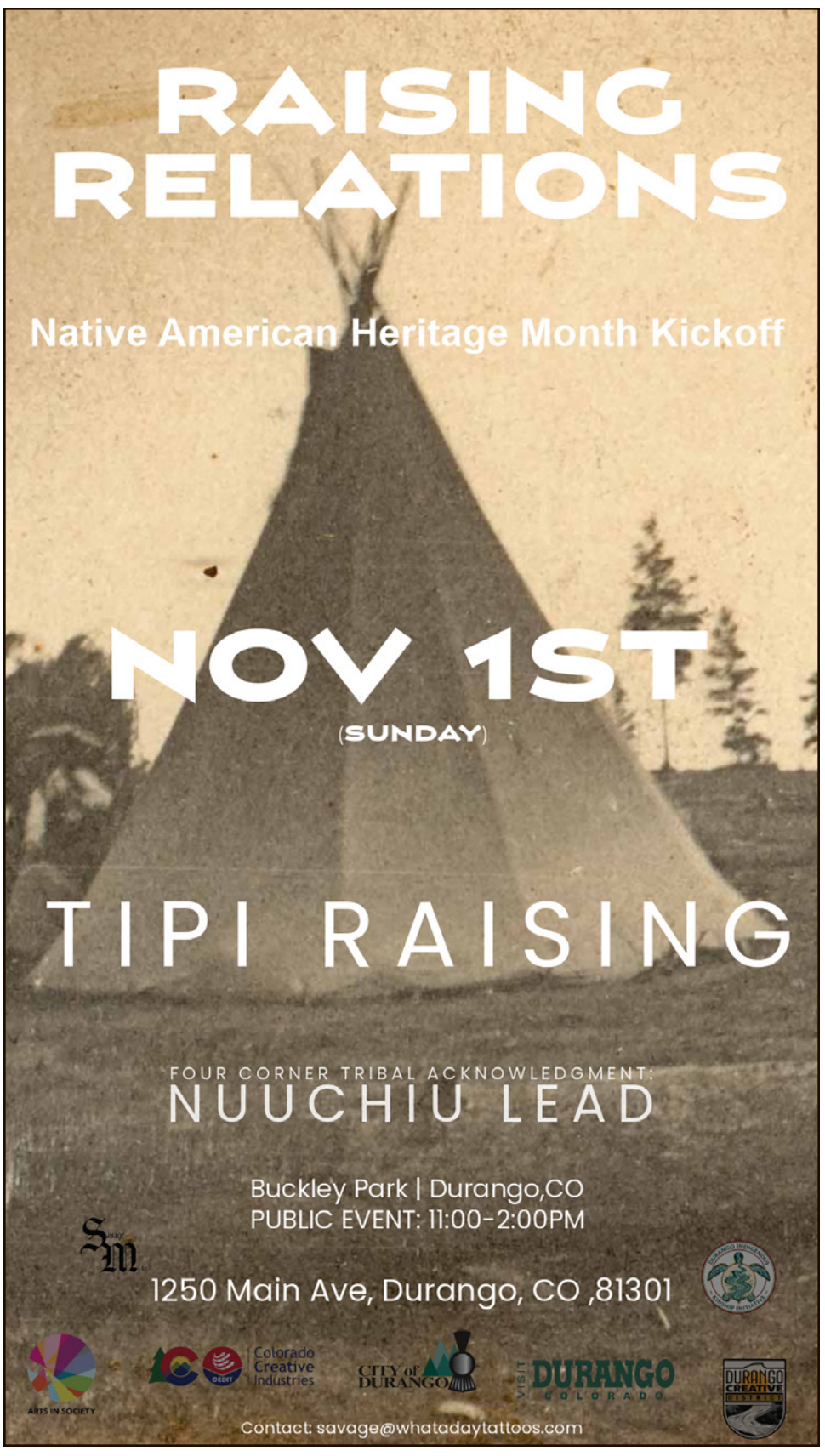
Garnet enjoyed working and sharing her knowledge with the children she always remembered them calling her grandma "Darnet". A woman of deep faith, Garnet was devoted to St. Ignatius Church and was a dedicated member of the Carmelitas.

Garnet is survived by her brother Larry Cuthair of Phoenix, Arizona, her children Edwina Watts (Ralph), Joan Sandra Olguin, Lorna Chavez, Marilyn Olguin, Ron Olguin, and Lori Sage (Ray).

Garnet is preceded in death by her mother Belle Williams Cuthair, father Curtis Cuthair, her son Curtis Brian Olguin, Sisters MaryAnn Scott, Darlene Cuthair, Vera Sage, Christine Gomez, Brothers Richard Cuthair, LaVerne Curhair, Delbert Cuthair Sr., four grandsons, and one great-great granddaughter.

Garnet will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.





EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

REVIEW OF PEARL CASIAS' BOOK: *RED WOMAN*

"Between The Covers" ... is the name of the local independent bookseller in Telluride where I find a lot of wonderful titles. My current favorite is Núuchi tribal elder Pearl E. Casias's Red Woman: My Southern Ute Journey from Poverty to Wall Street *(Univ. of Nebraska, 2026)*.

Former tribal chair and judge for the sovereign Southern Ute nation headquartered in Ignacio, near Durango, Casias begins with the Ute Origin Story – how Coyote peeked into the bag of sticks Sinawav (Creator) gave him to take to the sacred valley, & in doing so let loose many sticks that ran off speaking different languages. Only the sticks that made it to today's Rocky Mountain states became Nuuchu. But this isn't an old historical account.

Casias chronicles how post-WWII life took from living with grandparents, riding horses & harvesting piñon nuts through caretakers turned alcoholics when she was 6, neglect and abuse as she grew older and married and the murder of her brother, and finally into opportunity & success as a tribal leader. But hers isn't just a personal memoir of "triumph and terror."

As Casias explains, "It is also the story about a small group of hunger-gatherers who, despite the odds, grew into one of the most politically savvy and financially successful Indian tribes in the United States."

Note: This review by Art Goodtimes of the Telluride Institute, appeared in the Denver's Colorado Times Recorder, and was submitted to the Drum by Pearl E. Casias.

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 Robert L. Ortiz at rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov by the end of the day Monday preceeding publication.

Colorado Utes, bone champs!



courtesy Nichole Lomaintewa

Over this past weekend, the Colorado Utes Handgame Team brought home the championship, beating 41 teams over the weekend. Pictured left to right, Carl Johnson, Southern Ute tribal member elder, Robbin Santistevan, Southern Ute first descendant, Ruby TallBird, and Southern Ute tribal member Michael Santistevan.

In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

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

NOTICE OF PROBATE
In the Estate Of,
Dustin Ray Weaver, Deceased
Case No.: 2026-0127-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **NOVEMBER 30, 2026 at 9:00 AM.** All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 9th of October, 2026
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

NOTICE OF PROBATE
In the Estate Of,
Case No.: 2026-0112-CV-PR
Francis Baker Pena, Deceased

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **OCTOBER 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM.** All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 16th of September, 2026.
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Oct. 30

Deadline:
Oct. 23

Articles, photos, advertisements, public notices, letters and greetings may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email to:
abarry@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
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PHYSICAL ADDRESS
356 Ouray Drive, Leonard C. Burch Building, Ignacio, CO 81137

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AGRICULTURE DIVISION – HAY FOR SALE

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

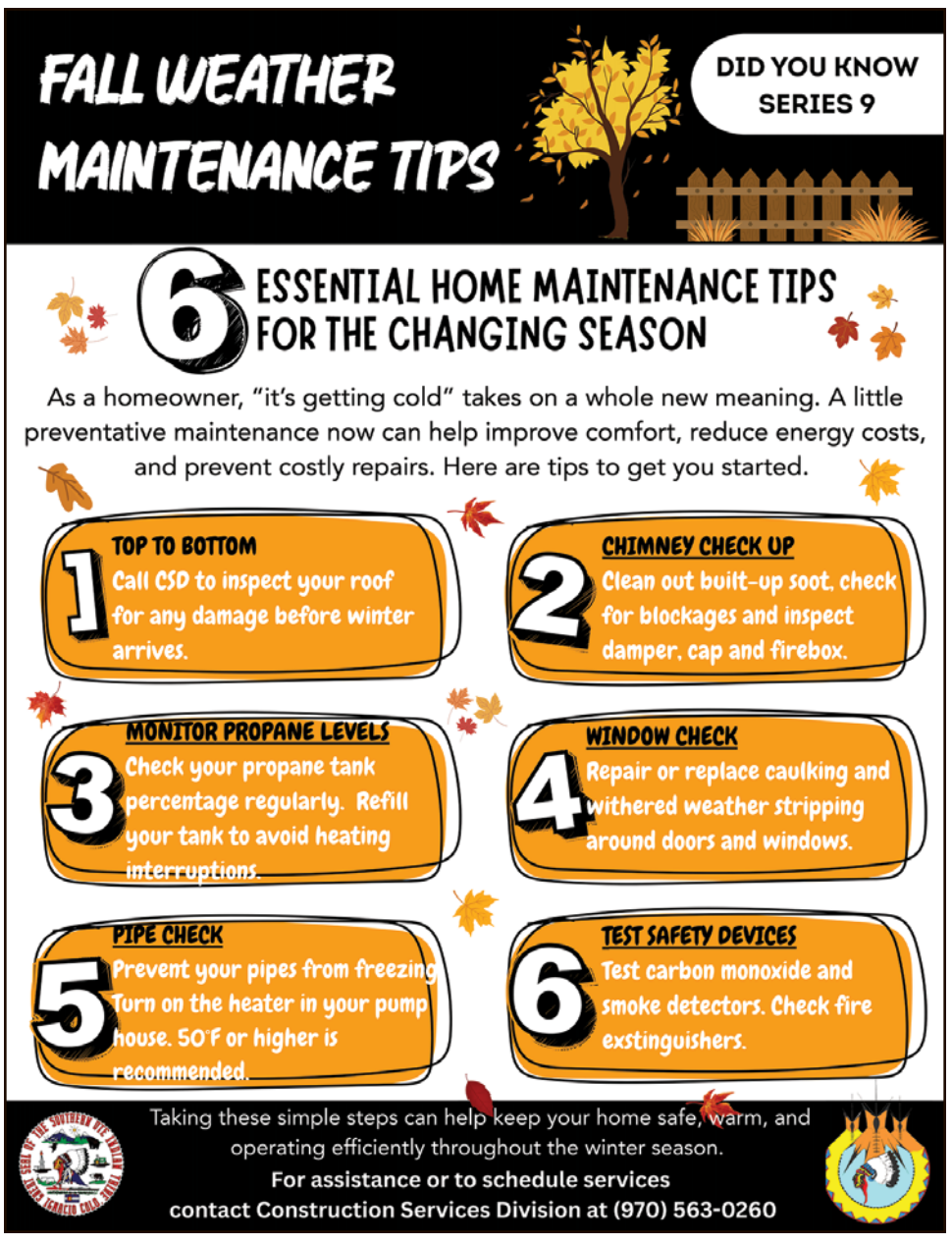


Small Bale	$10.00/Bale	50#
Large Bale	$165.00/Bale	1350#
21 Bale Bundle	$170.00	1260#

Hay is available FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Contact the Agriculture Dept. at 970-563-0220 for more information.





JOHNSON-O'MALLEY

2026 Meeting Dates

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
kleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov
(970)563-0235

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
Boards, Committees and Commissions Vacancies

UTE CULTURAL EXPERT – WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD
The Tribe is seeking an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal member wishing to fill the special Cultural Expert vacancy on the Wildlife Advisory Board. This individual will fill a non-expiring term on the Board. The Cultural Expert is expected to incorporate traditional Ute Indian values, beliefs, and perspectives into the Board's various deliberations involving the welfare, use, management, and protection of the Tribe's wildlife resources. The Cultural Expert must be recognized within the community for his or her expertise in Ute culture and tradition as they pertain to wildlife and hunting. 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. Meetings are held several times throughout the year, typically on a weekday morning, and commitment to attend and participate in all meetings is expected. Each Board member is eligible to receive $20/hour compensation for meeting attendance provided he or she is not already employed by the Tribe. Interested tribal members must submit a brief letter of interest to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137 Attn: Wildlife Advisory Board. The deadline to submit a letter of interest is 5:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1h. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.

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.

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.

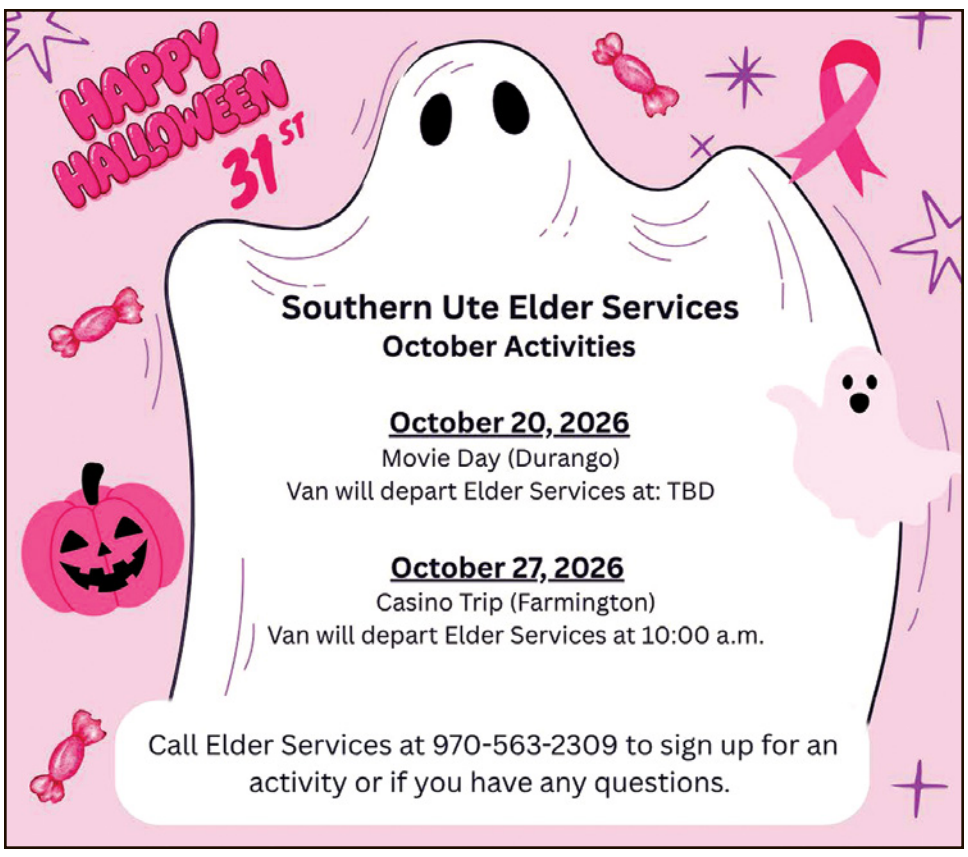
POWWOW COMMITTEE
Open Until Filled – Two vacant positions. The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as a volunteer on the committee. The Southern Ute Indian Powwow Committee shall nurture and promote the positive image of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe 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 ALTERNATE – WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD
Open Until Filled – 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.







REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ENGINEERING SERVICES

LOS PINOS RIVER INFILTRATION GALLERY & INTAKE DIVERSION PROJECTS

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Utilities Division is soliciting proposals from qualified engineering firms for the design and engineering of the Los Pinos River Infiltration Gallery Project and the Los Pinos River Intake Diversion Project. These projects are part of a coordinated raw water reliability program.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENT

Proposals must be submitted for both projects. Separate proposals are required for each project.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE

4:00 PM (MST), NOVEMBER 12, 2026

OBTAIN THE FULL RFP

Peter Hayes, phayes@suitutil.com, 970-563-5502

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to accept the proposal determined to be in the best interest of the Tribe.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are $28.50-$40.00 per month and business services are $26.00-$55.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of $5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or $9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.

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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

Custodian (Southern Ute tribal members only)
Closes 10/16/26 – Responsible for the daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; Pay is $17.05/hour.

Receptionist
Closes 10/19/26 – Performs reception duties for the Southern Ute Tribal organization, including, but not limited to, operation of the telephone switchboard, greeting visitors, providing information about the Tribal government, and referring callers or visitors to the appropriate office for assistance. Performs clerical duties for the Tribal Information Services Director and other Departmental Divisions as needed, including mail processing and distribution. Pay grade N6; Pay is $17.05/hour.

Receptionist (Part-time)
Closes 10/16/26 – Assuring an efficient entry and exit point for members of the Community Center, to include providing reception duties to the public by telephone and in person, greeting, screening, and assisting customers, monitoring member access control, and maintaining class registration. Pay grade N6; Pay is $17.05/hour.

After School Program Attendant
Open Until Filled – A regular part-time position that provides education and physical activities for the after-school program to meet the needs of children ages 7 months through 12 years. Pay grade N6; Pay rate $17.05/hour.

Clinical Application Coordinator
Open Until Filled – Under general direction of the Health Center support Services Manager, serves as the Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) for the Southern Ute Tribal Health Department and the Southern Ute Health Center. The CAC position is responsible for maintaining the Electronic Health Record (EHR) / Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) for the Health Department, coordinating up-grades, and providing training to all users. Pay grade E17; Pay is $92,160/annually.

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

Construction Supervisor
Open Until Filled – Supervises Construction Services Division Crew Leaders and Heavy Equipment Supervisor in construction services. Pay grade E16; Pay is $82,285/annually.

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

Electrician
Open Until Filled – Responsible for the repair, maintenance, and installation of mechanical and electrical equipment in Tribal buildings and Tribal member residences, troubleshooting and correcting safety hazards. Pay grade N15; Pay is $35.96/hour.

Family Treatment Therapist
Open Until Filled – Provide individual and family services including counseling, therapy, and consultation on a continuum of care to children, youth, adults, and families who are experiencing serious problems that could lead to out of home placement or otherwise result in the dissolution of the family unit; AND/OR provide services to families whose children are in out-of-home placement and are working toward a case plan and goal of reunification. Serves may also include therapeutic support for adults experiencing behavioral health challenges, trauma, or family conflict, with the goal of strengthening family systems and promoting overall wellness. Pay grade E15; Pay is $74,804/annually.

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

Group Exercise Instructor
Open Until Filled – Provides group exercise instructions and fitness activities to members of the Sun Ute Community Center, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N10; Pay is $23.20/hour.

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

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

Lifeguard (Part-time)
Open Until Filled – 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 rate $15.79/hour.

Occupational Therapist
Open Until Filled – 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 grade E17; Salary is $92,160/annually.

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

Registered Nurse
Open Until Filled – A Registered Nurse position responsible for providing professional and clinical services. Position is grant funded and continued employment is contingent upon the availability of grant funding. Pay grade N16; Pay is $39.56/hour.

Reporter/Videographer (Southern Ute tribal member only)
Open Until Filled – Responsible for creating newsworthy multimedia projects. Under general supervision of the Media Manager, reports on and captures through multimedia means (video, audio, and photo) interviews, issues, events, and topics important to the Southern Ute Tribe and its membership. Produces concise, professional multimedia clips for publication through Tribal Information Services and The Southern Ute Drum. Pay grade N11; Pay rate $25.05/hour.

Special Education Specialist
Open Until Filled – A professional position within the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA), responsible for the coordination of special education needs for students and families in the school setting. Pay grade E14; the salary is $68,004/annually.

Special Needs Aide (Part-time)
Open Until Filled – Assists Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy disabled and special needs students with educational, physical, emotional, and social growth and development under direction of a certified guide or specialists. Assists with life skills, academic success, and meeting IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives. Pay grade N6; Pay is $17.05/hour.

Swimming Instructor
Open Until Filled – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the Sun-Ute aquatics facility. Responsible for preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay rate $18.42/hour.

Teacher Aide
Open Until Filled – Responsible for supporting the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) through a variety of duties including providing classroom coverage and supervision of children in the After-School Program, being assigned to differing duties on an as-needed basis. Pay grade N4; Pay rate $15.55/hour.

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

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

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

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

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

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

- IELP Infant Room – Lead Teacher
- Secondary SpEd Paraprofessional
- High School Baseball Head Coach
- High School Baseball Assistant Coach
- Mid-School Basketball Assistant Coach
- Substitute: Bus Drivers, Cooks, Teachers

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
Maintenance Mechanic

Maintenance Mechanic reports to working Foreman. FLSA Status: Non-exempt, full-time position. Responsible for semi-skilled to skilled maintenance of buildings/houses, facilities, and light equipment. Performs general carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and other repairs in response to service requests and results of inspections of units in accordance with HUD required standards. Performs interior work on units to include sheet rocking, painting, and working and troubleshooting HVAC and boiler systems. Performs maintenance on mechanical equipment and/or machinery. On-call duties are assigned on a rotating basis. High school graduate (or GED) or possess a vocational technician certification beyond high school, with five (5) years' experience or training in building construction or maintenance, or in the repair or maintenance of mechanical equipment or an equivalent combination of technical training and experience. Preferably licensed in one or more trades and certified HVAC. Must have a valid Driver's License, remain insurable, successfully pass a pre-employment drug test, and submit to random drug testing per the Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy. Pick up applications at 760 Shoshone Ave., Ignacio CO 81137, or email ctwedt@suiha.org to request an application and a copy of the full job description. Questions can be directed to Eric Spady or Crystal Twedt at 970-563-4575. The posting will remain open until the position is filled.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Early Cut-Off For Minors Birthday Distributions

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

DISTRIBUTION DATE	CUT-OFF TIME AND DATE
• 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

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





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.***

***Beverage & Cocktail Server (Full-time)**
Must maintain the highest level of guest service while providing cocktail and beverage service to Casino guests. Will prepare beverages prior to serving and will be required to lift and move up to 60 pounds regularly and will be responsible for monetary transactions.

***Cafe Cashier (Full-time)**
Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Taking guests' food orders, accurately totaling food and beverage purchases, and collecting payments. Assists in preparing and serving all foods necessary for the Café kitchen. Will prepare coffee and pizza from the hot food line in the front area of the Café. Will balance the register at the end of the shift, with proper report of discrepancies and complete paperwork.

***Cage Staff (Full-time)**
Provides fast, accurate, and friendly service to all internal and external customers while providing full compliance with all regulatory controls.

***Count Team Staff (Full-time)**
The Count Department retrieves, counts, and calculates the daily revenue produced by the gaming revenue departments. It is the job of the Count Team to pull the containers, and count or verify the funds according to the regulatory requirements and procedures set by the Southern Ute Division of Gaming's Internal Control Minimum Procedures and the Sky Ute Casino Resort.

***Creative Content Specialist (Full-time)**
Responsible for creation, coordination, implementation, and administration of brand, sponsor, image, and property graphical programming as it relates to all digital media mediums at Sky Ute Casino Resort. The position is the focal point for all that occurs at the Casino Resort with digital media with a specialty in social media.

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

***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. Responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

***Facilities Supervisor (Full-time)**
Reports to the Facilities Manager and was established for the purpose/s of supervising individual shifts to include facility and deep cleaning staff within the maintenance department. Coordinating all repairs and alterations of the property including the exterior and grounds and works in conjunction with facility technicians. Ensuring that jobs are completed efficiently and within regulatory guidelines and projected deadlines.

***Facilities Technician (Full-time)**
Responsible for the electrical and mechanical functions, operation 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 including boilers, AHU's, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers. Reports to the Facilities Manager.

***Fine Dining Host/Hostess (Full-time)**
Will provide an exceptional fine dining experience by delivering first class guest service by greeting and ensuring timely and appropriate seating of guests. Will assist Manager with table management to maximize seating and assist guests with special requests. Will answer phone calls and return messages, track reservations and comps, and assist servers when needed.

***Front Desk Associate (Full-time)**
Providing quality guest services that include reservations, registration and check-out, PBX operations, mail, and message service for hotel guests. Responds to telephone and in-person inquiries regarding reservations, hotel information, and guest concerns. Assistance with guests includes but is not limited to luggage assistance, directions/maps, and driving guests to/from the airport.

***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.

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

Multi-Games Pit Boss (On-call)
Responsible for the supervision, coordination, and performance of all multi-game tables and staff. Reports directly to the Director of Gaming and Manager of Gaming Operations and ensures that guests are provided with professional, friendly and courteous gaming experience while adhering to all appropriate gaming regulations and internal controls. Monitors game integrity, player activity, and staff performance.

***Players Club Representative (Full-time)**
Performs all administrative functions of a Players Club Representative such as signing up new members, player's account maintenance, answering players club and general property questions, administering redemption, complimentary and access rewards, and benefits to qualified players club members. Maintain the highest standard of guest service, problem resolution and confidentiality. Develops and creates a long-lasting experience for all Club Card members.

Poker Dealer (On-call)
Deals the various games of Class 2 poker while promoting a positive guest experience through accurate, prompt, courteous and efficient service. Reports to the Table Games Manager or as otherwise delegated.

Rolling Thunder Grill Cashier (Part-time)
Primary responsibilities are to greet guests in a friendly manner, take and deliver orders, calculate checks, and receive payment for the Bowling Grill Window and Restaurant.

***Room Attendant (Full-time)**
Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel rooms by wiping, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping all areas of the guest rooms. Requires the ability to bend, lift, stand and walk throughout the shift. Duties of this job are physically demanding and may be stressful at times, particularly during peak season periods. Will be cleaning an average of 16 guest rooms, and during peak season, up to 20 guest rooms per shift, depending on whether you are working as an individual or a pair. Will be responsible for cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

***Senior 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. Responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

***Seven Rivers Bartender (Full-time)**
Provide an exceptional fine dining/lounge experience by delivering first class guest service of beverages and cocktails. Possess an extensive knowledge of mixed drinks and wine. Mix and serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and interact with guests. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely, and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Provide beverage and cocktail service to bar patrons and restaurant guests.

***Seven Rivers Line Cook (Full-time)**
Works under direct supervision of the Executive Chef, Executive Sous Chef, and/or Kitchen Manager. Responsible for the preparation of the A la Carte menu in Seven Rivers and is accountable for the consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality, and freshness. Ensure that all guidelines are followed according to the established specifications and standards in food safety and sanitation. Requires one to be an excellent team player and trustworthy.

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

***Willows Line Cook (Full-time)**
Works under direct supervision of the Lead Cook. Preparation of the A La Carte menu in the Willows and is accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality, and freshness. Ensure that all guidelines are followed according to the established specifications and standards in food safety and sanitation. Requires one to be an excellent team player and trustworthy.

***Willows Server (Full-time)**
Provides exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service of food and beverages to include: taking the order and delivering food and beverage items. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely, and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction.

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

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

Central Administration
- Finance Administrator (Full-time) $23.11 – $25.31/hr., DOE

Ignacio Senior Center
- Assistant Cook (Full-time) $15.16/hr.
- Head Cook (Full-time) $17.64/hr.

Ignacio Youth Services
- Program Coordinator (Full-time) $17.29/hr., DOE

Multisystemic Therapy
- MST Therapist (Full-time) $52,645 – $57,678/yr.

Road Runner Transit
- Transit Driver (Full-time) $19.29/hr.

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.

Custodial Technician – Facilities (Durango, CO)
Closes 10/30/26 – Responsible for providing housekeeping service and support to include cleaning of public and non-public areas throughout Growth Fund Office Building, Red Willow Office Building, Utilities Office Building, Fairgrounds Office area, and Quichas Hill Apartments Office. Responsible for implementing the arrangement of meeting room tables and chairs and coordinating with food service vendors for set-up and kitchen use and for ordering and stocking cleaning supply inventory; occasional weekend work expected.

Compression Operations Technician I – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
Closes 10/30/26 – Responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

Compression Operations Technician II – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
Closes 10/30/26 – Responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

Senior Compression Operations Technician – Red Cedar (Durango, CO)
Closes 10/30/26 – Responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment at all Red Cedar Field Compression facilities, including engine/compressor, generators, and dehydration. Performs work related to the repair and ongoing maintenance of equipment.

Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

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

Network Administrator – Shared Services (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 10/30/26 – Responsible for enterprise network maintenance, troubleshooting, and issue resolution. Responsible for add/move/changes in all voice and voice mail systems. Assists network group and Senior Network Administrator with managing information systems, servers, routers, and other network infrastructure appliances.





BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Honoring Sharon Craig for three years of leadership and commitment to BGC's Youth

Staff report
Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Tribe



Sharon Craig
Former Board Member
Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Tribe

The Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe extends its sincere gratitude to Sharon Craig for her dedicated service as a member of our Board of Directors. Mrs. Craig was appointed to the Board on Sept. 19, 2023, and concluded her three-year term on Sept. 18, 2026. The Boys & Girls Club would like to recognize and celebrate her commitment to supporting club members and the families we serve.

Throughout her tenure, Mrs. Craig has generously shared her time, expertise, and leadership in support of our mission to guide each young person on their path to developing good character, respect of culture, diversity, academic excellence and development of a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Mrs. Craig's contributions include being chair of the Board's Financial Development/Facility Subcommittee, being a judge for the Taste of Christmas Light Parade, participating in the Club's 20-Year Celebration, attending the Club's annual retreat, serving food to club members at the Club's Kickoff and End of Summer BBQ, and advocating for Torch Club to partake in the Green Chile Fest. Mrs. Craig's dedication to supporting the Club's mission has contributed to the continued success of the Boys & Girls Club.

We are grateful for the passion, advocacy, and thoughtful leadership that Mrs. Craig brought to the Board. Her commitment to the Boys & Girls Club has made a lasting impact on our Club and the youth we proudly serve.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, club members, and families, we offer our heartfelt thanks for three years of service. We wish Mrs. Craig all the best in her future endeavors and hope she will continue to be a valued friend and supporter of the Boys & Girls Club.

Thank you, Sharon Craig, for helping make a difference in the lives of our youth and for your unwavering support of the Boys & Girls Club.

Volleycats' strength renewed • from page 14

MaxPreps Class 2A rankings, as well as No. 5 in Mile High Prep Report's week-starting review, Ignacio – which had lost 22-25, 15-25, 25-27 to Dolores and 25-19, 17-25, 23-25, 20-25 to Sargent – improved to 5-1 in 2A/1A San Juan Basin action and to 11-3 overall. NHS slipped to 4-2 in league and to 8-7 overall.

IHS head coach Jennifer Seibel reported that senior Lainee Bradley led the way offensively with 10 kills, and also collected 11 digs for a double-double. Junior Alleah Neil downed nine kills, while seniors Maliyah Martinez, Reggi Gustafson and Kelly Sirios each landed five. Sirios – her 2,000th career assist and 1,000th career dig both commemorated recently – also served an impressive seven aces.

Senior Tarah Baker came up with 18 digs, junior Amira Montoya logged eight and Gustafson five, and Neil booked two solo blocks (as did Sirios).

Looking ahead, the 'Cats will welcome non-league 2A Monte Vista to IHS Gymnasium on Friday, October 16, then resume league work the next day against 1A Ouray. Results from Ignacio's 10/14 home match versus 1A Norwood were unavailable at press time, but the 'Cats would have been heavily favored; the Lady Mavericks were to arrive standing 2-13 overall, 1-5 in league after hosting Nucla on the 9th and falling 15-25, 24-26, 16-25.

Bobcats go out big • from page 14

plowed his way around a defender and in for the two-point conversion – clipping Rye's margin of victory down to 55-8 – as time expired.

"It was kind of hard," said Scott. "I caught the ball and was trying to maneuver around him, but he kind of caught me. So I just rolled over to the side and into the end zone. I was kind of tired, you know? It'd been a long game, but we fought our hardest to give a hundred percent each play."

"There was just a little confusion," Loudenburg said, of why the timeout was necessary other than for simply stopping the clock, "but it ended up working out. Some of our better games we've only had one touchdown, so it's good to have at least one on the board."

Vying for their third consecutive win, the Thunderbolts (4-2 overall, 3-0 1A Southern) had three up before the end of the first 12-minute quarter – including senior Grant Clennin's 1-yard plunge with 9:55 left, coming three plays after junior Kolby Clennin recovered a botched snap to Loudenburg at IHS' 29-yard line just 51 seconds in.

And after forcing a three-and-out, Rye went back on offense at the guests' 39 with 8:55 left. Overcoming a double-penalty play pushing the 'Bolts from IHS' 9 back to the 32, RHS struck again when sophomore Brady Bumgartener fired a 32-yard TD to junior Nathaniel Gray. Larson's second point-after kick in as many tries was good, and Rye led 14-0 with 7:05 still left in the opening frame.

Ignacio came alive during their third possession, but after beginning at their own 35 and soon reaching Rye's 40 via a 33-yard Loudenburg-to-Alston connection, the 'Cats used their first timeout, and then unfortunately lost the ball the very next play when junior Casen Mittlestadt recovered a high snap Loudenburg couldn't secure before taking contact from RHS' Jackson Bjorum.

Set up at their own 46 with 5:36 still left, the 'Bolts then drove the required 54 yards in nine plays (all runs) and 4:31, with Bjorum ultimately barging through the line from six yards out. Larson's PAT made the score 21-0 with 1:05 remaining, and though Loudenburg ended the quarter with an unreturnable 41-yard punt, Rye had only gotten started.

"We're kind of a 'downhill' running team," said Bjorum, a senior. "We've been doing that since forever; freshman year we had the top runner in the state, and plenty thousand-plus (yards) rushers have come through Rye High School .... Hard-nosed football's ... just Rye!"

Bumgartener began the second quarter with a 73-yard scoring scamper, but after a penalty reduced his net gain on the play to just 11 yards, Bjorum carried twice for 34 yards down to IHS' 28 and Bumgartener then hit Gray for the score, coming with 10:39 left until halftime. Down 28-0, the Bobcats' ensuing series lasted just two plays and ten ticks, with RHS junior Thomas Sheppard blanketing a bad snap to Loudenburg at Ignacio's 33.

A Bumgartener incompletion followed, but two more Bjorum bursts got the 'Bolts into the end zone for the fifth time. But following his 4-yard TD with 9:38 remaining, the 'Cats blocked Larson's extra point attempt. And after another three-and-out offensively, IHS' defense again came up roses when a deserving Loudenburg recovered Mittlestadt's second-down fumble.

Given new hope from Rye's 45 with 6:57 left, the unlucky 'Cats again went three-and-out but Loudenburg's punt, plus a Rye penalty during the return, pinned the 'Bolts back at their 17 with 4:40 to go. Bumgartener promptly passed to Mittlestadt for eight yards, and four straight Bjorum runs advanced the ball to the 40.

Bumgartener then broke off a 13-yard keeper into Ignacio territory and followed it with a 47-yard TD pass to Mittlestadt. With 1:23 left in the half, mercy-rule play then commenced, regardless of Larson's successful PAT increasing RHS' lead to 41-0.

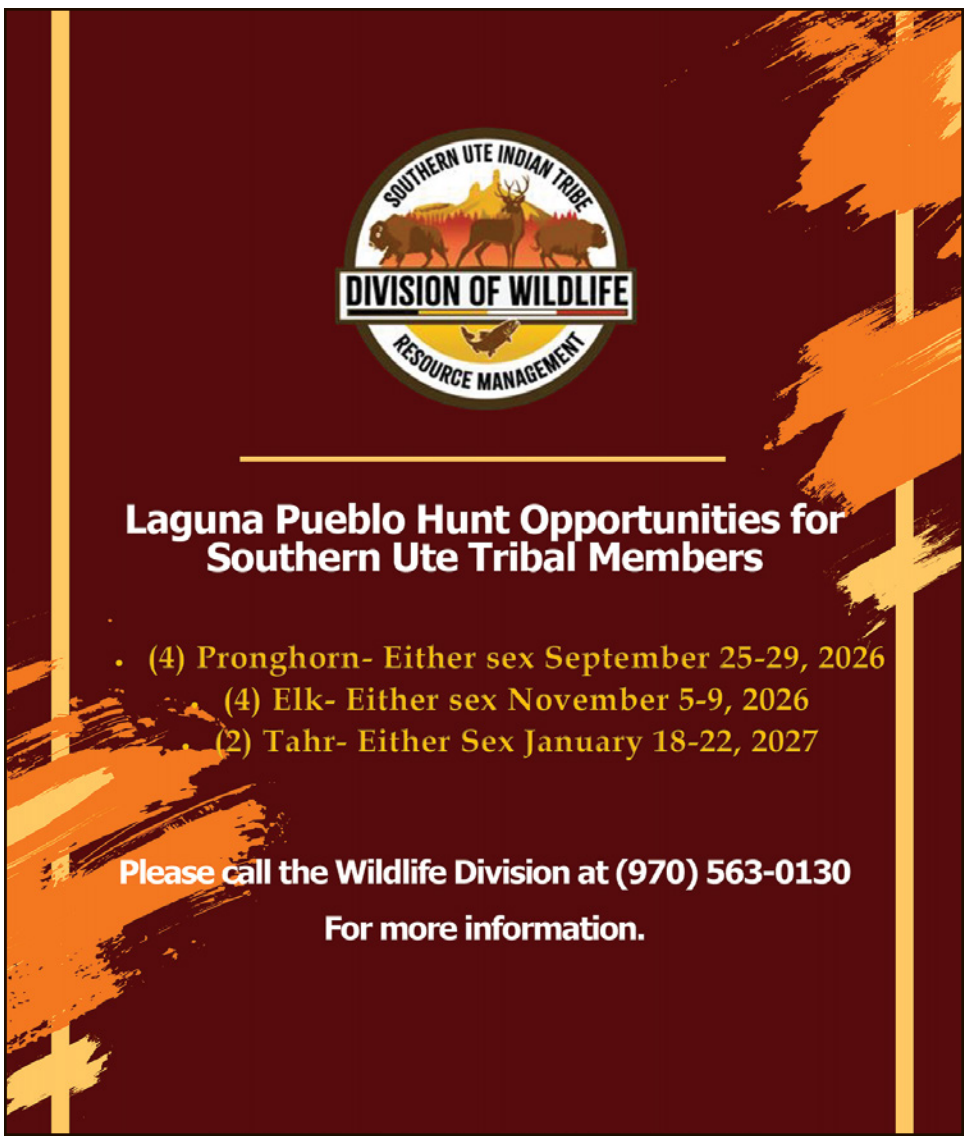
After the extended intermission, Rye freshman Nick Hayes returned Loudenburg's kickoff 79 yards for a touchdown with 11:30 left in the third quarter and effectively concluded the quarter with a 48-yard Bjorum punt downed by senior Wyatt Scheid at IHS' 1.

But Scott boldly broke through the line for six yards, and Loudenburg followed for seven as the quarter ended. He was then sacked for a four-yard loss on the fourth quarter's first snap but rapidly recomposed himself and threw back-to-back passes to senior Brandon Blevins that moved Ignacio to RHS' 46. Loudenburg then hit Alston for 19 yards down to the 27 before a pass break-up by Rye junior Michael Sais and a false-start penalty against the 'Cats led to a turnover-on-downs at RHS' 36 with 5:29 left in regulation.

Nossaman called his second timeout of the half before the 'Bolts began their drive, which ended up being just a 64-yard Hayes QB keeper paralleling Rye's sideline with 4:32 left. Larson kicked her seventh PAT in eight tries, but the show wasn't over.

"With all the adversity that we're facing, all the injuries and everything…. We've lost two quarterbacks now, so it's getting a little tough," Loudenburg said. "But we're trying hard, you know?"

Looking ahead, Ignacio (0-6 overall, 0-3 Southern) will next host Trinidad (1-5, 0-3) at 7 p.m. Friday, October 16, then begin preparing for the short trip to Bayfield – which went to and dominated THS 40-16 while IHS worked in Rye – on Thursday, October 22. Kickoff against the Wolverines (presently 2-5, 1-3) is also set for 7 p.m.



LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Oct. 16	Saturday, Oct. 17	Sunday, Oct. 18
Sunny 60˚F	Mostly sunny 58˚F	Partly sunny 59˚F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

