THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



BGC Connect: Art and updates

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Bobcats line streets for homecoming

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SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Chairman issues Proclamation of State of Local Disaster

Severe storms, flash flooding and road damage

By Christine Sage, Chairman
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Proclamation of State of Local Disaster due to severe monsoon storms, flash flooding, and road infrastructure damage across the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

In accordance with the Tribe's Emergency Operations Plan and in the interest of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal members, residents, and visitors, I, Christine Sage, Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, hereby proclaim a state of local disaster on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation as follows:

A. Background and Need

1. On October 20, 2026, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Decision Support Packet indicating moderate to heavy rainfall, possible flooding, and high confidence for periods of widespread rainfall for La Plata and Archuleta counties where the Southern Ute Indian Reservation is located.
2. On October 22, 2026, the NWS issued a Decision Support Packet indicating heavy rainfall of 2 to 4 inches for the southwest San Juans, and that flooding from heavy rainfall would result, including high confidence in periods of widespread rainfall and localized flooding.
3. On October 23, 2026, the NWS issued a Decision Support Packet indicating that heavy rainfall in the region was resulting in flooding of small creeks, arroyos, rivers and streams, as well as debris flows and rockslides. The packet emphasized river flooding to be expected in the following days.
4. On or about October 22, 2026, the Southern Ute Indian Reservation began experiencing flooding due to ongoing heavy rainfall that affected human health and safety through damage to primary arterial transportation routes and related infrastructure such as bridges; displacement of residents; exposure to biological hazards; power outages; and overall hardship on vulnerable populations within the Reservation.
5. Incoming situation reports indicate that the heavy rainfall is continuing to have significant impacts to communities and residents on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, including, but not limited to, areas along the San Juan, Piedra, and Los Pinos Rivers and roadways including Colorado 151, County Road 500, and County Road 310.
6. Response personnel from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Emergency Management, the Department of Transportation, Tribal Health, Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Programs Department, Risk Management, Property and Facilities, Tribal Housing, Tribal Information Services, Tribal Services, the Southern Ute Police Department, Natural Resource Enforcement Division, Growth Fund and Casino, community representatives, and other partners continue to conduct damage assessments, risk assessments, and have identified damages to transport infrastructure, community infrastructure, life safety threats, potential health and sanitation hazards, with existing vulnerabilities and risks compounded by current and anticipated monsoonal flooding.
7. Coordinated response efforts were activated to assist with response and recovery efforts for the storm and post-storm hazards to assist affected individuals in the impacted communities, to address on-going needs for sheltering the displaced, addressing risks to human health, safety, community infrastructure, and other risks.
8. There is a present and on-going urgency to pursue resources to assist the impacted communities and residents in recovery efforts including conducting damage assessments in partnership with appropriate personnel to further document and minimize the impacts of the storm and post-storm events.
9. The conditions of these rainstorms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single government and require the combined efforts and resources of the region to appropriately respond.

B. Scope & Effect

1. This Proclamation of Local Disaster is for the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.
2. The effect of this Proclamation of Local Disaster shall be to for-

Chairman *page 9*



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Flood damage at CO Highway 151 from mile post 22-34 as of Tuesday, Oct. 27. LPEA Crews and Archuleta County staff were onsite assessing damage and repairing power lines.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

EOC group responds to flood disaster

Tribe prepares for future impacts

By Divine Windy Boy
THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe released a public service announcement from Chairman Christine Sage on Sunday, Oct. 25 proclaiming a state of local disaster on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation following the heavy rainfall that began on or about Thursday, Oct. 22 which led to flooding. In accordance with the Tribe's Emergency Operations Plan, various departments and divisions began working together to activate response and recovery efforts. The Southern Ute Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordinated sheltering, addressing risks to human health, safety, community infrastructure, and other risks. More precipitation is expected to arrive this weekend; now the EOC group is beginning to prepare for the potential impacts.

According to the official PSA, the National Weather Service issued a Decision Support Packet on Tuesday, Oct. 20, indicating moderate to heavy rainfall, possible flooding, and high confidence for periods of widespread rainfall for La Plata and Archuleta counties where the Southern Ute Indian Reservation is located. The rain has since cleared, but the flood damage impact remains – evident to communities and residents on the reservation, including but not limited to, areas along the San Juan, Piedra, and Los Pinos rivers, roadways including Colorado 151, County Road 500, and County Road 310

As of Wednesday, Oct. 28 the EOC has been closely following data from the National Weather Service, preemptively reserving rooms at Sky Ute Casino Resort, issuing small scale evacuations, completing home visits, and providing continuous updates on damage repair progress. Response personnel includes; the Department of Transportation, Tribal Health, Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Programs Department, Risk Management, Property and Facilities, Tribal Housing, Tribal Information Services, Tribal Services, the Southern Ute Police Department, Natural Resource Enforcement Division, Growth Fund, Sky Ute Casino Resort, community representatives, and other partners.

Tyson Thompson is the current Acting Executive Officer for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Permanent Fund. In an interview with The Southern Ute Drum on Wednesday, Oct. 28, he shared the updates of proactive measures for the next storm and toured flood damage sites. "The water coming this round is not supposed to be as dramatic as the last storm, however it's still supposed to be a heavy event. Because the ground has absorbed as much water as it can, we expect tributaries and rivers to be on par with what we experienced this last weekend – so we are preemptively scheduling rooms [at Sky Ute Casino Resort], issuing small scale evacuations in certain areas, and completing home visits to check in and advise them that this will be another large event," Thompson said.

"Be supportive to those that are in need, that goes beyond just our own people – the Tribe is fortunate enough to take measures to help our tribal members, but there are still a lot of people in our local region who have really suffered such as Farmington or Bloomfield [and Pagosa Springs]. The EOC is working to get in-

EOC *page 15*

PUBLIC HEALTH

LPC reminds Animas Valley residents of potential well damage

Staff report
LA PLATA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

La Plata County Public Health Department (LPCPHD) reminds Animas Valley residents that private wells may have been damaged and residents with concern about their private wells should drink bottled water for the immediate future.

Recent flooding may have affected local private wells. Damage may not be easy to see like damaged wells and septic systems. Because private wells are not monitored like public water systems, well water may become contaminated and boiling water will not remove all the contaminants.

Bottled water will be available at the La Plata County Fairgrounds from 3 to 6 p.m., beginning Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026. Directions will be provided on site. Two cases of water will be provided per day to affected residents. Clean-up kits will also be available to residents which include buckets, gloves, anti-mold spray, etc.

Do not use well water for drinking if:

- Floodwater reached your well.
- There is standing water around the well.
- Your well cap or well casing looks damaged.
- You notice sediment in the water.
- Your water pressure suddenly changes.

Use bottled water or another safe water source for:

- Drinking
- Cooking
- Brushing teeth
- Making baby formula
- Washing dishes
- Washing fruits and vegetables
- Giving water to pets

Do not turn on the well pump if it was flooded:

There may be a risk of electrical shock or damage to the pump.

Have the wiring, pump and well checked by a qualified electrician, well contractor or pump contractor before using the system. And if you are also on a septic system, do not use your pump until your septic field has had a chance to dry out, or further damage and contamination may occur.

Residents who receive a bill for their water are on a public utility and not a private well and should contact their utility with questions.

LPC *page 10*

Uncompahgre Powwow



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The 3rd Annual Uncompahgre Powwow was held on Friday, Oct. 16 & Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Montrose Country Event Center in Montrose, Colo. Freeman Pinnecoose (Southern Ute/Diné/Jicarilla Apache) served as the head man dancer for this year's event – Pinnecoose showcases his dance style during the Men's Traditional category exhibition on Friday evening. This powwow was hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center & the Ute Indian Museum.

See more Uncompahgre Powwow coverage on page 11.

Casino debuts new menu



photos Maria Tujillo/SU Tribal Information Services

Southern Ute tribal members, Victoria Trujillo, Fabian Martinez and Samantha Maez sample the variety of desserts, presented by the Sky Ute Casino Resort Sales and Banquet Teams as part of the new banquet menu in a “Rollout” party, Friday, Oct. 16 in the casino’s Event Center.



Sky Ute Casino’s new Executive Chef, Lawrence Garcia, of the Acoma Pueblo is from Albuquerque, N.M. Garcia spoke about the new menu for all the returning clientele. Menus revolve around FLAVOR and fresh ingredients. Garcia takes pride in putting a new spin on local favorites.



Southern Ute tribal elders, Darlene Frost and Dona Frost chat with Mark Torres, during the Sky Ute Casino Resort’s new menu rollout.

Upcoming Early Drum Deadlines & Publication Dates

- **Deadline: Nov. 19.** Publish Date: Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving Nov. 26)
- **Deadline: Dec. 3.** Publish Date: Dec. 9 (Leonard C. Burch Day Dec. 10)
- **Deadline: Dec. 17.** Publish Date: Dec. 23 (Christmas Dec. 25)



Many Moons Ago



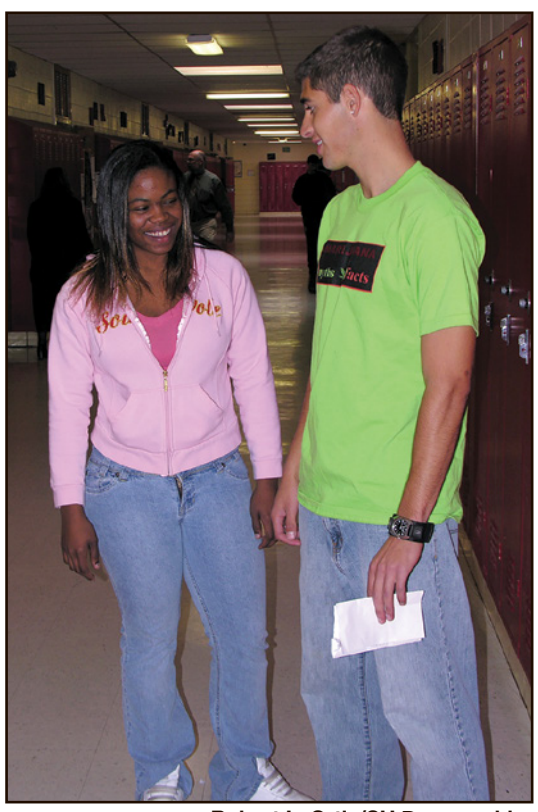


Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

10 years ago

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness walk on Thursday, Oct. 13, inviting staff and community members to join students from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy in spreading cancer awareness. Healthy snacks were available as well as a raffle for prizes. SunUte Fitness Director Robin DuffyWirth met with SUIMA students to discuss the importance of recognizing various cancers. SunUte fitness director Robin Duffy-Wirth speaks with students from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy about cancer awareness.

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



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

Shanequa Owens checks out Juan Guzman’s ‘’Ugly sick green shirt,” both are seniors at Ignacio High School and are promoting drug awareness, dispelling myths about drug use. They both agree this is a good way of letting kids know the facts about drugs and alcohol.

This photo was published in the Oct. 29, 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

Head Start Open House – was held Oct. For the public to visit their center.

This photo was published in the Oct. 31, 1986, issue of the Southern Ute Drum.

IMPORTANT LANDS DIVISION NOTICE

Due to the recent moisture received on the reservation, all hunting crossing permits will no longer be issued. The Southern Ute Department of Natural Resources Lands Division apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. Updates will become available as they are received. Thank you for your understanding and patience. Safety of all hunters is our top priority. For more information contact the Department of Natural Resources – Lands Division 970-563-0126

LET'S LEARN UTE

'ʉvʉsi̲gha'.

Good-bye (finished).

Pʉnikyavaatʉ̲samʉ̲ 'ara.

See you later.

Págha'n̲ikwíichaanʉ̲.

I am going walking.

Táagha'.

Go ahead/proceed.

Royalty in Black Hills



courtesy Dominika Joy

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany, at the Crazy Horse Memorial in S.D.



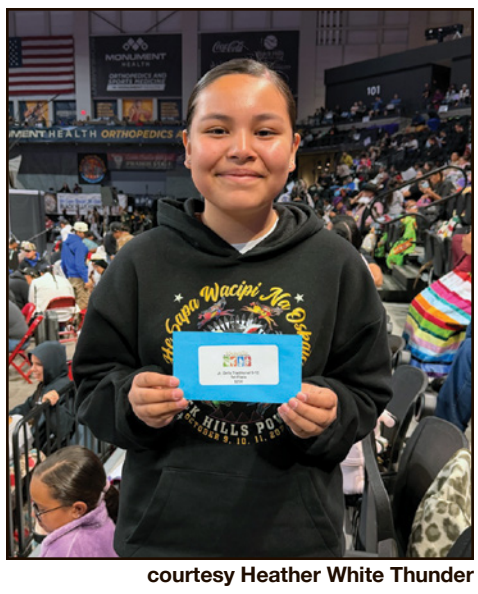
courtesy Dominika Joy

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany, and the Mayor of Denver, Mike Johnson, at the Indigenous People's Day celebration in Denver, CO. Starlitt enjoyed meeting Southern Ute tribal elders who live in Denver.



courtesy Dominika Joy

Little Miss Southern Ute, Starlitt Greany, at Black Hills in Rapid City, S.D.



courtesy Heather White Thunder

Shayne White Thunder represents the Southern Ute Tribes and Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.



courtesy Heather White Thunder

Shayne White Thunder traveled to the He Sapa Wacipi (Black Hills Powwow), October 9-11, 2026. She competed in the Junior Girls Traditional cartegory and received 1st place.





photos courtesy Heather White Thunder

Junior Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder traveled to the He Sapa Wacipi (Black Hills Powwow), Oct. 9-11, to represent the Southern Ute Tribe.

Southern Ute Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner

November 14, 2026
11: 00 a.m. - 3: 00 p.m.
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

Entrees

Chokecherry Glazed Turkey
Chef Carved Ham with Pineapple Orange Sauce

Sides

Mahed potatoes with Turkey Gravy, Fresh Garden Salad with Two Dressings, Cranberry Sauce, Sweet Potatoes, Stuffing, Buttered Sweet Corn, and Dinner Rolls

Desserts

Pecan Pie, Pumpkin Pie, Sugar Free Apple Pie

Drinks

Canned Drinks, Water, Coffee, Iced Tea

Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner & Fashion Show

Presented by Tribal Information Services

-Dinner from 11am-3pm
-Fashion Show 1pm-2pm
- Saturday, November 14
- Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

The Fashion Show will be complimenting the annual Tribal Thanksgiving dinner open to all three Ute tribes and families.

The Fashion Show event focuses on Indigenous sovereignty, traditional practices, creativity, and art through fashion. The event offers a platform for Southern Ute Tribal Members to gain experience in the Indigenous fashion industry – hitting the stage and highlighting traditional Ute clothing in tandem with modern fashion.

Model Call!
Looking for 26
All-Native models who:
- Have Regalia (Full or partial)
- Interest in modeling and fashion
- Any gender
- Any size
- Ages: Infant - Elder!

Are you interested in modeling for this event?
No prior model experience needed.
Please contact Amy Barry at 970-563-2250
abarry@southernute-nsn.gov

Featuring:
Jennifer Goodtracks – Designer
Hillary Frost – Live DJ

TIS TRIBAL INFORMATION SERVICES

Flyer & Photo by Divine Windy Boy | SU Drum

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE Heard: Culture is prevention

by Brianna Henderson
SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

As we dive into November, let's take a moment to remember Native American Heritage month, not just as a history lesson, but as a living celebration of survival and well-being. I think when most of us discuss mental health, we automatically picture a clinical office and individual therapy sessions. And while these tools absolutely have their place, true wellness roots itself in something much deeper: our heritage. True healing often lives in the revival of suppressed language, arts, dances, ceremonies, and the quiet grounding of traditional medicines.

When the youth and community members engage in cultural traditions, they aren't just learning a skill, they are participating in an intentional act of prevention. Everyday practices serve as natural buffers against anxiety, depression, and substance misuse.

Cultural expression is physical medicine. The grounding vibrations of the drum, the focus of traditional beadwork, and the full-body release of dance, act as active forms of therapies. Instead of just talking through stress, these practices physically push tension out of the body, lower anxiety, and give the mind a meditative break.

Reviving and speaking traditional languages restores a profound sense of identity and purpose. Hearing oral histories and wisdom from our elders teaches youth that they are part of a massive, enduring story of survival.

And spending time outdoors and connecting with nature; whether it's gardening, fishing, hunting, or simply going for a walk, nature serves as a natural anchor for grounding and mindfulness when your battery is completely drained.

By actively investing in our cultural identity, we create an internal safety net. When we remind ourselves who exactly we are, where we come from, and the strength of our ancestors behind us, our resilience multiplies. Culture is the ultimate form of preventative medicine. It reminds us that we don't have to heal alone. We heal together, in circles, rooted in the traditions that have kept our communities vibrant for centuries.

Celebrating our heritage shouldn't start and stop when November ends. Honoring your roots is a year-round, life-saving act of self-care. Every time we speak our language, practice an art, or stand in a circle with community, we are actively protecting our mental health. Remember, you don't have to look outside your heritage to find healing – our culture is our medicine, and it is available to us every single day.

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.

HEALTHY RECIPES

Broccoli, ham, and swiss crustless quiche

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


courtesy FomaA/AdobeStock

Flavorful and low in carbohydrates, this quiche fits the bill! Easy to make and great for a family brunch.

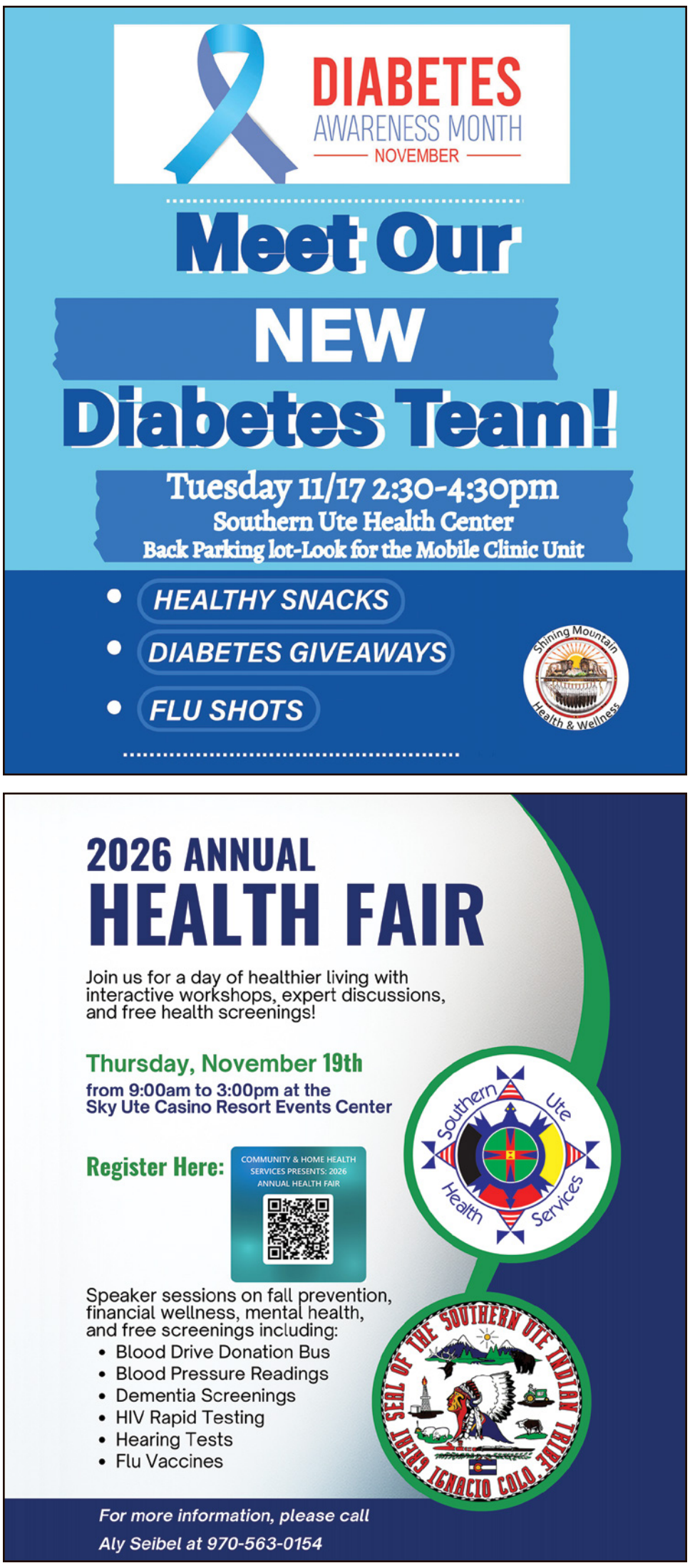
Quiche always looks impressive and goes well with a side salad and fruit.

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

Broccoli, ham, and swiss crustless quiche

Ingredients:
- Cooking spray
- Small head of broccoli, finely chopped (about 1 cup)
- 4oz ham, cubed or cut into small pieces
- 4oz Swiss cheese, shredded or cut into small pieces
- 5 eggs, whisked
- 1 cup milk (*whole, almond, etc.) *This can also be a combo with 1/3 cup half and half
- One stalk of green onion, trimmed and sliced into rounds (both green and white parts)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Coat a pie pan with non-stick cooking spray. Place pan onto a baking sheet (this will protect the bottom of your oven if it spills)
3. Layer chopped broccoli into pie pan
4. Next, add ham on top of broccoli
5. Then add the cheese on top of the ham
6. In a medium bowl, whisk eggs, milk, salt and pepper, until combined. Stir in green onions.
7. Pour mixture slowly over broccoli/ham/cheese
8. Transfer baking sheet with the pie pan into oven
9. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until quiche is set in the center and golden brown.
10. Take out of oven and let cool a few minutes before cutting.



Breast Cancer Awareness Walk


photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Program Manager, Heather Sorensen, leads the walk on Thursday, Oct. 15 – before the walk, Sorensen shared facts and important information about the disease to attendees encouraging all to be aware of the early signs.



Breanna Henderson and Lisa Smith enjoy the warm weather during the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. Participants walked from SunUte Community Center, past the Sky Ute Casino Resort and around Mike Frost Way returning to the recreation center.



The Shining Mountain Health and Wellness division hosted its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, Participants walked a one-mile route on Thursday morning, stopping to view facts about the disease posted on road signs along the route. Participants also received healthy snacks and free t-shirts during the event.



Participants gather and chat before the start of the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Thursday, Oct. 15, hosted by the Shining Mountain Health and Wellness Division. Participants don their new shirts in support of the event and Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

BOBCAT BULLETIN

Ignacio Bobcat's fall sports update and preview

By Shasta Pontine, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
IGNACIO HIGH SCHOOL



Shasta Pontine
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
Ignacio High School

As the leaves begin to change and October brings cooler days, Ignacio High School's fall sports teams enter the final stretch of their seasons. With each passing game, league standings and playoff seeding begin to take shape. Ignacio High School's three fall sports teams have battled hard this year, and while not every victory is reflected on the scoreboard, each team has demonstrated determination, resilience, and Bobcat pride.

Football

Ignacio High School's football team began the season with 34 athletes, three more than last year. However, the graduation of six seniors left a void that has been difficult to fill, and competing in a league where four of the six teams qualified for the 1A playoffs last year has been a challenge.

Throughout September, the Bobcats showed up, fought through adversity, and gave everything they had, despite losing five players to season-ending injuries. At the end of each game, the scoreboard did not tell the full story of the heart, grit, and determination displayed by the players who remained on the field. Their willingness to keep pushing forward speaks volumes about their character and commitment to one another.

The Bobcats will close out their season on Oct. 30 against Centauri, ranked No. 6. As the season winds down, the team will look to finish strong and continue building for the future.

Volleyball

The Ignacio Varsity Volleyball team holds a 13-3 record, with seven games remaining, and sits second in the San Juan Basin League, having lost only to Dolores. The Volleycats are determined to compete for the top spot and play with an intensity that refuses to let any ball hit the floor without a fight. As a team, they have demonstrated strong teamwork, relentless effort, and the ability to rally together when the pressure is on. Their focus and competitive spirit will be key as they enter the final stretch of the regular season.

The team will travel to Rye, Pagosa Springs, and Center before closing out the regular season at Dolores. These final matches will help determine League and State tournament seeding, while Regional placement remains to be determined. With postseason play approaching, the Volleycats will look to carry their momentum into the tournaments and continue representing Ignacio with pride.

Cross Country

Ignacio Cross Country will compete at the Regional Cross Country Meet in Mancos on Oct. 24, where runners will have the opportunity to qualify for the state meet. Two Ignacio athletes have set new personal records this season, a testament to their hard work, dedication, and steady improvement. As they prepare for regionals, the runners will look to put their training to the test and finish the season strong. Their commitment throughout the season has brought them to this important moment, and the Bobcat community wishes them the best of luck as they compete for a spot at state.

Middle School Athletics

Ignacio Middle School had nearly 75 student-athletes participate in fall sports this season. Across all sports, athletes focused on developing fundamental skills, strengthening teamwork, and growing as competitors. The highlight of the season came from the middle school football team, which made history by capturing the League Championship. Through hard work and dedication, the coaches and players emphasized sportsmanship, perseverance, integrity, and grit, creating a memorable season and an accomplishment the entire Bobcat community can celebrate.

Looking Ahead: Winter Sports

November marks the beginning of the winter sports season at Ignacio High School. A parent meeting will be held in the Ignacio High School Auditorium on Nov. 9 at 6:15 p.m. The first day of practice for high school basketball and wrestling is Nov. 16.

As we close out the fall season and prepare for winter, we celebrate the hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship of all our Bobcat athletes. Wins and losses are part of competition, but the dedication these students show, the obstacles they overcome, and the pride they bring to their school and community are victories worth celebrating.

Go Bobcats!

SUIMA

Pawaaghani pɵ'ɵkwatu – *Eagle's Nest*

SUIMA news & upcoming events

By Jesse Olguin-Sanchez, Principal
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Jesse Olguin-Sanchez
Principal
Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

October is flying by at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) it has been filled with exciting learning experiences, community connections, and memorable adventures for students of all ages.

Our Elementary students recently completed a study on the traditional healing uses of the hot springs found throughout our region. To bring their learning to life, students traveled to Durango Hot Springs, where they experienced the warm mineral waters firsthand. During their visit, they discussed the different minerals found in the springs, explored their significance, and reflected on how our ancestors utilized hot springs for healing and wellness.

Our Primary, Toddler, and Infant classrooms have been busy learning all about pumpkins and the many ways they can be used. As part of their studies, students, teachers, and families enjoyed a special trip to Holiday Farms Pumpkin Patch in Bloomfield, New Mexico. The outing provided a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning and family engagement. Students enjoyed exploring the farm, selecting pumpkins, and spending time together outdoors while taking advantage of a welcome break in the rainy weather.

Adding to the seasonal excitement, all SUIMA students participated in the annual Pumpkin Splash at the Sun Ute Recreation Center. Students had a great time swimming with pumpkins and were thrilled to bring a pumpkin home at the end of the event. Smiles, laughter, and plenty of splashing made this activity a favorite for students and staff alike.

Our Upper Elementary students had the opportunity to participate in the Sip, Chat, and Chew event at the Multi-Purpose Building. Students organized a bake sale and enjoyed visiting with community members throughout the event. The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy School Board added to the fun by creating Boo Baskets that were given away during the gathering.

Growth Fund gave a presentation to Upper Elementary students. GF 101 discussed all the business and locations of all theses businesses. Mr. Shane Seibel asked all the students what they wanted to be when they grew up. We heard Art Teacher, Marine Biologist, Animator, and the rest really were not sure what they wanted to do when they grew up. It was a great presentation with lots of interaction with Mr. Seibel.

As always, we encourage families to help students arrive at school on time, well-rested, fed, and ready to learn each day. Regular attendance and punctuality contribute significantly to student success, helping children build strong learning habits, increase retention, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Thank you for your continued support of SUIMA and the many opportunities we provide for our students to learn, grow, and connect with their community.

SUIMA NOVEMBER EVENTS

As we look ahead, families are reminded November is Native American Heritage month!

- Nov. 11 – No School Veterans Day
- Nov. 15 & 16 – Roc Your Mocs
- Nov. 17 – No Afterschool Program
- Nov. 13 – How Ute traditionally used animals/ cooking
- Nov. 18 – Family Night, Round Dance
- Nov. 20 – Field dressing big game animal
- Every Friday in November Dress Traditionally
- Nov. 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break

SoCoCAA Ignacio Youth Services Thanksgiving Drive

Please help the Ignacio Youth reach a goal of providing Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to 50 families in the community. Looking for partners in this endeavor and food donations. Text or call for information: 970-759-2011 or 970-759-6515.

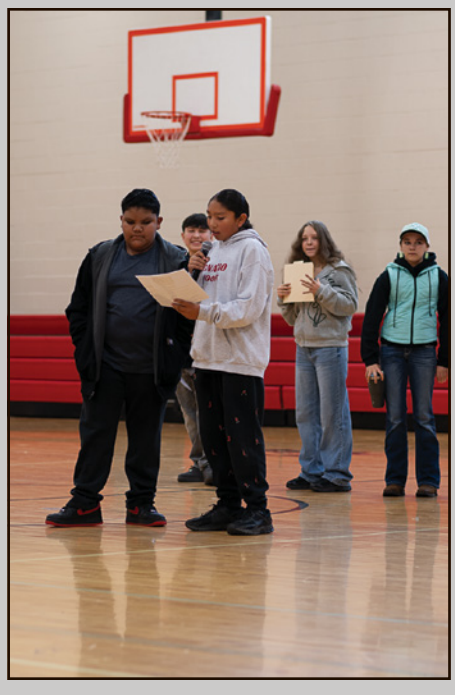


IMS Character Counts awards



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Ignacio Middle School recognizes students in each grade for their outstanding character on Thursday, Oct. 22 during the Character Counts award ceremony. Parents of eighth grade students gather to take photos of their Bobcats.





Ignacio Middle Schools held their awards following the sixth-grade Character Counts award ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 22. Left to right; Zerek Romero, Ray Sanchez, Aziryah Howe.

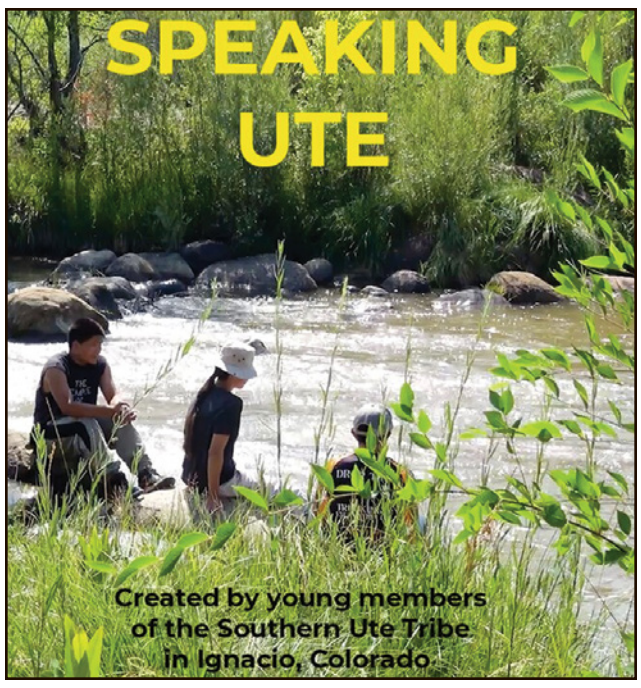
Warren Whyte reads Harley Joy's award to their peers before presenting the award to Joy on Thursday, Oct. 22 at Ignacio Middle School. Character Counts programming focuses on building students' character, social-emotional, and academic skills, while shaping a positive school culture.

SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION

Filmmaking workshop students film festival showings

Tribal Student produced film makes it to film festivals!

By Dustin Weaver
SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION



Southern Ute Education's Filmmaking Workshop students' film "Speaking Ute" will be featured at this year's Indigenous Cultural Film Festival – INCUFF 2026, at the Merkezefendi Cultural Center in Denizli, Turkey.

The film "Speaking Ute" has been featured previously at the Native Lens Showcase at the Durango Independent Film Festival on March 7, 2026, the Nyack International Film Festival March 22-28, 2026, the 2026 Tonkawa Film Festival on April 24-25, 2026, Pathways Indigenous Arts Festival in Santa Fe, New Mexico on August 14-16, 2026, and the upcoming feature at the Native Spirit Festival 2026 in October to November 2026 in London/UK.

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

The Southern Ute Education Department and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council encourage Southern Ute Tribal Membership, Tribal Leadership, and the community to support the filmmakers in their production. The Southern Ute Education Department and Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council would like to thank the students for their hard work, dedication, and time making this film possible.

For further questions please contact Dustin L. Weaver at 970-563-0235 or dweaver@southernute.nsn.gov

Note: The Indigenous Culture Film Festival (INCUFF-2026) took place from October 14 – 18, 2026, at the Merkezefendi Culture Center in Denizli, Türkiye (Turkey).

Elders enjoy a movie day



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Elder Services took elders to the Allen Theaters for a movie day event, as part of their October Activities, on Tuesday, Oct. 20. Elders Dona Frost and Mabel Kent wait in line for their fresh popcorn and sweet treats ahead of the screening. Elders had the opportunity to view any movie of their choice during the trip. Each month, the Elder Services Division sponsors activities for Tribal Member elders for more information call 970-563-2309.



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Club Connect: News and updates

Staff report
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



Youth of the Month

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

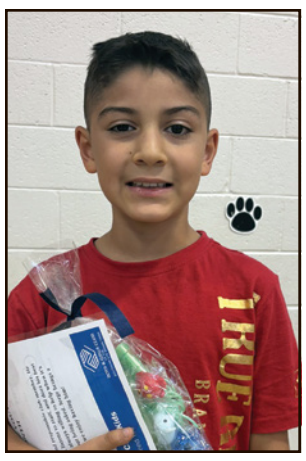
For the month of October our Youth of the Month award goes to Jacinta Albo and Jr. Youth of the Month goes to Prometheus Gonzales!



Jacinto Albo
October
Youth of the Month



Prometheus Gonzales
October
Jr. Youth of the Month



Jorge Vasquez Jr.
August
Youth of the Month



Navarro Delgado Torres
August
Youth of the Month

Our August Youth of the Month goes to both Jorge Vasquez Jr. and Navarro Delgado Torres!

Congratulations on behave of BGCSU staff!

BGC Announcements:

Come join us for our next Teen Night on Nov. 13, Ages 10-13, at the Sun Ute Community Center 7 – 9 p.m.! Dinner will be included!!

BGC Shoutouts:

Thank you to Dancing Spirits for offering art classes for both groups 1 & 2 on Fridays!

Huge shoutout to the teens for supporting our Teen Night on Oct. 23!

BGC Reminder:

The Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe are holding their 10th Annual Charitable Elk Hunt Raffle. Tickets are $30 and open to anyone 21 or older. Hunting trip includes one cow elk tag, one night stay at the Sky Ute Casino Resort and $150 to Seven rivers Steakhouse at the casino.



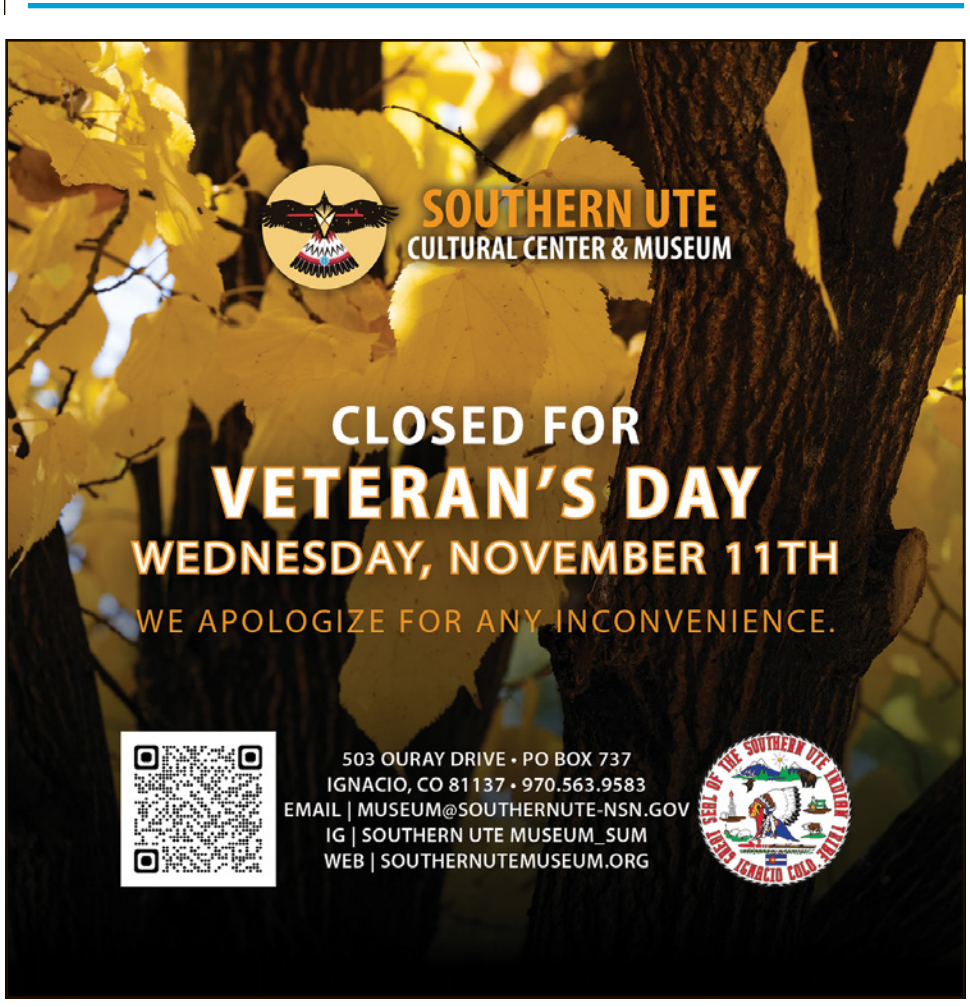
courtesy BGC

Boys and Girls Club member, Juniper Isaacson getting messy while creating her project at the Dancing Spirit Center.



courtesy BGC

Boys and Girls Club members, WinterRose Garcia and Robert Lucero enjoying their art class at the Dancing Spirit Center.



GENERAL ELECTION

Adam Red

Tribal Chairman Candidate



Greetings Tribal Membership,

My name is Adam Red, and I am running for Chairman in the 2026 General Election. I believe effective leadership begins with listening, making informed decisions, and remaining accountable to the people we serve. The Chairman and Tribal Council are elected by, report to, and should be held accountable to the Membership.

I have worked for more than 30 years with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. My experience includes Permanent Fund (Wildlife and Tribal Rangers), Growth Fund (Department of Energy), Tribal Council Member, and Internal Audit. My career has given me a unique understanding of the operations and functions of the tribal organization. My current work with Internal Audit has given me an opportunity to work on improving the governance, policy, and operations within all entities of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. My 5 years with Internal Audit have provided me with a unique opportunity to advise and enhance the policies and efficiency throughout the entire tribal organization, for greater service and results for the membership.

The Constitution of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe provides the Chairman with the responsibility for appointing and directing executive department personnel, subject to constitutional and council-established requirements. This responsibility highlights the importance of strong leadership and accountability within the Executive Office. My goal is not only to build out the executive office, but to positively contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Growth Fund, Casino, and SUSS while maintaining accountability to Membership. My focus is on ensuring the structure, leadership, and processes are in place to support effective governance without tailoring the position to any specific individuals.

During my term as southern Ute Tribal Chairman, I will focus on:

- Strengthening governance and accountability
- Improving communication and transparency with Membership
- Maintaining organizational stability and continuity
- Promoting efficient and responsible management of tribal resources
- Preparing The Tribe for long-term success
- Continual progress in the growth of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

My entire career has been dedicated to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and our people. I have always listened to Membership without judgement. If you come to me with a question and I don't have an answer for you, I will help you find that answer. I am open and objective with my decision making.

I respectfully ask for your support as Chairman in the 2026 General Election. Together, we can continue building a strong, accountable, and effective tribal government that serves Membership today and for future generations

Respectfully,
Adam Red

GENERAL ELECTION

Hilda Burch

Tribal Council Candidate



Maykh Nuuchiu and Greetings, Southern Ute Tribal Members

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.

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.

We all have our own opinions of who we chose to vote for to represent the tribal membership as a Tribal Council representative. If chosen to be your representative I will advocate for the membership either on or off the reservation. I have worked for the tribe for over 30 years and have two degrees; Associate in Accounting and BA in Business Administration. I have lived off the reservation for 13+ years and worked in various positions during my time off the reservation. I moved home to take care of family and see what I can contribute to the Tribe. Change is good if its for the future growth for the tribe and membership.

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.

I would like to thank those who attended the Greet N' Meet that was on Oct. 20. And thank those who attended the Meet the Candidates Night on Oct. 28 – either in person or Webex.

Toghoyaqh
Hilda M. Burch

SPECIAL ELECTION

Susan Williams

Tribal Council Candidate

Greetings my fellow Southern Ute Tribal Members,

My name is Susan Williams. I have decided to place my name on the special election ballot for the tribal council seat which was vacated by Marvin Pinnecoose. My decision to run for tribal council was made because I believe our tribal government needs to BE for the tribal membership.

My father the late, John S. Williams, would often have many visitors and I didn't quite understand why but as I grew older; I found out he served on tribal council as a council member and Chairman. One particular person, who often visited was Mr. Leonard C. Burch. Mr. Burch and my father would of speak of tribal matters and I remember my father telling him, "You make decisions not for now but for the future generations to come," Those words echo in my head and how times has progressed, how our tribal government has evolved and how our leadership has changed.

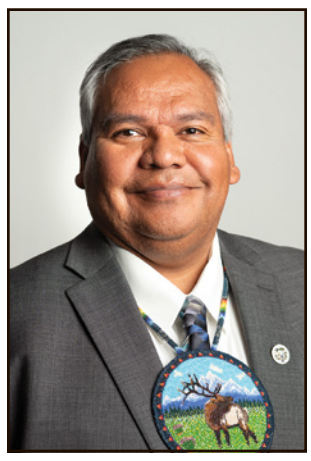
As our productivity in oil and gas grew and became more profitable; our government grew as well. We have Growth Fund, Red Willow, Red Cedar, GF Properties and GF Private Equity Group, SUSS, SUIMA, SunUte Community Center, Southern Ute Museum, Sky Ute Casino and other investments in other States. Currently, two new construction sites are being developed: the Recovery Housing Project and Boys & Girls Club. These are all

Williams *page 8*

GENERAL ELECTION

Cedric J. Chavez

Tribal Council Candidate



Maykh Piinunuuchi!

It's that time of year again when we come together to make our choices of who will represent us in our Tribal government and I am more than happy and greatly honored to be asked to put my efforts forth to be able to represent You and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe as a working member of our tribal council again.

My name is Cedric J. Chavez, I am the son of the late Lydia T. Chavez, and the grandson of the late Thelma and Ramus Kuebler.

I have lived and worked for most of my life in our community, graduating from Ignacio High School, earning an associate's degree in the automotive trades from New Mexico State University and currently working towards a bachelor's degree in my spare time. I have experience in the construction industry, the service industry, and in the last 20 years, have performed public services as a professional mechanic in tribal and municipal transportation departments as well as representing you as a tribal council member.

My education and work experience coupled with my life experiences have provided a great pathway into becoming a voice for the people because I have spent a great deal of my employment within the tribe and have become familiar with tribal operations in the permanent fund, the growth fund, and the casino well before my time of service representing you on the tribal council where I was also able to expand on my operational knowledge through the various committee meetings I worked with including growth fund management, shared services, budget, education and youth services. Valuable experience that is ready to be put to work for you to address the current state of the tribe and usher in the responsible governance that we expect from our leadership when it comes to correcting budgetary faults, fair standards relating to the management and delivery of set policy and procedure and making improvements to the communication channels that have fallen to the side.

I have never considered myself to be a politician by far, mainly for the fact that I have worn the same shoes as many of you and I still do. I understand what it means to live in adversity and how it feels to celebrate the smallest of wins, and out of it all, that is my strongest suit. An everyday tribal member, no big titles, no hidden agendas, just someone who is interested in representing the people to the best of their ability with faith, experience, knowledge, and a great deal of courage to help provide an honest way to address the needs of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the People it serves.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration in my candidacy! Most importantly I thank you for the support you have shown me over the years, I am truly humbled by the trust you put in me to do the right thing at the right time and I look forward to being of service to you and putting your ideas first in this leadership journey. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and put my full knowledge and abilities to work for you in the coming years and provide positive changes that can be realized through our collective efforts to broaden our horizons and ensure our Southern Ute ways remain in perpetuity. Toghoyaqh!

Respectfully,
Cedric J. Chavez

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

Southern Ute Drum Notice

The Southern Ute Drum will be updating all subscription holders by the beginning of the new year. If your subscription has lapsed or is due to expire soon, please reach out to Carli Hight, Administrative Assistant to reinstate your subscription at 970-563-2251.



Susan Williams • from page 7

great accomplishments for our membership.

What is missing? Our leaders. When tribal members are asking for help: too many times; it's a pat on the back and a 'sorry, we can't get involved.' The same line over and over again. When a tribal employee or department isn't willing to work with the membership that's a problem. We are seeking answers, action and accountability.

Tribal members are looking for employment but not having a degree or work experience shouldn't disqualify them. We need to be more proactive with employment options. One example is having more tribal members intern at businesses, who we are partnered with off and on the reservation.

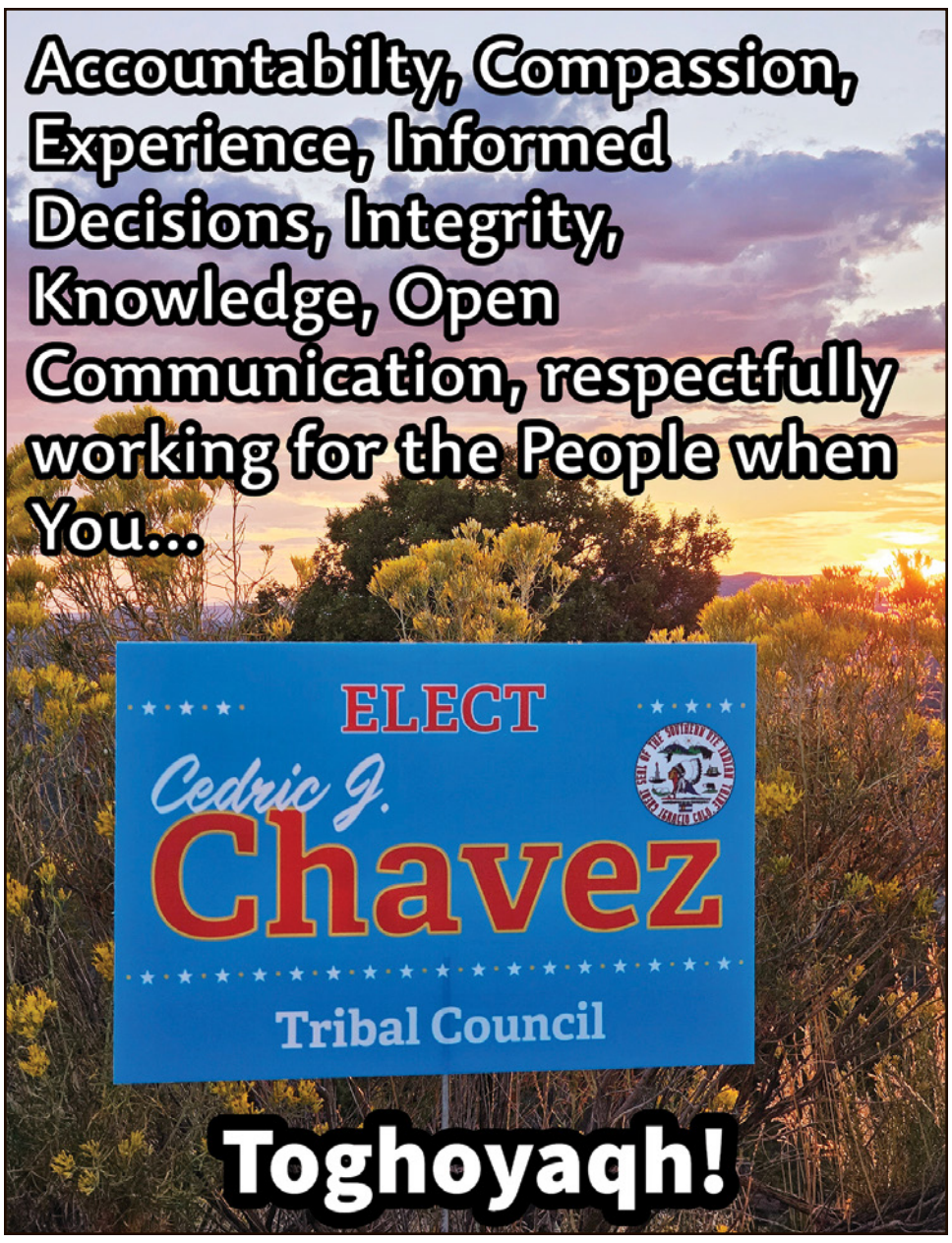
Open up SUIMA to families with descendants. Offer a tuition fee to be paid and this revenue could offset the operating costs of the school.

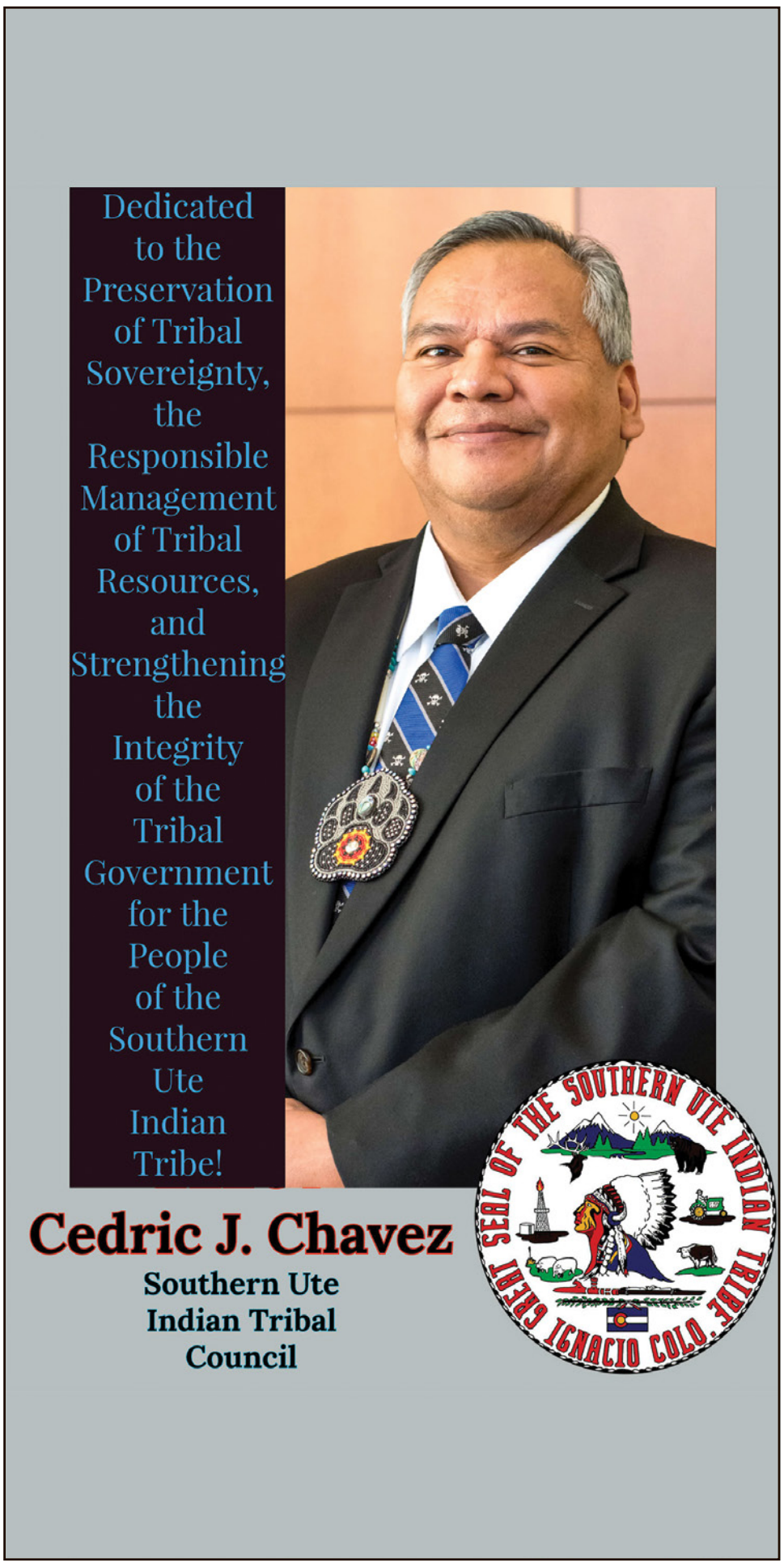
This next issue common in all communities: drugs, alcohol, depression and mental illness. These traumas cause deep psychological damage and cause serious harm to oneself and the family. We need more professionals to help our loved ones. We can't keep sending them away and return home to the same environment. I am hoping the new Recovery Housing Project will provide those services to the individual and family members.

In closing, I can in all HONESTY, if I am elected, I will lead with RESPECT and INTERGRITY. I will hold myself ACCOUNTABLE for my words and actions. I will be here for the ENTIRE membership.

Thank you for your time and consideration to be your next tribal council member for these next two years.

Susan Williams
(Photo unavailable)

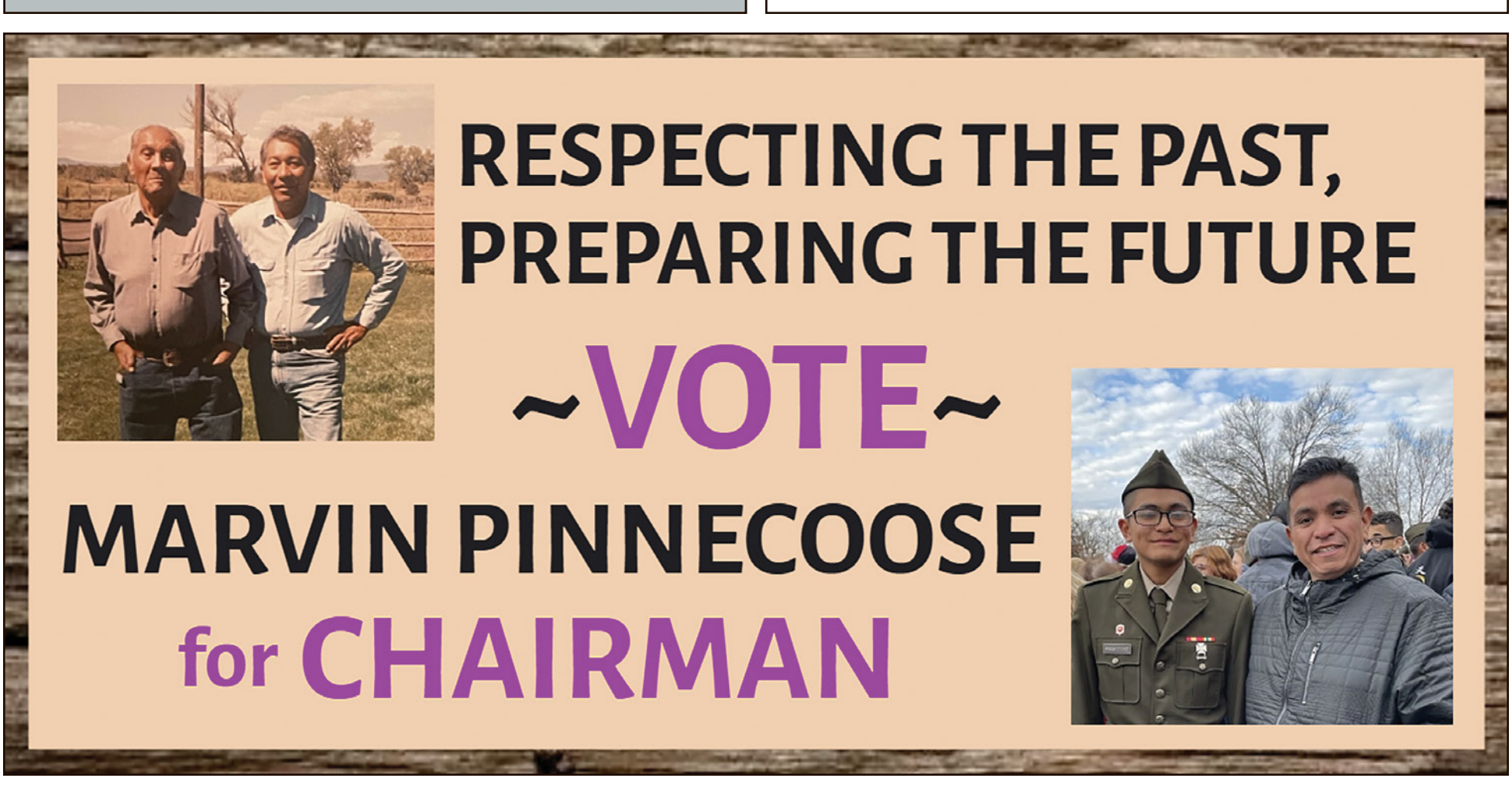






VOTE 2026

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.



Chairman issues Proclamation • from page 1

mally activate the response and recovery provisions of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Emergency Operations Plan, as well as aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans, including, but not limited to, addressing needs such as sheltering displaced individuals and families and relieving conditions of significant distress or hazards to safety and welfare; using available assets to mitigate risk to public health, safety, and community infrastructure; expediting procurement of Tribal response resources; and accessing state and federal disaster assistance.

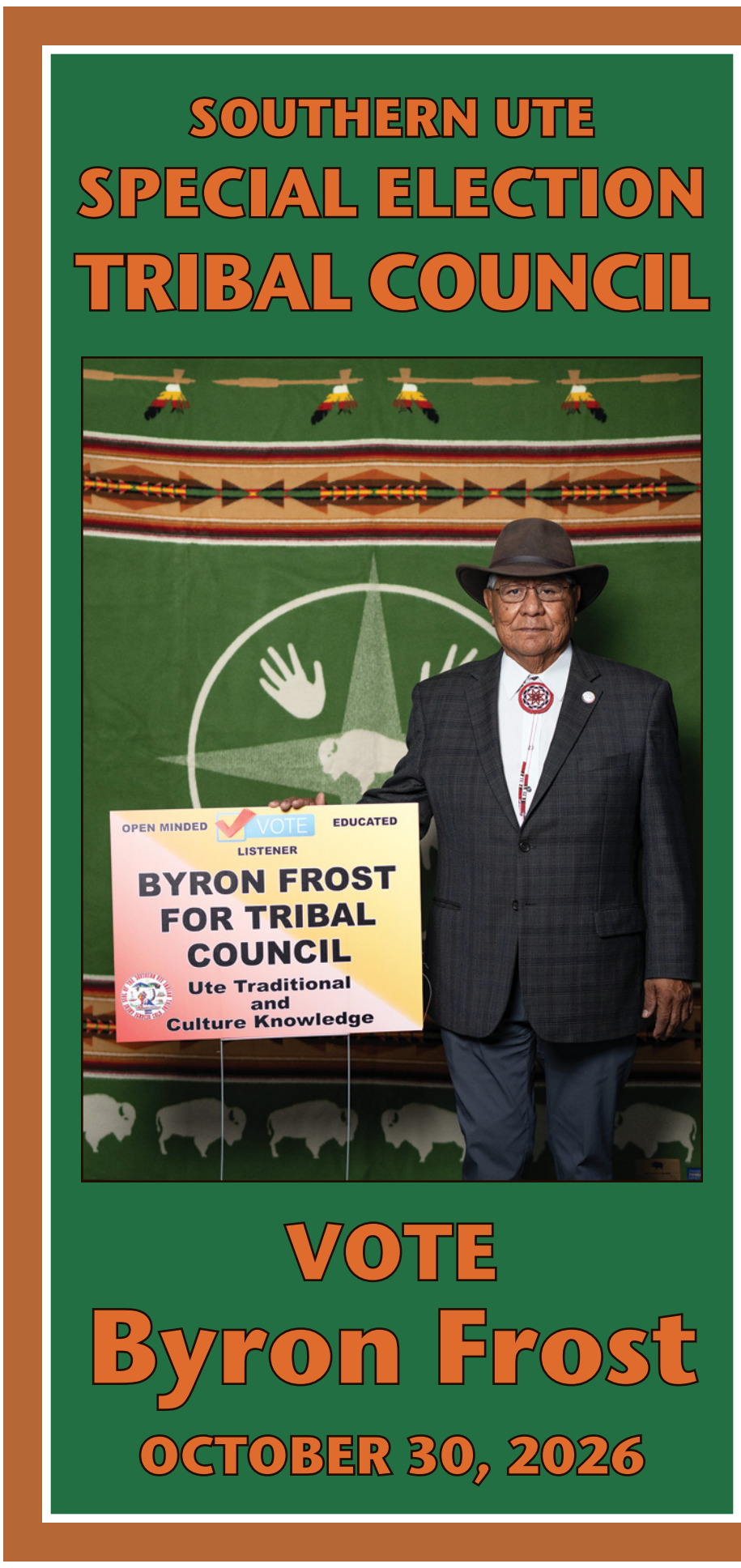
I proclaim that a State of Local Disaster exists due to significant monsoonal flooding impacts that continue to pose substantial risk to public health, safety, and community infrastructure. This Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster shall remain in effect for seven days, and if necessary, shall be replaced by a Declaration of Emergency issued by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council.

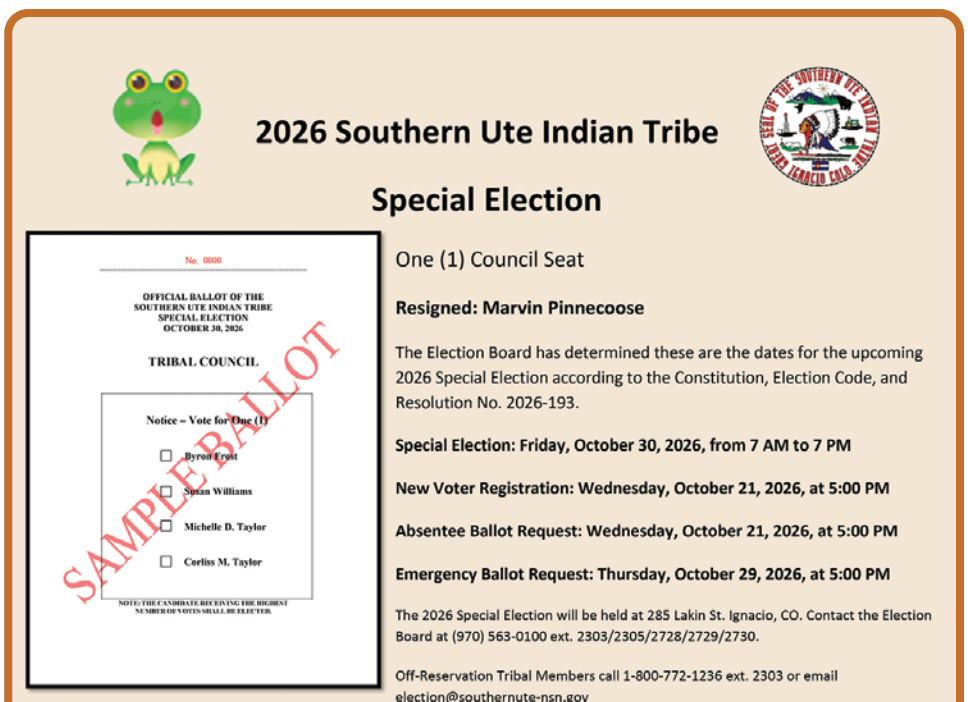
Please remain alert, use caution when traveling, do not travel through flooded roadways, and continue monitoring official Tribal communications and emergency alerts.

In the event of an emergency or to report hazardous weather condition, contact:

- Primary Contact for Emergency Calls: 970-563-4401
- Emergency Operations Center: 469-360-5696
- Emergency Calls: 911

For more information about the current weather conditions, please visit: https://www.weather.gov/







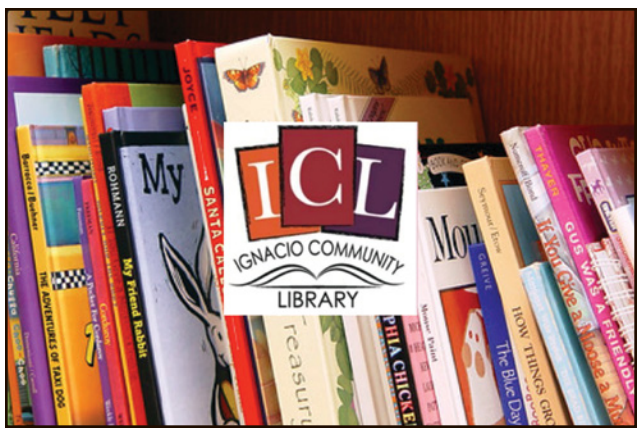




IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Weekly events at the Library

By Cheyenne Munns
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY



At the Ignacio Community Library, there's always something happening. We have a bunch of regular events every week and month that give you a reason to swing by, kick back, and hang out with your community.

Some programs let you pick up a new skill, others are hands-on projects, and some are just cozy spots to chat and feel welcome. Whether you're looking for a creative space, some social time, or just a nice place to be, you'll find it here.

- **Mondays** – Kick off your week with Ageless Grace at 10:00 a.m. at the Ignacio Senior Center. It's all about keeping your mind and body active while connecting with others. Then at 1:30 p.m., check out our Sewing Workshop – everyone's welcome, whether you're a newbie or an experienced sewist. Bring a project or just enjoy the company of fellow makers.
- **Tuesdays** – Tuesday mornings are all about creativity and fun. Storytime at 10:00 a.m. is perfect for the little ones, with stories, songs, and crafts to spark their imaginations. At 10:30 a.m., the Open Art Studio gives local artists a chance to create together in a friendly setting. And at 5 p.m., join Electronics Hour to dive into circuits, robots, computers, and all sorts of cool tech.
- **Wednesdays** – Ageless Grace is back at 10 a.m. at the Ignacio Senior Center. It's a great way to take a little time for yourself while stretching your mind and connecting with others.
- **Thursdays** – Join the ICL Knitters Group at 1 p.m. for some knitting and chatting. Bring your project, sip on a drink, and enjoy the company of fellow knitters.
- **Fridays** – Wrap up the week with Community Coffee & Donuts at 9 a.m. Stop by, grab a coffee and a donut, and relax for a bit. Sometimes, the best part about the library is just having a place where you know you're welcome.

Throughout the month, we also offer support and practical help, like the Grief Support Group, Free Legal Clinic, and Repair Café. You don't need to be a regular, and you don't have to know anyone when you walk in. Just come as you are! Ignaciolibrary.org, 970-563-9287.

LPC REMINDS OF WELL DAMAGE • FROM PAGE 1

Do Not Use Flooded Septic Systems:

For residents whose septic systems may be flooded or underwater, please do not use or add additional wastewater to the septic system. This could contribute to additional contamination of surface water and well water.

Please reach out to La Plata County Public Health with concerns about private wells and septic systems impacted by the flooding.

More information is available at www.LPCpublichealth.org.

BOTTLED WATER AND CLEAN-UP BUCKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Cases of bottled water and clean up buckets filled with various supplies are now available to families directly impacted by the recent moisture received or for those who have been displaced from their homes within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.

Please contact the Southern Ute Food Distribution Division to schedule a time to pick up supplies as needed. We want to make sure our families directly impacted are the priority.

Southern Ute Food Distribution Division
740 Goddard Avenue
Ignacio, CO 81137
(970) 563-2531

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Southern Ute Elder Services
November Activities

November 3, 2026
Scenic drive to Silverton
Lunch Provided
Van will depart Elder Services at 9:00 a.m.

November 11, 2026
Tribal Offices Closed
in observance of Veterans Day

November 14, 2026
Annual Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner
Sky Ute Casino Event Center
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November 17, 2026
Movie Day (Durango)
Van will depart Elder Services at TBD

November 24, 2026
Casino (Farmington)
Van will depart Elder Services at 10:00 a.m.

November 26 - 27, 2026
Tribal Offices Closed
Happy Thanksgiving!

Call Elder Services at 970-563-2309 to sign up for an activity or if you have any questions.

WIN UP TO $3,000!

CURSE OF CROW HOLLOW

SkyUte CASINO RESORT

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 3 – 31
HOURLY DRAWINGS: 6PM – 10PM

Choose a cursed relic to reveal cash, merchandise, Grand Prize entries or an instant $700 cash prize!
Earn one entry for every 100 points beginning at 5PM each Saturday with your Ace's Club Card.

HALLOWEEN GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS: OCTOBER 31 • 9PM
Three drawings with prizes worth up to $3,000!

Must be present to win. Must be 21 or older. Rules apply. See Ace's Club for details.

SkyUte CASINO RESORT
SkyUteCasino.com | 888.842.4180 | 14324 HWY 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

3rd Annual Uncompahgre Powwow



The Southern Ute Veterans Association and representatives from the Native American Women Warriors organization lead grand entry on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the 3rd Annual Uncompahgre Powwow.



Head Woman dancer, Jacqueline Cantsee leads intertribal dancing alongside the head man dancer. Cantsee hails from the Ute Mountain Ute and Diné nations, residing in Towaoc, Colo.



Host Southern Drum, Iron Bow of Red Rock, Okla., bring dancers to the floor with their gourd dance songs.



Miss Southern Ute, Autumn Sage, dances alongside ambassadors from the Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on Saturday afternoon. Members of royalty followed behind the Southern Ute Veterans Association during grand entry.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum



Jr. Girls Fancy shawl dancers hit the floor for exhibition on Friday evening, showcasing the speed, footwork, and agility to the crowd at the Uncompahgre Powwow hosted by WSNARC and the Ute Indian Museum.

Hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center (WSNARC) & the Ute Indian Museum, the 3rd Annual Uncompahgre Powwow filled the Montrose County Event Center on Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17. Members of the three Ute tribes traveled to Montrose to enjoy this year's traditional style event – this powwow featured many vendors, door prizes, dance specials, and fun games for all. Head staff included; Freeman Pinnecoose, Jacqueline Cantsee, and Darwin Whiteman.



Women's Traditional dancers come into the Montrose Event Center arena on Saturday afternoon for the third session grand entry. Ladies wear their traditional regalia from their respective tribal nations and regions.



Gourd dancers honor head singer of Iron Bow, the host southern drum for the weekend during the Saturday afternoon session. Members of the Southern Ute Veterans Association dance alongside the honoree.



Drum group, Iron Colt, bring in dancers for grand entry on Saturday afternoon – the Iron Colt singers hail from Red Mesa, Utah sharing their songs at the event in Montrose, Colo.

SOUTHERN UTE WATER RESOURCES

Drought Update: Precipitation events and information

Staff report
Southern Ute Water Resources Division

The Water Resources Division (WRD) is providing the community with the following Drought Update. Below is a summary of the latest precipitation events and information on current Drought conditions and Weather Outlooks.

PRECIPITATION

In Calendar Year 2026, the rain gage at the WRD office has collected 16.85" of precipitation as of 8 a.m. on Oct. 22.

With the significant precipitation events that started Sept. 14, our region has received a lot of moisture. Figure 2 shows the same rain gages for Sept. 14 – Oct. 22. The WRD office rain gage collected 11.04 inches of rain from Sept. 14 – Oct. 22. For comparison, the average annual precipitation for Ignacio, CO is about 14 inches. Keep in mind, there's more rain headed our way.

The recent rains have led to an interesting year for our rivers. Typically, Spring runoff yields the highest flows of the year in our rivers. However, the recent rains have resulted in much higher peak flows in most of our rivers compared to the Spring runoff earlier this year. After a very hot and dry year, our region needed these rains and they have helped provide the region with some much-needed moisture and increasing reservoir storage going into Winter.

Before our region received these precipitation events, our local reservoirs were very low. Table 1 below shows increases in reservoir storage amounts as a result of these past events. There is more rain forecasted, so these reservoir levels will continue to increase.

Additional significant precipitation is forecasted through Oct. 25.

DROUGHT

Our region has been in drought conditions the entire year. However, the past rain events helped reduce drought conditions. Figure 4 below shows the state of Colorado drought conditions as of Oct. 20, 2026. Keep in mind, these are drought conditions before the Oct. 21 – Oct. 25, rain events, so the next release of Drought Monitor maps will likely be even better.

Drought conditions have improved in our area a lot since June (Figure 5). Most of our area is in drought conditions ranging from moderate to no drought. With more precipitation forecasted, drought conditions will likely continue to improve.

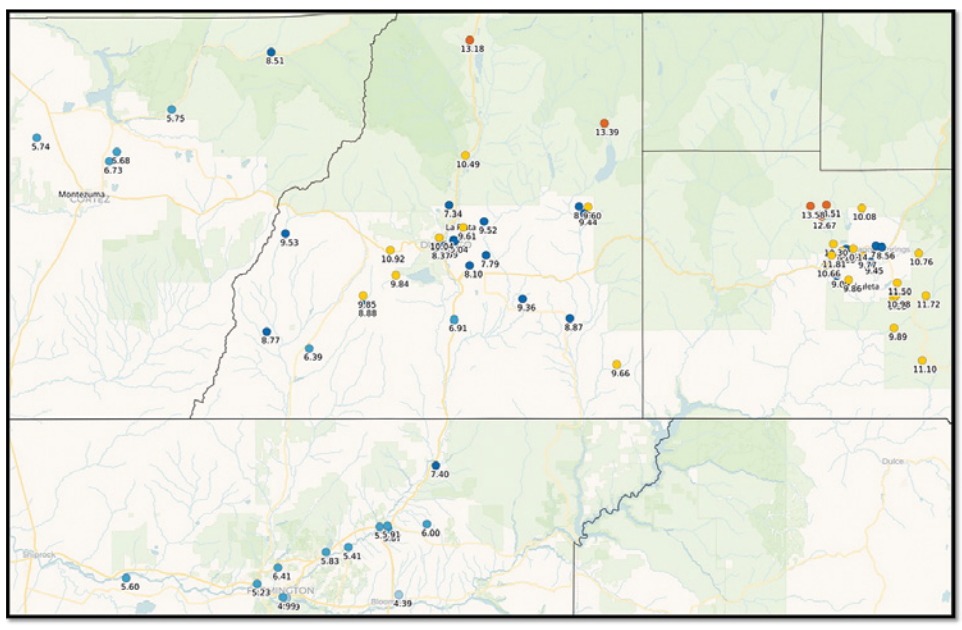
OUTLOOKS

Figure 6 shows the NOAA precipitation and temperature forecasts for November-December-January. These figures show southwest CO likely having normal precipitation and temperatures. However, NOAA's precipitation forecast for Dec-Jan-Feb is showing a high probability of above-average precipitation.

Figure 8 is the US Seasonal Drought Outlook for 10/15/2026 to 1/31/2027 and it shows much of Colorado having drought conditions improving or even being removed.

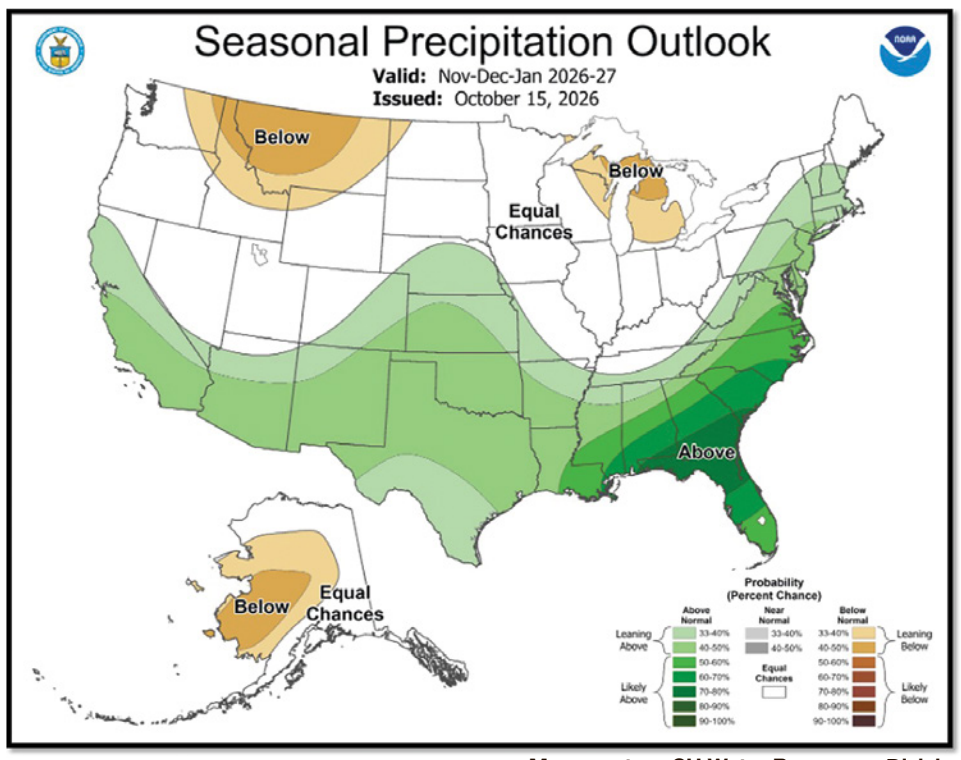
To summarize, southwest Colorado and the Southern Ute Indian Reservation have received significant rainfall over the last 5-6 weeks which provided a much-needed increase to local reservoir storage levels and soil moisture benefiting the entire region. The recent precipitation improved drought conditions across the State, and NOAA currently forecasts the beginning of Winter 26/27 to have average temperatures with slightly above-average precipitation for southwest Colorado. The WRD will continue to monitor drought conditions and update the community periodically.

If you'd like more information regarding the recent storms, drought, outlooks, etc., please reach out to the WRD at 970-563-2930.



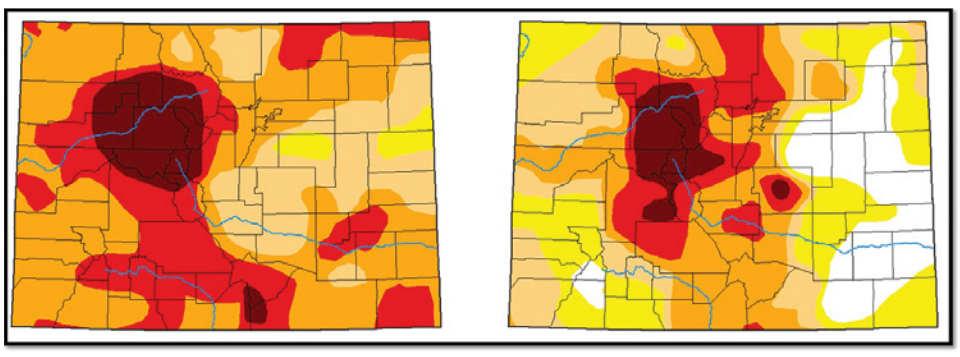
Map courtesy SU Water Resources Division

Figure 2. CoCoRaHS map with regional rain gage stations showing accumulated precipitation for Period of Record Sept. 14, 2026 – Oct. 22, 2026.



Map courtesy SU Water Resources Division

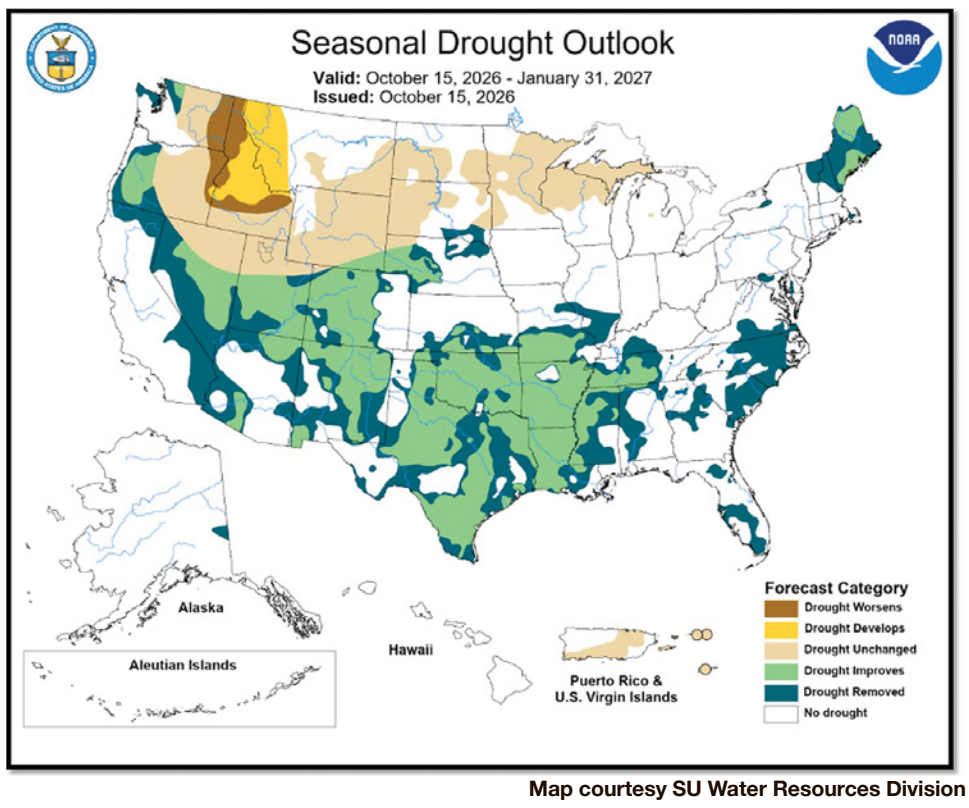
Figure 6. Precipitation Outlook for Nov., Dec., and Jan.



Maps courtesy SU Water Resources Division

Figure 5. Colorado drought condition comparison from June 16. 2026 to Oct. 20, 2026.

Storage increases for local reservoirs			
Reservoir	**Vallecito**	**Lemon**	**Navajo**
Before Storms (Sept. 13, 2026)	26,911 AF (22%)	12,830 AF (32%)	777,777 AF (47%)
Current storage (Oct, 22 at 8 a.m.)	88,302 AF (70%)	27,890 AF (70%)	890,262 (54%)
Amount increased from rain/inflows	61,391 AF (48%)	15,060 AF (38%)	84,294 AF (7%)
Elevation increase	32 ft.	37 ft.	12 ft.



Map courtesy SU Water Resources Division

Figure 8. U.S. Drought outlook through Jan. 31, 2027.

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.

ATTENTION

Pine River Indian Irrigation Project

FALL WATER USERS MEETING

Sky Ute Casino

Wednesday November 18, 2026

06:00pm – 08:00pm

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Branch of Irrigation

Southern Ute Agency

For more information call

970- 759-6429

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

IGNACIO BOBCATS 2026 Homecoming Royalty



Seniors William Mendoza-Lechuga (second from right) and Lily Quintana were named Ignacio High School's 2026 Homecoming King and Queen during halftime of Bobcat Football's game Friday night, Oct. 16, versus Trinidad.



Seniors Vaughn Lee (5) and Lainee Bradley were named Ignacio High School's 2026 Homecoming Royalty First Attendants during halftime of Bobcat Football's game Friday night, Oct. 16, versus Trinidad.



Seniors Nick Lorenzini (second from right) and Maliyah Martinez were named Ignacio High School's 2026 Homecoming Royalty Second Attendants during halftime of Bobcat Football's game Friday night, Oct. 16, versus Trinidad.



Joseph Atencio (second from right) and Preslie Montgomery were named Ignacio High School's 2026 Homecoming Junior Prince and Princess during halftime of Bobcat Football's game Friday night, Oct. 16, versus Trinidad.



Stephen Romero (13) and Neeka Howe were named Ignacio High School's 2026 Homecoming Royalty Sophomore Prince and Princess during halftime of Bobcat Football's game Friday night, Oct. 16, versus Trinidad.



Tristyn Price (53) and Amelia Collins were named Ignacio High School's 2026 Homecoming Royalty Freshman Prince and Princess during halftime of Bobcat Football's game Friday night, Oct.16, versus Trinidad.

Photos by Joel Priest
Special to the Southern Ute Drum

A BOBCATS' HOMECOMING!



The Ignacio community gathered on Goddard Ave. in celebration of the Ignacio High School Homecoming on Thursday, Oct. 15 to watch the Homecoming Parade. Ignacio Elementary students fill a float as they cheer on their older bobcat students ahead of the Friday Night Lights football event.



Ignacio Seniors show their school pride as they ride through town during the Homecoming Parade on Thursday, Oct. 15. Senior, Thunder Windy Boy waves the bobcat class flag on Thursday afternoon.





Southern Ute tribal member, Neeka Howe, is named Sophomore Royalty for this year's homecoming events. Howe sits atop her father's vehicle as she waves to students, families, and community members.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum

Ignacio High School's senior class of 2027 (left), waves to the crowd, cheer, show off banners and signs – showcasing their school spirit during the Ignacio Homecoming Parade on Thursday afternoon. The senior class also handed out candy, necklaces, t-shirts, and other swag as they rode down Goddard ave.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Zackariah Loudenburg (16) passes toward the end zone while under serious pressure during the second half of the Bobcats' 41-14 home loss Friday night, Oct. 16, to Trinidad. Loudenburg threw for two TDs in defeat, and was not intercepted for the second straight contest.

BOBCATS FOOTBALL

Trinidad takes down Ignacio, 41-14

'Cats ready to end season hosting Centauri

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

While in pursuit of a fumbled snap, Ignacio's Tyce Nossaman sacks Trinidad quarterback Leland Roybal for a large loss during IHS' 41-14 home loss Friday night, Oct. 16.

Fortunate to have not made a disastrous mistake the previous play, Zackariah Loudenburg made one of the quickest, sharpest adjustments any Bobcat to date had, and then punctuated Ignacio's most perfectly-executed possession Friday night, Oct. 16, at IHS Field.

Including recently-reactivated senior wide receiver Shaun Sanderson's 19-yard return of the second-half kickoff, setting the 'Cats up at their own 36-yard line, Loudenburg led the home team all the way downfield to Trinidad's 11, when a pass play targeting Sanderson was called. Loudenburg dropped back and, with a Trinidad defender bearing down, passed towards the end zone close to IHS' sideline.

Miner defensive back Anthony Garduno, however, jumped the route perfectly and appeared set to make not only the interception, but then return it 94 yards for a crowd-silencing, mercy rule-enacting touchdown. Likely sensing all of that, and seeing nothing but green turf ahead, the freshman dropped the football before fully gaining control – and gave Ignacio a second chance to get on the scoreboard.

Lining up in a similar formation, Loudenburg looked for Sanderson to instead cut his route in. Seeing Sanderson had done so, Loudenburg ignored THS' pass rush and threw a dart which Sanderson easily snared and took into the end zone, capping a 14-play, 64-yard march which, including Sanderson's kickoff return, devoured the third quarter's initial 8 minutes, 38 seconds. Loudenburg himself then plowed through the line to add the two-point conversion, trimming Trinidad's lead down to 35-8 and reinvigorated the Bobcats.

"You know, it gave us some confidence back that ... we could do it," said Loudenburg, who faked a punt during the drive and flipped a saving 20-yard pass to Sanderson. "We're right there, you know, and it just felt good to be able to make a drive finally – it feels like we're making some progress."

Able to overcome not one, but two catastrophic snaps missing freshman QB Leland Roybal, the Miners responded with a 53-yard push consuming the last 3:22 of the third quarter and the first 0:58 of the fourth, and Roybal hit freshman Tyson Imes from 22 yards out for the score. Senior Curtis Bueno's point-after kick, however, failed, leaving the score 41-8 with 11:02 left in regulation.

After THS kicked off, the

Trinidad *page 20*



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Catori Aasland (21) lets out a triumphant shout after downing the match-clinching kill Wednesday evening, Oct. 21, against Ouray inside IHS Gymnasium. The Volleycats swept OHS in three sets, after IHS' JV – featuring Aasland – prevailed 25-13, 25-8.

BOCATS VOLLEYBALL

'Cats crush Ouray on Senior Night

IHS wraps up league work with sweep

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Illness had greatly slowed any progress the Lady Trojans had made prior to their postponed October 17 trip to Ignacio.

Fatigue from a five-set battle versus similarly-struggling Norwood on the 20th likely drained boss Brian McDowell's bunch even more. And Mother Nature then chose to get involved, lengthening Ouray's rescheduled drive over snow-prone Red Mountain, Molas and Coal Bank Passes on the 21st to an expectant IHS Gymnasium.

Where a fierce foe couldn't wait to finally suit up for its designated Senior Night match, and finish off its opposition as quickly and/or humanely as possible. At least that was how it appeared when IHS senior Kelly Sirios got to the service line after OHS sophomore Addison Disser initially served, but a teammate then committed a net violation denying Disser another try.

Sirios then aced OHS sophomore Mikayla Hirt twice in a row, senior Maliyah Martinez ripped a kill off sophomore Jessa Paul's block, and junior Alleah Neil followed with a menacing kill of Sirios' perfect



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio senior Lily Quintana passes a tricky Ouray serve towards front-row teammates during the Volleycats' three-set sweep of OHS Wednesday evening, Oct. 21, inside IHS Gymnasium.

quick set. Sirios then aced Hirt twice more, and McDowell burned a merciful timeout with Ouray trailing 8-0 in Set 3.

But Neil followed with a kill through junior Payton Easley's block, Sirios aced Hirt yet again, and by the time Ignacio junior Amiyah Martinez floated a back-row kill out of bounds, the Volleycats' lead had ballooned to a demoralizing 15-0. The Lady Trojans wouldn't score

'Cats *page 20*







FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Early Cut-Off For Minors Birthday Distributions

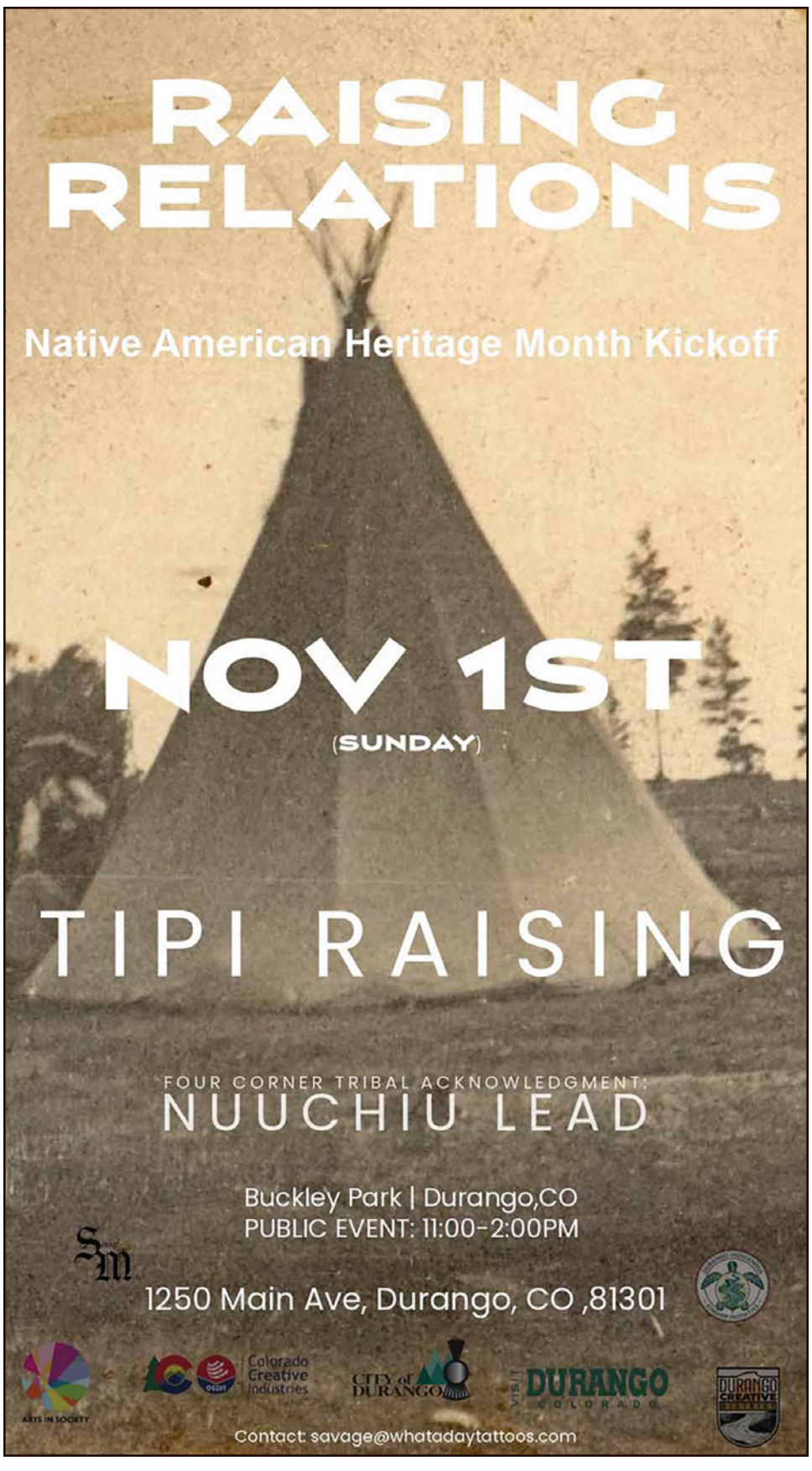
Requests received after the published cut off will be processed the following week – please contact Anne Flanigan, 970-563-2454, aflanigan@southernute-nsn.gov if you have questions or want to make a withdrawal.

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.*

Correction

In a photo published in the Oct. 16 issue of the Drum, "Richards recognized in soccer" Armando Richards was misidentified as Jesse Vega.



EOC GROUP RESPONDS TO FLOOD • FROM PAGE 1



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Executive Officer, Tyson Thompson made a trip to County Road 500 on Wednesday, Oct. 28 to receive updates on flood impact and view damage repair progress.

formation out as quick as we can, so please remain patient with the process – but if you need immediate assistance or have direct questions, feel free to call me or our EOC team through the Southern Ute Police Department."

Leonard Redhorse III is the Director of the Justice and Regulatory Department; he is also serving in the capacity of Incident Commander Primary alongside Emmanuel Lewis as a trainee. "The EOC went active on Friday, Oct. 23, based on monsoonal rains that were affecting tribal membership along the Highway 151 corridor, in addition to those tribal members that were experiencing water damage to their residence. Coordinating with our county level partners as a central response coordination – all of the resources of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe are actively involved in what we are doing as a response group for the Tribe in regard to the event that we are experiencing. We have also included our external partners, whether its Archuleta County, La Plata County, interfacing with our partners south of us, federal partners at the [Bureau of Indian Affairs], in addition to forestry, they are all included in the discussions." Redhorse III said.

"The collaboration effort is a significant web interaction, exchange of information, and decision making all coming out from the needs to benefit the Southern Ute tribal membership. I would like the tribal membership to know is that the EOC have come together as a community – they have created the expectation of providing public safety services that ensure the safety of the membership, while also providing remediation for the long term, I do believe that the unity of the community is really shown in the support that we're seeing within the positive feedback."

As we gear up for this upcoming storm, Executive Officer Tyson Thompson urges the community to remain safe and take all necessary precautions. "During these events, please do your best to not make yourself a subject of our emergency responses – be mindful of where you are traveling, a lot of our mountain areas are impacted. We have resources available for our tribal members, I urge them to take advantage of that but if you don't need it, please save the resource for someone who does."

In the official public service announcement, Chairman Christine Sage shares, "please remain alert, use caution when traveling, do not travel through flooded roadways, and continue monitoring official Tribal communication and emergency alerts".

For more information or immediate emergency assistance please contact the following:

- Primary contact for non-emergency calls: 970-563-4401
- Emergency Operations Center: 469-360-5696
- Emergency Calls: 911



Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Nov. 13

Deadline:
Nov. 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission (Commission) will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Justice & Regulatory Administration Building – EPD Large Conference Room located at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137. The draft agenda includes a Call to Order/ Introductions, New Business, Tribal Air Quality Division Updates, CDPHE Updates, Open Discussion/Questions, Public Comment, and the Scheduling of the Next Commission Meeting. For more information on the meeting, how to attend virtually, or to obtain a copy of the meeting agenda please contact Ms. Angelina Miller, Air Quality Scientist II-Planner at 970-563-2258 or visit the Commission website at: https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/justice-and-regulatory/epd/air-quality/env-commission/



Multi-Purpose Facility November Events

Senior Breakfast – Wednesday November 4, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Holiday Cooking – Tuesday November 17, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sip, Chat & Chew – Friday November 20, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Indoor Yard Sale – Saturday November 21, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Pie Making Workshop – Tuesday November 24, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Special Events

"We are Ute" - Celebrating our Heritage at the November
Sip, Chat & Chew - Sponsored by the Southern Ute Growth Fund
Elder Committee Meeting – Monday November 2, 9:00 AM
Veterans Community Pow Wow – Saturday & Sunday November 7 & 8 Ignacio High School
Thanksgiving Arts & Crafts Fair – Saturday & Sunday November 14 & 15 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

MPF November Closures

Wednesday November 11 – Veterans Day
Thursday & Friday November 26 & 27, for Thanksgiving

Events are subject to change- Please watch for announcements

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

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

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

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.

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 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 970-563-0130.

SOCOCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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!

ELHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELHI is seeking a new board member - would you like to help lead this organization into the future? Work in partnership with the Town of Ignacio, and the Southern Ute Tribe? Advocate for ELHI tenants and the services they provide to the community? Please contact the ELHI at the phone number or email address above, drop by during business hours, or speak to a current board member.



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





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.



Southern Ute Utilities Division
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

NOVEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
NOV. 11TH VETERANS DAY- CLOSED
NOV. 26TH THANKSGIVING- CLOSED
NOV. 27TH DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING- OPEN
DEC 10TH- 11TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY- CLOSED
DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS- CLOSED

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

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8 AM to 5 PM
Lobby closed 12p-1p on Fridays
Reach a staff member at
(970) 563-5500
Utilities Division Manager, Julian Baker
AP/AR Manager, Wahleah Frost

PAYMENT OPTIONS
- Online at www.suitutil.com
- Utilities Drive-Up Window or Drop Box
- Wells Fargo- Ignacio Branch
- Automatic Deductions at Tribal Distribution
- Mail- Make payable to "Southern Ute Utilities Division"
- Over the Phone- Call Office at 970-563-5500

Monthly Shut-Off Day is the first Wednesday of each month
November 4th / December 2nd / January 6th
Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments *BEFORE* 10 am on Shut-Off Day

Transfer Station Reminders
- PLEASE BAG ALL HOUSEHOLD TRASH.
- ALL CHEMICALS MUST BE PROPERLY LABELED & SEALED.
- HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE TRASH ONLY.
- NO CAR PARTS - TIRES ETC.
- PLEASE HANG TRASH PERMIT ON YOUR VEHICLE'S MIRROR TO ENSURE IT IS CLEARLY. VISIBLE & UP-TO-DATE WHEN DUMPING AT THE TRANSFER STATION.
- TRASH CONTAINERS MUST BE OUT BY 6 A.M. THE MORNING OF TRASH DAY.
- CUSTOMERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING TRASH CONTAINERS.
- BURN PILE IS PERMANENTLY CLOSED.
- TRANSFER STATION ALLOWS 5 CUBIC YARDS PER WEEK (TOP OF CAB ON STANDARD SIZED TRUCK BED)

BEAR RESISTANT TRASH CONTAINERS AVAILABLE

Natural Gas/Water System Maintenance
Gas & Water system maintenance activities resume. Utility staff will be working near gas & water meters throughout the service area. Please help ensure safe access by keeping area around your meters clear.

Sewer Line Replacement Project
Work continues near the Piinu Nuuchi Travel Center area (Weather Permitting). Please use caution & remain aware of construction equipment operating along Highway 172 throughout the project area.
Thank you for your patience!

IMPORTANT!
Before planting a tree, please consider its location. Do not plant trees on or near utility lines, utility boxes, or meters to help ensure safe access for maintenance and prevent damage to utility infrastructures.

Thanksgiving Water Haul Schedule
In honor of Thanksgiving, Water Haul deliveries scheduled for **Wednesday, November 25,** and **Thursday, November 26,** will occur *one day earlier* than normal. Deliveries scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Friday of Thanksgiving week will remain on their regular schedule.

Shoshone Waterline Replacement Project.
As construction continues, Residents from Rattesnake Hill to Ignacio Peak may experience temporary construction traffic, noise, and occasional access restrictions during the project. We appreciate your patience as we work to improve our water infrastructure.

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



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

Early Childhood Teacher
Closes 11/3/26 – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Responsible for communicating effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade N9; Pay is $21.48/hour.

Health & Safety Specialist
Closes 10/30/26 – Under the direction of the Risk Manager, manages and oversees the planning, design, and development of an occupational safety program to provide a safe and healthy workplace for employees and to reduce work-related injuries and accidents. Pay grade E14; Pay is $68,004/annually.

Public Education Teacher – High School
Closes 11/2/26 – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Education Center. A teacher in this position teaches/tutors Southern Ute and/or Johnson O'Malley Program students in the High School during and after school throughout the school year. The teacher also designs and implements summer enrichment programs, performing student instruction and supervision, managing the programs and reviewing their success. This position is based on a regular work year (261 days). Pay grade E14; Pay is $68,004/annually.

Public Health Nurse
Closes 11/2/26 – A Registered Nurse position responsible for providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N16; Pay is $39.56/hour.

Recording Secretary
Closes 11/5/26 – Takes minutes and transcribes both regular and special council sessions, which also includes Council work session notes and provides support to the Executive Office Manager of the Tribal Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Tribal Council. Pay grade N9; Pay is $21.48/hour.

Referral Coordinator
Closes 10/30/26 – Referral Coordinator maintains ongoing tracking of patient referrals for in-house/outsourced services, ensures that referrals are addressed in a timely manner, keeps physicians updated with accurate documentation in system, sets up appointments, maintains insurance authorization, ensures complete and accurate registration, demographics, and current patient insurance. Pay grade N9; Pay is $21.48/hour.

Substance Abuse Therapist
Closes 11/5/26 – Under general supervision of the Lead Therapist, provides behavioral health treatment, including mental health, substance abuse, and dual diagnosis in accordance with all applicable code, laws, policies, guidelines, and any grant requirements. Pay grant funded and continued employment is contingent upon the availability of grant funding. Pay grade E15; Pay is $74,804/annually.

Administrative Assistant II (Southern Ute tribal members only)
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) and Directors of Investment, performs administrative, clerical, and a wide variety of office support for Permanent Fund Investments. Pay grade N9; Pay is $21.48/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 is $17.05/hour.

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 is $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.

Custodian
Open Until Filled – Daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; Pay is $17.05/hour.

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 is $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.

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; 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; 4ay 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; 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 is $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 is $15.79/hour. $250 Sign-On Bonus.

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; the 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 is $35.96/hour.

Receptionist
Open Until Filled – 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.

Reporter/Videographer (Southern Ute tribal members 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 is $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; 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.

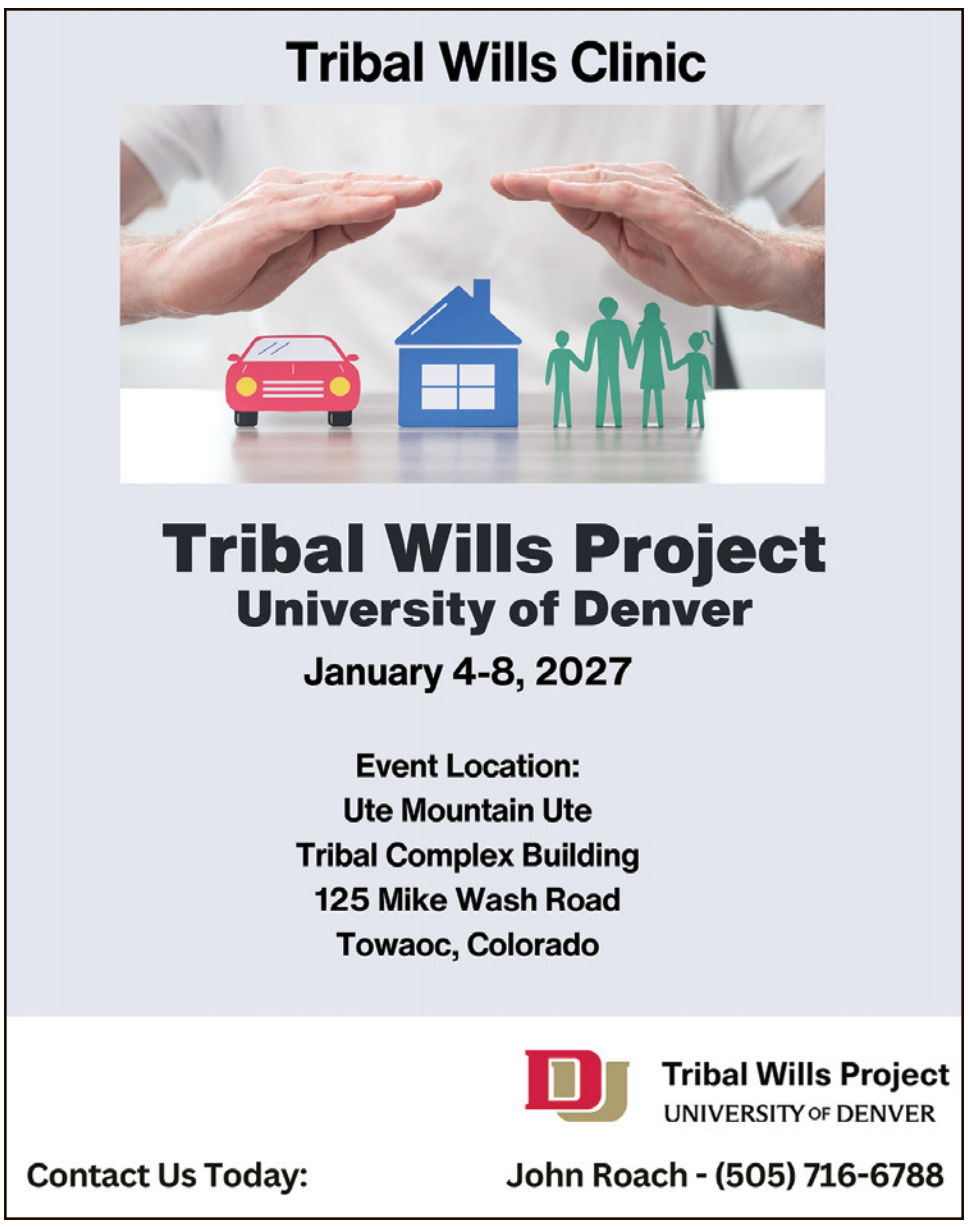
Swimming Instructor
Open Until Filled – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the Sun-Ute aquatics facility. Responsible for preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated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

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.





Southern Ute Tribe • Job announcements (cont.)

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

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

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

Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

Visit our website at www.skyutecasino.com 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.***

***Assistant Hotel Manager (Full-time)**
Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the hotel and reports to the Hotel Manager. Ensures exceptional guest service, efficient hotel operations, regulatory compliance, optimizing revenue, and helping to manage the retail and RV operations. Serves as a leader for front desk, reservations, guest services, and other hotel operations while maintaining a positive guest experience and supporting the casino's overall hospitality goals.

***Bell Person (Full-time)**
Will be mainly responsible for assisting our Casino guests upon check-in and check-out and throughout their stay under the direction of the Rooms Division Manager. Assistance may include but not limited to luggage assistance, directions/maps, providing our guest at Sky Ute Casino Resort with a warm welcome, helping the front desk with daily operations, including checking guests in/out, assisting with retail operations, driving guests to/from the airport, and assisting with phones as needed.

***Cafe Cashier (Full-time)**
Responsible for 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.

***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.

***Front Desk Associate (Full-time)**
Responsible for 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.

***Project Technician (Full-time)**
Responsible for supporting special cleaning, restoration, renovation, and maintenance-related projects throughout the casino property. Works closely with the Housekeeping Department to ensure guest areas, restaurants, banquet rooms, back-of-house locations, hotel rooms, and other facility areas maintain the highest standards of cleanliness, appearance, and safety. Performs deep-cleaning assignments, floor care, minor repairs, furniture moves, and project-based tasks that enhance the overall guest experience and property presentation. Reports directly to the Housekeeping Manager.

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

***Rolling Thunder Grill Line Cook (Full-time)**
Works under direct supervision of Lead Cook. Responsible for the preparation of the menu and is accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness. High school diploma or equivalency preferred.

***Room Attendant (Full-time)**
Responsible for thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Duties include 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.

***SevenRivers 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)**
Responsible for 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.

***Surveillance Agent II (Full-time)**
Responsible for ensuring a safe and secure environment for Casino customers and employees by observing, reporting, and recording gaming and non-gaming activity using surveillance equipment to abide by all procedures, gaming regulations, and policies and protect the Southern Ute tribal assets from illegal and questionable activities.

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/hr. – $25.31/hr., DOE

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

Road Runner Transit
- Transit Driver (Full-time) $19.29/hr.
- ICB Driver (Part-time/Weekends) $23.11/hr.

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

Revenue Accounting Supervisor – Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 11/6/26 – Supervising the revenue accounting functions including the timely payment of all royalties, working interest payment and taxes, and the maintenance of accurate records and reports as well as the recording of transactions into the general ledger that pertains to the revenue accounting function.

Senior Division Order Analyst – Red Willow (Ignacio, CO)
Closes 11/6/26 – Obtaining and maintaining orderly and accurate land and division order records, including all related documents and contracts, for all Red Willow interest properties, both operated and non-operated. Advises all other departments of changes related to Red Willow holdings. Works with Red Willow landmen and partners to obtain and maintain accurate records. Works independently and trains lower-level DOAs.

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
- High School Baseball Head
- High School Baseball Head Assistant Coach
- Mid-School Girls Basketball Assistant Coach
- Secondary SpEd Paraprofessional







Trinidad takes down Ignacio • from page 14

'Cats went back to work from their own 39 with 10:52 remaining and again engineered a scoring drive. A much faster one, at that; senior Brandon Blevins (13-44 rushing) carried for a yard, then Sanderson took a handoff 18 yards to THS' 42. The Miners called timeout, but Loudenburg then fired between two defenders to Sanderson, who then legged out the last 25 or so yards of the 42-yard TD strike.

"Recovery was a long process," said Sanderson, who'd been sidelined by injury since IHS' season-opening loss at Montezuma-Cortez. "I tried to pick it up a bit but I'm a little rusty still. But it felt good to be back; tonight I already topped my 'record' for touchdowns in a season – definitely a good feeling."

Loudenburg's two-point pass went incomplete, and neither side managed to add any more points – Bueno missed a 32-yard field goal try with 6:56 to go – within the final 9:28 of what ended up being a 41-14 Trinidad victory. The 'Cats nearly struck again during the final minute, but Loudenburg's last-ditch heave fell just short of a seated Blevins' fingertips at the goal line and, with 0:37.7 left, ended a promising 10-play drive begun at Ignacio's 47 with 3:40 remaining.

THS junior running back Cisco Sandoval carried just twice after intermission, gaining 27 yards, but finished with a devastating 213 yards rushing. 162 of those came during the first quarter, in which he logged TDs of 7 (with 8:36 left), 37 (1:44 left) and 79 (0:16.5 left) yards.

After his longest run, which increased the Miners' early lead to 22-0 (after Bueno's PAT), Trinidad recovered a squibbed kickoff at IHS' 45 with 11.9 ticks still left in the first quarter, and senior Andrew East then broke off a 45-yard TD run. Fortunately for the 'Cats, a holding penalty during the play negated the score and reduced East's net gain to just six yards.

Injured after reaching Ignacio's 10 two plays into the second quarter, East would leave the field but THS (2-5 overall, 1-3 1A Southern) managed to complete the drive with a 4-yard Sandoval carry. Bueno's PAT missed, but with a 28-0 advantage and just 9:05 left until halftime, the Miners were well on their way to earning a road win.

Looking ahead, Ignacio (0-7, 0-4) will wrap up its 2026 campaign hosting La Jara-based Centauri at 7 p.m. Friday, October 30.

"We definitely were short on skill positions, when it came to DBs and offense," Sanderson (6-93 receiving; 4-18 rushing) said, "but I think this was, like, the best game we've played all season. And with Keyon (Alston) and a couple other people back ... we'll have a better shot."

"Confidence level's pretty good," said Loudenburg (9 comp., 105 yds. passing, 0 INT). "I feel as long as we get a few players back ... we'll be able to give them a run for their money."

WET WEATHER SCRUBS BAYFIELD TRIP

The Bobcats had been slated to visit Bayfield for a 7 p.m. showdown Thursday night, October 22. As that week's weather worsened drastically, however, the Pine River Rivalry clash was initially postponed until noon the following day. But with near-nonstop rainfall continually intensifying and flooding in and around both towns becoming an extreme concern, the game was scratched altogether from the teams' schedules. As of Monday morning, October 26, there had been no further update regarding the no-contest.

"Ignacio has canceled all activities for Friday, October 23, due to flooding. As a result, our varsity football game against Ignacio and senior recognition scheduled for noon Friday have been canceled," read BHS athletic director Andy Duffy's e-mail. "We will share an update regarding senior recognition [IHS-BHS was to be the Wolverines' Senior Night game] once arrangements have been finalized. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as both communities navigate these weather conditions. Please stay safe."

Fortunate to temporarily flee the also-flooded San Luis Valley, Centauri (6-2 overall, 5-0 1A Southern) went east on the 24th to Trinidad and won 32-8. Beaten 47-6 at home by CHS earlier this season, Bayfield will likely finish '26 standing 2-6 overall, 1-4 in conference.

'Cats crush Ouray • from page 14

again until after a Martinez tip, assisted by senior Tarah Baker, increased the advantage to 21-0. Martinez then served long, but Ignacio would reach match point, 24-4, with a line kill by senior Lainee Bradley.

Match point was then something out of the Volleycats' dreams, particularly for the fact that it featured a senior seldom seen on IHS' varsity. Prominent on the JV roster, however, Catori Aasland closed out the contest with a Sirios-assisted kill, made possible first by senior Lily Quintana's diving dig, and then Sirios' play-saving, circus-style smack of the ball as it bounced out of the net. OHS failed to finish the rally, and after the 'Cats recomposed themselves, Sirios teed up Aasland for a spike into OHS' center.

"We were so pumped for Catori. She has so much heart and she's been working really hard, you know, for four years," said Ignacio head coach Jennifer Seibel. "She's a big net presence, and she'd worked her butt off all year ... to get that last kill."

"I got my seniors in when I could, they were super-focused and finished the game together – which was really special."

"We all put our hearts out on the court," Sirios said. "We've known each other since sixth grade, so we're not really playing for ourselves but playing for each other. I love these girls and ... we all let our tears out before the game; once the game started, we were locked-in. It was fun."

The 25-12, 25-13, 25-4 sweep improved IHS – which stood No. 11 in the CHSAA/MaxPreps Class 2A rankings – to 14-3 overall, 7-1 in 2A/1A San Juan Basin League action; 1A Ouray dropped to 2-16, 1-7 as both teams then started turning their respective, yet collective attention to the 10/23-24 Rye Invitational both were to attend.

"We're focused on one more game, and we'll focus on the next thing and the next," said Reggi Gustafson, another of IHS' seven seniors. "To just see our connection ... through a sport that we love the most – and it's not only that we love playing with each other, but we love seeing each other in the halls – it's amazing. We're so comfortable and trust each other so much with everything."

Bradley finished with nine kills against OHS and Neil totaled eight. Maliyah Martinez finished with six kills, Gustafson four and Sirios five, to go along with her 27 assists and 11 aces. Bradley came up with five digs, while Quintana and Baker were each credited with four.

Unfortunately, weather and widespread flooding locally prevented the 'Cats from traveling out to Rye (the Lady Trojans, however, were able to), meaning Ignacio will next see action on the 30th and 31st and begin postseason play in a 2026-revived SJBL Tournament.

"We'll limit our errors, get down to business and, honestly, have fun!" said Seibel. "Elevate for what's to come, you know? And just keep working."

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Oct. 30



Partly sunny 63°F

Chance of precipitation 10%

Halloween, Oct. 31



Partly sunny 56°F

Chance of precipitation 60%

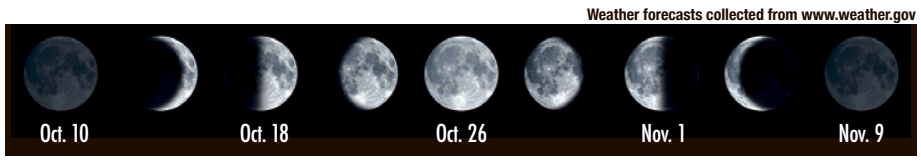
Sunday, Nov. 1



Cloudy 49°F

Showers, t-storms after noon

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov



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.

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The 2026 First Descendant Antlerless Elk Hunt

The First Descendant Antlerless Elk Hunt is a limited-draw hunt held from December 1st – December 31st, 2026, on the Southern Ute Reservation. There will be only ten permits allotted for this hunt.

Important Information

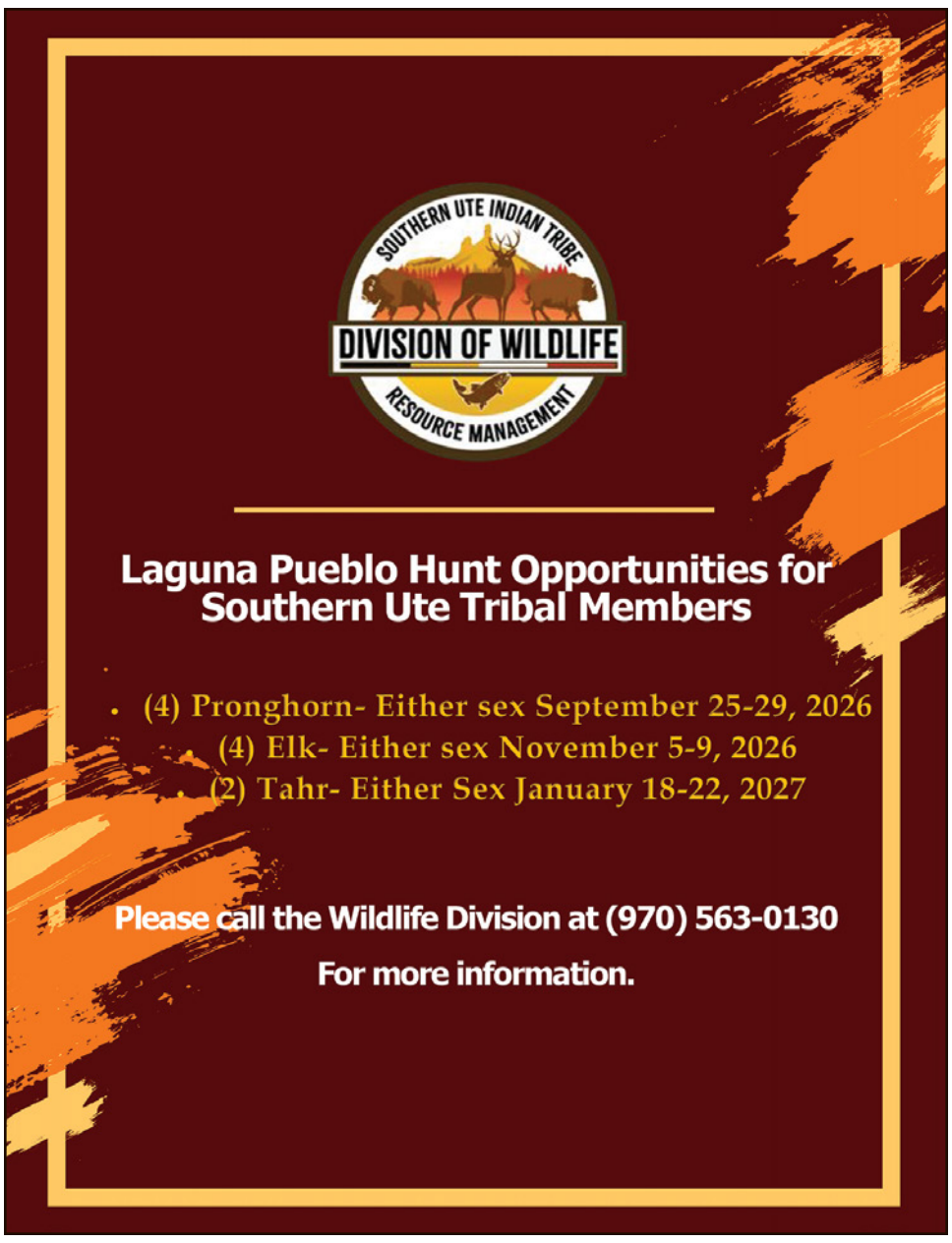
- All hunters must comply with all rules set forth in the Southern Ute Reservation Hunting Proclamation.
- Permitted 1st Descendants are only allowed to hunt on tribal trust lands within the exterior boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Access permission must be obtained to hunt on tribal land assignments. Private property (including allotted parcels) and San Juan National Forest lands are not available for 1st Descendant hunting.
- All applicants must submit a Descendancy Letter to the Wildlife Division. These can be obtained from Tribal information Services (TIS).
- **APPLICATION Is open October1st—31st, 2026 in the Online Southern Ute Store**

https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/natural-resources/wildlife-resource-management/hunting/first-descendant-elk-hunt/

Hunt Information

- The hunt is open only to Southern Ute First Descendants.
- Season Dates: December 1 – 31, 2026.
- Weapon Type: Any Legal Weapon.
- Application Period: October 1 – 31, 2026 (Applications must be submitted by October 31st, 2026).
- Application fee is non-refundable.
- Applicants must submit a descendancy letter from Tribal Information Services.
- Ten permits will be available by limited draw only.
- The drawing will be in early November.
- Permits will be issued beginning November 16th, 2026.
- Successful hunters must have their elk validated.
- Bag Limits: 1 Antlerless Elk.

Please call the Wildlife Division (970) 563-0130 for more information



The Southern Ute Drum Crosswords

Due to unforseen circumstances, the crosswords will no longer be available