



**Return of the force, exhibit ends at FLC**

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**Trust Issues focus on Tribal lands**

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**October 4, 2024** Vol. LVII, No. 20

*The Southern Ute Drum wins 10 Colorado Press Association awards*



Jeremy Wade Shockely/SU Drum

Representatives from The Nature Conservancy view restoration work on Spring Creek as part of a multi-day tour of the Four Corners region focused on Tribally led restoration and river health projects and partnerships in the area.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

**The Nature Conservancy tours Tribe's Spring Creek restoration efforts**

By Jeremy Wade Shockley  
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

In early September, The Nature Conservancy brought together a group of scientists and scholars for a multi-day tour of the Four Corners region focused on Tribally led restoration and river health projects and partnerships in the area.

"We are working with Tribal nations in the San Juan River Basin to plan and co-create the itinerary for a

San Juan River Tribal River Tour," said Lanier Nababe, a San Juan River Basin Fellow for The Nature Conservancy, ahead of the visit. "This trip is the fourth in an ongoing series of trips, each presenting an opportunity for discussion and collaboration. This three-day tour will include two Tribal restoration projects and group camping for additional discussion. In addition to the van tour, participants can

expect to share knowledge over food, enjoy the natural environment, and discuss [ideas] at a campfire."

The overall goal of the program is to continue to build partnerships and share knowledge across Tribal, federal, state, and conservation agencies and organizations so that the respective entities and stakeholders can work on important issues in

*Nature page 9*



courtesy Lift the Label

Randi Rock of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

**LIFT THE LABEL**

**Southern Ute Tribe: Recovery stories**

Randi Rock

I am Randi. I am from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. I am also Southern Ute and Hispanic. I work for the Southern Ute Tribal Court as a Probation Clerk.

I didn't start drinking until after high school, but once I started, I drank a lot. My drinking got worse as I got older and after I had my daughter. Being a young parent was hard. Also being the only parent with all the responsibilities was not easy. But with my mom and close family, I had the support that I needed to raise my daughter.

Fast forward some years later, I met my husband, who is also on his own sober path. He is nine years sober this year. My husband quit before I did. I realized that if I did not stop, we probably wouldn't be together. I quit

drinking a year after him. We have been together 11 years.

In a small community, there are a lot of stigmas around addiction. Everybody knows each other and they think they know what's going on in people's lives. People hear about your struggles and assume you will not change. That kind of attitude can keep people from seeking help.

Luckily, there is help. Southern Ute has the Behavioral Health Dept., where they can get you set up with treatment or help you apply for Medicaid. Within the Southern Ute Tribal Court, there is a Wellness Court. Wellness Court uses our culture, as well as other resources, to help people with addiction. You can meet with someone from the Culture Department, and they will ask about your inter-

ests in learning the Southern Ute culture and offer you new skills and connections to culture, like beadwork, sewing ribbon skirts, Ute language, or other cultural classes. In general, there's also much more discussion around mental health these days, which I think plays a huge part in addiction and sobriety.

Loved ones can also be resources. Being present, even if you are sitting in silence, can mean a lot to someone struggling with addiction. If you are someone who is still in active addiction, you are not alone. It seems like you are by yourself in that moment, but if you reach out, someone is out there. I am here.

Recovery from addiction is always possible. Find support and resources at LTL-SouthernUte.org.

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**Howe's artwork featured at Indian Country Conference**

By Divine Windy Boy  
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Southern Ute Tribal member, Ollyvia Howe's artwork was featured at the 31st Annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference. The conference took place at the Sky Ute Casino Resort on Monday, Aug. 26 through Wednesday, Aug. 28, addressing the needs of crime victims in Indian Country enabling a direct collaboration between Tribal communities and a broad range of law enforcement professionals. Howe drew inspiration from local artists and created her piece based on the element of togetherness, fitting the theme of the conference.

Ollyvia Howe is a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, she is 17 years old and is currently attending Ignacio High School, where she is also actively participating in volleyball. She has been creating art for the past three years, it was during the quarantine in 2020 that Howe



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Ollyvia Howe holding a posterboard of her artwork that was featured on the 31st Annual Four Corners Indian Country agenda booklet.

took the opportunity to try something new and began her art journey. She also takes after her siblings

and mother, who also have strong artistic abilities.

*Howe page 7*

**GAMING COMPACTS**

**Ute Mountain Ute Tribe joins Southern Utes in legal action against State**

*Tribes seek fair treatment by the State of Colorado*

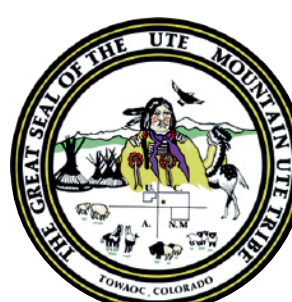
Staff report  
 SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Facing the same stonewalling tactics preventing equal access to economic opportunities voted into law by Colorado voters in 2019, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has joined the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in their legal action to receive fair treatment by the State of Colorado.

"The State must live up to its obligations to our Tribes as outlined in agreements and federal law. Because of this ongoing injustice, we are also now taking the unfortunate but necessary step of legal action to correct this," Chairman Manuel Heart of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe said. "The State is wrong to lock our Tribes out of these economic opportunities, and they must be held accountable for their actions to hold back our Tribes."

"Enough is enough. This unfair treatment must end now. Our Tribes are demanding immediate action to rectify this injustice and ensure the State fulfills its obligations," said Chairman Melvin J. Baker of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

The Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes have been unfairly blocked by the Colorado Department of Revenue from engaging in online sports betting, despite longstanding State-Tribal Compacts explicitly allowing them to do so. After years of attempts to ne-



gotiate a fair agreement, the Tribes are both asking the federal court for an injunction so they may compete in an economic market that, effectively, only non-Indian private entities have had primary access to in Colorado since 2020.

In the Gaming Compacts, which have been in place for almost 30 years and approved by the federal government, the State agreed that the Tribes can engage in "those gaming activities and bet amounts that are identical to the activities and bet amounts that are authorized in the State of Colorado."

In 2019, Colorado voters approved Proposition DD, legalizing online sports betting in the state, thus permitting the Tribes to engage in the same activities. However, for the past four years, the Tribes have been stonewalled by the State, unfairly prevented from accessing these economic opportunities.

The reason for banning the Tribes from equal access to this market: the State is not allowed to tax the Tribes, and they want to. Federal law does not allow the taxation of Trib-

al gaming activities and mandates that any revenue must be used for Tribal governmental operations and the general welfare of Tribal members.

This year, Colorado state legislators had capacity to refer a measure to the 2024 ballot that will amend the 2019 law to increase taxes on sports betting, and yet have not fixed the issues that unfairly exclude the Tribes from this economic opportunity. After implementing sports betting in 2022, the State of Kansas quickly amended their law last year to allow Tribal gaming entities to participate in online sports betting, recognizing the unfair competitive disadvantage initially created.

While other states have amicably resolved similar issues, the State of Colorado and gaming industry lobbyists have unfairly blocked the Tribes' efforts to fix this oversight. With unwavering commitment to fairness and a steadfast resolve to hold the State of Colorado to its word, we can ensure a future where the promises of today blossom into a brighter tomorrow.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Melvin J. Baker addresses the Interim American Indian Affairs Committee at the State Capitol in Denver, Thursday, Sept. 26.

## TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

# American Indian Affairs Committee focused on advancing Tribal priorities

By Summer Begay  
TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Southern Ute Tribal Chairman, Chairman Melvin J. Baker represented the Tribe before the American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee. The historic committee, established to bridge the gap between American Indian communities and the state legislature, has been instrumental in advancing Tribal interests.

Over the past four months, Chairman Baker and Tribal staff provided testimony on critical issues such as Reservation-wide exclusions, the recognition of Tribal Court orders and warrants, and amendments to the Indian Child Welfare Act. Last week, in the Committee's final meeting in Denver, Chairman Baker shared the Tribe's priorities with legislators.

The Committee, led by Majority Leader Representative Monica Duran, voted to advance three bills for consideration, reflecting the progress made in advocating for Tribal sovereignty. "Our Tribe has a long history of resilience and self-determination," Chairman Baker said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Committee and advance our shared goals."

In late July, the Committee held a meeting on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, providing legislators with firsthand insights into the Tribe's priorities and operations. Tours of the

Pine River Indian Irrigation Project, the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, and Tribal Court offered a deeper understanding of the Tribe's unique challenges and accomplishments. For several Committee members and legislative staff, this was their first visit to the Reservation.

The following are bills that will be advanced:

- **Bill 1**, sponsored by Committee Chair Majority Leader Duran, Vice Chair Sen. Cleave Simpson, Sen. Jessie Danielson, and Rep. Ron Weinberg, extends the American Indian Affairs Interim Committee for an additional five years. Under this bill, after five years this Committee will be re-evaluated by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council members. The extension of this six-member Committee would entail a new progress reporting process to continue to examine issues and challenges that impact American Indians and Tribes.
- **Bill 3**, sponsored by Sen. Danielson and Rep. Junnie Joseph, would reclassify bison as "wildlife" and "big game" unless the bison are owned as livestock. Classifying bison as wildlife would mean that hunting or poaching the animal is illegal unless authorized by rule of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). CPW would manage the bison in or-

der to help maintain the health of the population and provide compensation for farmers and ranchers if damage to property occurs. Under this bill, bison would join classification with other big game, such as elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose and bighorn sheep. Bison are sacred animals to the Tribal community and this bill would help prevent illegal hunting and poaching.

- **Bill 5**, sponsored by Sens. Dylan Roberts and Danielson and Reps. Weinberg and Joseph, would change Colorado state law to recognize an arrest warrant issued by a federally recognized Tribe with a Reservation within the exterior boundaries of the state. This bill also requires that any commitment order issued by a Tribal court is recognized to the same extent as a commitment order entered by a state court, which includes orders from law enforcement agencies, behavioral health facilities and health care providers. This bill would ensure that a state court shall give full faith and credit to an arrest warrant and civil commitment issued by a Tribal court.

The bills will now go to the Legislative Council for approval before being introduced in the next session. Once introduced in the 2025 session, interim bills will follow the standard legislative process.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

## 10 years ago

Tallis Cantsee of the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum presented Franklin Thompson with a Pendleton blanket with the museum logo on it, as part of the tribute to his father, Bennett Thompson.

This photo was first published in the Oct. 3, 2014, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

## 20 years ago

Virginia Sage, Custodial Services Supervisor for the Southern Ute Tribal Government, accepts a Pendleton blanket from the Tribal Councilors Pearl E. Casias and Vida B. Peabody during a retirement reception in her honor in September of 2004. Virginia officially retired after nineteen years of working for the Tribe. Congratulations, Virginia!

This photo was published in the Sept. 17, 2004, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



John T. Rehorn/SU Drum archive

## 30 years ago

Artist/Model Christie Brinkley hosted The Wild West Weekend in Telluride, Colo. The Southern Ute Heritage Dancers were asked to perform and part of the proceeds went to the Southern Ute Fire Relief fund. Left to right are Angelina Vicenti, Brinkley, Brandi Naranjo, and Kathryn White Skunk.

This photo was published in the Sept. 30, 1994, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.




SU Drum archive

## 40 years ago

Leigh Sage, 84-85 Junior Miss Southern Ute was in all the Fair Powwow Grand Entries. Leigh is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Sage Sr. of Ignacio.

This photo was published in the Sept. 21, 1984, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



## Save the Date

### Meet the Candidates Night: Tribal Council Seats (2)

Thursday, October 17, 2024  
Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center

Additional information forthcoming

*Please note this event is for Southern Ute Tribal Members only.*

Attendance Options:

- In-person attendance at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Event Center.
- Live audio broadcast on KSUT radio.
- Virtual attendance via WebEx (registration details forthcoming)

Information or questions: Summer Begay, 970-563-2313 or sbegay@southernute-nsn.gov



QUARTERLY REPORT

# Outgoing Little Miss Southern Ute

Shayne White Thunder

Mique Nuuchiu,  
My name is Shayne Morning Star White Thunder. My Ute name is Təm-si'iru "Winter Rose." My grandmother Mikki gave me that name because I was born in winter and the rose signifies our people.  
My Cheyenne name is Azem'heh "Rearing Woman." I am named after my Nishgit (grandma) Bobbie. I represented the Tribe as the 2023-2024 Little Miss Southern Ute.



Shayne White Thunder  
Little Miss Southern Ute  
2023-2024

I am 10 years old, and I attend school at Florida Mesa Elementary in Durango, Colo. in the fourth grade.

My mother is Heather White Thunder, and my father is Seth Roubidiaux. My paternal grandmother is Mikki Naranjo, and my great-grandparents are the late Eugene Naranjo and the late Dixie Naranjo. My maternal grandparents are Bobbie White Thunder from El Reno, Okla., and the late Ross Denny.

I come from the Moache-Capote bands, and I am also Cheyenne and Arapaho from my mother's side.

This is my final quarterly report as the 2023-2024 Little Miss Southern Ute for the months of June – September 2024:

JUNE

- June 13: Attended the Elder Appreciation Dinner.
- June 14: Attended the Durango Rendezvous.

JULY

- July 4-7: Attended and participated in the Fort Duchesne 4th of July Powwow.
- July 10-12: Attended the 2024 Tri-Ute Games opening ceremony and participated in the games playing basketball & volleyball.
- July 11: I was interviewed by the film-making students to be used in their Tri-Ute games documentary.

AUGUST

- Aug. 1-4: Attended and danced at the Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow in Concho, Okla.
- Aug. 14: Attended the Southern Ute Royalty Pageant.
- Aug. 16: Attended the Permanent Fund Employee Appreciation Day.
- Aug. 23: Attended the Back to School Bash at SunUte.

SEPTEMBER

- Attended the 2024 Southern Ute Fair Powwow and danced in my last Grand Entry as Little Miss Southern Ute.

I hope I was able to represent the Tribe and the youth of our Tribe well. Thank you to my family, friends, and supporters who helped me get ready for events, take me to events/powwows, taught me the language, and was a positive influence for me. I have enjoyed representing and want to wish you all many blessings.

*Tog'oiak'*  
Shayne Morning Star  
White Thunder  
Little Miss Southern  
2023-2024



Center of Southwest Studies/FLC

Etched and painted clone trooper helmets by artists Rodrigo Velarde (Jicarilla Apache) and Duane Koyawena (Hopi/Tewa) on display at the Fort Lewis College, Center of Southwest Studies.

VOICES FROM THE EDGE

## Return of the Force exhibit at Fort Lewis College a wrap

By Clark Adomaitis  
KSJD/KSUT

In a galaxy not so far away, Indigenous artists have found a connection to Star Wars, weaving their cultural heritage with the myths of the beloved franchise. Through vibrant paintings, warrior clothing, and a life-size R2-D2 robot, the artists transform Star Wars iconic imagery – lightsabers, starships, and otherworldly landscapes – into art that reflects their own spiritual journeys.

The parallels between the struggle for balance in the Star Wars galaxy and Indigenous fights for sovereignty lend Star Wars a new dimension.

"Return of the Force" has been on display at Fort Lewis College since September of 2023. The exhibit features more than 20 Indigenous artists interacting with imagery from Star Wars. Visitors have seen a Mandalorian dressed as an Indigenous warrior, Star Wars scenes juxtaposed with landscapes from Indian Country, and a functioning R2-D2 robot covered in traditional patterns.

Duane Koyawena, who is Hopi and Tewa, curated the exhibit. He said each artist has their own reasons for identifying with Star Wars themes and characters.

"They all have their own ideas of what Star Wars means to them. [Some] look at a lot of the imperialism, and good and evil, the Force and the dark side," Koyawena said.

Throughout the exhibit, interpretive blurbs explain how each artist identified with Star Wars themes, including resistance to imperialism, the battle between good and evil, and the similarities between Luke and Leia and the story of the Hero Twins in Navajo and Hopi oral traditions.

Samantha Honanie, Koyawena's partner, helped curate



Center of Southwest Studies/FLC

Guest curator and artist, Duane Koyawena (Hopi/Tewa) paints a Stormtrooper helmet as HOPI-R2 watches. HOPI-R2 is a collaborative, fully functional art piece designed by Koyawena and engineer Joe Mastroianni, and features traditional Hopi symbols and representations of natural elements such as clouds and rain.

the exhibit. She refers to herself as an "Indigi-nerd" and says she inherited her love for Star Wars from her father.

"I consider myself deeply entrenched in nerd culture and science fiction. My dad was a big fan of the original Star Wars that came out in the '70s," said Honanie. "It was really cool to be able to have our family bond in a multi-generational way. My grandparents were the ones taking my dad to the movies, and then he was taking other family members to go to the movies."

Koyawena and Honanie said Fort Lewis College was the right place to host the exhibit because of the school's commitment to improving the lives of Native people.

The "Return of the Force"

exhibit celebrated its final night on Thursday, Sept. 26, with a screening of Star Wars: A New Hope (So'tah Anaa': Siih Náhásdljì) voiced in Navajo.

Koyawena and Honanie plan on bringing the exhibit to the Tempe Center for the Arts in Arizona in January of 2025.

*This story is part of Voices From the Edge of the Colorado Plateau, a reporting collaboration between KSUT Public Radio and KSJD Community Radio. It seeks to cover underrepresented communities in the Four Corners. The multi-year project covers Native, Indigenous, Latino/Latina, and other communities across Southwest Colorado.*

## Miss Indian N.M. farewell



photos courtesy Alyssa Nez

Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz attended Miss Indian New Mexico, Kelsey Quintana's farewell event held in Dulce, N.M., Saturday, Sept. 21, Litz is standing with the Jicarilla Apache Royalty.

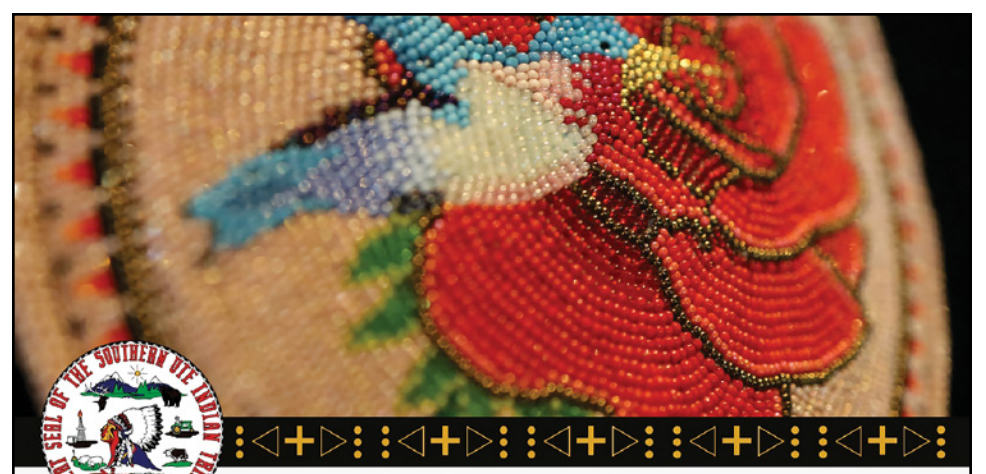


Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz standing with Miss Indian New Mexico, Kelsey Quintana during Quintana's farewell event held in Dulce, N.M., Saturday, Sept. 21.

### Free Legal Clinic

Tuesday, Oct. 15 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Sign up today because spots are limited! 970-563-9287. Volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for civil (non-criminal) legal issues. The volunteer attorneys do not represent you just because they help you at this clinic. This clinic is information only and is no substitute for legal representation. You have the right to retain an attorney of your choice at any time and are advised to do so. We will now be hosting this program every third Tuesday!



### Tribal Office Closure

In observance of Indigenous Peoples Day, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2024.

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.



LIFT THE LABEL

# Treatment options for substance use disorder

**Staff report** Lift the Label therapy and receive treatment on their own time. The team includes counselors, peer recovery coaches, a physician who treats addiction with medication, a psychiatrist, a prevention specialist, and a care coordinator. Treatment is available in-person, by telemedicine, and over the telephone. Call them at 970-563-5700 to make an appointment and talk about treatment options. They will walk you through the treatment process, they will help place people in residential treatment and can help coordinate enrollment in Medicaid if needed. Peer recovery coaches are there to support you at every point in the process.

Recovery from substance use disorder is always possible for anyone and everyone. Substance use disorder is also known as addiction. Help is always here. There is support for anyone who might be struggling with addiction, and there are options to help start on a treatment and recovery journey. The first step is reaching out to learn about the many different options available for treatment.

Treatment can come in different forms, and often more than one form! Here are a few examples of treatment pathways:

- Detoxification:** a detox program can help stabilize withdrawal from substances in a controlled, medical environment. This could take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.
- Inpatient/Residential Rehabilitation:** in an inpatient program, individuals live at a treatment center and receive treatment and plans made just for them. This program can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. Following inpatient treatment, staff can help individuals find recovery housing and outpatient therapy.
- Outpatient Rehabilitation:** in an outpatient program, individuals live at a treatment center and receive treatment and plans made just for them. This program can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. Following inpatient treatment, staff can help individuals find recovery housing and outpatient therapy.

**White Bison Medicine Wheel Wellbriety 12 Steps** for alcohol and substance use.

**Warrior Down Talking Circle** for individuals to interact with others in treatment and discuss their experiences.

**Mending Broken Hearts** to discuss grief and loss.

**Medications:** medications can also be a very effective option for some individuals, especially those who are using alcohol and/or opioids. Medications can help people through withdrawal from substances and aid them in any outpatient treatment. The Southern Ute Behavioral Health Office offers support for family stress, chat at 988Colorado.com.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# BEE HEARD: World Mental Health Day is next week!

**By Tamara D. Turner, SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**Oct. 10 is World Mental Health Day!**

It is encouraging that mental health gets international attention on this day. Change takes time and a lot of us can probably remember not so long ago when no one talked about mental health. Physical health has long since overshadowed mental-emotional health and it has taken decades for stigma about mental health challenges to gradually recede so that communities can have honest and shame-free conversations about what it means to be well. So, this is something to be happy about.

By recognizing World Mental Health Day, we recognize an opportunity to not only think about our own mental health and what we can each do to take care of ourselves, but also what we can do to help others: our kids, siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles or neighbors. Recognizing the importance of mental-emotional health means remembering that health is always about our relationship with family and community. Human beings are truly social beings with nervous systems wired for connection with all our relations.

Our current mental health system oftentimes focuses on individuals and their own individual needs. This is important and yet we also need to give equal attention to the social and environmental relationships that allow full flourishing. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned as a global community how and why social isolation was so detrimental to mental health. Even the surgeon general defined “loneliness” as a risk factor equal to if not worse than smoking. In many ways, communities are still feeling the reverberations of those years. Social engagement and person-to-person contact has been slow to recover.

Thinking about the importance of social, environmental and holistic relationships, I like using the metaphor of a plant’s health because we don’t typically judge or stigmatize plants the way we do humans. When a plant starts to look like it isn’t doing so great, we don’t tend to think that there’s something wrong with that plant, nor do we tend to scold the plant or tell it to “buck up” or “get its life together.” Rather, we wonder if it isn’t getting enough of what it needs to flourish: plenty of sunlight, water, or fertilizer (or maybe it’s getting too much). If we take that approach to humans, too, we would find that a person’s environment (relationships, housing, good food, love, and more) have everything to do with their physical, mental and emotional health.

With that said, now is a great opportunity to think about what mental-emotional health means to you. Maybe it also includes faith and heritage, and cultural practices important to your family. But not everyone is sure as to what mental health “looks” like in daily practice. One idea is to try asking yourself some or all of the following questions:

- What brings me joy?
- What am I doing when I lose track of time and find myself completely absorbed in something?
- What could I talk about all night if someone gave me the chance?
- What makes my eyes light up?

These don’t have to be big things or time-consuming things. In fact, it’s great to be able to list some “small” and daily things that bring a little sprinkle of joy, relief, or a deep breath. Maybe it’s the ringing sound of crickets early in the morning. Or hearing the laugh of someone you love. See if you can identify five things today that bring you a little smile, chuckle, or deep breath.

**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 NEWS You Can Use!**

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

**Breast cancer prevention:**

**What can YOU do to lower your risk of breast cancer?**

- Get your regular screening mammogram! Mammograms save lives.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Limit alcohol use.
- Exercise, move more and sit less.
- Eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables.
- Breastfeed your baby for as long as possible.
- If you smoke commercial tobacco, quit.

**Alternative Horizons Needs Volunteers**

Join a team of dedicated volunteers. Alternative Horizons needs 15 or more volunteer advocates, including those who are bi-lingual, to staff our 24-Hour hotline. Do impactful work and build new relationships. Flexible scheduling available. AH supports and empowers survivors of domestic violence. If you’d like to make a difference in the lives of others, call the office for more information at 970-247-4374. Training and ongoing support provided. Next training will be held on Sept. 20, 21 and 27.

Shining Mountain Health and Wellness Breastfeeding and Parenting Class

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**October 10, 2024**  
**Breast Cancer and Breastfeeding**  
 M/C building-downstairs  
 Q's: Shawmarie 970-563-2163,  
 Lisa Smith 970-563-2344

You're Cordially Invited

**Southern Ute Disability Employment Awareness**

Thursday October 17th, 2024  
 Time: 9:00am-4:30pm  
 Sky Ute Casino Resort  
 John S. Williams Room

Lunch will be provided

For more information please call: 970-563-4730

So. Ute Vocational Rehabilitation, Co DVR, Resilient Colorado



**Shining Mountain Fresh**

October 2024

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

October Recipe:  
Healthy Pumpkin Peanut Butter Cookies

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFreshOct2024>

**Sign-up Deadline:** Monday, October 28th  
**Pickup Date:** Wednesday, October 30th

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

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



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Geri Lasater, Marcia Morales, and Judy Lansing, practice the Sun style Tai Chi on Wednesday, Oct. 2 during the Tai Chi for Health program at SunUte Community Center. This style of Tai Chi is characterized by upright posture, slow movements, and strong focus on weight transference—consistent practice helps to improve balance, flexibility, and coordination.

TRIBAL HEALTH

**Tai Chi for Health**

**Karen Forest RN, BSN** SOUTHERN UTE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Would you like to do more physical activity, but aren't sure how to start? Would you like to improve your balance, strength and mental focus in a supportive environment doing something fun and different? Are you curious about an ancient martial art that has been proven to help everything from arthritis pain to memory loss? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then Tai Chi for Health is for you!

Originating in ancient China, Tai Chi evolved as a type of martial art focused specifically on increasing the amount and flow of Qi, or life force, within the body. Stronger Qi is believed to lead to better health and greater harmony both within – between mind, body and spirit – and without – between oneself and the natural world around us. There are five major styles of Tai Chi. The Tai Chi for Health program is based on the Sun style, which was developed specifically for healing and restoration. Sun style Tai Chi is characterized by upright posture, slow movements, and strong focus on weight transference. Research has shown that consistent practice of Tai Chi improves balance, flexibility and coordination. This in turn leads to greater mobility, increased confidence and awareness, and statistically proven decreased risk of falls.

All styles of Tai Chi consist of a linked sequence of "forms" or movements. While learning the forms is important for progressing on your Tai Chi journey, what truly makes Tai Chi unique are the essential principles. These include "Jing" and "Song." The Chinese word "Jing" can be loosely translated as mental quietness or serenity. It implies an internal tranquility accompanied by heightened external awareness. "Song" refers to the physical experience of a loosening or relaxing of the joints, or "an opening from within." Opening this way allows Qi to flow more smoothly, increasing internal strength and energy.

The Tai Chi for Health program is designed to be safe and easy to learn. The gentle, slow movements are appropriate for people at all levels of physical fitness, including those living with limitations due to chronic health conditions. If you are curious whether Tai Chi might be the right activity for you, come check it out! We meet every Wednesday, 2 – 3 p.m., in the Capote Room at the Sun Ute Community Center. There is no cost to participate, just a willingness to try something new! Questions? Call Karen, 970-563-2340. Brought to you by the Southern Ute Community and Home Health Services.

**Breast Cancer Awareness Dinner and Survivor Celebration**  
October 22, 2024 6-8pm  
Sky Ute Casino Resort-Banquet Room A

INDIGENOUS pink

~Join us for dinner and hear cancer survivor stories~

RSVP Required, sign up with the link below or the QR Code:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y7GPVHT>

**10th ANNIVERSARY OF INDIGENOUS pink**  
10.17.2024

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK**  
October 17th, 12pm  
LCB/Council Chambers Lawn

**TAI CHI for Health**

**WHAT:** The Tai Chi for Health program developed by Dr. Lam and the Tai Chi for Health Institute and endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control, the Arthritis Foundation, and many others.

**WHO:** Anyone interested in improving their balance, strength, flexibility and overall wellbeing.

**WHEN:** Wednesdays, 2-3 pm

**WHERE:** Sun Ute Community Center

Questions? Call Karen 563-2340

Presented by: Southern Ute Community and Home Health Services

**NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH**

SAVE THE DATE!!  
**MEAL PLANNING 101**

LEARN ABOUT MEAL PLANNING AND PREPPING IN THIS TWO-PART LUNCH AND LEARN  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH AND  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH  
12-1PM  
IN THE CAPOTE ROOM AT SUN UTE COMMUNITY CENTER  
ALL ARE WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL OR EMAIL LISA SMITH  
LISMITH@SOUTHERNUTE-NSN.GOV  
970-563-2344



## HIGHER EDUCATION

# PCC Southwest to offer wildland fire academy

**Staff report**  
PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SOUTHWEST

Pueblo Community College Southwest will offer a one-week wildland fire academy in October. The academy will be held Oct. 7-11 at the PCC Southwest Mancos campus, 33057 Hwy. 160. It is open to anyone 18 or older. There is a limit of 20 students. The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 4.

Participants who complete the course will earn three college credits and will be prepared to earn en-

try-level wildland firefighter and wildland fire behavior certifications (\$130 and \$190). These certifications will enable them to pursue a career as a junior wildland firefighter or member of a frontline fire crew. Participants will also be able to meet with local and regional firefighters and get information about job opportunities.

Tuition assistance and scholarships are available. For information, call 970-564-6201 (Mancos) or 970-385-202 (Durango) or email GoZoneMancos@pueblocc.edu.

### PCCSW

Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence, without discrimination, to help its students acquire the 21st-century skills needed to better their lives. An educational and technological leader, PCC fosters economic development and utilizes strong partnerships in the communities it serves through its Pueblo, Fremont and Southwest campuses.



courtesy SUIMA

The SUIMA Primary Level joined Tribal Council and the Southern Ute Agriculture Farm staff for a day of pumpkin picking at the farm.

## SUIMA

# Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

### Various stages of development at SUIMA

By **Mari Jo Owens, Principal**  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN  
MONTESSORI ACADEMY



**Mari Jo Owens**  
Principal  
Southern Ute Indian  
Montessori Academy

Montessori classrooms are designed to accommodate the various stages of development in children, which occur in roughly three-year cycles. From birth to three years of age, three to six years, six to nine, and so on.

From birth to three years of age, the infant/toddler is absorbing information directly from the environment, almost like a sponge. It is during this phase that many language and motor skills are developing. During the second phase three to six years old, the child reaches a different stage in which repetition and manipulation of the environment are critical to the development of order, concentration, coordination, and independence. The child learns skills for everyday living, sorting, classifying, etc. – all of which lead to the development of writing, reading and a mathematical mind.

er-expanding. Concepts may be presented concretely with manipulative, yet the students will work towards the abstract with less manipulatives.

The Montessori curriculum allows a greater flexibility in meeting each child's individual needs and permits the child to develop with fewer social transitions. The environment becomes the "teacher," with the child as the initiator of his/her own education.

Thank you to the following departments who have helped us get this school year:

- Human Resources for encouraging everyone to choose a healthier lifestyle.
- Los Pinos Fire Protection District for assisting with our fire drills and projects.
- The Drum for the continuation of a paper version newspaper that our students can access.
- Multi-Purpose Facility for providing activities for our youth.

When the child reaches the next phase of development, ages six to nine, the imagination of the child is the key to learning. The classroom can now excite them by using an increased imagination to explore the universe. The curriculum at this age works from the large concepts to the more refined. Concepts are introduced through hands-on materials that encourage and engage the child. As the child enters the nine-to-twelve-year phase, the world is ev-



courtesy SUIMA

Parents, students, and SUIMA staff enjoy a day of picking vegetables at the Southern Ute Agriculture Farm.

### Upcoming SUIMA events

- Fridays at 2 p.m. – Early Release
- Oct. 10: School picture day
- Oct. 14: No School – Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Oct. 15: Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Oct. 16: Family Night
- Oct. 31: Trick or treating throughout the Tribal campus

## Applications for Advanced Standing MSW Program

Students with a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) are eligible for a one-year Masters of Social Work program through the University of Denver. The program starts summer 2025 and classes are taught in Durango. Stipends for child welfare, integrated behavioral health care are available. Native American tuition support to eligible students is also available. For more info contact Janelle.Doughty@du.edu or www.du.edu/socialwork.

## Durango's Youth Arts Festival & Makers Market

Unleash your creativity at multiple free art stations and shop from local Youth Entrepreneurs ages 8-18 at the Durango Youth Makers Market!

**Creative Stations**  
Felt Crafting - Beading - Ceramics - Weaving  
Culinary Workshops - Community Mural  
Musical Performance - And More

**Saturday, October 19th**  
1:00PM-4:00PM  
Buckley Park  
1250 Main Avenue Durango

Durangoyouthartsfestival@gmail.com

## Southern Ute Education Center

# OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, October 9, 2024  
5pm to 8pm

Southern Ute, 1st Descendants & JOM  
Pre K-College students and families welcome  
Meal will be served  
330 Burns Ave, Ignacio, Co. 81137  
For Inquires, please call 970-563-0237

## HAPPY VETERANS DAY

### Essay Contest to Honor a Veteran

Is there been a time a veteran mentored you, or has a veteran ever changed your life for the better? If so, we want to hear everything about them and what makes this individual special. The Honoring our Veterans Volunteers want to learn more about the veteran, honor them & give them a chance to win a quilt made by us. Please submit a 500 words essay describing the veteran, their rank & branch to us at eagleramona@gmail.com, eredd@southernute-nsn.gov or sr21frost@aol.com by Nov. 1. Winners will be announced at the Veterans breakfast at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Thanks to all those who served and we look forward to getting to know our local veterans.



# Undivide Us: Screening & Discussion



Amber Coté, Senior Director of Community Relations for Southern Colorado Public Media Center, and attendees listen as Kasey Correia, Executive Director & Art Instructor for the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, spoke of her own relationships with community members in Ignacio, and the relationship Dancing Spirit brings to the Ignacio community.



Valerie Barragan, Experience Producer for Rocky Mountain PBS and Tami Graham, KSUT Executive Director greet attendees as they arrive for the screening. KSUT and Rocky Mountain PBS collaborated for the free screening of Undivide Us at the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, Thursday, Sept. 26.

As stated on the website: “Undivide Us’ is a film that challenges the idea that citizens who disagree are not capable of civil conversation and demonstrates the truth that, even in our differences, the American experiment is still alive and well. If you want to watch the documentary Undivide Us, you may do so Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. or Oct. 27, 2024 at 10 a.m. on Rocky Mountain PBS, streaming on the PBS Video Player.

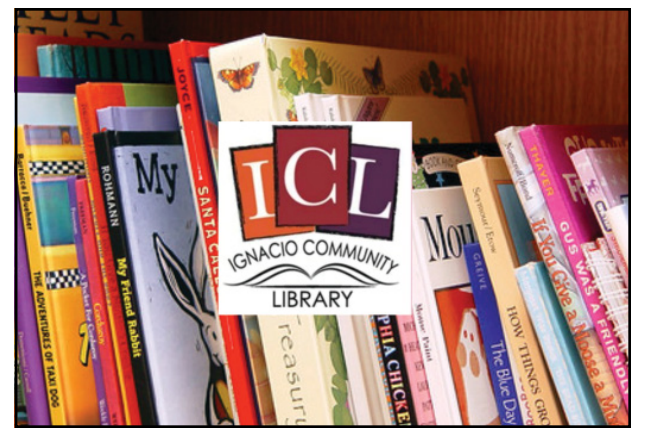
Photos by Robert L. Ortiz  
The Southern Ute Drum



After the screening of the documentary “Undivide Us,” attendees gathered into smaller groups for discussions which focused on helping their local communities address differences through improved public communication, community problem-solving and collaborative decision-making. In collaboration with Rocky Mountain PBS and KSUT – Above the Noise, a statewide initiative led by Rocky Mountain Public Media in partnership with the Colorado Press Association, Colorado Media Project and Colorado State University (CSU), bring together a local network of media outlets to create a stronger Colorado by deeply listening to the experiences of people who live in Colorado.

## IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY IDEA Lab update

Ron Schermacher  
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY



As a new semester of school begins this is a good time to review the resources available in ICL’s IDEA LAB, which is our maker-space located on the second floor of the library. Whether you are enrolled in a public, charter, or home school there is something for you to learn and explore.

Makerspaces employ the “maker method” of STEM education. With this method, learning happens as skills are acquired and questions are asked during the building or creating of a project. Learners are motivated to find answers that are now much more personal through engagement with the build project. For example, once most students have learned how to operate the 3D printer, they gain a spatial awareness of the directions of movement that materialize a 3D object.

This almost always leads to an interest in learning how to use a CAD program to design on their own. Along the learning path, students become more comfortable with basic computer skills, including downloading and managing files and how computer programs interface with machines for manufacturing products. Conversations around the project might broaden to include ethical and environmental concerns and all students are coached and en-

couraged on self-education.

This is particularly attractive to students who need extra help or those who are ahead of their class, are self-motivated, and like to learn at their own pace. It is also important to stress that the IDEA LAB programs are designed for all ages of learners with individual attention based on the student’s experience and ability.

Along with 3D printing and design, the IDEA LAB is full of a wide range of equipment and programs to assist you in your educational or professional goals. These include but are not limited to die cutting with a Cricut machine; sewing machines and instruction with a practice time every Monday afternoon; video and audio editing which includes stop motion animation, film production, and sound and music recording; electronics and robotics with instruction and practice every Wednesday at noon; and a wide variety of coding and programming options including Lego Mindstorms, Arduino,

and Raspberry Pi.

We spend a lot of time in the fields of aeronautics and rocketry and these mesh nicely with lessons in science and astronomy. Check our calendar for night telescope viewing events. Many resources for arts and crafts are available including the weekly art and knitting groups. And finally, join us on the first Saturday of every month for Repair Cafe, a community effort to keep useful items out of the trash and recycle valuable materials.

Residents of Ignacio and the surrounding region should be aware that the IDEA LAB at the Ignacio Community Library has been recognized by both state and national organizations for the resources and programs they are providing and the work that has been realized over the past nine years. Our small town is fortunate to have this state-of-the-art space available for all its residents. If you are not taking advantage of this opportunity, then you’re missing out.

## HOWE’S ARTWORK FEATURED • FROM PAGE 1

Howe originally found out about submitting art for this conference through Anita Mayes, the art teacher at Ignacio High School, Mayes explained that Howe would make a great participant.

“My art teacher told me about this opportunity near the second to last week of school,” Howe said. “[The artwork] took many weeks to complete and I turned it in near the end of the summer, but Ms. Mayes explained everything to me, and she believed that I would make a great participant for this contest.”

Howe’s piece features major landmarks within the Four Corners region, sacred and culturally significant wildlife within our area, three hands representing diversity, and

the four sacred colors meeting in the center of the piece along with a medicine wheel design. The art speaks to the mission of this conference, which is focused on collaboration, commitment, and relationship building between the Department of Justice, Offices of the United States Attorney, and Tribal communities.

Starting in 1992, the Four Corners Indian Country Conference focuses on prosecution, justice, and victims’ issues in Indian Country, specifically in the Four Corners states, where Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah converge. The District of Colorado was proud to highlight additional efforts put in place this year to support the law enforcement on Tribal lands including the hiring

of additional federal prosecutors, law enforcement trainings, and successful prosecutions which sought justice for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

During the conference, Howe’s artwork was displayed for all participants to see, it was even featured on the program cover. This conference also featured speakers and cultural presentations alongside Howe’s artwork to help attendees celebrate the rich culture of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribes, both of which call the great state of Colorado home. Howe hopes to participate in the art submissions the next time this conference comes to Ignacio.

for a night viewing of the Northern Major Lunar Standstill

This outdoor program will be held beneath the night sky within an open-air amphitheater. Presentations on astronomy, archaeology and culture from leading experts and Tribal partners will precede a live-streamed viewing of the crescent moon rising between the stone pinnacles. Please bring appropriate attire – layers for warmth, blankets, seating pads (for stone seating) and sturdy footwear. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

A link to the livestream video will be available on the monument’s website before the event dates: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sanjuan/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5390324](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sanjuan/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5390324)

Monday, October 21, 2024

Check-in: 8:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Program: 9:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.

The Visitor Center and Gift Shop will be open before the program. For Tribal seating reservations, please call the Chimney Rock Gift Shop at (970) 883-2496.

No public access to the Upper Mesa during the moon rise will be available.

Chimney Rock National Monument is located at 3179 CO-151, Chimney Rock, CO 81121; 3 miles south of US Highway 160 on CO Highway 151.

For more information about this event, visit: [www.recreation.gov/ticket/234787/ticket/10086877](http://www.recreation.gov/ticket/234787/ticket/10086877)

## Multi - Purpose Facility October 2024 Events

Monthly Event Calendar

Quilt & Sew—Tuesday—Thursday—October 15 & 17, 10:00 AM –3:30 PM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday October 18, 11:30 AM –1:30 PM

Traditional Beading & Sewing –Tuesday—Wednesday, October 22 & 23

Day Session—10:00 AM—3:00 PM Evening Session—5:30 –7:30 PM

No Yard Sale in October to accommodate the Annual Haunted House

Special Events

Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith—Tuesday October 8, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM

Halloween Youth Craft Day—Friday October 25, 10:30 AM—2:00 PM

Veterans Pow Wow Food Sale—Wednesday October 16, 11:30 AM—2:30 PM

Haunted House opens October 25, 26 & 31, 2024 6:00 PM

• Events are subject to change—watch for announcements

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

## RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT

# Nominations for 2025 Native American 40 Under 40 awards now open

**Staff report**  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Native American 40 Under 40 award. Nominated by members of their communities, this prestigious award is bestowed upon American Indians (including Canadian First Nations), Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians who are under the age of 40 (as of Jan. 1, 2025) and have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication while making significant contributions in their professions and to their communities. Past award winners

span diverse fields, reflecting the talent and diversity of Indian Country. Now entering its 16th year, the 40 Under 40 awards program is one of the primary ways The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development recognizes and cultivates young leaders.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Nov. 1, 2024. Both self and third-party nominations are accepted.

“The Native American 40 Under 40 awards embody the dedication, resilience, and leadership found throughout Indian Country,” said Chris James, President and CEO of The National Center. “I have no

doubt the 2025 class will be one of our most impressive yet. I look forward to celebrating these remarkable current and future leaders at RES 2025.”

The nomination process for the 40 Under 40 awards is extensive and those interested are encouraged to give themselves plenty of time to complete it. The 2025 40 Under 40 class will be announced before the end of the year. They will be formally honored during the next Reservation Economic Summit (RES), taking place in Las Vegas, Nev. from March 10-13, 2025.

Questions about nomination process? Contact e.skye@ncaied.org.

# Teaching Ute ways at Multi-Purpose Facility



The Multi-Purpose Facility hosted the Youth Craft Day on Friday, Sept. 27, during this event youth ages six-17 learned to make jerky, utilizing a dehydrator and later learning to turn dry meat into powder for cooking purposes. Parents and grandparents were invited to the event, learning to make jerky alongside their children.



Kellis Wilbourn works to fill trays of meat with the help of Terry Box on Friday, Sept. 27 during the Multi-Purpose Facility Youth Craft Day. Attendees used sauces and dried spices to season deer meat ahead of the drying process during the jerky making class.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Attendees of the Multi-Purpose Facility used salt, pepper, barbeque sauce, and soy sauce to season slices of fresh deer meat to make dried jerky, dehydrator trays are then filled with pieces of meat.

Open to all Southern Ute Tribal Members & Immediate Family, Ute Mountain Ute, & Ute Indian Tribal Members

*.main.*  
Traditional Sunday Dinner Turkey, Fresh garden salad w/ two dressings, Fruit Salad, Chef carved ham with pineapple cherry sauce, Stuffing, Cranberry sauce, Plain corn, Mashed potatoes, Turkey gravy, Sweet potatoes, Dinner rolls with butter

*.dessert.*  
Pecan pie, Pumpkin pie, Sugar free Apple Pie

SOUTHERN UTE ELDERS & TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES UNABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON MAY SIGN-UP FOR HOME DELIVERY. CONTACT SOUTHERN UTE ELDERS SERVICES (970) 563-2323.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT (970) 563-2208

## MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

### October Sip, Chat & Chew

Sponsored by The Southern Ute Education Department.

**Friday October 18, 2024**  
**11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

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

**Door Prize donations are welcome**

**The Education Department Staff will be present, to meet you and give you an update of their programs.**

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

## Multi-Purpose Facility

### Shining Mountain Health & Wellness

#### Healthy Cooking Class

*With Lisa Smith*

**Tuesday October 8, 2024**  
**10:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**Tailgate Party Twist**  
**Buffalo Cauliflower**  
**Chicken Pretzel Bites with Honey Mustard Dip**  
**Spicy Edamame**

*Call 970-563-2640 to sign-up.*

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





NATURE CONSERVANCY • FROM PAGE 1

the Colorado River Basin together. The trip garnered interest and participation from members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, the River Network, Western Landowners Alliance, and Mesa Verde National Park.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Spring Creek restoration project was just one of the many stops on The Nature Conservancy's tour of the region, which concluded at the Navajo Dam and San Juan River flowing south into New Mexico. The visiting tour was hosted by the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department (EPD), together the group visited numerous locations along Spring Creek to view the work being done under the Water Quality Division.

Spring Creek, which flows through the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, began undergoing restoration in 2018 and has now undergone four different restoration projects along different stream reaches. The most recent efforts are focused on Low-Tech Process Based Restoration work, which involves bringing in large woody material from the surrounding areas to create "beaver mimicry structures" or BMSs along the creek to slow the flow of water and prevent erosion. BMSs are in-stream structures that mimic the effects of beaver dams to restore wetlands, streams, and



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

EPD Water Quality Scientist, Dylan Ruckel explains how riparian vegetation is expanding and offering enhanced habitat for terrestrial wildlife and aquatic species due to recent restoration efforts along Spring Creek.

floodplains.

"We continue monitoring a site for five years to make sure restoration activities are being maintained and reaching project goals," said Dylan Ruckel, a Water Quality Scientist with the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department. "We have just completed installation of project 4 and plan on continuing to work towards the restoration of Spring Creek via improved riverscape area and water quality through future projects."

In project planning and implementation, EPD also works closely with the Wildlife Resource Management Division to ensure that the Tribe's fish and wildlife resources are taken into account and that the conservation of natural resources remains a top priority. "We [also] work with local landowners to improve irrigation and create healthier landscapes ...

and have the water arrive in better shape," Ruckel said.

"A previous project on Spring Creek that utilized Low-Tech Process Based Restoration work is showing great results," Ruckel said. "Riparian vegetation is expanding, healthy, and offering enhanced habitat for terrestrial wildlife and aquatic species. Sediment that is reaching the waterway is being captured and helping to raise the streambed, thus "undoing" the incision that was present and forming new banks for vegetation. There is more surface area of water as well as more diverse in-stream habitat and stream depths. We are seeing cottonwoods begin to re-establish which is a great sign. We will continue to monitor each active site and plan for future management, as many sites benefit greatly from more than just a single treatment."

"Funding sources thus far have been from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants," Ruckel said. "The support SUIT's \$319 program administration as well as on-the-ground project implementation such as stream restoration or our Cost-Share Program."

The Nature Conservancy field trip provided a look at these projects and environments firsthand, while also sparking ideas and discussion for future conservation efforts. The regional tour took place Sept. 11-13.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Spring Creek, which flows through the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, began undergoing restoration in 2018 and has now undergone four different restoration projects along different stream reaches.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# Legislation to compensate communities affected by Gold King Mine disaster

Staff report  
OFFICES OF U.S. SENATORS  
BENNET AND HICKENLOOPER

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper introduced the Gold King Mine Spill Compensation Act to help communities in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona that were affected by the Gold King Mine disaster of 2015.

"The effects of the Gold King Mine disaster were felt far beyond the banks of the Animas River. The blow-out hurt families, farmers, and outdoor recreation companies in Durango and throughout Southwest Colorado who depend on the river for their livelihoods," Bennet said. "Almost a decade later, too many Coloradans still feel its effects. Our legislation is a necessary step to help Coloradans finally recover certain remaining costs and damages incurred from the spill and make Southwest Colorado communities whole again."

"Local farmers, homeowners, and outdoor recreationers were left high and dry after the Gold King Mine spill in 2015," Hickenlooper said. "Our bill will make sure they get the compensation they need to finally recover and move forward."

On Aug. 5, 2015, the Gold King Mine spill released three million gallons of polluted mining wastewater in-

to the Animas and San Juan rivers, affecting waterways in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, the Southern Ute Reservation, and the Navajo Nation. Though the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was able to partially compensate some claims, its ability to meet the needs of affected businesses, farmers, and homeowners is constrained by existing laws. This legislation would provide EPA with the necessary authority and funding to compensate certain outstanding claims from the spill.

"The Gold King Mine Compensation Act clears the procedural hurdles that kept businesses that suffered economic losses due to the spill nearly 10 years ago from being made whole," said Matt Salka, Chair, La Plata County Board of County Commissioners. "We are grateful that the impact felt by those businesses has not been forgotten and that a remedy is possible through this much-appreciated legislation."

"The work that Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and their teams have done on the Gold King Mine Bill is restoring my faith in government. After all these years to see the promise of our government concerning the Gold King Mine incident and its ensuing economic damage was not forgotten, is refreshing. The

wheels of government turn slowly. We at Mild to Wild Rafting and Jeep Tours are thankful that Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and their teams are keeping them turning," said Alex Mickel, President, Mild to Wild Rafting and Jeep Tours.

The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners also shared a letter in support of this legislation.

Immediately after the Gold King Mine disaster, then-Governor Hickenlooper declared the affected area a disaster zone. The following month, Bennet requested and testified at a Senate hearing regarding the cause, response, and effects of the Gold King Mine disaster. He also introduced the Gold King Mine Spill Recovery Act to ensure the EPA continued to work with states, local communities, and Tribes to compensate those who were affected and implement long-term water quality monitoring. The following year, Bennet worked to pass legislation to support recovery efforts from the spill.

On its second anniversary, Bennet and New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, alongside then-Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), introduced legislation to reform the nation's antiquated mining laws and prevent future hardrock mine disasters.

## Price earns sergeant promotion



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Darian Price was promoted to the rank of SUPD Sergeant on Friday, Sept. 20. The formal pinning ceremony took place in the large conference room at the Justice & Regulatory Department, with praise from Southern Ute Police Chief Barrow who commended Price on his commitment to Tribal law enforcement and community over the years.



Darian Price was accompanied by his wife Marlene, who pinned the badge to his uniform following his promotion to the rank of Sargent.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Quilt & Sewing Class



Tuesday & Thursday  
October 15 & 17, 2024

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Halloween Theme Quilting

Call Elise to sign up & get supply list 970-563-2641

256 Ute Rd. Ignacio CO 81137 - 970-563-2641, eredd@southernute-nsn.gov

Make Your Own

# PASTA

Tuesday, October 15 at 4:30 p.m.

UNLEASH YOUR INNER CHEF AT THE LIBRARY'S PASTA-MAKING EVENT!  
OPEN TO ALL AGES, BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, OR SIMPLY YOURSELF, AND SAVOR THE EXPERIENCE OF MAKING AND TASTING A VARIETY OF DELICIOUS PASTAS!



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

## Decorating pumpkins with Tribal Council



Sunshine Whyte/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Chairman Baker provided a warm welcome to the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students during their field trip to the Tribal Demonstration Garden, Monday, Sept. 30. The Southern Ute Tribal Council and Agriculture Division had a blast with the students on their fall field trip to the pumpkin patch.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Tribal Council and the Agriculture Division celebrated the start of Fall last Friday, joining the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students and their parents for a fun-filled field trip to the Tribal Demonstration Garden, picking and decorating kaaravasi (pumpkins) as well as sowing seeds of knowledge. SUIMA students decorated their pumpkins with help from parents and Council members.



Summer Begay/SU Tribal Council Affairs

Pumpkin patches, seeds of wisdom, and smiles all around! SUIMA students learned about pumpkins, gourds, and hybrids resulting in a textured pumpkin.

## COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

# Colorado pedestrian fatalities have increased 77% since 2018

**Staff report**  
COLO. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Last year was another record-breaking year in Colorado for pedestrian fatalities. In all, 136 people were killed by drivers while walking or crossing the street. October is National Pedestrian Safety Month, and CDOT is urging both drivers and pedestrians to be alert and use extra caution, especially as we head into periods with less daylight and pedestrian fatalities tend to increase.

To highlight the human impact of these crashes, CDOT interviewed pedestrian crash survivors and family members of those killed in Denver, Pueblo and Loveland. Dana Waldbaum was on her way to the gym one morning when an impaired driver hit her while going over 70 mph in Denver. Fred Gallegos was preparing for the adoption of his two youngest children when he was informed his mother had been struck and killed while crossing the street in Pueblo. Ana Lucaci was walking in Denver when a pickup hit her in a crosswalk. Melissa Myers was awaiting the arrival of her son, Gavin, from his afternoon fishing expedition when he was struck and killed by a driver less than a quarter-mile from their home in Loveland.

Pedestrian fatalities in Colorado have increased by 161% in the last decade and 77% since 2018. Despite a decline in pedestrian fatalities in the first nine months of 2024 – 72 deaths compared to 96 during the same period in 2023 – the numbers remain alarmingly high.

“The persistent rise in fatalities calls for immediate and sustained action from

all drivers and pedestrians in Colorado,” said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. “It’s up to all of us to make choices that protect our most vulnerable road users and create an environment where no one has to fear for their life simply because they need to cross the street.”

This increase in pedestrian fatalities is not unique to Colorado – pedestrian deaths have nearly doubled nationwide over the past two decades. In Colorado, pedestrians now account for 19% of all traffic fatalities, up from 10% in 2002. This alarming increase far outpaces the rise in fatalities involving vehicle occupants.

Fall and winter are historically the deadliest times of year for pedestrians as the days grow shorter and darker. In 2023, 58% of pedestrian fatalities occurred during fall and winter, with December being the deadliest month. Lighting conditions are a major factor. Last year, 78% of all pedestrian fatalities occurred at night or in low-light conditions such as dusk or dawn. Older adults between the ages of 65-74 were the most at risk when it came to pedestrian fatalities in Colorado, according to CDOT data.

One of the ways CDOT improves safety for pedestrians is by enhancing infrastructure specifically designed for them. CDOT prioritizes solutions informed by stakeholder values, use of safety data and location-specific information to create safer crossings and facilities, especially at high-risk areas and challenging intersections. Additionally, the Revitalizing Main Streets program supports local economic vitality by funding infra-

structure improvements that make walking easier and safer, fostering stronger community connections across Colorado.

As we observe National Pedestrian Safety Month, CDOT is sharing the following tips:

### Safety Tips: Pedestrians

- Walk on sidewalks whenever possible.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Stay off your phone when crossing the street.
- Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.

### Safety Tips: Drivers

- Look out for pedestrians and bicyclists everywhere, at all times, and especially in areas near schools, parks, shopping areas and transit stops.
- Put the phone down and avoid distractions that take your attention off the road.
- Follow the speed limit. Speeding motorists endanger everyone on the road but put pedestrians at the greatest risk for death or serious injury.
- Stop before a crosswalk, not in it.
- Never drive impaired.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk.
- At night, reduce your speed and make sure your headlights are on.

## Halloween Mystery Dinner

Sunday, Oct. 27 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Ignacio Community Library is thrilled to present this year's spine-tingling theme, it has Dracula, theater, murder, and of course, mystery! Please mark your calendar and join us to challenge your detective skills. This is an event you don't want to miss!

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE**

**GOOSEBUMPS HALLOWEEN**

First 50 kids get a Goosebumps book!!!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR!!!  
COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL  
SKY UTE CASINO EVENT CENTER, IGNACIO CO  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 31ST, 2024 STARTS @6:00PM-9:00PM  
GAME BOOTHS-PRIZES FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES  
COSTUME CONTEST WILL START AT 7:30PM  
AGE GROUPS  
0-4 YEARS, 5-8 YEARS, 9-12 YEARS, 13-17 YEARS, 18+ YEARS, FAMILY  
BOOTHES MAY CHARGE  
PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT  
DON FOLSOM (970)563-2899 OR JASPER ABEYTA (970)563-2808

MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY  
**HAUNTED HOUSE**  
THREE NIGHTS OF TERROR  
OCTOBER 25-26-27  
2024  
6PM - 11PM

256 Ute Road  
Ignacio, CO  
81137

ADMISSION \$13

970-563-2640



## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

# Triumph Over Trauma

### Justice is Restored Holding Perpetrators Accountable

It is important to recognize that our relatives are struggling to heal from generations of trauma stemming from colonization, forced relocation, genocide, the abduction of children and babies carted off to more than 350 government-funded boarding schools and countless non-Native foster homes which caused irreparable harm to Native American and Alaska Native communities.

*“When we call attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we must not forget the path Tribal nations have been on for centuries,” concluded Jump. “Until Native American history is told in truth and totality we must continue to tell our stories of triumph over trauma.”*

To read the full story “Triumph Over Trauma Justice Is Restored” visit our website at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)

#### StrongHearts advocates are available 24/7 and can provide:

- Peer support and advocacy
- Information and education about domestic and sexual violence
- Personalized safety planning
- Crisis intervention
- Referrals to Native-centered service providers
- General information about jurisdiction and legal advocacy referrals
- Basic information about health options
- Support finding crisis centers trained in the care of survivors of sexual assault



**Talk or Text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**

**We envision a return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe, violence is eradicated and sacredness is restored.**



**STRONGHEARTS**  
Native Helpline

**Domestic Violence  
Is Never Okay**

**Chat online at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)**

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GG-02829-CSSP awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

VOICES FROM THE EDGE

## Heavy metal youth concert brings in an all-Indigenous lineup of bands

By Clark Adomaitis  
KSJD/KSUT REPORTER

The Southern Ute Fair marked its 102nd anniversary in Ignacio recently, with a blend of old and new traditions, including a heavy metal concert featuring an all-Indigenous lineup.

The 14th annual Native REZ-olution Youth Concert took place at the Southern Ute Fair on Sept. 7. Concert-goers in black T-shirts and black leather boots moshed to seven heavy metal and rock bands.

The alcohol-and drug-free event features a unique lineup of bands every year. Robert Ortiz, Graphic Specialist for the Southern Ute Drum,

started the concert years ago. Loren Anthony, a Navajo actor and motivational speaker, plays bass with the band Hell Throne, which traveled from Phoenix, Ariz., to perform at the Rez-olution Youth Concert.

“The scene has still shown nothing but love, nothing but community, nothing but unity,” Anthony said. “This type of event promotes not drinking, where people can come and feel safe and have a place to be. Metal music in general has always been aggressive and has a lot of true meaning to its words. A lot of the lyrics that a lot of these bands write are music that’s about real life, about the struggles.”

Heavy metal is more than just music. It gives people an outlet to express frustrations and societal challenges faced by many Indigenous communities. A specific subgenre of heavy metal, called Rez Metal, has even developed recently in Native American Communities.

“We come here, and we promote love and peace,” said Ernest Capono, guitarist for Hellthrone. “It’s weird to hear that from all these metal bands, but there’s a lot of people that don’t feel like they belong. There’s a lot of pain. When people are struggling, they need to feel like they are heard, and they belong.



Clark Adomaitis/KSJD/KSUT

Lo Cash Ninjas, a ska band with members from the Navajo Nation, play at night at the 14th annual Native REZ-olution Youth Concert.



Clark Adomaitis/KSJD/KSUT

Icy Whisper, a heavy metal band from Flagstaff, Ariz., with members from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe, perform at the 14th annual REZ-olution concert during the 102nd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair.

When you come to something like this, and you see the moshing, and you see all the pain and the anger, we’re allowing the misfits to fit. We’re allowing everybody to leave here with a smile.”

Secret Earth, a band from the San Felipe Pueblo, mixes hip-hop with heavy metal. Lead singer Patrick Velasquez feels right at home performing their experimental music at the Tribal Fair.

“We come from Tribal fairs and feast days. Everybody being here is kind of what we’re used to, people gathering, and it’s really humbling. It’s a driving force for us to be around our own kind. Being up there and seeing everybody from

different Tribes made me want to scream harder,” Velasquez said.

Dylan Eustace, the guitarist for Secret Earth, agrees.

“I usually get nervous and stuff. But playing shows and playing out here for my brothers and sisters, I don’t feel nervous. I feel good,” Eustace said.

Velasquez and Eustace each have a message to share with youth attendees of the show:

“If you want to do something, just do it. It doesn’t really matter as long as you’re not hurting anybody and you’re having a good time. Just make sure that you put everything into it,” Velasquez said.

“Don’t be afraid to be a

little bit out there. Don’t be afraid to commit to your art if you think that it sounds good,” Eustace added.

The Native REZ-olution Youth Concert takes place every September at the Southern Ute Fair in Ignacio, Colo.

*This story is part of Voices From the Edge of the Colorado Plateau, a reporting collaboration between KSUT Public Radio and KSJD Community Radio. It seeks to cover underrepresented communities in the Four Corners. The multi-year project covers Native, Indigenous, Latino/Latina, and other communities across Southwest Colorado.*

**New Pharmacy Hours!**

To better serve our patients, the SUHC Pharmacy will close for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM to provide extended time for prescription pick-up.

**PHARMACY HOURS:**  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
**Lunch Closure:** 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Don’t forget to sign up for **text messaging** to receive notifications when your prescription is ready for pickup! The Pharmacy can provide **auto-fill** services for your monthly medications for added convenience.

The Pharmacy also offers prescription **delivery** both on and off campus.

For delivery requests or more information, please contact Pharmacy staff at 970-563-4781.

**Sky Ute CASINO RESORT**  
Owned and Operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

**JOIN THE SPOOKY FUN THIS OCTOBER**

**THE JUICE IS LOOSE!**  
HOT SEAT DRAWINGS  
CASH! CASH! CASH! SUMMON UP TO \$2,500!

**FRIDAYS IN OCTOBER 7PM - 12AM**  
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MIN

**WAITING ROOM WINNINGS**  
NOW SERVING  
9,998,383,750,000  
167,647,154

**SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER 9AM-9PM**

**BEETLE SPIN AND SANDWORM WIN**  
WIN UP TO \$500 SKY UTE LOOT!

**THURSDAY OCT 31 8AM - 12AM**

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

Disclaimer: Prizes are non-transferable. Sky Ute Casino reserves the right to modify or cancel promotions at any time without notice. Must be 21 or older to enter casino. Rules apply. See Ace’s Club or promotional kiosk for details.

**Southern Ute Tribal Health Department**

*will be closed*

**DECEMBER 5TH**  
8-5pm for Southern Ute Tribal Health Department training and retreat

regular hours to resume Friday December 6th

*Thank you*

All phone calls to the Health Center, Optometry, Behavioral Health and Dental offices will be answered by the Triage Line. Please call (970) 563-4581 to contact the CHR’s 970-563-4401.

**Subscribe to The Southern Ute Drum**  
For subscription or advertising information, call 970-563-0118.  
\$29 one year • \$49 two year  
Southern Ute tribal members may receive the Drum for FREE.  
Also, update your address if needed.



# Uncompahgre Powwow graces Montrose



Delvin Bennett from Cache, Okla. was the head gourd dancer for the inaugural Uncompahgre Powwow held in Montrose, Colo. Southern Host Drum, Southern Mountain Intertribal sang during the gourd dance session of the powwow.



Little Miss Southern Ute, Malia White Thunder greets the crowd after the Grand Entry.



Howard Richards Sr., Commander of the Southern Ute Veterans Association stands by a hand painted picture by Southern Ute Tribal Veteran, Rod Grove. Grove and Richards donated the piece to the Ute Indian Museum in 1990.

**The inaugural Uncompahgre Powwow was held at the Centennial Middle School gymnasium in Montrose, Colo., Saturday, Sept. 21. The powwow was hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center and the Ute Indian Museum. Afrem Wall, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal member was the MC for the event with Justin "Bear" Lang Ute Mountain Ute Tribal member selected as the Arena Director for the powwow. Tribal Veterans, Royalty and dancers from the Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Indian and Southern Ute Tribes filled the gymnasium for the first Grand Entry on Saturday afternoon. Next year the Ute Indian Museum will be hosting the powwow at the Montrose High School.**

**Photos by Krista Richards**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute Tribal Veterans, Royalty, and Tribal members dance during the gourd dance session.



Dancers fill the gymnasium on Saturday, Sept. 21 during the Grand Entry.



A fancy dancer shows his stuff while in the Grand Entry of the powwow.



The Two-Step dance brings youth, adults and elders together during the evening powwow session.



The Southern Ute Veterans Association, along with members from Ute Mountain Ute and Ute Indian Tribe bring in the flags for the Uncompahgre Powwow in Montrose, Colo. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

## INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

# Trust Issues: How schools, hospitals, and prisons in 15 states profit from land and resources on 79 Tribal nations

Anna V. Smith & Maria Parazo Rose

THIS STORY IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN GRIST AND HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

On a wet spring day in June, fog shrouded the Mission Mountains on the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwest Montana. Silver beads of rain clung to blades of grass and purple lupine. On a ridge overlooking St. Mary's Lake in the southeastern corner of the reservation, the land was mostly cleared of trees after state-managed logging operations. Some trees remained, mainly firs and pines, spindly things that once grew in close quarters but now looked exposed without their neighbors.

Viewed from the sky, the logged parcel was strikingly square despite the mountainous terrain. It stood in contrast to the adjacent, tribally managed forest, where timber operations followed the topographic contours of watersheds and ridgelines or imitated fire scars from lightning strikes. "It's not that they're mismanaging everything, but their management philosophy and scheme do not align with ours," said Tony Incashola Jr., the director of tribal resources for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, or CSKT, as he looked out the window of his Jeep at the landscape. "Their tactics sometimes don't align with ours, which in turn affects our capability of managing our land."

This nearly clear-cut, 640-acre parcel is state trust land and is a small part of the 108,886 state-owned acres, above- and belowground, scattered across the reservation – this despite the tribal nation's sovereign status.

The Douglas fir and ponderosa pine trees that remained in the square would thrive on the occasional fire and controlled burn after logging operations, benefiting the next generation of trees. Instead, the area was unburned, and shrubs crowded the ground. "I see this stand right here looking the exact same in 20 years," said Incashola. It's his first time being on this land, despite a lifetime on the reservation – because it's state land, the gate has always been locked.

State trust lands, on and off Indian reservations, make up millions of acres across the Western United States and generate revenue for public schools, universities, jails, hospitals, and other public institutions by leasing them for oil and gas extraction, grazing, rights of way, timber, and more. The state of Montana, for example, manages 5.2 million surface acres and

6.2 million subsurface acres, a term pertaining to oil, gas, minerals, and other underground resources, which distributed \$62 million to public institutions in 2023. The majority of that money went to K-12 schools – institutions serving primarily non-Indigenous people.

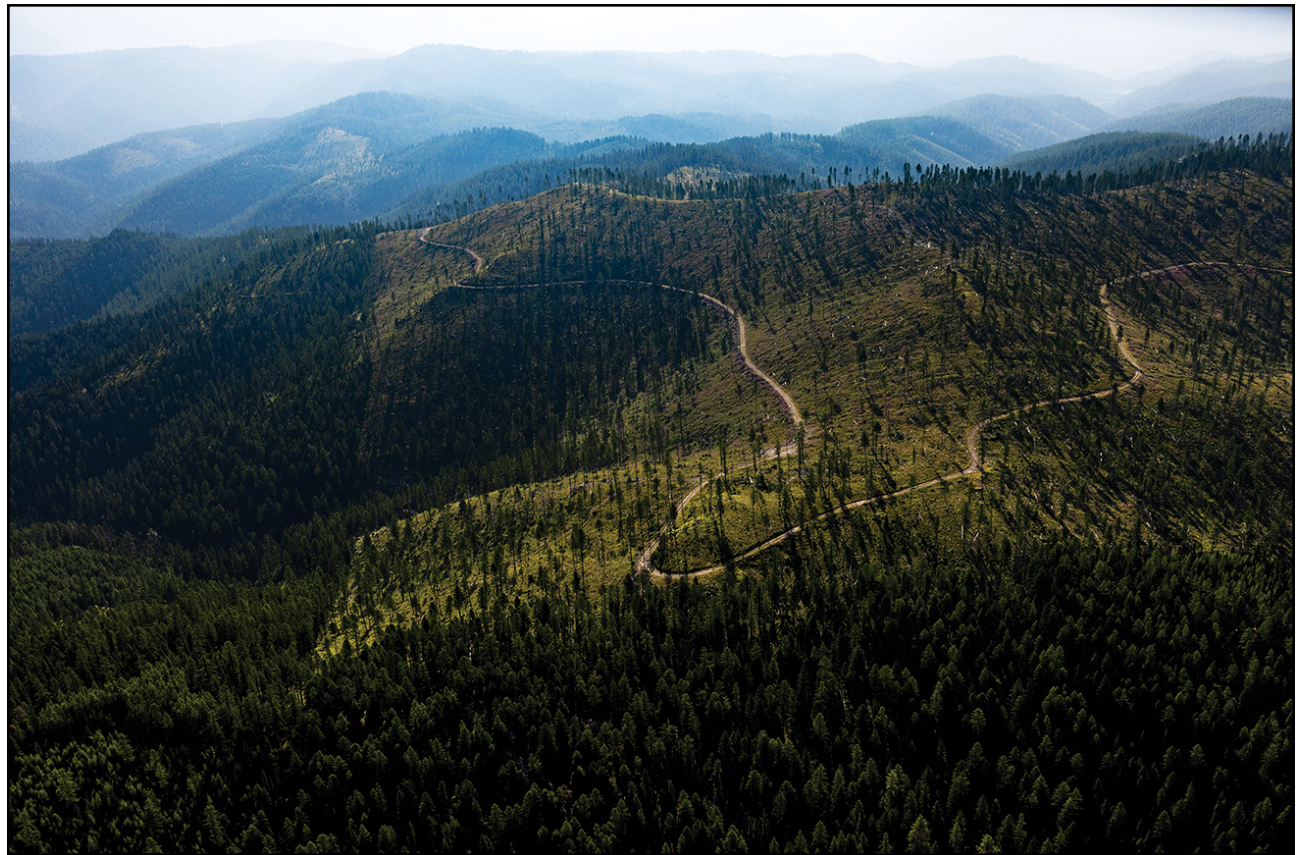
States received many of these trust lands upon achieving statehood, but more were taken from tribal nations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries through a federal policy of allotment, in which reservations were forcibly cut up into small parcels in an effort to make Indigenous peoples farmers and landowners. The policy allowed for about 90 million acres of reservation lands nationwide to move to non-Indigenous ownership. On the Flathead Reservation, allotment dispossessed the CSKT of a million acres, more than 60,000 of which were taken to fund schools.

But the Flathead Reservation is just one reservation checkerboarded by state trust lands.

To understand how land and resources taken from Indigenous peoples and nations continue to enrich non-Indigenous citizens, Grist and High Country News used publicly available data to identify which reservations have been impacted by state trust land laws and policies; researched the state institutions benefiting from these lands; and compiled data on many of the companies and individuals leasing the land on those reservations. Altogether, we located more than 2 million surface and subsurface acres of land on 79 reservations in 15 states that are used to support public institutions and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers. In at least four states, five tribal nations themselves are the lessees – paying the state for access to, collectively, more than 57,700 acres of land within their own reservation borders.

However, due to instances of outdated and inconsistent data from federal, state, and tribal cartographic sources, our analysis may include lands that do not neatly align with some borders and ownership claims. As a result, our analysis may be off by a few hundred acres. In consultation with tribal and state officials, we have filtered, clipped, expanded, and otherwise standardized multiple data sets with the recognition that in many cases, more accurate land surveying is necessary.

The state trust lands that came from sanctioned land grabs of the early 20th century helped bolster state economies and continue to underwrite non-Indian institutions while infringing on



Tailyr Irvine/Grist

State and tribal forestry management practices stand in contrast here, where the corner of a recently logged state trust land parcel abuts lands managed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

tribal sovereignty. "The justification for them is very old. It goes back to, really, the founding of the U.S.," said Miriam Jorgensen, research director for the Harvard Project on Indigenous Governance and Development. The goal, she said, was to help settlers and their families gain a firmer foothold in the Western U.S. by funding schools and hospitals for them. "There's definitely a colonial imperative in the existence of those lands."

Although tribal citizens are a part of the public those institutions are supposed to serve, their services often fall short. On the Flathead Reservation, for example, Indigenous youth attend public schools funded in part by state trust lands inside the nation's boundaries. However, the state is currently being sued by the CSKT, as well as five other tribes, over the state's failure over decades to adequately teach Indigenous curriculum despite a state mandate to do so.

Since 2022, the CSKT and the state of Montana have been negotiating a land exchange in which the tribe will see some 29,200 acres of state trust lands on the reservation returned, which could include the logged, 640-acre parcel near St. Mary's Lake. In the trade, Montana will receive federal lands from the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, or potentially both, elsewhere in the state. Such a return has been "the want of our ancestors and the want of our tribal leaders since they were taken," Incashola said. "It's not a want for ownership, it's a want for protection of resources, for making us whole again to manage



Tailyr Irvine/Grist

Tony Incashola Jr., Director of Tribal Resource Management for CSKT looks out at state-owned parcels from an airplane during a flyover on Thursday, Aug. 8.

our forests again the way we want to manage them."

Tribal nations and states have struggled with state and federal governments over jurisdiction and land since the inception of the United States, says Alex Pearl, who is Chickasaw and a professor of law at the University of Oklahoma. But the potential return of state trust lands represents an opportunity for LandBack on a broad scale: an actionable step toward reckoning with the ongoing dispossession of territories meant to be reserved for tribes. "The LandBack movement that started as protests has become a viable policy, legally," Pearl said.

The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation is one of the largest reservations in the U.S., stretching 4.5 million acres across the northeastern corner of Utah. But on closer look, the reservation is checkerboarded, thanks to allotment, with multiple land claims on the reservation by individuals, corporations, and the state of Utah. Altogether, the Ute Tribe oversees about a quarter of its reservation.

The state of Utah owns more than 511,000 surface and subsurface acres of trust lands within the reservation's borders. And of those acres, the Ute Tribe is leasing 47,000 – nearly 20 percent of all surface trust land acreage on the reservation – for grazing purposes, paying the state to use land well within its own territorial boundaries. According to Utah's Trust Lands Administration, the agency responsible for managing state trust lands, a grazing permit for a 640-acre plot runs around \$300. In the last year alone, the Utes have paid the state more than

\$25,000 to graze on trust lands on the reservation.

Of all the Indigenous nations in the U.S. that pay states to utilize their own lands, the Ute Tribe leases back the highest number of acres. And while not all states have publicly accessible lease information with land-use records, of the ones that did, Grist and High Country News found that at least four other tribes also lease nearly 11,000 acres, combined, on their own reservations: the Southern Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Laguna, and Zuni Tribe. According to state records, almost all of these tribally leased lands – 99.5 percent – are used for agriculture and grazing.

The Pueblo of Laguna, Zuni, part of the Navajo Reservation, and Ramah Navajo, a chapter of Navajo Nation, are located in the state of New Mexico, which owns nearly 143,000 surface and subsurface acres of state trust lands across a total of 13 reservations. The Navajo Nation leases all 218 acres of New Mexico state trust lands on its reservation, while the Ramah Navajo leases 17 percent of the 24,600 surface state trust land acres within its reservation's borders. The Pueblo of Laguna leases more than half of the 11,200 surface trust land acres in its territory, while the Zuni Tribe leases 37 of the 60 surface trust land acres located on its reservation. The nations did not comment by press time.

Cris Stainbrook, president of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, said that for tribes, the cost of leasing state trust lands on their reservations for grazing and agriculture is likely lower

than what it would cost to fight for ownership of those lands. But, he added, those lands never should have been taken from tribal ownership in the first place.

"Is it wrong? Is it fundamentally wrong to have to lease what should be your own land? Yes," said Stainbrook. "But the reality of the situation is, the chances of having the federal or state governments return it is low."

In theory, tribal nations share access to public resources funded by state trust lands, but that isn't always the case. For example, Native students tend to fare worse in U.S. public schools, and some don't attend state-run schools at all. Instead, they enroll in Bureau of Indian Education schools, a system of nearly 200 institutions on 64 reservations that receive funding from the federal government, not state trust lands.

Beneficiaries, including public schools, get revenue generated from a variety of activities, including leases for roads and infrastructure, solar panel installations, and commercial projects. Fossil fuel infrastructure or activity is present on roughly a sixth of on-reservation trust lands nationwide.

While state agencies can exchange trust lands on reservations for federal lands off-reservation, the process is complicated by the state's legal obligation to produce as much money as possible from trust lands for its beneficiaries. Still, some states are attempting to create state-wide systematic processes for returning trust lands.

See part 2 of this article in the Oct. 18 issue of the Drum.



Tailyr Irvine/Grist

A clear line divides forest managed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe and recently harvested state-owned land.



TRIBAL MEDIA

# Resilient Voices: The Legacy of the Native American Journalists Association

Staff report  
INDIGENOUS JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION



For more than 40 years, Indigenous journalists have worked to support and sustain IJA. Originally formed as the Native American Press Association in 1983, the name changed in 1990, to be more inclusive of broadcast journalists. The organization has grown from just a handful of reporters to a global membership reflecting Indigenous journalists, supporters, associates, educators and partners.

In 2023, members voted to change the organization's name from the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) to the Indigenous Journalists Association (IJA). This change recognizes the need to develop relationships, contacts and cooperation across political

borders and reflects a desire to align terminology with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

To honor the past and to look toward the future, to give way for future generations of storytellers, students from the 2023 Native American Journalism Fellowship (NAJF), now known as the Indigenous Journalism Fellowship (IJF), interviewed former NAJA

presidents during the 2023 National Native Media Conference in Winnipeg.

The result is this historic video, produced by Sarah Liese (Diné/Chippewa Cree), shot and edited by RDG PR, a Cherokee-owned and operated communications company.

Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSwl-rNouRc>

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

# LPEA seeks community input During Cooperative Month

Staff report  
LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA)

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the

fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at 970-247-5786 or visit [lpea.coop](http://lpea.coop).

In celebration of National Co-op Month this October, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) announced a series of focus group discussions aimed at shaping the future of the cooperative. LPEA is seeking applicants for focus groups made up of cooperative members. Feedback received will contribute to the development of energy programs and decisions.

### Dates & Locations

- Oct. 8 – Virtual 12 – 2 p.m.
- Oct. 21 – Pagosa Springs 5 – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 22 – Durango 5 – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 29 – Virtual 5 – 7 p.m. Members can sign up for a session via this form.

## Welcome baby Berry



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Tribal Council welcomed baby Juniper RaeAnn Annetta Berry as a new member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe on Tuesday, Sept. 17 in the Tribal Council Chambers. Berry is the daughter of Moav Berry and Breann Martinez.

### 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](mailto:aflanigan@southernute-nsn.gov) if you have questions or want to make a withdrawal.

- Distribution Wednesday, Nov. 27 NOON Friday, Nov. 20
- Distribution Friday, Dec. 13 NOON Friday Dec. 6
- Distribution Friday Dec. 27 NOON Friday Dec. 20
- Distribution Friday Jan. 3, 2025 NOON Monday, Dec. 30

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

**HERE IS WHY WE NEED INDIGENOUS FOSTER HOMES: IT IS FEDERAL LAW.**

OUR GOALS:  
**Engaging Families. Building Community. Strengthening Relationships**

**The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was established in 1978**

- >It is a Federal Law that requires Indigenous children be placed with their own relatives first if they enter foster care, or with another Indigenous family.
- >It also requires the States to notify the child's Tribe of origin if the State takes an Indigenous child into custody.
- >It is also intended to prevent Indigenous children from being removed from their homes and adopted by non-Indigenous families.

**Why is it important to have Indigenous foster homes?**

It is so important to have foster homes licensed within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation so that children are not placed away from their families/relatives, their schools, and their communities if they do enter the foster care system.

**We are recruiting safe, and stable families to provide temporary care for children in need. Please call Kellie @ 970.563.2337 for more information.**

#### WHO CAN BE FOSTER PARENTS?

- Single or Married
- LGBTQIA+ Community Members
- Any Race, Ethnicity or Religion
- Families with children or not
- Homeowners or Renters
- Adults 18 years old and older



## ELDER SERVICE'S OCTOBER ACTIVITIES LIST

~~OCTOBER 1, 2024~~  
Scenic drive (Silverton)  
Lunch will be provided.  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

**OCTOBER 8, 2024**  
Pagosa Hot Springs  
Lunch will be provided  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

**OCTOBER 14, 2024**  
Indigenous Peoples Day  
Tribal offices will be closed

**OCTOBER 15, 2024**  
Movie Day (Durango)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 11:00 a.m.

**OCTOBER 24-26, 2024**  
Indian Nationals Rodeo (Las Vegas, NV)  
We have 6 rooms available.  
Please call Elder Services for more information.  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 8:00 a.m.

**OCTOBER 31, 2024**  
**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**  
CALL ELDER SERVICES @ 563-2309 TO HAVE YOUR NAME ADDED TO THE ACTIVITIES LIST OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

## BIZ LAB WORKSHOPS

Hosted by Southern Ute Economic Development

**2024 FRIDAYS KSUT PARKING LOT NOON - 2PM**

**OCT. 11** Community Dashboards, Loans, & More. Small Biz Support & Tools w/ Heather Otter, Region 9

Workshops are FREE & open to the public!

**REGISTER HERE** →

## FARMERS MARKET FRIDAYS!

Hosted by Southern Ute Economic Development

**When & Where:**

- ✓ Join us for Lunch! Every Friday 11am-2pm thru October 11th
- ✓ In front of KSUT Radio - 15150 Hwy 172 Ignacio, CO 81137

**Don't Miss Out On:**

- ✓ Amazing local art, handmade gifts, jewelry, & more!
- ✓ Great food trucks, baked goods, and other yummy treats!

Scan for Vendor Registration Info

"Being present  
can mean a lot to  
someone struggling  
with addiction."

Randi | In Recovery  
Ute Mountain Ute Member



Recovery from addiction is  
always possible. Find support and  
resources at [LTSouthernUte.org](https://LTSouthernUte.org).



LIFT THE LABEL<sup>®</sup>





## Southern Ute Veterans's Association Princess Contest Saturday, November 9, 2024



Photo Credit: Divine Windy Boy - Southern Ute Drum

- Age 12 – 17 years old.
- Must be a daughter or descendent of an American Indian Veteran.
- Must present an American Indian CIB or tribal ID.
- Must be single, not married, or cohabitating.



Applications & Information, contact:  
Rhonda Wilbourn: 970-749-0678  
or Jennifer GoodTracks: 970-946-1241

Princess Committee: Rhonda Wilbourn, Jennifer GoodTracks,  
Stefanie Fasano, Kellis Wilbourn.

## Community Veterans Pow Wow Ignacio High School - 315 Ignacio St. Ignacio, Colorado November 9th - 11th, 2024



Photo by: Jeremy Shockley/Southern Ute Drum

### Community Veterans Celebration Events

Saturday November 9, Ignacio High School-Pow Wow  
Gourd Dance: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM & 6:00-7:00 PM  
Grand Entry 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM, Supper Break 5:00 PM  
Southern Ute Veterans Association Special - Veteran Recognition  
Ronnie C. Baker and Edward Lee Brown  
Princess Contest & Crowning of Princess-Veterans Special Contest

Sunday November 10, Ignacio High School-Pow Wow  
Gourd Dance 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Grand Entry 1:00 PM  
Veterans Special Contest (Traditional Clothes)  
Hand Drum Contest-Special Dance Contest TBA-Raffles

Veteran's Day Events-Monday November 11, 2024  
Community Veterans Day Breakfast-10:00 AM-Noon at the Multi-Purpose  
Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO All Veterans are welcome.  
Sponsored by Farmer's Fresh Market & Deli and  
prepared by the Volunteers to Honor Our Veterans

Contact: Elise Redd, 970-563-2641 or 970-779-8149 MPF-970-563-2640  
Limited Vender Spaces available \$50/day or \$75 weekend-Contact Stais Harlan- 970-563-2642  
Saturday Dinner is a Potluck—donations are welcome—Main Dish is provided.

Sponsored by the Southern Ute Veterans Association , Ignacio High School,  
Ignacio Community & the Volunteers to Honor our Veterans.

All Donations and contributions are welcome and appreciated.

Come out and Honor our Veterans, show your appreciation for their service.



### 2024 Annual Fall Clean-Up

October 21-25, 2024

By Appointment Only No pickups over the weekend or the week after.  
Save the date! Spring Clean-up April 7-11, 2025!

Tribal Members, Tribal Departments, and any tenant of the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority. We will not pick up for non-tribal tenants living in Tribal Member owned rental homes. All pick-ups must be within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation only. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN ONE AREA** and general trash **MUST BE BAGGED FOR PICK UP**. No Pickups will be made without prior scheduling with the homeowner or department. **APPOINTMENT ONLY**.

If you have tires, only 4 tires per household will be picked up. **NO EXCEPTIONS. No semi-truck or heavy equipment tires accepted. Tires only, no wheels.** We will not pull your trailer to the transfer station for you.

Tribal Elders. Please contact Elder Services at (970) 563-2323 if you need help with bagging and piling of your trash.

All vehicle disposals please call Building Maintenance at 970-563-0265.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE.** If think your trash is hazardous waste, or you cannot identify the waste, please call Environmental Programs at 970-563-2272. If the pickup teams suspect that your trash may contain hazardous waste, or it is not identifiable, we will call Environmental Programs.

**LARGE SITE or DANGEROUS or HAZARDOUS WASTE** testing and cleanup will be completed at the **HOMEOWNER'S EXPENSE**. This will be on a case-by-case basis and scheduled dependent on program availability.

#### Areas of Operation

- Motor Pool, 970-563-0280, Tribal Member homes west of the Pine River except those areas listed below.
- Building Maintenance, 970-563-0265, Tribal Departments, Tribal Member homes on Cr 314, Cr 315, Cr 316, and Cr 311 and **ALL VEHICLES.**
- Grounds Maintenance, 970-563-0272, Tribal Departments, Tribal Member homes located in Cedar Point East & West, Ignacio Peak and the La Boca area west of the Pine River, Tribal Member tenants of Quichas Apartments.
- Construction Services, 970-563-0260, Tribal members within the Town of Ignacio and Tribal Member homes east of the Pine River.
- Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority, 970-563-4575, Southern Ute Housing Authority renters and Senior Center.

Southern Ute Property and Facilities, Tyson Thompson, 970-563-2945

## Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$34.00 per month and business services are \$53.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

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

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

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



## Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 10/01/24

### OCTOBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TRANSFER STATION 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup> INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 11<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 28<sup>TH</sup> THANKSGIVING — CLOSED
- DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup>/10<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
- DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

#### TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY

Tribal Members: Pick up 2024 Trash Permits—call office or contact Mr. James Red at Transfer Station Ramp. Show Tribal ID.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shut-Off Day is October 2nd!  
Pay bill before 10am on 10/2 to avoid late fees. Questions? Call Utilities Office.
- Tribal Fall Cleanup is October 21st—25th. Only 4 tires per household allowed. Please label chemicals and place in a closed container upon dropping off at ramp.
- New Utility Rate Sheet mailed mid-September. New rates are effective October 1, 2024.
- Prepare for colder weather — winterize your homes to save on heating costs.
- Utilities Offices & Transfer Station CLOSED on Monday, 10/14/2024 for Indigenous People's Day (Holiday).



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.

PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio, CO 81137 (970) 563-5500 [www.suitutil.com](http://www.suitutil.com)

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8 AM to 5 PM  
Lobby closed 12p -1p on Fridays  
Reach a staff member by phone at (970) 563-5500

#### Friendly Reminders

- Questions on your bill? Need help setting up your online payments? Call us.
- Monthly Shut-offs are the first Wednesday of each month:  
Oct. 2nd / Nov. 6th / Dec. 4th
- Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments before 10am on Shut-off Day

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at: [www.suitutil.com](http://www.suitutil.com)  
Choose "Pay My Bill" tab
- Utilities Drive-Up Window
- Utilities Drop Box at Office
- Wells Fargo Drive-Thru (Ignacio Branch)
- Automatic deductions at Tribal Distribution
- Mail payment made payable to "Southern Ute Utilities Division" PO Box 1137 Ignacio, CO 81137
- Phone (970) 563-5500

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## BOBCATS FOOTBALL

# Bobcats set to begin conference play

Post-Bayfield, IHS to visit Centauri

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

For as much which went right for the Bobcats in a historic outing Friday night, Sept. 20, even more could have.

"You know, I think we left half of it at home; it was supposed to be a little different," head coach Alfonso 'Ponch' Garcia quipped while walking off the grass inside 2A Bayfield's Wolverine Country Stadium. "But overall ... I'm proud of all the kids; they practiced really hard, prepared well for the whole thing."

"And my hat goes off to the coaching staff and kids from Bayfield; they just flat beat us." But just barely.

BHS junior Ayden Casillas' 25-yard field goal with just 2:21 left in the fourth quarter proved the difference in a 38-35 battle – the programs' first varsity-level rumble since 2010 – but Ignacio still had time and hope to pull off something dramatic.

Having tied the non-conference game at 35 – via a 66-yard touchdown pass from junior Zane Pontine to sophomore Cayson Burcham (followed by senior Charley Pargin's point-after-kick) – with 7:15 remaining, IHS looked to go aerial again after Casillas' kickoff went through the end zone for a touchback, setting the 'Cats up at their own 20.

Pontine connected with Burcham for two yards on first down, and Garcia used a timeout with 1:35 left.

Bayfield, however, sensed something tricky was in the works and effectively ended the game on second down. Pontine threw a backwards pass – appearing visually similar to the short throw he'd just made to Burcham – to junior Gabe Archuleta, who then tried firing roughly 20 yards downfield along Ignacio's sideline.

Hoping to hit Burcham for both a big gain plus quick, clock-stopping exit out of bounds, Archuleta's pass instead was intercepted by Wolverine sophomore James Sandoval and returned a few short yards to IHS' 38 with 1:26 to go – and Ignacio unable to then stop BHS quarterback Cole McWhirter from kneeling twice in 'victory formation' to kill off the remaining time.

"Nobody was expecting us to do what we did," Garcia said. "It was a fun game to coach, first of all; our coaches did a fantastic job preparing for what we did, and (Bayfield) just had one extra play than we did."

IHS actually had led 7-6 after one quarter and closed out the second with 14 unanswered points to go into halftime tied 21-all with the Wolverines. Junior Lincoln deKay then put the Bobcats up 28-21 with 6:33 left in the third quarter, his 60-yard TD carry along the guests' sideline augmented by a Pargin PAT, but neither squad had the upper hand as the final frame commenced; BHS senior Austin Wil-

er logged his second goal-line TD dive in the game with 2:27 to go in the third, and Casillas' booming PAT evened the score at 28.

Pontine finished with (unofficially) 193 yards on 12 completions, with two touchdowns and one interception – which BHS senior Lincoln Williams brought back 48 yards for a score, negated by a penalty during the return.

Archuleta caught six passes for 93 yards, including a 26-yard TD from Pontine (who then found D.J. Hendren for the tying two-point conversion) with no time remaining in the second quarter, and Burcham snared five for 99. On the ground, deKay netted 85 yards on eight carries, and Pontine finished with 15 yards and two TDs on eight tries.

Defensively, Ignacio forced three turnovers-on-downs and Pargin recovered Wolverine junior Estevan Gonzales' fumble on the very first play (after BHS smothered Pargin's game-starting inside kick at the Bobcat 49) from scrimmage.

Williams was the Wolverines' top weapon, rushing for 139 yards (including TDs of 57 and 33) on 11 carries, and senior Logan Valencia gained 81 yards on 18.

"It is what it is ... and whatever the rivalry has been, hopefully it stays clean like this," Garcia said. "That's the idea of it: It's a fun game, so have fun with it!"

And though now a decent



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Cayson Burcham (7) leaps to congratulate Gabe Archuleta's dramatic 26-yard touchdown reception ending the first half of the Bobcats' road game Friday night, Sept. 20, in Bayfield, Colo. The Bobcats, however, fell 38-35 in the schools' first varsity-level gridiron meeting since 2010.

while removed from one of the most exciting gridiron games seen in recent years, the Bobcats (1-3 overall) will be hoping the drive and enthusiasm seen will have weathered a 'bye' week and endure into their 1A Southern Peaks opener Friday, Oct. 4.

Unluckily, it will kick off at 7 p.m. not at IHS Field, but out in distant La Jara. And Centauri will still be flying high over ripping – by a fierce 41-0 margin – Bayfield (now 3-1 overall) on the 27th, and thus improving to 4-0 against enemies re-

presenting the 2A Intermountain, 1A Tri-Peaks and 1A Western Slope, with a combined record (as of Monday, September 30) of 10-6.

After facing the Falcons, Ignacio will wrap up a trying four-game road stretch Friday, Oct. 11, at Trinidad. And the Miners can't be underestimated; after a competitive season-opening overtime loss at 1A Ellicott, followed up two weeks later with a 47-30 shootout loss to 2A Raton (N.M.) with the coveted Coal Bucket at stake, THS finally logged

its first victory in five years by devastating Pueblo-based 1A Dolores Huerta Prep 50-6 – coincidentally while Ignacio was holding their own in Bayfield.

Trinidad's rout of the Scorpions ended a 35-game losing streak plaguing the program since a 44-24 home win over EHS back on Oct. 18, 2019. Blowouts at Rocky Ford and Peyton then followed, starting the Miners' once-perpetual plunge.

IHS' next home game is presently set for the 18th against Center.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's D.J. Hendren tries breaking free from two Bayfield tacklers during IHS' road game Friday night, Sept. 20, at BHS. The Bobcats, however, fell 38-35 in the schools' first varsity-level gridiron meeting since 2010.

## Join KSUT Tribal Radio

for live play-by-play of  
Ignacio Bobcats Football home games

**Ignacio 91.3 FM**  
**Farmington 89.7 FM**  
**Towaoc 100.9 FM**

Online: [www.tribalradio.org](http://www.tribalradio.org)

Sponsored by the SunUte Community Center

Photo: Joel Priest/Southern Ute Drum

RECREATION  
SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER  
NEW DATES  
NEW NIGHTS

# 5V5 CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

TUESDAY NIGHTS

8 PLAYER ROSTER

CO-ED RULES APPLIED

ENTRY \$325- DEADLINE OCTOBER 08, 2024  
GAMES START OCTOBER 15, 2024

REGISTER WITH  
SUNUTE FRONT DESK

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RECREATION AT  
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KELSEY (970) 563-2660 BIRD (970) 563-2664

## FLC YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP AT SUNUTE

Saturday, October 5, 2024

\$5/ Child (Tribal Members and 1st Descendants are free)

SUNUTE, IN COLLABORATION WITH FORT LEWIS BASKETBALL, INVITES ALL COMMUNITY YOUTH TO JOIN US FOR OUR 2024 FLC BASKETBALL CAMP. YOU WILL BE LEARNING FROM THE BEST ATHLETES IN OUR AREA. OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE DRILLS WILL BE COVERED.  
**PIZZA AND BOWLING WILL BE INCLUDED.**

**What to Bring:**

1. Water bottle
2. Basketball apparel
3. Basketball shoes
4. Snacks (for the basketball segment)
5. A basketball with your name on it (It's okay if not)

**Time:**

12:00 pm- 4:00 pm (Basketball Clinic)  
4:00 pm- 5:00 pm (Pizza and Bowling)

**Drop-off:**

11:45 am: SunUte Community Center

**Pick-up:**

5:00 pm: Sky Ute Casino Bowling Alley

HURRY AND SIGN-UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

To sign up or if you have any questions:  
Front Desk - (970) 563-2661



## EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

### LETTER FROM CEDRIC CHAVEZ

Greetings Tribal Membership,  
I would like to take the time to thank everyone for their support and encouragement leading into our current election. The thoughtful conversations, the kind words, the offer of your signatures, right down to the terrorizing have all been a great blessing and I truly appreciate you all!  
It's fitting that election time comes about during the changing of the seasons. Often times, change is the biggest action being called for during the election process, and so, here we find ourselves deciding on who to cast our ballots for?  
I know that making a decision can be quite complicated because at any given time the differences among people and their needs

are never the same, and since no one can decide for you, I offer you this. I encourage you to find your voice in the Candidates running for office. Who best represents you and what your thoughts and ideas for the Tribe may be?  
Most of all I encourage you to become familiar with your Tribal Government and discover what it and its players can and cannot do. Especially when it comes to ensuring future prosperity and the overall strengthening and protection of Southern Ute Indian Tribal Sovereignty.

Sincerely,  
*Cedric J. Chavez*  
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council  
Candidate

### NATIVE REZ-OLUTION YOUTH CONCERT THANKS

I want to thank each person that helped me in any way to make this year's Native Rez-olution Youth Concert XIV a success!!! Family, friends, and loved ones! Ta-ah! There're so many people behind the scenes – a testament to how successful this year's concert was. The concert began in 2006 and has been gaining popularity as part of the annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow.



**Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum** Concert volunteers and give-away winners, join members of Hellthroner, guest MC Loren Anthony, and Native REZ-olution Youth Concert Promoter Robert Ortiz.

Firstly, THANK YOU, Crystal Rizzo and the Southern Ute Cultural Preservation Dept. staff, for your tireless hard work in pulling together and organizing an event of this scale, the annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair and making it happen, although never without some hiccups along the way, working together and making it another successful event, you are all awesome!

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Legal, Finance, Risk Management, Property & Facilities, Forestry Fuels Dept., Construction Services, The Southern Ute Drum and other Tribal departments, without your work and dedication none of this would be possible. From contracts to payments, to firewood and equipment, you all helped in showing our appreciation of the bands and the youth concert. Thank you all for your work!

The Sky Ute Fairgrounds and crew for hosting the 102nd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow. The SUFG crew are true rockers when it comes to making sure all our needs were met with haste! Thank you JayDee, Chris, Sam, Brooke and Dave for your tireless work over the two weekends!

The concert would not be a concert without the bands who traveled here to Colorado. Some have never been to Colorado. What an amazing line up! Hell Throne (Phoenix), Existence AD (Scottsdale), Lo Cash Ninjas (Navajo Nation), Celestial Exile (San Carlos Apache), Secret Earth (San Felipe Pueblo), Icy Whisper (Scottsdale), Rippy and the Sillyette's (Gallup) and to our amazing and talented, community activist and actor, Loren Anthony, (Guest MC). Thank you all for showing up and christening the new stage in true metal fashion!!!

I must thank the fans and all who attended. It means so much to see the Youth Concert grow over these past 14 years to what it is today. You proved why this works. The youth concert is for you, and you all came and delivered your energy and showed your appreciation for all the bands. The bands fed off your energy and the bands felt that love and support and gave it back to you!! Thank you for being there. One day it may be you on that stage or carrying on to do great things for your family and your people and your community. NEVER GIVE UP!!!

Great appreciation goes out to Brian Johnson and his crew at MB Entertainment – N.M. He always delivers great sound to the shows he does. I'm thankful for his professionalism and diligence in making our show a huge SOUNDING success. I had people say they could hear the concert in the hills outside of town!!! YOU ROCKED Ignacio!!!

Of course, I must thank the Sky Ute Casino Resort and all casino staff that helped as well. From the new stage (Brian, Alisha and Roger and crew), the rooms (Angela), the meal vouchers (Tracy Leppert) and the hospitality and generosity of contributing to making every year another success.

To Mi Hito's – Amber, Omar, and Syrya for the delicious food. The bands enjoyed the food and service, thank you feeding the bands and crew. Tabitha – provided the yummy cakes, Andi and momma Cook – drinks, Velma and family – oven bread, and additional cupcakes specially delivered from the dino run, thank you!!!

To all that donated gifts for the give

aways, Main Street Music NM for donating the awesome JazzMaster guitar – John, you rock every year! Jimmy's Music & Supply for always supporting the concert. AME (epoxy portfolio and earrings), The Hive DGO, Pro Massage, Johnston Harden (custom beaded, studded and spiked hats), Lindsey Tsosie (custom earrings), Angelo's CDs and Records (Denver), Native Love, REZ-olution Radio Hour on KSUT Tribal Radio 91.3 FM. All the winners appreciated the gifts, and a HUGE THANK YOU to the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Dept. Marvina Olguin and Preston Barry, for donating the KoRn, Gogjira, Spiritbox Concert tickets AND the portable Bluetooth speaker, and for setting up and providing much needed info and resources for our youth and community!!! You rock.

Bertha Box, your yearly donations have always helped make each year's show even more awesome. I am super thankful for the donations and for you. Thank you!!! Marie Joy, Maleina and Rhianna Carel for always supporting the concert! Dazzleen Elkriver for the custom created Free Concert Sasquatch signage, you are an amazing artist! Keep creating! Norman Lansing who created the Native REZ-olution Youth concert logo, thank you for the awesome logo!

Thank you KSUT Tribal Radio 91.3 FM for hosting the live band interviews on REZ-olution Radio Hour, and my co-host with the most Clark Adomaitis – you rock hard dude. I seen you in the pit! Just like you said you would be!

Auq-uwey O'John, Chairman of the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council, for giving the opening prayer, you will go on to do great things and serve your people proudly. Southern Ute Royalty – Miss Southern Ute, Maleina Carel and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz for speaking at the concert.

Lastly and certainly not least, my volunteer work crew(s), Colten Ashley (audio tech extraordinaire), Elliott Hendren, Christen Heart (my two sidekicks throughout the concert), Jolene Martinez, Tamara Turner, Katie Whiteskunk for helping with raffles and the giveaways, helping distribute gift bags, and the free swag bags for the bands. Blanda, Jade, Syre, Avery, and Jordan for helping with the Parade float. Elliott Hendren (there with me from beginning to end), Camron Heintz, The Twins – Kean and Tallias Cantsee, Maynard Taylor, Vincent Naranjo, and Jayceon Richards and the other young men who helped with the final tear down on Sunday. You all made my workload so much lighter. There have been shows I did the majority of all the work myself. I am SUPER APPRECIATIVE OF YOU ALL!!!! You are my rock stars!!! Without you this would not have been made possible. THANK YOU!!!

I know I may have left off some name unintentionally but know I appreciate each and every one of you who helped in some way or another. See you all in the pit next year!!!

THANK YOU! – Tah-ah,  
*Robert L. Ortiz,*  
Native REZ-olution Concert Series

## NEW EMPLOYEES



**Jade Richards**  
**Job title:** Ute Language Teacher  
**Description of duties:** Assists and provides the education and development of the Ute Language to the students, staff and parents of the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.  
**Hobbies:** Beading, volleyball, and basketball.  
**Family:** Katrina Richards (mother), Kenneth Richards (father), Kean Richards (grandfather), Rena Richards (grandmother), Jackie Gallero (late grandmother).  
**Tribe:** Southern Ute first descendent, Taos Pueblo.

## 2024/2025 Southern Ute Firewood Season

The 2024/2025 firewood season begins Tuesday October 1, 2024 and runs through April 30, 2025. You may place firewood orders with Forestry Division at (970) 563-4780 Monday through Friday 8am – 5:00pm.

Firewood may be picked up from the Forestry Fuels Yard Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM. Firewood deliveries for Tribal member elders residing within the exterior boundary of the Southern Ute Reservation occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the order in which they are received. No firewood pickups or deliveries will occur on Fridays.

To be eligible for the firewood program you must be a Southern Ute Tribal member 18 years and older and have a functioning firewood place or wood stove at your primary residence.



## PEOPLE

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

### REPRESENT YOUR COMMUNITY!

These advisory boards have upcoming vacancies:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Board of Adjustment  | Ignacio, Allison, Oxford Cemetery District Committee      |
| Board of Health  | Lake Durango Water Authority                              |
| Board of Review  | Living w/ Wildlife Advisory Board                         |
| Community Corrections Board                                | Lodging Tax Panel   |
| Durango Hills Road Improvement District Advisory Committee | Long-Term Finance Committee                               |
| Durango-La Plata County Airport Commission                 | Pine River Public Library District Board                  |
| Extension Advisory Committee                               | Planning Commission                                       |
| Fire Code Board of Appeals                                 | Southwest La Plata Library District Board                 |
| Historic Preservation Review Commission                    | Undesirable Plant and Rodent Advisory Commission          |
| Ignacio Community Library District Board                   | Wildfire Advisory Board                                   |
|  | Wildfire and Watershed Protection Fund Advisory Committee |

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS OCTOBER 21!

Visit [www.co.laplata.co.us/apply](http://www.co.laplata.co.us/apply) for position description and application or call 970-382-6219



## Drum Deadline

Next issue: Oct. 18

EARLY Deadline: Oct. 11

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



### THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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

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

#### MAILING ADDRESS

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

#### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

#### STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES

- The Southern Ute Drum**  
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**Jeremy Wade Shockley** • Editor, ext. 2255  
([jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov))  
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**EDITOR'S NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE IN ANY WAY.**

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



## In The Southern Ute Tribal Court

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

### NOTICE OF PROBATE

In the Estate Of,  
Case No.: 2024-0089-CV-PR  
Alex Samuel Cloud, Deceased

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO:  
Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **OCTOBER 8, 2024 at 11:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 5th of September, 2024.  
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

## REQUEST FOR BIDS Buckskin Charlie Apartments Project

Request for bids for subcontractor and supplier bid for the early work package only for the Buckskin Charlie Apartments project. Notice is hereby given that proposals from qualified firms shall be received by FCI Constructors Inc. at 186 Moose Lane, Durango, CO 81303, emailed to [tsmith@fcicol.com](mailto:tsmith@fcicol.com) or by fax at 970-259-8633 until 2:00 pm (MDT) on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. A prebid meeting will be held on-site on October 2, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. Bid evaluations will comply with The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) code for Native American Preference. Proposals are being solicited for only the following scopes: SWPP, surveying, site clearing/demolition, underground utilities, site grading, and retaining walls. Bid documents will be available no later than Oct. 24 and may be obtained by contacting Tim Smith at 970-259-8644 or [tsmith@fcicol.com](mailto:tsmith@fcicol.com). It is the responsibility of the submitting firm to see that bids are delivered to FCI prior to the closing date and time.

No. 0000

OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE  
GENERAL ELECTION  
NOVEMBER 01, 2024

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Notice - Vote for Two (2)

- Vanessa Torres
- Lorelei Cloud
- Byron Frost
- James M. Olguin
- Cedric J. Chavez
- Linda K. Baker
- Christine Baker Sage

NOTE: THE CANDIDATE(S) RECEIVING THE MAJORITY NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
2024 General Election  
Two (2) Tribal Council Seats



OUT GOING COUNCIL MEMBERS: Lorelei Cloud, Vanessa Torres

The Election Board has determined these are the dates for the upcoming 2024 General Election according to the Constitution and Election Code.

**General Election- Friday, November 01, 2024, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**  
**Voter Registration Deadline- Wednesday, October 23, 2024, by 5:00 PM**  
**Absentee Ballot Request Deadline- Wednesday, October 23, 2024, by 5:00 PM**  
**Emergency Ballot Request Deadline- Thursday, October 31, 2024, by 5:00 PM**

The 2024 General Election will be held at 285 Lakin St. Ignacio, CO  
Contact the Election Board at (970) 563-0100 ext. 2303/2305/2778/2729/2730  
Off-Reservation Tribal Members call 1-800-772-1236 ext. 2303  
or email [election@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:election@southernute-nsn.gov)



The Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP) would like to inform the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members (SUITMs) and clarify programs that are available to you. Please use the outline below to verify that you are utilizing the program and the technological opportunities.

- 1) **Laptop Program Defined**
  - a. Dell laptops free to all SUITM's. [www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP](http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP)
  - b. One Dell laptop per SUITM no exceptions.
  - c. Fill out questionnaire.
  - d. If you're filling a questionnaire out for a minor (under 18) put the grade in comments section. Under 18 years of age will receive a 2-1 Chromebook.
  - e. SUDEP will call when your laptop is ready for pick up. Prompt pickup is requested.
  - f. Shipping is available for the SUITMs that live out of the area. SUDEP will contact you for shipping. Shipping will occur once all forms have been filled out and signed. Forms are sent via e-mail by SUDEP staff.
- 2) **\$75 Internet Reimbursement Program (6 months only) Defined**
  - a. Internet program is available to all SUITM's (one voucher per service address only.)
  - b. Steps:
    - i. Fill out internet voucher request. Forms are available by contacting SUDEP or through the Southern Ute Tribal Member Portal.
    - ii. Send a copy of your internet bill with service address and Southern Ute Tribal Members name on it.
    - iii. Send both items to: [sudepservice@southernute.com](mailto:sudepservice@southernute.com).
    - iv. SUDEP will pay the internet provider directly after the completed internet voucher and internet bill have been verified and approved.
    - v. It may take up to two billing cycles for the credit to appear on your internet bill.
- 3) **Router Program Defined**
  - a. Must connect with local fiber through Bonfire Fiber (FTI or X Mission).
  - b. Must decide which speed of internet you are purchasing monthly.
  - c. SUDEP will reimburse the internet provider (FTI or X Mission) for the router directly.
  - d. Steps:
    - i. Fill out and sign "Router Voucher Request" - contact SUDEP for form.
    - ii. Fill out and sign the "Release Agreement" - contact SUDEP for form.
  - e. Approved voucher will be sent to Bonfire and your fiber hook up will be scheduled.
- 4) **MS 365 E3 Desktop Program Defined**
  - a. SUDEP received 100 MS 365 Desktop licenses for SUITMs.
  - b. Contact SUDEP to request the license and guidance to install the software on your laptop. These licenses are limited and available till gone.
- 5) **Technical & Laptop Support Defined**
  - a. SUDEP is available for laptop support & troubleshooting, software updates, training, education, and technical support.

Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP)  
(970) 563-5555  
[sudepservice@southernute.com](mailto:sudepservice@southernute.com)



## Sign Up for the Tribal Member Experience

- 1  
Go to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's website at <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/>
- 2  
Select "Members" at the top of the screen
- 3  
Select "I need an account"
- 4  
Complete the Tribal Member Access Request Form & click Submit

Account holders must be enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members and 18 years of age or older.

Your request will be sent to TIS for verification. SUSS will approve your account.

The login credentials will be sent to the email listed on the form. You may then create your password.

For information, contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2313 or TIS Vital Statistics at 970-563-2248.  
For technical assistance, contact SUDEP at 970-563-5555.



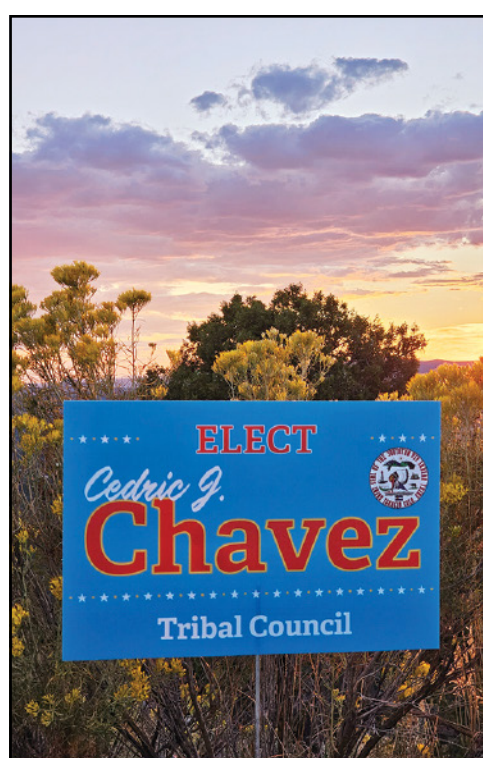
# VOTE!



## CHRISTINE BAKER SAGE

## SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

~ 2024 ~

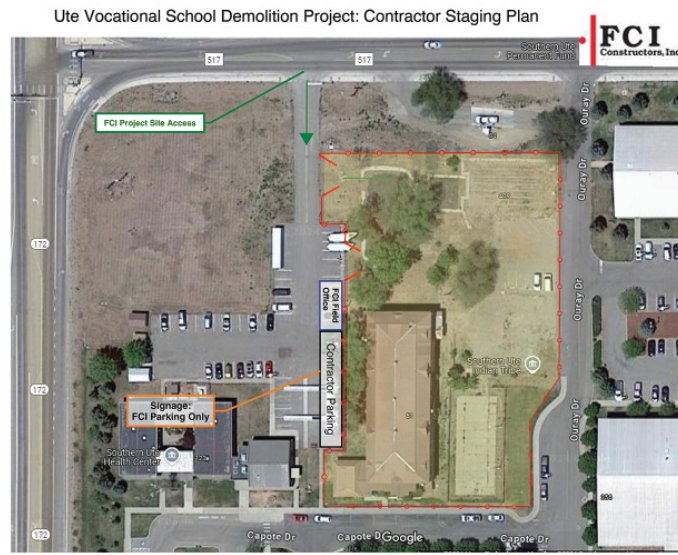


*Dedicated to the Preservation of Tribal Sovereignty, the Responsible Management of Tribal Resources, and Strengthening the Integrity of the Tribal Government for the People of Southern Ute Indian Tribe!*



**NOTICE**  
**Ute Vocational School Demolition**

Construction and Project Management would like to announce the kickoff of construction with FCI Constructors for the Ute Vocational School Demolition project which begins on Monday, Oct. 7, 2024. The Contractor will be on site this week with our office as well as the Southern Ute Utilities Division to perform preliminary site investigations. The Contractor's fence will go up on the Oct. 7 and staging of the site will be performed as per the approved site staging plan, which is attached. It is the project's intent to avoid disruptions to Ouray Drive whenever possible. Access to the construction site will be made from the west side of the building. As we work primarily within this fenced enclosure, we will still have some Utility work performed along Ouray and Capote Drive. We will provide future announcements for this work as appropriate.



**NOTICE OF DRAFT TITLE V OPERATING PERMITS AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

Notice is hereby given that one initial The Air Quality Division (AQD) has application and three renewal applications prepared the draft Title V operating permits based on the information submitted by the applicants. The draft permits and Department's Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colo. 81137, for the following sources of air pollution:

- Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC**  
Facility: Dry Creek Central Delivery Point. Section 5U, T34N, R7W, 6.00 miles north of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a natural gas production field facility.
- Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC**  
Facility: Iron Horse Central Delivery Point. SW ¼ NW ¼ Section 7, T33N, R7W, 1.50 miles west of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a natural gas production field facility.
- Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC**  
Facility: Tiffany 3 Pad. Section 21, T33N, R6W, 7.00 miles southeast of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a natural gas well pad.
- Applicant: Transit Waste, LLC**  
Facility: Bondad Recycling Center and Depository. Section 31, T33N, R9W, 13.50 miles southwest of Ignacio, Colo. This source is a recycling center and depository.

**Quichas Apartment for Rent**

2BR/2.5 BA. \$860/mo. + utilities. No Pets. Southern Ute Tribal Member Preference. Must pass credit and background checks and have excellent references from previous landlords. Applications are available by email at kmorris@sugf.com. Use the subject line Quichas Application. You can also pick up an application in person at the GF Properties Group office: 65 Mercado Street, Suite 250, Durango, CO 81301 during working hours Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. All applications must be filled out completely & legibly and submitted by 5pm Oct. 17, 2024. You must complete a new application even if you have filled one out in the past.

**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE**  
**Boards, Committees and Comissions Vacancies**

**TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE**

The Southern Ute Tribal Credit Committee ("Committee") is looking for eligible tribal member applicants to serve on the Committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. This is a compensated Committee, and you will be considered an employee of the Tribe, per IRS guidelines. Individuals seeking to serve on the Committee must demonstrate a reputation of personal integrity, dependability, honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to perform in a non-biased, confidential and fair manner. They must become familiar with the objectives of the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund and must maintain good financial standing with the Tribe. Applicants must also pass criminal background and reference check, per the Tribal Credit Committee By-laws. The primary purpose of the Committee is to evaluate and render decisions regarding Secured Home Loan applications and monitor and evaluate the Tribal Credit loan programs and make recommendations to Tribal Council. Some of the duties of the Tribal Credit Committee are: Approve loans as required by the Declaration of Policies and Plan of Operation – Tribal Credit Fund ("Declaration"); Monitor compliance with the Declaration; Monitor all approved loans for performance; Make recommendations to the Tribal Council on program revisions and updates regarding Committee operations; Maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness in conducting all Committee business; Attend regular meetings and other special meetings, as needed; Coordinate the Committee's annual budget with Tribal Credit Staff. Interested Tribal Members are asked to submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Credit Committee, PO Box 737 #60, Ignacio, CO 81137 or by email to zvogenthaler@southernute-nsn.gov. The letter should include the full name and contact information of the applicant, along with a detailed explanation of their relevant experience that would aid in making credit decisions, as well as a description of why they would be a good fit for the position. If you have any questions, please speak with Zeb Vogenthaler, at 970-563-2458.

**APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

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

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD**

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

**ETHICS COMMISSION**

Open Until Filled – The Ethics Office is accepting letter of interest from tribal members to fill One vacancy for "Alternate Member-At-Large" positions 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 2 Full time and 1 Alternate positions for specified terms, 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. If you are interested, contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

**POWWOW COMMITTEE**

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

**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).

Provide a voice and secure more support for our students

**COME AND JOIN!!**  
**JOHNSON-O'MALLEY**  
**COMMITTEE**

Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) has four vacancies to be filled.

- Committee member
- Committee member
- Committee member
- Vice-chair (to be elected by committee)

The committee meets on the first Monday of every month!

1. To be eligible to become a JOM committee member you must have a student(s) in the Ignacio and/or Bayfield School District
2. Student(s) must be registered with the JOM program
3. Write a letter of interest as to why you want to be on the committee. This position is a volunteer position to support our students. If selected, you will serve on the committee for 2 years

Contact Education Specialist, Southern Ute Education, Kaylyn LeClaire for more information: kleclaire@southernute-nsn.gov OR (970)563-0237 ext. 2793

**KSUT IS YOUR RADIO STATION!**  
KSUT seeks one enrolled SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL MEMBER to serve on the KSUT Board of Directors.

Frances Deansmore recording Blackfoot Chief, Mountain Chief, on a cylinder phonograph for the bureau of American Ethnology (1916). - photo Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)

The KSUT Board of Directors is seeking a Southern Ute tribal member to serve on the Board of Directors. The tribal member does not have to live in the region and may attend board meetings remotely, as needed.

As a board member you will serve a three-year term, attend monthly meetings, and perform with decision-making in the best long-term interests of KSUT and the community of listeners, and other responsibilities of serving on the board of directors.

The KSUT Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in Ignacio at the Eddie Box Jr. Media Center. Meetings are open to the public, unless prior notice is given to allow members to conduct confidential station business.

To apply, submit a Letter of Interest to Tami Graham, KSUT Executive Director via email: tami@ksut.org or by mail P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, Colo., 81137. Questions, call 970-563-0255.



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

If you need help filling out an online application, please come the Human Resources office and we are happy to assist you on our applicant computer stations.

Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file. Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis. Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Human Resources • P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137 Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424 • Fax: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

**Benefits Coordinator (Part-time w/Benefits)**  
Closes 10/7/24 – Under the general supervision of the Benefits Manager, performs billing, data entry, customer service, and administrative duties associated with employee benefits administration. Performs benefit administration duties for the employee benefit plan which includes medical, dental, vision, life, long term disability, flexible spending account, supplemental benefits, leave plans, and the retirement plan. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

**Cultural Media Technician (Southern Ute tribal members only)**  
Closes 10/15/24 – Creating audio and video documentation of language and culture teaching and activities, creating language and culture learning technological tools, editing the material, and copying and archiving the material. Paygrade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

**Detention Cook**  
Closes 10/4/24 – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

**Detention Officer**  
Closes 10/11/24 – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all activities within the detention center. Pay grade N12; Pay starts at \$26/hour.

**Healthcare Accounting Manager**  
Closes 10/8/24 – Tribal Health Department grant management and writing function as well as accounting, financial reporting, budgeting, revenue cycle management, and accounts payable activities within the Tribal Health Department. Include the overall direction and supervision of the charge capturing systems for all services provided data entry, coding, billing and collection of all third-party resources and payment processing across the Tribal Health Department. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

**Police Sergeant**  
Closes 10/4/24 – Coordinates the efforts of the officers and dispatchers to achieve the objectives of the Police Department and in the absence of the Police Lieutenant will command the Southern Ute Police Department. Pay grade N16; Pay starts at \$37.32/hour.

**Security Officer**  
Closes 10/4/24 – Will provide security for throughout Tribal Campus. Patrolling and observing the activities of persons in and around the Moache Capote building. Work involves assessing problem situations and exercising tact and judgement in bringing about their resolution. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour.

**Ute Language Program Manager**  
Closes 10/15/24 – In collaboration with the Cultural Preservation Department Director, Southern Ute Education Department, Ute Language Committee, Tribal Elders, and community partners, the Ute Language Program Manager is responsible for regular review and implementation of the Southern Ute Language Plan. Incumbent oversees the development of the Ute language curriculum and materials used in teaching the Ute language to Tribal members, staff, and community members, incorporating the Ute history, culture, and folklore into the language instruction. Paygrade E14; Paystarts at \$64,155/year.

**Water Quality & Remediation Division Head**  
Closes 10/4/24 – Under general supervision of the Environmental Programs Director, responsible for the planning and management of Southern Ute Indian Tribal Water Quality, Brownfields, and General Assistance Programs. Pay grade E18; Pay starts at \$99,984/year.

**Boys & Girls Club Aide (Part-time)**  
Open Until Filled – Assists in the implementation, planning, and supervision of activities provided within the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) program. Pay grade N5; Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

**Communications Manager – Dispatch**  
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Chief of Police, provides day-to-day management and oversight to the Communication Center operations staff (Dispatchers) including planning, developing, coordinating, supervising, and reviewing all aspects of the work of employees. Pay grade E16; Pay starts at \$77,627/annually.

**Community Health Representative**  
Open Until Filled – Providing assistance and the coordination and development of activities for elderly and physically or mentally disabled Tribal members. Performs community health duties, 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 starts at \$20.26/hour.

**Dentist (Part-time w/Benefits)**  
Open Until Filled – Providing, clinical, health promotion and disease prevention, and educational services for the Dental Division. Pay grade E22; Pay starts at \$113,890.20/year.

**Detention Transport Officer**  
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

**Director of Strategic Planning**  
Open Until Filled – Working with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Council to define, plan, implement, and achieve the strategic and financial plan objectives and priorities determined by Tribal Council. Researching and critically analyzing past strategies and modifying and developing those plans and strategies to address current circumstances; developing training material for Tribal Council Members regarding the Tribe's Financial Plan and other strategic plans; and communicating the financial and strategic plans to the Tribal Membership. In coordination with Tribal Council, facilitates strategic planning, including but not limited to tribal entities and tribal membership when deemed appropriate. Acts as a liaison between the Tribal Council and the Tribal Entities; accessing and gathering information as authorized by Tribal Council. Reports functionally to the Tribal Council and administratively to Tribal Council Affairs management. Pay grade E22; Pay starts at \$189,817/annually.

**Dispatcher**  
Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Pay grade N10; Pay starts at \$21.89/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

**Dispatcher Trainee**  
Open Until Filled – A trainee position for individuals interested in a career in Law Enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. While in the trainee status, participates and engages in in-house training and work activities specifically designed and chosen to train and indoctrinate the individual to work an emergency communications dispatch center. Work is performed under the guidance of an experienced dispatcher. The length of this program is designed to last one (1) year but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the Dispatcher position. Will start at 20% below entry level for a grade N10 and be subject to quarterly evaluations and pay increases. Pay grade N10; pay will start at \$17.51/hour.

**Early Childhood Teacher**  
Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicating effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

**Education Counselor**  
Open Until Filled – A professional level position responsible for providing counseling services to students and their families at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy. Effective development and delivery of counseling, therapeutic and educational services that help students and families overcome issues that may impede students' educational success. Works with children birth-13 years old in the context of family, school, peer, and community systems, using a family systems orientation. Pay grade E14; Pay starts at \$64,155/year.

**Elementary Teacher**  
Open Until Filled – A professional teaching position with the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Uses the Montessori philosophy to provide Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy students with a developmentally appropriate learning environment meeting the physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and cultural needs of the child. Communicate effectively with parents/guardians about their child's progress in each domain area. Pay grade E12; Pay starts at \$54,086/year.

**Gaming Investigator I**  
Open Until Filled – An entry level position located under the Southern Ute Division of Gaming (DOG). Under general supervision of the Gaming Investigator III, works in coordination with other DOG Investigators to learn and perform Law Enforcement / Regulatory duties for the enforcement of Class II and Class III gaming on the Southern Ute Reservation. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/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 N14; Pay starts at \$30.84/hour.

**Grants Financial Analyst**  
Open Until Filled – Working closely with Tribal staff members on all financial grant and related Tribal budget and spending matters. Assisting in monitoring programs to ensure compliance with grant or contract regulations. Pay grade E13; Pay starts at \$59,494/annually.

**Group Exercise Instructor**  
Open Until Filled – Provides group exercise instruction and fitness activities to members of the SunUte Community Center, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

**Heavy Equipment Operator**  
Open Until Filled – Provides routine maintenance and safe operation of heavy equipment in carrying out project assignments for the Construction Services Division. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

NOW HIRING



**SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE**  
Human Resources  
P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137  
Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424  
Hotline: 970-563-4777  
<https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>



### COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

**Position Summary:** Under general supervision of the Chief of Police, incumbent provides day-to-day management over the Communications Center staff (Dispatchers) and operations including planning, developing, coordinating, and staff supervision.

**Starting Pay Range:** E16; \$77,627/annually

**SIGNING BONUS UP TO \$5,000**

Excellent Benefits. Apply online at <https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>

### DISPATCHER

**Position Summary:** Under general supervision of the Communications Manager, provides radio dispatch services for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

**Starting Pay Range:** N10; \$21.89/hour

**SIGNING BONUS UP TO \$5,000**

Excellent Benefits. Apply online at <https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>

## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

**HVAC Technician**  
Open Until Filled – Provides maintenance support, troubleshooting, and preventative maintenance on commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems including machinery, boilers, hot and chilled water distribution systems, circulation pumps, steam humidifiers, cooling towers, walk-in coolers and freezers, and variable volume system located in Southern Ute Tribal Buildings. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

**Lands Technician Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)**  
Open Until Filled – A trainee position for a Southern Ute Tribal Member. Will learn how to provide technical and clerical support to the Lands Division and provide general information to the Tribal Membership and public regarding land status issues, Crossing Permits, and general land management related issues. The length of this program is designed to last one (1) year but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. Will start at 20% below entry level for a grade N8 and receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases to assure that key goals are met. Upon successfully completing the training curriculum, will assume the Lands Technician position.

**Lifeguard (Full-time & Part-time)**  
Open Until Filled – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Center Director. Pay grade N5; Pay starts at \$14.90/hour.

**Museum Director**  
Open Until Filled – Leading overall operations, and day-to-day management of the museum. Plans, develops, coordinates, implements, and evaluates all aspects of the museum's activities and operations, including public relations, marketing, and promotional aspects. Following the Museum's statement, strategic planning, implementing policies, developing programs, budget management, and identifying new funding sources. Pay grade E18; \$99,984/annually.

**Patrol Officer I**  
Open Until Filled – Patrols the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and is responsible for preserving the life and property of all citizens within the Tribal Community. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

**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 N14; Pay starts at \$30.84/hour includes a potential 3-5k DOE sign-on bonus.

**Patrol Officer Trainee**  
Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon completion of the required trainings and certifications, will assume position of Patrol Officer. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

**Project AWARE Program Manager**  
Open Until Filled – The Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) Manager will lead, develop, and maintain a comprehensive plan to meet critical objectives outlined by the Tribal Education Department and Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA) Counseling program, in compliance with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Will serve as the Tribal Education Agency liaison to the State Project Director and will build infrastructure, collect and share data, create local policies, oversee the implementation of key programmatic elements, develop and maintain

relationships with Tribal, school and community organizations, and increase communication with families to build ongoing wellness and resilience for students. Grant funded and continued employment is contingent on availability of funding. Pay grade E13; Pay starts at \$59,494/year.

**Public Health Nurse**  
Open Until Filled – A Registered Nurse, providing public health nursing care and case management to individuals, families, and the community. Pay grade N15; Pay starts at \$33.93/hour.

**Risk Specialist**  
Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the Risk and Emergency Manager; initiates, monitors, and tracks workers' compensation claims, and follows-up with carrier when required or requested. Initiates claims with property and casualty insurance carrier(s) and assists employees and departments in the processing of claims. Pay grade E14; Pay starts at \$64,155/year.

**Scorekeeper (Part-time)**  
Open Until Filled – Keeps accurate scores for sporting events held by SunUte Recreation Dept. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

**Swimming Instructor**  
Open Until Filled – Under supervision of Aquatics Manager, instructs American Red Cross individual and group swimming lessons at the SunUte aquatics facility. Preparation of class, instruction of individuals, breakdown of equipment, and all documentation associated with SunUte individual swimming lessons and the American Red Cross. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.

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

**TERO Worker**  
Open Until Filled – Under the supervision of the TERO office. It is an opportunity for enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members and other local 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.

**Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)**  
Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, incumbent will assume the Tribal Ranger position. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

**Umpire/Referee**  
Open Until Filled – Maintains rules and regulations on the playing field and courts during SunUte Recreation Department sporting events. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.



**Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements**

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

**Environmental Compliance Specialist – Growth Fund (Durango, CO)**  
Closes 10/14/24 – Working independently or with limited supervision to perform broad environmental tasks of complex scope within one or more disciplines: Clean Water Act (CWA); reclamation/remediation activities; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and/or Endangered Species Act (ESA). Include permit-required submittals and modifications, writing environmental specifications and plans, auditing, and field work.

**Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist – Growth Fund (Durango, CO)**  
Closes 10/14/24 – Ensuring the Southern Ute Growth Fund and its business enterprises are in compliance with the regulations applicable to doing business on and off the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, including the Clean Water Act (CWA), National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA). An environmental leadership position, development, execution, and training of environmental programs and initiatives that communicate environmental awareness and compliance for the Growth Fund. Working independently or with limited supervision to perform broad environmental tasks of complex scope within one or more disciplines.

**Facilities Maintenance Technician I – GF Facilities (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closes 10/18/24 – Providing maintenance for Growth Fund properties serviced by the Facilities Department at the following Ignacio locations: Growth Fund Office Building, Red Willow Office Building, Utilities Office and Maintenance Buildings, Fairgrounds Office Building, Quichas Hill Heights Apartments, single-family rentals, vacant land in Ignacio, and responsible for general maintenance duties.

**Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements**

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

**\*Café Cashier (Full-time)**  
Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Responsibilities include 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. Prepares coffee and pizza from the hot food line in the front area of the Café. Will balance the register at end of the shift, with proper report of discrepancies and complete paperwork.

**\*Casino Housekeeping (Full-time, Swing shift)**  
Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, and employee break rooms.

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

**\*Lead Facilities Technician HVAC (Full-time)**  
Electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility and grounds. Works as the lead 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 Director of Facilities while sharing the responsibility to train and lead activities of departmental employees; technicians, shift supervisors, and facilities staff in appropriate Service Standards and Facility operations/maintenance.

**\*Level II Facilities Staff (Full-time)**  
Reports to the Facilities Supervisor on shift. Operation of equipment, environmental condition and appearance of the facility and grounds. Cleanliness, maintenance and repair of the facility, equipment, and building.

**\*Poker Dealer (Part-time)**  
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 Cleaner (Full-time)**  
Cleaning all public areas including Casino floor, public restrooms, restaurant, lobby, offices, employee break rooms, and other areas as assigned. Reports directly to the Housekeeping Department and will be assigned to take on specific projects as assigned.

**\*Room Attendant (Full-time)**  
Thoroughly cleaning hotel guest rooms and performing routine duties individually or as a pair, in a fast-paced work environment. Cleaning hotel room 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. Cross training on the Casino Floor to assist with Operational Housekeeping when needed and as assigned.

**\*Rolling Thunder Grill Server (Full-time)**  
Provide an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service of food and beverages: taking the order and delivering food and beverage items. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Shift covers Breakfast and Lunch only.

**\*Rolling Thunder Grill Host (Part-time)**  
Provides an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service by greeting and ensuring timely and appropriate seating of guests. Will assist Manager with table management to maximize seating and assist guests with special requests. Will answer phone calls and return messages, track reservations and comps and assist servers when needed.

**\*Sales Associate (Full-time)**  
Will be the focal point in establishing and maintaining working relationships with our customers. Increase catering sales revenues and contribute to slot revenue. Conducting outside sales visits through effective pre-call planning, scheduling, and targeted territory analysis.

**\*Seven Rivers Line Cook (Full-time)**  
Works under direct supervision of the Executive Chef, Executive Sous Chef, and/or Kitchen Manager. Preparation of the A la Carte menu in Seven Rivers and is accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality, and freshness.

**\*Shining Mountain Line Cook (Full-time)**  
Work under direct supervision and support of the Sous Chef or Lead Cook. Preparation of the A la Carte menu in the Shining Mountain Café and accountable for consistency of standardized recipes, presentation, food quality and freshness. Ensure 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.

**\*Security Officer (Full-time)**  
Safeguarding the assets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Ensures that all company policies and internal control procedures are followed. Responsible for guest and employee safety on property.

**\*Slot Operations Floor Person (Full-time)**  
Providing excellent guest service to all slot guests and ensures that all gaming devices are monitored on a continual basis for full capacity operation. Will at times require the employee to work without direct supervision. Job knowledge and the ability to "self-start" are essential. Reports to the Slot Floor Manager or designee. Must be able to work any and all shifts including rotations, nights, weekends, and holidays.

**\*Specialized Facilities Technician (Full-time)**  
Maintaining the electrical and mechanical functions, operation of equipment, environmental controls and conditions, and the structural integrity and appearance of the facility. Works as a professionally trained individual with the team to ensure smooth operations of the facility. Trained and certified or holds a license that is construction/maintenance specific.

**\*Surveillance Agent I (Full-time)**  
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.

**Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements**

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

**Information Technology Security Analyst II – SUSS (Ignacio, CO)**  
Closes 10/11/24 – Collaborating with various SUSS teams to actively monitor, detect, and respond to security incidents for the entire Southern Ute Indian Tribal organization; leveraging extensive experience in incident response, vulnerability management, and threat intelligence to enhance the organization's security posture; and conduct proactive threat hunting, support Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) activities, and contribute to Third-Party Risk Management.

**SoCoCAA Job Opportunities**

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

**Road Runner Transit:**  
• Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance (Part-time) \$18.94/hr., Open Until Filled  
• Transit Driver (Part-time) \$18.94/hr., Open Until Filled

\$82,638/yr., Open Until Filled (Up to \$3,000 in relocation expenses available.)  
• Program Developer (Part-time) \$32.97/hr., Open Until Filled

**Ignacio Youth Services:**  
• Program Coordinator (Full-time) \$17.29/hr., DOE, Open Until Filled

**SoCoCAA Central Administration:**  
• Executive/Development Director \$75,275 -

**Ignacio School District – Job announcements**

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

- Elementary Teacher
- Grants Manager (Part-time)
- High School Girls Wrestling Assistant Coach
- Middle School Basketball Assistant Coach
- Route and Activity Bus Driver
- Secondary Alternative Education Teacher

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Email

[GoZoneMancos@pueblocc.edu](mailto:GoZoneMancos@pueblocc.edu)



## FLY FISHING

# Trout of a thousand casts

By Don Oliver  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



My Friday fishing partner, Kim, thought I should be in charge of picking our fishing location last Friday. I did. I picked the two campground areas on the West Dolores. I haven't fished them in a long time, and my somewhat old memory remembered them as not overcrowded this time of year, beautiful stream, and lots of fish. Two out of three was not good enough.

We arrived at the campground of choice around nine. The stream looked great. Despite being a beautiful day, we didn't see any other fishermen, nor any fly rods leaned against the campers. Those were two signs we should have paid attention to. We booted and suited, strung up our rods, and followed a path downstream to some great looking water. Here we started the first of a thousand cast.

We both tied on dry flies, started casting, and didn't turn a single trout. We then did what any fly fisher would do, tied on different dry flies. After making many more casts we went to nymphs. Still no fish, and lots of casts. I was making so many fruitless casts that I started doing practice casts to rocks, just to see if I could hit them. At this point we stopped for lunch and had a conversation about what

we should do. We decided to take the path back upstream to try that area out. I lit a new cigar, we both tied on new dry flies, and began casting; no fish. Following our previous plan of action, we went to nymphs, more casting, no fish.

We sat down on the streambank to think of something else to do. It was decided an entirely new location was needed. I used my old memory, from above, and suggested we drive back down the Dolores River to the American Legion Post, located just before the old fish hatchery. As we were unloading our rods an old camper walked into the parking lot and begin telling us about the big trout he had been catching. He even said he had been catching everything on dry flies. Our spirits went up. We followed an old road upstream to where the camper suggested we go. The area looked beautiful.

We both tied on dry flies and begin to cast and cast even more. I walked upstream towards a large flats area hoping to find trout eating on the surface. More casts, no fish. I went back to where Kim was fishing, a large runoff area. She told me she had caught one on a dry fly, but was now using a Woolly Bugger in the deeper water. I watched her catch a second fish. I quickly tied on a Woolly Bugger and proceeded to make even more casts. Kim had also gone back to making lots of casts that didn't produce another fish. After making what seemed like a thousand fishless casts we decided we had had enough and headed back to the car.

As we were stowing our equipment, I started to apologize to Kim for my poor suggestions on locations, thousands of casts, and two fish. She stopped me mid-sentence and reminded me what a beautiful day it had been, the gorgeous streams we had fished, and the total lack of other fishermen. She was right. I had placed catching fish above the overall experience of why people fly fish. So, if like me, you are getting frustrated with just one part of a day on the river, stop and look around. I bet once you do that, you'll experience what Kim had to remind me of.



### Southern Ute Tribal Member Hunters

**All Bucks and Bulls harvested within the Brunot area and on the Reservation must be validated within 5 business days of harvest.**

**If you reside outside of the reservation, you can call dispatch to have a Ranger validate your animal at (970) 563- 4401.**

**For local residents please call the Wildlife Office Monday-Friday at (970) 563-0130.**



### Forestry Industry Open House

PCC Southwest will host a forestry workforce industry open house from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9 in Room 101 on the Mancos campus, 33057 Highway 160. Forestry professionals throughout the Four Corners region are invited to learn about the development of PCC's new forestry and wildland fire programs, see demonstrations of the school's new harvesting simulator and try out the simulator themselves. For more information, contact Laurel Smerch, PCC Southwest's coordinator of natural resources, at 970-564-6218 or laurel.smerch@pueblocc.edu.

### The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

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

#### Across

- 1 Bulls
- 7 Voice booster
- 10 The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, for example
- 11 Bubble tea
- 12 Where Erdogan rules
- 13 Camas ---, to be cooked for a long time before eating
- 14 Franciscan, e.g.
- 16 Electronic component mount
- 19 Cannibalistic monster
- 22 Aleut's jacket
- 24 In mint condition
- 25 Incited
- 27 Come together
- 28 Musician --- Franck
- 29 Sounds of satisfaction
- 31 Pull from the shelves
- 36 Soldiers not accounted for
- 37 Praised highly
- 38 Health security body
- 39 Fish dish

#### Down

- 1 Crooked in Hawaii
- 2 Commotion
- 3 Printer's necessity
- 4 Windy City rail runner
- 5 Gang disputes
- 6 Entangle
- 7 Tying up
- 8 Native of the former Biafra
- 9 Dude
- 11 Actors Pitt and Renfro
- 15 Where Alice's adventures really took place
- 16 Addendum after an addendum
- 17 Beanie
- 18 "Dawn Land" writer
- 20 "Aw, heck!"
- 21 Bright bird
- 23 Joint founder of the National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. ---
- 26 Scruggs and Monroe
- 29 "Breaking Bad" ailer
- 30 Facilitate
- 32 Actor's prompt
- 33 Jewish rights body
- 34 Permit
- 35 Salt Lake City group

Answers will appear in the October 18 issue of the Drum.

#### Answers for September 20, 2024 Crossword Puzzle

**Across:** 1 CVs, 4 Inuit, 9 Aim, 10 Nipped, 12 Esau, 13 El toro, 14 Rigger, 16 Isn't, 17 RnR, 18 TOL, 20 Soave, 22 Sloth, 26 Inch, 28 Xia, 29 MBPS, 32 Oakley, 34 Plains, 36 Sirs, 37 Galoot, 38 Uke, 39 Bent's, 40 Ted.

**Down:** 1 Casino, 2 Viagra, 3 Smug, 4 Inert, 5 Nil, 6 Up till, 7 IPOs, 8 Tern, 11 Dot, 12 Errs, 15 Even, 19 OSHA, 21 Vision, 23 Oxlike, 24 Tiered, 25 Hays, 27 Costs, 29 MPG, 30 Blab, 31 Pale, 33 KSUT, 35 Not.

### The 2024 First Descendant Antlerless Elk Hunt

The First Descendant Antlerless Elk Hunt is a limited-draw hunt held from December 1st – December 31st, 2024, 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).

#### Hunt Information

- The hunt is open only to Southern Ute First Descendants.
- Season Dates: December 1 – 31, 2024.
- Weapon Type: Any Legal Weapon.
- Application Period: October 1 – 31, 2024 (Applications must be submitted by October 31st, 2024).
- Application fee is non-refundable.
- Applicants must submit a descendency 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 18th, 2024.
- Successful hunters must have their elk validated.
- Bag Limits: 1 Antlerless Elk.

For More information and to find a link to the SUIT Store please visit the Website at:

[First Descendant Antlerless Elk – Southern Ute Indian Tribe \(southernute-nsn.gov\)](https://www.southernute-nsn.gov)

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

## LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Oct. 4



Sunny 83°F

Saturday, Oct. 5



Sunny 82°F

Sunday, Oct. 6



Sunny 82°F

Weather forecasts collected from [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)



Oct. 2

Oct. 10

Oct. 17

Oct. 24

Nov. 1