



**Tribe welcomes Alina Frost**

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**Southern Ute General Election Nov. 1**

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**November 1, 2024** Vol. LVII, No. 22

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



Jeremy Wade Shockley/Special to The Colorado Sun

The Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian tribes, which have reservation land in Colorado, have rights to water they currently can't access in Lake Nighthorse Reservoir near Durango.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Tribes won't be paid for unused water through a federal fund**

*Colorado lawmakers want that to change*

By Shannon Mullane  
 THE COLORADO SUN

Colorado elected leaders this week rallied behind two tribal nations who are willing to forgo future water use in exchange for payment through a new federal conservation fund meant to address drought in the Colorado River Basin.

At issue is whether the Tribes' proposal is eligible for the funding under federal rules.

The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes would like funding for a program that pays Tribes to save water by not developing it for future use. Federal officials say the Tribes' proposal doesn't fit the parameters of the new conservation fund. This week, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet called on the bureau to change its mind.

"We write to urge you to ensure that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe have the opportunity to apply for funding programs that address drought and water supply management in the Colorado River Basin, including through upcoming drought mitigation funding under the

Inflation Reduction Act," the lawmakers wrote in a joint letter released Tuesday. The funding in question, known as Bucket 2 Water Conservation or B2W for short, will focus on long-term projects that cut down on water use or demand for water. Water officials are already eyeing it while waiting to learn about application guidelines, like final eligibility rules.

It's a much-anticipated addition to billions of taxpayer dollars that are already pouring into the West from big COVID-era programs, like the Inflation Reduction Act. Millions of dollars are filtering down to communities in the Colorado River Basin to help conserve water, upgrade water infrastructure, address drought impacts and restore ecosystems.

It's the type of money that can make a water official's long-held dreams come true.

Funding a forbearance program – a top priority for Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute officials – would incentivize Tribes not to use or develop all their water rights.

The idea could help reduce future demand in an already overburdened river system, supporters say. But it runs counter to ongoing

water conservation efforts, which have primarily called on irrigators to cut back on their existing water use.

Paying Tribes, who already aren't using water, to continue to not use it does not fit funding requirements, according to Reclamation. Conservation projects need to offer measurable, new additions to the amount of water flowing through rivers and streams in the Colorado River Basin, the bureau said.

**'A MATTER OF FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE'**

Incentivizing Tribes not to fully develop their water rights could have a big impact in the Colorado River Basin. The 30 federally recognized Tribes within the basin have recognized rights to a total of about 26% of the river's average flow.

But when programs, like the Bucket 2 conservation fund, require water to be used before it can be conserved, it poses a challenge for Tribal nations across the Colorado River Basin.

About a dozen Tribes are still trying to quantify their rights, a long legal process that must be completed

*Tribes page 10*

**SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND**

**Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group**

By Pooja Rao-Pennington  
 SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

The US Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (DOE FECM) conducted several Tribal Energy and Carbon Management Forums, with Growth Fund personnel actively participating. These discussions led to the creation of the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group (Working Group) by the DOE FECM, aimed at enhancing collaboration and advancing strategic initiatives.

The Working Group is meant to improve collaboration between federally recognized American Indian Tribes and DOE FECM. The goal of this partnership is to address the unique challenges faced by Tribal communities regarding energy development, climate change, and economic growth.

The U.S. government has a responsibility to uphold Tribal sovereignty and



Demi Morishige  
 Financial Analyst  
 Red Cedar Gathering Co.

**The working group's role**

The Working Group aims to provide recommendations to the DOE FECM on effectively supporting Tribes in optimizing and decarbonizing their natural resources. By establishing Tribal energy offices and fostering responsible resource development, the group seeks to promote sustainable economic growth while honoring Tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Through regular meetings and direct communication, the Working Group will facilitate knowledge sharing and advise on best practices for decarbonization efforts, ensuring that Tribal perspectives are integrated into federal energy strategies.

**Designated representative**

Demi Morishige was elected to serve as the designated representative for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for this working group. A member of the Southern Ute Indian

*Fossil page 2*

**ESCALANTE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Contreras excels in athletics & academics**

By Divine Windy Boy  
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Young student athlete Isaiah Contreras is excelling in football, proving that hard work truly pays off, he has received recognition for his hard work both on the field and in the classroom. With the help of trainers at Sun Ute Community Center, Contreras found an interest in weightlifting and training as he worked to gain strength for his upcoming football season.

Contreras is a first descendant of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and he is the son of Ayla Olguin and Oscar Contreras. He attends Escalante Middle School where he is an eighth grader, Contreras will be attending Durango High School next year where he hopes to continue his football career and earn a collegiate football scholarship. As a young child, Contreras was shy and kept to himself; it was recommended by his mom to try a sport to branch out and meet new friends, he gave football a try and has been playing ever since.

Prior to his season, Contreras wanted to gain more strength, so he began training during an after-school lifting program. He then began working out at Sun Ute Community Center as recommended by his grandparents, he utilized the personal training program with SunUte Trainer Eliyah Lucero.

"I was giving him the option to make his own circuit training, teaching him how to develop his own workout programs," Fitness Train-



courtesy Micah Lucero

Escalante Middle School won the league championship 34-0 against Montrose, Isaiah Contreras was named the Offensive Player of the Year.

er, Eliyah Lucero said. "We worked together for three days out of the week, for about eight months starting in 2022—you could tell his confidence definitely grew, even in his personality."

"His grandma and I have kept in touch since I have started working with him, she let me know that he has gone to many football camps like the Fort Lewis camp—he was 13, playing amongst 16-18 year old students—he got the 'Most Improved Player' at that camp, he even won a line-men challenge and bench pressed at 70 pounds, 30 times," Lucero said. "I

am very proud of him for the work that he's put in, he's doing a great job and it's inspiring to see such a young kid work to reach his goals—Isaiah comes from a great family that supports him, and I am so proud of him."

After working so hard in school, the gym, and on the field, Contreras went on to make A-team for Escalante Middle School and he also received multiple awards including; Team captain, A-Team Offensive Player of the Year, Most Improved Player-Nike Contact Foot-

*Contreras page 9*

**Dancing Spirit Arts a reality**



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Eddie Box Jr. and Betty Box provided a blessing over the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, ahead of the formal ribbon cutting ceremony, where community members celebrate the opening of the new arts center in Ignacio. Kasey Correia, Dancing Spirit Executive Director (far right), joined by Ignacio School District Superintendent, Chris deKay, celebrates the Grand Opening of the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, Friday, Oct. 25, realizing her decade long dream of building a community arts center in the heart of Ignacio.

## SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

# Passing of Jonathan Abshagen, President and COO of GF Private Equity Group

By Pooja Rao-Pennington  
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

It is with profound sadness that the Growth Fund team writes to inform everyone of the untimely and unfortunate passing of our valued colleague and cherished friend, Jonathan Abshagen.

Jonathan Abshagen served as President and COO of GF Private Equity Group, playing a vital role in our leadership team for over 19 years. He was not only a dedicated and talented individual but also a person of great integrity and kindness. His contributions to our organization were invaluable, and he played a pivotal role in shaping the direction and success of the GF Private Equity team. His presence and unwavering commitment will be sorely missed.

A native of Durango, Jonathan met his wife and fellow Durango native, Lindsay Eppich in 2010. They married a year later. He was most passionate about his family, a loving father to his two children, Alyson (11) and Will (9), and created a home teeming with laughter and joy. He also nurtured an infinite love for outdoor adventures, sharing countless experiences with his family. An avid cyclist, Jonathan made it a cherished tradition to ride the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic from Durango to Silverton every Memorial Day Weekend. He also



courtesy Lindsay (Eppich) Abshagen

Jonathan Abshagen, President and COO of the Southern Ute Growth Fund's Private Equity Group.

enjoyed fly-fishing with his dad, Beatle.

Jonathan was an active supporter and contributed to his community – he was a past board member of the La Plata Open Space Conservancy and currently served on the Fort Lewis College Foundation Investment Committee.

Jonathan's dedication and contributions have left an

indelible mark not only on our team and organization, but also on our community. During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with Jonathan's family and loved ones. Jonathan's legacy lives on through his family and his community.

Please keep Jonathan's family and friends in your thoughts during this time of grief and reflection.

## FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON • FROM PAGE 1

Tribe, Morishige currently serves as a Financial Analyst at Red Cedar Gathering Company. Her educational background encompasses global energy management and Tribal energy management. At Red Cedar Gathering Company, Morishige assesses funding opportunities that support carbon neutrality initiatives and the development of new growth avenues. Her previous experience includes ensuring compliance with various regulatory permits and maintaining strong relationships with Tribal leaders, industry partners, and regulatory agencies.

Morishige is actively engaged in community outreach and professional development. She has participated as a panelist in numerous energy-related summits and has served on various committees.

### Benefits of participation in the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe recognizes the significant opportunities presented by our participation in the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group. Engaging with this collaborative effort will yield multiple benefits for our Tribe in the following areas:

- **Economic Development**  
Participation in this working group will enhance our ability to access critical funding and resources outlined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. By leveraging these funds, the Tribe can invest in energy projects, create high-wage job opportunities for our members, and stimulate local economic growth. This economic



courtesy Red Cedar Gathering

Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group in Medora, North Dakota. Back Row: Catherine Everett, Daniel Cardenas, J.C. Whorton, Brad Crabtree, Jeremy Friesen, Rose Grey, Derrick Watchman, William McCabe, Timothy Nelson, Bo Lewis, Raymond Namoki, Priyanka Hooghan, Steve Grey, and CJ Stewart. Front Row: Michael Moore, Joseph Giove, Demi Morishige, and Jessica Eagle-Bluestone.

revitalization is essential for the long-term prosperity within our community.

- **Capacity Building**  
The working group will provide valuable by enabling our members to develop expertise in energy management and carbon reduction technologies. This knowledge transfer will empower our community to take the lead in sustainable energy initiatives, ensuring that we are equipped to capitalize on our natural resources while minimizing environmental impact.
- **Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination**  
Being part of this working group reinforces our commitment to Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. We will have a platform to voice our unique needs and perspectives, influencing federal policies that impact our lands and resources. This collaborative framework ensures that our Tribal priorities are integrated into broader energy and climate strategies.
- **Environmental Stewardship**  
Through active engagement in the working

group, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe can promote sustainable practices that protect our environment and cultural heritage. This initiative aligns with our values of stewardship and responsibility toward the land, allowing us to contribute meaningfully to national climate goals while safeguarding our natural resources for future generations.

- **Collaboration and Networking**  
The working group offers a valuable opportunity to collaborate with other Tribes and federal agencies, fostering partnerships that can amplify our collective efforts. By sharing experiences and best practices, we can enhance our strategies for decarbonization and resource management, ultimately strengthening the resilience of all participating communities.

For any questions you may have on the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group, please reach out to Demi Morishige at [dmorishige@redcedargathering.com](mailto:dmorishige@redcedargathering.com) or at 970-764-6658.



Sacha Smith/SU Drum archive

## 10 years ago

The Ignacio High School's choir began the Bobcat Assembly singing a Halloween themed song to fellow students and parents Wednesday, Oct. 29.

This photo was first published in the Oct. 31, 2014, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

## 20 years ago

Ignacio High School 2004-2005 Homecoming Queen, Senior Josie Pinnecoose, Father Ernest "Muz" Pinnecoose and Senior Justin Gilbert.

This photo was first published in the Oct. 29, 2004, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

## 30 years ago

The Committee of Elders surprised Executive Officer Eugene Naranjo during their luncheon with a plaque of appreciation for his special efforts in helping Tribal elders. As Annetta Frost handed him the wrapped gift, Naranjo glanced out the window at the blustery fall day and quipped, "I hope it's long underwear."

This photo was published in the Oct. 28, 1994, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

## 40 years ago

Smokey Bear – visits the HeadStart children for Indian Safety Week; other demonstrations on safety were held throughout the week.

This photo was published in the Nov. 16, 1984, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



## Greany on the powwow trail



courtesy Leela Abrahamson

Head Woman Dancer, Leela Abrahamson and Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany alongside other royalties before Grand Entry at the Red Canyon Powwow in Moab, Utah; Greany placed first in the Junior Boys Fancy category.



Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany placed first in the Junior Boys Grass Dance special in Concho, Okla.



photo courtesy Dominika Joy  
Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Alexander Berry in Concho, Okla. after placing first during Alexander's Junior Boys Fancy Dance special.

## FINE ARTS

# Artist Cougar Vigil presents his next solo show in Taos, N.M.

*Vigil: One of 12 'New Mexico Artists to Know Now'*

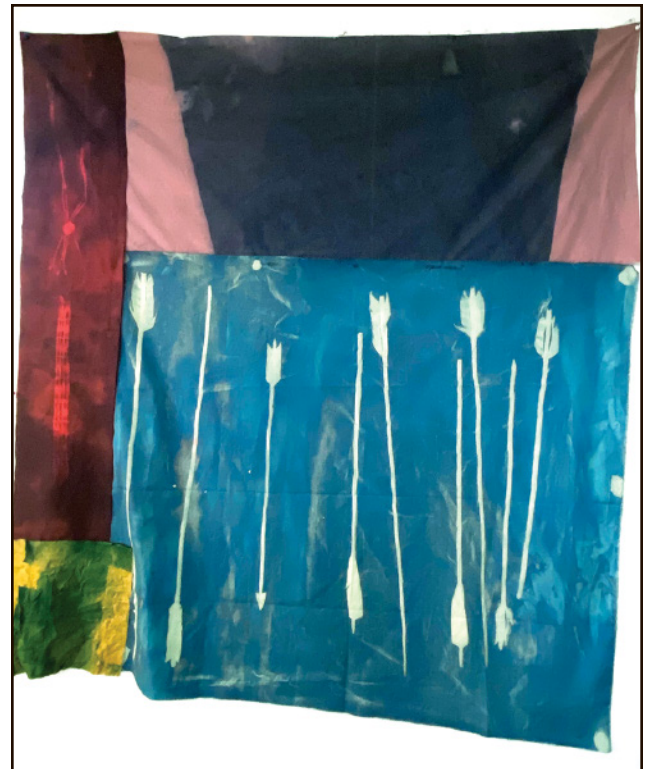
### Staff report

UNM-TAOS DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS, FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA + REVOLT GALLERY

Chronicles of Contrast, a mixed media experimental photography show by Cougar Vigil of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, delves into the interplay between appropriation, stereotypes, and images used to represent Native American culture. Drawing from his childhood on the reservation and the traditions of his Tribe, Vigil's work explores the contrast between true representation of Indigeneity, sourcing images from an archive that he collected as a photojournalist for his Tribal newspaper, and the stereotypical depictions spread through mainstream media.

The collaged fabric cyanotypes, including recognizable Native American artifacts such as bows and arrows mixed with abstract patterns and plants, challenge the viewer's ability to recognize the subject matter and prompt them to look more closely. By blending the time-tested practice of photography with a unique contemporary approach to collage, each piece tells a story without giving much away. By weaving these images, Vigil creates space for the audience to become curious, ask questions, and learn about Indigenous culture rather than speculate from a distance. Vigil on his work — Now is an important time to "connect Indigenous narratives with the broader public sphere to combat generalizations and simplified sentiments of Indigeneity."

Vigil is a documentary and experimental photographer from the Jicarilla Apache Nation in Northern New Mexico. His passion for photography began in high school in the early 2000s. Based in New Mexico, Vigil's work is deeply rooted in his responsibility to his community and traditional Jicarilla Apache scholarship. His unique approach to photography explores themes related to Indigenous identity and incorporates elements of his photography archive. Vigil graduated from Pratt Institute, earning his Master of Fine Arts in 2018. In addition to his work as a photographer, Vigil is also the Editor of the Jicarilla Chieftain, a Tribal newspaper.



courtesy Cougar Vigil

The opening reception is on Friday, Nov. 8 from 6-9 p.m. with the artist in attendance. The exhibition runs from Nov. 8 through Dec. 6, 2024. Revolt Gallery is located at 222 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte in Taos and is open by appointment.

In recognition of his contributions to the arts in New Mexico, Vigil was selected as one of the twelve artists to know in the state in 2023 by Southwest Contemporary magazine. Vigil's dedication to his craft and community is evident in all he does, and he continues to inspire others through his art and teaching.

Southwest Contemporary's 12 New Mexico Artists to Know Now project issues an annual statewide open call to artists to submit their work for consideration for what has become a popular and well-regarded presentation of the most exceptional talent and compelling contemporary artwork being made throughout New Mexico. The 2023 call received 380 submissions and was juried by Danyelle Means, curator and arts administrator, most recently executive director of the Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe; Rachelle B. Pablo, curator at 516 ARTS in Albuquerque; and Aaron Wilder, curator of collections and exhibitions at the Roswell Museum. Southwest Contemporary is an art media business that produces curated, critical content about contemporary arts and culture across the Southwest.

The opening reception is on Friday, Nov. 8, from 6-9p.m. with the artist in attendance. The exhibition runs from Nov. 8 through Dec. 6. Revolt Gallery is located at 222 Paseo Del

Pueblo Norte in Taos, N.M. and is open by appointment.

### REVOLT GALLERY

Since opening in 2017, Revolt Gallery has sought to offer a space for local, emerging, and underground artists to be heard in the Taos community. Revolt Gallery offers a reflection of New Mexico's unique and evolving cultural landscape through Taos' growing local talent, alongside a number of international artists who share a common vision. Revolt Gallery has transformed its historic downtown site into a dynamic, thriving facility for artistic exploration. With unique indoor and outdoor areas, Revolt Gallery hosts a variety of events and exhibits - from small to large-scale installations, immersive music, art, performances, and more. Revolt Gallery's mission is to support artists from diverse backgrounds and elevate the voices of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQIA+ people, and other underrepresented individuals. Revolt Gallery is committed to artistic and creative freedom for all.

### UNM-TAOS

The University of New Mexico-Taos Department of Fine Arts, Film and Digital Media offers an Associate of Fine Arts, an Associate of Arts in Film and Digital Media Arts, a Film Technician Certificate, and a Graphic Design Certificate. Fine Arts courses include a variety of studio disciplines, including art practices, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, metals, photography, and printmaking as well as art history. The FD-MA program offers filmmaking, graphics, animation, and multimedia using digital tools in preparation for a career in media arts. Students are supported in following their personal goals beyond community college including pursuing degrees or working within the art community of Taos and beyond.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Annual Holiday Bazaar

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**December 14 & 15, 2024**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

*Great gifts from artists, artisans,  
crafters bakers and candy makers.*

Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO    Breakfast Burritos & snacks will be sold at 8:00 AM  
Full Lunch Concession will open at 11:30 AM

**SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL**  
**THE SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL**  
November 16, 2024  
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center  
**THANKSGIVING DINNER**

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

## COUGAR VIGIL

**CHRONICLES OF CONTRAST**  
Nov 8 - Dec 6, 2024

**Reception**  
Fri, Nov 8th  
6-9pm

**REVOLT** **TAOS**  
222 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte, Taos

## VETERANS DAY COMMUNITY POW WOW

*Honoring All Who Served*

**November 9 & 10, 2024**

**Ignacio High School - 315 Ignacio Street, Ignacio CO**



HEALTHY NEWS You Can Use! DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

November is Diabetes Awareness Month. About 1 in 10 people has diabetes and 1 in 5 people don't know they have it. (CDC)

- Here are 6 Healthy Steps to help manage diabetes: 1. Lose a few pounds. Small weight loss can decrease blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol. 2. Say YES to fiber-rich foods. 3. Take a 10-minute walk after meals. 4. Know your ABCs: A1C, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol. 5. Monitor your blood sugar at home too. 6. Quit smoking.

Taking charge of your health today may prevent health problems tomorrow! Source: John Hopkins Medicine



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: November, a month full of potential

By Tamara D. Turner, SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

There is so much to love about November. First of all, it's Native American Heritage Month, providing so many opportunities to celebrate and honor Ute traditions and histories. Celebrating culture is one way to care for ourselves and our families.

November 1st is also an auspicious day for many cultures around the world. In Latin cultures, Nov. 1 kicks off the Day of the Dead festival in which ancestors are honored. In the Roman Catholic tradition, Nov. 1 marks All Saints' Day, remembering all saints and martyrs during Christian history. It is followed by All Souls' Day on Nov. 2 to commemorate those who have passed within the faith. And of course, we just had Halloween yesterday, also known as All Hallow's Eve, historically celebrated in many different cultures before it became the candy-seeking, costume donning American expression we see today. Some say it is connected to Celtic Harvest festivals.

The theme here is one of honoring histories and tra-

ditions, especially those who have come before and passed on knowledge. With all this reflection and honoring of the ancestors and the departed, some say that these auspicious days around the first of the month represent a time when the "veil between the worlds is thinner." What that can mean for some is a clearer connection with spirit and our spirituality. What a great invitation to think about what matters to us in our heart of hearts.

As we move through the month, we will have the opportunity to honor our veterans as well, on Nov. 11; another chance to acknowledge the sacrifices of our elders and to honor their important role in the community.

While these holidays (coming from "holy days") are particular and personal, this might be a good time to connect with the ancestors and elders and take some extra time to give thanks to them for all they have done for us and for getting us to this point. One of the most powerful elements of mental, spiritual, and emotional wellness is our connection to family, ancestors, and culture.

May the start of your November commence with the beauty of all that wisdom. Here's to your good health!

It's okay not to feel okay

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

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

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

Community & Home Health Services PRESENTS THE ANNUAL: SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH FAIR 2024 Join this community event to learn all things health, participate in games, and win prizes. This family fun event is FREE admission! Featuring public health speakers, exhibitors, traditional music, raffle prizes, and a lunch buffet for all attendees. November 8th, 2024 From 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Sky Ute Casino Resort Events Center & Banquet Hall For more information please contact: Alyssa Seibel, CHS Admin aseibel@southernute-nsn.gov 970 - 563 - 2348

November Breastfeeding & Parenting Class DIABETES & BREASTFEEDING November 12, 2024 Mauache-Capote Downstairs Kitchen 12-1 PM Shining Mountain Health and Wellness 970-563-2163 smtso@southernute-nsn.gov Breastfeeding has many proven health benefits for mothers and babies, including helping to prevent DIABETES. Come find out how

Grief Support Group at the Ignacio Community Library Every first Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. (970)563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org | 470 Goddard Ave.

Hand-Crafted Herbal Body Care Products Treat your loved ones (or yourself) to a spa day at home with a herbal body care product you made by hand! Thursday, Nov. 7 at 4:30PM Signup in advance at ignaciolibrary.org (970)563-9287 | 470 Goddard Ave.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH Join us for a lunch and learn! (Please bring your own lunch) Meal Planning 101 Join Shining Mountain Health & Wellness as we walk through some basic information to get you started. One of the best ways toward improved health is to cook at home. This class will help make it easier for you to take control of your health and budget! Shining Mountain Health & Wellness Tuesday, November 5th (focusing on menu planning) Tuesday, November 19th (focusing on meal prepping) 12pm-1pm Capote Room Sun Ute Community Center Sign up today! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mealplan2024



## Breast Cancer awareness



Rosaleigh Cloud/SU Drum

Shining Mountain Health & Wellness (SMHW) hosted a booth for Breast Cancer Awareness with information pamphlets and clothing items in the Hall of Warrior, Thursday, Oct. 17, followed by a community Awareness Walk. Lisa Smith RDN, shared information for those who wanted to get a mammogram, but may be hesitant for personal reasons, informing interested parties that SMHW is willing to accompany patients at the hospital for support. The Southern Ute Royalty were among those that attended the event.

## INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

# Apology opens doors to healing and restoration

**Staff report**  
STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE

“We acknowledge President Joseph Biden as the first to formally apologize to Native Americans for the mistreatment of our children in Indian Boarding Schools. His eloquent speech recounted Native children forcibly taken from their parents to boarding schools - some as young as toddlers - who grew up in a world of trauma and forced assimilation.

Deprived of love, family, and community, many did not survive and if they did, they returned to their communities as strangers.” said CEO Lori Jump, StrongHearts Native Helpline.

Native Americans experience some of the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence across the nation.

Our experience of violence is related and connected to the historical trauma experienced by our relatives, which has been passed down from generation to generation due to the lack of resources dedicated to healing.

The majority of American Indian and Alaska Native victims have experienced violence at the hands of at least one interracial perpetrator in their lifetime - 97 percent of female victims and 90 percent of male victims.

Now in its seventh year of operation, StrongHearts Native Helpline is a culturally appropriate helpline for American Indian and Alaska Native survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Advocates have answered over 60,000 calls, texts, and chats and made over 27,000 referrals to resources.

a leader with more than half a century serving the United States government. A president who understands that truth and reconciliation is required for healing to occur,” Jump said. “It is our deepest hope that the apology opens the doors to restoration of those things lost due to boarding school era policies - our culture, traditions, and most importantly our languages.”

StrongHearts Native Helpline serves all individuals who reach out for services regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other factor protected by local, state, or federal law. Advocates are available 24/7. Call or text 1-844-762-8483 or to chat online, visit our website at [strongheartshelpline.org](http://strongheartshelpline.org).

Shining Mountain Health & Wellness and Albuquerque Area Dental Support Center present:

## 4th ANNUAL OUT RUNNIN' DIABETES FUN RUN & WALK

**Date:** November 21st

**Time:** 12PM

**Where:** SunUte Community Center

Join us as we FIGHT Diabetes, Run or Walk with us and enjoy this Free Community Event

\*Snacks and giveaways provided\*

For more information contact Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349

## FREE AcuWellness/AcuDetox Certification Training

### November 21-23, 2024

### Sky Ute Casino Resort

14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137

Auricular acupuncture detoxification “AcuWellness/AcuDetox” is a specific acupuncture protocol that involves the placement of 5 sterile needles in each ear. In the last 50 years, AcuWellness/AcuDetox has been used world-wide to support people with trauma, PTSD, mental health, and addiction issues. Benefits include relaxation and stress relief, increased emotional well-being, decreased anxiety & depression, pain management, improved PTSD, decreased cravings, and more restful sleep. You will receive the credential “Auricular Acu-Technician (AAT)” after completion of the 3-day training, 30 hours of self-study & 40 supervised treatments which allows you to practice Acudetox in the State of Colorado.

For more information and to REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/PCpubGiUjAjh29PA>

Or register with QR Code:

**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

## NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH!

### LET'S SQUASH DIABETES!

Image: freepik

- 11/1 Squash Diabetes Month Kick Off, Southern Ute Health Center lawn, 1-3pm
- 11/1-11/8 Candy Exchange, Drop off Mouache Capote Bldg
- 11/5 and 11/19 Meal Planning Class with Lisa Smith, Capote Room, SunUte Community Center, 12-1pm
- 11/8 Tribal Health Fair, booth & 1:30pm Nutrition Presentation, Sky Ute Casino
- 11/14 Breastfeeding and Parenting Support Class, Topic: Diabetes, 12pm
- 11/21 Out Runnin' Diabetes Fun Walk, 12pm

Weekly education via TIS email, social media, KSUT radio

\*\*Questions: Heather Sorensen 970-563-2349 \*\*

ALBUQUERQUE AREA DENTAL SUPPORT CENTER'S

## 4TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN CANDY EXCHANGE

WE WANT YOUR CANDY

Nov. 1st - November 15  
Southern Ute Tribal Health,  
Mouache Capote Bldg.  
116 Capote Dr. Ignacio Co 81137

Bring us your Halloween candy in exchange for a prize. Everyone is welcome to participate.

For more information please contact Shawmarie Tso at 970.563.2163.

## Students interview Council



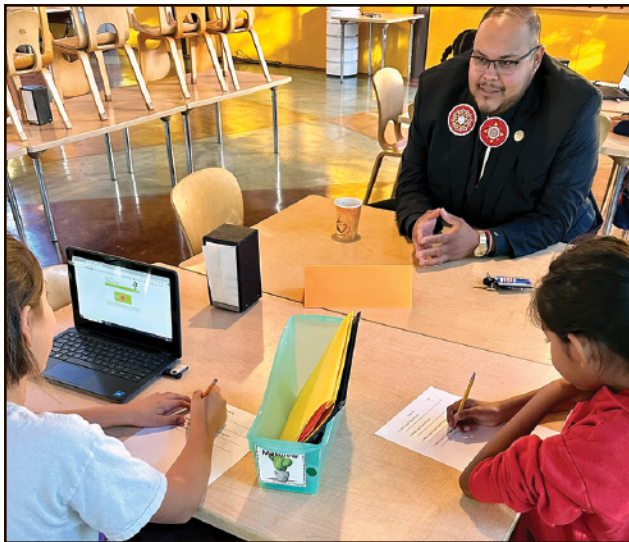
photos courtesy Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy

Tribal Council members were invited by the SUIMA upper elementary students to sit in on interviews regarding the election process and what it means to hold a seat on Council. Seen here, pictured left to right: Councilman Andrew Gallegos, Chairman Melvin Baker, Councilwoman Marge Barry, and Councilman Marvin Pinnecoose with students Leandro Litz, Jr., Ethan Rohde O'Leary, Destiny Valdez, John Washington, Jr. Jayceon Richards, Jacoby Scott, Matthew Carrillo, and Lawrence Santisteven, Jr.



Chairman Baker answers questions from Leandro Litz, Jr. and Jayceon Richards about the role of the Tribal Chairman.

Matthew Carrillo and John Washington, Jr. interviewed Councilman Gallegos, asking questions about how the election process works.



Lawrence Santisteven, Jr. and Destiny Valdez take notes as they interview Councilwoman Barry.

Councilman Pinnecoose listens intently as Ethan Rohde O'Leary and Jacoby Scott prepare their interview questions.



## SUIMA

# Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

*A child learns best within a social environment*

By Mari Jo Owens,  
PRINCIPAL



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

As those who have read my articles know, SUIMA follows the Montessori curriculum and method. It is a philosophy with the fundamental idea that a child learns best within a social environment that supports each child's individual development. What makes Montessori education unique is the "whole child" approach. The goal of a Montessori program is to help each child reach their full potential in all areas of life. Activities promote the development of cognitive skills, social skills, emotional growth, and physical coordination. This curriculum, under the guidance of specially prepared Montessori teachers, provides chil-

youngest students who are infants and toddlers. Generally, in most Montessori schools, the teaching method extends over a nine-year period beginning with three- to six-year-olds in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, extending into elementary through sixth grade. Classes are designed with mixed age groups: primary (3- to 6-year-olds), lower elementary (6- to 9-year-olds), and upper elementary (9- to 12-year-olds). In recent years, Montessori programs across our nation are continuing the method into middle school and high school. Hands-on didactic materials are available in learning areas such as practical life, sensorial, language, math (which includes geometry and algebra), and the content areas of biology, geography, history, and science.

dren with the opportunity to enjoy the process of learning as they create knowledge and develop their personalities.

At the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, we are fortunate to also have trained Montessori teachers for our

### Upcoming SUIMA events

- Fridays at 2 p.m. – Early Release
- Nov. 4-8 – Parent Teacher conference week
- Nov. 8 – Health Fair and Coffee Shop
- Nov. 9 – Veterans Powwow/SUIMA bake sale
- Nov. 11 – No School
- Nov. 12 – Doe Field Dressing
- Nov. 20 – Thanksgiving meal
- Nov. 23-29 – Thanksgiving break

### SCHOOL BOARD

After pumpkins were carved during the October Family Night, the SUIMA school board invited Southern Ute Tribal Council to choose the winners. Congratulations to all the students on creating some beautiful pumpkin art for the school!

**SUIMA FAMILY NIGHT**

Infants: Rhys Ruybal  
 Toddler 2: Mykel-Zain Greany  
 Toddler 3: Arnulfo Pardo  
 Primary 1: Ember Berry  
 Primary 2: Starlitt Greany  
 Primary 3: Gia Velasquez  
 Primary 4: Iris Thompson  
 Lower Elementary 1: Prometheus Gonzalez  
 Lower Elementary 2: Theoden Greany  
 Upper Elementary: Matthew Carrillo

**Happy Halloween**

**Jack-O-Lantern Pumpkin Carving Winners**

Ignacio School District

# NAPAC Informational Meeting

Native American Parent Advisory Committee

---

5:30 pm  
Monday, November 4  
ISD Administration Building

NAPAC is a group of parents, guardians, and teachers that advise on programs and events for Native American students and their families. The goal of NAPAC is to collaborate with the school district to meet the unique educational and cultural needs of our Native American students.

Scan code to  
RSVP

### 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.

### 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.



## Baker earns McGuffey Award



courtesy Ignacio School District

Leila Baker has been one of the most productive board members for the Ignacio School District. There is rarely a school event that she does not attend and actively supports. Baker has built relationships with staff by being visible and engaging. She displays great pride in the district, her culture, and her community. When she speaks it always comes from a place of caring and common sense. She is a team player who has added great value to the school board. Her perspective, insight, honesty and sense of humor make her an excellent leader. Ignacio School District is proud to recognize her for the McGuffey Award.



courtesy Ignacio Elementary School

Kindergartners learn how to be scientists at Ignacio Elementary School.

### BOBCAT BULLETIN

## Lil' Bobcats: Ignacio Elementary School update

By Shauna Branch, Principal  
IGNACIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As the fall colors come and go, Ignacio Elementary continues to rock this year! The school had a great positive start to the year. We welcomed some new faces that you will see around campus.

Jennifer Wittrup is teaching 3rd grade this year. She has taught school, mostly in 3rd grade, for 28 plus years! Most of her teaching career was in Indiana. She taught for a short time in Wyoming before moving to Southwest Colorado. She is certified in trauma-informed practices. We are lucky to have a teacher with experience join our staff.

Ashika Wagner is teaching 1st grade this year. Wagner completed her student teaching experience last year in a kindergarten classroom at IES. She has moved to the community and is doing a great job in her classroom. She got her degree at Fort Lewis College last May.

Emily Hartley is teaching 3rd grade this year. She also came to us from Fort Lewis College. She is enthusiastic and is doing awesome things with her class. She has built working relationships with her students and loves watching them learn.

Nicole Margeson is teaching SPED this year to grades 3-5. Nicole has taught for 12 plus years in Southwest Colorado in both Cortez and Dolores. She moved with her husband to Bayfield over the summer and joined our staff. This is her first-year teaching SPED and working with students to improve math and reading skills.

Amy Vezeau is a paraprofessional in our SPED department. She was a substitute all last year in the Ignacio Schools and decided to join us full-time. She has built great relationships with the students she helps. We are lucky to have her working with our students.

Min Luna is a Paraprofessional in our SPED department. She joins us from Chicago, Ill. She has some experience working with preschool students in Chicago. We are excited and happy she moved to Southwest Colorado and has joined our Bobcat Family.

Aundrea Herrera is a Paraprofessional in our kindergarten classes. She is a lifelong Bobcat! Aundrea graduated from Ignacio High School last May and is taking college classes online to be a teacher someday. We are excited to have her working in the schools and gaining experience towards being a future teacher.

2024-2025 Performance Rankings: Each year the Colorado Department of Educa-



courtesy Ignacio Elementary School

Ignacio Elementary School mascot, Bobcat, pictured at a Rise and Shine Assembly; students can pay a Bobcat Coin to be the Mascot at school events.

tion ranks schools based on the CMAS scores (grades 3-5). Last year at this time we were rated as a school in Priority Improvement (among the lowest-performing schools in the state). Over the school year, we ensured all students had high-quality teachers, put common behavior expectations in place, and worked with grade-level teachers to ensure students were learning and growing academically and emotionally. Teachers met weekly to plan lessons and look at student work to ensure they were learning what was taught to them. Our efforts paid off! Our students grew an average of over 55 percentile in both reading and math. This equates to more than a year's growth. Some classes grew in the 70 percentile! We expected to move up in ranking from the CDE. We moved two levels to the top schools. For the 2024-2025 school year, Ignacio Elementary School is rated a Performing School. We still have room to grow and will continue this year.

This year's initiatives include Habits of Discussion. This will help our students improve their communication and critical thinking skills. Some of the skills they are working on is to always answer any question in complete sentences, both with oral and written tasks, and giving reasons for their answers based on evidence

from the reading or math problems. Parents can help at home by asking students to answer in complete sentences anytime you ask them a question. For example, if you ask them what they would like to watch on TV, have them answer in a complete sentence and give a reason why they picked that show.

We continue to infuse fun activities for students this year to help keep our learning climate a fun place to be. This includes your Rise and Shine pep assemblies, the AR reading Point Clubs where students can earn pizza parties and trips to Fly High but earning points in AR reading, the NED Show, the Navajo Magician (coming in November), and a schoolwide Read-A-Thon in November. We also have a friendly competition for which classes are reading the most words each week. This has motivated the students to have read over five million words so far this year. We have also recognized over 250 students for going beyond our expectations and being Six Pillar Bobcats. Next week the whole school will be working in homeroom classes to solve a mystery similar to the game CLUE.

I invite anyone to come visit the school to see all the great things happening at the school this year. It is a great year in Bobcat Country.

### Upcoming events

- Oct. 31: Trick or Treating around town – all grades PreK-5th. Thank you to all the agencies and businesses that have agreed to participate.
- Nov. 5: Family Literacy Night from 5:30-7 p.m.

THE SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S

# ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

## GED AND ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY • WORKPLACE READINESS • ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Tribal members and all Native Americans within a 50-mile radius are eligible for scholarships to cover program costs.

**SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION CENTER**  
330 Burns Ave, Ignacio CO

**MORE INFORMATION**  
(970) 536-2784  
Email Andrea Schultz at [aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov)

**JOIN TODAY AND TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS YOUR FUTURE!**

## Southern Ute Education Department

# After School Tutoring

### Open to Southern Ute Tribal Members, 1st Descendants & JOM Students in High School

**Monday - Thursday**  
**4pm - 5:45pm**  
**\*Fridays are appointment only!**

**At Southern Ute Education Department High School Classroom**  
**\*Snacks will be provided**

**For more information please contact:**  
**ShaRay Rock**  
[srrock@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:srrock@southernute-nsn.gov)  
**970-563-2794**



courtesy BGC

## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

### Club Connect: Congrats graduates!

*Staff report*

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

**Birthday Shout outs!**

- Bradley Lovato – 11/18
- Atticus Harlen – 11/21
- Leticia Alires – 11/25

**BGC Shoutouts**

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes to the Halloween Carnival for the costume contest and the Elk Hunt Raffle.

**Board highlights**

Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17, the Board voted to recommend that Tribal Council ap-



point Randi Rock and reappoint Amy Barry to the BGC Board. The board will also organize the Taste of Christmas Light Parade.

BGC Elk Hunt Raffle tickets are now available at the BGC Office and at the Sky Ute Casino on Friday evenings and Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



courtesy BGC

## Emerald level certification



photos Krista Richards/SU Drum

This year, the Southern Ute Clean Team will certify 21 Tribal buildings as green, thus continuing to insure healthy working environments for Tribal employees and the membership as a whole. Dave Thompson from the Academy of Cleaning Excellence stood with the Clean Team in the north lobby of the LCB on Wednesday, Oct. 30, to present the banner for Healthy Building Accreditation at the Emerald Level for the years 2024-2027.



Nearly 10 years ago, the Leonard C. Burch building was the first Green Certified building on any Indian reservation in the United States which began a legacy of dedication to providing healthy indoor environments.

## Smartphone Camera Uses Beyond Photography

Improve your skills and knowledge with smartphone basics and more!

**Friday, Nov. 8 at 2:00 PM**

at Ignacio Community Library | (970)563-9287

# 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.

**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.





**CONTRERAS EXCELS IN ATHLETICS • FROM PAGE 1**

ball Camp Fort Lewis College, and he made the Honor Roll.

Parents Ayla Olguin and Oscar Contreras are proud of their son for becoming a bright student and strong player, “When the team starts to get down, Isaiah brings them back together he is one of the team’s main captains,” Oscar Contreras said. “It’s been a lot of work helping him get to this point, his mom makes a lot of sacrifices to make sure that he is to every practice and game on time, but to see him excelling in football makes us so happy, it has been an awesome experience, and we are so proud of him.”

“We just went to his parent teacher conference and his teacher said that it is always a pleasure to have Isaiah in class, he is so polite, and he stays upbeat, helping people to feel happy and stay positive—our son is a great role model,” Olguin said. “We want him to keep being positive, keep growing, and keep working hard, he is a good influence for his brothers and sisters and we’re so proud of him.”

Isaiah Contreras shared that he is happy and proud to see the strength progress and is grateful for the success he



courtesy Micah Lucero

Isaiah Contreras, number 72 Escalante Middle School Eagles.

has earned. Most of all he is thankful for the unwavering support from coaches, trainers, teachers, and his family.

“I am thankful for my parents and their dedication they put towards me; they have helped me get so far in my football career,” Isa-

iah Contreras said. “I am also thankful for my coaches and my family they’ve always pushed me when I thought I didn’t have any more energy left in me, my coaches always told me to get one more extra rep in and that has definitely paid off.”

**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**

**Levi Platero Performs on the Community Concert Hall Stage**

*Special Guest Kirk James*

*Staff report*  
COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL

The Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College presents Levi Platero with special guest Kirk James on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Levi Platero, a talented guitarist from the Navajo Nation, is joined by Durango bluesman Kirk James.

Levi Platero, a Diné blues artist from To’hajilee, New Mexico, is celebrated for his soulful guitar playing that reflects his life experiences. His musical journey began at age nine with a fifty-dollar pawn shop guitar. By fourteen, he performed with his family band, The Plateros, alongside his father, Murphy Platero, and cousin Douglas Platero.

Platero’s talent quickly gained recognition in the Native music scene. Hip-hop artist Nataanii Means recalls admiring Platero during their teenage years, a sentiment shared by many Native musicians of his generation.

As a teenager, Platero toured with some of the biggest names in Native music, including Micki Free and Keith Secola. Reflecting on his early success, Platero humbly admits he didn’t grasp its significance then, saying, “I didn’t even know it was such a big deal. I was doing it because I loved it, and it was fun.” In 2013, The Plateros teamed up with Indigenous, a blues-rock band led by Mato Nanji, allowing Platero to perform alongside one of his musical idols. A few years later, feeling the need to create his music, Platero released his debut EP, Take Me Back. His 2022 sophomore album, Dying Breed, showcases his growth as an artist, capturing his journey and deep commitment to blues music.



Levi Platero, a Diné blues artist from To’hajilee, New Mexico, is celebrated for his soulful guitar playing that reflects his life experiences.

Kirk James is deeply rooted in the Texas blues tradition, delivering a blend of Texas Shuffles, Ragtime, and funky rhythms. His signature phrasing and bottleneck slide guitar evoke the sounds of blues legends like T-Bone Walker, Elmore James, and Lightnin’ Hopkins. With over 30 years of experience as a blues performer, Kirk is known for his powerful guitar work and unique vocals. His repertoire spans both original songs and timeless classics from the Blues Masters. Kirk has shared the stage with iconic artists such as Clarence ‘Gatemouth’ Brown, John Hammond, Charlie Musselwhite, Tab Benoit, Los Lonely Boys, Eric Johnson, Coco Montoya, Edgar Winter, Arlo Guthrie, Anson Funderburgh with Sam Myers, and Richie Havens. Notably, he performed as the Tweener

Act on the main stage of the Telluride Blues & Brews Festival and has appeared multiple times on the Durango Blues Train.

Tickets are \$30, \$20, and \$15. They are available online on Thursday, October 3, at noon at [www.durangoconcerts.com](http://www.durangoconcerts.com) or by phone at 970-247-7657. Posted ticket prices include applicable service charges. All sales are final.

The Community Concert Hall is a not-for-profit, multi-use performance venue located on the campus of Fort Lewis College. Its ability to bring a diverse spectrum of shows to Southwest Colorado is made possible through a partnership with the college, a state-supported, independent institution of higher education, and financial and in-kind contributions from generous community members.

**Tribe welcomes new enrollee**



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

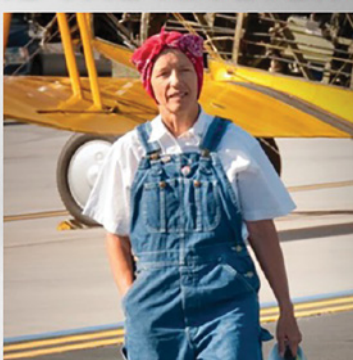
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe welcomed new enrollee Alina Frost on Friday, Oct. 25, she is the daughter of Jack Frost III and Lainey Frost. Southern Ute Tribal Council stands alongside Alina and her family after her enrollment.

Tribal Council members take time to greet Alina Frost following her enrollment on Friday, Oct. 25 in the Tribal Council Chambers. Vanessa Torres and Lorelei Cloud take turns holding baby Frost, welcoming her as a new member of the Tribe.



**MEET GAIL BEATON'S ROSIE THE RIVETER**

Learn about the contributions women made during World War II, ask questions, and enjoy a reception after the program!



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 @ 4:00 P.M.  
at Ignacio Community Library  
(970)563-9287 | 470 Goddard Ave.

**All Parents & Caregivers Are Welcome**  
**POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING**  
**Honoring Our Children By Honoring Our Traditions**

Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) has been used for over 35 years and remains popular today because the teachings are timeless. Historically, we had rich teachings that helped children grow up safe with strong families. Colonization threatened those teachings—our Native families were being separated and traditional practices were at risk of being lost. PIP was developed in the 1980s to fill this void and was designed to help parents and families remember our traditional teachings and apply them in the modern world. In part one of each session, we will discuss examples of traditional practices and teachings from several different tribes. Instructors also share teachings from local areas and communities. Part two of each session discusses how to apply those teachings and values today. Complete all 8 sessions to receive a certificate.

This class is VIRTUAL  
Please call Social Service to sign up

Each participant needs the following to attend:

- A working email
- A solid internet connection
- A smart phone, tablet or laptop with a mic
- Download the Microsoft Teams App



NOVEMBER 2024

Mondays & Wednesdays  
12:00 – 2:00 PM

Nov. 4, 2024

Nov. 6, 2024

Nov. 11, 2024

Nov. 13, 2024

Nov. 18, 2024

Nov. 20, 2024

Nov. 25, 2025

Nov. 27, 2024



SOUTHERN UTE  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL OR EMAIL KELLIE  
(970) 563-2337

[kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:kyazzie@southernute-nsn.gov)

## WATER RESOURCES

# Regional drought update and winter forecast

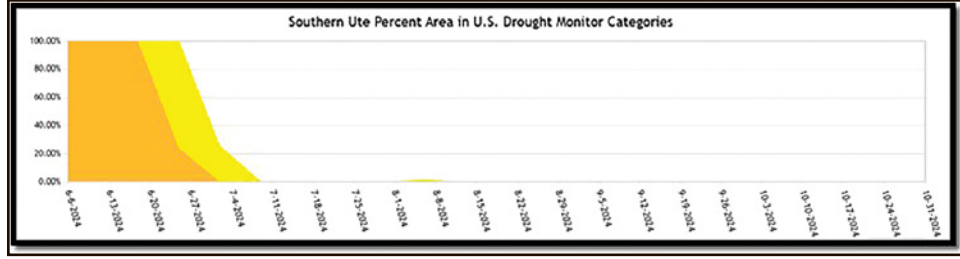


Figure 1. Drought conditions on the Southern Ute Reservation since June 5, 2024.

**By George Gavrielides**  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

### DROUGHT UPDATE

No drought! Although a lot of the country is currently experiencing drought conditions, the significant rain this summer and early fall we experienced in Southwest Colorado has prevented any drought conditions from arising in our area over the last few months. With winter around the corner, the Water Resources Division (WRD) would like to provide the community with a drought and winter forecast.

According to the CoCo-RaHS Ignacio 2.9N station, our area has received approximately 9.5 inches of precip-

itation since June 5, 2024. Average annual precipitation in Ignacio is approximately 14 inches, so we've received about 68% of our average precipitation in less than six months. This summer's rainfall has helped Southwest Colorado stay out of drought conditions for the last few months. Additionally, the Southern Ute Reservation has been out of drought conditions for a while as shown in Figure 1 above.

The US Seasonal Drought Outlook for 10/17/2024 to 1/31/2025 shows some drought development in our area is likely. The precipitation and temperature outlooks for November 2024 to January 2025 also show our area experiencing be-

low average precipitation and above average temperature. However, the promising news is the current ENSO probability chart (Figure 2) shows a high probability phase change beginning in January 2025.

Our area may experience a slow start to winter over the next couple of months, but there is potential for a productive winter starting in January 2025. The WRD will keep track of drought conditions and winter forecasts and update the Tribe's Drought Task Force and the community appropriately. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact George Gavrielides, Water Resources Specialist, at 970-563-2932.

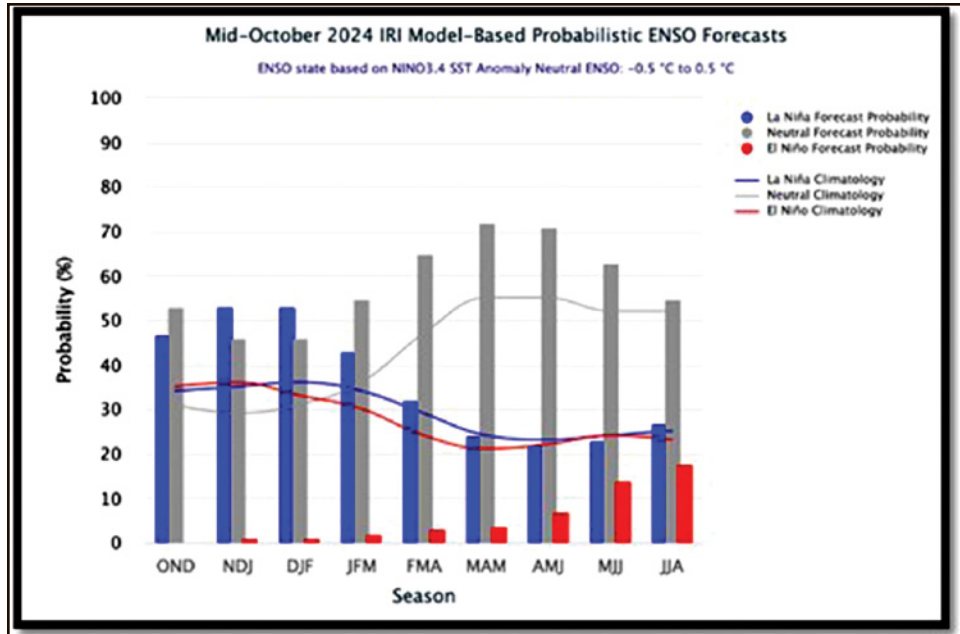


Figure 2. US ENSO probability chart from October 2025 to August 2025.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

# Polis supports Tribes having access to drought, water management funding

**Staff report**  
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATORS  
HICKENLOOPER AND BENNET

U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet and Governor Jared Polis called on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to explore new opportunities for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Indian Tribe to access federal funding for drought and water supply management. USBR recently announced that forbearance proposals – paying water users to forgo water use, like the projects the Tribal Nations had planned to submit – will not be considered in the upcoming Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding round aimed to increase water conservation and efficiency in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

“We write to urge you to ensure that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute

Mountain Ute Tribe (“the Colorado Tribal Nations”) have the opportunity to apply for funding programs that address drought and water supply management in the Colorado River Basin, including through upcoming drought mitigation funding under the Inflation Reduction Act,” wrote the lawmakers.

“We strongly encourage you to explore other avenues for Colorado’s Tribal Nations to pursue funding related to drought response, recognizing that they are currently forgoing their water use not by choice, but resulting from a history of inequity reflected in their long-term lack of infrastructure.”

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Indian Tribe hold combined water rights to over 33,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Nighthorse southwest of Durango but lack adequate infrastructure to deliver that

water to their reservations. As a result, the Tribal Nations currently cannot use or benefit from their water, and it flows downstream to other users.

The Tribal Nations planned to apply for IRA funding to receive compensation for forgoing development of their water rights, but recently learned that their planned project would not qualify under the upcoming IRA drought funding announcement. In the letter, the lawmakers urge USBR to explore alternative funding opportunities that could better suit the needs of the Colorado Tribal Nations.

Hickenlooper and Bennet fought for \$8 billion for western water infrastructure, \$10 billion for forests, \$19 billion for agricultural conservation, and \$4 billion for drought in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

## TRIBES WON'T BE PAID • FROM PAGE 1

ed before the water can be used. Others have quantified rights but lack the infrastructure to deliver water to homes, businesses and farms on Tribal lands.

The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes fall into the latter camp: Both Tribes have the need for water, plans to use their water, and quantified rights to water held in Lake Nighthorse, a federal reservoir outside of Durango, Colo.

Neither Tribe has put that water to use, citing expensive fees and the high costs of building new water infrastructure.

Until September, Tribal officials thought they would be eligible for Bucket 2 funding to launch a compensated Tribal forbearance program.

During the Colorado River District’s annual seminar in Grand Junction on Sept. 20, Southern Ute Vice Chair Lorelei Cloud shared Reclamation’s determination, just days prior, that the proposed program was not eligible for the upcoming round of conservation funding. “We had something on the table until Wednesday when that changed,” Cloud told the room of water professionals. “Sorry, this is emotional to me, because we worked very hard so that we could get the compen-



sation for our water.”

When unused water passes reservations, downstream water users have the option to get paid with federal money to forgo using what is, essentially, Tribal water, said Peter Ortego, general counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. But the Tribes are not always able to participate in those same programs.

“It’s a matter of fairness and justice,” he said in a written statement.

### COLORADO OFFICIALS WEIGH IN

Reclamation officials say the upcoming round of conservation funding is limited by legal language in the Inflation Reduction Act that requires new, verifiable contributions to Colorado River system water. Tribal and nontribal projects that meet this standard are eligible, the agency said in a prepared statement Wednesday.

Hickenlooper, Bennet and Polis urged Reclamation to ensure the Tribes

could apply for the next round of funding.

The lawmakers stressed that, although Reclamation believes the forbearance program would not qualify, the lack of opportunity to develop water supplies does not equal a lack of demand, the letter said. They also urged the bureau to consider other funding avenues for the Tribes.

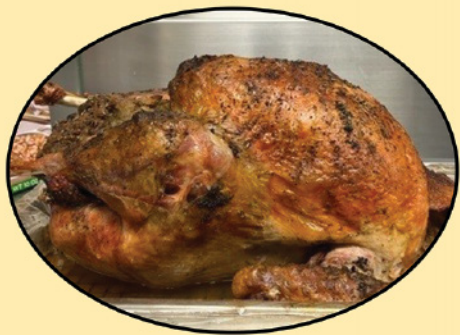
Colorado River Commissioner Becky Mitchell, Colorado’s top negotiator on river matters, also weighed in to support the Tribes’ efforts.

“I continue to urge Reclamation to address this historic inequity and to identify a funding source for Tribal forbearance projects,” she said in a written statement.

If funding through the upcoming Bucket 2 Water Conservation Program isn’t an option, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe asked the Department of Interior, which houses the Bureau of Reclamation, to provide funding for a separate, standalone program.

“To rectify historical wrongs, the Tribe must be adequately compensated for its unused water, especially knowing that junior water users and the Colorado River system are being propped up by our unused water,” the Tribe’s statement said.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Holiday Cooking Class & Potluck



**Wednesday November 13, 2024  
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

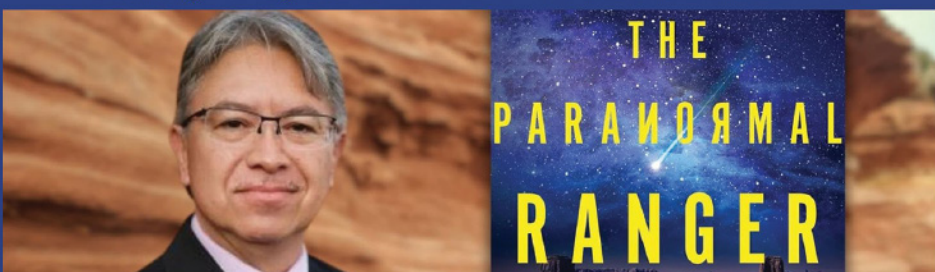
Learn to prepare and roast your turkey, make stuffing, gravy from scratch, and how to make cranberry sauce.

This class is open to everyone. Bring a side dish to share and enjoy a Turkey Dinner. The turkey cooked in class will be given away in a drawing of those present.

Do you have a good holiday recipe you would like to share?

You can prepare and bring the dish to the class and share your delicious recipe.

**Stanley Milford, JR. Online Author Talk!**  
Visit [ignaciolibrary.org](http://ignaciolibrary.org) to register, or call (970)563-9287 to learn more.



**Thursday, November 7**

**Multi-Purpose Facility  
Fall Arts & Crafts Fair in the Park**  
**Saturday November 16, 2024  
10:00AM - 3:30 PM**



**Crafters, Artists, Artisans, Bakers**  
Spaces available in the Park bring your canopy, tables and chairs.  
**\$60 per space**



**256 Ute Road - Ignacio CO**  
to reserve a space - **970-563-2642** or **970-563-2641**



## Multi - Purpose Facility November 2024 Events

### Monthly Event Calendar

**Yard Sale Saturday November 2, 2024 9:00 AM—4:00 PM**

**Senior Breakfast—Wednesday November 6, 10:00 AM—11:30 AM**

**Quilt & Sew—Tues., Wed., & Thurs. November 12—14, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM**

**Turkey Class Pot Luck—Wednesday November 13, 9:30 AM—4:00 PM**

**Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday November 22, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM**

**Pie Class Wednesday November 27, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM**

**Traditional Beading & Sewing—Tues.—Thurs., November 19—21**

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

### Special Events

**Masquerade Yard Sale—November 2, 5:00 PM—11:30 PM**

**Community Veterans Day Pow Wow—November 9 & 10, Ignacio High School**

**Veterans Day Brunch—Monday November 11, 2024 10:00 AM—12:00 PM**

**Craft Fair in the Park—November 16, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM**

**Cooking with Bill—Monday November 18, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM**

**Youth Crafting November 23, 10:30 AM—2:00 PM**

• Events are subject to change—watch for announcements



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

### COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

## Heads up, Colorado! New 2025 law bans holding phones while driving

*Law aims to prevent distracted driving-related crashes*

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

In a significant move to reduce distracted driving, Colorado will implement a new law beginning Jan. 1, 2025, that prohibits people from using a mobile electronic device while driving unless they use a hands-free accessory. CDOT will launch an awareness campaign over the next several months to ensure all Coloradans are aware of the law and best practices. The campaign will include outreach through social media, paid ads and collaboration with key stakeholders.

“This new legislation is a crucial step toward making Colorado’s roads safer for everyone,” said Shoshana Lew, executive director of CDOT. “By encouraging drivers to focus solely on the task of driving, we can reduce the number of distracted driving incidents and prevent crashes that often come with such behavior. This law aligns with best practices from across the nation and reflects our commitment to protecting all road users, whether in a vehicle, on a bike or walking.”

According to CDOT’s 2024 Driver Behavior Report, 77% of Colorado driv-

ers admitted to using their phones while driving, with 45% saying a hands-free feature in their car would stop them from using their phone.

Studies show that using a mobile device while driving increases the risk of a crash by two to six times.

Distracted drivers pose a particularly high risk to vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists. From 2015 to 2023, deaths among pedestrians and bicyclists increased by 50% and 112.5%, respectively, while Colorado’s population grew by less than 8% during the same period.

Colorado joins 29 other states in prohibiting the use of hand-held mobile devices while driving. States with similar laws have reported decreases in distracted driving crashes. In Michigan, a 2023 law banning hand-held cellphone use led to a 12.8% decrease in distracted driving crashes within the first year.

Penalties for violating the new law start with a \$75 fine and two license suspension points for the first offense. First-time violators can have the charge dismissed if they provide proof of purchasing a hands-free accessory. Repeat offenders face higher fines and more license suspension points.

“For a long time, troopers have been able to detect when someone is driving distracted by a vehicle weaving between lanes, delayed starts at stop signs and lights, not to mention seeing a phone or other device in a driver’s hand,” said Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “This legislation allows us to address risky and careless behaviors in a proactive way to increase the safety of all roadway users.”

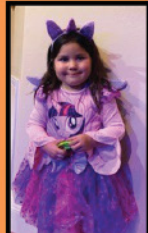
As the January 2025 deadline approaches, CDOT urges all drivers to begin putting down their phones when driving, ensuring they are prepared when the law takes effect. Drivers are encouraged to acquire hands-free accessories such as dashboard mounts and car speakerphone systems to comply with the new law.

The law includes exemptions for individuals reporting emergencies, utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders and individuals in parked vehicles. These exceptions ensure that critical communications are not hindered in emergency or essential service situations. To learn more about Colorado’s hands-free law, visit [codot.gov/handsfreeco](http://codot.gov/handsfreeco).

**New CO law effective Jan. 1:  
No hand-held phones while driving.**

You must use a hands-free accessory.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Indoor Yard Sale - Masquerade Fun Saturday November 2, 2024 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



**Come as your favorite Halloween Character - Costume Contest -**

**Bring a picture of your pet in costume and post on the pet wall—Everyone will vote to pick a winner.**

**Pet Costume Contest**

Carving contest—2:00 PM

You have 30 minutes to complete your jack-o-lantern.

Overall best will win!

**Wear your costume and be prepared to dance and parade.**

**Contest at 1:30**

**No Admission Fee - No Set-up Fee  
Doors open 8:00 AM**



**Make and Take Crafting**

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO

Call the MPF to reserve your table 563-2640  
e-mail [multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov)



## Multi-Purpose Facility Pie Workshop

**Wednesday November 27, 2024  
10:00 AM-3:30 PM**



This is a hands on workshop—you will make pie crust from scratch.

You may bring your own pie pan.

(Aluminum pie tins are used)

You can take home and bake or bake it here.

If you have a pastry cutter, and rolling pin—bring it



256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO  
970-563-2640

e-mail [multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov)

## Multi-Purpose Facility Sr. Breakfast

**Wednesday November 6, 2024**

**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**



**Open to all Community Senior Citizens  
55 years and older**

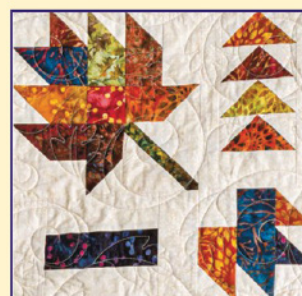


256 Ute Rd. Ignacio CO 81137  
970-563-2640 - [multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov)

## Multi-Purpose Facility Quilt & Sewing Class

**Tuesday & Thursday  
November 12 & 14, 2024**

**10:00 AM - 3:30 PM**



**Materials**

- 42 assorted precut 2 1/2"-wide strips\*
- 1/2 yard green tonal\*
- 2 yards dark blue tonal\*
- 5 1/4 yards white tonal\*
- 1 yard binding fabric\*
- 7 1/2 yards backing fabric
- 88" x 108" batting\*
- Thread
- Basic sewing tools and supplies

**Fall 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](mailto:eredd@southernute-nsn.gov)



# KSUT hosts Rocky Mountain Community Radio Conference



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Rocky Mountain Community Radio Conference hosted this year by KSUT Public Radio took place Wednesday, Oct. 23 through Friday, Oct. 25 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort and KSUT Public Radio Station. On Thursday, breakout sessions kicked off with a performance by the Southern Ute Singers.



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum

KSUT/KSJD Reporter, Clark Adomiatis and his band Community Pancake performed a buffet of tasty treats from their latest album 'There's Still Food Coming' during the KSUT Open House for the Rocky Mountain Community Radio Conference, hosted by KSUT, Rocky Mountain Community Radio (RMCR) is a coalition of more than 20 non-commercial radio stations in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Ahead of the breakout sessions on Thursday, Oct. 24 guests heard from plenary speaker Bruce Auster, NPR Managing Editor-Collaborative Journalism Network as he was interviewed by Rick Holter of Public Media Co.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham welcomed all attendees of this year's Rocky Mountain Community Radio Conference on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Participants took part in a Q&A Session with plenary speaker Bruce Auster, NPR Managing Editor-Collaborative Journalism Network and Rick Holter of Public Media Co., during the Rocky Mountain Community Radio Conference.



SOUTHERN UTE AGENCY

## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Ute Agency's Main Phone Number has been updated to

# 970-200-8613



SKY UTE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# TATANKA & FRIENDS

COMEDY SHOW

**TATANKA MEANS**

WOLF BROWN | KASEY NICHOLSON

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**  
DOORS OPEN 4:30PM | SHOW STARTS 5PM  
VIP MEET & GREET 4-4:30PM

\$35 GENERAL ADMISSION | \$45 PREFERRED SEATIN  
\$65 VIP+MEET & GREET

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [SKYUTECASINO.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://SKYUTECASINO.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

*Sky Ute* CASINO RESORT | 14324 Hwy 172 North Ignacio, CO 81137 | [skyutecasino.com](http://skyutecasino.com)  
Owned & Operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

**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.  
Please update your address if needed.

Thank you to our Sponsors

# Tribe's bison gathered in seasonal roundup



Bison wait in a holding pen ahead of annual vaccinations and health checkups. In a team effort by Wildlife Resource Management and Tribal Rangers, the annual Bison roundup took place over a single day, Wednesday, Oct. 23.

**To keep the Tribe's bison herd healthy, animals are brought in for an annual checkup, Southern Ute Wildlife biologists pull the weights of the animals to make sure they are healthy. They work to doctor and maintain the animals, checking for any sign of physical trauma. They also use this opportunity to add ear tags for tracking, identifying females and males each year that are born in the spring. The Tribe's bison were rounded up on Wednesday, Oct. 23.**

The bison program uses stats from the annual roundup to maintain the herd, also addressing the needs of the membership — such as an increasing demand for processed bison meat, tanned hides, while also harvesting other cultural aspects from the buffalo.

**Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Wildlife Resource Management Admin. Assistant, Nicole Black, prepares injections for the bison as they make their way through the stock yard gates.



Soil Conservation Technician, Preston Abayta lends a hand with tagging and vaccinating Bison on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

# Dancing Spirit celebrates Grand Opening



Dancing Spirit Executive Director, Kasey Correia rejoices during a formal ribbon cutting ceremony along Goddard Avenue, where the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts has become a reality after more than a decade.



Cultural performances by Fort Lewis College's folklorico dance group kicked off the evening celebrations during the Grand Opening for the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts.



The Southern Ute Royalty give introductions ahead of Friday evening's ribbon cutting event; Miss Southern Ute Maleina Carel welcomes the attendees to the Grand Opening of the Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts.

**Photos by Jeremy Wade Shockley**  
The Southern Ute Drum



Norman Lansing, a traditional contemporary artist who hails from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, visits with patrons at the new Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts.

**Kasey Correia, Dancing Spirit Executive Director cuts the ribbon on the highly anticipated Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts, Friday, Oct. 25, realizing her decade long dream of building a community arts center in the heart of Ignacio. "Dancing Spirit Co-op Gallery" originally opened its doors at 630 Goddard in 2010, changing its name to "Dancing Spirit Gallery" that same year. In 2014 they were officially recognized as a 501c3 nonprofit, in 2022 they broke ground on what was to become the new Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts.**

## INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

# Statement from NEH Chair Lowe on President Biden's historic apology

**Staff report**  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

President Biden issued a formal apology for the United States' 150-year-long system of federal Indian boarding schools, which forcibly separated Native children from their families with the purpose of severing their ties to their communities and cultural practices.

At Gila Crossing Community School in Arizona's Gila River Indian Community, President Biden delivered his historic acknowledgment of the role of the U.S. government in the forced assimilation of Native Americans as part of his first official visit to an Indigenous community as president.

"I formally apologize, as president of the United States of America, for what we did," said President Biden. "That's long overdue." The President described the federal Indian boarding school system as "one of the most horrific chapters in American history" and one that is not well known to Americans or taught in schools. "I believe it is important that we do know," he said. "Generations of Native children stolen, taken away to places they didn't know, with people they'd never met, who spoke a language they had never heard ... Their names literally erased, replaced by a number or an English name."

President Biden concluded his remarks by citing the words of anthropologist and Alaskan Native cultural leader Rosita Worl (Tlingit), who earlier this week was awarded a National Humanities Medal at the White House. As a six-year-old, Worl was kidnapped from her family and taken to a boarding school for Alaskan Native children. As an adult, she says that when she hears children singing Tlingit songs, "We will hear the voices of our ancestors, and we are now hearing it through our children."

"For too long this nation sought to silence the voices of Native children," Biden

said. "But now your voices are being heard."

President Biden was accompanied at Gila River Indian Community by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, who as head of the Department of the Interior launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive effort to recognize the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies with the goal of addressing their intergenerational impact and to shed light on the traumas of the past.

Investigations of the federal Indian boarding school system conducted by the Department of the Interior identified 417 Indian boarding schools with assimilationist policies and practices operating in 37 states (or then-territories) between 1871 and 1969. These schools and similar institutions were supported by \$23 billion in FY23 inflation-adjusted dollars from the U.S. government. Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative investigations also confirmed that at least 973 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children died while attending federal Indian boarding schools and identified 74 marked and unmarked burial sites at 65 different school sites. They also documented numerous abusive practices that occurred at these schools.

Survivors and their descendants described physical, emotional, and sexual abuse at the boarding schools and the trauma of being separated from their families and removed from their homes. Students routinely endured forcible assimilation practices such as haircuts to remove traces of their Native identities and punishments for speaking in their Native languages.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is a partner with the Department of the Interior on the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, committing \$4 million to support the research, analysis, and

digitization of records from the boarding schools and the collection of oral histories of former students and their descendants for the creation of a permanent archive.

As part of the initiative, the Endowment has also provided special funding to Native organizations for projects documenting and educating others about the history and legacy of federal Indian boarding schools. Additional NEH funding has supported projects such as the Heard Museum's Away From Home permanent exhibition of American Indian boarding school stories; the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project, documenting the experiences of Native American children who attended the Genoa U.S. Indian School in Nebraska; and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition's National Indian Boarding School Digital Archive.

"This is an important day for our country and for all Native peoples. The forced assimilation policies of the U.S. federal boarding school system shattered families, devastated communities, and robbed Native Tribes of their histories, cultures, and languages. I am grateful to President Biden for his recognition of the legacy of trauma these schools have left within Native communities. This is an important milestone for all of us in the path toward healing from this dark chapter of American history."

### NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [neh.gov](http://neh.gov).

## Meet the candidates



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Candidate Linda Baker greets attendees during the Meet the Candidates Night held on Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Baker and six other candidates met the Tribal membership, introducing themselves and campaigning for a seat on the Southern Ute Tribal Council.



Candidate Byron Frost answers a submitted question during the Meet the Candidates Night on Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. The Tribe's general election is slated for Friday, Nov. 1.

## U.S. GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2024

# Frequently Asked Questions

*As a registered voter, what do I have to do?*

Your registration must be correct in order for you to receive a mail ballot. You may verify or update your registration the following ways:

- Online at [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov)
- Download an application at [www.laplatacountyclerk.org](http://www.laplatacountyclerk.org) & mail to 679 Turner Dr., Ste C, Durango, CO 81303 or email the completed form to [elections@lpcgov.org](mailto:elections@lpcgov.org)
- Visit the La Plata County Clerk & Recorder's office at 679 Turner Dr., Ste C, Durango, CO 81303 to complete an application.

If your registration is current and active, your ballot packet will automatically be mailed to you.

**Where can I drop off my ballot or vote in person?**

your registration online at [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov) until October 28 to receive a ballot by mail or go to a Voter Service and Polling Center to update your registration and obtain a ballot through Election Day.

**I will be out of town when the ballots are mailed. How do I get a ballot?**

Ballots are available on September 23 in the County Clerk's office or you may complete a Voter Registration Application to have the ballot mailed to you at the out of area location.

**What if I do not vote on all the candidates or measures?**

If you do not vote on all the candidates or measures your ballot will still be counted for all voted races.

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)

**Where can I drop off my ballot or vote in person?**

Voter Service and Polling Centers / Mail Ballot Drop Off Locations			
La Plata County Clerk & Recorder 679 Turner Dr, Ste C, Durango	Monday - Friday	Oct 21 - 25	8am - 5pm
	Monday - Friday	Oct 28 - Nov 1	8am - 5pm
	Saturday	Nov 2	8am - 5pm
	Monday	Nov 4	8am - 5pm
	Election Day	Nov 5	7am - 7pm
Pine River Library 395 Bayfield Center Dr, Bayfield	Friday	Nov 1	8am - 5pm
	Saturday	Nov 2	8am - 5pm
	Monday	Nov 4	8am - 5pm
	Election Day	Nov 5	7am - 7pm
La Plata County Fairgrounds 2500 Main Ave, Durango	Monday	Nov 4	8am - 5pm
	Election Day	Nov 5	7am - 7pm
Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall 1000 Rim Dr, Durango	Monday	Nov 4	8am - 5pm
	Election Day	Nov 5	7am - 7pm
Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum 503 Ouray Dr, Ignacio	Friday	Nov 1	8am - 5pm
	Saturday	Nov 2	8am - 5pm
	Monday	Nov 4	8am - 5pm
	Election Day	Nov 5	7am - 7pm
24 Hour Mail Ballot Drop Off Locations October 14 – November 5			
<b>Durango</b>	La Plata County Clerk & Recorder, 679 Turner Dr., Ste C – drive by		
	La Plata County Administration Building, 1101 E 2nd Ave.		
	La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave. – drive by		
<b>Bayfield</b>	Fort Lewis Community Concert Hall, 1000 Rim Dr.		
	Bayfield Town Hall, 1199 Bayfield Parkway		
<b>Ignacio</b>	Farmers Fresh Market, 535 Goddard Ave.		

**When are the ballots mailed to the voters?**  
Ballots will be mailed October 11.

**What if my ballot doesn't come?**  
If you have not received your ballot within a week after they are mailed, call the County Clerk's office at 970-382-6296. They will check that your voter registration is current. If it is, they will mail you a replacement ballot.

**What if I have moved and have not updated my registration?**

You may submit a paper voter registration to the County Clerk's office or update

**What if I make a mistake, damage or lose my ballot?**

You may call the County Clerk's office and request a replacement ballot. One will be mailed to you provided the request is received no later than October 28. Otherwise, you may request a replacement ballot in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center location until 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 5.

Your ballot has been cast as soon as you deposit it in the mailbox or at a drop site. After that, you cannot receive a replacement ballot.





# VOTE!

## CHRISTINE BAKER SAGE

### SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

~ 2024 ~


### SUCCM

#### Large Classroom Notice & US General Election

The Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum's Large Classroom will be unavailable to rent beginning on Wednesday, Oct. 30, through Wednesday, November 6, for preparation and hosting of a Voter Service & Polling Center for the United States General Election. For more information on about where to drop off ballots or vote in person, please see the La Plata County Nov. 5, 2024 General Election FAQ or visit [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov) online.


### U.S. GENERAL ELECTION FAQ • FROM PAGE 14

- Do I have to return my ballot by mail?**  
No, you have the choice of mailing your ballot or returning it to any designated ballot drop site or voter service and polling center location. Ballots should not be mailed after October 28.
  - Can I sign someone else's ballot?**  
No one can sign the return envelope on behalf of another voter, even if there is a power of attorney in place.
  - What if my signature has changed?**  
Complete a new voter registration form and submit it to the County Clerk's Office.
  - How much postage is required to mail my ballot back?**  
Your voted ballot can be returned with a standard first-class stamp. If you return the ballot to any designated ballot drop site or voter service and polling center location no postage is necessary.
  - Are ADA accessible voting machines available?**  
Yes, ADA accessible voting machines are available for use at all Voter Service and Polling Centers.
  - Can I mail multiple ballots in one return envelope?**  
No, only one ballot may be returned per signature envelope.
  - Can the public watch the election process?**  
Yes, all steps of the process are open to observation by the public.
  - When must the voted ballot be returned?**  
The voted ballot must be received in any La Plata County designated drop site location by 7p.m. on election night. **POST-MARKS DO NOT COUNT.**
  - Can anyone find out how I've voted once I mail my ballot?**  
No, all ballots are separated from the return envelope before the ballots are inspected. This process ensures confidentiality.
  - How do I know you received my ballot?**  
To verify that your ballot was received by the County Clerk's Office, please call 970-382-6296 or visit [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov).
  - When will election results be known?**  
No results can be announced until after 7 p.m. on election night.
  - What if I did not sign my return envelope?**  
The County Clerk's office will contact you in writing and you will have until November 13 to respond in order for your vote to be counted.
  - Where may I obtain election results?**  
Election results are available online at [www.laplatacountyclerk.org](http://www.laplatacountyclerk.org) or in the County Clerk's office at 679 Turner Dr, Ste C.
  - What if I have more questions?**  
Call the La Plata County Clerk's office at 970-382-6296.
- You may sign up to track your ballot at [www.LaPlata.BalotTrax.Net](http://www.LaPlata.BalotTrax.Net)*

OPEN MINDED  VOTE EDUCATED

LISTENER

# BYRON FROST FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL



## Ute Traditional and Culture Knowledge

### Vote Byron Frost

Advocate on:

Protecting and safe guarding our Natural Resources,  
Speaking our Ute Language and  
Supporting our younger generation in education and their vision.

# VOTE

## VANESSA TORRES



SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

DEDICATED, INFORMED, EXPERIENCED



ELECT Cedric J. Chavez



Southern Ute Tribal Council

# VOTE

## SOUTHERN UTE GENERAL ELECTION

Friday, Nov. 1, 2024  
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO





## Tribal Office Closure

In observance of Veterans Day, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2024.

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

★★★★★

**HONORING VETERANS**

Please join Tribal Council in recognition of Veterans Day. We invite all Veterans to enjoy coffee and burritos as a token of our appreciation for your service, duty, and honor. Tribal staff is welcome to participate and share their gratitude.

**Friday, November 8, 2024 | 8:30 AM**  
**Hall of Warriors - Leonard C. Burch Building**  
**356 Ouray Dr., Ignacio, CO 81137**

For more information, contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2313

★★★★★

## Veterans Day Brunch

All Community US Veterans are invited

### Multi-Purpose Facility

**Monday November 11, 2024**  
**10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

Essay contest Winners will be announced.

Honoring all honorably Discharged U. S. Veterans, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Meal sponsored by Farmers Fresh Market.  
 Meal prepared by the Volunteers to Honor Our Veterans

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

## VETERANS DAY COMMUNITY POW WOW

*Honoring All Who Served*

**November 9 & 10, 2024**

**Ignacio High School - 315 Ignacio Street, Ignacio CO**

*Gourd Dance \* Princess Contest \* Dance Contests for Veterans \* Arts & Crafts Fair*

### HEAD STAFF

**HEAD MAN DANCER**—Jack Frost Jr, So. Ute/Pawnee/So. Cheyenne, Ignacio CO  
**HEAD LADY DANCER**—Gracious Jacket, Ute Mtn. Ute, Townoc CO  
**HEAD GOURD DANCER**—Henry Whiteskunk II, So. Ute/So. Cheyenne, Ignacio CO  
**ARENA DIRECTOR**—Kenny Brown Sr., No. Arapahoe/Cree, Ft. Defiance AZ  
**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**—Reffel Kanip, Ute, Ft. Duchesne UT  
**MC APPRENTICE**—Stais Harlan, So. Ute/Omaha/Dine, Ignacio CO  
**HOST DRUM/GOURD**—Head Singer Erwin Morris, Omaha, Walthill NE  
**HOST NORTHERN DRUM**—Red Spirit—AJ Kanip, Ute, Ft. Duchesne UT  
**COLOR GUARD**—Southern Ute Veterans Association, Ignacio CO

**Southern Ute Veterans Association Honoring Special 1:30 PM Saturday**  
**Ronnie C. Baker and Edward Lee Brown**

Saturday, November 9		Sunday, November 10
Doors Open at 10:30 AM		Doors Open at 10:30 AM
Gourd Dance: 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM		Gourd Dance: 11:00 AM
Grand Entry 1:00 PM		Grand Entry 1:00 PM
Supper Break: 5:00 - 6:00 PM		Closing—5:00 PM
Grand Entry: 7:00 PM		

*Veterans Street Clothes & Traditional Dress Contests - Special Memorial Honoring Contests*

**Monday November 11, 2024**

**Veterans Day Community Brunch 10:00 AM - Noon at the Multi-Purpose Facility**  
 All Community Veterans are invited, Presentation of Essay Winners, Army, Marine, Navy, & Air Force.  
**Brunch is sponsored by Farmer's Fresh Market & prepared by the Volunteers to Honor Our Veterans**

**All American Veterans are invited to attend and participate regardless of race or ethnicity.**  
 More Information: Elise Redd, 970-779-8149, 970-563-2641 or the Multi-Purpose Facility 970-563-2640  
 Arts & Crafts Vendor Space \$50 /day \$75 full event Contact: Stais Harlan 970-563-2642

**Sponsored by the Southern Ute Veterans Association - the Volunteers to Honor Our Veterans**  
 Ignacio High School, District 11JT- Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility

## Community Members - Essay Contest to Honor a Veteran

Has 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 and take a chance to win a quilt made by us. Please submit a 500 word essay describing the veteran, include their rank & branch to; [eagleramona@gmail.com](mailto:eagleramona@gmail.com), [eredd@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:eredd@southernute-nsn.gov) or [sr2lfrost@aol.com](mailto:sr2lfrost@aol.com) by November 1, 2024. Winners will be announced at the Veterans breakfast at the Southern Ute Multi-Purpose Facility on Veterans Day November 11, 2024. Quilts will be presented in the military Branches of the Army, Navy, Marines or Air Force.

Thank you to all those who served and we look forward to getting to know our local veterans.

Essay Contest Rules:

- Open to people living in the Four Corners Area.
- Veteran can be living or deceased Honorably Discharged U.S. Military Veteran.
- Must have served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force.
- Include your name, address and phone number.

## Southern Ute Veteran'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 Honorably Discharged U.S. Veteran
- Must present an American Indian CIB or Tribal ID
- Must be single, not married and not cohabitating
- Represent one of the three Ute Tribes or live within a 100 mile radius of Ignacio

**Applications & Information Contact:**  
 Rhonda Wilbourn—970-749-0678—Jennifer GoodTracks—970-946-1241

Princess Committee—Rhonda Wilbourn, Jennifer GoodTracks  
 Stefanie Fasano, Kellis Wilbourn

## Community Veterans Pow Wow

**November 9 & 10, 2024**  
**Ignacio High School**

**Raffle Tickets now on Sale**  
**\$1 each or 6 for \$5**

### Prizes

\$250 Cash	Apple Air Pods (2)	Pendleton Luggage \$100 Cash	
Ribbon Skirt (2)	Crossover Ribbon Bag	Indigenous Bucket Hat (2)	
\$20 Visa Gift Card	Beaded Wallet	Beaded Barrette	Tote Bag
Beaded Phone Case	Bi-Fold Wallet (2)	Earring Sets (6)	Star Quilt
Car Jump Start Compressor Kit	Car Air Compressor	Earring & Bracelet Set (2)	
Earring & Necklace Set (2)	Rawhide Bead Necklace	\$50 McDonald's Card (3)	
\$50 Subway Card	\$50 Sonic Card (3)	Throw Blanket	Sand painted Clock
Nexpow Jump Car Kits	Indigenous Jacket (2)	Fishing Gear Back Pack (2)	

Tickets available from Volunteers, at the MPE, and various community events.  
 Proceeds Benefit the Community Veterans Pow Wow





BOBCATS CROSS-COUNTRY

# IHS XC makes State-bound splash

Boys second at South Fork regional

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Looking at the cover of the Colorado High School Activities Association's 2024 Cross-Country Bulletin, one can see a photo from the '23 State Championships' Class 2A Boys' race. And in it, Ignacio's then-freshman prospect Cayson Burcham.

When the '24 season began, however, the Bobcats' picture for success perhaps wasn't as clear, considering a new head coach had taken the program's reins and Burcham had decided to test himself on the football field. But lucky for rookie skipper Kent Gillin, juniors Trace Crane and James Martin both returned ... and both proved crucial in earning IHS a return to Norris-Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs.

Even if their typical finishing order was reversed.

Competing Friday morning, October 25, at the 2A-Region IV Championships in South Fork, Martin laid down a time of 18 minutes, 10.74 seconds in placing third overall, while Crane clocked 18:32.88 and came in seventh as the 'Cats accumulated an adjusted score-4 total of 41 points.

Only Crested Butte Community School, with a near-perfect low of 13 points, fared better, while Dolores (47) and meet-hosting Del Norte (55) rounded out the top four of nine title-eligible teams. Buena Vista (70 points), Blanca-based Sierra Grande (142), Monte Vista (145), Antonito (146) and San Luis Centennial (156) each had to hope to qualify individual runners for State.

CBCS senior Giles Billick was the individual champion in 17:48.38, and junior teammate Max Sullivan



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Judah Ashley (521) runs during Dolores' 2024 Bogy Draw Bear Chase earlier this season. Frequently the IHS boys' No. 3 runner at any given meet, Ashley and the Bobcats will be returning as a team – also including Trace Crane, James Martin, Thunder Windy Boy and Li Zhenghui – to the upcoming 2024 CHSAA Class 2A State Championships in Colorado Springs.

took second in 18:02.98. Junior Cody Pleak (18:13.56) then followed Martin across the finish line, and DNHS sophomore Mads Kreutzer (18:16.05), trailing Pleak by roughly the same margin of time as Pleak did Martin, took fifth.

Two Ignacio entrants ended up battling for 16th place – one needed a top-15 result if one wasn't part of a State-qualifying team – on the golf-course route at Rio Grande Club & Resort, with sophomore Judah Ashley (19:40.16) out-kicking sophomore Thunder Windy Boy (19:44.22), and '24 senior newcomer Li Zhenghui (25:34.01) placed 54th in the field of 68.

IHS unfortunately had no entrants in the Region IV girls' feature, won by Ridgway. With their three starring freshmen finishing within the top five, the Lady Demons accumulated 16 points while second-place Crested Butte ended up with 29 and third-place Dolores 39. RHS' Emery Cornell (21:00.30) was the winner over classmate Natasha Hessler (21:03.80) and CBCS freshman Tazzy Pozner (22:07.20).

Set for Saturday, Nov. 2, the 2024 State 2A Boys' race is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. and the 2A Girls' at 2:20 as CHSAA's 82nd season of boys' cross-country – and 47th of girls' – concludes.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio Football head coach, Alfonso 'Ponch' Garcia accepts congratulations on a lengthy career from Monte Vista counterpart Manny Wasinger Friday night, Oct. 25, after coaching his final actual game with the Bobcats. Winner of two Class 3A State Championships during his 1985-2007 stay at Alamosa, Wasinger and MVHS – of which he took charge in 2013 (Garcia's first season at Ignacio was in 2015) – prevailed 32-8 at IHS Field.

BOBCATS FOOTBALL

# Pirates scuttle Bobcats' season, 32-8

Garcia coaching era ends with loss at home

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

If there was a Monte Vista player fully aware Friday night, Oct. 25, that the Pirates could ill-afford to regard underdog Ignacio lightly, one could have guessed senior running back Jacob Pacheco or senior quarterback Kaden Madrid.

And one probably wouldn't have guessed incorrectly.

But when the visitors – who arrived at IHS Field having not faced opposition since crushing Center 79-0 on October 4 – needed a supreme lift in a key 1A Southern Peaks clash, they sought out Azariah Hurtado.

Directly responsible for 22 of MVHS' 32 points, the junior hauled in touchdown receptions of 49 (with 7:47 left in the first quarter), 42 (7:32 left in the third) and 50 (2:19 left in the third) yards, caught a two-point conversion and carried in another, and also intercepted Bobcat junior QB Zane Pontine three times. The last pick came with 0:02.7 remaining and for all practical purposes ended not only IHS' 2024 season, but Alfonso 'Ponch' Garcia's last actual game after being named head coach in 2015.

"I only even played football because he was the coach; that was the only reason I really started playing – I wanted to play for him," said D.J. Hendren, who played much of the third quarter with an injured right forearm but who still wanted to fight to the finish (though insisting, he was denied). "So him leaving ... it's kind of sad."

"I mean, he brought me into this. Nurtured me and helped me grow," senior



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio junior Gabe Archuleta keeps Monte Vista quarterback Kaden Madrid (3) from escaping along IHS' sideline during action Friday night, Oct. 25, at IHS Field. The hosting Bobcats fell 32-8 to the Pirates.

Kendrick Nossaman said. "It's really awesome, especially, to 'graduate' with him. And in track I'll still have him coaching me."

"Four years with him," said senior Charley Pargin, "and I call him a friend, you know? It's been a good run."

Good on-field running ultimately produced IHS' shutout-snapping score early in the fourth and final frame. Beginning the drive – which followed Hurtado's longest TD catch and subsequent two-point tote, increasing Monte Vista's lead to 32-0 – at their own 41-yard line after junior Gabe Archuleta returned Madrid's kickoff 23 yards, the Garcia and the Bobcat staff called Lincoln deKay's number five times (four runs, one reception) in six plays, and the junior fullback sewed up the surge following sophomore lineman Tyce Nossaman's blocking for a 7-yard score.

Pontine – whose 19-yard scamper and rhino-like placement of his helmet into his trampled tackler's midsection highlighted the possession, which consumed just 2:34 worth of clock – then threw

to Archuleta for the two-point bonus, cutting the Pirates' lead down to 24 points with 11:45 left in regulation.

"I thought we probably could have executed a lot better; some things weren't really clicking. I mean, Monte Vista was a tough team, but we were up for the challenge," Archuleta said. "It's Ponch's last season at the high school and all of us are pretty sad about it, but we still tried to ... ball out for the seniors' last game."

All four saluted seniors – Pargin, Kendrick Nossaman, Marquis Cibrian and '24 addition Cole Wagner – anchored Ignacio's offensive line and helped deKay rush for 103 yards on 18 no-frills carries. Pontine ended up with 30 yards on five carries but Hendren was held to minus-4 on three.

Aerially, sophomore Cayson Burcham caught four passes for 75 yards, while deKay and junior Aven Bourriague each ended up with one grab for seven. Intercepted by Hurtado on his very first throw (Hurtado actually fumbled).

Pirates page 18

FULL BOBCATS' COVERAGE ONLINE

See The Southern Ute Drum's website, [www.sudrum.com](http://www.sudrum.com)

## SUNUTE RECREATION

# 2024-2025 YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

REGISTRATION:  
OCT. 4TH-DEC. 13TH  
OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 4-12

REGISTRATION FEE:  
\$30 SU TRIBAL/1ST DESCENDANTS  
\$40 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!!!**

**FIRST 50 PARTICIPANTS TO REGISTER RECEIVE A FREE GIFT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RECREATION

KELSEY- (970) 563-2660  
 BIRD- (970) 563-2664  
 ELIJAH- (970) 563-2655  
 DARNELL- (970) 563-2667

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

# Girls on the Run of Western Colorado will host the Fall Durango 5K

Staff report  
GIRLS ON THE RUN OF WESTERN COLORADO

Girls on the Run of Western Colorado (GOTR) will host a Fall Durango 5K, Saturday, Nov. 2, at Three Springs Durango Real Estate, located at 175 Mercado Street, Durango, Colo. The 5K begins at 11 a.m.

Girls on the Run Western Colorado is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses

fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in 3rd - 8th grade. During the program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

Participation in the Fall Durango 5K is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run of Western Colorado. We anticipate more

than 500 participants in this celebratory event.

The cost for the Fall Durango 5K is \$25 by October 30 and \$35 for day-of registration. The first 175 registered participants will receive GOTR branded swag.

To sign up or for more information please visit [www.gotrwesterncolorado.org](http://www.gotrwesterncolorado.org)

Thank you to our program sponsor Alpine Bank. Thank you to our ultra marathon sponsor: Grasshoppers Landscaping and Lawn Service.

## Bobcats Homecoming Royalty



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Seniors Ollyvia Howe and Charley Pargin (55) were named Ignacio's Homecoming Week 2024 Queen and King, respectively, at halftime of the Bobcats' 50-0 blowout Friday night, Oct. 18, of Center.



Ada-Rene Cruz and Kendrick Nossaman (54) were named Ignacio's Senior Class Royalty, 1st Attendants during halftime of the Bobcats' Homecoming Week 2024 football game Friday night, Oct. 18, versus Center.

Alejandra Prambo-Howe and Cole Wagner (61) were named Ignacio's Senior Class Royalty, 2nd Attendants during halftime of the Bobcats' Homecoming Week 2024 football game Friday night, Oct. 18, versus Center.



IHS' Gabe Archuleta (21) and Alyssa Atencio were named Junior Class Royalty during halftime of the Bobcats' Homecoming Week 2024 football game Friday, Oct. 18, versus Center.

IHS' Lily Quintana and William Mendoza-Lechuga (2) were named Sophomore Class Royalty during halftime of the Bobcats' Homecoming Week 2024 football game Friday, Oct. 18, versus Center.



All business when it came to toughing out the rain Friday night, Oct. 18, at IHS Field, Max Mendoza (4) and Karalina Guffey were named Freshman Class Royalty during halftime of Ignacio's Homecoming Week 2024 football game versus Center.

## BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL

### Volleyball closing out regular season

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Taking their second proverbial swing at 2A/1A San Juan Basin League heavy-weight Dove Creek on Saturday, Oct. 26, Ignacio Volleyball fared far better than in the teams' first rumble back on Sept. 21, but after going the distance with the Lady Bulldogs fell 23-25, 25-21, 23-25, 25-20, 11-15.

Individual statistics from the marathon inside 'The DawgHouse' were unavailable at press time, as the Volleys dipped to 13-8 overall and 9-2 in all official SJBL matches, while remaining 6-1 against the league's 2A members. Forced to go five sets for the first time all season, DCHS improved to an outstanding 20-1 overall (10-0 SJBL, 6-0 1A SJBL) under new head coach Erin Barry prior to hosting non-league 2A San-

ford (15-7 overall) on Friday, Nov. 1.

Jennifer Seibel's 'Cats, meanwhile, were to wrap up regular season work earlier in the week with a 10/29 home match versus Dolores (8-13; 4-7 SJBL, 2-5 2A SJBL), followed by a serious Halloween Night test on the 31st against 1A Southern Peaks power Sargent (18-1 overall). Results from both contests were unavailable at press time.

## PIRATES SCUTTLE BOBCATS • FROM PAGE 17



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Even interior linemen can show emotion, as Marquis Cibrian (56) displays (and proud mother Lorena Richards documents) Friday, Oct. 25, while being presented to fans during Senior Night recognitions preceding the Bobcats' game versus Monte Vista.

bled during the return, with Hendren alertly recovering at the Bobcats' 4 and gaining a fresh set of downs despite IHS losing 13 yards of field position), Pontine finished – unofficially – with six completions in 25 attempts. He also intercepted Madrid once, with 3:46 left in the first quarter and the 'Cats trailing by an 8-0 margin.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Pacheco, who rumbled for a 17-yard touchdown with 9:50 left in the second, had already exceeded 100 yards rushing by halftime and ended up with game-highs of 19 carries and 148 yards for MVHS (6-2 overall, 4-0 conference). Madrid completed nine passes for a devastating 259 yards, and flipped a two-pointer to senior Jeremiah Baumgardner – after Hurtado's first of two third-quarter TD grabs – in helping prepare the Pirates to host Centauri a week later with the SPC title at stake.

Ignacio junior quarterback Zane Pontine tries throwing long during action Friday, Oct. 25, at IHS Field. The Bobcats were unable to pull out a Senior Night victory as the Pirates prevailed 32-8.

The Falcons stood 7-0 (3-0 conference) prior to a slated 10/26 trip to Trinidad (2-4, 1-2), but with THS having forfeited on the 18th to Monte Vista, CHS may not have even needed to travel out to

historic Miners Stadium. "It shocked us," Hurtado (6-217 receiving) said of Trinidad's unplanned, bloodless surrender. "We were expecting to have a good home game, so we were sad. But we had to keep working because we still had games coming up that are huge."

– I think this got us back into our groove. We're going to go out and grind in practice, then go play our game." Ignacio dipped to 3-5 overall, 2-2 SPC, but those figures will improve to and be finalized at 4-5 and 3-2, respectively, when their 11/1 forfeit win over Del Norte becomes official.

Kickoff time Friday evening, Nov. 1, versus Centauri at MVHS' Harvey Sullivan Field is set for 6 p.m. "Yeah, I think we're ready," Hurtado continued. "After not playing for a couple weeks – almost a month

"Could have done a little better but we all tried the hardest we could. It didn't end in our favor but we're going to keep our heads up," said Pargin. "The boys'll do good next year; I've got faith in them."

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE

#### Early Cut-Off For Minors Birthday Distributions

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

Distribution date	Request cut-off date
• Wednesday, Nov. 27	NOON, Friday, Nov. 20
• Friday, Dec. 13	NOON, Friday Dec. 6
• Friday, Dec. 27	NOON, Friday Dec. 20
• Friday Jan. 3, 2025	NOON, Monday, Dec. 30

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

### Southern Ute Tribal Members: First Aid/CPR/AED Training available!



SunUte Community Center is pleased to announce that we will be offering a First Aid/CPR/AED class FREE to Southern Ute Tribal Members!

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:15am-12:15pm

Capote Room - SunUte Community Center

Pre-registration/sign up is required to attend. Each class is limited to 12 participants.

\*This class is only open to Southern Ute Tribal Members.

To sign-up, please contact:

Abel Velasquez-Fitness Director at (970)563-2651 or abvelas@southernute-nsn.gov





## OBITUARY



**WALKER** – Barbara Jean Walker was born June 18, 1942. Died Oct. 11, 2024 at Mercy Medical, Durango, Colo. at the age of 82. She lived in Ignacio, Colo.

Memorial service on Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. at Ignacio High School.

Barbara was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by her husband Glen, son Chris and grandchildren Alejandra, Christopher, and Gregory. She was preceded in death by her son Greg. She will be missed by all that knew her.

## EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

Maykh, Greetings!

I hope this message finds you well and in the best of spirits!

While we are enjoying the turn of the season and preparing for the upcoming changes that accompany it, I would like to encourage you to stop in and place your vote in our Tribal elections today.

Elections and election time are an important piece of our governmental foundation, your vote provides an avenue for change and exercises your right to be a part of something bigger.

Sometimes we don't make it over the mountain and that's okay, but what does matter is that we were willing to try, willing to stand for what we believe is right, willing to stand with others of the same beliefs.

When it comes to beliefs, my belief is simple, working within the organization to attain the highest amount of honest work is all I've strived for, no bullying, no scandals, no impropriates, just good honest work.

While Council work can give you a good swift kick it can also give you times to rejoice in the fact that when the work is approached in a good, informed manner, everyone wins. It all comes down to working towards the truth of the matter and whether it serves the greater good.

Change is tough, even good change can have its downsides. Rulemaking, laws, policies, procedures, guidelines are not everyone's cup of tea, but they are important in our representation and mostly in our exercise of the sovereignty that has been afforded to us.

People on the other hand are a whole different affair. You can work and work on good legislation just to have the negative impact of a single person's ability and position come along and ignore the fact or twist the circumstance to fit their agenda. Our organization is large enough to not be immune to this culture and class of individual thought. The premise is that if the change is to occur here it must filter

through the chain of command top to bottom and rightly bottom to top. More than most, people just get comfortable where they are and whether that's a good thing or not depends on the impact their presence delivers. Many of the problems in our organization come from the culture being delivered, leaving people torn between the fact that they have been directed to operate one way but then berated for not doing their job, and left to wonder do I do my job and get into trouble or do I not do my job and still get in trouble, leaving it up to staying safe and doing the bare minimum to get by. Change is a larger task but something I'm willing to discuss.

Council members by their guidance do not oversee the day-to-day operations of the Tribe, but does this need a change or a firm limitation as part of an overhaul of current accepted practices. Do we do away with the "council said" adage? Policies and procedures, legislation, do we change to fit the needs or change to reduce liability and strengthen sovereign rights? Where do we find a good middle ground to represent all needs? Are we comfortable with changes that reduce government structure and enable members to take up providing services for themselves outside of healthcare, and core governmental services? The financial plan represents a lot of this thinking. Increase members' ability to cover day-to-day expenses and decrease governmental costs. Both avenues were not meant to grow together. A lot to discuss and will take time and collective effort to achieve.

Plenty of opportunity to provide input, look for small wins, and look to making future achievements possible. I look forward to serving the people and providing better opportunities to pave the way forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

May you and yours be blessed, always!

Respectfully,  
Cedric J. Chavez

### 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.



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

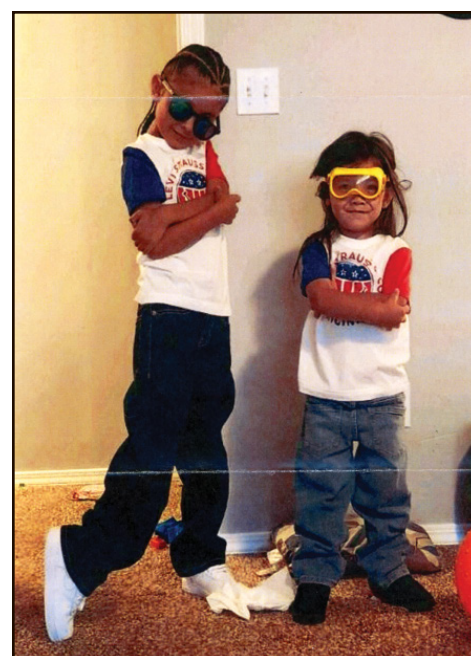
The Southern Ute Drum encourages letters from readers on any topic. We ask that letters be 500 words or less. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters should be submitted by email to Jeremy Shockley at [jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov) by the end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

## COMMUNITY GREETINGS

### Happy Birthday King Baker

I love and miss you with all of my bloody heart my sonnie boyz.

Love Dad



### Southern Ute Tribal Offices Will Be Closed

Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, in observance of Veterans Day. Normal business hours will resume, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024.

### ELDER SERVICES NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES LIST

#### NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Casino (Towaoc)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

#### NOVEMBER 11, 2024

Veterans Day (Tribal Offices Closed)

#### NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Jemez Feast Day  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 8:00 a.m.

#### NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Last day to call in your Thanksgiving delivery order. Final count ends at 10:00 a.m.

#### NOVEMBER 16, 2024

Annual Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner  
Sky Ute Casino Event Center  
11:30a.m. - 2:00p.m.

#### NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Shopping (Durango)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

#### NOVEMBER 28-29, 2024

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**  
Tribal offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

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

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe/State of Colorado Environmental Commission (Commission) will meet on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Justice & Regulatory Administration Building- EPD Large Conference Room located at 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, Colorado 81137. The draft agenda will include Call to Order/Introductions, New Business, Tribal Air Quality Program Updates, Tribal Air Initiatives, CDPHE Updates, Open Discussion/Questions and Public Comment, and Scheduling of Next Commission Meeting. For more information on the meeting, how to attend virtually, or to obtain a copy of the meeting agenda please contact Ms. Angelina Miller, Air Quality Scientist at (970) 563-2258 or visit the Commission website at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/departments/epd/air-quality/env-commission/>

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Nov. 15**

**EARLY Deadline: Nov. 8**

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.



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#### MAILING ADDRESS

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

#### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

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

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



### 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.: 2024-0037-CV-PR  
Carletta Ann Nez, 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 **DECEMBER 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM.** All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 28th of October, 2024.  
Paula Trujillo, Deputy Court Clerk

### 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 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. Frost Way, Ignacio CO, 81137 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and request a hearing. Written comments and requests for hearings may be sent to the AQD in care of Daniel Powers, Air Quality Division Head, at P.O. Box 737 MS#84, Ignacio, Colorado 81137; or emailed to dpowers@southernute-nsn.gov. Any hearing request should: 1) identify individual or group requesting the hearing, 2) state his or her address and phone number, and 3) state the reason(s) for the request. Notice of any public hearing will be provided at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. The AQD will consider the written public comments and requests for a hearing that are received within 30 days of this notice (Oct. 4, 2024).

#### Applicant: SIMCOE, LLC

Facility: Iron Horse Central Delivery Point. SW 1/4 NW 1/4 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.

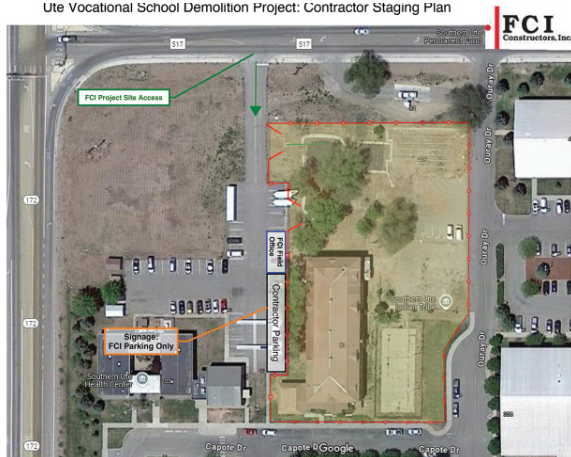
#### Applicant: Transit Waste, LLC

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.

of basis are available on the AQD's website at <http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/environmental-programs/air-quality/air-permitting/>, and at the Environmental Programs Department office at 71 Mike

### 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.



Ute Vocational School Demolition Project: Contractor Staging Plan

### 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.

## Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 11/01/24

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### NOVEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TRANSFER STATION 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- NOV. 11<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV. 28<sup>TH</sup> THANKSGIVING — CLOSED
- NOV. 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING — OPEN
- 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

#### 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:  
*Nov. 6th / Dec. 4th / Jan. 8th*

Avoid Late Fees. Settle your payments before 10am on Shut-off Day

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shut-Off Day is November 6th Pay bill before 10am on 11/06/24 to avoid late fees. Questions? Call Utilities.
- Very Important: All household chemicals need to be **clearly labeled** in a tightly sealed container. No mixed chemicals accepted.
- Do not dispose of any items that can obstruct the sewer collection system, including but not limited to wipes, rags, and other non-flushable materials. These items can cause sewage backups and damage sewer lines and equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Winter Preparation: Please keep access clear to your Water & Gas Meters—do not pile snow or debris on it. Utilities Staff needs 24/7 access in case of an Emergency
- Utilities Offices & Transfer Station CLOSED on Monday, Nov. 11th in honor of Veteran's Day and Thursday Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28th.

**VETERAN'S DAY**  
HONORABLE VOYAGE

#### 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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**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)

*6th Annual Violence Against Indigenous Relatives Symposium*

# TOGETHER WE HEAL

## Addressing Sexual Violence and Healing in Indigenous Communities

### November 9th, 2024

### 10:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Becki Jones -Diné**  
Program Manager of Native Community Health Network, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

**Michelle Lachner**  
Military Sexual Violence Survivor

**Bernadine Beyale -Diné**  
Executive Director 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue

**MMIR Panelists**

**Marlys Big Eagle -Crow Creek Sioux**  
National Native American Outreach Services Liaison

**Eliot Neal**  
Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Assistant U.S. Attorney, SW Region

**Trennie Burch -Southern Ute/Ute Mountain Ute/Diné**  
Co-Founder of Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance & MMIR Advocate

**Reycita Billie -Diné**  
PSAP Supervisor/MMIP Liaison Navajo Nation Police

**Melody Delmar-Diné**  
Director of the Office of the Liaison for Missing and Murdered Relatives Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

**Prayers provided by Southern Ute Councilwoman Marge Barry**

**Sun Ute Community Center**  
**290 Mouache Circle, Ignacio, CO**  
**for questions contact Raven Nyx**  
**at [raven@durangosaso.org](mailto:raven@durangosaso.org)**

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)



### Southern Ute Royalty Committee

#### Process for Requesting Southern Ute Royalty

Greetings Tribal Elders, Tribal Membership, and the community,

The 2024-2025 Southern Ute Tribal Royalty was crowned at the 102nd Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair and Powwow, and we are honored to hold our respective titles as we begin our duties as ambassadors for the Southern Ute Tribe.

#### 2024-2025 Southern Ute Royalty

Miss Southern Ute – Maleina Carel  
 Jr. Miss Southern Ute – Leandra Litz  
 Little Miss Southern Ute – Malia White Thunder  
 Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate- Olivia Watts  
 Southern Ute Brave – Theoden Greany

As the newly crowned Southern Ute Royalty, we are honored to represent the Southern Ute Tribe at our cultural events and community events locally and throughout the region. To ensure we receive requests efficiently and can respond in a timely manner, we have a digital [Southern Ute Royalty Request Form](#) that can be found on the Southern Ute Royalty Committee website, or you can contact the Royalty Committee Secretary, Alyssa Nez, at [suroyalty@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:suroyalty@southernute-nsn.gov). The committee recommends all organizations, and/or departments, submit the form at least two weeks in advance of your event to allow time for review and scheduling.

We look forward to visiting with everyone at our Tribal and community events!

Toghoyaqh,

Southern Ute Royalty and Southern Ute Royalty Committee

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

### COMMITTEE OF ELDERS

To All Southern Ute Elders: Tribal Council has reestablished the Committee of Elders and seeks Letters of Interest from eligible Southern Ute Tribal Elders to serve on the Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to promote a continuing and growing heritage of language and traditional way of life through collaboration with the Cultural Preservation Department to maintain the Southern Ute language, heritage, and traditions of the Southern Ute people and to convey knowledge and experience. The Committee of Elders will act in a volunteer advisory capacity that does not intervene or interfere in the administration of the Tribal organization. Qualifications: Any enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member who is 55 years of age or older is eligible to serve, whether living on or off the reservation. The initial Committee comprised of seven (7) members will be selected by Tribal Council. An understanding of the Tribe's language and culture is preferred, but not required. Tribal Council welcomes a broad representation of the Tribal Elder membership both on and off reservation. If selected and appointed, members should attend all committee meetings and special meetings as scheduled and adhere to the Tribe's approved Code of Conduct and Ethics Code. Appointments will last 1-3 years. Letters of Interest: Must be submitted to the Tribal Council Affairs Office no later than November 29, 2024, using one of these options: Email: [swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov). In-person: Tribal Council Affairs Receptionist located in the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Building: 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO. Mail to: Tribal Council Affairs, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137. Letter should include: Full name, contact information (i.e. Address, phone number, email address), and date; Suggested details to include in your letter are: Description of why you are a good fit for the position; Explanation of your motivation to join the Committee and list relevant experience; Outline your goals for this committee or how you plan to be involved; and Disclose any other boards/committees you currently serve on. If you have questions, please contact the Tribal Council Affairs Office at 970-563-2319 or Council Member Marjorie Barry at 970-563-2304.

### 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](http://www.bgcsu.org) website or by request and returned to Bruce LeClaire at 970-563-2694 or [bleclair@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:bleclair@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 ap-

plication 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.

### POWOW 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](mailto: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).

### 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](mailto: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.

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: [kleclair@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:kleclair@southernute-nsn.gov) OR (970)563-0237 ext. 2793

### Interested in becoming an AmeriCorps volunteer?

Volunteers through this national service to address critical community needs & gain valuable professional development. Members receive a living allowance. It is a service opportunity that offers a living allowance with an opportunity to build skills necessary for a career/career shift & dedicated support for educational programming, community outreach, & events. This would be a great opportunity to work with the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, CO! REQUIREMENTS: 18+ years old; High school diploma or equivalent; U.S. citizen, U.S. National, or Lawful Permanent Resident; and Ability to pass criminal history check. The links attached are for 1/4 time position & 1/2 time positions applications. Here is the link for the half-time (~30 hours/week) position and the link for the quarter-time (~15 hours/week, except the potential person with the shortened time frame) position.

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### Southern Ute Indian Tribe Election Board Vacancy

The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking two (2) Alternate Board Members. The positions will be open until filled. Qualifications: 11-2-102, (1) & (3): Must be a Southern Ute Indian Tribal Registered Voter. Must reside within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Shall not have been convicted of a felony, and shall not have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or fraud within five years immediately preceding appointment to the Election Board. The Election Board is a paid committee, IRS Guidelines, a Criminal Background Check is necessary. Southern Ute Employee benefits are offered, and you will be considered an Official of the Southern Ute Tribe. Please submit your letter of Intent to: Election Board P.O. Box 709 Ignacio, CO 81137. Physical location: 285 Lakin St., Ignacio, CO. Contact the Election Board at 970-563-2303 or via email: [election@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:election@southernute-nsn.gov).





**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.

**Senior Land Records Analyst – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 11/8/24 – Obtaining and maintaining orderly and accurate land and lease records, including all related documents and contracts, for all Red Willow interest properties, both operated and non-operated. Advises all other departments of changes related to Red Willow holdings. Works with Red Willow landmen and partners to obtain and maintain accurate records. This is a senior position that will work independently, and provide guidance on existing processes.

**Revenue Accountant II – Red Willow Production (Ignacio, CO)**

Closes 11/08/24 – Performs moderately complex revenue accounting assignments, creates new revenue agreements, and is responsible for knowledge of oil and gas revenue accounting practices.

**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.

**\*Assistant Hotel Manager (Full-time)**

Overseeing the day-to-day operations of the hotel with guidance from the hotel manager, ensuring high standards of guest service, optimizing revenue, and helping to manage the retail and RV operations. Collaborates with other departments to maintain the highest level of guest satisfaction, staff performance, and financial success. Will also assist with implementing policies, training staff, and ensuring compliance with hotel and gaming regulations.

**\*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.

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

Provide an exceptional dining experience by delivering first class guest service of food and beverages to include, taking the order and delivering food and beverage items. Handle tasks in a friendly, courteous, helpful, timely and professional manner resulting in a high level of guest satisfaction. Shift covers breakfast and lunch only.

**\*Rolling Thunder Grill Host (Part-time)**

Provide 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.

**\*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.

**\*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. The 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 to be an excellent team player and trustworthy.

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

Providing excellent guest service to all slot guests and ensures that all gaming devices are monitored on a continual basis for full capacity operation. Will at times require the employee to work without direct supervision. Job knowledge and the ability to “self-start” are essential. Reports to the Slot Floor Manager or designee.

**\*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.

**\*Bowling and Rec Shift Leader (Full-time)**

Responsible for all aspects of the bowling center's operations, including entertainment, equipment, and company initiatives in the absence of the Bowling Manager. Coordinating events and parties, performing cold calls, and reaching out to local businesses and past customers for returning business. Must consistently deliver exceptional guest service and build these relations through soliciting feedback and addressing and resolving customer complaints. Will act in the capacity of a Bowling Mechanic II and will be highly competent in all aspects of inspecting, servicing, maintaining, and repairing the equipment in the bowling center. Duties are performed with minimal if any supervision. Follows the direction and trainings from the Lead Technician.

**\*Café Cashier (Full-time)**

Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. Taking guests food orders, accurately totaling food and beverage purchases and collecting payments. Assists in preparing and serving all foods necessary for the Café kitchen. 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.

**\*Front Desk Associate (Full-time)**

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

**\*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.

**\*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.

**NOW HIRING**



**COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**  
Southern Ute Police Dept.

**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>



photo Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

**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>



**DISPATCHER**  
Southern Ute Police Dept.

**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**

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**We're Hiring!**

Tri-County Head Start is currently accepting applications for Toddler Teachers at our Durango and Pagosa Springs locations.



**Apply Today!**

Apply on our website at [tchs4c.org/careers](http://tchs4c.org/careers)



Visit our website at [tchs4c.org/careers](http://tchs4c.org/careers) for more information

**Join the Tri-County Head Start Team!**

We are excited to announce that we are hiring caring and talented toddler teachers in Durango and Pagosa! If you're passionate about helping children and families succeed in school and life, we want you on our team.

**Why Work With Us:**

- **Impactful Teaching in a Nurturing Environment:** As a Toddler teacher, you'll have the opportunity to shape young lives and make a lasting difference during their formative years while working in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere dedicated to early childhood education.
- **Career Growth:** We prioritize your professional development by offering ongoing training and resources to ensure you stay current with the latest educational practices.
- **Attractive Benefits:** Enjoy a comprehensive paid leave package totaling 23 days, along with health, dental, and vision insurance for eligible employees and a contribution to a 403(b) retirement savings account.



**SU RISK MANAGEMENT**



**SPOT TRAINING**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2024 - 8AM-5PM**

**S.U. MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY  
256 UTE ROAD, IGNACIO, CO**

Training is OPEN to the Southern Ute Tribal Membership

To Sign Up Scan the QR Code or visit the link below



Whether you are a receptionist, security professional, or first responder, this course is for anyone interacting with the public. Learn how to identify suspicious behaviors, objects, and situations using a simple 4-step process.

Through practical scenarios, you will improve your ability to spot potential threats, communicate effectively, and take action when needed.

By the end of this training, you will be more confident in recognizing and responding to situations that could indicate danger. Boost your awareness and protect your community.

<https://train.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Student/Register?ClassID=32798>

Class ID: 32798  
Class Access Code: NCBRT219

For additional questions or information contact:  
Don Brockus, SUPP Emergency & Risk Manager  
(970) 563-2449  
[dbrockus@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dbrockus@southernute-nsn.gov)

## FLY FISHING

# Giving thanks for Fly Fishing

By Don Oliver  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



My research, using the ever-reliable internet, indicates that modern day fly fishing was the invention of Charles Cotton, an English poet and aristocrat, sometime in the late 1600's. He was also a friend of Izaak Walton, the author of The Complete Angler. I cannot believe that Mr. Cotton envisioned how fly fishing would grow over the past centuries. And, more particularly, how over the last fifty years the role fly fishing would take on in the world of non-profits.

In reading past issues of FLY FISHERMAN magazine, I found articles about six non-profits, a seventh I have first-hand knowledge of, and one movie devoted to helping others through fly fishing. The movie, Mending the Line, while fiction, did a great job showing how fly fishing can guide someone needing help in adjusting back into society after experiencing the horrors of a war. Of the seven non-profits, I have volunteered with four. The four I have volunteered with and have first-hand knowledge of and what they do are: Project Healing Waters, Warrior & Quite Waters, Casting for Recovery, and Adaptive Sports Association of Durango.

My first venture in helping others where fly fishing is used in the non-profit world was Project Healing Waters. This organization works with any veteran that finds him or her self adrift and in need of something to help them find their way. The veterans I have worked with have included a Vietnam veteran who was the sole survivor of a fire fight to a twenty-one-

year-old man, who served in the Gulf War. I discovered that fly fishing helped these men and women find some peace by just standing in a river and hearing nothing but moving water. I read a quote from a participant of PHW that said, "Fly fishing saved my life." Fly fishing is making a difference in the lives of these brave men, women, and families. Warriors & Quite Waters mission states "it is a nonprofit organization that empowers post-911 combat veterans and their loved ones to thrive and live purpose-driven lives through peak experiences in nature, meaningful relationships, and a sense of community." One of the main ways they do this is through fly fishing.

Casting For Recovery was set up to help women dealing with breast cancer. Their mission statement says, "To Cast is to Hope." The ladies I have worked with received great satisfaction in finding a sport they could do, and enjoy, even while going through a treatment I will never have to deal with. Each cast gives them the hope of accomplishing something other than getting through another chemo treatment.

Adaptive Sports Association works with people hav-

ing every kind of disability known to man. They use every sport you can think of to give their participants a great day. Fly fishing is used from time-to-time and handed me one of the most humbling experiences of the volunteer work I do. We had carried a lady who had her leg amputated, at the hip, to a chair in the river. She sat there catching trout, using the casts she had learned earlier in the day. As the day ended, she let it be known she was going nowhere. She had found something she could do, regardless of her situation.

My reading also found three youth programs, Project MayFly, Minority Youth, and Fish for Change. While I have no first-hand knowledge of the programs, I believe what they give to their participants is no different than the programs I have experience with. I also found a volunteer program, Redside Foundation, that helps fly fishing guides deal with the seemingly insurmountable problems of everyday life. I have to ask, what is it about fly fishing that all these programs find beneficial? To answer that I want to quote Ross Purnell, editor and publisher of FLY FISHERMAN magazine. "Fishing has always been the one certain escape from the grim reality of life. It's a time and a place where you leave your fears and your worries on the shore, step into the river, and let the sound of rushing water wash your brain into a clean slate."

This brings me back to the title of this month's column. This year at Thanksgiving, I am going to give thanks for fly fishing and everything it does to help people. I invite you to do the same.



## 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 descendancy letter from Tribal Information Services.
- Ten permits will be available by limited draw only.
- The drawing will be in early November.
- Permits will be issued beginning November 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://southernute-nsn.gov)

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

## 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

- Stunted trees and shrubs
- Printer performance measure
- Hesitation
- Marietta Sangai Sirleaf
- The end of many attorneys?
- Hard-to-control impulses
- Southern Italy
- Branch
- Those voted to power
- Played by Anne Hathaway in "The Princess Diaries"
- "Superman" villainess
- Small reservation 45 miles SW of SLC
- Fail miserably
- Teacher's degree
- Dovekie
- You could use an ampersand instead of this
- Medical funder
- Spread
- Blue Sunrise's first led an outrageous dance
- The --- Kid (1948 Eddie Dean movie)
- Take off
- "Tain't" rebuttal
- A finger pointing to Heaven?

### Down

- Domestic squabble
- "Elder" or "Younger" Roman statesman
- Govern
- "Give --- break!"
- Deplore
- Organ this puzzle appears in
- According to
- Attractive and engaging young woman
- Past, present or future
- Evaluation
- Salish provider of the sun, moon, stars and fire
- March on Washington monogram
- Napoleonic victory over Austria
- Get the ball rolling
- Only Hawaiian island with navigable rivers
- Disunite one's laces
- Morticia's maker
- "Gotchal" cries
- Audio/video interface
- Israel's prime minister, 1969 - 74
- "--- Bitten" (1985 Jim Carrey comedy)
- Special effects technology
- Chap Stick target

Answers will appear in the November 15 issue of the Drum.

### Answers for October 18, 2024 Crossword Puzzle

Across: 1 CPSC, 5 Blanca, 11 Hutu, 12 Refold, 13 iPod, 14 Embryo, 15 Min, 16 Gas, 17 GDP, 18 Plebes, 20 Meet, 21 Botch, 23 Aims, 26 Frosty, 30 Lso, 31 Yet, 32 Kaa, 33 Prague, 35 Firm, 36 Herald, 37 S m o p, 38 Adages, 39 USTA.

Down: 1 Chimp, 2 Pupil, 3 Stone, 4 Cud, 5 Breastfeeds, 6 LEMs, 7 AFB, 8 Norge, 9 Clyde, 10 Adopt, 16 Geo, 19 BBs, 20 Mho, 22 CRT, 23 Alpha, 24 Is red, 25 Moara, 27 Skims, 28 Tarot, 29 Yampa, 31 Yule, 34 Gag, 35 FSU.

### Attention Southern Ute Tribal Members:



#### 2024 Annual Salmon Give-Away

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>,

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> &

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

By Colorado Parks & Wildlife



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

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

- Fish giveaways are scheduled for 3:00pm on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Tribal Members need only to present their Tribal Census Card or Tribal Brunot Area fishing permit. Tribal members do NOT need to possess a State fishing permit.

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



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

## LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Nov. 1



Sunny 59°F

Saturday, Nov. 2



Mostly sunny 60°F

Sunday, Nov. 3



Mostly cloudy 54°F  
Chance of afternoon showers

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

