



**Meier gets Clean Team promotion**

**PAGE 9**



**Olguin shares famous roll recipe**

**PAGE 12**

PRSRRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ignacio, CO 81137 Permit No. 1  
 Subscription or advertising information, 970-563-0118  
**\$29 one year subscription**  
**\$49 two year subscription**  
**December 27, 2024** Vol. LVII, No. 26

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



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

James "Mike" Olguin takes his Oath of Office from Chief Judge Scott Moore, before Tribal Council, Monday, Dec.16.



courtesy Triny Willerton

Lawmakers and supporters of Colorado's new hands-free law, including Boulder cyclist Triny Willerton, watch as Gov. Jared Polis signs the bill into law in May 2024.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**Tribe welcomes Baker and Olguin to Tribal Council**

By Summer Begay  
 TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southern Ute Tribal Council warmly welcomed Linda K. Baker and James "Mike" Olguin during the inauguration ceremony held Monday morning, Dec. 16 in Tribal Council Chambers. Both newly elected Council members bring extensive experience and dedication to serving the Tribe and the Tribal membership.

Chairman Melvin J. Baker shared optimism for the future, "The knowledge and commitment that Baker and Olguin bring to this Council is invaluable. Their leadership will strengthen our efforts to honor our traditions while paving the way for continued growth and opportunity for our Tribe."

Baker brings a wealth of experience to her role on Tribal Council, having previously served one term as a Council member. In addition to her time on the Council, she has made significant contributions to the Tribe through her work with the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum, where she served as Museum Director, overseeing programs that preserved and celebrated the Tribe's rich cultural heritage. She also played a key role in supporting the educational advancement of Tribal members as the Higher Education Academic Advisor within the Education Department, helping to guide students in achieving their academic and career goals.

Olguin brings over 40 years of experience and a proven track record of leadership, having previously served three terms on Tribal Council. Over the course of his service, he has taken



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Linda K. Baker signs her Oath of Office before Chief Judge Scott Moore, Monday, Dec.16.

on critical leadership roles, including Acting Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Executive Officer, demonstrating his deep commitment to the Tribe's governance and well-being. Olguin has worked alongside and under the leadership of Chairmen Leonard C. Burch, Clement Frost, and Melvin J. Baker. His years of service reflect a steadfast dedication to addressing the needs of the Tribal membership, while preserving and promoting the Tribe's core values and traditions.

During the inauguration ceremony, Chairman Baker shared the announcement of his selection of Treasurer Marvin Pinnecoose to serve

as Vice Chairman.

"Growing up on the Reservation, I witnessed the strength and resilience of our people. I am deeply humbled to serve as Vice Chairman. As Tribal Council, we have the profound duty and responsibility to uplift and support all Tribal members as outlined in the Tribal Constitution. This will include both our youth and elders and respectively; Tribal members living on and off our Reservation. Together, we will work to ensure every decision and vote will bring strength to our Tribe," Vice Chairman Pinnecoose said.

With the addition of Baker and Olguin, the Southern Ute Tribal Council looks forward to advancing its mission of service and leadership.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Community members and Tribal employees congratulate Baker and Olguin, who won the majority of votes in the recent Tribal Run-Off Election.

**2024 Run Off Election Results**

The 2024 Run Off Election vote count has concluded. The results for the two (2) Tribal Council seats are:

- James Olguin: 209
- Linda Baker: 181
- Lorelei Cloud: 149
- Vanessa Torres: 96

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Colorado's new hands-free law bans cellphone use while driving goes into effect Jan. 1**

By Olivia Prentzel  
 THE COLORADO SUN

Triny Willerton spent six days in the hospital and says she should be dead after a distracted driver in a Ford F-150 struck her while she was cycling in Boulder County, training for the Ironman World Championship in 2018.

Now, she hopes the new Colorado hands-free law will help save lives.

Willerton, a Boulder triathlete and advocate who helped pass the state's hands-free law, hopes the direct consequence under the law will give a reason for drivers to pause and think before picking up their phones.

"We have now a piece of legislature that will save lives without a doubt," Willerton said.

Starting Jan. 1, driving with a phone in your hand in Colorado can get you

a \$75 fine and two points against your license.

The new law is aimed at boosting safety on the roads by targeting a leading cause of crashes and fatalities in Colorado and a practice more than 90% of Coloradans report doing, according to the state's Department of Transportation.

Between 2012 to 2022, 718 Coloradans were killed in distracted driving crashes and in 2021, distracted driving was the third leading cause of traffic crashes, CDOT reported.

Under the law, a police officer will be able to pull over a driver if they see them holding a phone in a way that causes them to drive carelessly. If caught more than once, a driver could face steeper fines and more license suspension points. (Commercial drivers and drivers using a phone to call 911 are exempt from the new rules.)

Using a phone with a hands-free accessory, like a phone mount or in-car speaker system, will be allowed. The law will still apply when a driver is stopped at a red light.

Currently, the hands-free law only applies to drivers younger than 18. The new law will ban holding a phone while making a call, using the GPS, watching videos or any other in-hand use.

Texting while driving is already illegal in Colorado.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nine people in the U.S. are killed every day in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver, which can also include eating, talking to a passenger or looking after kids and pets. About 1 in 5 of the people who died in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2019

Colorado page 10

**Utes spread Christmas cheer**



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Miss Southern Ute Maleina Carel helps to serve plates to local and visiting elders during this year's Christmas Dinner, fellow title holders also assisted during the dinner ensuring everyone had a comfortable experience.

Young Sandra Baker is greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Claus during the Southern Ute Christmas Dinner and Program.



See Christmas Dinner/Program photos on page 11.

## A holly jolly Sip, Chat & Chew!



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Tribal Council sponsored this month's Sip, Chat and Chew on Friday, Dec. 20 at the Multi-Purpose Facility. Council member Linda Baker helps to serve fresh vegetables. Members of the three Ute tribes and their families gathered to enjoy a Christmas dinner with each other. During the event attendees also participated in a free raffle for items such as jewelry, holiday home goods, and handmade items.



MPF employee, Stais Harlan calls out raffle winners during the Sip, Chat & Chew event on Friday, Dec. 20. With four tables worth of prizes all attendees had the opportunity to take home a gift ahead of the holidays.



Marge Barry, Chairman Melvin J. Baker, and Andrew Gallegos all help to serve attendees during the Sip, Chat & Chew event on Friday, Dec. 20 at the Multi-Purpose Facility. Attendees were served turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, tamales, and plenty of sides, all sponsored by the Southern Ute Tribal Council.

## Many Moons Ago



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

### 10 years ago

Jolly Ol' St. Nick shakes hands with Tribal elder, Annabelle Eagle. Santa made rounds among the attendees, greeting them while handing out treats to the youth.

This photo was first published in the Dec. 24, 2014, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

### 20 years ago

The local youth drum group, which had yet to adopt a name, opens the Tribal Christmas Program at the Sky Ute Pavilion on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004.

This photo was first published in the Dec. 22, 2004, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



John Rehorn/SU Drum archive

### 30 years ago

Indian Brotherhood rides for Survivors. The local motorcycle club donated Christmas toys and hygiene items to the Victim Services Program directed by Barbara Scott-Martinez. Pictured are Brotherhood members Kean and Rena Richards, Chief and Nancy Prairie Chief, Gloria Watts, Will Frost, and Randy and Marlene Baker. Jan Smith (SUPD) and Scott-Martinez are also pictured. The Brotherhood rode in memory of Roger Price. Unable to attend were Buffalo Lou, Roy and Vera O'John and Lawrence Monte.

This photo was published in the Dec. 25, 1994, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



SU Drum archive

### 40 years ago

Tribal employees and helpers sack candy. From left to right: Norman Harlan, Bonnie Baker, Jimmy Romero, Betty Eskuche, Lilly Frost, Danielle Howe, Theatis Cloud, Ms. Peters, Diane Millich, Ella Louise Weaver and Dr. Heaney.

This photo was published in the Dec. 28, 1984, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



## Tribal Office Closure

In observance of the New Year, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Normal business hours will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

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



ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Little Miss Southern Ute

Malia White Thunder

Mique Nuuchiu, My name is Malia Nakohe' Menoh (Digging Bear) White Thunder. My Ute name is Yuvanasi'r "Autumn Rose."

My grandmother Mikki gave me that name because I was born in Autumn, and the rose signifies our people. I am the current 2024-2025 Little Miss Southern Ute.

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

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

This is my first quarterly report as the 2024-2025 Little Miss Southern Ute for the months of September - November, 2024.

September

- 6-8: I was crowned as Little Miss Southern Ute at the Southern Ute Tribal Fair & Powwow.



Malia White Thunder Little Miss Southern Ute 2024-2025

- 21: I attended the Uncompahgre Powwow in Montrose, Colo.

October

- 5: I participated in the Cowboy Parade in Durango, Colo.
11-13: I attended and danced at the 2024 He Sapa Wacipi (Black Hills Powwow) in Rapid City, S.D.
22: I attended the Breast Cancer Awareness Dinner.
25: I attended the Grand Opening of the new Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts building.

November

- 9-10: I attended the Veterans Powwow at Ignacio

High School.

- 16: I attended the annual Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner.
19: I did a school presentation to my third-grade classes. I did a greeting and danced for them and answered questions.
20: I attended the Ignacio High School and The Juniper School in Durango, Colo. to greet students and dance for Native American Heritage Month.
21: I attended Bayfield Primary and Intermediate Schools to greet students and dance for Native American Heritage Month.
22: I attended Park Elementary in Durango to greet students and dance for Native American Heritage Month.
28-30: I traveled to Ft. Duchesne, Utah to attend the Thanksgiving Powwow.

I am excited to represent and travel to meet new people. This is my first year as Royalty and it's been really fun!

Tog'oiak' Malia Nakohe' Menoh White Thunder Little Miss Southern Ute 2024-2025

ROYALTY QUARTERLY REPORT

Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate

Olyvia Watts

Maykh' Nuchu,

Greetings, my name is Olyvia Winter-Fawn Watts, and I am proud and honored to hold the title as your 2024-2025 Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate.

My father is Orion Watts, my mother is Jalisa Paul, and my brother is Orion Watts Jr. My paternal grandparents are Bo Watts and Laurie Monte. My maternal grandparents are Jimmy Paul (deceased) and Tara Vigil.

I am 10 years old and currently in the fourth grade at Ignacio Elementary. I am a member of the Ignacio Elementary Student Council and have been since I was in second grade. I am a fancy, jingle, and traditional dress dancer. I participate in gymnastics, soccer, volleyball, and basketball. I have recently learned to make ribbon skirts and would like to use my teachings to make skirts for other young girls so we can all represent with pride.

I have enjoyed representing my people thus far and look forward to what the rest of my reign brings. Here is a list of events and travels I have had the pleasure



Olyvia Watts Little Miss So. Ute Alternate 2024-2025

to participate in since I was crowned on Sept. 6, 2024.

September

- 7-8: Southern Ute Tribal Fair Powwow, helped serve meal, and won Best Royalty Float in the parade.
14: Southern Ute Tribal Fair Rodeo.
20-21: Honolulu Intertribal Powwow in Hawaii.

October

- 5: Cowboy Parade- Royalty won best youth entry.
9: Southern Ute Education Center Open House.
13: Ute Day in Towaoc, Colo.

- 17: Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.
17: Ignacio Homecoming Parade.

November

- 9-10: Veterans Powwow at Ignacio High School.
11: Veterans Breakfast at Multi-Purpose Building.
16: Southern Ute Tribal Thanksgiving Dinner at Sky Ute Casino.
17: Tatonka Means Meet and Greet at Sky Ute Casino.
Native American Heritage Month Performances:
20: Ignacio High School
20: Juniper School in Durango, Colo.
21: Ignacio Middle School
21: Bayfield Primary School
21: Bayfield Intermediate School
22: Park Elementary School in Durango, Colo.

I want to wish everyone a Hapy Holidays and blessings into the new year!

Tog'oiak', Olyvia Watts Little Miss Southern Ute Alt. 2024-2025

New Year's Eve Celebration. Come start your New Year's off in a good way. Join us with a Potluck dinner followed by Singing and Blessing into the New Year. Multipurpose Facility, December 31st 6PM-1AM, 256 Ute Road Ignacio, Co 81137. Contact: Neida Chackee (505)-686-8728

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 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. 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

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP SALE. 25% off sale for the month of December. Sale excludes B. Yellowtail merchandise, books, hides, and hand drums. WE ARE UTE SOUTHERN UTE Cultural Center & Museum. 503 Ouray Drive • PO Box 737 • Ignacio, CO 81137 • 970.563.9583. EMAIL | museum@southernute-nsn.gov IG | southern ute museum\_sum WEB | southernutemuseum.org

Let's Learn Ute. Nuumaroghomapugatu Creator. Nuumaroghomapugatu numuy piyemichitu. Creator loves us. Nuumaroghomapugatu numuy tamu'iniru. Creator cares for us.

## HEALTHY NEWS You Can Use!

### SMART GOALS

To help your New Year's resolutions succeed, Use **SMART** goals!

SMART is an acronym that stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely. So instead of "I want to eat more vegetables." or "I need to start working out." Try "I will add one vegetable at dinner 3x/week for the month of January" or "I will go to the rec center 3x/week for 30 minutes for the next 6 weeks". When the time limit ends, reassess, update, and change your goals as needed.

**S. M. A. R. T.**

- S** SPECIFIC
- M** MEASURABLE
- A** ACHIEVABLE
- R** REALISTIC
- T** TIME-RELATED

## Shining Mountain Health and Wellness and Ute Mountain Ute Women's Wellness Connection Program present:

# Cervical Cancer Awareness Lunch and Learn

## January 16th 12-1pm

Southern Ute Cultural Museum, Large Classroom

**Lunch is provided and RSVP Required**

Sign up using the QR code or the link below

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CervicalCancerLunch\\_2025](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CervicalCancerLunch_2025)

Contact Heather Sorensen at 970-563-2349 or Soletta Moore at SolettaMoore@utemountain.org with any questions.

# Tribal Health TPA Update

Information Sheet 12.18.2024

The Tribal Health Department would like to provide notice to the Tribal Membership regarding the new Third-Party Administrator (TPA), Auxiant. The transition to Auxiant will ensure Tribal Members continue to receive quality, high-level benefits at a lower cost and more efficiently.

### WHY ARE THERE CHANGES?

To optimize our healthcare benefits, the Tribal Health Department is transitioning to Auxiant as our TPA and ClearScript as our pharmacy provider. This strategic move is expected to result in significant cost savings while maintaining high-quality care. We anticipate a smooth transition with minimal disruption to Tribal Members. Auxiant's broader provider network will enhance access to care for the Membership.

### WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

Tribal Members will receive an update ID card which will include Pharmacy information for ease of service. Please be on the look out for an ID card similar to:

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Tribal Members may receive updated ID cards as early as **December 18, 2024** via USPS mail from the Tribal Health Department.

Starting **January 1, 2025**, please ensure your providers have the Auxiant ID card on file at their facility.

If you have not yet received the Auxiant ID card by **January 31, 2025** please contact the Tribal Health Benefits Resource Team at 970-563-4720.

### CONTACT

**Tribal Health Department**  
Benefits Resource Team  
970-563-4720

**Auxiant**  
1-800-475-2232  
[www.auxiant.com](http://www.auxiant.com)

*Stay tuned for a Benefits Portal coming soon!*

## 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](http://www.du.edu/socialwork).

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# BEE HEARD: Feeding the spirit

By **Tamara D. Turner**  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Southern Ute Behavioral Health is thrilled to announce that, as of Tuesday, December 17, we have a new radio show on KSUT! Grab your lunch and tune in from noon-1 p.m. every Tuesday for an hour of "Feeding the Spirit."

Feeding the Spirit features our two Peer Recovery Coaches, Preston Barry and Marvina Olguin, in conversation with various Behavioral Health professionals, Southern Ute community members, and employees: all who work towards supporting the mental, emotional, and spiritual health of the community. A wide range of topics will include information on therapeutic approaches, such as:

- Southern Ute Behavioral Health overview.
- Anti-Stigma campaigns.
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT).
- Counseling resources, what it involves.
- Self-help and self-care modalities (how to take care of yourself in stressful times).
- Medical information on recovery help and the brain, such as safe ways to treat cravings.
- Harm reduction: what it means, does, and why it's important.
- Prevention strategies: ways to build connections, community,

and culture in order to strengthen everyone.

- Healthier living overall!

Your mental health is absolutely key to physical health. You can't have one without the other!

We also plan on bringing on elders with experts in various aspects of cultural heritage because we know that a strong sense of culture functions nourishes and protects the community.

The first show, Dec 17, covered the overview of Southern Ute Behavioral Health services. We want to make sure that community members are aware of all the help resources we can provide, including the fact that we are actively engaged in prevention work, working to build stronger connections, belonging, and sense of self for our young people. Please feel free to reach out to us any time: 970-563-5700

We have recently become aware of the fact that a lot of community members don't know about all of our services. For example, we offer counseling for all kinds of situations like family stress, life stress, mental health challenges (anxiety, depression), as well as assessments and consultations. We are also extremely active in prevention measures, education, outreach, and partnership building.

The idea for this radio show came out of the last Recovery Retreat in May when Marvina Olguin organized a two-day event at the casino. We had an impressive turnout and a need for more ongoing support, information, and relationship development.

The show will last a minimum of 15 weeks, every Tuesday from noon-1 p.m. Join us there next Tuesday, Dec. 24 and beyond! We look forward to sharing our abundance of resources and knowledge with you.

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.

## Alternative Horizons

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.

## Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

# Dial 988

for mental health emergencies.

Text **INDIGENOUS** to 741741 for free, 24/7 support.

#WeNeedYouHere

## Shining Mountain Health & Wellness Breastfeeding and Parenting Class

### January 9, 2025

### 12 -1 pm

### M/C Building-lactation room

### Bath time safety for children

### lunch & learn, good company

### Open to anyone

for more info: contact Shawmarie (970-563-2163) or Lisa Smith (970-563-2344)



# Alive At 25

Defensive Driving Course

Saving Lives Through Education

12/29/24  
Sunday

Time: 12:30 to 5:00

Ignacio Library  
Community Room



Enroll Online  
[www.aliveat25.us](http://www.aliveat25.us)  
Call 866-605-3900

Instructor: Don Folsom SUPD  
Cell: 970-769-9431

**Automobile Crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds. The life you save may be your own.**

Sign up now for this defensive driving educational course and become a better driver. You may use this course for getting your learner's permit under the graduated licensing law. You can satisfy a court ordered defensive driving course requirement. You may ask your insurance company for a discount after completing this course. You learn how to take control when driving.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# Recovery from addiction is always possible

Staff report  
LIFT THE LABEL

Substance use disorder, commonly known as addiction, is not a choice. Addiction is a treatable medical disorder, and those struggling need our support. Recovery is always possible, and within reach.

Here are some signs of substance use disorder:

- Strong desire to use drugs.
- Inability to control or reduce use.
- Continued use despite health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school or home.
- Use of larger amounts over time.
- Secretive behavior/disappearing for hours without explanation.
- Nodding off/drowsiness.
- Small pupils (specific to opioid use).
- Slurred speech.
- Weak memory and attention.
- Developing the need to use more to not get sick and/or go into withdrawal.
- Spending a lot of time to get and use drugs.
- High levels of spending and/or frequent need for money.
- Withdrawal symptoms that occur after stopping or reducing opioid use, such as: Negative mood/mood swings, nausea or vomiting, muscle aches, diarrhea,

fever, sleep problems.

If you have a loved one who is struggling from substance use disorder, here are some initial steps to take:

- Educate yourself on addiction. Learn about the disorder and research treatment options at [LTSouthernUte.org](http://LTSouthernUte.org) or call the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Office at 970-563-5700 for help.
- Carry naloxone, which reverses the effects of an overdose. Naloxone (name brands NARCAN and Kloxxado) is easy to use and can be found without a prescription from the Southern Ute Health Center Pharmacy and the Behavioral Health Center and is distributed at many community events.
- Learn how to set boundaries for yourself, and how to take care of yourself while you're supporting someone via individual counseling sessions with the Southern Ute Behavioral Health Office.
- Use person-first language when speaking with and about your loved one. For example, say "person with a substance use disorder" instead of "addict" as a way to separate the human from their condition.
- Offer the support your friend or family member needs – talk through

their options with a doctor, go with them to pick up prescriptions, give them a ride to treatment, offer to watch their pet, etc.

- Listen to your loved one. Be their ally. And help advocate for them.
- Order a free Recovery Card to give to a loved one at [RecoveryCard-Project.com](http://RecoveryCard-Project.com).

Addiction is treatable, and recovery is always possible. There is strength in asking for and receiving help to better your life and your loved ones' lives.

Stigma, or fear of judgment, is a major barrier for someone struggling with substance use disorder to get help. Members of the community are sharing their stories of addiction and recovery via the Lift The Label campaign to remove that stigma and point people to resources for treatment. These stories show what these individuals overcame to find recovery and share advice for those looking for help and support in finding treatment for themselves or a loved one. Read these stories and learn more about treatment options and resources at [LTSouthernUte.org](http://LTSouthernUte.org).

If you have an immediate mental health, emotional or substance use concern, the 988 Colorado Mental Health Line is free, confidential and available 24/7. If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 or live chat at [988Colorado.com](http://988Colorado.com).

SOUTHERN UTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS:

# MENDING BROKEN HEARTS

In-person meetings will begin on **Tuesday, January 21, 2024** from 5:30 to 7:30PM

So. Ute Cultural Center & Museum Large Classroom.

Light snacks will be provided

\*Please note the group will close after the third session.

Facilitators:

Marvina Olguin, Peer Recovery Coach  
[marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:marolguin@southernute-nsn.gov)  
Preston Barry, Peer Recovery Coach  
[pbarry@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:pbarry@southernute-nsn.gov)

Please call 970.563.5700 for more information



Mission Statement

It is our mission to inspire & empower other sisters & brothers in treatment, and help those in recovery live a life of integrity, honesty, & resiliency. Knowing that honesty is the foundation of change, if we live our lives one moment at a time & rationalize every thought before it becomes an action, WE WILL CHANGE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE, WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

### SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING

This free 30-hour training certifies you as a victim advocate in the state of Colorado

Spring Training Dates:

- Saturday, 1/18, 9 AM - 5 PM
- Wednesday, 1/22, 4 PM - 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, 1/29, 4 PM - 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, 2/5, 4 PM - 7:30 PM
- Thursday, 2/6, 5 PM - 7:30 PM
- Saturday, 2/8, 9 AM - 5 PM
- Wednesday, 2/12, Overflow day TBA

In person Online



What you'll learn:

- Advocacy 101
- Understanding systems of oppression
- Forensic exams and hospital advocacy
- And MORE!

Volunteer Options:

- 24/7 Support Line
- Event tabling/outreach
- Prevention education
- Cultural Outreach



Please submit an application  
[www.durangosaso.org/volunteer](http://www.durangosaso.org/volunteer)

\*\*Application DEADLINE 1/13/25\*\*

Contact Tahleiah Begay, Communication & Volunteer Coordinator, at [tahleiah@durangosaso.org](mailto:tahleiah@durangosaso.org) for more information

## 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 (970) 563-2337

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



JANUARY 2025

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

January 7, 2025

January 9, 2025

January 14, 2025

January 16, 2025

January 21, 2025

January 23, 2025

\*January 27, 2025

\*January 31, 2025

\*Denotes Monday and Friday Sessions



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)

## FATHERHOOD IS SACRED-MOTHERHOOD IS SACRED CLASS December 2024



This is Native American Fatherhood & Families Association-NAFFA's foundational program that helps strengthen families by empowering and uplifting fathers and mothers. The class teaches core principles to help strengthen them as parents. Native people believe in the sanctity of many things; animals, mountains, burial grounds, etc., but the most sacred is our role as a father and our role as a mother.

FIS/MIS is a 6-week virtual class (Microsoft TEAMS) for those wanting to improve family relationships, prepare them to become responsible parents, reduce recidivism and substance abuse, and improve safety for our children. We have the vision to pave our way into a future where fathers and mothers will experience a truly happy family. This course is uniquely designed with culturally relevant material to teach parents the vital impact of being responsibly involved in each child's life.

December Classes begin:

12/5, 12/11, 12/12, 12/16, 12/19, 12/30, 1/2, 1/6

Each class will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Please contact Family Therapist Angelina Whitehorse to register at 970-563-2335 or email at [awhitehorse@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awhitehorse@southernute-nsn.gov)



This class is VIRTUAL  
Each participant needs the following to attend:

- A working email
- Solid internet connection
- A smartphone, tablet, or laptop with a mic
- Download the Microsoft Teams APP
- A QUIET SPACE
- Application Form completed



courtesy SUIMA

Students from SUIMA's lower elementary classes practice their Conga drum skills with Stillwater music instructor, Easton Stuard. Seen here with their instructor are Rex Olguin, TJ Monte, Bryan Howe, December Santistevan, Jinora Mills, and Shawnee Rizzo.

## SUIMA

# Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

*Thank you for the support*

By Mari Jo Owens  
PRINCIPAL

A big THANK YOU to Tribal Council, Executive Officer, SunUte, Multi-Purpose Facility, Building Maintenance, and Ground Maintenance for everything you have provided to SUIMA during the month of December.



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

Whether it was Christmas décor, Santa activities, or keeping our sidewalks free of ice – everything you did was a support for our students.  
Tuvachi toghoyaqh!

### Montessori Tidbits

Our school follows the Montessori philosophy, which was the curriculum method chosen for SUIMA. In order to help with the understanding of some terminology that is used at the school, here are some short explanations.

- **Human Potential:** Each child has within them the person they will become.
- **Prepared Environment:** A Montessori classroom is one that has a certain order and supports the child to develop at their own speed in a non-competitive atmosphere. It is an environment that ensures success before failure.



courtesy SUIMA

This nuúgani stands proud outside of the Ute Language room at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy.

- **Inner Discipline:** This is the core of Dr. Montessori's philosophy. Patterns of concentration, which are established in early childhood, produce a confident and competent learner in later years.
- **Absorbent Mind:** From the moment of birth, each child has a mind to take in knowledge. Each child has the power to teach themselves.
- **Sensitive Periods:** Each child passes through "sensitive periods" that are successive stages of development. During a particular sensitive period, a child shows an insatiable hunger for the acquisition of some particular knowledge or skill.

Enjoy the last of the holiday season. See you on Jan. 6, 2025.

### Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early Release at 2 p.m.
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 3 – Winter Break
- Jan. 6, 2025 – Students return
- Jan. 9 – School Board meeting
- Jan. 20 – No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 21 – Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Jan. 22 – Family Night



courtesy SUIMA

The SUIMA students and staff practice their Christmas songs at the Sky Ute event Center before their program.

## EDUCATION

# Southern Ute Students of the Season

*Meskvlvw and Tenetke Wesley*

By Staff report  
SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION



**Meskvlvw Wesley**  
Sixth Grade  
Mountain Middle School

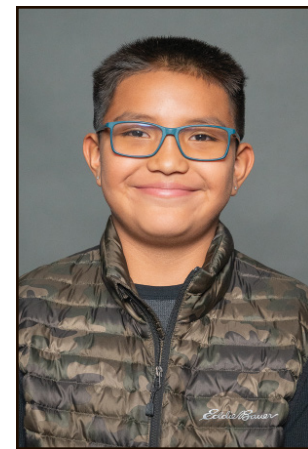
### Meskvlvw Wesley

Meskvlvw "Musk" Wesley has been nominated for Southern Ute Student of the Season for Fall 2024. Meskvlvw is 11 years old and is in the sixth grade at Mountain Middle School in Durango, Colo. Wesley's parents are LeAnn Baker-Wesley and Micco Wesley, also he has a younger brother Tenetke Wesley. Wesley is Southern Ute and Mvskoke, his Ute name is "Sanakava" meaning spotted horse and "Meskvlvw" is the Mvskoke word for oak tree. At school he enjoys the Student Interest Groups or "SIG" which are offered each quarter at Mountain Middle School. Through SIG, Wesley participated in Stillwater Music, Mountain Ambassador leadership group which fundraised for the La Plata County Humane Society and joined a food drive for the Manna Soup Kitchen. Wesley also had the opportunity to participate in a board game SIG where he shared and learned more about his favorite game of chess. Wesley's favorite subjects are humanities and science. He identified teachers from SUIMA and his current teachers as his positive role models, sharing, "My teachers have given me tools to [be] successful in my education."

His family's comments included, "Meskvlvw is intelligent, hard working in and outside of school, and we are proud of his achievements in everything he does. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with family and friends, camping, hunting, fishing, archery, traveling, music, and

football. Meskvlvw is always willing to lend a helping hand when needed and likes to tell jokes. Each year, he enjoys participating in the annual Bear Dances and Stomp Dances in Oklahoma."

Amanda Evans, Humanities Teacher at MMS said, "It's been a true pleasure to have Meskvlvw in my class. He is an incredibly dedicated student, always eager to put in the effort needed to excel. He approaches challenging tasks with resilience, never shying away from trying new and difficult things. Beyond his academic strengths, he is a warm and supportive classmate, consistently showing kindness and empathy toward others. Meskvlvw's generosity and commitment to his peers set a wonderful example, and I am proud to see him recognized for his outstanding character and hard work. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!"



**Tenetke Wesley**  
Fourth Grade  
Mountain Middle School

### Tenetke Wesley

Younger brother, Tenetke Wesley has also been nominated for Southern Ute Student of the Season for Fall 2024. Tenetke is nine years old and is in the fourth grade at Mountain Middle School in Durango, Colo. Wesley's parents are LeAnn Baker-Wesley and Micco Wesley, also he is the younger brother of Meskvlvw Wesley. Wesley is Southern Ute and Mvskoke, his Ute name is "Ununi" meaning thunder and "Tenetke" is the Mvskoke word for thunder as well. At school he enjoys making new friends and his favorite subjects are Math and Science. He identified his teachers as his positive role models, both from his time spent at SUIMA and his current teachers at Mountain Middle School.

His family's comments included, "Tenetke is very respectful and helpful, he always puts his best effort into everything he does. Tenetke has grown academically, he has received Student of the Week at Mountain Middle School. Just like his brother, we are very proud of his accomplishments. In his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with family and friends, building Lego sets, drawing, and playing football. Tenetke is also interested in playing musical instruments. Tenetke also enjoys participating in the annual Bear Dances and Stomp Dances in Oklahoma."

Meredith Beal, MMS teacher said, "Tenetke Wesley is a true joy to have in the classroom. He arrives each and every day with a positive attitude and has the most beautiful manners. He works very hard and perseveres even when the subject matter is difficult for him. Tenetke is the type of child every teacher dreams of. What an amazing young man!"

"I can't speak enough about these two brothers, Meskvlvw and Tenetke Wesley," said Kelly Fiddler "They are both polite, kind and very hardworking. They are fun to teach because they listen attentively with a very positive attitude, and they apply quickly what was taught to them. They are both motivated to succeed and if they struggle, they get right back up and try again until they accomplish the task. Meskvlvw is a gentle young man and a wise old soul, Tenetke is a spark of light and very funny. While they are incredible individuals, they are also very tightly connected, woven together through their brotherhood and their culture. They are extremely supportive of one another. When one is down, the other is there offering positive and uplifting words of encouragement. I have not only seen this in the classroom, but I've also seen it when they play together. They are always there for each other, laughing, smiling, and enjoying life to the fullest. I believe both boys, one day could be fantastic Tribal leaders. Congratulations Meskvlvw and Tenetke and congratulations to your family for raising such fine young men!"



CLOSE UP: NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE YOUTH SUMMIT

**April 27- May 2, 2025**

Enrolled High School Students

Must have 2.0 GPA or Better

Five Spots Open to Southern Ute Tribal Members

Five Spots Open to Community Students

For more information please contact Dustin Weaver 970-563-2786



courtesy BGC

Our Youth of the Month awards go to Robert Lucero and Sophia Hudson.

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

**Club Connect: Focus on unique character and abilities**

*Staff report*

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

**Youth of the Month**

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

For this month our Youth of the Month awards go to Sophia Hudson and Robert Lucero! Congratulations on behalf of the BGC staff!



**BGC Announcement**

2025 Boys & Girls Club Spring Registration is now open, stop by the Boys & Girls Club office for membership application or download from our website, limited capacity.

and to those who purchased tickets. Shout out to the Sky Ute Casino for donating two each. Two-night stays, \$150 Seven River Steak House gift certificates, and for the \$10 free play for those who bought tickets.

by checking out ornaments, purchasing the gifts and returning the items which were then distributed to six families.

Thanks Los Pinos Fire Department and Southern Ute Police Department for helping with the 9th annual Boys & Girls Club Christmas Goodie Delivery on Friday, Dec. 20.

**BGC Shoutouts**

Thank you to those who donated prizes to the Boys & Girls Club Elk Hunt Raffle,

Southern Ute Victim Services and the Boys & Girls Club want to thank all of those who granted "wishes"



courtesy BGC

The Elk Hunt Raffle winner Terry Foster shakes hands with BGC Chief Executive Officer, Bruce LeClaire. Foster filled his tag the first day of the hunt.



courtesy BGC

Santa and his helpers, along with the Southern Ute Police Dept., and Los Pinos Fire Dept. delivered Christmas goodies through Ignacio, Friday, Dec. 20.

**Ute youth present film screening**



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Kree Lopez was a part of the all-woman cast for the film "Basket Lady" created this summer in Towaoc, Colo. by Ute Mountain Ute Tribal youth. Lopez answered questions from the audience during the Film Screening Fundraiser event held on Thursday, Dec. 19 by the Southern Ute Education Department.



Tribal elder Russell Blackbird thanked all who had a hand in creating these films and encouraged attendees and creators to continue to contribute to the film world, sharing stories and educating others about the culture of the Ute people. Films "A Place to Explore," "Tri-Ute Games," and "The Basket Lady" give an insight into daily life, tradition, and cultural stories from the Ute tribes, students spent the summer learning about film making and had the opportunity to share a story pertinent to themselves and their respective Tribe.

Southern Ute Tribal member Leandra Litz answers questions about her experience working with other youth this summer during the Film Workshop hosted by the Southern Ute Education Department, on Thursday, Dec. 19. The Southern Ute Education Department hosted a film screening in support of SUIMA; during the event attendees enjoyed concessions and watched three films created by Tribal youth and a special screening of the "Basket Lady" film created by Ute Mountain Ute Tribal youth.

**Multi - Purpose Facility January 2025 Events**



**Monthly Event Calendar**

Cooking with Bill—Monday January 6, 10:00 AM—1:30 PM

Senior Breakfast January 8, 10:00 AM—11:30 AM

Yard Sale—Saturday January 11, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Quilting Class—Tuesday & Wednesday January 14 & 15, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM

Sip, Chat & Chew—Friday January 17, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Traditional Beading & Sewing—January 28—30,

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

**Special Events**

Youth Crafting January 2 & 3, 10:00 AM—2:30 PM

January Pow Wow—Saturday January 25, 1:00 PM—11:00 PM

Healthy Cooking—Thursday January 23, 10:30 AM—1:30 PM

• Events are subject to change—watch for announcements.

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

THE SOUTHERN UTE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S

**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**GED AND ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES**

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY • WORKPLACE READINESS • ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

**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  
970-563-2794

## IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

# De-clutter, de-own, and de-stress your life

By Cheyenne Munns  
IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

This January, join us at the Ignacio Community Library for a perfect New Year, New You class: Simplify Your Stuff: How to De-clutter, De-own, and De-stress Your Life! Thursday, Jan. 23 at 3:30 p.m. Are you feeling overwhelmed by too much clutter? Do you want to get rid of things but don't know where to start? Come and learn from Molly Orendorff, a professional organizer, about how to clear things out of your space to reduce clutter anxiety! Please sign up in advance on our website, [ignaciolib.org](https://ignaciolib.org), or at the link <https://qrc0.de/deClutter>.

Each month, we plan exciting new programs and events designed for you to learn something new or enjoy some fun! But do not forget about our regular weekly programs and book clubs, which are free to join at any time. Our Mystery Book Club meets twice a month for those seeking thrills and chills, while Science Fiction fans can gather for book club once a month.

Crafters and artists enjoy developing their skills at the following workshops: Sewing Workshop: Every Monday at 1:30 p.m. Open Art Studio: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. And ICL Knitters Group: join our wonderful group of knitters every



Thursday in our Community Room at 1 p.m.

Thanks to Greg Dotson with La Plata County Veteran Services, we offer regular office hours for Veterans on the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, we host a free legal clinic once a month for patrons. Volunteer attorneys will be available online to answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the processes for civil (non-criminal) legal issues every third Tuesday from 4 to 5:40 p.m. Please call ahead to sign up or for more information at 970-563-9287.

We also have plenty of engaging programs for younger patrons! Our youth programs include Storytime: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. – a fun, interactive session with songs, crafts, and stories to help develop a lifelong love of reading. Silly Science: The first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m., where we create a fun, hands-on science experiment.

Teen Café: For middle and high school students, enjoy snacks, homework help, crafts, movies, games, and more every Wednesday after school at 4:30 p.m. Teen Night: A monthly program with new themes, activities, and dinners for teens; visit our website, [ignaciolib.org](https://ignaciolib.org), for more details.

The IDEA LAB is stocked with equipment and programs so patrons of all ages can learn and practice skills for the modern work environment. Mr. Ron, our IDEA LAB Educator, has an exciting schedule of classes lined up this year in our Makerspace. Join us every Friday and Saturday this month from 1 to 4 p.m. to learn and experiment with Alternative Energy Systems. ICL can also meet your needs with one-on-one and small-group use and coaching. Call to schedule an appointment to make use of this fantastic facility! 970-563-9287.

We'll see you at the library!

## Holiday traditions abound



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Building maintenance team members, Christopher Walker and Lance Lucero, lend a hand (and a ladder), Wednesday, Dec. 11, to help set up and decorate the large Christmas tree, which adorns the Hall of Warriors each year during the Holidays.

Elegant Christmas ornaments sit at the ready, as Tribal Information Services staff and Building Maintenance work to decorate the two large Christmas trees in the Leonard C. Burch Building.



### JANUARY ACTIVITIES

**JANUARY 1, 2025**

Tribal Offices Closed  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

**JANUARY 7, 2025**

MOVIE DAY (DURANGO)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 11:00 a.m.

**JANUARY 14, 2025**

SHOPPING TRIP (FARMINGTON)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch will be provided

**JANUARY 20, 2025**

TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**JANUARY 21, 2025**

MOVIE DAY (DURANGO)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 11:00 a.m.

**JANUARY 28, 2025**

CASINO TRIP (FARMINGTON)  
Van will depart Elder Services @ 10:00 a.m.

Call Elder Services @ 970-563-2309 to have your name added to the activities list or if you have any questions. Activities are subject to change due to inclement weather.

### New Year Prayer and Sobriety Walk

January 1, 2025

Saa-swaan's hiswaqs, also known as the late Robert Buckskin began this walk in 1990. His intentions were to help our community with an option to celebrate sobriety, without judgement, but with prayer for healing and hope.

Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving; we get stronger and more resilient.



In memory of Saa-swaan's hiswaqs Buckskin e--gap



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE  
SKY UTE FAIRGROUNDS & RV PARK

# Winter Break for our Ice Vending Kiosk

## Southern Ute Utilities Division

SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 11/27/24

DECEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TRANSFER STATION  
2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup>/10<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
- DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED
- JAN 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S DAY — CLOSED

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**MON.—SAT. 8 AM TO 5 PM / CLOSED SUNDAY**

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

**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:  
*Dec. 4th / Jan. 8th / Feb. 5th*

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Shut-Off Day is December 4th. Pay bill before 10am on 12/04/24 to avoid late fees. Questions? Call Utilities.
- During inclement weather, watch your step on the Transfer Station Ramp when disposing trash.
- New Southern Ute Utility Outage Notification Alert System is active. Sign up to be notified of any outages or delays. Questions? Call Utilities Office.
- 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
- Reminder: Utilities Offices & Transfer Station CLOSED on LCB Day and Christmas Day.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

— Southern Ute Utilities Staff

**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

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)





COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# Southwest Colorado Nonprofits hit a new record of \$894,000 raised for Colorado Gives Day

**Staff report**

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado spearheads regional participation in Colorado Gives Day – an easy, online initiative for donors to contribute to nonprofits across Colorado.

Colorado donors turned out for this year's event on Tuesday, Dec. 10 with over \$54.6 million donated to nonprofits statewide and more than \$894,000 donated to organizations in Southwest Colorado alone – a new record that far exceeded the goal of \$750,000. This is a 26% increase from the \$662,600 raised in 2023. Overall, Gives Day totals

will increase throughout the month of December as each nonprofit receives its share of the statewide Incentive Fund, final totals for the southwest region will be over \$900,000.

For Southwest Colorado Gives Day, local donors can choose from a list of over 150 nonprofit organizations found on the website swcogives.org, which provides a safe, easy way for individuals to fund their favorite causes. These online donations go directly to local nonprofits serving Southwest Colorado, encompassing Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties. This year's collaborative marketing efforts prompted over 4,000

individual donations in the region alone.

"Southwest Colorado Gives Day has grown every year since we started as the regional champion in 2017, with 2024 having the biggest increase we've seen so far," Briggen Wrinkle, Executive Director of the Community Foundation said. "It's an honor to be a part of a movement that brings the community together to support our local nonprofits."

The Community Foundation strives to power philanthropy and encourage people to give where they live. Online donations can still be made at swcogives.org, as this is a year-round electronic giving platform to benefit local nonprofits.

## Casino honors employees



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

The Sky Ute Casino Resort hosted the Years of Service Awards for its employees on Thursday, Dec. 12 in the Event Center. Excellence awards winners Magdalena Flores, Brian Jones, and Crystal Martin stand together for a photo following the acceptance of their awards.



Councilman Andrew Gallegos congratulates all honorees at the Years of Service Awards on Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Gallegos gave thanks to all casino employees for their dedication to the resort and great performance throughout the years.



Employees who have been working at Sky Ute Casino Resort for more than five years received honorary glass number trophies and a pin to wear, 26 employees were recognized during the event for their years of service, awards ranged from five years of service to 25 years of service.

**WINTER WEATHER TIPS!**

As winter approaches, the Construction Services Division wants to remind you to prepare your homes. Turn heaters to a minimum of 60 degrees. Plug in your heaters at the pump house and apply heat tapes to your water lines to prevent freezing.

If you need assistance, contact Construction Services at 970-563-0260.

**Sky Ute CASINO RESORT**

**JOIN THE FUN ON NEW YEARS EVE**

**A DEADLY RESOLUTION**  
A Clue Game Costume Contest  
TUESDAY DEC 31 10:30PM  
CASH PRIZES FOR 1ST PLACE & RUNNER-UP

**A DEADLY RESOLUTION**  
Murder Mystery Dinner  
TUESDAY DEC 31 6PM-7PM  
SHOW WILL FOLLOW  
BUY YOUR TICKETS! | COUPLES \$175 & SINGLE \$100

**NEW YEAR'S EVE KILLER CASH MONEY BOOTH**  
HOW MUCH WILL YOU WIN?  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 6PM - MIDNIGHT

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

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

## Meier promoted to Team Lead



courtesy Jess Badwin/Clean Team

Jared Meier was promoted to Supervising Team Lead, Monday, Dec. 16; Meier has been on the Clean Team since 2019. He has been instrumental in keeping facilities safe through the worst of Covid as well as assisting with the green building certifications, campus wide.

**2024/2025 SNOW CLEARING SERVICES**

**12"- Roof-Raking**

Our drivers do their best to serve you and many others during snowstorms, please be patient as they work through their routes. It is not uncommon for work on routes to extend through the early afternoon.

If you are a Tribal Member Elder who is frail or disabled and need assistance with snow shoveling, please contact:

**Tribal Housing - (970) 563-4710**

**5"- Tribal Members**

**3"- Dialysis Patients, Frail Elders, & Tribal Members with a Disability**

Please call the **Tribal Hotline (970) 563-4800** for information regarding office closures, weather reports, and clinic updates.

## Henderson promoted to Sgt.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Justice & Regulatory invited fellow law enforcement officers and family to a small promotion party for Brandon Henderson, who was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant. Pictured left to right: SUPD Police Lieutenant, Gary Maestas; SUPD Sergeant Brandon Henderson, J&R Director Elliott Salazar; and Head of Detention, DeWayne Todd; who congratulated him in his new position, Wednesday, Dec. 11.

SUPD Police Lieutenant, Gary Maestas exchanged badges with Brandon Henderson as he moves up to the rank of sergeant. The pinning took place in the EPD Large Conference Room on Wednesday, Dec. 11.



## COLORADO'S NEW LAW • FROM PAGE 1

weren't in cars, but were walking, riding their bikes or otherwise outside of a car, the agency said.

After her crash in 2018, Willerton suffered from more than a dozen fractures, including a triple pelvic fracture, and other injuries.

"It was a crash that should have killed me," Willerton said. "The driver was going over 50 miles an hour. All I had to protect me was my helmet and my bike, and I had flashing lights. I was doing absolutely everything by the book."

The crash motivated her to start the nonprofit It Could Be Me to try to change the relationship between motorists and other road users. Her group consists of crash victims and advocates who are willing to share their survival stories to generate change.

"I think sometimes we are overlooked because we're still here, but yet we represent millions of people that have to continue with their lives. And some are not as lucky as me. I'm very lucky," Willerton said.

"You look at me and you don't really see anything different with me, but that doesn't mean that I didn't endure some horrific experience that I should never have."

She hopes the law helps shape habits by newer drivers, who are just learning the rules of the road.

"The real change is going to be driven by the younger drivers, the ones who are learning, respecting and just coming into this new world where you have to learn the

rules," Willerton said. "And if the rule is that you cannot drive with a cellphone, you just don't. It's easier than to go back and fix it."

### "We know what works"

In a 2024 driving behavior study conducted by CDOT, 42% of surveyed drivers said they picked up their phone to make or answer a call and 37% picked up their phone to read a message through text or social media.

Drivers ages 25 to 44 reported the highest rates of picking up a phone to make calls (54%), read messages (53%) and send messages (46%) in the past week, according to the study. Drivers ages 18 to 24 were slightly less likely to do each of those behaviors in the past seven days (48%, 46%, 40%) than drivers 25-44 years old.

Twenty-four states, including Colorado, have passed a law that bans holding a cellphone while driving, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, while 48 have laws in place that prohibit texting while driving.

Crash risk increases as much as four times when a driver is using a mobile phone, with no significant safety difference between when a driver is using a handheld or hands-free device, according to a report by organization Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety.

Crashes in which at least one driver was identified as being distracted imposed an economic cost of \$98.2 billion in 2019, the report said. Updated for inflation alone,

in 2024, the economic cost would be \$120.32 billion.

The organization, made up of consumer, medical, public health, law enforcement and insurance companies also advocates for certain technologies inside cars to help prevent crashes caused by distracted driving.

Sensors to detect distance between your car and the one in front of you and when you're drifting out of your lane, along with blind spot detection can all deter distracted driving and should be required, the organization said in a December report.

Driving monitor systems, which alert drivers when they become drowsy or distracted, should also be required for safer roads, the organization said.

Willerton, who sits on Boulder's Transportation Advisory Board, also recommends reducing speeds. After her crash near the intersection of 65th and Nelson Drive, Boulder authorities have since lowered the speed limit to 35 mph from 50, added flashing yellow lights and a sign alerting drivers of heavy turning bicycle traffic.

Willerton said the area once described by officers as the "cursed intersection" – for its high frequency of crashes – has seen a dramatic decrease in incidents.

In a span of five days in 2017, two cyclists were killed while crossing the intersection, the Longmont Times-Call reported.

"We know what works," Willerton said. "It's just having the political will and the resources to do so."

## Southern Ute Tribal Offices Closure

Southern Ute tribal offices will be closed, Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. Normal business office hours will resume, Thursday, Jan. 2.

Offices will also be closed, Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Normal business office hours will resume, Tuesday, Jan. 21.

# ELECTIONS

**Shape LPEA's Future  
Run for a Seat on the LPEA Board!  
Elections will be held at the  
Annual Meeting on May 21, 2025!**

LPEA News Bulletin  
April 11th, 1989

### Who? YOU!

- Will you be a member of LPEA for at least one year immediately prior to becoming a director?
- Will you be a bona fide resident of the district you plan to represent for at least 120 days prior to becoming a director?
- Are you NOT currently employed by or have a spouse or child employed by LPEA in any position?

### If yes...How?

**Complete these steps (details found at [lpea.coop/elections](http://lpea.coop/elections)) by March 22, 2025\*:**

- Obtain 15+ signatures on the 2025 Nominating Petition and submit
- Complete the candidate application and submit

**That's it!**

**Qualified candidates will be added to the official ballot. For all the details head over to [lpea.coop/elections](http://lpea.coop/elections). Let's make a difference together!**

### Directors up for re-election:

District 1 – Archuleta County: Holly Metzler  
District 2 – South and West La Plata County: Dan Huntington  
District 3 – City of Durango: Joe Lewandowski  
District 4 – North and East La Plata County: John Witchel

\*If you are submitting election documents in paper format, it is your responsibility to make sure they are received during LPEA's normal business hours.





## Christmas is the best time of the year!



SUIMA students show off their best dance moves during the performance of "Feliz Navidad" on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort.



Southern Ute Tribal Council and Chairman Melvin J. Baker took to the stage to greet attendees at this year's Christmas Dinner and Program, each member took time to reflect on this past year and share well wishes with everyone in attendance.



SUIMA students perform for a crowd of family, friends, and visitors during the annual Southern Ute Christmas Dinner and Program.



Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts greets members of the three Ute tribes during the Southern Ute Christmas Dinner and Program, all members of the Southern Ute Royalty and visiting Ute Mountain Ute Royalty took time to give their introductions and later helped deliver plates to those in need at the dinner.



Maylon Newton takes her turn in the dinner line during the Christmas Dinner and Program on Saturday, Dec. 14.

**The Southern Ute Indian Tribe hosted its annual Christmas Dinner and Program on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort, bringing Ute relatives together to share a meal and celebrate the upcoming holidays. Families enjoyed a prime rib meal, music provided by Sandman and Hummingbird Productions, and a visit from Santa Claus. Following the meal, the Event Center filled with families anticipating the annual SUIMA Christmas Program, students at SUIMA dressed to the nines ready to perform classic holiday tunes in the Ute language, this year teachers and Upper Elementary students performed "12 days of Christmas on the Rez" featuring cultural items specific to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and other Ute tribes. To wrap up the event, Tribal elder Cassandra Atencio shared traditional Ute stories with the audience, a practice that is done each winter.**

Photos by Divine Windy Boy  
The Southern Ute Drum



Southern Ute Tribal elder, Cassandra Atencio shares traditional Ute stories to close out the annual Christmas Dinner and Program. Atencio shared two stories talking about the traditional use of herbs. During the event she told the story of the honorable dandelion and the adventures of the mint brothers, Peppermint and Spearmint.



Tribal elder Dona Frost shares a smile and her wish list with Mr. and Mrs. Claus during the Southern Ute Christmas Dinner and Program.



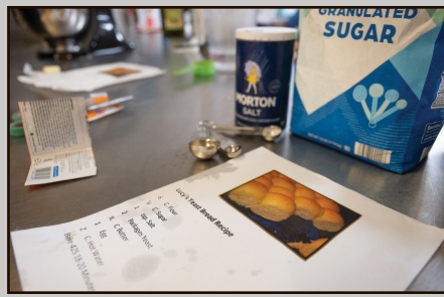
Attendees wait in line for a prime rib serving during the meal, selecting their choice in cut, temperature, and size.

## Made from scratch yeast rolls



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Terena Hight mixes ingredients for yeast rolls during a Yeast Bread Making Class held at the Multi-Purpose Facility on Monday, Dec. 23. The class was presented by Lucy Olguin who shared her recipe and technique with attendees.



Lucy Olguin shared her recipe with attendees of the Yeast Bread Making Class. Attendees prepared dough, rolled out perfect size pieces, proofed and baked pans of yeast rolls to share amongst themselves, friends, and family.

Marietta Johnson shows off a pan of proofed rolls ready to go into the oven, prepared from scratch, this recipe makes for a special holiday treat for all to share.

## SUPD: Shop with a Cop



photos McKenzie Perdue/Durango Police Dept.

Southern Ute Police Chief, Michael Barrow carries a child on his shoulders during the Shop with a Cop event in Durango, Colo. on Wednesday, Dec. 11. The fraternal Order of Police, Durango Lodge 8 had sponsored this event for over 30 years.



SUPD Lieutenant, Mark Kempinski was one of three SUPD employees who participated in the Shop with a Cop event in Durango, Colo. on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

SUPD Lieutenant, Gary Maestas brings items through the checkout lane at Walmart during the Shop with a Cop event on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

## Multi-Purpose Facility Sr. Breakfast



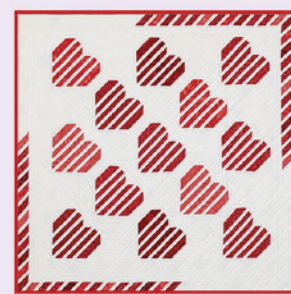
**Wednesday January 8,  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

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



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

## Multi-Purpose Facility Quilting & Sewing Class



**Tuesday & Wednesday  
January 14 & 15, 2025**

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

**Slice of my Heart**

**Quilt Pattern**

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

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



## Multi-Purpose Facility Youth Activities

All youth 6 - 17 years old are welcome to attend, Parents & Grandparents are encouraged to attend, younger children are welcome and must be with parent or guardian.

**Healthy Cooking with Lisa Smith & Ute Bingo  
Thursday December 30, 2024 - 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

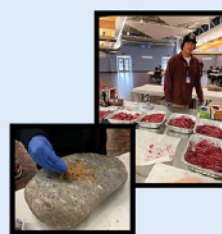
Participants will learn to make healthy snacks and drink.

- Hands on learning experience with Lisa and her staff.
- After preparing the food participants will enjoy tasting & sharing.
- Ute Bingo after lunch.



**Jerky and Drying Class & Tortilla Making  
Thursday January 2, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

- Participants will learn to season meat for drying, using a dehydrator.
- Pound jerky into fine powder, learn how to prepare it to eat.
- Learn traditional uses for dry meat, hear stories shared by Ute Elders.
- Youth will learn to make flour tortillas and frybread.



**Craft Projects for Youth**

**Friday January 3, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

Crafts projects

- Bone & Bead Breastplates and chokers, Ojo, Dream Catcher.
- Miniature light up Ti Pi.
- Projects are easy and fun for the whole family.
- Hot Chocolate, cookies & Story telling.



**Please call 970-563-2640 to sign-up.  
Call 970-563-2641 for more information.  
Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO**



## Multi-Purpose Facility January Indoor Yard Sale

**Saturday January 11, 2025**

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**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





Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Marissa Olguin tries dribbling around Belen, New Mexico's Emma Chavez (11) Thursday, Dec. 19, during Day 1 play at Aztec, New Mexico's 2024 Rumble in 'The Jungle.' Olguin would be named All-Tournament after the three-day event's conclusion.

BOBCATS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady 'Cats stumble in Aztec finale

Wingate snatches fifth from IHS, 46-43

By Joel Priest SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Somehow able to squeak into last season's 16-team NMAA Class 3A State Championships despite being on a ten-game losing streak, 15th-seeded Wingate High's girls were then unsurprisingly dispatched by 33 points in the first round by No. 2 Las Vegas Robertson.

It wasn't the first time WHS had been blown out by such a margin; including a 59-2 loss to Navajo Pine, the Lady Bears were probably fortunate to actually go 3-9 in District 1-3A play and survive the winter standing 7-21 overall.

Times have certainly changed.

And Ignacio, unluckily, learned that firsthand while closing out the Old Year portion of its 2024-25 schedule at Aztec, New Mexico's three-day (Dec. 19-21) Rumble in 'The Jungle.' Pit against Fort Wingate-based WHS during the Saturday session with fifth place at stake, the Lady Bobcats battled back from a shaky first quarter but suffered a fourth frame collapse as the Lady Bears made off with a 46-43 win.

Junior Alyssa Atencio scored 12 points, senior Marissa Olguin totaled ten (all in the second half, in-

cluding two three-pointers) and senior Victoria Brown eight in defeat. Senior DaLaney Wesner logged six points but was slowed by four personal fouls. Juliann Avila chipped in four points and Maliyah Martinez three, but after erasing deficits of 15-10 through one quarter and 23-20 at halftime, IHS couldn't improve upon - or maintain - a 33-32 advantage beginning the final eight regulation minutes.

Perhaps frustrated by making only one of six free throws during the first quarter, in which Wingate could have really put Ignacio in a hole, WHS junior forward Uriah Garcia closed out the contest logging six of her game-high 16 points during the fourth.

Junior forward/center Keira Casamero and senior guard Morning Sky Iron Moccasin each drained a three-pointer during the final frame, offsetting singular treys by Atencio and Olguin, as the Lady Bears (7-4 overall, 0-0 Dist. 1-3A) successfully followed up a 39-36 win over 3A Montezuma-Cortez in one consolation semifinal.

Olguin and Iron Moccasin were each declared All-Tournament performers.

Trying to complete a full recovery from a 35-22 loss to 4A Belen, N.M., on the

Rumble's opening afternoon, Ignacio (4-3 overall, 0-0 CHSAA 3A/4A Intermountain) had then hammered 1A Shiprock, N.M., Northwest in the other consolation semi - assuring the Lady 'Cats of at least one win inside Lillywhite Gymnasium.

And it came relatively easy; after blanking Northwest 14-0 in the first quarter, IHS entered halftime leading 36-8, and later started the fourth quarter in complete control. 46-11, en route to a conservative 47-12 (also reported as 51-12; the scorebook's running score and individual point totals for Ignacio, however, stopped at 47) conquest.

Including her team's entire second-quarter production, sophomore Mya Begay paced the Lady Falcons with ten points despite going 3-of-9 from the free-throw line. Ivory Woody netted Northwest's other two points during the third quarter.

Brown, meanwhile, went off for eight points in the third and finished with a game-high 11 for Ignacio. Wesner and Avila both came close to double figures, totaling eight points apiece, and Martinez scored seven. Atencio - who went 5-of-8 from the

Lady 'Cats page 14



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Angelo Frost (21) attempts a shot between Tohatchi, New Mexico's Valentino Dawes (34) and Elijah Johnson (21) Thursday, Dec. 19, during Day 1 action at Aztec, New Mexico's 2024 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

BOBCATS BOYS BASKETBALL

Bobcats hovering for holidays at .500

IHS boys win one of three at Aztec tourney

By Joel Priest SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Any third-day opponent at Aztec, New Mexico's Rumble in 'The Jungle' would have put up stiffer resistance against Ignacio than what the Bobcats had devastated barely 24 hours earlier.

And with fifth place at the Dec. 19-21 event still available to them, thanks to decimating 1A Shiprock, N.M., Northwest 79-9 in the consolation semifinals, IHS squared off against none other than 5A Durango. Given the chance to atone for, or at least improve upon, a 62-47 road loss on the 6th to the Demons, the 'Cats indeed closed the gap on the 21st but still fell 51-43 inside AHS' Lillywhite Gymnasium.

Individual statistics had yet to be tallied and reported as of press time, but it was known that junior Trace Crane was named All-Tournament as Ignacio closed out the front half of its 2024-25 schedule standing an even 4-4 overall. Durango, meanwhile, improved to 6-2 after fully rebounding from a humbling 58-37 loss on Day 1 to Las Vegas, N.M., Robertson - runner-up to Farmington Navajo Prep at last season's NMAA/Nusenda Credit Union Class 3A State Championships.

One of the favorites to capture the ultimate crown



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez (22) tries a three-pointer over Tohatchi, New Mexico's DeAndre Rios (3) Thursday, Dec. 19, during Day 1 action at Aztec, New Mexico's 2024 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

this winter, RHS (7-2 overall) went 3-0 at the Rumble and placed first by taking down talented Tohatchi, N.M., 61 to 50 in the Saturday night finale. The Cougars (8-2), however, could have considered themselves lucky to have reached the first-place game, after avoiding a first-round meltdown against IHS.

After leading Trae Seibel's Bobcats 9-4 after one quarter, then quickly growing that lead to 18-6 when senior Kyle Yazzie both swished a three-pointer plus a free throw (after being fouled on his shot by Sonny Flores) with 6:14 still remaining in the second, THS' advantage was already beginning to crumble despite standing 25-15

at intermission. Ignacio sophomore guard/forward Cayson Burcham sank a free throw with only 1.4 ticks left until halftime, then started the third quarter canning a three-pointer and making two FTs shortly after. Thanks to senior Josh Dawes' six points in the third, Tohatchi managed to repel IHS' advance and started the final frame up 33-24.

But behind junior guard Ambrose Valdez, the 'Cats quickly clawed back to 33-30 before the cornered Cougars again responded by going on a 7-0 run. Valdez then nailed a three with 3:52 remaining, and with 1:16 to go brought Ignacio back to 41-35 via a layup resulting from

Bobcats page 14

SAVE THE DATE
FORT LEWIS VS NAVAJO TECH
SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH 2025
START @ 5:30PM
LOCATION: SUNUTE COMMUNITY CENTER
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE NCAA GAMES
POWERED BY DABI Nation
WOMENS 5:30PM MENS 7:30PM
FREE TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
Tickets may be picked up at the FLC / Navajo Tech Meet and Greet on 1/3/2025 @ 5:30p
Location: SunUte Community Center 290 Mouache Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137
Sky Ute CASINO RESORT
For questions contact SunUte @ (970)-563-0214

THREE NEW REASONS TO TAKE GROUP FITNESS.
LES MILLS FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH
LES MILLS Shapes
Strength Development
Launching @ SunUte in January 2025!
Visit LesMills.com for more information on these classes.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio 120-pounder Aven Bourriague can't help but laugh as, for the second time following each of his two wins Wednesday night, Dec. 18, at the Dolores-hosted triangular, the public-address announcer mispronounced his last name. Bourriague defeated Monticello, Utah's Diego Cortez via technical fall, and received a forfeit against San Juan Basin League rival DHS.

## BOBCATS WRESTLING

# Bobcats unlucky at Dolores triangular

IHS loses close duals to DHS, Monticello

By Joel Priest  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Dolores may or may not have something of a 'Come-back Wrestler-of-the-Year' award.

But were one to indeed exist, count Darren Hicks as the favorite to earn it.

Despite not yet being truly up to speed, per se, in this winter's early goings, the sophomore 144-pounder looked in fine enough form Wednesday night, Dec. 18, to first pin Monticello, Utah's Ronnie Harris in DHS' first dual of a home triangular, then did likewise to Ignacio's Dillon Brann in the squad's second.

Hicks' stick of Harris ended up being the Bears' only head-to-head win in a 47-24 loss to the talented Buckaroos, while his pin of Brann increased the Bears' first lead on the San Juan Basin League rival Bobcats to 18-11, en route to a 30-28 victory – a definite positive for DHS, what with a journey to Manti, Utah, for the Templar Holiday Classic (12/20-21) rapidly approaching.

"Ignacio's a great team. Awesome kids ... coached by a great coach, and it's an honor to battle against them, you know?" Dolores head coach Casen Eldredge said afterwards. "And being from Monticello [Eldredge graduated from MHS in 2004], it's always a pride thing; they have a great program established there ... Both have state-ranked wrestlers, and we battled super tough; I didn't see any of our guys give up – I couldn't ask for anything more."

Kenji Edwards' second-period pin of IHS' Norman Hackett at 138 pounds had given Dolores a 12-11 advantage, after IHS' Aven Bourriague started the dual winning by forfeit at 120 and teammate Josh Kerrigan more or less offset Cameron Bell's loss by pin at 126 (he'd started the night listed at 132) with a technical-fall defeat of Mason Hill at 132.

Following Hicks' triumph, 150-pounder Nathan Hill received a forfeit increasing the Bears' lead to 24-11 before Bobcat Zane Pontine defeated River Wickstrom by technical fall at 157. 165-pounder Lincoln deKay then followed up his earlier tech of MHS' Tavon Black (a bout contested at Black's 175 pounds) with a pin of DHS' Kale Bates to bring the 'Cats back to 24-



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Zane Pontine, left, controls Dolores' River Wickstrom during their 157-pound bout in the SJBL teams' meeting Wednesday night, Dec. 18, at the DHS-hosted triangular. Pontine won via technical fall, but the Bobcats came up short against the Bears, who won the dual 30-28.

22, and Kendrick Nossaman then claimed forfeit points at 175 – putting Ignacio up 28-24.

And with neither side represented at 106, 113, 190, nor heavyweight, Dolores 215-pounder Daniel Jacket's forfeit win ultimately made the difference (Bell, however, tech'd Devlin Powell in a subsequent exhibition bout). He'd lost by pin in the third period against Monticello's Jarum Robison; Nathan Hill, Wickstrom and Bates – each receiving a forfeit – were the Bears joining Hicks in winning individually against MHS.

"This past weekend was his first tournament," Eldredge said of Hicks. "He'd unfortunately missed last year with a back injury; second week, hurt his back and was out the whole season. The amount of hard work that he did to get back into wrestling shape – and just to heal his back – is nothing short of impressive; he's a warrior and won't give up for anything."

Narrowly defeated, 31-22, by MHS in the night's opener, Ignacio had deKay, Bourriague, Pontine and Kerrigan each go 2-0 (entered at 126, Kerrigan notched a first-period pin of Buckaroo Miles Coleman and was then bumped up a weight to meet

Mason Hill). Nossaman could have went 2-0, but accepted a match against MHS 190-pounder Tyson Wheeler and lost in the third period via technical fall (Robison and heavyweight Camren Carpenter then each won by forfeit to deny IHS the dual).

"We wrestled well, but want to wrestle better," said Ignacio head coach Jordan Larsen. "Little things to work on, you know, back in the (practice) room. Josh had a good night, was starting to open up on offense a little bit."

The Bobcats were to next compete Saturday, Dec. 21, at Walsenburg's Pete & Ina Gomez Invitational.

"Looking forward to it," Larsen said. "They always have competition at all levels ... and it'll give (the Bobcats) a chance to see some tougher kids from the other side of the state. (WHS senior Giovanni) Aldretti at 157's super-tough – we want a match with him – and I'm not sure who's at 65s ... probably somebody tough. Same with Bourriague; I think there's a kid from Swink (Trinidad State-bound senior Thomas Valdez) that's super-tough ... We're just looking forward to getting those matchups so that we can work on things for the 'big show' in about a month and a half."

## BOBCATS HOVERING • FROM PAGE 13



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Ambrose Valdez, right, and Coty Webb trap Tohatchi, New Mexico's DeAndre Rios and attempt to steal the ball Thursday, Dec. 19, during Day 1 action at Aztec, New Mexico's 2024 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

a steal and assist courtesy junior guard D.J. Hendren.

Seibel then used a 30-second timeout to plan for a possible final push, but Hendren was called for his disqualifying fifth personal foul literally one tick after play resumed, and IHS couldn't recover in falling 43-37.

Valdez ended up with a game-high 15 points and Burcham ten, while Crane and senior Angelo Frost each scored four points. Senior Charley Pargin and Flores chipped in two points

apiece. Yazzie finished with 13 points and Dawes 11 for Tohatchi, which also got seven points from senior Valentino Dawes and six each from senior Adriano Begay and junior DeAndre Rios. Pit against Northwest on Day 2, Ignacio came out blasting and put up 25 points in the first quarter, then 27 in the second. The Bobcats then totaled just 27 points after halftime, knowing that things were well in hand. Crane and Frost each ended up with 12 points, while Valdez booked 11 (all

before halftime) as a dozen 'Cats scored at least a point in the blowout.

Senior Lincoln Gillespie logged eight points; Hendren, Pargin and senior Coty Webb scored six apiece.

4A Aztec (3-6 overall) saved third place at the tournament by beating 3A Bayfield 68-54, dropping the Wolverines to 2-3 going into the lengthy holiday break. Improving to 4-5 overall, 4A Bloomfield, N.M., placed seventh by crushing Northwest 72-17 early in the defining Saturday session.

## LADY 'CATS STUMBLE • FROM PAGE 13

charity stripe against Wingate, as IHS finished 8-of-11 – and Olguin each contributed five points, and Veronica Brown one.

In the loss to Belen, Olguin paced the Lady 'Cats with her seven points. Avila, Victoria Brown and Wesner – the only reserve head coach Travis Nanae – was able to utilize – each finished with four points, while Martinez managed two and Atencio one as Ignacio trailed 9-4 after the first quarter, 21-12 at halftime and 29-15 after three quarters.

Senior Jadarose Wright tallied a game-high 11 points for the Lady Eagles, who actually went scoreless for the first 4:32 before junior Dani Bob (nine points) sank a three-pointer slicing IHS' 4-0 lead down to practically nothing. Freshman reserve Lydia Hull logged four points and senior regular Sara Martinez three, but junior starter Alyssa Trujillo was held to two before she fouled out with 3:58 left in the contest.

BHS eventually improved to 5-5 overall by



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Alyssa Atencio tries passing out of a Belen, N.M., triple-team Thursday, Dec. 19, during Day 1 play at Aztec, New Mexico's 2024 Rumble in 'The Jungle.'

defeating 4A Grants (4-3-0 touring run by downing the hosting Lady Tigers (6-place, while 5A Durango 4) in the championship, 39 (6-2 overall) completed a 27.

# SAVE THE DATE

## MMIR AWARENESS PRAYER WALK

Saturday May 3, 2025



Photo credits: Southern Ute Drum Robert Ortiz and Krista Richards





courtesy mpiercephoto

Late Night Stage at the Four Corners Folk Festival.

KSUT

# A message to our valued festival family

## Hiatus for 2025 Four Corners Folk Festival

Staff Report  
KSUT PUBLIC RADIO

Dear Festival Family,  
It's time to share some sad news about the 2025 Four Corners Folk Festival, to be open about what's happened, and to ask for your understanding and support as we move forward.

The Four Corners Folk Festival will be paused in 2025, as KSUT has suffered tremendous financial losses since acquiring the Four Corners Folk Festival and the Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass Festival from FolkWest in October 2019. We are currently developing a plan to pay off the cumulative debt sustained over the past five years.

For 28 years, the Four Corners Folk Festival has been about more than just putting on a festival. It has always been driven by a shared passion for music discovery, supporting the businesses of Pagosa Springs, and shining the spotlight on some of the best bands and musicians in the nation, region, and local communities. The festivals have never been driven by profit or bottom-line.

The factors that have contributed to this financial burden are numerous, and include: the Covid pandemic, which forced the cancellation of both festivals in 2020 and Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass in 2021; skyrocketing production costs, including insurance, equipment rental, lodging, catering, and more; decreased attendance yearly, from nearly 3,000 people in 2021 to less than 2,000 in 2024 at the Four Corners Folk Festival; and competition from other festivals and events, many of which sprouted onto the regional calendar post-pandemic.

NPR released an article this past September explor-

ing "The Year the Music Festival Died," revealing a similar list of factors to what KSUT has faced. These have caused numerous festivals – both major and regional – to close doors, pause, or reimagine their events.

Among the national festivals to go fallow in 2024 were Desert Daze, a psychedelic rock fest in Southern California; Sierra Nevada World Music Festival, a reggae fest in Northern California; Kickoff Jam, a country music festival in Florida; Blue Ridge Rock Festival in Virginia; Sudden Little Thrills, a multi-genre festival in Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Float Fest in Austin, Texas.

Regionally, Telluride Jazz, Telluride Blues & Brews, and Moab Folk Festival all saw decreased ticket sales from prior years. The Ride, a mid-summer rock festival in Telluride, has been forced to present a much smaller indoor festival since the pandemic. Pagosa Folk 'N' Bluegrass and the Tico Time Jam Festival have each been cancelled.

The NPR article cited decreasing consumer confidence in an overall willingness to spend on entertainment and activities. "Due to the cost-of-living increases and higher interest rates, many of the usual festivalgoers are tightening their belts and refusing to fork over as much money for expensive festival tickets and all the accompanying costs of attending festivals," it wrote. "We're also seeing similar downturns in other leisure and hospitality sectors, including theme parks, air travel, hotel chains, and Airbnb."

We are faced with two options: giving up or a rebirth.

We at KSUT are viewing 2025 as a short-term shutdown while we look to find solution opportunities to recover from the significant

revenue losses as a result of producing the festivals.

You may ask what you can do to help. One way you can immediately help is to make a donation to KSUT at <https://donate.nprstations.org/ksut/>. Donations to either KSUT's general operations or to the festivals will help us trim our deficit. Once the station's general ledger is back in the black, fundraising activities for the Four Corners Folk Festival will commence. We hope to build an endowment that will allow the festival to succeed from year to year, regardless of fluctuations in external factors.

As the NPR article notes, most festivals are operated by nonprofits – much like the Four Corners Folk Festival has always done. These nonprofits are searching for event sponsors, major donors, and crowdsourcing in order to produce these events. In the past, festivals relied on the sale of tickets, concessions, and merchandise. These three revenue sources are no longer enough for festivals to operate.

While the festival will not be held in 2025, KSUT does plan to continue its annual Party in the Park, the City of Durango's 4th of July street dance and will explore a handful of small venue concerts. These smaller events have been financially successful and continue our commitment to music discovery in the greater Four Corners region.

If you have questions or comments, please contact KSUT Festival Director Jill Davis at [festivaldirector@ksut.org](mailto:festivaldirector@ksut.org) or Executive Director Tami Graham at [tami@ksut.org](mailto:tami@ksut.org). Thank you for all the years of support of the Four Corners Folk Festival. We look forward to seeing you on Reservoir Hill in the future.

## Doughty new Bison Manager



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

The Southern Ute Wildlife Division is excited to welcome Ian Doughty as the Tribe's new Bison Manager. Doughty is a Tribal member who brings many years of ranching experience to the job. He will be in charge of managing the Tribe's bison herd and the pasture including irrigating and producing hay for the herd's winter feed. Please help us welcome Doughty and if you have any questions for him, his office is on the first floor of the Annex Building, Rm. 130, or call at 970-563-2414.



The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Task Force of Colorado would like to extend their gratitude for the hard work and dedication to Councilwoman Vanessa Torres and Vice Chair Lorelei Cloud.

We thank them for all their hard work and dedication to our relatives, on and off the clock and for keeping their phones open on weekends and holidays. Throughout their terms as Council Members/Vice Chair, they worked diligently to ensure that our mission for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives was successful, but they worked hand in hand with searches, whether it was boots on the ground, updates through communication, policies, awareness, and just having the heart to show up when things got hard for families of MMIR.

We all know that when a relative goes missing, we have a limited amount of time to find answers, or the outcome could be bad. In this movement of finding solutions, both women have fearlessly assisted with resources to help keep, not only our membership safe, but indigenous relatives as a whole.

MMIR is not a movement for recognition, but it is a real-life crisis, in working on this crisis in our area, and in our Native Country, they have both followed through on their commitment to assist in breaking generational trauma for our people. Many may not have seen the work they have done, and many may have, but they both did their due diligence in situations which brought tears, anger, heartache, but let us also provide that they have also brought hope, guidance, respect and honor to moments that were successful.

In this moment, we, as the MMIR Task Force of Colorado want to thank both Lorelei Cloud and Vanessa Torres for all their hard work in this area. It is never easy, but they successfully helped open a path. This path will be forever, and never ending. A lot of work still needs to be done, but it is now open. So, with that being said, Toghoyaqh mamchiu! Chi Miigwech! Nia:wen ki' Wahi! Wóphila Thánka!

Many blessings to you on your journey in life, and may the journey never end, sisters.

Respectfully,  
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Task Force of Colorado

As the year winds down and the holidays arrive, I greatly appreciate and thank our staff for your incredible hard work and dedication. I wish you a holiday season filled with joy, laughter, and the warmth of cherished memories with your loved ones and family. We have accomplished so much together this year, and I am excited to see what we will achieve in the new year. But for now, let's relax, recharge, and celebrate this wonderful season.

Happy Holidays!

-Chairman Melvin J. Baker



### 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, Michael Gerard Tom, Deceased Case No.: 2024-0153-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **FEBRUARY 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM**. All persons having claims against the above estate are required to file them for allowance with the Tribal Court at the stated address on or before the time and date of said hearing, as above set forth or said claims shall be forever barred and all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to appear and answer said Petition and offer evidence in support of their position. The Court will proceed to hear the matter at the date and time set above, or such later time to which the matter shall be continued and to make the determination therein necessary.

Dated this 5th of December, 2024  
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

#### NOTICE OF PROBATE In the Estate Of, Corleen Gloria Rael, Deceased Case No.: 2024-0107-CV-PR

Notice to: Heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors and all other persons claiming an interest in said estate: The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, Ignacio, CO: Greetings: Take notice that a petition has been filed in this cause, alleging that the above decedent died leaving certain assets, and asking for the determination of heirs of said decedent, the administration of said estate including the allowing of creditors of said decedent and for distribution thereof. You are notified that said cause will be set for hearing before the Tribal Court at the above address on **JANUARY 13, 2025 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 19th of November, 2024  
Elizabeth Benally, Deputy Court Clerk

## Drum Deadline

Next issue:  
**Jan. 10**

Deadline:  
**Jan. 6**

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



### THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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



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

#### MAILING ADDRESS

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

#### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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

#### STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES

**The Southern Ute Drum**  
([sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Jeremy Wade Shockley** • Editor, ext. 2255  
([jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Krista Richards** • Administrative Assistant, 2251  
([krichards@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:krichards@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Divine Windy Boy** • Reporter/Photographer, 2252  
([dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:dwindyboy@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Robert Ortiz** • Graphic Specialist, ext. 2253  
([rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rortiz@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Rosaleigh Cloud** • Media Archivist, ext. 2274  
([rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:rocloud@southernute-nsn.gov))  
**Conrad Thompson** • Reporter/Videographer, ext. 2241  
([cotompson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:cotompson@southernute-nsn.gov))

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.



## Notice and Request for Public Comment Triennial Review of Tribe's Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation

In accordance with Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act (codified at 33 U.S.C. § 1313(c)(1)) and Section 3 of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, the Tribe is required to hold a public hearing at least once every three years to review and, as appropriate, modify and adopt water quality standards as may be necessary or warranted to comply with applicable federal regulations or to meet Tribal water quality goals. This is referred to as a "Triennial Review." Pursuant to direction from the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council, the Tribe's Environmental Programs Department is responsible for administering the Tribe's surface water quality standards and for conducting the required Triennial Review. As part of the Triennial Review, the Environmental Programs Department is proposing the following amendments to the Tribe's surface water quality standards:

- 1) Removing the chronic criterion for mercury for aquatic life. EPA is working on an update to the chronic aquatic life mercury criterion. The Tribe will replace this criterion upon EPA's promulgation of a new chronic criterion for this pollutant. The acute aquatic life criterion for mercury will remain in place.
- 2) Adding criteria for two cyanotoxins within waterways with the designated use Primary Contact Recreation. These toxins can be associated with harmful algal blooms and the proposed criteria are protective of humans, pets, and livestock. The Environmental Protection Agency published these recommended values for microcystins and cylindrospermopsin under Clean Water Act section 304(a) to protect recreational uses, and for states and authorized tribes to consider as the basis for swimming advisories for notification purposes to protect public health in recreational waters:
  - a. For an assessment duration of a 1 in 10-day assessment period across a recreational season, and assessment frequency of no more than 3 excursions\* in a recreational season in more than one year:
    - i. microcystins: 8 micrograms (µg)/liter (L)
    - ii. cylindrospermopsin: 15 µg/L
- 3) Correcting certain citations.
- 4) Clarifying that the Environmental Programs Department is delegated authority to administer the Tribe's WQS and is responsible for the triennial review process.

The Environmental Programs Department will hold a public comment period from November 12, 2024, to January 2, 2025, as well as a public hearing at 10 a.m. on January 16, 2025 (date/time subject to change). All comments received during the public comment period and at the hearing will be considered.

- To attend the hearing online, please register here before the event.
- To attend the hearing in-person: Large Conference Room (see enclosed map) Southern Ute Environmental Programs Department 71 Mike Frost Way, Ignacio, CO 81137

The document pertinent to the proposed revisions to the Tribe's surface water quality standards revisions hyperlinked below.

- Redline Showing Proposed Revisions to Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, October 2024

Your organization may submit comments by January 2, 2025, by either of the following methods: Email: [wqs@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:wqs@southernute-nsn.gov). Mail: Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Department, Attn: Geoffrey Hensgen, P.O. Box 737 #8, Ignacio, CO 81137. Please direct any questions regarding the Tribe's standards, or requests to meet, to me at 970-563-2206, [mhutson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:mhutson@southernute-nsn.gov); or Geoffrey Hensgen, Water Quality Program Manager, at 970-563-2805, [ghensgen@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:ghensgen@southernute-nsn.gov); or tribal attorneys Brennah Wilson, at 970-563-2146, [brwilson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:brwilson@southernute-nsn.gov) or Sam Maynes, at 970-247-1755, [smaynes@mbssl.com](mailto:smaynes@mbssl.com). We look forward to receiving your comments.

\* An excursion is defined as a 10-day assessment period with any toxin concentration higher than the recommended criteria magnitude. When more than three excursions occur within a recreational season and that pattern reoccurs in more than one year, it is an indication the water quality has been or is becoming degraded and is not supporting its recreational use.



## Quichas Apartment for Rent

2BR/2.5 BA. \$1,000/mo + utilities. No Pets. Southern Ute Tribal Member Preference. Must pass credit and background checks and have excellent references from previous landlords. Applications are available by email at [kmorris@sugf.com](mailto:kmorris@sugf.com). Use the subject line Quichas Application. You can also pick up an application in person at the GF Properties Group office: 65 Mercado Street, Suite 250, Durango, CO 81301 during working hours Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm. All applications must be filled out completely & legibly and submitted by 5pm January 9, 2025. You must complete a new application even if you have filled one out in the past.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD Southern Ute Indian Tribe Proposed Revisions to Water Quality Standards

A 50-day public comment period on proposed revisions to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's water quality standards will be held from Nov. 12, 2024, to Jan. 2, 2025. These revisions have been proposed as a result of a triennial review of the Tribe's water quality standards and reflect updates as necessary to comply with applicable federal regulation or to meet Tribal water quality goals. For all interested individuals, a public hearing regarding the Tribe's water quality standards proposed revisions will be held on: Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To attend in person: Large Conference Room, Southern Ute Environmental Programs Dept., 71 Mike Frost Way Ignacio, CO 81137. To attend the hearing online, please register at: <http://bit.ly/3NXTng7> before the event. After the event, the live online hearing will be recorded and posted to the Tribe's website. The proposed water quality standards revisions can be found on the Tribe's website at: [https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/department\\_s/epd/public-comments/](https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/department_s/epd/public-comments/). You can submit your comments two ways: On the Tribe's website at: [https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/department\\_s/epd/public-comments/](https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/department_s/epd/public-comments/). Or via email: [wqs@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:wqs@southernute-nsn.gov) (preferred)

## REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY ITEMS FOR SALE

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

1. Snowplow: Fisher 8' comes with frame & wire harness – came off a 2011 F350. Minimum bid \$1,000
2. Snowplow: Meyer 8' comes with frame & wire harness – came off a 2010 F350. Minimum bid \$1,000
3. 2004 Husqvarna GTH2548 attached plow. Minimum bid \$200

\*\*All items are sold as is and will go to the highest bidder (Cash or checks, no cards). You may reach Rebecca Torres at 970-442-6353 or Ken Richards 970-749-7534 with questions and schedule an onsite inspection. Bids must be sealed and labeled per item with name, phone number and which item you are bidding on. Sealed bids are due by noon on January 3, 2025.



1. Fisher 8' blade



2. Meyer 8' blade



3. 2004 Husqvarna

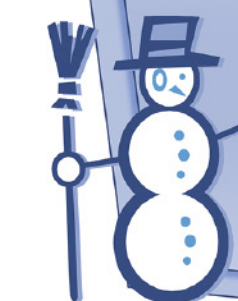


## Southern Ute Digital Equity Program (SUDEP)

### DEADLINE: for the Internet Reimbursement and Router Voucher Programs for Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members

- **Router Voucher Program:** Have you recently hooked up with internet Fiber with either FTI or XMission and want your router paid for by SUDEP? Please contact SUDEP for required documents that need to be filled out. We cannot pay for the router without the completed documents.
- **Internet Reimbursement Program:** If you signed up with FTI or XMission and you requested a voucher for the internet reimbursement program and have not provided your first bill from FTI or XMission the deadline to submit your first bill is 12/13. If we haven't received a copy of your bill by the deadline, your \$75 will not be paid to FTI or XMission until SUDEP receives the bill. Deadline for January is 1/10/25.

Questions? Please contact SUDEP at 970-563-5555  
All forms must be filled out completely to access any SUDEP sponsored program.



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 SUITMs. [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 SUITMs (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)





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR National Park Service

### NOTICE OF INTENDED REPATRIATION

History Colorado (formerly the Colorado Historical Society), Denver, CO

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), History Colorado intends to repatriate a certain cultural item that meets the definition of a sacred object and that has a known lineal descendant.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the cultural item in this notice may occur on or after January 17, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Chance Ward, NAGPRA Collections Specialist, History Colorado, 1200 N Broadway, Denver CO 80203, telephone (303) 866-5751, email chance.ward@state.co.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of History Colorado, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

**Abstract of Information Available.** A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one item is a headdress (E.1993.2) that belonged to Sapiah, or Buckskin Charley. Through consultation with authorized tribal representatives and known lineal descendants, this item has been determined to belong to an individual who performed religious ceremonies, and the headdress is a sacred object. The headdress was removed from La Plata County, Colorado at an unknown date, and later donated to History Colorado (then the Colorado Historical Society) in 1961.

**Determinations.** History Colorado has determined that: The one sacred object described in this notice is a specific ceremonial object needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. A known lineal descendant (name withheld per request) is connected to the cultural item described in this notice.

**Requests for Repatriation.** Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural item in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization. Repatriation of the cultural item in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after January 17, 2025. If competing requests for repatriation are received, History Colorado must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural item are considered a single request and not competing requests. History Colorado is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

**Authority: Native American Graves:** Protection and Repatriation Act, 25. U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: December 11, 2024.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2024-29942 Filed 12-17-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

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

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD

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

### ELECTION BOARD

The Southern Ute Election Board is seeking one (1) 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.

### 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

The Southern Ute Gaming Commission is seeking 1) Full time and 1) Alternate position for specified terms, must be Southern Ute Tribal Members. Applicants must possess the following attributes pursuant to the Regulation One of the Gaming Commission Rules and Regulations: Applicants must be at least twenty-one years of age; Applicants must possess a basic knowledge and understanding of gaming activities authorized on the Southern Ute Indian reservation; Applicants must have experience or expertise in regulatory matters or in administrative hearing procedures; Applicants must have the ability to observe restrictions concerning conflicts of interest and confidentiality; Applicants must submit an application form and a letter of interest explaining why the applicant wishes to be appointed to the Commission; and Applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications may be obtained at the Division of Gaming Office – Licensing in the West Wing of the Justice Complex, 149 County Road 517, Ignacio, Colorado, 81137. Applications and letter of interest are required to be turned into the Division of Gaming Office. These positions are open until filled. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Division of Gaming at 970-563-0180.

### POWWOW COMMITTEE

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

### TERO COMMISSION

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

### TRIBAL CREDIT COMMITTEE

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

## 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
• Friday, Jan. 3, 2025	NOON Monday, Dec. 30, 2024
• Friday, March 28	NOON Friday, March 21
• Friday, April 25	NOON, Friday, April 18
• Wednesday, July 3	NOON, Friday, June 27
• Friday, Sept. 26	NOON, Friday, Sept. 19
• Friday, Nov. 14	NOON, Friday, Nov. 7
• Wednesday, Nov. 26	NOON, Thursday, Nov. 20
• Wednesday, Dec. 24	NOON, Friday, Dec. 19
• Wednesday, Dec. 31	NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 24

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



## Committee of 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. The initial Committee comprised of seven (7) members will be selected by Tribal Council.

### 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.
- An understanding of the Tribe's language and culture is preferred, but not required.
- 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.

### Please submit your Letter of Intent:

- Email: [swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:swhyte@southernute-nsn.gov).
- In-person with the Tribal Council Affairs Receptionist located in the Leonard C. Burch Building; 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO.
- Mail to Tribal Council Affairs, P.O. Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137.

### To apply please submit a Letter of Intent with the following:

- Full Name
- Contact Information (i.e. address, phone number, email address)
- Date
- It is suggested and helpful to include one or more of the following details:
  - Description of why you are a good fit for the position
  - Explanation of your motivation to join the Committee
  - List relevant experience
  - Outline ideas goals for this committee/ how you plan to be involved
  - Disclosure of any other Boards/Committees you currently serve on

*Closing Date: December 31, 2024*

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Affairs at 970-563-2319 or Council Member Marjorie Barry at 970-563-2304



### Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file. Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Human Resources • P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137  
Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424 • Fax: 970-563-0302 • Hotline: 970-563-4777

#### Animal Control Officer

Closes 1/2/25 – Under the general supervision of the Tribal Ranger Sergeant, assures compliance of the Tribal Animal Control Code through enforcement and education. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

#### Legal Assistant I – (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Closes 12/27/24 – Under general supervision of the Southern Ute Public Defender, is responsible for routine office duties which also include the preparation of criminal, traffic, juvenile delinquency, and involuntary commitment cases for hearings, trials, and appeals. Pay grade N12; Pay starts at \$26/hour.

#### Museum Registrar and Archivist

Closes 12/31/24 – Under the general supervision of the Southern Ute Museum Director, management, accuracy, and accessibility of the Museum's collections records and archives. Pay grade E14; pay starts at \$64,155/annually.

#### Receptionist

Closes 12/27/24 – Performs reception duties for the Southern Ute Tribal organization, including, but not limited to, operation of the telephone switchboard, greeting visitors, providing information about the Tribal government, and referring callers or visitors to the appropriate office for assistance. Performs clerical duties for the Tribal Information Services Director and other Departmental Divisions as needed, including mail processing and distribution. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

#### Southern Ute Tribal Ranger

Closes 12/27/24 – Under the general supervision of Tribal Ranger Sergeant and Ranger Captain, assures compliance of all Tribal Natural Resource Codes, Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Policies. Pay grade N13; Pay starts at \$28.60/hour.

#### Administrative Assistant II

Open Until Filled – Performs administrative, secretarial, and clerical support for the Economic Development office. Assists the Economic Development Manager and Transportation Division Head with monitoring and compiling reports, statistics, and budgets. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

#### Animal Care Technician – (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – Under the general supervision of the Tribal Ranger Sergeant, assures the care of impounded animals and other duties related to the care of the site and the animals. Pay grade N7; Pay starts at \$17.37/hour.

#### Audit Assistant – (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – Under the general supervision of the Director of Internal Audit and other internal audit staff as assigned, the audit assistant will perform administrative tasks for the department and project level support, including introductory level audit procedures. To gain experience, duties assigned are to familiarize the employee with the more complex auditing work that is performed by an associate internal auditor. Providing support to internal auditors with audits, reviews, assessments, and other engagements. The secondary responsibility is providing administrative support for the department, including audit record retention. Pay grade N11; Pay starts at \$23.63/hour.

#### Bus Driver (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Provides Bus driving services for the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy (SUIMA). Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

#### Chief Judge Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – An apprentice position for a Southern Ute Tribal member to learn all the requirements and duties of the Chief Judge position in the Southern Ute Tribal Court. Mentoring, training, and all aspects of employee supervision will be performed by the current Chief Judge or delegate in accordance with SUIT Personnel Policies and Procedures. For purposes of employment, the successful candidate shall be classified as an apprentice. The Judicial Review Committee shall also provide insight, guidance, and recommendations when needed. The length of the trainee program is two years to five years depending upon experience and individual progress. Performance will be evaluated pursuant to the requirements of the Tribal Apprenticeship Program and annually with the Tribal Judicial Committee. Will be eligible for wage increase based on performance evaluations and policies governing this position. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, will transition into the Chief Judge Lay position. This position is non-exempt and will start at 20% below grade E22.

#### Controller

Open Until Filled – Integrity and timeliness of the financial information of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Prepares financial statements for distribution for internal and external reporting, including consolidated statements. Supervision and oversight of the accounting staff in the preparation of financial information. Responsible for the offices of General Ledger/Fixed Assets, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, and Contracts and Grants. Pay grade E19; the salary range begins at \$114,968.00/year.

#### Custodian

Open Until Filled – Daily cleaning of Southern Ute Indian Tribe Buildings and offices. Pay grade N6; Pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

#### Dentist (Part-time w/Benefits)

Open Until Filled – Providing, clinical, health promotion and disease prevention, and educational services for the Dental Division. Pay grade E22; pay starts at \$113,890.20/year.

#### Detention Cook

Open Until Filled – Assisting the Food Service Coordinator to facilitate all kitchen food service preparation and cleaning duties. Pay grade N8; Pay starts at \$18.76/hour.

#### Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Transportation of inmates to and from other facilities, medical appointments, and court appearances. Pay grade N13; pay starts at \$28.60/hour and includes a potential 5k DOE sign-on bonus.

#### Director of Strategic Planning

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

#### Dispatcher

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

#### Dispatcher Trainee

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

#### Early Childhood Teacher

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

#### Economic Development Project Coordinator

Open Until Filled – Under general direction of the Economic Development Manager, will assist with projects to develop, plan, organize and implement economic development functions from conception to completion, involving programs related to Tribal Member small business development and entrepreneurship. Promoting the small business and economic development interests of the Tribe. Pay grade E13; Pay starts at \$59,494/year.

#### Elementary Teacher

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

#### Events/Heritage Coordinator

Open Until Filled – Planning and organizing various traditional cultural events, develops heritage tourism activities, and coordinates cultural camp for youth. Pay grade N12; Pay starts at \$26/hour.

#### Gaming Investigator I

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

NOW HIRING




photo Divine Windy Boys/SU Drum

**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>

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>



### 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.

### Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

#### Group Exercise Instructor

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

#### Heavy Equipment Operator

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

#### HVAC Technician

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

#### Lake Capote Manager Apprentice (Southern Ute tribal members only)

Open Until Filled – To provide the Southern Ute Tribal Member Apprentice with training, education, and hands-on experience in all phases of managing the Lake Capote Recreation Area (LCRA). The time frame for program completion is planned for 1 year, unless there are circumstances requiring an extension or reduction in the training period. Will start at 20% below the grade for Lake Capote Manager and receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases.

#### Lifeguard (Full-time)

Open Until Filled – Lifeguard activities at the Community Recreation Center swimming pool, in accordance with the guidelines established and approved by Fitness Director and/or Community Director. Pay grade N5; pay rate starts at \$14.90/hour.

#### Patrol Officer I

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

#### Property Manager

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Economic Development Director, this position will manage the day-to-day operations of various Tribal properties including leasing activities, marketing, maintenance, and administrative functions. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/annually.

#### Public Health Nurse

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

#### Scorekeeper (Part-time)

Open Until Filled – Keeps accurate scores for sporting events held by SunUte Recreation Department. Pay grade N6; pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

#### Security Officer

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

#### TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

#### TERO Worker

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

#### Transportation Division Head

Open Until Filled – Directs, oversees, and coordinates all functions and activities related to the Southern Ute Transportation Division for road and bridge improvements and maintenance of Tribal transportation facilities. Provides oversight and management of transportation projects from conception through completion including PL.93-638 projects. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

#### Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

#### Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal members only)

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

#### Umpire/Referee

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

#### Water Quality & Remediation Division Head

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Environmental Programs Director, planning and management of Southern Ute Indian Tribal Water Quality, Brownfields, and General Assistance Programs. Pay grade E18; Pay starts at \$99,984/year.



### 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.

#### Accounting Technician – Red Cedar Gathering (Durango, CO)

Closes 1/10/25 – Providing accounting and administrative support to the Accounting, Engineering and Operations teams. Works collaboratively with and presents a positive and professional image to internal customers and vendors.

#### Geological Technician II – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/24/25 – Provides technical and administrative support to the Geologic team, works closely with geoscientists to provide maps and database maintenance for projects; and works routinely within geographic database programs, such as ArcGIS and other oil and gas specific

mapping platforms. Works with Engineering, Land, and Operations teams as needed. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

#### Geological Technician III – Red Willow Production Co. (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/24/25 – Provides lead technical and administrative support to the Geologic team, works closely with geoscientists to provide maps and database maintenance for projects; and works routinely within geographic database programs, such as ArcGIS and other oil and gas specific mapping platforms. Works with Engineering, Land, and Operations teams as needed. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

### Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

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

#### \*Café Cashier (Full-time)

Providing friendly and courteous service to all guests in a fast-paced work environment. 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.

#### \*Creative Content Specialist (Full-time)

Creation, coordination, implementation, and administration of brand, sponsor, image, and property graphical programming as it relates to all digital media mediums at Sky Ute Casino Resort. Focal point for all that occurs at the Casino Resort with digital media with a specialty in social media. Provides top-to-bottom digital media planning and execution including: research, software, coordination, design, graphical creation, review process, execution, and removal of all digital media; strategic planning of Social Media Campaigns, sets up and manages schedules and rotations for all internal digital media programs, social media platforms and the Casino's website; and assists with crisis managements.

#### \*Event Coordinator (Full-time)

Leading special events and promotions from conception to post event follow up. Working closely with the Marketing team on design work and copywriting, as well as implementing the marketing strategy while maintaining the highest level of customer service and guest interaction. Communicating with outside vendors to coordinate all Marketing assets for events and promotions. Reports directly to the Marketing Manager.

#### \*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.

#### \*Player Development Host (Full-time)

Identifies, develops, and creates relationships with Sky Ute Casino Resort gaming patrons. Facilitates VIP events that enhance the overall gaming experience. Fosters an environment that results in generating gaming related revenue measured by more trips and increased spending. Assists with all facets of the Sky Ute Casino Resort Bear Club and Player's Center as needed. Reports directly to the Player Development Manager. Must be organized and plan events appropriately.

#### \*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 Busser (Full-time)

Perform multiple tasks and duties within the restaurant and kitchen as instructed by supervisor and management. Clearing off and sanitizing tables for next group guests, disposing of trash and other waste and keeping the restaurant stocked with adequate supplies such as plates, glasses, silverware, and napkins. Will help cooks, servers and dishwashers perform small tasks as needed. Bussers cross-train to perform multiple food and beverage functions as directed by supervisors and managers.

#### \*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. You 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.

#### \*Security Supervisor (Full-time)

Always ensures the safety and welfare of the guests and employees. Supervision of Security officers for day-to-day operations on the casino floor and surrounding property. Must maintain a professional, courteous, and communicative relationship with the Casino customers and employees. Must carry out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with Gaming Code, Internal controls and Casino policies and procedures. Prepares detailed reports for accidents, illnesses, and incidents pertaining to worker's compensation, property, casualty, and matters affecting Casino property.

#### \*Senior Player Development Host (Full-time)

Reports directly to the Director of Marketing and assists in supervising all facets of the Sky Ute Casino Ace's Club and Player's Center while having a complete understanding of player data and player development philosophies. Operations and administrative duties of the Ace's Club and administers the staffing requirements and schedules of the Host team. Assists the Promotions Coordinator in completing monthly rewards for casino club card holders. Ensures compliance with all applicable gaming regulations, fields customer complaints, stocks and maintains inventory for the players club, manages the preparation of monthly promotions, and produces necessary reports as required.

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

Ensuring a safe and secure environment for Casino customers and employees by observing, reporting, and recording gaming and non-gaming activity using surveillance equipment to abide by all procedures, gaming regulations, and policies and protect the Southern Ute tribal assets from illegal and questionable activities.

### SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

Visit our website to apply at [www.sococaa.org](http://www.sococaa.org) or call 970-563-4517. Jobs open until filled.

#### Road Runner Transit:

- Transit Driver (Part-time) \$18.94/hr.

#### Ignacio Youth Services:

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

#### SoCoCAA Central Administration:

- Executive/Development Director \$75,275 – \$82,638/yr. (Up to \$3,000 in relocation expenses available.)
- Program Developer (Part-time) \$32.97/hr.

#### Ignacio Early Learning Program:

- Substitute Teacher (Part-time) \$14.42/hr.

### Ignacio School District – Job announcements

Application/Information: 970-563-0500 ext. 221

Job info, descriptions and application: [www.ignacioschools.org/employment-cdac2310](http://www.ignacioschools.org/employment-cdac2310)

- High School Head Soccer Coach
- High School Football Head Coach
- Middle School Soccer Head Coach
- Route and Activity Bus Driver
- Substitute Bus Driver
- Substitute Teacher

### Piinu Nuuchi Park Temporary Closure

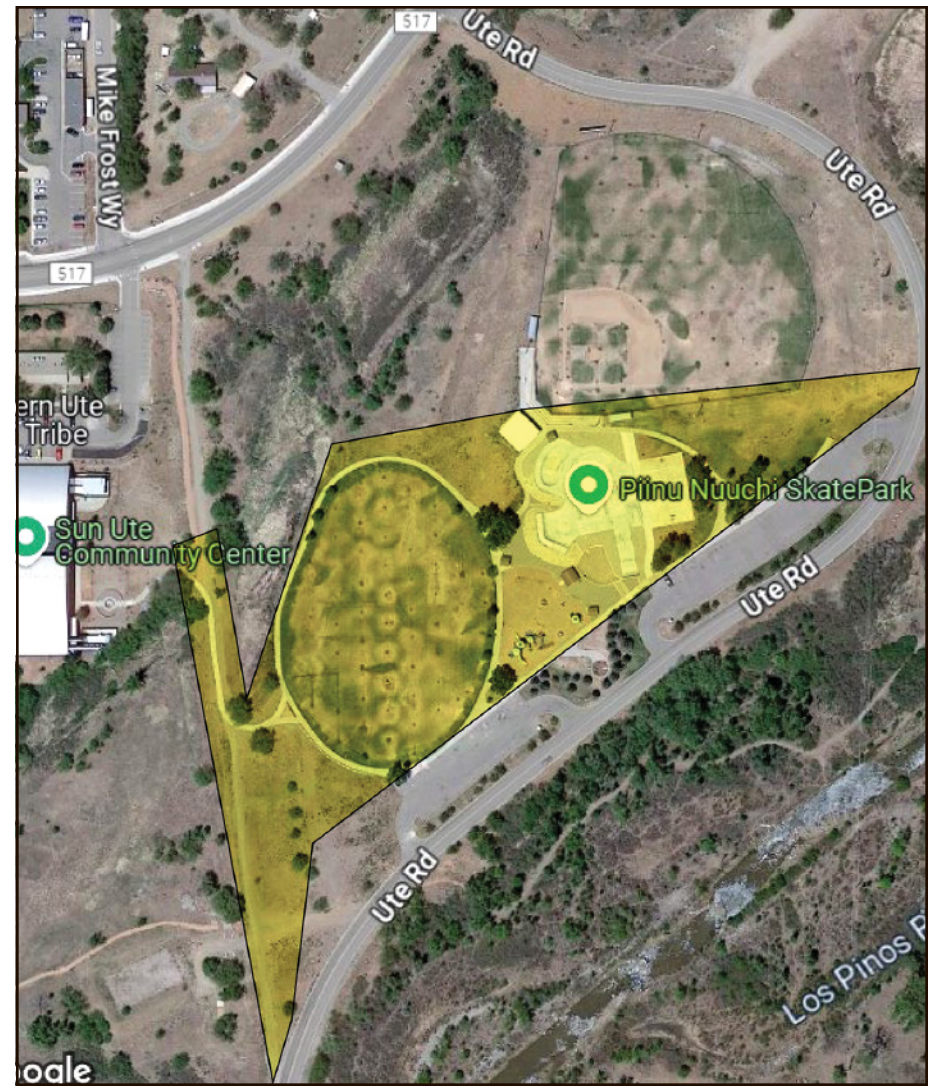
Dear Tribal Members and Staff,  
Starting Wednesday, Dec. 11, and ending approximately Jan. 10, of the New Year, there will be construction teams installing new solar-powered light poles around Piinu Nuuchi Park.

This work will require temporary closures of sections of the park for the safety of both park users and construction teams. At times, these closures will prevent access between the SunUte Community Center and the Park and will also include intermittent closures of the skate park. We ask that you please respect these temporary closures for the safety of all. The map attached depicts the extent of the areas that will be closed at times.

We appreciate your patience as these teams work, and we look forward to unveiling the new nighttime lighting in the New Year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Derrell Lindsey  
Construction Project Manager  
Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management



### Southern Ute Agriculture Division Hay For Sale

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Agriculture Division has hay for sale to Tribal members. The hay was produced by the Agriculture Division on the Pivot Irrigation Demonstration Farm. This hay is about a 60/40 grass alfalfa mix. Small bales are approximately 65 pounds each and large bales weigh approximately 1,100 pounds each. Small bales are \$9 per bale and large bales are \$140 per bale. This hay is available on a first come first serve basis and when its gone no more hay will be available until June 2025. The maximum limit per sale is 160 small bales or 8 large bales. Contact the Agriculture Division Office at 970-563-2900 or stop by at 655 CR 517 to purchase. Cash, checks or money orders only. No cards.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Check out Southern Ute Drum's new multimedia features and videos on Vimeo.  
<https://vimeo.com/1022663867>

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
SOUTHERN UTE AGENCY**

### IRRIGATION SYSTEM OPERATOR

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY:**

- Visit [USAJobs.gov](http://USAJobs.gov)
- Search for "Irrigation System Operator"
- Set "Ignacio, CO" as the location

This is a GS-4 position and does include a Native American preference for candidates.

CLOSING DATE:  
JANUARY 2, 2025

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
SOUTHERN UTE AGENCY**

### OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY:**

- Visit [USAJobs.gov](http://USAJobs.gov)
- Search for "Office Automation Assistant"
- Set "Ignacio, CO" as the location

This is a GS-5 position and does include a Native American preference for candidates.

CLOSING DATE:  
JANUARY 10, 2025

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
SOUTHERN UTE AGENCY**

### FORESTER

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY:**

- Visit [USAJobs.gov](http://USAJobs.gov)
- Search for "Forester"
- Set "Ignacio, CO" as the location

This is a GS-9 to GS-11 position and does include a Native American preference for candidates.

CLOSING DATE:  
DECEMBER 30, 2024

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Seven-year extension of endangered fish recovery programs

**Staff report**

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATORS  
HICKENLOOPER AND ROMNEY

U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Mitt Romney cheered the inclusion of their bipartisan Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act as part of the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation extends the programs that protect four threatened and endangered native fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins for another seven years. The bill now heads to the president's desk.

"Local communities, Tribes, water users, and Congress – we're all in to protect our native fish and rivers," said Hickenlooper. "These programs are tried and true. Our extension will help continue them to save our fish and make our rivers healthier."

"By giving Utah the tools it needs to comply with complicated federal mandates, this legislation will support our state's efforts to recover threatened and endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan Rivers," Romney said. "I'm pleased to see it included in this year's NDAA and hope to see it signed into law soon."

Hickenlooper and Romney previously helped secure a one-year extension for the programs in the 117th Congress. The fish recovery programs are widely celebrated success

stories in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. In November 2021, the Fish and Wildlife Service downlisted the humpback chub from "endangered" to "threatened" thanks to the recovery programs.

Specifically, this legislation will:

- Extend the programs that study, monitor, and stock the four threatened and endangered fish species, manage habitat and river flows, and combat invasive species through 2031, providing certainty for Upper Basin water use and fulfilling the federal government's trust responsibility to Tribes.
- Ensure continued Endangered Species Act compliance for 2,500 water projects spanning federal, Tribal, and non-federal jurisdiction, including every Bureau of Reclamation project upstream of Lake Powell.
- Authorize up to \$92 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to contribute annual cost shared funding for program implementation, continuing work to stock the threatened and endangered fish species, conduct research, manage habitat and river flows, combat nonnative species, and operate fish passages and hatcheries through fiscal year 2031.
- Add up \$50 million to the authorization ceiling

for capital projects, which will fund infrastructure improvements essential to recovery of the endangered and threatened fish.

- Enable program partners to deploy their own commitments, enlisting the Upper Basin states, Tribes, and non-federal partners to provide their own contributions to meet shared species recovery goals.

"Colorado is thrilled to see the bipartisan support and Colorado congressional delegation leadership for the reauthorization of the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs," said Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources. "This multi-state effort works to recover some of Colorado's most iconic native fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. They also represent an amazing partnership between water users, non-profit organizations, state, federal, and Tribal agencies to ensure Endangered Species Act compliance for a wide variety of water projects."

"Grand Valley Water Users Association is grateful for the Reauthorization of the Endangered Fish Recovery Program," said Tina Bergonzini, General Manager, Grand Valley Water Users Association. "We take the protection of our native fish and Endangered Species Compliance seriously, and we're glad our legislators agree!"

## FLY FISHING

### Things I have forgotten

By Don Oliver  
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM



Recently Terri and I, along with our friends' friends John and Kim, booked a trip to Charleston, South Carolina. The trip was to include three days of fly fishing for redfish for me and John, three days of shopping and touring for Kim and Terri, and a day of touring and fine dining for the four of us. It was a great plan on paper. However, I had forgotten one important item and a minor one.

The really important item I had forgotten was the weather in the areas where you cast a fly to redfish. Redfish inhabit the coastal areas all along the Gulf of Mexico, then up the east coast to who knows where. For all the trips I have taken to chase redfish, I almost always lose a day of fishing due to weather. The disrupting weather can be anything from winds that will blow you off a casting deck, to rainstorms that will last twenty-four hours, to cold that will go through everything you brought to stay warm.

The weather in Charleston turned our three days of fly fishing into two days. I know, and just forgot, when booking a redfish trip reserve an extra day to account for the lost weather day. The first day of our trip was windy and

cold. However, we saw lots of redfish and caught one.

Day two was warmer and the wind was a light breeze. We were into fish within thirty minutes of launching the boat. The fishing was great for about three hours, then the weather turned windy and cold. The third day was a "don't get on the water day." Had we booked a fourth day our three days of fishing would have happened.

As I haven't been fly fishing on saltwater for the better part of a year. I forgot to do something else that will help make a trip successful. Before heading to Charleston, I forgot to strip the lines off the spools of my saltwater reels. After stripping the lines off the spools I needed to pull them through a chamois cloth. Doing that will help remove the loop memory in the line that has been tightly wrapped around

the spool on your reel. By removing the loop memory, your fifty-foot cast will actually travel fifty-feet, not the thirty-five feet loop memory creates. To help make the loop memory less of an issue, you can do several things at the end of a trip. First, rinse the saltwater off your line. After rinsing the line, coil it in large loops to dry. Once the line is dry reel it, loosely, through a chamois cloth onto the spool. This will help your next cast.

The one item I didn't forget, when traveling with someone that isn't fly fishing, go to a destination that has many things to do. John and I did a really good job in picking Charleston. Since our designated day to spend with our wives, turned into two days, extra activities were needed. Charleston provided great restaurants, wonderful walking and horse drawn buggy tours, and a really great hat shop that had three of us sporting new head gear. John and I also found a five-star cigar shop with a lounge that had really comfortable leather chairs.

I plan to keep this column taped to my saltwater reels. Hopefully, I'll read it and not make the same mistakes I did for this trip. If you believe that will actually happen, you haven't been on a fly fishing trip with me.

### The Southern Ute Drum's Crossword Puzzle

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

**Across**

- 1 Erato or Calliope
- 5 George Du Maurier novel
- 11 Asian inland sea, now much smaller than it was
- 12 Check your work
- 13 Friend, in Australia
- 14 Acid found in rhubarb leaves
- 15 Amber Tambllyn novel
- 17 Rubber ducky's home
- 18 Mangy mutt
- 19 "Pandora's Box" painter --- Magritte
- 21 Magazine edition
- 23 Dream stopper
- 27 Zilch
- 29 Anatomical pouch
- 30 Cowboy boot attachment
- 33 Way out of style
- 35 Band from east of the Continental Divide
- 37 The kissing disease, casually
- 38 Isle ruled by Morgan le Fay
- 39 Home of an arboreal rodent
- 40 Input anew
- 41 1981 Warren Beatty movie

**Down**

- 1 Woman
- 2 Planet beyond Saturn
- 3 Nymph fanciers
- 4 California tribe centered on Clear Lake
- 5 Chophouse selection
- 6 "Wonder Dog" of comics
- 7 Novelist --- Allende
- 8 --- Belle Everidge, WWII Choctaw SPARS member
- 9 Elton John or Paul McCartney
- 10 "That's disgusting!"
- 16 Measure by which land is sold
- 20 Flatbread of India
- 22 Rambunctious
- 24 On dry land
- 25 Spoiled a parade
- 26 Hatfields' enemies
- 28 --- Chapman - "Dog the Bounty Hunter"
- 30 Injury reminder
- 31 Almost invisible jewelry setting
- 32 Maugham's "---- the Villa"
- 34 Spock's rank: abbr.
- 36 Blouse or shirt, for example

Answers will appear in the January 10 issue of the Drum.

**Answers for December 13, 2024 Crossword Puzzle**

**Across:** 1 Algal, 6 GPRS, 10 Verde, 11 Ohoh, 12 Ogema, 13 Odor, 14 NSAIDs, 16 Smog, 18 Stoop, 20 TVs, 21 Sty, 23 Una, 24 OEM, 25 Las, 26 Tiles, 28 Yips, 30 Copper, 33 Cold, 35 Moapa, 36 Hoar, 37 Acres, 38 In by, 39 Sheep.  
**Down:** 1 Avon, 2 Legs, 3 Greasy spoon, 4 Admit, 5 Lead out, 6 Goo, 7 Ph Ds, 8 Room to spare, 9 Shrove, 15 Sonic, 17 GSM, 19 Palomas, 21 Sly, 22 Tai Chi, 27 Epoch, 29 Slab, 31 Epee, 32 Rasp, 34 Dry.

### 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.



### LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Dec. 27



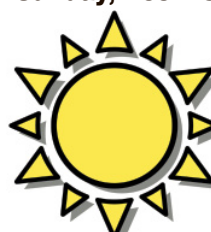
Partly sunny 41°F  
Chance of snow showers

Saturday, Dec. 28



Mostly sunny 43°F

Sunday, Dec. 29



Mostly sunny 48°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov

