

LPEA works to protect eagles

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Ushering in the new year

PAGE 11

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January 10, 2025 Vol. LVIII, No. 1

Southern Ute Drum multimedia features now on Vimeo



Conrad Thompson/SU Drum

The demolition of the Southern Ute Vocational School – Head Start building began on Monday, Oct. 14; a centerpiece of the Southern Ute Boarding School (Ignacio Boarding School), which operated in Ignacio, Colo. from 1886-1981.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Athletes from the three Ute sister tribes gathered for the Tri-Ute Games in Ignacio, hosted once again by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Wednesday, July 10 – Friday, July 12, competing in co-ed basketball, volleyball, wrestling, golf, archery, skateboarding, hand games, and the Ute Warrior challenge. The TriUte Games encourage friendly competition, good sportsmanship, and interconnection as the young athletes compete in their respective sports and events.

The Drum presents Year in Review 2024

Looking back on 2024, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe put the focus on community and youth empowerment, bringing back the Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council and hosting this year's Tri-Ute Games at SunUte Community Center. The Tribe once again made important steps towards language preservation and water resource management, working at the state and federal level on Colorado River Basin negotiations, while also creating a Ute Language Program Manager position under Cultural Preservation. Other notable milestones include growth in the economic sector, implementation of high-speed broadband service and cultural resilience through community programming and powwows. See "Year in Review" on pages 12-13.



Krista Richards/SU Drum

Howard Richards Sr., former tribal chairman and commander for the Southern Ute Veterans Association sat before the State Senate at the Colorado State Capitol in Denver, Thursday, April 18, for the confirmation hearing for his appointment to the Colorado State Board of Veteran Affairs by Governor Jared Polis. Richards is the first Native American to serve on the State Veteran's Board in Colorado.

LIFT THE LABEL

Southern Ute Tribe: Recovery Stories

Marvina Olguin

My name is Marvina, and I am Ute Mountain Ute.

I am the peer recovery coach for Southern Ute Health Center's Behavioral Health Division. I work in the community with people struggling with addiction and alcoholism. I also participate in the Wellness Court Team and the Family Treatment Court Team at the Southern Ute Justice Center.

One of the important things I do is to change perceptions about addiction and help people see the benefits of things like naloxone and fentanyl test strips. At first, some people aren't ready to see the benefit, but explaining how it can save a life helps to change their perception.

For some, addiction still isn't talked about. It's swept under the rug. But addiction is here. We've lost a lot of community members to it. In fact, death and substance use disorder have become common enough that there's starting to be a sense of normalcy around it. And we can't change that until we start having conversations about addiction and stigma. So, we're trying to change the perception of people who don't use substances while also informing those who do know about resources that are available to them.

We need to make resources even more accessible. Some Native American communities face additional challenges to get to those resources. Even Behavioral Health is located 11



courtesy Lift the Label

Marvina Olguin of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe.

miles away in Durango, Colo. That's why I'm willing to meet people anywhere as a peer recovery coach.

There are ways in which the Southern Ute Tribe has come together to fight addiction. We've collaborated with different departments of the Tribe, the division of social services, family court support, the police department, and the Tribal courts. We're pushing people to work together and overcome addiction, primarily through the events we put on. We're

focusing on the youth and showing them how to have fun without using drugs and alcohol through their own culture.

Our culture can be a tool in fighting addiction. Returning to my roots and using ceremonies like the Bear Dances, the Sundance, making connections at the powwow, and being at the cultural events, create a bridge to other generations, teach us about our culture, and create the connection we need to overcome addiction.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Howard Richards Jr., Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southern Ute Agency, enjoys a slideshow of images from his 30 plus years as a wildland firefighter during his retirement party, Thursday, Dec. 19.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Richards leaves behind 30 plus year legacy as wildland firefighter

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
 THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

Howard Richards Jr., Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southern Ute Agency, was given a retirement party on Thursday, Dec. 19 in the large classroom of the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum.

Richards is a 30-year veteran in the field of wildland firefighting. Richards served as the Task Force Leader on the historic Cameron Peak Fire in 2020, where he was stationed near Red Feather Lakes, Colo. He also served as Incident Commander (IC) for the Bear Dance Fire and Six Shoot-



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Hewn from a slab of wood harvested from the 1550-acre Bear Fire on the Reservation in 2007, and forged together with a wildland firefighter's ax, a handmade trophy was presented to Howard Richards Jr., by Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southern Ute Agency in appreciation for his many years of service.

er Fire on the Southern Ute Reservation.

Richards started his career in 1993 with the Forest Service, his wildland

firefighting career in May of 1994. In 2008 he became a Fire Operation

Richards page 2

Introducing Tribal Council



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum

Introducing the newly elected Southern Ute Tribal Council for 2024-25, pictured left to right: Andrew Gallegos, James Mike Olguin, Linda K. Baker, Melvin J. Baker, Chairman, Marvin Pinnecoose, Vice Chairman, Marge Barry and Marty Pinnecoose in the Hall of Warriors. The Southern Ute General Election was held Friday, Nov. 1, followed by a runoff election on Friday, Dec. 13 for the two open council seats. The Southern Ute Tribal Council warmly welcomed Linda K. Baker and James “Mike” Olguin during the inauguration ceremony held Monday, Dec. 16 in Tribal Council Chambers. Both newly elected Council members bring extensive experience and dedication to serving the Tribe and the Tribal membership.

Many Moons Ago



Damon Toledo/SU Drum archive

RICHARDS LEAVES 30 YEARS • FROM PAGE 1



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southern Ute Agency firefighters stand together with personnel from two Type 6 Engine Crews from Fort Lewis Mesa (Brush 73) and Los Pinos (Brush 88) in 2022 – crews were on site ready to respond to fires on the Southern Ute Reservation.

Specialist. One of Richards’ long-term goals was to bring on more Tribal members into permanent positions within the BIA Southern Ute Agency, in addition to facilitating plans for a new building to house the BIA’s Southern Ute Agency with additional amenities and space.

“Howard’s great attribute has been his levelheaded and steady approach to fire management,” said Rich Gustafson, BIA Southern Ute Agency Fire Management Officer. “He has set the tone for the necessary deliberate and thoughtful approach to wildland fire management and response.

In 1994 he started work-

ing for Forest Development with the BIA here in Ignacio, Gustafson said. He moved over into the BIA Fire Management Program in 1995 and then took a job with Tribal Forestry. Richards then worked for Tribal Forestry for six years before starting full time at BIA Fire as the Assistant Fire Management Officer for the past 10 years. Richards’ highest fire qualifications achieved during that time were Incident Commander Type 3, Fire Investigator, Task Force Leader and Prescribed Burn Boss 2.

“Howard Richard’s excellent decision making has ensured that everyone he has managed over the years has

gone home to their families at the end of each shift,” Gustafson said. “An accomplishment that is very much worth taking pride in.”

It’s been a good run, Richards said to those attending the retirement party. It’s been a lot of sacrifice of time where I couldn’t watch my boys play sports or do other activities and always being on call for fire. But I’m glad I can leave while my body is still working.

Richards said he looks forward to some upcoming travel and spending more time with his family, while potentially lending a hand over at the Southern Ute Agency during the upcoming fire season.

10 years ago

Carletta Hayes from the Cultural Preservation Department helps Dominic GoodTracks construct a wooden tipi.

This photo was first published in the Jan. 9, 2015, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

20 years ago



Beth Santistevan/SU Drum archive

Evelyn Burch retired after 24 years of employment with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Dec. During a reception in her honor, Acting Tribal Chairman Melvin J. Baker presented Evelyn with a Pendleton blanket. Other gifts and cards were presented by her colleagues. Enjoy your retirement, Evelyn!

This photo was first published in the Jan. 7, 2005, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



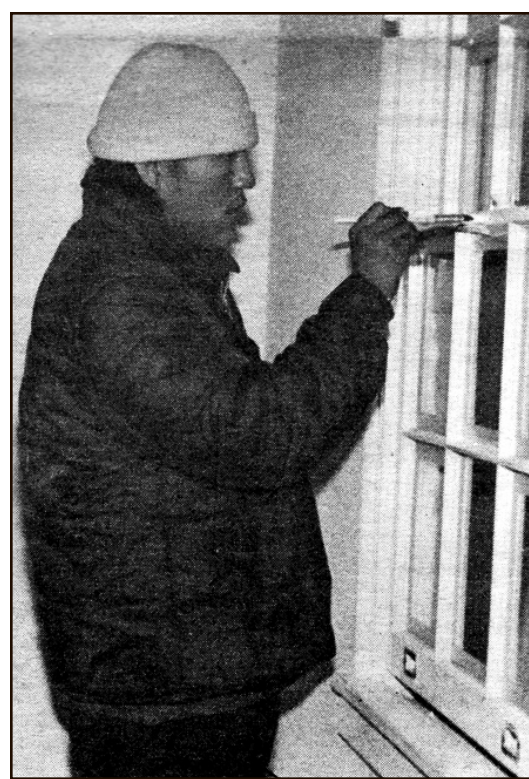
Robert Baker/SU Drum archive

30 years ago

Excellent buck. Tribal member Trinidad Pena harvested this 7 x 8-point buck. It measured 5.5” around the bases and had a spread of 36.5”.

This photo was published in the Jan. 6, 1995, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.

40 years ago



SU Drum archive

Keith Thompson – part of the crew who is remodeling the old clinic building. Thompson was painting the old waiting room.

This photo was published in the Jan. 11, 1984, issue of The Southern Ute Drum.



Tribal Office Closure

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Permanent Fund, Growth Fund, and SUSS offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.



Christmas Social Powwow



photos courtesy Dominika Joy

Southern Ute Brave, Theoden Greany and Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz recently attended the Christmas Social Powwow in Towaoc, Colo. on Christmas Eve.



Luminaries & ornaments



photos Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum

Jaela Velasco and Samantha Pinnecoose decorate salt dough ornaments during the Luminary Lights & Ornament Decorating event held at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. On Monday, Dec. 23, ahead of the holidays, community members were invited to enjoy hot chocolate, biscochitos, ornament painting and rows of luminary lights outside the facility. Attendees also stopped by the gift shop to pick up last-minute Christmas gifts for their loved ones.

Hundreds of luminary lights lit up the pathways to the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum on Monday, Dec. 23 as part of the Luminary Lights & Ornament Decorating event. The rows of luminaries made for a delightful sight ahead of the Christmas holiday and led the way to a family fun event for all to enjoy.



Multi-Purpose Facility Community Pow Wow Saturday January 25, 2025



Gourd Dance Sessions - 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM -
-Dinner Break - Pot Luck 5:00 PM - Grand Entry - 7:00 PM

Save the Date Head Staff to Be Announced

Limited Vendor space available

Arts & Crafts Only- call Stais at 970-563-2640



Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
Call for more information 970-563-2641 or 970-563-2642



Southern Ute Royalty Committee Process for Requesting Southern Ute Royalty

Greetings Tribal Elders, Tribal Membership, and the community,

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

2024-2025 Southern Ute Royalty

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

As the newly crowned Southern Ute Royalty, we are honored to represent the Southern Ute Tribe at our cultural events and community events locally and throughout the region. To ensure we receive requests efficiently and can respond in a timely manner, we have a digital [Southern Ute Royalty Request Form](#) that can be found on the Southern Ute Royalty Committee website, or you can contact the Royalty Committee Secretary, Alyssa Nez, at suroyalty@southernute-nsn.gov. 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

LET'S LEARN UTE

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I love you.

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I love my family.



Free Legal Clinic for people without an attorney

Every third Tuesday 4:00 - 5:40 PM
at Ignacio Community Library

Appointment only call (970)563-9287
to signup or for more info.

HEALTHY RECIPES

Instant Pot black-eyed pea stew

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

No need to soak beans, peas, or lentils if you can use an instant pot!

Filled with fiber and flavor, protein, and good luck, too, black-eyed peas make a scrumptious stew.

The beauty of the instant pot is throwing all the ingredients in together, setting the pressure and walking away to do other things while it is cooking.



courtesy Moving Moment/AdobeStock

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

Healthy Skillet Dinner

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 carrots, cut into coins
- 3 celery ribs, diced
- 1 15oz can fire roasted tomatoes
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 6 cups vegetable or chicken broth (can also use in combination and/or water)
- 1 pound bag dried black-eyed peas, rinsed
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons Cajun seasoning like "Slap Ya Mama"
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Turn instant pot to sauté, add olive oil.
2. When hot, add onions, sauté for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add carrots and celery, sauté for another 3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Turn off sauté feature, add garlic, stir to combine.
5. Pour in broth, tomatoes, dried black-

eyed peas, Cajun seasoning, bay leaves; stir to combine.

6. Close lid, pressure cook on High for 17 minutes (make sure vent is closed!)
7. Let release naturally for 15 minutes.
8. Release remaining pressure by turning vent to open.
9. Once all pressure is released, open lid, stir to combine. Remove bay leaves.
10. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Tips:

Serve with crusty whole grain or sourdough bread. This recipe thickens over time. It is even more delicious the second day! This can be frozen in an airtight container for 3 months (cool completely before freezing). If you don't want to sauté the veggies first, then don't!

Serves 12, Serving size about 1 cup
Nutrition per serving: 253 Calories, 8.4g Fat, 17.5 g Carbohydrates, 5.5g Fiber, 7g Protein

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEE HEARD: Starting the new year with exciting plans

By Tamara D. Turner
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2025 promises to be an active and fruitful year at Behavioral Health! We have all kinds of new groups and events coming up to keep in mind and put on your calendar.

As of Monday, Jan. 6, a new therapist and a new counselor joined our team. Keep an eye out for the new employee announcements through TIS. This will bring our total number of therapists/counselors to seven. We are especially glad to announce this because, as some of you may know, we have had a waitlist for nearly three months now. With the addition of these two new staff members, we are aiming to place almost all individuals who are on the waitlist in the coming weeks.

In 2025, we will be starting a family group to support those who have a family member struggling with substance use. This group is open to anyone in the community, not only clients. We know that it is critical to approach such challenges through family strengths and relationships. It's not just about supporting the person struggling with substances, but also important to provide services for those family members who care for and love them.

Behavioral Health will also be focusing more on youth mental health in the coming year and beyond.

We look forward to working with other youth serving departments and organizations to collaborate and make a greater impact to support young people.

In late January 2025, we plan to launch a new breath and movement group, open to the whole community, with the intention of cultivating a more connected and peaceful relationship with one's own body. The group is open to all ages and will serve as another support and skill-building group. We aim to create a calm time away from the bustle of life to connect more deeply.

Our peer recovery coaches are currently in the process of planning our third annual Recovery Retreat, May 16-17; mark your calendars! We have had a fabulous turnout and positive feedback in the last two years with some participants traveling for hours to attend. Stay tuned for more information. May 16 will be a professionals' day: a day for mental health and recovery professionals to share information and network. May 17 will be a day open to anyone who wants or needs support, information, and connection around recovery, including various approaches to prevention, intervention, and ongoing support.

Our mission is to support you for any and all challenges in a positive and non-judgmental environment. Please feel free to take advantage of any of the free

services we offer. And if you have questions, you can reach us at 970-563-5700.

We know that life can be hard and present obstacles that are hard to deal with on our own. Remember this:

1. None of us are meant to walk this road alone.
2. It takes strength, humility, and courage to reach out and ask for help!

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.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Dial 988

for mental health emergencies.

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

#WeNeedYouHere

IT HAPPENS

Norovirus doesn't have to.

Norovirus can be spread by people who didn't wash their hands.

Don't be one of them.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

[cdc.gov/norovirus](https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus)

January 2025

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

Spanish Chickpea Stew

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMFJan2025>

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, January 27

Pickup Date: Wednesday, January 29

Meal Kit Includes:

- Primary ingredients
- Recipe / Prep Tips
- Kitchen Hacks

Contact:
Lisa B. Smith (970)-563-2344

If you need to schedule a different pickup time/date, please reach out to Lisa

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

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



DIALECTICAL BEHAVIORAL (DBT) GROUP THERAPY

WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY

WHERE: Youth Groups Will Be Held At The IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY
&
Adult Groups Will Be Held VIRTUALLY

TIME: 1:00PM - 2:00PM (Youth)
2:30PM - 3:30PM (Adult 18+)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Cedra Etesam (970).563.2297

The CDC website link below is provided to access additional information related to the Norovirus for those who are interested.

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html>

Norovirus season is November through April. This means we are in the middle of it. How can you protect yourself and others? Wash your hands! Norovirus is the most common "GI bug" that causes vomiting and diarrhea. Hand sanitizer is not the best defense against Norovirus. The best way to ensure staying healthy is to wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. Soap actually lifts the virus off your hands and washes it down the drain. Work up a good lather and scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. Also, you should not prepare food for anyone else while you are sick and until at least two days after you are feeling better. For further inquiry, please call (970) 563-4581.

SOUTHERN UTE HEALTH CENTER

69 Capote Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137
(970) 563-4581
<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/tribal-health/health-center/>

Clinic Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed 12-1PM for lunch)

Pharmacy Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Lunch Closure: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

**** The Health Center is closed from 12-5PM every 1st Thursday of the month for department meetings**

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
marogluin@southernute-nsn.gov
Preston Barry, Peer Recovery Coach
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

UTE ELDERS AND THEIR FRIENDS

WORKOUT CLASSES - SUNUTE CAPOTE ROOM

Tuesday's and Thursday's
10am-10:45am

UPCOMING NOTICES:
NO CLASS AUGUST 20TH AND 22ND

CONTACT ELIYAH
970-563-2658
FOR ANY QUESTIONS

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

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

Stay tuned for a Benefits Portal coming soon!



McKayla Lee/Drum archive

Shyda Howe helps her son Reggie decide which picture he wants to cut out and color while they get to know his new teacher and classroom during SUIMA's open house.

SUIMA

Pawaaghani po'okwatu – Eagle's Nest

Focus on lessons and challenges

By Mari Jo Owens
Principal



Mari Jo Owens
Principal
Southern Ute Indian
Montessori Academy

The holiday season is behind us, and the students stepped right back into their academic and daily school routines. We look forward to these winter months as the focus is on lessons and challenging each student to excel in whatever area they find an interest in. By returning to school after a two-week break, colds and the flu will hit again. Please encourage your child, and those around you, to cover their coughs, wash their hands, drink plenty of water, and get a good night's sleep.

Montessori Tidbits

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that the relationship of child to adult should be one of trust, confidence, and acceptance, together with a belief in the child. Encouraging words should relay these feelings to the child. Our guides and teachers use these words frequently. In an effort to "bring Montessori home" I am sharing with you our words of encouragement.

"You do a good job of ..."

Children should be encouraged when they do not expect it and when they are not asking for it. Even a comment about something small and insignificant to us, may have a great importance to a child.

"Let's try it together."

Children often fear making mistakes or failing. To help children with something new, work together and help them understand that it doesn't have to be perfect.

"Everyone makes mistakes. Now, what can you learn from your mistake?"

The mistake can't be changed, but there is something to be learned so the same mistake will not happen in the future.

"Keep trying, don't give up."

Encouragement, when it is needed the most, is essential.

"I'm sure you can figure this out, but if you need any help, please come to me."

Encourage a child to solve their own problems. Adults need to show confidence that the child is able to do this.

Upcoming SUIMA events

- Every Friday: Early Release at 2 p.m.
- Jan. 9 – School Board meeting
- Jan. 20 – No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 21 – Parent Advisory Group meeting
- Jan. 22 – Family Night

LPEA Youth Tour and Scholarship Applications Now Open

LPEA is excited to announce two opportunities for students in our community. Applications are now open for:

- **2025 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.** – A leadership experience for high school juniors to explore the nation's capital and learn about the electric cooperative industry. The deadline to apply is January 2, 2025.
- **Scholarship Programs** – Financial support is available for graduating seniors and GED recipients pursuing higher education or vocational training. Applications are due March 1, 2025, with an informational webinar coming up on February 12.

Thanks for considering sharing these opportunities with your audience. Please see below for more details and don't hesitate if I can help in any way.



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.

Science Fair success!



courtesy Ignacio School District

Thank you to our teachers, judges, and families for supporting these young scientists. Our students showcased their creativity, hard work, and scientific brilliance with innovative projects that amazed the judges. The following students and projects will be invited to participate in the San Juan Basin Regional Science Fair at FLC on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

- Paisley Vezeau and Kenya Abaroa - The Mandela Effect: Perception of Truth
- Lily Quintana - Anxiety, Depression, and Music Genre
- Gia Mendoza - Fetal and Maternal Health: Predicting Birth Injuries
- Cadence Vezeau - Collaborative Filtering and Movie Recommendation using Python
- Paden Smithson - Reptile Climate Control using Raspberry Pi and Python
- Kelly Sirios and Thunder Windyboy Hebert - The Impact of Caffeine on Sleep Health
- Shawn Sanderson and DJ Hendren - Impact of Exercise Routine on Body Composition
- Alahna Cundiff and Brandon Blevins - Impact of Vehicle Features on Gas Consumption

We couldn't be prouder of all our participants who dedicated countless hours to their research and presentations. Your passion for learning is truly inspiring! A huge thank you to our teachers, judges, and families for supporting these young scientists.

THE SOUTHERN UTE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

GED AND ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY • WORKPLACE
READINESS • ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

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

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

MORE INFORMATION
(970) 536-2784
Email Andrea Schultz at
aschultz@southernute-nsn.gov

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

Southern Ute Education Department

After School Tutoring

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

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

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

For more information please contact:
ShaRay Rock
srrock@southernute-nsn.gov
970-563-2794



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Funding to support wood processing facilities and help reduce wildfire threats on federal and Tribal lands

Staff report

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today unveiled a new program to support American wood processing facilities. USDA Rural Development is partnering with USDA Forest Service to provide funding through the new Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program (TPEP). The program will support the processing and utilization of wood products from National Forest System lands to improve forest health and reduce the risk posed by wildfires, insects, and disease and the detrimental impacts they have on communities and critical infrastructure.

This program is funded through President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It also reflects the goals of the President's Investing in America agenda to rebuild the economy from the bottom up and middle out, and to strengthen the nation's infrastructure.

"Rural America is the backbone of our country, providing the everyday essentials we all depend on," Secretary Vilsack said. "Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development is partnering with the Forest Service to support timber industry innovations that improve forest health and reduce wildfire threats while creating good-paying jobs for people in rural, forest-dependent communities."

Through TPEP, USDA Rural Development and the Forest Service will make \$220 million available in loan guarantees for borrowers to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve wood processing facilities, sawmills and paper mills, that use trees harvested from federal or Tribal lands. The program is designed to manage up to 20 million acres of national forests managed by

USDA Forest Service and complement the Forest Service's 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

USDA Rural Development began accepting TPEP applications on Dec. 26, 2024, with a maximum loan amount of \$25 million. USDA encourages applicants to use the TPEP Dashboard to find areas the Forest Service has identified as high or very high priority areas to address the risk of wildfires and insect infestations or disease, which have caused or have the potential to cause significant damage.

USDA encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities;
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to USDA Rural Development programs and benefits from Rural Development-funded projects; and
- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

Applications must be submitted electronically using Grants.gov and will be accepted until funds are expended.

Additional information will be available in the Dec. 26, 2024, Federal Register. To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, visit www.rd.usda.gov or contact the nearest USDA Rural Development state office.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities

such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. Visit the Rural Data Gateway to learn how and where these investments are impacting rural America. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology—and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LPEA awarded federal grant to protect eagles and upgrade high-risk power poles

Staff report

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association Inc. (LPEA) is the proud recipient of a power pole mitigation grant from the Eagle In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program. Authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2018, the Eagle ILF Program is the first of its kind operating under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

LPEA plans to use the grant to implement eagle electrocution mitigation measures on 100 high-risk distribution power poles, ensuring that industry standards for "avian-friendly" criteria are met. In most cases, LPEA's mitigation efforts will involve retrofitting existing power poles to provide 60 inches of horizontal clearance and 40 inches of vertical clearance, significantly reducing the risk of electrocution for eagles and other wildlife. This initiative not only safeguards local eagle populations but also reduces power outages and wildfire risks.

"This grant underscores



courtesy USFS

A bald eagle sits upon an electrical pole. The Eagle ILF Program is the first of its kind operating under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

LPEA's commitment to environmental sustainability and providing dependable power to our communities," said Chris Hansen, CEO of LPEA. "By protecting wildlife and reducing risks to eagles on our power poles, we are prioritizing both the well-being of our environment and the reliability of our service."

Operators of wind turbines or other infrastructure posing a risk of eagle mortality can seek an incidental take permit from the USFWS and may purchase credits from the Eagle ILF Program. Credit fees support critical

mitigation efforts, such as the work LPEA will undertake with this grant, that compensate for unintentional (incidental) eagle mortality on permitted infrastructure.

The exact value of the grant will be determined once the scope of work is finalized. LPEA will collaborate with Eagle Electrocution Solutions, the Fort Collins-based operator of the Eagle ILF Program, to complete the project in 2025. To learn more about LPEA's efforts to protect wildlife and ensure reliable power for our community, please visit lpea.coop.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

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.

Southern Ute Utilities Division
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND | 1/08/25

JANUARY UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFER STATION 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- JAN 1ST NEW YEAR'S DAY — CLOSED
- JAN 20TH MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY — CLOSED
- FEB 17TH PRESIDENT'S DAY — CLOSED
- MAY 26TH MEMORIAL DAY — CLOSED
- JUNE 19TH/20TH JUNETEENTH — CLOSED
- JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY — CLOSED
- SEPTEMBER 1ST LABOR DAY — CLOSED
- OCT 13TH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV 10TH/11TH VETERAN'S DAY — CLOSED
- NOV 27TH THANKSGIVING DAY — CLOSED
- DEC 10TH LEONARD C. BURCH DAY — CLOSED
- DEC. 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The NEW 2025 Trash Permits are ready—please pick up at the Transfer Station Ramp or Utilities Office.
- During inclement weather, Water Haul deliveries may be delayed and Transfer Station may be closed. Always be cautious on the Ramp, it may be slippery.
- New Southern Ute Utility Outage Notification Alert System is active. Sign up to be notified of any outages or delays. Questions? Call Utilities Office.

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: Jan. 8th / Feb. 5th / March 5th

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at: 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

2025 HAPPY NEW YEAR

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, CALL UTILITIES OFFICE.
PO Box 1137 16360 Hwy. 172 Ignacio, CO 81137 (970) 563-5500 www.suitutil.com

SAVE THE DATE

MMIR AWARENESS PRAYER WALK
Saturday May 3, 2025

Photo credits: Southern Ute Drum Robert Ortiz and Krista Richards

CONTACT US
mmirtaskforceco.com
mmirtaskforceofco.com



courtesy LPEA

San Juan Mountains Association promotes the exploration and protection of public lands in Southwest Colorado through stewardship and conservation education for people of all ages.

LPEA ROUND UP FOUNDATION

LPEA announces 2024 Round Up Foundation grants

Staff report

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Round Up Foundation proudly announces its 2024 year-end impact, reflecting the generosity and community spirit of its members. Through this program, LPEA members round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, collectively funding grants that uplift local non-profits and provide vital community support.

In 2024, the Round Up Foundation distributed \$177,677 to 50 nonprofit organizations across La Plata and Archuleta counties, advancing initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents. Through the participation of 16,715 LPEA members, 33 nonprofits received \$128,969 in Round Up grants, supporting a diverse range of community programs.

Additionally, Round Up funds contributed \$123,155 to the Community Emergency Assistance Coalition and \$10,221 to the Pagosa Outreach Connection, providing vital emergency assistance to individuals and families in need. Beyond member contributions, unclaimed capital credits were used to fund educational grants, with more than \$62,708 allocated this year to support local education initiatives.

Registered nonprofit organizations in La Plata and Archuleta counties can apply for up to \$5,000 per grant request through the Round Up Foundation. These grants have funded initiatives in education, environmental sustainability, healthcare, and social services, helping to address a wide range of community needs. Application forms and additional



courtesy LPEA

Powerhouse Science Center is an interactive science center located in Durango, Colo.



courtesy LPEA

Casting for Recovery provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer.

details are available at lpea.coop/round.

LPEA members who wish to participate in the Round Up program can sign up via SmartHub or at lpea.coop/round-foundation. On average, members contribute approximately \$7.00 annually – a small change that makes a big difference. Members also have the option to donate

additional amounts monthly to further support local nonprofits automatically.

“Through the collective power of our members’ monthly contributions, we’ve been able to make a substantial impact,” said Carrie Hugas, Community Outreach Specialist with LPEA. “The Round Up Foundation embodies the strength and generosity of our community, and we’re grateful to all who participate.”

For more information on how to contribute or apply for a grant, visit lpea.coop/round-foundation.

LPEA Round Up Foundation

The Round Up Foundation is a philanthropic initiative of La Plata Electric Association, supporting local non-profits and programs that enhance community well-being. Since its inception, the program has empowered countless organizations to create lasting, positive change in La Plata and Archuleta counties.



courtesy LPEA

Parkers Animal Rescue: Foster-based rescue organization dedicated to finding loving homes for abandoned dogs.

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.

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Statement on the passing of former President Jimmy Carter

Summer Begay
TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe extends its deepest condolences to the Carter family during this difficult time. President Carter's life was a testament to remarkable service, leadership, and unwavering advocacy. His legacy will forever be intertwined with the lives of countless individuals, including those within our Tribal community.

President Carter's commitment to justice and

equality is evident in the landmark legislation he signed:

- The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIR-FA) recognized the inherent right of Native Americans to practice their traditional religions, including the use of sacred sites and ceremonial objects.
- The Tribal Controlled Community College Assistance Act empowered Tribal Nations to establish and operate their own higher education institutions, fostering self-determination and cultural

preservation. • The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) strengthened Tribal sovereignty and ensured the well-being of Native American children by prioritizing their placement with family members or within their Tribal communities.

These acts represent a significant step forward in recognizing and upholding the rights and sovereignty of Tribal Nations. The flags on Tribal campus were lowered until his funeral services on Thursday, Jan. 9.

AIR QUALITY

Hickenlooper, Bennet welcome \$341 Million to cut methane in Colorado

Staff report
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR
HICKENLOOPER

U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet welcomed \$850 million from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Methane Emissions Reduction Program to fund projects that reduce methane emissions and combat climate change, including \$341 million for six Colorado-based projects. The funding comes from the Inflation Reduction Act, which Hickenlooper and Bennet helped pass into law.

“Methane emissions are driving our climate crisis and putting Coloradans’ health at risk,” said Hickenlooper. “As governor, we set the global standard on methane regulations. Now Colorado will lead the fight to stop these emissions at the source – all thanks to our Inflation Reduction Act.”

“Colorado has been a national leader in addressing methane pollution from the oil and gas industry,” said

Bennet. “This funding helps ensure Colorado will continue leading the way towards cutting dangerous air pollution, slowing the rate of climate change, and growing our clean energy economy.”

Methane is a climate pollutant many times more potent than carbon dioxide, especially in the near-term. Human-caused methane emissions are responsible for at least 25 percent of the climate warming we are experiencing today.

In total, the EPA announced over \$850 million for 43 projects, with over \$341 million going to two Colorado organizations; Colorado State University, to reduce methane emissions from existing wells, improve data monitoring of methane emissions and Pioneer Energy, Inc., to deploy technologies that reduce methane emissions from oil and gas production

As governor, Hickenlooper brought together environmentalists and the oil industry to create the world's first methane reg-

ulations. Those regulations were used by President Obama as a model for national standards which in turn were used as a basis for the international methane pledge in 2021.

Hickenlooper and Bennet have consistently worked to cut methane emissions and strengthen federal oil and gas methane rules, modeled on Colorado's. In 2021, Hickenlooper and Bennet led members of the Colorado congressional delegation to push the EPA for stronger methane regulations for the oil and gas sector. In 2023, the senators sent multiple letters to the EPA urging them to more accurately track methane emissions. In October, Hickenlooper celebrated the announcement of \$162.3 million in loan guarantees from the Inflation Reduction Act to support the fabrication and installation of a real time methane emissions monitoring network across Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, North Dakota, and New Mexico.

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.

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.



COLORADO TRANSPORTATION

Victims join CDOT to launch “Heads Up, Phones Down, Colorado!” campaign

New ‘hands-free’ law expected to reduce crashes

Staff report
COLO. DEPT. OF
TRANSPORTATION

Victims of distracted driving crashes are helping CDOT underscore the importance of Colorado’s new hands-free law. Effective Jan. 1, using a cellphone or other mobile device for any reason while driving is illegal in Colorado, unless a hands-free accessory is used. That includes making phone calls, texting or handling your phone in any way when you’re behind the wheel, requiring all drivers to use a hands-free device.

On Aug. 2, 2023, 10-year-old Oliver (“Ollie”) Stratton was hit and killed by a distracted driver while crossing the road on his bike in Larimer County. The driver who struck Ollie in the intersection was texting and driving at the time of the incident.

“Distracted driving is a silent epidemic that is claiming lives and devastating families. We miss our 10-year-old son Ollie dearly and grieve with those who have lost loved ones to this preventable crisis,” said Clarissa Stratton, the mother of Oliver Stratton. “Colorado’s new hands-free law is a crucial step toward safer roads. Let’s all work to prioritize road safety by committing to undivided attention when driving. I ask that you do it for our Ollie.”

Robye Nothnagel, another victim of distracted driving, was struck in Denver in 2017 as she crossed the street. The driver was an 18-year-old teen who was texting. As a result of the incident, her pelvis was broken in four places and her tibia was shattered. Nothnagel still faces struggles in her recovery, such as nerve damage and daily pain from her injuries.

As the victim of a texting crash, I am thankful that we finally passed a law that it is against the law to hold a phone while driving,” Nothnagel said. “Too many people die or are injured due to distracted drivers. Be safe out there.”

Studies show that using a mobile device while driving increases the risk of a crash by two to six times. In 2023, distracted drivers were involved in 10,333 crashes in Colorado. That is 28 crash-

es every day involving a distracted driver, on average.

To raise awareness of the new law and educate Coloradans on the dangers of using a cell phone while driving, CDOT has launched the “Heads Up, Phones Down, Colorado!” campaign. The campaign includes outreach on social media, paid ads and a collaboration with key stakeholders such as AAA-Colorado, the Colorado State Patrol, Bicycle Colorado, OtterBox and safety partners throughout the state.

“Driving is not a multi-tasking event – it requires your full attention. The rise of distracted driving and phone use behind the wheel has become a major safety concern,” said Shoshana Lew, executive director of CDOT. “The hands-free law is a critical step toward reducing the risk of crashes and protecting all road users. It’s time for all drivers to put their phones down, keep their heads up and drive with both hands on the wheel.”

Penalties for violating the new law in Colorado start with a \$75 fine and two license suspension points for the first offense. First-time violators can have the charge dismissed if they provide proof of purchasing a hands-free accessory. Repeat offenders face higher fines and more license suspension points. The law includes exemptions for individuals reporting emergencies, utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders and individuals in parked vehicles.

“Using your phone or any other device while driving is a distraction, even when you’re stopped at a red light or sitting in traffic. The hands-free law applies at all times, and we are committed to enforcing it to keep everyone on the road safe,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol.

Colorado drivers are encouraged to obtain a hands-free accessory to comply with the new law. These include dashboard/phone mounts, car speaker systems and Apple CarPlay/Android Auto. CDOT has partnered with OtterBox, a Colorado-based phone case company, to promote hands-free accessories and offer dis-

counts to drivers throughout the year.

Colorado joins 29 other states in prohibiting the use of hand-held mobile devices while driving. States with similar laws have reported decreases in distracted driving crashes. In Michigan, a 2023 law banning hand-held cellphone use led to a 12.8% decrease in distracted driving crashes within the first year. In Ohio, fatal crashes involving a distracted driver declined by 19.4% following a ban on hand-held cellphone use.

For more information on the hands-free law, visit cdot.gov/handsfreeco.

Also, effective Jan. 1, 2025, Colorado’s child restraint system law has been updated. The changes include:

- **Booster seats:** Children must now use a car seat or booster seat until they are nine years old (previously under eight years old).
- **Rear-facing car seats:** Children under two years old and weighing under 40 pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing car seat in the rear seat if available (previously under one year old and under 20 pounds). Children under two years old but weighing over 40 pounds may use either a rear-facing or forward-facing car seat.
- **Seat belt or car seat requirement ages:** Children under 18 years old must now be properly restrained in a seat belt or child restraint system (previously under 16 years old).
- **For more information on the updates to Colorado Child Passenger Safety Laws, visit CarSeatsColorado.com.**

Finally, enforcement of weaving in and out of Express Lanes is being expanded, beginning Jan. 1, 2025:

- **Drivers who enter and exit Express Lanes outside of designated areas in the Central 70 (between I-25 and Chambers Road), I-25 South Gap (between Larkspur and Monument) and US 36 corridors will face \$75 fines beginning Jan. 1.**
- **Weaving in and out of the Express Lanes is extremely dangerous and increases the risk of a crash.**

Multi - Purpose Facility January 2025 Events



Monthly Event Calendar

- 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

- January Pow Wow—Saturday January 25, 1:00 PM—11:00 PM**
- MPF Food Sale—Wednesday January 29, 2024**

• Events are subject to change—watch for announcements.

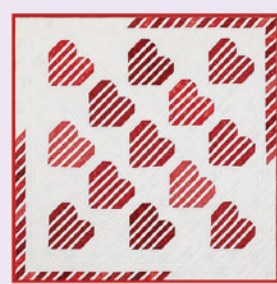
Multi-Purpose Facility 256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
970-563-2640 - multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov

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

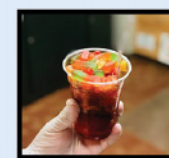
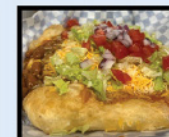
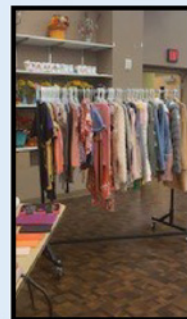


Multi-Purpose Facility January Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday January 11, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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



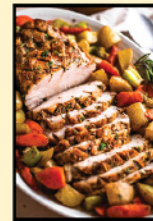
Make and Take Crafting
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



256 Ute Road, Ignacio CO
Call the MPF to reserve your table 563-2640
e-mail multipurpose@southernute-nsn.gov



MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY Sip, Chat & Chew Friday January 17, 2025 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



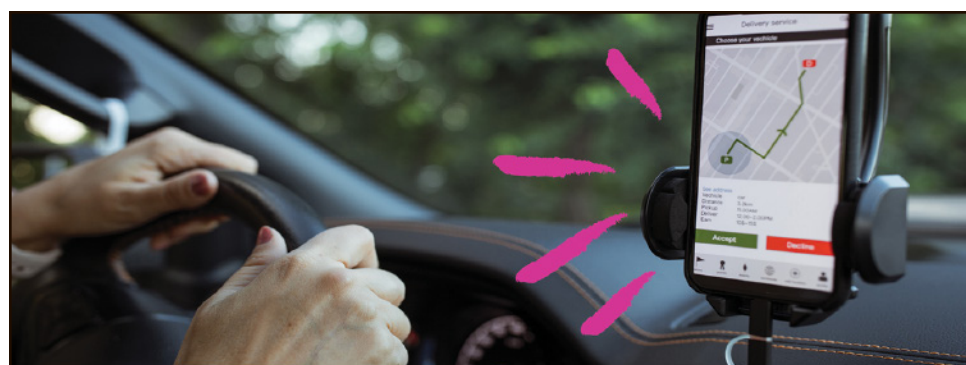
Sponsored by The So. Ute Legal Department

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

Door Prize donations are welcome -- Youth Door Prizes are welcome for the youth drawings.



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



Look Ma, no hands!

A hands-free accessory is now required to use your cellphone while driving, per new Colorado law effective Jan. 1.



Heritage Games return to SunUte



The Southern Ute Veterans Association, Southern Ute Royalty, and Stoney White Thunder-Lucero perform ahead of the women's game during the Native American Heritage NCAA Games in the SunUte gymnasium.



Skyhawk guard #11 Eva Kingston plays defense during the heritage games, the FLC Skyhawks went on to win the game with a score of 114-33.



Skyhawk guard #0 Malachi Coleman makes a steal and dunks on Saturday, igniting the crowd. The FLC Skyhawks went on to win against the Navajo Tech Skyhawks.



FLC Skyhawk #10 Katie Lamb looks to pass the ball as Navajo Tech Skyhawk #10 Sarah Dennison closes in on defense during the heritage games on Saturday.

Photos by Divine Windy Boy
The Southern Ute Drum

SunUte Community Center hosted the Fort Lewis Skyhawks and Navajo Tech Skyhawks on Saturday, Jan. 4 for the returning Native American Heritage NCAA Games powered by NABI Nation. This event featured a free throw contest, concessions, and men's and women's collegiate games for an exciting evening of free family fun. Paying homage to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and its cultural practices the Southern Ute Veterans Association, Southern Ute Royalty, and Stoney White Thunder-Lucero kicked off the evening with a powwow style Grand Entry performance ahead of the games. SunUte Staff and Southern Ute Royalty also gifted bundles of traditional medicine to both teams and their coaches, showing gratitude to the athletes. The Native American Heritage NCAA Games filled the SunUte gymnasium with spectators and families.



PREMIER BOWLING ALLEY AND ARCADE AT SKY UTE CASINO RESORT!

Rolling Thunder Lanes is a family-friendly bowling experience with 24 lanes, video game arcade, great food, and an exciting entertainment escape!

Perfect for special group events, birthdays, or just time with friends and family.

Check out our daily specials at skyutecasino.com.





Walking into 2025 with prayers



Walkers begin the five-mile walk, which started at the Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park, then headed north on HWY 172, across CR 317, then south on CR 517, ending at Ouray Cemetery with an honor song by elder, Hanley Frost.

Family members of the late "Saaswanis Hiswaqs" Robert Buckskin gathered with other walkers as inspirational words were shared on sobriety. Grandson, Sinuuv Larry carries his late grandfather's staff, that has been on many of the New Year's Day walks in the past.



Lilley Powell and Brandi Archuleta, both of the Tribal Health Clinical Services, pause for a break during the walk.



Alana and her father, Bo Watts take a break with oranges, snacks and water, at the half-way point.



Daisy Blue Star speaks of her role in helping to organize the annual sobriety walk, along with daughter of Robert Buckskin, Oolcu Buckskin.

2025 began with the annual New Year's Day Sobriety Prayer Walk, beginning at the Southern Ute Veterans Park and ending at the Ouray Memorial Cemetery on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. About 20 walkers braved the brisk morning temperatures to trek the five miles to begin 2025 with prayers, keeping with tradition and continuing the walk, "Saaswanis Hiswaqs" Robert Buckskin began in the early 1990's.

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz
The Southern Ute Drum

Celebrating New Year's Eve with song



Singers assembled around two drums, as they sang songs ushering in the New Year with songs and a blessing at midnight, bringing in 2025.



Southern Ute elder, Axle Box and Ute Mountain Ute elder, Dan Clark are served a meal provided by community members.



Cindy Winder and Cynthia Buckskin are among those who sat around the drum.



Jr. Miss Southern Ute, Leandra Litz and Little Miss Southern Ute Alternate, Olyvia Watts listen as Ute Mountain Ute Young Warrior, Kiowon Cantsee, welcomes those in attendance to the New Year's Eve Celebration.



Neida Chackee and her daughter Sarafina welcome those in attendance to the New Year's Eve Celebration. Chackee acknowledged the families who had been putting the celebration on prior to her taking it over, after the passing of Alex Cloud who organized the more recent celebrations.

The annual New Years Eve Celebration once again rang in the new year at the Multi-Purpose Facility, Dec. 31. Neida Chackee and her family, with the help of community members organized this year's event, as the late Alex Cloud previously assumed the duties of organizing the event. Chackee told those in attendance, "this is not my event, this belongs to everyone." The annual celebration had been run by the Kent family prior to Cloud taking it over, up until his recent passing.

Photos by Robert L. Ortiz
The Southern Ute Drum

The Southern Ute Drum presents

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DEMOLITION



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Crews from FCI bring down the structural walls using an excavator, Monday, Oct. 14. Over the next several months, Construction & Project Management will be working to carry out the demolition and specific material preservation work as directed.



Krista Richards/SU Drum archive

The Southern Ute Vocational School – Head Start building is set against the backdrop of the Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, which made their way over the southwestern night sky, Thursday, Oct. 10.

POLIS APPOINTS RICHARDS TO VETERANS AFFAIRS



Krista Richards/SU Drum archive

Howard Richards Sr. (center) stands with grandsons, Aeden Richards and Meonahan “Joe” Howell in the Colorado State Capitol in Denver, Thursday, April 18, following the confirmation hearing for his recent appointment to the Colorado State Board of Veteran Affairs by Governor Jared Polis. Richards is an honorably discharged Vietnam veteran having served with the Ninth Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta from Jan. 1 – Aug. 16 of 1969.

DANCING SPIRIT ARTS CENTER OPENS



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

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



Robert L. Ortiz/SU Drum archive

The nearly completed Dancing Spirit Center for the Arts building, located at 465 Goddard Ave., in Ignacio has appealing aesthetics and compliments Ignacio's current architecture. The center will house an arts gallery, performance space and a pottery room.

TRIBE OPENS PANDA HEMP GIN



SU Tribal Council Affairs/SU Drum archive

Southern Ute Tribal Council and Growth Fund leadership take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for Panda Hemp Gin facility in Wichita Falls, Texas on Thursday, June 13. Panda Biotech partnered with the Growth Fund's Aka Ag LLC in April 2023; the facility will process industrial U.S. grown hemp straw that will be used for textiles, straw, and pellets

TRIBE HOSTS TRI-UTE GAMES



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum archive

Winners and judges of the Tri-Ute skateboarding competition stand together for a photo after the announcement of winners.

Tri-Ute wrestling took place at the Ignacio High School Aux Gym, athletes from each team went head-to-head in their respective weight classes and even sparred towards the end of day one.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum archive

TRIBES TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST STATE



Elliott Wenzler – Colorado Sun/SU Drum archive

Southern Ute Chairman Melvin Baker, right, and Ute Mountain Ute Chairman Manuel Heart are welcomed into the Colorado House chambers on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, to address a joint session of the legislature. Baker emphasized resolving sports betting in his 2023 and 2024 addresses to the legislature.

SINCLAIR SHINES BRIGHT

Ignacio's Thriftway gas station and mini mart has already begun to take on a newer, more modern look in recent months. A worker with Ram Studios Signs out of Farmington, N.M. puts the finishing touches on the new Sinclair branding which now adorns the fuel pump canopy, Thursday, March 21



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive



2024: A Year in Review

SEMINOLE HOSTS NATIVE COLOR GUARDS



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Southern Ute Veterans Association members: Raymond Baker (U.S. Navy Retired), Bruce Valdez (U.S. Army), Gordon Hammond (U.S. Marines), Bruce LeClaire (U.S. Army), served alongside other Native Color Guards throughout the weekend during Florida's largest annual powwow hosted at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla., which brought Native Color Guards from across Indian Country for the "Battle of the Guards."

CDOT COMMEMORATES GRANDVIEW BRIDGE



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

Key project contributors gather for a photo following the Grandview Interchange dedication ceremony, Thursday, May 9. Partnering agencies on the multi-year project included CDOT, Federal Highway Administration, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, City of Durango, La Plata County and Lawrence Construction Co.



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

HEALTH CENTER LABORATORY TAKES SHAPE



Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU Drum archive

The crane set for the new Southern Ute Health Center's modular laboratory building took place Friday, March 29. The building was delivered onsite as three form fitted units, strategically set on its stem walls, or permanent foundation, by Eagle Crane out of Durango, Colo.

DUFFY-WIRTH, TAYLOR RETIRE



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum archive

Southern Ute Tribal Council and Executive Officer, Lindsay Box stand alongside LaTitia Taylor after the presentation of Pendleton blankets, a tradition within the Tribe that honors individuals for their hard work and dedication throughout their careers.

VELASQUEZ SPEAKS ON CAPITOL HILL



DAGFoto - FCNL/Su Drum archive

Kristean Velasquez joined 300 plus young advocates who set out for Washington, D.C. to lobby their members of Congress to support a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies on Capitol Hill, March 16-19.

Executive Officer, Lindsay Box and SunUte Director Apprentice, Morgann Graham presented a Pendleton blanket to Robin Duffy-Wirth on Thursday, June 6 in the Hall of Warriors for her years of service and dedication to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Duffy-Wirth has worked for the organization for 22 years and has been an integral part of the Tribe.



Divine Windy Boy/SU Drum archive

SCSYAC ELECTS THREE NEW MEMBERS



Zuriah Baker/SU Drum archive

The newest members of the Sunshine Cloud-Smith Youth Advisory Council, (Pictured left to right), Amos O'John Jr, Malenia Carel, and Auq'uwey O'John. The SCSYAC is coordinated and managed through the Southern Ute Education Department.

SUCCM WINS COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum took home the 2024 Community Impact Award on Thursday, Nov. 14, from the Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Palm Springs, Calif. for the Reflections of Honor Exhibit located in the museum's Permanent Gallery. The award celebrates the exhibit's excellence in community engagement.



Tallias Cantsee - SUCCM/SU Drum archive



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Seen in action at last season's CHSAA Class 2A State Championships inside Ball Arena in Denver, junior Lincoln deKay will begin the second half of the 2024-25 season having conquered the 165-pound division in Ignacio's final event – Walsenburg's Pete & Ina Gomez Invitational – preceding the campaign's since-concluded holiday break.

BOBCATS BOYS WRESTLING

Grapplers poised for Pagosa tourney

Ignacio boys ready for season's restart

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Ready to resume competition after storming into the holiday break, Ignacio's boys are set to wrestle Saturday, January 11, at 3A Pagosa Springs' Rocky Mountain Invitational hoping to wow opponents the way they did in distant Walsenburg.

Victorious in three of eight weights entered at WHS' 2024 Pete & Ina Gomez Invitational (December 21), the Bobcats posted a collective score of 120.5 points to rank fifth out of 29 represented schools. Colorado Springs-based 3A The Classical Academy topped the table by racking up 173 points, with only 3A Gunnison (147), 5A Colorado Springs Pine Creek's JV (122.5), and 2A Swink (122) also separating IHS from the tourney title.

Individually, however, even some solid resistance wasn't enough to do so.

Getting a final-round showdown with possible postseason implications, junior Aven Bourriague made the most out of his test against Swink's Thomas Valdez. With first place at 120 pounds at stake, Bourriague dealt the Lion senior his first loss this winter, pulling out an 8-5 victory after six hard minutes. Improving his own record to 14-1 overall, Bourriague went 4-0 at the meet with one victory via pin and one via technical fall.

Juniors Zane Pontine and Lincoln deKay also left Walsenburg atop their respective divisions. Pontine went 3-0 at 157 pounds, winning twice via technical



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Seen scanning an opponent for weakness at last season's CHSAA Class 2A State Championships inside Ball Arena in Denver, junior Aven Bourriague closed out the first half of the 2024-25 campaign winning the 120-pound division in Ignacio's final event – Walsenburg's Pete & Ina Gomez Invitational – preceding the since-concluded holiday break.

fall and then by pin – against PCHS sophomore Audrick Hildenbrandt – 38 ticks into the finale's second period. deKay, meanwhile, went 4-0 at 165 with four pins – the last flattening 2A Del Norte junior Paul Neal with one second left in the first period. Only Pine Creek senior Luke Richard, downed in an elapsed 3:40, saw a second stanza.

Busy all day, senior Kendrick Nossaman ultimately placed fifth at 175 pounds with three of his four victories (against two losses) coming via pin – and his last defeating 4A Pueblo West JV rep Brodi Heathcock at the 2:40 mark. Junior Dillon Brann went 2-2 at 144, pinning 2A Simla's Titus Reynolds 1:16 into the second period and routing 2A Elliott's Lucas Heuberger by 24-8 technical fall, but did not place after losing by pin to PWH's Rudy Gutierrez in one consolation semifinal.

At 132 pounds, sophomore Cameron Bell notched a consolation-round pin of

Simla freshman James Brickell and ended up 1-2, but junior Norman Hackett finished 0-2 at 138 and was pinned twice. Fellow junior Joshua Kerrigan, however, finished 3-3 (one win via pin, one via technical fall) and in sixth place at 126 after an 8-5 loss to 2A Weston Primero junior Kyler Spleen.

After invading the RMI, Ignacio will then challenge both 3A Bayfield and 4A Durango on the 14th for La Plata County supremacy at the annual Riverside Rumble triangular – hosted this season by DHS. The 'Cats will then travel to Dove Creek on the 16th for a scheduled tri against the 2A San Juan Basin League rival Bulldogs and Moab, Utah, Grand County, then sew up an intense week striving on the 17th and 18th in Farmington, N.M., at the dual-style 2025 Clash at the Coliseum.

First-day weigh-ins for the Aztec, N.M.-hosted spectacle at McGee Park Memorial Coliseum will be at 8 a.m.



Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Receiving words of encouragement after a victory during last season's CHSAA State Championships inside Ball Arena in Denver, Ignacio's Larissa Espinosa took a strong step towards returning to the crowning event this winter by placing third in her division at Grand Junction Central's Warrior Classic – IHS' last outing in the 2024-25 campaign before the since-concluded holiday break.

BOBCATS GIRLS WRESTLING

Lady 'Cats seeking success in Socorro

Ignacio girls ready to bust holiday rust

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Having closed out the Old Year at one Warrior, Ignacio Girls' Wrestling will resume work in the New at another.

Set to see their first action in 2025 on Friday, January 10, roughly 75 miles south of Albuquerque, N.M., at Socorro's Lady Warrior Invitational, the Lady Bobcats – designated a Class 4A team this winter after CHSAA, pleased by the sport's growth statewide, divided what used to be a single classification into two – will hope to apply all knowledge gained from competing Saturday, December 21, at 5A Grand Junction Central's 2024 Warrior Classic.

With teams traveling in from the Western Slope, the Front Range and even the Phoenix, Ariz., metro area, the event shaped up to be essentially as competitive as the boys' two-day feature, and IHS earned 41.5 points to rank 19th out of 25

represented schools. Central, however, piled up an unapproachable 312 points and easily bettered Centennial-based 5A Eaglecrest's runner-up 190 and Farmington, New Mexico's third-place 153.

Leading the way for Ignacio was junior Larissa Espinosa, who went 3-1 in the 235-pound division. Her lone pin came 40 seconds into the second period against Central senior Kayli Keel, and she also logged a 16-0 technical-fall win over Craig-based 4A Moffat County junior Kearra Cicchini before defeating Eaglecrest junior Emma Roberts 13-8 to claim third place.

Sophomore Laine Bradley finished fifth at 130 pounds after posting a 4-2 meet record. Starting off well with three consecutive pins each inside of two periods, she then ran into trouble with losses to 4A Gunnison junior Evelyne Cope and Central junior Violet Gray but then finished her day edging 5A Highlands

Ranch Mountain Vista senior Ella Curtis 7-6.

Madison Egger broke even at 100, going 2-2 with two pins (each in less than 55 seconds), but was denied a chance to place when 5A Falcon senior Katie Ramsay doubled her up, 6-3, in one consolation quarterfinal. IHS' Krysten Neil and Marlene Martinez-Perez, however, weren't nearly as fortunate at 135 and 140 pounds, respectively; both finished 0-2 after each was pinned twice.

Weigh-ins on the 10th in Socorro are set for 8 a.m., with action beginning at 9:30 a.m. After returning from deep in the Land of Enchantment, the Lady 'Cats – as of press time the only Colorado crew entered at the Invitational – will next compete Saturday, January 18, in Farmington at the 2025 Clash at the Coliseum. Weigh-ins for the Aztec, N.M.-hosted, bracket-style meet at McGee Park Memorial Coliseum are set for 8 a.m.

BOBCATS BASKETBALL

'Cat cagers resuming play

Ignacio hosting Tigers, visiting Bulldogs

By Joel Priest
SPECIAL TO THE DRUM

Home for the holidays. And now, at last, home for competition on the hardwood.

For the first time in the 2024-25 basketball season, Ignacio's boys and girls were to show their skills inside IHS Gymnasium, and were slated to do so Thursday, Jan. 9, against 2A Del Norte. Results were unavailable by the time the Drum went to print, but IHS head coach Trae Seibel's boys would have had to like their chances at victory in their first game since before the recently concluded


winter break.

After going a competitive 1-2 at Aztec, New Mexico's Rumble in 'The Jungle' in late December, the Bobcats hosted DNHS standing 4-4 overall but still awaiting the start of 3A/4A Intermountain work. Skipper Austin Dillon's Tigers, meanwhile, most recently took part in La Junta's Holiday Shootout, but struck out with a 0-3 event record – dropping Del Norte to 1-4 overall. The team's only win was then, 54-52 over Leadville-based 3A Lake County on Day 2 of the early-December Buena Vista Invite.


Travis Nanaeto's Lady

'Cats stood 4-3 overall after also winning one of three Rumble contests, while Gilbert Sanchez's Lady Tigers (3-2) heralded the holidays having lost 51-41 to Southern Peaks League rival Sanford – after defeating both 2A Fowler and 4A LJHS – on the Shootout's third and last day.

Looking ahead, Ignacio is slated to next travel westward to now-2A Dove Creek for boys' and girls' action Saturday afternoon, Jan. 11, then journey easterly on the 14th to 2A Sargent. IML play finally begins on Saturday, Jan. 18, when 4A Pagosa Springs comes to town.



See complete Bobcats sports action on the Southern Ute Drum's website
www.SUDRUM.com



THREE NEW REASONS TO TAKE GROUP FITNESS.



LES MILLS Shapes



LES MILLS Strength Development

Launching @ SunUte in January 2025!

Visit LesMills.com for more information on these classes.



The Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division is excited to announce the addition of two new staff members this week!



Bree Duran, LSW, completed her Bachelor of Social Work degree at Ball State University in 2015. She completed her Masters of Social Work from Western New Mexico University in 2021. She has been working in the Durango area as a social worker since 2015. Prior to becoming employed with the Behavioral Health Division, she worked as a school social worker with the Ignacio School District. "I employ a client-centered approach while using techniques based in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and informed by attachment theory. I have enjoyed working with youth, adults, and families in a variety of settings throughout my career, and I look forward to working as a clinician with the Southern Ute Tribe. Personally, in my free time I enjoy being outdoors, spending time with my dog, Bonnie, and crafting." Ms. Duran will be providing individual therapy to adult and child clients.

Ben Lopez, CAS, is a certified addiction specialist who started his career on a withdrawal management team. "This experience as well and my personal experiences has helped prepare me in conducting assessment, individual therapy and facilitation of groups. I enjoy connecting with clients in an open and non-judgmental manner. Outside of work you will find me outdoors usually camping, hiking or mountain biking". Mr. Lopez will be providing individual counseling, group counseling and clinical expertise to Family Treatment and Wellness Courts.



EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

The Mexican Period (1821-1848)

During the Mexican period, a number of changes occurred in the lives of us Ute Indians. Trading caravans came across the Santa Fe Trail which connected the Rocky Mountain West with the United States and travelers on the Old Spanish Trail, which connected New Mexico and California. Which in part crossed Ute land. On Ute land, trapping, trading and bison hunting developed into business ventures in the hands of foreigners with whom Utes exchanged horses, furs, and hides for alcohol, guns and metal

goods and other articles.

The Mexican period continued Mexican land grants, and some took place on Indian lands, although most colonists were disrupted by Utes and Navajos. A few missionaries, explorers and tourists appeared and quickly disappeared. Warfare with plains Indian Tribes increased and us Utes became more aggressive towards anyone, including Mexican authority who interfered with our survival.

Joseph Rael Jr.

Dear Tribal Citizens

Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, was the first day of service for newly elected Council members James "Mike" Olguin and myself, Linda K. Baker.

I would like to thank those whose vote of confidence allowed me to represent them as a Tribal Council member. I look at this election as a responsibility to represent all citizens of our Tribes, knowing that everyone who voted had a voice when voting, whether for me or another candidate.

If you see me at a community event, such as youth basketball, or a meeting, please

let me know if there is anything I can address for you. Answers can be provided, and change can happen if we all become more aware of our ideas and concerns.

I look forward to three years of a great team effort. Be safe, take care of one another and enjoy your new year.

*Linda K. Baker
Tribal Council Member
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Office: 970-563-2405
Fax: 970-563-0396
lkbaker@southernute-nsn.gov*

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

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

NEW EMPLOYEES



Conrad Thompson

Job Title: Reporter/Videographer
Description of job duties: Creating multimedia video projects for the Drum's website and social media channels in the new position of Drum Reporter/Videographer. Licensed drone operator.
Hobbies: Singing, playing guitar, painting and fine art, reading comics, collecting, hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles, hiking, traveling, and Denver Broncos.
Tribe: Southern Ute
Additional comments: "You need people like me so you can point your fingers and say, "that's the bad guy.""

Erika Kososik

Job title: Benefits Coordinator
Description of duties: Assisting both New Hires and current employees in navigating and maximizing our employee benefits.
Additional: The Southern Ute Tribe is thrilled to announce that Erika Kososik has joined the HR Benefits Division! Erika has accepted the role of Benefits Coordinator, where she will be assisting both New Hires and current employees in navigating and maximizing our employee benefits. Erika is no stranger to the community or the organization – many of you may already recognize her familiar face and name. We're excited to have her back, and confident she'll make a positive impact as we work together to enhance the employee benefits experience.



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.



Acknowledgement of Gratitude

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Southern Ute Tribal Rangers for their swift and effective efforts in locating the two hunters who were separated from their family yesterday on the east side of the Reservation. Your dedication and professionalism ensured a safe and successful reunion, bringing relief and joy to their loved ones.

We also wish to thank Archuleta County for their invaluable assistance in this effort. Your collaboration exemplifies the strength of partnership and community.

Thank you for your commitment to safety and service.



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 LEGAL NAME CHANGE

In the Legal Name Change of,
Case No.: 2024-0157-CV-NC
Alana Ruth Watts, Civil Subject
Notice is hereby given that Alana Ruth Watts has filed an application for legal change of name, to be known hereafter as Alana Ruth CriesForWar. Any person desiring to object to the granting of the petition may do so by filing an objection in writing with the Clerk of the Court no later than **FEBRUARY 17, 2025**. If no objection is made, the Court will grant the legal name change.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2024.
By the Court, Paula Trujillo, Court Clerk

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

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.

Drum Deadline

Next issue:
Jan. 24

EARLY
Deadline:
Jan. 17

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

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM
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PHYSICAL ADDRESS
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Ute Vocational School/Head Start Building Demolition Project Notification

Dear Southern Ute Indian Tribal Members and Staff,

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the recently completed construction project to demolish the Ute Vocational School/Head Start building located at 51 Capote Dr., Ignacio, CO, as directed by Tribal Council via Resolution No. 2023-138. Construction and Project Management is pleased to announce that the project achieved substantial completion on December 5, 2024, within budget, on time, and with no injuries. We would also like to thank both the membership and staff for your patience and cooperation as the project was completed and through all the various traffic adjustments that had to be made.

Related to the traffic adjustments that were made throughout the course of the project, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight parking and traffic flow considerations in the project area:

- Ouray Dr. just north of the Leonard C. Burch Building has been slightly realigned to improve traffic flow
- A total of 19 parking spaces have been added (3 parallel spaces along Ouray Dr. and 16 spaces in the newly constructed parking lot)
- Capote Dr. just north of Veterans Memorial Park is Westbound only. No eastbound traffic is allowed here (additional signage will be installed soon)
- No parking is allowed on the South side of Capote Dr. (along the sidewalk at the North end of Veterans Memorial Park) (additional signage will be installed soon)

Should you have any questions regarding this project or completed work, please free to call our office at (970)-563-4710. Additional information and pictures related to this project will be posted on our website at: Ute Vocational School/Head Start Building Demolition – Southern Ute Indian Tribe (southernutensn.gov)

*Respectfully,
Gavin S. Martinez
Director of Tribal Housing, Construction & Project Management*

Notice of Online Publication of Title 33 Overriding Royalty Interest Code

By Resolution No. 2024-248, Tribal Council approved and adopted Title 33-Overriding Royalty Interest Code. The Overriding Royalty Interest Code is now available for online publication as Title 33 – Overriding Royalty Interest Code. The effective date of Title 33 is January 1, 2025. The Overriding Royalty Interest Code prohibits the creation of overriding royalty interests on leases of tribal minerals within the Southern Ute Indian Reservation absent the consent of the Tribal Council or the Southern Ute Department of Energy. Printed hard copies of the Overriding Royalty Interest Code may be obtained from the Tribal Information Services Department at:

Email: TIS@southernute-nsn.gov
Mail: Southern Ute Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 737, 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, CO 81137
Phone: 970-563-2208

The official online version of Title 33-Overriding Royalty Interest Code can be found at:
Website: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/>
For further information please contact: Shane Seibel, Executive Director
Growth Fund Administration 14929 Highway 172, Ignacio, CO 81137
Phone: 970-563-5000

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

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

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.

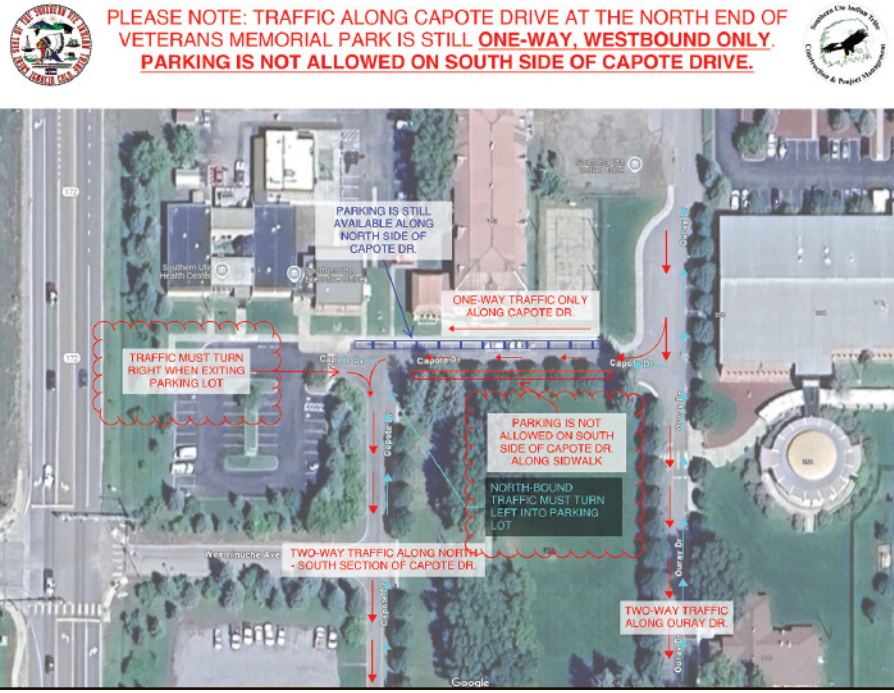


1. Snowplow - Fisher 8' comes with frame & wire harness - came off a 2011 - F350. Minimum bid \$750.

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 Jan. 31, 2025.



2. Snowplow - Meyer 8' comes with frame & wire harness - came off a 2010- F350. Minimum bid \$750.



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**

Sign Up for the Tribal Member Experience

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

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

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

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

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

Make Your Own Sandwich-on-a-stick!

Join us at the library for some hands-on fun!



Tuesday, Jan 14 at 4:30 PM
Ignacio Community Library | (970)563-9287 | ignaciolibrary.org



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

- 1) Laptop Program Defined
 - a. Dell laptops free to all SUITMs. www.southernute-nsn.gov/SUDEP
 - b. One Dell laptop per SUITM no exceptions.
 - c. Fill out questionnaire.
 - d. If you're filling a questionnaire out for a minor (under 18) put the grade in comments section. Under 18 years of age will receive a 2-1 Chromebook.
 - e. SUDEP will call when your laptop is ready for pick up. Prompt pickup is requested.
 - f. Shipping is available for the SUITMs that live out of the area. SUDEP will contact you for shipping. Shipping will occur once all forms have been filled out and signed. Forms are sent via e-mail by SUDEP staff.
- 2) \$75 Internet Reimbursement Program (6 months only) Defined
 - a. Internet program is available to all SUITM's (one voucher per service address only.)
 - b. Steps:
 - i. Fill out internet voucher request. Forms are available by contacting SUDEP or through the Southern Ute Tribal Member Portal.
 - ii. Send a copy of your internet bill with service address and Southern Ute Tribal Members name on it.
 - iii. Send both items to: sudepservice@southernute.com.
 - 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



**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

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/>. You can submit your comments two ways: On the Tribe's website at: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/department/s/epd/public-comments/>. Or via email: wqs@southernute-nsn.gov (preferred)

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) Full Time and 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 and a Criminal Background Check are 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 970-563-2305/2729/2730/2303 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.

KSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The KSUT Board of Directors is seeking a Southern Ute tribal member to serve on the Board of Directors. The tribal member does not have to live in the region and may attend board meetings remotely, as needed. As a board member you will serve a three-year term, attend monthly meetings, and perform with decision-making in the best long-term interests of KSUT and the community of listeners, and other responsibilities of serving on the board of directors. The KSUT Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 P.M. at KSUT, 15150 Colo. Highway 172

in Ignacio. Meetings are open to the public, unless prior notice is given to allow members to conduct confidential station business. If you are a Southern Ute tribal member and are interested in serving on the KSUT Board of Directors, submit a letter of interest to KSUT Executive Director, Tami Graham. Letters can be emailed to tami@ksut.org or mailed to PO Box 737, Ignacio, CO 81137. Seat is open until filled. More information on the KSUT Board of Directors, including a current board list and recent board minutes can be found at: <https://www.ksut.org/ksut-board-of-director>

POWWOW COMMITTEE

Open until filled – The Southern Ute Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of intent to serve as a volunteer on the committee. 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.

Provide a voice and secure more support for our students



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

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

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

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

The committee meets on the first Monday of every month!



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

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

- Friday, March 28
- Friday, April 25
- Wednesday, July 3
- Friday, Sept. 26
- Friday, Nov. 14
- Wednesday, Nov. 26
- Wednesday, Dec. 24
- Wednesday, Dec. 31

Request cut-off date

- NOON Friday, March 21
- NOON, Friday, April 18
- NOON, Friday, June 27
- NOON, Friday, Sept. 19
- NOON, Friday, Nov. 7
- NOON, Thursday, Nov. 20
- NOON, Friday, Dec. 19
- NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 24

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



Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Job announcements

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

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

Applicants and employees, be sure the HR Dept. has your current contact information on file.

Human Resources accepts applications for temporary employment on an ongoing basis.

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

Administrative Assistant II

Closes 1/14/25 – Will assist Boys & Girls Club management with administrative needs of the organization. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

Administrative Assistant II

Closes 1/21/25 – Under general supervision of the Executive Assistant, performs administrative, clerical, and a wide variety of office support for the Tribal Housing Dept. Serves as the primary point of contact for general requests and information and assists in the coordination of all functions and activities related to construction projects, housing projects, and other Department programs. Pay grade N9; Pay starts at \$20.26/hour.

Air Quality Scientist II – Permitting

Closes 1/14/25 – Under general supervision of the Air Quality Program Manager – Permitting & Regulatory, the Air Quality Scientist II - Permitting coordinates, supervises, and conducts technical and regulatory tasks within the Permitting Section of the Tribal Air Quality Division. Pay grade E16; Pay starts at \$77,627/year.

Healthcare Accounting Manager Trainee (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Closes 1/21/25 – A Trainee position for a Southern Ute Tribal member. Will learn how to provide financial support, grants management, and healthcare business office management to the Tribal Health Dept. and provide general financial and budgeting information to the Tribal Health Supervisor Team. Length of this program is designed to last two (2) years but may be extended or reduced based on circumstances. Will start at 20% below entry level for a grade N17 and receive quarterly evaluations and pay increases to assure that key goals are met. Upon successfully completing the training curriculum, the incumbent will assume the Healthcare Accounting Manager position. Pay grade N17; Pay will start at \$33.44/hour.

Police Sergeant

Closes 1/21/25 – Coordinates the efforts of the officers and dispatchers to achieve the objectives of the Police Department and in the absence of the Police Lieutenant will command the Southern Ute Police Department. Pay grade N16; Pay starts at \$37.32/hour.

Referral Services Specialist

Closes 1/14/25 – Daily operation of the Tribal Health Referral Services Program which includes the federally funded, tribally operated Purchase/Referred Care Program (PRC) and the Tribally funded Tribal Member Health Benefit Plan (TMHBP). 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 member 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.

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 member 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 SUI 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. 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/year.

Dentist (Part-time w/benefits)

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

Detention Transport Officer

Open Until Filled – Under general supervision of the Detention Sergeant and Lieutenant, incumbent maintains the safety and welfare of inmates and visitors and monitors all inmate activities within and outside of the detention center. Responsible for 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. 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 \$26.00/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, 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.

Grants Financial Analyst

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

Group Exercise Instructor

Open Until Filled – Provides group exercise instruction and fitness activities to members of the

NOW HIRING




HUMAN RESOURCES
P.O. Box 737 - Ignacio, CO 81137
Phone: 970-563-0100 ext. 2424
Hotline: 970-563-4777
<https://careers.southernute.com/pfund>



COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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>

DISPATCHER

Southern Ute Police Dept.

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

Starting Pay Range: N10; \$21.89/hour

SIGNING BONUS UP TO \$5,000

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

SoCoCAA Job Opportunities

Visit our website to apply at www.sococaa.org or call 970-563-4517. Jobs open until filled.

Road Runner Transit:

- Bus Cleaner/Building Maintenance (Part-time) \$18.94/hr.
- Transit Driver (Part-time) \$18.94/hr.

Ignacio Youth Services:

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

Ignacio Early Learning Program:

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

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.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe Job Announcements, cont.

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.

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 member only)

Open Until Filled – The objective of this Apprenticeship Program is 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.

Legal Assistant I (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Open Until Filled – 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 \$26.00/hour.

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 starts at \$14.90/hour.

Museum Registrar and Archivist

Open Until Filled – 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.

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 Dept. Pay grade N6; pay starts at \$16.09/hour.

TEAM Worker (Southern Ute tribal member 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. This is for 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. This is for 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 P.L.93-638 projects. Pay grade E17; Pay starts at \$86,943/year.

Tribal Apprenticeship Program (Southern Ute tribal member only)

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

Tribal Ranger Trainee (Southern Ute tribal member only)

Open Until Filled – A trainee position for un-certified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Will be required to attend and successfully complete an approved basic police-training course. Upon successful completion of training curriculum requirements, 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 Sun-Ute 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, responsible for the planning and management of Southern Ute Indian Tribal Water Quality, Brownfields, and General Assistance Programs. Pay grade E18; Pay starts at \$99,984/year.



2025 SOUTHERN UTE DRUM DEADLINE

DEADLINE	PUBLISH	FEDERAL & TRIBAL HOLIDAYS
Jan. 6	Jan. 10	New Year's Day (Jan. 1)
Jan. 17*	Jan. 24	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 20)
Feb. 3	Feb. 7	
Feb. 14*	Feb. 21	Presidents' Day (Feb. 17)
March 3	March 7	
March 17	March 21	
March 31	April 4	
April 14	April 18	
April 28	May 2	
May 12	May 16	
May 23*	May 30	Memorial Day (May 26)
June 9	June 13	
June 23	June 27	Juneteenth (Jun. 19)
July 7	July 11	Independence Day (July 4)
July 21	July 25	
Aug. 4	Aug. 8	
Aug. 18	Aug. 22	Labor Day (Sept. 1)
Aug. 29*	Sept. 5	Southern Ute Tribal Fair (Sept. 12-14)
Sept. 15	Sept. 19	So. Ute Tribal Fair Rodeo (Sept. 19-20)
Sept. 29	Oct. 3	
Oct. 10*	Oct. 17	Indigenous People's Day (Oct. 13)
Oct. 27	Oct. 31	
Nov. 7*	Nov. 14	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Nov. 21*	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving (Nov. 27)
Dec. 5*	Dec. 12	Leonard C. Burch Day (Dec. 10)
Dec. 19*	Dec. 24	Christmas (Dec. 25)



NOTICE: All content, including classifieds ads, display ads, RFP/RFI notices, job announcements, stories and articles, press releases, letters, birthday greetings and holiday wishes must be submitted by the posted deadline. Anything submitted AFTER DEADLINE will be considered for the next issue. Requests for design work must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the above posted deadline dates. The Drum reserves the right to edit all materials for spelling, grammar, clarity and libel.

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM
www.sudrum.com • 970-563-0118

Email: sudrum@southernute-nsn.gov • Mailing: PO Box 737, #96, Ignacio, CO 81137
Physical Address: 356 Ouray Drive, Ignacio, Colo. (Leonard C. Burch Building, 2nd floor)

The Southern Ute Drum 2025 Advertising Rates

Updated Dec. 2024

STANDARD-SIZE DISPLAY AD DIMENSIONS & RATES						
Ad description	Actual size	col. x height	Layout	Single insert (Regular Rate)	3 Issues* w/diskcount	6 Issues* w/diskcount
Sixteenth	3.3125" x 3.25"	2 col. x 3.25"	Square	\$ 63	\$ 160	\$ 264
Eighth	5" x 5"	3 col. x 5"	Square	\$ 135	\$ 344	\$ 567
Quarter	5" x 10"	3 col. x 10"	Vertical	\$ 270	\$ 688	\$ 1,134
Half	10.125" x 10"	6 col. x 10"	Horizontal	\$ 540	\$ 1,377	\$ 2,268
Full	10.125" x 19.625"	6 col. x 19.625"	Vertical	\$ 1080	\$ 2,754	\$ 4,536
Flyer	5" x 6.5"	3 col. x 6.5"	Vertical	\$ 176	\$ 450	\$ 740

CIRCULATION
The Southern Ute Drum is a biweekly newspaper, published every other Friday, that is distributed locally in Ignacio and Durango and mailed throughout the United States. Average circulation for 2024 was approximately 3,000. Newspaper stands are located in Ignacio, Bayfield, Durango, and the La Plata County Airport.

DEADLINE
The deadline for each issue is 5 p.m., the preceding MONDAY. (Unless indicated as an EARLY Deadline in The Southern Ute Drum's Deadline & Publication Dates, see deadline schedule). All materials, including text and camera-ready logos, artwork and photos, must be submitted on time.

MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS
1 column: 1.5625" wide
2 columns: 3.3125" wide
3 columns: 5" wide
4 columns: 6.6875" wide
5 columns: 8.375" wide
6 columns: 10" wide

CLASSIFIED RATES
The Southern Ute Drum offers classified advertising at a flat rate of 50 cents per word, per issue.

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM CONTACT INFO

ADVERTISING: Krista Richards • 970-563-2251 • EMAIL: krrichards@southernute-nsn.gov
EDITOR: Jeremy Wade Shockley • 970-563-2255 • EMAIL: jshockley@southernute-nsn.gov
MAIN PHONE: 970-563-0118 • WEBSITE: www.sudrum.com
MAILING: P.O. Box 737 #96, Ignacio, CO 81137 • PHYSICAL: 356 Ouray Dr., Ignacio, CO 81137

THE DRUM WILL NOT GUARANTEE PUBLICATION OF ANY MATERIAL SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE. AS TIME AND SPACE ARE LIMITED. THE DRUM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY MATERIAL.

QUARTER (1/4) PAGE AD

3 Column x 10"
(5" x 10" – actual inches)

ADVERTISING CONTACT

Krista Richards
Email: krrichards@southernute-nsn.gov
Phone: 970-563-2251

The Southern Ute Drum
P.O. Box 737 #96
356 Ouray Drive
Ignacio, Colo. 81137

Website: www.sudrum.com

EIGHTH (1/8) PAGE AD

3 Column x 5"
(5" x 5" – actual inches)

SIXTEENTH (1/16) PAGE AD

2 Column x 3.25"
(3.3125" x 3.25" – actual inches)

Updated: December, 2024

Sky Ute Casino Resort • Job announcements

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

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

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

***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 Cafe 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.

***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.

***Revenue Auditor (Full-time)**
Daily auditing of revenue transaction records that are turned into the accounting department from the Casino's profit centers. Will be required to follow written procedures and conduct an independent and in-depth review of: cash receipts, register tapes, sales records, gaming summaries, shift balancing reports, and other raw documentation submitted to accounting by the outlets.

***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.

***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. Cross-train to perform multiple food and beverage functions as directed by supervisors and managers.

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

Southern Ute Growth Fund • Job announcements

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

Business Development Manager – Growth Fund Administration (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/17/25 – Planning, implementing, and executing a wide range of initiatives that align with the strategic goals and objectives of the Growth Fund. Oversees and manages various special projects requiring organizational, analytical, and communication skills. Requires strong management skills, including the ability to analyze trends, identify opportunities, develop project plans, set timelines, and allocate resources. Preference will be given to enrolled and qualified Native Americans.

Accounting Technician – Red Cedar Gathering Co. (Durango, CO)

Closes /24/25 – 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.

Southern Ute Shared Services • Job announcements

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

SUDEP Learning & Development Coordinator – SUSS (Ignacio, CO)

Closes 1/17/25 – Assisting with community outreach related to SUDEP programs and services; will plan SUDEP events, assist with fiber and internet, track issues in the SUSS ticketing system, and train new ambassadors. Will work directly with Southern Ute Indian Tribal Membership on technological questions and concerns.

Ignacio School District – Job announcements

Application/Information: 970-563-0500 ext. 221
Job info, descriptions and application: 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

SIMPLIFY YOUR STUFF
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FREE CLASS – SIGNUP TODAY!



THURSDAY, JAN 23 AT 3:30 PM

IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY | (970)563-9287 | IGNACIOLIBRARY.ORG



SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

Notice to Operators and Tribal Mineral Lessees

Adoption of Title 33: Overriding Royalty Interest Code

By Pooja Rao-Pennington
SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

On Dec. 17, 2024, following public notice and an opportunity for public comment, the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council enacted Title 33 of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Code, the Overriding Royalty Interest Code ("ORK Code").

The ORRI Code is intended to protect the Southern Ute Indian Tribe from the burden that ORRIs pose to the timely and diligent development of the Tribe's nonrenewable energy minerals and to prevent the premature abandonment of Tribal

mineral development activities. Under the newly enacted code, effective as of Jan. 1, 2025, before an overriding royalty interest or production payment may be validly created as an interest applicable to any existing or future lease of non-renewable Tribal energy minerals, such interest must first be approved by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council or its designated representative, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Department of Energy ("DOE"). The ORRI Code does not apply to ORRIs in effect prior to January 1, 2025. Any future assignment or reserva-

tion of an ORRI created under a contractual agreement (including a farmout agreement) entered before or after January 1, 2025, will not be a valid interest unless approved by the Tribe.

This new code is also posted on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's website, under Southern Ute Tribal Code, for anyone who would like to read it. Should you have any questions regarding the recently enacted ORRI Code, please contact the DOE at 970-563-5000.

Link to ORRI Code document: <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/government/tribal-code/>



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

dweaver@southernute-nsn.gov



A NEW PERSPECTIVE

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

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				

Across

- 1 "White Woman of the Genesee"
- 5 Australian hobo's bundle
- 9 Aviator's okay
- 10 Hazen Cuyler of the Dodgers, a century ago
- 11 Humbug Valley people
- 12 If he castigates you, he's Dutch
- 14 Saluki or dingo
- 15 Caches
- 17 Charge
- 18 European Jurassic division
- 19 Musically, fading away
- 23 Competent, like a seaman
- 24 California's largest newspaper, for short
- 25 Vehicular route
- 27 Young triton
- 30 Alexander ---, director of "Anna Karenina"
- 31 Sound of approval
- 33 --- Starmer, UK PM
- 34 Vegetable model for early Native American ceramic vessels
- 35 "Where Eagles Dare" gun
- 36 Has sum fun

Down

- 1 To a cat, what bark is to a dog
- 2 "Borat" comic
- 3 Opp. of sent
- 4 "It's like this ..."
- 5 Jaeger bird
- 6 "The Reader" Oscar winner
- 7 Owners of the former Phoenix Regional Airport
- 8 Biblical name of mountainous northern Transjordan
- 9 Such as nukes and chemical bombs
- 13 "Tiger" gas supplier
- 16 Elon Musk's car company
- 17 A Bobbsey twin
- 19 Lacking light
- 20 They're downloaded and read
- 21 Some red wine
- 22 One of the five original Iroquois people
- 26 Put on guard
- 27 --- Olmert, former Israeli PM
- 28 Sables or ermines
- 29 Church degree
- 32 Coal scuttle

Answers will appear in the January 24 issue of the Drum.

Answers for December 27, 2024 Crossword Puzzle

Across: 1 Muse, 5 Trilby, 11 Aral, 12 Be sure, 13 Mate, 14 Oxalic, 15 Any man, 17 Bath, 18 Cur, 19 Rene, 21 Issue, 23 Alarm, 27 Nada, 29 Sac, 30 Spur, 33 Unchic, 35 Caputa, 37 Mono, 38 Avalon, 39 Drey, 40 Retype, 41 Reds.

Down: 1 Mamaci, 2 Uranus, 3 Satyrs, 4 Elem, 5 T-bone, 6 Rex, 7 Isabel, 8 Lula, 9 Brit, 10 Yech, 16 Area, 20 Naan, 22 Unruly, 24 Ashore, 25 Rained, 26 McCoys, 28 Duane, 30 Scar, 31 Pave, 32 Up at, 34 Cmdr, 36 Top.



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.

La Plata + San Juan

Futures Fair

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
8:00am - 12:00pm
La Plata County Fairgrounds

Register!



An expo of regional employers, organizations, and higher education partners - giving middle and high school students the opportunity to interact with their community, learn about local resources, explore career pathways, and plan for their futures.

Registration to attend is free and it includes one table plus two chairs for each organization. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact info@swcoedcollaborative.org.

LOCAL IGNACIO WEATHER

Friday, Jan. 10



Sunny 38°F

Saturday, Jan. 11



Sunny 42°F

Sunday, Jan. 12



Mostly sunny 35°F

Weather forecasts collected from www.weather.gov



Dec. 30

Jan. 6

Jan. 13

Jan. 21

Jan. 29