



# Former tribal employee announces political run

By Ace Stryker  
The Southern Ute Drum

Julie Holligan Westendorff, a former prosecutor in the Southern Ute Tribal Court, announced on Tuesday, Jan. 31 she's running for a seat on the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners.

Westendorff shared the news at a small rally in front of the Ignacio Community Library. Running as a Democrat, she hopes to win the District 3 seat of Wally White, who will step down due to term limits. She is currently unopposed.

She said were she elected, she would view Ignacio as an integral part of the countywide picture, not an afterthought.

"I'm glad the community is one I'm familiar with," said Westendorff, who worked for the tribe from 1998 to 2003. "Ignacio is not a second thought to me. ... I spent so much time working here. I know so many people here."

Since September, Westendorff has spent much of her time meeting with community members and officials, including the sitting commissioners, department heads and Animas-La Plata Project officers.

Following her announcement, she took questions from some attendees. Responding to a question from Casey Correia about the prospect of more unsightly power lines coming through Ignacio, she said she favored solar development and would look into land that might have been set aside west of town for such a purpose.

Lorelyn Hall asked Westendorff about her feelings on the county's draft comprehensive plan, the subject of much controversy lately.

"I don't think there was any choice. ... The best decision was



photo Ace Stryker/SU DRUM

Former Southern Ute tribal prosecutor Julie Holligan Westendorff announced on January 31 at the Ignacio Community Library that she will seek the District 3 seat on the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners, a position being vacated by term-limited Wally White. Westendorff, a Democrat, is currently the only candidate to have declared for the race.

to not let it go further," she said, adding that the plan as presented nonetheless had value. She said the interests of the majority were squelched between two vocal, polarizing factions.

Westendorff then faced a political question from Tom Givons, who asked whether she could work effectively with the other

two county commissioners, Robert Anthony Lieb Jr. and Kellie Hotter – both Republicans.

"I don't view that as a hardship. I've met with both of them and kind of told them where I'm coming from," she said. "I think I can work with both of them. We have the same interests that we're required to protect."

# Cooking matters



The Southern Ute Head Start held a special workshop in conjunction with Cooking Matters Colorado and the Sky Ute Casino. Casino chef, Bill Barbone (above, left) held the attention of almost a dozen parents, including Sky Dawn Carmenoros (above) who wanted to hone their cooking skills. This hands-on workshop helped Head Start parents gain a better understanding of cooking techniques, while creating a healthy meal plan. The presentation took place on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

## February is Heart Month

We can stop our No. 1 killer together by sharing the truth. Do you know the warning signs of a heart attack? Heart attack symptoms include:

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, shoulder, jaw, neck, back, or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling light-headed, queasy, or breaking out in a cold sweat

If you think you're having a heart attack, call 911 right away. Even if you're not sure, get checked anyway. Waiting can cause serious damage — or even death.

Please Wear red on Fridays for the month of February. Sponsored by Southern Ute Health Service 970-946-8564.

Information gathered from: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); and [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

## Garcia Chiropractic Wellness Center Announcing Our Expanded Hours in Ignacio

To better serve you we are now open during your lunch hour on Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please call to make your appointment and let us help you stay in good health.  
**Office Hours in Ignacio**  
Monday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.; Tuesday 3 – 6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Located at 640 Goddard Ave., behind the Dancing Spirit Gallery. 970-563-1006

## SunUte Community Center

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## SunUte Community Center President's Day Hours

Monday

February, 20th 2012

8:00am to 5:00pm

(Pool closing at 4:30pm)

We will resume normal business hours Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00am.

SunUte Community Center

Call us at 970-563-0214 for more information.  
Or visit us at [www.sunute.com](http://www.sunute.com)

