



IF YOU SCREEN IT ...

Durango Underground Séance
Cinema hosts free flick 1B

NEW ERA

Griego ready to lead
Demons boys basketball 1C

THE Durango HERALD

Weekend Edition

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LA PLATA COUNTY

Gas spill meeting exposes tensions

Enterprise, state and tribal officials meet at first public Q&A

BY JESSIE BOWMAN
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Tensions among agencies involved in the cleanup of a massive gasoline pipeline spill on tribal lands south of Durango bubbled up Tuesday during a public forum.

La Plata County hosted the forum – the first of its kind – in which representatives from Enterprise Products, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and a Colorado agency clashed over the estimated volume of the fuel leak and presented conflicting interpretations about whether ground contamination is on the move.

The discussion also hinted at behind-the-scenes disagreements about monitoring strategies, including the adequacy of wells installed near the southern edge of the plume.

In 2024, a rupture occurred in the 18.5-mile section of Houston-based Enterprise Products Mid-America Pipeline that runs across the SUIT reservation. It sent tens of thousands of gallons of fuel spilling into the environment and resulted in multiple families being displaced from their homes.

Cleanup efforts have been ongoing, with SUIT, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency working alongside Enterprise to aid and monitor the remediation work.

The forum on Tuesday marked the first time since the spill Enterprise made a public appearance to answer questions from the broader La Plata County population. The company has been conducting meetings among homeowners affected by the spill.

It was also the first time the state representative and tribal representatives were publicly available to answer questions.

The Board of County Com-

See ENTERPRISE, 8A

Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance working to address resource gaps



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald photos

Trennie Burch, center, co-founder and executive director of Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance, and Nichole Foster, board co-chair, hold the banner they will carry in the Bayfield and Ignacio Pride Parade as board member Chrystal Rizzo watches Thursday at the IOEA office in Ignacio.

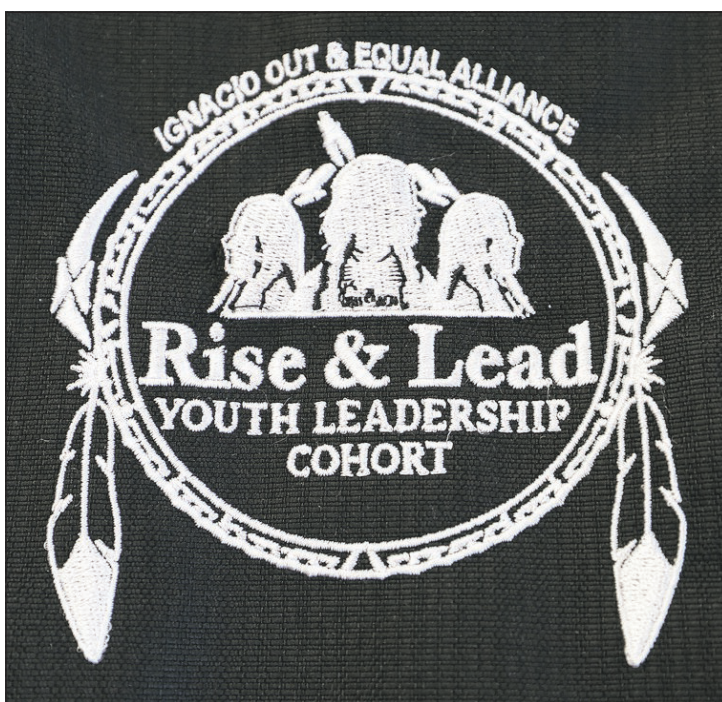
CARVING OUT SPACE

BY JESSIE BOWMAN
HERALD STAFF WRITER

In times of social and political adversity, visibility matters, Trennie Burch, co-founder and executive director of Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance, said. That's something leaders of the alliance have been learning their whole lives.

Where other queer communities have fallen on hard times, such as Durango's community with the closure of the Starlight Lounge, the alliance in Ignacio is growing in both a physical and metaphorical sense.

The Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance is quickly becoming part of the community fabric. It opened a permanent office in the ELHI Community Center last fall. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe helped share the word about an upcoming Pride festival. And the next generation of the queer community is taking



The logo for Ignacio Out and Equal Alliance's youth cohort is seen Thursday in Ignacio.

ownership of their space. IOEA's mission is to create safe, culturally grounded spaces where Native, queer and Two-Spirit people – especially

youths – can reconnect with their traditions, build leadership and access community-led

See IGNACIO, 8A

About this series

Just as social norms ebb and flow over time, so do community spaces. This Pride Month series explores how queer spaces across La Plata County are changing and what those changes mean for the people who find belonging, support and identity within them.

Wednesday: How the closure of Starlight Lounge, a popular bar for the LGBTQ community, has impacted the social fabric of the queer community.

Today: The Indigenous queer community is working to change attitudes about the queer community on the reservation.

Monday: The towns of Bayfield and Ignacio jointly celebrate Pride Month.

City of Durango's Flock Safety data by the numbers

Council responds to privacy, transparency concerns with its first monthly report

BY CHRISTIAN BURNEY
HERALD STAFF WRITER

As cities around the country – Fort Collins among the latest – pull contracts with Flock Safety over privacy concerns, Durango City Council is instead suggesting more transparency about use of Flock cameras.

Since at least late 2024, some residents have criticized the city's use of artificial intelli-

gence-powered Flock cameras because of their capability to share photos and vehicle information called "fingerprints" with law enforcement agencies across the country.

Members of DeFlock Durango, warning the cameras make up a "mass surveillance" network ripe for abuse, have scrutinized DPD Flock data made public.

Some residents have demanded the city cancel its



Durango Police Chief Brice Current delivered a report on Tuesday listing Flock Safety data searches by officers, the total number of vehicles read by cameras in Durango across a 24-day period, and the number of custom and official "hot-list" hits – automated flags that occur when a camera detects a vehicle placed on a law enforcement watch list.

JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald

contract with Flock Safety and take the cameras down. Although City Council has resisted those calls, it has acknowledged residents' concerns.

See FLOCK, 7A

