



## Education Department Monthly Newsletter Walker River Paiute Tribe



*Students strike a New Year's Eve pose! Thank you to all the youth who attended this fun event on the last day of 2025!*

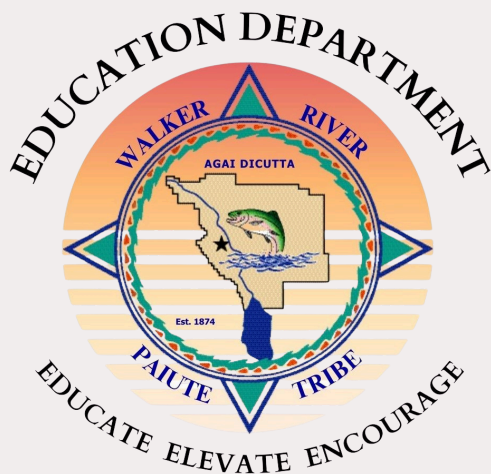
### HOURS OF OPERATION:

**Regular Office - M-F 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER (PUBLIC ACCESS):**

**M-F 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

***(Please enter through Education Entrance Door)***



**Main Phone Number:**

**775-773-2478**

**Sara Twiss, Education Director Ext. 2160**

**Aimee Johnson, Education Specialist Ext. 2162**

**Belinda Hooper, NYCP College & Career Coach Ext. 2161**

**Dawna Jackson, NYCP College & Career Coach Ext. 2163**

**Carissa Lockwood-Brown, JOM Program**

**Specialist/Academic Tutor Ext. 2164**

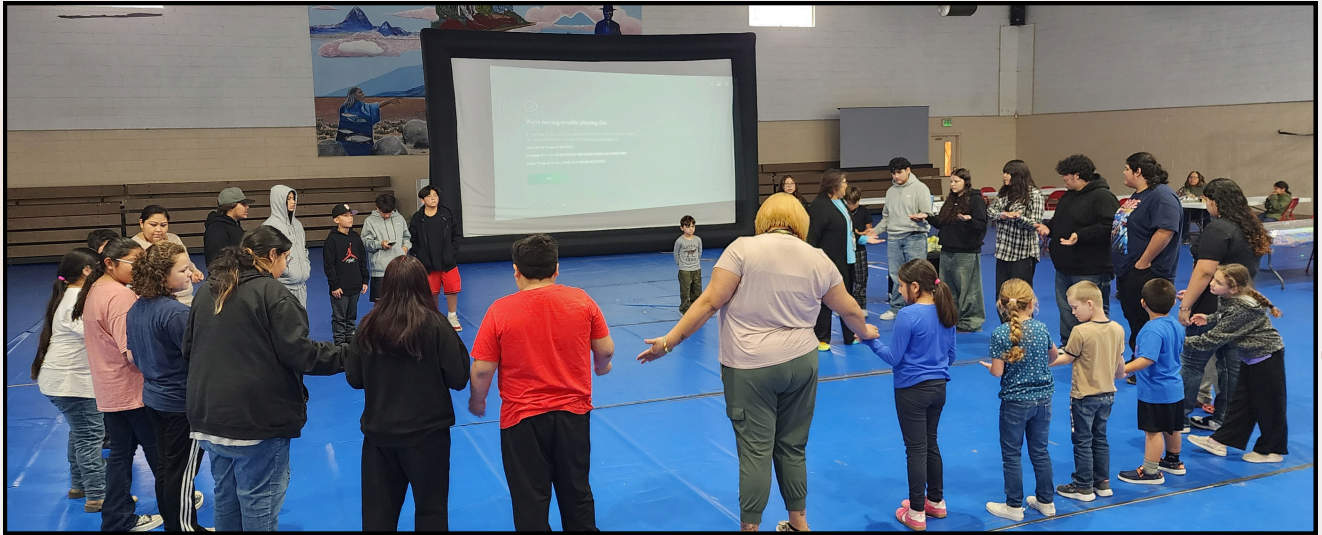
**Check out our website and YouTube Channel for any updated information!**

**<https://www.wrpt.org/education/>**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@wrpteducation>**



# Youth New Year's Eve Party!



***NYCP Coaches circled up the youth to play a game called The Game of Concentration, where students picked a category and could not repeat the same word of that category.***

On December 31, 2025, the Education Department held a Youth New Year's Eve Party for students of all ages at the Agai Dicutta Gymnasium. The event included music, art, writing down New Year's Resolutions, games, and a frybread-making session in the kitchen! Youth were served pizza, popcorn and punch to celebrate the new year!





# Youth New Year's Eve Party!





# Youth New Year's Eve Party!

## Frybread-Making Session





# Director's Report



**Sara L. Twiss | *She/Her/Hers***

**Education Director**

**Walker River Paiute Tribe | Agai Dicutta Numu**

**MCRP | University of New Mexico**

**W: (775)773-2478 ext. 2160**

**educationdirector@wrpt.org**

## ***Education Director Report: December 2025 - January 2026***

### **Meetings and Travel:**

**Dec. 3 – Meeting w/LCSD staff on implementing the Seal of Biliteracy – Paiute Language Exam [ST, DJ, BH, CLB, AJ]**

**Dec. 3 – Meeting w/YPT Education Director [ST]**

**Dec. 4 – WRPT All Directors Meeting [ST, AJ]**

**Dec. 5 – Dicutta UNITY Youth Council Elections Event [BH, DJ]**

**Dec. 8 – Education Staff Meeting [ST, DJ, CLB, AJ]**

**Dec. 8 - MCSD Impact Aid Meeting [ST, AJ]**

**Dec. 9 – 10 – ASIST [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training] hosted by the Washoe Tribe Healing Center [DJ, CLB, AJ]**

**Dec. 10 – Meeting w/Tribal Executive Officer 1:1 [ST]**

**Dec. 11 – Annual review meeting for MOU Agreement with LCSD [ST, AJ, CLB]**

**Dec. 11 – Meeting with WestEd on NewSchools: Teachers Reimagined Grant [ST]**

**Dec. 15 – YPT Education meeting w/Celine Bethel and Elizabeth Stanton–[ST, BH, DJ, CLB, AJ]**

**Dec. 16 – Board of Education Regular Meeting – Review AVT/Enrich applicants [ST]**

***Dec. 17 – Last day of tutoring for the Education Department***

**Dec. 31 – Youth New Year's Eve Party – Food/games, music/art, Frybread Cooking [ALL STAFF]**

***Jan. 5 – Afterschool tutoring/transportation resumes***

**Jan. 6 – GONA Planning Meeting for IEAC 2026 [ST]**

**Jan. 8 – WRPT All Directors Meeting [ST]**

**Jan. 9 – WR Tribal Library Senior Film Activity – Babbitt, NV [ST, CLB]**

**Jan. 12 – 2nd GONA Planning Meeting [ST]**

**Jan. 12 – MCSD Title VI Meeting [ST, AJ]**

**Jan. 14 – TEDNA Board Meeting [ST]**

**Jan. 15 – 20 – UNITY Mid-Year Event [Phoenix, AZ] – NYCP Coaches + 6 Youth**

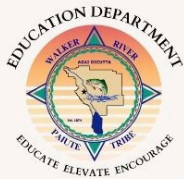
**Jan. 21 - BOE Regular Meeting [ST]**

**Jan. 22 - BOE Food Fundraiser [ST, AJ]**

**Initials represent staff who attended**



# **CALLING ALL 2025/2026 GRADUATES!**



## **THE WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS PUTTING A CALL OUT FOR ALL 2025-2026 GRADUATES!**

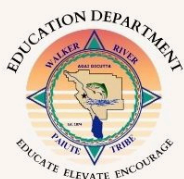
Please complete the survey link form if you/someone in your family is graduating from 8th grade, high school, a GED program, or a post-secondary institution. *(This includes those completing a program in the Fall 2025 semester.)* We are including those who are home-schooled/online students who are within these grade levels. This survey is for enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, or graduating students who reside in Schurz, NV.



*Use the QR Code here to direct you to the link, or  
Be sure to complete a separate form for each student.*

**Responses will be accepted until May 1, 2026.**

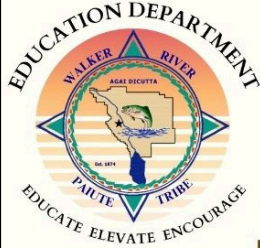
This information is collected for our end-of-the-year honoring ceremony, assists in data collection, and helps our department support students by providing them with educational and career resources. We aim to expand student outreach and establish service-learning opportunities, professional development, and alumni networks.



If you have any questions regarding this survey,  
please contact Sara Twiss,  
Education Director, at 775-773-2478 ext. 2160, or  
email [educationdirector@wrpt.org](mailto:educationdirector@wrpt.org).



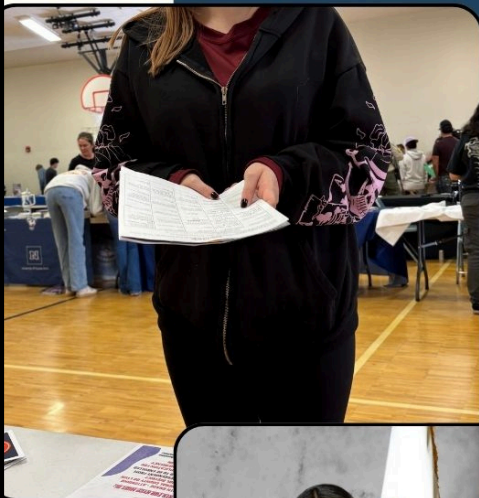
**COMING UP JANUARY 28 & APRIL 8, 2026**



x x x x

Education Department - Walker River Paiute Tribe

# INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR FROM START TO FINISH!



Hosted by Sara Twiss  
Education Director

January 28, 5:30 p.m. (PT)  
April 8, 5:30 p.m. (PT)  
On Zoom!



*\*Only enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe are eligible for these programs.*

## AVAILABLE PROGRAMS INCLUDE

Higher Education Program  
Adult Vocational Training Program  
Enrichment Program  
Agai Dicutta Scholarship

## TOPIC ITEMS:

Applications From Start to Finish!  
Requirements/Deadlines  
What Happens After?  
Q&A



FOLLOW QR CODE  
TO RECEIVE A REMINDER!  
ATTENDEES MAY JOIN AT  
ANYTIME

CONTACT US: 775-773-2478  
775-773-4188 (Fax)

educationdirector@wrpt.org

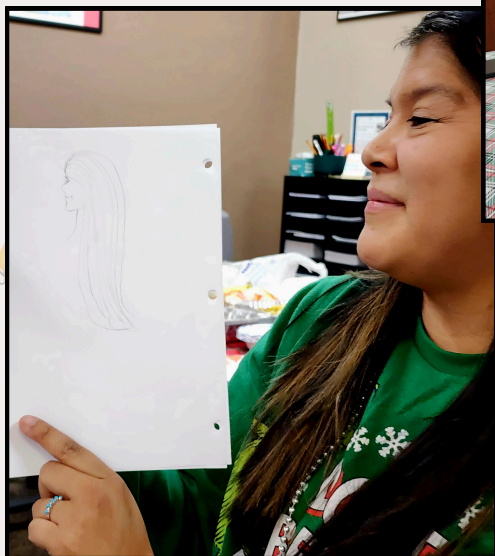
4022 Hwy. 95 N  
PO Box 220, Schurz, NV 89427



# Education Staff - Christmas Brunch & Games



On December 15, 2025, the Education Department held a potluck Christmas brunch including pancakes, eggs, sausage, potatoes, fresh fruit, juice, and hot cocoa! The team gathered to play games, listen to music, and watch a Christmas movie together. Staff also created anonymous portraits of another team member, with names drawn from a bucket!







# Walker River Tribal Library Program & Activities

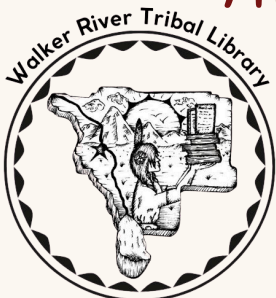


## GIFT DISTRIBUTION & EDUCATION SUPPLY RESTOCK EVENT



The Education Department staff joined in the Boys & Girls Club Christmas gift distribution for the youth in our community to help supply educational supplies for students in need. Staff handed out prepackaged baggies with markers, crayons, and glue for the Pre-K/Kindergarten, elementary/middle school had pencils, sharpeners, glue, pens, erasers, highlighters, and protractors in pencil bags, and intermediate to high school had prepackaged baggies with the same things, plus if they needed a binder, it was prefilled with paper and notebooks. Backpacks were available to all students of all levels if needed, and staff also served free hot cocoa.

**Total Count:**  
Pre-K- 1 item  
Kindergarten - 11 Items  
1st-6th - 30 Items  
7th-12th - 16 items





# Walker River Tribal Library Senior Film Event



On January 9, 2026, “Babbitt, Nevada: A World War II Era Ghost Town” was shown at the Agai Dicutta Elder Center and tells the story of a housing community created to serve the huge ammunition depot surrounding the town of Hawthorne, Nevada. The documentary uses over 170 historic photographs, rare archival movie film, and a full 3D computer reconstruction of ~700 structures to show why Babbitt was created, its swings between wartime booms and peacetime busts, and the town's ultimate fate.

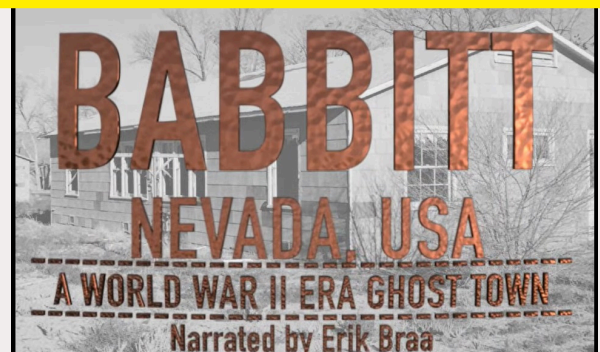
We have a few elders in our community who recall living in Babbitt when they were growing up. The film screening also brought in elders from Stillwater to watch and share their knowledge about Babbitt!



## ***Did You Know?***

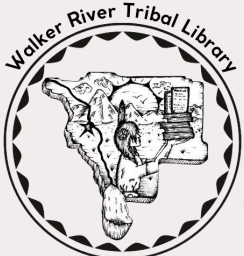
***Babbitt once had its own grocery store, pharmacy, post office, movie theater, soda fountain, bowling alley, and recreation facilities like tennis and basketball courts.***

**Full Film is Available for Free on YouTube!**



## ***Did You Know?***

***“Babbitt houses” live on elsewhere: After the community was dismantled, many former Babbitt homes were relocated and reused in other rural Nevada towns such as Tonopah and on the Walker River Indian Reservation—so you might still spot a “Babbitt house” out and about!***



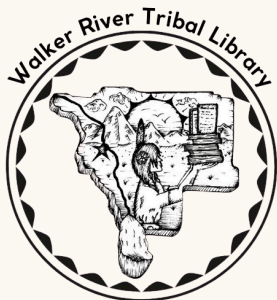


# Walker River Tribal Library Senior Film Event



On Friday, Jan. 23, the Walker River Tribal Library program screened the documentary, "Sacred Dog," a film on Indian Relay horse racing, that made its debut on the sports channel ESPN's E60. The one-hour film covers the history of Indian Relay racing and the resurgence of the sport and features two relay teams. Also spotlights the Battle of the Little Big Horn ride from Pine Ridge, the riders, and history.

The film features the Pine Ridge reservation and was written by Tom Junod and directed by Jeremy Williams. The storyline centers around the Brewer family, William "Shorty" Brewer, Oglala Lakota, from Pine Ridge. The film is a narrative of the Big Horn Ride with Brewer's encouragement to bring youth on the ride. Shorty along with his nephew Stan Brewer, who supported the ride, that support eventually developed into their Indian relay teams, the Brew Crew and Dancing Warriors, who became champion rivals!



**"Sacred Dog" is available for free viewing on YouTube!**





# NYCP News

## 2026 Mid-Year Conference (Phoenix, AZ)



The NYCP Coaches drove to Phoenix, Arizona, to participate in the UNITY Mid-Year 2026 Conference. We were pleased to bring 6 members, which included the Dicutta UNITY Council, and a dedicated UNITY Member. During the conference, we were able to listen to Native American Guest Speakers, such as Billy Mills, an Oglala Lakota Sioux member from Pine Ridge, SD. He was the first Native American to win an Olympic Gold Medal in 1964. He talked about his victories and the obstacles he had to go through. One quote he kept telling sponsors, and others who didn't believe him, was his saying, "When I win, when I win," in which he brought to himself the courage to accomplish all that he said he would do.

There were many more guest speakers, such as Kutoven Stevens, Yerington Paiute Tribe. He talked about his story about his film "REMAINING NATIVE" produced by Paige Bthman. There were workshops throughout the week for our 6 students to collaborate with other UNITY members from various regions.



**By: Belinda Hooper,  
NYCP College & Career Coach**





# NYCP News

## 2026 Mid-Year Conference (Phoenix, AZ) Cont.



***Here is some positive feedback from the Dicutta UNITY's President and Vice President about the conference:***

**What I learned:** "During UNITY I learned how to organize and manage new events in my community and how I could help people with their mental health."

**What I did:** "In UNITY I met up with many different youth councils across the nation, shared what our councils have done in the past 6 months, and came up with many ideas to help make each others communities better."

**How did it make me feel:** "Attending UNITY made me feel more confident and motivated to become the best youth leader I could be."

**- Georgia Quintero, Dicutta UNITY President**



"During UNITY, I got to learn about so many different tribes around America and how we all can encourage and help each other push through our similar struggles we all seem to face, and to motivate each other to grow and be our best."

Unity makes me feel empowered and motivated to strive towards my goals".

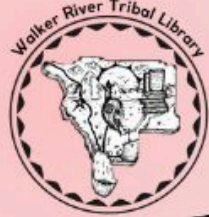
**- Bailey Hoferer, Dicutta UNITY Vice President**



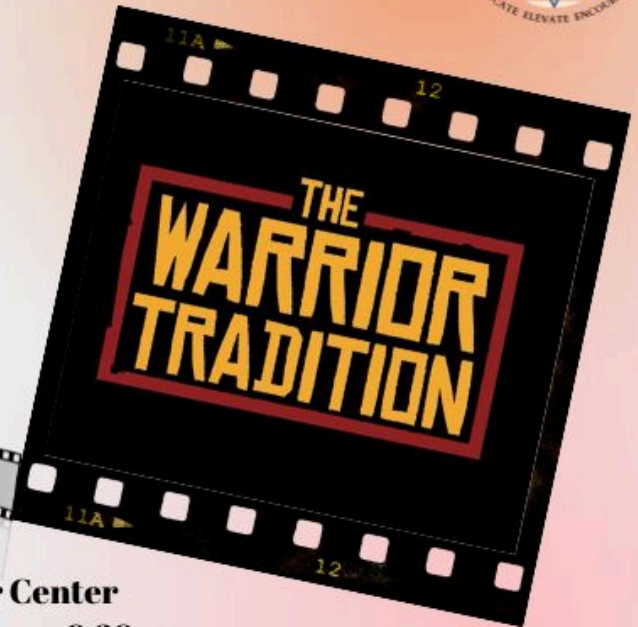
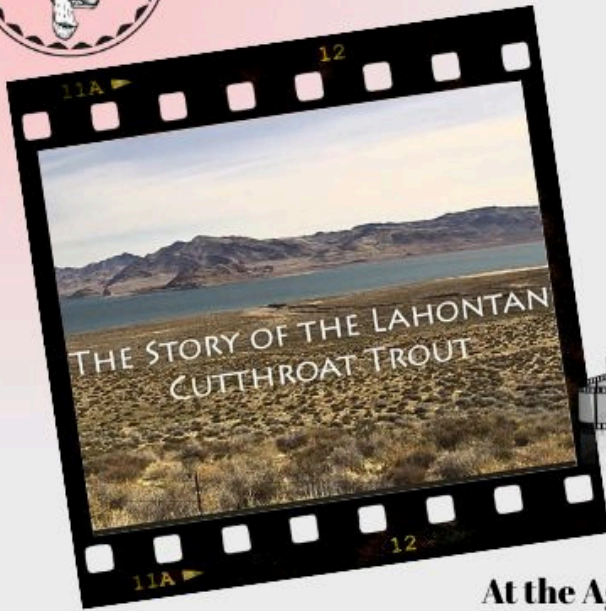
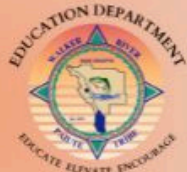




# Walker River Tribal Library Senior Film Upcoming Events



## Walker River Tribal Library Presents Film Screenings for the Senior Center!



### At the Agai Dicutta Senior Center

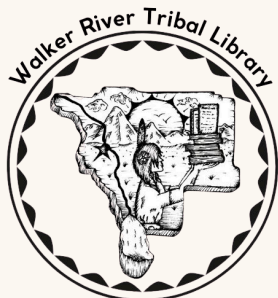
**Friday, February 13, 2026 - 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

The Story of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout tells the true story of when the trout was declared extinct in the 1940's as a result of a badly planned diversion dam on the Truckee River. Built with no consideration of the downstream Indigenous Peoples of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and their cherished homeland, the dam desiccated the lake and destroyed the habitat of its native fish. However, the fish made a near-impossible return, aided by the efforts of biologists, tribal litigators, and a carpenter. This film premiered at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, California, in January 2019.

**Friday, February 27, 2026 - 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

The Warrior Tradition tells the astonishing, heartbreaking, inspiring, and largely untold story of Native Americans in the United States military. Why would Indian men and women put their lives on the line for the very government that took their homelands? The film relates the stories of Native American warriors from their own points of view – stories of service and pain, of courage and fear. This WNED PBS production premiered in November 2019.

**Please come and enjoy the film with us! Group discussion to follow.**



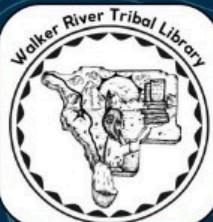
**Upcoming film days: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

- Friday, February 13, 2026
- Friday, February 27, 2026



# Walker River Tribal Library

## Microsoft 365 Workshop for Elders



**MICROSOFT 365  
WORKSHOPS FOR ELDERS**

Beginning Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
1:00 - 2:00 pm  
at the Tribal Library

Elders in the community, please join us for beginner workshops on the basics of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

*While we have limited desktop access, we'd love for you to elevate your training experience by bringing your own Chromebook or laptop!*



**Coffee & Cookies  
PROVIDED**



### WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE

#### Word Document

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
1:00pm - 2:00 pm



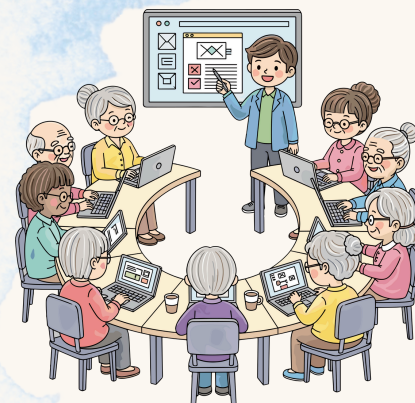
#### Excel Spreadsheets

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
1:00pm - 2:00 pm



#### PowerPoint Presentations

Monday, March 23<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
1:00pm - 2:00 pm





# Walker River Tribal Library



The Walker River Tribal Library  
presents

## Bi-Weekly Book Club

At the Walker River Tribal Library  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
4022 Hwy. 95 N  
Schurz, NV 89427  
(Next to the Food Pantry)

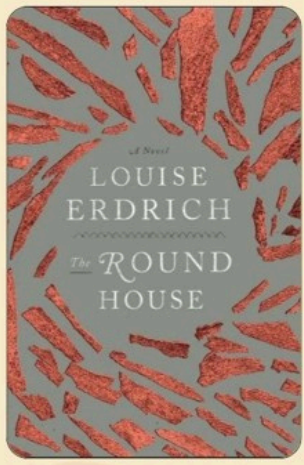
Tuesday, February 3, 2026  
Chapter 1: 1988

Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
Chapter 2: Lonely Among Us

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
Chapter 3: Justice

Tuesday, March 17, 2026  
Chapter 4: Loud as a Whisper

Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
Chapter 5: The Naked Now



Free Snacks & Refreshments

Limit of 10 People

Contact Education to Reserve your spot!  
775-773-2478

Join us as we dive into a new book for the new year! We will be reading *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. This is a poignant coming-of-age story and legal thriller narrated by 13-year-old Joe Coutts on an Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota, 1988.

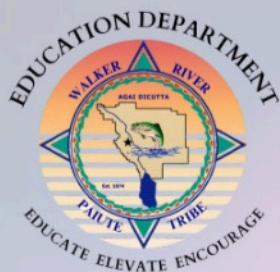
*Copies of the book will be provided to all those who participate!*



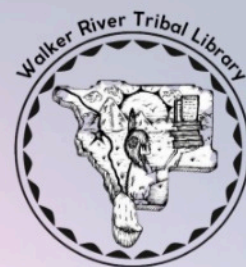
**Don't forget to swing by our  
Tribal Library to see what books  
we have to offer!**







Hosted by the  
Walker River Paiute Tribe  
Education Department



# Scholarship Writing & Research Workshop

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ONLY**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

**Walker River Tribal Library**

**(Next to the Food Pantry)**

**4022 Hwy. 95 N Schurz, NV 89427**

- Craft your own personal statement for college admission applications
- How to write strong scholarship essays
- Writing Tips and Examples
- Use our Computers for Scholarship Research!

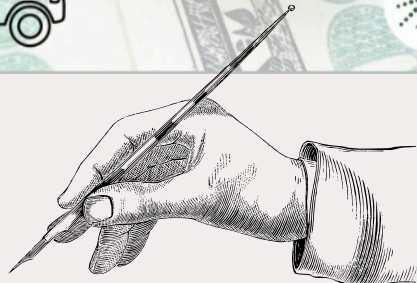
*Don't know where you want to attend college?  
We can share an exercise to help you make your decision!*

**Contact the Education Team to  
arrange transportation!**

**Belinda Hooper: 775-493-6893**

**Dawna Jackson: 775-493-6897**

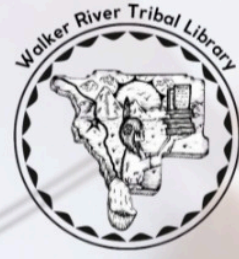
**Carissa Lockwood-Brown: 775-773-2478 ext. 2164**







Hosted by the  
Walker River Paiute Tribe  
Education Department



# Resume Building & Interview Tips

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & RECENT GRADUATES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Walker River Tribal Library  
(Next to the Food Pantry)

4022 Hwy. 95 N Schurz, NV 89427

- Create or improve your resume to a professional level
- Tailor your resume to the job/career you are looking for
- Learn & practice answering common interview questions
- Mock Interviews available with our staff members

*Don't know what career you want to apply for?  
We can share an exercise to help you make your decision!*

**Contact the Education Team to  
arrange transportation!**

Belinda Hooper: 775-493-6893

Dawna Jackson: 775-493-6897

Carissa Lockwood-Brown: 775-773-2478 ext. 2164



## Other Upcoming College/Career Readiness Workshops!

- Budgeting & Financial Literacy, Wednesday, March 4, 2026
- Learn Basic Driving Criteria for Permits/Licenses, Wednesday, March 11, 2026





Dicutta Unity

# BURRITO SALE



Help support the Dicutta Unity Youth Council on their travels to the OK City annual youth conference!  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ the YPT education dept  
8:30 am-12:00 pm

50/50 raffle fundraiser \$5 per ticket \$20 per arm's length



Breakfast burritos & MORE!



**PRE-ORDER NOW**

Contact Us :



(775) 498-0577



(775) 421-0007

# UNITY MONTHLY MEETING

**FEBUARY 2, 2026**



**3:30 – 5:30 PM**

Spaghetti dinner will be provided during meeting

At the YPT Community Center

For any questions contact:  
[@successcoach@ypt-nsn.gov](mailto:@successcoach@ypt-nsn.gov)

