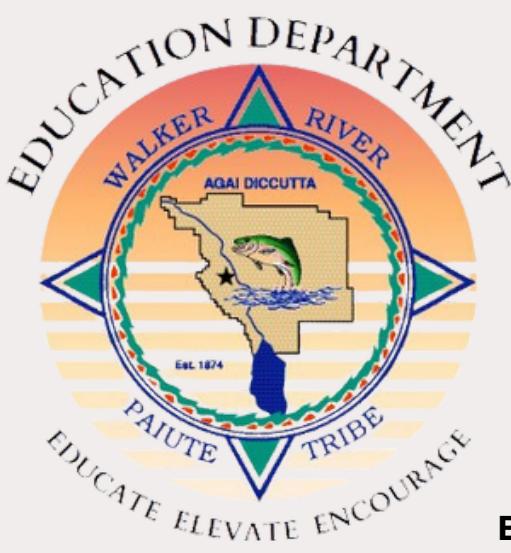




# Walker River Paiute Tribe Education Department Monthly Newsletter



**The NYCP Coaches traveled to Carson City with eleven students from 7th - 11th grade to visit the Stewart Indian Museum, Western Nevada College Observatory, and the Nevada State Museum**



## Contact Education Department

**REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION:**

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

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER (OPEN TO PUBLIC):**

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

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

**Phone Number:**

**775-773-2306**

**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**

**Ysela Brown, Communal Library Specialist Ext. 2164**

**Carissa Lockwood-Brown, Academic Tutor**

**Check out our website for any updated information!**

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

# Education Directors Report

## FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

**AVT 2nd Quarter Awards** - One (1) student was awarded the AVT and the Agai Dicutta Scholarship award

**Enrichment 2nd Quarter Awards** - Five (5) students were awarded the Enrichment book/tuition reimbursement

**2024/2025 Call for All Graduates Online Survey Count:**  
16 responses received as of 4/11/2025

### Meetings and Travel:

**Feb. 19** - Education Director presented during the Public Meeting held for the community

**Feb. 20** - Met virtually with TMCC recruiters to host NYCP college campus visit in April

**Feb. 22** - NYCP Coaches took 5 students to tour the Redken International Style of Academy

**Feb. 24** - Education Director met with the Walker Basin Conservancy to schedule SES field trips and 2025 Earth Day events

**Feb. 24** - Education Director and Academic Tutor met with SES Principal to organize field trips and 2025 Earth Day events

**Feb. 27-28** - Education Director attended the Nevada Afterschool Network Showcase in Reno, NV and presented on Cultural/OST programs for the department

**Feb. 27** - Education team met virtually with ITCN and Generation Red to organize the Equine Assisted-Learning session for youth scheduled in March

**Feb. 28 -Mar. 1** - The NYCP Coaches traveled to Carson City with eleven students from 7th - 11th grade to visit the Stewart Indian Museum, Western Nevada College Observatory, and the Nevada State Museum

**Mar. 3** - Education team held interviews and selected candidate for the Communal Library Specialist position

**Mar. 5** - The Education Director was appointed to the Indian Education Advisory Committee

**Mar. 6** - Board of Education held regular February meeting

**Mar. 7** - Education Director met with Andrea M. to discuss the development of a youth leadership for economic development team

**Mar. 9-13** - NYCP Coach, Dawna Jackson, **attended the RES 2025 Conference on behalf of the Education Department**

**Mar. 9** - Education Director attended the Dicutta UNITY Youth Council meeting to invite them to the Indian Education Summit meeting to present on past conferences and ongoing activities

**Mar. 10** - Communal Library Specialist begins at the office

# Education Directors Report Cont.

**Mar. 12** – Education Director and CLS met with Senior Center Director and Activities Specialist to organize library activities for the seniors

**Mar. 14** - Academic Tutor and CLS attended the Anti-Bullying Awareness Walk with the Agai Dicutta Tuamuhvi Nobe (Boys & Girls Club)

**Mar. 15** – Education Department worked with Generation Red and ITCN to host a pilot event of the Equine-Assisted Learning session for youth, including sharing knowledge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prayer Horse Ride

**Mar. 18** - Education team attended the WRPT All Staff and Directors meeting

**Mar. 19** – Education Director and CLS attended the WRPT Event Planning meeting

**Mar. 19** - The Board of Education held the regular March meeting

**Mar. 21** - NYCP Monthly meeting was held with the Nevada Department of Education and the RMC Evaluation team

**Mar. 28** - Education staff, members of the Board of Education, and staff members from MCSD and LCSD attended the Indian Education Summit. The Education Director presented the NYCP program during a breakout session, and the students of the Dicutta UNITY Youth Council presented to the attendees during the general closing session.

**Mar. 31** - The Empowering Community Alliance and the Board of Education co-hosted the Breaking the Cycles of Bullying Event for the community



**As many of you are aware, I am expecting the birth of my third child (a baby girl) on May 2, 2025. We have a scheduled surgery delivery, and unless she decides to make her arrival early, I will be taking my maternity leave beginning on Monday, April 28, 2025.**

**I have full confidence that our Education Department team will successfully continue to manage our ongoing programs, activities, and events throughout the spring and into the summer. I am designating Aimee Johnson, Education Specialist, as the team lead and the primary point of contact for any general office communications during my absence.**

**As always you can reach out to any of our team members for assistance!**

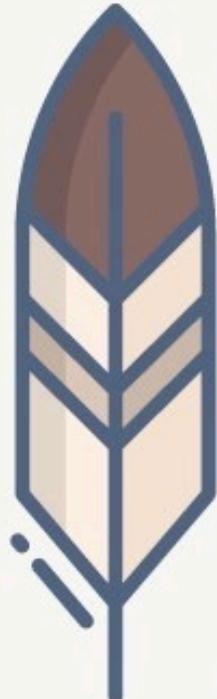
Submitted by,

**Sara Twiss, Education Director**  
**educationdirector@wrpt.org**  
**(775)773 -2306 ext. 2160**

# Important Dates



## Application Deadlines



**Higher Education Grant Program  
(Including Agai Dicutta Scholarship)**  
Aug. 1st for FALL, Dec. 1st for SPRING



**Adult Vocational Training Program  
(Including Agai Dicutta Scholarship)**  
Dec. 1st, Mar. 15th, Jun. 15th, and Sept. 15th.



**Enrichment Program**  
Dec. 1st, Mar. 15th, Jun. 15th, and Sept. 15th.



For more information about Higher Education Grant, Agai Dicutta Scholarship, the Adult Vocational Training and Enrichment program, please contact our office at 775-773-2306 ext. 2160, or email [educationdirector@wrpt.org](mailto:educationdirector@wrpt.org).





# Walker River Paiute Tribe Graduation Stoles Available for Fall/Spring 2024-2025 Graduates

The Education Department of the Walker River Paiute Tribe rewards students striving to complete continuing education goals and academic success. The Graduation Stole program is available for enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe who are currently graduating within their academic school year. The program offers the opportunity to receive graduation stole for one Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral Degree. Students graduating from 8th grade, high school, vocational programs, or proprietary schools are eligible. Parents/Legal guardians must complete an application for any child(ren) under 18.

**DEADLINES:** Fall Graduates: November 15 (mailing purposes only)  
Spring Graduates: April 15 (mailing purposes only)

## Key Reminders:

The student is responsible for obtaining permission from the school/college/university to wear the stole during commencement. Completion of the Call for All Graduates survey administered through the Education Department is required. Upon receipt of a complete application, the stole will be sent via U.S. Mail to the address listed on the application, or stoles may be picked up at the Education Department during regular business hours.

**Please contact the Education Department to complete an application:**  
**(775) 773-2306 ext. 2160**  
**[educationdirector@wrpt.org](mailto:educationdirector@wrpt.org)**

*It is required to complete the Call for All Graduates survey  
administered in the Education Department  
Scan the QR Code here to access the survey:*



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



*Faylah Quintero attends Hawthorne Elementary School and poses with her multiple awards including Mathematician, Reading, and Good Citizenship!*

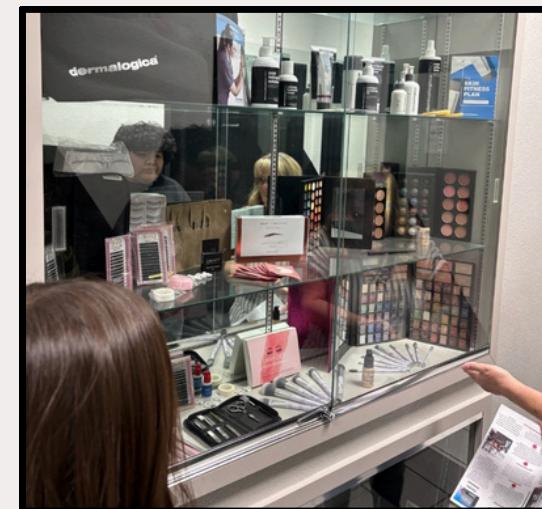


# NYCP News

## Redken International Academy of Style



Four of our NYCP students attended the Redken International Academy of Style on Feb. 22, 2025, in Reno, NV. Students were able to hear directly from students in the program who are continuing to build their skills in becoming an aesthetician, hair designers, cosmetologists, and nail technicians. This type of trip can be offered again in the future!



If you're interested in signing up your student (7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) for our NYCP program and be offered to attend trips like this one, please contact one of our NYCP Coaches for more information!

Dawna Jackson, NYCP College & Career Coach  
(Office) 775-773-2306 ext. 2163  
(Work Cell) 775-493-6897  
Email: djackson@wrpt.org

Belinda Hooper, NYCP College & Career Coach  
(Office) 775-773-2306 ext. 2161  
(Work Cell) 775-493-6893  
Email: bhooper@wrpt.org



# NYCP News

## Cultural History and Exploring the Stars



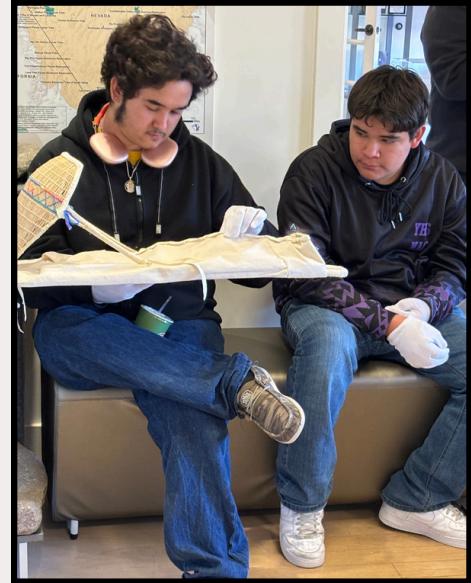
The NYCP Coaches organized an overnight trip on Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 to Carson City, NV, with eleven students from 7th - 11th grade. They visited three sites, including the Stewart Indian Museum, Western Nevada College Observatory, and the Nevada State Museum





# NYCP News

## Cultural History and Exploring the Stars



The group was able to tour through the Stewart Indian Museum and spend time doing a hands-on activity making deer from willow and hearing a story of the deer. They received guidance from Melanie Smokey, Education Curator of Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, talked about the History of the 90 Years about Stewart. Students also learned about how the basketry and items are preserved and carefully handled within the museum for safe keepings, as well as the delicate nature of these timeless items. Students were able to walk through the self-guided portion of the Stewart Indian Museum, learning about the histories and what past residences and boarding school members endured while attending at Stewart Indian School.





# NYCP News

## Cultural History and Exploring the Stars



Students explored the Nevada State Museum (three-levels of exploration and history learning), including learning about the prehistoric times of the mammals and environment that existed.





# NYCP News

## Cultural History and Exploring the Stars



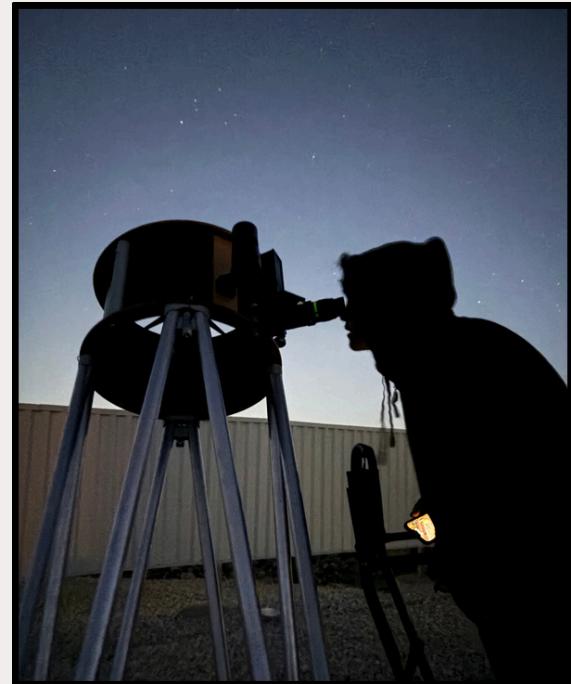
Students received a special docent-led tour of the history, mint, and mine exhibits, followed by a docent-led tour of the Under One Sky exhibit. These school and Education-related tours are offered free through the Nevada State Museum!



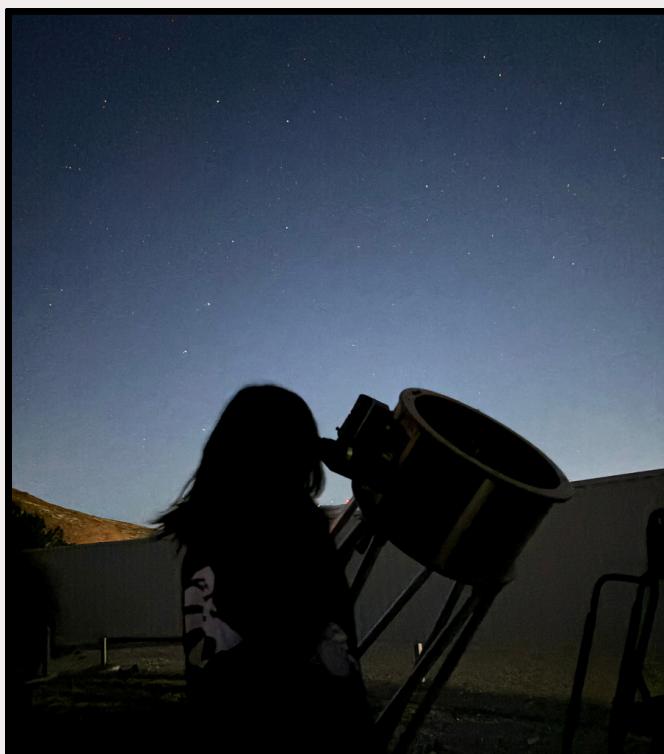


# NYCP News

## Cultural History and Exploring the Stars



The NYCP Coaches worked with the WNC Jack C. Davis Observatory Director to organize a private tour of the facility and telescope setup. Students made observations of planets, nebulae, and galaxies. They also viewed some of the astrophotos and data gathered and learned about astronomy and space exploration as well as general science.

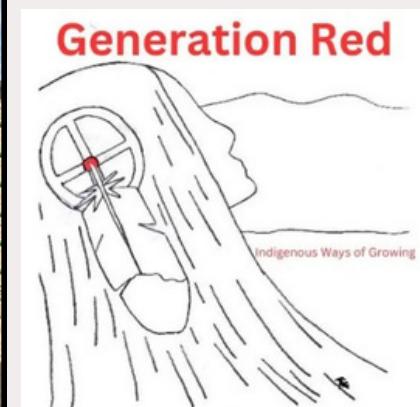




# NYCP News

## Equine-Assisted Learning Session

On Saturday, March 15, the Education Department collaborated with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Generation Red, a non-profit organization, and the lead organizer of the Prayer Horse Ride to co-host a pilot Equine-Assisted Learning session in Schurz, NV for local youth and community members. It focused on promoting not only horse care awareness but also self-care. This session provided youth with numerous benefits, including enhancements in physical, emotional, and spiritual health through their work with horses. This was an amazing event to collaborate with ITCN, Generation Red, and the lead organizer of the Prayer Horse Ride! Equine-assisted learning involves so many benefits to our health and education about our relationship with animals, including a powerful spiritual stance against any harms to our communities.





# NYCP News

## Equine-Assisted Learning Session

### Culture

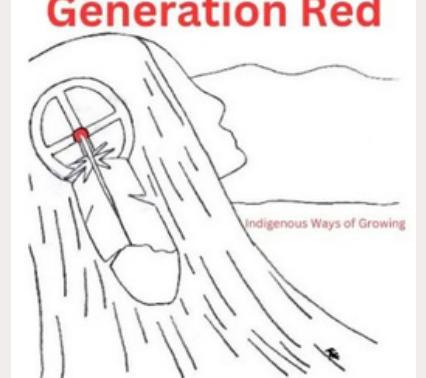


is

### Prevention



Generation Red



# 2025 Nevada Afterschool Showcase



On Feb 27-28, the Education Director, Sara Twiss attended the presented during the 2025 Nevada Afterschool Showcase, a statewide conference that brings together afterschool and out-of-school time [OST] professionals and leaders in the field to learn about innovative ways to enhance program quality and empower programs and youth to achieve their goals. During the closing plenary session, she was able to present on Native Community & Culture in Education & OST Programming, along with Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional for Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education, Stacey Montooth, Executive Director of the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs, and Letisha Yellowhawk, Cultural & Library Program Coordinator, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe. They engaged the attendees in a conversation about Nevada Tribal OST programs and ways to involve Native American students in youth programming.





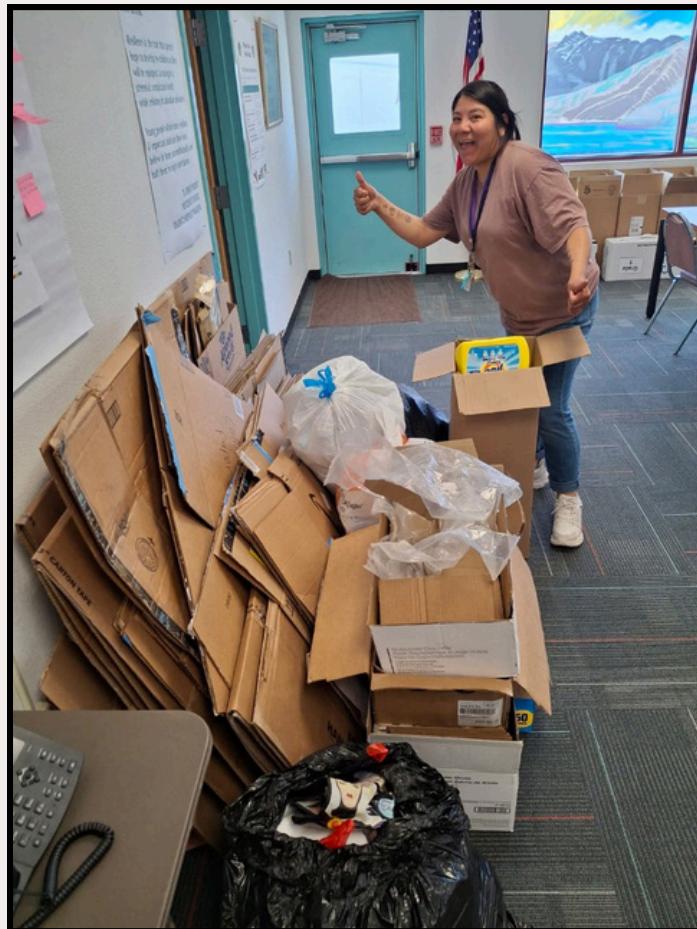
## Education Team in the Field!

On March 6, Dawna Jackson, NYCP College & Career Coach, presented on upcoming events and trips related to the NYCP programming to the Yerington High School Native American Club. Trips included the Equine-Assisted Learning session, the spring break Walkabout on Paiute Lands events, a visit to TMCC, and to the Ironworkers training facility event!



Our Academic Tutor, Carissa Lockwood-Brown, and Communal Library Specialist, Ysela Brown, attended the Anti-Bullying Awareness Walk with the Agai Dicutta Tuamuhvi Nobe (Boys & Girls Club). Thank you to all those who organized this awareness event and to take a stand against acts of bullying!

# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress



Our Academic Tutor, Carissa Lockwood-Brown, has been assisting with the NDEP recycling grant to meet the requirements, including developing youth art making, essay writing, and coloring competitions with Paiute language translations. The main focus is on promoting educational awareness of recycling, reducing, and reusing materials. Carissa is coordinating with the Schurz Elementary School, as well as other tribal departments and external partners, to plan the upcoming 2025 Earth Day activities.

Carissa Lockwood-Brown dropping off recycled material to the students for their class competitions!



**See the following pages for grade level and class participation! Winners will be announced at the Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

***Participants will get their art posted on the new and upcoming recycling bins!***

# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress

Pre-K - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Recycled Art - Class Team Competitions

## Recycled Art Competition

BRING RECYCLABLES  
FROM HOME!  
MATERIALS WILL ALSO  
BE DONATED!

### Gift Card Prizes

- 1st Place - \$300.00
- 2nd Place - \$200.00
- 3rd Place - \$100.00
- 4th Place - \$50.00

Students at SES will get together in their teams and create a work of art out of recyclable materials! The deadline to have the masterpiece completed is **April 18th**. All projects will be displayed at the Earth Day Event, April 22nd 2025, at the Schurz Pinenut Festival grounds. We will then announce the winners!

Spark Your Creativity!  
Reduce, Reuse,  
Recycle!

### Class Teams

### PreK & Kindergarten

### 1st & 2nd Grade

### 3rd & 4th Grade

### 5th & 6th Grade



Schurz Elementary School





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# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress

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## 3rd - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Essay Contests

Writing prompts on recycling for Earth Day

First place winners in each grade (3rd-6th) wins \$75 gift card

**Third Grade:** Write 5 things that make the world beautiful and why you think so.

**Fourth Grade:** What are 3 things you and your family can reuse/recycle at home? How would you use it?

**Fifth Grade:** Imagine your favorite outdoor area, such as the reservoir or park. Now, picture it covered in trash. How does that make you feel about recycling and waste?

**Sixth Grade:** Why is it important to protect nature? What are some ways you could protect nature, besides recycling?

### **Guidelines for essay:**

3rd - Must be one paragraph long or more.

4th - Must be two paragraphs long or 100 words or more.

5th - Must be two-three paragraphs long, or 200 words or more.

6th - Must be three-four paragraphs or, 300 words or more.

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# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress

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Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Coloring Contests Pages



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# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress

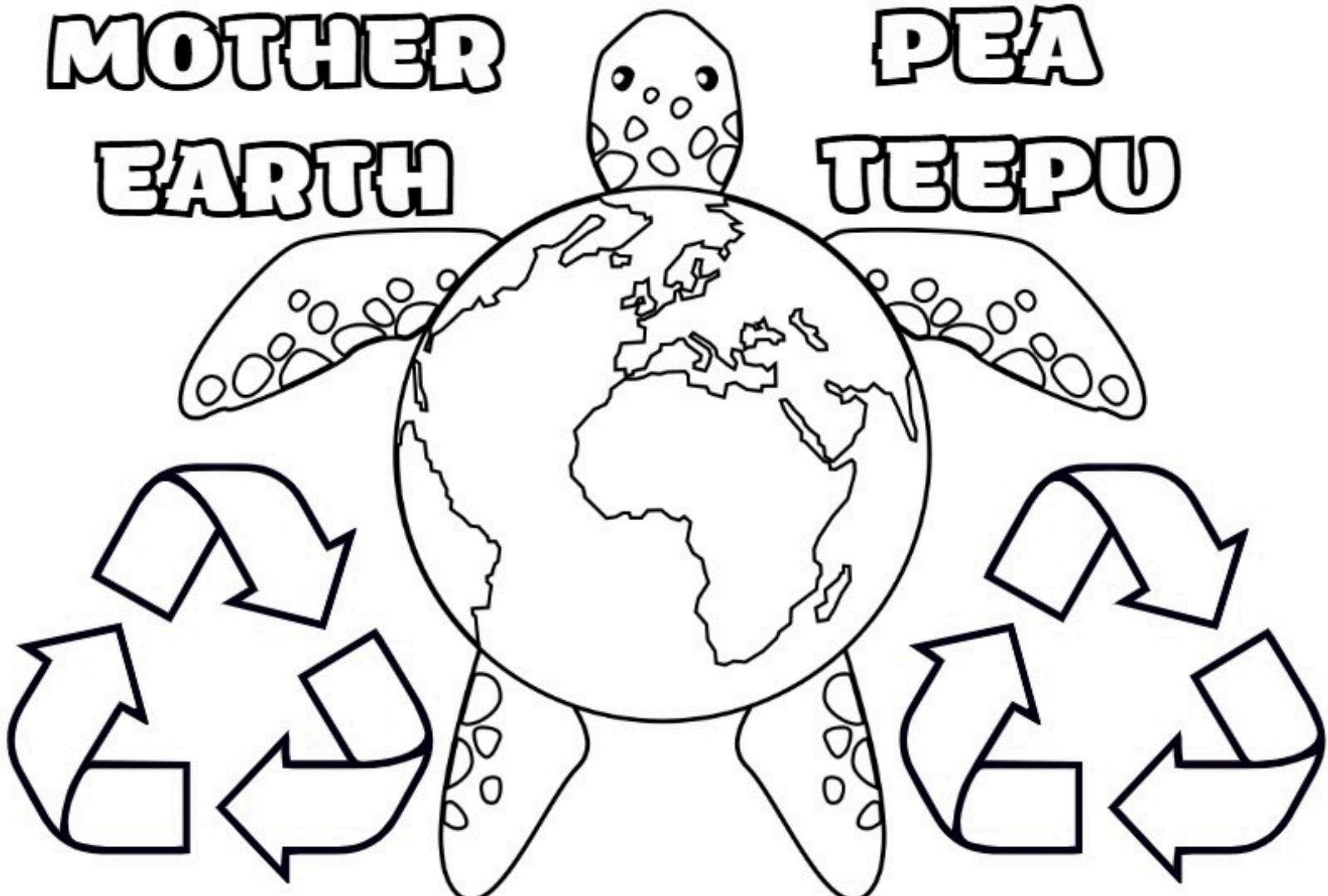
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Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Coloring Contests Pages

**SAVE  
MOTHER  
EARTH**

**WOETZA'ME**

**PEA  
TEEPU**



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# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress

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Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Coloring Contests Pages



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# NDEP Recycling Grant Progress

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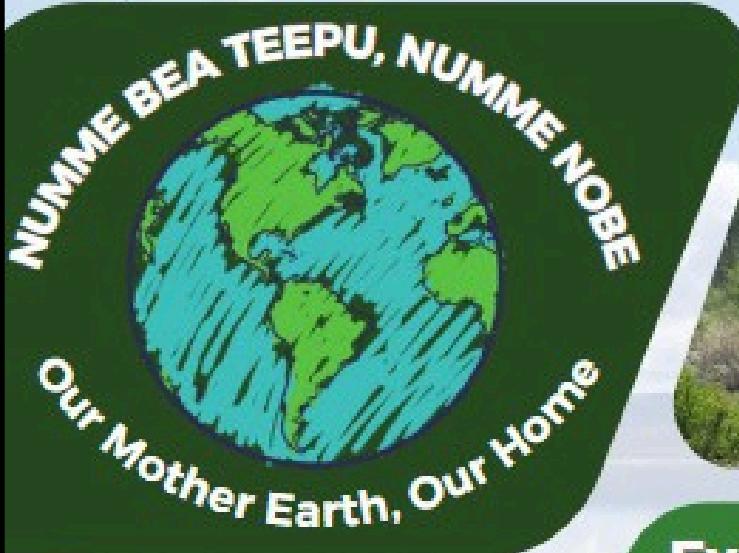
Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Coloring Contests Pages



# 2025 Earth Day Flyer



The Walker River Paiute Tribe  
presents



**Tuesday, April 22, 2025  
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
Schurz Pinenut Blessing  
Park Area**



## Event Details

- Student-led Presentations
- Student Recycled Art Competitions (Awardees Announced!)
- DIY Birdfeeders by Senior Program
- Arts & Crafts
- Traditional Storytelling
- Info & Activity Tables by Tribal Departments
- AND MORE!



**Tri-Tip BBQ Will be Provided!**

**SIDE DISH COMMUNITY POTLUCK  
STYLE by LAST NAME:**

A - H - Green Salad/Fruits  
I - P - Macaroni/Potato Salad  
Q - Z - Desserts

Please contact the Education  
Department for any general questions:  
[educationdirector@wrpt.org](mailto:educationdirector@wrpt.org)  
775-773-2478



# Upcoming Schurz Elementary School Field Trip



## Walker River State Rec Area

211 E Walker Rd, Yerington, NV 89447

Roughly 45 minutes from Schurz Elementary School

Facilitators of the Walker Basin Conservancy will provide a tour of the native plant nursery and field operations covering topics like park history, watershed education, NV native plants and animals, and pollinators. E'Sha Hoferer, Paiute Language Instructor will facilitate a native plant/animal scavenger hunt!



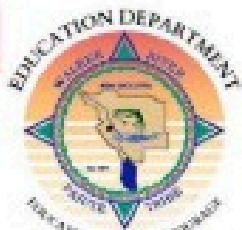
**Lunch will  
be  
provided!**

Must have a signed SES  
permission slip to attend

Hosted in partnership by:



**Walker  
Basin  
Conservancy**



## Upcoming NYCP Trips!



WESTERN  
NEVADA  
COLLEGE



### College Tour

# WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE RN Programs

Students will receive a presentation about WNC and information about the Native American Fee Waiver, tour of WNC Campus (Student Life will lead the tour!), and we will conclude in the library with a Q&A).



Basic Nursing Skills

Labs/Clinical

Pharmacology

Medical Surgical Nursing

Mental Health & Illness



Thursday, April 24, 2025



10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



2201 West College Parkway  
Carson City, NV 89703

### CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:



Dawna Jackson, NYCP College & Career Coach  
(Office) 775-773-2306 ext. 2163  
(Work Cell) 775-493-6897  
Email: djackson@wrpt.org

Belinda Hooper, NYCP College & Career Coach  
(Office) 775-773-2306 ext. 2161  
(Work Cell) 775-493-6893  
Email: bhooper@wrpt.org



## Upcoming 2025 Paiute Language Bowl!

The Education Department is proud to attend and support the teams for the annual Paiute Language Bowl to be held in Reno, NV on May, 9, 2025. Our staff will be providing transportation to this event for eligible students. Please contact our office for details.

**SEATS ARE LIMITED!**



**WCSD 2025 PAIUTE LANGUAGE BOWL**

**MAY 9, 2025**

**Time:** 10:00 am

Join us in celebrating the achievements our students have made in their Paiute language classes with a friendly competition. The Language Bowl is an opportunity for our students to encourage each other in preserving and revitalizing the Paiute language.

**Location:**  
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Gym  
34 Reservation Road Reno, NV  
ENTRANCE on Golden Lane Building B

**Contact:**  
Fawn Hunter, Native American Culture & Education Program Manager  
[Fawn.Hunter@washoeschools.net](mailto:Fawn.Hunter@washoeschools.net)  
775-789-4672





Washoe County  
School District



Native American  
CULTURE & EDUCATION  
PROGRAM



SSHSS  




RENO HIGH  




HOME OF THE COLTS  


## Upcoming NYCP Trips!



# BUILD YOUR FUTURE WITH THE IRON WORKERS!

*"As a union, we strive to provide comprehensive training, safe working environments, and competitive wages and benefits to our members. It is through this training that we can offer our industry a skilled, professional work force and continue to build local communities."*

**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 | STEAD, NV (TRAINING FACILITY)**

**TIME: 10:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**(LUNCH PROVIDED AT 12:00 P.M.)**

**SIGN-UPS ARE DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025**

*Interested students can learn about the Apprenticeship Program, emphasizing high earnings and Ironworkers importance in societal development, without needing a college degree! Hear highlights about the historical and current nature of Native American Ironworkers through a banquet with retirees and leadership team members!*

**CONTACT THE NYCP COACHES FOR SIGN-UPS! (775)773-2306**

**BELINDA HOOPER, NYCP COACH EXT. 2161**

**DAWNA JACKSON, NYCP COACH EXT. 2163**



# Upcoming Walker River Paiute Tribe College and Career Fair!



## WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

**Connecting students and community members  
with college and career pathways!**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - Schurz Tribal Gym  
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Resume Preparation
- Interview Skills
- Network with professionals in your field of interest
- School or University information
- NSHE Native American Tuition Fee Waiver
- Networking Opportunities

### FOCUS AREAS:

- Student Resources
- Parent/Guardian Resources
- Education and Teaching
- Financial Learning
- Work-based Learning
- College & Work Recruitment
- Health Resources
- Substance Abuse Prevention and more!



**QUESTIONS? Please Contact:** **Dawna Jackson** **Belinda Hooper** **djackson@wrpt.org** **bhooper@wrpt.org**



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## ***Upcoming MCSD Child Find Screening***

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### **Mineral County School District Child Find Screening!!**

Are you worried about your child's development?

Is your child 0-5 years old?

If you answer YES to these questions, please contact

Schurz Elementary School

775-773-2323,

to schedule your child for the upcoming screening on :

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025**

**1:00-3:00 PM**

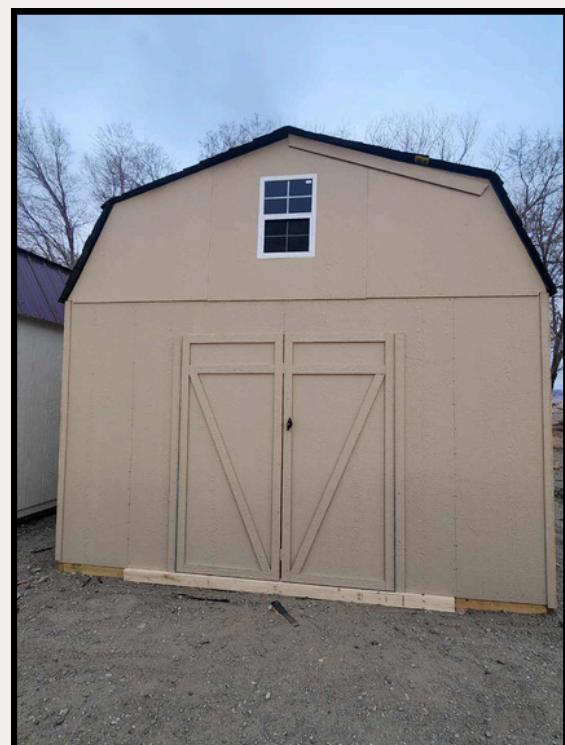


## Education Department New Storage Shed!



***The Education Department would like to thank Spencer Quintero, a contracted handyman worker for constructing our new storage shed for added space and more efficiency to our ongoing programs and activities! We'd also like to thank our staff, Carissa Lockwood-Brown, Ysela Brown, and Elijah Plummer (11<sup>th</sup> Grade) for assisting him through this process.***

***We would like to ask the community to respect the property as it contributes to our youth and educational activities for the community.***



# FAFSA Updates



## Federal Student Aid Information Center Extended Hours of Operation (2025-26 FAFSA® Form):

Monday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Eastern time (ET)  
FAFSA support available until 10 p.m. ET

Tuesday–Wednesday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET  
FAFSA support available until 10 p.m. ET

Thursday–Friday: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET  
FAFSA support available until 10 p.m. ET  
(except on Friday, Nov. 29)

Saturday–Sunday: Closed  
FAFSA support available noon–5 p.m. ET  
on Saturdays

Closed on all federal holidays.





## THE WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS PUTTING A

### CALL OUT FOR ALL 2024-2025 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 2024 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:**  
Be sure to complete a separate form for each student.

**Responses will be accepted until May 1, 2025.**

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 775-773-2306 ext. 2160, or  
email [educationdirector@wrpt.org](mailto:educationdirector@wrpt.org).