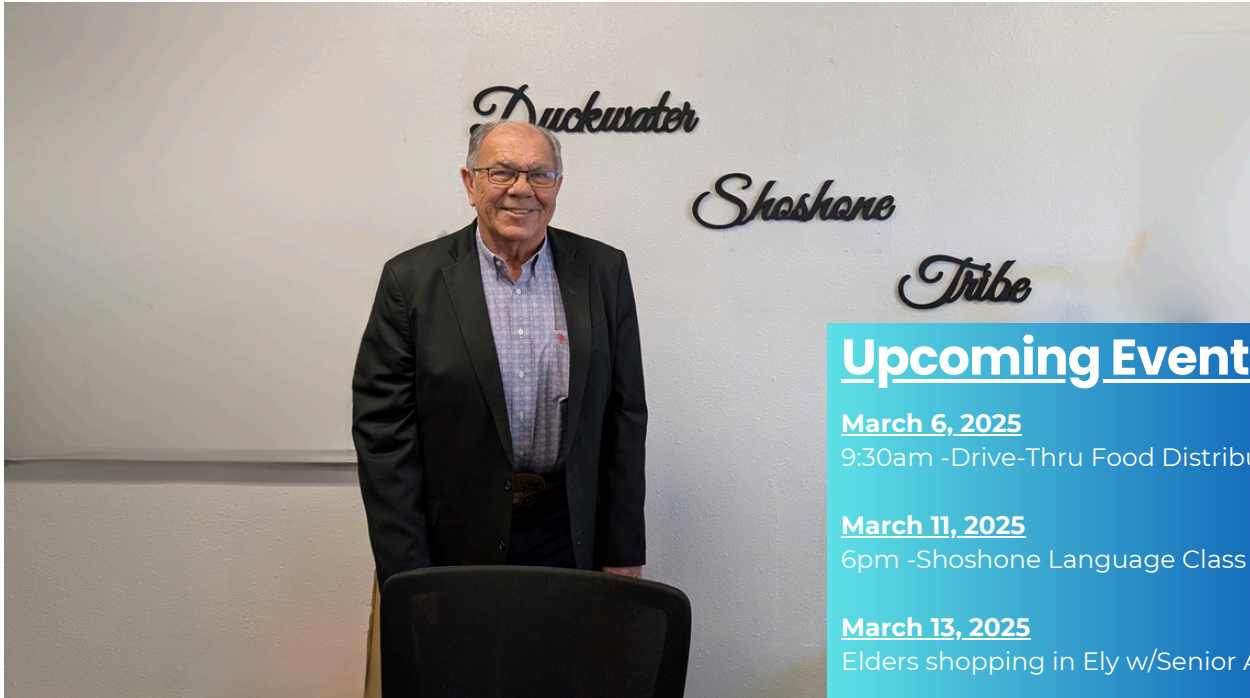


DUCKWATER

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events

March 6, 2025

9:30am -Drive-Thru Food Distribution

March 11, 2025

6pm -Shoshone Language Class

March 13, 2025

Elders shopping in Ely w/Senior Advocate

March 31, 2025

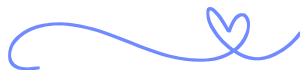
Time TBA- Council Mtg.

Honoring a Legacy: Jerry Millett Retires After 51 Years of Service

-Tarina Elliott

After more than half a century of unwavering dedication, our Tribal Manager, Jerry Millett, is retiring, leaving behind a legacy that has shaped not just the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, but Tribal communities across the country.

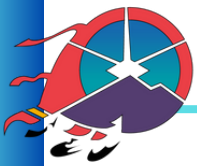
Jerry has been more than just a leader; he has been a force, a voice, and a tireless advocate for Native people. From his years as Tribal Manager to serving as a Tribal leader and a respected voice at state and federal levels, his impact reaches far beyond our own community. His dedication, wisdom, and passion have helped guide our Tribe through generations of growth and change, always ensuring that our people's needs were heard and met.



For 51 years, Jerry has worked to strengthen sovereignty, build relationships, and fight for the rights of Tribal Nations. His leadership has left a lasting imprint on Indian Country, and his influence will continue to be felt for years to come.

Jerry, from all of us, thank you. Thank you for the sacrifices, the long days and late nights, the tough decisions, and the unwavering commitment to our people. Most importantly thank you for all the "Jerry stories"! You have set a standard of leadership and dedication that will inspire generations to come.

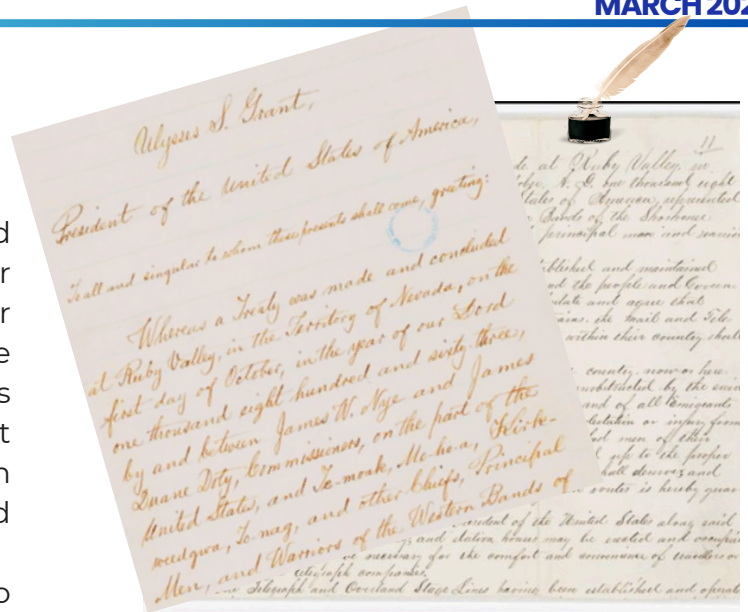
Enjoy your well-earned retirement, you have more than earned it!



Duckwater Shoshone Tribe Response to Government Changes

-Tarina Elliott

As the federal government moves forward with the DOGE plan, we want our community to know that the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe is staying ahead of the curve. We understand that funding freezes and delays can create uncertainty, but we've put a strong contingency plan in place to make sure our programs and services continue without disruption. Our leadership is fully committed to keeping things running smoothly, no matter what challenges come our way. We're staying in close contact with our representatives in the U.S. Senate and Congress, making sure they hear our concerns and understand the needs of our people. Through it all, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe remains strong and resilient. We will continue to stand up for our sovereignty, protect our community, and ensure that our people have the support they need.



Leaders Engage at UNR Tribal Leaders Summit

-Tarina Elliott

In February, three of our Tribal Council members and staff attended the University of Nevada Tribal Leaders Summit in Reno. The event provided a space for meaningful discussions on education, tribal relations, and cultural preservation.

A key highlight was the Roundtable Discussion with UNR President Brian Sandoval and Nevada Governor Lombardo, where leaders addressed tribal concerns and learned about the university's Indigenous initiatives. The Office of Indigenous Relations also shared updates on strengthening tribal partnerships.

The summit fostered valuable networking opportunities and discussions on UNR's NAGPRA Collections, emphasizing the importance of repatriation efforts. Federal and state agency representatives were also present, offering insights on policies and funding opportunities.

Our delegation left inspired and committed to continuing the work of advocating for our people and preserving our culture.





Newe Degwa: Asha zah uh-boo-in (Shoshone Language Good to See You)

DSES Shoshone Language & Cultural Learning

Students at DSES are learning the Shoshone language and cultural traditions from Elder Kathy Adams-Blackeye twice a week, keeping our heritage alive.

Community Shoshone Language Program

Join us every Tuesday night from 6-7 PM at the Administration Building for Shoshone language classes. Open to all, these sessions are available in person and online. Like the DSES program, they include language lessons, cultural shares, and storytelling.



Elder Kathy Adams-Blackeye with DSES students, sharing language and culture

NAGPRA Repatriation Efforts

-Tarina Elliott

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office Warren Graham is actively working with government agencies across the country to repatriate ancestral remains and funerary objects, ensuring our ancestors are returned to their rightful resting places. For too long, our people have been removed from their homelands and held in museums and institutions, but through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), we continue the vital work of bringing them home.

A significant revision to NAGPRA in 2024 now requires museums and federal agencies to update their inventories of human remains and associated objects within five years. This change strengthens tribal sovereignty by increasing opportunities for tribes to reclaim their ancestors and their belongings. With these updates, our efforts to honor and protect our heritage are gaining momentum, allowing us to restore dignity to those who have been displaced for generations.

The THPO Department remains committed to ensuring that all ancestors and their cultural items are repatriated with the respect they deserve. We will continue to work diligently to bring them home and rebury them in accordance with our traditions.



Boxes from the University of Nevada, Reno, containing Native American artifacts.



THPO Warren Graham reviewing boxes containing Native American artifacts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



THPO's from across Shoshone country gather at monitoring site



Moccasin-Making Class Brings Community Together

-Tarina Elliott

Our THPO Warren Graham's first moccasin-making class was such a success that we'll be hosting more! So many people were excited to learn that we couldn't fit everyone into just one session.

The first class brought together community members and students from Duckwater Shoshone Elementary School. It was amazing to see the students learning alongside elders and experienced moccasin makers, sharing stories, laughter, and skills. The room was filled with a real sense of togetherness as traditions were passed down, one stitch at a time.

Because of the high demand, we're already planning the next class as soon as we can get more supplies. If you missed out this time, don't worry—there will be more opportunities to learn and connect. A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this class so special!

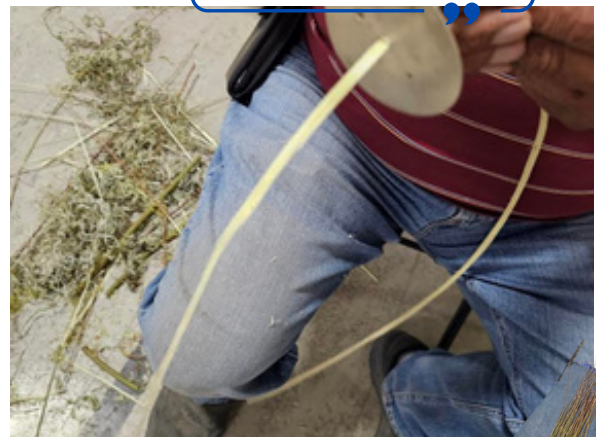


Elders R. Tindore and A. Mike teach others the steps of making moccasins

Culture is not just about what we inherit; it is about what we pass on.



THPO W. Graham assists the DSES students with making their own moccasins



Elder A. Mike teaches how to willow strip



Keeping Tradition Alive: Willow String Making Class

Community members are coming together to learn the traditional art of making string from willow. Led by instructor Allen Mike, this ongoing class provides a hands-on experience in the careful process of crafting string for weaving.

The journey begins with understanding the materials—where to find willow, how to harvest it respectfully, and the techniques required to transform it into strong, usable string. Participants will soon embark on their first project: creating a Yon-du, a significant piece in traditional weaving.

As the class progresses, students will dive deeper into the craft, eventually taking on more intricate weaving projects. More than just a skill-building opportunity, this course fosters cultural preservation, strengthens community ties, and ensures the passing down of traditional knowledge.

Stay tuned for updates from our Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) on future classes!



Duckwater Tribal Police Department

-Jamie Lucas

Due to the uncertainty of the Trump Administration & travel restrictions, Chief Lucas had competed against all law enforcement agencies across the nation & received a fully paid scholarship that also covered flight & hotel cost to Washington DC at the end of February that covered training in Amber Alert in Indian Country on missing & murdered Indigenous children & adults by the Department of Justice. However, we had to decline this training.

The police department has meet all required Nevada POST training to maintain our law enforcement certifications ahead of the December 31, 2024 deadline & has begun to work toward the 2025 training requirements.

Chief Lucas is working with Department of Justice on receiving two background / finger print machines that includes all training on the proper use of those machines. One for the PD & one for Human Resources at no cost to the tribe. However, this depends on funding available from Department of Justice. Duckwater Tribe will be competing for this equipment & training against all law enforcement agencies across the nation. These machines will assist in police investigations & save the tribe money on background checks for new hires.



As it stands now, the tribe is paying right at \$100.00 for back ground checks for new hires. If awarded these background / finger print machines, the tribe would only be paying \$13.00 per background check on each new hire. The grant funding application for these machines begin in July of 2025.

The Police Department has been very active in investigations of crimes in the community solving such crimes as violations of probations, DUI's, & drugs. I want to reassure the community that we will continue to work diligently to keep your community safe by working with the community.



Exciting Infrastructure Projects Breaking Ground This Spring & Summer

-Tarina Elliott

This spring and summer, several major projects are set to break ground, bringing important infrastructure improvements to our community. The long-awaited Nye County 379 Road paving project is moving forward, improving access and safety for all. Our tribal company, Puyenpa, will begin work on the much-anticipated E-Rate fiber project, bringing enhanced internet connectivity to the community. Additionally, the Tribal Community/Emergency Building is making progress, ensuring a vital resource for our people.

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Administration has been working diligently to secure funding and keep these projects on track. Stay tuned for updates as we continue to build a stronger future for our community!



Duckwater Shoshone Tribe Collaborates with UNR for Community Master Plan

-Tarina Elliott

Duckwater Economic Development Manager Lorinda Sam has partnered with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to develop a comprehensive master plan for the Duckwater community. This collaboration aims to shape the future of the tribe by addressing key needs and priorities identified by community members.

UNR has already held three hands-on meetings with the community, ensuring that local voices are at the forefront of the planning process. As the project moves forward, continued input from tribal members remains essential to creating a vision that reflects the tribe’s goals for economic growth, infrastructure, and sustainability.

The master plan is a crucial step toward strengthening the future of Duckwater, and we encourage everyone to stay engaged in this process. Stay tuned for updates as we continue working together to build a thriving community for generations to come.



Professor Nathan Strong guides the Duckwater community in organizing ideas for the master plan, ensuring tribal needs and priorities.

