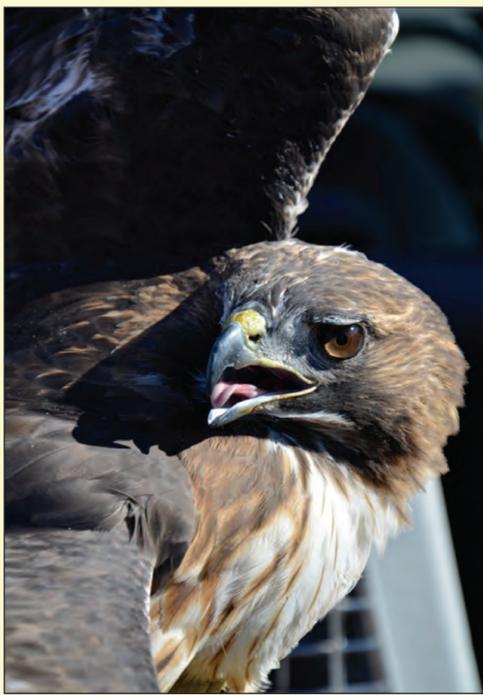




### Healing hands



Pat Jackson, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with the State of Colorado, releases a red-tailed hawk back into the wild under the supervision of Southern Ute Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson on Wednesday, Jan. 4. The injured hawk was turned over to Jackson in October 2011 after it was reported on the Southern Ute Reservation. It was rehabilitated at Jackson's own center, the St. Francis Sanctuary, in Arboles. The rehabilitation center is funded by grants and donations.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Waci'ci Trading Company's new location at the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum offers a variety of traditional goods. Southern Ute tribal member Carol Baker (above) works at the shop, which sells everything from moccasins and traditional jewelry to Southern Ute artwork by Debra K. Box (below) and a wide range of books (bottom).

## Waci'-ci ups game at Southern Ute museum

By Ace Stryker  
The Southern Ute Drum

Visitors to the new Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum have noticed that the facility doesn't just allow you to view tribal culture behind the glass — you can take some home with you, too.

The new Waci'-ci Trading Company opened with the museum in May 2011, bringing the goods many have sought in downtown Ignacio for 25 years to the heart of the tribal campus. Owner Mel Silva said the response to Waci'-ci — Ute for "antelope" — has been great among the Native American community.

"They definitely are our best customers," he said.

Silva says his purchasing choices are informed by a lifetime of living in Ignacio, growing up around tribal members.

"In school, all of my best friends were Southern Ute — and still are," he said. "I kind of understand the tastes. It just kind of comes from being around it."

When Waci'-ci won the museum spot, Silva opted to keep his downtown Ignacio store open. With limited floor space at the new location — about 1,200 square feet, compared to 4,000 downtown — he had to be selective about his stock, focusing on unique and one-of-a-kind items.

"I really wanted to do just the best-quality things here to match the facility," he said. "This is a world-class facility."

From jewelry and moccasins to books and blankets — including one with a unique design commissioned for the museum by Pendleton Woolen Mills — the shop offers a variety of goods. Silva said he purchases items from many independently working Native Americans, including Southern Utes such as Debra K. Box and Oreland Joe.



"I have great relationships with lots and lots of Native American artists," he said, citing his 15 years of wholesale experience around the country as having allowed him to build an extensive network.

Traffic at the store has roughly met Silva's expectations, he said.

"Thing are about what I expected. I expected it to be more of a summer business," he said, adding that with 30 bus tours scheduled to visit the museum next summer, the future looks bright.

Southern Ute tribal members do receive discounts on purchases at Waci'-ci's museum location: 33 percent off non-bead-work jewelry, 5 percent off

books, and 10 percent off everything else. Museum shop purchases are also exempt from sales tax, saving buyers another 6.9 percent.

Silva said a portion of shop proceeds go back to the museum, keeping money within the tribal community.

"We're very interested in any input that [tribal members] have — things that they would like to see that we're not carrying," he said, adding that anyone is welcome to call the store or talk to the clerks during a visit.

The shop's winter hours are 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; in the summer, it will return to 9 a.m. — 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

## Local Ignacio Weather

Friday, Jan. 13



Sunny, High 39° F

Saturday, Jan. 14



Sunny, High 44° F

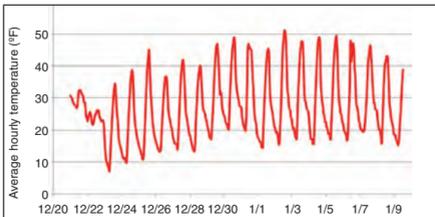
Sunday, Jan. 15



Mostly sunny, High 46° F

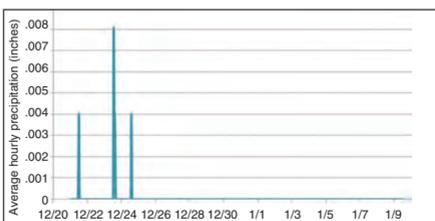


Weather data for December 20 — January 9



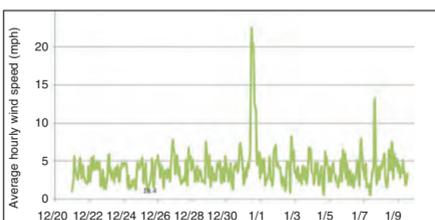
### Temperature

High 51.1°F  
Low 7.1°F  
Average 27.1°F  
Average last year 22.0°F



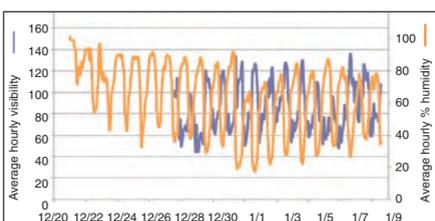
### Precipitation

Total 0.02 inches  
Total last year 1.87 inches



### Wind speed

Average 3.9 mph  
Minimum 0.6 mph  
Maximum 22.4 mph



### Visibility & humidity

Avg. visibility 84.8  
Avg. humidity 63.8%

Air quality Good

Data compiled by Southern Ute Environmental Programs

Weather forecasts collected from www.NOAA.gov

