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For Immediate Release:

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER UNVEILS NEW HOT AIR BALLOON

March 3, 2025—Albuquerque, NM—The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) is excited to announce a refreshed version of its hot air balloon, “Eyahne On The Horizon.” The original balloon, which was introduced in 2020 and was seen at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for the first time in 2021 and flew over the skies of Albuquerque daily, will be retired due to the fading of the design after nearly 1000 flights.

Designed by IPCC staff, the balloon’s design symbolizes the culture and sacred beliefs of the Pueblo People of New Mexico. Each of the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico has its own distinct way of life, so the included design elements were chosen based on symbols and themes common throughout the Pueblos. They represent cultural concepts including corn, strength, progress, continuance, blessings, and connection with the earth, heavens, ancestors, and each other. The name of the balloon, Eyahne (ee-yuh-NEE), means “blessings” in Keres, one of the languages of the Pueblos.

“As ‘Ehayne’ soars across the skies, it symbolizes IPCC’s enduring spirit, pride, and our Pueblo communities unbroken connection to our land, traditions, and heritage,” incoming IPCC President and CEO Monique Fragua said. “We look forward to sharing this experience with the world, continuing to inspire and uplift all who see it take flight.”

“Eyahne On The Horizon” is a partnership with Rainbow Ryders, Inc., the Southwest’s premier hot air balloon company. When registering the aircraft with the FAA, Rainbow Ryders chose the N-Number “76NM” in reference to 1976, the year that IPCC opened.

“Rainbow Ryders is thrilled to continue our growing partnership with the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center,” Rainbow Ryders’ Director of Project and Pilot Management Amanda Rhea Warren said. “Since 2020, the Albuquerque community has embraced the sight of

Acoma
Cochiti
Isleta
Jemez
Laguna
Nambé
Ohkay Owingeh
Picuris
Pojoaque
Sandia
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the stunning IPCC balloon soaring through the sky, and we're incredibly grateful to keep this tradition alive with a brand-new balloon."

The balloon was made in Ann Arbor, Michigan, by Cameron Balloons, the world's largest balloon manufacturer. It is capable of lifting 6,000 pounds, or 12 passengers plus the pilot. Like its predecessor, it will be one of the largest ride balloons in New Mexico. It will fly 200-300 times per year in the Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Los Lunas areas. It will also be on display at local events and will be seen at the Balloon Fiesta this October.

The new "Eyahne On The Horizon" balloon will be officially unveiled at 7 a.m. on March 10 at the Towneplace Suites by Marriott, located on 12th Street across from the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The unveiling will be open to the public, with an acknowledgment of the balloon's pilots and light refreshments. Rainbow Ryders will also be offering tethered rides in the new balloon to IPCC staff from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. For more information, please contact Marianne Billy.

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About the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center:

Founded in 1976 by the 19 Pueblo tribes of New Mexico, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a world-class museum and cultural center located in the historic 19 Pueblos District. The Mission of the IPCC Campus is to serve as a gathering place where Pueblo culture is celebrated through creative and cultural experiences while providing economic opportunities to Pueblo and local communities. Visitors can learn fascinating history, shop for Native jewelry and art, watch a cultural dance, hear Native languages and experience the flavors of traditional and contemporary Native cuisine. To learn more, please visit:

www.indianpueblo.org and www.facebook.com/IndianPueblo.

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- Taos
- Tesuque
- Zia
- Zuni