



# My Educational Journey

By Dawn Fuentes

Hello, my name is Dawn Fuentes. I am thirty years old and the younger daughter to my late mother Dorothy Lewis. I just recently obtained my Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at Arizona State University on December 14, 2020.

I graduated from Maricopa High School in 2008. I have an Associate of Arts degree in Media Communications, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management, from Haskell Indian Nations University, and now a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, from ASU.

I decided to go to Haskell Indian Nations University because at the time I felt I needed change in my life. In the fall of 2011, when I

was 21, I stepped on Haskell campus and I was so scared, yet excited. At that point in time, I had never been away from home or left my mom's side for a long period of time.

Attending Haskell was one of the best decisions I made and the best years of my life. Leaving home, being away from my family was tough; I learned in order to cope with being homesick, I made friends.

One of the bad memories at Haskell would be when I was bullied for the first two years. Luckily, that person stopped attending and left back home. In that dark time, I did befriend a whole new group of friends who became family and for that I am grateful. My second bad memory would be dealing with gallstones and having to

fly home for surgery. All my good memories at Haskell is spending time with friends and learning along with them.

In high school, I thought I wanted to be a pastry chef and one day own my own bakery. My plans changed since I felt it was not for me. At the time of my two-year degree, I was interested in filming and editing videos, but my goals had changed yet again as the years went by.

For my four-year degree, I thought one day I could manage a business or own my own company. As you can see, I was indecisive about what I wanted to do as a career. In my last semester at Haskell, I finally decided what I wanted to do and that was to be a detective. I motivated myself to pursue a Master's degree

*Educational Journey continues to page 3*



**Community member Dawn Fuentes, our newest Masters Graduate, received her Masters of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Arizona State University. She holds a picture of her mom, the late Dorothy Lewis, pictured after receiving her Associates degree in 1983 from the Indian Bible College, Southwestern School of Missions in Flagstaff, Arizona.**

# Bishop Olmsted visits community



**December 18, Bishop Thomas Olmsted provides a blessing to St. Francis of Assisi parishioners.**

On December 28, a special mass was celebrated at Ak-Chin St. Francis of Assisi Church, as Bishop Thomas Olmsted officiated.

“The Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit were honored to join the Ak-Chin Community in welcoming Bishop Olmsted to St. Francis for the installation of Br. John of the Cross as an acolyte.” Shared Fr. Antony Tinker. “We thank Bishop Olmsted for his continued love and support for the native peoples of his diocese and in particular the Ak-Chin community. Br. John of the Cross will be ordained a deacon this summer and a priest in the summer of 2022.”



# Chairman's New Year message

Membership,

I hope and pray that everyone is still continuing to stay safe and healthy and that we are watching over one another, especially those who are young, elderly and may have underlying health conditions. With the COVID pandemic at an all-time high it is crucial that we continue to practice self-distancing, wearing a mask, and other recommendations in staying safe and healthy.

With the Christmas holiday behind us and New Year's Day here today, we've seen a number of COVID19 cases increase over the past week here in the community. Unfortunately, we have lost a few community members to the virus.

It was reported months earlier by health professionals that the pandemic would hit its strength/peak during the Christmas and New Year holidays, which in fact is

occurring, per reporting of positive cases and unfortunate deaths, not just in the community, but nation and worldwide.

Today, and the next couple of weeks, it is highly recommended that everyone stays home; only leave your home, if you're not sick, for essential needs for your family, as the virus is more contagious than ever before.

If we can practice all safety

*Message continues to page 2*

# Youth Council and Ak-Chin Mumsigo set out to bring music and cheer



**Ak-Chin Youth Council and Ak-Chin Mumsigo bring cheer to the Farm subdivision.**

Over Christmas weekend, the Ak-Chin Youth Council and Ak-Chin Mumsigo band hitched a trailer and took a ride down the streets of the community, filling the cold nights with familiar vaillatunes, giving everyone a boost of O'odham holiday spirit.

Back in October, as the world continued to be put on hold, the Youth Council talked about switching plans for what would have been the 2020

Masik Tas, as every year the YC hosts their annual dance, wood chopping and menudo contests. Wanting to keep the celebration and community in good spirits they looked for another way to bring some cheer to the year.

Youth Council Coordinator Joseph Davis stated, “The goal was to do something that will safely connect the community and to help us celebrate Masik Tas and the holidays in a time

where we felt we needed it the most. We believe that this would be a great way to not only celebrate, but help heal those who may need it,”

With the musical talents of the Ak-Chin Mumsigo Band, their mission was made possible. Their musical event on wheels blew up on social media and brought many smiles to many faces. As the band played Youth Council went door to door handing out a letter of

*Youth Council continues to page 2*



guidelines in place for the next four weeks, we will greatly increase our chances of slowing the spread of the virus. If we unfortunately do not, we will see the pandemic at its worst ever. I know we cannot control or dictate what others outside the community are doing as far as practicing safety, but we can play our role in keeping our community safe.

We are also receiving reports that our medical personnel from the Ak-Chin Fire department are receiving a high volume of phone calls related to breathing issues, which may be COVID19 related. We need to stress the importance of distancing, wearing masks and staying home when you are not feeling good.

Medical personnel are also encountering individuals approaching homes that they are responding to. Some of these homes or patients that they are attending to may either be in self quarantine or

have tested positive. We kindly ask individuals to respectfully stay away from these calls, so that fire department medical personnel can safely assist those who need medical care while maintaining all safety guidelines.

Please, stay home and consider sacrificing a New Years celebration this year for the future of other celebrations next year and the years after.

We have also received reports that COVID vaccines will become available during the early part of 2021. We will continue to stay engaged with the Gila River Health Care Corporation, on when Ak-Chin membership will be eligible for the vaccine.

A reminder that when and if you receive the vaccine, it doesn't necessarily mean that you or we are automatically reverting back to our normal way of life. Safety guidelines such as; self-distancing, wearing a mask, etc. will still be followed. More educational

information will be made available once the vaccine is administered to individuals.

There are inserts in this issue of the Runner for all documentation of Chairman's Orders and memos from limitations of gatherings, curfews, fireworks and others that are still set in place. Please acknowledge and abide by these orders for the benefit of your health and safety.

We also request that if you are not going to follow the safety guidelines and recommendations set in place to prevent the spread of the virus, please respect those around you that are following safety guidelines to keep themselves and their families safe.

Stay Safe and Healthy and God Bless Each One of You this New Year!

Respectfully,  
  
Robert Miguel,  
Ak-Chin Chairman

Youth Council continued from Front



Above is the letter the Youth Council handed out to all residents while Ak-Chin Mumisgo shared music.

Happy New Year!  
-ACYC

## Teaching young kids gratitude extends beyond the holiday season

As the holiday season comes to an end, it is the perfect time to teach young children an important life lesson about gratitude that will last throughout the year.

Gratitude is a higher level concept that can be tricky to understand for toddlers and preschoolers, because of their developmental stage, tend to be self-focused. Talking with young children about being thankful for not only material things, but for acts of kindness from others, is one way to help them learn.

So, how do we teach our children to be grateful? Here are some tips that Arizona's early childhood agency, First Things First, gathered from child development experts:

Teach children to say thank you to everyone who does something for them – their server at a restaurant, the older sibling who helps them pick up toys, or the friend who gives them a birthday gift.

Talk about the things you are grateful for. This can be done in many ways, from a blessing before dinner to keeping a family gratitude journal.

Tell your kids why you are grateful for them. Remind your children of your own gratitude by using specific reasons why they are special and loved. For example: I appreciate the way you help your brother tie his shoes.

Support a charitable event or organization. Whether you are donating old clothes or toys, participating in a food drive, or even baking cookies for a new neighbor, talk to children about what those actions mean to those who receive the kindness.

Be consistent. Like all skills, gratitude is not learned in one lesson.

"Gratitude is a way of seeing the world that helps us manage the challenges we encounter. Now, more than ever, our children need to develop gratitude to increase their resiliency and overall wellbeing," said Shannon Brown, Regional Director for FTF in Pinal. "Children will learn gratitude when they are surrounded by adults that exemplify this trait. Help young children embrace the beauty of gratitude by demonstrating an appreciation for the ordinary, joy

in each day and offering support to others."

As Regional Director for FTF in Pinal, Brown works with a variety of organizations and individuals to grow a community understanding of the importance of early childhood and how the first five years offer the opportunity for children to develop the skills they need to be successful students and successful adults.

Research shows that thankful people are usually more optimistic and are less depressed and stressed. So, when we teach our children to appreciate what they have – and what others do for them – we are helping them to become happier, healthier adults.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

**\*NOTICE\***

**2021 Agricultural Lease Payment**

In compliance with SRPMIC Emergency Declaration Directives for COVID-19, the 2021 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On Friday, January 22, 2021, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729  
(staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time)  
The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 16, 2020.  
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 22, 2021. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 16, 2020.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 22, 2021.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.

\*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon former payments received and cleared through banking institutions by January 4, 2021.

DEC 11 2020 PM 8:27 PZ

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY CIVIL COURT  
COUNTY OF PINAL, STATE OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF: J.F.J.  
Concerning: Minor(s), BRIAN JOHNSON

CASE NO.: CV-2020-021-AD  
SUMMONS TO APPEAR

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:  
BRIAN JOHNSON

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before the Court in the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court, 45525 W. Farrell RD, Ak-Chin, Arizona on Tuesday the 23<sup>RD</sup> day of February, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. for a Final Adoption Hearing.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE LEGAL COUNSEL REPRESENT YOU AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE DURING THE PROCEEDINGS.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Civil Court, in the County of Pinal, in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020

Deanna Rascon, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

'tis the season  
TO BOOK-A-BIKE  
TO BOOK-A-SCOOTER

Bike & Scooter checkout begins Monday, December 21st  
\*\*Limit 1 bike and 1 scooter per household

Call the Library 520-568-1675  
Make an appointment.  
Library card must be in good standing.  
Bikes for adults 18 & over  
\*Bring your ID/DL  
\*Must sign a waiver  
Scooters for kids 8 years & over  
\*Parent/Guardian must be present  
\*Parent/Guardian must sign a waiver

This project was made possible in part by the  
INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

January Elder Menu

4th	Black Beans
Breaded Chicken	Zucchini
Sandwich	Rice Pudding
Broccoli/Cauliflower	12th
Pear Cobbler	Potato Soup & Salad
5th	Rolls, Fruit Cocktail
White Beans w/Spinach,	13th
Swedish Meatballs (D)	Meatloaf
Salad- Peaches	Mashed Potatoes
6th	Green Beans
Enchilada Casserole	Rolls- Tropical Fruit
Corn	14th
Rice	Grilled Chicken
Churros	Roasted Vegetables
7th	Brown Rice
Fish Sticks or Chicken	Jell-O
Tenders	15th
Wax Beans	Wild Rice & Turkey Soup
Carrots	Hot Roast Beef
Pineapples	Sandwich
8th	Cake
Chicken Fajitas	





Newspaper of the  
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### OFFICE HOURS

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MONDAY - FRIDAY  
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and wishes  
may be phoned in, faxed or  
e-mailed.

#### ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

The Ak-Chin O'odham  
Runner is a Community  
Newspaper and encourages  
Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos,  
poems or a great story that  
you would like to share,  
please contact us so we  
can include it in "YOUR"  
newspaper. Also, if you have  
suggestions or comments  
about "YOUR" newspaper,  
let the Runner Staff know  
that too.

All submitted letters MUST  
be signed by the author and  
are limited to 200 words.  
Authors must also include  
their name, address, and  
phone number. Names can  
be omitted by request.  
Anonymous submissions will  
not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit  
all submitted material for  
clarity, grammar and good  
taste. All submissions should  
be received as typed or  
non-cursive writing. Please  
do not submit UPPERCASE or  
formatted paragraphs.

Submitted pictures need a  
return address and brief  
description. Pictures with no  
address will remain on file.  
Allow 2 weeks for return.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

2021 Subscription rate is  
\$33.75. If you would like  
to receive the "Runner" by  
mail, please send a \$33.75  
check/money order to:

Ak-Chin O'odham Runner  
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

Make check/money order  
payable to:  
Ak-Chin Indian Community

#### DEADLINE

Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
January 15 -  
February 4, 2021  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8TH**

Please submit all  
announcements, wishes, etc.  
no later than  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8TH**

Material submitted after the  
**JANUARY 8TH DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate  
and relevant, it will be  
included in the next issue.

and set a goal to work  
for the community in  
the future. I had always  
been encouraged to  
leave home, experience  
new things, make new  
friends, and learn what I  
can and bring it back to  
the community.

I have to mention being  
a former member of the  
Ak-Chin Youth Council,  
since it plays a factor in  
who I am today. I joined  
in 2007, and held the  
president position from  
2009-2011. Growing up,  
I was shy. By joining the  
youth council, it helped  
me grow as a person and  
got me out of my comfort  
zone.

During my tenure in  
the youth council, I did  
community service,  
engaged with the tribal  
council and various  
departments, participated  
in many activities within  
the community, attended  
conferences in and out of  
state, attended meetings,  
traveled, learned more  
about my culture, and  
networked with other  
tribes.

Youth council has been  
and will always be a  
big part of my life. I  
will always cherish  
the friendships and  
memories I had with  
fellow members and I am  
grateful to Marla Antone

for her support all these  
years.

When I graduated from  
Haskell in 2016, I was  
ready to take on the  
world, but life would  
bring obstacles. My  
mom's health started to  
decline and not knowing  
what was wrong for  
two years took a toll  
on her and my family.  
While I was enrolled at  
ASU in 2017, I was her  
main caregiver and was  
grateful for the family  
who helped me every  
day, since classes had a  
huge workload.

In September of 2018,  
my mom had been  
diagnosed with ALS  
(amyotrophic lateral  
sclerosis) also known as  
Lou Gehrig's disease.  
Life had a domino effect,  
my mom's condition  
continued to get worse,  
and eventually, she was  
admitted to hospice care.  
Unfortunately, my mom  
lost her battle to ALS on  
Christmas Eve 2018.

After her passing, I  
went through and still  
deal with periods of  
emotional turmoil. As I  
reflected during this time,  
I was lost and unsure of  
everything. Months went  
by and I knew eventually,  
I had to move forward  
with life. Honestly, I was  
in a dark place for a while

and secluded myself  
from social activities and  
people.

I was liberated from my  
dark place when Marla  
Antone, coordinator of  
the youth council reached  
out to ask if I wanted to  
temp for her until another  
coordinator would be  
hired. It was perfect  
timing as I needed to get  
out of the house. While  
working for the Ak-Chin  
Youth Council it slowly  
helped me in getting  
back to a normal routine.  
Being at work around  
the youth, new people,  
attending conferences,  
and events inspired and  
motivated me to think  
about my life goals.

I was meant to listen  
to the presenters who  
shared their struggles of  
losing their loved ones  
and I realized I am not  
alone in my grieving. I  
was reminded that no  
matter the challenges in  
life, I should not doubt or  
second guess myself.

I am sharing this story  
with you to show that  
in a time of darkness,  
everything will be okay.  
In time, you learn to take  
challenges day by day.  
Anyone who has lost a  
parent can understand  
the pain and turmoil. My  
mom's spirit is always  
with me and although she

is not physically here, I  
do know she would have  
continued to support me.

My last semester at ASU  
was stressful, but I was  
almost to the finish line.  
The day I turned in my  
final I was mentally and  
physically exhausted. I  
had done it. All the hard  
work, the stress, the  
learning, and dealing  
with my mental health  
had paid off. It was  
not real until I saw an  
email to confirm I had  
graduated.

Although, I was sad  
to not walk across the  
stage in front of family  
and friends because  
of the pandemic, I  
am proud of myself. I  
encourage young people  
to experience college  
life by living on campus,  
but I do understand that  
living on campus is not  
for everyone.

I want the youth and  
adults looking into  
college to know that it  
is okay if you change  
majors and career paths.  
All that matters is that  
you finish what you  
started, no matter how  
long it takes. College  
years are a time where  
you discover who you  
are, what you want to do,  
and be who you want to  
be.

*Educational Journey continued from Front*  
I also want to mention  
there is nothing wrong  
with leaving the  
community for a bit.  
Please travel, be safe,  
take risks, learn new  
things, and make new  
friends. Life is too short,  
go get what you want,  
work hard, be positive,  
be open minded. Home  
will always be here.

If you made it this far of  
reading my story, thank  
you for giving me your  
time. There are various  
people throughout my  
life who have inspired  
me to continue my higher  
education and goals. I  
like to thank my family,  
friends, the Education  
Department, Tribal  
Council, all my teachers,  
advisors, professors, and  
many other individuals  
who helped me along the  
way.

As for the next step, my  
plan is to apply with  
the Ak-Chin Police  
Department and hope  
to get hired on, and  
then attend the police  
academy. With the  
pandemic, I am not  
certain how long it will  
take me but I will not  
give up until I reach my  
career goals.

With respect,  
Dawn Fuentes

## Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Christmas Light Contest

Christmas spirit was  
found all around  
the Community on  
December 18, as  
Ak-Chin Parks and  
Recreation staff, along  
with select judges  
strolled through the  
community to judge  
homes who applied

to participate in the  
Christmas Light  
Contest.

There were so many  
great decorations,  
themes and wonderful  
scenes set up. A lot of  
effort and thought was  
put into the decorations;

huge inflatables wiggled  
in the wind, lights  
twinkled in the night,  
trees were all aglow;  
there was even one  
house that had music set  
to lights.

Winning entries were  
placed into one of three

categories and selected  
by highest point.

2020 Christmas Light  
Contest Winners:

#### BEST THEME

1<sup>st</sup> – Genevieve Miguel  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Sandra Shade  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Adam Bowman

#### EXTRAVAGANT

1<sup>st</sup> – Susie Peters-Guerin  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Elaina Enos  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Geraldine "Ms.  
Pickle" Looper

#### TRADITIONAL

1<sup>st</sup> – Candi Chavez  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Leona Kakar  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Erica Trejo



1st place - Genevieve Miguel



1st place - Susie Peters-Guerin



1st place - Candi Chavez



2nd place - Sandra Shade



2nd place - Elaina Enos



2nd place - Leona Kakar



3rd place - Adam Bowman



3rd place - Geraldine Looper



3rd place - Erica Trejo



# Ak-Chin's 2020 Year in Review



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino celebrates 25 years in community



MHS grads drive up for diploma celebration



Community families move into new homes



Vekol Market voted Best Burgers in Maricopa



Ak-Chin Elders party on New Year's Eve



Retirement luncheon for Jenny Holsen



Class of 2033 celebrates graduation with parade



Seven lights bring faith and peace to Ak-Chin St. Francis



MUSD begins in-person learning September 14



Ak-Chin's Humeyumptewa wins Native Edible



Ak-Chin GED graduates celebrate new chapter



Ak-Chin meets with new Caesars leadership



Maricopa Wells MS Girls take Championship



Ak-Chin lends a helping hand to Havasupai



Eugene Peters Jr. helps combat wildfires in state



Central Arizona College Class of 2020



2020 Meet the Candidate goes virtual



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino to ReOpen May 15 Social Distancing Protocols in Place

# Happy 2021 New Year





**COVID-19 Test Dates,  
Flu Vaccines & More!  
Visit [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://grhc.org/hub)**

## COVID-19 TESTING DATES

AK-CHIN JUSTICE COMPLEX : 45525 W. Farrell Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139

**JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**8 am - 12 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm**

**WHO SHOULD GET TESTED?** All Ak-Chin members, and those residing within the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries.



**FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT CORONAVIRUS, GO TO [GRHC.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](https://grhc.org/coronavirus) OR CALL THE GRHC CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079**



## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Patient vaccinations for Phase 1a  
Priority Patients will begin 1/6/2021

### 3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

#### **When will the vaccines be made available to patients?**

In accordance with the GRIC COVID-19 Vaccine plan, the first phase of patient vaccinations (Phase 1a) will begin the week of January 6, 2021. Additional distribution phases will begin in the coming weeks when more vaccine is available. Patients included in Phase 1a are:



- **Residents of The Caring House**
- **Dialysis patients**
- **Elders 55+ with serious health concerns**

Vaccinations for healthcare workers involved in direct patient care are in progress.

#### **Has GRHC received the vaccine?**

Yes, GRHC has received both Moderna and Pfizer vaccine and we'll start immunizing patients in Phase 1a as detailed above. Right now we don't have enough vaccine to vaccinate everyone, that's why we are prioritizing who will receive the vaccine as outlined by GRIC vaccination plan. Priority group patients will be contacted directly by a provider to discuss the vaccine and answer any questions you may have.

#### **What can I do to protect myself until a vaccine becomes available?**

You should stay home as much as possible. If you must go out for essentials, remember to wear a mask, avoid close contact with others, do not gather, and wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer. Get more information about these and other steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 at [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://grhc.org/hub).

*Gila River Health Care wishes you and yours a  
safe, healthy, and joyous New Year!*

HAVE A HEALTHY

*new year*

— 2021 —

**Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449**





# January 2021

## Ak-Chin Child Development

### Playful Learning Activities

#### Literacy

- Read together.
- See how many things you can find in your home that start with the /\_ / sound. (FILL IN SOUND)

#### Math

- Pick a color - See how many objects your child can find in your home that are the same color.
- Use small snack food (goldfish, cereal, etc.) to make patterns. Then eat them!
- Stand on one foot. Count how long you can balance.

#### Science

- Go on a nature color hunt. See how many different colors you can find on a walk.

#### Music and Dance

- Play freeze dance to your favorite music.
- Gather pot, pans, and wooden spoons. Make music.

#### Normal Food Behaviors of Preschool Children

- Disinterest in food – between 9-18 months of age & lasts a few months to a few years
- Growth has slowed
- Appetite – usually erratic & unpredictable
- Evening meal is usually least well received but may have already met their needs with several snacks
- Indiscriminate snacking dulls the appetite

#### For Ease of Handling

- Prepare foods to be eaten with fingers – small pieces of meat, green bean, orange wedges
- Small pieces of food are easier for children to handle with eating utensils
- Idea is to support child's efforts at self-feeding
  - At age 2 – uses arm muscles
  - At age 3 – uses hand muscles
  - At age 4 – uses finger muscles – may be able to cut up some food.



**Pinal County #1 Black History Month Celebration**  
**COPA Music Festival**  
 1 Night 1 Stage 6 Recording Artist the Experience

**Elaine Stepter**  
 toured with ROSE ROYCE  
 Car Wash  
 Ooh Boy  
 I'm Going Down  
 Wishing On A Star  
 I Wanna Get Next To You  
 Love Don't Live Here Anymore

**Willie Clayton**  
 The World's #1 Soul Singer  
 Tribute to AL GREEN AND MORE

**Tracy Sanders**  
**DIANA ROSS**  
 TRIBUTE

**FEL DAVIS**  
 Lead Singer of  
 PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT  
 Yippee Yi Yo - Body Bumpin  
 John Doe - Secret

**GEMINI**  
 OF MEN AT LARGE  
 TRIBUTE TO LUTHER VANDROSS

**Jermaine Lockhart**  
 National Saxophonist

**Saturday, February 20th 2021 - 6pm**  
**COPPER SKY**  
 Outdoor Grass Area

**44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. - Maricopa AZ**  
 under 18 admitted free \$20 ticket \$30 at gate an evening of unity for ALL  
 bring your own chair, cooler, blanket - no glass containers, no alcohol  
 we will be in compliance with current AZ COVID outdoor social distancing guidelines  
**MARICOPAAZEVENTS.COM (312)539-0592**

**Reminder:**  
**WIC services are still being held via telephone due to COVID-19.**  
**If you need to start services or have questions??**  
**Call WIC at (520) 562-9698**

#### Websites for you and your child to explore:

<https://www.familyeducation.com/>  
<https://www.verywellfamily.com/>

If you need additional resources about home activities, have questions or concerns or would like to talk to one of our teachers, please call us at 520-568-1700. We are here to help!



#### DOWNLOAD LIBBY TODAY!



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please login via website or Libby app or

**Text us: 520-612-1013**

**email: [akchinlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:akchinlibrary@gmail.com)**

**Talk to us: 520-568-1675**

## Happy New Year

from the staff at the Runner

Happy Birthday to my great-granddaughter Jessica, and my great-grandson Edward  
 Love, Grandma

Happy New Year to my Mommies, Yoo-Yoo, Grandma, Bapa and Luma Papa and Mawma, all the Aunties, Uncles and Cousins  
 Love, Oliver

## EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

<b>1/1</b> Timothy Nanstiel, TGA	<b>1/16</b> Maressa Robles, Law & Order
<b>1/3</b> Johnny Ramirez, EPD	<b>1/17</b> Celest Soliz, Law & Order
<b>1/5</b> Christopher Beginski, Fire & Safety DelRoy Narcia, Security Guard Andrew Jimenez, Sanitation	<b>1/20</b> Joe Medina, EPD
<b>1/6</b> Jose Miguel, Parks & Recreation Henrietta Rubio, Law & Order	<b>1/21</b> Vera Pablo, Maintenance
<b>1/7</b> Gabriel Pablo, IS Wayne Allison, Law & Order Steve Peters, Retail	<b>1/23</b> Leonard Allen, EPD Kris Narcia, Security Guard Judy Curry, Education Amber Antone, Him Dak Museum
<b>1/9</b> Jennifer Hill, Law & Order	<b>1/26</b> Beatrice Romo, Parks & Recreation Thomas Carlyle, Parks & Recreation
<b>1/10</b> Gilbert Celaya, Law & Order	<b>1/28</b> Felicia Vincent, Cultural
<b>1/11</b> Octavio Machado, Council	<b>1/29</b> Genevieve Miguel, Him Dak Museum
<b>1/13</b> Elizabeth Chavez, Elderly Teri De La Cruz, Health Education	<b>1/31</b> Carlton Carlyle, EPD
<b>1/14</b> Michael Heronema, Security Guard Teresa Valisto, Education	
<b>1/15</b> Veronica Armadillo, Maintenance	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Duane Narcia	2 Jolene Campbell Azlynn Carra
3	4 Skylar Luna Stephen Narcia Alexandra Osife Jaianna Pilone	5 DelRoy Narcia Joseph Pilone	6 Heaven Coble Yolanda Melero-Moroyoqui Jose Miguel, Sr. Joseph Narcia, Jr.	7 Gabriel Pablo Brandon Smith Kevin Villegas	8 Ethan Humeyumptewa Ashley Manuel Jessica Zabawa	9 Jose Balderrama Jennifer Hill Paden Marsh Leo Thomas
10 Jason Luz	11 Edward Rocha Euphrasia Mike Persephanie Antone Octavio Machado Bradley Miguel Mylaunah Robles	12 Celiyah Antone	13 Amarissa Garcia Ella Lewis Ezri Miguel Viviana Rascon	14 Karli Hoffman Kimberly Smith Teresa Valisto	15 Carmella Ortiz Jakob Thomas	16 Verdina Aguilla Karly Campbell Dallaz Jackson-Narcia Eduardo Santiago
17 Dawn Lewis Stacey Yarberry	18 Nathaniel Enos Sanya Enos Richard Joaquin, IV Dominique White	19 Perla Corona Rosalino Ormsby	20 Joe Medina Juan Medina Adriana Narcia Phoenix-Michelle Alejandro Roland Narcia Jonathan Peters Joshua Peters Bernadine Romo	21	22 Leah Castro Francisco Kaniatobe Marie Lewis Estalynn Lopez	23 Amber Antone Kris Narcia Maite Ortega Saraih Peters Danielle Shade-Theel
24	25 Jaime Salcido	26 Thomas Carlyle Beatrice Romo Freddie Salas	27 Chelsey Mike Lydell Delowe, Jr. Anthony Rogers Mario Santiago	28 Anariee Carra Aniyaa Carra Richard Quintero Felicia Vincent	29 Lucas Antone Spencer Antone Paulette Kisto Genevieve Miguel Patricia Perillo April Smith Irene Smith Byron White	30 Micah Coble Horacio Valles
31 Carlton Carlyle, Sr. Celeste Gloria Mateo Rodriguez						



# Chairman Miguel meets Two-Time NASCAR winner Michael Waltrip



At left, Brady Wilson, Southern Dunes General Manager, meets with NASCAR racer Michael Waltrip and Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel.

Monday, December 14, Chairman Robert Miguel had the opportunity to meet Michael Waltrip. Waltrip, a two-time winner of the Daytona 500, and the chairman enjoyed some golf and lunch at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes.

"Waltrip came out to visit the APEX facility a few months back and was impressed with the area... He realized that the

area had a Native American Community with a golf course and was seeking to golf with the Chairman of the Ak-Chin Community in hopes of getting more information on traditions, culture, language and history." Chairman shared.

"Mr. Waltrip is looking to retire from his commentator duties on NBC in 4 years and is looking at the state of

Arizona as a potential place of residency once he truly retires; the Maricopa area is a place of interest."

"Mr. Waltrip was very impressed with the city of Maricopa and the Ak-Chin Indian Community, he truly loved the difficulty and the beautiful scenery of the Southern Dunes Golf Course," Miguel said. "While on the course, he was reaching out to constituents, friends and family and was constantly taking photos, boasting about the course. It was really great spending time with Michael."

Before wrapping up their visit, Waltrip extended an invitation to Chairman Miguel to travel to Waltrip's home state, North Carolina and play his favorite course in his area. He also plans to come back to golf and spend more time with Chairman Miguel and tour the community's farming, enterprises and other places of interest.

# 2020



## VISIT WITH SANTA



Families out on December 23rd to take a quick safe picture with old St. Nick at Ak-Chin Circle.



### FIVE BUCK BREAKFAST

#### EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST SPECIAL

TWO EGGS, BACON, HASHBROWNS FOR \$5 BEFORE 8AM. MUST PRESENT COUPON TO SERVER. NO SUBSTITUTIONS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIALS, OFFERS OR DISCOUNTS. ONE COUPON PER TABLE. NO SPLIT CHECKS. DOES NOT INCLUDE ALCOHOL. NON-TRANSFERABLE. NOT AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS. OFFER EXPIRES 01/31/21

(520) 426 - 6832 [ARROYOGRILLE.COM](http://ARROYOGRILLE.COM)

### ARROYO GRILLE

at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

#### WEEKLY GRILLE SPECIALS

BEGINNING AT 5PM\* \*Subject to availability

**WEDNESDAY**  
CLASSIC FISH FRY \$14

**THURSDAY FIND IT HERE**   
CHEF'S SPECIAL \$15

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
PRIME RIB DINNER \$24

**MAKE IT EASY - ORDER TO GO!**

(520) 426 - 6832 [ARROYOGRILLE.COM](http://ARROYOGRILLE.COM)

### FOOTBALL SPECIAL

# \$5

## SLICE OF PIZZA & 16oz BEER

\*DOMESTIC BEER ONLY

**VALID SUNDAY ALL DAY, MONDAY & THURSDAY 5pm - CLOSE**

### Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

## MOVIES

[ak-chincircle.com/theater](http://ak-chincircle.com/theater)

WONDER WOMAN 1984	NEWS OF THE WORLD	THE CROODS: A NEW AGE
<b>Monday - Thursday:</b> 3:00pm & 6:00pm	<b>Monday - Thursday:</b> 5:15pm & 7:45pm	<b>Monday - Thursday:</b> 3:15pm & 6:30pm
<b>Friday:</b> 3:00pm, 6:00pm & 9:00pm	<b>Friday:</b> 3:30pm, 6:15pm & 9:15pm	<b>Friday:</b> 3:15pm, 6:30pm & 8:45pm
<b>Saturday:</b> 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm & 9:00pm	<b>Saturday:</b> 12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm & 10:15pm	<b>Saturday:</b> 12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:30pm & 8:45pm
<b>Sunday:</b> 12:00pm, 3:00pm & 6:00pm	<b>Sunday:</b> 12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:15pm & 7:45pm	<b>Sunday:</b> 12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:30pm & 8:45pm

# Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO

## JANUARY 2021

CAESARS REWARDS.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h3>CASH BLIZZARD SWEEPSTAKES</h3> <p>MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021 • FINALE DRAWING: 7PM</p> <p>ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$15,000 IN CASH, GUARANTEED!</p>						
<p>PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>MYSTERY REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>BLING OUT YOUR EARS AT THE GIFT SHOP</p>	<p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>MAMA MIA! TRY THE MARGHERITA FLATBREAD AT OAK &amp; FORK</p>
<p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>MYSTERY REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>CELEBRATE THE DAY ON THE OAK &amp; FORK PATIO</p>	<p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>WATCH THE GAME IN THE LOUNGE</p>
<p>PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>CASH BLIZZARD SWEEPSTAKES MYSTERY REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>SWIM UP TO THE BAR &amp; ORDER A COCKTAIL IN OUR HEATED POOL</p>	<p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>Brentwood FOOD PROCESSOR GIVEAWAY</p>
<p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>MYSTERY REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>PARMI CAST IRON COOKWARE SET GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>GET BACK TO THE BASICS WITH MEAT &amp; POTATOES AT AGAVE'S</p>	<p>\$20K FUN IN 2021 CASH SWEEPSTAKES REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>IT'S NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY! GRAB YOURS AT DUNKIN'</p>
<p>PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<h3>\$20K FUN IN 2021 CASH SWEEPSTAKES</h3> <p>FINALE DRAWING - FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021 AT 7PM</p> <p>WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$20,000 IN CASH!</p>					

Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start. \*Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT-STEP. ©2020 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.