



Kylee Carlyle (2nd from right) and Edward Martinez (5th from right) with Legacy Traditional School, Arizona, visit Washington DC during fall break.

## Ak-Chin’s Carlyle and Martinez experience DC

Story by Robert Miguel - submitted photo

Ak-Chin’s Kylee Carlyle and Edward Martinez, seventh-grade students at Legacy Traditional School, had the opportunity to participate in the “World Strides Washington D.C. Adventure, Your Journey to the Nation’s Capital” over the fall break.

The chance to partake in the five-day adventure gave not only Kylee, but other students from her school, the prospects of exploring the history and government of the United States of America.

Upon arrival in

Washington D.C., the group enjoyed dinner, as it was evening time, and then going straight to the Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Memorials.

Day one finally ended, with the group checking into the hotel and a rest, before an early morning day two of scheduling, which was entitled, “Government and History Deep Dive.”

Day two’s encounters featured a White House photo opportunity, a visit to the International Spy Museum, where the largest collection of

international espionage aircrafts in the world were held.

Other points of interest visited, were; the Kennedy family graves, witnessing of the Changing of the Guard and the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The view of the iconic Iwo Jima Memorial, a visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial concluded day two.

At the midpoint of

## Bencivenga Receives Legendary Teacher Award

Story by Robert Miguel - submitted photo

In any profession, you may want to question yourself to measure, “How am I doing?” or “Am I making a difference?” For teachers, I’m sure you want to make a difference in molding young minds and directing them in the right paths.

For Ak-Chin Community member, Sonya Joaquin-Bencivenga, who is a Kindergarten teacher at Maricopa Elementary School (MES), if she ever wondered that she was making an impression or a difference, her answer was given a couple of weeks ago, as she was awarded the Legendary Teacher Recognition at MES.

The great thing about the award is that parents and students were asked to nominate a teacher that “made a lasting impression on the hearts of your students.”

Sonya was obviously appreciative of the award and was quick to highlight what comments and feedback both parents and students relayed to MES staff that inspired her selection.

“Those who nominated me said that my singing makes everything much more fun and that I am always kind and positive,”

Sonya has been teaching at MES the past three years, prior to her stretch at MES, she taught at the preschool levels at the Ak-



Maricopa Elementary School (MES) and Ak-Chin member, Sonya Joaquin-Bencivenga.

Sonya said.

“When asked what is the legacy this teacher will leave? They all answered, ‘Kindness is everything and so important big and small.’”

Chin Child Development Program and Sacaton Head Start and Early Head Start schools. In total, she’s been teaching for thirteen years.

Watching young minds

Sonya continued on Page 5



Children listen carefully to a story being read by Ak-Chin Librarian, Linda Brill at the Ak-Chin Library, during the library’s read-a-thon challenge.

## Community completes Read-A-Thon Challenge

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Reading is not for everyone; you either like it or you don’t. Whether you are an avid reader or an occasional skimmer, there are many benefits to reading that go beyond

surface level knowledge.

Believe it or not, books offer more than just words and pictures; they offer experiences, challenges and conclusions

in the best way.

It was the end of September when Ak-Chin Library Manager, Naomi Bishop called a challenge to the Ak-

Read-A-Thon continued on Page 4

## Rains Cause Problems

Story by Robert Miguel

Although, heavy rains are always a blessing to the community; in particular when we may be in a drought; the damage that it may cause can sometimes be troublesome. Recently, heavy rains hit the

community this past weekend, causing flooding, minor damage to structures and scheduled events.

One of the more extreme setbacks was the flooding that took place

at Vekol Market, where a pool of water caused the closure of the gas pumps early morning Sunday, October 12th, to late evening Monday, October 13th.

On Sunday, a crew from



Members from the Ak-Chin Community, Gila River Community and Tohono O'odham Nation trek down a road in Sonora, Mexico on their way to Magdalena de Kino.

Pilgrimage continued on Page 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 Elder News  
PAGE 3 Community News

PAGE 5 Maricopa Pantry  
PAGE 7 Announcements

**Ak-Chin Tribal Council and Youth Council members attend Four Tribes meeting at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino: L to R: Haedin De Paola, Daria Garcia, Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Arianna Bandin, Councilwoman Lisa Garcia, Youth Council Coordinator Shelia Bandin, Councilman Dennis Antone, Baya Olivas, Jesus "Buddy" Corella and Narin Lopez.**

***No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed***

Blessings to the Ak-Chin group; Francisco, Kathleen and Connor Miguel, Gabriel Lopez, Sonya Valles-Joaquin-Bencivenga, Jennifer Hill, Dean Peters, Stephanie Burnette, Olena and Steven Hutchinson; and thank you for the prayers of strength, hope and faith that you carried with you on your pilgrimage to Malina.

| MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                        | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                     | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div> <div> * Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM<br/> * Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM<br/> * For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760 </div> <div> * Movie Questions?<br/> Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760<br/> * Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM - 10 AM<br/> MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE </div> </div> |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                         | 10/17<br>Migas (Scrambled Eggs with Corn Tortillas), Refried Beans, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit & Yogurt<br><br>Pinto Beans, Pork Chop (D), Zucchini, Corn Bread, Vanilla Pudding/Plum |
| 10/20<br>Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Fruit with Cottage Cheese<br><br>Grilled Chicken, Green Beans, Brown Rice, Banana Bread, Cranberry Bread (D)                                                                                                                                                                   | 10/21<br>Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Raisin Bread, Fruit<br><br>Hamburger, Green Leaf/ Tomato, Sweet Potato Fries, Corn on Cob, Cut Fruit Salad                      | 10/22<br>Refried Beans, Green Chili & Cheese Tortilla, Fruit Salad<br><br><b>Movie Day</b><br><br>Potato Soup & Romaine Salad, Fresh Fruit, Apple Salad                                       | 10/23<br>Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana<br><br>White Tepary Beans, Beef Bell Pepper & Onion (D) Carrots, Moon Bread, Grapes | 10/24<br>Potato Casserole Scrambled Eggs Tortilla Apples<br><br>Beef Stew w/ Zucchini, Yellow Squash, Potato, Carrot& Corn, Spanish Rice, Moon Bread, Jell-O/Apple                   |
| 10/27<br>Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit<br><br><b>Angel Home Health Presentation w/ Erin Kariuki</b><br>Pork Chops, Creamed Spinach, Acorn Squash, Mandarin Oranges                                                                                                                                                                | 10/28<br>Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon, Fruit & Yogurt<br><br>Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, ,Fresh Peaches | 10/29<br>Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana<br><br>Short Ribs w/Hominy Red Kidney Beans, Moon Bread, Cantaloupe & Honey Dew<br><br><b>O'odham Bingo with Language Department, 1pm</b> | 10/30<br>Chorizo & Eggs Burrito, Avocado Slices, Scone Fruit Salad<br><br>Chicken Stir Fry, Fried Rice, Egg Roll, Pineapple             | 10/31<br>Breakfast Cups Avocado Slices English Muffin Fruit<br><br>Meatloaf, Mashed Potato, Green Beans, Whole Wheat/ White Rolls, Pumpkin/ Lemon Rolls/apple                        |



Newspaper of the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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**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. If you  
have suggestions or comments  
about "YOUR" newspaper,  
please 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  
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Anonymous submissions will not  
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We reserve the right to edit  
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Submitted pictures need a  
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**NEXT DEADLINE**  
Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
**November 7 - 20, 2025**  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST**

Please submit all  
announcements, wishes, etc.  
no later than  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST**

Material submitted after the  
**OCTOBER 31ST DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate and  
relevant, it will be included in  
the next issue.

## AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

42507 W. Peters & Nall Road - Maricopa, Arizona 85138 Telephone: (520) 568-1000 - Fax: (520) 568-1001



### Ak-Chin Indian Community Request for Proposal for Stock Contractor Services for Masik Tas Rodeo Events

The Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Community") is seeking services of a qualified and licensed stock contractor to provide animals for rough stock and roping events for the Community's Masik Tas Event scheduled on December 19 – 21, 2025. Contractor must provide stockmen that are knowledgeable and experienced in care, preparation, and retrieval of a variety of livestock throughout the event competitions and must understand rodeo rules and how those affect/apply to the rodeo contestants.

The Community is located 35 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County. The City of Maricopa is a neighbor to the Community. Rodeo events will take place at Ak-Chin Circle Outdoor Arena located off of Narcia Road and Ak-Chin Parkway behind Ak-Chin Entertainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle next to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
Full Proposal Requests will be available October 17, 2025. RFP may be picked up at the Purchasing Office at 42507 West Peters and Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138; or via email request to Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager, at [FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us).

Please email questions and clarity of the RFP by 4 p.m. on October 24, 2025. Response to questions and clarity will be sent out to all that

requested a RFP within 24 hours of business day.

**SUBMISSION**  
Deadline for submitting proposals is November 10, 2025, at 4 p.m. Please submit Five (5) bound copies and one (1) unbound copy of your proposal labeled "Stock Contractor Services Proposal for Masik Tas Rodeo". Proposals can be mailed or dropped off at the address listed below:

"Stock Contractor Services Proposal for Masik Tas Rodeo Events"  
Flora Howerton,  
Purchasing Manager  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
42507 W. Peters and Nall Road  
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Proposals will be privately reviewed by Owner. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and irregularities and to accept any proposal considered advantageous to Owner.

The Community's Selection Committee will review and rate all submissions, and consult with the Community Council on the final selection. The Community's Selection Committee may select applicants for interviews. All candidates will be notified.

Proposals will be disqualified if instructions and content requirements are not followed.

## AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

42507 W. Peters & Nall Road - Maricopa, Arizona 85138 Telephone: (520) 568-1000 - Fax: (520) 568-1001



### Ak-Chin Indian Community Request for Proposal for Stock Contractor Services for Masik Tas Roping Events

The Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Community") is seeking services of a qualified and licensed stock contractor to provide animals for roping events for the Community's Masik Tas Event scheduled on December 18, 2025. Contractor must provide stockmen that are knowledgeable and experienced in care, preparation, and retrieval of livestock throughout the event competitions and must understand roping rules and how those affect/apply to the roping contestants.

The Community is located 35 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County. The City of Maricopa is a neighbor to the Community. Roping events will take place at Ak-Chin Circle Outdoor Arena located off of Narcia Road and Ak-Chin Parkway behind Ak-Chin Entertainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle next to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort.

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requested a RFP within 24 hours of business day.

**SUBMISSION**  
Deadline for submitting proposals is November 10, 2025 at 4 p.m. Please submit Five (5) bound copies and one (1) unbound copy of your proposal labeled "Stock Contractor Services Proposal for Masik Tas Roping". Proposals can be mailed or dropped off at the address listed below:

"Stock Contractor Services Proposal for Masik Tas Roping Event"  
Flora Howerton,  
Purchasing Manager  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
42507 W. Peters and Nall Road  
Maricopa, AZ 85138

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## Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

**Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following cases at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at the Justice Center Conference Room.**

### CASE: PS-07-25 Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino Slot Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Room

Project Applicant/Director of Facilities and Surveillance – Harrah's Ak-Chin, April Tawney, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to construct a new Slot UPS Room on the fourth floor of the West Parking Garage. The project consists of:

- Adding an enclosed room with fire-rated walls, double doors, new UPS and its battery, new vertical fan coil for ventilation and rerouting existing conduits to tie into the new UPS.

### CASE: SD-07-25 Ak-Chin Medical Suites Shell Building

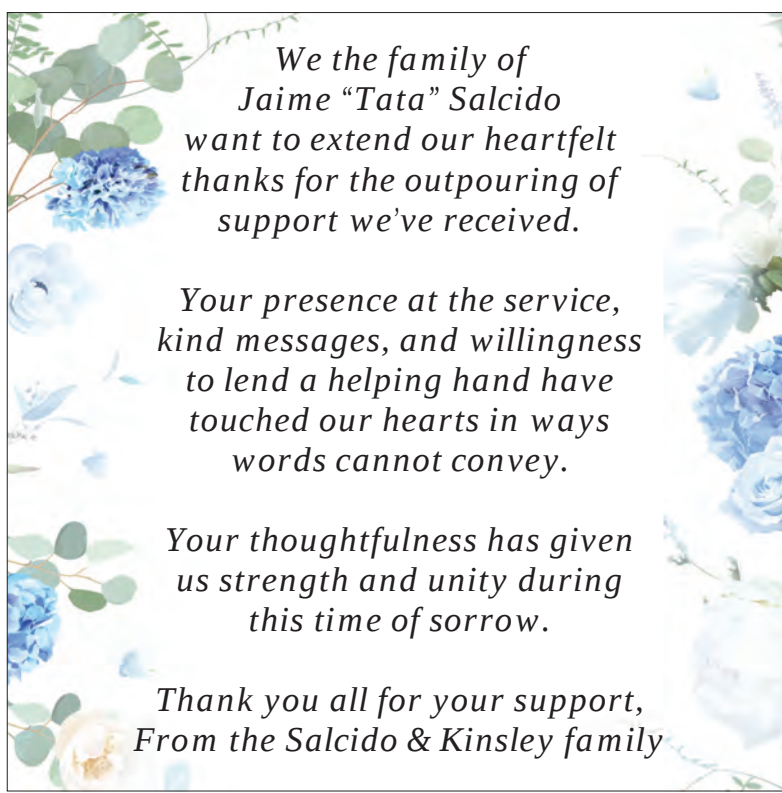
Project Applicants/Airport Manager, Tim Costello and Self-Governance Director, Karen Fierro are requesting Site Development Plan approval for a new 16,000 sq. ft. shell building on approximately 3.0 acres located on the southwest corner of Narcia Street and Sudagi Avenue. The project consists of:

- Allocated space for a new dialysis center and for 3 office suites; and
- Slope and drainage work, utilities, landscaping; and
- Improvements to Sudagi Avenue and Narcia Street.

### CASE: SD-08-25 Southern Dunes Golf Club Clubhouse and Ancillary Facilities Expansion Project-Clubhouse, Cart Barn, and Halfway House

Project Applicant/Southern Dunes Golf Club General Manager, Brady Wilson is requesting Site Development Plan approval to expand and renovate the Clubhouse and Ancillary Facilities of the Southern Dunes Golf Course. The project consists of:

- Expansion of the Clubhouse to include an expanded food hall and event space; and
- Cart Barn with additional storage, employee restrooms, and work area; and
- Halfway House with air-conditioned restrooms and a Market offering grab-n-go foods, and water station; and
- Pump Station upgrade.



We the family of  
Jaime "Tata" Salcido  
want to extend our heartfelt  
thanks for the outpouring of  
support we've received.

Your presence at the service,  
kind messages, and willingness  
to lend a helping hand have  
touched our hearts in ways  
words cannot convey.

Your thoughtfulness has given  
us strength and unity during  
this time of sorrow.

Thank you all for your support,  
From the Salcido & Kinsley family

DC continued from Front

the trip, day three, students visited other sites, which included; the World War II Memorial and Holocaust Museum. Photo stops at the Supreme Court and Library were experienced.

During a visit to the United States Capitol, students learned how laws are made in the House and Senate. The afternoon schedule concluded with a visit to the Natural History Museum.

Day three's evening schedule was one of the highlights of the entire trip as students were able to board a cruise ship, which took them through the waterways of D.C.

During the cruise, students enjoyed dinner and dancing and a beautiful experience of seeing national monuments light up at night.

Day four was another full schedule filled with great opportunities. It began with a visit to the Ford Theatre, where President Lincoln was shot. A stop at the National Archives were of interest as

Rains continued from Front



**A submitted photo shows the gas pumps and parking lot of Vekol Market overflowing with rainwater.**

Ak-Chin Wastewater Operations, which included five staffers, was dispatched over to the flooding site to pump out a rough estimate of 5,000 gallons of flood waters. The project took 6 hours to complete.

The crew worked quickly in order to keep the gas pumps from further damage. "Our first priority was to figure out where was the best place to drain and dump the waters from where the pumps are," said Jacolby King Ak-Chin Wastewater Treatment Supervisor.

"Obviously, one of our main concerns were the potential of cross contamination with the water and gas, so timing was of the essence. These things can become hazardous and a safety issue."

During the past few days of rain, many roadways that led to homes were under water, causing homeowners to use alternate routes to get to and from home. Last Saturday, two community dances were forced to alter their events; one moved their event indoors and the other continued outdoors, but encountered delays.

they were able to see founding documents.

A stop at the September 11th Pentagon Memorial, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Museum of American History, Washington Monument, and a ride on the Capital Ferris Wheel concluded day four's schedule.

The final day, day five, consisted of a visit to the George Washington historic Mount Vernon estate and the Air and Space Museum.

The trip and experience were a treat for Kylee Carlyle. She expressed her joy and opportunities in participating in the adventure.

"I learned about America's history, what it looked like inside the Capital and how the Government works," she said. "My favorite part was when we went to the different museums, because most of them were very informative and we interactive."

Rains continued from Front

Farrell Road was closed going westbound, as Vekol Wash had running water. For the next couple of days, Vekol Wash will be monitored constantly, as experience tells us that rain water that comes from down south usually makes its way down Vekol.

For the past couple of months, the Ak-Chin Sanitation-Public Works crew have been on a never-ending clean-up project, clearing debris and other vegetation out of Vekol Wash, that have caused waters to back up, causing flooding into farm fields and even near encroachment of community homes.

Delbert White, Public Works/ Sanitation Director commented that with the recent flow of waters down Vekol on Sunday, the project thus far has been successful.

"We were a little nervous and somewhat excited to see what our work has done and how it benefited the community. It was a good amount of water running through, but it was a smooth flow, which was what was needed and what we wanted, so, so far so good."



# Him-Dak Halloween Crafts

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

The Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum is not new to celebrating the spooky season, with their yearly Halloween Parties they go all out to provide fun for members.

Though we are anticipating the arrival of this years collaborative Halloween festivities



with the Events department, the Museum art staff invited all to a Spooky craft night on October 8, 2025, to kick start the season.

From making a personalized candle holder with creepy, gothic elements to crafting a haunting shadow box; there was plenty to do. Not only that, but you could create your own versions of a snake for medusas head as well.

If you have not been



to one of the holiday themed craft nights the Art staff at Him-Dak host, please consider going. It's a great way to ring in the holiday!

For more information on Him-Dak provided programs contact them at 520-568-1350.

# Fall Family Painting

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Yael Ramirez adds finishing details to his pumpkin witch, this being one of the four available canvas for attendees.

hangers with bats, skeletons, ghosts and pumpkins.

While painters created their masterpieces, they were treated to a meal and movie viewing.

For those more interested in munching on candy and snacks, there was also a table for that.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was a great way to bring the community together.



Cooler temps here we are, and with that brings in the busy season for the community.

With back-to-back holidays, it's no wonder departments all over Ak-Chin plan exciting programs and events for members to attend.

A nice surprise from

the Ak-Chin Police Department was their organized painting crafts for the community, held at the Justice Complex on October 9, 2025.

Last year's painting night included; Plywood boards designed with Halloween characters. This year's painting canvas featured door



Chin Community; sent through email on September 23, 2025; for everyone to come together in completing a read-a-thon week that would essentially have 1000 minutes read within a span of 4 days.

The read-a-thon is the first of its kind for the Community. Kids of all ages and all reading levels were encouraged to partake in this challenge; open to members, residents and employees.

This challenge required participants to read for a minimum of 15 minutes, or for young readers to complete one picture book. Once that was completed you would add your ping-pong ball to the date labeled tubes.

To also motivate readers, there was an incentive for the first 30 participants for each day.

September 29th was the start of the challenge and it would be completed on October 2, 2025.

This gave the youth the chance to start the read-a-thon strong as the first week of fall break was also during that time-frame.

On Monday, with a total of 133 minutes read, readers received Ak-Chin Library totes and the Environmental Programs 2026 Calendar.

Tuesday the total minutes jumped to a total of 429

minutes with the incentive being boxed lunches catered from Vekol.

Still strong on Wednesday, readers would help reach a total of 276 Minutes for the day with the library sharing an afternoon snack.

By Thursday, the total minutes read reached for the overall challenge reached 838 and with the added 120 minutes from the intercession groups; the minutes read were standing at 958 minutes.

By the end of Thursday, the minutes read was 287 which made the grand total read within the week 1245 minutes which surpassed the goal.

Thursday's participants also got to grab pizza provided from Barro's to end a great week of reading.

Naomi shared this on behalf of all library staff, "The read-a-thon was a huge success; everyone had a great time reading and doing the emoji hunt in the library bookshelves. The activities and giveaways put smiles on all the

participants faces." There were several families that came and read in the library every day.

We appreciated the staff and residents that joined in on the fun.

We are planning a one-day Dogman Read-a-thon on Wednesday, in November from 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm during Children's book week.

We invite everyone to come enjoy Dogman Day at the library."

For more information on Library hosted events, please contact Ak-Chin Library at 520-568-1675.



AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATON PRESENTS...

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN WALK

GET READY FOR A HAUNTINGLY GOOD TIME!  
JOIN US FOR A 1.5 MILE HALLOWEEN WALK.

OCTOBER 28TH, 2025 @ 5 PM

AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER BACK PARKING LOT

LET THE CHILLS BEGIN ~ JOIN US FOR FITNESS, DINNER, & RAFFLE PRIZES! EXTRA TICKETS IF YOU DRESS HALLOWEEN THEMED!  
EVENT OPEN TO ACIC MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES.

Questions? Call Ak-Chin Health Education at (520)568-1080 or mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



Ak-Chin Division of Education

46521 W. Farrell Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85139

Telephone: (520) 568- 1280



Dear Parents / Guardians,

My name is Julia Dickerson, and I am honored to introduce myself as the new *Out of District Advisor* for the Ak-Chin Indian Community Education Department.

My role is to support students who attend schools outside of the Maricopa Unified School District by helping families stay connected with their child's school and ensuring students receive the resources they need to succeed.

If your student attends an out-of-district or online school and you're interested in receiving support for you student, simply call our office and I will be happy to assist you.

I look forward to working with you and building strong connections that will benefit our students.

Respectfully,

Julia Dickerson  
Email: [jdickerson2@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:jdickerson2@ak-chin.nsn.us)  
Office Number: (520)-568-1289  
Cell: 520-635-3605



Community members look through boxes and gather goods that were distributed by Jim Shoaf and Maricopa Pantry.

# Maricopa Pantry Donates goods to Ak-Chin Community

Story and photo By Robert Miguel

In coordination with Ak-Chin’s Event Center and the Ak-Chin Entertainment Center, the Maricopa Pantry, who is led by Jim Shoaf, delivered plenty of eatable goods to the community on Monday, October 6th. Events Manager, Cecily Peters, made all arrangements from delivery to designated area for distribution, Entertainment Center Manager, Laurie McCartney, was also involved.

Due to an expected unusual large amount of food, Shoaf reached out to Peters for the potential opportunity to the community, prior to delivery to the Mountain View Church, where Maricopa Pantry is headquartered.

As soon as the announcement was made to the community membership about the food truck, members quickly made their way to the west parking lot of the Entertainment for the distribution. Mixed vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, strawberries, pears, chips, assorted drinks and baby food were what was dispersed during the give-away.

As Shoaf sat and watched, overjoy and a sense of pride overcame his thoughts as he reflected back to 2004 when he began the Maricopa Pantry. Almost thirteen years of doing “Gods Work” and giving to back to people who may be in need.

“We are currently serving 1500 to 2000 families every week, and blessings we give are as great as the blessings we receive,” Shoaf said. “We are building a warehouse which will enable us to stay better stocked for emergency situations, and better prepared to serve our first responders during emergencies, as well as our neighbors.”

The hopes of more delivery to the community will be reliant on if an abundance of goods is delivered to the Mountain View Church, when that does occur, coordinated efforts with Cecily Peters will once again be corresponding.

For those who do not know, the Maricopa Pantry, is located at 50881 W. Papago Rd. in the Thunderbird Farms area, they distribute food every Saturday from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. It is open to all the surrounding

communities. The food is always free, although donations are gratefully accepted. E

Eligibility is to be a “human being” according to Shoaf. The only requirement is that your name, zip code and number of people in the household is given. You are allowed to pick up food for a friend and neighbor, of course with their information also.

Volunteers are welcomed and needed to help give better service, if you are interested, all you need to do is show up at 6:30 am and sign in.

Shoaf, the founder and CEO, shares that the Maricopa Pantry sticks to its vision and motto of “Maricopa Panty has always served as Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and we will continue to do so.”



Maricopa Pantry CEO Jim Shoaf

Sonya continued from Front

grow and develop has been the overall pleasure for Sonya in her job as an educator. “You become amazed by watching them grow in front of your eyes and you become proud of them too.”

During her journey in obtaining her degrees and certificates for the career she’s devoted to, Sonya acknowledged her appreciation to her family for the support they gave throughout the process.

“Without them and their

support, I would not be where I am. From helping me out with my child, to helping me get things for my classroom. I am very fortunate to have such an amazing support system,” she said.

“Last but not least, I would like to recognize the Ak-Chin Indian Community Scholarship Program. Gaining my knowledge through higher education wouldn’t have been possible.”

For those who are pursuing their respective

careers and may be encountering obstacles at this time, Sonya encourages to “not be afraid of the unknowns and dive in head first.”

She mentions this because from experience, she was sometimes afraid and hesitant to move forward because she was skeptical of the unknowns of what the outcome may be.

Now she is fearless and makes confident choices to better herself and her family. “Kindness always wins!”



## Visitor Aware

Before you visit our campus, you will be required to register through Visitor Aware. Registering in advance will make the check-in process much more efficient!

Please arrive prepared to present your photo ID.

**Please note...**siblings who do not attend MES and are under the age of 18 are not allowed on campus during the school day.

<https://mes.musd20.org/our-school/visitor-aware>

## Trash to Treasure Upcycle Old Cardboard Boxes into Spooky Graveyard Props



Halloween is the perfect time to get creative with budget-friendly, upcycled decorations. One of the easiest and most fun projects to do with old cardboard boxes is making tombstone decorations to create a spooky graveyard right at home. This simple craft is perfect

for families and can add a chilling touch to your Halloween setup.

### What You'll Need:

- Large cardboard boxes (like cereal or shipping boxes)
- Scissors or a craft knife
- Masking tape or duct tape
- Stone-textured spray paint or gray acrylic paint
- Black paint or paint pens for details
- Wooden skewers or stakes (for outdoor stability)
- Strong craft glue
- Optional: glitter, fake flowers, or other embellishments
- Clear outdoor sealer (if placing outside)



### Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Prepare the Cardboard: Start by flattening the cardboard boxes. Cut out a large rectangular piece to form the base of your tombstone. Then, draw a half-circle or arch shape at the top to mimic a traditional headstone. Cut along this line to create your tombstone shape.
2. Shape the Tombstone: If your cardboard piece is large enough, fold the sides slightly to add dimension or tape two pieces together to create a sturdier, three-dimensional tombstone. Tape securely all around.
3. Add Support for Outdoor Use: For yard display, cut flaps at the bottom of the tombstone and insert wooden skewers or stakes through the flaps. Tape tightly around to hold them in place, so the tombstone can stand firmly in the ground.
4. Paint Base Layer: Spray the entire tombstone with stone-textured spray paint for a realistic stone effect or use a gray acrylic paint. Allow this base coat to dry completely.
5. Decorate the Details: Use black paint or paint pens to add inscriptions like spooky names, dates, or phrases such as “RIP.” You can add cracks, chips, or other weathering effects with paint for an aged look.
6. Optional Embellishments: Glue on fake flowers, glitter, or use other decorations like small skulls or spider webs for added creepiness.
7. Seal and Protect: If placing outdoors, apply a clear outdoor sealer to protect your tombstone from the weather, ensuring it lasts throughout the season.

### Setting Up Your Graveyard

Place your tombstones in your yard by pushing the skewers into the ground firmly. Arrange them with other Halloween props like skeletons, bones, pumpkins, and spider webs to create a haunting atmosphere.

This crafty project not only recycles old materials but provides a fun, hands-on activity the whole family can enjoy while getting into the Halloween spirit. Plus, it's an inexpensive way to achieve a spooky look that's customizable to your taste.



Remember, the best Halloween decorations come from a little creativity and imagination and old cardboard boxes you might have tossed otherwise!

Complete this project? Please email photos to Brandy Nelson at [BNelson@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:BNelson@ak-chin.nsn.us) at Environmental Programs.



# HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL & DANCE

FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER  
6 PM – 12:00 AM  
SAN JUAN CHURCH – 47431 W FARRELL RD

6PM – 9PM: GAME BOOTHS

9PM: COSTUME CONTEST

6PM – 9PM: SAN JUAN FOOD BOOTH

6PM – MIDNIGHT: DANCE

MUSIC BY: PROJECT KUMBIA

PLEASE RESPECT THE OCCASION  
VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!!!

# Wrapping up 2025 Fall Programs



**Early detection  
helps save lives.**

**Learn which breast cancer  
screening options are  
right for you.**



## Parks and Recreation Courtside Pumpkins

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

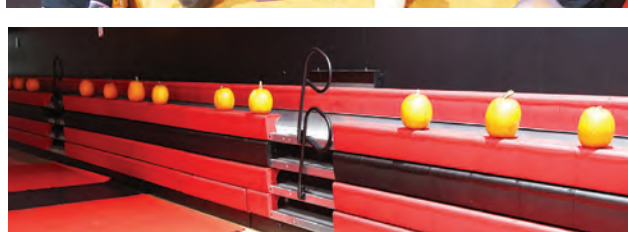
Halloween is weeks away and with that comes the need for costumes, candy and decorations.

To help in building the anticipation for the season, Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation offered a great option for families; that being a number of crafts, games, a movie viewing and the giveaway of pumpkins on October 12, 2025.

There was also a photo booth set up for those who wanted to capture the moment. With all the rain we received, this was a great way to stay busy indoors.



*There was plenty of crafts to do at the Recreation Gym that Sunday afternoon, there was also many pumpkins left over.*



### Functional Fitness for ELDERS Remaining 2025 Schedule



**Ak-Chin Circle (Elements)**  
Time: 10:00am – 11:00am  
Tuesdays & Thursdays

OCT 07  
OCT 09  
OCT 14  
OCT 16  
OCT 21

OCT 23  
OCT 28  
OCT 30  
NOV 04  
NOV 06

**NOVEMBER 13  
WALK FOR  
GRATITUDE**



Fall Prevention for Elders provided by The Injury Prevention Program  
Questions??? Call Teri De La Cruz at (520) 568-1087



For more information,  
contact your local Indian  
health care provider, visit  
**HealthCare.gov/coverage**,  
or call 1-800-318-2596.





# JOB OPENINGS

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Court Security Guard
- Deputy Clerk
- Detention Officer Certified
- Detention Officer Certified (part-time)
- Detention Officer- Non Certified
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)

## Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Museum Technician (2)
- Oral Historian

[www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us)

To review the full job description and apply visit [www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us), Job Openings, and apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.

## Employee Birthdays 10/17 - 11/5

**10/17**

Courtney Bagsby,  
Fire  
Armonda Santiago,  
Community Operations

**10/19**

Stephanie Cantu,  
Vekol  
Ninfa Wells,  
Elderly Center

**10/20**

Aaliyah Begay,  
Library

**10/21**

Dennis Antone,  
Community  
Government  
Della DeLowe,  
Community  
Government

**10/22**

Eduardo Martinez,  
Tribal Gaming Agency  
Lisa Vasquez,  
Community Operations

**10/23**

Arron Bird,  
Fire  
Ame Stephens,  
Social Services

**10/25**

Xavier Rojas Jr.  
Court

**10/28**

Nicole Allison,  
Police

**10/29**

Alvin Antone,  
Tribal Gaming Agency

**10/30**

Thomas Fields,  
Fire  
Patricia Medina,  
Transit  
William Winfield III,  
Fire

**10/31**

Henry Gooday Jr.  
Court

**11/1**

Linda Brill,  
Library  
Mariah Carlyle,  
Parks & Rec  
Gwendolyn Lopez,  
ECE  
Joseph Plough,  
Fire  
Jason Thomas,  
Finance

**11/3**

Eby Abel,  
Maintenance  
Carla Carlyle,  
Tribal Gaming Agency  
Zachary Quintero,  
Vekol

**11/4**

Baily Martinez,  
Events

**11/5**

Aaron Peters Sr.  
Sanitation

## AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT

## 2025 Transit Schedule Changes TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

**Veteran's Day, November 11th**

**Transit Maintenance, November 26th**

**Thanksgiving Day, November 27th**

**Native American Heritage Day, November 28th**

**Masik Tas, December 19th**

**\*\*Event Only transport will be provided\*\***

**\*\*Christmas Eve, December 24th**

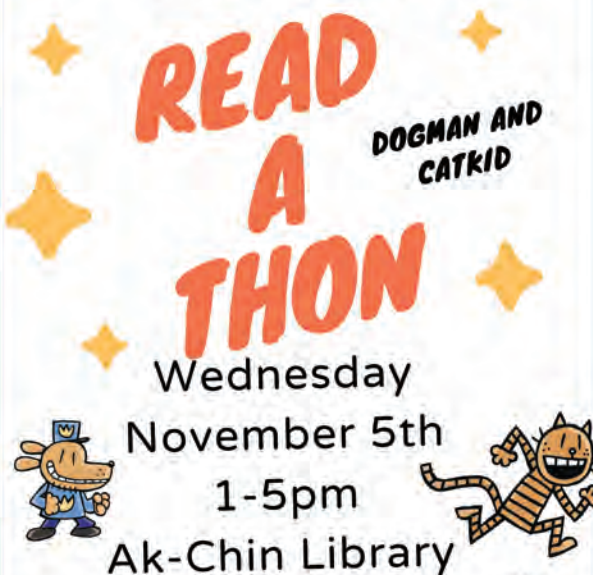
**Transit Closed at 11:00am\*\***

**Christmas Day, December 25th**

**Christmas Holiday, December 26th**

**New Year's Day, January 1st, 2026**

## Celebrate Children's Book Week with Dog Man and Friends



Questions: 520-568-1675  
[library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:library@ak-chin.nsn.us)



Happy Birthday, Pops/  
Grandpa!

Although you're a real pain in the butt, I just wanted to tell you thank you for your love and support. We hope you enjoy your special day.

- Always Nanni

P.S. You're a little girl!

- From Newt



**AK-CHIN**  
EDUCATION AND POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
Present  
**Parent University**  
Online Safety Session

Parents, don't miss this essential session on online safety. Gain insights and practical advice to support your children in the digital age.

**Date:** 10/22/2025

**Time:** 10:00AM - 11:00AM  
OR  
5:30PM - 6:30PM

**Location:** Education Building

For additional information, please contact your student advisor

Please RSVP  
Education: 520-568-1280

**AK-CHIN LIBRARY**

**RESUME & JOB SEARCHING WORKSHOP**

**DATE:** October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**TIME:** 10am-11am

come make and print a resume for free!

**Contact us:** 520-568-1675  
Please call if you have any questions!

★★★★★ *Maricopa* ★★★★★

**VETERANS DAY PARADE**

**9 AM BOWLIN & PORTER**

**Free lunch for Veterans, First Responders, and their families to follow at Leading Edge. Hosted by:** The American Legion Auxiliary, Leading Edge, Harrah's Casino, Vekol Market, and local partners.  
**FOR INFORMATION: PARADE@ALPOST133AZ.ORG**

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Isaiah, Noah and Adrian and my granddaughters Alivia and Ariel  
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Jenika  
Love your family

Happy Birthday to our Goddaughters Sarah and Jenika  
Love, your Godparents



## Birthdays 10/17 - 10/31

**OCTOBER 17**

Francisco Miguel  
Armonda Santiago  
Isaiah Peters  
Jesus Corella Jr.  
Noah Brown

**OCTOBER 18**

Carrieanna Villarreal  
Feather Perry

**OCTOBER 20**

Kathryn Hensley  
Joseph Vallejos Jr.  
Julian Lewis  
Sarah Delma

**OCTOBER 21**

A'Miyah Deloney  
Aubree Perez  
Della White  
Crystal Tow  
Ethan Manuel  
Dennis Antone

**OCTOBER 22**

Maynard Pablo  
Carol Enos  
Claudia Antone  
Janet Narcia

**OCTOBER 23**

Adaisha Pablo  
Ame Stephens  
Alivia Thompson

**OCTOBER 24**

Amerrah Mike  
Yolanda Narcia Miranda

**OCTOBER 25**

Hunter Louis  
Adrian Garcia  
Madalina-Delia-Lucille  
Delores

**OCTOBER 27**

Harlee Jose  
Orenda Angichiodo  
Hope Vallejos

**OCTOBER 28**

Nicole Allison  
Jeremiah Talkalai  
Jarred Antone  
Jenika Justin  
Ramiero Andaverde  
Sophia Matuz  
Ariel Lopez

**OCTOBER 29**

Zataray Ulloa  
Willow Nosie  
Kylee Machado  
Alvin Antone  
Jamari Stevenson

**OCTOBER 30**

Patricia Medina  
Kaelyn Miller

**OCTOBER 31**

Jonella Lopez  
Liliana Rascon

## Library Hours

Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm  
Sat: 12pm-4pm  
Sun: Closed



| SUN   | MON                                           | TUE | WED                                        | THU                      | FRI                                     | SAT                 |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
|       |                                               |     | 1<br>Storytime @10am<br><b>READ-A-THON</b> | 2                        | 3                                       | 4                   |
| 5<br> | 6                                             | 7   | 8<br>Storytime @10am                       | 9                        | 10                                      | 11                  |
|       |                                               |     |                                            | <b>BANNED BOOKS WEEK</b> |                                         |                     |
| 12    | 13<br>Indigenous Peoples' Day                 | 14  | 15<br>Storytime @10am                      | 16                       | 17                                      | 18                  |
|       |                                               |     | <b>Indigenous Authors week</b>             |                          |                                         |                     |
| 19    | 20                                            | 21  | 22<br>Storytime @10am                      | 23                       | 24<br><b>TRUNK OR TREAT Closed @5pm</b> | 25<br><b>Closed</b> |
| 26    | 27<br>Resume & Job Searching workshop 10-11am | 28  | 29<br>Storytime @10am                      | 30                       | 31<br><b>Happy Halloween</b>            |                     |

Questions? Call: (520) 568-1675 or Email: [Library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:Library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

# Gertie and Cruz Band play to a full house at the Luxe

Story by Robert Miguel and photo by Kristen Villegas

“Rain, Snow or Shine, the show will go on” is usually announced prior to an upcoming outside show.

That was the case for the Gertie & The T.O. Boys, along with Cruz performance at the Ak-Chin Entertainment Center.

The show, which took place on Saturday, October 11th, was originally scheduled to take place at the outdoor Amphitheatre of the Entertainment Center, but due to inclement weather, the dance was moved indoors into the Luxe Lounge, therefore, the show did go on.

The only “bummer” was that the originally planned dance was intended to be open to all ages and allowed food vendors to set up and sell their goods, but that was obviously cancelled.

Despite the dilemma, the Cruz band and Gertie took to the stage and put

on great performances, as a filled to the maximum crowd danced to plenty of cumbias, chotes and waila songs.

The dance was a continued series of great “shows” the Entertainment Center have provided throughout the year. Chicken scratch

performances have been very successful with bands such as; Native Creed, PDub, Two Rivers and O’odham Tradition “wowing” packed crowds at the

Luxe Lounge.

With the year coming to an end, look for more chicken scratch shows during the upcoming Masik Tas Celebration.



Just about every song the dance floor was full of dancers who were showing their great cumbia, chote and waila moves to the sounds of Gertie & The T.O. Boys and the Cruz Band.

NO TRICK - ALL TREAT!

\$3 DOMESTIC DRAFT BEER

Must present coupon to server. Not valid with daily or Happy Hour specials. Cannot be combined with other specials, offers, or Harrah's Rewards. One coupon per table. Limit four (4), no split checks. Valid for one visit daily. Non-transferable. Must be 21 or older to purchase. Offer expires 10/31/25.

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ARROYOGRILLE.COM  
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20% OFF ROOM RENTAL & COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE STATION  
Offer valid if event booked by October 31, 2025. Some restrictions may apply.

A PURE PARTY EXPERIENCE

HOLIDAY PARTIES REUNIONS CORPORATE EVENTS WEDDINGS

Expansive views, custom menu design and an exceptional food & beverage team are ready to throw you a great party for any occasion. Call today to reserve your event with us!

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SAVE THE DATE

MASIK TAS

DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

FREE CONCERT CARNIVAL RODEO BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Ed Jevedga / Ed Himdag  
Ha Tayogid - O Mai - Celdod - Juchim  
Our Land/Our Culture  
To Show - Learn - Remember - Continue

CONTACT  
ALLEVENTSSTAFF@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

WANTED

LOCAL TALENT

TO PERFORM AT AK-CHIN MASIK TAS CELEBRATION

Ed Jevedga / Ed Himdag  
Ha Tayogid - O Mai - Celdod - Juchim  
Our Land/Our Culture  
To Show - Learn - Remember - Continue

NOW ACCEPTING AUDITIONS FROM ALL GENRES

DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
CONTACT ALLEVENTSSTAFF@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

OCTOBER 2025

CAESARS REWARDS

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                          | MONDAY                                                                           | TUESDAY                                                       | WEDNESDAY                                                                         | THURSDAY                                                                        | FRIDAY                                               | SATURDAY                                                                                                |                                                              |                                                                                  |                                                      |                                            |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>UP TO 5X BOO-NUS TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</div> <div>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025<br/>PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS • 8AM - 11:59PM</div> | <div>1</div> <div>SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS</div> <div>FOREVER YOUNG</div> | <div>2</div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</div>          | <div>3</div> <div>VIP FOR A WEEKEND</div>                                         | <div>4</div> <div>T-APP IN!</div>                                               | <div>5</div> <div>SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!</div>      | <div>6</div> <div>MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO!</div>                                                      | <div>7</div> <div>ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</div> | <div>8</div> <div>SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS</div> <div>FOREVER YOUNG</div> | <div>9</div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</div> | <div>10</div> <div>VIP FOR A WEEKEND</div> | <div>11</div> <div>FREAKY FUN FRY'S FOOD STORES® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY</div> |
| <div>12</div> <div>SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!</div>                                                                                | <div>13</div> <div>AIRSTREAM WIRELESS HEADPHONES GIVEAWAY</div>                  | <div>14</div> <div>ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</div> | <div>15</div> <div>SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS</div> <div>FOREVER YOUNG</div> | <div>16</div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</div>                           | <div>17</div> <div>VIP FOR A WEEKEND</div>           | <div>18</div> <div>REWARD CREDIT EXTRAVAGANZA</div>                                                     |                                                              |                                                                                  |                                                      |                                            |                                                                                      |
| <div>19</div> <div>SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!</div>                                                                                | <div>20</div> <div>OAK &amp; FORK IS OPEN EVERY MONDAY</div>                     | <div>21</div> <div>ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</div> | <div>22</div> <div>SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS</div> <div>FOREVER YOUNG</div> | <div>23</div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</div>                           | <div>24</div> <div>VIP FOR A WEEKEND</div>           | <div>25</div> <div>UP TO 5X BOO-NUS</div> <div>TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH BONUS</div>                  |                                                              |                                                                                  |                                                      |                                            |                                                                                      |
| <div>26</div> <div>SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!</div>                                                                                | <div>27</div> <div>WATCH THE GAME!</div>                                         | <div>28</div> <div>ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</div> | <div>29</div> <div>SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS</div> <div>FOREVER YOUNG</div> | <div>30</div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</div> <div>BRONCO CONCERT</div> | <div>31</div> <div>VIP FOR A WEEKEND HALLOWEEN</div> | <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT</div> <div>THE LOUNGE</div> <div>WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS</div> |                                                              |                                                                                  |                                                      |                                            |                                                                                      |