



Local thrash-metal band, Dogyard, set up photo ops with fans after their show at the Rock Concert series for the 2025 Masik Tas Celebration, Sunday December 21.

## DOGYARD Rocks Masik Tas

Story by Runner Staff, photo by Brianna Peters

Imagine being a young metal band and listing on your resume that you opened for rock legends; Quiet Riot, and Pop-Punk/Alternative Rock/Post-Grunge icons Saliva, Lit, and Fuel?

Talk about a stacked resume to help propel you to the next level.

This is what local Ak-Chin/Maricopa crossover thrash metal group, Dogyard now has under their belts, as they continue to strive for their ultimate dream of making a name for themselves.

Although it's a small, but strong loyal following thus far, the popularity is growing and it grew even more as they were a five-band line up who performed in front of hundreds of fans on the main stage of the rock Masik Tas concert series on Sunday, December 21st.

The passion, dedication, and love of their music and the instruments they played during their thirty plus minute set was evident, playing like true professionals.

As lead singer, Seven, riffed out lyrics, the

guitar duties of Ak-Chin's Ralston Justin and Christian Roman blended in well with each song.

The bass playing by Ray Hernandez and powerful drumming of Ak-Chin's Zach Valles-Garcia only complimented the performance.

The heavily filled crowd consisted of friends and family who support the performance by sporting Dogyard gear and merchandise, which sold out by the way. Following their set, the group made

Dogyard continues to Page 8

## Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park celebrates Soft Opening

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation department hosted a soft opening on December 23, 2025, from 10 am – 12 pm.

Community members, employees and residents, were invited to celebrate the holiday debut, of the newly renovated Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park and to mark the successful completion of

the Parks Improvement Project (PIP) for the renovation of both Antone and Hohokam Parks.

Parks and Rec added an Ugly Sweater Party to the festivities, that included a luncheon of hotdogs and hamburgers. "We want to see you there in your most festive (and tackiest)

holiday gear!" the email invite suggested. "Come explore the new spaces, enjoy the holiday spirit, and help us kick off this soft opening with a bang."

Construction began on April 28, 2025 for the MPA Park and June 2, 2025 for Hohokam Park. Both parks received upgraded landscaping,



Community children and parents were able to enjoy the new playground during a soft opening of Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park.

MPA Park Opening continues to Page 2

## 2025 Masik Tas Celebration closes out with a BANG!

Story by Runner Staff, photo by Kristen Villegas

17th Annual Masik Tas Celebration ends on a great note

What a treat for the thousands of excited visitors who attended Ak-Chin's 2025 Masik Tas grand finale birthday celebration, December 18th-21st. The weekend was filled with rodeos, carnival and concert events,

that surrounded Ak-Chin Circle Arena, fields and back lots.

Thursday, December 18th, began with an Open Roping with rounds of team ropers vying for a chance to take home the cash and prizes. In the afternoon, Community Day was celebrated with a members and residents

only outing for the carnival rides, games and food booths, prior to it being opened up to the public the next day.

Tohono O'odham Nation's Gertie Lopez, also known as the "First Lady of Chicken Scratch" and The T.O. Boyz were on hand to entertain. During a segment Gertie sang



Team Ak-Chin from left to right; Nikolai White, Nicolas Anderson, and Dominique "Patcho" White pull their wild horse out of the chute enroute to a first place finish. (More rodeo photos on pages 4-5)

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From l to r: Ak-Chin Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Jesus Corella, Moses Brings Plenty, Mylauni Antone, Zaida Soliz, Councilwoman Lisa Garcia and Joseph Davis. (Kneeling) Daria Garcia.

## Yellowstone Actor makes stop at Ak-Chin Masik Tas

Story by Robert Miguel, photo by Isabella Luna

Ak-Chin Community received a special treat during Masik Tas activities as Yellowstone actor, Moses Brings Plenty, made an appearance at various events during the celebration.

Brings Plenty was able to learn about O'odham Traditional Games; Toka and Songivul; during his visit.

He made an appearance and shared comments at the Open Rodeo and country concert series on Saturday, December 20th.

During his time in Ak-Chin, he was also able to

mingle, take photos and give autographs to fans.

A member of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Brings Plenty has an impressive resume in film.

In his role in Yellowstone, he plays "Mo", in which he has played in 39 episodes.

He's had roles in such films as Hidalgo, Thunderheart and Pirates of the Caribbean.

In addition to doing theatre work in Nebraska, he also portrayed an Apache

warrior in the 2011 science fiction western film, Cowboys & Aliens and Shep Wauneka in Jurassic World Dominion in 2022.

On April of 2024, Brings Plenty was honored with a New Horizon Award, a lifetime achievement award given out at the annual Western Heritage Awards at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Moses has performed for charity events such as Project Lighthouse, who provides clothing and bedding to Northern Indian reservations.

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JOIN US FOR A

2026

NEW YEAR / NEW BUILDING LUNCHEON

JANUARY 29 @ 11:00 AM

Join us to Celebrate our Newly Renovated Building with Food & Dancing!

Call the Elder Center to RSVP.  
Deadline January 19, 2026

If you have any questions, please give us a call at 520-568-1760

# S-kubjuv Ju:dam participate in 35+ Toka Tournament

Submitted by Marissa Antone



On Saturday morning, December 27, the S-kubjuv Ju:dam toka team participated in the Tas Tonlig 35 and up tournament in San Simo:n, on the Tohono O’odham Nation.

S-kubjuv Ju:dam started off strong with a few wins, but fell short in the tournament.

This was the team’s first time participating in a 35 and up toka tournament.

The teammates that got to experience this year’s 35 and up tournament mentioned how much fun it was to play, but were not looking forward to being sore after.

Attention Ak-Chin Indian Community Elders  
Join Us for the Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day!!

The Elder Center is excited to invite you to the  
Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day  
on January 14, 2026 at the Arizona State Capitol

This event is a great opportunity to connect with family and friends from other tribes, engage in discussions about issues that matter to our communities, and learn about legislative developments.

Important Details:  
To: Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day  
Arizona State Capitol, Phoenix, AZ  
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
Departure Time: To Be Determined  
Sign-Up Deadline: January 7, 2026, by 12:00 PM

Please Note: This event involves a considerable amount of walking. - If you require a wheelchair, we kindly ask that you bring a caregiver to assist you. For more information and to reserve your spot, please contact the Elder Center. 520 568 1760.

INDIAN NATIONS & TRIBES LEGISLATIVE DAY  
SAVE THE DATE  
JANUARY 14, 2026  
Arizona State Capitol  
1700 W. Washington St. Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
gof.azgovernor.gov

OVERVIEW

The Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, in cooperation with representatives from the State's Tribal Nations, annually facilitates an Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day on Wednesday of the first week of each regular legislative session.

Invitations are extended to each member of the state legislature, Governor and other elected officials to pay tribute to the history and culture of the American Indian peoples and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States.

The day begins with a Joint-Protocol Session hosted by either the House of Representatives or Senate with floor privileges extended to tribal leaders to join their representative(s) during the session. The session traditionally begins with a posting of the colors, pledge of allegiance, invocation, brief comments from both the Senate President and Speaker of the House and features a keynote address by a Tribal Leader. Followed by activities and discussions between state and Indian Nations and tribal leaders on issues of common interest.

new ramadas/shading and fences.

New park signage was added to Milton “Paul” Antone Memorial Park.

A featured addition was a cement pad with traditional and cultural designs where dancing can be held for performers celebrating Native American Recognition Day (NARD) and Ak-Chin Him-Dak’s Celebration, as well as other community-based celebrations.

Both, Ak-Chin Fire department and Indian Health Services (IHS) inspected the completion of the project, and gave approval for Antone Park.

Both parks will be opened in the next few weeks, pending the Certificate of Occupancy from Pinal County.

## Here are the current park improvements/projects:

### Milton Antone Park, Play areas

The new play spaces were thoughtfully designed to support healthy play, imagination, and community connection, and the community is thrilled to provide families with a place where children can learn, grow, and have fun together.

The new playground made by Landscape Structures from Minnesota features two separate play areas for ages 2–5 and ages 5–12, ensuring age-appropriate,

safe, and engaging play experiences for everyone.

Each area includes modern, inclusive equipment that encourages outdoor physical activity, creativity, and social interaction. The 5-12 playground has a tower structure with slides and climbers along with ground level climbers, spinners and musical instruments.

The 2-5 playground has a mix of slides, climbers, multi-use spinner, rockers and social hangouts. The poured in place surfacing makes for a soft landing and accessibility for all throughout both of the playground areas.

The large shade sails will make the playground cooler during warmer temperatures.

### Hohokam Park

Hohokam was made safer with new heavy duty metal fence and gates all around the park. Two new security cameras were added.

The Park underwent less extensive renovation, but the play area was made safer with new rubberized play surface, wheel chair accessibility and new shading covers.

The walking track around the park was completely replaced with new concrete curbs and stabilized granite surface for comfortable walks.

The skate park area had a major face lift,

new artificial turf was installed all around, new trees and crushed granite areas.

New large ramada and two small ramadas were added, complete with heavy duty concrete picnic tables, and grills. New bleachers and shading were added for the soccer field.

The volleyball area now has new clean play sand. Lighting was improved with the addition of new pedestrian lights.

The restroom building was completely renovated with new fixtures, partitions, painted inside and outside.

New trees were planted along the south side and crushed granite all around the park.

### Farms Park

Farms Park is currently in the design phase. Preliminary Site plan was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Park may start construction in April of 2026, after budget approval and can potentially be completed by 2026, year-end.

The Park will have security fencing and gates. The Park features will include new grassy playing fields, ramadas for picnic areas, full basketball court, restroom building with equipment storage. Parking spaces along Farm Lane will be added, both sides.

## ELDER PROGRAM UPDATE

The Ak-Chin Elder Center is open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Transportation for pick-up begins daily at 9:00 am.

The craft/activity room is open from 9 am – 1 pm and available for crafting, puzzles, diamond painting, and any other activities you would like to enjoy.

We are currently serving lunch only from 12 pm – 1 pm

Medical & Dialysis transportation will operate as normal.

For more information or to schedule transportation, please call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760.

## JANUARY 2026 ELDER LUNCH MENU

1/1  
Spaghetti, Pea, Romain Salad, Texas Toast, Fruit Cocktail

1/2  
Chicken w/ Rice, 3 Bean Salad, Chumath, Pineapple

1/5  
Black Eyed Peas, Chicken Stir Fry, Egg Roll (D), Broccoli, Moon Bread, Cherry Crisp

1/6  
Indian Taco, Corn on the Cob, Lettuce/Tomato/Cheese, Watermelon

1/7  
Egg Salad Sandwich, Tomato w/Cottage Cheese, Cucumber Salad (D) Avocado, Apples

1/8  
Fish Taco w/Shredded, Green Leaf/Tomato, Wild Rice, Carrots, Pistachio Cake

1/9  
Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Mandarin Oranges

1/12  
Red Chili Stew w/Potato, Carrots, Chumath Tropical Fruit

1/13  
Baked Ham, Sautéed Cabbage w/Spinach, Peas, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Apple Sauce

1/14  
Chicken Enchilada, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Grapes

1/15  
French Bread Pizza & Salad, Jell-O/Apple

1/16  
Pinto Beans, Pork Chop (D), Zucchini, Corn Bread

Menu subject to change without notice

HAPPY NEW YEAR





# William Delma competes in Spelling Bee



Submitted by Nicole Delma

William Delma participated in the Saddleback Elementary Spelling Bee contest on December 10th. He was eliminated during the seventh round. The word he misspelled was Atrium.

William is in the 4th grade at Saddleback. He is the son of Willard and Nicole Delma. Great job William!!

# Ak-Chin participates in Maricopa Youth Soccer League

Story by Runner Staff, ,photos submitted

Recently, it was brought to our attention that we had a grip of young members playing soccer for the Maricopa Youth Soccer League. We appreciate the information and coordination to get our fantastic athletes recognized in this issue.



Jaxson Justin played for the Dragons, 7–8-year-old team for Maricopa Youth Soccer League.



Jose Lopez and sister Ariel Lopez both played in the Maricopa Fall 2026 Soccer League. Jose played for the Cobras 8-year-olds, and posted 3 goals for the season. His team also won first place in the league. Ariel Lopez, played for the Raiders, 11-year-old girls' team. Her team only lost one game the whole season.



Marley Contreras has played soccer with the City of Maricopa for the past 3 years. Over the Spring she played with the 12U for the green team! She also played with Maricopa Wells Middle School 7th grade soccer team.

# Masik Tas Songivul and Toka Games

Early Saturday morning, December 20, teams who entered the all-native, men-only Songivul and all-native, women-only Toka tournament, Saturday, met up just south of Ak-Chin gymnasium.

Songivul kicked off

early with a small group of young men ready to play the traditional relay game.

The objective of the game is to pass a large wooden while barefoot the length of the relay field, kicking it off to your teammates. The

team with the fastest relay advance to the next round.

Just north of Songivul relays, the Toka tournament was off to a great start with 10 teams ready to play.

Both traditional games



Songivul Team winners from our sibling tribes. Ak-Chin was represented by Conner Miguel and Adriel Jimenez (below).

played throughout the morning, with prizes and recognition to the winners.

The toka tournament, hosted by Ak-Chin Language Program, along with assistance from the Ak-Chin Youth Council welcomed all teams to the field for an honor/opening song before the first games began.

After all games concluded for the 2025 Masik Tas Toka Tournament winners



were announced. All players received gifts from the Language program that included

long-sleeve t-shirts and small luggage gift tags.



FIRST PLACE - SKEG KOMCKUD



SECOND PLACE - JUNNAMA



THIRD PLACE - HEMAKO EP









a birthday song to the community as Ak-Chin elders, Gibson Romo and Mildred Mendoza, blew out candles on the cake to signify Ak-Chin's birthday. Friday, December 19th, rodeo participants, from young buckaroos to novice riders entered the Jr. Rodeo, with events beginning at 9 am. Young community member participants included: Lina Hamilton, Eliza Smith, Jaylene Lopez, Malakai White, Paislee White, Johnathan Enos, Oliver Peters, Emerson Antone, Caleb Ugalde, Pate Justin, and Michael Enos.



Caleb Ugalde placed 3rd in the 10-13 Ribbon Roping with a time of 13.64 and Oliver Peters received 5th place in the 6-9 Ribbon Roping with a time of 22.84. Participants in Friday afternoon's rodeo cinched up the buckle



a little tighter as the Bulls, Broncs, and Donks events began with bull riding, novice steer riding, women's wild donkey race. "Papago Studs" from Ak-Chin, with Nikolai White, Dominique "Patcho" White and Chizzum Justin took 1st place and all the cash for the Wild Donkey Race. On the main concert stage, concert goers were able to enjoy the popular chicken scratch band, Papago Warrior, also known as PDub.

Papago Warrior was followed by Los Sociales, a Tejano band from the town of Guadalupe, Arizona.

A number of licks from southern rock, chicken scratch, Hispanic, and country was what Chaka & Friends brought to their set, much to the delight of fans who attended the concert. Chaka from the San Carlos community, has been a fan favorite for many years while performing in the community.

Los Hermanos Cuatro, closed out Friday's concert series. Led by Pascua Yaqui Vice-Chairman, Peter Yucupicio, the Tucson based band, played a majority of their set, in dedication to the Grammy Award extraordinaire Ramon Ayala.

As quick as you said "good night" to Friday, Saturday's celebration was upon us. Attendees were in for a treat as three professional cowboys entered in the Open Rodeo, team roping, event. National Finals Rodeo qualifiers; Derrick Begay, Erich Rodgers, and Aaron Tsinigine all made their way to the community to showcase their skills.

In addition to the roping events, the crowd cheered on bareback, saddle bronc and bull riders, steer wrestlers, barrel racers and the Wild Horse Race.

Ak-Chin proudly cheered on two teams comprised of community members; Team Ak-Chin entered with; Nikolai White, Dominique "Patcho" White and Nicolas Anderson. The White brothers had just won the Wild Donkey Race the day before, so they were stoked going into the race.

Team "Let's Do It" with members; Ralston Justin and Marcus Stephens, were also ready to ride to the finish. Once the chutes opened, it was a close race to the finish, but only one winner would be announced that day and it was Team Ak-Chin.

During intermissions, the announcers, rodeo clowns and stock contractor kept it

lively with their wit, grit and a few action-packed events just for spectators. The classic boot-race was amped up this year, as contestants jumped from one pile to the next to find and slip on their boots, then race to the finish line, where a brand-new Yeti cooler was their choice prize.

The smell of barbeque, frybread, oriental, seafood, and sweets filled the air the entire weekend. Vendor booths that were on high alert included all the popover stands manned by members, the Texas Twister Tea stand and pretty much any stand that offered sweets. A couple community vendors were set up selling clothing and nail art.

Meanwhile, children and adults stood in line, for the most part patiently, to get on the fast, spinning, upside-down and side-to-side rides that had thrill seekers screaming for more.

Saturday's concert series showcased a country lineup that began with Justin Biltonen, performing acoustic versions of songs he wrote. Many may not know this, but he is actually the bassist for Three Doors Down.

Callie Twissleman "wowed" the crowd with her voice as she also jumped on the acoustic guitar to perform with her band.

Walker Montgomery, the son of John Michael Montgomery and nephew of Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry, was in the lineup and gave a beautiful rendition of his father's hit, "I Love the Way You Love Me" and his own "She Don't Know" and "Out of Nowhere".

Grammy Nominee, DeAna Carter, famous for a number of songs, in particular "Strawberry Wine" gave a wonderful performance with her band, which featured husband Jim McPhail on guitar.

Kentucky natives Montgomery Gentry, took to the stage prior to the main attraction. Gentry, an American Music Award and Academy of Country Music winner, played favorites, "If You Ever Stop Loving Me", "Something to Be Proud Of" "Lucky Man", "Back When I Knew It All" and "Roll with Me".

When the final act of the country concert series was ready to take the stage, a thunderous ovation greeted Tracy Lawrence as he walked onto the stage. Tracy quickly jumped into popular songs which included; "Time Marches On", "Sticks and Stones", "Alibis" and "I See It Now". The Academy of Country Music Award

and Country Music Association Awards winner gave the crowd a night to remember.

Sunday, brought day two of the Open Rodeo, with an 8 am Slack to start the morning, followed by more riding and roping events. At the end of day two winners were announced and everyone filtered into the carnival for one more day of midway rides.

Sunday also brought a new music set list to the Masik Tas stage, "Rock" with an intensely impressive lineup. To start it off Aravaipa of San Carlos started the rock show, with a unique blend of vintage rock, blues and country. The crowd grew as each new band started to play.

When local band, DOGYARD hit the stage their crossover-thrash metal caught everyone's attention, as many more joined the crowd to hear lead vocals Seven Garcia and the band that included community members Ralston Justin on guitar and Zachary Garcia on drums. In no time, the band captivated the crowd with their massive headbanging.

American rock band from Memphis Tennessee, Saliva followed, with a hard rock/alternative metal style, with "Click Click Boom", "Ladies and Gentlemen" and "Your Disease".

Heavy metal rock band, Quiet Riot, founded in Los Angeles, were next to take the stage! As the crowd moved closer to hear their cult classic, "Bang Your Head (Metal Health)" and "Cum On Feel the Noize".

Lit, an American alternative rock band out of Orange County, California took to the stage to play their top hits, including "My Own Worst Enemy" and "Miserable". They have even dabbled with a little country, with "Fast" and "Back with You".

Once, headliner Fuel hit the stage the crowd was primed and ready to rock the night away. The post-grunge/hard rock/alternative metal band from Harrisburg, played all their hits. "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)" was most requested song of the evening, and Fuel did not disappoint, saving the best for last before ending Masik Tas' first rock concert series.

As the dust settles and holidays have hit their peak, Ak-Chin would like to thank everyone for joining them for this year's birthday celebration.

We continue to ask you to respect our community, while enjoying what the community has to offer.





# JOB OPENINGS

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Accounts Payable Technician
- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Deputy Clerk II
- Detention Officer Non-Certified
- Detention Officer Certified
- Detention Officer Certified (part-time)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer (certified)
- Security Systems Technician

## Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Museum Technician
- Oral Historian (part-time)

[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 1/1 - 1/15

**1/02**

Jolene Campbell  
Custodial

Jennifer Hill  
Him-Dak

**1/03**

David Gorby  
TGA

**1/10**

Gilbert Celaya  
Police

Johnny Ramirez  
Central Plant

**1/11**

Octavio Machado  
Him-Dak

**1/04**

Skyler Nash  
Maintenance

**1/12**

Ashley Charles  
Social Services

**1/05**

Andrew Jimenez  
Sanitation

**1/13**

Teri De La Cruz  
Injury Prevention  
Elder

**1/06**

Sonya Martinez  
Parks & Rec

Jose Miguel  
Sanitation

Anthony Morales  
Police

Henrietta Rubio  
Police

**1/14**

Jesus Corella-Esquer I  
Parks & Rec

Joseph Ugalde  
Him-Dak

**1/07**

Wayne Allison Jr.  
Police

**1/15**

Veronica Armadillo  
Custodial

**1/09**

Jaelin Guerin  
Vekol

## READ ALL THE COMICS AT COMICSPLUS



## HOW TO ACCESS:

Download the [Library Pass app](#) or go to:  
<https://akchincomlibazfc.librarypass.com>  
Select the Ak-Chin Indian Community Library and login with your library card.



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

**2026**  
**Virtual**  
**NEW YEAR'S 5K & 2 MILE**

Begin your 2026 fitness journey with a virtual walk or run! Choose a 5K or 2 mile distance.  
**January 1<sup>st</sup> - January 19th**  
**Submission Deadline: Jan 20th**

Register by scanning QR code or link <https://forms.gle/ZCkZDAbKrXrgvxtt9>  
Submit your virtual walk/run using a fitness app.  
Participants will receive a t-shirt & meal voucher.  
Top finisher prizes available for 5K.  
Open to Ak-Chin Members, Residents, Employees & their families.

Questions? Please contact Health Education at (520)568-1085 or email [mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us)

*Wishing Everyone a  
Blessed and Hopeful 2026!*

*As we look ahead to a new year,  
I respectfully request a wish that  
the Community Council consider  
supporting animal welfare and  
safety through future budget  
planning for 2026.*

*Even a small step toward an  
animal shelter could bring  
comfort, protection, and hope to  
the four-legged members of our  
community who need it most.*

*With sincere appreciation  
for the many responsibilities  
Council carries on behalf of  
our community, thank you for  
considering this New Year's wish  
to have compassion and care for  
all who call our community home.  
Nicole "CoCo" Carlyle-Coester*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**  
**May 2026 ring in a year of great  
beginnings and new adventures.**  
**FROM THE RUNNER**

## JOIN US THIS Crafternoon

COME IN AND  
DECORATE A  
JOURNAL  
FOR THE NEW  
YEAR. ALL  
MATERIALS  
PROVIDED!

**WEDNESDAY**  
DEC 7<sup>TH</sup>  
3PM-6PM  
**SATURDAY**  
DEC 10<sup>TH</sup>  
1PM-3PM

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees  
Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.



QUESTIONS? CALL: (520) 568-1675 OR  
EMAIL: [LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US](mailto:LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US)

**WIC**  
**Tuesday, January 06, 2026**  
**8:15a-11:45am**  
**EPD Building**

**Do you qualify for WIC?**  
• Pregnant  
• Breastfeeding women  
• Infants  
• Children under the age of 5

WIC foods include: yogurt, fresh fruit s & vegetables, baby foods and other favorites such as milk, peanut butter, cheese, cereal and eggs

Questions? Need to make an Appointment?  
**CALL: (520) 562-9698**  
**Gila River Indian Community WIC Program**

**COME TO THE Library AFTER DARK**  
**ADULTS 18+**

END YOUR DAY WITH SOME QUIET READING AT THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND A LIGHT DINNER.

**JANUARY 15TH**  
**6PM-8PM**

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

QUESTIONS? CALL: (520) 568-1675 OR EMAIL: [LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US](mailto:LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US)

**Happy Birthday!!**

Happy 9th birthday to my EZ \*`◇  
My big girlsh, I can't believe how fast the years flew by! pretty soon your age will finally match your attitude lol but no matter what, I'll always be here to put up with it... I love you my Apolonia & I hope your day is everything you wished for!  
Love, Mom ♥

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Jody and Jessica, and grandson Edward  
Love, Grandma

## January 1 - 15 Birthdays

**JANUARY 1**  
**Duane Narcia**

**JANUARY 2**  
**Azlynn Carra**  
**Jolene Campbell**

**JANUARY 4**  
**Jaianna Pilone**  
**Stephen Narcia**  
**Skyler Luna**  
**Alexandra Osife**  
**Natalia Marrietta**

**JANUARY 5**  
**Joseph Pilone**  
**DelRoy Narcia**

**JANUARY 6**  
**Yolanda Melero-**  
**Moroyoqui**  
**Jose Miguel Sr.**  
**Joseph Narcia**  
**Heaven Coble**  
**Jody Peters**

**JANUARY 7**  
**Gabriel Pablo**  
**Brandon Smith**  
**Kevin Villegas**

**JANUARY 8**  
**Paige White**  
**Ashley Manuel**  
**Jessica Zabawa**  
**Ethan**  
**Humeyumptewa**

**JANUARY 9**  
**Jennifer Hill**  
**Jose Balderrama**  
**Paden Marsh**

**JANUARY 10**  
**Jason Luz**  
**Jack Tittes-Long**

**JANUARY 11**  
**Euphrasia Mike**  
**Persephanie Antone**  
**Mylaunah Robles**

**Octavio Machado**  
**Edward Rocha**  
**Bradley Miguel**

**JANUARY 12**  
**Celijah Antone**

**JANUARY 13**  
**Ezri Miguel**  
**Ella Lewis**  
**Amarissa Garcia**  
**Viviana Rascon**

**JANUARY 14**  
**Karli Hoffman**  
**Kimberly Smith**  
**Teresa Valisto**

**JANUARY 15**  
**Carmella Ortiz**  
**Jakob Thomas**

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

**1/2026**  
**JANUARY**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.				1 Closed	2 Closed	3 Closed
4	5	6	7 Storytime @10am Crafternoon 3-6pm	8	9	10 Crafternoon 1-3pm
11	12	13	14 Storytime @10am	15 Library After Dark 18+ 6-8pm	16	17 Closed
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Closed	20	21 Storytime @10am	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Storytime @10am	29 Puzzle Day!	30	31

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their way over to where a merchandise shop was set up to mingle with supporters.

Following 2025 tour dates which included stops in Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, California and Nevada, the Masik Tas performance was the last stop for the year.

Dogyard originated in September of 2021, when high school buddies Ralston Justin and Christian Roman shared their interests in the heavy metal/thrash music and the prospects of starting a band, it only helped the process that they shared the same instrument, which was instrumental and key of learning each other's style of play.

Slowly they recruited others to play in the band, which included bassist Ray Hernandez, who was also a classmate, and now a mainstay for the band. The group went through a couple vocalists before settling with current front lady, Seven or “Sev” for short.

In need of a drummer early this year, Justin encouraged the group to give a young and enthusiastic Ak-Chin percussionist, Zach Valles-Garcia, a shot. After receiving set recordings of the songs Dogyard played, Zach had short time to learn before performing a gig in Tucson. Following the Tucson show, Zach did so well, he was penciled in as the permanent drummer for the group.

Although, Dogyard is hitting on all cylinders for a great sound, they still

Prior to Dogyard, he and Hernandez formed another band, but that quickly dissolved, before the formation of Dogyard. His inspirations include professional guitarist, Max Cavalera of Sepultura and James Hetfield of Metallica. But the one true person who he keeps in his heart daily is his late uncle Kerlin “Gus” Justin, who was known as a metal guitarist back in his younger days.

"My uncle Gus who inspires me everyday to pick up the guitar and play to the best of my abilities," Justin said. "I have a photo of him in my guitar case that I carry with me at all times. He's who I look up to."

Playing in front of his family and friends is always an emotional and great time. "I want to thank everyone, especially my family, for coming out and supporting not just me, but us. It brings the best out of us when we see all that support."

Zach Valles-Garcia - Drums  
- Zach is member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community and is currently a Junior at Maricopa High School. He is the son of Lisa Garcia and the grandson of Elizabeth Valles.

His inspirations include; Joey Jordison, the original drummer for heavy metal band Slipknot, Lars Ulrich of Metallica and The Rev of Avenge Sevenfold.

He credits his uncle, Blas "Sonny" Valles for getting him interested in drumming, as Sonny bought him a drum kit back when he was twelve years



old. "My uncle bought me those drums and I started to play and got a feel for it," Zach said. "So yeah, he was the one who got me started."

Although he just joined the group this year and is young in terms of putting his own mark on Dogyard's music, band members admit that he's grown leaps and bounds and has become a great drummer.

Christian Roman – Guitar  
– Plays a mix of lead and  
rhythm guitar and has  
been self-taught for the  
past nine years. Also, a  
co-founder, Roman lists  
Metallica, Slayer, Rage  
Against the Machine,  
Suicidal Tendencies and  
many of the guitarists who  
have played with Ozzy  
Osbourne.

He resides in Maricopa and attended Maricopa High School, where he met Ralston and Ray.

Christian is hoping that the groups base and performances expand just not locally, nationally. "We would love to continue branching out and playing in other states and with bands across the country. Our ultimate goal would be to see the world and

give back to our local communities through music."

Playing at Masik Tas and opening for Quiet Riot was a major treat as he's listened to QR since he was a child with his father.

"It was an awesome experience! We had a ton of family, friends and familiar faces who came out to see us and it felt awesome getting to play at a festival (Masik Tas) grew up going to my whole life," he said.

"A big shout out to all the crew, stagehands, and staff that made the event possible! Everyone was super kind, welcoming and helpful!"

Ray Hernandez – Bass – A seven-year experienced bass player, Ray also played guitar before picking up the bass.

Taking guitar lessons early in his life, helped him transition to the bass. Going into his third year with the band, he admires people who play with a guitar pick mostly, and attacks it like a guitar. But he also lists Jason Newstead of Metallica, Rex Brown of Pantera, Audie Pitre of Acid

Bath, and Gene Simmons of Kiss, inspirations.

Bass picks are key to many who play the instrument, but Hernandez prefers not to use one, such as his hero. Hernandez hopes that the band continues to be consistent, play bigger shows, sell more merchandise and continue to go upwards.

His dreams would be to open up for such groups as; Suicidal Tendencies, Cannibal Corpse, Frozen Soul, Deicide and Sanguisugabogg.

His mother thought he was lying when he told her that they would be opening up for Quiet Riot and Fuel, but reality set in and she was a “big” supporter at the show. Prior to the show Ray admitted that he had jitters before taking the stage.

"It was really scary, but really surreal, because I would like to say that was the most important show of my life. Playing in front of our hometown as well as just opening for very well-established bands, was a moment I wanted us to seize and really make the stage ours."

Although, Dogyard is hitting on all cylinders for a great sound, they still

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23  
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SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB

24  
BE INSTANTLY  
ENTERTAINED

25  
SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE  
INDUSTRY NIGHTS  
WITH TABLE GAMES

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