



about the meal.

And let's not forget the impressive cakes from Bashas! We had four full-sized sheets, each featuring a different flavor.

THANK YOU to the Akimel Waila Band for their fantastic performance! Your music set the tone for a fun filled party.

To the team at Vekol Market, YOU ROCK! Your food was a highlight of the day. Thank you for making our celebration even better!

Round of applause to the Runner staff for the photo booth and pictures. Everyone really enjoyed getting their photos taken and printed – shout out to the Elder Center staff for the set up and props!

Kudos to the Elder Center Staff! You all worked tirelessly before the event,

ensuring every detail was just right, from the tablecloths to the Ak-Chin colors and balloons. THANK YOU for your hard work!

We are also grateful to the Museum, Runner, Cultural Resources, and Preschool for providing Christmas gifts to our elders. Your kindness makes such a difference.

A special shout-out to Capital Projects Manager, Larry Joe! Thank you for keeping the Elder Center staff involved in the construction and interior planning of our new home. Your support has been very much appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to the Community Council for your ongoing support of our Elder Programs.

Together, we've created a wonderful space for our community elders. Here's to many more amazing moments at the Elder Center!



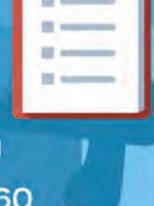


CALLING ALL AK-CHIN ELDER'S!

THE NEW YEAR IS HERE!

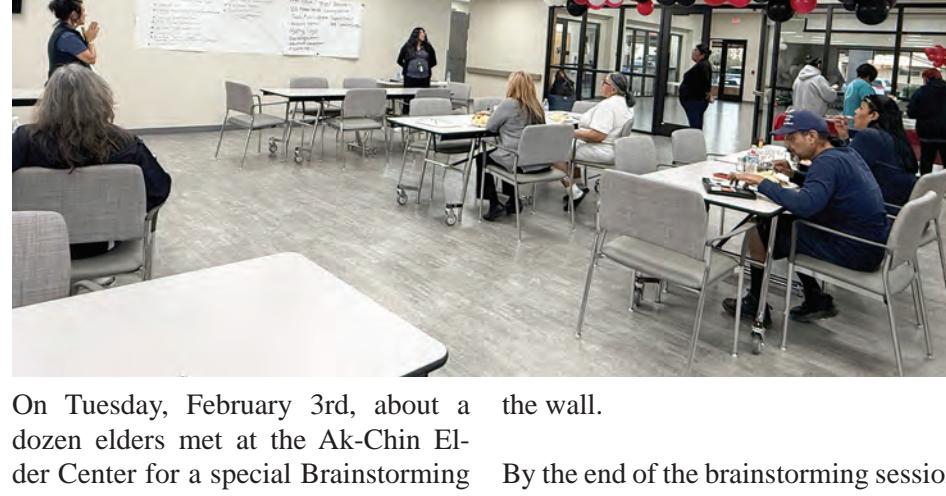
The Elder Program are currently updating Elder Intake Assessments for the New Year. Call The Elder Center to schedule a time and date to update your Intake Forms. We hope to see you soon!

Questions or Concerns? Call Marissa Antone or Sonia Narcia @520-568-1760



Special Brainstorming Gathering held for Elders

Story and photo by Raychel Peters



On Tuesday, February 3rd, about a dozen elders met at the Ak-Chin Elder Center for a special Brainstorming Gathering.

The gathering began around 5:30pm, with elders circled around tables suggesting their ideas about new services and activities they would like to have provided at the Ak-Chin Elder Center.

As they munched on sandwiches and snacks a great discussion began to unfold.

Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Elder Programs Director, continued feedback as Marissa Antone, Elder Program Coordinator jotted down all suggestions on huge sheets of paper that were taped up on

the wall.

By the end of the brainstorming session there were over 30 ideas that were developed and transcribed.

The elder staff will take these notes and develop a list that all elders can look at.

Once the list is compiled elders who would like to suggest more ideas will be added.

Afterwards, another Brainstorming Gathering will be held to further discuss the implementation of some of the suggested services.

Please stay tuned for the next Elder Brainstorming Gathering.

FEBRUARY ELDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Apples: Eating one medium apple a day may help lower blood pressure, cholesterol and inflammation. Apples improve heart and gut health from fiber and antioxidants, weight management due to fullness, better blood sugar control with low glycemic impact.</p> <p>Menu Subject to Change Without Notice</p>						
2/9 Ham & Eggs Scrambled, Avocado Slices, Potatoes / Toast, Fruit & Yogurt Chicken Alfredo, Acorn Squash, Romaine Salad, Texas Toast, Brownies/Lemon Squares						
2/10 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Bar-B-Que Ribs, Plain Ribs (D), Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Grapes	2/11 Breakfast Burrito Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit Salad, Muffin Split Peas w/Ham, Chicken & Potatoes (D), Cauliflower, Whole Wheat Crackers, Mandarin Oranges	2/12 Bread Pudding, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries Turkey Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Chips, Fruit Cup	2/13 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Lasagna, Zucchini & Yellow Squash, Green Leaf Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Strawberry Cake/Apple	2/14	2/15	
2/16 CENTER CLOSED- PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY	2/17 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Peaches with Cottage Cheese Indian Tacos, Corn on the Cob, Lettuce/Tomato/Cheese, Fresh Cut Fruit	2/18 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Egg Salad Sandwich, Tomato w/Cottage Cheese, Cucumber Salad (D) Avocado, Pineapples	2/19 Breakfast Enchiladas, Refried Beans, Sour Cream, Fruit Salad Fish Taco w/ Shredded, Green Leaf/Tomato, Wild Rice, Carrots, Fruit Cocktail	2/20 Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Tortilla, Fruit & Yogurt Roast, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Apples/Orange	2/21	
2/23 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Red Chili Stew w/Potato, Carrots, Chumath, Banana/Fruit Cup (D)	2/24 Potato with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit with Cottage Cheese Baked Ham, Sautéed Cabbage w/Spinach, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Apple Salad	2/25 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Mixed Berries Chicken Enchilada, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Vanilla Pudding	2/26 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana French Bread Pizza & Salad, Apple/Orange	2/27 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon, Fruit Salad Pinto Beans, Pork Chop (D), Zucchini, Corn Bread, Strawberry Chocolate Crepes	2/28	

OFFICE HOURS8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
PHONE: 520-568-1375
E-MAIL:
runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us**Ak-Chin O'odham Runner**Editor: Raychel Peters
Photojournalists:
Kristen Villegas and
Robert Miguel
Graphic Artists:
Eliza Santiago and
Diana Carlyle
News Assistant:
Kathleen Miguel**Ak-Chin Tribal Council**Chairman: Gabriel Lopez
Vice Chair: Delia Carlyle
Council Members:
Dennis Antone, Lisa
Garcia, and Cecil Peters**Regular Contributors:**
Ak-Chin: Education, Elders,
EPD, Health Education, Him-
Dak, Library and RecreationThe Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
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from:
Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Arizona 85138**ANNOUNCEMENTS**Announcements and wishes
may be dropped off,
phoned in, 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 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**2026 Subscription rate is
\$45.00. If you would like to
receive the "Runner" by mail,
please send a \$45.00
check/money order to:
Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Arizona 85138Make check/money order
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**AK-CHIN INDIAN
COMMUNITY****NEXT DEADLINE**
Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
February 20 -
March 5 2026
issue is due by
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30THPlease submit all
announcements, wishes,
etc. no later than
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30THMaterial submitted after the
JANUARY 30TH DEADLINEcannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.

Thank You

We, the family of
Angelica Salas-Vargas,
would like to personally thank;
the Sanitation/Public Works department
for everything, Rachel Peters and staff at
the Runner for the beautiful memory cards,
Cecilia and J. Warren for taking good care
of my baby, our family and friends, and
everyone that reached out and sent your
condolences via social media, text message,
messenger, etc. And everyone that was
able to come and be with us during
our time of loss and sadness.

There are no words that can express
how much we appreciate the support,
words of encouragement and hugs you've
given us when we needed it most.

With much love and respect
from our hearts to yours...

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!
The White and Salas-Vargas Family

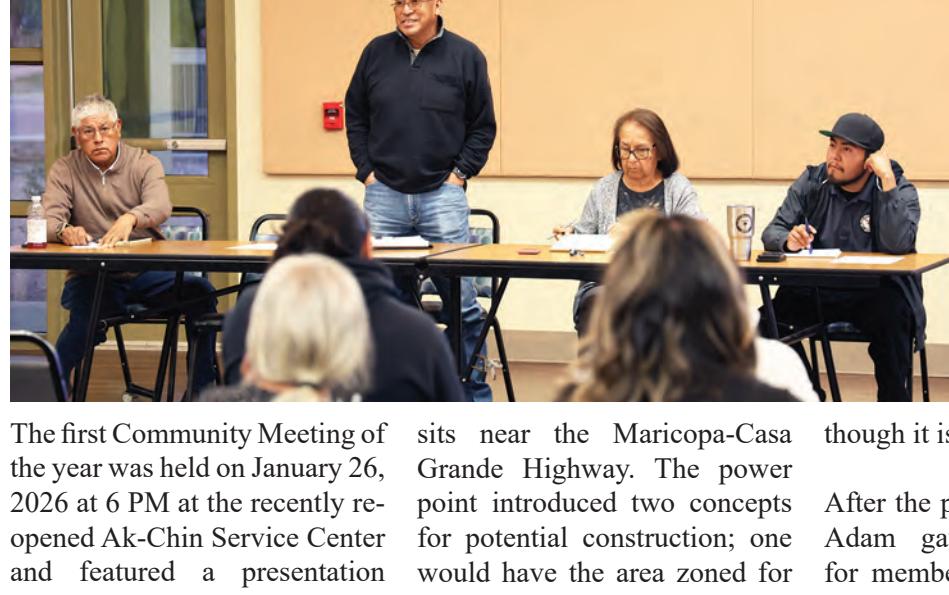
The family of Sanya Enos

would like to thank everyone for the prayers, love,
and support shown to us during this difficult time.

We are grateful for all who reached out, including
Sanya's co-workers, and the Elders she served, your
kindness and support meant so much to our family.
Every message, prayer, and act of love brought us
comfort and strength when we needed it most.

Thank you to the following: Ak-Chin Community
Council, Ak-Chin Public Works, Ak-Chin Language
Department, Ak-Chin St. Francis Church, Lawrence &
Sally Antone/Lerline Peters, Carole Lopez & Family,
Theda Corona & Family, Teresa Valisto & Family,
Christina Enos & Bernadette Carra, Kristen Villegas,
Wynema Miguel, Jeannie Thomas, Nicole Allison &
Family, Leo Lewis, Donovan Kyyitan, Nancy Carlyle &
Whitney Justin, Delia Carlyle, Davis Garcia & Family,
Jessica & Jordan Leland for designing the cross

Thank you from
Tanya Enos & Terrance Enos
Ruby Smith & Family
Victoria Smith & Family
Chris Vincent & Family



January Community Meeting

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

At left, Ak-Chin Community Council address the membership at the January Community Meeting; (l-r): Councilmember Cecil Peters, Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Vice-Chairwoman Delia Carlyle and Councilmember Dennis Antone.

though it is not limited to that.

After the presentation, Tim and Adam gave the opportunity for members to ask questions, comment their concerns or get a better understanding of the concepts and what could potentially come next.

Questions regarding the wash near that area raised concerns and road hazards/ safeties along the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. Questions on trends in the state of Arizona were also brought up, as far as real estate standards go.

Next, Council updated members on their recent events and activities. These featured training/work sessions, the Tribal Leaders Gaming meeting,

Legislative Day, the Southwest Indian Agricultural Association Conference, and a Tribal Opioid Settlement.

Lastly, the floor was given to membership to ask questions and suggestions. A suggestion was brought to council regarding an Elder full-time care facility or home. A question regarding the community operations manager position was also asked. It was also announced that the UNITY run would be returning. Raffle prize winners were then named, concluding the meeting.

Community Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month. February's Meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2026, at 6 PM, at the Service Center.



located in Chandler, AZ; they were able to bring the story to publication.

Illustrations for the books were done by Ak-Chin member Dwayne Antone, a well-known artist who brought his creative style to the books of Ka:los.

Mario Molina, Education Director noted, "Mr. Antone was recommended by several

individuals during the initial discussions of creating the book.

After a brief meeting to describe the project, Dwayne came up with some great ideas on how he would illustrate the book."

The first reading of "Ka:los and his Friends" was at 6 PM with Ms. Velacita Lopez, reading to members, with a slide

show of the pictures from the book on display, big enough for everyone to see.

At the end of the reading, Lerline Peters, explained the glossary in the back and encouraged all, both young and old, to read it to familiarize themselves with the language.

After the reading, everyone was escorted in the

multipurpose room of the library, where Dwayne Antone was signing books, which were then given out.

Meanwhile, Education staff were set up in the education-library lobby, where they passed out coloring pages, drinks and to go plates for all.

"We were pleasantly surprised on the amount of people who showed

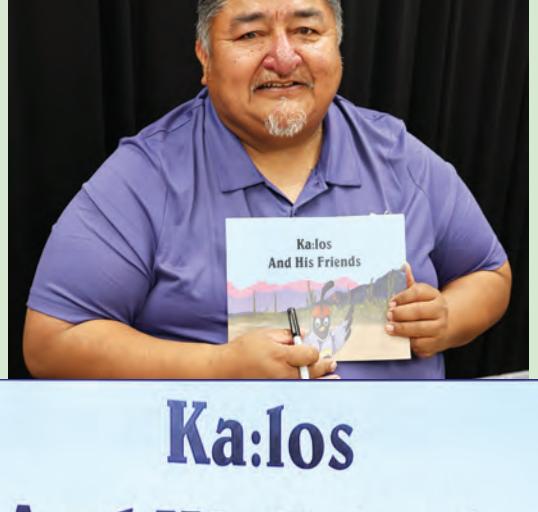
for the book launch and we are happy that the book was well received.

Our Language and Education staff did a great job in coordinating our efforts with the library staff to ensure the evening went well," expressed Molina when asked about the turnout.

"The Language Program is currently planning future events and

programming for the Community. We hope to have our calendar of events finalized soon with our next language event occurring in late February."

If you have not received a copy of the newest book, please contact Education staff at 520-568-1280 for more information on that.



Puzzling Day Challenge

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos courtesy of Naomi Bishop, Ak-Chin Library Manager

A race to completion was had at the Ak-Chin Library on January 29, 2026 as four teams put their best efforts into finishing a 286-300-piece puzzle within an hour; winner would receive the title of "Puzzle Champion."

Doesn't sound too bad, but what if you don't work well under pressure? What if you lose a puzzle piece? What if you run out of time?

These anxieties must have been felt during the race, but it was noted that everyone had their game face on. The room was hushed as teams whispered to one another, a few peeks over the shoulder were not missed either.

Teams included Seba 4, The Missing Pieces, Puzzle Masters and Team Richard & Riley.

As they worked against the clock to get the last piece of the puzzle in place before the time ran out, the team who rose as victorious was Team Puzzle Masters: Volencia Pablo, Doyleen Pablo, Dee-Andra Pedro, and Ms. Linda Brill.

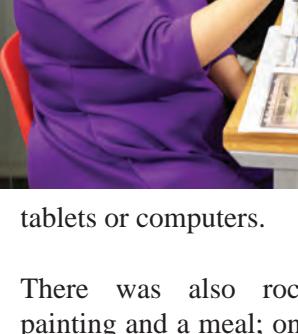
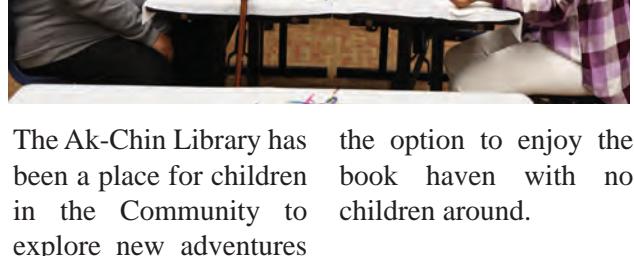
Congratulations to Team Puzzle Masters for their puzzling win! All competitors received puzzles to take home courtesy of Library staff.

There are new additions to the library programming every month, be sure to check out their calendar in the Runner or contact them at Library@ak-chin.nsn.us.



Library After Dark

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



The Ak-Chin Library has been a place for children in the Community to explore new adventures in books, crafting and for the most part, the services are kid majority.

Well, on January 15, 2026 the Ak-Chin Library provided a night just for the adults of the community; employees and residents alike; with

the option to enjoy the book haven with no children around.

This included their quiet reading and browsing of the library's abundance of books on shelves and through Libby; an application that allows access to the library digital collection of books; you can download it onto your phone,

There was also rock painting and a meal; one could say the atmosphere was one filled with laughter and good vibes.

The Ak-Chin Library has many more activities for all, please check out their calendar. If you have any questions contact them at Library@ak-chin.nsn.us.

January Storytime Reads

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Each month we can expect fun reads that are holiday-based or focused on specific topics; this can include a focus on feelings, forgiveness, trust and so much more.

To close out winter in Arizona, Storytime for January featured the last of the winter reads. Books read this January were; "Martin's Big Words," "There's Snow One Like You," and "Whose Prints?" with curated story crafts following.

If you'd like your child to participate in Storytime, they are held every Wednesday at 10 am. Maybe we can expect some Valentine's Day or Black History Month books in February? Come by to see for yourself.

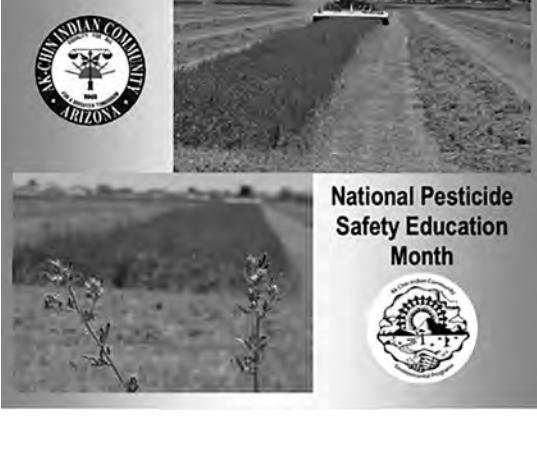
The Ak-Chin Library has been creating programs that have piqued the interest of many, both the Community Reading Challenge and Dog Man Readathon were a huge successes last year and the work the library staff does to get

the intercession/ summer school kids to read, does not go unnoticed.

Storytime has been a regular for library programming and with each week, it continues to be a favorite for the youth of the community.

National Pesticide Safety Education Month

Submitted by Theodore Puetz, Pesticide Control Specialist, Ak-Chin Indian Community Environmental Programs



Yes, it is National Pesticide Safety Education Month! What does this mean to you? February is a great time for combining pesticide safety with your Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. This can be the easiest and most effective way to take control of invading pests. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is using the IPM planning tools to reduce and / or eliminate the exposure to pesticides in your home.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) La'as Haicu Dodakam Hialwui



Utilizing IPM to reduce potential pesticide exposure and improve safety and protect the pollinators that are so important to our food quality and supply.

Integrating Pest management allow us to focus on our homes at time of optimum weather conditions to do the job on invading pests. This can set the stage for improving pest control with less pesticides.

February: Pest Proof your Home and Take Pesticide Inventory



February is an excellent time to take Pesticide inventory in and around your home, take pause to review your pest control actions of last year, and how to take preventative measures going forward to insure better control and cost savings. Please take time to think ... asking yourself; "Was the pest you were trying to control stated on the pesticide label?" By identifying the pesticides now, you will also make your home safer by finding the crucial information on the label and storing containers according to the label precautions.

All EPA approved pesticides state the following on the Label:

"Keep Out of Reach of Children"



Remember, old expired pesticide containers can be claimed at the next Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event or bring them to Environmental Programs. Now is the best time to prepare and get old spent pesticide containers ready for disposal while temperatures are cool.

What to look for pesticide container removal?

- 1) **Pesticidal Claims** – a statement about what the product claims to kill or repel. Disinfectants may state on the label "Kills 99.9% of germs" or kills bacteria and viruses
- 2) **Warning Statements:** "Keep out of Reach of Children" – means that children may not use or have access to, or be exposed to pesticides. These statements can be "Danger, Warning or Caution".
- 3) **EPA Registration Numbers:** This means EPA has reviewed this product and has legally registered it as a pesticide. You can be assured the label claims are correct if used according to the Label.

Take count of the inventory in the garage, garden areas and outside the living spaces of your home to account for reducing potential pesticide exposure while getting ahead of potential infestations*.

Inside

Reduce the Clutter
Re-evaluate Storage needs
Regular cleaning
Waste disposal
Check water Leaks

Barrier to Entry

Yard clean up
Screens
Sealing Cracks
Door Sweeps & Seals

Outside

Remove unused toys
Trim and remove wood
Trash Disposal
Roof check (entry points)

* Pest Proofing Contributions from Dr. Shaku Nair, Dr. Shujuan Li and Dr. Dawn Gouge - University of Arizona

At this point in time, the stage is now set to implement your strategies of a sound IPM plan to include the following:

- 1) Regular inspection and monitoring for pests.
- 2) Accurate pest identification
- 3) Utilize pet friendly traps in potential suspected entry points- (repair – weatherize)
- 4) Keep food, water and harborage away from your home
- 5) Taking notes on what is working and where to improve
- 6) Use targeted applications of pesticides only when needed
- 7) Share your plan with your family and let them know you care

Community efforts equal Community Results: Pests and Mosquito Control

Setting the stage in February reduces the early pest population pressures which can complement Public Works efforts in the greater Community. In the last few years Public Works has taken on Mosquito control (adulticide fogging) with positive results. During monsoons, water management around our homes will have a direct effect on Mosquito populations surrounding our homes in the neighborhood. Larvicides have been proven to be effective in early control reducing Mosquito pressures. It is truly the Community's combined effort that will contribute to the overall goal to keep pest pressures under control for this next year. This is a purposeful set up to complement Public Works' strategies.

Pretreatment for termite control to begins essential pest control and continues with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) minimizing the need for pesticides in and around Community. Keeping water from pooling around our homes can eliminate mosquito breeding areas.

As with any IPM Program, pest identification is essential to pest management. Assistance can be found at the NPIC website found below.

Insect ID



Trash to Treasure Craft - Make Reusable Produce Bags from Old T-Shirts

Submitted by Brandy Nelson, Environmental Specialist, Ak-Chin Indian Community Environmental Programs

Old T-shirts that are stained, stretched, or no longer wearable don't have to be thrown away. With just a few simple cuts and no sewing required, you can turn them into reusable produce or shopping bags. This easy project helps reduce single-use plastic bags and gives new life to clothing that would otherwise end up in the trash.

What You'll Need:

- 1 clean, old T-shirt
- Scissors

(No sewing, glue, or special tools required)

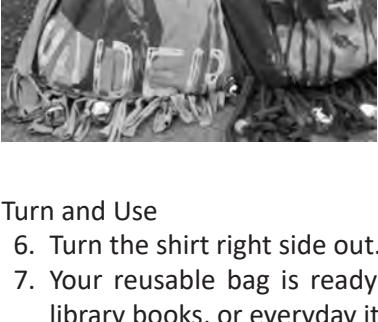
Step-by-Step Instructions:

Prepare the Shirt

1. Lay the T-shirt flat on a table or floor. Smooth out any wrinkles.
2. Cut off the sleeves along the seam to create arm holes.
3. Cut along the neckline to create a larger opening for the bag.



Create the Bottom of the Bag



4. Turn the shirt inside out.
5. Tie the bottom of the shirt into a tight knot to close the base of the bag.

Optional: For a stronger closure, cut small fringe strips along the bottom and tie them together in pairs.

Turn and Use

6. Turn the shirt right side out.
7. Your reusable bag is ready to use for groceries, produce, library books, or everyday items.



Helpful Tips

- Thicker T-shirts make sturdier bags.
- Larger shirts hold more items and work well for shopping trips.
- These bags are washable and can be reused over and over again.

Why It's a Great "Trash to Treasure" Project?

- Reduces plastic bag use
- Reuses clothing that might otherwise be discarded
- Requires no sewing or crafting experience
- Quick and cost-free to make

Complete this project? Please email photos to Brandy Nelson at BNelson@ak-chin.nsn.us at Environmental Programs.



**SCAN
&
EDIT
OLD
PHOTOS**

REMOVE

- Cracks
- Scratches
- Age spots
- Pen marks
- Stains



Before After

EDIT

- Color
- Image size



Before After

sessions focused on quality beef assurance, livestock diseases, tax prep for producers, farming and agriculture, as well as SWIAA Board elections, approval of by-laws and meetings.

SWIAA provided the opportunity for those who wanted to prep and test for the BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) exam. An awards presentation was also held during the luncheon on Wednesday to recognize scholarship recipients and SWIAA members.

There were door prizes and raffles held throughout, with a grand prize drawing at the end of the conference.

The Late Leona Carlyle - Kakar was a SWIAA member during its early beginnings, representing the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Farms.

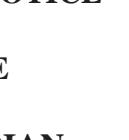


Above, Ak-Chin Veterans Group and Ak-Chin Language Program gather after SWIAA Opening Ceremonies on Tuesday, January 20. L-R: Cecil Peters, Horacio Corella, Raychel Peters, Lerline Peters, Renee Boehm, Velacita Lopez and Davis Garcia.

Below: Photos of different types of gardening techniques showcased during the "Growing Food in Climate Chaos" session, presented by Darrell Yazzie Jr., BS in Biology (Dine' College) Extension Agent for SW Navajo & Local Grower.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects Office



January 30, 2026

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION NOTICE for WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT 266 HOMES, AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Project Description:

This project will replace the water service lines between houses and the water mainline for 266 houses throughout the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa Arizona. The service waterline replacement will include new service tap connection to the water mainline and installing new water meters. The old service line will be disconnected and the old water meter will be removed.

The disturbed areas within the construction limits will be resorted to original position.

Purpose of the Project:

The project is similar to a maintenance type contract. This project will replace the old service lines with new more dependable water service lines and new water meters.

Intent of the Project:

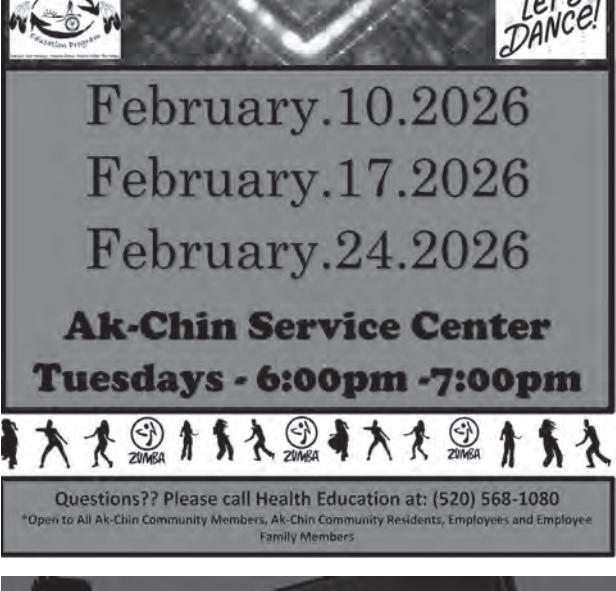
This project will improve the water service quality to the houses by minimizing water line breaks and repeated repairs on the old service waterlines.

Timeline of the Project:

The project will start construction on March 02, 2026, and will continue for 9 months. Construction will start at the Mesquite Subdivision, west side and continue eastward. Flyer notices will be distributed to individual houses prior to starting construction on the houses new water service lines.

Project Team:

Owner/Applicant: Carlton Carlyle Water Operation Manager Ak-Chin Indian Community Phone: (520) 568-1148	Design Engineer Marcus Felter Indian Health Service Western Arizona District Office Phoenix, AZ Phone: (480) 280-6341
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THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS FIVE (5) VACANCIES FOR THE AK-CHIN GAMING COMMISSION

All interested individuals are eligible to apply; however, Ak-Chin members will be given first preference.

Reminder: You may only serve on three (3) Boards, Commissions or Committees maximum at any given time.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Community Council is seeking individuals with the following qualifications:

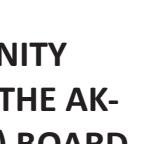
1. Must have knowledge or possess the ability to learn the Ak-Chin Gaming Compact, Code and Harrah's/Ak-Chin Casino Resort Management Agreement.
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the Ak-Chin Gaming Compact, Code and Harrah's/Ak-Chin Casino Resort Management Agreement, and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
3. Must have the ability to learn and understand the Federal, State, and Community regulatory processes pertaining to the Tribal Gaming Agency and Harrah's Casino Resort.
4. Must possess a valid Driver's License.

Requirements:

All interested individuals must submit a Letter of Interest detailing why they are interested in serving on the Ak-Chin Gaming Commission. Community employees must submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Gaming Commission. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires. All interested individuals must be able to successfully complete a background check and obtain an Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming License.

Please send all letters of interest:

Ak-Chin Community Council
Attn: Victoria A. Smith
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Arizona 85138



Deadline to submit letter of interest is Friday, February 20, 2026 by 5:00pm

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY ONE (1) VACANCY OPEN FOR THE AK-CHIN ENERGY SERVICES (ACES) BOARD

Open to Ak-Chin Community Members only

Reminder: Community Members can only serve on three (3) Boards or Commissions or Committee maximum at any given time.

FUNCTIONS OF THE AK-CHIN ENERGY SERVICES:

1. Regulates and oversees all areas of power and electric utility sources and services of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
2. To acquire, maintain and expand electric utility services within the community.
3. To study and investigate the feasibility of acquiring, operating, and maintaining other electric utility service within the community.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Community Council is looking for individuals with the following qualifications:

1. Must have the ability and willingness to learn and understand the Electric Power Industry.
2. Experience working in a business environment and the ability to learn and understand business practices is preferred, but not required.
3. Must have sufficient education and/or experience to make sound judgments.
4. Must be able to attend board meetings and functions at various scheduled times and at least on a quarterly basis.
5. All community members who apply must provide written authorization from their immediate Supervisors allowing them to serve on the board.
6. All applicants must Possess a valid driver's license.

Please send all letters of interest Attn:
Ak-Chin Community Council
ATTN: Victoria Smith
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

REQUIREMENTS:

All interested parties who desire to serve on the Ak-Chin Energy Services Board must submit a letter of interest detailing why they are interested in serving on the Ak-Chin Housing Board. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires.

Deadline for all letters of interest is February 20, 2026 at 5:00pm



injuries were apparent. But I bet there are a few sore bodies out there.

All teams had their own strategy; some used their group humor to get through the games, smiling all the while; win or lose.

The super competitive teams had a sneak attack system from the back court, or strategized catching, walking and launching that freakishly large beach ball, as far as they could.

On Ak-Chin Circle's tail for the win was the Rez Ballerz, who would

place second after their defeat by the Circle crew.

Though they placed second, the Community Council/Govt. Rez Ballerz gained the upper hand against other competitors showing they meant business.

Ak-Chin Circle and the Ash Kickers made the games interesting with a round for the first point lasting more than 5 minutes.

Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator, Jordan Gusse stated, "The Parks and Recreation Department would

like to thank all the departments that participated in the Mega Volleyball Tournament. The evening was filled with great teamwork, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs, making it a fun and memorable event for everyone involved.

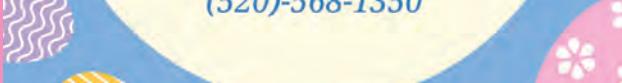
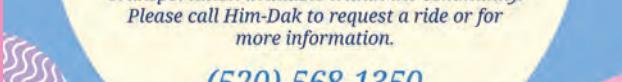
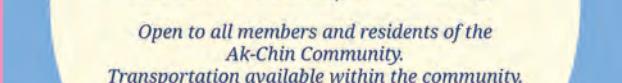
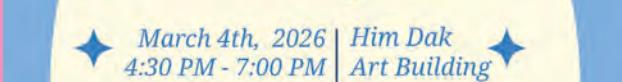
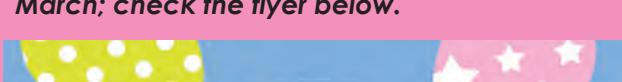
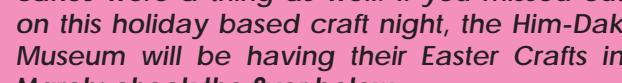
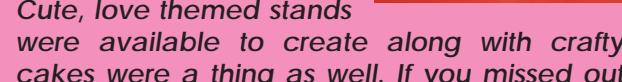
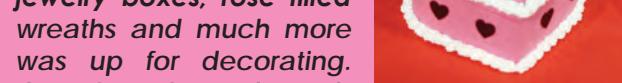
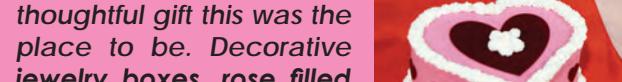
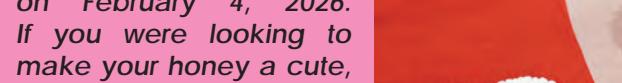
Gusse added, "We appreciate each department for coming together, showing their community spirit, and helping make the tournament a success. We look forward to seeing everyone participate in future employee tournaments and continuing the fun together."



2ND PLACE TEAM REZ BALLERS



3RD PLACE TEAM ASH KICKERS-ACFD



Last Games for Youth B-Ball

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

The Ak-Chin youth ended their basketball season with games held on January 17, 2026 starting at 10 AM. Good season kids! Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation have Co-Ed flag football next, if you have questions on signing your child up or on practices, please contact at 520-568-1740 or recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us.

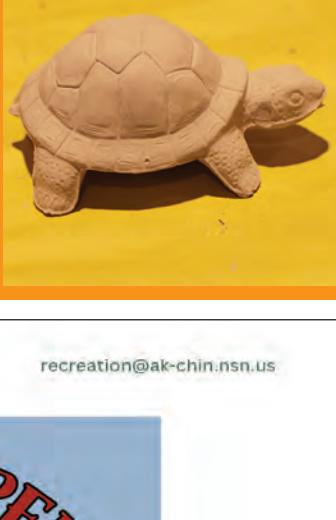


Him-Dak Ceramic Classes

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Attention all artists, ceramics is back for all; held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, sessions at 11 AM and 4 PM. It's almost Valentine's Day too so if you were looking for a gift... hint hint.

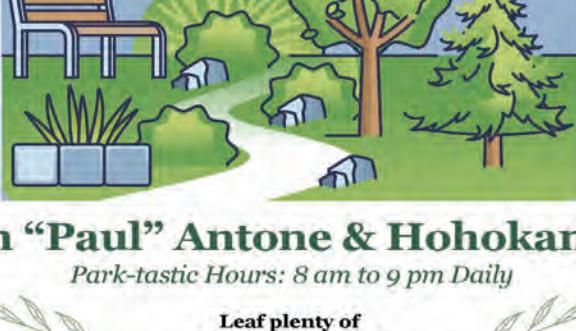
For more information contact Him-Dak staff at 520-568-1350. They do offer transportation too.



Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation

520-568-1740

recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us



Milton "Paul" Antone & Hohokam Park

Park-tastic Hours: 8 am to 9 pm Daily

Leaf plenty of time for requests!

Don't Branch out alone!
Reserve Your Spot

Facility Request Forms
Visit ak-chin.nsn.us
Go to Forms
Select Recreation
(It's a walk in the park)

Ramada Reservations
"Shade-tional Fun!"

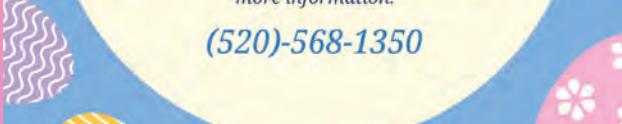
Helpful Information

Parking: Please park only in our designated parking lots.

Need to know: No personal grills or smokers are permitted in our parks.

No alcohol or drugs of any kind are permitted in our parks.

Only ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS & DEPARTMENTS may submit facility request forms.





Welcome to Gila River Health Care!

OUR MISSION:

To provide high-quality health care and improve the health of the Gila River Indian Community and other federally recognized tribes.

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital



483 West Seed Farm Road
Sacaton, Arizona 85147

Main Number:
(520) 562-3321



Komatke Health Center



17487 South Health Care Drive
Laveen, Arizona 85339

Main Number
(520) 550-6000

Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center



3042 West Queen Creek Road
Chandler, Arizona 85286

Main Number:
(520) 796-2600

AVAILABLE CLINICAL SERVICES:

Alternative Therapies

Audiology

Dental

Dialysis

Emergency Department

Inpatient

Laboratory

Life Center

(*Diabetes, Endocrinology & Wellness*)

Medical Imaging

Optometry

Pharmacy

Physical Therapy

Podiatry

Primary Care

(*Family Medicine, Orthopedics, Rheumatology, Cardiology, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine*)

Women's Health Clinic

Now Hiring! Apply at
GRHC.org/Careers



Visit us online:
GRHC.ORG





JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Accounts Payable Technician
- Assistant Cook (Detention Facility)
- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Court Security Guard
- Detention Officer Certified (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

To review the full job description and apply visit 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 2/7 - 2/19

2/7 Roman Orona, EPD	2/12 Grace Pablo, Housing
Matthew Tess, Education	2/13 Justin Burke, Fire
2/8 Concepcion Miguel, PRC	Griselda Fonseca Saldana, Custodian
Marcos Olivas Jr. Sanitation	2/15 Diana Velazquez, Education
Jade Rodriguez, Detention	2/16 Pirmin Goldtooth, Parks & Rec
2/10 Julia Dickerson, Education	2/17 Grant Cozzens, Police
Isaiah Osife, Parks & Rec	2/19 Lisa Garcia, Council
2/11 Kyle Chavez, Security	Debbie Parkman, I.S.
Mary Diaz, TGA	
Salinda Lopez, HR	
Jeannette Peters, Him-Dak	



Open Studio
TEENS 15-18 BRING YOUR ART PROJECTS TO WORK ON AT THE LIBRARY WITH OTHER ARTISTS!
FEBRUARY, WEDNESDAY
11TH & 25TH
4PM-6PM
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES. MINORS UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OVER 18.
CALL US: (520) 568-1675 OR EMAIL US: LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

FEBRUARY 1 Ian Nacia	Elizabeth Baptiste
Christopher Cypriano	Geneva Antone
Angelina Arellanes-Burgos	Marcos Olivas Jr.
Chyenne Anderson	
Adam J. Bowman	
FEBRUARY 2 Abigail Thompson	FEBRUARY 9 Aiyana Campbell
Preciousrose Warren	
Jonah Dickerson	
David Manuel Jr.	
FEBRUARY 3 Elizabeth Antone	FEBRUARY 10 Alexandra Carlyle
	Isaiah Osife
	Draven Soliz
	Julia Dickerson
FEBRUARY 4 Latasha White	FEBRUARY 11 Marlon Peters
	Kyle Chavez
	Mary Diaz
	Jeannette Peters
FEBRUARY 5 Dominique Nosie-Romo	FEBRUARY 12 Destiney Delowe
	Erin Pete
	Grace Pablo
	Caleb Ugalde
FEBRUARY 6 Stella Miguel	FEBRUARY 13 Koren Marrietta
Audrina Antone	Karin Smith
FEBRUARY 7 Bercro Thompson Jr.	FEBRUARY 14 Valentina Nacia
Eugene Peters Jr.	Melinda Peters
FEBRUARY 8 Deana Quinonez	DeliAnna Lewis

February 6 - 19, 2026

JOIN US THIS **Crafternoon**

MAKE A VALENTINE CARD AND OTHER CRAFTS FOR YOUR VALENTINE!

TUESDAY
FEB 10TH
3PM-6PM

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

XOXO

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Call: (520) 568-1675 OR Email: LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

ART SESSION: CERAMICS

COME CREATE!

LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN CERAMIC PIECE FROM START TO FINISH

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)

Session Begins: January 27, 2026

Session Ends: March 05, 2026

When: Every Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00AM to 1:00PM (Members, Residents, Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)
4:30PM to 7:00PM (Members & Residents of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)

COME IN ANYTIME BETWEEN THE TIMES ABOVE/ WORK AT YOUR OWN PACE

Transportation Provided

Pick Up and Drop Off within the Ak-Chin Indian Community
For transportation please call: 520-568-1350 (Please call before 4:00 p.m.)

for any additional questions please call: 520-568-1350

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

Happy Birthday to my daughter Jeanette Love, Mom

Michaela, Aleena, Mara and Jane Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Jan, Eugene Jr., Marlon, and Jose and my granddaughters Abigail, Audrina, Happy Birthday Fikhi and Keasha Love your family

Happy Anniversary Mag! ly

Employee Updates

	Charles Sudano Bus Driver Transit		Marcela Paramo Admin Support Assistant Courts
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FIXED ROUTE SCHEDULE

PICKUP TIMES	BUS SHELTER	LOCATION
10:15AM - 12:00PM	YES	WB-West of Carlyle Rd.
10:16AM - 12:01AM	YES	NE Elders Center
10:17AM - 12:02PM		Apartments
10:18AM - 12:03PM	YES	EB-Elders Center
10:20AM - 12:05PM		Vekol Market
10:21AM - 12:06PM		Library and Gym
10:23AM - 12:08PM		Lewis and Joaquin
10:24AM - 12:09PM		Joaquin and Joaquin
10:24AM - 12:09PM		Lewis at Park
10:25AM - 12:10PM		Lewis and Manual
10:26AM - 12:11PM	YES	Smith and Lewis
10:27AM - 12:12PM	YES	Bureau of Indian Affairs
10:28AM - 12:13PM		Police Station
10:28AM - 12:13PM		Peters and Nacia
10:28AM - 12:13PM		Pablo and Nacia
10:29AM - 12:14PM		Pablo and Miguel
10:30AM - 12:15PM		Ralph and Miguel
10:30AM - 12:15PM		Ralph and Milton
10:31AM - 12:16PM		Ralph and Hohokam St

Transit will still be offering Free On-Demand door to door pickup in Ak-Chin that can be scheduled up to 7 days in advance. This new route is an addition to our current services. Residents can make unlimited On-Demand Reservations in addition to the new fixed route.

WB = West Bound
EB = East Bound
SB = South Bound
NB = North Bound

Yes at bus shelter indicates the stop is at the bus shelter

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE:
CALL: 520-568-1630
TEXT: 520-340-0382

FRIDAY Fibers & FRIENDS

February, Friday 13th 5pm-6pm

Bring your own project to work on or make a felt valentine at the library! Ages 15+

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees.

Call us: (520) 568-1675 or Email us: Library@ak-chin.nsn.us

February, Friday 13th 5pm-6pm

Bring your own project to work on or make a felt valentine at the library! Ages 15+

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees.

Call us: (520) 568-1675 or Email us: Library@ak-chin.nsn.us

Ak-Chin Injury Prevention Program

Car Seat Check-Up!

IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT SEAT?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2026
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
ELEMENTS CONFERENCE CENTER
16000 N. MARICOPA RD.
MARICOPA, AZ 85139

Arizona Department of Health Services

If you have questions please call or email 520-568-1087 or Tdelcruz@ak-chin.nsn.us

2026 HIM-DAK SPRING ART PROGRAM

March 09 - March 20

(For Members and Residents)

Location: Art Building (Please drop off kids north entrance of Art Building)
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
Ages: K-12th Grade (For Members & Residents)
*Registration is also available at the Him-Dak Museum
*Will have breakfast, snack and lunch.
The Him-Dak Spring Art program is broken down into four grade groups:
Grades: K - 1st, 2nd - 4th, 5th - 8th, 9th - 12th
(Accepting the first 15 kids signed up per grade group)

For any questions call:
Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum at 520-568-1350 or Email Wjantone@ak-chin.nsn.us

February 2/1 - 2/19 Birthdays

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

2/2026 February Black History Month

FIXED ROUTE SCHEDULE

PICKUP TIMES	BUS SHELTER	LOCATION
10:32AM - 12:17AM		Juan and Ross St
10:33AM - 12:18PM		Juan and Hohokam St
10:36AM - 12:21PM		Coppersky
10:37AM - 12:22PM	YES	SB - Ak-Chin Circle
10:38AM - 12:23PM		Front of Ak-Chin Circle
10:39AM - 12:24PM		Front of Casino
10:41AM - 12:26PM	YES	Harrabs Casino West Side
10:42AM - 12:27PM	YES	Harrabs Casino South Side
10:46AM - 12:33PM	YES	Peters and Nall at Milo
10:47AM - 12:34PM		Ak-Chin Govt. Headquarters
10:47AM - 12:34PM		Barley and Pecan
10:47AM - 12:34PM		Farm and Pecan
10:56AM - 12:43PM		Walmar
11:05AM - 12:52PM		Frys
11:11AM - 12:58PM		CVS Pharmacy
11:14AM - 1:01PM		ACB Hardware
11:15AM - 1:02PM		Walgreens
11:18AM - 1:05PM		Bashas
11:23AM - 1:10PM		Sprouts

WB = West Bound
EB = East Bound
SB = South Bound
NB = North Bound

YES at bus shelter indicates the stop is at the bus shelter

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE:
CALL: 520-568-1630
TEXT: 520-340-0382

AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT
SERVING THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

February 2026

2/1: Storytime @10am, Brick Builders 2-4pm, World Read Aloud Day!

2/2: Take Your Child to the Library Day!

2/3: Open Studio 5-6pm

2/4: Storytime @10am, Brick Builders 2-4pm, Open Studio 4-6pm

2/5: Storytime @10am, Brick Builders 2-4pm, Open Studio 4-6pm

2/6: Storytime @10am, Brick Builders 2-4pm, Open Studio 4-6pm

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2/7:

Theresa Caputo Live! The Experience at Harrah's

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

To end the month of January, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino brought "Theresa Caputo Live!"

The Experience" back for show-goers on January 30, 2026. Her viewers and supporters filled the event center with much anticipation for the show they were about to see.

In her opening words that Friday night she stated, "I don't care if you believe what I do or don't" Whether you believe or not, Theresa has made it her mission to help people heal by providing readings and communicating with deceased family members of friends.

The night was emotional, but in a cathartic way, as many shared tears and kind words at hearing others stories and their battle with grief. Talking

about their loved ones was bittersweet as it was evident these people struggled to cope, but reassurance from Theresa was well received. Her advice communicated from the spirits was to find peace and know they will find and have found theirs. Overall, it was an experience meant to be present for.

Theresa Caputo is a well-known medium, making her mark on television with her series, "The Long Island Medium," and "Theresa Caputo: Raising Spirits." An author of 4 best-selling books, "There's More to Life Than This: Healing Messages, Remarkable Stories, and Insight from the Other Side" "You Can't Make This Stuff Up," "Good Grief" Heal Your Soul, Honor Your Loved Ones and Learn to Live Again" "Moving

Everyday Losses with Wisdom from the Other Side". She's also got her foot in podcasting with her podcast "Hey Spirit."



Theresa Caputo was a hoot, she blends good natured humor with positive words for fans.

MOVIES • RESTAURANTS • BOWLING • ARCADE • LASER TAG • GROUP EVENTS

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Ak-ChinCircle.com

VALENTINE'S DAY DEAL

SATURDAY FEB 14

DATE Night

MONTHLY MOVIE MUST-HAVE COMBO

MOVIE RELEASES

- 2/06 Whistle
- 2/06 Dracula
- 2/06 Solo Mio
- 2/06 The Strangers Chapter 3
- 2/13 GOAT
- 2/13 Cold Storage
- 2/13 Crime 101
- 2/13 Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die
- 2/20 I Can Only Imagine 2
- 2/20 How to Make a Killing
- 2/27 Scream 7
- 2/27 Elvis Presley in Concert

KIDS Valentine's Event

FEB. 14 | 12pm - 3pm

NATIONAL FETTUCCINE ALFREDO DAY

Saturday, Feb 7 \$10 Add chicken for \$4

LUXE LOUNGE Kings of Soul

DINNER | DANCE | CHAMPAGNE | SPECIAL MENU

FEB 14

GET DOWN SATURDAYS

10PM-2AM

21+ ONLY FREE Admission

NO 21 ECHO ENTERTAINMENT

Ak-ChinCircle.com

[/Ak-ChinCircle](#) [/akchincircle](#)

Wednesday April 22nd

Save THE DATE

For Ak-Chin Environmental Programs

Earth Day Celebration at

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

ARROYO GRILLE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OUR SINGLE BARREL SELECT BOURBON NOW \$69

While Supplies Last

ARROYO GRILLE

at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER EVENT

FRIDAY NIGHT PRIME RIB DINNER \$36

SATURDAY DATE NIGHT DINNER FOR TWO \$65

WEEKLY SPECIALS @5PM RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

LEARN MORE HERE

(520) 426 - 6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

FEBRUARY 2026

CAESARS REWARDS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE INDUSTRY NIGHTS WITH TABLE GAMES</p>	<p>2</p> <p>LEVEL UP WITH ONE TAP, DOWNLOAD THE APP!</p>	<p>3</p> <p>HARVEST ROAST COLLECTION BY CHEF'S COUNTER™ GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CUPID'S MIDWEEK MAGIC 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BOURBON WHISKEY GIVEAWAY YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY</p>	<p>6</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>FRY'S FOOD STORES ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY</p>
<p>8</p> <p>SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE INDUSTRY NIGHTS WITH TABLE GAMES SUPER BOWL LX PARTY</p>	<p>9</p> <p>MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO!</p>	<p>10</p> <p>HARVEST ROAST COLLECTION BY CHEF'S COUNTER™ GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>11</p> <p>CUPID'S MIDWEEK MAGIC 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>12</p> <p>YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY</p>	<p>13</p> <p>TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ROMANTIC GETAWAY SWEEPSTAKES JEWELRY GIVEAWAY DIRTY YACHTIN' SCOUNDRELS LIVE AT THE LOUNGE</p>
<p>15</p> <p>SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE INDUSTRY NIGHTS WITH TABLE GAMES ROCK REVISITED LIVE AT THE LOUNGE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HARVEST ROAST COLLECTION BY CHEF'S COUNTER™ GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>18</p> <p>CUPID'S MIDWEEK MAGIC 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>19</p> <p>YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>21</p> <p>TURN CREDITS INTO CUISINE 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>
<p>22</p> <p>SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE INDUSTRY NIGHTS WITH TABLE GAMES</p>	<p>23</p> <p>COMING SOON CAESARS SPORTSBAR</p>	<p>24</p> <p>HARVEST ROAST COLLECTION BY CHEF'S COUNTER™ GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CUPID'S MIDWEEK MAGIC 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>26</p> <p>YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY</p>	<p>27</p> <p>BOHEMIAN QUEEN LIVE AT THE LOUNGE</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BE INSTANTLY ENTERTAINED</p>

PAVE YOUR WAY TO FREE PLAY

NOW - TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

EARN OVER \$2,000 IN FREE PLAY WHILE DOING WHAT YOU LOVE!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

MULTIPLY YOUR MOMENTUM 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

AND

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 - TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS 8AM - 11:59PM