Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

Maricopa, Arizona | Volume XL, Issue 21 | November 6 - 19, 2026

2026 Ak-Chin Tribal Council Candidates









Candidate Bios/Platforms featured on Pages 4a-5a

Elders Enjoy the Aloha in Hawaii

Story by Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Center Director

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Elders' trip to Hawaii, October 24–31, began with an unexpected test of patience and ended with closer friendships and wonderful memories.

Our journey got off to a rough start with a 16-hour delay before takeoff. Some elders were able to take other flights, while most stayed and waited through a long, tiring day.

Those who remained did not complain once. Their patience, tolerance, and understanding were deeply appreciated and spoke volumes about the good people they are.

They reminded us that while we cannot always control a situation, we can choose how we meet it—with grace, kindness, and consideration for others.

Once in Hawaii, the island sights and activities offered plenty to enjoy.



Above, 26 Elders and staff enjoy an evening at Germaine's Luau on Sunday, October 25. L-R: Lucy Jerry, Celia Soto, Sylvia Gutierrez, Gloria Alejandro, Marissa Antone, Raychel Peters, Colleen Mike, Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Artemia Antone, Esther Alvarez, Dwayne Antone, Candi Chavez, Juanita Miguel, Isabella Luna, Jessica Dean, Danny Soliz, Jr., Flora Howerton, Jesus Corella, Eve Romo, Georgia Corella, Florinda Peters, Yolanda Miranda, Samuel Atrawi, Adella Zabawa, Jeannette Peters and Elaine Peters.

Elder's Hawaii Trip continues to Page 2a



Gila River Matachina proudly represents at St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day.

Ak-Chin Celebrates 2026 St. Francis of Assisi Feast

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

The annual St. Francis of Assisi Church Feast celebration took place on Saturday, October 17th underneath the Ak-Chin Feast House ramada.

Despite light rain and some gusty winds, the weather didn't damper the spirit of attendees who were all there to pay their respects to the St. Francis of Assisi – Ak-Chin Indian Community Feast Celebration.

Following church mass, celebrated by Pastor Elijah Delello, an Opening Procession was led by the Gila River Matachina Dance Group, as church participants followed.

The Procession began at the entrance of the church and then made its way to a decorated arch setting underneath the ramada, where St. Francis of Assisi statue was placed for the day.

A line quickly formed as guests made their way to the statue to pay their respects to the Patron Saint of Animals and Ecology.

A traditional meal of chili stew, beans, potato salad, yeast buns, tortilla and donuts were served prior to the start of the entertainment scheduled.

The first group to take to the performance grounds, were the Sif-Oidak Senior May Pole Ribbon Dance Group from the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The beautiful dance featured flamboyant ribbons which had each participant weave in and out and in between to showcase a colorful center pole when the performance was completed.

Following Sif-Oidak's dance, church staff had to quickly come up with a solution to fill a one-hour gap as the next

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A Media Family Visit

Following a visit to the Casa Grande Valley Newspapers, staff from Salt River's O'odham Action News made a stop at the Ak-Chin O'odham Runner for a visit. Both media outlets were able to take a tour of the community to give O'odham Action News an idea of some areas the Runner covers for its community news. The Runner staff was able to visit Salt River in August, where they were able to learn about what O'odham Action News covers and their organization's dynamics.



Ak-Chin and Salt River Media from l to r: Juan Ysaguirre, Taylor Antone, Kristen Villegas, Robert Miguel, Dalton Walker, Chris Picciuolo, Megan Quintero, Andreea Miguel, Zoe Hernandez, Kari Haahr, and Kaily Toney.

Taste of Chaos at Harrah's



Taste of Chaos brings an energitic and theatrical performance in front of a standing room only crowd at the Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin.

Story & Photo by Kristen Villegas

Shows at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino are a common thing, usually we hear the best from Tejano bands and Country artists. Sure, rock music is not new to Harrah's, but for them to host a lineup of Metal and Metalcore bands is the start of an epic beginning.

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Elder's Hawaii Trip continued from Front

Germaine's Luau welcomed the group with Hawaiian food and front-row entertainment.

A North Shore tour included scenic views, a macadamia nut farm, local food trucks, and the Dole Pineapple Plantation.

Exploring East Oahu brought more beautiful stops, including Halona Blowhole, Makapuu Point Lookout, a Japanese garden, and Kailua.

The visit to Pearl Harbor offered time for reflection and respect, followed by a city tour of Honolulu.

At the Polynesian Cultural Center, the elders explored island cultures, enjoyed a luau, and attended the Hā: Breath of Life show.

A dinner sail with fireworks added a sparkling finish to the week.

Along with the sightseeing came opportunities to relax, spend time together, and get to know one another better.

The trip strengthened friendships, created new bonds, and gave everyone memories to bring home.

Thankfully, the flight home was smooth! We were all home in time to enjoy a bit of Halloween nostalgia and come safely home to awaiting family.

To our elders, thank you for your patience, your understanding, and the warmth you brought to this trip. The beauty of Hawaii was memorable, but the people we shared it with made it truly special.

Be on the lookout for Issue #22 of the Runner, for more on the Elder's Hawaii Trip, Pt. 2...



Ak-Chin Elders are all smiles, even after the long delay, traveling over the ocean on a non-stop red-eye flight for over six hours to finally reach their paradise destination of Hawaii!!

Ak-Chin Sanitation-Public Works are Tough Enough to Wear Pink







Dwayne Antone shows his best dance moves, winning the crowd and the title Mr. Aloha Hula of Germaine's Luau - Too Good To Miss Show!



Jessica Dean gets tattooed while at Germaine's Luau. Don't worry - it was just temporary...

November Elder Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Breakfast served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM *Lunch Served from 12 Noon to 1 PM* *Craft Room is OPEN from 8 AM to 3 PM*		*For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1760* *Call After Hours 24/7 520-858-5043* *Chair Yoga – Tuesdays at 11:15 AM*		*Exercise w/ Health Ed - Wednesdays Only at 9:30 AM* *Bible Study w/ Johnny Stephens @ 11 AM, Fridays* *Menu/Calendar Subject to Change/Cancel Without Notice*	11/6 Spinach/Onion/ Mushroom, Sausage Egg Casserole, Hashbrown Pattie, Toast, Peaches & Cottage Hamburgers, Green Leaf/ Tomato, Baked Beans, Sweet Potato Fries, Tropical Fruit	
	11/9 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Squash Casserole, Romain Salad, WW/ White Rolls, Cantaloupe/ Mandarin Oranges (D)	11/10 Breakfast Tostadas, Avocado, Salsa/ Sour Cream, Mixed Berries Hot Dog, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Applesauce		11/12 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Him-Dak Elder Thanksgiving Luncheon, 11 AM to 2 PM @ Ak-Chin Elements Pinto Beans, Baked Chicken (D), Butternut Squash, Moon Bread, Sugar Cookie, Apple/Orange	11/13 Chorizo & Potato, Beans, Flour Tortilla, Grapes Chicken Noodle Soup/Potato, Peas/ Carrots, Romain Salad, Pears	
	11/16 Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown, Yogurt w/ Blueberries Sandwich Bar, Green Leaf/ Tomato, Red Onion/Pickle, Pea Salad, Watermelon	11/17 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fresh Cut Fruit Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sand, Veg. Soup (D), Turkey Sand (D), Romain Salad, Cherry Crisp	11/18 Oatmeal, Boiled Egg, Toast, Mixed Berries Bean Tostada, Chicken Tostada (D), Spanish Rice, Corn, Fruit Cocktail	11/19 Sausage Egg Burrito, Cereal, Banana Baked Fish or Chicken, Steamed Cabbage, Broccoli, Jell-O W/Fruit	11/20 Baked Yams, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Apple Ground Beef Taco, California Vegetable, Brown Rice, Fresh Cut Fruit	

Ak-Chin Oodham Runner

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The Ak-Chin O'odham Runner is published on the first and third Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted).

The "Runner" is delivered to all residents and departments of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, as well as surrounding community businesses, interested groups and subscribers.

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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
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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the November 20 - December 3, 2026 issue is due by
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

Material submitted after the **NOVEMBER 13TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

Feast continued from Front



The Sif-Oidak Senior May Pole Ribbon Dance Group from the Tohono O'odham Nation, showcase their "ribbon dance" talents.



The Ak-Chin Ba'ban Keihina Dancers perform their popular "basket dance".



Pascola Dancer, Adriel Rivera shows his dancing skills.



Opening Procession March for St. Francis of Assisi, after the mass.



A number of dancers take to the floor for a "cumbia".



group unfortunately had to cancel.

The St. Francis Parish group came up with a "musical chair" contest for both children and adults, with a $50 prize to the winners.

The contest was a hit, as a number of participants stepped up to participate. The elder competition was more hilarious than a challenge, as participants looking for an empty chair, ended up accidentally sitting on other contestants.

Ak-Chin's Ba'Ban Keihina Group performed traditional dances, which included the "basket dance" and the "social dance."
Before the conclusion of the celebration, a closing Procession march to bring St. Francis' statue back into the church, was held, with the help of Tohono O'odham's Mumsigo band performing "Las Mananitas".

Mumsigo then made their way back to the ramada and began their performance, playing a number of chicken scratch music featuring; wailas, chotes and cumbias.

At the mid-point of the Mumsigo set, Ak-Chin San Juan Kualiya Dance Group took to the dance floor for their kualiya and give-away dance.

The P'apkolo'ola Dance Group was also set up during the evening, performing traditional and cultural dances.

Throughout the evening, vendors sold their goods; from frybread, tamales, nachos, soda, sweets, and other goods. The St. Francis parish group were also giving out prizes to raffle winners.



The last-minute addition of Adult "musical chairs" contest was a great idea!



During the intermission of the chicken scratch dance, the San Juan Kualiya dancers performed a "give-away" dance.



The Mumsigo Band were a "hit" with their chicken scratch music.





BRIAN DEREK MANUEL JR.

Candidate for Ak-Chin Tribal Council

I am Brian Manuel Jr. My parents are Pickle Looper-Vincent and the late Brian Manuel Sr. My wife, Tera Manuel, and I are proud parents of five sons, Derek, Ethan, Matthew, Michael, and Ethan, and a daughter, Mikayla.

I am also the proud nephew of the late Ak-Chin Tribal Chairman Louis Manuel Jr. My uncle's dedication to our community and his example of leadership have inspired me to serve our people and contribute to the future of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

I bring experience from working with multiple Community departments, including Public Works, Cultural Resources, Elderly, and Security.

I currently serve as a Gaming Agent Supervisor with the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency, where I protect the Community's assets and uphold the integrity of Indian Gaming. My training includes the AGTS (Arizona Governmental Training Services) Supervisor Academy and the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners and Regulators Academy (NTGCR), where I became a Certified Gaming Commissioner. My role has strengthened my commitment to fairness and integrity. I make unbiased decisions based on facts and thorough investigations.

My decision to run for the Ak-Chin Tribal Council comes from a sincere desire to serve our people and help shape our community's future. I bring a clear, unwavering vision centered on accountability, forward-thinking economic growth, and transparency. I believe every tribal member deserves a strong, respected voice in the decisions that shape our future.

As our community navigates new challenges and opportunities, I believe I can provide proactive leadership that honors our heritage while preparing the next generation for long-term success.

If elected, I will focus on three critical pillars of progress:
Sustainable Economic Development: We must strengthen and diversify our economic foundation. I am committed to expanding our agricultural and gaming enterprises while opening doors for sustainable local business growth. I want to expand vocational training, youth mentorship, and workforce development so tribal members are equipped to lead our enterprises.

Transparency & Open Communication: Government functions best when it is open to the people it serves. I want to bridge the gap between leadership and the Community through regular tribal updates and open forums. Every member deserves to know how decisions are made and how they impact their household.

Accountability & Ethical Governance: Tribal resources belong to the Ak-Chin people. I believe in fiscal responsibility, ethical oversight, and balanced judgment. Every policy, budget allocation, and long-term investment must prioritize the safety, health, and prosperity of Ak-Chin families.

I bring the professional dedication, cultural respect, and collaborative spirit needed to serve effectively on the Council. I will lead by listening first, communicating honestly, and answering directly to the people.

I am ready to listen, serve, and lead the Ak-Chin Indian Community into a secure and prosperous new chapter.

I respectfully seek your support.



CECIL PETERS

Greetings Ak-Chin Membership,

My name is Cecil David Peters, and I am respectfully seeking your support for a seat on the upcoming 2026 Ak-Chin Tribal Council Election.

I am the son of Evalina (Manuel) Lopez and the late Manuel Norbert Peters Jr. and my siblings are Carmen Narcia, Florinda Peters, the late Norbert Peters Sr., Marlene Garcia, Elaine Peters, the late David Peters Sr., Eugene Peters Sr., Jeannette Peters, Adella Zabawa, Flora Howerton, Manuel Peters III, and Karen Gardner.

My immediate family includes; my wife Raychel, my son Darren Peters, my daughters Rachel Lozano, Cecily Peters, Dannon Peters and Morgan Peters, and my pride and joys (grandkids), Christian, Aubrey, Oliver and Mr. DJ.

I have worked for the Ak-Chin Indian Community for over 40 years; as a farm laborer, community employee and council member.

I dedicated 35 years of service with the Ak-Chin Fire Department, starting as one of the first EMTs when the department began, until my retirement as Fire Chief.

I have 7 years of experience on Ak-Chin Council, and have also served on the Ak-Chin Farm Board and Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Commission.

I honorably served my country for 20 years in the United States Army and National Guard.

My interest in running again for Council is that I believe I can contribute with my leadership skills to move our Community forward in a positive way.

I will continue to rely on my knowledge and past experience as a council member and years of service to make the right decisions, and I will listen to all sides of discussion, in order to ensure fairness for the betterment of the Community and our membership.

I will continue to address issues and concerns that affect our members' healthcare, education, and employment. I will work with all departments to ensure our community events and programs are able to provide quality services for our community.

As fire chief and council member, I have always had the opportunity to work with our Elders, taking care of their health needs, transportation issues, and last-minute requests. I will continue to make it a priority to support and work with our Elderly programs.

I will continue to work closely with our Enterprises to facilitate their success, and seek out Economic Development opportunities that will ensure a better future for our membership.

I will continue to work closely with our Tribal Council members, for better communication among Council, to ensure all members are aware of any decisions that are made.

Best of luck to all the candidates running in this election.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I ask for your support and vote on November 21.

Respectfully,
Cecil D. Peters



DAWN ASHLEY FUENTES

S-ke:g Tas, (Good day)

My name is Dawn Fuentes, I am humbly seeking your support and vote for a seat on the Ak-Chin Tribal Council.

My paternal grandparents are the late Eluterio Fuentes Sr. and the late Victoria Valdez Fuentes. My maternal grandparents are the late Leo James Lewis Sr. and Elizabeth Narcia Valles Honorable mention; the late Lino Valles Sr. My parents are Eluterio Fuentes Jr. and the late Dorothy Ann Lewis. I have one sister, Leslie Lewis-Manuel.

I am a 2008 graduate of Maricopa High School, Go Rams! I received my Associates of Arts in Media Communications and Bachelors of Science in Business Management from Haskell Indian Nations University. I obtained my Masters of Arts in Criminal Justice from ASU.

I began my leadership and community service in 2007 with the Ak-Chin Youth Council. During my tenure, I served as the Treasurer and President.

I am grateful for the Youth Council for bringing me out of my comfort zone, educating me about the history of Ak-Chin, tribal politics, and our Him-dak through stories, songs and dance. Also guiding me to be respectful and to show kindness to everyone I crossed paths with. Not only was I representing the community but my family when traveling and participating in events.

I have worked and served the community in several roles such as a Temp worker, Slot Technician intern for Harrah's Ak-Chin, Harrah's Development System Supervisor, Maintenance Technician for Harrah's Ak-Chin, and License Technician for the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency.

I was also a member of Toastmasters International. I am currently serving on the community's Gaming Commission and Housing Board.

As a former youth leader, it's the ultimate goal to continue on into leadership roles, such as Tribal Council.

My various work experience and community involvement has prepared me with the knowledge and expertise needed to make sound decisions. I recognize the importance of accountability, transparency, open communication, empathy, patience, and decisiveness.

I understand the responsibility, sacrifice, commitment and dedication to the community that is required as a Council Member.

If elected, I'll be a positive figure who will serve, inspire, advocate, and act in the best interest of Ak-Chin. I will stay informed and involved in all issues that impact our community at all levels.

It is important that we, the members, are seen, heard, and understood. I will continue to protect our land, our water, our people and network with our neighbors. But not to be afraid of growth, adapt to change, continue to learn new things and stay open minded for the future of Ak-Chin.

Voice Your Choice. Go Vote! I wish my fellow candidates all the best.

It would be my honor to represent you and the community. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully, Dawn



DEIDRA CARLYLE

Greetings, Ak-Chin Indian Community Members,

My name is Deidra Estine Carlyle, and I am humbly seeking your support and vote to serve as a Councilmember on the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council!

I am the daughter of Delia M. Carlyle of the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the late Manuel Michael Osegueda Jr. of the Tohono O'odham Nation. My maternal grandparents are the late Richard D. Carlyle and the late Esther R. (Thomas) Carlyle, both of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. My paternal grandparents are the late Sally Ann (Pilone) Osegueda of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the late Manuel Michael Osegueda Sr.

I am the mother of five blessings: Jasmine Carlyle-Miguel, Briana Valenzuela (Rest in Peace), Bianca Valenzuela, Frankie Carlyle, and Johnny Perkins. I am also blessed with two beautiful granddaughters, Bella Valenzuela and Sophia Perkins.

Working 20 years for the Community spans multiple departments. I worked with the Ak-Chin O'odham Runner as a news assistant (2004–2014) and have proudly served as the Administrative Support Technician for the Ak-Chin Planning and Zoning Department since late 2018.

In my current role, I have gained critical insight into infrastructure and growth, managing BIA processes, Right of Entries, Sign Permits, Encroachment Permits, Economic Development, and our Planning and Zoning Ordinance. My hope is that the Community Council will consider revisiting the previous 2003 Strategic Plan that prioritized the needs of the Community.

In addition to my employment, I have been privileged to serve our membership on vital committees. I serve on the Ak-Chin Indian Community Indian Education Committee (JOM) as the former secretary and current President. In 2020, I was appointed to the Ak-Chin Enrollment Committee, where I have served as secretary and current Chairperson.

These roles have deepened my working knowledge of departmental policies, procedures, and institutional bylaws that align with our Tribal Constitution—the very framework that outlines the roles and responsibilities of our Tribal Council.

If elected, my primary focus will be prioritizing the core needs of our Community. We all understand the vital importance of Education, Health, Culture, Language, farming, protecting our water rights, and protecting our Youth and Elders.

To thrive, we need to expand supportive tribal programs, prioritizing member feedback and ensuring your voices are heard. I am also fully committed to providing clear accountability for the spending of community funds.

A strong Council requires teamwork, mutual respect, and the ability to work through disagreements productively. I believe I have inherited the necessary qualities of integrity, empathy, and decisiveness from my parents, who were both vital tribal leaders.

If given the honor to serve, I will represent the Ak-Chin Indian Community and all of its members with the utmost dignity. In closing, I extend my best wishes to all candidates seeking office, and I strongly encourage all registered voters to make their voices heard at the polls!

As the saying goes, "A boat doesn't go forward if each one is rowing their own way." Let us move forward together.



DENNIS ANTONE

Skeg Tas,

My name is Dennis J. Antone, I am 32 years old. My parents are the late Erwin and Theresa Antone (badt). My paternal grandparents are the late Francis and Gladys Antone (badt). My maternal grandparents are the late Alvin Lewis(badt) and Edra Ann Jose(badt). My siblings are the late James Antone (badt) and Kristen Antone.

I have served on council for two years. Serving in this position has been a responsibility I have never taken lightly.

During my time on tribal council, I have learned that leadership requires listening. It requires patience, accountability, respect and the willingness to have difficult conversations when necessary. Most importantly, it requires remembering who we are here to serve.

I am proud of the work we have accomplished together, while also recognizing that there is always more work to be done. Our community continues to face important issues involving economic development, employment, education, housing, healthcare, public safety and cultural preservation.

I am thankful to be nominated again for this next term.

If re-elected, my priorities will remain centered on responsible decision-making, protecting our sovereignty, strengthening our community, creating opportunities for our youth, respecting our elders, and making sure the voices of our community continue to be heard.

I believe leadership should be measured not by what we say, but by how we serve. It should be grounded in honesty, transparency, accountability, respect for our people and the willingness to listen—even when we don't always agree. It means asking questions, learning from others and making decisions with the best interests of the community in mind.

I also believe that no single council member can accomplish meaningful things alone. Progress comes when we work together, listen to one another, and remember that despite our differences, we share a common responsibility to our community.

I am grateful for the lessons, challenges and opportunities that this responsibility has brought me. I am grateful to the people who have offered encouragement, constructive criticism and guidance along the way.

I have also learned that leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about having the courage to ask the right questions, to listen, even if there are disagreements and to keep working when the answers aren't easy.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given to serve half a term on tribal council.

I am grateful for everyone who has challenged me, supported me, taught me and reminded me why this work is so important.

I want to thank everyone who continues to support me and I wish good luck to all the candidates in this upcoming election.

In closing, I encourage all eligible community members to go and cast your vote! Vote for the people who you feel are the best to represent our community, rather than popularity and/or size of the family, because at the end of the day we are all in this together no matter what your role is in our community. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Dennis J. Antone



LEMUEL VINCENT

Greetings,

For those that are not familiar with who I am, my name is Lemuel Vincent and I am vying for a
seat on our Tribal Council.

My prior tenure of sitting on our Council board has directed my decision in running again in our upcoming tribal elections.

While holding the title of Vice Chairman a couple of years ago, I instilled certain expectations upon myself to incorporate processes within the Community that I felt and still feel would benefit the Community.

Returning in a capacity of leadership would entitle myself to work with the rest of the Council Board in order to have these processes flourish. Processes in dealing with capital projects, enterprises, departments and membership.

My outlook in a leadership role is and will always be policy based. My perception in moving the Community and its endeavors in a sufficient and beneficial forward movement has to be obtained only in the jurisdiction that policy allows.

In lieu of Community policies, you have to instill your own personal protocols as well, protocols such as desire, dedication and determination.

When you input these attributes in your path for the betterment of the Community, the factors of equality, transparency and resilience will ultimately surface.

As a Council member you wear many hats in dealing with Community aspects. At times you can easily get lost in the hustle and bustle and lose your focus on why you are in such a role.

At times you have to look at yourself and ask why you chose to be a part of Council.

If you are true to yourself and your answer is genuine then your journey going forward stays bright. Whenever you have light, you can always see the road in front of you.

In closing, I encourage all that are eligible to vote to do so, your voice matters. Always remember a voice is only that until you put some action behind it, then it becomes a movement.

Best of luck to my fellow candidates and God Bless.

Sincerely,
Lemuel T. Vincent



ROBERT MIGUEL

Sape Mas Ma Ak-Chin,

My name is Robert H. Miguel and I am respectfully seeking your support as a candidate for Tribal Council of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

I am the son of Janice Miguel; my grandparents were the late Jonas Paul Miguel (badt) and Mathilda Miguel (badt). Jonas served as Chairman of the community in the early 70's.

My grandfather taught me the way of life of the Ak-Chin people, the struggles and the perseverance to move forward despite obstacles.

Ak-Chin's value of helping one another, aided in my direction to assist, from MCing community events, reading during services at St. Francis Church, volunteer coaching and supporting my daughter's Special Needs Day Program. Doing my "best" to continue the spirit of who we are by being involved and having a visible presence in the community.

I've been employed with my community for 40 years.

I continue to recognize those that have been key in my life. The late Norbert Peters Sr. (badt), David Peters Sr. (badt) and Cecil Peters. Stanley Antone, who continues to teach me how to be a "great father" despite obstacles and heartbreaks that we endure in life. The "great" Leona Carlyle/Kakar who educated me and shared her experiences as a former Leader. Past and present elders and current community members who have continued to guide me!

I am grateful for the love and support from my entire Miguel Family #MiguelStrong!

I served on Council for 11 years, 9 as Chairman. As a Councilman, we addressed issues, concerns and challenges from, water, education, healthcare, housing and other areas of need, I will continue to address these agendas if elected.

Establishing great relationships with local, state and national officials in bringing awareness and support to our community was a priority for me. I served as Arizonans for Tribal Governments Gaming Chairman, Vice-President Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Native American Rights Fund Board of Directors and Treasurer for Arizonans for Tribal Government Gaming.

I am a member of Senator Ruben Gallegos Team and was appointed to the Arizona Water Policy Board by Governor Katie Hobbs. I served as a committee member of the Department of Interior, Self-Governance Advisory Committee and Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee.

I've testified before Congress numerous times; a strong voice is crucial. Other opportunities included; Panelist, Speaker and Moderator for Native Nations Conferences, National Indian Gaming Association, Global Gaming, Reservation Economic Summit, Arizona Indian Gaming Association Expos, Local, State and National Conferences.

There are a number of agendas that will continue to be addressed, and with a "team" effort and strong membership support, we will handle all challenges.

It has been an honor to represent our community, and I respectfully request your support on November 21, 2026.

Thank you to my wife Connie, my children; Robert, Jasmine, Yasmin, Jordyn, Joe, Yvonne and Stella for their support.

I wish all candidates the best of luck!

"Ask Not What Ak-Chin Can Do for You, But Ask, What Can I Do for Ak-Chin"

Respectfully, Robert H. Miguel

2026 AK-CHIN TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION

"Meet the Candidate Night" will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026

The first session, all Candidates will present before the Elders at **12:00 noon at the Ak-Chin Elder Center.**

The Second session will take place at the **Ak-Chin Service Center from 6 PM to 8 PM,** with Ak-Chin Community Members.

All candidates will have the opportunity to provide an opening 5-minute speech followed with a Q&A session with the community members in attendance.

This event will be moderated by the Ak-Chin Election Board in order to adhere to the time restraints.

2026 Tribal Council Elections

(Candidates may vote)

Saturday, November 21, 2026
6:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Ak-Chin Service Center

If you have any questions or concerns with dates for events please contact the Ak-Chin Election Board at: akchinelectionboard@ak-chin.nsn.us

CALL US: (520) 562-3321

Gila River HEALTH CARE

VISIT US ONLINE: GRHC.ORG

Hello November

Wishing you the bright company of good friends, the joy of a happy family, and the wonder of the holiday season.

-Gila River Health Care



FREE Coffee and Pastry for Veterans

As a thank you to ALL Veterans, please stop by any one of our Café locations on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 for a FREE coffee and pastry. Gila River Health Care honors all who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Closure: Veterans Day

All Gila River Health Care Administrative offices, Outpatient Clinics, and Pharmacies will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th, 2026 in observance of the holiday. Normal hours will resume on Thursday, November 12, 2026.





Life Center Presents: Healthy Generations

Join us for a day of healthy activities, informational booths, the Just Move It run, and more as Life Center hosts its annual event. Registration begins at 8:00 AM on both days:

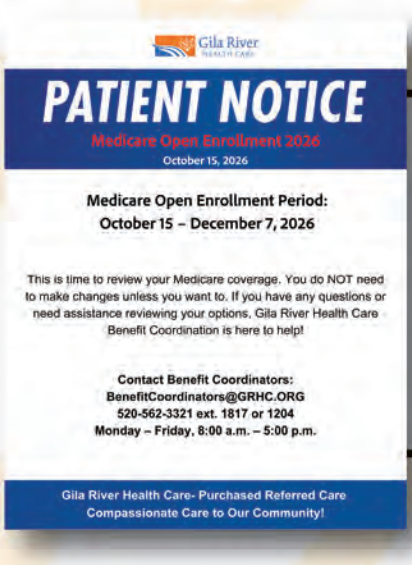
Komatke Health Center, Laveen
Tuesday, November 17, 2026
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Viola L. Johnson Administration Building, Sacaton
Saturday, November 21, 2026
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Closure: Thanksgiving Holiday

All Gila River Health Care Administrative offices and Outpatient Clinics will be closed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 26 - 28, 2026 in observance of the holiday. Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Pharmacy will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Normal hours will resume on Monday, November 30, 2026.





Patient Notice: Medicare Open Enrollment

Open enrollment will take place from October 15, 2026 - December 7, 2026. Contact a Benefit Coordinator today at (520) 562-3321 ext. 1817 or 1204. You may also email: BenefitCoordinators@GRHC.ORG or stop by our offices Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Health Update Newsletter

Get a closer look at these announcements as well as articles on "Movember" Men's Health, American Diabetes Month, Antibiotics Awareness Month, and more! Scan the QR Code to download the November 2026 issue or visit GRHC.ORG.

SCAN ME



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: **CALL OR TEXT 988**

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

JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Child and Family Therapist (part-time)
- Housing Program Counselor
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Prosecutor
- Truant Officer

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 (12:00p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.

Employee Birthdays 11/7 - 11/19

11/7
Alana Machado Arellanes, Vekol
Ysidro Sandoval III, Police
Ross Stimac, EPD

11/8
Timothy Hawk, Police

11/9
Susan Con, Social Service
Cecil Peters, Community Government

11/10
Shannon Narcia, Finance

11/14
Raychel Peters, Runner
Sean Sacro, Police

11/15
Dwight Arthur, Finance
Lisa Begay, Education

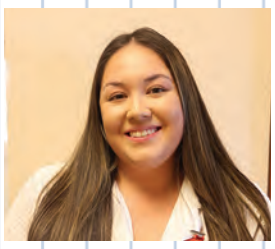
11/16
Rebecca Springstroh, Preschool
Aaron Valdez, Finance

11/17
Marilyn Velasco, Community Operations

11/18
Pamela Thompson, HHS

11/19
Davis Garcia, Police
Albertino Santiago, Tribal Gaming Agency

Employee Updates



Brittany Armas
Accounts Payable Technician
Finance



Brook Jorgensen
School bus driver
Tranist









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

Upcoming Service Interruption Dates

Holiday Closures

- **Veteran's Day:** Closed all day on **Wednesday, November 11th**
- **Thanksgiving Day:** Closed all day on **Thursday, November 26th**
- **Native American Heritage Day:** Closed all day on **Friday, November 27th**
- **Masik Tas:** Closed all day on **Friday, December 18th**
- **Christmas Day:** Closed all day on **Friday, December 25th**

Any Additional Closures to be posted once finalized.

Impact on Services (During Holiday Closures)

- **Administrative Offices:** Closed. Dispatch lines will be unstaffed on these dates.
- **Transit Services:** Closed. Will resume on the following regular service day.

Upcoming Limited-Service Dates

November 6th

November 25th

Closed from **8:30am to 3:30pm**

Impact on Services (During Staff Training)

- **Dispatch:** Open for emergencies and cancellations only.
- **Ride Scheduling:** All new ride requests are suspended during training hours.
- **Standard Operations:** New trip scheduling will resume during normal hours.



Happy 4th Birthday to Alonzo "Gonzo" Lopez! You keep us all smiling and laughing with all the crazy stuff you do and say. We promise to make your day just as special as you are to us all. Love, Daddy, Momma and "Naya"

Happy Birthday to my son Cecil Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Jose, Darnell, Dallas, and granddaughters Jaylene, Ramona and Dallyss Love, Grandma

Happy 18th Birthday Iliana P. Oh, my little Lima Bean! Hard to believe you are finally an "adult". Keep making goals for yourself and stand on what you have decided for your future. We'll always be here for you regardless of what life throws at you. Love always, Jordan, Tooners, Naya & Gonzo

Happy Birthday Dad-Old Man-Ba'Pa Can't wait to help celebrate your special day… We love you!!

Happy Birthday Raychel! From the whole Runner Crew



NOVEMBER 6 - 25 MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 6
Olivia Lopez
Alonzo Lopez
Jose J. Lopez
Thonya Florez
Andrea Lopez

NOVEMBER 7
Norma Vincent
Hezekiah Terrazas-Vincent
Brittney King
Heaven Smith
Auciana Miguel

NOVEMBER 8
Jaylene Lopez

NOVEMBER 9
Cecil Peters
Malinda Ormsby
Mikayla Matuz
Daniel Narcia

NOVEMBER 10
Marquon Robles
Shannon Narcia

NOVEMBER 11
Ramona Narcia
Erick Merriweather
Ryan Merriweather
Jamison Vincent

NOVEMBER 12
Elissa Justin

Arnulfo Arellanes-Burgos, Jr.
Mark J. Pablo
Nyaila Miguel

NOVEMBER 13
Anthony Antone
Darnell Peters
Aaron Narcia

NOVEMBER 14
Joe R. Miguel
Raychel Peters
Victor Bandin
Hiram Ugalde
Emmalyn Anderson

NOVEMBER 15
Dominic Miguel
Aiden Miguel
Izaah Smith
Aria Vincent-Enos
Christopher Narcia
Josefina White
Jose White
Terrance Enos

NOVEMBER 16
Carson De Paola
Emeterio Luna Jr.
Morgan Green
Leenette Sope

NOVEMBER 17
Dallyss Peters
Malinda Velasquez
Austin Lopez

NOVEMBER 18
Andi-Kiowan Santiago

NOVEMBER 19
Persilia Hernandez
Albertino Santiago
Dallas Peters
Raven Santiago
Davis Garcia Sr.

NOVEMBER 20
Shane Antone
Ricardo Deleon Jr.
Ronin Gloria

NOVEMBER 21
Ezequiel Santiago

NOVEMBER 22
Faith Batopis
Morgan Peters

NOVEMBER 23
Carmen Narcia
Sterling Zappia
Lemuel Vincent
Monique White
Jasmine Carlyle-Miguel
Maria Peters

NOVEMBER 24
Brian Ruelas

NOVEMBER 25
Ciera Pablo



Taste of Chaos continued from Front

On October 21, local metalheads and those of the surrounding areas came to see the "Taste of Chaos": a tour encompassing bands; Hollywood Undead, In This Moment, I See Stars, Vana, and Melrose Avenue.

The concert started at 5 PM with Melrose Avenue, a band originating from Australia. Making moves since 2021, this band blends melodious singing with pop metal instrumentals; they definitely were great in warming up the crowd for what was to come. They performed hit songs "Fool and The Beggar", "Suffering", "Through Hell", "Cemetery Friend", and "Body Bag".

Next, the American New Zealander, Vana took to the stage with great energy from the start. If you like alternative and a heavy metal mix, she is definitely an artist you should be listening to. Describing her music as "Pretty Metal" you can expect harmonious vocals, hardcore screams, and a strong breakdown.

She performed songs "Pray, In Your Name", "Serpentine", "Bleeding Heart", "BITE BACK, BEG!" and "Clandestine".

After Vana, the crowd was ready for I See Stars. This band was at its prime in the 2010's early metalcore wave and stood out by the use of electronic components added with metal instrumentals. The song "Murder Mitten" or "Ten Thousand Feet" can put their music into perspective.

Lead singer Devin Oliver's voice fits this style of music greatly, they do early metalcore justice. Performed songs "Ten Thousand Feet", "Running with Scissors", "Break", "Filth Friends Unite", "Calm Snow", and "Anomaly". They had to be the band I was the most excited to see.

In This Moment took the stage next, and had the crowd's interest in what they were cooking up, because of the huge tapestry displaying their name, planted in front of the stage to shield the concert goers from what was behind.

At the beginning of the first song, the tapestry dropped showing the band and Maria Brink, the lead singer of In This Moment. This heavy metal band does amazing work in capturing all attention with their imagery, lighting, and playing crowd favorite songs like "Crawl", "SANCTIFY ME", "Blood", "I Want to Believe", and "Adrenalize", to name a few. They helped prepare all for the main act, Hollywood Undead.

For the grand finale of the Taste of Chaos lineup, Hollywood Undead presented themselves as the main act. Originating from California, this Rock Hip-Hop band was present most during the Nu-metal era when mixing rap with drums and guitars was prevalent. Playing songs like "Undead", "1x1", "Renegade", "Riot", "CHAOS", "War Child, etc".

Hollywood Undead had the crowd singing along with just about every song. Their music is reminiscent to the greatness that is Nu-metal.

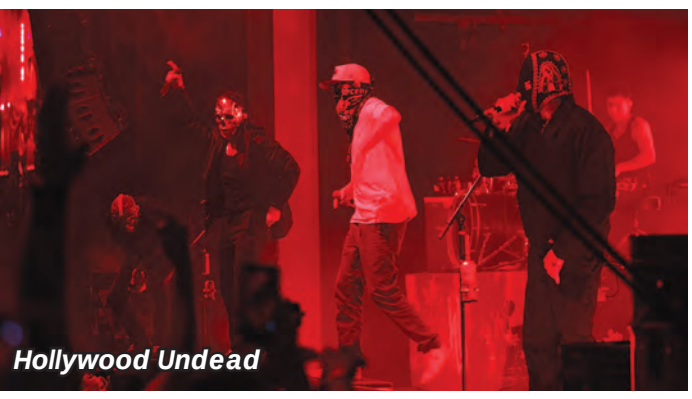
Overall, the concert was fun, memorable, and gave more than just me hope that music like this would be welcomed more in the future.




Vana


I See Stars


In This Moment


Hollywood Undead





MHS Senior Night Honors Swimmers Trejo and Rodriguez

Submitted by Nicole Blackwell, Ak-Chin High School Student Advisor

Antonio Rodriguez (Left) and Juan Trejo (Right) received sashes and praise during their Senior Night swim meet at Copper Sky.



The evening of October 27, it was Senior Night for Juan Trejo and Antonio Rodriguez.

Juan swam the 200m, 100m, 200 relay, 400 relay. He got a personal record on two of the events.

Antonio swam 50 free, 100 breaststroke, 200 relay and 400 relay and he also had a personal record.

This is their last swim meet. They had several family members and friends cheering them on.

While they are sad the season is over, they look forward to wrestling season and graduation activities for the end of the year.

2026 Halloween Events

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Wow! What a Halloween celebration for the Ak-Chin Indian Community membership the week prior and during the celebrated day of ghouls, goblins, and other characters who made their way to “trick or treat” for goods.

To begin the Halloween festivities, the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum hosted a party, which had various departments host booths such as; ring toss, bingo, candy giveaway, corn hole, spin the wheel and arts and crafts.

There were plenty of characters to help celebrate; from Michael Myers, Scream, Princesses, Angels, Thomas the Train, A Cow, and of course, Micheal Jackson. Attendees came away with plenty of goods, especially CANDY!

The Community Trunk or Treat Celebration at Milton “Paul” Antone Memorial Park, was another ghoulishly good time, as an estimated 400 attendees made it to the event.

As soon as the event officially began, a long line formed at the first department who had their trunks open with plenty of goods. A total of fourteen departments were set up to the delight of the costumed attendees, as they were curious as to what treats were going to be given away.

In separate areas of the MPA Park, plenty of other opportunities were set up, from the Haunted House hosted by the Harrah’s Development Systems (HDS), the Cake Walk run by the Ak-Chin Police department, an area where the Ak-Chin Fire department gave out candy, to the reptile booth that showcased creepy crawlers; from bugs, spiders and snakes.

In a nicely set up food area, coordinated by the Ak-Chin Events and Recreation department, seven food booths were ready to dish out their meals. The great aroma of birria tacos, fry bread, hot wings, and hamburgers filled the air throughout the event. Other vendors had toys, jewelry, t-shirts, plushies, candles, tumblers and other goods.

One of the exciting scheduled events was the judging of the costume contests, which had a number of great entries. A pumpkin decorating contest was also held, and the Runner’s Eliza Santiago’s pumpkin placed first.

There was also a judging of the best trunk/booth design, which was a tough one, as many departments had great decorations. When it was decided, Harrah’s HDS came away with the top placement.

The Events and Recreation department truly put on a great event, with the support of departments and vendors!

In another event to help celebrate Halloween, the Health Education department held a Spooktacular Walk, which consisted of a mile around the Service Center building and around the fields next to the building.

Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center hosted a movie on the jumbotron and also put together a trunk or treat for children and adults. The event had a great turnout and many prizes and goods were given away.

On Halloween night, the Luxe Lounge hosted a Halloween Party that was very well attended, as many were donned in costumes. You had Frankenstein and his bride, Wednesday, Troll, Harry Potter, and other characters taking to the dance floor, showing their moves. After midnight, a costume contest was held and Ak-Chin’s Jennifer Boehm came away with a first-place, as a sparkly troll.

At the Opportunity Tree Halloween Party in Maricopa, Ak-Chin’s Pamela Vincent, Lanita Lopez and Jasmine Carlyle-Miguel, once again reunited and took to party activities that included music and food.

Everyone in the Community had many opportunities to enjoy Halloween, an annual celebration on October 31, with roots in ancient Celtic festivals and Christian traditions, now marked worldwide by costumes, trick-or-treating, pumpkin carvings and spooky fun.



Julian Castro blew the judges away with his “Nacho Libre” costume at the Him-Dak Halloween Party Costume Contest.

2026 Halloween continued to 4b-5b

Fall Award Season for Students

Story by Kristen Villegas, with contributions from Ak-Chin Education Advisors Bojana Uzelac and Vera Pablo

Students across the community have been putting in great work this quarter with many receiving awards. Ranging from elementary school to middle school, we are taking the moment to praise these young scholars. Congratulations to all awardees, keep up the great work!

Saddleback Elementary:
1st Grade: Rommell Sharp received Academic Achievement Award, Ryder Narcia received an award for Personal Success

2nd Grade: Tylen Zepeda and Aria Vincent-Enos received Pride Awards, for displaying the motto of “Being Responsible, Being Respectful, and Being Safe”

5th Grade: Joshua Dominguez received the Saddleback Pride Award, Lindsay Antone also received the Pride Award along with Perfect Attendance, Aldyse Mariscal received Principal’s Honor Roll, Harlee Jose received Honor Roll, and Felix Andaverde received Perfect Attendance

Pima Butte Elementary:
4th Grade: Yaretzi Moreno received Honor Roll for A’s & B’s in the 1st quarter.







L-R: Ryder Narcia, Tylen Zepeda, Rommell Sharp





L-R: Aria Vincent-Enos, Student Advisor Bojana Uzelac and Yeretzi Moreno



L-R: Joshua Dominguez, Lindsay Antone, Aldyse Mariscal, Harlee Jose, and Felix Andaverde

Jessica Zabawa Earns First Quarter Honor Roll

Submitted by Estrella Helpingstine-Reyes, Ak-Chin Student Advisor



The Ak-Chin Indian Community Education Department is recognizing Jessica Zabawa, a dedicated 6th-grade student, for earning a place on the first quarter Honor Roll. This achievement reflects Jessica’s commitment to learning and the steady effort she brings to school every day.

Jessica shows that success is built through perseverance and a positive attitude. Her consistent effort and commitment to learning are an important part of this accomplishment.

Beyond academics, Jessica contributes to the school community by playing sports, including volleyball and softball. Through her participation, she is part of the activities that bring students together and make school a community.

Jessica’s achievement is a wonderful example of the value of steady effort and dedication. Please join us in congratulating her on earning a place on the first quarter Honor Roll.

We’re proud of her achievement and excited to see what she accomplishes next!

Ak-Chin Circle Hosts Native Creed

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

"Are you going to Creed?" had to be in everyone's phone messages or conversations on October 17 and it was for good reason.

Not only is Native Creed a band that brings out a large crowd of music lovers spanning all sibling tribes, you know its going to be a full night of dancing when all, including kids, are invited.

Hosted at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center Amphitheater, groups of dance goers arrived at 9 PM to get good seats and scope out the many food vendors selling popovers, burritos, cheese crisps, and pickle slushies.

At the start of the music, droves of people made their way to circle the grass area with their best cumbia moves or grabbed a partner to "two-step".

Throughout the night, the amount of people grew to about 800 and great crowds would take over the dance floor with every song; it was definitely a fun time to say the least.









Archery Training with PD

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Ranger Grizzle shows the 2 different bows used in the training October 17.

What started as a slow morning, continued on to be a hands-on opportunity of Archery training for a group of community members and employees.

On the gloomy, windy morning of October 17, the Ak-Chin Police Department invited interested members to their Archery Program. Initially, the program was to be held at the Ak-Chin Rodeo Site next to the Ak-Chin Circle, but due to the weather, PD opted to have it in the shooting range.

Though the weather was unsavory, the participants followed along with the teachings of Ak-Chin's Ranger Harry Grizzle IV as he explained the two types of bows; recurve and a compound bow.

Both bows have their advantages; the recurve is lighter and was a favorite amongst the group because it was simple to use. The compound bow does require a bit more practice, but if you have the patience to learn how to properly shoot it, you'll love it for its speed and precision.

Ranger Grizzle was asked how he got into the sport of Archery, which he commented "How I got into archery was when I was little. I picked up my first bow at the age of 12 years old, due to hunting. I have hunted deer, javelina, and elk with my bow. "

When asked how someone should go about learning Archery he suggested, " If someone is wanting to get into archery. I would say try it out first. Talk with people who are into archery, such as hunters or sport shooters. There is a lot that goes into archery that people may not know. It takes time and dedication to shoot accurately and understand archery."

"I thank everyone who was there. I will be hosting another one earlier next year to enjoy the cool weather," Grizzle shared.

Be on the look out for the next Archery training event.



Grizzle shows Caleb Ugalde the proper way to hold the bow for the best aim and outcome,

Spooky Edition of Library After Dark

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Ak-Chin Library Tech Jordan Harrison invites all to come Trick or Treat before leaving the After Dark event.

As some were putting the final touches on their canvas, a game of Halloween trivia was played with teams of two aiming for the highest score. The questions were all Halloween centered and kept players on their toes.

Have you been to one of the Library After Dark nights? If you are interested in attending, please check out the monthly Library Calendar for the next event.

Ak-Chin Indian Community's Library got into the holiday spirit with a Halloween-themed Library After Dark on October 29. From the costumes, candy, and Halloween-esque raffle prizes; this event was definitely for the books.

After Dark goers.

Next, participants were treated to a glow in the dark paint session using various wooden traditional Halloween canvases, such as black cats, witches, pumpkins, etc.

To start, all were encouraged to enjoy the baked potato bar with its abundant toppings. Cookies, fruit, and drinks were also available to



IMPORTANT "TO DO's" IN YOUR HOME

Submitted by Ak-Chin Housing Department

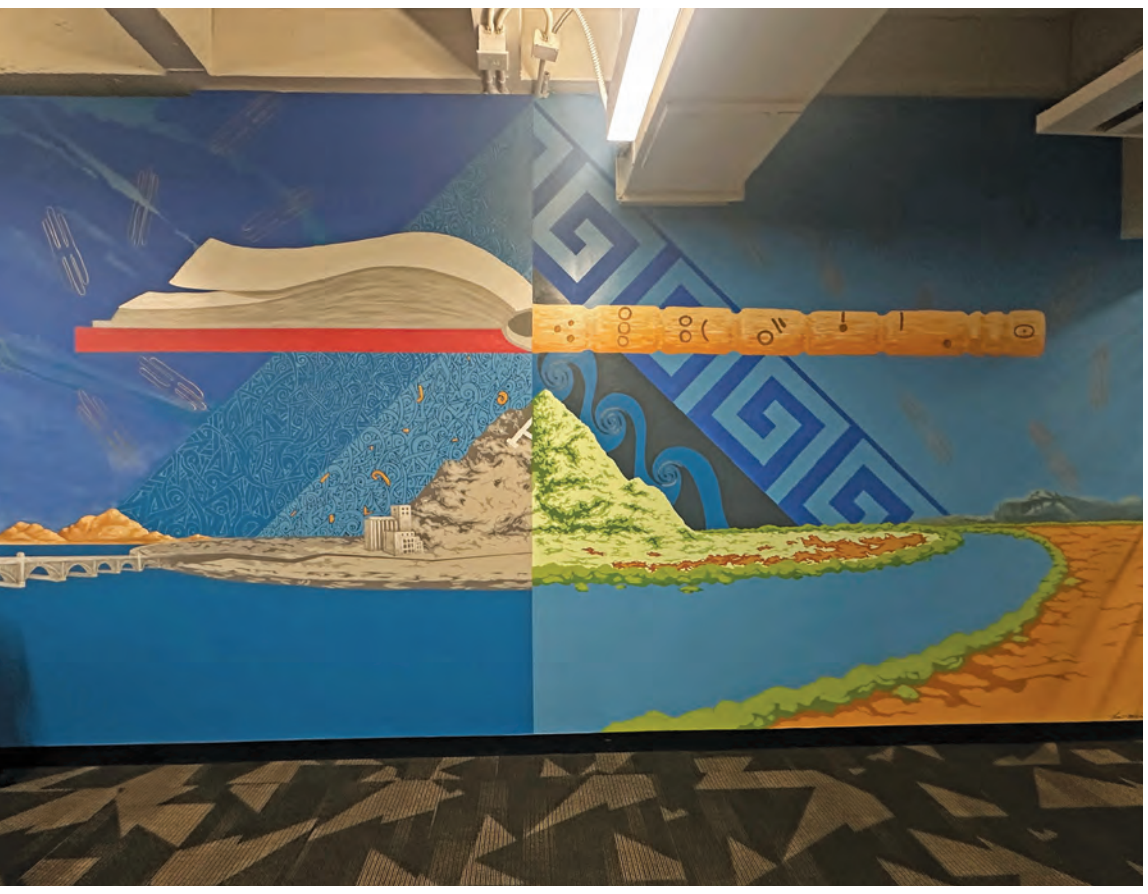
Change your AC filters monthly; they are provided to you every month.

Keep the AC cover, exhaust fans and ceiling fans clean & dust free. It helps greatly.

Keep the covers on all smoke detectors & batteries in them as well. Keep them dust free too.

These are all important to do to help keep the AC/heater to work better, helps air quality, & your health. Breathing in dirt, dust & mold is not good for you! Keeping smoke detectors in good condition is a great safety precaution.

Elders & handicap members can call Housing or Maintenance and someone will change your filters & batteries for you.



Pictured is a mural painted by Thomas "Breeze" Marcus located on the second floor of the Hayden Library.

Nato Nioki (Art Talk) at ASU





On the right: Douglas Miles, Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, Dwayne Manuel, and Alex Soto. On the Left: A room full of attendees ready to listen in on a good conversation.

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Monday October 26th, Ak-Chin O'odham Runner Photojournalist Megan Quintero, and News Assistant Kathleen Miguel attended the Na:to Nioki (art talk) and reception held at Arizona State University's Hayden Library in Tempe.

The event was held in the Labriola National American Indian Data Center to discuss the O'odham art installed throughout the second floor of the library.

Artists; Thomas "Breeze" Marcus (Tohono O'odham) and Dwayne Manuel (Onk Akimel O'odham) were asked to discuss their work with ASU, traditional O'odham stories about "A (ASU) Mountain" and challenges with bringing their different styles of art to the city.

There was a brief history lesson on how the Piipaash became a part of the Akimel O'odham communities.

The Piipaash (Maricopa Colony) people and O'odham people allied together to protect livestock being stolen by another tribe.

At one time the Akimel O'odham chased that tribe up A (ASU) Mountain, unfortunately it didn't end well for that tribe.

It was also mentioned that each of the mountains surrounding the city of Tempe have their own stories and explained that the mountains are an important part of our Him-Dak.

After the quick history lesson, the panelists were then asked about their insights on the similarities of all the different styles of art, specifically, native art and graffiti art.

The panelists also talked about their experiences while making their art, such as what kind of obstacles they had to overcome, what skills they had to use, whether they were asked to create a piece or they were just making the art just to make it.

"We have worked for the past two years with Thomas "Breeze" Marcus and Dwayne Manuel to best create a space of belonging for Indigenous students via O'odham art within the library." Alex Soto, Director of the Labriola National American Indian Center shared.

"The art also seeks to educate students of all backgrounds about the Indigenous Peoples of southern Arizona (Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Onk Akimel O'odham, Hia-Ced O'odham)."

Afterwards, everyone was able to stroll around the 4,000+ square feet enclosed space, where their art spread across the second floor of the Hayden Library.

The formal celebration of the art with dinner, was catered by The REZ, an Urban Eatery.

This event is in partnership with Arizona Humanities and ASU Humanities Week.



Youth Council-Cultural Resources Traditional Games

Story and photos by Runner Staff

It was on Wednesday, October 25, when Ak-Chin's Youth Council and Cultural Resources met for a Toka and Songivul presentation. Toka, is similar to field hockey, while Songivul is more of a race for the top.

Held at the Cultural Resource department, the youth were split into two groups, male and female; they were then taught about the two traditional sports.

Cultural Resource employees, Bianka Mata and Ashley Vincent explained Toka to the young ladies, the ways of Toka; which included how it's played, how important sportsmanship is for the rough sport, and how games are ran and also gave brief explanation on how the o'la and u'usagas are made.

While they spoke with the girls, Antonio Jose spoke with the young men on how to play Songivul, making the playing piece, and also highlighting its history with running.

Both groups were encouraged to ask questions, seek more understanding if needed, and see both sports in action, to get a better idea of what both games entailed.







Middle School Students for Urban Air

Submitted by Hannah Cook, Ak-Chin Education Student Advisor



To award the middle school students who displayed exemplary academic achievement during the 1st quarter, the Ak-Chin Indian Community Education Department staff took them to Urban Air in Ahwatukee-Phoenix.

The sixteen students were treated to all things jumping and obstacle course, Urban Air also gratuitously opened a little early for the kids to enjoy the trampoline park by themselves.

2026 Halloween continued from 1b

2026 Halloween Events

Happy Halloween!





L-R: At the Him-Dak Halloween Party, Ak-Chin Fire created a fun claw machine for the kiddos to play for sweet prizes; Grandmother Maria Carlyle-Zepeda and Baby Boo aka Amaya Villegas are excited to participate in the costume contest.



Many came out to the Luxe Lounge for their Annual Halloween Party on October 31.



Bubble Party at the Ak-Chin Circle Trunk or Treat sponsered by Bo Knows



Needed a pumpkin? Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation gave out free pumpkins to community members on Ocotber 21-23.





Monster Car was seen at the Ak-Chin Circle Trunk or Treat.



Pamela Vincent, Jasmine Carlyle-Miguel, and Lanita Lopez enjoy the music, dancing, and cool costume at the Opportunity Tree Halloween Party.



Above: Sam from Trick or Treat made an appearance at the Spooktacular Walk



The vibes were spooky at the Spooktacular walk, participants enjoy the decor while munching on a light meal.



1st Place for Best Overall Theme



1st Place for Best Lighting & Effects

1st Place for Cutest Home



1st Place for Scariest Home



The PD Cake Walk is always a favorite amongst the Tricker Treaters.



The Community Trunk or Treat was more than just treat; the kiddos got to pet and hold exotic animals such as snakes, ferrets, lizards, and much more.

We would like to send a huge thank you to all the participants in the 2026 Halloween House Decorating Contest, we had some great houses enter this time around!

All participants received a gift card for their placements, with the overall winners receiving customized yard signs naming them the “Cutest”, “Scariest”, “Best Lighting & Effects” or “Best Overall Theme”.

Here are all participants and their rankings:
1st Place for Cutest: Albertino Santiago-Traditional Halloween, 2nd Place for Cutest: Jose Miguel Jr-Toy Story
1st Place for Scariest: Armonda Santiago-Scary Clowns
1st Place for Best Lighting and Effects: Aaron Peters-Scooby Doo Crew, 2nd Place for Best Lighting and Effects: Yrene Arredondo-Purple Home, 3rd Place for Best Lighting and Effects: Miranda Iniestra-Green Home
1st Place for Best Overall Theme: Eric Chavez-Disney Wonderland, 2nd Place for Best Overall Theme: Ame Stephens-Spider Frenzy

All judges were anonymous, but they did leave comments on their favorite homes. One judge shared “I enjoyed the incorporation of Scooby Doo; it has a nice Halloween feel.” Another stated “I loved the lights and themed houses, because they make Halloween fun.” The last judge complimented, “The Mickey Mouse house was super fun and exciting.”

Congratulations to all winners, your participation means the world to us!
-Runner Staff

Preschool Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Submitted by Rebecca Springstroh, ECE Program Coordinator

Ak-Chin Child Development had a family engagement Pumpkin Decorating Contest. They decorated a pumpkin at home with their family and sent in a picture to their child's teacher to be judged.

The following pumpkins were selected:

Mrs. Tashina's Class – Hazel and Kamila
Mrs. Angelica's Class – Annabella and Tovah
Mrs. Kimi's Class – Genevilyn and Isla
Mrs. Pollie's Class – Christopher and Mackenzie
Ms. Mary's Class – Alonzo and Lorelei
Ms. Francine's Class – Matilda and Amia
Mrs. Billie's Class – Gianna and Adriana

Congratulations to our class winners! Thank you to all the families that participated! All the pumpkins were amazing masterpieces, you made it hard for the judges.

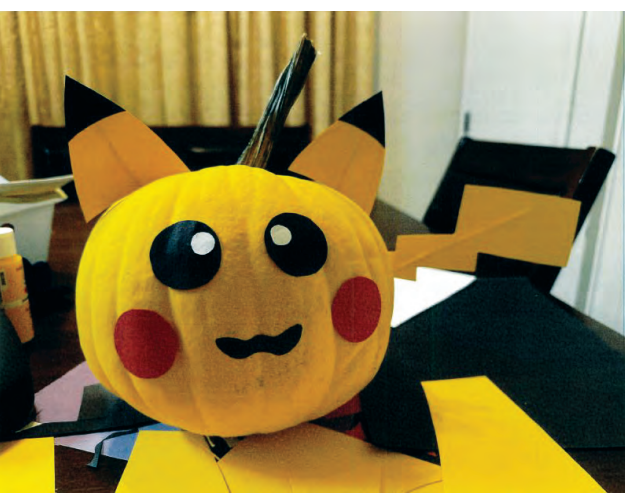


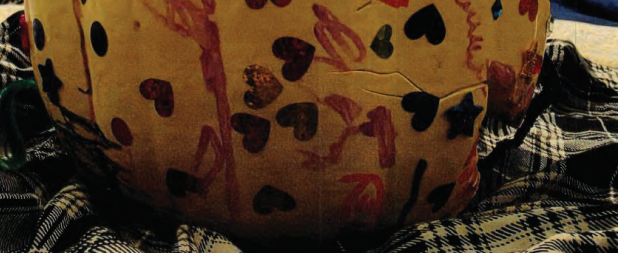




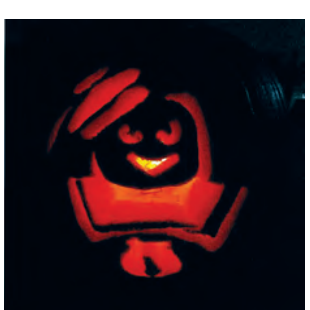








TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THESE CREATIVE PUMPKINS THAT ENTERED IN THIS YEARS PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST!!

AK-CHIN'S YOUTH ARE ARTISTS IN THE MAKING!

Pictured are three of the many winners of this years contest with their prize winning pumpkins!

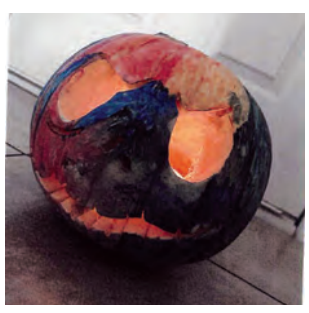
Bottom left Kamila with her Bluey pumpkin, and to bottom right Lorelei with her Kpop Demon Hunter themed Pumpkin.

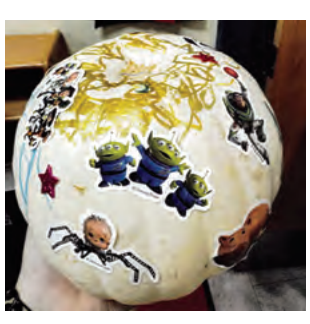


Congratulations to Genevilyn, who won the pumpkin contest for her classroom!

Genevilyn and her Moana pumpkin. We're so proud of you Hunny Love Mom, Dad, Judam














Ak-Chin Early Childhood Enjoy Halloween Fun!

By Line- Cambria regular, preferably 9 pt





With the spooky season finally coming to an end, the Ak-Chin Early Childhood Education Program held their annual Halloween party at the Ak-Chin Preschool on October 30th (Hallows Eve)!

The kiddos wore their Halloween costumes while they collected all kinds of goodies that the participating departments put together for them to enjoy.

Chop, Block & Brew to Compete in Inaugural Phoenix RARE Steak Championship

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's steak restaurant joins more than 25 Valley restaurants for Nov. 12 culinary competition

MARICOPA, Ariz. (Oct. 15, 2026) Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino is bringing a taste of Maricopa to the Valley's newest culinary competition.

The casino's signature steakhouse, Chop, Block & Brew, will compete in the inaugural Phoenix RARE Steak Championship on Thursday, Nov. 12, at Salt River Fields in Scottsdale.

"We're excited to represent Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino at the first Phoenix RARE Steak Championship," said Executive Chef Colin Ribble.

"Our culinary team takes tremendous pride in what we do, and this is a great opportunity to showcase our talent, share our passion for great food and introduce more people to the dining experiences we offer right here in Maricopa."

The event will bring together more than 25 of the Valley's leading steakhouses and restaurants to compete for top honors in two categories: Traditional Steak and Creative Steak.

Guests will have the opportunity to sample dishes, enjoy signature cocktails and live entertainment, and vote for their favorites alongside a panel of judges.

Known for its wood-burning mesquite grill, Chop, Block & Brew offers a menu featuring premium steaks, prime rib and seafood in a rustic, relaxed atmosphere.

The restaurant will showcase its culinary talents alongside some of the region's most recognized dining establishments.

Presented by Newport Meat & Seafood, the RARE Steak Championship takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit Musically Fed, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger. For tickets and additional information, visit phoenix.raresteakfest.com.

For more information about Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, please visit www.harrahsakchin.com.

Guests must be 21 or older to gamble. Remember to "Know When To Stop Before You Start.®"

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2026, Caesars License Company, LLC.



Colin Ribble, Executive Chef, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

4th Annual Tribal Health Symposium

Submitted by Teri De La Cruz, Ak-Chin Health Education Injury Prevention Specialist









On October 6, 2026, the Molina Healthcare held its 4th symposium here in the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

The 4th Annual Tribal Health Symposium, bringing together tribal and non-tribal healthcare providers, tribal leaders, and community partners to advance culturally responsive care for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Attendance at the event has grown each year, with representatives from 11 of Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribal nations, as well as representatives affiliated with 10 tribal nations from across the county.

During the symposium, the community honored two individuals for their contributions to tribal health. Memory Dawn Long Chase, domestic violence response director at the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition and an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, received the Tribal Health Excellence Award in recognition of her 14 years of advocacy for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in AI/AN communities.

She currently sits on the Board of Directors at the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.

She also serves as a member of the 2025-2026 American Indian College Fund Student Ambassador Cohort while pursuing a master's in public administration at Arizona State University.

"It is a true honor to be recognized in this way," said Memory Dawn Long Chase at the Symposium. "The health and well-being of my people, of every Indigenous and tribal community, is my priority."

Teri De La Cruz, injury prevention specialist for the Ak-Chin Indian Community and a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation, received the Tribal Health Champion Award in recognition of her work reducing unintentional injuries across the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Pinal County through education in child passenger safety, safe sleep, and fall prevention.

Since entering the field of injury prevention in 2017, she has become a certified Child Passenger Safety Instructor and now chairs the Arizona Department of Transportation Strategic Highway Safety Plan Tribal Emphasis Area Team.

She also serves on the Child Fatality Review Board of Pinal County, the First Things First Committee, and Safe Kids of Arizona.

"It is a passion of mine to promote safety in the tribal community. But it's not just me, it's a team of everybody to share the passion for safety," said Teri De La Cruz at the Symposium

Ak-Chin Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Vice Chairman Delia Carlyle were special guests to help welcome and bless the attendees. Our youth council did an amazing presentation on the Community, and our very own Police department presented the posting of the colors.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital **P**rojects Office

October 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:
This project will replace the old service lines with new more dependable water service lines and new water meters. The project will improve the water service quality to the houses by minimizing water line breaks and repeated repairs on the old service waterlines.

Safety Precaution:
During construction activities, residents should take extra precautions around the construction areas and keep clear from moving construction equipment.

Timeline of the Project:
The project started construction March, 2026, and will continue for 10 months. Open cut trenching across the roads in all subdivisions, are complete with asphalt pavement replacement. Concrete sidewalks replacements, and old services disconnections, are ongoing. Service lines replacement to the remaining houses on Farrell Road are ongoing. Water service lines for all scheduled houses in Greasewood, Firehouse, Mesquite, and Farms subdivisions were successfully replaced.

Project Team:

Owner/Applicant: Carlton Carlyle Water Operation Manager Ak-Chin Indian Community Phone: (520) 568-1148	Design & Construction Engineer Marcus Felter Indian Health Service Western Arizona District Office Phoenix, AZ Phone: (480) 280-6341

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INDIAN FRYBREAD & ARTS FESTIVAL



NOV 21ST

12pm -8pm

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- CARNIVAL RIDES
- INTERACTIVE ARTIST BOOTHS
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- FRYBREAD
- CHILI
- DESSERTS & SNACKS

$25 GENERAL ADMISSION

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$90 GA/4-PACK

VIP Packages Available

Carnival tickets sold separately.

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STELLA STANDINGBEAR

High-energy indigenous artist blending alt-rap, R&B, and pop

TRADITIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCES

Performer lineup to be announced

Kids 12 & under FREE with paying adult

Prices increase at the door

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