Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

Maricopa, Arizona | Volume XL, Issue 22 | November 20 - December 3, 2026

Meet the Candidate Night hosts (7) Candidates vying for (3) seats

Story and photos by Runner staff



Ak-Chin Service Center was packed with over 50 members, as one of the largest crowds participate in a Meet the Candidate Night on Tuesday, November 17th.

Tuesday, November 17, the Ak-Chin Indian Community Election Board hosted two events in the Community to introduce the 2026 Ak-Chin Tribal Candidates to the membership and share their platforms; and to allow the membership to get better acquainted with this year's candidates.

The Ak-Chin Elder Center provided lunch and space to gather for the first Meet the Candidate event. Held at lunchtime, all community elders that attended and the candidates were able to enjoy a delicious lunch of pot roast, mashed potatoes, green beans and rolls.

Once everyone had the opportunity to enjoy lunch, introductions began for the seven candidates who are vying for (3) seats, as Dennis Antone, Lisa Garcia and Cecil Peters terms expire on December 31, 2026.

The seven candidates vying for the seats include; Dennis Antone and Cecil Peters who are both seeking re-election, as well as; Brian Manuel, Jr., Dawn Fuentes, Deidra Carlyle, Lemuel Vincent and Robert Miguel.

During the elder Meet the Candidate event, all seven candidates were allowed 5 minutes to introduce themselves and provide their bio/platforms. Once all had been given their due time to talk, the Ak-Chin Election Board then allowed membership present to ask

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Vintage planes perform an amazing air show during the Veterans Day Parade in the city of Maricopa, on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

Veterans Day Celebrated in many Communities on Nov. 7th

Story and photos by Runner staff

On Saturday, November 7th, community members and guests gathered to help celebrate the 2026 Ak-Chin Veterans Day Celebration, as events were held in various areas of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. Festivities began with a 5K run/walk with registration at 8:30 am. Everyone who signed up for the walk/run received a commemorative t-shirt to help celebrate the days' event.

Walkers were taken to a path that led from the Ak-Chin Recreation facility and around the Desert Willow housing area. Runners began along the canal just south of the Recreation facility, towards housing and sanitation departments, then south towards the farm fields and then back to the start point.

5K Male winners, 0-17: 1st – Carson Korfel, 2nd – Joaquin Dickerson, 3rd – Edward Martinez; 18-35: 1st – Derek Thomas, 2nd – Alex Bowman; 36-54: 1st – Davis Garcia 2nd – Jacob Dickerson.

5K Female winners, 18-35: 1st – Keave Davis, 2nd – Alyssa Dickerson, 3rd - Marissa Antone-Bowman; 36-54: 1st – Jennifer Boehm, 2nd – Muriel Tsosie, 2nd – Lisa Garcia; 55+: 1st – Mavis Jackson.

Ak-Chin Veterans also celebrated with a first ever Family Chair Volleyball Tournament at Ak-Chin gymnasium, with nine teams entered on the bracket. Lowering the age to 12+, the tournament was encouraged as a fun and friendly way to get families who may have not played chair volleyball to engage and celebrate.

After a good morning of team volleying and camaraderie, winners were announced; Sivlik took championship; Friendz placed second; and Ak-Chin's home team MSquad earned third.

A first ever cornhole tournament was also held with eight teams of two competing on the beautiful, just reseeded lawns of the Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park.

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Ak-Chin Runner staff from left to right: Diana Carlyle- Graphic Artist, Eliza Santiago - Graphic Artist, and Kristen Villegas-Stephens - Photojournalist.

Runner Staff attend Adobe MAX in Florida

Story by Kristen Villegas-Stephens, photos by Runner staff

The week of November 9 to November 12, three Ak-Chin O'odham Runner Staffers made the trip to Miami, Florida for the yearly Adobe Max conference.

Graphic artists; Diana Carlyle and Eliza Santiago have had the pleasure of attending before, bringing back useful techniques and information to their creative processes.

For me, I got to experience the technical chaos and abundant learning opportunities that Adobe Max has to offer for the first time.

"Adobe MAX 2026 gave us a firsthand look at fresh ideas, imagination, and creativity. It was a great opportunity to learn not only about what's happening in the industry now, but also what's on the horizon through exclusive sneak peeks," shared Diana.

"We got to connect with creative professionals, graphic designers, and Adobe experts, and watch demos and videos from some of the best in the industry. The advances in Adobe Firefly stood out to me the most. Seeing how easily AI can help create everything

Adobe MAX continues to Page 6

Elders Thanksgiving Luncheon

Story and photos by Runner staff

An early Thanksgiving luncheon with delicious food and gifts was hosted by the Ak-Chin Him-Dak staff, at the Elements Event Center at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, on Thursday, November 12th for all community elders and a guest.



Evangelyn Romo is excited and happy to open up her gift bag during the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Elements Center.

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Elder Thanksgiving continued from Front

Following check-in, elders and guests made their way over to neatly set up tables, which had uniquely decorated centerpieces on them.

The atmosphere was jovial, as hugs, handshakes, and plenty of chatter filled the room, while great music could be heard provided by Clayton Antone.

As the announcement was made that the food was ready, elders, staff and others made their way to the buffet line and served themselves a variety of dishes, that included; salad, stuffing, ham, turkey and other assorted goods.

A dessert of apple and pumpkin pie was served following lunch.

During lunch, gifts and the centerpieces; donated by departments and staff, were raffled off.

In an area towards the back of Elements Center, a decorated Thanksgiving backdrop was set up for interested individuals or groups to take photos, which many took advantage of.



Douglas Pablo Sr, happily shows of the centerpiece that he won!



Velacita "Lanel" Enos, won a sunshine vase centerpiece.



Florinda Peters of the Him-Dak staff gets a prepared Thanksgiving meal courtesy of the Elements to give to elders who attended the celebration.



Plenty of gifts, which were donated by departments and staff, were given out to elders during the celebration at the Ak-Chin Elements.

Walk For Gratitude



Ak-Chin employees participate in a short modified yoga session.

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

Friday November 13, 2026, the Ak-Chin Health Education department hosted their annual "Walk for Gratitude" event, which took place outside the Ak-Chin Elements Center in the lawn area.

The event was hosted for all community members and employees, 55+.

As Participants signed in, they were given a tote bag along with lots of freebies and a chance to sign up for some great raffle prizes.

The event started off with your choice of breakfast omelet at the omelet station or a brisk two laps around the grass area or vice versa.

As that was going on a few began a short-modified yoga session. Once everyone was finished up the raffle began.

Participants won prizes such as gift cards, heating pads, knee massagers, stretching straps, and so much more! Be on the lookout for the next event with Ak-Chin Health Education.



"Walk for Gratitude" elders enjoy all that the event had to offer.

Top left: elder participants register for event, get swag bag and enter raffles.

Bottom left: Harrah's cooks up custom-made omelets for all to indulge in, while waiting for the next exercise.



Below, everyone enjoys the brisk walk.



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*		11/20 Baked Yams, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Apple Ground Beef Taco, California Vegetable, Brown Rice, Fresh Cut Fruit	
	11/23 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Elder Center Thanksgiving Lunch@ 12 noon Turkey w/ Stuffing, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, WW/White Rolls, Apple/Pumpkin Pie, Oranges	11/24 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit Salad Elder Turkey Distribution Drive Thru @ 8 AM to 4 PM Lima Beans, Baked Chicken (D), Carrots, WW/White Rolls, Pineapple	11/25 Scrambled Eggs w/Bacon, Hashbrown, English Muffin, Peaches w/ Cottage Cheese Elder Turkey Distribution Drive Thru @ 8 AM to 12 PM Spaghetti, Romain Salad, Texas toast, Apples/Oranges	11/26 CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday 	11/27 CLOSED For Native American Heritage Day 	
	11/30 Rice Pudding, Boiled Eggs, Toast and Fruit Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans/Rolls	12/1 Rice Pudding, Boiled Eggs, Banana Split Peas, Chicken Dumpling (D), Cauliflower, Crackers, Peach Cobbler, Apples	12/2 Egg & Bacon Burrito, Diced Potato, Mixed Berries Beef Stew / Vegetables, Corn on the cob, Moon Bread, Applesauce	12/3 Chilaquiles w/Egg, Pinto Beans, Avocado, Fresh Fruit Baked Chicken, Creamy Spinach, Carrots, Wheat/White Rolls, Watergate Salad	12/4 Oatmeal, Boiled Egg, Toast, Strawberries & Yogurt Potato Soup, Romain Salad, Wheat/ White Rolls, Pineapple	

Ak-Chin Oodham Runner

Newspaper of the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
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Vice Chair: Delia Carlyle
Council Members:
Dennis Antone, Lisa
Garcia, and Cecil Peters

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Ak-Chin: Education, Elders, EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak, Library and Recreation

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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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:
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Maricopa, Arizona 85138

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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the December 4-17, 2026 issue is due by
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER twenty-fifth

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER twenty-fifth

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



On October 3, 2026 our beloved Andrea K. Segundo "Pnut" was suddenly taken from us.

Andrea made Ak-Chin her home at the age of 4, she loved the community and enjoyed all the comforts of the community's education, sports, friends, family, mentors and most of all the ñeok/himdak.

Her favorite phase "Bap ðo hi?", growing into a beautiful young lady she still had heart and thought for the community. Asking about her childhood friends, teachers, mentors, and family.

She was proud to be a part of Ak-Chin Indian Community, moving on to the Tucson school districts she'd share her himdak with other O'odham, natives and non-natives.

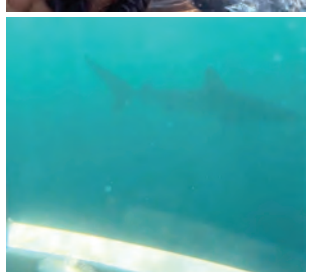


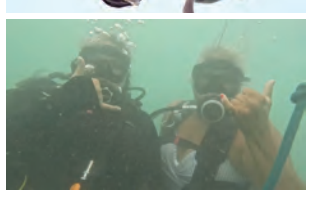
With much emotion and gratitude her family would like to thank the Ak-Chin Indian Community for all their support they've given Andrea and continue to give to her family as they continue to live on for her. "Bap ðo hi en je'e?" I'm continuing on for you girl."

Sap'e Julene Narcia (mother to Andrea)

More Aloha from Hawaii!!

We spent 8 days and 7 nights in Paradise… We went to Germaine's Luau; toured the Island (a few times); stopped at the Dole Pineapple Plantation; checked out the North Shore; viewed Diamondhead National Park, Halona Blowhole and paid our respects at the USS Arizona. We also spent a full-day at Polynesian Cultural Center - VIP treatment, with special presentation and gifts; last day was a sunset cruise and fireworks show. Some of us even went on a few extra adventures to Kuoloa Ranch for ATV and horseback riding, North Shore again to swim with sharks (in the cage, and cage free); scuba diving, parasailing and turtle snorkeling. Everyone seemed to enjoy the aloha and adventures and the Ohana felt with one another, as well as the Ohana with many of our tour guides (Bo, Uncle D, Aiarii)

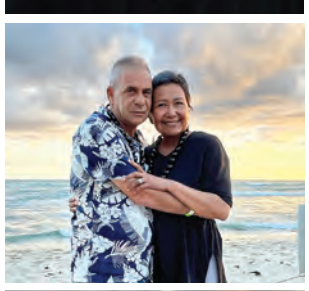












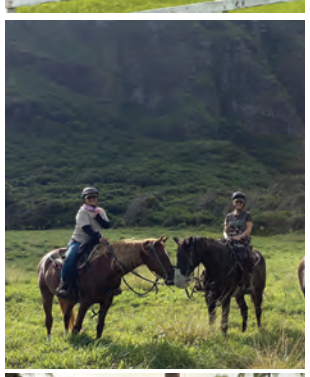






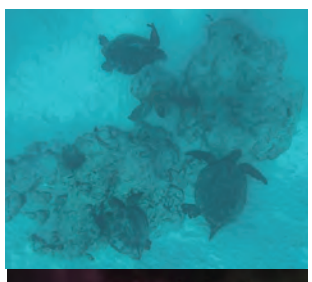












First of all, I would like to thank council for the opportunity to go to Hawaii. Was my first time visiting and it was so amazing to see all the green trees and plants and the ocean was so blue and clear, beautiful sight to see for yourself.

My favorite part was Pearl Harbor, you know people talk about it, but it hits different when you're there. I felt the sadness of everyone and how it impacted a lot of people.

And as for the people we met it was so amazing how everyone treated us like family (Ohana). There was an experience I had on the beach, some young boys were going to swim and one young boy didn't want to leave his backpack by itself so he came up to me and said, "Auntie can you watch my bag " I told him yes I would watch it, that meant a lot to me. –
Juanita Miguel

My most favorite was the Polynesian Cultural Center. It was nice to listen to the different cultures of their Islands, stories and from Samoa, Tahiti, etc. & how similar cultures, we share. What I learned is how Tonga was not colonized, they are still ruled under a Monarchy with a King and Queen.

I'd like to Thank all and everyone that planned this Dream of a vacation ☺

I'd also, like to acknowledge our tour guide Uncle D for a telling us real Hawaiian culture & history. While he took us to the mountain of Battle of Nu'uanu Pali. It was misty and foggy. He said a prayer to his ancestors, the mist cleared up to see the beauty of their land. It was quite sad, that many people were killed. – ***Colleen Mike***

My favorite part was the ride to the ocean at night and the fireworks, plus the Polynesian center and learning their culture. – ***Gloria Alejandro***

Employee Benefit Fair and Gift Card Distribution

Story and photo by Runner Staff



A quick pic of the 2026 Drive-Thru and Tailgate Party!

November 3, Ak-Chin Indian Community employees from all departments were encouraged to stop by the community government building for the 2027 Benefits Open Enrollment Drive Thru and Tailgate Party.

Here, employees received this year's new benefits packet, a goodie bag, lunch and were cheered on the sidelines by the Ak-Chin Human Resources department.

Once driving through the line, employees could also pick up their gift cards, a yearly incentive Ak-Chin Council gives to employees for the upcoming thanksgiving holiday.

HDS Hosts Annual Food Sale

Story submitted by Erica Oliver HDS Manager and photo by Megan Quintero



Left to right: HDS Supervisor Della Honie, Shanna Narcia, Myulani Antone, Zadia Soliz, Celiyah Antone, Johnny Perkins, Perla Corona, Dawson Allison, Richard Joaquin III, HDS Manager Erica Oliver, and Misty Quintero

On Friday, November 13th, Harrah's Development System (HDS) employees held their annual fundraising Indian Taco food sale in recognition of Native American Heritage Month.

The HDS Program is a leadership development program specifically designed for the Ak-Chin tribal member employees.

Every year, the HDS employees oversee the planning, preparation, and execution of the Indian Taco food sale. The delegation of duties gives the HDS Associates an opportunity to put their leadership skills to use. Task and project management are key components in a successful sale and event.

Casino employees had the opportunity to not only enjoy the tasty food provided by the HDS Team Members, all proceeds raised from the sale will be donated to a non-profit organization, chosen by the HDS Team. The chosen recipient will receive a check for the full amount and it will be just in time for the holidays.

This year's proceeds will be going to Against Abuse Inc. Against Abuse is a nonprofit organization that provides service to all survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and human trafficking.

The event received positive feedback from repeat and first-time customers of the food sale.



Drive-Thru Rabies Clinic

Story by Megan Quintero and photos submitted by Theodore Puetz







Above: Animal Control Staff are ready to start giving Rabies Vaccines to the Community's furry friends!
At left: Staff comforting a dog after getting vaccinated. At right: A doggo waiting patiently for their vaccination.

Friday November 13, 2026 the Ak-Chin Police Department hosted a FREE Rabies Vaccination Clinic (Drive- Thru style), open to all Ak-Chin community members and their furry companions.

The event began at 9 am, but was unfortunately shut down early due to the rainy weather. Before the rain, 31 furry friends were vaccinated, 7 cats and 24 dogs!

The FREE Drive-Thru Rabies Clinic was co-sponsored through the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Ak-Chin Police Department, Indian Health Service and USDA APHIS-VS

Ak-Chin PD plans to hold another animal clinic in the near future, so please be on the lookout for more information.







Meet the Candidate continued from Front

questions of the candidates.

The questions asked focused on issues such as code of ethics, special needs services for community youth, uniting the community, as well as concerns for transportation, elder services and policies.

All candidates provided their own scenarios of how to address the questions.

On the evening of November 17, another Meet the Candidate event was held at the Ak-Chin Service Center. The event was held from 6 pm to 8 pm.

The service center was brimming with members as the candidates once again introduced themselves and shared their platforms.

The questions asked during the evening session focused on; economic development, leadership background/ experience, youth involvement with voting, leadership, culture and language, and programs/ services for special needs.

Once again, all candidates were given the opportunity to address the questions and answer based on their knowledge and experience.

Each candidate was also asked about their top priorities that they wanted to address, their responses focused on; land expansion for economic development, continuing to address water rights issues, being accountable and transparent as a council member, addressing needs of the community, strengthening community and the people, strategic planning, communication, culture and healthcare.

Congratulations and best of luck to all candidates, as they seek your support.

The 2026 Tribal Council Elections will take place on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at the Ak-Chin Service Center. The polls will be open at 6 am and close at 2 pm.

Membership, remember it is your right to vote, so get out to the polls and cast your vote for the 2026 Ak-Chin Tribal Election.



Ak-Chin and Gila River, battle for a rebound during a scrimmage at State Farm Stadium in Glendale. Ak-Chin came away with the win.

Ak-Chin Teams Hit the Hardwood at State Farm

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

State Farm Stadium in Glendale has held plenty of events of enormous stature. It's held a few Super Bowls, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) college football and basketball championships, major concerts from Bad Bunny, George Strait, Kanye West, Harry Styles, Banda MS, Los Tucanes, Luke Combs, Jason Aldean and many others. Of course, it's also the stadium is home to the Arizona Cardinals.

Add to the list of performances for State Farm Stadium, were the Ak-Chin boys and girls basketball teams, as they both played scrimmages on Sunday, November 8th. Obviously, the atmosphere and setting were much different from the gymnasiums they've played in, but the will and desire to compete was still there, even though it was a scrimmage.

The Ak-Chin boys played a familiar foe from Gila River as both teams took their spots on a canvas basketball court that was pieced together the day prior. Once the whistle blew and a jump ball at center court, both teams played their game of "run and gun", running up and down the court.

Both teams exchanged baskets in a closely contestant game, with Ak-Chin taking a small lead going into halftime.

The second half was identical as Ak-Chin continued to maintain a brief lead. Gila River, briefly led at the min-point of the second half, but Ak-Chin hit three straight baskets to climb back on top. Once they took the lead, they never relinquished to come away with a four-point victory.

The girls played a great game also, as they were also matched against Gila River. Gila River jumped out to a quick lead, but Ak-Chin crawled back and came to within single digits to make the game interesting.

At halftime, Ak-Chin was down by seven points. In the second half, Gila River extended their lead to double digits, but Ak-Chin was able cut the lead, down by three with a couple of minutes to go. Gila River kept Ak-Chin at bay during the final two minutes, to come away with a four-point win.

Following both scrimmage games, teams took a group photo and looked around for the last time and took in the stadium, as they reflected upon what they had just experienced!



Nyaila Miguel, dribbles up court as Ak-Chin and Gila River take to the courts for a scrimmage at State Farm Stadium.



Ak-Chin Boys: Top l to r: Coach Jose Miguel Jr, Kaden Bryant, Jacob Bryant, Omarion Flores, Dreyvn Soliz, Leo Orona, Coach Dennis Antone. Bottom l to r: Brian Ruelas, Isreal Noriega, Koden Vincent, Monty Vincent, Zach Garcia.



Ak-Chin Girls: Top l to r: Joanna Peters, Auciana Miguel, Talieyah Lopez, Gianna Mejia, Tatianna Robbins, Mya Pico, Nyaila Miguel, Audrina Peters, Coach Raymond "Bunch" Whitman. Peters, Coach Raymond "Bunch" Whitman. Bottom l tor right: Sophia Peters, Luciana Rivers, Stella Miguel, Tatum Campbell.

2026 AK-CHIN MASIK TAS
OPEN CALF DRESSING EVENT

Ak-Chin Circle Arena: 16000 N. Maricopa Rd.
Sunday, December 20, 2026 at 1pm.

10 Team Limit

Buckles to 1st Place

Entry Fee: $120.00; All payments MUST include entry form
Mandatory Check in; All contestants MUST sign a waiver form.

Teams consist of 3 adult members with at least one female.
Western attire is required.

Teams will be at one end of the arena, calves will be released at the other end with a halter and lead rope. Once the calf is caught the team puts the boxers on the calf. The first team to complete the task will win.

Walk- Ins: Oct. 12th to Dec. 11th 2026
Monday- Friday 8a-5p
Ak-Chin Tribal Office
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Last Walk- Ins: Saturday, December 12, 2026; 10a - 6p
Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa, Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85139
$20 Late Fee Will Apply

Mail- Ins: Oct. 12th to Dec. 4th 2026
Ak-Chin Indian Community
Attn: Masik Tas Calf Dressing
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85138
Must be post marked by 12/4/26
-$20 late fee will apply after 12/4/26

No Phone entries, No refunds;
Must be 18 years old to participate.

★ 520.568.1000 | masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us | Follow us on Facebook | @AkChinIndianCommunity ★

Ak-Chin Indian Community and Stock Contractor are not responsible for accidents, injury, loss or theft during this event.

2026 AK-CHIN MASIK TAS
ROPING

Thursday, December 17, 2026
Ak-Chin Circle Arena | 16000 N. Maricopa Rd.

Books Open at 9:00 a.m.

1st Roping:
Open Cowboy Draw
$80 Per Entry up to 6Xs

2nd Roping:
#11 Pick 1 Draw 2 for $240.00
Enter 2Xs; Capped at a 7+

3rd Roping:
#8 Pick 1 Draw 2 for $240
Enter 2Xs; Capped at 4+

Buckles to 1st Place
Average Winners

All Ropings are 3- Steer
100% Payback

Everyone Welcome

Flaggers Decision Final

For Information:
Website: https://masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us
(Management may change any Roping)

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Adobe MAX continued from Front Page

from a flyer to a video was amazing. While some of these features aren't yet available to the public, it was exciting to try them out early. I hope they'll be available for everyone to enjoy soon!"

With this being my first time at Adobe Max, I wanted to take as many sessions I could, centering around InDesign and Photoshop. Learning how other creatives go about using these programs was interesting and it provided me with more efficient ways to say, go about making a newspaper layout.

What I was the most impressed with was Adobe Premiere. Not only did it make me think about the possibilities of video making, the program seemed to provide great tools to elevate any video. During the Inspiration Keynote, I felt my opinions on Adobe Premiere only grew as we saw the way Drex Lee went about making videos and editing them; I am so curious to learn more about this program.

Eliza shared, "Going to Adobe Max was a great opportunity to learn new ideas and techniques from other creative professionals and Adobe experts. Also got to see demos of new tools coming soon to the adobe programs.

I did some sessions for both Illustrator and InDesign and learned some new tips/shortcuts to improve work flow and how to make the creative prosses easier."

"One demo they showed is their free drawing app for mobile, called adobe fresco. They show that it's similar to other drawing apps, but you are able to send the files to other adobe programs and keep the work flow going, which is great because you don't need to go back and forth between apps.

Many brush options and it has coloring pages that lets you color inside the lines without making mistakes. Another thing they were promoting was more of their AI assistant in their programs, which I have mixed feelings as an artist, that's not a fan of AI. It can be helpful in making ideas become visual ideas, but should not be the whole progress of creating art."









HOUSING REMINDER

REMINDER TO ALL: If you lose your house key, it is $5 to replace it. And if you lose your mailbox key it's $80 to replace. The Post Office sends someone out to rekey the box. You must pay with a money order. CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED.

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS TWO (2) VACANCIES FOR THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Vacancy for Ak-Chin Community Members only

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

Duties & Responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission:

1. Prepare plans for the Ak-Chin Indian Community, which are directed toward the best development of the Community.
2. Make and recommend policy to the Community Council in areas of physical and social development.
3. Evaluate and recommend necessary rules and regulations as provided by Ak-Chin law.
4. Hear and make recommendations to Community Council, but not limited to, applications for Special Use Permits, Preliminary and Site Development Plans, Zoning Amendments, and General Plan Amendments.
5. Prepare for and attend all meetings of the Commission except as provided otherwise in the Commission's Bylaws.
6. Conduct themselves according to the Codes of Conduct of the Commission.

REQUIREMENTS:
Must be an enrolled Community Member. All interested parties who desire to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission must send a letter of interest to the Tribal Office. Enrolled Community employees must submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Planning & Zoning Commission. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires.

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

Deadline to submit letter of interest is Monday, November 30, 2026 by 5:00pm.



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

November 13, 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.

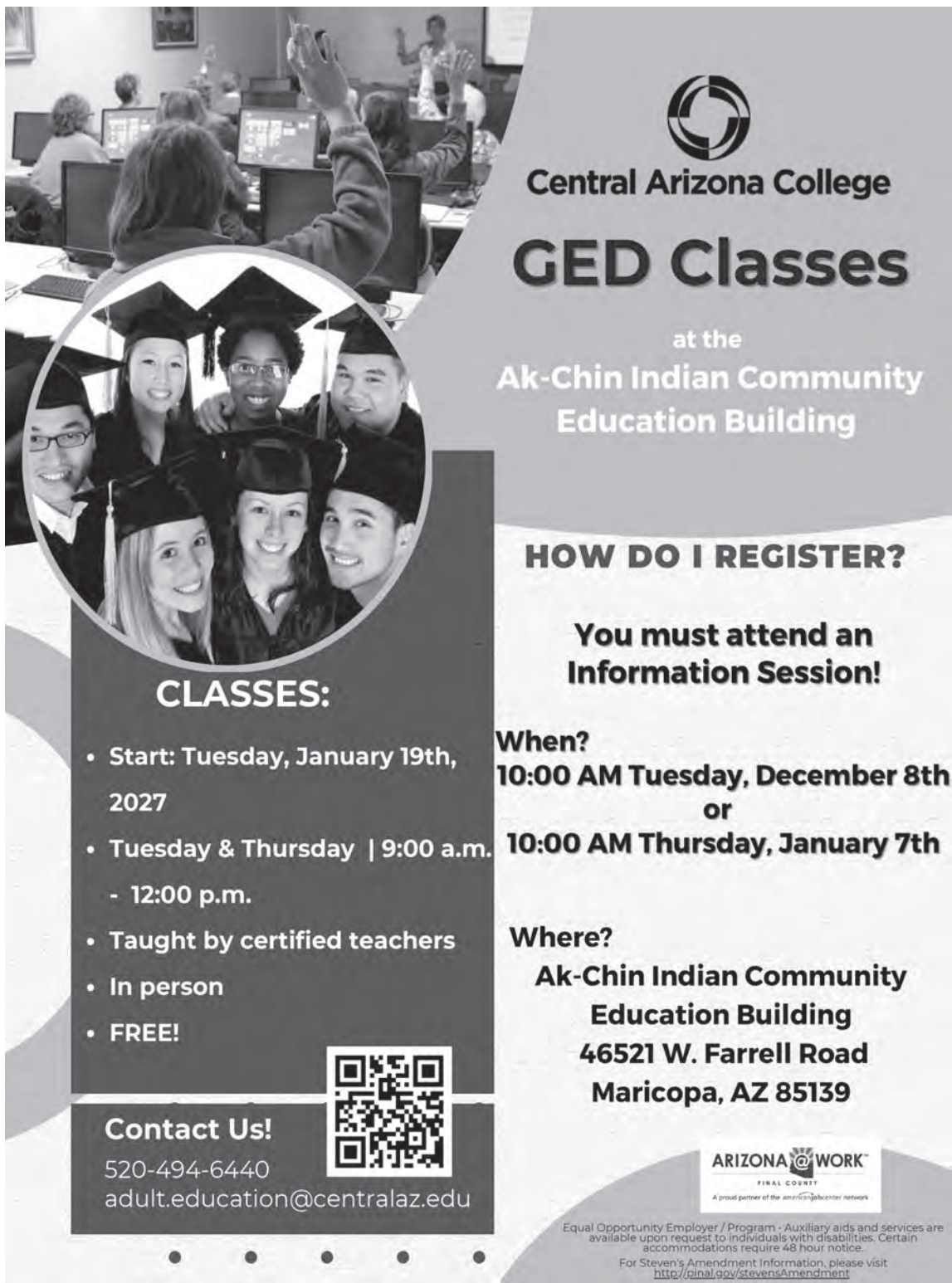
Timeline of the Project:

The project started construction March, 2026, and will continue for 10 months. New houses water service lines connections, concrete and asphalt pavement replacement are complete. Contractor is working on old water services disconnections, cutting and capping the old lines, in Greasewood, Mesquite, and Farms subdivisions.

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



Veterans Day continued from Front

Many games were close, as teams see-sawed back and forth, spectators gathered to cheer their teams on to victory.

When the final bean bags were tossed, the Buffalo Team of Mauricio Chairez and Maverick Santiago claimed the title as champions, while Team Warriors- Jennifer Boehm and King Squad - Jacolby King placed second and Jacob and Joaquin Dickerson took third.

Throughout the day, jumping castles were set up for children to enjoy, while the adults basked in the beautiful weather.

Before lunch, active-duty military who are currently serving our country were shared by family members.

Active-duty military members and family that were recognized for currently serving: **Noahli Antone,** U.S. Army, PV2. Noahli is currently stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Octavio Machado, U.S. Navy, E-2/Seaman Apprentice. Octavio is currently stationed at Naval Station Mayport/ Jacksonville, Florida/ USS Thomas Hudner.

Taylor Santiago, U.S. Marine Corps, E-3/LCpl. Taylor is currently stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Aarron Felix, U.S. Marine Corps, E-3/LCpl. Aarron is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

Snyder White, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, E-3/LCpl. Snyder is currently stationed at 29 Palms, California.

After recognition of current active-duty military, all Veterans in attendance were asked to line up for a photo and recognition to memorialize the day's celebration.

Veterans Day Celebrations were held in many areas of Arizona, on Saturday, November 7, including the Maricopa Veterans Day Parade, that started at 9 AM.

The parade start was set up on Bowlin Rd., continuing onto Porter Rd. Several Veterans spanning all military branches were cheered on by spectators as they were recognized for their service. After the parade festivities, Veterans and their families were treated to a free lunch.

Also on November 7th, the 20th Annual Casa Grande Salute to Service Parade took place at 9AM with a parade route down Florence Blvd., to honor our Veterans.

The Ak-Chin Veterans Group prides itself in recognizing community Veterans and all Veteran families at our annual Celebration. We are grateful for all who made the commitment to come out and celebrate this honorable occasion with us.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the following: Ak-Chin Fire/Police for their support in the run/walk event, Recreation for stepping up to coordinate/run the chair-volleyball tournament, Vekol Market for providing excellent food and service for our breakfast and lunch events, Baba's Bouncers for the Bounce House entertainment, Robert Miguel for the music, Zabawa Farms for the t-shirts and awards, and Community Events for the Veterans luncheon at Harrah's, and overall coordination of Celebration and overseeing the corn-hole tournament.

Special thanks to all the participants for the 5K Run/ Walk, "going that extra mile" and to the volleyball and corn hole participants as well.





















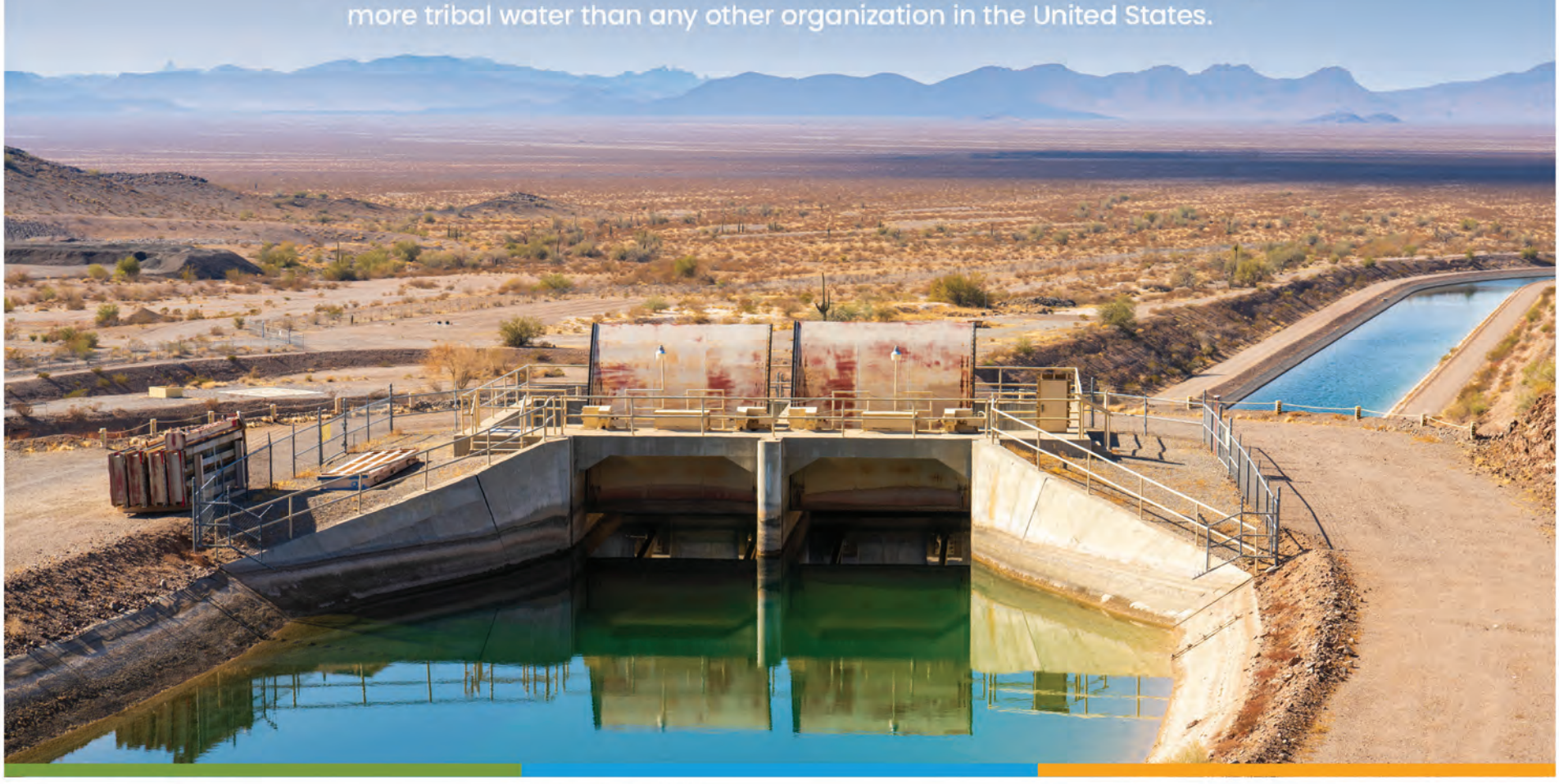






CAP PROVIDES
WATER SECURITY
FOR ARIZONA

Central Arizona Project enhances Arizona's water security, supplying Colorado River water to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties, and delivering more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.



CAP
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.
Learn more at **KnowYourWaterNews.com**

JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Child and Family Therapist (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Utilities 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 (12:00p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.

Employee Birthdays 11/20 - 12/2

11/20
Shane Antone, Parks & Rec
Brandon Peters, Finance

11/21
Autumn Gonzalez, Police
Dan Rivera, Police

11/22
Michelle Carpenter, Fire

11/23
Jennifer Capell, Preschool

11/24
Kailey Zicafoose, Preschool

11/26
Marciano Joaquin, Sanitation

11/27
Luis Coronado, Police
Richard Lopez, Preschool
Steve Tiemann, Finance

11/29
Tashina Salcido, Preschool

12/1
Kimberly Vincent, Preschool

12/2
Candice Antone, Parks & Rec
Lindsey Valles, Fire

Employee Updates



Jordan Harrison
Library Technician
Library



Scotland Janfrancisco
Library Clerk
Library

GET CRAFTY WITH FALL INSPIRED PROJECTS!

Crafternoon

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH @3-5PM

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

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

WIC

Tuesday, December 01, 2026
8:30a-2:30p
Ak-Chin Service Center

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

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

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

AK-CHIN MEMBERS & RESIDENTS JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS in the Village

DECEMBER 1, 2026
AT MISSION SCHOOL
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, COOKIE DECORATING, REFRESHMENTS, HAYRIDE, MUSIC

FOR ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL HIM-DAK AT (520) 568-1350



PUZZLE COMPETITION

AGES 10+

EACH TEAM OF 4 PEOPLE WILL HAVE 45 MINUTES TO COMPLETE A 300 PIECE PUZZLE.
CONTACT THE LIBRARY TO RSVP YOUR TEAM. LIMITED TO 6 TEAMS.

NOVEMBER 19TH 5PM-6PM

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES.
MINORS UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OVER 18

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

CALL TO AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBER ARTISTS

The Ak-Chin Him-Dak Eco Museum is excited to announce an open call for artists to showcase their work in a upcoming community space

We are hosting an in person event at the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Eco Museum on Monday, November 30, 2026 between the hours of 5:30 - 6:30 pm where you can share your work, and learn more about the project.

Please join us
Monday, November 30, 2026
5:30 pm
Him-Dak Meeting Room

For more information please call the Him-Dak Front Desk @ 520-568-1350.

Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Enrolled Members ages 12 and older.

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 Birthday to my daughter Carmen
Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Morgan, Maria, and Aurora and my grandsons Brandon and Marcus
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday to our #1Goddaughter Jasmine
We love you Jazzer!!
Love, Goddaddy and Godmama

Happy Birthday Morg and Marc
Love your family

Happy Birthday Morgan
Lots of love to you on your special day – we love you!
Love, Dad, Mom, all you brothers and sisters

NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 7 MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER 26
Miguel Moreno-Kaniatobe
Marciano Joaquin
Brandon Peters

NOVEMBER 27
Joe C. Miguel Jr.
Larisa Rascon
Karen Kaniatobe
Joaquin Dickerson
Richard Joaquin
Kobe Santiago

NOVEMBER 28
Michael Enos
Nicholas Narcia

NOVEMBER 29
Tashina Salcido
Matilda Balderrama
Victor Andaverde
Lee Smith
Isaiah Antone

NOVEMBER 30
Michael Luz
Julio Gloria IV
Kylee Carlyle
Kateri Lopez
Taylor Santiago
Lina Batopis

DECEMBER 1
Kayla Valisto
Raven Vallejos
Kendra Smith
Aurora Peters
Rebecca Stephens - Rodas

DECEMBER 2
Candice Antone
Victor Andaverde Jr
Lindsey Valles
Marcus Peters
Clarence Enos
Duane Antone
Dale Narcia

DECEMBER 3
Arlene Manuel

DECEMBER 4
Analita Laborin
Destinee Peters
Valerie Velasquez
Bren Valisto
Archer Anderson

DECEMBER 5
Drevyn Silas-Antone
Justine Peters
Erica Trejo

DECEMBER 6
Richard Joaquin
Dena Romo
Janiyah Stevenson

DECEMBER 7
Omarion White
Saryla Miranda
Monica Murrietta
Evelyn Justin
Danya Lopez
Joseph Manuel

11/2026 November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Book Club 5-6pm	3	4 Storytime @10:30am	5	6 Crochet 15+ 5-6pm	7
8	9 Book Club 5-6pm	10	11 VETERANS DAY Closed	12	13 Crochet 15+ 5-6pm	14
15	16 Book Club 5-6pm	17	18 Storytime @10:30am Crafternoon 3-5pm	19 Puzzle Challenge 12-1PM 5-6pm	20 Crochet 15+ 5-6pm	21
22	23 Book Club 5-6pm	24	25 Storytime @10:30am	26 Happy Thanks Giving Closed	27 Native American Heritage Day Closed	28
29	30 Book Club 5-6pm					

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

November is Native American Heritage Month!

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

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Guests Give More Than $57,000 to Local Area Nonprofits



To date, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino guests have donated more than $57,000 to local area nonprofits through the property's Caesars Makes Change kiosk donations.

(MARICOPA, Ariz. – Nov. 5, 2026) –Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino guests have donated $57,599.99 to local area nonprofits through the property's Caesars Makes Change kiosk donations in 2026.

The ticket redemption kiosks provide an opportunity for guests to give back in a meaningful way by donating their $0.99 or less change when cashing out their slot machine voucher.

"Our guests continue to show that making a difference doesn't always require a grand gesture," said HERO Committee Chair Barbara Achten.

"Through the kiosk donations, small contributions add up to meaningful support for organizations doing important work in the community. We're proud to share that commitment to giving back with our guests and grateful for the generosity they continue to demonstrate."

Organizations featured through the Caesars Makes Change kiosks as donation recipients included:

- United Way of Pinal County
- Soldiers Best Friend
- F.O.R. Maricopa
- Valley Humane Society
- Veterans In Need Project
- Against Abuse Inc.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor

Individuals or organizations interested in submitting a request for support can do so by completing an application on the Caesars website at https://www.caesars.com/corporate-social-responsibility/social-programs/social-impact/regional-and-property-giving.







AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
2026 MASIK TAS CELEBRATION
RODEO EVENTS

JR. RODEO — Friday December 18 at 9am

Buckle to Event Winners! Saddles to All -Around (6-9, 10-13, 14 -17)

5 Years & Under
Sheep Riding (limit 20)
Dummy Roping (limit 20)
Goat Tail Pull (limit 20)
Stick Horse Barrels (limit 20)
Entry Fee: $40

6-9 Years Old
Calf Riding (limit 20)
Ribbon Roping (1x) (limit 20)
Coed Barrel Racing (limit 20)
Flag Race (limit 20)
Entry Fee: $50

10-13 Years Old
Steer Riding (limit 20)
Ribbon Roping (1x) (limit 20)
Coed Barrel Racing (limit 20)
Breakaway (limit 20)
Entry Fee: $60
Team Roping 2X (limit 20)
Entry Fee: $120

14-17 Years Old
Bull Riding (limit 20)
Ribbon Roping (limit 20)
Coed Barrel Racing (limit 20)
Breakaway (limt 20)
Entry Fee: $70
Team Roping 2X (limit 20)
Entry Fee: $140
Wild Donkey Race
Entry Fee: $210

Safety Vest Required for All Rough Stock Events. Western Attire Enforced
No late entries, no phone entries, no refunds, "Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note. Contact Rodeo Secretary 24 hours prior to start of rodeo.
All payments must include rodeo entry form. To receive payout, contestants must show birth certificate.

One time Admin Fee of $20 per contestant
** Contestants must stay in their own age category.
** Ribbon Roping Muggers in the 6-9 & 10-13 age divisions only.
*** Team Roping & Ribbon Roping partner must be 18 years or older.

MANDATORY CHECK-IN
All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS
Money Order or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community- 2026 Jr. Rodeo
****No personal checks accepted.**



MAIL- IN ENTRIES OPEN
October 2, 2026
ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
December 4, 2026

MAIL ENTRIES TO
Ak-Chin Indian Community
ATTN: Masik Tas Jr. Rodeo
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

WALK-INS
October 12 - December 11
M-F: 8am - 5pm
Ak-Chin Tribal Office
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

LAST WALK-INS
December 12|10am - 6pm
Ak-Chin Entertainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85139

WEBSITE POSTING: 12/15/26

BULL BRONCS AND DONKS — Friday December 18 at 4pm

Events	Fee	Added $
Ranch Bronc Riding (limit 10)	$150	$500
Open Novice Bull Riding (limit 10)	$150	$500
Open Women's Steer Riding (limit 10)	$100	$500
Wild Donkey Race (limit 6 teams)	$300 per team	$600

Buckles to Event Winners!



BOOKS OPEN OCTOBER 23, 2026

MAIL-IN ENTRIES TO
October 12- December 4
Ak-Chin Indian Community
ATTN: Masik Tas Jr. Rodeo
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

WALK-INS
October 12 - December 11
M-F: 8am - 5pm
Ak-Chin Tribal Office
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

LAST WALK-IN ENTRIES:
December 12|10am - 6pm
Ak-Chin Entertainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85139

POST MARKED BY: DECEMBER 4

One time Admin Fee of $20 per contestant
To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification.
MANDATORY CHECK- IN
All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS
All payments must include Rodeo Entry Form.
Money Order or Cashiers Check accepted.
Please make payable to:
Ak-Chin Indian Community- 2026 Rodeo
**No personal checks accepted

LATE FEE OF $20 PER CONTESTANT AFTER DECEMBER 4, 2026

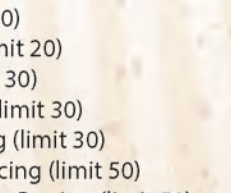
OPEN WILD HORSE RACE — December 19th & 20th

$600 per team | 12 Team Limit

MANDATORY CHECK- IN
To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification.
All contestants must be 18 years old to participate and sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS

WALK-INS
October 12 - December 11
M-F: 8am - 5pm
Ak-Chin Tribal Office
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

1st Place: Buckles $2000 Added Money



Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community 2026 Rodeo
**No personal checks accepted

ALL ENTRY MONEY IS 100% PAY OUT ALONG WITH ADDED MONEY

Buckles to each event winner!

No phone entries, no refunds.
Contact, Delbert White: dwhite@ak-chin.nsn.us or 520- 414 -5515

OPEN RODEO — December 19th & 20th



Performance Times
Performances on
Saturday & Sunday at 12pm
Slack: Saturday after Rodeo Performance (if needed)

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community- 2026 Rodeo **No personal checks accepted. No phone entries, no refunds. *Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note. Contact Rodeo Secretary 24 hours prior to start of rodeo. To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification. BOOKS OPEN UNTIL EVENTS ARE FILLED. LATE FEE OF $20 PER CONTESTANT AFTER DECEMBER 4 2026

Entries must be postmarked by: December 4, 2026

Event	Fee	Added$
Bareback (limit 20)	$150	$1000
Saddle Bronc (limit 20)	$150	$1000
Bull Riding (limit 30)	$150	$1000
Steer Wrestling (limit 30)	$150	$1000
Tie Down Roping (limit 30)	$150	$1000
Ladies Barrell Racing (limit 50)	$150	$1000
Ladies Breakaway Roping (limit 50)	$150	$1000
**Senior Breakaway (limit 50)	$150	$1000
Ladies Team Roping (2Xs) (limit 50)	$300/ Team	$2000
**Team Roping (2Xs) (limit 100)	$300/ Team	$2000
**Century Team Roping (2Xs) * (limit 50)	$300/ Team	$2000
**4 Tribes Team Roping (3Xs) *	$300/ Team	$2000

Must be 18 years old to participate!
One time Admin Fee of $20 per contestant
Team Ropers must pay for full team in ONE envelope with seperate entry forms.
All payments must include Rodeo Entry Form.
MANDATORY CHECK-IN
All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS

MAIL ENTRIES TO
October 12 - December 4
Ak-Chin Indian Community
ATTN: Masik Tas Rodeo
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

WALK-INS
October 12 - December 11
M-F: 8am - 5pm
Ak-Chin Tribal Office
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85138

LAST WALK-IN ENTRIES
December 12|10am - 6pm
Ak-Chin Entertainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Rd.
Maricopa, Az 85139

*Century Team Roper Participants must be 50+
*4 Tribes Team Roper Participants must be enrolled member of Ak-Chin, Gila River, Tohono O'Odham or Salt River. Must provide proof upon request.
**Will not count for All- Around/ Only highest placing money won in Team Roping will counttoward All-Around.

All- Around Champion Cowboy Trailer + Buckle + $1000

All- Around Champion Cowgirl Trailer + Buckle + $1000

Ak-Chin Indian Community and Stock Contractor are not responsible for accidents, injury, loss or theft during this event.