



# Ak-Chin O'odham Runner



Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXIV, Issue #21

December 4 - 17, 2020

## 2020 Community Council Elections

Ak-Chin Indian Community turned out in record numbers to vote in the 2020 Election, with over 400 voters, including mail-in ballots or 56.22% participating.

And in a new turn of events, will soon swear-in Robert Miguel to serve a second term as Chairman, and newly elected Lemuel Vincent to serve his first term on Council as Vice-Chairman.

Miguel received 213 votes, defeating Chairman candidate Yolanda Narcia-Miranda who garnered 186 votes. Vincent received 201 votes, edging current Vice-Chairman Gabriel

Lopez who received 198 votes.

The election was held on Saturday, November 21, 2020, from 6am – 2pm. The polls were moved to Ak-Chin Recreation Facility, due to the food and supply distribution taking place at the Community Center.

Ak-Chin Election Board members were set up bright and early to welcome voters as safely distanced their way in the gym's northeast entrance. Once they received their ballots they were directed to sanitized voting areas and then pointed to the northwest doors to exit. Those who were physically unable to

exit their vehicles were provided drive-up ballot service with two board members present.

Councilmember Delia Carlyle was set up outside to provide Vekol vouchers and a little Ak-Chin SWAG to all who voted.

“The majority of the membership have spoken and I am honored and thankful for the opportunity to represent my community in the capacity of Chairman once again.” Chairman Miguel commented. “As Council, we will continue to advocate and bring notoriety to the Community as we move forward in providing the

best for the Community.”

“I would like to thank and recognize Gabriel Lopez, Lemuel Vincent and Yolanda Miranda for their efforts and interest in pursuing Tribal Leadership, which is the most rewarding and honorable duty a member can do for their Community and people.” Chairman added.

“Thanks to all membership who came out to vote at this year's election, including all individuals and departments who assisted prior to and during the election...Stay safe during the Holidays.” From the Ak-Chin Election Board.



Community members get out and vote.

### COVID-19 spikes in Maricopa force area schools to go on-line

Schools across the state have been monitoring the spread of COVID-19 cases and with the spread of positive cases and advise from the CDC and health departments, many are taking a strong stand against the virus.

Just over the past week, Maricopa Unified and local charter schools; A+ Charter School and Leading Edge; have sent out letters informing students and families of their intent to close in-person learning and go to online distance learning until January 2021.

Parents and students are encouraged to keep students at home, and self-quarantine, especially if they show signs of illness or have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Parents and students are also urged to monitor incoming emails from their respective schools for assignments and curriculum, attendance, communication and lunch notifications.

#### As of December 1, 2020:

**Maricopa Wells Middle School will temporarily close to in-person learning from the dates of Wednesday, December 2 - Friday, December 18.** Winter Break for students begins on Monday, December 21. Maricopa Wells Middle School will reopen for in-person learning on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

During the temporary in-person closure:

•**Grab and go meals** will be available for pick up between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM at Maricopa Wells Middle School

during this closure. The pick-up location is in the student drop off lane near the cafeteria.

•Maricopa Wells Middle School will provide an **on-site Learning Lab** for students who need a quiet, safe environment to independently engage in their remote classes during the school day. The MWMS Learning Lab is similar to a supervised study hall. **The MWMS Learning Lab will be located in the Maricopa Wells Middle School Cafeteria from 9:10 AM to 4:10 PM beginning Thursday, December 3, through Friday, December 18.** Please call 520-568-7100 to enroll your child in the Learning Lab. If your child needs transportation to the Learning Lab, please let us know during enrollment.

•Students who are not quarantined due to direct exposure may continue to participate in **outside activities**

•**ESS Life Skills students** will receive additional information from teachers regarding the arrangements specific to your child's classroom.

*If you have any questions, please contact the school principal, Mr. Thad Miller, at 520-568-7100.*

**Maricopa High School will temporarily close to in-person learning from the dates of Tuesday, December 1 - Friday, December 18.** Winter Break for students begins on Monday, December 21. Maricopa High School will reopen for in-person learning on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

### Making a Film Festival dream come true



Justine Peters, Johnny Ysaguirre, James Myles White, and Richard Lopez pictured at the Phoenix Film Festival.

Last year, Ak-Chin community member Justine Peters joined a small independent filmmaking crew for the short film, “Nice Shirt”, a 2-minute film about a compliment gone wrong that asks the right questions. Her role was to help with the film's wardrobe and poster.

The film was written and directed by former Ak-Chin photojournalist and Pascua Yaqui Tribal member Juan “Johnny” Ysaguirre. He also chose Tohono O'odham member and current Ak-Chin Preschool employee Richard Lopez for the

cinematographer role.

The three previously worked together when Richard was a temporary employee. “When I left the Runner, in my goodbye email I said I'd still be around, I wanted to keep that promise,” said Johnny. “When I wrote Nice Shirt, I knew Justine and Richie would be able to get me across the finish line because the three of us had worked Wednesday night deadlines together.”

The film was shot last summer in Tempe, Arizona at Redden Park on the campus of Kyrene

—Nice Shirt continues to Page 2

### Arizona officially turns Blue in 2020

Monday, November 30, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed off on the state's election certification, confirming Democratic President-Elect Biden as the winner of Arizona's eleven electoral votes. Reports claim that the minority voters in Arizona were crucial to Biden's win.

Precinct 77, located at the Ak-Chin Community Center had a great turnout of voters, as 333 voters of the 485 registered voters let their votes and voices be counted.

“This included in person voting and Early Ballots. Even the bees couldn't keep voters away from the Service Center.” Councilmember Delia Carlyle shared in reference to the voting and small bee alert at the center. “The majority of the votes were for the Democratic candidates including President-Elect Biden.”



Arizona for Biden Harris Drive-In Mobilization Event, held October 28 at Phoenix Municipal Stadium Parking.

Councilmember Carlyle also served as an Arizona delegate to this year's virtual National Democratic Party's Convention and has been serving as the Inspector for Precinct 77.

She gives “much appreciation to the Fire Department for their assistance with the bees” and wanted to acknowledge Ak-Chin Enrollment staff

“Dorissa Garcia and Vanessa Soliz for their work on the Native Vote Campaign and Marilyn Thompson, Iris Smith, Josefa Lewis and Georgia Corella for their work as poll workers for the precinct.”

“Overall, I truly believe the Native Vote played a huge role in President-Elect Biden's win.” Carlyle added.

Gov. Ducey received some negative feedback from President Trump for the certification, claiming Ducey “betrayed” the people of Arizona for not supporting Trump's allegations that he won the state, although he in fact lost by over 10,000 votes. Ducey's certification, endorses Arizona as Biden-Harris Country.

— School closures continues to Page 3

# Gobble, Gobble the Turkeys have left the Elder Center

Photo by J. Peters

On November 23, Community seniors trotted their way to Ak-Chin Elder Center to grab a complimentary turkey for the upcoming holidays. The Elder Center worked tirelessly throughout the day and happily supplied over 90 turkeys for elders' main course meals.

*R: Elderly Care Workers Sonia Narcia and Marissa Antone help distribute the cold turkeys to elder members.*



## Skeg-Tas Ak-Chin Membership,

Vying for Ak-Chin Chairwoman was a complete success with your genuine support and encouragement. We must continue to support one another on this journey.

To the young people of Ak-Chin the opportunity of leadership is in your hands. Please be encouraged to push beyond your personal limits and continue to pursue your education and set goals to be successful. You have options and opportunities to exceed to your highest realm. I will look forward to supporting you in the race of leadership.

To the elders of our community thank you

for having faith in me. Seriously, my heart and my soul received encouragement during our discussions. I will continue to be a leader and role model for our community as I encourage each and every one of you to engage in the role of leadership to build a brighter tomorrow for our community.

I would like to pay homage to our pass Ak-Chin leaders who have built the foundation of our community and special recognition to our relatives who have gone before us who have contributed to our community.

Special thanks to my family who supported and encouraged me during this monumental time. The out pour



Candidate Yolanda Narcia Miranda visits Virginia Thomas while campaigning.

of support is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten. Please continue to be safe, mask up, protect yourself, and your family. God Bless You All, Yolanda Narcia Miranda Community First!

# Disposing House Hold Hazardous Waste an E-Waste



Clean Harbor Environment Services assist removing and disposing waste.

Ak-Chin Environmental Protection department hosted a day of proper waste disposal, household waste and E-Waste (Electronic Waste). They accepted everything from shampoos to drain cleaners, as these types of typical household items are usually improperly disposed of and damage the environment in various ways. On the morning of November 21st, the EPD staff welcomed everyone who brought in chemicals to be disposed of.

## Nice Shirt continued from Front

Del Norte Elementary school. The movie's lead actor, Jacob Orta, is a professional actor who was living in Mesa, Arizona at the time of filming but has since moved to California to pursue acting full time. In all, the film took about 4-hours to shoot.

James Myles White also was on the crew, he operated the microphone and was hands-on-deck for helping in other departments. Richard ran the entire camera department by himself.

Once the film was wrapped and edited, the poster needed some improvements. Johnny had made a rough draft of the movie poster, but it was subpar. It was Justine's suggestions that helped shape the film's poster into the final version you see today.

"Johnny had sent me text messages asking for options on shirts for the project, looking through selections from a Goodwill, I thought the Blue shirt (the one in the final cut) was the nicest haha." Justine shared. "And as for the

poster we were going for something that would stand out, bold, eye catching colors. Sifting through an array of neon colors, the final pink and green colors felt like it would pop the most."

With the film completed and poster finished, it was time to submit the film to festivals all over the world.

Earlier this year, the film was officially selected by the Phoenix Film Festival. However, due to the pandemic, the festival was delayed until November of this year. In its 20th year, the Phoenix Film Festival is the biggest film festival in the state of Arizona.

On November 13, the world premiere of "Nice Shirt" was played during the 2020 Phoenix Film Festival at Scottsdale Harkins 101. The film was only one of seven films selected for the Native American Directed Shorts Program. In all, the film was played in theaters three times throughout the ten-day festival with Sunday the 15th's showing being nearly sold out.

The crew for Nice Shirt attended the third and final showing on November 19th with plenty of hand sanitizer and face masks. Throughout the festival showcase, the 2-minute film stayed in the top 4 rankings in the Donor's Choice Award for Best Short Film.

"My Mom is childhood friends with Elaine and Burnett" Johnny shares, as Elaine Peters is Justine's mom and Burnett Lopez is Richard's dad. "This

film truly started getting made back in the 70's and 80's when Terri, Elaine and Burnett were all kids hanging out together."

With "Nice Shirt 2" already in the works, it'll only be a matter of time until Terri, Elaine and Burnett's kids are at it again making movie magic. The sequel will bring in long time friend and family member Cecily Peters, who will be helping, joining in as a sound technician.



# December Elder Menu

**4th**  
Spaghetti  
Salad  
Texas Toast  
Apple Salad

**7th**  
Chicken  
Cordon Blue  
Casserole  
Lima Beans  
Mixed  
Vegetables  
Peaches

**8th**  
Ground Beef  
Burritos  
Zucchini  
Cauliflower  
Plums

**9th**  
Pork Green  
Chili Stew Red  
Quinoa  
Wax Beans  
Apple Sauce

**10th**  
15 Bean  
Soup Chicken &  
Vegetables (D)  
White Rice  
Carrots  
Cup Cakes

**11th**  
Philly  
Cheese Steak  
Normandy  
Vegetable  
Cole Slaw  
Grapes

**14th**  
Chili Beans  
Chili Meat (D)  
Normandy  
Vegetable Carrots  
Corn Bread  
Apples  
Oranges

**15th**  
Beef Stew  
W/Vegetables  
Brown Rice  
Moon Bread  
Cherry Crisp

**16th**  
Indian Tacos  
Lettuce  
Tomato  
Cheese Rice  
Pudding

**17th**  
Pork  
Chops  
Mashed Potato  
Green Beans  
Rolls  
Tropical Fruit

**Want to earn a GED**  
**Want to go to college**  
**Want to be a Role Model**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
AT 520 568-1280

Email: Tera Thornton @ TThornton@ak-chin.nsn.us or Call: (520) 568-1280

# REMINDER

The next Runner submission deadline will be

**FRIDAY**  
**DECEMBER 11th**

## \*\*NOTICE\*\*

\*\*Due to the upcoming holidays on:

- Friday, December 18th
- Friday, December 25th
- Friday, January 1st

Trash will be picked up on the Thursday before each of those days.

Also, for those weeks, recycling will be collected on the Wednesdays before each of those days.

Thank you and Happy Holidays, stay safe ~ Sanitation Dept.

# Jose Miguel Jr. competes against AAU

On Friday November 20th, Jose "Baby Jay" Miguel Jr., and his Heritage Heroes Academy basketball team competed against a tough AAU (17U) team out of California.

Jose and his Heritage Heroes Academy team will now be playing at the National Prep level including Open Division (CAA). An exciting up and coming national prep team with a tough schedule ahead, Jose will be competing at a high level.

On behalf of his whole family we would like to wish him and his team good luck this season and congrats on your first academic and athletic offer Baby Jay!!!!



Jose Miguel Jr. about to make a free throw. Story and photo submitted by Jose Miguel, Sr.

## THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS TWO (2) VACANCIES FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM FOR THE AK-CHIN GAMING COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

**Requirements:** Interested individuals who are employed with the community must submit documentation from their Supervisor allowing the employee to serve on the 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 Smith**  
**42507 W. Peters & Nall Road**  
**Maricopa, AZ 85138**

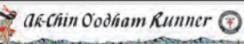


**Deadline to submit letter of interest is Monday, December 21, 2020 by 5pm.**

### ATTENTION Ak-Chin PARENTS and GUARDIANS

If you have a student-athlete from Ak-Chin participating in an upcoming event and would like them to be featured in future editions of the Runner, Please let us know!

Email: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us  
 Phone: (520)-568-1375



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ©2020

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy Maricopa, Arizona 85139

**OFFICE HOURS**

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
 MONDAY - FRIDAY  
 PHONE: 520•568•1375  
 FAX: 520•568•1376  
 E-MAIL: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

**Ak-Chin O'odham Runner**

Editor: Raychel Peters  
 Photojournalist: Justine Peters  
 Graphic Artists: Diana Carlyle and Rebecca Bowen

**Ak-Chin Tribal Council**

Chairman: Robert Miguel  
 Vice Chair: Gabriel Lopez  
 Council Members: Delia Carlyle, Lisa Garcia and Octavio Machado

**Regular Contributors:**

Ak-Chin: Cultural Resources, Education, EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak, Library, Health & Human Services, Recreation & MUSD.

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

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  
 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
 Maricopa, Arizona 85139

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements and wishes may be phoned in, faxed or e-mailed.

**ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES**

The Ak-Chin O'odham Runner is a Community Newspaper and encourages Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos, poems or a great story that you would like to share, please contact us so we can include it in "YOUR" newspaper.

Also, if you have suggestions or comments about "YOUR" newspaper, 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**

2020 Subscription rate is \$33.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$33.75 check/money order to:

Ak-Chin O'odham Runner  
 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
 Maricopa, Arizona 85139

Make check/money order payable to:  
 Ak-Chin Indian Community

**DEADLINE**

Don't forget the DEADLINE for the

December 18 - 31, 2020 issue is due by **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH**

Material submitted after the **DECEMBER 11TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

It was an exciting game as both teams went back and forth on offense. Baby Jay struggled in the first half getting into foul trouble, but came back strong in the 2nd half helping his team to a 78-67 victory, grabbing some key rebounds and getting to the line.

*School closures continued from Front*

During the temporary in-person closure:

•Grab and go meals will be available for pick up between 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM at Maricopa High School during this closure. The window-pick-up location is the Copa Cafe facing the student parking lot.

•Maricopa High School will provide an on-site Learning Lab for students who need a quiet, safe environment to independently engage in their remote classes during the school day. The MHS Learning Lab is similar to a supervised study hall. The MHS Learning Lab will be located at Maricopa High School from 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM beginning Tuesday, December 1, through Friday, December 18. Students may enter the Learning Lab through the student parking lot. If you need transportation to the learning lab, please call 520-568-8100 ext. 4016.

•Students who are not quarantined due to direct exposure may continue to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities.

•ESS Life Skills students will receive additional information from teachers regarding the arrangements specific to your child's classroom.

If you have any questions, please contact school principal, Ms. Deana McNamee, at 520-568-8100.

A+ Charter Schools will continue virtual (online) learning through the remainder of the semester, which ends on Friday, December 18. School will resume in-person on Tuesday, January 5.

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 and the benchmarks, please contact our COVID-19 Liaison, Lauren Gray, at lgray@aplusaz.org.

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa will go to an all school distance learning module until January 4, 2021. Starting

Monday, November 30, please have your student sign into their Google Classroom platform and complete the posted assignments. Every student must additionally answer the attendance question located in the Attendance Class inside their Google Classroom platform to be counted as present. Teachers have already sent out Google Classroom invites which must be accepted by the parent in order to receive curriculum and assignment notifications.

Please email your student's teacher if you have not received the invites.

For more information on COVID-19, including symptoms and treatment, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

**December 2020**

# Ak-Chin Child Development

**Daily Toddler Activities**

**Gross Motor Activities**-Running, jumping, throwing a ball etc. Toddlers should be active at least 3 hours a day.

**Fine Motor Activities and Sensory Play**-Doing jigsaw puzzles, finger painting, stacking blocks, tracing shapes, and tracing shapes. Fine motor activities and sensory play are a great way to help you little one to learn to explore with their hands.

**Music and Dance**-Dance with your child to start the day off right, play or sing your favorite songs throughout the day. Music and dance are not only fun but also an integral part of any child's development.

**Helpful Websites for you and your little ones to Explore**

**Zero to Three**  
<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1514-beyond-twinkle-twinkle-using-music-with-infants-and-toddlers>

**Toddler in Action**  
<https://toddlerinaction.com/easy-no-prep-everyday-math-activities-for-toddlers/>

**Living Life and Learning**  
<https://www.livinglifeandlearning.com/homeschool-toddlers.html>

Did You Know:

## Healthy Food Facts

**Eating Water**  
**How to hydrate your kids through food**

- Watermelon is 92% water
- Pineapples are 86% water
- Cucumbers are 96% water
- Strawberries are 91%water
- Bell peppers are 94% water
- Oranges are 87% water

If you need additional resources about home activities, have questions or concerns or would like to talk to one of our teachers, please call us at 520-568-1700. We are here to help!

*Join us for Transportation to Chandler*

*Every Tuesday in December!*

Transit will be offering free drop off and pick up to and from your home to various popular shopping destinations. Transportation will be held on Tuesdays beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Location	Drop off	Location	Pick up
Target	10:40am	Target	12:40pm
Bed Bath and Beyond	10:43am	Bed bath and Beyond	12:43pm
Chandler Fashion Center	10:47am	Chandler Fashion Center	12:47pm
Hobby Lobby	10:55am	Hobby Lobby	12:55pm
Phoenix Premium Outlets	11:35am	Phoenix Premium Outlets	1:15pm
At Wild horse Pass		At Wild horse Pass	

Transit will provide you with a pickup time when you call to schedule. Times on route are times of pickup and drop-off at the popular destinations, not your home. Must be 15 years or older to ride without a guardian. Must be at designated stop on time or Transit cannot guarantee transportation.

Call up to 7 days in advance to book your seat. Limited seats available for your safety.

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

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

**Reminder:**

**WIC services are still being held via telephone due to COVID-19.**

**If you need to start services or have questions??**

**Call WIC at (520) 562-9698**



COVID-19 Test Dates,  
Flu Vaccines & More!  
Visit [GRHC.ORG/HUB](http://GRHC.ORG/HUB)

## COVID-19 TESTING DATES

AK-CHIN JUSTICE COMPLEX : 45525 W. Farrell Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139

**DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**9 am- 1 pm & 5 pm - 7 pm**

WHO SHOULD GET TESTED? All Ak-Chin members, and those residing within the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries.

## FLU VACCINE (ONLY) CLINICS

**HU HU KAM  
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
Pharmacy Drive Thru**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
8 am - 5 pm

**KOMATKE  
Pharmacy Drive Up**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8 am - 5 pm

**KOMATKE  
Pharmacy Drive Up &  
Shegoi Parking Lot**

December 9<sup>th</sup>  
8 am - 4 pm



FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT CORONAVIRUS, GO TO [GRHC.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](http://GRHC.ORG/CORONAVIRUS)  
OR CALL THE GRHC CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079

**WE CANNOT EASE UP!**

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAY HOME**

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS**

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO GET COVID-19 TESTED**

**LET'S CONTINUE TO BE #GilaRiverStrong**

**THE HUB**  
COVID+FLU Resource Center

For up to date information on available services at GRHC, visit the HUB at [GRHC.ORG/HUB](http://GRHC.ORG/HUB).

**Reminder!**  
Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices & Outpatient Clinics will be

**CLOSED**  
**ON CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**FRIDAY**  
**DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**CLOSED**  
**ON NEW YEARS DAY**  
**FRIDAY**  
**JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

We are here to help. GRHC's normal business hours will resume the following Mondays. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.



**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Capital Projects**

**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON INSTALLATION OF SOLAR LIGHT POLES @ Ak-Chin Circle**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on installation of 18 concrete solar light pole bases and assembly and installation of 18 owner supplied solar light poles. These misc. projects for Design/Construction consists of the following:

A recommended Pre-Bid virtual WEBEX Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 2:00 P.M. (MST) on Dec. 11, 2020 at this meeting is considered highly recommended, and in this meeting the project scope will be discussed and the light pole base specifications will be supplied. For instructions to sign up for this WEBEX pre-bid meeting or if you cannot attend this meeting please reach out to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us. Partial and complete turn-key proposals for either construction of concrete pole bases or solar pole assembly and installation will be accepted.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 2:00 P.M. (MST) on Dec. 18, 2020. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive

Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on Dec 30, 2020 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Proposals received after the specified date and time will be rejected and returned unopened.

This invitation is unrestricted; however, preference will be given to Indian Organizations and Indian Owned Enterprises in accordance to the Community Procurement Procedure. Request for Proposals ("RFP") instruction/information package and related information may be obtained from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Purchasing Office, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested by electronic mail at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner reserves the right to reject, any and all bids. However, the Ak-Chin Indian Community at its discretion may postpone said action for such time as the Tribal Council may designate, as the interest of the Community may require.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.



**\*NOTICE\* 2021 Agricultural Lease Payment**

In compliance with SRPMIC Emergency Declaration Directives for COVID-19, the 2021 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On Friday, January 22, 2021. Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729 (staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time) The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 16, 2020. Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 22, 2021. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 16, 2020.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 22, 2021.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730. \*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon former payments received and cleared through banking institutions by January 4, 2021.

**Online Yoga Schedule for November & December**

December 9th (Wednesday)  
December 16th (Wednesday)

Open to all Ak-Chin Community Members, All Ak-Chin Residents and Employees.  
Please call (520) 568-1080 or email: MVelasco@ak-chin.nsn.us

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS**

As COVID-19 cases continue to have an impact within and outside of our Community. The Ak-Chin Indian Community Incident Management Team (IMT) is here to assist you with supplies and essential items if you are on a COVID-19 related, order to quarantine at home.

**CONTACT BY PHONE OR TEXT MESSAGE 24/7 CHIEF OF POLICE MANUEL GARCIA IMT OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF CONTACT TRACER: (520) 510-9216**

**Pinal County #1 Black History Month Celebration COPA Music Festival**  
1 Night 1 Stage 6 Recording Artist the Experience

Willie Clayton The World's #1 Soul Singer Tribute to AL GREEN AND MORE  
Elaine Stepler Toured with ROSE ROYCE Car Wash Ooh Bay I'm Going Down Wishing On A Star I Wanna Get Next To You Love-Don't Live Here Anymore  
Fel Davis Lead Singer of PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT Yippie Yi Yo - Body Bumpin John Doe - Secret  
Jermaine Lockhart National Saxophonist  
GEMINI OF MEN AT LARGE TRIBUTE to LUTHER VANDROSS

**Saturday, February 20th 2021 - 6pm**  
COPPER SKY  
Outdoor Grass Area  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. - Maricopa AZ  
under 18 admitted free \$20 ticket \$30 at gate an evening of unity for ALL bring your own chair, cooler, blanket - no glass containers, no alcohol we will be in compliance with current AZ COVID outdoor social distancing guidelines  
MARIPOAAEVENTS.COM (312)539-0592

**Rider Appreciation Giveaways**

Ak-Chin Tribal Transit would like to extend a thank you for your support. To show our recognition to our loyal passengers we will be hosting appreciation giveaways.

- To be eligible to receive a ticket you must utilize transit services. Every time a passenger enters the bus they will receive a ticket.
- Winners will be announced in drawings that will be held every Monday
- Prizes may vary Do not need to be present during the drawing to win
- Receipt of a raffle ticket does not guarantee a win
- Prizes will be given to the parent/guardian on the behalf of winners under the age of 18

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

**EMPLOYEE UPDATE**

**DARLENE SMITH-RAIBON**  
Education Division Director



Happy Birthday to my daughter Florinda Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Destinee, Justine, and Zoe, and my grandson Tyler. Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Zoe Zoe Love your Goddaddy and family

To: Mary Narcia, Happy Belated Birthday. May the Creator bless you on your beautiful day. Fr: Brandon Osife

Happy 7th Birthday "FORKSTER" You have definitely grown in the blink of an eye, into the most silly, sassy, outspoken kid, with such an amazing heart. Continue to make us proud. Thanks for being the best of friends. Enjoy, you day baby... Love always, MOM



Happy Birthday to My Angelica You are the most coolest sister to ever have, I'd probably trade you for all the marvel toys around, but I won't. Thanks for always having my back I maybe, just maybe, let you enjoy your day. Love You Patchito. Your cool little brother, Son-Son

**EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS THRU DECEMBER 17th**

12/1 Kimberly Vincent, Transit	12/12 Carlo Moreno, Fire & Safety Dustin Voytoski, EPD
12/2 Lindsey Valles, Fire & Safety	12/13 Morgan Trevino, Law & Order
12/5 Justine Peters, Runner	12/14 Hector Soliz, Sanitation Richard Huff, Courts
12/7 Derek Scheerer, Planning Evelyn Justin, Him Dak Museum	12/15 Lucy Flores, Maintenance
12/9 Florinda Peters, Him Dak Museum Leo Lewis, Maintenance	12/16 Kenneth Kingsland, Retail Maria Carlyle-Zepeda, Finance
12/11 Desirae Antone, Maintenance Guadalupe Gloria, Early Childhood	12/17 Leslie Lewis-Manuel, TGA

**COMMUNITY BIRTHDAYS THRU DECEMBER 17th**

1-Dec Aurora Peters Rebecca Stephens-Rodas Kayla Valisto Raven Vallejos Kendra Smith	5-Dec Drevyn Antone-Silas Erica Trejo Justine Peters	10-Dec Alverna Flores Gloria Narcia Alex Antone	14-Dec Kiandry Jacuinde-Miranda Deborah Baptisto Channel Antone
2-Dec Marcus Peters Clarence Enos Candice Antone Victor Vincent Lindsey Valles Dale Narcia Duane Antone	6-Dec Dena Romo Richard Joaquin, III Virginia Castro	11-Dec Desirae Antone Malinda Pete Guadalupe Gloria Alejandro Maldonado Jr. Andrew Humeyumptewa	15-Dec Janice Perez Angelica Salas-Vargas
3-Dec Arlene Manuel	7-Dec Joseph Manuel Danya Lopez Monica Murrietta Omarion White Evelyn Justin Sarlya Miranda	12-Dec Elvera Stephens Gina Lewis Zoe Gardner	16-Dec Tyler Peters Maria Carlyle-Zepeda Raven Humeyumptewa Lisa Vincent-Carlyle Maxine Antone
4-Dec Analita Laborin Destinee Peters Bren Valisto Valerie Velasquez	8-Dec Xavier White Odelia Stephens	13-Dec Joseph Kaniatobe Phillip Joaquin Tristianna Antone Adeline Thomas Arie Deleon	17-Dec Leslie Lewis-Manuel Lita Yarberry James Compton
	9-Dec Florinda Peters Leo Lewis Corey Allison Angelica Antone Terry Santiago		

**Three Precious Miracles**

Donate \$1 to Three Precious Miracles  
GUESTS WILL RECEIVE A FREE ORNAMENT THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE CENTER

<https://www.facebook.com/AkChinCircle/posts/132920825259545>

THE MISSION OF THREE PRECIOUS MIRACLES IS TO SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN WHO ARE DISPLACED SO THEY CAN PROVIDE A LOVING CARING CULTURALLY SENSITIVE HOME.

## Veterans Day Caravan in Province



Many veterans from Province, including WWII Veteran James Carpenter, came out to support and participate in the safe caravan route.

On Wednesday, November 11, approximately 90 vehicles participated safely in a caravan-style parade to honor and celebrate Veterans Day. It started at Maricopa Unified School District office parking lot and made its way through the gated community of Province.

Once the caravan ended, all veteran participants were given gift bags with items donated from many veteran and local organizations, including Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. To-go breakfast burritos prepared by Helen's Catering were also included, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and VFW. More than 100 gift bags were prepared and given out.

Raffle prizes were also given out to veterans, like gift certificates to IHOP, an art painting done by an Army Veteran, lunch at Agaves, dinner and stay at Harrah's Hotel, and a gift basket from Harrah's.

The event was made possible through the American Legion Auxiliary and its partnership with the Province and Tortosa Communities, VFW, VFW Auxiliary, Blue Star Moms, Harrah's, MUSD and Maricopa PD.



Harrah's employees Rachael Reed - Operational Excellence Manager and Jane Stimmel - Employee Engagement Manager, help with gift bag distributions for the Veterans Day Caravan.

"It was simple, but very nice," said Gabrielle Potter, Ak-Chin Senior Accountant and President of the American Legion Auxiliary. "This was a different way to honor their (Veterans) service. We always do the luncheon and program at Leading Edge, but due to COVID we did it in a safe way...and followed the guidelines of the city. I'm hoping next year we can celebrate in a bigger and better way."

## Chairman Miguel meets with UA President



(L to R): Dr. Robert Robbins, President, University of Arizona and Nathan Esquerra, Senior Vice-President Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement and Chairman Robert Miguel.

On November 3, Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel met with . The three met over lunch at Harrah's Agave restaurant to discuss student recruitment, Ak-Chin's history; farming and water settlement.

Dr. Robbins and the University of Arizona also extended an invitation to Chairman Miguel to speak to the University of Arizona Native American student body on Senior Leadership on Wednesday, December 9th. The presentation would be the first of its kind and the plan is to eventually turn it into a monthly arrangement.

"The meeting was about continuing an open relationship dialogue between the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the University of Arizona in terms of potential recruitment of students, an interest in learning more about the farms, water settlement and other interests of a successful community... the history, culture, tradition, language and people of the community." Chairman Miguel shared.

"I'm excited and honored to be the first to participate in the event. I will share the story of the Ak-Chin people, history, language and overall struggles, obstacles and success of the community and farms."

**AK-CHIN YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Ak-Chin Youth Council would like to invite the community to follow our newly created Facebook and Instagram pages! We will be sharing our "ACYC News" video segments, as well as Youth Council announcements.

We can be found by searching @akchinyouthcouncil.

*Thank you!*

## Chairman visits with Congressman O'Halleran at Southern Dunes



Chairman Robert Miguel meets with Congressman Tom O'Halleran, Jack Johnson Jr., Director of Tribal Engagement 1st Congressional District, and Congressman Tom O'Halleran Chief of Staff Sally Adams.

On October 14, Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel lunched with Congressman Tom O'Halleran, Jack Johnson Jr., Director of Tribal Engagement 1st Congressional District, and Congressman Tom O'Halleran Chief of Staff Sally Adams.

State and Presidential elections. "He met with me in seeking support from the community during his attempt to retain his seat as the United States Representative for Arizona's 1st Congressional District, a position he's held since 2017." Chairman Miguel shared.

Congressman O'Halleran visited with respective tribes in his district; which includes the Ak-Chin Indian Community; at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Course two weeks prior to the

Congressman O'Halleran won his re-election and has since reached out to Chairman Miguel for a follow-up meeting.

**ARROYO GRILLE**  
\$8 PEPPERMINT EGGNOG MARTINI

ARROYO GRILLE AT AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(520) 426 - 6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

**MOVIES AT AK-CHIN CIRCLE**  
Beginning Friday 12/4/20

<b>The Croods A New Age</b> Monday - Friday: 3pm, 5:15pm & 7:45pm Saturday: 12pm, 2:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm & 9:15pm Sunday: 12pm, 2:15pm, 4:30pm & 7:00pm	<b>All My Life</b> Monday - Friday: 3:15pm, 5:30pm & 7:30pm Saturday: 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm, 6:45pm & 8:45pm Sunday: 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm & 6:45pm
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Tickets are available at the Box Office (not online)

**MEET SANTA**  
In The Ak-Chin Circle Lobby

**December 5**  
2PM-4PM

**December 11**  
6PM-8PM

**December 19 & 23**  
5PM-7PM

**Ak-ChinCircle.com**

**Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO** **DECEMBER 2020** **CAESARS REWARDS.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPOTS!</b> THE SPA, THE GIFT SHOP	1. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	2. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	3. BUY 1, GET 1 FREE ON ELECTRONIC PACKAGES IN BINGO	4. REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	5. GIVE THE GIFT OF RELAXATION WITH A SPA TREATMENT	
6. REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	7. SHARE THE EXCITEMENT OF CAESARS REWARDS WITH SOMEONE NEW	8. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	9. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	10. DIP, DIP, HORRAY FOR LOBSTER CRAB DIP!	11. REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	12. HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE. GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY
13. REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	14. FINISH YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE GIFT SHOP.	15. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	16. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	17. GRAB A PIZZA WITH YOUR PARTNER IN FUN	18. REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	19. STOCKING STUFFER TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER
20. REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	21. THE WEATHER COOLED DOWN, BUT TABLE GAMES ARE STILL HOT	22. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	23. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	24. PICK YOUR WINNING NUMBERS AT KENO	25. \$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY! REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	26. WADE INTO PARADISE AT THE HEATED POOL
27. 2020 WRAP UP TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	28. SETTLE INTO A LUXURIOUS GUEST ROOM	29. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	30. MRS. FIELDS® BAKEWARE SET GIVEAWAY	31. NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION	<b>A GRAND NYE CASH SWEEPSTAKES</b> THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020 - NOON - 8PM ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL BE DRAWN EVERY 30 MINUTES FOR \$1,000 IN CASH!	