

Phoenix Suns Charities Donate to Community Sports Program



Above, members of The Phoenix Suns Charity Board, along with Ak-Chin Tribal Council and Recreation staff, stand together for check presentation, November 17.

Story by Raychel Peters, photos by Rebecca Rosoff

On Friday, November 17, the Phoenix Suns Charities Board came out to visit Ak-Chin to present the Community with a \$10,000 check donation, as well as tour some of the departments.

The Phoenix Suns Charity Foundation implemented a program to donate \$10,000 to each of the 22 Tribes in Arizona. The donations are for each Tribe to initiate a sporting

program for kids within their communities.

While in Ak-Chin, the Board met with Ak-Chin Tribal Council before heading over the Ak-Chin Recreation Department, where the check presentation was conducted.

Afterwards, the Board was able to tour a few other departments and meet with key staff who work with our

youth, through recreation and education.

“The tour was organized in correlation with Council and Josh McCann of the Suns Charity staff.” Lemuel Vincent, Ak-Chin Vice-Chairman shared.

“Recreation was chosen for the check presentation due to the programs intended regarding the donation will be

Phoenix Suns continues to Page 5

Ak-Chin Fire Conquers Duel in the Desert Chair Volleyball Tournament



Story by Estrella Reyes-Helpingstine, photos by Raychel Peters

Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation held their Annual Duel in the Desert Employee Tournament Monday, November 20.

A total of 13 teams participated in the tournament. Employees from TGA, Ak-Chin Circle, Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino and several community departments came together to play in a friendly game of chair volleyball against one another.

All participants received free shirts and raffle tickets to enter into the various raffle prizes available.

The grand prize was two pairs of tickets, one for ASU fans and the other for UofA fans, for the annual Territorial Cup Series of ASU vs UofA.

Other prizes such as a canopy, hats, socks, scarves, and water bottles were available to win

as well.

Ak-Chin Fire Department took first place, Him-Dak came second and Harrah’s Ak-Chin was third. The winning team received 4 extra tickets to place in the raffle along with “Champion” hoodies and backpacks.

In addition to taking the tournament, the fire department entertained their fellow

Duel in the Desert continues to Page 3

S-kubjuv Ju:dam place 3rd in Toka



L-R: Emily Antone, Mylaunah Antone, Angelica Antone, Ariel Lopez, Bella Ramon, Ariya Ramon, Nevaeh Marin, Sarah Delma, and Serenity Villegas.

Submitted story and photos continues to Page 3

2023 Diabetes Day Event

Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn



Ak-Chin Health Education held their annual Diabetes Day Event on November 16th, at Ak-Chin Service Center. Although rain was in the forecast, that didn’t stop community families from coming out, sporting their

favorite Arizona college team apparel for the rival walk/run.

Upon arrival guests were registered and pre-registered then given 5 raffle tickets that could be placed in a drawing for U of A or ASU themed

Diabetes Day continues to Page 6

Chairman Miguel Attends DNC Retreat in Tucson

Story and photos submitted



Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel meets Former President Bill Clinton at Liftoff Leadership Retreat, November 4.

On Saturday, November 4, Ak-Chin Chairman, Robert Miguel was invited to attend the Liftoff Leadership Retreat at the Lowes Ventana Canyon

Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Chairman Miguel sat in on discussions which included the upcoming 2024 elections, the Israel–Hamas war, and

DNC Retreat continues to page

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Community enjoys Walk for Gratitude Event

Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn



Ak-Chin Injury Prevention Program hosted its Walk for Gratitude Event on Wednesday, November 29th, at Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, just north of The Elements Event Center.

Older adult members and employees, 55+ were invited to come out and participate in the morning event, which started with a brisk walk around the grassy area before engaging in a wake-up chair yoga session.

Chicken Scratch music, provided by DJ Clay, kept the morning lively as participants enjoyed a modified yoga, waila-style.

Yoga Instructor, Christy Burnette said this was the first time she has done yoga to Chicken Scratch music.

After yoga, elders enjoyed an oatmeal bar with lots of delicious toppings to customize their breakfast.

Everyone who participated received raffle tickets for some great prizes, along with a bag of goodies and produce.

There was also a table set up with orthopedic shoes of all sizes for men and women on-site for anyone who needed them.

Teri De La Cruz, Injury Prevention Specialist shared, "The purpose of the Walk for Gratitude is to encourage our older adults to come out and embrace that they are getting older, but yet to be thankful that they can still be active and mobile.

This event showed that so

many of our community members and employees care, and are grateful to join in on the physical activities that focus on the prevention of injuries and help the body maintain balance through slow movements of the modified yoga and seated positions.

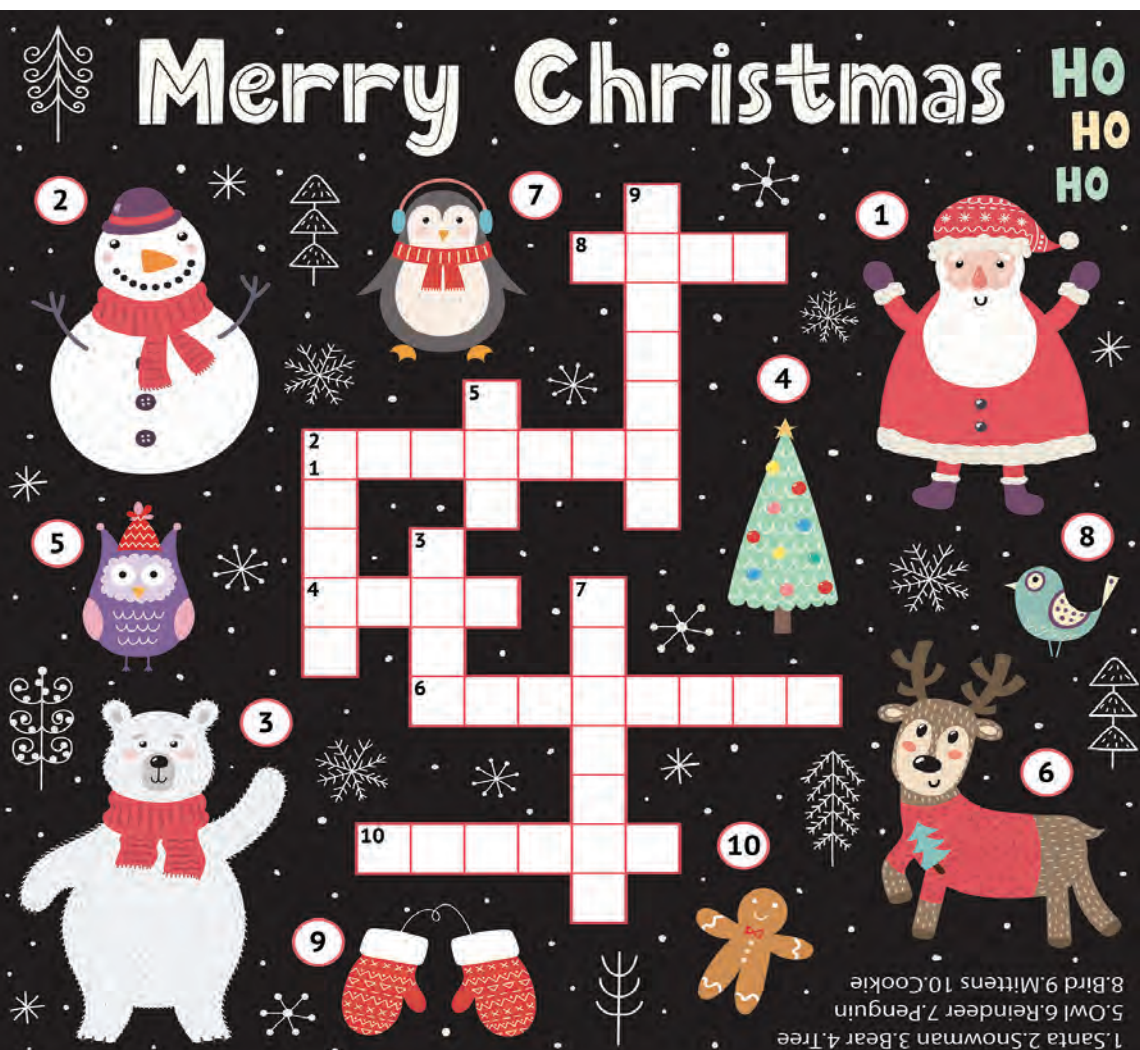
For the Injury Prevention Program, this event was a success for sure!

The Injury Prevention Program will continue to serve the older adult population in their needs and focus on their physical aspects to continue a balanced and enjoyable life."

New sessions of yoga will continue in the new 2024 year. For home assessments and injury prevention questions please contact Teri De La Cruz at 520-568-1087.



Participants enjoy small talk and exercise during the Walk for Gratitude Event. Raffle items pictured above, and orthopedic shoes by Sacred Trail were also distributed to those attending.



Annual Turkey Distribution

Photo by Tyaun Marshburn



Ak-Chin Community and Farm employees were grateful to receive free turkeys again this year, as turkeys were handed out on Friday, November 17th. Ak-Chin Elders also received free turkeys on Monday, November 20th.



Left: Marley Contreras and Yamiyah Montez show their beautiful fall wreaths. Above: Two cute stuffed scarecrow crafts created by Danel Peters and Brittney King.

Story and photos submitted by Brittney King, Him Dak Admin Tech

Him Dak Thanksgiving Craft Class

On Wednesday, November 15, Ak-Chin Him Dak Staff Jeannette and Dannon Peters hosted a crafts class in the Him-Dak Art Building from 4:30-7:00 PM.

10 people were in attendance to enjoy the many crafting Thanksgiving decorations provided. There was a choice of 4 crafts to be made; a kid friendly craft scarecrow that you peel and stick the pieces together, fall wreaths made out of artificial flowers, stuffed scare crow guys and scare crows made out of floppy hats decorated how you want, with straw hair.

Very fun night!



1 Bacon & Eggs, Toast, Avocado Slices, Fresh Fruit & Yogurt / Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Apple/ Orange

4 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potatoes, Toast, Fruit & Muffin | Pozole w/ Hominy, Shredded Cabbage, Rolls, Pears

5 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit w/ Cottage Cheese | Crusted Tilapia or Baked Chicken, Black Beans, Wild Rice, Chocolate/Vanilla Pudding

6 Chorizo & Eggs, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit | Philly Cheese Steak Sub, Normandy Vegetables, Lima Beans, Tropical Fruit

7 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Apples | Spinach Stuffed Chicken, Sweet Potato/ Potato, Brown Rice, Jell-O

8 Veggie Quesadilla, Scrambled Eggs, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit & Yogurt | Christmas Party @ Elements

11 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana | Roasted Chicken, Green Beans, Quinoa w/ Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Peaches

12 Spam & Eggs, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit | Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Corn On a Cob, Apple/Pumpkin Pie

13 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese | Pork Chops, Peas/Carrots, Wild Rice, Fruit Cocktail

14 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrowns, Fruit Salad, Oatmeal Cookie | NO LUNCH

15 MASIK TAS; CENTER CLOSED

Menu subject to change



Newspaper of the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
©2023

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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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
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formatted paragraphs.

Submitted pictures need a
return address and brief
description. Pictures with no
address will remain on file.
Allow 2 weeks for return.

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NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
December 15, 2023 -
January 4, 2024
issue is due by
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes, etc.
no later than
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

Material submitted after the
DECEMBER 8TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.



Duel in the Desert continued from Front
participants and onlookers by dancing to the Electric
Slide and other music.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to
send a special thank you to Chairman Robert Miguel
for being the DJ/Emcee for the night.

Parks and Recreation will be hosting a Masik Task
Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament December 6th,
and we are looking for volunteers to help with line
judging and score keeping. If anyone is interested,
please email Recreation or call 520-568-1740.



Team Him Dak captured 2nd Place.



Harrah's Ak-Chin Winners took home 3rd Place.



Action from the Winner-Take-All Championship
Game between Fire and Him Dak.



Employees wishfully place their raffle tickets in
the boxes of their favorite team's prizes.



Ak-Chin's cutest couple, Maria Carlyle-Zepeda
and Armando Zepeda are also House-Divided.

November 18 & 19, S-kubjuv Judam
toka team traveled to San Lucy, Gila
Bend in the early mornings to participate
in their 2023 Himdag Tas Women's and
Young Women's Tournament.

The first day of tournament began with
a heavy rain, leaving our older women
to play in the muddy fields. This didn't
stop them as they were able to score
and win one of their many games.

The second day of the tournament was
dedicated to the younger women's toka
team, where S-kubjuv Judam's Little
Bears played their hearts out, leading
them to place 3rd in the overall young
women's tournament.

Their prize consisted of a basket filled

S-kubjuv Ju:dam continued from Front
with goodies and toys for the girls and
a cooler filled with juice and water.

San Lucy shared, "It was a good
weekend for toka, hard rain and wind,
everyone played hard. Thank you
for all the teams that came out and
participated, it was a memorable one!
Hope to see more teams come out for
our future events."

Women's Tournament – Saturday
1st place- S-to:ta Okokoi
2nd place- Junhama
3rd place- Sweg A'an

Young Women's Tournament – Sunday
1st- Junhama
2nd- Hemako Ep
3rd- S-kubjuv Judam

For Members & Employees
PLEASE JOIN US FOR

DECEMBER 01, 2023

4:30PM - 5:30PM

**CHRISTMAS
IN THE
VILLAGE**

AT MISSION SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS/ COOKIE DECORATING/
REFRESHMENTS/ HAY RIDE

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

★

PLEASE JOIN US

**CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING
&
COMMUNITY DINNER**

01
 DECEMBER
 - Friday -

at 6:00
 pm

**Milton Paul
Antone
Park**

**Ak-Chin
Gym**

* Tree Lighting at 6:00 p.m. at Milton Paul Antone Park.

* Community Dinner following Tree Lighting at Ak-Chin Gym.

* Special guest appearance by "Santa"

4

December 1 - 14, 2023

Arizona State University partners with Education Empowers to sponsor Ak-Chin for the 2023 FIRST LEGO league



(L toR) Elijah Narcia, Mathew Miranda, Kingston Narcia, Alejandra Mancinas-Pacheco, Erick Merriweather and Anna Prakash

Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn

The Ak-Chin Community Library hosted a Lego League Robotics Program every Saturday from October 28th through December 9th for children in grades 4th – 8th who are eager to explore the realms of science and technology through hands on experience and friendly competition.

FIRST LEGO League is an engineering education outreach program within Arizona State University. As stated on their website “participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today’s

students and teachers build a better future together.”

Education Empowers is a non-profit organization founded by Anna Prakash. Prakash is an engineer, the winner of the Society of Women Engineers Prism award and the Intel Global Hero Volunteer award in 2019. Prakash co-founded Education empowers with her daughter who is a currently an engineering student at Arizona State University.

Alejandra Mancinas-Pacheco is a recent Grand Canyon University graduate and

volunteer with Education Empowers and she has been working side by side with the kids since the beginning of the program with the help of her fiancé. The idea came about when Mancinas-Pacheco’s fiancé, Ak-Chin patrol officer Tristan Martin started working with the community and they had the idea to bring this Robotics opportunity to Ak-Chin.

Prakash collaborates with larger corporations that sponsor underserved and under-represented communities. Prakash reached out to Arizona State University and

they jumped on the opportunity to sponsor Ak-Chin. They supplied the children with all the resources and equipment they needed to prepare for competition.

During the programs the kids built their own obstacle course and code robots to complete the obstacle course. Once all courses are complete

teams do a presentation to a panel of judges about the core values, which are inclusion, collaboration, and team building. The judges then judge each team on how well they work together to complete each task. The competition takes place on December 2nd and is sponsored by Intel. Mancinas-Pacheco says

that they started late and rather than rush the kids they are going to allow them to move at their own pace. They will have a celebration with family to show off what they learned and all their accomplishments. However, next year they would start earlier and definitely compete next year.

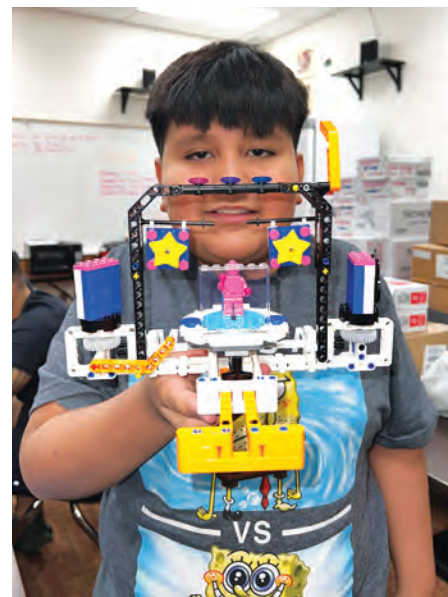


Photo submitted by Alejandra Mancinas-Pacheco



Protect our Elders

Our elders are sacred and deserve the best.

Check in with them and make sure they have the health care coverage they need.

For more information, visit [HealthCare.gov/coverage](https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/), or call 1-800-318-2596.



AK-CHIN MASIK TAS ANNUAL ALL INDIAN MEN’S & WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

December 14-17, 2023

Entry Fee: \$250
Deadline: December 4, 2023

1st-3rd Place T-shirts
Special Award for Championship Team
All-Tourney and MVP Awards

For more information, please contact
Jordan Gusse 520-251-8272 Text
520-568-1754 Call
Email: Recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us

Thanksgiving celebrated at FS561

Submitted by Michael Dudzinski, Ak-Chin Fire Captain

The crew and their families enjoyed a day of visiting and eating at the firehouse. we have a lot to be grateful for and ready for great things to come.

Hope you and your families had a Happy Thanksgiving and a shout out to the Ak Chin Community. Thanks so much for your support.

May God Bless you and your families. May he make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May he give you peace and his special protection.

Ak Chin Fire Department "Proud Past...Strong Future"



Phoenix Suns continued from Front

implemented by the Recreation Department."

The Charity Board was also able to visit with Ak-Chin Early Education Preschool, Him Dak Museum and met with Ak-Chin Language staff, based on their youth programs related to culture and education.

Vice-Chairman shared the Board's comments, "were all very positive... they were touched by the history of the Community, heartfelt understanding of the Community and very appreciative for allowing

them to learn a bit about the Community."

"On behalf of the Community, Council is grateful to the Phoenix Suns Charity for the donation. Gratitude

is also expressed to the foundation for not only recognizing Ak-Chin pertaining to this donation, but to the other 21 Arizona Tribes as well." Vice Chairman Vincent shared.

Phoenix Suns Charities was founded in 1988 with the mission to enhance the lives of children in

need throughout Arizona. Due to the generosity of fans and partners, and underwriting by the team, Phoenix Suns Charities distributes more than \$1.5M annually to hundreds of local diverse communities impacting more than 400,000 children annually. Since its inception, Phoenix Suns Charities has donated more than \$41M to worthy Arizona organizations focusing on programs that support basketball & recreation, education & career development, and healthcare.



The Phoenix Suns Gorilla was spotted in and about the Community, as shown here assisting at the Farm and Recreation offices. He was even spotted trying to put one of the Community turkeys in his ride. This guy!



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

NOTICE 2024 Agricultural Lease Payment

The 2024 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 19, 2024**, 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 11, 2023.
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 19, 2024. 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 11, 2023.

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 19, 2024.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.

*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon former payments received by January 2, 2024.



Ak-Chin Indian Community Request for Proposal Facility Grounds Maintenance Service Provider Landscape Services

The Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Community"), located in Pinal County, near the City of Maricopa, Arizona, is seeking a contractor to provide Facility Grounds Maintenance Service for regular weekly landscape services at various locations on the Reservation. Landscape services shall consist of completing regularly scheduled program for maintaining the health and appearance of the landscaping and plantings.

Project Areas

Ak-Chin Circle - 16000 North Maricopa Road

- Ak-Chin Circle Roads – Tobi Road, Ak-Chin Parkway, Sudagi Road and Narcia Road, includes bus shelters
- Ak-Chin Circle Field – 20-acre turf area north of the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center
- Ak-Chin Circle decomposed granite (DG) Pathways
- Ak-Chin Circle stormwater Retention Basin #1 located south of Farrell Road
- Ak-Chin Circle stormwater Retention Basin #2 located west of the Central Plant and south of Ak-Chin Parkway

Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center - 16000 North Maricopa Road

- parking lots
- Amphitheatre
- hardscape areas

Ak-Chin Central Plant - 15960 N. Narcia Street

Santa Cruz Commerce Center

- Santa Cruz Commerce Center Roads – Murphy, Carlyle, Miguel and Antone Roads
- Mesquite Building - 12501 N. Murphy Road

Scope of Work

The selected professional landscaping firm is expected to have a minimum of three (3) employees on site for forty (40) hours a week, Monday - Friday performing these following maintenance services:

Turf Maintenance

- Lawns mowed at appropriate height to keep neat appearance weekly
- Clippings removed from job site by end of each visit
- Edging and trimming along curbs, pathways, bet edges and plants
- Well-balanced fertilizer to be used to maintain green color
- Trash and debris removal from job site by end of each visit

Tree and Shrub Maintenance

- All plants, shrubs and trees to be pruned in manner to provide neat natural appearance
- Dead plants shall be removed and plant material to be replaced
- All plant materials will be fertilized
- All pruning debris disposal is the responsibility of the Contractor

Ground Covering & Beds

- Open ground between plants shall be kept weed-free using mechanical or chemical methods
- Groundcovers to be fertilized
- Litter and debris to be removed from the site at the end of each visit
- Soil surfaces to be raked smooth regularly

Irrigation Services

- Contractor shall provide expertise and all labor to water all plantings as required. Contractor shall inspect, test and insure proper timeclock operations. This includes monitoring the irrigation sprinkler system to ensure that watering times are properly set to maximize the health of the landscape plantings. Care is to be taken to not waste water by over irrigation. Broken irrigation fixtures to be routinely replaced.
- The Contractor shall present repair and maintenance recommendations to replace and repair timeclocks, related valves and irrigation components in a timely basis.
- Other Services
- Monthly review with Owner
- Overseeding of lawn areas

A Mandatory Prebid Walkthrough is scheduled for: December 6, 2024 at 9:00 A.M., at the Ak-Chin Central Plant, 15960 N. Narcia Street, Maricopa, AZ 85139. The complete RFP package will be available at that time.

The deadline for submitting proposals is December 22 at 3:00 P.M. (MST).

The "Contract" will be for a term of no more than 3-years.

Questions should be directed to Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager, Ak-Chin Indian Community Finance Department, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested via email, at fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

Celebrating ASU Law's 56 Years of Commitment to Indian Country



Chairman Robert Miguel, Gila River Governor Stephen Lewis, and President Martin Havier.

Arizona State University recently celebrated 56 years of providing law curriculum opportunities for students during a banquet at the Gila River Indian Community Wild Horse Pass & Casino on Friday, November 10. Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel was attendance, representing the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community was recognized during the event for their endowment fund to help support the Indian Law Program (ILP) annual graduation, a national conference and student scholarships. Because of this support by Ak-Chin, the law school named the conference room at the law facility, the Ak-Chin Indian Community Conference Center.

Other tribes recognized for their contribution to ILP were; Navajo Nation, Salt

River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

"The community is excited in supporting young higher education students in legal training, which will not only benefit their professional careers in Indian Law, but all law in general," Chairman Miguel said. "Throughout the decades, we've seen an abundance of students who've taken an interest in law, the future looks bright!"

The event hosted and celebrated faculty, alumni and current students in the program at ASU. Alumni who the community has an association with, are; Charles "Charlie" Galbraith and Krystalyn Kinsel, both of whom are employed with Ak-Chin's Washington D.C. Counsel, Jenner & Block.



Team University of Arizona vs. Team Arizona State University

items or gift cards. There were also rain ponchos, stickers with ASU and U of A logos and light up jewelry for all to grab and go for their walk.

Those who managed to get there early and finish didn't get too much rain, but those who came later got pretty soaked if they didn't have a rain poncho on.

Prizes included a wallet with \$15 gift card, Bluetooth speaker with \$15 gift card, cross body bag and earrings, bucket hat, automobile license plate and sticker and \$30 gift cards to Scheels, Dick's Sporting Goods, Michaels, Amazon, Salad and Go, Frys and Ross.

This year Health Education held a scavenger hunt for all participates to complete after the walk/run. The questions

were are all centered around diabetes; like how to manage it and how to identify signs you may have diabetes. The answers were in presentations, posters and diagrams spread throughout the service center. My favorite part was the A1C interactive model that displayed healthy A1C and blood glucose levels on one side and once you flipped the other side it showed unhealthy glucose levels. As a visual person it put in perspective the effects of high blood sugar.

For the scavenger hunt there were 2 prizes a 6 QT cook & carry crockpot and a gourmia 6 QT air fryer, the lucky winners of those prizes were Kimberlee Joaquin and Alexandria Sanchez.

Going along with the healthy theme, dinner which was

chicken, green beans, fruit and a roll, provided by Vekol Market.

Ak-Chin Health Education Department would like to thank the Ak-Chin Public Works/Sanitation, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Police Department, GIS Department, Runner Staff, Vekol Market, Waylon Antone, DJ Clayton Antone, our temp workers Armonda Santiago and Lusan Enos, and last but not least... all of the attendees!

"Thank you for enduring the rain and weather to come spend the evening with us. We all hope you enjoyed the walk, scavenger hunt, prizes, food, and t-shirts. We appreciate your continued participation in our events. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next event, the 2024 New Year's 5K."



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY SANITATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- 12/1 - Trash Pick Up
- 12/4 - Trash Pick Up
- 12/7 - Recycling Pick Up
- 12/8 - Trash Pick Up
- 12/11 - Trash Pick Up
- 12/14 - Trash/Recycling Pick Up
- 12/15 - No Pick Up



Transit will be providing free transportation for

MASIK TAS

Thursday December 14th from 4:30pm to 8:30pm
Friday December 15th from 12:00pm to 12:00am
Saturday December 16th from 10:00am to 11:00pm
Sunday December 17th from 10:00am to 9:00pm

This transportation is On Demand from your residence to any event in Masik Tas. Please call in advance for transportation, rides are first come first serve and reservations are highly recommended

PLEASE CALL TRANSIT TO SCHEDULE

520-568-1630



Senator Jon Tester and Chairman Robert Miguel

the potential government shut down.

During the retreat, Chairman Miguel; who was the only tribal leader to attend the event; was able to meet and have a brief discussion with former President Bill Clinton, who was a guest of Senator Mark Kelly.

"My conversation with President Clinton was a great opportunity to highlight the 22 tribes in Arizona, especially the Ak-Chin Indian Community."I thanked him for his service as President of the United States and for his work in supporting the efforts and needs of Indian Country."

Chairman Miguel also had the opportunity to meet with Montana Senator, Jon Tester before his departure. "Senator Tester and I have this ongoing discussion every time we see each other about the socks story.

It's funny how we remember each other in that way, but however we can connect with one another is all that matters, even if it involves a sock."

Also joining the discussions were Senators; Laphonza Butler (California), Mark Kelly (Arizona), Alex Padilla (California), Jacky Rosen (Nevada), Jon Tester (Montana), and Congresswoman Gabby Giffords (Arizona).



Chairman Robert Miguel and Congresswoman Gabby Giffords



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079

GRHC.ORG



Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.

VACCINES AVAILABLE

Scan Here



COVID-19, Flu, and RSV Vaccines are available in the Primary Care Departments at Gila River Health Care locations by walk-in and routine appointments during regular clinic hours.

If you have questions, please call Gila River Health Care at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495.

Please refer to the calendar of events for updates GRHC.ORG/FLU.

Stay Safe This Holiday Season

HERE'S HOW TO STAY SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

- **WEAR A MASK** - one mask fights all three viruses! COVID-19, RSV, & FLU
- **PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL EVENTS** as much as possible during the holidays to limit contact with others
- **AVOID CROWDED PLACES** or mixing with a lot of different people, especially if you don't know their vaccination status
- **PHYSICAL DISTANCE** as often as possible to reduce transmission of COVID-19, RSV, and Flu
- **WASH YOUR HANDS** before eating and as often as possible
- **AVOID ATTENDING** any in-person celebration if you or someone in your household is **SICK**

GETTING VACCINATED, wearing a mask, and being up-to-date with your vaccines are the best ways to prevent COVID-19, RSV, and Flu transmission. Keep your family and friends safe this holiday season.

IMPORTANT:

Don't participate in any activity if your household is under quarantine, you are a positive case, or you are ill or are not feeling well!

Holiday Closure Reminder!

Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

CLOSED

Monday

December 25, 2023

Monday

January 1, 2024

If you need assistance or more information on services open, call Gila River Health Care's main line (520) 562-3321. Regular business hours will resume the Tuesday after each holiday. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Visit the grhc.org/hub to view our upcoming health events.



Scan me!



A Salute to Gila River Health Care Veterans

A Salute to Gila River Health Care Veterans!

Scan Here



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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



JOB OPENINGS

Compensation Analyst

Custodian

Deputy Clerk I

Detention Officer (non-certified)

Plant Electrician

Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician

Police Officer (certified and non-certified)

Ranger

Security Guard (9)

To review the full job description and apply visit www.ak-chin.nsn.us, Job Openings, and apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date.

Great benefits

Health Insurance (medical/dental/vision), Vacation/Personal Sick leave, 14 Holidays, 401K

AK-CHIN MASIK TAS SONGIVUL TOURNAMENT

December 3, 2023

CHECK-IN: 7 AM
GAMES START: 8 AM
RAIN OR SHINE

PRE- AND ON-SITE
REGISTRATION WILL BE
AVAILABLE UNTIL CHECK
IN TIME DECEMBER 3RD

CONTACT THE AK-CHIN YOUTH COUNCIL
REGISTRATION:
520-568-1044
jdavis2@ak-chin.nsn.us

The Ak-Chin Indian Community will not be responsible for any damages, accidents, or injuries resulting from participation in this event.

THE AK-CHIN YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTS

Masik Tas Community Celebration

December 10, 2023
1-9 PM Old Vaila Site

DANCE CONTEST POPOVER CONTEST
WOOD CHOPPING CONTEST MENUDO CONTEST

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE YOUTH COUNCIL
520-569-1044 JDAVIS2@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

THE AK-CHIN YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTS

AK-CHIN MASIK TAS CHUDTH

December 13 | Old Vaila Site | 6 - 8 PM

Come out and join us for an evening of singing and dancing to celebrate the Ak-Chin Indian Community's Birthday!

DRESS WARM | BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS | REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Any questions reach out to the Youth Council
(520)568-1044 jdavis2@ak-chin.nsn.us

Masik Tas Celebration Event Schedule

Registration Opens - 1 PM

Wood Chopping Contest - 2 PM

Popover Contest - 3 PM

Menudo Registration/Dropoff 4:00 - 4:30 PM

Menudo Tasting - 5 PM

Dance Contest - 6 PM

Dance Contest Info:

Youth and Adult Categories

Vaila (One Step), Chote (Two Step), and Cumbia Categories

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Prizes for Contests

All registration will be done on site!

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAY 12/1 - 12/14/23

DEC 1 Kimberly Vincent, <i>Transit</i>	DEC 8 Larry Joe, <i>Capital Projects</i> Francesco Betro, <i>Fire & Safety</i>	DEC 12 Carlo Moreno, <i>Fire & Safety</i>
DEC 2 Lindsey Valles, <i>Fire & Safety</i>	DEC 9 Florinda Peters, <i>Him Dak Museum</i>	DEC 13 Morgan Trevino, <i>Law & Order</i>
DEC 3 Anthony Quintero, <i>Retail</i>	DEC 11 Desirae Antone, <i>Maintenance</i> Guadalupe Gloria, <i>Early Childhood</i> Damascus Francisco, <i>Planning</i>	DEC 14 Hector Soliz, <i>Sanitation</i>
DEC 7 Evelyn Justin, <i>Him Dak Museum</i> Roberto Palanti, <i>Maintenance</i>		

Wishes

Happy Holidays from the staff at the Runner!

Happy Birthday to my daughter
Florinda
Love,
Mom

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters
Aurora, Destinee, Justine and Zoe and my grandson Marcus
Love,
Grandma

Happy Birthday ZoeZoe
Love,
Goddaddy and family

Happy Birthday Marcus
Love,
Your family

December Birthdays

12/01 Kayla Valisto Aurora Peters Raven Vallejos Kendra Smith Rebecca Stephens-Rodas	12/08 Odelia Stephens Xavier White	12/16 Lisa Vincent Raven Humeyumtew Maria Carlyle-Zepeda Tyler Peters Maxine Antone Ba'n Sehongva' Jose	12/24 Velacita Lopez David Peters Jr. Kyle Peters
12/02 Victor Vincent Lindsey Valles Duane Antone Clarence Enos Candice Antone Marcus Peters Dale Narcia	12/09 Corey Allison Angelica Antone Leo Lewis Jr. Terry Santiago Virginia Castro Florinda Peters	12/17 Lita Yarberry Leslie Lewis-Manuel James Compton	12/25 Serenity Villegas Arrow Santiago David Manuel Sr. Danny Vincent
12/03 Arlene Manuel	12/10 Alverna Flores Gloria Narcia Alex Antone	12/18 Justin Humeyumtewa Ralston Justin Sarina Smith Bianca Valenzuela Josie Hernandez	12/26 Andrew Pinheiro Angela Trenado
12/04 Valerie Velasquez Archer Anderson Analita Laborin Bren Valisto Destinee Peters	12/11 Desirae Antone Malinda Pete Guadalupe Gloria Alejandro Maldonado Jr. Andrew Humeyumtewa	12/19 Manuel Peters	12/27 Erica Oliver Orlando Lewis
12/05 Justine Peters Erica Trejo Drevyn Silas-Antone	12/12 Elvera Stephens Gina Lewis Zoe Gardner	12/20 Lanna Lewis Collette Susunkewa Roni Zappia	12/28 Javier Zepeda Bernadina Gonzalez Julianna Orona Sabrina Sam Jersey Peters
12/06 Dena Romo Richard Joaquin	12/13 Joseph Kaniatobe Phillip Joaquin Tristianna Antone Adeline Thomas Arie Deleon	12/21 Adrian Romo Elijah Narcia Aiden Peters Eileen Pinheiro	12/29 Abel Lewis Kathleen Miguel Aubrey Lozano
12/07 Sarlya Miranda Evelyn Justin Omarion White Joseph Manuel Monica Murrietta Danya Lopez	12/14 Kiandry Jacuinde-Miranda Channel Antone	12/22 Volincia Pablo Manuel Rodriguez Izik Antone Candida Upton Nicolas Olivas	12/30 Renita Montero-Zamudio Christopher Lewis Bernadette Carra Lee Miguel II
	12/15 Angelica Salas-Vargas Janice Perez	12/23 Yyondrez Antone Bartholomew Smith	12/31 Mercedes Rivera-Lopez

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Proudly Presents Theresa Caputo Live! The Experience

Submitted



(MARICOPA, Ariz.– Sept. 13, 2023)– Theresa Caputo, New York Times best-selling author also known as the Long Island Medium, is bringing her Spirit-sensing experience to The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024.

Returning to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino to share personal stories about her life, explain her gift, and deliver healing messages to audience members, Caputo will delight her fans in an up-close-and-personal

experience.

"I've been seeing, feeling, and sensing Spirit since I was four years old, but it wasn't until I was in my twenties that I learned to communicate with souls in Heaven," says Caputo, according to her website. "When I accepted my gift, I wanted to use it to deliver healing messages that would help people learn, grow, and embrace life."

In addition to her reality show Long Island Medium, Caputo has authored

four books and channels the souls of those who have passed in her podcast, HEY SPIRIT!.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino proudly presents:

Theresa Caputo Live! The Experience

Date: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024

Doors: 7 p.m.

Show Time: 8 p.m.

Location: The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

Tickets: \$119.50; \$84.50; \$69.50

RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA

AK-CHIN Southern Dunes GOLF CLUB
Experience Tucson Golf

2024 PURE GOLF PERKS COPA CARD INDIVIDUAL \$199*
EARLY BIRDS SAVE \$30!

10 DAILY RANGE PASSES
DISCOUNTED GREEN FEES
3+ DAY ADVANCED RESERVATIONS
ARROYO GRILLE & GOLF SHOP DISCOUNTS
\$20 DAILY PRACTICE FACILITY PASS
DISCOUNTED LESSONS & RENTAL CLUBS

*Reservations required. Open to members only. Not valid for corporate or group bookings. Offer expires 12/31/23.

520.426.6827
AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM

ARROYO GRILLE
A Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Restaurant

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

DECEMBER THE \$8 BEFORE 8
EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST 2 EGGS W/CHOICE OF POTATO & PROTEIN

*Must present coupon to receive. Not valid with daily or happy hour specials. Not valid after 8am. Cannot be combined with other specials or offers. Does not include alcohol. Offer requires per table. See sign for details. Valid for one visit only. Non-transferable. Offer expires 12/31/23.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

Midland

at The Ak-Chin Circle Amphitheater Gates Open at 5pm

FREE SHOW
Fri. December 15 | 7PM - 10PM

Ak-Chin Circle
Ak-ChinCircle.com

MASKED
THE PHOENIX HOT CHOCOLATE RUN

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

SPONSOR A RUN SERIES

FEATURED RUN #2:
PHOENIX HOT CHOCOLATE RUN
DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 7:25 AM

HOT Chocolate RUN

Sweet! 23-24 SWAG

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN PHOENIX HOT CHOCOLATE RUN? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION WILL SPONSOR 30 INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IN-PERSON EVENT.

DETAILS:
PHOENIX HOT CHOCOLATE RUN WINDS THROUGH THE STREETS OF DOWNTOWN PHOENIX.

DECEMBER 17TH IS RACE DAY! THE RACE BEGINS AT 7:25AM

PLEASE CONTACT HEALTH EDUCATION FOR A REGISTRATION WEBSITE/INSTRUCTIONS AND GROUP CODE. EVENT IS OPEN TO AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AK-CHIN RESIDENTS, AND AK-CHIN EMPLOYEES.

****TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED TO THE EVENT. PROOF OF PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED. NO SHOW INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR FUTURE AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION SPONSOR A RUN SERIES EVENTS.****

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT MARTINA PETERS AT (520)568-1085 OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO

December 2023

CAESARS REWARDS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT OR REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2023 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS - 8AM - 11:59PM WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 29 th ANNIVERSARY AND INVITING YOU TO PLAY AND EARN THE HIGHEST MULTIPLIER EVER!					
	CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S 2024 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 \$30,000 CASH GIVEAWAY • HOT SEATS PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER			LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS		



Ak-Chin Indian Community

2023 MASIK TAS CELEBRATION

LIGHT PARADE

Saturday, December 9, 2023
Starting at 7:00 PM

FREE CARNIVAL

December 15 - 17
2023

Food & Craft Vendors Wanted
For questions, information and
application/registration submittals

Email: AllEventsStaff@ak-chin.nsn.us

RODEO EVENTS *Everyone welcome*

Ak-Chin Circle Arena 16000 N. Maricopa Rd.



ROPING Thursday December 14th

BOOKS OPEN
AT 9AM

1ST ROPING:

#9 Pick 1 Draw 2 for \$150.00
Enter 2Xs Capped at a 5+

2ND ROPING:

#11 Pick 1 Draw 2 for \$150.00
Enter 2Xs Capped at a 6+

3RD ROPING:

Cowboy Draw
Draw 3 for \$150.00 Enter: 2Xs

All Ropings are 3-steer
Progressive After 1
100% Payback



Flaggers Decision Final (MANAGEMENT MAY CHANGE ANY ROPING)

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

JR. RODEO Friday December 15th at 9am

ENTRY CATEGORIES:

5 YEARS & UNDER

Sheep Riding (limit 20)
Dummy Roping (limit 20)
Stick Horse Race (limit 20)
Stick Horse Barrels (limit 20)
Entry Fee: \$30

6-9 YEARS OLD

Calf Riding (limit 20)
Ribbon Roping (1x) (limit 20)
Barrel Racing (limit 20)
Goat Tail Pull (limit 20)
Entry Fee: \$35

10-13 YEARS OLD

Steer Riding (limit 20)
Ribbon Roping (1x) (limit 20)
Barrel Racing (limit 20)
Breakaway (limit 20)
Team Roping 2X (limit 20)
Entry Fee: \$40

14-17 YEARS OLD

Bull Riding (limit 20)
Ribbon Roping (limit 20)
Barrel Racing (limit 20)
Breakaway (limit 20)
Team Roping 2x (limit 20)
Entry Fee: \$45



Buckles & Jacket
to All-Around
(6-9, 10-13, 14-17)

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. 100% Payback

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

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted.

Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2023 Rodeo

**No personal checks accepted.

*MAIL-IN & WALK IN ENTRIES ACCEPTED
SEE INFORMATION BELOW

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



BULL BASH Friday December 15th at 4pm

Events

Open Bull Bash (limit 30)

Fee

\$200

Added \$

\$500

Open Novice Bull Riding (limit 10)

\$150

\$500

Open Women's Steer Riding (limit 10)

\$75

\$500

ONE TIME ADMIN FEE
OF \$30 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.
Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please
make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2023 Rodeo
**No personal checks accepted 100% Payback

*MAIL-IN & WALK IN ENTRIES ACCEPTED
SEE INFORMATION BELOW

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

OPEN WILD HORSE RACE December 16th & 17th

\$500 per Team | 18 Team Limit



ONE TIME ADMIN FEE OF \$30
PER CONTESTANT

No phone entries, no refunds.

Contact Delbert White:

dwhite@ak-chin.nsn.us or 520-414-5515

All teams must be paid up by 11am Saturday, December 16, 2023

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

On-site: December 16, 2023: Books Open 8am-11am **Books
open until event is filled; Late fee of \$20 per contestant
after December 9, 2023**Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers
Check accepted. No Personal Checks accepted**Please
make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2023 Rodeo

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

*MAIL-IN & WALK IN ENTRIES ACCEPTED
SEE INFORMATION BELOW

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

OPEN RODEO December 16th & 17th

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Performances on Saturday & Sunday at 12pm
Slack at 8am (if needed)

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make
payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2023 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 9, 2023.

*MAIL-IN & WALK IN ENTRIES ACCEPTED
SEE INFORMATION BELOW

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

*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 one highest placing money won in Team Roping will count toward All-Around. Must be 18 years old to participate! One time Admin Fee of \$30 per contestant. Team Ropers must pay for full team in ONE envelope with separate entry forms. All payments must include Rodeo Entry Form.

Events

Bareback (limit 20)

Fee

\$150

Added \$

\$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 40)

\$150

\$1000

Ladies Team Roping (2Xs) (limit 50)

\$300/Team

\$2000

Team Roping (2X) (limit 100)

\$300/Team

\$2000

Century Team Roping (2Xs)* (limit 50)

\$300/Team

\$2000

4 Tribes Team Roping (2Xs)*

\$300/Team

\$2000



Buckles to each
event winner!

\$15,000
ADDED
MONEY

100% Payback

MANDATORY CHECK-IN

All contestants must sign a
waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS



Artwork by Joe Smith

EMAIL: AllEventsStaff@ak-chin.nsn.us

Follow us on Facebook @AkChinIndianCommunity

masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us