



# Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

Merry Christmas!

Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVI, Issue 23

December 16, 2022 - January 5, 2023

## 15th Annual Ak-Chin Masik Tas begins with spiritual and traditional events

Story by R. Peters



Above, runners gather at the Old Vaila Site after completing their spiritual run on December 3. Photo by Gabe Lopez

Over the first weekend of December, Ak-Chin Indian Community kicked off the 2022 Masik Tas "birthday" celebration, with a spiritual run and traditional games.

Saturday, December 3, 2022, the Ak-Chin Youth Council organized a spiritual run. The cold and rainy day did not keep the runners at bay, as eighteen came out to participate. Before the run, a meeting was held for all interested participants to share the significance and responsibilities involved for the spiritual runner.

"The main purpose for the run was to bless the grounds of the Community, and to carry prayers on behalf of everyone in the Community." Joseph Davis, Ak-Chin Youth Council Coordinator shared.

They met up before sunrise to start off the relay-style run, which was about 10 miles long, staggered along the route

every ¼ mile. Some runners opted to run longer distances, and took breaks when needed. The route started at White and Parker/Peters and Nall Roads and ended at the Old Vaila Site. Runners were provided breakfast and Gabriel Lopez provided a blessing, fanning off each runner before they began their journey.

Once the runners made their way to the finish, they walked around in a closing circle. "Words of encouragement and gratitude for the participants were shared by myself, and Mr. Lopez." said Joseph. "We also asked Antonio "Gohk" Davis to share some words with everyone. After the final blessing, each runner was given a shell necklace adorned with the Ak-Chin Tribal Seal, courtesy of the Language Department."

The rain on Saturday, flooded the fields which were prepped for the Songivu'l and Toka

games, set up south of the Ak-Chin Recreation and east of the Ak-Chin Cultural and Language building, but it did not stop the five young men, ten women's teams and their fans from coming out.

Participants came from near and far to enjoy a day of traditional games. Those coming from down south were delayed due to the roads and washes flooding over.

The Songivu'l games were set up on a 150-foot path lined with two cones on opposite ends, representing the starting point and halfway point.

"The main objective of the game is fairly simple." Joseph began, "the songivu'l (game piece) is a wooden ball roughly the size of a baseball or tennis ball. The songivu'l is kicked or flicked by the player while they run from the starting cone, all the way to the second cone. The player and songivu'l then

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## Harrah's Ak-Chin participated in the 2022 Arizona Native Edible Experience

Submitted by Erica Oliver, HDS Manager

On November 19, 2022 during the Arizona Native Edible Experience, indigenous chefs throughout Arizona showed up to share their dishes, incorporating an ancestral ingredient in a contemporary dish. Chefs Doug and Andrew participated, representing both the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and the Ak-Chin Indian Community. Chefs Doug and Andrew are graduates of the Harrah's Development System (HDS), which is a program designed to develop leaders within the Ak-Chin Indian Community by offering job skills training and leadership development opportunities to selected Ak-Chin tribal members for the purpose of acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for management or key positions within Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.



Sous Chef, Douglas Pablo (left) and Chef Tournant, Andrew Humeyumptewa (right) pictured with Miss Indian Arizona and second runner-up at the experience.

The dish provided by Chefs Doug and Andrew was a succotash with a prickly pear barbecued quail leg. Guests, and even fellow chefs visited their table, returning for seconds, expressing

how delicious their dish was. At the end of the night, Doug and Andrew received well-deserved compliments and spotlights. The staff let the chefs know their dish was a hit!

Both chefs did a great job identifying their ancestral ingredients, incorporating other ingredients to make a beautifully plated and tasty dish.

## Community Christmas Events

Story and photos by Runner Staff

As the Christmas season brings a sense of warmth and cheer over the community, families and friends gather to enjoy all the holiday festivities the Ak-Chin community very graciously provides. Two Christmas events were happening on the very special night of December 1st.

Christmas in the Village had events for kids of all ages, at the Him-Dak art building. Children started by grabbing a cup of hot cocoa topped with marshmallows to keep them warm while they decorated colorful Christmas cookies.

Once they were done they were able to write Christmas wishes on their way to the crafts room. There were also Christmas movies and music playing in the background. The fun didn't end as the children took a hayride to Milton Paul Antone Park where they met Santa for the tree lighting ceremony.

8-year-old Serenity said the hay ride was her, "favorite" part because it was different from riding in a normal car. The children and their families joined other members of the community to enjoy dinner and take photos with Santa.



These young ladies are all smiles with Santa during his visit to the Ak-Chin Community on December 1.

Community Christmas continues to page 5

## Antonio Rodriguez takes the lead in Buddy the Elf school musical

Photo by J. Peters



Antonio Rodriguez as Buddy the Elf

On Tuesday December 8th, Maricopa Legacy Traditional School Junior High Musical Theater presented their rendition of "Elf Jr. The Musical", giving a fun and light hearted musical version of the hit movie Elf, starring Will Ferrell.

Antonio was chosen to play the lead of Buddy the Elf for this project.

This being his first lead role in a school musical, Antonio was very excited and determined to make this his best performance of the year 2022.

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# Community Elders gather for Christmas meal

Story and photos by T. Marshburn



The Ak-Chin Elder Christmas party has always been a grand event and this year was no different.

On December 8, 2022, after two very difficult years of living through isolation, and the loss of precious loved ones due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ak-Chin Elders had their first holiday gathering.

Since Covid, Ak-Chin Elder staff have been very mindful in maintaining a safe environment by keeping gatherings to a

minimum. Even though it was held on a smaller scale, staff and elders in attendance were happy about the turn out.

Director, Leslie Carlyle-Burnett welcomed the elders, "What a pleasure it is to see all of you. It has been a long time coming. This is the first time we have had a gathering since the Covid-19 pandemic."

Staff shared that post-Covid they have not had many elders return to the elder center and they miss seeing their faces,

as staff says they went from seeing about 20 elders a day to about 6. So, it was extremely welcoming to see a total of 30 elders at the Christmas gathering.

The gathering was held at the Ak-Chin Circle Elements ballroom where the elders watched the movie *Home Alone* and shared a meal that included, beef tips, BBQ chicken, salad, seasoned potatoes, and wild rice.

Leslie also shared how thankful

she and the elder staff are to have and serve the elders. "We are truly appreciative of our roles and responsibilities at the Elder Center in serving the Ak-Chin Indian Community elders. We are here for you. If we cannot help you we will certainly find someone or other resources that can help you."

The elders received a \$100.00 gift card at the gathering that can be used at Sam's Club or Walmart.

In addition, the elders received a gift bag containing other

goodies. The highlight of the day was an unexpected visit from Santa Claus.

Special thanks was given to the Museum and the Runner for providing special gifts to the elders.

Ak-Chin Elder staff hope this is the start of more elders joining back in on all the fun they have at the Elder Center. "On behalf of the Elder Center staff, we wish all of you and your families a Merry and Blessed Christmas."



## Ak-Chin Masik Tas All-Indian Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament



CHAMPIONS - PALA TURTLES



SECOND PLACE - UNKNOWNNS



THIRD PLACE - JUJUDAM

Submitted by Bernardina Gonzales, Ak-Chin Recreation Coordinator. Photos by R. Peters

Over 270 elders from other tribal communities across Arizona and two from California came to the Ak-Chin Indian Community to participate in the Recreation's first Masik Tas Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament.

Our annual elder chair volleyball tournaments had to be put on hold for a while, after being sidelined by the pandemic. Everyone was excited to be coming back to our community and playing once again. All the teams had so much fun competing and cheering each other on. Between points, we watched elders laughing over the extreme saves players made or how far the ball traveled out of bounds. We enjoyed seeing and meeting new elders from other communities; providing them with a great experience is our department goal. 28 chair volleyball teams bumped, served and spiked their way to victory. When the last serve of the chair volleyball tournament was made the top three teams took home awards by Gobal Rez Ball Affiliated and each registered player earned a participant t-shirt.

Championship team, Pala Turtles from the Pala Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Secretary shared on behalf of her tribe, "Our Pala Turtles had a wonderful time playing in the Masik Tas Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament. We appreciate your hospitality. We thank the Tribal Council Members: Robert Miguel, Chairman; Lemuel Vincent, Vice-Chairman; Delia Carlyle, Council Member; Lisa Garcia, Council Member; Octavio Machado,

Elder Chair Volleyball continues to page 5

**Elder Jingle Walk**  
 Tuesday, December 20, 2022  
 10 am @ The Elder Center  
 Prizes to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> placements

For any questions call Marissa or Sonia @ (520)568-1760

Reminder to bundle up!!

Hello,  
 My name is Janice Anderson; I live in the Ak-Chin Indian Community. I am searching for possible volunteers to participate in one of two focus group discussions or an individual interview on the topic of *American Indian Caregivers*. The study is for my dissertation project at Grand Canyon University. Participants must meet specific criteria, which are outlined below. I am authorized to give a \$30 gift care to recruited volunteers.

**RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS**  
 American Indian Caregivers

JANICE ANDERSON, A GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDENT, IS RECRUITING 31 AMERICAN INDIAN CAREGIVERS FROM THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY AS VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS IN A STUDY TITLED

*AMERICAN INDIAN CAREGIVERS*

The purpose of this qualitative descriptive study is to explore how American Indian caregivers describe their experiences practicing physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional traditional healing methods when caring for chronically ill American Indians in the Southwest United States.

- TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY, YOU...**
- Must be 18 years old or older.
  - Must be an American Indian caregiver.
  - Must live within the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
  - Must provide care to an American Indian with one or more chronic illnesses.
  - Must agree to share your experiences.
  - Must agree to be audio-recorded.
  - Must agree to sign an Informed Consent form.
  - Must commit approximately 60 minutes to the study.
  - Answer optional demographic information.

If you do not meet the volunteer criteria outlined above, you are not eligible to participate.

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY, CONTACT:**  
 Janice Anderson  
 Email: [JAnderson140@my.gcu.edu](mailto:JAnderson140@my.gcu.edu)  
 Cell phone: 520.404.4317

## Elder December - January Breakfast-Lunch Menu

- 16) Masik Tas Holiday - Center Closed
- 19) Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Bar B Que Chicken, Broccoli, Wild Rice, Plums
- 20) Sausage & Vegetables, Scrambled Eggs, Avocado Slices, Toast, Oranges | Egg Salad Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Chips, Jell-O
- 21) Waffles, Boiled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit | Taco Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Pineapple
- 22) Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Tamales, Rice, Beans, Mexican Sweet Bread
- 23-26) Christmas Holiday - Center Closed
- 27) Chorizo & Eggs, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit | Spinach Chicken Casserole, Brown Rice, Salad, Apples, Oranges
- 28) Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Pork Chops, Asparagus, Carrots, Fresh Cut Fruit
- 29) Sausage, Potato, Egg Scrambled, Toast, Fruit | Menudo (D), Rolls, Upside Down Cake
- 30) Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit
- Jan 2) Holiday - Center Closed
- 3) Vegetable Omelette, Diced Potato, Toast, Fruit | Beef Stew w/Vegetables, Rice, Moon Bread, Tropical Fruit
- 4) Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Grapes | Lima Beans, Beef & Barley Soup (D), Romaine Salad, Peas, Fresh Pears
- 5) Chorizo Potato Burrito, Cereal, Banana | Bar-B-Que Ribs, Plain Ribs (D), Corn on Cob, Carrots, Fresh Cut Fruit
- 6) Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit | Zuppa Toscana Soup w/Sausage, Potato & Kale, Romaine Salad, Breadticks, Cherry Cobbler

\*\* Menu items subject to change\*\*

# Ak-Chin O'dham Runner

Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ©2022

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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The Ak-Chin O'dham 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'dham 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'dham 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**  
2022 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'dham 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 January 6 - 19, 2023 issue is due by **FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH**

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

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

# Employee Health Fair

Story and photos by T. Marshburn



Ak-Chin employees engaged in an employee fair jam packed with information and goodies. Yoga, back massages, prizes and more were offered to all attendees. The vendors provided information about everything from banking and benefits to diabetes management. The employees walked through the different vendors collecting gifts and signatures to be entered into a drawing for prizes. In the end there were 18 lucky winners (I was one of them). Among the prizes were 7 gift card winners and a massage chair that the whole community had their eye on.

AK-Chin O'dham Neok Ki

**Winter Storytelling with Barnaby Lewis**  
Gila River Indian Community

Wednesday December 28, 2022  
Field Across Language / Cultural Building  
6:00 pm - 8:30  
Dinner Will Be Served  
Open to all Community Members & Residence

**Dress Warm** DONT FORGET YOUR CHAIR

For more info contact: Felicia Vincent (520) 568-1338 or Email: favincent@ak-chin.nsn.us

# Ak-Chin gives to employees



On November 17, Council distributed more than 400 turkeys to Community and Farms Employees. The turkeys ranged in size from 17 to 23 lbs.

# Giving Tuesday

Photos by T. Marshburn



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino employees joined together to keep Ak-Chin beautiful in the Adopt-A-Highway event that took place November 29. The group cleaned the trash off State Route 347 covering about a mile.



# Holiday Fire Safety

1,650 Americans are injured every year by fires that occur during the holiday season. There are some simple life-saving steps you can take to reduce the chance of becoming one of those fire casualty statistics.

When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The Community has roll off dumpsters located throughout the subdivisions to dispose of your trees. If you are an Elder just place the tree by the curb and the Sanitation Department will pick it up for you.

**Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace or Firepit**  
It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup that could cause an explosion.

**Artificial Christmas Trees**  
If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

## Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

**Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**  
Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

## Holiday Lights Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

## Candle Care Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house or go to bed when there are candles burning.

## Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended!

## Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches. Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help (dial 911). And remember to practice your home escape plan.

## Holiday Decorations Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

## Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source such as a heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

## Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace, wood burning stove or fire pit.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

**\*NOTICE\***  
**2023 Agricultural Lease Payment**

The 2023 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 20, 2023, 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 12, 2022.  
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 20, 2023. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to void 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 12, 2022.

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 20, 2023.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.  
\*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon former payments received by January 3, 2023.

NOV 23 2022 PM 3:59

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
4525 West Farrell Road  
Maricopa, AZ 85139  
Phone (520) 568-1386 Fax (520) 568-1386

In the Matter of the Adoption of: CASE NO.: CV-2022-024-WIL

A.M.A. D.O.B: 03/24/2008 CIVIL SUMMONS

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:  
Alonso Arellanes Burgos

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Civil Action has been filed against you in the Court of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER in the said matter within a period of 20 days if you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, 30 days if you are served outside the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community at the Clerk of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court, accompanied by the necessary filing fee; further you must send a copy of your written answer to:

Silas Curtis Norris  
41940 W. Pecan Lane  
Maricopa AZ 85138

After you have been served and the written answer period has lapsed, the Tribal Court shall set a date for a hearing on this matter, and you will be notified of the time and date that you will be required to appear.

IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUMMONS a judgment by default will be entered against you and the opposing party shall be awarded the relief demanded in this matter.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 28th day of November, 2022.

*Dannu Ramirez*  
Dannu Ramirez, Court Administrator  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

Community Christmas continued from Front



Dear Families,

During the Winter Break (Dec. 19, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023) from school, we are grateful to everyone for helping to restore a routine for every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as to connect to their peers and teachers.

**Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season and a joyful New Year!**

We give thanks and Kudos to:

- Our students and their families doing their best to show up daily even when it isn't easy.
- Our teachers going above and beyond to make school a welcoming and safe place for all students to learn.
- Our administrators helping us work together to ensure we create a physically and emotionally safe and engaging learning environment.
- Our many, many healers and helpers – the support staff and community volunteers who provide the extra hands and attention our children need.

We appreciate each one of you. May this good cheer last throughout the year.

- If your family or your child needs support, please reach out to Ak-Chin Education Department at (520) 568-1280 for help.
- We look forward to seeing you again when school resumes next year on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

Thank you for your partnership!

Sincerely,

Ak-Chin Education Department Staff

*Season's Greetings*

# Masik Tas Fun Run and Walk

On Saturday, December 10, Ak-Chin Masik Tas events continued with a 2-mile fun run/walk that began at the Ak-Chin Justice Complex. There were over 100 participants who joined family and friends for the walk/run.

After a welcome from Councilmember Delia Carlyle, Yolanda Narcia-Miranda offered a prayer. Hot drinks and morning snacks were offered and everyone who participated received a Masik Tas t-shirt.



**First Place: ICY HOT**



Afterwards, Ak-Chin Recreation hosted the Ak-Chin Masik Tas All-Indian Adult Co-Ed Volleyball tournament. Eight teams came out to compete in the one-day tournament. Ak-Chin Warriors were also in the bracket and worked their way to the complete rounds, eventually being eliminated.

with scores very close throughout. At the end of the tournament it was Icy Hot who took the championship with, Squad placing second and Rezurrected coming in third. Placement teams earned t-shirts with special award to championship, All-Tourney and MVP awards for top male and female.



**2nd Place: SQUAD**



**3rd Place: Rezurrected**

Prevent the spread of flu and other respiratory illnesses by rolling up your sleeve to get a flu shot.

#MaskUp  
#SleeveUp

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, or visit [www.medicare.gov/coverage/flu-shots](http://www.medicare.gov/coverage/flu-shots)



**CHRISTMAS**  
word search puzzle

I	P	C	I	R	F	B	E	L	L	M	F
\$	K	C	X	G	A	R	L	A	N	D	
T	X	S	K	U	Y	S	N	O	W	O	R
A	\$	N	S	A	N	T	A	H	S	E	E
R	T	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	P
I	O	H	B	G	X	E	S	H	H	U	L
Z	C	G	C	R	O	T	G	D	O	D	A
E	K	P	J	C	H	I	R	S	L	K	C
V	I	D	F	G	E	A	D	J	L	T	E
E	N	O	I	L	C	I	L	J	Y	R	D
S	G	L	S	S	F	X	C	O	J	E	Y
E	L	F	M	W	R	E	A	T	H	E	B

Words may be horizontal, vertical and diagonal.

- ~~ELF~~
- ~~STOCKING~~
- ~~WREATH~~
- ~~FIREPLACE~~
- ~~SNOW~~
- ~~GARLAND~~
- ~~EVE~~
- ~~TREE~~
- ~~HOLLY~~
- ~~BELL~~
- ~~LIGHTS~~
- ~~SLEIGH~~
- ~~CARD~~
- ~~CHRISTMAS~~
- ~~STAR~~
- ~~SANTA~~

# Ak-Chin Youth Council Masik Tas Celebration

Story and photos by Runner Staff  
The Ak-Chin Youth Council Masik Tas Celebration began at 1pm on a sunny Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2022. The event included contests for wood chopping, popover making, menudo cooking, as well as youth and adult dancing.

The wood chopping was first in the contests and the wood pieces were used for the fires for popovers, menudo and to warm attendees later in the night. During the event, the crowd was also treated to delicious food and crafts from local vendors and musical rhythms from the bands Project Kumbia and Ak-Chin Mumsigo.

"We'd like to acknowledge our judges Coletta White (GRIC) & Delbert White (Ak-Chin) for helping us out."  
~ Youth Council



Popover contestant Harlee Jose forming her dough

## CONTEST WINNERS

**Wood Chopping:**  
1st Place – Xendryk Silas-Antone  
2nd Place – Draven Soliz  
3rd Place – Antonio Jose

**Popover Contest:**  
1st Place – Rainee Thomas  
2nd Place – Josie Miranda  
3rd Place – Mylauni Antonie

**Menudo Contest:**  
1st Place – Yolanda Miranda  
2nd Place – Alexandra Carlyle

**Dance Contest Adults:**  
1st Place - Shania Manuel & Mali:ya Sam  
2nd Place – Alex & Antonia Bustamante  
3rd Place – Kimberly Castillo & Dracilla Hendricks

**Dance Contest Youth:**  
1st Place – Abraham & Harlee Jose  
2nd Place – Mylaunah Robles & Emma Johnson  
3rd Place – Marquan Robles & DeliAnna Lewis



Wood chopping contest winners (right to left): 1st place Xendryk Silas-Antone, 2nd place Draven Soliz and 3rd place Antonio Jose (not pictured)



Popover judges taste testing entries from the four contestants.



Popover contest winners (right to left): 1st place Rainee Thomas, 2nd place Josie Miranda and 3rd place Mylauni Antonie



Youth dance contest participants competing in the categories of vaila (one step), chote (two step) and Cumbia



Dance contest participants stepping and moving to the beat

Elder Chair Volleyball continued from page 2

## Ak-Chin Elder Chair Volleyball Teams



**BOBCATS (l-r):** Cecil Peters, Carmen Narcia, Florinda Peters, Elaine Peters, Evelina Lopez, Adella Zabawa, and Jeannette Peters



**TOHONO O'ODHAM (l-r):** Neva Felix, Joann Garcia, Carole Lopez, Glenna Francisco, Doreena Garcia, Gerald Pablo, Virginia Zepeda, Margie Garcia, and Connie Orona.

Council Member, and all the volunteers, and the individuals that provided breakfast and lunch”

Thank you to the Runner, Fire Department, Ak-Chin Circle, Maintenance Department, Environmental Programs, Education Department, Language Department and Health Education who contributed their time and resources to help make our event a success.

A big thank you to the Miguel Family for preparing the traditional meal for lunch.

We look forward to an even bigger turnout next year, Valentine's Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament.

Traditional Events continued from Front



Songivu'l participants and assistants, L to R: Dennis Antone, Joseph Davis, Warren Mattias (Tohono O'odham Nation), Damien Lewis (GRIC), Draven Soliz, Horacio Corella, Davin Garcia, Zachary Valles Garcia, Adriano Jose, Owen Santiago, and Antonio "Go:hk" Davis.

have to go around this cone counterclockwise and make their way back to the original starting cone.” The first player to cross the starting line with their game piece wins.”

Joseph shared that the game can be played one against one, or in teams of 2-4. He also pointed out a key detail, “the game is played barefoot, which makes it a lot more difficult. It definitely doesn't feel too good on the toes if you kick the game piece incorrectly.”

He goes on to share more history of Songivu'l. “The game originated during the days of the pilgrimages that O'odham men would make to the ocean. Running in a group and kicking a songivu'l would help them keep

pace with one another, and it would keep your mind occupied during the journey (similarly the same concept as when you kick a rock or a can while you're taking a walk down the road).”

“Over time as the practice of running to the ocean became scarce, Songivu'l developed into a competition style game, where men from all over O'odham territory would meet to play. Their fields would stretch miles at a time, with the same goal of making it to a certain point and back before the opposing team could.”

"High stakes bets were involved such as livestock, basketry, and even wives or children in some cases. That brings us to modern day, where the field is significantly smaller, and the bets are

not as extreme.”

Top winners in Songivu'l earned bragging rights and gift baskets containing various snacks and tools: Davin Garcia – 1st Place  
Draven Soliz – 2nd Place  
Zachary Garcia – 3rd Place

Joseph also shared, “The Ak-Chin Youth Council would like to thank all of our participants and volunteers throughout the weekend for all of your contributions. We would also like to thank all the departments that helped us out as well. These events are something we hope to continue going forward to help celebrate Masik Tas here in the community. We'd like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday, and a blessed remainder of 2022.”



Horacio Corella (left) and Draven Soliz (right) hustle down field.



Davin Garcia (left) and Zachary Valles Garcia kick the songivu'l down field.



Joseph hands Damien Lewis a basket of goodies for participating in Songivu'l.

“Hopefully over the next few years Songivu'l, along with Toka and the ceremonial practice of Spiritual Running, can continue to gain popularity and us as O'odham can continue to take care of, and respect these things and everything that comes along with them.

They're just a small sliver of our O'odham Himdag but they are just as important as all other aspects of our culture.”

- Joseph Davis,  
Ak-Chin Youth Council  
Coordinator

Traditional Events continues to page 6



Ak-Chin S-kubjuv Ju:dam makes a big splash in the toka tournament.

The traditional game of Toka, is played similar to field hockey, without helmets, gloves or padding. There are no referees, only line judges to ensure a goal is verified.

The only equipment needed is an usaga (handmade stick), made from a mesquite branch that is picked and cut, then roasted, carved and stripped and then dried in the sun to strengthen. The usaga is used to hit or pass the 'ola, which is similar to a puck, made of two short pieces of mesquite tied together with string, or deer guts.

The game is played when two teams meet up in the middle of the field, then match up players based on numbers and positions. They then face the direction of their goal and wait for the 'ola to be thrown in the middle. Fields can be small or large, some games are held in a fenced area, while others are totally open with only a goal to pass.

Once the 'ola is thrown in the middle of the group, both sides work to gain control by blocking and trapping the other teams usaga, while trying to pass it to their runners who are set up outside, ready to partner up down the field running and hitting the 'ola towards their goal.

After the 'ola crosses the goal it must then be picked up in order to score. Teams will do whatever is necessary to keep their opponent from passing the goal and picking up the 'ola to score.

Toka has gained popularity over the past 10 years and has been reborn with the younger women encouraged to play, as a way to keep the tradition going and a way to reconnect one another with their sister tribes and players. Many teams are multi-generational.

It is one of the only games where you can see granddaughters playing with grandmothers.

Ak-Chin Language program along with the young ladies of Ak-Chin Youth Council coordinated this year's Toka tournament, which brought out O'odham women of all ages and abilities to enjoy a fun day of competitive play.

Since the original field was flooded, the coordinators looked for other options, and finally decided on the not so flooded field next to the flooded field. There were many slips, falls and muddy mishaps on the field, and there was also lots of laughter, sportsmanship and comraderie reflected as well.

At times, it was extremely difficult to see the 'ola when it got stuck in the mud or slapped in the puddles of water.

After much effort and a lot of splashing and dashing around in the mud, the 'ola was moved from one side of the field to the other. Although, it was a bit more difficult running in the mud, eventually teams moved the 'ola down the field and scored.

Ak-Chin entered a new team this year, S-kubjuv Ju:dam, in honor of the late Holly Antone, who loved to play the game. Although some had not played for quite some time, they were all-in for the opportunity to play for their beloved sister "Holly Bear".

After it was all over, there were many muddy faces and feet, bruises and scrapes to remember the day, along with the utmost respect to all players for braving the flooded roads and fields to play these traditional games once played by their ancestors.



"Thank you so much for the warm hospitality. The ladies had so much fun. We had a great time. We truly appreciated the lunch as we were on a budget. Thank you, Ali Chugk Toka Team"



Above: This corner cone saw plenty of action, as both teams battled to find the 'ola.

Left: These young toka players are fearless on the field.

Below: These young girls played keep away for quite sometime before this determined toka player swooped up the 'ola for the winning score between Si'Si Puk and I'kam Duag.



S-KUBJUV JU:DAM #LLC

Toka Tournament winners received plaques with shirts to be awarded later.

Si'Si Puk (top right) Champions

I'kam Duag (bottom right) Runners-Up



## The Little Big Things...or...

Watch for the little things that may be bigger than you think! Please read the Label! MARS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MOON. December 7, 2022, 7:20 pm, Arizona time



The Moon is in fact a lot smaller than the planet Mars. This comparison also applies to the small print on Pesticide labels that can be very small, but also very, very big as important to read.

holiday season poses special challenges with decorations in and around your home. Be sure to read the labels to know which type of products are being used.

Cleaning products that are generally soaps and detergents are used to clean surfaces such as floors, counter tops and clothing to remove large particles of food and drink residues. These soaps and detergents may generally claim

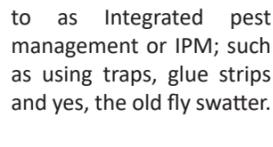
cleaning effectiveness and references "cleaning and the removal", but do not generally claim killing any organisms.

If the label states that it "kills" surface organisms such as germs (viruses and bacteria); it is a pesticide, and it must have an EPA registration number on the product label. It also must state "Keep out of Reach of Children" as this is a key small piece of important information that enables us to safely

and properly use these products as intended. All EPA registered pesticides are deemed effective by USEPA if used according to label directions.

The larger print is often used for the Branding and Marketing of a product to attract the attention of the consumer. Any company will use this technique in its marketing efforts to get you to buy. In the unregulated markets anything can go (unless its fraudulent) and usually does (buyer beware!).

Products that make pesticidal claims (such as "kills") must come under the US EPA testing and evaluations of environmental impact before it can be marketed. This ensures that a person following the label will provide control of pests in a manner that will impact you and your family in the least significant manner. Using minimal pesticides to control pests is referred



Please note, if the label claims "kills", look for the EPA registration number on the Label as pictured below on the Lysol aerosol container: Pesticidal Claims ..... Kills 99.9%....

The Registration number above is showing that the claim has documentation and that EPA has approved the Label that is printed on the product container. EPA Registration numbers verifies this label and use is the Law.

We wish that your family festivities of Masik Tas, Christmas and the coming New Year will be enjoyable, safe and healthy for all. Ak-Chin Indian Community - Environmental Programs

# *Little Moments. Big Impact.*



## **Child care providers needed.**

Arizona is currently facing a child care crisis and needs more providers, especially for the most important early years of a child's life. When you become certified by DES, you can care for up to 4 children in your home at one time, and receive monetary assistance. Apply today and play a crucial role in a child's development, the community, and the economy. It's the little moments that make a big impact.

**To learn more visit [childcare.azccrr.com](http://childcare.azccrr.com)**



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT

SERVING THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can utilize Ak-Chin tribal transit services?**  
Any individual seeking transportation to or from Ak-Chin can utilize our services. This service is provided free of charge. Any individual seeking to ride alone must be over 10 years of age or accompanied by a rider over 15 years of age.

**Where do I go to get on the bus?**  
We come to your residence in Ak-Chin. We can pick up and drop you off curbside at your door.

**My child is being sent home sick from school, can you provide transportation?**  
Yes. Transit can provide services to and from Ak-Chin Preschool only. If they are under ten years of age then Transit will have to pick up an adult that you are sending first and then the child from school. If no adult is available to go to the school for a passenger under ten years of age, then we will be unable to provide transport.

**Can I receive rides to work?**  
Yes. We are open from 7:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. You can schedule up to seven days in advance.

**Where can I go?**  
Anywhere in Maricopa or Ak-Chin as long as it is within 5 miles of Ak-Chin boundaries. This includes shopping, dining, doctors' offices and other appointments. Please note: Ak-Chin Tribal Transit will not go to residences in Maricopa at this time. Only Public destinations.

**How many times can I ride a day?**  
At this time there is no limit to the amount service Ak-Chin Tribal Transit is willing to provide if it can be appropriately accommodated. Please call into dispatch and advise us of your needs.

**What if I need to cancel a ride?**  
You are urged to cancel a scheduled ride as early as possible. We ask for a 15 minute notice. If a 15 minute notice is not given, you will be considered a no show. Reliable and on time transportation can be difficult to achieve when proper protocols are not followed.

**What are your hours of operation?**  
Office hours are 7:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. The Transit Department observes many Ak-Chin recognized holidays. If you have questions on whether or not Transit will be offering services on a particular day, please contact us. **How much notice do you need to schedule Transit Services?**  
We recommend that you make your reservation at least 2 hours in advance of your requested pick-up time. You may make a reservation up to 7 days in advance. Last minute requests may be accommodated if the schedule permits but may not always be available.

**Can employees be picked up from one department and taken to another department?**  
Yes. Please contact the Transit Department and schedule services.

**Are the Transit vehicles wheelchair accessible?**  
Yes. Transit Staff are properly trained to provide this service to our residents. Each vehicle is equipped with four ratcheting WTORS and proper lap and shoulder restraints. Please let the Transit Department know over the phone if those services will be needed.

**What if I need services that are not currently being provided?**  
If there is a service that you currently would like to receive and we are not providing it please let us know. The only way we can change our current structure and focus our services on the community, is to have feedback on what is really needed by the community.

*\*Please see our On-Demand flyer for more details regarding locations\**

Questions or feedback? Please contact the Transit Department  
Call: 520-568-1630, 520-568-1635 Text 520-340-0382  
Email: abutler@ak-chin.nsn.us

Need a ride? Call: 520-568-1630 Text: 520-340-0382



# Masik Tas Transit Schedule

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE:  
CALL: 520-568-1630

Saturday the 10th: Light Parade schedule:  
Please call between 5:00pm-6:30pm for transportation to the light parade

Masik Tas celebration weekend:  
**Friday the 16th**  
Please call between 5:00pm-8:00pm for events transportation. Transportation provided until 9:00pm

**Saturday the 17th**  
Please call between 10:00am-9:00pm for events transportation. Transportation provided until 10:00pm

**Sunday the 18th**  
Please call between 10:00am-6:00pm for events transportation. Transportation provided until 7:00pm

COMPLIMENTARY ON-DEMAND SERVICE

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

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



*Wishes*  
Happy birthday to my Husband & our daughter's Father, Kyle Peters  
Wishing you many, many more! We hope you have an amazing birthday. Keep being the best father and husband you can be. No matter what path that life takes you on, just remember you got your family behind you ALWAYS...  
Love Always, Sophia, Joanna and Susan



Happy Birthday Serenity Ulan!  
I Love you so much beautiful, I hope to give you everything you deserve and more on your special day. Like I've always told you, you'll always be my big baby.  
~ Mom

Happy Birthday to my son Manuel  
Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Tyler, Aiden, David, Kyle and my granddaughters Serenity, Jersey, Sabrina and Aubrey  
Love, Grandma

Happy Happy 11th Birthday Aubrey



We hope you have the best birthday yet... pre-birthday party starts now!!  
Love, your family

# COMPLIMENTARY ON-DEMAND SERVICE

PROUDLY SERVING AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

On-Demand Service is safe, reliable, efficient and clean. Call our office and inform us when you need Transportation. Ak-Chin Tribal Transit will pick you up and take you to your desired destination for free. On-Demand response services are available within the Ak-Chin Indian community and most commercial and government addresses in Maricopa. You do not need to be a community member to utilize our services. Please keep our professional staff in mind to meet your Transportation needs.

### Popular Destinations:

- Local Businesses
- Shopping centers
- Work
- Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
- Many food destinations

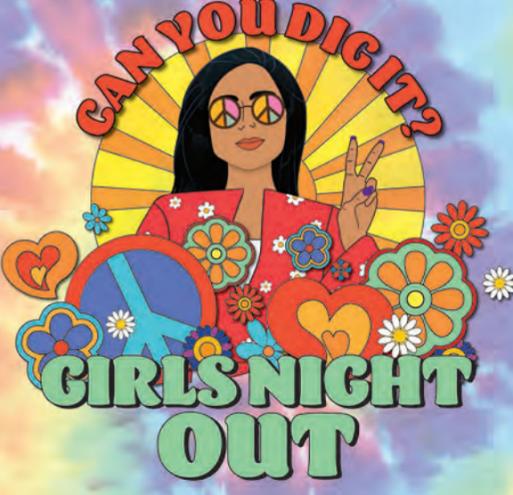
\*All reservations must include either a pick-up or drop-off location within the Ak-Chin Indian community.

Please keep us in mind for your transportation needs.  
Need a ride? Call: 520-568-1630 Text: 520-340-0382  
Demand-Response Service Schedule: Monday-Friday from 7:00AM to 5:45PM.\*

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



## Ak-Chin Health and Human Services Presents



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY EVENT FOR GIRLS AGES 12-17

**20th DECEMBER**

**LOCATION - EPD**  
46200 W. Ralph St  
Maricopa, AZ 85139  
3 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Registration starts at 2:30 p.m.

For More Information Contact  
Lynne Houston-Volden at 520-568-1086 or  
Martina Peters at 520-568-1085

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
from the staff at the Runner

# Employee Birthdays: 12/16/22 - 1/5/23

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 16-Dec<br>Kenneth Kingsland, Retail<br>Maria Carlyle-Zepeda, Human Resources  | 21-Dec<br>Micky Moull, Environmental Protection                 | 29-Dec<br>Kathleen Miguel, Maintenance   |
| 17-Dec<br>Leslie Lewis-Manuel, Tribal Gaming  | 22-Dec<br>Heidi Hinz, Maintenance                               | 31-Dec<br>Mercedes Rivera, Community Government  |
| 18-Dec<br>Christopher Santos, Law & Order<br>Bianca Valenzuela, Retail  | 23-Dec<br>Bartholomew Smith, Community Government               | <b>2023</b>  |
| 19-Dec<br>Manuel Peters, Environmental Protection<br>Daniel Espinoza, Law & Order<br>Richard Kindred, Tribal Gaming | 24-Dec<br>Velacita Lopez, Cultural<br>David Peters, Retail      | 1-Jan<br>Timothy Nanstiel, Tribal Gaming   |
| 20-Dec<br>Roni Zappia, Maintenance<br>Jeanette Santos, Law & Order  | 26-Dec<br>Joe Garcia, Elderly<br>Johnnie Traughber, Law & Order | 3-Jan<br>Johnny Ramirez, Environmental Protection  |
|   | 28-Dec<br>Bernardina Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation               | 5-Jan<br>Christopher Beginski, Fire & Safety<br>Andrew Jimenez, Sanitation<br>DelRoy Narcia, Law & Order |

# JOB OPENINGS

- Airport Operations Technician
- Deli Clerk
- Detention Officer - Certified and Non-Certified
- Economic Development Analyst
- Firefighter/Medic
- General Worker
- Police Officer (Recruit/Non-Certified)
- Police Officer - Certified
- Recreation Program Assistant
- Senior Planner
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist

Please visit our website at [www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us), for Job Openings, to review the job posting and apply. If you need assistance, please call Human Resources at 520-568-1050.



- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>December 16</b><br>Maxine Antone<br>Maria Carlyle-Zepeda<br>Raven Humeyumtewa<br>Ba'n Jose<br>Tyler Peters<br>Lisa Vincent | <b>December 19</b><br>Manuel Peters   | <b>December 23</b><br>Yyondrez Antone<br>Bartholomew Smith                                      | <b>December 27</b><br>Orlando Lewis<br>Erica Oliver   | <b>December 31</b><br>Mercedes Rivera-Lopez  |
| <b>December 17</b><br>James Compton<br>Leslie Lewis-Manuel<br>Lita Yarberry   | <b>December 20</b><br>Lanna Lewis<br>Collette Susunkewa<br>Roni Sue Zappia                  | <b>December 24</b><br>Velacita Lopez<br>David Peters, Jr.<br>Kyle Peters                        | <b>December 28</b><br>Bernadina Gonzalez<br>Julianna Orona<br>Jersey Peters<br>Sabrina Sam<br>Javier Zepeda | <b>January 1, 2023</b><br>Duane Narcia   |
| <b>December 18</b><br>Josie Hernandez<br>Justin Humeyumtewa<br>Ralston Justin<br>Sarina Smith<br>Bianca Valenzuela            | <b>December 21</b><br>Aiden Peters<br>Eileen Pinheiro<br>Elijah Narcia<br>Adrian Romo       | <b>December 25</b><br>David Manuel, Sr.<br>Arrow Santiago<br>Serenity Villegas<br>Danny Vincent | <b>December 29</b><br>Abel Lewis<br>Aubrey Lozano<br>Kathleen Miguel  | <b>January 2</b><br>Azlynn Carra<br>Jolene Campbell                                    |
|   | <b>December 22</b><br>Nicolas Olivas<br>Volincia Pablo<br>Manuel Rodriguez<br>Candida Upton | <b>December 26</b><br>Andrew Pinheiro<br>Angela Trenado   | <b>December 30</b><br>Bernadette Carra<br>Christopher Lewis<br>Renita Machado<br>Lee Miguel, II             | <b>January 4</b><br>Jaianna Pilone<br>Stephen Narcia<br>Skyler Luna<br>Alexandra Osife |
|   |   |   |   | <b>January 5</b><br>DelRoy Narcia<br>Joseph Pilone                                     |

# Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino SALUTE Team Members Prepared and Served Box Lunches to Veterans Who Attended Maricopa Veterans Day Parade



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino SALUTE team members prepared and served box lunches to Veterans who attended the Maricopa Veterans Day parade.

(MARICOPA, Ariz. – Dec. 6, 2022) – Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, long-known for its corporate giving and community support, donated to the Maricopa Veterans Day parade. In addition, the culinary team prepared 300 box lunches that SALUTE team members served to Veterans who attended the Maricopa Veterans Day

parade. The SALUTE Business Impact Group creates awareness and offers support for all community Veterans and active military as well as the organization's 34 Veteran team members. The Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino SALUTE Business Impact Group (BIG) actively seeks to bring together team

members who are Veterans and Veteran allies who embrace the core values of duty, honor and selfless service. The purpose is to cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture through grassroots efforts in assisting Veterans in a variety of ways including fundraisers, donation drives and of course volunteer opportunities.



## Harrah's Development System (HDS) fundraiser food sale

On Friday, November 18, 2022, Harrah's Ak-Chin casino employees were treated to delicious Indian tacos during a food sale provided by employees within the Harrah's Development System (HDS). The food sale was held as a fundraiser in recognition of Native American Heritage Month. For the past several years, the HDS

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

# DECEMBER EVENTS

[Ak-ChinCircle.com](http://Ak-ChinCircle.com)

**FREE CARNIVAL**  
**DEC. 16-18**  
AT THE AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Friday, Dec. 16 5:00PM - 10:00PM  
Saturday, Dec. 17 10:00AM - 10:00PM  
Sunday, Dec. 18 10:00AM - 7:00PM

**RYX METAL**  
CHRIS PEREZ  
PERFORMING LIVE  
**SATURDAY DEC. 17, 2022**  
7:00PM - 10:00PM | FREE SHOW  
AT THE AK-CHIN CIRCLE AMPHITHEATER | GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

**MOVIE RELEASES**

- 12/02 Violent Night
- 12/09 Father Stu: Reborn
- 12/16 Avatar: The Way Of Water
- 12/23 Babylon
- 12/23 I Wanna Dance With Somebody

**MEET SANTA**  
IN THE AK-CHIN CIRCLE LOBBY

DEC. 3, 4, 10, & 11 5PM-8PM  
DEC. 24 3PM-6PM

**SPIN SHOP**  
Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
3:30PM - 8:30PM

**LOVE IS LOUNGE LIVE**  
**FAKTION RYDE**  
EMERGE THE KING  
**SATURDAY DEC. 3, 2022**  
9PM-2AM | NO COVER

**NEW YEAR'S EVE Party**

**2023**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sat. December 31  
9pm-2am

**LUXE LOUNGE**

[Ak-ChinCircle.com](http://Ak-ChinCircle.com)

[/Ak-ChinCircle](https://www.facebook.com/Ak-ChinCircle) [/akchincircle](https://www.instagram.com/akchincircle)

# Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Donates \$15,000 to F.O.R. Maricopa



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Senior Vice President and General Manager Michael Kintner presents a \$15,000 donation check to F.O.R. Maricopa Founder and Executive Director Wendy Webb and volunteers.

(MARICOPA, Ariz. – Nov. 30, 2022) – Staying true to its commitment to support nonprofit organizations throughout Maricopa, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino - through its community outreach program H.E.R.O. - recently donated \$15,000 to F.O.R. Maricopa, a local nonprofit organization that provides food, opportunity and resources to the

Maricopa community. "We are grateful for Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and their continued support," said F.O.R. Maricopa Executive Director Wendy Webb. "The H.E.R.O. program's generous donation will help us continue to provide resources for those in need throughout Maricopa."

According to Michael Kintner, senior vice president and general manager of Harrah's Ak-Chin Resort & Casino, "F.O.R. Maricopa has an immediate and significant impact on our Maricopa community. We've been a strong supporter since its inception and look forward to continuing our partnership in the years to come."

RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA

**AK-CHIN Southern Dunes GOLF CLUB**  
EXPERIENCE THOSE GOLF

**2023 PURE GOLF PERKS 'COPA CARD' INDIVIDUAL \$199\***  
EARLY BIRDS SAVE \$30!

- 10 DAILY RANGE PASSES (\$150 VALUE)
- DISCOUNTED GREEN FEES
- 3 DAY BOOKING WINDOW
- ARROYO GRILLE & GOLF SHOP DISCOUNTS
- \$15 DAILY PRACTICE FACILITY PASS
- DISCOUNTED LESSONS & RENTAL CLUBS
- \$25 REPLAY ROUNDS

520.426.6827  
AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM

**ARROYO GRILLE** 520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM  
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

**DECEMBER 10% OFF BOTTLED WINE**

10% off bottled wine purchase. Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers or discounts. One coupon per table, no split checks. Non-transferable. Offer expires 12/31/22.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

**UNDER THE Streetlamp**  
10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR!

**You Asked, We Listened!**

**WE ARE BRINGING THEM AND THEIR UNFORGETTABLE SHOW BACK!**

**THE EVENTS CENTER**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2022**  
**DOORS: 8PM | SHOW: 9PM**

Purchase tickets at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). Hurry, tickets won't last long!

**KEEP THE PARTY GOING WITH MORE LIVE MUSIC IN**

**THE LOUNGE**

**WITH NINEBALL**

**DECEMBER 31, 2022 · 8PM - 2AM**

Tickets are sold exclusively at Ticketmaster.com. The Events Center Box Office will open 3 hours prior to the show start time and close 30 minutes after the event starts. The Events Center Box Office is located on the first floor of the casino, next to the Oak & Fork Restaurant. Will call tickets can be picked up during the Box Office hours of operation on the show days. Customers must present the actual credit card, a valid photo ID and the confirmation number. Free garage parking. The facility is ADA compliant. There is accessible seating available for all shows. The Events Center is located at the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino in Maricopa, AZ. Photo IDs are required to enter the facilities. Camera and recording devices are never allowed at concerts unless otherwise notified. Outside food or beverages are not permitted inside the venue. Guests wearing obscene or indecent clothing are not allowed to enter the building. Guests using foul or abusive language or gestures will be escorted out from the venue. Laser pens and pointers are not permitted. Policies subject to change depending on the nature of the event. No refunds, no exceptions. No re-entry. Harrah's Ak-Chin is a casino facility; all minors must be always accompanied by adults 21+. Must be 18 or older to purchase tickets.

# Christmas Light Parade



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## THE POLAR EXPRESS

READING BY MR. MATT & BINGO!  
\*No train this year

Don't forget to wear your PJ's!

**December 21, 2022**  
6:00PM - 8:00PM  
THE AK-CHIN LIBRARY  
\*RSVP: Call Library (520)568-1675  
ALL AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES ARE WELCOME.

Entertainment for the whole family!

# Ak-Chin Masik Tas Celebration

Free for all ages

Ak-Chin Circle Field & Arena  
16000 N. Maricopa Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85139  
Parking is Free. Signage will direct all event traffic

December 16th - 7:00pm-12:00am: Papago Warriors at Ak-Chin Circle amphitheater  
December 16th - 18th - Rodeo  
December 17th - 7:00pm-10:00pm: Kumbia Kings & Grupo Metal at Ak-Chin Circle amphitheater  
December 15th-18th - Basketball Tournament  
December 15th -18th- Games at Maricopa High School  
December 16th and 17th - Games at Ak-Chin Recreation  
December 17th - Fireworks Show-Time TBD  
December 16th-18th Free Carnival/Fun Zone/Petting Zoo  
Hours:  
December 16th: 5pm-10pm, December 17th: 10am-10pm, December 18th: 10am-7pm



### 2022 Open Rodeo

December 17th & 18th, 2022

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

Event	Fee	Added \$
Bareback (limit 20)	\$100	\$500
Saddle Bronc (limit 20)	\$100	\$500
Bull Riding (limit 30)	\$100	\$500
Steer Wrestling (limit 30)	\$100	\$500
Tie Down Roping (limit 30)	\$100	\$500
Ladies Barrell Racing (limit 40)	\$100	\$500
Ladies Breakaway Roping (limit 40)	\$100	\$500
Ladies Team Roping (2Xs) (limit 40)	\$200/Team	\$1000
Team Roping (2Xs)(limit 100)	\$200/Team	\$1000
Century Team Roping (2Xs)*(limit 40)	\$200/Team	\$1000
4 Tribes Team Roping (2Xs)	\$200/Team	\$1000

\*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 \$20 per contestant  
Team Ropers must pay for full team in ONE envelope with separate entry forms.  
All payments must include Rodeo Entry Form.

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Pleasemake payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2022 Rodeo  
\*\*No personal checks accepted  
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.  
MANDATORY CHECK-IN  
All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS  
To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification.

**MAIL-IN ENTRIES OPEN** - October 21, 2022  
**MAIL ENTRIES TO** - Ak-Chin Indian Community  
ATTN: Community Events - 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.  
Maricopa, AZ 85138  
**ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY**-  
December 5, 2022  
**WALK INS**  
December 10th | 10am - 5pm  
Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center - 16000 N. Maricopa Rd.  
Maricopa, AZ 85138

### Bull Bash - Friday, December 16th at 4pm

Buckles to event winners!

Events	Fee	Added \$
Open Bull Bash (limit 30)	\$150	\$500
Open Novice Bull Riding (limit 10)	\$100	\$500
Open Women's Steer Riding (limit 10)	\$50	\$500

One time Admin Fee of \$20 per contestant  
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.  
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-2022 Rodeo  
\*\*No personal checks accepted

### Open Wild Horse Race -

December 17th & 18th at 12pm

1st Place: Buckles \$500 added money  
\$300 per Team

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 17, 2022  
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 entries must include payment.  
Walk-ins on-site. Books Open 8am-11am  
Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2022 Rodeo  
\*\*No personal checks accepted

For more information email:

AllEventsStaff@ak-chin.nsn.us | 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.



# Ak-Chin Masik Tas Celebration

Ak-Chin Circle - 16000 N. Maricopa Road

EVENTS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, please visit our website  
masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us