YAQUI TIMES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020
WWW.PASCUAYAQUI-NSN.GOV

COMMIT TO PRESERVE THE "SOUND" OF OUR YAQUI ELDERS

By: Daniel Vega, Pascua Yaqui Department of Language and Culture

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, 43% of languages spoken in the world are now in danger. In the Villages of Rio Yaqui, our beautiful language was determined to be in a "vulnerable" state. More startling is the vitality of the Yaqui language in the U.S. has been designated as "Definitely Endangered."

If the vitality of language determines the health of a culture, what will our contributions be in 2020 to preserve and transmit the resonating "sound" of our Yaqui Elders' voices? We are very aware that Tribal programs alone cannot save the Yaqui language. We call out to each and every Yaqui person to rise to the challenge and commit to preserve what has been left in our hands by our Yo'owem and ensure our next generation will have the God-given inherent right to know, hear and speak our language.

We would like to encourage all Hiaki people, wherever you may be, to accept this responsibility to learn and teach our language with intention and urgency.Together we can meet this challenge simply by learning a word a day and by greeting each other in the language. As a Nation, our ancestors collectively bore the ultimate sacrifice and yet others endured intense burden to ensure the Yaqui people and future generations would have the choice to learn the knowledge and teachings obtained by understanding our language

As we have closed out 2019, we would like to thank all Yaqui people near and far who are helping by sharing what they have learned. We extend a hand of support and acknowledge your contributions. We stand in solidarity with each Yaqui person that has he passion of ensuring that the Yaqui language will once again be prevalent in all Yaqui lands and will be the dominant language spoken in every Yaqui home.

However challenging this idea may be, have the faith and strength that we can reverse the current trajectory.

We invite you to celebrate and honor the language of our ancestors, the language of our Elders and the language of our future generations as we celebrate the Hiaki language on Feb. 21, 2020.

FROM THE TRIBAL COUNCIL:

Family and friends, a tragic accident occurred on Jan. 7, 2020, in the Yaqui community of Vicam Switch, Sonora Mexico. The accident occurred around 10 a.m. near the Villa area of Vicam Switch. The accident involved a train and a passenger bus. Sadly, there was loss of life and several individuals were injured.

We send our heartfelt condolences to those who lost a loved one and our thoughts and prayers to all for healing during this time.

On behalf of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, we send our heartfelt condolences to the families of the following tribal elders, who recently passed away.

Pascua Hiak Bwia ropo'o hoata teampo inika te wame si'ime wawairammeu vicha vittua wame amemak wewerim hiva vetchi'ivo inika bwan bwiata, to'osahakame tuata waka vem rohiktiata te amemak hinea si'ime wame itovenasi hiakimmeu vicha.

Jesus Osuna, Tribal Council Member
Carmen Silvas, Tribal Council Member
Jesse Bustamante, Tribal Council Member

We sincerely thank them for their sacrifices and services provided during their tenure to our Yaqui Communities, and people.

Tuate wa'a tu'i luturiamak enchim aet vaisae achalim hunaman Hiak Vatwe vetana enchim a'avo yahaka inim waka enchim ili polove tekiata tekipannoapo amani.

On this day, the Yaqui people spanning two countries as well as other indigenous people of the world will stand united and celebrate United Nations International Mother Language Day. Keep a look out on our department Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/YaquiTribeofArizona/) for community flyers and announcements for upcoming events and language resources.

Enchim mampo taawak, tua Lios enchim hiokoe uttesiavu.

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE'S BOARD OF ELECTION OVERSEES ALL ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES

By: Ernie Gallardo, Board of Election Supervisor

In December 2015, the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council approved changes to the Election Code in order to improve the administration of elections, to remove unnecessary burdens on voters and to provide more access to the ballot boxes.

Several months before each council election, a board is appointed to fulfill these important duties. In order to serve on the Election Board, a person:

- Must be an enrolled Tribal member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must not have been convicted of either a felony, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, such as forgery or bribery, which is confirmed with a background check.

The members of the 2020-2024 Board of Election are:

- Ernie Gallardo, board chair
- Grace Estrella-Veloz, board member
- Ramon Lopez, board member
- Maria Molina, board member
- Catalina Torres, board member
- Miguel Daniel, board member
- Margaret McKenna, board member

The primary duties and responsibilities of the board include conducting all Tribal general and special elections, including for council members and for initiatives, referendums, recall measures and the resolutions of disputes arising from the Tribal elections. In addition, the board validates and certifies all submitted ballots.

Once all potential candidates have submitted their paperwork, the board will determine the eligibility of the candidates for office. In the months leading up to the election, the board will prepare and publish the Delectation of Candidacy on the Pascua Yaqui Tribal website and will provide candidates with information regarding all requirements for candidacy, including a timeline of all time-sensitive activities during the election process. This ensures that the prospective candidates are aware of all important dates and deadlines.

If needed, the board will organize meet-and-greet events that provide an opportunity for the candidates to meet Tribal members.

It is an honor serving my Yoeme (Yaqui) brothers and sisters. One of the gifts I can share with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe is my experiences and services necessary to exercise our sovereignty.

The election board goals are to ensure that our elections are free, open and conducted fairly, maintain the highest level of integrity according to the election codes, and to have greater voter turnout participation.

We encourage all eligible members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to exercise their right to VOTE and become a part of this very important opportunity.

THE CIVIL MEDIATION PROGRAM: A PEACEMAKING ALTERNATIVE

By: Nicole Casaus, AZ Mediation Center

At its December 2019 meeting, the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council approved the development of a civil mediation program. The mediation program is free to Tribal members and is located at 7777 Camino Huivisim, Building B, and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5p.m.

What is mediation?

Mediation is an alternative to the traditional court process.

This dispute resolution process is led by a trained mediator whose primary goal is to find a solution that works for everyone involved. Instead of placing the emphasis on blame and guilt, the goal of mediation is to resolve the issues in a peaceful way without the need to take the case before a judge.

How is this a benefit?

Mediation saves you money and time. Litigation often takes more than a year to complete and can be extremely expensive. **Mediation is successful.** The over-whelming majority of cases that enter mediation are successfully settled out of court without anyone feeling they are the losing side.

Mediation is confidential and private. What is discussed in mediation, stays in mediation, unlike litigation where court matters are on public record. **You collaborate to create a personalized solution that is as unique as your situation.** Each mediation process is personally tailored to how you want to move forward. The court doesn't have the time or resources to gain a full understanding of your needs.

In mediation, you are in control of the outcome. **It creates less stress and more solutions.** Litigation is an adversarial process that may cause extreme stress, impose a huge financial burden and negatively affect your health. Mediation is cooperative and collaborative. The focus is on effective and efficient problem solving. **It preserves respectful interactions between parties.**

How the Pascua Yaqui Tribe is incorporating mediation:

1. When you come to the clerk's window to file for one of the qualifying civil mediation case types you will receive a "Mandatory Civil Mediation Program" form to complete.

2. The clerk will collect the fee for the case filing and forward the completed form to your assigned judge. If the judge determines that mediation is appropriate, they will create an Order for Mediation.

3. That order along with the filled out Mandatory Civil Mediation Program form will be e-mailed to the mediator. The mediator will then contact you to schedule a mediation date and time. Mediation sessions are generally scheduled for three hours and are held in the conference rooms in the court lobby. Sometimes it is necessary to have multiple mediation sessions. In the event your case requires additional sessions, the mediator will work with you to schedule additional sessions.

CULTURAL STANDARDS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE YAQUI WORK ETHIC

By: Daniel Morales, HR Training Manager

RESPECT / COMMITMENT/ TEAMWORK /COMMUNICATION / COMPASSION / HONESTY

Throughout the past year, the Chairman, Human Resources and Language and Culture Departments worked jointly with Tribal Division Leaders as well as Tribal Council and community members to create the Tribe's Cultural Service Standards. These service standards are six core values derived from the traditional work ethic of the Yaqui people dating back thousands of years. The purpose of this unique approach is to tap into the Yaqui truth or Itom Luturia, which translates to "Our Truth."

The goal of this program is to use the historic commitment of the Yaqui people as public servants to support one another in the work that needs to be done.

Since September 2019, when the program was rolled out, more than 600 people have participated in a four-hour training program. As such, these service standards are now evident throughout the Tribal departments, our employees and our council.

What participants have said about the training...

"The training helped to define the cultural service standards, which in turn helped me to understand the service expectations of the Yaqui people."

"It helped me to look at myself and realize what I needed to do."

"I now have a better understanding of what I am here for and have a sense of purpose."

"Good reminders for those of us that have been here for more than 20 years."

"It reminded me of what I lost sight of."

"It was a great reminder and helpful to me, a non Pascua Yaqui, to be made more aware of the Yaqui culture."

CENSUS JOBS AVAILABLE IN PIMA COUNTY

By: Rebekah Lewis, Administrative Support Service Specialist

2020 marks the next census, or the count of every resident in the United States that happens every 10 years.

To help with the 2020 census, the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to hire full and part-time workers throughout the country. The Census Bureau will be hiring to fill a variety of positions.

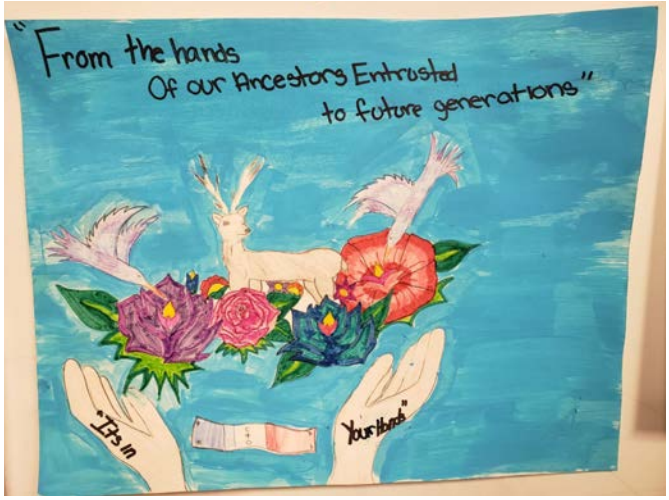
These will include temporary positions such as census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, supervisory staff and more.

Most jobs will be for field workers who go door-to-door to collect information from people who do not answer the census questionnaire on their own. Most positions are expected to last several weeks, but may end early if the work is completed early.

For more information on job descriptions and how to apply, please visit https://2020census.gov/jobs or contact Community Development at (520) 879-6321.

2020 CENSUS POSTER CONTEST ANNOUNCES WINNER

By: Rebekah Lewis, Administrative Support Service Specialist



First place 2020 census poster

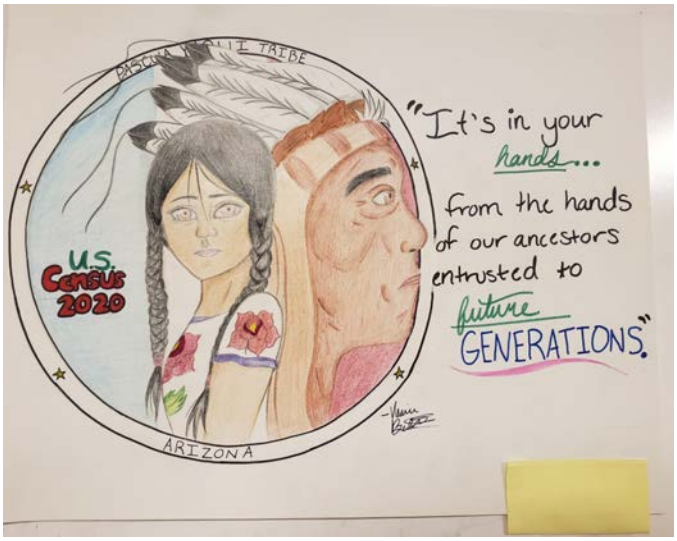
Congratulations are in order! The winners of the 2020 Census Poster Contest have been selected, thanks to the members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Complete Count Committee. The purpose of the contest, which was open to Tribal youth, was to create artwork that incorporated our message for the 2020 decennial census.

"It's In Your Hands"
From the Hands of Our Ancestors Entrusted to Future Generations.

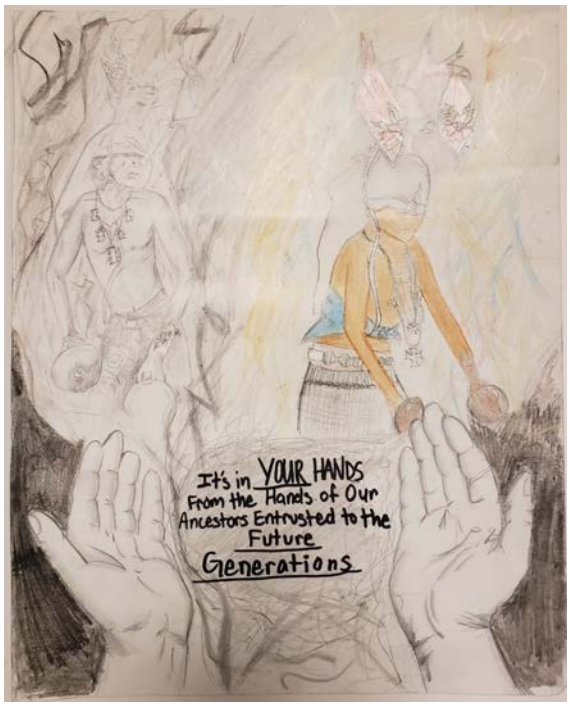
The top three winners are 13-year-old Anissa Rodriguez, who won first place, 14-year-old Leylalania Gocohachi, who won second place and 18-year-old Venina Baltazar, who won third place.

The first place artwork will be printed on 2020 census shirts and used on promotional materials.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe Complete Count Committee would like to thank all the participants who entered in the poster contest. Thank you for all of your beautiful poster designs. Great job!



Third place 2020 census poster



Second place 2020 census poster

THE YAQUI VOTE MATTERS: REGISTER TO VOTE

By: Letticia M. Baltazar, Community Development Manager

Do you want to have a say in the 2020 elections? Make your voice heard by registering to vote!

Leading up to the presidential election in November, you will have several opportunities to vote in local and national elections. Voters must be registered to vote 29 days before each election to participate. Important dates to remember:

Presidential Preference Election – March 17, 2020, register by Feb. 18, 2020

When there are multiple candidates running for president from the different political parties, voters have the chance to choose their candidate from the party with whom they are registered. To participate in the presidential preference election, voters must be registered with the party, Republican or Democrat, whose election they would like to vote in.

In 2020, there will not be a Republican presidential preference election in Arizona. However, voters registered as Democrats will have the chance to vote for their preferred Democratic nominee for the November general election.

Primary Election – Aug. 4, 2020, register by July 6, 2020
Like the presidential preference election, the primary election allows voters to choose between a pool of candidates who represent their party. These elections are for statewide and local representatives, and the ballot will be released with specific details on candidates this summer.

General Election/Presidential Election – Nov. 3, 2020 register by Oct. 5, 2020
After all the candidates have been determined, voters will have an opportunity to cast their vote for the candidate of their choosing. This is when voters will vote for president, as well as any statewide elections

The most important thing is to register in time to vote. To complete a voter registration form online, please visit: https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/selectLanguage.

You can also complete a form in person, with locations available both on and off the reservation. To complete a form in-person, visit your local county recorder's office or Community Development Department. Please call 520-879-6321 with any questions.

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; VOTER REGISTRATION

By: Letticia M. Baltazar, Community Development Manager

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe VITA program provides FREE income tax assistance to low and moderate income families, elderly and individuals with disabilities. Assistance includes FREE tax preparation, free E-filing, financial literacy of tax credits such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credits (CTC) and Property Tax Credits (PTC). VITA volunteers offer taxpayers information on banking opportunities for direct deposits for refunds. VITA tax services are provided in all Pascua Yaqui Tribal Communities.

Voter registration is also available.

Appointments are available on a first-come first-serve basis.

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 VITA Modular 9-11am
2	3	4	5 Old Pascua 5-7pm	6	7	8 VITA Modular 9-11am Guadalupe 10-2pm
9	10	11	12 Senor De Los Milagros 5-7pm	13	14	15 VITA Modular 9-11am
16	17	18	19 Marana 4-6pm	20	21 Senior Center Priority to Elderly 9-11am	22 VITA Modular 9-11am
23	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Guadalupe Senior Center 10-1pm Coolidge 3-5pm	5	6	7 VITA Modular 9-11am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 VITA Modular 9-11am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 VITA Modular 9-11am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 VITA Modular 9-11am Last Sat. OPENED
29	30	31				

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 LAST DAY TO DROP OFF TAXES	2	3	4 Palm Saturday
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 VITA office Closed	8 Holy Wednesday	9 Holy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Gloria
12 Easter Sunday	13 Easter Monday	14	15 Last day to file taxes	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

PYT & VITA office CLOSED

PYT & VITA office CLOSED

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE CALENDAR

Be sure to bring the following documents to your local VITA site:

- Proof of identification (photo ID)
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter may be substituted for you, your spouse and your dependents if you do not have a Social Security number
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc) from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Health Insurance Exemption Certificate, if received
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Proof of bank account routing and account numbers for direct deposit such as a blank check
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number such as their Social Security number or business Employer Identification Number
- Forms 1095-A, B and C, Health Coverage Statements
- Copies of income transcripts from IRS and state, if applicable

STRENGTHENING THE PASCUA YAQUI NATION AND U OF A PARTNERSHIP THROUGH 2020

By: Hugo A. Guerra, Pascua Yaqui Education Division

The year 2020 brings exciting times for nation building! For those of you in the community who may have not yet heard, there are many new developments when it comes to the existing partnership between the Yaqui Nation, the government and the University of Arizona.

In addition to the regular and routine business of the Yaqui Education Services scholarship program that supports graduating students who give back as employees at Del Sol, or who join the tribal government workforce, this vibrant partnership continues to see growth. One particular Yaqui Nation goal that has gotten the attention of the community is the current work to draft, develop and implement an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the tribe and the university. This IGA will consolidate all the existing projects under one umbrella.

The IGA draft document holds great promise to fulfill some of the activities and to drive outcomes related to the Tribal Council's priorities that were established for the Education Division, per the strategic plan as follows:

- In spirit, the IGA general provisions embody an intent and a strategy to indigenize the university, in terms of its overarching thrust and direction, when it comes to serving tribal members.

- The intended purpose of the draft document focuses on strengthening the Pascua Yaqui Nation and the U. of A. partnership through 2020 with a Tribal Council initiative that is innovative in that it proposes to develop exceptional higher education that is designed as a lifelong learning continuum and collaborative. Thus, this training and education cradle-to-grave pipeline imbeds strategic planning from both the Tribes' and the U. of A.'s perspectives.

- Selected areas of focus are technical support in such sectors as indigenous law, health, and education. The approach entails the leveraging of human and capital resources necessary to implement an indigenous Pascua Yaqui K-12 school system and a community college; develop curricula; enhance tribal leadership; develop a U. of A. micro-campus on site; and to generally align and streamline education and training to meet the needs of the tribal employment market.

Earlier in January, the Pascua Yaqui and U. of A. micro-campus saw its first education and training project launched, as 40 tribal government and enterprise employees enrolled in the Indigenous Governance Program. Implemented as part of the partnership, and involving the Native Nations Institute of the University of Arizona, enrollees engaged in three half-days of education and training with content relating to nation building and specifically addressing Yaqui indigenous and modern governance structures; elements of Native Nations governance success; assessing Yaqui governance; strengthening Yaqui governance; implementing/ sustaining Yaqui governance; and federal Indian law and policy and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2019 GUADALUPE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

By: Vanessa Bustos, Prevention Coordinator with the Guadalupe Prevention Program

Christmas is a time of year for giving and sharing and Guadalupe wants to thank all of those who gave their time and efforts to make the 2019 Community Christmas a success. This year, similar to previous years, the Town of Guadalupe and Pascua Yaqui Tribe teamed up to provide the entire community with a big fiesta, including gifts, raffles and live entertainment.

Various program partners from the Guadalupe Community Partnership, tribe and town all set up booths with activities and information. Big Red from the Arizona Cardinals made an appearance and danced with the Lutu'uria Youth Group Christmas crew.

Entertainment was provided by Los Hermanos Cuatro and local favorites, Los Sociales. Santa was handing out presents provided by Toys for Tots. Children walked away with treats and adults did not leave empty handed either. The raffles provided by the tribe were great this year including two flat screen TVs. All-in-all, the event was one of the best with so many smiling faces and merry times, proof that working together is better for the whole community.

New Pascua's Annual Christmas Party and Light Parade held on Dec. 20

Community Members were treated to festive music, food and of course, the annual light parade.

Mariachi
Los Giros

MISS PASCUA YAQUI PROGRAM

By: Daniel Vega, Pascua Yaqui Department of Language and Culture

The Miss Pascua Yaqui Program maintains a tradition of empowering young Yaqui women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum in which to express their opinions, intelligence and talent reflecting our tribal principles, values, language, culture, history and traditions.

These young ladies serve a one year term and represent the Tribe at intertribal, local, state, and national functions. On behalf of the Miss Pascua Yaqui Program, we are honored to present to you your 2019-2020 Miss Pascua Yaqui Titleholders.

Pascuala Valenzuela, Miss Pascua Yaqui 2019-2020

Miss Valenzuela is the daughter of Simon Valenzuela and Olvera Monte-Valenzuela. She comes from the Barrio Libre/39th community, and is currently a senior at Project More High School. She enjoys embroidery and crochet. After completing high school, Miss Valenzuela plans on attending community college in the Fall.

Abigail Matuz, Miss Pascua Yaqui 1st Attendant 2019-2020

Miss Matuz is the daughter of Alma Iris Valenzuela and step-father Joe Mori. Miss Matuz is from the community of Guadalupe. She is currently a freshman at Mesa Community College, majoring in social work and enjoys photographing her community and family.

Laylalanai Gocobachi, Junior Miss Pascua Yaqui 2019-2020

Miss Gocobachi is the daughter of Jesus Gocobachi and Almarosa Valencia. Miss Gocobachi comes from the Barrio Libre/39th and New Pascua communities, and is currently a freshman at Tucson High School. She enjoys playing volleyball with her high school team and her club team.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP

By: Keith Gregory, Director of Housing

Preparing to become a new homeowner requires patience, discipline and determination.

Homeownership is an important part of building a strong community and vital for the creation of wealth for any family. The process of preparing to become a homeowner may seem daunting at first, but in reality it is just a process that has several steps along the way.

1. Check Your Credit

A good credit score is essential to buying a home, since it is the main way that banks can tell if you are a responsible payor. A higher credit score makes it easier to qualify for lower interest rates, which can help to make your house more affordable. To find your credit report, you can go to online resources such as www.annualcreditreport.com and request a free copy of your credit report from all three credit reporting bureaus.

2. Start Saving

You will need cash reserves to buy a home, and you will need to be able to show lenders that you can afford the payments on your new home. The more you save the more you will be able to pay as a down payment, which will help lower the cost of your home.

3. Consult a Lender

The sooner your visit a lender, the sooner you will have an idea of how financially ready you are to get a mortgage, or what steps you may need to take to improve your financial situation.

4. Investigate Down Payment Assistance and Other Grant Programs

It is always useful to research programs that exist in your community that will help you afford homeownership. For example, the Housing Department can offer you down payment assistance when you are ready to buy a home.

5. Decide How Much You Want to Spend

While a lender can give you a pretty good idea of how much house you can afford, only you can decide how much house you are comfortable paying for each month. You should consider your other expenses when making a decision on how much house to buy.

6. The Home Buyer Education Classes

You can never know too much. Lenders and agents and other non-profit agencies often have free seminars that can help explain the details of the homebuying process.

7. Find a Real Estate Broker

Finding the right broker is important. This person will be guiding you through the entire homebuying process and should make you feel comfortable that they have your best interests in mind at all times.

8. Start Looking at Houses

This is the fun part, go with your agent to open houses, and schedule appointments to see houses that interest you. There are many tools online that can help you find houses that meet your needs.

For more information on homeownership, contact Linda Alvarez at linda.alvarez@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov or by phone at 520-879-6316.

WEPUL NOKHIAWAI, WEPUL HIAPSI

Provided by the Pascua Yaqui Language and Culture Department

The following is a brief conversation that can be used in a Yaqui home during these cold weather months. We invite you to practice the brief phrases below. And if you want to learn more, visit our Facebook page for other instructional videos: https://www.facebook.com/YaquiTribeofArizona/.

Severia Mecham: Cold Months

Vocabulary Words:

Pa'akun: Outside

Suka (sukasi): Warm

Supem: Shirt or blouse

Empo: You

Notte (nottine): Be returning

Noolia (noliama): Hurry up!

Chuvakte: Cold

Inepo: I

Now let's practice!

Maala: Reyes pa'akun yeu siiko sukasi supetene.

Mother: Reyes when you go outside wear a warm jacket.

Uusi: Ah heewi, tuasu tu'i.

Child: Oh yes, I will.

Maala: Halevenamsa empo supetevae?

Mother: Which one will you wear?

Uusi: Um tewei suka supempo.

Child: The blue warm jacket.

Maala: Empo chuvakte?

Mother: Are you cold?

Uusi: E'e, inepo ka chuvakte.

Child: No, I am not cold.

Maala: Noliama lauti tahkaim hinuse'e

Mother: Go right now buy tortillas

Uusi: Heewi, lauti ne nottine.

Child: Yes, I will return quickly.