

## Arizona Tribal Sponsorships and Indigenous Cultures represented at Super Bowl LVII

Story by Runner Staff



Kansas City Chiefs and fans join in celebration after their 38-35 win over the Philadelphia Eagles, at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, February 12. Photo by Jennifer Boehm-King

Arizona played host to Super Bowl LVII, which was played at State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Arizona on February 12, 2023. The event brought many pro athletes and notable celebrities to the valley.

Ak-Chin Indian Community and many Arizona tribes were also visible and represented at this year's Super Bowl,

through cultural performances and art. "The Ak-Chin Community was very excited to participate in a sponsorship opportunity with the Super Bowl this year. This opportunity not only helped market and promote the community, but it showcased to the world that Native American's can play a

vital role in being a part of a prestigious event," said Chairman Robert Miguel. "Along with the Tohono O'odham Nation, Gila River Indian Community and Ft. McDowell Community, we together represented the twenty-two respective tribes in Arizona and showcased the rich history, tradition and culture of Native Country here in our State.



Ak-Chin students gather for photo during the NFL PLAY:60 YOUTH DAY at the Phoenix Convention Center on February 8. Look on page 5 for more photos and story. Photo by Richard Lopez

We respectfully thank the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee and the great State of Arizona for the opportunity and we look forward in other potential opportunities to consider in the future."

This event brought a number of opportunities to network and market tribal communities not only in the State but

Nationwide. "I was able to meet not only with State but Nationwide Congressional leaders. I had a great breakfast with Congresswoman Sharice Davies from Kansas and had phone conversations with other Senators and Representatives throughout the Country. Tribal Leaders from back east, sent their appreciate

and recognition to the Arizona tribes for their role in the Super Bowl." Through Ak-Chin's sponsorship Community members and employees were able to attend several Super Bowl events, through ticket raffles offered, such as VIP events and the Super Bowl game.

Super Bowl continues to page 6



Al Ha'Ascu Jujudam are ready for first tournament. L-R: Emily Antone, Serenity Villegas, Neveah Antone, Isabella Antone, Harlee Jose, Janaya Lopez, Mylaunah Antone, and Ariel Lopez. Photo by Gabe Lopez

## Ak-Chin Al Ha'Ascu Jujudam participate in first Toka Tournament

Traditional games for the women in Ak-Chin just got another boost as a young girls toka team has been inspired to begin playing.

S-kubjuv Ju:dam toka team was created last year, in honor of the late Holly Antone badt. She loved playing toka and encouraging youth to get involved in their traditional culture.

Holly's sisters and friends began recruiting women for the team. Once they began playing in tournaments, they

found that there were tournaments for young girls and so they began to recruit again.

It didn't take long to find a group of younger girls eager to learn the game, along with their families.

Both teams recently traveled to the Tohono O'odham Nation to participate in their 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Tohono O'odham Wapial Ha Tas.

S-kubjuv Ju:dam participated in the 32nd Annual Tohono

O'odham Nation Ge'e Toka Ha-Ciciwidag on Saturday, February 4 and the Al Ha'Ascu Jujudam participated in the 5th Annual Cecehia Toka Tournament on Sunday, February 5.

Both tournaments were held at the Verna N. Enos Toka Field.

Although, neither team came home with any wins, everyone expressed their determination and passion to practice so they can better and keep playing, for our "Holly Bear".

## 2023 WMPO boasts top players and first ever sold out rounds

Story and photos by R. Peters



Ak-Chin Community members and employees enjoy Tuesday outing on the iconic 16th hole at the Phoenix Open, February 7.

Arizona played host to two major events last week as the 2023 Waste Management Phoenix Open Presented by Taylor Morrison was held in Scottsdale February 6 – 12, 2023, while Super Bowl LVII played in Glendale on February 12.

Each day of the WMPO seemed to build up excitement and capacity as the crowd base grew larger and larger.

There were many spectators who came

to the Grand Canyon State to enjoy our great weather and super exciting sporting events.

According to WMPO tournament chairman Pat Williams Friday and Saturday's rounds were sold out, which was a first time for the TPC Scottsdale tournament.

This year's WMPO had an impressive lineup of PGA Tour pros with 22 of the top players from around the world, competing for the \$20 million purse.

Scottie Scheffler defended his 2022 WMPO title, with a spectacular round of play, 6-under 65, securing his fifth PGA Tour victory and his winning share of \$3.6 million.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Ak-Chin Southern Dunes once again hosted a dedicated group in their suites on the 16th and 17th holes. Many were community members who were able to enjoy "The People's Open".

WMPO continues to page 6



# Ak-Chin Elderly Valentine's Day Lunch at BIA House

Story by A. Santiago and photos A. Santiago and R. Rosoff



From left; Rechanda Manuel, Connie Narcia, Evelina Lopez and Connie Santiago enjoy one another's company at the Ak-Chin Elderly Valentine's Day luncheon at the BIA House, on February 9.

February 9 - Community Elders; Connie Santiago, Evelina Lopez, Connie Narcia and Rechanda Manuel enjoyed a lovely Valentine's Day Luncheon hosted by Ak-Chin Him Dak staff at the BIA House.

Elders were asked to bring their tea cups for the party, where they were served tea

and coffee. They sat amongst themselves around the table and enjoyed one another's company and the service provided by Him Dak staff. While talking, they reminisced of how they all would play at the BIA house when they were children.

"It seemed so big when we would come over and play, now that

we're older it seems much smaller." stated Connie Santiago

The luncheon included tuna croissants, PB & Jelly heart shaped bites and diamond egg salad cut bites. Desserts were fruit, cookies, pink covered strawberries and cake. They also received handmade ceramic teacup pots with succulents.



Left: Him Dak Art Program staff member, Jeannette Peters meticulously paints ceramic gifts ahead of the Valentine lunch event. Right: Finished ceramic products.

**ART SESSION: CERAMICS**

• COME CREATE!  
• LEARN & CREATE YOUR OWN CERAMIC PIECE FROM START TO FINISH  
• NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)  
Session Begins: January 31, 2023  
Session Ends: March 02, 2023  
When: Every Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00AM to 1:00PM (Members, Residents, Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)  
4:30PM to 7:00PM (Members & Residents Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)  
(Come in anytime between the times above/work at your own pace)

Transportation Provided  
Pick Up and Drop Off within the Ak-Chin Indian Community  
For transportation please call: 520-568-1350 (Please call before 4:00 p.m.)

For any additional questions please call: 520-568-1350

## Elder February Breakfast-Lunch Menu

**17** Egg & Bacon Burrito, Scone, Peaches and Cottage Cheese | Red Chili, Indian Tacos, Tropical Fruit

**20** CENTER CLOSED

**21** Breakfast Sandwich, Diced Potatoes, Pears | Fish & Chicken Taco, Fried Cabbage, Roasted Vegetables, Fresh Cut Fruit

**22** Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Raisin Bread, Watermelon | Lima Beans, Baked Chicken, Moon Bread, Salad, Peaches W/ Cottage Cheese

**23** Pancakes, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Mixed

Fruit | Green Chili, Diced Pork, Brown Rice, Corn, Fresh Pears

**24** Breakfast Salad, Toast, Peaches | Squash Casserole, Baked Potato, Salad, Crepes W/ Strawberries

**27** Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Roast, Mashed Potato, Green Beans, Rolls, Ambrosia Salad

**28** Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuit, Honey Dew | Goulash, Sautéed Vegetables, Apples/Oranges

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

# 2023 Valentine Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament

Story submitted by Ak-Chin Recreation, photos by Runner staff

Ak-Chin Recreation Department was happy to host another successful Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament.

Thirty teams including teams from across Arizona and even California participated in our Valentine Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament.

On February 15, the doors opened early morning, at 7 AM and a breakfast consisting of oatmeal, croissants, and fruit were provided for the elders.

Many elders were

happy with the day's events and had a great time socializing and encouraging other teams as they played.

The elders played a double elimination tournament and were invited to stay for a lunch of sandwiches, chips, and potato salad provided by Vekol. Each elder was also given homemade cookies provided by Gordon's Treats.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank Chairman Robert Miguel for being our MC and Manny Gomez for

being a volunteer.

We would also like to thank Jessica Batopis of Gordon's Treats for being willing to make so many delicious cookies for our lunch.

Each placing team won T-shirts.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

1st Place – Jackrabbits 1

2nd Place – Salt River Steppers

3rd Place – Ft. McDowell Firebirds



1st Place – Jackrabbits 1



2nd Place - Salt River Steppers



3rd Place - Ft. McDowell Firebirds



Team Tohono O'odham, representing Ak-Chin and Tohono O'odham enjoyed playing in the Valentine Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament.





Newspaper of the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

#### Ak-Chin O'dham Runner

Editor: Raychel Peters  
Photojournalist:  
Tyaun Marshburn  
Graphic Artists:  
Diana Carlyle and  
Rebecca Rosoff  
News Assistant:  
Delila Villegas

#### Ak-Chin Tribal Council

Chairman: Robert Miguel  
Vice Chair: Lemuel Vincent  
Council Members:  
Lisa Garcia, Gabriel Lopez  
and Cecil Peters

#### Regular Contributors:

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

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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

2023 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**

#### NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
**March 3 - 16, 2023**  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH**

Please submit all  
announcements, wishes, etc.  
no later than  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH**

Material submitted after the  
**FEBRUARY 24TH DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate  
and relevant, it will be  
included in the next issue.

# Ak-Chin Child Development enjoy Valentine's Day Dance

Story by A. Santiago, Photos by T. Marshburn

Red, purple and pink  
colors were decorated  
everywhere for the  
Ak-Chin Preschoolers  
Valentine's Day Dance,  
held on Valentine's  
Day at Ak-Chin Child  
Development Program.

The children played tiny  
games, as tiny balloons  
and dance steps were

set up all over the place.  
Each class made crafts  
and picture frames. The  
preschool kids also had  
choices of cute props to  
pose with for photos.

At the end of the  
Valentine's Day Dance a  
celebration balloon drop  
fell from the ceiling.



WMPO continued from Front



Top photos: Harrah's Ak-Chin Management Team gather for photos on  
Wednesday, February 8 at the 16th hole at WMPO. Submitted photos



Ak-Chin Southern Dunes staff and patrons relax  
in 17th's Cove during Wednesday's ProAm.

hosted cross property  
groups from sister casinos  
in Iowa and Indiana and  
our customers stayed at  
Harrah's Ak-Chin, rode  
the bus to the Waste  
Management Open and  
enjoyed the tournament  
on the most famous hole  
in golf, the 16th hole." Mike  
Kintner, senior vice  
president and general  
manager of Harrah's Ak-  
Chin Casino shared.

"We also had Caesars  
Rewards members from  
across the country who

responded to a direct  
mail offer come stay  
with us and enjoy the  
Open. It was an exciting  
tournament with great  
weather and every  
customer raved about  
what a good time they  
had this week at Harrah's  
Ak-Chin!"

Kintner also shared that  
Harrah's had a busy  
week, "that ended with a  
Super Bowl party in the  
ballrooms at Harrah's  
Ak-Chin with over 700  
people attending."



## AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Environmental Programs

### AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE COMMUNITY EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL MAINTENANCE PROJECT (DESIGN-BUILD)

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General  
Contractors to submit proposal on a Design Build Contract. The project consists of  
the following;

- Community Erosion & Sediment Control Maintenance Project. This project will  
include erosion control & bank stabilization measures. This project may need to  
be conducted in a strategic phased approach.

The project/s funding comes from the US EPA Clean Water Act 319 Grant, with  
requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

A RECOMMENDED PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 3,  
2023, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email Fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.  
us, by noon (12:00 p.m.) on March 2, 2023. The RFP will be provided electronically  
shortly after registering.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on March 24,  
2023 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road  
Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Proposals received after the specified date and time will  
be rejected and returned unopened.

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

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

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

## NOTICE

**Due to the President's Day holiday,  
there will be no trash picked up  
on Monday, February 20th.**

**Instead, trash will be picked up  
on Tuesday, February 21st.**

**Thank you,  
Ak-Chin Sanitation**



IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT 45525 West Farrell Road Maricopa, AZ 85139 Phone (520) 568-1386 Fax (520) 568-1386		JAN 24 2023 PM 1:24:59
In the Matter of the Adoption of:	CASE NO.: CV-2023-001-VIL	
A.A. D.O.B: 04/09/2005	CIVIL SUMMONS	
THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:		
Alonzo Arellanes		
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:		
Mercedes & Fernando Rivera 13015 North Farm 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 of 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 24th day of January, 2023.		
Deanna Rascon Deanna Rascon, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court		



# Shining a light on loss and finding support

Story by Lynnette R Houston-Volden

Recently, our world went through an unprecedented period of global illness and loss with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Many people lost loved ones, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

In addition, people lost jobs, friendships, social connection, normal daily routine. During the pandemic, we were isolated and unable to connect as we had in the past. We were not able to grieve together which was a violation of tradition and the normal human condition.

Our support systems didn't just disappear, hugging and touching our loved ones could be dangerous and the way we relate to each other as humans was changed forever. As a world, we are grieving "pre-pandemic human existence".

Grief is a unique experience, it's personal and cannot be defined or explained in simple words. The loss of a loved one, a job, a pet, a home, or anything that holds value in your life can impact

each person differently. Grief is not something that happens at once and then is resolved. We can often feel loss in "waves" or cycles.

There will be times we feel better and then a specific date, a song, a smell, a familiar sound, or something about a passing person will trigger a memory and we will feel a sudden jolt of pain or sorrow as if it just happened in that moment. There is no acceptable time frame to feel better after losing something or someone you love.

Grief can cause physical as well as emotional responses, there can be an increase in anxiety, stomach aches, insomnia, emotional outburst or frequent crying spells, even the loss of appetite. Sometimes people struggle with their spirituality after a major loss, questioning their beliefs, and some feel even more connected.

What gives comfort to one person can and will be completely different for

someone else, because we are all different. Based on our life experiences, we have all have a response or set behaviors we use to try to deal with the feelings that come from dealing with loss.

Those behaviors, often referred to as coping skills, can be healthy or unhealthy and it can be beneficial at times to seek support from others when we are experience grief or loss. It can help to learn new coping skills and try new ways to express your emotions.

In counseling often times the goal is to help our clients learn to identify what they are feeling, how they can cope with their emotions, and what they can do to process through the negative emotions and still have a thriving life. How can they create a new "normal" while accepting the change in this world that includes the loss?

Our goal in Ak-Chin Behavioral Health is to provide the Ak-Chin

Indian Community and its employees with support and services to improve and help heal their emotional and mental well-being. In 2023 we'd like to start that journey with an open conversation on Understanding and Healing from Grief and Loss. We'd like to come together at acknowledge what we have struggled through and come out the other side.

We will be having a candlelight ceremony to honor what has been lost and offer support to those of us who are grieving.

In addition, we will be offering a support group this year designed to give people an opportunity to develop new coping skills, get support for their grief and loss, and process through their emotions. The Healing from Grief group will be a combination of methods.

Some of the groups will be Art based, because art is an extremely effective way to express our emotions.

Some groups will be talk-support in nature with an opportunity to share with other people in a confidential setting. The goal of the Healing from

Grief groups will be to help identify coping skills, identify and manage our grief related emotions, learn about the effects of grief and trauma on the body and mind, supporting our friends and family members who are grieving, and finding a path to a new normal.

The dates and time of the Candlelight Event and the Healing from Grief group will be published in ads in Ak-Chin Runner and emails sent out the community and its employees. Please join us in shining a light to help us all heal.

If you or someone you know are currently in need counseling or support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at Ak-Chin Health and Human Services Department at 520-568-1090 (48227 W. Farrell Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85139)



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# Super Bowl Experience

Story and photos by T. Marshburn

Saturday, I attended the Super Bowl Experience at the Phoenix Convention Center.

This event is held every year at the host state site and is described as an interactive “theme park”.

I didn’t personally get to participate in the activities but I viewed all the exhibits and there were a lot of good photo opportunities.

My favorite was posing behind the Roman

numerals LVII. I also enjoyed the display with pictures of what past Superbowl tickets looked like including the one from this year which was designed by local artist Lucinda Hinojos.



Ak-Chin youth enjoy football memorabilia and cheer opportunity at Phoenix Convention Center, February 8, 2023. Photos submitted by Richard Lopez and Mercedes Rivera

On Wednesday, February 8, there was an exclusive event held for elementary students at the Phoenix Convention Center, NFL PLAY:60 YOUTH DAY, where over 40 community kids, both members and residents, were able to go through football courses, try on

football gear and see famous football players’ jerseys and shoes.

The kids met the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders and got their autographs, it was the highlight of the day for them.

The kids were provided lunch courtesy of Subway.

Special thanks to the chaperones: Lisa Garcia, Octavio Machado, Delia Carlyle, Kristen Villegas, Richard Lopez and Mercedes Rivera.

## Super Bowl LVII Media Party

Story and photos by T. Marshburn

The Super Bowl Media party was held at The Farm at South Mountain on Tuesday, February 7.

The event had an intimate setting, where journalists from all over the world gathered and ate delicious food from a variety of vendors.

Every vendor had a stand and the food was endless. There were stuffed peppers, pizza, pasta, tacos, cherry and apple pie, elotes and much more.

My favorite was the cactus fritter. It was like a donut topped with

jalapeno sauce, it was life changing.

I spent part of the night searching for a recipe to recreate it. Who knew a cactus could be so delicious.

I also enjoyed the short rib on a bed of mashed potatoes. It was so tender the fork barely touched it and it fell apart.

Lastly, I thought the s’mores station was really cute. As we sat around the fire roasting marshmallows for our s’mores, I talked to a couple of journalists from Germany.

I was surprised people in Germany were such Super Bowl fans, seeing as how when it is 4:30 pm Arizona time it is midnight in Germany.

Despite the time difference, the 2020 statista.com reported Germany had 1.9 million viewers.



## Taste of the NFL

Story and photos By T. Marshburn



Taste of the NFL was a charity event to support GENyouth’s commitment to end student hunger. Celebrity chefs included Andrew Zimmerman, Carla Hall, Tim Love, Lasheeda Perry, and Mark Bucher.

Guests were also able to mingle with some NFL players. I met Trill Williams of the Miami Dolphins, Jesse Lukea of the Arizona Cardinals and Jamel Dean of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



Trill Williams of the Miami Dolphins and me.

FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

ELDER CENTER INFORMATION

520-568-1760

Center Hours

Monday-Friday

8 AM to 5 PM

Breakfast

7:30 AM to 9 AM

Lunch 12 noon

Transportation

520-568-1760 or

520-568-1769

Please Call Before 4PM

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Friday 9AM-6PM

Saturday-Appt Only

Sunday-Closed

Questions? Call Us!

520-568-1675

RECREATION INFORMATION

For more information on

Recreation Center events

please call 520-568-1740

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ELDER CENTER

ELDER CHAIR VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE DAYS

Wednesday and Friday

9:00 - 11:00AM

@ Recreation Gym

HEALTH EDUCATION

FOOD HANDLERS TRAINING

Tuesday, February 28

10:00AM - 12:00PM

@ Environmental Programs

Department Building

TO SIGN UP PLEASE

CALL (520) 568-1083

Limited class size so

sign-up is a must!

FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

Wednesday, March 8\*

9:00AM - 3:00PM

@ Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot

\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

\*\*\*The mobile unit is not handicap accessible.\*\*\*

WIC SERVICES

Tuesday, March 7

9:00 - 11:00 AM

@ Ak-Chin Indian Community Library

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:00 - 11:00 AM

@ Elements Event Center

16000 Maricopa Road

LIBRARY

MONDAYS

MULTI MEDIA MONDAYS

5:00 - 5:45PM

WEDNESDAYS

LEGO ROBOTICS

4:00 - 5:30PM

BUDDY’S READING CIRCLE\*

2:00 - 6:00PM

\*Participants must be signed up for program to attend.

Call 520-568-1675 for more information.

Saturday, 2/18 - Monday, 2/20

Library Closed

THURSDAY 2/23

TASTY CRAFTS W/AMY

5:00 - 5:45PM

PARKS & RECREATION

GAME ROOM\*

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays\*\*

5:00 - 7:00PM

XBOX & PS4

\*Ages 9 - 17; Must call to schedule slot time; waiver release and conduct form must be signed and completed

\*\*Friday tournament - prizes (1st - 3rd place)

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Games begin: February 18th

N7 BASEBALL

Saturday, February 18\*

12:00 - 2:00PM

\*PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED; for questions please email

WGonzalez@ak-chin.nsn.us or

call 520-568-1740.

\*\*Calendar Subject to Change\*\*

Transportation

520-568-1760 or

520-568-1769

Please Call Before 4 PM



# NFL Honors 2023

Story and photos By T. Marshburn



Damar Hamlin (center bowing) with medical staff from the Buffalo Bills, Cincinnati Bengals and University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Thursday February 9th was the NFL Honors awards show which is like the Grammys for Football players. It was nothing short of amazing.

We started the evening at Palma, a new trendy restaurant located in Downtown Phoenix. They had a Superbowl themed drink menu with drinks like the RiRi Remix and the Host Committee's Coverage. From there we were transported to the Phoenix Symphony Hall.

We were set to walk the same red carpet all the celebrities walked but the traffic in Phoenix was so overwhelming we barely made it to our seats before the show started.

The ceremony was hosted by Kelly Clarkson, the first season winner of the hit TV show American Idol. She made history again being the first woman to host NFL Honors.

Patrick Mahomes won the award for MVP which seemed to be a little foreshadowing with the Kansas City Chief's victory against the Philadelphia Eagles in Sunday's big game.

The event took an emotional turn when Damar Hamlin came on stage. The 24-year-old American football safety for the Buffalo

Bills suffered a cardiac arrest January 2nd of this year. Hamlin was accompanied by the medical staff from the Bills, Bengals and Cincinnati Medical Center. He gave a heart felt thanks to them as well and the surgeon.

Hamlin said, "My entire life, I felt like God was using me to give others hope and now with a new



set of circumstances, I can say He's doing what He's always done".

The tears didn't stop there. Winner of the Walter Payton award, Dak Prescott, Dallas Cowboys quarterback also left the audience looking for tissues.

Dak Prescott talked about losing his mother to Cancer in 2013 and then losing his brother to suicide in 2020. It is through these losses Prescott created The Faith, Fight, Finish Foundation.

"The Faith, Fight, Finish Foundation was created to support families and

communities and invest in the future of our youth." Prescott said.

Since the passing of his brother the foundation has partnered with other organizations to create a 3-digit helpline like 911 for people to call and speak with a professional.

After the awards show we went back to Palma for a meet and greet with some of the players. I met Larry Fitzgerald former wide receiver for the

Arizona Cardinals.



Enjoying a moment with Larry Fitzgerald at Palma.

Super Bowl continued from Front

These lucky winners shared a few memories, and photos that they will cherish for a lifetime.

"The NFL trip and tailgate party was an amazing experience that I will always cherish and be thankful to the community for providing. We would never experience such activity on our own, and very thankful and proud to represent Ak-Chin. Thank you!" – Gloria Alejandro

"It was awesome to enjoy the 2023 Super Bowl with family. Many thank yous to our Ak-Chin Indian Community for this once in a lifetime opportunity!!!" – Deidra Carlyle

"Being lifetime fans of the Kansas City Chiefs, it was great that we had the opportunity to not only attend the Super Bowl in our home state, but also see our team take the win. I am thankful that the NFL organization gave our community members tickets. We definitely had fun cheering for our team, enjoying Rihanna's halftime show and feeling the energy of the stadium in the 4th quarter. It was a once in a lifetime event that I was

lucky enough to spend alongside my brother James and sister Renee." – Jennifer Boehm-King

"Here at Super Bowl

LVII. Thank You Ak-Chin Indian Community for the opportunity to attend a once in a lifetime experience."

– Ann Marie Antone



## Think teeth.

Medicaid and CHIP cover many children's dental services, including teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments, and fillings.



For more information about children's dental health, contact your Indian health care provider, visit [InsureKidsNow.gov](https://www.insurekidsnow.gov), or call 1-877-543-7669.







**2023 HIM-DAK SPRING ART PROGRAM**

**K-12th Grade (For Members and Residents)**

We will be having one Art Program Session from March 6th - March 17th (2 weeks)

Registration is limited to the first 15 kids signed up per grade group/session.

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Grade Groups: K-1st, 2nd-4th, 5th-8th, 9th -12th  
No Lunch Provided, we will have a morning and afternoon snacks.  
No Transportation Provided

For kid/s drop off and pick up, please enter on North side of Art Building

For any questions call:  
Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum at 520-568-1350



**Gila River HEALTH CARE**  
**FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC**  
CALL OR TEXT (520) 371-0132

**March 08<sup>th</sup> 2023 (Wednesday)\***

**In the Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**

\*\*\*The mobile unit is not handicap accessible.\*\*\*

**OUR CLINICAL SERVICES FOR MEN & WOMEN:**

- Family Planning counseling and education
- STD testing and treatment
- HIV testing and counseling
- Birth control and pregnancy education
- Well-Woman exams
- Pap smears and breast exams
- GYN diagnosis and treatment
- Emergency contraception
- Prenatal and postpartum care
- Preconception counseling
- Prevention counseling and education

**ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL**

We are flexible...Let us know what time works best for you!

grhc.org



## JOB OPENINGS

- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Detention Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Communications Officer
- Economic Development Analyst
- Airport Operations Technician
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist
- Photojournalist
- Elder Program Supervisor
- Firefighter/Medic (2)

*Open to Enrolled Community Members and Current Employees Only:*

- Motor Pool Technician (closes 02/17/2023)

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.



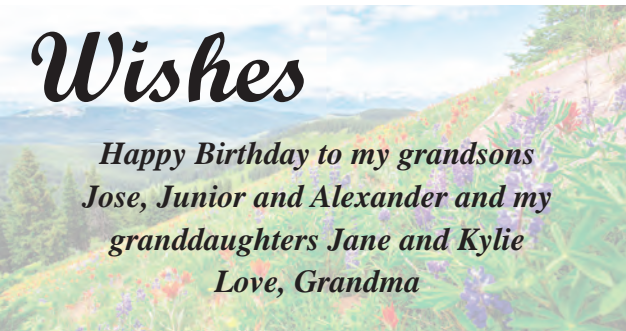
**AK-CHIN RECREATION GAME ROOM**

**FEBRUARY 8TH**  
**MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAY**  
**5PM-7PM**

**AGES: 9-17**  
**XBOX**  
**PLAYSTATION 4**

**GAMER ZONE**

**MUST CALL TO SCHEDULE SLOT TIME**  
**\*FRIDAY TOURNAMENT - PRIZES (1ST-3RD PLACE)**  
**\*WAIVER RELEASE & CONDUCT FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND COMPLETED**



## Wishes

*Happy Birthday to my grandsons  
Jose, Junior and Alexander and my  
granddaughters Jane and Kylie  
Love, Grandma*

## EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

### 2/17 - 2/29

**19-Feb**  
Debbie Soliz, IS  
Lisa Garcia, Community Government

**20-Feb**  
Aaron Apodaca, Retail

**21-Feb**  
Randon Quasula, Maintenance

**25-Feb**  
Alexander Lopez, Parks & Recreation

**27-Feb**  
Terry Zicafoose, Early Childhood

**28-Feb**  
Rebecca Alvarez, IS  
Raymond Whitman, Transit  
Kathleen Cardenas-Ruiz, Finance



## BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 17TH - 29TH

<b>2/17</b> <b>Jose Lopez</b> <b>Mara Delores</b>	<b>2/24</b> <b>Junior Peters</b> <b>Keira Attakai</b> <b>Kylie Gardner</b>
<b>02/18</b> <b>Edward Martinez</b> <b>Annalise Manuel</b>	<b>2/25</b> <b>Corianna Nevarez</b> <b>Vallejos</b> <b>Alexander Lopez</b>
<b>2/19</b> <b>Marcos Santiago</b> <b>Jane Lopez</b> <b>Tyra Williams</b> <b>Jonas Miguel</b> <b>Philbert Narcia Jr.</b> <b>Lisa Garcia</b> <b>Kerrin Miguel</b>	<b>2/26</b> <b>Christian Castro</b> <b>Havier Stephens Jr.</b>
<b>2/20</b> <b>Unique Santiago</b> <b>Maria Narcia</b> <b>Rechanda Manuel</b>	<b>2/27</b> <b>Woodrow Marsh</b> <b>Shyla Thomas</b>
<b>2/21</b> <b>Calvin Van Sickle</b>	<b>2/28</b> <b>Raymond Miguel</b> <b>Rebecca Alvarez</b> <b>Robert Narcia</b>
<b>2/22</b> <b>Perris-Jade White</b>	<b>2/29</b> <b>Traci Thomas</b> <b>Cody Miguel</b>
<b>2/23</b> <b>Joseph Narcia</b> <b>Victor Ortega</b> <b>Octaviana Ormsby</b> <b>Ryleigh Delores</b> <b>Joshua Dominguez</b>	





# Dancers Set to Dazzle for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor 2nd Annual Dancing for Our Stars Event

Maricopa, Arizona – January 24, 2023 – On March 25, 2023 Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor will host the 2nd Annual Dancing For Our Stars event. This will take place at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Event Center located at 15406 N. Maricopa Road, Maricopa, Arizona. The Red-Carpet Reception will start at 5 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, followed by a fabulous 3 course dinner and Performances at 7 p.m. and a VIP after party at 10 p.m. for VIP ticket holders.

This dance competition features local celebrities partnered with professional dance instructors for impressive performances sure to entertain and inspire the audience. We hope that this event will bring the communities of Casa Grande and Maricopa together in a major way. The audience includes both in person attendees at the event and a virtual audience watching the live stream event online.

Our dance teams are hard at work and dedicated to giving our attendees a spectacular show. Our teams competing in this year's event are:

1. Celebrity Dancer Trey Davis and Professional Dancer Karen Calipus
2. Celebrity Dancer Tena Dugan and Professional Dancer Amanda Colon
3. Celebrity Dancer Councilwoman Lisa Fitzgibbons and Professional Dancer Myka Borunda
4. Celebrity Dancer Councilwoman Lisa Garcia and Tribal Dancer
5. Celebrity Dancer

Kelly Herrington and Professional Dancer Daniel Kent

6. Celebrity Dancer Dr. Adam Leckie and Professional Dancer Mindy Melillo
7. Celebrity Dancer Dr. Tracey Lopeman and Professional Dancer Erin Hildick
8. Celebrity Dancer Ray Nieves and Professional Dancer Kayla Patterson
9. Celebrity Dancer Louie Sanchez and Professional Dancer Krisenna Hancock
10. Celebrity Dancer Councilman Henry Wade and Professional Dancer Velaine Jolle

Skyla Teel will be our emcee again this year. Skyla is a wife, mom, Professor of Reading and Education and rodeo coach at Central Arizona College. She is also a columnist for the Casa Grande Dispatch and is the host of the show, "Rec Talk".

Our prestigious panel of judges are all dancers from last year who knows what it takes! Former Maricopa Mayor, Christian Price, Dr. Jeff Mitchell and Evelyn Casuga.

We have a new role this year with our Performance Director, Carrie Vargas. She was a judge last year but agreed to help us in a new way this year. Carrie founded the Maricopa Community Theatre. She currently serves as the chair for the Cultural Affairs and Arts Committee and is the reigning Mrs. Ultimate Elite titleholder.

Thank you to our partner studios and dancers. Daniel Kent at The Studio in Casa Grande, Ceylan Gentilella at Desert Sun Performing Arts in Maricopa and Mindy Sue Melillo at The Dance Spot in San Tan Valley along with their professional dancers for their time and dedication to make this incredible event.

Board Member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor and this year's Dancing For Our Star Event Chair, Dr. Jenni Cardenas says, "I look forward to seeing so many new faces in the audience this year from Maricopa. Casa Grande and the surrounding area's residents have been wonderful supporters for many years. Expanding to the Maricopa community will strengthen our organization and increase our capacity to serve the youth of Pinal County."

Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor, Matthew Lemberg says, "I believe that this year's Dancing for our Stars event will more than live up to the massive expectations set by last year's inaugural event and we are excited to have our event in Maricopa this year."

You can support our event by becoming a sponsor, attending our event and voting for our dancers. For those interested in sponsoring this year's event have these levels available:

- Presenting Sponsor - \$5000
- Mirror Ball Sponsor - \$2,500
- Star Table Sponsor - \$1,500
- Shooting Star Sponsor - \$1,000
- Rising Star Sponsor - \$500

- Star Light Sponsor - \$250

Tickets are available for purchase now, but hurry and get them now as they are selling fast. VIP Seating is \$200, Premium Reserved Seating is \$150 and Standard Reserved Seating is \$100.

You can also support your favorite dancers by casting your vote for \$10 per vote and there is no limit to how many times you can vote. The awards for our event this year are People's Choice (the team with the most votes), Top Friend-raiser (this is the Coveted Mirror Ball Award that

goes to the team that raises the most money) and the Judge's Choice Award (the team that has the top score from our judges).

For more information about our 2nd Annual Dancing For Our Stars Event, please visit us online at [Dancingforourstars.net](http://Dancingforourstars.net). To learn more about our services and clubs, you can visit us at [bgcsuncorridor.org](http://bgcsuncorridor.org).

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor Since 1998, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor has provided a safe place for kids

and teens to learn and grow. Our Clubs offer caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs daily during critical non-school hours.

Boys & Girls Clubs programming promotes academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. We provide critical services in Pinal County and have eight clubs (1) Arizona City, (5) Casa Grande and (2) Maricopa. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor has an open-door policy and is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



**Ak-Chin Circle**  
 ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Tickets available online:  
[ak-chincircle.com/theater](http://ak-chincircle.com/theater)

**ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA\***  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 11:00am, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00 & 8:00  
**Friday:**  
 3:00, 5:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 9:00  
**Saturday:**  
 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 9:00  
**Sunday:**  
 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00 & 8:00  
*\*does not include 3D showing times*

**Saturday:**  
 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30  
**Sunday:**  
 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00

**KNOCK AT THE CABIN**  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30  
**Friday:**  
 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 & 11:00  
**Saturday:**  
 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 & 11:00  
**Sunday:**  
 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30

**80 FOR BRADY**  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 11:00am, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00 & 8:30  
**Friday:**  
 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30  
**Saturday:**  
 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30

**Sunday:**  
 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00

**MISSING**  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30  
**Friday:**  
 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30  
**Saturday:**  
 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00  
**Sunday:**  
 12:30, 3:30 & 6:30

**PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH**  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45 & 8:00  
**Friday:**  
 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30  
**Saturday:**  
 11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00 & 10:15

**AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER**  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 11:30am, 3:30 & 7:15  
**Friday:**  
 4:00, 7:00 & 10:00  
**Saturday:**  
 11:15am, 3:15 & 7:15  
**Sunday:**  
 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00

**FRIDAY**  
**Monday - Thursday:**  
 12:00, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30 & 8:45  
**Friday:**  
 3:00, 5:15, 7:30 & 10:00  
**Saturday:**  
 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30 & 10:00  
**Sunday:**  
 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30 & 10:00

**FEBRUARY 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SUPER BOWL LVII PARTY</b> FEBRUARY 12, 2023 DOORS 4PM • GAME 4:30PM THE EVENTS CENTER AT HARRAH'S AK-CHIN CASINO CAESARS REWARDS OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF SUPER BOWL LVII			1            LEGACY COLLECTION BY CRG PRESTIGE TRAVEL SET GIVEAWAY*	2            FIND US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & TWITTER!	3            BONUS REWARD CREDITS	4            SOCIAL INFLUENCERS' TOP PICK! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!
5            DOUBLE ENTRY DAY FOR THE ALASKA CRUISE DRAWING BONUS REWARD CREDITS	6            DINNER FOR TWO OR TWO DINNERS FOR ONE!	7            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	8            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	9            JACKPOT!	10            BONUS REWARD CREDITS	11            DOWNLOAD AND BE APPY! CAESARS REWARDS
12            GAME ON! BONUS REWARD CREDITS	13            DUNKIN' HAS YOUR MORNING AFTER COFFEE CURE	14            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!	15            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	16            YOUR PRESIDENTS' DAY PROGRESSIVE STARTS HERE!	17            PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER BONUS REWARD CREDITS	18            PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER
19            PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER BONUS REWARD CREDITS	20            UP TO 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER!	21            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	22            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	23            ENTER YOUR JACKPOT FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN \$25K IN JUNE!	24            BONUS REWARD CREDITS	25            EARN AND ENTER TO WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$25,000 IN MARCH
26            BONUS REWARD CREDITS	27            SHARE YOUR EMAIL AND YOU WON'T MISS A THING! VISIT US ONLINE AT <a href="http://CAESARSREWARDS.COM/MYREWARDS">CAESARSREWARDS.COM/MYREWARDS</a>	28            CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	<div> <div> </div> <div> <b>PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b>            THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023         </div> </div>			

\*Wednesday, February 1, 2023 gift is part of the January 2023 Gift Giveaway. Please refer to the January 2023 communications to see if you qualify for free gifts. Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start! Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.