Maricopa, Arizona

**Volume XXXVII, Issue 7** 

**April 7 - 20, 2023** 

# **Candlelight** Vigil offers comfort and healing

Story and photos by R. Peters



Pamela Thompson, Ak-Chin Health and Human Services director shares during Candlelight Vigil, March 30.

On Thursday, March 30, Ak-Chin Health and Human Services held a Candlelight Vigil at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park, for the Community in an effort to help those healing from grief.

The Candlelight Vigil provided the opportunity to come together as a community, in hopes "that people were able to find comfort knowing that they are not alone." Pamela Thompson,

Vigil continues to page 3

# **Preschool** enjoys OdySea Aquarium Field Trip

Story and photos by A. Santiago



Above a group of preschoolers and their chaperon enjoy the sea turtles swimming at OdySea Aquarium on March 24.

On March 24, 2023 Development Program went on a field trip to the OdySea Aquarium in Scottsdale.

Aquarium.

Their tiny faces lit up in Ak-Chin Child amazement when they began to see the many different kinds of sea life and other animals.

They seen turtles, The preschool children arrived to the OdySea and headed straight to the the children called them.

stingrays and fish that looked like "Nemo" as

OdySea continues to page 5

# EASTER GREETINGS FROM AK-CHIN ELDER PROGRAM



Above, the front doors to the Ak-Chin Elder Center are adorned with a brightly colored Easter scheme. The Elder staff wanted to send everyone a grand "Happy Easter" greeting! The artistically talented team of Marissa Antone, elderly care worker and Danny Soliz, elderly driver put their creativity to work designing the cute springtime art for all to enjoy.

# **Maricopa High School** presents STORIES IN **SONGS Spring Concert**

Story by R. Peters, photos by A. Santiago



Far right, Ak-Chin community member and Maricopa high schooler, Johnny Perkins sings a solo at MHS spring concert. Also pictured is Beginning Guitar classmate and community member, Robert Santos, far left front chair.

March 23, Maricopa School's High Performing Arts Center (PAC) was filled with guests and music, as the Guitar and Choir classes held their Spring Concert, STORIES IN SONGS.

The program started at 7pm, with the Beginning Guitar class, who played many great songs, starting off with Saturday Night.

The second number, Pink

Flovd's Comfortably Numb included vocals, by our own Johnny Perkins, son of Deidra Carlyle and grandson of Delia Carlyle. Their last song was (Sittin' On)

The Dock of the Bay.

Community members Robert Santos, Xavier Garcia Humeyumptewa also listed to play in Beginning Guitar.

Next was Advanced Guitar, where community

Spring Concert continues to page 3

# **Education Department** discusses Challenges **Surrounding Ak-Chin Youth**

Story and photos by A. Santiago

On March 23, 2023, Ak-Chin Education hosted an evening event at the Ak-Chin Environmental department building about Challenges Surrounding Ak-Chin Youth, for parents and middle/high school students.

A panel of experts from

joined together to discuss issues and challenges facing community youth, such as mental health, at-risk behaviors, drug awareness and the dangers of social media. Presenters included; Truancy Officer Adam Bowman, Health and Human Services Pamela Director

Patrol Officers Harry Grizzle and Sean Sacro.

Adam talked to the group about truancy issues and how they can be alleviated. He also discussed the attendance

policies that are in place at school and in the community.

Pamela shared services her department provides, including therapy

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departments Thompson, and Ak-Chin PAGE 4 HIM DAK ART PROGRAM **PAGE 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

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# **Ak-Chin Elder Quarterly Birthday Party held at Southern Dunes**

Submitted by: Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Program Director

Southern Dunes Golf Course was a heartwarming event filled with joy and Community spirit. It was the first elder event since the Elder Center opened and the COVID-19 pandemic invaded.

It was great to see elders with their caregivers and spouses come together to recognize and honor the elders in the Community who celebrated their birthdays in the first quarter. A delicious BBQ lunch complete with all the trimmings and a decorated birthday cake was served.

The most heartwarming aspects of the party were the opportunity to see elders who do not often visit the Elder Center come together and reconnect with friends and family.

The Ak-Chin Elder Birthday Party at It is a reminder that they are appreciated and valued. Happy Birthday to all the first-quarter elders from the Elder Center Staff.



Leona Kakar, celebrates her March birthday at Southern Dunes.



Everyone seems to be enjoying the luncheon. (Top) sisters Irene Arredondo and Sylvia Gutierrez. (Bottom) Martin and wife Carol Antone along with Connie Narcia. Photos by T. Marshburn





#### 7 CENTER CLOSED

10 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Salad Bar, Potato Soup, Rolls, Easter Peep Fruit Kabob

11 Chorizo & Egg Burrito, Fruit Salad, Cottage Cheese, Granola Bar | Chicken Enchilada, Casserole w/ Pinto Beans, Corn & Red Bell Papers, Spanish Rice, Pineapple

12 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Sausage, Toast, Grapes | Turkey, Bacon, Avocado Sandwich, Green leaf & Tomato

Peas, Wax Beans, Jell-O-Plums 13 Ham & Cheese Spinach Puffs, Boiled Eggs, Roasted Potatoes,

Fruit & Yogurt | Ground Beef Tacos, Lettuce/Tomato/Cheese, Brown Rice, Zucchini, Mandarin **Oranges** 

14 Breakfast Salad, Toast, Muffin, Mix Berries | Black Eyed Peas, Chicken w/ Peppers, Broccoli, Carrots, Fresh Fruit Cups

17 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Fish or Chicken Sandwich, Green Leaf/Tomato, Asparagus, Wax Bean, Mandarin Oranges

18 Veggie Quiche, English Muffin, Yogurt Parfait, Scone | White Beans, Turkey Dumplings, Sweet Potato/Potato, Sauteed Spinach, Peaches

19 Bacon & Eggs, French Toast, Mix Berries, Cottage Cheese | Grilled Chicken Over Cesar Salad, Beets, Wheat Rolls, Plums, **Sweet Potato Casserole** 

20 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Diced Potatoes, Toast, Fruit | Tofu Stir Fry w/ Stir Fry Vegetables, Brown Rice, Lima

Beans, Egg Rolls, Pears 21 Breakfast Tortilla Wrap, Fresh Salsa, Muffin, Fruit Salad

Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Corn on the Cob, Grapes

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

#### LEO THOMAS

We appreciate everything you have done to be there for us after the loss of Leo Thomas.

Thank you for helping us during this difficult time. We appreciate all the love, kindness, and support you have extended to us.

To the pallbearers for Leo, you meant a great deal to him and your support was appreciated beyond words.

A.J. Moore Grimshaw Mortuaries Bethany Chapel Christopher J. Hogard Ak-Chin Tribal Council Ak-Chin Veterans Group Ak-Chin Police Department Ak-Chin Fire Department Ak-Chin Clinic Ak-Chin Social Service Ak-Chin Sanitation/Public Works Ak-Chin O'odham Runner Sally & Lawrence Antone -Rosary *Lerline Peters – Rosary* St. Francis of Assisi Church

Father Anthony Tinker Flower Ruelas John Antone Joann Mattia Leo Lewis

Gospel Road Clarence Garcia Hector & Shauna Project Kumbia Band Maliya Sam – Shania Manuel Wendy Wagner – Teresa Valisto Delia Carlyle Calvin J. Antone Samson S. Pinheiro Wayne Allison, Jr. Johnson Family

We apologize if we may have not mentioned everyone.

Family of Leo Thomas

We hold you close with our heart, and there you will remain until we meet again.

### Race to the Pot of Gold



Cheers to the lucky winners (I-r): Malinda Pete, Analita Laborin and Euphrasia Mike. Submitted by Marissa Antone, Elder Program Assistant

The Ak-Chin Elder Center held a St. Patrick's Day walk, "Race to the Pot of Gold" on Friday, March 17, 2023.

The elders and some of the elder employees walked around the elder center building to see who would get to the pot of gold first.

The elders enjoyed the nice weather and getting some exercise in, dressed up with St. Patrick's Day gear, and making sure to wear green so they

wouldn't get pinched.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes were handed to those that placed in the walk.

1st Place: Euphrasia Mike- Gardening Gift Basket stuffed with Gardening tools, Gardening gloves and flower seeds to sow.

2nd Place: Analita Laborin- Baking Gift Basket

3rd Place: Malinda Pete- Comfort



HHS Behavioral Health is now offering a group designed to help find a new path to normal.

Groups will help people express emotions, develop new coping skills, find comfort and support with others.

Art can help us express what words cannot.

Sharing with others can help us feel connected again.

- + April 19, 2023 Art Based Group
- + May 17, 2023 Support Group Meeting
- + June 21, 2023 Art Based Group
- + July 19, 2023 Support Group Meeting
- + August 9, 2023 Family Support Group Meeting + August 23, 2023 - Art Based Group
- + September 13, 2023 Support Group Meeting

+ September 27, 2023 - Art Based Group

Groups 1 & 2 will be held at the Ak-Chin Indian Library Multiuse Room 5:30pm - 7:00pm \*Reservations are needed for Art Based Groups to verify supplies are available for all



For questions or more information please contact HHS Behavioral Health Team at: 520-568-1090 or LHouston-Volden@ak-chin.nsn.us; PThompson@ak-chin.nsn.us

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY PHONE: 520•568•1375 FAX: 520 • 568 • 1376 E-MAIL:

runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

#### **Ak-Chin O'odham Runner** Editor: Raychel Peters Photojournalist: 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.

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

The "Runner" is delivered

to all residents and departments of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, as well as surrounding community businesses, interested groups and subscribers.

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

#### ARTWORK, LETTERS, **STORIES** The Ak-Chin O'odham

Runner is a Community Newspaper and encourages Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos,

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

2023 Subscription rate is

#### **SUBSCRIPTION RATE**

\$33.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$33,75 check/money order to: Ak-Chin O'odham Runner 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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

#### **NEXT DEADLINE** Don't forget the

DEADLINE for the April 21 - May 4 , 2023 issue is due by FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH

no later than FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH

Please submit all

announcements, wishes, etc.

Material submitted after the **APRIL 14TH DEADLINE** 

cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be

included in the next issue.

and drug programs. She stressed

how all services are

strictly confidential.

Officers Grizzle and Sacro spoke about the different types of illegal drugs and narcotics that are out there and to be on the lookout as some drugs may be similar to candy like forms.

They shared how vape pens are becoming popular with the youth, the different oils in each vape pen, and stressed

they are illegal in the Community.

With the rise of fentanyl, this was an opportunity to inform parents how their children are around it more in schools, friends, and on social media. They stressed awareness is key and to be safe. They also provided insight on alcohol and its long-term side effects on the body.

After presentations and dinner a raffle was held to end the evening.





Joann Stephens and son Johnny Joe Luz brought photos of loved ones to the Candlelight Vigil.

shared.

Pamela talked about how hard it was to deal with losing loved ones during the pandemic, because we "weren't able to mourn like we used to."

"So tonight, we come together to remember the loved ones we lost, the ceremonies we did not have, the songs we did not sing, the hugs we were not able to give, the hands we did not shake...

Today we offer the space and above all the grace to say that we will never forget the ones that we lost."

Once Pamela finished, she asked Councilman Gabriel Lopez to come up as their guest speaker.

Councilman Lopez also shared the struggles from the past two years and being unable to mourn properly because we were on restrictions, "we weren't able to sit down and share a meal together" and that was important to gather.

we believe once we pass, we go to another place, and that our loved ones who have passed are there waiting to be with us again.

He also pointed out losing

He shared as O'odham

our hajun (family) from past to recent deaths, and one particular loss in the community of a young woman, although tragic, brought about a good thing, revitalizing the traditional game of toka.

He also stressed how we need to bring back our himdak to gain our

strength as O'odham and "honor the ones that have passed, we will someday join them again." HHS has developed a

centered

increase

community

approach to

Ak-Chin HHS Director outreach services and wanted something to introduce the idea to the community.

> The Candlelight Vigil was planned as "a first healing opportunity...to that things are different and we are allowed to support each other and come together again."

"We hope that people were able to find comfort knowing that they are not alone. Also, while each person has to take their own journey to healing there is help and support available through counseling, individual groups and community gatherings."

Councilmember Lopez the vigil was "greatly needed for our community...Thank You Pam Thompson and the Health and Human Services Department."

"I personally think we never can get over grieving and mourning of a loved one, it just becomes more manageable over time."

Ak-Chin Youth Council

was invited to say a prayer, followed by a moment of silence, and then share some traditional songs. Lynnette Houston-

Volden, Ak-Chin Behavior Health Therapist provided information on the Healing from Grief Group activities.

Afterwards,

was then invited to take home a delicious take home dinner. The Healing from Grief

everyone

group will meet for the first time April 19, 2023 at 5:30pm. It will be at Ak-Chin Library Multiuse room. It will be an Art-Based group so reservations are needed to ensure materials are available. (See flyer on Page 2 for more

information).

member Teagan Delma performed. performed.

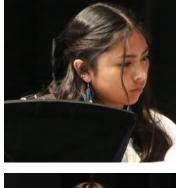
They played, Marty Robbins' Big Iron and the Eagle's Hotel California. The evening included Divisi, Chorus and Mixed Choir performances, where community member Joanna Acosta

The concert ended around 9pm.

Great job all performers! It's especially nice to see so many of our young members getting involved these with

wonderful extracurricular classes that MHS has to offer.

Look forward upcoming on April 25 - Guitai Showcase and May 12 – Choir Showcase Beatlemania.





Clockwise: Joanna Acosta (far left) in choir. Robert Santos (front left) in Beginning Guitar. Johnny Perkins on the mic, singing "Comfortably Numb". Teagan Delma -Advanced Guitar,







Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES EXPANSION PROPOSAL (DESIGN-BUILD)

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

The Design-Build Team will partner with a **pre-selected** Architecture Architecture firm's Firm. The proposal including their list of subconsultants will be included in the complete RFP Packet. The Selected Design-Builder shall coordinate all design and preconstruction services with the Owner and Operator team. The Scope of the project is to make significant improvements and expand the offerings of the existing clubhouse along with ancillary facilities around the property. This project will go through the Community Preliminary and Site Development Planning & Zoning Process, as well as the building permitting process.

A MANDATORY VIRTUAL Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. (MST) on Monday, April 17, 2023, to register for a WebEx invitation email Fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us before 5pm on Friday, April 14, 2022. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering. A site visit will be scheduled a few days after this

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 5:00 p.m. (MST) on Monday, April 24, 2023. Proposal

questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn. us. Also, Cc: Project Perry Vettraino, at PVettraino@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Tribal Purchasing Department 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 instruction/information ("RFP") package and related information may be obtained from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Purchasing by electronic mail at Office, 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

of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period





April 7 - 20, 2023

# 12 step ceramic process

Story and photo by R. Rosoff



From January - March, Community members, residents and employees were invited to exercise their imaginations and create ceramic artwork in the Art Building. Above, Iris Smith and Kingston Narcia, paint their pieces as part of a 12-step process that starts with a material called slip and ends with baking in the kiln.

- Pick out a mold (at least 100+ to choose
- Clean out mold (for dust/debris)
- Use super thick rubberbands to secure mold pieces together
- Pour slip mixture into mold, tap (to remove bubbles) then pour more if needed
- Wait about 10-15 minutes; slip will start to dry and the hardened edges will show
  - Pour our extra slip that didn't adhere to
- the sides (try to recycle unused slip) Place mold hole side down to dry for 24-
- Open mold, remove ceramic piece and
- sand down any lines and edges
- Fire in kiln (1st time) 10. Decorate with paint
- 11. Fire in kiln (2nd time)
- 12. Finished for display/gift

#### **Art Program at Him Dak**

Story By T. Marshburn Photos By A. Santiago

During Spring break, March 6 – 17, Ak-Chin Him Dak Museum hosted an art program for community students. They were broken down by grade ranges: K -1st, 2nd - 4th, 5th - 8th and 9th - 12th.

Students engaged in many activities such as perler beading, coloring and much more. One activity that really showcased the kid's talents and creativity was the Mardi Gras bead collage, where kids used hot glue guns and beads to makes unique designs.

The kids were also able to get a good work out in with the help of Ak-Chin Health Education coordinator Marc Matteson and health educator Martina Guy Peters.

They also went on field trips to Ak-Chin Circle to enjoy a day of bowling and watched a movie.





Photo by Jeannette Peters





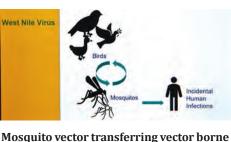


# **Vectors in the Community** "Targeting Pests that are the Vectors in the Community"

Submitted by: Theodore Puetz, Pesticide Control Specialist - Environmental Programs

Vectors as defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary: "Organisms (such as an insects and rodents) that carries and passes on diseasecausing viruses and bacteria."

Example; a mosquito that is the principal vector of West Nile Virus and other diseases. This is represented by the chart below.



disease indirectly and directly to humans

<u>Arthropods</u> group pathogen of vectors are the mosquitos, flies, sand flies, lice, fleas, and mites transmitting a huge number of pathogens. Mosquitos deserve a lot attention here, but usually don't show themselves until later in the spring and can be confused with other nonbiting flying insects that occupy our spaces at this time. Be sure to know what is bugging you! - Gnats, Crane Flies and Midges don't bite!





The insect vector in malaria is the anopheline mosquito, a genus comprising many species around the world. (CDC – Public Health Library)

to adversely affect human health worldwide and are responsible for carrying the following pathogens.

Mosquitoes are the most cited insect

• West Nile virus - Zika virus -Malaria – Dengue

Pathogens above will present

• Chikungunya - Yellow Fever

symptoms that include headache, fever, rash, joint and muscle pain. Seek medical attention if you have been bitten and develop these symptoms.





The street "pot holes" and vegetative

mosquitos and other invaders (rodents)

Works Department targets these potential reservoirs to provide an added benefit to reduce future breeding sites. An important side benefit of street maintenance!

Ak-Chin Indian Communities, Public

Public Works is already on the job heading off the potential mosquito breeding areas found as the typical street "pot hole". A recent survey by the Maricopa County Environmental Services of Maricopa County, Arizona shows that many believe that public spaces harbor the breeding grounds and staging areas to launch the next batch of mosquitos to attack our communities.



Public Works focuses on other areas that we might not think about to reduce the vector habitat and vector borne populations as well; Vegetation control of trees, shrubbery and turf to keep landscapes clear of debris in the Community. These areas can harbor vector pests such as ticks, mosquitoes and the little warmblooded animals (rodents) that can serve as vectors for rabies.

In addition to what we see Public Works doing along the landscapes and streets in the Community, the list of Public Works activities include; Elder Home requests and general Community clean up, funeral preparations, cleaning and maintaining the parking lots.

departments come that can from first responders such as the fire department with special maintenance needs their equipment.

other

from

requests

Special

vectors.

Community Firetruck in photo below.

Example of Diesel Engine work on



This is only half the story. The survey cited earlier also reveals that almost half the respondents say either they, or their neighbors are the source

of the harborage for these enemy

This season is beginning with winter rainfall levels exceeding the average of past years and with new vegetative growth will come more opportunity for vector harborage early this spring.

With all the new growth projected for this spring, more attention will be needed to keep vector harborage manageable and in check.



Note: Snow on the White mountains -Winter 2022-2023

Knowing this helps us to understand that Community Health is everyone's responsibility and Public Works can do only a portion if it.

The good news is we do have a lot of influence on vectors in and around our homes. Inside (yes, they like to make your home their home) and outside!

Spring lush vegetation generally will increase potential Vector populations alongside of wild life populations.



expect this vegetation to dry up and reduce the available food resources for outside populations. This in turn may make urban areas more attractive for vectors to visit our community.

to reduce vector harborage. "Private Works," are the homes in the

We know what Public Works is doing

Community and begins with us. Now is the time to prepare for this season and the possible vector invasions.

Private Works in our control. Our goal is to take the time to make decluttering a home spring cleaning

event. It won't take a lot of time and the payoff is great! After this, keeping water

reservoirs empty and harborages

cleared can become routine.



Mosquitos IPM: Three things to keep in mind to remember!

DEFEND: Ñukuđ (nooh-kooth)

DRESS: Has Masma O: Eñigađađ (hahz) (mahz-mah) (awh) (ehn-gahthahth)

DRAIN: Mu: Ya:wua (mooh) (yahwah)

In the Maricopa County Services survey, planters with plants and empty pots were the number one (1) source of Mosquito breeding sites in one area in Maricopa County Mosquitos only need a water source and your blood to multiply.

Debris makes for convenient homes for both insects and rodents and are the vectors we don't want as guests. "If they can hide and eat, they will multiply."

These well know vectors are Roaches Mice and yes..., the Ticks on our pets. This is referred to as Community "Integrated Pest Management" or IPM. It works!

"Spring Cleaning" equals decluttering and is the best, safest practice to reduce the harborage for pests in our environment. It will also greatly reduce the need for pesticides in around our homes.

Now is also a good time to take inventory of the pesticides in our homes for safe storage and as the pesticide label reads...

> "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"!





The children got to go on the OdySea Voyager, the world's "rotating aquarium only experience".

They got to see different tanks containing many big sharks, turtles and eels. They were in



awe of the big tank of jellyfish.

the children Afterwards, dashed to the different types of learning activity tables, including a light bright table and a water system for the children to build.

Some students took photos in the replica of a shark mouth, while others went downstairs to the rest of the aquarium. The field trip ended with lunch outside in the center of the aquarium.

# St. Patrick's Day 2-Mile Walk

Story and Photos by A. Santiago







March 18, 2023, Ak-Chin Health Education held a St. Patrick's Day 2-mile walk. Walkers who signed up

online or in person were able to grab some cool green items to sport during the walk. The walk started at the

service center then west on Farrell Rd. to Santos Rd., around the pecan trees and started.

It was a perfect day to walk. Raffle prizes were awarded, winners received a vacation bag filled with goodies and gift cards to

After the walk everyone enjoyed a healthy breakfast.

# Lithium-Ion

Submitted by Jon Spezzacatena, **Ak-Chin Fire Acting Chief/Fire Marshal** 

**Battery Safety** 

Lithium-ion batteries play an important part in everyday life and have become the industry standard for rechargeable batteries that are common in many home electronics. When lithium-ion batteries overheat, are used the wrong way, or are defective, they are prone to explosions which can result in injuries and fires. Use these safety tips from the Ak-Chin Fire Department to help avoid lithium-ion battery injuries:

#### **Purchasing and Using Devices** Purchase and use devices that

are "listed" by a qualified testing laboratory. This means that the battery has passed a rigorous safety test. Look for "UL-Listed" on the battery. Only use the battery that is designed for the device. Do not swap batteries. Put batteries in the right way and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

#### **Charging and Storing Devices** Only use the charging cord

that came with the device. An incompatible charging cable may continue to charge the battery to the point of overheating, which can cause a fire. Do not leave the device plugged in once fully charged. Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch. A fire that starts where you are sleeping can be more likely to cause injury or death. Do not charge your e-bikes or other batteries in your bedroom or by your front door or other exits. Do not leave batteries in the

sunshine or hot vehicles. Keep

batteries at room temperature. Batteries that are damaged are more likely to fail and should not be used.

Signs of a Problem Lithium-ion batteries show signs that they need to be replaced if they get hot, expand, or take longer than usual to charge. They may also have an unusual odor or change in color or make odd noises. Stop using the battery if you notice these problems and take steps to safely dispose of it (see section below). Do not throw Lithium-ion batteries away in household garbage. Right before failing, a battery will make a popping noise and then a hiss during which gas is released. If you notice these signs, quickly move away from the battery to a safe location, notify others around you to leave, and call 9-1-

#### Safely Recycling Old

1 immediately.

Old Batteries

Never dispose of Lithium-ion batteries in regular trash. Ak-Chin Environmental Programs recycle Lithium-ion batteries including AAA/AA/C/D, button batteries, household rechargeable, and batteries inside laptops, tablets, phones, or power packs for cordless drills and other tools.

you have any further lf questions please contact Ak-Chin Environmental Programs at 520-568-1140 or Fire Marshal Jon at 520-568-1316.

# Alk-Chin enjoys sister tribe events



March 4, both women and girls Ak-Chin toka teams traveled south to participate in Pisinemo District Day 2023 festivities.

Gabriel Lopez shared the picture above and comment, "Proud of all our Ladies, they played well

Members & Residents

SAVE THE DATE

More info. to come...

Him-Dak Museum Evening Event

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday. April 29, 2023

32nd Annual Him-Dak Celebration

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

For any questions, please contact the Him-Dak office at: 520-568-1350

Ak-Chin Councilmember

to honor our O'odham Women. It was an honor to watch, as they participated in long history of the O'odham Women's

and played the game

traditional game of Toka. Believe in yourselves, your teammates and represent our ancestors and our O'odham Women well."

Saturday, March 18, Gila River held its 59th annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo.

There were many events and activities throughout the day for everyone to enjoy.

Armonda Santiago shared some great pictures.





# APRIL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### **APRIL 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	29
30	21					

#### **ELDER CENTER INFORMATION** Elder Center 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 4 PM

#### **LIBRARY HOURS** Monday – Friday – 9AM-6PM

Saturday-Appointment Only Sunday-Closed Questions? Call Us! 520-568-1675

RECREATION INFORMATION For more information on

Rec Center events please call the Rec Center @520-568-1740 \*\*CALENDAR SUBJECT

**TO CHANGE\*\*** 

#### HEALTH **EDUCATION**



#### MEDICAL CLINIC Wednesday, April 12th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

@Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot **FUNCTIONAL FITNESS** Tuesdays and Thursdays

#### 10:00 - 11:00 AM

@ Elements Event Center 16000 Maricopa Road

WIC Tuesday, May 9th 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM @Ak-Chin Indian



#### LIBRARY



**MULTI MEDIA MONDAYS** 5:00 - 5:45PM **WEDNESDAYS** 

**BUDDY'S READING CIRCLE\*** 2:00 - 6:30PM

TUESDAY 4/11 & 4/25 **TASTY CRAFTS W/MATT\*** 

5:00 - 5:45PM

#### THURSDAY 4/13 & 4/27 TASTY CRAFTS W/AMY\*

5:00 - 5:45PM \*Participants must be signed up for program to attend. Call 520-568-1675 for more information.



#### PARKS & RECREATION



Mondays - Thursdays 8 AM - 9 PM Fridays 8 AM - 6 PM Sat - Sun Closed

#### **OPEN GYM HOURS VARY\***

\*Call 520-568-1740 for specific daily hours

#### **OPEN GYM HOURS VARY\***

Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri Closed 2 PM - 4PM Tuesday

Closed 2 PM - 4 PM & 5:30 PM - 7 PM

\*Call 520-568-1740 for

specific daily hours

#### April 16th 3 PM - 8 PM @ Milton Antone Park

SOFTBALL SKILLS CAMP



10AM @ Recreation Gym Reminder: wear old clothes and shoes

SATURDAY, 4/8 Easter Egg Hunt\*\* 10AM @ Milton Antone Park



**EVENTS:** by 4/5 at 5 p.m. to Recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us

\*\*AK-CHIN MEMBERS &

RESIDENTS ONLY; FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (520) 568-1740 OR EMAIL: RECREATION@AK-CHIN.NSN.US









**GRHC.ORG/HUB** 



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MOBILE UNIT SERVICES PLUS

#### MOBILE OUTREACH UNIT



Providing On-board Vaccines, Pediatric Sports Physicals, Labs, A1C Testing and Blood Pressure Screenings

#### **SERVICES PROVIDED:**

#### Children:

- ► Sports Physicals
- Immunizations\*\*
- Health Education
- Blood Sugar Screenings

#### Adults:

- Immunizations\*\*
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Blood Sugar Screenings

#### CONTACT

Robin Henry, FNP-BC 520-517-0693

#### SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Pediatric Acute Care Labs
- Sports Physicals
- Asthma Care
- Immunizations\*\*

Health Education

- Minor Injuries ► A1C Screenings
- CONTACT

Sandra Garrett-Shorty, FNP-C 520-610-2379

Dates, locations and times subject to change\* Immunizations including COVID-19 vaccines\*\*

#### SCHOOL SERVICES



Providing additional Pediatric healthcare to students at Gila River Community Schools and Head Start Programs

# **GOOD FRIDAY**

GRHC's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics

**CLOSED** FRIDAY, APRIL 7th SATURDAY, APRIL 8th

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital **Pharmacy Hours** 

FRIDAY, 4/7 ...... CLOSED

SATURDAY, 4/8 .... 8:30 am - 8 pm

SUNDAY, 4/9 ..... 12 pm - 8 pm

For any information on services open during the holiday, call (520)562-3321. Normal business hours will resume Monday, April 10th. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at HHKMH.



# LIFE CENTER

DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

**Abbott Freestyle Libre Device** SAFETY WARNING **PROCESS** 

To determine if the Reader needs to be replaced, please have your patient answer the following questions:



#### **INSPECTION**

- 1. Does the Reader appear damaged or cracked?
- 2. Do you see any swelling in your Reader?
- 3. Has the Reader been too hot to hold?
- 4. Is the Reader no longer able to hold a charge (for example, does it turn off unexpectedly or immediately after charging?)

#### STOP USING THE READER IF:

- If the Reader becomes too hot to hold
- If you notice any signs of deterioration of the Reader
- If the Reader does not turn on after being charged
- If the Reader is dropped or subjected to impact and you are concerned it may be damaged, perform a Reader Test to confirm it is still working correctly
- If you have any questions, please contact Abbott Customer Service at 1-855-632-8658.



Forensic Nursing Department

## **APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

**OUR APRIL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES** 



COLORING PAGE with raffle.



DENIM DAY **APRIL 27** 



**GRHC SANE** Forensic Nursing 520-562-5151







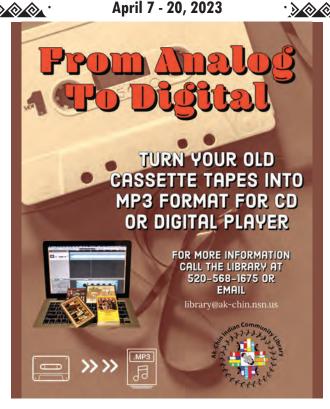


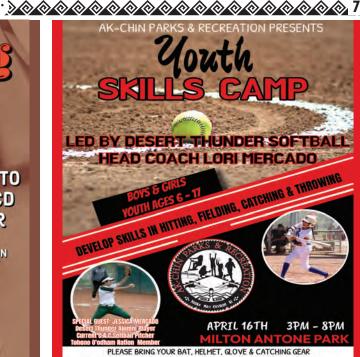


We encourage all community members to participate! TEXT your submission to our SANE program at 520-610-0496.

grhc.org

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988





BRING YOUR BAT, HELMET, GLOVE & CATCHING GEA GEAR WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON SITE IF NEEDED CLEATS ARE PREFERRED OR MUST WEAR TENNIS SHOES (NO OPEN TOED FOOTWEAR) information contact (520) 568-1740



#### Ak-Chin Child Development Accepting applications for

Preschool 2023-2024 5Y Deadline is July 28th, 2023

Our office is open 8am-5pm Monday-Friday Register now! First day of Preschool is August 14th, 8:30am-2:00pm

Enrollment is based on availability and children are selected in the following order:

- Child is an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Child is a non-enrolled member, but he/she is the Legal child of an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Child is living within the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries. Child is living outside of the Ak-Chin Indian Com-munity boundaries and is enrolled with another federally recognized Native American Communi-
- Child of a parent who is an employee of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
- 6. Non-member children based on availability.

If you have any questions please contact the Preschool at 48251 W. Farrell Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85139 (520) 568-1700. Ak-ChinChildDevelopment@akchin.nsn.us

**Ak-Chin Indian Community** 

- Ak-Chin Child Development offers:

  A High Quality Early Education
  Experience
  Health/Developmental Screenings
  Disability Services (Through M.U.S.D.)
  Kindergarten Readiness
  \*Story time (Provided by Ak-Chin Library)
  \*Cultural Activities/Events (Provided by Language Program/Cultural Resources)\*
  \*Physical/Nutrition Education (Provided by Ak-Chin Health Ed. Program)
  \*Fire Safety Education (Provided by the Ak-Chin Fire Department)\*
  \*Field Trips/Fun activities throughout year\*
- year\*

  Health and Safety Protocols in Place

  \* Some activities may be postponed or fied to fit safety protocols.

Transportation provided for children living within the Ak-Chin Community boundaries.

Pick up a 2023-2024 Enrollment Packet at Ak-Chin Child Development. Please bring in the following documents to be considered for enrollment

- Completed Application Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) if applicable
- Child's Certified Birth Certificate Child's Current Immunization Rec-
- (returning students only need the current Immunization Record and a completed Returning Student application)

Only completed applications with required docu-ments will be accepted. Children registering must be three (3) years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

Join Ak-Chin Environmental Programs,

Parks & Recreation, and Harrah's for

Arbor-Earth Day Event

**Educational Exhibits** 

Live Entertainment

**Vendor Booths** 

T-Shirts

**Children Seed Exchange & Tree Planting** 

1-Apr

Marcus Stephens, Sanitation Martin Gamez-Corral, Maintenance Marilyn Thompson, Community Government

2-Apr

Casey Turgeon, Capital Projects Bernett Lopez, Housing Department Elsa Trujillo, Maintenance

5-Apr

Jacolby King, **Environmental Protection** Marc Matteson, Health Education Rosalva Madrid, TGA

6-Apr

Jason Garcia, Sanitation Matthew Cross, Library Joan Jackson-Deal, Human Resources

8-Apr

Belen Sanchez, Social & Health Services

9-Apr Nikolai White, Sanitation

12-Apr

Ralph Gomez,

**Environmental Protection** 15-Apr

Devonrick Hampton, TGA Adrian Angulo, Sanitation Sandra Shade, Planning

16-Apr

Brandy Rivera, Retail Glenna Francisco, Maintenance

17-Apr

Jace Dickerson, Fire & Safety 18-Apr

Teancum Thatcher, Law & Order

19-Apr Miguel Ceballos, Maintenance William Antone,

Him Dak Museum



Show your school spirit & wear your favorite college team colors



# JOB OPENINGS

- Communications Officer
- Desktop Support Assistant
- Detention Officer -Certified
- Economic Development Analyst
- Fire Chief
- Firefighter/EMT · General Worker
- Groundskeeper Public Works/ Sanitation
- Head Lifeguard

- Lifeguard
- Photo Journalist Police Officer
- (Certified and Non-Certified)
- Preschool Teacher
- Project Manager
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist
- Teacher's Aide



Please visit our website at 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.

# Date n "Paul" Antone MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

# BIRTHDAYS APRIL 1ST - 20TH

#### APRIL 1ST

Marcus Stephens Marilyn Thompson **Ruby Smith** Jacquelyn Lewis Dyami Jackson Hope Vallejos

#### APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>

Blue Sky Thompson Skye Gonzalez **Augustine White** Jessica Dean

#### APRIL 4TH

Eileen Quintero Paula Pete Isabella Luna

APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> Jacolby King

## APRIL 6TH

Drevon Deloney Elena Cypriano Alexis Stephens Jason Garcia

#### APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>

Nicole Coester

#### APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

Cayla Thomas Jeffrey Ruelas

#### APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>

Nathius Jacuinde Nikolai White Garin Cuatt Michelle Miranda Leondro Antone

#### APRIL 10TH

Amanda Green

#### APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> Fred Jerry, Jr.

**Heather Thomas** Michael Peters, Sr. Gloria Alejandro Miranda Iniestra Angel Stephens

Mel Kaniatobe

Jessica Batopis

#### APRIL 12TH

Isaiah Narcia Angel Hoffman Deeandra Lewis APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### APRIL 15TH

Reynold Narcia Brian Carra

Antonia Baptisto Darryl Peters Valerie Ruiz Glenna Francisco

#### APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>

## APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

Jose Batopis, II APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>

#### William Antone

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

Amelia Alvarez

#### APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>

Pate Justin Janay Justin-Ulloa

Sandra Shade

#### APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>

#### Jace Dickerson

Tianah Pilone

Anaise Valles-Diaz

#### Steven Sam

Celeste Delores

**Happy Birthday** Mom!!

Thanks for everything you do for me even if it is a last-minute request. Thanks for all the laughs we have that nobody else would get. Thanks for watching my boys when I have to work. Thanks for being my chef when I didn't want to cook. Thanks for the lunches we have had at the casino. Thanks for being a grandma. Thanks for being strong and not asking for help. Last but not least, enjoy

your day remember I'm taking you somewhere so get a sitter. You deserve to have a day to yourself.

Love Monda-Capri and my boys

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Jason, Michael and Darryl and my granddaughter Celeste Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Pate and Janay Love your Family

# EMPLOYEE UPDATES



Danny Soliz Driver Elderly

Diana Garcia

Senior Planner



Tribal Gaming Agent Deli Kitchen Supervisor



Maintenance Tech



Deli Clerk

Photos by R. Rosoff

Maricopa, Arizona – March 27, 2023 - On March 25, 2023 Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor held their 2nd Annual Dancing For Our Stars event at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Event Center located at 15406 N. Maricopa Road, Maricopa, Arizona. The Red-Carpet Reception started at 5 p.m., followed by a delicious dinner and Performances at 7 p.m. The event also host a VIP after party to close out the evening festivities.

This dance competition featured local celebrities partnered with professional instructors dance impressive performances. brought The event communities in Casa Grande and Maricopa together in a major way and nearly sold out with over 547 people who attended in person and over 100 people on the livestream.

The dance teams worked hard at work and dedicated themselves to providing the attendees with a spectacular show. The teams in this year's event were:

- 1. Celebrity Dancer Trey Davis and Professional Dancer Karen Calipus
- 2. Celebrity Dancer Tena Dugan and Professional Dancer Amanda Colon

3. Celebrity Dancer

- Lisa Fitzgibbons and Professional Dancer Myka Borunda 4. Celebrity Dancer
- Kelly Herrington and Professional Dancer Daniel Kent 5. Celebrity Dancer Dr.
- Adam Leckie and Professional Dancer Mindy Melillo
- 6. Celebrity Dancer Dr. Tracey Lopeman and Professional Dancer

Erin Hildick

- 7. Celebrity Dancer Ray Nieves and **Professional Dancer** Kayla Patterson
- 8. Celebrity Dancer Louie Sanchez and **Professional Dancer** Krisenna Hancock
- 9. Celebrity Dancer Henry Wade and **Professional Dancer** Velaine Jolle

This event would not be possible without the support of Board of Directors, generous sponsors, person and live stream attendees voters, Emcee Skyla Teel, the performance director Carrie Vargas, the prestigious panel of judges (former Maricopa Mayor, Christian Price, Dr. Jeff Mitchell and Evelyn Casuga) who all did a fantastic job and know a thing or two about what it takes as they were are all dancers from last year's event.

The incredible donors & friends, all of the talented dancers, Professional and Celebrity, the hard-working committee, volunteers, and everyone who supported by voting, donating, sharing the event or liking their Facebook page helped make this an fabulous event. Without all of this collaboration, passion, hard work and partnerships, none of this is possible.

The dance studios that supported the event were Daniel Kent of 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.

Matthew Lemberg (last year's and this year's) are my favorite events that I have ever attended. All of the dancers were incredible last year, but this year's dancer's raised the bar even more, especially as it relates to backup dancers and props. And we had so many people working behind the scenes that helped make this event so successful. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank our staff, our Board, and all of the other volunteers for all of their efforts. Donations are still coming in, but as of right now, this event generated over \$175,000 for our organization!

The in-person audience and live stream attendees showed support for their favorite dancers by casting a vote for \$10 per vote. Over 3,531 votes were cast. After nine entertaining performances, four teams were presented with awards.

- Friendraiser also known as Mirror Ball: Louie Sanchez and Krisenna Hancock
- People's Choice Award: Louie Sanchez Krisenna Hancock
- Judges Choice Award: Dr. Adam Leckie Mindy Melillo
- Showstopper Award: Dr. Tracey Lopeman + Erin Hildick

Rusty Akers- (Maricopa Community **Board** President)- Amazing night of fun and community, so cool to have both Maricopa and Casa Grande together in the spirit of competition. Of course, the biggest win of the night was the kids in both communities. Can't wait for 2024!!

Rona Curphy (Executive Director)- I President)- Our 2nd Annual know that I am a little biased, Dancing for our Stars event was phenomenal! Stars are The youth of our communities who benefit from the time, talents, and proceeds of this event. This is the Boys and Girls Club of The Sun Corridor premier event to support the great programs that we do in all eight of our clubs.

> Mark your calendars now as the 3rd Annual Dancing For Our Stars event will be on March 23, 2024 at Harrah's Casino Event Ak-Chin Center.

> > PROMOTIONAL KIOSK 8AM - 11:59PM



Krisenna Hancock and Louie Sanchez had a memorable performance taking home both the Mirror Ball and People's Choice Awards.



The Mariachi Alma Mexicana had a stunning performance.



Event judges (L to R): Evelyn Casuga, former Maricopa Mayor Christian Price and Dr. Jeff Mitchell





Judges' Choice Award winners, Mindy Melillo and Dr. Adam





