

Ak-Chin Indian Community hosts 4th of July Celebration

Story and photo by Alexa Key



Ak-Chin's finest fire department created a fantastic 30 minute fireworks display.

Saturday, July 1, Ak-Chin Indian Community hosted its early 4th of July Celebration, welcoming all residents of Ak-Chin and Maricopa.

This year's event not only had the firework show, but also began earlier in the day at Ak-Chin Indian Community, Parks and Recreation. The

earlier events included pool activities, snow cones and games for everyone to enjoy. It wasn't until later that the fan favorite events appeared.

At Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park vendors gathered for food, face paint, music and free glow sticks for the night. As the evening

approached, the infamous Watermelon Eating Contest and Hot Dog Eating Contest began.

First, starting with the Watermelon Eating Contest. The rules are simple, who can finish their giant slice of watermelon the fastest? The first age group to compete were



Story and photo by R. Peters

San Juan Church celebrates feast and baptism

Saturday, June 24, the Miguel family welcomed one and all to their homestead in the main village of Ak-Chin Indian Community for their annual San Juan Church Feast.

The day began with a procession of San Juan saint around the church grounds and

rosary by Lerline Peters and Dean Peters. Once back inside the church another rosary was held as well as a blessing and traditional baptism by Marjorie Allen for Christian Soliz and Ezra Miguel.

After the baptismal and final blessing, a traditional lunch

Feast continues to Page 5

Mr. Reese retires with 50 years of service



Mr. Reese receives thanks from Leon Potter, Jr. at his retirement party.

Story by R. Peters, submitted photos

On, May 12, a celebration was held for Mr. Mathew Reese, Jr., Principal of Leading Edge Academy Maricopa, as he retired after serving 50 years as a coach, athletic director and principal.

Matt began his career in Chandler, where he worked at Knox Elementary and Wells Jr. High from 1972-78.

He then went to Window Rock for 5 years and became the athletic director.

In 1982, he moved to Maricopa and started out as the assistant football coach and head baseball coach.

"I met a lot of Ak-Chin

players at that time," Mr. Reese shared.

"I have fond memories of Gabe Lopez, Bolo (Philip Joaquin) and Stanley Antone... We had a pretty good (baseball) team... we were one game away from going to the state playoffs in 1985."

In 1986, Matt became the principal for Maricopa's middle school and athletic director for the district.

He also coached the girls' basketball team, and recalled coaching Leta Valles (now Yarberry). "She was one heck of a rebounder."

Mr. Reese was awarded

the Athletic Director of the year for 2A in 2004, through the Arizona Interscholastic Association. That same year he retired.

It was not long after his retirement that Matt got involved with charter schools and soon began building a charter school from the ground up.

In 2012, he opened Leading Edge Academy in Maricopa. "We started with 100 kids and when I left, we had 800 kids."

Matt says he never thought he would end up in Maricopa, let alone retire from here. Since then, he has served in many capacities over the years.

He ran the Maricopa swimming pool for 15 years, "taught just about everyone to swim" and was awarded Rotarian of the Year.

He was also a youth league manager, officiating every soccer, baseball and basketball game and served as Maricopa Youth League President. He also ran for Maricopa City Council in the first election and served on Board of

Directors at Sun Life Health. He currently sits on the Pinal County Credit Union Board of Directors.

Matt is very fortunate to be able to see and appreciate all that he has been a part of, especially the growth at Leading Edge, as he looks forward to being a consultant for LEA.

Things he plans to enjoy as he retires is traveling,

playing golf and watching his grandchildren play collegiate sports. He has a grandson who plays soccer and baseball, another who plays football and a granddaughter who plays volleyball.

He is also grateful he was able to coach and mentor his soon Matt III, also known as "Goose" who played baseball in high school and then college, as well as his

Reese continues to Page 5

Recreation celebrates Father's Day with family fun activities



Story and photos by Armonda Santiago

Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation held a special day for fathers on June 17th, 2023. Each father who made their way to recreation had the opportunity to get a body massage, haircut, lunch

and outdoor fun in the pool. While the daddies were getting pampered, their children made a craft which was able to hold their amazing photo for their father as a gift to them.

After the craft, families enjoyed the rest of the day splashing in the pool. Lunch was grilled hamburgers, beans, pasta, salad and chips, with a nice cold Capri sun juice or cold water.

Language Study Finds Positive Health Outcomes Among Indigenous People



File photo: Ak-Chin Indian Community 2017 Language Class Lesson

By Alexa Key

BALTIMORE, MD – From a Press Release by the Multi-Indigenous Collaborative for Action Group (MICA) and the Endangered Language Fund partnered together to find that language use and revitalization in Indigenous communities provides for positive mental and physical health outcomes.

This finding originated from a review gathered by MICA and the Endangered Language Fund titled *Health effects of Indigenous language use and revitalization: a realist review*.

This review will be published in the International Journal for Equity in Health. In order to find their conclusive outcome, the review team looked at 3,508 language studies while ultimately narrowing that number down to 130 to gather

data. The overarching question the review team longed to answer was, “is Native language acquisition beneficial to health?” Their answer was yes.

Significance

In 2016, the MICA Group’s Pathways to Fluency had more than 230 Indigenous people from 88 Tribal Nations identify that there were challenges to language revitalization.

The consensus was that new funding and resources for language restoration were top priorities for Indigenous communities. However, efforts to seek federal funding and support were repeatedly dismissed due to lack of data to support the efficacy of Indigenous language preservation.

The significance of this study is to prove

that there can be health benefits through common practices, like language.

“Speaking and learning our Indigenous languages decolonizes our minds. Supporting Indigenous people in their health and well-being is a major part of the U.S. trust responsibility to American Indian and Alaska Native people,” said Della Warrior (Otoe-Missouria) and President and CEO of the MICA Group.

Ak-Chin has made great lengths in defining and restoring its’ language, O’odham. The O’odham word meaning is “mouth of the wash”. In April of 2019, the Ak-Chin Indian Community is the first to have state-certified O’odham language teachers. “Our language is our medicine. We lose our language, we lose our medicine,” said Gabriel Lopez.



File Photo: Ak-Chin Indian Community 2017 Language Class Lesson



AK-CIÑ TAM O'ODHAM KAKKE TAPIAL

AK-CHIN LANGUAGE SURVEY

The Ak-Chin Language Department will be conducting a language survey to assess language use and knowledge in the community. Community members of all ages are welcome to take the survey!

All participants will receive a free t-shirt for their participation and will be entered into a raffle for an iPad Air!

Please call contact Felicia Vincent at 520-568-1338 for more information, to schedule a survey or to request a link to take the survey online.

Elders enjoy trip to Sunflower Field



Submitted by: Marissa Antone, Elder Program Assistant

On June 21, our Ak-Chin elders; Evelina Lopez, Connie Santiago, Ruby Smith, Malinda Pete, and Connie Narcia took a mini day trip to the Sunflower field on Ralston Road in Maricopa. All the elders enjoyed the wonderful scenery.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren Visits with Chairman Miguel in Ak-Chin

Submitted by Chairman Miguel

Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren have crossed paths since the beginning of the year, both exchanging pleasantries along the way, with the promise to someday sit down in person for a one on one.

The two finally had the opportunity to meet on Monday, June 19th, at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, along with Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, Navajo Nation Chief of Staff Patrick Sandoval, Jenner & Block Lobbyist Charles Galbraith and other staffers.

Much of the meeting focused on President Nygren familiarizing himself with the Ak-Chin Community, as far as membership, farming, gaming, enrollment, housing, healthcare and the relationship with our enterprises.

At right, Chairman Miguel and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren tour Ak-Chin Circle, June 19.



Nation visit continues to page 5

ELDER MENU JULY BREAKFAST & LUNCH

7 Scrambled Eggs with Potatoes & Sausage Mix, Toast, Fruit | Egg Salad Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Chips, Jell-O

10 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Grapes | Fish or Chicken Sandwich, Green Leaf/Tomato, Green Beans, Carrots, Apples

11 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns, Bacon, Fruit with Cottage Cheese | White Beans w/ Sausage, Pork Chop (D), Sweet Potato/Potato (D), Sauteed Spinach, Mandarin Oranges

12 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Yogurt | Grilled Chicken over Salad w/Bacon Bits Tomato, Cucumber, Jell-O

13 Cheesy Croissant, Casserole, Avocado Slices, Fruit Salad, Yogurt | Beef & Broccoli, Fried Rice, Egg Roll, Pineapples

14 Potatoes with Chorizo, Beans, Tortilla, Fruit & Granola Bar | Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Corn on Cob, Pudding

17 Egg Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit, Granola Bar | Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Spinach Salad, Fruit Cocktail

18 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Grapes with Cottage Cheese | Pork Roast, Mashed Potato, Butternut, Squash, Cowboy Cookies

19 French Toast Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Fruit | Baked Tilapia or Chicken, Corn on Cob, Cole Slaw, Pears

20 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Mix Berries, Yogurt | Red Chili Stew, Potato Salad, Beans, Watermelon

Menu Subject To Change Without Notice



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Ak-Chin Indian Community
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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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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
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.

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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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

NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
July 21 - August 3, 2023
issue is due by
FRIDAY, JULY 14TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes, etc.
no later than
FRIDAY, JULY 14TH

Material submitted after the
JULY 14TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.

Him-Dak Summer Art Program Gets Creative with Runner Staff

Story and photos
by Alexa Key

*Ak-Chin Runner staff
hosts unique arts and
crafts for Ak-Chin
Him-Dak Summer Art
Program.*

Wednesday, June 21,
Runner staff brought 28
pinatas and 30 origami
crowns for summer
program children to
design and create to their
liking.

With the assistance
from Runner staff and
Him-Dak Summer Art
Program staff, two groups
of children were divided
before getting creative.

The kinder through first
grade group decorated
crowns with stickers,
cotton balls, googly eyes,
beads and much more.
Meanwhile, the second



through twelfth graders
decorated pinatas. These
pinatas became hand-
crafted with ribbon,
plates and more; making
them all unique.

The younger group
expressed that some
of the crowns weren't
for themselves, some
were made for parents,
grandparents, uncles,

aunts, etc.

"I made the crown for my
mom because I really love
her," said one summer
program participant.

The summer program
children weren't the only
ones getting creative. The
Runner Staff actually
hand-made each of the
pinatas and crowns.



Summer Workers,

Auciana Miguel and
Teagan Delma quickly
learned origami in order
to create the crowns.

The ultimate tie in, was
that each crown and
pinata was not made
from ordinary paper but
newspapers like the one
you're reading now!



Education Summer School Program enjoy themed classrooms and field trip

Story by Tyaun Marshburn, photos by Runner staff



Ak-Chin Education
Summer School Program
ran from June 12th to
June 29th. This year's
theme was Harry Potter,
and each classroom was
designed and decorated
as a house from Harry
Potter; Hufflepuff,
Ravenclaw, Gryffindor
and Slytherin.

During program hours
students worked on
subjects such as math,
reading, and science
experiments. On
designated days students
attended special activities
that consisted of P.E.,
crafts and art.

During my visit, they
were on a break at the
recreation playing gold
fish using giant playing
cards, connect four and
checkers. I chatted with
a few students who said
they're enjoying their
time at summer school.

Program Field Trip

The students celebrated
their last day of summer
school by taking a field trip
to the OdySea Aquarium,
UFO Experience and
Butterfly Wonderland in
Scottsdale on June 29th.

The kids enjoyed going
through the many
different exhibits and
petting the stingrays at the
OdySea Aquarium. After
lunch the houses split
up, the middle schoolers
(Gryffindor) went to the
UFO Experience. While
at the UFO Experience
they learned about the
celebrities who claimed
to have UFO sightings or
encounters with aliens.

Among the list of
celebrities were; Khloe
Kardashian, Miley Cyrus,
Muhammad Ali and Elvis.
Elvis claimed to have
had many connections
to extraterrestrials.

According to the exhibit,
when he was 8 years
old, he said he was
telepathically visited by
an alien who showed
him a future vision of a
man singing to a crowd
wearing a white suit.

The elementary school
kids, which were houses;
Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw
and Slytherin started in
the Butterfly Wonderland.
Their tour began with
a 15-minute 3D video
that talked about how
butterflies migrate from
Canada to Mexico.
After the video the kids
walked through Butterfly
Wonderland.

The conservatory
which one of the largest
conservatories in North
America and home to over
thousands of butterflies
from all over the world.



2023 Back to School Backpack/Supply Distribution

Sunday, July 16, 2023

10:00am - 2:00pm

Monday, July 17, 2023

9:00am-12:00pm & 5:00pm-7:00pm

Service Center

Open to Community members and Residents

*There is a separate form for the non-member resident student(s).
Non-member resident student(s) MUST be on the housing lease,
verification and signature from a Housing Representative is
required to receive backpack.*

(Housing Representative will be on-site)

****The Member & Non-member form MUST be signed by the
parent/legal guardian to receive backpack.**

**For questions or more information, please contact
(520)568-1031/21 or email events@ak-chin.nsn.us**





GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079



GRHC.ORG/HUB

grhc.org

**Starting
July 10th!**

Non-Emergent Medical Transportation Services (MTS)

What to Know: Patient Scheduling Change

Eligible transportation requests must be made by 2 pm two (2) business days before your appointment. Reservations can be made anytime before the deadline.

If your appointment is on...	Call no later than 2 PM the previous...
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	Friday
Wednesday	Monday
Thursday	Tuesday
Friday	Wednesday
Saturday	Thursday
Sunday	Thursday

- ▶ **NEW Scheduling Policy**
- ▶ **Canceling Trips**
- ▶ **Shared Ride Service**
- ▶ **Holidays**

Visit: WWW.GRHC.ORG/MTS/



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Behavioral Health Services
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE



**FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE
UNIT JULY CALENDAR**

LIFE CENTER

DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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

Mr. Reese continued from Front

son Brandon.

He would like to give a shout-out to Chairman Robert Miguel for being supportive of the school and being a good friend over the years.

Matt coached “Bobby” as he called him, in high school along with Goose. He recalled, “We played in Bagdad, a doubleheader, Bobby pitched, he won the game pitching and hit a grand slam.”

He also shared how seeing Bobby grow and become chairman, “is just fantastic – I’m very proud of him.”

Chairman was asked to speak during Matt’s retirement and shared many sentiments.

When asked for a comment for the Runner, he shared, “For many of us in the community who played for Coach Reese in high school, he was more than a coach, he was a mentor and a father figure who devoted his time to making sure we had all the necessary outlets to prosper and become as successful as possible.

Outside of sports, he made sure he gave you parental advice and followed your educational progress. He really cared, and for many of us, he helped guide us into becoming the person(s) we’ve become today.”

Ms. Stella Calles who is a teacher at Leading Edge shared, “He will be missed by everyone. He mentored and directed many students, teachers and staff throughout his 50 years as an Educator.”

Karen Fierro, Ms. Calles’ daughter and Ak-Chin Self-Governance

Director shared, “Many thanks to Mr. Reese for coaching our girl’s fast pitch softball team every summer! Playing ball helped pass time; in a positive way during the summer, in little Maricopa back then!”

Gabriele Potter, Senior Accountant for Ak-Chin Finance was happy to be part of Matt’s retirement party and grateful for all the help he gave to her and her family.

“I met Mr. Reese 11 years ago when my husband and I were looking for a school for our son to attend 1st grade.

Mr. Reese and his staff not only provided an individual plan for him that focused on his needs and strengths but also a family environment...

Mr. Reese always projected interest in Leon Jr.’s academic and personal advancement and development, and I’m sure he did the same for every student...

After listening to the speakers at the retirement lunch, we realized how many students he influenced throughout his career. We wish him a Retirement full of Blessings and good memories.”

Gabriele, who is with the American Legion Auxiliary unit 133 Maricopa, shared that Mr. Reese was a huge supporter of the Auxiliary.

During Leading Edge’s year end awards ceremony, the American Legion Auxiliary presented a certificate and the Americanism Medal award to Mr. Reese for his outstanding support to programs in promoting good Citizenship and Patriotism.



Matt’s family (l-r): sons Brandon and Matt III, Matt, and daughter Melissa.

Chairman Miguel ended, “Coach Reese truly deserves the time to relax and enjoy the remainder of his life.”

Happy Retirement Coach Reese, you have definitely earned it!

Feast continued from Front

lunch was served to everyone in attendance.

Although it was a bit warm, everyone seemed

to enjoy sitting outdoors and conversing with one another, being the first in-person San Juan Feast celebration since Covid.

The Pap:kola Dancers and musicians provided traditional dancing and an evening chicken scratch dance was

Nation continued from Page 2

opportunities to bring added income, opportunity and incentives to its people.

“President was seeking to understand how other Tribal Governments have developed such relationships and how such relationships can be best structured to ensure business success, accountability and benefits to the Tribe.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Nygren and his team were given a tour of the Entertainment Center.

The President was very impressed with all the amenities from bowling, movie theatres, game room, sports bar and laser tag that the community had to offer.



A traditional baptism was held for Christian Soliz (center white shirt) shown above, surrounded by his family standing (l-r): grandmother Velacita Lopez, dad Danny Soliz, Jr., grandfather Danny Soliz, Sr., Christian, mom Rachel Lozano, sister Aubrey Lozano, and grandmother Raychel Peters. Sitting (l-r): Godparents Salinda and Gabriel Lopez, great-grandmother Evelina Lopez, grandmother Elaine Felix, brother Daniel Lozano, Jr. and grandfather Cecil Peters.



These young Pap:kola dancers are putting their shells on.



JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY 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	31					

ELDER



CHAIR YOGA
Tuesdays 10 AM
Thursdays 9 AM
@ Craft Room

MOVIE DAYS**
July 11th & July 26th
*Question’s? Call the
Elder Center at 568-1760

**DIY CRAFT:
HOMEMADE
OATMEAL BAR SOAP**
July 11th 9AM

**PURCHASED
REFERRED CARE
PRESENTATION BY
CONNIE MIGUEL &
TEAM**
July 11th 12 PM

**LUNCHEON WITH
THE ELDERS
PROVIDED BY
HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**
July 17th 12 PM

**BINGO WITH
DOROTHEA**
July 19th 1 PM

**ELDER SUMMER
ACTIVITY DAY**
July 21st 12 PM

**GOODWILL
SHOPPING DAY**
July 25th

**HEALTH
EDUCATION**



ZUMBA*
Tuesdays
July 11th, 18th & 25th
6:00 - 7:00 PM
@ Service Center

YOGA*
Thursdays
July 6th, 13th, 20th
& 27th
6:30 - 7:30 PM
@ Service Center
*Classes open to Ak-Chin
Members, their families,
residents, employees and
their families.

WIC
Tuesday, July 11th
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
@Service Center

**FAMILY PLANNING
MOBILE MEDICAL
CLINIC**
Wednesday, July 13th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
@Ak-Chin Vekol
Parking Lot

LIBRARY



SUMMER READING PROGRAM*

Goal: 1000 minutes
At your 500 minute
checkpoint, you will
earn a State Park
day use pass* and
at 1000 minutes you
will earn a grand
prize! And all reading
counts! Graphic
Novels, Shakespeare’s
Sonnets, to the latest
New York Times best
seller, time reading, is
time you can log for
Summer Reading!

Log your minutes
reading either at the
website:

<https://akchinlibrary.azsummerreading.org>
or come in for a
paper log.

*Open to all Ak-Chin
Indian Community
Members, Ak-Chin Indian
Community Residents,
Employees and their
children.

*St. Francis of Assisi Ak-Chin
Roman Catholic Mission*
16657 N. Church St.
Maricopa, AZ 85139

Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass at 12 noon

July 9th *July 23rd*
Fr. Julius Fr. Julius
Tvrdy Tvrdy

July 16th *July 30th*
Fr. Julius Fr. Eric
Tvrdy Houseknecht

**ELDER CENTER
INFORMATION**
Elder Center
520-568-1760
Center Hours
Monday-Friday
8 AM to 5 PM
Breakfast
7 AM to 8:30 AM
Lunch 12 - 1 PM
For Transportation
call Georgia at
568-1769
Please call
before 4 PM

LIBRARY HOURS
Monday – Friday
9AM-6PM
Saturday-
Appointment Only
Sunday-Closed
Questions? Call Us!
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You will have many check-ups during your pregnancy. Try not to miss any — they are all important.

Make an appointment with your healthcare provider if you are or think you may be pregnant.

For more information about the ITCA Maternal Health Innovation Program, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/ITCAMHI.



Ak-Chin Recreation Summer Program Ends with a Bang

Story and photos by Alexa Key

Friday, June 30, Ak-Chin Recreation Summer Program celebrated its last day with movies, popcorn and week full of jam-packed fun.

Enterprise Presentation



Monday, June 26, Parks and Recreation hosted Ak-Chin Enterprise presentation for summer program.

Ak-Chin Enterprise, Ak-Chin Circle held games for students to enjoy and earn prizes. Aside from all the fun, it also provided for future community-based opportunity. “We want to inform everyone what we are and what we’re known for,” said Anyssa Justin, Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center employee. Justin added, “We want to let the kids know that this is their home and community, so we’d hope in the future they want to work with us.”

Water Safety



Wednesday, June 28, Summer Recreation Program practiced water safety accompanied by lifeguards.

What better way to celebrate summer like swimming with your friends? Students were not only having fun, but also testing their swimming abilities. The testing process was similar to levels, letting each person choose whether or not they would like to test for the next one. For example, everyone started with the color red, staying on the shallow end of the pool, if someone chose to test for the color yellow they would be assisted by lifeguards. If the lifeguard deemed that the student passed, you would receive a yellow wrist band and enjoy the deeper parts of the pool. Red or yellow, children still enjoyed the water and playing with friends.

Ak-Chin Little League

Story submitted, photos by Armonda Santiago



On June 15th, Ak-Chin Little League started their Summer 2023 little league baseball season.

A total of 4 teams with over 50 kids participated in this little league season. The teams were: Ak-Chin A’s, Lil Natives (Ak-Chin), Casa Grande Pirates and Salt River Native Clash.

The league schedule included six games for each team, with no regular season standings. It was just competitive games so that players could continue to play baseball throughout the summer before school started.

Every team did end up winning at least one game. A special thank you to parks staff as they did a great job of getting the fields ready for every game.



Sunflowers



(Submitted photo)

Thursday, June 29, Summer Recreation Program visited Maricopa’s sunflower field for craft inspiration.



After students loaded the bus, and awed at the acres of sunflowers they returned back to make a sunflower of their own. Students were divided into three groups. One group made construction paper sunflowers, the other made popsicle stick sunflowers and the last group made tissue paper sunflowers. Each was unique and drew inspiration from the sunflower field they visited.



Movie Day

Friday, June 30, Summer Recreation Program ended with a celebratory movie and popcorn. Students watched, *Avatar: The Way of Water*, and enjoyed movie theatre popcorn.



were the 10 and under. The winner of that group was Mitchell Wiley. Next age group 11 through 17, that winner was Seth Blair. Now for the most competitive group, 18 and up, first place winner was Jennifer Hambirck.

Many people gathered around for the Department Hot Dog Eating Contest, as there were some familiar faces.

If you attended last year’s celebration, you may have recognized the competitors for this year’s Hot Dog Eating Contest. Brothers Eric Chavez

Celebration continued from Front

and Kyle Chavez took the race of who could finish the most hot dogs in 10 minutes. Though the count was close, Eric Chavez took home this year’s win.

Once 830 p.m. approached the lights shut off and the sky filled with fireworks. The night sky wasn’t the only thing shining, the park began to shine as people opened their glow sticks and held them around.

Once the finale was over, people cheered and clapped, showing their appreciation for the show.



To cool down people from the Ak-Chin Community and Maricopa went to Ak-Chin Recreation Center to enjoy a pool party. There were games for all ages and prizes for the top 3 winners in each age category. Water toys, themed goggles and floats were

among the options the younger winners could chose from. The adults were not left out of the fun, the winners of the adult age groups had the choice of an expanded cooler, grille set, tool set and more. Lunch was offered as well as snow cones courtesy of Ak-Chin Rec staff.



Age 11-17: 1st place watermelon eating contest winner Seth Blair



Age 10 and under: 1st place watermelon eating contest winner Mitchell Wiley



Age 18 and up: 1st place watermelon eating contest winner Jennifer Hambirck



1st place hot dog eating contest winner Eric Chavez

Healing From Grief Group

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.

- 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 will be held at TBD

5:30pm - 7:00pm

*Reservations are needed for Art Based Groups to verify supplies are available for all attendees.



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

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

VIRTUAL 10K OR HALF MARATHON STAGE RUN

CHOOSE YOUR DISTANCE
COMPLETE WITHIN 21 DAYS
07.10.23 - 07.30.23

REGISTER USING GOOGLE FORMS, SCAN QR CODE ABOVE.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 12TH.
SELECT YOUR RACE DISTANCE.

WALK OR RUN THE STAGE DISTANCES.
SUBMIT ALL TIMES FOR EACH COMPLETED.
EARN A \$10 GIFT CARD FOR EACH STAGE COMPLETED.

(MUST COMPLETE ALL STAGES FOR REGISTERED DISTANCE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY GIFT CARDS)
T-SHIRT AND MEAL VOUCHER PROVIDED.

STAGES & DISTANCES

13.1 MILES	5 DAYS STAGE 1 - 3.0 MILES STAGE 2 - 3.0 MILES STAGE 3 - 2.5 MILES STAGE 4 - 2.5 MILES STAGE 5 - 2.1 MILES
10K 6.2 MILES	3 DAYS STAGE 1 - 2.0 MILES STAGE 2 - 2.1 MILES STAGE 3 - 2.1 MILES
2.4K 1.5 MILES	1 DAY STAGE 1 - 1.5 MILES (FOR 55+ AND KIDS 12 & UNDER)

OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES ONLY
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1080 OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US



EMPLOYEE UPDATES



Dennis Antone
Groundskeeper
SANITATION PUBLIC WORKS



Dominique White
Groundskeeper
SANITATION PUBLIC WORKS



Franciso Preciado
Firefighter-Medic
FIRE DEPARTMENT



Robert Beechum
Groundskeeper
SANITATION PUBLIC WORKS

Central Arizona College

An Opportunity for You!

Earn a nationally recognized certificate in Retail Industry Fundamentals for **FREE!**

Learn about:

- Retail career paths
- Retail operations and supply chains
- Customer service and sales
- Job readiness

Get a job & get promoted in retail & beyond!

Eligible students must not have a high school diploma/ged. Some exceptions may apply. Call for more information

A PROUD PARTNER OF
ARIZONA@WORK

WHEN?

Starts: Tuesday, August 8th
Ends: Tuesday, September 28th
Every Tuesday
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
**Plus 5 hours a week of homework*

WHERE?

Online Virtual Classroom
*Attend from a computer at home or any CAC learning center

Scan the QR code to apply!

www.bit.ly/careertrainingform
520-494-5984/adult.education@centralaz.edu

JOB OPENINGS

- Compensation Analyst
- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Detention Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Communications Officer
- Firefighter/Medic (closes 07/07)
- Economic Development Analyst
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist
- Application Software Technician
- Maintenance Technician (5)
- Security Guard (9)
- Wastewater Treatment Operator
- Museum Technician*

*open to Open to Enrolled Community Members Only

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.

Wishes

Well, Danny L. Soliz Jr.
"My Sweetheart" another year has gone by and you're another year older and wiser. I want to wish you a Happy Birthday and my blessings.
Love MOM

Happy Birthday Jeremy, Chizzum, Whitney, Lyndsey and Jaelyn
Love, your family

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters
Lyndsey and Leeann
Love, Grandma

Ak-Chin Child Development

Accepting applications for
Preschool 2023-2024 SY
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

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*
- Health and Safety Protocols in Place

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 Community boundaries and is enrolled with another federally recognized Native American Community.
- Child of a parent who is an employee of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
- 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@ak-chin.nsn.us

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 Record

(returning students only need the current Immunization Record and a completed Returning Student application)

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

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

Employee Birthdays

	2-Jul Dalena Crawford, Maintenance	14-Jul Esther Alvarez, Law & Order Job Elliott, Social & Health Services	18-Jul Silas Norris, Maintenance	
	3-Jul Rayford Vavages, Maintenance Sierra Paddock, Finance	15-Jul Luis Chavez, Environmental Protection Keith Franklin, IS	20-Jul Perry Vetraino, Capital Projects James Chance, Law & Order Brian Poulson, Fire & Safety Havier Alvarez, Sanitation	
	4-Jul James Fortier, IS Mathilda Miguel, Courts	16-Jul Timothy Costello, Airport Brian Hammerschmidt, Fire & Safety	21-Jul Kaycee Lopez, Early Childhood	
	6-Jul Flora Howerton, Finance	17-Jul Rodney Huffake, IS Danny Soliz, Elderly Elaina Enos, Retail Nathan Shearer, IS Linda Smith, Retail	22-Jul Andrea Chee, Law & Order	
	8-Jul Adriana Alvarado, Elderly	19-Jul Adan Enriquez, Environmental Protection Martina Guy, Health Education	24-Jul Stephanie Valdez, Early Childhood	
	9-Jul Georgia Corella, Elderly		30-Jul Mallory Justin, Retail	
	10-Jul Kimberly Creamer, PRC		31-Jul Lino Valles, Law & Order	
	13-Jul Leeann Peters, TGA			

JULY BIRTHDAYS

07/01 Kalene Santiago	07/09 Jeremy Johns Georgia Corella Yrene Zepeda Chizzum Justin	07/14 Noahli Antone Jayden Hayslip Esther Alvarez	07/21 Dominic Lewis Kaycee Lopez Ja'Marrion Stevenson	07/27 Aurelia Peters Kaylan Peters Lilly-anna Johnson
07/02 Daniel Batopis Angel Warren Abrianna Machado	07/10 Kenneth Lewis Anthony Lewis Elizabeth Machado Whitney Justin Stacy Antone	07/15 Jordan Stephens	07/22 Mark Narcia	07/28 Jeannie Stephens Terrance Peters Luis Rodas Cheryl Lopez
07/03 Fernanda Acunia-Pablo Sierra Paddock Valecita Enos	07/11 Lyndsey Peters	07/16 Elaina Enos Linda Smith Danny L.Soliz	07/23 Ulyceiz Ocanas Connor Miguel BonScott Alvarez Carlos Delores	07/29 Laila Lopez
07/04 Mathilda Miguel Dalia Antone Yessenia Santiago Elisia Ugalde	07/12 Mariah Stephens Leeanna Jensen Iris Attakai Evan Miller Gloria Martinez-Peters	07/17 Jorge Alvarez Jr. Taos Joaquin	07/24 Samantha Martinez Stephanie Valdez Consuella Santiago Doyleen Pablo Milla Cuatt Alejandra Castro	07/30 Ashlea Anderson Corrina White Cecil Miguel Sr.
07/05 Amanda Kaniatobe Jilayne Miguel	07/13 Jaelyn Justin Leeann Peters Dustin Miguel Mason Miguel Martin Antone Jr. Simon Bowman	07/18 Silas Norris Abraham Jose	07/25 Xendryk Silas-Antone Jamar Stevenson Jr. Norman Vincent Jr.	07/31 Lino Valles Jr. Clyde Santiago Brenda Arellanes-Burgos Kristen Villegas
07/06 Erno Lopez Flora Howerton		07/19 Hannah Smith Dorian Nosie-Romo Aniya Deleon		
07/07 David Garcia Lucio Martinez		07/20 Aiden Antone Marisol Andaverde Briana Pena James Lopez Havier Stephens Sr. Richard Carlyle Robin Vincent	07/26 Tyler Mike Teagan Delma Fabian Santiago Sally Antone Kylie Hill	
07/08 Jason Smith				

Happy Birthdays

