

Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVII, Issue 13

July 7 - 20, 2023

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

Celebration continues to Page 8

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



He ran the Maricopa Directors at Sun Life was awarded Rotarian of Directors. the Year.

swimming pool for 15 Health. He currently years, "taught just about sits on the Pinal County everyone to swim" and Credit Union Board of

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

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

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

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

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE** PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS PAGE 3 COMMUNITY NEWS

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."

"I met a lot of Ak-Chin Mr. Reese was awarded

PAGE 5 COMMUNITY CALENDAR **PAGE 9 ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

years.

Athletic Director

the year for 2A

2004, through the

Arizona Interscholastic

Association. That same

It was not long after his retirement that Matt got

involved with charter

schools and soon began

building a charter school

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

from the ground up.

year he retired.

the

of

in

He was also a youth manager, league 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

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,

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.

#### July 7 - 20, 2023

### 2Language 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 3,508 language at 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 this study is to prove Gabriel Lopez.

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 significance of lose our medicine," said

# **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 Bu 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.





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



### **AK-CIÑ T-AM 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.

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





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

Ak-Chin Oodham Runner 💮 Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ©2023

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 Photojournalists: Tyaun Marshburn and Alexa Key **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.

All information and original work contained in this newspaper is copyright and may not be reproduced without written permission from: 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 suggestions or comments

#### July 7 - 20, 2023 **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 for summer crowns children program to design and create to their liking.

With the from Runner staff and decorated pinatas. These Him-Dak Summer Art pinatas became hand- "I made the crown for my Auciana Miguel Program staff, two groups crafted with ribbon, mom because I really love Teagan Delma quickly of children were divided plates and more; making her," said one summer learned origami in order before getting creative.

The kinder through first The grade group decorated expressed that some children weren't the only that each crown and crowns with stickers, of the crowns weren't ones getting creative. The pinata was not made cotton balls, googly eyes, for themselves, some Runner Staff actually from ordinary paper but beads and much more. were made for parents, hand-made each of the newspapers like the one Meanwhile, the second grandparents,





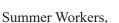


assistance through twelfth graders aunts, etc. them all unique.

younger

program participant.

uncles, pinatas and



and to create the crowns.

group The summer program The ultimate tie in, was crowns. 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 designated and decorated Butterfly Wonderland in man singing to a crowd as a house from Harry Hufflepuff, Potter; Ravenclaw, and Slytherin.

During program hours petting the stingrays at the and Slytherin started in

**Program Field Trip** Scottsdale on June 29th.

through the

According to the exhibit, The students celebrated when he was 8 years their last day of summer old, he said he was school by taking a field trip telepathically visited by to the OdySea Aquarium, an alien who showed UFO Experience and him a future vision of a wearing a white suit.

Gryffindor The kids enjoyed going The elementary school many kids, which were houses; different exhibits and Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw OdySea Aquarium. After the Butterfly Wonderland. to Mexico. After the video the kids

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'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 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.





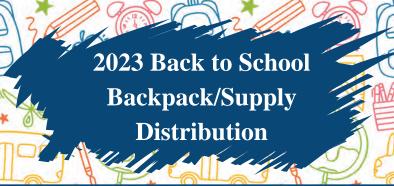
students worked on subjects such as math, reading, and science experiments. On designated days students attended special activities that consisted of P.E., crafts and art.

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.

lunch the houses split Their tour began with up, the middle schoolers a 15-minute 3D video (Gryffindor) went to the that talked about how UFO Experience. While butterflies migrate from at the UFO Experience Canada they learned about the celebrities who claimed walked through Butterfly to have UFO sightings or Wonderland. encounters with aliens.

Among the list of which one of the largest celebrities were; Khloe conservatories in North Kardashian, Miley Cyrus, America and home to over Muhammad Ali and Elvis. thousands of butterflies Elvis claimed to have from all over the world. had many connections extraterrestrials. to

The conservatory



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



Starting

July 10<sup>th</sup> !



grhc.org





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/



### Want more information? Call our MTS clerks at (602) 528-1384





### THE CARING HOUSE POSITIONS AVAILABLE:



- Maintenance Technician
- Registered Nurses



- Physical Therapist
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Certified Nursing Assistants

VISIT GRHC.ORG/CAREERS OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

**RECRUITER:** YLESIA JONES | 520-517-4467 | YJONES@GRHC.ORG



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, Calles' daughter and Ak- good Citizenship and Chin Self-Governance Patriotism.

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...

Reese always Mr. projected interest in Leon Jr.'s academic and advancement personal 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 throughout influenced 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 awards year end ceremony, the American Legion Auxiliary presented a certificate and the Americanism Medal award to Mr. Reese for his outstanding support to programs in promoting

July 7 - 20, 2023



Matt's family (I-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 dance scratch was

scheduled from 6pm-12a with Friends playing. The evening ended

with a procession and

fireworks show.



A traditional baptism was held for Christian Soliz (center white shirt) shown above, surrounded by his family standing (I-r): grandmother Velacita Lopez, dad Danny Soliz, Jr., grandfather Danny Soliz, Sr., Christian, mom Rachel Lozano, sister Aubrey Lozano, and grandmother Raychel Peters. Sitting (I-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.



Nation continued from Page 2

It is not confirmed, but

the visit by President

Nygren may have been

the first visit/meeting

between the two tribes

in Ak-Chin in its

in

homeland was an honor

and we will cherish

this moment forever,

he truly is genuine and

has a strong heart and

love for not only his

people on the Nation,

but for Indian Country

"We've briefly met on a

couple of occasions, but

to have a conversation

with him for three

hours, it felt like we've

know each other for

years. It was more like

The Nation is looking

to venture in other

a family sit down."

general,"

Chairman Miguel.

President

our

said

history.

"Having

Nygren

in

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 relationships such 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.

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 Fr. Julius Tvrdy

かなだ

July 16th Fr. Julius Tvrdy

Tvrdy July 30th Fr. Eric

July 23rd

Fr. Julius

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! 520-568-1675

| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

SUN

**JULY 2023** 

MON TUE WED THU FRI

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

# JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SAT

1

8

15

22

29

7

14

21

28

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 familes, 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.

July 7 - 20, 2023



**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Capital Projects** 

### **AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON DESIGN-BUILD** PARKS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called "Owner") invites all the General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract.

The Parks Improvements project scope consists of work on the two Community Parks; Milton, Paul, Antone Park and Hohokam Youth Park. The scope of work includes, but not limited to; Fence replacement and new playground repair, equipment, ramadas and structures, minor shade ball fields and building electrical, renovations, site lightings, asphalt decomposed granite and walkways, park sign monument, and site grading work.

interested Contractors in submitting bid proposal for this project, must submit their contacts information to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ Also, Cc: <u>ak-chin.nsn.us</u>. Project Manager, Karam AbuHamdan, at KAbu-Hamdan@ ak-chin.nsn.us. Requests must be received by July 13, 2023, 9:00am, in order to be included in the Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting.

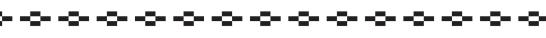
MANDATORY virtual/ А online Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on July 13, 2023. This meeting is considered mandatory, and in this meeting the project scope will be discussed. If you do not attend this pre-bid meeting your proposal will NOT be accepted.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on August 4, 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 accordance to in 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.





#### **AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Capital Projects**

#### **AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, (RFP)DESIGN-BUILD** SERVICES WELLNESS CENTER

Ak-Chin The Indian Community (hereafter called "Owner") invites all the Design-Build teams to submit proposals on a Wellness Center Project consisting of the following;

• The Ak-Chin Indian seeking Community is professional Design-Build services for a Wellness Center. The Project Area approximately totals 4.1 acres. The Wellness Center will offer fitness services, personal training, physical therapy and documents. Part -2, Future Construction.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID VIRTUAL meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on Friday, July 14, 2023, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email Fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon on Thursday, July 13, 2023. The RFP Packet will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 5:00 p.m. (MST)

unrestricted; however, preference will be given to Indian Organizations and Indian Owned Enterprises accordance in 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.



### **Public Notice**

Transit will be closed between 9am & 3pm on the following dates:

### July 10th - 12th August 1st - 2nd August 15th

If you need transit services on these dates before or after the closure, please contact transit.

> Services on those dates will need to be scheduled in advance,

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



### THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS TWO (2) VACANCIES FOR THE **AK-CHIN ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **OPEN TO AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY**

Reminder: Community Members can only serve on three (3) Boards, Commissions, or Committees maximum at any given time.

Duties & Responsibilities of the Ak-Chin Enrollment Committee

- 1. Preparing for and attending all meetings of the Committee.
- 2. Reviewing all enrollment applications.
- 3. Preparing enrollment applications for presentation to the Community Council.
- 4. Recommending to the Community Council approval or denial of applications for enrollment.
- 5. Developing recommendations to improve the enrollment process as needed.
- 6. Taking timely action on all enrollment applications and related matters.
- 7. Attending training sessions/meetings pertaining to tribal membership as appropriate.

Requirements: All interested parties who desire to serve on the Ak-Chin Enrollment Committee must submit a letter detailing why they are interested in serving on the Enrollment Committee. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires.

Enrolled Community employees must also submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Enrollment Committee

Please send all letters of interest

nutrition consulting by the Community's Health Education Department. The Wellness Center should include, but not limited to, workout spaces, private session rooms, teaching kitchen, and office spaces. This Design-Build Scope of services is Separated in several parts The Part 1-A is a schematic design and preconstruction services and cost estimating. Part 1-B will be for Preconstruction Services. Design Development and completion of construction on Friday, July 28, 2023. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on Friday, August 11, 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

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.

Attn: Ak-Chin Community Council Attn: Victoria A. Smith 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Arizona 85138

Deadline to submit letter of interest is Friday, July 14, 2023 by 5:00pm.



## Chairman speaks at **Maricopa Association Governments Meeting**

Ak-Chin Chairman and Chairman of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association (AIGA) Robert Miguel, had the honor and privilege of speaking to members of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) during their scheduled meeting on June 6.

The topic of discussion focused on what Tribal Gaming income has done for not only tribes, but for the entire State as it has reached the \$2 Billion mark in revenue to Arizona, which has helped in supporting services from healthcare, education, wildlife, public safety, education and other needs.

"Since the inception of Tribal Gaming, tribal casinos in Arizona have supported the State with much needed financial support per our compact



agreement to help fund much needed services," Chairman Miguel said.

"We are proud to play a key and vital role in supporting our wonderful State."

Financial statistics were shared in different areas where funding has been provided thus far.

## **Navajo Nation Economic Summit**

Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel was asked by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren to speak at the Navajo Nation Economic Development Summit roundtable at the Twin Arrows Casino on the Navajo Nation on June 21.

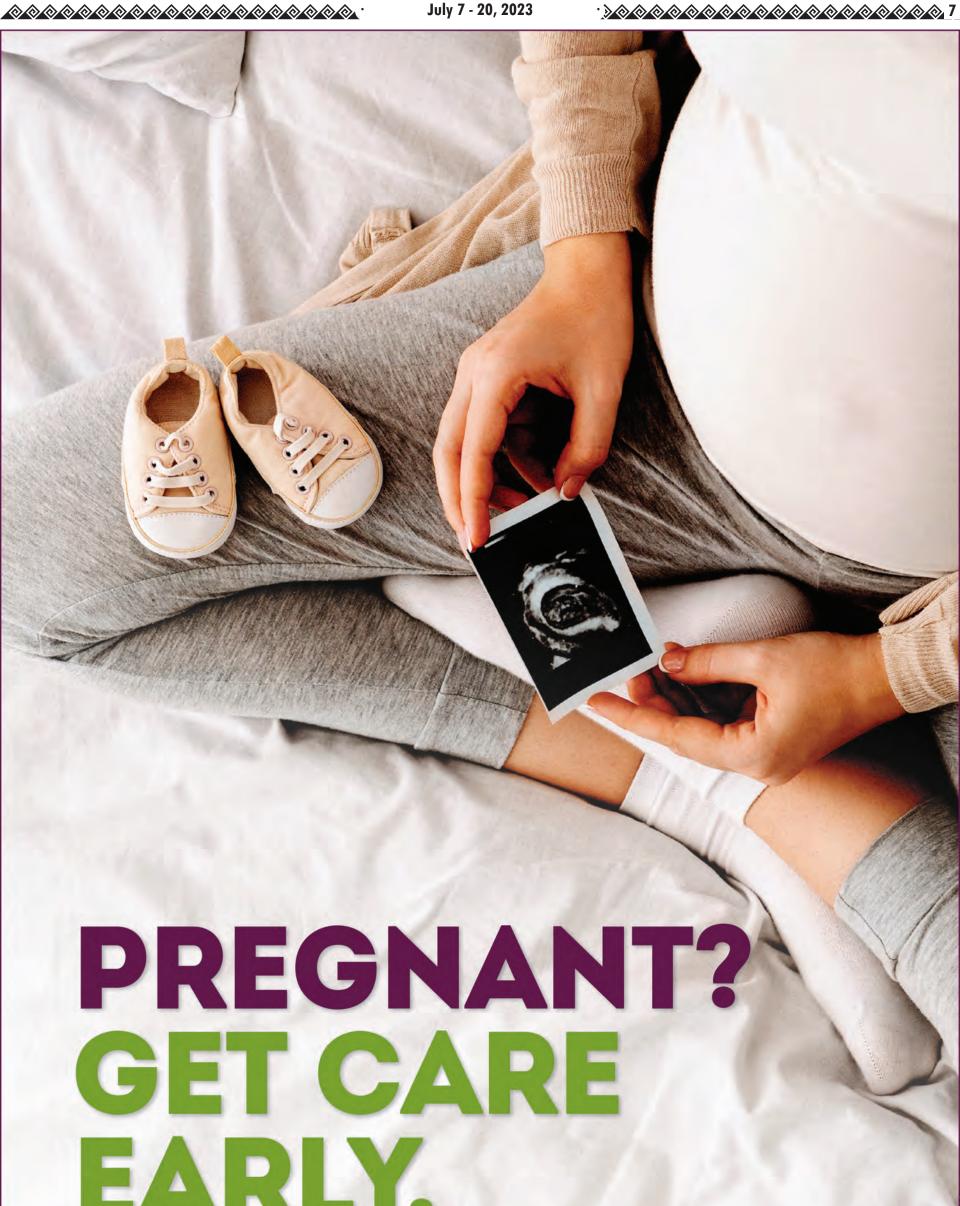
Before a contingent of Navajo Nation tribal leaders, officials and staff, Chairman Miguel shared the economic developments Ak-Chin has been involved in throughout decades: Southern the Dunes, Harrah's, Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, Hickman's, Ak-Chin Farms, Ak-Chin Regional Airport and other businesses within the Industrial Park.

"Through dedication, support, commitment and belief in the relationships we've built with our enterprises, we have put ourselves in position to continue to prosper with various options and teamwork." Chairman stated.

Attendees in the session were extremely interested in the development of Ak-Chin Farms' current crops planted and harvested at this time. Because of the water shortage in the Southwest, Ak-Chin's water settlement was also of interest.

Panelists included: Chairman Miguel, Nation Navajo President Buu Nygren, Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Chairman Marshall Pierite, former George Rivera, Governor of the Pueblo of Pojoaque of New Mexico and Navajo Nation Speaker of the House Crystalyne-Curley.







Your baby is the future of your Tribal community. Take care of yourself and your baby during pregnancy.

### **GET EARLY PRENATAL CARE.**

Prenatal care visits help reduce problems during birth and give you a way to learn more about what to expect during pregnancy.

### GO TO APPOINTMENTS REGULARLY.

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**.





This project was produced by Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. Support for this project was provided through a cooperative agreement (Grant No. 6 U7AMC33714-02-01 ) from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

# Ak-Chin Recreation Summer Program Ends with a Bang

Story and photos by Alexa Key

Friday, June 30, Ak-Chin Recreation Summer Sunflowers 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.



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.



### **Ak-Chin Little League**



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

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.

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.





AK-Chin A's



Lil Natives



Native Clash









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



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



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



1st place hot dog eating contest winner Eric Chavez

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



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

Central

Arizona

College

An Opportunity for You!

 Retail operations and supply chains · Customer service and sales

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

Industry Fundamentals for FREE!

· Retail career paths

Job readiness

Learn about:

Earn a nationally recognized certificate in Retail

WHEN? Ends: Tuesday, September 28th 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

CODE ABOVE.

COMPLETED.

#### Scan the QR code to apply!



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

### Ak-Chin Child Development Accepting applications for

Preschool 2023-2024 SY Deadline is July 28th, 2023

Our office is open Ak-Chin Child Development offers: A High Quality Early Education Experience 8am-5pm Health/Developmental Screenings Disability Services (Through M.U.S.D.) Monday-Friday 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 Hearth Ed Resources) Register now! First day of Preschool is August 14th, 8:30am-2:00pm Ak-Chin Health Ed. Program) \*Fire Safety Education (Provided by the Ak-Chin Fire Department)\* Enrollment is based on availability and children are selected in the following order: \*Field Trips/Fun activities throughout Health and Safety Protocols in Place Child is an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indi-1. an Community 2. Child is a non-enrolled member, but he/she is the Legal child of an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Transportation provided for children living within the Ak-Chin Community 3. Child is living within the Ak-Chin Indian Communiboundaries. ty boundaries. Child is living outside of the Ak-Chin Indian Com-munity boundaries and is enrolled with another federally recognized Native American Communi-



July 7 - 20, 2023

# OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILES, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES ONLY FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1080 OR MCQU®AK-CHIN INSIN US

### **JOB OPENINGS**

- Compensation Analyst Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Detention Officer (certified and noncertified)
- 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.

### **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



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

Tristan Garcia, Law & Order 3-Jul

14-Jul Esther Alvarez, Law & Order Job Elliott, Social & Health Services

> Luis Chavez, Keith Franklin, IS

Maintenance 20-Jul Perry Vettraino, **Capital Projects** James Chance, Law & Order Brian Poulson,



Dalena Crawford, Maintenance

Rayford Vavages, Maintenance

15-Jul

**Environmental Protection** 

Fire & Safety





ty. 5.

- Child of a parent who is an employee of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
- 6. Non-member children based on availability.



- 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 Im-munization 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.

Sierra Paddock, Finance 4-Jul James Fortier, IS Mathilda Miguel, Courts 6-Jul Flora Howerton, Finance

**8-Ju**1 Adriana Alvarado, Elderly 9-Jul Georgia Corella, Elderly 10-Jul Kimberly Creamer, PRC 13-Jul

Leeann Peters, TGA

**16-Jul** 

Health Education

Timothy Costello, Airport Brian Hammerschmidt, Fire & Safety Rodney Huffake, IS Danny Soliz, Elderly Elaina Enos, Retail Nathan Shearer, IS Linda Smith, Retail 17-Jul Adan Enriquez, **Environmental Protection** Martina Guy,

Havier Alvarez, Sanitation 21-Jul Kaycee Lopez, Early Childhood 22-Jul Andrea Chee, Law & Order 24-Jul Stephanie Valdez, Early Childhood 30-Jul Mallory Justin, Retail

31-Jul

Lino Valles, Law & Order

07/01 **Kalene Santiago** 

07/02 **Daniel Batopis Angel Warren** Abrianna Machado

07/03 Fernanda Acunia-Pablo Sierra Paddock Valecita Enos

> 07/04 **Mathilda Miguel Dalia Antone** Yessenia Santiago Elisia Ugalde

07/05 Amanda Kaniatobe **Jilayne Miguel** 

07/06 Erno Lopez Flora Howerton

07/07 **David Garcia** Lucio Martinez

07/08 **Jason Smith** 

07/09 **Jeremy Johns Georgia Corella Yrene Zepeda Chizzum Justin** 

07/10 **Kenneth Lewis Anthony Lewis Elizabeth Machado Whitney Justin Stacy Antone** 

07/11 Lyndsey Peters

07/12 **Mariah Stephens** Leeanna Jensen Iris Attakai **Evan Miller Gloria Martinez-Peters** 

07/13 **Jaelyn Justin** Leeann Peters **Dustin Miguel Mason Miguel** Martin Antone Jr. Simon Bowman

07/14 **Noahli Antone Jayden Hayslip Esther Alvarez** 

07/15 **Jordan Stephens** 

07/16 **Elaina Enos** Linda Smith **Danny L.Soliz** 

07/17 Jorge Alvarez Jr. **Taos Joaquin** 

> 07/18 **Silas Norris** Abraham Jose

07/19 Hannah Smith **Dorian Nosie-Romo Aniya Deleon** 

07/20 **Aiden Antone** Marisol Andaverde **Briana Pena** James Lopez Havier Stephens Sr. **Richard Carlyle Robin Vincent** 

07/21 **Dominic Lewis Kaycee Lopez Ja'Marrion Stevenson** 

> 07/22 **Mark Narcia**

07/23 **Ulyceiz Ocanas Connor Miguel** BonScott Alvarez **Carlos Delores** 

07/24 Samantha Martinez **Stephanie Valdez Consuella Santiago Doyleen Pablo Milla Cuatt** Alejandra Castro

07/25 **Xendryk Silas-Antone** Jamar Stevenson Jr. Norman Vincent Jr.

> 07/26 **Tyler Mike Teagan Delma** Fabian Santiago **Sally Antone Kylie Hill**

07/27 **Aurelia Peters Kaylan Peters** Lilly-anna Johnson

07/28 **Jeannie Stephens Terrance Peters** Luis Rodas **Cheryl Lopez** 07/29

Laila Lopez

07/30 **Ashlea Anderson Corrina White Cecil Miguel Sr.** 

07/31 Lino Valles Jr. **Clyde Santiago Brenda Arellanes-Burgos Kristen Villegas** 

July 7 - 20, 2023

# Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Celebrates 2023 **Caesars Founders Award Recipients and Team Members for Years of Service**

(MARICOPA, Ariz. - May 16, 2023) Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino hosted its annual Years of Service Event at The Event Center on May 3. In addition to acknowledging 75 Team Members with tenures from 5 to 25 years, the occasion celebrated the 2023 Caesars Founders Award recipients.

"We've built a culture that celebrates individual achievement," said Senior Vice President and General Manager Michael Kintner. "Team Members feel valued when they are appreciated and see their peers enjoying their time at work. The culture at Harrah's Ak-Chin creates loyalty and longevity. Our annual event is one example of how we celebrate the milestones, achievements and efforts of our Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Team Members."

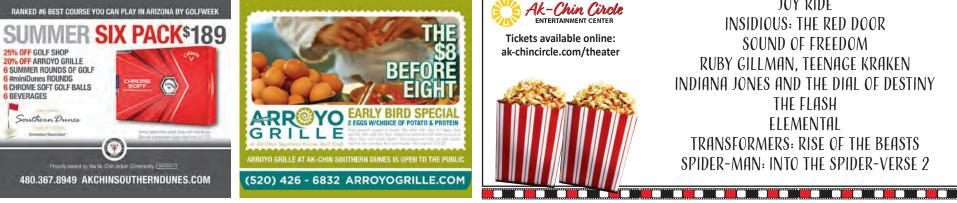
The 2023 Caesars Founders Awards recognize the outstanding achievements and exceptional contributions of exemplary Team Members. This year's awards recognized individuals who regularly and consistently delivered best-in-class service to Harrah's Ak-Chin guests and internal Team Members while demonstrating Caesars core values in three categories:

- Blaze the Trail: Team Member exemplifies leadership, integrity and ownership
- All in On Service: Team Member exemplifies fun, service and connection
- Together We Win: Team Member exemplifies inclusion, care and teamwork

The 2023 Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Founders Award winners recognized at the annual Years of Service Event included:

Blaze the Trail

• Christopher Jackson (Jax) – **Facilities Supervisor** 



- Twila Andring HR Generalist
- Robert Rutter Hotel **Operations Manager**

Together We Win

- John-Michael Lopez Assistant Casino Operations Manager
- Brittney Ramirez Senior Staff Accountant
- Ray Lapinid Bell Attendant
- All In On Service
- Toni Mayorga Gift Shop/ Wardrobe Manager
- Grant Milanio Accounting Manager
- Mandi Jackson Assistant Beverage Manager

One winner from each property goes on to compete at the regional level. Christopher (Jax) Jackson was selected and won the regional Blaze the Trail Award.

Added Kintner, "Jax is a great asset to the facilities department and to our organization. He brings new ideas and is always motivated in finding new and innovative ways to improve what we do and how we serve our guests. Jax was able to introduce 3D printing to the casino, which has allowed us new possibilities when it comes to repairing, re-using or replacing items. These creations have allowed us to not only save money but time and materials as well."

The 2023 Years of Service Event also recognized Team Members from the past year who have reached significant employment milestones:

- 31 Team Members celebrating 5 years
- 19 Team Members celebrating 10 years
- 12 Team Members celebrating 15 years
- 8 Team Members celebrating 20 years
- 5 Team Members celebrating 25 years



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino honored its 2023 Caesars Founders Award Recipients at its Years of Service Event on May 3. From left: Honorees included Mandi Jackson, Christopher Jackson (Jax), Toni Mayorga, John-Michael Lopez, Brittney Ramirez, Grant Milanio, Twila Andring, and Robert Rutter.





JOY RIDE

