

## Vice President Kamala Harris visits Gila River Indian Community



Story by Tyaun Marshburn      Photos courtesy of Kyle Knox/GRIN

*Traditional Dancers and Singers from the Four Southern tribes greet Vice President Kamala Harris, as she and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff are escorted by Gila River Governor Stephen Roe Lewis to Gila River Crossing Community School, July 6.*

On July 6th, Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris came to Arizona to visit with tribal nations as part of the Investing in America tour. This was an historic visit, as it was the first time a sitting U.S. President or Vice President has visited the Gila River Indian Community.

About 800 tribal leaders and officials were in attendance at Gila Crossing Community School to hear Harris speak, as she thanked everyone for the warm welcome, she and husband, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff received.

“It means so much to us, and it means so much to the

President, that we are able to be here with you to thank you for the partnership and the work that we have done and will continue to do together.”

Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis shared in their press release, “This Administration has taken partnership to a whole new level. They have brought Tribes genuinely to the table, working with us on important investments and solutions for each Tribe’s unique needs.”

Prior to addressing tribal leaders, Harris met with young tribal leaders, while the Second Gentleman met with Community Veterans.

“I was able to meet with some of the younger leaders before I came out here and when I look at them, I know the future of our world is so bright.”

Ak-Chin Youth Council officers Doria Garcia, Haedin De Paola, and Kateri Lopez were among the youth in attendance invited to meet with the Vice President for a Youth Round-table discussion, alongside other youth from the Four O’odham Sister Tribes. Ak-Chin Youth Council Secretary, Kateri Lopez also had the opportunity to gift one of her beautiful paintings to Vice President Harris.

*Vice President Harris continues to page 2*



Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel (right) greets Congressman Eli Crane outside Ak-Chin governmental offices, July 6.

Story and photos by Alexa Key

## Congressman Crane visits Ak-Chin

Ak-Chin Indian Community – Thursday, July 6, Representative Eli Crane visits with Ak-Chin Council and tours the community.

Representative Eli Crane is currently serving his first term in Congress, while having the privilege serving as the U.S. Representative for Arizona’s Second Congressional District.

This visit was sparked from a previous event in Washington D.C., where Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel had first met

Representative Crane. During this visit they discussed issues including flood control and drainage involving the washes surrounding the community.

The tour started at the two major washes near the farms, Smith and Vekol. Ak-Chin Farm Manager, Damian Murrieta led this part of the tour. Crane visited the pecan orchards, cotton fields and corn fields.

Murrieta later explained the importance of why Ak-Chin has made it a goal to address

*Rep. Crane Visit continues to page 4*



Art Program students stay busy as they work on their art assignments during the Him Dak Summer Art Program.

## Him Dak Summer Art Program

Story by Tyaun Marshburn, photos by Runner staff

Ak-Chin Him-Dak Summer Art Program ran from June 5 - July 7, between the hours of 8 a.m. until noon.

The kids were divided into four groups based on their grade. The first group were grades K-1st, second group, grades 2nd -4th, the third group were grades 5th- 8th and the final group was grades 9th- 12th.

The kids got to showcase their creativity by doing activities like bead looming,

ceramics, lantern making, perler beading, field trips and lots of projects.

When departments visited, they usually did different activities to cater to the different age groups.

Ak-Chin Fire, Health Education, Library and EPD all dedicated time to spend with the children doing various activities. Health Education provided healthy

snacks and exercise activities to give the kids a break for

some fun in the sun. Fire department gave the kids a tour of the fire trucks, EPD decorated gourds and Library used an iPad to control sphereo mini robot.

One of the activities I was very impressed with was when the kids used glue guns and cardboard pieces to create an obstacle course for marbles.

On Fridays the children usually had a change of scenery like watching a movie



Above, Summer Youth workers enjoy playing arcade games at Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.

## Ak-Chin Summer Youth Workers Celebrate Last Day

Story and photos by Alexa Key

Friday, July 14, Ak-Chin celebrated their summer youth worker’s last day at Ak-Chin Circle.

What better way to bring joy towards the end of summer than bowling and arcade games? Each summer youth worker enjoyed a day full of fun at Ak-Chin Circle. Accompanied by someone from their department, they were able to bowl and play arcade games. As the games were finishing, they were also able to enjoy pizza, wings, sliders and cookies all courtesy

of Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Though their time with each department has come to an end, their experiences are something they will be able to hold onto forever.

“We both learned a lot from last summer and it paid off a ton working this summer,” said Runner Department summer youth workers Teagan Delma and Auciana Miguel. Delma added, “I really like photography so this job was really fun for me.”

*Him Dak Summer Art continues to Page 5*



*Kamala Harris visit continued from Front*

Ak-Chin Youth Council Coordinator, Joseph Davis said, "It was interesting to see ideas being shared from the youth delegates and to hear from Vice President Harris talk about how the Biden Administration is working to help tackle issues that we face in Indian Country."

Ak-Chin Youth Council thanked event organizers and tribal leaders who made sure the youth leaders were included in this event.

Harris covered many topics such as Native American Veterans, Native entrepreneurs and small business investment loans, Native-led, climate-resilient infrastructure, Native American voting rights, missing and murdered Indigenous people, Indian Child Welfare Act, and mental health in Native youth.

The Vice President concluded her speech by ensuring tribal leaders that, "together we will work to continue to strengthen this partnership, to count on your leadership, and to work together in support of our common cause."



Above, Ak-Chin Youth Council Secretary Kateri Lopez presents a painting she gifted to the Vice President



Top right photo: Chairman Robert Miguel takes photo with Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff. Top photo: Youth Council members from Ak-Chin, Gila River, Salt River and Tohono O'odham, gather round the Vice President after meeting and discussing youth concerns.

## ELDER MENU JULY BREAKFAST & LUNCH

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>21 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana/ Sliders- Hot Dog &amp; Hamburger, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Banana split</b>                | <b>Granola Bar / Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Toast, Banana Pudding</b>  |
| <b>24 Ham &amp; Cheese Wrap, Diced Potatoes, Yogurt Parfait, Fruit / Chicken Salad Sandwich, Italian, Pasta Salad, Chips, Oranges</b> | <b>27 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit / Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Zucchini, Red Grapes</b>                                |
| <b>25 Breakfast Salad, Biscuit, Fruit with Cottage Cheese / Pinto Beans, Pork Chop (D), Peas/Carrots, Corn Bread, Jell-o</b>          | <b>28 Breakfast Burrito, Fruit, Muffin   Cabbage Stew, Carrots, Lima Beans, Biscuit, Ambrosia Salad</b>                              |
| <b>26 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit,</b>  | <b>31 Grilled Ham &amp; Cheese, Boiled Eggs, Fruit Salad / Bean or Chicken Tostada, Lettuce/Tomato, Corn on Cob, Fresh Cut Fruit</b> |

**Menu Subject To Change Without Notice**

## DIVE IN MOVIE

Hotdogs, popcorn and drinks, will be provided!

**JULY 22, 2023**

**STARTING AT 8 P.M.**

REGISTER AND SELECT YOUR MOVIE OF CHOICE. THE MOVIE WITH THE HIGHEST VOTE COUNT WILL BE PLAYED OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE email: [recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us)

**AK-CHIN PARKS & RECREATION**

# Caretakers take time to care for themselves

Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn



One of the hardest jobs of being a care taker is taking care of yourself.

On Friday July 14th, the annual caretaker seminar titled "The Art on Soulful Living" was held at Ak-Chin Service Center.

The event was led by Ann McCommas who is the Former Founder and Director of the Retired AIM Motivational Seminars, with assistance from Cheyenne Autumn who is also a motivational Speaker and Humorist. Each has more than 30 years of experience.

"Our intentions for this Seminar are to acknowledge the Care Givers that give their

precious time in caring for others. We'd also like to give them tools to empower them with inspiration and relaxation to support and motivate them with those they care for and also have fun through art and expressing their emotions through powerful images," McCommas said.

In my opinion that goal was accomplished. I was scheduled to sit in on the seminar for an hour or two, but the class was so refreshing and informational I spent most of the day with this incredible group of women.

Sonia Narcia, Ak-Chin Elderly Program Supervisor says her

favorite part of the day was when everyone gave her a word, they felt described her. She said this exercise allowed her to self-reflect on who she is as a person outside of the many hats she wears.

Oftentimes people, especially care takers, get so consumed with making sure everyone else is ok that they don't take the necessary time for themselves, but it is important to remember you can't pour from an empty cup.

Sonia Narcia says she hopes to do more seminars like this in the future. When that time comes or for the next annual caretaker seminar, I urge everyone to participate.



## Soap Making at the Elder Center

The Ak-Chin Elder center staff introduced a new activity, soap making.

On Thursday July 13th the elders used just a few ingredients to create soap. With assistance from Marissa Antone elder care employee and Sonia Narcia Elder program supervisor they combined oatmeal, honey, goat milk and added fragrance if they liked.

Some of the benefits of oatmeal soap include help controlling eczema, psoriasis, moisturizing the skin and relieving itching and irritation.



### Sparks of Possibility Conference

A Focus on Indian Education Conference

**September 12-13, 2023**

Desert Willow Conference Center  
4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Great speakers! Engaging workshops: K-12 education, indigenous history and culture, health and well-being, social justice, cultural competency, federal education funding, & more!

**Adults and 7-12 grade students.**

To register, go to [www.sunclanconsulting.com](http://www.sunclanconsulting.com). Click on Events.  
Email [nadine@sunclanconsulting.com](mailto:nadine@sunclanconsulting.com) with questions.







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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### OFFICE HOURS

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Education, Him-Dak, Library,  
Health & Human Services,  
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Ak-Chin O'dham Runner  
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

#### ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

The Ak-Chin O'dham  
Runner is a Community  
Newspaper and encourages  
Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos,  
poems or a great story that  
you would like to share,  
please contact us so we  
can include it in "YOUR"  
newspaper. Also, if you have  
suggestions or comments  
about "YOUR" newspaper,  
let the Runner Staff know  
that too.

All submitted letters MUST  
be signed by the author and  
are limited to 200 words.  
Authors must also include  
their name, address, and  
phone number. Names can  
be omitted by request.  
Anonymous submissions will  
not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit  
all submitted material for  
clarity, grammar and good  
taste. All submissions should  
be received as typed or  
non-cursive writing. Please  
do not submit UPPERCASE or  
formatted paragraphs.

Submitted pictures need a  
return address and brief  
description. Pictures with no  
address will remain on file.  
Allow 2 weeks for return.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

2023 Subscription rate is  
\$33.75. If you would like  
to receive the "Runner" by  
mail, please send a \$33.75  
check/money order to:  
**Ak-Chin O'dham Runner**  
**16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.**  
**Maricopa, Arizona 85139**

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

#### NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
**August 4 - 17, 2023**  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, JULY 28TH**

Please submit all  
announcements, wishes, etc.  
no later than  
**FRIDAY, JULY 28TH**

Material submitted after the  
**JULY 28TH DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate  
and relevant, it will be  
included in the next issue.

Stories and photos submitted by Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel

# Chairman Miguel meets with Mexico Secretary of Tourism



Many other businesses, community  
and tribal leaders attended the event,  
which was held at the Arizona Biltmore  
in Phoenix.

The occasion was held to help  
commemorate discussions with  
regional Arizona and Mexico tourism  
leaders, culminating in signing a  
letter committing to increased tourism  
collaboration between Arizona and  
Mexico.

Following the dinner event,  
Chairman Miguel was able to engage  
in a conversation with Secretary  
Marques. "It's always great to meet  
with leaders from our neighboring  
country of Mexico to discuss potential  
opportunities that'll benefit both  
countries in tourism, commercial and  
industrial exchange and just overall to  
familiarize the direct relationship with  
one another." Chairman Miguel stated.

In June, I attended a dinner hosted by  
Arizona Office of Tourism Director  
Lisa Urias, Governor Katie Hobbs  
and the Arizona Lodging and Tourism  
Association which featured guest  
speaker, Miguel Turruco Marques,  
Secretary of Tourism of Mexico.

# Ak-Chin highlighted at Self-Governance Conference

During the Tribal Self-  
Governance Conference  
in Tulsa, Oklahoma  
which took place in  
July, Ak-Chin's Self  
Governance Director  
Karen Fierro and myself,  
took part in helping  
organize the event as  
we were part of the  
committee.

Other than helping  
organize the event, we  
were panelists in the  
categories of; "Tribal  
Self-Regulation of  
Gaming Operations"  
which featured Ron  
Allen of the Jamestown  
S'Klallam Tribe of  
Washington and myself.

Jeannie Hovland,  
Vice Chairwoman and  
Director of the Office  
of Self-Regulation,  
National Indian Gaming  
Commission and Kathy  
Clenney, Executive  
Director, Barona  
Gaming Commission  
were panelists during

the session. The two  
answered questions and  
commented on Tribal  
self-regulation and how  
tribes can potentially  
benefit in the process of  
regulating themselves.

The flexibility found in  
National Indian Gaming  
Commission regulations  
also exists in the Indian  
Gaming Regulatory  
Act, which provides for  
a multi-jurisdictional  
regulatory framework  
that recognizes the  
inherent sovereignty of  
Tribes.

Fierro was on a panel  
entitled "Negotiating  
Self-Governance  
Agreements." Panelists  
included Matt Kallapa,  
Northwest Field Officer  
Manager, Department  
of the Interior and  
Lindsey King, Director,  
Office of Tribal Self-  
Determination.

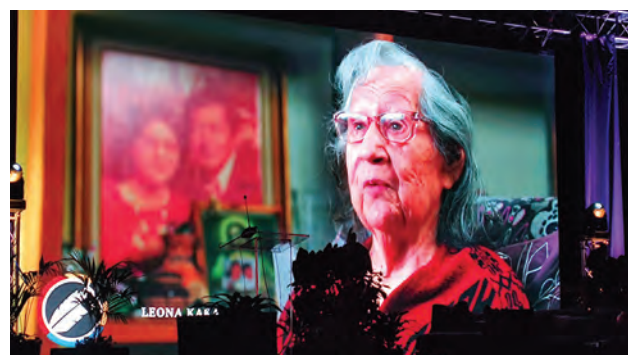
The group touched on

the process of Self-  
Governance Agreements,  
understanding how  
to plan, prepare for,  
and negotiate Self-  
Governance agreements.

Karen did a wonderful  
presentation as did the  
others on the panel.  
We are truly blessed to  
have Karen representing  
the community in her  
capacity. She is truly  
known and highly  
regarded in both Indian  
Country and the United  
States for her outstanding  
work.

A special moment during  
the conference featured  
a short film entitled For  
Our People: Stories of  
Tribal Self-Governance  
& Sovereignty "Ak-  
Chin Indian Community  
- Securing Access To  
Water."

The film featured the  
story of Ak-Chin's  
fight for their water  
settlement, with  
interviews and comments  
given by former Ak-  
Chin Chairwoman  
and Farm Board Chair  
Leona Kakar, as well as  
former Chairwoman and  
Councilwoman Delia  
Carlyle and myself. The  
film was well received.



# Chairman meets with Hopi Nation leadership

The Hopi Nation  
leadership and Hopi  
Gaming Committee  
respectfully requested  
that as Chairman of  
the Arizona Indian  
Gaming Association and  
Chairman of the Ak-  
Chin Indian Community  
that I come and give  
a presentation and  
testimony to the staff  
and gaming committee  
members on what tribal  
gaming has done for not  
only the community of  
Ak-Chin, but the whole  
State of Arizona, as  
providing services for  
the people.

The visit also provided  
the opportunity to get  
a closer look at the  
Kykotsmobi community,  
which is considered the  
central capital of the

Hopi Nation.

The opportunity  
to give witness to the  
Hopi Nation on who we  
were prior to gaming  
and what we've  
become due to  
gaming was key in  
the potential  
opportunity in  
possibly helping  
Hopi move into  
the direction of  
going gaming.

Regardless of  
if they do or do not, I  
wanted their leadership  
and committee members  
to know that we are  
here to support them in  
any economic development  
venture that decide to  
move towards, it doesn't  
have to be gaming.



During the tour, I had the  
opportunity to speak with  
community members on  
a variety of topics. I'm  
always happy to visit  
with my Hopi family,  
it's a great nation with  
wonderful people.

# Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a  
Hearing regarding the following case at 6:00  
p.m. on Tuesday July 25, 2023 at the Water  
Reclamation Facility.

**Case: PS-07-23 Harrah's Slot Performance and Misc.  
Storage Warehouse**

Project Applicant April Stovall, Harrah's Ak-Chin  
Director of Facilities and Surveillance, is requesting  
Preliminary Site Plan approval to construct 1,913  
square foot storage warehouse. The proposed  
project will include:

- Concrete drive, sidewalks, curbing, loading/  
unloading area; and
- Masonry construction with (2) overhead rollup  
doors and (1) single person door; and
- Walkways, interior/exterior lighting, landscaping,  
and underground utilities.

**Case: PS-08-23 Southern Dunes Golf Club Driving  
Range Stadium Lighting**

Project Applicant Brady Wilson, Southern Dunes Golf  
Club General Manager is requesting Preliminary Site  
Plan approval to install stadium lighting to an existing  
area of the golf course. The proposed project will  
include:

- Installing (15) 80' and 90' galvanized steel light  
poles spaced 200' apart to the outer rim of the  
practice facility.

## Sun Safety at Work



## THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS ONE (1) VACANCY FOR THE AK-CHIN ELECTION BOARD

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

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

**All Election Committee members shall meet the  
following qualifications:**

1. Not an elected official of the Ak-Chin Indian  
Community Council; and
2. Not a candidate, or the immediate family  
member of a candidate, for Community Council  
office; and
3. An enrolled member of the Community; and
4. At least twenty-one (21) years of age or older;  
and
5. Able and willing to perform all duties and  
functions, including being physically present  
during all elections.

**Requirements:** Must be an enrolled Community  
Member. All interested individuals who are employed  
with the Community must submit documentation from  
their supervisor allowing the employee to serve on the  
Election Committee. In your letter of interest, please  
note which Board, Commission or Committee you  
currently serve on, and when your term expires.

Please send all letters of interest 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 28, 2023 by 5:00pm**

JUL 12 2023 at 8:20 AM

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY  
COUNTY OF PINAL, STATE OF ARIZONA

In Re: The Marriage Of:  
GRACE PABLO  
and  
ANTOINE KENNEDY

Petitioner,  
Respondent.

CASE NO.: CV-2023-015-DV  
CIVIL SUMMONS

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:  
ANTOINE KENNEDY

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Civil Action has been filed against you in the  
Court of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

(x) YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER in the said  
matter within a period of 20 days if you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin  
Indian Community; 30 days if you are served outside the boundaries of the Ak-Chin  
Indian Community; further you must send a copy of your written answer to:

Grace Pablo  
45421 W. Ralph Street  
Maricopa, AZ 85139

After you have been served and the written answer period has lapsed, the Tribal Court  
shall set a date for a hearing of this matter, and you will be notified of the time and date  
that you will be required to appear.

( ) YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the  
above entitled matter this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 at \_\_\_\_\_.

IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUMMONS a judgment, by default will be  
entered against you and the opposing party shall be awarded the relief demanded in  
this matter.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of  
Arizona this 12th day of July, 2023.

*Danina Rascón*  
Deanna Rascón, Court Administrator  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court



# Ak-Chin’s Fire Department lets Summer Youth Workers Showcase their Skills

Story and photos by Alexa Key

Ak-Chin Community’s Fire Department hosted an event to let their summer workers showcase their skills to friends and family.

Indian Fire Department staff also trained them to become CPR certified and First Aid/AED certified.

During this event Santiago and Rodriquez showcased their skills in CPR and a fire drill assessment. For both of these demonstrations, families were able to watch and take video within the safety of the Fire Department staff.

Once the demonstrations were over, staff then had a video presentation and gave thanks to their summer workers.

The Ak-Chin Fire

Department gifted ACFD Summer Youth Worker shirts as a thanks for their hard work and also to give a welcome back incase they ever wanted to stop by.

The Fire Department staff was thrilled to have worked with Santiago and Rodriquez this summer.

“Taylor and Antonio have been great to have this summer, they are both hardworking and motivated individuals,” said Jennifer Boehm, Ak-Chin Fire Captain.

This event was also for the staff to show the community all of their

investments into teaching Ak-Chin youth.

“We are grateful to have the opportunity to mentor the youth of the community and have a hand in teaching them valuable skills and lessons they can use in their future endeavors,” said Boehm. “We look forward to seeing them progress as individuals and look forward to the next group of summer youth workers to mentor.”



Rep. Crane Visit continued from Front

these washes. Next, Rep. Crane toured visiting the theatre, bowling lanes, Ak-Chin Circle. He toured the facility, arcade and more.



Left: tour stopped to see Smith Wash on the west side of Farrell.

Right: Congressman Crane visits with Laurie McCartney, Management at Ak-Chin Circle.



## Ak-Chin Fire Department meets with Future Cadets



Submitted Photo: Previous ACFD Cadets work together to put out car fire.

Story and photos by Alexa Key

Saturday, July 15, the Ak-Chin Fire Department hosted their first meeting to provide information about their cadet program that is soon to begin.

The ACFD Cadet Program is soon to start and is open to anyone interested from age ranges 14 to 20. The Cadet program is a career education program that works in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America-Learning for

Life. The goal of the program is to expose youth to the Fire Service and give hands-on experience that will help to develop confidence, character and leadership.

Jennifer Boehm, ACFD Captain highlights other great reasons why you should join, “It’s great for your resume, to show people that you are involved in community services.”

This program is also

subject to community events. “We partake in community events throughout the year and our cadet program will also be involved and learn the importance of service,” said ACFD.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the ACFD Cadet Program, contact 520-568-1300. The ACFD is holding an additional information meeting on July 22.



ACFD Captain, Jennifer Boehm presents information regarding meeting times for Cadet Program.


From round dance to the exhibition dance, you always come prepared.

Why not do the same with your health?


Schedule your wellness visits and never miss a beat.

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, visit [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), or call 1-800-318-2596.





**Ak-Chin Education Department**  
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.,  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139  
Telephone: (520) 568-1280



Dear Ak-Chin Community,

The Education Department staff is excited to welcome you back to a new school year filled with opportunities to learn and engage!

Getting into the habit of daily attendance is more important than ever. It helps to:

- reduce stress
- make it easier to connect with friends and teachers
- support learning
- please call us if you have any questions or concerns at (520) 568-1280

We are working to make your learning environment and experience a place where everyone can be safe, healthy, and learning. We will do our best to listen and partner with you so that our children have a successful year. Do not hesitate to reach out to our Student Advisors with questions or concerns.

- Please make sure we have your correct email address and the best phone numbers where we can reach you and don’t forget to drop by our offices to say hello.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon,  
Ak-Chin Education Director



Museum Summer Art Program continued from Front  
at Ak-Chin Circle, swimming at the an end of summer program celebration  
Ak-Chin Rec Center and finally having at Urban Air.

Clockwise from right:  
A young summer  
youth art student  
concentrates on her  
painting. Creative  
cardboard games like  
these were on display.  
Arms outstretched  
as though they were  
dancing, summer  
students were actually  
measuring yarn for  
another art project.



# Community Back to School Events



On July 16th-17th the Johnson O'Malley Parent Committee distributed backpacks and other school supplies to kids in the community.



On various days Ak-Chin Education passed out different incentives to parents who filled out new Release of Information forms. Some of the incentives offered were Vekol lunch vouchers, school accessories and headphones.

## BASIC BEADING SESSION

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 13 - OCTOBER 4, 2023**  
**4:30 - 7:00 PM**  
**HIM-DAK ART BUILDING**

**AK-CHIN MEMBERS & RESIDENTS**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF BEAD WEAVING, BEGINNERS LEARN TO MAKE A BRACELET USING SOME BASIC BEAD WEAVING TECHNIQUES. EXPERIENCED WEAVERS ARE WELCOME TO ENJOY A NIGHT OF JUST CREATING.

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, PLEASE CALL BEFORE 4:00 PM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE HIM-DAK OFFICE.

**520-568-1350**

## Crepe Paper Flower Class & Wreath Making

**Every Tuesday**  
**August 1 - October 17, 2023**  
**4:30 - 7:00 pm**  
**Him-Dak Art Building**

Open to all Ak-Chin Community Members, Residents & Employees who would like to learn to make crepe paper flowers & wreaths. Transportation provided within the Community, please call before 4:00 PM. For further information, please call 520-568-1350.

# Him-Dak Summer Art Program Field Trip



Story and Photo by Alexa Key

Ak-Chin's Him-Dak Summer Art Program took an adventurous trip to Urban Air Trampoline & Adventure Park and Peter Piper Pizza. at about 10 a.m. to Urban Air, a trampoline park. Students were able to enjoy the park for about 2 hours. They did things like zip lining, rock-climbing to ball pit obstacle courses. The fun was endless, the park offered many activities for students to try. Once their energy grew tiresome, they then headed over to Peter Piper Pizza for lunch and arcade games before returning back to Ak-Chin Indian Community.

The Him-Dak Summer Art Program ended on Friday, June 7. Though the program has come to an end, students enjoyed a summer full of fun and are looking forward to next year.

## Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass at 12 noon

July 23rd  
Fr. Julius Tvrdy

July 30th  
Fr. Eric Houseknecht

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

**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

**LIBRARY HOURS**  
Monday – Friday  
9AM-6PM  
Saturday  
Appointment Only  
Sunday-Closed  
Questions? Call Us!  
520-568-1675

**RECREATION INFORMATION**  
For more  
information on  
Recreation Center  
events please call  
520-568-1740

**TRANSPORTATION**  
520-568-1760 or  
520-568-1769  
Please call before  
4 PM

# JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ELDER

**CHAIR YOGA**  
Tuesdays 10 AM  
Thursdays 9 AM  
@ Craft Room

**MOVIE DAYS\*\***  
July 26th  
\*Question's? Call the  
Elder Center at 568-1760

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

**GOODWILL  
SHOPPING DAY**  
July 25th

### HEALTH EDUCATION

**ZUMBA\***  
Tuesday  
July 25th  
6:00 - 7:00 PM  
@ Service Center

**YOGA\***  
Thursday  
July 27th  
6:30 - 7:30 PM  
@ Service Center

\*Classes open to Ak-Chin  
Members, their families,  
residents, employees and  
their families.

### WIC

Tuesday, Aug. 1st  
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
@Service Center

Tuesday, Sept. 5th  
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
@Service Center

Tuesday, Oct. 3th  
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
@Service Center

### LIBRARY

**SUMMER READING  
PROGRAM\***  
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, Residents,  
Employees and their children.

### RECREATION

**KIDS NO-GI  
JIU-JITSU\***  
Friday, July 21st  
3:30 - 4:30 PM  
Friday, July 28th  
5:00 - 6:00 PM  
@Recreation

\*Open to all Ak-Chin  
Indian Community  
Members & Residents





# PREGNANT? GET CARE EARLY.

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](https://bit.ly/ITCAMHI).







Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino summer youth workers at the new hire orientation.

This year's summer youth program at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino was packed with opportunities for our Ak-Chin students.

The Harrah's Ak-Chin Summer Youth Program is an extended branch of the Harrah's Development System (HDS), which is geared to offer job skills

training and leadership development opportunities to Ak-Chin tribal members. HDS Manager, Erica Oliver oversees both the HDS Program and the Summer Youth Program.

The seven-week summer youth program exposes the Ak-Chin summer youth participants to educational,

informational, and cultural learning experiences. The summer youth participants worked in the non-gaming areas of the casino, which include Housekeeping, Facilities, Warehouse, and the Restaurants.

They attended new hire orientation and received an onboarding experience from HDS Manager, Erica Oliver, and the department trainers, orienting them to their roles, going over the performance expectations of the program.

During their time within the summer program, the participants attended a Resume Writing/Interviewing Techniques Workshop, which provided an opportunity for the

participants to create their own resumes and participate in mock interviews. They were also taken on a tour at the Ak-Chin Airport, and attended a Man in the Maze cultural workshop, hearing about the teachings offered by Camillus Lopez.

Effective Communication and Leadership Development are foundational components of the HDS Program. The summer youth participants attended Toastmasters meetings on-property at the casino which helped strengthen their impromptu and public speaking skills. They were also included in the biweekly HDS department meetings, providing updates on their work experience, and sharing the new skills they were learning. The participants all worked hard



Summer youth participating in a community service event at Feed My Starving Children

continues to page 8

Ske:k Sialim Sapo  
Ske:k Hadunik  
Ban Cegig

Don Nei  
Ske:k Tui  
Sapi Masama  
Ske:k Tui  
SKE:K  
DAM JUK  
Ske:k Hadunik  
SKE:K DAM JUK  
Ban Cegig  
Don Nei  
Ske:k Sialim

FOOD  
Good will be provided

DJ MUSIC

2023  
AK-CHIN O'ODHAM O'OHONA  
Thursday August 17, 2023 3:00 pm -8:00pm at  
Elements Center

The ANA grant project team will be present to discuss how we have worked to document our language and culture over the past few years and produce language materials for our community. We hope you will join us to learn more about this project and get your feedback and ideas!

T-Shirts available on a first come first served basis  
Sponsored by the ANA Grant

ART SESSION:  
CERAMICS

COME CREATE!  
LEARN & CREATE YOUR OWN CERAMIC  
PIECE FROM START TO FINISH

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)  
Session Begins: August 15, 2023  
Session Ends: September 21, 2023  
When: Every Tuesdays & Thursdays from  
11:00AM to 1:00PM (Members, Residents, Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)  
4:30PM to 7:00PM (Members & Residents of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)  
COME IN ANYTIME BETWEEN THE TIMES ABOVE/ WORK AT YOUR OWN PACE  
Transportation Provided  
Pick Up and Drop Off within the Ak-Chin Indian Community  
For transportation please call: 520-568-1350 (Please call before 4:00 p.m.)  
For any additional questions please call: 520-568-1350

NO EXPERIENCE  
NEEDED!

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.  
+ 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-Velden@ak-chin.nsn.us ; PThompson@ak-chin.nsn.us

Wishes

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Aurelia, Kaylan, Laila, Kristen and Jennifer and to my grandson Terrance.  
Love, Grandma

Happy birthday to the deadliest. We love you and can't wait to make the day all about you, behave and try not to fight with pony.  
- Deadly Aunties

Happy Birthday Teagan. We hope you enjoy your day!  
From the Runner

Happy Birthday to my little-big sister. Thank you for helping me with the girls, and being there for them when I can't. We love

you, and I know the girls do too. Even though "you're so annoying"  
- Ulani

I would like to thank Myles Peters for being a considerate, hard worker for the time he has been at the Central Plant. He is a very respectful young man. If there is ever an opening here and he is

able to apply it would be great to have him as an employee.  
Thank You,  
Micky Moull

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH  
This award goes to  
Myles Peters  
For all their hard work and commitment to excellence at  
Ak-Chin Indian Community Central Plant  
Use this date  
7-14-2023

Community Birthdays  
7/21 - 8/3/23

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

AUGUST  
08/01  
Aribella Vincent  
Sadie Rivers  
08/02  
Jennifer Boehm  
Wynema Vincent  
Jessica Narcia

Happy Birthday

JOB  
OPENINGS

- Applications Software Technician
- Archaeologist
- Communications Officer
- Community Events Manager
- Compensation Analyst
- Deli Clerk
- Detention Officer - Certified
- Detention Officer - Non-Certified
- Economic Development Analyst
- Education Division Director
- General Worker
- Head Lifeguard
- Lifeguard
- Maintenance Technician (4)
- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Security Guard (9)
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist

Please visit our website at [www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us), for Job Openings, to review the job posting and apply. If you need assistance, please call Human Resources at 520-568-1050.

AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT  
SERVING THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Transit Department has had an increase in ridership and we are doing everything in our ability to accommodate last minute requests in a timely manner. **When possible, please make your Transit reservations in advance.** We encourage you to take advantage of our call ahead service where you can make reservations up to 7 days in advance. We appreciate your understanding and appreciate your continued support.

Questions or feedback? Please contact the Transit Department Call: 520-568-1630, 520-568-1635 Text 520-340-0382 Email: [abutler@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:abutler@ak-chin.nsn.us)

Employee Birthdays

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





Man in the Maze Presentation Workshop

in their departments, learning new job skills, and participating in the program events.

At least three times out of the year, the HDS department participates in an off-property community service event at Feed My Starving Children in Mesa. HDS Manager, Erica Oliver, coordinates one of the trips to occur during the summer program, giving the youth participants an opportunity to experience the food packing event and participating alongside the HDS

continued from page 7 Associates and Interns. The last day of the program consisted of pizza and bowling at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.

Each year, the number of summer youth participants has grown. Out of the current HDS Graduates, Interns and Associates, there have been many who participated in the summer youth program and have later returned to apply for a job as a full-time employee in the HDS program, once they reached eighteen years of age. This is a strong indication that the program continues to make a positive impact on the Ak-Chin youth and membership.



Above: Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills Workshop  
Right: End of Program Celebration



PLAYING THIS WEEKEND

BARBIE  
OPPENHEIMER  
SOUND OF FREEDOM  
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING - PART ONE  
INSIDIOUS: THE RED DOOR  
INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY  
ELEMENTAL  
TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS  
SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE 2

**Ak-Chin Circle**  
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

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

SUMMER WEDDING EXCLUSIVE

# Hemapda Ki

The Gathering Place  
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

All-Inclusive Wedding \$3000  
July & August 2023 Bookings

**INCLUSIONS**

- Up to 50 Guests including Wedding Party
- Ceremony on Event Lawn
- Reception in "The Gathering Place" 4 Hour Maximum
- Dinner Buffet: Grilled Chicken Breast with Choice of Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potato, Vegetable Medley, Dinner Salad, Bread & Butter
- Non-Alcoholic Beverage Station
- Basic Black Linen & Choice of Colored Napkins

520.426.6832 | [AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM](http://AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM)  
48456 W. HIGHWAY 238 IN MARICOPA

**Ak-Chin Circle**  
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

**LIVE Music!**

# Dust Til Dawn

PERFORMING LIVE IN THE AMPHTHEATER

## Saturday, July 22

9PM-2AM | NO COVER

16000 N. MARICOPA RD. MARICOPA AZ 85139

[Ak-ChinCircle.com](http://Ak-ChinCircle.com)

**Harrah's**  
AK-CHIN CASINO

# July 2023

**CAESARS**  
REWARDS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

**MID YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION**

## PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH TIER CREDIT FINALE

5 DAYS OF MULTIPLIERS! FRIDAY, JUNE 30 - TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH TIER CREDIT FINALE<br>DJ AT THE POOL   |
| 2  | REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH TIER CREDIT FINALE<br>INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION POOL PARTY  |
| 3  | REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH TIER CREDIT FINALE   |
| 4  | REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH TIER CREDIT FINALE<br>CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 5  | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 6  | ENJOY A SPECIAL CARD AND BENEFITS JUST FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS AND VETERANS.  |
| 7  | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 8  | DJ AT THE POOL   |
| 9  | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 10 | NEW WAYS TO WIN!   |
| 11 | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 12 | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 13 | #1 BY USA TODAY CAESARS REWARDS<br>ARIZONA'S ONLY LOYALTY PROGRAM OFFERING YOU THE KEYS TO UNLOCK BENEFITS AT OVER 50 CAESARS REWARDS DESTINATIONS, COAST TO COAST!    |
| 14 | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 15 | DJ AT THE POOL   |
| 16 | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 17 | THE APP-ORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS!  |
| 18 | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 19 | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 20 | Free Gift<br>TECH THEORY PORTABLE POWER BANK   |
| 21 | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 22 | DJ AT THE POOL   |
| 23 | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 24 | HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY!   |
| 25 | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 26 | CAST IRON SET BY KENNY LOGGINS® GIVEAWAY   |
| 27 | IS YOUR VIP LOYALTY CARD FROM SELECT COMPETITORS ELIGIBLE FOR AN UPGRADE TO DIAMOND STATUS? LEARN MORE AT <a href="http://CAESARSREWARDS.COM">CAESARSREWARDS.COM</a> ! |
| 28 | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 29 | DJ AT THE POOL   |
| 30 | BONUS REWARD CREDITS   |
| 31 | COPPER CACTUS GRILL<br>VISIT THE NEWLY REMODELED SPACE FOR A BITE TO EAT   |

**Free Gift**

## TECH THEORY PORTABLE POWER BANK

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

PROMOTIONAL KIOSK • 11AM - 7PM | EVENTS CENTER • 1PM - 7PM

Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start! Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.