

Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVII, Issue 15

August 4 - 17, 2023

Ak-Chin High School Graduates Travel to Hawaii, California



Ak-Chin Graduates at Polynesian Cultural Center, Hawaii.

Story by Alexa Key, photos submitted

Ak-Chin Indian Community high school graduates from the classes of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023 traveled to Hawaii and California as a senior trip.

Traditionally, the senior trip would be designated specifically for the most recent graduating class. However, from the effects of COVID-19 those trips were postponed for the classes of 2019, 2020 and 2021. Last year's 2022 class was able to go on their trip as a standalone.

California

June 20, three graduates and one parent/chaperone boarded

traveled to Anaheim, CA. They enjoyed a six-day trip with an itinerary full of fun. Two of those days were designated for travel.

On day one of their trip, they visited Disneyland where they enjoyed all the rides and attractions Disney had to offer. "My son usually doesn't like rides, but after some convincing he loved it," said Juanita Balderrama, mother of Jose Balderrama.

On day two they went to California Adventures and experienced their new rides that have changed prior to went to Santa Monica Pier, embracing the oceanfront and boardwalk. "My best memory was the beach and going with my friends," said Jose Balderrama.

Day four they went to Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament located in Buena Park, CA. The Park is located less than seven miles from Disneyland, offering shows and experiences all through a Medieval perspective.

On their final day, they traveled back to Ak-Chin Indian Community returning on June, 26.



Tree Farm Fire as seen from Pima Rd.

Thunderbird Tree Farm Fire

Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn

Sirens and rising smoke were heard and seen from the Runner office on Monday July 31. The smoke was coming from a fire in Thunderbird Farms. The tree farm, which is located South of West Pima Road, is not a stranger to fire.

Thunderbird Fire Chief, Allen Allcott says the fire started Sunday evening and was caused by lightning strike. "As of August 1, 319 acres were burned and no injuries." Chief Allcott says the fire is out for the most part, but there is some smolder.

Jennifer Boehm-King, Ak-Chin Fire Department Captain emailed employees and members of the community. "I would highly suggest that you stay indoors due to the tree fire west of Ralston. There is visible ash falling from the sky within the community and light smoke. Breathing

this in will irritate your throat and exacerbate any breathing issues you or your loved ones might have"

Ak-Chin Fire Marshall, Jon Spezzacatena says they received the dispatch from Pinal County on Sunday; he along with eight other Ak-Chin fire fighters teamed up with the Thunderbird volunteers. They were able to contain the fire, but on Monday around 3:30 pm the fire got out of control again.

Ak-Chin Fire department returned to the scene to assist Maricopa Fire department lend a helping hand as well.

A fire broke out at this same tree farm almost a year ago. The cause of that fire is unknown, about 15 to 20 acres were burned and there were no injuries.

an Ak-Chin Transit Bus and COVID-19. On day three they

Senior Trip continues to Page 7

2023 Native American Basketball Invitational



Above, members of Ak-Chin's boys and girls NABI teams, along with Ak-Chin lifeguards, gather with boys from the Aotearoa-Maori, New Zealand basketball team during a morning basketball drill, pool party and Cultural Exchange before the NABI events. (Please see page 6 for more photos and story on Cultural Exchange.)

Story by Tyaun Marshburn and photos by Runner Staff

The Native American Basketball Invitational was held in Phoenix, Arizona July 17-23. NABI is the largest all-Native American high school youth basketball tournament in North America.

The pool and bracket games took place July 18-21 at various locations in the valley. Teams from around the world competed in hopes of being the 2023 NABI Championship winner. There were 144 teams in total each team played

two pool games and then one bracket game.

The girls' team that represented Ak-Chin were called Ak-Chin, they were coached by Bernardina Gonzalez and Gloria Martinez Peters.

Bernardina Gonzalez said, "Our goal was to instill the traits of focus, confidence, grit and teamwork as our foundation. These girls did great coming together, working hard and growing together, there's still work ahead of us, but for now as our NABI season is over, as Mike Krzyzewski said, 'Every season is a journey. Every journey is a lifetime.'"

Gonzalez also added a message for the girls, "I'd like to remind the girls that they shouldn't try to mimic anyone, foster their own talents and to block out any noise, while they're growing and becoming the best version of themselves. Also, ladies remember to let your passion drive you down



Above, Ms. Evelina Lopez throws out the first pitch of the Peters Memorial Tournament, as son Cecil Peters catches.

Peters Memorial Tournament

Story by Jennifer Boehm-King, photo by Raychel Peters

On July 21-22, the Peters family held the 1st Annual Peters Memorial Coed Slowpitch Softball Tournament at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park.

The tournament was held to honor passed family members; Norbert Peters, Sr. bað, David Peters, Sr. bað and Norbert Peters, Jr. bað, by enjoying one of the many sports they played together as a family – softball.

Peters Memorial continues to Page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS PAGE 3 COMMUNITY NEWS Norbert Peters, Sr. bað and David Peters, Sr. bað were known for their softball skills throughout their life, playing in tournaments across many tribal nations and within the southwest region.

The doubleelimination tournament held Friday night - Saturday morning, comprised of 8 All-Native teams, from the community and surrounding

PAGE 5 COMMUNITY CALENDAR PAGE 6 SPORTS & CULTURE PAGE 9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

AK-CHIN CAREGIVER PROGRAM

If you are a <u>Non-Paid</u> 55 & Older Caregiver or 55 & Older Grandparent raising Grandchildren, who resides in the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The Elder Center would like to support you!

Requirements for our program are:

- Are you a Non-Paid Caregiver?
- Are you caring for an Elder 55 & older?
- Are you 55 & older caring for an individual?
- Are you a grandparent 55 & older Caring for Grandchildren?

If you fall under any of these categories or have any questions. Please contact the Caregiver Program, Marissa or Sonia at 520-568-1760.

Runner Staff Movie Review: Barbie



The official Barbie movie website says "To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis."

In the movie, Barbie finds that the world she has come to love may not be as real as she thinks. I liked that the movie addressed how the Barbie toy changed the role of women in the aver of little girls like pregnant Barbie Midge and her husband Allan.

The movie was directed by Greta Gerwig and stars Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, America Ferrera, Will Ferrell, Michael Cera and Kate McKinnon to name a few.

Movie Reviewer Barbie The movie was released July 21, and grossed an impressive \$162 million opening weekend. In its first week Barbie has already broken 3 major records.

- Biggest domestic opening of 2023
- Biggest opening ever for a female director
- Biggest opening weekend for a movie that isn't a sequel, remake or superhero movie

think the Barbie movie did a great job appealing to women and girls of all ages. Although the movie received some has backlash, but I believe there is a message for everyone. I give it a 10/10 and would highly recommend, great mother-daughter movie.



Governor Hobbs announces appointment of Tribal Leaders to Governor's Water Policy Council

Phoenix, AZ— Governor Katie Hobbs announced the appointments of four Tribal officials to the Governor's Water Policy Council.

The Governor's Water Policy Council expands representation of Tribes across Arizona as part of Governor Hobbs' continuing commitment partnering and to engaging with Arizona's Indigenous communities. Tasked with developing policy recommendations to the Governor, the Council's work currently focuses on Assured Water Supply and Rural Groundwater policies.

The four appointments are: Chairwoman Amelia Flores, Colorado River Indian Tribes Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel, Ak-Chin Indian Community Bidtah Becker, Legal Counsel for Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren

The Governor's Water Policy Council also includes Maria Dadgar, executive director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. Established in 1952, ITCA provides a united voice to its 21 member Tribes.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of these esteemed tribal leaders to the Governor's Water Policy Council," said Governor Hobbs.

"We need to have engagement and partnership with our tribal partners on all issues, especially water, as we work to build an Arizona for Everyone. I remain committed to bringing tribes to the table as we work cooperatively on securing Arizona's water future."

"Governor Hobbs has decided to give



Governor's Water Policy Council," said Governor Lewis.

"Governor Hobbs is tackling the most important and difficult issues confronting our state, including protecting and preserving our precious long-term groundwater supplies, and I am humbled to be chosen to help her in this vital task. I hope to provide a tribal perspective on these issues and look forward to working with Governor Hobbs on the Council."

"I welcome Gov. Hobbs' continued commitment to engage with tribes and uplift our communities, and am ready to tackle the task of the Water Policy Council," said Chairman Miguel.

"This is a great opportunity to work with the Hobbs Administration to mitigate the issues our communities face when it comes to water, and to present proactive solutions to secure Arizona's water future for generations to come."

"I am honored that President Nygren suggested my appointment and honored to be appointed to the Governor's Water Policy Council," said

the eyes of little girls.

Before Barbie, the main toy for girls were baby dolls, so girls played the role of mother. After Barbie, girls could be anything they dreamed of; doctors, lawyers, even the president. I also appreciated how the movie didn't shy away from the mistakes Mattel made in the past by including dolls that were deemed "a flop", Tyaun Marshburn Photo by Alexa Key

CRIT an important voice in shaping Arizona's water future. I look forward to serving on this Council as CRIT works with the state to assist in drought relief," said Chairwoman Flores.

"I applaud Governor Hobbs' commitment to giving CRIT and other Arizona Tribal communities a seat at the table when it comes to modernizing Arizona's playbook for water conservation."

"I am deeply honored to serve on the

Bidtah Becker.

"I appreciate the Governor's vision in creating the Council, including tribes, and bringing water to the forefront of policy discussions in Arizona — water is life."

Information on the Governor's Water Policy Council can be found at the Arizona Department of Water Resources website: https://www. azwater.gov/gwpc





4 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa, Sour Cream, Fruit Salad | Black Eyed Peas, Chicken w/ Peppers, Broccoli, Carrots, Fruit Cocktail

7 Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Toast, Bacon, Fruit | Baked Chicken, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Rolls, Pineapple

8 Ham & Cheese Pinwheels, Boiled Eggs, Yogurt & Fruit | Bar-B-Que Ribs, Plain Ribs, Sweet Potato, Romain Salad, Apple Salad

9 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Banana | Split Peas, Ground Beef Taco, Butternut Squash, Corn Bread, Peaches

10 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fried Apples | Baked Ham, Mashed Potato, Carrots, Spring Salad, Rolls, Jell-o

11 Eggs w/ Vegetables, Toast, Avocado Slices, Fruit | Hamburger, Corn on the Cob, Cole Slaw, Ambrosia Salad

14 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Yogurt & Fruit | Beef Fajitas, Black Bean, Corn, Fresh Peaches

15 Breakfast Enchiladas, Refried Beans, Fruit w/Cottage Cheese | Three Meat Subs, Pasta Salad, Chips, Vanilla Pudding

16 Cream Of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana | Beef Quesadilla, Corn on the Cob, Pinto Beans, Jell-O

17 Spam & Eggs, Potatoes, Toast, Scone & Fruit | Chicken Stir Fry, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Tropical Fruit

18 Sausage Burrito, Salsa, Turnover, Yogurt & Fruit | Red Chili, Indian Tacos, Ice-Cream

Menu Subject To Change Without Notice

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OFFICE HOURS

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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

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Ak-Chin Tribal Council

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

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

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

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

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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



August 4 - 17, 2023

Back to School Safety Tips

Story and Photos by Alexa Key

School is back in session and as our youth are continuing to learn, there are some helpful safety tips that parents, family and friends can learn too.

Traffic Safety

According to the Maricopa Unified School District and Maricopa Police Department, there are efforts in place to help educate the public about traffic laws and enforcement around school schools and buses. That information is listed below.

School Crossings - If a crossing guard is in the crosswalk, you must come to a complete stop regardless of what side of the road you are on. If no crossing guard is present, you must still stop when a child or adult is waiting to cross as pedestrians have the right of way.

Required **Stops** Complete stops are required at school crossings. When exiting a school parking, you must come to a complete stop prior to the sidewalk, even when the stop sign is not present. If approaching a school bus that is picking up or dropping off students, you must come to a complete stop before reaching the bus.

You must stop whether approaching a school bus from either direction of the roadway. That is however unless the roadway is divided by a raised or other physical median; in that case if you are on the opposite side of the roadway from the bus you may proceed without stopping.

General School Zones - Speed signs located in school zones usually have a bright yellow indictor above the speed titled "SCHOOL". These signs are always in effect whether or not school is in session. This speed is always restricted because schools are often a place

continued from Front

where school activities are ongoing even during non-school hours.

Speed Enforcement Speed in school zones is strictly enforced, largely to ensure the safety of your children. "It is not uncommon to be cited for speeds of only 1-5 miles per hour above the posted speed limit in a school zone," MUSD and Maricopa Police Department per a flyer submitted to the public.

As much as these laws and safety regulations apply directly to school zones, they also apply to everyday driving habits.

"Many of the same rules apply for local Ak-Chin Transit department," said Allison Butler, Ak-Chin Transit Manager. Butler added, "We want to always ensure that we are crossing with safety, only crossing when absolutely necessary and never crossing behind the bus (per safety regulations)."

Dive in Movie Night



Story and Photos by Tyaun Marshburn

Around 40 people came drinks were provided to out to the Ak-Chin everyone who attended. Recreation Center on July 22, to enjoy a movie Jordan Gusse, Ak-Chin and a refreshing dip in Recreation the pool.

voted on the movie they their help in making the wanted to watch. The movie dive in a success, movie options were also thank you to all the Peter Pan & Wendy, families that attended Black Panther: Wakanda and hope to get more Forever and Luca.

In the end Luca won 14-9 over Black Panther: This is the first dive Wakanda Forever.

Multi-colored Refreshments such as future. popcorn, hot dogs and

Program Assistant (call me) says "I just want to thank People in the community all the lifeguards for out there for future dive in's."

in movie night of the year. The next one is lights not scheduled at this filled the pool as people time but they hope to swam and viewed Luca. have another in the near





Girls pose pool side at the dive in movie event



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

August 18-31, 2023 issue is due by FRIDAY, AUGUST 11TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, AUGUST 11TH

Material submitted after the AUGUST 11TH DEADLINE cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.



Johnny Perkins scores against Florida Warriors.



Auciana Miguel takes shot during pool games.

your own path, and to leave comparisons behind and not let anyone deter you from what I know you can accomplish." This was Gloria Martinez-Peters first year volunteering as Assistant Coach.

Martinez-Peters states, "she enjoyed the experience and learned a lot throughout the season from the girls."

The boys' team that represented Ak-Chin were named AKC, they were coached by Carlton Carlyle and Thomas Carlyle.

Thomas Carlyle has been coaching NABI basketball for 13 years. Carlyle says in

preparation for this year's NABI tournament they trained from August 2022 until July 2023. Carlyle says he's proud of the boys. "They did a good job this season, now quick break then August 17th we'll be right back at it training again."

Everyone from team AKC will be returning for next year's game with the exception of one player.

On Thursday all teams were invited to the Phoenix Mercury game at Footprint Center. The Phoenix Mercury won 80-62 over Chicago Sky. NABI teams kept fans entertained by playing on the court during the

Ak-Chin boys team AKC with coaches Carlton Carlyle and Thomas Carlyle (photo submitted)



Ak-Chin girls basketball team

half time show.

The semi-finals were held Saturday at Phoenix College and championship game was held Sunday at Footprint Center both events were broadcast live.

Ann Marie Antone, Parks Ak-Chin and Recreation Director volunteered opening night as well as Sunday for the Championship game. Antone says she's been a part of NABI in some way every year since 2005. From parent of a NABI player to coaching a team herself, Antone has maintained a relationship with the organization. For those when years Antone wasn't coaching or

cheering her kids on, she volunteered to work the event.

"NABI is an event that is geared toward the youth and I believe it shows people we can have kids come out of this event and be an NBA player or a WNBA player,"

The 2023 NABI championship title went to Akichita for the boys and Legendary Elite for the girls. The Akichita team were made up of players from North and South Dakota. Akichita defended the Okr Kiowa team with the final score of 85-67.

Legendary Elite from Oklahoma, went from 3rd place in 2022 to winning

the championship in 2023. They beat the team Quiet Storm 69-47.

Antone says her favorite part of the night was watching the winning receive team their awards. This is the first time the championship winners received rings, from now on, NABI winners will receive championship rings in addition to their trophies.

Antone says she also enjoyed watching the kids enter the court, "Seeing them step on the Phoenix Sun's court and realize with hard work they have the opportunity to be there as well, was a highlight for me."



You can dispose of your used sharps (needles and syringes) easily and safely!

Bring your needles and syringes from home in sealed hard, plastic container (laundry or bleach bottle)

What are "sharps"?



They are needles, syringes, lancets, and anything with human blood on it. Handle sharps with proper care and disposal.



Take the container to the following locations and they will assist you.

- Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Emergency Room Security Desk
- Komatke Health Center Pharmacy
- Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center Pharmacy
- East and West Dialysis Centers Reception Desk
- The Caring House Reception Desk
- Ak-Chin Clinic Reception Desk

Milk / Water Jug Containers are NOT SAFE for accepting!





Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices, Outpatient Clinics, and Pharmacy will be

CLOSED

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 4th Normal business hours will resume 9/5/23.

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY Friday, September 15th

Normal business hours will resume 9/18/23.

For any information on services open during the holiday, please call GRHC's main line (520) 562-3321.

Visit the grhc.org/hub to view our upcoming health events.

COVID-19 Newsletter for Community Elders (August 2023)





FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE UNIT AUGUST CALENDAR

Behavioral Health Services



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988



Scan me!

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

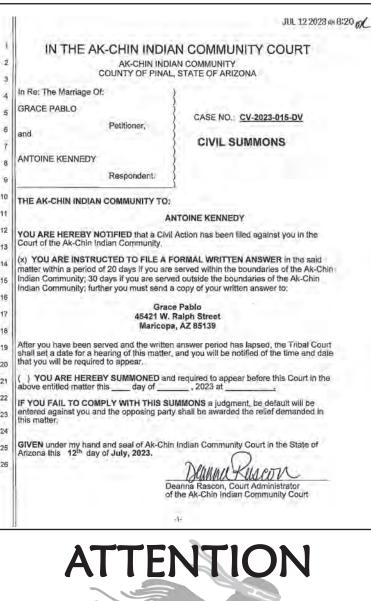
Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following case at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 8, 2023 at the Water Reclamation Facility.

Case: PS-09-23 Water Tank & Well in Santa Cruz Commerce Center

Project Applicants/Water Operations Manager, Carlton Carlyle, and Airport Manager, Tim Costello, are requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to construct a new water tank and well in the Santa Cruz Commerce Center:

- Installation of new pump and water tank; and
- New fence and improved access to the site; and
- Removal of old equipment.



AK-CHIN PARENTS/GUARDIANS and EMPLOYEES

If you have a student-athlete from Ak-Chin participating in an upcoming event and would like them covered in future editions of the Runner, please let us know!

August 4 - 17, 2023 August 4 - 17, 2023 June Community Meeting

Ak-Chin Tribal Council held the June 26 Community Meeting at Ak-Chin Service Center. The evening meeting was led by Vice-Chairman Lemuel Vincent, with Councilmembers Gabriel Lopez and Cecil Peters present. Chairman Robert Miguel and Councilmember Lisa Garcia were on travel.

After opening and prayer from Vice-Chairman, he provided his monthly report, which included attending the Education Early Childhood development retreat, where he was invited to provide a blessing and welcoming, as well as a presentation on Ak-Chin history and culture. Councilmembers Gabriel Lopez and Lisa Garcia also presented at the retreat; Vice-Chair shared.

Vice-Chair also attended the Native American Healthcare, Cannabis Legalization, Economic Development and Housing Conference at Pechenga Casino & Resort, in Temecula, Ca. Vincent said it was very interesting, as he focused on the health care and cannabis sessions.

Vice-Chair also provided a copy of his report to the Runner to share, which included the following WebEx meetings and work sessions: erosion project (gas line project); U.S. Water Reclamation Committee on water drought mediation; Capital Projects and Community Operations on C-Store feasibility-market study, administration building updates and Ak-Chin Circle Business Suites Complex; 347 and Sonoran Parkway stoplight construction; Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and the Governor's office of Tribal Affairs on growing issue of false healthcare facilitation on tribal lands; work sessions with Sovereign Finance (consultants for Ak-Chin portfolio) regarding update; status Irrigation District regarding additional communication with the community; Monday morning meetings with Treasurer, COM and CSM on department updates, vehicle

Strickland Consultant and legal team regarding media press releases; Harrah's quarterly financials and Casino expansion presentation; Central Plant regarding licensing agreement; Environmental Program Manager regarding draft permits and Casa Grande Wastewater Discharge; meeting with various departments for Fourth of July celebration; Planning and Zoning for Right of Way (ROW) assignment to ADOT; legal consultants regarding Colorado River Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) information exchange progress, CAP water litigation settlement and EPCORE Anthem water settlement; Phoenix, Navajo and Tucson IHS departments on Fraudulent Behavior Health Providers; Courts and Police regarding criminal cases of marijuana usage; THE INNOVA GROUP regarding Ak-Chin Indian Community Clinic IHS Master Plan; Treasurer, Strickland legal team regarding Arizona Department of Gaming notice to revoke Ak-Chin sports betting license; Self-Governance on Healthcare Management Project Report.

Councilmember Cecil Peters presented next, also stating the numerous Web-Ex meetings that Council had been addressing, as well as in-person meetings.

Councilmember Peters talked about meeting with the Community Prosecutor and Chief of Police concerning marijuana legalization and the court issues arising as marijuana is legal in the state, but not legal in the Community.

Peters shared on meetings with Environmental Programs for waste water permit issues, Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement group from UofA, for outreach programs with tribal leaders on concerns with shortages in healthcare providers, drought water, agriculture impact, environmental site cleanups and tribal infrastructures.

Councilmember Gabriel Lopez was the last presenter for the evening. He too addressed the numerous meetings online and in-person that Council has been diligently attending.

Lopez shared on the meeting with Indian Health Services and with individuals that represent IHS on the Phoenix Area Health Master Plan final site. He shared the purpose of the meeting was to understand future area Phoenix Indian Health Service Systems to develop a project population, workload service lines and regional referrals as well as clinical tribal and IHS holders' expansion. Some of their data is outdated and current data was not being utilized, so they are still trying to get the right data from Gila River and IHS.

Councilmember Lopez elaborated on a WebEx Meeting with Capital Projects regarding the Ak-Chin Circle business suites complex, construction costs, tentative building schedule and lease, noting concerns brought up regarding the site and tenants.

He also shared on the Self-Governance work listening session with Self-Governance Director, Karen Fierro.

After the three Councilmembers gave their reports, the Member Q&A took place, concerns voiced included: update on graffiti at Hohokam Park, addressing Community Meetings during holidays, submitting council reports on the community FB, concerns with Ak-Chin Clinic, cultural sensitivity classes for new employees, language and cultural awareness classes in community, work session on blood quantum, enrollment and marijuana legalization.

Once the Q&A ended, raffle prizes were awarded, themed around Father's Day items.

The next Community Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 31, was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The

Email: <u>runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us</u> Phone: (520) 568-1375

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

> MASS SCHEDULE Sunday Mass at 12 noon

August 6th Fr. David Koch August 20th Bishop Olmsted

August 13th Fr. Antony Tinker *August 27th* Fr. Antony Tinker

FEAST OF ASSUMPTIONAugust 15th @ 7AMFr. Peter Teresa McConnell

Baptisms are every 4th Sunday of the month and baptism classes are every 2nd Saturday of the month. For more information, please contact Flower Ruelas at (520) 568-3700 or (602) 717-3761.

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

TRANSPORTATION 520-568-1760 or 520-568-1769 Please call before 4 PM LIBRARY HOURS Monday – Friday 9AM-6PM Saturday Appointment Only Sunday-Closed Questions? Call Us! 520-568-1675

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

auction; Purchase Referred Care regarding Medicare reimbursement; Ak-Chin Energy Service (ACES) on consultant agreement; Media

He also talked about infrastructure expansion meetings for Ak-Chin Circle, Harrah's Casino and healthcare services for the Community. next Community Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 6pm at Ak-Chin Service Center. For questions, please call 520-568-1000.

AUGUST COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HEALTH EDUCATION



ZUMBA* Tuesdays Aug. 8 & 29 Sept. 5 & 12 6:00 - 7:00 PM @ Service Center

YOGA*

Thursdays Aug. 10, 24 & 31 Sept. 7 & 14 6:30 - 7:30 PM @ Service Center *Classes open to Ak-Chin Members, their familes, residents, employees and their families. Questions? Please call Health Education at (520) 568-1080

WIC Tuesday, Sept. 5th 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM @Service Center Tuesday, Oct. 3th 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM @Service Center

FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

Thursday, Aug. 10th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM @Ak-Chin Vekol Parking Lot

HIM - DAK



BASIC BEADING SESSION* Wednesdays Aug. 13th - Oct. 4th 4:30 - 7:00 PM @Him-Dak Art Building

Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members & Residents CREPE PAPER FLOWER CLASS & WREATH MAKING Tuesdays Aug. 1st - Oct. 17 4:30 - 7:00 PM @Him-Dak Art Building *Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents & Employees. Transportation provided within the Community. Call (520) 568-1350 before 4:00PM

LIBRARY



ROBOTICS* Saturday, Aug. 19th 9:00 AM - 12 NOON @Library SPOTS ARE LIMITED

*Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, Employees and their immediate family. Transportation available in the community. Questions, please call (520) 568-1675

RECREATION



MINI VOLLEYBALL* REGISTRATION: Monday, Aug. 14th 6:00 - 7:00 PM @Recreation

PRACTICE BEGINS: Tuesday, Aug. 14th

GAMES BEGINS: Saturday, Aug. 26th

*Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members & Resident, AGES 4-8

Peters Memorial continued from Front

August 4 - 17, 2023



The Peters Family gathers for a photo, after the memorial tournament.

tribal communities.

The tournament started off with а traditional blessing by Lerline Peters for the family and the players. The first pitch was thrown by our matriarch, Evelina Lopez and caught by her son, Cecil Peters.

As this was the first tournament for the Peters Memorial, we wanted to keep it relatively small but, in the future, we hope to include more teams. We would also like to expand the tournament to include raffles, vendors and eventually a dance to honor our loved ones. The funds raised will go to support future tournaments and other memorial events for the Peters family.

like to thank all the teams that came out to brave the heat, enjoy our concessions and in making the tournament

a success. We also would like to thank our umpires, Marcos Santiago and Jessie Estrada, DJ Clayton Antone for providing music, Bob Miguel and Family for sponsoring hospitality the tent for our umpires, the Ak-Chin Recreation Department, the Ak-The Peters family would Chin Fire Department and Earlton Lewis of Sacaton for providing the tournament and MVP trophies.

Photos by James Boehm



Left: FIRST PLACE - NSL Right: MVPS - Eugenia Arviso and Robbie Ray



SECOND PLACE - LITTLE YEDDES

THIRD PLACE - PURO

Ak-Chin Indian Community and Aotearoa-Māori **Cultural Exchange** (Part 1)



Above, Ak-Chin Youth Council and Team Aotearoa-Maori at the Cultural Exchange event, Sunday, July 16 at Ak-Chin Circle Elements Center.

Sunday, July 16, Ak-Chin Indian Community hosted a very special cultural event for a very special group, Aotearoa Māori, from New Zealand.

The event was something that had been sparked conversation by а between Ak-Chin Councilmember Gabriel Lopez and New Zealand NABI team manager, Nardi Leonard.

"I met Nardi Leonard about 6/7 years ago the during NABI tournament." Lopez began. "We were having a conversation regarding traditional language and culture... Every year we would discuss a 'Cultural

Exchange' event, but unfortunately there was never enough time to schedule something."

New Zealand was able to come and visit with community elders, which our elders really enjoyed. Then Covid happened and New Zealand was placed on travel restriction, so the cultural exchange was also placed on hold.

Fast-forward to January 2023, New Zealand's travel restrictions were lifted and around April, Nardi reached out to Gabriel.

"I was contacted by Nardi informing me New Zealand will be hosting a

Story by Raychel Peters, photo by Gabriel Lopez

NABI team "Aotearoa Māori" (People of the land of the long white Cloud) this year."

So, the two began to reignite the idea of a Cultural Exchange. Lopez explained that he would need to check with Community Council, as well as key departments in order to coordinate the exchange event.

Councilmember Once Lopez gained support of all parties, he let Nardi know and "things started rolling."

Team New Zealand planned their trip to Arizona, via a 13-hour flight into Los Angeles.

Cultural Exchange Part 2 will be continued in Issue 16

Ak-Chin participates in 20th Anniversary Piestewa Games



Lil Natives played hard and had a great season.

During the weekend of July 14, two little league teams, a co-ed softball volleyball team and teams; all comprised of Ak-Chin members, traveled to Legacy Sports Park in Mesa, AZ. to participate in the 2023 Lori Piestewa National Native American Games.

Baseball and softball teams braved through the 110+ scorching degree heat; that felt even hotter on artificial turf fields; to participate in pool play on Friday night and Saturday morning, all working towards the brackets and a chance at placement.

The Lil Natives, coached by Tony Jose and Dennis Antone played three games, with a pool play record of 1-1. Seeded #5 for bracket play they played hard, but were

unable to advance, thus ending their season.

Congratulations was shared on the community's FB to the Lil Natives on a great season, along with a, "Thank you to all the parents, Coaches, family and friends for your continued support... Great job in the Piestewa games."

The Young Natives, coached by Alvin Antone and Albert Santiago, sported a very respectful undefeated record in pool play, advancing into bracket play. Young Natives took their first win on Saturday night and advanced to the #1 seed for the gold bracket.

Another win early Sunday, placed Young Natives in the championship game,

which was scheduled for 10 am, and actually started around 1030 am.

Key offense from both teams and stellar defense kept the scores close for most of the game, which lasted close to two hours.

Unfortunately, Young Natives suffered an injury and slowly lost momentum.

Young Natives earned Second Place and medals for their hard work.

The Ak-Chin Warriors headed into the Sunday tournament with a 2-0 pool play record on Saturday.

Unfortunately, the Warriors were taken out in the first round. This is the second year Warriors have participated in the Piestewa Games.



Young Natives fought hard to earn second place.

Morgan Peters played in the co-ed and women's volleyball divisions. She played with co-ed team, Pepper Me Up, and women's team, Pepper. She played back-toback games Saturday for women and co-ed games.

Pepper Me Up moved through the Friday-Saturday pool play and made it to the gold bracket on Sunday, where they placed third.

The Lori Piestewa National Native American Games is named in honor of Lori Piestewa, who was the first Native American woman to die in combat while serving in the U.S. military, during the Iraq War.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of hosting these sporting events in her honor.



Ak-Chin Warriors Co-ed Softball team always ready to play!



Pepper Me Up Co-ed Volleyball team, with Lori Piestewa's mother, Percy, at far right.

August 4 - 17, 2023

Senior Trip continued from Front

Hawaii

Can you think of a better senior trip than going on an all-expenses paid 7-day vacation to Hawaii?

July 10, 32 graduates, seven chaperones and one lead chaperone flew to Honolulu, Hawaii.

Their trip began with a free day, allowing all graduates to explore the island, enjoy food, shopping and swimming. The following days they visited many cultural and historical places like Pearl Harbor, USS Arizona Memorial, Cultural Polynesian Center and Germaine's Luau.

The Polynesian Cultural provided Center educational insight about historic monuments on the island. "Going to the Polynesian Cultural Center was definitely my favorite tour we experienced on the trip," said Autum Manuel, chaperone and graduate from 2017.

Manuel added, "Our tour guides took us to each village that represented different island nations

and we did hands on watched activities, presentations on different cultures and traditions; was such a unique and fun learning experience."

Germaine's Luau offered a great experience as they were able to enjoy a Polynesian show right next to the ocean's edge and have quality food. One of the graduates even participated on stage with the dances.

Graduates also enjoyed Oahu Circle Island Tour. The Circle Tour is a guided tour day of Oahu with sightseeing, lookout points, white sandy beaches, colorful culture and unique wildlife.

"My favorite part of the trip was Pearl Harbor because it was peaceful," said Jose Miguel Jr., graduate from 2021. Miguel Jr. added, "I also just enjoyed the scenery, I've never been to Hawaii, but I definitely want to visit again."

Though the graduates got to enjoy the tours and island experience, their greatest gift was being able to spend it with their friends. "We all had an

amazing time on this trip, I was not aware of this incentive program when I graduated high school," said Jason Thomas-Narcia, former CGUHS graduate of 1993 and chaperone.

Jason added, "Thank you Ak-Chin Indian Community for this amazing trip, and congratulations to the high school graduates who all attended!"

Both of these senior trips were a spectacular gift from the Ak-Chin Indian Community, however there is some significance behind it.

"This trip provides incentive and awards students to graduate from high school," said Flora Howerton, Ak-Chin Purchasing Manager and Senior Trip Organizer.

Howerton added. "It provides further education for high school graduates by enabling them to receive further education on different social, economic, political and cultural environments outside the community."



California Graduates, left to right: Martina Antone (chaperone), Nicole Narcia, Jaunita Balderrama (chaperone), Jose Balderrama, Davidson Ugalde Jr. (chaperone) and Daimon Ugalde.



California Graduates and Chaperones at Universal Studios.



California Graduates at Santa Monica Pier



Graduates participating in activity at The Polynesian Cultural Center.



Byodo-In Temple



Graduate Jose Miguel Jr. participating in dance at Germaine's Luau.



Lookout Point from Oahu Circle Island Tour



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND FITNESS WITH A 2-MILE WALK OR RUN



REGISTER BY SCANNING QR CODE. ONLINE REGISTRATON CLOSES AUG. 15TH. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE GLOW ACCESSORIES, DINNER, A T-SHIRT & ENTERED INTO OUR RAFFLE.

**EVENT IS OPEN TO AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES.



QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT HEALTH ED AT (520) 568-1085 OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US



Help Your Child Succeed in School: **Build the Habit of Good** Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- · Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- · Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Children's Code, of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Law & Order Code: On July 22, 2016 the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council approved Resolution No. A-168-16, A resolution creating the Community's truancy laws contained within Title 7, Children's Code, of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Law & Order Code.

The Truancy Officer will monitor daily attendance and administer violations of the Community's truancy laws.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- · Create a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Check homework and backpacks the night before.
- · Keep your child healthy COVID-19 virus is still among us.
- Introduce yourself to their teachers and staff at school.
- · Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- · If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and Ak-Chin Advisor on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or guarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Revised July 2023

For additional support for your child, contact Ak-Chin Education Dept. @ 520.568.1280

When Do Absences Become a Problem?

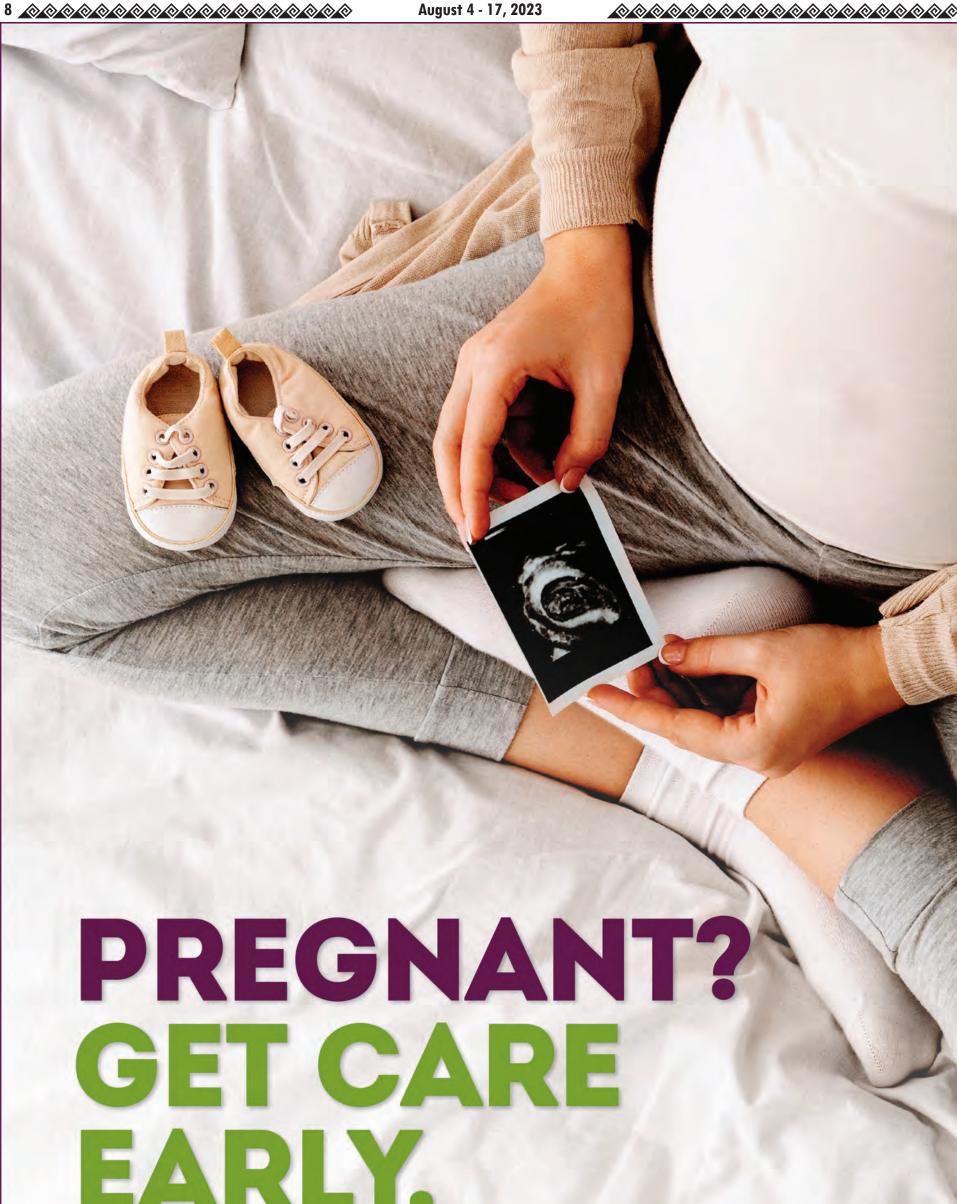


ARNING SIGNS

10 to 17 days



Note: These numbers based on a 180 - day school year.





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.





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

> > Happy 3rd

Birthday to

Wren! Enjoy

your special

day and all

the cake you

want!

Brenna

Mama, Dada, and Big Brother

love you so much

our Sadie

August 4 - 17, 2023

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.

HHS Behavioral Health is now offering a group designed to help

Groups will help people express emotions, develop new coping skills,

Art can help us express what words cannot. Sharing with others can help us feel connected again.

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

estions or more information please contact HHS Behavioral Health Team at

+ August 9, 2023 - Family Support Group Meeting

+ September 13, 2023 - Support Group Meeting

- Applications Software
- Technician
- Cashier/Stocker p/t Communications Officer
- **Compensation Analyst**
- Detention Officer -Certified
- Detention Officer Non-Certified

find a new path to normal.

Groups will be held at TBD

5:30pm - 7:00pm

find comfort and support with others.

+ August 23, 2023 - Art Based Group

+ September 27, 2023 - Art Based Group

- Economic Development Analyst
- Firefighter/EMT
- General Worker
- Head Lifeguard • Lifeguard
- •
- Maintenance Technician (4) Plant Electrician & ٠
- Instrumentation Technician Plant Operations and Maintennace (O & M) Technician - Previous applicants will be
- considered Sr. Network Systems
- Specialist



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

EMPLOYEE UPDATES





Caleb Gilbert Firefighter EMT FIRE DEPARTMENT



Juan Luz Groundskeeper SANITATION



Larry Joe Project Manager CAPITAL PROJECTS

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Jaxson, Christian, King-Benzie and Joseph and to my granddaughters Rachel and Joanna Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Rach and Aarron! Hope you two birthday buddies have a



grand time!! Love, the whole fam!

Happy SUPER-Percy, we love you

Love, Bapa, Luma and the whole fam!

UGUST BIRTH

8/01 **Aribella Vincent Sadie Rivers**

8/02

8/13 **Arrow Bowman Azalyana White King-Benzie Peters** **Reginald Delores Jonathan Justin**

8/23 **Dorissa Garcia**

AUGUST 4th - 17th **EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS**

4-AUG **Nicole Delma Early Childhood Jason Wilhite** Fire & Safety

Sweet 16 to our #1 Grandson!! Happy Birthday always, and want **DUPER FUN!!**

you to have SUPER

Jennifer Boehm Wynema Vincent Jessica Narcia

8/04 **Jaxson Brown** Nicole Delma **Amelia Osife Nathan Enos Aliyah Vincent**

8/05 **Esperanza Santiago Rachel Lozano Yondell Antone Anthony Narcia Jr.**

8/07 **Alicia Gomez Joanne Stephens Haylee Delma Daniel White**

8/08 **Raiden Sierra James**

8/09 Joanna Acosta **Stephanie Vincent**

8/11 Jessica Corella **Tommy Pablo** William Narcia **Christian Soliz**

8/12 Joshua Zepeda Ava Quinonez **Rocio Castro**

8/14 **Tahlia Johnson**

8/15 **Daniel Pablo**

8/16 Virginia Thomas **Christopher Vincent** Virginia Mejia **Brandon Dean David Oliver** Lashey White Joseph Zabawa

8/17 **Johnny Perkins Jasper Justin Chaning Hoffman**

> 8/18 **Juan Lopez**

8/19 Lisa Miller **Delora Vincent Owen Santiago Jasmine Kaniatobe Anthony Narcia Sr. Florine Vincent Amanda Narcia**

> 8/21 **Sharon Pablo Doria Garcia**

8/22 **Nancy Carlyle Michelle** Narcia **Lorice Manuel Cruz Machado**

Jacoby Warren

8/24 **Michael Peters Jr. Jeffrey Manuel**

> 8/25 Janaya Lopez

8/26 **Denise Lewis**

8/27 **Andrew Narcia**

8/28 **Darren Peters** Jacob Vincent Jr. **Delila Villegas Stacey Smith Eleanor Anderson Stewart Peters** Wilson Antone

8/29 Emmeline **Montero-Zamudio Frankie Carlyle**

8/30 **Amiyah Deleon Amare Santiago Arnulfo Bandin Candi Chavez**

8/31 **Misty Quintero**

Bitalacer CIPPS

5-AUG **Anthony Narcia Environmental Protection**

> 6-AUG Janelle Mason Transit

7-AUG Rene Saspe Airport **Jacob Dickerson** Maintenance

8-AUG **Melanie Toledo** Library James Adams Maintenance **Tracy Zimmerman Capital Projects**

9-AUG Narciso Schweitzer **Environmental Protection**

> **11-AUG** William Narcia Law & Order **Allison Butler** Transit

12-AUG **Darlene Smith-McClelland** Education

> **13-AUG Gregory Porto** Fire & Safety

15-AUG Matthew Millo Public Defender Sergio Romero Maintenance

16-AUG Rudy Aguirre TGA

17-AUG **Chaning Hoffman Environmental Protection**

Mexican Rock Band Caifanes to Take the Stage at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

CAFA165





(MARICOPA, Ariz. — April 19, 2023) — Caifanes, a rock band from Mexico City that achieved international fame in the late 1980s, is coming to The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino on Friday, September 15.

Caifanes' sound encompasses a hybrid of progressive rock and Latin percussion underscored by Spanish-influenced lyrics. The soul-wrenching rock band emerged as one of the hottest rock groups from central Mexico after gaining international recognition in the late 1980s and being the first Mexican rock band to play two sold-out shows at the National Auditorium of 10,000 audience members. Caifanes released "El Silencio" in 1992-now considered to be one of the most influential records of the Rock En Español genre.

Caifanes has also made an appearance on Latin MTV, opened for the Rolling Stones in Mexico City and participated in the Coachella Festival. A well-respected and oneof-a-kind rock band, Caifanes is set to bring their talents to The Events Center stage for a night to remember.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino proudly presents:

CAIFANES

Date: Friday, Sept.15, 2023 Doors: 7:00PM Showtime: 8:00PM Location: The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Tickets: General Admission–\$54.50 Ages: All Ages

About Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino: Arizona's first and only tribal casino to have an international management partner, Maricopa-based Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino is the only casino in Arizona that allows guests, through its Caesars Rewards program, to unlock benefits and other prizes that can be used worldwide at the entire Caesars' family of casinos.

Harrah's Ak-Chin boasts one of the two Bingo halls within the Caesars portfolio, continuing the proud heritage of William F. Harrah, who opened his first Bingo hall in Reno in 1937.

In addition to Craps, Roulette, sports betting, slot machines, video poker, video Keno, statewide progressives, and blackjack, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino guests can also enjoy a variety of dining options, including the Copper Cactus Grill, Chop, Block & Brew, Oak & Fork, Agave's Restaurant and Dunkin'®.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino features 529 luxurious resort and tower guestrooms, spa and fitness center, and an outdoor swimming pool with a swim-up bar.

For more information about Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, visit www. harrahsakchin.com. Must be 21 or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2023, Caesars License Company, LLC.

Weekend Weather Forecast Ak-Chin Indian Community



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Some restrictions apply. Does not include tax. Rounds transferable 4/day. Valid thru 9/1/23. *THE LUXE LOUNGE IS A 21 AND OVER VENUE



AkChinCircle.com

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139





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