

Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVII, Issue 17

September 1-14, 2023



Above, Ak-Chin Elders gather after they are all gifted with 8th Generation wool blankets for their participation in the O'odham Ñeok Project at Ak-Chin Circle on August 17.

Ak-Chin O'odham Ňeok

Story by Tyaun Marshburn , photos by Runner staff

COVID-19 During the pandemic, the Administration for Native Americans awarded approximately \$20 million in grant funding to 210 recipients of the Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Emergency grant through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP).

Indian The Ak-Chin Community was one of the recipients awarded the ANA grant, designed to ensure the

Neok continues to Page 2

preservation and continuation of Native American Languages spoken by Native American, Native, Native Alaska Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

On August 17, Community members, presenters, and honored guests gathered at Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center Elements conference room to showcase how the Ak-Chin Language department utilized the ANA grant and created a system to document the Ak-Chin O'odham language.

Council Member, Gabriel the Ceremonies for the event. He began the evening by expressing the importance of God send us a beautiful day; preserving the language for it was cloudy and cooler than future generations.

Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon, Ak- The family gave her a Chin Education Director spoke traditional celebration that

Virginia Thomas celebrates 100th **Birthday**



Ak-Chin's first Centenarian, Virginia Thomas is excited to enjoy some cake and celebration for her 100th Birthday.

Story and photos submitted by Virginia's family

On behalf of the family, we would like to thank everyone who came and helped celebrate Lopez served as Master of the 100th Birthday of Virginia Thomas.

usual.

about how the Community included the old-time fiddlers

and Papkokola that she grew up with.

Thank you to these individuals that came and offered their music and dancing. We know she really appreciated it.

Friends and relatives came from near and far, relatives she lost touch with came to be with her.

Thank you to Lola and Alvin

Virginia continues to Page 2

2023 Phoenix Children's Hospital Give-a-thon



Dave Burns, Chairman Miguel said, "I'd like to recognize the other 21 tribes in Arizona, we do all we can in any way possible and our presentation to you is a part of them."

11th Anniversary of Historic BIA **Agent House**

Story and photos by Alexa Key Monday, August 28, Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum hosted the 11th anniversary celebration of

the Historic BIA Agent House.

this now renovated house still owns its original hardwood flooring along with preserved artifacts from the earliest days

Story and photo by Tyaun Marshburn

On Friday on August 18, Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel joined KTAR News and Arizona Sports for the 15th Annual Give-A-Thon week.

18 and raised \$2.17 million, a exceeding their 2023 goal of \$2 million. Ak-Chin Indian Community along Valley Hyundai Dealers were presenting sponsor this year.

The event ran from August 14- In the interview conducted by families.

Ak-Chin Indian Community donated \$13 thousand to Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Phoenix Children's Hospital has been named one of the Best Children's hospitals by U.S. News & World Report for the last 13 years.

The give-a-thon 1S over, but you can still make donation by visiting phoenixchildrensfoundation.org.

with The money raised is used for critical research, advancements in medical technology and incentives for patients and their

Ak-Chin BIA Agent House preserves a lot of history of the community. For example,

in which it served as Ak-Chin's first pre-school.

Some of these artifacts include



Renovation plans of Historic BIA Agent House.

- BLA continues to Page 3

Abraham Jose makes USSSA All-State Team



Abraham Jose played for Team Arizona, 9U.

I would like to start off by saying thank you to all who donated, participated, helped, encouraged, and supported my son to attend the USSSA All-State Event in Dallas, TX July 21-27, 2023.

From the beginnings of me and my sister doing food sales, yard sales, raffles, and our families holding a baseball tournament, and more food sales; we can't thank you all enough for helping us give my son the opportunity to represent Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

I get the question a lot of how did Abraham get to be on the Arizona team? I give the credit to my husband Tony Jose. He is a big supporter of our kids and encourages them to get involved with different activities, especially when it comes to our culture and sports. He even supported our

daughter Harlee when she chose to take ballet and hip-hop classes over softball. He didn't like it, but he took her to classes at times when I wasn't able to.

So, naturally when Abraham started following the footsteps of his brothers, dad, uncles, cousins, pretty much most of his family of playing ball, Tony was right there.

Throughout the past few years, Abraham had the opportunity to play in different leagues with several teams, one just so happened to be affiliated with USSSA. Last December, Tony came across an e-mail from the USSSA organization announcing the Winter All-State Games, to be

played in Gilbert, AZ. This was an individual tournament where you register as an individual player and not a team.

Tony really wanted to put Abraham in this tournament just to see where his skill level was with other players his age. So, we asked Abraham if he wanted to play and he gave us the same answer as he usually does, "Ya, sure I'll play".

This tournament also determined who would represent Arizona in the USSSA All-State Event 9U division in Dallas, Texas. So, regardless of how many games a team won it was the skills of an individual player that would



Ak-Chin Elders attend IPP Game Night

Story by Alexa Key and photos by Armonda Santiago



Sisters, Marlene Garcia and Florinda Peters are all smiles while enjoying a friendly game of Uno during the Elders Game Night, August 16.

The Injury Prevention Program hosted Elder Game Night on Wednesday, August 16.

This is the second year the Injury Prevention Program hosted the Elder Game Night in Ak-Chin. The event is designed to celebrate elders with a night of socializing, promoting activity and pure fun.

The games were targeted for everyone to participate in and help with cognitive thinking. For example, quick action games like Hot Potato, UNO for remembering

colors and matching and O'odham Bingo for cultural purposes, laughter and prizes.

23 elders attended Game Night and had the chance to take home some nice prizes during the O'odham bingo. Prizes included: automatic hand massagers, easy open bottle openers, crossword books, shoe horn/dressing sticks, neck stretchers, automatic nail clippers, car safety grab handles, portable recumbent bicycle, tortilla blankets, Fry's and Ak-Chin Circle gift cards.

All prizes were geared to help the elder population find tools to keep them self-sufficient and independent with just a touch of help.

"We would like to thank the elders of the community for attending giving and us an enjoyable evening of fun and food," said Teri De La Cruz, Injury Prevention Specialist and Organizer for Elder Game Night. De La Cruz added, "We would like to also thank Joe and Youth Council for their volunteer work and help with the event."



Thomas for getting all the relatives together to be with her, she had tears in her eyes when they came to shake her hand and gave her a hug and introduced themselves.

Thank you to all who brought her gifts and flowers: Terri Ysaguirre,

Virginia was excited to see many of her relatives join her for her 100th birthday. Back row: Virginia's nieces: Linda Hendricks, Juanita Norris and Lola Thomas. Front: Fredrick Thomas and Virginia

for the beautiful flowers that went on the dance floor and Papkokola stand, flowers send by the Community and Strickland and Strickland, they were beautiful, Delia for the donuts and drinks for the cemat makers;

the girls for the beautiful

Patty, Leigh Ann, and

delicious cake; the band, "The Papago Braves" for providing the music; the family for making all this happen.

Virginia continued to from Front

We are surely blessed to have her still here with us. She stayed through the whole celebration and was still wide awake.



Ñeok continued from Front



jumped on this opportunity to use the grant to save the Ak-Chin language.

"Although the language has always been critical, we knew the language could be compromised by the loss of the elderly in the Community and that's why we accepted the grant and knew it would be beneficial for all of us."

After accepting the Ak-Chin grant, the Education department met with the Ak-Chin Language staff and consultant Jeremy Johns, who is a community member, linguist, and Yale University Ph.D. candidate. Together they were able to conduct surveys, produce recordings, create а language curriculum and a dictionary for the Ak-Chin Ñeok (language).

lesson plans focused on sentence type acquisition, language-based and text stories authored by speakers from the Community, intended to build Ak-Chin-specific language-based volumes for learners.

Ak-Chin Language Technicians, Velacita Lopez and Lerline Peters reached out to the elders in the Community to assist with accomplishing this goal.

In total, 20 Community members were the language expert consultants for this project. They dedicated much of their time to ensuring this information was as accurate as possible. They worked morning, night, and sometimes weekends, working many dedicated hours to create the firstever Ak-Chin O'odham O'ohana (dictionary).

dictionary. Languages only become safe by whatever definition we take on for the meaning of safe."

Jeremy further added, "To truly revitalize a language, takes the involvement of the entire Community, learning and speaking the language whenever possible. It's not an easy process and not always a comfortable process, but what we (have) done here is create something that our future generations can rely on, that they can resort to and modify as time goes on."

As a thank you to the Community language expert consultants all received beautiful 8th Generation wool blankets, that were handed out at the event. Bags and shirts were also handed out to those in attendance.

ZZAKZAN

1 Boiled Eggs, Bacon, Toast, Avocado Slices, Oranges Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Vanilla Pudding

4 CLOSED: LABOR DAY

5 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Pinto Beans, Soft Chicken Taco, Normandy Vegetable, Corn Bread, Cherry Crisp

6 Migas (Scrambled Eggs w/ Crispy Corn Tortillas), Beans, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese Chicken Caesar Salad, Butternut Squash Soup, Rolls, **Fresh Cut Fruit**

7 Rice Pudding, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Strawberries | Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Apples/Oranges

8 Egg Casserole, Avocado Slices, Toast, Turnover & Banana | Shredded Pork Soft, Tacos w/ Cabbage, Corn on Cob, Lima Beans, Jell-O

11 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Peaches | 3 Meat Sub, **Pasta Salad, Fresh Peaches**

12 Spam & Eggs, Toast, Yogurt, Apples | Potato Soup & Salad Rolls, Pears

13 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Salad, Granola Bar | Red Beef Enchilada, Corn Salad, Chips & Salsa, Jell-O

14 Egg & Ham Sandwich, Hashbrown, Watermelon w/ Cottage Cheese | Bar-B-Que Ribs, Plain Ribs, Baked Potato, Salad, Watermelon

Menu Subject To Change Without Notice

At the event, the Community was able to understand the process the development team went through to begin the laborious work of preserving the language. Altogether, they developed three major outcomes; a 2,000-word language dictionary, 130 language short

"It's a relief and huge accomplishment to have so much of the language documented, but there is still work to be done. Jeremy Johns stated. "We should be careful not to assume that our language is safe now that we've produced a coursebook, language text, and a

Velacita Lopez would like to extend a special "Sapo" (thank you) to the families of everyone who participated in making this project a success, for their understanding and taking the backseat, while everyone worked so hard to do their part in making history.



Education staff and Councilman Gabriel Lopez stand behind Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon as she thanks them for their hard work



L-R: Velacita Lopez, Lerline Peters and Jeremy Johns are recognized for all their invaluable contributions to the Ak-chin Neok Project.

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

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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



September 1 - 14, 2023

Vintage 1950's Underwood Typewriter donated by Nicole (CoCo) Carlyle Coester 2014 and original pre-school report card belonging to Marvin Thomas, 1966.

original report card of a of the work developed student who attended.

As part of the renovations done in order to restore the house for the purpose of creating it into a museum, they were still able to keep some of its original structure. The house was originally adobe, but per the renovations they had to upgrade it. However, in the living area of the home you can still find a square piece of the original adobe material.

The history of the Historic BIA Agent House wasn't always for school and living,

a typewriter with an it also contains history into the water systems. These water systems consisted of wells, pump stations, canals and the reservoir. All of which took great work from the council and community members.

> This 11th Anniversary Celebration of the Historic BIA Agent House is to celebrate the 11 years it was reopened as an extension of the Him-Dak Eco Museum.

> The Historic BIA Agent House preserves much history for the Ak-Chin Indian Community and welcomes people to visit

during their hours of operation.

"I think this event is important for the community because you get to visually see part of the community's history, somethings you only get to read about or view from photographs but for this event as an example our members and visitors can physically come in and see the history and learn about the building," said Waylon Antone, Art Program Coordinator for the Him-Dak Eco Museum.

For more information, please contact Him-Dak Museum at (520) 568-1350.



Ak-Chin Indian Community employees visit Historic BIA Agent House.

Tribal Gaming Agency Swearing-in Ceremony

Photos by Tyaun Marshburn





Chairman Miguel speaks at Maricopa Wells MS

Story and photo by Alexa Key

Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Chairman Miguel Ak-Chin of Indian Community spoke to Maricopa Wells Middle School administration and staff.

During this all staff, administration and district meeting Chairman Miguel spoke on behalf of Ak-Chin Indian Community. He shared insight of his role on council and in the community. Chairman Miguel encouraged the audience to visit Ak-Chin and learn/participate in the community.

He also expressed the great perspective that Ak-Chin Indian Community Maricopa and are the same, as they are integrated with one another - creating one community in itself.

Chairman Miguel also expressed the support

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from Ak-Chin for the Maricopa Unified School District. An example of this support can be exemplified during the COVID-19 pandemic as students transitioning to online academics. Ak-Chin Indian Community helped fund schools like Maricopa Wells Middle School to provide laptops for students.

"Chairman Miguel has always supported education, not only for Maricopa Wells Middle School but for all of Maricopa Unified School District," said Principal Miller of Maricopa Wells Middle School.

GRACE PABLO Petilioner, and ANTOINE KENNEDY Respondent. CASE NO.: CV-2023-015-DY CIVIL SUMMONS CIVIL SUMMONS THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO: ANTOINE KENNEDY TOU 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 natter within a period of 20 days If you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin ndian Community, 30 days If you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin ndian Community, further you must send a copy of your written answer to: Grace Pablo 645421 W, Raiph Street.
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45421 W. Ralph Street
Maricopa, AZ 85139
After you have been served and the written answer period has lapsed, the Tribial Count 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, be default will be entered against you and the opposing party shall be swarded the relief demanded in this matter.
GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 12 th day of July, 2023.
Deanna Rascon, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court
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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

Don't forget DEADLINE for the Sept. 15 - Oct. 5, 2023 issue is due by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Material submitted after the **SEPTEMBER 8TH DEADLINE**

cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

August 22nd, Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Commissioners, Adella Zabawa, right, is sworn in by Vice Chairman Lemuel Vincent, as Carla Carlyle, left, is sworn in by Councilmember Lisa Garcia. The Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Commission is made up of 5 Commissioners appointed by the Community Council. Zabawa and Carlyle will serve alongside Dr. Sandra Shade (Chair), Deanna Justin (Vice-Chair) and Commissioner Yolanda Miranda.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Environmental Programs

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE FACILITATOR TO THE REGIONAL TRIBAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (RTOC)

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all individuals with experience to submit proposals for the Facilitator to the US EPA Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC). The project consists of the following;

The objectives would be to provide support to the Tribal Co-Chair and Tribal Caucus by:

1.Organizing the pre-RTOC planning meetings with the Tribal Co-Chair and EPA representatives to assist with facilitation approaches for discussion items.

2.Assisting to assure venue amenities are sufficient with accommodating RTOC member attendance and participation.

3. Quarterly Meetings: Assist with preparation and facilitation for quarterly Tribal Caucus and RTOC meetings; travel to, attend and participate in meetings. At a minimum, the RTOC meets four times a year. Two meetings are held at the US EPA Region 9 Office in San Francisco, California and two meetings are held on Tribal lands within the Region 9 area (Arizona, California and Nevada). Additional meetings will be scheduled, if necessary, contingent upon available funds. The following are tentatively scheduled meetings: October 23, 2023 - Viejas, California; February 2024 - San Francisco, California; May 2024 - TBD; August 2024 - TBD; October 2024 TBD; February 2025 -TBD; May 2025 – TBD; August 2025 - TBD. 4.Documenting key comments and action items from sessions.

5. Compiling notes and information for distributing to the RTOC and general Tribal Caucus members.

6.Other Tasks: Perform other services as requested by the Tribal Co-Chair on behalf of the Tribal Caucus or full RTOC.

The project funding comes from the

fiscal year 2024 & 2025 US EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) - RTOC grant, with requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

A RECOMMENDED PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (Arizona Time) on September 8, 2023, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email Fhowerton@ ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon (12:00 p.m.) on September 7, 2023. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on September 21, 2023 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Proposals received after the specified date and time will be rejected and returned unopened.

This invitation is unrestricted; however, preference will be given to Indian Organizations, Indian Individuals, and Indian Owned Enterprises in accordance to the Community Procurement Procedure. Request for Proposals ("RFP") instruction/ information package and related information may be obtained from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Purchasing Office, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested by electronic mail at Fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner reserves the right to reject, any and all bids. However, the Ak-Chin Indian Community at its discretion may postpone said action for such time as the Tribal Council may designate, as the interest of the Community may require.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ANALYST TO THE REGIONAL TRIBAL **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (RTOC)**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all individuals to submit proposals for the Environmental Policy Analyst to the RTOC. The project consists of the following;

To provide support to the Tribal Co-Chair and Tribal Caucus; work with Tribal representatives and EPA personnel in the development and maintenance of rules, regulations, guidance and policy protective of Tribal interests; and to keep the Tribes in Region 9, through the RTOC Tribal Caucus, informed of pending issues and rules, regulations, guidance and policy documents promulgated by EPA (and other agencies as appropriate and/or directed), to ensure to the greatest extent possible that the Tribal Caucus and individual Tribes within the Region are able to respond timely and appropriately to protect and advance Tribal concerns.

The project funding comes from the fiscal year 2024 & 2025 US EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) - RTOC grant, with requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

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get them selected to represent Arizona.

from all over the United States.

During this tournament there were about 80 players split up into teams and only 13 players were going to be selected to be on the Arizona team.

We didn't know what to expect, because we knew chances of Abraham being selected were slim, but the thought was still there. After the tournament, it became more of a possibility, because of how well Abraham played. At the conclusion of the Winter All State Games parents and players were told if a player was selected parents would get an e-mail in two weeks.

I'm not sure about Tony but I can truthfully say I was checking my phone daily. Ultimately, we did get the e-mail, "Congratulations, Abraham has been selected to represent Team Arizona in the 9U AA Division at the National All State Event in July of 2023 in Dallas, TX..."

Soon after, we started planning to make sure we got Abraham to Texas. It was a great Friday, we go to the fields where the tournament is located, each team was given a time slot to have practices. As we walked into the complex we were overwhelmed with coaches, players and parents wheeling folding chairs, in equipment, coolers and tents. Soon we located the Arizona Team, we could tell the team was excited to all be there.

The team was able to have a couple of practices and scrimmages before heading to Texas, so Abraham was familiar with his team and coaches.

The day ended with a team meeting at one of the host hotels. Abraham's team was gifted bags from some of the parents, filled with snacks and encouraging words for the tournament, as this would be a long week of baseball; 4 pool games and double elimination bracket.

Saturday the first pool play game was against South Carolina. Abraham started as catcher, and caught for the whole tournament. would switch off He with another catcher on his team at least an inning or two during a game. I was nervous how Abraham would play but once I seen him throw out a runner at 3rd in the second inning, I knew he would do just fine. Team Arizona Maroon won that game 9-1.

Kansas.

No games were played on Sunday July 23, it was a day for the skills challenge and a chance to attend the Rangers game. Abraham didn't participate in the skills challenge that morning as it gave him time to rest up. Abraham attended the Rangers game on Sunday afternoon.

All teams participating in the All-State Event



were allowed to walk the field before the Rangers and Dodgers game.

This wasn't Abraham's first time stepping on a Major League baseball field as he'd done it earlier this year with his team Lil Natives when they walked Chase field during the Diamondback home run from Abraham scoring 2, which gave Arizona the lead of 4-0. Unfortunately, Team Arizona couldn't hold on to the lead as Kansas started to come back. Team Arizona lost 5-10.

The next game was scheduled on Wednesday against Nebraska/ Louisiana. Team Arizona together and pulled took a big lead in the second inning, scoring 7 runs against Nebraska/ Louisiana, holding them to only 3 runs, winning 13-3. Family and friends were cheering Team Arizona on as this was a must win to continue in the tournament.

With a short break after the Nebraska/Louisiana game, Team Arizona gets ready to face Oklahoma. As the game starts and innings go by its looking to be an uphill battle, just like the first-time facing Oklahoma. It is the fourth inning with Team Arizona trailing 1-5, Arizona is up to bat. A fire must have

been lit under team Arizona because their determination, great hits and base running have

Time is running out and Team Arizona has two outs, because they're the home team the coaches make a decision to purposely get their next batter out quickly so a new inning could be played. I was so nervous and relieved at the same time, because the next batter was Abraham. As the home plate umpire calls Abraham out at the plate a new inning is underway.

them trailing by one with

the score 4-5.

and have fun kid, you know what to do." I see the first pitch thrown, Abraham watches the ball as it crosses the plate, umpire yells, "strike"! The crowd backs him up with encouraging words, "it's ok Abraham, get this next one, alright Abraham you got this". Second pitch is thrown, it's low, Abraham holds back his swing, "Strike" again the umpire calls. The crowd doesn't like the call, but you can see the crowd sitting with

anticipation of what will

happen next. Here comes the third pitch, Abraham swings it's a foul ball, catcher walks over to pitcher, Abraham waits at the plate looking determined to win this battle. Then the fourth pitch is thrown, Abraham hits the ball it's going towards first base the umpire yells, "foul ball". By this time everyone is tuned in watching to see which way this game is going to go. Here comes the fifth pitch and it's clearly a ball as the catcher barely makes the catch, count is 2-2 going to the sixth pitch.

Pitcher throws the ball and before I know it, I see Abraham running, finally I get it in my head that he hit the ball, but I don't see where the ball was hit to. I then see outfielders running towards the wall in right field. "Run, run, hustle" is what I'm yelling from inside the complex holding my phone. I see Abraham round first to second then rounds second to third, base



back to third, it was too late, catcher threw the ball to third baseman and Abraham was out.

I couldn't help but feel so sad, but also so proud of not only Abraham, but his whole team for what they had accomplished at this tournament. As he came up to meet us after the game, we told him what a good job he'd done and how proud we were of him. We had asked Abraham how he felt, he said, "I feel okay, our team could have won, but we did good all of us."

Thanks to the coaches and players of Team Arizona 9U Maroon you all played hard with great comebacks and heartbreaking defeats you all did great; it was a very exciting Abraham tournament. enjoyed being part of the team.

If anything, we hope that this encourages the youth to get out of their comfort zone, do not pass up any opportunities that come their way, if you want to accomplish something, set your mind to it and don't give up no matter how hard it may get. Hard work pays



accomplishment just be selected.

Approaching the days of the tournament Abraham was excited to play, but I think he was more excited flying on a plane for the first time.

We arrived in Dallas late Thursday night July 20, as we checked into our hotel, we noticed other players and parents from different states checking in as well.

I think for me that's when I started getting nervous for Abraham, just a young boy coming from a small community playing against players

Ak-Chin O'odham Runner What are your kids up to this chool year? Please send us pictures and information about any

extracurricular activities that your kids are particpating in such as sports, clubs, cooking classes and more. Contact us today!

RunnerNews@ak-chin.nsn.us | (520) 568-1375

Next was Kansas, which was scheduled right after the first game. Abraham didn't start this game, but went in soon after in the second inning as catcher. After trailing at the first inning the team just wasn't able to come back on top. Team Arizona Maroon lost 10-4 against

Inter Tribal Tournament.

Monday was the third pool play game; Team Arizona would play against Oklahoma. Oklahoma took an early lead of 4-0, but Arizona's pitching great and defense held Oklahoma to 4 runs for the rest of the game. In the fifth inning hits came alive for Team Arizona, scoring 7 to beat Oklahoma with a great comeback of 7-4.

The momentum continued into their next game against Florida. Team Arizona took an early lead in the first inning of 2-0. The team played great as they continued to get hits and bring in runs. Abraham not only caught this game, but was able to pitch an inning, striking out one and not allowing anyone on base. Team Arizona defeated Florida 8-2. This ended pool play with 3 wins and 1 loss, which landed Team Arizona in the higher bracket.

Tuesday was the beginning of bracket play, Arizona had to face Kansas again.

Team Arizona wanted redemption against Kansas from their earlier loss. And for sure it looked like it in the earlier innings with hits from Team Arizona and a As the teams start switching off the field to start their next inning the base umpire calls a discrepancy in the last out. So, both umpires have a discussion on the field, then head coaches are called into the discussion, players are now in their dugouts. As time goes by the discussion gets more coordinators intense; of the tournament are called in, at this point about 25 minutes has passed and everyone is eagerly waiting to hear the outcome.

Needless to say, a decision was finally made. The game will go back to the fourth inning with the score 4-5, with two outs, no one on base, time is expired, and Abraham has to bat. My heart sinks, I'm so nervous I go to watch the game from inside of the complex. As Tony sits in the front row, I know he's just as nervous but talks to Abraham while he's walking to home plate, "relax, see the ball,

coach is signaling him to run home, Abraham rounds third.

From where I was sitting you can clearly see the whole field and seeing Oklahoma how fast relayed Abraham's hit from right field, they lined up perfectly cutting Abraham off right at third baseline. As Abraham rounded third base, he

off, win or lose it's the experience that you gain that will help you grow.

At the end of our time in Dallas we were able to take Abraham to the Perot Museum of Nature Science before and heading to the airport. He was able to enjoy another thing he loves, dinosaurs. 🙂



seen the catcher catch the ball, he tried to stop his momentum and turn "Abraham we are proud of you!" Love, Mom and Dad.



Story by Alexa Key, photo by Armonda Santiago

Hot Wheels Monster Truck Field Trip

Saturday, August 20, Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation invited community members to attend the Hot Wheels 2023 Monster Trucks Live show at Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, Arizona.

This event was geared towards youth and encouraged parents to attend as chaperones. 24 youth and 6 chaperones attended this show.

The event was also advertised as a 'Monster earplugs to protect their youth to explore a new Truck Glow Party'. The glow party offered a lights off experience with LED lights radiating off the trucks.

Once it was lights out, the enormous trucks began crushing the cars one after another. Alongside the trucks, there were also motorcycles that performed flips and tricks.

Adults and children were informed to wear

eardrums from the loud noises of the vehicles.

However, that didn't stop anyone in the audience from having a good time.

"The best part of the show was that is was very interactive," said Estrella Reyes-Helpingstine, Chaperone for event.

Estrella added, "Events like the Hot Wheels Monster Jam offers an opportunity for our

community outside of their own.'

From the interactive value of the show, a host would run up and down the aisles and high-five children while raising their excitement.

"I had a fun time, I want to go back again," said one youth from Ak-Chin. Maverick Santiago commented, "I'm glad I went to the Monster Trucks."

Glowing Clouds Light up Annual Glow Run

Story and Photos by Rebecca Rosoff

Moments before the 2023 Glow Run started, storm clouds appeared as a dynamic backdrop, highlighted with sunset hues and flashes of lightning in the distance. Runners, walkers, and those in-between a walk and a jog, entered the event, held on August 17 and hosted by the Ak-Chin Health Education, at the northside of the Recreation Center.



participant was Each given raffle tickets to enter into a number of drawings for prizes, including gift cards and other merchandise. Overflowing bowls of glow accessories were also available for those completing the 2-mile loop.

wind kept temperatures cool for all 142 people enjoying the evening. Vekol sandwiches and sides served as a nice after run dinner. The event was open to Ak-Chin Indian community members, their families, residents, employees and their families.

The clouds and the



Families enjoyed nice weather while participating in the 2023 Glow Run.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY **ONE (1) VACANCY FOR THE AK-CHIN HOUSING BOARD**

VACANCY 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.





Story by Tyaun Marshburn, photos by Runner Staff

The Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation department hosted its 1st Annual Public Safety Outreach Game Night with Ak-Chin Police and Fire departments.

The event took place Saturday August 26th, from 5pm- 7pm at the Ak-Chin Recreation department.

"The purpose of the Public Safety Outreach Game Night was to provide an opportunity for community youth to meet the community's public service staff in a social setting, and get to know them one on one." Ann Marie Antone, Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Director shared.

Kids were divided into 2 groups; one group was aged 6-10 and the other group were ages 11-17.

After they split into groups, they were paired on hand to challenge the young gamers in a tournament setting.

There were three stations and each station had a variety of games. Station one was Xbox games which included Mortal Combat. Station 2 was the Nintendo Switch Mario games Kart Deluxe. Station 3 was for PlayStation 4 Sonic Racing and NBA 2K.

Recreation served appetizer style food like mini corndogs, wings, pizza rolls, mozzarella sticks, vegetable trays and cupcakes for dessert. Winners received gift cards with options from Amazon/PS4/XBOX/ Nintendo.

Fire and Police were able to pick prizes as well, they had their pick of hvdro flasks, bento lunch boxes, beach towels and other summertime prizes.

shared Antone her appreciation to the public safety and young gamers for coming out, adding "the kids kicked their butts." She was very pleased with the turn out and hopes to host another game night in the near future.



- 1. Ensures compliance with the housing programs, which include but are not limited to all Ak Chin Community homes, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homes and Tax Credit homes in coordination with the Community Council.
- 2. Is responsible for preparing recommendations to the Community Council for approval or denial of Housing Board actions/decisions.
- 3. Is responsible for ensuring that all established policies regarding lease compliance, resident issues, home care and maintenance are followed and enforced.
- 4. Taking timely action on all Housing Board related matters.
- 5. Preparing for and attending all meetings and trainings of the Board.

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

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

Please send all letters of interest Attn: Ak-Chin Community Council

ATTN: Victoria A. Smith 42507 W. Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, AZ 85138



Deadline for letters of Interest is Friday, September 8, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Ak-Chin

Roman Catholic Mission 16657 N. Church St., Maricopa, AZ 85139

> MASS SCHEDULE Sunday Mass at 12 noon

September 3rd Fr. Peters Teresa McConnell

> September 10th Fr. Antony Tinker

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

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

HEALTH EDUCATION

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

YOGA* Thursdays Sept. 7 & Sept. 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

SUPER HERO RUN* Saturday Sept. 16

up by police officers and firefighters who were



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> A PROUD PARTNER OF ARIZONA WORK

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE?

WHEN?

Online Virtual Classroom any CAC learning center.

Scan the QR code to apply!



SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

7:00 AM @ Service Center

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



HEALTH & HUMAN **SERVICES**

HEALING FROM GRIEF GROUP

Thursdays Sept. 13th & Sept. 27 5:30 - 7:00 PM @Service Center* *If you have any questions, please contact Behavioral Health at 520-568-1090;

Lynnette Houston-Volden at 520-568-1086 or Pam Thompson at 520-568-1092



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

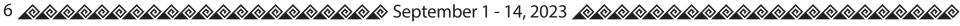




RECREATION

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL* GAMES BEGINS: Saturday, Sept. 9th *For more information, please contact Kathleen at (520) 568-1744 or Email: KMiguel@ak-chin. nsn.us









GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE (520) 550-6079

GRHC.ORG



Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.



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

CLOSED

Monday, September 4th

Normal business hours will resume September 5, 2023 Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital <u>Pharmacy Hours</u>

Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 am Sunday 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Monday CLOSED

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



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

CLOSED <u>NATIVE AMERICAN DAY</u> Friday, September 15th Saturday, September 16th

Normal business hours will resume September 18, 2023

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital <u>Pharmacy Hours</u>

Friday CLOSED Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 am Sunday 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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

Family Planning Mobile Unit | Call or Text (520) 371-0132

September 21 Ak-Chin Vekol Market (9 am - 3 pm)



Our clinical services are men & women. Lets us what time works for you!



LOOK FOR OUR MOBILE UNIT



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CRISIS LINE: 800-259-3449





9/01 **Daniel Chavez** Vanessa Soliz John Batopis

9/02 Jocelyn Antone Jennifer Smith Bernadette White

9/03 Theresa B. Ormsby Michelle Justin Kyla Narcia

9/04 **Bianka Stephens Tommy Jensen**

9/05

Dawson Allison Harrison Smith Philbert Narcia Sr. Robert Santos Jr. **Patricia** Thomas

9/06 Mila Aguilla Marcelino Jacuinde

Happy Birthday

9/07 Joseph Justin **Gabrielle Compton Clayton Antone** Jorge Stephens Matthew Manuel **Randall** Narcia

9/08

Alana Oliver **Darris Vincent** Sylvia Gutierrez

9/09

Linus Johnson **Kingston Narcia** Eleazar Baptisto Justin Zabawa, Jr.

9/10 Steven Narcia

Kelvert Joaquin

9/11 **Rope Justin** Mary Narcia

9/13 Lisa Matuz Tatum Campbell

Happy Birthday

9/14 Romeo Jensen Lucy Antone Eva Romo **Ember Navarrette** ShaMarie Florez

9/15 **Stacie Antone Krislyn** Pablo

9/16

Fernando Smith, Jr. Angela Manuel Angelo Manuel **Graham Smith**

9/17 Josiah Thomas **Frederick Antone Rosalie Perry** Stephanie Smallcanyon

9/18

Danel Peters Isaiah Miguel Marin Lopez **Rebecca Ruiz**

9/19 Andres Hernandez Sonia Narcia **Robert Miguel** Joycelyn Kaniatobe

> 9/20 **Riley Wilson** Kyren Antone **Elijah Peters**

9/21

Monica Noriega Dani White Ulanii Johnson

9/22

Shannen Smith **Evangelyn Romo Gabriel Santiago Iris Smith**

9/23

Cleo Pablo **Aurelia Dominguez** Salmino Santiago **Cecily Peters** Jacob Dickerson, Jr. **Tracey Tallabas** Nicholas Anderson Happy Birthday

9/24 Nevaeh Jensen

9/25 Nakeasha White

9/26 🖌 🗯 Lindsay Antone

9/27

Adrian Garcia, Jr. Alyssa Garcia Irene Arredondo

9/28 Jason Kaniatobe 🌾

9/29

Lily Garcia

9/30

Veronica Santiago Kaleb Rivers **Bryson Hazen** Dominic Romo Elvia Castro Tyson Lopez

Country Music Singer Josh Turner to Take the Stage at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

for

А

at



(MARICOPA, Train" 20th Saturday, Nov. 11.

Carolina before moving to receiving a gold certification. Nashville, Tennessee to pursue a career in music, Turner is Turner's vision for "Long Harrah's

Ariz.-July known for his deep voice and 24, 2023) — Josh Turner, raspy undertones. His debut the country artist he is today. American country and gospel album entitled "Long Black singer and songwriter, is Train" was released in 2003, Turner is bringing his heart Arizona that allows guests, bringing his "Long Black now celebrating its 23rd year wrenching sound and passion through its Caesars Rewards For more information about Anniversary out. "Long Black Train" made for music to The Events program, to unlock benefits Tour to The Events Center at its appearance as the first track Center stage at Harrah's Ak-Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino on on the album as well, spending Chin Casino for his long used worldwide at the entire more than 40 weeks on the awaited "Long Black Train" Caesars' family of casinos. country Billboard Born in Hannah, South reaching a peak of No. 13 and performance you don't want to Harrah's Ak-Chin also boasts Gambling Problem? Call

artist's

charts, 20th Anniversary Tour-a miss.

Ak-Chin

Black Train" is proudly presents: just as vivid for

him today as JOSH TURNER it was when it Date: Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 was originally Doors: 7:00PM released, he said Showtime: 8:00PM in an interview Location: The Events Center American at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Songwriter. Tickets: \$89.50; \$49.50; student \$34.50 Belmont Ages: All Ages University at the

time, the song About Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino: kickstarted the Fornearly 30 years in Maricopa, career Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino is and started his Arizona's first and only tribal journey to be casino to have an international management partner. Harrah's Ak-Chin is the only casino in and other prizes that can be

> one of the two bingo halls 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2023 within the Caesars portfolio, Caesars License Company, Casino continuing the proud heritage LLC.

of William F. Harrah, who opened his first bingo hall in Reno in 1937.

In addition to craps, 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 swim-up bar.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, visit www.harrahsakchin. com. Must be 21 or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start.®



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CLASSIC BEDDING SET

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