



Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 2

JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 1, 2024

29 th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day



Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn

The 29th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day was held January 10 at the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix Arizona.

Legislative Day is the gathering of the governor's office on tribal relations and Indian Nations & Tribal leaders to discuss issues in which they share a common interest or jurisdiction. Legislative day is held on Wednesday, during the first week of each regular

legislative session. According to Azleg.gov "The office shall invite the legislature and other elected officials to pay tribute to the history and culture of the American Indian peoples and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States."

The Joint Protocol Session was hosted by the Arizona House of Representatives. The event began with a traditional song by Chi'Chino Spirit O'odham

Singing Group, followed by the presentation of colors by American Legion Post #114, "Bushmasters" of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Laney Lupe, Miss Indian Arizona delivered the Pledge of Allegiance, while Vice President Paul Russell, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, provided the invocation.

Opening remarks were shared by Hon. Ben Toma, Speaker

Legislative Day continues to page 3

String Instrument lessons coming to Ak-Chin



Ak-Chin Library staff,community kids and musicians at Ak-Chin Library, December 20.

Story and photo submitted by Dr. Stephen Cook

I am Dr. Stephen Cook, Pianist & Founder and Artistic Director of Oracle Piano Society, a nonprofit arts organization that presents classical performances and educational programs in the rural community of Oracle, Arizona and throughout the state.

We own and operate the Oracle Center for the Arts where we present a ten-concert season featuring world class performers from around the world, an annual chamber music festival, and music lessons taught by our Conservatory faculty.

On December 20, Dr. Hamilton, our Artist Advisory Committee Member, R. Carlos Nakai (and world-famous Native Flutist), and myself, visited the Ak-Chin Library to talk about Oracle Piano Society's string program and to play for the kids at the library.

We performed improvisations for Native Flute, Cello, and Piano for the kids and Mr. Nakai spoke at length about the Native Flute and offered inspiring advice for the students.

We recently were awarded a grant from the Ak-Chin Indian Community to expand our Conservatory of Music which provides tuition-free music instruction for youth who would otherwise not have access to such opportunities.

After being notified of our grant award from Ak-Chin, we launched several afterschool programs including a band program at the Mammoth San-Manuel School, a general music class at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and a strings program at the Ak-Chin Library.

The Ak-Chin Library Strings

Program will offer tuition-free string lessons/classes taught by Cellist, Dr. Gregory Hamilton on Monday evenings starting at 4 pm (and possibly Wednesdays). Dr. Hamilton is an internationally renowned performer and educator who teaches cello, violin, and viola.

We very much look forward to launching our strings program at the Ak-Chin Library in January and enrollment is currently open at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/233538330730148>

The program is open to Ak-Chin Community member only grades 3rd - high school. Transportation is provided by Ak-Chin Library. For more information or questions please contact the Ak-Chin Library at 520-568-1675.



Trujillo named new Ak-Chin Community Events Manager

Story and photo by Tyaun Marshburn

The search is finally over, as the position for Community Events Manager has been filled!

Michelle Trujillo is a lifelong Maricopa resident, raised in Thunderbird Farms and Saddleback Farms. Trujillo graduated from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University.

Trujillo's first week as Community Events Manager was the week of Masik Tas. The time of the year where every department is busy and it seems like there's not enough hours in the day.

experience starting a new role during the busiest time of the year Trujillo said, "It was a thrilling blur of activity and a perfect way to meet my co-workers and most importantly, a lot of our community members. I learned so much about how the event operates thanks to Councilwoman Lisa Garcia and our temporary workers Armonda Santiago, Delia Carlyle and Lusan Enos."

Trujillo's responsibilities include overseeing the planning of the department's signature events and activities, coordinate sponsorships and raffles, and managing personnel.

When asked how was her "I am hoping to grow the

Trujillo continues to page 6

Health Education welcomes back New Year's Event

Story by Raychel Peters, photo by Kristen Villegas



Top finishers of the New Year's 5K, (l-r): Raychel Peters, America Rodante, Juan Luis Rodante, Cecily Peters, Antonio Rodriguez, Cecil Peters, Zach Garcia and Leon Potter, Sr.

Saturday, January 13, Ak-Chin Health Education welcomed back their New Year's 5K and 2 Mile Walk.

"We had 60 people join us for our first event of 2024. We were excited to host this

event in-person for the first time since 2020." Martina Guy-Peters, Ak-Chin Health Educator shared. "Due to COVID, we have not been able to host this event in-person since 2020. All previous events have been

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ATTENTION!!!!

CALLING ALL AK-CHIN COMMUNITY ELDERS

+55

2024

THE NEW YEAR HAS APPROACHED US,
THE ELDER PROGRAM WILL BE
UPDATING INTAKE ASSESSMENTS DURING
THE MONTHS OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY

ALL ELDERS PLEASE STOP BY OR SET
UP A TIME TO UPDATE YOUR INTAKE
ASSESSMENTS AT THE ELDER CENTER.

PLEASE CALL SONIA OR MARISSA
@ 520-568-1760



virtual events.”

The crisp morning walk, held at Ak-Chin Service Center, was definitely a great way to encourage all “to start their 2024 fitness journey.”

After everyone was registered, raffle tickets were distributed for gift cards and other health-inspired gifts. Once everyone put in their tickets, they took to the outdoors and made their way through the 5K or 2-mile routes. After everyone finished their selected course, they came back into the center to a selection of delicious breakfast sandwiches and coffee by Vekol Market, were set up. Below are the overall and top finishers:

- Overall Male Top Finishers
- 1) Antonio Rodriguez
 - 2) Juan Luis Rodarte
 - 3) Leon Potter Sr.

- Overall Female Top Finishers
- 1) Cecily Peters
 - 2) America Rodarte
 - 3) Julene Narcia

- Top Finishers Age Categories
- 14 & Younger Male – Antonio Rodriguez
- 15-19 Female – America Rodarte
- 15-19 Male – Zach Garcia
- 27-35 Female – Cecily Peters
- 46-54 Male – Juan Luis Rodarte
- 46-54 Female – Julene Narcia
- 55+ Male – Cecil Peters
- 55+ Female – Raychel Peters

Health Education would like to thank everyone that has helped with this event. “We would like to thank the Sanitation/ Public Works Department, Ak-Chin Farms, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Police Department, Vekol Market, & Waylon Antone. A special thank you to our temp – Dustin Whitman. We would also like to thank our participants! Thank you for taking the time on a three-day weekend and bearing the cold weather to join us for a walk. We hope to see you all at our next event!”

Ak-Chin Health Education’s next event is the 2024 Valentine’s Day 5K & 2 Mile walk, on Saturday, February 10, at Ak-Chin Service Center.

Winter Storytelling with Michael Enis

Story and photo by Raychel Peters

Friday, January 12, Ak-Chin Language Program hosted their first Winter Storytelling of the year, at the Ak-Chin Service Center, with special guest Michael Enis, member from Tohono O’odham Nation.

Enis shared many excerpts on his story, going back and forth on the story’s timeline to provide a better understanding of how the story and its characters created their situations and worked with one another.

cookies was offered. Raffle prizes were also awarded to many in attendance.

Ak-Chin Language will be hosting another Winter Storytelling on Friday, January 26, with Camillus Lopez and Tommy Carlos, 6pm, at Ak-Chin Service Center.

Close to 30 community members/residents were in attendance to listen as Michael shared traditional stories that can only be shared in the winter months.




The story focused on O’odham folklore and respect for family.

A delicious menudo dinner, made by Rebecca Ruiz and

For more information or questions please call 520-568-1338.



ELDER JANUARY CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
15  Center Closed MLK Holiday	16	17	18	19 Cream Of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Raisin Bread, Fruit / Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 9am-12pm Chicken Pot Pie, Salad, Vanilla Pudding
22 Ham & Eggs, Toast, Potatoes, Fruit w/ Yogurt/ Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 9am-12pm Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Peach Cobbler	23 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mix Berries/ Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 530pm-730pm White Beans, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, Grapes BINGO 1pm 	24 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa & Sour Cream, Muffin, Fruit Salad/ Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 9am-12pm Tuna or Chicken Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Tropical Fruit MOVIE DAY	25 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Fruit w/ Cottage Cheese/ Chicken Noodle Vegetable Soup, Sweet Potato Fries, Garlic Bread, Pears Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 530pm-730pm 	26 Potatoes w/ Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Pear & Muffin / Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 9am-12pm Indian Taco, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Cookies
29 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit / Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 9am-12pm Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Corn on Cob, Watermelon	30 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon, Fruit Salad & Turnover/ Red Chili Stew, Pasta Salad, Carrots, Chumath, Oranges Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 530pm-730pm 	31 Breakfast Sandwich, Hash Brown, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese / Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 9am-12pm Potato Soup, Salad, Pistachio Cake	* Chair Yoga is located in the Elder Craft Room * Chair Volleyball Questions? Call the Recreation Dept at 520-568- 1740 * Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 568-1760 * For Transportation Call Georgia at 568-1769 * Breakfast Served from 7am to 8:30AM / Lunch Served at 12noon to 1pm	



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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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and Cecil Peters

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Health & Human Services,
Recreation & MUSD.

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The "Runner" is delivered
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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

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

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

2024 Subscription rate is
\$37.75. If you would like
to receive the "Runner" by
mail, please send a \$37.75
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
February 2 - 15, 2024
issue is due by
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes, etc.
no later than
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH

Material submitted after the
JANUARY 26TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.

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,
January 23, 2024 at the Justice Center Community Room.

CASE: SD-02-23: Industrial Park Septic System:

Project Applicants, Water/Wastewater Plant Manager,
Carlton Carlyle, and Airport Manager, Tim Costello, are
requesting Site Development Plan Permit approval for a
new septic system and leach field located at the north
west corner of Murphy Rd and Carlyle Rd that would
service the Ak-Chin Industrial Park:

- Installation of a 12,000-gallon septic tank; and
- Ten (10) leach field trenches to drain the septic tank.

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HASTWO (2) VACANCIES FOR THE AK-CHIN GAMING COMMISSION

All interested individuals are eligible to apply; however
Ak-Chin members will be given first preference.

Reminder: You may only serve on three (3) Boards or
Commissions or Committees maximum at any given time.

**QUALIFICATIONS: The Community Council is seeking
individuals with the following qualifications:**

1. Must have knowledge or possess the ability to learn the
Ak-Chin Gaming Compact, Code and Harrah's/Ak-Chin
Casino Resort Management Agreement.
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the
Ak-Chin Gaming Compact, Code and Harrah's/Ak-Chin
Casino Resort Management Agreement, and the Indian
Gaming Regulatory Act.
3. Must have the ability to learn and understand the Federal,
State, and Community regulatory processes pertaining to
the Tribal Gaming Agency and Harrah's Casino Resort.
4. Must possess a valid Driver's License.

Requirements:

All interested individuals must submit a Letter of Interest
detailing why they are interested in serving on the Ak-
Chin Gaming Commission. Community employees must
submit documentation from their supervisor allowing
them to serve on the Ak-Chin Gaming Commission. In your
letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission
or Committee you currently serve on, and when your
term expires. All interested individuals must be able to
successfully complete a background check and obtain an
Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming License.

Please send all letters of interest:

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

**Deadline to submit letter of interest is
Monday, January 22, 2024 by 5:00pm**



Dr. Thornburg earns doctoral degree in Education Leadership



Story Submitted by Ak-Chin Education Department, photo by Raychel Peters

Jeff Thornburg, Ak-
Chin Tribal Education
Director has earned
his doctoral degree in
education leadership.
Jeff holds an AA degree
in recreation leadership,
a BA in Elementary
Education and a Masters
of Education.

Jeff began teaching on
the Navajo Nation in the
Four Corners Region.
He also taught in the
Phoenix public schools.
Jeff worked within
the Gila River Indian
Community for over
20 years as a teacher,
curriculum specialist,
academic coach,
assistant principal,
principal and assistant
director of Tribal
Education.

Dr. Thornburg
dedicated his
dissertation, Indigenous

Decolonizing School
Leadership, to his
mother Donna
Christiansen.

"I would like to dedicate
this dissertation to
my mother, Donna
Christensen. She
has been a life-long
supporter of education.
She has enabled many
people over the years
to achieve graduation,
including myself. She
was an elementary and
middle school educator.
Graduating high school
in our home was a non-
questioned expectation
and higher education
was always encouraged.

Many years ago, I had
several false starts in
college and at one point
dropped out altogether.
My mother called me
and suggested to me

that I move back home
and finish my degree.
She convinced me and
I graduated, earning my
first degree in recreation
leadership.

While I have achieved
several degrees since
then, that degree was a
milestone, upon which
all my subsequent
degrees were built.
Throughout my long,
difficult doctoral
journey, my mother has
been a strong advocate,
believing in me all the
way."

The Education,
Language and
Preschool would like
to Congratulate you on
your accomplishment in
receiving your Doctoral
of Education Degree.
We are all proud of you
Dr. Jeffery Thornburg!!

Legislative Day continued from Front



of the House, and Hon.
Warren Petersen, Senate
President. President
Martin Harvier, Salt
River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community,
Chairwoman Sherry
Parker, Hualapai Tribe,
and Chairman Robert
Miguel, Ak-Chin Indian
Community, collectively
shared the Tribal Nations
Address.

President Martin Harvier
spoke first and shared
about the common border
and issues his community
shares with major cities
in the Phoenix area.

"Whether it's
transportation, economic
development, public
safety, human services,
cultural resources and
others, we know that we
must work together to
build a region where there
will be opportunities in
the years to come."

All of the leaders
spoke on issues in their
communities. One of the
issues that came up was
the topic of substance
abuse in the community.
Chairwoman Sherry
Parker told a very
personal story about her
nephew who died from
Fentanyl and was found
behind a Walmart after

being released from a
fraudulent sober living
home. Chairwoman
Parker says funding
and assistance from
the state to shut down these
fraudulent organizations
is what she hopes to see
in the future.

Ak-Chin Chairman
Robert Miguel spoke
about his appreciation
and respect to represent
his community of 1,140
members, as he stood on
the floor of the Arizona
Capitol, to give his
address.

He talked of the success
Ak-Chin has had with its
farming.

"We are an agricultural
community, of the 22,000
plus acres of land base,
16,000 is designated to
farming. Our potatoes
have somewhat been a
highlight, as we have
a relationship with
Frito Lay and the In &
Out Burger chain. As
a matter of fact, if you
are consuming a french-
fry from In & Out, it
most likely is coming
from the Ak-Chin Indian
Community. We also at
one time, were shipping
alfalfa to a gentleman in
Texas, by the name of
George Strait."

He also talked about
financial opportunities
that have been afforded
to Ak-Chin through
their enterprises, which
include Harrah's Ak-
Chin Casino & Resort,
Ak-Chin Entertainment
Circle, and Southern
Dunes Golf Club.

"We continue to move,
in providing housing
opportunities for our
members as we are
currently developing the
infrastructure needed to
accommodate the grow-
ing list of membership
needing a home. We also
have plans in place to
build an apartment style
complex to accommodate
those who are single, and
those whom have a
smaller style family pres-
ence."

I asked Chairman
Miguel why he focused
more on the positive
than struggles of the
Community. Chairman
Miguel replied, "I knew
that the other two tribal
leaders were going to
address their struggles.
We all basically have the
same struggles, so I did
not want to reiterate. All
other tribes in Arizona
have deemed us as a
successful tribe and want
to utilize and duplicate

the design/plans that
have made us successful,
therefore I wanted to
highlight our successes."

Chairman Miguel did
say that Ak-Chin will
continue to seek answers,
recommendations, and
ideas to help combat the
issue of substance abuse
and alcohol consumption,
which has affected many
including the youth.

"We will continue to
work with our Health
& Human Services staff
to develop programs
and outreach. One
opportunity in the Health
& Human Services area
that our Community
Council has addressed, is
the opportunity and plans
for our spiritual healers
and elders to come and
address these areas by
speaking and teaching
in person, the meaning
of who we are as Native
People."

This was the largest
state-tribal summit in
Arizona history, with
over 1,000 tribal leaders,
representatives, and

community members.
Among the crowd were
Chairman Miguel's
family; mother Janice
Miguel, wife Connie
Miguel, daughter
Stella Miguel, sisters
Jennifer Zepeda, Juanita
Balderrama, Guadalupe
Gloria and niece Celeste
Gloria.

Chairman Miguel said
it was important to have
his family there because,
"in the 11 years I've
been in leadership they'd
never seen me speak
in person at a public
setting as addressing
State Representatives. It
was very emotional and
exciting."

In honor of this being
Miguel's last year as
Ak-Chin Chairman, I
asked him what advice
he would give to the
next Chairman or
Chairwoman if they are
given the opportunity
to speak at the 30th
Annual Legislative Day?
"I would tell them to be
yourself and to take in
the moment to tell Ak-
Chin's story."



Chairwoman Sherry
Parker



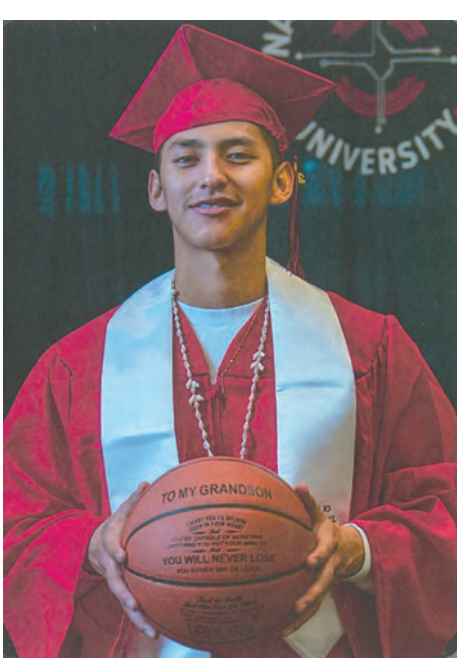
President Martin
Harvier





From Baby J to Sway!

Submitted by Celina Miguel



went to various high schools, schools wanting you to attend their school. But we kept you here in Maricopa. Maricopa Heritage School where you signed your letter of intent to play for SAGU American Indian College, in which you did play for a year. Then, off to NTU, Navajo Technical University.

We remember when you guys told us your decisions to go out there, we didn't expect that, but you were closer than Chicago. So, you were really on your own now, well kinda, Haili was there, phew that took a lil worry off us. We enjoyed traveling and watching you on the T.V. and one of the last games was on ESPN.

There is a lot to say and mention throughout your ball years, all your accomplishments and awards, from being the First Graduating Class of Maricopa Heritage, first to sign letter of intent to play at a college from Maricopa Heritage and then to being the First of the NTU'S Men's Basketball Team to graduate and to graduate with all A's.

Thank-you Coach Rob Flocco, since high school, he has been there as well.

Thank-You to all your coaches, Thomas, supporters, Haili, and family!!! Your Grandma Genevieve is watching over you and we know for sure she is proud of you!

Please Keep on making the right decisions, be safe Son, we're proud of you and we are looking forward to APRIL!!

CONGRADUALTIONS SWAY!!!
WE LOVE YOU!!!

Started watching you play and have fun with ball since you were three years old for the good ole rec department, the mini-basketball leagues, elementary tournaments, middle school tournaments and during middle school you were introduced to Club Ball.

Club Ball, where you wanted to quit, but your Dad said NO, so we kept you in it and there you learned a lot, along with Thomas being there too. You were so hesitant about Club Ball, but we saw you grow and learn the game, it was tuff, no lie and we know you can attest to that.

Your Club Coaches wanted you to excel and pushed you. We're very thankful for all that they have done for you. Thank-You Coach Mike, Coach Niko! We will sure miss those Club Ball days and tournaments. Soo, you had school, Ball and Youth Council, which kept you busy.

Now to high school, where you could of



Happy New Year!

Now is a great time to start new habits that will keep yourself, your family, and your community healthy.

Eating right, getting plenty of exercise and enough sleep are key to a healthy lifestyle. Talk with your health care provider about changes you can make to let the New Year be one of your best years.



As a tribal member, you can enroll in the Marketplace, Medicaid, or CHIP all year. Review your health coverage options.

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



Trujillo continued from Front

department by adding full-time staffing in the Community Events department in the future. Currently, I have support from our talented temporary workers. We are hard at work planning the upcoming Spring Intersession Program in March."

Michelle is no stranger to hard work and fast-paced work environments, prior to her new role Trujillo worked in communications, events marketing, and social media for Province in Maricopa and before that she was a Multimedia Journalist for InMaricopa Magazine.

Many people in Trujillo's family have left their mark in the community, her great-grandfather Charles Chance was a judge for Ak-Chin for many years, her great-grandmother Eloise Chance worked in Ak-Chin Education and her maternal grandmother Pam Marlar worked at Vekol.

In addition, her mother Cindy Marlar-Koontz went to Ak-Chin pre-school and her father Mike Chance attended school at Ak-Chin K-3, and is currently employed by the community, and she is married to David "DT" Trujillo, Operations Manager for Ak-Chin Circle.

Michelle says, "As a local, I appreciate the close-knit, neighborly relationship Ak-Chin has always fostered with the surrounding areas, and feel privileged to be employed by this community."

Michelle and David Trujillo will celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary January 19th, they have

3 children Winston (12), Zella (11), Davey (3) and two dogs Peggy and Teddy.

When Michelle removes her many caps she wears as a wife, mother and now community events manager, she enjoys music, photography, tending to her houseplants, interior design, camping with her family, shopping for vintage clothes with her mother and grandmother and attending ASU games with her father.

One of her goals is to innovate events with creativity and joy while honoring culture and tradition and creating memorable experiences for community members/residents. Michelle shares, "The community government has done a fabulous job keeping the events department going during recent staff vacancies."

When you see Michelle Trujillo be sure to give her a big welcome to the community and if you see her today don't forget to tell her Happy Anniversary!



Michelle with husband David "DT" Trujillo and their 3 children.

JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE RECRUITING!

NABI BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS & COACHES



MEETING WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY 1/31/24
6PM @ Recreation
PRACTICES WILL BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 520-568-1740
Recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us



NOTICE

2024 Agricultural Lease Payment

The 2024 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On Friday, January 19, 2024, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729
(staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time)
The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 11, 2023.
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 19, 2024. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 11, 2023.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 19, 2024.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.
**Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 2, 2024.*

WINTER READING *with* beanstack

Celebrate the winter season by logging your reading minutes.

Goal: Read 1,000 minutes before the winter season ends (March 19, 2024).

Winter Reading Challenge participants and prizes are open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, and Employees only.



Download the app
Beanstack Tracker

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
CALL US: (520) 568-1675



ART SESSION: CERAMICS

COME CREATE!

LEARN & CREATE YOUR OWN CERAMIC
PIECE FROM START TO FINISH

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)
Session Begins: January 30, 2024
Session Ends: March 07, 2024
When: Every Tuesdays & Thursdays from
11:00AM to 1:00PM (Members, Residents, Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)
4:30PM to 7:00PM (Members & Residents of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)
COME IN ANYTIME BETWEEN THE TIMES ABOVE/ WORK AT YOUR OWN PACE
Transportation Provided
Pick Up and Drop Off within the Ak-Chin Indian Community
For transportation please call: 520-568-1350 (Please call before 4:00 p.m.)
For any additional questions please call: 520-568-1350

EMPLOYEE UPDATES



Aaliyah Begay
Library Clerk
LIBRARY



Alana Machado-Arellanes
Cashier
VEKOL



Autum Manuel
Technician
HIM DAK MUSEUM



Channing Hoffman
Wastewater Operator
EPD



Damascus Francisco
Economy Development Analyst
PLANNING



David Hobbs
Wastewater Treatment Operator
EPD



Grace Pablo
Director
HOUSING



Jaime Sanchez Courty
Security Guard
COURT



Kimberli White
Teacher Aid
PRESCHOOL



Robin Vincent
Clerk
LIBRARY



James Adams
Deli Clerk
VEKOL



Stephanie Cantu
Supervisor
VEKOL

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 19TH TO FEBRUARY 1

Jan 20

Joe Medina,
Maintenance

Jan 21

Vera Pablo, Maintenance
Francisco Preciado,
Fire & Safety

Jan 23

Kris Narcia,
Law & Order
Judy Curry,
Education

Jan 25

Jaime Salcido,
Him Dak Museum

Jan 26

Beatrice Romo,
Parks & Recreation
Thomas Carlyle,
Sanitation

Jan 28

Felicia Vincent,
Cultural

Jan 31

Carlton Carlyle,
Environmental
Protection

Feb 1

Anthony Giovanni,
Fire & Safety
Christopher Cypriano,
Maintenance

WIC

Tuesday, February 6th, 2024

8:30a-11:30am

Ak-Chin Service Center

Do you qualify for WIC?

- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding women
- Infants
- Children under the age of 5

WIC foods include: yogurt, fresh fruit s & vegetables, baby foods and other favorites such as milk, peanut butter, cheese, cereal and eggs

Questions?

Need to make an Appointment?

Call: (520) 562-9698

Gila River Indian Community WIC Program



Wishes

Happy Birthday to my grandsons
Jonathan, Joshua, Mateo and Ian and my
granddaughters Estalynn and Saraih
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Cubby
Love your family

BIRTHDAYS Jan. 19th - Feb. 1st

19th

Perla Corona
Rosalino Ormsby

25th

Jaime Salcido

30th

Horacio Valles
Micah Coble

20th

Jonathan Peters
Bernadine Romo
Roland Narcia
Adriana Narcia
Phoenix-Michelle
Alejandro
Joe Medina
Joshua Peters
Juan Medina

26th

Freddie Salas
Beatrice Romo
Thomas Carlyle

31st

Carlton Carlyle Sr.
Mateo Rodriguez
Celeste Gloria

27th

Anthony Rogers
Mario Santiago
Lydell Delowe Jr.
Chelsey Mike

Feb. 1st

Ian Narcia
Christopher Cypriano
Angelina
Arellanes-Burgos
Chyen Anderson
Adam Bowman

28th

Felicia Vincent
Richard Quintero
Anarree Carra
Aniyaa Carra

29th

Spencer Antone
Byron White
Irene Smith
Paulette Kisto
Patricia Perillo
Lucas Antone
April Smith

22nd

Francisco Kaniatobe
Estalynn Lopez
Marie Lewis
Leah Castro

23rd

Saraih Peters
Kris Narcia
Maite Ortega
Amber Antone
Danielle Shade-Theel

Dancers Poised to Shine at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor 3rd Annual Dancing for Our Stars Event



Maricopa, Arizona – January 17, 2024, Dancing For Our Stars Cast Media Day (Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Event Center).

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor proudly presents the 3rd Annual Dancing For Our Stars event on March 23, 2024 at the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Event Center, located at 15406 N. Maricopa Road, Maricopa, Arizona.

The evening begins with a Red-Carpet Reception at 5:30 p.m., featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by a sumptuous 3-course dinner. The highlight of the night will be the performances starting at 7 p.m., with a VIP after-party exclusively for VIP ticket holders at 10 p.m.

Main Event Date:
March 23, 2024
Event Time:
5:30 PM - Red Carpet Reception
6:00 PM - VIP Meet & Greet
6:30 PM - Ballroom Doors Open
7:00/7:15 PM - Performance Begins!
10:00/10:30 PM - 12:00 AM, Approx. after performance ends. VIP After Party at Oak & Fork located next to casino box office.
Event Location:
15406 N. Maricopa Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85239

The Presenting Sponsors for this year's event are Abbott, APS, Cactus Mine, Ellison-Mills Construction, First Interstate Bank, Jerry Seiner-Casa Grande, Lucid Motors Co., and SRP. Their commitment to the community and dedication to empowering the youth of Pinal County are invaluable contributions that make events like Dancing For Our Stars possible.

This exhilarating dance competition pairs local

celebrities with professional dance instructors, promising an evening of captivating performances that will delight and inspire the audience. The event aims to unite the Casa Grande and Maricopa communities in support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor, catering to both in-person attendees and a global audience through a live stream.

The 10 dynamic dance teams set to compete in this Season 3 event include:

1. Celebrity Dancer Kelly Anderson (Executive Director of the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce) and Professional Dancer Mindy Melillo
2. Celebrity Dancer Zoe Cooper (Advertising Manager at Kramer Media) and Professional Dancer Myka Borunda
3. Celebrity Dancer Mike Cruz (Manager of Public Policy for Lucid Motors) and Professional Dancer Krisenna Hancock
4. Celebrity Dancer Jennifer Kortsen (the public relations officer for Casa Grande Union High School District) and Professional Dancer Daniel Kent
5. Celebrity Dancer Rep. Teresa Martinez (Arizona State Representative) and Professional Dancer Candralina Sanchez
6. Celebrity Dancer Chairman Robert Miguel (Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman) and Professional Dancer Alyssa Mangum
7. Celebrity Dancer Gayle Randolph (Branch Manager and HUD Certified Housing Counselor for NID Housing Counseling Agency) and Professional Dancer Kelly Cunningham-Shank
8. Celebrity Dancer Chase Salcido (Wells Fargo Commercial Banking in

the Agribusiness, Food & Hospitality division) and Professional Dancer Danielle Porter

9. Celebrity Dancer Rep. Keith Seaman (Arizona State Representative) and Professional Dancer Marsha Hindman
10. Celebrity Dancer Tony Smith (President of Pinal Partnership) and Professional Dancer Sara Brock

Returning as the event's emcee is Skyla Teel, a respected figure in Casa Grande, renowned for her roles as a wife, mother, Professor of Reading and Education, and a prominent rodeo coach at Central Arizona College.

This year's distinguished panel of judges comprises Dr. Tracey Lopeman; the Maricopa Unified School District Superintendent and one of last year's Celebrity Dancers who won the Showstopper Award.

Dr. Jeff Mitchell; this Arizona native is a local dentist & has stepped in as a coach for swimming, soccer and baseball. Also, he's one of our Celebrity Dancers from Season 1 and a returning "Lead Dad jokes" Judge from last year. Ray Nieves; Is the owner and operator of 911 Air Repair in Maricopa. Ray was raised in Maricopa and believes in being actively involved and giving back to his community. He currently serves on our Maricopa Community Board and also returns with us as one of our Celebrity Dancers from last year's Season 2.

Returning from last year our Performance Director, Carrie Vargas has been a resident of Maricopa since 2006 and founded the (501C-3) Maricopa Community Theatre.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor extends heartfelt gratitude to partner studios and dedicated professional dancers from The Studio in Casa Grande, Alyssa Little Dancers in Maricopa, and The Dance Spot in San Tan Valley for their commitment and support towards making this event a resounding success.

Addie Young, Board Member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor is this year's Dancing For Our Star Event Chair.

Matthew Lemberg, Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor, anticipates a spectacular event, stating: "I am confident that this year's Dancing for our Stars event will exceed the already high expectations set by previous years, especially with our event being hosted again in Maricopa this year."

Tickets are on sale now, with VIP Seating priced at \$250 and Standard Reserved Seating at \$125. Additionally, supporters can vote for their favorite dancers at \$10 per vote, with no limit on the number of votes. People's Choice

voting can now qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program! Just make sure to vote by Tuesday, April 15, 2024. Please note that our event ends on March 23, 2024 but are still eligible to donate towards the tax credit until April 15th tax filing deadline.

Awards for the event include People's Choice, Top Friend-raiser (the coveted Mirror Ball Award), and the Judge's Choice Award.

For more information about our 3rd Annual Dancing For Our Stars Event, please visit us online at DancingForOurStars.net. To learn more about our Season 3 of Dancing For Our Stars Event, please visit: DancingForOurStars.net

ARROYO GRILLE
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club
WEEKLY GRILLE SPECIALS
BEGINNING AT 5PM* *Subject to availability

WEDNESDAY
CLASSIC FISH FRY \$14

THURSDAY FIND IT HERE   
CHEF'S SPECIAL \$20

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
PRIME RIB DINNER \$32

MAKE IT EASY – ORDER TO GO!



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16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO

JANUARY 2024

CAESARS REWARDS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>14</div> <div></div> <div>GIFT CARD SUNDAYS</div>	<div>15</div> <div></div> <div>YOUR CHOICE, YOUR CHANCE</div>	<div>16</div> <div></div> <div>LEGACY COLLECTION BY CRG PRESTIGE® LUGGAGE GIVEAWAY</div>	<div>17</div> <div></div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WIN \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY FOREVER YOUNG WEDNESDAYS</div>	<div>18</div> <div></div> <div>T-APP INTO THE FUN! DOWNLOAD THE CAESARS REWARDS APP</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div> <div>CANTINA NIGHTS RENT A CABANA ON YOUR NEXT STAY!</div>	<div>20</div> <div></div> <div>MYSTERY TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER CANTINA NIGHTS</div>
<div>21</div> <div></div> <div>GIFT CARD SUNDAYS</div>	<div>22</div> <div></div> <div>SLOTS OF FUN!</div>	<div>23</div> <div></div> <div>LEGACY COLLECTION BY CRG PRESTIGE® LUGGAGE GIVEAWAY</div>	<div>24</div> <div></div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WIN \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY FOREVER YOUNG WEDNESDAYS</div>	<div>25</div> <div></div> <div>CAESARS SPORTSBOOK WITH CAESARS REWARDS TAKE YOUR FAVORITE GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL!</div>	<div>26</div> <div></div> <div>CANTINA NIGHTS</div>	<div>27</div> <div></div> <div>WIN YOUR WHEELS! MONTHLY CAR GIVEAWAY TIME TO FLY AIR TRAVEL KIOSK GAME! CANTINA NIGHTS</div>
<div>28</div> <div></div> <div>GIFT CARD SUNDAYS</div>	<div>29</div> <div></div> <div>#1 BY USA TODAY CAESARS REWARDS LOYALTY PROGRAM</div>	<div>30</div> <div></div> <div>LEGACY COLLECTION BY CRG PRESTIGE® LUGGAGE GIVEAWAY \$30K KIOSK GAME</div>	<div>31</div> <div></div> <div>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WIN \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY FOREVER YOUNG WEDNESDAYS</div>	<div>WIN YOUR WHEELS! MONTHLY CAR GIVEAWAY</div> <div>SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 Celebrate our 30th year of play with Car Giveaways on the last Saturday of every month in 2024!</div>		

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