



Story and photos By Tyaun Marshburn

## Psychic Medium Theresa Caputo at Harrah's

World renowned psychic medium, Theresa Caputo from the hit TV show Long Island Medium visited Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino on January 20th.

Caputo has devoted her life to connecting people with their deceased loved ones.

The show titled "Theresa Caputo Live! The Experience" was nothing short of an experience. Although, the show was highly emotional for viewers and relatives of the deceased, Theresa Caputo's ability to

combine compassion and humor was a treat to watch.

Caputo did more than 10 readings, relaying information that only the deceased's loved ones would know.

The audience was able to see the look of happiness as some people were able to hear last words from their loved ones.

The show lasted about 90 minutes, but from the moment Caputo stepped on the stage looking breathtaking in

Caputo continues to page 3

## Southwest Groundwater & Ag Symposium visits Ak-Chin

Story and photos By Tyaun Marshburn



Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel and Farm Manager Damian Murietta provide tour of Ak-Chin potato plant for Southwest Groundwater & Agricultural attendees, January 17.

Southwest Groundwater and Sustainable Agricultural Systems ended their 2nd annual symposium with a field trip to Ak-Chin Indian community on January 17th.

The purpose of the tour was to gain a better understanding about Tribal agriculture and related agricultural water use. Ak-Chin Farms is an enterprise of the Community, which among other things, is in the business of growing food and fiber.

The tour included 31 attendees who were representatives from California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Jim Dobrowolski, national program leader for

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, traveled all the way from Pennsylvania.

The tour was led by Chairman Robert Miguel, Katosha Nakai General Counsel for Ak-Chin and Damian Murietta, Ak-Chin Farm Manager. Chairman Miguel and Nakai traveled with the group on the bus ride from Tempe to Ak-Chin Indian community. Once they reached the community Murietta guided them around the reservoir and through the potato processing plant.

Dr. Sharon Megdal, Director, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center said that the reservoir was

her favorite part of the tour. "I always like to see water and water is such an important part of the Ak Chin story. The reservoir stop also provides perspective of the land as well."

Dr. Megdal also added how she hopes to return in the spring or early summer when the potatoes are being processed.

The tour lasted a little over an hour and a half but was packed with insightful information.

"The knowledge gained through the tour enhances my understanding of the nature of Ak Chin farming operations, including the crops

grown and irrigation methods use. This knowledge helps me as I work on identifying solutions to the water challenges we face, along with issues related to food production." Dr. Megdal said.

Lastly, Dr. Megdal said, "On behalf of our group, I want to note how grateful we are for the tour. Many have commented to me about how much they learned on the tour."

Although there were many takeaways from this experience, Dr. Megdal says she was very impressed learning about the scale and precision of Ak-Chin's farming operations.

## AGTS Supervisor's Academy Graduates



L-R: Alvin Antone and Andres Flores



Adam Finken



Brian Manuel

Story and photos submitted by, Rosalva Madrid, Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Chief of Enforcement

Gaming Agent Supervisor Andres Flores and Gaming Agent Senior Agent Alvin Antone graduated from the AGTS Supervisor's Academy on January 30, 2024.

Flores and Antone attended the Arizona

Governmental Training Services Academy from October 17, 2023 to January 30, 2024.

During this time, Flores and Antone completed 13 modules formatted for individuals attending the academy to obtain skills

Graduates continues to page 5

## Gila River Indian Community Inauguration

In front of family, friends and dignitaries throughout Arizona, Governor Stephen Roe Lewis was sworn in for a third term as Governor for the Gila River Indian Community, while Regina Antone begins her first term as Lieutenant Governor.

An Inauguration ceremony was held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel at Wild Horse

Pass, Saturday, January 20, with a posting of colors and traditional performances.

Notable speakers, such as Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Senator Mark Kelly and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, shared the history and relationship between the state, Gila River Indian Community and its leadership.

Inauguration continues to page 3



Story by Raychel Peters, photo credits: Gila River Indian Community News Tribal and state dignitaries, including Lt. Governor Regina Antone (far left), Chairman Robert Miguel (3rd from left), Governor Stephen Lewis (4th from left), and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (center), share in a photo during the Gila River Indian Community Inauguration, January 20.

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Players congratulate eachother after their 15min match.

If you would like to enjoy a fun night, you should come over to Ak-Chin Recreation on Thursday evenings. There you will see and hear just how much fun one can have while playing and watching elders happily competing with one another in the newest league Ak-Chin Recreation has created, the Elder Chair Volleyball League.

Kathleen Miguel, Recreation Programs Assistant shared, “This is the first time we have sponsored an Elder League like this, but we hope to do more in the future.” Miguel said the league that began on January 18, will last four weeks, ending on February 8. To date there are four teams currently participating.

### Elder Valentine's Tea Party

Thursday, February 8, 2024  
11:00am - 1:00pm  
Historic BIA House  
Ak-Chin Indian Community

Space is limited to the first 15 elders,  
Please RSVP by February 6th.

To RSVP or for more information please call the  
Museum at (520) 568-1350

# Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation creates brand new league for Elder Chair Volleyball

Story and photos by Raychel Peters

“The purpose of creating an Elderly chair volleyball league is to the prepare elders for the upcoming Valentine volleyball tournament.” Ann Marie Antone, Parks & Recreation Director shared.

Their Valentine Volleyball Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, and the bracket is already full.

“Also, we needed to prepare the Elders with some changes in the rules for Elderly chair volleyball that we will implement from here on out for future leagues and tournaments. Tribes across Arizona and California have implemented these new rules as well.” Antone added.

Everyone playing in the league truly seems to be having a really great time. While some are learning how to play chair volleyball, others are very spirited as they compete in a friendly and fun environment. Some of the best benefits are getting together to enjoy one another’s company while also getting in a bit of physical exercise.

I emailed many players, asking what they liked best about the elder chair volleyball league and I got several responses.

“It’s lots of fun, lots of laughs.” “The fact that there’s an activity where mother is having fun and enjoying herself and we can share that time with her...as a team with the other elders. It’s not about winning but about a happy spirit the elders have when it comes to having fun.” “Volleyball Night is my favorite...Good



Laughter and friendly competition keeps spirits high.

exercise but lots of fun!” and “It’s nice to play a sport with my sisters, again and my Mom.”

I also asked if they would like to see more activities/leagues geared for elders, and if so, what would they like to see Recreation/Community sponsor?

The feedback that I received was very positive, many said they would like to see more leagues/activities and “get more elders out and active.”

Activities they suggested included: Pickleball, bike riding on adult tricycle/obstacle course, mini golf, and an “Elderly Night” with Volleyball, Bingo, Card Games, Movies, Cooking, Workroom, Line Dancing, maybe one night out of the week.

Basketball was also mentioned, modified for elders and the handicap; similar to the one recently featured in the Casa Grande Dispatch (Granny Basketball).

Kathleen said they are hoping to do another chair volleyball league this year. “We are looking to do another Elder Chair Volleyball League toward the end of the year to help our elders get prepared for the Masik Tas Tournament.”

She also gave thanks to those for coming out to play. “Thank you to the teams that have played in the League, it was fun to see you all have fun and enjoying yourselves, as a younger generation it filled my heart seeing you all smiling and laughing.”

## ELDER FEBRUARY CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>* Chair Volleyball Questions? Call the Recreation Dept at 520-568-1740</b></p> <p><b>* For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1769</b></p> <p><b>* Breakfast Served from 7am to 8:30AM</b></p> <p><b>* Lunch Served from 12noon to 1pm</b></p>			<p><b>1</b> <b>Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</b></p> <p><b>Squash Casserole, Brown Rice, Spring Salad, Whole Wheat, White Role, Peaches</b></p> <p><b>Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 530pm-730pm</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Bread Pudding, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad</b></p> <p><b>Baked Chicken, Black Beans, Corn, Apple Sauce</b></p>
<p><b>5</b> <b>Scrambled Eggs, Sausage/ Hashbrowns, Toast, Fruit w. Cottage Cheese</b></p> <p><b>Chicken Enchilada, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Brownies, Lemmon Bars, Apple</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</b></p> <p><b>Bar-B-Que Ribs, Sweet Potato, Peas, Plain Ribs/Potato, Romain Salad, Fresh Cut Fruit</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit, Oatmeal Cookie</b></p> <p><b>Split Peas, Chicken Dumplings, Yellow Squash, Mandarin Oranges</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Tex-Mex Scrambled, Refried Beans/ Tortilla Chips, Salsa &amp; Sour Cream, Fruit</b></p> <p><b>Tuna or Chicken Melt &amp; Spinach Salad</b></p> <p><b>Chair Volleyball @ AKC Rec 530pm-730pm</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Spam &amp; Eggs, Avocado Slices, Toast, Muffin &amp; Fruit</b></p> <p><b>Red Chili Stew, Green Beans, Carrots, Chumuth, Cookies/ Plums</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> <b>Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</b></p> <p><b>Smothered Pork Chop, Sauteed Spinach, Wild Rice, Lima Beans, Tropical Fruits</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Breakfast Pizza, Avocado Slices, Grapes w. Cottage Cheese</b></p> <p><b>Pinto Beans, Chicken Tacos, Butternut Squash, Asparagus, Corn Bread, Pears</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</b></p> <p><b>Chicken Alfredo w. Broccoli, Spring Salad, Bread Sticks, Strawberry Cake, Sliced Apples</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit, Turnover</b></p> <p><b>Beef Tacos, Shredded Green Leaf, Tomato, Cheese, Black Beans, Zucchini, Oranges</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Toast, Avocado Slices, Fruit</b></p> <p><b>Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich or Vegetable Soup &amp; Turkey Sandwich, Peas, Grapes</b></p>





Newspaper of the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

**OFFICE HOURS**  
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and Cecil Peters

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Ak-Chin: Cultural Resources,  
Education, EPD, Health  
Education, Him-Dak, Library,  
Health & Human Services,  
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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  
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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 16 - 29, 2024**  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

Please submit all  
announcements, wishes, etc.  
no later than  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

Material submitted after the  
**FEBRUARY 9TH DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate  
and relevant, it will be  
included in the next issue.



Chairman Miguel speaking at Gila River Indian Community Inauguration, January 20.

Inauguration continued from Front

Tribal leaders from the  
Four Southern Tribes  
were also asked to  
speak including; Ak-  
Chin Chairman Robert  
Miguel, Salt River  
Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community President  
Martin Harvier and  
Tohono O'odham  
Chairman Verlon Jose.

"I was extremely honored  
to be one of the Keynote  
Speakers during the  
Inauguration ceremonies

for Governor Lewis and  
Lt. Governor Antone,"  
Chairman Miguel said.

"Governor Lewis and  
myself actually have  
known each other way  
before leadership, we  
used to play basketball  
against one another when  
we were much younger.

To watch him grow from  
the ball courts to leading  
his community, has been  
wonderful to see and

I am privileged to call  
him a dear friend and  
brother."

Chairman also added,  
that Governor Lewis has  
not only been a great  
leader for Gila River,  
but for Indian Country  
overall, as he's advocated  
nationally for agendas  
which have included;  
health care, education,  
public safety and overall  
needs for Native peoples.

Caputo continued from Front

a beautiful black dress,  
until the moment she  
closed the show, she  
wowed the crowd.

Out of respect for the  
privacy of the families  
who received readings  
I prefer not to go into  
detail of what was  
shared during the  
show. However, I do  
suggest that if you have  
the opportunity to see  
Caputo Live, you will  
be speechless.

If you missed the live  
experience show, you



can catch Caputo on her  
new show "THERESA  
CAPUTO RAISING  
SPIRITS" which  
premiered Thursday  
January 25 on Lifetime.

## ATTENTION

### Community Members

### Past Due Fines/Restitution

If you are delinquent on your fines/restitution, or not sure if you have an outstanding balance. Please contact the courts at (520) 568-1385 at your earliest convenience to avoid the following penalties:

- Withholding of Annual Distributions
- Garnishment of Wages for those working within the Community

**You can void any of the above collections by the following:**

- You may come and make a payment arrangement and must be consistent.
- You may come to the court and dispute the matter and request a hearing.

## Community enjoys Winter Storytelling with Camillus Lopez and Tommy Carlos



Friday, January 26, Ak-  
Chin Language Program  
hosted a second Winter  
Storytelling at the Ak-  
Chin Service Center,  
with Camillus Lopez (left  
in photo) and Tommy  
Carlos (right in photo).

Camillus and Tommy  
both shared stories of  
traditional folklore that

they grew up listening to.  
The center was pretty  
full, as more tables and  
chairs had to be set up  
to accommodate the  
gathering of over 40  
community members/  
residents who came  
out to enjoy a night of  
storytelling and dinner.

Language served up

another delicious meal  
of red chili and green  
chili (hot but good) and  
ce:mat, made by Norma  
Vincent, with beans and  
potato salad made by the  
Language staff.

Tickets were handed  
out for raffle prizes that  
included housewares and  
personal gifts.

### SCAN & EDIT OLD PHOTOS

**REMOVE**

- Cracks
- Scratches
- Age spots
- Pen marks
- Stains

**EDIT**

- Color
- Image size

**Before**



**After**



**Before**



**After**



**Ak-Chin Indian Community Library**

For Any Questions  
Contact The Library at  
(520)568-1675  
Or Email  
library@ak-chin.nsn.us

## Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation

# 3 on 3 Adult Co-Ed Basketball League

### Tuesday Nights Feb. 6th - 27th

Registration Opens: 1/19/24  
Deadline: **EXTENDED**

**\$75 Fee**

Roster of 6 - minimum of 1 woman  
on the court at all times

Contact Kathleen Miguel @ 520-568-1744  
KMiguel@ak-chin.nsn.us  
or  
Recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us

## VHS to mp4

### Convert Your home VHS videos to Digital mp4 format.

### Then you can share with Family and Friends.

Stop by The Library with your VHS tapes.

or

Contact us by email or phone at

library@ak-chin.nsn.us  
(520) 568-1675



## From Analog To Digital

### TURN YOUR OLD CASSETTE TAPES INTO MP3 FORMAT FOR CD OR DIGITAL PLAYER

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL THE LIBRARY AT  
520-568-1675 OR  
EMAIL  
library@ak-chin.nsn.us





# Celebrate Soup!

National soup day is February 4th and with rain in the forecast what better way to celebrate than with a bowl of homemade soup. The Runner Staff would like to share this delicious Chicken and Wild Rice Soup recipe.

## Runner Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

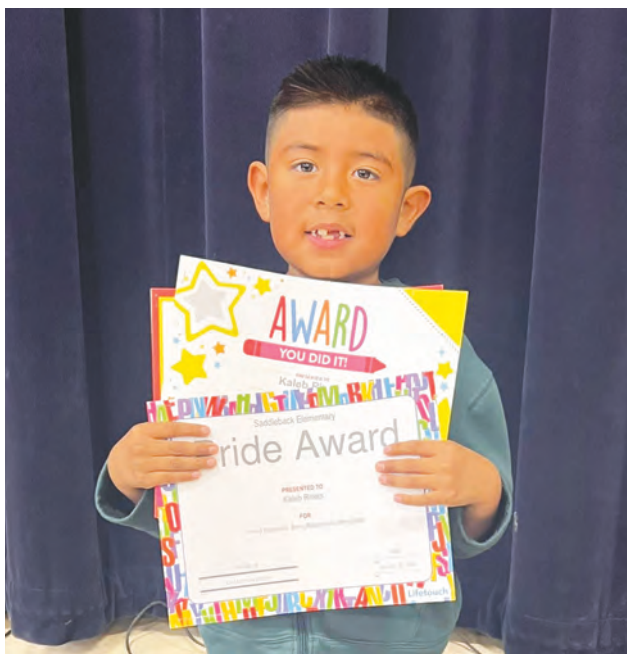


### Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 celery ribs, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, thinly sliced (optional)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh thyme
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (5 ounces) wild rice
- 2 quarts chicken stock
- 2 cups water
- 4 cups roasted chicken or turkey, bite-size pieces
- 1 cup heavy cream

### Directions

- In a large saucepan, melt the butter. Add the celery, carrots, onion, garlic, thyme, and a generous pinch each of salt and pepper. Cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables just start to soften, about 10 minutes.
- Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and cook, stirring, until evenly coated and lightly browned, about 3 minutes.
- Add the wild rice to the saucepan and gradually stir in the stock and water. Bring to a boil, then simmer over moderately low heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes.
- Add the chicken and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the wild rice is tender, 10 to 15 minutes longer.
- Stir in the cream and season with salt and pepper. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve.



Kaleb Rivers – Kindergarten - he received the Pride Award, Personal Success Award, and Perfect Attendance Award – Way to Go Kaleb!!



Layla Santiago – 1st Grade – she received Perfect Attendance Award and Academic Achievement Award – Congratulations Layla!

# Student Recognition at Saddleback Elementary

Story by Runner staff, photos submitted

Saddleback Elementary held their Quarterly Awards Ceremony January 18, where many students were recognized for their awesome achievements in academics and attendance.

We are very proud of these students and happy to celebrate and recognize them for their excellent achievements and hope they continue to succeed and excel.



Serenity Villegas - 3rd Grade – she received Honor Roll Award for achieving A's and B's – Great Job Serenity!!

**HIM-DAK ART BUILDING**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**  
**4:30 - 7:00 PM**

OPEN TO ALL AK-CHIN MEMBERSV & RESIDENTS. TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE CALL 520-568-1350, BEFORE 4:00 PM TO SCHEDULE TRASPORTATION. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CRAFTS, PLEASE CALL 520-568-1355.

CAUTION: SOME CRAFTS REQUIRE THE USE OF A HOT GLUE GUN & ACRYLIC PAINT.

ALL AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2ND ANNUAL

**AK-CHIN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
**COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024, 5 - 7:30 pm**  
**AK-CHIN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER**  
**48227 W. FARRELL ROAD, MARICOPA AZ 85139**

Refreshments Served

**MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, TECH PROGRAMS, STATE AND LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND THE MILITARY.**

Questions? Contact the Ak-Chin Education Department at (520) 568-1280 or the Scholarship Program, Lenny Dempsey at (520) 568-1291 / ldempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us or Ak-Chin High School Counselor, Savannah Boyd at (520) 568-1287 / sboyd@ak-chin.nsn.us.

**Ak-Chin Indian Community**  
**Artwork Request**

The Him-Dak Museum is requesting any enrolled community member artwork to be on loan and displayed within an upcoming exhibit for one year.

- \* Artists of all ages will be considered
- \* All mediums, art forums and styles welcome
  - Examples: paintings, drawings, sculptures, digital art, quilts, jewelry, leatherwork, wood carvings
- \* Must be appropriate for all viewers
- \* Interested participants must bring artwork to museum to be reviewed by department staff
- \* Cannot guarantee display of all artwork reviewed
- \* Deadline for submission: **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

If interested or for further information, please contact the Museum at (520) 568-1350

Ak-Chin Health Education Presents...

**2024**  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**5k & 2 mile**

**Ak-Chin Service Center**  
**FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024**  
**8:00 AM**

**FOOD | RAFFLES | 5K TOP FINISHER PRIZES**

♥ Event open to Ak-Chin Members. Residents. Employees & their families ♥  
**Register using Google Forms**

Dress in your favorite NFL Team gear for extra raffle tickets!!

Join us for a Heart month scavenger hunt for prizes!

Questions? Please contact Health Education mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us or (520) 568-1085



# Ak-Chin Health Education Sponsors 2023 Phoenix Hot Chocolate Run

Story and photos submitted by Ak-Chin Health Education

Ak-Chin Health Education continued the Sponsor A Run Series program with a second event to end the year, the 2023 Phoenix Hot Chocolate Run, held December 17, at Wesley Bowlin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix.

The first Sponsor A Run Series event was Pat's Run in April 2023.

Sponsor A Run Series is a new program Health Education introduced in 2023 to provide additional opportunities for Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, and Employees to participate in larger 5K events in the

Phoenix area. Individuals were able to register for the event with a code provided by Health Education.

Health Education sponsored registration costs for up to 25 individuals that wanted to participate in the event.

There were 15 participants from Ak-Chin that registered and participated in the Phoenix Hot Chocolate Run.

14 individuals participated in the 5K distance and 1 person participated in the 10K event.

It was an early cold morning, parking was limited, and it was during the Ak-Chin Masik Tas, but it was fun to get out and try something new and the end of the race snacks were delicious!

Health Education would like to thank all of the participants that joined us in the Phoenix Hot Chocolate Run, you all did an amazing job!!

It was the first time that we sponsored an event like this and we hope everyone enjoyed it.

We hope to sponsor you soon again at our next Sponsor A Series run.



Above, community members participate in the 2023 Hot Chocolate Run.



Marissa Antone (top right) challenged herself to go the distance in the 10K. She definitely looked happy with her performance. Great job Marissa!

Everyone who registered received some sweet swag in their Hot Chocolate Run kit that included a hoodie, finisher medal and mug filled with delicious chocolate and dippables and hot chocolate (bottom photo).

Graduates continued from Front

that will assist them in their supervisory role.

Senior Gaming Agents Adam Finken and Brian Manuel also attended the Academy receiving their Certificate of Completion on February 16, 2023.

These 4 individuals are dedicated to the Tribal Gaming Agency and exhibit their dedication and commitment to the agency on a daily basis. I am proud to have them on my team.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**HERITAGE SQUARE TO PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER**

**DRIBBLE PARADE 10:30 A.M.**

REGISTRATION: <https://runsSignUp.com/race/az/phoenix/2024/mens-final-four-dribble-presented-by-buick>

**FAN FEST NOON-2 P.M.\***

**\*THOSE WHO UTILIZE THEIR OWN VEHICLES CAN LEAVE FAN FEST AT ANYTIME. AK-CHIN TRANSPORTATION WILL BE LEAVING AT 2 P.M.**

**FREE REGISTRATION**

**Men's Final Four Dribble Presented By Buick is open to all participants 18 years and younger**

**Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian**

**Registrants and one guardian will also receive free access to Fan Fest after the event. Additional tickets may be purchased online**

**Ak-Chin Indian Community will provide transportation to the first 28 community members who do not have vehicles. To sign up for transportation, email Michelle at [mtrujillo@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:mtrujillo@ak-chin.nsn.us) or call 520-568-1045**

**Parking options are attached for those who are driving to the event**

**Participants will need to bring spending money. Meals are not provided. Food trucks will be available at the event**

**JOIN OUR TEAM**

**WE ARE RECRUITING!**

**NABI BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS**

**For more information call Ak-Chin Recreation @ 520-568-1740 and ask for Head Coach Raymond "Bunch" Whitman or email: [Recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:Recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us)**

**PRACTICES BEGIN IN FEBRUARY**

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

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY MASS AT 12 NOON**

**February 4th** Fr. Anthony Tinker

**February 18th** Fr. Anthony Tinker

**February 11th** Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

**February 25th** Bishop Olmsted

**Ash Wednesday - February 14, 2024**  
7AM  
Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

**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**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

EDUCATION	HEALTH EDUCATION	HIM-DAK	RECREATION
<p><b>2ND ANNUAL COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR*</b> Tuesday, Feb. 27 5:00 - 7:30 PM @ Ak-Chin Community Service Center *Open to Ak-Chin Students and Families. For questions: (520) 568-1280 or Lenny Dempsey 520-568-1291 or LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us or Savannah Boyd (520) 568-1287 or sboyd@ak-chin.nsn.us</p>	<p><b>2024 VALENTINE'S DAY 5K &amp; 2 MILE</b> Saturday, Feb. 10 8:00 AM @Ak-Chin Service Center <b>Food   Raffles   5K Top Finisher Prizes   Heart Month Scavenger Hunt   Dress in your favorite NFL Team gear for extra raffle tickets!!</b> <b>REGISTER USING GOOGLE FORMS:</b>  *Event open to Ak-Chin Members, Residents, Employees &amp; their families; For questions contact Health Education at 520-568-1085 or mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us</p>	<p><b>VALENTINE CRAFTS*</b> Wednesday, Feb. 7 4:30 - 7:00 PM *Event open to Ak-Chin Members and Residents; For questions, (520) 568-1355 For transportation, call (520) 568-1350 before 4:00pm.</p>	<p><b>WEIGHT ROOM</b> Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM <b>OPEN GYM</b> Monday - Friday Opens 8:00 AM <b>MINI BASKETBALL PRACTICE</b> Monday - Wednesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM *no practice 2/19/24 League Games Saturdays starting Feb. 10 Time: TBA <b>3V3 BASKETBALL LEAGUE</b> Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 PM <b>CHAIR VOLLEYBALL</b> Thursday, Feb. 1 &amp; Feb. 8 5:30 - 6:30 PM Tournament Thursday, Feb. 15 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM <b>MEGA VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT</b> Thursday, Feb. 29 6:00 - 8:00 PM</p>
<p><b>EARTH DAY FRIDAY, APRIL 26*</b> Give-A-Ways, Exhibits, Educational Booths, Hands-On Experiences, Lunch, T-Shirts, Raffle Prizes *More details to come. (520) 568-1140</p>		<p><b>LIBRARY</b> <b>STRING INSTRUMENT LESSONS*</b> *Open to Ak-Chin Community Members only; grades 3 - 12; For questions, (520) 568-1675</p>	





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

**GRHC.ORG**

## LIFE CENTER

DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

### American Heart Month



**Heart Health Activities All Month Long!**



Scan QR code to view dates!



# February 2024



**Feb. 1** Heart Healthier Desserts  
5 pm (Red Tail Hawk)

**Feb. 5** Walk & Mini Scavenger Hunt  
12 pm (Hu Hu Kam Mem. Hosp.)

**Feb. 5** Karaoke Cardio  
5 pm (Red Tail Hawk)

**Feb. 6** Band Fit!  
5 pm (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 7** Circuit Training  
5 pm (Hu Hu Kam Mem. Hosp.)

**Feb. 8** ABCs & HbA1c  
10 am (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 12** Walk & Mini Scavenger Hunt  
12 pm (Hu Hu Kam Mem. Hosp.)

**Feb. 12** Heart Healthy Snacks  
12 pm (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 13** Heart Healthy Snacks  
5 pm (Red Tail Hawk)

**Feb. 14** Be My FIT Valentine Class  
5 pm (Red Tail Hawk)

**Feb. 16** Improve Your Sleep  
10 am (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 19** Walk & Mini Scavenger Hunt  
12 pm (Hu Hu Kam Mem. Hosp.)

**Feb. 19** ABCs & HbA1c  
10 am (Red Tail Hawk)

**Feb. 20** Hot Hula Basics  
5 pm (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 21** Standing Stretch Exercise Class  
5 pm (Hu Hu Kam Mem. Hosp.)

**Feb. 22** Eating for Health Cooking  
10 am (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 23** ABCs & HbA1c  
10 am (Komatke Health Center)

**Feb. 23** Improve Your Sleep  
4 pm (Red Tail Hawk)

**Feb. 24** Circuit Training & Heart Health  
12 pm (Hu Hu Kam Mem. Hosp.)

**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**Meditation**  
12 pm (Online)

Please scan the QR code to join class



Visit our page for full calendar at [grhc.org/lifecenter](http://grhc.org/lifecenter) or to learn more, please call the **Life Center at 520-562-7940**



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MOBILE UNIT SERVICES PLUS

### SERVICES PROVIDED:

#### Children:

- ▶ Sports Physicals
- ▶ Immunizations\*\*
- ▶ Health Education
- ▶ Blood Sugar Screenings

#### Adults:

- ▶ Immunizations\*\*
- ▶ Blood Pressure Screenings
- ▶ Blood Sugar Screenings



Immunizations including COVID-19 vaccines\*\*

**CONTACT**

Robin Henry, FNP-BC  
520-517-0693

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital  
483 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

## Behavioral Health Services

GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

Scan Here



Access our monthly calendar  
[www.GRHC.org/BHS](http://www.GRHC.org/BHS)

**520-610-5693**

## Scan QR code to read the February 2024 Newsletter

Scan Here



In this newsletter:  
BHS Monthly events,  
Family Planning  
locations, Community  
Mobile Calendar, Life  
Center Classes, SANE  
services, and **WE ARE  
HIRING!**



**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988**

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





**FOOD HANDLERS CLASS**

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE  
PHS - 1955

Environmental Health Service

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
EST. 1795

Ak-Chin Health  
Educational Programs

**Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024**  
**Location: Ak-Chin Service Center**  
**Time: 10am – 12pm**  
**Who Should Attend??**




- Food Service Workers
- Interested Community Members
- Volunteers

**Questions or to Sign-Up... Please call (520) 568-1083.**

**THUNDERBIRD FIRE DISTRICT**  
**BENEFIT STEAK DINNER**  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024**  
**\$25.00 PER PERSON**

**\*\*RAFFLE PRIZES\*\***  
**Wine box and more!**  
 DONATED BY  
 HARRAH'S AK-CHIN  
 AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER  
 AND OTHERS  
 For ages: 16 and Up

**DINNER RESERVATIONS BEGIN AT 4:00 PM**  
**THUNDERBIRD FIRE STATION**  
**12356 N. RALSTON ROAD • MARICOPA, AZ**  
**520-251-3122**

If you have a Ak-Chin Indian Community Library card, you can checkout and download books through the Libby app eBooks OR audiobooks

Download the **Libby app** on your phone or tablet.

If you would like to make a book request on Libby:  
**Call us at 520-568-1675 or**  
**email: library@ak-chin.nsn.us**



**FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC**

**Tuesday**  
**February 27, 2024**  
**9:00a – 3:00p**  
**Vekol Market Parking Lot**

\*\*\* The Mobile Unit is NOT  
 Handicap Accessible\*\*\*

**ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL**  
 Call or Text us at (520) 371-0132



**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

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 26, 2024**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**  
**EARTH DAY EVENT**  
**T-Shirts**

Look Out for More Details (520) 568-1140

Give-A-Ways

RAFFLE PRIZES

- Exhibits
- Educational Booths
- Hands-On Experiences
- Lunch



**JOB OPENINGS**

To review the full job description and apply visit [www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us), Job Openings, and apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits -Health Insurance (medical/dental/vision), Vacation/Personal Sick leave, 14 Holidays, 401K.

If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.

- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Detention Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Housing
- Maintenance Technician
- Housing Program Counselor
- Lifeguard
- Maintenance Technician (4)
- Motor Pool Technician
- Network Systems Technician
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Teacher (After-School Program)
- Truant Officer

**FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS**

<b>1-Feb</b> Anthony Giovanni, Fire & Safety Christopher Cypriano, Maintenance	<b>11-Feb</b> Kain Marrietta, Law & Order Jeannette Peters, Him Dak Museum Kyle Chavez, Law & Order Salinda Lopez, Human Resources Mary Diaz, TGA	<b>20-Feb</b> Aaron Apodaca, Retail
<b>4-Feb</b> Francine Sanchez, Early Childhood	<b>12-Feb</b> Grace Pablo, Housing Department	<b>21-Feb</b> Randon Quasula, Maintenance
<b>6-Feb</b> Caleb Gilbert, Fire & Safety	<b>13-Feb</b> Griselda Fonseca Saldana, Maintenance Justin Burke, Fire & Safety	<b>23-Feb</b> Shanya Hutcheson, Retail
<b>7-Feb</b> Matthew Tess, Education Roman Orona, Environmental Protection	<b>15-Feb</b> Diana Velazquez, Education	<b>25-Feb</b> Alexander Lopez, Parks & Recreation
<b>8-Feb</b> Concepcion Miguel, PRC Jade Rodriguez, Law & Order	<b>19-Feb</b> Debbie Soliz, IS Lisa Garcia, Council	<b>27-Feb</b> Terry Zicafoose, Early Childhood
<b>10-Feb</b> Julia Dickerson, Education		<b>28-Feb</b> Kathleen Cardenas-Ruiz, Finance Raymond Whitman, Transit Rebecca Alvarez, IS

**Valentine's Day**  
 WordSearch



CUPID LOVE HUGS HEART CHOCOLATE  
 GIFT SWEET KISS DATE ROSE  
 MOVIE PARTY FEBRUARY FOURTEENTH CARD  
 LETTER ARROW DOVES ROMANCE ADORE  
 PINK VALENTINE POEM BELOVED SECRET

**Wishes**

Happy Birthday to my precious granddaughter, Abigale. You bring so much happiness & laughter into our lives. I am so proud of the person you are becoming. We love you my dear granddaughter.

Love, Grandma Marilyn, Josefa, Dahlia, Arianah and Daddy

Happy Birthday to my daughter Jeanette  
 Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Ian, Eugene Jr., and Marlon and my granddaughters Audrina, Michaela and Aleena  
 Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Charlie and Fikki  
 Love your family

**Happy Valentine's Day!**  
**From the Runner**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

<b>2/01</b> Ian Narcia Christopher Cypriano Angelina Arellanes-Burgos Chyenne Anderson Adam Bowman	<b>2/09</b> Aiyana Campbell	<b>2/15</b> Terry Aguilla Jr. Carole Lopez Aleena Antone Cheyenne Vallejos	<b>2/22</b> Perris-Jade White
<b>2/02</b> Preciousrose Warren Jonah Dickerson David Manuel Jr.	<b>2/10</b> Alexandra Carlyle Isaiah Osife Draven Soliz Julia Dickerson	<b>2/16</b> Lanita Lopez Gianna Garcia	<b>2/23</b> Joseph Narcia Octaviana Ormsby Victor Ortega Ryleigh Delores Joshua Dominguez
<b>2/03</b> Elizabeth Antone	<b>2/11</b> Marlon Peters Kyle Chavez Mary Diaz Jeanette Peters	<b>2/17</b> Jose Lopez Mara Delores	<b>2/24</b> Junior Peters Keira Attakai Kylie Gardner
<b>2/04</b> Latasha White	<b>2/12</b> Destiney Delowe Erin Pete Grace Pablo Caleb Ugalde	<b>2/18</b> Edward Martinez Annalise Manuel	<b>2/25</b> Corianna Nevarez Vallejos Alexander Lopez
<b>2/05</b> Dominique Nosie-Romo Charles Carlyle	<b>2/13</b> Koren Marrietta Karin Smith	<b>2/19</b> Tyra Williams Jane Lopez Marcos Santiago Kerrin Miguel Jonas Miguel Philbert Narcia Jr. Lisa Garcia	<b>2/26</b> Christian Castro Havier Stephens Jr.
<b>2/06</b> Stella Miguel Audrina Antone	<b>2/14</b> Valentina Narcia Michaela Peters Lewis DeliAnna Justin Perillo Johnny Stephens	<b>2/20</b> Unique Santiago Maria Narcia Rechanda Manuel	<b>2/27</b> Woodrow Marsh Shyla Thomas
<b>2/07</b> Bercco Thompson Jr. Eugene Peters Jr.		<b>2/21</b> Calvin Van Sickle	<b>2/28</b> Raymond Miguel Rebecca Alvarez Robert Narcia
<b>2/08</b> Deana Quinonez Elizabeth Baptisto Geneva Antone Marcos Olivas Jr.			<b>2/29</b> Traci Thomas Cody Miguel



FEBRUARY 2 - 15, 2024

# Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Demonstrated Unwavering Commitment to Pinal County: A Year of Continuous Efforts in Raising Awareness, Funds and Support throughout 2023



(MARICOPA, Ariz. – Jan. 26, 2024) – The HERO, SALUTE and SAVVY committees at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino continued to embrace the giving spirit throughout 2023 by offering several opportunities for employees to say thank you and give back to communities throughout Pinal County.

“Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino has built a commendable legacy of giving and community engagement,” says HERO Committee Chair Barbara Achten. “2023 was busy yet everyone still found time to volunteer throughout the community. I'm proud of our team and to work for an organization that places a huge priority on supporting others. I can't wait to see how we top it in 2024.”

HERO is a team member-based volunteer program in

which Harrah's staff and their families make noteworthy and visible contributions to the community by donating their time, skills, expertise, and compassion to dozens of volunteer projects throughout the community.

SAVVY is a Business Impact Group (BIG) focused on the empowerment, support, and advancement of women within the company. The SAVVY BIG is for team members and their peer supporters who have common goals and are committed to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's diversity and inclusion strategy.

The Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino SALUTE Business Impact Group (BIG) actively seeks to bring together team members who are Veterans and Veteran allies who embrace the core values of duty, honor, and selfless service. The purpose

is to cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture through grassroots efforts in assisting Veterans in a variety of ways including fundraisers, donation drives and of course volunteer opportunities.

During 2023, the HERO committee and Business Impact Groups combined organized and/or participated in more than 55 events. Employees personally donated more than \$10,000 and volunteered countless hours to support causes and organizations in need. Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino HERO committee donated \$29,830 worth of in-kind certificates and \$50,120 in cash.

Some of the organizations that were supported in 2023 but are not limited to:

- Against Abuse, Inc.
- Boys and Girls Club of the Sun Corridor - Casa Grande
- Casa Grande Roller Derby
- First Things First
- F.O.R. Maricopa
- Maricopa VFW -Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Saddleback Elementary School

- United Way of Pinal County

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino also has redemption kiosks that enable guests to donate their change when cashing in a slot machine ticket. In 2023, guests donated more than \$55,700 to highlighted charities Against Abuse, American Cancer Society -Men Wear Pink, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, F.O.R. Maricopa, Caesars Cares, Meals on Wheels

and the United Way of Pinal County.

Individuals or organizations interested in submitting a request for support can do so by completing an application on the Caesars website at <https://www.caesars.com/corporate-social-responsibility/social-programs/social-impact/regional-and-property-giving>.

## \$120 DATE Night

WEDNESDAY FEB 14

**SPECIAL INCLUDES**

- 1 Bottle of Wine
- 1 Appetizer
- 2 Entrées of your Choice
- 2 Movie Tickets
- 2 Reg. Drinks & 1 Lrg. Popcorn

*Price is listed for 2 people. Reservations highly suggested. Please ask server while supplies last from Alcoholic option available. Available for purchase at \$47. Last movie starts at 8:10pm please plan accordingly for dinner and a movie.*

*Happy Valentine's Day*

AkChinCircle.com

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

## FEBRUARY: KIDS EAT FREE

### KIDS EGG BREAKFAST

Receive a free kids meal with purchase of regular menu entree. Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers or discounts. One coupon per table, no split checks. Not transferable. Not available on Sundays. Offer expires 2/29/24.

(520) 426 - 6832 [ARROYOGRILLE.COM](http://ARROYOGRILLE.COM)

## JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO!

**VALENTINE'S DAY WINE & BOURBON PAIRED DINNER EVENT**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24**

**LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO** [LEARN MORE HERE](#)

**WEEKLY SPECIALS @5PM**

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

(520) 426 - 6832 [ARROYOGRILLE.COM](http://ARROYOGRILLE.COM)

## Movies playing this weekend!

ARGYLLE	ANYONE BUT YOU
THE BEEKEEPER	WONKA
MEAN GIRLS	AMERICAN FICTION
NIGHT SWIM	POOR THINGS
AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM	TROLLS BAND TOGETHER

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

## FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Management reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without prior notice. Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start. Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT-STEP. ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.