



Teagan Delma Honored at MHS Senior Night Basketball Game

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Before game time, Teagan stands with parents Willard and Nicole Delma and baby sister Lainey as MHS staff honor the seniors of the 2025 Varsity Girls Basketball Team.

High school is a milestone that is key in your development into a young adult, and is shaped by the choices you make.

For students, their experience can be based off of friends, activities and their goals. Once a student makes it to their senior year, it can be a time of great stress; for the future mainly. But it should also be the time to celebrate; it's the end of an era and the beginning of something new.

During the evening of January 29, 2025, Maricopa High

School girls' varsity basketball team had a home game against Vista Grande High School of Casa Grande at 6 PM, following the junior varsity game.

The excitement was tangible as family and friends were in attendance to not only enjoy the game but to support the seniors on the team.

Ak-Chin's number 3, Teagan Delma was the first to be honored, escorted by parents Nicole and Willard Delma, along with little sister Lainey

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Ak-Chin Fire Brings the Heat at Mega Volleyball Tournament

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos by Runner Staff



First place winner Ak-Chin Fire Department proudly throw up #1 after the face off with Ak-Chin Police Department.

The Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation staff hosted its much-anticipated Employee Mega Volleyball Tournament,

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 for community-farm and enterprise employees who get to enjoy some friendly

— Ak-Chin Fire continues to Page 3

Ak-Chin participates in 86th Annual Tohono O'odham Rodeo and Fair

Story and photos by Runner Staff

The Tohono O'odham Nation held their annual rodeo and fair this past weekend in the Sells District, celebrating their 86th Wapkiial Ha-Tas, with plenty of activities and exhibits for all the enjoy, January 31-February 2, 2025.

Events featured over the three-day weekend; which were all free admission; included basketball tournaments, rodeo, parade, traditional games, pow wow, waila contest, stage entertainment, arts & crafts booths, carnival and of course, plenty of food booths.

As it has been for years, the Ak-Chin Indian Community took part in numerous activities throughout the weekend. Teams and individuals representing the community, included: Ak-Chin Tribal Council who participated in the parade as well as rodeo participants, basketball and toka teams from Ak-Chin.

The Tohono O'odham Nation and Ak-Chin Indian Community are two of four sister tribes in the state of Arizona. Gila River Indian Community and Salt River



Pate Justin and her horse Cece get a 20.948 for second place in the Tohono O'odham Nation Jr. Rodeo, Barrel Racing event on January 31, 2025.

Pima Maricopa Community are also part of the four-tribes.

The following is a recap of all Ak-Chin participation the Runner covered.

Friday, January 31, 2025

ALL INDIAN JR. RODEO

Bright and early Friday morning, young cowboys and cowgirls (aged 0-17) lined up at the Silas Hendricks Memorial Rodeo Arena, all

dressed in their best western attire to compete for buckle trophies, cash prizes and crowd applause. Ak-Chin was well represented in the Buckaroo, Jr. and Sr. divisions.

Brothers Andrew and Jonathan Enos took turns participating in the Stick Horse Barrels and Flag Race and Wooly Riding, with a little help from mom, Elaina Enos.

— The brothers have been

— Tohono O'odham Tribal Fair & Rodeo continues to Page 3

First Annual Dazed and Confused Co-Ed Softball Tourney makes Winter Debut

Story and photos by Ashley Vincent



II Tribes batter looking for a home run during game against Warriors as Ump Tony Jose judges the lines

It was a weekend full of softball as the first annual "Dazed & Confused Memorial Co-Ed Softball Tournament" kicked off, on January 17-18, 2025, at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park.

The tournament was held in memory of the Dazed and Confused softball team's Coach, Mitchell "Mitch" Cipriano, and catcher, Rosalie

"Rosie" Narcia, whom both passed within close years of each other, 2017 and 2020.

The duo came together in the early 2000's, rounding up family and friends interested in playing ball during the summer for the Ak-Chin Recreation's softball league and from there the rest is history; filled with many laughs and memories throughout the leagues played.

The Dazed and Confused team also ventured out into the softball world, playing in Ak-Chin's kickball league.

A total of seven teams came out to play, including three hometown teams. Each played hard, battling not only each other, but the cold as well. There were also a handful of die-hard fans in attendance that stayed to watch the games

— Dazed and Confused continues to Page 7

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Memo

To: Ak-Chin Community Members
From: Him-Dak Museum Staff



Ak-Chin Farms has Outstanding Progression During 2024 Year

The Museum is updating its 1940 Base Roll Exhibit for the upcoming 2025 Him-Dak Museum Celebration in April. It is our goal to include a photo of all the members listed on the Base Roll wall.

Photographs of individuals will assist our younger members to connect to their relatives, not just by a name, but by a picture of that individual. It would be nice to see a face that matched a name and we are asking for your help, to obtain these images.

If you have a photo or if you know of someone who has a photo of the member listed and wouldn't mind sharing it with the museum, it will be appreciated. All images will be accepted, whether it's close up or full body.

The photos can be taken with your phone and send to the Museum email address or brought to the museum to be scanned. Scanning takes less than a minute and the photos are handed right back to you. The staff is also willing to come and pick up photographs, which will be returned right away or copy the photograph at your home.

We hope to build upon this important exhibit and continue to share with our community the importance of the base roll, which is used to determine current and future membership of the tribe. We will probably not get a photograph for each person; however, it will still be nice to have those you wish to share to assist in telling the story of Ak-Chin.

Please contact Jeannette Peters, Art Technician by email at jpeters@ak-chin.nsn.us or at (520) 568-1355.

Thank you,
Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum Staff



1940 BASE ROLL

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Juan Antone | Mathilda Antone |
| Lanasia (Palone) Antone | Pauline A. Antone |
| William P. Antone | Juan Antone |
| Francis J. Antone | Felix Antone |
| | Gerard Antone |

BASE ROLL continued on Page 5

Story and photos by Robert Miguel



Immediately following harvesting season, sprinklers were at full blast, to irrigate new crops.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community and its Farming Enterprise have seen its highs and lows throughout the past decades, despite the outcomes, moving forward in its identity and

foundation has been the motivation to continuing to farm, which currently stands at 15,815 acres.

The 2024 year has been very productive as they've been able

to produce and harvest cotton this fall and winter, totaling 5,491 acres. Currently, the farm is harvesting

pecans, which started in November, with the hopes of completion by

mid-February. When all is completed, a total of 425 acres would be harvested.

At this time, the processing plant is running full throttle with

Ak-Chin Farms continued on Page 5

Ak-Chin Dictionary Distribution

Ak-Chin Members ONLY
Head Of Household ONLY !

REMINDER

Stop by the Language Department to receive an O'odham dictionary for your home

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For More Information call (520)568-1370

Fall Prevention for Elders provided by The Injury Prevention Program

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

For Elders

Let's BE STRONGER, as we get older

JOIN US!!

Where: Elements (At Ak-Chin Circle)

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Questions? Call or email Teri De La Cruz at: (520) 568-1087 or TDelacruz@ak-chin.nsn.us

Elder Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>***Upcoming Event, 67th Annual Indian Fair & Market at The Heard Museum Grounds, Saturday, March 1, 2025—9:30AM to 4PM Call the Elder Center to Sign-Up at 520-568-1760, <u>Deadline to Sign-Up is February 14th</u></p>				<p>2/7 Breakfast Burrito Salsa & Sour Cream Scone, Fruit</p>
<p>* Breakfast Served from 7AM to 8:30AM</p> <p>* Lunch Served from 12PM to 1PM. (Menu Subject to Change)</p>		<p>* For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760</p> <p>* Movie Questions? Call the Elders Center at 520-568-1760</p>		<p>* Wednesdays: Elder Games at Rec. 9AM-10AM or 5PM-6PM</p> <p>* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9AM-10AM</p>
<p>2/10 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage/Potatoes, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>BLT Sandwich w/ Avocado, Corn, Chips, Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>2/11 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</p> <p>Creamy Chicken Soup, Butternut Squash, Romaine Salad, Garlic Toast, Jell-O/Apple</p>	<p>2/12 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Grapes w/Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Beef Fajitas, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Pineapple</p>	<p>2/13 Veggie Scrambled, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>White Beans w/ Spinach, Cauliflower, Acorn Squash, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Apple/Orange</p>	<p>2/14 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p style="color: red;">Elder Valentine's Bingo Party - 12P</p> <p>Meatloaf, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Wheat/ White Roll, Strawberry Short Cake/Apple</p>
<p>2/17 Presidents Day Holiday - Center Closed</p>	<p>2/18 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit w/Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Indian Taco, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Corn on a Cob, Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>2/19 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit & Yogurt</p> <p style="color: red;">Movie Day</p> <p>Sauteed Sausage w/ Red Peppers & Onions, Sauteed Cabbage, Brown Rice, Watermelon</p>	<p>2/20 Bread Pudding, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mix Berries</p> <p style="color: red;">Angel Home Health Presentation w/Erin Kariuki</p> <p>Green Chili Pork w/ Hominy, Romaine Salad, Cherry Crisp</p>	<p>2/21 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Chicken Enchiladas, Zucchini, Carrots, Peaches</p>
<p>2/24 Ham & Eggs, Potatoes, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Red Chili Stew, Butternut Squash, Peas, Chumath, Bananas/ Apple</p>	<p>2/25 Tex-Mex Scrambled, Refried Beans, Tortilla Chips, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit</p> <p style="color: red;">Goodwill Shopping - Leaving at 9 AM</p> <p>Grilled Chicken Over Caesar Salad, Avocado, Fresh Cut Fruit</p>	<p>2/26 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Hot Dogs, Mixed Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Chips, Brownie/Plu</p>	<p>2/27 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon, Toast, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Roll, Grapes</p>	<p>2/28 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Lentil Soup w/ Spinach, Carrots, Moon Bread, Fresh Mandarin Oranges</p>



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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

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Ak-Chin: Education, Elders, EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak, Library and Recreation

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

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. If you have suggestions or comments about "YOUR" newspaper, please 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

2025 Subscription rate is \$43.00. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$43.00 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 21 - March 6, 2025 issue is due by FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Material submitted after the FEBRUARY 14TH DEADLINE cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.



AKC PD takes second place in 2025 Mega Volleyball tournament.



Parks and Reckless earn third place honors.



You can just see the agony of defeat in these players as they are totally devastated after losing out of the tourney.

competition amongst one another.

The tournament was one for the books as 11 departments from across the community gave it their all for the title of Mega Volleyball champions.

All teams and players did an excellent job working together on the court to maneuver that MEGA-ball over the net. Some teams had just a bit better strategy than others, and although some may not have had the strategy, they had just a bit more fun, with laughs, jokes, and a few tumbles along the games.

Throughout the games, teams went head-to-head to see who would be superior on the court and who would fail to stay in the games. In the end, Ak-Chin Police Department and Ak-Chin Fire made it to the end with Parks and Reckless taking third place.

Unfortunately, PD was down a player after a bad injury and Fire got a call that they needed to tend to so the game was postponed for the next

day, Thursday January 30, 2025.

Both the FD team and PD team showed up ready to play Thursday, making sure to strategize a little before game time. For eight minutes the FD and PD gave it one last go, battling and volleying the super-sized ball back and forth, for the first-place spot.

Ultimately, PD was defeated with a score of 4-2, and Ak-Chin Fire reigned as Mega Volleyball Champions for 2025.

Recreation Program Coordinator, Jordan Gusse commented, "The Employee Mega Volleyball Tournament was an incredible success, bringing together teams from every department for an exciting evening of friendly competition and team-building.

With high energy, great sportsmanship, and plenty of laughs, the tournament fostered a sense of camaraderie and unity among staff members. Not only did it provide a fun break from the workweek, but it also

showcased the amazing teamwork and spirit that makes our workplace so unique."

Gusse added, "We would like to thank every department who participated; Fire, PD, Parks and Rec, HR, Community Government, Vekol, Tribal Gaming, Ak-Chin Circle, Elder, Pre-School, Runner and a special Congratulations to all the winners - we can't wait to do it all again next year!"

Recreation Program Assistant, Eduardo Santiago shared, "Although it was my first time playing this year, I look forward to playing many more times. It's a great way to communicate, work in a team, and build skills as a team. Watching everyone have fun and not make it a competitive sport was what I loved to see the most. I hope many more teams are put in for the next time we host a mega-volleyball tournament to enjoy each other's company with laughs and cheering each other on."



Teams from l-r: Preschool, Community Government and Human Resources; use strategy and strength to get the Mega volleyball over the net.



Tohono O'odham Tribal Fair & Rodeo continues to Page 3



competing for a couple years, mainly in local rodeos," shared Grandma Lusan Enos.

Michael Enos participated in the Jr. Bull Riding event. Coming out of chute #4 Michael had great form, hoping for that 8-second ride. Lusan also shared that Mike started out on Wooley riding and calf riding.

"This was his first go at a Jr bull. Although it was a short ride, his courage was as big as his heart. We are very proud of these young wapkial." Shared Nathan and Lusan Enos (dad/ mom)

Pate Justin saddled-up to participate in the Sr. division events; participating in the Barrel Racing, Ribbon Roping and Team Roping. Pate and her horse, Cece did very well in the barrels, placing second with a time of 20.948.

She missed out on the Ribbon Roping and Team Roping, which she did with dad, Ryan Justin. Overall pleased with her participation, Pate shared, "I'm happy to begin participating in rodeos in honor of my little brother."

Brother Rope Justin, who passed away last February, was a well-known roper and rider in the tribal rodeo circuit. The family will

soon be honoring him with a rodeo, "Rope's Round-Up" and Softball tournament, in Ak-Chin, February 14-17.

O'ODHAM WAPKIAL TEAM ROPING

Friday evening, after the Jr. Rodeo dust had settled, the O'odham Wapkial Team Roping took place. Team Ropers were comprised from members of the four-tribes; Ak-Chin, Gila River, Salt River and Tohono O'odham Nation. Ak-Chin members Chizzum Justin and Ryan Justin participated in the team roping events. Although, neither were able to win any cash/prizes they enjoyed roping alongside; Charles "Loper" Justin, Jocelyn CoNieSenNey and Savannah Joe, all from Gila River.

ALL-NATIVE MENS BASKETBALL

Friday night the Ak-Chin Men's basketball team joined in on the festivities of the weekend, playing in the All-Native Men's Basketball Tournament held at the Sells Recreation Center. Although they put up a good fight, unfortunately the team fell short this year, ending their run Saturday morning.

Saturday, February 1, 2025

PARADE

Ak-Chin Council was ready to roll in the Parade, with Chairman

Teagan Delma continued from Front



questions about their future and a thank you from the senior girls to the team.

After cheers from the crowd, the team got ready for the game to begin.

From the start of the game, the Lady Ram team was fierce; making it difficult for Vista Grande to get on the score board.

Defensively the Rams were unmatched. Teagan was on her game, getting a steal within minutes of the game and making the first 3 point shot of the night.

Through the first and second quarters the offense from the Rams was top notch. Not only was the team working for the win, but it was

apparent throughout the game the senior girls were having fun.

The third and fourth quarters matched the same tempo as the first two; the Lady Rams were not to be messed with, though Vista Grande was trying their hardest to make a comeback. Ultimately MHS Rams claimed the victory with a score of 45 to 13. It was a great win to end Senior Night, congrats to the Lady Ram Team!

If you are interested in supporting the MHS Girls' varsity basketball team, their upcoming games are Tuesday, February 11th at Vista Grande High School, at 7PM and Thursday, February 13th at Mountain View Marana, at 7PM.

Other seniors honored were Abigale South and Jenifer Gordoa. During their recognition a small interview style questionnaire was shared to game goers; including



After the win against Vista Grande High School, family and friends of Teagan Delma pose with her for pictures.

Lady Archers Completes Inaugural Basketball Season

Story and photos by Robert Miguel



Stella Miguel (center) and her A+ Charter Lady Archers play defense against Ajo High School.

In any sport, beginning a program is usually a process and it takes plenty of bonding, repetitions, and heartaches to achieve the ultimate goal of success in any form.

This is what the A+ Charter high school girls basketball team endured during the 2024-2025 basketball season.

During the first game of the season against West Valley Christian, it was evident that the Lady Archers would endure a season of growth, dedication, and learning as they took one on the chin. That followed with other defeats by substantial margins.

During the season, the team encountered a coaching change, which had them learning a new system and adapting to a new commitment of learning exercise techniques.

Although it was a winless season and a frustrating period for players and supporters,

which included parents. Players and coaches were optimistic and excited of the potential for next season. Together, the Lady Archers built camaraderie, work ethic, dedication, and most importantly, a respect for the game.

For many Lady Archers, it was the first time they'd ever played the game of basketball. They could have easily folded and quit, but they all supported and encouraged one another to continue, which marked the character of each and every one of the players.

One player, Stella Miguel, represented the Ak-Chin Indian Community on the team.

A Freshman, Stella had experience in basketball, having played through the Ak-Chin Recreation Department, and in pre-NABI tournaments.

Stella was the starting point guard for the Lady Archers, and helped

orchestrate the flow of the game for her team. She was also able facilitate plays and distributed for her teammates.

Although she had to be patient with the development of her teammates, Stella was proud and optimistic of the potential for next season.

"It wasn't the season we would liked to have had, but I was happy to go to battle with my teammates." she said.

"We were able to bond even more and we saw some major improvement in our game. Like my dad tells me, sometimes you have to go through tough times before you see the good times."

This was the first year ever that A+ suited up a girls' basketball team. They attempted to develop a team together last season, but due to a lack of participation, the school unfortunately had to make the decision to suspend the season.

Nyaila Shows Out Against Vista Grande

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Nyaila Miguel dribbles up court against Vista Grande. Nyaila was key in the Lady Rams win.

Maricopa High School girls' basketball team had a junior varsity home game on January 27, 2025 where they played against Vista Grande High School of Casa Grande.

From the start both teams matched the other in energy; defense was the top priority and the girls from each side were aggressive.

Maricopa managed to rise above Vista Grande

in scoring during the first quarter and even got a layup in with 1.5 seconds on the board.

Nyaila Miguel showed immense team work as her efforts got her steals and a smooth assist that resulted in a 3-point shot from a teammate.

During the second quarter, Nyaila also impressed the crowd with a three with seconds left; which led to the

score being 32 to 13 by half-time.

Throughout the third quarter, the Lady Rams continued their unshakable defense; Nyaila was on fire scoring back-to-back within minutes of the start of the clock. She was also strong defensively, getting steals that helped her team get points on the board.

Vista Grande turned up their efforts, but it was tough to slow down the MHS team; they were not successful in getting the victory over the Lady Rams. The final score was 58 to 28. Great job Lady Rams, you killed it!

If you're looking to attend the Maricopa Rams high school junior varsity girls' basketball games, their upcoming games are Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 5:30 PM at Vista Grande High School and Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 5:30 PM at Mountain View Marana.

Happy Valentine's Day

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
To my daughters Joanna & Sophia and my Husband Kyle!!
Love always, Your Mom & Wife

Happy Valentine's Day to my beautiful nieces Serenity & Lorelei and my sweet nephew Cameron Bear. I don't know what I'd do without your love. I love you all to the moon, the stars and beyond.
Love P



Happy Valentine's Day My Spam, Ellie-el, and Ulani!
I hope you guys feel the love today, and always. I couldn't have asked for more funny/smart/beautiful kids. I love you three more than I can even begin to explain. -Mom

To My Sweetheart, Happy Valentine's Day
May your day be a good one
Love, You to the moon and back
a Million times over
Love: MOM

To My Baby girl, Happy Valentine's Day
I know we don't see eye to eye at times, I just want what's best for you and the kids But you will be the apple of my eye.
Love you beyond the Galaxy
Love: MOM

To MY little baby girl, Happy Valentine's Day
Even though we don't see each other as much as I would like. I know you have a busy life This year let's try to see each other's more Love you further than the stars go.
Love: MOM

Happy Valentine's Day my handsome.
I love you

Riding with us this Valentine's Day?
You're the heart of our journey! Thanks for making every trip special. Wishing you a day full of love, laughter, and smooth rides.
Happy Valentine's Day from your Ak-Chin Tribal Transit team!

To: All My Valentine's
Ga-happen, Sweetie, Pretties, Pumpkin, Ba'ag, & Nagio, "Happy Valentine's Day"
Hope you all have a good Day; you all have a special place in my Heart.
Love you all beyond the Galaxy and Stars.
Love always Grandma

To My Coworkers
Happy Valentine's Day and enjoy with whomever
Love you, Me

To My Pretties, Happy Valentine's Day
Thank you for all you do for me, I'm blessed to have you in my life. Watching you grown up to be a fine young lady but, I also like to watch you play with Dalilah. Much love my "Pretties"
Love: Lu'Lu'u

To: My Ba'ag & Pumpkin, Happy Valentine's Day.
Love you both to the moon and back a million times.
Love Grandma

To: Malaya & Nagio, Happy Valentine's Day
Keep reaching for the stars. Love you both beyond the Milky Way!
Love: Grandma

To: My Ga-Happen & Sara,
Happy Valentine's Day
Pretty soon you will have your own little Angel. You grew up to be a fine young man. So, take Sara out to have a good Valentine's.
Love you both. Love Grandma

Happy Valentine's Day to the loves of my life: my son Oliver and my beautiful Bri. You are the first and last things I think about every day. I am truly blessed to be able to spend my days with you. You make all the struggles in this world worth it.
With all my love, Cecily/Mommy

Happy Valentine's Day Ed, B, & Dan! It's my turn to be an auntie so one of y'all need to take one for the team and make it happen asap.
Love you! -Lie

Happy Valentine's Day Sissy pooh's, I love you guyssss! I'd say more but let me not embarrass y'all. -Lie

"Thank you to my sweethearts Julie & Debbie for helping me get acclimated to my new role" -Ruby

****To My Favorite Co-Workers****
Roses are red, the workday is long,
But with you around, nothing feels wrong.
You brighten the office, you lighten my load,
With laughter and wisdom, you're pure gold.

A confidant, a friend, a joy to my day,
You chase all the stress and worries away.
Deadlines feel softer, coffee tastes sweeter,
With you by my side, work's never been neater.

So, here's to you on this Valentine's Day,
A little appreciation sent your way.
You make work fun, that much is true—
I'm lucky I got stuck with you!
-From Anonymous
(for everyone with a favorite co-worker)

Roses are red, Violets are blue,
In Education, your support
Makes every day feel brand new!

You lift me up daily,
With joy and with grace,
I'm lucky to work,
In this amazing place!

So, here's a big thank you,
For all that you do,
Happy Valentine's Day,
To Education—you're the best, it's true!
-From a lucky co-worker

Happy Valentine's Day my love
I'm always thinking of you and your sweet heart.
I love you.

Funner Rummer Crew,
Hope Cupid's arrow shoots you all the love, kisses
and Valentine's wishes you desire and deserve

Happy Valentine's Day to my pookie, I love you!
-Alana

Happy Valentine's Day to all my loved ones
reading this wish!
Love, "Ash"

Happy Valentine's Day to my godbabies:
Jamis, Tia, Keke, Baby, Rossy & My Stell! I don't see you all as often as I'd like to but don't ever forget that I LOVE YOU ALL, more than all of the stars in the sky, times infinity!!

I wanted to say thank you to the amazing Ak-Chin Indian Community Library staff for welcoming me to the library. I started at Ak-Chin library in November 2024 and I have enjoyed every day working with the amazing team here in the library. Shout out to Ak-Chin Library staff for making a wonderful blind date with a book display! Come checkout a surprise book and say hi to our friendly staff.
Much appreciation,
Naomi Bishop, Ak-Chin library manager

Happy Valentine's Day to the two that complete my heart. I truly wouldn't be where I am without the two of you. Thank you for giving me your guy's unconditional love and continued support throughout my life. Also wishing you guys a great anniversary. Love you always, Mom and Dad -
From Dan

Happy Valentine's Day Grandma, love you lots
From Dannon

Happy Valentine's Day to my nieces and nephews - Christian, Aubrey, Serenity, Oliver, DJ, Remi, Lorelei, Cameron
Lots of love - Auntie Dan

Happy Valentine's Day to the girls!!!
Love you guys - B, D, E, K - Love Dan

Happy Valentine's Day to our sweetheart, Grandma
Love, Mag and Family

Happy Valentine's Day wishes full of XOXO's to all our Children, Grandchildren and Godchildren
Love to you all, Dad/Bapa/Goddaddy and Mom/Luma/Godmama

Happy Valentine's Day and Anniversary to My Alpha, Main Squeeze, Old Man -
31 years strong and still loving you, Mag

pecans being cleaned immediately as they arrive from the fields; this will continue until harvesting is completed.

The process of the cleaning starts with the removal of dirt, leaves and sticks from the pecans hauled in. It then separates pecans, which are sorted by blacks (hull connected), splits and cracks. Then the final product is a #1 nut with no defects.

Other products that Ak-Chin Farms produces includes: corn silage, sorghum silage and alfalfa. These products are purchased by the surrounding dairies for feed to the dairy cattle.

Shamrock Farms, Feenstra Dairy, and Zinke Dairy have been main buyers. Zinke in 2024 have buys at an "at need" basis.

During its early beginnings in the 60's

up until the 80's, Ak-Chin Farms was the main employer for the Ak-Chin membership. Today, the Farms employees 76 individuals, nine who are community members, with another nine coming by way of the Tohono O'odham Nation and Gila River Indian Community.

The Farms are always looking at other potential crops to produce as it moves forward says Ak-Chin Farm Manager, Damian Murrieta.

"The Farms is in the second year of growing hot and no-heat jalapenos for Dakota Farms, which has a year-round contract to deliver to Campbells Soup/Pace Picante." Murrieta said.

"The Farms is always looking for new crops to bring income potential to the Farms and Community."



Pecans make their way through the conveyor for cleaning at the Ak-Chin Processing Plant.



2025 Transit Schedule Changes

CLOSED ALL DAY
Presidents Day, February 17th

Please make alternate arrangements for transportation on these dates. For any transit related questions please call (520)568-1630.

Thank you!!

BASE ROLL continued from Page 2

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fannie Batopis | Ross Lopez |
| Malinda (Manuel) Batopis | Juan Lopez |
| Persilia Batopis | Dora Lopez |
| Celia Batopis | George Lopez |
| Mary M. Batopis | Jose Manuel |
| Hiram J. Carlyle | Elaria Manuel |
| Richard D. Carlyle | Licenta (Norris) Manuel |
| Wilbert J. Carlyle | Rema I. Manuel |
| Leona M. Carlyle | Phillip Miguel |
| Nancy Carlyle | Felicita (Peervilo) Miguel |
| Juanna Chollies | Jonas P. Miguel |
| Logis Enos | Ralph Miguel |
| Irene Enos | Lucinda Miguel |
| Rita M. Enos | Clarence Miguel |
| Helen Enos | Augustine Narcia |
| Savill Johnson | William Narcia |
| Chico Johnson | Davidson Narcia |
| Velindle Johnson | Edward Narcia |
| Juan Lewis | Mildred Narcia |
| Asiana (Palone) Lewis | Elizabeth Narcia |
| Catherine Lewis | Francis Narcia |
| Agnes Lewis | Agnes A. (Norris) Narcia |
| Louis Lewis | Raymond Narcia |
| Ambrose Lewis | Madeline Narcia |
| Justine Lewis | Floyd F. Narcia |
| Rosa Lewis | Roy Narcia |
| Jesus Loos | Dennis H. Narcia |
| Gonzales Lopez | Leonard H. Narcia |
| Rosina (Pablo) Lopez | Gladys R. Narcia |
| Marjorie Lopez | Roger Narcia |
| Jose Lopez | Susie Narcia |
| Juliana Lopez | |

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON DESIGN-BUILD FARM PARK PROJECT

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract. **The new Farm Park project scope consists of Surveying services, topographic and boundary, Engineering design services, and Construction services work to design and build the new Farm Park. The initial design scope of the new park includes, but not limited to the design of the following elements; Fence, playground equipment, ramadas and shade structures, restroom building, soccer field, basketball court, electrical, site lightings, concrete and decomposed granite walkways, parking areas, landscaping, irrigation, and site grading work.**

A MANDATORY virtual/online Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. (MST) on February 11, 2025. This meeting is considered mandatory, and in this meeting the project scope will be discussed. If you do not attend this pre-bid meeting your proposal will NOT be accepted.

Contractors interested in submitting bid proposal for this project, must submit their contacts information to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us. Requests must be received by noon on February 10, 2025, in order to be included in the online Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting invitation.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 1:00 p.m. (MST) on February 25,2025. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, with CC to Project Manager, Karam Abu-Hamdan at kabuhamdan@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on March 4, 2025, 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 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 ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jose P. Norris | Melissa M. Romo |
| Jose M. Norris | Nina B. Romo |
| Tilliana (Palone) Norris | Charles J. Smith |
| Christine B. Norris | Charles Smith |
| Margaret B. Norris | Juanna (Antone) Smith |
| Patrick Norris | Mathew M. Smith |
| Ramona Norris | Amos Smith |
| Juan A. Norris | Michael A. Smith |
| Carmelita Norris | Amelia (Andreas) Stephens |
| Mary Norris | Rupert Stephens |
| Vasilo Pablo | Delphina M. Stephens |
| Tonia C. Pablo | Lillian Stephens |
| Phillipa C. Pablo | Joseph Thomas |
| Angelina R. Pablo | Josepha I. Thomas |
| Leonardo Pablo | Lena B. Thomas |
| Eliza (Lopez) Pablo | Anthony L. Thomas |
| Alexander Pablo | Harry G. Thomas |
| Jose Pablo | Herbert B. Thomas |
| Juan Palone | Bernice M. Thomas |
| Jesus Palone | Edmund Thomas |
| Juan A. Palone | Vera M. Thomas |
| Elist Palone | Esther R. Thomas |
| Frank Peervilo | Jose Vavages |
| Maria Peervilo | James Vincent |
| Vavages Peervilo | Listiana Vincent |
| Jose Ramon | Jose Vincent |
| Juan Raphael | Marquerita Vincent |
| Maria Raphael | Lester B. Vincent |
| Lena Raphael | Loraine G. Vincent |
| Annie Raphael | |
| Xavier Raphael | |
| Alice (Lopez) Reed | |
| Annie (Lopez) Romo | |

AllHimDak@ak-chin.nsn.us

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON Pool Resurfacing Construction Project

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Construction Contract. The project consists of but not limited to the following;

- Interior pool finish demolition and resurfacing (10 years minimum warranty material)
- Deck resurfacing
- Cracks repairs
- Deck joints replacement
- Tiles replacement, water mark line and return drains
- Drains replacement
- Steps upgrade, new depth markers
- Lights replacement
- Pool Start-Up service

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **February 11, 2025, 1:30pm, at Parks & Recreation Department located at 46753 W. Farrell Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139.** This meeting is considered mandatory, and in this meeting the project scope will be discussed. If you do not attend this pre-bid meeting your proposal will NOT be accepted.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 1:00 p.m. (MST) on February 14,2025. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, with CC to Project Manager, Karam Abu-Hamdan at kabuhamdan@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on **February 26, 2025** 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 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 ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.

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, February 11, 2025 at the Justice Center Conference Room.

CASE: PS-11-24: Administration Building
Project Applicant/Capital Projects Director, Perry Vettraino, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to construct a new two-story Administration Building on +/- 8.2-acre site located north of Ak-Chin Parkway on the west side of Court Street. The project consists of:

- A two-story Administration Building to the north with a connecting interior bridge to a two-story council chamber to the south; and
- A gated, secure area with covered parking for employees and community vehicles; and
- 317 Parking spaces which includes five (5) employee ADA and three (3) visitor ADA parking spaces; and
- Pedestrian connection to the proposed Wellness Center; and
- Pedestrian bridge connection to the new Desert Willow subdivision; and
- Full landscape package.



Lopez, Vice-Chairman Delia Carlyle and Councilmembers Dennis Antone and Cecil Peters. The four walked the whole parade route, handing out fruits, snacks and drinks while greeting parade spectators. Ak-Chin Police Chief Manuel Garcia also participated, while Community Events Manager, Cecily Peters and Events Planner, Esther Alvarez assisted with driving and delivery, along with Runner Editor Raychel Peters.

up for a seriously rough ride for the Wild Horse Race. Five teams stepped up to the chutes for the 1230p first performance, with Team ?, who had Ak-Chin member, Earl Justin, Jr., who was their rider. On "Go" all teams grabbed hold of the ropes as their horses dashed out the chutes, Earl and his team managed to pin their horse down just enough so he could put on the saddle, once he cinched up and jumped on he was ready to ride. Unfortunately, he and the horse he was on was blind-sided by another horse, pinning him between the both and thrown, with a no time.

TOKA HA-CICIWIDAG

At 12 PM, 19 women's teams participated in the Toka tournament located on the Verna N. Enos Toka Field near the fair grounds. The games were a thrilling rush to experience as the young and experienced women dueled for the upper hand on the bracket; Ak-Chin's S-kubjuv Ju: dam was one of the many teams playing for a placement. Though the teamwork was solid; the endeavor was cut at a 2-win, 2-loss score. The three teams who made it to the top were S-keg Komckud winning 1st place, S-to:ta Okokoi, in 2nd place and Junhama for 3rd place.

CECEHIA TOKA HA-CICIWIDAG

At 9 AM, eight girls' toka teams challenged each other for a spot in the top three on the same toka field as Saturday, and the Ju:dam young girls' team was in it to win. The competition was tough; it was clear the girls were ready for this tournament as their efforts helped them move up the bracket to a respectable 4th place finish. The teams who place in the top 3 were A'al Komckud for 1st, Junhama for 2nd and Wipsimel for 3rd.

WILD HORSE RACE

Saturday, teams of three tough cowboys, signed



Photo by Gabe Lopez, is an O'odham traditional game, the Ha'a Race, where elders balance the ha'a (claypot) on their head and race to finish.

Top photo: Ak-Chin S-kubjuv Ju:dam women's toka team. (Submitted photo).

Middle photo: The Valisto family enjoys greetings on the parade route.

Photo at right: Pate Justin ropes with her grandpa Charles "Loper" Justin.



Top photos: Enos boys doing their thing at the Jr. Rodeo. Top: Jonathan was this close to making a time for the Wooly Riding.

Middle: Andrew Enos with his trusty dino stick horse hustle back to the finish line during the Stick Barrel race.

Photo below (l-r) Horse Cece, Chizzum Justin, Emmett Miguel Jr., and Pate Justin enjoy the evening sunset at the rodeo.



Rope's Round-Up

February 14th-17th, 2025
Everyone Welcome

RODEO EVENTS Ak-Chin Circle Arena | 16000 N. Maricopa Rd.

OPEN WOMEN'S RODEO Friday, February 14th @ 1pm

Events	Fee
Ladies Maverick Gathering (3 Lady Team) (limit 10)	\$300/Team
Steer Stopping (limit 30)	\$100
Ladies Barrel Racing (limit 50)	\$100
Ladies Breakaway Roping (limit 40)	\$100
Ladies Team Roping (2X) (limit 50)	\$200/Team
Ladies Steer Riding (limit 30)	\$100
Sweetheart Team Roping (2X) (limit 50)	\$200/Team
(Added Attraction) (1 side must be male)	

Must be 18 years old to participate

OPEN JR. RODEO Saturday, February 15th @ 9am

ENTRY CATEGORIES:	5 YEARS & UNDER	6-9 YEARS OLD	10-13 YEARS OLD	14-17 YEARS OLD
	Wooly Riding (limit 20)	Calf Riding (limit 20)	Steer Riding (limit 20)	Bull Riding (limit 20)
	Dummy Roping (limit 20)	Ribbon Roping (limit 20)	Ribbon Roping (limit 20)	Ribbon Roping (limit 20)
	Goat Tagging (limit 20)	Barrel Racing (limit 20)	Barrel Racing (limit 20)	Barrel Racing (limit 20)
	Stick Horse Barrels (limit 20)	Flag Race (limit 20)	Breakaway (limit 20)	Breakaway (limit 20)
	Entry Fee: \$40	Entry Fee: \$50	Team Roping 2X (limit 20)	Team Roping 2X (limit 20)
			Entry Fee: \$55	Entry Fee: \$60
				Wild Pony Race (limit 6)
				\$180 per team
				Maverick Gathering (limit 6)
				(3 Kid Team)
				\$180 per team

Safety Vest required for All Rough Stock events. Western Attire Enforced
No late entries, no phone entries, no refunds. *Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note.
Contact Rodeo Secretary 24 hours prior to start of rodeo. All payments must include rodeo entry form.
To receive payout, contestants must show birth certificate.

MANDATORY CHECK-IN All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS
**MAIL-IN & WALK IN ENTRIES ACCEPTED SEE INFORMATION BELOW

Cash, Money Order, or Cashier's Checks accepted.
**No personal checks accepted.

***Contestants must stay in their own age category.
***Ribbon Roping Muggers in the 6-9 & 10-13 age divisions only.
***Team Roping & Ribbon Roping partner must be 18 years or older

OPEN RODEO Sunday, February 16th @ 1pm

PERFORMANCE TIME	Events	Fee
Performance on Sunday, February 16th at 1pm Slack at 8am (if needed)	Ranch Bronc Riding (limit 20)	\$100
	Bull Riding (limit 30)	\$100
	Chute dogging (limit 30)	\$100
	Dally Tie Down Roping (limit 30)	\$100
	Ladies Barrel Racing (limit 50)	\$100
	Ladies Breakaway Roping (limit 50)	\$100
	Ladies Team Roping (2X) (limit 50)	\$200/Team
	Open Team Roping (2X) (limit 100)	\$200/Team
	Century Team Roping (2X)* (limit 50)	\$200/Team
	Sr. Break Away Roping* (limit 50)	\$100
	4 Tribes Team Roping* (limit 50)	\$200/Team
	Maverick Gathering (4 man team)	\$400/Team
	Open Wildhorse Race (limit 12)	\$500/Team

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. **No personal checks accepted. No phone entries, no refunds.
*Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note. Contact Rodeo Secretary 24 hours prior to start of rodeo. To receive payout, contestants provide a form of identification.

MANDATORY CHECK-IN All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS

*Century Team Ropers & *Sr. Breakaway Participants must be 50+ *4 Tribes Team Roper Participants must be enrolled member of Ak-Chin, Gila River, Tohono O'odham, or Salt River, must provide proof upon request. *Will not count for All-Around/Only one highest placing money won in Team Roping will count toward All-Around. Must be 18 years old to participate. Team Ropers must pay for full team in ONE envelope with separate entry forms.

TRAILER ROPING Monday, February 17th

ENTER AT 9AM - ROPE AT 10AM

<p style="font-size: small;">Award to High Point Roper in 9.5 Buckles to Average Winners</p> <p style="font-size: x-large;">9.5 (Capped @ 5.5)</p> <p>Pick 1 Draw 1 for \$200 Enter 3X (Open to first 100 Teams)</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Award to Trailer to high point Roper in the Open Cowboy Draw Buckles to Average Winners</p> <p>Open Cowboy Draw</p> <p>\$100 per entry Enter 6X</p>	
100% Payback	All Ropings are 3-steer Flaggers Decision Final (MANAGEMENT MAY CHANGE ANY ROPING)	Points to 1-10 in the average.

MAIL-IN & WALK IN ENTRY INFORMATION

<p style="font-size: x-small;">ENTRIES OPEN: Tuesday, January 7th ENTRIES CLOSE: Tuesday, February 11th MAIL-IN ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY Monday, February 3rd</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">MAIL-INS Rope's Round-Up ATTN: Penny L. Mix, CES PO Box 1875 Sacaton, AZ 85147</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">WALK INS Saturday, February 8th 10A - 5P Ak-Chin Entertainment Center 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">For More Information Contact: Tami Justin 520-510-3895</p>
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Ak-Chin Indian Community and Stock Contractor are not responsible for accidents, injury, loss or theft during this event.



FIRST PLACE: WARRIORS

Pictured with mother of Rosie, Jenny Holsen and sister of Mitch, Rechanda Cipriano, and honorary player Evelina Lopez.

in the cold weather, luckily hot cocoa, coffee, and menudo were on hand at the concession stand to help keep warm.



The Championship trophy and bragging rights for the year was won by one of Ak-Chin's very own teams, "Warriors," who played some tough games, making their way from the loser's bracket all the way to the top. Taking

Above: Shannon Peters and Jacolby King make their way home during "Winner take all" Championship game, Saturday, January 18th.

Right: Female All-Tourney: Susie Guerin, MVP: Waylon Antone, Male All-Tourney: Miles Peters

home second place was team "II Tribez," and coming in at third was "Gunners," also out of Ak-Chin.

A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone that came to show their support, whether it was to play or watch the games; everyone that purchased from the concession stand and the Antone family; ALL of our helpers for the tournament; Alana Oliver (our official score keeper), "Auntie Tina" Narcia, Mary Narcia, Amy Rodriguez, Dora L., Stephanie F., Lemuel Vincent, Norman Vincent, Jr.,

Norma Vincent, Jennifer Smith, Gwen Pilone, Erica Oliver, Marla Antone, Dean Peters, Lerline Peters; everyone that donated items that we may have missed; everyone that donated their time; all of the family that were willing to help out; and last but not least, our umpires, Eric Chavez and Tony Jose.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the family of Rosie and Mitch for allowing us to host the tournament in their honor, thank you for the support, we hope to make the next one even bigger!



SECOND PLACE: II TRIBEZ

Pictured with mother of Rosie, Jenny Holsen and sister of Mitch, Rechanda Cipriano.

Ceramics Classes are Back!



Ceramic classes are back in session for the new year. If you are interested in creating your own one of a kind piece of pottery, head on over to the Him Dake Museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 AM or 4:30 PM.



ROPE JUSTIN

MEMORIAL CO-ED SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Ak-Chin Indian Community Milton Paul Antone Park
February 14-16, 2025
\$175 Entry Fee

DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 9th at 5pm

Awards 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Placements

CONTACT
 Tony (520) 450- 6449

Feel The Love at Him Dak Valentine's Crafts

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

If you were hoping to make a hand-crafted gift for a special someone, then the Valentine's Crafts held at the Him Dak Museum was the place to be on February 5, 2025 at 4:30 PM.

These crafts ranged from

an intricate heart door hanger, personalized sweetheart messages, adorable wooden Valentine signs and a DIY hot air balloon using a lantern. For the creatives out there, the abundance of different crafts could satisfy

anyone. The Him Dak Museum has many arts related, holiday themed programs available for members and residents; be on the look out for the upcoming notices in the Runner!



Pictured are community youth indulging in the many crafts and displayed are completed Valentine projects.



GUESS WHO...

Can anyone out there name ALL the players on this all-star team?



"The Arrows"

Hint: This photo comes from 1987, here's a quote from the story attached to the photo

"All in all, it was a good basketball season, considering this is the first time we have had a youth basketball team. All the players gave it their best shot. Next year we'll be ready for another season."



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

grhc.org

GET YOUR FLUSHOT!



The Flu Vaccine is available to Gila River Health Care Patients

Walk-in to one of our GRHC Primary Care Departments

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495

Komatke Health Center
(520) 550-6000 Ext. 6060

Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center
(520) 796-2600 Ext. 2697

Ak-Chin Clinic
(520) 568-3881

Pediatrics
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 7337

View our Health Update Newsletter for the month of February.

In this edition HEALTH UPDATES AND EDUCATION

- Cardiology Clinic Schedules
- Heart - FAQs
- What is Heart Disease?
- Dental
- Oral Health Tips for Children
- What Parents and Caregivers Can Do

Scan QR code to view!



Behavioral Health Services GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

SCAN HERE



CHECK OUT OUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Access our monthly calendar online at GRHC.ORG/BHS. Call us for more information at (520) 610-2394 or email us BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG

Behavioral Health Services invites you to join our educational programming in February 2025.

February 2025

- Active Parenting of Teens
- Yes to Life! & Narcan Booth
- Healthy Relationships
- Heroes Carry Narcan Booth
- Dangers of Meth
- Stress & Self Care
- Prevention Coalition
- Mental Health Awareness Line Dance
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Active Parenting

Scan the QR code to view more Gila River Health Care's Information, and Events!

Scan me!



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

SPONSOR A RUN SERIES

FEATURED RUN: PAT'S RUN - APRIL 12TH, 2025 @ 7:05 AM

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN PAT'S RUN? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!
AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION WILL SPONSOR 30 INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE AT THE IN-PERSON 4.2 MILE EVENT.



LEGACY IN EVERY STRIDE

31ST ANNUAL PAT'S RUN

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

ART SESSION: CERAMICS

COME CREATE!

LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN CERAMIC PIECE FROM START TO FINISH

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)
Session Begins: January 28, 2025
Session Ends: March 06, 2025
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

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

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

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
1961
FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW
ARIZONA

JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Animal Control Officer
- Accountant
- Aquatics Coordinator
- Asst Cook Detention
- Cashier Stocker part-time
- Compensation Analyst
- Communication Officer
- Communication Officer part-time
- Child and Family Therapist
- Child Care Teacher
- Custodian
- Detention Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Detention Officer Certified part-time
- Electrician - Maintenance
- Lead Custodian
- Maintenance Technician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Plant Electrician
- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Security System Technician
- Substance Abuse Therapist
- Youth Council Coordinator

Open to Enrolled Community Members Only
• Temporary Worker

www.ak-chin.nsn.us

To review the full job description and apply visit 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. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

VALENTINE'S DAY WALK

FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

AK-CHIN CIRCLE LAWN

February 13th

STARTING AT 4:00 PM

LITE MEAL RAFFLES SWAG

KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY AND JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY 1.5 MILE WALK. EVENT OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, AK-CHIN RESIDENTS, AK-CHIN EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER.



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

JOIN US!!

ZUMBA

February.11.2025
February.18.2025
February.25.2025

Ak-Chin Housing Lobby
48227 W. Farrell Rd.
Tuesdays
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Questions?? Please call Health Education at: (520) 568-1080
*Open to All Ak-Chin Community Members, Ak-Chin Community Residents, Employees and Employee Family Members

SAVE THE DATE

EARTH DAY at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort

AK-CHIN EARTH DAY

Tuesday 22 APRIL

Food, Raffle, Fun & So Much More!

APRIL 22, 2025

More Info to Follow. For Questions Contact Environmental Programs at 520-568-1140

Happy Birthday Chuchu Anna & Ba'eg
May you always stay blessed and have a good day for your birthday.
Love you both, Mom, Grandma

Happy Birthday to my daughter Jeannette
Love, Mom

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

Happy Birthday Fikki and Keasha
Love your family

Happy Birthday Jose
Love, Goddaddy and family

Happiest 50th Birthday to you Grace... old as dirt but still a beautiful person inside and out! 37 years of friendship has been one heck of a ride with so many good memories and a blessing. Love you friend, CHEER TO 50 MORE. And I'm still trying to be a "turtle" with you when I get old lol. -Miranda

Employee Birthdays

2/7 - 2/20

2/7 Roman Orna, EPD Matthew Tess, Education	2/13 Justin Burke, Fire Griselda Fonseca Saldana, Community Operations
2/8 Concepcion Miguel, PCR Marcos Olivas Jr., Maintenance Jade Rodriguez, Police	2/15 Diana Velazquez, Education
2/11 Kyle Chavez, Police Mary Diaz, Tribal Gaming Agency	2/17 Grant Cozzens, Police
2/12 Lourdes Aguilera, Preschool Grade Pablo, Housing	2/19 Lisa Garcia, Community Government Marcos Santiago, Elderly Debbie Soliz, IS
	2/20 Aaron Apodaca, Vekol

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

FREE SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

February 27th, 2025 @ 7am-3pm

APPOINTMENT ONLY. NO WALK UPS!

Dogs must be on a leash & Cats must be in a kennel

- All pets must be under 60 pounds to safely receive anesthesia and surgery on the mobile clinic
 - Larger dogs of unknown weight will be weighed at the time of check in
 - Animals over 60 pounds will be dismissed from the clinic
 - A weight estimation formula based on a single measurement of the chest at the level of the elbows is available on request for communities where owners may not readily know the weight of their pet
- As spay/neuter is an elective procedure, animals should be completely healthy prior to surgery
 - For communities where deferral or referral of cases is not possible, animals that are not completely healthy will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Cats should be at least 6 weeks of age and 1.5 pounds prior to spay or neuter
- Dogs should be at least 8 weeks of age and 2 pounds
 - Female puppies under 12 weeks may be triaged for a later surgical date dependent on a case by case risk assessment by the attending clinician
 - Male dogs with suspected cryptorchidism should be at least 6 months of age before surgery
- Animals over 16 weeks (4 months) of age should not eat for at least 6 hours prior to surgery
 - Free access to water is allowed at all times, especially in hot temperatures

For questions please contact Ranger Grizzle @ HGrizzle @ak-chin.nsn.us

(520) 568-1220 | 46200 W Ralph St. Maricopa, AZ 85139

Birthdays 2/7 - 2/20

FEBRUARY 7TH Eugene Peters Jr. Bercco Thompson Jr.	FEBRUARY 12TH Destiney Delowe Grace Pablo Erin Pete Caleb Ugalde	FEBRUARY 17TH Mara Delores Jose Lopez
FEBRUARY 8TH Geneva Antone Elizabeth Baptisto Marcos Olivas Jr. Deana Quinonez	FEBRUARY 13TH Koren Marrietta Karin Smith	FEBRUARY 18TH Annalise Manuel Edward Martinez
FEBRUARY 9TH Aiyana Campbell	FEBRUARY 14TH Deli Anna Lewis Valentina Narcia Justin Perillo Michaela Peters Johnny Stephens	FEBRUARY 19TH Lisa Garcia Jane Lopez Jonas Miguel Kerrin Miguel Philbert Narcia Jr. Marcos Santiago Tyra Williams
FEBRUARY 10TH Alexandra Carlyle Julia Dickerson Isaiah Osife Draven Soliz	FEBRUARY 15TH Terry Aguilla Jr. Aleena Antone Carole Lopez Cheyenne Vallejos	FEBRUARY 20TH Rechanda Manuel Maria Narcua Unique Santiago
FEBRUARY 11TH Kyle Chavez Mary Anna Diaz Jeanette Peters Marlon Peters	FEBRUARY 16TH Gianna Garcia Lanita Lopez	

2/2025

February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Library Hours Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm Sat: 12pm-4pm Sun: Closed						1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Storytime 2:30pm			8
	9	10	11	12 Make and Take 3pm-5pm	13 Celebrate Black History month	14
					MEDIUMS MOCKTAILS 4pm-6pm Happy Valentine's Day	15 WALA! 12pm
	16	17	18	19	20	21
						22
	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Storytime 2:30pm	Pokemon Day 3pm-6pm		

Questions? Call us: (520) 568-1675 Or Email us: Library@ak-chin.nsn.us

AFTER SCHOOL MEALS
MON-FRI: 4PM-6PM
SATURDAY: 1PM-3PM

Honoring the Unsung Housekeeping and EVS Heroes at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

By Michael Kintner, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

When we think of casinos, visions of lively gaming floors, bustling restaurants, and dazzling lights come to mind. Yet behind the excitement lies a hardworking, often times invisible workforce that keeps every corner of the property spotless, safe, and inviting. These unsung heroes—members of the Housekeeping and Environmental Services (EVS) teams—work around the clock, often unnoticed, to make the casino experience exceptional for guests.

Essential Roles, Essential People

With shifts that start and end at all hours of the day and night, the dedicated team members from Housekeeping and EVS ensure that our property maintains a clean, sanitized, and welcoming environment. As a business that operates 24/7, where guests are constantly flowing through, it's not an easy task. Floors must be swept and vacuumed, spills cleaned, bathrooms restocked, and high-contact surfaces sanitized. Without these tireless efforts, the casino would not be able to meet the high standards of cleanliness and safety that guests expect.

Going Above and Beyond for Guest Safety and Comfort

The importance of the Housekeeping and EVS teams extends beyond just cleanliness. They are also the first to notice and report any maintenance or safety issues, such as broken fixtures or misplaced furniture, that could pose risks. Their keen eyes and commitment to safety make them an integral part of the casino's operations and security.

People of Dedication and Pride

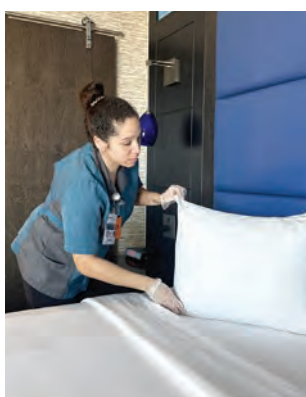
The work these individuals do requires a high level of resilience, professionalism, and dedication. Housekeepers and EVS team members take immense pride in their work, knowing that they contribute directly to creating a positive and memorable experience for guests.

Our EVS and Housekeeping teams consist of individuals who see their jobs as more than just work. For some, their role is a stepping stone to growth opportunities within the casino industry; for others, it is a stable, meaningful job that allows them to support their families. Their presence is the fabric of our family style service and culture.

A Call for Community Appreciation

From the early risers to the night shift, these workers are the backbone of many businesses, ensuring a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for all who visit. Next time you visit Harrah's Ak-Chin, take notice of the sparkling floors and spotless surfaces and remember the Unsung Heroes who make it possible. These hardworking individuals care for Harrah's Ak-Chin as if it was their own and welcome our guests as if they were welcoming them into their own home. A small gesture, a simple thank you, or a smile can go a long way in showing appreciation for these unsung heroes who deserve to be seen, acknowledged, and celebrated.

It's time the community recognized these essential workers who put in the effort, night and day, to keep our property and other properties across the Valley running smoothly.



Have you ever wondered why hotel checkout is at 11 a.m. and check-in isn't until 4 p.m.? The answer lies in the remarkable effort it takes to clean, sanitize, and prepare each guestroom for the next visitor. On average, it takes about 30-40 minutes to ready a single room. Multiply that by 520 rooms, and you'll see how much the hardworking Housekeeping team at Harrah's Ak-Chin accomplishes daily! Their dedication ensures every stay is clean, comfortable, and enjoyable.

Here's a glimpse at what goes into creating an exceptional guest experience:

- From January through September 2024, Harrah's Ak-Chin's Housekeeping team cleaned an impressive 72,350 rooms.
- Each month, they make between 9,000 and 12,000 beds.
- The Environmental Services (EVS) team completes 240 cleanliness tasks per shift to maintain spotless public areas.

Behind the scenes, the team has fluffed countless pillows, emptied bins, and turned over rooms with precision and care. It's a testament to their efficiency and commitment to excellence.

14 FEBRUARY

Happy VALENTINE'S DAY

\$9 ALL DAY

*Valentine's Day Only

Chocolate Covered Strawberries

*comes with 6 chocolate strawberries

347 GRILL

www.Ak-ChinCircle.com

AK-CHIN CIRCLE

\$100 DATE Night

FRIDAY FEB 14

SPECIAL INCLUDES

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

Valid ONLY on Valentine's Day Feb. 14 2025

AkChinCircle.com

ARROYO GRILLE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OUR SINGLE BARREL SELECT BOURBON NOW \$59

While Supplies Last

1792

ARROYO GRILLE

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER EVENT

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS PRIME RIB DINNER \$32

WEEKLY SPECIALS @5PM RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

LEARN MORE HERE

(520) 426 - 6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

FEBRUARY: KIDS EAT FREE

KIDS EGG BREAKFAST

Receive a free kids meal with purchase of regular menu entrée. Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers, discounts or Harrah's Rewards. One coupon per table, no split checks. Non-transferable. Not available on Sundays. Offer expires 2/28/25.

(520) 426 - 6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

AK-CHIN CIRCLE

VALENTINE'S DAY DEAL

\$30

*ONLY VALID ON VALENTINE'S DAY 2025

2 GAMES PER COUPLE (SHOES INCLUDED) | 1 PEPPERONI PIZZA | 1 PITCHER OF SODA

16000 N. MARICOPA RD. MARICOPA AZ 85138

TEN PINS DOWN

Ak-ChinCircle.com

PLAY 2 WIN Center

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO FEBRUARY 2025 CAESARS REWARDS.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

NOLA SUPER BOWL. HARRAH'S AK-CHIN GAMEDAY. LET'S PARTY.

Sunday, February 9, 2025

The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

SUPER BOWL LIX

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS | 8AM - 11:59PM

1

Theresa Caputo Show

CANTINA NIGHTS

2

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!

3

REDEEM REWARD CREDITS FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!

4

COLOR ACCENT BAGS GIVEAWAY

5

LUCKY SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG HOT SEATS AT THE TABLES

6

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

7

\$2 BEER SPECIALS & SWAG AT THE LOUNGE

CANTINA NIGHTS

8

TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB

CANTINA NIGHTS

9

EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE SUPER BOWL LIX PARTY

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!

10

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!

11

COLOR ACCENT BAGS GIVEAWAY

12

LUCKY SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG HOT SEATS AT THE TABLES

13

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

14

AGAVE'S RESTAURANT

CANTINA NIGHTS \$2 BEER SPECIALS & SWAG AT THE LOUNGE

15

THEORY OF A DEADMAN CONCERT

CANTINA NIGHTS

16

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!

17

COFFEE & DONUTS, A WINNING COMBINATION

18

5X

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

COLOR ACCENT BAGS GIVEAWAY

19

HOT SEATS AT THE TABLES

LUCKY SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG HOT SEATS AT THE TABLES

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

20

5X

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

21

5X

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

CANTINA NIGHTS \$2 BEER SPECIALS & SWAG AT THE LOUNGE

22

5X

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

CANTINA NIGHTS

23

5X

5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!

24

CAESARS SPORTSBOOK WITH CAESARS REWARDS.

GAME ON!

25

COLOR ACCENT BAGS GIVEAWAY

26

LUCKY SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG HOT SEATS AT THE TABLES

27

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

28

AGAVE'S RESTAURANT

CANTINA NIGHTS \$2 BEER SPECIALS & SWAG AT THE LOUNGE

28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS