



## US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Zeldin visits Ak-Chin



Ak-Chin Tribal Council Members, Dennis Antone, Lisa Garcia and Cecil Peters meet with new Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin at the EPA Facility in Ak-Chin.

Story submitted by EPA, photo by Robert Miguel

On Wednesday March 19, 2025, Council Members; Lisa Garcia, Cecil Peters, and Dennis Antone hosted, Lee Zeldin who is the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, US EPA Region 9 Administrator (Arizona, California and Nevada), US EPA Region 9 Deputy Administrator and a delegation from US EPA Headquarters in Washington DC.

The Administrator is the US EPA decision maker appointed by the President. This visit was spurred from a Regional Administrator Zeldin continued on Page 6

Tribal Operations Committee (ROTC) meeting held in January.

With their recent appointments by the President and after the ROTC meeting, it was evident that the administrator felt the importance to meet with Tribal Communities. Since Ak-Chin Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Councilman Antone and Roman Orona, Environmental Programs Manager were hosting the ROTC meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, the US EPA Administrator felt that the first visit should be with Ak-Chin Indian Community.

The meeting started with introductions, and discussions on various environmental issues affecting the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Tribal Communities nationally. Some of those issues are the increased funding to the Community, flexible funding to allow Ak-Chin to implement its own environmental priorities, and supporting the Community to enforce the illegal dumping.

On a larger scale, the discussion included the improvement of US EPA Communications and accountability to Tribal



Carson Depoala prepares to catch a fastball during a game against Heritage Academy at Copper Sky park.

## Ak-Chin baseballers take to the field for MHS & A+

Story and photos By Robert Miguel

Two Ak-Chin members are making noise on the diamond and playing their role to help their respective team as they make an early run in positioning themselves for a potential playoff run. Ak-Chin athletes have always been crucial in a team's success, and that's what Maricopa High School and A+ Charter are hoping for this baseball season.

He's been relied upon to pick up the baseball and start a few games on the mound. Miles has also seen duties in the outfield. Earlier this season, the Rams participated in the Maricopa hosted Matt Huffman Memorial Baseball Tournament and the most recent McClintock High School Tournament.

In his 8th grade year at A+ Charter Academy School, Carson Depoala, has already achieved a few milestones and has high schools around the area looking to nab him for their programs. Whomever he plays for next season, will definitely have a player who could start for their varsity squad immediately as a freshman.

Although it's still early in the season, senior third baseman Miles Peters of the Maricopa Rams varsity team, has been heavily relied upon to be a leader on the team. Despite not the outcome the team has envisioned thus far, the Rams are continuing to grind and battle.

A two-year varsity starter, Peters has seen plenty of action other than third base.

Depoala is always on the field, positioning himself at catcher, action other than third base.

Baseball continued on Page 7



Manjik & More takes home the Grand Prize as the best of the best in food during the Food Truck Battle. From left to right: Dre Thompson, Lena Cypriano, Yolanda Melero and Isabel Chairez.

## Manjik & More Wins Food Truck Battle

Story and photos By Runner Staff

Every year for the past six years, it seems as if the Food Truck Battle has taken their wonderful event to another level, providing plenty of food opportunities, arts and crafts vendors, games and activities for kids, and of course, music.

Organized by Hey Maricopa's John Stapleton and brought to you by Machado's Hardscape Construction, this year's event brought in a record number of registered vendors with 120, 19 of which were actual food trucks. Twenty sponsors who

supported the event, was also a high.

As you made your way onto the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center east parking grounds, you could smell the aroma of barbecue, tacos, frybread, and grilled chicken. A number of people made their way out to buy goods and support the different vendors who participated.

Live DJ music had many dancing away, and children were taking advantage of face painting and jumping castles,

which were available.

Information booths were setup to educate their respective material, and a mariachi group entertained much to the delight of attendees.

Organizer Stapleton was pleased with the event and how much it's progressed through the past couple of years with the help of the Entertainment Center staff.

"We have a small team who puts everything together, and it is almost a year-long



Maricopa third baseman Miles Peters sets up for a ground ball.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 Elder News

PAGE 3 Community News

PAGE 4 Spring Intercession

PAGE 6 Organic Farm

Manjik & More continued on Page 10

# Ak-Chin Elder Center Cooks earn award at Cooking Competition



L-R: Adriana Alvarado, Ninfa Wells and Elizabeth Dominguez with their acrylic plaques for taking Second Place in the Cooking Competition at Yavapai-Apache.

Story by Raychel Peters, photo by Sonia Narcia

On March 7, Ak-Chin Senior Service Cooks; Ninfa Wells, Elizabeth Dominguez and Adriana Alvarado participated in a Cooks Training, held at the Clarkdale Senior Center at Yavapai-Apache.

The training involved a presentation on Food Waste,

where they learned about creating an emergency food plan. They also participated in Tribal Cooks Networking and a Cooking Competition.

The Ak-Chin Elder Center cook team competed amongst six other senior center cooking teams to see who could create

the best testing recipe-meal. They were all given a basket with the same ingredients: fresh food products, one protein-chicken and a can of pears. Then they were told they had 45-minutes to come up with a recipe and prepare it for judging.

Ninfa, Elizabeth and Adriana quickly rallied and came up with a delicious stir-fry recipe. They worked well together as a team, even under the pressure of the time and unfamiliarity of the kitchen.

“It was fun,” Ninfa shared, it was also a challenge, “not your kitchen; you had to figure out where things are at.”

There were three judges, two from the Yavapai-Apache Senior Center and one dietician from the Division of Aging Adult Services (DAAS).

Ninfa credited Elizabeth for their winning recipe that earned them 2nd Place Recognition. Ft. McDowell Senior Center was awarded 1st Place and Tonto Apache Senior Center Cooks received 3rd Place honors.

Congratulations to our Ak-Chin Senior Center Cooks on a “JOB WELL DONE!”

# Former Chairman remembers Congressman Raul Grijalva



Congressman, Raul Grijalva (77), passed on March 13, 2025. He served as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Arizona between 2003 and 2025. Services are planned for next week in Tucson, Arizona.

Story by Robert Miguel, file photo

Nine years ago, when I was selected as Chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, I made my first visit to Washington D.C. as Chairman to testify before Congress.

Following my testimony, I was able to make visits with Arizona’s Congressional Leaders in the Rayburn building.

My first scheduled visit was with a Congressman from Tucson who represented Arizona’s 3rd Congressional district.

Feeling somewhat nervous, but excited also, I was eager to meet and begin a relationship with Congressman Raul Grijalva.

Prior to our introduction, I was prepped by our Lobbyist firm on the Congressman’s background, what his agendas were as far as what he advocated for and his overall personality.

“I was told that he was very laid

back and that he would make me feel like I was family.”

As I sat in his office waiting, I looked around at all the photos, University of Arizona memorabilia (by the way, he was a U of A graduate), and the many gifts he’d received from various relationships and visits throughout the years.

The one display that really made me feel at home, was the 22 Arizona Tribal flags that he had exhibited. The only Arizona Congressional leader that I know of that had this in his office.

As the Congressman walked in to greet me, we exchanged pleasantries and began a conversation of serious topics, which pertained to Ak-Chin’s needs and agendas.

What struck me and made me feeling extremely comfortable, was how he was positioned in his chair. He had one leg bent and positioned underneath his

Grijalva continues to Page 6

# Community Members represent Ak-Chin at Annual Tortilla Festival

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

at right, Janice Perez, also known as “Grandma Cemait” to her grandkids will share what she was taught by her mother, Mathilda bad and family at this year’s Tortilla Festival.

At right, Janice is cooking Sonoran or Flat Enchiladas in the family home for lunch.

Tortilla Festival continues to Page 3



# Elder Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>* Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM</b></p> <p><b>* Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM.</b></p> <p><b>(Menu Subject to Change)</b></p>			<p><b>* Wednesdays: Elder Games at Rec. 9 AM -10 AM or 5 PM-6 PM</b></p> <p><b>* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM- 10 AM</b></p>	<p>3/21 Chilaquiles, Scrambled Eggs, Refried Beans, Fruit Salad</p> <p>Tuna/Chicken Salad, Over Shredded Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Crackers, Tangerines</p>
<p>3/24 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit &amp; Yogurt</p> <p>Spinach Fettuccine, Romaine Salad, Texas Toast, Watergate Salad</p>	<p>3/25 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potato, Corn, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Pineapples</p>	<p>3/26 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown/Casserole, Sausage, Scone/Fruit</p> <p>Butternut Squash Soup, Chef Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Jell-O</p>	<p>3/27 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa &amp; Sour Cream, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese</p> <p><b>Angel Home Health Presentation w/Erin Kariuki</b></p> <p>Red Chili Stew, Green Bean, Chumath, Apples</p>	<p>3/28 Biscuits &amp; Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Salad</p> <p>Split Peas, Chicken Soft Tacos, Mediterranean Vegetable, Cantaloupe/ Honey Dew</p>
<p>3/31 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Apples</p> <p>Sandwich Bar, Pea Salad, Grapes</p>	<p><b>3/25-26 Ak-Chin Senior Games at Recreation Department</b></p>			



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community © 2025

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

**OFFICE HOURS**  
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
PHONE: 520•568•1375  
FAX: 520•568•1376  
E-MAIL: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

**Ak-Chin O'odham Runner**  
Editor: Raychel Peters  
Photojournalists: Kristen Villegas, Ashley Vincent and Robert Miguel  
Graphic Artists: Eliza Santiago and Diana Carlyle  
News Assistant: Delila Villegas

**Ak-Chin Tribal Council**  
Chairman: Gabriel Lopez  
Vice Chair: Delia Carlyle  
Council Members: Dennis Antone, Lisa Garcia, and Cecil Peters

**Regular Contributors:**  
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.

All information and original work contained in this newspaper is copyright and may not be reproduced without written permission from:  
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. 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 April 4 - 17, 2025 issue is due by **FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH**

Material submitted after the **MARCH 28TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

# Preschool Department Visits, Pt. 2

Story and photos by Runner Staff  
It was a busy week for the Ak-Chin Preschool's three- and four-year-old classes as they finished out their exciting week of department visits.

March 6, 2025  
At 9 AM on the windy Thursday morning, the preschool was taken throughout the farms led by Farm Supervisor Damian Murrieta. This featured a stop by the corn field; the kids were amazed by the barely sprouting greenery of what would one day be huge corn stalks.

Last stop was deep into the farming area to the potatoes, where the kids learned that we were growing the potatoes for Frito-Lay and In & Out, who would be purchasing them. The group was elated by the journey through the farm roads and the overall trip.



Preschool Students enjoy a moment in the farm field with Ak-Chin Farm Manager, Damian Murrieta.

The same day at 1 PM, the classes made their way to the Runner building and were greeted by Mr. Lucky Bob and Runner staff. Here the kids learned about the Runner's paper, printing of orders, while being introduced to all the staff members.

watching the large printer print out a banner that they were all able to sign.

They event got to try their hand at taking photos of their friends. They were delighted to find their photos on the big screen of the conference area, pointing out classmates and teachers.

They were able to see how the printers worked, as they watched a book come off the printer that they all received, along with

At the end, Runner staff surprised the group with gift bags with snacks and goodies and a photo.



Preschool Students take photo with Runner Staff outside the Runner office.

Preschool Visits continue to Page 8

**AK-CHIN HIM-DAK MUSEUM**  
**EASTER CRAFTS**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 9TH**  
**ART BUILDING**  
**4:30 - 7:00 PM**  
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS & RESIDENTS OF THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY.  
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED, PLEASE CALL THE FRONT DESK BEFORE 4:00 PM.  
@ 520-568-1350

**Greetings Community Membership,**  
Each year Community Leadership awards students graduating from high school with a trip to Hawaii. We need your help in identifying past and present graduates who have not had the opportunity to participate in this annual event.  
Please contact Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager at 520-568-1043 or email [FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us) with names of individuals who would like to participate.  
**Must be an Ak-Chin Enrolled Member and have a High School Diploma to participate in trip.**

Tortilla Festival continued from Page 2

Tortilla makers representing various tribal communities will come together to "celebrate the history and art of tortilla making" at the Annual Tortilla Festival.

The Tortilla Festival will take place at the Huhugam Ki: Museum in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

It will begin at 6:30 a.m. with a torch run, which will be used to light the outdoor fireplace in the museum's uk'sha (traditional kitchen) to begin the tortilla festivities.

In addition to the tortilla demonstrators, there will be an opportunity to learn how to chop wood, start a fire correctly and games for children, as well as a Native American kitchen market where you can find aprons, pot holders and more.

Ak-Chin Community members; Janice Miguel, Glenna Francisco and Melanie Antone will represent Ak-Chin, along with tortilla makers from the sister tribes of Salt River Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Janice, also known as "Grandma Cemait" to her grandkids will share what she was taught by her mother, the late Mathilda Miguel, and other elders and family members she'd been blessed to learn from. She hopes she and her team will get rave reviews for their tortilla (cemait) making skills.

Last year, Ak-Chin was well represented at the festival, as Norma Jean Vincent took part in the event.

"We look forward to an exciting day of sharing, cooking and sampling foods rooted among the Southern Arizona tribes, we invite all to join us and experience the art of tortilla making," said Gary Owens, Director, Huhugam Ki: Museum.

"People forget the City of Tempe had the Hayden Flour Mills that was powered by the Salt River in its early days of operation. The new arrivals to the valley found the established farms of the O'odham and Piipaash growing wheat and an economic opportunity started to grow."

There will also be a tortilla making class where you can learn step-by-step instructions on ingredients, dough making, shaping and cooking the tortilla on an open fire.

Traditional foods will also be available to sample; such as tepary beans, mesquite flour, saguaro syrup and cholla buds.

Two Rivers chicken scratch band will be on hand to entertain from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you are in the area, please make a stop and support all our community cemait makers. Fresh cemait will be available to sample and purchase. Please see flyer for more details.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MARCH 22, 2025 | 8AM - 2PM**  
MORE INFORMATION TO COME  
**Tortilla Festival**  
CEMAIT/MODIILY 2025  
**HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM**  
10005 E. OSBORN RD, SCOTTSDALE 85256  
(Southeast Corner of Longmore & Osborn)  
huhugam.ki:museum | 480.362.6320 | www.saltrivercrd.org | @saltriverCRD

**Saturday April 05, 2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
More info. to follow  
**33rd Annual Him-Dak Celebration**  
*"This is Us"*  
For any questions please contact the Him-Dak Museum at 520-568-1350

**EARTH DAY**  
Food, Fun, Raffle Prizes, Entertainment & Vendors  
At Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino - Look Out for More Info  
Hosted by Environmental Programs Call (520) 568-1140 for More Info  
**April 22, 2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

# Desert Sunrise Shares the Music

Story by Kristen Villegas,  
Photo Submitted by Savannah Boyd, Ak-Chin High School Advisor



Kaelyn plays the alto saxophone, which is a brass woodwind instrument that is mid-sized with weight requiring a neck strap for players; small compared to the tenor sax and large compared to a soprano sax.

With Band and Orchestra Director Devin Talbot, the band was led through three songs; "Blackthorn March" by Randall Standridge, "Black is the Color" by Robert Sheldon, and "Wrath of the Mechanical Monsters" by Randall Standridge.

Great performance Kaelyn, cheers to your continued progression in your musical journey!

Kaelyn Miller is the daughter of Lisa and Russell Miller.

The winter season is slowly fading, bringing the hope of new activities and events for all as spring is around the corner; the building of memories is inevitable.

circuit with a Spring concert for their Band and Orchestra students.

Ak-Chin's own Sophomore, Kaelyn Miller performed for family and fellow supporters on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7 PM.

Desert Sunrise High School joined the music

# Ak-Chin Takes on Esports Tournament

Story by Robert Miguel,  
Photos Submitted by Sonya Martinez, Ak-Chin Parks & Rec Program Coordinator



the Esports league practices. We've witnessed his growth and determination, and we're confident that he has a bright future in Esport."

Although he did not place, the Department was extremely proud of Erick also. Esports, for short, is an electronic sport, which refers to competitive video gaming. It involves organized, multi-player video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually or as a team.

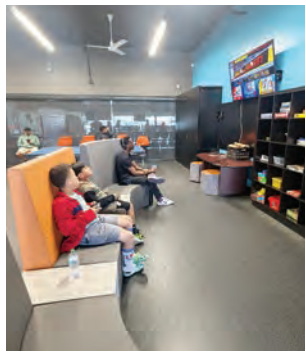
These competitions often feature live audiences and online streaming, and can include a wide variety of genres, such as strategy, fighting, and sports simulation games. In essence, it's competitive gaming at a professional level.

Sometimes you don't need an army to make some noise, especially if you're good with electronics and video games.

In Ak-Chin's case, you need Erick Merriweather and William Delma, the two participated and represented the Ak-Chin Recreation Department in the Phoenix Esports Tournament in downtown Phoenix.

to master their skills and then participate in tournaments, such as the Phoenix event. In his very first tournament, Delma placed fourth in his division, playing against 10 different players he battled for an outstanding finish and achievement.

"This is a remarkable accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of his dedication and hard work," said Ak-Chin Recreation Program Coordinator, Sonya Martinez. "William's success is a testament to commitment during



# Library Mario Day Activities

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos by Runner Staff



Mario Day attendees strike their best poses with Mario gear in front of Bowser's Castle.

The Ak-Chin Library staff are keeping things interesting with another themed event. Mario Day, was held at the library on March 10, 2025, where attendees were tested in a series of challenges.

make sure not to roll a Bowser or you would be skipped.

A few of the challenges included; Peach Ring Toss, Yoshi Egg Hunt, Bean Bag Toss and a Ghost Cup Game.

with Mario swag; they were also able to put their competitive hats on with rounds of Mario Kart.

Ak-Chin Library's staff gets creative with their event; contact them at (520) 568-1675 for questions on their upcoming programs.

Challenges were decided with the roll of a die but

The group not only received a gift bag filled

# Bring in the Spring Intercessions

Story and Photos by Runner Staff

As the weather warms, the kids are released yet again for spring break giving their teachers and school staff a brief vacation from the first quarter semester.

participate in. Him Dak's main focus is arts and crafts, allowing the kids to display their creativity with spring themed projects.

The success of this program is tangible as there is always a huge turnout and spots fill quickly depending on the age group.

Community Events has been inviting departments such as Ak-

Chin Courts, Library, Police Department, Housing, Runner, Central Plant and Parks & Rec for activities with the group, making for a unique experience for the group.

Both departments treated the kids to trips to Ak-Chin Circle for bowling and movies.

First week down, another to go!





# Ak-Chin and CAC's GED partnership is designed to help students

Submitted By Ak-Chin Higher Education

A partnership with Central Arizona College has brought back into the Community, Adult Education. Members can now work toward achieving their High School Equivalency Diploma and transitioning to post-secondary and/or career opportunities.

Spring and summer session registration

closed 3/13 for Ak-Chin students, and spring session will end May 23rd. The registration for the fall session will begin June 16th and fall classes will begin August 15, 2025.

Classes are divided into two skill bases: Math and Reading. Social Studies, Science, and Civics are included in the reading

class. All classes have a homework requirement to enhance student success.

All new students must complete an orientation and TABE testing to get the understanding of how the class is structured.

Classes are In-person (Face to Face) and online. Online or

Virtual Schedule will be completely independent online.

The students can still travel to the Education building and use the classroom on these days, but these are scheduled in advanced for independent workdays to complete the full 6 hours.

The In-Person Class

Schedule will run from 9 am-12 pm and there will be 3 hours of work required independently that will have flexibility on completion in between classes.

All students MUST complete the independent work in order to fulfill the attendance hours required. A minimum of 40 hours is required to

test. Thank you for all the interest and we look forward to you joining the class!

We are excited to bring this program to the community. If you need any information, please contact the Education Office at (520) 568-1288

## 4/2025 April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Library Hours Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm Sat: 12pm-4pm Sun: Closed		1	2 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	3	4 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	5 Him Dak Celebration 9am-1pm Library Closed
6	7 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	8	9 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	10 Ak-Chin Library Open House 5-7pm	11 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	12 Reading Buddies 1:00-3:00pm
Happy National Library Week!						
13	14 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	15	16 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	17	18 Good Friday Library Closed	19 Library Closed
20 Happy Easter	21 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	22 EARTH DAY	23 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	24	25 Mediums & Mocktails 5-6pm Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	26 Reading Buddies 1:00-3:00pm
27	28 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	29	30 Reading Buddies 3:30-5:30pm	Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees. Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.		

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

## Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

**Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following cases at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at the Justice Center Conference Room.**

**Case: SD-01-25 Antone Park Improvement Project**

Project Applicant/Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Antone, is requesting Site Development Plan Permit approval to replace and upgrade various amenities throughout Milton "Paul" Antone Park. The project consists of:

- Demolishing/rebuilding existing ramadas; and
- Partially replace existing fencing; and
- New landscaping; and
- Improved accessibility for residents; and
- Demolishing/rebuilding all play structures; and
- Remodeling of the existing bathroom; and
- The addition of security cameras; and
- Update grading and drainage to accommodate all new equipment; and
- Irrigation system replacement.

**Case: SD-02-25 Hohokam Park Improvements:**

Project Applicant/Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Antone, is requesting Site Development Plan Permit approval to replace and upgrade various amenities throughout Hohokam Park. The project consists of:

- Demolish/rebuild existing ramadas; and
- Construct new group ramada; and
- Replace existing shading structure; and
- Replace existing sand at Volleyball Court; and
- Re-grade basketball court area; and
- Remodel restroom building; and
- Alter irrigation system; and
- Replace and repair existing fence; and
- Update pedestrian lighting.

## Did You Guess Who...



Congratulations to Mercedes Salcido for being the first to recognize one of Ak-Chin's first team of cheerleaders. Be sure to stop by the Runner office to claim your prize!

**From L-R:**  
Deidra "Jake" Carlyle,  
Karen (Lopez) Gardener,  
Tracey (Vincent) Tallabas,  
Stephanie (Vincent) Andaverde, &  
Corrina White

## 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

# Renowned Native American Basketball Invitational Making its Way Back to Arizona

A Record 200 Teams Comprised of Native Youth Are Set to Compete at the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) this July

The NABI Founder's Golf Classic in April supports the tournament's scholarship programs

PHOENIX – The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI), presented by Resolution Copper, returns to Phoenix July 22-26, 2025, with a record 200 teams made up of boys and girls ages 14 to 19, representing Tribal communities from

across North America. NABI is the largest all-Native American high school youth basketball tournament and includes a weeklong educational youth summit.

Registration is also open for the NABI Founders Golf Classic which will be held Monday, April 7, 2025 at Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass. The golf classic supports NABI's college scholarship program,

“Since 2003, we have awarded more than \$500,000 in college scholarships to NABI athletes,” said Gina Maria Scarpa, NABI CEO and co-founder. “Our youth

and communities love basketball, and NABI uses it as a tool to inspire higher education goals.”

For NABI, basketball is way to engage and unite Native and Indigenous youth and inspire them to use their talents to pursue higher education.

A record 200 teams will play more than 500 games in 16 gyms in the Valley, and NABI expects sell-out crowds once again this year. For the city of Phoenix, the economic impact of the tournament is estimated at \$3 million.

The semifinal and championship games

will be played at PHX Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury. The championship games will be broadcast live on AZFamily Sports.

In addition to the excitement of the tournament, student athletes also participate in educational components like the NABI College & Career Fair and NABI Educational Youth Summit powered by Phoenix College, as well as being eligible to apply for the NABI College Scholarship fund.

To learn more about NABI, please visit [www.nabination.com](http://www.nabination.com).

Grijalva continued from Front

bottom, as if he was sitting comfortably at home watching a U of A game.

After we concluded our primary discussions, we quickly went into a personal conversation, which included our families and backgrounds.

He mentioned his background and roots as far as his parents being from Mexico and the work ethic that they instilled him as he was growing up in Tucson.

Come to find out, during our personal dialog was the love for Mexican food we both had in the Tucson area, in particular El Guero Canelo.

I let him know that just about every time I'd visit Tucson, El Guero Canelo was the place we would visit for tacos and Sonoran hot dogs.

He would have this big smile, and tell me that I was making him miss home. He would also tell me to not forget about all the chorizo in the city also. Other restaurants that we had in common as places to visit were, Pat's Chili Dogs and Bianchi's.

As Congressman during his twenty plus

years, Grijalva hit agendas that focused on abortion, budget proposals, education, environmental, foreign policy, gun control, health care, and immigration just to name a few. But one of his motivations included the support of Native American tribes throughout Arizona.

When he was elected in the early 2000's, Grijalva's seventh Congressional district included seven sovereign tribes; the Quechan, Pascua Yaqui, Cocopah, Colorado River, Gila River, Tohono O'odham and Ak-Chin.

He supported tribal sovereignty and advocated for a stronger government to government relationship between the tribes and the United States. He also believed that Tribal Nations should receive the respect and authority they deserved in managing their lands and protecting their sacred and cultural sites.

In 2010, the Congressman introduced the "Requirements Expectations, and Standard Procedures in the Effective

Consultation with Tribes Act," known as the RESPECT Act, which, unfortunately did not pass.

The bill was aimed at establishing into a law, a Clinton-era executive order that lacked the force of law. It would have required the federal government to consult with tribal governments before initiating any proposed federal activities or finalizing regulatory actions that could impact tribal communities.

In addition, the act authorized consultations for all activities that may affect federal land adjacent to Indian land.

Congressman Grijalva's work, advocacy and dedication for tribal communities will always be remembered and never forgotten.

He really was a "true" champion for Indian Country. He respected us and always wanted to see us succeed and continuously reminded the government of their trust responsibilities and what is owed to all Indigenous tribes throughout the United State of America. Rest in peace my good friend!

Zeldin continued from Front

Communities, Alignment of the Tribal Programs with the Administrator's Priorities, supporting Tribal Self-determination and Environmental stewardship.

The entire delegation went on a short tour to the Ak-Chin Water Reservoir to see the entire Community and see the balance of environmental/ cultural protection

and development that is happening with the Community.

US EPA Administrator Zeldin said, "It's very important that the Federal Government and Tribes continue to stay engaged with the issues that are still being addressed."

The meeting and tour concluded where it began, at the Environmental

Department Agency facility with some final discussions, handshakes, and photos taken.

Council Members, thanked Administrator Zeldin for taking the opportunity to visit the community and having a first-hand visual of areas of importance, such as; Vekol Wash and the reservoir.



Ak-Chin Environmental Programs Manager, Roman Orona, explains the functions of the reservoir to Administrator Zeldin and his staff.

## Organic Farms producing great crops for consumers



Ak-Chin's Organic Farms has been producing organic crops for consumers for five years. The Farm is located just west of the reservoir.

Story and photos By Robert Miguel

Since 2020, Duncan Family Farms has been managing 260.93 acres of Ak-Chin Farmland, which has been producing organic foods for distribution throughout the United States; with these produces primarily circulated to east and west coast cities.

Current crops that have been harvested organically thus far, include; spinach, baby lettuce, wild arugula, chards, baby kale, mizuna, mature kale, tatsoi, butters, romaine lettuce and pak choi.

Prior to the current identified crops, Ak-Chin Farms has planted and harvested organic

potatoes, corn and alfalfa. Thus far, the relationship with Duncan Family has been a successful one as both farms (Ak-Chin/ Duncan) look for other opportunities to grow new crops that would provide a great profit.

Although they do not have a relationship with outlets such as Sprouts, the prospects to partner with other establishments is not out of the question.

Ak-Chin Farm has been successful creating a relationship in other opportunities, such as with Frito Lay and In & Out with their potatoes.

One of the priorities in

planting and harvesting organic foods is the safety in crops. "Food safety is number one. The organic property is fully fenced with chicken wire to prevent any wildlife entering and leaving fecal mater on the crops," said Ak-Chin Farm Manager, Damian Murrieta.

"Only authorized personal are permitted on the property to track any possible contamination to the crops. The future of harvesting and weeding is transitioning to robotic machines with laser weeding technology. This is a rapidly changing industry trying to maintain food safety and profitability."




## NO TRANSIT SERVICES

**Good Friday, Friday, April 18th**  
**Memorial Day, Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Please make alternate arrangements for transportation on these dates.

**Thank you!!**



## Silent Seal Bid Vehicle Auction

**March 22 -March 28, 2025**

Viewing Location on SR347  
East of Hohokam Park

**Vehicles are AS-IS**

- Starting Bid price is marked on windshield of each vehicle
- One seal bid per vehicle to be dropped off at Tribal Headquarter Monday, March 24 to Friday, March 28 - from 8am to 5pm. **Last day to submit bid is March 28, 2024 by 5 pm.** Tribal Headquarters address is 42507 W. Peters and Nall Road, Maricopa, AZ 85138. If you submit more than one bid on the same vehicle, bids will be disqualified.
- Seal bid is to be placed in a 4"X 9" envelope or smaller sealed with the following legible written or typed requirements inside envelope:
  - Your Name
  - Current Phone Number
  - Vehicle # (# posted on Windshield)
  - Your Written Bid Price – **do not enclose cash, check or money order in envelope**
- Private opening of all seal bids will be on March 31, 2025.
- Highest bids will be notified by April 1, 2025 by phone with instructions to bring in cash or cashier check only to the Community's Purchasing Office by April 4, 2025. Make Cashier Check out to Ak-Chin Indian Community. Checks, debit or credit cards are not accepted.
- Purchased Vehicle must be removed by April 7, 2025.
- If highest bidder is unable purchase, it will go to next highest bidder and so forth.
- **The Ak-Chin Indian Community will not be responsible or liable after the purchase of vehicle and its removal.**

pitcher, first and second base, or positions the coach may need to place him at. Currently the Archers sport a 3-0 record with Carson leading them at the plate with a .500-batting average.

His stellar play has earned him early accolades this year and last year when he was named Middle School Player of the Year. A+ Charter Athletic Director, Matt Reese, who coached a number of baseball players at Maricopa High School,

and whose son played in the minor league system for the Oakland A's, described Carson as a player to watch out for as he is the "real deal."

The Archers are in the top echelon of the Canyon Athletic Association (CAA) Sonoran Region and are looking to nab the region title when it's all said and done.

Second year head coach John Depaola, who is also Carson's father, is excited about this year's

*Baseball continued from Front team and chances.*

"This team is very balanced with great arms and bats. We need to improve on our defensive IQ, but that'll come in time," Coach Depaola said.

"This team is a fun group to work with. They are coming together as a group and by playoff time we will be ready for a strong push for a state title. Everyone has a role and playing their part for the success of the team."

# William Martinez Excels in Volleyball

Story and Photos by Kristen Villegas

A sport that has been seeing a rise in popularity is Boys Volleyball; whether it's for the love of the sport, social media influence, or even the Japanese Anime "Haikyuu!!", young boys and men have been giving this game a try.

Ak-Chin member and sophomore William Martinez has just started his season with Mountain Pointe High School as a starter. Playing as Outside Hitter/Left-Side Hitter; his main purpose is to attack offensively and play defense, while also helping pass the ball on the left side of the court.

Having the position of the most active player, in the past couple of games William has shown his outstanding teamwork and skill against North High School of Phoenix and Maricopa High School. Though they were able to claim the victory over North High, although Maricopa took



the wins by just a few points each time.

One thing is clear, William displays exceptional focus during the matches; putting effort into every touch of the ball. We'll be covering more of

William's games, so keep your eyes out for this star athlete.

William Martinez is the son of Nikkol and Stephen Martinez, grandson to Lita Yaberry, and great-grandson of Elizabeth Valles.

# Flag Football Continues

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Tuesdays and Thursdays have been for flag football practice; throughout the season the kids have shown great improvement with their dedication to the team and sport.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 marked the middle of the season with games starting at 10 AM. The weather was nice, providing a refreshing breeze for the players but a chill for spectators.

It was evident that the kids enjoyed themselves this round of games, we encourage everyone to come out and cheer them on and let's see how the rest of the games go.

The next scheduled games are March 22 and 29 with mini baseball and softball following on April 1, 2025. For more information, please contact Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation at 520-568-1740.

*Highlights from Saturday's Games*



# Three Strong for Co-Ed Softball

Story and Photos by Kristen Villegas

By now, you've probably seen the lights on at Milton Antone Memorial Park or heard that Adult Co-Ed Softball is back. Though there are only three teams, the games have been filled with laughter, good sportsmanship and friendly competition.

Games began February 26, 2025, and will span 5 weeks with all games on Wednesday. Teams participating are; II Tribez, Ak-Chin A's and Warriors.

The next scheduled games are March 26, 2025.

*Teams Warriors and II Tribez battle it out on the field on March 12th games at 7 PM.*



## ATTENTION AK-CHIN YOUTH!

WIOA Program is recruiting students for the 2025 Summer Program



### Orientation Dates & Times

Located: Ak-Chin Education Department

**ORIENTATION STARTS AT 5PM**

**MARCH 26 5-7PM**

**MARCH 27 5-7PM**

*\*Please be on time\**

### Program Services

- ✓ Summer Job Placement
- ✓ Work Readiness
- ✓ Career Development
- ✓ Career Interests
- ✓ College Tours

### Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ Must be 14-24 years old
- ✓ Must be an enrolled Ak-Chin member
- ✓ Interested Youth

### Questions?

Please Contact the E&T Dept. To determine if you may qualify for the WIOA program and to schedule an orientation appointment.

Employment & Training Dept. (520) 562-3387/88



AK-CHIN PARKS AND RECREATION

*2025*

# BASEBALL SEASON T-BALL & COACH PITCH



# BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

**AGES 3-12**

*We are looking for volunteer coaches!!!*

**FIRST PRACTICE: TUESDAY APRIL 1ST**

*recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us (520)*

*568 - 1740*

Preschool Visit Contined From Page 3

**March 7, 2025**  
 During the morning, the kids loaded up in their busses, which took them to their first destination of the day, the Ak-Chin Fire Department. There they were able to see a detailed look inside not only the fire house but the vehicles as well.

was ended with a look inside of a patrol car and the ranger "gator."  
 It was an adventurous day for sure being that the preschoolers were able to end their week of tours with some of Ak-Chin's finest, our first responders.

The classes were able to step inside the Chief's office, see where the firefighters sleep during their shift, their common area where they are able to wind down, and they were all able to step into a fire truck and ambulance, getting a detailed look of what is inside.

The preschool staff would like to thank all the community departments that participated in "Meet the Community Helpers" week, before break, "The children had a great time learning about the different departments that serve the Community and we look forward to continuing to offer this opportunity to the children in the years to come. Thank You Community Helpers!"

Firefighter Devontae demonstrated how to properly put on his gear when they enter a house on fire. The kids cheered him on as he was being timed on how fast he was able to gear up. Before leaving the fire house everyone was given a sweet treat for the road as well as a junior firefighter hat to take home.



After lunch time the classes had a special visit from Sergeant Perez and Officer Acosta of the Ak-Chin Police Department.



They set up some of their gear for display, teaching the kids about what each item was and how it is essential for their safety.

After their demonstration everyone lined up to see who was the strongest, trying their best to hold up a bullet proof vest, which weighed approximately 18 pounds! The students also got to stand behind their tactical shield and test out the lights, being able to see from an officer's point of view when it's in use.



During their visit, Officer Grizzle joined the chat, adding on to the importance of their job and what some of their duties entail. The visit



## Ak-Chin Boy's & Girl's compete in Friendship League in Salt River



Nyalia Miguel gets through two Gila River defenders as teammates, Auciana Miguel and Joanna Peters look on, during Friendship League game.

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

As March Madness gets under way this weekend, both Ak-Chin boys' and girls' teams are participating in their own version of Madness, as they've taken to the courts and partaking in the 2025 Friendship Youth Sports League in the Salt River Indian Community in Scottsdale.

and were both optimistic that the team will put up a great effort not only in the league, but in the upcoming Native American Basketball (NABI) this summer.

playing either a key or supporting role. In the Friendship League, Ak-Chin has participated in one game, coming away with a victory over Goon Squad last week.

A total of 23 teams are entered into the league with divisions ranging from 6th to 8th grade boys' division, 9th to 12th grade high school girls' division, and 9th to 12th grade high school boys' division.

Suiting up only five players, the Ak-Chin girls will have to play a full game without any substitutions, but the drive that they displayed in their first game, they should be fine until extra players are able to join the team.

They look to strengthen their team chemistry in the next couple of weeks as they too are preparing to potentially make some noise in the upcoming NABI tournament.

Thus far, the girl's high school basketball team has participated in one game, with the Ak-Chin bunch taking one on the chin against Gila River. Despite the defeat, coaches, Raymond "Bunch" Whitman and Kyle Peters saw plenty of room for improvement

Meanwhile, the Ak-Chin boys are coached by Thomas Carlyle, who has developed a program for years, that has been consistent in terms of off-season workouts and familiarization of the types of plays that are run for the team to succeed.

If you are in the Scottsdale/Salt River Indian Community area the next couple of weeks between 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm on a Tuesday or Thursday and Ak-Chin is playing, please stop by and cheer on your team. Games are being played at the Salt River Recreation Department and WOLF gymnasium in Scottsdale. The Friendship League will be hosting a league tournament on April 11th and 12th.



Ak-Chin's Maivynh Yellowman makes his way down court against Gila River. Yellowman handled the point guard duties during the Friendship League game.

## CAN YOU GUESS WHO??

### Match Names With Photos

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Taylor Santiago - 1  | Blayke Patterson - 7 |
| Layla Santiago - 2   | Robert Miguel - 8    |
| Cecily Peters - 3    | Jordan Gusse - 9     |
| Haylee Delma - 4     | Jaxson Justin - 10   |
| Juan Julian          | Adaisha Williams/    |
| Rodarte - 5          | Richard Lopez - 11   |
| Ann Marie Antone - 6 |                      |







# JOB OPENINGS

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Accountant (2)
- Communication Officer
- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Compensation Analyst
- Deputy Clerk II
- Detention Officer (non-certified)
- Detention Officer Certified part-time
- Diesel Mechanic
- Environmental Technician
- General worker (Temp worker)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- School Bus Driver
- Student Advisor Tutor (grades 6-8)
- Substance Abuse Therapist
- Teacher's Aide (3)

Open to Enrolled Community Members Only

- Cultural Resource Monitor
- Museum Technician
- Oral Historian

[www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us)

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

## Celebrate National Library Week

### Ak-Chin Indian Community Library

# Open House

Thursday  
April 10th, 2025  
5-7 PM

A time to celebrate the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination, and support lifelong learning.

We invite the community to join the celebration! Whether you're a longtime patron or haven't visited in a while, now is the perfect time to explore all the library has to offer.

Open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees!

## Employee Updates

Richard Lopez  
Teacher  
Preschool

Robert Miguel  
Photo Journalist  
Runner

Sara Triste  
Deli Clerk  
Vekol

Jolene Campbell  
Custodian  
Maintenance

## Week of the Young Child

Monday, April 7th, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

Where: Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park

The Pinal Early Childhood Coalition invites you to a celebration focused on early learning and the educators who support the positive development of young children.

AK-CHIN CHILD DEVELOPMENT WILL BE HOSTING A TABLE FOR MUSIC MONDAY AND MAKING RAZOOS!

JOIN US FOR FUN!  
FREE event for families with children birth to age five years old.

- Crafts, activities, music and BOUNCE Houses
- Raffle prizes
- Community resources

## Reading Buddies

April 2nd - June 27th, 2025

Ages 5-18

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
@ 3:30-5:30 PM

Saturdays  
@ 1-3 PM

Children and teens are welcome to the library to read for 20 minutes with a plush book buddy. Participants will sign-in for a time when they arrive at the library. This program will help children practice reading in a nonjudgmental environment with the goal to develop a love of reading.

Questions  
Call: 520-568-1675  
Email: [library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

## Employee Birthdays 3/21 - 4/2

<b>3/21</b> Eric Chavez, Tribal Gaming Agency	Sanitation Celia Soto, Social Services
<b>3/22</b> Manuel Garcia, Police Nicole Vincent, Police	<b>3/29</b> Dannon Peters, Him Dak
<b>3/23</b> Christian Alvarez, Him Dak Rene Carlyle, Vekol Sergio Hernandez, Sanitation Deanna Justin, Court Mark Pablo, EPD	<b>3/30</b> Belen Olvera, Vekol
<b>3/24</b> Aleza Norris, Vekol	<b>3/31</b> Shannon Peters, Vekol Ronald Rodriguez, Police
<b>3/26</b> Daivd Lopez, Police Jaime Sanchez, Court	<b>4/1</b> Dyami Jackson, Recreation Marcus Stephens, Sanitation Marilyn Thompson, Community Gov.
<b>3/27</b> Jesus Estrade, Sanitation Fernando Lopez,	<b>4/2</b> Julie Campbell, Finance Bernette Lopez, Housing Elsa Trujillo, Community Operations Casey Turgeon, Capital Projects

# WIC

Tuesday, April 01, 2025  
8:15a-11:45am  
EPD Building

Do you qualify for WIC?  
• Pregnant  
• Breastfeeding women  
• Infants  
• Children under the age of 5

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

Questions? Need to make an Appointment?  
CALL: (520) 562-9698  
Gila River Indian Community WIC Program

## Restorative Yoga

With Vickie

April 02, 2025  
April 09, 2025  
April 16, 2025  
April 30, 2025

Ak-Chin Circle- Elements  
Wednesdays 6:00p-7:00p

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

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Yamiah, Yaniah, Dannon, Shannon and grandson Ozzy  
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Grandma Hope your day is everything and more!  
Love, Mag and Family

Happy Birthday Dannon Time to celebrate and enjoy your special day,  
Dannie!  
Love, your family

## Birthdays 3/21 - 4/9

<b>MARCH 21ST</b> Joel Villegas Ozzy Garcia Eric Chavez	<b>MARCH 27TH</b> Benedict Miguel Celia Soto	Skye Gonzalez Jessica Dean Augustine White
<b>MARCH 22ND</b> Nicole Vincent Manuel Garcia George Lewis Jr.	<b>MARCH 28TH</b> Maria Santiago	<b>APRIL 4TH</b> Eileen Quintero Paula Pete Isabella Luna
<b>MARCH 23RD</b> Mark Pablo Melanie Antone Deanna Rascon Brandon Antone Christian Alvarez Marie Ortega	<b>MARCH 29TH</b> Monica Ruiz Megan Quintero Dannon Peters	<b>APRIL 5TH</b> Jacolby King
<b>MARCH 24TH</b> Yamiah Miguel Yaniah Miguel Jessie Williams	<b>MARCH 30TH</b> Allissia Bandin Aaliyah Balderrama	<b>APRIL 6TH</b> Drevon Deloney Elena Cypriano Alexis Stephens Jason Garcia
<b>MARCH 25TH</b> David White Sr. Jacob Santiago Mario Ortega	<b>MARCH 31ST</b> Zaydyn Norris Maria Hernandez Robert Velasquez Shannon Peters Courtney Delores	<b>APRIL 7TH</b> Nicole Coester
<b>MARCH 26TH</b> Evelina Lopez Kerwin Ugalde	<b>APRIL 1ST</b> Marcus Stephens Marilyn Thompson Ruby Smith Dyami Jackson Hope Vallejos	<b>APRIL 8TH</b> Cayla Thomas Jeffery Ruelas
<b>APRIL 2ND</b> BlueSky Thompson		<b>APRIL 9TH</b> Nikolai White Nathius Jaucinde Garin Cuatt Michelle Miranda Leondro Antone

## FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE Medical Clinic

# FAMILY PLANNING MEDICAL MOBILE CLINIC

Tuesday,  
Mar 25, 2025  
9:00a - 2:00p

Ak-Chin Clinic  
Parking Lot

Services Provided:  
Family Planning Counseling and Education  
STD testing and treatment  
HIV testing and counseling  
Birth Control and Pregnancy Education  
Well-Woman Exams  
Pap Smears and Breast Exams  
GYN Diagnosis and treatment  
Emergency Contraception  
Prenatal and Post-Partum Care  
Preconception Counseling  
Prevention Counseling and Education

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL  
Call or Text us at (520) 371-0132  
\*\*\* The Mobile Unit is NOT Handicap Accessible\*\*\*

Mangik & More continued from Front

process, but we also get great support from the staff of the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center. Laurie, David Trujillo (DT), and Riva are there from the beginning and help guide the event and make sure it happens, safely and successfully,” Stapleton said. “The sponsors themselves really help with the financial aspect, making sure it happens for everyone in the Maricopa and Ak-Chin communities.”

Usually, the Food Truck Battle would take place mid-year with the famous Chihuahua Festival, but this year Stapleton decided to change it up a bit. This year’s Festival will take place in October with an added Car Show, which will fall close to the Halloween season, so it would be themed with the scary season.

As this year’s event showcased itself as another success as the day went on, it was also an event to remember for community members Yolanda Cypriano and her mother Lena. The two, Isabel Chairez and Dre Thompson, were working hard to accommodate the countless number of people who were coming to their booth, Manjik & More, to order frybread and other goods.

Unknown to them, they didn’t realize at the time that this long line looking to purchase their food, were also voters who helped support their booth and helped garner them as the Grand Champion winners, the highest award of the event.

Days after being named champions, Manjik & More owner, Yolanda Cypriano shared comments and thoughts.

“It was exciting for me, I don’t know what the rest of my crew felt,” Yolanda said. “I was so anxious



Mariachi Nueva Era “wows” the crowd during a set at the Food Truck Battle.



The Seesters had plenty of great arts & crafts for sale for attendees



A young child sits back and enjoys his face painting.



The sunken Titanic was also popular with children and adults.

Below: Community members; Carlton Carlyle and Isaiah Peters receive information on table games from a representative of the booth.



watching out for the judges to walk up with that trophy. This is one big honor for our family and our friends who were a huge help to us. God willing, we will be back next year. A huge thank you and appreciation to

all the people that took the time to vote for our stand.”

Other winners included: Culinary Gangster for Best Between Two Buns, HotSos Burrito for Mas Chingon Tacos, Fuel

Y’all Coffee for Sweetest in the West, Kingpin BBQ for Big Boss BBQ Champ, Shrimpie’s for Big Kahuna Award, Culinary Mafia for Best of Maricopa and Sofrito Tan Rico for Most Unique.

**GOOD FRIDAY DEAL \$35**  
 \*Times Included:  
 2 Hours of Bowling  
 5 1 Hour Arcade Card  
 \*New Customers Only  
 5 Single Rounds of Laser Tag  
 To add an additional person to the deal will be \$5 per person  
**ALL DAY APRIL 18**  
 Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center  
 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139  
 Ak-ChinCircle.com

**SWEETHEART SPECIAL**  
 - 2 Movie Tickets  
 - Mystery Blanket  
 (Mafia, Mafia, Willy Wonka, Ghostbusters)  
 - Mamba Berry Tasty Candy Bar  
 - Large Popcorn  
**\$40\***  
 \*While supplies last. Blankets are not available for refunds or exchanges.  
 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

**ARROYO GRILLE** 520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM  
 48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA  
**MARCH DUNES DOG DEAL \$7**  
 SPRING BREAK BALLPARK SPECIAL  
**SHORT ON TIME? ORDER TO GO! 520.426.6832**  
 ARROYO GRILLE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**WEEKLY SPECIALS**  
 WEDNESDAYS  
 CLASSIC FISH FRY \$14  
 THURSDAYS chef's special \$20  
 FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS prime rib \$32  
 Weekly Specials Served after 5pm • Quantities are Limited  
**ARROYO GRILLE**  
 520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM  
 48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

**Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO** **MARCH 2025** **CAESARS REWARDS**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING	<b>5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b> FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS   8AM - 11:59PM	<b>THE LOUNGE</b> TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS • 2PM - 8PM <b>\$2 BEER SPECIALS &amp; SWAG</b> FRIDAYS IN MARCH • 7PM - 2AM	<b>HAPPY HOUR</b> TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS • 2PM - 8PM <b>\$2 BEER SPECIALS &amp; SWAG</b> FRIDAYS IN MARCH • 7PM - 2AM	CANTINA NIGHTS REDEEM REWARD CREDITS FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!	2 SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING	3 MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN'. TOO!	4 THE VOICE® SPEAKER SET GIVEAWAY	5 LOTS O' LUCK FOREVER YOUNG	6 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER POT OF GOLD!	7 \$2 BEER SPECIALS & SWAG AT THE LOUNGE CANTINA NIGHTS	8 CANTINA NIGHTS
9 SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING	10 TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB	11 THE VOICE® SPEAKER SET GIVEAWAY	12 LOTS O' LUCK FOREVER YOUNG	13 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER POT OF GOLD	14 5X CANTINA NIGHTS 5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	15 CANTINA NIGHTS RENT A CABANA ON YOUR NEXT STAY!					
16 SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 THE VOICE® SPEAKER SET GIVEAWAY	19 LOTS O' LUCK FOREVER YOUNG	20 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER POT OF GOLD	21 Seven Stars CANTINA NIGHTS SEVEN STARS® EXCLUSIVE	22 CANTINA NIGHTS					
23 Seven Stars SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING SEVEN STARS® EXCLUSIVE	24 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!	25 THE VOICE® SPEAKER SET GIVEAWAY	26 LOTS O' LUCK FOREVER YOUNG	27 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER POT OF GOLD	28 DIAMOND CANTINA NIGHTS DIAMOND PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	29 DIAMOND CANTINA NIGHTS DIAMOND PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER					
30 DIAMOND SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING DIAMOND PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	31 T-APP IN!	<b>SEVEN STARS® EXCLUSIVE</b> FRIDAY, MARCH 21 & SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS   8AM - 11:59PM		<b>DIAMOND PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b> FRIDAY, MARCH 28 - SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS   8AM - 11:59PM		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE</b> WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS					

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-NEXT STEP or text "NEXTSTEP" to 53342. ©2025 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.