



Ak-Chin Annual Student Recognition Banquet



From l-r: Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Dr. Janice Anderson, Councilmember Lisa Garcia, Councilmember Dennis Antone and Vice-Chairwoman Delia Carlyle, honor Dr. Anderson during the Student Recognition Banquet.

Story and photos by Runner Staff

May 9, 2025, the Ak-Chin Education department invited students and families of the 2025 graduating classes for both high school and higher education to the Annual Student Recognition banquet, held at Ak-Chin Elements Entertainment Center, to recognize their recent academic achievements.

Mistress of Ceremony, Nicole “Coco” Carlyle-Coester, Community Services Manager delivered the welcoming for students and their families. After the welcoming, a prayer was shared by Lerline Peters of the Ak-Chin Language Program, followed by a song from the language staff. Language also gifted all graduates with pins to commemorate their graduation.

A delicious dinner of salad, steak, potatoes and zucchini, finished with a raspberry cheesecake was enjoyed at the banquet. During this time, families were encouraged to visit the photo booth provided by Education and Runner Staff.

Keynote speakers for the night were Joseph Narcia, Maricopa High School Senior and Dr. Janice Anderson, who received her Doctorate of Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Joseph shared a speech about education, embracing the journey of learning and things he was proud of doing; with the help of his friends that challenged him and his family who supported him.

“The road ahead is uncertain and scary, but I know deep down that I’m

ready for whatever life decides to give or throw my way, and I hope whatever I do will have some type of impact on the world. Whether it be small or huge, I just hope I can make people proud in some way,” remarked Joseph at the end of his speech.

Dr. Anderson imparted attendees with a roadmap of her educational milestones, as she presented a few slides, which focused on the program’s theme, “Give thanks for the unknown blessings already on their way!” She also provided a snippet of her dissertation, “American Indian Caregivers and the Traditional Healing Methods Used When Providing Care to American Indians”.

Dr. Anderson challenged the young graduates and banquet attendees to “Believe in yourself.” As she talked about how the community was going to need their help, “We need you to be the lawyers, we need you to be our business managers,

we need you to be the directors. Really, we need you, we need all of you...believe in yourself and move forward.”

She also submitted a note of thanks, “Thank you for allowing me to share my educational experience. It was a long and challenging journey, but I finally made it. From GED to Doctor! Anything is possible if you commit yourself and believe in yourself. I hope that I inspired you to continue your education or start up again. Whether it’s a traditional or a trade school, it’s worth pursuing.” Dr. J.R. Anderson

After the keynote speakers, Savannah Boyd, High School Advisor for Ak-Chin came forward to acknowledge fifteen high school graduates, which was reported to be 100% graduation rate for the community’s high school seniors.

She was assisted by Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Vice-Chairman



Joseph Narcia, delivers keynote address on behalf of Ak-Chin High School Students.

Student Recognition continues to Page 3



Myles Peters receives a bat from the coaching staff during Senior Night at Maricopa High School. Joining Myles are his parents and siblings.

Peters acknowledged during Senior Night

Story by R. Miguel - Photos by Victor Moreno

During a ceremony prior to the start of the Maricopa High School Rams varsity baseball game between the Rams and Casa Grande Cougars, five seniors were recognized with

a ceremonial first pitch with the players and their parents.

Of the five, Ak-Chin’s Myles Peters, was able to throw to his father, Brandon Peters as family

members looked on.

During the game against Casa Grande, Myles was able to play a couple of innings in the in-field and even took to the mound.

Peters Senior Night continues to Page 6

Tribal Environmental Health Forum

Story and photo by R. Miguel

The 2025 Tribal Environmental Health Forum took place at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino & Resort for two days, May 6-7, 2025.

The forum featured numerous speakers, panelists, training sessions, resources fair, poster session and a tour of the Ak-Chin Wastewater and Water Treatment Plan, as well as providing outreach and engagement opportunities for the more than 150 attendees who participated.

Discussions and information that were shared by panelists, speakers and organizers included; pressing environmental concerns and ongoing projects in their respective communities.

The session of Tabletop Activity: Outreach & Engagement with Dr. Marti Lindsey and Benjamin Richard of the University of Arizona, was of much interest; as they discussed the breach between the environmental information required by EPA and the information community members and leaders want to know about their community’s environment.



Ak-Chin’s Roman Orona is a recipient of the 2025 Indigenous Resilience Leadership Award.

The material shared provided participants with the opportunity to familiarize environmental information for community member digestion.

With summer time approaching, the Poster Session & Resources Fair gave information on preparing for the heat.

This was a “come when you can” session to hear from staff of the Southwest Center on Resilience to Climate and Health, on their thoughts and plans for the summer heat.

This session also allowed partakers to share their experiences, insights, and ideas to outline active strategies for improving flexibility and safety during Arizona’s hottest months.

The forum has been co-hosted by the Ak-Chin Indian Community the last four years and has been extremely beneficial for organizers and attendees.

“This is a fun conference, because it is not just people lecturing. This is a conference that is interactive and hopes to build partnership

Health Forum continues to Page 6

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May events with Elders

Story and photos by Raychel Peters



May was a busy month for the Ak-Chin Elders, with games and lunches that were sure to please everyone who attended these wonderful events.

For May 5th, a Cinco de Mayo themed lunch was offered, with Sonoran hotdogs, elote, Mexican Coca-Cola and fruit cups with chamoy and tajin. After lunch, everyone enjoyed playing Loteria, a Mexican-version of Bingo. Elders enjoyed learning the translations on the playing cards and winning prizes.



May, 7 about 20 elders and Ak-Chin Elder Program staff were whisked away to enjoy a ball game at Chase Field. Everyone was excited to see the Arizona Diamondbacks take to the field against the

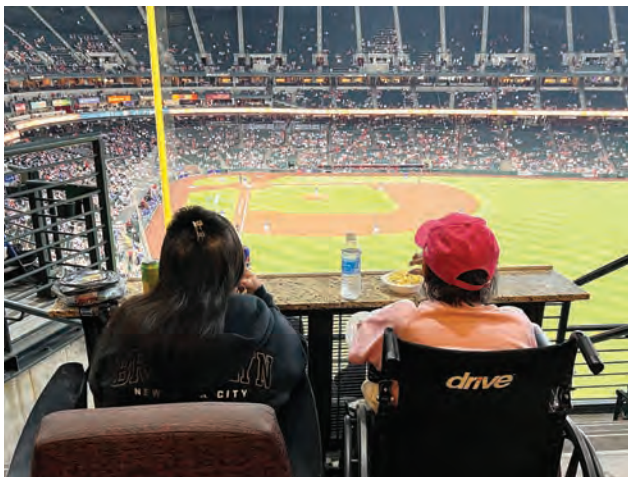
New York Mets. What was even more exciting was being able to enjoy the game at the Legends Suite on the third floor. There was plenty of food and drinks for all, with hotdogs, mac-n-cheese, nachos, mini-pretzels bites, water, soft drinks and popcorn. Viewing was amazing and the amenities were very accommodating. On May 8th, Him-Dak Museum staff hosted a delightful and elegant tea party for the lady Elders.

The lunch featured tiers of small pork, chicken, and tomato caprese sandwiches, accompanied by a refreshing green salad and macaroni salad. An assortment of drinks, including cold-brew teas, lemonade and coffee were offered. For dessert, everyone enjoyed delicious peach cobbler. The afternoon was filled with laughter as the ladies enjoyed games of word search, hangman and several rounds of bingo, with attendees winning

wonderful prizes.

Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Elder Programs Director, shared, "A HUGE thank you to the Museum staff for organizing such a lovely event. The music was fantastic, the food was scrumptious, the games were entertaining, and the prizes were amazing! The Museum staff truly are exceptional hosts!"

May 9th, Mother's Day meal was a delicious lasagna, salad, carrots and garlic bread. Elder staff also gifted roses to all the elders.



On May 14 the elders enjoyed "Movie Day" at Ak-Chin Circle, where they were able to watch "Shadow Force" and snacks from the concession stand.

May 15, Erin Kariuki with Angle Home Health was scheduled for a Health and Wellness presentation at lunchtime.

As the month of May winds down, there are still a couple of activities planned including the

Casino outing at Desert Diamond Casino White Tanks on May 21st, and another "Movie Day" on May 28th.

June 1st, Ak-Chin Elders have already signed up to attend another D-Backs Game for Native American Recognition Day, where they will play the Washington Nationals.

Please contact the Ak-Chin Elder Program at 520-568-1760 for more information.

UPCOMING PROMOTIONS & GRADUATION CEREMONIES	
TUESDAY MAY 20th Maricopa Elementary School – Kinder Promotion AM Ceremony: 9:00 am PM Ceremony: 1:15 pm Maricopa Wells Middle School – 8th Grade Promotion, 5:30 pm	
WEDNESDAY MAY 21st Ak-Chin Preschool Graduation, 11:00 am Desert View High School – 12th Grade Graduation, Tucson, 7:00 pm Desert Sunrise High School – 12th Grade Graduation, 7:30 pm	
THURSDAY MAY 22nd Maricopa Elementary School – 5th Grade Promotion AM Ceremony: 9:00 am PM Ceremony: 1:15 pm Saddleback Elementary School – 5th Grade Promotion, 9:00 am Maricopa High School Graduation – 12th Grade Graduation, 7:30 pm Vista Grade High School – 12th Grade Graduation, Casa Grande, 8:00 pm	
FRIDAY MAY 23rd Saddleback Elementary School – Kinder Promotion, 8:30 am	

Elder Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>* Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM</div> <div>* Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM.</div> <div>* For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760</div> <div>* Movie Questions? Call the Elders Center at 520-568-1760</div> <div>* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM - 10 AM</div> <div>(Menu Subject to Change without Notice)</div>				
5/19 Ham & Eggs, Potatoes, Toast, Scone & Fruit Indian Taco, Lettuce/ Tomato/Cheese, Corn on Cob, Strawberry Cake	5/20 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Peaches w/Cottage Cheese Butternut Squash Soup & Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Fresh Mandarin Orange	5/21 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Desert Diamond Casino White Tanks visit, Leaving at 9 AM Black Eyed Peas, Beef & Onion (D), Romaine Salad, Carrots, Apple Sauce	5/22 French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Mix Berries Meatloaf, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Fresh Cut Fruit	5/23 Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Turnover & Fruit Tuna or Chicken Sandwich, Tomato/ Cucumber w/Cottage Cheese, Jell-O
5/26 Memorial Day Holiday- Center Closed 	5/27 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Red Chili Stew, Potato Salad, Pinto Beans, Chumath, Ice-Cream/ Plum	5/28 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit & Yogurt Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Green Leaf & Tomato, Acorn Squash— Avocado, Sliced Apple/ Orange	5/29 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Lima Beans, Pork Chop (D), Zucchini, Romaine Salad, Grapes	5/30 Veggie Scrambled, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit Salad Sandwich Bar & Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup (D), Cookies/Apple



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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.

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NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
JUNE 6 - 19, 2025
issue is due by
FRIDAY, MAY 30TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes, etc.
no later than
FRIDAY, MAY 30TH

Material submitted after the
MAY 30TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.

May the 4th Be With You Walk/Run

Story and photos by Runner Staff

A crowd favorite made
its rounds again for
members, residents and
employees, as the May
the 4th Be with You Fun
Run and Walk was not
only a success, but it
brought out the best of
the best Star Wars swag.

Held on May 8, 2025, the
walk was held at the Ak-
Chin Circle lawn with
walkers completing the
1.5 mi route starting at
4:00 PM. Runners began
at 5:30 PM for the 5K; the
route continuing around
the Ak-Chin Circle



Rodeo Grounds and Ak-
Chin Fire Station before
ending at the lawn.

All participants received
a meal at the end of their
walk or run; with t-shirts
on order and soon to be
delivered.

Congratulations to all
timed winners and raffle
prize winners.

Community Students Tour GCU Campus



Submitted by Savannah Boyd, Ak-Chin High School Counselor

On April 16th, six
Ak-Chin High School
students had the
opportunity to attend a
tour of Grand Canyon
University (GCU)
located in Phoenix.

The Ak-Chin
Sophomore, Junior,
and Senior students
were welcomed by the
admission staff, and after
a brief introduction, they
were taken on a student-
led tour around campus
and inside buildings,
including student
housing.

The staff who guided
the students on the
tour did an amazing
job going into detail
about programs and
opportunities provided

by and around GCU,
ensuring the students
were informed of what
GCU had to offer. The
tour lasted about two
hours, which allowed
enough time for students
to see and explore the
campus.

After the tour, the
admission staff provided
each of the students with
a meal card to use at
one of the many places
to eat on campus. Once
lunch ended, the GCU
admissions staff spent
time with students to
answer any questions
they had.

All the students enjoyed
the tour, and some are
considering applying and
attending.



Delia Carlyle,
Councilmember's Lisa
Garcia and Dennis
Antone who were on
hand to congratulate
and present students
with a certificate and
gift bag, with a tumbler
and backpack. Gift cards
were also on order.

Savannah shared
afterwards, "All
graduates have worked
hard to get to this great
milestone of graduating,
both high school and
higher education." Savannah
Boyd shared. "They deserve
to be recognized and
celebrated with an event
alongside their family
and friends, this was all
for them and they earned
it."

Savannah also thanked
the families for their
support and guidance
and allowing her to work
with their students. "I
am very proud of each
and every one of them
and hope they continue
to do amazing things for
themselves, family, and
community. We can't
wait to see what's next in
your journey!"

The presentation
of post-secondary
graduates was led by
Mr. Lenny Dempsey;
Higher Education
Advisor for Ak-Chin.
Lenny, recognized
sixteen higher education
students, along with
Councilmembers who
awarded each graduate
with a certificate and gift
bag.

Janice was presented
with a one-of-a-kind
Pendleton blanket, that
was awarded to the
students receiving their
Doctorate and Master's
degrees, as distinction
from achieving their
higher education through
sustained effort and a
strong commitment to
learning.

Allissia Bandin, who
received her Master's in
Public Administration
and Policy from
American University
and Jennifer Boehm who
received her Master's
in Legal Studies
from Arizona State
University; although not
in attendance; will also
be gifted blankets.
Closing remarks were

shared by Vice-Chairman
Delia Carlyle, as she
reiterated what had been
shared throughout the
evening. "Don't give up
no matter what kind of
obstacles or hurdles you
might come across."

She then pointed out
that it was Teacher
Appreciation Week, as
she gave kudos to all
the teachers, "no matter
what grade level they're
working at, they are
setting our children, our
students, on a path for
success," and asked for
a round of applause for
them.

Before ending, Delia
also shared that we will
have another Doctorate
in the community, as Dr.
Jeremy Johns, who is our
first Ivy League student,
will be graduating from
Yale.

Nicole "Coco" Carlyle-
Coester also offered
her thanks to everyone
for their support in the
evening event.

"Extending deepest
gratitude to the dedicated
staff of the Ak-Chin
Education Department
for their continued
efforts in thoughtfully
organizing this
meaningful event each
year. It is heartening
to see families come
together annually to
celebrate and support
students who are being
recognized for their
hard work and academic
achievements as they
strive toward their future
goals.

"Also, extending a
sincere thank you to the
Community Council for
their valuable support
and for providing the
resources that enable the
Education Department
to bring this event to the
community each year,
ensuring each celebration
is unique and memorable.
The community can
look forward with great
anticipation to another
outstanding event in
2026."

Congratulations to all
graduates, and best
of luck in your future
endeavors!

High School Graduates

Adam Bowman, Vista
Grande High School

Teagan Delma, Maricopa
High School
Victor Galvan, Maricopa
High School
Jaelin Guerin, Maricopa
High School
Alonsa Machado,
Maricopa High School
Matthew Manuel,
Maricopa High School
Kane Miguel, Las Vegas
High School
Evan Miller, Desert
Sunrise High School
Joseph Narcia, Maricopa
High School
Just Perryman, Maricopa
High School
Nevaeh Pilone, Desert
View High School
Amare Santiago,
Maricopa High School
Rena Santiago,
Accelerated Learning
Academy
Christian Soliz,
Maricopa High School
Johnny Perkins,
Maricopa High School

Post-Secondary Graduates

Mylauni Antone, Studio
Academy of Beauty
Esthetics
Miranda Iniestra,
Carrington College AA
Health Studies
Elissa Justin, Pima
Medical Institute
Medical Assistant
Damonique Lewis,
Avalon Institute Esthetics
Celia Medina, Nevada
Career Institute
Pharmacy Technology
Ava Quinonez, Avalon
Institute Cosmetology
DeAna Quinonez, SW
Institute of Healing
Arts Prof. Massage
Practitioner
Josefina Salas-Vargas,
Pima Medical Institute
Dental Assistant
Zylen Silas-Antone,
WyoTech Auto Body
Richard Villegas, The
Refrigeration School
Electro-Mechanical
Technologies
Desiree Cara, South
Mountain CC AAS
Behavioral Health
Haylee Delma, Central
Arizona College AAS
Medical Assistant
Hunter Louis, Mesa
Community College
AAS Computer Science
Allissia Bandin,
American University MS
Public Administration
and Policy
Jennifer Boehm, Arizona
State University Masters
in Legal Studies
Janice Anderson, EdD
Grand Canyon University
Organizational
Leadership



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May 16 - June 5, 2025

Mother's Day Luncheon

Story and photos by Runner Staff

May 9, 2025 The Ak-Chin Early Childhood Education department invited mom's and motherly figures to a Mother's Day Luncheon; giving students and families a chance to spend time together, mingle with one another and enjoy a delicious meal. Raffles for centerpieces were also giving to lucky winners; a photobooth was also provided for all.



Mother's Day Crafting

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Women build a community; they keep people together and build connections for the next generations of their respective families; who wouldn't want to show that special woman in their life that their efforts did not go unnoticed?

The Him-Dak Museum offered one of their many holiday-themed craft nights for members to partake in celebrating that special woman, on May 7, 2025 at 4:30 PM.

If you were hoping to get creative with your gift, you could try one of the many crafts; which ranged from a MOM box

you could potentially fill with flowers or treats, a personalized message display decorated to one's desire, or a light up flower arrangement.

The Him-Dak Museum has many art programs for all members and residents, please contact them at 520-568-1350, for more information.



Teacher Appreciation



May 16 - June 5, 2025

A Night at the Cinema

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



May brought on the end of the school year performances; Maricopa High School did not miss this moment and held a dance recital of their own called, "A Night at the Cinema" on May 1st and 2nd of 2025.

Throughout the night, the dancers from all stages showcased their talents to popular movies and soundtracks, featuring a variety of dances including; jazz, hip hop, contemporary, and ballet.

The night opened with a "Universal Pictures Presents," from all dances; with 2 Acts and a 10-minute intermission between them; it was a great experience and allowed for an entertaining night.

Ak-Chin members and residents; Aleah Oliver,

Alana Oliver, Olivia Andaverde and Aaliyah Alvarez were dancers who participated in this year's end of the year recital. Each stage or level the girls are in are determined by their skill level.

Sisters Aleah and Alana Oliver are dancers in Dance 3, who performed in both "Hunger Games", a movie that entails the televised battle for the last one standing in a dystopian like society and "Moulin Rouge", which is the developing love story between a poet and singer set in 1899.

Olivia Andaverde, a dancer for Dance 2 performed in "Divergent", a movie based in a dystopian Chicago where the population is separated into factions.

Aaliyah Alvarez, performed with Dance 1, 1st Hour in "Despicable Me", the popular movie of a villain who adopts children to help in his plan to steal a machine that would then aid in his masterplan of stealing the moon.

Throughout the performances, you could see the dedication each student put into their routines; the movie's themes displayed the student's talent and unique flare.

To end the night, all performers participated in "The Final Scene", choreographed by Ms. Skomoro the Dance Director for Maricopa High.

Congratulations to all students who performed, it was a great show!

Maricopa High School Dance 1,2 and 3 classes, along with Dance CO., come together for the finale.

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Ak-Chin members and residents; Aleah Oliver,



Friday Night Performances

At left: Aaliyah Alvarez and the rest of the Minion crew giving it their all in Despicable Me routine during Act 2.

At right: Aleah Oliver posed in red at the end of Moulin Rouge performance in Act 2.



Leah's Drama Success

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos submitted by Samantha Alejandro



At curtain call, Leah Alejandro (second from left) and cast members take a bow for successful performances and for play supporters of Bedlam and Breakfast.

It was on the nights of May 1st, 2nd and 3rd of 2025 that the McClintock High School drama club of Tempe debuted their version of "Bedlam and Breakfast," a hilarious story about a hotel ran by the Chuckle brothers and two guests who mistakenly are booked in the same room.

Ak-Chin's Leah Alejandro had the pleasure of being a part of the production; having the role of extra understudy for the old characters.

Not only does this play entail the unhelpful suggestions from the brothers, but it also puts

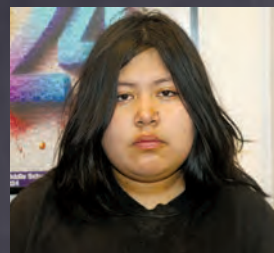
the two guests through shenanigans they were not expecting when booking the room.

Leah was nominated for Best Cameo (Play) for her role as Tina in the "Holy Mother of Bingo Productions". She's also received a nomination for Best Costume/ Makeup Artist of the Year for the 2025 Drama Awards.

Congratulations Leah, your continued success in your extracurriculars is amazing! Leah is the daughter of Pablo and Samantha Alejandro.

May 5th-9th is Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank you to all teachers for the hard work you do and the difference you make!

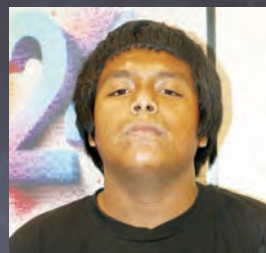
Maricopa Wells Middle School Graduates



Anaise Valles-Diaz



Azalyana White



Devon Deloney



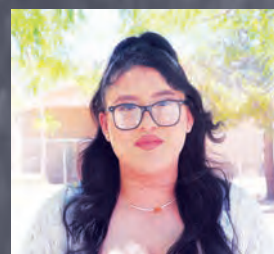
Edward Rocha



Isabella Antone



King Peters



Maite Ortega



Mara Delores



Mark Pablo



Michael Enos



Omar Pablo



Sarina Peters



Terry Santiago

Out of District Students



Arie DeLeon
Leading Edge Academy



Elijah Narcia
Leading Edge Academy



Carson De Paola
A+ Charter School



Dominic Miguel
Challenger Middle School

Young Scientists Shine at Maricopa Wells Science Fair

Story & Photos Submitted by Education Staff

The recent Science Fair at Maricopa Wells Middle School was a vibrant display of curiosity and creativity, with 7th and 8th graders enthusiastically participating to earn extra credit and explore the wonders of science.

Among the standout contributors were four students from the Ak-Chin community, each bringing unique projects to the event.



Two Ak-Chin students, Michael Enos and Terry Santiago teamed up to present the ever-popular “Elephant Toothpaste” experiment. This captivating experiment involves the rapid decomposition of hydrogen peroxide,

catalyzed by substances like yeast, resulting in a dramatic eruption of foam.

They made sure to demonstrate their project with a crowd, the chemical reaction produced an impressive visual and colorful display and wowed the crowd around them.



Another student, Kylie Hill showcased her understanding of biology by constructing a detailed model of a plant and an animal cell. Her project highlighted the various organelles and their functions, providing viewers with a tangible representation of cellular structures.

The fourth Ak-Chin participant, Corianna Nevarez Vallejos collaborated with a peer to

create an infinity mirror. This optical illusion is achieved by placing LED lights between a fully reflective mirror and a partially reflective one, producing a mesmerizing effect of lights receding into infinite depth.



When asked why they choose to make this as their project, they answered that they had seen one online and decided to make their own.

The Science Fair not only allowed students to delve into scientific concepts, but also fostered collaboration, creativity, and a passion for discovery. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed by these young scientists promise a bright future in the world of science and innovation.

Maricopa High School

Alonso Machado-Arellanes

Amare Santiago

Christian Soliz

Jaelin Guerin

Johnny Perkins

Joseph Narcia

Just Perryman

Matthew Manuel

Teagan Delma

Victor Galvan

Adam Bowman
Vista Grande High School

Evan Miller
Desert Sunrise High School

Kane Miguel
Las Vegas High School

Neveah Pilone
Desert View High School

Out of District Students

Congratulations to all of the middle school and high school graduates of 2025!

Wax Museum Comes to Saddleback Elementary

Promoting 5th grade students at Saddleback Elementary School participated in the school's yearly wax museum exhibit on Wednesday, May 7th.

Ak-Chin students; Jacob Santiago, Matthew Miranda, Sophia Matuz, Angelica Antone, Sarah Delma, Erick Merriweather, Jersey Miguel, Hope Narcia, Kingston Narcia, Aurelia Peters, Joel Ruelas, and Kobe Santiago set up exhibits to showcase.



Matthew Miranda posing as famous astronaut Neil Armstrong

Each student picked a person for their exhibit whom they wanted to highlight and tell others about how they became famous.

Their exhibit included a poster board with pictures and facts about their selected person, some even went dressed to school as the person they were showcasing.



Jacob Santiago posing as Sitting Bull in front of his display

How the exhibit worked is that each student stood in front of their exhibit and when a guest would stop to look at their work,

they would each recite a speech about who their person was.

The wax museum ran for two hours, and within that time frame teachers were able to take their classes on a quick field trip to the wax museum to learn about certain famous individuals.

Student's parents were also able to attend the wax museum in support of their fifth grader. All of the students did an amazing job with their speeches and display!



Ariana Grande aka Sophia Matuz, posing in front of her display

with participants.” said Ak-Chin EPA Program Manager, Roman Orona.

“It is a way to try and separate the Tribal Communities from strictly relying on federal funding, but trying to open additional opportunities for funding and project work. It also brings the aspect of the youth, where we discuss these items together and get additional perspectives for environmental preservation.”

A special dinner was held during the evening of the first day of the

forum. The dinner featured 2025 Indigenous Awards, which honored Trent Teegerstrom, Associate for the Tribal Extension Programs Ag Economics Extension Specialist: Production Economics, Crop Budget Development & Risk Management Education; Roman Orona – Environmental Programs Manager, Ak-Chin Indian Community and San Xavier Co-op Farm.

Each awardee was recognized for their continued efforts in provided quality environmental services

and for their continued work and dedication to advocating for necessary needs within the eco-friendly amenities.

The second day featured breakout sessions, where participants engaged in conversation with professionals in the Air Monitoring, Tribal Environmental & IHS Collaboration and ITCA Pesticide Exposure and Management fields.

Following forum closing and final reflections, a site tour of Ak-Chin’s Wastewater Treatment Plant was given.



Moderator Christina Gargus asks questions of traditional agriculture practices with panelists; Eric Shin, Tito Romero and Marcela Tayaba.



Attendees receive environmental information required by the EPA and an opportunity to adapt environmental information for consumption.



Myles Peters (center) enjoys a moment with his family during Senior Night. From l to r: Brandon Peters, Aiden Peters, Martina Peters and Emily Peters

Following the game, celebration festivities continued as the five were able to be recognized with their parents and family members out on the field.

During the season, Myles was able to play in all twenty-six games, manning the outfield,

third base and time on the mound.

He hit 250 for the season, scoring three runs, with sixteen hits and five runs batted in (RBI). He also hit two doubles.

As a part of the pitching rotation, he was able to make six appearances

as a starting pitcher and reliever.

Despite an 8-18 record, 3-7 in Sonoran Region play and not making postseason play, the Rams enjoyed the camaraderie that was developed throughout the season.



Maricopa High School Baseball Seniors playing in their last home game, from l to r: Brady McMullin, Will Hawkins, Connor Jackson, Myles Peters and Patrick Pettis.

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Four Tribes Meet in Ak-Chin

Tribal Leaders from the Four Sister Tribes met recently at Southern Dunes Golf Club for lunch and to stay engaged and apprised of the changes in the current administration policies that may have affects in Indian Country.

The priority of being one united voice was a top discussion as the Tribal leaders move forward in collaborated efforts to address similar concerns, such as gaming and healthcare.



Tribal Leaders: Delia Carlyle - Ak-Chin Vice-Chairwoman, Gabriel Lopez - Ak-Chin Chairman, Carla Johnson - Tohono O'odham Nation Vice-Chairwoman, Gila River Lt. Governor Regina Antone and Martin Havier - Salt River Pima-Maricopa President.



Little Joe performs at Harrah's



Story & Photo by R. Miguel

Little Joe puts on another great show for fans at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort Ballroom.

Jose Maria De Leon Hernandez, also known by his stage name, Little Joe, brought his Mexican/Tejano performance to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Resort on Saturday, May 10th.

The 84-year-old entertainer from Temple, Texas, wowed the crowd with some of his original hits like, “Amor Bonito”, “Adelita”, “Margarita Margarita”, “Cuatro Velas”, and what is widely considered the Mexican/

Tejano national anthem,
“Las Nubes”.

Prior to taking the stage, his band, La Familia, began the show with a teaser of “Las Nubes”, as drummer Will O’Rourke, pounded out a drum solo version of the song. La Familia then joined in with “Borachera” as Little Joe walked onto the stage.

Greeted by a nice applause, the singer also known as the “King of the Brown Sound” acknowledged

and thanked the crowd for their continued support, after sixty plus years of performing.

In between songs, Little Joe shared personal stories of success and heartbreaks, particularly when he spoke of his late mother, Amelia De Leon, and the loss of his late wife, Criselida ‘Cris’ Cantu, last year. The two were married for sixty-nine years. This was significant to the show as it was the Saturday before Mother’s Day was celebrated.

He then wished all mothers in attendance a Happy Mother's Day, before he continued with the entire show, that featured plenty of chicano soul, onda chicana, Tejano, norteno,

country blues and classic.

The Little Joe Y La Familia show featured a guest appearance from Sunny Ozuna, a singer and song writer from Palacios, Texas. Sunny, the lead singer of Sunny and the Sunliners, who gained fame back in 1963 when he and his band did a remake of Little Willie John's 1958 hit "Talk to Me".

The single went #4 on the Adult Contemporary chart, peaked at #12 on the US Billboard R&B chart and #11 on the Billboard Hot 100. Songs Ozuna performed during his show, included; “Smile Now, Cry Later”, “Put Me in Jail”, “Talk to Me” and “Reina De Mi Amor”.



MAY 2025

CAESARS
REWARDS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

MEMORIAL WEEKEND

FRY'S® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY | SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025
 POOL PARTY | SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025
 MEMORIAL DAY GIFT GIVEAWAY | MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

1

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

2

CANTINA NIGHTS

3

T-APP IN!
CANTINA NIGHTS

4

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!

5

REDEEM REWARD CREDITS
FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!

6

CHEF ON THE GO BY
HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY

7

MYSTERY TREASURE BOX
SWEEPSTAKES
FOREVER YOUNG

8

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

9

CANTINA NIGHTS

10

LITTLE JOE & LA FAMILIA
CONCERT
CANTINA NIGHTS

11

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

12

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM,
FACEBOOK & X!

13

CHEF ON THE GO BY
HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY

14

MYSTERY TREASURE BOX
SWEEPSTAKES
FOREVER YOUNG

15

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

16

CANTINA NIGHTS

17

TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN
SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB
CANTINA NIGHTS

18

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!

19

COFFEE & DONUTS,
A WINNING COMBINATION

20

CHEF ON THE GO BY
HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY

21

MYSTERY TREASURE BOX
SWEEPSTAKES
FOREVER YOUNG

22

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

23

COMP YOURSELF
CANTINA NIGHTS

24

FRY'S® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD
GIVEAWAY
CANTINA NIGHTS

25

SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!
POOL PARTY

26

MEMORIAL DAY
GIFT GIVEAWAY

27

CHEF ON THE GO BY
HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY

28

MYSTERY TREASURE BOX
SWEEPSTAKES
FOREVER YOUNG

29

10X

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

30

CANTINA NIGHTS

31

SUMMER GLOW SWEEPSTAKES
CANTINA NIGHTS