Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXIX, Issue 18

September 19 - October 2, 2025



Ak-Chin Energy Services Board Member, Charles "Chuck" Carlyle (left) along with son, Carlton Carlyle, Sr., is presented an award for his 24 years of service on the ACES Board.

ACES Honors Carlyle For Years of Service

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

An awards presentation and luncheon was held in honor of Charles "Chuck" Carlyle, who called it a career after twenty-four years to the Community and the Ak-Chin Energy Services Board.

Friends, family and members of the Community Council were present on September 17, at Ak-Chin Water Reclamation facility, to acknowledge Charles, who was gifted with a glass plaque and a traditional basket.

Due to health reasons, Charles was unable to attend the event. So, his son Carlton Carlyle, Sr. accepted the plaque on his behalf.

Current and former board members and Consultant who were present included: Maria Hernandez, Angelina Soliz, Carlton Carlyle Sr., Jacolby King, Lenny Gold, Robin Reynolds and Ed Gerak. The luncheon began with an "Honor Song" performed by Environmental Programs Manager, Roman Orona.

Charlie's family present, that included his son, sisters and ex-wife, were grateful to all who played a role in honoring him at the luncheon.

Throughout his career, Charles served on many Boards and Committees for the community.



Taggers have unfortunately made it a priority to destroy brand new play equipment with graffiti in the newly built housing subdivision

A Sad Story About YOUR New Parks

Story and photo by Robert Miguel, with contribution from Ak-Chin Recreation Staff

The Community always strives to bring a new beginning to its membership by providing opportunities in all areas, in particular with housing prospects, the need to deliver this service has been a major priority.

Recently, the community was able to slowly give members' home ownership by opening up the Desert Willow subdivision.

The smiles, joy and positive comments have Graffiti continues to Page 5 been plenty, especially for those who lived off of the community; eagerly awaiting to come back to their community.

With the new homes came the opportunity for families, especially children, to enjoy a new park with play equipment, where they could slide down slides, be pushed on swings, and climb on the play equipment provided.

Unfortunately, this new playground has been vandalized by individuals

or an individual, with disrespectful tagging and graffiti.

This action has sadly diminished anticipation and excitement of what the community is proud of.

The following is a plea from the Ak-Chin Recreation Department, who oversees the playgrounds and the Ak-Chin Community parks, overall.

Hello Ak-Chin Indian Community,

Ak-Chin Community partakes in 9/11 Events

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

Twenty-four years ago, the United States of America suffered the greatest tragedy in its history as terrorists coordinated attacks with aircrafts killing nearly three thousand people in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Since then, 9/11 memorials have been held throughout the country every year to remember the victims lost and to show strength as a united nation. One the first memorials was the Tribute in Lights in New York city where the World Trade Center Twin Towers once stood, the towers collapsed after being hit by two planes.

Also at the World Trade Center site, the Reflecting Absence memorial was built, which consists of a brilliant pool and in the paths of the towers, surrounded by a list of the victim's names in an alternative memorial space.

In Arlington County, Virginia, the Pentagon Memorial was completed and opened to the public in 2008. The memorial consists of a landscaped park with 184 benches facing the Pentagon.

In Shanksville, Virginia, a concrete and glass and visitor center was opened in 2015 on a hill overlooking the crash

site, a white marble wall named, the Wall Names, is a structure naming all victims who perished in the Shanksville crash.

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, Ak-Chin hosted and participated in events and activities within the community and schools.

Complex and concluded through the new Desert Willow subdivision.

A good number of partakers, including children, adults and even a dog happily made their way through the route as the morning sun slowly started to peak its way onto the horizon. Fol-



Members of American Legion Post 133 Present the Colors at Legacy Traditional School.

The Ak-Chin Police Department hosted a 9/11 Memorial 5K, as participants came bright and early for the 6 am start.

The run/walk began at the Multi-Purpose Justice

lowing the event, a light breakfast was served for all attendees.

The Ak-Chin Fire Department participated in a Patriots Day Flag Ceremony at Legacy Tradi-

9/11 Events continues to Page 5

Archers Hit a Bull's Eye During Training

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

For nearly twenty children and adults, the opportunity to learn how to shoot a bow and arrow, was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning as Patrol Officer Harry Grizzle of the Ak-Chin Police Department hosted an Archery Training Session on

September 13th at the Ak-Chin Rodeo Grounds near the Entertainment Center.

Prior to making their way to the rodeo grounds, a slideshow was given at the Ak-Chin Police Department. The slideshow featured

personal photos of Officer Grizzle hunting and fishing outdoors. He wanted to show the passion and experience he had out in the open, which also included the desire for archery.

Following the slides, Officer Grizzle showed

Archery continues to Page 5



Ak-Chin Patrol Officer, Harry Grizzle, explains how to properly pull back a bow to Amelia Osife and Yolanda Miranda as Richard Perry and Lisa Garcia look on at the Ak-Chin Rodeo Grounds.

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L-R: Flora Howerton, Evelina Lopez, Wynema Vincent, Florinda Peters and Jenny Holsen enjoy a photo before boarding the Desert Belle.

Cruising along the Saguaro Lake on the Desert Belle; gently swaying back and forth as fluffy white clouds partially block the sun's rays, giving shade, while gentle breezes glide by; made for a very relaxing trip and another great elder outing.

Over a dozen elders were able to enjoy the amazing Desert Belle Cruise, on Friday, September 5th, along with Ak-Chin elder staff members who made sure every arrangement was ready to go, before elders arrived at 7 am.

The drive was just over an hour long, with Elder staff Marissa Antone and Sonia Narcia safely navigating through traffic, while their passengers took a little snooze, chatted with one another or just enjoyed gazing out at the beautiful desert, that was awakened by recent rains.

Once the busses made it to the parking lot, everyone was able to get a in a little stretch, potty break and take in the breathtaking views of the lake and marina, while everyone waited to get their ticket.

After a safety briefing from the Captain and his

first mates, the Desert Belle embarked for the 80-minute cruise around Saguaro Lake.

The boat had a lower deck and upper deck that passengers could enjoy. The lower deck offered open area seating in the front of the boat with an enclosed cabin area that climate-controlled with a small snack bar. The upper deck was open and offered a great picturesque view of the lake.

As the boat cruised along, the captain shared history of the cruise, points of interest and interesting tidbits of information on the geology, geography and wildlife in the area.

Some of the wildlife he mentioned, including the bald eagles that nested in the area, hawks, great blue heron, osprey, great egret, bobcats, javelina, wild horses and bighorn sheep.

Although, there were no sightings of bald eagles, bobcats or sheep, there were many ducks wading along with the boat and a great egret.

Captain shared the areas along the lake as he cruised by, such as Stewart



Those who wanted to feel the wind and rays and get a close up of the cruise enjoyed sitting in the open area on the lower deck.

more information

Shiprock, For RazorBack Point, Eagle's Grotto, and Campers Cove.

Before heading back to the marina, he pointed out Butcher Jones Picnic Site and Beach, and from afar it really did look like a beach.

There were a few boats out fishing and many paddleboats, canoes and jet skis zooming by.

the group headed back to the busses and shuttled to the next destination, lunch at Golden Corral.

Once safely back on land,

After everyone had their fill of the buffet-style lunch it was back to the busses for the drive home.

Many elders have still been talking about the great time they had on the trip, so Elder Center Director, Leslie Carlyle-Burnett and her staff are looking at hopefully planning at least one more trip to Saguaro Lake, while the weather is still nice.

If you are interested in attending the next elder trip please be sure to contact the Ak-Chin Elder Center at 520-568-1760.



And those who wanted to chillax in the cooler climate, opted to sit in the lower deck cabin.

Story and photos by Raychel Peters

desertbellecruises.com Cruise, you can visit their website at https://



St. Francis of Assisi Feast Way Celebration

Ak-Chin Indian Community Saturday, October 18, 2025

10:00 am - Mass

11:00 am - Opening Procession

11:45 am - 1:45 pm - Traditional Lunch

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Entertainment (TBD)

5:00 pm - Closing Procession

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Gertie & the T.O. Boyz 8:00 pm - San Juan Kuali:ya Youth Dance Group

Arts/Crafts and Food Vendors Welcome \$30.00 donation to reserve a space

Everyone Welcome!

For more information please contact: Flower at 602-717-3761 or Marilyn at <mark>520-568-1</mark>000

No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed

Elder Calendar

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Ham Steak Scrambled

Eggs Potatoes Grapes

with Cottage Cheese

- * Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM
 - * Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM
 - * For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760
- - * Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760
- * Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM 10 AM
- MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Philly Cheesesteak & French Fries, Apple/

Orange

9/19

9/22

Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana

Angel Home Health Presentation w/ Erin Kariuki

Beef Burrito, Bowl, w/ Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Corn, Beans, Avocado, **Ambrosia Salad**

9/23

Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit & Yogurt

Baked Chicken, Mashed Potato, Peas, Watermelon

9/24

Bread Pudding Scrambled Eggs Bacon Fruit Salad

Potato Soup & Salads, Plums

9/25 Omelet, Hashbrown,

Avocado Slices, Apples

Red Chili Indian Taco, **Ice-Cream**

9/26 **CENTER CLOSED**

NATIVE AMERICAN **RECOGNITION DAY**

9/29

Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs **Toast Fruit**

Green Chili Pork, Spanish Rice, Chumath, **Pineapple**

9/30

Breakfast Tostadas, Salsa & Sour Cream Fruit w/Cottage Cheese

Tuna or Chicken Sandwich, Tomato/ Cucumber w/Cottage Cheese, Apple Cobbler

Health Benefits of Chicken

Chicken is a complete protein, meaning it contains all nine essential amino acids. Amino acids are needed for muscle growth, brain function, and overall health. It is also low in fat, sodium, and calories, making it an excellent choice for people of all ages.

As a lean protein, chicken supports cardiovascular health by being low in cholesterol and saturated fat. Chicken contains calcium and phosphorus, which are essential for maintaining strong bones.

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

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

The "Runner" is delivered to all residents and departments of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, as well as surrounding community businesses, interested groups and subscribers.

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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Arizona 85138

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 Statt 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 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Arizona 85138

Make check/money order payable to: AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the DEADLINE for the October 3 - 16, 2025 issue is due by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Material submitted after the SEPTEMBER 25TH DEADLINE

cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in

the next issue.

Ak-Chin Parks & Rec Department Shines at 3-Day State Conference

The Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Department recently sent a delegation to the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association's (APRA) 75th Annual Conference, a threeday event held at the Phoenix Convention Center from August 25th through the 27th. The conference provided a significant opportunity for the team to gain new insights, network with professionals, and return with fresh ideas to benefit the community.

The conference provided comprehensive experience, offering

a mix of educational sessions, interactive workshops, and extensive expo hall. This allowed the Ak-Chin team to not only deepen their knowledge but also to explore partnerships potential and innovative products.

The Maintenance Rodeo, presented by Core Construction at Steele Indian School Park, was a major highlight for the department's parks and maintenance staff. Jesus Espinoza, Parks Manager said he "really enjoyed the experience of the conference, along

with the interactive workshops, roundtable and the discussions, Maintenance Rodeo."

Espinoza emphasized the

importance of teamwork and practical skills. "My key takeaways include the importance of working as a team to solve various parkrelated problems, along with having the opportunity to try new tools and equipment related to the parks."

Corella-Esquer, Parks Tech, also found the hands-on sessions to be the most beneficial.

Parks & Rec continues to Page 5



Ak-Chin Youth Council looks happy to help set up for the Super Hero event.

Submitted by Martina Guy-Peters, Ak-Chin Health Educator

Saturday, September 13, Ak-Chin Health Education hosted their annual Super Hero 5K and 2-mile at Ak-Chin ?? 81 participants joined in for the Super Hero run/walk event; 16 participated in the 5K. Here are the top finishers for the 5K.

We would like to thank **Overall Male** the Ak-Chin Youth Council for all your help, you have 2 Albertino Santiago been amazing at assisting us at our Super Hero and Glow Run events. Thank you! We would also like to thank Waylon Antone, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Ak-Chin PD, Farms, Vekol Market, Runner, Events, and Ak-Chin Public Works.

We appreciate the

partnership, assistance, and support for events. Thank you!

Thank you to all the participants! We enjoy hosting these fun themed events and we hope to see you all at our next event, the Spooktacular Halloween Walk.

1 Antonio Rodriguez 3 Leon Potter Sr.

Overall Female

1 Sarah Zabawa 2 Vivian Ly

3 Vanessa Ly

Female/Male top finishers

11 - 18



Male Finishers. Bottom photo: Overall Female Finishers. (Photos by Eliza Santiago)



19 - 28Vivian Ly Tristin Martin

29 - 37Sarah Zabawa

38 - 42Lourdes Smith Albertino

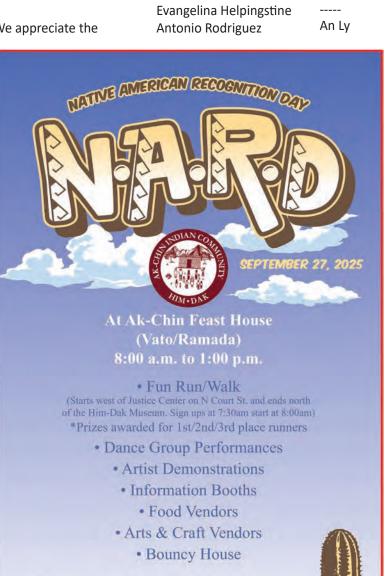
43 - 49

Brandon Peters

50-59

Mai Ly Leon Potter

60+



For more information please contact the Him-Dak Museum Office at 520-568-1350



2025 Transit Schedule Changes

NO TRANSIT SERVICES

Veteran's Day, November 11th Transit Maintenance, November 26th Thanksgiving Day, November 27th Native American Heritage Day, November 28th Masik Tas, December 19th Christmas Day, December 25th

New Year's Day, January 1st, 2026

JUST A REMINDER

.

Maintenance is getting too many unnecessary calls...

EXAMPLES OF MAINTENANCE EMERGENCIES INCLUDE:

- Gas leaks: Shall require immediate response.
- Water Leaks: Where damage to the home may
- Clogged Sewers: or bathrooms when only one bath
- Air Conditioner: When outside temperatures are expected to exceed 105 degrees; elderly/disabled
- Heater and Water Heater: When outside temperatures are expected to drop below 50 degrees; elderly/disabled excepted.

EPD 24 Hour On-Call Phone Number -All Holidays, Weekends & After-Hours: Water breaks & leaks outside of the home (520) 858-6061

ON CALL (After hours emergency only) **Contact Ak-Chin Police Department** (520) 568-1200

AK-CHIN HOUSING DEPARTMENT 48277 W. FARRELL RD. MARICOPA, AZ 85139 (520) 568-1730 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Monday-Friday**

Grace Pablo, Housing Director 568-1734

Amy Rodriguez, Administrative Support 568-1735 Miranda Whitfield, Housing Counselor 568-1733 Kebra-Omega Martinez, Housing Counselor 568-1739

HOUSING NOTICE

To all Desert Willow tenants, PLEASE do not store items in the hot water heater closet. It is not a storage room! Also, make sure the door is closed & locked at all times. There's been some doors damaged during the past storms.

Hearing Notice

Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following case at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at the Justice Center Conference Room.

CASE: PS-04-25 I.H.S. Water Service Line Replacement: Project Applicant/Water and Wastewater Plant Manager, Carlton Carlyle, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to replace the water service lines for roughly 266 homes within the Ak-Chin Community. The project consists of:

- Abandonment of the old water service line; and • Installation of the new water service line; and
- Installation of a new water meter; and
- Taping of the new water service line into the water main line



Youth Volleyball on the Comeback

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Left photo: Aurelia Peters' quick reaction helps team get ball over the net. Right photo: Ember Navarette serving while Riley Perry and the rest of the team get ready for the next move.



Through the many sports provided by the Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation department, we see our youth grow into their talents on the court or field; helping them shape the athlete they choose to

With newest their of Volleyball, season

it is evident that these youngsters show not only their sportsmanship, but their drive during each game. The coaches are also there to provide supportive guidance to the youth. They also have a great crowd of their family and friends to motivate them to do their best.

Saturdays the groups go head-to-head in games, utilizing the practice they've received and putting it to the test on the court. The age groups range from 3-5 with 10 players, 6-8 with 17 players, and 9-12 years old with 24 players; with practices falling on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Recreation Program Coordinator, Jordan Gusse shared, "Our mini volleyball season is off to

a great start! The players have been working hard at practices, learning new skills, and showing off their progress during games. Their dedication and teamwork shining through each week."



The youth have a few games before the season closes, the next game will fall on September 20, starting at 10 am.



Above (L-R) Group 6-8: Layla Santiago, Riley Perry, Ember Navarette, Elena Helpingstine, Aaron Peters Jr., Emerson Antone, Kaleb Rivers, Andrea Lopez, Alexandria Lopez.

Below (L-R) Group 9-12, Top Row: Brayden Gauna, Rosa Merriweather, Arian Coronado, John Zabawa, Kylie Hill, Yaniah Miguel, Aurelia Peters, Melody Gauna, Angelica Antone, Coach Joe Zabawa. Bottom Row: Victoria Gamez, Aaliyah Vincent, Jessica Zabawa, Jerzey Miguel, Evangelina Helpingstine, Eidan Helpingstine.

Our apologies, Group 3-5, will be featured soon.





REGISTER USING GOOGLE FORMS, SCAN QR CODE. REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 10TH, 2025. SELECT YOUR RACE DISTANCE.

WALK OR RUN THE STAGE DISTANCES. SUBMIT ALL TIMES FOR EACH COMPLETED STAGE.

EARN A \$10 GIFT CARD FOR EACH STAGE

COMPLETED.

(MUST COMPLETE ALL STAGES FOR REGISTERED DISTANCE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY GIFT CARDS)

RECEIVE A T-SHIRT AND MEAL VOUCHER AFTER COMPLETION.

STAGES & DISTANCES

STAGE 1 - 3.0 MILES STAGE 2 - 3.0 MILES STAGE 2 - 2.5 MILES STAGE 4 - 2.5 MILES STAGE 5 - 2.1 MILES HALF MARATHON 13.1 MILES

10K

1.5 MILES

3 DAYS Stage 1 - 2.0 Miles Stage 2 - 2.1 Miles Stage 3 - 2.1 Miles 6.2 MILES 1 DAY 2.4K STAGE 1 - 1.5 MILES

(FOR 55+ AND Kids 12 & Under)

· FREE!

Contact Us! 520-494-5952

adult.education@centralaz.edu

Family Game Night

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



With technology taking over the average person's every second, spending time away from a screen is rare. Though there isn't much we can do about the advancements in tech use, there are still ways to socialize beyond the

Ak-Chin Indian

machines.



Left, brothers Hezekiah and Yael Ramirez try to gain the upper hand over Library staff Angelo during Jenga. Above, Student Advisor Estrella plays matching game with her kids Evangelina and Eidan.

Community Library has been trying their efforts in different programs that grab the community's attention and it was on August 27, 2025 when they invited folks to their Family Game Night.

This 5 PM scheduled game night included board games galore for all age

groups where a variety of players tried to gain wins against their opponents, those being their family members or Library Staff.

Friendly competition was had through out the night and with a light meal, all participants seemed to have their fair share of

Ak-Chin Library Manager Naomi Bishop shared "We had fun playing Jenga, Uno and Eric Carle: What can you do? With our young library patrons. We hope to host more fun family nights in the near future."

The Ak-Chin library strives to provide entertaining programs for all, please see their upcoming events on their calendar featured in the Runner and reach out to them at 520-568-1675 for more information on their



future programs.

National Video Game Day

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

The Ak-Chin Library presented a National Video Game Day game play for interested gamers to come and enjoy games played on the Nintendo Switch September 12, 2025.

Though the hope was for a huge crowd, the people who were attendance seemed to enjoy the adrenaline inducing games.

everyone's eye was



Cuphead, a 1930's styled game with challenging foes. The night helped start the weekend.

One game that caught Did you know that National Video Game

Day is a thing? It falls on September 12, 2025, sharing a day with National Hugs and High 5's Day and National Just One Human Family Day.



Central Arizona College GED Classes

at the Ak-Chin Indian Community

Education Building

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You must attend an

Information Session! When?

9 am Friday, September 12th

1 pm Friday, October 3rd

Ak-Chin Indian Community Education Building 46521 W. Farrell Road Maricopa, AZ 85139



OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILES, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES ONLY FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1085 OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

Members from the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort Team enjoy their time walking in remembrance as they display a flag with the Twin Towers.



Traditional School in Maricopa. Prior to actual events, Fire Captain Jennifer Boehm, and Paramedics Darren Peters and Francisco Preciado gave out goodies to students and gave them a tour and description of the ladder truck they had parked in the courtyard of the school.

Personnel from American Legion Post 133 presented the colors to begin the ceremony, fourth grader DJ C then led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dean of Students, Mr. James Leone sang the National Anthem and was then followed by a

presentations were guests breakfast to close out the ceremony.



Ak-Chin Fire Department Paramedic Darren Peters explains to Legacy Traditional students the funtions and gadets of the ladder truck

Archery continued from Front

the bows and arrows that would be used and went over safety and rules that would be administered during the sessions.

At the rodeo grounds, stacks of hay with targets that included balloons were set up, groups of two were separated with children in one area and adults in another.

As each took their turn, Grizzle Officer and Animal Control Officer Samuel Atrawi, assisted with how to handle and pull back the two different bows that were used, which were the traditional recurve bow and a compound bow.

For most, it took a couple of tries before they were able to comfortably pull and release, hoping to hit their target.

The first attempts were taken from 10 yards away, then 20 and 30 yards. Following a brief break, the group began shooting from 30 yards away, and then 20 and 10 yards. Cheers and

excitement filled the arena as some were able to hit bull's eyes and or popped the balloons.

Although, some wanted to continue after feeling they were getting much better, the event had to come to a conclusion.

"Participants told me

that the event was very enjoyable and informative and that they enjoyed it so much that they wanted to know if I would do another class," Grizzle said.

other activities in the near future. I am wanting to put on a fishing derby for the community members. With the weather

"Yes, I do plan on having

becoming cooler, I would like to possibly put on a rodeo clinic for our youth and members." The opportunity of

bringing something different to the community in the outdoor aspect of a potential benefiting hobby, is what inspired Officer Grizzle to put on the Archery Training Session.

Deemed success, Officer Grizzle extremely thankful for the help and support from Animal Control Officer Samuel Atrawi, Ak-Chin Police Officer Luis Coronado, Ak-Chin Police Officer Tristin Martin, Ak-Chin Police Sergeant Davis Garcia, Ak-Chin Police Evidence Tech Michelle Granados Ak-Chin Police Chief Manuel Garcia Jr.

Officer Grizzle wanted to acknowledge participants spending their Saturday at the sessions.

"I want to thank the participants for coming out and allowing me to share my knowledge with them. My goal is to have community members get outside and enjoy what Ak-Chin has to provide and mainly enjoy the outdoors."

The event concluded with a luncheon of subs from Jersey Mike's.



Animal Control Officer, Samuel Atrawi, shows a young archer how to properly pull back a bow prior to shooting at the target.

The third grade Mozart students sang the song "Do You Remember", other and comments made before were invited to a light

We're writing to you today with a bit of a heavy heart.

Recently, someone decided to put a real damper on our spirits by tagging not one, but two of our beloved spaces; our brand-new Desert Willow Park and beloved Milton Paul Antone Memorial Park; with graffiti.

Milton Paul Antone Memorial Park, a special

place to honor a respected leader, was built with so much thought and dedication, intending to provide a serene space for reflection and community gatherings. Similarly, Desert Willow

Residential Park was designed as a beautiful new green space for families in that neighborhood.

We've also been pouring our energy into maintaining our beloved Hohokam Park with its vibrant play areas and picnic spots.

As you know, all our parks are true labors of love. We put in countless hours building, renovating, and maintaining these spaces.

We want to ensure that

every corner, from the swings at Hohokam to the quiet pathways of Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park, and the fresh landscaping at Desert Willow, remains a fun, safe, and beautiful place for everyone to gather.

Seeing these parks defaced is truly disappointing and a setback to all that hard

Our parks belong to all of us, and they are here for generations to come. We can't let a few bad apples spoil the bunch. Let's work together to get to the root of this problem.

If you happen to see anything that looks out of place, please don't hesitate to say something!

You can call the Parks and Recreation Department directly at 520-568-1740.

Together, we can ensure we leaf this kind of behavior behind and keep all our shared spaces looking tree-mendous!

Sincerely,

Ak-Chin Indian Community Parks and Recreation Department

Recreation Conference continued from Page 3

"All of the hands-on work[shops] on rebuilding irrigation valves, working on park tools and equipment was my favorite part of the experience."

also valued the

He

networking opportunities, noting that "meeting new people at the conference roundtables was another of the best parts of the conference for me.

the Maintenance Rodeo a valuable experience and even took home a prize. "I won a meal and a knife

Pirmin Goldtooth, Parks

Technician, also found

during the Maintenance Rodeo," he shared. Beyond rodeo,

the

"Just being around seasoned professionals and gaining knowledge from them was an eye-opener... People from all over the state have common views and a common purpose to serve their community."

included interactive sessions on topics like pickleball, provided them with new program ideas and skills to bring back to the community. For newer staff members,

The workshops, which

the conference's diverse offerings were introduction to the broader world of parks recreation.

Mariah Carlyle, Recreation

gain valuable insights into the latest trends and innovations in parks and recreation," he shared, calling the experience "amazing for learning and growing in the field." The expo hall allowed staff

to browse and connect with potential vendors, staying up-to-date on the latest products and services. Sonya Martinez, Recreation Coordinator, reflected

conference for her team's professional development. "I enjoyed networking and strengthening my

on the importance of the

leadership skills." Martinez was especially proud to see the newest



Ak-Chin Recreation Staff I to r: Top: Julia Lopez, Jordan Gusse, Jesus Corella-Esquer, Dyami Jackson, Sonya Martinez and Jesus Espinoza. Bottom: Mariah Carlyle, Candice Antone, Isaiah Osife and Ann Marie Antone

session on athletic fields was particularly interesting.

He learned the "pros and cons of both Artificial Turf vs Natural Turf," concluding that "natural turf still remains the ground surface choice for athletics" and that for regions like Phoenix, artificial turf would simply "generate too much heat."

Another team member, Dyami Jackson, Groundskeeper, also enjoyed the hands-on learning. "The overall experience

was pretty cool. Got to learn more about the rec side of how things work, and it was my first time attending a maintenance rodeo."

On the recreation side, the team found the professional sessions and workshops

to be a source of new perspectives. Isaiah Osife, Recreation Assistant, felt the

conference was an "eye-

opener".

the field for less than a year, enjoyed seeing "how other Recs run different programs and activities."

She also appreciated the chance to meet other young professionals and learn about their experiences.

First-time attendee Candice

Antone, Recreation Assistant, felt inspired by the shared passion on display. "APRA was such a meaningful experience for me. It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many people who share the same passion for Parks and Recreation." Antone is eager to apply

what she learned, adding, "I'm excited to carry these ideas back and put them into action in our community."

Jordan Gusse, Recreation Coordinator, noted the high quality of the educational

content and the opportunity to connect with vendors. "I had the opportunity to participate in excellent

educational sessions and

glimpse of the professional world. "I enjoyed seeing our newest staff obtain exposure to the world of parks and recreation I know our team envisions for the community."

The Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Department returned from the conference energized and full of new ideas, ready to enhance the programs and services that are vital to the community.

Recreation Parks and Director, Ann Marie Antone concluded, "I am truly excited for my new staff to come together and explore fresh, innovative ideas that will enhance their experience in the workplace. I eagerly anticipate the

inspiration they will share upon returning to the Ak-Chin Indian Community's Parks and Recreation Department, fostering creativity and collaboration that will benefit our community and enrich our programs."



Domestic Violence Is Never Okay

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.

Call or Text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

Chat Online www.strongheartshelpline.org

Safe | Confidential | Anonymous | 24/7

This advertisement was produced by StrongHearts Native Helpline with Grant No 15POVC-23-GK-01582-TVAG, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this ad are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS: Communication Officer (part-time)

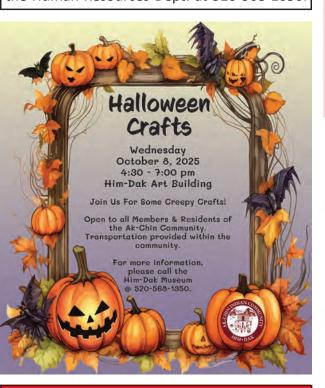
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Detention Officer Certified (parttime)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Security Systems Technician
- Substance Abuse Therapist

Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin **Members Only**

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Museum Technician (2)
- Oral Historian

www.ak-chin.nsn.us

To review the full job description and apply visit www.ak-chin.nsn.us, Job Openings, and apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.



Employee Updates



Ashley Vincent Cultural Resources Specialist Him-Dak



Mathilda Miguel Elder Driver **Elder Center**



Celeste Gloria Teacher's Aide Preschool



Raymond Vaca Prosecutor Courts

Happy 10th Birthday Sonic We love you. From Mom, Dad, Dally, & Bella

Happy Birthday to my son Eugene Love, Mom

> Happy Birthday to my grandsons

SEPTEMBER 19

Sonia Narcia

Andres Hernandez

Joycelyn Kaniatobe

Robert Miguel

SEPTEMBER 20

Riley Perry

Elijah Peters

Kyren Antone

SEPTEMBER 21

Monica Noriega

Dani White

Ulanii Johnson

SEPTEMBER 22

Shannen Smith

Evangelyn Romo

Gabriel Santiago

Elijah, Oliver, Adrian Jr., Tyson and my granddaughter Cecily Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday BOB! From the Funner Runner Gang

Happy Birthday Cec & Ollie Love your family

Birthdays 9/19 -

Iris Smith

SEPTEMBER 23 Cleo Pablo Aurelia Dominguez Salmino Santiago

Cecily Peters Jacob Dickerson Jr. Tracey Tallabas Nicholas Anderson

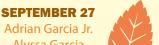
SEPTEMBER 24 Nevaeh Jensen

Kyla-Jae Antone

Nakeasha White

SEPTEMBER 26

Elvia Castro





Joseph Antone Ryo Quinonez **Maynard James**

OCTOBER 1

William Martinez Eugene Peters Sr. Damien Smith

Martin Castro Tanya Lewis Jeaney Narcia Stella Makil White Noemi Hernandez Nikkol Martinez



FALL READING

Download the Beanstack app and log

your reading minutes. Reach 1000

minutes and receive a prize. Start

logging your minutes before the end of

the fall season!

Prizes open to Ak-Chin Indian Community

Members, Residents, and Employees only

Must be 18 years or over to participate

Questions? Call us: (520)568-1675 or

Email us: library@ak-chin.nsn.us

tud

November 30th

Yellow Crewmate

Start

September 1st

Tails recommends

"One of Us is Lying"

by Karen M. McManus

"Ready to Soar" by Cori Doerrfeld

Restorative Yoga

Ak-Chin Circle- Elements

Wednesdays 6:00p-7:00p

Questions?? Please call Health Education at: (520) 568-1080

CONSERVE WATER

ET'S DO OUR PART

4. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth

6. Start a compost pile. Using organic compost around your plants helps reduce

7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalk and driveways.

Water your lawn during early morning hours or evening hours

2. Use commercial car wash that recycles the water.

5. Select drought-tolerant plants that thrive on less water.

Sept 03, 2025

Sept 10, 2025

Sept 17, 2025

Yellow Crewmate recommends



JOIN THE COMMUNITY-WIDE

Come celebrate reading

September 29th - October 2nd FOR ALL AGES.

Come to the library, and for every 15

minutes you read you can add a ping

pong ball to our Reading Goal Meter!

Wednesday- Afternoon snack 3-4pm

Thursday- Pizza evening 5-6pm

LET'S READ

1,000

Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community,

Members, Residents, and Employees.

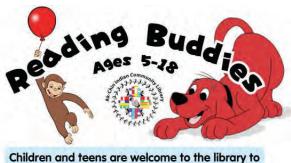
First 30 people to come in can get:

Monday- Mystery gift Tuesday- Box lunch 12-1pm

READ-A-T

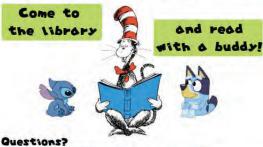
QUESTIONS? CALL: (520) 568-1675 OR EMAIL: LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

1PM - 3PM



Children and teens are welcome to the library to read for 20 minutes with a plush book buddy.

This program will help children practice reading in a nonjudgmental environment with the goal to develop a love of reading.



Employee Birthdays 9/19 - 9/30

9/19 Andres Flores, **TGA** Robert Miguel, Runner Sonia Narcia, Elderly

CALL: 520-568-1675

Email: library@ak-chin.nsn.us

9/20 Matt Shepard,

Fire

9/22 Monica Hall, **TGA** Barbara Munoz, Police

Evagenlyn Romo, Custodial 9/23

Brena Brosemann,

Police

Jacob Dickerson Jr., Fire

Russell Miller, Sanitation Cleo Pablo, Court Cecily Peters, **Events**

9/25 Alma Camacho, HR Melany Ruiz, Vekol

9/27 David Sye,

TGA

9/30

Vekol

Veronica Santiago,











HEART MONITORING/ECG PROJECT

-- Hear about the RESULTS

--Q&A about Healthy Lifestyles and your HEART

*At the Elements Event Center @

Ak-Chin Circle*

Tues, Sept 30 at 5:30-6:30 **Light food & drinks served**

CONTACT Scott Drum, NAU Associate Professor, with questions at scott.drum@nau.edu or 970-371-2620



Adrian Garcia Jr. Alyssa Garcia Irene Arredondo

SEPTEMBER 28 Jason Kaniatobe

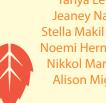
SEPTEMBER 29

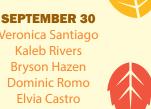
Lily Garcia

Veronica Santiago **Kaleb Rivers** Bryson Hazen Dominic Romo





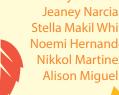


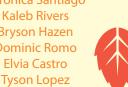












Story and photo by Runner Staff

Twelve competitors representing twelve local businesses dove into the various types of hot wings at the Luxe Lounge Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, Saturday, September 6th.

The event was the second of its kind, set to held to support the Desert Sun Performing Arts (DSPA) GEMS, a non-profit are in need of financial assistance or who are special needs, to attend the program.

Winners were awarded the following Captain categories; Cash Flow-Aaron Gilbert (Longetivity Athletics); Factzilla Ascencio (Az Quality Plumbing); and Ruben



The "Nuclear Waste" wings were placed on each contestant's plates during the challenge.

Copa TV).

Copa TV is the back to

(Trivia Champion); Luis Overall Champion for back winner for 2024 & 2025, which makes them ineligible to compete next year.

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Mexican rock band Caifanes performs during a September 12th show at Harrah's Event Center.

18th Annual Kids Day Maricopa

Free Fun Kids Event - Mark Your Calendar

Sponsor Team

Featuring: FREE Child Safety Information, including: Maricopa PD, SWAT & Motorcycle Demos & Phoenix Childrens Hospital Bike & ATV Safety Fire Safety w/ Maricopa Fire Dept.

Pinal County Sheriff Helicopter/Humvee/Rescue

Division
Petting Zoo w/ The 4-H Club & Gud Ark Sanctuary
Demo w/ Maricopa PD k-9 Unit
Karate Beno w/ Karate & DSPA Dance
Heroes United, Power Ranger, Superman, etc...
Ak-Chin Native Dancers And much, much more.

FREE Health Screenings w/Banner Childrens Mobile FREE Vision & Hearing w/ Maricopa Lions Meet The "Phoenix Suns" Street Team

Meet "Smokey Bear", "Big Red" and Friends....
FREE prize drawings all day. (Toys, Bicycles, etc.)

LOTS OF FREE FOOD, DRINK, TOYS AND

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

For more information call 520-494-7788

Date: Sat 9/20/25

Time: 10am - 4pm

Maricopa, AZ 85139

Maricopa Wells Middle

School, 45725 W. Honeycutt

Help Create a Safe and Healthy Future for Your Family!

Caifanes Rocks Harrah's Story and photo by Runner Staff

The super Mexican rock band, Caifanes, wowed the crowd at Harrah's Ak-Chin with their unique style of play, strumming out such favorites as; "Viento", "La Negra "Nubes", Tomasa" and "Afuera" just to name a few.

Led by lead vocalist Saul Hernandez, the group formed in 1986 in Mexico City, Mexico and quickly achieved success commercial during the 80's and 90's.

Their music is described

Weekly Specials

as a style of hybrid British new wave, progressive rock and Latin percussion with deep, somber Latin American-Mexican Spanish influence.

Current band members Hernandez, include; Alfonso Andre, Diego Herrera, Rodrigo Baills Marco Renteria.

The name "Caifanes" is said to be derived from the 1940's Mexican pachuco (zoot suiter) slang "cae fine". It's equivalent in English is "cool dude".



Friday, Sept 26TH

ANNIVERSARY

Showtimes

4рм, 7рм, 10рм





SEPTEMBER 2025

SATURDAY

CAESARS

REWARDS

Ak-ChinCircle.com



SUNDAY

MONDAY

DRIVE INTO FREEDOM **5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER**



TUESDAY

BADGLEY MISCHKA NEW YORK® BEDDING COLLECTION GIVEAWAY



WEDNESDAY

O'SNAP DRAWINGS **FOREVER YOUNG**



THURSDAY

10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER



FRIDAY

VIP FOR A WEEKEND



T-APP IN!



SHOPPING!



TABLE GAMES MULTIPLIER MONDAYS



BADGLEY MISCHKA NEW YORK® BEDDING COLLECTION GIVEAWAY



O'SNAP DRAWINGS **FOREVER YOUNG**



10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER



VIP FOR A WEEKEND AN EVENING WITH CAIFANES



FRY'S FOOD STORES ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY



SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!



TABLE GAMES MULTIPLIER MONDAYS OAK & FORK IS OPEN EVERY MONDAY



BADGLEY MISCHKA NEW YORKS BEDDING COLLECTION **GIVEAWAY**



O'SNAP DRAWINGS **FOREVER YOUNG**



10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER



VIP FOR A WEEKEND



THE POUR-FECT GIVEAWAY HOT SEATS



SHOPPING!

SUNDAY FUNDAY



TABLE GAMES **MULTIPLIER MONDAYS**



BADGLEY MISCHKA NEW YORK® BEDDING COLLECTION **GIVEAWAY**



O'SNAP DRAWINGS **FOREVER YOUNG**



10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER



VIP FOR A WEEKEND



KICKOFF & WIN



SUNDAY FUNDAY



WATCH THE GAME!







