

Father & Son help bring home a Title for Wells

Story by Robert Miguel
Submitted Photo

Redemption was a motivating factor for the Maricopa Wells Middle School Panthers baseball team going into the 2026 season.

After losing in the finals last year, they dominated Cactus Middle School 12-1 in the title game this year, which secured a Championship banner that is currently hanging in the Maricopa Wells gymnasium.

This year's squad has Ak-Chin connections as 8th grade starter, John Zabawa and assistant coach, Joseph Zabawa Jr. (John's Father) played key roles in Maricopa's successful run for the title and an unblemished 12-0 undefeated season.

Playing primarily at left field and shortstop, John filled in during the season on the mound. He batted in the 7th hole for the Panthers, and was 2-2 in the title game against Cactus, which was instrumental in the lopsided 12-1 victory.



Father and Son, Joseph and John Zabawa share a moment following the Championship Game.

John was heavily depended upon during the season, willing to be penciled into a position that was needed according to Assistant Coach Joseph Zabawa Jr.

“John has developed a whole lot within the last year. He is a team player and will fill in a spot where it was needed. The team really worked well together as a whole and

learned from each other.”

Heading into the playoffs, Maricopa was the favorite and it showed as they easily dispatched Sacaton in the first round, before facing Cactus Middle School in Maricopa.

The Panthers jumped out to a quick lead in the title game, and never looked back. Following a

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Elders Enjoy Ak-Chin Senior Games 2026

Story and photos by Runner Staff

On Wednesday, March 25th and Thursday, March 26th, senior players aged 55+ and teams from throughout Arizona and California invaded the Ak-Chin Indian Community to participate in the 2026 Ak-Chin Senior Games “Legends at Play”.

The senior games featured individual games and the popular Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament. Many who participated years past were returnees who have enjoyed Ak-Chin's welcoming atmosphere and hospitality, and the overall opportunity and joy of visiting with new and old friends.

Online registration for the event opened on March 6th and continued until March 13th. At 9 a.m. sharp on March 6th, eager participants flooded the registration portal, leading to an astonishing closure just 6 minutes later—an unprecedented response time. For context, last year's registration was open for 19 minutes before reaching capacity.

“Due to space limitations, we were able to accommodate only 32 chair volleyball teams, which adds a layer of excitement and competition to the event.” Anne Marie Antone, Parks & Rec Director shared.



Sisters, Leslie Carlyle-Burnett (left) and Nicole “CoCo” Carlyle-Coester (right) race their way to a third place finish in the Oompah Loompa game.

Meanwhile, registration for individual games remained open until March 13th, allowing additional participants to join in on the fun. By the time the deadline arrived, a total of 203 individual participants were registered; a remarkable achievement that represents a doubling of last year's numbers.

“This overwhelming response not only showcases the soaring interest in our program, but also reinforces the event's growing popularity within the

community. We are thrilled to witness such enthusiasm and look forward to a fantastic event next year.” Antone added.

The first day of the event on Wednesday, March 25th, began with Team Captain registration. The festivities commenced with a blessing from Ak-Chin elder Lerline Peters, who is also part of the Ak-Chin Language Program. Ak-Chin Vice-Chairwoman Delia Carlyle then delivered welcoming remarks to a gym filled with elders,

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Melanie Antone and Elaina Enos, who both were representing Ak-Chin, showcase their “chumeth” making Skills during the Tortilla Festival in Salt River.

6th Annual Tortilla Festival

Story and photo by Megan Quintero

On Saturday, March 21, the Salt River Indian Community Cultural Resources department hosted the 6th Annual Tortilla Festival, which took place at the Huhugam Ki: Museum in Salt River Indian Community.

Representing Ak-Chin Indian Community this year was Melanie Antone, Glenna Francisco along with her daughter Krista Manuel, and Elaina Enos along with her mother Lusan Enos. Would like to thank the

Ak-Chin language staff Velacita Lopez, Lerline Peters, Doria Garcia, and Jesus (Buddy) Corella for their help and support throughout the day.

The festival started off with a torch run in the early morning before sunrise. Tortilla makers representing the four sister tribes (Salt River Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, and Tohono O'odham) Nation; all had an outdoor cooking space to demonstrate the way

they make their tortillas.

At sunrise, participants learned how to chop wood and learned how to safely start the fires and then flapping began and so did the sample-tasting for tortillas. The festival also opened up with arts and crafts, food vendors, games, and information booths. They even had a booth just for the traditional foods to sample; such as tepary beans, mesquite flour, saguaro syrup and cholla buds, along with the recipes to on how make them at home.

They also had a burrito race, where a team has to wrap up one of their players in a tortilla blanket, like a burrito, then the said “burrito” had to race to the opposite end of the field and back

Festival continues to Page 7



Ak-Chin Farm employees tend to a jalapeno field in the A section of the Ak-Chin Farms as jalapeno planting and harvesting begin.

Ak-Chin Farms Continues to Produce Great Crops

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

Pace Picante and In & Out Burger, are two visible franchises who have a relationship with the Ak-Chin Community.

If you didn't know, jalapenos and potatoes are some of the goods that the Ak-Chin Farms currently plants, grows and harvests on their 16,000 plus acres of land that they currently own and operate.

Since 2017, Ak-Chin Farms have been planting jalapenos beginning

in February through March before harvesting them from June to July, again in October and in December, depending on the weather.

At this time, Ak-Chin contracts jalapenos with Dakota Farms, which is owned by Rob Knorr of Knorr Farms.

The jalapenos are mechanically harvested, then go to Knorr Cooler, where they have the stems removed and are cooled. They then are

sold as a food ingredient to Bay Valley Foods and Campbell Foods.

The two have a relationship with Pace Picante.

Back in 2017, Ak-Chin Farms started growing 50 acres of jalapenos before planting 130 acres this year. The Farms is responsible for growing the crop up to harvest and then Dakota Farms is responsible for harvest to delivery to the end of processor.

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Ak-Chin Elders enjoy some great company and food



They say to spoil your elders when you can, the Ak-Chin Elderly Center and their staff have definitely done that.

atmosphere was very jovial and relaxing as you could hear each table striking up conversations, which included plenty of laughter.

the next dinner. On Friday, March 27th, a Men's Only BBQ was held at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park for elders.

a chance to catch up and enjoy a long overdue get together.

Two recent events catered to elders featured an elder dinner and BBQ lunch. Wednesday, March 25th, nearly thirty elders and guests were treated to a chicken dinner, with cole slaw, baked beans, dinner rolls and cookies. The event took place at the Ak-Chin Elder Center.

At the conclusion of the meal, elder staff asked elders what type of meal they would like to consume at the next scheduled dinner. Many stated that they wanted a traditional meal of chili stew, potato salad, beans and tortillas.

The male elder staff were on the grill cooking carne asada, chicken and shrimp, which also included homemade tortillas, potato salad and soda.

It was great to see everyone, we sometimes forget and take for granted the opportunities to spend time together. This was one great event for the men to reminisce of the past.

Although it was plain and simple, the

So those who missed the delicious chicken dinner, make plans to attend

The setting was perfect and what was especially nice, was being able to see those who had not been out or seen each other in a while. Everyone had

Following the event, gifts were given to each elder to take home.

A "huge" thank you to the Elder Staff who organized these two great events.

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

April 2026 Mass Schedule

Holy Week

April 2 - Holy Thursday - 7 pm
 Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

April 3 - Good Friday - 7 pm
 Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

April 4 - Holy Saturday - 8 pm
 Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

April 5 - Easter Sunday - 12 pm
 Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

Sunday Mass, 12 pm

April 12
 Fr. Elijah DeLello

April 19
 Fr. Elijah DeLello

April 26
 Fr. Antony Tinker

34TH ANNUAL HIM-DAK CELEBRATION
 Saturday, April 11, 2026

Him-Dak Celebration
 This year's 34th Annual Him-Dak Celebration will be held on Saturday April 11, 2026 at Ak-Chin Him-Dak Eco Museum, 47685 N. Eco Museum Road Maricopa, Arizona 85139. Festivities will be from 9am - 1pm.

Fun Run & Walk
 Registration Starts at 7:30 a.m., Walk/Run begins at 8:00 a.m. (starting by the Justice Center Bldg on N. Court St. and ending north of the Museum/Art Building)

Dance Performers
Information Booths
Art Vendors
Food Vendors
Bounce House
Artisan Demonstrations.

If you should have any questions please contact the Him-Dak office at: 520-568-1350

April Elder Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*** Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM *** Lunch Served 12 noon to 1 PM *** Craft Room is OPEN from 8 AM to 3 PM		*** For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1760 *** Call After Hours 24/7 - 520-858-5043 Menu Subject to Change Without Notice			4/3 CENTER CLOSED - GOOD FRIDAY	4/4
3/22	4/6 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Biscuit, Peaches w/Cottage Cheese	4/7 Breakfast Caserole, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit with Cottage Cheese Elder Walks 10a Ground Beef Tacos, Shredded Green Leaf, Tomato, Brown Rice, Cauliflower, Pineapple	4/8 Deadline to Sign Up for Earth Day Event French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad Pinto beans, Barley Soup (D), Carrots, Corn Bread, Thumbprint Cookies, Mandarin Oranges	4/9 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Sandwich Bar, Green Leaf/Tomato, Pea Salad, Pickle, Tomato Juice, Fresh Cut Fruit	4/10 Broccoli mini-Quiche, Avocado Slices, Fruit with Cottage Cheese Elder Walks 10a Red Chili Indian Tacos, Corn on the Cob, Jell-O/Orange	4/11
4/12	4/13 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Peaches with Cottage Cheese Split Peas w/Ham, Beef/Vegetables (D), Butternut Squash, Crackers, Vanilla/Chocolate Pudding, Apple	4/14 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Broccoli Cheese Elder Walks 10a Soup, Turkey Sandwich, Green Leaf/Tomato, Pickle, Sliced Apples/Oranges	4/15 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit Baked Chicken, Baked Potato, Sautéed Cabbage, Plums	4/16 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries Short Ribs & Hominy, 3 Bean Salad, Moon Bread, Fruit Cocktail	4/17 Migas (Scrambled Eggs with Corn Tortillas), Salsa, Avocado Slices, Fruit & Yogurt Elder Walks 10a Spinach & White Bean Soup, Sweet Potato, Pork Chop & Mashed Potato (D), Fresh Peaches	4/18

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 PHONE: 520•568•1375
 E-MAIL: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

Ak-Chin O'dham Runner
 Editor: Raychel Peters
 Photojournalists: Kristen Villegas, Robert Miguel and Megan Quintero
 Graphic Artists: Elisa Santiago and Diana Carlyle
 News Assistant: Kathleen Miguel

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

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Announcements and wishes may be dropped off, phoned in, or e-mailed.

ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES
 The Ak-Chin O'dham 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
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NEXT DEADLINE
 Don't forget the DEADLINE for the April 17 - 30, 2026 issue is due by **FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH**

Material submitted after the **APRIL 10TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

Senior Games continued from Front



Left: Connie Orona gives it her best in the Paper Crunch game.
Top: Lemuel Vincent of Team Ak-Chin prepares to spike the ball over the net.
Right: Ruby Smith tosses her bean bag in the cornhole toss game.

staff, and visitors. During opening introductions, a moment of silence was held in honor of Gary Placencia, who played with a group from So-boba, California. During last year's tournament, Gary unfortunately passed away. Staff, family, and friends wanted to pay tribute and remember Gary at the place he last was and playing the game he loved.

For a couple of hours, individual participants put forth their best efforts to achieve high scores and personal bests in the Individual games, that included; the Puzzle Surge, Chicken Throw, Paper Crunch, Stackers, Cornhole Toss, Basketball Throw, and the Oompa-Loompa Race.

We are proud to announce that our very own community members, Nicole "Coco" Carlyle and Leslie Burnett, took 3rd place in the Oompa-Loompa Race, while Jeannette Peters also earned 3rd place for the Paper Crunch.

When it was all said and done the following winners were recognized and awarded with individual medals:
 Stackers: 1st Place – Mary Manuel-Tohono O'dham, 2nd Place – Theresa Villa-Pala Band of Mission Indians, and 3rd Place – Veronica Orozco-Pala Band of Mission Indians;
 Puzzle Surge: 1st Place – Mary Manuel-Tohono O'dham, 2nd Place – Sam Hardy-Navajo, and 3rd Place – Deanna Subish-Pala Band of Mission Indians;

Basketball Throw: 1st Place – Anthony Men-

doza-Gila River, 2nd Place – Levi Evanston-Ft. Mohave, and 3rd Place – Phil Miranda-Tohono O'dham;
 Paper Crunch: 1st Place – Liela Williams-Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation, 2nd Place – Verna Parker-Gila River, and 3rd Place – Jeannette Peters-Ak-Chin;
 Chicken Throw: 1st Place – Eddie Reed-Pala Band of Mission Indians, 2nd Place – Evelyn Ortiz-Tohono O'dham, and 3rd Place – John Macho-Pala Band of Mission Indians;
 Cornhole Toss: 1st Place – Alex Holmes-Gila River, 2nd Place – Branda Hardy-Salt River, and 3rd Place – Karen Antone-Tohono O'dham;
 Oompa Loompa Race: 1st Place – Eddie Reed and John Macho-Pala Band

of Mission Indians, 2nd Place – Kenny Eagleton and Deanna Subish-Pala Band of Mission Indians, and 3rd Place – Nicole Carlyle and Leslie Burnett-Ak-Chin

Before lunch, individual winners were announced and were directed to meet on the center court, where Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Director, Ann Marie Antone, placed shell necklace medallions around their neck for their accomplishments.

The medallions were creatively designed and made by the Zabawa Cattle Company.

During lunch, all participants enjoyed a luncheon sponsored by Ak-Chin Community Events that

featured delicious lunch box meals from the Honey Baked Ham Company. After lunch and a short break, it was game time! Thirty-Two teams, including four Ak-Chin

Elder teams, made their way to four volleyball courts inside the gymnasium and went at it. As the balls volleyed back and forth, the concentration, determination, and love of the game was evident as players cringed at every point scored against them and were ecstatic when they scored a point.

The tournament guaranteed each team three games in Pool Play before being placed in a gold and silver tournament bracket for Thursday's competition. The gold and silver

brackets were determined by each team's play and record in Pool Play. Following Pool Play, teams made their way to their respective destinations to rest and relax until they were summoned to return for the finale, the Chair Volleyball Tournament, on Thursday, March 26th.

Thursday's games were a "one and done" format, meaning a single elimination tournament; if you lost, you were out. In tournament play, each team gave it their all, some games were over early, and others lasted a bit longer as teams battled to either one or two-point wins.

At the end of the tournament four teams would be named victorious; in the

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Adella Zabawa of team Sunflowers hits the ball while teammates, Florinda Peters, Jeannette Peters and Monica "Mo" Rubio look on during Pool Play of the Chair Volleyball Tournament.



Ak-Chin elders who placed 3rd: Leslie Carlyle-Burnett and Nicole Carlyle-Coester (Oompa Loompa) and Jeannette Peters (Paper Crunch).



George Lewis, Jr. is excited for the ball to come to him.



Evangelyn Romo serves as Robert Miguel looks on.



Glenna Francisco prepares to hit the ball across the net.



Ak-Chin Boys: Top 1 to r: Coach Jose Miguel, Omarion Flores, Draven Soliz, Kaden Bryant, Jacob Bryant, Marcus Rose, Coach Thomas Carlyle and Coach Dennis Antone. Bottom 1 to r: Brian Ruelas, Monty Vincent, Horacio Corella, Caden Ortega and Christen Kerley.



Ak-Chin Girls: Top 1 to r: Tatum Campbell, Nyaila Miguel, Audrina Peters, Sophia Peters and Auciana Miguel. Middle 1 to r: Iliana Perryman and Johanna Peters. Bottom 1 to r: Coach Jose Miguel, Stella Miguel, Julianna Siaz, and Coach Raymond Whitman.

Ak-Chin Teams take their talents to Vegas

Story & Photo by Robert Miguel
 Las Vegas, a place where many go to gamble, you either come home a winner or a loser. For both Ak-Chin boys and girls high school basketball teams, they weren't old enough to gamble, so they took to the hardwood during the 7th Annual

Junior Nationals on March 20th and 21st at the Las Vegas Basketball Center, trying their luck in coming home winners. All teams in the tournament were guaranteed three Pool Play games before going into Tournament Play.

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Awards for Ak-Chin Students

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Ak-Chin students and peers were awarded for their efforts for the third quarter, during an 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM award ceremonies at Saddleback Elementary.

Success and Academic Achievement. Santa Cruz Elementary School student and member Morgan Miller was also awarded Outstanding Achievement for the third quarter.

Students received recognition for Honor roll A's and B's, Perfect Attendance, P.R.I.D.E, Personal

Congratulations to our Ak-Chin Scholars on a job well done!

Students awarded (Top to bottom, L-R) Eleazar Baptisto, Layla Santiago, Elmaleen Johnson, Lindsey Antone, Jeremiah Antone, Bon Scott Alvarez, Logan Tittes, Aria Vincent-Enos, Itzehl Trejo, Ryder Narcia, William Delma, Morgan Miller and Jose Hernandez.

Disclaimer: Education staff assisted with students who have ROI's. Students with no ROI were given permission to the Runner by parents for release of photo.



High School SENIOR TRIP TO HAWAII

AK-CHIN GRADUATING SENIORS & CHAPERONES

Questions About the Trip?

CONTACT
Flora Howerton
520-568-1043 | FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- NEW STATE TRAVEL ID
- TRIBAL ID

Let's go to the Zoo!

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos by Megan Quintero

A perfect day for a trip, the Ak-Chin Early Childhood Education department headed to the Phoenix Zoo on March 31, 2026. For a few of the scholars, this was the first time visiting and it was an experience to see the many animals in their human made habitats. With many chaperones and an agenda full of different animal attractions, this trip was educational and memorable for the kids.



Jessica Zabawa Honored at MUSD Board Meeting

Story by Robert Miguel, photo submitted by Sarah Zabawa



On Wednesday, March 25th, Maricopa Elementary School 5th grader and Ak-Chin member, Jessica Zabawa, was honored by the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board for her recent accomplishments in school.

The award was entitled "Student Spotlight Winner" and is given to chosen students on a monthly basis who display a top grade point average, character and citizenship to name a few.

Jessica is currently taught by Ms. Nawalu. She is playing recreational volleyball for the city of Maricopa and will attend Maricopa Wells Middle School next year.

Proud parents are Joseph and Sarah Zabawa, and grandparents Joe and Adella Zabawa. Jessica is also the great-granddaughter of Evelina Lopez.

Match the O'odham words to English

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Nalaş | Corn |
| U:dvis | Cholla Bud |
| Ko'okol | Orange |
| Ha:soñ | Jalapeno |
| I:vak | Cabaso Melon |
| Ka:ñu | Sugar Cane |
| Olas Ko'okol | Banana |
| A:sos | Pinto Bean |
| Ha:l | Quail |
| I:bhai | Mule Deer |
| Ke:li Ba:şo | Spinach |
| Hu:ñ | Garlic |
| Mu:ñ | Squash |
| Viohok | Mesquite Bean |
| Mansa:na | Lima Bean |
| Havul | Peach |
| Kakaicu | Tepin Chile |
| Huai | Grapes |
| Hovij | Prickly Pear |
| Vilgo:gi | Apple |
| Hanam | Grapes |

First Female and First Male to turn into the Language Program will receive a gift.



The Maricopa Wells Middle School Panthers Championship Team.

a jubilant celebration after the final out, players enjoyed the moment by reflecting with one another what they'd just accomplished.

Coach Zabawa Jr. also added that teamwork was a key in this year's success. "With the season we had this year, I'm really proud of the

boys, they worked really hard to get to this point. They always worked as a team and hyped each other up when needed."

"This my third year helping coach and have seen some of the boys come a long way. Last year we ended in second place and we were determined to come

back and win this year. I am very excited to see the Championship banner hung up in the Maricopa Wells Middle School gym because there's currently none for baseball."

Look for John to continue his baseball career at Maricopa High School next season.

Crops continued from Front

Back in 1998, potatoes were first grown on the Ak-Chin Farms, which began its season in January and ended in early March. Since that schedule, it continues to be the set time of the year for potato production. They then are harvested from May through July.

Currently the Farm is in contract with R & G Potato, who oversees the production of the harvesting process. How much planting of potatoes are dependent on the demand, which has varied from 1,000 to 1,600 acres per year.

Once harvested, it is delivered to the Ak-Chin Potato Shed to be cleaned. After a high-powered washing at the plant, they are then loaded into a refrigerated truck to be delivered to customers, which

include; Pepsi Company "Frito Lay", Shearer's Snack Food and In & Out Burger.

Ak-Chin is responsible from planting through harvest, once the potatoes are delivered to the cleaning plant, R&G potato is responsible.

Ak-Chin's corn helps support the feed for dairy cattle who produce milk for consumers within areas in the county.

The first corn silage was grown in 2005. Planting begins in February and is completed in March. The corn is then green chopped "harvested" in July and is planted according to demand, which can vary from 2,000 to 5,500 acres.

The Farm has a contract with Casa Grande Commodities, which

helps in delivering corn to various dairies around the farming communities. This changes year to year depending on the dairy needs.

This current year, Ak-Chin is delivering to Shamrock Dairy and Feenstra Dairy. Ak-Chin is responsible from planting up to harvest and the dairy's pay for the harvesting of the crops.

Picante and In & Out are just two visible franchises who have a relationship with Ak-Chin, who knows what may be next, stay tuned.



An Ak-Chin Farms tractor plows and cleans rows of one of the fields where this seasons potato crops are planted and harvested.

Of the two teams, the Ak-Chin boys took to the floor first early Friday morning, where they were matched up against 4C Elite from New Mexico. The two teams exchanged baskets during the first half, with each taking a brief lead, before the half ended in a single digit lead for the Elite. The second half saw the Elite widening their lead before Ak-Chin battled back to a single figure deficit. The Elite were able to stave off any other rallies, pinning a first-round loss to Ak-Chin.

In round two, Ak-Chin was pitted against the Warriors from Nevada. Ak-Chin jumped out to lead in the first few minutes of the game before the Warriors made a run and took a double-digit lead going into halftime. Ak-Chin, once again, made a brief comeback, but the double-digit lead that the Warriors had in the first half, was too much to overcome as Ak-Chin fell to 0-2 in Pool Play.

The final Pool Play match up featured Ak-Chin versus Az Nephs of Winslow. The game was another close one for Ak-Chin as they matched baskets with the Nephs, and trailing within single digits for most of the game. During a stretch late in the second half, the

Nephs made a run and led by double digits. When the game ended, Ak-Chin fell to 0-3 in Pool Play.

In tournament play, it was win and advance or one and done. Ak-Chin faced the Rainmakers of Nevada in tourney competition. As was in previous pool play, Ak-Chin played well enough to make the game close throughout, but succumbed to defeat by double digits, and their time in the tournament ran out. Despite the outcome, coaches Thomas Carlyle, Dennis Antone and Jose Miguel Jr. were pleased with their play against great competition from four respective programs.

The Ak-Chin girls, who are still a very young program, faced of against NE from Flagstaff, Arizona in the first round of their Pool Play. NE, took a commanding lead early in the first half and never looked back. Despite being overmatched, the girls from Ak-Chin continued to fight until the final whistle blew.

In the second round, Ak-Chin was pitted against another great program, TNF from Iowa, who featured a run and gun style. Encountering another early lead by TNF, Ak-Chin continued to play catch up throughout the game, which caused late

game fatigue and defeat, with a 0-2 standing in Pool Play.

It didn't get much better in the third round as Ak-Chin faced Run N Gun, an all-star group hailing from the Navajo Nation of Arizona. Ak-Chin showed grit and determination and kept it close in the early minutes of the game. But Run N Gun showed their label of being one of the top teams in the tournament, and quickly pulled away to a commanding lead. Although they continued to fight, Ak-Chin fell to defeat and a 0-3 standing in final Pool Play.

In tournament competition, Ak-Chin took on Haulapai from Arizona. Things looked great as Ak-Chin was able to keep it close throughout the first half and only down by 7 points going into halftime. The second half was also close, up until mid-point before Haulapai pulled away and sending Ak-Chin home. Coach Raymond "Bunch" Whitman was encouraged with his team's play and highlighted their continued improvement.

Look for both teams to continue their seasons as they prepare for the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) in downtown Phoenix July 14th - 18th.

Library Hours
 Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 12pm-4pm
 Sun: Closed

2026 April

National Poetry Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees. Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.			1 Brick Builders 3-5pm	2	3 Closed <i>Good Friday</i>	4 Closed
5 <i>Happy Easter</i>	6	7	8 Storytime @10am	9 Blackout Poetry 3-5pm	10	11 Him Dak 9am-1pm Closed
12	13	14	15 Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm	16	17	18 Crafternoon 1-3pm
19	20 The Joy of Painting 5-6pm	21 After School Snack 3-5pm	22 EARTH DAY Storytime @10am	23 Library After Dark 6-8pm	24 Family Game Night 5-7pm	25 Dinosaur Day 1-3pm
26	27	28	29 Storytime @10am	30		

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

2026

CENTRAL AZ

Car & Bike Show

Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
 16000 N Maricopa Rd.

WITH BIG TYME ENTERTAINMENT & JUDGING BY MOTORSPORT SHOWCASE

April 11th
10am to 2:30pm

Roll-in:
7 AM - 9:30 AM

REGISTER ON
 EVENTBRITE

Over 25 awards and \$500 cash prize for Best in Show!

100% of registration proceeds benefit the SAGueros Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day team

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SHOWCASE CONNECT NETWORK SALES PROMOTE

Sponsored by

OVER 100 VENDORS ★ FOOD TRUCKS ★ FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND FUN

Register Today!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

REP YOUR BRAND!

2026 Biz Expo

Trash to Treasure - Recycled Bottle Self-Watering Planters

Turn empty plastic bottles into self-watering drip irrigation planters for herbs, flowers, or native plants. It's simple, affordable, and teaches water conservation.

Supplies (Use what you have!)

- Empty 2-liter soda bottles or large water bottles
- Cotton string or fabric strip (for wick)
- Potting soil
- Seeds or starter plants (herbs work great!)
- Nail or small drill (to make holes)
- Scissors



reducing water waste and keeping plants consistently hydrated.

Why It's a Great "Trash to Treasure" Project?

- Reduces single-use plastic waste
- Teaches water conservation
- Promotes food sovereignty & home gardening

Use this Trash to Treasure? Please email photos to **Brandy Nelson** at BNelson@ak-chin.nsn.us at Environmental Programs with results.

Optional:

- Acrylic paint for decorating
- Twine to hang vertically

How It Works

1. Cut the bottle in half.
2. Poke a hole in the cap and thread the cotton string through (this becomes the wick).
3. Fill the bottom half with water.
4. Turn the top half upside down into the bottom half.
5. Add soil and plant your seeds.

The wick slowly pulls water up into the soil,



ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA FEAST

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
MISSION – AK-CHIN
16657 N. CHURCH ROAD
MARICOPA, AZ 85139

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 25, 2026
MASS – 10:00 AM**

**JOIN US IN THE PROCESSION WITH KATERI
STATUE, MEAL AND ENTERTAINMENT**

THIS IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE EVENT. ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BODILY INJURY, THEFT OR DAMAGES ON ST. FRANCIS PROPERTY.

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.

Ak-Chin Health Education Presents...

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU EVENTS

**MAY 2ND 2026
AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER
8:00 AM**

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!

WHETHER YOU CHOOSE THE LIGHT SIDE OR THE DARK SIDE, JOIN US FOR A 5K OR 2 MILE WALK OR RUN WITH FOOD, SWAG, RAFFLE PRIZES, AND 5K TOP FINISHER PRIZES!

Event open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, Employees & Employee family members.

Online registration deadline: April 30th
Scan QR Code for registration or visit <https://forms.gle/aAnL2K1hbdfZDzj3A>



QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520)568-1080 OR MGYUBAK-CHIN.NSN.US

MAR 23 2026 PM 12:21

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
45525 West Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85139
Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1388

IN THE MATTER OF:
N.L.M
D.O.B: 01/01/2024

Case No.: CV-2026-008-NC

Minor(s) SUMMONS

Concerning:
KAIN ANTHONY MARRIETTA

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:
KAIN ANTHONY MARRIETTA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the above-entitled matter on the 21st day of May, 2026, at 11:00 AM for a Status Hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR FOR AT THE TIME AND DATE SET FOR THE HEARING A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST THE RESPONDENT AND THE PETITIONER MAY BE GRANTED THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE PETITION OR THE PETITION MAY BE DISMISSED FOR FAILURE OF THE PETITIONER TO APPEAR.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 23rd day of March, 2026.

Deanna Justin, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

MAR 23 2026 PM 12:18

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
45525 West Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85139
Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1388

IN THE MATTER OF:
L.Y.M
D.O.B: 12/20/2020

Case No.: CV-2026-007-NC

Minor(s) SUMMONS

Concerning:
KAIN ANTHONY MARRIETTA

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:
KAIN ANTHONY MARRIETTA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the above-entitled matter on the 21st day of May, 2026, at 11:00 AM for a Status Hearing.

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GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 23rd day of March, 2026.

Deanna Justin, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

MAR 26 2026 PM 3:51

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
45525 West Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85139
Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1388

IN THE MATTER OF:
DANTE TYREN PETERS
DOB: 03/05/2010

Case No.: CV-2026-00009-NC

CIVIL SUMMONS

CONCERNING:
ARMONDA CAPRI SANTIAGO

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:
DAVID FLETCHER PETERS JR.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the above entitled matter for a Status Hearing set on Thursday the 21st day of May, 2026 at 11:00 AM at the Ak-Chin Justice Complex 45525 W. Farrell Road, Maricopa AZ 85139.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR FOR AT THE TIME AND DATE SET FOR THE HEARING A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST THE RESPONDENT AND THE PETITIONER MAY BE GRANTED THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE PETITION OR THE PETITION MAY BE DISMISSED FOR FAILURE OF THE PETITIONER TO APPEAR.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 26th day of March, 2026.

Deanna Justin, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

FOOD HANDLERS CLASS

TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026
AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER
10 AM – 12:30 PM



Who Should Attend??

- Food Service Workers
- Volunteers
- Interested Community Members

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARIZONA

BOWLING Tournament

Team Entry- \$100
4 MEMBERS PER TEAM
RENTAL SHOE FEE: \$5

19
April

SESSION 1: 10 AM
SESSION 2: 1:30 PM

30 MINUTE WARM UP SESSION BEFORE SCHEDULED START TIME

CONTACT
DAVIS GARCIA (520) 568-1222 Dbgarcia@ak-chin.nsn.us
MICHELLE GRANADOS (520) 568-1215 Mgranados@ak-chin.nsn.us



Katherine Evans from the Gila River Employment and Training Department, goes over a powerpoint with potential Ak-Chin Summer Youth Employees.

WIOA Summer Youth Employment Orientation

Story and photo by Megan Quintero


On March 26th and 27th the Ak-Chin HR Staff held the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program orientation at the Ak-Chin Education department.

employment and training department went over the program's start and end dates, goals for the program, funding, the different worksites, specialty programs, the awards banquet, and the onboarding process, eligibility.

youth attended the oriation as they were given valuable information.

The WIOA Program has been an assistant in withthe Ak-Chin community for decades, helping teens and adults with employment opportunities and other services .

For the two days, nearly twenty community



**WELCOME TO OUR 2026
SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Deadline to apply
will be May 1st 2026**

Ak-Chin Community Member Jobs

Job Title, Job Category, Date, Requisition Number

Company Location + Job Category + Schedule + Job Location Type +

Showing 1 of 1 opportunities


Summer Student Today


Job Category: Temporary
Requisition Number: SUMME001055
Schedule: Full Time
Job Location Type: On-site

Ak-Chin Indian Community Headquarters
42507 W. Farrell Rd
Maricopa, AZ 85138, USA.

Under supervision, participants of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Summer Youth program will assist with the administration of the day-to-day operations within the department they are assigned.

PLEASE SCAN ME TO APPLY





If you have any questions please call 520-568-1050

Festival continued from Front

burrito, then the said "burrito" had to race to the opposite end of the field and back to their teammates.

A Tortilla Olympics was held, where some of the tortilla makers could compete to see who could make the tortilla the fastest or who could make the biggest tortilla. The festival had tortilla classes on site throughout the day, located on the museum patio, for attendees to learn tips on tortilla etiquette and the step-by-step process

of making tortillas, from making the dough to forming the tortilla, to a round shape, and finally cook the tortilla on a comal or disk over an open fire!

Not only were there tortilla demonstrations, there was live entertainment going on throughout the day, which was music provided by the chicken scratch band 'Waila Style 87' from 10am till closing.


A couple of concluding remarks by some of the

tortilla makers; "it was a fun experience" said Elaina and "I liked that we were able to mingle before it started, because I got to hear and talk with the other ladies about how the other sister tribes make their foods whether it's the same or different" shared Lusan.

Overall, I'd say it was yet another successful festival provided by the Salt River Indian Community. If you have not yet gone to the Tortilla Festival be on the lookout March 2027!



Team Ak-Chin Tortilla Tossers: l to r: Glenna Francisco, Krista Manuel, Lerline Peters, Melanie Antone, Lusan Enos and Elaina Enos.



Ak-Chin Child Development

Accepting applications for
Preschool 2026-2027 SY
Deadline is July 13th, 2025

Our office is open
8am-5pm
Monday-Friday
Register now!
First day of Preschool is
August 10th, 8:30am-2:00pm

Ak-Chin Child Development offers:

- A High Quality Early Education Experience
- Health/Developmental Screenings
- Disability Services (Through M.U.S.D.)
- Kindergarten Readiness
- *Story time (Provided by Ak-Chin Library)
- *Cultural Activities/Events (Provided by Language Program/Cultural Resources)*
- *Physical/Nutrition Education (Provided by Ak-Chin Health Ed. Program)
- *Fire Safety Education (Provided by the Ak-Chin Fire Department)*
- *Field Trips/Fun activities throughout year*
- Health and Safety Protocols in Place

Enrollment is based on availability and children are selected in the following order:

1. Child is an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
2. Child is a non-enrolled member, but he/she is the Legal child of an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
3. Child is living within the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries.
4. Child is living outside of the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries and is enrolled with another federally recognized Native American Community.
5. Child of a parent who is an employee of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
6. Non-member children based on availability.

If you have any questions please contact the Preschool at
48251 W. Farrell Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85139
(520) 568-1700.
Ak-ChinChildDevelopment@ak-chin.nsn.us

Transportation provided for children living within the Ak-Chin Community boundaries.

Pick up a 2026-2027 Enrollment Packet at Ak-Chin Child Development.

Please bring in the following documents to be considered for enrollment

- Completed Application
- Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) if applicable
- Child's Certified Birth Certificate
- Child's Current Immunization Record

(returning students only need the current Immunization Record and a completed Returning Student application)

Only completed applications with required documents will be accepted. Children registering must be three (3) years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

Closing out the spring programs

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos by Runner staff

Continuing on with the Spring fun from last issue, the second week of the spring programs proved to be just as busy as the week before with department scheduled activities and trips.

the ground at all cost. To aid the youth in this task, objects were given to help create a path to the "safety," mark. Not only was this game challenging, it focused on the use of teamwork and patience.

The Him-dak Art group continued their crafting throughout the week but a highlight to the crafts had to be the DIY bird feeder which consisted of a toilet paper roll, doused in sunflower butter, and dressed with a variety of seeds for the birds of the community.

To conclude the week at the Him-dak Art Program, the kiddos were treated to the movie The Goat at the Ak-Chin Circle.

The Intercession group's week featured visits from the Library, Animal Control, the Tribal Council, Parks & Recreation and a visit to the Information Systems Warehouse. One of the few highlights of the week was the trip to the Musical Instruments Museum or MIM in Scottsdale on Thursday, March 19. Instruments from all over the world were introduced to the Spring intercession group and at the end of the museum tour, the kids were able to try their hands on the instruments.

Organized by the Ak-Chin Environmental Programs department's Brandi Nelson, the bird feeders are 100% biodegradable; meaning the items used will break down over time and cause little to no harm to the environment. All the Him-dak art group also received a booklet that detailed the many native species of birds in the Arizona southern region. The kiddos couldn't help but try the sunflower seed butter as some hadn't tried it before too.

Another highlight for the week had to be the Water Day at the Milton Antone Memorial Park on Friday, March 20. A waterslide, slip and slide, and games with water balloons was a hit with the kiddos; they couldn't contain their delight. The group was treated to the delicious tastings of the Lemme Lemonade U, where they provided drinks for all participants.

The Ak-Chin health education department carried on with scheduled time with the spring art students, introducing them to exciting games that's main focus was to keep them moving. One highlight was Health ed's version of "the floor is lava" game; this game is just as is sound, to avoid

Spring break is over now, school is in session.





TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE - EST 1995
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT

— AWARENESS MONTH —

Sexual assault is when someone touches your body when they don't have your permission.



Community Awareness Event

Join us for an outdoor evening of awareness at the Mul-Chu-Tha fairgrounds. The event will begin with a run/walk, followed by raffles and refreshments.
**T-Shirts and refreshments for first 200 participants*

April 1st - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Mul-Chu-Tha Fairgrounds
Sacaton, Az

TEAL TUESDAYS

On Teal Tuesday, April 7th, and each Tuesday throughout the month, wear teal to show support for survivors and promote awareness. Look for our Gila River Health Care Forensic Nursing team's awareness tables throughout the month:

April 7th
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

April 14th
Komatke Health Center

April 21st
Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center

April 28th
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital



COLORING PAGE WITH RAFFLE

Contact us at to get you COLORING page. To enter into raffle, send a photo of your colored page to 520-610-0496.



DENIM DAY IS APRIL 29th

Wear jeans or denim on this day as a visible sign of support for survivors of sexual assault.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Please reach out to your Community or Gila River Health Care's resources if you have been a victim of sexual assault. You don't have to report your assault to Law Enforcement to receive services.

Crime Victim Services 520-562-4106
OEW DV Shelter 855-203-5849
GRIC Crisis Line 520-562-2740
Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 988 (text/call)

GRHC Forensic Nursing 520-562-5151
GRIC Police Department 520-562-4511/911
GRIC Silent Witness 520-562-7144





JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Child and Family Therapist (part-time)
- Communication Officer
- Lifeguard
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer (certified)
- Security Guard
- Teacher's Aide
- Teacher's Aide (part-time)
- Therapist

Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Museum Technician
- Oral Historian (part-time)

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 Birthdays 4/5 - 4/16

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4/5
Jacolby King,
EPD
Marc Matteson,
Health | 4/11
Dwain Clemons,
Vekol |
| 4/6
Matthew Cross,
Education
Jason Garcia,
Sanitation
Joan Jackson-Deal,
Human Services | 3/12
Ralph Gomez,
EPD
Angel Hoffman,
EPD |
| 4/7
Nicole Carlyle-Coester,
Community
Government | 4/15
Adrian Angulo,
Sanitation
Sandra Shade,
Planning |
| 4/8
Belen Sanchez,
Health and Human
Services | 4/16
Glenna Francisco,
Custodian
Brandy Rivera,
Vekol |
| 4/9
Nikolai White,
Sanitation | |

JOIN US THIS Crafternoon

GET CRAFTY WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS!
SATURDAY
APRIL 18TH
1PM-3PM

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

WIC

Tuesday, April 07, 2026
8:30a-3:30p
Ak-Chin Service Center

Do you qualify for WIC?

- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding women
- Infants
- Children under the age of 5

WIC foods include: yogurt, fresh fruits & 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

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

APRIL 20TH-25TH 2026

20 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM MONDAY	THE JOY OF PAINTING Join us for a joyful painting experience. All Ages
21 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM TUESDAY	AFTER SCHOOL SNACK Come enjoy an afternoon snack while supplies last. Ages 5-15
22 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY	STORYTIME Join us for an earth day Storytime and craft. Ages 2-5
23 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM THURSDAY	LIBRARY AFTER DARK We're staying open later! Enjoy some food and discover library joy! Ages 15+
24 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM FRIDAY	FAMILY GAME NIGHT Enjoy a night of fun board games with family and friends! All ages
25 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM SATURDAY	DINOSAUR DAY Join us for an afternoon of dinosaur stories, puzzles, and coloring.

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

ZUMBA

Ak-Chin Service Center
Tuesdays - 6:00pm - 7:00pm

April.07.2026
April.14.2026
April.21.2026
April.28.2026

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

Blackout Poetry

Let your creativity fly with poetry and art!

April 9th Thursday
3pm-5pm

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

Pilates With Vickie

Ak-Chin Service Center
Wednesdays
6:00p-7:00p

April 08, 2026
April 15, 2026
April 22, 2026
April 29, 2026

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

Employee Updates



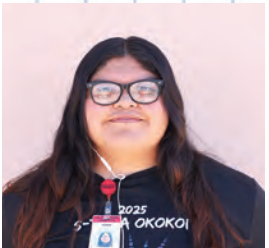
Brittany Justin
Deputy Clerk



Celeste Gloria
Teacher's Aide



Juanita Miguel
Admin Support Assistant



Megan Quintero
Photojournalist



Michael Trejo
Firefigther



Car Seat Check-Up!!

Does your kiddo have a car seat? We want to make sure your kiddo is Safe and Secure on the Roadways

April 15th, 2026
Wednesday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Service Center-Back Covered Parking

Call the Injury Prevention Program at 520-568-1087 or email Teri De La Cruz
TDeLaCruz@ak-chin.nsn.us

MOLINA HEALTHCARE

14th Annual Him-Dak Golf Classic

Monday, April 27th, 2026
9:00AM Shotgun Start
\$1,500 Team Entry

Includes: Golf, Food & Beverage, Tee Gifts, Awards & Raffle

Presenting Sponsor—\$5,000
2 Foursome Entries
Company logo on GPS screens in carts & welcome TV board
Large sponsor sign with logo
Logo placement on all cart material & live scoring software
Recognition during golf announcements & award ceremony
1 entry per person into Raffle Draw

Supporting Sponsor—\$3,000
1 Foursome Entry
Logo recognition on cart material
Hole sponsor sign
1 entry per person into Raffle Draw

Hole Sponsor Sign—\$500
One hole sign on assigned hole, putting green, or practice facility

For entry or questions, please contact Ryan Graham at 520.426.6830 (rgraham@troon.com) or Brandon Peters at 520.568.1020 (BPeters@ak-chin.nsn.us)

April 4/4 - 4/16 Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| APRIL 4
Eileen Quintero
Paula Pete
Isabella Luna | APRIL 9
Nikolai White
Nathius Jacuinde
Garin Cuatt
Michelle Miranda
Leondro Antone | Deeandra Lewis |
| APRIL 5
Jacolby King | APRIL 10
Amanda Green | APRIL 13
Mel Kaniatobe
Jessica Batopis |
| APRIL 6
Drevon Deloney
Elena Cypriano
Alexis Cazares
Jason Garcia | APRIL 11
Heather Thomas
Fred Jerry Jr.
Michael Peters Sr.
Miranda Iniestra
Gloria Alejandro
Angel Stephens | APRIL 14
Pate Justin
Janay Ulloa-Justin |
| APRIL 7
Nicole Coester | APRIL 12
Genevilyn Miguel
Isaiah Narcia
Angel Hoffman | APRIL 15
Reynold Narcia
Brian Carra
Sandra Shade |
| APRIL 8
Cayla Thomas
Jeffrey Ruelas | | APRIL 16
Antonia Baptisto
Darryl Peters
Valerie Ruiz
Glenna Francisco |

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Michael, Sr., and Darryl Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Pate and Janay Love your family



GOLD BRACKET CHAMPIONS - PALA 1



SILVER BRACKET CHAMPIONS - JUJUDAM D5



GOLD BRACKET RUNNER-UP - ONK AKIMEL TADAI



SILVER BRACKET RUNNER-UP - DEFENDERS

Gold Bracket: 1st Place honors went to Pala 1-Pala Band of Mission Indians, coming in at 2nd Place was Onk Akimel Tada-Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; and in the Silver Bracket: 1st Place was awarded to Jujudam D5-Gila River Indian Community with 2nd Place going to Defenders-Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe.

Director Anne Marie Antone and her entire staff, as well as all the TEMP workers who came out to help. Praises were extended to staff from participants on what a great event this year's "Legend's at Play" was.

Shout outs to: Pickle Pop "Slushie Guy" for selling delicious slushies Pickles, Josie's Frybread sold breakfast burritos, Ak-Chin Fire Department & Police Department for providing on-site safety, Sonia DePaola & Marissa Antone from the Ak-Chin Elderly department for helping organize and execute the event, Marc Matteson & Martina Guy

from Ak-Chin Health Education for providing healthy snacks, Ak-Chin Community Events Department for providing exceptional work throughout the whole tournament, including assembling the awards, Ak-Chin Central Plant Department for offering volunteer services, Ak-Chin Runner for taking beautiful pictures and providing volunteer

services, Armonda Santiago & Jolene Miguel from the Ak-Chin Maintenance-Custodian department, who kept our gymnasium nice and clean, Vekol Market for providing amazing coffee and teas, and Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Resort for providing excellent customer service and great hotel accommodations.

All winning teams were given t-shirts and shell necklace medallions for their accomplishments.

A big "thank you" goes out to the Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Department



Ak-Chin elders get together for a photo before the start of the games.

2026 AZ QUALITY PLUMBING PRESENTS 8th Annual
 *** Central Arizona ***
FOOD TRUCK BATTLE
 APRIL 11 10 AM - 3 PM
 AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER | 16000 N MARICOPA RD

LITTLE DOG RACES
 APRIL 11
 16 Dogs • Tournament Style • One Champion!
 Costume Contest - All Dog Sizes Welcome!
 Prizes for Race Winner, Best Costume & Fan Favorite!
 9:00 AM - Practice & Registration
 10:30 AM - Tournament Starts
 \$5 ENTRY FEE - ALL BREEDS WELCOME!
 Ak-Chin Circle Amphitheater
 Pre-Register at: Ak-ChinCircle.com

Easter KIDS EVENT
 April 4th 12PM-3PM
 Arts & Crafts, Coloring Pages, and Tattoos
 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85139
 Ak-ChinCircle.com

EASTER Egg Hunt
 April 5th 9AM - 10AM
 This event is for kids 10 and under only
 Doors open at 9AM
 The first 10 minutes ages 0-4 will enter
 ak-ChinCircle.com

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY
 Inside The Ak-Chin Circle Lobby
 Make sure to stop by & take photos
APRIL 5th
 10AM-12PM
 The Easter Bunny will also be at the Kids Event! April 4th | 12pm-3pm
 Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center
 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85139

EXPERIENCE A SHORT COURSE LONG ON FUN, FOOD, GAMES & BEVERAGES
 JOIN US UNDER THE STARS AT
mini Dunes
 PLAY THEN STAY - INTO THE NIGHT WITH A FREE ROUND!
 PLAY SUNDOWN OR SUPER SUNDOWN RECEIVE FREE ROUND OF NIGHT GOLF
 RATES ARE PER PLAYER & DO NOT INCLUDE APPLICABLE TAX, BASED ON AVAILABILITY WED-SUN ONLY, VALID 1/2/26-4/12/26
 480.367.8949 AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM
 Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO **APRIL 2026** **CAESARS REWARDS.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
\$50,000 SWEEPSTAKES SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS • 11AM - 6:45PM DRAWINGS EVERY 15 MINUTES • NOON - 6:30PM 7PM FINALE • 2026 LINCOLN NAUTILUS PREMIERE	1. 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER SPRING VIBES & MIDWEEK WINS FOREVER YOUNG COURTS OF CHAOS	2. YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY COURTS OF CHAOS	3. COURTS OF CHAOS	4. FRY'S FOOD STORES® E-GIFT CARD EGG-STRAVAGANZA COURTS OF CHAOS	5. SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE COURTS OF CHAOS HAPPY EASTER!	6. COURTS OF CHAOS	7. SPRINGTIME GLASSWARE GIVEAWAY	8. 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER SPRING VIBES & MIDWEEK WINS FOREVER YOUNG	9. YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	10. LEVEL UP WITH ONE TAP, DOWNLOAD THE APP!	11. RENT A CABANA ON YOUR NEXT STAY!
12. SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	13. TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB	14. SPRINGTIME GLASSWARE GIVEAWAY	15. 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER SPRING VIBES & MIDWEEK WINS FOREVER YOUNG	16. YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	17. LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS	18. CODEGREEN® \$50,000 SWEEPSTAKES BAMBOO CHARCUTERIE BOARD GIVEAWAY					
19. SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	20. FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!	21. SPRINGTIME GLASSWARE GIVEAWAY	22. 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER SPRING VIBES & MIDWEEK WINS FOREVER YOUNG	23. YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY DRAFT DAY MEMORABILIA SWEEPSTAKES	24. SEVEN STARS® PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	25. SEVEN STARS® PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER					
26. SEVEN STARS® PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	27. MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN, TOO!	28. SPRINGTIME GLASSWARE GIVEAWAY	29. 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER SPRING VIBES & MIDWEEK WINS FOREVER YOUNG	30. YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS Join us Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 8PM, for the Ronstadt Revival featuring Shannon Rae						

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