



Jeannette Peters, takes aim with a fire hose during the final portion of the Firefighter Challenge, as Ak-Chin Firefighter/EMT Darren Peters guides her.

Celebrating 40 Years, AKC Fire Department Hosts Pancake Breakfast

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

On Saturday, April 25th, the Ak-Chin Fire Department hosted a milestone event that featured a "Pancake Breakfast", guest speakers, firefighter challenge, traditional dance performance, and a collage of photos from years past, all of which commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the Department.

Guided by Ak-Chin Fire Captain, Jennifer Boehm, the celebration, held at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park,

Celebrating 40 Years continues to Page 5

began with a prayer by former Ak-Chin Fire Fighter, Marvin Thomas, whom is a member of the Gila River Indian Community, but was raised in the Ak-Chin Community.

Thomas followed up the prayer with comments of being one of the first employees of the Department when it was established in 1986, as he mentioned the other employees including; Hiram "Tweety" Carlyle, Norman Vincent, Jr., Cecil Peters, Joseph

Kakar and Fred Antone.

He shared his experience and memories of the high and low moments during his tenure under former Ak-Chin Fire Chief, the late Bill White, as well as Connie Boys. Marvin reminisced about the "tight-knit crew" and the different equipment they worked with, such as the big lime-green "Slimer" water truck and the yearly Fourth of July fireworks.

The microphone was then handed off to Ak-



Top l to r: Mercedes Salcido, Vanessa Soliz, Tracy Zimmerman, Nicole Nickens, Janelle Mason, Kim Creamer, Kathleen Miguel, Geraldine Looper, and Vicky Smith. Middle l to r: Gwen Lopez, Juanita Miguel, Hermalinda Mavis, Marcela Batopis, Tera Thornton, Candi Chavez, Bianca Mata, Deidra Carlyle, and Angie Soliz. Sitting l to r: Jennifer Smith, Barbara Hawkins and Marilyn Thompson.

Administrators Recognized

Story by Runner Staff, photo submitted

Throughout the Ak-Chin Indian Community, you will find some of the hardest-working individuals. Every department gives their utmost effort every day to create a better community.

While much of the work you see is visible, many of these unsung heroes behind the scenes help hold everything together—these individuals are our Administrative Professionals.

On April 20, all the department admins

gathered for a luncheon at Harrah's Casino to celebrate their dedicated contributions to their departments. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge their efforts and recognize their hard work.

The atmosphere was lively, and it was heartwarming to see everyone come together for this occasion.

As the admins arrived, they were greeted by the event staff. Each table featured gift bags that

contained various items, including a small tumbler cup, pens, notepads, and a small office plant for each admin.

Ak-Chin Community Events department, who coordinated the event, commented, "Very proud to have been able to host our much-appreciated professional administrators at an exclusive luncheon this April. We feel fortunate to have so many dedicated and hard-working admins supporting our departments, and hope that they enjoyed the event."

National Administrative Professionals' Day, also known as Admin Day, is celebrated on the Wednesday of the last full week in April each year.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Feast Celebrated at St. Francis Church in Ak-Chin

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

On April 25, the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Feast was celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi – Ak-Chin Mission. Mass was celebrated at 10 am, with Father Antony Tinker, followed by a procession of the Saint Kateri statue around the church grounds.

After St. Kateri's statue was set up, everyone was

able to come forward and offer their blessings. The event was then opened up for prayers, followed by the Gila River Matachina dance group.

Once the dancers completed their performance, a blessing for the lunch meal was shared and the St. Peter Choir sang as food was being distributed.

During lunch, speakers came forward with prayers and awards were handed out to; Sr. Martha Mary Carpenter, OFM, Darlene Burnette, John Nieto & Terri Ysaguirre.

The recipients who were nominated for their dedication and service received plaques, that were inscribed, "In recognition of your



St. Kateri is celebrated during mass services at St. Francis Church in Ak-Chin.

St. Kateri continues to Page 2

Sacrament Celebrations

Story by Robert Miguel, photo by Kristen Villegas

During the month of April, the Ak-Chin Indian Community and St. Francis of Assisi Church celebrated with over fifty young Catechists who received their Sacraments at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

The first group received their three sacraments; Baptism, First Holy

Communion and Confirmation on Holy Saturday, April 4, 2026, with Father Peter Teresa.

On Saturday April 18, Bishop John Dolan of the Phoenix Diocese and Father Antony Tinker, celebrated with forty-nine catechists who received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Nine of the forty-nine were adults who only needed one more sacrament (confirmation) to fulfill their three sacraments.

Congratulations to all who received their sacraments, and continued blessings.



Forty-Nine children and adults celebrated their sacraments with Bishop John Dolan of the Phoenix Diocese and Father Anthony Tinker, during mass on Saturday April 18.

Sacraments continues to Page 3

Why Are The Pecan Trees Being Cut Down?

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

One of the more beautiful sites as you make your way to the Ak-Chin Housing department, is the acres of pecan trees that greet you as you get to the parking lot.

The orchard of trees,

which are of the hickory species and walnut family, along with the heavily covered structure of shade, when in full bloom and the smell, are a "welcome" and embraced scenic opportunity when

visiting the area.

I don't know if you've noticed, but all that has gone away just recently. For the past couple of weeks, chainsaws could be heard, cutting all the pecan trees down, which

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devotion to the Catholic faith and deep spirituality which exemplify St. Kateri's love of God and neighbor, the environment, and spirit of sacrifice. St. Kateri's final words 'Jesus konoronkwa' [Jesus, I Love You]. Awarded April 25, 2026

Also recognized that day were members of the Kateri Planning Committee; Peggy Monroe, Joan Bahe, Lerline Peters, Marilyn Thompson and Flower Ruelas, for their assistance in the planning for this year's Kateri Feast.

The Kateri planning committee would like to offer their prayers of thanks to all who attended and supported this year's St. Kateri Tekakwitha Feast, with special acknowledgments to all the parishes for their dedication and the St. Francis of Assisi, Ak-Chin Indian Community for being the gracious hosts.



St. Kateri award recipients, l-r: John Nieto, Terri Ysaguirre, Sr. Martha Mary Carpenter, OFM, and Darlene Burnette.

Enrolled Elder Members 55+
The Elder Center is Raffling 5 Pairs of Diamondback Tickets

Sunday, May 10, 2026 - Mother's Day Diamondbacks ~vs~ Mets

This Raffle you will be on your own
NO Transportation, NO Parking Pass, NO Food

If you would like to be enter into the Raffle, call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760

Deadline to Enter Raffle is May 7th.
We will notify you on May 8th if you are a WINNER!!!

Let's Get on The Bus & Take A Trip!
To...
Ghost Ranch Exotics Zoo & Lunch Marana Az

Friday, May 15, 2026
Departing at 8 AM

Deadline to RSVP is Friday, May 8, 2026

If you have any questions, please call Sonia or Marissa at 520-568-1760

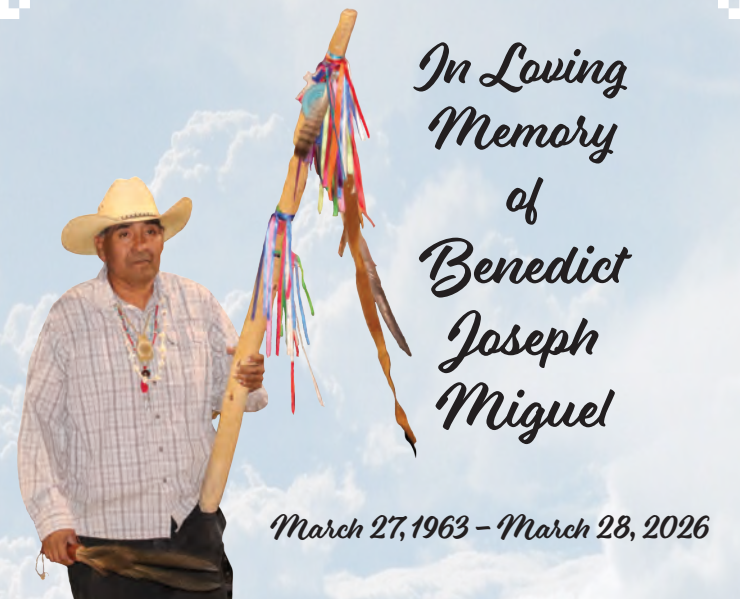
WE HAVE 16 OPENINGS!

Please join us to visit the Ghost Ranch Exotics, animal petting zoo in Tucson AZ.

This is a private tour with presentation on the Capybaras and other fun to see animals like Kangaroos, Warthogs (Pumba) Turtles, Baby goats, Peacocks, and other exotic birds and many other animals to see!

This is an educational journey to discover the unique traits and behaviors of these adorable animals.

The 1 ½ hour tour provides a one-on-one opportunity to learn about these amazing creatures and see them in a safe, respectful environment.



In Loving Memory of Benedict Joseph Miguel

March 27, 1963 - March 28, 2026

We, the family of Benedict Joseph Miguel, would like to thank all who helped prepare and lay our beloved grandfather, uncle, cousin, brother, father and friend to rest.

It was difficult to have prepared a statement on his passing due to not willing to accept that he no longer is with us physically. The tremendous support that we have received since his passing, has been overwhelming and appreciated!

We thank each and every one of you for your kind words and for sharing your memories that you had with him personally. From running around with him as a child and or working with him on the Ak-Chin Farms; his presence brought and filled each and every one of your hearts with easiness, friendship, understanding, laughter, support, tradition, culture and most importantly, to be yourself and help when you can; these were the traits of his father, the late Jonas Paul Miguel (badt).

Thank You To The Following: Community Council, Ak-Chin Farms, Ak-Chin Fire, Ak-Chin Sanitation/Public Works, Earl Justin, Rick Gardner, Flower Ruelas, J. Warren, St. Francis Catholic Church, Ak-Chin Runner, Ak-Chin Police, Ak-Chin Security, Ak-Chin Health & Human Services, Carole Lopez & Family, Lerline Peters, Dean Peters, Glenna Francisco, Choirs, Gabriel Encinas Group, San Xavier, Tohono O'odham Nation, Traditional Dancer, Traditional Singer, Clifton Pablo, and all family members and friends who donated food and water and other goods; we may have missed some names, departments and groups, but know you all are appreciated.

Uncle Ben was so full of life, all he wanted was to be happy and do good things for others. This is why it was so difficult to accept! But we are slowly understanding and accepting that it was his time to reunite with his mom, dad, siblings and others from the community who have gained their wings and have taken the journey.

We can slowly let go knowing that he gave us enough and to continue to live with what he was taught by his parents, which he has passed onto us on being a Miguel. We are his legacy and his continuance of the heart he had.

Rest In Peace Grandpa/Uncle Ben!

*Miguel Family
 Lopez Family
 Joaquin Family*

MAY 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 Menu Subject to Change without Notice				For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1760 Call After Hours 24/7 520-858-5043 Calendar is Subject to Change & Cancel without Notice		5/1 Ham & Eggs, Potatoes, Toast, Fruit & Yogurt Red Chili Stew, Potato Salad, Pinto Beans, Chumath, Peaches
5/10 Happy Mother's Day On Your Own Diamondback Game 1:10 PM	5/4 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Cobb Salad w/ Turkey, Egg, Tomato, Cucumber, Avocado, Roasted Potato, Garlic Toast, Sliced Apples/Oranges	5/5 Red Chilaquiles, Scrambled Eggs, Refried Beans, Fruit Salad <i>Cinco De Mayo Lunch w/Lotería</i> Carne Asada Tacos, Corn in a Cup, Pinto Beans, Fresh Cut Fruit, Mexican Sweet Bread	5/6 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Butternut Squash Soup, Turkey Sandwich, Celery, Chips, Fresh Pears	5/7 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries <i>Mother's Day Tea Party Hosted by Him-Dak, 11 AM to 1 PM Mission School</i> <i>Deadline to Sign Up for Diamondback Raffle</i> Lima Beans, Sweet Potato, Pork Chop & Potato, Corn Muffins, Mandarin Oranges	5/8 Green Chili Burritos, Sour Cream, Concha, Fruit Salad <i>Elder's Mother's Day Mimosa's 9:30 am</i> <i>Deadline to Sign Up for - Ghost Ranch Exotics Zoo</i> <i>Diamondback Raffle Winner's Announced</i> Chicken Parmesan, Over Pasta, Spring Salad, Breadsticks, Strawberry Short Cake/Apple	5/15 Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, English Muffin, Fruit & Yogurt <i>Elder Day Trip to Ghost Ranch Exotics Zoo & Lunch - Marana, AZ Bus Departs at 8 AM</i> Pinto Beans, Beef & Barley, Carrots, Corn Bread, Apple/Orange
5/10 Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Sausage, Toast, Fruit Bar-B-Que Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Biscuit, Apple Sauce	5/11 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Apples Pinto Bean Tostadas, Chicken Tostadas (D), Cauliflower, Brown Rice, Peaches	5/12 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Peaches with Cottage Cheese Sandwich Bar, Green Leaf/Tomato, Pea Salad, Pickle, Tomato Juice, Fruit Cocktail	5/13 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit Salad Red Chili Indian Taco, Corn on the Cob, Ice-Cream			



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community © 2026

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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

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

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 2026 Subscription rate is \$45.00. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$45.00 check/money order to: Ak-Chin O'dham 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 May 15 - June 4, 2026 issue is due by FRIDAY, MAY 8TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, MAY 8TH

Material submitted after the MAY 8TH DEADLINE cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

Ak-Chin's Earth Day Celebration Draws Growing Crowd and Community Spirit

Story by Brandy Nelson, Environmental Programs Specialist, photos by Runner Staff

Ak-Chin Environmental Programs' annual Earth Day Celebration once again brought the community together with a shared purpose: to honor and protect the environment while educating and inspiring future generations.

Earth Day serves as a reminder of our responsibility to care for the land, conserve resources, and promote sustainable practices that benefit both people and wildlife.

This year's event welcomed just under 400 attendees and featured 31 interactive exhibits, offering hands-on learning opportunities, environmental resources, and fun activities for all ages.

The continued growth of the event, gaining nearly 100 additional participants each year, highlights the community's increasing commitment to environmental stewardship. Ak-Chin Environmental Programs is already planning for an even larger celebration next year to accommodate the rising interest.

A special thank you goes out to all who made this event possible from Harrah's and the volunteers to exhibitors and participants. We also appreciate the communi-

ty's understanding when supplies ran out due to the overwhelming turnout. Your enthusiasm is what makes this event such a success.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Ak-Chin Community Council for supporting this event and for approving administrative leave to employees, so that they could attend and participate in the celebration.

This year also showcased the incredible talents and dedication of local youth. A heartfelt thank you to the Student Council from Desert Sunrise High School for assisting with exhibit setups, as well as to the Winter Guard, Dance, and Cheer teams for their outstanding performances.

Additional appreciation goes to our talented performers, Learn with Aloha, the Akimel Waila Band, and Aaron White, who helped make the day both educational and entertaining.

We look forward to next year's Earth Day Celebration, with even more exhibits, activities, and opportunities to come together as a community in caring for our environment.



Ann Marie Antone takes a moment for a photo opportunity with Captain Planet.



A beautiful hawk from Liberty At Heart was on display along with other bird species.

Sacraments continued from Front



Photo by Kathleen Miguel During Holy Saturday Mass, on April 4, 2026, seven members of St. Francis celebrated their First Sacraments, l-r: Joanne Preston, Elizabeth Antone, Isabella Antone, Caleb Ugalde, Connor Martinez, Mark Pablo Jr., and Cecil Miguel. Father Peter Teresa celebrates with the group.

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

May 2026 Mass Schedule - 12:00pm

May 3 Fr. Elijah DeLello

May 10 Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

May 17 Fr. Antony Tinker

May 24 Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell

May 31 Fr. Antony Tinker



2026 Ak-Chin Preschool Graduates



Esmé Alarcon



Avianna Andaverde



Ximena Arellanes



Frida Avila



Kody Carlyle



Johnathan Enos



Ezekiel Gonzalez



Alek Kitcheyan-Hunter



Jasper Justin



Stella Makil-White



Lailani Marrietta



Stoney Marsh



Leonard Narcia



Alivia Peters



Kingston Peters



Noe Rebollar



Senia Santiago



Eliza Smith



Anastasia Soke



Joseph Zabawa III

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK AT AK-CHIN LIBRARY

Every year in April, we can expect libraries across the country to come up with exciting events and programs for the public to help celebrate the National Library Week. This year's National Library week fell on April 19- 25 with the theme being "Find your Joy".

Organized by the American Library Association in the 1950's, this weeklong celebration was designed to highlight the importance of library usage; and also, to combat the lack of reading during the rise of television use.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Library joined in the festivities with their own weeklong activity-packed celebration starting on April 20 with "The Joy of Painting." Whether you're a beginner painter or more skilled in the art, this was the perfect opportunity to decompress after a long day.

Attendees had the option to free paint or follow along with Robin Vincent, Ak-Chin Library Aide in a landscape piece. "The Joy of Painting" was played and refreshments were available for all to enjoy.

Tuesday, April 21 the Ak-Chin Library staffers organized an After School Snack for students in all grades. Mrs. Naomi Bishop, Ak-Chin Library Manager read to the students, "The Little Red Wolf" by Amelie Flechais, while they chowed down on the snacks.

Every Wednesday, the library has their story time scheduled for 10 AM. April 22, this day's edition featured great reads all about Earth Day!

The Library After Dark was Thursday, April 23, the planned activity gave attendees the opportunity to decorate recycled glass bottles using old magazines, yarn and mod podge. The fun was not stopped at the crafting, as a raffle for sweet prizes was also going on throughout the night. Dinner was provided too, which featured taquitos, beans, rice, chips, salsa and diced fruit.

On April 24th, Family Game Night started off with refreshments and a raffle before the games began. The first game to kick off the evening was a drawing game, where participants had to draw things such as a dragon saving a princess, a walking taco, a unicorn going to the library, and a banana wearing underwear. A few other games that were being played were the Taco, Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza, along with Uno and Jenga.

On April 25th, the last day to National Library Week was Dinosaur Day. The afternoon started off with story time, where Mrs. Linda read the book "Rawr" by Todd Doodler, following a polite and well-behaved t-rex.

After the story was over, a couple activities had been planned to pull out everyone's inner paleontologist, like putting together dino puzzles, digging for dinos in the sand or out of dirt covered eggs and even making their own dinosaur puppets.

When asked about Family Game night, Naomi shared, "I would say that the most popular games were the Drawing Game and the SpongeBob Square Pants 1,000-piece puzzle. The puzzle was so popular that many people came back on Saturday to complete the puzzle!"

Regarding the whole National Library week festivities she stated, "(Last week) the library was full of joy and fun with community members playing games, making crafts, and exploring dinosaurs.

The library is a place where everyone is welcome and there is lots to explore and learn. More fun events coming soon so check the Runner for the library calendar or stop in to see what's happening in the library in May and this summer."



Above: Gioni took the time to free paint some of his favorite fruits and vegetables during the Joy of Painting night.



Above: Mrs. Naomi presents Heidi with a prize that was Bob Ross themed during the After Dark activity.



Above: There was plenty of magazines to pick from during the After Dark craft.



Above: Esther was a prize winner during the Family Game Night raffle.



Right: Estrella and Rebecca were some of the many to follow along with Robin in painting the landscape.



Left: Nicole works tediously on her colorful, flower filled vase. With the playing of music in the background and concentration from everyone, this craft was both relaxing and unique.



Right: Hard at work trying to complete their drawings, these attendees put their best art skills to the challenge.



Left: Jonathan Enos works diligently to color his dinosaur egg.

Below: Dinosaur day was the best way to end National Library week and had a great turnout of families.



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

5/2026
May

Mental Health Awareness 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	2
3	4 STAR WARS DAY MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU 4-6pm	5	6 StoryTime 10-11am	7	8 Fibers & Friends 4:30-6pm	9 Crafter noon 1-3pm
10 Happy Mother's Day	11	12	13 StoryTime 10-11am Art Therapy 4-5pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 StoryTime 10-11am	21	22	23 Closed
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27 StoryTime 10-11am	28 Resume & Job Search 12-1pm	29	30
31 Closed						

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

Chin Councilmember, Cecil Peters, former Fire Chief of the Ak-Chin Fire Department, whom retired after 36 years, before taking office as an elected official.

Peters thanked everyone for coming out and celebrating the forty years of the department.

He acknowledged former employees who were able to attend the event, that came from "the Old House" which included; Bob Blagen and Lori Leavitt.

Although they were not in attendance, Peters mentioned other employees who made a commitment to the department in the early years, such as; Adella Zabawa, Flora Howerton, Isabel Vasquez, Gloria Lucas, Cheryl Pevler, Allen Alcott, and Candace Alcott.

Following Councilmember Peters' comments, a group photo of current and former Ak-Chin Fire department personnel staff was taken.

Shortly afterwards, the Ak-Chin San Juan Kwalyia Dancers gave a square dance similarity performance, which was then followed by a "give away" dance. Meanwhile, Ak-Chin Recreation hosted games in the nearby fields.

Following an intermission, sign-ups for all who wanted to participate in the "Firefighter Challenge" was presented. It was a great day to be outdoors, with great music enjoyed by Cecily Peters and Robert Miguel, a jumping castle available for children, and of course, plenty of pancakes, sausage and juice given out for free for all attendees.

Firefighter gifts, which included; stickers, hats, and other fire safety inspired decals, were handed out.

To conclude the day's celebration, the Firefighter Challenge capped off a wonderful event. Children, teens and adults who signed

up were able to compete in games which included; push-ups, sit ups, crawling underneath an arched structure, lifting dumb bells, pulling a hose to a certain distance, climbing a ladder, saving a kitty (stuffed toy), dragging a tire, putting on fire gear, and aiming a live fire hose towards a cone and knocking it down. Whew! What an obstacle! Following each age category, medals were given out to the top three placers.

The Ak-Chin Fire Department would like to thank the Ak-Chin Indian Community and its members for trusting us giving us the opportunity to serve them, the membership has always made our employees feel part of the community and we greatly appreciate it.

Congratulations to the Ak-Chin Fire department on forty years of keeping the community safe and providing the best emergency medical care possible for its members and for others!



Rescuing a kitty was one of the tasks on the Fire Challenge course.



Elijah Peters prepares to put on his hat before taking to the course.



Guests take the opportunity to get a free breakfast plate that featured pancakes and sausage as well as drinks of orange juice, coffee and water.



Current, former and cadets of the Ak-Chin Fire department, l-r: Antonio Rodriguez, Mateo Rodriguez, Tommy Hoetzlein, Justin Burke, Michelle Carpenter, Lori Leavitt, Darren Peters, Delia Carlyle, Bob Blagen, Renee Boehm, Cecil Peters, Jennifer Boehm, David Henson, Jacob Dickerson, and Tom Fields.

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

Questions?? or to Sign-Up... Please call (520) 568-1083

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



Early April, this was the site of the pecan trees located next to the Housing and Sanitation Departments prior to it being cut down for good.

has also displaced the many birds chirping and other species who called the pecan trees "home". When you drive to the end of the Community now, all you see is two remaining trees and scattered trunks of cut down trees.

There has been plenty of speculation; What other crops are being planted there? Are we building more homes in that area? And, is Sanitation/Public Works expanding?

According to Ak-Chin Farms Manager, Damien Murrieta, the removal of this grove of pecan trees was decided upon due to a non-profit status since Covid, and mosquito grievances.

"We used to have an

export market to China that helped the price, but that disappeared and has not come back," Murrieta said. "To reduce the economic loss, we are reducing acres of pecans and chose to reduce trees by low producing fields and problematic fields for the Community.

The two fields, which represent 24 acres, were selected to be removed because of mosquito complaints over the past years. The mosquito complaints from members are the main reason for removal."

Paul Bunyan's Firewood out of Guadalupe, Arizona began cutting and removing the trees back in March. Currently the project removal is still on going, with a

completion date slated for May. Paul Bunyan is hauling away the wood to its retail location in Guadalupe, where it is then sold to the public and to restaurants.

Once Paul Bunyan is completed with their removal services, piles of small branches in 1-2 in. diameter pieces of wood, will be open to the Community to gather.

In the fall, the plan is to burn any left-over piles and do tillage to plant the fields into an annual crop.

In the future, Ak-Chin Farms is planning on clearing more pecan trees behind the main Headquarters that has a poor stand and low production area.

What once was a site that many enjoyed, is now an empty setting with two pecan trees still upright and intact as shrubs of cut trees are scattered.



HDS Summer Youth Orientation



HDS Associates from l to r: Reginald Delores, Adam Bowman (back), Myluani Antone, Johnny Perkins(back), Zaida Soliz, Della Honie (Supervisor), Erica Oliver (HDS Manager), Anthony Rogers(back), Misty Quintero, Shanna Narcia

Story and photos submitted by Della Honie

On Friday, April 17th the Harrah's Development System (HDS) Associates and Leadership, visited the Maricopa High School to discuss employment opportunities for the Community Youth Program, formerly known as the Summer Youth Program offered at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.

The Community Youth program is geared to the high school students who are enrolled Ak-Chin Tribal Members and maintain good academic standings.

Each participant will have the opportunity to work in selected Back of House departments at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, such as Hospitality, Food and

Beverage, Facilities & Warehouse.

Roles that will be available for new participants will be...

- Room Attendant in Housekeeping
- House-person in Housekeeping
- Hotel Bell Attendant
- Hotel Pool Attendant
- Cook for outlets such as, Team Member Dining Room, Agaves Restaurant, Chop, Block and Brew and Oak and Fork (Prep Cook for those under the age of 16)
- Stewarding

The HDS Associates presented a slideshow that included a unique "Point of View" (POV) clips that allowed the

high school students to see real footage of the roles and spoke on their experiences even as a former Community Youth Worker that has transitioned into a Full-Time HDS Associate. In addition to hyping up each role for new recruitments, the HDS Team also highlighted Community Outreach with in the Ak-Chin Community and volunteering with local non-profits such as Feed My Starving Children and Leadership Workshops previously held during the Summer.

If you are interested in learning more about the Community Youth Program, please reach out to Della Honie at 480-802-5089 or dhonie@caesars.com. Application deadlines are May 7th, End of Day.

Ak-Chin Child Development
Accepting applications for
Preschool 2026-2027 SY
Deadline is July 13th, 2026

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.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects Office

April 24, 2026

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION NOTICE
for
WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT 266 HOMES, AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Project Description:
This project will replace the water service lines between houses and the water mainline for 266 houses throughout the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa Arizona. The service waterline replacement will include new service tap connection to the water mainline and installing new water meters. The old service line will be disconnected and the old water meter will be removed. The disturbed areas within the construction limits will be resorted to original position.

Purpose of the Project:
This project will replace the old service lines with new more dependable water service lines and new water meters. The project will improve the water service quality to the houses by minimizing water line breaks and repeated repairs on the old service waterlines.

Safety Precaution:
During construction activities, residents should be careful around the construction areas and moving construction equipment.

Timeline of the Project:
The project started construction March, 2026, and will continue for 8 months. Currently working in Mesquite subdivision. Water service lines for several houses were successfully replaced.

Flyer notices will be distributed to the individual houses prior to starting construction on the houses' new water service lines replacement.

Project Team:

Owner/Applicant: Carlton Carlyle Water Operation Manager Ak-Chin Indian Community Phone: (520) 568-1148	Design & Construction Engineer Marcus Felter Indian Health Service Western Arizona District Office Phoenix, AZ Phone: (480) 280-6341
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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
ONE (1) VACANCY FOR THE AK-CHIN HOUSING BOARD
VACANCY OPEN TO AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY

Reminder: Community Members can only serve on three (3) Boards or Commissions or Committees maximum at any given time.

The Ak-Chin Housing Board:

1. Ensures compliance with the housing programs, which include but are not limited to all Ak-Chin Community homes, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homes and Tax Credit homes in coordination with the Community Council.
2. Is responsible for preparing recommendations to the Community Council for approval or denial of Housing Board actions/decisions.
3. Is responsible for ensuring that all established policies regarding lease compliance, resident issues, home care and maintenance are followed and enforced.
4. Taking timely action on all Housing Board related matters.
5. Preparing for and attending all meetings and trainings of the Board.

Requirements: All interested parties who desire to serve on the Ak-Chin Housing Board must submit a letter of interest detailing why they are interested in serving on the Ak-Chin Housing Board. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires.

Enrolled Community employees must also submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Housing Board.

Please send all letters of interest Attn: **Ak-Chin Community Council**
ATTN: Victoria A. Smith
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Deadline for Letters of Interest is Wednesday, May 13, 2026 by 5:00pm.

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.

Save the Date

"BA'AG SI-HEMU DA"

Preparing the Eaglet to Fly
Young Men's Gathering

5 Days & 4 Nights of:
Physical, Social, Spiritual,
Cultural learning & enrichment for young O'odham
Men by Adult Men

JUNE 9-13, 2026

Male Youth 12-19+ years old

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Contact Information

ymg@waknet.org
menis@waknet.org
ymgcoordinator@waknet.org
(520) 573-4005 or (520) 573-4000

MAR 23 2026 PM 2:54

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
45525 West Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85139
Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1386

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

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) 568-1386

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

Case No.: CV-2026-007-NC
SUMMONS

Concerning:
Minor(s)
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 12:21

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
45525 West Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85139
Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1386

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

Case No.: CV-2026-008-NC
SUMMONS

Concerning:
Minor(s)
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

Salt River Friendship Youth League Opening Day

Submitted by Jordan Gusse, Ak-Chin Recreation Program Coordinator
Photos by Kathleen Miguel

Our teams had a great time at the Salt River FYSL Opening Day ceremonies. Both our coach-pitch and Little League groups were able to attend and be part of a fun and well-organized event.

The kids enjoyed the atmosphere, being around other teams, and celebrating the start of the season together. One of the highlights of the evening was getting the chance to take a picture with Baxter, which the players were especially excited about.

We would like to thank the coaches and families who made their way to the opening ceremonies to cheer on the team. Overall, it was a great experience and a memorable way to kick off the Friendship Youth League season.



TEAM AK-CHIN Coach-Pitch, l-r: Jaxson Justin, Emerson Antone, Kooper Denetsosie, Andrew Enos, Kaleb Rivers, Aaron Peters Jr, Kellan Santos, Krystal Denetsosie, Aria Vincent-Enos. Coaches Christian Soliz & Colby Santos (and Baxter).

Both teams were able to pose with Baxter, Arizona Diamondback's Official Mascot, during opening ceremonies at the Von Hayes Little League Field in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



Ak-Chin Little League Team, l-r: Adriel Jimenez, Emma Enos, Connor Martinez, Yondell Antone, Lindsay Antone, Aliyah Vincent, Alice Denetsosie, Mylaunah Robles, Marquon Robles, Taos Joaquin. Coach Jordan Gusse (and Baxter).

Season beginnings for Recreation baseball

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

It was a warm but nice day for some T-ball and Coach Pitch games on April 18, starting with the young t-ballers, the Ak-Chin Sun Devils at 9 AM against Gila River. With this being the first game of the season, we were shown that practice really pays off.

Not only were these games adorably cute, the kids seemed to be enjoying the running around the bases and for the baseballs.

At 10 AM, Team Ak-Chin Diamondbacks took the field once again against Gila River for the Coach Pitch game. I would say the older you get the more competitive you get for a win, because these teams seemed to be sharing a bit of a back and forth.

Team Ak-Chin's Jonah Dickerson had baseball watchers cheering proudly as he made a home run early on in the game. During their times in field, Team Diamondbacks made great stops and worked well at getting those outs.

Want to see more from these Ak-Chin teams? They have their next scheduled games on May 9 at the Milton Antone Memorial Park Softball field.



Left: Jonah Dickerson steals third base and gets a home run. The crowd went crazy cheering him on.

Below(L-R): Logan Tittes gives a hard swing to second base. Kody Carlyle high-fives Coach Christian Soliz, after getting on first base.



Left: Roman James eagerly raises the baseball for the coaches to see with peer Ayden Acunia-Pablo assisting.



Left are the Ak-Chin Sun Devils (L-R): Christopher Narcia, Yasmine Carlyle, Roman James, Jocelyn Antone, Sadie Rivers, Jonathan Enos, Kody Carlyle, Ayden Acunia-Pablo

Below: Action Shot from infield.



Saddleback Awards continue to Quarter 4

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos by Vera Pablo and Bojana Uzelac, Ak-Chin Student Advisors



Ak-Chin students Felix Andaverde, Aaliyah Vincent, and Kerwin Ugalde were selected for Pride awards during the 4th quarter. Photo Below: Congratulations to Brooklynn Baptisto for also receiving the PBIS ticket.



Ak-Chin members who attend Saddleback elementary received the honor of the PBIS ticket on April 23. The three lucky recipients included Brooklynn Baptisto (2nd grade), Kerwin Ugalde (3rd grade), Aaliyah Vincent (4th grade), and Felix Andaverde (4th grade).

Supports; and this ticket is given to those who display the; be respectful, be responsible, and be safe motto of the Maricopa Unified School District.

Following school expectations and procedure is also a requirement for receiving this achievement.

Mentioned last issued, the PBIS ticket stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and

Congratulations to these young scholars, keep up the great work!

Mother's Day

Crafts at the Him-Dak Art Building

Wednesday
May 6, 2026
4:30 - 7:00 pm

Open to all members and residents of the Ak-Chin Community. Transportation provided within the Ak-Chin Community. Please call the Him-Dak front desk @ 520-568-1350, for ride or questions.



CALL US:
(520) 562-3321



Gila River
HEALTH CARE

VISIT US ONLINE:
GRHC.ORG

Behavioral Health Services
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

MAY IS

MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH



A Message from the Gila River Health Care Chief Behavioral Health Officer

"May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we want our community to know mental health is important and Behavioral Health Services has you covered. Everyone can benefit from services, from the occasional anxiety to life-long struggles. We are here as partners in wellness, honoring your strengths, traditions and Community."

Kerry Van Volkinburgh, MA, LPC, NCC

Scan the QR Code to visit GRHC.ORG/BHS for a complete list of Behavioral Health Services including:



BHS Service Guide



Calendar of Events



Yes To Life! App



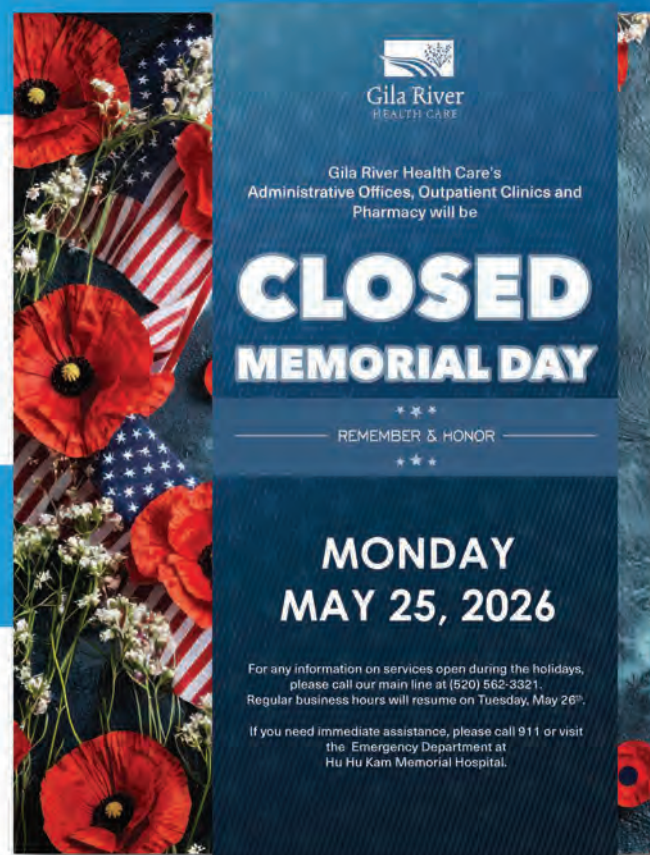
Health & Safety Vending Machine



SCAN THE QR CODE to download the Yes To Life! App and to see a list of events happening this month. Questions? Call (602) 528-7100

Memorial Day Closure

Gila River Health Care Administrative, Outpatient Clinics, and Pharmacy will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.



We Are HIRING!
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

Where Care Meets Community

Crisis Support Specialist

Provides crisis intervention expertise and counseling directly to patients during evening and weekend/holiday hours by performing the following duties personally. Responsible for ensuring that all critical tasks are fulfilled on a timely basis. The following is required:

- Master's Degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field.
- Associate Licensure in good standing with the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners required (LAC, LASAC, LMSW, LAMFT), Independent Licensure preferred (LPC, LIAC, LCSW, LMFT).
- Experience with the Native American population preferred.
- Arizona Department of Public Safety Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card required
- Current and continuing CPR/FA and/or BLS training and certification required
- State of Arizona driver's license with no significant violations during the last 5 years
- Demonstrates ability to relate to diverse cultures and specifically the Gila River Community and/or other Native American cultures and community health services.

Foundation Executive Director

In consultation with the Gila River People Foundation (GRPF) Board and the Chief Executive Officer, the Foundation Executive Director provides strategic leadership, operational oversight, and fundraising direction to the advance the mission of the Foundation in support of Native American Healthcare Initiatives.

This role is responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive fundraising strategies, including major gifts, grants, endowments, and trust-base giving programs that strengthen the long-term financial stability of native healthcare services.

Must be a member of a federally recognized tribe, GRIC member preferred.

Contact Mark Walter, HR Recruiting Manager at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1629 or email wwalter@grhc.org.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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



JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Child and Family Therapist (part-time)
- Communication Officer
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer (certified)
- Security Guard
- 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.

Art therapy

Join us for an instructor led art therapy session. Reflect and chill out with a calming mixed media art exercise.

May 13th
4-5pm

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees. Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18

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

JOIN US THIS

Crafternoon

MAKE YOUR MOTHER'S DAY GIFT PERSONALIZED WITH A BEAUTIFUL BOOK FLOWER VASE.

SATURDAY
MAY 9TH
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

FRIDAY Fibers & FRIENDS

Bring your own project to work on or crochet a bookmark worm! Ages 15+

May, Friday 8th
4:30-6pm

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees.

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

END OF SCHOOL LUAU

"HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED"

Open to community members and residents. Preschool through High School. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to participate and enjoy a poolside movie.

MAY 29 AT 3-8 PM
Parks & Recreation Aquatic Facility
RULES & REGULATIONS APPLY

Employee Birthdays 5/1 - 5/15

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5/1
Shauna Brown,
Capital Projects | Mathew McNeil,
Sanitation |
| 5/3
Andrew Vonderheide,
TGA | 5/10
David Hobbs,
EPD |
| 5/4
Nicole Nickens,
Events | 5/11
Esperanza Miranda,
Social Service |
| 5/5
Lucy Jerry,
Social Service
Blas Valles,
Sanitation | 5/13
Jordan Gusse,
Parks & Rec
John Leon Guerrero Jr.
I.S |
| 5/6
Armando Zepeda,
Sanitation | 5/15
Robert Martinez,
Sanitation
Graciela Ortega,
Him-Dak Museum
Ricardo Sierra,
Police |

RESUME & JOB SEARCHING WORKSHOP

Print out a resume, find resources, and get started with finding a job. 8 spots available, call the library to RSVP. Lunch will be provided.

May, Thursday 28th
12-1PM

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES
MINORS UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OVER 18.
CALL US: (520) 568-1675 OR EMAIL US: LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

Mother's Day Event Pajama Party

Come dressed in your favorite pajamas for added fun!

MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, & EMPLOYEES

Friday May 8th
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

RSVP
recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us or call (520)-568-1740

Happy Birthday to my daughter Marlene
Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my grandsons Antonio and RJ
Love, Grandma

WIC

Tuesday, May 05, 2026
8:30a-11:45am
Ak-Chin Service Center

Who is eligible 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
Gila River Indian Community WIC Program

May 5/1 - 5/14 Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| MAY 1
Vivian Lewis
Richard Brady
Marlene Garcia
Antonio Rodriguez | MAY 6
Jordin Pete
Evone Santiago |
| MAY 2
Selina Richiusa | MAY 7
Nathan Smith
Gayle Yarberry
Koby Carlyle
Mia Montero-Zamudio
Mathew McNeil |
| MAY 3
Rf Marsh
Joseluis Santiago
Blas Castro
Sonya Bencivenga
Samis Smith | MAY 8
Jedidiah Smith
Jadon Ormsby
Curtis Antone |
| MAY 4
Geraldine Vincent
Irene Arredondo | MAY 9
Guadalupe Orona
David White Jr.
Adriel Rivera |
| MAY 5
Jalen Norris
Blas Valles
Mayleigh Delores
Lucy Jerry | MAY 10
Stephan Quinonez
LeighAnn Thomas |

Employee Updates

- Troy Miguel**
Bree Whitman
- MAY 11**
Leilani Paiz
Esperanza Barrera
Isaac Idan
Miranda Davidson Ugalde Sr.
- MAY 12**
Daimon Ugalde
Willie Antone
Ariana Narcia
- MAY 13**
Derek Manuel
Maxine Antone
Christopher Pablo
Adam Bowman
Laurel Coble
- MAY 14**
Gibson Romo
Brooklynne Baptisto
-
- Christian Soliz
Parks & Rec
Recreation Assistant
-
- Julia Dickerson
Parks & Rec
Recreation Program
Coordinator
-
- Tashina Salcido
Early Childhood
Preschool Teacher

ZUMBA

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

May.05.2026
May.12.2026
May.19.2026

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

Ak-Chin Police Department Special Olympics Bowling Tournament

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

What a great day for bowling and to make matters better, it was all for a good cause!

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Police Department hosted their Annual Special Olympics Bowling Tournament on Sunday, April 19 at the Ak-Chin Circle's Ten Pins Down.

There were 19 teams total with 9 playing in the morning and 10 in the afternoon.

Though this tournament was good-natured, it was no secret that these teams were hoping to place in the top three by the end.

After the last round of bowling, winners were announced and awarded trophies, with first place going to Spits and Giggles, second to AKC, and third to Pin Pals.

Not only was the bowling much fun, everyone was excited for the raffle

announcement with prizes being abundant and ranging from choice items by Yeti, Vortex, car services and gift cards to Water & Ice, Randy's Donuts, Starbucks, ONE 4 ALL, Amazon, Anytime Fitness, Red Lobster and Visa.

Grand Raffles included: etc. Items raffled included; (1) Private Theater rental at Ak-Chin Circle, (1) Complimentary Golf Foursome at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes, 55" TCL TV, (2) Arizona Cardinals Game Tickets, Diamondback tickets,

And one lucky winner also won the 50/50 Raffle, that totaled \$1045.

Police Sergeant Davis Garcia expressed via email, "First off, thank you all for all the support during this year's Special Olympics Bowling Fundraiser & Raffle. Despite the slow start it was a great success. I hope all of you enjoyed yourselves"



Chairman Gabriel Lopez showing the Strike pose!



Deidra "Jake" Carlyle gives it her best shot (in chanklas) at a strike to add a good score for her team.

Team Spits & Giggles reigned supreme as they took first place in the tournament.



Team AKC represented well, earning second place honors.

Pin Pals bowled enough strikes to take home third place.



ARROYO GRILLE

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM
PATIO VIEWS | DINE IN | ORDER TO GO
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

MIMOSAS ALL DAY, YAY!
MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10
\$24 BOTTOMLESS MIMOSAS

Must present coupon to server. Not valid with daily or happy hour specials. Cannot be combined with other specials or offers. One coupon per table, no cash checks. Valid for one visit only. Non-transferable. Must be 21 or older to purchase alcohol. Offer valid Sunday May 10, 2025.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

HAPPY **Mother's Day**
SUNDAY MAY 10TH

SPECIAL

3 COURSE MEAL - \$50

— APPETIZER —
Choice of SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP with crispy pita or Crab Cakes

— MAIN COURSE —
10oz NEW YORK STRIP & LOBSTER TAIL with Chorizo & Blue Cheese Mashed Potatoes

— DESSERT —
CHEESECAKE BITES

Served All day, along side our regular menu.

Reservations Highly Suggested
520.233.2426
Ak-ChinCircle.com

COME PAINT WITH US
WED. MAY 20 | 7PM-9PM
in the Hollywood Room Inside Ten Pins Down

www.TheArtandSip.com

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

Cinco de Mayo

Mariachi Chapala AZ

Tuesday, May 5th | 5pm - 7pm

Food and Drink Specials All Day

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

Harrah's

MAY 2026

CAESARS REWARDS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>HONORING OUR HEROES</p> <p>To celebrate Armed Forces Day, visit a Promotional Kiosk on Saturday, May 16, 2026 to print your voucher between 10AM and 7PM, then come to the Caesars Rewards® Center to redeem a PATRIOTIC HARRAH'S AK-CHIN BOTTLE OPENER KEYCHAIN!</p>						
3 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	4 MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO!	5 TECH ESSENTIALS GIVEAWAY	6 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG STRIKE IT LUCKY	7 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	8 NEW GAMING SPACE GRAND OPENING HOT SEATS	9 LIVE MARIACHIS
10 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION	11 TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB	12 TECH ESSENTIALS GIVEAWAY	13 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG STRIKE IT LUCKY	14 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	15 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS	16 PATRIOTIC HARRAH'S AK-CHIN BOTTLE OPENER KEYCHAIN
17 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	18 SERVICE STAR SPOTLIGHT	19 SERVICE STAR SPOTLIGHT	20 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG STRIKE IT LUCKY	21 SERVICE STAR SPOTLIGHT	22 SERVICE STAR SPOTLIGHT	23 FRY'S FOOD STORES ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY SERVICE STAR SPOTLIGHT
24 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE POOL PARTY LYNRYD SKYNYRD TRIBUTE	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26 TECH ESSENTIALS GIVEAWAY	27 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG STRIKE IT LUCKY	28 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	29 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!	30 SUMMER PROJECT BOOST
31 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">MEMORIAL WEEKEND</p> <p>FRY'S® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026 POOL PARTY • LYNRYD SKYNYRD TRIBUTE SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 MEMORIAL DAY PROMOTION DETAILS COMING SOON! MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026</p>					<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS</p>