

Maricopa Students Celebrate New Chapters

Story by C. Picciuolo and photos by Runner Staff

Students and families of Maricopa schools celebrated a variety of milestones, from the promotions of kindergarteners, fifth graders and eighth graders to the graduations of Maricopa High School seniors.

Runner Staff swarmed the events all week to catch the moments that will last lifetimes on this special issue.

471 of our little kindergarteners from Maricopa Elementary School and Saddleback Elementary School sang inspirational songs and performed poems about learning and growing up.

578 fifth graders at MES and SES celebrated moving on to middle school to begin the journey to adulthood.

MES Principal Dr. Jennifer Robinson made it a point to inject a little

humor into her speeches to kindergarten and fifth graders. “Congratulations class of 2026/2031. You are being promoted to first and sixth grade!” she exclaimed, earning a few laughs from parents.

“This is one milestone in your life towards high school and college graduation. This year you shared with us your gifts, talents and leadership. You give us hope for tomorrow. With MES leaders taking charge, Arizona is in good hands.”

Maricopa Wells Middle School’s ceremony was at MHS, and was a teaser for what to expect the next day with the high school crowd. Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel was a guest speaker and addressed the students, both non-member and Community members.

“This is the time where you

(promotees) need to identify your direction, purpose, and profession in life. High School will be just a blur, slow down while in high school and take advantage of all opportunities and get involved,” said Chairman Miguel.

“The Ak-Chin Community is excited to see how much each will progress as we continue to produce great young members.”

It was a record-breaking year for Maricopa High School graduates as the senior class of 2019 was the most high-achieving class to date, earning \$7.8 million in awards, the most they have received to date.

MHS has 19 Lumberjack Scholars through Northern Arizona University, 11 Obama Scholars through Arizona State University, one Fry Scholar, one Flinn



MHS students toss their caps in the air with glee as they embark on a new journey.

Scholar, and record high of D2 offers and athletics scholarships with 13 altogether. 2019 was also a big year for military recruits, with 17 total.

The Maricopa High School Band kicked off the commencement with the “Pomp & Circumstance” Processional and “MHS Alma Mater” performances. The MHS Band also

performed the “National Anthem” while the Air Force JROTC Color Guard led the patriotic Presentation of Colors under the direction of Master Sergeant Gregory.

Grads continues to page 4b

Harrah’s pool shines on after upgrade

Story and photos by C. Picciuolo



EPA Regional Admin Mike Stoker visits Ak-Chin

Story submitted by B. Pena, Water Quality Specialist at EPD and photos by J. Peters

On Thursday, May 30, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Regional Administrator Mike Stoker and Michelle Baker of the EPA’s Land Division paid a visit to the Ak-Chin Indian Community in late May to discuss the Community’s most pressing environmental concerns. Upon arrival, Mr. Stoker was greeted by Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez, EPD Director Brenda Ball,

and EPD staff at the Water Reclamation Facility. Vice-Chairman Lopez and Brenda Ball led the conversation on the Community’s concerns about upstream conditions impacting water quality and the state of dredge and fill permitting for washes and waterways.

EPD staff demonstrated the need for dredging of Community washes by

sharing photos of flood damage from the 2018 monsoon season. The damage included the overflowing Smith and Vekol washes, as well as the erosion and sediment that infiltrated the Community’s drinking water reservoir. Of other major concern, staff discussed three major areas where rapid floodwaters exposed underground utility lines.

Southern Dunes Golf Course to the north of the Community suffered the most severe damage. Vice-Chairman noted that in addition to the danger to staff who were stranded from floodwaters, there were significant repair costs as the golf course required reseeding of large portions of the putting green.

Staff and leadership agreed that while solutions do exist and flood mitigation is achievable, the process to obtain necessary permits to begin the work is a common setback for many tribes.

Ak-Chin Police Department Hosts Memorial 5k Run/Walk

Story and photos by R. Peters

On a beautiful May 18 Saturday morning, over 100 people from the community and surrounding area gathered at the Ak-Chin Indian Community Multi-Purpose Justice Complex to participate in the Ak-Chin PD Memorial 5k and 2mile run/walk.

ACPD Chief, Manuel Garcia was on hand to welcome everyone to the event while his staff coordinated registration. Ak-Chin Health Education was also on hand

to assist with registration and offer their services for computing and clocking the runners, as well as tracking and awarding.

Once the final participants made their way back to the justice complex Chief Garcia, assisted by Jr. Miss Ak-Chin 2018-2019 Alison Miguel and 2018-2019-2020 Little Mr. Ak-Chin Stacie Antone recognized the top three winners in each age category.

After the winners and Chief Garcia explained

participated gathered for a group photo a hearty breakfast awaited, deliciously prepared by Vekol Market.

The event was organized by Ak-Chin PD to pay tribute and recognize two fallen ACPD Peace Officers; Ak-Chin Chief of Police Milton “Paul” Antone and Sergeant Ronald Eugene Kelly, whom were both killed in the line of duty while protecting the Ak-Chin Community.



Left to Right: Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez, EPA Region 9 Administrator Mike Stoker, EPD Director Brenda Ball, Pesticide Specialist Ted Puetz, Environmental Technician Ross Stimac, Water Quality Specialist Bridgette Pena, Environmental Technician Errol Blackwater, Environmental Programs Manager Lorinda Antone, EPA staff Michelle Baker.

Little Mr. Ak-Chin Stacie Antone rewards a participant with a medal.



PD Memorial continues to page 8a

Caregiver training benefits Community members

Story and photos by R. Peters



Above, Community unpaid caregivers are given the opportunity to attend a training with Foundation for Senior Living. From left: Jenny Holsen, Kenya Hampton, Dorothy Kelly, Hannele Waissi, Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Sonia DePaola, Ariana Narcia, Georgia Corella, Marla Antone, Iris Smith, Colleen Mike, Melanie Antone, Karen Gardner and Raychel Peters. (Continues to page 6a)

Ak-Chin Council visits neighbor APEX Motor Club

Story and photos by R. Peters

On Wednesday, May 29, the Runner was invited to tag along with Ak-Chin Community Council to tour and test drive the newly opened APEX Motor Club.

Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Councilmember Octavio Machado, accompanied by UltraStar President Adam Saks and UltraStar Promotions and Events Manager David “DT” Trujillo took the drive out to APEX, located on Hwy 238, just east



Chairman Robert Miguel gives a thumbs-up before taking a fast ride with APEX President and Co-Founder, Jason Plotke.

of Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club.

Once there the group was met by President and Co-Founder Jason

Plotke who jumped in the Luxe Bus with the group and escorted as DT maneuvered around the track. Jason pointed out key features of the track

and detailed information about the Motor Club.

APEX, considered the Premier Motorsports Club of the Southwest APEX continues to page 6a

Sells Elder Visit brings O’odham conversations

Story and photos by K. Morago



Ak-Chin Elder Center staff member Sonia DePaola enjoys a moment with the Sells elders.

The Ak-Chin congregate elders hosted a group from the Tohono O’odham Nation, Sells district on Monday, May 13. Arriving before lunch, the group



A visiting Sells elder redeems her winning raffle ticket for a basket of goodies.

spent time re-connecting with old friends and making new ones. The O’odham neok could be heard in the entire dining room from the various tables.

After a lunch of popovers and split peas, Elder Programs Director Leslie Carlyle-Burnett welcomed the group and elder Terry Enos shared a few words. The lunch ended with a raffle of prizes for everyone.



Elder Menu for June

Friday June 7 Bean tostadas, chicken tostadas, rice, corn, pumpkin bread	Monday June 17 Tepary beans, wheat kernel, broccoli, salad, pineapple
Monday June 10 Bar-B-Que ribs, plain ribs (D) salad, yams, red potato tropical fruit	Tuesday June 18 Beef tortas, green beans, kale salad Watergate salad
Tuesday June 11 Lima beans, Normandy vegetables peas, moon bread, Jell-O, fruit	Wednesday June 19 Salad bar, potato soup, crackers Mandarin oranges
Wednesday June 12 Fish sticks, chicken tenders brown rice, cole slaw	Thursday June 20 Squash casserole, brown rice, salad, tropical fruit
Thursday June 13 Prime rib, baked potato Mixed vegetables, rolls cake	Friday June 14 Ham sandwich, wax beans apples, oranges
	A sandwich can be provided for those who may not like a menu item. Lunch served daily 12pm - 1pm Ak-Chin Elder Center Ge Gelik Ha Ki (520) 568-1760 Call for services

Memorial Day presentation educates elders

Story and photos by K. Morago

In preparation of Memorial Day, Ak-Chin resident and decorated US Army veteran Gary Anderson, Sr. spoke to Ak-Chin elders during the noon congregate meal on Friday, May 24 at the Elder Center.

About twenty elders listed to Gila River member Anderson, Sr., who is married to Ak-Chin member Janice Anderson, share the impact of Native Americans who have served in the military.

He focused on veterans from Gila River, showing a lengthy slide

presentation of veterans who proudly served in all branches and have since passed on. Opening with Taps, the music and lyrics accompanying the photos was part patriotic, part county music and made the presentation truly moving.

The veterans shown served both during times of war and at peacetime. Anderson, Sr. also acknowledged the struggles returning veterans faced, such as Native Americans in Arizona not getting the right to vote until 1948, yet some families had lost loved ones before

Join Us
AK Chin Ultra Star Multi-tainment Center
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren & Family Caregivers

June 19 2019
*
10 am
-
2 pm

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Enhancing Communication skills
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
10 Easy Ways to be Happier, Healthier & Heal!
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
Lunch
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Aromatherapy for Caregivers

Sponsored by: Ak-Chin Elder Center
The Elders Center Caregivers Program invites the
Community's Grandparents raising grandchildren and unpaid family caregivers
to attend this month's Caregiver training seminar.
Guest Speakers/Facilitators
Celina Mahimalani Garza, AIM Motivational Seminars
& Patricia Federico, My Madre Tierra
For more info/sign-up: please contact Ak-Chin Elder Center @ 568-1760

June ACES Update

GRIC Governor Stephen Roe Lewis (seated, second from left) signs a letter to support the DCP with the Colorado River in the backdrop.

Story and photo by E. Gerak, ACES Consultant

On May 20, 2019, the Basin States celebrated the signing of the Drought Contingency Plan on top of Hoover Dam. What seemed unreachable when Brenda Burman, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation issued a one-year deadline at the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Meeting at the end of 2017 has finally come to fruition.

Arizona was still a few weeks away from starting their legislative session when the Commissioner reminded everyone of the previous deadline at the CRWUA meeting at the end of 2018, and issued a new deadline of the end of January to get this signed. As the only Basin state that required legislation for its approval, Arizona miraculously got legislation passed in under 3 weeks. Despite this accomplishment, the Bureau was hesitant to declare victory because of all the counter agreements in Arizona still to be signed and the California issues with Imperial Irrigation District.

Despite the slow start, thanks to bipartisan support, DCP really picked up steam. On March 19, the designated representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States governors jointly signed a letter to Congress, asking them to move quickly on the federal legislation. On March 27th & 28th, hearings were held in the Senate and the House. Legislation was introduced

and both chambers approved the DCP bills on April 8th, sending it to the President's desk, which he signed on April 16th, 2019.

It seems that all this effort towards preserving water levels along the Colorado River has been rewarded by a large snowpack. The Upper Basin snowpack is 177.6% of normal on May 18th. With additional storms coming the week of May 23rd, we hope that this is the start of a wet cycle on the river. All this precipitation will keep us out of Tier 1 shortage next year, but we will still be in a Tier 0 shortage according to DCP.

This means that Arizona will reduce deliveries by 192,000 AC-FT, but this is a lot better than the approximately half million AC-FT we were looking at. This reduction will reduce power production at Hoover by 3.5%, which is better than the 8.7% we were estimating. It also means that there is water in the Ag pool, relieving the pressure on farmers in Pinal County this next year. Tier 1 shortage would have also affected the releases from Lake Powell, which would have severely reduced the energy production at Glen Canyon Dam. As a Hoover and CRSP contractor, the impact next year won't be nearly as bad as I thought. Here is to a wet winter, hopeful for more to come.

Memorial continues to page 8a

Ak-Chin elders watch a slide presentation about Gila River fallen beginning with Army PVT. Matthew B. Juan, the first Arizonan to die in WWI.

LEFT: Ak-Chin elder George Lewis chats with presenter, retired US Army SGT. Gary Anderson, Sr.



Newspaper of the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
©2019

16600 N. Maricopa Highway
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
PHONE: 520•568•1375
FAX: 520•568•1376

E-MAIL: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

Ak-Chin O'dham Runner Staff

Editor: Raychel Peters
Photojournalists: Kristina Morago
Justine Peters and Chris Picciuolo
Graphic Artist: Diana Carlyle
and Ryan Allison
News Assistant: Charlene Pane

Ak-Chin Community Council

Chairman: Robert Miguel
Vice Chairman: Gabriel Lopez
Council Members: Delia Carlyle,
Lisa Garcia and Octavio Machado

Regular Contributors:

Ak-Chin: Cultural Resources, Education,
EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak,
Library, Health & Human Services,
Recreation & MUSD.

The Ak-Chin O'dham Runner
is published on the first and third
Friday of each month.

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

All information and original work
contained in this newspaper is
copyright and may not be reproduced
without written permission from:

The Ak-Chin O'dham Runner
16600 N. Maricopa Highway
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and wishes may
be phoned in, faxed 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.

Also, if you have suggestions or
comments about "YOUR" newspaper,
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 to have a return
address and brief description. Pictures
with no address will remain on file.
Allow 2 weeks for return.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

2019 Subscription rate is \$33.75.
If you would like to receive the
"Runner" by mail, please send a
\$33.75 check/money order to:

Ak-Chin O'dham Runner
16600 N. Maricopa Highway
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

Make check/money order
payable to:
Ak-Chin Indian Community

DEADLINE

Don't forget the DEADLINE for the
June 21 - July 4, 2019
issue is due by

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019

Please submit all announcements,
wishes, etc. no later than
FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019

Any material submitted after the
JUNE 14TH DEADLINE

Cannot be guaranteed placement.

But, if appropriate and relevant,
Will be included in the following issue.

Youth Council thanks Antonio "Gohk" Davis

Story and photos by K. Morago

It had everything a great piast should have – delicious food, great music, lots of laughs and plenty of dancing. There were even some tears. Ak-Chin Indian Community gave it's best wishes to Ak-Chin Youth Coordinator Antonio "Gohk" Davis on his last day working for the Community on Thursday, May 30th.

The Youth Council/ Enrollment building (the former Ak-Chin Fire Department) was colorfully decorated inside and out with photos, banners and quotes which showed appreciation and gratitude to Gohk who will begin a new role as a Headstart Cultural teacher with the Gila River Indian Community.

For Gohk, his last day brought the beginning of some fond memories starting with his arrival to work. By the front door was a large outdoor banner, "Good Luck Gohk, you will be missed...." that greeted him as he turned west while driving his car on Farrell road.

Inside, the ceiling and walls



An Ak-Chin Youth Council designed banner.



Member from all four O'dham-Pee Posh Youth Councils sing and dance in the Youth Council Bay.

were filled with Gohk's famous quotes with photos. "Gohk did it!" "At least that's the way I understood it..." "Mama, where's mama?!?!?" and "E-chea, e-chea, e-chea, e-chea..." Each quote had a funny story, Youth Council moments that Gohk shared with guests that came to wish him good luck during the noon lunch of tostadas and taco salad.

Staff from the Education,

Enrollment, Library, Him-Dak, and Maintenance departments stopped by, including Council and Council staff.

At four o'clock, the larger piast got started with the arrival of the Akimel O'dham Pee-Posh Youth Council from Gila River, the Young River People's Council from Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Tohono O'dham Nation

Youth Council. Current and former Ak-Chin Youth Council members welcomed everyone.

Bringing dishes of tamales, albondigas, enchiladas, and more, the celebrating was kicked up a notch with a waila jam band featuring Dominique "Patcho" White, Dyami Jackson and Jose Balderama. Set up in what was the Fire Dept. bay area, it did not take long for the dancing to begin.

When the waila band took a break, the youth council males from all the O'dham tribes set up chairs in a circle and once seated, began singing a series of traditional O'dham songs. Gohk's brother Joe Davis led the social round dancing.

After rounds and rounds of dancing, the cake was cut and served. Speaking on behalf of the Ak-Chin Community was Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez. Thanking everyone for attending and helping "send off Gohk in a good way," Vice-Chairman

Lopez talked about some of his conversations about O'dham Him-dak and O'dham protocol with Gohk.

"It is sad for us," he said of Gohk moving on but acknowledged what he has done here for the Youth Council, setting a foundation for them. "Carry that on, honor him in that way," he told the youth. "Thank you for everything you've done for us. Not only for the Youth Council but the Community," Vice-Chairman concluded.

Ak-Chin Council member Lisa Garcia spoke next. "Thank you for your kindness, your dedication to the Community. We wish you much success in your endeavors. Thank you for all that you instilled in our youth. You're a great mentor, great leader," she said.

It was also time for gift giving to Gohk from the Youth Councils and comments from their representatives.

— Gohk continues to page 6b

Ak-Chin Sanitation shows upgrades at Open House

Story and photos by A. Santiago

Sanitation openly welcome everyone to come view the newly department that has come a long way on May 24, 2019. Community member Sally Antone opened with a prayer and blessing for all who gathered for the newly Sanitation Department. Ak-Chin Director of Sanitation Delbert White greatly thanked A & R Mays, Planning Department, Council and his sanitation crew with all effort of hard work. Delbert also acknowledge the late Joe Smith for starting the whole Sanitation Department.

Delbert stated "Joe Smith was an asset to the community, Council Member, a painter, musician, back then it was just him by himself along with a couple of others using a flatbed truck and old cotton trailer to put the trash cans on." Pictures of the late

Joe Smith hang on the walls at the Sanitation Department as a remembrance of how far it has come.

Ak-Chin Community Operations Manager Bart Smith acknowledged the previous Sanitation Director Norbert Peters for submitting a capital improvement project in 2014. Council approved the budget in 2015 and started design in 2016, which shows it had a long process but was worth the wait. Bart spoke about being appreciative to all the enormous hard work Sanitation has done and does and to Delbert White.

"Sanitation works hard taking care of the community, picking up the trash for the community and the mission statement is all about giving back to the Community,"

Bart said.

Adam Mays, Owner for A & R Mays Construction design builder was in attendance with his Mays staff. Adam let the crowd know it's a brand new 3,000 sq. foot maintenance facility with a Mohawk 75,000 lb. heavy equipment lift and 3-ton bridge crane with compressed air, new swamp coolers, and heating system that takes used motor oil reburns it to create heat inside the facility.

Renovations to the parking lot and the 750 sq. foot addition new break room was actually more than 30 days early for construction. Adam last but not least said "thank you for the opportunity we look forward to doing more and congratulations on this successful project it's a nice one".

Lunch was served afterwards followed by viewing of the facility.



Ak-Chin Sanitation department during the Open House.

2019 San Juan Church Feast

Saturday, June 22, 2019
47463 W. Farrell Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

2:00 pm	Baptism
3:00 pm	Rosary Procession/Matachina
* Fedding to Follow *	
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Give Away San Juan Kuawaila
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Four Tribe Youth Council
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Ba:Ban Dancers
7:00 pm - 12:00 am	I.O Mumsigo
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Procession & Fireworks.	

For information contact Robert Miguel at 520-568-1024



Find the perfect gift for Father's Day

Shop the best selection and brands that Dad's love for a gift he'll appreciate.



Maricopa Ace Hardware

21542 N John Wayne Pkwy.
Maricopa, AZ 85139
(520) 494-7805

Order online for In-Store Pick UP at maricopaace.com
Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.



CREATIVE LEARNING



4a

June 7 - 20, 2019

Ak-Chin Education and Library celebrate 10 Year Anniversary!



An example of the colorful cute face paintings given at the anniversary celebration.



These girls pose for a funny photo.



Everyone could go and have ice cream in the multipurpose room.

It's been ten years since the Ak-Chin Community Library and Education Center has opened its doors for the Community. Since that time the facility has become the Community's hotspot for consecutively inspiring and providing scholastic programing.

Out of District Student Advisor, Yolanda Marinda shared, *"Moving into the building made staff feel like they were moving forward into the 21st century, a beautiful place to learn, support and receive children creating an environment for life-long learning at all stages within the community."*

Ak-Chin Education and Library staff collaborated to celebrate the decade old building, by hosting a 10-year Anniversary Celebration on Friday May 31st.

Many community members stopped by to partake in the festivities. The lobby area played host to a colorful face

painting experience for the children if wanted or getting a wacky shaped balloon by the balloon twister. The Runner was also on hand to provide photo booth options, while Ak-Chin FD set up a bounce house outside.

Finger foods and refreshments could be found in the Education office along with a free coffee mug and pop-socket. Library offered a cure for everyone's sweet tooth by providing an ice cream sundae bar with a variety of toppings in the multi-purpose room. As people sat to enjoy the ice cream social a video was projected showcasing memories the building and staff have developed over the years.

Library staff took the opportunity to promote their Summer Reading Program. Once signed up, a free gift was provided as incentive. The staff thanked all past and present councils for supporting the library and allowing for the many

services it has provided for the past ten years.

But all the celebrating had come with a soft blow to the party, as it was Cecily Peters' last day at the library. Serving as clerk and videographer for five years, Cecily definitely left her mark in Ak-Chin Library history.

As one of the most creative and influential employees she has brought smiles to the children of the community; helping their creativity grow; and most notably helping the youth create and achieve their cinematic ideas with the movie club program.

When asked about her departure and experience with the library, Cecily shared, *"In my heart the library will always be there, from the kids, videos, coding, and the books. Everything I know has come from reading books at the library. If I ever need anything else I know the library will always be there for me. It is my giving tree."*



Attendees watch memorial video of the library past while enjoying some tasty dinner and tasty sweets.

Education Department Celebrates 2nd GED Graduate of 2019

Article and Photo Submitted by Desiree Guarino, Ak-Chin Ak-Chin GED Instructor



Dennis Antone

On Monday, May 13th, Dennis Antone attempted and passed his final GED exam section, mathematics, earning his GED. Dennis is the second Ak-Chin GED graduate of 2019

and the community's 49th GED graduate since 2013. Dennis was actually the first Ak-Chin GED student to attempt and pass a subject on the more challenging 2014 version of the GED exam. He received a plaque for that accomplishment at the annual GED and Higher Education Banquet. Like most GED students, Dennis focused on one subject at a time, and with persistence and hard work, he accomplished his goal.

GED students currently in the process of completion, must keep in mind that each student's GED journey is unique. Whether they complete in a matter of days, weeks, months, or years,

what matters most is their dedication, resilience, and determination in reaching their goal.

Where will your GED journey take you? Come on into the Education Department to find out! For more information, stop by the GED office Monday through Friday, and get started on your GED journey!

Current GED Class Days/
Times:
Mon-Fri: 10:00A-12:00P
M, T, TH, F: 2:00P-5:00P
Wed: 4:30-7:00P
GED Office: 520-568-1284

Children celebrate end of school year Water Day Fun

Photos and Story by J. Peters

To mark the end of the year with a splash, children at the Ak-Chin Child Development were treated to a special day of adventures and aquatic amusement on Friday,

May 17. Due to the current construction at the facility, Ak-Chin Child Development staff brought the water day activities to Hohokam Youth Park.

enjoyment to the children, as they soaked up the sun and splish-splashed around the with friends under the supervision of staff members.

Taking a break from the water, the kids were treated to a hot dog lunch and snow cones.



Parker Todachine, Jessica Zabawa and Sky Gonzalez enjoy refreshing snow cones after some fun in the sun.



Stacie Antone and Isaiah Miguel have fun hanging out.



Mason Laborin enjoys a cool dip in the pool.



Dani White warms up playing a game of frisbee.

Preschool expansion construction on schedule

Photos and Story by C. Picciuolo



The Ak-Chin Child Development preschool expansion structure is still being added to as construction crews and contractors work to make the project a success for the benefit of young community members.

The Ak-Chin Capital Projects department plays a large role in Community construction projects and Project Manager Max Heeres is involved with the preschool expansion.

"I manage the project from conception through design, construction and turn over (move in). During design I make sure the Community gets the best and most cost-effective design, and during construction I make sure the Community is getting the quality that it's paying for," said Heeres.

After a 2014 feasibility study to determine the future

needs of the Ak-Chin Child Development department, the preschool expansion was considered.

As Community enrollment numbers continue to rise, it was determined that the 12-year-old building would need more space for access to affordable child care and preschool services as well as preparation for advancement to kindergarten.

The current Child Development center consists of five classrooms, with

four of them dedicated to preschool and one for toddler-aged child care. Storage space was added to the kitchen and the cafeteria was enlarged to tie into the new space.

The expansion of the center is adding six more classrooms that will be used to meet the growing needs of the Community. The existing building has been renovated to include child care space for infants and the playgrounds have also been renovated for better functionality and safety.

Preschool continued from page 4a

Throughout the building process, the Preschool and Childcare department has kept offering services, graduating the class of 2019 in May, continuing child care services, will operate the preschool summer program and begin the 2019-2020 school year in August.

Busy preschool expansion construction site shows progress inside and outside as crews work diligently at all angles of development.

The project is currently two weeks ahead of schedule and is on pace for a target completion at the end of September 2019.



San Carlos Apache Tribe Youth have free reign at Hohokam Skate Park during a visit to gather ideas for a new park and Chairman Rambler and Executive Assistant Cali Stands join them for a group photo.



San Carlos visits Hohokam Skate Park to ramp up for new project

Story and photos by C. Picciuolo

San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Terry Rambler and Executive Assistant Cali Stands brought a group of youth to Hohokam Skate Park to perform skate tricks under the sunny Ak-Chin sky on May 24, 2019.

The visit is one stop on a tour of local skate parks, which includes the Gila River and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Communities.

The San Carlos Community is currently working on a project to build a skate park, so the youth explored all corners of the course as valued investors and users.

The skaters took notes and gathered feedback on the likes and dislikes of the park while Chairman Rambler commented, “This is what we need. This is exactly what we need.”

During a Community Meeting in 2012, the Ak-Chin Community Members

determined that the Hohokam Park needed renovation.

“The idea for the skate park came from all the kids that were seen in the Community constructing ‘make-shift’ ramps and using other means to make their jumps,” said Ak-Chin Self Governance Director Karen Fierro.

“It was neat that within the design of the park, we were able to keep the original basketball courts and the Ramadas. It really is a beautiful park and it is really cool to see the kids enjoy the park and skating out there!”

The design was done by ANH Studio and the construction was completed by TSG Constructors. The funding was through U.S. Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) and the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), which was for \$605,000.

The San Carlos visit was made possible by networking between the Contracts and Grants and Recreation Departments and was anchored by Parks and Recreation Director Monica Rubio and Vice Chairman Gabriel Lopez, who

personally felt that it was an honor to host the Community.

“It’s always great to share our story with other tribes, whether it be projects, programs or our Cultural History,” said Lopez.

“It’s a good feeling to know our Community is well respected in Indian Country and not only with tribes within the state.”

RIGHT: San Carlos Apache Tribe Youth practice skate tricks at Hohokam Skate Park in an effort to find out what kind of park they want in their community.



JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Gathering Held at the Service Center, 6- 9PM
Community Meeting Held at Ak-Chin Service Center, 6-8PM

ELDER CENTER INFORMATION

Elder Center-520-568-1760
Center Hours Monday-Friday
8 AM to 5 PM
Breakfast 7:30 AM to 9 AM
Lunch 12 noon

Transportation-520-568-1760
or 520-568-1769
Please Call Before 4 PM

Eggs Delivered every Tuesday.
Eggs pick up Wed-Fri 8 AM-3 PM
After Hours 520-858-5043

Elder Shopping and Errands are provided every Monday and Friday at 1 PM. If you need transportation for Shopping and Errands on any Other day, please call Transit Department. 520-568-1630

LIBRARY INFORMATION

*Needs to be signed up to be in program. Call 520-568-1675 for more information. Elder Coloring-Takes place at the Elder Center Japan Pop – Transportation to and from library is required. You must be 10 years or older to participate. Baby Time! – every Wednesday, 10:30-11:00am. Children 0-5 ONLY. OVERDRIVE TRUCK – No signup required, Children under 8 yrs must be accompanied by an adult.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Friday – 8AM-6PM
Saturday-12PM-4PM
Sunday-Closed

RECREATION INFORMATION

For more information on Rec Center events please call the Rec Center @ 520-568-1740

Calendar Subject to Change



EDUCATION

JUNE 3RD-JUNE 27TH

2019 Ak-Chin Education Summer Enrichment

July 1ST

Ak-Chin Higher Education Scholarship Program: Fall Deadline

GED Class times:

10am to 12pm
Monday-Friday

2pm to 5pm
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday

4:30pm to 7:00pm
Wednesdays



ELDER CENTER

JUNE 7TH & 10TH
Elder Shopping & Errands
1pm

JUNE 12TH

Movie Day

JUNE 13TH

Father's Day Luncheon

JUNE 14TH

Crafts with Library

Men's Fishing Trip Payson
Leaving @ 4:00am

Leaving for Flagstaff/Payson
Trip @ 9am,

Elder Shopping & Errands
1pm

JUNE 16TH

Returning from Flagstaff/
Payson trip @2 pm

JUNE 17TH

Elder Shopping & Errands
1pm

JUNE 19TH

Grandparents Gathering
Time TBD, Place TBD

JUNE 21ST

Brunch 8:30am-10am

Elder Check Day

Elder Shopping & Errands
1pm

June 24TH

Elder Shopping & Errands
1pm

June 25TH

Goodwill Shopping Day

Council Update

June 26TH

BINGO

JUNE 27TH

Movie Day

Caregiver Meeting 10:30am

JUNE 28TH

Craft with Library

Quarterly Birthday Party

Elder Shopping & Errands
1pm



LIBRARY

MAY 8TH

Baby Time! 10:30-11am
KRAFTZ 2:30pm-4:30pm
Healthy Snacks 4pm-5pm
Game Hacker 4:30pm-6pm

MAY 9TH

Preschool Storytime 11am-12pm

MARY 10th

Elder Crafts 11am-12pm
Family Storytime 5:30pm-6:45pm*
LEGO Robots 4pm

MAY 11TH

Japan Pop 12pm-2pm

MAY 15TH

Baby Time! 10:30-11am
KRAFTZ 2:30pm-4:30pm
Healthy Snacks 4pm-5pm
Game Hacker 4:30pm-6pm

MAY 17TH

Elder Crafts 11am-12pm
LEGO Robots 4pm

MAY 18TH

Japan Pop 12pm-2pm

MAY 21ST

Elder Coloring 9am-10am

MAY 22ND

Baby Time! 10:30-11am
KRAFTZ 2:30pm-4:30pm
Healthy Snacks 4pm-5pm
Game Hacker 4:30pm-6pm

MAY 24TH

Library Closed @ 5pm

MAY 25TH

Library Closed

MAY 27TH

Memorial Day - Library Closed

MAY 29TH

Baby Time! 10:30-11am
KRAFTZ 2:30pm-4:30pm
Healthy Snacks 4pm-5pm
Game Hacker 4:30pm-6pm

MAY 31ST

Library Program TBD..



PARKS & REC

JUNE 7TH - 8TH

Road to NABI
Boys & Girls Basketball
Tournament

JUNE 10TH

High School Girls Practice

JUNE 11TH

High School Boys Practice

JUNE 12TH

High School Girls Practice

JUNE 13TH

High School Boys Practice

JUNE 14TH

All Nations Zumba

JUNE 17TH - 22ND

GYM Closed

JUNE 24TH - 29TH

NABI Tournament



Councilmember Machado takes a spin in the Red Camaro before heading off to another engagement.



Vice-Chair Lopez seems very enthusiastic about his ride.

On May 22, ten community unpaid caregivers were provided a full-day training on patient safety, health and behavior by the Foundation for Senior Living, at Ak-Chin Service Center. The skills training was coordinated through FSL and the Ak-Chin Elder program.

The first presenter was Dorothy Kelly, MA, who focused on falls prevention and skills training; which included an excellent demonstration on the gait belt transfers and hoist lifts.

“Fall prevention is big right now,” Dorothy shared as she went over a handout on fall prevention. It was shared on her hand out that one out of three people over age 65 fall each year, with a majority of them never fully recovering, and over half of those falls happening at home.

Dorothy stressed on the risk factors that may be part of the reasons for falls, including medications which can cause dizziness or taking too much medication. She stressed to have vision checks at least once a year and to stay hydrated in order to keep the body functioning properly.

Home safety was also a topic, in particular trip hazards like throw rugs and clutter in walking areas that could not only cause a fall, but are serious fire hazards as well. She also stressed the need to have good lighting, especially in dark hallways and in the bathroom.

She finished up by sharing information on safety devices and personal care items. During the break a few caregivers took the opportunity to view the personal care items before



the next presenter.

Kenya Hampton, LPN, shared information on diabetic and nutrition information. She began by providing diabetes statistics, pointing out that non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska natives are at the highest rates for being diagnosed with diabetes.

She says the numbers are significantly worse for juvenile diabetes, or Type I Diabetes, which she informed is typically not curable, adding that approximately 5%-8% of diabetics are Type I. She then shared information about Type II Diabetes, which can be controlled with diet, physical activity and medication.

Kenya discussed the differences on diabetic medication, as well as optimum and high A1C numbers. The normal range for the hemoglobin A1c level is between 4% and 5.6%. Hemoglobin A1c levels between 5.7% and 6.4% mean you have a higher chance of getting diabetes. Levels of 6.5% or higher mean you have diabetes.

Kenya also talked about the chronic illnesses related to diabetes; kidney failure, limb amputation, blindness, thyroid disease and muscular conditions. She also provided slides on the different types of medication used to treat diabetes, and insulin injection sites.

After Kenya’s presentation everyone enjoyed a delicious catered meal from Dickey’s bbq. During that time Candace Allcott, elder program coordinator presented the caregivers with information on the unpaid

June 7 - 20, 2019

APEX continued from Page 2a

will have many adrenaline-pumping activities to choose from such as the 2.27-mile circuit with a 3,400-foot straightaway currently being offered.

The initial meeting with the Community and APEX was proposed by Adam, who had met Jason at another meeting. “We had chatted a bit and both agree there is a ton of opportunities for Apex and the Community enterprises.” said Adam.

Later, Adam invited Jason and his partner Matt to meet Chairman Miguel. “We all had a good talk and the guys invited Chairman to bring Council out to see the track. Since I was familiar with all parties, Chairman asked me to set it up which I did with Vickie’s help.”

During the visit Council and APEX discussed various opportunities to collaborate on upcoming events, utilizing community-owned

services. “There is some type of automotive launch event that Apex is looking at organizing. They said that it would bring numerous industry executives and professionals to Maricopa.” shared Adam. “Apex has already been utilizing services of Southern Dunes and has plans for steering friends and family or their members to Ak-Chin Circle for Movies, bowling, Casino and more!”

After the tour Chairman Miguel provided a few comments on the initial meeting, “We congratulate the city of Maricopa’s venture with Apex, the new racing facility which had already brought high profile attention to the city. We look to prosper together as we continue to bring high quality economic opportunities and ventures to not only Maricopa and Ak-Chin, but to Pinal County and the entire State of Arizona.”



caregiver program. She then talked about the process of filling out a Caregiver Assessment tool (CAT form) a short questionnaire to help determine the needs of the caregiver and enroll them in the program.

Candace also provided more information about the caregiver program and funding that made the training possible. “Our Caregiver program is funded through a Title III grant, and programs are funded for unpaid community caregivers.”

The last presenter was Hannele Waissi, MSW, ACSW Program Director for FSL, who provided information about working with challenging behaviors. Hannele distributed handouts on dementia care which included information on what causes dementia and guidelines for caregivers of confused person along with a mini mental state examination.

After Hannele went over the handouts all caregivers were

given an FSL Assisted Living Caregiver Certification Directed Care Exam. Once everyone had provided their answers, Hannele shared the correct answers for everyone.

After the last presentation all caregivers were given bags that were purchased through the Ak-Chin Caregiver program. Each bag included incentives provided by PWNA (Partnership with Native Americans) Healthy living program. “PWNA provides donations that we use as incentives to encourage participation in our caregiver program. Partnership With Native Americans is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that receives donations and distributes them to Native tribes all over Arizona.” Candace shared.

The Caregiver program is here to help those unpaid caregivers whether they are stay at home or working part time caregivers. If you are an unpaid caregiver or know someone who is. Contact Candace Allcott or Sonia Depaola at 520-568-1760.

Ak-Chin Higher Education Scholarship Program

DEADLINES

FALL Semester/Quarter	SPRING Semester/Quarter	SUMMER Semester/Quarter	OPEN ENTRY/OPEN EXIT (clock hour/ non-traditional)
<div>JULY 1st</div>	<div>NOVEMBER 30th</div>	<div>APRIL 30th</div>	<div>2 months prior to start date</div>

Application Requirements

- Be an enrolled Ak-Chin Indian Community member
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Be accepted to higher education institution

Contact Information

Pamela Velasquez
520.568.1291
P.Velasquez@ak-chin.nsn.us

REMINDER

The next Runner submission deadline will be

FRIDAY JUNE 14th

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

JUNE 2019 Schedule

Sunday Mass at 12 noon
June 9 – Fr. Peter Teresa McConnel
June 16 – Fr. Peter Teresa McConnel
June 23 – Fr. Benedict Mary Lieb
June 30 – Fr. Alcuin Hurl

ANNOUNCEMENTS
June 8, 10am
St. Anthony of Padua Feast Day – Fr. Athanasius Forwalt, FHS

June 15, 10am
CCOE Meeting – St. Anthony of Padua - Sacaton

Baptisms are every 4th Sunday of the month and baptism classes are every 2nd Saturday of the month. If you are interested please contact Flower Ruelas at (520) 568-3700 or (602) 717-3761.

NEW LIFE Ak-Chin Church

Where the full gospel is preached

Schedule of Services

Sunday School for adults and children
10:00 a.m.
Morning and evening church service is at
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
in the Ak-Chin Service Center Complex

Do you need a ride to church?
Call our bus driver
602-476-9591

If you need prayer,
please contact one of the pastors
Johnny Stephens 520-705-3052
Carlos Marin 520-560-2679

Healthy Parenting Education and Support Group

Ak-Chin Health and Human Services

When: Please call to arrange start date.
Where: Conference Room (48227W. Farrell Road Maricopa, Arizona 85139)
Contact: Health & Human Services at (520) 568-1093

The goal of this group is to help establish a support system for Community Families and offer additional tools and techniques for parenting.* Community members, Residents, and Employees are welcome to participate!** For more information contact: Lynne Houston-Volden (Child and Family Therapist) at Health and Human Services. 520-568-1086.

*A Certificate of Completion is issued when a participant actively participates in and completes the entire series of topics.
**Individuals not employed by the community, not residents or community members may be given special permission... contact Lynne Houston-Volden for details.

ATTENTION:

Tribal Members

Please make sure your mailing address on file with the Enrollment Office is current.

This will ensure future mailings from Ak-Chin Indian Community

Change of Address

Change of Address forms are located at the Enrollment Office. (Old Fire Department)
For information please call (520) 568-1029 or 1074.

Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming agents receive ATGRA training

Story by K. Morago, submitted photo

The Arizona Tribal Gaming Regulators Alliance (ATGRA) hosted a Training Academy in early May for new tribal gaming agents. Ak-Chin gaming agents Alvin Antone, Matt Woodward and Sarah Zabawa participated and earned certification.

Held at the Bluewater Resort & Casino on the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation in Parker, AZ, the Ak-Chin regulators spent four days in an extensive hands-on course from May 6 – 9, 2019.

The training was geared for new gaming agents, with the purpose of giving them a better understanding about the multiple expectations of their jobs.

Training covered the following topics: Introduction to Gaming, the Arizona Gaming Compact, Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), Tribal Sovereignty, Problem gambling, gaming law (prosecution, criminal, arrest, detention), Introduction to Casino Operations, Licensing Process, Auditing, Inspection and Compliance, Cheats and



From left to right: Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agents Matt Woodward, Sarah Zabawa, Executive Director Charles McCarty, and Gaming Agent Alvin Antone.

Scams, Basic Report Writing, Introduction to Table Games, Slot Operations, Surveillance, and Minimum Internal Control Standards.

A final exam was taken and those that passed received certification.

The ATGRA “is a professional organization composed of commissioners and executive directors of tribal regulatory agencies of all Arizona tribes engaged in gaming,” according to their official website. Fifteen tribes are ATGRA members.

Harrah’s Ak-Chin Honors 2019 Caesars Award of Excellence Winners

Employees recognized for outstanding service and leadership

Photo credit: Mike Eller



Mario Cardenas



Linda Hunter



Christi Montes



Chris Pablo



Gwendolyn Perrin



April Stovall



Christopher Walker

(MARICOPA, Ariz. – May 28, 2019) – Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino is pleased to announce its 2019 Caesars Award of Excellence recipients, a distinction given to employees who consistently provide best-in-class service to guests, coworkers and the community, all while serving as role models and demonstrating an exemplary commitment to the Harrah’s brand.

“The Caesars Award of Excellence is one of the highest honors our employees can achieve,” said Robert Livingston. “This year’s winners demonstrate on a daily basis Caesars’ commitment to customer service, internal service, innovation, community volunteerism and leadership.”

This year’s winners are: Mario Cardenas, Linda Hunter, Christi Montes, Chris Pablo, Gwendolyn Perrin, April Stovall and Christopher Walker.

In a letter to all Harrah’s Ak-Chin Team Members, Harrah’s Ak-Chin Regional Vice-President and General Manager Robert Livingston shared individual highlights of this year’s winners.

Leadership: April Stovall, Facilities and Surveillance – April has had her hand in every aspect of the renovation over the last several years. April is the liaison between the construction company and our internal stakeholders. She works tirelessly to keep the construction company on track and hold them to the quality she knows Harrah’s Ak-Chin deserves. April is our expansion champion; she ensures work is scheduled to create the least disruption, coordinates all communication to keep employees and guests “In the Know,” completes inspections, trouble shoots problems and is the first in line help if things go awry. All this, while continuing to lead her Surveillance and Facilities teams. Her dedication to this project is truly inspiring and the service she provides is nothing short of excellence!

Leadership: Gwendolyn Perrin, Housekeeping – Gwendolyn gravitates to all the tasks that most leaders try to avoid. She will see an obstacle and go right through it. If it is a tough conversation with a team member she coaches them at that moment. If work needs to get done she talks to the most

qualified team members and they jump on her bandwagon. If she doesn’t know how to do it she figures out a way to learn. Gwendolyn holds her team accountable with honest feedback and reliable leadership. She is a leader that inspires her team to perform at a high level, maintaining productivity and quality standards. Her inspections are meticulous and consistent. She makes it routine to visit her team members often as they clean rooms, always lending a hand, rewarding hard work and documenting concerns. The time Gwendolyn spends with her team is evident. She truly understands all of them and provides them a wealth of support. These traits make Gwendolyn a great mentor and the type of leader many strive to be!

Superior Guest Service: Mario Cardenas, Casino Host – Mario demonstrates the highest level of leadership, organization and preparedness to ensure Superior Guest Service. Mario has created, fostered and evolved many relationships with our VIP guests. Mario’s Service with a Passion and his ownership of Play for All are shown when he is greeting our guests on the floor or making calls to guests to drive that next trip to our casino. When it comes to exemplary customer service Mario stands out. Mario is always going above and beyond to help our guests; he has been known to drive tickets to customers on his way home! He’s always available and works with our sister properties to bring their VVIP players here to Harrah’s Ak-Chin. Mario projects a positive, warm and upbeat attitude with our guests. I have witnessed him resolve conflicts and handle other difficult situations with remarkable patience and admirable tact. Mario loves our guests, works hard and is always a team player. These characteristics represent all that is good in our company.

Superior Internal Service: Chris Pablo, Warehouse – Chris Pablo is an asset to our organization. Chris started as a Harrah’s Development System Associate and during his rotation found a true desire and meaning in his current role in the Warehouse. As an “intern” in the warehouse he treats the business as if it were his own. This was evident from the first day he started his rotation. One of Chris’s favorite superheroes is Superman. Little does he know since his first day in the

rotation he has exemplified his own “superpower.” When his team is in need of help, he steps up to the plate. Before the question is asked, he is the first person to raise his hand and volunteer. Chris is like his superhero; someone you can depend on when asked to follow through and accomplish tasks to make the business better. Not only does he demonstrate ownership he also shows empathy for his team and our business. His caring culture is one that transcends his department. For example, when Chris knows there is a hard day ahead due to high pallet count deliveries, he brings in breakfast for all. Chris truly demonstrates top notch internal service.

Superior Internal Service: Christopher Walker, Facilities – Chris’s work ethic is off the charts! He works extremely long hours and loves it. He enjoys problem solving and is often heard humming/ singing 1980’s music under his breath once a task is completed. Chris treats every task like he owns the business. He is always doing something on property for the betterment of both internal and external guests. His dedication to the property guests and the team is what sets him apart as a leader amongst his peers. Chris remains calm under pressure and handles himself in a professional manner, regardless of the situation. He acts with a sense of urgency and makes requests seem easy. Chris has always gone over and beyond to help all departments. His attention to detail and knowledge about EVERYTHING is truly exceptional. As a team, we all rely on Chris. Chris inspires us all to do the best that we can, he is a true role model!

Innovation: Brian Pape, Facilities – Innovation is creativity with a job to accomplish. Knowing this, our winner for Innovation is the epitome of a creative force that makes things happen. Brian taps into his inner “Play for All” with all of his creations. You can see many of Brian’s “Masterpieces” throughout the casino such as the cactus and chips display on the promenade, the new slots cabinets on the gaming floor or the new slot machines counter in front of live Keno. There is not a single department that has not had the pleasure of having Brian “create” or “enhance” an item. He is able to create, build, recycle and develop at about half the cost if not

less than what it would cost to actually purchase. Brian’s unique ability, enthusiasm and continuous efforts make him deserving of the Caesars Award of Excellence in Innovation!

Community Service: Christi Montes, Executive Office – Christi truly has a servant’s heart! Over the years Christi has supported our property in a variety of efforts including being one of our HERO administrators. For 2018 she volunteered an amazing 607 hours and almost 200 hours in 2017! She creates all certificates for our in-kind donations, orders items for the baskets we donate, does the tracking for these donations and corresponds with both organizations and her internal partners. She also facilitated changes to our certificate process and worked with our Marketing team to make updates to our materials. Many of these efforts are behind the scenes, can be time consuming and tend to go unnoticed; however, Christi is always willing to lend a hand to her internal partners to help us provide a seamless experience to our community

partners. Some of the organizations Christi helps had some wonderful words to say about her, one said, “I look forward to working with her each event. I wish I had 20 more like her.” She leads with a giving heart in everything she does because that’s just who SHE is!

Suggest: Linda Hunter – Gift Shop – You will not find an employee more passionate about the products and services that we offer. She suggests with credibility because she goes out of her way to experience our products and services. When the spa was first opening, she enjoyed a massage so she would be able to better suggest it to our guests. She frequents Oak & Fork and Chop Block and Brew trying the specials to suggest her favorites to her guests. Linda led the department in new Total Rewards card sign ups and was a two-time drawing winner! She has had many guests complement her on knowing them and their preferences. If it’s Marlboro Special Blends or Cinnamon Bears, Linda remembers and makes the connection with our guests to build

relationships. While Linda is an ace at promoting the property as a whole she truly excels at suggesting in the Gift Shop. Linda’s ability to recommend additional add-ons at the register, complimentary items on the floor and suggesting perfect gift items contributed to both increased service scores and sales up 12.6% over prior year. Linda is an asset to her department, her manager, and the property and deserving of Caesars Award of Excellence in the Suggest category.

“I am very proud of April, Gwendolyn, Mario, Chris, Christopher, Brian, Christi and Linda for their accomplishments,” he concluded.

Each of the eight award winners are honored at a celebration banquet with a commemorative gift and a dedicated parking space for the entire year. They are also now eligible for the Regional Caesars Award of Excellence and ultimately the companywide Caesars Award of Excellence.



AK-CHIN FARM BOARD MINUTES

Ak-Chin Farm Board Minutes November 27, 2018

Regular meeting was held in the council trailer on November 27, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Board members present: Earl Justin, Charles Sanchez, Bob Roth (conference call) and Cecil Peters, absent (excused). Also present: Steve Coester, farm manager, Olesya Nelson, comptroller and Geraldine Vincent, minute taker.

A motion by Charles Sanchez to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Bob Roth. By a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 1 absent the foregoing motion was approved.

A motion by Bob Roth to approve the meeting minutes for October 30, 2018. Second by Charles Sanchez. By a vote of 3 for 0 against, 1 absent

the foregoing motion was approved.

Reports

1. Olesya presented her financial report to the board and answered questions. Olesya informed the board that the council did approve the budget.

2. Steve presented his report on each crop. Steve informed the board that it is a little slow right now. The alfalfa should be picking up soon and will be exported out to Newport.

Old Business

1. The board met with councilman Lopez regarding their board selection. Some clarification needed for the council to make the final approval.

New Business

1. The Christmas bonus and raises will be tabled until the next meeting.

2. Damian Murrieta and Steve Coester are working on a job description for the food safety coordinator. We are hoping to hire Alyssa Garcia for that position when she graduates at the beginning of January.

3. There were no more items on the agenda. Charles Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00. Second by Bob Roth. By a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 1 absent the foregoing motion was approved.

4. Charles Sanchez informed the board that he would not be available for the next meeting, due to family obligation.

Next meeting date: December 18, 2018.

Attest: Cecil Peters, acting board secretary

Approved Date: December 18, 2018

PD Memorial Run continued from front

why this year’s event was created, “My main thing was to recognize both fallen officers of the community... and continue to honor (both) in conjunction with National Police Week.”

“During National Police Week, Sunday May 12 – Saturday May 18, 2019 we honor the Ak-Chin Police Officers and all law enforcement who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty” stated the PD’s event flyer.

Chief Milton “Paul” Antone, 30, was killed in the line of duty on April 14, 1983. He was gunned down just south of the community while assisting with Pinal County Sheriff’s Office in the arrest of a fugitive. Chief Antone who was an enrolled Ak-Chin Community member, Maricopa and CAC graduate had served with Ak-Chin Police for eight years, serving as Chief of Police for only eight months.

Sergeant Ronald Eugene Kelly, 49, was killed in the line of duty on November, 20, 1995. He was also gunned down just north of the community while making a traffic stop in the then town of Maricopa. Sergeant Kelly

had served with the agency for 20 years and previously served with the United States Army during the Vietnam War, where he received the purple heart.

Chief Garcia also recognized everyone who participated, those who were in attendance as well as those who registered and supported the event; Pima Awards for the artwork and shirts, as well as the inmates who helped prepare the grounds, and all the people that were part of the event process who weren’t there, within the department. As well as Ak-Chin Fire, Health Education and Vekol Market.

“A lot of people, helping behind the scenes who made it a successful event.” Chief Garcia shared in closing.

ACPD 5k - Remember the Fallen, Age category winners:

- 0-12 (combined)**
1. Daria Garcia
 2. Zach Valles-Garcia
 3. John Zabawa

- 13-19 (combined)**
1. Davin Garcia
 2. Nichole Segay
 3. Anthony Jenkins

- 20-34 females**
1. Alyssa Dickerson
 2. Amber Antone
 3. Sarah Zabawa



Over 100 participants registered for the Ak-Chin PD Memorial 5k. All received a free shirt and breakfast.

- 20-34 males**
1. Dakota Thomas
 2. Nicolas Berg
 3. Alex Bowman

- 35-44 females**
1. Deidra Honyumptewa
 2. Stephanie Antone
 3. Lynette Johns

- 35-44 males**
1. E. Soliz
 2. Lou Carrillo
 3. Davis Garcia

- 45-54 females**
1. Lori Allen
 2. Muriel Tsosie
 3. Lisa Garcia

- 45-54 males**
1. Lorenzo Holcomb
 2. Jose Arteaga
 3. Ruben Reino

- 55+ females**
1. Virginia Slim
 2. Corena Jenkins
 3. Nicole Carlyle-Coester

- 55+ males**
1. Albert Tom
 2. Ruben Zepeda, Sr.
 3. Royce Jenkins



Sgt. Holcomb takes a slim lead in the race. It wasn't long before his competition



The Family of the late Chief of Police Milton “Paul” Antone enjoy the morning memorial in honor of “Paul”. the lead back.

EPA Admin Mike Stoker continued from Front

This can place stakeholders in a precarious sit-and-wait scenario when the process timeline leads to delayed maintenance efforts. From a water quality standpoint, the oversight is beneficial, as permits protect vital waterways from upstream contamination because, while the majority of streams in the desert Southwest are ephemeral, any waterway that is federally designated as a “waters of the U.S.” is protected. That definition, however, is currently under review and may yield changes to these protections as soon as 2020 and as Arizona Department of Environmental Quality position themselves to take authority of the program in the immediate future. Group discussion concluded with an informal tour of the Community’s water reservoir to view how water is transported via a ditch system to irrigate crops. A large outlet to the east of the reservoir houses two transmission mains; one to transport water for agricultural use, and the other to deliver water to the

Surface Water Treatment Plant for potable use. To the south, a blend of Central Arizona Project water and pumped groundwater is delivered to the Community via the Santa Rosa Canal – a protected waterway under the current federal definition. Moving forward, EPD plans to continue conversations with state and federal partners in the face of coming changes to navigate the next best steps that will benefit the Community. Mr. Stoker too, expressed optimism for the future, remarking on the impressive infrastructure and agricultural success of Ak-Chin. He presently oversees EPA Region 9 that includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, along with 148 tribal nations in the Pacific Southwest. Since his appointment to the position in 2018, he has traveled extensively to meet stakeholders in person and will re-visit the Community for the Tribal/EPA Region 9 Conference to be held at the Ak-Chin Indian Community’s Harrah’s Casino in October 2019.

Memorial continued from page 2

to serve.

From the veteran presentation, he moved to his slide presentation that showed those that paid the ultimate sacrifice, O’odham men who died while serving in the military and the reason the country observes Memorial Day.

Starting with World War I to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he shared photos and explanations of the fallen. Reading their name, Anderson, Sr. shared branch of service, what village they were from, and any historical fact he found about the fallen. Many were awarded medals for their bravery and sacrifice. Those honors given to their families, now known as Gold Star families.

In his research in locating O’odham fallen warriors, he saw what was a possible oversight of GRIC member Joshua Morris receiving the

Medal of Honor for heroic acts during battle in WWI and took the information to US Representative – D1 Tom O’Halloran’s office for further review. Anderson, Sr researched this particular battle looking at those who were awarded Medal of Honor medals. Comparing what those individuals did to what Morris did bears a relook in Anderson’s eyes.

Visibly moved, Ak-Chin Elder Services Director Leslie Carlyle-Burnett thanked Anderson, Sr. for his presentation. “It’s very emotional, it’s very captivating,” she said through tears. Thinking of those families that lost their loved ones, “they were so young,” she said.

For Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, the Ak-Chin Indian Community placed remembrance banners on the street lights along Farrell Road.

Fathers from the Ak-Chin Indian Community attended the Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Los Angeles Dodgers game on Monday, June 3 for a night out to celebrate fatherhood with their families and Ak-Chin Recreation staff.

This was the first time that the fathers were celebrated outside of the Community for a special trip to Phoenix.

The families and staff were split down the middle on who to root for, which made for a fun evening of back-and-forth banter and dancing whenever their team made a good play.

Dads enjoyed relaxing with their little ones and significant others while being entertained from the Diamond Level, where they enjoyed all-you-can-eat hot dogs, chips, popcorn, peanuts and soda.

Rec. Program Assistant, Wesley Gonzalez had a great time with his family and shared his experience at the

game.

“I loved being able to make memories with my children with every swing, thrown pitch, caught ball, hot dog, peanut and rally song. I believe there is something special about baseball and Father’s Day that goes beyond the sport itself,” he said.

“The day’s gift is about spending time and making unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime. That’s what is most important! I will cherish these memories and being able to share these moments with the community fathers and their families was the best experience.”

The Diamondbacks lost the game 3-1 as Angels starting pitcher Walker Buehler threw a gem, striking out 11 batters over eight innings.

Despite the loss, the fathers left the game with all smiles, sleeping babies and happy families.



Left to right: Wesley Gonzalez, Marcus Peters, Marcos Santiago and Raymond Narcia. Not pictured: Martin Gamez, Dwayne Dean and John Dean.



Wesley Gonzalez with his trademark smile, holding baby Elijah Gonzalez.

Mother’s Day at Chase Field



As a special gift to community mothers Ak-Chin Recreation Department planned a special Mother’s Day Event, taking families to watch the Diamondbacks play the Atlanta Braves on Mother’s Day Sunday, May 12th. About 50 members went to the ball game that evening, enjoying all the ball park atmosphere had to offer.

This family of Braves fans left the game with a smile on their faces as the Atlanta Braves beat the D-Backs 5 to 3 that Mother’s Day night.

Father’s Day at Chase Field

Harrah's pool continued from page 1a

We used to have to drain the pool to repair the inset steps, which are no longer an issue because of the new pool,” said Harrah’s Ak-Chin Facilities Assistant Manager, Chris Walker.

“The nice thing now is we did away with the cartridge filters, which we used to have to pull and wash off every time. Now we have sand

filters and we’re able to cut that backwash time down for up to three minutes per filter. There are six of those for the pool and one for each spa. That has cut our labor down tremendously, not having to wash those cartridges by hand, soaking them and drying them, which was an all-day event.” Chris added.

A.R. Mays Senior Project Manager, Tim Thorsen noted many other significant

changes to the pool area.

“They took the landscaping out and made it more hardscape so there is more pool deck for people to lounge,” said Thorsen.

“The other part of that too was that they made all the rooms accessible to the pool so that people can walk out the back door of their room and have access to the pool deck. They didn’t have that access before because the old

landscaping was all fenced in and they were kept out of that area. Now they have their own private individual patios and it’s a better experience for the guests.”

“The more we work with the Ak-Chin Community, the more we appreciate what a great community they are. We cherish our relationship we’ve built over the years with Ak-Chin,” said President of A.R. Mays Adam Mays.

Photo provided by Steve Bighorse. Construction photograph of the Harrah’s Ak-Chin pool renovation project.



Ak-Chin represents at D-Backs Inter-Tribal Tournament

Story and photos by C.Picciuolo

The Ak-Chin A’s played hard in the Single A Baseball Pool Play during the 21st Annual D-backs Inter-Tribal Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament but ultimately fell short of making it to the bracket.

The A’s won a hard-fought game versus the Native Braves on Thursday, May 30 at the Salt River Recreation 1 park and lost to the Chinle Windtalkers and Flagstaff Hustle Gang to end their run.

A’s Centerfielder Jacob Pico had positive thoughts about how he and his team played in the tournament. “We’re doing pretty good. We lost some, but we’re doing pretty good,” said Pico.

“What it was like to be playing out on the field, I felt a little scared or nervous, but sometimes you need to man up and try to catch the ball for your team.”

After the Saturday morning bracket play ended, all teams had a chance to take a break before participating in the Native American Recognition Day presented by Gila River Casinos and Tournament Closing Ceremonies at

Chase Field. All tournament participants had a chance to enter the field and represent their Community in uniform with team flags and banners.

Like the other players on his team, Pico was in awe of being able to walk out onto the field in front of thousands of fans. “I felt kind of excited that we were out on the field representing Ak-Chin. I’m not used to the public like that, but I felt excited being out there,” he said.

The top four teams in each division and the All-Tournament Teams were presented trophies at the end of the walk. Other age groups and teams who walked the field and won awards played in Double A and Triple A baseball as well as Triple A Softball.

The pregame festivities also included a recognition of Tribal Royalty along the first base line, which included Little Mr. and Miss Ak-Chin, Stacie Antone and Sofia Iniestra. An inter-tribal cast showcased dance, song and spirit in the middle of the field, wearing beautiful traditional colors and attracting applause from the fans.

Just before the game, the Gila River Pee Posh Veterans Association from District #7 performed the Color Guard, then joined behind Yaqui guitarist Gabriel Ayala, who performed the “Star-Spangled Banner”. Afterwards, Ayala raised his guitar up and flipped it around to reveal “No More #MMIW” which brings awareness to reported murdered and missing indigenous women.

Once the game started, the New York Mets got off to a 4-0 lead by the fourth inning. The Diamondbacks picked up a run after the seventh inning stretch but the Mets responded with another run in the 8th, making it 5-1.

Many Ak-Chin players left at that time as it was getting late and there was a long drive ahead. In the bottom of the eighth inning, the Diamondbacks started their unlikely come back and made fans leaving and listening to the radio in their cars both rejoice and wish they were still there as they scored 5 runs, tying the game 5-5.

The game went into extra innings and the Diamondbacks pinch hitter

Tim Locastro scored the winning run in with a walk-off hit to lift the team to a 6-5 win to end the 11th inning. The win caps off an incredible day for the team as well as the Community, who celebrated their hard work in the tournament.



ABOVE: Teams from the Tourney line up to represent their Community.

TOP RIGHT: The Ak-Chin A's pose for a group photo after a win.

MIDDLE: A's raise the ACIC banner from the top of the stands.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The A's stop and smile after walking the field before the D-Backs game.



2019 Ak-Chin A’s Tournament Roster



#3 Ameliano Jacuinde- OF

This was his first time playing in the Tournament. Ameliano is coachable, a good player, and loves participating in sports.



#5 Chizzum Justin- P, 3B

Four year vet on the A's who has grown into a great player. Did an amazing job pitching in his first game and had three runs in the tournament.



#8 Tyler Peters- OF

Tyler didn't play much in this tournament, however, his goal is to move up and be a starting first baseman.



#20 Myles Peters- P, 3B, OF

In Myles' first year playing he became an all-around great player to watch. He pitched a whole game, is a strong hitter, and a smart player with great passion.



#24 Zachary Garcia- C

Zach has been playing for a couple years now and can play any position. This was his first year catching and he did a great job. Always gives 100%



#40 Adrian Pico- 2B

First year playing with the older group and improved so much that he got on base nearly every time he was at bat.

continues to page 7b

Story and photos by K. Morago



BOYS CHAMPS - Gila River



2ND PLACE - Snaketown

May Boys and Girls League Tourney

The Ak-Chin Recreation Department hosted a one-day Boys and Girls High School League tournament on Sunday, May 26 in the Rec Center gym.

Six boys teams and five girls teams participated.

The girls bracket play was first with the first game starting at 8:00am. The championship game between Gila River and Copa Crew HYPE took place just before noon. Gila River prevailed.

The boys bracket started at 12:30 and for the afternoon, the boys teams were competitive and worked hard for rebounds.

The boys championship game pitted Gila River against Snaketown with Gila River prevailing.

T-shirts were given to the winning teams.



GIRLS CHAMPS - Gila River



2ND PLACE - Copa Crew HYPE



GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

Thank You

for all your contributions to Gila River Health Care
Joan Lazore, FNP

A friend and longtime provider for the Gila River Indian Community, Joan Lazore, FNP, has retired. We fondly wish Joan a heartfelt farewell and thank her for providing years of dedicated, compassionate care to patients and for her goodwill toward fellow Gila River Health Care employees.



Gila River Health Care is pleased to announce

Dr. Anthony Santiago

as the new Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Santiago is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology with over 20 years experience in clinical leadership. Most recently, Dr. Santiago was the Chief Medical Officer at San Carlos Apache Healthcare.

Dr. Santiago resides in Scottsdale, with his wife of 20 years. They enjoy hiking and the performing arts. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Santiago to Gila River Health Care and supporting him in his role as CMO.

LIFE CENTER

DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

Let's Ask Dr. Roopa



What Is an Endocrinologist?

Endocrinologists are doctors who specialize in glands and the hormones they make. They deal with metabolism, or all the biochemical processes that make your body work, including how your body changes food into energy and how it grows.

They may work with adults or kids. When they specialize in treating children, they're called pediatric endocrinologists.

What Do Endocrinologists Do?

They cover a lot of ground, diagnosing and treating conditions that affect your:

- Adrenals, glands that sit on top of your kidneys and help to control things like your blood pressure, metabolism, stress response, and sex hormones.
- Bone metabolism, like osteoporosis
- Cholesterol
- Hypothalamus, the part of your brain that controls body temperature, hunger, and thirst
- Pancreas, which makes insulin and other substances for digestion
- Parathyroids, small glands in your neck that control the calcium in your blood
- Pituitary, a pea-sized gland at the base of your brain that keeps your hormones balanced
- Reproductive glands (gonads): ovaries in women, testes in men
- Thyroid, a butterfly-shaped gland in your neck that controls your metabolism, energy, and brain growth and development

Where to Find One...

An endocrinologist can work in:

- A medical practice with other endocrinologists
- A group with different kinds of doctors
- Hospitals

Some don't see patients. They may work in universities or medical schools, where they teach medical students and residents or do research.

When to See an Endocrinologist for Diabetes:

Your regular doctor can treat diabetes, but they might refer you to an endocrinologist when:

- You're brand new to diabetes and need to learn how to manage it.
- Your doctor recommends specialized care for your diabetes.
- You take a lot of shots or use an insulin pump.
- Your diabetes has gotten tough to manage, or your treatment isn't working.
- You have complications from diabetes.

You can always ask to go to an endocrinologist, too, even though your doctor doesn't suggest it first. When you see one, you'll still need to visit your primary doctor as well. They'll work together.

Send your questions to: ASKDROOPA@GRHC.ORG

Until then, practice self-care - take Care of #1!

- Dr. Roopa, Your GRHC Endocrinologist!



*Wishing all our
Patients and their Families a
Happy Father's Day*

Da Krazy Pimpz bring “krazy” good time to UltraStar

Story and Photos by C. Picciuolo



ABOVE: Juan Sanchez, Jr. and Jaime Jimenez in action.

RIGHT: Da Krazy Pimpz rock the stage at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center. BELOW: Pimpz pose for a photo with Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel during intermission.



Eagle Pass, Texas band Da Krazy Pimpz brought a “krazy” good time to UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle on May 18, 2019, with their unique blend of cumbia, conjunto and Tejano music.

The Luxe Lounge was packed with fans waiting to let loose and dance the night away as Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel introduced the band.

Eddie Jimenez led the group on accordion, saxophone, and first vocals with Jaime Jimenez singing and playing

bass guitar, Sonny Galindo on drums, and Juan Sanchez, Jr. strumming the bajo sexto, which is a 12 string Mexican guitar.

Da Krazy Pimpz were on their game and rocked the stage dressed in blue and green sparkling pimp suit jackets with hats and bandanas.

The dance floor was full of fans dancing to familiar songs such as Te Vez Buena, La Cachetona and Caramelo. This was the second year in a row that Da Krazy Pimpz played at UltraStar.



In 2018, the band won the 38th Annual Tejano Music Award for Entertainer of the Year and released their latest CD, Krazymania.

Head to www.dakrazypimpz.com for tour dates, merchandise and music videos.

JUNE EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

6/2 Pamela Dallas, Contracts and Grants Virginia Zepeda, Maintenance	6/20 Juanita Balderrama, Elderly Mayra Bandin, Early Childhood Gilbert Cervantes, Law & Order Erick Solis, Law & Order
6/3 Marlene Velasco, Community Government	6/21 Sarah Zabawa, TGA
6/5 Lila Biro, Capital Projects Mario Ignacio, Security	6/25 Guillermo Ruiz, Sanitation Gino Williams, TGA
6/6 Max Heeres, Capital Projects Audra Saenz, Early Childhood	6/26 Sandi Mitchell, Library Rufus White, Sanitation
6/7 Terri Jay, IS Kashmir Miller, Law & Order	6/27 Lusan Enos, Cultural Resources Sheila Pablo-Bandin, Education Rosario Waites, Vekol
6/8 Hermalinda Mavis, IS	6/28 Judith Purcell, Capital Projects
6/9 Brittany Sourjohn, Events	6/29 Priscilla Allison, Social & Health Services Susan Guerin, Retail
6/10 Jason Clark, Early Childhood	6/30 Brian Burke, Courts Peter Kann, Planning
6/11 Alex Bowman, Purchasing Pamela Velasquez, Education	
6/12 Jaime Diaz, IS Jesus Espinoza, Maintenance Dwayne Yazzie, Health Education	
6/13 Robert Martinez, Sanitation	
6/16 Daniel Antone, Security Charles McCarty, TGA	
6/19 Lynnette Houston-Volden, Social & Health Services	

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Cruz Machado, Jr
2 Astraya Warren	3 Kiandra Smith	4 Joseph Zabawa	5 Mario Luz Haedin De Paola Alyssa Wind Jessica Quintero	6 Uriayzz Antone Marie Thomas Antone Ramona Kaniatobe	7 Marco Thompson Marissa Antone Zylen Antone-Silas	8 Xadrian Miguel Mylauni Antone
9 Consuelo Juarez Joseph Lopez Jason Smith	10 Holly Kaniatobe Marvin Lewis Ashley Vincent	11 Alex Bowman Benjamin King	12	13 Jeremy Carra Richard Villegas Samuel Justin	14 Brenley Hackney Amorie Narcia Ralph Martinez	15 Saul Ruelas Cecil Miguel, Jr.
16 Lupe Kaniatobe Daniel Antone	17 Anelia Jacuinde Raul Ruelas Mauktho Sehongva' Jose Clorenda Humeyumptewa Kali Wind	18 Shanna Narcia Myles Peters	19 Josefa Lewis Kellen Hoffman Michelle Smith	20 Julianna Smith Juanita Balderrama Justin Zabawa	21 Bridget Carlyle Sedra Dean Tanya Enos Linda Sue Jose Curtis Dean Andreas Antone	22 Baya Olivas Pamela Vincent Davidson Ugalde, Jr. Pablo Alejandro, Jr. Genisys Sandoval Bija, Nosie-Romo
23 Lillian Shade Charity Vincent	24 Kevin Ormsby Autum Manuel Adela Zabawa Nicole Narcia Salvatore Johnson, Jr.	25 Johnny Lopez Mary Rodas Anthony Antone	26 Savanna Gonzales Rufus White Delores Rodrigues	27 Esperanza Moreno Aiyana Narcia Gabriel Narcia Sheila Bandin Joseph Narcia, Sr.	28 Makaylia Allison	29 John White III Janelle White Priscilla Allison Susan Guerin
30 Esmeralda Santiago John Zabawa Martin Antone, Sr. Ionni Flores						

AK-CHIN JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Archaeologist
- Transit Manager
- Police Officer – certified
- Police Officer – non-certified
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Art Technician - Ak-Chin Members Only
- Cultural Resource Specialist - Ak-Chin Members Only

APPLICANTS CAN NOW APPLY ONLINE!

Visit Ak-Chin Indian Community website (www.ak-chin.nsn.us) and click Job Openings to review or apply for an open position.

If you are claiming Indian Preference, proof of tribal enrollment MUST be submitted at the time of application.

Like Us On **facebook**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is now on Facebook! Make sure to LIKE us to stay up-to-date on what is happening in the Community.

Ak-Chin Indian Community

Environmental Protection Department (Water Operations)

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY ARIZONA

OUTDOOR WASTEWATER/SEWER EMERGENCIES CALL 520-858-6999

OUTDOOR WATER EMERGENCIES CALL 520-858-6061

BUCKLE UP

ATIP FROM A FORMER SMOKER

Some of the reasons to quit smoking are very small.

Amanda, age 30, Wisconsin

Amanda smoked while she was pregnant. Her baby was born 2 months early and weighed only 3 pounds. She was put in an incubator and fed through a tube. Amanda could only hold her twice a day. If you're pregnant or thinking about having a baby and you smoke, please call

1-800-QUIT-NOW.

CDC U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC.gov/tips

#CDCTips

ROADWAY TO SAFER TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

BUCKLE UP!

Every Person, Every Seat, Every Time.

The Facts

- American Indians and Alaska Natives are more at risk for getting injured or killed in a car crash than other Americans.¹
- Three out of every four passengers who died in car crashes on reservations were not wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.²
- Seat belts reduce the risk of serious injury and death in a crash by about half.³

Help Keep Yourself and Your Loved Ones Safe

You can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe by:

- Wearing a seat belt every time you ride in a car.
- Buckling up the right way.
 - The lap belt goes across the hips, below the stomach.
 - The shoulder belt goes across the middle of the chest and over the shoulder.
 - Never put the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm.
- Always wearing a seat belt even when the car or truck has air bags.
- Never riding in the bed of a truck.
- Never using a seat belt to buckle more than one person at a time.

Happy Birthday Kiandra
From your Uncle Joe

Happy Birthday to my
grandsons Benjamin, Myles,
and Justin
Love, Grandma

Happy Father's Day DAD/MAG!!
To the man who never rests,
always on the go, even on the
golf course he's working!!
Our endless love to you for all
the endless hours you dedicate
to ensuring we have everything
we need – from cash to gas and
a yard of fresh cut grass!
WE LOVE YOU!!

Happy Father's Day to our
Ninos; Norbert, John and Steve!
Hope you enjoy your day!
Love, your Godchildren

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!
FROM THE RUNNER

Eddie Money performs Memorial show, leaves stage early



Jesse Money sings an original song as her brother Julian plays drums during their father Eddie Money's show on May 26.

Story and photos by K. Morago

It was a night for a great show. Packed audience at the Harrah's Event Center to see two rock legends, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas and Eddie Money, the Sunday, May 26 concert was not to be missed. But before 8:45 pm the show was over and everyone

would soon learn the next day Eddie delayed needed heart surgery to perform for fans.

Opening act Starship hit the stage, starting their set with Lay It On The Line. With a catalog of hits that started with Jefferson Airplane,



Mickey Thomas belts out a song during the opening set of Starship at the Harrah's Events Center.

then Jefferson Starship, now simply Starship, the set list was popular with the crowd.

Mickey also accommodated fans as they approached the stage for selfies.

"Play It Again," "Sara," and "Nothing is Gonna Stop Us Now," the crowd sang along. Female lead singer Stephanie Calvert did an amazing trio medley of Airplane hits.

Starship closed the first part of the show with "Find Your Way Back" and "We Built This City."

A near 45-minute break in-between the sets made you wonder if

Money continues to page 8b



Rock legend Eddie Money greets the crowd at the beginning of his show. It was cut short.

MOVIE

WEEK OF FRIDAY JUNE 7, 2019 - THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2019

Late Night (R) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Thu: 7:10, 10:10	The Secret Life of Pets 2 3D (PG) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; 3D Upcharge Applies; D-BOX Upcharge Applies Fri - Thu: 11:00 AM
Men In Black: International (PG-13) Special Engagement; Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; D-BOX Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed Thu: 7:00, 10:00	The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 1 0:00 AM, 12:00, 1:00, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:45 Thu: 10:00 AM, 12:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
Men In Black: International 3D (PG-13) Special Engagement; Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; 3D Upcharge Applies; D-BOX Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed Thu: 4:00 PM	The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; D-BOX Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 2:00 PM Thu: 1:40 PM
Shaft (R) Special Engagement; Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed Thu: 6:00, 9:00	Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13) Special Engagement; Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed Fri - Thu: 10:45 AM, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
Dark Phoenix (PG-13) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 10:30 AM, 12:30, 1:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 10:30 Thu: 10:30 AM, 12:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	Ma (R) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Thu: 11:15 AM, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 11:15
Dark Phoenix (PG-13) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; D-BOX Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 8:00 PM	Rocketman (R) Special Engagement; Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed Fri - Thu: 10:10 AM, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
Dark Phoenix 3D (PG-13) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; 3D Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 3:30, 9:30 Thu: 3:30 PM	Aladdin (PG) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Thu: 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (R) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Thu: 10:20 AM, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Dark Phoenix 3D (PG-13) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; 3D Upcharge Applies; D-BOX Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 5:00, 11:00	Pokémon Detective Pikachu (PG) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Thu: 10:35 AM, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35
The Secret Life of Pets 2 3D (PG) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies; 3D Upcharge Applies Fri - Wed: 3:00, 9:00 Thu: 3:00 PM	Avengers: Endgame (PG-13) Star Class 21+; Upcharge Applies Fri - Thu: 10:05 AM, 2:05, 6:00, 10:00
	Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (PG) Fri: 9:30 AM
	Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation (PG) Mon - Thu: 9:30 AM

FREE SMOOTHIE
BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT WITH ALL FRUIT SMOOTHIES!

RECEIVE AN ICE COLD FRUITY TREAT WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF ANY REGULARLY PRICED ENTREE

(520) 426 - 6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA BY GOLF WEEK

SUMMER SIX PACK

\$159 25% OFF GOLF SHOP 20% OFF ARROYO GRILLE
6 SUMMER ROUNDS OF CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF
6 ROUNDS ON Arroyo Dunes 6 BEVERAGES
6 CHROME SOFT GOLF BALLS

NEW FOR 2019
IMPERIAL COOLING TOWEL
\$25 VALUE

480.367.8949 AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM

NOW HIRING

- Experienced Line Cook
- Experienced Server
- Experienced Bartender
- Experienced Nightclub/ Sports Bar Server

Interested candidates may apply at UltrastarAkChin.com or pick up an application at UltraStar's box office.

2019 KIDS' SUMMER SERIES

NOW - July 19

Kids' Movies Every Monday Through Friday

50¢ PER MOVIE!

8 MOVIE PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$4.00

Purchase a sheet of tickets then enjoy 1 kids' summer series movie each week!
Individual tickets can be purchased for \$1 at the door.

UltraStarAZ.com
16000 Maricopa Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139
Theater Info (520) 494-7827 • (520) 568-3456

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1644

JUNE 2019

LOS LONELY BOYS & OZOMATLI
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

CREEDECE CLEARWATER REVISITED
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019

THE MAVERICKS & LOS LOBOS
FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2019

GET YOUR TICKETS AT
TICKETMASTER.COM

2 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

3 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY

4 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

5 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

6 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY

7 REWARD CREDIT
BONANZA
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
SEAFOOD BUFFET

8 LOS LONELY BOYS & OZOMATLI
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
SEAFOOD BUFFET

9 REWARD CREDIT
BONANZA
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

10 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY

11 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

12 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

13 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY

14 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
SEAFOOD BUFFET

15 CREEDECE CLEARWATER
REVISITED
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
SEAFOOD BUFFET

16 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
FATHER'S DAY \$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY
FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

17 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY

18 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

19 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

20 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY

21 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
SEAFOOD BUFFET

22 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
SEAFOOD BUFFET

23 REWARD CREDIT
BONANZA
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

24 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
\$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY

25 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

26 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
DESIGNER BAG GIVEAWAY

27 SEVEN STARS® & DIAMOND
EXCLUSIVE SWEEPSTAKES
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
SEVEN STARS & DIAMOND
EXCLUSIVE SWEEPSTAKES
\$10 IN FREE SLOT PLAY

28 REWARD CREDIT
BONANZA
LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
MID-YEAR PROGRESSIVE
MULTIPLIER
SEAFOOD BUFFET

29 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
NCL CRUISE FINALE
MID-YEAR PROGRESSIVE
MULTIPLIER
SEAFOOD BUFFET

30 LOUNGE ENTERTAINMENT
REWARD CREDIT BONANZA
MID-YEAR PROGRESSIVE MULTIPLIER
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

harrahsakchin.com

Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2019 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2019

"We did it!!!"



Jarred Antone poses in front of the "A" after his graduation from Amphitheater High School.

Photo by Yolanda Miranda



Desert Vista High School senior Hunter Louis shares his proud graduation moment with his parents and extended family. He plans to continue on to Arizona State University.



Alexandria Sanchez graduates from Sherman Indian High School on Thursday, May 9 in Riverside, California.

Photo by Yolanda Miranda

Story by K. Morago, photos by Runner staff

Ak-Chin seniors graduated all over, and at times on the same evening. For this year's Class of 2019, seniors accomplished their dreams of a diploma both near and far.

On Thursday, May 9, Alexandria Sanchez graduated from Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California. With the Ak-Chin tribal flag hanging on the stage, she accepted her diploma wearing traditional dress.

At Sequoia Pathway Academy in Maricopa on Wednesday evening, May 22, two Ak-Chin students

Steve Peters and Stacey Smith received their high school diplomas in front of family and friends.

In Tucson, Jarred Antone walked to Pomp and Circumstance on Friedli Field, graduating from Amphitheater High School on Thursday evening, May 23.

On the same night, senior Hunter Louis graduated from Desert Vista High School in Ahwatukee. With nearly 700 graduates, the Class of 2019 had five valedictorians. Over 70 percent of DVHS graduates will be attending college.



Stacey Smith with family after graduating from Sequoia Pathway Academy high school.



Proud parents Lerline and David Peters, Sr. with son Steve Peters after the Sequoia Pathway graduation.

It's official...

Meet Dr. Sandra Shade



Ak-Chin member Dr. Sandra Shade during her graduation at Grand Canyon University on Friday, April 26 in Phoenix.

Why Education is Important

Education is powerful. It helps you focus on life. It helps you develop skills that you will use throughout your life and it creates opportunities that you might not otherwise have.

Education will help give you perspective on how you view various situations.

Education will help position you for jobs and a career as a future leader of our Community

Education will afford you with critical thinking skills and present ways for you to be innovative and creative as our future leaders of this Community

To anyone considering a higher education, it is never too late. Keep going, don't give up.

Dream Big.

- Dr. Sandra Shade
excerpt from March 1, 2019 speech at Ak-Chin Higher Ed/GED banquet

After all the hard work come the rewards, and distinction. Ak-Chin member Sandra Shade officially became Dr. Sandra Shade during commencement at Grand Canyon University on Friday, April 26 in Phoenix.

One of 140 GCU doctoral candidates to successfully complete requirements to earn her doctorate, she received her stole on stage in front of family and friends.

A copy of her 273-page dissertation, "Validation Theory and the Persistence of American Indian Female Scholars into the Professorate," was officially presented to Chairman Robert Miguel and Council member Delia Carlyle accepting on behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

The dissertation has a dedication and acknowledgments section which includes "a dedication to her mother, Lillian Shade, who layed the foundation of her educational trajectory, and acknowledgements - Heavenly Father and Creator, Dissertation Committee and study participants in research, husband, brother, Aunt Jeannie Stephens, extended family and relatives, Ak-Chin Indian Community Council and Education staff, Delia Carlyle, Jana Narcia, friends, co-workers, and Dr. Kris Ewing who planted the seed of a doctoral education."

Ak-Chin Higher Education students earn Masters and Associate degrees

Ak-Chin higher education students took part in several graduations during the second weekend in May.

Deanna Rascon participated in several ceremonies, completing requirements for her Master of Legal Studies from the University of Arizona in Tucson. On Friday, May 9, she walked on the field of Arizona Stadium for the 155th Commencement of the University of Arizona. Thousands of graduates earning Doctorates, Masters and Bachelors degrees listened to the Commencement Address given by Dr. Mae C. Jemison, Engineer, Physician and former United States NASA Astronaut.

The same night, three students



Masters Degree graduate Deanna Rascon with her family during the UA College of Law graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 11 in Tucson.

received Associate Degrees from Central Arizona College. Stephanie Batopis, Jennifer Hill, and Mathilda Reyna Miguel participated in the graduation held on the Signal Peak Campus in Coolidge.

Just over 800 degrees and certificates were awarded this academic year.

On Saturday, May 11, Deanna participated in The College of Law Spring Convocation held at Centennial Hall. Family and friends witnessed her receiving her degree during the ceremony. The Convocation Address was given by The Honorable Raner C. Collins, Senior Judge in the US District Court, District of Arizona.

College Grad continues to page 6b

Congrats Grads from the Runner!



Associate Degree graduate Jennifer Hill with her family at Central Arizona College - Signal Peak campus after the graduation on Friday, May 10 in Coolidge.

Kindergarten Graduates

Maricopa Elementary School Kindergarten graduates: Willow Noise, Jamar Stevenson, and Zoey Gardner.



Legacy Traditional School Kindergarten Graduate Edward Martinez is happy to receive his diploma.



Legacy Traditional School Kindergarten Graduate Kylie Carlyle.



Saddleback Kindergarten Graduates Top row: Marley Contreas, Elizabeth Machado, Arrow Santiago, Arian Coronado, Abraham Jose, Thanya Florez, and Jaianna Pilone. Bottom row: Ariza Alarcon, Emma Enos, Estalynn Lopez, Yaniah Miguel, Yamiah Miguel, Cecil Miguel, and Dallaz Jackson Narcia.



Maricopa Elementary School Kindergarten graduates: Amerrah Miranda, Karly Campbell, Romero Andaverde, Emily Antone, Noah Brown, and Dalia Antone.

Ak-Chin Child Development Graduation



Stacie Antone and Sedra Dean make their entrance to the graduation ceremony.



Angelica Antone smiles to the crowd..



Aurelia Peters accepts her diploma from Mr. Jason.



The theater gets jam packed as families come to watch the special ceremony.



Jacob Santiago looks into the crowd.



Matthew Miranda walks proudly with his diploma.

big screen many helped put together a video showcasing meaningful memories of the young students' time at the learning facility.

Parents and teachers watched the video of photographic nostalgia playing to a string of sentimental songs. The years spent loving, caring and raising these little ones were flashing by. Most parents felt like it was just yesterday their mature toddlers were saying their first words, running around in diapers or making muddled messes in every room of the home. And now in the blink of an eye, their babies will be the next class

of kindergartners and the future graduating class of 2032.

Families proudly watched as one by one their future doctors, chefs, teachers and firefighters made their way up to the podium to receive what will be first of many diplomas in their academic career.

As the ceremony closed, everyone headed to the Elements Event Center to celebrate the special day with hugs, kisses and congratulations.

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Ak-Chin Child Development

Accepting applications for 2019-2020 SY
March 6th - June 14th
Application will not be accepted before 7:30am on March 6th

Preschool Round-Up Day

Wednesday, March 6th
9am-Noon

Bring your completed applications
Visit information tables

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.

Children's backpacks will be provided!!!

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

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

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

Pick up a 2019-2020 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.

5th Grade Elementary Promotions



June 4th, Ak-Chin students promoted from Maricopa Elementary School: Larisa Rascon, Tianah Pilone, Jason Smith, Kendra Lewis, Carrieanna Villarreal, Kylie Gardner, Abel Aguilla, Terry Aguilla and Siann Ugalde.



On May 23rd, Ak-Chin students celebrated at Saddleback Elementary 5th grade promotion: Xavier Garcia, Jeffrey Ruelas, Saryla Jacuinde, Maverick Santiago, Omarion Flores, Owen Santiago, Ronin Gloria, Perla Corona, and Joanna Acosta.



Stella Miguel receives Student of the month award at Leading Edge Academy

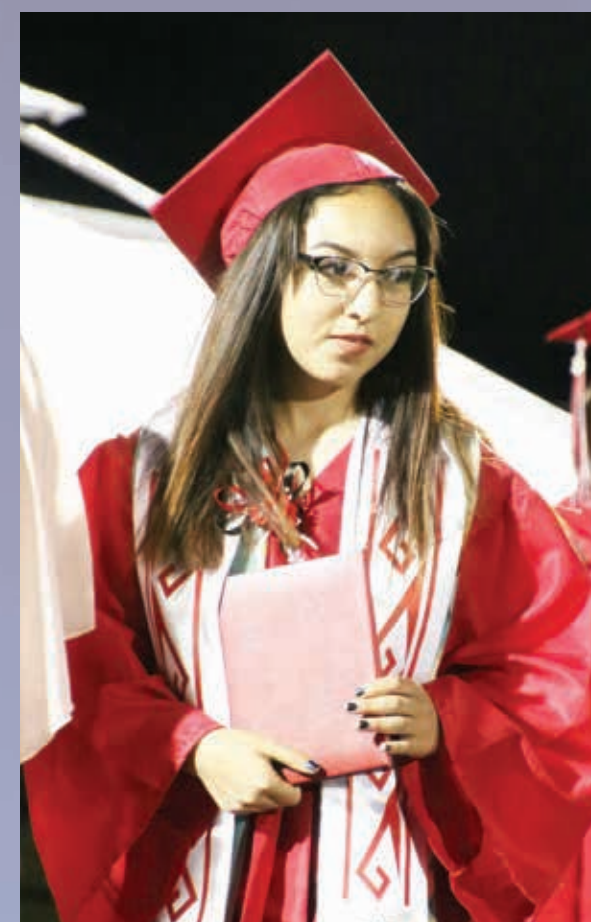


Stella Miguel was awarded was due to good nature character. This is the second one she's received while at Leading Edge Academy.

Stella is looking forward to the 4th grade and other potential opportunities that she may take advantage of as she continues to excel. Stella's entire family is very proud of her award and accomplishments.



Kyrene Los Lagos promotion: (yellow shirts) Baya Olivas & Arianna Bandin along with family celebrated their promotion on May 23rd.



Continued from front

Ak-Chin graduates Bianca Valenzuela, Lexie Ruelas, Isaiah Narcia, Candice Antone, Jalen Garcia, Mariah Carlyle, Darrian Justin, and Mario Ortega represented the Community with pride after a school year full of hardships, overcoming obstacles, and succeeding in meeting the goal of graduating with the class of 2019 at MHS.

Chairman Miguel had a few words about the Community's graduates and what it was like to be present for their ceremony. "I'm always proud to represent my Community in any capacity. When I'm looking at all graduates, in particular Ak-Chin graduates, I get choked up and emotional (even though you don't see it) and just think of the struggles and challenges that they have

gone through to get to their place," he said.

"They 'all' have bright futures ahead of them and I always pray to God that they find their niche in life and become productive citizens wherever they may end up. Failure is a part of success. If you're afraid to fail, you'll never succeed. Don't be afraid to chase your dreams. You're going to make

mistakes and fall chasing that dream, but it's those mistakes that are going to help you identify your true identity and direction in life, if and when you learn from them. Don't change who you are, be true and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do anything that you may want to do. Remember those who helped you to get where you are."





CONGRATULATIONS!



Ak-Chin student Mathilda Reyna Miguel with her family after the CAC graduation on Friday, May 10.



My journey of becoming an audio and lighting engineer has finally culminated.

It wasn't an easy task but by having the support from family and friends, I have achieved it.

First, I would like to thank Pam Velasquez from the education department for helping me and doing all the paper work to get me into college and always being there for any questions and for all the advice she has given me, I wouldn't have gone for my associates if you didn't give me that little push to try it, THANK YOU. To my photographers Kaycee Lopez and Elena Reinhardt for taking the time to climb little mountains, beating the heat and winds with me. haha

To all my professors from CAC thank you for being the great professors you are. A special thanks to the great mentor of all my classes Daniel Bush, who was there to help me with my little struggles and telling me how it is going to be in the real world. Another thank you to two other great mentors Brian Stubblefield from Last Exit Venue and Kenneth Kareta from Cactus Jack Bar and Grill (Yes, they have live music there.) for taking me under their wings while I was doing my internship and teaching me easy ways of doing this job.

I would also like to thank Henry Garcia and Jeff Manuel for being there to help me with my vehicle when it was about to give up on me.

Thank you to Ashley Vincent "Bruh" for texting me and making sure I had my work done, giving me ideas and basically being there through the whole three years of college and everything else you have done for me. To my uncle Benedict for also showing me great support and lending a helping hand when I really needed it.

Now, I want to say a HUGE thank you to my brother Jose and my sister-in-law Celina, thank you for all you guys have done and for always being my main support and always helping

me out in any way you can, even if it was watching Baby Turtle while I had to go to school and while mom was working.

To my nieces and nephew Auciana, Nyaila, and Baby Jay, thank you for being there cheering me on and asking how the college life is and letting me tell you all about it. I hope you all take this big step and achieve your dreams of what you want to do when you guys are done with high school.

My last thank you goes out to the number one woman in my life, my back bone, my number one supporter, my mother Genevieve. I hope that you are happy for OUR graduation, because every moment in this journey you were always standing next to me. Your prayers are the most amazing support for me, thank you for staying up and waiting on me (even though I don't ask you to) when I had to work late nights from interning out in the city. Thank you for always supporting me and helping me out financially, I really could not have done it without you. YOU ARE THE DEFINITION OF A REAL ONE. I know it will take some time to get where I need to be but soon it will be my turn to take care of you as you did for me, I love you.

From the bottom of my heart thank you all once again, I am truly grateful for you all!

-Mathilda Reyna Miguel



RIGHT: UA Masters Grad Deanna Rascon with her ASU family on Saturday, May 11 in Tucson.



Yolanda Miranda with Sherman Grad Alexandria Sanchez.



RIGHT: Clay Antone (right) with son Jarred Antone who graduated from Amphi High on May 23.



Gohk continued from page 3a



TOP: Gohk with the four O'odham Youth Councils on his last day of work in Ak-Chin. Photo by Marla Antone RIGHT: Gohk in a cowboy hat, explaining the stories behind the many photographs on the wall in the Youth Council office on May 30. Photo by Dorissa Garcia

For his co-coordinator Marla Antone, she left the speaking to her husband Tony Jose. He thanked Gohk for planting the seed in his son Abraham in learning the songs and being a big support to his wife when she carried their daughter. "I'll always respect him for that," Tony said. "I'll see you down the road."

Ak-Chin elder Stella White also spoke. A godmother to Gohk, she is grateful for the time he was here in Ak-Chin and how he learned the O'odham language. "He taught himself, (and) I am very, very proud of him. He's come a long ways," she said. "It makes me proud to see the kids when they come out and sing and dance, especially for our Community."

Gohk himself offered heartfelt thanks and appreciation. "What's there more to say, other than thank you," he said. "Thank you for giving a Akimel O'odham from Vah-Ki a chance. To represent you, to work for you, to work with you," he said.

"You have to know who you are, where you came from, in

order to know where you are going in life," he continued, visibly moved.

"To the youth, it's up to you now. You're going to have to carry that torch, *if you want to*. You're gonna be the ones that are gonna have to want to sing, that are gonna have to want to speak, that are gonna have to want to lead, that are gonna have to want to know who you are as O'odham or whatever your other heritages are. That is going to be up to you guys. Carry it with pride, don't be boastful, be proud. Thank you for making a place for me and also my family, oftentimes I felt like I lived here," he said.

But he was quick to add that he enjoyed his time here, because he loved what he did and it did not seem like a job. "Do something that you are passionate about. Don't be like me, be way way better. Keep moving forward," Gohk encouraged.

He also acknowledged the parents in the audience. "Thanks you for allowing me to work with your children," he said.

"Keep on doing your best," he told the youth. "I'll see you guys around."

It has only been a few days since the party and Gohk is already missed. Enrollment Coordinator Dorissa Garcia, who's department is next to the Youth Council, had some comments.

"First of all, Antonio "Gohk: Davis, thank you for all you have done, you will be missed but we will see you around. "Gohk" is a "Jack of all trades", a unique person. Very passionate about working with the Youth and helping out with the Community in any way he could. Not only that, but was always talking and teaching others about the culture, traditions, O'odham songs and stories," Dorissa said.

"There was never a dull day in the office with him, always had a funny story to share or impersonating or quoting others. Always putting a smile on a person's face, even if that person was down, he found a way to brighten up their day. What we will miss is him singing an O'odham song to start out the day or

the famous...alright, see you guys tomorrow. All in all, we are very happy for him that he will be working for his own Community, as he says, "wanting to give back and help his Community" and we know he will do great!" she added.

Gohk shared it was a difficult decision, as he has truly enjoyed working for Ak-Chin for the past five years. Working alongside fellow Youth Coordinator Marla Antone, he has helped set the foundation for the Youth Council program and seen Ak-Chin youth embrace their roles in leadership, getting involved in their Community's issues, and learning and maintaining their culture.

"Thank you is not enough to express how much you have impacted not only the Youth Council but the Community, you certainly will be missed," Marla shared this week.

"We wish you well in your next endeavors in life. May the creator continue to watch over you and your family. Thom Ne'I," she concluded.

Alison Miguel earns honors at GCCS Promotions banquet

Photo by Francisco Miguel

Alison Miguel, daughter of Francisco "Cisco" Miguel and Denise Jackson, was honored during the Gila Crossing Community School Promotion Banquet held at the school on Monday evening, May 20.

In the eight grade, Alison was received three Honor Roll Awards, a Math Wizard certificate and Most Improved Student Award.

It was also announced that Alison was selected as a Student of the Year and Best Citizenship Award. The Citizenship Award is for Community Spirit and Outstanding Leadership at the school.

Accompanying her at the banquet was her proud father Cisco and sister Ariana Manuel.





Carrieanna with mom Gloria at her 5th grade promotion ceremony from Maricopa Elementary.

Carrieanna Villarreal doing great things with CG Heat

Submitted by: Gloria Martinez

During the weekend of May 18-20, Ak-Chin member, Carrieanna Villarreal played in a softball tournament in Casa Grande, and had some great stats, with 8 hits, including three RBI's and a double.

Carrieanna, who is the daughter of Gloria Martinez plays for Casa Grande "Heat". "They're a girls fast pitch softball club

team, they travel as well." shared mom.

Carrieanna plays on both the 12u and 14u teams at catcher, third base, and shortstop. Her next tournament is June 15-16 in Prescott.

We appreciate the family for sharing Carrieanna's recent success on the diamond. Keep up the great work Carrieanna!!!



Carrieanna cranks it up the middle during a tournament in Casa Grande, while playing with her CG Heat club softball team.

Alex Antone wins with Gila River Bears



Champions of the D-Backs Inter-Tribal Single A Baseball Tournament, Gila River Bears (light jerseys) stand with Runners-up Casa Grande Pirates after the championship game at Salt River Recreation ballfield 1 on June 1. Also pictured is Gila River Governor Stephen Lewis and Miss Gila River 2019-2020 Tyler Owens and Jr. Miss Gila River 2019-2020 Susanna Osife. Alex Antone, back row center, in black cap.

Ak-Chin member Alex Antone, was part of an elite group of ball players who dominated their field and came out victorious while competing in the 21st Annual D-Backs Inter-Tribal Tournament Single A division, held May 29-June 1, 2019.

Alex, sporting #3, played catcher, pitcher and 3rd baseman for the Gila River Bears, who were undefeated in pool play, winning games against Flagstaff Hustle Gang with a score of, 7 - 1 on Wednesday, repeating that score against Rez Hawks on Thursday, and knocking it out of the park with a big win

on Friday against the Native Braves, 17 - 2.

The Gila River Bears were seeded #2 on Friday's bracket against Chinle Windtalkers. The Bears continued their winning streak, downing the Windtalkers 6-2.

That win placed them in the championship game on Saturday where they faced the Casa Grande Pirates. The Bears wiped the Pirates off the map winning, 9-0.

Mom Bernardina and stepdad Wesley Gonzales gladly shared some highlights for Alex during the D-Backs Inter-Tribal baseball

tournament. "He had some key RBI's and tagged runners out at 2nd and 3rd bases (caught stealing)."

The Gila River Bears, who are coached by Armando Ruvalcaba, Raul Ruvalcaba, Steve Cooper and Wesley Gonzalez; recently won the Cal Ripken League in Casa Grande. They are currently preparing for their next big tournament which will be the State Tournament in Surprise, AZ on June 14.

Alex is the son of Alvin Antone and Bernardina Gonzales, and grandson of Lawrence and Sally Antone and Bernadette Carra.

Recreation athletes and coaches recognized at Mini Spring Sports Banquet

Story and photos by C. Picciuolo

The Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Center was packed with Community members on May 16 for the Mini Spring Sports Banquet to celebrate the accomplishments and participation of youth and coaches in baseball and basketball.

After O'odham Neok Ki Language Technician, Lusan Enos gave the blessing to those in attendance; followed by a few words from Councilmember Delia

Carlyle; Lusan asked, "To all of you athletes: Who is going to play for the Phoenix Suns?"

After a moment of silence, Councilmember Carlyle joked, "I wouldn't either right now, they're not having a good season," and was met with laughter.

Each table then took turns lining up to be served pizza, dessert and beverages by Rec. staff and Councilmember

Carlyle. The families enjoyed the delicious food and gathered with one another while the Rec. staff prepared for the awards ceremony.

"The sports banquet has been going on for several years to promote healthy awareness for the children. It gives them encouragement to be motivated in exercise and good health, so I think it's a great activity that we have all year round," said Enos. "It's an incentive because a lot



#41 Elijah Peters- OF

This was his first year playing and he has improved with every practice. He looks like he is loving baseball more and more.



#44 Draven Soliz- P, OF

Once he steps on the field it's go time and has a great drive. He has improved so much and did an awesome job pitching this year.



#42 Jacob Pico- CF

First year with A's and fit right in. Jacob has a great arm, is a fast runner and hustles on every play. He did very good this year.



#45 Omarion Flores- 1B

He is a great all around player and a role model. Omarion is a playmaker and showed it during an A's win when he knocked in 3 runs with based loaded.



#43 Johnny Perkins- SS

Fourth year with Ak-Chin and a skilled athlete and natural talent for baseball and basketball. He doesn't give up.



#99 Edward Roacha- OF

This is Edward's first time with this age group and has a lot to learn but has great support. He always tries his best and cheers his team on.



ABOVE: Little Mr. and Miss Ak-Chin Stacie Antone and Sofia Iniestra are announced. BELOW: Yaqui guitarist Gabriel Ayala raises guitar to reveal an important message.



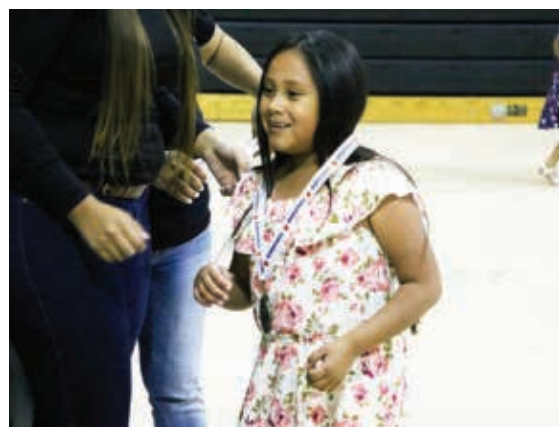
of children are at home and we would rather have them outdoors playing instead of playing video games, watching TV and so forth. We want them to observe nature in the fresh air to build teamwork."

City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Esther Avila gave a motivational keynote address to all in attendance. "Why I'm in Parks and Recreation is because I truly believe we have an opportunity to change the lives of our little ones," said Avila.

"I don't know if you know this, but Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. When I read

the article about that, it was interesting. He said that every time he remembers looking at the list and it did not have his name, it motivated him even more. He could have taken that disappointment and turned it into quitting basketball. But what it did was the opposite. It made him work harder and harder each day."

All coaches and youth athletes aged 4-7 who participated in sports received recognition and medals. "I think it's a good idea to give everyone the same award because it doesn't put any child above anyone else, so everyone is on an equal platform. They can share that and see that they do have the same item and it gives the kids a positive reaction," said Enos.



Aurora Pefers is all smiles as she accepts her rec sports award medal.



Families gather around the table to eat pizza together during the Mini Spring Sports Banquet.



11th Annual End of School Luau



Story and photos by A. Santiago

Ak-Chin Police department hosted the annual End of School Luau at the Ak-Chin pool on Friday, May 31, 2019.

All school aged children and their families were invited to “Come out and celebrate another successful year of your commitment to stay in school.”

Many kids walked into the pool area with a smile on their face; whether it was to enjoy the cool vibes of the pool itself or to see their friends, in excitement as school was officially out for summer.

During the luau kids posed for the camera as they dressed up as mermaids, with props provided by Mermaids.



Ak-Chin Education had a spin the wheel game for prizes, including VIP passes to movies, while ACPD officers called names out for gift cards to Sonic. And of course, Ak-Chin Parks and Rec staff were on hand to secure safe pool etiquette and assist with making sure all had a great time!

The event included a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, cupcakes, drinks and cold treats.



Congratulations!! Angelica on your Pre-school Grad...you are finally finished!! Now it's off to BIG school. We are so proud of you babe!! Them early morning “you better not miss the bus!” paid off, even if you missed the bus! haha! I know you will do a wonderful job, but if you should struggle. You know we will be here!! This is the beginning of Anything you want to be, Dream Big babe...I love you today, tomorrow, and Forever!!
Your best friends
MOM & BROTHER

Congratulations!!
To All the Pre-school Graduates. We moving on up, to big things!! Don't be Scared!! We got this!! See you at the Finish Line of the Class Of 2032..
-YOUR PAL ANGELICA



May 29, was a special day provided to many community students who had perfect attendance for the 2018-2019 school year. The excellent group went on a fun day field trip with the Ak-Chin Education department to Air Trampoline Park in Phoenix and after a lot of jumping they stopped at Peter Piper Pizza for lunch. Great Job kids!

Money continued from page 12a—

something was up. Soon a opening video of Eddie Money was playing and everyone was ready to rock again.

“Baby Hold On to Me,” was Eddie’s opener and the crowd started to sing again. At nearly 70 years of age,

his band includes three of his children who did excellent back-up vocals and great musicianship on drums, percussion and guitar.

By the second song, Eddie experienced sound issues with his mic, where he actually threw it off stage in

frustration. He also did some talking, sharing new music and moments from his reality series “Real Money” on the AXS channel.

With his children performing their own music as he rested off stage, at 8:42pm a crew member announced Eddie

was not returning and the show was over.

It was later learned through a press release that Eddie was set to undergo minor heart surgery in the coming week.

Harrah's Event Center welcomes...



Josh Turner

Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:00pm
Tickets on sale 10:00 am Friday, June 7
at www.Ticketmaster.com

2ND ANNUAL
4 Tribes Zumbathon
JOIN THE party
June 14th 2019
Ak-Chin Recreation
5:45-7:45PM
Sister Tribes
Gila River
Salt River Tohono O'odham
AK-CHIN RECREATION
46753 W. Farrell Rd
Maricopa, AZ 85139
For more Info email Martina - MGuy@ak-chin.nsn.us

2019 CONCERT LISTINGS

AK-CHIN PAVILION

June 12 – Train, Goo Goo Dolls & Allen Stone

June 13 – Luke Bryan with Special Guests
Cole Swindell & Jon Langston

June 19 – Hootie and the Blowfish &
Barenaked Ladies

June 22 – Carlos Santana

July 21 – Beck and Cage the Elephant

July 27 – Rockstar Energy Drink
DISRUPT Festival w/ The Used,
Thrice, Circa Survive, Sum 41,
Sleeping with Sirens, and more.

July 31 – Third Eye Blind & Jimmy Eat World

August 3 – Rascal Flatts with special guests

August 4 – KNOTFEST: Slipknot,
Volbeat, Gojira and Behemoth

August 5 - Blink-182 & Lil Wayne

August 9 – Mary J. Blige with Nas

August 10 – 311 w/ The Interrupters,
Dreamers, and Bikini Trill

August 16 – Chris Young & Chris Janson

August 28 – Heart with Joan Jett

& The Blackhearts, Elle King

August 31 – Korn & Alice in Chains

September 13 – Dave Matthews Band

September 15 – Breaking Benjamin, with
Special Guest Chevelle,
Three Days Grace,
Dorothy and Diamante

September 19 - Florida Georgia Line with
Special Guests Dan + Shay,
Morgan Wallen, Canaan Smith

Mercedes & Luis Garcia
Memorial Basketball Tournament
(4th & Final Year)

July 19, 2019 - July 21, 2019
Open Tournament
Entry Fee: FREE

Boys High School / Girls High School
Class of 2019 Boys/Girls (Must have proof if asked)
1st-3rd Place (12 shirts per placing team)
Deadline: Friday July 12, 2019

For more information or to enter a team:
Thomas Carlyle: 520-840-3125
Angel Antone: 520-582-6745
Dee Estrada: 909-553-5999

BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION

This year the Backpack Distribution will be separate from the Back to School Bash.

The Backpack Distribution will be on the following dates:
Monday July 1, 2019
Wednesday July 3, 2019
Monday July 8, 2019
6pm-8pm at the Service Center

Forms can be picked up from Maria Carlyle-Zepeda and Diana Carlyle or you can request a form via email:
Deidra Carlyle - DECarlyle@ak-chin.nsn.us
Diana Carlyle - DRCarlyle@ak-chin.nsn.us
Maria Carlyle-Zepeda - MCarlyle-Zepeda@ak-chin.nsn.us

The form **MUST** be signed by the parent/guardian to receive the backpack.

There is a separate form for the non-member resident student (s) to be filled out. Non-member resident student (s) **MUST** be on a housing lease, verification and signature from a Housing Representative is required to receive a backpack. (Verification from Housing is needed prior to the Backpack Distribution dates)