

## 2022 Graduation celebrations, Sweeter in Person



**Maricopa High School graduates(L-R,T-B) Angel Antone, Frankie Carlyle, Delroy Clark, Davin Garcia, Ralston Justin, Kaylan Peters, Cecilia Rodriguez, Eliza Santiago and Richard Villegas.**

Who would have ever thought students would be so excited to attend a full year of school, in a regular classroom? The Class of 2022, that's who!

Through the struggles of the pandemic and the stress from all the tests, physically, mentally and emotionally, your day has finally arrived.

You rose to the challenge and motivated yourself to get to the next level, by learning to navigate in an

on-line only environment at home, and then back in the classroom at school. Now you have earned that degree, diploma or certificate and that significant piece of paper will open the doors to so many more opportunities for success.

This year's graduation and promotion ceremonies were truly bittersweet. To see so many scholars standing in line to receive their accolades, looking into their eyes and seeing

the pride and relief as they realized they were going to celebrate their big day. To witness the celebrations, unfold, was amazing. After two years of virtual unsatisfying nothingness, the in-person festivities, crowds and cheers were sorely missed.

It was also nice to see and hear the speakers as they shared motivational quotes and acknowledged the scholars for all

*Graduation continues to page 2B*

**Story and photos by R. Peters, with photo contributions by Gabe Lopez and Armonda Santiago**

## 2022 Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at Ak-Chin Circle

Story submitted by Ak-Chin PD



**Bren Valisto gets a high-five from her teammate after getting a strike at the Special Olympics Bowling tournament, held at Ak-Chin Circle.**

Photos by R. Peters

May 22, 2022, Ak-Chin Police Department held their Annual Special Olympics Bowling tournament at Ak-Chin Circle.

The day began at 10 am with 15 Special Olympic athletes from Maricopa High School.

The Special athletes had fun bowling. Once completed they were presented a medal that was engraved with "2022 Special Olympian" for a job well done.

The medals were graciously donated by Knight Towing. To top off their eventful morning the Special Olympians were provided with a lunch.

Later that afternoon the annual fundraiser bowling tournament began with two sessions, one starting at 1pm and the second session starting at 3pm.

After warming up teams battled, playing 3 games to get the highest point

*PD Bowling continues to page 3*

## 2022 Ak-Chin Education Graduation Celebration honors Holly Antone

Story and photo by R. Peters



**Above, Holly Antone's family gathers for a photo after she is honored during the Ak-Chin Education Graduation Celebration, Friday, May 20.**

2022 Ak-Chin Education Graduation Celebration "Carrying and Living Our Ancestor's Teachings"

Friday, May 20, 2022, the Ak-Chin Education department hosted a Graduation Celebration for all 2022 high school and higher education graduates at Ak-Chin Circle Elements Event Center.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Nicole Carlyle-Coester, who first introduced Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon,

Education Director for the welcoming address, followed by a prayer and song performed by Ak-Chin Language staff members, Velacita Lopez and Lerline Peters.

After the blessing everyone was invited to enjoy the buffet-style dinner, while being entertained by Two Rivers chicken-scratch band, and listening as Keynote Speaker, Janice Anderson, Grand Canyon EDD Candidate talked about this year's theme, "Carrying and Living Our Ancestor's

Teachings".

Janice, first shared her educational background of earning her GED and continuing on to further her education. She received an Associate of Science Degree in Business from Pima Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in Family Studies from the University of Arizona, as well as her Master's Degree in Gerontology from UofA. She is currently working towards her

*Celebration continues to page 1B*

## Ak-Chin attends Desert Sunrise soft opening

Photo by J. Peters



**Ak-Chin attend Desert Sunrise High School Soft Opening. (l-r) Special Education Coordinator Matthew Tess, Chairman Robert Miguel, Student Counselor Teresa Valisto, and Council member Lisa Garcia attend the soft opening for Maricopa's new high school, Desert Sunrise.**

All the way out on West Farrell and North Murphy Roads, Maricopa Unified School District opened the doors to the newest educational addition, Desert Sunrise High school, the new home of the Golden Hawks.

On May 24, MUSD held a Ribbon Cutting and soft opening of the new school, with a light brunch and construction update. The new high school will open its doors this year for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.



# Health Education offers Good Food, Family and Fun

Story by R. Peters, photos by Runner Staff



**Leona Kakar gets ready to cook with ingredients provided by Ak-Chin Health Education and Health and Human Services.**

Ak-Chin Health Education, along with Health and Human Services, provided a nutritious and fun family food experience recently with their, GFFF – Good Food, Family & Fun meal program.

The opportunity was similar to the fun family program

they provided in the past, with a virtual twist, which allowed for more families to participate.

The GFFF program allowed families to pick up ingredients via curbside at the Health Ed office from Martina Guy-Peters, Health Educator and take them home to prepare in their kitchen. A recipe book and ingredients were provided to make the featured recipe – Fish Tacos with Lime Coleslaw and Creamy Street Corn Salad.

Families were asked to prepare their meal within a certain time frame, as the fish was fresh. In addition to the recipe book, Martina

also send a link with an instructional video for families to view. The video, created by Wilson Antone, Library Video Production Assistant, featured Martina and Lynette Houston-Volden, Health and Human Services Behavior Health Therapist.

Both seemed to have fun as they were filmed showing how to create the featured meal. A survey was also emailed for participants to fill out in order for the departments to receive feedback. Along with the survey, families were also asked to share some photos of their meal, family prepping and cooking.

We tried the recipe and really liked the ease of instructions, provided ingredients and cookbook, as well as the opportunity to see Martina and Lynette provide video instructions.

Fish is not something I am comfortable cooking, so the extra assistance was nice to

have.

My mom, Leona had fun prepping, as did I, even if we may have added a little too much of one thing, or not enough of another.

Our head chef was my daughter Dannon, and she was pretty comfortable handling and cooking the fish, she was a little strict in the kitchen though and did not let us take too many photos.

Overall, the recipe and video were excellent to follow, having the ingredients on hand were such a bonus, and the meal chosen was very tasty!

We look forward to more opportunities for our family to gather and have fun food opportunities like this, through Health Education, Health and Human Services or any other departments that would like to offer something similar for the Community (especially food-themed 😊).



**Leona chopping onions with her chopper for the creamy street corn salad.**



**Seasoned with smoked paprika, chili powder and garlic powder, this tilapia is ready for the frying pan.**



**Leona is ready to enjoy the delicious food.**

## Community members tryout 14 day Traditional Food Challenge

By J. Peters



**Products such as brown tepary beans from Ramona Farms were provided for the participants with the help from Vekol Market.**

When asked by our sister tribe, Tohono O’odham Nation to participate and challenge Ak-Chin membership on trying to eat their “O’odham food”, Ak-Chin Him-Dak and Health Education departments worked together to bring Community members and residents to take part in this new kind of challenge, the 14-Day Traditional O’odham Food Challenge.

The first challenge, was more of a pilot project with staff from Him Dak and Health Education, to see how the challenge would work out, prior to offering it to the community. They tested to see how it the 14-day challenge would affect, and or benefit the participants.

The short-term experiment conducted by the group of individuals participating in the 2-week challenge was to gain insight to see any obstacles the participants had while trying to live within the means eating strictly ancestral foods, and we are not talking about fry bread and chili stew.

Our traditional foods were planted and harvested for our sustainable living, foods such as corn, melons, and beans were a very hearty part of our ancestral diet.

For this challenge participates did their best to cut out by-products by any means.

Products like processed foods or anything that is pasteurized, frozen, or canned with the goal of sticking with more organic foods.

This challenge is a call back to our past and what our ancestors survived on, and what they have passed down to our modern world today.

One challenger said, “the most difficult thing about this challenge was staying away from chocolate and having to prepare meals. I’m not a cook by any means and with this you have to cook your own foods, learning to use the recipes were really fun! But I was not prepared for how long cooking beans actually took! Again, it was fun to learn the different ways to cook these foods.

Although it was not the same exact thing, getting to try out the diets of our past O’odham people was my favorite thing about it. Getting to ‘experience’ what little they had to live and trying to understand how they were able to live off the foods they produced. It was challenging for sure because today we are so used to having everything at our fingertips and it is provided for us for the most part.”

Thinking about how back then they had to struggle and ration their foods because they weren’t able to produce food as fast as we can today, gave me more of a prospective on how we shouldn’t take things like crops and water for granted.”



**Participant family's finished meal, including fish, grilled corn tortillas, cole slaw and corn salad.**

## Elders enjoy Game Night



**Connie Orona (left) and Glenna Francisco enjoy a game of Musical Chairs, played more like Hot Potato, while Janice Miguel joyfully looks on.**



**May 26, Ak-Chin Injury Prevention program hosted a Game Night for Older Adults, 55+ at Ak-Chin Circle Elements Conference Center.**

The evening which offered plenty of fun and games, like O’odham Bingo, Musical Chairs and Uno, also provided many great prizes and a dinner box.

## Elder June Breakfast-Lunch Menu

**3** Oatmeal, Boiled eggs, Raisin bread, Yogurt Parfait with Berries  
Tilapia or Chicken Rice Pilaf with Peas & Carrots, Asparagus, Pears

**6** Breakfast Pita Pocket, Cantaloupe with Cottage Cheese  
Vegetable Lasagna, Butternut Squash, Spring Salad, Rolls, Peaches

**7** Quinoa Breakfast Bowl, Apricot Turnover, Fruit Sausage w/Bell Peppers, Sautéed Spinach, Carrots, Black Beans, Ambrosia Salad-Oranges

**8** Chorizo and egg burrito, Cinnamon Fried Apples, Granola bar  
Turkey Sandwich, Green Leaf & Tomato, Peas, Cole Slaw, Cut Fresh Fruit

**9** Cream of Wheat, Boiled Egg, Toast, Banana  
Beef Fajitas, Mexican Rice, Corn, Jell-O

**10** Scramble Egg, Bacon, Potatoes, Toast, Orange Slices, Muffin  
Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Fruit Cocktail

**13** Oatmeal, Boiled Egg, Raisin Bread, Banana

Pork Roast, Potato, Carrots, Spring Salad, Apples

**14** Waffles, Scrambled Egg, Mix Berries Cabbage Stew, Asparagus, Beets, Biscuits, Apricots

**15** Veggie Breakfast Casserole, Toast, Fruit cup  
Chicken Ranch Wrap, 3 bean salad, Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Pears

**16** Boiled Egg, Avocado Slices, Toast, Yogurt Parfait  
Potato Soup & Spring Salad, Wheat Rolls, Jell-O

**17** Scrambled Egg, Sausage, Hash brown Casserole, Peaches with Cottage Cheese  
Chili Beans, Chili Meat (D), Sweet Potato, Corn Bread, Mandarin Oranges

**20** Grilled Cheese, Boiled Egg, Fruit, Granola bar  
Ribeye Steak, Baked Potato, Carrots, Salad, Rolls, German Chocolate Cake

**21** Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Egg with Green Chili, Grapes with Cottage Cheese  
Grilled Chicken Over Caesar Salad, Acorn Squash, Grapes

**22** Cream of Wheat, Boiled

Egg, English Muffin, Fruit  
Ground Beef Taco. Green Leaf, Tomato, Zucchini, Corn, Cookies

**23** Ham & Egg Scrambled, Avocado Slices, Toast, Oranges  
Split Peas, Chicken Dumpling (D), Yams, Potato-D, Corn Bread, Pineapple,

**24** Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Egg, Biscuit, Yogurt Parfait with Mix Berries  
Baked Chicken, Broccoli, Baked Beans, Rolls, Jell-O

**27** Oatmeal, Boiled Egg  
Toast, Fruit, Granola bar  
Pinto Beans, Chicken Tenders-D, Creamed Spinach, Apple Sauce

**28** Veggie Omelet, Toast, Fruit cup, Muffin  
Roast Beef w/Gravy over Bread, Wax Beans, WW Pasta Salad, Tropical Fruit

**29** Pancakes, Scramble Egg, Bacon, Mix Berries  
Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Spring Salad, Rolls, Oranges

**30** Potatoes with Chorizo, Beans, Tortilla, Peaches with Cottage Cheese  
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Salad, Rolls, Ice-Cream

**\*\* Menu items subject to change\*\***





Newspaper of the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
©2022

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### OFFICE HOURS

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and Octavio Machado

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Education, EPD, Health  
Education, Him-Dak, Library,  
Health & Human Services,  
Recreation & MUSD.

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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner  
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and wishes  
may be phoned in, faxed  
or e-mailed.

#### ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

The Ak-Chin O'odham  
Runner is a Community  
Newspaper and encourages  
Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos,  
poems or a great story that  
you would like to share,  
please contact us so we  
can include it in "YOUR"  
newspaper. 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 a  
return address and brief  
description. Pictures with no  
address will remain on file.  
Allow 2 weeks for return.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

2022 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'odham Runner  
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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

#### DEADLINE

Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
June 17 - 30, 2022  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH**

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

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

#### Bowling continues from Front

total they could to land a chance  
in the finals.

Helping to raise funds, an  
approximate total of 30 teams  
signed up.

The finals consisted of the top  
4 scoring teams for a chance  
to win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place  
trophies that were also donated  
by Knight Towing.

The teams that made it to the  
finals were Dispatch Agency,  
Harrah's 1, The Pit Crew, and  
Best Buds. Each Team Consisted  
of 4 players and they participated  
in 3 rounds of bowling.

At the end of the final round, it  
was Harrah's 1 taking home 1st  
place, The Pit Crew placing 2nd

and Dispatch Agency placing  
3rd.

In addition to the bowling  
fundraiser a raffle was also  
held with tickets sold weeks  
beforehand. Prizes included  
gift cards, tools, housewares,  
sporting event, (64) bales of hay  
and a 50/50 raffle.

The Special Olympics goal is to  
"help persons with intellectual  
disabilities participate as  
productive and respected  
members of society at large, by  
offering them a fair opportunity  
to develop and demonstrate  
their skills and talents through  
sports training and competition  
and by increasing the public's  
awareness of their capabilities  
and needs."



1ST PLACE - HARRAH'S 1



2ND PLACE - THE PIT CREW



3RD PLACE - THE DISPATCH AGENCY



At far left: House Divided Team (ASU) Councilmember Delia  
Carlyle and MiAnna Garcia, along with (UofA) Jolie Peters and  
Henry Garcia, compete against Bren's Team; Kayla Valisto,  
Teresa Valisto, Bren Valisto, Genisys Sandoval and Benji  
Valisto, for a good cause.



Above, Bren Valisto and her dad Benji (at left), take a picture  
with Mike Burnett, Law Enforcement Torch Run Director.  
(Submitted photo)

## Georgia Tech Scholars visit with Chairman Miguel



**Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, second from left, provides a history lesson on Ak-Chin for Georgia Tech Scholar students.**

On Friday, May 20 a group of  
Scholars from Georgia Tech  
met with Chairman Robert  
Miguel at Ak-Chin Circle 347  
restaurant. The purpose of the  
visit was to explore cultural  
identities and practices of  
people living in the Southwest.

The trip was managed by  
the Georgia Tech Stamps  
President's Scholars and Gold  
Scholars Program.

The scholarship program  
reached out to several other  
tribes in the Southwest to  
coordinate and meet with  
key individuals who could  
provide cultural history in their  
respective areas.

At one point they collaborated  
with Levi Esquerra who is  
the Senior Vice-President of  
Native American Advancement  
and Tribal Engagement for  
the University of Arizona.

Levi highly referred Chairman  
Miguel as a resource.

While enjoying apps with  
Chairman, students listened  
as Miguel shared Ak-Chin's  
farming history, leadership and  
economic development.

The students were intrigued  
as to how the tribe was able  
to flourish in farming and  
gaming amidst the growth of  
Maricopa and secluded area of  
the Community.

Georgia Tech's trip to Arizona  
included 10 students from  
various majors as well as staff  
and faculty members. Through  
this scholarship program,  
students have the opportunity  
to plan trips domestically and  
internationally. Before coming  
to Ak-Chin the students also  
visited with sister tribes;  
Tohono O'odham, Gila River  
and Salt River.

#### Emergency numbers to contact the Ak-Chin Police Department

In case you are unable to reach the Ak-Chin Police Department through the  
main phone number (520) 568-1200. Please utilize the following  
information for Police/Fire/EMS services.  
Please remember for Emergencies DIAL 911.



For Non-Emergencies the following numbers can be used.

Land Line (520) 568-1526  
Land Line (520) 568-1527  
Land Line (520) 568-1528  
Cell Phone (520) 510-9214

## Public Meeting Ak-Chin Indian Community Meeting June 27, 2022 6:00 pm

The Ak-Chin Indian Community will hold a public meeting  
to discuss two tribal transportation matters in accordance  
with 25 CFR Part 170 Section 170.435.

#### Change of Ownership on Two Existing Roads from BIA- owned to Tribally-owned:

- Antone Avenue, BIA Route 25, 0.3 miles.
- Farrell Road, BIA Route 14, 4.0 miles.
- Requires Resolutions requesting change, relinquishment  
of associated rights-of-way, updates to the road inventory,  
and new strip maps.
- Required before construction can commence on existing  
projects.

#### Mini Refresh of the 2016 Long Range Transportation Plan:

- Required to change ownership of existing roads.
- Mini Refresh Includes:
  - Public Involvement
  - Establishment of Rights-of-Way
  - Establishment of Strip Maps and Road Inventory Data
  - NEPA Reviews
  - Tribal Rights-of-Way Plat Maps
  - Resolutions

Copies of documents are available for review at the Planning  
and Development Department beginning June 7, 2022.  
Comments may be made orally or in writing. If in writing,  
please submit to:

Planning and Development Department  
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road  
(520) 568-1070  
Sandra.Shade@ak-chin.nsn.us  
PKann@ak-chin.nsn.us  
DECarlyle@ak-chin.nsn.us

Questions may also be addressed to these individuals.

**Deadline to submit comments are due no later than July  
6, 2022 at Noon.** Meeting will be virtual or at the Elements  
Event Center at Ak-Chin Circle.



# Youth athletes soak up the sun during end of Season pool party

Photo by J. Peters

As their season came to an end, Ak-Chin’s T-Ball and Coach Pitch teams celebrated with a swimming good time at the recreational pool. Everyone who attended had a fun time filled with family, friends and of course snow cones.

These “little” leagues started on April 23rd and ended on May 14<sup>th</sup>, with four t-ball and 2 coach pitch teams.

Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Marie Antone shared, “First, I would like to say a special thank you to all players, parents,

volunteer coaches and helpers for an incredible return to sports league programs. It was great to see all our little athletes back in person and them so excited to be back learning new skills, making new friends, and just having fun. Watching each mini baseball division having fun, learning teamwork and sportsmanship and giving their best in every game was the highlight of the program.”

“*The Parks and Recreation Department aspires to navigate a safe return to all our program leagues,*

*tournaments, activities and events to help our community maintain a safe environment for their physical and social health. In return to programs, our goal is to provide a positive experience for players, families, and the community to help our youth learn the fundamentals and skills of each sports program, while promoting physical health through an active lifestyle.”*

*A Big Thank You to our Volunteer Coaches and helpers for your time, patience, hard-work and dedication, you’re a great*



Children and parents have a nice time enjoying their Saturday at the pool.

source of inspiration to our little athletes and we appreciate you all.

**T-ball**  
**Robert Miguel – Barking Spiders**  
**Melanie Antone - Lil Coyotes**  
**Dennis Antone – Wild Ones**

**Coach Pitch**  
**Melanie Antone - Coyotes**  
**Jacob Dickerson & Jennifer Boehm-King - Screwballs”**

**SUMMER READING**  
**Starting May 27**  
**Sign up below:**  
[HTTPS://AKCHINLIBRARY.AZSUMMERREADING.ORG/](https://akchinlibrary.azsummerreading.org/)

## AK -CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Education Department

42507 W. Peters & Nall Road · Maricopa, Arizona 85138 · Telephone: 520.568.1280 · Fax: 520.568.1051

### HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*The Ak-Chin Indian Community Scholarship Program’s purpose is to provide financial support for the promotion of education and employment of community members.*

#### Community Announcement...

**Do you have your AA Degree? You can earn your Bachelor’s Degree and Teacher Certification with a scholarship from ASU’s PEAIC program.**

*“Strengthen, encourage and teach students in Arizona’s Tribal communities”*

**The Preparing Educators for Arizona’s Indian Communities (PEAIC) program at Arizona State University’s Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (MLFTC) provides scholarships to those interested in becoming educators in Arizona’s Indigenous communities.**

This coming fall 2022, MLFTC will offer these majors that PEAIC participants can apply/ register for:  
ASU Online – classes fully online  

- BAE – Educational Studies (Early Childhood Studies)
- BAS – Applied Science (Early Childhood Studies)

ASU@locations – classes taken through ASU Sync  

- Elementary Education

This will be an option. Awaiting approval:  

- Special Education – in the process of being approved for @locations, not live yet
- Early Childhood Education– in the process of being approved for @locations, not live yet

Are you currently a paraprofessional and don’t wish to relocate to earn your undergraduate degree, then the PEAIC program is for you! PEAIC is a unique transfer program where participants are encouraged to continue teaching in their community and earn their degree online, with the overall goal to become certified teachers!

Schedule a 1:1 Zoom meeting with Jayme Deschene, the Native & Indigenous Student Recruitment Coordinator: <https://calendly.com/jldesche/30-minutes-meeting> Or call (480) 965-8176.

+++ PEAIC will pay for the application fee, tuition, books, a \$1000 stipend for a laptop & monies allocated to support the student’s success at ASU. If the student has a dependent(s), there is a \$300 monthly child stipend.

++ Below is the QR- code, scan with your phone for detailed information and Webinar dates to sign up:

**OR Join us on June 10, 2022 at 5:00pm,**  
**Ak-Chin Education Building**  
 Contact the Scholarship Program to reserve a seat.  
 Email: [LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us)  
 Or  
 Call our offices at (520) 568-1280 / 1291

## Ak-Chin Tribal Transit: PUBLIC NOTICE

Starting May 9th, 2022 Transit will be limiting shopping trips to the City of Maricopa. This is a result of the currents cost of fuel to provide transportation services. Local in Ak-Chin Community Demand Response services will remain available from 7:00am to 5:45pm Monday through Friday. Transit will offer trips to Maricopa for shopping to twice a day. The reinstatement of full-time services will tentatively take place September 1st, 2022 pending the evaluation of our operations. Doctors’ appointments, meetings, employment and non-shopping experiences will not be affected by this change. This only applies to shopping. Due to Professional Development, Transit will be providing limited services only on the following dates during the designated times:

Wednesday June 29th, 2022 8:30am to 11:30am  
 Thursday June 30th, 2022: 8:30am to 11:30am

Demand-response services are available within the Ak-Chin Indian Community and most commercial and government addresses located within a five-mile radius of Community boundaries. Without exception, **ALL RESERVATIONS MUST INCLUDE EITHER A PICK-UP OR DROP-OFF LOCATION WITHIN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY.** Our demand-response service is a reservation-based system which operates on a first-come first-served basis. We recommend that you make your reservation at least 2 hours in advance of your requested pick-up time, you may make a reservation up to 7 days in advance. Last minute requests may be accommodated if the schedule permits but may not always be available. The following information will be required when making a reservation: Name, phone number, pick-up address, drop-off address and requested pick-up time. Reservations may be made Monday through Friday, from 7:00am to 5:45pm. **You must be 15 years or older to make reservations for our demand-response service.**

**NO SHOWS:** If you are not present when the vehicle arrives, the driver will wait three minutes. After three minutes, the driver must proceed with the route and the passenger will be marked as a no-show. After three no-shows, our services will be declined to you for 30 days. On demand services at times can run on a heavy schedule. Please understand that once a passenger arrives at their destination the driver will not wait for a passenger to get back on the vehicle. They will proceed with the route unless special accommodations were already made with dispatch. We can always be scheduled to return and take you to another location at a future time.

**CANCELLING A RIDE:** If a trip needs to be cancelled, you are urged to cancel it as early as possible. We ask for a 15-minute notice. If a 15-minute notice is not given and a vehicle is in route, you will be considered a no show. Reliable and on time transportation can be difficult to achieve when proper protocols are not followed.

**\*Ak-Chin Tribal Transit generally does not operate on holidays recognized by the Ak-Chin Indian Community**

## Ak-Chin Education Department Scholarship Program

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

FALL 2022 Semester	SPRING 2023 Semester	SUMMER 2023 Semester	OPEN ENTRY/ OPEN EXIT Technical Programs
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	November 30 <sup>th</sup>	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	2-months prior to start date

**Application Requirements**

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

**Contact Information**

- Ak-Chin Scholarship Program
- Lenny Dempsey, Enrollment Academic Advisor
- Phone: (520) 568-1291
- [LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us)



## Medicaid Renewal Letter

# Don’t miss this letter.

### Check that your state Medicaid office has your current mailing address. Your local Indian health care provider can help.

**AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT**  
 SERVING THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

**TO SCHEDULE A RIDE:**  
 CALL: 520-568-1630  
 TEXT: 520-340-0382



# Showing Up in Support of Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ Survivors for Pride Month

This June, the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC), StrongHearts Native Helpline (StrongHearts) and the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center (AKNWRC) acknowledge, support and lift the voices of Native Two-Spirit, non-binary, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning survivors of violence for Pride Month. As Indigenous nonprofit organizations, we strongly support the need to facilitate inclusive conversations about the identities intersecting across the Indigenous and 2S+/LGBTQ+ spectrum.

When NIWRC, StrongHearts, and ANWRC raise awareness on gender-based violence issues, we also recognize that our 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives experience domestic violence and sexual violence at exceptionally high rates. Violence and abuse can happen to anyone. Across Indigenous cultures and communities, our traditional teachings uphold respect for all identities and celebrate diversity. As relatives, we must stand firmly against dangerous attitudes toward our 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives and instead, use our Indigenous values and sacred teachings of love, respect and compassion to advocate for them. We see you. We support you. We honor your spirit.

For generations, Western culture has disparaged Indigenous religions and teachings about gender and sexuality, including the pre-existing traditional understanding that Two-Spirit individuals, embodying male and female spirits, are blessed by Creator. Colonialism and Western patriarchy threaten our relatives on the 2S+/LGBTQ+ spectrum with policy, violence and oppression across the United States. Within the

2S+/LGBTQ+ community, intimate partner violence occurs at a rate equal to or higher than that of the cis-heterosexual community. American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in 2S+/LGBTQ+ communities face systemic discrimination, violence, and harassment at disproportional rates. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), of all the respondents who experienced sexual assault, 65% were American Indian/Alaskan Natives. Also, 73% of Native respondents experienced intimate partner violence, including physical violence, compared to 54% of the overall USTS respondents. 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives also experience other forms of domestic violence and additional barriers to seeking help due to fear of discrimination or bias.

These statistics do not include the intergenerational and individual trauma our Indigenous relatives experience. There is a need for intergenerational efforts to recognize, reclaim and dismantle oppressive and systemic injustices toward 2S+/LGBTQ+ survivors.

Although there are incredible resources available for LGBTQ+ survivors, there is an urgent need for more culturally-tailored, inclusive programs and resources that offer support services for Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ survivors. As family members and communities, we must collectively advocate for more inviting, safe, accessible and inclusive spaces for our 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives. All members of our families, communities, and nations should feel safe, protected and supported to live free of violence and discrimination.

## Tips for Family and Friends

- Show up: Family members and friends of 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives can create safe spaces simply by showing up, listening and acknowledging their relative’s experiences. Keeping “open minds and hearts” can positively impact Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ survivors.
- Believe survivors: Validate the feelings of 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives, assuring them that the violence they experienced is not their fault and they are not alone. Offering support when a loved one is hurting, even in seemingly small ways, encourages connection and protects against isolation.
- Celebrate sacred teachings: Learning more about Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ communities—including their history of trauma and teachings about love, compassion, courage, and support—can help reverse the shame tied to Western norms about gender and sexual orientation. Return to traditional teachings that honor all identities and sexualities.

## Helpful Resources - Read

- Toolkit: How Families and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings and Create Healing Spaces with and for Native 2S+/LGBTQ Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Summary: How Families and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings and Create Healing Spaces with and for Native 2S+/LGBTQ Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Restoration Magazine: Reconnecting with Indigenous Teachings to Create Healing Spaces with and for Native 2SLGBTQ Survivors of Violence

- Two-Spirit Identity from StrongHearts Native Helpline
- LGBTQ2S (Two-Spirit) Resources by the Southwest Indigenous Women’s Coalition
- Two-Spirit People from the National Congress of American Indians
- Two Spirits, One Heart, Five Genders from Indian Country Today
- A Spotlight on Native LGBT from the National Congress of American Indians

## Watch

- Virtual Conversations With the Field 1 of 4 How Family and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings & Create Healing Spaces With & For Native LGBTQ2S Relatives
- Virtual Conversations With the Field 2 of 4 How Family and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings & Create Healing Spaces With & For Native LGBTQ2S Relatives
- Webinar: Mending the Rainbow: Working with the Native LGBT/Two-Spirit Community
- Webinar: Understanding the Dynamics and Tactics of Intimate Partner Violence through the Lens of Indigenous Survivors

## For Youth

- Native Youth Sexual Health Network
- It Gets Better Project
- Indigenizing Love: A Toolkit for Native Youth to Build Inclusion PDF
- A Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth by The Trevor Project
- How Can I Make My Center An Affirming Place For People Who Identify As LGBTQ? by NRCDV

## Setting The Stage: Strategies For Supporting LGBTIQ Survivors by Washington

## Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

## Get Help

- StrongHearts Native Helpline call/text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483), or chat: [strongheartshelpline.org](https://strongheartshelpline.org). StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 domestic violence, dating and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, offering culturally appropriate support.
- The Trevor Project call 1-866-488-7386, text 678678, or chat [thetrevorproject.org/get-help](https://thetrevorproject.org/get-help). The Trevor Project has trained crisis counselors who understand the challenges LGBTQ young people face, available 24/7.

## About StrongHearts Native Helpline

StrongHearts Native Helpline was created by and built to serve Indigenous communities across the United States. It is a culturally-appropriate, anonymous, confidential and free service dedicated to serving Native American and Alaska Native survivors and concerned family members and friends affected by domestic, dating and sexual violence. Advocates are available 24/7 by texting or calling 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) or via online chat at [strongheartshelpline.org](https://strongheartshelpline.org). Connect with knowledgeable advocates who can provide lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable survivors to find safety and live lives free of abuse. StrongHearts Native Helpline is a proud partner of the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

## About the National Indigenous Women’s

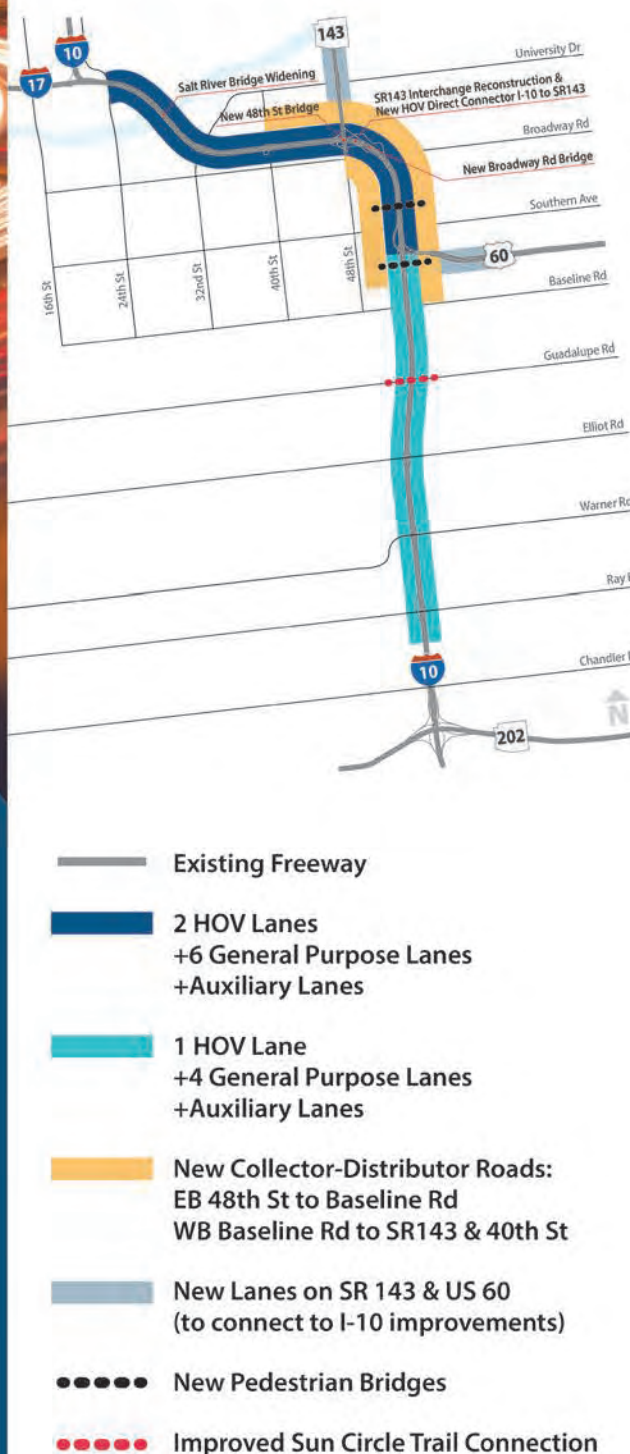
## Resource Center

The National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC) is a Native-led nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against Native women and children. NIWRC provides national leadership in ending gender-based violence in Tribal communities by lifting the collective voices of grassroots advocates and offering culturally grounded resources, technical assistance and training, and policy development to strengthen Tribal sovereignty. [niwrc.org](https://niwrc.org)

About the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center  
Organized in 2015, the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center (AKNWRC) is a tribal nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against women with Alaska’s 229 tribes and allied organizations. AKNWRC board members and staff are Alaska Native women raised in Alaska Native Villages and have over 250 years of combined experience in tribal governments, nonprofit management, domestic violence, and sexual assault advocacy (both individual crisis and systems and grassroots social change advocacy at the local, statewide, regional, national and international levels), and other social services experience. AKNWRC’s philosophy is that violence against women is rooted in the colonization of indigenous nations and thus dedicated to strengthening local, tribal government’s responses through community organizing efforts advocating for the safety of women and children in their communities and homes against domestic and sexual abuse and violence. [aknwrc.org](https://aknwrc.org)



## An eleven-mile stretch of Interstate 10 between Loop 202 and I-17.



## Good info is a good thing.

Get the best info about the Broadway Curve Improvement Project and upcoming summer road closures with “The Curve” app. Download to your phone today or visit [i10BroadwayCurve.com](https://i10BroadwayCurve.com) and [#StayAheadOfTheCurve](https://twitter.com/StayAheadOfTheCurve). When complete, the project will improve your commute and help support our growing economy.





# *Little Moments. Big Impact.*



## **Child care providers needed.**

Arizona is currently facing a child care crisis and needs more providers, especially for the most important early years of a child's life. When you become certified by DES, you can care for up to 4 children in your home at one time, and receive monetary assistance. Apply today and play a crucial role in a child's development, the community, and the economy. It's the little moments that make a big impact.

**To learn more visit [childcare.azccrr.com](http://childcare.azccrr.com)**



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*



**Gila River HEALTH CARE**

**FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC**

CALL OR TEXT (520) 371-0132

**July 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Wednesday)\***

**In the Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot**

**9:00am - 4:00pm**

**August 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Wednesday)\***

**In the Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot**

**9:00am - 4:00pm**

\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

grhc.org

**OUR CLINICAL SERVICES FOR MEN & WOMEN:**

- Family Planning counseling and education
- STD testing and treatment
- HIV testing and counseling
- Birth control and pregnancy education
- Well-Woman exams
- Pap smears and breast exams
- GYN diagnosis and treatment
- Emergency contraception
- Prenatal and postpartum care
- Preconception counseling
- Prevention counseling and education

**ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL**

We are flexible...Let us know what time works best for you!

**Ak-Chin Child Development**

Accepting applications for  
**SUMMER SCHOOL and 2022-2023 SY**

**Our office is open**  
**8am-5pm**  
**Mon-Fri**

Bring your needed documentation and fill out an enrollment packet on site

**Summer school Starts June 14th-July 8th.**

**Register now!**

**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. Wait listed
4. All others will be waitlisted.

**Ak-Chin Child Development offers:**

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

\* Some activities may be postponed or modified to fit safety protocols.

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

**Pick up a 2022-2023 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.

**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**

**JOB OPENINGS**

- Applications Software Technician
- Communication Officer (911 Dispatcher)
- Detention Officer - Certified
- Detention Officer - Non-Certified
- Economic Development Analyst
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer - Certified
- Project Manager
- Senior Planner (Open Until Filled, Previous applicants will be considered)
- Tribal Gaming Agency Executive Director - Open Until Filled

Please visit our website at [www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us), for Job Openings, to review the job posting and apply. If you need assistance, please call Human Resources at 520-568-1050.

**Happy Birthday to my grandsons Joseph and Benjamin Love, Grandma**

**Employee JUNE Birthdays**

**2<sup>ND</sup>**  
Pamela Dallas, *Contracts and Grants*  
Virginia Zepeda, *Maintenance*

**7<sup>TH</sup>**  
Kashmir Miller, *Law & Order*  
Marissa Antone, *Elderly*

**8<sup>TH</sup>**  
Hermalinda Mavis, *IS*

**10<sup>TH</sup>**  
Thomas Hoetzlein, *Fire & Safety*

**12<sup>TH</sup>**  
Jesus Espinoza, *Maintenance*

**13<sup>TH</sup>**  
John McCullough, *Human Resources*

**14<sup>TH</sup>**  
Elijah Jimenez, *Parks & Recreation*

**16<sup>TH</sup>**  
Daniel Antone, *Law & Order*  
Charles McCarty, *TGA*

**19<sup>TH</sup>**  
Lynnette Houston-Volden, *Social & Health Services*

**20<sup>TH</sup>**  
Gilbert Cervantes, *Law & Order*

Mayra Bandin, *Early Childhood*  
Juanita Balderrama, *Elderly*

**21<sup>ST</sup>**  
Sarah Zabawa, *TGA*

**22<sup>ND</sup>**  
Bija Gozhone Talkalai, *Law & Order*

**25<sup>TH</sup>**  
Guillermo Ruiz, *Sanitation*  
Gino Williams, *TGA*

**26<sup>TH</sup>**  
Rufus White, *Sanitation*

**27<sup>TH</sup>**  
Sheila Pablo-Bandin, *Education*  
Rosario Waites, *Vekol*

**28<sup>TH</sup>**  
Judith Purcell, *Capital Projects*  
Amanda Maldonado, *Purchase Referred Care Coordinator*

**29<sup>TH</sup>**  
Susan Guerin, *Vekol*

**30<sup>TH</sup>**  
Peter Kann, *Planning*

**WIC**

Will be back at the Ak-Chin Service Center Conference Room soon!!

**Save the date:**

**July 5 at 8:30a-11:30a**  
**August 2 at 8:30a-11:30a**  
**Sept 6 at 8:30a-11:30a**

Do you qualify for WIC?

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

WIC foods include: yogurt, fresh fruit & vegetables, baby foods and other favorites such as milk, peanut butter, cheese, cereal and eggs!

Need to make an appointment or have questions???

Call WIC at: (520) 562-9698

Gila River Indian Community WIC Program  
66 W. Pima, Sacaton, AZ

**WIC**  
INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ARIZONA, INC.

**Kids eat FREE this Summer**

**GRAB & GO 2022**

**BREAKFAST**

- Banana Bread
- Mini Bagel
- Beef Maple Sausage Sandwich
- Muffin
- Nutri-Grain Cereal Bar
- Milk

**LUNCH**

- Sunbutter Sandwich
- Mini-Cheeseburger Sliders
- Turkey & Cheese Hoagie
- Bean & Cheese Burrito
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich
- Fruit cup or Veggie cup
- Milk

Anyone 18 years and younger  
Breakfast & Lunch  
for 7 days for each child  
every Friday beginning  
May 27th  
10am-5:30pm  
@ Ak-Chin Library  
call to sign up: 520-568-1675  
or fill out online form:  
<https://forms.gle/2fMEM9WiBtgH37my9>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JUNE BIRTHDAYS</b>			Cruz Machado Jr. 1	Astraya Warren 2	Kiandra Smith 3	Joseph Zabawa 4
Alyssa Wind 5 Jessica White Mario Luz Haedin De Paola	Marie Thomas 6 Uriayzz Antone Ramona Kaniatobe	Marissa Antone 7 Marco Thompson Zylen Antone-Silas	Mylauni Antone 8 Xadrian Miguel	Jason Smith 9 Consuelo Alvarez	Marvin Lewis 10 Holly Kaniatobe Ashley Vincent	Benjamin King 11 Alex Bowman
	Jeremy Carra 12 Richard Villegas Samuel Justin	Amorie Narcia 14 Ralph Martinez Brenley Hackney	Saul Ruelas 15 Cecil Miguel Jr.	Lupe Kaniatobe 16 Manuel Ortega Daniel Antone	Clorenda Humeyumptewa 17 Raul Ruelas Kali Wind Anelia Jacuinde Mauktho Sehongva' Jose	Myles Peters 18 Shanna Narcia
Kellen Hoffman 19 Josefa Lewis Michelle Smith	Juanita Balderrama 20 Julianna Smith Justin Zabawa	Tanya Enos 21 Bridget Carlyle Linda Jose Curtis Dean Andreas Antone Sedra Dean	Baya Olivas 22 Bija Talkalai Genisys Sandoval Pamela Vincent Pablo Alejandro Jr. Davidson Ugalde Jr.	Lillian Shade 23 Charity Vincent	Autum Manuel 24 Kevin Ormsby Nicole Narcia Adela Zabawa Salvatore Johnson Jr.	Anthony Antone 25 Johnny Lopez
Delores Rodrigues 26 Tylen Zepeda Rufus White Savanna Gonzalez	Gabriel Narcia 27 Joseph Narcia Esperanza Valentin-Kaniatobe Sheila Bandin Aiyana Narcia	Makaylia Allison 28	Priscilla Allison 29 Susan Guerin Janelle White John White	Martin Antone Sr. 30 John Zabawa Ionn Flores Esmeralda Santiago	<b>Happy Birthday</b>	



# Steven "Pete" Clutter retires with Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming

Steven "Pete" Clutter began his career with the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency in September 1999. He was originally hired as a gaming agent, but was soon transferred to employee investigation.

Over the years, his duties and responsibility increased significantly as he also took on the duties of investigating businesses and vendors who desired to conduct business with the Casino and Resort. Pete was a natural, handling the functions of various assignments and was well known for his skills as an investigator. Having retired after a stellar law enforcement career with the Casa Grande Police Department investigating events and people was in his DNA.

Pete spearheaded two major accomplishments in Indian Gaming. Pete was able to convince all the gaming tribes to go to one form for vendor licensing. The form had to be approved by all tribes including the Arizona Department of Gaming. This was no

easy task, but Pete was tenacious and after several months was successful in implementing a form in which all tribes used for vendor certification.

Pete was highly instrumental in developing the curriculum and training schedule for the first Arizona Tribal Gaming Regulator/Alliance academy. The first academy was hosted by Tonto Apache at Matatzal Casino. Since the first academy, ATGRA has held 11 other ones and Pete participated in each one of them serving as a teacher, monitor and advisor.

Now, after 22 years and 8 months of service, Steven "Pete" Clutter has decided to retire from the Tribal Gaming Agency as our Gaming investigator. Pete has left a lasting impression in TGA and among Harrah's staff.



Pete Clutter receives recognition from Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Director, Charles McCarty at Pete's retirement ceremony.

We all wish him and his lovely wife Shari the best in his retirement. They are planning a major road trip sometime in the future and knowing Pete he will pack his golf clubs and fishing gear and then decide which route to take to accommodate both.

Best wishes to Pete and we thank him for all his years and collaboration at the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency.

**Ak-Chin Circle**  
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

**Ticket sales:**  
ak-chincircle.com/theater

**MOVIES SHOWING THIS WEEKEND:**

WATCHER

TOP GUN: MAVERICK

THE BOB'S BURGERS MOVIE

FIRESTARTER

DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS

THE BAD GUYS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2

**RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA BY GOLFWEEK**

# SUMMER SIX PACK

**\$189** 25% OFF GOLF SHOP 20% OFF ARROYO GRILLE  
6 SUMMER ROUNDS OF GOLF 6 #miniDunes ROUNDS  
6 CHROME SOFT GOLF BALLS 6 BEVERAGES

Some restrictions apply. Does not include tax. Rounds transferable 4/day. Valid thru 9/1/22

**NEW FOR 2022**

**CUSTOM BUCKET HAT**

**AK-CHIN Southern Dunes GOLF CLUB**  
EXPERIENCE TROON GOLF®

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

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**ARROYO GRILLE**  
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

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

# JUNE // KIDS EAT FREE

**MAC N' CHEESE PLEASE!**

Receive one Kids Menu entrée with adult entrée purchase. Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers or discounts. One coupon per order; no split checks. Does not include alcohol. Non-transferable. Offer expires 6/30/22.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

MOVIES • RESTAURANTS • BOWLING • ARCADE • LASER TAG • GROUP EVENTS

**Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**

**JUNE EVENTS**  
Ak-ChinCircle.com

**SUMMER Movie FUN** MAY 30 - JULY 8

6 MOVIES • 6 WEEKS FOR KIDS

Kids Movies Every Monday - Friday at 10AM \$6 For all 6 or \$2 Each Film Daily

**MOVIE RELEASES**

- 6/10 Jurassic World: Dominion
- 6/17 Lightyear
- 6/24 The Black Phone
- 6/24 Elvis

**SUMMER HOURS**

THEATER \$47 GRILL  
BOWLING \$47 GRILL BAR

**NOW HIRING**

HIRING SEVERAL POSITIONS  
BANDS/ENTERTAINMENT, LIVE MUSIC, PARTY HOSTS

**OT COMEDY SHOW**  
JUNE 25

After Party in the LIVE LOBBY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**FATHER'S DAY Burger Brew**

BRING YOUR TABLE TODAY  
JUNE 19 (520) 233-2426

**S.P. SHOP**

June 11 & June 25  
2:30pm - 8:30pm

**BOOK YOUR BABY SHOWER**

LUXE

**BOOK TODAY**

PARTIES FOR KIDS, TEENS, ADULTS, FIELD TRIPS, AND TEAM BUILDING

**Ask About Our Quinceañeras**

**For More Information Contact Riva Quintana**  
(520) 233-2445 | Email: RQuintana@Ak-ChinCircle.com

**Ak-ChinCircle.com** /Ak-ChinCircle /akchincircle

**Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO**

# JUNE 2022

**CAESARS REWARDS**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>\$25K JACKPOT Sweepstakes</b></p> <p>FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022 EVENTS CENTER • 4PM - 9PM</p> <p>Enter to win your share of \$25K in Cash Drawings!</p>	<p><b>ACCESSORY SET GIVEAWAY*</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>BEAT THE HEAT</b></p> <p>PLATINUM BEAT THE HEAT</p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>TRY YOUR LUCK!</b></p>	<p><b>STAYCATION SATURDAY!</b></p> <p>GIVE YOUR FLIP FLOPS A HIGHER PURPOSE</p>		
<p><b>ASK A SLOT ATTENDED ABOUT OUR NEWEST SLOT MACHINES!</b></p>	<p><b>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</b></p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>CRACK THE SAFEBOX</b></p> <p>DIAMOND CRACK THE SAFEBOX</p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>TRIPLE 7'S. EQUALS CLOUD 9!</b></p>	<p><b>LITTLE IDE Y LA FAMILIA WITH RUBEN RAMOS</b></p> <p>CHOOSE YOUR MULTIPLIER</p>
<p><b>COME OUT &amp; PLAY!</b></p>	<p><b>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</b></p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>BRIEFCASE Promotion</b></p> <p>SEVEN STARS® BRIEFCASE PROMOTION</p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>\$25K JACKPOT WINNERS CIRCLE SWEEPSTAKES</b></p>	<p><b>LOWE'S® GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY</b></p>
<p><b>FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL</b></p>	<p><b>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</b></p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>MID-YEAR'S EVE 3X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>MID-YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b></p>	<p><b>MID-YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b></p>
<p><b>MID-YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b></p>	<p><b>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</b></p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY</b></p> <p>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</p>	<p><b>PLAY &amp; GET GAS CARDS</b></p>	<p><b>X MID-YEAR'S EVE MULTIPLIERS</b></p> <p>THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 24, 25 &amp; 26, 2022</p>	

\*Wednesday, June 1, 2022 gift is part of the May 2022 Gift Giveaway. Please refer to May 2022 communications to see if you qualify for free gifts.  
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. ©2022 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS



**Maricopa Wells Middle School 8th grade promotion, (l-r):** Jason Smith, Kylee Machado, Jeffrey Ruelas, Perla Corona, Owen Santiago, Charity Andaverde, Ronin Gloria, Carrieanna Villareal, Maverick Santiago, Nevaeh Johnson, Adriano Jose, Kylie Gardner, Joanna Acosta, Auciana Miguel, Rose Pedro and Ethan Humeyumptewa. **At right:** Omarion Flores honors his grandmother Stella White (badt) with her picture, during his 8th grade promotion at Maricopa Wells.



**Maricopa Elementary 5th grade promotion (l-r):** Edward Rocha, Azalyana White, Mara Delores, Sarina Peters, Anaise Valles-Diaz, and Rope Justin.

**Right, Saddleback Elementary 5th grade promotion (l-r):** Isabella Antone, Ameliano Jacuinde, Brandon Enos, Terry Santiago, King-Benzie Peters, and Mark Pablo. \*



*Photos by Runner Staff  
\* Submitted photo*

**Left: Bryson Bowman - Mesquite Elementary \***

**Right: Omar Mendoza - Island Elementary \***



**Left: Benjamin King with parents - Legacy Traditional School \***

**Right: Saddleback Kinder promotion Back, l-r:** Hunter Narcia, Harlee Jose, Aliyah Vincent. **Front, l-r:** Kieran Yarberry, Enoelia Humeyumptewa, DeliAnna Lewis.



**Joaquin Dickerson (left) Maricopa Kinder promotion\* and William Delma (right) Saddleback Kinder promotion \***



## Traditional Blessing offered for MHS Graduating Seniors



**Teresa Valisto and Ak-Chin students at Maricopa HS, receive traditional blessing from Ak-Chin Language staff and Gabe Lopez.**

*Photos by Runner Staff*

*Celebration continued from Front*

Doctor of Educational Leadership with an Emphasis in Healthcare Administration at Grand Canyon University.

Janice was asked to speak about the theme-top, "Carrying and Living our Ancestor's Teachings" and did so by presenting compelling information from the boarding school era, where she shared stories of two women who were sent to boarding schools. She then shifted to public schools and pointed out how tribal leaders worked to take back control of their children's education, "using the strengths of their traditional cultures as they live in the modern world."

She shared many statistics on American Indian students in the public school system, then ended by challenging all students in the room,

"I challenge all the graduates tonight to

embrace continuing education and enjoy the ride; it isn't over; it's just starting! It will absolutely make a difference in your life."

After the keynote address from Janice, the presentation of certificates for high school and higher education students took place. Teresa Valisto, High School Counselor presented certificates and gift baskets to her students, that included seniors from Maricopa, Desert Vista, Marcos DeNiza, and Sherman Indian School.

All higher education graduates received certificates, a graduation shadow box and Alexa Echo Show, from Lenny Dempsey, Ak-Chin Enrollment Academic Advisor.

A significant moment in the evening was the honoring of Miss Holly Antone (badt). Miss Holly, who passed away in April, was to receive

her Bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University. The Education department asked her family to attend on her behalf to receive her certificate and gifts. She was also posthumously honored from ASU.

Closing remarks were provided by Ak-Chin Council Vice-Chairman Lemuel Vincent and Councilmember Lisa Garcia.

Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon shared, "On Behalf of the Ak-Chin Education Department, we would like to Commend all of the graduates and encourage you to keep striving to the next level and continue to be forward thinkers. As you cherish the fruits of your hard work, I wish that success keeps following you in everything you do. Today and always, congratulations!"

Teresa Valisto, Ak-Chin Student Counselor at Maricopa High School invited Ak-Chin Language staff and Gabriel Lopez to MHS campus to provide a traditional blessing ceremony for Maricopa Seniors on May 25, the day before MHS graduation.

Ak-Chin Language Techs; Velacita Lopez, Lerline Peters and

Felicia Vincent; first gifted each student with a shell necklace that had medallions, made by Felicia Vincent. Afterwards they sang a traditional song.

Language staff explained the song, "S-ke:k Hiosik Ne'l" (Pretty Flower Song) was like the young students. "A flower starting from a seed then blossoming into a beautiful flower

from the earth. As they go through obstacles they will blossom into pretty flowers, always overcoming what is in their way."

Gabe Lopez then performed a blessing ceremony for all the seniors. The blessing, "provides the students guidance and protection as they take their journey in the next step of their lives and a safe passage

*Blessing continues to page 2B*



**L-R, T-B: Janice Anderson addresses students during keynote speech. Education staff enjoy a photo op during celebration. Teresa Valisto recognizes Mary Narcia, Maricopa High School graduate. Stephanie Valdez receives gifts and certificate for completion of Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies from Grand Canyon University. Candida Upton also receives gifts and certificate for completion of Medical Administration at Brookline College. Bandin siblings Allissia and Victor celebrate their recent achievements. Allissia received her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Arizona State, and Victor is Desert Vista high school graduate.\***



Blessing continued from page 1B  
to where ever their paths may lead them, and also a blessing of a significant accomplishment not only in their lives, but their families lives and their communities."

Once Gabe was finished, Teresa also gifted each student with a shell necklace, with a prayer ribbon tied around each necklace. The shells and prayer ribbons "represent and remind us of ancestors, provides protection, guidance and healing," Gabe shared.

The group then congratulated all graduating seniors and hoped that the sharing of the traditional blessing will send them on the right path of their young lives and help overcome any obstacles that may come before them.

Graduation continued from Front

achievements. To see the students, get excited as their names were called, and then hearing their family and friends cheering them on; or physically seeing all those who have supported them along the way, stand just as proudly by their side.

To all our recent graduates, we are honored to celebrate your achievements. Remember how great these moments feel right now, because it is only the beginning. Keep moving forward, challenge yourself, have faith in yourself, be good to yourself, so you can have many more great moments like these to get you to your next level in life.



# Congratulations!

Congratulations Auciana!!  
Crazy how time flies without knowing it. Stay on top of school and ball, you already know Grandma would say the same thing too. She's watching over you and always will be, so don't be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them and they only help you become better. Don't give up.  
Love You Auciana-Baby Jay



Congratulations Baby Girl!!  
High School already!? Seriously!? 😊 I'm so proud of you Auciana always remember Grandma is looking down and with you every step of the way. I know it's been a rough past few weeks but always remember to stay positive and as you move forward into high school continue to make the right choices and keep up the good work with your grades. We are always here for you and remember the work ain't done yet, we still got high school.  
Love Dad

Congratulations my Beautiful Auci!  
You are so Sweet and Beautiful. Proud of you Smiley. Remember everything Dad said too. AND school is not over after High School, you still got college! Enjoy your Summer and learn from your Summer



job! Don't buy too many Vinyls ( Vynlees) 😊 Love Always, Your Momma. Good Luck in High School you Freshman!  
Love Always-Mom, Dad and Nyaila



To: Davin Richard-Daniel Garcia  
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!!!! You did it! Now you can let out that big sigh of relief because you are officially done with school! We know you wanted to give up at times, thinking you would not be able finish, and glad you had set your heart, mind and soul on completing your education. No matter what, you know we will always stand

behind you on whatever it is you will set your mind on. But do know that one thing for sure is you now have 2 others in your life (Jordin and Gianna) that will be right along with you on your next journey. Sky's the limit, there is no stopping at reaching for them stars! We Love you very much and again, CONGRATULATIONS!!!!  
With love from: Jordin, Gianna, the "Old Man", Mom, Davis, Meilynda, Doria, David, Davin, Savannah and Sienna



Congratulations to our Godsons Frankie Carlyle and Rope Justin!  
We are super proud that you have reached a new educational milestone. Don't ever let anything stop you from chasing after your dreams – keep moving forward and find your brighter tomorrow.  
Love your Godparents, Cecil & Raychel



**Congratulations to all 2022 Grads and Scholars**  
**We are proud to recognize you and all your academic accomplishments!**  
**From the Runner**





GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE  
(520) 550-6079



GRHC.ORG/HUB



## COVID TESTING, & COVID VACCINES AVAILABLE.

You may also visit a GRHC Primary Care Department for vaccines. Walk-in or schedule an appointment by calling (602) 528-1482.

**Red Tail Hawk Health Center**  
**COVID VACCINE ONLY**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> • 10 am - 2 pm**

**Ak-Chin Multipurpose Justice Complex**  
**COVID TESTING ONLY**  
**June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> • 5-7 pm**



SCAN FOR VACCINE INFORMATION

## COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Update

### 3rd Dose COVID Vaccine Booster Shot Now Approved For Ages 5 +

#### COVID-19 VACCINE SHOT SEQUENCE:

**Pfizer**  
(ages 5 years  
and older)

**Shot 1**  
(Primary)

In 3-8  
weeks

**Shot 2**  
(Primary)

In at least 5  
months

**Shot 3**  
(1st booster)

In at least 4  
months

**Shot 4**  
(2nd booster)

2nd booster only for  
50 yrs and above.



SCAN FOR VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

#### COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE: (520) 550-6079  
HOTLINE HOURS: 8 am - 6 pm, 7 days a week.

#### Reminder!

Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

**CLOSED MONDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

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