



## St. Francis of Assisi celebrates with 30 who received Sacraments

Story and photos by Raychel Peters



April 28, twenty-two celebrate with Fr. Chris on receiving their Sacraments at St. Francis of Assisi - Ak-Chin.

On Easter Vigil, March 30 and April 28, St. Francis of Assisi - Ak-Chin Parish celebrated with 30 parishioners who received their Sacraments among family and friends.

On Easter Vigil, Fr. Julius Tvrdy and St. Francis parish celebrated as seven

catechumens received their Christian Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

On April 28, twenty-three confirmands were celebrated, with all receiving their Confirmation and nine also receiving their First Holy

Communion, with Fr. Chris Fraser. All parishioners but two were from St. Francis of Assisi - Ak-Chin, with one from St. Ann's and one from St. Anthony.

Everyone was dedicated to attending two years of Religious Education to prepare

for their sacraments with Mrs. Flower and Mrs. Michelle. Mrs. Flower has been teaching R.E. classes for over 20 years with St. Francis of Assisi - Ak-Chin.

Mrs. Flower wanted to share about why those receiving Confirmation wore red.

Sacraments continues to page 2



## Jadon Valenzuela Marcos De Niza Baseball

Story and photos by Jordan Rodriguez

Marcos De Niza High School senior and Ak-Chin member, Jadon Valenzuela stepped up to fill the role of team captain in his final season on the diamond with the Padres.

Valenzuela a two-time varsity letter recipient in baseball has proved himself as a two-way player, meaning he can pitch and when he is not needed on

Jadon continues to page 5



Community member, Dwayne Antone works on a painting during the Him-Dak Celebration, April 6.

## 32nd Annual Him-Dak Celebration

Story and photos by Raychel Peters

Saturday, April 6th, the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Eco-Museum held their annual celebration for the community with a community fun run/walk, traditional entertainment and vendors for all to enjoy.

The event began with a fun/run walk from the Ak-Chin Justice Complex to the Him-Dak Museum. Winners were awarded gift cards and medals for their participation. Him-Dak Celebration Run Winners for Men's Division: 1st - Drake Amerman, 2nd - Emerson Antone and 3rd

Julio Gloria. Women's Division: 1st - Alyssa Joaquin, 2nd- Nicole Delma and 3rd - Muriel Tsosie.

Once the run/walk was complete, attendees could enjoy their morning at the museum as a new exhibit was on display that featured many arts and crafts pieces by local artists. Many also made their way to the Ak-Chin Feasthouse where the traditional entertainment was being held, and vendors were set up along the outside of the feast house.

Him-Dak Celebration continues to page 5

## Ak-Chin celebrates Earth Day 2024

Story and photos by Jordan Rodriguez



Earth Day attendees browse through the different vendors set up in front of Ak-Chin Circle, for Environmental Protection's annual Earth Day celebration, April 24.

Earth Day continues to page 4

## Administrative Professionals Day

Story and photos by Jordan Rodriguez



Chairman Miguel speaks with our Admin as they enjoy lunch at Luxe Lounge, April 24.

Throughout the Ak-Chin Indian Community you will find some of the hardest working people, every department gives their very

best every day in order to create a better community to live in. Although, a lot of the work you see is done right in front of your eyes, what you don't

realize are the unsung heroes who help hold everything together, those people are known as our Administrative Professionals.

Admin continues to page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS

PAGE 3 COMMUNITY NEWS

PAGE 4 NEW PARK OPENING

# Men enjoy BBQ at Elder Center

Story by Ak-Chin Elder Center, photo by Ashley Vincent



Ak-Chin elder men enjoy the outdoors as they share a meal and conversation out on the patio behind the Ak-Chin Elder Center, April 26.

On April 26, the Ak Chin Elderly department held a BBQ for about 10 elder men. On the menu was carne asada, marinated meat, chicken, brats, corn, potato salad, macaroni salad, grilled shrimp, a fresh pot of beans and ce:mat.

The men enjoyed having the back patio all to themselves for their BBQ. They had a

great time catching up with each other, as they reminisced about the old days and sports. Some of the men enjoyed a game of horse shoes, all shared in some good laughs, as they enjoyed each other's company and while the boom box was playing some Cumbia tunes.

"This Is the first time in a long time that we had the Elder men

come gather together again for a function at the center," Elder staff shared. "They're all looking forward to more activities together in the future."

Thanks to the elder staff host cooks; Julio Gloria, Joe Garcia and Danny Soliz.

Sacraments continued from Front

Traditionally, the colors for confirmation are red and white, with red representing the holy spirit, which is often portrayed as fire, and white representing purity.

"I think the most special moment for me is how the kids are always so nervous, looking at me with their faces so scared and I'm trying to reassure them that it will be a beautiful thing they are receiving, and then when it's finally all over, the smiles on their faces like, 'wait this is over, it was that simple'. Just melts my heart." Mrs. Flower shared.

Parents acknowledged Mrs. Flower after mass with a balloon and bouquet of flowers for her dedicated teaching.

Flower also expressed her thanks to all who helped with these celebrations.

"I would truly like to thank all those parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles... anyone who spent their time bringing the kids to classes, especially to church and the devotion to it."

"I would also love to thank

Mrs. Michelle; she has been such an important role to all the little kiddos as she calls them. She gives so much of her time and talent to make sure the kids have all they need for their class."

"Also, a special thanks to John and Terri for always bringing snacks and drinks to the kids so they would all have something to snack on; and an extra-special thanks during Easter for bringing their beautiful story to the kids and helping them make their confetti eggs, which are blessing eggs."

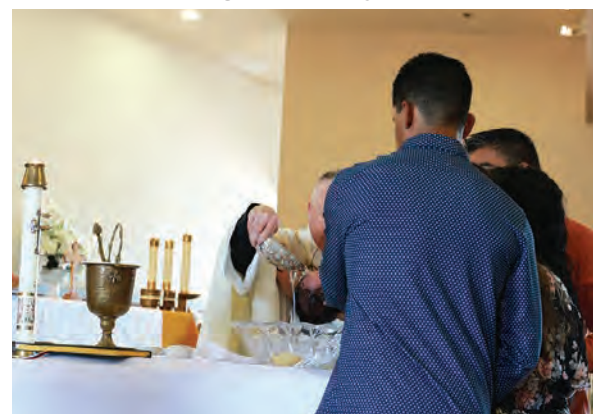
"Lastly, thank you to Father Julius Tvrdy for driving all the way here from Nebraska to help us and to be with us during the Triduum, and especially for taking the time to visit the sick here in the community."

"Special thank you to Father Chris Fraser AKA (Fr. Miami Dolphins) for making April 28th, a beautiful and special day for the kids."

During the April 28 celebration, Fr. Chris even got to baptize Baby Matius, who was only 2-months old.



Fr. Tvrdy with the catechumens who celebrated their Sacraments on Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30.



Fr. Chris baptizes Baby Matius, as parents and godparents look on.

Fall Prevention for Elders provided by the Injury Prevention Program



Where: Service Center  
Time: 10:00 am-11:00am  
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays

## FUNCTIONAL FITNESS FOR ELDERERS

let's Be Stronger, as We get Older

Join us!

For Questions email or call Teri De La Cruz, TDelacruz@ak-chin.nsn.us or 520-568-1087



# Elder Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>*Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM</b></p> <p><b>*Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM</b></p> <p><b>*Chair Yoga is located in the Elder Craft Room</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday and Thursday 9 AM to 10 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Volleyball Questions? Call the Recreation Department at 520-568-1760</b></p> <p><b>*Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760</b></p> <p><b>*For Transportation Call Georgia 520- 568-1769</b></p>	<p>5/3 Oatmeal, boiled eggs, toast, banana</p> <p>Cinco De Mayo Lunch 12 noon</p> <p>Chili Rellenos, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Fresh Cut Fruit, Mexican Sweet Bread</p>	<p>5/6 Cream of wheat, boiled eggs, English muffin, fruit</p> <p>Hamburgers, Ranch-Style Beans, French Fries, Ambrosia Salad/Apple</p>	<p>5/7 Breakfast bowl, boiled eggs, orange slices, scone</p> <p>Turkey Pot Pie, Corn on Cobb, Spring Salad, Tropical Fruit</p>
<p>5/13 Scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, toast, fruit</p> <p>Chili Beans, Chili Meat (D), Butternut Squash, Corn Bread, Pineapples</p>	<p>5/8 Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit salad</p> <p>Elder Games w/Rec @930 am</p> <p>Movie Day</p> <p>Pork Stew /Cactus, Zucchini, Black Beans, Chumath, Fresh Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>5/9 Chicken fried steak, scrambled eggs, biscuits, fruit &amp; yogurt</p> <p>Mother's Day Tea Party@ BIA House, hosted by Him-Dak, 11 am-1 pm</p> <p>Chicken Fajita, Normandy Vegetable, Yellow Squash, Watermelon</p>	<p>5/10 Tex-Mex scrambled, refried beans, tortilla, banana</p> <p>Mother's Day "Mom"osa 930 am, Mother's Day Lunch 12 noon</p> <p>Toscana Soup, Romaine Salad, Bread Sticks, Cake/Oranges</p>	<p>5/14 Breakfast tostadas, salsa &amp; sour cream, muffin, fruit</p> <p>Fish or Chicken Soft Taco, Cole Slaw, Carrots, Peaches</p>
<p>5/15 Cereal, boiled eggs, toast, fruit &amp; yogurt</p> <p>Elder Games w/Rec @930 am</p> <p>Angel Home Health Care Presentation w/Erin Kariuki</p> <p>Grilled Chicken over Caesar Salad, Lima Beans, Avocado, Jell-O</p>	<p>5/16 Bread pudding, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit salad</p> <p>Squash Casserole, Brown Rice, Romaine Salad, Wheat/White Rolls, Apple Slices</p>	<p>5/17 Biscuits &amp; gravy, scrambled eggs, peaches &amp; cottage cheese</p> <p>Ground Beef Tacos, Shredded Lettuce/ Tomato, Mexican Rice, Pinto Beans, Cranberry/ Raisin Oatmeal Cookies</p>		

# Preventing Mosquito Breeding Areas

Submitted by Environmental Programs

As summer begins to arrive, the increased use of water begins throughout the Community. With the increased use of water brings the breeding areas for mosquitoes.

Yes, it is mosquito season again!

As more outdoor activities are taking place, there will be the ever-evolving problem of human vs. mosquito. The mosquito can survive and breed in dry and wet conditions. But the problem is that with the increased use of water throughout the Community, the mosquito population's chances of breeding increase dramatically.

The increased use of water allows more areas to hold standing water or breeding grounds throughout the Community, including some of the washes and public restrooms. If these breeding grounds are not immediately removed or treated, the mosquitoes and their bites are greatly increased.



The mosquito life cycle phase will go through four different stages. This is the main reason why mosquitoes fall into the category of animals that undergo a complete metamorphic process.

The four stages of the mosquito life cycle include:

- Egg
- Pupa
- Larvae
- Adult mosquitoes

Mosquitoes always need standing water to complete their life cycle. As soon as female mosquitoes feed on blood from mammals, they will produce between 30-300 eggs at different distances above the calm water level.

Under optimal conditions, mosquito eggs will hatch within 24-48 hours to become mosquito larvae, also known as live mosquito genetics, exclusively in water.

Mosquito larvae will begin the pupa phase within 3-4 days after several instar processes or skin changes. After 1-4 days, the pupa begins to transform into an adult mosquito that is ready to fly and bite a human.

**Under ideal temperature conditions, the life cycle of a mosquito typically takes between 6-8 days**

## How to prevent mosquito breeding

Because mosquitoes breed quickly, the question now is: have you destroyed the breeding grounds around your property?

**If not, here are some ways to prevent mosquitoes from breeding at home:**

### 1. Remove all trash that can collect water in the yard

Water inundated by an object can be a place mosquitoes prefer to breed. Look around your home yard and start removing all trash or unwanted objects from it before you can accommodate

standing water for breeding mosquitoes.

**Some examples of common trash that can collect rainwater are:**

- Used tires
- Used buckets, containers, or basins
- Empty bottles
- Cans
- Wheel barrows
- Old appliances
- Plastic tarps or sheeting
- Pot stacks and flower pot plates

### 2. Remove the weeds and tall grasses that can hold water

Get rid of places where adult mosquitoes can find cool, dark, and damp areas to rest by mowing the lawn, trimming shrubbery, and cutting down weeds and vines, such as ivy, in the yard and next to the house. With tall weeds or grass, ponding of water in areas that are unseen are common places for breeding areas.

### 3. Routinely emptying the flower pot and flower pot plate of standing water

Gardening activities are fun to do at home. But what happens if your gardening activities are the reason why many mosquitoes breed around your home? During the summer season, it is very common to find that flower pot plates are often full of water. Sitting water in pots can be held for days can be a preferred place for mosquitoes to breed.

### 4. Make sure that no trash has accumulated on the gutters

Cleaning the gutter is a very important part of home care. With an expected wet season and our high winds, it impossible that there will be lots of leaves, spines, and other debris falling into the gutter and blocking the drains or water movement. Do you know? That standing water caused by the blockage of organic waste in your gutter turns out to be a mosquito breeding area. In addition to preventing damage to the ceiling and roof, ensuring the condition of the rain gutter remains clean and in place is certainly one way to tackle effective mosquito breeding in the home.

### 5. Keep the children's pool indoors if not in use

When the hot season comes, one of children's activities, like swimming in the outdoors, will certainly begin. But leaving your children's pool lying outside filled with water and unused is a bad idea! Keep the children's pool indoors, or at least make sure the pool is inverted when not used outdoors. This is so that your children's pool does not have sitting water that could potentially be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### 6. Make sure that water fountains or swimming pool keeps moving

Since mosquitoes need still water to breed, it is a smart idea to make sure that the water in your decorative fountains or swimming pool is moving. Since female mosquito eggs can only survive in standing water and not moving water, installing water features such as a water fall or water mixer will help you limit the chance of mosquitoes laying eggs.

### 7. Repair leaking pipes and faucets

Leaking pipes and faucets are often associated as one of the main reasons why many pests, such as rats, termites, and roaches, come to your home. In the case of mosquito pests, leaking water pipes and faucets in your yard or laundry area can accommodate standing water that could potentially be a breeding ground in your home.

Therefore, it is highly recommended that you immediately inspect and repair all pipes and faucets in the leaking outdoor area of the home before it becomes the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### 8. Be sure to always close the trash can in the outdoor area

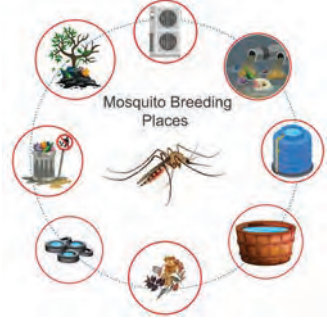
Leaving the trash cans in the outdoor area uncovered during the rainy season means you leave plenty of standing water in the trash cans.

Be sure to keep a close eye on the outdoor trash can to limit where mosquitoes prefer to breed.

### 9. Empty pet drinking bowl outdoors

Even though it's small, your pet's drinking bowl provides more than enough space to hold the water that female mosquitoes lay eggs on.

If you normally place your pet's drinking bowl outside, we recommend taking it inside or putting it upside down when not in use or change the water very frequently to keep the water fresh and not stagnant.



**What is the most effective way to cope with mosquitoes?**



While eliminating mosquito breeding grounds is highly recommended, unfortunately, doing the above does not necessarily completely eliminate the problem of many adult mosquitoes in the Community.

The most effective way to cope with mosquitoes in the Community is to incorporate several methods to remove them at each stage of their life cycle (larval stage and adult mosquitoes themselves).

Public Works is now conducting mosquito testing to assess the methods to combat them. Mosquito control that Public Works conducts is specifically designed around the testing. If the tests show high numbers of mosquitoes caught in the traps, specific controls will be conducted which include fogging and larvicide applications. Environmental Programs and Public Works are jointly working to address the ever-challenging mosquito issue but need your support in this effort.

## ATTENTION

### Community Members Past Due Fines/Restitution

If you are delinquent on your fines/restitution, or not sure if you have an outstanding balance. Please contact the courts at (520) 568-1385 at your earliest convenience to avoid the following penalties:

- Withholding of Annual Distributions
- Garnishment of Wages for those working within the Community

**You can void any of the above collections by the following:**

- You may come and make a payment arrangement and must be consistent.
- You may come to the court and dispute the matter request a hearing.



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community © 2024

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

**OFFICE HOURS**  
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
PHONE: 520•568•1375  
FAX: 520•568•1376  
E-MAIL: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

**Ak-Chin O'odham Runner**  
Editor: Raychel Peters  
Photojournalist: Jordan Rodriguez  
Graphic Artists: Diana Carlyle and Rebecca Rosoff  
News Assistant: Delila Villegas

**Ak-Chin Tribal Council**  
Chairman: Robert Miguel  
Vice Chair: Lemuel Vincent  
Council Members: Lisa Garcia, Gabriel Lopez and Cecil Peters

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

The Ak-Chin O'odham 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:  
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**  
2024 Subscription rate is \$37.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$37.75 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**

**NEXT DEADLINE**  
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the **May 17 - June 6, 2024** issue is due by **FRIDAY, MAY 10**

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

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

**FOOD HANDLERS CLASS**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**  
**AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER**  
**10AM-12PM**

**Who Should Attend??**

- Food Service Workers
- Interested Community Members
- Volunteers

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

Earth Day continued from Front

Community members gathered on Friday April 26, at Elements in the Ak-Chin Circle to celebrate and spread information to help preserve the beautiful planet we live on.

Ak-Chin Environmental Programs department, along with a handful of other organizations provided educational booths to those in attendance, giving hands on experience about the steps we need to take and things we can do in order to help improve the quality of life on Mother Earth.

Two organizations even brought live animals for people to gain an up close and personal experience with, for the animals we

need to strive to protect. While at the event EPD provided a BBQ meal for everyone, including traditional flute music as entertainment.

This annual five-hour event that featured non-stop entertainment, games, and teaching brought hundreds of people to Ak-Chin Circle. From raffles and giveaways to rock painting and make-a-planter this celebration had something for everyone.

In addition to the Earth Day celebration, Ak-Chin Parks and Rec hosted a shoe drive, where they collected a total of 155 pairs of shoes that will go

to those who are in need. "On behalf of everyone here at Ak-Chin's Parks and Recreation department we wanted to say thank you to the community for all of the donations," said Ak-Chin Parks and Rec Recreation Program Coordinator Sonya Martinez.

"We can't wait to celebrate Mother Earth again next year, hopefully beating this year's donation number."

With such a successful 2024 Earth Day Celebration, EPD and Parks and Rec will turn their focus to their next events, while looking forward to next year's Earth Day celebration.

# Ak-Chin Parks and Rec View New Desert Willow Park



Ak-Chin Parks and Rec pose for a photo in front of the new Desert Willow Playgrounds.

Story and photos by Jordan Rodriguez

The community has been working on multiple projects during this past year and another one is finally complete. Inside the new Desert Willow Subdivision, where 60 houses are planning to be built, is a state-of-the-art playground.

This playground features all the bells and whistles both kids and adults will love. For the kids, the playground has a full jungle gym, equipped with slides, swings, fireman's pole,

monkey bars, a saddle spinner, and grills for the entire family to enjoy.

Parents can have peace of mind when the little ones are playing as the entire playground has a soft rubber ground and to beat the heat in the summer months the playground and picnic area are covered.

This project took a year to complete and on Friday, March 22, Ak-Chin Parks and Rec took over the responsibilities of the

new Desert Willow Park.

"It came out very well, we finished on time and below budget," said Project Manager. "We are ready to build houses now because there is a big need in the community, there is a long list of people waiting for houses."

The new Desert Willow Park is located behind the library, you can access it via N. Smith Road or Court St.



## ESPORTS WITH POLICE COMPETITION

15 MAY 2024 @ 5PM

MEET THOSE WHO PROTECT & SERVE YOU



At Ak-Chin Park's and Recreation Gymnasium  
46753 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139

Gaming can help children in many ways including learning, brain efficiency, social skills, problem-solving and emotional development.

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

Ak-Chin Health Education Presents

lunchtime fitness

# LUNCHTIME FITNESS


AK-CHIN PARK'S AND RECREATION GYMNASIUM

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER, RESIDENTS, & EMPLOYEES

Beginning April 24th, Every Wednesday  
12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

46753 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139  
Questions? Call (520) 568-1082

COME ON IN


# CHEERLEADING Program

**Parent Meeting**  
**MAY 1st, 2024**  
**Wednesdays**  
**5:00PM - 6:00 PM**

**Program ends with a performance at NABI championship game July 27th**

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO RECREATION@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SONNY AT (520) 568-1754



Admin continues from Front

After all their hard work the entire community felt the need to give them the recognition they so rightfully deserved.

On Wednesday April 24, all of the department's administrative professionals gathered at the Luxe, inside of the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, for a nice lunch and to be showered with appreciation and gifts.

Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel paid a visit to the

luncheon and expressed his gratitude for each and every one of them, saying, "I don't think any of you understand how lost most of your departments would be without you.

I can't think of one department that doesn't need you." The provided gifts and meal were just a small token of thanks to the professionals that make sure everything within the office runs smoothly.

the mound, he can play in the field.

Jadon has made noticeable improvements to all aspects of his game this year, his batting average saw a boost from .200 in 2022-23 season to now a .246 in the 2023-24 season. On the bump he sports a 2-6 record with a 5.53 ERA in a very competitive 4A Desert Sky section, an exponential improvement in that stat column.

Jadon sits within the top 10 of the 4A Desert Sky section

with 35 strikeouts in 44 innings pitched, while also having the third highest On Base Percentage (.398) on the Marcos De Niza squad.

Valenzuela has received the nod from the coach 10 times, eight of them were starts and of the eight starts four of them were complete games.

Although, his record may not tell the whole story, he has given the Padres multiple quality starts and keeps them in the game every time he toes the rubber.

Jadon continued From Front

As a team, the Padres finish their season with a 9-17 overall record and a 2-8 section record, placing them fifth out of six teams in their section. With an almost identical record as the previous season, Marcos De Niza missed a playoff spot, bringing their season and Valenzuela's high school baseball career to an end.

However, Jadon has not only left his mark on the baseball program, but contributed to the rich culture at Marcos De Niza, where he will graduate May 23.



Him-Dak continued from Front

Spiritual healer, Joe Enos from Tohono O'odham Nation was asked to provide a prayer to begin the morning festivities.

Ak-Chin's San Juan Kualiya Dance Group provided the first entertainment, with their traditional four-square line dancing, while Two Rivers band played waila music, which got dancers on the dance floor. The Ak-Chin Baban Keina Dancers were next to dance and sing, along with singers Dennis Antone, Antonio "Gohk" Davis, and Joseph Davis.

There were many who came out to enjoy the entertainment, while browsing around the vendor tables and ordering among the delicious food vendors present.

"We would like to thank everyone that came out to the Annual Him-Dak event." Waylon Antone, Art Program Coordinator shared.

"We would like to thank the fire department, police department and security for providing safety for the walkers and runners and transit for providing transportation back to the start to retrieve vehicles."

"We would also like to thank the food vendors, arts and craft vendors, Baba's Bouncers and the demonstrators for the event, and to anyone else that helped with the event." Waylon continued.

"If you haven't had a chance to come in to view the new exhibit please come by, the theme is, "Sharing the Art of Our Community".

We have a variety of artwork that was made by community members to show in this exhibit; from both past and present artists. So, stop by and view the beautiful work, you might just get inspired as well."

On Monday, 29th, the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum held its Annual Him-Dak Golf Classic. The event was held at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes.

The day started off with both the Southern Dunes and Him-Dak staff and volunteers setting up in the morning to be ready for players to register, there was also raffle tickets that were available for prizes. It was a nice morning, but as you know the heat was soon to increase.

Chairman Robert Miguel did a welcome before the players were sent out on the course. The volunteers also set up at the 11th hole, 165 yards-par 3 for the Hole in One Challenge and the 16th hole was set up for players to participate in a cornhole challenge, in which the winner was to receive a YETI cooler.

The day was hot as expected, but still a nice day for golf. As the players were finishing

up, lunch was provided and golfers were able to sit down, relax and cool down, while they enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the Southern Dunes Arroyo Grille staff!

During lunch, drawings for the raffle prizes were announced, followed by the announcement for the Him-Dak Golf classic winners! Winners were team Troon - Brady Wilson, Kris Strauss, Megan Conder and Steven Outlaw!

This was another great annual event held at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes and we would like to thank everyone that came out and participated.

The Him-Dak Staff would also like to thank Brandon Peters, Ak-Chin Treasurer and Ryan Graham, Southern Dunes Golf Sales Manager for helping in putting this event together. We would also like to thank the Southern Dunes Staff, Chairman Miguel, our two volunteers, James Boehm and Renee Boehm, including our Ak-Chin employees, CSM - Nicole "Coco" Carlyle-Coester, Martina Guy-Peters and our Him-Dak staff that helped with the event throughout the day.

Above all, thank you to the Sponsors for the Annual Him-Dak Classic event, which would not be possible without your support!

**PRESENTING SPONSORS:**



**SUPPORTING SPONSORS:**



**HOLE SPONSORS:**

Ainsworth Game Technology

Ak-Chin Farms

AR Mays

Aristocrat

ATEK Engineering

Climatec

Commit Agency

Crescent Crown

Kilpatrick Townsend

Kimley Horn

Lewis Roca

Markham

Penta

Vekol Market



Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.

# COVID-19 Vaccination Event & Health Fair

Raffle prizes + Games  
Music + Food\*  
Mother's Day surprise

**Saturday,  
May 11, 2024**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Viola L. Johnson**  
Administration Building | Sacaton, AZ

\*Lunch is provided for the first 100 people. Incentives will be given to anyone who receives the COVID-19 vaccine.

Eligibility guidelines: The Gila River Indian Community and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and all federally recognized tribal members.



**Protect Mom, Protect All:**  
Celebrate Mother's Day with the COVID-19 Vaccine!



**DID YOU  
KNOW ?**

## LIFE CENTER

DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

The Life Center encourages you to take some time this month to learn more about mental health and prioritize your self-care. Wellness includes our physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Our Life Center team is here to support you in these areas.



### TIPS FOR TAKING CARE OF YOU:

- Get enough sleep
- Reach out to a friend, co-worker, or family member
- Take a break (laugh, dance, breathe, do something you enjoy)
- Make a list of things you are grateful for
- Garden/connect with nature
- Take a break from screen time
- Ask for help when you need it



For more information please stop by any of our Life Center locations or call: 520-562-3321 Ext. 7940

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

**CLOSED  
MEMORIAL DAY**

**MONDAY  
5/27/2024**

For any information on services open during the holidays, please call our main line at (520) 562-3321. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 28th. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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

Wishes

Happy 1st Birthday to our Lorelei White!  
We love you mosa, and can't wait to see what milestones you'll be hitting next. Try not to bully your brothers and sisters though! Jokes

Happy Birthday Lorelei  
Love, Grandma

Happy Mother's Day Grandma  
Love and hugs to you always!  
Love, Mag and Family

*Roses for Mom*  
If roses grow in Heaven,  
Lord, please pick a bunch for me.  
Place them in my mother's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her I love her and miss her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek  
and hold her for a while.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it every day,  
but there's an ache within my heart  
that will never go away.

# Birthdays May 3rd - 16th

- |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5/3</b><br>RJ Marsh<br>Joseluis Santiago<br>Sonya Bencivenga<br>Samis Smith<br>Blas Castro<br>Cruz Alvarez | <b>5/7</b><br>Nathan Smith<br>Gayle Yarberry<br>Kody Carlyle<br>Mia Montero-Zamudio<br>Mathew McNeil | <b>5/11</b><br>Leilani Paiz<br>Esperanza Barrera<br>Isaac Idan Miranda<br>Laney Delma<br>Esperanza Idan<br>Miranda<br>Davidson Ugalde, Sr. | <b>5/14</b><br>Gibson Romo<br>Brooklynne Baptisto                                                               |
| <b>5/4</b><br>Geraldine Vincent<br>Irene Arredondo                                                            | <b>5/8</b><br>Jedidiah Smith<br>Jadon Ormsby<br>Curtis Antone<br>Ramon Batopis                       | <b>5/12</b><br>Daimon Ugalde<br>Willie Antone<br>Ariana Narcia                                                                             | <b>5/15</b><br>Abel Miguel<br>Graciela Ortega<br>Haley Miguel                                                   |
| <b>5/5</b><br>Jalen Norris<br>Blas Valles<br>Lucy Jerry<br>Mayleigh Delores                                   | <b>5/9</b><br>Guadalupe Orona<br>Adriel Rivera<br>David White, Jr.                                   | <b>5/13</b><br>Derek Manuel<br>Christopher Pablo<br>Maxine Antone<br>Adam Bowman<br>Laurel Coble                                           | <b>5/16</b><br>Kristen Antone<br>Yaretti<br>Montero-Zamudio<br>Waylon Antone<br>Morgan Miller<br>Reannon Manuel |
| <b>5/6</b><br>Jordin Pete<br>Evone Santiago                                                                   | <b>5/10</b><br>Stephan Quinonez<br>LeighAnn Thomas<br>Troy Miguel<br>Bree Whitman                    |                                                         |                                                                                                                 |

## Employee Birthdays 5/3 - 5/16

- |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5-May</b><br>Lucy Jerry, <i>Social Services</i><br>Lydia Rueda, <i>Prosecutor</i><br>Blas Valles, <i>Sanitation</i><br>Francisco Velasco, <i>Sanitation</i> | <b>13-May</b><br>Jordan Gusse, <i>Recreation</i>                                                                                          |
| <b>6-May</b><br>Armando Zepeda Jr., <i>Sanitation</i>                                                                                                          | <b>13-May</b><br>John Leon Guerrero Jr., <i>Community Operations</i>                                                                      |
| <b>7-May</b><br>Corrina Leija, <i>Tribal Gaming Agency</i><br>Mathew McNeil, <i>Sanitation</i>                                                                 | <b>15-May</b><br>Peter Margoliner, <i>Planning</i><br>Robert Martinez, <i>Sanitation</i><br>Ricardo Sierra, <i>Police</i>                 |
| <b>10-May</b><br>David Hobbs, <i>EPD</i>                                                                                                                       | <b>16-May</b><br>Waylon Antone, <i>Him Dak Museum</i><br>David Henson, <i>Fire</i><br>Estrellalinda Reyes-Helpingstine, <i>Recreation</i> |
| <b>11-May</b><br>Esperanza Miranda, <i>Social Services</i>                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                           |

EMPLOYEE UPDATES



Alma Camacho  
Admin Assistant, HR



Christopher Crone  
Lifeguard, Rec



Dalena Crawford  
Admin Assistant, Courts



Susan Sanchez  
Deputy Clerk 1, Courts

## WAILA MUSIC CLASS



**MAY 18, 2024**  
10 a.m - 12 p.m

**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

On this date students will meet Instructor Damon Enriquez, who will explain about Waila Music and how the class will be structured.

Students will also be able to ask any questions they may have.

This program is open to Ak-Chin Community members, employees and their immediate families. Plus any individuals interested in Waila Music from our surrounding Native Communities.

Please contact the Ak-Chin Library ASAP if interested

For Sign-up or Any Questions  
Contact the Library  
at  
(520) 568-1675  
Or Email  
library@ak-chin.nsn.us




## Restorative Yoga w/Vickie

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

\*Open to All Ak-Chin Community Members, Ak-Chin Community Residents, Employees and Employee Family Members

- May 02, 2024
- May 09, 2024
- May 16, 2024
- May 23, 2024
- May 30, 2024



**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL**  
HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1080



**FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC**

**FAMILY PLANNING MEDICAL MOBILE CLINIC**  
Wednesday, May 08, 2024  
9:00a - 2:30p  
Vekol Market Parking Lot

Services Provided:  
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 Post-Partum Care  
Preconception Counseling  
Prevention Counseling and Education

**ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL**  
Call or Text us at (520) 371-0132

**\*\*\* The Mobile Unit is NOT Handicap Accessible\*\*\***



## Spring beanstack

into reading with

Download the beanstack app and log your reading minutes. Reach 1000 minutes before the spring season ends!

Starts March 20, 2024 | Ends June 20, 2024

Spring Reading participants and prizes are open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, and Employees only.

Questions?  
Call Us: (520) 568-1675  
or  
Email: library@ak-chin.nsn.us



## JOB OPENINGS

www.ak-chin.nsn.us

- Accountant (2)
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Contracts and Grants Specialist
- Custodian
- Deli Clerk
- Detention Officer - Certified and Non-Certified
- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Housing Program Counselor - Tribal Housing
- Lifeguard
- Maintenance Technician (4)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer- Certified and Non-Certified

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



## ZUMBA fitness

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

May 07, 2024  
May 14, 2024  
May 21, 2024  
May 28, 2024



Questions?? Please call Health Education at: (520) 568-1080  
\*Open to All Ak-Chin Community Members, Ak-Chin Community Residents, Employees and Employee Family Members


## WINTER READING Finishers!

season by logging your reading minutes.

Marissa Antone  
John Janzen  
Jennifer Smith  
Ninia Wells

Download the app  
Beanstack Tracker

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS  
CALL US: (520) 568-1675



**347 GRILL**

# Mother's Day

BRUNCH

MAY 12 | 11AM-2PM

**Traditional Breakfast \$14**  
Two egg any style, (your choice) bacon, sausage, Crispy fried breakfast potatoes, Choice of wheat, Sourdough or White toast

**New York Steak and Eggs \$22**  
Six ounce New York steak served with two eggs any style, breakfast potatoes, Choice of wheat, Sourdough or White toast

**Belgium Waffle \$16**  
Topped with fresh strawberries, blueberries and fresh whipped cream served with maple syrup

**Chicken & Waffles \$21**  
3 Chicken wings served with a waffle with maple syrup

**Breakfast Burrito \$16**  
Choice of Bacon, sausage, or Chorizo with Scrambled eggs and mixed cheese topped with a serrano tomatillo green Chile sauce, served with fried breakfast potatoes

**Green Chile Eggs Benedict \$16**  
English muffin, chorizo patty, basted eggs, fresh roasted Green Chile, hollandaise sauce breakfast potatoes

**French Toast \$14**  
Texas Toast slices served with berries & whipped cream

**Grilled Salmon \$28**  
Grilled Salmon topped with a smoked tomato butter, Cous cous and asparagus

**Mothers Day Pancakes \$8**  
Stuffed with chocolate chips or blueberries, topped with fresh whipped cream finished with sprinkles

**Kids Scramble \$7**  
Two eggs scrambles topped with cheese served with tatter tots

**Buttered Noodles \$8**  
Penne pasta with fresh butter served with garlic bread

**Kids Burger \$8**  
Served with American cheese and fries

**Dessert**  
Red Velvet Cake \$7

**Ak-ChinCircle.com**

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

# #miniDunes, the new attraction at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes



Story and photos by Jordan Rodriguez

April 26, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes opened its newest attraction #miniDunes, that's right, it is spelled with a hashtag.

Cardinals wide receiver Brice Butler were among the first handful of golfers to tee off on this night golf course.

Located on the practice range, #miniDunes is a six-hole short course that originally opened for play in 2014 and has holes that range from 60 to 115 yards. 15 poles with 88 LED lights are used to brighten the golf course while up-lighting will allow golfers to track ball flight through the night sky, while also allowing the lights to change to the beat of the music played.

"It was built to be the bunny slope for golf," said Ak-Chin Southern Dunes General Manager Brady Wilson. "Every sport has an ease in version of the game, whereas golf we just tell you to go play the big course."

Since the grand-opening Southern Dunes is now one of only two courses

Not only is the price and design of the #miniDunes inviting for those who may be new to the game, but it is also enticing to those experienced golfers as well, to focus in on their short game, regarded as one of the most important parts of every golfer's game. Making



it not only fun, but a tool golfers at all skill levels can utilize to improve their play.

Walk-ins for the #miniDunes are always welcome and replay rounds will be first come, first serve. Each round of golf is unlimited, as

in the entire state to offer night golf.

visitors can play 6, 12, 18 holes or more for \$35 on weekdays and \$39 Fri-Sun, with times starting in the afternoon and go well into the night

Prior to the grand-opening, on April 24, Southern Dunes Staff invited special guests to be a part of the first time the lights were turned on. Attendees were greeted with food, beverages, and gifts to commemorate this historic night. With hundreds in attendance, special guest golfers such as former MLB pitcher Archie Bradley, and former Arizona



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

**MAY MOMS GET \$5 OFF**

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY**

Reserve \$5 off your meal with minimum \$30 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 5/31/24.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community



**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**TAKE A BREAK FROM THE HEAT AND CATCH A MOVIE THIS WEEKEND!**

Tickets available online at: **ak-chincircle.com/theater**

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

**SUMMER SIX PACK \$229**

- 25% OFF GOLF SHOP
- 20% OFF ARROYO GRILLE
- 6 SUMMER ROUNDS OF GOLF
- 6 #miniDunes ROUNDS
- 6 CHROME TOUR GOLF BALLS
- 6 BEVERAGES

**CHROME TOUR**

Some restrictions apply. Does not include tax. Rounds transferable 4 days. Valid thru 8/29/24.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

480.367.8949 AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM

**30 YEARS OF PLAY Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO** **MAY 2024** **CAESARS REWARDS.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b> FRIDAY, MAY 24, SUNDAY, MAY 26 & MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024			<b>1 10x</b> 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER BLAZING 777 WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG	<b>2 WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>3</b> TREAT YOURSELF AT THE GIFT SHOP	<b>4</b> RENT A CABANA ON YOUR NEXT STAY!
<b>5 CINCO DE MAYO</b> GIFT CARD SUNDAYS MARIACHIS ON PROPERTY	<b>6</b> MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN, TOO!	<b>7</b> KITCHEN APPLIANCE SET BY SERVAPPETIT® GIVEAWAY & DRAWING	<b>8</b> 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER BLAZING 777 WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG	<b>9 WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>10</b> TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB	<b>11</b> LITTLE JOE & FRIENDS CONCERT
<b>12</b> GIFT CARD SUNDAYS MOTHER'S DAY SPECIALS AT OAK & FORK AND CHOP, BLOCK & BREW	<b>13</b> REDEEM REWARD CREDITS FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!	<b>14</b> KITCHEN APPLIANCE SET BY SERVAPPETIT® GIVEAWAY & DRAWING	<b>15</b> 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER BLAZING 777 WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG	<b>16 WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>17</b> CHRIS YOUNG CONCERT	<b>18</b> #1 BY USA TODAY CAESARS REWARDS LOYALTY PROGRAM
<b>19</b> GIFT CARD SUNDAYS	<b>20</b> FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!	<b>21</b> KITCHEN APPLIANCE SET BY SERVAPPETIT® GIVEAWAY & DRAWING	<b>22 10x</b> 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER BLAZING 777 WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG	<b>23 WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>24</b> PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER WIN YOUR WHEELS 30X EARNING	<b>25 WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> DRAWINGS
<b>26</b> GIFT CARD SUNDAYS PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER POOL PARTY TOBY KEITH TRIBUTE	<b>27</b> PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY	<b>28</b> KITCHEN APPLIANCE SET BY SERVAPPETIT® GIVEAWAY & DRAWING	<b>29</b> 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER BLAZING 777 WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG	<b>30</b> \$30,000 SWEEPSTAKES	<b>31</b> FIND US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND X	<b>AGAVE'S</b> CANTINA NIGHTS Every FRIDAY & SATURDAY from 8PM to 10PM

Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Management reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without prior notice. 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. ©2024 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.