



Maricopa High School Class of 2024 graduates toss their mortarboards in jubilation after their commencement ceremony on May 23, at Maricopa football stadium.

Story by Raychel Peters, photo by Jordan Rodriguez

It is once again time to celebrate and recognize the hard work and success of our 2024 student graduates. Ak-Chin be proud to know that we had close to 100 students promote or graduate this year.

Ak-Chin celebrates with the eight post-secondary graduates who received their certificates and/or diplomas from; Arizona State University, Navajo Technical University, Grand Canyon University, Arizona College of Nursing, Pima Medical Institute, Central Arizona College, and Avalon Institute.

We are also happy to celebrate the eight students who graduated from Maricopa high school, and four graduate from out of district schools, with two more scheduled to graduate in July.

We are overjoyed that Maricopa Wells middle school promoted twelve community students to high school, as well as three from out of district middle schools.

We are also happy to report that Maricopa Elementary promoted twelve to sixth grade and five who will be moving up to first grade. Meanwhile, Saddleback Elementary promoted fourteen to sixth grade and five to first grade.

We also had four out of district students promote to sixth grade and one promote from kindergarten to first.

Last, but not least, we celebrate our newest and youngest educators from the Ak-Chin

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## Students work hard to earn trip to Universal Studios

Story submitted by Ak-Chin Education, photos by Armonda Santiago and Education Staff



“Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness”.

In an attempt to enhance academic performance, students from the Ak-Chin Education Department took a trip to Universal Studios in Hollywood, California.

The requirement was for 5th to 8th grade students to demonstrate improved academics and positive behaviors during the 4th Quarter of the school year.

75 students participated in the Education tutoring program, where grades improved by 60% and advisors saw how beneficial our tutoring program is!

The requirements for the Universal Studios field trip was for students to maintain A's and B's in core subjects, as well as no behavior issues.

Families were required to attend three meetings prior to the trip. Our students expressed how they wanted to attend this field trip by turning in their homework, attending school and improving their grades.

It was great to see the hard work they all put in to meet the criteria for the opportunity to attend this field trip, we are all so PROUD of them!

All schools and parents were aware that our students were taking this field trip. They helped push and remind our students how important it is to maintain the grades in order to attend the trip.

We are so grateful for all of their support. We appreciate them cheering on our students!

We had eight education staff attend and three parent chaperones whom we would like to recognize; THANK YOU for taking the time to help our students!

The transformative journey took place from May 16th – 17th, with the help of Arrow Stage Lines luxury transportation.

Staff and students left the Ak-Chin Education Department at midnight, on May 16th, and drove all night to Universal Studios in Hollywood City, California.

Education staff felt Universal Studios would be a great introduction for our students.

Most of the students have never traveled outside of Arizona and we look forward to next year's field trip because we are planning to go to Disneyland! We hope to include high school as well!

Education has spent five

Universal Studios continues to page 1b



Consuelo Alvarez and her family enjoy the Runner photo booth at the Ak-Chin Education Celebration, held at Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, May 16.

## Ak-Chin Education honors graduates

Story by Raychel Peters, photos by Runner Staff

On May 16, the Ak-Chin Education department held a celebration event for community members who graduated from high school and higher education. The event; held at Ak-Chin Elements Entertainment Center; was well attended by the students and their families.

stick and defend yourself.”

Taylor stayed her course and it paid off big as she passed her exam. “I did it! I passed that exam with a 5, which is the highest score you can get, along with another AP class I took that year and I now have college credits.”

The evening began with a welcome and a song performed by the Ak-Chin Youth Council.

Mistress of Ceremonies, Nicole Carlyle-Coester then invited everyone to help themselves to the dinner banquet set up by Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment staff. Once everyone was seated, Nicole introduced keynote speakers for the evening.

She gave credit to her family and friends for helping her. “I had my family, best friend, friends, the advisors at the education department, and a strong community behind me full of history of those who persevered and made this community what it is today. They inspired or supported me to keep working and fulfill my dreams.”

First up to speak was Taylor Santiago, Maricopa high school senior. Taylor spoke eloquently about her time studies as she shared her speech, “We Will Be Known Forever By The Tracks We Leave”, that was the theme of the evening.

Taylor’s last piece of advice, “empower yourself with a good education or a life of learning. Whether you’re going to a 4-year university, trade school, beauty school, taking a gap year, post-secondary grads... getting a job...or whatever you decide to do, keep learning – about yourself, the world, learn about our community and make sure all that you’ve learned makes you a better person and that your life will be happy and successful.”

Ms. Taylor spoke of her strenuous Advanced Placement (AP) Seminar class, which was a challenging college level course.

Next to speak was Consuelo Alvarez, who received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Arizona College of Nursing.

“When I first signed up for this class, I didn’t know we had to present, I thought it was just research and writing, which hit me hard because I was terrified of public speaking.”

Consuelo spoke of how nervous she was about public speaking, although you would not have known, as she stood tall and shared great words about her desire “to help others” which led her to a career in the medical field.

Taylor also shared how she struggled and was overwhelmed at times.

Ms. Alvarez started out as a medical assistant, where she learned “a lot about patients, work environments, and helping others.”

“I really felt like giving up and on the days of my presentations I thought that my heart would literally jump out of my chest or I’d pass out so I wouldn’t have to present, but that sadly did not happen :(. ”

She soon realized that she wanted to do more and decided to become a nurse, so she could continue “with what I love and help others in a deeper way.”

She provided a great scenario about facing problems, “You know running away from your problems and fears is like running away from rez dogs, you can’t outrun them... but they’ll get you eventually. So, you have to stop and face them, throw a shoe or two, grab a

She spoke of being a proud

Education Celebration continues to page 1b

# Celebrating the Joy of Movement: Elders Thrive at the Recreation Center

Submitted by Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Director



Elders enjoy a friendly game of UNO.

Collaboration between the Ak-Chin Health and Wellness department, Ak-Chin Recreation department and the Ak-Chin Elder Center have come together to launch an innovative program designed to enhance the lives of our elder community members. Focused on health and wellness, this initiative is more than just an exercise routine; it's a celebration of movement, mental stimulation, and social connection.

## A Holistic Approach to Elder Wellness

The program, which has seen remarkable growth since its inception, offers a diverse range of activities tailored to meet the unique needs and preferences of our elders. From gentle yoga sessions and low-impact aerobics to engaging brain games and social gatherings, the Recreation Center has become a hub of activity, laughter, and learning.

**Physical Activity:** Recognizing the importance of physical health, the program includes a variety of exercises aimed at improving flexibility, strength, and cardiovascular health. Health and Wellness staff, Marc Matteson and Martina Peters, along with Recreation

staff Eduardo Santiago guide the elders through routines that are both enjoyable and beneficial. Whether it's a morning walk in the gym, a fun obstacle course to bouncing balls, the elders are rediscovering the joy of movement.

**Mental Stimulation:** Keeping the mind active is just as crucial as physical activity. The program incorporates fun and challenging brain games designed to enhance cognitive function. From crossword puzzles and memory games to interactive group activities, these sessions are a hit among the participants, fostering a sense of accomplishment and mental agility.

**Social Interaction:** One of the most valued aspects of the program is the opportunity it provides for social interaction. Many elders face loneliness and isolation, but the Recreation Center offers a warm and welcoming environment where they can form new friendships and reconnect with old ones. The camaraderie and sense of community are palpable, creating a supportive network that extends beyond the confines of the center.

**A Community Effort** The success of this

program is a testament to the power of community collaboration. The Recreation Department and the Elder Center staff Supervisor Sonia Narcia and Elder Center Coordinator Marissa Antone have worked with the Rec department and Health and Wellness to ensure that every aspect of the program is tailored to the needs of the participants. Their dedication is evident in the smiles and laughter that fill the Recreation Center daily.

**Nutritious Snacks:** To keep the energy levels high and ensure that the participants are well-nourished, a variety of healthy snacks are provided. These not only offer a tasty treat, but also promote better eating habits and overall wellness.

**Growing Participation:** The program's popularity continues to increase, with more elders joining. This growing number is a clear indication of its positive impact and the high demand for such initiatives. The organizers are continually exploring new ways to expand and enhance the program, ensuring that it meets the evolving needs of the community.

**Looking to the Future** As we look to the future, there are endless possibilities for its expansion. Plans are already in motion to introduce new activities, workshops, and events that will further enrich the lives of our elders. The goal is to create a dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable program that continues to inspire and engage.

## Join the Ak-Chin Elder Committee!

Are you 55 or older and looking for a way to contribute to your community? The Ak-Chin Elder Committee needs your wisdom and experience!

Who We're Looking For:

- Elders aged 55 and over
- Ready to help plan and organize events and activities

Responsibilities:

- Plan elder trips, activities, and parties
- Develop policies for elder travel and program participation
- Collaborate with fellow committee members and Community Elders

Meeting Schedule:

- At least once a month
- We will accommodate any schedule that fits yours

Why Join?

- Share your ideas and creativity
- Create new and improved Elder Programming

**INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS? CALL THE ELDER CENTER AT 520-568-1760 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP.**

**The Elder Department is hosting another game day trip to Chase Field:**

**AZ D-Backs vs Chicago White Sox**

**Game starts @ 7:10pm**

**\*Bus will depart from the elder center @4 pm**

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS**

**NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY**

**@ CHASE FIELD**

**SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2024**

For any questions or to RSVP please call

**Marissa or Sonia @ (520)568-1760.**

**Deadline to RSVP June 10, 2024**

Elder Calendar				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div><div><p>*Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM</p><p>*Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM</p><p>*Chair Yoga is located in Elder Craft Room Tuesday and Thursday 9 AM to 10 AM</p></div><div><p>*Chair Volleyball Questions? Call the Recreation Department at 520-568-1760</p><p>*Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760</p><p>*For Transportation call Georgia at 520- 568-1769</p></div><div><p><b>JUNE 15</b></p><p><b>"Native American Day"</b></p><p><b>D-Backs vs White Sox @ 7:10 pm</b></p><p><b>Leaving @ 4 pm</b></p></div></div>				
6/10 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Peaches w/ Cottage Cheese  Turkey Barely, Vegetable Soup, Romaine Salad, Pineapple  <i>Deadline to sign up for Diamondbacks Game</i>	6/11 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad  Red Chili Stew, Potato Salad, Pinto Beans, Apple Sauce	6/12 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit  Chicken Cordon Bleu, Creamed Spinach, Carrots, Pears  <i>Movie Day</i>	6/13 Breakfast Sandwich, Potatoes, Fruit & Yogurt  Spaghetti, Romaine Salad, Texas Toast, Apple/Orange	6/14 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Sausage, Fruit Salad  Hot Dog Bar, Potato Salad, Corn on the Cob, Fresh Cut Fruit, Chocolate Cake/ Ice Cream  <i>Father's Day Luncheon @12 noon</i>
6/17 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana  <i>Popcorn time in the Craft Room @10am</i>  Pork Stew/Cactus, Zucchini, Black Beans, Chumath, Sliced Apples & Oranges	6/18 Scrambled Eggs & Chorizo, Tortilla, Avocado Slices, Grapes  Turkey Pot Pie, Corn on Cobb, Wheat/White Rolls	6/19 <i>CENTER CLOSED DUE TO JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY</i>	6/20 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit  Chicken Fajita, Normandy Vegetables, Yellow Squash, Fresh Cut Fruit	6/21 Breakfast Casserole, Toast, Fruit Salad  <i>DIY Craft Turtle Flower Pot @9:30am</i>  Toscana Soup, Romaine Salad, Bread Sticks, Tropical Fruit



Newspaper of the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### OFFICE HOURS

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Health & Human Services,  
Recreation & MUSD.

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The "Runner" is delivered  
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Ak-Chin O'dham 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'dham  
Runner is a Community  
Newspaper and encourages  
Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos,  
poems or a great story that  
you would like to share,  
please contact us so we  
can include it in "YOUR"  
newspaper. Also, if you have  
suggestions or comments  
about "YOUR" newspaper,  
let the Runner Staff know  
that too.

All submitted letters MUST  
be signed by the author and  
are limited to 200 words.

Authors must also include  
their name, address, and  
phone number. Names can  
be omitted by request.  
Anonymous submissions will  
not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit  
all submitted material for  
clarity, grammar and good  
taste. All submissions should  
be received as typed or  
non-cursive writing. Please  
do not submit UPPERCASE or  
formatted paragraphs.

Submitted pictures need 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  
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**Maricopa, Arizona 85139**

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#### NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
**June 21 - July 4, 2024**  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH**

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

Material submitted after the  
**JUNE 14TH DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate  
and relevant, it will be  
included in the next issue.

# Ak-Chin Fire Cadet Program Family Day

Story and photos submitted by Jennifer Boehm



**Cadet group photo: (Left to Right) Elijah Bell, Adriano Felix, Antonio Rodriguez, Chairman Robert Miguel, Alivia Bell, Taylor Santiago, Rene Saspe and Aaron Felix.**

On Saturday May 18th, the Ak-Chin Fire Department held a Family Day for the Ak-Chin Fire Cadets to showcase firefighting skills they learned within the program to their families and friends.

The morning consisted of turnout drills, hydrant operations and hose deployment for fire attack followed by a Q & A session for the families.

The Cadets were presented with ACFD challenge coins to thank them for their participation and fellow cadets, Taylor Santiago and Aaron Felix, who were graduating high school were also presented with cards and a gift to congratulate them on

their accomplishment.

The event ended with a lunch and words of encouragement from the Ak-Chin Chairman, Robert Miguel.

The Ak-Chin Fire Department reestablished the Fire Cadet Program last year that had ended in 2016. The program was a highly successful program that not only introduced young adults to the demanding career in the fire service, but also taught participants important life skills such as leadership, effective communication and basic emergency response.

While the program was paused for a few years, the interest from the community was steady therefore the department was eager to bring the

Cadet program back.

The program is chartered through the Grand Canyon Council Boy Scouts of America, which provides guidance for the department and insurance for the participants. The program runs from September through May for young adults ages 14-20.

The program teaches the cadets EMS and fire skills within classroom instruction and hands-on training.

We look forward to the continued participation from our current and future cadets next year. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to the Ak-Chin Fire Department, at 520-568-1300.



**Mario L.**  
**520.510.7733**  
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**RAYMOND PAUL NARCIA**  
**MAY, 13, 1983 - APRIL 21, 2024**

*We the family of the late Raymond P. Narcia would like to thank everyone for thinking of our family during this difficult time. The support we have received the last couple of weeks did not go unnoticed. We appreciate everyone who brought a meal to our family or just came and sat with us to talk. All donations received were very much appreciated.*

*Thank you to the following: Ak-Chin Community Council, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Public Works, Ak-Chin Runner Staff, Ashley Vincent & Family, Candi Chavez, Delia Carlyle, Dennis Antone, Gohk, & Chucky, Dyami Jackson & Ryan, Evelyn Garcia, Father Antony Tinker, Florentina Ruelas, Gabrielle Compton, Grace Pablo, Gwen Pilone, Joe Enos, Jose Miguel, J. Warren Funeral Services, Kathy Ruiz, Lawrence & Sally Antone, Leo Lewis & Group, Lerline Peters, Leslie Lewis-Manuel, Lily Mike, Luis Rodas, Mallory Justin & Family, Michelle Garcia & Family, Miguel Family, Nikkol Martinez, Perry Family, Shanna Narcia, Stephanie Valdez, Susan Cons, Tamara Denetclaw, Vekol Market, Wilma Frausto & Family, Special thank you to the Ak-Chin Police Department*

*Sorry if we forgot to mention anyone. Just know your support was very much appreciated. We could not have gotten through the last couple of weeks without the help from our Narcia & Peters families. Thank you for all the support and preparing that was done. We love you all.*

*Carmen Narcia & Family*



#### AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Capital Projects

#### AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (DESIGN-BUILD) "ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PROJECT"

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design-Build Agreement. This project consists of the following:

Approximately 49,000 Sq. Ft. of a Governmental Administrative Building, consisting of multi-departmental offices and a community council chambers.

The Design-Builder will be teaming with the existing Architectural and Civil engineer entities that have been involved since the project inception. Pre-construction services will include initially providing a cost evaluation of the schematic design drawings and evaluating the cost throughout the design process.

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference for Qualified General Contractor's ONLY is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on June 18, 2024 at Capital Projects Conference Room located at 45710 W. Farrell Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139. This meeting is considered mandatory, and in this meeting the project scope will be discussed. If you do not attend this pre-bid meeting your proposal will NOT be accepted.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 2:00 p.m. (MST) on July 9th, 2024. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at [FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us). Also, Cc: Project Manager, Perry Vettraino at [pvettraino@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:pvettraino@ak-chin.nsn.us).

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on July 26th, 2024 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Proposals received after the specified date and time will be rejected and returned unopened.

This invitation is unrestricted; however, preference will be given to Indian Organizations and Indian Owned Enterprises in accordance to the Community Procurement Procedure. Request for Proposals ("RFP") a Detailed RFP and instruction/information package and related information will be provided to entities at the pre-bid conference.

The Owner reserves the right to reject, any and all bids. However, the Ak-Chin Indian Community at its discretion may postpone said action for such time as the Tribal Council may designate, as the interest of the Community may require.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.

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

In Re: The Adoption of: CASE NO.: CV-2024-00011-VIL  
D.O.B.: xx/xx/xxxx CIVIL SUMMONS  
Amended

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:  
Elisia Ugalde

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Civil Action has been filed against you in the Court of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER in the said matter within a period of 30 days if you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, 30 days if you are served outside the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community at the Clerk of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court, accompanied by the necessary filing fee; further you must send a copy of your written answer to:

Nikkol and Stephen Martinez  
42623 West Pecan Lane  
Maricopa, AZ 85138

After you have been served and the written answer period has lapsed, the Tribal Court shall set a date for a hearing of this matter, and you will be notified of the time and date that you will be required to appear.

IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUMMONS a judgment by default will be entered against you and the opposing party shall be awarded the relief demanded in this matter.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 7th day of May, 2024.

DEANNA JUSTIN, Court Administrator  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

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

In Re: The Guardianship of: Case No.: JM-2013-00010-CN  
L.A. SUMMONS  
D.O.B.: XX/XX/XXXX  
A.A. MINOR(S)  
D.O.B.: XX/XX/XXXX

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO: DUANE ANTONE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the above-entitled matter on the 19th day of August, 2024, at 10:00 AM for a Review/Guardianship Hearing.

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

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 20th day of May, 2024.

DEANNA JUSTIN, Court Administrator  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

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

In Re: The Guardianship of: Case No.: JM-2013-00010-CN  
L.A. SUMMONS  
D.O.B.: XX/XX/XXXX  
A.A. MINOR(S)  
D.O.B.: XX/XX/XXXX

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO: MERCEDES STEPHENS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the above-entitled matter on the 19th day of August, 2024, at 10:00 AM for a Review/Guardianship Hearing.

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

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 20th day of May, 2024.

DEANNA JUSTIN, Court Administrator  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

# Ak-Chin Library Efforts Hope to keep Waila Alive

Story and photos by Jordan Rodriguez

On May 19, the Library welcomed music instructor Damon Enriquez, a musician who has been playing waila for over 30 years and teaching for eight. Being a musician with plenty of experience, he taught students everything there is to know about waila music, that is specific to the region.

Originated by the Tohono O’odham, waila evolved from the music of earlier acoustic fiddle bands that adapted European and Mexican music.

Fast forward to current day and groups with a combination of different instruments, including the button accordion, alto saxophone, drums, bass, and guitar became

known as waila bands. Enriquez, fluent in all instruments tied to waila, was able to teach students the correct way to play the instruments they were interested in. What was once a booming genre of music, where people had to be turned away, is now slowly dwindling and struggling to find youth to continue its tradition.

Enriquez believes that the reason waila isn’t as big anymore isn’t because no one is interested in it, it’s because opportunities to pass this genre from generation to generation are few and far between.

Which is why he feels the need to pass down



Damon Enriquez teaches class fundamentals to Waila music.

the music to the O’odham communities.

“Anybody can be a musician,” said Enriquez. “I’ve taught over 300 kids that never knew anything about how to play music. This year I had five gentlemen who were in my class and they all graduated and now they have their own waila band.”

The library hopes to offer similar classes in the future for others in the community who may be interested in learning about waila.



# Strings and Storytime

Story and photos by Ashley Vincent



Dr. Hamilton with musician students during the Strings and Storytime event.

A Strings and Storytime concert was held at the Ak-Chin Library on May 22nd, 2024.

The concert featured a group of Ak-Chin’s very own musicians. The library was awarded a grant at the beginning of the year, which was used to hire Dr. Greg Hamilton, a well experienced orchestra teacher, along with renting violins and cellos.

The library will be hosting another Strings and Storytime class once the new school year begins.



# Splashing into Summer



Story and photos by Ashley Vincent

The Ak-Chin Police Department hosted their annual end of school year luau on May 31st, 2024 at the Ak-Chin Recreation department. This year was a good turn out as attendees enjoyed freshly grilled hamburgers and hot dogs made by the police and

security department, as well as chips, drinks, and snacks.

All the students that attended were automatically entered into a raffle held by the PD where they were able to win goodies such as LED lights, floaties, and gift cards to McDonalds.

Along with the food and raffle, students and their families were able to cool off in the pool and enjoy the featured movie, Lilo & Stitch.

Before the sun went down and the movie began, there was a friendly wall to wall race in the pool between the PD & the Recreation lifeguards.



This year PD took the win as Recreation took the win last year. During the luau, the PD also picked the winning tickets for this year’s Special Olympics Arizona raffle.

The grand prizes varied from a paid jumping castle rental from Ak-Chin’s very own Babas’ Bouncers & Jumpers LLC., a private movie theater rental for the lucky winner and 24 other guests, and a one-night stay package for two at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino.



# Ak-Chin Members and Police bond over Esports

Story and photo by Jordan Rodriguez

On Wednesday May 15, the Ak-Chin Police tried to show today’s generation how esports are done. Put together by Parks and Rec, Esports with Police settled the long debate on which generation is better at video games.

While also connecting members of the community to our first responders over similar passions.

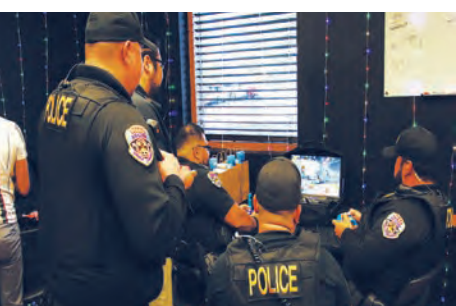
Although gaming usually carries a negative stigma, gaming can actually help children in many ways including learning, brain efficiency, social skills, problem-solving, and emotional development.

“This event offers a platform for children to enhance their cognitive abilities, social skills, and problem-solving proficiency,” said Recreation Program Coordinator Sonya Martinez. “We believe that Esports has numerous benefits, and we are excited to share this experience with the community and express our gratitude to the dedicated police officers.”

Overall, about ten kids paid a visit to Parks and Rec to challenge the officers in various games with all officers in attendance. The Ak-Chin Police Department believe in connecting with the community, in ways outside

the line of duty. A majority of the time, we meet these officers during the worst part of the day, so it is important for the community to spend time with and get to know our first responders in a positive atmosphere.

“It gives the officers a chance to connect with the community in a different light,” said Ak-Chin Police Sergeant Davis Garcia. “Allowing



Ak-Chin Police Officers play Super Smash Bros. during Esports with Police

them to interact in a different way than what most are unfortunately used to. It also helps the community see the officers as people too, liking the gaming aspect & having fun with them.”

The Ak-Chin PD hope to hosts more events like this more frequently, and look forward to more activities similar to this one in the future.

# Love Is Love

Submitted by Ak-Chin Health and Human Services



Have you ever taken a selfie and looked at it and said, “Yeah, I’m Awesome!”

Be honest... Most of us have had at least one really good one. If you have never taken a selfie, then I recommend that hit of self-love at least once, if possible. A little more love in this world is much needed, right now.

If you watch the news, especially in an election year, on any channel you will see a lot of attention is being paid to who gets “rights”, who gets “privileges”, and who gets “heard”. This article is absolutely not about any of that. I am not writing about politics, or religion, or even about fighting the system (not today anyway.)

As is the pattern with me, I am writing about family. When I was brought to the community, one of the main missions I was given was to help heal families and protect children. I had been teaching parenting at that point for several years. I had studied and been trained on ways to help families heal, I had witnessed in my own family that children require love and safety.

The main goal is to find ways to let your loved ones know that you love them, you want to support them, and help them to be healthy and happy. It seems simple, on paper, but not as simple in real life. It starts with showing up for them, celebrating

that they are part of the family, and Family Is Love.

In my work, I have heard many stories about the angry child, the sad child, and the anxious child, the child that is hurting themselves... The thing most have in common is not feeling like they are good enough, feeling rejected and unworthy of love. We tend to think of the outside world as the problem, since there is such a focus on bullying, social media, and stranger violence and those are the stories we are continuously fed.

All those issues are real for young people (and for adults in many ways.) However, it is the acceptance by their loved ones that has the most positive impact on youth. It is also the rejection from the people most important to them that can have the most damaging effects.

Research now shows that... rejection from family contributes to serious health risks like suicidal behavior, depression, substance use, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. (<https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>)

It is no longer that not liking who your child is can just damage your relationship, the truth is that rejecting your child increases the likelihood they will have poor health and make bad decisions as a young adult.

Good news is, the opposite has also been

proven to be true, “accepting behaviors” help protect young people from risk and increase their health out-comes. Youth who have the basic needs of love and safety met, have increased self-confidence and a better ability to manage stress and other negative emotions. They are less likely to cope in harmful ways (like with drugs and alcohol), less likely to self-harm, run away, and end up homeless or transient.

This is a much larger issue with LGBTQ-2S youth (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transsexual, Questioning, 2-Spirit) or Gender-Alternative youth. With these different considerations, often the questions of approval, religion, or personal comfort become a barrier for family members when it comes to accepting family with differences.

Without enough information about things that are new or different from what you know, it can be a hard path to travel. Ultimately though, the goal is still the same. The people you love need to know that you are there to support them, love them, and want their good health and happiness. Showing up for them, for yourself, and making sure that Family Is Love is the first step.

I hope you will take some steps with us this June for Pride Month. Ak-Chin Health and Human Services Department will be hosting the 2nd Annual Pride Celebration. This year we will be taking a walk, (maybe do a little dancing...) In a Love Train on June 20, 2024. Look for more details to come, or feel free to contact Ak-Chin Health and Human Services at 520-568-1092.



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

GRHC.ORG

# COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

**TUESDAY  
JUNE 18, 2024  
10 am - 2 pm**

District 7 Multipurpose Building  
8035 S. 83rd Ave. Laveen, AZ 85339

## FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

- Optometry
- Dental
- Life Center
- Blood Pressure
- Diabetes Risk
- Women's Health
- Vaccines
- Nutritional Education
- Pediatrics
- A1C testing
- Foot Health Awareness
- Dry Needling Demo
- Cooking Demo
- Health Insurance Assistance

## An Effort to Raise Health and Wellness

For more information, please contact District 7 Recreation at (520) 430-4780.



### LIFE CENTER

DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

**As the hot Arizona summer is fast approaching, did you know... That sugary drinks can cause Diabetes?**



### RESEARCH HAS ALSO SHOWN THAT DRINKING SUGARY DRINKS IS LINKED TO TYPE 2 DIABETES.



The American Diabetes Association recommends avoiding sugar-sweetened beverages and switching to water whenever possible to help prevent type 2 diabetes. Sugary drinks also raise blood glucose (blood sugar) and can provide several hundred calories in just one serving. Just one 12-ounce regular soda has about 150 calories and 40 grams of sugar, a carbohydrate (carb). This is the same as ten teaspoons of sugar. Sugar-sweetened beverages include regular soda, fruit punch, fruit drinks, energy drinks, sports drinks, sweet tea, sweetened coffee drinks, and other sugary drinks. If you're looking for alternatives to sugary drinks, consider electrolyte replacement drinks, flavored water with no or low sugar, or those with zero calories.

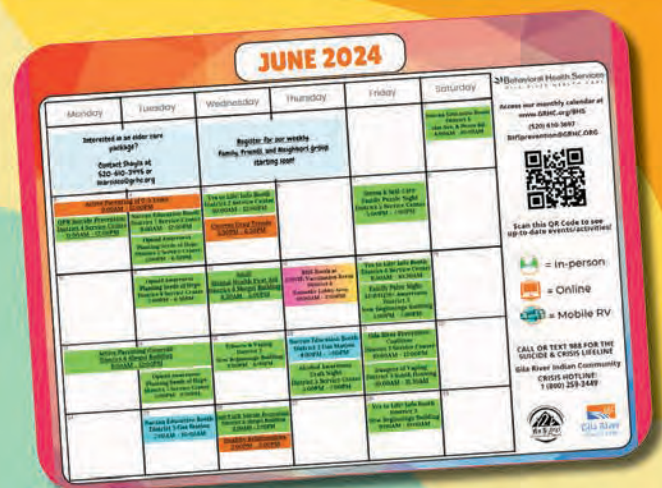
For more information, please stop by any of our Life Center locations or call 520-562-3321 Ext. 7940



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

**CLOSED Thursday  
July 4<sup>th</sup>**

### Behavioral Health Services GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE



Access our monthly calendar scan QR code, or visit:  
[www.GRHC.org/BHS](http://www.GRHC.org/BHS)



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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

# Ak-Chin PD hosts Special Olympics Fundraiser



Splits & Giggles won this year's SOAZ Bowling Tournament, hosted by Ak-Chin Police department on May 19.

Story and photo by Jordan Rodriguez

Following the successful May 1 Torch Run, the Ak-Chin Police department decided to raise even more money for the Special Olympics, with their annual bowling tournament.

Sunday May 19, a total of 13 teams of four competed at Ten Pins Down inside the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.

Proceeds from this tournament went directly to the Special Olympics of Arizona, to help cover expenses for the athletes and to improve the programs they currently offer.

The bowling tournament consisted of two sessions, one starting at noon and the other at 3 pm.

Teams had a 30-minute warm



2nd Place - Knight Towing

up period before their schedule session time to find their rhythm.

“The Special Olympics Bowling event got off to a slow start, but once we began rolling it was a fun event.” said Ak-Chin Police Sergeant Davis Garcia. “Everyone in attendance had a great time as bragging rights were in order for those teams who placed in the top three spots overall.”

First, second, and third place finishers all received a trophy worth bragging about. However, first place would go to Splits & Giggles, with a team score of 1,622 points, second place was awarded to Knight Towing (1,601 points), and AKC would take third (1,573 points).



3rd Place - AKC

## REMINDER

The next Runner submission deadline will be

## FRIDAY JUNE 14TH

### Ak-Chin Child Development

Accepting applications for  
Preschool 2024-2025 SY  
Deadline is July 29th, 2024

Our office is open  
8am-5pm  
Monday-Friday  
Register now!  
First day of Preschool  
is August 12th,  
8:30am-2:00pm

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

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

**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

Pick up a 2024-2025 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.

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

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



About 25 EPA professionals attended the air quality conference held at Ak-Chin Water Reclamation Facility, May 21-23.

## Ak-Chin EPD co-host Air Quality Outreach Conference

Story and photo by Jordan Rodriguez, with contribution from Ak-Chin EPD

The Ak-Chin Environmental Programs Department welcomed about 25 professionals from around the country for an outreach training.

On May 21-23, a national Tribal air quality outreach and educational training co-hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the Ak-Chin Environmental Programs.

ITEP was created in 1992 at Northern Arizona University (NAU), to act as a catalyst among tribal governments, research, and technical resources supporting the protection of Native American natural resources through its various programs.

This training was held in response to a previous training

held in January. Due to the high participant demand from the first training, this second one was held.

The objectives of the course was to provide the participants

1) knowledge to assess community needs, concerns, and interests regarding air quality; 2) develop an action plan for conducting education and outreach in their community; 3) use the various tools for communicating air quality messages with their community (social media, brochures, modeling activities, flag program); 4) use sensors to increase awareness of impacts to air quality (indoor and outdoor); 5) integrate traditional ecological knowledge with western science to enhance public understanding of air quality issues; 6) identify

potential partners to assist with air quality education and outreach; 7) identify US EPA Air Quality outreach materials for tribal education and outreach efforts specific to each community.

“The purpose of the training was to demonstrate to the participants ways to provide/show various types of air quality activities demonstrating how air quality effects people and the environment,” said Ak-Chin Environmental Programs Manager Roman Orona.

15 tribes from across the region were represented at this training, including Ak-Chin who was represented by Manny Gomez. This training was strictly for Indian communities and their environmental program departments.

## ZUMBA fitness

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

June 04, 2024  
June 11, 2024  
June 18, 2024  
June 25, 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

## Restorative Yoga

w/Vickie

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

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

- June 06, 2024
- June 13, 2024
- June 20, 2024
- June 27, 2024

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

# JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
02 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 12PM – 2 PM OPEN GYM 2PM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	03 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	04 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	05 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	06 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 6PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	07 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	08 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM OPEN GYM 10AM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 6PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM
09 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 12PM – 2 PM OPEN GYM 2PM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	10 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	11 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM CHEER PRACTICE 5 PM – 6 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	12 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM CHEER PRACTICE 5 PM – 6 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	13 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 6PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	14 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	15 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM FATHER'S DAY EVENT 9AM-12PM OPEN GYM 10AM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 6PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM
16 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 12PM – 2 PM OPEN GYM 2PM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	17 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	18 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	19 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM CHEER PRACTICE 5 PM – 6 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	20 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 6PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	21 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	22 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM OPEN GYM 10AM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 6PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM
23 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 12PM – 2 PM OPEN GYM 2PM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	24 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	25 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL CLOSED	26 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM CHEER PRACTICE 5 PM – 6 PM GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 6 PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN GYM 5 PM - 9PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	27 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM BOY'S BB PRACTICE 6PM – 8 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	28 SUMMER PROGRAM 12:30 PM TO 4 PM OPEN GYM 8AM - 12PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 9PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM	29 GIRL'S BB PRACTICE 8AM – 10 AM OPEN GYM 10AM - 6PM OPEN W.R. 8AM - 6PM POOL OPEN 1PM - 7PM

FOR ANY INQUIRY (520) 568-1740  
AK-CHIN PARKS AND RECREATION GYMNASIUM  
46753 W FARRELL RD, MARICOPA , AZ 85139  
RECREATION@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

\*W.R. MEANS WEIGHT ROOM



# EMPLOYEE UPDATES



**Aiyana Narcia**  
Deli Clerk, Vekol



**Ashley Manuel**  
Library Clerk



**Eduardo Santiago**  
Program Asst, Parks and Rec



**Estrella Reyes Helpingstine**  
Student Advisor, Education



**Jade Rodriguez**  
Detention, Law and Order



**Maxwell Hernandez**  
Network Systems Tech, IS



**Rebecca Springstroh**  
ECE Program Coordinator, Early Childhood



**Ricardo Manzo**  
Central Plant



## JOB OPENINGS

- Accountant (2)
- Administrative Support Technician - Events
- Child and Family Therapist
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Deli Clerk (2)
- Detention Officer - Certified and Non-Certified
- Gaming Agent
- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Maintenance Technician (4)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer- Certified and Non-Certified
- Security Systems Technician
- Youth Council Coordinator (2)

[www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us)

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.

## Birthdays June 7th - 20th

6/07

Marissa Antone  
Zylen Silas-Antone  
Marco Thompson

6/14

Brenley Hackney  
Amorie Narcia  
Ralph Martinez

6/19

Kellen Hoffman  
Josefa Lewis  
Michelle Smith

6/08

Xadrian Miguel  
Mylauni Antone

6/15

Cecil Miguel Jr.  
Saul Ruelas

6/20

Juanita Balderrama  
Julianna Smith  
Justin Zabawa  
Sayra  
Montero-Zamudio

6/09

Consuelo Alvarez  
Jason Smith

6/16

Daniel Antone  
Manuel Ortega  
Lupe Kaniatobe

6/10

Ashley Vincent  
Holly Kaniatobe  
Marvin Lewis

6/17

Mauktho Sehongva'  
Jose  
Anelia Jacuinde  
Clorenda  
Humeyumptewa  
Raul Ruelas  
Kali Wind

6/11

Alex Bowman  
Joseph Zabawa III  
Benjamin King

6/13

Samuel Justin  
Jeremy Carra  
Richard Villegas

6/18

Shanna Narcia  
Myles Peters



*Happy Birthday!*

## Employee Birthdays 6/7 - 6/20

7th

MARISSA ANTONE,  
Elder Care Worker  
KASHMIR MILLER,  
Comm Supervisor

12th

JESUS ESPINOZA,  
Electrician  
DWAYNE YAZZIE,  
Truancy Officer

8th

HERMALINDA MAVIS,  
Admin Supp Tech

13th

JOHN MCCULLOUGH JR.,  
HR Supervisor

10th

THOMAS HOETZLEIN,  
Paramedic  
GUSTAVO PALOMINO,  
Certified Detention Officer

16th

DANIEL ANTONE,  
Security Sergeant

11th

SAVANNAH BOYD,  
Student Counselor  
SHANNON GLYNN,  
Medic Reserve

20th

MAYRA BANDIN,  
Preschool Teacher  
JUANITA MIGUEL,  
Elder Driver

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

*Wishes*

Happy Birthday Ashley  
Hope your day is AWESOME, just like you!!  
From the Funner Runner team



**PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS**

**AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS & RESIDENTS ONLY**

**FATHER'S DAY Event**

**SATURDAY JUNE 15**  
46753 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139  
09:00am

**AXE THROWING  
CAR SHOW  
BBQ  
TATTOO RAFFLE**

Come & Join us to celebrate the Father's Day with exciting & fun activities

**RSVP HERE**  
<https://forms.gle/FEC3TXDUMIUGPUGX9>

For more information: (520) 568-1740 or [recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us)

**CODE CLUB**

Learn to code to make your own games and programs!

☒ Saturday, June 8th  
☒ 12pm- 2pm  
☒ Ak-Chin Indian Community Library

Open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members & Residents Ages 8- Program Pick Up Available for participants that live in the Ak-Chin Community.

For More Information: Call, email or visit us! 520-568-1675 [library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

Scan To Sign Up

**THIS SUMMER MOVIE CLUB**

**10YRS-18YRS**

CREATE AND STAR IN FILMS AT THE AK-CHIN LIBRARY!

LEARN ABOUT WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES OF FILM MAKING

MAKE YOUR IDEAS COME TO LIFE

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

CALL US: (520) 568-1675  
EMAIL US: [LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US](mailto:LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US)

SIGN-UP

**AK-CHIN COMMUNITY PRESENTS**

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

**10TH JULY, 2024**

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ★ SCHOOL SUPPLIES FAIR
- ★ FUN CARNIVAL GAMES & TREATS
- ★ MUSIC & RAFFLE GIVEAWAY

**STARTS AT**  
**2:00 PM TO 8:00 PM**

46753 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139 From 2 PM to 6 PM

For more information: (520) 568-1740 or [recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us)

**STAY IN THE LOOP THIS SUMMER**

Want to be kept up to date with the Ak-Chin Library? Get notified when we have Summer Programs, events, and more when you sign up to receive text messages from our new Programming Texting Line.

☒ You can scan the QR code  
☒ Or reach us via email  
☒ Or call us

Library@ak-chin.nsn.us

(520)568-1675

**ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY.**

Track your reading on the **beanstack** app

Scan To Sign Up!

Available on the App Store  
Get it on Google Play

\*Prizes and Participation open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, and Employees only.

# Rachael Reed is Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's HERO of the Quarter

(Maricopa, Ariz.—May 15, 2024) Security Manager Rachael Reed has been selected as the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino HERO of the Quarter. The quarterly recognition, hosted by the HERO Committee, celebrates outstanding acts of volunteerism and support by Harrah's Ak-Chin team members.

HERO is Harrah's team member-based volunteer program that enables staff and their families the opportunity to make noteworthy and visible contributions to the community by donating their time, skills, expertise and compassion to dozens of volunteer projects throughout the community.

Each quarter, Harrah's team members as well as community partners are encouraged to nominate Harrah's Ak-Chin employees who deserve special recognition for their outstanding acts of volunteerism and support. The

HERO of the Quarter receives 10,000 Total Return Credits, a special name tag, personal parking space for three months, a letter of appreciation and recognition from the general manager, and submission for a corporate award at the end of the year.

"I nominated Rachael because she has been a vibrant supporter of and volunteer with the United Way of Pinal County for years," said United Way of Pinal County Director of Development & Community Engagement Joseph Caruso. "We truly appreciate all that she does for our organization and the community. Her contributions have and will undoubtedly change lives and make a positive difference for those in need. Congratulations on being selected HERO of the Quarter."

In addition to her work with the United Way of Pinal County, Reed volunteers annually at the Stand Down event for

HHOP (Helping, Hiring, Honoring our Veterans of Pinal County). She is also a charter member of the Salute Veteran Business Impact Group, where she advocates for veterans and their families. Reed has also volunteered for other HERO projects, including participating in Pat's Run for the Pat Tillman Foundation.



Bambi Johnson, Michael Kintner and Barbara Achten congratulate Rachael Reed (2nd from right), HERO of the Quarter.

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

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

## ARROYO GRILLE

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

### JUNE FREE SMOOTHIE

COME IN & CHILL OUT!

Receive a fruit smoothie with purchase of main menu entree. 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 6/30/24.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

## JUNE EVENTS

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

**347 GRILL**  
**FATHER'S DAY**  
**Burger & Brew**  
\$18++ PER PERSON  
Reserve Your Table Today (520) 233-2426

**SUNDAY JUNE 16**  
FATHER'S DAY DRINK SPECIAL \$8 Old Fashion

**MOVIE RELEASES**  
6/02 Muppet Movie 45th Anniversary  
6/07 Bad Boys: Ride or Die  
6/07 The Watchers  
6/14 Inside Out 2  
6/21 The Bikeriders  
6/28 Kinds of Kindness  
\*Movie titles/dates subject to change

**SUMMER MOVIES**  
Every Saturday Evening  
3:00PM - 8:00PM  
Brought to You By

**WINE MONTH**  
Glass \$7  
Bottle \$24

**BOOK YOUR NEXT PARTY**  
on the LUXE  
For more information, contact Bambi at 520-233-2445  
BQuintana@Ak-ChinCircle.com

**CLASSIC MOVIES**  
Week 1: The Godfather  
Week 2: The Godfather Part II  
Week 3: The Godfather Part III  
Week 4: The Godfather  
Week 5: The Godfather Part II  
Week 6: The Godfather Part III  
Week 7: The Godfather  
Week 8: The Godfather Part II  
Week 9: The Godfather Part III  
Week 10: The Godfather  
Week 11: The Godfather Part II  
Week 12: The Godfather Part III

**SUMMER Movie FUN**  
MAY 27 - JULY 19  
Kids Movies Every Monday - Friday at 10AM \$10 For all 8 or \$2 Each Film Daily

Ak-ChinCircle.com /Ak-ChinCircle /akchincircle

30 YEARS OF PLAY

# Harrah's

AK-CHIN CASINO

## JUNE 2024

### CAESARS REWARDS.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>ULTIMATE GRILL GEAR SET GIVEAWAY</b> SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024	<b>HAPPY HOUR</b> WEDNESDAYS   4PM - 10PM	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b> CANTINA NIGHTS				
<b>GIFT CARD SUNDAYS</b>	<b>MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO!</b>	<b>SWISS COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</b>	<b>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WINNING WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG</b>	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b>	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b>
<b>GIFT CARD SUNDAYS</b>	<b>TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB</b>	<b>SWISS COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</b>	<b>WINNING WEDNESDAYS</b> 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WINNING WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b>	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b> ULTIMATE GRILL GEAR SET GIVEAWAY
<b>CHOP BLOCK &amp; BREW</b> GIFT CARD SUNDAYS FATHER'S DAY	<b>REDEEM REWARD CREDITS FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!</b>	<b>SWISS COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</b>	<b>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WINNING WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG</b>	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b>	<b>CANTINA NIGHTS</b>
<b>GIFT CARD SUNDAYS</b>	<b>FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK &amp; X!</b>	<b>SWISS COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</b>	<b>10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER WINNING WEDNESDAYS FOREVER YOUNG</b>	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> 10X EARNING	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> CANTINA NIGHTS WIN YOUR WHEELS 30X EARNING	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> CANTINA NIGHTS WIN YOUR WHEELS GIVEAWAY
<b>\$30,000 KIOSK GAME</b>	<b>WIN YOUR WHEELS!</b> MONTHLY CAR GIVEAWAY	<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024</b> Celebrate our 30th year of play with Car Giveaways on the last Saturday of every month in 2024!			<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE</b> WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS	

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 1-800-522-4709 or 1-800-NEXT-STEP. ©2024 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.

# Preschool Graduation

Photos by Runner Staff



Submitted Photo



## Universal Studios continued from Front

to make this happen and our tribal council has been generous in supporting education in these academic field trips.

We hope that council will approve our next end of the year field trip. We will continue to provide academic field trips for our students in the future.

Students appreciated all of the special memories that they have been able to create by attending these trips.

Our staff wants this for ALL Ak-Chin Students and to help create lifetime memories while achieving their academic goals.

Students were led by dedicated staff and parents as the groups strolled to the entrance but stopped for a picture in front of the Universal Globe.

Within Universal Studios, students saw their favorite

characters, ranging from The Simpsons to Harry Potter; they even got to have a bite with JAWS.

Our students fought alongside the Autobots, raced with the crew from Fast and Furious, flew a broom around Hogwarts and survived the jaw dropping experience in Jurassic World.

Our students were well-behaved throughout the entire trip. They followed all the rules that were given to them by the Education Department and Universal Studios.

For many students a trip to Universal Studios serves as a beacon to motivate students and encourage them to strive for academic excellence.

We would like to recognize all of our students who worked extremely hard from 5th grade to 8th grade.

For the majority of our students this was the first time going to Universal Studios. Seeing Universal Studios through their eyes made the entire trip an AMAZING EXPERIENCE!

We at Education feel blessed to have had a wonderful experience with our students. Keep up the GREAT WORK

Our goal is to take ALL of our students who have release of information on file with a signed "yes".

We greatly appreciate the families, students and community council for allowing us the opportunity to incentivize students with a trip to Universal Studios as well as a \$50 VISA gift card for students to buy a souvenir.

Thank you, Education Team!

## Education Celebration continued from Front

college graduate of nursing school and how hard it was to finish.

"I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Science of Nursing, while being a mother of 5. It was definitely one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life.

I couldn't have done it without the kind encouragement and support that everyone in my life has provided me."

Consuelo also spoke of the self-motivation she had to get her where she wanted to go and all the

different people she met and connected with along the way.

"Every person you meet will have a role in your life, no matter if it is big or small. Some will help you grow; some will hurt you, and some will inspire you to do better.

At the same time, you are playing some role in other people's lives as well. Treat people with significance and know that paths cross for a reason because, 'We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.'"

After the keynote

speakers were done, all graduates in attendance were asked to come forward to receive gifts on behalf of the Education department.

Savannah Boyd, Ak-Chin Student Advisor and Lenny Dempsey, Ak-Chin GED Instructor were on hand to thank and recognize all the students, along with Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel and Nicole.

The Ak-Chin Runner was also set up in the back of the Elements Center to take pics of the grads and their families.

## Class of 2024 continued from Front

Child Development program who graduated sixteen preschoolers that will all soon be going to the big school for kindergarten.

Let's not forget, we also need to congratulate all those who supported

these young students along the way; their parents and families, all teachers and staff at their respective schools and the staff at Ak-Chin Education; tutors, advisors, early childhood teachers, aids and the Ak-Chin

Language program.

It's always good to see so many of our students moving forward; it brings hope and inspiration to our community that our future will always have a brighter tomorrow.

## Awesome! Terrific!! Outstanding!!!



## Congratulations to our Post-Secondary Graduates



Consuelo Alvarez,  
Arizona College of Nursing  
Angel Antone,  
Pima Medical Institute  
Sonya Bencivenga,  
Arizona State University  
Jose Miguel, Jr.,  
Navajo Technical University  
Eliza Santiago,  
Central Arizona College  
Xendryk Silas-Antone,  
Pima Medical Institute  
Stephanie Valdez,  
Grand Canyon University  
Stacy Yarberry, Avalon Institute

## Congratulations to our High School Graduates

### Maricopa High School

Mylauni Antone  
Haedin De Paola  
Alexa Norris  
Nicolas Olivas  
Araya Pena  
Emily Peters  
Taylor Santiago  
Snyder White, Jr.

### Out of District High School

Aiden Antone,  
Primavera Online  
Delayna Antone,  
Coolidge Alternative  
Angelo Luz,  
Elevated High School



David Manuel, Jr., Maricopa Virtual Academy  
Alandra Rivera, Sequoia Pathway Academy  
Jadon Valenzuela, Marcos De Niza High School

# Congratulations Class of 2024

Photos by Gabriel Lopez, Richard Lopez and Runner staff



## Class of 2028 Way to Go!



**Central Arizona College**

**GED Classes**

at the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
Education Building  
Registration opens June 10th

**HOW DO I REGISTER?**

In-person at the  
Ak-Chin Indian Community  
Education Building  
46521 W. Farrell Road  
Maricopa, AZ 85139

OR

Online at  
[centralaz.edu/ged](http://centralaz.edu/ged)

**CLASSES:**

- Start Friday, August 13 2024
- Fridays | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Taught by certified teachers
- In person!
- FREE!

**Contact Us!**  
520-494-5952  
[adult.education@centralaz.edu](mailto:adult.education@centralaz.edu)

## Ak-Chin Scholarship Program

Academic Year 2024 - 2025  
APPLICATION DEADLINES

Spring 2025 Semester November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Summer 2025 Semester April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Fall 2024 Semester July 1st	OPEN ENTRY/ OPEN EXIT Technical Programs 2-months prior to start date
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**Application Requirements**

- Be an enrolled Ak-Chin Indian Community member
- Must have a high school diploma or GED Certificate
- Must be officially accepted at 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)



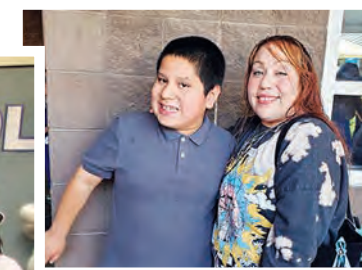
# Way to Go!

Photos submitted and by Runner Staff

## Kindergarten Graduation



## 5th Grade Promotion



## Shout Outs



**Congratulations Dante,**  
You make me very proud every day, we did it and you and I will do it again for High School.

**Congratulations Buddy (Adrian Pico)** I am so very proud of you and all your hard work to finish your year off strong. Keep up the hard work and always strive to be a better you. I am excited to see you grow throughout your years to come in high school. I will always be your #1 fan. I love you. Love, Mom.



**Congratulations Marley, Marley Contreras** promoted to 6th grade from Saddleback Elementary. She has been at Saddleback since kindergarten!

**Angel Madeline Antone** 2024 Graduate of Pima Medical Institute Medical Assistant Job offered at Gila River Healthcare Congratulations on your new chapter in life.  
Love Mom and the Family



**CONGRATULATIONS BUTTERS!!!**  
We just want to let you know how very proud of you we are. You have been through things in your young life that not very many

people have. We've enjoyed watching you grow into the gentle young man you are. There's nothing you can't accomplish; we will be behind you every step of the way. We LOVE you, Dad & Mom



## Shout Outs to Mateo and Antonio Rodriguez

Submitted by Jenna Boehm



**Mateo Rodriguez**  
7th Grade, Maricopa Legacy Traditional School

Mateo was an artist selected to represent the 7th grade class for Maricopa and his artwork titled "Hombre Corriendo" was featured in the Legacy Traditional Regional Art Show. Mateo is an abstract artist who also has another piece featured at the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum.

**Antonio Rodriguez**  
9th Grade, Maricopa High School

Antonio Rodriguez, newly elected Vice President of Leadership for the Maricopa High School DECA program, was awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year award at DECA's end of year banquet.

He has had great success with his cake pop business, Hard Rock Cafe, which continues to be a hit at Maricopa High School Market Days. He has also made appearances selling at Ak-Chin community events and is now getting requests for personal orders.

With the success of his new business, he has grown to include a new Hard Rock Bakery logo as well, courtesy of local artist and Warrior's softball team frontman, Waylon Antone.

Antonio hopes to experiment more with new flavors and next year expand on bakery items beyond cake pops.

