Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXIX, Issue 16

August 15 - September 4, 2025



Rufus White of Public Works maneuvers an Excavator to clear out debris and other trash from Vekol Wash as the Vekol Wash Project moves forward.

Vekol Wash Project **Moves Forward After** Years of Planning and **Approvals**

Submitted by Environmental Programs, with contribution from Robert Miguel

years coordination, negotiations, and careful planning, the Ak-Chin Indian Community is proud to announce the official launch long-awaited of its Wash maintenance and restoration project.

important environmental and infrastructure effort reflects the Community's proactive approach to managing its lands and protecting its people from ongoing flooding and water management

A Long Road **Approval**

The journey began with numerous meetings and negotiations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE). A major milestone was reached on August 8, 2023, when the Nationwide Pre-Construction Notification

Permit was formally Vekol Wash continues to Page 6

of submitted to the Phoenix US ACE office.

> Less than a month later, on August 29, 2023, the permit was signed and approved.

However, before work begin, could Archaeological Survey was required.

The Environmental Programs quickly moved into action, developing and advertising a request for proposals to conduct the survey.

Following months of contract negotiations and scheduling adjustments, the survey was completed in just two weeks, with an additional two weeks to finalize the report.

Once the report was approved and all internal clearances were obtained, the project officially broke ground on July 16,

2025.

Initially, work scheduled for Mondays only and targeted a quarter-mile at a time.

As the project progressed and capacity grew, the schedule expanded to three days a week, enabling faster progress.

Regular update meetings are held to address challenges and ensure the project stays on track.

Taking Initiative: Sanitation Leads the

Rather than waiting for federal approval and funding—which could have taken years—the Community chose to move forward under a local solution: Ak-Chin Sanitation would lead the project directly by utilizing their equipment and manpower. This decision allowed work to begin sooner, giving the

Caution requested **Mountain Lion Spotted** in Community

Story by R. Miguel, photos submitted

Out looking for a loose donkey in the community seemed an easy task for Ak-Chin's Ranger Harry Grizzle, locate and make arrangements to take animal back to the corral where it was contained, basic right?

That seemed to be the case, until Grizzle ran into Ak-Chin Public Works Director, Delbert White about three weeks ago just north of the cemetery.

"Delbert stopped me and said that he saw what might have seemed to be a bobcat, but later determined that it might be a mountain lion instead," Grizzle said.

"He told me that it was about 5 minutes ago that he came across it, so I immediately went looking for it."

A mountain lion roaming the community? Highly unlikely to see a lion, but a bobcat and any other critters, yes.

So, this was obviously of interest to investigate, as Grizzle had prior heard of bobcats encroaching into the community, but now it may have been a mountain lion all along.

During his investigation, Grizzle determined that the animal was definitely a mountain lion that White had seen.

Following a trail that he thought the mountain lion would take, Ranger Grizzle found himself in the wetlands area and

encountered some visible footprint impressions similar to those of a mountain lion.

Entering a congested shrub area near the tracks, Grizzle quickly realized that what he heard "hissing" at him very loudly, was that of a mountain lion. He immediately backed away and returned to safety.

That was the last encounter he had with the animal. Although he only heard and didn't get a visual, his experience growing up around animals, which have included mountain lions, helped him confidently determine that it was a

Grizzle's familiarity with the sounds and features of a mountain lion stems

from growing up around the animals, as his family currently works with wildlife, in particular as Wild Life Wardens in the Table Top Mountain

In previous conversations with a couple of elders, Grizzle mentioned that they shared sightings of bobcats, but now it might have been the mountain lion.

Questions have arisen about what can be done if encountering a bobcat, lion, javelin, or badger? Yes, badgers are even roaming the pastures in the community.

"Are we allowed to shoot them?" "Are they protected animals?"

Grizzle has heard these questions; he doesn't know what to tell them



A bobcat was spotted in the wetlands of the community. The cat was one of a handful that have made the community their home.

Mountain Lion continues to Page 5

First Day of Preschool

Story and photos by

Robert Miguel

For about fifty-five preschool students, entering school at the Ak-Chin Child Development Program on Monday, August 11th, was full excitement of enthusiasm, beginning their young career as a student, while looking forward to making new friends in the classroom and meeting their new teacher.

For a couple of the new attendees, it was a bit of uncertainty, figuring out what to do, who to play with and how to follow instructions.

Preschool continues to Page 7



Bella Valenzuela's shirt says it all!

From I-r: Keith Harper, Legal Counsel, Ak-Chin Council members Dennis and Lisa Garcia, Debra Ward Lund, CEO-PIMC, Stephanie Aird, Deputy CEO-PIMC, Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Council member Cecil Peters. Special Community Meeting

Story by Raychel Peters, photo by Kristen Villegas Monday, August 2025 - Ak-Chin Indian Community Council along with representatives Indian Health Services (IHS), Phoenix

Indian Medical Center Karen (PIMC) held a Special Community Meeting for Director and Connie all Ak-Chin Membership at Ak-Chin Circle, in Referred Care Manager Theater #2.

Fierro, Chin Self-Governance Miguel, Purchase were also in attendance,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE PAGE 2 Elder News PAGE 4 Back to School Book Bash **PAGE 3 Community News** PAGE 9 Announcements



Staff with Phoenix Indian Medical Center set up stations to assist during the Enrollment Fair held at the Elder Center on Tuesday, August 12.

outside legal counsel, Keith Harper, who is an attorney with Jenner and Block.

meeting began with a prayer from Councilmember Lisa followed by Garcia, Chairman Gabriel Lopez, who introduced attendance, all in before addressing the membership in regards to the changes in healthcare for the community.

Chairman Lopez outlined summary of the relationship and history between Gila River Indian Community and Ak-Chin, in regards to healthcare needs and Indian Health Services.

Debra Ward Lund, Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Indian Medical Center was on hand, along with Stephanie Aird, Deputy CEO to provide an overview of Indian Health Care and an opportunity for community members to ask about clinic care that will soon be supported

through PIMC beginning October 2025.

Member's questions focused job on: announcements and staffing for new clinic, clinic expansion, PIMC partnerships, specialty healthcare, referrals and insurance coverage.

In addition

Special Meeting, two Community Patient Enrollment Fairs were set up to assist members who are not currently enrolled through PIMC or those who are enrolled and need to provide update information.

Patient Enrollment Fair was held on Tuesday, August 12, at the Elder Center for Elders wishing to enroll or update their records with PIMC.

The first Community

During the Fair stations were set up for registration, and services, representatives PIMC; to assist with medical records, answer

questions on referrals and pharmacy.

In

the

to

representatives from Angel Home Healthcare were in attendance to answer questions on their services. There were about a dozen

elders who were at the

Enrollment Fair. Some

were prepared to register

with PIMC at that time.

Others decided to wait, as

addition,

they addressed concerns with pharmacy pick-up and delivery, referrals and transportation. Another Community Patient Enrollment Fair is scheduled for Monday, August 18, for all Ak-

Chin Members.

1pm to 6pm.

Enrollment Fair

be held at the Ak-Chin

Recreation Facility, from

For more information, please contact Ak-Chin Purchase Referred Care 520-568-1088, from Phoenix Indian Medical Center at 602-263-1200.

Desert Belle Cruise at Saguaro Lake



Would you like to go on a cruise at Saguaro Lake? We certainly hope so!

We are planning a day trip to the beautiful Saguaro Lake on the Desert Belle Cruise Boat.

This trip is perfect for those looking for a little getaway for the day.

The cruise will last approximately 80 minutes, offering stunning views of beautiful canyons, cliffs, and exotic wildlife.

September 4, 2025

Departure: 7:00 AM

Return: 4:00 PM

If you're interested, please call the Elder Center to sign up. The deadline to sign up is August 20th, 2025.

questions, call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760.

If you have

We hope you can join us on this adventure! The more, the merrier!

Elder Estate Planning Presentation



On August 7, Ak-Chin Elders met with Attorney Nolan Reidhead to learn about Estate Planning.

Nolan provided a firm presentation of documents needed for Estate Planning, such as Healthcare Power of Attorney, Financial Power of Attorney, Living Will and Last Will and Testament.

The information Nolan provided was invaluable, it gave Elders some peace of mind and options for their end of life planning, care and final wishes.

ELDER ESTATE PLANNING MEETINGS

Attorney Nolan Reidhead will return to the Elder Center on August 21st and 22nd to assist elders with creating new wills and updating their current ones. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the attorney, please call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760. We will add you to the list.

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY MONDAY **TUESDAY FRIDAY**

* Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM

* Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM

* For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760

8/19

8/26

Cheese

Grilled Chicken

Cream of Wheat, Boiled

Butternut Squash Soup

& Romaine Salad, Whole

Wheat/White Rolls, Jell-O

Tex-Mex Scrambled Salsa

Beans, Fruit with Cottage

& Sour Cream, Refried

Sandwich, Green Leaf/

Tomato, Acorn Squash/

Avocado, Ambrosia Salad

Eggs, Toast/Fruit

* Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760

* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM - 10 AM

8/21

Scrambled Eggs,

Bacon/Fruit Salad

Turkey Over Mashed

Beans, Whole Wheat/

Elder Estate Planning

White Rolls, Plums

Potatoes & Gravy, Green

Hashbrown Casserole,

8/15

Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast/Fruit

Potato Soup & Salad, Crackers, Apple Sauce 8/22

Potatoes with Chorizo,

Refried Beans, Tortilla

Northern Beans, Chicken

Dumpling (D), Normandy

Vegetables, Moon Bread,

Elder Estate Planning

Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits/ Fruit

8/18

Hobby Lobby Craft Shopping Trip & Lunch, Leaving @ 9am

Tuna or Chicken Sandwich, **Tomato/Cucumber with Cottage Cheese, Fruit Salad**

8/25 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, **Toast/Fruit**

Angel Home Health Presentation w/Erin

Ham Macaroni & Cheese, Brown Rice, Peas,

Kariuki 12 Noon

Mandarin Oranges LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

CENTER CLOSED

9/2 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Toast, Fruit Salad

Ground Beef Burrito, w/ Zucchini, Corn on Cob, Tropical Fruit

8/27

8/20

Yogurt

Movie Day

Veggie Omelet,

Hashbrown, Fruit Salad,

Carne Asada Tacos, Rice,

Beans, Ice-Cream

Spam & Eggs Potatoes Toast Fruit Split Peas, Ground Beef

w/Mixed Vegetable, Cauliflower, Whole Wheat/White Rolls. Peaches w/Cottage Cheese

Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs,

Toast, Fried Apples

w/Nolan Reidhead 8/28 Breakfast Sandwich,

Red Chili Stew, Pinto Beans, Potato Salad, Pineapple

Chumath, Watermelon/

w/Nolan Reidhead 8/29 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Hashbrown, Fruit & Yogurt

9/5

Fruit

Grapes

Eggs, Toast, Fruit Sandwich Bar, Pasta Salad,

Chips, Jell-O

MOVIE DAY

9/3

Bean or Chicken Tostadas, Brown Rice, Carrots, Pudding

Chorizo & Eggs, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit &

9/4

Yogurt Elder Day Trip - Desert

Belle Cruise on Saguaro Lake, Leaving at 7 am

Cole Slaw, Baked Beans,

Apple/Orange

Bar-B-Que Shredded Pork,

Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit with **Cottage Cheese**

Cheese Quesadilla, Avocado, Mandarin **Oranges**

Chicken Tortilla Soup,

(MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)



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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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The Ak-Chin O'odham Runner is published on the first and third Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted).

RAFFLE

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

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

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. If you have suggestions or comments about "YOUR" newspaper, please let the Runner Statt 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

2025 Subscription rate is \$43.00. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$43.00 check/money order to: Ak-Chin O'odham Runner 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Arizona 85138

Make check/money order payable to:

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE Don't forget the DEADLINE for the September 5 - 18, 2025

issue is due by FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH

Material submitted after the

<u>AUGUST 29TH DEADLINE</u> cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in

the next issue.



MAKE A SPLASH IN THE POOL,

TRADE POKEMON CARDS,

ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD, AND UNWIND WITH A MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

SATURDAY AUGUST 30, 2025 7:00PM

Open to Public and Ak-chin Residents at Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation

POPCORN AND

SNOWCONE

ATTENTION

Desert Willow Tenants

If you have not picked up your mailbox key, please come to the Housing Department.

We have them here.

July 28 Community Meeting



At left, Ak-Chin Chairman Delia Carlyle and Council member Lisa Garcia lead the July Community Meeting.

Ak-Chin Community Meeting for July 28, was held at Ak-Chin Circle, Movie Theater #2.

The 6pm meeting, began with a prayer offered by Ak-Chin Community Elder, Yolanda Miranda.

Ak-Chin Vice-Chairman Delia Carlyle and Councilmember Lisa Garcia were present to provide Council updates, updates included: work sessions with Ak-Chin departments and entities, Economic Development Review Committee, Meetings with Indian Health Services, Phoenix Indian Medical Center Ak-Chin Elders and Youth Council, Medicare programs, Tribal ID cards, Rental Assistance Program, General Assistance, eyeglasses and hearing aid requests, Fee-to-Trust properties, mountain lion spotting and other wild animals, Tribal ID cards, REAL ID history and relationships.

Council also provided updates on; dialysis building, new homes and apartment complex, Elder center, warehouse data center and wellness center, and upcoming community events.

Once the Council Updates were completed, a Member Q&A began, with questions/concerns on the following items: Elder Center menus and trips, water rights, water and energy conservation and Arizona drought concerns, economic impacts; grant funding and tribal gaming (poison pill) concerns, burn permits, housing concerns; a/c replacements, maintenance concerns, work orders and hours of operation.

After the Q&A everyone was invited to take home the popcorn, soda and Native Vote bags that were left, before the raffle was held.

The next Community Meeting is cards, San Lucy presentation on scheduled for Monday, August 25, time and location TBD.



Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following case at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at the Justice Center Conference Room.

CASE: SD-06-25 Southern Dunes Golf Club Clubhouse and Ancillary Facilities Expansion **Project-Parking Lot**

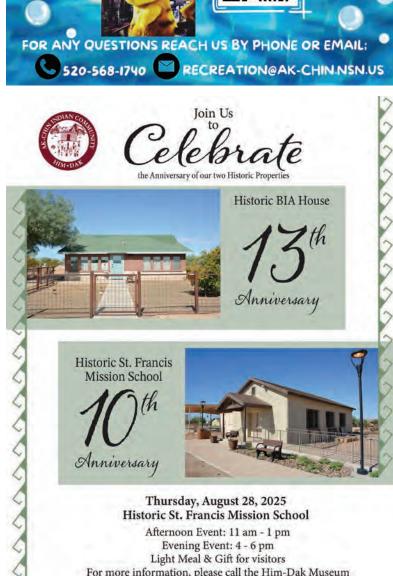
Project Applicant/Southern Dunes Golf Club General Manager, Brady Wilson is requesting Site Development Plan Permit approval to expand and renovate the Clubhouse and Ancillary Facilities of the Southern Dunes Golf Course. The project consists of:

- · Rerouting utilities; and
- Expansion of the parking lot with a total of 287 parking spaces which includes seven (7) ADA and two (2) van accessible parking lots; and
- Full landscape.

CASE: PS-05-25 Southern Dunes Golf Club Clubhouse and Ancillary Facilities Expansion Project-Clubhouse, Cart Barn, and Halfway House

Project Applicant/Southern Dunes Golf Club General Manager, Brady Wilson is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to expand and renovate the Clubhouse and Ancillary Facilities of the Southern Dunes Golf Course. The project consists of:

- Expansion of the Clubhouse to include an expanded food hall and event space; and
- Cart Barn with additional storage, employee restrooms, and work area; and
- Halfway House with air-conditioned restrooms and a Market offering grab-n-go foods, and water station.



For more information, please call the Him-Dak Museum at (520) 568-1350



Renee Boehm gives a supportive "thumbs-up" during her Physical Mobility & Mechanics Class on July 31st.

PHYSICAL MOBILITY € **MECHANICS CLASS**

AK-CHIN RECREATION CENTER THURSDAY EVENINGS @ 6PM - 7PM SCHEDULED CLASSES - 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, & 9/18

Struggling with tight hips, sore knees, aching feet, or a stiff back? If you walk, stand, train, ride, work, or just exist - this class is for you.

Whether you're new to movement or already training for a sport, event, or personal fitness goal, your mobility is the foundation. Without it, every step forward is harder than it has to be.

This weekly class will help you:

- · Understand how your body is designed to move · Unlock tight joints and improve total-body range of motion
- · Strengthen the movement patterns behind real-life actions Boost athletic performance in your current training
- Reduce discomfort and risk of injury from poor mechanics
- Build intensity that's scaled to your current ability

This is not just "stretching". This is essential training for anyone who wants to: Run faster, move freely, train harder, stand longer, and age stronger! Led by Renee Boehm, B.S. Kinesiology | ACSM-Certified Personal Trainer

Former Ak-Chin Firefighter and Paramedic | U.S. Air Force Training Program Manager Trainer at Lifetime Fitness & EOS Fitness | Over 7 years experience with all levels Open to all physical levels! Intensity is relative. Commitment is key.

CLASSES OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES. OUESTIONS? PLEASE REACH OUT TO AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1085

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK BASH







DON'T DELAY - sign them up today!



ensure they have access to wellness

visits and other services.

For more information, contact your Indian health care provider, visit InsureKidsNow.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596.



Story and photos by Ashley Vincent

Attendees of the Book Bash share smiles and fun with one another to end Summer reading.



The Ak-Chin Library hosted a "Back to School Book Bash" on Thursday, July 31st to celebrate the end of their "Color Our World" summer reading.

The event was open to all in the community; attendees were able to enjoy a number of different activities with games like Bingo, as well as some delicious food, which included an ice cream bar with a variety of toppings to chose from.

The event was a success, everyone left with a handful of goodies from winning games and cool swag that was being given away, all the children left with big smiles from ear to ear.

Storytime with Mrs. Linda

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Books provide more than a story; they can offer information of all forms that make learning better.

Whatever interest you have, there is more than likely a book for the topic and if you love to escape with the imaginative makings of a great author there is a limitless supply of books out there.

The Ak-Chin Library works to provide a variety of reading related activities for your kids; Storytime with Mrs. Linda is one that is not to be missed.

Every Storytime, Mrs. Linda and other library staff choose a book to share with a group; not only is this great for kids, parents themselves may find enjoyment from the session.

If you'd like to attend one of these Storytimes,



they have sessions on Wednesdays at 10 AM and the library staff asks for a parent/guardian's presence when children

attend.

For more information on Library activities contact them at 520-568-1675.

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# Flower Wreath Making Back in Session

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



All Souls Day is around the corner, which means the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum is hosting their flower making classes for all Ak-Chin Members and Residents on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm.

This class has been around for a long time, bringing together many people who love crafting. These wreaths are given to our relatives that are at rest in the cemetery; what better way to show your love by making them a beautiful wreath?

If you are interested in making one of these colorful flower wreaths or you're curious about other programs the Him-Dak Museum has, please reach out to them at 520-568-1350.







Ak-Chin Fire Fighter relocate one of the bigger rattlesnakes found in the community. because the community's

ordinance is vague and has no verbiage on whether these animals are protected; and is only practiced on how to observe and handle

At this time, Grizzle only deals with issues and/ or problems with what is written in the current ordinance.

Many of the most recent encounters have unfortunately come due to natural resources, such as food and water becoming limited and scarce within the areas these animals normally

roam.

to come to uncharted areas, where they know these resources will be available, is within the residential areas of the community.

Carlo Moreno

It is important to be aware and be cautious when these animal encounters present themselves.

The following tips and tricks are for mountain lion encounters:

• Mountain Lions are

- the top predator in this
- They do not fear humans • Do not approach a lion
- Do not run from a lion
- Do all you can to

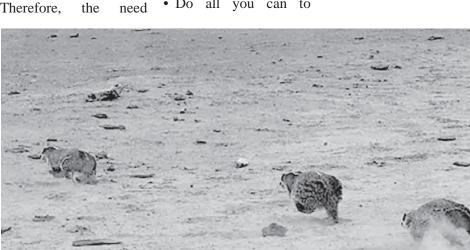
appear larger

• Fight back if attacked

helped capture and

- Keep children close to
- Do not trigger a chase response and stand your ground
- Do not keep food or water outside for a long period of time, especially at night
- If you are walking or running, do not go alone

Any sightings of a mountain lion, other wild animal in the community, please contact Ak-Chin Ranger, Harry Grizzle at 520-568-1220.





QUESTIONS? CONTACT AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION @

(520) 568-1085 OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

# **MUSD SCHOOL NEWS**

Elementary School Maricopa Curriculum **Night** Having 5:00 pm 6:30 pm on August to

Jostens Will Be Having A Parent Night For Seniors To Try On And Look At The Graduation Items that Include Caps And Gowns, Rings, etc. The Event Is August 19, 2025 From 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Maricopa High School.

### AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY ONE (1) VACANCY FOR THE AK-CHIN **HOUSING BOARD**

### VACANCY OPEN TO AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY

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

### The Ak-Chin Housing Board:

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

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

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

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

Deadline for letters of Interest is Monday, August 25, 2025 by 5:00pm.



## **AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY** ONE (1) VACANCY OPEN FOR THE AK-CHIN **ENERGY SERVICES (ACES) BOARD**

Open to Ak-Chin Community Members only

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

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE AK-CHIN ENERGY SERVICES:**

- 1. Regulates and oversees all areas of power and electric utility sources and services of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
- 2. To acquire, maintain and expand electric utility services within the community.
- 3. To study and investigate the feasibility of acquiring, operating, and maintaining other electric utility service within the community.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The Community Council is looking for individuals with the following qualifications:

- 1. Must have the ability and willingness to learn and understand the Electric Power Industry.
- 2. Experience working in a business environment and the ability to learn and understand business practices is preferred, but not required.
- 3. Must have sufficient education and/or experience to make sound
- 4. Must be able to attend board meetings and functions at various scheduled times and at least on a quarterly basis.
- 5. All community members who apply must provide written authorization from their immediate Supervisors allowing them to serve on the board.
- 6. All applicants must Possess a valid driver's license.

**Ak-Chin Community Council ATTN: Victoria Smith** 42507 W. Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, AZ 85138

Please send all letters of interest Attn:

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



Deadline for all letters of interest is August 25, 2025 at 5:00pm



Prior to the start of the Vekol Wash Project, the wash was full of debris and shrub which caused flooding that breached areas, damaging fields.

and manpower. This decision allowed work to begin sooner, giving the Community more control over the pace and scope of cleanup efforts.

### Legal Changes Open the Door to Expanded Work

Originally, the approved permit limited work to 200 feet before and after each road crossing in the washes. However, recent Supreme Court decision changed jurisdictional authority, meaning the Community's washes are no longer under the direct oversight of US

This ruling has empowered the Community to clean and restore the entire length of the washes, rather than being restricted to isolated sections.

ACE.

Today, work is closely overseen the Sanitation Cultural Director,

Supervisor, Resources Environmental Protection Manager, ensuring a culturally sensitive environmentally responsible approach.

### What's Next? Timeline and Future Plans

exact While the completion date of the Vekol Wash Project is still uncertain, the team estimates it will take 6 to 9 months.

Once completed, the results will help guide future efforts in other washes, including Smith Wash, which is expected to be next in line. Then Santa Rosa and then Santa Cruz, in that order.

Overall, the Community plans to clean and maintain 20 to 25 miles of washes that intersect the Ak-Chin lands.

### **Funding and Future** Maintenance

Contrary to assumptions, the Vekol to engineer long-term

Wash Project is not funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Instead, it is supported by both Community funding and a Clean Water Act (CWA) 319 grant from the U.S. **Environmental Protection** Agency (US EPA).

Moving forward, the Community intends to maintain the washes on annual basis. **Environmental Programs** is currently exploring new grant opportunities to establish a dedicated maintenance crew for ongoing work.

The long-term goal is to address a much larger issue: these washes were never engineered to handle today's volume of water flow, particularly with increasing development around and within the Community. Discussions with legislators common US ACE are ongoing



AnafterphotoofVekolwashtodayfollowingclearancewithheavyequipment from Ak-Chin's Public Works and Environmental Protection Agency.

solutions, including reconfiguring the depth and width of the washes to better withstand major water events.

Success

This project stands as a testament to the Ak-Chin Indian Community's dedication to sovereignty, en viron mental stewardship, and the **A Community-Driven** safety of its people.

Thanks local leadership, strategic partnerships, and a strong vision for the future, the Community is building resilience and sustainability for generations to come.



Crew from Public Works plow the grader and dozer down Vekol Wash, clearing out debris and smoothing out the area. The Vekol Project will allow a smoother water flow when monsoon season hits the community.

# **Ak-Chin Community Participates in USEPA RTOC** Meeting in San Francisco

Submitted by Ak-Chin Environmental Programs with contributions from Robert Miguel



At left, Roman Orona, Ak-Chin Environmental Programs Manager, joins photo as Regional Administrator Josh F.W. Cook presents an award to the Yurok Tribe for Treatment As a Sovereign (State) for Water.

Representatives from Ak-Chin the Indian Community's Environmental Programs fellow Tribal joined leaders, environmental staff, and federal officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Region Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meeting, held June 27–30 in San

The quarterly RTOC meeting brought together over 100 participants from across Region 9, which includes Arizona, California, Nevada, and

Francisco.

Tribal nations throughout the Pacific Islands. The this focus of centered session on

> justice, infrastructure

environmental

federal

funding, and fostering Tribal-federal stronger partnerships.

The meeting actively engaged in the Tribal Caucus (Tribes only) discussions, general caucus discussions (Tribes and USEPA), workgroup discussions and breakout sessions.

Topics included; water quality programs and funding, air monitoring repeals, waste management, and capacity-building for Tribes.

One of the highlights of the conference was a roundtable with USEPA senior leadership, where Tribal Council and representatives voiced concerns and shared

priorities. Ak-Chin Vice-

Chairman advocated for increased technical assistance, water quality, and long-term funding for environmental programs.

"We need flexible and sustainable funding to build local capacity and protect the Community's lands and water for future generations," said one representative during the session.

The RTOC continues to be an important platform for the Ak-Chin Community to contribute to shaping federal policy ensuring Tribal voices are heard in environmental decisionmaking.

2025 hosted by the Salt

River Pima Maricopa

Indian Community.

The next RTOC meeting is scheduled for October





we have the following for sale: Dell Laptops - \$50

Monitors - \$10

### DISCLAIMER: COMPUTER SOLD AS IS

Preschool continued from Front

Overall, the first day of preschool was deemed a success as there were plenty of smiles throughout the building.

For the 50 plus students, school begins at 8:30 am and ends at 2:00 pm. Ak-Chin's school is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

closed is Wednesdays for teacher prep duties and sanitizing the classrooms.

Currently there are four classrooms utilized for instruction, two for the three-year-old students and two are dedicated for four-year-old students.

The Ak-Chin Child Development Program provides; a Quality Early Education Experience, Social skills,

developmental services, kindergarten readiness (numbers, letters, colors, pre-reading and prewriting), field trips and fun activities throughout

Transportation provided if needed within the community, with three mini bus routes set to pick up Ak-Chin resident-only students.



Staff and children from the Ak-Chin Recreation Department attend the Arizona Cardinals preseason football game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

# **Are You Ready For Some Football!**

Story by Robert Miguel and photo by Kathleen Miguel

Following a successful Spring Flag Football the Ak-Chin season, Recreation Department entertained thirty young athletes who participated in the program, to the first Arizona Cardinals Pre-Season football game of 2025.

Cardinals Donning gear, the young athletes were excited to see professionals take to the field at Cardinals Stadium

For many of the group, it was their first time watching a National Football League (NFL) game live in person and the first time to State Farm, and what a great game to attend as the Cardinals and Kansas City Chiefs went to battle.

The kids were excited to see the likes of Arizona's Kyle Murray, Marvin Harrison Jr., Trey McBride and James Connor get in repetitions (reps) if only for just two series.

Although, it was a pro Cardinals crowd attendance, many others were there to see the dynasty of a team in the Chiefs, who have won back-to-back Super Bowls just recently, but also have two of the game's greatest in superstars; Travis Kelce and Patrick Mahomes.

Both, Kelce and Mahomes were limited in playing time as the two played in the first series. Of course, with the Chief's Kelce in the stadium, the expectation of a Taylor Swift sighting was on the lookout for many.

The game was exciting early on, especially for Chiefs' fans as they were able to score on the first drive of their series in the first quarter for a 7-0 lead.

Following a field goal from

the Cardinals, the Chiefs scored another touchdown for a 14-3 in the second quarter. The Chiefs lead quickly vanished Arizona was able to score two touchdowns before halftime, for a 17-14 lead.

Kansas City kicked a field goal in the third quarter to knot the score at 17 apiece going into the fourth quarter.

The Cardinals added a field goal in the fourth to close out the game's scoring and an Arizona victory, 20-17.

The group from the community were able to travel back home excited, not only because they just witnessed a Cardinals' win, but because for some, it was the first time attending a professional football game and the first time being in one of the most recognized stadiums (State Farm) in the NFL.



Espinoza around the playground during first day



Oscar Blackwater (red shirt) pushes his new

## Retraction

In the last issue of the Ak-O'Odham Runner #15, mistakenly identified Leoandro Antone as Eric Antone.

Our apologies Leoandro jersey) (black Antone we wish him the best as he continues to pursue his basketball journey during his young career.

Thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention. The Runner prides itself on providing accurate and reliable information for its readership.





# CAP is FOUNDATIONAL to ARIZONA

Central Arizona Project supplies Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona and delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.

YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

Learn more at KnowYourWaterNews.com



# Domestic Violence Is Never Okay

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.

Call or Text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

Chat Online www.strongheartshelpline.org

Safe | Confidential | Anonymous | 24/7

This advertisement was produced by StrongHearts Native Helpline with Grant No 15POVC-23-GK-01582-TVAG, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this ad are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



### **CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:**

- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Detention Officer Certified (part-
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Security Systems Technician
- Substance Abuse Therapist

### Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Museum Technician (2)
- Oral Historian

### www.ak-chin.nsn.us

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

## **Employee Birthdays** 8/1 - 9/4

Rudy Aguirre

8/17

Chaning Hoffman

8/20

Vivian Ly IS

8/21

**Daniel Mercado** 

IS Dale Vance

Fire

8/23 Dorissa Garcia

Enrollment **Brandy Nelson EPD** 

8/24

Bernice Kaisem Police

8/26 Lorenzo Holcomb Detention

Miranda Whitfield Housing

8/27

**Blanca Briones** 

HR

**Gary Carr** Maintenance Rogelio Anguamea

TGA Wilson Antone Library

**Fire** 

**Darren Peters** 

8/30 Samuel Atrawi

Police

Candi Chavez Sanitation

**Christopher Johnson** IS

9/1

Barbara Hawkins Fire

Vanessa Soliz Enrollment

9/2

Erica Aguilar Police

Jennifer Smith

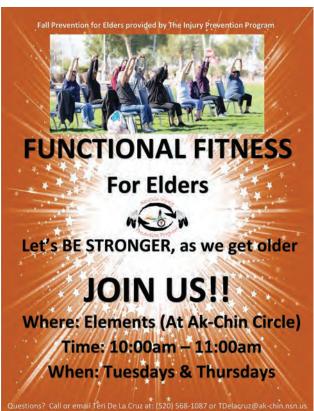
9/3

Michelle Justin Custodial

9/4

Tommy Jensen Central Plant Bianka Mata Cultural







**2025 Transit Schedule Changes** 

## **NO TRANSIT SERVICES**

Labor Day, Monday, September 1st Native American Day, Friday, September 26th

Please make alternate arrangements for transportation on these dates. Thank you!!



You're invited to our BOOK CLUB🚐

Join us for Book Club! We're reading "Where They Last Saw Her"

by Marcie Rendon. contact the Ak-Chin library to sign up!

MUSIC CLASE

Saturday

10 a.m

August 16th

Our first meeting is

Friday, August 15th

from 5pm-6pm

Call: (520) 568-1675

Email: Library@ak-chin.nsn.us

DogDay recommends

For Sign-up or Any Questions Contact the Library

(520)568-1675

"Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children"

by Ransom Riggs

Pusheen recommends

"Noodle & Bao" by Shaina Lu

# WIGHEG

Happiest 14th Birthday to my last boy "King-Kong" Let's go have some fun and get whatever you want. We can have f<del>un after schoo</del>l. Love you, Morn and brothers

Happy Birthday to my grandsons, Joseph, Juan, Mi<mark>chae</mark>l Jr., Oarren and Stewart and granddaughters; Michelle and Velila Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday "O" Hope you have a great OEVIL-OOG Birthday! Love your family

Happy Birthday to our Godsons Johnny and Frankie Have fun, enjoy your day and stay safe!

Love Goddaddy and Godmama

Happy Birthday Nancy! Love your family

**Daniel Pablo** 

### **AUGUST 16**

**Brandon Dean** Virginia Mejia **David Oliver** Virginia Thomas Christopher Vincent **Lashey White** Joseph R. Zabawa

### **AUGUST 17**

**Chaning Hoffman Jasper Justin** Johnathan Narcia Johnny Perkins

### **AUGUST 18** Juan Lopez

**AUGUST 19** 

#### Jasmine Kaniatobe Lisa Miller

Amanda Narcia Anthony Narcia Sr. Owen Santiago **Delora Vincent** 

**AUGUST 21** Doria Garcia **Sharon Pablo** 

Nancy Carlyle **Reginald Delores** Jonathan Justin Cruz Machado **Lorice Manuel** 

#### **AUGUST 23** Dorissa Garcia

Michelle Narcia

Jacoby Warren **AUGUST 24** 

### Jeffrey Manuel

Michael Peters Jr. **AUGUST 25** 

### Janaya Lopez

**AUGUST 26** 

### **Denise Lewis**

Senia Santiago **AUGUST 28 Eleanor Anderson** 

Wilson Antone **Darren Peters Stewart Peters** Stacey F. Smith Delila Villegas Jacob Vincent Jr.

### Frankie Carlyle

**AUGUST 29** 

### Emmeline Montero -

Zamudio

#### **AUGUST 30 Arnulfo Bandin III**

Candi Chavez **Amiyah DeLeon** Joseph Navarrette Jr. **Amare Santiago** 

#### **AUGUST 31** Misty Quintero

Azalyana White **SEPTEMBER 1** 

#### John Batopis Vanessa Soliz

**Daniel Chavez SEPTEMBER 2** 

#### Bernadette White Jocelyn Antone

Jennifer Smith **SEPTEMBER 3** 

#### Theresa B. Ormsby Michelle Justin Kyla Narcia

**SEPTEMBER 4** Bianka Stephens

Tommy Jensen

Amirah Joaquin

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



Chin members, residents and

employees

Minors under 16 must be

accompanied by an adult over 18.

| SUN   | MON                                                                | TUE          | WED                                              | THU                             | FRI                                 | SAT                                   |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WE'RE | N US FOR BOOK<br>READING "WHER<br>HER" BY MARCIE<br>CT THE LIBRARY | RE THEY LAST | LAST SAW HER                                     |                                 | L                                   | 2<br>Create with<br>Cricut<br>1-3pm   |
| 3     | 4                                                                  | 5            | 6<br>StoryTime<br>@10am                          | Purple<br>Heart Day             | 8                                   | 9<br>Book Lovers                      |
| 10    | 11                                                                 | 12           | 13<br>StoryTime<br>@10am                         | 14                              | 15<br>Book Club<br>Meeting<br>5-6pm | 16<br>Waila<br>Music<br>Class<br>10am |
| 17    | 18                                                                 | 19           | 20<br>StoryTime<br>@10am                         | .21                             | 22                                  | 23                                    |
| 24    | 25                                                                 | 26           | 27<br>StoryTime<br>@10am<br>Game Night<br>@5-7pm | 28                              | 29                                  | 30<br>Closed                          |
| 31    | ding Bude                                                          |              |                                                  | Programs and events open to Ak- |                                     |                                       |

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

# Russell Peters at Harrah's

Story and photos by Robert Miguel



**Russell Peters** 

One of the top stand-up comedians in the world, Russell Peters, was in rare form during a performance at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Events Center on Saturday, August 2nd.

A little over one thousand concert goers enjoyed a night full of laughter as Peters dove into topics, which included humorous highlights of racial, ethnic, class and

cultural categorizes.

He also shared comical experiences growing up in an Anglo-Indian family.

The event was well received and it was reported to be a sold-out

Of Indian descent, Russell Peters was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. In his early years, he began his entertainment career in the 1990's, performing as a top disc jockey (DJ) in the Toronto area.

After receiving advice and motivation during his early years from the late comedian George Carlin, Russell pursued his start and career in comedy. He was able to host one of Carlin's last shows.

Peters awarded was

Trailblazer award the Association of South Asians in Media, Marketing and Entertainment for good contributions to comedy.

In 2013, he became the first comedian to get a Netflix stand-up special.

Peters' opening act, Steve "ShortBus" Krause, was also a treat as he focused much of his material on his handicap.

ShortBus who sits in a wheelchair and is an arthrogryposis, gained national attention when he got out of his wheelchair and climbed the famous "Rocky Steps" in Philadelphia.

ShortBus was also a former salesman and marketer for the National Football League (NFL). He's opened up for Pablo

Francisco, Russell Peters and Carlos Mencia, and has been in the Arizona comedy scene for the past 20 years.



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# Native Creed at Luxe



By Kristen Villegas

Native Creed came to the Luxe Lounge on Saturday, August 9th 2025, to help celebrate a birthday where the public was invited to enjoy the festivities and bust a move.

Native Creed was last at the Luxe April 12th of this year and had a huge crowd, its no surprise that this also brought in a full house.



Harrahs **AK-CHIN CASINO** 

# **AUGUST 2025**

WEDNESDAY

REWARDS

SATURDAY

CAESARS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

SUNDAY















MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN, TOO!

MONDAY



SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTED COOKWARE GIVEAWAY

TUESDAY



SUMMER PLAY FEST **FOREVER YOUNG** 



10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER

THURSDAY



**FRIDAY** 





TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB



SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC COOKWARE GIVEAWAY



SUMMER PLAY FEST **FOREVER YOUNG** 



10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER





**DELUXE BACKPACK GIVEAWAY** 

FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!





RENT A CABANA ON YOUR NEXT STAY!



SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC COOKWARE GIVEAWAY



FOREVER YOUNG





SUMMER PLAY FEST



SUNDAY FUNDAY





SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC COOKWARE GIVEAWAY



FOREVER YOUNG



SUMMER PLAY FEST



\$100,000 CASH SUMMER PLAY FEST FINALE **5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER** 



**5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER** 









WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$600,000 IN PRIZES WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS THIS SUMMER JOIN US FOR A GUARANTEED \$100,000 CASH SUMMER PLAYFEST FINALE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025