Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXIX, Issue 17

**September 5 - 18, 2025** 



Kristen Villegas (Photojournalist), Eliza Santiago (Graphic Artist) and Robert Miguel (Photojournalist) at the Indigenous Journalism Conference.

#### Staff Runner attend Indigenous Journalist **Association Conference**

Story and photos by Runner Staff

For Ak-Chin O'odham Runner Photojournalist's Kristen Villegas Miguel and Robert and Graphic Design Artist Eliza Santiago, attending the Indigenous Media Conference Albuquerque, Mexico, New opportunity an to attend media sessions where experts shared information and experiences on the respective panels that were provided for attendees.

Hosted by the Isleta Tribe of New Mexico, ceremonies opening began during a breakfast address, which featured a welcome from former Governor, Regis Pecos of the Cochiti Pueblo in New Mexico. During his welcome, Governor Pecos was able share the history of his tribe.

Breakout sessions during the first day the conference featured presenters who touched on topics that included; Indigenizing Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Reporting, Social Media, Research and Sovereignty, Covering Indigenous Environmental Justice and How to Sell Your News Pitch to Traditional Media.

The first day also feature a live broadcast by Native Runner

and negatives in Indian Country, the broadcast was well attended.

of the more interesting sessions, was on the recent cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The cuts obviously had an impact on Tribal Broadcasters, panel of Tribal media personalities gave their input on the negative impacts have done to their outlets. They also shared what they would like to see improved upon in the future as far as financial support.

American Calling, which able to attend various had individuals being sessions throughout the interviewed on topics next couple of days, pertaining to positives which was of interest.

IJA Conference continues to Page 5

### **Community Celebrates BIA House and Mission Anniversaries** School

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

On Thursday, August 28th, the Ak-Chin Him-Museum staff hosted two events in community, that both celebrated the Historic Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) House and the Historic St. Francis Mission School.

Many attended the occasion which featured long-standing photos, memorabilia, desks, tables and documents. This year's celebration marked the 13th year celebration for the BIA House and the 10th for the St. Francis Mission School.

Upon entering Mission School, in glass cases were items such as utensils, old bottle caps, a Folgers coffee glass container, saints and other historic collected items. The displays and overall exhibit(s) gave a clear sense of the life and times of the community from past decades.

The Mission School was a place where young members began their education before attending other schools outside of the community. Before its total closure to any sort of activities, I do remember performing in a Christmas play that was organized by the St. Francis Catholic Church clergy in the late 70's.

The years following, the school was used more for a storage area before renovations took place and it was recognized as a historical site.

One of the interesting exhibits featured Father Antonine Willenbrink who was an ordained minister that was assigned to the Ak-Chin and Gila River communities. During his time in both communities, he was able to learn the O'odham language and according to testimony, he mastered the language so much that it sounded like it was his first language, which earned him the nickname



Celebrating the Historic St. Francis Catholic Mission School

Anniversaries continues to Page

## Pokemon fans enjoy an

## outing underneath the stars

Story and photos by Robert Miguel



It's a Pikachu Party for these youngsters at the swimming pool as Ak-Chin Recreation Dept. hosted a fine outing for the community.

Nearly sixty children and parents participated in a wonderful evening at the Ak-Chin Recreation swimming pool as the department continued to provide a great event on Saturday, August 30th, where a Pokémon themed celebration took place.

Prior to entering the swimming pool, children gathered into the game room of the department to pick and trade Pokémon cards. Plenty of excitement and fun was evident as lots of chatter, smiles, laughter and even playful disagreements filled the room.

I have to admit, I know of Pokémon, but have no idea of what takes place in these games, but I did my best in trying to learn in such a quick time.

Pokemon continues to Page 6

hosted a game that she loved to participate in Tohono O'odham Nation. dearly, a chair volleyball tournament, which took place on Saturday, August 23rd at the hard, Ak-Chin Recreation

family

In remembrance of the

late Genevieve Miguel,

Miguel

Twenty-Five teams from

Department.

the

Story and photos by Robert Miguel throughout Arizona amongst invaded the gymnasium, family. some coming from as far as Prescott and the

Game She Loved

The tournament brought out teams who competed but primarily wanted to come and pay their respects for Genevieve and enjoy a wonderful time being

Team Peters and Team 90's battle during the 1st Annual Genevieve

Miguel Chair Volleyball Tournament. Twenty five teams participated.

Remembering Her with

friends

Throughout tournament, there were plenty of great games, with some ending in onepoint wins.

Plenty of laughter and smiles were evident from the first whistle to the last, and during the end Genevieve Miguel continues to Page 5

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE** 

PAGE 2 Elder News **PAGE 3 Community News**  **PAGE 4 Education News PAGE 9 Announcements** 

## September is Honor Your **Grandparents Month**

2

Submitted by the Ak-Chin Elder Center

**Honoring Our Grandparents:** Our grandparents hold a cherished and revered place within the family structure. They are not just relatives; they are the keepers of stories, traditions, and wisdom that have been passed down through generations.

Honoring our elders, particularly our grandparents, is integral to our community, serving as a reminder of where we come from and the lessons we must carry forward.

Listen to your grandparents. When we sit with our grandparents, listening to their stories, we are participating in a sacred practice that honors their experiences and preserves our heritage. Each story shared is a treasure, providing insight into the struggles and triumphs of their past.

The stories of their youth, challenges they faced, and their unique perspectives on life are invaluable. By listening, we not only learn but also show respect and acknowledgment for their journeys—journeys that have

shaped us in ways we may not fully understand.

Another vital aspect of honoring our Grandparents is simple actions like spending time with them, helping them with daily tasks, or just showing affection, which can make a world of difference.

Grandparents often embody kindness and unconditional love, and reciprocating this warmth strengthens the family bond. Caring for elders is a responsibility that is deeply embedded in our cultural values.

The teachings often emphasize respect for older generations, recognizing their sacrifices and contributions. Engaging with our grandparents, asking them questions about their lives, and genuinely showing interest in their feelings and needs reaffirms their importance in our lives.

Our grandparents have lived lives filled with experiences we can only imagine. They have seen the world change around them, witnessed historic moments, and have gathered memories that are unique to them.

By honoring them, we recognize that these experiences are invaluable parts of our family's history. They lived and worked through societal shifts and overcame personal struggles.

By learning from their lives, we can better appreciate our own paths and the privileges we might take for granted.

Honoring our grandparents is not just a task; it is an expression of gratitude and respect for those who came before us. By valuing their stories, nurturing our relationships with them, and recognizing the richness of their life experiences, we preserve the essence of our heritage and our

As we celebrate our grandparents, let's carry forward their wisdom and traditions, ensuring that their legacies live on through us.

Our grandparents have shaped who we are, and in honoring them, we honor our culture, our families, and ourselves.



Mariah Carlyle goes over paperwork as she registers with staff member from the Phoenix Indian Medical Center

### **PIMC Health Fair**

Story and photo by Runner Staff

On Monday, 18, 2025 with support from the Ak-Chin Indian Community, members from Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) hosted a patient registration fair all Tribal Members of Federally Recognized Tribes and individuals eligible as descendants to update or create a patient chart.

The event was held in preparation of Indian Health Services (IHS) assumption of healthcare at the Ak-Chin Clinic

August effective October 1, 2025. The fair also included other PIMC staff members to assist in answering questions or concerns.

> Personnel from the PIMC Pharmacy team were also present to answer prescription questions.

Hiring and Recruiting, Advertising Ak-Chin positions through PIMC, PIMC Purchased Referred Care and PIMC Coordination Benefits were also available with information that needed to be shared.

Health Fair continues to Page 3



## **COMMUNITY LIBRARY EDUCATION CENTER**

O'ohon Ñeokcu ið c Mascama Vemdaða K

## JOIN US FOR

THE AK-CHIN LIBRARY

COME IN AND EXPLORE **EVERYTHING THE LIBRARY** HAS TO OFFER!

Enjoy painting with an art instructor, boost your brain with fun puzzles and games, check out some new books!

We'll provide refreshments and coffee to start your day!



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



TUESDAY





## Phoenix Indian **Health Service Enrollment Fair**

When: Saturday, September 13 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Location: Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Department Gym

### Things to Bring

#### Every Patient Must Provide:

Valid Government issued identification

**Eligibility Documents** If the patient is enrolled with any federally recognized tribe

(one of the following is required):

 Tribal Identification Certificate of Indian Blood/CIB

If the patient is not enrolled with a tribe, but eligible as a descendent (one of the following is required):

- s tribal enrollment verification with birth Enrolled family member certificates or death certificates verifying relationship/descendance of the patient to the enrolled member
- · Tribe provides a letter stating the patient is a descendent of the tribe
- Tribe provides a family census with all family members that are enrolled with the tribe verifying relationship/descendance of the patient to the enrolled member

## Elder Calendar

#### **MONDAY**

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

**THURSDAY** 

#### FRIDAY

Scrambled Eggs, Fruit

with Cottage Cheese

- \* 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
- \* Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760
- \* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM 10 AM

#### (MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

#### 9/8 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit

Chicken Stir Fry, Fried Rice, Egg Roll, Cookies

#### Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad

Library Visit w/ Elders 9 am

Turkey Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Pickle, Chips, Jell-O

#### 9/10 **Breakfast Burritos**, Salsa & Sour Cream, **Fruit & Muffin**

Bar-B-Que Pork Ribs, Plain Ribs (D), Baked Potato, Romain Salad, Grapes

#### 9/11 Migas (Scrambled Eggs with Corn Tortillas), Avocado Slices, Fruit &

Yogurt Lentils, Chicken Dumpling (D), Normandy Vegetables,

Moon Bread, Fruit

## Chicken Tortilla Soup,

Biscuits & Gravy,

9/5

Cheese Quesadilla, Avocado, Mandarin **Oranges** 9/12

#### Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs **Toast Fruit**

**Smothered Pork** Chops, Mediterranean Vegetables, Wild Rice, Whole Wheat/White **Rolls, Apple Sauce** 

#### 9/15

Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Peaches with **Cottage Cheese** 

Spaghetti, Salad, Texas Toast, Fresh Pears

#### 9/16 Cream of Wheat, Boiled

Fruit

Eggs, Toast, Fruit

Lima Beans, Beef & Onions (D), Zucchini, Moon Bread, Fresh Cut

#### 9/17

**Potato Casserole** Scrambled Eggs Toast Fruit Salad

**Movie Day** Chicken Cordon Blue, White Rice, Broccoli, **Peaches** 

9/18

Cocktail

Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana

Goulash, Green Beans, Cauliflower, Lemon Ricotta Cake

9/19 Ham Steak Scrambled **Eggs Potatoes Grapes** 

Philly Cheesesteak &

with Cottage Cheese

French Fries, Apple/ **Orange** 

Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community

© 2025 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.

Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

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

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**News Assistant:** 

Kathleen Miguel

**Ak-Chin Tribal Council** Chairman: Gabriel Lopez Vice Chair: Delia Carlyle Council Members: Dennis Antone, Lisa Garcia, and Cecil Peters

#### Regular Contributors:

Ak-Chin: Education, Elders, EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak, Library and Recreation

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

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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All information and original

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 19 -October 2, 2025 issue is due by

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Material submitted after the SEPTEMBER 12TH DEADLINE

cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in

the next issue.

## **Celebrating The** Life of "Jer Bear"

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

The Miguel Family celebrated the one-year death anniversary of Jeremy K. Carra on Sunday, August 24th, with spiritual and cultural activities.

The memorial began with a run and walk from the Ak-Chin Enrollment building and down Farrell Road, prior to the start of the run and walk, Ak-Chin Chairman Gabriel Lopez, fanned off all those who participated.

As the runners made their way, each donned green shirts or Boston Celtics apparel in support of Jeremy as he was an avid Celtics fan. When the group approached the Purchased Referred Program (PRC) building, other runners and walkers joined in as they made their way to the Miguel Family grounds and the San Juan Church.

At the church, the group was met with traditional singing from Miguel family members who were led by Jesus "Buddy" Corella, all singers wore traditional attire. During the singing, runners made a procession march around the church.

Dean Peters, Lerline Peters and Rest In Peace, Jeremy K. Carra!

Glenna Francisco provided a rosary, which was followed by traditional singing by Ak-Chin Councilmember Dennis Antone and Corella.

Jeremy's mother, Juanita Miguel was able to make comments following the rosary. Thanking everyone for coming out to support the memory of Jeremy and despite the suffering she's endured, she finds strength in family and friends who continue to remember her son and all the good memories he left behind and that he'll never be forgotten.

The one-year celebration of life concluded with a traditional meal.

Towards the evening, family and friends gathered at his gravesite in the Ak-Chin Cemetery to release balloons and place flowers and other goods on his grave.

Known as "Jer Bear" to family and friends, he will be remembered for his smile, love for his family, in particular is children, dancing at family occasions and his true friendship to all.



Family, relatives and friends of the late Jeremy "Jer Bear" Carra make their way down Farrell Road during the memorial run.



Miguel Family Traditional Singers perform as runners and walkers make their way around the San Juan Church.



Ak-Chin Chairman, Gabriel Lopez, fans off runners and walkers prior to the start of the memorial run.



station on the proclamation honoring the late Ozzy Osbourne.

#### **Honoring Ozzy** Story and photo Submitted by Aaron Thacker crossed oceans and generations.

"Recognizing Ozzy Osbourne

wasn't just about honoring a rock icon—it was about acknowledging a voice that spoke to the soul of Arizona.

Ozzy's music resonated with generations of Arizonans who

found power in his defiance, honesty in his struggle,

and freedom in his sound. From the steel mills of Birmingham

to the deserts of our state, his impact

At a time when issues like

mental health, addiction, and veteran support demand collective attention, candor and courage remind us that real strength comes from

being unapologetically yourself. worth That's something honoring." Adrian Fontes,

Arizona Secretary of State

## 

Stories by Robert Miguel, photo by Teagan Delma



Ak-Chin Fire personnel put their ladder truck to work as they spray water onto the field located next to the Ak-Chin Circle.

### **Water Show**

It was a site to see as you drove down Farrell Road and watched the Ak-Chin Fire Department crew use their ladder truck to spray water on the field next to the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center on Thursday, August 11th.

The practice is rare, but is a priority

always, other vehicles within the department are checked daily and serviced when scheduled.

The watering of the field was a welcoming site as by-passers saw water sprayed from 50 feet high.

It gave a sense of being close as the department continues to to a water park, and with the temperatures still in triple digits, maintain an active rehearsal to the ladder truck due to its usage in I'm sure many wanted to pull over potential high-rise assistance. As and get underneath that cool water.

## Explorer Program

CHANCE TO TOIN!

THE AK-CHIN FIRE STATION

45401 W. FARRELL RD; MARIC

The Ak-Chin Fire Explorer Program is a

hands-on exploring program through Boy Scouts of America-Learning for Life,

open to ALL youth lages 14-20)

interested in learning leadership skills,

team building, community service,

emergency response and fire fighting

CONTACT US FOR ANY OUESTION

JBOEHM@AK-CHIN.NSN.US OR (520)

Back 2011 the Ak-Chin Fire Department initiated program, primarily inspire and recruit members the community to potentially pursue career in the Fire and Science profession.

The program a successful as ten members

signed up and began their trek in the profession, most continued to be mainstays currently at the department.

In recent years, current staff, in particular, Fire Captain Jennifer Boehm, has spearheaded a program focused on giving young members the opportunity to learn about fire service through the Explorer Program.

Those that have participated in the past have continued to participate during the summer season as part of the Summer Youth Employment opportunity.

Currently, Boehm has organized a couple of recruitment meetings and sign-ups, with more prospects to participate throughout the year for those interested.

The Ak-Chin Fire Explorer Program is a hands-on program through the Boys Scouts of America/Learning For Life. The program is open to young men and women from ages 14 to 20.

If you are interested in learning more about careers in Firefighting Emergency Services, please contact the Ak-Chin Fire Department at 520-568-1300.

## **Community Members & Transit**

Riders: Please be advised that the Transit Department will be undergoing an in-service closure. September 19, 2025

**Last Ride Accommodated:** 8:30 AM **Closure Period:** 8:30 AM - 3:15 PM During these times, our

transportation services will be temporarily suspended. We will resume accommodating requests at 3:30 PM.

We apologize for any

fair,

the

If you missed

registration fairs, IHS

During

## 2025 Transit

**Schedule Changes** 

inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and patience.

#### **CLOSED ALL DAY Native American Day**

Friday, September 26th

Please make alternate

arrangements for transportation on these dates.

contact Janelle at 520-568-1630. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

If you have any questions, please

**Transit Department Staff** 

Health Fair continued from Page 2 PIMC staff will continue to host

Patient Enrollment Fairs prior informational tables were set to the October 1st deadline. up with representation from the following, Exceptional Community Hospital The next event is scheduled Maricopa and Sweetheart Home Health.

past

the

other

for Saturday, September 13, 2025 at the Ak-Chin Recreation Department Facility, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

## **Maricopa HS Students Explore Opportunities** at Arizona State University

Story and Photo by Nicole Blackwell, Student Advisor

On August 25, 2025, a group of Maricopa High School students participated in a presentation hosted by Arizona State University (ASU) during their Achieve class.

The session provided an opportunity for students to inquire about various topics, including academic programs, housing options, and campus

The presentation sparked significant interest the students regarding the opportunities ASU could provide for their future. Attendees gained insights essential application timelines, as well as important information regarding financial aid.

In the coming weeks, students will engage with several universities as they schedule additional visits to explore their options further.

## 2025 Glo Run

What made this year's glow run different from the year before?

Well, it was for sure the lack of rain and the increased heat.

Participants were exposed to the hot, but challenged themselves to complete the 1.5 mile walk with urgency; taking place at the Ak-Chin Circle Lawn Area starting 5:30 PM on August 21, 2025.

Though it wasn't the best temps, the group seemed to enjoy the event, the food and the raffle prizes.



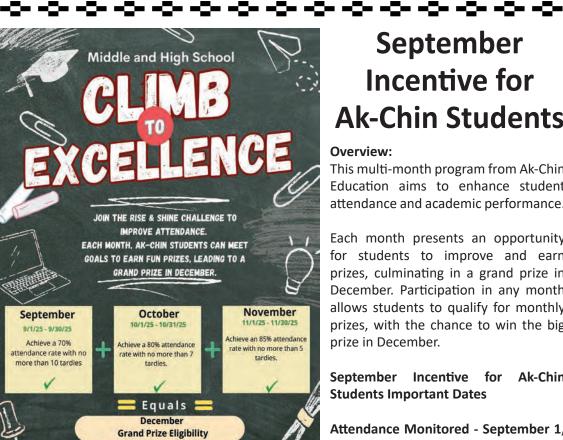












### September **Incentive for Ak-Chin Students**

This multi-month program from Ak-Chin Education aims to enhance student attendance and academic performance.

Each month presents an opportunity for students to improve and earn prizes, culminating in a grand prize in December. Participation in any month allows students to qualify for monthly prizes, with the chance to win the big prize in December.

September Incentive for Ak-Chin **Students Important Dates** 

Attendance Monitored - September 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

Attendance Data Collected – October 3, 2025

FULL DETAILS ON REQUIREMENTS WILL BE SENT OUT MONTHLY

#### How to Qualify

- Attendance Requirement:
- o Achieve a 70% attendance rate with no more than 10 tardies. • **Documentation With a ROI** – Your advisor will do everything for you.
- Documentation Without a ROI Please contact your advisor for exact details on how to
- submit the documents by the due date October 3, 2025 at 10am.
- Reward:
  - o Students will select from the following items; Lego set, art supplies, or lunch with their
  - o Qualifying students will have their name entered into a raffle for a chance to win the grand prize for the month of a Harkins Theater's family movie package with snacks and a gas gift card.

#### **September 5 - 18, 2025 IS Computers** New **Sell Out!** Season,

More

**Ceramics** 

Story and Photos by Kristen

If you missed the past

they are back. Do not miss

your chance to make and

decorate a ceramics piece at

The Him-Dak Staff have

plenty of molds to choose

from and more than enough

equipment for all interested

members, this is a great

opportunity to get your

family into a new bonding

activity or to kill time being

They host two sessions on

Tuesdays and Thursdays,

one starting at 11 am to 1 pm

and another at 4:30 pm to 7

pm. You can only stop by

for 30 minutes? No problem,

it's a work at your own pace

type class. They also offer

If you'd like to participate in

the next class, please do as

the last day for the program

For more information on the

Him-Dak Programs, please

contact them at 520-568-

is September 18, <u>202</u>5.

transportation.

no cost to you.

creative.

Story and Photo by Kristen Villegas



If you were like the many members and employees trying to get their hands on a computer or laptop from the Information Systems Department you were probably surprised to see a line starting at 7:20 AM.

A majority of devices were sold by 8:30 AM and were completely sold out by 10 AM the same day.

August 21, 2025 and was scheduled to continue to the next day, but the 60 devices were gone before anyone could

The Computer Sale started

Devices included in the sale were Dell Laptops, Monitors, Micros, and Desktops; the hot seller being the laptops.

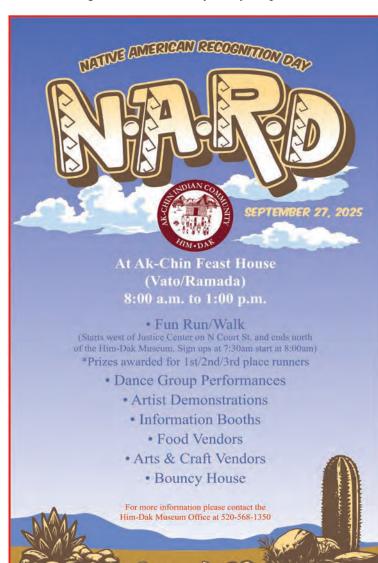
Though this sale is a yearly event that started 3 years ago, the IS Department takes care in refurbishing the electronics for their next user and the next

Debbie Parkman, Information Systems Specialist stated, "First, we love seeing our elders participating in our sale.

Second, technology has not always been accessible or affordable so we take pride in the ability to provide technology at an affordable price. Lastly, it allows us to interact with other community membership and employees we do not see on a daily basis.

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all those that participated and made this sale a success. A Big thank you from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Information Systems Team."

With all that said, we can expect another sale in the future; keep your eyes open!





Contact Us!

520-494-5952

adult.education@centralaz.edu

a photo of Edwardine for the teams moving on. Lewis of District 5 (Casa Blanca) from the Gila In the finals, Team Akimel River Community. Lewis, Phoenix narrowly defeated also an avid player and Team Akimel Tadai from organizer of the District Salt River. Because Team 5 squad, unfortunately Akimel Tadai from Salt passed away just prior to River went through the Genevieve's Memorial tournament undefeated, a second, if necessary, game was played. Down by five points, Team

Gary Farmer & The Troublemakers take to the stage to close out the 2025 Indigenous Media Conference at the Isleta Hotel & Casino.

Albuquerque, one of the

sessions throughout the next couple of days, which was of interest; from Reporting on Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), Land Back: What Journalists Need to Know, Narrative Audio Storytelling in Indian Country, and Visual Storytelling with Indigenous Communities; the sessions were well produced and informative.

During an evening event, attendees were able to gather at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, where guest speakers and traditional dancers spoke and performed.

The visit allowed conference attendees to experience the authentic oldest cities in the United States and to see firsthand exhibits of the twentythree tribes who call New Mexico home.

this

conference, an awards

year's

banquet was held to recognize media groups, organization and individuals for their work in 2025. A big shout out to

O'Odham Action News from the Salt River

end

Community, as they were nominated and awarded the Elias Boudinot Free Press Award. Action News staffers,

Juan "Johnny" Ysaguirre

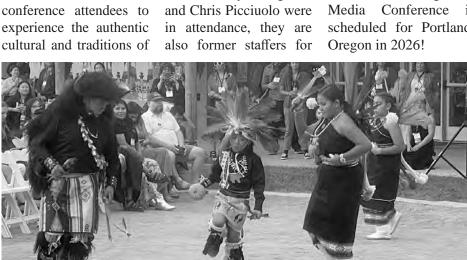
the Ak-Chin O'Odham Runner.

Following the awards dinner, "Gary Farmer and the Troublemakers" took to the stage with his rhythm & blues style sounds. Farmer, who is from Ohsweken, Canada is also an actor and starred in such acclaimed films as; "Powwow Highway", "Smoke Signals", and television series

He is also the second cousin of Indigenous actor, Graham Green, who recently passed on September 1, 2025, age

"Reservation Dogs".

The next Indigenous Media Conference is scheduled for Portland,



Traditional dancers from the Isleta Tribe in New perform for guests who attended Opening Cultural Ceremonies.



Ak-Chin Runner's Eliza Santiago and Kristen Villegas take in the exhibits at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

the late Genevieve Miguel. During the tourney, a poster with photos of Genevieve family members, were on display as was

of the tournament.

During an intermission, Miguel family members

gathered at center court

to thank all teams and

spectators who came out

to support the tournament,

acknowledgment featured

Evelina Lopez and Carole

Lopez, the aunt and cousin

could've

anywhere else today, but

you made it a priority to

be here with us and help

recognize a wonderful

person," shared MC Robert

Miguel. "We thank all of

you for already making

this event successful and

we look forward to seeing

you again next year."

Miguel is the nephew of

of Genevieve.

'You

court

been

center

Tournament. According to teammates, she was eagerly looking forward to participating in the tournament. District 5 was contemplating on not participating, but recognized that it would have been Lewis's wish that the team continued and participated.

As the tournament bracket dwindled down to the Final Four, one court was utilized, which allowed all in attendance to focus their attention on just one game.

The final three games were what all had hoped for, as it ended in one-point wins

Akimel Phoenix was able to make a valiant effort

to tie the score, but Salt

River was able to muster

out one more point for an

The family of Genevieve

emotional win.

Miguel, would like to acknowledge and thank the Ak-Chin Recreation Department and their great staff for running the tournament. Also, to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort for approving discounted rooms for traveling teams. It was a great organized and wellrun tournament.

Genevieve Miguel Chair Volleyball Champions - Onk Akimel Tadai





## ------**Spill Causes Road Closure In Farms Subdivision**

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

On Monday, August 25th, the Ak-Chin Environmental Programs department received a call and were dispatched unfortunate an involving a situation

incident that caused one- the fuel to be spilled in the crews Community's subdivision.

semi-truck truck vehicle Immediately following occurrence, hundred gallons of diesel community emergency were Farm summoned to help secure the area until proper personnel were able to tend to the spillage.

replaced with fresh dirt. Work the

contaminated area

The contaminated soil, continued which was located at the week, as a slab of the entrance of Barley the area was removed Lane, was removed and and replaced with a new roadway piece.

throughout The semi-truck which caused the predicament, encountered minor damage to its body.

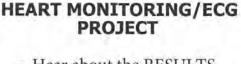


Spilled diesel fuel floods a portion of Barley

Road in the Ak-Chin Farms Housing Subdivision.



\*There is a Limit of 25 people\*



ATTEND a Talk about the

-- Hear about the RESULTS

--Q&A about Healthy Lifestyles and your HEART

\*At the Elements Event Center @ Ak-Chin Circle\*

Tues, Sept 30 at 5:30-6:30 \*\*Light food & drinks served\*\*

CONTACT Scott Drum, NAU Associate Professor, with questions at scott.drum@nau.edu or 970-371-2620.

Anniversaries continued from Front S-toha O'odham (White Advisory O'odham).

Willenbrink Father published various work in O'odham and in 1935 he translated the Catechism into O'odham, becoming the first person to publish religious work in the O'odham language.

served Elders who BIA House the Project Committee in an advising capacity, included; Evelina Lopez, Johnny Lopez and the late Leona Kakar, Vera Antone, and Rupert and Frances Stephens. Mission School Building

Committee cement, included; Evelina Lopez, Linda Jose, George Lewis Jr., and the late Mabel Alvarez, Elena Norris, Deborah Baptisto, Alverna Florez, Vera Antone and Leona Kakar.

As for the BIA House, it was built in 1925, under the guidance of the Indian Service Engineers and Farmer Rufus W. Hamilton, who was stationed in Ak-Chin.

The house was constructed by the Indian Agency and the Ak-Chin Labor force. It took sixty barrels of

3000 adobe bricks and one carpenter to construct the two-room house. The home has a screened porch and an underground basement. It cost \$1,469.64 to build the home.

Today, the BIA Agency House is used to host the Him-Dak's yearly elder events. The museum honors the Elderly with a Valentine's Tea Party and a Mother's Day Tea Party.

anniversary The the BIA House is also celebrated every year at the house.



Him-Dak Archives Assistant, Delila Villegas explains various displays put together, to Cultural Resources staff during the anniversary event.





Ak-Chin Recreation Aquatics Coordinator, Julia Lopez, presides and instructs over a water aerobics class at the Ak-Chin Recreation Pool.

### **Ak-Chin Recreation hosts** Water Aerobics Classes Story and photo by Robert Miguel

The Ak-Chin Recreation in the program made

Department is taking advantage of its new renovation the swimming pool by coordinating new their programs with aquatics team. In early August, the Department initiated a water aerobics trial run to see what kind of interest that it would garner.

Fifteen individuals participated in the first exercises for the onesession, and it maintained hour session, which that status during the included music to motive next two assemblies. in partaking in the

The success and interest

the decision for the Recreation Department staff to move forward with the first official

water aerobic class on Sunday, August 31st. During the first official session, Julia Lopez, who is the Aquatics Coordinator for the Recreation Department, participants participate in stretching

various exercises.

taking place Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm and Sunday's from 10:00 For those who may have

Classes are currently

am to 11:00 am. interest, it's not to late to participate as the plan is to have gatherings run through September and

if all continues to go well, October will be considered. For more information, you can contact the Ak-

Chin Recreation at 520

568 1740.



Movie-Goers take in Pokemon Detective Pikachu from the pool.

According to some kids, there are such characters as Pikachu, Charizard and Eevee, and even human like characters from the series, which includes trainers like Brock, gym and villainous leaders teams like Team Rocket.

Players apparently use these cards in the Pokémon Trading Card Game to battle with the various card types representing different Pokémon species, elemental types and human involved elements within the games' universe.

Whatever it was they were trying to explain to me, I was still confused and didn't have as much interest, but the overall majority in attendance was Pokémon crazed! I later

found out that these cards are apparently worth lots of money. A rare abnormal called the Voltorb (Cosmos Professor Program) could get you \$10,000.

Following the game room

selection and exchange of cards, everyone eventually made their way to the pool where the excitement continued as the movie "Pokémon Detective Pikachu" was shown on the big screen.

Sno-cones, popcorn, pizza,

and drinks were provided to all participants. Raffle prizes were awarded to all registrants under the age of 18. Prizes included plushies of Pokémon characters and four TCG PLAYER graded cards, which were generously

donated.

A big thank you to Ak-Chin Circle for donating the popcorn!

Parks Recreation Director Ann Marie Antone, would like to give a huge shout-out to Mariella "Mart" Garcia and Carlton Carlyle Jr. for donating Pokémon packs of cards to all the kids who participated in the trading card portion of the event. They also provided cards to kids who did not have any to start with. This kind gesture helped make our event a great success.

Stay tuned for more Pokémon parties organized by the Recreation staff in the upcoming months!



#### AK-CHIN FARMS 42507 W. PETERS & NALL ROAD MARICOPA, ARIZONA 85138

(520)568-1011

#### **AK-CHIN FARMS HAS ONE (1) VACANCY** FOR A REGULAR FARM BOARD MEMBER

**Qualification Requirements** 

- 1) Must be able to regularly attend Farm Board Meeting, once a month, on the last Tuesday of the month and any special meetings set. The appointed term shall be for 5
- 2) Must familiarize yourself to the Farm Plan of Operations which govern and spell out the duties of a Regular Farm Board Member.
- 3) The Farm Board consist of (3) Regular Farm Board Members (2) At-Large Experienced Farm Board Members, making a total of (5) Board Members. The Three (3) Regular Members of the Board shall be enrolled members of the Community or persons who are not members of the Community but who are employees; provided that, regardless of Community membership status, preference shall be given to persons who have agricultural experience or management experience.

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

Community/Farm employees must also submit documentation Board. their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Farm

All letters of interest may be mailed to:

42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Az. 85138

Ak-Chin Farm Board

Deadline for letters of interest: September 12, 2025 by 5:00pm

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Labora Closed	2	3 Storytime @10am	4	5	6
Happy randparents <sup>s</sup> Day!	8	9 Elders' Day 9am-10am	1O Storytime @10am	11	12 Video Games Day 3pm-6pm	13 WAILA Music Class @12pm
14	Hispanic Heritage Month	16	17 Storytime @10am	18	19	20 Crafter- noon 1pm-3pm
21	22	23	24 Storytime @10am	25	26  Native American Recognition Day Library Closed	27 N.A.R.D. Library Closed
28	29	30	Programs and events open to Ak- Chin members, residents and employees Minors under 16 must be			

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

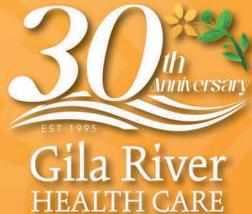
accompanied by an adult over 18.



## We are GRHC! Where Core Meets Community.







CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE



## Join Us in Celebrating 30 Years of Tribal Self-Governance and Excellence in Health Care!

Gila River Health Care proudly invites you to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Tribal Self-Governance at one of our events.

#### Saturday, October 18, 2025 10 am - 1 pm

Viola L. Johnson Administration Building Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, Sacaton, AZ

#### Saturday, October 25, 2025 10 am - 1 pm

Komatke Health Center, Laveen, AZ

Mark your calendars and help us celebrate three decades of commitment, growth, and community care.

We look forward to celebrating with community members and our patients!

## Reminder!

Gila River Health Care's

Administrative Offices, Outpatient Clinics

will be

## CLOSED

in recognition of

### NATIVE AMERICAN DAYS

Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday, September <u>20<sup>th</sup></u>

> Normal business hours will resume Monday, September 22, 2025.

#### Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital <u>Pharmacy Hours</u>

Friday ...... CLOSED
Saturday ....... 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday ...... 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For any information on services open during the holiday, please call Gila River Health Care's main line (520) 562-3321.

## View our GRHC news, information & events

- Life Center
- Behavioral Health Services
- September Calendars
- and many more!

Scan QR code to view!









## Behavioral Health Services

GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

Check Out Our SEPTEMBER Calendar of Events



SCAN HERE



Access our monthly calendar online at GRHC.ORG/BHS.
Call us for more information at (520) 610-2394 or email us
BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG



## 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.



## **JOB OPENINGS**

#### **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 Updates**



Angelo Luz Library Clerk Library



Delila Villegas Archive Assistant Himdak

**SEPTEMBER 5** 

Dawson Allison

Harrison Smith

Philbert Narcia Sr.

Patricia Thomas

Robert Santos Jr.

**SEPTEMBER 6** 

Marcelino Jacuinde

Mila Aguilla

**SEPTEMBER 7** 

Clayton Antone

Jorge Stephens

Randall Narcia

Gabrielle Compton

Joseph Justin

**Matthew Manuel** 

**SEPTEMBER 8** 

Sylvia Gutierrez

Darris Vincent

Alana Oliver

**SEPTEMBER 9** 

Linus Johnson

Kingston Narcia

**Eleazar Baptisto** 

Azarie Carlyle



Clarissa Knoll Teacher's Aide Preschool



Patricia Medina Driver Transit

### Sorry, No Transportation Provided Sept. 29th - Oct. 10th (For Members and Residents) Location: Art Building Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Mon.- Fr.) Ages: K-12th Grade (For Members & Residents) \*Registration is also available at the Him-Dak Museum \*Will have breakfast, snack and lunch. The Him-Dak Summer Art Program is broken down into four grade groups: Grades K - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> (Accepting the first 15 kids signed up per grade group) For any questions call: Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum at 520-568-1350 or Email Waylon at: wjantone@ak-chin.nsn.us

September 5 - 18, 2025





COME CRAFT AND CEATE AT THE AK-CHIN LIBRARY. **ALL MATERIALS** PROVIDED!

SATURDAY SEPT 20 1PM - 3PM

QUESTIONS? CALL: (520) 568-1675 OR EMAIL: LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US



## Friday, September 12th, 2025 **National Video**

**Games Day** 





Restorative Yoga
With Vickie

**Ak-Chin Circle- Elements** 

Wednesdays 6:00p-7:00p

Questions?? Please call Health Education at: (520) 568-1080

FALL READING

Download the Beanstack app and log

your reading minutes. Reach 1000

minutes and receive a prize. Start

logging your minutes before the end of

the fall season!

Prizes open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, and Employees only

Must be 18 years or over to participate

Questions? Call us: (520)568-1675 or

Email us: library@ak-chin.nsn.us

tud

November 31st

Start

September 1st

Sept 03, 2025

Sept 10, 2025

Sept 17, 2025

## WISHES

Happiest 21st Birthday Robert Santos Jr. Dang boy that went quick. Let's go to the movies and chill and don't be scaring me all the time. Thanks for everything you do. We love you.

Mom and your brothers...

Happy Birthday to my grandson Justin Jr. and my granddaughters Mary, Stephanie, and Danel Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Yaa Yaa! Love your family

September 7: Happy National Grandparents' Day! Celebrate your grandparents - spend family time together, call them, cook a meal for them, clean their yard, send a card or flowers.

**Employee Birthdays** 9/5 - 9/18

## **Birthdays 9/5 - 9/2**



Justin Zabawa, Jr.

#### SEPTEMBER 11 Alaysha Johnson

Mary Narcia

#### **SEPTEMBER 13** Lisa Matuz

Tatum Campbell **SEPTEMBER 14** 

#### Romeo Jensen

Lucy Antone Eva Romo Ember Navarrette ShaMarie Florez

#### **SEPTEMBER 15** Stacie D. Antone

Krislyn Pablo

#### **SEPTEMBER 16**

Angela Manuel **Angelo Manuel Graham Smith** 

#### Josiah Thomas

Frederick Antone Rosalie Perry Stephanie Smallcanyon

#### **SEPTEMBER 18 Danel Peters**

Isaiah Miguel Marin Lopez

#### **SEPTEMBER 19** Sonia Narcia

Andres Hernandez Joycelyn Kaniatobe **Robert Miguel** 

#### Riley Perry

**SEPTEMBER 20** Elijah Peters **Kyren Antone** 

#### **SEPTEMBER 21**

Monica Noriega Dani White Ulanii Johnson

Shannen Smith **Evangelyn Romo** Gabriel Santiago Iris Smith

#### **SEPTEMBER 23** Cleo Pablo

Aurelia Dominguez Salmino Santiago **Cecily Peters** Jacob Dickerson Jr. Tracey Tallabas Nicholas Anderson

#### **SEPTEMBER 24** Nevaeh Jensen

Nakeasha White

**SEPTEMBER 26** 

**Lindsay Antone** 

Adrian Garcia Jr.

Alyssa Garcia

Irene Arredondo

Cultural Kyla-Jae Antone **SEPTEMBER 25** 

9/9 Robert Beechum,

9/5

Mario Campos,

Maintenance

Karen Fierro,

Community

**Operations** 

Cody Morris,

Fire

9/7

Clayton Antone,

Transit

9/8

Duane Antone,

Sanitation Michael Garza, Fire

Police

HR

9/18 Jon-Naomi Boling, **Social Services** Tamarita Ned,

Mary Narcia,

**ECE** 

Francisco Viezcas,

Sanitation

9/12

Nolberto Medina

Police

Marcela Paramo,

**ECE** 

Ethan Vavages,

Sanitation

9/15

Theodore Puetz

**EPD** 

9/11 Stefanie Bridschge,

Trevor Shirley, Police

The Mejia Avante family from Mexico City, Mexico who make up Los Angeles Azules puts on a great show in the Events Center

#### **Crowd** Wows With Cumbia Sounds

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

You could feel the excitement walking into the Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino prior to the Los Angeles Azules show on Saturday, August 23rd.

As I maneuvered my way up as close as I could get to the stage, you could see the smiles and hear the laughter and dancing from all the Azules fans.

positioned myself behind a mother and her young daughter, as I overheard, "Mom, thank you for brining me, I love the Azules. I am so excited!"

As the lights turned off, a loud roar echoed through the Event Center with anticipation. Camera phones lit up the area as

the Los Angeles Azules group walked up to their positions on stage and immediately jumped into their first number, which ramped up the sold-out crowd.

Throughout the show "Blue Angels", the English title for Los Angeles Azules, performed their cumbia sonidera genre that identifies the style of music that they perform, which includes accordion synthesizers.

Azules performed hits such as, "Nunca Suficiente", Cuesta Tanto Olvidarte", "Perdon, Perdon" and Amor Despudes del Amor"; with many fans singing along and swaying in their seats.

With more than fourteen million listeners and seventy-six million monthly plays on Spotify, Los Angeles Azules are the leading promoters Mexican cumbia worldwide, that has allowed them to take the genre to such important stages as the Coachella and Vive Latino festivals.

Positioned as the first Mexican group to join YouTube's Billion Views Club, Azules have two YouTube, MC, views on "Missentimientos" featuring and views, Essuficients"

1.8 billion.

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

Back by popular demand, the DT Comedy Show, which is coordinated and hosted by Ak-Chin Entertainment Manager, Operations David Trujillo provided one of the better comedy shows in sometime on Saturday, August 23rd.

The show featured a line-up of four hilarious comedians; Armando

experiences.

"Mondo Man' highlighted most of his material on his ethnic background as a Hispanic, while DT touched on his own personal encounters.

**DT Comedy Show filled** 

with fun and laughter

Brown had the crowd in laughter and tears as he shared his life growing up in the South, in

personality. Rob also pointed out attendees in the crowd and made hysterical comments at their expense.

Overall, the near capacity sold out crowd was in approval of a great show, which had been in a hiatus for a while. An after party in the Luxe Lounge was held for all, following the show.



David "DT" Truiillo, Armondo "Mondo" Palencia, Robert "Big Rob" Rodriguez and Doug Brown, had attendees rolling with laughter.

"Mondo Man" Palencia, videos with over 1 billion who was the evenings David "DT" Trujillo, Doug Brown Ximena and headliner Robert Sarinana with 1.2 billion "Big Rob" Rodriguez. "Nunca Each expressed their featuring own unique comical Natalia Lafourcade with factual, which related to personal encounters and

Alabama to be exact. "Big Rob" a native of New York, but a resident of Phoenix for decades, poked fun at the city of Maricopa's growth and also pointed out former Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, taking jabs at his height and

All four comedians have and are currently touring various comedy circuits throughout the United States. Big Rob is currently the opening act for comedian Gary Owen (Think Like A Man, Daddy Day Care, and Meet The Blacks).

# CLASS OF 94,95.96

## ALL DAY SEPTEMBER 23 2 Hours of Bowling\* | 5 \$10 Game Cards 5 Single Games of Laser Tag | 1 Large Cheese Pizza \*Add an additional guest for \$10 more Ak-ChinCircle.com 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139



(520) 426 - 6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM



BOOKING WWW.AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES/MINIDUNES OR CALL: 520.426.6830

## Participants enjoy Paint Night at the Luxe

Story and photo by Raychel Peters

On August 19, artists stepped into Ak-Chin Entertainment Center, Luxe Lounge for a fundraiser Sip and Paint

The event was hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary of Maricopa, and set up to fundraise for programs that support local Veterans and military families in Maricopa.

The event was for 21+ and cost \$25.00, with food and drink available to purchase.

The Auxiliary shared their thanks to all who participated, "We want to thank all the participants for their support. This was a fun event made possible by the partnerships between American Legion Auxiliary, Ak-Chin Circle and the paint instructor,

Harrahs

SUNDAY



Ryan Merrill."

Here are a few dates the Auxiliary also shared for upcoming events:

9/13/2025 Responder First appreciation lunch hosted by the American Legion, 10 am at the Veterans Center

10/18/2025 Craft Fair event at Leading Edge Academy 9 am - 12 pm – Open to the public

SEPTEMBER 2025

11/08/2025 Veterans Day Parade 9:00-10:30 am Bowlin Rd and Porter Rd, from CAC to Leading Edge. Followed by a Military Appreciation lunch - For veterans and their families, active members of the military and fam, and first responders. Leading Edge Academy

For more information about any of the events contact: AuxiliaryPresident@ ALPOST133AZ.ORG

from, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY





5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER









































































