



The Chi' Chino Spirit dancers perform the "Basket Dance" during the Native American Recognition Day celebration hosted by the Him-Dak Museum.

Ak-Chin Native American Recognition Day 2025

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Native American Recognition Day (NARD) or Indigenous People's Day, was celebrated in various communities throughout the state of Arizona in the month of September.

Despite, the strong winds and rain that Ak-Chin Community encountered on Saturday, September 27th, the Ak-Chin Him-Dak EcoMuseum moved forward and celebrated

NARD with a great agenda.

Many members and guests participated in the early morning run/walk that began at the Justice Complex and ended at the Ak-Chin Feast House.

Ak-Chin's NARD Celebration usually takes place at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park, but due to renovations

taking place at MPA park, the celebration took place at the Feast House.

The top three winners from both the female and male categories were awarded medals and gift cards for their accomplishments.

The Mission School doors were open to the public, inside everyone was able to view a bit of Ak-Chin's history as

NARD continues to Page 5



Team Let's Do It revels in victory with crew, Top (L-R): Jose Salas-Vargas, Dominique "Patcho" White, Bottom (L-R): Nikolai White, Marcus Stephens, Sheridan Garcia, Trevor Lewis, and Delbert White.

"Let's Do It" Wins Wild Horse Race

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Saturday September 20, 2025, the city of Queen Creek held their 7th Annual Creek Bash Rodeo at the Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre, presented by Rodeo Naked, with many events like Wild Horse Racing, Novice Bull Riding, Breakaway Roping, Barrel Racing, Moto Cross and much more.

Though events were held on Saturday, Friday was the initial opening day rodeo.

Ak-Chin Members; Marcus Stephens and Dominique "Patcho" White participated in this year's Creek Bash Rodeo with Tohono O'odham Nation member, Sheridan Garcia from District Sif-Oidak in North Komelik in the Wild Horse Race.

Through the past few months, these men have realized their team dynamic was solid, having raced with each other five times in places like; Camp Verde, AZ, Gallup, New

Mexico, Pinehill, New Mexico at the Rahma Rodeo and Fair; and in last year's Creek Bash.

Competing in these races, the team's chemistry has been coming together; leading up to this event and going into the weeks leading up to the Queen Creek race, their goal was to go in strong.

Three teams entered the Wild Horse Racing, though originally it was estimated to be 6 teams.

"Let's Do It" continues to Page 3

2025 Employee Bash was Totally Awesome!

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino was the rad place to be on Thursday, September, 25th, if you were an employee and/or a guest, as Ak-Chin Community Events department hosted the 2025 Ak-Chin Employee Bash.

This year's theme was inspired by the late Bart Smith, and his love for the 80's. Bart (bad), who passed away in April of this year, was the Community Operations Manager. He was instrumental in the humble beginnings of the Employee Bash, and also initiated the Department Video Challenge, which was later introduced to the celebration.

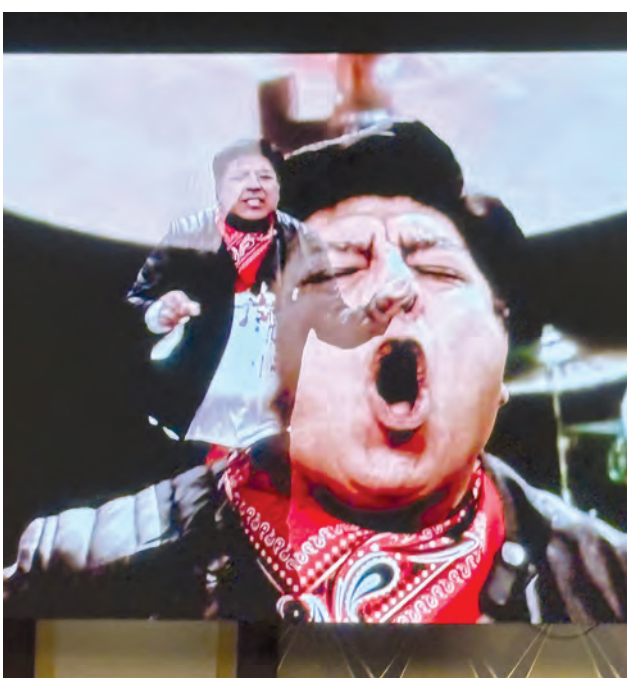
During registration, employees were given raffle tickets for the gnarly raffle drawing. Three events; Crazy Hair Day, Neon Day and Rockstar Day; leading up to the Bash provided dudes and dudettes the opportunity to win even more raffle tickets. Raffle items included an electric scooter, arcade game, home theater bundle, laptop, tool chest, coolers, pizza oven and lots more. Colored beads

with an 80's themed icon attached, were also distributed as another opportunity to win a prize, for the one who collected the most beads.

Once inside Harrah's Events Center Ballroom, attendees were psyched to mingle with fellow employees and their guests, while enjoying the 80's vibe. Community Events like totally went all out, with tables

of 80's props. Outside the ballroom, arcade games were set up to challenge the old-school gamers.

A steakhouse dinner buffet lined the back of the ballroom that included a selection of beef strip loin, Atlantic salmon, French onion soup, salad bar, garlic mashed potatoes, wild mushroom risotto, creamed spinach au gratin, and caramelized



This year's Bash was dedicated to former Ak-Chin Community Operations Manager, Bart Smith.

adorned with Rubik's Cubes, super-sized cell phones, Garbage Pail cards, neon props, and a photo booth with plenty

brussels sprouts. The delicious entrees didn't stop there as a choice of desserts included turtle cheesecake and crème

Bash continues to Page 8



Emerson Antone, DeliAnna Lewis and William Delma make their way to the finish line in the three-legged race during Intersession activities.

Fall Break Intersession

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Students from the Ak-Chin Community were able to enjoy a well-scheduled Fall Break of activities that was organized and sponsored by the Ak-Chin Community Events department, in collaboration with various departments from the community.

Fall Break began on Monday, September 29th, and runs through

Friday, October 10th. During the first day, children went to the library in the morning for arts and crafts activities, which followed with being read a story and a scavenger hunt.

The Environmental Protection department was the place visited in the afternoon, where they learned about the functions of the facility and the duties of

employees.

The following day on Tuesday, children were visited by staff from the Central Plant and Police department, both departments provided activities to entertain the group throughout the day. The Parks and Recreation staff took over on Wednesday, playing physical games as well as video games. A field trip to the

Fall Break Intersession continues to Page 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 Elder News
PAGE 3 Community News

PAGE 4 Preschool Visits Library
PAGE 7 Announcements

Attention Enrolled Ak-Chin Indian Community Elders

If you wish to travel to wonderful destinations, for example, Hawaii 2026, you need a Travel ID or the REAL ID.

1. The Arizona Travel ID is designed to meet federal identification requirements for air travel and other purposes.
2. All Arizona residents can apply for a Travel ID. This includes citizens, permanent residents, and individuals with legal status in the U.S.
3. When applying for a Travel ID, you must provide specific documents, including:
 - Proof of identity (a birth certificate or passport).
 - Proof of residency (a utility bill or bank statement with your name and address).
 - Social Security number verification, which can be done via a Social Security card or a tax document.
4. You can apply for a Travel ID at any Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) office. It’s recommended to make an appointment to avoid long wait times.
5. The fee for obtaining a Travel ID in Arizona is typically around \$25, but it’s advisable to check the latest fee schedule on the ADOT website.
6. The Travel ID is required for domestic air travel, to enter federal facilities, and for other identification purposes that require a compliant ID.

Please call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760 if you have questions or need assistance. We are happy to assist you in obtaining the required ID for Air Travel.

Functional Fitness for ELDERS

Remaining 2025 Schedule



Ak-Chin Circle (Elements)
Time: 10:00am – 11:00am
Tuesdays & Thursdays

OCT 07

OCT 09

OCT 14

OCT 16

OCT 21

OCT 23

OCT 28

OCT 30

NOV 04

NOV 06

NOVEMBER 13

WALK FOR GRATITUDE



Fall Prevention for Elders provided by The Injury Prevention Program
Questions??? Call Teri De La Cruz at (520) 568-1087

ONE LAST TIME



A sad feeling overcame me when I peeked out the window while at the Ak-Chin Clinic. I was waiting inside and saw my Mother high-stepping it across the parking lot to make her appointment.

I met my Mother early morning last week at the Ak-Chin Clinic. I was already inside as Mother was meeting me there after her elder breakfast, located just around the corner. Her appointment was fast approaching, so I looked outside the door window and saw her rushing to the clinic one last time. One last time, due to the Community’s transition to the Indian Health Service.

The sad feeling was reinforced inside the clinic, as many of the materials and equipment had already been packed and removed. We consulted with Mother’s nurse practitioner, who assured us that Mother’s medical care will not be disrupted. Though we felt better, Mother and I left the clinic, somewhat numb and unsure of the future. I, myself, felt an overwhelming sense of sadness and betrayal!

After some healing time, I’ve come to terms with the transition. There are no guarantees in life, especially in the healthcare field. So, I choose to embrace the future and look forward to a new chapter, a new beginning, as we bid farewell to an outgoing healthcare partner and welcome a new one.

Respectfully,
Dr. J.R. Anderson

Elders enjoy Arizona Diamondbacks Game

Story and photo by
Robert Miguel

It wasn’t the kind of game that was expected, but Ak-Chin elders were appreciative and excited to attend the Arizona Diamondbacks vs Los Angeles Dodgers home finale, Thursday, September 25.

On the drive to Chase Field from the Ak-Chin Service Center, a couple of members and staff were abuzz of the potential of the Diamondbacks still keeping their playoff hopes alive during the last week of the season.

A win against the Dodgers would mean a series win and another opportunity of survival.

As the group from Ak-Chin sat in their suite with all you can eat hot dogs, wings, mac and cheese and drinks, anticipation



Johnny Stephens watches intensely as the Arizona Diamondbacks play the LA Dodgers.

of a potential win grew once the first pitch of the game was thrown.

The first inning quickly turned tragic for the Snakes, as the Dodgers played four runs to take a 4-0 lead heading into the second inning.

The lead grew to 5-0 in the third inning as Diamondback pitchers could not maintain any consistency, which worried fans as Arizona

hitters were stifled at the plate.

In the seventh inning, the Dodgers’ lead grew to 8-0, all but securing a win, and clinching a division title for Los Angeles.

Despite the loss, Ak-Chin elders once again had a wonderful time during a great outing coordinated by the Elder Center and its staff.

St. Francis of Assisi
Feast Day Celebration

Ak-Chin Indian Community
Saturday, October 18, 2025

10:00 am – Mass

11:00 am – Opening Procession

11:45 am – 1:45 pm – Traditional Lunch

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Entertainment (TBD)

5:00 pm – Closing Procession

6:00 pm – 11:00 pm – Gertie & the T.O. Boyz

8:00 pm – San Juan Kualiy:ya Youth Dance Group

Arts/Crafts and Food Vendors Welcome
\$30.00 donation to reserve a space

Everyone Welcome!

For more information please contact:
Flower at 602-717-3761 or Marilyn at 520-568-1000

No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed

Elder Calendar

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		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 * Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760 * Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM - 10 AM MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE								10/3 Breakfast Quesadilla Salsa & Sour Cream Muffin Fruit Chicken Alfredo, Acorn Squash, Romain Salad, Texas Toast, Grapes	
10/6 Ham & Eggs Hashbrown Toast Fruit & Yogurt Black Eye Peas, Chicken Stir Fry, Egg Roll (D) Broccoli Moon Bread, Cherry Crisp/Sliced Apples		10/7 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Indian Taco, Corn on Cob, Lettuce/Tomato/ Cheese, Watermelon		10/8 Pancakes Scrambled Eggs Bacon Mix Berries Movie Day Egg Salad Sandwich, Tomato w/Cottage Cheese, Cucumber Salad (D)Avocado, Tropical Fruit		10/9 Veggie Scrambled Avocado Slices English Muffin Apples Fish Taco w/Shredded Green Leaf/Tomato, Wild Rice, Carrots, Plums		10/10 Menudo, Bread Turnover Fruit Roast, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Jell-O Cake/Apple	
10/13 Rice pudding, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Red Chili Stew w/Potato, Carrots, Chumath, Peaches		10/14 Biscuits & Gravy Scrambled Eggs Fruit with Cottage Cheese Baked Ham, Sauteed Cabbage w/Spinach, Peas, Whole Wheat/ White Roll, Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal Cookies/Orange		10/15 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Chicken Enchilada, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Banana		10/16 Bread Pudding Scrambled Eggs Bacon Fruit Salad French Bread Pizza & Salad, Apple/Orange		10/17 Migas (Scrambled Eggs with Corn Tortillas), Refried Beans, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit & Yogurt Pinto Beans, Pork Chop (D), Zucchini, Corn Bread, Vanilla Pudding/ Plum	



Newspaper of the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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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 Staff
know that too.

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

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

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

Submitted pictures need a
return address and brief
description. Pictures with no
address will remain on file.
Allow 2 weeks for return.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE
2025 Subscription rate is
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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
October 17 - November 6,
2025
issue is due by
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

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

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

Wild Horse race continued from Front
As the horn blew, Team "Let's
Do It" got right to work with
Sheridan as the Mugger, Marcus
as the Shank and Patcho as the
rider.

Though they weren't the first
to saddle their bronco they
definitely were the first to make
it down the arena, in a clear win,
where they received nice, flashy
buckles, along with a cash prize
of \$1900.

Marcus would receive his first
buckle, as he stated, "The buckle
didn't really mean anything to
me. I'm just really happy to win
with these guys. Especially, with

me and Sheridan being new to
racing. The struggles we've had
with horses, the long drives and
coming home with nothing; it felt
good to finally win something,
especially with this team."

Patcho shared, "My mindset
going into the race was to do and
try my best. With racing, I find
it as an opportunity to be able to
race with my friends and brothers
and with that I am more than
happy to achieve another win and
buckle."

Congratulations to Team "Let's
Do It", they've worked so hard
for this win!



A small engine plane touches down on the newly paved runway at Ak-Chin Regional Airport.

New Runway welcomed by pilots

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

Just like a football or baseball
player running on newly placed
sod on a field may feel, or a
basketball player racing down a
newly refurbished court senses,
the chance to encounter something
new is a welcoming opportunity.
It's probably how pilots and their
small engine planes feel today as
they maneuver in and out of Ak-
Chin Regional Airport.

This is exactly what pilots and
small engine planes come across
as they maneuver their way onto
2,000 tons of asphalt, with an
overlay of 1 inch. Prior to paving,
all cracks in the old asphalt were
filled with pavement mastic,
creating for a bumpy landing for
any aircraft touching down at Ak-
Chin airport.

The project was in the planning
for over a year, but the actual
work was pretty quick, taking
only 2 weeks to complete. Due to
the much-needed work required
to be done, the runway was closed
for two weeks. Although this
prohibited most flight activity, a
few helicopters were able to fly-in
since they did not need a runway.

The project was grant-funded,
where the State of Arizona and
the Arizona Department of
Transportation (ADOT) paid

90% and the community's share
was the remaining 10%. The
project was run by ADOT and
its consultants, Kimley-Horne.
ADOT did the competitive bid
process and the selection of the
contractor, which was Cactus
Asphalt.

Obviously, the project has been
well received according to
Airport Manager, Tim Costello.
"The pilots love the runway for
its newly found smoothness," he
said. "Upon re-opening, I heard
one pilot say over the radio,
'it's like landing on butter',
the contractor did a great job
smoothing the irregularities in the
runway mainly due to the crack."

In the future, the airport is
looking to produce a new apron
(area where air crafts load and
unload passengers or cargo) and
an aircraft parking area, which is
in demand.

The airport will be closing the
runway one more time to repaint
the pavement markings, following
the repaint, a second application
will be done. The second coat
will contain the retro-reflective
material so the markings will
light-up at night in the aircraft's
landing lights.

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN WALK

GET READY FOR A HAUNTINGLY GOOD TIME!
JOIN US FOR A 1.5 MILE HALLOWEEN WALK.

OCTOBER 28TH, 2025 @ 5 PM
AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER BACK PARKING LOT

LET THE CHILLS BEGIN ~ JOIN US FOR FITNESS, DINNER, & RAFFLE PRIZES! EXTRA TICKETS IF YOU DRESS HALLOWEEN THEMED!
EVENT OPEN TO ACIC MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES.

Questions? Call Ak-Chin Health Education at (520)568-1080 or mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us



A rosary was held at the San Juan Church for walkers taking part in the pilgrimage walk to "Malina."

Malina Pilgrimage

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

The first week of October
is always a special time and
moment for Native Americans
from Arizona, especially for
members of the Ak-Chin
Community, as it is the time
the pilgrimage to Magdalena
"Malina", Mexico takes place.

The pilgrimage is an annual,
multi-century tradition where
thousands of people walk, ride
horses, or bike from southern
Arizona and Mexico to
Magdalena de Kino, Sonora, to
honor Saint Francis Xavier and
visit the tomb of Father Eusebio
Kino.

For members of the community
who participate, the journey
also holds significance to their
continued spiritual process to
renew themselves and celebrate
life. They also take the walk/
journey with support of people
who have not participated,
taking prayers with them
for the people and the entire
community.

With other pilgrims from other
tribes, Ak-Chin participants
gather together near the Mexico
border and walk in unison for
support and strength. From
the border to Magdalena,
the journey takes about 100
kilometers (approximately 62
miles), with stops to camp along
the route, before continuing the
trip.

Throughout the route,
communities in Mexico and
Arizona offer food, drinks and
first aid to pilgrims, reflecting
the historical way Indigenous
peoples supported travelers.

Ak-Chin pilgrims began their

journey with a rosary held at the
San Juan Church on the Miguel
family grounds. The rosary
was delivered by community
members; Dean Peters, Lerline
Peters, and Glenna Francisco.

Prior to the actual departure
to Mexico, many individuals
dropped off goods from water
and snacks at San Juan for
pilgrims to take on their journey.

A campfire has been constructed
at the Miguel family compound
next to a placed crossed for
support, prayers and guidance
for all walkers. The fire will
continue to burn until the
pilgrimage is completed and all
participants are back home.

Upon arrival in Magdalena,
Natives from Arizona, together,
make their way towards the
Saint Maria Magdalena Church
to visit, pray and pay homage to
the life-sized reclining statue of
St. Francis Xavier.

The arrival in Magdalena is
marked by a festive atmosphere
with cultural demonstrations and
a celebration in honor of Saint
Francis Xavier. The celebration
usually showcases mid-way
rides, live bands, dancing, food,
and other vendors selling goods.

The pilgrimage was initiated in
the early 18th century by Pima,
Mayos, Yaquis, and O'odham
peoples, whose decedents
continue to participate this day.

The pilgrimage culminates with
a St. Francis Feast Celebration,
which will be hosted this year
in Queens Well Village on the
Tohono O'odham Nation on the
October 4th and 5th.

Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following cases at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the Justice Center Conference Room.

CASE: PS-06-25 Village Water System Upgrade:
Project Applicant/Water and Wastewater Plant Manager, Carlton Carlyle, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to replace the current potable water storage tanks and upgrade the existing booster pump station. The project is located at two sites, separated by Church Road, and both sites will have a security fence. The project consists of:

- West site:**
- 1-million-gallon concrete storage tank; and
 - New chemical building and chemical feed system.
- East site:**
- New booster pump station; and
 - 5000-gallon surge tank, associated electrical and site security improvements.

CASE: PS-01-25 Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino and Ak-Chin Circle Cellular and Public Safety DAS Network Deployment:
Project Applicant/Harrah's Ak-Chin Director of Facilities Surveillance, April Tawney, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to install a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) throughout the Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino, and Ak-Chin Circle. The project consists of:

- Design and install and indoor cellular and first responder wireless network covering indoor areas; and
- A headend location has been determined and will be used to centralize all the Cellular DAS equipment and wireless carriers' equipment; and
- No exterior modifications to the Casino and Ak-Chin Circle are proposed as part of the project.

Library Visit Explores Bugs

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Every Tuesday and Thursday, Ak-Chin preschoolers take the short trip to the Ak-Chin Library, where Ms. Linda will introduce them to a new book during their scheduled story time.

They choose their next reads for the week and enjoy an activity planned by library staff. For the week of September 16 and 18, 2025, the theme was all about creepy crawlers, bugs.

Storytime is shared through Ms. Mary and Ms. Pollie's 3-year-old and Ms. Francine and Ms. Billie's 4-year-old classes.

They enjoyed similar activities of story time, which included, "Bugs Galore" by Peter Stein; as well as coloring, yoga and book picking.

The 4-year-old classes were given an insight into the bug world by Mr. Theodore Puetz of the Environmental Programs Department. He taught the students what bugs were essential and which ones were not. While showing displays of bugs, he even gave each student a workbook to go into more details on certain books.

Overall, the young scholars are introduced to new topics weekly from the library staff and from their respective teachers. Stay tuned for more library visits from the preschool.



Ceramics Comes to a Close

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

It was on September 18, 2025 when Ceramics classes at the Him-Dak Museum came to an end.

To celebrate, the Him-Dak Art Staff provided a potluck dinner for the Ceramics participants throughout the weeks it was in session. Included with the good eats was last minute finishing touches to their ceramic creations.



Sunday Morning Water Aerobics

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

Early risers make it to the much-loved Water Aerobics Sunday morning. The weather was nice and the water was perfect for a morning swim.

If you'd like to participate, please plan to attend their next classes; held on Wednesdays at 6 PM and Sundays at 10 AM at the Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Pool.



Arizona Natural History Museum was scheduled for Thursday.

Friday's activities will be led by the Health Education department to conclude the first week of the Fall Break schedule.

The last week of the Fall Break intersession, will run from Monday, October 6th through Friday, October 10th

The schedule will feature more activities from the Environmental Department, Library, Ak-Chin O'odham Runner, a visit with Community Government and a field trip to the Andretti Indoor Go-Cart Racing facility for more fun and games, before heading back to school.



Finale to Volleyball Season

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



As promised here is the 3-5 Volleyball group, L-R: Natalia Munoz, Sadie Rivers, Crystal Denetsosie, Rommell Sharp, Kody Carlyle, Jack Tittes-Long, Adrian Garcia, and Logan Tittes-Long.

Throughout the past weeks, the Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation department has had their youth volleyball games with three age groups exhibiting their skills on the court.

Games held on Saturdays have come to an end with the last game taking place on September 27, 2025.

Within each game, there has been much to be thrilled for as the growth seen by these kid's skills has improved.

Recreation Program Coordinator, Jordan Gusse commented "Our mini volleyball season was filled with growth, teamwork, and plenty of fun.

The kids worked hard at each practice, building their skills and confidence on the court.

Week by week, we saw their progress shine through in games, as they showed off everything they had learned.

It was amazing to see their dedication and love for the sport, and we are proud of how far they have come this season.

Thank you to the players, families, and coaches who made it such a memorable experience!"

Great season kids!



NARD continued from Front

historic chairs, tables, items from coins and coffee cans to bottle caps, and photos were on display.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, great performances were held; from dancers that included the Chi Chino Spirit group, Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkadam and San Juan Kualiya, were showcased. The chicken scratch sounds of the O'odham Traditions Waila band was played and enjoyed throughout the day.

Dwayne Antone, Bernice Monte, Delia Kaniatobe and Joyce Kaniatobe had booths set up and displayed some of their work, which comprised of paintings, basketry and other arts and crafts.

Those that made their way to the event were able to walk around the Feast House area to gather great information from the vendors that featured the Ak-Chin's Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Ak-Chin Circle, Ak-Chin Youth Council, Department of Economic

Security (DES) Office of Tribal Relations, Ak-Chin Library and the Human Development System from Harrah's Casino.

The family of Alexander Lopez were able to provide great thirst-quenching drinks from his “Lemme Lemonade U” booth, while Ashley Vincent and her family sold traditional frybread.

Two jumping castles for children and vendors selling their goods, capped the events festivities.



MES
News

**Maricopa
Elementary School
Perfect Attendance
Quarter 1
SY 2025-2026**



Jessica Zabawa



Parents
Joseph and Brittany
Justin

AK-CHIN
EDUCATION AND POLICE
DEPARTMENT
Present
Parent University
Online Safety Session

Parents, don't miss this essential session on online safety. Gain insights and practical advice to support your children in the digital age.

Date: 10/22/2025

Time: 10:00AM - 11:00AM
or
5:30PM - 6:30PM

Location: Education Building

For additional information, please contact your student advisor

Please RSVP
Education: 520-568-1280

The logo consists of a large, stylized blue letter 'W' with a 3D effect. Below the 'W' is the text 'VISITOR AWARE' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.


Maricopa Elementary

DROP EVERYTHING AND LEAD

⊕ WEDNESDAYS
➞ 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

9/10/2025	ESS (Bahian, Branzuela, Casquete, Houston, Logronio, Nobleza)
9/17/2025	3rd Grade
10/22/2025	2nd Grade
10/29/2025	4th Grade
11/5/2025	Kindergarten
11/12/2025	5th Grade
11/19/2025	1st Grade

DEAL stands for Drop Everything And Lead

We invite parents/guardians to join us for a scholar-led lesson to learn how we incorporate the 8 habits into learning and routines in the classroom.

Please RSVP using the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/DEAL-Event-RSVP-Link>



Maricopa Kids Day

Story by Robert Miguel & Photo by Kris Villegas

For eighteen years, John and Mae Donohue have devoted their time and energy to an event that's so dear to their hearts, the annual Maricopa Kids Day event, which has grown in attendance and participation from organizations and other groups with booths that included information, games and goody give a way's.

a plenty of information on such topics as fire and bicycle safety, and health screenings for children, which included hearing, vision and dental consultations. Many children were excited to see and take photos with their favorite characters that included; Black Panther, Smokey the Bear, Superman, Power Rangers and Sparky the Fire Dog.

Dancers, and Santa Cruz Children's Mariachi, while a demonstration by the Tae Yangs Tae Kwon Do Studio and Dr. John Wing Chun Kung Fu Wooden Dummy were also presented.

Dignitaries who participated and said a few words included; Maricopa Mayor Nancy Smith, State Representatives Teresa Martinez, TJ Shope and Chris Lopez. Former Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel was also present to say a few words.

The Ak-Chin Community was represented with two booths set up; the Ak-Chin Police Department and Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center gave out goodies and information about their respective departments.

**Spalding
UNIVERSITY**

Immediately following the Drop Everything And Lead presentation, we will be hosting a parent university for kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade parents to discuss how you can incorporate Spalding practices at home and reinforce skills learned in the classroom.

We use this method with scholars to improve reading, writing, and spelling.

2nd Grade- 10/22/2025
Kindergarten- 11/5/2025
1st Grade- 11/19/2025

While all parents are welcome to attend the DEAL portion of the morning,
Spalding University is limited to 30 participants per grade level!

Please use the following link to RSVP *specifically* for Spalding University.

<https://forms.gle/2pJZcP72wcFcjrreA>

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

STAGE RUN

VIRTUAL 10K OR HALF MARATHON

CHOOSE YOUR DISTANCE
COMPLETE IN 25 DAYS

10.06.25 - 10.30.25



REGISTER USING GOOGLE FORMS, SCAN QR CODE.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 10TH, 2025.

SELECT YOUR RACE DISTANCE.

WALK OR RUN THE STAGE DISTANCES.

SUBMIT ALL TIMES FOR EACH COMPLETED STAGE.

EARN A \$10 GIFT CARD FOR EACH STAGE COMPLETED.

(MUST COMPLETE ALL STAGES FOR REGISTERED DISTANCE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY GIFT CARDS)

RECEIVE A T-SHIRT AND MEAL VOUCHER AFTER COMPLETION.

STAGES & DISTANCES	
HALF MARATHON 13.1 MILES	5 DAYS
	STAGE 1 - 3.0 MILES
	STAGE 2 - 3.0 MILES
	STAGE 3 - 2.5 MILES
	STAGE 4 - 2.5 MILES
STAGE 5 - 2.1 MILES	
10K 6.2 MILES	3 DAYS
	STAGE 1 - 2.0 MILES
	STAGE 2 - 2.1 MILES
2.4K 1.5 MILES	1 DAY
	STAGE 1 - 1.5 MILES (FOR 55+ AND KIDS 12 & UNDER)

OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES ONLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1085
OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US



We are GRHC!
Where Care Meets Community.



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

Meals available to the first 600 attendees

Saturday, October 25, 2025
10 am - 1 pm

Komatke Health Center, Laveen, AZ

Meals available to the first 300 attendees

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



The Flu Vaccine is available to Gila River Health Care Patients.

Walk-in to one of our Gila River Health Care Primary Care Departments or visit a vaccine outreach event.

**Please refer to the calendar of events for updates GRHC.ORG*

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495

Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center
(520) 796-2600 Ext. 2697

Komatke Health Center
(520) 550-6000 Ext. 6060

Pediatrics
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 7337

Public Health Nursing
(520) 550-6042

PATIENT NOTICE

Ak-Chin Clinic
to Transition from
Gila River Health Care
to
Indian Health Services

Beginning
October 1, 2025

As previously announced to you on September 5, 2025, the operation of the Ak-Chin Clinic will transition from Gila River Health Care (GRHC) to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and be staffed by the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC).

Ak-Chin Clinic patients are welcome to continue their relationship with GRHC doctors for their primary and available specialty care needs at our other campuses.

We have maintained your medical records in our system to ensure you can easily continue your care with us. To continue your care with Gila River Health Care after October 1, 2025 please speak with your provider or contact the Gila River Health Care Transition team at 602-528-1212.

It has been our privilege and honor to care for your health at the Ak-Chin Clinic. If you choose to continue your care with Gila River Health Care, we look forward to seeing you at one of our other campuses

View our GRHC news, information & events

Scan QR code to view!





JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Detention Officer Certified (part-time)
- 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 10/2 - 10/16

10/2

Nikkol Martinez,
Tribal Gaming Agency

10/9

Ann Marie Antone,
Recreation

10/3

Earl Justin Jr,
Sanitation
Justine Lopez,
Community Operations
Diana Perez,
Police
Victoria Smith,
Community Gov.

10/10

Adan Finken,
Tribal Gaming Agency

10/14

Olesya Nelson,
Finance
Eliza Santiago,
Runner
Ambria Valles,
ECE

10/4

Loc Nguyen,
Police
Amy Rodriguez,
Housing

10/15

James Boehm,
Fire
Steven Ruelas,
Maintenance

10/8

Diana Carlyle,
Runner
Jon Spezzacatena,
Fire

10/16

Angelina Soliz,
EPD

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Amy, Andrea and Emily and my grandson James Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Sharon,
Love your family



Restorative Yoga With Vickie

Ak-Chin Circle- Elements

Wednesdays 6:00p-7:00p

Oct 01, 2025
Oct 08, 2025
Oct 15, 2025
Oct 29, 2025

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



Children and teens are welcome to the library to read for 20 minutes with a plush book buddy.

This program will help children practice reading in a nonjudgmental environment with the goal to develop a love of reading.

Come to the library

and read with a buddy!

Questions?

Call: 520-568-1675

Email: library@ak-chin.nsn.us



STORYTIME

At the Ak-Chin Library
for kids ages 3 and up

Guardians must be present with their child.

Wednesdays
@10am



Open to Ak-Chin Indian Community members, residents and employees.



520-568-1675

library@ak-chin.nsn.us

WIC

Tuesday, October 07, 2025

8:15a-11:45am

EPD Building

Do you qualify for WIC?

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

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

Questions? Need to make an Appointment?
CALL: (520) 562-9698
Gila River Indian Community WIC Program

LEGO BUILDING ROBOTICS ENRICHMENT

Sign up today to join our LEGO Robotics Enrichment Program!

Qualifications

- ✓ Currently 5th or 6th Grade
- ✓ Regular School Attendance
- ✓ No Failing Grades
- ✓ Good Behavior in Class

CONTACT YOUR ADVISOR FOR MORE INFORMATION

520-568-1280

VETERANS DAY PARADE

9 AM BOWLIN & PORTER

Hosted by: The American Legion Auxiliary, Leading Edge, Harrah's Casino, Vekol Market, and local partners.

FOR INFORMATION: PARADE@ALPOST133AZ.ORG

Employee Updates



Bojana Uzelac
Student Advisor
Education



Emma Narcia
Assistant Cook
Preschool



Julia Dickerson
Student Advisor
Education



Octavio Machado
CR Monitor
Him-Dak

Birthdays 10/1 - 10/16

OCTOBER 1

Joseph Antone
Ryo Quinonez
Maynard James
William Martinez
Eugene Peters Sr.
Damien Smith

Dyon Aguilla

Leonard Enos
Celia Medina

OCTOBER 6

Roman Sierra James
Arianna Bandin

OCTOBER 2

Elizabeth Valles
Martin Castro
Tanya Lewis
Jeaney Narcia
Stella Makil White
Noemi Hernandez
Nikkol Martinez
Alison Miguel

OCTOBER 7

Matthew Villarreal
Alyssa Pablo
Fernando Arellanes-Burgos

OCTOBER 3

Elva Alarcon
Justine Lopez
Earl Justin Jr.
Victoria Smith

OCTOBER 8

Lee Smith Jr.
Evelyn Garcia
Angel Antone
Brittany Paddock
Maria Maldonado

OCTOBER 4

Neveah Antone
Amy Rodriguez
Gabriel Manuel
Malcolm Johnson

OCTOBER 10

Andrea Peters
Marco Jensen

OCTOBER 5

Douglas Pablo

OCTOBER 11

Berdina Arellanes-Burgos

OCTOBER 12

Xzalius Homer
Shanna Narcia
Christina Kaniatobe
Guerrero
Zachary Valles
Delayna Antone

OCTOBER 13

Blessing Antone

OCTOBER 14

Joe Jerry
Erin Martinez-Yarberry
Ambria Valles
Rosa Lewis
Eliza Santiago
Sharon Carlyle

OCTOBER 15

Holly Lawrence
Jose Miguel Jr.
Steven Ruelas
James Boehm

OCTOBER 16

Michael Latino Santiago
Angelina Soliz
Charity Lewis
Jalia Carra-Ponce
Emily Peters

Library Hours

Mon-Fri : 9am-6pm

Sat: 12pm-4pm

Sun: Closed



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Storytime @10am	2	3	4
5 Spider	6	7	8 Storytime @10am	9	10	11
12	13 Indigenous Peoples' Day	14	15 Storytime @10am	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Storytime @10am	23	24	25 TRUNK OR TREAT Closed
26	27 Resume & Job Searching workshop 10-11am	28	29 Storytime @10am	30	31 Happy Halloween	

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

Bash continued from Front



brulé. displayed in the videos,

Ak-Chin Chairman, Gabriel Lopez welcomed everyone to the Bash.

He also shared a few words of recognition for Bart (bad), crediting him for the direction of the Community Government videos that they performed, saying Bart had encouraged them to “get into it”.

Three departments participated in the Department Video Challenge. The Ak-Chin Him-Dak, Ak-Chin Library, and Ak-Chin O'odham Runner.

All gave it their best shot at coming away with the prize for best video, with Him-Dak and their rendition of “We Are the World”, while Library showcased their version of “Reading Rainbow,” a show from PBS.

The Runner staff put together a performance of “Stray Cat Strut” by the Stray Cats, also in dedication to Bart (bad).

All did a great job, but only one could be selected, and Him-Dak came away with the prize.

A special video was also viewed as a tribute to Bart (bad). It was a compilation of the many videos he performed with Community Government and also solo videos.

It was emotionally happy and sad to see the joy and energy that Bart

"Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and helped make the event such a success. Your energy, spirit, and participation truly made it a night to remember! A big congratulations to all of our lucky raffle winners from this year's 80's Employee Bash! Your prizes are well deserved, and we're so excited to celebrate your win."



Harrah's
AK-CHIN CASINO

OCTOBER 2025

CAESARS
REWARDS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 UP TO 5X BOO-NUS TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS • 8AM – 11:59PM			1  SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS FOREVER YOUNG	2  10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	3  VIP FOR A WEEKEND	4  T-APP IN!
5  SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	6  MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO!	7  ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY	8  SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS FOREVER YOUNG	9  10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	10  VIP FOR A WEEKEND	11  FREAKY FUN FRY'S FOOD STORES® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY
12  SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	13  AIRSTREAM WIRELESS HEADPHONES GIVEAWAY	14  ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY	15  SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS FOREVER YOUNG	16  10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	17  VIP FOR A WEEKEND	18  REWARD CREDIT EXTRAVAGANZA
19  SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	20  OAK & FORK IS OPEN EVERY MONDAY	21  ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY	22  SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS FOREVER YOUNG	23  10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	24  VIP FOR A WEEKEND	25  UP TO 5X BOO-NUS TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER WITH BONUS
26  SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	27  WATCH THE GAME!	28  ISABELLE HANDBAG COLLECTION GIVEAWAY	29  SHOOT HOOPS SCORE LOOT DRAWINGS FOREVER YOUNG	30  10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER BRONCO CONCERT	31  VIP FOR A WEEKEND HALLOWEEN	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS