



A rendering of the future Southern Dunes Clubhouse gives a look at what to expect once it's completed and slated to open in Spring of 2027.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club Breaks Ground on New Clubhouse

\$20-plus million-dollar project to expand clubhouse and Arroyo Grille, add wedding/event space and create a signature turn experience

Maricopa, Ariz. (February 24, 2026) – Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club in Maricopa, Ariz. and the Ak-Chin Indian Community recently began site work on a new 24,000 square-foot clubhouse and event facility with construction set to begin in March.

Scheduled to open in spring of 2027, the new building will include a contemporary “food hall”, an enlarged Arroyo Grille, new private dining rooms and a banquet room, a larger golf shop, enhanced kitchen space, a new bridal suite, and an indoor golf simulator

room featuring the latest GOLFZON simulator. The simulator room will serve a dual-purpose during weddings, converting into a space for groomsmen to gather and relax. To view a fly-through of the new clubhouse, [click here](#).

The new clubhouse was designed by Meyers + Associates Architecture of Columbus, Ohio. Arizona-based PIMMEX-CHASSE is handling the construction, while Troon Design and Development, led by industry leader Cindy Anderson, is assisting

the Ak-Chin Indian Community’s Capital Projects team with project management.

Utilizing a palette of heavy exposed timber, natural stone, stucco, decorative concrete, and various other natural materials, the clubhouse’s exterior design is rooted in the spirit of creating a timeless and authentic sense of place with a color palette of desert sand, ochre, and red.

The color palette serves as a nod to the natural beauty of the region, while warm, earthy tones will be artfully applied

New Clubhouse continues to Page 6

Remembering U of A Recognition of the late Patricia (Raphael) Smith

Induction of CoCopah Chairwoman Sherry Cordova led to discovery of late Ak-Chin Member Pat Smith’s induction into the Women’s Plaza of Honor

Story by Robert Miguel, photo courtesy of Ak-Chin Him-Dak Archives

The University of Arizona’s Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement held a special induction ceremony on Wednesday, February 16th, in honor of Cocopah Tribal Chairwoman Sherry Cordova, for her 45 plus years of dedicated service, to not only her tribe, but for Indian Country overall.

Chairwoman Cordova’s name was inscribed into a pillar at the Women’s Plaza of Honor – Native American Women of Arizona, to commemorate the occasion.

The dedication of Chairwoman Cordova and others that were honored previously, celebrates women who have made significant contributions to Arizona’s history or enriched the lives of others.

The plaza, which sits within the university’s campus, located west of Centennial Hall, allows

University of Arizona people and Tribal alumni, employees, students, and the community to honor outstanding women who have been inducted.

Nations across Arizona.

“We are honored to recognize Chairwoman Cordova at the Women’s



Patricia (Raphael) Smith

Chairwoman Cordova Plaza of Honor,” has played a critical role in advancing tribal sovereignty and strengthening opportunity for her

said Levi Esquerra, Special Advisor, Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement, Office of Native

Patricia Smith continues to Page 5



From left to right: Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Assistant Secretary William Kirkland, Councilmember Lisa Garcia, Councilmember Cecil Peters, Vice-Chairwoman Delia Carlyle and Councilmember Dennis Antone.

Interior Assistant Secretary Kirkland visits Community

Story and photo by Runner Staff

On Tuesday, February 17, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (AS-IA), William ‘Billy’ Kirkland, along with his support staff

met with the Ak-Chin Community Council to discuss current programs, services, functions, and activities under the Self-Governance Compact and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 638

Contracts.

While in the Community, Assistant Secretary Kirkland was provided a tour of the Ak-Chin Multi-Purpose Justice Complex, along with Ak-Chin Council and staff, including; Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Vice-Chairman Delia Carlyle, Councilmember Dennis Antone, Councilmember Lisa Garcia, and

Kirkland visit continues to Page 5

Ak-Chin Members take to the Diamond for MHS

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

The Maricopa High School Boys of Summer took to the field last week, competing in the Matt Huffman Baseball Tournament at Maricopa High School, beginning February 25th – 28th.

Ak-Chin’s Elijah Peters, a Sophomore and Freshman Carson De Paola, earned spots on the Varsity team, each playing key roles early in the season.

Jitters were evident in the first game as the Rams faced off against a tough Sahuarita High from Tucson.

The Mustangs were able to come up with timely hitting in each frame to take a commanding lead that they never relinquished.

The Rams, meanwhile, could only muster two runs in a 21-2 defeat.

Both Peters and De Paola saw time on the pitcher’s mound, where they worked on their forms.

Day two had the Rams on the field against the Queen Creek Bulldogs. The Bulldogs jumped out to a quick lead, but the Rams stayed within range, plating across runs in the first three innings.

Although, they had numerous opportunities



Despite being called out, Maricopa’s Elijah Peters makes it a close call following a bunt attempt for a single against the Seton Catholic Sentinels.

Ak-Chin Members continues to Page 6

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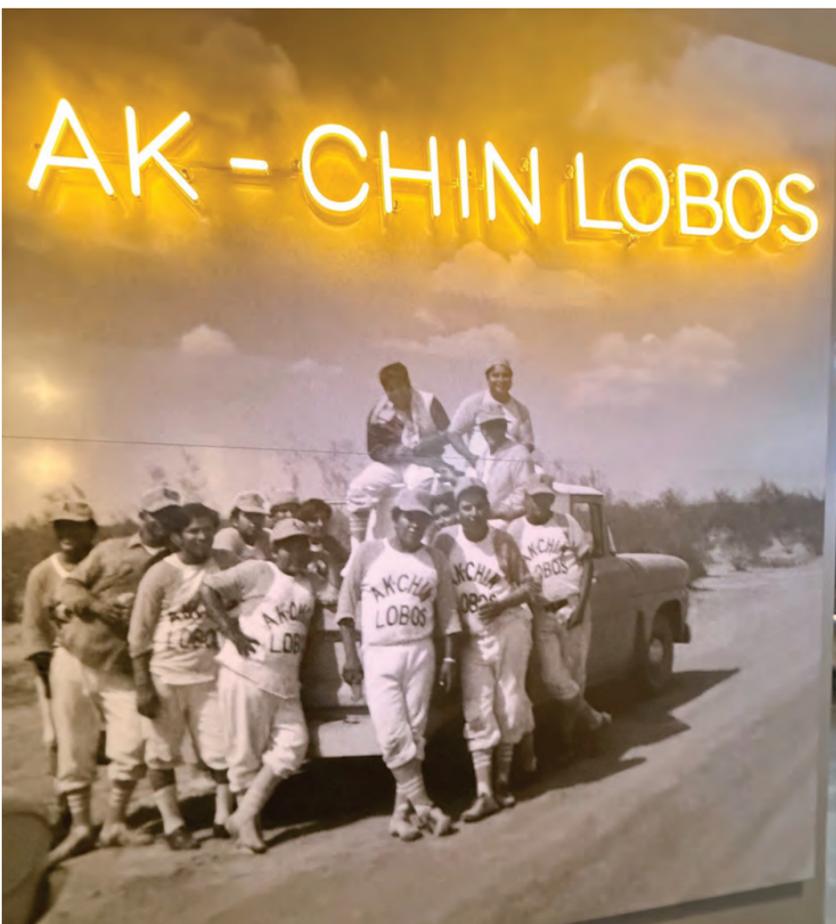
PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS

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Ak-Chin Lobos featured in new Harrah's Ak-Chin Sports Bar



Harrah's Ak-Chin Caesars Sportsbar is opening Friday, May 6, and the Ak-Chin Lobos Baseball team will be there to welcome everyone.

The photo, given to Him-Dak Archives by Lee Joe Miguel, is iconic, not just because it's a vintage photo, it also shares history of one of Ak-Chin's earliest teams, and will now be on display, next to Mike Tyson's glove as part of the sports memorabilia at Caesars Sportsbar.

Probably taken in the early 60's, the photo distinguishes a team of Ak-Chin members and farm employees.

Him-Dak was able to gather the names of the players, although there is still much information



4th Year Death Anniversary
Dorothy "Lutch" Vasquez
May 4, 1965 - March 12, 2022

March 14, 2026
45238 W. Vincent Ave. Maricopa, AZ 85139
6pm-12am
Akimal Waila Band

Everyone is welcome and come dance a cumbia for her.

Though 4 years has passed, our love for you remains as strong as ever.

to be desired about the photo. the team.

It was determined that Daniel Lopez, Sr. (badt) father to Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Velacita Lopez, organized

If you have any information about this photo, please reach out to the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Archives at 520-568-1350.



AK-CHIN ELDER PROGRAM

ELDER TALKING CIRCLE

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
9:30AM
AK-CHIN ELDER BUILDING

JOIN US FOR A WARM SPACE TO SHARE STORIES, WISDOM, AND LAUGHTER.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE ELDER CENTER @ (520)568-1760

ELDERLY O'ODHAM Bingo

Wednesday March 12, 2026
8:00 am - 9:00 am
Ak-Chin Elder Center

Open to All Elders

MORE INFO CONTACT LANGUAGE OFFICE @ (520) 568-1370



AK-CHIN ELDERS 55+ COME JOIN US LETS LIVE RN

FORA WALK IN THE PARK

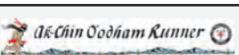
*LIGHT LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED

MARICOPA PACANA PARK
WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 2026
11AM

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR TO SIGN UP CALL THE ELDER CENTER @ (520)568-1760

MARCH ELDER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Menu Subject to Change Without Notice</p> <p>*** Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM</p> <p>*** Lunch Served 12 noon to 1 PM</p> <p>*** Craft Room is OPEN from 8 AM to 3 PM</p> <p>*** For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1760</p> <p>*** Call After Hours 24/7 – 520-858-5043</p>			<p>Support Bone Health: Dairy foods and protein are linked to a lower risk of fractures as you age.</p> <p>Protein helps maintain bone mineral content in bone that keeps them strong. Keeping Your bones dense reduces your risk of osteoporosis (a disease that weakens your bones). Cottage Cheese supports bone health because it contains critical minerals, such as: Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium, Vitamin D</p>		<p>3/6 Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit & Yogurt</p>	<p>3/7</p>
<p>3/8</p>	<p>3/9 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</p> <p>Pork Chops, Creamed Spinach, Acorn Squash, Fresh Cut Fruit</p>	<p>3/10 Chilaquiles, Scrambled Eggs, Refried Beans, Fruit w/Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Romain salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>3/11 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Hash-brown/Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Short Ribs w/ Hominy, Red kidney beans, Moon bread, Pistachio Cake/Apple</p>	<p>3/12 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>O'Odham Bingo: 8a-9a</p> <p>Chicken Stir Fry, Fried Rice, Egg Roll, Pears</p>	<p>3/13 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries</p> <p>Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Watergate Salad/Apple</p>	<p>3/14</p>
<p>3/15</p>	<p>3/16 Breakfast Burrito, Salsa & Sour Cream, Muffin, Fruit</p> <p>Elder Talking Circle: Elder Center @ 9:30a</p> <p>Fried Chicken, Mashed Potato, Cole Slaw, Biscuit, Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>3/17 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</p> <p>Beef & Potatoes Stew, Fried Cabbage w/Bacon, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Lime Poke Cake/Apple</p>	<p>3/18 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Fruit with Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Walk in the Park: @ 11a Maricopa Pacana Park</p> <p>Sandwich Bar, Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup (D), Chips, Watermelon</p>	<p>3/19 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon, Fruit Salad</p> <p>Spaghetti, Peas, Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Blueberry Cobbler</p>	<p>3/20 Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit with Yogurt</p> <p>Lima beans, Sweet Potato, Baked Chicken/Potato (D), Romaine salad, Moon bread, Apple Sauce</p>	<p>3/21</p>
<p>3/22</p>	<p>3/23 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Hot Dogs, Pasta Salad, Chips, Pineapple</p>	<p>3/24 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit with Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Bar-B-Que Ribs, Plain Ribs (D), Mashed Potato, Green Beans, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Cantaloupe/Honeydew</p>	<p>3/25 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Fruit Salad</p> <p>Elder Dinner Night, 5:30p- 6:30p</p> <p>Split Pea w/Ham, Chicken Dumpling, Cauliflower, Whole Wheat Crackers, Apple/Orange Slices</p>	<p>3/26 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</p> <p>Pepperoni Pizza & Salad, Jell-O</p>	<p>3/27 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Salad</p> <p>Elder Men's BBQ Get-Together: Milton Antone Park @ 11a</p> <p>Chicken Alfredo, Acorn Squash, Romaine Salad, Texas Toast, Blueberry Lemon Cookies, Orange</p>	<p>3/28</p>



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community © 2026

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Announcements and wishes may be dropped off, phoned in, 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
2026 Subscription rate is \$45.00. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$45.00 check/money order to:
Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Arizona 85138

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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the March 20 - April 2, 2026 issue is due by **FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

Material submitted after the **MARCH 13 DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

Ak-Chin Members continued from Front

to either tie or go up in the game, Maricopa couldn't get over the hump, suffering an 11-5 setback.

Peters started at leftfield, while De Paola saw action behind the plate and on the mound and recorded his first base hit of the season.

The best game of the young season for the Rams, came during game three of the tournament as they faced off against Seton Catholic Preparatory.

Knotted at one apiece going into the third inning, Maricopa jumped out to a 4-1 lead, plating three

runs in the frame.

The Rams kept the Sentinels at bay and even added a run to take a 5-1 lead in the fourth. Things looked promising going into the fifth, but Seton rallied to tie the score at 5 apiece and eventually taking a 7-5 lead heading into the final two innings of the game.

After Seton tied the score and took the lead in the fifth, De Paola was brought in to take the mound in hopes of stopping the Sentinel rally, in which he did. He recorded the final out of the inning and in the following

frame (6th), he held Seton scoreless.

Despite the opportunity to tie or score in the final two innings, the Rams fell short and a 9-7 defeat. In the game,

Peters manned leftfield and came inches from his first hit of the season as he attempted to bunt his way on, but was called out on a bang bang play.

In the final game of the tournament, Maricopa took on Coolidge High School. The game was close throughout, but the Bears of Coolidge were able come away with

an 8-6 win, keeping the Rams winless thus far.

In the game, De Paola saw pinch hit duties, while Peters recorded his first hit of the season and covered leftfield like a blanket, nabbing every fly ball that came his way.

Although, it's not the start Maricopa had hoped for, it is evident that the young squad is improving and playing hard every game.

The Maricopa Junior Varsity baseball team began their season on Tuesday, March 3rd, facing off against McClintock High School. Ak-Chin's Isaac

King and Edward Rocha, both Freshman, took to the field, with Rocha starting at shortstop and King playing a reserved role at rightfield. The two helped Maricopa blank the McClintock Chargers, 10-0.

After playing shortstop for three innings, Rocha came into pitch and blanked McClintock for three innings, recording five strikeouts and no hits.

He was also key at the plate, going 3 for 3 with two singles and a double. King, meanwhile, manned rightfield for three innings and came to the plate once in the Rams victory.



Freshman hurler, Carson De Paola, delivers a fast ball against Sahuarita High School.



Freshman, Edward Rocha, crosses home plate after getting a base hit against McClintock High School.



Freshman, Isaac King awaits a pitch at the plate against McClintock High School.



Christopher Narcia races for the goal line, but Ayden Pablo and Daniel Lozano Jr. pull his flag off.



Jaxson Justin races around defender Dominic Pierce as his teammate, Emerson Antone, follows.



DeliAnna Lewis reaches up for a pass as defenders, Benny "The Jet" King and Mauricio Contreras-Valles look on.

Future Stars Take To The Field For Flag Football

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

Are You Ready For Some Football? We definitely are!

We can't wait soon enough for the 2026 season to begin following a disappointed 2025 season, we want the Cardinals to redeem themselves and get it right.

But that doesn't begin until September when the season really starts.

The season I'm talking about, began this past Saturday, March 28th,

as the little guys took to the field at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park to kickoff the Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Flag Football season.

A total of six teams within three age categories; 3 to 5 years, 6 to 8 years, and 9 to 12 years; each played thirty-minute games racing down a fifty-yard field.

Following warm ups and instructions from coaches and game officials, the three-to-five-year-old tykes laced

up their cleats and went at it.

Still learning the game, it was entertaining to see them race up and down the field, even if they were running the wrong way. Following the continued "stop and gos" for water breaks, the little ones called it a day.

The next game featured the 6 to 8 ballers, which displayed non-stop action as both teams scored plenty of touchdowns.

The game was so much fun and exciting, that the players wanted to continue even after the game's final whistle was blown.

The 9-to-12-year-old group were ready for action immediately after strapping on their flags. Red vs. Blue took to the field and the game started off with stellar defense being played by both sides.

The game see-sawed back and forth and stayed that way until the end.

Both teams scored points, but no winner was declared as scores were not kept, unless you were keeping your own score.

It was a great day for Opening Day, lots of sunshine, fun, smiles and great support from family and friends.

The season continues throughout the month of March, so hope to see you out at Milton "Paul" Antone fields for more football.




SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 for the Annual Earth Day Event

Hosted by Ak-Chin Environmental Programs at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

FOOD • PRIZES • EXHIBITS • GIVEAWAYS • FUN, FUN, FUN!!!!





AK-CHIN ELDERS 55+ ONLY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 5:30PM-6:30PM AK-CHIN ELDER CENTER BUILDING

ELDER DINNER NIGHT

BRING YOUR APPETITE AND COME ENJOY A MEAL AT THE ELDER CENTER.

QUESTIONS? CALL THE ELDER CENTER @ (520)568-1760



Native Author visits Ak-Chin Indian Community

Story and photo submitted by Naomi Bishop, Ak-Chin Library Manager

On Thursday, February 19th, Traci Sorell visited the Ak-Chin Indian Community Library to read to the four-year-old class of preschool students.

Traci is known for her picture books representing Cherokee Nation and helping children understand the history of Native Nations in the United States.

As a child she never read culturally accurate books about her Tribe or other Tribes and now writes stories that show Native families today.

Her first children's picture book, *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, published in 2019 celebrates the seasons and gratitude for our families, food, and nature.

Traci read this book to students and shared the meaning behind some of the celebrations held by the Cherokee in Oklahoma annually.

The children learned the Cherokee words for the seasons and Traci encouraged them to learn the O'odham words for the seasons.

Traci signed We are Grateful postcards for students, encouraged them to keep reading, and gave out pileated woodpecker stickers.

The pileated woodpecker appears on almost every page in the book and represents strength and resilience.

She also read her newest picture book *Being Home* about a family that moves back to the reservation from the big city. After story time Traci took some photos with library staff and enjoyed lunch at Vekol.



Storytime was tag teamed by Ms. Linda and Author Traci.



Left: Library Staff R-L Naomi Bishop, Robin Vincent, Linda Brill, Adrius Begay, and Traci Sorell.

February 27 is Pokemon Day

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Victoria Gamez points out Bulbasaur, the last Pokemon on her list during the Search and Find game.



Action packed and a crowd favorite; tv series, movies, video games, and much more are a part of the Pokémon empire. The fan base spans several generations; collecting Pokémon cards is not only a hobby for some, it's a lifestyle. A national day was created for fans, falling on February 27 every year and marks the first introduction of Pokémon to the public in 1996.

On February 27, 2026, the Ak-Chin Library staff held their own celebration for Pokémon Day with a hunt and

search for hiding Pokémon, diamond painting, coloring of action shots from the Pokémon series and refreshments to end the day of hunting.

The biggest thrill had to be the scavenger hunt for Pokémon, because each clue would lead them closer to finding all creatures. Kids of the community gathered their teams and a few chose to look on their own, but the race to catching all Pokémon was exciting.

Coming up, the Ak-Chin Library will be hosting another festive day, Mario Day. Mario Day will be held on March 10 at 3PM-6PM. Please contact the Ak-Chin Library at (520) 568-1675 if you have more questions on that.

Pokémon is a popular trading card game that has been around for generations. It features the capturing and training of creatures with extraordinary elemental abilities; the trainings then prepare them for battles with peer and foe Pokémon.



(L-R) Library staffer Robin Vincent helps youth get his diamond painting right; this little pokemon is one of the many hiding in the library, his name is Torchic; Jonah and Joaquin Dickerson focus hard on their diamond painting during Pokemon Day.

March National Days

These are random national days of the month, feel free to use them when making small talk.

March 1: National Baby Sleep Day
A day created by the Pediatric Sleep Council to heighten the importance of sleep for babies and their families; the day is organized with the intention to share the effects of good sleeping habits and is celebrated worldwide originally starting in 2021 on the first of March.

Sleep has positive impacts on mental health, its helps in muscle recovery, regulates your mood, and if done right can prepare you for the next day by replenishing your energy. Immunity and heart health are also aided during sleep; this is essential especially for babies because it helps overall growth and meet their milestones.

One random tip I can give you is to use white noise on those nights you can't sleep. There's a reason parents use it for the babies, it will have you asleep before you know it.

March 6: National Employee Appreciation Day
Managers, supervisor, and people in charge; I hope you took the time to appreciate your employees for their jobs well done. Held on the first Friday of March; this year on March 6th; this day was created in 1995 by Bob Nelson and Workman Publishing. Their hope was for those in leadership roles to show gratitude to all their staff for what they do in their respective roles. So, remind your person in charge what you like for lunch.

March 6-7: National Day of Unplugging
If you feel you spend most of your time scrolling through social media, texting your friends, and/or gaming; the first Friday of March is the perfect time to challenge yourself to putting down the devices for 24 hours. We rely on the internet and technology to get us through the day, but there was a time when that sort of stuff wasn't around. Challenge yourself during this 24-hour period, pick up old hobbies, get outside, and be in the moment.

March 12: National Working Mom's Day
Mother's Day is not the only day to celebrate the moms. March 12th recognizes the moms that work while also caring for their families on National Working

Mom's Day. The day was organized by the Working Mom's of Milwaukee, which was a small group that offered a community for those mothers in the workforce and those whose full-time job is homemaking and caregiving.

They expanded nationally as the need to recognize moms all over was a goal. Thus, the day became national on March 12, 2020 and has since been a celebration to honor the women whose jobs don't stop after they clock out.

Working moms, we recognize your hard work and love to continue being the glue in the family. Happy National Working Mom's Day.

March 14: International Ask a Question Day
Celebrated world-wide, this day encourages everyone to elevate their education by asking questions. Falling on Albert Einstein's birthday and inspired by his curiosity, this day encourages all curious minds to look into topics they have interest in, brush up on information that's still being updated, and don't be ashamed about being a question box.

March 18: National Awkward Moments Day
We've all been through awkward moments, whether they've made you think "What the heck?" or "That's so embarrassing," this day is meant to acknowledge and accept those encounters; laugh at them, even if they bring back unpleasant feelings.

March 19: National Let's Laugh Day
Designed to make the day lighter, Let's Laugh Day is for the jokers to bring their best material to the forefront to make all laugh. Fun fact jokes can be traced back to 1900 BC and one of the first ones was a fart joke.

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD US
you're missing out on the latest news about events

Join Our Mailing List
for updates on events, raffles, programs, and more!

Community Members & Residents Only

Submit your name and email address to events@ak-chin.nsn.us to sign up!

MARICOPA
Unified School District

2026-2027
Early Kindergarten Screening Information

In order to enroll in kindergarten, children must be 5 years old by August 31st. If your child was born between September 1 - December 31, he/she is eligible to participate in our early kindergarten screening to determine kindergarten eligibility. Students who are seeking early entrance to kindergarten must participate in the early entrance screening.

Testing will be offered on Friday, May 29th, Saturday, May 30th and Monday, July 20th. Testing will not be available once the school year starts.

Early kindergarten screening appointments will take place at Santa Rosa Elementary School: 21400 N. Santa Rosa Dr., Maricopa, AZ 85138. These are the only dates for testing, and children can only be screened once. MUSD has the final approval.

How to Register

Please complete the [registration form](#) to sign up for testing by scanning the QR code on the flyer. Registered families will receive an email with their confirmed date and time.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Macaluso at jmacaluso@musd20.org or 520-568-5100 ext. 1005

DOI continued from Front

Council member, Cecil Peters, Manuel Garcia, Police Chief, Karen Fierro, Self-Governance Director, Dr. Sandra Shade, Planning Director and Tim Costello, Airport Manager.

Also joining the tour was; John Sobel, Ak-Chin Senior Government Relations, Assistant Secretary Kirkland, Jacqueline Biselle, Senior Advisor to AS-IA, Jessie Durham, BIA Western Regional Director, and Charlie Addington, BIA- Principal Director of Justice Services and Law Enforcement.

Assistant Secretary Kirkland was in Arizona for the Wiring the Rez Conference, held at the Gila River Wild Horse Pass Casino for the week.

To make the most of this time, he made plans to visit neighboring tribes in the area. Assistant Secretary Kirkland also visited the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community after the visit in the Community.

Assistant Secretary Kirkland was overall impressed with the Community and looks forward to visiting again soon.

Assistant Secretary Kirkland, an enrolled

member of the Navajo Nation, is the 15th Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on October 7, 2025.

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs assists the Secretary of Interior in fulfilling the Department's trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and individuals.

The post was established in the late 1970's under the authority contained in 43 U.S.C 145 (Sale of Lands Withdrawn).

Earlier this year, in ongoing efforts to highlight the importance of water to the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Central Arizona Project and Ak-Chin recorded a two-minute and eighteen-second video with Tribal Chairman Gabriel Lopez, on how water has directly benefited the community.

In the video, Chairman Lopez highlights how the Colorado River nourishes the Ak-Chin Farms and supports the community's economy and connects Ak-Chin to its culture and traditions.

He also highlighted the community's efforts in being efficient in its water resources for the

farms, which produces a number of crops for consumers and outlets.

The Ak-Chin Water Treatment Plant was also acknowledged, as it was named Arizona's Project of the Year.

With the State in a current described "water drought" crisis, Arizona's Colorado River water supply is at a risk as current proposals have hit Arizona harder than any other states.

Proposed cuts could destroy enterprises such as farming and other developments.

State, County, City and Tribal leaders are uniting to defend the State's allocations from the Colorado River.

The Coalition for Protecting Arizona's Lifeline is a nonpartisan alliance of leaders focused on educating, advancing and elevating the importance of long-term water security and economic resilience in the state.

The Community's support of the Coalition for Protecting Arizona's Lifeline is of importance to Ak-Chin, as it helps in continued efforts to educate and expose the positive impact the Colorado River has on the community.

Patricia Smith continued from Front

American Advancement and Tribal Engagement at the University of Arizona.

"This recognition reflects her extraordinary dedication to her people and the enduring impact of her leadership.

The university is proud to celebrate her legacy and reaffirm our commitment to strong and respectful partnerships with Native Nations."

Former Ak-Chin Tribal Chairman, Robert Miguel, was in attendance and was an invited guest to speak during the dedication, both Miguel and Cordova have been great friends for over eleven years.

Although, the event was dedicated for a well-deserved leader in Chairwoman Cordova and rightfully so, the event was also an opportunity to reflect on one of the individuals recognized during the plaza's twenty-five-year history.

Ak-Chin's Lena Patricia (Raphael) Smith was inducted in 2012 in the areas of achievements which included; Politics, Social Services and Volunteerism.

Her tireless work in making sure that she was doing all she could to help people within her community in all capacities was something the Ak-Chin Community wanted to honor, therefore her nomination and eventual acceptance as a recipient to the Plaza was memorialized.

A bio of Pat, which was submitted by current Ak-Chin Him-Dak Director, Elaine Peters, is currently displayed on the Plaza's website.

It reads: Daughter of Juan & Maria Raphael, Siblings: Annie & Xavier and Spouse: Michael Smith. At fourteen, she was sent to boarding school in Tucson where she stayed and worked until her marriage to Michael Smith (deceased) Ak-Chin Member.

They lived in Tucson and in Coolidge before returning to Ak-Chin. She was First Vice-Chairwoman and first of two women elected for

Ak-Chin Tribal Council. Pat was known for her dedication to the community of Ak-Chin and the people she served.

She is also known for her generosity in giving her time to transport community members to the hospital in Sacaton and Phoenix Arizona.

She used her own vehicle to transport members to the hospital until she was hired by the community and Ak-Chin Tribal Council purchased a station wagon for her use.

She was known as the ambulance driver and would be on call twenty-four hours seven days a week.

Many times, she would be entrusted by Ak-Chin tribal members to transport their children riding alone with her to the hospital when parents could not attend due to babysitting difficulties.

Pat would stay with the child throughout their hospital visit(s) and return to them home with instructions from doctors to give to parents on home medical care. She would always deliver transported children home, safe and sound.

Pat also transported children and parents to the nearby town of Casa Grande to purchase clothing school supplies and groceries.

Once retiring from her duties of driving members to the hospital or clinic, Pat started her work with the Police Department.

She worked various jobs in the small Ak-Chin Tribal Police Office, which included begin the dispatcher, cook, jailer and overall detention staffer.

She continued to work until she was unable too due to her health and eventually retired.

Throughout her life, she served as a member of various community boards and tribal organizations; She served on the Election Board, Housing Commission Board Member, Gila River Health Board Tribal Representative

and a Member of the Livestock Groups. She also participated with elders in the reburial process, a member of the Ak-Chin St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and she raised livestock.

Pat was an avid photographer. She recorded many events within the community from baptisms to tribal feasts events.

Everyone knew that if Pat was at an event she would be taking pictures and recording the occasion.

She always shared with others the history of Ak-Chin and was fluent in her O'dham language and cultural knowledge.

Pat represented leadership for all community members and was respected by those who knew her and worked with her.

She was a strong and beautiful person who did what she could to help her community.

Though she never had any children, she and her husband Michael, were godparents to many of Ak-Chin's children.

Her work will never be forgotten and her love to serve her people, while never asking for much, has earned her the respect and recognition for her place in the Women's Plaza of Honor. - Elaine Peters

Pat Smith was nominated for the award in 2012 by the Ak-Chin Tribal Council at the time and was inducted soon after.

Pat was the sibling of the late Harvey Raphael; direct family members today are the Miguel Family, which include members; Janice Miguel and Benedict Miguel.

Her late husband, Michael, is of the Smith Family, which includes members; Ruby Smith and Victoria Smith.

Congratulations to all those women who have been nominated and inducted into the University of Arizona Women's Plaza of Honor - Native American Women of Arizona, in particular, Ak-Chin's very own Lena Patricia (Raphael) Smith!



Ak-Chin Tribal Chairman, Gabriel Lopez, with the support of the Central Arizona Project, highlights a promotional video which tells a story of the importance of how water has and currently supports the "way of life" for the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

ATTENTION AK-CHIN YOUTH! WIOA Program is recruiting students for the 2026 Summer Program. Includes Ak-Chin Indian Community logo.

Orientation Dates & Times: MARCH 26 5-7PM, MARCH 27 5-7PM. Program Services: Summer Job Placement, Work Readiness, Career Development, Career Interest Testing, College Tours. Eligibility Requirements: Must be 14-24 years old, Must be an enrolled Ak-Chin member, Dedication to Summer Program Activities. Questions: Please Contact the E&T Dept. Employment & Training Dept. (520) 562-3387/88.

34th ANNUAL HIM-DAK CELEBRATION SAVE THE DATE April 11, 2026. Includes Ak-Chin Indian Community logo and contact information for the Him-Dak Museum at (520) 568-1350.

to various exteriors, creating a harmonious relationship with the landscape.

New outdoor spaces will include multiple patio dining areas, a beautiful event lawn for outdoor events, a fire feature, a reimagined putting green, and a one-of-a-kind Halfway House between the 9th green and 10th tee that will offer a distinct experience, allowing golf carts to drive through a building with food and beverage items available in a market-like presentation.

“This exciting project is another example of the Ak-Chin Indian Community’s dedication to creating a truly remarkable guest experience at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club,” said Ak-Chin Community Chairman Gabriel Lopez.

“We are committed to continuing the tradition of providing best-in-state golf experience, expanding the amenities around our community, and delivering the region’s preeminent dining and event destination.”

The new building is designed around a central axis that serves as the spine from which all public spaces can be accessed.

This spine not only serves a practical purpose for circulation but also acts as a conduit to framing views of the property.

From the entry lobby, guests are led through the new food hall and event space, around the signature bar, out to the covered patio and fire feature, and down to the event lawn to take-in the panoramic desert and golf course views.

The building is designed

with covered areas that blur the boundary between interior and exterior space, allowing guests to enjoy the beauty of the site while remaining protected from the elements.

“Our engagement with the Ak-Chin Community and the leadership at Southern Dunes has been an exceptional experience in collaboration,” said Meyers + Associates Principal Architect and Owner, Chris Meyers.

“We were able to exemplify the community culture and maximize the potential of the existing facilities with a total transformation that will offer an outstanding experience to all who visit.

The focus of the project was to enhance the culture of the Ak-Chin Community and offer a facility that brings people together for celebrations, dining and an exceptional golf experience.”

The new clubhouse and facilities will provide visitors with a premier experience at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes by enhancing dining options and create additional entertainment opportunities.

By increasing the size of the clubhouse to include multiple dining options and a larger banquet facility, the club will be able to provide more value to guests and enhance their time on property.

The increase in facilities will also provide additional capacity for Ak-Chin Southern Dunes to host larger events, including weddings and golf tournaments.

In the spring of 2027, the golfer’s experience at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes

will also be entirely new. From check-in at the new bag-drop to routing through the expanded clubhouse, golfers will enjoy updated amenities and expanded offerings ranging from new merchandise options to new food and beverage varieties.

Additionally, the new Halfway House will deliver a more efficient experience for golfers as they make their way around the course.

The Market at the Halfway House will offer grab-n-go food and beverage options, with air-conditioned restrooms and an ice and water station.

The advantage of providing these services independent of the clubhouse means less time at the turn (equating to quicker rounds) and improved customer service.

“We’re proud to partner with Southern Dunes, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Troon, and Meyers + Associates on a project that’s raising the bar both on and off the course,” stated PIMMEX-CHASSE Business Unit Leader Eric Noble.

“From the expanded clubhouse and halfway station to the upgraded cart barn and event lawn, every element is designed to elevate the player and community experience.

We’re excited to have officially kicked off Phase 1 construction with the parking lot expansion, marking an important first step in bringing these improvements to life.”

For more information on Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club, visit www.akchinsoutherndunes.com.



A rendering of the future Southern Dunes dining area.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects Office



February 27, 2026

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION NOTICE for WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT 266 HOMES, AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Project Description:
This project will replace the water service lines between houses and the water mainline for 266 houses throughout the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa Arizona. The service waterline replacement will include new service tap connection to the water mainline and installing new water meters. The old service line will be disconnected and the old water meter will be removed. The disturbed areas within the construction limits will be resorted to original position.

Purpose of the Project:
The project is similar to a maintenance type contract. This project will replace the old service lines with new more

dependable water service lines and new water meters.

Intent of the Project:
This project will improve the water service quality to the houses by minimizing water line breaks and repeated repairs on the old service waterlines.

Timeline of the Project:
The project will start construction on March 16, 2026, and will continue for 8 months. Flyer notices will be distributed to individual houses prior to starting construction on the houses’ new water service lines replacement.

Project Team:

Owner/Applicant: Carlton Carlyle Water Operation Manager Ak-Chin Indian Community Phone: (520) 568-1148	Design Engineer Marcus Felter Indian Health Service Western Arizona District Office Phoenix, AZ Phone: (480) 280-6341
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Ge Gelik Ha Ki

AK-CHIN ELDER MEN 55+ ELDER MEN'S BBQ GET-TOGETHER

Come out and enjoy some Mouthwatering food off the grill, refreshing beverages, games and activities




WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026
WHERE: AK-CHIN MILTON ANTONE PARK
TIME: 11 AM

QUESTIONS? CALL THE ELDER CENTER @ (520)568-1760

26th Unity Run

Tohono O'odham, Ak-Chin, Gila River, Salt River

March 15th - 21st, 2026

To unite, preserve, strengthen, and offer Prayers for our respective nations.

To instill the Tradition of Running and Respect through the teaching of our Himdag[way of Life]

Runners, singers, Dancers, Storytellers, Elders, Leaders, Supporters, O'odham[people], and youth are encouraged to participate.

Youth 14 years can participate alone, or if 13 years and younger, must be accompanied by an adult at all times

Ak-Chin:
Cecily Peters: 520-709-1846
Shelia Pablo: 520-709-7474

Gila River:
Ann Manuel: 520-610-9471
Pam Thompson: 480-721-0939

Tohono O'odham:
W Larson Yazzie: 520-993-6932
Amy Juan: 520-539-4011
Francesca: 520-460-2283

Salt River:
Serena Padilla: 480-217-5624

Alcohol & Drug Free Event

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARIZONA

BOWLING Tournament

Team Entry- \$100
4 MEMBERS PER TEAM
RENTAL SHOE FEE: \$5



19
April

SESSION 1: 10 AM
SESSION 2: 1:30 PM
30 MINUTE WARM UP SESSION BEFORE SCHEDULED START TIME

CONTACT
DAVIS GARCIA (520) 568-1222 Dbgarcia@ak-chin.nsn.us
MICHELLE GRANADOS (520) 568-1215 Mgranados@ak-chin.nsn.us






Last Day of Ceramics

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

January 27 was when the ceramics classes started at the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum. For the past few weeks members, residents and employees were able to participate in these classes, held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the museum.

mold, make your pottery, and paint your creation! As sessions have come to an end on Thursday March 5, I'd highly recommend going when the classes are back in session. If you'd like something peaceful and like to let your mind run free with creativity, color, and curiosity, be sure to check it out!

During sessions you were allowed to work at your own pace, pick out your



Virtual Valentine's Run/Walk

Story by Megan Quintero

Ak-Chin Health Education held their annual Valentine's Day walk/run virtually from February 10th through the 21st.

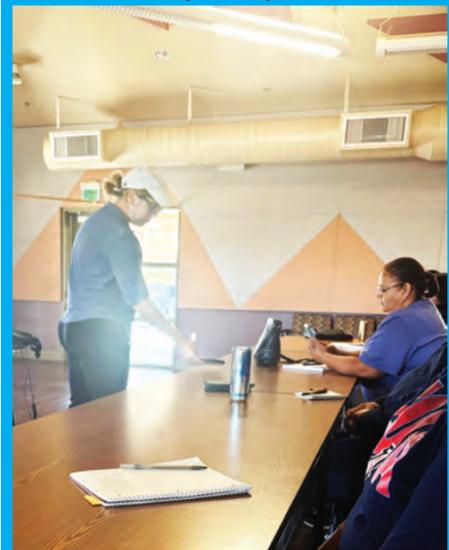
Top overall male finishers for the 5k were Chris Hayes, Francisco Viezcas, and Albertino Santiago, and the top overall female finishers for the 5k were Sarah Zabawa, Vivian Ly, and Teagan Delma.

"Thank you all once again for participating in the 2026 Virtual Valentine's Day Event! You all did an amazing job! We appreciate you and your participation" also "congratulations to all the top finishers!" said Martina Guy from the Health Education department through an email sent to all participants.

Event participants were entered in a raffle and won awesome prizes, such as gift cards, tumblers, spoon sets, thermal carriers, and even a Lego set!

Food Handler's Classes

The Ak-Chin Indian Community has been providing food handler's classes for all members and employees that hope to get certified at no cost to participants. Perfect for those who work in all food related areas and who hate having to do food handling courses online, this session allows for a face-to-face experience with a trained professional.



The first class of the year was held on the March 3, 2026 at 10 am at the Ak-Chin Service Center.

If you have questions about upcoming classes, please contact the Ak-Chin Health Education Program at (520) 568-1083.

Class participants were shown a plate thermometer that tests the sanitization levels and temperature of a industrial dish washer.

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

5K & 2 MILE WALK/RUN

MAR | 14 | 8 AM
Ak-Chin Service Center

GO FOR GOLD!!

JOIN US FOR A 5K OR 2 MILE WALK. LIGHT BREAKFAST, T-SHIRTS, TOP FINISHER PRIZES FOR 5K PARTICIPANTS & RAFFLE PRIZES!



EVENT OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, AK-CHIN RESIDENTS, AK-CHIN EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION AT MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US OR (520) 568-1083



Central Arizona College
GED Classes
at the
Ak-Chin Indian Community Education Building

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You must attend an Information Session!

When?
9 AM Tuesday March 3rd

Where?
Ak-Chin Indian Community Education Building
46521 W. Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85139

CLASSES:

- Start: Tuesday, March 31, 2026
- Tuesday & Thursday | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Taught by certified teachers
- In person and online!
- FREE!



Contact Us!

520-494-5952
adult.education@centralaz.edu



FINAL COUNTY

A proud partner of the ameriKanJobcenter network

Equal Opportunity Employer / Program - Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Certain accommodations require 48 hour notice. For Steven's Amendment Information, please visit: <http://final.gov/stevensAmendment>

Ak-Chin Child Development

Accepting applications for
Preschool 2026-2027 SY
Deadline is July 13th, 2025



Our office is open
8am-5pm
Monday-Friday
Register now!
First day of Preschool is
August 10th, 8:30am-2:00pm

Ak-Chin Child Development offers:

- A High Quality Early Education Experience
- Health/Developmental Screenings
- Disability Services (Through M.U.S.D.)
- Kindergarten Readiness
- *Story time (Provided by Ak-Chin Library)
- *Cultural Activities/Events (Provided by Language Program/Cultural Resources)*
- *Physical/Nutrition Education (Provided by Ak-Chin Health Ed. Program)
- *Fire Safety Education (Provided by the Ak-Chin Fire Department)*
- *Field Trips/Fun activities throughout year*
- Health and Safety Protocols in Place

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

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



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

If you have any questions please contact the Preschool at
48251 W. Farrell Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85139
(520) 568-1700.
Ak-ChinChildDevelopment@ak-chin.nsn.us

Pick up a 2026-2027 Enrollment Packet at Ak-Chin Child Development.

Please bring in the following documents to be considered for enrollment

- Completed Application
 - Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) if applicable
 - Child's Certified Birth Certificate
 - Child's Current Immunization Record
- (returning students only need the current Immunization Record and a completed Returning Student application)
- Only completed applications with required documents will be accepted. Children registering must be three (3) years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

OPEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, & THE CHILDREN OF AK-CHIN EMPLOYEES



SPRING
MARCH 9TH - 20TH MON-FRI 9 AM - 4 PM
AK-CHIN GYMNASIUM | 46753 W. FARRELL RD.

K - 12 ONLY

LIMIT 10 EMPLOYEE CHILDREN
PRE-ENROLLMENT OPEN:

FEB. 25TH - MAR. 6TH

ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION
AVAILABLE BELOW



THERE WILL BE NO INTERSESSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH ALTERNATIVE CARE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE FOR CHILDREN

- INTERSESSION**
- EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
 - BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND SNACKS PROVIDED
 - TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY PROVIDED
 - PAPER APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE EVENTS OFFICE



Gila River HEALTH CARE

Visit us online: GRHC.ORG (520) 562-3321

Come See Us!

Mul-Chu-Tha 2026!



Gila River HEALTH CARE

SCAN ME



Scan this QR code for information about our facilities and services available to you.



Scan QR code to see all our upcoming events and classes.



SCAN ME

JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Communication Officer (full-time)
- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Court Security Guard
- Detention Officer Certified (part-time)
- Homemaker
- Maintenance Technician
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer (certified)
- Therapist

Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- Museum Technician
- Oral Historian (part-time)

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

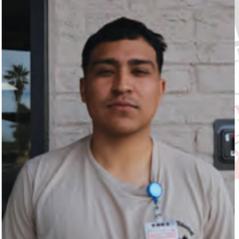
3/6 - 3/19

<p>3/7 Delbert White, Sanitation</p> <p>3/9 Julio Gloria III, Elderly Services</p> <p>3/11 Stephen Martinez, Vekol</p> <p>3/12 Christine Dodwell, Tribal Gaming Agency</p> <p>3/13 Andrew Laba, Fire</p>	<p>3/14 Brenna Antone, Custodian</p> <p>3/15 Dwayne Antone, Sanitation</p> <p>3/16 Genevieve Alvarez, Health and Human Services</p> <p>3/17 Karam Abu-Hamdan, Capital Projects</p> <p>3/18 Diana Garcia, Planning</p>
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Happy Birthday, Dad!
I'll forever be grateful to be blessed with a father like you. Thank you for the all you've done and continue to do for our family. The hard work, dedication, teachings, and love you give to us all never go unnoticed. Wishing you nothing but blessed and peaceful years ahead. Love always, Tooners, Jordan, Naya, and Gonzo

Happy Birthday to my granddaughter Alexandra and grandsons Cody, Marcus Jr., Devin and Narin
Love, Grandma

Employee Updates



Isaiah Osife
Elderly Driver
Senior Services

JOIN US THIS Crafternoon

COME IN AND MAKE SOME SPRING CRAFTS!

FRIDAY
MAR 6TH
3PM-5PM

SATURDAY
MAR 21ST
1PM-3PM

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees
Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.

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

Ak-Chin Service Center

Tuesdays - 6:00pm -7:00pm

March.03.2026
March.10.2026
March.17.2026
March.24.2026
March.31.2026

ZUMBA

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

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

Restorative Yoga

With Vickie

Ak-Chin Service Center

Wednesdays
6:00p-7:00p

March 11, 2026
March 25, 2026

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

2026 HIM-DAK SPRING ART PROGRAM

March 09 - March 20

(For Members and Residents)

Location: Art Building
(Please drop off kids north entrance of Art Building)

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

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 Spring Art program is broken down into four grade groups:
Grades: K - 1st, 2nd - 4th, 5th - 8th, 9th - 12th
(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 Wajlton at: wjantone@ak-chin.nsn.us

Read Across America Week!

Come celebrate reading at the library!

Drop Everything And Read Day!
Monday, March 2nd 3pm-5pm

Come celebrate drop everything and read (DEAR) day at the library! Come read 20 minutes with a reading buddy and get a prize.

Storytime
Saturday, March 7th 12pm-1pm

Listen to a special Saturday Storytime with Ms. Linda!

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

MUSIC LESSONS

When
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays.
Hours
4 pm - 6 pm

Lessons will be 1 hour each per student
Please contact Library to schedule a 4 p.m or 5 p.m slot on each day.
Available every week.

Lessons will be on following Instruments

- Button Accordion
- Bass Guitar
- Bajo Quinto Guitar
- Drums

TO SIGN UP
OR
For Any Questions Contact The Library at (520)568-1675 Or Email library@ak-chin.nsn.us

YOU'RE INVITED TO A MARIO PARTY

Come celebrate Mario day at the Library where we'll have games and activities to enjoy.

Tuesday, **MARCH 10** 3pm - 6pm

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees.
Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.

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

March 3/6 - March 3/19 Birthdays

<p>MARCH 6 Nakotah Antone Cody Narcia Jose Gutierrez Jr. Damonique Lewis</p> <p>MARCH 7 Emily Lewis Alexandra Lopez Rosalinda Montero-Zamudio Delbert White</p> <p>MARCH 8 Leighsa Miguel</p> <p>MARCH 9 Jonathan Narcia Stanislaus Antone Charlene Whitman</p> <p>MARCH 10 Mercedes Stephens Marcus Delores, Jr. Irene Medina</p>	<p>MARCH 11 Robert Stephens Jr. Angelisa Cuatt Devin Peters Mildred Narcia Breon Stephens Giulianna Sandoval Antonenko Alvarez</p> <p>MARCH 12 Lisa Chavez</p> <p>MARCH 13 Samantha Castro Ameliano Jacuinde</p> <p>MARCH 14 Brenna Antone Crystal Maddox Davin Garcia</p> <p>MARCH 15 Ana Blanchard Narin Lopez LeRoy Narcia</p>	<p>Dwayne Antone Joseph Green Jr. Anastasia Soke</p> <p>MARCH 16 Tracy Wind Mariella Norris Kalvin Antone</p> <p>MARCH 18 Kelly Antone Karlie Smith Kane Miguel</p> <p>MARCH 19 Acsul Garcia</p>
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Library Hours

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

3/2026 March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Drop Everything And Read Day 3-5pm		Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm		Crafternoon 3-5pm	Storytime 12-1pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		MARIO PARTY 3pm-6pm				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm			Crafternoon 1-3pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm			
29	30	31	Women's History Month			

Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees
Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.

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

Harrah's Ak-Chin opens new Caesars Sportsbar



Mike Kintner, Harrah's VP and General Manager

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino is pleased to announce the opening of the first Sportsbar for Caesars on Friday, March 6, that will offer a 3,700 sq. ft. sports dining venue, with seating for 146, while offering an inspired menu of sports bar favorites for lunch and dinner.

The space is filled with two huge 18 x 18 ft. LED video walls, surrounded by additional LED panels that will run throughout the venue, providing an excellent viewing of live sporting events for guests of all ages to enjoy.

Mike Kintner, Senior VP and General Manager at Harrah's Chin, was on hand last Thursday, for the Media preview to talk about the newest milestone for the property.

"This is a super exciting space. As far as I know, I believe this to be true, it's definitely the first, we believe, the only Caesars Sportsbar." Also adding that it would be the



The Burgh and a Hail Mary

largest restaurant on the property.

Kintner, introduced his team and credited them for all their hard work over the past year to "bring this to life." He also acknowledged the design team of JCJ Architecture and Penta Construction.

The menu was a highlight of the evening, as Chef Colin Ribble and Manager Cody Hansen described how they teamed up to create an "exceptional food and beverage experience", inspired by American sports cities connected to the Caesars brand.

Dishes were brought out to try and plated up to photograph, starting with a sampling of chips and dip, nachos, and sliders with a tasty array of offerings.

Then they stepped it up with some of the dishes that represented other properties, like homemade gumbo, the shrimp po'boy, and beignets from New Orleans.

A giant Midwest pork sandwich was created from Council Bluffs, Iowa, Classic Canadian poutine out of Windsor, Ontario, and "The Burg" that was stacked with

meat, coleslaw, tomatoes and French fries, representing the Pittsburgh property.

Their offerings were definitely oversized, but not overpriced. "We want you to walk out of here full, without killing you on price. So, price value is something we took to heart and oversized portions is another." Chef Ribble shared.

Signature items that represented Harrah's Ak-Chin included hardy elote ribs and a beautifully balanced amber beer, they were all very proud to feature, that you can only get here at Harrah's Ak-Chin, the Ak-Chin Farms Pecan Amber.

Cody explained how this one-of-a-kind beer came to be, "We actually partnered with our friends here at Ak-Chin and we sourced some pecans from their farm and actually took them down to Phoenix Brewery and had the brewery create our own amber beer."

The drink menu also offers premium tequila and craft drinks representing a southwest flair, that you wouldn't always see on other sportsbar menus, along with a weekend Bloody Mary bar offering house-made pickles.

Kintner pointed out key elements in the venue that honored the Ak-Chin Indian Community's culture, and sports memorabilia that elevates the whole space.

"The cultural integration was a key component of the project. This is represented by the iconic photograph, with a neon right there, of the Ak-Chin Lobos baseball players and professional sports memorabilia... and it's, honoring them, and I love that photo. It's probably my favorite thing in here."

He also praised the designers for their collaboration of elements to showcase an eccentric sports nostalgia. "They (JCJ Architects) really put a whole lot of thought and effort, along with the Ak-Chin Indian Community Arts and Design Committee, into what this space would look like."

The new Caesars Sportsbar is just one of many exciting projects that has come to fruition at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. The multi-million-dollar reinvestment plan includes the expansion of gaming space, expected to open in the summer, along with a new high limit area and hotel remodel expected to be completed by 2027.

For more information about Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, please visit www.harrahsakchin.com.



Signature items from l-r: Elote (corn) Ribs, CSB House Margarita, Ak-Chin Farms Pecan Amber and Oversized Pork Cutlet Sammy

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- 3/06 The Bride!
- 3/06 Hoppers
- 3/20 Project Hail Mary
- 3/20 Forbidden Fruits
- 3/27 They Will Kill You

HUNKS
March 7th, 2026
The Ultimate Girls Night Out
Doors Open At 7:00 p.m., Show Starts At 8:00 p.m.

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DJ NOIZ & DJ ECHO

Mac n Cheese \$10
Taco \$7

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THURSDAY NIGHTS

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Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO **MARCH 2026** **CAESARS REWARDS**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	2 LEVEL UP WITH ONE TAP, DOWNLOAD THE APP!	3 SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY	4 LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG	5 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	6 CAESARS SPORTSBAR GRAND OPENING	7 SLÁINTE TO SPRING	
8 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	9 MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO!	10 SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY	11 LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG	12 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	13 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	14 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	
15 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	16 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	17 SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER COURTS OF CHAOS ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG COURTS OF CHAOS	19 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY COURTS OF CHAOS	20 COURTS OF CHAOS	21 FRY'S FOOD STORES® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY COURTS OF CHAOS	
22 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE COURTS OF CHAOS	23 COURTS OF CHAOS	24 SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY COURTS OF CHAOS	25 LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG COURTS OF CHAOS	26 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY COURTS OF CHAOS	27 COURTS OF CHAOS	28 COURTS OF CHAOS	
29 SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE COURTS OF CHAOS	30 COURTS OF CHAOS	31 SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY COURTS OF CHAOS	<p>WIN!</p> <p>PAVE YOUR WAY TO FREE PLAY</p> <p>NOW - TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026</p> <p>EARN OVER \$2,000 IN FREE PLAY WHILE DOING WHAT YOU LOVE!</p>			<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT</p> <p>THE LOUNGE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS</p>	

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