



Caesars Sportsbar Grand Opening

MARICOPA, Ariz. (March 12, 2026) Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino celebrated the grand opening of Caesars Sportsbar, a new flagship destination designed to deliver a premier sports viewing and dining experience on Friday, March 6.

The grand opening marks the second completed project in Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's multi-phase, multi-million-dollar renovation and expansion focused on enhancing guest amenities and supporting long-term economic growth for the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

The opening event featured appearances by legendary quarterback Doug Flutie, a Heisman Trophy winner, and Terrell Davis, a Pro Football Hall of Fame running back, Super Bowl MVP and NFL Most Valuable Player.

Spanning approximately 3,700-square-foot and seating up to 146 guests, Caesars Sportsbar is built around today's modern sports viewing habits.

The venue features multiple LED displays,



From left to right: April Tawney (Harrah's), Samantha Gulick (Harrah's), Mike Kintner (Harrah's GM), Councilman Cecil Peters, Councilwoman Lisa Garcia, Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Councilman Dennis Antone, Bambi Johnson (Harrah's), Karen Sampson (Harrah's) and Nate Kinstlinger (Harrah's).

including two 18-by-8-foot LED walls, allowing guests to watch multiple live sporting events simultaneously from

nearly every vantage point.

"Caesars Sportsbar represents a significant

step forward in our ongoing investment in Harrah's Ak-Chin and the Ak-Chin Indian Community," said Mike

Kintner, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.

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Ak-Chin Unity Runners, l to r: Jennifer Boehm, Benjamin King, Antonio Rodriguez, Connor Martinez, Terry Santiago and Teagan Delma.

Unity Run makes its way through Community

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

It's Spring Break Time! For many, it's vacation and time to enjoy the one or two weeks that are given before school resumes again.

Here in Ak-Chin, various departments participate in Intersession activities which has them hosting arts & crafts events, exercise activities, and field trips.

One of the more cultural and purposeful events the community is involved in at this time, is the annual Unity Run.

This year's run, will commemorate it's 26th year of the Four Sister Tribes gathering together to unite, preserve, strengthen, and offer prayers for the respective nations.

The sister tribes include the Tohono O'odham

Nation, Ak-Chin, Gila River and Salt River communities.

For weeks, organizers from the four tribes have been meeting to schedule the seven-day event, Ak-Chin's Community Events Manager, Cecily Peters and Youth Council Coordinator, Shelia Bandin-Pablo were involved in the planning.

Prior to the start of the run on Sunday, March 15th, all participants camped over night on Saturday, March 14th in the community of Cu:wi I-gesk on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Early Sunday morning on the 15th, runners began their journey from the Cu:wi Io-gesk campgrounds following a sunrise blessing.

Throughout the day,

runners, organizers and supporters made their way to Wo:g I-hundik Ki:kam (San Simon District) where they set up camp for the evening before the start of day two.

Day two on Tuesday, March 16th, began bright and early as the group made their way throughout the Tohono O'odham Nation, where they encountered beautiful scenery and landscaping the Nation had to offer.

The evening's stop was the Chu Chu Ki:kam (Sif Oidag Ceskan District) community on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Day three, March 17th, the journey continued through the Nation once again before camping in the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

In Ak-Chin, all participants were greeted by community officials, staff and membership during their evening stay.

A prepared traditional meal was provided and catered by the Miguel

61st Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

The Gila River Indian Community brought back the Mul-Chu-Tha for its 61st year on March 13- 15, after a brief hiatus starting last year in 2025 due to safety

concerns surrounding the community.

What was apparent was the Mul-Chu-Tha was missed much by yearly attenders

and this year was met with great memories. Mul-Chu-Tha goes were treated to the likes of rodeo, live performances, a parade, a carnival, traditional

Mul-Chu-Tha continues to Page 7



Ak-Chin's Pate Justin, races around the barrel during the rodeo portion of the Barrel Racing competition at the Mul Chu Tha in Gila River.



Spring Breakers, Janaya Lopez (left) and Alexandra Lopez (right), enjoy their arts & crafts session, which was hosted by the Recreation department.

Community departments hosted activities for students during their two week break.

Spring Programs have sprung

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos by Runner Staff

The start of the spring season means a break for all students and the Ak-Chin Indian Community does not leave the kids without nothing to do, that's right; Spring Programs are back at both the

Him-Dak Museum and Parks and Recreation.

The Him-Dak Museum has their seasonal art program for students exploring crafts of all kinds. The Recreation houses the Intersession

program organized by Ak-Chin's Events staff.

With help from community departments, these programs are dedicated to making spring break fun and entertaining.

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Elders enjoy tie-dye with Students during Spring Intersession

Spending time with our grandmothers, aunts, and creating colorful tie-dye designs is one of the best ways to connect across generations!

Story and photos by Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Center Director

On March 9, 2026, during a school break, the Ak-Chin Elder Center hosted children aged 5 to 13 for a fun tie-dye apron activity with the Elders.

Each child introduced themselves and shared

their parent's name(s).

The Elders enjoyed spending time with the kids, while the children had fun combining colors to make the perfect tie-dyed apron.

The children showed

their creativity by mixing colors to design their unique aprons. Their vibrant combinations were truly impressive!

It was a fun time and a great way of connecting the generations.



AK-CHIN ELDER PROGRAM

ELDER FIELD TRIP TO EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

HOSTED BY AK-CHIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

APRIL 22, 2026
HARRAHS AK-CHIN CASINO
10:30AM-2:30PM

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CALL (520)568-1760

RSVP WITH THE ELDER PROGRAM
*DEADLINE TO RSVP: **APRIL 8, 2026**

RAFFLE PRIZES
MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE RAFFLE PRIZE AND INCENTIVES

Elder Talking Circle has first insightful meeting

On Monday, March 16 the first Elder Talking Circle was held at 930am inside the Elder craft room at the Elder Center.

Led by Marissa Antone, Elderly Care Worker, she asked a variety of questions; such as watching the news while getting ready in the morning, or what they thought about what's going on in the world right now, as well as less serious questions, about being invisible or if animals could talk.

"This was the first talking circle and it was really fun" Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Elder Center director shared.

"It was great to see all the ladies engaging in fun discussions and laughter. I think this is going to be a fun activity as we improve

it." If you are interested in participating in the next Talking Circle be sure to look for the next announcement in the Runner or call the Elder Center for more information at 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>3/20 Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit with Yogurt</p> <p>Lima beans, Sweet Potato, Baked Chicken/Potato (D), Romain salad, Moon bread, Apple Sauce</p> | | |
| 3/22 | <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, Romain Salad, Texas Toast, Blueberry Lemon Cookies, Orange</p> | 3/28 | |
| 3/29 | <p>3/30 Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Bacon, Fruit</p> <p>Indian Tacos, Lettuce/Tomato/Cheese, Corn on the Cob, Fresh Mandarins</p> | <p>3/31 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Egg Salad Sandwich, Tomato W/Cottage Cheese, Cucumber Salad (D), Avocado, Apple Salad</p> | | | | | |

Unity continued from Front



The sacred Red Mountain of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa community was the final stop of this years Unity Run.

family.

Ak-Chin's stay was followed with the journey through the Gila River Indian Community and to the camp sight of Vah Ki Ki:kam on Friday, March 20th, before heading into the last day of the run.

Saturday, March 21st, had the team journey from Vah Ki, onto their final destination, the S-we:gi Du'ag community (Salt River Pima Maricopa community). At the end of the run, a special blessing was provided by organizers of the group.

Prior to the journey and

participation from all involved, special rules, regulations and guidelines were provided of what organizers expected for all to follow. The main objective of the Unity Run was to instill the Tradition of Running and Respect through the teaching of the Himdag (Way of Life).

Participants from the Ak-Chin Indian Community included; Cecily Peters (Organizer), Shelia Bandin-Pablo (Van Driver), (Runners); Terry Santiago, Jennifer Boehm, Antonio Rodriguez, Benjamin King, Teagan Delma, Connor Martinez, and (supporters) Kathleen and Francisco Miguel.



Walkers enjoy a leisurely stroll along the pecan trees as they participate in the St. Patrick's Day 2mi. on Saturday, March 14.

St. Patrick's Day 5K

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

Nearly ninety runners and walkers participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day 5K & 2 mile, which was sponsored and hosted by the Ak-Chin Health Education Department on Saturday, March 14th.

Prior to 8:00 am, participants gathered near an inflatable start and finish sign to get

instructions from staff, then it was "ready, set, go!"

The first set of runners were the adults, who made their way down Farrell Road and then through the fields behind the Service Center during the 5K portion.

The rest of the runners, soon followed making their way

34th ANNUAL HIM-DAK CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE

April 11, 2026

For any questions please contact the Him-Dak Museum at (520) 568-1350

14th Annual Him-Dak Golf Classic

Monday, April 27th, 2026

9:00AM Shotgun Start
\$1,500 Team Entry

Includes: Golf, Food & Beverage, Tee Gifts, Awards & Raffle

Presenting Sponsor—\$5,000
2 Foursome Entries
Company logo on GPS screens in carts & welcome TV board
Large sponsor sign with logo
Logo placement on all cart material & live scoring software
Recognition during golf announcements & award ceremony
1 entry per person into Raffle Draw

Supporting Sponsor—\$3,000
1 Foursome Entry
Logo recognition on cart material
Hole sponsor sign
1 entry per person into Raffle Draw

Hole Sponsor Sign—\$500
One hole sign on assigned hole, putting green, or practice facility

Callaway

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HIM-DAK

For entry or questions, please contact Ryan Graham at 520.426.6830 (rgraham@troon.com) or Brandon Peters at 520.568.1020 (BPeters@ak-chin.nsn.us)

Sportsbar continued from Front

"From design and technology to food and beverage, this space was created to offer guests an elevated and immersive sports viewing experience."

During the opening celebration, guests had the opportunity to meet Flutie and Davis, both widely regarded among the most accomplished players in professional football history.

April Tawney, Harrah's Ak-Chin Director of Facilities and Surveillance, worked closely with Tribal Capital Projects who collaborated with Ak-Chin Tribal Arts and Design Committee to ensure thoughtful representation of community heritage.

Designed by JCJ Architecture and constructed by Penta Construction, Caesars Sportsbar reflects the iconic Caesars brand while incorporating cultural elements representative of the Ak-Chin Indian Community including a historic photograph of Ak-Chin Lobos baseball players alongside professional sports memorabilia are featured throughout the space.

National Football League Legend Doug Flutie and Hall of Famer Terrell Davis, were on hand to celebrate the opening of Caesars Sports Bar at Harrah's Ak-Chin.



through the route. The walkers then took to the path during the 2-mile portion of the event, making their trek through the same course, but at a minimized design. Throughout the morning, participants enjoyed their journey through the fields, looking at various views such as the mountains and pecan trees they passed.

Following the event, a gathering was held at the Service Center,

St. Patrick's continues to Page 8

Materials selected balance nostalgia with modern performance, combining light woods inspired by vintage baseball bats with darker finishes reminiscent of classic neighborhood sports bars. Emerald-green accents create a visual connection to turf and game-day energy, while stadium-inspired design elements reinforce the venue's sports-centric atmosphere.

Several enhancements are planned as part of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's long-term expansion, which will also include additional gaming options, new bars and amenities, and major infrastructure upgrades.

For more information about Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, please visit www.harrahsakchin.com. Guests must be 21 or older to gamble. Remember to "Know When To Stop Before You Start." If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2025, Caesars License Company, LLC.

Ak-Chin's Waylon Antone, was acknowledged for coming up and architecting the design for the t-shirt, which was given to all participants.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Environmental Programs

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

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!



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community © 2026

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

OFFICE HOURS
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
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Council Members: Dennis Antone, Lisa Garcia, and Cecil Peters

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

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

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

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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
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Maricopa, Arizona 85138

Make check/money order payable to:
AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the April 3-16, 2026 issue is due by **FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH**

Material submitted after the **MARCH 27TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

Celebrating Mar10 Day!

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Mario Day wasn't complete without Mario, Luigi, Shy Guy, Princess Peach and the Mushroom castle, or also referred to as Princess Peach's castle.

You're probably thinking, "What the heck," is that title? but did you know March 10 is Mario Day.

This celebration of the Super Mario Bros franchise uses the abbreviated March and the number 10 as a way to spell Mario out. Pretty cool right?

The Super Mario Bros. was first released to the public in 1985, though Mario the character was first introduced in the Donkey Kong video game in 1981.

The Mario verse has been a staple in the gaming industry since then, and has had a plethora of games revolving around characters Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach, Bowser and much more.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Library decided to plan a Mario Day extravaganza on March 10th for Library goers that included games, refreshments, prizes, and a showing of the 2023 *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*.



Games like Mario Trivia were played throughout the library with questions and clues scattered around in inconspicuous places.

Rounds of Mario Bingo were held in the multipurpose room and all participants received goodie bags full of Mario themed items along with prizes if they won Bingo.

A Mario Memory Match was organized with yellow question boxes being flipped to show characters and tools from the Mario games such as yellow stars, power ups, and bad guys.

A real-life Mario Party was set up for players, which is used rolling a dice to accelerate through

a series of mini games. Princess Peach's Ring Toss, Yoshi's Egg Hunt, Luigi's Peek a Boo Cup Game and Mario's Foe Frenzy Knockdown game were all the mini games played with some being timed.

If you were looking for a quieter setting, the Mario movie was played in the Storytime area, coloring pages of characters and Mario bookmarks were placed in the back for anyone too.

Overall, the day was well spent celebrating Mario with friends and neighbors.

For more information on Library events and programs, please contact them at (520) 568-1675.



(L-R) Bingo had all the participants competitive for a win as the prizes were plentiful, Angelita Garcia tries her hand at the Peach Ring Toss and dominates the other contestants.

O'odham Bingo is back for spring

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

All bingo players and prize seekers made their way to the Ak-Chin Service Center to play in the spring O'odham Bingo night hosted by the Ak-Chin Language department on March 5, 2026.

Prizes were abundant and catered to all age ranges; the night kicked off with a serving of bingo cards and nachos.

Perfect for seasoned speakers and beginners, the bingo cards featured fruits, vegetables, beans of all kinds, and desert plants.

To make the rounds interesting, language staff switched up the games from traditional Bingo, Blackout, where all spaces are covered and four corners, where the corner spaces are filled.

If you'd like to participate in the next Bingo night or are interested in learning about upcoming Language based events, please contact the Language department at (520) 568-1370.



Student Spotlight

Submitted by Diana Velasquez, Ak-Chin Student Advisor

A/B Recognition – 3rd Quarter



Student: Paislee White
Parents: Kimberli & Nikolai White
Grade Level: Kindergarten

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Art.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- Teachers and momma.

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- Playing with my friends and Art.

Straight A Recognition – 3rd Quarter



Student: Gioni Pablo
Parents: Tashina Salcido & Ervin Pablo
Grade Level: Kindergarten
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Math.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- Ms. Wojtal and Mommy.

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- Phonics.

Perfect Attendance and A/B Recognition – 3rd Quarter



Student: Nevaeh Marin
Parent: Kristen Antone
Grade Level: 4th
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- What does perfect attendance mean to you?

A- It means being at school every day.

Q- How did you stay motivated to come to school every day?

A- So, I could see my teachers and friends and learn Math and English.

Q- Who helped support you in achieving this accomplishment?

A- My uncle.

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- English.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- My teacher.

Straight A Recognition – 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarter



Student: Jessica Zabawa
Parents: Sarah and Joseph Zabawa
Grade Level: 5th
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Math and ELA.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- My teachers and my family.

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- I like being a part of the Lighthouse Team at MES.

Straight A Recognition – 3rd Quarter



Student: Andrea Lopez
Parents: Elisis and Alexander Lopez
Grade Level: 2nd
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Spelling words.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- My teacher Mrs. Keith, my mom, my dad, and my sister Alexandra.

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- My favorite subject is Math and learning multiplication.

A/B Recognition- 3rd Quarter



Student: Adriel Jimenez
Parent: Kristen Antone
Grade Level: 4th
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Math.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- My teacher and friends.

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- Math.

Perfect Attendance – 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarter



Student: Jaxson Justin
Parents: Brittany and Joseph Justin
Grade Level: 3rd
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- What does perfect attendance mean to you?

A- Gaining knowledge and being consistent with my education. Not missing any days.

Q- How did you stay motivated to come to school every day?

A- Earning coins for coming to school every day.

Q- Who helped support you in achieving this accomplishment?

A- My momma and daddy.

A/B Recognition – 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarter



Student: Dominic Pierce
Parent: Esperanza Barrera
Grade Level: 3rd
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Science.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- My friends.

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- School Projects.

A/B Recognition – 3rd Quarter



Student: Jonah Dickerson
Parents: Alyssa Joaquin & Jacob Dickerson
Grade Level: 2nd
School: Maricopa Elementary School

Q- Which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A- Art, because I love making stuff.

Q- Who do you want to thank for helping you succeed?

A- My mama & daddy

Q- What's your favorite thing about school right now?

A- I have two favorite things. First is lunch because I like to eat and math because it helps me with my brain.



March 13, 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 March, 2026, and will continue for 8 months. Flyer notices will be distributed to the 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 |
|---|--|

**THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS
TWO (2) VACANCIES FOR THE AK-CHIN GAMING COMMISSION**

All interested individuals are eligible to apply; however Ak-Chin members will be given first preference.

Reminder: You may only serve on three (3) Boards, Commissions or Committees maximum at any given time.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Community Council is seeking individuals with the following qualifications:

1. Must have knowledge or possess the ability to learn the Ak-Chin Gaming Compact, Code and Harrah's/Ak-Chin Casino Resort Management Agreement.
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the Ak-Chin Gaming Compact, Code and Harrah's/Ak-Chin Casino Resort Management Agreement, and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
3. Must have the ability to learn and understand the Federal, State, and Community regulatory processes pertaining to the Tribal Gaming Agency and Harrah's Casino Resort.
4. Must possess a valid Driver's License.

Requirements:

All interested individuals must submit a Letter of Interest detailing why they are interested in serving on the Ak-Chin Gaming Commission. Community employees must submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Gaming Commission. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires. All interested individuals must be able to successfully complete a background check and obtain an Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming License.

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



Deadline to submit letter of interest is Friday, March 27, 2026 by 5:00pm

VIDEO CREATION

Turn your home videos and photos in to a video to share with family or on social media.

Memorial Video
Slide Show
Event Celebration

For More Information
Call The Library
at
520-568-1675 or Email
library@ak-chin.nsn.us



**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL F
OR THE COMMUNITY FIBER
CONNECTIVITY PROJECT
(CONSTRUCTION SERVICES)**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all fiber Contractors to submit proposals on a Construction Contract. The project consists of but not limited to the following:

The Project will include pulling new fiber in existing conduits and placement of additional pull boxes per plan replacing the remainder of its 20-year-old trunk line infrastructure from West Farrell Road to Hwy. 347 connecting Village, Mesquite and Firehouse subdivisions, and then proceeding south on Hwy 347 then east on Peters & Nall Road to the Farms Subdivision. The Project entails installing fiber backbone and connecting the residential homes in each of the subdivisions to the trunkline, staying within the Community's Boundary. The Project includes installation of approximately 4.5 miles of trunk line, 6 miles of distribution cables from the trunk line to approximately 221 Community homes, 86 utility boxes or hand-holes, fiber drops to homes, including the ONT, demark extensions and CPE installation, and other minor components to be funded by NTIA.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled onsite for Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 9:00am, at the IS/CP Conference Room located at 45710 W. Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139. During this meeting the project scope and bid procedures will be discussed. It is required that all bidders attend this meeting to understand the scope of work and the bidding requirements.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 2:00pm (MST) on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 45508 W. Ak-Chin Pkwy, Maricopa, Arizona 85139. Proposals received after the specified date and time will be rejected and returned unopened.

This invitation is unrestricted; however, preference will be given to Indian Organizations and Indian Owned Enterprises in accordance to the Community Procurement Procedure. Request for Proposals ("RFP") instruction/information package and related information may be obtained from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Purchasing Office, 45508 W. Ak-Chin Pkwy, Maricopa, Arizona 85139.

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

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.

**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, March 24, 2026, at the Justice Center Conference Room.

CASE: Update SD-04-25: Harrah's Casino Expansion-Casitas and Pool

Project Applicant/Harrah's Director of Facilities and Surveillance, April Tawney is submitting changes to the approved Site Development Plan Permit for review. The changes consist of:

- Event lawn expansion and site reconfiguration; and
- Support facilities and infrastructure improvements: and
- Pool area redesign and guest experience enhancements; and
- Parking and access improvements; and
- Casitas design enhancements.

Case: PS-01-26 Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program-Ak-Chin Fiber Connectivity Project

Project Applicant/Information Systems Director, Keith Franklin, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan Approval to pull new fiber in existing conduits where feasible and replacing the remainder of its 20-year-old last-mile trunk line infrastructure along West Farrell Road to Highway 347 and then East on Peters and Nall Road to the Farms Subdivision connecting Community Homes to the fiber backbone. The project entails connecting the residential subdivisions Mesquite, Firehouse, Farms, and the Village to the trunkline within the Community Boundary. The project consists of:

- Installation of approximately four (4) miles of trunk line; and
- Six (6) miles of distribution cables from the trunk line to 221 Community Homes; and
- Eighty-six (86) utility boxes or hand holes; and
- Other minor components.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino HERO Committee Packs Snack Bags for Children in Need



Members of the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino HERO Committee volunteered their time to support local children experiencing hunger by participating in a H.E.L.P.SNACKZ packing event organized by HELPNOWAZ.

MARICOPA, Ariz. snacks and uplifting messages for children facing homelessness or food insecurity in the community. The bags are distributed through the H.E.L.P. (Homeless Engagement Lift Partnership)SNACKZ program, which helps fill hunger gaps by providing daily snack bags to at-

risk youth. For many children, these snack bags help ensure they have something to eat when they return home from school.

"Through efforts like the H.E.L.P.SNACKZ event, we can continue our commitment to supporting local organizations and strengthening communities throughout Pinal County and beyond," said HERO Chair Barbara Achten.

The HERO Committee is an employee-based volunteer group at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino that provides team

members and their families opportunities to give back to the community through service projects, charitable donations and nonprofit partnerships.

"A huge thank you to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, the HERO Committee, and their incredible team members for supporting our

community," said Amy Gonzales, Fundraising and Donor Relations for HELPNOWAZ. "Together, 2,500 bags of snacks were packed and will be distributed to local children in need. With the help of partners like Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, HELPNOWAZ can continue to bridge the hunger gaps for our most vulnerable children."



EAT, MAKE OR TAKE AT ANNUAL TORTILLA FESTIVAL HOSTED BY THE HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM

Celebrate the history and art of tortilla making once a staple for the central Arizona river tribes

Salt River Indian Community, AZ - Come celebrate the history and art of tortilla making!

The annual Tortilla Festival will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Huhugam Ki: Museum, 10005 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, Arizona on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community adjacent the city of Scottsdale.

The day will kick-off at 6:30 a.m. with a torch run by the Salt River Fire Department starting from McDowell Road, proceed north on Longmore Road ending at the Huhugam Ki: Museum.

Firefighters will use the lighted torch to start four outdoor wood burning stoves each located within a traditional uk'sha or kitchen made from ocotillo branches and arrow weed; to initiate the festival.

Seasoned tortilla makers representing the Salt River Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community and Tohono O'odham Nation will each have an outdoor cooking space demonstrating their techniques making

fresh tortillas, providing samples and answering questions. Tortillas will be available to eat, make or purchase throughout the festival.

Classes will be available for visitors to learn the step-by-step process of tortilla making from forming the dough with basic ingredients, hand-patting the round tortilla shape and finish with cooking a tortilla on a comal or disk on an open fire.

Class sign-up will be onsite and taught by experienced tortilla makers from the Salt River Indian Community and staff of the Huhugam Ki: Museum.

"We invite the public to take part in the Tortilla Festival by experiencing

the art of tortilla making, sampling foods, and meeting seasoned tortilla makers from the Southern Arizona tribes," said, Gary Owens, Director, Huhugam Ki: Museum.

"We want to share the history and tradition that was once a staple food for families and is now considered a treasured bread in many tribal homes."

In addition, individuals can learn how to chop wood and start a fire safely. There will be games for children, a Native American kitchen market of aprons, potholders and more.

Individuals can sample traditional foods from the desert landscape which continue to be

harvest today and learn about their nutritional dietary values including tepary beans, mesquite flour, saguaro syrup and cholla buds.

Patrons can grab lunch at one of the outdoor food vendors while enjoying music from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. by the Waila Style 87 chicken scratch band playing vaila style music!

The event is open to the public, no admission fee,

free parking.

ABOUT US:

The Huhugam Ki: Museum is dedicated to the preservation, retention and collection of the traditional and contemporary life of the Onk Akimel O'odham and the Xalychidom Piipaash. The museum oversees a Community Repository where collections and archives are housed for preservation, protection, maintenance and safety.

The Huhugam Ki: Museum is owned and operated by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community under the Cultural Resources Department.

Connect with us:
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/saltrivercrd>
Instagram - <https://instagram.com/saltrivercrd>
Website - <https://www.saltrivercrd.org>

MARCH 21: 8AM-2PM

JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENTS!

- ✦ TORTILLA CLASSES
- ✦ TORTILLA ETIQUETTE
- ✦ NATIVE FOOD SAMPLES
- ✦ KITCHEN CRAFT ARTISTS
- ✦ TORTILLA DEMONSTRATIONS FROM THE 4 SOUTHERN TRIBES

- ✦ FOOD VENDORS
- ✦ GAMES
- ✦ TORTILLA BASICS
- ✦ TORTILLA MAKER OLYMPICS
- ✦ CHICKEN SCRATCH BAND: WAILA STYLE 87

COME & SEE THE SUNRISE LIGHTING OF THE FIRES.

CEMAIT/MODILLY 2026

10005 E. OSBORN RD, SCOTTSDALE 85256 (Southeast Corner of Longmore & Osborn)

HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM
480.362.8320
WWW.HUHUGAMKI.ORG

@HUHUGAMKI
#HUHUGAMKIMUSEUM

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

FIXED ROUTE SCHEDULE

| PICKUP TIMES | BUS SHELTER | LOCATION | PICKUP TIMES | BUS SHELTER | LOCATION | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 10:15AM | 12:00PM | YES | WB-West of Carlyle Rd | 10:32AM | 12:17AM | Juan and Ross St | |
| 10:16AM | 12:01AM | YES | NE Elders Center | 10:33AM | 12:18PM | Juan and Hohokam St | |
| 10:17AM | 12:02PM | | Apartments | 10:36AM | 12:21PM | Coppersky | |
| 10:18AM | 12:03PM | YES | EB-Elders Center | 10:37AM | 12:22PM | YES | SB-Ak-Chin Circle |
| 10:20AM | 12:05PM | | Vekol Market | 10:38AM | 12:23PM | YES | Front of Ak-Chin Circle |
| 10:21AM | 12:06PM | | Library and Gym | 10:39AM | 12:24PM | | Front of Casino |
| 10:23AM | 12:08PM | | Lewis and Joaquin | 10:41AM | 12:26PM | YES | Harrahs Casino West Side |
| 10:24AM | 12:09PM | | Joaquin and Joaquin | 10:42AM | 12:27PM | YES | Harrahs Casino South Side |
| 10:24AM | 12:09PM | | Lewis at Park | 10:46AM | 12:33PM | YES | Peters and Nall at Milo |
| 10:24AM | 12:09PM | | Lewis and Manual | 10:47AM | 12:34PM | | Ak-Chin Govt. Headquarters |
| 10:25AM | 12:10PM | | Smith and Lewis | 10:47AM | 12:34PM | | Barley and Pecan |
| 10:26AM | 12:11PM | YES | Bureau of Indian Affairs | 10:47AM | 12:34PM | | Farm and Pecan |
| 10:27AM | 12:12PM | YES | Police Station | 10:56AM | 12:43PM | | Walmart |
| 10:28AM | 12:13PM | | Peters and Narcia | 11:05AM | 12:52PM | | Frys |
| 10:28AM | 12:13PM | | Pablo and Narcia | 11:11AM | 12:58PM | | CVS Pharmacy |
| 10:29AM | 12:14PM | | Pablo and Miguel | 11:14AM | 1:01PM | | ACE Hardware |
| 10:30AM | 12:15PM | | Ralph and Miguel | 11:15AM | 1:02PM | | Walgreens |
| 10:30AM | 12:15PM | | Ralph and Milton | 11:18AM | 1:05PM | | Bashas |
| 10:31AM | 12:16PM | | Ralph and Hohokam St | 11:23AM | 1:10PM | | Sprouts |

Transit will still be offering Free On-Demand door to door pickup in Ak-Chin that can be scheduled up to 7 days in advance. This new route is an addition to our current services. Residents can make unlimited On-Demand Reservations in addition to the new fixed route.

KEY

WB= West Bound | SB= South Bound
EB= East Bound | NB= North Bound

Yes at bus shelter indicates the stop is at the bus shelter

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE:
CALL: 520-568-1630
TEXT: 520-340-0382

AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT
SERVING THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

ATTENTION AK-CHIN YOUTH!

WIOA Program is recruiting students for the 2026 Summer Program

Orientation Dates & Times

Located: Ak-Chin Education Department

ORIENTATION STARTS AT 5PM

MARCH 26 @ 5-7PM

MARCH 27 @ 5-7PM

Please be on time

Program Services

- Summer Job Placement
- Work Readiness
- Career Development
- Career Interest Testing
- College Tours

Students **MUST** provide proof they have successfully passed their current school year & have the education credits for their grade.

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. To determine if you may qualify for the WIOA program and to schedule an orientation appointment.

Employment & Training Dept.
(520) 562-3387/88

Mul-Chu-Tha continued from Front

sports, a Powwow, and vendors to name a few. The Ak-Chin Indian Community helped celebrate the return with their participation in scheduled events, starting with the Jr. Rodeo.

Taking place on March 13, the Jr. Rodeo had its normal schedule of events including Stick Horse Barrels, Dummy Roping, Calf Riding, Steer Riding, Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, etc. Ak-Chin community members participating in the Mul-Chu-Tha Jr. Rodeo included Emerson Antone for the Calf Riding, Michael Enos for Bull Riding and Pate Justin for 14-17 Barrel Racing, 14-17 Ribbon Roping and 14-17 Team Roping.

Saturday morning at 9 AM, the parade was in full swing with floats of all kinds following the theme of "Celebrating Traditional Artistry Across Generations." The Ak-Chin Community's Council decked a community vehicle in banners and passed out fruits to parade watchers on the sidelines, this included Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Vice-Chairman Delia Carlyle, and Councilmember Lisa Garcia.

Community members Harlee Jose and Abraham Jose also performed with the Anegam Traditional Singers and dancers in the parade.

Sunday morning the Toka and Songivul games were held at 8 AM.

Ak-Chin's S-Kubjuv Ju:dam participated in the women's Toka tournament and left with an impressive 2-2 record. Men and boys representing the Ak-Chin Indian Community participating in the Songivul games were Dennis Antone, Adriel Jimenez, Jose Miguel Jr. William Delma, Kaleb Rivers, and Clinton Rivers.

For Sunday's Rodeo, Chizum Justin participated in the Open Team Roping with Brittin Shirley.

Throughout the weekend, musical entertainment was shared along with the carnival. Welcome back Mul-Chu-Tha celebration!

PD Spring Activity

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

On March 10th at 4pm the Ak-Chin Police department held a spring family activity at the Ak-Chin multipurpose justice complex.

The activity consisted of painting spring themed ceramics and wooden wreaths. Most participants decorated

multiple ceramics, and even officers joined in on the festivities, decorating their own pieces!

During the evening a variety of food, snacks, and drinks were provided for the families to enjoy while decorating their crafts.



Clockwise: bunny vase, group photo of families and officers chatting, officer Sacro posing for a picture with his strawberry vase.



Left: Apples from Chairman Lopez for all watching the parade. Below: Rodeo clown wanted a close up apparently.



Below: Ju:dam ladies race down to their goal line led by Zaida Soliz with the pink team on their tail.



Kaleb and William received cool tees for their participation in the Songivul games.

Spring programs continued

Both sessions began on March 9, and have had their books full of activities for the kiddos. For the first week, the Him-ak Museum has had visits from Health Education for some exercise, the library for Storytime and crafty craft about robots, and students were also treated to a trip to Ak-Chin Circle for bowling at Ten Pins and pizza. These were intertwined with their designated crafting time of course.

The Events Intersession has had a busy schedule with planned activities like tie-dyed aprons with the Elder Center, Storytime and paper flower wreath making with Library, kick ball with Central Plant, St. Patrick themed crafts with the Education department, and plenty of sporty games with Parks and Recreation. Movie Day gave the kids the opportunity to pick their next watch using ballots and allowed them to dress their coziest in pajamas.

There is more to come for these kids, please stay tuned for second week coverage.

Below: Central Plant came to get the kids out on a gloomy but nice day for some games of Kickball, (L) Elmaleen Johnson hopes to get her teammates home, (R) Yael Ramirez goes for an out at first base.



Above: Intercessions Movie day was relaxing to say the least, Below: Crafting a robot was one of the many projects for the Spring Art Kids.



Above: The Art kids enjoy the gloomy weather with games and activities provided by Health Ed. Left: Aubrey Lozano takes her time making her robot during the Library's craft.

Easter Crafts at Him-Dak

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

On the evening of Wednesday, March 4th, the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum held a crafts session open to members, residents, and employees from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

The theme for the evening's session was EASTER!

There were plenty of different crafts to choose from, including; painting your choice of bunnies, chickens, lambs, eggs, and baskets, to decorating your own table piece, egg carton, or even making your own mini basket!



Above: Girls painting their choice of chicks and bunnies. Left: Jasper Justin posing next to his artwork.

All offered crafts were great for decorations for the upcoming holiday! Be on the lookout for the next event happening at Him-Dak Museum! For any questions, please contact the Him-Dak Museum at (520) 568-1350.

March Fitness Sessions: Zumba, Yoga, and Pilates

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

Post Zumba workout for these ladies, March 17.



Fitness sessions for Ak-Chin members and employees are an incentive provided by Ak-Chin Health Education for quite a while, have you attended them? Do you know what they are?

Zumba has been held at the Ak-Chin Service Center every Tuesday at 6 PM. Perfect for those who need variety in their fitness journey, Zumba offers opportunities to hit cardio and with the utilization of weights can help build muscle.

Couple in the use of dance, Zumba is a fun way to reach your fitness goals.

Restorative yoga has just concluded their session to ring in the new fitness class: Pilates. Yoga is great for those who want a quiet, relaxing setting, while also improving one's range of motion and flexibility.

Yoga also works those deep muscles that are hard to reach, but overtime will improve strength all together. Be on the look out for announcements on its return in the future.

Pilates is the newest class offered for members and employees. Another workout that works deep muscles, Pilates focuses on core building.

Designed to be low impact, its preciseness can help also increase flexibility, tone muscles and aid in posture correction.

The first class was held on March 18 at the Service Center at 6 PM, there is no set schedule just yet, but be on the look out for one in the upcoming Runner issues.

For questions about these fitness classes, please contact the Ak-Chin Health Education Program at (520) 568-1080.



Christian Kerley goes up for two as Ak-Chin competes in the Salt River Recreation High School Basketball League in Scottsdale.

get some extra games and reps in as they competed in the Run N Gun Hoops Classic in Chandler, which featured eight teams. Ak-Chin unfortunately finished 0-2, but feel that they are ready to put on a great showing in Vegas, despite the Run N Gun outcome.

In the 7th Annual Junior National in Las Vegas, the Ak-Chin boys will be playing a first-round game on Friday, March 20th at 8:00 am against 4C Elite.

Depending on the

outcome of their three games, Ak-Chin will be placed in a Diamond or Platinum bracket, then a single game elimination will be played late on in the day.

In Vegas, the Ak-Chin girls have a first-round game against NE on Friday, March 20th at 1:50 pm.

Just as the boys, depending on the outcome of their three games, Ak-Chin will be slotted into a Diamond or Platinum bracket, with a single elimination game

played later in the day. All games in Las Vegas will take place at the Las Vegas Basketball Center. Ak-Chin's participation and outcome will be featured in the next issue of the Runner, stay tuned. Following Las Vegas, both boys and girls will be preparing for the BIG tournament, the 23rd Annual Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI). Games will take place at various locations throughout the greater Phoenix area from July 14th through the 18th.

Ak-Chin Ballers Compete in Salt River League

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

Prior to traveling to out of State tournaments, both the Ak-Chin boys and girls teen basketball teams, continued their preparation, by participating in the Salt River Recreation Basketball League in Scottsdale.

other squads from Salt River and Gila River. Games thus far gave the teams an opportunity to continue to work on teammate work, cohesiveness, comradery and stamina for the running and gunning of what they call "rez ball".

Whitman. Both teams will be making their way to Las Vegas during Spring Break from March 20-22, to compete in the 7th Annual Native American Junior Nationals. The tournament is the world's largest all Indigenous premier basketball tournament, featuring over 450 teams from around the world.

The boys were able to

Every Tuesday and Thursday in the month of March, the teams played in the evenings against

The boys' team is coached by Thomas Carlyle, while the girls are guided by Raymond "Bunch"



Stella Miguel reaches for a rebound as teammates Nyaila Miguel, Audrina Peters and Auciana Miguel look on in league play in Salt River.

Top 5K Male Finishers were; Albertino Santiago, Richard Perry and Leon Potter Sr.

Justin and male – Albertino Santiago. 50-59-year-old winners were; female – Flora Howerton and male – Leon Potter Sr.

Female Winners were; Vivian Ly, Vanessa Ly and Audrina Peters.

60 + winners were; female – Ninfa Wells and male – Richard Perry.

0-10-year-old winner was Jaxson Justin.

Near the conclusion of the St. Patrick's 5K event, a group of javelina were spotted near the route, where Ak-Chin Police department responding for safety support.

11-18-year-old winner was Audrina Peters.

38-42 winner was Emma Narcia.

43-49-year-old winners were; female – Deanna

It was decided that the javelina, who were looking to be a part of the run, were declared ineligible due to not having registered and not enough shirts available.

The Ak-Chin Health Education would like to thank the Ak-Chin Farms, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Police Department, Ak-Chin Public Works & Sanitation, Vekol Market, Ak-Chin Runner, Waylon Antone, and temps Ashley and Dustin for their support.

They would also like to thank all participants for taking time out during their weekend to join the event!

Health Education was also able to sponsor 35 individuals to participate in the Pat's Run, which will take place in Tempe on April 11th.

Also, look for the next 5K community event in May, as Health Education will once again organize and sponsor the "May the Fourth Be with You" event.



Youth runners take off from the start line as they make their way towards the 5K route through the Ak-Chin Farms.

St. Patrick's continued from Page 3

ARIZONA'S LIFE IS ON THE LINE.

ARIZONA COULD BE FORCED INTO A DEVASTATING WATER SHORTAGE.

The Upper Colorado River Basin (Colorado especially) wants to use MORE WATER from a shrinking river. Their plan is that Arizona would take massive additional cuts that will hurt our way of life. Our survival depends on a fair and balanced solution. Don't let the Upper Basin wipe Arizona off the map.

JOIN THE PLEDGE
ProtectingArizonasLifeline.com

COALITION FOR
PROTECTING ARIZONA'S LIFELINE



JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

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

WIC

Tuesday, April 07, 2026
8:30a-3:30p
Ak-Chin Service Center

Do you qualify for WIC?

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

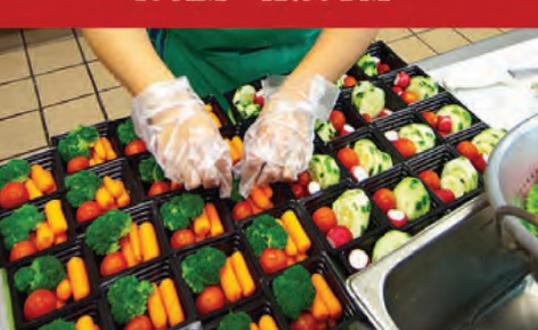
WIC foods include: yogurt, fresh fruits & vegetables, baby foods and other favorites such as milk, peanut butter, cheese, cereal and eggs



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

FOOD HANDLERS CLASS

TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026
AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER
10 AM - 12:30 PM



Who Should Attend??

- Food Service Workers
- Volunteers
- Interested Community Members

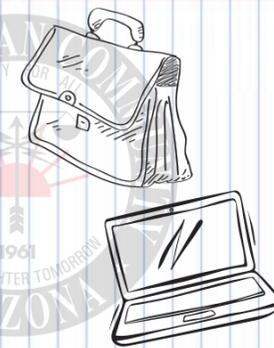


Questions?? or to Sign-Up... Please call (520) 568-1083

Employee Updates



Daniel Batopis
 Security Guard



Employee Birthdays

3/20 - 4/2

| | |
|--|---|
| 3/20 Michelle Lissarrague, Prosecutor | 3/27 Jesus Estrada, Sanitation Fernando Lopez, Sanitation Celia Soto, Health and Human Services |
| 3/21 Eric Chavez, Tribal Gaming Agency | 3/29 Dannon Peters, Him-Dak |
| 3/22 Manuel Garcia, Police Nicole Vincent, Security | 3/30 Belen Olvera, Health and Human Services |
| 3/23 Christian Alvarez, Cultural Resources Rene Carlyle, Vekol Sergio Hernandez, Sanitation Deanna Justin, Courts Mark Pablo, EPD | 3/31 Shannon Peters Vekol |
| 3/24 Alexa Norris, Vekol | 4/1 Marcus Stephens, Sanitation Marilyn Thompson, Community Government |
| 3/26 David Lopez, Police Jaime Sanchez Courts | 4/2 Julie Campbell, Finance Elsa Trujillo, Custodian Casey Turgeon, Capital Projects |

High School SENIOR TRIP TO HAWAII

AK-CHIN GRADUATING SENIORS & CHAPERONES



Questions About the Trip?
 CONTACT
Flora Howerton
 520-568-1043 | FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- NEW STATE TRAVEL ID
- TRIBAL ID

JOIN US THIS Crafternoon

COME IN AND MAKE SOME SPRING CRAFTS!

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

Brick Builders

Bring your imagination and join us for an afternoon of brick building. Creative thinking, teamwork, fine motor coordination, and play are just a few of the skills learned while having fun with bricks!

Ages 6-14

Wednesdays
3pm-5pm

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

ZUMBA

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

March.24.2026
March.31.2026
April.07.2026
April.14.2026
April.21.2026
April.28.2026



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

Happy, happy birthday Marcus! Love you! Love K



Happy Birthday to my grandson Ozzy, and granddaughters Yamiah, Yaniah, Dannon, and Shannon Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Megan From your Funnor Runner Gang!

Happy Birthday Grandma Evelina May you have a blessed and joyous birthday! Lots of love from your children and grandchildren

Happy 30th Dannon Leone! We love you - and can't wait to celebrate your big day with you!! Love, dad and mom

Happy Birthday Seda and Dani Love your family

March 3/20 - April 4/2 Birthdays

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| MARCH 20 Gabriel Sierra-James Sarah Carlyle Carlton Carlyle Jr Jose Hernandez Daria Garcia | MARCH 25 David White Sr. Jacob Santiago Mario Ortega | MARCH 31 Zaydyn Norris Maria Hernandez Robert Velasquez Shannon Peters Courtney Delores |
| MARCH 21 Joel Vincent Ozzy Garcia Eric Chavez | MARCH 26 Evelina Manuel Kerwin Ugalde | APRIL 1 Marcus Stephens Marilyn Thompson Ruby Smith Dyami Jackson Hope F. Vallejos |
| MARCH 22 Nicole Vincent Manuel Garcia George Lewis Jr. | MARCH 27 Benedict Miguel Celia Soto Ronald Garcia Jr. | APRIL 2 BlueSky Thompson Skye Gonzalez Jessica Dean Augustine White |
| MARCH 23 Mark A. Pablo Melanie Antone Deanna Justin Brandon Antone Christian Alvarez Marie Ortega | MARCH 28 Maria Santiago | |
| MARCH 24 Yamiah Miguel Yaniah Miguel | MARCH 29 Monica Ruiz Megan Quintero Dannon Peters | |
| | MARCH 30 Allissia Huerta-Bandin Aaliyah Balderrama | |



Library Hours

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

3/2026 March



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|---|---------------------------|---|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 Drop Everything And Read Day 3-5pm | 3 | 4 Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm | 5 | 6 Crafternoon 3-5pm | 7 Storytime 12-1pm |
| 8 | 9 | 10 MARIO PARTY 3pm-6pm | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm | 19 | 20 | 21 Crafternoon 1-3pm |
| 22 | 23 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY | 24 | 25 Storytime @10am Brick Builders 3-5pm | 26 | 27 | 28 Library Closed |
| 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

Los Tigres Del Norte "Jefes De Jefes" Takes Over Harrah's



Los Tigres Del Norte: Oscar Lara (drums), Jorge Hernandez Sr. (lead vocalist/accordion), Hernan Hernandez (bass) and Luis Hernandez (bajo sexto).

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

Iconic international norteño-band, Los Tigres Del Norte, brought their "La Loteria" tour to the Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort on Friday, March 13th to a sold-out crowd.

As the lights started to dim, the crowd showed their excitement and appreciation with a

deafening applause. The Tigres, who are labeled "Los Jefes de Jefes" translated to "The Bosses of Bosses" showed their appreciation by jumping straight into a video montage of popular songs and lighting effects before walking on stage.

Although, the Events

Center has no room for a dance floor, many jumped into the aisles when allowed, to dance to the variety of selected numbers the Tigres performed.

Led by accordionist and lead vocalist, Jorge Hernandez, the group jumped into other favorites that included; Contrabando y Traicion,

La Mesa del Rincon, La Banda del Carro Rojo, Jefe de Jefes, Golpes en el Corazon, La Jaula de Oro, and Pacas de a Kile.

Prior to their Harrah's performance, the group performed at the Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale.

Throughout their journey, Los Tigres del Norte has been awarded Grammy Awards for the Best Mexican/Mexican-American Album, Best Norteno Album, Best Banda or Norteno Album, and Best Regional Mexican Music Album (including Tejano).

They were also celebrated with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The group is currently comprised of family members, which include; Jorge Hernandez – Director, Lead Vocalist,

accordionist, Hernan Hernandez – Bass and Vocalist, Eduardo Hernandez – Accordion, Alto Saxophone, Bajo Sexto and Vocals, Luis Hernandez – Bajo Sexto and Vocals, and Oscar Lara – Drums.

The legendary group, celebrated for their powerful corridos and enduring storytelling that chronicles the lives and struggles of their community, is making history once again with an ambitious international routing.

The ongoing La Loteria Tour, produced by Zamora Live, is a massive celebration of their unparalleled four-decade-plus legacy, featuring a career-spanning setlist that embraces their biggest classics and newer material.

The 2026 "La Loteria" tour began in February in Amarillo, Texas and will continue throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

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Hunks The Show

Story and photo by Megan Quintero



On Saturday, March 7th, Ak-Chin Circle welcomed a very large and excited crowd of women at the doors for the SOLD-OUT show, HUNKS, at Ak-Chin Circle Elements Center.

The event was one of the first few steps of the HUNK'S tour, with their next destination in Poughkeepsie, NY, and on tour till December.

Before the show started a few of the performers

were at the door giving out wristbands, helping guests to their seats or walking around the crowd and selling their merchandise.

The show is said to be "the ultimate girls' night out" and indeed it was, as all the ladies from the crowd had already started cheering on the performers even before they hit the stage.

All goes were either celebrating birthdays,

bachelorettes, or just enjoying the show with friends; laughing, chatting and dancing!

If you're planning the next girl's night out, you can bet on the hunks to bring the heat to center stage – until next time!

For more information about upcoming events at the Circle contact Ak-Chin Circle at (520) 568-3456 or go to <https://ak-chincircle.com>

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM

COOKS

KITCHEN SHIFT LEAD

EVENT HOUSEMAN (SET UP)

EVENING MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

AUDIT CLERK

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND RESUME TO:

HR@AK-CHINCIRCLE.COM

OR APPLY ONLINE:

AK-CHINCIRCLE.COM/EMPLOYMENT

Harrah's

MARCH 2026

CAESARS REWARDS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE | LEVEL UP WITH ONE TAP, DOWNLOAD THE APP! | SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY | LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG | YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY | CAESARS SPORTSBAR GRAND OPENING | SLÁINTE TO SPRING | |
| SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE | MONDAYS NEED DUNKIN', TOO! | SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY | LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG | YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY | 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | |
| SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY 10X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER COURTS OF CHAOS ST. PATRICK'S DAY | LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG COURTS OF CHAOS | YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY COURTS OF CHAOS | COURTS OF CHAOS | FRY'S FOOD STORES® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY COURTS OF CHAOS | |
| SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE COURTS OF CHAOS | COURTS OF CHAOS | SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY COURTS OF CHAOS | LUCKY CLOVER DROP 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG COURTS OF CHAOS | YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY COURTS OF CHAOS | COURTS OF CHAOS | COURTS OF CHAOS | |
| SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE COURTS OF CHAOS | COURTS OF CHAOS | SPRING REFRESH GIVEAWAY COURTS OF CHAOS | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">PAVE YOUR WAY TO FREE PLAY</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">NOW – TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">EARN OVER \$2,000 IN FREE PLAY WHILE DOING WHAT YOU LOVE!</p> </div> </div> | | | <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">THE LOUNGE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS</p> | |

Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Management reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without prior notice. Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start! Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-NEXT STEP or text "NEXTSTEP" to 53342. ©2025 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.