



Carrieanna Villarreal (black jersey) positions herself to grab the rebound.



Omarion Flores (black jersey) goes up for two against the Renegades.



Audrina Peters (white jersey) closes in on an opponent as she plays tough defense.

Ak-Chin Competes in Native American Junior Nationals

Story and photos by Runner Staff

The 7th Annual Native American Junior Nationals Basketball Tournament held at the Arizona Athletic Grounds in Mesa, Arizona from June 25-28, featured some of the top girls' and boys' basketball teams through the United States.

The tournament also highlighted high school stars, twin brothers Keethon and Deceton Demarce of North Dakota and sophomore sensation Layla Curtis of Tuba City High School on the Navajo Nation.

The Demarce twins are the nephews of National Basketball Association (NBA) Champion and All-Star, Kyrie Irving, of the Dallas Mavericks.

Junior Nationals continues to page 5

Curtis has a tremendous following on social media for her talents and play in high school and club ball. As a freshman, she was named the Arizona 3A North Player of the Year.

She is considered the next great hoopster coming out of Navajo Nation, since Arizona State University's Ryneldi Becenti and current Brigham Young University's standout, Sydney Benally.

Of the five hundred plus teams who participated in the tournament, both Ak-Chin boys and girls entered the tournament in the final tournament before competing in the annual Native American Basketball Tournament (NABI) in July.

For Ak-Chin's Lady Hao Nad: O Kam (basket makers), they took to the court against the HoopStarz of New Mexico in the first round. Ak-Chin continued to show improvement in their play as they maintained a close distance to a good team in the Hoopstarz.

With an opportunity to come close to tying the score or even jumping ahead, the Lady Hao Nad: O Kam, fell short and suffered a ten-point defeat.

In the second round against Northern Arizona Glory, the game was played closely.

With each team taking leads no more than five points throughout the game, it was a potential scenario of who ever

As Corn Season As Trucks Roll Through The Community

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

It's corn harvesting season! You see it with the semi-trucks driving through the community and farms, and all the dust that has covered the community from morning to late evening.

Beginning Wednesday, June 24th, Robinson Farms started harvesting the 4,400 acres of silage corn that Ak-Chin Farms was able to plant of this season. This year's corn was planted between February 22nd and March 14th. The plant dates change year to year, depending on temperatures.

Also, this year, harvesting was done two weeks ahead of normal, due to the hot spring, crops accumulated heat units faster than historical averages, which expedites the processes

of harvesting. With good weather, the harvesting will take between three to four weeks, and running constantly for seven days a week at twelve to fourteen hours a day.

Once harvested, the corn is sold to Shamrock Farms Dairy and Feenstra Dairy in Stanfield. Shamrock has been Ak-Chin's #1 customer, with the volume of corn that is purchased by Shamrock, some of the corn is stored on the Farms for pick up at a later time.

Robinson Farms is a custom harvester that green chops forages in Texas, California, Nebraska, New Mexico and Arizona. The first corn silage grown on the Ak-Chin Farms was in 2005.



A semi-truck gets cut corn funneled to it's trailer as corn harvest season begins on the Ak-Chin Farms. The season began on June 24th, and will conclude until mid-July.

Corn Harvest continues to Page 5

Antonio Rodriguez Participates in INSPIRE ASU Camp

Story by Runner Staff, photos submitted by Antonio Rodriguez



Antonio Rodriguez participates in week long INSPIRE Camp at ASU.

For incoming Maricopa High School senior and Ak-Chin Community member, Antonio Rodriguez, the opportunity to attend the Arizona State University INSPIRE Camp, was an opportunity that he was looking forward to, as it would prepare him for the next level into higher education.

The ASU INSPIRE Camp was held on the Tempe campus. Antonio applied, with the encouragement of his mother Jennifer Boehm, ASU alumni.

He was selected, along with other Indigenous students to attend this week-long camp geared to help Indigenous students prepare for college life.

Antonio arrived on Sunday, June 21st and began learning how to prepare for college and what college life was like from hands on experience and valuable resources shared by ASU staff.

The focus of the program was to help Indigenous students prepare for college and college life, by giving them hands on experience and valuable resources. Teaching students' things about their culture and community, while also allowing students to build valuable life skills.

Some sessions of interest to Antonio during his time at INSPIRE, was the Indigenous Fashion and Leadership

INSPIRE Camp continues to page 5

International Tribal Cultural Exchange Coming to Ak-Chin

Story by Robert Miguel

Pencil in Monday, July 13th, it will be an exciting day of cultural exchange and basketball, as the Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation department will be hosting an International Tribal Cultural Exchange with New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, with events taking place at the gymnasium throughout the day.

The event will kick off Native American Basketball Invitation (NABI) week as the four teams; Ak-Chin, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada; will be competing in the tournament.

Morning activities will begin with basketball clinics being held by coaches from their respective countries. A brief scrimmage will be held with the four teams playing against one

another. At the conclusion of morning activities, a traditional lunch will be prepared and served for the visiting teams.

The morning session will be CLOSED to the public.

The afternoon activities, which will be open to the public, will begin with an opening prayer by the Ak-Chin Language program. Chairman Gabriel Lopez will conduct a welcome and spiritual speech to open the session.

Following the prayer and welcome, performances from each country will be presented to the public. Ak-Chin's dance presentation will be performed by the San Juan Kualiya Children Dancers, while the Ak-Chin Ba:ban Keina Dancers

will also take to the floor and showcase the communities' traditional dances.

The Ak-Chin Toka Team, S-Kubjuv Ju:dam, will also give a demonstration to the group of visitors, and the Ak-Chin Men's group will then demonstrate stick games and some singing.

The Cultural Exchange originated over 15 years ago when Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Director, Ann Marie Antone and Coach Nardi Leonard of the New Zealand contingent established a relationship during the NABI Tournament.

What began as a coordinated basketball scrimmage has evolved into a recurring program that has allowed both Ak-Chin and New Zealand youth to learn about one another's traditions and cultures.

During New Zealand's prior visits, they were able to

Cultural Exchange continues to Page 5

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Special Community Meeting on Dialysis Center

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

June 16-17, 2026, a special community meeting was held with DaVita Kidney Care, at the Ak-Chin Circle, Theater 2.

Vice-Chairman Delia Carlyle and Councilmember Cecil Peters led the meeting with opening statements about the much-awaited dialysis facility.

Scheduled to open in 2027, the facility first broke ground in 2026 and will be an excellent addition to the soon to be medical suites. Shaded parking and drop off areas, designated shaded parking space for dialysis patients, and, should it

be needed; a backup generator will be onsite.

Representatives of DaVita shared information about the Southwest Kidney Institute’s many services, locations, and their mission to, “Improve the lives of our patients by providing customized, comprehensive, high quality kidney care.”

Katie Ray, DaVita’s Regional Director discussed the Kidney Clinical Care Strategy, which is aimed to bring down hospitalization.

The new dialysis center will be a 12 In-Center Hemodialysis (ICHD) station facility that will equate to 36 patients Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for three shifts, and 36 patients Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for three shifts, totaling 72 in-center patients.

There will also be two Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) rooms that will help treat 40+ home patients.

The floor was then opened to members who asked questions about scheduling, patient specific scheduling, the facility



DaVita Kidney Care representatives on hand for Special Community meeting to share information on new dialysis center.

layout in regards to the nurses’ and nephrologist choosing. stations, social workers/patient advocates, patient services of Southwest Kidney Institute, Both meetings were then closed out with last remarks.

Elders enjoy Taco Dinner Night at Elder Center



Elders line up to get their tacos, add their toppings and grab a drink.

Story and photo by Robert Miguel

For seventeen Ak-Chin elders, the Taco Tuesday dinner at the Ak-Chin Elderly Center, was the place to be on Tuesday, June 30th. As you walked into the building, the aroma of; ground beef, lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, rice and beans, filled the air, much to delight of the group of attendees.

Prior to being served, the dinner gave elders the

opportunity to sit down, relax and have conversations on past and current events, while snacking on chips and salsa and consuming water and soda. When it was time to eat, elder staff first served elders who were unable to serve themselves. Meanwhile, elders who were able to serve themselves, quickly formed a line and packed their plates with all the goods that were prepared.

All the chatter that occurred prior to dinner, quickly turned to silence with each bite. Towards the end of their meals, efforts to finish all that was on their plate, was very trying, as some finished and others didn’t.

When seconds were offered, many declined, but all did accept “to go” plates. Before departing home, staff gave

out everyone cookies that were placed into plastic bags. All appreciated the “Taco Tuesday” dinner, with many of the ladies stating that it gave them the opportunity “not to cook”!



Come on out & help us celebrate the 4th Year Anniversary for *Genevieve Miguel*

"She carried her culture with pride, loved her family fiercely, and welcomed others with kindness. Her memory will always be a blessing and her legacy will live on in our hearts."

When: Saturday, July 11, 2026

Where: R. Miguel Residence
45440 W Vincent Ave
Maricopa Az, 85139

Rosary & Traditional Baptism: 11am
(San Juan Church)
47431 W Farrell Rd

(Taking Place at R. Miguel Resident)
Feeding: 12:30pm

Traditional Entertainment: 1pm - 4:30pm

Headstone Placement & Butterfly Release
@ Ak-Chin Cemetery: 5pm
(Traditional Singers)

Dance 7pm - Midnight
Music by: D Faktion Nyne
(Vendors will be on site)

San Juan Kuali:ya Dance Group - 9pm
(Give Away)

Violence and/or Negative Disturbances will NOT be tolerated

July Elder Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Breakfast served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM Lunch Served 12 noon to 1 PM Craft Room is OPEN from 8 AM to 3 PM For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1760 Call After Hours 24/7 520-858-5043				Chair Yoga - Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:15 AM Elder Center Exercise w/ Health Ed Wednesdays Only at 9:30 AM - Elder Center Menu/Calendar Subject to Change Without Notice		7/3 <i>Elder Center Closed</i> 
	7/6 <i>Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</i> <i>Cobb Salad w/Turkey, Egg, Tomato, Cucumber, Avocado, Texas Toast, Grapes</i>	7/7 <i>Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries</i> <i>Carne Asada Tortas with Beans, Lettuce/ Tomato/Avocado, Corn Salad, Jell-O/ Apple</i>	7/8 <i>Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Salad</i> <i>Butternut Soup, Turkey Sandwich, Celery Sticks, Chips, Fruit Cocktail</i>	7/9 <i>Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</i> <i>Lima Beans, Sweet Potato, Pork Chop/ Potato (D), Moon Bread, Plums</i>	7/10 <i>Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Grapes with Cottage Cheese</i> <i>Chicken Parmesan Over Pasta, Romain Salad, Texas Toast, Vanilla Pudding</i>	
	7/13 <i>Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potatoes, Toast, Fruit</i> <i>Bar-B-Que Chicken, Baked Beans, Romain Salad, Biscuit, Watermelon</i>	7/14 <i>Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</i> <i>Ground Beef Soft, Tacos, Brown Rice, Cauliflower, Mandarin Oranges</i>	7/15 <i>Tex-Mex Scrambled, Refried Beans, Salsa & Sour Cream, Tortilla, Fruit Salad</i> <i>Sandwich Bar, Green Leaf/Tomato, Pea Salad & Pickle, Tomato Juice, Cantaloupe/ Honey Dew</i>	7/16 <i>French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries</i> <i>Indian Taco, Lettuce/ Tomato, Cheese, Corn on Cob, Ice-Cream/ Apple</i>	7/17 <i>Veggie Scrambled, Toast, Avocado Slices, Apples</i> <i>Split Peas, Chicken Dumpling (D), Carrots, Cracker, Tropical Fruit</i>	
	7/20 <i>Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</i> <i>Pinto Beans, Beef Soft Taco (D), Butternut Squash, Corn Bread, Ambrosia Salad</i>	7/21 <i>Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa & Sour Cream, Avocado Slices, Fruit & Yogurt Broccoli Cheese, Soup, Turkey Sandwich, Green Leaf/ Tomato, Pickle, Apple/Orange</i>	7/22 <i>Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad</i> <i>Baked Chicken, Baked Potato, Sauteed Cabbage, Apple Sauce</i>	7/23 <i>Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</i> <i>Squash Casserole, Romain Salad, Wild Rice, Crackers, Peaches</i>	7/24 <i>Breakfast Pizza, Avocado Slices, Fruit with Cottage Cheese</i> <i>Hot Chicken Sandwich, Lettuce/ Tomato, Macaroni salad, Roasted Potatoes, Jell-O</i>	

Story and photos by Runner Staff



Celebrating the end of the Education and Language program with a day trip to Andretti Indoor Karting.

There was much to be excited about for the kids who attended the Ak-Chin Education and Language Summer Program as they celebrated the ending of it with a trip to the ever-fun Andretti Indoor Karting in Chandler on June 26, 2026.

Starting out with the 7D XPERIENCE, goes to choose between a variety of settings and

ultimately chose the Carnival and Dark Castle; where the experience felt as if you were actually in the game.

Next, the whole group tried their hand in Laser Tag, which was a free for all challenge; whoever shot the most players, won with the most points.

After Laser Tag, the group headed to the Limitless VR and this game was realistic in

the sense you felt like you were in the game as an actual player. Next, the group split into two smaller groups and competed in the indoor karting. This was a race to the fastest time and each participant was in it to win it.

To conclude the trip, the kids and staff enjoyed a meal of sliders, chicken tenders, nachos, and cookies before ending the visit in the arcade.



Above L-R: These participants of the Andretti Trip enjoyed the Limitless VR shooting game and Arcade Claw Games.

Below: The 7D Xperience was the first of the many attractions the group partook in, This group challenged themselves with the Carnival theme setting.



Fun and More at Urban Air

Story by Runner Staff, photos by Graciela Ortega, Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum Technician



On June 26, the Ak-Chin Him-Dak Summer Art Program took participants on a field trip to Urban Air, an indoor trampoline and slide park with many other attractions including VR Arena, Twist Tower, Flash Pads, AirCourt Indoor Sports Court, and much more on June 26.

With all Urban Air had to offer, the kids enjoyed themselves and tried as many attractions as they could.

After all the fun at Urban Air, the kiddos and staff treated themselves to Peter Piper Pizza before heading back to Ak-Chin. It seemed like a lot of fun if you ask us.

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



For frequent library goers, the Library After Dark event is a favorite, as there are several activities one can do there. Changing based on the season, month, and depending on when, holiday; this library event is catered to all sorts of people.

June 23, the Ak-Chin Library hosted another Library After Dark event for all interested members. You had the option to move up on your Summer Reading

Challenge by reading for 15-30 minutes.

If you were still seeking some quiet time, you could work on completing a puzzle. Then you could choose from excavating a cool gem from egg shaped rocks.

One of the favorite activities had to be the Trivia, which had topics ranging from Dinosaurs, 80's Music, Books & Authors, 90's Movies, and Celebrities and

Pride.

Trivia was fun and at times, made some question their answers. After trivia, all After Dark attendees received popsicles.

Overall, the Library After Dark is a fun way to interact with others and participate in different activities. Be on the lookout for the next Library After Dark event in their upcoming calendars in the Runner!



Pool Party for Ak-Chin teams

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



To celebrate the end of the 2026 season of Baseball, the Ak-Chin Indian Community Parks and Recreation threw a pool party for all participants on June 27. Several kiddos and families came out to swim, eat, and hang out with friends.

Those who participated in the Inter-Tribal D-Backs tournament received cool shirts and hats to commemorate their participation. It was a day well spent for all!



Popsicles at the Library

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

Saturday June 27, the Ak-Chin Library put together a small event for anyone to stop by and get out of the heat. Staff put together a few activities for participants, such as adopting a Dino, signing up for the summer reading program to win prizes, and guessing how long it would take the sun to melt the ice cubes that dinos were frozen in.

Once they were all finished, participants were allowed a sweet treat from a variety of popsicles.



When the Ice melted, it revealed cool dinosaur toys.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CIP PROJECT

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the “Owner”) invites all Firms to submit proposals on a Consulting Services Agreement. The Health and Human Services CIP Project consists of the following:

The selected contractor shall provide design and renovation services to improve privacy, confidentiality, and functionality within an existing facility serving Social Services and Behavioral Health programs. The project consists of constructing a new enclosed office within the existing floor plan to support confidential client services, relocating the existing receptionist desk to improve client flow and privacy, and replacing existing carpet with commercial-grade tile flooring in designated areas. The contractor shall also modify the existing layout to create separate client entry and access points for Social Services and Behavioral Health programs, ensuring greater separation between services and enhanced client confidentiality.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on Monday, July 13, 2026, located at the Capital Projects Conference Room located at 45710 W. Farrell Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85139. The RFP Packet and information will be provided via thumb drive to those in attendance.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be 5:00 p.m. (MST) on Monday, July 20, 2026. Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us. Also, Cc: Larry Joe, at LJoe@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 2:00 p.m. (MST) on Monday, July 27, 2026 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. 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, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested by electronic mail at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

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 sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without consent of the Owner.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON DESIGN-
BUILD FOR 2025 (3) HOMES - HANDICAP
BATHROOM CONVERSION /2026 (3)
HOMES - HANDICAP BATHROOM
CONVERSION PROJECTS

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the “Owner”) invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract. These projects are to design and construct ADA bathrooms on scattered homes in the Ak-Chin Community.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 9, 2026, located at the EPA – Water Reclamation Facility “Earth” Conference Room at 46200 W. Ralph St., Maricopa, AZ 85139. The RFP Packet and information will be provided via thumb drive to those in attendance.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be **5:00 p.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 16, 2026.** Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us. Also, Cc: Project Manager, Casey Turgeon at cturgeon@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Proposals until **2:00 p.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 23, 2026** at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. 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, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested by electronic mail at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner reserves the right to reject, any and all pre-proposal. 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 proposals shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Proposals without consent of the Owner.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects Office

June 26, 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:

This project will replace the old service lines with new more dependable water service lines and new water meters. The project will improve the water service quality to the houses by minimizing water line breaks and repeated repairs on the old service waterlines.

Safety Precaution:

During construction activities, residents should take extra precautions around the construction areas and keep clear from moving construction equipment.

Timeline of the Project:

The project started construction March, 2026, and will continue for 8 months. Currently working in Mesquite, Greasewood & Firehouse subdivisions. Water service lines for several houses were successfully replaced. 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 & Construction 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
ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE

OPEN TO AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY

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

Duties & Responsibilities of the Ak-Chin Enrollment Committee

1. Preparing for and attending all meetings of the Committee.
2. Reviewing all enrollment applications.
3. Preparing enrollment applications for presentation to the Community Council.
4. Recommending to the Community Council approval or denial of applications for enrollment.
5. Developing recommendations to improve the enrollment process as needed.
6. Taking timely action on all enrollment applications and related matters.
7. Attending training sessions/meetings pertaining to tribal membership as appropriate.

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

Enrolled Community employees must also submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Enrollment Committee:

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



Deadline to submit letter of interest is Wednesday, July 29, 2026 by 5:00pm.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON
2025 (3) HOMES DEMO & REBUILD /
2026 (3) HOMES DEMO & REBUILD
PROJECTS

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the “Owner”) invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Construction Contract. This Construction projects consist of (6) Homes:

- Demolition and removal of all materials
- Pad build up/compaction
- All permits
- All inspections/survey
- Rebuild/plans provided
- Closeout documents/as-builts
- Safety meetings/construction meeting minutes

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 9, 2026, located at the EPA – Water Reclamation Facility “Earth” Conference Room at 46200 W. Ralph St., Maricopa, AZ 85139. The RFP Packet and information will be provided via thumb drive to those in attendance.

Deadline for any questions regarding this project will be **5:00 p.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 16, 2026.** Proposal questions should be directed to Flora Howerton at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us. Also, Cc: Project Manager, Casey Turgeon at cturgeon@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner will receive Proposals until **2:00 p.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 23, 2026** at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. 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, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested by electronic mail at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

The Owner reserves the right to reject, any and all pre-proposal. 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 proposals shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Proposals without consent of the Owner.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ON
DESIGN-BUILD FOR 2025 (3) HOMES
– BEDROOM ADDITIONS & 2026 (3)
HOMES – BEDROOM ADDITIONS
PROJECTS

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the “Owner”) invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract. These projects are to design and construct bedroom additions on scattered homes in the Ak-Chin Community.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. (MST) on Thursday, July 9, 2026, located at the EPA – Water Reclamation Facility “Earth” Conference Room at 46200 W. Ralph St., Maricopa, AZ 85139. The RFP Packet and information will be provided via thumb drive to those in attendance.

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No proposals shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Proposals without consent of the Owner.

Summer Programs end for Rec, Education-Language

Story by Megan Quintero photos by Runner Staff

For the past few weeks, Ak-Chin Recreation and Education/Language programs kept the kids mostly booked and busy with a series of activities and field trips.

At the Rec the kids participated in lots of sports related drills, movie days, and making crafts; whether it was in the gym or at the library.

While at the Education building students worked

on plenty of STEM related projects, such as; making DIY light up bow ties, learning how to swap out computer batteries, making DIY light up masks, and so much more!

These same students not only learned about things in STEM they also had the opportunity to take classes at the Ak-Chin Language program, where they learned about their

culture and language.

Language staff shared many recipes with the students and even taught them to make different foods such as; chumuth (tortillas), mesquite cookies, and roasted corn.

Language and Education staff also took the students on few educational field trips during the summer; to the Ak-Chin Farms to tour and get an idea of what kinds of crops the

community grows and got to see how the potato processing plant is run.

They also took a trip down south to Kitt Peak, where they toured the observatory and learned a little about

the history of space.

Just as fast as the kids were out of school a couple weeks ago, is just as fast as their summer programs are soon coming to an end, and school will

be back in session.

Stay tuned for the next issue to see what the Him Dak Art program and Ak-Chin Preschool have been up to this summer!



Dive-In Movie at the Rec

Story and photos by Runner Staff



With Arizona heat being at an all-time high it's important for members to cool off and relax, without having to worry about going outside.

So, on June 26, the Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation department held one of their dive-in movie nights to get people out of their homes and into the pool.

Members in the community were invited to join the Rec staff for a nice and refreshing night at the pool to experience "Lilo and Stitch" on the big screen. Attendees were also provided a



free hotdog dinner with popcorn to enjoy while watching their movie.

Along with swimming in the pool, members also got to participate in bracelet making, allowing them to accessorize their bracelet with different Lilo and

Stitch themed charms.

Members who attended got to enjoy a fun time in the pool, while also being able to kick back and enjoy their movie, making for a relaxing day to escape the summer's heat.

Ak-Chin Child Development

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

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.

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

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.

CALL US:
(520) 562-3321



Gila River
HEALTH CARE

VISIT US ONLINE:
GRHC.ORG



We Are
HIRING!
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE
Where Care Meets Community

Crisis Support Specialist

Provides crisis intervention expertise and counseling directly to patients during evening and weekend/holiday hours by performing the following duties personally. Responsible for ensuring that all critical tasks are fulfilled on a timely basis.

Required Qualifications:

- Master’s Degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field
- Associate Licensure in good standing with the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners required (LAC, LASAC, LMSW, LAMFT), Independent Licensure preferred (LPC, LIAC, LCSW, LMFT)
- Experience with the Native American population preferred
- Arizona Department of Public Safety Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card required
- Current and continuing CPR/FA and/or BLS training and certification required
- State of Arizona driver’s license with no significant violations during the last 5 years
- Demonstrates ability to relate to diverse cultures and specifically the Gila River Community and/or other Native American cultures and community health services

Explore Careers at:
GRHC.org/Careers
Human Resources
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 1342

Medical Van Driver

Serves individuals requesting or needing non-emergency medical transportation by performing the following duties personally. Responsible for ensuring that all critical tasks are fulfilled on a timely basis.

Required Qualifications:

- High School diploma or GED
- Prior medical environment work experience is preferred
- Defensive Driving certification preferred
- Valid Arizona driver’s license, violation free for a minimum of five years
- Demonstrates ability to relate to diverse cultures and specifically the Gila River Community or other Native American cultures and community health services
- Employment at the Caring House requires an AZ Department of Public Safety Fingerprint Clearance Card



News, Information, and
Events

Visit our News, Information, and Events page to see the latest classes, fliers, and special events at Gila River Health Care.

SCAN ME



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449



JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Child and Family Therapist (part-time)
- Communication Officer
- Detention Officer (non-certified)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer (certified)
- Security Guard

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

7/2 - 7/16

7/2

Daniel Batopis,
Security

Tristan Garcia,
Police

7/3

Mayra Martinez,
Preschool

Sierra Paddock ,
Finance

Rayford Vavages,
Elderly

7/4

James Fortier,
I.S

Mathilda Miguel,
Elderly

7/6

Flora Howerton,
Purchasing

7/7

Tiffany Nelson,
Preschool

7/8

Adriana Alvarado,
Elderly

7/9

Georgia Corella,
Elderly

7/10

Kimberly Creamer,
PRC

7/13

Leeann Peters,
Tribal gaming

Dustin Whitman,
Parks & Rec

7/14

Esther Alvarez,
Events

7/15

Keith Franklin,
I.S

David Vaughn,
Tribal gaming

7/ 16

Brian Hammerschmidt,
Fire

Rodney Huffaker,
I.S

Nathan Shearer,
I.S

Danny Soliz Jr,
Elderly

Laura Torres,
Transit

Happy Birthday to my daughter Flora
Love, Mom

Happy birthday to my granddaughters Lyndsey and
Leeann
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Jodi! Have a sparkler of a day!!!

Happy Birthday to Spanky, Chizzer, Shweetie,
Lynds and Sister
Love your family

JULY BIRTHDAYS 7/1 - 7/17

JULY 1

Kalene Santiago

JULY 2

Daniel Batopis

Angel Warren

Abrianna Machado

JULY 3

Fernanda Acunia-Pablo

Sierra Paddock

Valecita Enos

JULY 4

Mathilda Miguel

Dalia Antone

Yessenia Santiago

Elisia Ugalde

JULY 5

Amanda Kaniatobe

Jilayne Miguel

JULY 6

Flora Howerton

JULY 7

David Garcia

Lucio Martinez IV

JULY 8

Jason Smith

JULY 9

Jeremy Johns

Georgia Corella

Yrene Zepeda

Chizzum Justin

JULY 10

Elizabeth Machado

Whitney Justin

Stacy Antone

JULY 11

Lyndsey Peters

JULY 12

Mariah Stephens

Leeanna Jensen

Gloria Martinez

Iris Attakai

JULY 13

Jaelyn Justin

Leeann Peters

Dustin Miguel

Mason Miguel

Martin Antone Jr

Simon Bowman

JULY 14

Jayden Hayslip

Noahli Antone

Esther Alvarez

JULY 16

Elaina Enos

Linda Smith

Danny Soliz Jr

JULY 17

Taos Joaquin



July 2026 Programs at the Library

8TH

Sensory Storytime 10am

Join us for a special story time! Listen to a story and excavate dinosaurs from kinetic sand.

9TH

Teen Cooking Class 4pm-5:30pm

Whether you love to cook or want to learn, come learn to make a fresh Vietnamese noodle dish.

11TH

Erupting Volcano Craft 1pm-3pm

Join us for a magma-nificent craft where you can make and paint a volcano!

16TH

Land Before Time Movie Night 5pm-7pm

Join us for dinner and the classic Land Before Time movie.

17TH

Friday Fibers and Friends 4:30pm-6pm

Bring your own project to work on, choose an available project, or practice your stitches.

18TH

Ice Cream Day at the Library 2pm-3pm

Come to the library for a frozen treat! While supplies last.

CONTACT US

520-568-1675 LIBRARY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

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



LET US TAKE YOU TO THE FOOD BANK!

Every Monday
Door-to-Door Transportation Available
Need help getting to the food bank?
We've got you covered!

Our Transit Team provides FREE door-to-door transportation for Ak-Chin residents and Members who would like to visit the food bank every week. We don't stop at just one location—we visit TWO food banks every Monday, giving riders access to even more food and resources.

Here's How It Works:

- We pick you up at your home
- We take you to both food bank locations if requested
- You can participate at each food bank stop
- We help transport your food items
- We take you safely back home

No driving. No parking. No hassle.
Don't be shy—we'd love to have you join us!
Reserve Your Seat Today!

CALL 520-568-1630 or TEXT 520-340-0382

You can call ahead up to 7 days in advance to schedule your ride. We are providgn transportation to the F.O.R Foodbank In the town of Maricopa city as well as The Maricopa Pantry in Thunderbird Farms.



GED Classes

at the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
Education Building

HOW DO I REGISTER?
You must attend an Information Session!

When?
11:30 AM Thursday, June 25th
or
10:00 AM Wednesday, July 15th

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

CLASSES:

- Start: Tuesday, August 18, 2026
- Tuesday & Thursday | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Taught by certified teachers
- In person
- FREE!

Contact Us!
520-494-5952
adult.education@centralaz.edu



Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation

HOURS OF OPERATION

JULY 2026

WEIGHT ROOM

Monday	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Saturday	10:30 AM - 6:30 PM
Sunday	10:30 AM - 6:30 PM

OPEN GYM

Monday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Saturday	10:30 AM - 6:30 PM
Sunday	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Employee Updates



Adrian Olmos
Security System Tech
I.S



Angel Hernandez
Gaming Agent
Tribal Gaming Agency



Barbara Carmona
Accounts Payable Tech
Finance



Calvin Van Sickle
Groundskeeper
Recreation



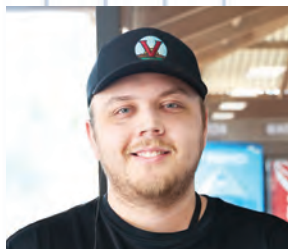
Cheryl Rennert
Admin Support Tech
Recreation



Hannah Cook
Student Advisor
Education



Jalen Youvella
Deli Clerk
Vekol



Jeremy Escamilla
Cashier Stocker
Vekol

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

7/2026 JULY



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees. Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.			1 StoryTime 10-11am	2	3 Closed	4 AMERICA 250 Closed
5	6 Little Dinos (birth-5) 10-10:30am	7	8 Dino Sensory Storytime 10-11am	9 Teen Cooking Class 4-5:30pm	10	11 Famliy StoryTime 10-11am Volcano Craft 1-3pm
12	13 Little Dinos (birth-5) 10-10:30am	14	15 StoryTime 10-11am	16 Land Before Time Movie Night 5-7pm	17 Fibers & Friends 4:30-6pm	18 Famliy StoryTime 10-11am Ice Cream Day 2-3pm
19	20 Little Dinos (birth-5) 10-10:30am	21	22 StoryTime 10-11am	23	24	25 Famliy StoryTime 10-11am
26	27	28	29 StoryTime 10-11am	30	31	

SUMMER READING PRIZE ENTRIES DUE JULY 30ST! LAST DAY FOR PRIZE PICK-UP IS JULY 31ST.
Call us: (520) 568-1675 or Email us: Library@ak-chin.nsn.us

DT Comedy Show

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

On June 27, The DT Comedy Show was held at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center. The night was hosted by Robert Rodriguez aka “Big Rob” and opened up with James

Rivas aka “The Manic Hispanic”, followed by a few special guests; Crikette Gil, DT, Jay Mac, and Jim Perry.

The theater was not only packed with

guests, it was also filled with lots of jokes, laughs, and even tears of joy! Followed by the show was an after party held in the Luxe Lounge with DJ The Manic Hispanic.



Counter Clockwise: The Manic Hispanic opening up the show, Community members and employees enjoying the show, Attendees getting seated and waiting for the show to begin, “Big Rob” starting set off with hilarious jokes



JULY

Drinks of The Month

LADY LIBERTY
3 Amigos margaritas w/ cranberry juice and peach schnapps with a splash of grenadine

BERRY SPARKLER
Western Sons raspberry vodka w/ sweet & sour and peach schnapps topped with soda water

YANKEE DOODLE LEMONADE
Absolute vodka, blue curacao, sweet & sour and lemonade

\$10 EACH

Ak-ChinCircle.com

National CHICKEN WING Day

WEDNESDAY JULY 29TH

\$1^{.50}

(Dine in Only)
Sold in Increments of 10
Choice of 2 Wing Sauces
ONLY AVAILABLE IN 347

Ak-ChinCircle.com

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

JURASSIC JULY

SUNDAY FREE MOVIES

JURASSIC PARK

July 5th

JURASSIC WORLD

July 12th

THE LOST WORLD

July 19th

JURASSIC WORLD

July 26th

***ALL MOVIES START AT 7PM OUT FRONT IN AMPHITHEATER**

Ak-ChinCircle.com

ARROYO GRILLE
At Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM

PATIO VIEWS | DINE IN | ORDER TO GO

48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

JULY HOT DEAL 20% OFF

COME IN & COOL DOWN, GET 20% OFF ONE LUNCH MENU ENTREE!

Receive 20% off one lunch menu entree. Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers, discounts or Harrah's Rewards. One coupon per order, no split checks. Does not include alcohol. Non-transferable. Offer expires 7/31/26.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

GROWN UPS 2

Grown Ups & Grown Ups 2 will be Playing on The Jumbotron

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

JULY 4, 2026

ALL WELCOME

MUSIC, VENDORS, FIREWORKS AND MORE!

4:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
FIREWORKS - 8:00 P.M.
AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
16000 N MARICOPA RD, MARICOPA, AZ 85139

JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MULTIPLIER MADNESS 7AM TUESDAY, JUNE 30 - 5AM MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026 CELEBRATE HALFWAY TO 2027 WITH 5X MORE TIER CREDITS!						
5X MULTIPLIER MADNESS SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	REWARD YOURSELF & SHOP WITH REWARD CREDITS AT THE GIFT SHOP	DELUXE SUMMER SET GIVEAWAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG	RUM AWAY TO PARADISE YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST	BEAT THE HEAT CRUISE SWEEPSTAKES SUMMER FUN GIVEAWAY
SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	DOWNLOAD THE CAESARS REWARDS APP	DELUXE SUMMER SET GIVEAWAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG	YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST	PURCHASE A DAY PASS FOR THE POOL!
WATCH THE WORLD SOCCER FINAL AT CAESARS SPORTSBAR SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	NEW MONTH, NEW GAMING SPACE	DELUXE SUMMER SET GIVEAWAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG	YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST	FRY'S FOOD STORES® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY
SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE	START THE WEEK WITH DUNKIN'	DELUXE SUMMER SET GIVEAWAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER FOREVER YOUNG	YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	SUMMER PLAY FEST \$700K IN CASH & PRIZES SUMMER PLAYFEST	PAVE YOUR WAY TO PLAY MORE! NOW - AUGUST 31, 2026 BEAT THE HEAT AND EARN OVER \$2,000 IN FREE PLAY!