



Ak-Chin Hawaii Attendees: L to R: Owen Santiago, Kylee Machado, Perla Corona, Tyra Howard, Baya Osife, Amelia Osife, Joanna Peters, Neveah Johnson, Auciana Miguel, Kylie Gardner, Xavier Garcia, and Ronin Gloria.

Ak-Chin Students Invade Hawaii

Story by Runner Staff, Photos by Hawaii Attendees

Ten Ak-Chin high school graduates and two chaperones experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity traveling to Oahu, Hawaii, as an exclusive all-expenses-paid gift from the community for obtaining their high school diplomas from their respective high schools.

The group began their tropical journey on Monday, July 6, leaving the community at 6:30 in the morning to Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix, for the five-hour flight to Hawaii.

Following their afternoon arrival, the graduates and

chaperones unpacked and relaxed, awaiting the next day to start taking in the beauty of one of the most visited vacation destinations in the world.

The first day featured an all-day Circle Island tour, where

Hawaii continues to Page 3



Ak-Chin's Horacio Corella (#20) prepares to box out an opponent as teammate Jacob Bryant goes up for a shot during Native American Basketball Invitational play in Phoenix.

Ak-Chin Boys and Girls Teams Compete in Final Tourney of Season

Story and photos by Runner Staff

The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) usually marks the end of the basketball season for both boy's and girl's teams from the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Although, this year's NABI participation wasn't the outcome both teams had hoped for; the continued efforts to participate, play hard, and represent the community, was something evident as the teams took to the floor.

For the Ak-Chin Lady

Hu'u Nado:o Kam (Basket Makers), who have experienced a much-improved season, they were pitted against New Zealand in the first round of pool play.

With a tough defense and scoring timely baskets, Ak-Chin took a two-point lead going into half-time.

The game was played pretty much the same in the second half, as the Lady Hu'u Nado'o Kam looked to secure a first-round win. But New Zealand rallied in the

final minute to come away with a two-point win, 24-22.

Welcoming new team members from other tribes, the Ak-Chin Boys traveled to Camelback High for their first game against Fort Mojave at 12 pm.

From the start the defense from both teams was spot on, and the difficulty to secure baskets was not missed throughout the first half.

Starting the second half, Ak-Chin tried their best to gain the lead, while maintaining their hard defense.

Unfortunately, they could not put up the numbers needed, with the final score of 58-26.

The 6 pm game held promise

NABI continues to Page 7

Special Community Meeting with Tribalhealth Alliance

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

On the evening of July 21, the Ak-Chin Community Council held a special meeting with Tribal Health

Alliance to discuss updates with community members regarding the new health care center.



From left to right: Councilman Dennis Antone, Karol Dixon Tribal Health Alliance, Councilwoman Lisa Garcia, and Chris Walker Tribal Health Alliance.

Special Meeting continues to Page 2



"Space Ranger Benjamin (Chavez) reporting to 1st Grade!" with Maricopa Elementary.



Bryson Hazen is ready for 5th Grade at Legacy Traditional School.

Back to School

Story by Runner Staff, photos submitted

In the community, many families have been working hard to make sure their students are ready for their first days of school; new clothes, new shoes, lunch-snacks; and

the community has also played a hand in the back-to-school preparations.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community hosted a slew of

Back to School continues to Page 4



During a break for lunch from the IJA Conference, Runner Staff had an unexpected surprise as they met, Kyra Antone, who was also attending the conference. Kyra is the daughter of the late Albert Antone, and the granddaughter of Lawrence and Sally Antone.

IJA-Portland, Oregon

Story and photos by Runner Staff

One of the biggest Native American Journalist conferences took place in Portland, Oregon during the week of July 22nd, as three members of the Ak-Chin

O'odham Runner attended the Indigenous Media Conference, hosted by the Indigenous Journalists Association.

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July Community Meeting

Story and photo by Megan Quintero

The July Ak-Chin Community meeting was held on Monday July 27, 6 pm at the Ak-Chin Service Center. Council members present were; Lisa Garcia and Dennis Antone.

Council member Garcia welcomed everyone and began the meeting with an opening prayer and a few council updates, starting off with council meetings and work sessions that she and Council member Antone have attended recently. Council members Antone and Garcia attended the National Congress Indian mid-year, sessions they



and the dialysis facility; the upcoming midterm elections and an upcoming meeting with the Bureau of Indian affairs.

They provided information on the clinic; which was closed due

Railroad to expand their tracks, as well as discussion on the 4th of July Celebration, Backpack Distribution, Annual Membership distribution, and the Alma Farrell Innovation Academy ribbon cutting.

The meeting was led off by Councilmember Dennis Antone before he introduced President Chris Walker and Vice-President Karol Dixon of Tribalhealth Alliance.

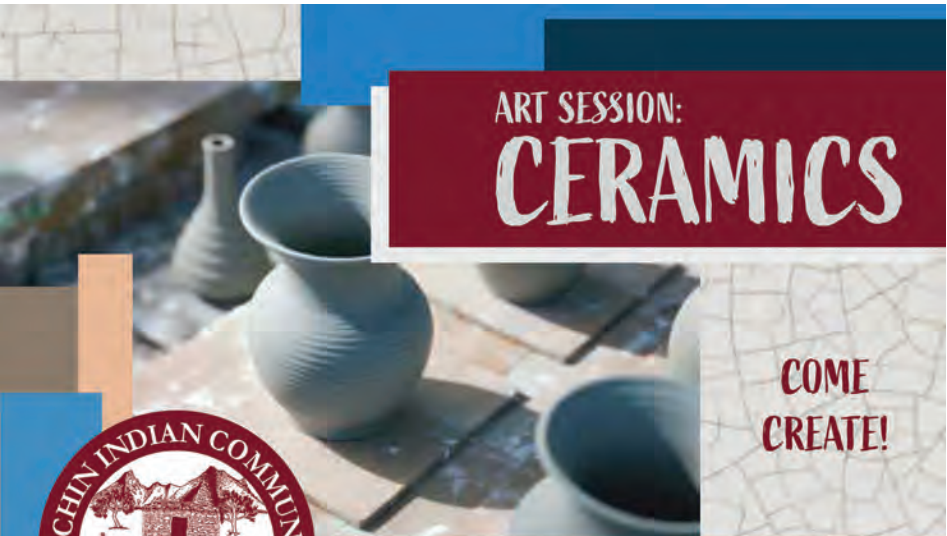
Tribalhealth Alliance and Ak-Chin Purchased/Referred Care also met with our Elders during lunchtime at the Elder Center the following day, July 22 regarding the health

center. During the meetings, discussions on primary care; funding of the new health care center; and a tentative time-frame were presented to all attendees.

Questions were centered around funding, current administration concerns, hospice care, and in-depth information on primary care.

Concluding the meetings, surveys were passed to community members that would help identify healthcare necessities in patient care.

Surveys may be completed and returned by August 30, 2026 to Ak-Chin Purchased/Referred Care department Monday-Friday between 8:00am – 5:00pm.



ART SESSION:
CERAMICS

COME
CREATE!



LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN
CERAMIC PIECE FROM START TO FINISH

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)

Session Begins: August 11, 2026

Session Ends: September 17, 2026

When: Every Tuesdays & Thursdays from
11:00AM to 1:00PM (Members, Residents, Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)
4:30PM to 7:00PM (Members & Residents of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)

COME IN ANYTIME BETWEEN THE TIMES ABOVE/ WORK AT YOUR OWN PACE

Transportation Provided
Pick Up and Drop Off within the Ak-Chin Indian Community
For transportation please call: 520-568-1350 (Please call before 4:00 p.m.)

For any additional questions please call: 520-568-1350

**NO EXPERIENCE
NEEDED!**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

NARD

NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY

At Milton “Paul” Antone
Memorial Park
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

• Fun Run/Walk
(Starts west of the Ak-Chin Circle, corner of N. Narcia St. and W. Tobí Dr.,
Parking in Ak-Chin Circle Parking lot. Sign ups at 7:30am start at 8:00am)
*Prizes awarded for 1st/2nd/3rd place Men & Women Runners
*Shirts Limited to the first 100 participants

• Dance Group Performances

• Artist Demonstrations

• Information Booths

• Food Vendors

• Arts & Craft Vendors

• Bouncy House

For more information please contact the
Him-Dak Museum Office at 520-568-1350

August 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		8/7 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit Salad Spaghetti, Romain Salad, Texas Toast, Ambrosia Salad	
	8/10 Breakfast Burrito, Salsa & Sour Cream, Avocado Slices, Apples Pork Chops, Sweet Potato/Potato (D), Creamed Spinach, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Apple Sauce	8/11 Chicken Salad Sandwich, Yogurt Parfait Grilled Steak Over Salad, Avocado, Vanilla Pudding	8/12 Cram of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Cultural Resource Presentation @ 12 Noon – Elder Center Lima Beans, Beef & Barley (D), Broccoli, Moon Bread	8/13 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries Red Chili Stew, Corn, Chumath, Jell-O	8/14 Sausage & Eggs, Scrambled, Diced Potatoes / Toast, Fruit Salad Elder Game Day @ 10:30am – Elder Center Egg Salad Sandwich, Tomato/Cucumber Salad, Pickle, Apple/ Orange	
	8/17 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Banana Chicken Alfredo, Romain Salad, Texas Toast, Pistachio Cake	8/18 Peach French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Bar-B-Que Ribs, Mashed Potato, Corn on Cob, Texas Toast, Peaches	8/19 Breakfast Tostadas, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit with Cottage Cheese Chicken Stir Fry, W/ Vegetables, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Fruit Cocktail	8/20 Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon, Fruit Salad French Bread Pizza & Salad, Fresh Cut Fruit Banana Split Social After Lunch	8/21 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit & Yogurt Indian Taco, Lettuce/ Tomato, Cheese, Ice- Cream	
	8/24 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Peaches Split Peas, Turkey Dumpling(D), Cauliflower, Moon Bread, Pineapple	8/25 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Apples Chicken Enchilada, Mexican Rice, Pinto Beans, Strawberries & Cream	8/26 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries Tuna or Chicken Salad, Over Shredded Lettuce, Tomato/ Cucumber, Crackers, Apple Salad Spaghetti Dinner Night @ 5:00 pm – Elder Center	8/27 Chorizo & Eggs, Refried Beans, Avocado Slices, Tortilla, Fruit Salad Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Cookies	8/28 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Yogurt Parfait Ground Beef w/ Cabbage, Zucchini & Yellow Squash, White Rice, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Cantaloupe/Honey Dew	



Newspaper of the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

OFFICE HOURS

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Vice Chair: Delia Carlyle
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Garcia, and Cecil Peters

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EPD, Health Education, Him-
Dak, Library and Recreation

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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,
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check/money order to:
Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd.
Maricopa, Arizona 85138

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

NEXT DEADLINE

Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
August 7-20, 2026
issue is due by
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes,
etc. no later than
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH

Material submitted after the
AUGUST 14TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.



Frank Harrison & Harry Austin

VOTING RIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

**\$2,500 SCHOLARSHIP
PER Awardee**

The Frank Harrison and Harry Austin Voting Rights Scholarship Essay Contest recognizes Native American students in higher education who demonstrate civic engagement by participating in non-tribal elections and actively working to protect their right to vote.

APPLICANT CRITERIA:

- /// Enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribal Nation
- /// Living and attending a college or university in Arizona
- /// 18+ years of age

Applications due by Friday, August 14, 2026

Click or scan to apply. Questions: alexander.castillo-nunez@itcaonline.com



where they were able to take in the breathtaking lookouts, historical landmarks, food trucks and original beaches. The tour also offered spotting green sea turtles basking in the sun at Laniakea Beach and a visit to the historic Dole Plantation, where the group was able to see pineapple fields and enjoy a Dole Whip.

For chaperone Amelia Osife, the Circle Island tour was the highlight of the trip. "Circle Island tour was what I enjoyed the most because we got to hike Waimea Valley.

Then me and my sister Baya were the only ones on our tour bus to jump in the waterfall pools at the end of the hike. There was a waterfall and pool of water underneath it, that was my favorite part of the trip."

The second day, was a day to relax and enjoy the various shops, eateries, and places of interest that were within walking distance.

The third day featured a visit to the Pearl Harbor Memorial, where everyone learned about one of the most pivotal moments in United States history, when the attack at Pearl Harbor led to the United States entry into World War II.

The USS Arizona was a special and emotional place to visit as the group was able to see firsthand the battleship named after their State, still laid directly underneath them following it's

bombing on December 7, 1941.

The fourth day was a visit to the Polynesian Cultural Center, where they witnessed performers demonstrate various arts and crafts from throughout Polynesia.

The fifth day was another highlighted day as the Ak-Chin group experienced Germaine's Luau, which took place on the coast of West O'ahu in Kapolei, Hawaii.

At the Luau, the group was able to view Polynesian entertainment featuring Hula Dancers, a Hawaiian-American buffet, and an interactive beachside experience.

Graduate, Auciana Miguel shared her best part of the trip, "was just being out and experiencing Hawaii and the culture with my friends." Her favorite thing "was going to the luau and Polynesian Cultural Center. Germaine's Luau had some delicious foods... I learned interesting facts about the other Polynesian islands, such as, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand, Fiji and more."

Prior to departing for home on the sixth day, students and chaperones were given one final "Free Day" to get any last-minute shopping in and enjoying the scenic views Oahu had to offer.

As the group boarded their flight home, their visit to this popular vacation destination would be a forever lifelong memory!

Ak-Chin St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission

16657 Church St.

Maricopa, AZ 85139

August 2026 Mass Schedule

12:00pm

August 9
Fr. Elijah DeLello

August 16
Fr. Paul Graupmann

August 23
Fr. Elijah DeLello

August 30
Fr. Paul Graupmann

Extreme Heat Warning

August 5, 2026
12:28 AM

Timing: Through 8 PM MST/PDT Sunday August 9th

High risk of heat stress or illnesses for anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration

Stay hydrated

Avoid exposure to the sun from 10 AM to 6 PM

If you have access to air conditioning, use it. Fans may not be adequate

Wear lightweight, loose fitting, light colored clothing

Forecast

- "Feels Like": 110-120°
- Highs: 108° to 116°
- Lows: 80° to 92°

In Maricopa County, if you lack access to air conditioning, free transportation to cooling centers is available 8am-5pm daily through Arizona 211

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Don't underestimate the heat! It is the deadliest weather phenomenon in the USA

National Weather Service
Phoenix, AZ

students prepare for the 2026-27 school year. Back to school events have been hosted with numerous departments, including a backpack distribution, ROI events, as well as two upcoming Back to School events. Ak-Chin Community Events is hosting a community members-

residents only, Back to School Bash at Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation on August 7, from 6 pm-8 pm, and the Ak-Chin Library will be hosting a Back to School Book Bash on August 12th, from 3 pm-6 pm.

Most schools in the area have been in session

for at least a week, with students already engaging in their new classrooms, meeting their teachers and classmates. So, here's to another new year for our community students – a new year of knowledge, making new friends and maybe even learning a new skill, trade or talent!!



Antonenko Alvarez
2nd Grade
Phoenix Day School of Deaf



Nevaeh Jensen
1st Grade
Heritage Academy K-5



Daniel Lozano, Jr.
Ready to take on 1st Grade! Leading Edge Academy K-5

First Things First Honors Michael Kintner

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas, contributions from Lisa Garcia Ak-Chin Councilmember



Regional council members of First things First pose for a picture with Michael Kintner (center with book/award).

Regional Council members of First Things First gathered at the Ak-Chin Indian Community Service Center on July 17 at 12 PM for a luncheon honoring Harrah's Ak-Chin General Manager, Michael Kintner and his 15 years of dedicated service as a First Things First representative.

Mr. Kintner served in several capacities throughout his tenure, he served as Regional Board Member, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman.

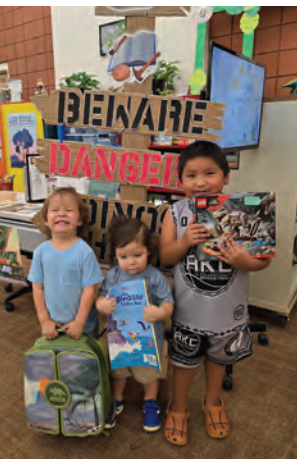
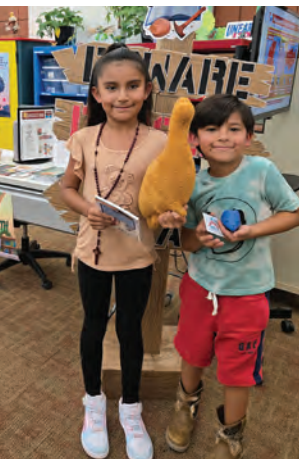
The luncheon not only recognized Mr. Kintner's years of service, it was also his "farewell". Mr. Kintner will be moving

on from his service on the First Things First Regional Council.

Taking his place on the Board is Barbara Achten, a long-time employee of Harrah's Ak-Chin and Chairman of the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino HERO Committee.

Thank You For A Dino-mite Summer!

Thank you and photos submitted by Naomi Bishop



Top row: (Adult Winners) Marissa Antone, Rebecca Alvarez, (youth winners) Jacob Santiago, Bottom row: Ezri Miguel, Angelita and AJ Garcia, Chris, Jonathan Narcia, and Kody Carlyle

The library would like to say thank you to all the community members, residents, and employees that participated in the Ak-Chin Library Summer Reading Program "Unearth a Story". Together we read 66,000 minutes and had over 360 library visitors in the months of June and July.

The library hosted weekly summer story times, a puzzle challenge, trivia night, movie night, a T-Rex tea party,

crafternoons, a puppet show, and a Dino party.

In the month of June, Recreation, Him-Dak, and Education summer camp students enjoyed fun dinosaur crafts, activities, and reading opportunities. A special thanks to the Ak-Chin Entertainment Center and Arizona State Parks for providing prizes for participants.

Children, teens, and adults that participated also entered the grand

prize drawings for each age group and winners picked up their dinosaur themed prizes this week.

As we say goodbye to the dinosaurs, we celebrate the joy of reading and invite all families to join us for our Back to School Book Bash on August 12th from 3-6pm and teens and adults are invited to Library After Dark on August 13th from 6-8pm. Check out the library calendar for more programs and events.



F.Y.I.

NATIVE AMERICAN
ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS
&
FOOD VENDORS
NEEDED FOR THE
ANNUAL N.A.R.D. CELEBRATION.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
MILTON ANTONIO PARK
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

VENDORS INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL
THE HIM-DAK MUSEUM
AT (520) 568-1350.

AUGUST

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Library Hours Mon-Fri : 9am-6pm Sat : Closed Sun : Closed						1 Closed Saturdays
2	3	4 Teen Art Space 4:30-5:30pm	5 Storytime @10am	6	7 Crochet Class 15+ 5-6pm	8 Closed Saturdays
9	10	11 Teen Art Space 4:30-5:30pm	12 Storytime @10am Back to School BookBash 3-6pm	13 Library After Dark 15+ 6-8pm	14 Crochet Class 15+ 5-6pm	15 Closed Saturdays
16	17	18 Teen Art Space 4:30-5:30pm	19 Storytime @10am	20	21 Crochet Class 15+ 5-6pm	22 Closed Saturdays
23	24	25 Teen Art Space 4:30-5:30pm	26 Storytime @10am Crafternoon 3-5pm	27 Puzzle Challenge 10+ 5-6pm	28 Crochet Class 15+ 5-6pm	29 Closed Saturdays
30 	31	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



Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board, Staff, and Family of the late Alma Farrell, celebrate the grand opening of the new Maricopa School.

Alma Farrell Innovation Academy Opens It's Doors

Story by Robert Miguel, photo by Ann Marie Knorr

Maricopa Unified School District celebrated the opening of its newest school, the Alma Farrell Innovation Academy, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, July 20th.

The school marked the opening of the first K-8 work based learning school in Arizona.

MUSD Governing Board,

Staff, invited guests, family and friends gathered together and heard comments from speakers prior to the official ribbon cutting, which featured a walk through following.

The school, who's mascot is the Trailblazers, is nearly 100,000 sq. ft. and features collaboration learning houses and flexible instructional spaces that

highlights teamwork and project based learning.

The late Alma Farrell, was a lifelong Maricopian who was very well respected in the education field and was a former Superintendent.

She was instrumental in shaping Maricopa's educational structure.



L to R: Eliza Santiago, Megan Quintero, Mark Urseth, Melva Bekis, Elizabeth Antone, Kristen Villegas, Kathleen Miguel, Antonio Rodriguez, and Robert Miguel.

Runner Staff Tours Casa Grande Valley Newspapers

Story and photos by Runner Staff

For over thirty years, the Ak-Chin O'odham Runner and Casa Grande Valley Newspaper, Inc. have had a solid relationship for printing services of the Community's newspaper.

On Wednesday, July 8th, staff from the Runner and two summer youth employees assigned to the department, were able to go and take a tour of the Casa Grande facility, where they were able to get an up-close visual of how the Runner is printed and the numerous media services provided by Casa Grande Valley Newspapers.

Once the Runner arrived, they were soon met by Melva Bekis, Composing Department Supervisor, who led the tour. Melva then took us to the newsroom where the Runner met Donovan Kramer Jr. who is the Co-Publisher/Managing Editor.

Mr. Kramer provided information on the company and also introduced some of the news team who were in the office.

We learned that Casa Grande Valley Newspapers, Inc. has four main newspapers published; The Casa Grande Dispatch, Maricopa Monitor, Florence Reminder and Coolidge Examiner.

In addition, they own the White Mountain Independent, and The Payson Roundup.

They have also printed for many tribal newspapers along with the Ak-Chin O'odham Runner, including; Salt River O'odham Action News, Gila River Indian Newspaper, The Fort Apache Scout, and previously printed Tohono O'odham The Runner and Hopi First Mesa Village Crier.

Melva then took the Runner to meet more staff and visit other areas, including the composing/graphic department, plate room, bindery department and sheet-fed press room.

One of the more impressive areas of the facility to visit, was the print room, where we met up with Mark Urseth, Production Director and his team.

They allowed us to see their Goss Community Web Press in action, as they were running test prints of one of the newspapers.

The Runner would like to thank Melva, Mark and everyone at Casa Grande Valley Newspapers, Inc. for taking time out of their busy schedules to allow us to see their print room production, answer questions and show us around their different facilities.



Web Press Operator, David Aviles (far right) shows Runner staff what he is looking for to ensure the newspaper is printed correctly.

IJA continued from Front

Runner Editor, Raychel Peters, and Photojournalists; Megan Quintero and Robert Miguel, attended sessions for three days on topics pertaining to media high-points and issues throughout Indian Country.

Upon arrival, the Runner team made their way to the Oregon Portland Broadcasting (OPB) building where they mingled with staff and other conference attendees.

During their visit they were able to tour the radio broadcast studios, where a live broadcast was ongoing, and another studio where live television segments were recorded before a live audience.

The first day of conference activities included an Open Ceremony breakfast where a posting of colors was held by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. IJA presenters then acknowledged and recognized individual achievements as well as introducing the 2026 Indigenous Journalism Fellows.

Runner staff split up into different sessions to gather information on respective topics.

A session on AI Reporting Tools for Journalists was of interest, as presenters covered Perplexity, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and other tools that helped with verifying sources and writing tips. The presentation also covered legal and ethical difficulties of using these tools.

Other sessions throughout day one, included; From Assignment to Exit Plan: Staying Safe while Reporting, Cultivating Indigiqueer Community within IJA, The Reality of Freelance Journalism, and "Storytelling Sovereignty: Indigenous People and the Media" book launch.

There was an Opening

Night Reception at The Redd, where attendees, organizers and staff were able to try some of the local food, and entertainment.

The Runner team also met up with former Runner staff, Juan Ysaguirre and Chris Picciuolo, who both now work for the Salt River Indian Community, O'odham Action News. We also bumped into the new editor for Gila River, Miguel Sallard.

Day two featured more great sessions, such as, "Organizing for a Transformed Media Economy" which focused on how to be a better journalist and getting the inside scoop on union organizing battles fought from behind two Indigenous Affairs desks.

Other sessions included; Covering the MMIP Crisis: Best Practices, Building Your Path: A Career Conversation for Emerging Journalist – Sponsored by The New York Times, and Fact Checking in and for Indigenous communities.

A film "The Good Canadian", covered and examined the hidden realities behind Canada's national identity. It researched into complete, injustices faced by Indigenous peoples, tracing the impact of policies and institutions such as the Indian Act, residential schools, child welfare, health care, education and criminal justice systems.

Another film, "Producing a Community-Centered Sports Documentary as a Newspaper" featured coverage of the Lummi Nation Blackhawks basketball team, who was attempting to capture back-to-back, Washington State school titles.

We attended the IJA Membership Luncheon and Business Meeting to review IJA's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, and hear about the Indigenous Journalism Fellows students' work.

We also networked with IJA staff member

Mary Hudetz, who is the Education and Training Director.

Friday's sessions included a morning session with Good Morning America: What it Takes to Work in Morning TV, What Native Youth Are Telling Us: 10 Years of Digital Storytelling, Reporting on Suicide and Mental Health in Indigenous Communities: Practical Tools, Gratitude Hour: Honoring the People Behind the Stories,

First time IJA attendee, Megan Quintero, shared her highlighted sessions, "My highlights from the conference would be attending the screening and Q&A: of Indigenous documentary storytelling session provided by OPB (Oregon Public Broadcasting), where OPB filmmakers, producers, and directors shared developing documentaries for the neighboring indigenous communities in the pacific northwest."

"The other was attending the session that was presenting the people of the west docudrama." Megan shared.

"It is a ten-part series that tells the true history of California from the indigenous perspective, from the creation histories to the present day. My last highlight was probably meeting some of the other journalists and photographers from our sister tribes and probably just meeting new people in general."

Friday evening a President's Reception and Silent Auction was held before the IJA Indigenous Media Awards and Banquet. IJA presented the 2026 IJA Richard LaCourse Award for Investigative Journalism, the Minnie Two Shoes Award for Excellence in Tribal Media and the IJA-Medill Milestone Achievement Awards.

Overall, it was a very informative conference that included relevant information about Indigenous issues affecting the country.



Male Hula Dancers perform following a film titled "Hula" during a session. The film followed the journey of La'akea Perry. A Kumu Hula (hula master teacher) who continues to teach the dance culture for the Hawaiian people.



Ak-Chin, Salt River and Gila River media get together for a photo. L to R: Miguel Sallard (Gila River Indian News), Johnny Ysaguirre (O'odham Action News Salt River), Megan Quintero (Ak-Chin O'odham Runner), Kari Haahr (O'odham Action News Salt River), Raychel Peters (Ak-Chin O'odham Runner), Robert Miguel (Ak-Chin O'odham Runner), Ulises Navarro (Alcon Media Washington) and Chris Picciuolo (O'odham Action News Salt River).

Trash to Treasure - Help Pollinators Beat the Arizona Heat

August is one of the hottest months in the Sonoran Desert, and pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds work hard to find water. Before recycling or throwing away a shallow pie tin, plant saucer, or small dish, consider giving it a second life as a pollinator watering station.

Supplies (Use what you have!)

- Simply place the container in a shaded area
- Add a few small rocks or marbles for insects to safely land on
- Fill it with fresh water
- Refresh the water every few days to keep it clean

Why It's a Great "Trash to Treasure" Project?

- Supports native pollinators during extreme summer temperatures.
- Reuses household items instead of sending them to the landfill.
- Creates habitat for beneficial wildlife.
- Helps keep our community clean while protecting the desert environment.



Challenge: Repurpose one item this month to benefit local wildlife. Snap a photo and inspire your family and neighbors to do the same!

Every item reused is one less item in the landfill and one more way to care for our beautiful Sonoran Desert.

Use this Trash to Treasure? Please email photos to **Brandy Nelson** at BNelson@ak-chin.nsn.us at Environmental Programs with results.



THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS ONE (1) VACANCY FOR THE AK-CHIN ELECTION COMMITTEE ALTERNATE

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.

Community Election Committee members shall meet the following qualifications:

1. Not an elected official of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council; and
2. Not a candidate, or the immediate family member of a candidate, for Community Council office; and
3. An enrolled member of the Community; and
4. At least twenty-one (21) years of age or older; and
5. Able and willing to perform all duties and functions, including being physically present during all elections.
6. Perform the duties on Election Day if any Regular Member is unable to perform his or her duties on Election Day.
7. Attend all Regular Community Election Committee meetings, but shall not be entitled to vote on any matters before the Community Election Committee except when performing duties on Election Day, as provided above.

Requirements: All interested parties who desire to serve on the Ak-Chin Election Committee must submit a letter detailing why they are interested in serving on the Election 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 Election 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, August 26, 2026 by 5:00pm

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Capital Projects Office



July 31, 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 Greasewood, Firehouse and Farms subdivisions. Water service lines for many 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 Operations Manager
Ak-Chin Indian Community
Phone: (520) 568 1148

Design & Construction Engineer
Marcus Felter
Indian Health Service
Wester Arizona district Office
Phoenix, AZ
Phone: (480) 280-6341

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& CALIBRATIONS

520.568.3933

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CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FINANCING.



CALL US:
(520) 562-3321



Gila River
HEALTH CARE

VISIT US ONLINE:
GRHC.ORG



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING



Call us, for more information,
Public Health Nursing
(520) 550-6042

Save The Date!!

**WELLNESS
FAIR**
September 24, 2026
10 am - 12 pm
District 4 Service Center

CLOSURES



Reminder!

Gila River Health Care's
Administrative Offices, Outpatient Clinics,
and Pharmacy will be

**CLOSED
LABOR DAY**
**Monday,
September 7, 2026**

**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
Pharmacy Hours**

Saturday, Sept. 5 th	8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 6 th	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Monday, Sept. 7 th	CLOSED

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

Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, September 8, 2026.
If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the
Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.



Reminder!

Gila River Health Care's
Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics
will be

**CLOSED
NATIVE AMERICAN
RECOGNITION DAY**
**Friday, September 18th
Saturday, September 19th**

**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
Pharmacy Hours**

Friday, Sept. 18 th	CLOSED
Saturday, Sept. 19 th	8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 20 th	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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

Normal business hours will resume Monday, September 21, 2026.
If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the
Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

HUMAN RESOURCES



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



Clinical & Non-Clinical Positions

Physicians	Nurses
Administrators	Support Staff

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)
- Library Clerk
- Library Technician
- Maintenance Technician
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer (certified)

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 8/7 - 8/21

8/7

Jacob Dickerson,
Maintenance
Angelica Fernandez,
Preschool
Rene Saspe,
Airport
Daniel White,
Parks & Rec

8/8

Tracy Zimmerman,
Capital Projects

8/9

Narciso Schweitzer,
EPD

8/11

Allison Butler,
Transit
Tommy Pablo,
Sanitation
Christian Soliz,
Parks & Rec

8/13

Gregory Porto,
Fire

8/15

Matthew Millo,
Courts
Sergio Romero,
Maintenance

8/16

Rudy Aguirre,
Tribal Gaming Agency

8/17

Chaning Hoffman,
EPD

8/20

Vivian Ly,
I.S.

8/21

Anthony Hernandez,
Tribal Gaming Agency
Daniel Mercado,
I.S.

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK BASH!



Free books!

board games
puzzles
snacks

August 12th
Wednesday 3pm-6pm

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

COME TO THE LIBRARY!

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

Crochet Class

Every Friday at the library

August 7th 5pm - 6pm

August 14th 5pm - 6pm

August 21st 5pm - 6pm

August 28th 5pm - 6pm

Open to Ak-Chin members, residents, and employees ages 16+.

Eight spots are available!
Contact the library to RSVP.

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

TEEN ART SPACE @ THE LIBRARY

WE PROVIDE THE MATERIALS AND SPACE WHILE YOU BRING THE IMAGINATION! WE'LL ALSO PROVIDE SNACKS.

EVERY TUESDAY
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

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

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Joanna and Michelle, and my grandsons Christian, King-Benzie, Joseph, and Juan Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Kristen and Teagan Just a lil late wish for a Happy Birthday! From the Funner Runner Gang

Happy Birthday to our Godson Johnny Hope you have a great birthday! Love Goddaddy and Godmama

Happy 19th Birthday Percy Time to celebrate and have Super-Duper Fun with you!! Love your family

Happy Birthday to the best mom-sister-auntie and #1 OG Nancy We love you and hope you have the best birthday ever!! Love your family



JOIN US THIS Crafternoon

DECORATE A NOTEBOOK WITH STICKERS AND WASHI TAPE

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 26TH
3PM - 5PM



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

COME TO THE Library AFTER DARK

AGES 15+

WE'RE STAYING OPEN LATER! ENJOY SOME FOOD AND ACTIVITIES.

AUGUST 13TH
THURSDAY
6PM-8PM

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

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

Puzzle CHALLENGE



Bring your team of four and complete a 300 piece puzzle in an hour or less. Call the library to RSVP!

5 team spots available

Call: (520) 568-1675

Email: Library@ak-chin.nsn.us AUGUST 27TH Thursday 5-6pm

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

AK-CHIN TRIBAL TRANSIT

SERVING THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Upcoming Service Interruption Dates

Holiday Closures

- **Labor day:** Closed all day on Monday, September 7th
- **Native American Day:** Closed all day on Friday, September 25th
- **Veteran's Day:** Closed all day on Wednesday, November 11th
- **Thanksgiving Day:** Closed all day on Thursday, November 26th
- **Native American Heritage Day:** Closed all day on Friday, November 27th
- **December Closures to be posted once finalized.**
- **Impact on Services (During Holiday Closures)**
- **Administrative Offices:**

Closed. Dispatch lines will be unstaffed on these dates.

• **Transit Services:** Closed. Will resume on the following regular service day.

Annual Staff Training Days
Tuesday, August 18th thru Friday, August 21st
Closed from 8:30am to 3:30pm

Impact on Services (During Annual Training)

• Dispatch: Open for emergencies and cancellations

• Ride Scheduling: All new ride requests are suspended during training hours.

• Standard Operations: New trip scheduling will resume during normal hours.

Employee Updates



Laura Torres
Transit Dispatcher
Tranist



Tiffany Nelson
Teacher's Aide
Early Childhood

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS 8/1-8/23

AUGUST 1

Sadie Rivers
Aribella Vincent

AUGUST 2

Jennifer Boehm
Jessica Narcia
Wynema Vincent

AUGUST 4

Jaxson Brown
Nicole Delma
Nathan Enos
Amelia Osife
Aliyah Vincent

AUGUST 5

Yondell Antone
Rachel Lozano
Anthony Narcia Jr.
Esperanza Santiago

AUGUST 7

Haylee Delma
Alicia Gomez
Joann Stephens
Daniel White

AUGUST 8

Raiden James

AUGUST 9

Joanna Peters
Stephanie Vincent

AUGUST 11

Jessica Corella
William Narcia
Tommy Pablo
Christian Soliz

AUGUST 12

Rosio Castro
Leonard Narcia
Ava Quinonez
Joshua Zepeda

AUGUST 13

Arrow Bowman
King-Benzie Peters

AUGUST 14

Tahlia Johnson

AUGUST 15

Daniel Pablo

AUGUST 16

Brandon Dean
Lashay Deloney
Virginia Mejia
David Oliver
Virginia Thomas
Christopher Vincent
Joseph Zabawa

AUGUST 17

Chaning Hoffman
Jasper Justin

Johnathan Narcia
Johnny Perkins

AUGUST 18

Juan Lopez

AUGUST 19

Jasmine
Kaniatobe
Lisa Miller
Anthony Narcia Sr.
Amanda Narcia
Owen Santiago
Delora Vincent

AUGUST 21

Doria Garcia
Sharon Pablo

AUGUST 22

Nancy Carlyle
Reginald Delores
Jonathan Justin
Cruz Machado
Lorice Manuel
Michelle Narcia

AUGUST 23

Dorissa Garcia
Jacoby Warren

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

GLOW RUN



AND POOL party



Ak-Chin Recreation Center

August 20 | 7:00 PM

Pool Party at Ak-Chin Pool following Glow Run

Join us for an evening walk and a pool party!

All participants will receive glow accessories, dinner, entry to raffle prizes, and t-shirt.

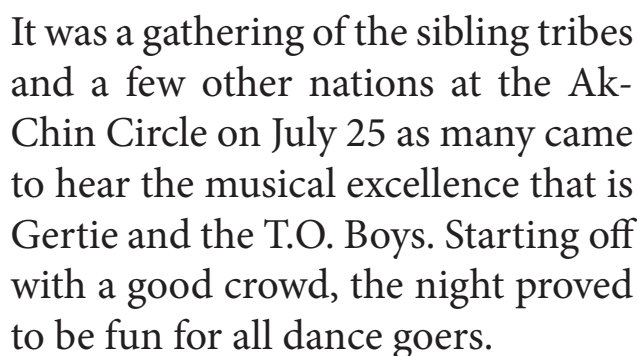


Register by scanning QR code.

Event open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, Employees and Employee families.

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

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



recognizing exceptional leaders who demonstrate innovation, operational excellence, service and an unwavering commitment to developing others.

Gulick was recognized for her transformational leadership, which helped Harrah's Ak-Chin exceed its 2025 plan. She also led a strategic reinvestment initiative that improved marketing efficiency while maintaining the property's high guest satisfaction scores.

Beyond financial performance, Gulick has built a collaborative,

people-first culture that encourages innovation, accountability and cross-department teamwork. Her leadership has earned widespread respect from employees throughout the property, who describe her as a leader who inspires creativity, empowers others and leads with integrity.

"Sam embodies everything this award represents," said Michael Kintner, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. "She consistently delivers exceptional business results while creating

an environment where people feel empowered to contribute, grow and succeed. This recognition is well deserved.”

The Caesars Entertainment Trailblazer in Leadership Award recognizes leaders across the company's portfolio who exemplify the organization's core values by driving business performance, fostering an inclusive workplace culture, delivering outstanding guest service and making meaningful contributions to their communities.

AK-CHIN CIRCLE
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

LUXE
LOUNGE

JOIN US FOR
KARAOKE

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DRINK SPECIALS

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AVAILABLE UNTIL 9:30PM

THURSDAY'S HOURS
7PM - 11PM
Doors Open at 5pm

THE LUXE LOUNGE IS A 21 AND OVER VENUE

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Ak-ChinCircle.com