



Council Member Dennis Antone and Chairman Gabriel Lopez, stand at the round-a-bout section of Ak-Chin Circle and Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort during a flag raising ceremony to help show solidarity in the Tohono O'odham Nation's fight against the Border Wall, which sits on their lands.

Showing Support for Tohono O'odham Nation

Story and photos by Runner Staff

In a show of solidarity, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, raised the flag of the Tohono O'odham Nation, at the round-a-bout between the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center and Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort on Friday, September 4th.

Ak-Chin Chairman, Gabriel Lopez, Councilmember Dennis Antone, and members

of Ak-Chin's Police and Security officers, raised the flag just before noon, to show Ak-Chin's support for their sibling tribe, the Tohono O'odham Nation and their ongoing battle with the "border wall" issues.

The 62 miles of proposed border wall projected to run through the southern border of the Tohono O'odham lands and Mex-

ico has been a hot topic lately with local tribes and mainstream media. The path of construction will decimate sacred sites that are of traditional and cultural significance, as well as habitat disruption for desert ecosystems and wildlife migration.

One particular site of interest that sits on the Nation, Quitobaquito Springs, is set to be bull-

Tohono O'odham Nation continues to Page 2



A beautiful view of the interior landscaping of the newly opened apartment complex, which sits in the Desert Willow Subdivision area.

Ak-Chin's Second Apartment Complex welcomes Tenants

Story and photos by Runner Staff

After the completion of the Desert Willow homes, construction on the second apartment complex in the Ak-Chin

Indian Community was in progress. Located in the Desert Willow Subdivision, this apartment complex holds

20 apartments ranging from 1 to 2 bedrooms.

The week of August 24 to now, tenants began moving in with most receiving their keys the same day as leases were signed. The apartments complex boasts 3 building with a community laundry unit with 4 washers and dryers, one being industrial for heavy

Arizona Parks and Recreation Association Conference 2026

Story and photos by Recreation Department Staff

The Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) Conference provides parks and recreation professionals from across the state with an opportunity to learn, connect, and share ideas that help strengthen their communities. This year's conference offered a variety of educational sessions and presentations focused on

leadership, professional development, and new ideas within the parks and recreation field.

We, as a staff, are very thankful for the opportunity to attend the 2026 APRA Conference and gain valuable knowledge and experience from the educational sessions and conference speakers.

The information and ideas we learned will help us continue to grow professionally and bring new skills and perspectives back to our roles with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Employee Reflection:

Cheryl Rennert - Administrative Technician: "This was



Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation staff: Top l to r: Calvin Vansickle, Daniel White, Cheryl Rennert, Jesus Espinoza, Jordan Gusse, Angel Ruelas, Christian Soliz and Julia Dickerson. Bottom l to r: Jesus Corella, Director Ann Marie Antone, Mariah Carlyle and Candice Antone.

Parks & Recreation continues to Page 5

Ak-Chin Hosts 9/11 Memorial Run/Walk

Story and photos by Megan Quintero

A number of participants made their way to the Ak-Chin Indian Community, bright and early as the Ak-Chin Police Department hosted a 5K run/walk to honor 9/11 on Friday, September 11.

Ak-Chin members and employees gathered in the early morning around 5 am at the Ak-Chin Justice Complex then proceeded to run/walk around the Desert Willow subdivision up to the Ak-Chin gym and then circled back in the same direction, finishing back at the

justice complex. A warm breakfast was served for those in attendance.

For the past few years, the Ak-Chin Police Department, Ak-Chin Fire Department, and other Departments within the community have hosted or participated in 9/11 events, to show their thoughts, prayers, and remembrance of the tragic day that will be forever entrenched in the history of the United States.

September 11, 2026 marked the 25th

anniversary since the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City, The Pentagon in Washington D.C. and United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, that killed almost 3000 people.

The 25th anniversary was commemorated with special events throughout the country that reflected on honoring the victims, survivors and heroes from 9/11.

During this year's



Participants of the 9/11 5k run-walk following the event.

Apartments continues to Page 6

9/11 continues to Page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS

PAGE 3 COMMUNITY NEWS

PAGE 4 EDUCATIONAND RECREATION

PAGE 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

bulldozed to build a second wall. Known as A'al Waipai, this desert oasis is sacred lands for the Hia-Ced O'odham, the Tohono O'odham, who have traveled to the site for generations to participate in religious pilgrimages and ceremonies.

Tohono O'odham leadership fear that the spring is at risk of drying up if another border wall is built on the protected lands about 30 miles west of the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

It is also home to many species of rare animals that would be destroyed or become extinct.

Last month, a Federal Judge ruled in favor of the Trump Administration, which allowed the construction of the wall to continue.

The Nation's leaders and lobbyists had filed a preliminary injunction to block the Department of Homeland Security from construction of the wall, to no avail.

Late August, border wall work commenced when construction workers were escorted to the site by an estimated twenty masked Federal Agents, who were present to help provide security.

Despite the ruling, the Nation has taken their own sovereign steps in attempts of halting the project, such as posting no trespassing signage, which announce-

es that only tribal members are allowed onto the Nation.

A few weeks back, Chairman Lopez and Councilman Antone made in person visits to the Tohono O'odham Nation, to see the actual sites where the wall is being constructed, and to drop off goods and supplies to the people of the Nation, who are set up at the sites protesting the construction.

The opportunity to show a united front was something the Ak-Chin Tribal Council felt was important to support their sister tribe.

"Council took the initiative of contacting Chairman Jose to swap tribal flags," said Councilman Dennis Antone.

"We took one of our flags to the Ko:li Ki:jik (San Miguel Gate) and Chairman Jose gave us the okay to take the Nation's flag back to the community. We told them (Tohono O'odham Nation) we would hang their flag up in the community."

The Tohono O'odham Nation is one of Four Sister Tribes of the Arizona's twenty-two tribes, the other three sibling tribes include the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community.

The Tohono O'odham Nation and border wall crisis has received national and global attention as media coverage invaded the Nation's area where the wall is being constructed.



Above: Miles of border wall break through at the Ko:li Ki:jik (San Miguel Gate) separating the Tohono O'odham Nation from the Mexico border. Below: Chairman Lopez and Councilmember Antone stand united with members of the Tada'i Me:i (Roadrunner Fire) Campsite.



Grandparents Day event at Ak-Chin Early Child Development

Story and photos by Megan Quintero



On Friday September 11, the Ak-Chin Child Development Program staff held an event for Grandparents' Day!

All the kids sat with their grandparents and did a small craft with them; decorating a picture frame. Once the decorating was done everyone rushed over to the photo booth to get their picture taken.

As everyone waited for their pictures, staff passed out a snack bag with ingredients to make a DIY parfait.



REMINDER!

Our upcoming Native American Recognition Day to be held at **Milton Antone Memorial Park** is quickly approaching!

Everyone is welcome to join this event, bring your lawn chairs and umbrellas, plus mosquito spray! (Please no popup tents)

DAY SCHEDULE at the PARK
Welcome address followed by presentation of **award to Runners!**

The day's performances will start at 9:00 am with the **Wack Traditional Singers & Dancers**, followed by the **Yellow Bird Indian Dancers**, known world wide for their excellent dance styles, then the **Kaij Mek Keihindam from Tohono O'odham Nation** ending with the **Two Rivers Band** featuring **Lyle Reems!**

Arts & Crafts vendors, plus **Food Vendors** will be present throughout the day. Bring your cash for some **awesome jewelry, crafts, cool refreshments and food!**

Ak-Chin artist Dwayne Antone, Alana Oliver and Rufus White, including **basket weaver Bernice Monte from Tohono O'odham Nation** will be on hand to demonstrate their work throughout the day!

Come join us for this Community's NARD Event!

And if you should have any questions, please call **Him-Dak Eco Museum's main number** at (520) 568-1350.

ANNUAL FUN WALK and RUN!

The day will start with a leisurely walk & fun run, **starting west of The Elements on W. Tobi Drive Road** with **registration at 7:30 am**, and with the **run starting at 8:00 am**, followed by the walk, ending at the park. There will be **FREE fun-walk t-shirts** for the **first 100 participants** and **medals & gift cards to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female runners.**



September 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 Bible Study w/ Johnny Stephens @ 11 AM, Fridays Menu/Calendar Subject to Change Without Notice		9/18 Breakfast Burrito, Salsa & Sour Cream, Yogurt Parfait Green Chili Cheese, Tamale, Rice, Beans, Jell-O	
	9/21 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Apples Cabbage Stew, Carrots, Biscuit, Pineapples	9/22 Green Chili Burrito, Fruit Salad, Muffin Baked Chicken, Brown Rice, Corn, Peaches	9/23 Omelet, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit & Yogurt BLT Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Chips, Jell-O Dolly Parton Theme Elder Dinner Night @ 5:00 PM - Elder Center	9/24 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Pozole, Cabbage/ Onion, Rolls, Mexican Empanadas	9/25 Center Closed Native American Recognition Day	
	9/28 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuit, Peaches w/ Cottage Cheese Elder Game Day @ 10:30AM Tuscan Italian Soup, Mixed Salad, Breadsticks, Cookies	9/29 Veggie Quesadilla, Scrambled Eggs, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit Beef Fajitas, Mexican Rice, Zucchini, Cantaloupe/Honey Dew, Fruit Cup (D)	9/30 Cram of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Lima Beans, Chicken Tacos (D), Acorn Squash, Moon Bread, Plums Elder Dinner Night @ 5 PM	Plums and prunes are a good source of fiber and have been shown to reduce adiponectin levels. Both characteristics may benefit blood sugar control. Plums and prunes may promote heart health due to their potential role in lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Plums and prunes are simple to add to your diet.		



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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,
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you would like to share,
please contact us so we
can include it in "YOUR"
newspaper.

If you have suggestions or
comments about "YOUR"
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All submitted letters MUST
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Authors must also include
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Names can be omitted
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submissions will not be
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We reserve the right to edit
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NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
October 2-15, 2026
issue is due by
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes,
etc. no later than
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Material submitted after the
SEPTEMBER 24TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.

Coach Thomas Carlyle Retirement Part #2

Reflecting back on some of the players that he's coached from an early standpoint of their lives, Carlyle shares that many have experienced trying times in their young life and he would encourage them to continue to look forward despite the hard times.

Many shared in depth, their experiences with Thomas and to no one else but him, which he embraced to better understand how he could help and give advice.

For many of his players who needed a different outlet to overcome the obstacles they were going through, Thomas used his talent at what he was good at, "basketball", as a resource in hopes of giving his players that motivating factor.

"I took boys in that didn't know how to play, I had to start and build them up from the basics and watched them grow. To watch them go from point A to B in their career, that was another motivating factor for me to do what I was doing as a coach."

For parents, teachers, coaches and anyone in a leadership/guidance figure, you may wonder sometimes if you are guiding, molding, or coaching right. You get that answer when those that you are developing



Thomas Carlyle was the starting signal caller for Maricopa High School during the 1995 season.

show you or demonstrate what they've been taught during their growth. Thomas has seen plenty of that with players he's coached during his time.

For Thomas, as his coaching tenure continued and he developed his players, he reflected on a couple of moments that he realized his training was paying off and that Ak-Chin kids can play basketball with the best of them.

"I always tell this story of when we went to Inspire Courts the first time and I didn't know what to expect because it was not a field of just rez basketball teams, but club teams who dominated.

I remember, Alex Lopez was dominating against players who were much taller than he was in the tournament. In one particular game, he just killed it against a player who was guarding him.

I remember during a timeout, a big tall muscular biker looking guy who looked extremely upset, came walking towards our bench.

I thought to myself, what did we do or say to make this guy upset? But the guy walked over to Alex and gave him a bottle of Gatorade. It was his son that Alex was dominating."

The gesture of handing Alex a drink was his acknowledgment of how he appreciated the hard work and talent that Alex was displaying against his son on the court.

That gesture had Carlyle realizing that he did have a group of special players who were making a name for themselves

and the Ak-Chin Community.

Lopez was one of those talents that Thomas coached that at times he would just sit back and say "wow" to himself as he watched him dominate on the court, sometimes feeling like he was a spectator and not a coach as he watched.

Others he highlighted, were Isaiah Osife and Jose Miguel Jr. Osife went to high school in



Coach Thomas Carlyle with his Ak-Chin Little Leaguers.

Oklahoma and excelled as a point guard at Hartshorne High School, where he received numerous conference awards in leading his team in tournament berths.

Miguel played high school ball at Sequoia Pathway High School in Maricopa and then eventually signed to play college basketball at Nelson American Indian College (formerly Segu College) in Phoenix.

His tenure coaching also featured many highlights that he'll remember forever.

"There are so many highlights that I've seen during my time, from overtime wins, a buzzer beater from Keandre Miranda to win the game, to watching Baby J (Jose Miguel Jr.) play and how good he was, and that I had a part in developing him. But there were so many great things I was able to be a part of with the players I coached."

For decades, it is well known that Ak-Chin athletes were very instrumental in some titles that Maricopa High School accomplished during the school's history. Banners that currently hang in the rafters in the gymnasium have proudly displayed what the city and Ak-Chin have done together.

So, one of the more exciting things to anticipate is who from Ak-Chin will play a key role in other potential banners. For some time, Ak-Chin has seen a decline in participation in sports, but things seem to be on the rise as we currently are seeing involvement from Ak-Chin athletes in basketball, softball and baseball.



Coach Thomas Carlyle created the AKC Program. AKC is the acronym for Ak-Chin Indian Community.

As Carlyle watched his players go through his program, he always envisioned them playing at Maricopa High School or any high school for that matter.

"I was always proud, sitting in the stands at the high school, watching some of the players that were in my program and seeing how they were playing a role for the team's success," Thomas said.

"I can go on and on with highlights, but another proud

moment was being there at Sequoia Pathway when Baby J. made his announcement of where he was going to play college ball. He sat there with family and made his announcement wearing the Ak-Chin Indian Community logo beaded necklace that I let him wear during a special moment in his life."

The tough decision to call it quits after twenty-two years, was not something that Thomas wanted. He

had to make the decision based off of what has plagued many Native Americans for decades, diabetes. Thomas was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes twenty-two years ago.

Balancing work, family life, dialysis treatments and coaching, became too much after all these years.

"For a year and a half, I didn't work, luckily for me, I began treatment and got better for me and the Recreation department allowed me to come back and work and do sports.

As time went on with my schedule, which included dialysis, it eventually wore me out. For as long as I endured my work and treatment schedule, I'm pretty proud of myself for how far I've come."

With great changes in his family life, such as his grandchildren and the need to let his body rest, Thomas knew in 2025 that 2026 would be his last year coaching.

The opportunity to watch his son, Kody, who he and his wife Renee adopted, is something he's looking forward to.

"When I was coaching, it was hard for me to root for my son Isaac when he did great, because I was his coach, now as a parent and grandparent, I am able to show my feelings when Kody or my other grandkids do well."

Thomas steps down leaving his AKC program with coaches Dennis Antone and Jose "Baby J" Miguel Jr. and it gives him peace that he feels he's leaving it in "good hands."

Thomas acknowledged Ak-Chin's first Parks & Recreation Director, Martin Antone Sr. for helping him grow the inspiration of how he

developed his program.

"Martin was always a big part of how I built my program. We all benefited from when he coached us all at a younger age.

Before I actually started working with and for him, I always thought that he was a hard tough coach, but when you work with him, you saw his personality, he was funny and outgoing.

What he did for us, is something I wanted to do for kids during my

time as a coach."

Behind every good man, is a good woman. Thomas's wife Renee, to him, was the "key" in helping him with the basketball program, if she didn't support the program, there wouldn't have been a program.

In knowing the commitment that Thomas had to make for the program, which meant coming home late from practice and games, missing family quality time, and tending to medical schedules, Renee was in full support of her husband and what he loved to do.

"Man, for what she's done during my whole coaching for twenty-two years, she accepted that and was there for everything, I totally appreciate her being by my side and supporting me through it all."

Thomas also credited families who committed and supported the AKC Basketball Program, from the Carlyle's, Jensen's, Curley's, Arviso's, and Montana's just to name a few.

There were many other families who supported the program, but of them all, Delia was the one who stood out and did a lot for the program."

As the final whistle blew during the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) to end the coaching tenure of Thomas Carlyle, he had mixed emotions, but overall was at peace walking off of the basketball court for the final time knowing that he fulfilled a dream, calling, and responsibility to do all he could for the kids of Ak-Chin.



Coach Thomas Carlyle

"It was more of a relaxing feeling, knowing I won't be having to get ready every off day of dialysis on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday for any more practice or training.

But I'll miss that time with all the boys just joking around with each other and being around them. But I knew that was it, I want to be a fan of the game now and support all the kids who play sports.

I want to say thank you to the Ak-Chin Community, because these boys who represented the community were your kids and you gave me the opportunity to teach them, whether it was sports or to grow as a person.

Thank you for these boys who dedicated their time to play here. They had opportunities to play elsewhere with possibly better teams, but they choose to stay here."

Thomas ended by acknowledging the late Terry Enos, who was considered "Ak-Chin's Biggest Fan" as he was spotted at just about every home and away game supporting Ak-Chin teams.

"I want to relax and enjoy watching games, maybe be the next Terry Enos."

The future of Ak-Chin sports, in particular, basketball, looks bright, thanks to the "Coach" Thomas Carlyle.

Lazy Labor Day Pool Party

Story by Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Staff, photos by Kristen Villegas

(L-R)Winners of the scavenger hunt was Victoria Gamez, Bree Whitman, Kody Carlyle, Delianna Lewis and Gabriel B., (Not pictured: Adaline F.); These 4-6 year olds rush the water to get to the items first.



The Ak-Chin Indian Community Parks and Recreation department hosted their first Lazy Labor Day Pool Party for members and families on Saturday, September 5 during Labor Day Weekend.

Julia Dickerson, Parks and Recreation Coordinator shared, "The Lazy Labor Day event was a great way for community members to enjoy one last summer celebration together at the pool.

Guests were able to participate in fun water activities and games throughout the event, enjoy hot dogs, and spend time

with family and friends."

The event also included a special raffle for a YETI, which was won by Willard Delma.

"Everyone had a great time participating and enjoying the activities." Julia added. "Overall, the event went very well, and we

were excited to see everyone come out and participate.

Parks & Recreation appreciates everyone who joined us and helped make the Lazy Labor Day celebration successful, and we look forward to seeing the community at our next event!"



After the call of go, these kids race to the scavenger hunt items as quickly as they can.

Book Club reads "Where They Last Saw Her"

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas



The Ak-Chin Indian Community Library brought back their Book Club on September 14, with a reading of "Where They Last Saw Her," by Marcie R. Rendon.

This story follows a woman named Quill; while on a

morning run, she hears a scream and goes in search of the noise. There she discovers a single beaded earring and no one insight. What follows is unanswered questions, deep suspicions and her seeking justice for a string of missing

indigenous women.

During the meeting, discussions on themes, key plot points, social commentary on current Missing Murder Indigenous Women, perspective on bystander situations and much more. The ladies of the book club analyzed the responses of characters and the public within the book and related it to real world scenarios; finding that it depicted an accurate representation.

If you'd like to join the next book club meeting, they have two more meetings on Monday, Septemeber 21st and 29th.

3D Printing Enrichment offered at Education



Saddleback 5th graders work diligently to design their projects for printing while Matt Cross, Enrichment Coordinator assists.

Throughout the summer, the Ak-Chin Indian Community's Education department offered an Enrichment Program that allowed students in 5-6 grades

to learn the wonders of 3D printing and STEM adjacent activities under the instruction of Student Advisor/ Enrichment Coordinator, Matt

Submitted by Bojana Uzelac
Ak-Chin Student Advisor
Cross.

This opportunity was a way for creative thinking to come to fruition.

Education staff had a great response of interest and have decided to once again offer the program to students of Saddleback Elementary School that are in the 5th grade. This program mainly focuses on 3D Design and Printing and will be offered throughout the month of September with Tuesday after-school sessions.

Currently, 9 students of Saddleback are participating. Stayed tuned to see what kinds of masterpieces these scholars bring to the table.

Pumpkins, Themed Doors and Storytime

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



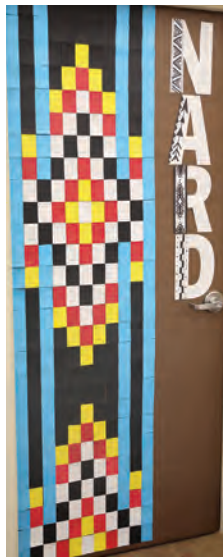
Wednesdays are for Storytime fun at the Ak-Chin Library. But for September 9 Storytime, it began with crafting personalized pumpkins for one of the themed doors on the back wall of the library.

The library designs their doors to cater to the month's activities, the holidays, and the changing of seasons; pretty cool right? The pumpkins will be placed with patron's favorite book on the "Carve out Time to Read" door and will be perfect to bring in the fall season.

After crafting and coloring was complete, the little ones gathered in the cornfield or the Storytime area for a reading of "I'm so Happy You're Here: A Celebration of Library Joy" by

Mychal Threats, and Illustrated by Lorriane Nam. Following Storytime, the much-loved bubble time was had.

If you'd like to attend Storytime, they are held every Wednesday at 10 AM.



The "Carve Out Time To Read" door is a work in progress but check out this "NARD" designed by Library Aide, Robin Vincent.



Parks & Recreation continued from Front

my first experience at this conference. I introduced myself to many professionals throughout the 3-day event; the networking was my highlight. I specifically also sought out vendors in the expo hall to assist with contact information for future needs at our Rec center.

I attended two budget educational sessions, which expanded my knowledge for successful budget drafting.”

Jesus Espinoza - Parks Manager: “My experience at the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) conference was highly rewarding. It was a great opportunity to connect with peers and share our firsthand experiences navigating parks maintenance challenges.

Contributing to these discussions gave me valuable insight into the operational struggles faced by other crews and, more importantly, provided collaborative strategies to address them.”

Julia Dickerson - Program Coordinator: “Attending APRA this year was a great learning experience for me, especially because I was able to see how other Parks and Recreation departments are beginning to use ChatGPT and other AI tools in their everyday work.

I was excited to learn that AI is already being used to help departments save time, improve organization, assist with planning, create professional materials, brainstorm programs and events, and make every day administrative work more efficient.

It showed me that AI is not meant to replace the work we do, but can be used as a tool to support staff and help us become more productive. I would love to see our department continue exploring ways to incorporate AI into our work environment.

I believe it could help our team complete projects in a timelier manner, improve communication, organize information, develop new ideas, and make some of our time-consuming tasks easier to manage.

Many of the sessions I attended focused on leadership, professional development, and the use of AI, including ChatGPT, within Parks and Recreation departments.

I left the conference excited about the possibilities and interested in continuing to learn how we can use AI to strengthen our department and better support our staff and community.”

Jordan Gusse - Program Coordinator: “Attending the 2026 APRA Conference was a great experience and provided me with valuable knowledge that I can bring back to my role.

The educational sessions focused on leadership, professional skills, and sports programming were especially informative.

Learning what is working and not working in other communities helps give me ideas for what could work here in the community.

Also, the opportunity to connect with other parks and recreation professionals allowed me to build new professional relationships and gather new ideas that I can bring back to my everyday job.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend the APRA conference.”

Jesus Corella - Parks Technician: “Attending the APRA event was an excellent and insightful experience. I appreciated the platform to discuss our specific parks maintenance and operational challenges.

Engaging in these discussions allowed for a productive exchange of ideas, offering deeper insight into shared industry bottlenecks and practical, actionable solutions for our maintenance crews.”

Daniel White - Groundskeeper: “It was my first time attending; it was a great experience. I learned about the different types of grass for parks, different plants that will survive the Arizona heat, and ways to reduce flooding at parks.

I also learned a little about aquatic, including how to maintain water features and many rules you need to follow to have those features.”

Calvin Vansickle - Groundskeeper: “What I learned at the APRA is the importance of saving water in Arizona. Being a desert state, water is sacred, from grass removal basins collecting water to reusing the recycled water to water the plants.

In another class talked about getting with the police, connecting with them, and helping each other if anything happens at or around the park.”

Christian Soliz - Assistant Coordinator: “One thing I learned at APRA is how to utilize AI more in the department by helping develop lesson plans and suggesting activities for the appropriate age group. It could also be used in making flyers and giving ideas for community events.”

Mariah Carlyle - Assistant Coordinator: “Attending the APRA conference for my second year was a great opportunity to continue growing both personally and professionally; it gave me a better look at what parks and recreation actually is.

It was another great experience networking and learning from other parks and recreation professionals throughout Arizona.

It was cool hearing about their experiences, challenges, and successful programs gave me new perspectives and ideas that I can bring back to my community.

I enjoyed all the little free things we got during our time there, definitely looking forward to attending for a 3rd year.”

A Special Thank You to Former Chairman Robert Miguel
We would like to express our sincere appreciation to **former Chairman Robert Miguel** for representing the **Ak-Chin Indian Community** and speaking on behalf of **Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation at APRA.**

It was an honor to have a former Chairman share the history of our Recreation Department, from where it began to how it has grown into the programs, activities, and services we proudly provide to our community today.

We truly appreciate Mr. Miguel continuing to support Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation, speaking so highly of our department, and representing the Ak-Chin Indian Community in such a positive and meaningful way.

Thank you, former Chairman Robert Miguel, for your continued leadership, support, and dedication to the Ak-Chin Indian Community.



Ilina Perryman (left) of the Ak-Chin Lady Hoa Nad: O Kam (Basket Makers) dribbles up court during a game against Tribal Dynasty.

Ak-Chin Compete in Rising Nations Invitational Tourney

Story and photos by Robert Miguel

After a two-month break, the Ak-Chin Lady Hoa Nad: O Kam (Basket Makers) took to the hardwood as they participated in the Native American Basketball Invitation (NABI) sanctioned Rising Nations Invitational Basketball Tournament, at Skyline High School on the Gila River Indian Community, September 5th-6th.

The Basket Makers were coming off a productive regular season after starting slow in early 2026.

As the Ak-Chin ballers entered more tournaments, they showed major improvement and even placed in two tournaments, a testament to the coaching

of head coach Raymond Whitman, and his assistants Kyle Peters and David “Woody” Peters Jr.

With a majority of the team back, they looked to continue the success they left off with.

The first opponent in the Rising Tournament, was against the Navajo Nation, Team Stronghold, who most consider a top five team.

The all-star team from the Nation, played flawless during the first five minutes of the game, propelling Ak-Chin to a double-digit deficit early and an unfortunate defeat.

In the second round, Ak-

Chin laced them up against a familiar opponent, Tribal Dynasty, from the Gila River Indian Community. Still feeling the sting from a loss against Team Stronghold.

Ak-Chin fell into a quick hole once again, and could not sustain a comeback, settling for a double-digit defeat.

Despite the two set-backs in pool play, the Lady Hoa Nad: O Kam were optimistic going into tournament play against Native Elite. Due to a scheduling misunderstanding from organizers, Ak-Chin had to forfeit their final game, knocking them out of tournament play.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Capital Projects Office

September 11, 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 10 months. Currently working in Village subdivision, boring under Farrell Road, south side service connection; and open cut trenching across the roads in Fire House, Mesquite, and Greasewood subdivisions is ongoing. 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 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
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**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:

- Not an elected official of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council; and
- Not a candidate, or the immediate family member of a candidate, for Community Council office; and
- An enrolled member of the Community; and
- At least twenty-one (21) years of age or older; and
- Able and willing to perform all duties and functions, including being physically present during all elections.
- Perform the duties on Election Day if any Regular Member is unable to perform his or her duties on Election Day.
- 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



OPEN UNTIL FILLED



Apartments continued from Front

loads. offer the same color scheme, lots of cabinetry, and spacious living spaces. Congratulations to all members who received an apartment!



Building Bridges Workshop

Story and photos by Megan Quintero



Left to right: Shanna Narcia, Council Member Lisa Garcia, Erica Oliver, Pershlie Ami, Perla Corona, Johnny Perkins, Richard Joaquin III, Zaida Soliz, Misty Quintero, Myulani Antone, Anthony Goulet, and Della Honie

As we know the topic of ‘suicide’ is a very sensitive subject to speak on. Most of us may know or have heard that September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The Harrah’s Development System (HDS) program put together this prevention event in support of suicide prevention on Thursday, September 10th, which also fell on World Suicide Prevention Day. The workshop featured both speakers and authors; Anthony Goulet, and Pershlie “Perci” Ami who is also actress. The morning began with an opening from Ak-Chin Councilmember Lisa Garcia and a prayer from Aaron Sabori, who also provided onsite traditional counseling throughout the day. After the prayer, a video made by Halia Shirley, a suicide prevention & education specialist was shown, followed by speaker Perci, who talked about the struggles and experiences she has dealt with to help others overcome the same obstacles. A few words she shared were “express life as joyful” and “act when the spirit is telling you.” Meaning, when you feel something is up with someone act on it don’t wait, and to “know that you are never alone”. Once she finished up, lunch was provided by the HDS associates. After lunch Waylon Pahona was asked to do an icebreaker before moving onto the next speaker. As everyone settled in, Anthony began speaking about mental health, signs and symptoms of suicide and ways to help. The day was filled with lots of mixed emotions, lots of tears, as well as stories being shared throughout the day. The event was then closed with everyone in attendance receiving signed copies of Perci and Anthony’s latest book “Broken Home, Healed Nest”. Both HDS Manager, Erica Oliver and Supervisor, Della Honie were asked what their intentions were for the event. “Intentions behind Thursday’s event was to raise awareness about suicide on world suicide prevention day and to also provide a safe space for others to learn, share, connect, and heal.” Erica shared. “The intention of the ‘building bridges suicide prevention awareness event’, is to build a community and break the stigma of remaining silent about the very sensitive topic, of ‘suicide’, Della shared. “Many of us are impacted in one way or another, as a survivor myself- it brings comfort to a healing heart and equipping our young HDS associates with tools to heal themselves or others, later down the road.” It is very important to keep talking about suicide awareness and keeping in touch with those who may be suffering from mental health. Having open conversations about one’s suicidal thoughts has shown to be helpful to those suffering from mental health.

It is said that asking directly lowers anxiety and allows people to feel safe and let themselves share their feelings comfortably. If you or someone you know is in a crisis or struggling, CALL OR TEXT 988 to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

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

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

KEY

WB = West Bound
EB = East Bound

SB = South Bound
NB = North Bound

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

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

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

HDS Visits Phoenix Indian School



Story and photos submitted by Erica Oliver, HDS Manager

On August 26th, Harrah’s Ak-Chin employees from the HDS Program (Harrah’s Development System) attended a tour of the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center and learned about the history of the Phoenix Indian School and the Federal Indian Boarding School Era.

The tour guide did a great job in creating a meaningful past to present journey, connecting the history of the Phoenix Indian School with the current events and services available.

The tour was informative, meaningful, and filled with stories tied to the Phoenix Indian School’s history and the boarding school era.

Discussion topics focused on Indigenous resilience, cultural preservation, and healing.

Following the Phoenix Indian School tour, the HDS Associates visited the Patina Wellness Center to learn about the programs and services offered by Native American Connections and its mission of culturally integrated continuum of care, which

consists of Indigenous values, healing practices, and holistic wellness woven throughout its services.

The tours were intended to build cultural awareness around the boarding school era and allow the group to reflect on the forced assimilation, cultural eradication, and intergenerational trauma.

The experience helped with acknowledging history, honoring survivors and understanding the importance of strengthening cultural identity.

Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following case at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at the Justice Center Conference Room.

Case: SD-01-26 Ak-Chin Farms Park:

Project Applicant/Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Marie Antone, is requesting Site Development Plan Permit approval to construct a 6.6-acre community park at the intersection of West Peters and Nall Road and Farm Lane.

The proposed project will consist of:

- Play equipment; and
- Ramadas and shade structures; and
- Restroom building; and
- Multi-purpose sports field; and
- Basketball court; and
- Walking path; and
- Parking area; and
- Fencing; and
- Landscape, irrigation, and lighting.



Ak-Chin Indian Community
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Behavioral Health Services

Care for the mind, the body, and the family — right here at home.

You do not have to be in crisis to come see us. Our outpatient clinic offers confidential counseling, substance use treatment, and support for adults, youth, and families — provided by licensed clinicians, close to home, and grounded in respect for our community.

WHAT WE OFFER		
Individual Counseling Support for stress, anxiety, depression, grief, anger, and trauma — at your pace.	Substance Use Treatment Assessment, individual and group treatment, relapse prevention, and recovery planning.	Youth & Family Services Screening and counseling for teens, with parents and caregivers included in the work.
Crisis Support Same-day help when things feel unsafe or overwhelming, plus a plan for what comes next.	Psychiatric Referral Evaluation and medication referral coordinated with your medical provider.	Case Management Help connecting to medical care, housing, benefits, and community resources.
Court-Ordered Treatment Assessments and treatment for court, probation, and detention referrals — treatment that treats.	Reentry & Follow-Up An appointment scheduled before release, and continued care in the weeks after.	Department Consultation Guidance, warm handoffs, and staff training for partnering Community departments.

GETTING STARTED IS SIMPLE

1 Reach Out

Ask any department to connect you. No referral is required.

2 First Visit

We listen first. Together we look at what is going on and what would help.

3 A Plan With You

You help build the plan — the pace, the goals, and who else is involved.

What you share stays here.

Who We Serve

Ak-Chin Community members and eligible family members — adults, teens, elders, and families. Not sure whether you qualify? Call and ask. We would rather answer the question than have you wonder.

For Community Departments

Refer directly by phone or by warm handoff — walk the person over or call while they are with you. We can also consult on a concern before it becomes a referral.

“Healing, public safety, and community wellness are the same project.”

CALL OR VISIT

520-568-1090

48227 W. Farrell Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85139

CLINIC HOURS

[Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.]

QUESTIONS OR REFERRALS

Call Health & Human Services,
Behavioral Health Department

In crisis? You do not have to wait for an appointment.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — call or text, 24/7
1-800-259-3449 CRIC Crisis Line — 24/7
911 for emergencies

Ak-Chin Indian Community • Health & Human Services • Behavioral Health

Services are confidential.



JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Administrative Support Tech
- Child and Family Therapist (part-time)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Pre-Trial Services Officer
- Prosecutor
- Truant Officer

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.

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

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

When?
10:00 AM Wednesday, September 9th
or
10:00 AM Wednesday, September 30th

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

CLASSES:

- Start: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
- Tuesday & Thursday | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Taught by certified teachers
- In person
- FREE!

Contact Us!
520-494-6440
adult.education@centralaz.edu

BOB – PT. 2!
Happy Birthday Grand Chaw-Hee!! From the Funnner Runner Team

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Danel and Cecily and grandsons Elijah, Oliver, Adrian Jr., and Tyson Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Cecily & Oliver Love your family

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF LEGO BUILDING AT THE LIBRARY!

SEPTEMBER 9TH AND 23RD 2PM-5PM

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES. MINORS UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OVER 18.

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

RESUME & JOB SEARCHING WORKSHOP

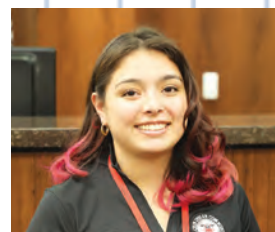
Print out a resume, find resources, and get started with finding a job.

September 21st 10-11am

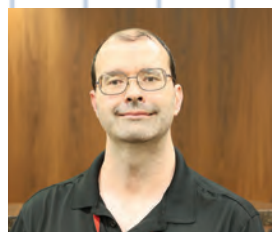
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES
MINORS UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OVER 18.

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

Employee Updates



Haili Trevino Gonzales
Deputy Clerk
Courts



Kyle Fields
Chief Judge
Courts



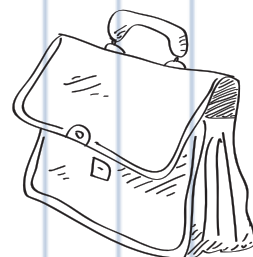
Augustine Salas-Vargas
Groundskeeper
Sanitation



Dominique White
Groundskeeper
Sanitation



Ralston Justin
Groundskeeper
Sanitation



ART SPACE
@ THE LIBRARY AGES 15+

WE PROVIDE THE MATERIALS AND SPACE WHILE YOU BRING THE IMAGINATION!
PAINT, DRAW, SKETCH, COLOR, CREATE

EVERY TUESDAY 4PM - 5PM

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES. MINORS UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OVER 18

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

Employee Birthdays 9/15 - 9/30

- 9/15**
Theodore Puetz, EPD

9/17
Anthony ManzoLopez, Police

9/19
Andres Flores, Tribal Gaming Agency
Robert Miguel, Runner
Sonia Narcia, Elderly

9/20
Matt Shepard, Fire
- 9/22**
Monica Hall, Tribal Gaming Agency
DOnly Michael, Vekol
Barbra Munoz, Police
Evagenlyn Romo, Custodial

9/23
Jacob Dickerson Jr. Fire
Russell Miller, Sanitation
Cleo Pablo, Police
Cecily Peters, Events
- 9/24**
Alvaro Lazaro, Maintenance
Colby Santos, Sanitation

9/25
Alma Camacho, Human Resources
Melany Ruiz, Vekol

9/27
Asia Rascon, Police
David Sye, Tribal Gaming Agency

9/30
Veronica Santiago, Vekol

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS 9/15 - 9/30

- SEPTEMBER 15**
Stacie Antone
Krislyn Pablo

SEPTEMBER 16
Angela Manuel
Angelo Manuel
Graham Smith

SEPTEMBER 17
Josiah Thomas
Frederick Antone
Rosalie Perry
Stephanie Smallcanyon

SEPTEMBER 18
Danel Peters
Isaiah Miguel
Marin Lopez

SEPTEMBER 19
Sonia Narcia
Andres Hernandez
Joycelyn Kaniatobe
Robert Miguel
- SEPTEMBER 20**
Riley Perry
Elijah Peters
Kyren Antone

SEPTEMBER 21
Monica Noriega
Dani White
Ulanii Johnson

SEPTEMBER 22
Shannen Smith
Evangelyn Romo
Gabriel Santiago
Iris Smith

SEPTEMBER 23
Cleo Pablo
Aurelia Dominguez
Salmino Santiago
Cecily Peters
Jacob Dickerson Jr.
Tracey Tallabas
Nicholas Anderson

SEPTEMBER 24
Nevaeh Jensen
Kyla-Jae Antone
- Hazel Justin-Youvella**

SEPTEMBER 25
Nakeasha White

SEPTEMBER 26
Lindsay Antone

SEPTEMBER 27
Adrian Garcia, Jr.
Alyssa Garcia
Irene Arredondo

SEPTEMBER 28
Jason Kaniatobe

SEPTEMBER 29
Lily Garcia

SEPTEMBER 30
Veronica Santiago
Kaleb Rivers
Bryson Hazen
Dominic Romo
Elvia Castro
Tyson Lopez

LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS

Health Education Presents....

YOUTH BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU AT AK-CHIN

CONFIDENCE • DISCIPLINE • SKILL

TRAIN WITH PROFESSOR LOPEZ
3rd-degree black belt under Master John Machado

AK-CHIN YOUTH AGES 6-15

START DATE - SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER
48227 W FARRELL RD
THURSDAYS • 5:45 PM-6:30 PM

OPEN TO ALL AK-CHIN YOUTH MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS ONLY
QUESTIONS?? PLEASE CALL (520) 568-1080

WWW.TIMLOPEZBJJ.COM

SCAN THE CODE COMPLETE THE LIABILITY WAIVER PRIOR TO CLASS

2026 September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Library Hours Mon-Fri : 9am-6pm Sat : Closed Sun : Closed	1 Art Space 15+ 4-5pm	2 Storytime @10am	3	4	5	
6	7 Happy Labor Day! Closed	8 Art Space 15+ 4-5pm	9 Storytime @10am Lego Mania 2-5pm	10 Resume & Job Search 3-4pm	11 Crochet Class 5-6pm	12
13 Grandparents Day	14 Book Club 5-6pm	15 Art Space 15+ 4-5pm	16 Storytime @10am Family Game Night 4-6pm	17	18 Crochet Class 5-6pm	19
20	21 Resume & Job Search 10-11am Book Club 5-6pm	22 Art Space 15+ 4-5pm	23 Storytime @10am Lego Mania 2-5pm	24	25 Native American Recognition Day Closed	26
27	28 Book Club 5-6pm	29 Art Space 15+ 4-5pm	30 Storytime @10am			

September is **Library Card Sign Up Month!**

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

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

9/11 continued from Front

anniversary, the families of victims, gathered at Memorial plaza to read aloud the names of the nearly 3,000 men, women, and children who were killed in the attacks.

Six moments of silence was held as it marked the times when each of the World Trade Center towers were struck, when each tower fell, and times corresponding to the attack at the Pentagon, and the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

At the site of where the World Trade Center once stood in New York City, the 9/11 Memorial Museum tells the story through media, narratives, and a collection of monumental and authentic artifacts, presenting visitors with personal stories of loss, recovery, and hope.

Another compliment a few blocks from where the World Trade Center once stood, is the installation of the Tribute in Light, which consists of 88 vertical searchlights arranged in two columns of light to represent the Twin Towers, when lit, the lights can be seen as far as 60 miles away.

In Pennsylvania, the Garden of Reflection 9/11 Memorial was created to remember and honor the loved ones and all who were killed during September 11, 2001. It is situated in Memorial Park amid the natural beauty of Historic Bucks County farmland in Lower Makefield Township.



Walkers make their way down the route near the Desert Willow Housing Sub-Division during the early morning hours of the 9/11 Memorial Walk.

19th Annual Kids Day Maricopa

Free Fun Kids Event – Mark Your Calendar

Date: Sat 9/19/26
Time: 10am – 4pm
Maricopa Wells Middle School, 45725 W. Honeycutt Maricopa, AZ 85139

Coordinated by: Dr John A. Donohue, D.C. A-1 Health & Wellness/Maricopa Rotary

Sponsor Team

Face Painting Arts & Crafts

Help Create a Safe and Healthy Future for Your Family!

- ✓ Learn how to optimize your child's health potential
- ✓ First Things First, Headstart, Empact, Southwestern Pediatric, Dental, MUSD #20 Project Aware & more.
- ✓ H2O Conservation w/ Global Water & ED3 Electric Safety
- ✓ Be Above the Influence with Be Awesome Coalition
- ✓ Learn History & Train Safety W/Maricopa Historical Society
- ✓ Maricopa Home Safety "CERT"
- ✓ Learn how to grow a natural garden w/Ace Hardware!
- ✓ Read w/ Maricopa Library & Pinal District Library
- ✓ Pinal County United Way!

Featuring:

- FREE Child Safety Information, including:
 - Maricopa PD, SWAT & Motorcycle Demos &
 - Phoenix Childrens Hospital Bike & ATV Safety
 - Fire Safety w/ Maricopa Fire Dept.
 - Pinal County Sheriff Helicopter/Humvee/Rescue Division
 - Petting Zoo w/ The 4-H Club & Gud Ark Sanctuary & Cactus Equine Ponies
 - Demo w/ Maricopa PD K-9 Unit
 - Kids Karate Demo & DSPA Dance & Learn w/Aloha
 - Heroes United, Power Ranger, Superman, etc...
 - Ak-Chin Native Dancers And much, much more...
- FREE Health Screenings w/Banner Childrens Mobile
- FREE Vision & Hearing w/ Maricopa Lions
- Meet The "Phoenix Suns" Street Team
- Meet "Smokey Bear", "Big Red" and Friends....
- FREE prize drawings all day. (Toys, Bicycles, etc.)
- LOTS OF FREE FOOD, DRINK, TOYS AND FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

Volunteers Needed

Explore a Real Fire Truck!

Bring the whole Family

GRAND PRIZES FROM 3-4pm

For more information call 520-494-7788

Free Food **Rain or Shine**

347 GRILL

NATIONAL CHEESE BURGER DAY

1/2 OFF

All Specialty Burgers: Black & Blue, Western and The Sunrise

ALL DAY SEPTEMBER 18

*Dine in only, while supplies last no substitutions

Ak-Chin Circle

347 GRILL

FOOTBALL IS BACK

HAPPY HOUR FOOD AND DRINK MENU ALL DAY ON NFL GAME DAYS

FOOD SPECIALS

Chicken Quesadilla with salsa and sour cream	\$9
Chicken Taquitos with salsa	\$7
Chicken Pesto Flatbread	\$10
Hummus & Pita	\$8
Fried Mushrooms with ranch	\$6
Jalapeño Poppers wrapped in bacon stuffed w. cream cheese	\$8

DRINK SPECIALS

Regular 16oz	ON TAP Large 22oz	House Wine
\$3.50	\$4.50	\$5

All Arizona Craft Beers
Coors Light Draft
Bud Light Draft
Michelob Ultra Draft

Well Cocktails \$4.50

- \$5 BLOODY MARYS
- \$5 MIMOSAS
- \$5 3 AMIGOS MARGARITAS
- \$7.99 22oz MICHELADAS ON ANY DRAFT BEER

Ak-ChinCircle.com

347 GRILL

LUXE LOUNGE

SEPTEMBER 26

DOORS OPEN AT 8PM
SHOW STARTS @9PM

CHRISTIAN WARREN

PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES

90'S COUNTRY ALL NIGHT LONG

DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT

16000 N. MARICOPA RD. MARICOPA AZ 85139

ARROYO GRILLE

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM

PATIO VIEWS | DINE IN | ORDER TO GO

48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

SWEET SEPTEMBER \$10 OFF

YOUR WHOLE CHEESECAKE ORDER

BOOK A PARTY TO PAIR WITH IT, TOO!

SPORTS BANQUETS
FAMILY REUNIONS
WORK LUNCHEES
POOL PARTIES

Receive \$10 off your whole cheesecake order. Must mention coupon when ordering. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers, discounts or Harrah's Rewards. One coupon per order. Does not include alcohol. Delivery limited to within Maricopa. Non-transferable. Offer expires 9/30/26.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

ARROYO GRILLE

at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

CASUAL CATERING

WE MAKE PARTIES A PIECE OF CAKE!

FREE DELIVERY TO MARICOPA

BIRTHDAYS ■ SPORTS BANQUETS ■ FAMILY REUNIONS
WORK LUNCHEES ■ POOL PARTIES ■ CUSTOMIZED MENUS

CALL TODAY TO PARTY!

520.426.6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

48456 WEST HIGHWAY 238 IN MARICOPA

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO

SEPTEMBER 2026

CAESARS REWARDS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
\$700,000 SUMMER PLAYFEST \$100,000 FINALE EVENT MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026 DRAWINGS EVERY 20 MINUTES - 11AM - 6:40PM 2026 JEEP® WRANGLER RUBICON 7PM FINALE	1 WRAPPED IN COMFORT GIVEAWAY	2 15X 15X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER TOUCHDOWN TAKEOVER FOREVER YOUNG	3 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	4 TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB	5 WEEKEND SPIRITS GIVEAWAY	
6 POOL PARTY TOBY KEITH TRIBUTE SUPER SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE FAMILY STYLE SUNDAYS AT OAK & FORK	7 SUMMER PLAYFEST \$100,000 FINALE EVENT	8 WRAPPED IN COMFORT GIVEAWAY	9 15X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER TOUCHDOWN TAKEOVER FOREVER YOUNG	10 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	11 THE LOUNGE LUCKY EMBER DRINK OF THE MONTH	12 PURCHASE A DAY PASS FOR THE POOL!
13 SUPER SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE FAMILY STYLE SUNDAYS AT OAK & FORK	14 DOWNLOAD THE CAESARS REWARDS APP	15 WRAPPED IN COMFORT GIVEAWAY	16 15X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER TOUCHDOWN TAKEOVER FOREVER YOUNG	17 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	18 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LOUNGE WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS	19 ULTIMATE LAUGHLIN EXPERIENCE SWEEPSTAKES FRY'S FOOD STORES® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY
20 OAK & FORK SUPER SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE FAMILY STYLE SUNDAYS AT OAK & FORK	21 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!	22 WRAPPED IN COMFORT GIVEAWAY	23 15X 15X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER TOUCHDOWN TAKEOVER FOREVER YOUNG	24 YOUR CHOICE TO PLAY YOUR WAY	25 CAESARS SPORTSBAR FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY	26 REWARD YOURSELF & SHOP WITH REWARD CREDITS AT THE GIFT SHOP
27 SUPER SUNDAY SHOPPING SPREE FAMILY STYLE SUNDAYS AT OAK & FORK	28 START THE WEEK WITH DUNKIN'	29 WRAPPED IN COMFORT GIVEAWAY	30 15X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER TOUCHDOWN TAKEOVER FOREVER YOUNG	\$60,000 Table Games Side Bet SWEEPSTAKES SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 29, 2026		

Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Management reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without prior notice. Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start! Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-NEXT STEP or text "NEXTSTEP" to 53342. ©2026 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.