



March 7, it was a crisp morning in the Community as Ak-Chin Recreation staff finished putting the final touches on creating a memorable event to bring to the community's youth.

Making his first and hopefully not last visit to the Ak-Chin Community was 2019 Jimmy V Award Winner and motivational speaker Coach Robert Mendez Jr., a remarkable and inspirational high school football coach who was born without arms and legs was invited to speak and hold a football camp. At Coach Mendez's side, was special guest, 2011 Superbowl Champion and former Green Bay Packer Wide Receiver James Jones.

Before the camp got started, Ak-Chin Language department said a blessing for everyone and performed a traditional song, followed by Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Marie Antone introducing Coach Mendez.

"I just want to let you guys know a few things, your welcoming has been very appreciative," Coach Mendez began. "Every person I've met here has been so generous and so kind... I'm not sure why everyone is so kind, but it's really touching to me because everywhere I go, I'm always meeting new people and

Ak-Chin welcomes ESPY's Jimmy V Award Winner Coach Rob Mendez



Story and photos by J. Peters

Coach Mendez watches as his campers give a big cheer before starting their big day at football camp.

traveling places. I think the one thing that is the most beautiful thing about life is creating memories, friendships and relationships. So, I'm always going to remember this moment with you guys here in Ak-Chin."

Coach Mendez also gave thanks to everyone who made the event possible. "I do want to thank the whole resort, everyone who has been involved in this whole making and I just want to really truly thank everyone from the bottom of my heart, your kindness, your

welcoming, your smiles and now let's definitely have fun!" After speaking Coach Mendez gave two rules to everyone on the field to follow, 1. Be kind and nice to each other and 2. Encourage each other!

The football camp began with the kids broken up into age groups, then coaches and participants headed to their stations turning Ak-Chin Circle fields into a one of a kind football camp. A morning dedicated to running drills and improving their skills, the kid athletes watched, learned and listened as

they were coached by the dynamic team, made up of Mendez, Jones and team members and players from Maricopa high school.

With 50 kids in attendance, the turn out rate was spectacular for the Recreation department, as their first big event was a complete success! Breaking for lunch, provided by Ak-Chin Police department, Chairman Robert Miguel, Councilmember Delia Carlyle, Language Technician Velacita Lopez, and Language Specialist Lerline Peters gifted traditional shell



Coach Mendez continues to page 5

Maricopa Lady Rams win Valley Christian Under the Lights Softball Tournament

Story by R. Peters, submitted photo



Maricopa Lady Rams, post Championship win.

The Maricopa Lady Rams softball team had an awesome weekend of wins during the Valley Christian Under the Lights Softball Tournament, February 24-26, in Chandler.

After their first round of pool play, the Lady Rams finished 1-3, and then

took the first loss going into the tournament bracket, only to go on and win the next five games in a row to take the tournament.

Friday's first tourney game for Maricopa was against Wilcox, where they lost 5-3. The Lady Rams then rallied to win

their next game that day against Blue Ridge, 8-5. Saturday was definitely GAME DAY for the Lady Rams as they took out Horizon Honors, 13-11, Florence 15-0, Wilcox 7-4 and then beat Valley Christian in a winner take all, 13-1.

Lady Rams continues to page 5

February Community Meeting

Story by Runner Staff

Monday, February 28, Ak-Chin Council presented monthly reports for the virtual community meeting. Before the meeting started technical difficulties pushed the meeting back for a bit. Once some issues were resolved, an opening prayer from Councilmember Delia Carlyle was said to begin the February Community Meeting.

Vice-Chairman Lemuel Vincent, was the first to share his report, as he talked about the battles Council was dealing with concerning the pandemic, and moving forward, "back to whatever normalcy is or (back) to where we left off at."

He talked about how even though the numbers have gone down in the community in regards to Covid, "council is trying to broaden that road" as he stressed the need for the community to continue to move forward, in lieu of what's happening with the pandemic. "I know I've said this before, just bear with us and we will get there."

Vice-Chair commended the community for attending the virtual meetings. "For me, myself, I can't wait to go back to the in-person one."

He also shared how, "everything is still in slow motion as far as doing a lot of in-person activity" and "trying to take care of the issues here within the Community," pointing out that he had not gone to any meetings, as he is "still here confined to the office."

Vincent attended his first Seeds of Gala event for the domestic violence shelter in Maricopa and acknowledged past councils who were a driving force in getting the shelter to where it is now. "It was a good fundraiser because all the money goes back into the shelter" which he stated has helped 7,000 clients.

Vice-Chairman ended,

"Hopefully by the time we have our next one (meeting) we'll be more in a forward moving process of trying to handle some of these issues that we're dealing with right now. This is not all in a negative aspect, it's all in a positive aspect too for the Community."

Next to report was Councilmember Octavio Machado who talked about what council is currently working on. "We have the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and a lot of water and expenses under there, so we're pushing forward with that."

He also talked about the infrastructure needed in the new housing area and "pushing forward with any of the stuff that is eligible through the ARPA program. He also talked about the feasibility study "regarding a convenience

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Chairman Miguel gives gift to huge Community fan

Submitted by Chairman Miguel

In February, Chairman Robert Miguel was given a gift from the management of the Washington Commanders Football Team (formerly Washington Redskins). The gift was a maroon beanie with the Commanders name stitched across in yellow letters.

“But once Maria knew that I was participating in meetings to help come up with a new name, she immediately reached out and gave me her input and thoughts, almost on a daily basis or when she saw me in person.” So, Chairman Miguel knew exactly who he would give the beanie to once he received it.



Above, Chairman Miguel gifts one of the first Washington Commanders beanies to big-time Washington Redskins fan, Maria Carlyle-Zepeda.

Community member, Maria Carlyle-Zepeda was the lucky recipient of the gift.

The unique thing about the beanie was that Chairman Miguel was the recipient of the first 300 that went out to individuals, before it went out to the public. Chairman Miguel was given the beanie for taking part in meetings held between hand-

picked Tribal Leaders from around the United States and Commanders Management, which included Team President, Jason Wright.

Meeting continued from Front

store near the casino and another one in the industrial park area.”

involved with, “that had to deal with some of the health-related issues.”

Machado then talked about “moving forward” with the apartment complex, which he said is still awaiting infrastructure, due to policies and ordinances that may temporarily halt some projects.

She continued to share her experience on the budget formulation meetings. Due to the pandemic most staff were still working remote, so it was a virtual event.

“I think we (Council) did commit to trying to shortening that process, so people can see shoveling in the ground sooner.”

“It’s something that the community’s always participated in and that’s to work on a budget two years ahead of time. With BIA and IHS the budgets are two years in advance of being worked on. So, this go a round was for the 2024 budget.”

Next up was Councilmember Lisa Garcia, first thanking the membership for joining in, she then began by sharing “that we as the council have been busy with, of course the Community Covid testing and member distributions.”

She also explained the process for selecting representatives to represent the 12 areas where the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and IHS “come together and try to come to a consensus to determine the priorities.”

She talked about “working with our DC lobbyists again to identify additional community projects to help advocate for ARPA and Covid funding” and “working with legal and other tribal leaders in regards to the gaming compact contingencies, particularly in regards to sport betting.”

She also talked about the reporting process and asking for funding, be it mandatory or discretionary funding.

Councilmember Garcia also had the privilege of swearing in three new gaming commissioners, as well as attending the ribbon cutting of Maricopa’s new hospital, Seeds of Gala event, and virtual meetings.

Once Council finished with their monthly reports, they opened up the meeting for questions from membership. Questions included; hosting in-person or outdoor Community Meetings, offering in-person sports and health programs for the Community.

“We are continuing to follow up with the Purchased Referred Care (PRC) program as well as working with Indian Health Service (IHS) ensuring that our members are taken care of and that there’s no interruption.” Garcia ended.

Chairman Miguel was still not able to join in the virtual meeting due to technical issues, he did however provide a written report to share.

Councilmember Delia Carlyle was next to report, as she shared having to take time off for family matters. She acknowledged council and staff’s understanding and patience during her absence.

“Again, my apologies to membership for technical difficulties during the February Community Meeting, which did not allow me to give my report. As you heard from other Council Members who were on the line, Council continues to move forward with ongoing department projects and plans consider or are in the process of moving with our enterprises as well as continued water litigations.

“Even during the time I was taking some leave, I did participate whenever I could with some of the issues that you just heard” as well as issues that she has always been

Most of my schedule included meeting with numerous State and Government representatives to continue to push and address our priorities.

One of these included a roundtable meeting with Secretary of the Interior’s Deb Haaland.

audience. Talks with both the Committee and NFL will continue throughout the year.

Myself and Tribal Leaders from throughout Arizona were able to highlight our communities needs from healthcare, education and other needs. I also had the opportunity to meet and have a brief discussion with First Lady Jill Biden in Gila River two weeks ago.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Arizona Senator Krysten Sinema with members of Maricopa’s City Council, which included Mayor Christian Price during a meeting at Maricopa City Hall. The discussions revolved around transportation issues and potential funding opportunity from the State and Government.

I was also able to connect with candidates from the Democratic Party via zoom/webex the past month, this also included a visit to the new Democratic Party building in downtown Phoenix.

I have plenty of other meetings with State and National Political figures in the next couple of weeks, this will also include travel to in State and out of State meetings.

As you may have seen in the latest issue of the Runner, the Community did move forward in partaking in sponsoring the upcoming Super Bowl in Glendale for 2023. I was able to attend on behalf of the community with members of the Super Bowl Host Committee and the National Football League (NFL).

I know this was brief, but I look forward to adding more comments and answering potential questions at the next Community Meeting.”

The opportunity allowed myself and the groups to have conversations on how tribes can become more involved in the Super Bowl, which

Despite the technical issues, the meeting was still pretty short. After raffle winners were announced the meeting ended around 7:15pm.

The next Community Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 6p. For information on Meeting please call 520-568-1000.

The Ak-Chin Elder Center will be offering First AID/ CPR training For Community Caregivers and Grandparents raising Grandchildren

We will offer two sessions, with a maximum of 6 participants in each session.

**Join us March 22nd or 23rd!
Class will be held from 9:00am to 11:30am at the Ak-Chin Elder Center**

**Call to reserve your spot.
520-568-1760 or 520-568-1770**

IRS: Expanded credits for families highlight tax changes for 2021; many people who don’t normally file should file this year

FS-2022-10, February 2022

Expanded tax credits for families, a deduction for non-itemizers who give to charity and a higher limit for itemizers who give to charity are among the American Rescue Plan changes that taxpayers will see on their 2021 federal income tax return.

This is a year when many people who don’t normally need to file a return should consider filing so they can take advantage of such expanded benefits as the [Recovery Rebate Credit](#), [Child Tax Credit](#), [Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses](#) and [Earned Income Tax Credit](#). Because these expanded benefits will mean larger refunds for many people, be sure to file an accurate return electronically and choose direct deposit to avoid processing delays and speed delivery of a refund.

return may be eligible to receive a 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit of up to \$1,400 for this child. All eligible parents of qualifying children born or welcomed through adoption or foster care in 2021 are also encouraged to claim the Child Tax Credit – worth up to \$3,600 per child born in 2021 – on their 2021 income tax return.

Families who added a dependent – such as a parent, a nephew or niece, or a grandchild – on their 2021 income tax return who was not listed as a dependent on their 2020 income tax return may be eligible to receive a 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit of up to \$1,400 for this dependent.

Here is a rundown of some of the key changes.

Missed out on stimulus payment? Claim Recovery Rebate Credit
Eligible people who didn’t receive the third round of Economic Impact Payments, also known as stimulus payments, or who didn’t receive the

Special alert for parents of children born in 2021 and for families who added a new dependent in 2021: Parents of a child born in 2021 who claim the child as a dependent on their 2021 income tax


IRS continues to page 5

MARCH

Elder Breakfast & Lunch Menu

** Menu items subject to change**

<p>18 Pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, banana, juice \ Chicken Alfredo, Peas, Salad, Rolls, Mandarin Oranges</p> <p>21 Breakfast Casserole (bacon, potatoes, bell pepper, onion, egg, cheese) toast, grapes, juice \ Red Chili Stew, Green Beans, Carrots, Chumath, Plums</p> <p>22 Bacon, scrambled eggs, diced potatoes, toast, sliced apples, juice \ Fish Sticks or Chicken Tenders, Cole Slaw, Mixed Vegetables, Brownies</p> <p>23 Oatmeal, boiled</p>	<p>eggs, biscuit, yogurt, milk \ Green Chili Pork Pozole, Succotash, Rolls, Apple Sauce</p> <p>24 Sausage & egg burrito, kasha bar, sliced apples, juice \ Chicken Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Apricots</p> <p>25 Breakfast Enchiladas, beans, grapes, juice \ Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Jell-O</p> <p>28 Waffle, scrambled eggs, bacon, banana, juice \ Vegetable Cheese Quesadillas, Tomato Cucumber Salad,</p>	<p>Corn, Oranges 29 Cream of Wheat, boiled eggs, English muffin, yogurt, milk \ Black Eyed Peas, Turkey w/Gravy, Asparagus, Salad, Cake</p> <p>30 Sausage links, scrambled eggs, hash brown, tortilla, cottage cheese & peaches, juice \ Cabbage Stew, Yams, Potato (D), Peas, Biscuits, Plums</p> <p>31 French Toast, blueberries & strawberries, bacon, boiled eggs, juice \ Hamburgers, Corn on Cob, Broccoli Salad, Watermelon</p>
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Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ©2022

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy Maricopa, Arizona 85139

OFFICE HOURS
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Capital Projects

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COST PLUS FIXED FEE (GMP) DESERT WILLOWS SUBDIVISION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Ak-Chin Indian Community requests proposal for a qualified General Contractor to provide assistance and complete construction services for the **Desert Willow Subdivision Infrastructure Project**.

The Community intends to award one contract to the best qualified firm after proposal evaluations have been completed. The Desert Willow Subdivision Infrastructure consists of the following components:

- **The project** includes the development of a proposed single-family subdivision. The proposed Housing Project is 38.61-acres of vacant site located north of the new Ak-Chin Parkway, and on the east side of new Smith Road. The Ak-Chin Recreation Center, Library, and Antone Park are directly north of this site making this site optimal for this land use. The outer roads were completed in 2019 with anticipation of Housing coming into the area.
- **The site program** includes development of 60 dwelling units. Site planning has been done to compliment the proposed single family lots make strong connections between the proposed neighborhood open space, transit stop and the existing Ak-Chin Recreation Center, Library, and Antone Park.
- **Roadway:** The project will be accessed by two entries, one off Ak-Chin Parkway and the other off Smith Road. A local looped road consisting of two lanes 30' overall width (1 in- bound, 1 out-bound) will serve the development. The entry drives and local road will be asphalt paving with concrete ribbon curb and an attached 5' concrete sidewalk on both sides.
- **Utilities:** 8" Water mains will be provided within the streets providing both fire service and domestic potable water. Fire hydrants will be located throughout the project to provide adequate fire coverage. Each unit will have an individual meter. 8" gravity sewers will be located in the street and each unit will be served. Dry utilities will be located within easements in the street and on-lot providing electricity, gas and telecom to each unit.
- **Stormwater:** The site is protected by drainage infrastructure that was constructed with the Ak Chin Parkway Project. No offsite stormwater impacts the site. On-site stormwater runoff will drain to the street. From there, this runoff will be routed to retention basins that are located in the open space tracts throughout the community. The stormwater will be conveyed by the street cross-section (curb and gutter). At the retention basins, the runoff will enter a catch basin inlet and will be piped into the retention basin. The retention basins are sized to hold the 100-year 2-hour design storm and will also serve as stilling basins to improve water quality of the water leaving the site. The streets will be sized to carry the 10-year design storm within the curb and gutter section, and the 100-year design storm within the street right-of-way.

Each response shall be in accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP) instructions and scope of work. Copies of the RFP will be issued at the **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting held on March 23, 2022 @ 10:00 am;** location is Court Rd. and Ak-Chin Parkway.

Responses will be accepted no later than, 12:00 noon MST time on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. All responses will be evaluated in accordance with the RFP instructions. The envelope must be marked:

DESERT WILLOW INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 West Peters and Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138
Attn: Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager

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

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

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF COURSE PROJECTS (DESIGN-BUILD)

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract. These various projects for Design/Construction consists of the following:

1. Southern Dunes Golf Course Restroom
2. Southern Dunes New Well

The project/s funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

A RECOMMENDED PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 24, 2022, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon on March 23, 2022. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

The Owner will receive Competitive Bid Proposals until 12:00 p.m. (MST) on April 11, 2022 at the Tribal Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Proposals received after the specified date and time will be rejected and returned unopened.

This invitation is unrestricted; however, preference will be given to Indian Organizations and Indian Owned Enterprises in accordance to the Community Procurement Procedure. Request for Proposals ("RFP") instruction/information package and related information may be obtained from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Purchasing Office, 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138, and may be requested by electronic mail at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

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

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

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE FIBER TO HEADQUARTERS PROJECT (DESIGN-BUILD)

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposal on a Design Build Contract. The project consists of the following:

- Community Fiber Network upgrade

The project/s funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

A RECOMMENDED PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 24, 2022, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon on March 23, 2022. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

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AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE AK-CHIN WATER UPGRADE PROJECTS (DESIGN-BUILD)

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract. These various projects for Design/Construction consists of the following:

1. Ak-Chin Village Water System Upgrade
2. Ak-Chin Farms Booster Pump Station
3. Water Tanks and Well in SCCC
4. Mainline Waterline Enhancement

The project/s funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

A RECOMMENDED PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 24, 2022, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon on March 23, 2022. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

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

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

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE AK-CHIN SEWER UPGRADE PROJECTS (DESIGN-BUILD)

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereafter called the "Owner") invites all General Contractors to submit proposals on a Design Build Contract. These various projects for Design/Construction consists of the following:

1. Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation for Ak-Chin Village
2. Industrial Park Septic System

The project/s funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with requirements in providing "Fair Wages".

A RECOMMENDED PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 24, 2022, by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon on March 23, 2022. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
Editor: Raychel Peters
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Graphic Artists: Diana Carlyle and Rebecca Bowen

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Vice Chair: Lemuel Vincent
Council Members: Delia Carlyle, Lisa Garcia and Octavio Machado

Regular Contributors:
Ak-Chin: Cultural Resources, Education, EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak, Library, Health & Human Services, Recreation & MUSD.

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

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

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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Announcements and wishes may be phoned in, faxed 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. Also, if you have suggestions or comments about "YOUR" newspaper, 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
2022 Subscription rate is \$33.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$33.75 check/money order to:

Ak-Chin O'odham Runner
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

Make check/money order payable to:
Ak-Chin Indian Community

DEADLINE
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the April 1-14, 2022 issue is due by **FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH**

Material submitted after the **MARCH 25TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

2022 Him-Dak Spring Art Program

The Art Building has once again opened its doors for the annual Him-Dak Spring Art Program.

The program was broken up into two weeks, with the first session beginning on March 7th and ending on March 11th, and the second session beginning on March 14th through the 18th.

The Spring Art Program welcomed grades K-12th.

On day one, March 7th, Art building staff and Him-Dak

staff were more than ready to teach the kids new projects.

This popular program, brings together different art avenues for the children to explore and hone in on their own creativity and learn new artistic skills.

Not only that, the kids were visited by various departments from around the community. Each department shared a special project or activity with the kids. Everyday brought something new to the table.

Photos by J. Peters



This kid's shirt looks a little fishy.



Kids learned how to make their own macrame wall art.



Left: Although he's camera shy, this boy wanted to show off his fancy looking bug.



Right: Snack time is the best time :)



Left: Diabetes Program Coordinator Marc Matteson takes the kids out for a stroll around the museum.



Right: As others watch, this little girl tries not to make any mistakes during a game of hopscotch.

Story Stroll

Featuring "Fry Bread" (the book)
Special Guest: Mr. Jeffrey Stoffer

Family Storytime & 1,000 Books Thru Kindergarten talk

Saturday, April 2nd
10am-1pm

Popovers in Milton Antone Park

Prepared by the Ak-Chin Language Preservation Dept.

*RSVP to the Ak-Chin Library
We need to know how many popovers to make!
520-568-1675
by March 30th

Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Virtual Hearing, via WebEx, regarding the following case at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. In lieu of an in-person attendance, members of the public may contact the Community's Planning and Development Department at (520) 568-1070 to obtain a phone number and access code to participate in this meeting.

CASE: PS-01-22: Fire Department Parking Canopy:

Project Applicant/Fire Marshall, Allen Allcott, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval for a covered parking canopy for high clearance fire department vehicles.

The project consists of:

- The project is considered an accessory structure and use that supports the existing Fire Station by providing three new covered parking stalls to serve the Fire Department vehicles;
- New 30 feet by 30 feet high clearance parking canopy that extends the existing 30 feet by 30 feet parking canopy. Total size of canopy (existing + new) is 60 feet in length by 30 feet in width for a total of six covered parking stalls;
- New 30 feet by 50 feet concrete pad causing the removal of shrubs, a tree, and a light pole; and
- Electrical work to provide charging capabilities to the install new covered parking stall and under canopy lighting.

National Poison Prevention Week March 20th - 26th

You can help prevent medication poisoning and misuse in our Community. If you have prescription or over-the-counter and other unused medicines. Please consider disposing of them with a Drug Deactivation bag available with the Injury Prevention Program starting March 20th

POISON CENTERS: Here for the Ages

For Questions on the Deactivation Drug Bags please call Injury Prevention Program 520-568-1087

Balancing and YOUR BODY

Functional Fitness

Elements Event Center
16000 Maricopa Rd.

Let's help Prevent a Fall or an Injury

Find ways to strengthen muscles, Improve balance and Improve Mood & Energy

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

How Exercise Can Help You Avoid a Fall

Call Injury Prevention for more information
520-568-1087

St. Patrick's Day Puzzle Answers



☆☆☆☆☆
Words go left, right, up, down, not diagonally, and can bend at a right angle. There are no unused letters in the grid, every letter is used only once.



Lady Rams continued from Front

Community member, Emily Peters #16 who plays center-field for the Lady Rams has had a great start this season, including a triple against Blue Ridge in the VC tourney and two home runs, one a grand-slam, at the Apollo tournament during the first week of March.

Stats for Emily include a .643 batting average, 9 hits, 12 RBIs and 7 runs. She is a stellar defensive player as well, playing both outfield

and infield when needed.

Emily and her Lady Rams softball team are currently 13-8 overall in the season, with a 4-1 home record. They are currently ranked 4th in the 6A Desert Southwest league.

Their next game is Friday, March 25 at 345p, against Skyline in Mesa. Next home game is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 345p, against Basha high school.



Left: Emily cranks a triple in the VC tourney. Right: Emily after her grand-slam against Morenci during the Apollo Tourney, March 5.



Available for checkout at the Library

FOR ALL AK-CHIN

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

COLLEGE STUDENTS

VOCATIONAL STUDENTS

ADULT STUDENTS

CALL THE AK-CHIN LIBRARY

520-568-1675

IRS continued from page 2

full amount, may claim the Recovery Rebate Credit (RRC) when they file.

The law included a third round of Economic Impact Payments (EIP3) that went out to eligible Americans, throughout 2021. These payments were generally equal to \$1,400 per person. In most cases, that means a family of four received a total payment of \$5,600.

Many people whose initial payment was less than the full amount also received a "plus-up" payment. Typically, this happened where they filed a 2020 return and information on that return indicated that they qualified for a larger payment than the amount originally estimated by the IRS.

Any third Economic Impact Payments issued will reduce the amount of the credit for which a person is eligible. Individuals will need the total amount of their third Economic Impact Payment and any plus-up payments to claim the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit and avoid a processing delay that can slow a tax refund.

Individuals can use IRS [Online Account](#) to see the total amount of their third Economic Impact Payment under the related tax year tab. Now through March, the IRS is also sending [Letter 6475](#) to each person who received the initial EIP3, a plus-up payment, or both. Married spouses who received joint payments will need to log into their own Online Account or review their own letter for their portion of the total payment. Recipients must use the information to figure their RRC.

Filing electronically and tax preparation software will help individuals figure their Recovery Rebate Credit. The Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet in the 2021 Form 1040 and Form 1040-SR instructions can also help determine if they're eligible for the credit.

For more information, visit [IRS.gov/rrc](https://www.irs.gov/rrc).

Expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021

The American Rescue Plan increased the amount of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), made it available for 17-year-old dependents, made it fully refundable for most families and made it possible for families to receive up to half of it, in advance, in monthly payments during the last half of 2021. Moreover, families can get the credit, even if they have little or no income from a job, business or other source.

To get the CTC, eligible families must file a return, even if they received monthly payments. In addition, everyone must attach [Schedule 8812](#) to their return.

Before 2021, the credit

was worth up to \$2,000 per eligible child. The law increased it to as much as \$3,000 per child for dependents ages 6 through 17, and \$3,600 for dependents ages 5 and under.

The maximum credit is available to taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income (AGI) of:

- \$75,000 or less for singles,
- \$112,500 or less for heads of household and
- \$150,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return and qualified widows and widowers.

Above these income thresholds, the extra amount above the original \$2,000 credit — either \$1,000 or \$1,600 per child — is reduced by \$50 for every \$1,000 in modified AGI.

For families living in the United States, the credit is fully refundable and is called the Refundable Child Tax Credit (RCTC). This means that an eligible family can get it, even if they owe no federal income tax. To get the RCTC, the taxpayer's main home must be in the U.S. for more than half of 2021. Members of the military meet this requirement, even if they are stationed abroad.

Before 2021, the refundable portion, known as the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC), was limited to \$1,400 per child. In 2021, the \$1,400 ACTC limit generally continues to apply to Americans abroad — that is, taxpayers who did not have a main home in the U.S.

In addition, by law, the IRS must wait until after Feb. 15 to issue refunds to [early filers claiming the ACTC or the Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#).

Repaying advance payments

People who didn't qualify for the CTC in 2021 but received advance payments may have to repay part or all of them. But low- and moderate-income taxpayers are generally protected from this repayment requirement. Repayment protection is limited to \$2,000 per child.

No repayment is required for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is at or below:

- Married filing jointly and qualified widows and widowers: \$60,000;
- Head of household: \$50,000;
- Everyone else: \$40,000.

Because, by law, repayment protection is phased out above these income levels, for those with higher incomes full or partial repayment is required. Full repayment is required for taxpayers whose modified AGI is at or above:

- Married filing jointly and qualified widows and

widowers: \$120,000;

- Head of household: \$100,000;
- Everyone else: \$80,000.

Use Schedule 8812 to report the repayment or determine whether the repayment protection applies. This is also the form to use to claim the CTC and report any advance payments of the CTC. To help ensure that this form is filled out correctly, anyone who received advance payments of the credit during 2021 should be sure to have at hand a copy of [Letter 6419](#) they received from the IRS.

Child and dependent care credit increased for 2021

The American Rescue Plan increased the amount of the credit and eligible expenses for child and dependent care, modified the phase-out of the credit for higher earners and made it refundable.

For 2021, the top credit percentage of qualifying expenses increased from 35% to 50%.

In addition, eligible taxpayers can claim qualifying child and dependent care expenses of up to:

- \$8,000 for one qualifying child or dependent, up from \$3,000 in prior years, or
- \$16,000 for two or more qualifying dependents, up from \$6,000 before 2021.

This means that the maximum credit in 2021 of 50% for one dependent's qualifying expenses is \$4,000, or \$8,000 for two or more dependents.

When figuring the credit, employer-provided dependent care benefits, such as those provided through a flexible spending arrangement (FSA), must be subtracted from total eligible expenses.

As before, the more a taxpayer earns, the lower the credit percentage. But under the new law, more people will qualify for the new maximum 50% credit rate. That's because the adjusted gross income level at which the credit percentage is reduced is raised substantially from \$15,000 to \$125,000. AGI is the amount shown on Forms [1040](#) and [1040-SR](#), Line 11.

Above \$125,000, the 50% credit percentage is reduced as income rises, plateauing at a 20% rate for taxpayers with an AGI above \$183,000. The credit percentage level remains at 20% until reaching \$400,000 and is then phased out above that level. It is completely unavailable for any taxpayer with AGI at or above \$438,000.

In 2021, for the first time, the credit is fully refundable. The credit is claimed on [Form 2441](#). Also, see [Publication 503](#)

for details.

Childless EITC expanded for 2021

For 2021 only, more childless workers and couples can qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a fully refundable tax benefit that helps many low- and moderate-income workers and working families. That's because the maximum credit is nearly tripled for these taxpayers and is, for the first time, made available to both younger workers and senior citizens.

In 2021, the maximum EITC for those with no dependents is \$1,502, up from \$538 in 2020. Available to filers with an AGI below \$27,380 in 2021, it can be claimed by eligible workers who are at least 19 years of age. Homeless youth and former foster youth may qualify if they are at least age 18.

On the other hand, students under age 24 usually don't qualify. In the past, the EITC for those with no dependents was only available to people ages 25 to 64.

Another change is available to both childless workers and families with dependents. For 2021, it allows them to choose to figure the EITC using their 2019 income, as long as it was higher than their 2021 income. In some instances, this option will give them a larger credit.

EITC changes for both 2021 and future years

Changes expanding the EITC for 2021 and future years include:

- Singles and couples who have Social Security numbers can claim the credit, even if their children don't have SSNs. In this instance, they would get the smaller credit available to childless workers. In the past, these filers didn't qualify for the credit.
- More workers and working families who also have investment income can get the credit. Starting in 2021, the limit on investment income is increased to \$10,000. After 2021, the \$10,000 limit is indexed for inflation, with the 2022 limit rising to \$10,300. Before 2021, the limit was \$3,650.
- Married but Separated spouses can choose to be treated as not married for EITC purposes. To qualify, the spouse claiming the credit cannot file jointly with the other spouse, cannot have the same principal residence as the other spouse for the last six months of the year and must have a qualifying child living with them for more than half the year.

For more information about the EITC, visit [IRS.gov/eitc](https://www.irs.gov/eitc) or see [Publication 596, Earned Income Credit](#).

Charity deduction for people who take the standard deduction

A temporary law change allows more taxpayers to easily [deduct up to \\$600 in cash donations to qualifying charities](#) on their 2021 federal income tax return.

Cash contributions include those made by check, credit card or debit card as well as amounts incurred by an individual for unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their volunteer services to a qualifying charitable organization. Cash contributions don't include the value of volunteer services, securities, household items or other property.

Ordinarily, people who choose to take the standard deduction cannot claim a deduction for their charitable contributions. Nearly nine in 10 taxpayers now take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing their deductions.

Individual tax filers, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married couples filing a joint return. The deduction is claimed on Forms [1040](#) and [1040-SR](#), Line 12b.

Though cash contributions to most charitable organizations qualify, contributions made either to supporting organizations or to establish or maintain a donor advised fund do not. Contributions carried forward from prior years do not qualify, nor do contributions to most private foundations and most cash contributions to charitable remainder trusts.

In general, a donor-advised fund is a fund or account maintained by a charity in which a donor can, because of being a donor, advise the fund on how to distribute or invest amounts contributed by the donor and held in the fund. A supporting organization is a charity that carries out its exempt purposes by supporting other exempt organizations, usually other public charities.

Special recordkeeping rules apply to any taxpayer claiming a charitable contribution deduction. Usually, this includes obtaining an acknowledgment letter from the charity before filing a return and retaining a cancelled check or credit card receipt for contributions of cash.

For details on the recordkeeping rules for gifts to charity, see [Publication 526, Charitable Contributions](#), available on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Itemizers can choose 100% limit on eligible cash contributions

Taxpayers who itemize their deductions and made large cash contributions during 2021 may be able to deduct those contributions, up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. The usual limit is 60% of AGI.

The guidelines for qualifying contributions are similar to those for the charitable contribution deduction for people who take the standard deduction. Special rules apply to choosing and calculating this higher limit. For details, including worksheets and examples, see [Publication 526](#).

Other tax changes

Other changes for 2021 include:

- **Unemployment compensation is taxable in 2021. Report on Schedule 1 Line 7.** In tax year 2020 only, the first \$10,200 of these benefits was not taxable for most households. This tax exclusion is no longer available.
- **The deduction for tuition and fees is no longer available.** Instead, the income limit for the Lifetime Learning Credit was increased. For 2021, the credit is phased out for married couples filing a joint return whose modified AGI is between \$160,000 and \$180,000, or between \$80,000 and \$90,000 for everyone else. See [Form 8863](#) and its instructions for details.
- **Self-employed individuals may be able to claim tax credits for Coronavirus-related sick or family leave taken during 2021.** See the instructions to Form 1040 and [Form 7202](#) for details.
- **Taxpayers with print disabilities can now choose to receive IRS notices and other written communications in an accessible medium, such as Braille, large print, electronic or audio format.** To make this choice, file [Form 9000](#). See the form for details.

For more information about these and other tax changes, see the instructions to Form 1040 and [Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax](#). The best way to keep up with tax law developments is by regularly checking [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

The IRS also urges community groups, non-profits, associations, education groups and anyone else with connections to people with children to share information about the Child Tax Credit, EITC and other important benefits. The IRS is providing additional materials and information that can be easily shared by [social media](#), email and other methods.

Coach Mendez continued from front

necklaces and handmade baskets to Coach Mendez and his team.

For the ending portion of the day, everyone gathered in theater 2 of Ak-Chin Circle to watch the Sports Center featured episode on Coach Mendez, which shows the compelling story of Coach Mendez. A brief summary of the feature: At the age of 34, one Californian high school football coach has made a worldwide impact in the history of sports. Once a freshman student gazing from behind a fence at Gilroy High School, watching his fellow athletes' practice, it became clear that the future Coach Mendez's path to greatness was right in front of him.

With the help and guidance from former GHS Football Coach Skip Bloom, he then became a step closer to being included in the game he holds near and dear to his heart. Starting on his journey to the top,

Rob was made football manager during his high school years, from there his knowledge of the game pushed him up the ranks as the coaches saw what Rob had brought to their playing field. Entrusting Rob with more responsibilities by with their players, the former coaches saw the significant changes and improvements of their team.

Before being an all-star coach Rob was an assistant for 12 years. That 12-year streak would come to an end, after being pushed a step back by being overlooked for so long. Then in April of 2018 Rob was given the opportunity for a head coaching job with California's Prospect High School Junior Varsity team.

Despite the doubts, Rob was turning heads and changing minds with just his attitude alone. Driven by his passion and knowledge for the game, Coach Rob

Mendez has become an inspirational role model for many people. Most importantly he has become a role model for the children, showing that limitations can't and should never hold you back from achieving all you can.

If there is anyone who knows more about overcoming obstacles, it is Coach Rob Mendez. Coach Mendez, has changed the playing field, without arms and legs. Born with a very rare condition called Tetra-Amelia, a medical condition that causes absence of all four limbs. Mendez faced with two choices, let his condition take a hold of his life or persevere. Coach Mendez chose the latter and chase his dreams of becoming all he can be.

When the feature was over, the crowd cheered as Coach Mendez came out on stage for his Q&A. He began with explaining some ins and outs of his daily



Coach Mendez after receiving his traditional necklace.



Recreation department Director Ann Marie Antone stated, that "To see the community come together to make the event successful and to see the smiles on the kid's faces as they participated. It was great to have the police and fire department take the time to scrimmage with the kids."



Can this kid catch a pass from Green Bay Packer James Jones?



Kids line up and wait for their chance to run drills with Maricopa High School staff member.

Coach Mendez continues to page 8

SAVE THE DATE
Earth Day
Friday April 22, 2022

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
 Environmental Programs

EARTH DAY EVENT WILL BE HELD AT AK-CHIN CIRCLE ELEMENTS EVENT CENTER
 • MASKS ARE REQUIRED INDOORS
 • ATTENDEES MUST ADHERE TO ALL CDC & COMMUNITY GUIDELINES
 • More Event Details to Follow Soon



Support your health care team. Enroll in health care coverage today.

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, visit [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), or call 1-800-318-2596.



2022 Spring Intercession with Ak-Chin Recreation

Story and Photos by Runner Staff

For the past two weeks Ak-Chin Recreation, along with many community departments worked together to provide another great event for our community youth. Fun activities were implemented every day to help keep the youngsters who were on spring break busy.

Each day was segmented into morning and afternoon sessions, primarily held in and around the recreation facility or library. The registration quickly filled, with a maximum of 50 participants.

"Education offered extra volunteers when they had some available, for which we are very grateful," Recreation staff shared. Lunch and snacks were provided by Vekol Market.

Week one, day one was a super great event that featured motivational speaker Rob Mendez,



Children get a break from activities to stretch their arms and legs playing at the playground.

along with a fun interactive football camp (see story for more information).

Tuesday morning Ak-Chin Police department presented on bullying and drugs, followed by EPD solar race cars activity. Wednesday was a tour at Ak-Chin Farms with Farm Manager Damian Murrieta, as well as an afternoon recap and information booklet on the farm.

Thursday morning Ak-Chin Health and Human Services along with Health Education provided a discussion on emotions and an outdoor activity. Afternoon activity featured O'odham Bingo hosted by Ak-Chin Language/Education.

Friday morning kids enjoyed a Scavenger Hunt. In the afternoon, the older kids were introduced to a game of field hockey, played on the "ice rink" that was set up at the park, and field games for the younger kids.

Week two activities included a Monday

morning obstacle course and afternoon water ball challenge. Tuesday morning Ak-Chin Library hosted a recyclable art activity with the "Junk Lady". Afternoon was reserved for Video Game room use and Game of Giants.

Wednesday morning Ak-Chin Youth Council gave a presentation on traditional games followed by an exploration field trip of the Community boundary lines, enterprises and departments.

Thursday and Friday activities included Ak-Chin Fire department safety day, Language activities and Ak-Chin Circle Field Trip.

Favorite activities included the Football Camp with Rob Mendez and the ice rink. "The kids really enjoyed using the ice rink that was left behind after the Christmas Community event. We turned it into a contained area for the kids to play field hockey. This will be turned into a new program since the kids seemed to enjoy the activity so much."



Ak-Chin Police Department gives the kids a presentation about bullying.



Farm Manager Damian Murrieta gives the kids a lesson about Ak-Chin's water supply and reservoir. Right: Little girl shows off a small potato.



SCHEDULE A CLASS!
GET A CAR SEAT & A PACK-N-PLAY!

Baby Arriving?

GET CAR SEAT & SAFE SLEEP EDUCATION
 CALL OR EMAIL TO SCHEDULE
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 TDELACRUZ@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

Health Education Building
 48227 W. Farrell Rd.

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

VIRTUAL FITNESS CLASSES

With Cecily Peters, Hasan Training

NEW START DATE MARCH 17TH!

THURSDAY EVENINGS
 6 PM TO 6:30 PM
 March - 17th, 24th, 31st
 April - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
 May - 7th

SATURDAY MORNINGS
 9 AM TO 9:45 AM
 March - 19th, 26th
 April - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
 May - 5th

All classes taught on ZOOM. Exercises for all levels.
 Classes are open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents, & Employees & their families.

Questions? Please contact Health Ed at (520) 568-1085, mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us or Cecily Peters at az.ha.san.fitness@gmail.com

JOB OPENINGS

- Accountant
- Communication Officer (911 Dispatcher)
- Court Security Guard
- Deli Clerk
- Economic Development Analyst
- Maintenance Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Police Officer - Certified (AZ POST certified)
- Senior Planner
- Temp/Reserve Firefighter EMT
- Purchasing Agent - Open to Enrolled Community Members Only

Please visit our website at www.ak-chin.nsn.us, for Job Openings, to review the job posting and apply. If you need assistance, please call Human Resources at 520-568-1050.

MARCH 18-31	18th	23rd	27th
EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS	Diana Garcia, Contracts and Grants	Mark Pablo, EPD Deanna Rascon, Cout	Jesus Estrada, Sanitation Celia Soto, Social & Health Services
	Matthew Hearn, Fire & Safety	Christian Alvarez, Law & Order Sergio Hernandez, Sanitation Rene Carlyle, Elderly	29th Rebecca Bowen, Runner
	Manuel Garcia, Law & Order	26th David Lopez, Law & Order	31st Shannon Peters, Retail

NEW EMPLOYEE

Aaron Valdez
 Purchasing Agent
 Finance-Purchasing

Wishes

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

Happy Birthday Grandma
 Love your children and grandchildren

Happy Birthday Seda, Sonny, Yoo-Yoo and Dannon
 Love your family

Happy Birthday Rebecca!
 From the Runner Gang

Attention to: All Community Members, Non-members and Residents Past Due Fines

If you are delinquent on your fines, or if you are unsure if you have any fines.

Please contact the courts at earliest convenience to avoid the following penalties:

- Withholding of Annual Distributions
- Garnishment of Wages for those working within the Ak-Chin Indian Community

You can avoid any of the above collections by the following:

- You may come to the court to make payment arrangements and you must be consistent on your payments.
- You may come to the court to dispute the matter and request a hearing.

Address: 45525 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139
 * Phone: (520) 568-1385
 * Fax: (520) 568-1386

Past Due fines will be sent to Valley Collection Agency

March Birthdays

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 MAVERICK SANTIAGO OLIVIA VINCENT NOLAN MIGUEL FERRIN SOPE	SUNDAY, MARCH 6 NAKOTAH ANTONE GLENNADEAN LEWIS CODY NARCIA JOSE GUTIERREZ JR. DAMONIQUE LEWIS	SATURDAY, MARCH 12 LISA CHAVEZ	MONDAY, MARCH 21 JOEL VINCENT ERIC CHAVEZ	MONDAY, MARCH 28 MARIA SANTIAGO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 KRISTINA GARCIA SONJA WHITE	MONDAY, MARCH 7 EMILY LEWIS ALEXANDRA LOPEZ DELBERT WHITE	SUNDAY, MARCH 13 SAMANTHA CASTRO AMELIANO JACUINDE	TUESDAY, MARCH 22 MANUEL GARCIA NICOLE VINCENT GEORGE LEWIS, JR.	TUESDAY, MARCH 29 MONICA RUIZ MEGAN QUINTERO LEONA KAKAR DANNON PETERS
THURSDAY, MARCH 3 COURTNEY MIGUEL WILMA ANTONE ARDON GREEN	TUESDAY, MARCH 8 LEIGHSA MIGUEL	MONDAY, MARCH 14 BRENNAN ANTONE CRYSTAL MADDOX DAVIN GARCIA	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 MARK PABLO MARIE ORTEGA MELANIE ANTONE BRANDON ANTONE DEANNA RASCON CHRISTIAN ALVAREZ	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 MARVIN SHADE ALLISSIA BANDIN AALIYAH BALDERRAMA
FRIDAY, MARCH 4 DEION NARCIA MARIO TWOHEARTS MADELEINE VAN SICKLE	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 JONATHAN NARCIA STANISLAUS ANTONE CHARLENE WHITMAN	TUESDAY, MARCH 15 ANA BLANCHARD JOSEPH GREEN JR. ANASTASIA SOKE NARIN LOPEZ LEROY NARCIA DWAYNE ANTONE	THURSDAY, MARCH 24 YAMIAH MIGUEL YANIAH MIGUEL JESSIE WILLIAMS	THURSDAY, MARCH 31 ZAYDYN NORRIS MARIA HERNANDEZ ROBERT VELASQUEZ SHANNON PETERS COURTNEY DELORES
SATURDAY, MARCH 5 DANTE PETERS GABRIEL LOPEZ CAYDEN PETERS SHARALEE DOMINGUEZ-ZAPATA KERIANNA JUSTIN EMMA NARCIA DANNIKA LEWIS	THURSDAY, MARCH 10 MERCEDES ANTONE MARCUS DELORES, JR. IRENE MEDINA	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 TRACY WIND MARIELLA NORRIS KALVIN ANTONE	FRIDAY, MARCH 25 DAVID WHITE, SR. JACOB SANTIAGO MARIO ORTEGA	
	FRIDAY, MARCH 11 ROBERT STEPHENS JR. ANGELISA CUATT MILDRED NARCIA BREON STEPHENS DEVIN PETERS GIULIANNA SANDOVAL ANTONENKO ALVAREZ	FRIDAY, MARCH 18 KARLIE SMITH KANE MIGUEL	SATURDAY, MARCH 26 EVELINA LOPEZ KERWIN UGALDE	
		SUNDAY, MARCH 20 JOSE HERNANDEZ CARLTON CARLYLE JR. SARAH CARLYLE GABRIEL JAMES DARIA GARCIA	SUNDAY, MARCH 27 BENEDICT MIGUEL CELIA SOTO	

Happy Birthday!

Coach Mendez continued from page 6

life, sharing his personal stories about growing up with his family and friends.

From there the kids began asking questions, one of the questions was how did Coach Mendez get his quote, "Who says I can't".

"That's a great question!" Coach Mendez pointed out and explained to the room, while at an 8th grade dance his friends didn't think he could dance with the girl he wanted to dance with, continuing saying the doubt his friends had, motivated him. While he and his friends were hanging out at the dance, he broke away to go dance with the girl he thought was pretty and looking back at them because they had doubted him he tells his friends "Who says I can't." As his friends watched, he went up to the girl and did a couple of "donuts", making her laugh and from there the two ended becoming very good friends. Steaming from this interaction at his school dance, that quote was always a reminder to him that

nobody and only yourself can hold you back.

In his closing remarks, Coach Mendez thanked the Ak-Chin family for being so great and welcoming. He said he was very inspired on how Ak-Chin has a really close and tight bond with one another.

"When you embrace challenges in life, you'll be able to get through them and when you appreciate what you have, you have a great energy, you have a great vibe about yourself, and that's the one thing, the reason why I am here today in front of you, is because of my parents instilling appreciation for what I have in life and when you really think about it, when you really reflect on what you have in life, you take a step back and realize I'm just grateful to be here with you guys."

After his remarks Coach Mendez was happy to meet, talk and take pictures with everyone.

Ak-Chin Recreation shared, "Having James Jones and Coach Rob Mendez come out and interact with the kids and seeing the kids respect Coach Mendez made us proud as a department."

Chairman Miguel shared, "I would like to commend and recognize the Ak-Chin Recreation department staff and other departments who participated in the Community's Intercession activities, especially during Coach Rob Mendez Football Camp. It was great to see how excited and involved attendees were during the camp. Many smiles and great comments from participants." Recreation staff also commented on the great turnout of participants, "seeing the kids fully participate in all of the drills and to see them encourage and motivate each other" and to see the kids in person again.

They gave thanks to Tribal Council for making the time to attend an important event, and acknowledged the many departments who came out to help with the event.

ak-chincircle.com/theater

X Monday - Thursday: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30 Friday: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 & 11:00 Saturday: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30	UNCHARTED Monday - Thursday: 3:00 & 7:00 Friday: 4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 Saturday: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 Sunday: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00	SING 2 Monday - Thursday: 4:00 & 7:00 Friday: 1:00, 4:00, 6:45 & 9:30 Saturday: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15 Sunday: 12:00, 2:45 & 5:30
THE BATMAN Monday - Thursday: 3:00, 4:00, 6:00 & 7:00 Friday: 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00 & 9:00 Saturday: 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00 & 10:00 Sunday: 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00 & 6:00	DOG Monday - Thursday: 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15 Friday: 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30 & 10:00 Saturday: 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30 & 10:00 Sunday: 1:00, 3:00, 5:15 & 7:30	SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME Monday - Thursday: 4:15 & 7:30 Friday: 2:00, 5:30 & 9:00 Saturday: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 10:15 Sunday: 12:00, 3:30 & 7:00

ARROYO GRILLE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WEEKLY SPECIALS THURSDAYS
CHEF'S SPECIAL \$15

WEDNESDAYS classic fish fry \$14
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS prime rib \$32

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Must present coupon to server. Not valid with daily or Happy Hour specials. Cannot be combined with other specials or offers. Does not include alcohol. One coupon per table, no split checks. Valid for one visit daily Mon-Sat. Non-transferable. Offer expires 3/31/22.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

MOVIES • RESTAURANTS • BOWLING • ARCADE • LASER TAG • GROUP EVENTS

MARCH EVENTS
Ak-ChinCircle.com

SPRING BREAK
Dollar \$4 Dollar
PLAY-WIN GameCenter
Purchase a game card (up to \$20) and we will match that amount
* does not include bonus credits
MARCH 7-18

MOVIE RELEASES
3/04 The Batman
3/25 The Lost City

BOOK YOUR NEXT PARTY
LUXE
For more information, contact Riva at (520) 233-2445
RQuintana@Ak-ChinCircle.com

Happy St. Patrick's Day!
MARCH 17

CHIHUAHUA
MARCH 19th
FOOD TRUCK BATTLE
MARCH 19th 11AM-3PM
AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

MONTHLY MOVIE MUST-HAVE COMBO \$16
Large Popcorn
2xoz Drink
New's Dropped
Freshness

Spring Break
\$8

NOW OPEN

Looking To Book Your Next Party?
For More Information Contact Riva Quintana (520) 233-2445
RQuintana@Ak-ChinCircle.com

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Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO **MARCH 2022** **CAESARS REWARDS**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS - 8AM - 11:59PM	1 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	2 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	3 PAMPER YOUR SPIRIT WITH SIGNATURE TREATMENTS THE SPA	4 TRIPLE 7'S, EQUALS CLOUD 9!	5 Brentwood GIFT GIVEAWAY	
6 READY, SET, PLAY!	7 EARN UP TO 10,000 REWARD CREDITS AFTER SIGNING UP	8 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	9 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	10 REWARD YOURSELF SHOP WITH REWARD CREDITS AT THE GIFT SHOP	11 TRY YOUR LUCK!	12 REDEEM YOUR REWARDS, YOUR WAY!
13 WE'RE THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF PLAY	14 COFFEE & DONUTS ARE A WINNING COMBINATION ON ANY DAY THAT ENDS IN Y.	15 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	16 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	17 HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY	18 PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	19 PLACE YOUR SPORTS BETS AT THE 24/7 KIOSKS
20 ASK A SLOT ATTENDED ABOUT OUR NEWEST SLOT MACHINES!	21 THESE CRANBERRIES PACK A PUNCH OF FLAVOR! ENJOY THE DRINK OF THE MONTH.	22 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	23 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	24 PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	25 PLAY YOUR WAY!	26 PLAY LATE NIGHT KENO ON FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT
27 COME OUT & PLAY!	28 THE FLAVORS YOU GRAVE ARE HERE, TRY THE PRIME RIB FONDUE CHOP BLOCK & BREW	29 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	30 CHILL OUT BY OLLI™ GIFT GIVEAWAY	31 PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER THURSDAY, MARCH 24 & THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS - 8AM - 11:59PM	

Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start™ Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2022 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.