



2022 Graduation celebrations, Sweeter in Person



Maricopa High School graduates (L-R,T-B) Angel Antone, Frankie Carlyle, Delroy Clark, Davin Garcia, Ralston Justin, Kaylan Peters, Cecilia Rodriguez, Eliza Santiago and Richard Villegas.

Who would have ever thought students would be so excited to attend a full year of school, in a regular classroom? The Class of 2022, that's who!

Through the struggles of the pandemic and the stress from all the tests, physically, mentally and emotionally, your day has finally arrived.

You rose to the challenge and motivated yourself to get to the next level, by learning to navigate in an

on-line only environment at home, and then back in the classroom at school. Now you have earned that degree, diploma or certificate and that significant piece of paper will open the doors to so many more opportunities for success.

This year's graduation and promotion ceremonies were truly bittersweet. To see so many scholars standing in line to receive their accolades, looking into their eyes and seeing

the pride and relief as they realized they were going to celebrate their big day. To witness the celebrations, unfold, was amazing. After two years of virtual unsatisfying nothingness, the in-person festivities, crowds and cheers were sorely missed.

It was also nice to see and hear the speakers as they shared motivational quotes and acknowledged the scholars for all

Graduation continues to page 2B

Story and photos by R. Peters, with photo contributions by Gabe Lopez and Armonda Santiago

2022 Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at Ak-Chin Circle

Story submitted by Ak-Chin PD



Bren Valisto gets a high-five from her teammate after getting a strike at the Special Olympics Bowling tournament, held at Ak-Chin Circle.

Photos by R. Peters

May 22, 2022, Ak-Chin Police Department held their Annual Special Olympics Bowling tournament at Ak-Chin Circle.

The day began at 10 am with 15 Special Olympic athletes from Maricopa High School.

The Special athletes had fun bowling. Once completed they were presented a medal that was engraved with "2022 Special Olympian" for a job well done.

The medals were graciously donated by Knight Towing. To top off their eventful morning the Special Olympians were provided with a lunch.

Later that afternoon the annual fundraiser bowling tournament began with two sessions, one starting at 1pm and the second session starting at 3pm.

After warming up teams battled, playing 3 games to get the highest point

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2022 Ak-Chin Education Graduation Celebration honors Holly Antone

Story and photo by R. Peters



Above, Holly Antone's family gathers for a photo after she is honored during the Ak-Chin Education Graduation Celebration, Friday, May 20.

2022 Ak-Chin Education Graduation Celebration "Carrying and Living Our Ancestor's Teachings"

Friday, May 20, 2022, the Ak-Chin Education department hosted a Graduation Celebration for all 2022 high school and higher education graduates at Ak-Chin Circle Elements Event Center.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Nicole Carlyle-Coester, who first introduced Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon,

Education Director for the welcoming address, followed by a prayer and song performed by Ak-Chin Language staff members, Velacita Lopez and Lerline Peters.

After the blessing everyone was invited to enjoy the buffet-style dinner, while being entertained by Two Rivers chicken-scratch band, and listening as Keynote Speaker, Janice Anderson, Grand Canyon EDD Candidate talked about this year's theme, "Carrying and Living Our Ancestor's

Teachings".

Janice, first shared her educational background of earning her GED and continuing on to further her education. She received an Associate of Science Degree in Business from Pima Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in Family Studies from the University of Arizona, as well as her Master's Degree in Gerontology from UofA. She is currently working towards her

Celebration continues to page 1B

Ak-Chin attends Desert Sunrise soft opening

Photo by J. Peters



Ak-Chin attend Desert Sunrise High School Soft Opening. (l-r) Special Education Coordinator Matthew Tess, Chairman Robert Miguel, Student Counselor Teresa Valisto, and Council member Lisa Garcia attend the soft opening for Maricopa's new high school, Desert Sunrise.

All the way out on West Farrell and North Murphy Roads, Maricopa Unified School District opened the doors to the newest educational addition, Desert Sunrise High School, the new home of the Golden Hawks.

On May 24, MUSD held a Ribbon Cutting and soft opening of the new school, with a light brunch and construction update. The new high school will open its doors this year for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

Health Education offers Good Food, Family and Fun

Story by R. Peters, photos by Runner Staff



Leona Kakar gets ready to cook with ingredients provided by Ak-Chin Health Education and Health and Human Services.

Ak-Chin Health Education, along with Health and Human Services, provided a nutritious and fun family food experience recently with their, GFFF – Good Food, Family & Fun meal program.

The opportunity was similar to the fun family program

they provided in the past, with a virtual twist, which allowed for more families to participate.

The GFFF program allowed families to pick up ingredients via curbside at the Health Ed office from Martina Guy-Peters, Health Educator and take them home to prepare in their kitchen. A recipe book and ingredients were provided to make the featured recipe – Fish Tacos with Lime Coleslaw and Creamy Street Corn Salad.

Families were asked to prepare their meal within a certain time frame, as the fish was fresh. In addition to the recipe book, Martina

also send a link with an instructional video for families to view. The video, created by Wilson Antone, Library Video Production Assistant, featured Martina and Lynette Houston-Volden, Health and Human Services Behavior Health Therapist.

Both seemed to have fun as they were filmed showing how to create the featured meal. A survey was also emailed for participants to fill out in order for the departments to receive feedback. Along with the survey, families were also asked to share some photos of their meal, family prepping and cooking.

We tried the recipe and really liked the ease of instructions, provided ingredients and cookbook, as well as the opportunity to see Martina and Lynette provide video instructions.

Fish is not something I am comfortable cooking, so the extra assistance was nice to

have.

My mom, Leona had fun prepping, as did I, even if we may have added a little too much of one thing, or not enough of another.

Our head chef was my daughter Dannon, and she was pretty comfortable handling and cooking the fish, she was a little strict in the kitchen though and did not let us take too many photos.

Overall, the recipe and video were excellent to follow, having the ingredients on hand were such a bonus, and the meal chosen was very tasty!

We look forward to more opportunities for our family to gather and have fun food opportunities like this, through Health Education, Health and Human Services or any other departments that would like to offer something similar for the Community (especially food-themed 😊).



Leona chopping onions with her chopper for the creamy street corn salad.



Seasoned with smoked paprika, chili powder and garlic powder, this talipa is ready for the frying pan.



Leona is ready to enjoy the delicious food.

Community members tryout 14 day Traditional Food Challenge

By J. Peters



Products such as brown tepary beans from Ramona Farms were provided for the participants with the help from Vekol Market.

When asked by our sister tribe, Tohono O’odham Nation to participate and challenge Ak-Chin membership on trying to eat their “O’odham food”, Ak-Chin Him-Dak and Health Education departments worked together to bring Community members and residents to take part in this new kind of challenge, the 14-Day Traditional O’odham Food Challenge.

The first challenge, was more of a pilot project with staff from Him Dak and Health Education, to see how the challenge would work out, prior to offering it to the community. They tested to see how it the 14-day challenge would affect, and or benefit the participants.

The short-term experiment conducted by the group of individuals participating in the 2-week challenge was to gain insight to see any obstacles the participants had while trying to live within the means eating strictly ancestral foods, and we are not talking about fry bread and chili stew.

Our traditional foods were planted and harvested for our sustainable living, foods such as corn, melons, and beans were a very hearty part of our ancestral diet.

For this challenge participants did their best to cut out by-products by any means.

Products like processed foods or anything that is pasteurized, frozen, or canned with the goal of sticking with more organic foods.

This challenge is a call back to our past and what our ancestors survived on, and what they have passed down to our modern world today.

One challenger said, “the most difficult thing about this challenge was staying away from chocolate and having to prepare meals. I’m not a cook by any means and with this you have to cook your own foods, learning to use the recipes were really fun! But I was not prepared for how long cooking beans actually took! Again, it was fun to learn the different ways to cook these foods.

Although it was not the same exact thing, getting to try out the diets of our past O’odham people was my favorite thing about it. Getting to ‘experience’ what little they had to live and trying to understand how they were able to live off the foods they produced. It was challenging for sure because today we are so used to having everything at our fingertips and it is provided for us for the most part.”

Thinking about how back then they had to struggle and ration their foods because they weren’t able to produce food as fast as we can today, gave me more of a prospective on how we shouldn’t take things like crops and water for granted.”



Participant family's finished meal, including fish, grilled corn tortillas, cole slaw and corn salad.

Elders enjoy Game Night



Connie Orona (left) and Glenna Francisco enjoy a game of Musical Chairs, played more like Hot Potato, while Janice Miguel joyfully looks on.



May 26, Ak-Chin Injury Prevention program hosted a Game Night for Older Adults, 55+ at Ak-Chin Circle Elements Conference Center.

The evening which offered plenty of fun and games, like O’odham Bingo, Musical Chairs and Uno, also provided many great prizes and a dinner box.

Elder June Breakfast-Lunch Menu

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>3 Oatmeal, Boiled eggs, Raisin bread, Yogurt Parfait with Berries
Tilapia or Chicken Rice Pilaf with Peas & Carrots, Asparagus, Pears</p> <p>6 Breakfast Pita Pocket, Cantaloupe with Cottage Cheese
Vegetable Lasagna, Butternut Squash, Spring Salad, Rolls, Peaches</p> <p>7 Quinoa Breakfast Bowl, Apricot Turnover, Fruit Sausage w/Bell Peppers, Sautéed Spinach, Carrots, Black Beans, Ambrosia Salad-Oranges</p> <p>8 Chorizo and egg burrito, Cinnamon Fried Apples, Granola bar
Turkey Sandwich, Green Leaf & Tomato, Peas, Cole Slaw, Cut Fresh Fruit</p> <p>9 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Egg, Toast, Banana
Beef Fajitas, Mexican Rice, Corn, Jell-O</p> <p>10 Scramble Egg, Bacon, Potatoes, Toast, Orange Slices, Muffin
Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Fruit Cocktail</p> <p>13 Oatmeal, Boiled Egg, Raisin Bread, Banana</p> | <p>Pork Roast, Potato, Carrots, Spring Salad, Apples</p> <p>14 Waffles, Scrambled Egg, Mix Berries Cabbage Stew, Asparagus, Beets, Biscuits, Apricots</p> <p>15 Veggie Breakfast Casserole, Toast, Fruit cup
Chicken Ranch Wrap, 3 bean salad, Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Pears</p> <p>16 Boiled Egg, Avocado Slices, Toast, Yogurt Parfait
Potato Soup & Spring Salad, Wheat Rolls, Jell-O</p> <p>17 Scrambled Egg, Sausage, Hash brown Casserole, Peaches with Cottage Cheese
Chili Beans, Chili Meat (D), Sweet Potato, Corn Bread, Mandarin Oranges</p> <p>20 Grilled Cheese, Boiled Egg, Fruit, Granola bar
Ribeye Steak, Baked Potato, Carrots, Salad, Rolls, German Chocolate Cake</p> <p>21 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Egg with Green Chili, Grapes with Cottage Cheese
Grilled Chicken Over Caesar Salad, Acorn Squash, Grapes</p> <p>22 Cream of Wheat, Boiled</p> | <p>Egg, English Muffin, Fruit
Ground Beef Taco. Green Leaf, Tomato, Zucchini, Corn, Cookies</p> <p>23 Ham & Egg Scrambled, Avocado Slices, Toast, Oranges
Split Peas, Chicken Dumpling (D), Yams, Potato-D, Corn Bread, Pineapple,</p> <p>24 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Egg, Biscuit, Yogurt Parfait with Mix Berries
Baked Chicken, Broccoli, Baked Beans, Rolls, Jell-O</p> <p>27 Oatmeal, Boiled Egg
Toast, Fruit, Granola bar
Pinto Beans, Chicken Tenders-D, Creamed Spinach, Apple Sauce</p> <p>28 Veggie Omelet, Toast, Fruit cup, Muffin
Roast Beef w/Gravy over Bread, Wax Beans, WW Pasta Salad, Tropical Fruit</p> <p>29 Pancakes, Scramble Egg, Bacon, Mix Berries
Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Spring Salad, Rolls, Oranges</p> <p>30 Potatoes with Chorizo, Beans, Tortilla, Peaches with Cottage Cheese
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Salad, Rolls, Ice-Cream</p> |
|---|---|---|

** Menu items subject to change**



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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
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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
June 17 - 30, 2022
issue is due by
FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

Please submit all
announcements, wishes, etc.
no later than
FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

Material submitted after the
JUNE 10TH DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.

Bowling continues from Front

total they could to land a chance
in the finals.

Helping to raise funds, an
approximate total of 30 teams
signed up.

The finals consisted of the top
4 scoring teams for a chance
to win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place
trophies that were also donated
by Knight Towing.

The teams that made it to the
finals were Dispatch Agency,
Harrah's 1, The pit Crew, and
Best Buds. Each Team Consisted
of 4 players and they participated
in 3 rounds of bowling.

At the end of the final round, it
was Harrah's 1 taking home 1st
place, The Pit Crew placing 2nd

and Dispatch Agency placing
3rd.

In addition to the bowling
fundraiser a raffle was also
held with tickets sold weeks
beforehand. Prizes included
gift cards, tools, housewares,
sporting event, (64) bales of hay
and a 50/50 raffle.

The Special Olympics goal is to
"help persons with intellectual
disabilities participate as
productive and respected
members of society at large, by
offering them a fair opportunity
to develop and demonstrate
their skills and talents through
sports training and competition
and by increasing the public's
awareness of their capabilities
and needs."



1ST PLACE - HARRAH'S 1



2ND PLACE - THE PIT CREW



3RD PLACE - THE DISPATCH AGENCY



At far left: House Divded Team (ASU) Councilmember Delia Carlyle and MiAnna Garcia, along with (UofA) Jolie Peters and Henry Garcia, compete against Bren's Team; Kayla Valisto, Teresa Valisto, Bren Valisto, Genisys Sandoval and Benji Valisto, for a good cause.



Above, Bren Valisto and her dad Benji (at left), take a picture with Mike Burnett, Law Enforcement Torch Run Director. (Submitted photo)

**Georgia Tech Scholars visit
with Chairman Miguel**



Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, second from left, provides a history lesson on Ak-Chin for Georgia Tech Scholar students.

On Friday, May 20 a group of
Scholars from Georgia Tech
met with Chairman Robert
Miguel at Ak-Chin Circle 347
restaurant. The purpose of the
visit was to explore cultural
identities and practices of
people living in the Southwest.

The trip was managed by
the Georgia Tech Stamps
President's Scholars and Gold
Scholars Program.

The scholarship program
reached out to several other
tribes in the Southwest to
coordinate and meet with
key individuals who could
provide cultural history in their
respective areas.

At one point they collaborated
with Levi Esquerra who is
the Senior Vice-President of
Native American Advancement
and Tribal Engagement for
the University of Arizona.

Levi highly referred Chairman
Miguel as a resource.

While enjoying apps with
Chairman, students listened
as Miguel shared Ak-Chin's
farming history, leadership and
economic development.

The students were intrigued
as to how the tribe was able
to flourish in farming and
gaming amidst the growth of
Maricopa and secluded area of
the Community.

Georgia Tech's trip to Arizona
included 10 students from
various majors as well as staff
and faculty members. Through
this scholarship program,
students have the opportunity
to plan trips domestically and
internationally. Before coming
to Ak-Chin the students also
visited with sister tribes;
Tohono O'odham, Gila River
and Salt River.

Emergency numbers to contact the Ak-Chin Police Department
In case you are unable to reach the Ak-Chin Police Department through the
main phone number (520) 568-1200. Please utilize the following
information for Police|Fire|EMS services.
Please remember for Emergencies DIAL 911.

For Non-Emergencies the following numbers can be used.
Land Line (520) 568-1526
Land Line (520) 568-1527
Land Line (520) 568-1528
Cell Phone (520) 510-9214

**Public Meeting
Ak-Chin Indian
Community Meeting
June 27, 2022 6:00 pm**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community will hold a public meeting
to discuss two tribal transportation matters in accordance
with 25 CFR Part 170 Section 170.435.

**Change of Ownership on Two Existing Roads from BIA-
owned to Tribally-owned:**

- Antone Avenue, BIA Route 25, 0.3 miles.
- Farrell Road, BIA Route 14, 4.0 miles.
- Requires Resolutions requesting change, relinquishment of associated rights-of-way, updates to the road inventory, and new strip maps.
- Required before construction can commence on existing projects.

Mini Refresh of the 2016 Long Range Transportation Plan:

- Required to change ownership of existing roads.
- Mini Refresh Includes:
 - Public Involvement
 - Establishment of Rights-of-Way
 - Establishment of Strip Maps and Road Inventory Data
 - NEPA Reviews
 - Tribal Rights-of-Way Plat Maps
 - Resolutions

Copies of documents are available for review at the Planning
and Development Department beginning June 7, 2022.
Comments may be made orally or in writing. If in writing,
please submit to:

Planning and Development Department
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
(520) 568-1070
Sandra.Shade@ak-chin.nsn.us
PKann@ak-chin.nsn.us
DECarlyle@ak-chin.nsn.us

Questions may also be addressed to these individuals.

**Deadline to submit comments are due no later than July
6, 2022 at Noon.** Meeting will be virtual or at the Elements
Event Center at Ak-Chin Circle.

Youth athletes soak up the sun during end of Season pool party

Photo by J. Peters

As their season came to an end, Ak-Chin's T-Ball and Coach Pitch teams celebrated with a swimming good time at the recreational pool. Everyone who attended had a fun time filled with family, friends and of course snow cones.

These "little" leagues started on April 23rd and ended on May 14th, with four t-ball and 2 coach pitch teams.

Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Marie Antone shared, "First, I would like to say a special thank you to all players, parents,

volunteer coaches and helpers for an incredible return to sports league programs. It was great to see all our little athletes back in person and them so excited to be back learning new skills, making new friends, and just having fun. Watching each mini baseball division having fun, learning teamwork and sportsmanship and giving their best in every game was the highlight of the program."

"The Parks and Recreation Department aspires to navigate our program leagues,

and events to help our community maintain a safe environment for their physical and social health. In return to programs, our goal is to provide a positive experience for players, families, and the community to help our youth learn the fundamentals and skills of each sports program, while promoting physical health through an active lifestyle."

A Big Thank You to our Volunteer Coaches and helpers for your time, patience, hard-work and dedication, you're a great



Children and parents have a nice time enjoying their Saturday at the pool.

source of inspiration to our little athletes and we appreciate you all.

- T-ball**
 Robert Miguel – Barking Spiders
 Melanie Antone - Lil Coyotes
 Dennis Antone – Wild Ones

- Coach Pitch**
 Melanie Antone - Coyotes
 Jacob Dickerson & Jennifer Boehm-King - Screwballs"

SUMMER READING
 Starting May 27
 READ MORE!
 OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES
 Sign up below:
[HTTPS://AKCHINLIBRARY.AZSUMMERREADING.ORG/](https://akchinlibrary.azsummerreading.org/)

AK -CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Education Department



42507 W. Peters & Nall Road · Maricopa, Arizona 85138 · Telephone: 520.568.1280 · Fax: 520.568.1051

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Scholarship Program's purpose is to provide financial support for the promotion of education and employment of community members.

Community Announcement...

Do you have your AA Degree? You can earn your Bachelor's Degree and Teacher Certification with a scholarship from ASU's PEAC program.

"Strengthen, encourage and teach students in Arizona's Tribal communities"

The Preparing Educators for Arizona's Indian Communities (PEAC) program at Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (MLFTC) provides scholarships to those interested in becoming educators in Arizona's Indigenous communities.

This coming fall 2022, MLFTC will offer these majors that PEAC participants can apply/ register for:
 ASU Online – classes fully online

- BAE – Educational Studies (Early Childhood Studies)
- BAS – Applied Science (Early Childhood Studies)

ASU@locations – classes taken through ASU Sync

- Elementary Education

This will be an option. Awaiting approval:

- Special Education – in the process of being approved for @locations, not live yet
- Early Childhood Education – in the process of being approved for @locations, not live yet

Are you currently a paraprofessional and don't wish to relocate to earn your undergraduate degree, then the PEAC program is for you! PEAC is a unique transfer program where participants are encouraged to continue teaching in their community and earn their degree online, with the overall goal to become certified teachers!

Schedule a 1:1 Zoom meeting with Jayme Deschene, the Native & Indigenous Student Recruitment Coordinator:
<https://calendly.com/jdesche/30-minutes-meeting> Or call (480) 965-8176.

+++ PEAC will pay for the application fee, tuition, books, a \$1000 stipend for a laptop & monies allocated to support the student's success at ASU. If the student has a dependent(s), there is a \$300 monthly child stipend.

++ Below is the QR- code, scan with your phone for detailed information and Webinar dates to sign up:



OR Join us on June 10, 2022 at 5:00pm,
 Ak-Chin Education Building
 Contact the Scholarship Program to reserve a seat.
 Email: Lenny Dempsey, LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us
 Or
 Call our offices at (520) 568-1280 / 1291

Ak-Chin Education Department Scholarship Program

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FALL 2022 Semester	SPRING 2023 Semester	SUMMER 2023 Semester	OPEN ENTRY/ OPEN EXIT Technical Programs
June 30 th	November 30 th	April 30 th	2-months prior to start date

Application Requirements

- Be an enrolled Ak-Chin Indian Community member
- Must have a high school diploma or GED Certificate
- Must be accepted into a higher education institution

Contact Information

- Ak-Chin Scholarship Program
- Lenny Dempsey, Enrollment Academic Advisor
- Phone: (520) 568-1291
- LDempsey@ak-chin.nsn.us

Ak-Chin Tribal Transit: PUBLIC NOTICE

Starting May 9th, 2022 Transit will be limiting shopping trips to the City of Maricopa. This is a result of the current cost of fuel to provide transportation services. Local in Ak-Chin Community Demand Response services will remain available from 7:00am to 5:45pm Monday through Friday. Transit will offer trips to Maricopa for shopping to twice a day. The reinstatement of full-time services will tentatively take place September 1st, 2022 pending the evaluation of our operations. Doctors' appointments, meetings, employment and non-shopping experiences will not be affected by this change. This only applies to shopping. Due to Professional Development, Transit will be providing limited services only on the following dates during the designated times:

Wednesday June 29th, 2022 8:30am to 11:30am
 Thursday June 30th, 2022: 8:30am to 11:30am

Demand-response services are available within the Ak-Chin Indian Community and most commercial and government addresses located within a five-mile radius of Community boundaries. Without exception, **ALL RESERVATIONS MUST INCLUDE EITHER A PICK-UP OR DROP-OFF LOCATION WITHIN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY.** Our demand-response service is a reservation-based system which operates on a first-come first-served basis. We recommend that you make your reservation at least 2 hours in advance of your requested pick-up time, you may make a reservation up to 7 days in advance. Last minute requests may be accommodated if the schedule permits but may not always be available. The following information will be required when making a reservation: Name, phone number, pick-up address, drop-off address and requested pick-up time. Reservations may be made Monday through Friday, from 7:00am to 5:45pm. **You must be 15 years or older to make reservations for our demand-response service.**

NO SHOWS: If you are not present when the vehicle arrives, the driver will wait three minutes. After three minutes, the driver must proceed with the route and the passenger will be marked as a no-show. After three no-shows, our services will be declined to you for 30 days. On demand services at times can run on a heavy schedule. Please understand that once a passenger arrives at their destination the driver will not wait for a passenger to get back on the vehicle. They will proceed with the route unless special accommodations were already made with dispatch. We can always be scheduled to return and take you to another location at a future time.

CANCELLING A RIDE: If a trip needs to be cancelled, you are urged to cancel it as early as possible. We ask for a 15-minute notice. If a 15-minute notice is not given and a vehicle is in route, you will be considered a no show. Reliable and on time transportation can be difficult to achieve when proper protocols are not followed.

*Ak-Chin Tribal Transit generally does not operate on holidays recognized by the Ak-Chin Indian Community



Medicaid Renewal Letter

Don't miss this letter.

Check that your state Medicaid office has your current mailing address. Your local Indian health care provider can help.

Medicaid.gov
 Keeping America Healthy



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



Showing Up in Support of Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ Survivors for Pride Month

This June, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC), StrongHearts Native Helpline (StrongHearts) and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) acknowledge, support and lift the voices of Native Two-Spirit, non-binary, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning survivors of violence for Pride Month. As Indigenous nonprofit organizations, we strongly support the need to facilitate inclusive conversations about the identities intersecting across the Indigenous and 2S+/LGBTQ+ spectrum.

When NIWRC, StrongHearts, and ANWRC raise awareness on gender-based violence issues, we also recognize that our 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives experience domestic violence and sexual violence at exceptionally high rates. Violence and abuse can happen to anyone. Across Indigenous cultures and communities, our traditional teachings uphold respect for all identities and celebrate diversity. As relatives, we must stand firmly against dangerous attitudes toward our 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives and instead, use our Indigenous values and sacred teachings of love, respect and compassion to advocate for them. We see you. We support you. We honor your spirit.

For generations, Western culture has disparaged Indigenous religions and teachings about gender and sexuality, including the pre-existing traditional understanding that Two-Spirit individuals, embodying male and female spirits, are blessed by Creator. Colonialism and Western patriarchy threaten our relatives on the 2S+/LGBTQ+ spectrum with policy, violence and oppression across the United States. Within the

2S+/LGBTQ+ community, intimate partner violence occurs at a rate equal to or higher than that of the cis-heterosexual community. American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in 2S+/LGBTQ+ communities face systemic discrimination, violence, and harassment at disproportional rates. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), of all the respondents who experienced sexual assault, 65% were American Indian/Alaskan Natives. Also, 73% of Native respondents experienced intimate partner violence, including physical violence, compared to 54% of the overall USTS respondents. 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives also experience other forms of domestic violence and additional barriers to seeking help due to fear of discrimination or bias.

These statistics do not include the intergenerational and individual trauma our Indigenous relatives experience. There is a need for intergenerational efforts to recognize, reclaim and dismantle oppressive and systemic injustices toward 2S+/LGBTQ+ survivors.

Although there are incredible resources available for LGBTQ+ survivors, there is an urgent need for more culturally-tailored, inclusive programs and resources that offer support services for Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ survivors. As family members and communities, we must collectively advocate for more inviting, safe, accessible and inclusive spaces for our 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives. All members of our families, communities, and nations should feel safe, protected and supported to live free of violence and discrimination.

- ### Tips for Family and Friends
- Show up: Family members and friends of 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives can create safe spaces simply by showing up, listening and acknowledging their relative's experiences. Keeping "open minds and hearts" can positively impact Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ survivors.
 - Believe survivors: Validate the feelings of 2S+/LGBTQ+ relatives, assuring them that the violence they experienced is not their fault and they are not alone. Offering support when a loved one is hurting, even in seemingly small ways, encourages connection and protects against isolation.
 - Celebrate sacred teachings: Learning more about Indigenous 2S+/LGBTQ+ communities—including their history of trauma and teachings about love, compassion, courage, and support—can help reverse the shame tied to Western norms about gender and sexual orientation. Return to traditional teachings that honor all identities and sexualities.

- ### Helpful Resources - Read
- Toolkit: How Families and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings and Create Healing Spaces with and for Native 2S+/LGBTQ+ Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence
 - Summary: How Families and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings and Create Healing Spaces with and for Native 2S+/LGBTQ+ Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence
 - Restoration Magazine: Reconnecting with Indigenous Teachings to Create Healing Spaces with and for Native 2SLGBTQ+ Survivors of Violence

- Two-Spirit Identity from StrongHearts Native Helpline
- LGBTQ2S (Two-Spirit) Resources by the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition
- Two-Spirit People from the National Congress of American Indians
- Two Spirits, One Heart, Five Genders from Indian Country Today
- A Spotlight on Native LGBT from the National Congress of American Indians

- ### Watch
- Virtual Conversations With the Field 1 of 4 How Family and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings & Create Healing Spaces With & For Native LGBTQ2S Relatives
 - Virtual Conversations With the Field 2 of 4 How Family and Friends Can Reconnect with Native Teachings & Create Healing Spaces With & For Native LGBTQ2S Relatives
 - Webinar: Mending the Rainbow: Working with the Native LGBT/Two-Spirit Community
 - Webinar: Understanding the Dynamics and Tactics of Intimate Partner Violence through the Lens of Indigenous Survivors

- ### For Youth
- Native Youth Sexual Health Network
 - It Gets Better Project
 - Indigenizing Love: A Toolkit for Native Youth to Build Inclusion PDF
 - A Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth by The Trevor Project
 - How Can I Make My Center An Affirming Place For People Who Identify As LGBTQ? by NRCDV

Setting The Stage: Strategies For Supporting LGBTIQ Survivors by Washington

Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

- ### Get Help
- StrongHearts Native Helpline call/text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483), or chat: strongheartshelpline.org. StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 domestic violence, dating and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, offering culturally appropriate support.
 - The Trevor Project call 1-866-488-7386, text 678678, or chat thetrevorproject.org/get-help. The Trevor Project has trained crisis counselors who understand the challenges LGBTQ young people face, available 24/7.

About StrongHearts Native Helpline

StrongHearts Native Helpline was created by and built to serve Indigenous communities across the United States. It is a culturally-appropriate, anonymous, confidential and free service dedicated to serving Native American and Alaska Native survivors and concerned family members and friends affected by domestic, dating and sexual violence. Advocates are available 24/7 by texting or calling 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) or via online chat at strongheartshelpline.org. Connect with knowledgeable advocates who can provide lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable survivors to find safety and live lives free of abuse. StrongHearts Native Helpline is a proud partner of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

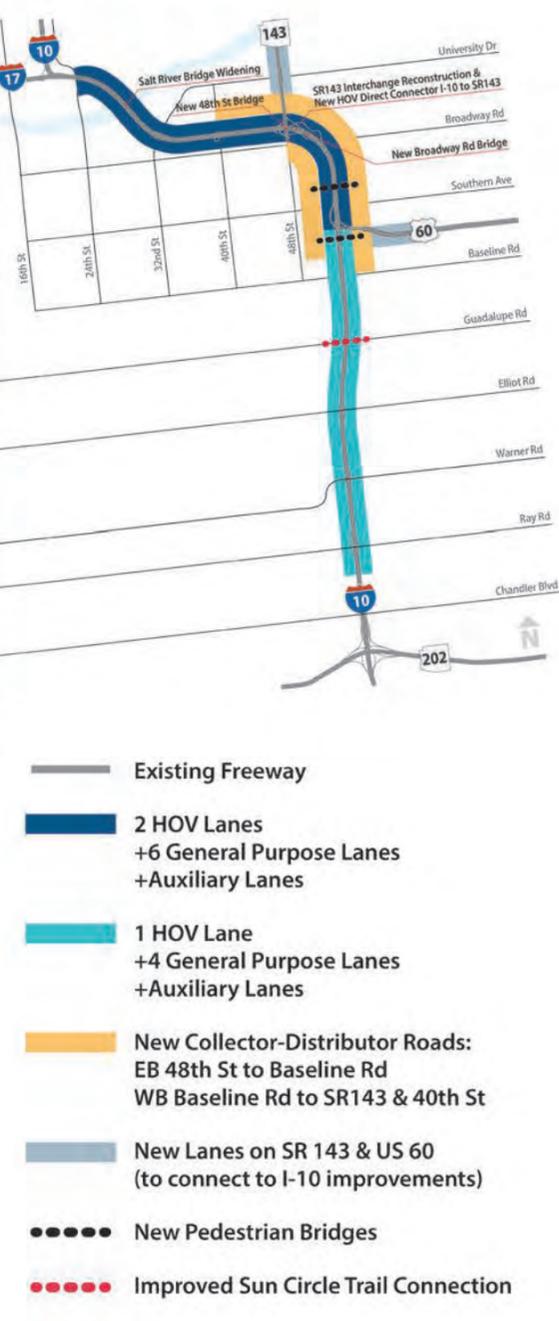
About the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC) is a Native-led nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against Native women and children. NIWRC provides national leadership in ending gender-based violence in Tribal communities by lifting the collective voices of grassroots advocates and offering culturally grounded resources, technical assistance and training, and policy development to strengthen Tribal sovereignty. niwrc.org

About the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center Organized in 2015, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) is a tribal nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against women with Alaska's 229 tribes and allied organizations. AKNWRC board members and staff are Alaska Native women raised in Alaska Native Villages and have over 250 years of combined experience in tribal governments, nonprofit management, domestic violence, and sexual assault advocacy (both individual crisis and systems and grassroots social change advocacy at the local, statewide, regional, national and international levels), and other social services experience. AKNWRC's philosophy is that violence against women is rooted in the colonization of indigenous nations and thus dedicated to strengthening local, tribal government's responses through community organizing efforts advocating for the safety of women and children in their communities and homes against domestic and sexual abuse and violence. aknwrc.org



An eleven-mile stretch of Interstate 10 between Loop 202 and I-17.



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Get the best info about the Broadway Curve Improvement Project and upcoming summer road closures with "The Curve" app. Download to your phone today or visit i10BroadwayCurve.com and #StayAheadOfTheCurve. When complete, the project will improve your commute and help support our growing economy.



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Gila River HEALTH CARE

FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

CALL OR TEXT (520) 371-0132

July 6th 2022 (Wednesday)*

In the Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot

9:00am - 4:00pm

August 10th 2022 (Wednesday)*

In the Ak-Chin Clinic Parking Lot

9:00am - 4:00pm

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

OUR CLINICAL SERVICES FOR MEN & WOMEN:

- Family Planning counseling and education
- STD testing and treatment
- HIV testing and counseling
- Birth control and pregnancy education
- Well-Woman exams
- Pap smears and breast exams
- GYN diagnosis and treatment
- Emergency contraception
- Prenatal and postpartum care
- Preconception counseling
- Prevention counseling and education

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

We are flexible... Let us know what time works best for you!

grhc.org

Employee **JUNE Birthdays**

<p>2ND Pamela Dallas, <i>Contracts and Grants</i> Virginia Zepeda, <i>Maintenance</i></p> <p>7TH Kashmir Miller, <i>Law & Order</i> Marissa Antone, <i>Elderly</i></p> <p>8TH Hermalinda Mavis, <i>IS</i></p> <p>10TH Thomas Hoetzlein, <i>Fire & Safety</i></p> <p>12TH Jesus Espinoza, <i>Maintenance</i></p> <p>13TH John McCullough, <i>Human Resources</i></p> <p>14TH Elijah Jimenez, <i>Parks & Recreation</i></p> <p>16TH Daniel Antone, <i>Law & Order</i> Charles McCarty, <i>TGA</i></p> <p>19TH Lynnette Houston-Volden, <i>Social & Health Services</i></p> <p>20TH Gilbert Cervantes, <i>Law & Order</i></p>	<p>Mayra Bandin, <i>Early Childhood</i> Juanita Balderrama, <i>Elderly</i></p> <p>21ST Sarah Zabawa, <i>TGA</i></p> <p>22ND Bija Gozhone Talkalai, <i>Law & Order</i></p> <p>25TH Guillermo Ruiz, <i>Sanitation</i> Gino Williams, <i>TGA</i></p> <p>26TH Rufus White, <i>Sanitation</i></p> <p>27TH Sheila Pablo-Bandin, <i>Education</i> Rosario Waites, <i>Vekol</i></p> <p>28TH Judith Purcell, <i>Capital Projects</i> Amanda Maldonado, <i>Purchase Referred Care Coordinator</i></p> <p>29TH Susan Guerin, <i>Vekol</i></p> <p>30TH Peter Kann, <i>Planning</i></p>
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Ak-Chin Child Development

Accepting applications for
SUMMER SCHOOL and 2022-2023 SY

Our office is open

8am-5pm

Mon-Fri

Bring your needed documentation and fill out an enrollment packet on site

Summer school Starts June 14th- July 8th.

Register now!

Ak-Chin Child Development offers:

- A High Quality Early Education Experience
- Health/Developmental Screenings
- Disability Services (Through M.U.S.D.)
- Kindergarten Readiness
- *Story time (Provided by Ak-Chin Library)
- *Cultural Activities/Events (Provided by Language Program/Cultural Resources)*
- *Physical/Nutrition Education (Provided by Ak-Chin Health Ed. Program)
- *Fire Safety Education (Provided by the Ak-Chin Fire Department)*
- *Field Trips/Fun activities throughout year*
- Health and Safety Protocols in Place
- * Some activities may be postponed or modified to fit safety protocols.

Enrollment is based on availability and children are selected in the following order:

1. Child is an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
2. Child is a non-enrolled member, but he/she is the Legal child of an enrolled member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
3. Child is living within the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries. Wait listed
4. All others will be waitlisted.

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

Pick up a 2022-2023 Enrollment Packet at Ak-Chin Child Development.

Please bring in the following documents to be considered for enrollment

- Completed Application
- Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) if applicable
- Child's Certified Birth Certificate
- Child's Current Immunization Record

(returning students only need the current Immunization Record and a completed Returning Student application)

Only completed applications with required documents will be accepted. Children registering must be three (3) years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

Children's backpacks will be provided!!!

If you have any questions please contact the Preschool at

48251 W. Farrell Rd.

Maricopa, AZ 85139

(520) 568-1700.

Ak-ChinChildDevelopment@ak-chin.nsn.us

WIC

Will be back at the Ak-Chin Service Center Conference Room soon!!

Save the date:

July 5 at 8:30a-11:30a

August 2 at 8:30a-11:30a

Sept 6 at 8:30a-11:30a

Do you qualify for WIC?

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

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

Need to make an appointment or have questions???

Call WIC at: (520) 562-9698

Gila River Indian Community WIC Program
66 W. Pima, Sacaton, AZ




JOB OPENINGS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications Software Technician • Communication Officer (911 Dispatcher) • Detention Officer - Certified • Detention Officer - Non-Certified • Economic Development Analyst • Police Officer (non-certified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Officer - Certified • Project Manager • Senior Planner (Open Until Filled, Previous applicants will be considered) • Tribal Gaming Agency Executive Director - Open Until Filled
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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.

Happy Birthday to my grandsons **Joseph and Benjamin** Love, Grandma



Kids eat **FREE** this Summer

GRAB & GO 2022

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; background-color: #e0e0e0;">BREAKFAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banana Bread Mini Bagel Beef Maple Sausage Sandwich Muffin Nutri-Grain Cereal Bar Milk 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; background-color: #e0e0e0;">LUNCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunbutter Sandwich Mini-Cheeseburger Sliders Turkey & Cheese Hoagie Bean & Cheese Burrito Grilled Cheese Sandwich Fruit cup or Veggie cup Milk
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Anyone 18 years and younger
Breakfast & Lunch
for 7 days for each child
every Friday beginning
May 27th
10am-5:30pm
@ Ak-Chin Library
call to sign up: 520-568-1675
or fill out online form:
<https://forms.gle/2fMEM9WiBtgH37my9>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE BIRTHDAYS			Cruz Machado Jr. 1	Astraya Warren 2	Kiandra Smith 3	Joseph Zabawa 4
Alyssa Wind Jessica White Mario Luz Haedin De Paola 5	Marie Thomas Uriayzz Antone Ramona Kaniatobe 6	Marissa Antone Marco Thompson Zylen Antone-Silas 7	Mylauni Antone Xadrian Miguel 8	Jason Smith Consuelo Alvarez 9	Marvin Lewis Holly Kaniatobe Ashley Vincent 10	Benjamin King Alex Bowman 11
12	Jeremy Carra Richard Villegas Samuel Justin 13	Amorie Narcia Ralph Martinez Brenley Hackney 14	Saul Ruelas Cecil Miguel Jr. 15	Lupe Kaniatobe Manuel Ortega Daniel Antone 16	Clorenda Humeyumptewa Raul Ruelas Kali Wind Anelia Jacuinde Mauktho Sehongva' Jose 17	Myles Peters Shanna Narcia 18
Kellen Hoffman Josefa Lewis Michelle Smith 19	Juanita Balderrama Julianna Smith Justin Zabawa 20	Tanya Enos Bridget Carlyle Linda Jose Curtis Dean Andreas Antone Sedra Dean 21	Baya Olivas Bija Talkalai Genisys Sandoval Pamela Vincent Pablo Alejandro Jr. Davidson Ugalde Jr. 22	Lillian Shade Charity Vincent 23	Autum Manuel Kevin Ormsby Nicole Narcia Adela Zabawa Salvatore Johnson Jr. 24	Anthony Antone Johnny Lopez 25
Delores Rodrigues Tylen Zepeda Rufus White Savanna Gonzalez 26	Gabriel Narcia Joseph Narcia Esperanza Valentin-Kaniatobe Sheila Bandin Aiyana Narcia 27	Makaylia Allison 28	Priscilla Allison Susan Guerin Janelle White John White 29	Martin Antone Sr. John Zabawa Ionni Flores Esmeralda Santiago 30	Happy Birthday	

Steven "Pete" Clutter retires with Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming

Steven "Pete" Clutter began his career with the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency in September 1999. He was originally hired as a gaming agent, but was soon transferred to employee investigation.

easy task, but Pete was tenacious and after several months was successful in implementing a form in which all tribes used for vendor certification.

Over the years, his duties and responsibility increased significantly as he also took on the duties of investigating businesses and vendors who desired to conduct business with the Casino and Resort. Pete was a natural, handling the functions of various assignments and was well known for his skills as an investigator. Having retired after a stellar law enforcement career with the Casa Grande Police Department investigating events and people was in his DNA.

Pete was highly instrumental in developing the curriculum and training schedule for the first Arizona Tribal Gaming Regulator/Alliance academy. The first academy was hosted by Tonto Apache at Matalazal Casino. Since the first academy, ATGRA has held 11 other ones and Pete participated in each one of them serving as a teacher, monitor and advisor.

Pete spearheaded two major accomplishments in Indian Gaming. Pete was able to convince all the gaming tribes to go to one form for vendor licensing. The form had to be approved by all tribes including the Arizona Department of Gaming. This was no

Now, after 22 years and 8 months of service, Steven "Pete" Clutter has decided to retire from the Tribal Gaming Agency as our Gaming investigator. Pete has left a lasting impression in TGA and among Harrah's staff.



Pete Clutter receives recognition from Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Director, Charles McCarty at Pete's retirement ceremony.

We all wish him and his lovely wife Shari the best in his retirement. They are planning a major road trip sometime in the future and knowing Pete he will pack his golf clubs and fishing gear and then decide which route to take to accommodate both.

Best wishes to Pete and we thank him for all his years and collaboration at the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency.

Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Ticket sales: ak-chincircle.com/theater

MOVIES SHOWING THIS WEEKEND:

- WATCHER
- TOP GUN: MAVERICK
- THE BOB'S BURGERS MOVIE
- FIRESTARTER
- DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS
- THE BAD GUYS
- SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2

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6 SUMMER ROUNDS OF GOLF 6 #miniDunes ROUNDS
6 CHROME SOFT GOLF BALLS 6 BEVERAGES

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JUNE EVENTS

Ak-ChinCircle.com

SUMMER Movie FUN

MAY 30 - JULY 8

6 MOVIES • 6 WEEKS FOR KIDS

Kids Movies Every Monday - Friday at 10AM \$6 For all 6 or \$2 Each Film Daily

MOVIE RELEASES

- 6/10 Jurassic World: Dominion
- 6/17 Lightyear
- 6/24 The Black Phone
- 6/24 Elvis

SUMMER HOURS
THATLER \$47 GRILL
BOWLING \$47 GRILL BAR

NOW HIRING
We are looking for some amazing people to join our team!

OT COMEDY SHOW
JUNE 25

Bigger Brew
FATHER'S DAY
SUNDAY JUNE 19
Reserve Your Table Today (520) 233-2426

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June 11 & June 25
2:00pm - 8:30pm
Brought to You By

BOOK YOUR BABY SHOWER
LUXE

BOOK TODAY
PARTIES FOR KIDS, TEENS, ADULTS, FIELD TRIPS, AND TEAM BUILDING

Ask About Our Quinceañeras

For More Information Contact Riva Quintana
(520) 233.2445 | Email: RQuintana@Ak-ChinCircle.com

Ak-ChinCircle.com /Ak-ChinCircle /akchincircle

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PATIO VIEWS | DINE IN | ORDER TO GO
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

JUNE // KIDS EAT FREE

MAG N' CHEESE PLEASE!

Receive one Kids Menu entrée with adult entrée purchase. Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers or discounts. One coupon per order, no split checks. Does not include alcohol. Non-transferable. Offer expires 6/30/22.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
\$25K JACKPOT Sweepstakes FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022 EVENTS CENTER • 4PM - 9PM Enter to win your share of \$25K in Cash Drawings!	1. ACCESSORY SET GIVEAWAY* PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	2. BEAT THE HEAT PLATINUM BEAT THE HEAT PLAY & GET GAS CARDS.	3. TRY YOUR LUCK!	4. STAYCATION SATURDAY! GIVE YOUR FLIP FLOPS A HIGHER PURPOSE	5. ASK A SLOT ATTENDED ABOUT OUR NEWEST SLOT MACHINES!	6. PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	7. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	8. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	9. CRACK THE SAFEBOX DIAMOND CRACK THE SAFEBOX PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	10. TRIPLE 7'S. EQUALS CLOUD 9!	11. LITTLE IDE Y LA FAMILIA WITH RUBEN MAMOS CHOOSE YOUR MULTIPLIER
12. COME OUT & PLAY!	13. PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	14. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	15. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	16. BRIEFCASE Promotion SEVEN STARS™ BRIEFCASE PROMOTION PLAY & GET GAS CARDS.	17. \$25K JACKPOT WINNERS CIRCLE SWEEPSTAKES	18. LOWE'S® GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY					
19. FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL	20. PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	21. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	22. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	23. MID-YEAR'S EVE 3X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER PLAY & GET GAS CARDS.	24. MID-YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	25. MID-YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER					
26. MID-YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	27. PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	28. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	29. TORELLI™ HANDY TOOL SET GIVEAWAY PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	30. PLAY & GET GAS CARDS	X MID-YEAR'S EVE MULTIPLIERS THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 24, 25 & 26, 2022						

*Wednesday, June 1, 2022 gift is part of the May 2022 Gift Giveaway. Please refer to May 2022 communications to see if you qualify for free gifts.
Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start™ Gambling Problems? 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS



Maricopa Wells Middle School 8th grade promotion, (l-r): Jason Smith, Kylee Machado, Jeffrey Ruelas, Perla Corona, Owen Santiago, Charity Andaverde, Ronin Gloria, Carrieanna Villareal, Maverick Santiago, Nevaeh Johnson, Adriano Jose, Kylie Gardner, Joanna Acosta, Auciana Miguel, Rose Pedro and Ethan Humeyumptewa. At right: Omarion Flores honors his grandmother Stella White (badt) with her picture, during his 8th grade promotion at Maricopa Wells.



Maricopa Elementary 5th grade promotion (l-r): Edward Rocha, Azalyana White, Mara Delores, Sarina Peters, Anaise Valles-Diaz, and Rope Justin.



Right, Saddleback Elementary 5th grade promotion (l-r): Isabella Antone, Ameliano Jacuinde, Brandon Enos, Terry Santiago, King-Benzie Peters, and Mark Pablo. *



Left: Bryson Bowman - Mesquite Elementary *



Right: Omar Mendoza - Island Elementary *



Maricopa Elementary Kinder promotion: Left: Mauricio Contreras-Valles and Marquon Robles *



Right: Nevaeh Marin *



Left: Benjamin King with parents - Legacy Traditional School *



Right: Saddleback Kinder promotion, l-r: Hunter Narcia, Harlee Jose, Aliyah Vincent. Front, l-r: Kieran Yarberry, Enoelia Humeyumptewa, DeliAnna Lewis.



Joaquin Dickerson (left) Maricopa Kinder promotion* and William Delma (right) Saddleback Kinder promotion *



Traditional Blessing offered for MHS Graduating Seniors



Teresa Valisto and Ak-Chin students at Maricopa HS, receive traditional blessing from Ak-Chin Language staff and Gabe Lopez.

Teresa Valisto, Ak-Chin Student Counselor at Maricopa High School invited Ak-Chin Language staff and Gabriel Lopez to MHS campus to provide a traditional blessing ceremony for Maricopa Seniors on May 25, the day before MHS graduation.

Felicia Vincent; first gifted each student with a shell necklace that had medallions, made by Felicia Vincent. Afterwards they sang a traditional song.

from the earth. As they go through obstacles they will blossom into pretty flowers, always overcoming what is in their way."

Ak-Chin Language Techs; Velacita Lopez, Lerline Peters and

Language staff explained the song, "S-ke:k Hiosik Ne'P" (Pretty Flower Song) was like the young students. "A flower starting from a seed then blossoming into a beautiful flower

Gabe Lopez then performed a blessing ceremony for all the seniors. The blessing, "provides the students guidance and protection as they take their journey in the next step of their lives and a safe passage

Blessing continues to page 2B

Celebration continued from Front

Photos by Runner Staff

Doctor of Educational Leadership with an Emphasis in Healthcare Administration at Grand Canyon University.

embrace continuing education and enjoy the ride; it isn't over; it's just starting! It will absolutely make a difference in your life."

her Bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University. The Education department asked her family to attend on her behalf to receive her certificate and gifts. She was also posthumously honored from ASU.

Janice was asked to speak about the theme-topic, "Carrying and Living our Ancestor's Teachings" and did so by presenting compelling information from the boarding school era, where she shared stories of two women who were sent to boarding schools. She then shifted to public schools and pointed out how tribal leaders worked to take back control of their children's education, "using the strengths of their traditional cultures as they live in the modern world."

After the keynote address from Janice, the presentation of certificates for high school and higher education students took place. Teresa Valisto, High School Counselor presented certificates and gift baskets to her students, that included seniors from Maricopa, Desert Vista, Marcos DeNiza, and Sherman Indian School.

Closing remarks were provided by Ak-Chin Council Vice-Chairman Lemuel Vincent and Councilmember Lisa Garcia.

All higher education graduates received certificates, a graduation shadow box and Alexa Echo Show, from Lenny Dempsey, Ak-Chin Enrollment Academic Advisor.

Dr. Darlene Smith-Raibon shared, "On Behalf of the Ak-Chin Education Department, we would like to Commend all of the graduates and encourage you to keep striving to the next level and continue to be forward thinkers. As you cherish the fruits of your hard work, I wish that success keeps following you in everything you do. Today and always, congratulations!"

She shared many statistics on American Indian students in the public school system, then ended by challenging all students in the room, "I challenge all the graduates tonight to

A significant moment in the evening was the honoring of Miss Holly Antone (badt). Miss Holly, who passed away in April, was to receive



L-R, T-B: Janice Anderson addresses students during keynote speech. Education staff enjoy a photo op during celebration. Teresa Valisto recognizes Mary Narcia, Maricopa High School graduate. Stephanie Valdez receives gifts and certificate for completion of Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies from Grand Canyon University. Candida Upton also receives gifts and certificate for completion of Medical Administration at Brookline College. Bandin siblings Allissia and Victor celebrate their recent achievements. Allissia received her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Arizona State, and Victor is Desert Vista high school graduate.*

Blessing continued from page 1B
to where ever their paths may lead them, and also a blessing of a significant accomplishment not only in their lives, but their families lives and their communities."

Once Gabe was finished, Teresa also gifted each student with a shell necklace, with a prayer ribbon tied around each necklace. The shells and prayer ribbons represent and remind us of ancestors, provides protection, guidance and healing," Gabe shared.

The group then congratulated all graduating seniors and hoped that the sharing of the traditional blessing will send them on the right path of their young lives and help overcome any obstacles that may come before them.

Graduation continued from Front

achievements. To see the students, get excited as their names were called, and then hearing their family and friends cheering them on; or physically seeing all those who have supported them along the way, stand just as proudly by their side.

To all our recent graduates, we are honored to celebrate your achievements. Remember how great these moments feel right now, because it is only the beginning. Keep moving forward, challenge yourself, have faith in yourself, be good to yourself, so you can have many more great moments like these to get you to your next level in life.



Congratulations!

Congratulations Auciana!! Crazy how time flies without knowing it. Stay on top of school and ball, you already know Grandma would say the same thing too. She's watching over you and always will be, so don't be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them and they only help you become better. Don't give up. Love You Auciana-Baby Jay



Congratulations Baby Girl!! High School already!! Seriously!! 😊 I'm so proud of you Auciana always remember Grandma is looking down and with you every step of the way. I know it's been a rough past few weeks but always remember to stay positive and as you move forward into high school continue to make the right choices and keep up the good work with your grades. We are always here for you and remember the work ain't done yet, we still got high school. Love Dad

Congratulations my Beautiful Auci! You are so Sweet and Beautiful. Proud of you Smiley. Remember everything Dad said too. AND school is not over after High School, you still got college! Enjoy your Summer and learn from your Summer



job! Don't buy too many Vinyls (Vynlees) 😊 Love Always, Your Momma. Good Luck in High School you Freshman! Love Always-Mom, Dad and Nyaila



To: Davin Richard-Daniel Garcia CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!!!! You did it! Now you can let out that big sigh of relief because you are officially done with school! We know you wanted to give up at times, thinking you would not be able finish, and glad you had set your heart, mind and soul on completing your education. No matter what, you know we will always stand

behind you on whatever it is you will set your mind on. But do know that one thing for sure is you now have 2 others in your life (Jordin and Gianna) that will be right along with you on your next journey. Sky's the limit, there is no stopping at reaching for them stars! We Love you very much and again, CONGRATULATIONS!!!! With love from: Jordin, Gianna, the "Old Man", Mom, Davis, Meilynda, Doria, David, Davin, Savannah and Sienna



Congratulations to our Godsons Frankie Carlyle and Rope Justin! We are super proud that you have reached a new educational milestone. Don't ever let anything stop you from chasing after your dreams - keep moving forward and find your brighter tomorrow. Love your Godparents, Cecil & Raychel



Congratulations to all 2022 Grads and Scholars We are proud to recognize you and all your academic accomplishments! From the Runner



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079
GRHC.ORG/HUB

COVID TESTING, & COVID VACCINES AVAILABLE.

You may also visit a GRHC Primary Care Department for vaccines. Walk-in or schedule an appointment by calling (602) 528-1482.

Red Tail Hawk Health Center
COVID VACCINE ONLY
June 11th & 16th • 10 am - 2 pm

Ak-Chin Multipurpose Justice Complex
COVID TESTING ONLY
June 28th & 29th • 5-7 pm



SCAN FOR VACCINE INFORMATION

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Update

3rd Dose COVID Vaccine Booster Shot Now Approved For Ages 5 +

COVID-19 VACCINE SHOT SEQUENCE:



SCAN FOR VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE: (520) 550-6079
HOTLINE HOURS: 8 am - 6 pm, 7 days a week.

Reminder!

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

CLOSED MONDAY JULY 4TH

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

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