

Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 14

July 19 - August 1, 2024



Above students juggle the Jenga soda boxes during one of the game booths at the Back to School Bash celebration at Ak-Chin gym, July 10.

Back to School Bash brings fun and supplies

Story and photo by Ashley Vincent

On July 10th, Ak-Chin Community Events, Education and Recreation departments teamed up to host the annual "Back to School Bash" at the Ak-Chin Gym. With participation from numerous departments within the community, each department was assigned to hand out

Back to School Bash continues to page 6

various school supplies, one table had notebooks, one handed out rulers, another pencil sharpeners and so on.

Along with the stations, the different departments booths was set up by also had their own the EPD Department games for students to play while collecting

from face painting, corn hole playing, bottle flipping, and stops for fresh popcorn and cotton candy.

One of the popular game where attendees were able to play a friendly school supplies, ranging game of Jenga using

Sister Tribes unite to support San Carlos after devastating fire



L-R: Gila River Gov. Stephen Roe-Lewis, Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, San Carlos Chairman Terry Rambler, Tohono O'odham Chairman Verlon Jose and Salt River President Martin Havier stand united with San Carlos.

Story by Raychel Peters, submitted photo

On Monday, July 15, the four southern O'odham sister tribes of Arizona, led by Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, Tohono O'odham Chairman Verlon Jose, Gila River Governor Stephen Roe-Lewis and Salt River President Martin Havier took a trip to the San

Carlos Apache Tribe to personally offer their support and share their concern as San Carlos declared a state of emergency on July 12, after the Watch Fire burned over 1,000 acres and destroyed at least a dozen homes, leaving many families homeless.

"Together, we felt that just an appearance would potentially uplift the community knowing that we care, support, and are with them 1,000% during their time of need." Chairman Miguel shared.

Once the tribal leaders

Sister Tribes continues to page 3



Employee Hot Dog Eating Contestants Della Delowe and Lucas Fitzgerald go toe-to-toe to see who's got the stamina and stomach to finish off the most hot dogs at this year's 4th of July Celebration at MPA Memorial park.

Ak-Chin celebrates grand 4th of July

Story and photo by Kristen Villegas

Thursday, July 4, 2024 Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation took over this year's Fourth Celebration with the help of Cecily Peters, the new Event Manager for the community.

To start the day, the Rec hosted a raffle at the pool where each participant had the chance to win one of the many exciting prizes available.

At 7pm, the celebration was moved to Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park, where the serving of food began, which included hamburgers,

hotdogs, chips and a variety of drinks for people to enjoy, grilled up by Rec staff, courtesy of Community Events.

Kids were able to enjoy two bouncy houses provided at the park from Babas' Bouncers and Jumpers LLC. Chairman Robert Miguel was DJ throughout the night and helped announce the upcoming games which are a staple in the Fourth of July Celebration every vear.

The first game began at 7:30 and was the watermelon



eating

contest where there were four groups for each round, ages 3-5; 6-9; 10-12; 18- up. Each winner received a sand bucket filled with goodies.

Before any of the rounds began Cecily would announce the rules, which were simple; hands had to stay behind your back at all times and eat as much as possible before the allotted time ran out. The watermelons were generously donated from Santa Rosa Cooling.

Next began the hot dog eating contest for Ak-Chin employees, which lasted for a total of 5 minutes, with the goal: eat as much hot dogs you can stomach.

4th of July continues to page 4

takes time from his busy schedule for an exclusive interview with Ak-Chin Runner summer youth workers Aucianna Miguel and Teagan Delma.

On Friday July 12,2024 Ak-Chin Runner summer workers Auciana Miguel Teagan and Delma interviewed Vice Chairman Lemuel Vincent. He was asked questions about what it is like being on council, the goals he set, out of state trips, and what it is like serving the community.

Vice-Chairman Vincent is the son of the late Norman Vincent Sr. and the late Pauline (Antone) Vincent. He is the youngest sibling of ten children and has lived in Ak-Chin for the greater majority of his life.

Auciana started off the interview, "How long have you served on Council?" Vincent stated, he has served on council as Vice-Chairman for three and a half years, that it's a four-year term, and this

is going to be his last year as his term ends at the end of December.

Upon being elected, Vice-Chairman worked at Harrah's casino as a Tribal Gaming Agent for four years prior to his term. When asked, what it is like serving on council for the community?

Vincent stated, "I am privileged and blessed to be sitting as a Tribal Leader for the community, there are so many things involved that you can get your hands in to try and help the community moving forward.

I'm not going to lie, there are a lot of headaches, a lot of good and bad. But you have to take on all of it to move forward, which means you have to deal with the good and not so good issues,

prefer to or not. That's just something that you need to do, it's something you were elected to do as a Tribal Leader to help the

issues on the table right now at which Council are working to resolve in order to continue moving forward. Being on Council, it's a lot of work, it takes a toll on you. Sometimes on your personal life, but that was to be expected. If you are sincere about why you're in this capacity, if you're sincere about doing it for your community, then it will all work out. That is what I was elected to do."

hard Some of the decisions he faced and must face in his position, than issues other with capital projects, economic developments, the casino, employees, and government issues, is membership issues. The reason being is he has been on the other side of the window looking in, wanting answers to questions that never got answered as well as wanting reasons to why things happen. But now that Vincent is on Council, he can now

Vice Chairman Vincent continued to page 5



Stress Relief Through Movement

Story by R. Rosoff, photo by Runner Staff

A calming atmosphere could be felt on Thursday, July 11 as participating community members, residents and employees gathered to take part in the Hula for Health Amongst Native Americans program at the Ak-Chin Service Center.

Leading the class were Native Hawaiian dancers and sisters, Celina Mahinalani and Alicia Ku'uleinani.

The message for participants was that Hula is medicine for the mind, body and spirit, and can provide profound healing.

Ak-Chin's Health Education Department encouraged



participation from those eligible for a study that focused on those whose ages were between 30 and 79.

The goal is to encourage mental health healing, reducing stress alleviate depression and and anxiety remaining from isolation during the COVID lockdown.

Functional Fitness for ELDERS



Elders Tour Ak-Chin Indian Community Farm

Story and photos submitted by Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Center Program Director

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Farm recently had the honor of hosting a group of our respected elders for a tour of our expansive farm operation. Led by the dedicated Ak-Chin Farms Manager, Damian Murrieta, the tour offered a deep dive into the innovative and sustainable practices that support the Community's agricultural success.

On July 11th, Damian graciously took time out of his demanding schedule to guide the elders through the farm operation.

One of the highlights of the tour was our composting process. Utilizing Hickman's manure, chicken grass clippings from the Southern Dunes golf course, and other post-harvest debris, we create rich compost that nourishes our 16,000 acres of farmland. This sustainable practice is to maintain the best possible soil conditions.



Our diverse crop production was also a focal point of the tour. The Ak-Chin Indian Community grows potatoes that are processed for Frito-Lay, In-N-Out Burger, and other companies. Our sorghum is cultivated to feed dairy cattle, while our unique cotton





Above, Damian Murrieta, Ak-Chin Farm Manager, points out interesting bits of information and locations during the elder farm tour, July 11.

is grown not only for the cotton, but specifically for its seeds, which are distributed to agricultural companies and farmers nationwide.

Additionally, our farm produces pecans, which are sent to a pecan plant in New Mexico. An exciting discovery on the tour was the Farms pepper crop! We didn't know the Community was growing peppers!



The were deeply Damian Murrieta's leadership and explanations during the tour left a lasting impression on the elders.

The cleanliness and efficiency of the farm operations were particularly noted, showing the high standards upheld by Ak-Chin Farms.

We extend our sincere thanks to Damian Murrieta for his commitment and for providing this special tour. The elders were especially grateful for the abundance of peppers he generously gave the elders.

The tour of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Farm was a confirmation of the community's heritage, our achievements, and the bright future ahead.



Aug 15	Sep 12	Oct 10	NOV 12	
Aug 20	Sep 17	Oct 15	Nov 14	
Aug 27	Sep 24	Oct 22	Nov 19	
	Sep 26	Oct 29	Nov 21	
	10 B	Oct 31	(Walk for Gratitude)	

impressed by the advancements and achievements of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Farm. Elder Evelyn Garcia expressed heartfelt gratitude, reflecting on how far the farm has come since its early days and recognizing the blessings it brings to the community.

Fall Prevention for Elders provided by The Injury Prevention Program Questions??? Call Teri De La Cruz at (520) 568-1087



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
*Breakfast Served 7 AM to 8:30 AM *Lunch Served 12PM to 1 PM	*Chair Yoga is located in the Elder Center Craft Room Tuesdays & Thursdays 9AM to 10AM	*Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760	*For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1769	7/19 Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Fruit with Cottage Cheese Hot Dog Bar with All The Fixings, Potato Salad, Corn
	Menu Subject to Ch	ange Without Notice		on the Cob, Chocolate Cake
7/22 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, English Muffin, Fruit & Yogurt Split Peas w/Ham, Chicken Cordon Blue(D, Zucchini, Romaine Salad, Pears	7/23 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mix Berries Goodwill Shopping Ham Wrap, Green Leaf /Tomato, Mixed Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Cookie	7/24 Cereal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Salad Movie Day Chicken Broccoli Stir Fry W/ Red Peppers, Fried Rice, Egg Roll, Mandarin Oranges	7/25 Breakfast Quesadilla, Salsa & Sour Cream, Banana Pork Chop, Collard Greens, Sweet Potato/Potato (D), Wheat/White Rolls, Jell-O	7/26 Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuit, Grapes with Cottage Cheese Ham Macaroni & Cheese, Romaine Salad, Peas, Wheat/White Roll, Fruit Cocktail
7/29 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Apple Sauce Chicken Pozole, Shredded Cabbage, White Onion/Lime, Rolls, Apple/Orange	7/30 Breakfast Casserole, Toast, Avocado Slices, Fruit Sandwich Bar, Pasta Salad, Chips, Fresh Cut Fruit	7/31 Bread Pudding, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad Red Chili Indian Tacos, Corn on Cob, Banana Split	8/1	8/2

👻 Ak-Chin Oodham Runner 🛞

Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community © 2024 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy. Maricopa, Arizona 85139

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY PHONE: 520•568•1375 FAX: 520•568•1376 E-MAIL: runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us

Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

Editor: Raychel Peters Graphic Artist: Rebecca Rosoff Photojournalist: Kristen Villegas News Assistant: Delila Villegas Temp/Summer Workers: Ashley Vincent, Ramon Diaz and Eliza Santiago

Ak-Chin Tribal Council

Chairman: Robert Miguel Vice Chair: Lemuel Vincent Council Members: Lisa Garcia, Gabriel Lopez and Cecil Peters

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.

All information and original work contained in this newspaper is copyright and may not be reproduced without written permission from: 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

Hearing Notice Ak-Chin Indian Community Planning and Zoning

**<u><<<<<<<<<<<<<<>></></</u>

🐼 🗞 🗞 🗞 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🏷 🏷 🏷 🖉 July 19 - August 1, 2024 🕼 🐼 🗞 🗞 🗞 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following case at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 23, 2024 at the Justice Center Conference Room.

Case: PS-03-24 Purchasing-Tuff Shed

Project Applicant/Purchasing Manager, Flora Howerton, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval for a Tuff Shed installation on the east side of the existing warehouse in the Public Use Zone. The proposed project will include:

 Install 12' x 16' Tuff Shed with concrete pad 10' to the east of the existing Purchasing Warehouse to house a Doosan Forklift and warehouse overflow.

Ak-Chin teams play ball

Story and photos by Ashley Vincent During the first week of

June Ak-Chin's t-ball, coach-pitch, and little league teams were all scheduled to have their final games in the Salt River Friendship Youth Sports League.

The league started the first week of May for the t-ball team, then the second week for the coach-pitch and little league team.

Unfortunately, for the little league team their game was canceled, so their last game was Wednesday, May 29th against the "Sidewinders."

The Ak-Chin Coyotes t-ball team, though small but mighty, managed to keep their last game interesting.

Despite having only five players all season, and four for the last game, they put up a good fight but fell short to the "FMD Sluggers."

With a 10-9 loss, the "Coyotes" were all in good spirits still, and happy to have played.

In spite of the heat and humidity the Ak-Chin Wolves coach-pitch team were able to power through their last game.

With their coaches making they sure stayed hydrated and encouraging them throughout the game, they were able to end their season with a 9-4 win against the "FMD Sluggers."

K CHIN NYUTES K-CHIN NYUTES K-CHIN NYUTES K-CHIN NYUTES K-CHIN NYUTES The Ak-Chin Recreation department treated all of the league players to the Arizona Diamondbacks vs. White Sox game, which was also Native American Recognition Night.

The players that attended were able to enjoy the game with a view from their own suite with some unlimited menu items like popcorn, hot dogs, and pretzel bites.



AK-Chin feams playing their hardest while still having fun in the hot summer heat

made their way to San Carlos High School, where their command center was set up, they were given a briefing along with San Carlos leadership and staff, as well as other State and Federal agencies.

They updated were on the status of the fire's containment as well as destruction of structures, vehicles and other significant means of importance. They were also allowed to visit areas where major damage was reported in the communities of San Carlos and Peridot.

The sister tribe's leadership met with San Carlos Chairman Terry Rambler and listened as he shared what the tribes' immediate needs were.

"The purpose of the



Ak-Chin Little League Photo by Alyssa Dickerson



San Carlos continued from front

visit was to meet with San Carlos leadership to let them know that the Four Sister O'odham Tribes were there in a united effort of support." Miguel added.

"Their tragedy, is our tragedy. We as the Sister Tribes will do all we can do in providing support in donations, friendly neighbor assistance, continued advocacy, and through other means necessary.

We all need to continue to practice the spirit of who we are as Native Americans, and that is to help our brothers and sisters in a desperate time of need. San Carlos will persevere and rebuild, and continue to strength(en) their efforts to provide a better way of life for their people."

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

2024 Subscription rate is \$37.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$37.75 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**

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

Material submitted after the JULY 26TH DEADLINE cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.



Ak-Chin Coyotes - T-Ball



Ak-Chin Wolves - Coach Pitch

EDZ Master Plan 2nd Workshop

 Assist in participating in the second Economic Development Zone Master Plan Workshop (EDZ — Industrial Park, Bunger, and Airpark).
 Second Workshop consists of reviewing two Land Uses Options and input of the design guidelines.
 Community Members are invited.

July 30, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Water Reclamation Facility Conference Rooms 46200 West Ralph Street

MOV 20 2020 - 10 - 2011

Meeting with the Elders on July 31, 2024 at noon at the Elder Center

	MAY 20 2024 FH12:4 CU	1	IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT	au
1 2	IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT 45525 West Farrell Road Maricopa, AZ 85139	2	45525 West Farrell Road Maricopa, AZ 85139 Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1386	
3 4 5 6	Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1386 In Re: The Guardianship of: Case No.: JM-2013-00010-CN L. A. D.O.B: XX/XX/XXXX D.O.B: XX/XX/XXXX SUMMONS A. A. D.O.B: XX/XX/XXXX	4 5 6 7	In Re: The Guardianship of: L. A. D.O.B: XX/XX/XXXX A. A. D.O.B: XX/XX/XXXX MINOR(S),	
7 8 9	MINOR(S), THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO: DUANE ANTONE YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in	8	THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO: MERCEDES STEPHENS YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in	a
10 11	the above-entitled matter on the <u>19th day of August. 2024</u> , at <u>10:00 AM</u> for a Review/Guardianship Hearing.	10 11	the above-entitled matter on the <u>19th day of August. 2024</u> , at <u>10:00 AM</u> for a Review/Guardianship Hearing.	
12 13 14 15 16 17	IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR FOR AT THE TIME AND DATE SET FOR THE HEARING A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY, BE ENTERED AGAINST THE RESPONDENT AND THE PETITIONER MAY, BE GRANTED THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE PETITION OR THE PETITION MAY, BE DISMISSED FOR FAILURE OF THE PETITIONER TO APPEAR.	13 14 15 16 17	IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR FOR AT THE TIME AND DATE SET FOR THE HEARING A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY, BE ENTERED AGAINST THE RESPONDENT AND THE PETITIONER MAY, BE GRANTED THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE PETITION OR THE PETITION MAY, BE DISMISSED FOR FAILURE OF THE PETITIONER TO APPEAR. GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State	
18 19 20 21 22	GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 20th day of May, 2024.	18 19 20 21 22	of Arizona this 20th day of May, 2024, <u> Seanne Justin</u> DEANNA JUSTIN, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court	

Thank You

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the staff of the Departments of the Ak-Chin Indian Community for their exceptional efforts in making the Ak-Chin 4th of July Event a success.

Despite the excessive heat, the staff demonstrated remarkable dedication in decorating, preparing food, distributing watermelons, picking up trash, assembling games, setting up park tables, managing traffic control, and ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all attendees.

Special thanks to the staff in the following departments:

- Ak-Chin Fire Department: For the grand fireworks show and the meticulous planning and training behind it.
- Ak-Chin Police Department: For managing traffic control and ensuring the safety of attendees with well-planned street routes and parking.
- Ak-Chin Recreation and Parks: For preparing and cooking food, planning games, decorating, and coordinating the event.
- Ak-Chin Events: For coordinating the event and handling supply deliveries and game supplies.
- · Ak-Chin Sanitation Department: For setting up the event, delivering supplies, hanging banners, and post-event cleanup, including clearing the firework field and assisting in overall cleanup.
- Ak-Chin Purchasing: who assisted with ordering supplies and food for the event.
- Ak-Chin Runner: who assisted with the event banners.
- All of the Temp Workers and Summer Youth Workers: who helped tremendously in concessions, games, decorations, and clean up including all of the other tasks they performed that day.

The dedication and hard work of these departments in the weeks leading up to and during the event ensured its success and enjoyment by the community. Thank you to all the staff involved for their tireless efforts in working on this holiday and event to provide the community a memorable 4th of July.

Nicole Carlyle-Coester, **Community Services Manager**

Micele Confl- Consta

Two employees took on the challenge, Della Delowe from Purchase Referred Care and Lucas Fitzgerald a Lifeguard for the Rec, both with the intent to beat the other. Lifeguard Lucas claimed the victory.

After the games concluded, the night ended with the firework display at 8:30pm, which is always the highlight of the day.

"The event was a blast; I enjoy organizing events

for my community. With the help of Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, the temps and Public Works; the 4th of July Celebration was successful...

I am excited to see

the community unite for more enjoyable parties and events. I am looking forward to trying new things and being open-minded to create beautiful fun," commented Cecily, on the event.





Ak-Chin Library's Saturday Lego Club

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas





Dive-In Movie features Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Following the carnivalthemed Back to School Bash on July 10, Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation hosted a Movie Dive-In for all to come enjoy a late-night swim with a showing of Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire.



the movie.





LEGO Club kids enjoy time making rice crispy treat LEGOS and the traditional plastic LEGOS at Ak-Chin Library, July 13.

July 13, 2024 - Say hello to Ak-Chin Library's new LEGO Club where vou can build amazing creations and interact with your community members.

The highlight of this past

Saturday's LEGO Club was the yummy treat, where the club made delicious LEGO bricks.

How? Well, you take a rice crispy and cover it in frosting of whatever

the top add M&M's or Skittles and BAM! There is your yummy LEGO brick. Once those treats were completed, the kids began deciding on what they wanted to build together.



Vice Chairman continued from front _



see how things manifest and transpire, which also helps him understand the frustrations on some issues.

A lot of the needs Council are requested by community members can sometimes hit home as well to Vincent, because he has been there, especially on a financial and educational basis. A lot of things they ask for he would like to just snap his fingers, and make it happen, but there are policies, procedures and processes that have to be dealt with. Council has to go through them in order to achieve what is requested.

At times it becomes frustrating because you want to help them as much as you can, but he is only one council member along with four others who also have their input. At times it can also take long because sometimes there are legal issues they have to deal with, and that too gets frustrating. "You learn to deal with it with an open mind and communicate with the members or whomever it is you are dealing with as much as possible." Vice-Chairman Vincent further stated, "Any communication is better than none."

What made Vincent decide to run for his position was that there was a lot of things in the community he felt needed change. A lot of the issues he has seen himself in the community never got the full potential answer that he was looking for. The only way that he could see the answers he was looking for was to obtain a seat in a leadership position to see how everything evolves, how everything works, and why everything is the way it is.

The other part of that is the community has done so much for him, on a personal and employment level that he will always be grateful for. This is just his way of giving back. He says that while being in this position you need to have an open mind and not take things personally because it will affect the decisions you make. By being open minded, it helps when dealing with the different issues, people, partnerships, different operations, and sponsorships. So, he tries to focus only on what he can control, anything outside of his controlled capacity, he does not like to dwell on because he cannot control what others think or how they handle situations.

Vincent's favorite moments he has had

for the Community to benefit not only in the near future but 5, 10, 15 years from now. So of course, they haven't happened yet, but it's in the process of making them happen, getting that ball rolling.

There are some things he participated in that happened in the

community that he has envisioned. Then there are other things he sees as a bigger picture that he wants to happen for the community, that he still wants to be involved in, and help getting it done for the community, which entails being in this capacity as long as he can or the fulfillment of the allotted term timeline.

When asking Lemuel how often he travels out of state he said, he doesn't travel too often. He tries to limit his travels because he feels there is so much work to be done here within the community. A lot of the travels that can be incorporated within his capacity on council can be done via virtual participation, like zoom or WebEx. So, his priorities are here within the community, he has work that needs to be done here.

If he were to do a lot of traveling, he couldn't incorporate himself into that, therefore he tries to limit his travel as much as he can. Whenever he does travel, he looks at the agenda and sees if it is something beneficial for the community. For example, if he were to go to this training, what can he bring back to Ak-Chin and use it, how will it help the community. So far this year he has only traveled twice, and that's probably going to be it.

As far as Lemuel's favorite out of state trip he couldn't really say, because every time he was on travel it was for work. It's all business for him when he goes to travel, his routine is to check in, go do what he has to do, check out and head back home. It's not like he goes sight-seeing or anything like that, but he does say that the coolest he's been, weatherwise, was Seattle.

Being on council, Vice-Chairman had to learn how to balance his homelife with his work schedule. He had to learn to divide his work from his personal life, because as council members they deal with a lot of issues, even though they clock in at 8 and clock out at 5, Council still deals with issues outside of that.

He has people calling him after work, people coming over on the weekends sometimes with issues, and he welcomes that because it's what he signed up for, but for him he had to learn to be patient on some issues. When you step back and take a breath and look at the whole thing then you know how to look at, okay this is for work, and this for his personal life. He can't let his work overflood his personal life, because then it will cause issues in his personal life, and vice versa.

community like your family."

He didn't know what he meant at first, but then talking to Norris, he asked him why that is, Norris asked, "What would you do for your family?" Vice-Chairman replied, "everything and anything possible outside of breaking the law."

Vincent was then told by Norris that he had just answered his own question. He asked the former Chairman about his longevity, how he stayed so long in council, Norris answered, "That's just it, you think of it as your family, and you do what you can for your community in your power, without breaking the law, because what happens when you break the law is you get sent away, then how you going to do for your community if you are away. So, you have to be there for them but you have to have the mindset of knowing what to do within that law, and how to do it right, because it's only going to take you further."

Vincent has learned this, not only in his capacity as Vice-Chairman, but in his personal life as well. This process has aided him, is self-evaluated is purpose not only in this position but his life's journey in general. So that is one of the biggest advices he has took because there is so many things he wants to do for the community.

Vice-Chairman stated, "it's one of those where you kind of have to sit back and realize that you can do so much on your own. The rest is going to come from the Council team. So, treat it like your family, do for your community what you would do for your family."





Dear Passengers,

Please be advised that the Transit Department will be undergoing an in-service closure for the following dates and times.

August 19th & 20th 2024 Last Ride Accommodated: 8:45 AM Closure Period: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

During these times, our transportation services

will be temporarily suspended. We will resume accommodating requests at 3:30 PM each day. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and patience.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely, Transit Department



while being in this position was, helping get issues in the past resolved that were on the table before he got onto council. Also working within all aspects of the community, whether it would be on a financial basis, on an educational basis, capital projects, economic development issues, membership issues, and/or casino issues.

Just knowing that he can have a hand in trying to resolve some of those issues and seeing some of them get resolved moving forward, is the most appreciated thing he can ask for as being in his capacity as Vice-Chairman. He feels he was elected for that reason. He does the best of his ability with the empowerment he has to move forward, he doesn't make empty promises, but he does promise to do the best he can with what he has to work with.

Vice-Chairman doesn't really have a favorite person that he has met, but if we were talking more spiritually and guidance wise, he would say learning how to talk to his creator was most important. It actually helped open the door for him to start learning about himself, educating himself in order to move forward in a positive way, learning from his mistakes; to never regret the negative aspects he has endured or experienced, because he has learned from it.

If he never learned from the negative things he had done, then he probably would regret it, but he believes you can always learn from something, good or bad and utilize the learning to help you move forward in life. Having conversations with the creator has opened his eyes to achieve what he needed to learn about himself and move forward.

Vice-Chairman was asked, "While being in his position, did you accomplish the goals you had set to finish before your 4-year term was up?" He stated some have, adding that some of his focus was more mainstream, meaning when he focuses on processes for the community, a majority of it, is not happening right now. For his outlook is So, in doing for himself he sits back and starts evaluating a lot of things while in his office. Sometimes he sits back, looks out the window and thinks about what he is going to do for the day as far as how will he approach his meetings, how is he going to approach his work. Then he will think about his homelife when he gets there, when he gets home, whatever issues he was trying to deal with at work he is going to leave it there. He knows there are going to be new issues he is going to have to deal with as far as membership, so for him it's just learning to be patient, learning to take a breath and not to do everything at a fast pace.

After Vice-Chairman's 4-year term is up, he would like to become a certified mechanic, get more into that and see where it takes him because he likes to work on cars. In his current position he does not have the time to do so, but if he does happen to get elected on council for another term, then it's where he will be.

Vice-Chairman Vincent encourages everyone to go out and VOTE. Not only for the tribal elections but the general and primary elections as well. It is a good way to get our voices heard, especially being a part of Native Nation, a strong Native Nation that is not always recognized. He also believes that, "a powerful voice can move mountains." In order to do so, we should educate ourselves on the different political aspects, why we vote, who we vote for, why voting is important, and how it effects Native Country and our communities.

Some good advice someone gave Lemuel, as far as being on council, was from former Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris. He told him, "When you get on council, treat it like your family, treat your

Mental Health Awareness

Mental health is just as important as physical health.

Enroll in health insurance for better access to services that can help both your mind and body stay well.

For more information, contact your local Indian health care provider, visit **HealthCare.gov/coverage**, or call **1-800-318-2596.**



Back to School Bash continued from front empty 12-pack soda boxes.

Recreation staff also handed out freshly cooked hot dogs and hamburgers to all in attendance.

The three department coordinators all agreed the event was very successful as it achieved the goals of getting the community members and departments out to enjoy the event together; to give and receive needed school supplies as well as provide and gather important information that will help the students and families ensure a successful school year.















Backpack distribution for the new school year

Story and photos by Ashley Vincent

The Ak-Chin JOM communities ages 3-12th Committee held their grades. annual backpack distribution on Monday, With the help of the Education July 15th at the Ak-Chin Ak-Chin Service Center. department, youth members and residents of the community were The Johnson O'Malley able to sign up to receive Program is a program funded federally by a free backpack of their choice as well receive the Bureau of Indian Education some school supplies for to help the new school year.





with school supplies for students in Native

Above, parents and children browse through the selections of backpacks and school supplies that were provided by Ak-Chin JOM Committee during their backpack distribution on July 15.

- -0- -0- -0- -0- -0-**Ak-Chin Education receives great turnout for ROI Community events**

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Ak-Chin Education hosted a Back-to-School Release of Information (ROI) Event for 2024-2025 school year, on July 16th and 17th.

It was not only an opportunity for member and resident families to talk with Ak-Chin advisors and meet their new staff, but also a chance to prepare parents for the upcoming school year by providing essential information from the schools.

The ROI form allows for the Education department to access student information.

While this 15 not mandatory, it is a great way for the Ak-Chin advisors and staff to

ensure a child is on track in their schooling; assist them where they struggle, monitor their attendance, IEP's, etc.

The information gathered also assists the Education department in providing student incentives and recognition.

Education department also provided families with a meal and paleta (ice cream), served with toppings of your choice.

Ak-Chin Education is still accepting ROI forms and offering goodie bags as well.

If you would like to fill out an ROI form or have questions please stop by their office or call them at 520-568-1280.



Above, Ak-Chin Education staff discuss educational plans with community parents and students.



During the ROI event at Ak-Chin Education department, paletas were offered and a meal.

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS 7/19 -8/1 JOB Wishes **OPENINGS** 7/19 7/24 Kimberli White, Stephanie Valdez, Accountant (2) Happy Birthday to my grand-Assistant Cook **Teacher Aide ECE** Manager DIVE-IN Before and After School Teacher daughters Kaylan, Aurelia, 7/20 7/25 Cashier/Stocker- part-time Laila and Kristen and my Child and Family Therapist Havier Alvarez Sr., Kebra-Omega Martinez, Join us for a **Communications Officer** grandson Terrance **Sanitation Drvr Hsg Prgm Cnslr** MOVIE Compensation Analyst Love, Grandma Antone Aiden, Sum Std Detention Officer- Certified and 7/26 Non-Certified Barbara Elliott, Teagan Delma, Sum Std NIGHT Division Chief- Emergency Happy Birthday Rich **Coordinator EMS** 7/30 Management 7/26 Brian Poulson, Environmental Technician Love the Family Mallory Justin, Deli Clerk Lab Tutor (part-time) **EMT Engineer** 8PM 7/31 Maintenance Technician (4) Perry Vettraino, Happy Birthday Plant Flectrician Lino Valles Jr., **Capital Prj Dir** Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Food will be Provided **Teagan and Kristen!** Sec Guard Law Enfrc Technician Robin Vincent, From Everyone at the Runner Police Officer- Certified and Non-8/1 **Library Clerk** Certified Arnold Aquirre, Police Security Systems Technician 7/21 Good luck to the Ak-Chin Please contact 520-568-1740 or Lenny Dempsey, Education Substance Abuse Therapist Kaycee Lopez, recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us for Basketball Teams for NABI! www.ak-chin.nsn.us Asst Cook ECE any questions. From Everyone To review the full job description and apply visit www.ak-chin.nsn.us, Job Openings, and 7/22 at the Runner apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050. Andrea Chee, **Communication Officer** Birthdays 7/19 - 8/1

JULY 19TH

Aniya Deleon Dorian Nosie-Romo Hannah Smith

JULY 20TH

Marisol Andaverde Aiden Antone Richard Carlyle James Lopez Briana Pena Havier Stephens, Sr **Robin Vincent**

JULY 21ST

Dominic Lewis Kaycee Lopez Ja'Marrion Stevenson

JULY 23RD

Bon Scott Alvarez Carlos Delores Connor Miguel Ulyceiz Ocanas

JULY 24TH

Alejandro Castro Milla Cuatt Samantha Martinez Doyleen Pablo Consuella Santiago Stephanie Valdez

JULY 25TH

Xendryk Silas- Antone Jamar Stevenson Jr. Norman Vincent Jr.

JULY 26TH

Sally Antone Teagan Delma Kylie Hill Tyler Mike Fabian Santiago

JULY 27TH

Lilly-Anna Johnson Kaylan Peters Aurelia Peters

JULY 28TH

Cheryl Lopez Terrance Peters Luis Rodas **Jeannie Stephens**

JULY 29TH Laila Lopez

JULY 30TH Ashlea Anderson Cecil Miguel Sr. Corrina White

JULY 31ST Brenda Arellanes-Burgos

Clyde Santiago Lino Valles Jr. **Kristen Villegas**

AUGUST 1ST

Aribella Vincent Sadie Rivers













· Brensfleeding women

Children under the age of 5

WIC foods includes yogunt, fresh frantis & vegetables, baby foods and other favorites such as mills, peannt butter, cheese, cereal and eggs

Tuesday, August 06, 2024 8:15a-11:45am **Ak-Chin Service Center**

Questions? WIC Need to make an Appointment? CALL: (520) 562-9698 Gila River Indian Community WIC Program



aqua ZUMBA

Ak-Chin Recreation Center Thursdays 6:00p-7:00p





W.R. = WEIGHT ROOM

....



RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA BY GOLFWEEK



25% OFF GOLF SHOP 20% OFF ARROYO GRILLE 6 SUMMER ROUNDS OF GOLF 6 #miniDunes ROUNDS 6 CHROME TOUR GOLF BALLS 6 BEVERAGES



Some restrictions apply. Does not include tax. Rounds transferable 4/day. Valid thru 8/29/24

CHROME

TOUR







Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community [TROON GOLT]

W.

480.367.8949 AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM



and two beverages from main menu. 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 7/31/24.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community TROOM COLT



(only at Harra's) JA-Chin Clasion and must have a Cassars Research card and valid photo (D to participate, Management reserves the right to change or cassed liber op providers at the velocity photom (Cassars Research Center For Stop Reform You Start's Cassars Research Center For Cassar