



## Ak-Chin Annual Student Recognition Banquet



From l-r: Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Dr. Janice Anderson, Councilmember Lisa Garcia, Councilmember Dennis Antone and Vice-Chairwoman Delia Carlyle, honor Dr. Anderson during the Student Recognition Banquet.

Story and photos by Runner Staff

May 9, 2025, the Ak-Chin Education department invited students and families of the 2025 graduating classes for both high school and higher education to the Annual Student Recognition banquet, held at Ak-Chin Elements Entertainment Center, to recognize their recent academic achievements.

Mistress of Ceremony, Nicole "Coco" Carlyle-Coester, Community Services Manager delivered the welcoming for students and their families. After the welcoming, a prayer was shared by Lerline Peters of the Ak-Chin Language Program, followed by a song from the language staff. Language also gifted all graduates with pins to commemorate their graduation.

A delicious dinner of salad, steak, potatoes and zucchini, finished with a raspberry cheesecake was enjoyed at the banquet. During this time, families were encouraged to visit the photo booth provided by Education and Runner Staff.

Keynote speakers for the night were Joseph Narcia, Maricopa High School Senior and Dr. Janice Anderson, who received her Doctorate of Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Joseph shared a speech about education, embracing the journey of learning and things he was proud of doing; with the help of his friends that challenged him and his family who supported him.

"The road ahead is uncertain and scary, but I know deep down that I'm

ready for whatever life decides to give or throw my way, and I hope whatever I do will have some type of impact on the world. Whether it be small or huge, I just hope I can make people proud in some way," remarked Joseph at the end of his speech.

Dr. Anderson imparted attendees with a roadmap of her educational milestones, as she presented a few slides, which focused on the program's theme, "Give thanks for the unknown blessings already on their way!" She also provided a snippet of her dissertation, "American Indian Caregivers and the Traditional Healing Methods Used When Providing Care to American Indians".

Dr. Anderson challenged the young graduates and banquet attendees to "Believe in yourself." As she talked about how the community was going to need their help, "We need you to be the lawyers, we need you to be our business managers,

we need you to be the directors. Really, we need you, we need all of you...believe in yourself and move forward."

She also submitted a note of thanks, "Thank you for allowing me to share my educational experience. It was a long and challenging journey, but I finally made it. From GED to Doctor! Anything is possible if you commit yourself and believe in yourself. I hope that I inspired you to continue your education or start up again. Whether it's a traditional or a trade school, it's worth pursuing." Dr. J.R. Anderson

After the keynote speakers, Savannah Boyd, High School Advisor for Ak-Chin came forward to acknowledge fifteen high school graduates, which was reported to be 100% graduation rate for the community's high school seniors.

She was assisted by Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Vice-Chairman



Joseph Narcia, delivers keynote address on behalf of Ak-Chin High School Students.

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Myles Peters receives a bat from the coaching staff during Senior Night at Maricopa High School. Joining Myles are his parents and siblings.

## Peters acknowledged during Senior Night

Story by R. Miguel - Photos by Victor Moreno

During a ceremony prior to the start of the Maricopa High School Rams varsity baseball game between the Rams and Casa Grande Cougars, five seniors were recognized with

a ceremonial first pitch with the players and their parents.

Of the five, Ak-Chin's Myles Peters, was able to throw to his father, Brandon Peters as family

members looked on.

During the game against Casa Grande, Myles was able to play a couple of innings in the in-field and even took to the mound.

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## Tribal Environmental Health Forum

Story and photo by R. Miguel

The 2025 Tribal Environmental Health Forum took place at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort for two days, May 6-7, 2025.

The forum featured numerous speakers, panelists, training sessions, resources fair, poster session and a tour of the Ak-Chin Wastewater and Water Treatment Plan, as well as providing outreach and engagement opportunities for the more than 150 attendees who participated.

Discussions and information that were shared by panelists, speakers and organizers included; pressing environmental concerns and ongoing projects in their respective communities.

The session of Tabletop Activity: Outreach & Engagement with Dr. Marti Lindsey and Benjamin Richard of the University of Arizona, was of much interest; as they discussed the breach between the environmental information required by EPA and the information community members and leaders want to know about their community's environment.



Ak-Chin's Roman Orona is a recipient of the 2025 Indigenous Resilience Leadership Award.

The material shared provided participants with the opportunity to familiarize environmental information for community member digestion.

With summer time approaching, the Poster Session & Resources Fair gave information on preparing for the heat.

This was a "come when you can" session to hear from staff of the Southwest Center on Resilience to Climate and Health, on their thoughts and plans for the summer heat.

This session also allowed partakers to share their experiences, insights, and ideas to outline active strategies for improving flexibility and safety during Arizona's hottest months.

The forum has been co-hosted by the Ak-Chin Indian Community the last four years and has been extremely beneficial for organizers and attendees.

"This is a fun conference, because it is not just people lecturing. This is a conference that is interactive and hopes to build partnership

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# May events with Elders

Story and photos by Raychel Peters



May was a busy month for the Ak-Chin Elders, with games and lunches that were sure to please everyone who attended these wonderful events.

For May 5th, a Cinco de Mayo themed lunch was offered, with Sonoran hotdogs, elote, Mexican Coca-Cola and fruit cups with chamoy and tajin. After lunch, everyone enjoyed playing Loteria, a Mexican-version of Bingo. Elders enjoyed learning the translations on the playing cards and winning prizes.



May, 7 about 20 elders and Ak-Chin Elder Program staff were whisked away to enjoy a ball game at Chase Field. Everyone was excited to see the Arizona Diamondbacks take to the field against the

New York Mets. What was even more exciting was being able to enjoy the game at the Legends Suite on the third floor. There was plenty of food and drinks for all, with hotdogs, mac-n-cheese, nachos, mini-pretzels and popcorn. Viewing was amazing and the amenities were very accommodating.

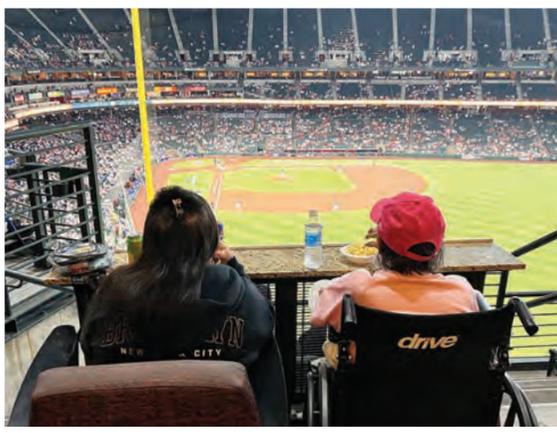
On May 8th, Him-Dak Museum staff hosted a delightful and elegant tea party for the lady Elders.

The lunch featured tiers of small pork, chicken, and tomato caprese sandwiches, accompanied by a refreshing green salad and macaroni salad. An assortment of drinks, including cold-brew teas, lemonade and coffee were offered. For dessert, everyone enjoyed delicious peach cobbler. The afternoon was filled with laughter as the ladies enjoyed games of word search, hangman and several rounds of bingo, with attendees winning

wonderful prizes.

Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Elder Programs Director, shared, "A HUGE thank you to the Museum staff for organizing such a lovely event. The music was fantastic, the food was scrumptious, the games were entertaining, and the prizes were amazing! The Museum staff truly are exceptional hosts!"

May 9th, Mother's Day meal was a delicious lasagna, salad, carrots and garlic bread. Elder staff also gifted roses to all the elders.



On May 14 the elders enjoyed "Movie Day" at Ak-Chin Circle, where they were able to watch "Shadow Force" and snacks from the concession stand.

May 15, Erin Kariuki with Angle Home Health was scheduled for a Health and Wellness presentation at lunchtime.

As the month of May winds down, there are still a couple of activities planned including the

Casino outing at Desert Diamond Casino White Tanks on May 21st, and another "Movie Day" on May 28th.

June 1st, Ak-Chin Elders have already signed up to attend another D-Backs Game for Native American Recognition Day, where they will play the Washington Nationals.

Please contact the Ak-Chin Elder Program at 520-568-1760 for more information.

## UPCOMING PROMOTIONS & GRADUATION CEREMONIES

**TUESDAY MAY 20th**  
 Maricopa Elementary School – Kinder Promotion  
 AM Ceremony: 9:00 am  
 PM Ceremony: 1:15 pm

Maricopa Wells Middle School – 8th Grade Promotion, 5:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY MAY 21st**  
 Ak-Chin Preschool Graduation, 11:00 am

Desert View High School – 12th Grade Graduation, Tucson, 7:00 pm

Desert Sunrise High School – 12th Grade Graduation, 7:30 pm

**THURSDAY MAY 22nd**  
 Maricopa Elementary School – 5th Grade Promotion  
 AM Ceremony: 9:00 am  
 PM Ceremony: 1:15 pm

Saddleback Elementary School – 5th Grade Promotion, 9:00 am

Maricopa High School Graduation – 12th Grade Graduation, 7:30 pm

Vista Grade High School – 12th Grade Graduation, Casa Grande, 8:00 pm

**FRIDAY MAY 23rd**  
 Saddleback Elementary School – Kinder Promotion, 8:30 am



# Elder Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>* Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM</p> <p>* Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM.</p>		<p>* For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760</p> <p>* Movie Questions? Call the Elders Center at 520-568-1760</p>	<p>* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM - 10 AM</p> <p>(Menu Subject to Change without Notice)</p>	<p>5/16 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Pinto Beans &amp; Yams,</p> <p>Chicken Stir Fry &amp; Egg Roll (D), Romaine Salad/Cornbread, Vanilla Pudding</p>
<p>5/19 Ham &amp; Eggs, Potatoes, Toast, Scone &amp; Fruit</p> <p>Indian Taco, Lettuce/Tomato/Cheese, Corn on Cob, Strawberry Cake</p>	<p>5/20 Biscuits &amp; Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Peaches w/Cottage Cheese</p> <p>Butternut Squash Soup &amp; Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Fresh Mandarin Orange</p>	<p>5/21 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p><b>Desert Diamond Casino White Tanks visit, Leaving at 9 AM</b></p> <p>Black Eyed Peas, Beef &amp; Onion (D), Romaine Salad, Carrots, Apple Sauce</p>	<p>5/22 French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Mix Berries</p> <p>Meatloaf, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Fresh Cut Fruit</p>	<p>5/23 Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla, Turnover &amp; Fruit</p> <p>Tuna or Chicken Sandwich, Tomato/Cucumber w/Cottage Cheese, Jell-O</p>
<p>5/26 <b>Memorial Day Holiday-Center Closed</b></p>	<p>5/27 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit</p> <p>Red Chili Stew, Potato Salad, Pinto Beans, Chumath, Ice-Cream/Plum</p>	<p>5/28 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit &amp; Yogurt</p> <p>Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Green Leaf &amp; Tomato, Acorn Squash—Avocado, Sliced Apple/Orange</p>	<p>5/29 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana</p> <p>Lima Beans, Pork Chop (D), Zucchini, Romaine Salad, Grapes</p>	<p>5/30 Veggie Scrambled, Avocado Slices, Toast, Fruit Salad</p> <p>Sandwich Bar &amp; Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup (D), Cookies/Apple</p>

# May the 4th Be With You Walk/Run

Story and photos by Runner Staff

A crowd favorite made its rounds again for members, residents and employees, as the May the 4th Be with You Fun Run and Walk was not only a success, but it brought out the best of the best Star Wars swag.

Held on May 8, 2025, the walk was held at the Ak-Chin Circle lawn with walkers completing the 1.5 mi route starting at 4:00 PM. Runners began at 5:30 PM for the 5K; the route continuing around the Ak-Chin Circle



Rodeo Grounds and Ak-Chin Fire Station before ending at the lawn.

All participants received a meal at the end of their walk or run; with t-shirts on order and soon to be delivered.

Congratulations to all timed winners and raffle prize winners.

## Community Students Tour GCU Campus



Submitted by Savannah Boyd, Ak-Chin High School Counselor

On April 16th, six Ak-Chin High School students had the opportunity to attend a tour of Grand Canyon University (GCU) located in Phoenix.

The Ak-Chin Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students were welcomed by the admission staff, and after a brief introduction, they were taken on a student-led tour around campus and inside buildings, including student housing.

The staff who guided the students on the tour did an amazing job going into detail about programs and opportunities provided

by and around GCU, ensuring the students were informed of what GCU had to offer. The tour lasted about two hours, which allowed enough time for students to see and explore the campus.

After the tour, the admission staff provided each of the students with a meal card to use at one of the many places to eat on campus. Once lunch ended, the GCU admissions staff spent time with students to answer any questions they had.

All the students enjoyed the tour, and some are considering applying and attending.



Delia Carlyle, Councilmember's Lisa Garcia and Dennis Antone who were on hand to congratulate and present students with a certificate and gift bag, with a tumbler and backpack. Gift cards were also on order.

Savannah shared afterwards, "All graduates have worked hard to get to this great milestone of graduating, both high school and higher education." Savannah Boyd shared. "They deserve to be recognized and celebrated with an event alongside their family and friends, this was all for them and they earned it."

Savannah also thanked the families for their support and guidance and allowing her to work with their students. "I am very proud of each and every one of them and hope they continue to do amazing things for themselves, family, and community. We can't wait to see what's next in your journey!"

The presentation of post-secondary graduates was led by Mr. Lenny Dempsey; Higher Education Advisor for Ak-Chin. Lenny, recognized sixteen higher education students, along with Councilmembers who awarded each graduate with a certificate and gift bag.

Janice was presented with a one-of-a-kind Pendleton blanket, that was awarded to the students receiving their Doctorate and Master's degrees, as distinction from achieving their higher education through sustained effort and a strong commitment to learning.

Allissia Bandin, who received her Master's in Public Administration and Policy from American University and Jennifer Boehm who received her Master's in Legal Studies from Arizona State University; although not in attendance; will also be gifted blankets. Closing remarks were

shared by Vice-Chairman Delia Carlyle, as she reiterated what had been shared throughout the evening. "Don't give up no matter what kind of obstacles or hurdles you might come across."

She then pointed out that it was Teacher Appreciation Week, as she gave kudos to all the teachers, "no matter what grade level they're working at, they are setting our children, our students, on a path for success," and asked for a round of applause for them.

Before ending, Delia also shared that we will have another Doctorate in the community, as Dr. Jeremy Johns, who is our first Ivy League student, will be graduating from Yale.

Nicole "Coco" Carlyle-Coester also offered her thanks to everyone for their support in the evening event.

"Extending deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Ak-Chin Education Department for their continued efforts in thoughtfully organizing this meaningful event each year. It is heartening to see families come together annually to celebrate and support students who are being recognized for their hard work and academic achievements as they strive toward their future goals.

"Also, extending a sincere thank you to the Community Council for their valuable support and for providing the resources that enable the Education Department to bring this event to the community each year, ensuring each celebration is unique and memorable. The community can look forward with great anticipation to another outstanding event in 2026."

Congratulations to all graduates, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

**High School Graduates**  
Adam Bowman, Vista Grande High School

Teagan Delma, Maricopa High School  
Victor Galvan, Maricopa High School  
Jaelin Guerin, Maricopa High School  
Alonsa Machado, Maricopa High School  
Matthew Manuel, Maricopa High School  
Kane Miguel, Las Vegas High School  
Evan Miller, Desert Sunrise High School  
Joseph Narcia, Maricopa High School  
Just Perryman, Maricopa High School  
Nevaeh Pilone, Desert View High School  
Amare Santiago, Maricopa High School  
Rena Santiago, Accelerated Learning Academy  
Christian Soliz, Maricopa High School  
Johnny Perkins, Maricopa High School

### Post-Secondary Graduates

Mylauni Antone, Studio Academy of Beauty Esthetics  
Miranda Iniestra, Carrington College AA Health Studies  
Elissa Justin, Pima Medical Institute Medical Assistant  
Damonique Lewis, Avalon Institute Esthetics  
Celia Medina, Nevada Career Institute Pharmacy Technology  
Ava Quinonez, Avalon Institute Cosmetology  
DeAna Quinonez, SW Institute of Healing Arts Prof. Massage Practitioner  
Josefina Salas-Vargas, Pima Medical Institute Dental Assistant  
Zylen Silas-Antone, WyoTech Auto Body  
Richard Villegas, The Refrigeration School Electro-Mechanical Technologies  
Desiree Cara, South Mountain CC AAS Behavioral Health  
Haylee Delma, Central Arizona College AAS Medical Assistant  
Hunter Louis, Mesa Community College AAS Computer Science  
Allissia Bandin, American University MS Public Administration and Policy  
Jennifer Boehm, Arizona State University Masters in Legal Studies  
Janice Anderson, EdD Grand Canyon University Organizational Leadership



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

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**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. If you have suggestions or comments about "YOUR" newspaper, please let the Runner Staff know that too.

All submitted letters MUST be signed by the author and are limited to 200 words.

Authors must also include their name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted by request. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit all submitted material for clarity, grammar and good taste. All submissions should be received as typed or non-cursive writing. Please do not submit UPPERCASE or formatted paragraphs.

Submitted pictures need a return address and brief description. Pictures with no address will remain on file. Allow 2 weeks for return.

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**NEXT DEADLINE**  
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the **JUNE 6 - 19, 2025** issue is due by **FRIDAY, MAY 30TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY, MAY 30TH**

Material submitted after the **MAY 30TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

# Mother's Day Luncheon

Story and photos by Runner Staff

May 9, 2025 The Ak-Chin Early Childhood Education department invited mom's and motherly figures to a Mother's Day Luncheon; giving students and families a chance to spend time together, mingle with one another and enjoy a delicious meal. Raffles for centerpieces were also giving to lucky winners; a photobooth was also provided for all.



# Mother's Day Crafting

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas

Women build a community; they keep people together and build connections for the next generations of their respective families; who wouldn't want to show that special woman in their life that their efforts did not go unnoticed?

The Him-Dak Museum offered one of their many holiday-themed craft nights for members to partake in celebrating that special woman, on May 7, 2025 at 4:30 PM.

If you were hoping to get creative with your gift, you could try one of the many crafts; which ranged from a MOM box

you could potentially fill with flowers or treats, a personalized message display decorated to one's desire, or a light up flower arrangement.

The Him-Dak Museum has many art programs for all members and residents, please contact them at 520-568-1350, for more information.



# Teacher Appreciation



# A Night at the Cinema

Story and photos by Kristen Villegas



Maricopa High School Dance 1,2 and 3 classes, along with Dance CO., come together for the finale.

May brought on the end of the school year performances; Maricopa High School did not miss this moment and held a dance recital of their own called, "A Night at the Cinema" on May 1st and 2nd of 2025.

Throughout the night, the dancers from all stages showcased their talents to popular movies and soundtracks, featuring a variety of dances including; jazz, hip hop, contemporary, and ballet.

The night opened with a "Universal Pictures Presents," from all dances; with 2 Acts and a 10-minute intermission between them; it was a great experience and allowed for an entertaining night.

Ak-Chin members and residents; Aleah Oliver,

Alana Oliver, Olivia Andaverde and Aaliyah Alvarez were dancers who participated in this year's end of the year recital. Each stage or level the girls are in are determined by their skill level.

Sisters Aleah and Alana Oliver are dancers in Dance 3, who performed in both "Hunger Games", a movie that entails the televised battle for the last one standing in a dystopian like society and "Moulin Rouge", which is the developing love story between a poet and singer set in 1899.

Olivia Andaverde, a dancer for Dance 2 performed in "Divergent", a movie based in a dystopian Chicago where the population is separated into factions.

Aaliyah Alvarez, performed with Dance 1, 1st Hour in "Despicable Me", the popular movie of a villain who adopts children to help in his plan to steal a machine that would then aid in his masterplan of stealing the moon.

Throughout the performances, you could see the dedication each student put into their routines; the movie's themes displayed the student's talent and unique flare.

To end the night, all performers participated in "The Final Scene", choreographed by Ms. Skomoro the Dance Director for Maricopa High.

Congratulations to all students who performed, it was a great show!



Friday Night Performances

At left: Aaliyah Alvarez and the rest of the Minion crew giving it their all in Despicable Me routine during Act 2.

At right: Aleah Oliver posed in red at the end of Moulin Rouge performance in Act 2.



# Leah's Drama Success

Story by Kristen Villegas, photos submitted by Samantha Alejandro



At curtain call, Leah Alejandro (second from left) and cast members take a bow for successful performances and for play supporters of Bedlam and Breakfast.

It was on the nights of May 1st, 2nd and 3rd of 2025 that the McClintock High School drama club of Tempe debuted their version of "Bedlam and Breakfast," a hilarious story about a hotel ran by the Chuckle brothers and two guests who mistakenly are booked in the same room.

Not only does this play entail the unhelpful suggestions from the brothers, but it also puts

the two guests through shenanigans they were not expecting when booking the room.

Ak-Chin's Leah Alejandro had the pleasure of being a part of the production; having the role of extra understudy for the old characters.

Though she did not get her chance to be onstage, she was an essential part of this show.

Leah was nominated for Best Cameo (Play) for her role as Tina in the "Holy Mother of Bingo Productions". She's also received a nomination for Best Costume/ Makeup Artist of the Year for the 2025 Drama Awards.

Congratulations Leah, your continued success in your extracurriculars is amazing! Leah is the daughter of Pablo and Samantha Alejandro.

May 5th-9th is Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank you to all teachers for the hard work you do and the difference you make!

# Maricopa Wells Middle School Graduates



Anaise Valles-Diaz



Azalyana White



Devon Deloney



Edward Rocha



Isabella Antone



King Peters



Maite Ortega



Mara Delores



Mark Pablo



Michael Enos



Omar Pablo



Sarina Peters



Terry Santiago

*Out of District Students*



Arie DeLeon  
Leading Edge Academy



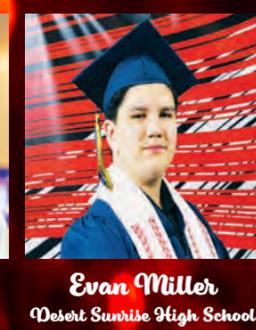
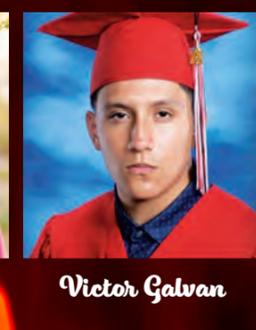
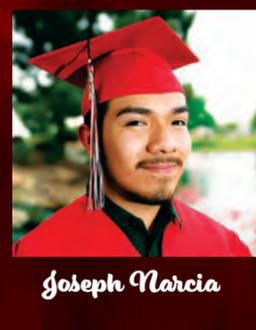
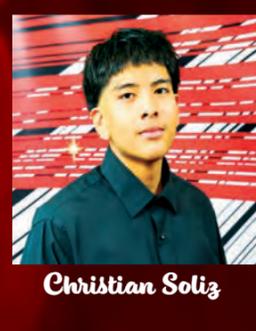
Elijah Narcia  
Leading Edge Academy



Carson De Paola  
A+ Charter School



Dominic Miguel  
Challenger Middle School



*Out of District Students*

*Congratulations to all of the middle school and high school graduates of 2025!*

## Young Scientists Shine at Maricopa Wells Science Fair

Story & Photos Submitted by Education Staff

The recent Science Fair at Maricopa Wells Middle School was a vibrant display of curiosity and creativity, with 7th and 8th graders enthusiastically participating to earn extra credit and explore the wonders of science.

Among the standout contributors were four students from the Ak-Chin community, each bringing unique projects to the event.



Two Ak-Chin students, Michael Enos and Terry Santiago teamed up to present the ever-popular "Elephant Toothpaste" experiment. This captivating experiment involves the rapid decomposition of hydrogen peroxide,

catalyzed by substances like yeast, resulting in a dramatic eruption of foam.

They made sure to demonstrate their project with a crowd, the chemical reaction produced an impressive visual and colorful display and wowed the crowd around them.



Another student, Kylie Hill showcased her understanding of biology by constructing a detailed model of a plant and an animal cell. Her project highlighted the various organelles and their functions, providing viewers with a tangible representation of cellular structures.

The fourth Ak-Chin participant, Corianna Nevarez Vallejos collaborated with a peer to

create an infinity mirror. This optical illusion is achieved by placing LED lights between a fully reflective mirror and a partially reflective one, producing a mesmerizing effect of lights receding into infinite depth.



When asked why they choose to make this as their project, they answered that they had seen one online and decided to make their own.

The Science Fair not only allowed students to delve into scientific concepts, but also fostered collaboration, creativity, and a passion for discovery. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed by these young scientists promise a bright future in the world of science and innovation.

## Wax Museum Comes to Saddleback Elementary

Promoting 5th grade students at Saddleback Elementary School participated in the school's yearly wax museum exhibit on Wednesday, May 7th.

Ak-Chin students; Jacob Santiago, Matthew Miranda, Sophia Matuz, Angelica Antone, Sarah Delma, Erick Merriweather, Jersey Miguel, Hope Narcia, Kingston Narcia, Aurelia Peters, Joel Ruelas, and Kobe Santiago set up exhibits to showcase.



Matthew Miranda posing as famous astronaut Neil Armstrong

Each student picked a person for their exhibit whom they wanted to highlight and tell others about how they became famous.

Their exhibit included a poster board with pictures and facts about their selected person, some even went dressed to school as the person they were showcasing.



Jacob Santiago posing as Sitting Bull in front of his display

How the exhibit worked is that each student stood in front of their exhibit and when a guest would stop to look at their work,

they would each recite a speech about who their person was.

The wax museum ran for two hours, and within that time frame teachers were able to take their classes on a quick field trip to the wax museum to learn about certain famous individuals.

Student's parents were also able to attend the wax museum in support of their fifth grader. All of the students did an amazing job with their speeches and display!



Ariana Grande aka Sophia Matuz, posing in front of her display

with participants.” said Ak-Chin EPA Program Manager, Roman Orona.

“It is a way to try and separate the Tribal Communities from strictly relying on federal funding, but trying to open additional opportunities for funding and project work. It also brings the aspect of the youth, where we discuss these items together and get additional perspectives for environmental preservation.”

A special dinner was held during the evening of the first day of the

forum. The dinner featured 2025 Indigenous Awards, which honored Trent Teegerstrom, Associate for the Tribal Extension Programs Ag Economics Extension Specialist: Production Economics, Crop Budget Development & Risk Management Education; Roman Orona – Environmental Programs Manager, Ak-Chin Indian Community and San Xavier Co-op Farm.

Each awardee was recognized for their continued efforts in provided quality environmental services

and for their continued work and dedication to advocating for necessary needs within the eco-friendly amenities.

The second day featured breakout sessions, where participants engaged in conversation with professionals in the Air Monitoring, Tribal Environmental & IHS Collaboration and ITCA Pesticide Exposure and Management fields.

Following forum closing and final reflections, a site tour of Ak-Chin’s Wastewater Treatment Plant was given.



Myles Peters (center) enjoys a moment with his family during Senior Night. From l to r: Brandon Peters, Aiden Peters, Martina Peters and Emily Peters



Moderator Christina Gargus asks questions of traditional agriculture practices with panelists; Eric Shin, Tito Romero and Marcela Tayaba.

Following the game, celebration festivities continued as the five were able to be recognized with their parents and family members out on the field.

During the season, Myles was able to play in all twenty-six games, manning the outfield,

third base and time on the mound.

He hit 250 for the season, scoring three runs, with sixteen hits and five runs batted in (RBI). He also hit two doubles.

As a part of the pitching rotation, he was able to make six appearances

as a starting pitcher and reliever.

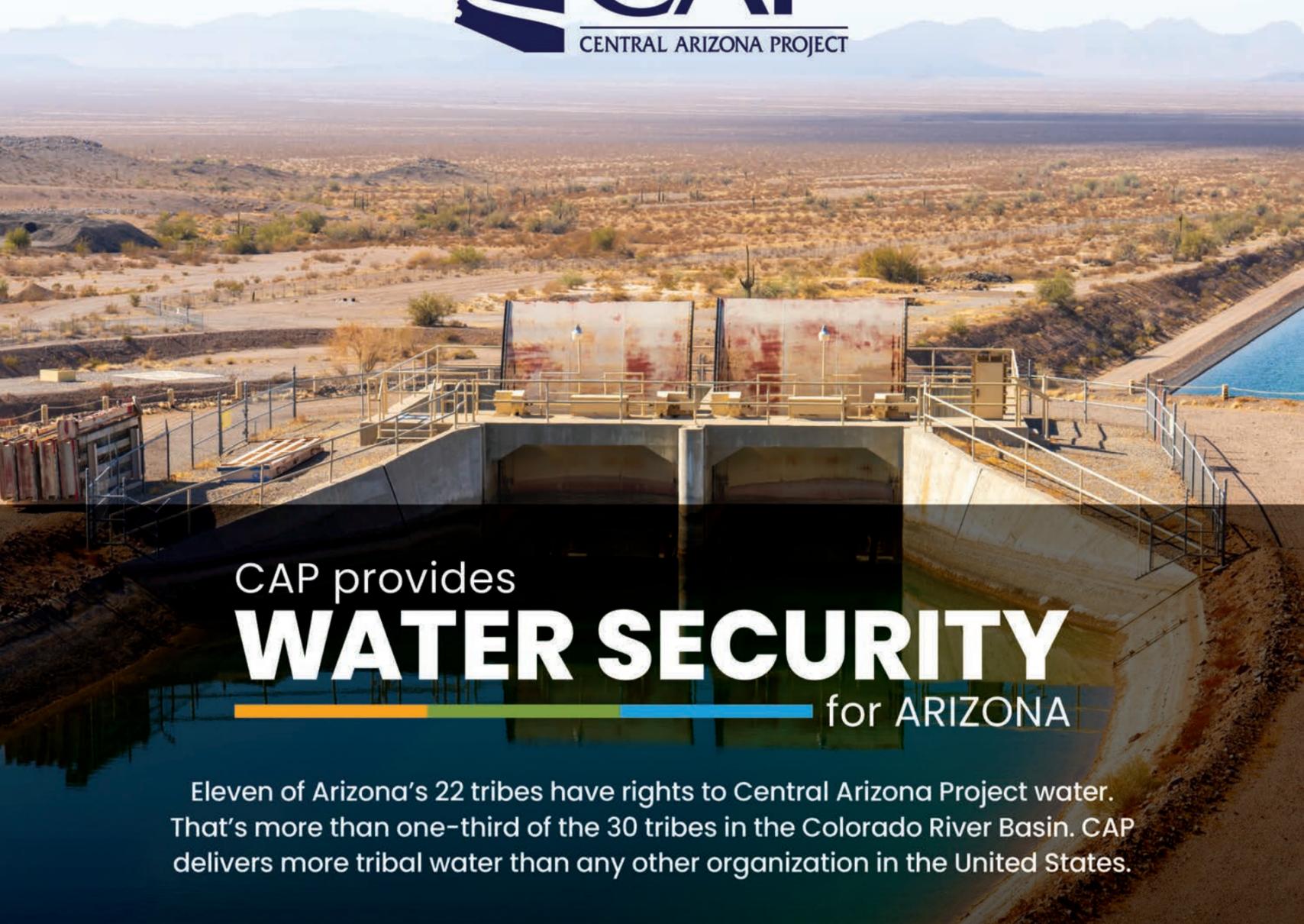
Despite an 8-18 record, 3-7 in Sonoran Region play and not making postseason play, the Rams enjoyed the camaraderie that was developed throughout the season.



Attendees receive environmental information required by the EPA and an opportunity to adapt environmental information for consumption.



Maricopa High School Baseball Seniors playing in their last home game, from l to r: Brady McMullin, Will Hawkins, Connor Jackson, Myles Peters and Patrick Pettis.



# CAP provides WATER SECURITY for ARIZONA

Eleven of Arizona’s 22 tribes have rights to Central Arizona Project water. That’s more than one-third of the 30 tribes in the Colorado River Basin. CAP delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.

**YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.**  
Learn more at [KnowYourWaterNews.com](http://KnowYourWaterNews.com)



# JOB OPENINGS

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Detention Officer (non-certified)
- Detention Officer Certified (part-time)
- General worker (Temp worker)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Substance Abuse Therapist
- Teacher's Aide

## Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only

- Cultural Resource Monitor
- Museum Technician (2)
- Oral Historian

[www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us)

To review the full job description and apply visit [www.ak-chin.nsn.us](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us), Job Openings, and apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date. Great benefits. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.

# Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to my daughter Elaine  
Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters; Renee, Amaya, Ariah and Jolie and grandsons; Oscar, Henry, Daniel Jr., Aaron Jr. and Joseph Jr.  
Love, Grandma



Happy Birthday Mr. DJ  
Love, Bapa and Luma

# Employee Birthdays 5/16 - 6/2

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>5/16</b><br>Waylon Antone,<br>Him Dak<br>David Henson,<br>Paramedic<br>Estrella Reyes-<br>Helpingstine,<br>Education | <b>5/25</b><br>Delia Carlyle,<br>Community<br>Government   |
| <b>5/17</b><br>Mauricio Chairez-<br>Velazco,<br>Sanitation<br>Ricardo Manzo,<br>Central Plant                           | <b>5/26</b><br>Edith Munoz,<br>Finance   |
| <b>5/18</b><br>Amy Batopis,<br>Pre-School<br>Ashley Batopis,<br>Police<br>Rozenda Manuel,<br>Vekol                      | <b>5/27</b><br>Brian Manuel Jr.<br>Tribal Gaming Agency<br>Colleen Mike,<br>Transit<br>Maria Tavena-Thomas,<br>Social Services |
| <b>5/19</b><br>Leslie Carlyle-Burnett,<br>Elderly   | <b>5/29</b><br>Nickalus Acosta,<br>Police<br>Marla Antone,<br>Him-Dak<br>Victor Diaz,<br>I.S.<br>Elaine Peters,<br>Him-Dak     |
| <b>5/20</b><br>Darrian Justin,<br>Sanitation  | <b>5/30</b><br>Jolie Smith,<br>Vekol   |
| <b>5/21</b><br>Brian Schaublin,<br>Fire   | <b>5/31</b><br>Christopher Hayes,<br>Fire  |
| <b>5/23</b><br>Tera Manuel,<br>Education  | <b>6/1</b><br>Tristin Martin,<br>Police  |
| <b>5/24</b><br>Deidra Carlyle,<br>Planning<br>Victor Harer,<br>EPD  | <b>6/2</b><br>Pamela Dallas,<br>Contracts & Grants<br>Virginia Zepeda,<br>Custodian  |



## NO TRANSIT SERVICES

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

Please make alternate arrangements for transportation on these dates.

Thank you!!

# WAILA MUSIC CLASS

**Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> 12 p.m**

For Sign-up or Any Questions Contact the Library at (520) 568-1675 Or Email [library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

## Runner Retraction



Our apologies for the misspelling error on the following name for:

Pirmin Goldtooth  
Park Maintenance  
Parks & Rec

Thank You for bringing it to our attention and your understanding.

## Play Day at the Library!

**Saturdays May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> 1-3pm**

Enjoy an afternoon of play and reading at the library designed for children ages 3 to 7 years old.

ADRIAN FORTES  
Museum Library  
This project was funded, in part or whole, by a federal IMLS grant, administered by the Arizona State Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Questions? Call: (520) 568-1675 Email: [Library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:Library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

# Grab & Go Free Kids Meals

Take home 5 days of free meals provided by St. Mary's Food Bank for anyone under 18 years of age. Come by the Ak-Chin Library to pick up grab and go meals starting May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Monday through Friday 11am-1pm  
Saturday 12pm-2pm

Grab & Go Kids Meals open to the public. Help us cut back on plastic and bring a reusable bag. Program ends July 22, 2025.

Questions? Call: (520) 568-1675 Email: [Library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:Library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

# Birthdays 5/16 - 6/5

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>MAY 16TH</b><br>Kristen Antone<br>Waylon Antone<br>Reannon Manuel<br>Morgan Miller<br>Yaretzi Montero-Zamudio | Christian Thomas  | Daniel Lozano Jr.<br>Yvette Oliver<br>Elaine Peters<br>David Stephens                                     |
| <b>MAY 17TH</b><br>Renee Boehm<br>Jaxson Justin<br>Lucianna Orona<br>Amaya Rocha<br>Daniel Thomas                | <b>MAY 23RD</b><br>Avianna Andaverde<br>Cecelia Norris  | <b>MAY 30TH</b><br>Isabella Antone<br>John Deloney Jr.<br>Samantha Green<br>Jolie Peters<br>Jeycee Zepeda |
| <b>MAY 18TH</b><br>Emerson Antone<br>Amy Batopis<br>Ashley Batopis<br>Johnathan Enos                             | <b>MAY 24TH</b><br>Deidra Carlyle   | <b>MAY 31ST</b><br>Santos Aguilla<br>Ryan Justin<br>Aaron Peters Jr.                                      |
| <b>MAY 19TH</b><br>Leslie Burnett<br>Kameron Hoffman<br>Johnnie Ormsby Jr.                                       | <b>MAY 25TH</b><br>Delia Carlyle<br>Desiree Carra   | <b>JUNE 1ST</b><br>Cruz Machado Jr.   |
| <b>MAY 20TH</b><br>Darrian Justin<br>Ariah Thompson  | <b>MAY 26TH</b><br>Elianna Mariano<br>Makenna Sope<br>Zoe Susunkewa                                   | <b>JUNE 2ND</b><br>Astraya Warren   |
| <b>MAY 21ST</b><br>Lisa Alejandro  | <b>MAY 27TH</b><br>Jayden Antone<br>Mason Bowman<br>Brian Manuel Jr.<br>Collen Norris<br>Maria Thomas | <b>JUNE 3RD</b><br>Kiandra Smith  |
| <b>MAY 22ND</b><br>Oscar Blackwater-Peters   | <b>MAY 28TH</b><br>Janice Anderson<br>Henry Garcia<br>Lorenzo Mejia<br>Mikelle Sope                   | <b>JUNE 4TH</b><br>Joseph Zabawa Jr.  |
|  | <b>MAY 29TH</b><br>Frederick Antone<br>Marla Antone<br>Carmen DeLeon                                  | <b>JUNE 5TH</b><br>Alyssa Wind<br>Haedin De Paola<br>Jessica White<br>Mario Luz                           |



# 5/2025 May



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Library Hours Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm Sat: 12pm-4pm Sun: Closed				1	2	3
					READ WITH A BUDDY MWF 3:30-5:30PM SATURDAYS 1-3PM	
4	5 RB 3:30-5:30pm	6 THANK YOU TEACHERS	7 RB 3:30-5:30pm	8	9 RB 3:30-5:30pm	10 RB 3:30-5:30pm
11 Happy Mother's Day	12 RB 3:30-5:30pm	13	14 RB 3:30-5:30pm	15	16 RB 3:30-5:30pm	17 Play Day 1-3pm RB 1-3pm
18	19 RB 3:30-5:30pm	20	21 RB 3:30-5:30pm	22	23 RB 3:30-5:30pm	24 Closed
25	26	27 Grab & Go Meals Starts 11am-1pm	28 RB 3:30-5:30pm	29	30 RB 3:30-5:30pm	31 RB 1-3pm Play Day 1-3pm WAILA Music Class 12pm

Questions? Call: (520) 568-1675 or Email: [Library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:Library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

# Four Tribes Meet in Ak-Chin

Tribal Leaders from the Four Sister Tribes met recently at Southern Dunes Golf Club for lunch and to stay engaged and apprised of the changes in the current administration policies that may have affects in Indian Country.



Tribal Leaders: Delia Carlyle - Ak-Chin Vice-Chairwoman, Gabriel Lopez - Ak-Chin Chairman, Carla Johnson - Tohono O'odham Nation Vice-Chairwoman, Gila River Lt. Governor Regina Antone and Martin Javier - Salt River Pima-Maricopa President.

The priority of being one united voice was a top discussion as the Tribal leaders move forward in collaborated efforts to address similar concerns, such as gaming and healthcare.

**AK-CHIN CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**  
**SUMMER Movie FUN**  
 JUNE 2 - JULY 18  
 7 MOVIES • 7 WEEKS FOR KIDS  
 Kids Movies Every Monday - Friday at 10AM \$12 For all 7 or \$3 Each Film Daily

Week 1: June 2 - June 6  
 Week 2: June 9 - June 13  
 Week 3: June 16 - June 20  
 Week 4: June 23 - June 27  
 Week 5: June 30 - July 4  
 Week 6: July 7 - July 11  
 Week 7: July 14 - July 18

Doors open at 9:30AM - Movies start at 10:00AM - All films presented in 2D  
 For more information, to book groups, or for school fundraising opportunities contact Riva Quintana at (520) 233-2445 or RQuintana@AkChinCircle.com

**Ak-ChinCircle.com**  
 16000 N. Maricopa Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139

# Little Joe performs at Harrah's



Story & Photo by R. Miguel

Little Joe puts on another great show for fans at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Resort Ballroom.

Jose Maria De Leon Hernandez, also known by his stage name, Little Joe, brought his Mexican/Tejano performance to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Resort on Saturday, May 10th.

The 84-year-old entertainer from Temple, Texas, wowed the crowd with some of his original hits like, "Amor Bonito", "Adelita", "Margarita Margarita", "Cuatro Velas", and what is widely considered the Mexican/

Tejano national anthem, "Las Nubes".

Prior to taking the stage, his band, La Familia, began the show with a teaser of "Las Nubes", as drummer Will O'Rourke, pounded out a drum solo version of the song. La Familia then joined in with "Borachera" as Little Joe walked onto the stage.

Greeted by a nice applause, the singer also known as the "King of the Brown Sound" acknowledged

and thanked the crowd for their continued support, after sixty plus years of performing.

In between songs, Little Joe shared personal stories of success and heartbreaks; particularly when he spoke of his late mother, Amelia De Leon, and the loss of his late wife, Criselida "Cris" Cantu, last year. The two were married for sixty-nine years. This was significant to the show as it was the Saturday before Mother's Day was celebrated.

He then wished all mothers in attendance a Happy Mother's Day, before he continued with the entire show, that featured plenty of chicano soul, onda chicana, Tejano, norteno,

country blues and classic.

The Little Joe Y La Familia show featured a guest appearance from Sunny Ozuna, a singer and songwriter from Palacios, Texas. Sunny, the lead singer of Sunny and the Sunliners, who gained fame back in 1963 when he and his band did a remake of Little Willie John's 1958 hit "Talk to Me".

The single went #4 on the Adult Contemporary chart, peaked at #12 on the US Billboard R&B chart and #11 on the Billboard Hot 100. Songs Ozuna performed during his show, included; "Smile Now, Cry Later", "Put Me in Jail", "Talk to Me" and "Reina De Mi Amor".

**Fast & Furious Saga**

June 8<sup>th</sup> June 15<sup>th</sup> June 22<sup>nd</sup> June 29<sup>th</sup>

**SUNDAY FREE MOVIES**

July 6<sup>th</sup> July 13<sup>th</sup> July 20<sup>th</sup>

**ALL MOVIES START AT 7PM  
 OUT FRONT IN AMPHITHEATRE**

**Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**  
 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139

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 Premium Ice Cream Flavors: Vanilla Chocolate • Coffee Salted Caramel PLUS Frozen Lattes: French Vanilla & Mocha

**HOT DEAL COOL TREAT**

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

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 PATIO DINING & EXPANSIVE VIEWS  
 SIX MICROBREWS ON TAP

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS prime rib \$32  
 THURSDAYS chef's special \$22  
 WEDNESDAYS classic fish fry \$16

Weekly Specials Served after 4pm • Quantities are Limited

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 48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

**Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO** **MAY 2025** **CAESARS REWARDS**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MEMORIAL WEEKEND</b> FRY'S® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY   SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025 POOL PARTY   SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025 MEMORIAL DAY GIFT GIVEAWAY   MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	CANTINA NIGHTS	T-APP IN! CANTINA NIGHTS	SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	REDEEM REWARD CREDITS FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!	CHEF ON THE GO BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	MYSTERY TREASURE BOX SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG
10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	CANTINA NIGHTS	LITTLE JOE & LA FAMILIA CONCERT CANTINA NIGHTS	SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X!	CHEF ON THE GO BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	MYSTERY TREASURE BOX SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG
10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	CANTINA NIGHTS	TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB CANTINA NIGHTS	SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	COFFEE & DONUTS, A WINNING COMBINATION	CHEF ON THE GO BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	MYSTERY TREASURE BOX SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG
10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	COMP YOURSELF CANTINA NIGHTS	FRY'S® ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY CANTINA NIGHTS	SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	MEMORIAL DAY GIFT GIVEAWAY	CHEF ON THE GO BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	MYSTERY TREASURE BOX SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG
10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	CANTINA NIGHTS	SUMMER GLOW SWEEPSTAKES CANTINA NIGHTS	SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING!	MEMORIAL DAY GIFT GIVEAWAY	CHEF ON THE GO BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY	MYSTERY TREASURE BOX SWEEPSTAKES FOREVER YOUNG

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