



## 22nd Annual Native American Basketball Invitational

Story and photos by Runner Staff

Below, Eric Antone of with AKC Boys drives around a defender during Pool Play of the NABI tournament in Phoenix. Antone was instrumental in scoring and facilitating in his team's play.



high schools throughout metro Phoenix, with the title games being held at Phoenix Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns of the NBA and the Phoenix Mercury of the WNBA.

The Ak-Chin boys (AKC) squad began their journey against Ft. Mojave in the first round of pool play. Both teams showed first game jitters, like prize fighters, it took a couple of minutes to feel each other out to see how they could utilize their strengths to their advantage.

Ft. Mojave was the first to make a run midway through the first half, claiming an almost double-digit lead going into halftime. AKC made a valiant effort to close the gap in the second half, but Ft. Mojave was able to sustain a comfortable lead, pinning AKC to their first loss.

In the second round, AKC Boys played a much better game against Northwind. Although, Northwind controlled the game throughout, AKC played much better defensively and scored

Entering the 22nd annual Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) tournament, Ak-Chin was well represented with one boys' team and three teams with Ak-Chin girls participating; all excited at the opportunity to once

again showcase their talents on the hardcourt against teams throughout the country.

A total of 203 teams, 92 girls and 111 boys, participated in this year's tournament. With over 500 games played during

the three-day event, each team was guaranteed three pool play games before participating in tournament play.

Match play took place from Wednesday, July 23rd through Saturday, July 26th at various

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## Lopez & Lopez Present to San Lucy District Summer Youth Workers

Story and photos by Ashley Vincent



On Thursday, July 3rd, Ak-Chin Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Ak-Chin Elder Carole Lopez spoke with the San Lucy Summer Youth Workers about the relationship the San Lucy Village and Ak-Chin Community have with each other. The importance of acknowledging who we are as O'odham and how they as youth play a vital part in helping preserve their culture.

Mrs. Lopez started off the presentation, speaking of the existence of the Ak-Chin Community and how the home of

our ancestors was once as far out at the "M" mountain, which is now located within the Gila River Indian Community boundaries.

Our ancestors, who were farmers, once lived near the bottom of the mountain and found that the land had alkali, which would interfere with farming so they migrated further south to what is now Ak-Chin.

During those days different villages would come out to help harvest crops. Some would end up finding a spouse and

stay in Ak-Chin, which is another reason our members have multiple relatives outside of Ak-Chin and in the surrounding villages, including the San Lucy Village, "We're all relatives, we're all connected in one way or another." stated Lopez.

She also spoke of how the times are changing and how we are now able to use the internet to find out certain information, whether it be about our community or a tribal member. Lopez recalled the time she was able to find the location of

a World War II soldier who had been "lost". At the time she was the head of the enrollment department in the Ak-Chin Community and needed to find this person's location for enrollment purposes. All she knew was that he may have been residing in Arkansas.

She searched for almost two years, when she could not find his current address, she began searching cemeteries and eventually found that he unfortunately passed in 1960, his final resting place being in Little

## Back to School

Photo courtesy of Brenna Antone



Sadie and Caleb Rivers are happy and ready for their first day of school. The two will be attending Saddleback Elementary.

Summertime! It just seems to fly by so fast, especially if you're a young student hoping to enjoy that long relaxing break, vacationing with family or making a few

bucks before heading back to school. As the summer break winds down, many community students have already completed

Back to School continues to Page 4a

## Ak-Chin Celebrates San Juan Feast

Story and photos by Robert Miguel



Marilyn Thompson and Jesus Espinoza take to the dance floor and show their "cumbia" skills as they dance to the music of South Image at the annual San Juan Feast held on the Miguel Family grounds.

For decades, the Ak-Chin Community has celebrated the San Juan Church, a clerical that was once considered the community's official place for religious services.

It originally sat a couple of hundred yards to the west of where the current waila grounds are located, it now sits on the Miguel family grounds.

Just as it has in years past, the celebration of San Juan continued on Saturday, July 26th.

Festivities began early morning as rosary was recited by Lerline Peters, Glenna Francisco and Dean Peters, followed by

a procession march to the east of the church, with the San Juan saint being placed on a structured foundation where it sat throughout the day.

Leading the procession march were young female children from the Miguel family who threw confetti along the route. Musicians, which included Javier Zepeda, Nicholas Narcia, Dominique White, Dyami Jackson and Ronin Gloria, played the "Las Mananitas" instrumental, usually performed during the march.

After a brief intermission, a line quickly formed under the shaded structure (vato), as the

San Juan Feast continues to Page 3a

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# Elders enjoy Old Pueblo-Tucson and Casino Del Sol



Ak-Chin Elders enjoy a day trip to Tucson for a bit of gambling and a bite to eat.

Story by Robert Miguel, photo by Sonia Narcia

Elders have been taking advantage of the great outings coordinated by Ak-Chin Elder staff, from attending Arizona Diamondback baseball games to visiting casinos, the exciting opportunities have been consistent.

On Wednesday, July 16th, elders made their way to the Old Pueblo – Tucson and a visit to the Casino Del Sol Casino and Resort on the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, where they enjoyed a couple of hours jumping to various gaming machines in hopes of winning!

Coin Trio Piggy Bust, Buffalo Thunder, Ancient Dragon, Money Mansion, Golden Century, and Attack of the Planet Moon were some of the favorite machines elders took advantage of.

Whether they were winning or losing, the laughs and smiles indicated the “fun” they were having at a gaming facility they rarely visited or have never been.

Following a couple of hours playing, it was time to dine in the Festa International Buffet,

where a selection of wonderful dishes was an option.

Festa had it all, from pizza, pasta, sushi, prime rib, steak, mac and cheese, stir fried rice, orange chicken, fish, steamed vegetables and other goods. For dessert, there was ice cream, jello, cookies, bread pudding, cherry pie, and other sweet treats.

At lunch, the group was able to meet with a few of Pascua

Yaqui’s Council Members who were dining in the same area.

A quick rest room break and then everyone was ready for the two-hour trek back home.

If you didn’t sign up for this one, you missed one of the better outings thus far. So, be on the look out for future field trips, as the Ak-Chin Elder Department continues to plan more great outings!



# Save the Date

## N.A.R.D.

NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

More information to come

For any questions please call the Him-Dak Museum at 520-568-1350

## Elder Trips for Hawaii and Nashville Postponed to 2026

To Ak-Chin Indian Community Elders,

Thank you to everyone who filled out the poll for the elder trips to Hawaii and Nashville. Your time and participation are greatly appreciated.

We have found that many elders wishing to travel out of state by flight do not have their REAL ID. The REAL ID is a special travel identification, just like a driver’s license, and is now required for all domestic and international flights.

Without a REAL ID, you will not be able to participate in the elder trips that involve flying. However, trips by bus do not require a REAL ID.

We are excited to announce that the Hawaii and Nashville trips are still in the planning stages and will take place, although, they have been postponed until 2026. The REAL ID is mandatory for boarding a flight, and we want to ensure that all elders have the opportunity to attend these trips.

Obtaining a REAL ID is not difficult. You will need the following information:

- Proof of birth: Original birth certificate, U.S. passport
- Two documents showing proof of mailing address: These documents must be from different sources and include your name and current address - utility bills, bank statements, insurance policies
- Social Security Number: You’ll need to provide your complete Social Security number

If you need assistance obtaining your REAL ID, please call the Elder Center. We will help you with transportation and the application process.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
More information on the Elder Trips will be announced. If you have questions regarding the trips or any other concerns, please call the Elder Center. 520-568-1760.

**The deadline to obtain your REAL ID is November 30, 2025.**

Leslie Carlyle-Burnett  
Elder Center Director

# Elder Calendar

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

**\* Breakfast Served from 7 AM to 8:30 AM**

**\* Lunch Served from 12 PM to 1 PM**

**\* For Transportation, call Georgia at 520-568-1760**

**\* Movie Questions?**  
**Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760**

**\* Thursdays: Elder Chair Yoga 9 AM - 10 AM**  
**(MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)**

**8/1**  
**Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana**

**Sausage Broccoli Pasta, Spring Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Peaches**

**8/4**  
**Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potatoes, Toast, Fruit**

**Hamburger, Green Leaf/ Tomato, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, Sundae**

**8/5**  
**Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit**

**Creamy Garlic Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Texas Toast, Pineapples**

**8/6**  
**Breakfast Tostadas, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit Salad & Yogurt**

**Movie Day**

**Ground Beef Taco, Shredded Lettuce/Tomato, Brown Rice, Zucchini/ Tomato Juice, Tropical Fruit**

**8/7**  
**Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast/ Fruit**

**Elder Estate Planning w/ Nolan Reidhead Presentation @ 9am**

**Pinto Beans, Baked Chicken/ Vegetables (D), Sweet Potato, Romaine Salad/ Cornbread, Watergate Salad**

**8/8**  
**Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mixed Berries**

**Elder Estate Planning w/ Nolan Reidhead TBD**

**8/11**  
**Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast / Fruit**

**Pork Roast, Creamed Spinach, Roasted Potatoes, Whole Wheat /White Bread, Apple/ Orange**

**8/12**  
**Bread Pudding, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad**

**PIMC Meeting @10a-12p**

**Black Eyed Peas, Beef & Onion (D), Carrots, Moon Bread, Cantaloupe/ Honey Dew**

**8/13**  
**Breakfast Burrito, Salsa & Sour Cream, Scone, Fruit**

**Cabbage Stew, Chickpea Salad, Corn, Biscuits, Jell-O**

**8/14**  
**Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit & Cottage Cheese**

**Chicken Cordon Blue, Butternut Squash, Mediterranean Vegetables, Lemon Ricotta Cake**

**8/15**  
**Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast/Fruit**

**Potato Soup & Salad, Crackers, Apple Sauce**

**8/18**  
**Chicken Fried Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits/Fruit**

**Hobby Lobby Craft Shopping Trip & Lunch, Leaving @ 9am**

**Tuna or Chicken Sandwich, Tomato/ Cucumber with Cottage Cheese, Fruit Salad**

**8/19**  
**Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast/Fruit**

**Butternut Squash Soup & Romaine Salad, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Jell-O**

**8/20**  
**Veggie Omelet, Hashbrown, Fruit Salad, Yogurt**

**Movie Day**

**Carne Asada Tacos, Rice, Beans, Ice-Cream**

**8/21**  
**Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Bacon/Fruit Salad**

**Turkey Over Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Whole Wheat/White Rolls, Plums**

**8/22**  
**Potatoes with Chorizo, Refried Beans, Tortilla Fruit**

**Northern Beans, Chicken Dumpling (D), Normandy Vegetables, Moon Bread, Grapes**









One of the most exciting events for children this summer sponsored by the Ak-Chin Recreation Department, was the ESpot Tournament as children above, focus at defeating their opponent.

# Local Youths Crowned Champions at Thrilling Summer Esports Tournament!

Story by Recreation Department, photo by William Martinez

Ak-Chin Indian Community, AZ – The Ak-Chin Indian Community buzzed with competitive energy last week as 30 local kids battled it out in an action-packed esports tournament, culminating in 18 champions taking home well-deserved prizes!

This fantastic event was entirely organized and run by dedicated Summer Youth Workers and Recreation Assistants, showcasing their incredible efforts in bringing engaging activities to the community.

The four-day gaming extravaganza showcased serious skills and friendly competition across popular titles like Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros., Mortal Kombat, and Fortnite.

This tournament wasn't just about fun and games; it was also a hands-on learning experience for our Summer Youth Workers.

We aimed to give them a comprehensive understanding of what goes into planning, coordinating, and implementing community events and programs. From the initial

brainstorming sessions, where they helped select the featured games and prize structures, to the detailed logistical planning of setting up equipment and scheduling matches, their involvement was crucial.

They learned the importance of coordination in ensuring smooth daily operations, from managing sign-ups and guiding participants to troubleshooting technical glitches.

Their role in implementing the event was clear on the tournament floor, as they facilitated matches, announced winners, and kept the energy high. Seeing the event come to life from their initial ideas to the final celebration gave them invaluable insight into the multifaceted nature of our work.

The tournament, which ran for four hours each day with a mix of pool and bracket play, offered a unique blend of competitive fire and casual fun. Participants were divided into Gold and Silver brackets.

The Gold bracket was for the fiercest competitors, while the Silver bracket provided a more relaxed, non-competitive environment

for all to enjoy.

“Esports is all about competitive video gaming, and it’s a fantastic way for kids to connect, build friendships, and just have a great time,” explained one of the youth organizers.

And connect they did! The tournament fostered a vibrant atmosphere, bringing together young gamers from across the community.

Winners didn’t just earn bragging rights; they also scored some sweet gift cards to the store of their choice. First-place victors snagged a \$50 gift card, second-place finishers received \$25, and third-place contenders walked away with a \$15 treat.

The final day was a true celebration of all participants, regardless of their standing. Gamers and organizers alike enjoyed a well-deserved feast from Peter Piper Pizza, and every participant received a certificate acknowledging their involvement in this exciting community event.

And the Champions Are...  
**Mortal Kombat Bracket:**  
1st Place: Cecil Miguel  
2nd Place: Mauricio Contreras-Valles  
3rd Place: Rowan

Vavages	2nd Place: Raven Santiago	3rd Place: Cecil Miguel
<b>Fortnite Bracket:</b>		What a fantastic display of local talent and community spirit!
1st Place: Cecil Miguel	3rd Place: Cole White	The Ak-Chin Indian Community’s Summer Youth Workers and Recreation Assistants truly outdid themselves with this event, gaining valuable experience along the way.
2nd Place: Yael Ramirez		
3rd Place: Benjamin King	<b>Super Smash Bros. GOLD Bracket:</b>	
	1st Place: Jacob Santiago	We’re excited to see what other amazing programs they’ll help bring to life in the future!
<b>Mario Kart GOLD Bracket:</b>	2nd Place: Benjamin King	
1st Place: Serenity Villegas	3rd Place: Emerson Antone	
2nd Place: Kaleb Vavages	<b>Super Smash Bros. SILVER Bracket:</b>	
3rd Place: Jacob Santiago	1st Place: Raven Santiago	
	2nd Place: Rowan Vavages	
<b>Mario Kart SILVER Bracket:</b>		
1st Place: Cecil Miguel		



Back to School continued from Front



Kingston Narcia - 6th Grade  
Maricopa Wells Middle School

week of school, with new teachers and classmates and a schedule of exciting new challenges and learning opportunities.

Students attending Maricopa Unified experienced their first day of school on Wednesday, July 23.

For the Ak-Chin Community that meant



Left: Hunter Narcia - 4th Grade,  
Saddleback Elementary.  
Right: Adriel Rivera - 4th Grade  
Saddleback Elementary

many new faces filled with excitement and probably a bit of nervousness for both parents and students who recently graduated from the Ak-Chin Child Development Program.

Elementary and high schoolers returned to their schools, or new campus as they transition to the next level.

things our community members and families are doing and encourage you to please feel free to submit your stories and photos.

We would be more than happy to come out and cover these great shares as well. Please contact us at 520-568-1375 or email: [runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us)



Connor Martinez  
4th Grade  
Maricopa Elementary

Meanwhile, recent grads and higher education students are making their marks in the world, learning new trades and working towards their next degree.

Wherever our students begin their 2025-2026 school year, we here at the Runner would like to wish them all the best in their educational journeys.

Thank you to all who shared their family’s first day of school moments with us.

We love seeing and hearing about all the great



Omar Cash  
Mendoza Smith  
3rd Grade Island  
Elementary (Gilbert)

# WANTED

NATIVE AMERICAN PERFORMERS,  
ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS  
& FOOD VENDORS

FOR THE

**HIM-DAK**

## N.A.R.D.

CELEBRATION

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025  
8 AM - 1PM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL EVENT OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL 520-568-1350

### ART SESSION: CERAMICS

COME CREATE!

LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN CERAMIC PIECE FROM START TO FINISH

Location: Art Building (Him-Dak Museum)  
Session Begins: August 12, 2025  
Session Ends: September 18, 2025  
When: Every Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00AM to 1:00PM (Members, Residents, Employees of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)  
4:30PM to 7:00PM (Members & Residents of the Ak-Chin Indian Community)  
COME IN ANYTIME BETWEEN THE TIMES ABOVE/ WORK AT YOUR OWN PACE

**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

Transportation Provided  
Pick Up and Drop Off within the Ak-Chin Indian Community  
For transportation please call: 520-568-1350 (Please call before 4:00 p.m.)

For any additional questions please call: 520-568-1350



August 1 - 14, 2025

# HDS Associates visit Tohono O’odham Nation

Submitted by Della Honie, HDS Supervisor



HDS Associates and Interns listen to Jai Juan, Tohono O’odham Community College Guide, during their tour of the campus.

As part of our commitment to fostering growth and opportunity within the Harrah’s Development System (HDS) program, our Associates and Interns recently visited Tohono O’odham Community College (T.O.C.C.) for a full campus tour.

also helping preserve the Tohono O’odham culture.

The tour highlighted unique cultural programs such as language classes, Baidaj (prickly pear) picking, traditional dances, and wellness initiatives, including a fully equipped gym available to students.

Guided by Jai Juan, the group explored the college’s offerings and learned about the importance of continuing education beyond high school.

These elements reflect the college’s dedication to holistic development—academically, culturally, and physically.

Jai emphasized how education opens doors to new opportunities while

Following the T.O.C.C. tour, the group had the honor of meeting Fred Lopez, KOHN radio host



Fred Lopez, KOHN radio hosts meets with HDS Associates and Interns.

# Mind the Burrows: Keeping Arizona’s Owls and Desert Healthy

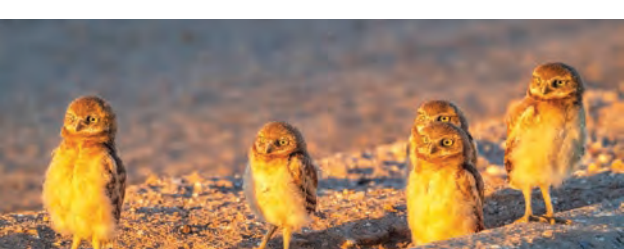


Photo credited: <https://www.arizonahighways.com/classroom/burrowing-owls>

The Sonoran Desert is home to one of the Southwest’s most unique and charismatic birds, the Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia). These small, long-legged owls are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Wildlife officials are reminding residents, hikers, and construction crews that it is essential to keep a safe distance from their nesting grounds to ensure their survival (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2021).

Unlike many owls that roost in trees, Burrowing Owls make their homes in underground burrows; often those abandoned by prairie dogs, ground squirrels, or even man-made culverts. This behavior leaves them vulnerable to human disturbance. Nesting sites are typically active from February through August, when the Owls lay eggs, raise chicks, and prepare the young for independence. During this period, any disruption can cause parents to abandon nests,

shelter other desert species. By maintaining healthy prey balances, these Owls support the desert’s natural diversity and reduce the spread of agricultural pests (Arizona Game and Fish Department, n.d.).

Federal protections mean it is illegal to harass, harm, or remove these birds or their nests. Biologists recommend **staying at least 150 feet away from any known burrow or nesting area** and avoiding loud noises, ground disturbance, or off-road vehicle use nearby (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2021).

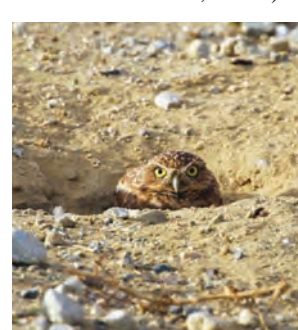


Photo credited: <https://shimmerlink.com/>

Wildlife agencies also encourage landowners to consider “Owl-friendly” property management, such as leaving natural burrows undisturbed and delaying ground-clearing projects until after nesting season. Conservation groups are working to install artificial burrows in safe locations to support populations threatened

5a

Dear Passengers,

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

**August 12th thru 15th, 2025**  
**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

OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION

20 ANNUAL  
25 SUMMIT

For 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, parents, educators, and school and tribal administrators.

September 2-4, 2025

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass  
Phoenix, AZ

**Purpose:**  
To foster collaboration and innovation in Indian education, youth advocacy, cultural wellness, and policy development.

**Objectives:**

- ▶ Evaluate current practices including ongoing efforts in Indian education.
- ▶ Share insights, innovative strategies, and best practices that enhance student outcomes.
- ▶ Foster partnerships that strengthen alignment across educational institutions and/or programs.

**Registration:**  
Students & Parents/Caregivers.....\$250  
Education Staff & Administrators/Leadership.....\$400

**Hope to see you there!**

- ▶ To register, visit [www.azed.gov/oie/annual-summit](http://www.azed.gov/oie/annual-summit), or scan the QR code.
- ▶ Registration must be completed through "ADE Professional Learning & Development," an app within ADE Connect. All registrants will need an ADE Connect account. Instructions are available on event website. Bulk registration is available.
- ▶ Secure your rooms and book today! Special rates available, subject to availability. Please visit website for full booking instructions and deadlines.

**"Strong roots, soaring futures."**

Questions: [indianeducation@azed.gov](mailto:indianeducation@azed.gov)

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**Hearing Notice**  
**Ak-Chin Indian Community**  
**Planning and Zoning**

**Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Hearing regarding the following case at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Justice Center Conference Room.**

**CASE: PS-02-25 Harrah’s TDR Boiler Room**  
Project Applicant/Director of Facilities and Surveillance – Harrah’s Ak-Chin, April Tawney, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to replace the boiler that services the team dining room within the Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino with a new boiler. The project consists of:

- The removal of the existing boiler; and
- The installation of a new boiler.

**CASE: PS-03-25 Ak-Chin Medical Suites Shell Building**  
Project Applicants/Airport Manager, Tim Costello and Self-Governance Director, Karen Fierro are requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval for a new 16,000 sq. ft. shell building on approximately 3.0 acres located on the southwest corner of Narcia Street and Sudagi Avenue. The project consists of:

- Allocated space for a new dialysis center and for 3 office suites; and
- Slope and drainage work, utilities, landscaping; and
- Improvements to Sudagi Avenue and Narcia Street.

**CASE: SD-05-25 Administration Building**  
Project Applicant/Capital Projects Director, Perry Vetraino, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to construct a new two-story Administration Building on +/- 8.2-acre site located north of Ak-Chin Parkway on the west side of Court Street. The project consists of:

- A 50,000 sq. ft. two-story Administration Building to the north with a connecting second floor interior bridge to a two-story council chamber to the south; and
- 233 Parking spaces which includes five (5) employee ADA and three (3) visitor ADA parking spaces; and
- Covered parking with lighting for community vehicles, employees and Council members; and
- Pedestrian connection to the proposed Wellness Center; and
- Pedestrian bridge connection to the new Desert Willow subdivision; and
- Full landscape package, drainage work, and utilities.





# We are GRHC!

## Where Care Meets Community.



# Save The Date

October 18th & 25th  
2025



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

## Join Us in Celebrating 30 Years of Tribal Self-Governance and Excellence in Health Care!

Gila River Health Care proudly invites you to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Tribal Self-Governance at one of our events.

**Saturday, October 18, 2025**  
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital  
Sacaton, AZ

**Saturday, October 25, 2025**  
Komatke Health Center  
Laveen, AZ

Mark your calendars and help us celebrate three decades of commitment, growth, and community care.

**We look forward to celebrating with community members and our patients!**

### What Is Self-Governance and Why Are We Celebrating 30 Years of It?

Tribal self-governance was made possible through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) - also known as Public Law 93-638 - enacted by Congress in 1975. This landmark legislation is a key component of tribal self-determination, enabling tribal communities to take greater control over programs that affect their members.

In 1995, the Gila River Indian Community leadership made a transformative decision: to take full control of its healthcare system through tribal self-governance. It was a bold step toward reclaiming the right to decide how healthcare should be delivered to their people.

The tools of self-governance made possible the creation of Gila River Health Care - a healthcare system that is patient-focused, incorporates cutting-edge technology, features state-of-the-art facilities, and employs highly skilled providers. In short, Gila River Health Care's mission, vision, and values are

rooted in cultural tradition and are highly accountable to the Community.

Over the past 30 years, tribal self-governance has empowered the Gila River Indian Community and its healthcare system, Gila River Health Care, to innovate with technology while preserving tradition - ensuring that healthcare remains guided by the needs and voices of our people. Tribal self-governance has created a powerful path forward. In 2025, we honor the past 30 years with deep gratitude.



### Learn How Other Indigenous Communities Are Thriving Through Self-Governance

*For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty* provides a platform for Tribal Nations to share their stories in their own voices.

See how other Indigenous communities are shifting the narrative and celebrating the success and innovation of tribal self-governance as they build healthy, sustainable, and prosperous Nations. [www.tribalselfgov.org/forourpeople](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/forourpeople)

### View our GRHC news, information & events

- Life Center
- Behavioral Health Services
- August Calendars
- and many more!

Scan QR code to view!



### Healthy Habits Happy Families

Virtual Classes Available!

**Mon and Weds**  
Weight Loss  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Tues**  
Weight Loss  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Weight Loss  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Contact us at:  
Life Center  
(520) 562-7940

### AUGUST CLASS SCHEDULE

#### Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

**Monday**  
Weight Loss ..... 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Carbohydrate Counting ..... 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Tuesday**  
Diabetes Basics ..... 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Wednesday**  
Emotional Support for Healthy Living ..... 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
Weight Loss ..... 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Thursday**  
Full Body Circuit Class ..... 9:00 am - 10:00 am

#### Hualapai (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center

**Monday**  
Medication ..... 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Thursday**  
Weight Loss ..... 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### Komatke Health Center

**Thursday**  
Weight Loss ..... 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Thursday (30th Anniversary of our country)**  
Emotional Support for Healthy Living ..... 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

#### Komatke Health Center

**Monday - Friday** ..... 6 am - 7 pm  
**Monday - Friday** ..... 7 am - 6 pm  
**Komatke Health Center**  
**Monday - Friday** ..... 8 am - 6 pm

### LIFE CENTER

DIABETES ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

### GARDEN SERVICES

Life Center offers exceptional gardening assistance to help you grow healthy, seasonal produce right at home! Our expert team provides personalized care and guidance to help you create and maintain your home garden.

**WE OFFER :**

- ✓ Your seed resource for the community
- ✓ Garden classes
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities
- ✓ Education and guidance

**CONTACT**

For more information, please contact  
Daniel Hernandez, at Life Center  
Garden Services at 520-610-7402.

### FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Scan the QR code to view our Clinical Services are for both men & women.

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

Date	Location	Time
6	CLOSED	
7	CLOSED	
13	District 1 Multipurpose Building	8:30 am - Noon
13	District 2 Multipurpose Building	1:00 pm - 4 pm
14	District 6 By Komatke Health Center	9 am - 2:30 pm
20	District 8 Multipurpose Building	8:30 am - Noon
20	District 5 Multipurpose Building	Noon - 3 pm
21	Life Center, Sacaton	9 am - 2:30 pm
27	District 6 Treatment Center	Appointment Only
28	Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Under Awaiting	9 am - 4 pm

Call or text us at (520) 371-0132

## Behavioral Health Services

GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE


### Check Out Our AUGUST Calendar of Events

SCAN HERE



Access our monthly calendar online at [GRHC.ORG/BHS](http://GRHC.ORG/BHS).  
Call us for more information at (520) 610-2394 or email us [BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG](mailto:BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG)





# JOB OPENINGS

**CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:**

- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Detention Officer Certified (part-time)
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Plant Electrician
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Police Officer (non-certified)
- Security Systems Technician
- Substance Abuse Therapist

**Open to Enrolled Ak-Chin Members Only**

- General Worker (Temp Worker)
- 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.




## Flower Wreath Making Classes

PLEASE JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY  
STARTING AUGUST 5TH TO OCTOBER 14TH  
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
HIM-DAK ART BUILDING

OPEN TO AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE FLOWER WREATHS FOR ALL SOULS DAY.

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.  
PLEASE CALL BEFORE 4:00 PM  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 520-568-1350



## Create with cricut

Get crafty with Cricut and you can make simple crafts that you'll love.

Come craft with us!

Choose from our selection of projects, vinyl designs for a shirt, cards, bookmarks, and other projects.

**Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-3pm**

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



## FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE Medical Clinic

**FAMILY PLANNING MEDICAL MOBILE CLINIC**

**Thursday, Aug 21, 2025**  
**9:00a - 2:30p**

**Vekol Market Parking Lot**

**Services Provided:**

- 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 Post-Partum Care
- Preconception Counseling
- Prevention Counseling and Education

**ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL**  
Call or Text us at (520) 371-0132  
\*\*\* The Mobile Unit is NOT Handicap Accessible\*\*\*

# WIC

**Tuesday, August 05, 2025**  
**8:15a-11:45am**  
**EPD Building**

**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

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

# STORYTIME

At the Ak-Chin Library  
for kids ages 3 and up

Guardians must be present with their child.

**Wednesdays @10am**

**Open to Ak-Chin Indian Community members, residents and employees.**

520-568-1675  
[library@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:library@ak-chin.nsn.us)

# Employee Updates



**Jennifer Hill**  
Museum Tech  
Him-Dak Museum



**Kathleen Miguel**  
Newspaper Assistant  
Runner



## READING BUDDIES OF THE WEEK

**SpongeBob SquarePants & Stitch**

Book Recommendations  
A Letter For Bob by Kim Rogers  
SpongeBob Comics Silly Sea Stories

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Jennifer, Rachel and Joanna and my grandsons Jaxson, Christian and King-Benzie  
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Rach and Percy  
It's SUPER-DUPER-PARTY-TIME!  
We can't wait to celebrate with you two...  
Love your family



## 2025 Transit Schedule Changes

# NO TRANSIT SERVICES

**Labor Day, Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Native American Day, Friday, September 26th**

Please make alternate arrangements for transportation on these dates.

**Thank you!!**

# Employee Birthdays 8/1 - 8/16

**8/1**  
Arnold Aguirre, Security  
Lenny Dempsey, Education

**8/2**  
Jennifer Boehm, Fire

**8/4**  
Jason Willhite, Fire

**8/5**  
Anthony Narca Jr. EPD

**8/6**  
Janella Mason, Transit

**8/7**  
Jacob Dickerson, Maintenance  
Julia Lopez-Ocano, Aquatics Coordinator  
Rene Saspe, Airport

**8/8**  
Tracy Zimmerman, Capital Projects

**8/9**  
Narciso Schweitzer, EPD

**8/11**  
Allison Butler, Transit  
William Narca, Security

**8/13**  
Gregory Porto, Fire

# Birthdays 8/1 - 8/15

**AUGUST 1ST**  
Sadie Rivers  
Aribella Vincent

**AUGUST 2ND**  
Jennifer Boehm  
Jessica Narca  
Wynema Vincent

**AUGUST 4TH**  
Jaxson Brown  
Nicole Delma  
Nathan Enos  
Amelia Osife  
Aliyah Vincent

**AUGUST 5TH**  
Yondell Antone

**AUGUST 7TH**  
Haylee Delma  
Alicia Gomez  
Joanne Stephens  
Daniel White

**AUGUST 8TH**  
Raiden Sierra James

**AUGUST 9TH**  
Joanna Peters  
Stephanie Vincent

**AUGUST 11TH**  
Jessica Corella  
William Narca  
Tommy Pablo  
Christian Soliz

**AUGUST 12TH**  
Rocio Castro  
Leonard Narca  
Ava Quinonez  
Joshua Zepeda

**AUGUST 13TH**  
Arrow Brown  
King-Benzie Peters

**AUGUST 14TH**  
Tahlia Johnson



**Library Hours**  
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm  
Sat: 12pm-4pm  
Sun: Closed



# August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			WHERE THEY LAST SAW HER MARCIE R. RENDON		1	2 Create with Cricut 1-3pm
3	4	5	6 StoryTime @10am	7 Purple Heart Day	8	9 Book Lovers Day
10	11	12	13 StoryTime @10am	14	15 Book Club Meeting 5-6pm	16
17 Sunflower	18	19	20 StoryTime @10am	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 StoryTime @10am Game Night @5-7pm	28	29	30 Closed
31 Reading Buddies	Come in Monday-Saturday and read to a buddy!			Programs and events open to Ak-Chin members, residents and employees Minors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18.		

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



8a  August 1 - 14, 2025   
**Harrah's Ak-Chin Community Youth Program**

Submitted by Erica Oliver, HDS Manager



End of the Program celebration at Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.

The Harrah's Ak-Chin Community Youth Program is an extended branch of the Harrah's Development System (HDS), which is geared to offer job skills training and leadership development opportunities to Ak-Chin tribal members.

This year's Harrah's Ak-Chin HDS Community Youth Program was packed with hands-on work experience, program activities, and leadership development opportunities for the Ak-Chin tribal youth.

The five-and-a-half-week program exposed the Ak-Chin Community Youth participants to work experience, educational workshops, community service activities, and leadership development experiences.

Thirteen (13) youth participants were employed in the non-gaming areas of the casino, which included Housekeeping, Facilities, Warehouse, Hotel, and Restaurant outlets.

All youth participants attended the new-hire

orientation and received a department onboarding from HDS Supervisor, Della Honie and HDS Manager, Erica Oliver.

In addition to learning hands-on work experience in their departments, the youth participants attended weekly Toastmaster meetings, strengthening their leadership and impromptu speaking skills.

They also attended biweekly department meetings with the HDS Associates and Interns, providing updates on their work experience, and new skills learned in their departments.

This year's program activities for the youth participants included tours of the Ak-Chin Regional Airport and Farms Enterprise.

The youth participants attended a Time Management Workshop facilitated by Employee Engagement Manager, Jane Stimmel, and a Financial Literacy Workshop, facilitated by Finance Director, Bambi Johnson.

They also participated in an off-property community service food packing event with the HDS Associates, Interns, and Graduates, at Feed My Starving Children in

Tempe.

This year's end of the program celebration included a "Big Back Party," which is a fast-food potluck, and games, followed with bowling at the Ak-Chin Entertainment Circle.

The HDS Community Youth Program continues to grow each year, and so do the learning and leadership experiences offered to the program participants. As a result of this year's Community Youth Program, three high school graduates have accepted full-time positions into the HDS Program.

We look forward to continuing to make a positive impact through our direct involvement with the Ak-Chin Community youth and membership who choose to join our team.



## Toastmasters Meeting



## End of the Program Big Back Party



# Harrah's

AK-CHIN CASINO

## AUGUST 2025

CAESARS  
REWARDS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 16, 2025

ESCAPE & EXPLORE  
SWEEPSTAKES

PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS • 11AM – 6:45PM  
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES • NOON – 7PM

DELUXE BACKPACK  
GIVEAWAY

PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS • 10AM – 7PM  
REDEEM • NOON – 7PM

SUMMER PLAY FEST

RUSSELL PETERS:  
RELAX WORLD TOUR  
SHOW

3

SUNDAY FUNDAY  
SHOPPING

4

MONDAY'S NEED DUNKIN', TOO!

5

SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC  
COOKWARE GIVEAWAY

6

SUMMER PLAY FEST  
FOREVER YOUNG

7

10X REWARD CREDIT  
MULTIPLIER

8

SUMMER PLAY FEST

9

REDEEM REWARD CREDITS  
FOR FREE SLOT PLAY!

10

SUNDAY FUNDAY  
SHOPPING

11

TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN  
SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB

12

SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC  
COOKWARE GIVEAWAY

13

SUMMER PLAY FEST  
FOREVER YOUNG

14

10X REWARD CREDIT  
MULTIPLIER

15

SUMMER PLAY FEST

16

ESCAPE & EXPLORE  
SWEEPSTAKES  
DELUXE BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

17

SUNDAY FUNDAY  
SHOPPING

18

RENT A CABANA ON YOUR  
NEXT STAY!

19

SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC  
COOKWARE GIVEAWAY

20

SUMMER PLAY FEST  
FOREVER YOUNG

21

10X REWARD CREDIT  
MULTIPLIER

22

SUMMER PLAY FEST

23

LOS ANGELES AZULES CONCERT  
FRY'S FOOD STORES  
ELECTRONIC GIFT CARD  
SPECTACULAR

24

SUNDAY FUNDAY  
SHOPPING

25

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM,  
FACEBOOK & X!

26

SIZZLE & SERVE HEXTEC  
CO





Rock, Arkansas.

With the help of the current council at the time, she was able to travel to Little Rock with a couple of family members of the missing soldier so they could visit his gravesite and see where he last lived. This brought great joy to Carole as she was able to give the family peace after so many years of wondering where he was and give them some comfort knowing where he is exactly.

With technology becoming more of a constant in our lives, Carole also stressed to the youth that they are our future, they will be the one's that will one day take over their community, they could be the head of different departments, maybe even council members.

She urged them to get more involved in their community, ask questions, volunteer their time, and have the ambition to want to make a change. That is a way to preserve their history

and learn where they come from; to truly get an understanding of who they are as O'odham; so, they can pass on what they know to future generations, in doing so their tribe and himdag won't ever disappear.

Lopez ended with some advice that she hopes the youth will take with them, which was to always follow their cultural ways.

"We're unique because we are O'odham, we are different because we have to learn to adapt in a non-O'odham society... if we continue to live fully in that society without knowing where we come from, eventually we will be stuck in that world and who we are as O'odham will be lost..."

Always be proud of who you are, be proud of your heritage, keep your culture going; no one can ever take that away from you, take care of yourself, be your own person, love yourself."

Chairman Lopez added how learning a strong work ethic at a young



age has helped him get to the position he is in now. He was taught to be respectful of himself and to others, no matter where he went, because his character is not only a reflection of himself, but his parents, grandparents, and community.

He also advised the youth to take care of their mental health, because keeping everything bottled up inside can eventually become a sickness that can take over their life. He urged them to talk to their elders, because they are the ones that have the most information about their history.

Lopez left the youth with one last message, "Remember who you are,

stay true to yourselves."

Both thanked San Lucy Summer Youth Monitor, Ayna Cipriano and San Lucy Administrative Manager/HR Darlene Lopez for welcoming them to their village and asking to speak to their youth.

The presentation concluded with everyone introducing themselves, who their parents are, and what career they would like to have in the future. Afterwards, Gabriel and Carole were each gifted a shell necklace, which had the San Lucy District seal etched on a round piece of gourd that hung at the bottom of the necklace, as a thank you for taking the time to present.



Fall Prevention for Elders provided by The Injury Prevention Program



FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

For Elders



Let's BE STRONGER, as we get older

JOIN US!!

Where: Elements (At Ak-Chin Circle)

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Questions? Call or email Teri De La Cruz at: (520) 568-1087 or TDelacruz@ak-chin.nsn.us

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

2025 GLOW RUN

AK-CHIN CIRCLE LAWN - ELEMENTS

AUGUST 21, 2025 | 5:30 PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT WALK/RUN!



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH AUG. 20TH. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE GLOW ACCESSORIES, A MEAL, ENTRY INTO OUR RAFFLES, AND A T-SHIRT.

EVENT IS OPEN TO AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION @ (520) 568-1085 OR MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US

# Lil' Natives Enjoy a Great Summer Learning and Playing on the Diamond

Photos and Story Submitted By Marla Antone



Lil Natives started their practices at the end of March, although there were a few bumps in the road they were able to participate in; a scrimmage game with Gila River Monsters, Salt River baseball clinic, Salt River League, Diamondbacks Inter Tribal Tournament and an invitation to play at Chase Field, Yes! Chase Field, home of the

Diamondbacks! Now how many people can say that!?!

This was something new the Lil Natives got to experience, and we thank Whitney from Team Native Clash for the invitation and Team Empire for a great game.

Also, special thank you to the fans who came out to watch the games,

appreciate the support and was great to see you all there!

We were hoping to host a few games and tournaments of our own at Milton Antone Park, but due to construction of the park we had to put a hold on our requests, but look forward to next year when the fields will be complete. Since Hohokam park is

also under construction we moved our practices to the Greasewood big retention area.

There you would see: Vivian, Abraham, and Harlee showing off their "nukes"; Caleb with his hustle, pitching and awesome catches; David with his catching capabilities, improving every day; Yaniah with her excellent pitching and 1st

base catches; Yamiah with her power arm; Aurelia with her positive attitude and encouragement she gives to each and every player and can't forget her "thumbs up" to every response to coaches; Mylaunah with her competitiveness; Marquon with his willingness to get better; Cecil with his quick reaction at first base and quick swing; Sarah

with her leadership and willingness to learn new positions; William our newest player, who shows up always ready to play and we can't forget Mauricio with his unforgettable slides and who also provides us with "the joke of the day" to start off our practices.

The Lil Natives are not done yet, this story is to be continued...



NABI Continued from Front



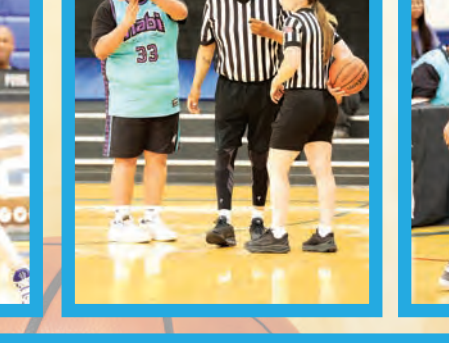
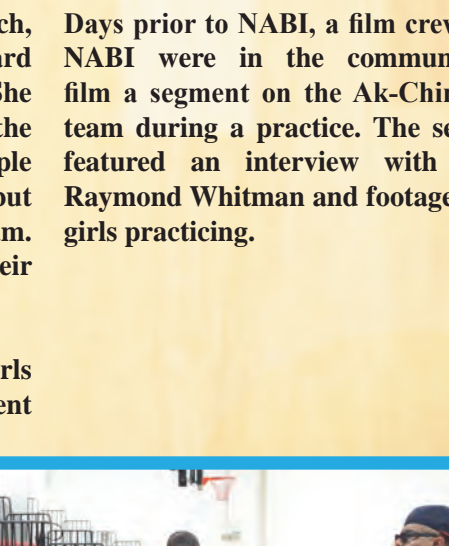
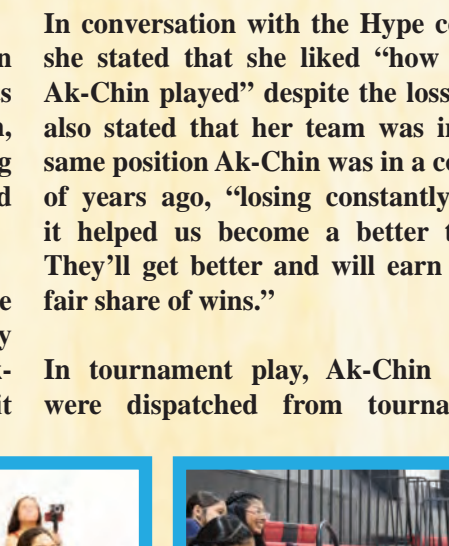
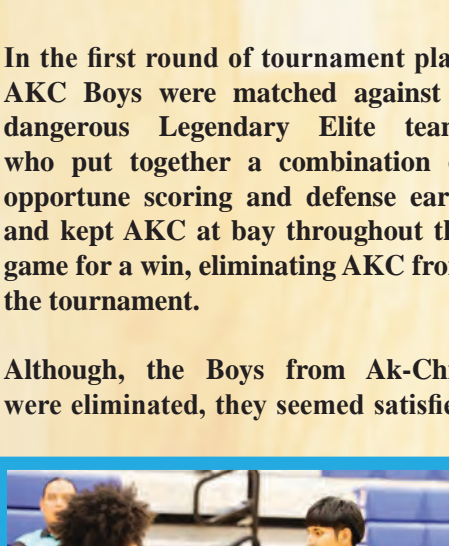
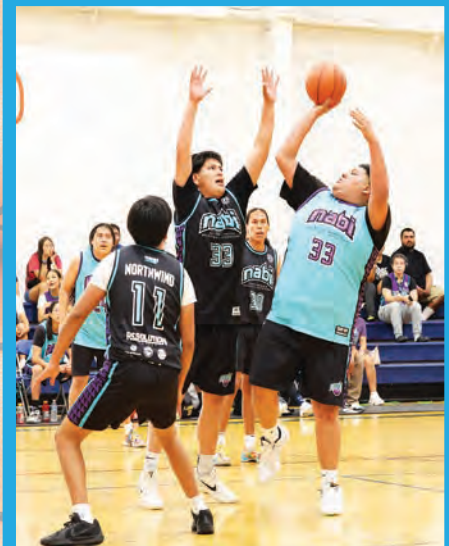
timely baskets, with great assists and support from the bench. Although they succumbed to defeat, AKC was optimistic heading into the third round.

Center, Omarion "O" Flores and guard, Eric Antone stood out against Northwind, as the Big "O" scored nine straight points inside and Antone driving in for layups, keeping Ak-Chin close.

In the final game in pool play, AKC had a minor setback as stamina and fatigue came into play against the Young Akichita. After falling behind by double digits in the first half, AKC was unable to recover, falling out of reach at the final buzzer.

In the first round of tournament play, AKC Boys were matched against a dangerous Legendary Elite team, who put together a combination of opportune scoring and defense early and kept AKC at bay throughout the game for a win, eliminating AKC from the tournament.

Although, the Boys from Ak-Chin were eliminated, they seemed satisfied



# Ak-Chin Cheerleaders Show Their Team Spirit at 2025 NABI



The Ak-Chin Cheerleaders had an incredible time, passionately supporting both boy's and girl's championship matches during the NABI tournament.

Overall, the girls embraced their experience wholeheartedly, with many returning from previous years. Next year, the cheer program plans to introduce new uniforms and expand by welcoming younger participants.

The girls were treated like VIPs, beginning with exclusive backstage passes and designated parking under the Footprint Center. They enjoyed their changing room close to the Phoenix Sun's locker room and were treated to the VIP lounge, where they had pizza, drinks, and ice-cream, creating unforgettable memories.

Before the games, they were gifted NABI merchandise, which included a NABI backpack and notepad, and were allowed to choose their own NABI apparel.

In addition to cheering their hearts out, the girls had the wonderful opportunity to meet several notable figures, capturing special moments through photographs. They met MarJon Beauchamp, a professional basketball player for the New York Knicks, as well as the Phoenix suns mascot, the Gorilla, and the Phoenix Mercury mascot, Scorch. They also met Rez bombers MVP Sydney Benally and her sister.

Recreation staff would also like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the NABI staff and CEO GinaMarie Scarpa for allowing us to be part of this remarkable tournament.





Story and photos by Robert Miguel



Ak-Chin Language Dept sings the National Anthem in O'odham prior to the start of the tourney.

Thirteen baseball teams from Arizona and New Mexico descended onto the Salt River Fields, Spring Training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies, to participate in the inaugural 13-16U Babe Ruth World Series Tournament, Saturday and Sunday, July 19th & 20th.

The Tournament was sponsored by the Na'ive Na'ions organization.

For teams, the opportunity to nab the first title in the tournament's inception, would be historic, but for players, it would obviously be memorable as they would be part of the first Native American team ever to participate in the national tournament, which will take place from August 7th through the 16th in Hot Springs, Arkansas, if selected.

Throughout the two-day tournament at Salt River Fields, which sits on the grounds of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Community, talented players gave it their all to showcase their talents in

hopes of getting selected to the All-Star Team, who would represent Arizona in Arkansas.

The tournament had it all, talented baseballers, food, music, arts & crafts merchandise, Na'ive Na'ions gear for sale and the great support from family and fans.

Two celebrities in Arizona Diamondback legend and World Series hero, Luis Gonzales and ESPN Baseball Analyst, Ken Rosenthal even made a stop to view a couple of games.

It was a great opportunity for Rosenthal to stop by as he gathers information on an upcoming piece on "Rez Ball" baseball's version. The New Mexico Pack Maroon finished with a 5-0 mark to capture the title after defeating the New Mexico Pack Black in the title game. The Maroon Pack dominated with timely hitting, pitching and a stellar defense.

Other teams participating with the 4C Blue Jays, AZ Blue Birds, Az Native

Elite, Apache Choppers, Desert Dingers, New Mexico Sun Devils, Na'ive Na'ions, Salaadas, The Goat, Sluggers and Trailblazers.

Ak-Chin had representation at the tournament as the Ak-Chin Language Program sang the National Anthem and two traditional songs during opening ceremonies. Incoming Maricopa High School Freshman, Carson De Paola participated on the field, on the mound and behind the plate for team 4C Blue Jays.

With the completion of the tournament, players are now awaiting word on who will be selected for the All-Star Team and representing the first ever all Native team in the Babe Ruth Tournament.

Former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher, DJ Carrasco, who had a nine-year career pitching for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Kansas City Royals, Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago White Sox and New York Mets, is the founder of Na'ive Na'ions National Program.

With extensive Major League and global experience, DJ has traveled across the world, studying how various countries develop their athletes in diamond sports. Drawing from the best practices of different cultures, he is now working to create the first program of its kind of Native athletes.

Carrasco says Na'ive Na'ions is a "long overdue movement aiming to showcase the talent and potential of Native American players, and the global sports world will soon witness the passion of baseball and softball being played by these exceptional athletes."



Above: Carson De Paola played with the 4 C Blue Jays as a Free Agent. Carson put in time as a catcher, pitcher and infielder during the tournament. The Blue Jays finished 1-2 in pool play before being eliminated in the first round of tournament play.

Right: Sporting the Ak-Chin Tribal flag during Opening Ceremonies is Carson De Paola. Twelve teams from Arizona and New Mexico competed in the Inaugural Babe Ruth Tournament at Salt River Fields, Spring Training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.



Ak-Chin Runner staff: Photojournalist Robert Miguel, Youth Employee Stella Miguel, Graphic Design Artist Eliza Santiago and Graphic Design Artist Diana Carlyle.

## O'Odham Runner Staff visit KTAR Radio

Story by Robert Miguel, photo by Kevin Campbell

Staff from the Ak-Chin O'Odham Runner were able to visit and enjoy the opportunity to know more about KTAR radio news and sports on Wednesday, July 9th. Photojournalist, Robert Miguel, along with Graphic Design Artists Diana Carlyle and Eliza Santiago, and youth employee Stella Miguel got a tour of the studios that sit in Glendale.

Anthony Dunlap, Head of Promotions for Arizona Sports and KTAR News, led the group through various areas, which included the Podcast Studio, Live Broadcast Studio, Production Room and staff quarters, where information was received, transmitted and broadcast.

The Podcast Studio and Live Broadcast Studio were broadcasting live shows during the visit. One of the highlights

was watching the Luke and Wolf show, which is based solely on Arizona sports highlight, which includes speaking on news and topics related to the Phoenix Suns, Arizona Cardinals and Arizona Diamondbacks. KTAR Sports (98.7 FM) is also the flagship station for all three major Arizona sports teams, broadcasting all games, home and away.

The visit allowed Photojournalist Miguel the opportunity to see old friends from the radio station that included; Ron Wolfley, Ryan Hatch, Kevin Campbell and others. The community had a relationship with KTAR recently as they aired commercials, entitled, "We All Win with Ak-Chin!"

The station aired a mix of mainstream and contemporary jazz music, and was an

affiliate of the ABC-FM Radio Network. It initially broadcast from the transmitter atop the Westward Ho Hotel in downtown Phoenix, currently the transmitter is in South Mountain.

KTAR radio is the oldest radio station in Arizona, spanning over 100 years. KTAR news (92.3 FM) is the #1 radio station in Arizona, while KTAR Sports (98.7 FM) is #1 in the market for sports radio talk. The station is owned by Salt Lake City based Bonneville International, a profit-making division of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

On many occasions, Arizona Sports has had high profile athletes and political figures come to the station for interviews. Earlier this month, staff from the Runner was able to visit Channel 3 news.



Ak-Chin children enjoy some fun and sun during the 16th Annual End of School Luau at the Recreation Department. The party was hosted by the Ak-Chin Police Department, June 27.

## AKPD hosts 16th Annual End of School Luau

Story by Robert Miguel, photo by William Martinez

A sponsored "Luau" by the Ak-Chin Police Department signaled the end of summer activities for the kids in the community.

Swimming and food was offered to those attending the event, held Friday, June 27th from 1 pm-7 pm at Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Aquatic Facility.

Splashing water, laughter and various pool games were evident as soon as you made your way into the pool area.

You could smell the smoke and aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers in the air as soon as you got out of your vehicle as staff from the Police Department took to the grill.

The "Luau" was a huge hit for kids and families throughout the afternoon.

The "Luau" has been a planned event by the Police Department for years.

The community has also helped sponsor other events for students to prepare them for back to school preparation.