

## Ak-Chin Membership,

The health and safety of the Ak-Chin community is our highest priority. With that in mind, we want to update you on proactive steps being taken to safeguard Tribal members from the global outbreak of novel coronavirus, formally known as COVID-19.

No confirmed cases of COVID-19 have yet been reported among Ak-Chin members or employees, but it is important that each of us be vigilant. Community leaders and our community partners remain informed, engaged, and prepared to help meet the evolving challenges resulting from the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

## What is COVID-19?

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 symptoms often resemble the common cold or flu and may include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Most people (about 80%) have a mild presentation and recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Some people develop more serious conditions that require immediate medical attention. The elderly and individuals with underlying health conditions are particularly at risk. Even individuals who have a mild case of COVID-19 or are asymptomatic can be contagious.

For the most up-to-date information on the outbreak and what you can do to reduce your risk, please visit CoronaVirus.gov.

## Help Stop the Spread

The President has released new federal guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Even if you are young or otherwise healthy, you are still at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that everyone does his/ her part to stop the spread of the coronavirus:

- Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.
- If you work in a critical infrastructure industry as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, maintain your normal work schedule. Follow

CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Avoid eating or drinking in bars, restaurants and food courts. Use drive-thru, pickup or delivery options whenever possible.
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips and social visits.
- Do not visit nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Practice good hygiene:
  - Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently-used item or surface.



- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently-used items and surfaces, as much as possible.

Ak-Chin Community Council believes access to accurate information is important for members to respond in a measured and thoughtful way. We will make sure you are kept informed of these decisions as they are made.

The Community is already taking steps

## Community Response

*Statement continues to page 2*

# Maricopa Wells MS Girls take Championship

Story and photos by J. Peters

March 10, the Maricopa Wells Middle School varsity girls' basketball team was fired up to play in the championship game against Stanfield Middle School.

This season has been a long battle for the team, they fought hard all season long and inevitably they made it to

the big game. Maricopa Wells gymnasium was jam-packed, filled with friends, family, and faculty supporting their every move. No seats where available let alone standing room, it was like the whole city came to watch the Panthers play their last big game of the season.

—MWMS continues to Page 7



The 2020 Maricopa Wells Middle School Girls Basketball Champions.

## Ak-Chin participates in 58th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo



Community member Joseph Zabawa and Gene Laws Jr. from Gila River place third in Four Tribes Team Roping at annual Mul-Chu-Tha rodeo. Photo submitted by Sarah Zabawa

Saturday March 31st, Gila River Indian Community hosted their 58th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo event. A three-day

celebration at the Mul-Chu-Tha fairgrounds in Sacaton, uniting the community started out as a fundraising effort back in 1962, has turned

into a full-blown festival of communal fun and positivity. With the morning parade starting at Chairman Robert Miguel and Little Miss

*Mul-Chu-Tha continues to Page 7*

## Unity Run celebrates 25 years

Story and photos by R. Peters

The Ak-Chin Indian Community once again provided a warm welcoming campsite to the runners for the 2020 Unity Run as they relayed into the Community on Wednesday, March 11, bringing awareness and prayers to all.

The run began on March 8, travelling from Tohono O'odham Nation-Mexico, to Ak-Chin Indian Community, to Gila River Indian Community and ending in Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community on March 14.



Ak-Chin runners gather for photo as the Unity Run settles in the community.

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Unity Run continued from front page

Ak-Chin has been part of the Unity Run for many years, and each year is another opportunity for those who participate to learn more about or Himdak, while enjoying a weeklong journey of running across the desert and participating in traditional activities.

This year we had seven runners participate, with most going the whole week, along with their driver/chaperone. The week was sometimes muggy and muddy, due to the rainy weather, but it did not stop the runners from making their daily relay.

“Because it was raining, we had to adjust the route coming into the community.” Henry Garcia, Community Events planner shared. “The last two miles in the farm fields were too muddy for support vehicles, but the runners were escorted through. The route leaving the community onto Gila River had to be adjusted as well. Runners travelled through Maricopa north on 347 to Casa Blanca Rd.”

In order to accomplish the highly anticipated hospitality requirement, Community Events, who has been the lead for Unity for the past seven years heavily relies on the community departments and volunteers to ensure a welcoming overnight camp.


Ak-Chin Fire and Police were on hand to provide escorts, Vekol Market prepared dinner and breakfast, and Purchasing was in charge of ordering all supplies. Public Works provided firewood and greasewood as well as transporting items. Language provided the vehicle, while Youth Council was out to perform traditional songs. Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez was on hand to provide a blessing and welcome to the group, as well as a horse escort upon their arrival, along with Clayton Antone. Dorissa Garcia was also on hand to volunteer as needed.

The Unity Run was founded in 1995 by a small group of grassroots people from both sides of Mexico and the United States, consisting of Tohono O’odham, Hia-Ced O’odham and Akimel O’odham. The group’s main goal is to bring awareness to the youth and to adults of the legacy that our ancestors gave us centuries ago. The coordinators are actively working to perpetuate our culture and preserve it for the generations to come. Reinstating the

Statement continued from front page

to follow recent guidelines issued by the CDC, Arizona Department of Health Services and Pinal County Health, and remains ready to adjust quickly if circumstances change. In accordance with federal guidelines to limit or postpone large gatherings of 10 persons or more, the Community has canceled all in-person, Community-sponsored events until further notice. The public is welcome to continue checking the Community’s website and social media for updates.

**Community Centers**  
Ak-Chin leaders are taking proactive measures to protect high-risk populations and reduce risk for spread of the virus. The Community has cancelled all programs, events and gatherings at Tribal facilities, including the Recreation Center,



## Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino & Resort and UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center to suspend operations

### Ak-Chin Indian Community expands COVID-19 prevention measures

Ak-Chin Community Council has announced additional safeguard measures to protect Tribal members and the public from the spread of Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Specifically, the UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle will temporarily close to the public as of 12:01 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday, March 19); Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino & Resort will suspend operations at 4 a.m. The facilities will remain closed for a period of 14 days, until April 2, at which time Tribal and casino leaders will reassess the situation.

“As Ak-Chin leaders, our highest priority is the health and safety of Tribal members, employees and guests,” said Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel. “We are in regular communication with our fellow tribes, as well as state, local and federal officials regarding appropriate virus prevention measures, and will continue to take all actions necessary to protect our Community.”

The temporary closures of UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center and Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino & Resort are consistent with CDC and public health recommendations to limit public gatherings at this time.

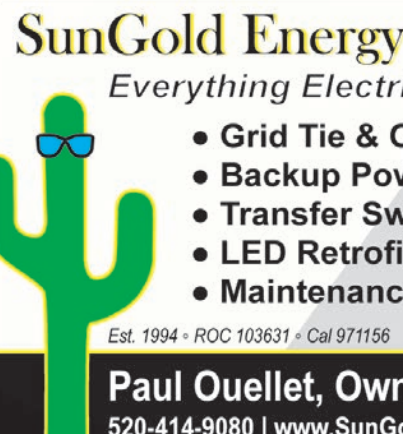
“Our focus is to ensure a safe gaming environment for the Community and guests,” said Robert Livingston, general manager of Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino & Resort. “We look forward to resuming normal operations and welcoming the return of members, employees and guests to our beautiful property as quickly as possible.”

No COVID-19 cases have been confirmed within the Ak-Chin Indian Community, but Tribal leaders have proactively taken steps to reduce risk to members and visitors. All in-person, Community-sponsored events, programs and gatherings are canceled until further notice. This includes the Recreation Center, Elder Center, Him-Dak EcoMuseum and more.

tradition of running and carrying prayers unites us in respectful observance of preserving and healing our history, language and culture. The Unity Run is highly recognized as an alcohol free, drug free and gang free traditional cultural happening.

The Akimel O’odham, Hia-Ced and Tohono O’odham have long been known for their expertise in long

distance running in the desert regions of our Ancestral Lands of what is now the Southwestern United States and Mexico. For over more than 150 years the O’odham Nations have dealt with the separation caused by the border between the United States and Mexico. We do not acknowledge this separation within our Himdag; we encourage our unity to continue as one O’odham people.



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## Attention Elders

Due to COVID-19, the Elder Center is closed for Congregate meals until further notice.

### Home Delivery

We are no longer serving breakfast for the time being. We will continue home delivered meals. For everyone’s safety please follow the instructions below:

1. If you have not already requested home delivered meals. Call the Elder Center to sign up.
2. Out of an abundance of caution and to minimize exposure, for meal delivery, please designate a place for us to place your meal.
3. We will knock to notify you that your meal is there.
4. You can also come to the Elder Center to pick up your meal. Our friendly drive through server will bring you food to you.

### EGGS

Eggs will be delivered to Elders who are on our homebound list and those Elders who have regularly depended on our Center for meals.

If you are able to come in to pick up your eggs, Please do so! You may designate a family member to pick up your eggs on a temporary basis.

Keep in mind this is a temporary basis and this will revert to the current Egg policy as soon as our services return to normal.

### Emergency Shopping Beginning Next Week!

1. We are here to assist you with Emergency food shopping.
2. Emergency food shopping is defined as a list of healthy consumable foods. We will not assist with items like soda, cigarettes, candy, chips etc.
3. Below are the items that can be purchased:

Beans, Bread, Eggs, Milk, Flour, Oatmeal, Cheese, Lunch Meats, Ground Beef, Chicken, or Pork. NO special orders. **This must be cash only.**

4. Emergency food shopping will be done on Tuesday and Friday of each week. So please have a list of what you would like to purchase ready on Monday and Thursday.

**CASH only. Please place the money and your list of items in an envelope or plastic bag with your name on it. It will be picked up during home delivery on Monday and Thursday.**

Employees have been advised to make a copy of the receipt before they drop off the items, so as to keep a record of our services and ensure transparency.

We will have a sign-up sheet for shopping requests. For Emergency shopping please call 568-1760. Please understand that we have many Elders and only a limited number of employees. It may take us some time to get your food items and we may not be able to find everything you request. We will do our best to obtain what you need.

### Transportation

Transportation services are limited to Doctor appointments and dialysis. For Transportation please contact Georgia, Transportation Supervisor, 520-568-1769. If she does not answer please leave a message or call the main office line at 568-1760. We are monitoring the phones closely. This is a temporary policy and subject to change. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Leslie at 568-1760.

*We miss you, we love you, and we hope this is behind us very quickly. It’s very quiet around here.*

Elder Center, Education Department, Preschool and Child Care, Language Department, Him-Dak Museum and Library. Parks will remain open. The elders’ meal program will continue, but meals will be on a take-out or home-delivery basis only. Lunch will be provided on a first come, first serve basis, meals will be on a take-out basis only for ALL K-12 students during the school closures between the hours of 11 a-1 p Monday- Friday at the Community’s Recreational facility.

**Community Employees**  
In addition, the Community is requiring all employees who have traveled outside of Arizona within the last 14 days to self-quarantine beginning from their first date of return from their travel. The Community has also implemented a travel ban on ALL employee work-related/

business travel.

**Police and Fire Response**  
The Police and Fire Departments are maintaining a normal schedule; we do not anticipate any disruption to emergency services at this time. All 1st responders are provided information on how they can protect themselves from the virus, and carry masks and gloves as a matter of practice. The Fire Department is working closely with the Pinal County Office of Emergency Management to monitor the situation and is following stringent infectious disease protocols.

**Local Health Centers and Schools**  
The Community is working collaboratively and closely with local schools and health centers as they continue to prepare, plan and modify protocols, accordingly. Please visit them directly to stay

informed.

**Declaration of Emergency**  
Ak-Chin Community Council is actively evaluating a Declaration of Emergency to assist in our efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. If an emergency is declared or any other Community actions are taken, we will keep members informed so you understand how these steps impact you and your family.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. This is an evolving situation and we will have to adjust and be flexible in order to safeguard our community and minimize the spread of this illness. We pledge to provide you with accurate information as quickly as possible.

Now is the time for each of us in the Ak-Chin Indian Community to look out for each other — especially our

elders and our children.

We’ve been through challenging times before; our Tribe has always prospered in the face of adversity. We are a strong, resilient people, and we will get through this together. Let’s continue to embrace one another, to honor our “him-dak” (way of life) and practice who we are as O’odham people.

Sapo!

Robert Miguel,  
Chairman

Gabriel Lopez,  
Vice-Chairman

Delia M. Carlyle,  
Council Member

Octavio Machado,  
Council Member

Lisa Garcia,  
Council Member





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

#### OFFICE HOURS

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MONDAY - FRIDAY  
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Vice Chair: Gabriel Lopez  
Council Members: Delia  
Carlyle, Lisa Garcia and  
Octavio Machado

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

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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and wishes  
may be phoned in, faxed or  
e-mailed.

#### ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

The Ak-Chin O'dham  
Runner is a Community  
Newspaper and encourages  
Community involvement.

If you have artwork, photos,  
poems or a great story that  
you would like to share,  
please contact us so we  
can include it in "YOUR"  
newspaper.

Also, if you have suggestions  
or comments about "YOUR"  
newspaper, let the Runner  
Staff know that too.

All submitted letters MUST  
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phone number. Names can  
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not be accepted.

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clarity, grammar and good  
taste. All submissions should  
be received as typed or  
non-cursive writing. Please  
do not submit UPPERCASE or  
formatted paragraphs.

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#### DEADLINE

Don't forget the  
DEADLINE for the  
APRIL 3 - APRIL 16, 2020  
issue is due by  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH**

Please submit all  
announcements, wishes, etc.  
no later than  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH**

Material submitted after the  
**MARCH 27TH DEADLINE**  
cannot be guaranteed  
placement. If appropriate  
and relevant, it will be  
included in the next issue.

# February 24 Community Meeting

Story and photo by R. Peters

Members who attended the Monday Meeting, experienced a long night with many voicing their concerns on the department updates, council updates, community budgets and an array of topics brought to light.

The meeting was called by Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel, Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Councilmembers Delia Carlyle and Lisa Garcia were also in attendance.

After the opening blessing from Community Services Manager, Nicole "Coco" Carlyle-Coester, Community Operations Manager, Bart Smith provided his monthly update.

Bart shared information on the upcoming Master Plan and the survey, he also provided a PowerPoint on the following:

Once Bart finished, Chairman introduced Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Director, Charles "Chuck" McCarty to present. Chuck said he was thrilled to be among the community that evening as he discussed the roles, duties and responsibilities of Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming and share experiences specifically with the auditing staff.

Chuck began with a recap of his past presentations that included duties and roles for the Ak-Chin Gaming Commission and the licensing department. He then went on to talk about his auditing staff and what it takes to be an auditor as well as how they protect the assets of the community.

In 2019, Tribal Gaming had 30 employees, nine were community members and four were family member-dependents of community members, "so 40% of my staff is community members or community related," Chuck shared. In 2019 they conducted audits on the lottery, poker tournaments, black jack tournaments, slot machine tournaments, and the car giveaways Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino did last year. Chuck shared that they perform these audits to make sure the casino is in accordance with the compact. "There are certain records that must be maintained when we do those audits" to ensure they are complying.



**Ak-Chin Indian Community Council calls the Community Meeting on February 24. Left to right: Councilmember Lisa Garcia, Vice Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Chairman Robert Miguel and Councilmember Delia Carlyle.**

A few detailed audits Chuck shared included surveillance audits, such as camera setting during a tournament gift giveaway and card game audit, that required key logs and exchanges. He also talked about Harrah's and their competitive shopping for marketing strategies, and updating their policies.

McCarty then opened up for questions, as well as introducing Tribal Gaming Commissioners Adella Zabawa and Jennifer Boehm-King.

Marc Matteson, Ak-Chin Health Education Manager provided a brief introduction for his department, as he set was setting up for a slide presentation. "We have a few divisions of it now, we've grown, we have our injury prevention side of things which handles elder falls program, car seat and seat belt safety programs and we also have our diabetes program that we've had for 20 years."

He also talked about their public health instructor program, which helps with community outreach, such as the upcoming walks which he stressed everyone to register for as they have become quite popular and usually don't have enough shirts to hand out after the events.

He then shifted over to provide a brief overview on a few misconceptions with Housing's elder remodels and Health Education's elders falls program. The falls programs is a grant funding program that conducts elder home assessments for environmental and physical risks. "There's a difference between a modification and a remodel," such as installing a grab bar in the shower, which is something the falls program will assist with, versus tearing down walls to remodel a shower, which is provided

through housing and maintenance.

Marc shifted gears once more and turned everyone's attention to his slideshow trivia on health and diabetes. Prizes were awarded to those who raised their hands and answered correctly. Trivia included questions about walking and running events, child safety, cholesterol and blood sugar information.

Ak-Chin Him-Dak Director, Elaine Peters along with Art Program Coordinator, Waylon Antone and Cultural Resources Technician II, William Antone were the final presenters of the evening.

Elaine went over their annual report, including the different programs and activities under the Him-Dak department, including Cultural Resources Art, Archives, Mission School and BIA House. She also shared

their programs for the 2020 year, like their upcoming Him-Dak Celebration, as well as pointed out one shared event they had last year. "Our Christmas Tree Lighting, in conjunction with Recreation and Fire, that's new and we'll do that again this year."

Waylon talked about the art programs and classes they are currently doing. "We have our ceramics class right now, we started in January and we're going up until the 26th of March." He also talked about their spring art program and Valentine's crafts.

William shared projects Cultural Resources Monitors are currently working on in the community, as he explained, once these projects start disturbing the soils they step in. "Our authority comes from the Archaeology Ordinance for the Community." He then

listed several projects, including HUD home and fencing projects, pipeline projects, cactus removal and sewage lines at casino area, farms sprinklers and emergency trenching, Southwest Gas project, demolition at Vekol Market and the Santa Cruz project.

One of their biggest projects was the Bureau of Reclamation canal project. "That was one of the biggest projects the crew has ever faced because they had to go in there and check it... with all the piles of dirt behind it."

Pending projects for Cultural Resources includes; Southern Dunes wells, SR 238 projects, fire hydrants, elderly center expansion, farms area fiber project, Ak-Chin circle project, and public use project.

*Meeting continues to page 10*



## PLAY IT SAFE this winter with health coverage.

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*Thank you for your understanding.*

**Vekol Cafe and Grill**



# CREATIVE LEARNING

March 20 - April 2, 2020

## We WOOF Reading Adoption Event gives furry friends new homes

Story and photos by J. Peters

Library Clerk Brianna Peters and the Ak-Chin Library hosted their first pet adoption event Saturday, March 14th. Pinal County Animal Care and Control brought three adorably sweet dogs to the library who needed a home, and it was a success as all dogs were adopted. Although, the turn out wasn't what Brianna had expected she was very happy that the dogs had new homes. "I'm so happy that all the dogs got adopted!"

Exceptional Pets had put together goodie bags for the cute adoptees at the event. The bags were packed with leashes,

collars, and dog hiking bowls. The foundation also brought along their special friend dog Boomer to join in on the fun.

Ak-Chin Fire Department set up their famous fire dog bounce house for the children to play in. The library had arts and craft stations set up, a coloring station and blanket making station. The blankets that were made during the event were given to the three dogs that were being adopted that day. Asking Brianna if the library would do another adoption event she stated, "Yes! Sophia from Pinal County Animal Care and Control, she actually

said she would love to do this again! She basically asked me before I could ask her. She was very shocked we got all three adopted."

Brianna wanted to ask the community if anyone wants to give input on how to improve their community outreach for pet adoption events, they would love the advice.

"Thank you, Council and my boss Library Manager Melanie Toledo for for allowing this event at the library, PCACC, Exceptional Pets in Maricopa, and Fire Department!" Brianna ended.



Making new friends.



She's so sweet.



This puppy cuddles up to his new friend.



Exceptional Pets group photo.



Two good doggies looking for yummy treats.





### DONT FORGET

Ak-Chin Indian Community will be serving lunch to all students Kindergarten through 12th grade, Pick-up will be at the Ak-Chin Recreation Gym (north side) every weekday from 11am-1pm; until March 27th. Please follow directional signage for pick-up. Open to Community Members & Residents.



### CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WE ARE CLOSING TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO HELP SLOW THE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF COVID-19.

**PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL US FOR LIBRARY REQUESTS OR QUESTIONS**  
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### Child Passenger Safety

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Class is limited to the Ak-Chin Community members, Employees and residents



For more information on car seats and education  
Please call or email Teri De La Cruz  
520-568-1087

## Family game and Pizza Night!

Story by Runner Staff  
photo by R. Peters



Families gathered for a night of fun times and pizza! Friday, March 13th, the Family Game and Pizza Night took over Ak-Chin Library with a simple and effective game night. It allowed quality time with one another while having fun playing an assortment of board and video games and of course eating yummy pizza.

With everything the world has to offer spending time with family is the most important.





# GIS completes Preschool fly over

Story and photo by C. Picciuolo

The skies were clear, the sun was out, and the wind was low: perfect weather for a drone flight.

On Monday, March 16, Ak-Chin GIS Analyst, John Janzen, and GIS Specialist, Shauna-Rae Brown, headed to the south end of the ACIC Preschool to operate a closeout drone flight of the Preschool addition project.

A landing pad was placed in the grass and Janzen prepared the drone's destination with a controller, while Brown went down a checklist of provisions and kept a lookout in the sky for any low-flying aircraft that may be in the flight path.

The purpose of the aerial flights includes high accuracy utility data collection for maintenance and future planning and elevation information to see high and low points on the land, among many other uses. GIS gathers

control points so that they can align the individual pictures to its proper place on a map. The control points are gathered by GPS before a flight is made and are visible markers from the sky.

Previously, GIS did a baseline drone flight of this project in January, 2019 before any construction began to show what the area looked like before any construction took place.

Over the course of the year, the department performed two progress flights at various stages of construction. Monday's operation was the final flight specifically for this project.

"We chose today to coincide with the Preschool's spring break for an extra layer of safety," says Janzen.

"This most recent flight took about 30 minutes and resulted



**GIS Analyst John Janzen and GIS Specialist Shauna-Rae Brown land a drone on the landing pad during a fly over of the Preschool to obtain final images of the project.**

in three videos and 118 individual pictures that will be stitched together back in the GIS office into a single high-resolution aerial photograph. The flight covered an area of just over six acres."

Afterward, the photo will be added to the GIS database.

Some drone operations use up more battery power, depending on wind conditions, and each

battery keeps a charge for about 30 minutes.

The drone has a built-in GPS, just like a smart phone. That way it knows where it launched from, where it is while it's flying and where it needs to return and land.

There is also communication between the drone and the controller that Janzen held. This allowed Janzen to control

its movements, see its location on a map and view the camera.

According to FAA rules, the GIS department can only fly the drone as high as 400 feet above ground.

"The lower we fly, the sharper the image we can get and the accuracy is about a couple of inches, which is FANTASTIC!" says Janzen.

# Asset giveaway gives new use for Community items

On Friday, March 6, Ak-Chin Indian Community held an Asset Giveaway to the east of the Maintenance building in the Vekol Shed.

Items given away from departments included furniture, clothing, decorations, books and electronic devices.

From 9-11am, elders were able to go through the items first. At 11am, other

members arrived to see what they like. At 3pm, employees were invited to look through what was left.

Purchasing was on-site for any questions and help going through items.

All asset items were classified as-is and not the responsibility of ACIC once the item left the premises.



**Community members and Ak-Chin employees sort through the assets given away at the Vekol Shed.**

# COWBOY LIFESTYLE NETWORK



The **Cowboy Lifestyle Network** is the Online Western Enthusiast Social Hub. A community that pursues the western lifestyle and lives the cowboy ideal.



[www.CowboyLifestyleNetwork.com](http://www.CowboyLifestyleNetwork.com)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After much prayer and discernment Bishop Olmsted has made the follow decision to guide our local community through the challenges of the Coronavirus. I understand this is shocking and hard to comprehend. Our prayer and support are important during the days ahead. This is also real heartbreaking for Bishop Olmstead. (see March 16 letter below)

With the guidance and assistance of Franciscan Friars (Fr. Antony, Fr. Peter Teresa and Fr. Ignatius) St. Francis of Assisi-Ak-Chin is preparing to have the church doors open for prayer or rosary, with the limiting of only 10 people present at each time. Hours and times will be worked out.

We will also have the most powerful way



Be Healthy – Be Smart – Be Holy  
Diocese of Phoenix Mass Cancellations and Other Restrictions

March 16, 2020

To the Faithful of the Diocese of Phoenix:

Two very significant issues have transpired in the last 24 hours:

1. All public schools have closed in Arizona and all Catholic Schools have closed in the Diocese of Phoenix.
2. The President has recommended limiting all public gatherings to 10 people, as well as other guidelines.

Effective immediately and until further notice, Bishop Olmsted is suspending all weekday and Sunday Masses, and asking for all parish- and diocesan-based public gatherings to be cancelled.

1. The Sunday Mass obligation is dispensed by Bishop Olmsted for all Catholics residing in or visiting the Diocese of Phoenix.
2. Churches and chapels may remain open for private prayer. Protocol for social distancing must be observed.
3. Communal Penance services should be cancelled; however, priests are strongly encouraged to make confessions available in outdoor or open-air spaces, if this is judged helpful.
4. No parish religious education programs are to assemble.
5. No parish public events or gatherings that exceed 10 persons.
6. Mass of the Holy Oils "Chrism Mass" will be celebrated privately, with oils to be distributed to the clergy at the Diocesan Pastoral Center for those in Maricopa County. The Sacred Oils will be overnighted to the parishes in the rest of the Diocese.
7. Weddings should be restricted to 10 or less persons.

of prayer present here at the church with Adoration. This will begin on Friday, March 18, 2020, 8am and will end depending on the responds of people. We will need at least two people present during each 2-hour slot so please send me the times possible that you would like to be present with the Lord and I will work it in to the schedule.

Our Lady of Guadalupe pray for us.

If you have any questions please email or text me at any time.

Prayers and Love,  
Your Sister in Christ,  
Flower Ruelas  
602-717-3761  
floresita\_r@live.com

8. Funerals should be restricted to immediate family and friends, less than 10 attending.

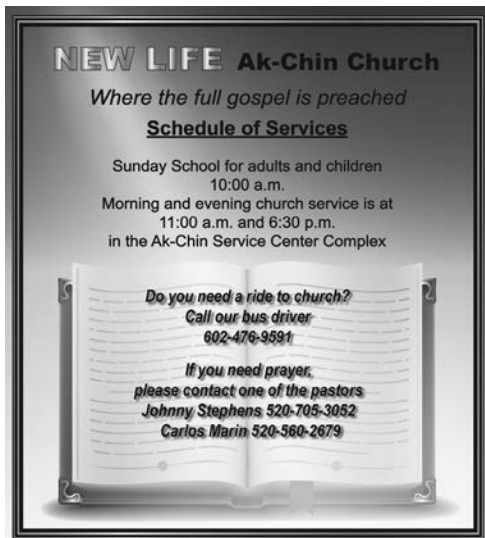
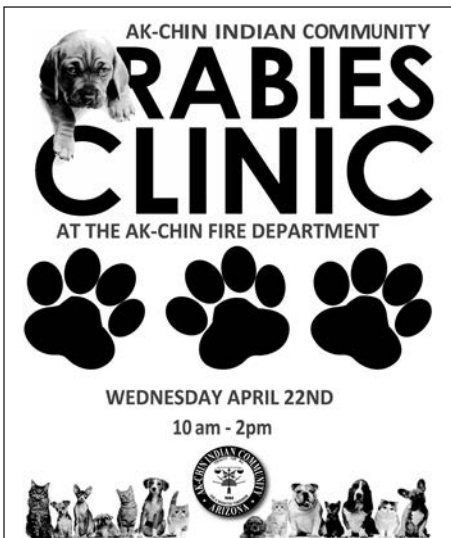
These directives are in force until further notice.

While these directives are a hardship and deeply painful for us all, they are sensible and in line with the guidance of the President and the spirit of the CDC's directive. Due to the highly fluid nature of this crisis situation, the Diocese continues to monitor this situation closely.

Additionally, parishes are asked to place a large sign on the front doors of the church notifying the faithful of the following:

- Bishop Olmsted has dispensed all of the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.
- Catholics are encouraged to make a Spiritual Communion, to pray the Rosary and other devotional prayers during this time.
- You may also list the times and channels for TV Mass in English and Spanish as well as radio, YouTube, and Facebook if you wish.

**Christian Charity will prevail** – throughout history Christians have served the community as a witness of love and care during times of illness. Christ is the center of our life and He will lead us through all challenges. It is important to be smart and think about what each of us can do to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. We live in a generation where information is at our fingertips; there are many sources of information that may not be accurate and may lead to increased fear. Our website will help keep you informed of important developments and equip you with critical information. Let us remember that we are united in Christ through prayer and a common spirit of love and trust in Him. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Diocese of Phoenix, pray for us.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL FOR A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT FOR THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is seeking proposals for a one-day Household Hazardous Waste Event to be scheduled in coordination with the Ak-Chin Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and completed on or before September 26, 2020.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (hereinafter ACIC) is sponsoring a one-day, Household Hazardous Waste (hereinafter "HHW") Collection Event. The desired timeframe for implementation of the HHW collection is between the dates of May 2, 2020 to September 26, 2020. Tentatively scheduled hours for the one-day event are 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

ACIC has a population of approximately 1,178 with approximately 321 households. Public participation will be restricted to residents of ACIC.

ACIC is seeking proposals from qualified Contractors to provide all services necessary to manage and dispose of the materials received from the HHW collection. ACIC is providing funding for the above program, subject to the conditions and limitations expressed in the Request for Proposals (hereinafter "RFP").

The ACIC is hereby soliciting proposals from qualified Contractors to provide all personnel, equipment, and related services

for a one-day HHW collection event. The successful Contractor shall provide services for collection, bulking, containerization, transportation, and treatment / disposal of the HHW materials collected at the event. The ACIC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and the right to negotiate with the most responsive proposer.

For a copy of the complete RFP, please contact **Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us** or 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138.

Proposals will be **due by 5:00 PM local Arizona Time on Monday, April 27, 2020** to the Community's Purchasing Department located at 42507 West Peters & Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Proposals received after the specified date and time will be returned unopened. Please address proposals as:  
**Ak-Chin Indian Community  
Purchasing Department  
Household Hazardous Waste Project  
42507 West Peters & Nall Road  
Maricopa, Arizona 85138**

The ACIC reserves the right to reject, any and all proposals. However, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, at its discretion, may postpone said action for any such time as the Community Council may designate as required in the best interests of the Community.

## 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, March 24, 2020, at the Library Multi-Purpose Room.**

**CASE: PS-06-19: Harrah's Lazy River:**  
Project Applicant/Harran's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino General Manager, Robert Livingston, is requesting Preliminary Site Plan approval to install a lazy river pool with amenities located at 15406 N. Maricopa Road.

The project consists of:

- Installation of a lazy river, spa, pool bar with canopy, 12 cabanas, a food and beverage building with dining space, a towel cabana, restrooms, an inner tube storage building, a pavilion, a pool equipment storage building, patio extensions for ground floor guestrooms, pool decking, and perimeter fencing.

## Healthy Parenting Education and Support Group

### Ak-Chin Health and Human Services

When: Please call to arrange start date.  
Where: Conference Room (4822W) Farrell Road Maricopa, Arizona 85139  
Contact: Health & Human Services at (520) 568-1093

The goal of this group is to help establish a support system for Community Families and offer additional tools and techniques for parenting. Community members, Residents, and Employees are welcome to participate! For more information contact: Lynne Houston-Volden (Child and Family Therapist) at Health and Human Services: 520-568-1096.

\*A Certificate of Completion is issued when a participant actively participates in and completes the entire series of topics.  
\*\*Individuals not employed by the community, not residents of community members may be given annual permission.  
Contact: Lynne Houston-Volden, by email.

WE, JAN 22 '20 9:34 AM

## IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY  
COUNTY OF PINAL, STATE OF ARIZONA

COURTNEY OLIVAS  
Petitioner,  
and  
MARCOS OLIVAS  
Respondent.

CASE NO.: CV-2019-00030-DV

### CIVIL SUMMONS (Domestic Relations)

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT:

MARCOS OLIVAS

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Civil Action has been filed against you in the Court of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

(X) YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER in the said matter within a period of TWENTY DAYS, exclusive of the date of service, if you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community; THIRTY DAYS if you are served outside the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community or by publication at the Office of the Clerk of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court, accompanied by the necessary filing fee. Service by publication is complete 30 days after the first date of publication. A copy of the Response must also be mailed to the Petitioner whose name appears below.

COURTNEY OLIVAS  
47062 WEST FARRELL ROAD  
MARICOPA, AZ. 85139

A copy of the Petition and the other pleadings filed in this case may be obtained from the Petitioner at the above address or from the Clerk of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court.

After you have been served and the written answer period has lapsed, the Tribal Court shall set a date for a hearing of this matter, and you will be notified of the time and date that you will be required to appear.

IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUMMONS a judgment by default will be entered against you and the opposing party shall be awarded the relief demanded in this matter.

-1-

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 22<sup>ND</sup> day of JANUARY 2020.

DEANNA RASCON, CLERK OF THE COURT  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court

by: Celina Miguel, Deputy Clerk I

-2-

WE, JAN 22 '20 9:35 AM

## IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

45525 West Farrell Road  
Maricopa, AZ 85139  
Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1386

COURTNEY OLIVAS  
Petitioner,  
and.  
MARCOS OLIVAS  
Respondent

CASE NO.: CV-2019-00030-DV

### CIVIL SUMMONS

THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:

MARCOS OLIVAS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear before this Court in the above entitled matter on **the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020, at 10:00 AM** for a Preliminary Hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR FOR AT THE TIME AND DATE SET FOR THE HEARING A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST THE RESPONDENT AND THE PETITIONER MAY BE GRANTED THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE PETITION OR THE PETITION MAY BE DISMISSED FOR FAILURE OF THE PETITIONER TO APPEAR.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 22<sup>ND</sup> day of January, 2020.

DEANNA RASCON, COURT CLERK  
of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court



—Championship continued

The Panthers started out strong, hitting the ground running, fully confident that they would take the championship title of the 2020 basketball season. Stanfield felt the pressure early on from the Panthers to keep up their number of points. By the third period the Panthers were in the lead 18 to 10, they

were on fire and Stanfield could not dose their flame. The Maricopa Wells Panthers won the game with the final score of 41 to 20 blowing Stanfield out of the water.

As the game ended Maricopa fans flocked towards their team, giving congrats and hugs

to the players. It was also noted that 20 years ago, Maricopa Wells won the girls basketball championship, under the leadership of Coach Glamora Maeweather. Congratulations to the 2020 Maricopa Wells Middle School varsity girls' basketball team!!

—Mul-Chu-Tha continued

Ak-Chin Jessica Zabawa represented the Ak-Chin Community. The royalty float was number 65 on the route lineup which included over 100 entrants. Throughout the parade, Little Miss happily waved to all parade go-ers as they (crowd) made comments of how beautiful and cute she was. A number of Ak-Chin members and their families were in the crowd and made their presence known as Chairman and Little Miss made their way through the route. "It was an honor and

privilege to participate in the Mul-Cha-Tha Parade with Little Miss Ak-Chin Jessica Zabawa," Chairman Miguel said. "The best part of our time together was prior to the start of the parade. Jessica sang me a song in our O'odham language and we were able to identify certain objects, animals and plants in our language." Congratulations to Governor Lewis and the entire Gila River Indian Community for a wonderful and successful Mul-Cha-Tha celebration.



Taylor Santiago



Carrieanna Villareal



The girls, tired and very proud of the outcome of their hard work, hold up signs made for their special game.



Mylauni Antone

# Community enjoys St. Patrick's Day 5K

Story and photos by R. Peters

Everyone was in the green for the March 7, St. Patty's Day 5k run hosted by Ak-Chin Health Education. Beginning at the Ak-Chin Service Center with a 730am registration and 8am start, over 75 participants were ready to "Rock their Shamrocks" for the beautiful morning run that took place just south of the center, around the green Ak-Chin fields.

Once everyone made their way back, they were greeted with a delicious breakfast assortment that included green pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and more. Nicely designed heathered green tees were handed out and all were able to adorn themselves with various green and shamrock swag.

Top finishers were awarded gift cards.

The Health Education Staff would like to thank the following departments and individuals for helping with our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day 5K, we appreciate everything you do!

Ak-Chin Public Works, Ak-Chin Farms, Ak-Chin Police Department, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Security, Ak-Chin GIS, Vekol Market, Waylon Antone, Lerline Peters

Thank you to all of our participants! We hope you enjoyed your breakfast and prizes. We hope to see you next time, thank you for your continued participation in our events!

## Overall Male

- 1<sup>st</sup> Adrian Fierro
- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Morgan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheldon Rope

## Overall Female

- 1<sup>st</sup> Amber Antone
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Claire Mix
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Muriel Tsosie

## Top Finishers

AGE- FEMALE and MALE  
0-8 Layla Santiago and Oliver Peters



Left to right is Eliza Santiago, Layla Santiago with her mom Leticia Santiago (holding her), Owen Santiago, Amber Antone, Oliver Peters, Adrian Fierro, Alvin Antone, Ruben Reino, and Joanna Acosta.



Amber Antone and Oliver Peters show off their winnings.

9-14 Joanna Acosta and Owen Santiago	Adrian Fierro
15-20 Eliza Santiago	41-50 Claire Mix and Alvin Antone
-	51-60 Flora Howerton and Ruben Reino
21-30 Amber Antone and Sheldon Rope	61+ Albert Tom
31-40 Leticia Santiago and	



Chairman Robert Miguel and Little Miss Ak-Chin Jessica Zabawa in parade.



Waiting for the parade to pass them by.

## Maricopa High School play in 5th Annual Bob Everett Classic



Ak-Chin community member and MHS Varsity Ram, Isaiah Peters talks to coach Jorge Salaz at first. The Maricopa Rams Varsity baseball team played a game against Higley High School in the 5th Annual Bob Everett Classic, held in Gilbert on March 10th. MHS Rams beat Higley 5-1.

The tournament started March 7th and ended on the 12th. Sixteen teams played in the tournament at Gilbert High School, Mesquite High school, and Campo Verde High School.





# 9-12 Youth Co-Ed Basketball League Tournament



**Champions: Flight 480**



**2nd Place: CB Ballerz**



**3rd Place: Copa Force**



## How's your mental health?

**Pessimism, low self-worth, sadness and a general loss of interest** — these are signs you may notice following a significant personal setback or unhappy event. But feeling sad and hopeless month after month is depression — a biological disorder and leading cause of disability affecting every age group and more than 16% of Americans.

**Depression, also known as major depressive disorder or clinical depression,** affects the ability to feel, think and handle daily activities. Classic signs include:

Feeling hopeless.

Lack of interest in normal activities.

Frequent unusual fatigue.

Oversleeping or insomnia.

Abusing alcohol or drugs.

Becoming isolated.  
Thoughts of suicide.

Recurring headaches or digestive trouble.

Difficulty with concentration or memory.

Moving or talking slower so much that others notice.

**The severity of depression** may be judged by how many symptoms you have and how much they impair your everyday life.

**Depression is an equal-opportunity illness,** affecting women, men and adolescents. However, each may experience their symptoms differently. It's hard to identify in teens and is often overlooked in men.

For example, men may have feelings of anger and aggression rather than sadness. They

are less likely than women to recognize, discuss and seek treatment for depression. Yet depression affects a large number of men, and at any age.

**The good news is, depression is treatable.** So, besides your health care provider's help, what can you do on your own? Treat yourself well:

Keep a regular sleep schedule.

Boost energy and well-being through exercise.

Spend time with people you like.

Ask family and friends for help.

Pursue favorite activities. Set goals to build confidence in the future.

Do helpful things for others.

Reflect on things for which you're grateful.

Relax, meditate and appreciate nature daily

*Photos by J. Peters*

March 8th, the Ak-Chin Recreation's 2020 Youth Co-Ed Basketball League closed out their season with an all out tournament. Seven teams played for the placing spots in the league.

Rounds of exciting games played by the young athletes were not ones to miss, as the teams worked their way to the championship games. Flight

480 and CB Ballerz were so determined and equally matched that the teams ended up tying with each other twice in the champion game. Ultimately Flight 480 came out on top.

Ak-Chin teams: Little Natives, Ak-Chin Thunder, Ak-Chin and Black Mambas (not pictured) were a part of the league.



**Little Natives**



**Ak-Chin Thunder**



**Ak-Chin**

## 6th Annual Phoenix Nintey-Nine Spot Landing Contest

*Story and photos by J. Peters*



**READY FOR TAKE OFF.**

Saturday, March 14th, the Phoenix Chapter of The Ninety-Nines celebrated their 6th Annual Spot Landing Contest at the Ak-Chin Regional Airport with the help of Desert Rat Aviation. It was a full throttle event where accuracy is key.

Saturday morning 18 pilots took on the spot landing challenge. "Competitors get 3 tries to land on a target marked on the runway," said Airport Manager Tim Costello. A point system set up for the landing areas ranged from 25 points for landing within the 75' area before the spot area to 100 points for landing within the 15' spot area.

Not only was there the excitement of watching the planes, everyone was able to

enter a raffle for nice prizes, during a silent auction for the Ninety-Nines scholarship program (scholarships for flight training for female pilots) and a yummy lunch.

The Ninety-Nines is an international non-profit organization that was formed to promote the advancement of women in aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while sharing a passion for flight. Founded in 1929, the organization was named The Ninety-Nines for its 99 charter members by its first president, Amelia Earhart. Today there are 188 chapters in 35 countries. To find out more about The Ninety-Nines, visit [www.phx99s.org](http://www.phx99s.org) or [www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org).

### ATTENTION

**Ak-Chin PARENTS and GUARDIANS**

If you have a student-athlete from Ak-Chin participating in an upcoming event and would like them to be featured in future editions of the Runner, Please let us know!

Email: [runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:runnernews@ak-chin.nsn.us)  
Phone: (520)-568-1375



COVID19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms\* can include


FEVER

COUGH

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

\*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms)

# 10 Native Youth Named “Dreamstarters,” Win \$10K Award Each from Olympian Billy Mills and Running Strong for American Indian Youth

Ten Native Youth to Receive Funding for Dream-Inspired Health and Wellness Initiatives in Native Communities

Washington, DC: Today, Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills announced the sixth class of American Indian youth to receive \$10,000 Dreamstarter grants for projects that help them bring their dreams to life. Each of the ten Dreamstarter recipients, who are all American Indian youth under age 30, will work together with a community nonprofit on a health and wellness initiative supported by Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

“Our Dreamstarters provide vital perspective into the Native youth of today,” said Mills, who is Oglala Lakota (Sioux) from Pine Ridge, SD and co-founder of Running Strong. “Health and wellness tinges every aspect of every life. It’s a unique joy and very moving for these ten young leaders to share with us their visions for a healthier Indian Country.”

The 2020 – 2021 Dreamstarters are:

- Clyson Igarashi-Marquez (Native Hawaiian), 16, Hawi, HI
- Dreams of opening a nursery for Native Hawaiian plants for reforestation, lei making, and therapeutic benefits.
- Lindsey Montileaux Mabbutt (Oglala Sioux Tribe), 26, Seattle, WA
- Dreams of inspiring high school and undergraduate students to achieve careers in dentistry and medicine.
- Shakotah Star Billie (Navajo Nation), 20, Spanish Fork, UT
- Dante Jackson (Assiniboine/Fort Belknap Indian Community), 16, Harlem, MT
- Dreams of creating a peer mentorship program to provide relatable role models for local elementary school students.
- Samantha Harrison (Native Village of Kotzebue/Alaska Native), 29, Juneau, AK
- Dreams of creating a line of medical scrub tops to promote visibility of Alaska Native healthcare workers.
- Dawn Marie Johnson (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate), 29, Summit, SD
- Dreams of offering mental health and well-being kits to students in grades 7-12 in her community.
- Tia Yazzie (Navajo Nation), 23, West Valley City, UT

Dreams of a Native youth support group using holistic and culturally based healing methods.

More information about the sixth class of Dreamstarters and their projects is available at <http://indianyouth.org/meet-the-2020-Dreamstarters>.

Running Strong has given away a total of sixty \$10,000 Dreamstarter grants over six years to support Native youth's dreams for their communities. This program was announced in October 14, 2014, to mark the 50th anniversary of Billy Mills' gold medal win at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

On October 14, 1964, Billy Mills, an Oglala Lakota (Sioux) runner, won the 10,000 meter race at the Tokyo Olympics in an upset, come-from-behind victory that has been called the greatest race in American Olympic history, and ever since has been an inspiration to Native youth and all Americans. He is still the only person from the Western hemisphere ever to win gold in the 10,000 meter race. He co-founded Running Strong for American Indian Youth in 1986 to help others live their dreams. Mills announced the Dreamstarter program on the 50th anniversary of his gold medal win, to help Native youth believe in the power of their dreams to build strong futures for themselves and their communities.

Additional information about the program can be found at [www.IndianYouth.org/Dreamstarter](http://www.IndianYouth.org/Dreamstarter).

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

ONE (1) VACANCY OPEN FOR THE AK-CHIN ENERGY SERVICES

Open to Ak-Chin Community Members only

All interested parties who wish to be considered for appointment for the one (1) vacancy on the Ak-Chin Energy Services, must send a letter of interest to the Tribal Administration Office.

FUNCTIONS OF THE AK-CHIN ENERGY SERVICES:

- Regulates and oversees all areas of power and electric utility sources and services of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
- To acquire, maintain and expand electric utility services within the community.
- To study and investigate the feasibility of acquiring, operating, and maintaining other electric utility service within the community.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Community Council is looking for individuals with the following qualifications:

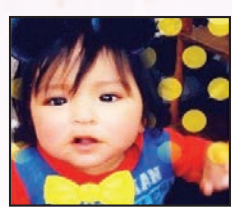

- Must have the ability and willingness to learn and understand the Electric Power Industry.
- Experience working in a business environment and the ability to learn and understand business practices is preferred, but not required.
- Must have sufficient education and/or experience to make sound judgments.
- Must be able to attend board meetings and functions at various scheduled times and at least on a quarterly basis.
- All community members who apply must provide written authorization from their immediate Supervisors allowing them to serve on the board.
- All applicants must Possess a valid driver's license.

Please send all letters of interest Attn:  
Ak-Chin Community Council  
ATTN:Victoria Smith  
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road  
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Deadline for all letters of interest is Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 5:00pm



March 20th - 31st, 2020 Employee Birthdays		
3/20 - Jose Hernandez, Sanitation	3/23 - Rene Carlyle, Vekol Sergio Hernandez, Sanitation	3/27 - Jesus Estrada, Sanitation Celia Soto, Social & Health Services
3/21 - Eric Chavez, TGA	Mark Pablo, EPD	3/29 - Rebecca Bowen, Runner
3/22 - Manuel Garcia, Law & Order	Deanna Rascon, Courts	3/31 - Shannon Peters, Vekol
Norbert Peters, Sanitation	3/26 - David Lopez, Law & Order	



Happy 1st Birthday my chunky monkey Nolan Miguel!! We love you so much and are very excited to see you start walking around.  
*Love mommy, daddy and brothers*

Happy Birthday to my son Norbert, Sr.  
*Love, Mom*

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

Happy Birthday Grandma & YooYoo  
Enjoy your blessed days!  
*Love, Cecil, Raychel and kids*

Happy Birthday Dannon!!  
*Love, Dad, Mom and all the fam!!*

Happy Birthday Sarah and Jr.  
*Love your family*



Quail Run Building Material, Inc.- Multiple Positions Open

- \$14 - \$22 to start  
*Depending on Experience*
- North Phoenix, I17 and W Deer Valley Rd
- Monday - Friday 6:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Send Resumes to [mikezeeuw@qrbm.com](mailto:mikezeeuw@qrbm.com)

*(no resume required for labor positions)*

About Us:  
Quail Run is in partnership with the Ak-Chin Indian Community. We are a Phoenix, AZ based manufacturer of cold formed steel (CFS) building components, specializing in roll formed galvanized commercial steel framing and sheet metal products

[WWW.QRBM.COM](http://WWW.QRBM.COM)

March 2020						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Olivia Vincent Maverick Santiago Ferrin Sope Nolan Miguel	2 Sonja White Kristina Garcia	3 Courtney Olivas Wilma Antone Ardon Green	4 Madeleine Van Sickle Deion Narcia Mario Twohearts	5 Gabriel Lopez Cayden Peters Emma Narcia Sharalee Dominguez-Zapata Dante Peters Kerianna Justin Dannika Lewis	6 Damonique Lewis Glennadean Lewis Jose Gutierrez Jr. Nakotah Antone Cody Narcia	7 Emily Lewis Delbert White Alexandra Lopez
8 Leighsa Miguel	9 Jonathan Narcia Charlene Whitman Stanislaus Antone	10 Marcus Delores Jr. Mercedes Antone Irene R. Medina	11 Devin Peters Robert Stephens Jr. Giuliana Sandoval Angelisa Cuatt Breon Stephens Antonenko Alvarez Mildred Narcia	12 Lisa Chavez	13 Samantha Castro Ameliano Jacuinde	14 Brenna Antone Crystal Maddox Davin Garcia
15 Dwayne Antone LeRoy Narcia Ana Blanchard Rosalie T. Narcia Narin Lopez	16 Tracy Wind Mariella Norris Kalvin Antone	17 	18 Kane Miguel Karlie Smith	19 Delphine Vazquez	20 Daria Garcia Gabriel Sierra-James Sarah Carlyle Jose Hernandez Carlton Carlyle Jr.	21 Joel Vincent Eric Chavez
22 Manuel Garcia Nicole Vincent Norbert Peters Sr. George Lewis Jr.	23 Christian Alvarez Melanie Antone Brandon Antone Deanna Rascon Marie Ortega Mark A. Pablo	24 Jessie Williams Yamiah Miguel Yaniah Miguel	25 Mario Ortega Jacob Santiago David White Sr.	26 Kerwin Ugalde Evelina Lopez	27 Celia Soto Benedict Miguel	28 Maria Santiago
29 Megan Quintero Monica Ruiz Dannon Peters Leona Kakar	30 Allissia Bandin Marvin Shade Aaliyah Balderrama	31 Shannon Peters Zaydyn Norris Robert M. Velasquez Maria C. Hernandez Courtney Delores	Happy Birthday!			

Ak-Chin Indian Community

Environmental Protection Department  
(Water Operations)



OUTDOOR WASTEWATER/SEWER EMERGENCIES CALL 520-858-6999

OUTDOOR WATER EMERGENCIES CALL 520-858-6061

 Like Us On



@AkChinIndianCommunity

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is now on Facebook! Make sure to LIKE us to stay up to-date on what is happening in the Community.

facebook



## Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Announces Temporary Closure Effective 4 a.m. March 19



(MARICOPA, Ariz. – Mar. 18, 2020) – With the full support of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Tribal Council, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino has announced that it will temporarily close its resort and casino effective March 19 at 4 a.m. through April 2, 2020. Although Caesars Entertainment announced closures of its casinos earlier in the week, as a managed property, the ultimate decision to close Harrah's Ak-Chin was made by the Tribal Council.

"The Ak-Chin Indian Community and the management team of Harrah's Ak-Chin have decided to temporarily close the casino and hotel to mitigate the potential for COVID-19 at our property," said Robert Livingston, general manager. "We had implemented 'social distancing' protocol and enhanced cleaning procedures this past weekend, but as one of the largest employers in Pinal County and to ensure the health and safety of our employees and guests, the Council and our local management team here felt this was our best option to continue to flatten the curve of this virus."

During the temporary closure, team members will continue to be paid and their benefits eligibility will not be interrupted for up to two weeks without needing to use any vacation or sick time.

Reservations during this temporary closure will be cancelled and guests will receive a full refund for any hotel deposit. Those with third-party reservations through travel agencies or other travel partners should reach out to the third party directly to cancel. Dining and spa reservations have also been cancelled.

The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin had already announced show postponements through the end of the month. Gary Allan, who was scheduled to appear on April 3 has been postponed as well.

*Com. Meeting continued from page 3*

A few questions were asked from Him-Dak before moving on to Council updates.

Chairman Robert Miguel led off with council updates; including final year with Waste Management, testifying before Congress on advanced appropriations, self-governance and health care programs, meeting with Gila River Health Care Corporation, Tohono O'odham Tribal Rodeo and Fair and Casa Grande Cowboys-O'odham Tash parade, brief meeting with Governor Ducey.

Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez's updates included participating in Sells Parade and Rodeo, work sessions with departments, Pinal County Sheriff's Pony Express riders visit to headquarters for 2020 O'odham Tas and Cowboy Days in Casa Grande, Tribal Operators meeting in Reno, region 9, and 4-Tribes' cultural resources meeting, and supporting a 4-Tribe's meeting in the future.

Councilmember Lisa Garcia provided update on work sessions, meetings, and consultations; attending Fort

McDowell tribal workshop sessions and Inauguration, ribbon cutting of Tohono Nation's new casino in Glendale, GED graduation ceremony, meeting with Gila River, and tour with La Quinta hotel reps. Councilmember Delia Carlyle also focused on meeting with Gila River, as well as attending JOM Conference and 2020 Census training, and upcoming voting events.

After Council updates were shared, Chairman Miguel asked Brandon Peters, Community Treasurer to provide a presentation on the Community budget. There was much discussion on budget items; including revenues, salaries, distributions, COLA and merit.

Once the meeting was officially ended, raffle winners were announced as well as lucky winners for some mattresses made available from Harrah's.

**The next Community Meeting, scheduled for March 30, has been cancelled.** Please look for more information in future Runner issues and Community sites for the next scheduled meeting date.

# Metalachi shreds at Maricopa Salsa Festival

Story and photos by C. Picciuolo



**Metalachi bring their twist of heavy metal and mariachi music to the head banging crowd at Maricopa's Salsa Festival during Salsapalooza.**

The 16th Annual 2020 Salsa Festival was held on March 7 at Maricopa's Copper Sky Regional Park and featured a musical event called Salsapalooza.

Salsa Fest had over 100 vendors, salsa tasting and included a beer garden.

When asked how many visitors came to the event, Marketing and Communication Specialist for the City of Maricopa, Ellen Buddington said, "We're thinking roughly about 5000-7500 throughout the day based on parking and chip kit sales."

My Nana's Best Tasting Tortilla Chips was the title sponsor for the salsa tasting and they provided all of the chips for the event. In less than four hours, just short of 2200 chip kits were sold.

Hay Salsa Lovers stole the show for the contest and won the grand championship with a first-place win in the individual hot salsa category and in third place for individual mild salsa. The winner of the hot wings eating contest sponsored by Native New Yorker/Native Grill & Wings was Tyler Summers.

Salsapalooza began at 2:30pm with Supernatural- A Santana Tribute, followed by a sizzling performance by Karla Perez as Selena: The Show.

The main attraction at 6:30pm was the world's first and only heavy metal mariachi band, Metalachi. Metalachi put their spin on many metal favorites such as Iron Maiden's "Run to the Hills" and Motörhead's

incarnations of Metalachi, Delia gave her thoughts on the show, "Although not the Metalachi I've seen over the past years, the current band members really got the crowd going with their music and antics."

"The Maricopa Salsa Festival was a deliciously good time and it brought my heart to so much joy to see a community



**Ak-Chin representing at the Metalachi concert. Left to right: Councilmember Delia Carlyle, Anna Maria Valenzuela, Deidra Carlyle, AnnMarie Antone.**

"Ace of Spades," and even gave their take on Cheech and Chong classics "Earache My Eye" and "Mexican Americans," much to the enjoyment of fans.

In the audience was Councilmember Delia Carlyle, joined by her daughter Deidra Carlyle, AnnMarie Antone and Anna Maria Valenzuela. Having seen the different

gathered together having so much fun!" said Metalachi Violinist Kyla Vera.

"It was an honor and privilege to be able to perform for everyone, and a special shout-out to the adorable little girl who gave me a scrunchie after the show! I hope we are able to come back and celebrate life- and salsa- with Maricopa again soon!"

## Runnin' on MT delights crowd at Arroyo Grille



**Terrance Ragains and Mitch Harrell perform as Runnin' on MT at Arroyo Grille.**

During a time when folks are looking to feel all right, Runnin' on MT did just that on Saturday, March 14 on the patio of Arroyo Grille at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club.

With their acoustic blues, rock & country style, guitarists Mitch Harrell and Terrance Ragains put on a good show.

Harrell is no stranger to the golf club, as he also doubles



**Runnin' on MT guitarist Mitch Harrell puts on a private performance for the table.**

as President of Troon Golf Division.

This evening, Arroyo Grille served a delicious prime rib special.

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