

2021 AK-CHIN TRIBAL COUNCIL



On Wednesday, March 17, Ak-Chin Council met for their March 17th Council Meeting. Since the agenda was pretty light, Council was available to gather together for their first group photo.

Ak-Chin Council has been meeting in person for council meetings more regularly, especially since they have all received both COVID-19 vaccinations.

As they continue to address the needs of the community, council members are hopeful that they will soon be able to visit and converse with the membership in person for future meetings.

Since the beginning of March, COVID-19 positive cases in the Community have gone down significantly. Unfortunately, the Community did suffer many COVID related deaths before numbers began to drop.

In the meantime, Council highly encourages Ak-Chin members to make it a priority to get their COVID-19

vaccines.

Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Council meeting sign up is open the Thursday after a Council meeting and closes at 5:00pm the Wednesday prior to the next scheduled Council meeting. The maximum amount of time for presentations is 30 minutes.

The Community Council will not accept any documentation at the Council meeting, all documents must be submitted when you sign up for the Council agenda. You will be notified by the Council Executive Secretary of your scheduled time on the agenda by email or phone.

The next Community Meeting is set for Monday, March 29 and will be held virtually.

Members will soon receive information in order to sign on to view this month's meeting. Council is encouraging members to send in questions via email to: info@ak-chin.us.

Ak-Chin Tribal Council, seated (l-r): Vice-Chairman Lemuel Vincent and Chairman Robert Miguel. Standing (l-r): Council Members Lisa Garcia, Octavio Machado and Delia Carlyle.
Story and photo by: R. Peters

NCAI Applauds the Historic Confirmation of Congresswoman Debra Haaland as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior

March 15, 2021 - The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) applauds the historic confirmation today of Rep. Debra Haaland as President Joe Biden's Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Interior).

Congresswoman Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna), an attorney, and tireless advocate for Native American communities, was confirmed Monday by a vote of 51 to 40 in the Senate. Her confirmation is a watershed moment for Indian Country, marking the first time in the history of the United States that a Native American has served as a cabinet Secretary.



Deb Haaland, First Native American Secretary of the Interior.
Photo from Wikimedia Commons

Haaland's confirmation recognizes the importance of Native American leadership, partnership, and representation at a federal agency critical to the needs of Indian Country. The Interior Department is responsible not only for the management of public lands, waters, mineral resources and wildlife, it holds a fiduciary duty to uphold federal trust and treaty responsibilities to 574 tribal nations and more than 5.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people.

"The impact of Native American representation at the top of a federal agency that so directly affects our daily lives cannot be overstated, and we congratulate Secretary Haaland on

this historic achievement," said NCAI President Fawn Sharp.

"The relationship between Tribal Nations and the federal government has been fractured for far too long. Having an ally like Secretary Haaland who is not only deeply qualified but is from our communities has the potential to transform the government-to-government relationship and will be vital in advancing Native American issues for generations. We are grateful to President Biden for her nomination to the post, to the Senate for their support, and to everyone in Indian Country who supported Secretary

Haaland continues to page 2


Peters' Senior Night



Isaiah Peters, Ak-Chin member and Maricopa High School Senior was honored on Thursday, March 4, along with his parents Eugene Peters, Jr. and Diana Carlyle.

Isaiah, who played small guard for the Rams Varsity Basketball team, will soon be donning an MHS baseball uniform for the Rams.

Isaiah is planning to attend Arizona State University in the fall.



AK-CHIN COVID-19 VACCINE EVENT

Date and Time:
Thursday, March 25, 2021
9:00AM - 3:30PM

Location:
Ak-Chin Parks & Rec Gym

Eligible:
AK-CHIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND AK-CHIN RESIDENTS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLD AGE 18 AND OLDER

ELDER MARCH MENU BREAKFAST | LUNCH

22 Blueberry Pancakes, Bacon, Banana, Kashi Bar, Chocolate Milk | Red Chili Stew, Carrots, Peas, Chumath, Apple Sauce

23 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Yogurt, Milk | Ground Beef, Stuffed Green Bell Peppers, Wax Beans, Yellow Squash, Watermelon

24 Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage Patty, Scrambled Eggs, Grapes, Fig Newton Bar, Juice | Pork Chops over Stuffing, Wild Rice, Scalloped Potatoes, Blueberry Strawberry Mix

25 Sausage & Egg Quesadilla, Fresh Salsa, Sliced Apples, Kashi Bar, Juice | Squash Casserole, Brown Rice, Salad, Rolls, Apple Rings w/Cottage Cheese

26 Potato, Egg, & Cheese Burrito, Fruit Cup, Cliff Bar, Juice |

Hamburger, Corn on Cob, Baked Beans, Sweet Potato Fries, Jell-O, Oranges

29 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Yogurt, Milk | White Beans, Chicken & Dumplings, Beets, Zucchini, Strawberries Crepes w/Caramel

30 Sausage, Egg, & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich, Diced Potatoes with bell peppers & onions, Kashi Bar, Chocolate Milk | Pizza, Chicken Wings, Salad, Peaches

31 Chorizo & Egg Burrito, Grapes, Cliff Bar, Juice | Roast Beef Sandwich, Wax Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Cocktail

**** Some items may change without notice****

Dear Ak-Chin Friends & Family,

At the 1st 2021 community meeting via zoom there was discussion about members sharing their experience with the COVID19 vaccination. I received my vaccination to avoid falling victim to the full exposure of COVID19.

Please be reminded even though we receive our vaccination we must continue to stay vigilant. We must continue to mask up, wash our hands, social distance, and avoid large gatherings.

Getting the vaccination is your choice but please be encouraged that our elders

in our community are leading the pack with getting vaccinated. What great role models!

You might be scared of this new vaccination but learn the facts from professionals not naysayers. I had my own hesitation, but I trust the vaccination will provide protection from COVID19. My 1st shot was easy soreness and redness. My 2nd shot soreness, redness, and fatigue. I literally slept for about 20 hours and then woke up like a champ.

I wish you all good health and protection.



Thoughts & Prayers,
Yolanda Miranda

Haaland continued from Front

Haaland in this historic journey. Most importantly, we are grateful for Secretary Haaland's history-making commitment to serve and look forward to working with her in her new role."

Four months ago, NCAI membership adopted resolution [PDX-20-059](#), calling for the appointment of a Native American Secretary of the Interior.

It read in part, "American Indians and Alaska Natives have served the United States with honor in the military, in Congress and federal agencies for more than a century, and have made great contributions to the advancement of American Democracy..."

Even though American Indian and Alaska Native people are equally qualified as their

non-Native counterparts to hold Cabinet positions, this is the first time Native Americans are seeing themselves represented in an office that touches so many facets of their day-to-day lives.

Today, it is with great pride, hope, and optimism that NCAI welcomes Secretary Haaland to her new post.

Here's how tribal communities drive development through hospitality

Story and photos by ALISON BAILIN BATZ

management partner, Caesars Entertainment. As the largest employer in Pinal County, Harrah's Ak-Chin employs nearly 1,000 people, tribal and non-tribal. Through Harrah's Development System, members of the Ak-Chin Indian Community are integrated into key areas of the casino operation, with the goal of long-term employment opportunities.

A recently completed multi-million-dollar renovation expanded its hotel, dining experiences and added a spa and fitness center as well as The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin. A central element to the renovation was a focus on the tribe's rich history.

Throughout the property, guests will see Native American-inspired artwork and design elements that highlight the culture and traditions of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. Woven baskets created by Ak-Chin Indian Community members as well as artwork created by other Native American artists is seen throughout the property.

In addition, photography and sculptures fill the walls and guest areas throughout the property that reflect the rich history and pays tribute to the Community's deep agricultural roots.

We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort

Owned and operated by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the spectacular new 166,341-square-foot We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort boasts state-of-the-art gaming, a variety of specialty fine and casual dining restaurants, live entertainment, and luxurious accommodations at the adjoining AAA Four Diamond hotel.

Elements of earth, fire, water, animals and basket-weaving that are important to the tribe are incorporated throughout the resort — starting in the atrium, where the ceiling

replicates a desert tortoise shell and the largest blue circle and chandelier represent Montezuma's Well, the origin of the Yavapai people.

Other culturally inspired architectural nuances include the blue path in the terrazzo floor design that represents the Verde River, the center and outer columns that showcase Yavapai basketry, other floor areas that reflect patterns of nature, and the LED light in the signature Center Bar that depicts an eagle's wing.

Everything the casino resort does benefits the 889 members that call the reservation home, from funding fire and police departments; supporting family, senior and community health services; encouraging economic, cultural and community development; hosting community events; and providing job training, educational resources and childcare.

Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort

The opening of Casino Arizona and its sister property, Talking Stick Resort marked an investment for the future of its owner and operators: the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Each property also serves as a reflection of the Community's rich culture and history. Designed with culture in mind, both properties are home to extensive art

collections. Historic artifacts are also prominently featured including jewelry, pottery and baskets.

The O'odham (Pima) and Piipaash (Maricopa) tribes which make up the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community are known for their intricate baskets and pottery which are shown at both properties. Talking Stick Resort has a cultural center specifically designated to display both.

Beyond some of the historic art, the resort is also home to an extensive contemporary Native American art collection. It is considered to be the largest contemporary collection outside of a museum.

Further, Talking Stick Resort's entire décor features nods to the Community from the rich blue lighting and carpeting that represent the tribe referred to as the water people. Basket weave designs have also been incorporated throughout the resort. Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort do not just showcase the culture of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, each are also a resource for education and career development.

The Pathways to Success program enables Community members to work with mentors to establish and achieve career and education goals while working at the properties.



Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass

In 1988, the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), paving the way for the country's Native American communities to operate casino-style gaming on tribal lands.

Among the many benefits to tribal communities was economic self-sufficiency and the financial resources to invest in infrastructure and social services programs for tribal members.

"With IGRA's passage, tribal leadership across Indian Country recognized the tremendous impact revenue from tribal gaming would have on our communities," said Robert Miguel, chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community and first vice president of the Intertribal Council of Arizona.

"Arizona's tribes signed their first gaming compact with the state nearly 30 years ago, further establishing our tribal sovereignty and giving us the financial resources to grow and strengthen our tribes' infrastructure. This economic opportunity continues today as a source pride for tribal members."

Today, there are 24 Class III casinos and dozens of hospitality enterprises on tribal land statewide. Here is a look at how several successfully lift up their tribal communities through sound business practices as well as how they showcase their proud cultures:

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass

As trusted caretakers of the Gila River Indian Community's storied history, Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass fosters a passion for philanthropy

that benefits the Community whenever possible.

The resort allows meetings booked the opportunity to give back to the Community. If a group is interested, the resort's cultural concierge meets with the planner to pick a philanthropic program. The resort team also volunteers regularly in the Community through organizing toy drives, serving Thanksgiving dinners, hosting educational programs, holding raffles and more.

The architecture, design, art and legends of the Akimel O'otham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) tribes are celebrated in every detail imaginable. Traditional native roundhouse (Olas'ki) design is represented in the domed lobbies of the main resort, the Whirlwind Golf clubhouse and Aji Spa. All main entrances to the resort, spa and golf club face east to welcome the rising sun, as is the tradition of the Pima and Maricopa people.

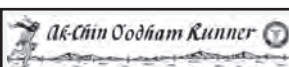
At Kai, the resort's signature restaurant, chef Ryan Swanson incorporates the essence of the Pima and Maricopa tribes into the menu through native ingredients and techniques. Aji Spa features treatments designed by Pima and Maricopa caretakers using ingredients sourced from the ancient tribal lands that surround the spa. Gila River Hotels & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass is also just blocks (step, really) away, not only offering live table poker, video poker, blackjack, table games and slots, but also myriad support to the Tribe.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino is Arizona's first and only tribal casino to have an international



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino



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Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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Health & Human Services,
Recreation & MUSD.

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Ak-Chin O'dham Runner
16600 N. Maricopa Hwy
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

The Ak-Chin O'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
be signed by the author and
are limited to 200 words.
Authors must also include
their name, address, and
phone number. Names can
be omitted by request.
Anonymous submissions will
not be accepted.

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

2021 Subscription rate is
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DEADLINE

Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
April 2 - 15, 2021
issue is due by
FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH

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

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

March 2021 ACES Article

Submitted by: Edward Gerak

Despite the warm weather
Arizona experienced in
February, most of the rest
of the United States was
getting hit with record cold
temperatures and snow,
which had a huge impact
on gas and electrical prices
for about a week.

Even though you hear a
lot about solar and wind,
natural gas is responsible
for the majority of
generation in the United
States, accounting for
44.7% of the energy
produced in July of 2020.

Ak-Chin gets a significant
portion of its energy
portfolio from natural
gas, which had aided the
Community these past
years with low energy
costs.

However, due to the
impact of the pandemic,
a large percentage of
oil wells were capped in
March of 2020 due to lack
of demand.

Natural gas is a by-product

of oil exploration, so its
supply was impacted as
well.

Even though demand has
somewhat returned, most
of the natural gas demand
is getting exported as
liquefied natural gas (LNG)
because foreign countries
are willing to pay more.
That means that less supply
and more demand equals
increased pricing in the US.

Price volatility with natural
gas is not uncommon, but
no one was prepared for
it to increase 4,000% like it
did February 13th.

The record cold increased
natural gas usage for
heating purposes and
planned maintenance for
some generating plants
limited energy capacity.
But this was nothing
compared to the 40 GW of
capacity that went offline
because it was too cold for
the wind turbines to spin
and too cloudy for the solar
panels to work in Texas.


ERCOT, MISO and SPP all
declared different stages
of emergency resulting in
rolling blackouts across the
central part of the United
States to preserve the grid.

It seems that the worst is
over and energy markets
are returning to normal,
but the cost impacts were
significant to small entities
in Texas, as well as to Ak-
Chin.

Ak-Chin experienced
something similar in 2020
due to California's lack of
capacity and the impact of
the wildfires. California is
at least 4 GW short going
into the summer season
and if we experience
another summer like last
year, energy prices could
spike again.

That is why ACES attempts
to maintain a diversified
energy portfolio and
continues to encourage
members to conserve
energy where and when
they can.

March 2021



Ak-Chin Child Development

At Home Learning Activities for Young Children

- **Give mealtime a Math Infusion-Do your kids like to help out in the kitchen? Meal prep is the perfect time to get your child/children to count, measure estimate, compare and recognize shapes. You can ask your child to measure and count cups of ingredients. You can have your child count how many plates and utensils are needed for the whole family. Make it fun for your child**
- **Fun with Literacy- Book reading sessions are golden opportunities to actively build Literacy skills. Boost vocabulary knowledge, watch for words and briefly define and talk about them. Reread a book and ask your child if they remember what the words mean. Try to use the new words at times throughout the day to reinforce knowledge. To build letter recognition skills, point to letters as you say them.**
- **Ages and Stages Questionnaire done at home**
- **English: <https://www.asqonline.com/c426ba>**
- **Spanish: <https://www.asqonline.com/32a8f3>**

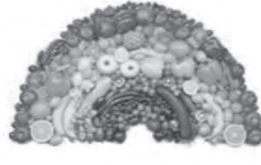
Time For A Picnic

Spring is the perfect time for a picnic- there are no mosquitos or flies yet! Bring a blanket and some delicious sandwiches or snacks. Turn it into a "booknic" by bringing along books.

Plant a Garden

Reconnect your child with the wonders of nature by showing her/him that a tiny seed can grow into a plant. Keep this simple by planting in containers. You may also choose plants to create a garden that attracts specific animals, birds or butterflies.

Health



Fruits and vegetables come in a variety of different colors. These colors represent different nutritional components, such as beta carotene in carrots and the anthocyanins in strawberries. My Pyramid for Kids recommends kids to eat more dark green and orange vegetables. Kids should try to eat different colored fruit and vegetables every day and make it a goal to eat a rainbow of colors each week

If you need additional resources about home activities, have questions or concerns or would like to talk to one of our teachers, please call us at 520-568-1700.

We are here to help!

48251 W. Farrell Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138
Phone: 520-568-1700 Fax: 520-568-1701



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR SURFACE WATER QUALITY
CONSULTANT
SERVICES FOR THE AK-CHIN INDIAN
COMMUNITY**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community (ACIC) Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is seeking an experienced water quality consultant or firm with experience collecting surface water quality samples for laboratory analyzation including data entry and reviewing, comparing and making written assumptions concerning analytical data collected for water quality assessments.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The ACIC EPD is hereby soliciting proposals from qualified water quality consultants and/or firms to collect surface water quality samples from 3 separate locations within the Community at minimum quarterly for approx. one year to compare and evaluate the water quality data to historical water quality data collected from the same locations including comparing the data to the Community's Water Quality Standards. The consultant will submit samples for laboratory analysis; analyze, compare and interpret the water quality data gathered; conduct data management including data entry; and provide a comprehensive, narrative assessment report on surface water quality for the Community. The goal includes reviewing & updating the USEPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX) database with water quality data collected by the consultant as well as updating the WQX with previous data gathered in a spreadsheet format from 2016 to present.

For a copy of the complete RFP, please contact Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us

A virtual pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (AZ Time) on Monday, April 5, 2021, by WebEx. This meeting is not mandatory. To receive an invitation to connect by WebEx, one must register on line by emailing a request to participate in the pre-proposal meeting by noon on Friday, April 2, 2021 to the following email bball@ak-chin.nsn.us. The Proposal Packet will be provided electronically shortly after registering.

Proposals will be due by 4:00 PM local Arizona Time on Friday April 16th, 2021 to the Community's Purchasing Manager, Flora Howerton at fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us. Proposals received after the specified deadline date and time will not be accepted or reviewed.

Please address proposals as: "PROPOSAL FOR SURFACE WATER QUALITY CONSULTANT"

The ACIC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and the right to negotiate with the most responsive proposer.

Registration is open for Pinal Week of the Young Child free events

Community organizations across Pinal County are coming together starting April 12 to celebrate Week of the Young Child online.

First Things First (FTF), Arizona's early childhood agency, and the Pinal Early Childhood Coalition are collaborating to bring a series of free, hands-on, interactive online activities through Zoom that promote music, food, cooperation, art and family for parents and caregivers of children birth to age 5.

Parents and caregivers, can register at <http://bit.ly/PinalWOYC2021> for these FREE events.

FTF and the Pinal Early Childhood Coalition have coordinated a variety of local programs to promote diverse and engaging activities for parents and children.

Participating local programs include:

- First Smiles
- Sensory and Developmental Screening and Strengthening Families through University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- United Way of Pinal County Family, Friend and Neighbor program;
- Apache Junction Fun Van
- Child and Family Resources
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Banner Ironwood Medical Center
- Child Care Resources and Referral
- Pinal County librarians from Apache Junction, Coolidge and City of Maricopa public libraries.

"Week of the Young Child is an important reminder of the need to intentionally engage young children at a critical stage in their development, while helping parents and caregivers learn about available resources," said FTF Pinal Regional Director Shannon Brown. "Especially in this time of social distancing, where many children have had reduced opportunities to interact with family and friends, we hope to support parents through this week of interactive games, activities, learning and fun."

Families and caregivers are asked to register for the events by March 24 for each day they are interested in participating.

Free activity bags will be made available for pick up starting April 1 at their closest participating library.

Parents can participate in one, or multiple sessions, offered at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., or 6 p.m. Families unable to join live can find recordings of the events at <http://bit.ly/PinalWOYC21>.

The 50th anniversary of Week of the Young Child, which is hosted annually by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, falls on April 10-16 this year. Its intent is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families, while highlighting the local community programs that serve them.



Ak-Chin Indian Community Wireless Internet Service Questionnaire

Community Council has approved Wireless Internet Service to be provided in the Community for all residents who choose to participate. The service is free to all Community households and its purpose is to provide wifi access in Community homes for student/elder and resident Internet access during this COVID-19 crisis. If you would like to participate in this program please fill out the form below and drop the form off at the IS Department.

Resident Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

1) Would you like to participate in the Program?
Yes ☐ No ☐

2) What is the total number of household members:
2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5+ ☐

3) Age ranges in the household: (Check all that apply)
0-5 ☐ 6-17 ☐ 18-30 ☐ 31-50 ☐ 51+ ☐

4) How many total devices (cellphones, TVs, computers, tablets & laptops) are used in the household, that require wireless service:
2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5+ ☐

5) What is the primary use for needing wireless access? (check all that apply)
School ☐ Work ☐ Personal ☐

Thank you for participating in this survey.
Please submit completed surveys to IS Department, located at
45710 W. Farrell Rd. (520-568-1120), or
e-mail hnavis@ak-chin.nsn.us.

Kids Cafe Grab and Go meals continue to help community children

Story by J. Peters, photos by R. Peters

As schools take a break from academics, hundreds of children roam their homes and are left to their own devices. Having fun with friends and family, playing video games, going for a bike ride, or just taking a nap, children should be able to enjoy the little things in life, some things as simple as a good meal. Tragically not everyone is fortunate to have such amenities to keep their loved ones from going to bed hungry.



Dozens of bags were picked up at up during the drive-thru line at the Grab and Go distribution.

On March 5th at Ak-Chin gymnasium, with the help of St. Mary's Food Bank, Ak-Chin Library and Parks and Recreation staff were packing and preparing meals for families in the community, as the Library brought back the Kids Cafe Grab and Go meals for Spring and Summer.

Families were blessed to receive numerous bags filled with 2 weeks' worth of food for each child. These meals

will help prepare families who may need a little more assistance keeping children happy and fed during Spring break and in-home schooling. It sometimes can be difficult to maintain everything for parents and children during these times; this program from the Feeding America organization and St. Mary's Food Bank will help mend this bridge.

Kid friendly/easily accessible

meals like turkey, ham and cheese sandwiches on Hawaiian bun, fruit cups, veggies, with condiments and drinks were some of the meal combinations given out at the Grab and Go event. At first there was a limit of 100 children who were able to sign up for the program, but it since has increased by 50 more opening in the program.

Kids Café is available to anyone 18 and under. If you are interested in signing up for your children, contact Ak-Chin Library at 520-568-1675.

•84% of households Feeding America serves report buying the cheapest food — instead of healthy food — in order to provide enough to eat.

•25% of children in households at risk of hunger may be forced to rely exclusively on hunger relief charities like Feeding America to make ends meet." Feeding America organization



Bags are being prepared and packaged for families.

Health Education keeps hearts healthy at 7th Annual Valentine's Day event

For those who are maintaining their new year resolutions or just starting them, Ak-Chin Health Education continues to help keep the motivation and tradition alive and well in the community.

With the 7th Annual Valentine's Day 5k (events), participants embarked on a self-guided walk/run while tracking their steps via fitness app and for the first time Health Education crew added a daring 10k category to their itinerary. Health Ed's new event was met with great response to the increased additional miles, as 12 participants took on the challenge, exceeding their expectations for the newest finisher goal.

Overall, 205 participants completed one of the Valentine's Day events. "I am so glad everyone is taking the opportunity to walk/run and enjoy the wonderful weather. Please continue to do so and enjoy it." Martina Guy-Peters shared via email.

Incentive bags were scheduled to be handed out this week and included great items such as gift cards, snacks and of course a fab t-shirt to remember the event.

Ak-Chin Health Education continues to strive to keep these consistent activities, which has been tough to do at times with



Desirae Antone and family take a selfie as they work to achieve required distances for their event.

the pandemic. Through their efforts, members can share in a communal way (virtual) of gravitating towards a healthier lifestyle and reaching those set goals.

10K, 5k and 1.5 Mi Top Finishers:

OVERALL 10K MALE:

1. Christopher Hayes 58:11
2. Rayford Vavages 1:16:45
3. Alex Bowman 1:19:21

OVERALL 10K FEMALE:

1. Alyssa Dickerson 1:02:03
2. Amber Antone 1:02:11
3. Julene Narcia 1:07:41

OVERALL 5K MALE:

1. Myles Peters 27:52
2. Juan Luis Rodarte 30:52
3. Jose Lopez 33:11

OVERALL 5K FEMALE:

1. Danel Peters 30:06
2. Emily Peters 31:53
3. Alexis Lopez 33:11

TOP 5K FINISHERS AGE CATEGORIES:13-18

- Emily Peters 31:53
- Myles Peters 27:52

19-29

- Danel Peters 30:06
- Jose Lopez 33:11

30-39

- Nicole Delma 42:26

40-49

- Tamarita Ned 36:48
- Juan Luis Rodarte 30:52

50-59

- TeriLynne Kisto 36:07
- Ruben Reino 1:07:52

60+

- Elizabeth Reyes-Armstead 34:55
- Ed Jackson 1:03:00

KIDS 1.5 MILE

0-8 GIRLS

1. Evangelina Helpingstine 24:48

2. Elena Helpingstine 24:48
3. Jessica Zabawa 25:34

0-8 BOYS

1. John Zabawa 22:31
2. Eidan Helpingstine 24:48
3. Rowan Vavages 25:16

9-12 GIRLS

1. Sophia Languren 39:36
2. Elizabeth Antone 41:39
3. Isabella Antone 41:39

9-12 BOYS

- Radigan Deal 33:56

REMINDER

The next Runner submission deadline will be

**FRIDAY
March 26th**



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
Phone: (520)-568-1375



VIDEO CREATION

Turn your home videos and photos in to a video to share with family or on social media.

Memorial Video

Slide Show

Event Celebration

For More Information
Contact

Wilson Antone

At

Wantone@ak-chin.nsn.us



2021

AK-CHIN HEALTH EDUCATION PRESENTS...

VIRTUAL
ST. PADDY'S DAY
5K & EVENTS

1.5 Mile Kids Run * 2 Mile * 3.1 mile * 6.2 mile

EVENT DATES: MARCH 17th - MARCH 31st

Registration Open March 15th-25th

Submission Deadline April 1st

Register for distance of your choice!

Submit your virtual run using a fitness app.

Top finisher prizes for 5K and 10K distances.

Participants will receive a t-shirt and lunch on us.

Open to Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents/Families of Ak-Chin Members, Ak-Chin Employees & their families

Use Google Forms to Register.

All walk/run distances need to be completed at one time & show date, distance, and time.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MARTINA PETERS AT MGUY@AK-CHIN.NSN.US OR (520)568-1085

^check out their current event^



Participant catches glimpse of hawk during their walk.



Health Coverage is important now more than ever.

The 2021 Special Enrollment Period for Marketplace Coverage is **February 15 through May 15**

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, visit **Healthcare.gov**, or call **1-800-318-2596**.




Early Kindergarten Screening

April 17th, June 3rd and June 4th
 For students turning Five September 1st – December 31st
 These will be the ONLY dates available for Early Kindergarten Screenings.

Email Ana Carlson at acarlson@musd20.org or call 520-568-5100 ext: 1005 to schedule an appointment. All screening will be administered at Santa Rosa Elementary School
 21400 N. Santa Rosa Dr. Maricopa, AZ 85138

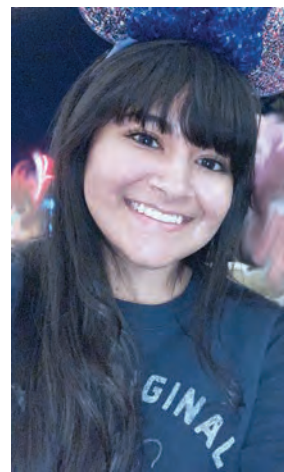
Wishes

Happy Birthday Seda and Sonny
 Love your family

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

Happy Birthday Grandma and YooYoo
 Love Cecil, Raychel and kids

Happy Birthday Dannon
 We hope your 25th is super special, just like you!



Love, Dad, Mom, your siblings, nephews, niece, and your babies- Evvie, Roger and Gigi

Reminder:

WIC services are still being held via telephone due to COVID-19.
 If you need to start services or have questions??
 Call WIC at (520) 562-9698

MARCH 19TH - 31ST EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

3/19 - Matthew Hearn, Fire & Safety
 3/21 - Eric Chavez, TGA
 3/22 - Manuel Garcia, Law & Order
 3/23 - Deanna Rascon, Courts
 Rene Carlyle, Elderly
 Mark Pablo, EPD
 Christian Alvarez, Retail
 Sergio Hernandez, Sanitation
 3/26 - David Lopez, Law & Order
 3/27 - Celia Soto, Social & Health Services
 Jesus Estrada, Sanitation
 3/29 - Rebecca Bowen, Runner
 3/31 - Shannon Peters, Retail



NEW HIRE



Jahmeirio Hayes
 Gaming Agent
 Tribal Gaming Agency

Job Opening

The following position is currently open to Enrolled Community Members only:

Administrative Support Specialist – Council

Please visit our website at www.ak-chin.nsn.us, Job Openings, to review the job posting and apply. If you need assistance, please call Human Resources at 520-568-1050.

Salsa Night Market

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021, 5-9 P.M.

Copper Sky Regional Park
 44345 M.L.K., Jr. Blvd.
 Maricopa, AZ 85138

- Live entertainment
- Market/artisan vendors
- Food trucks
- Cervezas
- & modified version of annual salsa contest

Salsa Night Market complies with CDC-recommended guidelines for large public events.

copanightmarket.com

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

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Launches New SAVVY Business Impact Group

Business group will focus on the empowerment, support and advancement of women who work at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino launches the SAVVY Business Impact Group on International Women's Day. The group will focus on the empowerment, support and advancement of women within the company.

(MARICOPA, Ariz. – March 8, 2021) In celebration of International Women's Day Harrah's Ak-Chin

Casino has announced the creation of SAVVY, a Business Impact Group (BIG) focused on the empowerment, support, and advancement of women within the company. The

SAVVY BIG launched today with a ZOOM Kick-off meeting to welcome members, identify the purpose and set goals.

Each BIG within Harrah's is led by members of the management team. Angie Groeneveld, director of hospitality, will act as SAVVY's Senior Level Sponsor, and Donata Cobb, the Events, Promotions,

Entertainment, and AV marketing manager, will serve as the Executive Sponsor. Other required roles and officers for the group will be elected after the group members are finalized.

"It's the perfect day to launch the SAVVY BIG because it's International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women," said Groeneveld. "This member-led group will provide the potential for personal and professional networking and development, as well as opportunities to give back to our community. I'm so happy to be a part of it."

The SAVVY BIG is for team members and their peer supporters who have common goals and are committed to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's diversity

and inclusion strategy.

BIGs are staff-led groups and are inclusive to all team members who support the BIG's mission. The goals of each BIG are:

- Promote cultural awareness and education
- Develop team members personally and professionally
- Drive innovation and strategic business initiatives
- Support diverse team member recruitment and retention
- Foster a positive company image in our communities

This is the second BIG created by Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. The SALUTE BIG for Military team members and their allies was created September 2019.



MOVIES
ak-chincircle.com/theater

THE COURIER

Monday - Thursday:
3:45pm & 6:15pm

Friday:
3:45pm, 6:15pm & 8:45pm

Saturday:
12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:15pm & 8:45pm

Sunday:
12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:15pm & 8:45pm

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON

Monday - Thursday:
3:00pm, 5:30pm & 8:00pm

Friday:
3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Saturday:
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Sunday:
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm & 8:00pm

TOM & JERRY

Monday - Thursday:
3:15pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm

Friday:
3:15pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm

Saturday:
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm

Sunday:
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm



Maricopa Pantry

FOOD BOX DRIVE THRU
DISTRIBUTION
Mondays in March
9 am – Noon
Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation
Outdoor Courts Parking Lot

WEEKLY SPECIALS - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ARROYO GRILLE PASTA DAY
THURSDAYS • MARCH
CHEF'S PASTA SPECIAL \$15

WEDNESDAYS classic fish fry \$14
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS prime rib \$24

Weekly Specials Served after 5pm • Quantities are Limited

ARROYO GRILLE
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

ARROYO GRILLE **520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM**
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

MARCH FIVE BUCKS OFF!

**SHORT ON TIME?
ORDER TO GO!**

Must present coupon to server. Not valid with daily or Happy Hour specials. Cannot be combined with other specials or offers. Does not include alcohol. One coupon per table, no split checks. Valid for one visit daily Mon-Sat. Non-transferable. Offer expires 3/31/21.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

BOWLING HOURS:
Monday – Thursday:
3 – 9 PM
Friday:
3 PM – 12 AM

Saturday:
11 AM – 12 AM
Sunday:
11 AM – 9 PM

ak-chincircle.com/bowling

BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT

elementS EVENT CENTER
AT AK-CHIN CIRCLE

Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

For more information contact **Riva Quintana**
520.233.2445 | RQuintana@Ak-ChinCircle.com

MARCH 2021

CAESARS REWARDS.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DRINK OF THE MONTH</p> <p>QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH A DEEP EDDY® PEACH TEA COOLER</p>	<p>1 </p> <p>PLAY KENO AT A 24/7 KENO KIOSK</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>COME ON ROLL THE DICE</p>	<p>5 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>6 </p> <p>HANDBAG SWEEPSTAKES</p>
<p>7 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>8 </p> <p>MAKE YOUR DAY AN ADVENTURE & TRY SOMETHING NEW!</p>	<p>9 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>10 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>11 </p> <p>PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>12 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>13 </p> <p>REVITALIZE YOURSELF WITH A SPA TREATMENT</p>
<p>14 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>15 </p> <p>SAVOR YOUR MORNING WITH BREAKFAST AT AGAVE'S</p>	<p>16 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>17 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p>	<p>18 </p> <p>TAKE A SEAT & GET READY TO SAY "BINGO"!</p>	<p>19 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>20 </p> <p>Brentwood JUICER GIVEAWAY</p>
<p>21 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>22 </p> <p>BOOK A PLAYCATION & HAVE SOME FUN IN THE SUN</p>	<p>23 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>24 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>25 </p> <p>PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p>	<p>26 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>27 </p> <p>SPRING IT ON True GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY</p>
<p>28 </p> <p>REWARD CREDIT BONANZA</p>	<p>29 </p> <p>CELEBRATE THE DAY WITH AN ICE COLD BEER ON TAP</p>	<p>30 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<p>31 </p> <p>Pirin BAJA COLLECTION GIVEAWAY</p>	<div> <p>EARTH HOUR SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021 8:30PM</p> <p>We encourage you to participate on property and at home by turning off non-essential lighting for one hour in support of climate action.</p> <p>CODEGREEN®</p> </div>		

Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of these offers. Know When To Stop Before You Start.™ Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2021 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.