Volume XXXVI, Issue 22

### 2022 Tribal Council Anyssa Justin experiences the **Election results**

Saturday, 2022, Ak-Chin Community members made their way to the voting booths at Ak-Chin Recreation gymnasium as early as 6 am to cast their votes for three seats on Ak-Chin Tribal Council. By 2 pm, the

Maricopa, Arizona

November 245 pm the final results were ready to be shared.

> Ak-Chin's newly elected Councilmembers: Gabriel Lorenzo Lopez (231 votes), Cecil D. Peters (219 votes), and Lisa Garcia (193 votes), will begin serving their four-year terms come

Over

the

a lifetime moment, first-

hand, as she was able

to learn from and work

at "The Most Magical

memorable experience

attending the Disney

College Program and

working at Walt Disney

her

Place on Earth".

Anyssa shares

For anyone who has ever been able to enjoy a trip to Disneyland or Walt Disney World, it is utterly magical. From the moment you walk through the gates, to your first ride, or Mickey sighting, there's just nothing like it on earth; something I hope everyone gets to experience at least once in their lifetime.

Anyssa continues to page 6

## **Magic at Disney College** Story by R. Peters, photos submitted

**December 2 - 15, 2022** 

World with the Runner.

#### What was the program you recently completed at WDW?

I completed the Disney College Program in Orlando, Florida this past summer. Disney College Program is a paid internship, that allowed you to gain on-the-job experience with a world-renowned company, providing uniquely Disney learning experiences, all while preparing for your future, building transferable skills, including networking, problem summer, solving, Anyssa Justin was able teamwork and effective to experience a once in communication.

#### Why did you choose to attend this particular program?

Attending the program was not something I always knew I was going to attend. It was an impulse decision to apply. I was up one late night and saw

information on it and I just applied not knowing what would come out of it. It only took a few days before I received a response letting me know I was accepted.

#### When did you go and how long where you there?

I left in April and returned home at the end of August

#### How long was program and what did you receive upon completion?

My term was 5 months for the summer season. Upon completion, I received graduation ears, certificate, and joined Disney Alumni Association.

#### Where did you train/ work while at WDW?

was placed in I Attractions at Under the Sea: Journey of the Little Mermaid and was also trained in Enchantment Fireworks Show. This consisted

### polls closed and around Election continues to page 2 McCarty retires from Ak-Chin

**Tribal Gaming** 



Ak-Chin Vice Chairman Lemuel Vincent presents Chuck McCarty with a plaque on behalf of the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency, October 21, 2022.

McCarty contines to page 3

### Phoenix Suns pay tribute to Arizona's 22 Tribes - culture, tradition and language



Above. Indigenous youth representing Arizona's 22 tribes pose with Phoenix Suns players to showcase their new 2022-23 Nike NBA City Edition uniform. Representing Ak-Chin is Daria Garcia, (top-fourth from left) and Narin Lopez (top-far right). Photo courtesy of Phoenix Suns

If you've gone to a Phoenix Suns game lately, you probably noticed their newly distinguished uniforms.

The Phoenix Suns 2022-23 Nike **NBA** City Edition uniform was unveiled during their home game on November 16, designed in honor of Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes.

The vibrant turquoise is the first standout of the uniform, taking a closer look you will see many detailed elements on the jersey and shorts that are significant to the indigenous cultures of Arizona.

The research and design process for the City Edition uniform began over two years ago and was led by the Suns' inhouse marketing and creative teams with consultation from a Navajo designer.

The Suns worked with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, all 22 tribes, as well as Nike N7, Heard Museum, Phoenix

Indian Center and other

indigenous groups to ensure the development of the uniform would be culturally relevant and appropriate to the Arizona tribes.

turquoise color represents the living or protection stone.

The Native American medicine wheel, depicted on the waistband of the shorts, and on the Suns center court at Footprint Center represents the four cycles of life and the four cardinal directions.

of Arizona to invite The 22 feathers in the tribal youth from the 22

medicine wheel logo and the 22 arrowheads lining the bottom of the shorts represent each of the state's tribes.

The black tape running down the jersey top and shorts features the word for 'sun' in each of the tribes' unique native languages. All native languages are also displayed on the court.

To kick off the new uniform the Phoenix Suns coordinated with the Inter-Tribal Council

tribes to participate in a photo shoot on October 14. The youth were also provided an opportunity to meet with Suns Players and then take photos in representation of their respective tribes for a program called OrigiNativ.

The Suns will wear the indigenous inspired uniform during select home games as part of "ORIGINATIV," a season-long celebration series hosted by Gila Resorts and Casinos that will honor the 22 Sovereign Nations of Arizona. They will also wear the uniform for seven road games that focus on cities with large indigenous populations.

The Suns will honor Native American basketball hero during

Suns continues to page 4

PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS **PAGE 3 COMMUNITY NEWS** PAGE 4 ARTS & ACTIVITIES PAGE 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</u>



Story and photos by J. Peters

November 21st, community elders had an amazingly fun time attending the Ak-Chin Elder Center's first ever Turkey Trot.

Elders and department staff thought it would be a great idea for them to do a fun activity before Thanksgiving, hence, the Turkey Trot was introduced.

Elder Program Assistants Marissa Antone and Narcia Sonia both worked together to come up with different ideas,

thinking outside the box to find new ways to get the community elders moving again.

The turkey trot turned out to be a perfect way to incorporate more low impact exercises that are also fun.

After their morning breakfast elders who chose to participate were dressed to the "T" in their best turkey attire, then lined up outside for the fun activity.

Once they were given the #1 Turkey Trotter in

the elders trotted down Euphrasia Mike. She the event course, with a took off from the getcouple running and some go leaving her fellow wheeling. The course contestants behind. length around the Elder building was just the Euphrasia won a throw right distance for the blanket, getting tired.

Employees from beginning to end.

triumph, but there was participant who was determined to be

the green light to go the group and that was

handmade group to enjoy without native print Christmas stocking and mittens. Coming in 2nd place was enjoyed Evelina Lopez, winning watching and cheering Tupperware and a pair of cozy winter socks. Placing 3rd was Analita The elders trotted to Laborin, who also won Tupperware and a pair of cozy winter socks. All participants received a blue tote bag with gifts inside.

> The Elder department is planning to make this holiday hit an annual activity for the elders, "seeing how much the elders really enjoyed it. We were a bit worried we weren't going to get as much elders as we thought we did, we are hoping each year we do a turkey trot." says Marissa Antone.

As for the elders they are looking forward to being able to do this again next year.

"The elder staff loved being able to plan the event with such a great turn out. The feedback that we got from the elders were nothing but positive. The elders enjoyed dressing up with handmade tutus that the staff had put together and the fun turkey hats and headbands that they also got to wear. We are looking forward to next year's turkey trot."

providing the free burger and fries meal, and even Board had some redeemed on ensured a safe voting Sunday.

Above, voters fill out information before getting

their ballot, at Ak-Chin Recreation gymnasium,

November 19,2022

The Election

experience for all, with

adequate spacing of

booths, drive-up voting

physical limitations and

frequent sanitizing for

They also worked closely

with Council Secretary

Vicky Smith to help

coordinate the Meet the

Candidate Night, while

Elder Director, Leslie

Carlyle-Burnett worked

to get a Candidate event

set up for lunchtime at

Meal tickets for Vekol

Market were provided

to all voters, as an added

the elder luncheon.

members

high touch points.

January 2023.

Congratulations newly elected Councilmembers!

I am truly humbled, blessed and honored to be elected to serve our people and our community. Thank You Ak-Chin for entrusting in me to Lead our Community.

"Ves Ed Vem" - Gabriel Lorenzo Lopez

Thank you to everyone who came out to vote and elected me to serve on council. I look forward to working with council and the membership for the betterment of our

incentive. Vekol stayed Community. busy pretty much all day - Cecil D. Peters

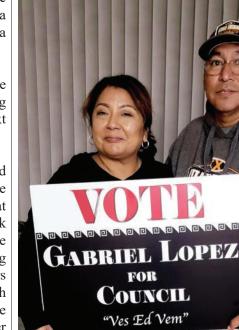












Above, newly elected Councilmember Gabriel Lorenzo Lopez and his wife Salinda, getting campaign signs visible for Election Day.

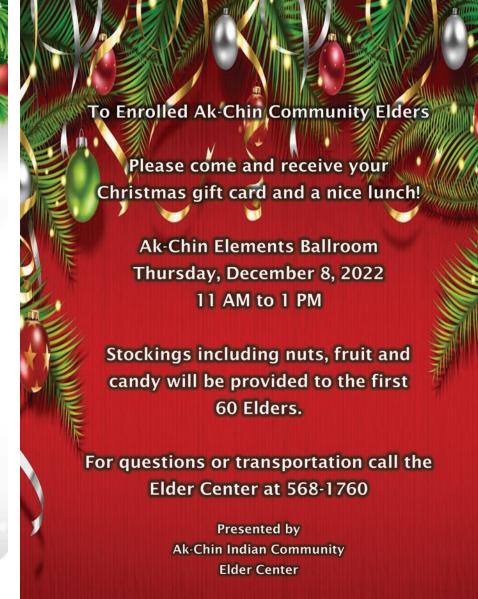
# Elder Wecember Breakfast-Lunch Menu 1.) Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, 9.) Boiled Eggs, Sausage, Toast,

- Toast, Fruit | Meatloaf. Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Salad, Rolls, **Peaches**
- 2.) Sausage Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Fruit | Pozole, Succotash, **Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies**
- 5.) Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Fruit | Spaghetti, Salad, Toast, Cupcakes
- 6.) Egg, Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit | Bar-B-Que Ribs, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Pears
- 7) Potatoes, Beans, Tortilla, Mix Fruit | Squash Casserole, Wild Rice, Salad, Rolls, Mandarin Oranges 8) Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese

| Broccoli Soup, Turkey Sandwich,

**Tropical Fruit** 

- Banana Cereal | Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Jell-O
- 12.) Scrambled Eggs W/ Green Chili, Hashbrown, Toast, Fruit | Beef Fajitas, Rice, Beans, Candy Cane Trifle
- 13) Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, English Muffin, Pears | Salad Bar, Potato Soup, Rolls, Fruit Cocktails
- 14) Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mix Berries | Black Eyed Peas, Chicken Pot Pie (D), Beets, Peas, Apples, Oranges
- 15) Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit | Hamburgers, French Fries, Corn on the Cob, Cherry Crisp
- 16) Masik Tas Holiday Center Closed



16600 N. Maricopa Hwy Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

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Health & Human Services,
Recreation & MUSD.

The Ak-Chin O'odham Runner is published on the first and third Friday of each month.

The "Runner" is delivered

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

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Ak-Chin O'odham Runner

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS Announcements and wishes

may be phoned in, faxed or e-mailed.

### ARTWORK, LETTERS, STORIES

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

If you have artwork, photos, poems or a great story that you would like to share, please contact us so we can include it in "YOUR" newspaper. Also, if you have suggestions or comments about "YOUR" newspaper, let the Runner Staff know 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

2022 Subscription rate is \$33.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$33.75 check/money order to: Ak-Chin O'odham Runner 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy

Maricopa, Arizona 85139

Make check/money order

payable to:

Ak-Chin Indian Community

#### DEADLINE

Don't forget the DEADLINE for the **Dec 16, 2022 - Jan 5, 2023** issue is due by **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH** 

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

#### Material submitted after the <u>DECEMBER 9TH DEADLINE</u>

cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be

included in the next issue.

McCarty continued from Front
Charles "Chuck"
McCarty was recently
honored by the Ak-Chin
Indian Community for
his dedicated years of
service to the Ak-Chin
Tribal Gaming Agency.

McCarty began his career as Executive Director, March 27, 2006. During tenure Chuck overseen Enforcement, Compliance, Audit, Administration and Licensing Divisions of Ak-Chin's Tribal Gaming.

He worked with the Tribal
Gaming Commission
and legal counsel on
Compact Amendments
to ensure compliance
of games, standards
for the operation of
gaming machines,
required background
investigations for

licensing of casino employees, vendors and other areas.

"Chuck has a kind heart and was there for members in their times of grief, sadness, and celebratory occasions." Sandra Shade, Gaming Commission Chairman shared. "The Council, Gaming Commission, and Staff wish him well as he begins his muchawaited retirement."

Chuck is very proud of the leadership he leaves behind at TGA, "One of the strongest management teams I have worked with... we have very strong first-line supervisors. I can't commend my staff enough, they made my job easy."

He is also thankful for

the support received from the tribal council during his 17 years at Ak-Chin.

**December 2 -15, 2022** 

Chuck has been pretty busy since his retirement, though he does have a bucket list he tends to get to eventually. His immediate plan when he finds time is to take a self-paced Spanish class and maybe a cruise to Ensenada. He plans to do some fishing and golfing as well.

I'll be doing – fish one day, golf one day, relax on the weekend, watch the games on Saturday and church on Sunday – that's my plan."

"In a year that's what

Best wishes to you Chuck on your retirement!

### Delia Carlyle recognized with Chairman's Leadership Award

During the 2022

**Indian Gaming** 

Delia was one of

the panelists for

the Fort McDowell

Remembering

Casino Raid on

November 15th.

After the session

panelists were

presented with

the Chairman's

Leadership

Award.

she and the other

Mid-Year

Conference



Submitted by Rosalva Madrid Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming

AK-CHIN FARMS

42507 W. PETERS & NALL ROAD

MARICOPA, ARIZONA 85238

(520)568-100 • FAX:(520)568-1000



AK-CHIN FARMS HAS ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A REGULAR FARM BOARD MEMBER

#### **Qualification Requirements**

- 1.) Must be able to regularly attend Farm Board Meeting, once a month, on the last Tuesday of the month and any special meetings set. The appointed term shall be for 5 years.
- 2.) Must familiarize yourself to the Farm Plan of Operations which govern and spell out the duties of a Regular Farm Board Member.
- 3.) The Farm Board consist of (3) Regular Farm Board Members (2) At-Large Experienced Farm Board Members, making a total of (5) Board Members. The Three (3) Regular Members of the Board shall be enrolled members of the Community or persons who are not members of the Community but who are employees; provided that, regardless of Community membership status, preference shall be given to persons who have agricultural experience or management experience.

All interested parties who desire to serve on the Ak-Chin Farm Board must submit a letter of interest detailing why they are interested in serving on the Ak-Chin Farm Board and your agricultural or management experience if any. In your letter of interest, please note which Board, Commission, or Committee you currently serve on, and when your term expires.

Community/Farm employees must also submit documentation from their supervisor allowing them to serve on the Ak-Chin Farm Board.

#### All letters of interest may be mailed to:

Ak-Chin Farm Board Attn: Farm Manager 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, Az. 85138

Deadline for letters of interest: December 15, 2022



Desert Chair Volleyball
Tournament

The 2022 Ak-Chin Recreation Story and photos by R. Peters

Employee Duel in the Desert Chair Volleyball tournament had 15 teams come out for some friendly banter and final bragging rights for 2022.

Recreation had a couple challenges that pushed their start time back, but with some quick assistance from Ak-Chin Fire, the games commenced.



CHAMPIONS - AK-CHIN FIRE



SECOND PLACE - AK-CHIN R US

Chairman

UofA trivia questions were

by

Robert Miguel, who served

as announcer. Winners were determined by how quickly

they made it to the announcer

stand and of course shouting

Prizes included team themed

socks, blankets, coozies, chairs

Championship game was a

winner-take-all between the

Fire Department and Ak-Chin

R Us, with Fire winning and

offering up the only loss to

Ak-Chin R Us who came in

out the right answer.

announced

and more.

Teams played for 10-minutes or first to score 11 points, whichever came first. Teams consisted of department employees, with smaller departments joining up to make a team.

A new member of the Parks and Rec staff said "I've never participated in a game like this

before. It was a lot of fun."

To make the night even more fun between games, ASU-



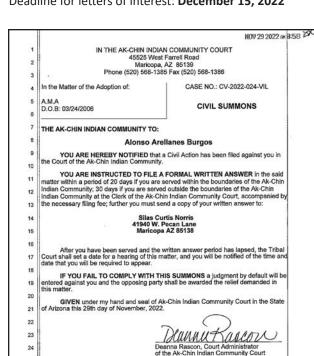
THIRD PLACE - THE RINGERS

second, with The Ringers coming in third.

Ak-Chin Recreation staff thanks everyone for coming out and encourages teams to work together, build camaraderie, practice communication and have a good time.



Team Ka-Ching and Harrah's Ak-Chin volley for bragging rights as everyone else follows along.





Lease Payment

The 2023 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made

by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be <u>no</u> in person payout.

On Friday, January 20, 2023, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your

address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricapa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricapa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") finance Department, incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729 (staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time) The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 12, 2022, Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 20, 2023. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 12, 2022.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. <u>For checks less than \$15.00</u>, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed, Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 20, 2023.

@/@/@/@/@/@/@/@/@/@/@/@/@

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.

\*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 3, 2

### **Ak-Chin Library celebrates Native American Heritage Month with Gertie Lopez**

Photo by D. Villegas, Story by Milo Antone, Ak-Chin Library

As a way to contribute celebrating Native American Heritage Month, the Ak-Chin Library held a special event bringing in a Native artist from one of the surrounding native communities. Gertie Lopez.

she began playing music.

Gertie provided insight



Gertie and friends at the library event.

Ms. Lopez is a well- into where her musical known musician in the path has taken her, the Waila Music scene, a trials she faced through genre of music popular and where her career among tribes and others. is now. She shared the She shared a brief history processes of creating on Waila music and how albums and of course performed a show for the audience.

> As the night of music went on Gertie and her bandmates signed merchandise and took pictures with their fans.

> Ms. Gertie is also a Librarian at the San Xavier Community on the Tohono O'odham nation.

### Multi-Media Mondays

Looking to add a little music to your Monday? The Ak-Chin Library is now hosting Multi-Media night.

Every Monday at 5pm under the direction of Wilson "Milo" Antone, employees members, and their families are welcomed to join a night of musical magic.

I sat in during one of their jam sessions and I was amazed at how talented the kids were. Zachary "Zack" Garcia put on quite a show for fellow media students.

The program currently offers lessons on audio and video as well as playing instruments.



Above, youth listen to music as Wilson "Milo" Antone, library video production asst. observes.

Antone has involved in music for 15+ years.

He currently knows how to play 7 instruments personally, but many friends who play different instruments and can help if anyone wants a lesson on an instrument he doesn't know.

**Health Education brings** 

back Annual Diabetes event

and Rival Walk/Run

been Antone's ultimate goal is to help the children build knowledge and confidence to shoot videos on their own.

Story and photo by T

Marshburn

That goal may be closer than he thinks as the kids are learning quick and really enjoyed their time at Multi-Media Monday.

Story and photos by T. Marshburn

### Maricopa Legacy Boys Volleyball play Desert Winds Middle school

Story and photos by J. Peters

It was a noisy afternoon on November 21st, as family students, and friends of Legacy School Traditional Maricopa cheered and shouted for the Junior High Volleyball team

Antonio Rodriguez bumps the ball

to set it up for his teammate.

Desert Winds Middle School.

The Legacy triumphed through their game against Desert Legacy Lions coming Winds, with a few error

as they played against here and there the boys were able to keep up with the opposing team as they played an exciting match, with each team wining one and one with out 2 - 1.



William Martinez looks and waits to go up for a block.

On November 16th, Ak-Chin Health Education hosted their annual Diabetes event, this year was the first in person event since 2019.

For the past two years the event was only offered virtually. As the event grows, many changes have been added to make the event even more fun.

In 2015 the Rival Run was added, now participates can choose T-shirts to rep their favorite team. So, whether you're a fan of current champions UofA, or the true champions ASU there's room for everyone.

The farmer's market



produce giveaway was added in 2016.

Participants are given a hefty bag of fresh produce which includes a variety of fruits and vegetables. It takes a whole team to pull off this event and as someone who attended the event their efforts didn't go unnoticed.

Health Education would like to send thanks to Sanitation/Public Works Department for all their help with route maintenance, lighting, and table and chair setup/breakdown. Ak-Chin Youth Council Members their assistance at the water station registration, and produce distribution. Ak-Chin Fire Department for the additional lighting and standby assistance.

A special thank you to Waylon and Clayton you Antone. Thank to Vekol Market for providing a delicious dinner. Lastly Thank you to all the participants who joined us for an evening of fun and fitness.



the

**ORIGINATIV** series starting with Phoenix Mercury alumni Arizona State and University **Sports** Hall of Famer Ryneldi Becenti. Hailing from Fort Defiance within Navajo Nation in Arizona, Becenti was the first Native American woman to play in the WNBA during the team and

league's

season in 1997.

each game of

Throughout the game, fans will have the opportunity to learn about the history and traditions of Indigenous communities Arizona and about local Native American businesses and personalities.

ORIGINATIV remaining game nights: Dec. 2 vs. HOU Jan. 6 vs. MIA Jan. 8 vs. CLE Feb. 24 vs. OKC

Mar. 14 vs. MIL



Ak-Chin Councilmember Lisa Garcia gets a close-up of the Phoenix Suns court at Footprint **Center where all Arizona 22 Native translations** for "day" are showcased. Lisa kneels beside Ak-Chin's "Tas" translation.

Mar. 16 vs. ORL Apr. 4 vs. SAS

More information on **ORIGINATIV** program and new City Edition uniform is available at Suns.com/ ORIGINATIV.

Tickets for all upcoming Suns home games can be purchased at Suns.

com/Tix.



ELF **STOCKING** WREATH **FIREPLACE** 

**SNOW GARLAND** EVE TREE

HOLLY BELL LIGHTS SLEIGH

CARD **CHRISTMAS** STAR **SANTA** 







**GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE** (520) 550-6079



**GRHC.ORG/HUB** 

# Stas & Families

# **DECEMBER**

**COVID / FLU VACCINE AVAILABLE** 





**SCAN FOR VACCINE** INFORMATION

Visit a GRHC Primary Care Department for vaccines.

Walk in or schedule an appointment by calling 602-528-1280.

### **Ak-Chin Indian Community COVID TESTING DATES**

December 13th & 14th • 5 pm - 7 pm

Ak-Chin Multipurpose Justice Complex, Maricopa, AZ 85139

# losure

Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

**CLOSED** 

Monday December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Monday **January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**  Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Pharmacy Curbside Hours

Monday, 12/26

10am-8pm

Monday, 1/2

10am-8pm

If you need assistance or more information on services open, call GRHC's main line 520.562.3321. Regular business hours will resume the Tuesday after each holiday. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at HHKMH.



# **MENTAL HEALTH AND** THE HOLIDAYS



**GRHC.ORG/BHS** 



The holiday season can bring joy to many, but it can also be stressful. The COVID-19 pandemic may compound stress, anxiety, and loneliness.



If you are feeling isolated this holiday season, reach out or ask for help if you need it.



Setting boundaries can help you feel more in control of the season's celebrations, in a way that is best for you.



Use positive coping strategies that can support your mental health-like practicing mindfulness, exercising, eating well, spending time in nature, and getting enough sleep.



Do what you can to stay healthy by getting vaccinated or a booster if you are eligible, and by wearing a mask or practicing social distancing where advisable-indoors and in crowds.

If you or anyone you know is struggling and needs support, please call Behavioral Health Services: (520) 562-3321 ext. 7100

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

### What type of classes/training

did you receive?

The classes that were offered were more about the company, and personal experiences from other cast members. I learned a lot about guest services, and human resources because that is what had interested me. I listened to a lot of speakers, who shared the start of their journey and where they are now. I spoke to a lot of executives for Disney and those who have been with the company for 30+ years.

#### Did you need to do something to qualify before attending?

The qualifications needed was to be enrolled in an accredited US college, university, or higher education program OR have graduated from an accredited US college, university, or higher education program within 24 months of the application posting date. Must have completed at least one semester and be 18 years or older.



#### What was one of your most memorable experiences while at WDW?

experienced so many different things working for Disney and living in Florida overall. There were so many other participants like me that had never been to Disney

World. I met so many people from around the world and made longtime friendships. I really enjoyed working the enchantment fireworks show, I saw it over and over, every night and it was an unreal feeling that never went away. I knew it would not be a forever experience and I wouldn't be able to see it again for who knows how long. I get to say I was a Disney World Cast member and I will forever have those memories

#### What was the best advice you received while there?

I was always told I was chosen for a reason, and it was because some part of who I am and the characteristics I have, was in Walt Disney's vision. This was no ordinary job and it kept me on my toes. I wanted to create Magic for not only myself but others as well. No matter how far I go or where I end up, Disney will always have a

place in my heart. I was able to make guests experiences unforgettable, little did they know they did the same for me

#### Who was your biggest influence while there?

My family and co-workers

from Ak-Chin Circle were very supportive during my time gone. I was able to give my mom and grandma an experience they never had before. And, my community believing in me knowing I could bring back the knowledge I gained and the experiences I can share to my community. The support and knowing I can inspire someone to do the same thing, made everything worth it.

Will you attend another Disney program in the future? I do not know if I will be attending another program, but this program was never in my goals and it became one of the best decisions I've ever made for myself. Disney is continuing to open new things everyday (due to the pandemic closure) and more programs are being offered. My love for Disney might bring me back in the future to make magic

I hope I can inspire my community or anyone to look into an opportunity like Disney. It was truly an experience of a lifetime and I am always happy to share more about my personal experience. Walt Disney always said, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." If you can dream it, you can do it. – Walt Disney

Anyssa Justin Senior Entertainment Manager Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center

### **EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS**

1-DEC KIMBERLY VINCENT, TRANSIT 2-DEC

LINDSEY VALLES, FIRE & SAFETY 5-DEC

JUSTINE PETERS, RUNNER 7-DEC

EVELYN JUSTIN, HIM DAK MUSEUM ROBERTO PALANTI, MAINTENANCE 8-DEC

Francesco Betro, Fire & Safety 9-DEC

LEO LEWIS, MAINTENANCE FLORINDA PETERS.

HIM DAK MUSEUM 11-DEC

DESIRAE ANTONE, MAINTENANCE GUADALUPE GLORIA, EARLY CHILDHOOD

**12-DEC** CARLO MORENO, FIRE & SAFETY

13-DEC MORGAN TREVINO, LAW & ORDER

14-DEC

**HECTOR SOLIZ, SANITATION** 

**15-DEC** 

LUCY FLORES, MAINTENANCE **16-DEC** 

KENNETH KINGSLAND, RETAIL

Maria Carlyle-Zepeda, HUMAN RESOURCES

17-DEC

LESLIE LEWIS-MANUEL, TRIBAL GAMING

18-DEC

CHRISTOPHER SANTOS, LAW & ORDER BIANCA VALENZUELA, RETAIL

19-DEC

MANUEL PETERS. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DANIEL ESPINOZA, LAW & ORDER RICHARD KINDRED, TRIBAL GAMING

**20-DEC** 

RONI ZAPPIA, MAINTENANCE

JEANETTE SANTOS, LAW & ORDER 21-DEC

MICKY MOULL, **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** 

**22-DEC** HEIDI HINZ, MAINTENANCE

**23-DEC** 

BARTHOLOMEW SMITH, **COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT** 

**24-DEC** VELACITA LOPEZ, CULTURAL

DAVID PETERS, RETAIL **26-DEC** 

JOE GARCIA, ELDERLY

JOHNNIE TRAUGHBER, LAW & ORDER

28-DEC BERNARDINA GONZALEZ,

PARKS & RECREATION 29-DEC

KATHLEEN MIGUEL, MAINTENANCE

**31-DEC** MERCEDES RIVERA, **COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT** 







Maintenance Maintenance Tech



Parks and Recreation Groundskeeper



**Alexander Lopez** Parks and Recreation Groundskeeper

# Wishing My Beautiful

Granddaughter, Angelica "F(P)orky" Antone Happy Happy 9th Birthday!

May all that you wish for come true. May your day be sprinkled with happiness. Let's get on with the Donut Party and have fun, fun. Grandma Wheezy loves you Sweetheart

Happy Birthday Angelica "Forky" Antone

Though you may be a punky butt to us, but we still love you, enjoy your 9th birthday. Only us your cousins, Beto and Scrupie

Happy Golden Birthday Love!! 9 years old on the 9th.. Although it feels like 19!!!



into the most vonderful, crazy, kindest beauty of a flower...

Child,

vou have

bloomed

be a kid, don't be so quick to want to grow up! Thanks a million for always offering a helping hand, and doing your best at everything. We hope you enjoy your day, you deserve it... We Love You Today, Tomorrow & Forever! Love, Mom & Dad 🤎

Happy Birthday Sister! You are the best teacher

good & bad, I wouldn't trade you for nothing, hecause how



I love you! Love your butta, Bemerson Happy Birthday to my daughter Florinda Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my

else would I get away with

things. Cause it's your day

you won't have to share.

granddaughters Aurora, Destinee, Justine and Zoe, and my grandson Marcus Love, Grandma Happy Birthday Zoe Zoe -

Happy Birthday Marcus Love your family

Love Goddaddy

Happy Birthday Justine Hope you have a grand III birthday!

From the Runner

### **JOB OPENINGS**

- Airport Operations Technician Cashier/Stocker
- Communications Officer (911)
- Community Events Manager Deli Clerk
- Detention Officer Certified
- and Non-Certified Early Childhood Education
- (ECE) Program Manager **Economic Development**
- Analyst Firefighter/Medic
- General Worker Police Officer (Recruit/Non-
- Police Officer Certified Senior Planner
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist
- Student Counselor (grades 9-12)

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

#### December 1

Aurora Peters Kendra Smith Rebecca Stephens-Rodas Kayla Valisto Raven Vallejos

#### December 2

Candice Antone Duane Antone Clarence Enos Dale Narcia Marcus Peters Lindsey Valles Victor Vincent

#### December 3 Arlene Manuel

#### December 4

Archer Anderson Analita Laborin Destinee Peters Bren Valisto Valerie Velasquez

#### December 5

Drevyn Silas-Antone Justine Peters Erica Trejo

#### December 6

Richard Joaquin Dena Romo

#### **December 7**

Evelyn Justin Danya Lopez Joseph Manuel Monica Murrietta Sarlva (Jacuinde) Miranda Omarion White

#### December 8

Odelia Stephens Xavier White

#### December 9

Corey Allison Angelica Antone Virginia Castro Leo Lewis, Jr. Florinda Peters Terry Santiago

#### December 10

Alex Antone Alverna Flores Gloria Narcia

#### December 11

Desirae Antone Guadalupe Gloria Andrew Humeyumptewa Alejandro Maldonado, Jr. Malinda Pete

#### December 12

Zoe Gardner Gina Lewis Elvera Stephens

#### **December 13**

Tristianna Antone Arie Deleon Phillip Joaquin Joseph Kaniatobe Adeline Thomas

#### **December 14**

Channel Antone Kiandry Jacuinde-Miranda

#### **December 15**

Janice Perez Angelica Salas-Vargas

#### December 16

Maxine Antone Maria Carlyle-Zepeda Raven Humeyumptewa Ba'n Jose Tyler Peters Lisa Vincent

#### December 17 James Compton

Leslie Lewis-Manuel Lita Yarberry **December 18** 

#### Josie Hernandez

Justin Humeyumptewa Ralston Justin Sarina Smith Bianca Valenzuela

#### December 19 Manuel Peters

#### December 20 Lanna Lewis

Collette Susunkewa Roni Sue Zappia December 21

Aiden Peters

Eileen Pinheiro

Elijah Narcia

### Adrian Romo

December 22 Nicolas Olivas Volincia Pablo Manuel Rodriguez Candida Upton

#### December 23

Yyondrez Antone Bartholomew Smith

#### December 24

Velacita Lopez David Peters, Jr. Kyle Peters



### December 25

David Manuel, Sr. Arrow Santiago Serenity Villegas Danny Vincent

#### December 26 Andrew Pinheiro

December 27

Orlando Lewis

Angela Trenado

#### Erica Oliver December 28

Bernadina Gonzalez Julianna Orona Jersey Peters Sabrina Sam Javier Zepeda

#### December 29

Abel Lewis Aubrey Lozano Kathleen Miguel

#### December 30

Bernadette Carra Christopher Lewis Renita Machado Lee Miguel, II

### **December 31**

Mercedes Rivera-Lopez

#### **VIOLENT NIGHT** Monday - Thursday: 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00

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

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

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

STRANGE WORLD

Monday - Thursday: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30

Friday: 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30 Saturday:

11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30

**Sunday:** 

3:00, 5:30 & 8:00

**DEVOTION** 

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 & 6:00

Friday: 3:00, 6:00 & 9:00

**Saturday:** 12:00, 3:00, 6:00 & 9:00

**Sunday:** 112:00, 3:00 & 6:00

**THE MENU** Monday - Thursday:

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

Saturday: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

& 10:30

**Sunday:** 

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

**BONES AND ALL** Monday - Thursday: 3:30 & 6:30 Friday: 3:30, 6:30 & 9:30

Saturday: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:30

**Sunday:** 12:30, 3:30 & 6:30

**BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER** Monday - Thursday: 3:30, 4:00, 7:00 & 7:30

Friday: 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:15 & 10:30

Saturday: 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00,

7:00, 7:15 & 10:30

**Sunday:** 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00 & 7:15

**BLACK ADAM** 

Monday - Thursday: 4:00 & 7:00 Friday:

4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 Saturday:

1:00, 4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 **Sunday:** 

1:00, 4:00 & 7:00 all times PM unless noted

ak-chincircle.com/theater

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM 48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

**DECEMBER 10% OFF BOTTLED WINE** 

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community TROOMSOLF

RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA



Before joining the Empire, Eduardo Santiago considered himself reserved and introverted. But after joining Harrah's Ak-Chin's **Toastmasters**  Club, he says his communication, leadership and public speaking skills flourished. This newfound confidence, paired with deep Native American roots and lessons that come with being the second oldest of 12 siblings, helped Eduardo learn to

resourceful,

strong and proud

What does Native American Heritage month mean to you?

of where he comes from.

"Native American Heritage month is a time to celebrate my culture and community. We, as Native Americans, are a diverse group who have made our mark in history and are just as important in today's society."

#### How can we be better allies to Indigenous communities?

"In any working relationship friendship, it's important to have respect and trust. Understanding the perseverance that keeps moving forward and respecting cultural priorities will help

understand everyone Indigenous communities better and create positive, lasting relationships with one another."

What is most thing important everyone should know **Indigenous** about

communities? "Even though we are all seen as Indigenous, we are very diverse and it's important not to think we're all the same. We may carry the same core values of culture, respect, trust and family, but our ways of life may be different."

### **MASIK TAS CELEBRATION**



PERFORMING LIVE

FREE SHOW 8:30рм - 10:00рм |

AT THE AK-CHIN CIRCLE AMPHITHEATER GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM



Ak-Chin Circle

Ak-ChinCircle.com

16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa AZ 85139



AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM



### DECEMBER 2022

**CAESARS** 

SUNDAY

MONDAY

**TUESDAY** 

WEDNESDAY

**THURSDAY** 

FRIDAY

REWARDS





TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2022 PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS • 8AM - 11:59PM

WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 28™ ANNIVERSARY BY INVITING YOU TO PLAY AND EARN MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!



JINGLE YOUR BELLS AT THE GIFT SHOP WITH SOME HOLIDAY SHOPPING



HEATED.



CABANASI

SATURDAY



REWARD CREDITS



**GET GAME-DAY READY!** 



PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT OR REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER



BAKEWARE GIVEAWAY





**BONUS REWARD CREDITS** 

TRACY LAWRENCE CONCERT BONUS REWARD CREDITS



SIGN UP FOR CAESARS REWARDS AND INSTANTLY WIN!



REWARD CREDITS



REDEEM YOUR REWARD CREDITS FOR CABANA RENTALS, HOTEL STAYS, SPA SERVICES, DINING AND MORE!



PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT OR REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER



BAKEWARE GIVEAWAY



DATE NIGHT AT DAK & FORK





CELEBRATION REMINDER

SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 31, 2022



REWARD CREDITS



FIND US ON FACEBOOK, Instagram & Twitter!





BAKEWARE GIVEAWAY



SEASONS GREETINGS!



REWARD CREDITS



REWARD CREDITS

holidays



(Huniversary



Happy 28th





for the whole family!

Masik Tas Celebration

Free for all ages Ak-Chin Circle Field & Arena 16000 N. Maricopa Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85139 Parking is Free. Signage will direct all event traffic

> December 4th - Toka/Songivu'l Traditional Games December 7th - Chair Volleyball Tournament December 9th:

Tracy Lawrence at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino; Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com

December 9th & 10th - Co-ed Volleyball Tournament

December 10th - 5Kat 9:00am

December 10th - Light Parade Starting at 7:00pm

December 11th - Youth Council Cultural Events

December 16th - 7:00pm-12:00am: Papago Warriors at Ak-Chin Circle amphitheater

December 16th - 18th - Rodeo

December 17th -

7:00pm-10:00pm: Kumbia Kings & Grupo Metal at Ak-Chin Circle amphitheater

December 16th-18th - Basketball Tournament

December 18th - Fireworks Show-Time TBD

December 16th-18th

Free Carnival/Fun Zone/Petting Zoo

December 16th: 5pm-10pm, December 17th: 10am-10pm, December 18th: 10am-7pm

Open Wild Horse Race -December 17th & 18th at 12pm 1st Place: Buckles \$500 added money \$300 per Team

> No phone entries, no refunds Contact Delbert White: dwhite@ak-chin.nsn.us or 520-414-5515 All teams must be paid up by 11am Saturday, December 17, 2022

To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification. MANDATORY CHECK-IN

All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS All entries must include payment

Walk-ins on-site. Books Open 8am-11am

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2022 Rodeo \*\*No personal checks accepted

#### 2022 Open Rodeo December 17th & 18th, 2022

**PERFORMANCE TIMES** Performances on Saturday & Sunday at 12pm Slack at 8am (if needed)

Event	Fee	Added \$
Bareback (limit 20)	\$100	\$500
Saddle Bronc (limit 20)	\$100	\$500
Bull Riding (limit 30)	\$100	\$500
Steer Wrestling (limit 30)	\$100	\$500
Tie Down Roping (limit 30)	\$100	\$500
Ladies Barrell Racing (limit 40)	\$100	\$500
Ladies Breakaway Roping (limit 40)	\$100	\$500
Ladies Team Roping (2Xs) (limit 40)	\$200/Team	\$1000
Team Roping (2Xs)(limit 100)	\$200/Team	\$1000
Century Team Roping (2Xs)*(limit 40)	\$200/Team	\$1000
4 Tribes Team Roping (2Xs)	\$200/Team	\$1000
4 Tribes Team Roping (2Xs)	\$200/Team	\$1000

\*Century Team Roper Participants must be 50+ \*4 Tribes Team Roper Participants must be enrolled member of Ak-Chin, Gila River, Tohono O'odham, or Salt River, must provide proof upon request. \*Will not count for All-Around/Only one highest placing money won in Team Roping will count toward All-Around

Must be 18 years old to participate! One time Admin Fee of \$20 per contestant Team Ropers must pay for full team in ONE envelope with separate entry forms. All payments must include Rodeo Entry Form. MAIL-IN ENTRIES OPEN - October 21, 2022 MAIL ENTRIES TO - Ak-Chin Indian Community ATTN: Community Events - 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY-December 5, 2022

WALK INS

December 10th | 10am - 5pm

Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center - 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Pleasemake payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2022 Rodeo \*No personal checks accepted No late entries, no phone entries, no refunds. \*Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note. Contact Rodeo Secretary

24 hours prior to start of rodeo. MANDATORY CHECK-IN

All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification

#### Bull Bash - Friday, December 16th at 4pm Buckles to event winners!

1	Events	Fee	Added \$	
	Open Bull Bash (limit 30)	\$150	\$500	
	Open Novice Bull Riding (limit 10)	\$100	\$500	
Ų	Open Women's Steer Riding (limit 10)	\$50	\$500	

One time Admin Fee of \$20 per contestant

No late entries, no phone entries, no refunds. \*Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note. Contact Rodeo Secretary 24 hours prior to start of rodeo.

To receive payout, contestants must complete W-9 and provide a form of identification. MANDATORY CHECK-IN

All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS

All payments must include Rodeo Entry Form

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2022 Rodeo

#### All-Indian Jr. Rodeo -Friday, December 16th at 8am

**Buckle to Event Winners!** Buckle & Saddle to All-Around (6-9, 10-13, 14-17)

5 Years & Under Sheep Riding (limit 20) Dummy Roping (limit 20) Stick Horse Race (limit 20) Stick Horse Barrels (limit 20) Entry Fee: \$20

6-9 Years Old Calf Riding (limit 20) Ribbon Roping (1x) (limit 20) Barrel Racing (limit 20) Goat Tail Pull (limit 20) Entry Fee: \$25

Steer Riding (limit 20) Ribbon Roping (1x) (limit 20) Barrel Racing (limit 20) Breakaway (limit 20) Team Roping (2x) (limit 20) Entry Fee: \$30

10-13 Years Old

14-17 Years Old **Bull Riding (limit 20)** Ribbon Roping (limit 20) Barrel Racing (limit 20) Breakaway (limit 20) Team Roping 2x (limit 20)

Entry Fee: \$35

Safety Vest required for All Rough Stock events Western Attire Enforced No late entries, no phone entries, no refunds. \*Except with an acceptable doctors/vet note Contact Rodeo Secretary 24 hours prior to start of rodeo.

All payments must include rodeo entry form To receive payout, contestants must show birth certificate. MANDATORY CHECK-IN All contestants must sign a waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS

Cash, Money Order, or Cashiers Check accepted. Please make payable to Ak-Chin Indian Community-2022 Rodeo
\*\*No personal checks accepted.

One-time Admin Fee of \$10 per contestant \*\*Contestants must stay in their own age category.
\*\*Ribbon Roping Muggers in the 6-9 & 10-13 age divisions only. \*\*\*Team Roping & Ribbon Roping partner must be 18 years or older.

MAIL-IN ENTRIES OPEN - October 21, 2022

MAIL ENTRIES TO - Ak-Chin Indian Community ATTN: Community Events - 42507 W. Peters & Nall Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138 ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY- December 5, 2022 WALK INS

December 10th | 10am - 5pm

Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center - 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138 WEBSITE POSTING - December 12, 2022

#### For more information email:

AllEventsStaff@ak-chin.nsn.us | masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us | Follow us on Facebook | @AkChinIndianCommunity Ak-Chin Indian Community and Stock Contractor are not responsible for accidents, injury, loss or theft during this event.



**Ak-Chin Masik Tas Celebration** 

Ak-Chin Circle - 16000 N. Maricopa Road

EVENTS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, please visit our website masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us