



Harrah's honors Native American Heritage Month with Team Member Spotlights and event



Erica Oliver

If anyone knows the secret to success, it's Harrah's Development System Manager Erica Oliver. A recognized Trailblazer, Erica spearheads the HDS and Summer Youth programs at Harrah's Ak-Chin to prepare Ak-Chin Indian Community members for leadership positions within the company. The work is challenging, but Erica is committed to paying it forward and leaving a lasting impact on her community.

the opening ceremony.

"We also host a Fry Bread Sale for Team Members that benefits a different charity organization each year. In 2020, we worked with Feed My Starving Children and packed 64 boxes containing 13,824 meals delivered to various parts of the world."

What do you think everyone should know about the Ak-Chin Indian community? "The Ak-Chin Indian Community has a little over one thousand members, but we're very progressive and forward-thinking in our actions and enterprises despite our size. This mentality is reflected in our casino, farms, museum, commerce center, and more. The decisions we make are not only for the present – they impact future generations."

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

"I love spending time with family and gathering for family cookouts. Food? I'm there. With the shutdowns the last year and a half, it's been great to get out and about finally. Just recently, my husband and I attended a Halloween party. We got a little creative and dressed up as Kermit and Miss Piggy. Our costumes looked awesome!"

How do you define leadership?

"Teams are a reflection of their leadership. I see leadership as an opportunity to pay it forward and develop future leaders by guiding them in the right direction and positively impacting their personal and professional lives."

Why is it important that we celebrate Native American Heritage Month?

"Celebrating Native American Heritage Month is our opportunity to bring cultural awareness to the greater community. Ak-Chin is one of the four sister tribes in southern Arizona that share cultural similarities but are culturally diverse. To help create a sense of unity, our HDS team brings neighboring groups together each year to share each other's culture through traditional song and dance performances during Native American Heritage Month. The day starts with a memorable moment as youths from the four tribes perform



Melanie is pictured in front of a tile painting of her grandmother, Juanita, who passed away in 2007. The artwork is displayed at Harrah's Ak-Chin's steak house, Chop, Block & Brew.

On the day Harrah's Ak-Chin welcomed its first guests in 1994, Indigenous community members were invited to join the celebration. Melanie Antone knows this because she was there. She was only seven years old at the time, but she can still remember her grandmother, Juanita Norris, participating in the ribbon-cutting, and their once-quiet streets abuzz with excitement.

The photos her family took that day tell a story of community, generosity, and endless opportunity. Now, almost thirty years later, Melanie reflects

Harrah's continued on page 6

Parks and Rec host fun "Duel in Desert" Tourney



Tribal Council gets ready to send the ball back over the net to awaiting Lynx players.

Story and photos by R. Peters

Monday, November 22, Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation hosted what they plan to be an annual department event during the state's biggest college rivalries, Arizona State University (ASU) and University of Arizona (UofA) football game.

The Employee Chair Volleyball Tournament was a great way to begin rivalry week in the Community.

"The Recreation had the Employee Chair Volleyball Tournament in November but never a set theme or name." Bernardina Gonzalez, Recreation Coordinator

shared. "During a planning meeting the Duel in the Desert name was discussed, since the tournament was near the rivalry game between ASU and UofA. We also believed it would be a great tournament for employees to come out to show their support towards their favorite Arizona college teams."

Fourteen teams signed up, comprised of employees from departments and enterprises to team up and participate in the one-day tournament.

Four courts were set up on the outside courtyard north of the rec center. Safety protocols

were set in place with sanitized measures after each game, masks were up and everyone practiced safety while on the courts.

The night games had great weather to go along with the rivalry fun and sports trivia kept the breaks lively.

Well-researched trivia questions were asked by Ann Antone, Parks and Rec Director, which allowed many opportunities for guests and players to take home some cool sporting items from their beloved team, as long as they made it to the table first to answer.

Duel continues on page 3

Hospital Ushers in a New Horizon for Healthcare in Maricopa

At least three times a week, Justin Bratten resists the urge to hit snooze, rises to his feet at 4:30 in the morning, and prepares himself for a 40-minute commute from his Rancho El Dorado home to his residency training up in Phoenix. His wife isn't so lucky. Her commute to the Mayo Clinic in north Phoenix takes her an hour.

"That's on a good day," Justin said. It's a routine the couple has repeated now for a year. "I would work here in a second if the option was available!"

Justin isn't alone. The nursing student is one of about 1,800 healthcare workers who live in Maricopa. While they have had a few options for employment close to home, more than 1,200 of them are forced to jump in their cars and commute more than 30 minutes to work outside of the city (EMSI Labor Market Analytics, City of Maricopa Labor Study).

For them, the arrival of Maricopa's first high capability hospital marks an important step toward eliminating the commute and transforming their lives.

"That's about 4-6 hours of drive time a week. If I could cut that out, that leaves me more time with my wife, leaves me more time to be at my house and just enjoy Maricopa," said Justin.



Exceptional Healthcare opens this month, bringing with it 60-100 jobs. Located between the State Route 347 overpass and Maricopa High School, the hospital offers on site radiology, lab services, and diagnostic precision. Above all, its 24 hours emergency room provides the life-saving reassurance Maricopa residents have waited for.

"When we reach the end of this journey in mid-December 2021, this Community Hospital Facility will be where the city of Maricopa can come and receive true 'World Class Health Care' in all aspects from this state-of-the-art facility which will be a specialty emergency and internal medicine hospital, with a 24-hour emergency department, and all associated support elements to create a unique care continuum that is forged in one aspect; taking care of the people of this great city." – Bruce W. McVeigh MS, MA, Chief Operating Officer, Exceptional Healthcare Inc.

The hospital also signals that Maricopa is rising to the challenge of meeting the needs of its rapidly growing population. According to the American Community Survey from the US Census Bureau, 61% of Maricopa's workforce that does not work in the city has looked for a job closer to home. In addition, 85% of the workforce indicated they would leave their current company for a closer workplace.

Plans for additional hospitals are already in the works, opening the door for other industries to follow and giving more Maricopa residents the option of working where they live. For families like the Brattens, it's a step toward making Maricopa an option for permanent residence.

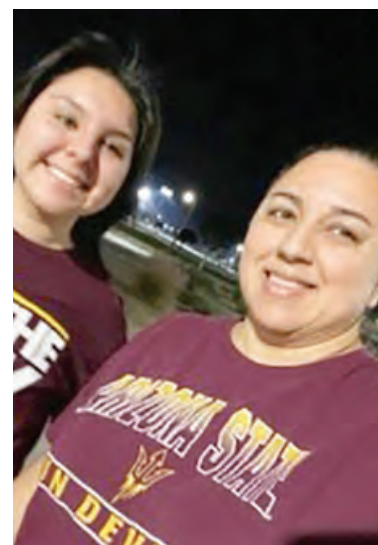
"Our expectations have been met in every way possible," Justin said. "We love the community. Our plan is to stay for as long as possible. I don't see us leaving any time soon."

2021 Diabetes Day Rival Run and Walk

Ak-Chin Health Education provided yet another fun and healthy virtual event for all community members and employees to enjoy. The Diabetes Day Rival Run & Walk virtual event had close to 200 participants (111 ASU and 87 UofA) that also included a farmers market produce giveaway and raffles.

have had with our department in hosting events virtually. Please continue to stay active, eat healthy, and be healthy. We would also like to thank Mr. Waylon Antone for his awesome shirt designs, Vekol Market and 347 Grill for working on us with our vouchers, and the Runner for featuring our stories. All your help is truly appreciated! Please enjoy your favorite team shirt and produce, and have a wonderful holiday season!

Health Education would like to thank everyone for participating in this event! We appreciate the patience you



Pictures of participants in the Rival Run. Photos submitted.

Injury Prevention provide Strengthening and Conditioning class for community elders

As we progress in age, one's balance and mobility slowly start to decline, overall health and physicality changes. This leaves us vulnerable to personal injuries.



Yoga instructor Christy Burnette teaching her class.

Fall injuries are the most common injury among older adults, according to the CDC one out of four older adults fall each year, falling injuries can occur at any time. There are several ways to combat these vulnerabilities, an overall simple and effective approach is strengthening and conditioning the body. Simplistic physical activity can take one's balance and mobility a long way.

with these specific injuries. On Tuesdays and Thursdays yoga instructor Christy Burnette, teaches an hour session of different stretching techniques that improve the body's strength and balance.

In class Ms. Burnette takes participants through a cycle of different stretches that focus on improving body movements and blood flow.

It is an easy way to prevent falling injuries and a way to improve if one has already taken a fall. These simple exercises can help diminish ones fears of falling as well.

For information on how to attend the provided Strenth and Conditioning classes please see flyer to the right.

For the community, a class is provided to prevent and help



Participants during class session.

Don't forget to come to class!

Photo and story by J. Peters



Don't forget to come to class!

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

Elements Event Center
16000 Maricopa Rd.

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

CLASSES FOR OLDER ADULTS 55+ PREFERRED

Snacks provided and items to use at home!

Transportation Provided, please call to set-up pick-up time
Call me @520-568-1087

FOR MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

For questions about the Injury Prevention Program please call or email Teri De La Cruz at 520-568-1087 TDeLaCruz@ak-chin.nsr.us

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

NOTICE

2022 Agricultural Lease Payment

In compliance with SRPMIC Emergency Declaration Directives for COVID-19, the 2022 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On Friday, January 21, 2022, 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-Maricopa 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 17, 2021.
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 21, 2022. 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 17, 2021.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, 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 21, 2022.

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, 2022.

Elder December Breakfast/Lunch Menu

<p>December 3 - Oatmeal, boiled eggs, biscuit, yogurt, milk / Spaghetti, Peas, Salad, Rolls</p>	<p>December 6 - Sausage links, scrambled eggs, toast, banana, juice / Chicken & Rice, Zucchini, Carrots, Chumath, Peaches</p>	<p>December 9 - Cream of Wheat, boiled eggs, cottage cheese & pineapples, cinnamon raisin toast, cereal, milk / Macaroni, Ham & Cheese, Peas, Beet, Rolls, Cherry Turnovers</p>
<p>December 7 - Green chili & egg quesadilla, salsa, hash browns, grapes, juice / 15 Bean Soup, Beef Stir Fry (D), Asparagus, Yellow Squash, Corn Bread, Pears</p>	<p>December 10 - Chicken fried steak, biscuit with gravy, diced potatoes, banana, juice / Beef Vegetable Soup, Rice, Moon Bread, Jell-O</p>	<p>December 13 - Bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, sliced apples, juice / Hot Dogs, Mixed Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Apricots</p>
<p>December 8 - Sausage, egg, & cheese burrito, sliced apples, granola bar, juice / Tilapia or Chicken,</p>	<p>December 11 - Butternut Squash, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>December 14 - Chorizo & egg burrito, grapes, granola bar, juice / Taco Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Apple Sauce</p>
<p>December 15 - Oatmeal, boiled eggs, biscuit, yogurt, milk / Squash Casserole, Beets, Carrots, Salad, Rolls, Rice Pudding</p>	<p>December 16 - Biscuits & sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, grapes, juice / Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Pineapple Upside Cake</p>	<p>December 17 - Center closed for holiday</p>

** Some items may change without notice **

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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy Maricopa, Arizona 85139

OFFICE HOURS
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
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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
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
2021 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 December 17, 2021 - January 6, 2022 issue is due by **FRIDAY DECEMBER 10TH**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **FRIDAY DECEMBER 10TH**

Material submitted after the **DECEMBER 10TH DEADLINE** cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.

Duel continued from Front

Trivia questions were emailed the following day and employees were given the opportunity to win more trivia prizes.

Every participant received a t-shirt with this year's design.

The winners had the options of: Water bottle, lanyards, socks, can or bottle cooler sleeves, umbrella and chairs of each team.

Games were challenging, exciting and fun to watch, with a few uh-oh moments as accidental bonks were played off the fronts and backs of the head.

Here's a bit of trivia

found on Wikipedia, "The Arizona-Arizona State football rivalry, sometimes known as the Duel in the Desert, is a college football rivalry between the University of Arizona Wildcats (UA) and the Arizona State University Sun Devils (ASU)... One of the longest football rivalries, the winner receives the Territorial Cup, created 122 years ago for the 1899 champion between schools in Arizona and which the NCAA has certified as the oldest rivalry trophy in college football." The Arizona-Arizona State football rivalry has met 95 times, since November 30, 1899,

and Arizona currently leads the all-time Territorial Cup series wins, 49-46-1.

The Parks and Recreation would like to send a special thank you to the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council, (CSM) Nicole Carlyle-Coester, Waylon Antone, Heidi Hinz, Raychel Peters, Henry Garcia and all the participants.



These two cuties enjoy the rivalry games.



1st Place Birthday Squad



2nd Place Fire Department



3rd Place Education Department

Ak-Chin Child Development Fall 2021 Newsletter

Child Find
Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), that requires Public Education Agencies to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities aged birth through 21, located within their geographic boundaries who need early intervention or special education services

Child Find at MUSD District Office
If you would like to have your child screened please contact us at (520)568-1700 if you need assistance in this process. OR contact the district directly at (520)568-5140
Wednesday Dec. 10th
Call and book your appointment.
[Learn more at https://www.musd20.org/Page/1882](https://www.musd20.org/Page/1882)

- Family Resources**
- <http://www.raisingarizonakids.com/calendar/>
 - <https://www.parents.com/recipes/nutrition/picky-eater-strategies/>
 - <https://www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/all-ages/literacy>
 - <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/few-thoughts-separation-anxiety>
 - <http://www.firstthingsfirst.org/resources/birth-five-helpline/>
 - <https://www.healthline.com/health/lice-home-remedies#what-to-avoid>

Early Intervention
If you or someone you know has a concern with a young child's development, there is help. Addressing concerns early is the best way to help children succeed. Ak-Chin Child Development will be happy to assist you in the process. You can find developmental milestones in the resource links above.
Arizona Early Intervention Program
Children Birth to age 3
Ph. 800-237-3007 or online @ <https://azeip.azdes.gov/AzEIP/AzeipRef/Forms/Categories.aspx>
Child Find
Children age 3 to before Kindergarten
Ph. 520-568-5100 Ext. 5140

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

Attention to: All Community Members, Non-members and Residents

Past Due Fines

If you are delinquent on your fines, or if you are unsure if you have any fines.

Please contact the courts at earliest convenience to avoid the following penalties:

- Withholding of Annual Distributions
- Garnishment of Wages for those working within the Ak-Chin Indian Community

Past Due fines will be sent to Valley Collection Agency

You can avoid any of the above collections by the following:

- You may come to the court to make payment arrangements and you must be consistent on your payments.
- You may come to the court to dispute the matter and request a hearing.

Address: 45525 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139 • Phone: (520) 568-1385 • Fax: (520) 568-1386

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, December 14, 2021, at the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Conference Room, 46200 W. Ralph Street.

CASE: ZA-01-21: Ak-Chin Indian Community Zoning Ordinance Update and Zoning Map Update:

Project Applicant/Community Operations Manager Bart Smith, is requesting to amend the Ak-Chin Indian Community Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. The Community's Zoning Ordinance was last updated in 2007 and the proposed amendment will assist the Community to review future land uses and development proposals. The Zoning Ordinance update will consist of text changes within all chapters of the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Map update will consist of map changes throughout the entirety of the Zoning Map.

The amendment will consist of:

- Text revisions to the Acknowledgements, Chapter 1 – General Provisions, Chapter 2 – Definitions, Chapter 3 – Residential Zones (R1, R2, & R3), Chapter 4 – Public Use, Chapter 5 – Commercial Zones (C1 & C2), Chapter 6 – Industrial 1 & 2 Zones, Chapter 7 – Agriculture Zone, Chapter 8 – Preserved Sensitive Zone, Chapter 9 – Riparian Zone, Chapter 10 – Administration, Chapter 11 – Amending Zoning Ordinance/General Plan, sections of the Ordinance.
- Map revisions to the Community Zoning Map including the zoning of unzoned lands (Southern Dunes Golf Course, Airport, various Fee-to-Trust and Fee properties), the rezoning of R3 land to R-4 (new Zone), the rezoning of Preserved Sensitive land to PS-1, PS-2, and PS-3 (new Zones), and the expansion of Zone boundaries to street centerlines.

Sanitation Holiday Schedule
December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Trash Pick Up: 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29, 31
Recycling Pick Up: 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30

Holidays: 17 (Ak-Chin's Mash'ar Holiday), 24 (Christmas Day Holiday (Observed)), 31 (New Year's Day Holiday (Observed))

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



THE
HUB



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE
(520) 550-6079



GRHC.ORG/HUB

Get Your
COVID VACCINE!



December 8th
9 am - 3 pm

December 9th
11 am - 6:30 pm

Ak-Chin Recreation Center • 46753 W. Farrell Road • Maricopa, AZ

Dose 1, 2 & 3 Eligibility:

GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members. All individuals 5 years and older. Parent or guardian consent is required.

Additional Dose 3 Eligibility:

If you received PFIZER OR MODERNA

- You are eligible for a booster if you are:
18 years of age or older
- When can you get it:
Six (6) months after your second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna

If you received JOHNSON & JOHNSON

- You are eligible for a booster* if you are:
18 years of age or older
- When can you get it:
Two (2) months after your first shot
** Pfizer or Moderna only*

**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
COVID-19 TESTING**

SAVE THE DATE

2021 TEST DATES

December 20th and 21st
5 pm - 7 pm

AT AK-CHIN JUSTICE COMPLEX
45525 W. FARRELL ROAD, MARICOPA, AZ 85139

For test result information, please call (502) 559-6079

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

CLOSED 12/24 - 25 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

CLOSED 12/31 - 1/1 - NEW YEARS HOLIDAY

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449

COME PLAY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FOR US.

MARICOPA LITTLE LEAGUE 2022 SPRING BALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



\$150

T-Ball, Softball, Baseball
Ages 4-18, Boys and Girls

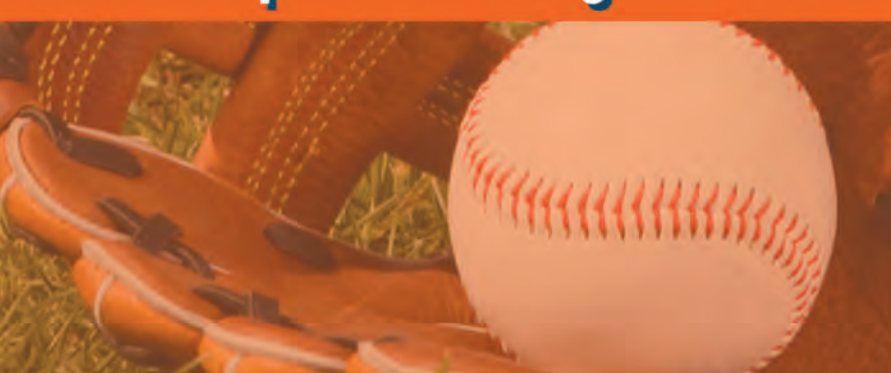
T-Ball \$85

Registration
Closes
Jan 8, 2022



All Games at Copper Sky Regional & Pacana Parks

MaricopaLittleLeague.com



IN MEMORY OF BUDDY

BUDDY'S READING CIRCLE

Parents/Guardians/Grandparents/
Aunties & Uncles:

Do you have or know any 2nd and 3rd graders
who need some extra help with reading?



PLEASE CALL MELANIE
520-568-1675

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT
THE LIBRARY

Your child will be given a Reading Placement Tool
which will take approximately 30 minutes.

*Open to Ak-Chin Members and Residents.

Employee Birthdays

- 12/1 - Kimberly Vincent, Transit
- 12/2 - Lindsey Valles, Fire & Safety
- 12/5 - Justine Peters, Runner
- 12/7 - Evelyn Justin, Him Dak Museum
- 12/8 - Francesco Betro, Fire & Safety
- 12/9 - Leo Lewis, Maintenance
- 12/9 - Florinda Peters, Him Dak Museum
- 12/11 - Desirae Antone, Maintenance
- 12/11 - Guadalupe Gloria, Early Childhood
- 12/12 - Carlo Moreno, Fire & Safety
- 12/13 - Morgan Trevino, Law & Order
- 12/14 - Richard Huff, Probation Officer
- 12/14 - Hector Soliz, Sanitation
- 12/15 - Lucy Flores, Maintenance
- 12/16 - Maria Carlyle-Zepeda, Finance
- 12/16 - Kenneth Kingsland, Retail
- 12/17 - Leslie Lewis-Manuel, TGA
- 12/18 - Bianca Valenzuela, Retail
- 12/19 - Manuel Peters, EPD
- 12/19 - Richard Kindred, TGA
- 12/20 - Collette Susunkewa, Finance
- 12/20 - Roni Zappia, Maintenance
- 12/20 - Jeanette Santos, Law & Order
- 12/21 - Micky Moull, EPD
- 12/22 - Heidi Hinz, Maintenance
- 12/23 - Bartholomew Smith, Community Manager
- 12/24 - Velacita Lopez, Cultural
- 12/24 - David Peters, Retail
- 12/26 - Johnnie Traughber, Law & Order
- 12/28 - Bernardina Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation
- 12/29 - Mary Zepeda, TGA
- 12/29 - Kathleen Miguel, Maintenance
- 12/31 - Mercedes Rivera, Community Government



Wishes

Happy 8th Birthday Angelica!
You definitely grew up on me into
one crazy, beautiful, smart outspoken
kid... it's your day baby, and I hope it
is a wonderful one. Thanks for always
offering a helping hand, let's enjoy the
day "together".
love always MOM

Happy Birthday Sister
I may let you slide on a couple things
but only cause it's your day, but then
next day you have to share... Have
fun!
love SonSon

Happy Birthday Uncle Berbert
Don't have too much fun, but yet

enjoy your day!
The Bros, Son & Gelica

Angelica,
I am so glad to have finally come home
and be a part of your life physically. I
am so proud of you my beautiful little
girl! You are going to be 8 years old
and big girl now!!! I wish you many

more and happiness and fun on your
special day my love 🥰
Love always, your daddy
Juan Luz (happy face with hearts)

Happy Birthday to my daughter
Florinda
Love, Mom

Happy Birthday to my
granddaughters Destinee, Justine and
Zoe and my grandson Tyler
Love, Grandma

Happy Birthday Zoe
Love, Uncle Mag and Auntie Raychel

December Birthdays

DECEMBER 1ST
KAYLA VALISTO
AURORA PETERS
RAVEN VALLEJOS
KENDRA SMITH
REBECCA STEPHENS-
RODAS

DECEMBER 2ND
VICTOR VINCENT
LINDSEY VALLES
DUANE ANTONE
CLARENCE ENOS
MARCUS PETERS
CANDICE ANTONE
DALE NARCIA

DECEMBER 3RD
ARLENE MANUEL

DECEMBER 4TH
VALERIE VELASQUEZ
ARCHER ANDERSON
ANALITA LABORIN
BREN VALISTO
DESTINEE PETERS

DECEMBER 5TH
ERICA TREJO
DREVVYN ANTONE-SILAS
JUSTINE PETERS

DECEMBER 6TH
DENA ROMO
VIRGINIA CASTRO
RICHARD JOAQUIN

DECEMBER 7TH
SARLYA MIRANDA
JOSEPH MANUEL
OMARION WHITE
EVELYN JUSTIN
MONICA MURRIETTA
DANYA LOPEZ

DECEMBER 8TH
ODELIA STEPHENS
XAVIER WHITE

DECEMBER 9TH
COREY ALLISON
ANGELICA ANTONE
TERRY SANTIAGO
FLORINDA PETERS
LEO LEWIS JR.

DECEMBER 10TH
ALVERNA FLORES
GLORIA NARCIA
ALEX ANTONE

DECEMBER 11TH
DESIRAE ANTONE
GUADALUPE GLORIA
MALINDA PETE
ALEJANDRO MALDONADO JR.

DECEMBER 12TH
ELVERA STEPHENS
GINA LEWIS
ZOE GARDNER

DECEMBER 13TH
JOSEPH KANIATOBÉ
PHILLIP JOAQUIN
TRISTIENNA ANTONE
ADELINE THOMAS
ARIE DELEON

DECEMBER 14TH
KIANDRY JACUINDE-
MIRANDA
CHANNEL ANTONE

DECEMBER 15TH
ANGELICA SALAS-VARGAS
JANICE PEREZ

DECEMBER 16TH
LISA VINCENT-CARLYLE
RAVEN HUMEYUMPTWEA
MARIA CARLYLE-ZEPEDA
TYLER PETERS
MAXINE ANTONE

DECEMBER 17TH
LITA YARBERRY
LESLIE LEWIS-MANUEL
JAMES COMPTON

DECEMBER 18TH
JUSTIN HUMEYUMPTWEA
RALSTON JUSTIN
SARINA SMITH
BIANCA VALENZUELA
JOSIE HERNANDEZ

DECEMBER 19TH
MANUEL PETERS
DECEMBER 20TH
COLLETTE SUSUNKEWA
LANNA LEWIS
RONI ZAPPIA

DECEMBER 21ST
ADRIAN ROMO
AIDEN PETERS
ELIJAH NARCIA
EILEEN PINHEIRO

DECEMBER 22ND
VOLINCIA PABLO
MANUEL RODRIGUEZ
CANDIDA UPTON
NICOLAS OLIVAS

DECEMBER 23RD
YYONDREZ ANTONE
BARTHOLOMEW SMITH

DECEMBER 24TH
VELACITA LOPEZ
DAVID PETERS JR.
KYLE PETERS

DECEMBER 25TH
SERENITY VILLEGAS
ARROW SANTIAGO
DAVID MANUEL SR.
DANNY VINCENT

DECEMBER 26TH
ANGELA TRENADO
ANDREW PINHEIRO

DECEMBER 27TH
ORLANDO LEWIS
ERICA OLIVER

DECEMBER 28TH
SABRINA SAM
JERSEY PETERS
JAVIER ZEPEDA
JULIANNA ORONA
BERNADINA GONZALEZ

DECEMBER 29TH
KATHLEEN MIGUEL
AUBREY LOZANO
ABEL LEWIS

DECEMBER 30TH
BERNADETTE CARRA
LEE MIGUEL
RENITA MACHADO
CHRISTOPHER LEWIS

DECEMBER 31ST
MERCEDES RIVERA-LOPEZ

Happy
Birthday



Harrah's continued from front



Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam. (Submitted by Erica Oliver, Harrah's Development System Manager)

In recognition of Native American Heritage month, Harrah's Ak-Chin hosted its 3rd Annual Native American Heritage Event on Sunday, November 21, 2021. This year and last year's events were virtual, streamed live via the Harrah's Ak-Chin Facebook page. The Ak-Chin and Gila

River Youth Councils blessed the event with the opening ceremony followed by five traditional song and dance groups: Kaij Mek Ne'edam kc Keihindam, Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam, AChem A'al, Anegam Singers, Bird Singing and Dancing by the River.

on those memories with pride as an Inventory Parts Specialist for the property. On top of helping keep the day-to-day operations running smoothly, she takes an active role engaging and supporting members of the Ak-Chin Indian Community who are interested in joining the casino industry.

Why is it important that we celebrate Native American Heritage Month?

"There have been times in my life where I've heard people voice a common stereotype or misconception about Indigenous people. Native American Heritage Month provides an opportunity to educate others about our traditions, language, and history. I'd rather create a bridge than a battlefield to teach people about our communities."

In your time at Harrah's Ak-Chin, how have you felt supported?

"Supporting my community is one of my greatest passions, and it's something that I can do in my current role - whether I'm speaking to guests about our community or giving advice to the Harrah's Development System and Summer Youth Program participants. I take pride in our business, and I want Team Members to feel the same. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing my community members complete the HDS or Summer Youth Program with the skills to succeed in life."

What is the greatest piece of advice you can give to Team Members?

"Learn as much as you can and take advantage of the opportunities that are presented

to you. The great thing about Caesars Entertainment is that it doesn't matter where you start. What matters is where you want to be. We offer the tools and resources to help you meet your goals. There's always room for professional growth, and the possibilities of what you can achieve are endless."

What is one thing you think everyone should know about the Ak-Chin Indian Community?

"We welcome everyone. If you walk through our front doors, we invite you to share a meal with us. We show you hospitality. That's part of what makes our partnership with Caesars Entertainment successful - our shared values."

ARROYO GRILLE
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

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WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 22nd

Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER Ak-ChinCircle.com

16000 N. Maricopa Road, Maricopa AZ 85139

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO DECEMBER 2021 CAESARS REWARDS.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ANNIVERSARY TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021 8AM - 11:59PM • PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS RECEIVE A 5X, 7X, 10X, OR EVEN 25X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER!						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PARMI HOLIDAY SERVEWARE SET GIVEAWAY*	DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE GIFT SHOP	JOSH TURNER CONCERT REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	1 MILLION REWARD CREDIT HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	5X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	STAY IN THE HOTEL TO ENJOY THE HEATED OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPAS	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	ENHANCE A TREATMENT WITH THIS MONTH'S SPA SPECIAL - GINGERSNAP SCRUB	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	5X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	GET HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AT THE GIFT SHOP	JACKPOT WINNERS CIRCLE FINALE DRAWING REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	5X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	CATCH A COMPLIMENTARY RIDE TO AND FROM THE PROPERTY	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	UNWRAP YOUR TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	5X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER
29	30	31	NEW YEAR'S 2022 SAVE THE DATE December 31, 2021			
MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	RETURN YOUR TABLE GAMES CHIPS BEFORE THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 FOR FULL REFUND	PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER			

*Wednesday, December 1, 2021 gift is part of the November 2021 Gift Giveaway. Please refer to November 2021 communications to see if you qualify for free gifts. 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.