

Maricopa, Arizona

Volume XXXVII, Issue 19

October 6 - 19, 2023

## **Ak-Chin Celebrates Native American Recognition Day**



Ak-Chin Ba:ban Kehina Traditional Dancers perform at 2023 NARD event.

Story and Photos by Alexa Key Saturday, September 30, Ak-Chin Him-Dak Eco Museum hosted a celebration for Native American Recognition Day (NARD). Ak-Chin Indian Community gathered at Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park for the celebration.

The 2023 NARD celebration provided many activities for guests to enjoy. These activities consisted of: fun run/walk, dance

NARD cotinues to Page 4

group performances, artist demonstrations, information booths, food vendors, arts and crafts vendors, bouncy houses and face painting!

The celebration began at 7:30 a.m. where participants looking to join the fun run/ walk began signing up.

The first, second and third place winners received awards for their accomplishments.

Other prizes were given to the first 100 people to attend the event!

Later, guests were able to enjoy the other activities and vendors all put together by the Him-Dak Eco Museum staff.

The prep work for this event began in July of 2023, where staff began searching for vendors and demonstrators that would be able to attend.



Central Plant staff pictured L to R: Tommy Jensen, Micky Moull and Johnny Ramirez.

## **Department Profile: Central Plant**

#### Story and Photos by Alexa Key

Ak-Chin's Central Plant is led by Central Plant Facilities Manager, Micky Moull. On staff with Moull is Central Operator, Johnny Plant Ramirez and Central Plant Technician, Tommy Jensen.

Located on 15960 Narcia Street, near Harrah's Casino and directly next to Ak-Chin Security is where you can find Central Plant. Created in 2012, Central Plant remains a vital role in Ak-Chin's community operations.

Central Plant maintains the chillers, cooling towers and air handling equipment for several

locations in the community such as: Central Plant, Justice Center and Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center. Central Plant also supplies chilled water for Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Ak-Chin Circle to ensure that both facilities can maintain proper cooling. On top of supplying chilled water, Central Plant also maintains boilers that are used for hot water at Ak-Chin Circle and Justice Center.

As far as community engagement, Central Plant does like to collaborate with other departments within Ak-Chin.

Central Plant cotinues to Page 3

## ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ **Community gathers to** wish Marlene Garcia a **Happy Retirement**





Marlene Garcia cuts cake at her retirement celebration.

Story and Photos by Alexa Key

Wednesday, September 20, Ak-Chin Indian Community members and employees gathered to wish Marlene Garcia a happy retirement and celebrate all of her accomplishments during her 32 years of work.

Marlene Garcia has served as the Director of Housing for Ak-Chin Indian Community for 22 years. She first began her career under the HUD program for 10 years before moving into the position of Director.

During her time as Director, Garcia has been part of many projects including – housing development, refurbishing

homes, creating handicap restrooms in existing homes and extending the housing development throughout the community.

These homes include houses and apartments. Her experiences have allowed her to create work that she and the community are proud of, like creating a growing community.

"I can't name one moment that I didn't like while working here, I've really liked working here," said Garcia.

Garcia gave thanks to her previous Director, Burl Corbin, for all that he did to prepare her for her career as a

director.

"I didn't know at the time why he was having me attend so many trainings and extra job assignments, but after he resigned, he referred me to the housing board to become the next director," said Garcia. "I realized after that he had been training me to become a director."

Because Garcia had the positive experiences with her previous Director, she has continued to implement those same lessons to her employees now.

"I send my employees to attend trainings where they Newly elected Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Verlon Jose and Vice Chairwoman Carla Johnson share a congratulatory moment after being sworn in.

## Tohono O'odham **Nation Celebrate 2023 Inauguration**

Story and Photos by Raychel Peters

Saturday, September 21, the Tohono O'odham Nation, along with tribal and state dignitaries in and out of state, as well as special guests gathered at the Tohono O'odham High School to celebrate the Inauguration

Ceremony for newly elected Chairman Verlon Jose and Vice Chairwoman Carla Johnson.

Representing the Ak-Chin Community at the Inauguration were, Chairman Robert

Tohono O'odham Inauguration continues to page 3

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

#### **PAGE 2 ELDER NEWS** PAGE 3 COMMUNITY NEWS

**PAGE 7 FALL RECREATION** PAGE 9 ANNOUNCEMENTS



Marlene's Retirement cotinues to Page 3

**16th Annual Maricopa Kids Day at MWMS** 

Story and photos by Armonda Santiago

Maricopa Wells Middle School hosted the 16th Annual Maricopa Kids Day event on Saturday September 16th, from 10am to 4pm.

Chairman Robert "Bob" Miguel spoke to the families on how exciting it is to help provide for the students each year.

It was a very full cafeteria for all the students. Families went to each vendor and received a free incentive from cotton candy, popcorn, helpful stickers, and

information on each vendor, if the child had an interest or questions.

Ak-Chin Circle was also set up, and gave away free bowling coupons for each family who visited their vendor location.

Stella Miguel, daughter of Chairman and Connie Miguel performed with Desert Stars Performing Arts dance group at the event.

Ak-Chin has been a long time sponsor of Maricopa Kids Day.



October 6 - 19, 2023

Stella Miguel with Desert Stars Dance Team



Jaxson Justin with Power Rangers



Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel



Smokey Bear giving a hug to one of the students.



## Thursday October 26, 2023 12 noon

Ak-Chin Circle bowling station

## **Ak-Chin Elders Celebrate Quarterly Birthdays**

Story and photos by Tyaun Marshburn



## Location: **Ak-Chin Elder Center Dining Room**



If you have any questions, call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760



were celebrated.

Ak-Chin Elder Center quarterly held their birthday celebration on Friday September 29th, in the Elder Center dining room.

During the months of July, August and September 30 birthdays For lunch they had cheeseburgers, frenchfries, coleslaw and peach

cobbler with ice-cream. Two people were selected honored as guests, Connie Santiago (7/24)

and Bernadette White (9/2). Both ladies were given personal cakes with a candle to blow out and make a birthday wish.

The next Elder Quarterly Birthday Celebration will be held in December.



6 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Muffin Banana | Baked Chicken, Black Beans, Corn, **Tropical Fruit** 

9 Sausage, Potato, Eggs Scrambled, Toast, Peaches Pinto Beans, Chicken Tacos, Butternut Squash, Asparagus, Corn Bread, Fruit **Cocktail** 

10 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Salad | Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Vegetable Soup & Turkey Sandwich, Peas/ Peaches, Cherry Crisp

11 Veggie Omelet, Toast, Fruit, Scone | Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potato, **Broccoli, Biscuits, Grapes** 

12 Chorizo & Eggs, Beans, Tortilla, Fruit & Yogurt | Beef Tacos, Shredded Green Leaf, Tomato, Cheese, Black Bean. Zucchini, Watermelon

13 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana | Smothered Pork Chop, Sauteed Spinach, Wild Rice, Lima Beans, Apple Spice **Cookies**, Orange

16 Egg & Ham Sandwich, Hashbrown, Fruit, Yogurt Chicken Enchiladas, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Fresh **Cut Fruit** 

17 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, **Raisin Bread, Mix Berries** Bar-B-Que Ribs, Sweet Potato, Peas, Plain Rib/ Potato, Romain Salad, Jell-O/ Apple

**18 Pancakes, Scrambled** Eggs, Sausage, Fruit Cup | **Black Eyed Peas, Chicken** Dumpling, Yellow Squash, **Pineapple** 

19 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana | Potato Soup, Chef Salad, Wheat/ White Rolls, Apricots

Menu subject to change without notice

## ELDER **PICTURE DAY!**

**Come in with your** Sunday best on and get your picture taken!

Thursday October 26, 2023 10 AM to 1:30 PM

Location **Elder Center**  October 6 - 19, 2023

🕈 Ak-Chin Oodham Runner 💮 Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ©2023

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

#### Ak-Chin O'odham Runner Editor: Raychel Peters

Photojournalists: Tyaun Marshburn and Alexa Key **Graphic Artists:** Diana Carlyle and Rebecca Rosoff News Assistant: Delila Villegas

#### **Ak-Chin Tribal Council**

Chairman: Robert Miguel Vice Chair: Lemuel Vincent Council Members: Lisa Garcia, Gabriel Lopez and Cecil Peters

#### Regular Contributors: Ak-Chin: Cultural Resources, Education, EPD, Health Education, Him-Dak, Library, 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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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Announcements and wishes may be phoned in, faxed

Maricopa, Arizona 85139

#### ARTWORK, LETTERS, **STORIES**

or e-mailed.

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

Marlene's Retirement continued from Front can receive certifications forward to being home and I have taught them everything that I've learned," said Garcia.

Due to these teaching moments. Garcia feels confident that the Ak-Chin Housing Department will be in good hands under the leadership of Amy Rodriguez, a current employee of the housing department.

Though Garcia hadn't planned on retiring this early, she knows that this is the best decision for her health. "I didn't plan on this, but I want to take the time to worry about myself and my health," said Garcia.

Garcia is excited to relax and spend time with her family after her retirement. "I'm looking

and spending time with my grandchildren," said Garcia. "Some of them are older and younger and I want to spend as much time with them as possible."

"Congratulations your retirement on (Marlene). Thank you for your dedication to our community and the endurance over the past 30 years. Enjoy a much needed rest to refresh and strengthen you. You will be missed," said Bartholomew Smith, Community Manager for Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Chairman Robert Miguel also shared a few "Marlene comments, held one of the toughest positions of employment

here in our community. Although she endured plenty, she did her job first rate and to the best of her ability,"

Chairman Miguel adds, "During my travels and meeting with other leaders, when the topic of Housing came up, Marlene's name was always referenced. The Community cannot thank her enough for all that she's done. She will be missed, but her decision to retire and spend time with family, especially her grandchildren, is well respected. She deserves to enjoy the rest of her time resting and relaxing.

"Thank you so much Marlene, it'll be hard to replace you!"

combine with Safety and do the summer and winter program for the kids in the community," said Micky Moull, Central Plant Facilities Manager. Moull added, "We have also for the last couple years combined with safety and environmental programs to do the Christmas tree decorating at the park."

generally

"We

will

Micky Moull shared that the team at Central Plant get along very well and like to keep a light atmosphere. "We like to joke around with each other. I always like to get some kind of trophy when we participate in events such as employee challenges, even if we don't come in first, we still win."

Some breaking news that occurred most recently

at Central Plant was the discovery of a nearby flying friend.

Beginning the week of September 18, Central Plant Facilities Manager, Micky Moull, had noticed a roaming hawk near the facilities. Despite numerous efforts, the hawk would continue to run away once they got close. It was found to have suffered from a broken wing.

September 21, On landscapers and Central Plant staff were able to secure the bird and called Ross Stimac and Brandy Nelson from Ak-Chin Environmental Programs. From there, they discovered that the bird was injured and transported it to Liberty Wildlife for rehabilitation.



Chairman Miguel and Marlene Garcia pose together with traditional basket gifted to Marlene by Ak-Chin Council.

Below: Community enjoys food and refreshments at Marlene Garcia's retirement celebration.



For further information by emailing MMoull@ or assistance from Central Plant, please contact the department

ak-chin.nsn.us or call 520.568.1639.

## **Governor Hobbs Co-Hosts First State Tribal Summit** with Focus on Economic Development

and Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs convened to discuss how to create jobs, build businesses, and grow the economy. The goal was to address mutual interests and opportunities explore for responsible tourism and other initiatives that benefit Tribal communities and the state.

On Tuesday, September Governor Katie Hobbs. 12, Arizona Tribal leaders "I am working with tribal governments to address problems that affect their communities and our state to ensure they have the infrastructure - like roads, utilities, and access to affordable internet and housing - necessary for economic development."

Story and photo submitted **Canyon National Park** Superintendent Ed Keable.

Central Plant continued from From

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

2023 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

NEXT DEADLINE Don't forget the DEADLINE for the Oct. 20 - Nov. 2, 2023 issue is due by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

#### Material submitted after the **OCTOBER 13TH DEADLINE**

cannot be guaranteed placement. If appropriate and relevant, it will be included in the next issue.



Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel with Governor Katie Hobbs, at the Grand Canyon, Sept. 12.

"Building strong relationships with the 22 tribal nations and communities in Arizona is a top priority of my administration," said

## Four Sister Tribes meeting at Talking Stick Resort

Story and photo submitted



"In hosting Arizona's leadership at the convening, we strengthen our Tribal and State partnerships and build a shared vision responsible for and sustainable economic development and tourism," said Grand

For a number of years, the Four Sister Tribes of Arizona, which includes Ak-Chin Indian the Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community and Tohono O'odham Nation attempted to re-establish their yearly meetings, but to no avail.

But that changed in early September as the Four Sister Tribes finally met for the first time at Talking Stick Resort.

Together, tribal leaders and staff were able to share information and give updates of their respective tribes which included; events, projects, programs and overall being of their

"It is wonderful to see so many leaders focused on how best to preserve and protect our state while sharing all that Arizona has to offer with visitors."

At the convening, participants heard from representatives of the National Park Service Grand Canyon and Conservancy about their initiatives to preserve cultural heritage at the Grand Canyon. Tribal leaders shared their top priorities and projects.

#### Tribal Summit continues to page 6

people.

"Since it had been quite some time since we last met, it seemed more like a family reunion," Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel said.

"It was great to see leadership from the Sister Tribes and to hear how each Tribe was providing services and opportunities for their people."

A big thank you goes out to the Salt River Community and Council their for efforts in coordinating and hosting the meeting.

Another Four Tribes Meeting is slated for later this year.

NARD continued from Front The celebration appreciated by was community members since this is the first

celebration

NARD

after the COVID-19 the lingering effects of pandemic. For 2022, the COVID-19 they were Him-Dak Eco Museum not able to have vendors was able to host a fun and activities. run/walk but due to

#### October 6 - 19, 2023 O'odham Bingo Night at Serive Center



5k Fun Run/Walk Medalists pictured L to R: Amber Antone, Antonio Rodriguez and Sarah Zabawa.



Womens 5k Winners L to R: Delaine Carlston 3rd Place, Amber Antone 1st Place and Sarah Zabawa 2nd Place.



Native American Recognition Day is celebrated in September and holds great importance. "I think it's important because it's a way to celebrate our

community and also spread awareness and information to people who may not be familiar with our tribe," said Waylon Antone, Him-Dak Eco Museum Art

Program Coordinator. Antone added, "It's also a way to recognize our tribe and sister tribes of Ak-Chin."

Mens 5k Winners L to R:

Antonio Rodriguez 2nd

Place, Justin

Perrilo 1st

Place.





Players laugh and cheer as they realize they have a "BINGO".

Story and Photos by Alexa Key

Thursday, September 21, Ak-Chin Indian Community members gathered at the Ak-Chin Service Center to enjoy a game of O'odham Bingo and a light dinner.

If you're wondering what O'odham Bingo is, I'll explain. You take the ordinary game of Bingo and the rules that follow, and combine

Ak-Chin's cultural language to create this awesome game! Instead of calling out B12 to participants, the letters and numbers are called out in O'odham. Once a participant has covered five spaces in a row, instead of shouting "Bingo", the O'odham word "Ha Ge:g And" is shouted! Which means, "I won".

"Anything that the language program does with the community we will always try incorporate the to language, whether it's a game or storytelling," said Velacita Lopez, Language Technician for Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Lopez added, "Learning the language is very



important because it helps to identify who we are and where we come from."

Alongside Bingo, there were other games for both youth and adults to

play before the Bingo began. These games also allowed the winners to receive prizes like barbies, led makeup, toasters and much more!

**Beading Class** 

The next O'odham Bingo Night will be held in 2024, hosted by the Ak-Chin Language department.

lights,



Cha'Bii'Tu Apache Crown Dance Group (White Mountain Apache Tribe) performing at 2023 NARD.



Ak-Chin's Him-Dak Art building and staff held basic beading class sessions for members and residents to attend. Participators were able to learn the craft of bead weaving where they could create bracelets and rings.

## **Paper Flower Wreaths**





Update: All Souls Day is in the near future (Nov. 2) and many Paper Flower Wreaths are ready to be displayed!



This event is FREE and open to all **Ak-Chin Community Families and Students** 

Music

October 6 - 19, 2023

## **IPM Integrated Pest Management IPM** Pests, Pest Control and Pesticides

omitted by Theodore Putz, Ak-Chin Pesticide Control Specialist - Environmental Programs

Plants, Insects, molds, mildew, microbes and weeds are a natural part of the environment and can benefit the Community in many ways. But they can also be pests that can do harm to our health and wellbeing.

A pest to humans can be referred to as, "an organism out of place" and can be a host or for harmful vector pathogens such as viruses and bacteria that can be a hazard to you, your family and your pets.

Thus, we want to protect our homes by excluding pests like scorpions,

termites, mildew and molds from entering our homes.

Outside our homes, weeds, insects and rodents are high on our pest list, and we want to control these pests in the best and safest way possible.

Certified Pest Control Professionals take this very seriously, and go through rigorous training to earn certifications and permitting to make safe and targeted pesticide applications in our Community.

Reducing or eliminating pesticide use and improving control has

cockroaches, fleas, ants, been a model for pest identification, exclusion control for many years in the Agricultural setting

barriers (screens), eliminating food and



through the use of IPM or Integrated Pest Management.

This has been demonstrated as the most effective strategy for controlling pests and it is substantiable.

eliminate Can this the use of pesticides completely? No. However, IPM in our homes uses strategies proper including

shelter (for the pest) and tick management (tick

collars).

This combined with proper timing of the "limited and effective" use of pesticides is the goal. It's all about utilizing all the tools in the 'Tool Box'.



## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**



#### **HEALTH EDUCATION**

SUPER HERO RUN\* Saturday Sept. 16 7:00 AM @ Service Center

WIC Tuesday, Oct. 3th 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM @Service Center



### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HEALING FROM **GRIEF GROUP** Thursday Sept. 27 5:30 - 7:00 PM @Service Center\* \*If you have any questions, please contact Behavioral Health at 520-568-1090; Lynnette Houston-Volden at 520-568-1086 or Pam Thompson at 520-568-1092



#### **HIM-DAK**

**BASIC BEADING SESSION\*** Wednesdays Sept. 13th - Oct. 4th 4:30 - 7:00 PM @Him-Dak Art Building Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members &

Residents **CREPE PAPER FLOWER CLASS & WREATH MAKING\*** 

Tuesdays Aug. 1st - Oct. 17 4:30 - 7:00 PM @Him-Dak Art Building \*Open to all Ak-Chin Indian Community Members, Residents



#### RECREATION

**VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE GAMES** GAMES BEGINS: Sept. 9th 9:00 - 10:30 AM \*For more information, please contact Kathleen at (520) 568-1744

> FALL INTERSESSION BEGINS: Sept. 25th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM \*For more information: 520-568-1740



## 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 October 10, 2023 at the Environmental Protection Department, Water Reclamation Facility Conference Room, 46200 W. Ralph Street.

#### CASE: PS-10-23: Industrial Park Septic System:

Project Applicants/Water Operations Manager, Carlton Carlyle, and Airport Manager, Tim Costello, are seeking approval for a new septic system and leach field located at the north west corner of Murphy Rd and Carlyle Rd that would service the Ak-Chin Industrial Park:

The project consists of:

- Installation of a 12,000-gallon septic tank; and
- Ten (10) leach field trenches to drain the septic tank.



**AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNI7** 

42507 W. Peters & Nall Road · Maricopa, Arizona 85138 Telephone: (520) 568-1000 · Fax: (520) 568-1001

**Ak-Chin Indian Community Request for Proposal for Stock Contractor Services for Masik Tas Roping Events** 

**Ak-Chin Indian Community Request for Proposal for Stock Contractor Services for Masik Tas Rodeo Events** 

**Ak-Chin Indian Community Request for Proposal for Carnival Midway Buyout Services** for Masik Tas Celebration

The Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Community") The Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Community") is seeking The Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Community") has an

is seeking services of a qualified and licensed stock contractor to provide animals for roping events for the Community's Masik Tas Event scheduled on December 17, 2023. Contractor must provide stockmen that are knowledgeable and experienced in care, preparation, and retrieval of livestock throughout the event competitions and must understand roping rules and how those affect/ apply to the roping contestants.

The Community is located 35 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County. The City of Maricopa is a neighbor to the Community. Roping events will take place at Ak-Chin Circle Outdoor Arena located off of Narcia Road and Ak-Chin Parkway behind Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle next to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort.

#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Full Proposal Requests will be available September 29, 2023. RFP may be picked up at the Purchasing Office at 42507 West Peters and Nall Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85138; or via email request to Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager, at FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.

Please email questions and clarity of the RFP by 4 p.m. on October 9, 2023. Response to questions and clarity will be sent out to all that requested a RFP within 24 hours of business day.

#### **SUBMISSION**

Deadline for submitting proposals is October 31, 2023 at 2 p.m. MST. Please submit Five (5) bound copies and one (1) unbound copy of your proposal labeled "Stock Contractor Services Proposal for Masik Tas". Proposals can be mailed or dropped off at the address listed below:

"Stock Contractor Services Proposal for Masik Tas" Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager Ak-Chin Indian Community 42507 W. Peters and Nall Road Maricopa, AZ 85138

Proposals will be privately reviewed by Owner. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and irregularities and to accept any proposal considered advantageous to Owner.

The Community's Selection Committee will review and rate all submissions, and consult with the Community Council on the final selection. The Community's Selection Committee may select applicants for interviews. All candidates will be notified.

Proposals will be disqualified if instructions and content requirements are not followed.

services of a qualified and licensed stock contractor to provide animals for rough stock and roping events for the Community's Masik Tas Event scheduled on December 15 – 17, 2023. Contractor must provide stockmen that are knowledgeable and experienced in care, preparation, and retrieval of a variety of livestock throughout the event competitions and must understand rodeo rules and how those affect/apply to the rodeo contestants.

The Community is located 35 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County. The City of Maricopa is a neighbor to the Community. Rodeo events will take place at Ak-Chin Circle Outdoor Arena located off of Narcia Road and Ak-Chin Parkway behind Ak-Chin Multitainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle next to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort.

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annual event known as "Masik Tas" (Birthday) Celebration during the first part of December. There are a number of activities that are a part of the annual event from a rodeo, parade, concerts, and carnival which draws thousands of spectators to the Community. These activities take place at Ak-Chin Circle and other designated areas throughout the Community.

The Community will go into a contract for Carnival Midway Services for a multi-term of three (3) years. The dates of the Celebration this year are Thursday, December 14th through Sunday, December 17th, 2023. This RFP is for one (1) year with the option to extend and lock in for two (2) additional years making it a three (3) year partnership.

The Community is located 35 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County. The City of Maricopa is a neighbor to the Community. Masik Tas carnival will take place at Ak-Chin Circle located off of Narcia Road and Ak-Chin Parkway behind Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center next to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort.

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"Carnival Midway Service Proposal for Masik Tas" Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager Ak-Chin Indian Community 42507 W. Peters and Nall Road Maricopa, AZ 85138

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October 6 - 19, 2023

## **Education rewards students** with trip to Skateland



Tuesday September 26, Ak-Chin Education Department took middle and high school students to Skateland in Chandler, as an incentive for grades.

Students who had grades Cs or above were chosen to attend the trip with their fellow classmates. Education Advisors, Julia Dickerson, Matt Tess, and Savannah Boyd attended as chaperones. They helped kids put their skates on and led some of the students as they learned to glide across the skating arena.

The group had the arena all to themselves for a couple of hours. Most of the students used a skate

diverse cultures of the area.

walker for help and also not to fall. For lunch the kids ate pizza with a cold drink.

Congratulations to all the students who were selected to participate. Keep up the good grades!

#### Tribal Leaders Summit continued from Page 3

Grand Canyon. Tribal leaders shared their top priorities and projects. Attendees toured the Desert View Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site, the first of its kind located at a national park. At the site, 11 tribes traditionally associated with the Grand Canyon region raise awareness and appreciation of the history and

Tohono O'odham Inauguration continued from Front

Miguel, Councilmembers Cecil Peters and Gabriel Lopez, Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation Director Ann Marie Antone, and myself.

The Inauguration began with a round of traditional singing, followed by the Posting of Colors from Tohono O'odham Nation Veterans, the National performed Anthem, in O'odham by Shania Manuel and the Invocation by Miss Tohono O'odham Nation, Eleni Cachora.

At the convening, a blessing was offered by Diana Sue Uqualla (Havasupai Tribe). In addition to Governor Hobbs and Superintendent Keable, speakers included Jason Chavez, director of Tribal Affairs; Theresa McMullan, CEO Grand Canyon of

Conservancy; Lisa Urias, director of the Arizona Office of Tourism; and Jackie Johnson, director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. Jason Coochwytewa, Grand Canyon Conservancy board member, provided a welcome statement and introduction of Tribal leaders and guests.

#### Nation; our community our his work, and that was again membership, our ancestors; what he taught me and what we originated from the Tohono O'odham Nation. For those who don't know from the Hickiwan District, there was

he continued to do. I wanted him to take a rest, take a break, but he wouldn't do it, he kept wanting to provide for the people whether it was his community or others and I thank him for that."

Chairman Miguel also shared how he knew Vice Chairman Carla Johnson in her capacity at Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming and as former director of Arizona Indian Gaming Association. He also talked about her moving on to further her education and better herself, for her family and her Nation. "I respected her for that."

## April Stovall Recognized by Caesars Entertainment with Trailblazer Award

Harrah's Casino Ak-Chin Director of Facilities and Surveillance April Stovall was awarded Caesars Trailblazer in Leadership Award. Recognizing exemplary company leaders whose extraordinary efforts contribute to the success of their Team Members and to Caesars Entertainment as a whole.

"Winning the Trailblazer award brings a profound sense of pride and accomplishment. It's a reminder that perseverance, resilience, and creativity can lead to success in even the most challenging endeavors. Knowing that my contributions have been recognized and appreciated by Caesars Entertainment, an industry leader, is a source of immense pride.

Winning this award also feels like an opportunity and a responsibility. It's an opportunity to inspire others to pursue their own innovative ideas and to continue pushing the envelope. It's a responsibility to be a role model, to mentor and support those who are just beginning their journey, and to continue striving for excellence in everything I do.

Furthermore, it's a reminder of the importance of collaboration and teamwork. No trailblazer achieves success in isolation. Winning this award is a reflection of the support and collaboration of colleagues, mentors, and partners who have contributed to the journey. It reinforces the idea that we achieve greatness not as individuals, but as part of a larger community.

In essence, winning the Caesars Entertainment Trailblazer award is a complex mix of emotionsvalidation, pride, opportunity, responsibility, and gratitude. It's a recognition of the past and a call to continue innovating and making a positive impact in the future." - April Stovall

"April always demonstrates her 'can-do' attitude and is willing



knows how to work hard and crush obstacles. Her motto? "If you're not falling down, you're not trying hard enough."

While roller derby is known for powerful women, April's start as a security officer in the hospitality industry 23 years ago was just the opposite. In a field dominated by men, April conquered new responsibilities moving quickly up the ranks. Her actions led to surveillance supervisory roles and eventually adding facilities, technology, construction and environmental services to her charge.

After the property completed the three-year \$180 million expansion project with positive economic impacts on the community, April was promoted to director in December 2021. Leader of CodeGreen, April champions efforts to reduce the property's carbon footprint, and has been recognized by global gaming leader Caesars Entertainment for her efforts. Award acknowledgments include Chairman's Award for Internal Service, Western Division Chairman's Award for Internal Service and Caesars Award of Excellence for Leadership.

April's 100+ team members appreciate her dedication, work ethic and ability to inspire others. She walks the talk and leads by example. An excellent communicator, she has great relationships with her team, working alongside them, blowing up obstacles in their way. They respect her for it.

Honorable The Edward Manuel, Sr, Pisinemo District Representative Legislative and former Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation provided the Welcome.

Guest Speakers included the Honorable Regina Romero, Mayor of Tucson, Arizona and the Honorable Chairman Robert Miguel of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Both Romero and Miguel expressed their gratitude for being invited to the prestigious event as they shared the history, culture and relationships with the Tohono O'odham leadership and people.

"On behalf of myself, my family and the city of Tucson, my deepest congratulations to Chairman Verlon Jose and Vice Chairwoman Carla Johnson," Romero shared. "I am looking forward to working with you and am so excited to be here."

Chairman Miguel shared many insights on the relationship between Ak-Chin and the Tohono O'odham Nation, as well as his personal friendship with Chairman Jose.

"The Nation means so much to the Ak-Chin Community" Miguel began. Chairman "The Ak-Chin Community has a relationship with the Robert talked about the first time he met Verlon and how shared conversations they as tribal leaders over the years, also sharing personal conversations that strengthened their relationship.

a small village there, I believe

it is not there at this time, but

that's where we originated

from."

"I could always reach out to him and discuss certain things... and he was teaching me in a way to become a leader." Miguel shared. "It led to constituents as leaders to where it became more personal and then it became a brotherhood, because I consider Verlon my brother."

Verlon also taught him to, "always, always, always, be there as much as you can. As a tribal leader we feel like we never give enough to our people. We always want to do more."

Miguel said that was evident with Verlon when he left office and began working with the O'odham membership in Mexico. "He never stopped, he kept going, he kept doing Chairman Miguel continued to praise the newly elected Chairman and Vice Chairwoman. "He is a great leader and together with newly Vice-Chairwoman elected Carla Johnson, I know that they'll work tirelessly to bring opportunities, a bright future, direction and a better way of life for their people... Tohono O'odham Nation, you know with this administration, you're in good hands, continue to move forward."

After the Inauguration Ceremony ended, a traditional lunch was served and musical entertainment was provided outside by Gertie and the T.O. Boyz and Carl & Buddies.



to take on new responsibilities, always rising to the challenge," said Senior Vice President and Manager Michael General Kintner.

"Her dedication and commitment to Harrah's Ak-Chin have led her to supervisory roles in our surveillance department, eventually adding facilities, technology, construction and environmental services to her areas of responsibility. She's a valuable member of our team."

Stovall is also leader of Harrah's Ak-Chin's CodeGreen program and is consistently championing efforts to reduce the property's carbon footprint.

Many efforts were inspired by the Ak-Chin Indian Community's deep roots in farming, agriculture and their passion for protecting and sustaining land, air and water.

Added Kintner, "No one deserves this award more than April. Her 100+ Team Members appreciate her dedication, work ethic and ability to inspire others. She walks the talk and leads by example. An excellent communicator, she has great relationships with her team, alongside working them, overcoming obstacles; they truly respect her."

April Stovall is director of Facilities and Surveillance for Maricopa-based Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. A self-described Marine Corps brat and pioneer member of the Casa Grande Roller Derby league, April

April is an active leader and volunteer on our HERO committee, an employee group that donates time, expertise and compassion to make noteworthy contributions to the community.

April has held most every position that reports to her, so she has a strong sense of how to support and encourage her team. Her approach to lead by example is infectious. Periodically, April will put on a uniform and work side-by-side with front-of-house employees, inspiring other leaders to do the same.

April has saved the property \$400K associated to capital projects (2021/2022). Her Code Green and sustainability initiatives have saved the property more than \$500K (2022).

April was an integral part of the team that oversaw our multimillion-dollar expansion project resulting in a 12% revenue increase.

April has personally mentored dozens of individuals, encouraging opportunities to help them meet and exceed their goals.

April pushes but she also listens. She recognizes the importance of making people feel seen in order to help develop talent.

October 6 - 19, 2023

#### **Fall Program Fun at Ak-Chin Recreation**

Story amd photos by Tyaun Marshburn



















## **#Get Vaccinated**

The Ak-Chin Community Government held the 2023 Fall Program at the Ak-Chin Recreation Center from September 25-29, between the hours of 8 am to 2:30 pm.

During this time departments dedicated time out of their work day to do fun activities with the students.

#### 9/25 Monday

Ak-Chin Central Plant/ Safety Operations played football with the kids and passed out footballs for the kids to take home.

Community Government decorated skeleton masks and haunted houses.

Purchased/ Ak-Chin Referred Care helped the kids cool down with tasty ice cream sundaes. The kids had the option of chocolate or vanilla ice cream for the base of their sundae and then added toppings of their choice.

#### 9/26 Tuesday

Ak-Chin Police decorated Department wooden porch signs. The signs were pumpkin themed and there were kids up by walking

5 different types of pumpkins so the kids had multiple opportunities to display their creativity. They used paint, ribbon, fake spiders and spider webs to design their signs.

The adults were not left out of the fun, Norma Vincent an Ak-Chin temp made her sign KISS themed. Everyone was impressed with her detailed artwork. Once they were done, they played a few rounds of the game heads up 7 up.

Ak-Chin Youth council helped the kids get active with a game of played kick ball.

#### 9/27 Wednesday

Ak-Chin Fire Department started with a race to see who could put on their full uniforms the fastest. Three fire fighters competed as the kids cheered for who they wanted to win. After getting a closer look at the fire fighters' uniforms everyone enjoyed a game of dodge ball.

Ak-Chin Health Education warmed the

around Milton "Paul" Antone Memorial Park before playing duck duck goose. While waiting for lunch which was pizza this day, they broke down the ingredients on pizzas and placed them in the proper food groups.

#### 9/28 Thursday

Harrah's Development Systems (HDS) played dodge ball and musical Afterwards, chairs. Community Government let the kids enjoy the weather by going for a swim; the weather was perfect.

#### 9/29 Friday

Ak-Chin Planning played BINGO with a Halloween themed board. They played until every kid was a winner. They had fun prize bags that included light up rings which were very popular among the crowd.

the last day As celebration kids took a trip with Community Government to Ak-Chin circle and enjoyed lunch and the Paw Patrol movie.

## **Fort Lewis College rep** visits Ak-Chin

Story and Phots by Tyaun Marshburn



Admissions Counselor Savanna Benally talks to students Ak-Chin students over lunch

On September 20th, Ak-Chin Education Department invited community high school juniors and seniors to attend a presentation that talked about the benefits of going to Fort Lewis College.

The presentation was conducted by admission counselor, Savanna Benally. The meeting lasted for about an hour and a half. During that

Benally talked time her personal about experience moving from Arizona to Durango Colorado, where Fort Lewis College is located.

Fort Lewis College has more than 55 majors, 48 minors, 23 certificates and is voted one of the top 200 colleges for Indigenous students. In fact, Fort Lewis College student body is 41% Native American and Alaska Native.

One Maricopa High school senior, Haedin De Paola was accepted on the spot. Congratulations Haedin De Paola!

For any questions enrollment about at Fort Lewis College, the admissions department can be reached at 970-247-7184 or by email at admission@fortlewis. edu



Protect your health and wellness! Help your family and community stay healthy by making sure you and your loved ones are up to date

on vaccines. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), seasonal flu, and COVID-19 booster vaccines are available now.





For more information on vaccines, contact your Indian health care provider or visit vaccines.gov.



Join us to learn more about careers in healthcare

## Workshops, Meet & Greets, Food and Fun!

Participants 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

If you are interested in hosting an exhibit or presentation, reach out to Runner@grhc.org or call: (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1724

# GET SHOT!

Flu vaccines are available in the Primary Care Departments at Gila River Health Care locations by walk-in and routine appointments during regular clinic hours.

**Questions, please call Gila River Health Care at** (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495 Please refer to the calendar of events for updates **GRHC.ORG/FLU** 



**Scan Here** 

CON COMING

Visit the grhc.org/hub to view our upcoming health events.



Scan QR code to read the **October Newsletter** 



Scan Here ELDER COVID-1 NEWSLETTER GRHC.OF OCTOBER

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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

Save the date Maricopa Veterans Day Parade Saturday, November 11, 2023 Parade Route: Central Free lunch for Veterans Arizona College to and their families at Leading Edge Academy Leading Edge Academy Sponsored by: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 133 For more information contact: parade@alpost133az.org FAMILY PLANNING MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL Thursday, October 12, 2023 9:00a - 3:00p ol Market Parking Lot Mobile Unit is not Handicap Accessible Call or Text us at (520) 371-0132 X 1 ¥ Restorative Yoga w/Vickie ¥



October 6 - 19, 2023

Wishes

Happy Birthday Diana! From the staff at the Runner

Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Andrea and Emily and my grandsons James, Isaiah and Noah Love, Grandma

> Happy Birthday Sharon Love, your family

Happy Birthday to the GOV! Hope you have a GREAT DAY! From your old Runner co-workers

## JOB OPENINGS

#### CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Detention Officer (certified and non-certified
- Communications Officer
- Compensation Analyst
- Maintenance Technician
- Motor Pool Technician (closes 10/05/2023)
- Network Systems Technician
- Homemaker part-time
- Utilities Technician

#### Open to Enrolled Community Members Only

- Cultural Resource Specialist
- Cultural Resource Monitor (2)
- Oral Historian
- Library Clerk closes 10/06/2023

To review the full job description and apply visit www.ak-chin.nsn.us, Job Openings, and apply online. ALL positions close at midnight (12:00 p.m.) on the closing date.

**Great benefits** - Health Insurance (medical/dental/ vision), Vacation/Personal Sick leave, 14 Holidays, 401K

#### NEW HIRES



Librarian

LIBRARY

Curtis Main

Application Software

Technician

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Jordan Gusse Rec Coordinator RECREATION



Rozenda Manuel Assisant Store Manager VEKOL

# ctober Birthdays

#### 10/24

#### Employee Birthdays Oct. 6 - 19

**8-Oct** Jon Spezzacatena

10/01

**Ak-Chin Service Center** 

Time: 7:00pm - 8:00 PM

• October 05, 2023

• October 19, 2023

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL HEALTH EDUCATION AT (520) 568-1080

October 26, 2023

Joseph Antone Maynard James William Martinez Eugene Peters Sr. Damien Smith

10/02 Elizabeth Valles Martin Castro Tanya Lewis Jeaney Narcia Stella Makil White Noemi Hernandez Nikkol Martinez Alison Miguel

> 10/03 Elva Alarcon Justine Lopez Victoria Smith Earl Justin Jr.

10/04 Neveah Antone Amy Rodriguez Gabriel Manuel Malcolm Johnson

10/05 Douglas Pablo Dyon Aguilla Celia Medina

10/06 Ariana Bandin

10/07 Matthew Villarreal Fernando Arellanes-Burgos Alyssa Pablo Evelyn Garcia Lee Smith Jr. Angel Antone Brittany Paddock Maria Maldonado

10/08

X

10/09 Ann Antone Jacob Trenado

10/10 Berdina Arellanes-Burgos

> 10/11 Andrea Peters Marco Jensen

10/12 Xzalius Homer Shanna Narcia Delayna Antone Zachary Valles

10/13 Blessing Antone

10/14 Joe Jerry Erin Martinez-Yarberry Ambria Valles Rosa Lewis Eliza Santiago Sharon Carlyle

> 10/15 Holly Lawrence Jose Miguel Jr. James Boehm Steven Ruelas

Michaellatino Santiago Angelina Soliz Charity Lewis Jalia Carra-Ponce Emily Peters

10/16

10/17 Francisco Miguel Armonda Santiago Isaiah Peters Jesus Corella Jr. Noah Brown

10/18 Feather Jim Carrieanna Villarreal

10/20 Koda Osborne Joseph Vallejos Jr. Julian Lewis Sarah Delma

10/21 A'Miyah Deloney Aubree Perez Della White Crystal Tow Ethan Manuel Dennis Antone

10/22 Maynard Pablo Sr. Carol Enos Claudia Antone Janet Narcia

10/23 Adaisha Pablo Ame Stephens Amerrah Mike Yolanda Narcia Miranda

> 10/25 Hunter Louis Adrian Garcia Madalina Delores

> > 10/27 Harlee Jose Orenda Ortiz Hope Vallejos

10/28 Jeremiah Talkalai Nicole Allison Jenika Justin Jarred Antone Sophia Matuz Ramiero Andaverde Ariel Lopez

> 10/29 Willow Nosie Zataray Ulloa Kylee Machado Alvin Antone

> 10/30 Kaelyn Miller Patricia Medina

10/31 Liliana Rascon Jonella Lopez

H&PPY BIRTHD&Y Fire & Safety Diana Carlyle Runner

9-Oct Ann Antone Parks & Recreation

> **10-Oct** Adam Finken TGA

11–Oct Andrea Peters Elderly

**12-Oct** Kathy Shoemaker Finance

**13–Oct** Clifford Fullam-Kenealy TGA

14-Oct Olesya Nelson Finance Ambria Valles Social & Health Services

> 15-Oct James Boehm Fire & Safety Steven Ruelas Maintenance

16–Oct Angelina Soliz Environmental Protection

> **17-Oct** Courtney Bagsby Fire & Safety

**19–Oct** Ninfa Wells Elderly

October 6 - 19, 2023

"As Chair of

the SALUTE

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## **SALUTE Business Impact Group at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Donates \$1,000 to The Veterans in Need Project** Submitted



(MARICOPA, Ariz.-Sept. 22, 2023)–The SALUTE Business Impact Group at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino donated \$1,000 to the Veterans in Need Project. The nonprofit organization will use the funds to aid veterans with essential needs, covering

costs for critical items such as fuel for commuting to work, baby essentials like diapers or formula, assistance with small bill payments, and other immediate necessities that can significantly impact day-today life.

supporting t h o s e who have selflessly served our nation," said Director of Marketing and Hotel Operations Samantha Gulick. "Veterans have dedicated their lives to protecting

our freedoms, and it is our privilege to stand by them in their time of need. Through this donation, we aim to express our gratitude and inspire others in our community to join us in making a positive impact in the lives of our veterans."

The Veterans in Need Project emerged from the empathetic vision of a group of high school students who recognized an urgent need within their local veterans' community in Pinal County and the City of Maricopa. With a mission to make immediate and tangible differences, the organization offers micro-grant assistance, quickly channeling vital resources to veterans in critical situations.

"The Veterans in Need Project is honored to partner with Harrah's Ak-Chin," said VINP

#### President Justin Price. "The funds will be used to support local veterans by providing much needed relief through

micro-grants. We are fortunate to have a community partner like Harrah's Ak-Chin who are so supportive of local nonprofit organizations."

SALUTE **Business** The Impact Group at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino actively seeks to bring together team members who are veterans and veteran allies who embrace the core values of duty, honor and selfless service. The purpose is to cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture through grassroots efforts to assist veterans in various ways, including fundraisers, donation drives and volunteer opportunities.







## October 2023

WEDNESDAY

NIZONI TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY

Nizoni

TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY



SATURDAY

CHOOSE YOUR MULTIPLIER







**BONUS COMP DOLLAR** DAYSINDUSTRY NIGHTS KIOSK GAME



BONUS COMP DOLLAR DAYS INDUSTRY NIGHTS KIOSK GAME



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY!

MONDAY

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & TWITTER!

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY CAESARS SPORTSBOOK



NiZONi

TUESDAY

NIZONI TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY

NizoNi

TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY

3

TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY

NiZONi TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY





WHEN YOU'RE READY FOR A GETAWAY...

COMP IT LIKE IT'S HOT! COMP IT LIKE IT'S HOT!

THURSDAY

#1 BY USA TODAY CAESARS REWARDS LOYALTY PROGRAM

THE SPA-AHHHH!





FRIDAY

BONUS COMP DOLLAR DAYS

FOREVER YOUNG FRIDAYS KIOSK GAME

BONUS COMP DOLLAR DAYS

FOREVER YOUNG FRIDAYS KIOSK GAME



RENT A CABANA ON YOUR NEXT STAY!

STAY, PLAY, VACAY

**BONUS COMP DOLLAR DAYS** INDUSTRY NIGHTS KIOSK GAME



SLOTS OF FUN!



TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY

NizoNi TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY







FALL GIFT GIVEAWAY HOWLING HOT SEATS



INDUSTRY NIGHTS KIOSK GAME



GAME ON!



NIZONI TRANQUIL COLLECTION GIFT GIVEAWAY





FOREVER YOUNG FRIDAYS KIOSK GAME



Join us Saturday, October 28 and receive a First Class

20" UPRIGHT ROLLING CARRY-ON!