



## 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.

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.

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



Yoga instructor Christy Burnette teaching her class.

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.

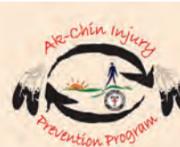
In class Ms. Burnette takes participants through a cycle of different stretches that focus on improving body movements and blood flow.

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.



Participants during class session.



### 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><b>December 3 -</b> Oatmeal, boiled eggs, biscuit, yogurt, milk / Spaghetti, Peas, Salad, Rolls</p> <p><b>December 6 -</b> Sausage links, scrambled eggs, toast, banana, juice / Chicken &amp; Rice, Zucchini, Carrots, Chumath, Peaches</p> <p><b>December 7 -</b> Green chili &amp; egg quesadilla, salsa, hash browns, grapes, juice / 15 Bean Soup, Beef Stir Fry (D), Asparagus, Yellow Squash, Corn Bread, Pears</p> <p><b>December 8 -</b> Sausage, egg, &amp; cheese burrito, sliced apples, granola bar, juice / Tilapia or Chicken,</p>	<p><b>Butternut Squash, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges</b></p> <p><b>December 9 -</b> Cream of Wheat, boiled eggs, cottage cheese &amp; pineapples, cinnamon raisin toast, cereal, milk / Macaroni, Ham &amp; Cheese, Peas, Beet, Rolls, Cherry Turnovers</p> <p><b>December 10 -</b> Chicken fried steak, biscuit with gravy, diced potatoes, banana, juice / Beef Vegetable Soup, Rice, Moon Bread, Jell-O</p> <p><b>December 13 -</b> Bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, sliced apples, juice / Hot Dogs, Mixed Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Apricots</p>	<p><b>December 14 -</b> Chorizo &amp; egg burrito, grapes, granola bar, juice / Taco Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Apple Sauce</p> <p><b>December 15 -</b> Oatmeal, boiled eggs, biscuit, yogurt, milk / Squash Casserole, Beets, Carrots, Salad, Rolls, Rice Pudding</p> <p><b>December 16 -</b> Biscuits &amp; sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, grapes, juice / Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Pineapple Upside Cake</p> <p><b>December 17 -</b> Center closed for holiday</p>
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\*\* Some items may change without notice \*\*



Newspaper of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ©2021

16600 N. Maricopa Hwy Maricopa, Arizona 85139

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

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Education, Him-Dak, Library,  
Health & Human Services,  
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from:

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
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Trash Pick Up		Recycling Pick Up	Trash Pick Up		Ak-Chin's Mash Taz Holiday	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Trash Pick Up		Recycling Pick Up	Trash Pick Up		Christmas Day Holiday (Observed)	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Trash Pick Up		Recycling Pick Up	Trash Pick Up		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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**9 am - 3 pm**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**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

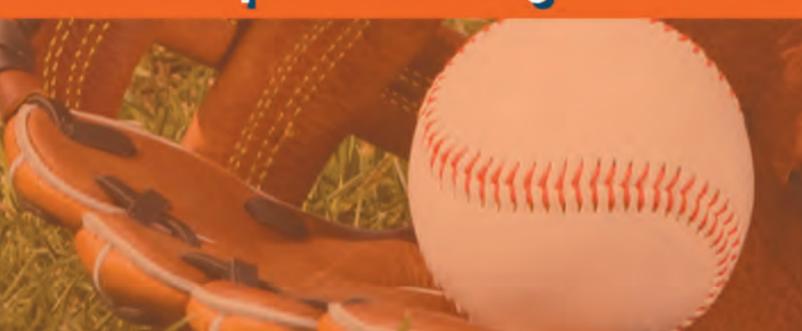
**T-Ball \$85**

Registration  
Closes  
Jan 8, 2022



All Games at Copper Sky Regional & Pacana Parks

[MaricopaLittleLeague.com](http://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 & Gelia  
  
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 SUSUNKWEA  
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

**FREE HOLIDAY DESSERT WITH PURCHASE OF TWO ENTREES**

Must present coupon to server. No substitutions. Not valid with any other specials, offers or discounts. One coupon per table, no split checks. Does not include alcohol. Non-transferable. Offer expires 12/31/21.

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EVERY \$20 SPENT IN 10 PINS = 1 RAFFLE TICKET OR PURCHASE 1 TICKET FOR \$10

**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
<b>ANNIVERSARY TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</b> 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	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	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY	GET HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AT THE GIFT SHOP	JACKPOT WINNERS CIRCLE FINALE DRAWING REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	TRY THE BURRATA AT OAK & FORK!	REWARD CREDIT BONANZA	5X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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	MARTHA STEWART™ KITCHEN SET GIVEAWAY
29	30	31	<b>NEW YEAR'S 2022 SAVE THE DATE December 31, 2021</b>			
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.