

Yolanda’s Frybread wins “Most Unique” Award at AKC Entertainment Center event



Above, Yolanda Melero (sitting) along with her mom Elena Cypriano-Santiago, Armonda Santiago and nephews Raven and Arrow, receive congratulations from event sponsors at Exceptional Community Hospital and AA Raymond Law. (Submitted photo)

Ak-Chin Entertainment Center overflowed with patrons, cars and pets this past weekend as it played host to many exciting events. One of those events included a food truck battle with eight entries vying for a title and win. Ak-Chin’s Yolanda Melero, along with mother Elena Cypriano-Santiago and sister Armonda Santiago set up Yolanda’s Frybread stand and served frybread (popovers) with beans and cheese, red chili, Indian tacos and nachos and cheese. Little did they know they were nominated and won an award. Yolanda’s Frybread was awarded

AKC event continues to page 2

99s return to Ak-Chin Airport



Story and photos by T. Marshburn

On Saturday March 11, the Phoenix Chapter of the 9 were back in Maricopa for a Spot Landing Contest that took place at the Ak-Chin airport. The goal of the Spot Landing Contest is to land in the diamond painted on the runway without bouncing. Whoever lands in the diamond scored 100 points and the points decreased the further away you landed from the diamond. However, it was not as easy as it sounds. Each pilot was allowed 3 attempts, in the end the judges tallied up their scores and that’s how the winners were determined.

99s continues to page 3

Lori Leavitt retires from Ak-Chin Fire with 20 years of service



Lori Leavitt retired from the Ak-Chin Fire department after 20 years of service. Her retirement celebration took place February 28, at the fire station. Lori and her peers enjoyed breakfast and talked about old times. They made jokes about her being accident prone and teased about putting her in bubble wrap. Jon Spezzacatena, who

Story and photos by T. Marshburn



Jennifer Boehm- King Women’s History Month Feature

My name is Jennifer Boehm-King, I am 38 years old, granddaughter of Evelina Lopez and Manuel Peters II badt, eldest daughter of Elaine Peters and Jim Boehm. I have 4 siblings, my older brother James Boehm, younger sisters Renee Boehm and Justine Peters, and younger brother Terry John Boehm.

I married my husband Jacolby King in 2016 and together we share four boys, Antonio Rodriguez, Mateo Rodriguez, Isaac King and Benjamin King. They are my driving force, the edge of my insanity and the loves of my life.

At our home we have 2 dogs – Remy and Kaiya, many chickens, a dwarf hamster and a tank full of goldfish.

In my free time I enjoy travelling with my family, playing softball with the Ak-Chin Warrior Softball team, watching my sons participate in sports and once in a while – card night with my aunts and cousins.

I am a Fire Captain/EMT at the Ak-Chin Fire Department where I have worked for over 15 years. I was hired full-time as a Firefighter/EMT, became an Engineer in 2014 and was promoted to Fire Captain at the end of 2021. During my time at the Ak-Chin Fire Department I have participated in many trainings including engineer training, vehicle extrication training, life fire training, emergency management/ FEMA training, and Blue Card Training. From 2012-2016 I helped run the department’s first Explorer program through BSA Learning for Life and I’m currently in charge of the community involvement events/programs for the department.

I hold an associate degree in Emergency Management with a focus in Fire Science from Mesa Community College, a certificate in Public Administration and Public Management from Arizona State University, a bachelor degree in Public Policy and Public Service from Arizona State University, and a 2nd bachelor degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management with a minor in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University.

In the Fall of 2022, I was selected to participate in ASU’s American Indian Policy Institute’s Fall Cohort for the Indigenous Leadership Academy, which I was able to successfully complete in December.

Leading Edge Academy - Maricopa, perform for Ak-Chin Elders

On March 7, 2023, Maricopa Leading Edge Academy’s band and choir set out on a mission to bring joy and music to the Ak-Chin Elder Center.

Obviously, the middle school students had practiced for weeks to put together a concert that would be memorable for the elders.

As they arrived at the Elder Center, they were greeted warmly by the staff and the elders who eagerly waited for the performance. The choir set up in the elder dining room and performed several songs that filled the room with the young choir’s beautiful voices.

The band took the next stage and the students played several songs. At the end, the students had a surprise in store for the elders as they started playing Michael Jackson’s “Thriller”, which brought cheers and applause from the crowd.



Leading Edge Academy songbirds serenade elders Tuesday, March 7.

The band played so well. Leslie Carlyle-Burnett applauded the kids and told them what awesome kids they are!

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa made the elder’s lunch and day extra special with their beautiful music. The elders were thankful for the visit and the staff thanked the students for bringing their special talents to the Elder Center.

The Ak-Chin Elder Center hopes to have the Leading Edge Academy band and choir back for another concert in the future. The concert was a testament to the power of music and its ability to bring people together.

Story submitted by Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Program Director



Above, Ak-Chin elders enjoy listening to Leading Edge Academy choir during lunch, while the band performed just outside the elderly building. Photos by T. Marshburn



Lori continued from Front

worked with Lori since 2011 says she was a pleasure to work with.

“Lori has a great attitude and is a very kind and caring person. In fact, so kind that she donated part of her liver to a stranger.

Lori is always going out of her way for others and was very compassionate to the patients.”

Lori was not only kind and caring with her patients but also with her coworkers.

Captain Jennifer Boehm-King, shares, “She took care of all the firefighters

and always remembered birthdays.

She knew everyone’s favorite dessert and made it for them on birthdays or rainy days.

She was very sweet to everyone she met and helped community members during their time of need.”

Lori kept the fire house laughing, usually at her own expense when she would say or do something silly. She joked that she might hold the record for injuries by any firefighter at Ak-

Chin, throughout her career.

“She was very kind and approached each call with the utmost consideration of the people involved.” Jennifer added.

Both Jennifer and Jon agree Lori and her baking skills will be missed.

I asked Lori what was her plan now that she has retired, she replied, “I will have 18 grandkids by the end of the year, I’m sure I will have no problem staying busy.”



Lori is surrounded by family and friends at her retirement ceremony.

Elder Center Dialysis Transportation

The Elder Center will begin transporting Dialysis patients on April 3, 2023.

Please call Georgia Corella at the Elder Center at 520-568-1769 to arrange for your ride.

AKC event continued from front

“Most Unique” Winner in the 2023 Central AZ Food Truck Battle.

The ladies were surprised to hear they won, “It was unexpected,” Armonda shared.

Armonda also shared that she and her family did really good and were busy all day. There were many people who came over to buy their food, and they sold out of frybread and red chili.

Some customers asked Elena if they could watch her make the frybread dough and were impressed at how she would flip it into the right consistency.

They also asked her how she learned to make frybread. Elena responded, “from watching other women when I was younger and I started making them at a young age.”

After receiving their trophy, the daughters

gave it to their mom Elena to keep. She was proud to be recognized.

“She’s never won an award for her food,” said Armonda.

Laurie McCartney, Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Manager was also proud to share the news of Yolanda and her family, as Yolanda is one of Laurie’s co-workers.

AKC event continues to page 5

JOIN US FOR A

Saint Patrick's Day

2-MILE WALK

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH @ 9:00AM

AK-CHIN SERVICE CENTER

BREAKFAST | RAFFLE PRIZES | T-SHIRTS

REGISTER USING GOOGLE FORMS

REGISTRATION CLOSSES MARCH 16TH

EVENT OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES, RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Martina Peters (520)568-1085 or mguy@ak-chin.nsn.us

Elder March Breakfast-Lunch Menu

17 Green Pancakes, Ham & Eggs, Fruit Salad Irish Stew, Steamed Cabbage, Rolls, Pistachio Cake/Apple	Roasted Vegetables
20 Boiled Eggs, Sausage Avocado Slices, Muffin, Fruit with Cottage Cheese Meatball Soup, Brown Rice, Moon Bread, Peach Cobbler	27 Spam & Eggs Burrito, Salsa, Fruit Salad Red Chili Stew, Carrots, Chumath, Peaches w/ Cottage Cheese
21 Breakfast Casserole, Hash brown, Toast, Oranges Salad Bar, Potato Soup, Rolls, Pears	28 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Ground Beef Burrito, Lettuce/Tomato, Grilled Corn, Watermelon
22 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Raisin Bread, Fruit Chicken Casserole, Wild Rice, Salad, Chocolate Chip Cookies	29 Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Mix Fruit Sausage w/Peppers, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Zucchini Bread
23 Egg Bacon Sandwich, Potatoes, Yogurt Indian Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Fresh Cut Fruit	30 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Chicken Parmesan, Green Beans, Romaine Salad
24 Rice Pudding, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Split Peas, Turkey Dumpling,	31 Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Tomato or Chicken Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Beets, Jell-O

**** Menu subject to change ****



Newspaper of the
Ak-Chin Indian Community
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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
Photojournalist:
Tyaun Marshburn
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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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
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Authors must also include
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We reserve the right to edit
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clarity, grammar and good
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Allow 2 weeks for return.


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NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the
DEADLINE for the
April 7-20 , 2023
issue is due by
FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST

Please submit all
announcements, wishes, etc.
no later than
FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST

Material submitted after the
MARCH 31ST DEADLINE
cannot be guaranteed
placement. If appropriate
and relevant, it will be
included in the next issue.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
42507 West Peters & Nail Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138 Telephone: 520.568.1000
Fax:520.568.1001

**Advertisement for
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
Ak-Chin Indian Community
Economic Development Zone Master Plan**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is seeking professional services to conduct a master plan for the 810-acre, Economic Development Zone (EDZ). Located on the eastern edge of the Community, the EDZ is bounded by the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, Murphy Road, Peters and Nall Road and Russell Road. The master plan will assist the Community in the orderly development of the EDZ.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION –
SCOPE OF WORK**
The selected consultant team will be expected to complete the following minimum scope items:

A. Community Involvement Plan: The consultant team will work with a core group in developing the Master Plan. This task can be addressed by the collection of existing information, interviews with key stakeholders, Community meetings and other methods with the Project Team, the Planning and Zoning Commission and Ak-Chin Departments.

B. Preliminary Site Analysis: The consultant team will inventory and analyze existing conditions and proposed economic development projects.

C. Demographics Report –The consultant team research and gather demographics of the regional area to get a sense of working behaviors and professional careers.

D. Economic Development Report – The consultant will gather work force information of the regional area to determine potential business types and typical parcel sizes.

E. Conceptual Land Use Plan - Circulation Plan: The consultant team will prepare at least two (2) distinct conceptual land use – circulation plans in narrative and graphic form that depict proposed land use, lot layout, land

coverage ratios, building orientations.

F. Following selection of the preferred alternative, the consultant team will prepare the final EDZ Master Plan to include the items listed above.

PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING
A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. (MST) on Thursday March 30, 2023 at Ak-Chin Regional Airport located at 32514 W. Bud Road, Maricopa Arizona 85139. Consultants are encouraged to attend. Electronic RFP packets will be available to each firm in attendance.

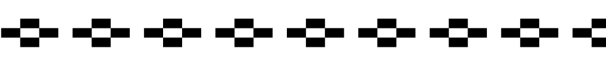
REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
The Community is seeking a proposal and a formal statement of qualifications. The electronic RFP packet is available at the Ak-Chin Purchasing Office at 42507 West Peters and Nall Road, Maricopa Arizona 85138.

SUBMISSIONS
Submissions should be provided in a package clearly marked with "Proposal for Economic Development Zone Master Plan." Please submit five (5) bound and (1) unbound copies of your proposal to the Purchasing Manager at the address listed below.

Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 W. Peters and Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Any questions regarding this project proposal must be submitted via email by 5 p.m. April 11, 2023 to Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager (520) 568-1043. The deadline for submitting proposal is April 21, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. MST.

AWARD
The Owner reserves the right to reject, any and all proposals. However, the Ak-Chin Indian Community at its discretion may postpone said action for such time as the Community Council may designate, as the interest of the Community may require.




99s continued from Front

The Spot Landing Contest is presented by the Phoenix Chapter of the International Organization of Women Pilots, The Ninety-Nines, Inc.


Karen Hausteen, a pilot with the Ninety- Nines says, “We have been holding this event for several years and are very grateful for the continuing support of the Ak-Chin Airport and

Tim Costello, as well as the Tribe.”


The Ninety-Nines were founded on November 2, 199 there were only 117 women pilots at the time. In 191, Amelia Earhart was elected the first President of the organization. They agreed on the name the Ninety Nines because it represented the 9 charter members who attended.



Two planes featured in the contest.



Contest Judges tally up pilots final scores.



AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
42507 West Peters & Nail Road Maricopa, Arizona 85138 Telephone: 520.568.1000 Fax:520.568.1001

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Ak-Chin Indian Community Archeological Services

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is seeking professional archaeological firms to perform a comprehensive Archaeological Phase Program for gathering and surveying documentations related to the compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Arizona State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA). Final Documents and Letter will be submitted to BIA Western Region and Arizona State Historic Preservation Office for review. The Project Area totals approximately 22.80 acres within the Ak-Chin Indian Community (“The Community”). Archaeologist as the Principal Investigator must be qualified under an Arizona Antiquities Act (AAC) permit. The field supervisor overseeing the survey must meet AAA permitting standards.

I. Background
The Community is using Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) funds to replace the Community’s Fiber Optic Network. The Project Area Map, where archaeological services are to be performed is within the Full RFP. Majority of the project areas are on disturbed lands. Services needed may lead into three phases depended upon its survey findings and SHPO’s decision to move into the other two phases.

II. Project Description – Scope of Work
The selected consultant team will be expected to complete the following minimum Scope of Work:

Phase I
Consultants will investigate all land area project boundaries by conducting “pedestrian” surface collection and subsurface testing. Investigation must be fully justified in the draft and final reports.

A. Coordination: The consultant team will need to work with and coordinate the Community’s Cultural Resources Office for the following:

- Setup initial meeting to review and comment on project locations
- Schedule site visits 5-days in advance with Cultural Resources Department
- Conduct a Phase I Report (i.e. records searches, field work, maps and tables)
- Determine findings would follow a Categorical Exclusion or NEPA process
- Gathering data for a report submittal to SHPO in accordance to “SHPO Survey Report Standards”

B. Prepare SHPO Cover Letters, narratives, and supporting document for Cultural Resources and Environmental Programs Review.

- Description of projects that includes the nature and extent of the proposed impacts, if any
- Previously surveyed areas, if any
- Maps of project areas
- Inventory Reports

C. Submit Cover Letter and attached documents to Him Dak Museum Director. The Him Dak Director will submit Cover letters to BIA Western Region and to SHPO along with Phase I final reports

Phase II:
This phase will take place after responds from SHPO, if the area needs to be further exploration of a Phase II.

Archaeological Testing and Evaluation
Consulting Team will revisit an existing or recently identified archaeological site discovered during the Phase I survey and includes performing further subsurface investigations. Further testing of archaeological sites is in order to completely understand the

potential of the site to produce significant archaeological data. The data to firmly determine if the project area is significant enough to warrant avoidance or mitigation.

There are circumstances where an archaeological site that’s been identified during a Phase I can transition directly to a Phase III mitigation

PART III:
If it is determined that the project area will require a Phase III Survey. Contract will go into an amendment to further define scope of work as listed in the full RFP.

Data Recovery/Mitigation
The consultant team will conduct a Phase III investigations to mitigate the impact of projects on archaeological resources determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Alternative plans for eligible resources should be considered in the following order of priority:

Upon selection of consultants the Ak-Chin Indian Community will make available background studies, GIS shape files, aerial photography, water and sewer plans, and other available information to the selected consultant team. Limited survey information and topography is also available.

The selected consultant team will be expected to complete the following minimum Scope of Work:

III. MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING
A MANDATORY PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 10 am by WebEx. To register for a WebEx invitation email FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us, by noon on Wednesday, March 22, 2022. The RFP will be provided electronically shortly after registering. Full RFP will be available by emailing your request to FHowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us subject “Archaeological Services TBCP” RFP.

IV. REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
The Community is seeking a proposal and a formal statement of qualifications from profession archaeological services firms interested in being considered and evaluated for the project. Full RFP is available at the Ak-Chin Purchasing Office at 42507 West Peters and Nall Road, Maricopa Arizona 85138. Full RFP will be available by email upon request at fhowerton@ak-chin.nsn.us.


The response should include a statement regarding the firm’s approach to perform archaeological services. Provide details of the firm’s experience and identify the proposed project staff and their experience in SHPO submittals. Staff identified in the proposal must continue to work on the project for the duration of the project. Any changes in personnel are subject to approval from the Community’s Project Team.

V. SUBMISSIONS
Submissions should be provided in a package clearly marked with “PROPOSAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES TBCP” Please submit five (5) bound copies, (1) unbound copy, and a digital copy of your Proposal to the Purchasing Manager at the address listed below.


Flora Howerton
Purchasing Manager
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 W. Peters and Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Any questions regarding this project proposal must be submitted via email up until Friday, April 14, 2023 to Flora Howerton, Purchasing Manager (520) 568-1043. The deadline for **submitting proposal is Friday, April 21 at 12 p.m. MST.**


Their mission states, pilots that promotes support while honoring “The Ninety- Nines advancement of aviation our unique history and is the international through education, sharing our passion for organization of women scholarships, and mutual flight.”



Jacob Johnson wins Spot Landing with a whopping 600 points.



2nd Place - Rocky Mapes had 460 points.



3rd place - Diana Andresen, with 400 points.

Spring Sessions inspire students

Story by R. Peters, photos by Runner staff and Mercedes Rivera

During the week of March 6-10, school aged children participated in a week-long fun-filled intersession program.

Held at Ak-Chin Gym, kiddos were bussed over every morning to participate in the variety of activities that many community departments planned and implemented for the students.

Monday's activities included fun games indoors and outdoors, as well as a movie facilitated by Ak-Chin Recreation.

Tuesday was filled with activities from Central Plant and Safety who provided three stations of activities that included golf, basketball and dart games. Once students completed each station they were gifted with very nice kites.

Ak-Chin Fire department also provided three obstacles to challenge students' agility and strength as they carried a hose dummy to safety, flipped huge tires and carried long heavy water hoses.

Education ended the day's session with a Renaissance themed craft, making headbands with paper, flowers and ribbons.

Wednesday morning a personal tour of Ak-Chin Farms was conducted and narrated by Farm Manager, Damien Murrieta.

Students and chaperones thoroughly enjoyed the tour

and learning about the farm. They went to the reservoir and learned about the pipeline and fish.

They learned about the sprinkler system, changing out crops and got to get on a tractor.

They also toured the potato and pecan plant, and learned of potatoes going to In-N-Out Burger and Frito-Lay. They also got to taste and take home pecans that were recently harvested from the farm.

Youth Council and Health Education also hosted fun and physical activities to finish out Wednesday.

Thursday Community Events and HDS Program also provided fun and physical activities to fill the morning.

Ak-Chin Police provided a fun afternoon of kickball as well as delicious burgers from Vekol Market, that everyone loved.

Friday's events included Bingo with Ak-Chin Library and bowling at Ak-Chin Circle with Community Government.

Community Government would like to extend their gratitude to all students for coming out to participate and departments for stepping up to provide fun and educational activities for the students while they were on Spring Break.

Thank you also goes out to Vekol Market for providing yummy meals all week.



Students of all ages gather together to have springtime fun with community departments.



Upcoming contest in future issues of the Runner! If you find the lucky golden ticket, please bring into the Runner to claim your prize!



Congratulations! Issue # _____

Greetings to you the lucky finder of this GOLDEN TICKET from The Runner

Present this ticket to the Runner office within 14 days to redeem for a gift card*

*Please call 520-568-1375 before you come. Selection of gift cards to choose from varies and is based on availability at the time of visit. Expires 14 days after issue date.

Ak-Chin O'odham Runner | 520-568-1375 | 16600 N. Maricopa Hwy., Maricopa, AZ 85139

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE TICKET WILL LOOK LIKE. THE REAL TICKET WILL BE PRINTED ON SPECIAL PAPER AND INSERTED WHEN PAPER IS ROLLED.

11th Annual Him-Dak Golf Classic

Monday, April 24th, 2023

9:00AM Shotgun Start

\$1,200 Team Entry

Includes: Golf, Food & Beverage, Tee Gifts, Awards & Raffle

Presenting Sponsor—\$5,000

2 Foursome Entries
Company logo on GPS screens in carts & welcome TV board
Large sponsor sign with logo
Logo placement on all cart material & live scoring software
Recognition during golf announcements & award ceremony
1 entry per person into Raffle Draw

Supporting Sponsor—\$3,000

1 Foursome Entry
Logo recognition on cart material
Hole sponsor sign
1 entry per person into Raffle Draw

Hole Sponsor Sign—\$300

One hole sign on assigned hole, putting green, or practice facility



For entry or questions, please contact
**Devin Lowe at 520.426.6830 or
Brandon Peters at 520.568.1020**

IN THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT 45525 West Farrell Road Maricopa, AZ 85139 Phone (520) 568-1385 Fax (520) 568-1386	
In the Matter of the Adoption of:	CASE NO.: CV-2023-001-VIL
A.A. D.O.B: 04/09/2005	CIVIL SUMMONS
THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY TO:	
Alonzo Arellanes	
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Civil Action has been filed against you in the Court of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.	
YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER in the said matter within a period of 20 days if you are served within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community; 30 days if you are served outside the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community at the Clerk of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court, accompanied by the necessary filing fee; further you must send a copy of your written answer to:	
Mercedes & Fernando Rivera 13019 North Farm Lane Maricopa AZ 85138	
After you have been served and the written answer period has lapsed, the Tribal Court shall set a date for a hearing of this matter, and you will be notified of the time and date that you will be required to appear.	
IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUMMONS a judgment by default will be entered against you and the opposing party shall be awarded the relief demanded in this matter.	
GIVEN under my hand and seal of Ak-Chin Indian Community Court in the State of Arizona this 24th day of January, 2023.	
Deanna Rascon, Court Administrator of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Court	

Diver's dreams realized in Las Vegas production

Decorated diver Kaylea Arnett is creating her own brand of history as she flips a life of hard work and dedication into a career with an elite worldwide entertainment company.

Arnett, a Chickasaw who began diving as a child in Oklahoma, is a performer in the acclaimed Cirque du Soleil "O" production at the Bellagio, where she dives off soaring towers, thrilling audiences multiple times a week.

Arnett has spent decades disregarding gravity and artfully contorting herself midair from diving platforms.

She began diving in 2001, training about eight hours a day at the U.S. Diving Regional Training Center at Oklahoma City Community College. When the training center closed, the Arnett family moved to Spring, Texas, so she could continue her training.

The water-themed production of "O" features world-class acrobats, synchronized swimmers, divers and characters who perform in and above a 1.5 million-gallon pool of water. The show's name, "O," is taken from the French word for water "eau."

"In Cirque du Soleil, I am a high diver, diving off 60-foot towers (mounted) from the ceiling into the water. It is a big job, and it is one of the most prestigious shows in the world. I feel very lucky to be here," Arnett said.

As she plunges from the platform into an aqua abyss, the athlete is simultaneously living her dreams and reaping the rewards of years of sacrifice, hard work and dedication.

Through the years, Ms. Arnett garnered multiple awards, including a diving scholarship to Virginia Tech. She earned gold medals at the USA Diving National Championships as well as

numerous other events. She also qualified for the 2012 Olympic diving trials.

At 10 years old, she was the youngest diver to qualify for the U.S. team and competed at the Junior Pan American Games in Brazil, earning a bronze medal.

Arnett was twice named Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Women's Diver of the Year and earned ACC Most Valuable Diver Award three times while at Virginia Tech.

She also earned a major in philosophy and a minor in Japanese.

As college graduation neared, thoughts of retiring from diving surfaced. "Everybody retires after school and goes on to real life, and I didn't want any part of that. I was not ready to let go of diving," Arnett said in a 2022 interview.

She was reminded of the plethora of options available with entertainment companies, such as cruise lines, amusement parks and productions such as Cirque du Soleil, which solidified her resolve to keep diving.

Arnett compiled a video reel and was hired by a Cirque du Soleil show in Macao, China, where she performed for about five years.

"I was doing Russian swing (a device used to make high acrobatic jumps) and high dives. I was dancing on



chandeliers, doing all kinds of bizarre things."

Then the pandemic shuttered entertainment venues and productions across the world, including the Macao show.

Later, she was offered an audition with the Las Vegas production. "Cirque du Soleil allows for more artistry. Diving is very technical and score-based. Being able to turn it into an art, it's a great experience," she said. "I'm trying new dives that aren't even on the book, and the audience is loving it."

Although a seasoned pro, she admits to occasionally feeling anxious while waiting for her cue on the towering platform, but once she takes the first step, her training takes over.

"There is always fear. It's just a matter of harnessing it."

Overcoming fears and forging ahead are two traits Arnett learned from decades of training, and her late Chickasaw mother, Terrie, who died about three years ago following a courageous battle with cancer.

Cirque du Soleil "O" is presented twice a day, five days a week.

For more information:
Tony Choate,
Executive Officer
Office: (580) 559-0921
Mobile: (580) 421-5623
Tony.Choate@Chickasaw.net

On Saturday, March 11, thousands of people attended an event at Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center which included the Central AZ Car & Bike Show, Food Truck Battle, Chihuahua Festival & Lil' Doggy Races and the 2023 Western Pinal County Business & Crafts Expo.



RED WHITE BLUE lemonade drink from Cuties Lemonade and More

John Stapleton, key event organizer, shared, "Everyone involved worked really hard on bringing this event together. This event doesn't happen though without the support of the business sponsors, the Ak-Chin Community and the leadership team at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.

While it is a fun day for the people, it also helps the Maricopa Pantry with the fundraising aspect, and we had a few dogs get adopted too! The best part for me is seeing people from all walks of life, all different ages and backgrounds, coming together to enjoy themselves, especially these days when sometimes we seem divided on everything.

It's all about the positive vibes and hopefully everyone who attended walked away feeling good, with a happy belly, and with memories they can share with family, friends, and neighbors."

In addition to Ak-Chin's victory for Yolanda's Frybread winning Most Unique, the 2023 Grand Champion for the Central AZ Food Truck Battle was Churrolicious AZ. Patrons could customize their churros with different toppings including ice cream,



Food Truck Battle Grand Champion Churrolicious AZ

AKC event continued from page 2
Story and photos by R. Rosoff

fruit, caramel or chocolate syrup and cereal. The award was sponsored by The Maricopa Real Estate Co. and Exceptional Community Hospital. Another tasteworthy option was Cuties Lemonade and More, offering sweet combinations of flavored citrus goodness.

For the car lovers, Best In Show, taking home a \$,000 prize, went to a 197 Pontiac Can Am, entered by owner Michael Lambert. This very rare car is one of only 1,00 that were produced worldwide.

Our four-legged friends showed up too, ready to compete. The dog races consisted of four heats, with the final competitors, Anchovy and Dolly, running for victory, or at least for the tasty treats and hugs their owners provided each time they ran the short track.

With every round, different obstacles such as pool noodles, traffic cones and plastic play balls were added to the course. During the finals, a fabric tunnel was used to up the stakes. Both Dolly and Anchovy were hesitant to enter, with Dolly trying to avoid the long tube of color at all costs. Anchovy stuck it out and ran as fast as he could. With the help

Anchovy was not the only winner on Saturday. Sadie, dressed as a UPS delivery driver, and her owner took home a

Continued to page 8



MARCH 2023							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			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		

ELDER CENTER INFORMATION
Elder Center 520-568-1760
Center Hours
Monday-Friday 8 AM to 5 PM
Breakfast 7:30 AM to 9 AM
Lunch 12 noon

Transportation
520-568-1760 or 520-568-1769
Please Call Before 4 PM

LIBRARY HOURS
Monday – Friday – 9AM-6PM
Saturday-Appointment Only
Sunday-Closed
Questions? Call Us!
520-568-1675

RECREATION INFORMATION
For more information on
Rec Center events please call
the Rec Center @520-568-1740

MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<p>ELDER CENTER</p>  <p>ELDER CHAIR VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE DAYS Wednesday and Friday 9:00 - 11:00AM @ Recreation Gym</p> <p>HEALTH EDUCATION</p>  <p>WIC SERVICES Tuesday, April 4th 9:00 - 11:00 AM @ Ak-Chin Indian Community Library</p>	<p>ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2 MILE WALK Saturday, March 18 9:00 AM @ Ak-Chin Service Center</p> <p>FUNCTIONAL FITNESS Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM @ Elements Event Center 16000 Maricopa Road</p> <p>LIBRARY</p>  <p>MONDAYS MULTI MEDIA MONDAYS 5:00 - 5:45PM</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS LEGO ROBOTICS 4:00 - 5:30PM</p>	<p>BUDDY'S READING CIRCLE* 2:00 - 6:00PM *Participants must be signed up for program to attend. Call 520-568-1675 for more information.</p> <p>THURSDAY 3/23 TASTY CRAFTS W/AMY 5:00 - 5:45PM</p> <p>Week of 3/27 Easter Scavenger Hunt Begins</p> <p>PARKS & RECREATION</p>  <p>GAME ROOM* Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays** 5:00 - 7:00PM XBOX & PS4 *Ages 9 - 17; Must call to</p>	<p><i>schedule slot time; waiver release and conduct form must be signed and completed</i> **Friday tournament - prizes (1st - 3rd place)</p> <p>MINI BASEBALL SEASON Practice Starts 3/20 @ 5pm @ Milton Antone Park League Games every Saturday For more information: KATHLEEN MIGUEL (520) 568-1744 OR EMAIL: RECREATION@AK-CHIN.NSN.US</p> <p>**CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE**</p> <p>Transportation 520-568-1760 or 520-568-1769 Please Call Before 4 PM</p>
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I am currently a graduate student at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law where I am working towards my Master of Legal Studies in Tribal Self Governance. Go Devils!

Growing up in Ak-Chin during the time I did was exciting, but bittersweet as well. I grew up first living with many of my aunts and cousins at my grandmother Evelina's home before my mother received her home in the firehouse subdivision.

We still had dirt roads, which made it hard to catch the bus on rainy days. I grew up watching my mother work hard not only as a single mom, but as she worked her way up to director at the Him-Dak Museum.

She taught me to always progress forward, have a strong work ethic and taught me about my O'odham heritage. We were also lucky enough to have many people help raise us, my grandmother Evelina, my aunts and uncles, especially my Uncle Norbert Peters

badt, and my godparents Bernadine and Benny Romo with my god sisters.

My upbringing was done by so many people that taught me to have integrity, to care for others and to always have laughter in your life.

I was able to witness the solitude of the reservation during a time where Maricopa was a small city with two gas stations, no fast food and no traffic lights.

I attended school at Maricopa Elementary, Middle School and High School with the same group of kids and spent my summers attending summer school at the Ak-Chin Community Center and Him-Dak Museum.

Being able to listen to stories from Thelma Miguel badt as she taught us how to weave baskets, or listen to Theodore Enos badt laugh as he taught us how to plant squash at the museum are just a few of the lucky opportunities I

had to connect me to my culture, that I don't see enough of today with the Ak-Chin youth.

I remember looking out the window and seeing nothing but farm fields on the way to school and seeing the fields of pecan trees as we drove to Casa Grande to get groceries, since there were no major grocery stores in Maricopa.

I witnessed not only the change that came about in Ak-Chin when the Harrah's Casino was built, but once I graduated high school, I witnessed the economic boom in Maricopa that grew into many more homes and businesses that have yet to stop coming.

Over my life time I've been blessed to not only see the growth of Ak-Chin as we continue to prosper as people, as a community and with our enterprises, but also to have the many benefits awarded to the membership as a result of so many of our tribal leaders' hard work.

There are so many things that I learned from my community that I would love to pass down to my children, that I myself am still continuing to learn and that would be: 1. The culture and language, 2. The importance of family, and 3. There are opportunities beyond the reservation.

I think it is important for my children to know who they are and where they come from. At a time where the cultural practices and languages of many tribes in the U.S. are dwindling, I want to continue to learn and teach them anything that

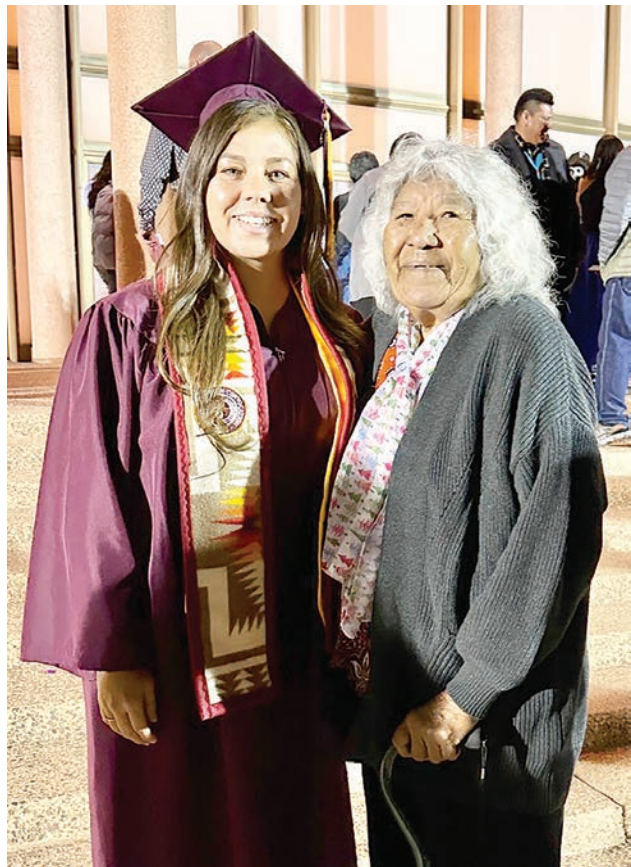
I can. I was lucky enough to take free classes at Tohono O'odham Community College to learn the language, but I still have a long way to go to be a fluent speaker so I do my best to pass the little I learn to them as well.

Through the accomplishments, failures and opportunities that I've encountered in life, it would not have been possible without my family, so I try to teach my children that they need to maintain strong familial bonds because family is who you will rely on and seek out during many of the highs and lows in life.

Being from a large family, we are lucky enough to be born with best friends and protectors right from the start.

Lastly, I want my children to not only be proud of where they are from, but to also understand there is so much more in the world than the reservation. I want them to travel and explore other ways of life. To set their goals high and to make our community proud by their representation of Ak-Chin in whatever path of life they choose to take.

Advice that I have for the youth in our community is to believe in yourself. There are times in your life that you may feel alone even among an entire community, but



Jennifer with grandmother Evelina Lopez at ASU graduation.



Jennifer and Husband Jacolby King.

you should always build yourself up to have one relentless supporter – YOURSELF.

Find what you want to do in your life, what makes you happy, which at times may be multiple paths and pursue them. Find the people who support you, friends and family that are there to lift you up and motivate you to continue and keep

them close.

The failures are inevitable but necessary to help you succeed so appreciate them and value what you learn as a result of failing.

Be proud of who you are, be proud of your tribe, we are part of the 2% who are thriving and surviving in the U.S., we are "something else" for sure.



Jennifer's boys; Antonio, Isaac, Benjamin and Mateo.

AK-CHIN POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUITING EVENT

WHEN:

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
10AM TO 2PM

WHERE:

AK-CHIN JUSTICE COMPLEX
45525 W FARRELL RD

**Light refreshments will be served*



NOW HIRING FOR:

- COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS
- DETENTION OFFICERS CERTIFIED/NON CERTIFIED
- POLICE OFFICERS CERTIFIED/NON CERTIFIED
- RANGER
- SECURITY GUARDS

Event attendees will have an opportunity to meet and interact with our recruitment team, ask questions, discuss interview preparation and tips to translate your current skills to public safety jobs.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Fresh spring air is good for kids.

But playing outside also comes with stings, falls, bites, scrapes, and other challenges.

Learn about injury prevention at www.insurekidsnow.gov.



WIC

Tuesday, April 4th – 9am-11am
Tuesday, May 9th – 9am-11am
Tuesday, June 6th – 9am-11am

WIC Services held at Ak-Chin Indian Community Library

Do you qualify for WIC?

- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding women
- Infants
- Children under the age of 5

WIC foods include: yogurt, fresh fruit s & vegetables, baby foods and other favorites such as milk, peanut butter, cheese, cereal and eggs!



Question? Need to make an Appt?
Call: (520) 562-9698

Gila River Indian Community WIC Program
66 w. Pima, Sacaton, Arizona



JOB OPENINGS

- Applications Software Technician
- Cashier/Stocker part-time
- Deli Clerk
- Detention Officer - Certified and Non-Certified
- Economic Development Analyst
- Firefighter/EMT
- General Worker
- Maintenance Technician (2)
- Police Officer - Certified and Non-Certified
- Sr. Network Systems Specialist



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

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

From the staff
at the Runner



Wishes

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

Happy Birthday Dannon
Love, Dad and Mom

Happy Birthday Sarah and Sonny
Love your family

Happy Birthday Grandma and YooYoo
May your special days be blessed with
health and happiness!
Love, Cecil, Raychel and kids

Ak-Chin Indian Community Environmental Programs EARTH DAY Friday, April 28, 2023



SAVE THE DATE

17-Mar
Karam Abu-Hamdan
Capital Projects

26-Mar
David Lopez
Law & Order

18-Mar
Diana Garcia
Contracts and Grants

27-Mar
Jesus Estrada, Sanitation
Fernando Lopez
Sanitation
Celia Soto
Social & Health Services

19-Mar
Matthew Hearn
Fire & Safety

21-Mar
Eric Chavez,
Tribal Gaming

29-Mar
Monica Ruiz
Social & Health Services
Rebecca Rosoff, Runner

22-Mar
Manuel Garcia,
Law & Order

31-Mar
Shannon Peters, Retail

23-Mar
Rene Carlyle, Retail
Mark Pablo
Environmental Protection
Deanna Rascon, Courts
Sergio Hernandez
Sanitation
Christian Alvarez
Him Dak Museum

Employee Birthdays
3/17 - 3/31

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/01
Olivia Vincent
Maverick Santiago
Nolan Miguel
Ferrin Sope

03/02
Kristina Garcia
Sonja White

03/03
Courtney Miguel
Wilma Antone
Ardon Green

03/04
Deion Narcia
Mario Twohearts
Madeleine Van
Sickle
Armanii Whitman

03/05
Gabriel Lopez
Dante Peters
Cayden Peters
Sharalee
Dominguez-Zapata
Kerianna Justin
Emma Narcia
Dannika Lewis

03/06
Nakotah Antone
Cody Narcia
Jose Gutierrez, Jr.
Damonique Lewis

03/07
Emily Lewis
Alexandra Lopez
Delbert White

03/08
Leighsa Miguel

03/09
Jonathan Narcia
Stanislaus Antone
Charlene Whitman

03/10
Mercedes Stephens
Marcus Delores, Jr.
Irene Medina

03/11
Robert Stephens, Jr.
Devin Peters
Angelisa Cuatt
Mildred Narcia
Breon Stephens
Giulianna Sandoval
Antonenko Alvarez

03/12
Lisa Chavez

03/13
Samantha Castro
Ameliano Jacuinde

03/14
Brenna Antone
Crystal Maddox
Davin Garcia

03/15
Narin Lopez
LeRoy Narcia
Dwayne Antone
Ana Blanchard
Joseph Green, Jr.
Anastasia Soke

03/16
Tracy Wind
Mariella Norris
Kalvin Antone

03/18
Karlie Smith
Kelly Antone
Kane Miguel

03/20
Jose Hernandez
Sarah Carlyle
Carlton Carlyle, Jr.
Gabriel James
Daria Garcia

03/21
Joel Vincent
Eric Chavez

03/22
Manuel Garcia
Nicole Vincent
George Lewis, Jr.

03/23
Mark A. Pablo
Marie Ortega
Melanie Antone
Brandon Antone
Deanna Rascon
Christian Alvarez

03/24
Yamiah Miguel
Yaniah Miguel
Jessie Williams

03/25
David White, Sr.
Jacob Santiago
Mario Ortega

03/26
Evelina Lopez
Kerwin Ugalde

03/27
Benedict Miguel
Celia Soto

03/28
Maria Santiago

03/29
Monica Ruiz
Megan Quintero
Leona Kakar
Dannon Peters

03/30
Marvin Shade
Allissia Bandin
Aaliyah Balderrama

03/31
Zaydyn Norris
Maria Hernandez
Robert Velasquez
Shannon Peters
Courtney Delores



AKC event continued from page 5

owner took home a cool \$100 cash prize. The other furry friends donned Easter bunny, spider, taco and drink cooler outfits.

creatures to pet. From there they raced to the bouncy slides, likely fueled by a combination of excitement and sugar.

The annual event began seven years ago, taking a brief pause for COVID, and continues to grow each year. Next year's plans are already underway with more details and official date in 2024 TBD.

After the kids in the audience had a chance to congratulate their favorite furry racers, they could make their way over to the booth run by Desert Grown Reptiles & Exotics in Maricopa. Staff brought many scaly



Reptilian critters shared by Desert Grown Reptiles & Exotics



Some of the entries in the car and bike show



(L to R top) Yaniah Miguel, Yamiah Miguel and Florinda Peters enjoying the dog races.



Anchovy and owners celebrate their victory



Sadie, costume contest winner, ready for her delivery



Dolly, 2nd place, racing hard

MOVIES • RESTAURANTS • BOWLING • ARCADE • LASER TAG • GROUP EVENTS

Ak-Chin Circle ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
1901
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
ARIZONA

MARCH EVENTS

Ak-ChinCircle.com

LUXE LOUNGE PRESENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

With Musical Guests

FRIDAY MARCH 17

8PM - MIDNIGHT

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

LUXE IS 21 + Venue

Spring Break

Dollar 4 Dollar

GAME CARD

Purchase a game card (up to \$20) and we will match that amount

* does not include bonus credits.

MARCH 6-24

* Center will open at 11am

PLAY WIN GameCenter

Ak-ChinCircle.com

f /Ak-ChinCircle i /akchincircle

ARROYO GRILLE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WEEKLY SPECIALS

WEDNESDAYS

CLASSIC FISH FRY \$14

THURSDAYS chef's special \$14

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS prime rib \$32

Weekly Specials Served after 5pm • Quantities are Limited

ARROYO GRILLE

at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM

48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

ARROYO GRILLE

520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM

48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

MARCH FIVE BUCKS OFF!

ON YOUR NEXT \$25 TO GO OR DINE IN ORDER

SHORT ON TIME? ORDER TO GO!

Must present coupon to server. Not valid with daily or Happy Hour specials. Cannot be combined with other specials or offers. Does not include alcohol. One coupon per table, no split checks. Valid for one visit daily Mon-Sat. Non-transferable. Offer expires 3/31/23.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

ECAS PRESENTS

HONEST JOHN DAVID RAIBON JUAN VILLAREAL

A WHITE GUY, A MEXICAN & A BROTHER

APRIL FOOLS COMEDY Jam

AND GUESS WHO'S THE BROTHER?

HOPE KEY FOUNDATION

A CHARITABLE EVENT

INSIDE THE LUXE LOUNGE

APRIL 1, 2023

Showtimes 8p & 10:30p

Tickets available on Eventbrite

Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO

March 2023

CAESARS REWARDS.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>ST. PADDY'S PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER</p> <p>FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023</p> <p>SWIPE AT A PROMOTIONAL KIOSK - 8AM - 11:59PM</p>						
			1 <p>CAST IRON SERIES BY HELL'S KITCHEN™ GIVEAWAY</p>	2 <p>HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!</p>	3 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	4 <p>SOCIAL INFLUENCERS' TOP PICK! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!</p>
5 <p>DOUBLE ENTRY DAY FOR THE ALASKA CRUISE DRAWING BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	6 <p>IT'S TIME TO CHIME!</p>	7 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	8 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	9 <p>#NATIONALMEATBALLDAY</p>	10 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	11 <p>GARY ALLAN CONCERT</p>
12 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	13 <p>FIND OUT WHAT'S APP'ENING! CAESARS REWARDS</p>	14 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	15 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	16 <p>TAKE YOUR FAVORITE GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL!</p>	17 <p>ST. PADDY'S PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER BONUS REWARD CREDITS NICK OFFERMAN SHOW</p>	18 <p>DUNKIN' HAS YOUR MORNING AFTER COFFEE CURE</p>
19 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	20 <p>CRUISE INTO SPRING</p>	21 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	22 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	23 <p>ENTER YOUR JACKPOT FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN \$25K IN JUNE!</p>	24 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	25 <p>EARN AND ENTER TO WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$25,000 IN MARCH</p>
26 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	27 <p>SHARE YOUR EMAIL AND YOU WON'T MISS A THING! VISIT US ONLINE AT CAESARSREWARDS.COM/MYREWARDS</p>	28 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	29 <p>KOOLGO™ GAMEDAY COOLER SET GIVEAWAY</p>	30 <p>SPA POOL REPEAT!</p>	31 <p>BONUS REWARD CREDITS</p>	

*Wednesday, March 1, 2023 gift is part of the February 2023 Gift Giveaway. Please refer to the February 2023 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. ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards® Center for complete details.