



30-Year Anniversary for Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino



Photo by Raychel Peters

L-R: Mario Cardenas, Executive Casino Host; Karen Scofield, Database Marketing Coordinator; Barbara Achten, Cage Manager; Eulia Polingyumptewa, Countroom Lead. Harrah's Day One employees are ready to celebrate another stellar year with Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.

2024 marks Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's 30th Anniversary.

The property, which is owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community; is a thriving entertainment destination that empowers team members, supports local businesses and nonprofit organizations, and is a steward of the environment.

Team members and senior leaders alike are inspired by the organization's values and moved to support and participate actively in nonprofit and civic organizations that benefit the local community.

Harrah's 30th continues to Page 8a

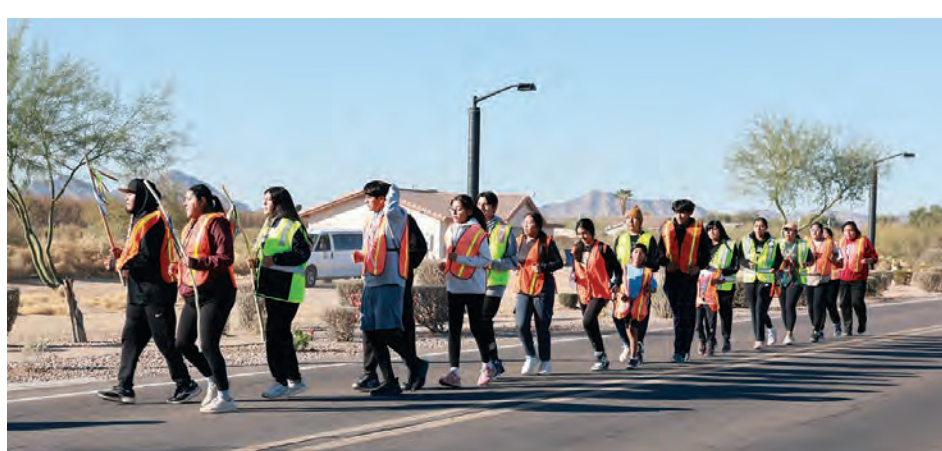
Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino invests time and financial resources through various donations and activities/programs both on-property and within the community.

It's in the long-standing traditions and culture of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, which is steadfast in its efforts to preserve and impact not only the tribal community, but neighboring communities in a positive way, that guides every decision the property makes, constantly assessing how those decisions will impact the community.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino has been a continuous source of economic vitality for Pinal County, the City of Maricopa, and the surrounding areas, providing hundreds of jobs for community members and everyone in and around the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's Economic Impact in 2023:

- \$9,169,948 Total Gaming Taxes Paid
- \$1,641,688 Other State and Local Taxes and Licensing Fees
- \$40,854,071 Total Vendor Spend by



Spiritual Runners make their way through the Community, December 8.

2024 Ak-Chin Masik Tas kicks off with Spiritual Run

Story and photo by Ashley Vincent

The Ak-Chin Masik Tas 2024 is in full swing; our celebration is what members look forward to every year, because our traditions, values and community come alive all at once.

Spiritual Run - December 8, 2024 Sunrise

The Ak-Chin Youth Council hosted their second annual Masik Tas Spiritual Run on the early morning of Sunday, December 8th.

Masik Tas continues to 2b

The purpose of the run is to bless the grounds of the community before all of the main Masik Tas events happen in the days to follow.

All runners met at sunrise near the Ak-Chin boundaries off of White & Parker Road, there the run started in relay style, heading west on Peters & Nall Road, continuing towards the main village.

Once they all made it to the main village, the participants ran the last leg of the route on Farrell

Road together.

The run concluded at the old vaila site, ending with a cleansing of each runner, followed by a light breakfast catered by Vekol.

There were just over twenty runners in attendance who ran, not only for their own reasons, but overall, for the community, bringing blessings to the members and the visitors that will be in Ak-Chin for the yearly birthday celebration.

Ak-Chin Recreation Annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Story by Recreation Department, photos by Kerrianna Justin



Classic Category - First Place: House #4 - "Santa's Red Carpet"

Ho-ho-ho, neighbors!

The votes are in, the tinsel has settled, and it's time to announce the winners of our spectacular Holiday Home Decorating Contest!

With houses filled with lights and holiday cheer, it was tougher than Santa's job on Christmas Eve to pick the winners. But alas, a decision had to be made!

A big round of applause to everyone who participated - your festive spirit made our neighborhood a winter wonderland!

And now, without

further ado, the moment you've all been waiting for... the winners!

Creativity Category

- **Third Place:** House #2 - "Avocado Goes to Gingerbread Land" (We're still scratching our heads over this one, but we love it!)
- **Second Place:** House #12 - "O'Christmas Tree" (A classic with a twist!)
- **First Place:** House #5 - "Gingey's Candyland" (Pure imagination and holiday magic!)

Classic Category

- **Third Place:** House #11 - "Winter

Wonderland" (A snowy spectacle!)

- **Second Place:** House #16 - "Authentic Christmas" (Tradition at its finest!)

- **First Place:** House #4 - "Santa's Red Carpet" (Giving Santa the VIP treatment he deserves!)

Humorous Category

- **Third Place:** House #10 - "WWE Clocks Disney" (A holiday mashup for the ages!)
- **Second Place:** House #3 - "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (Whoville would be proud!)
- **First Place:** House #9 - "Spooky

Ak-Chin Preschool visits Santa at Library

Story and photos by Runner Staff



Santa Visit continues to Page 4a

During the morning of December 17, Ak-Chin Preschool's 3-year-old classes visited the Ak-Chin Library, for some reading and craft time.

The visit started with the kiddos completing their variations of Santa, a craft led by Ms. Linda, Ak-Chin Librarian.

Afterwards, students browsed the aisles of the library looking for their next reads, that included a reading of "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg.

By the end of the story, the kids were surprised

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2a ELDER NEWS

PAGE 4a EPD ARTICLE

PAGE 3a COMMUNITY NEWS

PAGE 1b-4b MASIK TAS EVENTS

Holiday Home Decorating continues to Page 4b



Santa had a sleigh full of gifts for all these good elders at the Ak-Chin Elder Christmas Party.

Elder Annual Christmas Party

Submitted by Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Ak-Chin Elder Center Director, photos by Runner Staff

The holiday spirit was alive and thriving at the Elder Annual Christmas Party held on December 6, 2024, at the Ak-Chin Circle Elements Ballroom.

This event brought together our Ak-Chin elders for an afternoon of cheer, delicious food, and unforgettable entertainment.

The celebration began with a delicious Mexican-

themed lunch, featuring a variety of flavorful dishes and a tempting array of desserts. Ak-Chin Community Elders gathered with their family and friends for laughter and conversation.

Adding to the holiday magic, Santa Claus himself made a grand appearance, spreading cheer and bringing smiles to everyone.

This year, Santa took

his role to a new level by doubling as the DJ, spinning tunes that kept the energy high and the dance floor lively.

Special thanks go to Clayton Antone for stepping into the boots of Santa and delivering both great music and holiday joy.

Distribution of door prizes, created moments of suspense and joy for the lucky winners. The

party's generosity shone through the thoughtful gifts presented to the elders.

The Runner, the Museum, and the Preschool provided a variety of wonderful presents, which were warmly appreciated. In addition, the Elder Center gifted each elder a \$100 gift card to Walmart or Sam's Club.

Special thanks are



At right, Ak-Chin elder Norma Vincent along with friend, Eulia Polingyumptewa enjoy the festivities at the Elder Christmas Party.



L-R: Delores Rodrigues, Delia Carlyle, Marilyn Thompson and Davis Garcia, Sr. share a family-moment at the Elder Christmas Party.

extended to the to another year of Runner, the Museum, community and the Preschool together. For those elders who could not attend the event, the gift cards can still be picked up at the Finance Department until December 31st at 12 noon. From the Elder Center Staff: Merry Christmas to the Ak-Chin Indian Community!



Elder Chair Volleyball brings action and fun for all

Story by Sonya Martinez, Ak-Chin Recreation Program Coordinator, photos by Runner Staff



Mixed Blood from Ft. Mojave celebrate the win at this year's Ak-Chin Masik Tas Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Parks and Recreation hosted its Annual Masik Tas Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament on December 10th, drawing 34 teams from various tribes across different states.

for this event. The Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament was a resounding success, bringing joy, laughter, and friendly competition to all involved.

Team Pala Turtles, traveling from Pala, California were one of the farthest travelers

Elders from various communities came together to participate, and the atmosphere was filled with excitement

Elder Chair Volleyball continues to Page 3

Elder Calendar

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| *Breakfast Served 7 AM to 8:30 AM *Lunch Served 12 PM to 1 PM *For Transportation Call Georgia at 520-568-1769 | | *Movie Questions? Call the Elder Center at 520-568-1760 *Elder Chair Yoga is Tuesdays & Thursdays 9AM to 10AM | | 12/20 CENTER CLOSED FOR AK-CHIN MASIK TAS |
| 12/23 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Elder Christmas Trivia & Gift Giving, 9 AM Pozole, Diced Onion, Cabbage, Rolls, Pineapple Upside Down Cake | 12/24 Ham & Eggs, Toast, Oatmeal Cookie, Fruit Salad Carne Asada W/ Beans, Burrito & Pico De Gallo, Zucchini w/Corn, Peaches | 12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS CENTER CLOSED | 12/26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CENTER CLOSED | 12/27 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CENTER CLOSED |
| 12/30 Breakfast Burrito, Salsa and Sour Cream, Muffin, Fruit Baked Ham, Mashed Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Rolls, Mexican Sweet Bread | 12/31 Oatmeal, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Apples Hamburgers, French Fries, Baked Beans, Apple/Orange | 1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR CENTER CLOSED | 1/2 HOLIDAY CENTER CLOSED | 1/3 HOLIDAY CENTER CLOSED |
| 1/6 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage/Potatoes, Toast/Scone, Fruit Chicken Cordon Blu, Carrots, Peas, Peaches | 1/7 Cream of Wheat, Boiled Eggs, Toast, Banana Ground Beef Taco, Lettuce, Tomato, Corn, Fruit Cocktail | 1/8 French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Mix Berries Egg Salad Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Chips, Apples/Orange | 1/9 Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown, Grapes w/ Cottage Cheese Red Stuffed Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Brown Rice, Jell-O | 1/10 Potato Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Tortilla, Fruit Pinto Beans, Chicken Dumpling, Normandy Vegetables, Corn Bread, Apple Sauce |

Menu Subject to Change Without Notice



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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Announcements and wishes may be phoned in, faxed or e-mailed.

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

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

All submitted letters MUST be signed by the author and are limited to 200 words.

Authors must also include their name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted by request. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit all submitted material for clarity, grammar and good taste. All submissions should be received as typed or non-cursive writing. Please do not submit UPPERCASE or formatted paragraphs.

Submitted pictures need a return address and brief description. Pictures with no address will remain on file. Allow 2 weeks for return.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE
2024 Subscription rate is \$37.75. If you would like to receive the "Runner" by mail, please send a \$37.75 check/money order to:
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16600 N. Maricopa Hwy.
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Make check/money order payable to:
Ak-Chin Indian Community

NEXT DEADLINE
Don't forget the DEADLINE for the January 10-23, 2025 issue is due by **TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST**

Please submit all announcements, wishes, etc. no later than **TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST**

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

Elder Chair Volleyball continued from Front



2nd Place - Akimel Phoenix

and camaraderie. excitement for future enhancements.

The tournament provided a wonderful opportunity for the elders to engage in physical activity, while also fostering a sense of unity and connection.

From prior years' experience we had to cap the tournament to 34 teams as this is only a one-day event and we only use our facility. The event registration filled up within hours of opening.

Chairman and DJ Robert Miguel kept the energy high throughout the tournament, creating a lively atmosphere for participants and spectators alike.

Parks and Recreation received many comments regarding the chair volleyball tournament from, first-time attendee Larry Cooper from the Yavapai tribe who expressed his enthusiasm for the event, hoping to return in the future.

Leberta, from Gila River, shared her anticipation for the next tournament. Florine, also from Gila River, praised the event's decor and expressed

We had some great games, especially the championship game, which was a close hard-fought match that ended in a 11-9 victory. We enjoyed how much fun the elders had and the great memories that were created throughout the whole event.

Mixed Blood emerged as this year's tournament victors, followed by Akimel Phoenix in second place and Gila River O'odham's in third.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community Parks and Recreation extended gratitude to Ashley Vincent's family for providing traditional food to the participating seniors. They also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of volunteers and staff members whose dedication, positivity, and teamwork ensured the event's success.

We hope to make this a multiple day event (in the future) so that we can get the teams that were on the waitlist an opportunity to play as well.



3rd Place - Gila River O'odhams



These players are very competitive!



The team camaraderie was contagious.



During the election, each one of you shared your thoughts with what your goals and expectations were for our Community.

In moving forward, I'd like to work on those thoughts, as well as with the thoughts shared by the Community Members together...as a team.

We may have disagreements but hopefully an open dialogue will help achieve finding a common ground to build upon in making our Community even better and stronger.

There's so much more to say but as many of us have been told "actions speak louder than words."

Thank you,
Delia M. Carlyle

I would like to express my sincere appreciation with becoming the Vice-Chairman for the next four years. Thank you to those who humbled me with their support.

I'd also like to thank my fellow candidates for stepping up and running for office. It's not always an easy decision to make.

Christmas Wishes & New Years Resolutions

I want to wish everyone living and working in the Community, a warm, wonderful and joyous Christmas and New Year!
Most Sincerely, Shauna-Rae Brown

My Christmas Wish List: Peace in the Middle East, Peace throughout the World. Continued Prosperity and success for the Great Ak-Chin Indian Community. Exercise and eat healthy on the personal level.
Karam Abu-Hamdan

Here is my Christmas Wish and this could also be a New Year's Goal:

- (Christmas Wish) That all may enjoy peace and joy during this holiday season and look forward to a Blessed New Year.
- (New Year's Wish) That Community Council will consider implementing a full operating Animal Welfare department for all the furry four-legged community members that reside in the community. Fur Babies Lives Matter.

Nicole "Coco" Carlyle-Coester

Wishing you all a happy and successful New Year! I'd love to see us expand our training and development opportunities this year. My resolution is to continue learning and growing in my role.
Sonya "Sonny" Martinez

Christmas Wish List for the Ak-Chin Indian Community – 2024
As we celebrate this joyful season, we reflect on the many blessings the Ak-Chin Indian Community has experienced and look forward to the New Year with hope and optimism. In the spirit of unity and cultural pride, here is my heartfelt wish list for 2025:

1. *Continued Growth and Success: May the Community experience continued prosperity, and may all endeavors in governance, education, agriculture, and business thrive throughout the coming year.*
2. *Unity Among All Members: We wish for strengthened bonds within the Community, fostering collaboration and harmony among all individuals and families, ensuring a strong foundation for future generations.*
3. *Renewed Spirit of Cultural Restoration: May 2025 bring an even deeper commitment to preserving and restoring the rich traditions, language, and heritage of the Ak-Chin people. Let us celebrate the beauty of our culture and ensure its vibrancy for the future.*
4. *Empowerment through Knowledge and Education: We hope for greater access to education, learning opportunities, and growth for all members, empowering them to lead, inspire, and contribute to the Community's success.*
5. *Health and Well-Being for All: We wish for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of every member, especially as we continue to navigate the challenges of modern life. May everyone enjoy peace, health, and happiness in the New Year.*
6. *Sustainable Stewardship of Resources: Our hope is for a continued commitment to the land and natural resources, with sustainable practices that honor the balance between progress and preservation of our environment.*

May this Christmas and the New Year bring abundant joy, unity, and success to every member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2025!
Gabriel L. Lopez,
Chairman Elect 2025

A waffle maker for sure and strawberries to go with it.
Armonda Santiago

I would like to wish everyone in our Community a Very Merry Christmas, gathered with family and friends to bring in a blessed New Year full of health and harmony. Dear Santa, also wishing ND gets the win on Friday so we can see them play in the Sugar Bowl.
Raychel Peters

Integrated Pest Management La'as Haicu Dodakam Hialwui

Submitted by Environmental Programs

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can be the "gift that keeps on giving". This concept of using less pesticides and improving pest control goes back to the early and mid-1900s in U.S. agriculture.

The goal in seeking to rid crops of pests that often had reduced food quality, production and critical supply from time to time in this country and the world. Historically, pest infestations in the past have suppressed local, regional and world food supplies at a level that famine and starvation was ever present day to day.

In the United States, the first significant uses of pesticides in food and fiber production were Herbicides, Insecticides, Fungicides and Rodenticides with the many other "icides" to follow, including antimicrobials (disinfectants).

At the same time, on a parallel course, medical human health discoveries and the increased introduction of vaccines, antibiotics and antivirals (non-pesticides) have greatly improved health outcomes when used as tools to fight microbial (bacteria and virus) infections.

Regulation and development of these chemistries are continuing to this day to provide many safe and effective solutions when used according to the label and when needed.

of IPM is also showing ways to more safely improve performance of the older chemistries going forward with less impact on the environment.

IPM tools in the toolbox used in agriculture, the largest user of pesticides, have greatly reduced the use of pesticides in the environment. Using the IPM toolbox for your home can have a similar strategy and outcome; the tools utilized will be different, and in some cases familiar. Featuring an IPM tool in



the toolbox: "the olé death of many"

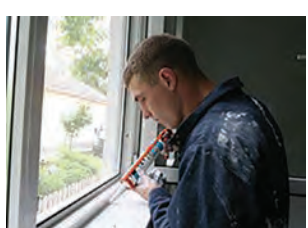
Pesticides are by definition, a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. IPM balances the goal of pest control choosing as many non-pesticide options available with the use pesticides as your last option. This strategy will reduce pesticide exposure to you, your family and the environment. Only a little focused effort on the "toolbox" of successful strategies are needed to reach our goals and keep our families safe.

Effective IPM involves "big picture" community participation and will need everyone to be hands on for everyone to benefit.

A little effort on the "big

Using Door Sweeps and weather stripping will provide an excellent first line of defense. A very good daytime test is; no outside light should be visible from inside.

Weather stripping is very useful on doors as well as windows.



Sealing the entry points of electrical and plumbing openings to your home builds an effective barrier to stop most all pests small and large.

Moisture always provides the first open invitation for all pests including harmful molds.



Locate and fix water leaks and areas of condensation. If you have pets, always keep in mind; what your pets don't eat, pests will take advantage of left overs creating problems for you and your family.

Elevated pet food trays are helpful and effective indoors; not so much outside. Simply, pests are known to be much more persistent at getting to food sources than your pets.



Using air tight food containers are always the last best barrier to keep pests from getting comfortable where they can set up "camp" in your home.

Please keep in mind that the kitchens and bathrooms provide the best invitation for unwanted pests.

Please remember to enjoy this Holiday Season using IPM strategies with Christmas excess wrappings, trimmings and cheer for us, and not to be shared with uninvited guests:

"The Pests" When the celebrations of the season are passed, IPM can truly be the "gift that will keep on giving" for your whole family.

Merry Christmas, Masik Tas and a Happy New Year!

Environmental Program's Mantra: "Respect the environment"

Storytime Leads to Surprise Visit

Story by Kristen Villegas, Photos by Runner Staff



Library's Grinch gather's excited students from both Mrs. Billie's (pictured above) and Mrs. Francine's (pictured below) 4-year-old classes for group photos.



A special opportunity was given to Ak-Chin Preschool students when visiting the Ak-Chin Library on December 12th, 2024. During the 11:30 AM storytime, 4-Year-Old students sang their welcome song to each other and then were read "Chicka Chicka Ho Ho Ho" by William Boniface by librarian Ms. Linda.

As a group, they sang another song, this one Christmassy and then searched for their next reads. After student's were read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," by Dr. Suess, which was welcomed with a visit from the Grinch himself at the end of the story.

The group was able to get their photos taken with the Grinch and even received Max decorated candy canes. The preschool is expecting more visits from special characters this holiday season, stay tuned!



3-year-olds Visit with Santa continued from Front

by a special visit from Santa. Photos were taken and gifts were given to the group, which left them all the giddier.



The Ak-Chin Library plans to have more exciting activities and events for members in the New year, be ready!



Crafts for Christmas

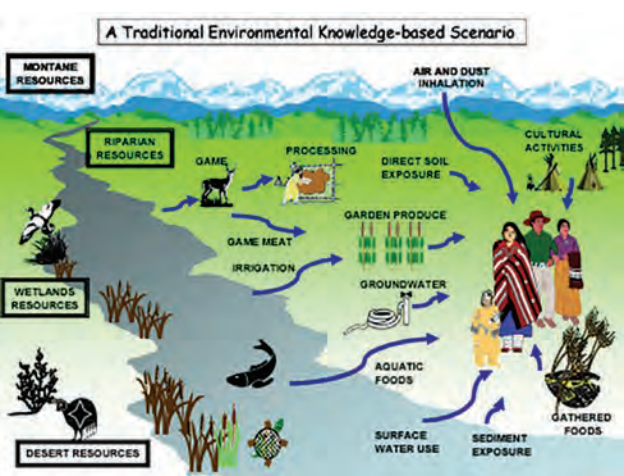
Story by Kristen Villegas, Photo submitted by Dannon Peters



Following the Christmas in the Village event, the Him Dak Museum hosted Christmas Crafts on December 4th, for families. While there, you could make your own small Christmas tree using a coned paper and pipe cleaners.

Though it may seem tedious, the outcome was well worth it; at the end of completing the green of the tree you would then decorate to your desired look using creativity and the holiday spirit!

Crafts and holiday themed activities are a few of the great programs the Him Dak provide, check them out in the New Year.



USEPA regulates the registrations and labelled use of pesticides. USFDA, with other responsibilities, regulates the safety and effectiveness of human and veterinary medicines, biologics and medical devices. Although USEPA and USFDA having similar goals, they are separate agencies.

These two regulating agencies are charged with improving human health, food safety and the environment. The charge of "improving" makes this an ongoing responsibility as new findings on legacy chemistries (both pesticides and antibiotics) may restrict or ban the use of products currently in use.

Legacy chemistries are chemistries that have been phased-out or banned, with these chemicals having a lasting impact on communities, families, and our environment. New chemical introductions must also meet a much higher level of EPA and FDA Safety and Environmental standards to be approved and introduced for use.

Overuse of these legacy chemistries have also increased resistance and reduced effectiveness on the targeted organisms. The use of IPM tools around our homes are proving to be effective and sustainable while reducing the need and use of pesticides close to where we live. The use

picture" will go a long way in keeping pests away and protecting our environment. Here are a few small steps we can take.

A) Proper Identification is the first step: Knowledge of the pest "You Won't Control What You Don't Know"

B) Focus to eliminate the following to discourage uninvited guests: Identify the pest's wants and needs: "the key on three!"

- Harborage - "no place to hide"!
- Food sources - Nothing to eat - "no play - no stay"!
- Moisture: the key to life - No H2O means "they got to go"!

The use of IPM in our homes can also focus on these tools in the toolbox as pictured:

Photos: Courtesy of University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

These doorway entries are an open house and invitation to pests to your home.



GOLDEN TICKET

Greetings to you, the lucky finder of this Golden Ticket from the Ak-Chin Winner! Present this ticket to the Runner office within 14 days to receive a special prize. Please call the Runner office to let the staff know you are on your way.

CONTEST OPEN TO AK-CHIN MEMBERS & RESIDENTS ONLY
 Must be 18 years or older to claim prize

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR LAST GOLDEN TICKET OF THE YEAR TO BE A LUCKY WINNER! THANK YOU TO THE PREVIOUS WINNERS FOR PARTICIPATING, WE WILL SEE YOU IN 2025!

Ak-Chin PD Hands Out "Toys for Tots"

Story and photos by Kerianne Justin



Hello and Happy Holidays Everyone! On December 13th, the Ak-Chin Police department held their annual Toy drive, "Toys for Tots".

The police department all came together as one to provide many wonderful gifts for all the children in the community.

It was an amazing experience to see the police department give back to the community.

The program "Toys for Tots" tries their very best to provide countless gifts for each and every kid. This year in 2024, the program was able to purchase \$3,000,000 in toys and \$500,000 in books.

The program not only gives back to our community, they also help others in need as well.

Below, left: Ak-Chin youth happily receive their gifts. Below, right: Ak-Chin PD take a pause to pose for a quick picture.



CHILDCARE ENROLLMENT PACKET

Return the enrollment packet to Front Desk Only

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled Ak-Chin Indian Community Member
- Child of an Ak-Chin Indian Community Member
- Child is living within the Ak-Chin Indian Community boundaries and is enrolled with a federally recognized tribe
- Child of an Ak-Chin, TGA, or Farm Employee
- General Public

At least one Parent/Guardian must be Working or Actively Enrolled in School to be eligible for the program.

Serving Children Ages 3 months -3 years old.
 *If your child is enrolled and withdraws from the program, or your child is selected for the program and you decline for any reason, a new application will need to be completed to be put back on the waiting list.

Ak-Chin Child Development
 48251 W. Farrell Rd.
 Maricopa, Az 85139
 Ph. (520) 568-1700 Fax (520) 568-1701

Ak-Chin Childcare offers:

- Education Services
- Health/Developmental Screenings
- Preschool Readiness
- Physical Education
- Nutritious Snacks
- Story Time
- Field Trips and Fun Activities throughout the year.
- 7:30am to 5:30pm, Monday -Friday

Providing Breakfast, AM Snack, and Lunch while promoting Nutritional & Healthy Life-styles.

Transportation IS NOT provided to and from Childcare Services.

Required Registration Documentation:

- Completed Enrollment Form
- Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CIB) If applicable
- Child's Certified Birth Certificate
- Child's Current Immunization Record
- Employment Verification

**** Only completed applications with required documents will be accepted. Children registering must be at least 1 year old to be considered.**

Ak-Chin Circle Gets First Glimpse of Annual Christmas Cruise

Story and photos by Ashley Vincent



On the evening of December 7th, the Ak-Chin Circle's west parking lot was filled with SxS off-road vehicles that were all uniquely decorated with Christmas lights and decorations, some filled with lights from top to bottom.

year, they still had quite the turnout with over 70 entries.

Headed by Ak-Chin member Lorenzo Batopis, this Christmas Cruise is always something special to look forward to, especially if you love Christmas and all the beautiful lights it brings.

The Circle was the headquarters as everyone geared up and anxiously waited for the cruise to begin.

Once the parade of SxS cars left the Circle they headed west, turning right onto Peters Ave, then north to Miguel Ave, leading them to Juan Street, finally making a left onto John Wayne Parkway starting their route throughout several Maricopa communities.



Preschool Christmas Wishlist

- Mrs. Pollie/ Mrs. Leyla's 3-Yr Old Class**
- Kody C. - 6V LED Glowing Bumper Car
 - Joseph Z. - Bluey Play Tent
 - Ximena A. B. - Disney Junior Minnie Boutique Shopping Cart
 - Jasper J. - Boomer & Team Figure Set
 - Frida A. - Barbie Mini Barbieland Dollhouse Playset
 - Kyrie W. - Hot Wheels City Ultimate Garage
 - Cairo B. - Mutant Mayhem Pizza Fire Van
 - Catalia B. - Start the Story Elsa Ice Cream Maker with Dough
 - Anastasia S. - Belle's Tea Time Cart

- Ms. Mary's 3-Yr Old Class**
- Ezekiel G. - Mrs. and Mr. Potato Head, Bluey Pop N Fun, Play Tent, Spider-Man Bike
 - Eliza S. - Kids Tablet, Barbie Doll Dream Camper Van, Baby Alive Fruity Sips Doll
 - Nevaeh J. - Wooden Coffee To Go Set, Disney Cinderella Carriage & Horse Set, Disney Ariel Deluxe Atlantica Palace
 - Angel A-B. - Spider-Man Dance & Crawl, Jurassic World Ravenous Raptors, Play-Doh Spider-Man Thwip Squisher
 - Gael D. - Hot Wheel City Ultra Shark Car Wash, Giant Copter Military Play Set, Leapfrog Magic Adventures Binoculars
 - Stella M-W. - Blue Glow 6V Bumper Car, Play Doctor Kit for Kids, Barbie Doll Dream Camper Van
 - Alek K-H. - Grave Digger Remote Control, Hot Wheels City Ultra Shark Car Wash, PAW Patrol with Lights
 - Gioni P. - Fire Truck Play Set with Lights & Sound, Monster Truck Megalodon Loop of Doom, Disney Cars NASCAR Race Playset
 - Senia S. - Interactive Smart Robot, Kids Electric Guitar, Bluey Jumbo Plush

- Mrs. Billie's 4-Yr Old Class**
- Sadie - Barbie doll, Barbie slide, Barbie ice cream thing
 - Joseph - toy, Legos, monster truck
 - Ivan - Pizza slice, squish mellow parrot, cake for my parrot and a big slide.
 - Yyondrez - Lego, toys
 - Kyla-Jae - surprise doll, water bottles, nail polish
 - Natalia - Slime rollercoaster, clay
 - Mia - Barbie house, pink slide, pool and snacks for my Barbie
 - Daniel - Legos, monster truck, and more Legos
 - Tobias - purple cat and moon necklace
 - Ryder - car and monster truck I can ride, Santa clause doll
 - Jacobie - makeup for mommy, Barbie dolls and Barbie water slide
 - Adrian - Galapagosaurus toy, Squishies big and little

- Mrs. Francine's 4-Yr Old Class**
- Brodie Todachine - Play dough rainbow swirl ice cream play set, Peppa pig play set, Duplo Lego set, Popup play house
 - Noah - toy car or truck. Anything Spiderman or mickey mouse
 - Paislee - A big Elsa doll and a small Elsa, a stuffed bunny toy, Elsa dress, and a nice puppy.
 - Benjamin - Pirate ship toy, Tick tock time machine toy, Mickey Mouse toys.
 - Oliver - Army men, dinosaurs, Candy popcorn machine, gumball machine
 - Rommell - Sonic, Paw Patrol,
 - Adaline - Anything Bluey, Magnetic Dolls and Make-up
 - Tablia - Baby doll, doll clothes, and a bike
 - Logan - Dinosaurs, Spiderman, Batman toy
 - Kamaiya - doll, a big doll house and coloring book

"Santa:
 This is me h1 Hunter Henagar. I have been really good this year and I try to be nice to my sister. And take care my turtle. I would love a remote control helicopter, A oculus quest, Hot wheels race track, Nintendo switch, A new bike, Monster jam trucks and Track, Army / police vehicles to battle with -Hunter"



Arizona Experience and Native American College Day

Submitted by Savannah Boyd, Ak-Chin Education Student Counselor

The University of Arizona hosted the Arizona Experience and Native American College Day on Saturday, December 7th. The day was full of events for students to learn about the University of Arizona's academics, financial aid, clubs/organizations, student services, housing, and more.

Five Ak-Chin high school students attended the event, taking time from their weekend to travel to Tucson to spend a day learning about opportunities, resources, and connecting with current Native students, faculty, and staff.

Upon arrival, Levi Esquerro, Senior Vice President for Native

American Advancement & Tribal Engagement (NAATE) welcomed the Ak-Chin high school students to campus and acknowledged Ak-Chin during the Welcome Session for being present.

The students attended two morning sessions, "Major Exploration" and "Tribal Aid and Scholarships". During the afternoon, the Native American Students Affairs (NASA) department hosted an open house and tour of the NASA center, which started off with a welcome and blessing on the UA Mall by Miss Native American University of Arizona Jasmine Lopez (Tohono O'odham) and introduction from

the Native faculty and NASA staff. Students toured the NASA Center to learn about the resources provided on campus for current and future Native students.

At the end of the day, the NAATE department provided a delicious lunch for all students who attended, and enjoyed red chili, beans, green chili stew, frybread, and desserts. Several Ak-Chin students expressed their day on campus.

Jalia, sophomore, stated, "One thing I learned was the different classes offered on campus and that it is okay to change your major if needed."

Another student Teagan, senior, stated, "I learned about the NASA building

and how they give you a lot of support, a quiet place to study, and support with financial aid."

The Ak-Chin Education Department plans to offer more college site visits and tours for students in the future, providing an opportunity to explore their post-secondary options.

A huge thank you to Mr. Lenny Dempsey, Higher Education Enrollment Academic Advisor for driving the Ak-Chin students safely to and from Tucson for this event.

ATTENTION!

The Ak-Chin Tribal Courts at this time will only allow the parties who have a case pending before the court to be in the courtroom. All other parties including family members and/or friends are prohibited.

PROBATION/PRE-TRIAL CHECK INS

Individuals checking in with Probation and/or Pre-Trial Services you may check in with Court Security first and the individual you are here to see will be notified.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Thank you.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

NOTICE 2025 Agricultural Lease Payment

The 2025 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 24, 2025, 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 13, 2024.
Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 24, 2025. 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 13, 2024.

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 24, 2025.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.
*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 2, 2025.



Harrah's Ak-Chin Team Members Incorporate Fun into Giving



(Maricopa, Ariz. – Dec. 9, 2024) Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino hosted its inaugural Can-struction food drive on Nov. 22, collecting over 1,000 pounds of food donations to benefit F.O.R. Maricopa. The creative and collaborative event brought together teams from various departments to construct imaginative structures using canned goods.

"We had an incredible time coming together as a team," said Database and Advertising Manager, Melissa Rowberry of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. "This event was not only fun but also an opportunity to learn, strengthen bonds with our colleagues, and make

a meaningful difference for those in need. We're thrilled with the turnout and look forward to making this an annual tradition."

The Can-struction event showcased the casino's commitment to community engagement and support for local organizations, reflecting the team's dedication to giving back in a creative and impactful way.

Long-known for its corporate giving and community support, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino team members also supported the Maricopa Veterans Day parade. The culinary team prepared 330 box

lunches that SALUTE team members served to Veterans who attended the Maricopa Veterans Day parade.

The Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino SALUTE Business Impact Group (BIG) 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 in assisting Veterans in a variety of ways including fundraisers, donation drives and of course volunteer opportunities.

Five Ak-Chin high school students attended the Arizona Experience and Native American College Day

Got holiday gatherings planned?

Make sure everyone in your household gets this season's flu and COVID-19 shots.



For more information, contact your local Indian health care provider, visit [HealthCare.gov/coverage](https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage), or call 1-800-318-2596.





JOB OPENINGS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS:

- Animal Control Officer
- Accountant
- Aquatics Coordinator
- Asst Cook Detention
- Cashier Stocker part-time
- Compensation Analyst
- Communication Officer
- Communication Officer (part-time)
- Child and Family Therapist
- Child Care Teacher
- Deli Clerk - Vekol
- Detention Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Detention Officer Certified part-time
- Emergency Manager
- Environmental Technician
- Lab Tutor (part-time)
- Legal Assistant Prosecutor
- Plant Electrician & Instrumentation Technician
- Plant Electrician
- Police Officer (certified and non-certified)
- Security System Technician
- Student Advisor Tutor
- Substance Abuse Therapist
- Youth Council Coordinator

Open to Enrolled Community Members Only

- Parks Maintenance Technician
- Cashier Stocker part-time
- Temporary Worker

www.ak-chin.nsn.us

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. If you need assistance, please call the Human Resources Dept. at 520-568-1050.



2024 Transit Schedule Changes

Closed ALL DAY
December 20th & 25th-27th
January 1st - 3rd, 2025

Please make alternate arrangements for transport on these dates.

Thank you!!



Masik Tas Hay Raffle

\$1260 Value
64 Bales
1 ticket for \$20
3 tickets for \$50



NO PERSONAL CHECKS

Tickets available for purchase at the Ak-Chin Tribal Office
November 18th - December 18th:
Monday-Friday: 8a-5p
December 19th: 8a-12p

Additional On-site raffle sales:
December 14th: 10a-6p at the Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center lobby area
December 19th-22nd at the Masik Tas Rodeo Secretary's Office

****CASH OR MONEY ORDER ONLY****
Winner need not be present to win.
Drawing will be held after last rodeo event on December 22nd
Alfalfa Bales donated by Ak-Chin Farms

Sanitation Holiday Schedule December 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------|---------|---|---|--|
| 16 Trash Pick Up | 17 | 18 | 19 Trash Pick Up Recycling Pick Up | 20 Ak-Chin's Masik Ta:s Holiday |
| 23 Trash Pick Up | 24 | 25 Christmas Day Holiday  | 26 Community Holiday | 27 Community Holiday Trash Pick Up Recycling Pick Up |
| 30 Trash Pick Up | 31 | (January) 1 New Year's Day Holiday  | 2 Community Holiday | 3 Community Holiday Trash Pick Up Recycling Pick Up |



YOU ARE INVITED GRAND OPENING REMODELED GYMNASIUM


JANUARY 3RD, 6 PM TO 8 PM

Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation
46753 W Farrell Rd, Maricopa, AZ, 85139

recreation@ak-chin.nsn.us 520-568-1740

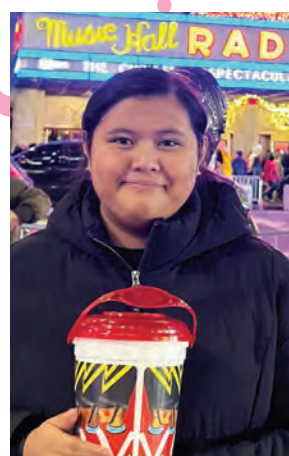
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY TO THE BEST AND STRONGEST BIG SISTER EVER! WE ALL LOVE YOU SO MUCH ULANI, PLEASE DON'T GROW UP TOO FAST. HAVE A GOOD DAY BEAUTIFUL!
- YOUR FAMILY




HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR AUBREY GIRL WE WISH YOU MUCH LOVE ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY! LOVE, BAPA AND LUMA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY GRANDSONS AIDEN, DAVID JR, AND KYLE AND TO MY GRANDDAUGHTERS SERENITY, SABRINA, JERSEY, AUBREY AND JESSICA LOVE, GRANDMA



EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS 12/20 - 12/31

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>12/20 Devontae Hopson, Fire Roni Zappia, Maintenance</p> <p>12/21 Micky Moull, Central Plant</p> <p>12/22 Heidi Hinz, Community Operations</p> | <p>12/23 Bartholomew Smith, Community Operations</p> <p>12/24 Velacita Lopez, Education David Peters Jr., Retail</p> <p>12/25 Kyle Peters, Maintenance</p> | <p>12/26 Joep Garcia, Elderly Johnnie Traugher III, Police</p> <p>12/31 Rivera Mercedes, Community Government</p>  |
|--|---|---|

Birthdays 12/20/24 - 1/9/25

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>DECEMBER 20TH Lanna Lewis Collette Susunkewa Lailani Marrietta Roni Zappa</p> <p>DECEMBER 21ST Adrian Romo Aiden Peters Elijah Narcia Eileen Pinheiro</p> <p>DECEMBER 22ND Volincia Pablo Manuel Rodriguez Izick Antone Candida Upton Nicholas Olivias</p> <p>DECEMBER 23RD Yyondrez Antone Bartholomew Smith</p> <p>DECEMBER 24TH Velacita Lopez David Peters Jr. Kyle Peters</p> <p>DECEMBER 25TH SERENITY VILLEGAS ARROW SANTIAGO DAVID MANUEL SR.</p> | <p>DECEMBER 26TH Andrew Pinheiro Angela Trenado</p> <p>DECEMBER 27TH Erica Oliver Orlando Lewis</p> <p>DECEMBER 28TH Javier Zepeda Bernadina Gonzalez Julianna Orona Sabrina Sam Jersey Peters</p> <p>DECEMBER 29TH Abel Aguilla Kathleen Miguel Aubrey Lozano</p> <p>DECEMBER 30TH Renita Montero-Zamudio Christopher Lewis Bernadette Carra Lee Miguel II</p> <p>DECEMBER 31ST Mercedes Rivera-Lopez</p> <p>JANUARY 1ST Duane Narcia</p> <p>JANUARY 2ND Azlynn Carra Jolene Campbell</p> | <p>JANUARY 4TH Stephen Narcia Skylar Luna Alexandra Osife</p> <p>JANUARY 5TH Joseph Pilone DelRoy Narcia</p> <p>JANUARY 6TH Yolanda Melero-Moroyoqui Jose Miguel Sr. Joseph Narcia Heaven Coble</p> <p>JANUARY 7TH Gabriel Pablo Brandon Smith Kevin Villegas</p> <p>JANUARY 8TH Paige White Ashley Manuel Jessica Zabawa Ethan Humeyumptewa</p> <p>JANUARY 9TH Jennifer Hill Jose Balderrama Paden Marsh</p> |
|--|--|---|

Happy Holidays

From the Ak-Chin Runner 

EMPLOYEE UPDATES

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Constance McFarlin <i>Health & Human Services</i> Child & Family Therapist |  Naomi Bishop <i>Library Manager</i> |  Matthew Cross <i>Education</i> Student Advisor Tutor |
|---|--|--|

Harrah's 30th continued from Front

- Property
- 4.49% Certified Diverse Vendor Spend
 - \$7,259,613 Total In-State Vendor Spend by Property

30 Fun Facts for 30 Years

1. The Ak-Chin Indian Community entered the gaming industry in 1994 as part of the original compacts and established a management agreement with Harrah's, the longest of its kind. To date, Ak-Chin is the only tribal gaming operation with an international management company.
2. Harrah's Ak-Chin opened with 475 slot machines and today has more than 1,150 machines.
3. The original stained-glass windows of the property were never taken down and are still hanging up behind the walls.
4. Since 1994, Harrah's has been active in CodeGreen, which is Caesars Entertainment's effort to raise awareness around environmental conservation, as well as the health and wellness benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle, through activities and promotions that educate and support environmental consciousness.
5. Since tracking recycled items in 2009, Harrah's has reported 19,410,554 pounds recycled.
6. Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and Resort is rated a Green Key property by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. The rating system is designed to recognize hotels, motels, and resorts that are committed to

- improving environmental and fiscal performance.
7. Throughout the property, guests will see Native American-inspired artwork and design elements that highlight the culture and traditions of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
 8. The Harrah's Development System (HDS) integrates members of the Ak-Chin Indian Community into key areas of the Casino Entertainment Industry. HDS Associates gain knowledge, experience, and leadership skills that will enable them to advance into management positions. To date, 83 Ak-Chin Community members have participated in the HDS program.
 9. Currently, Harrah's is responsible for employing 28 members of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.
 10. Since 1994, Harrah's has been active in HERO, an employee-based volunteer program in which Harrah's staff and their families make noteworthy and visible contributions to the community.
 11. Harrah's HERO program has supported more than 2,800 nonprofit and community organizations. Organizations interested in submitting a request for donations can complete a CSR - Charitable Funding Opportunities. Caesars Entertainment application on the Caesars' website.
 12. There are 12 Team Members who have been with the property since opening, resulting in 360 years of service to Harrah's.
 13. Since opening Dunkin' Donuts in

- 2013, Harrah's has served more than one million donuts.
14. When Harrah's first opened there were no table games allowed as per the compact. The first table games were introduced in 2003.
15. The Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino SALUTE Business Impact Group (BIG) formed in 2019. The group 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 in assisting Veterans in a variety of ways including fundraisers, donation drives and of course volunteer opportunities.
16. In 2021, Harrah's started offering live craps and roulette.
17. In 2020, the Ak-Chin Indian Community ensured all employees continued to be paid for the entire duration of the COVID-19 closure.
18. Since opening in 1994, Harrah's Ak-Chin has only had five General Managers of the casino.
19. Chubby Checkers performed free shows at Harrah's Ak-Chin back in 2010.
20. SAVVY became Harrah's second Business Impact Group (BIG). The group focuses on the empowerment, support, and advancement of women within the company. The SAVVY BIG is for team members and their peer supporters who have common goals and are committed to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's diversity and inclusion strategy.

21. Dave Chapelle performed at the 2019 Grand Expansion Celebration of the Event Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin.
22. When Harrah's opened, the Total Rewards loyalty program only had one tier. When the second tier was added, the higher tier was designated with a gold star sticker added to the card. The program, now called Caesars Rewards, offers six levels and has consistently been named a top loyalty program by USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice.
23. Chop Block & Brew was introduced in 2018, replacing the original steakhouse called The Range.
24. Eddie Money performed his last live show at Harrah's Ak-Chin in May 2019.
25. Harrah's Ak-Chin had its first loyalty card signup event at the Arizona State Fair in October 1994.
26. Harrah's Ak-Chin opened as a 72,100-square-foot facility. Today the facility spans 944,931 square feet.
27. The first hotel rooms were opened at the property in 2001, with a total of 144 rooms. Today the property has 529 rooms.
28. Louie Anderson was the first comedian to perform at Harrah's Ak-Chin.
29. Harrah's Ak-Chin features sculptures by Snellen Maurice "Snell" Johnson, creator of the MGM Grand's lion.
30. Harrah's Ak-Chin is the only casino in Arizona that offers the benefits of Caesars Rewards.

MEET SANTA
IN THE AK-CHIN CIRCLE LOBBY

DEC. 22 4PM-8PM

16000 N Maricopa Road, Maricopa AZ 85139

HOLIDAY HOURS
December 23rd - January 3rd
Bowling & Theater Will Open at 11:00AM

TEND'S DOWN URBAN ARENA LASER TAG PLAY WIN GameCenter

16000 N Maricopa Road, Maricopa AZ 85139
Ak-ChinCircle.com

ARROYO GRILLE 520.426.6832 | ARROYOGRILLE.COM
48456 WEST HWY 238 IN MARICOPA

DECEMBER THE \$8 BEFORE 8
EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST 2 EGGS W/CHOICE OF POTATO & PROTEIN

Must present coupon to server. Not valid with daily or Happy Hour specials. Not valid after 8am. Cannot be combined with other specials, offers or Harrah's Rewards. Does not include alcohol. One coupon per table, no split checks. Valid for one visit daily. Non-transferable. Offer expires 12/31/24.

Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

RANKED #6 BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN ARIZONA

2025 PURE GOLF PERKS 'COPA CARD' INDIVIDUAL \$199 ON SALE NOW!

10 DAILY RANGE PASSES
DISCOUNTED GREEN FEES
3+ DAY ADVANCED RESERVATIONS
ARROYO GRILLE & GOLF SHOP DISCOUNTS
\$25 PRACTICE FACILITY PASS
\$20 DAILY PRACTICE FACILITY PASS
DISCOUNTED LESSONS & RENTAL CLUBS

AK CHIN Southern Dunes GOLF CLUB EXPERIENCE TRUON GOLF

520.426.6827
AKCHINSOUTHERNDUNES.COM

30 YEARS OF PLAY Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO **DECEMBER 2024** **CAESARS REWARDS.**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1. SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING! | 2. CAESARS SPORTSBOOK WITH CAESARS REWARDS OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE NFL. GAME ON! | 3. HOLIDAY COOKWARE GIVEAWAY PIGSKIN PICK'EM | 4. FREEZING FREE SLOT PLAY 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER PIGSKIN PICK'EM | 5. FOREVER YOUNG WIN YOUR WHEELS! 10X EARNING | 6. CANTINA NIGHTS | 7. CANTINA NIGHTS |
| 8. SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING! | 9. REDEEM REWARD CREDITS FOR FREE SLOT PLAY! | 10. HOLIDAY COOKWARE GIVEAWAY PIGSKIN PICK'EM | 11. FREEZING FREE SLOT PLAY 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER PIGSKIN PICK'EM | 12. FOREVER YOUNG WIN YOUR WHEELS! 10X EARNING | 13. CANTINA NIGHTS | 14. TEE UP AT THE AK-CHIN SOUTHERN DUNES GOLF CLUB CANTINA NIGHTS |
| 15. SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING! | 16. FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & X! | 17. HOLIDAY COOKWARE GIVEAWAY PIGSKIN PICK'EM | 18. FREEZING FREE SLOT PLAY 10X REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER PIGSKIN PICK'EM | 19. FOREVER YOUNG WIN YOUR WHEELS! 10X EARNING | 20. CANTINA NIGHTS | 21. TREAT YOURSELF AT THE GIFT SHOP CANTINA NIGHTS |
| 22. SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING! | 23. 5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 24. HOLIDAY COOKWARE GIVEAWAY PIGSKIN PICK'EM 5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 25. HOLIDAY MYSTERY GIFT SWEEPSTAKES PIGSKIN PICK'EM 5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 26. FOREVER YOUNG WIN YOUR WHEELS! 10X EARNING 5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 27. WIN YOUR WHEELS! 30X EARNING CANTINA NIGHTS 5X TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER | 28. WIN YOUR WHEELS! DRAWINGS CANTINA NIGHTS |
| 29. SUNDAY FUNDAY SHOPPING! | 30. CAESARS SPORTSBOOK WITH CAESARS REWARDS OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE NFL. GAME ON! | 31. NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION PIGSKIN PICK'EM | CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S 2025 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024 PROGRESSIVE REWARD CREDIT MULTIPLIER EXECUTIVE HOT SEATS - MIDLAND | | | |

Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Management reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without prior notice. 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-NEXT STEP or text "NEXTSTEP" to 53342. ©2024 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.

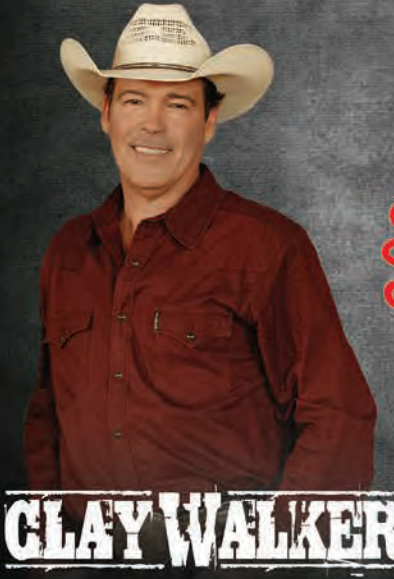
2024 Ak-Chin Masik Tas

FREE SHOW

Friday, December 20th | Gates open at 4:30 pm
AK-CHIN CIRCLE | 16000 N. Maricopa Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85139



Little Big Town



CLAY WALKER



masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us



RUNAWAY JUNE



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th

- Men's/Women's Basketball Tournament @Ak-Chin Recreation
- Jr. Rodeo @9AM Ak-Chin Circle Arena
- 12P-12A Carnival
- Bull Bash @4P Ak-Chin Circle Arena

★ Concerts

- Gates open @3PM
- 5PM – Runaway June
- 630PM – Clay Walker
- 8PM – Little Big Town

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st

- 10A – Carnival
- Men's/Women's Basketball Tournament @Ak-Chin Recreation
- Open Rodeo/Wild Horse Race – @12P Ak-Chin Circle Arena

★ Concerts

- Gates open @130PM
- 2PM – Los Hermanos Cuatro
- 330PM – Louie S.
- 4PM – David Lee Garza
- 6PM – Grupo Metal
- 8PM – Michael Salgado

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

- 10A – Carnival
- Men's/Women's Basketball Tournament @Ak-Chin Recreation
- Open Rodeo/Wild Horse Race – Ak-Chin Circle Arena @12P
- Employee Calf Dressing @1PM

★ TRADITIONAL DANCE GROUPS

- 12pm - Chi'Chino Spirit Traditional Dance Group – Gila River Indian Community
- 1pm - San Juan Kualiya Group – Ak-Chin Indian Community
- 2pm - Ak-Chin Baban Kehina Dance Group – Ak-Chin Indian Community
- 3pm - Anegam Traditional Singers and Dancers – Tohono O'odham Nation

*Clear bag policy - bags must be made of clear materials, not color/tinted, and the size must not exceed 12x6x12. Only medical and diaper bags will be permitted, but they must be searched, as well lawn chairs, wagons and blankets.

2024 Ak-Chin Masik Tas

FREE SHOW

AK-CHIN CIRCLE
16000 N. Maricopa Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85139

Saturday,
December 21st

Gates open
at 1:30 pm



MICHAEL SALGADO



GRUPO METAL



Los MUSICALES
David Lee Garza



masiktas.ak-chin.nsn.us

Also Performing
Los Hermanos & Louie S.



★ NATIVE BANDS PERFORMING ON SUNDAY

- 430pm - Chaka & Friends
- 6pm - Two Rivers
- 8pm - Gertie & the TO Boyz



TWO RIVERS



Everyone Welcome

2024 MASIK TAS EVENTS

Traditional Games - December 14, 2024 8 AM

Saturday morning brought on an air of competition as both Songival and Toka were being played simultaneously. These traditional games were managed by the Ak-Chin Language department with the aid of Ak-Chin Youth Council.

For Songival, the foot race allowed for boys of all ages to compete against one another in the hopes of being the fastest; though this sport is all in good nature and promotes brotherhood between players.

Songival winners were Anthony Antone of Gila River for third place, Drayven Soliz of Ak-Chin placed second for the games and Zachary Valles-Garcia of Ak-Chin was named 1st place winner; he received a plaque for his hard work.

Ak-Chin toka teams Ci'ci'vidam and S-kubjuv Ju:dam were in attendance and participated in the tournament.

The toka games brought 11 teams from our sister tribes to the field; a strong battle between opponents was evident as the girls battled it to the end.

Toka teams to place were S-to:ta Okoki for third place, winner of second place was Sweg A'an and first place winner were the Skeg Komkcud; they also received a plaque for their stellar teamwork.

In addition to these traditional games, a new relay race was also demonstrated; with a boys vs girls style race, as Songival runners relayed against select girls from all the toka teams.

It was race of stamina and pain as all runners raced barefoot, with the songival players kicking the songival from one end of the field to the other, while the toka runners hit the o'la with their usaga down the field. In the end, the boys were named the victors.

Light Parade - December 14, 2024 7 PM

The light parade is always a hit with community members and nearby visitors coming to watch the show. All of the participants, especially community departments, continue to out-due themselves year after year. Ak-Chin Community Courts wished everyone a "Turtley AWESOME CHRISTMAS!" with their creative Ninja Turtle float. Then there was Cindy Lou Who riding along with the Preschool. There was also the biggest "USDA Commodity Cheese", anyone has ever seen with the HDS Program float. The only thing in comparison to that was the big bumble "Abominable Snowman" leading Him-Dak's float. Along with O'odham

rodeo royalty, young cheerleaders from the Ak-Chin Cheer team, and live music from "Molina's Music," there was plenty to see.

As exciting as the night was, there was a heartfelt pause as the family of the late Rope Justin entered the parade in his honor. A large horse trailer decked out with lights strolled by, and just as the trailer passed, the name Rope could be seen on the back gate, lit with blue Christmas lights, representing the cowboy spirit and way of life, they also offered everyone a "Merry Christmas from our ranch to yours!"

Following the Justin family was Rope's baseball family, the "Lil Natives." A baseball decal with Rope's initials and number was printed at the top corner of their banner as a tribute to him. Both floats were the perfect way to honor and remember the young cowboy/baseball player.

The Grinch was also fan favorite, making a few appearances throughout the parade route along with the guest of honor, Santa.

Ak-Chin hosts first Community 10K - December 15, 2024 8 AM

It was a great day to run a 10K! On December 15th, the Ak-Chin Indian Community hosted its first 10K run, along with a 2-mile fun run/walk as part of the 2024 Ak-Chin Masik Tas Celebration.

Participants made their way to the Recreation facility early Sunday morning to check in and get their packets. About 35 runners were geared up for the 10K, and a good 80 or more came out to participate in the 2-mile walk/run, both coordinated through Ak-Chin Events and Ak-Chin Health Education.

After everyone had checked in and received their route information, Community Member Delia Carlyle offered a prayer to all and blessing for the event.

Once they were counted down to begin, the 10K group headed south on Smith Rd., then turned east on Ak-Chin Pkwy towards the new housing area.

At the 1 mile mark, they headed back south along the wash for another mile, then west through Ak-Chin's farm fields, circling north on Santos St., then a little jog east on Farrell to Vekol and then back to the finish line at the gym.

Meanwhile, the 2-mile participants lined up to begin their route that took them east towards the justice facility and back to the gym.

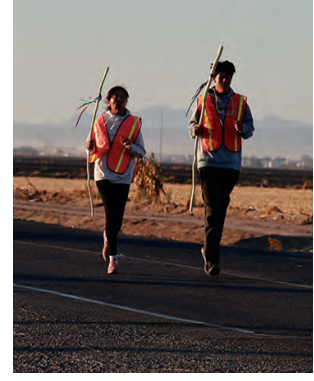
Top finishers in the 10K were awarded medals and gift cards, winners are as follows:

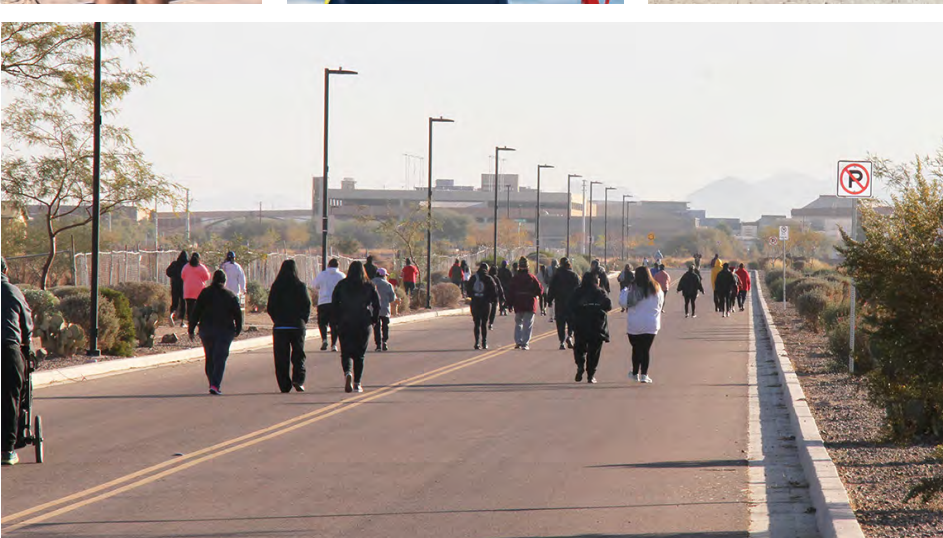
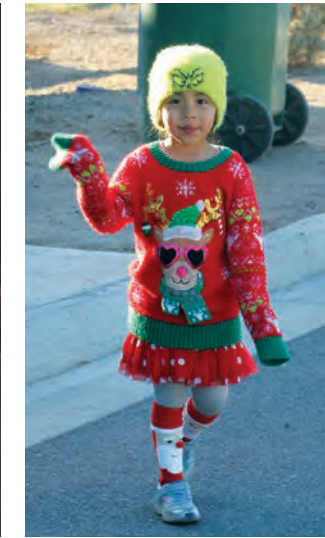
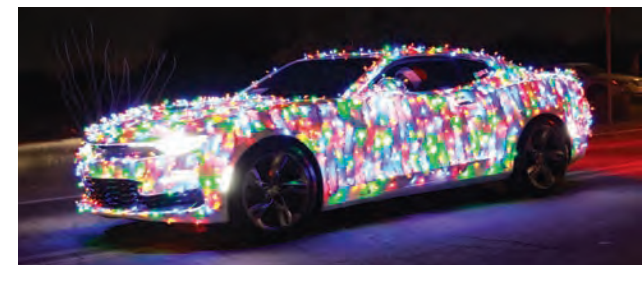
Overall Male: 1st - Garrett Burnett; 2nd - Trevor Shirley; 3rd - Jonah Aye
 Overall Female: 1st - Valiyah Yazzie; 2nd - Rolanda Mitchell; 3rd - Amber Antone

Age Categories:
 18 & under: Female - Natalie Miguel; Male - Kaden Harris
 19-24: Female - Valiyah Yazzie
 25-30: Female - Rolanda Mitchell; Male - Garrett Burnett
 31-36: Female - Amber Antone; Male - Artie Casset
 37-42: Female - Lyn Hargis
 43-48: Female - Stephanie B. Antone
 49-54: Female - Gale Whitson; Male - Leon Potter
 55+: Female - Virginia Slim; Male - Jonah Aye

Ak-Chin Health Education would like to thank the Events staff, "for giving us the opportunity to host the Masik Tas fun run/walk this year and for assisting us with the event."

"We would also like to thank Ak-Chin Farms, Ak-Chin Sanitation/Public Works, Ak-Chin Fire Department, Ak-Chin Police Department, Ak-Chin GIS, Ak-Chin IS, Waylon Antone, Clayton Antone, Sonia Narcia, Delia Carlyle, Lerline Peters, S-kubjuv Ju:dam Toka Team, and last but not least, we would like to thank all the participants! Thank you for coming out to our first hosted 10K in Ak-Chin. We hope you enjoyed our event!"





Youth Council Community Day - December 15, 2024 2 PM

Recreation Holiday Home Contest continued from Front

On Sunday afternoon, everyone was invited to attend the Community Day Celebration hosted by the Ak-Chin Youth Council, who hosted a Wood Chopping, Popover Making and Dance Contest.

to judge. Winner for first place was Doria Garcia, second place was Monica Woody and third place was Shauna Narcia. Last to start was the Dance Contest, which had the 3 dance categories of Vaila, Cumbia, and Chote. These exciting competitions spanned throughout the evening with willing participants eager to show their skills and possibly, win the title for each contest.

Mylaunah and Marquan Robles won the Vaila; Harlee and Abraham Jose won Chote, and Emilio Gomez and Francisco Kirste won Cumbia.

The adult contest brought two couples to the dance floor, with Delbert White and Ambria Valles winning the Vaila category. Sunigh and Tyloria Antone won both the Chote and Cumbia categories.

There were five contestants registered for the Wood Chopping Contest, which required the contestants to chop a big wood stump in 15 minutes. Antonio Jose won first place, Joe Miguel placed second and Shauna Narcia won third place.

Music was provided by Bailan Band from the Tohono O'odham Nation.

It was a chilly night, but Youth Council kept everyone warm by attending to the fire pits and distributing coals. The whole day provided the best entertainment for attendees.

Next was the Popover Contest, where four ladies competed and brought their best popovers for attendees

The youth category was up first, with three pairs accepting the challenge to dance off in the 3 categories. All three pairs were winners;

Skeleton Christmas" (A frightfully delightful twist!)

Congratulations to all our winners! You've truly outdone yourselves this year!

Happy Holidays from Ak-Chin Parks & Recreation!

Winners of House Decorating Contest!

First Place: House #5 - "Gingey's Candyland"



Second Place: House #12 - "O'Christmas Tree"



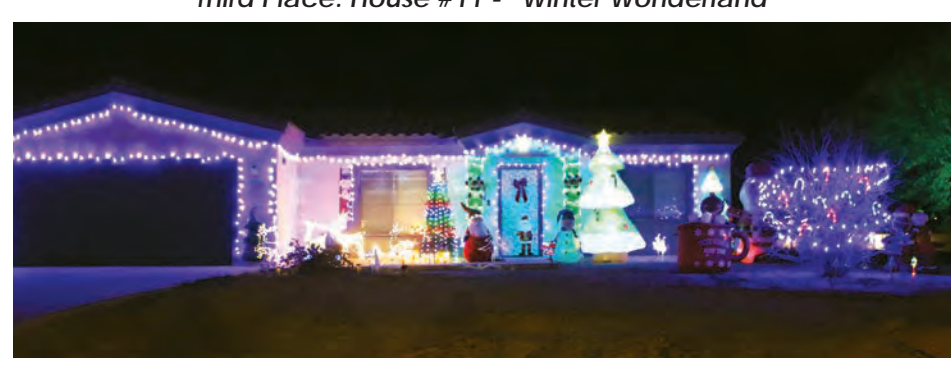
Third Place: House #2 - "Avocado Goes to Gingerbread Land"



Second Place: House #16 - "Authentic Christmas"



Third Place: House #11 - "Winter Wonderland"



First Place: House #9 - "Spooky Skeleton Christmas"



Second Place: House #3 - "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"



Third Place: House #10 - "WWE Clocks Disney"



WOOD CHOPPING WINNERS



POPOVER CONTEST WINNERS



ADULT DANCE CONTEST WINNERS; CUMBIA & CHOTE



ADULT DANCE CONTEST WINNERS; VAILA



YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS; VAILA



YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS; CHOTE



Chudth - December 18, 2024 6 PM



Youth Council hosted an event that offered another opportunity for members to enjoy singing and dancing, as traditional singers and dances took place on Wednesday evening. The night ended with the giveaway dance, where Youth Council Members offered gifts to those who participated in the dance.

