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Scheduling biggest challenge for new Payson Parks & Rec coordinator

by Keith Morris roundup sports editor 4 hrs ago



Jaysen Waterman tosses a bat towards one of the team benches during the Payson Parks & Rec Men's Competitive Softball League Championship Game on Aug. 15, 2018. Waterman, who has served as an umpire, was hired as the Payson Parks & Rec youth and adult sports coordinator last summer.

Keith Morris/Roundup

Scheduling games for multiple teams and leagues can be a challenge for anyone with that job description.

That's certainly been the case for Jaysen Waterman, who was promoted to youth and adult sports coordinator for the Payson Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department last summer.

"The biggest challenge I would say is trying to fit all the programs into one week without overlapping them," said the Waterman. "Like right now, there's youth basketball and volleyball going on and we have women's volleyball coming up and I have to work out the schedule."

Waterman, 42, was born and raised in Payson. He's a member of the Tonto Apache Tribe. He played basketball and football at Payson High School before graduating in 1994. He attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. for one year before returning home because of a family emergency. He worked at Mazatzal Hotel & Casino and at Casino Arizona in Scottsdale for about 20 years before earning his associate degree in general studies from Mesa Community College in 2017.

After graduating, he started working for the Mesa Parks & Rec Department as the recreational leader for youth sports. He was there for just over a year when his mother passed away and he returned to Payson to take care of his father.

Waterman worked part-time with Payson Parks, Recreation & Tourism since May of 2017 in all areas of the department, but mainly focused in the youth and adult sports setting as an official and program monitor. He was promoted to his current position on Aug. 6, 2018.

“I am excited to have Jaysen on board as a coordinator and to give him an expanded role in our programs and department,” said Parks, Recreation & Tourism Director Courtney Spawn.

Waterman and his wife, Denise, will celebrate their third wedding anniversary in April. He has two sons from a previous marriage and she has three daughters from a previous marriage.

Although it can be challenging, he’s enjoying his role with Parks & Rec.

“I was thrilled to take it,” he said of the position. “This is what I’ve wanted to do for a while. I’ve always been interested in parks and rec and organizing leagues and scheduling teams.”

He stays busy, running 19 leagues — 10 adult and nine youth — throughout the year.

Registration is now open for one of those leagues — adult men’s basketball. It hasn’t been offered in recent years but it’s something he’s trying to bring back.

“I wanted to bring it back because that’s something I was involved in after high school for a few seasons until I moved down to the Valley,” he said. “I’m hoping to get enough teams to get a league started. I would say we need at least four teams, but six would be better. But if we can get four teams, that would be good to at least get things going.”

Sign-ups for co-ed spring softball, as well as a new men’s spring softball league, open on Jan. 21.

For more information or to sign up, visit paysonrimcountry.com and click on the Parks & Rec tab, call (928) 472-5110 or stop by the Parks & Rec office at 1000 W. Country Club Dr. from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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