



SRPMIC Day Celebrated at Spring Training Home Opener



SRPMIC President Martin Harvier and Assistant Community Manager Doran Dalton (right) throw out the ceremonial first pitches to catchers from both the Diamondbacks and Rockies. Photos by OAN Staff

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. On February 23, the Colorado Rockies hosted the 14th Spring Training Opening Day with the Colorado Rockies vs. the World Series Champion Arizona Diamondbacks for a special SRPMIC Day. "Baseball in Salt River is the best time of

the year!" said Salt River Tourism Supervisor Jessica Sepulveda. "Opening Day of Spring Training in Salt River is always a highly anticipated time. Celebrating every opening day at the Fields as SRPMIC Day is so special."

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Malena Manuel Recognized at Casino Arizona Employee Appreciation Awards



Malena Manuel (left) with Chief Hospitality Officer Braxton Myers (middle) and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Patricia Tate (right). Photo courtesy of Salt River Community Gaming Enterprise.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
Juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member and Casino Arizona / Talking Stick Resort employee Malena Manuel was named Enrolled Community Member of the Year during the Employee of the Year Dinner Celebration on January 29. "It all started because Casino Arizona has an incentivized program for employee recognition," said Manuel. She was nominated for the award by her colleagues at the Gaming Enterprise. Manuel explained that Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort present three Enterprise awards: Supervisor of the Quarter, Employee of the Month, and Enrolled Community Member of the Quarter. The award for Enrolled Community Member of the Quarter is open only to Community members. "It is pretty neat. After getting nominated, an internal committee chooses the winner based on employee performance, attendance and accomplishments," said Manuel about the process. The award for Community Member of the Year was a mini gold

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Student-Athlete Beau Burns Jr. Helps San Tan Roadrunners Secure 2A Boys' Basketball Championship



After four years, Beau Burns Jr. (second from left) finally achieved basketball greatness as he holds onto the official Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) 2A conference championship trophy. Photo courtesy of Michelle Fulwilder.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
Juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

For the past three years, the San Tan Roadrunners always seemed to come up short when it came time to win a championship. They always played well during the regular season, but they'd ultimately lose their momentum during the playoffs and come up just short of winning it all. A member of the Roadrunners boys' basketball team for the past four years, student-athlete Beau Burns Jr. has experienced his fair share of highs and lows on the court involving big wins and tough losses. Even last year, the Roadrun-

ners were the No. 1 ranked team in their division but did not bring home any championship hardware. This year the ball finally bounced the Roadrunners' way, and they were able to reverse their fortunes and win the state championship. On Saturday, February 24, at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix, San Tan Charter battled against the Rancho Solano Prep Mustangs for the 2A boys' basketball championship. The Roadrunners trailed the Mustangs in the beginning of the third quarter by 13 points. However, thanks to some stellar defense, by the end of the quarter the Roadrunners had scored 22

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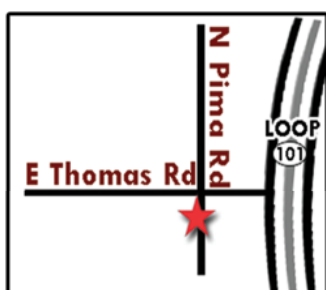
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SRPMIC Day Celebrated at Spring Training Home Opener

The people and traditions of the Community were showcased at various locations in the ballpark for the visitors to become more familiar with the SRPMIC. As fans filed into the ballpark, they had the opportunity to visit with Community artists Raeann Brown, Alice Manuel and August Wood, who all demonstrated traditional basketry. Behind center field, artist Dwayne Manuel painted a portrait of SRPMIC Council Member Jacob Butler as baseball fans walked by and took pictures.

During the pre-game ceremonies, Salt River Fields board members Butler, Lee Larsen and Benjamin Anton were recognized on the field. Then the SRPMIC basket dancers and gourd singers performed at home plate.

While the Salt River Police Department posted the colors at the pitcher's mound, former Miss Indian Arizona Sistine Lewis sang the national anthem in O'odham.

The first pitches were strikes, thrown in tandem by SRPMIC President Martin Harvier and Assistant Community Manager Doran Dalton.

"Being invited to throw out the first pitch was an amazing experience," said Dalton. "I'm very grateful to the SRPMIC Council for allowing me the opportunity to represent our Community on that day, and in that way."

Sepulveda said that the pregame ceremony was a beautiful and proud moment. "Our tourism team is so thankful for the basket dancers and artists that took part in the festivities."

As for the game, the Rockies pitched a five-hit shutout to win against the Diamondbacks 3-0.



Above: Mother and daughter Alice Manuel and Raeann Brown from the Community demonstrate the art of basket weaving.



Right: SRPMIC basket dancers line up behind home plate as they prepare to perform a traditional dance.



Former Miss Indian Arizona and SRPMIC Community member Sistine Lewis sings the national anthem in O'odham.



Fans eagerly await baseball players to come out of the dugout before the game.



Artist August Wood demonstrates traditional basketry at SRPMIC Day.



SRPMIC basket dancers perform the basket dance.



Artist Dwayne Manuel paints a portrait of Council member Jacob Butler.



SRPMIC gourd singers performing with the basket dancers behind home plate before the game.



After the Diamondbacks and Rockies players were introduced, they lined up along the first base and third base lines for the posting of the colors by SRPD.

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Family Business Dank Drank Lemonade & Kettle Corn Rises to the Occasion

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srmic-nsn.gov

It all started with a sour experience at a lemonade stand at a festival a few years ago.

In a quest to find a better lemonade, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members Nicole Corral and Devon Hayes went out on a limb and decided to start their own lemonade business with their kids.

Corral, who also works full-time as an in-home nurse caregiver, said that a tough family situation made it that much more important to get the kids involved.

"We have a lot of kids. A lot of kids from loss," said Corral. "My brother passed away, and I got all his kids. One day we had five more kids and all of a sudden we had 13 kids total, and we would travel to these festivals."

A couple of Corral's girls purchased cups of lemonade from a vendor, and it wasn't up to par, according to the girls.

"So, I said to go back and ask [the vendor] to fix it to see if they messed up on something. They went back and [the vendor] treated them so bad," said Corral. "I don't know if it was because we were Native or what it was. It made me feel so bad knowing that my girls were in that situation."

Using this experience as motivation to make something special for the kids, the family discussed trying to make lemonade on their own. After some experimenting, they found a winning recipe.

"We finally had a recipe that's amazing. Even when you drink it up and the ice melts, it keeps going," said Corral. "We thought, 'That's awesome, how did we do that?' So, we tested it with family members, and they liked it."

The family is related to the owners of The Stand, another food and beverage business in the Community. The Stand encouraged them to come out and sell their lemonade on the property. One day, Corral decided to "just go out and do it already," and the family hasn't looked back since.

They started out with a couple of lemonade options (currently there are about 14 flavors), with the idea in mind that they wanted to do something different than everyone else. To set themselves apart from the competition, Corral said they tried out different add-ins for



Dank Drank Lemonade & Kettle Corn is ready to welcome visitors at the McDowell Pop-Up.

the drink, such as fresh fruit, candy and gummies.

Then came the kettle corn, when Hayes purchased a kettle on a whim.

"I said to him, 'No, don't do that! We're barely getting the hang of this lemonade,'" Corral said with a laugh.

But the kettle corn became a big hit and was welcomed by the family, and so their new business venture, Dank Drank Lemonade & Kettle Corn, was born.

"We went through so many names. One of them was, like, 'Fish Juice' because you could fish out the fruit," said Corral. "Then we used the word 'Dank'—with our meaning of the word being 'Dang, that's good.'"

Fast-forward to 2022, and Dank Drank began selling from the Hayes family's property at 10194 E. McDowell Road as their McDowell Pop-up Shop.

Now, every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m., depending on the weather, the lemonade and kettle corn are for sale, and the shop brings in a variety of other small businesses who sell handmade food, arts and crafts, and other items.

Corral said that the shop is a place for vendors to go that's safe and open in the Community.

"A lot of the vendors [mostly Native] are people who have nowhere to go to set up and sell their goods. A lot of them are our friends that we've met over the years," said Corral.

"For us, it's never about making the money, it's more about bringing something special here for Community members. Everybody here in the Community is like family."

The SCC Artichokes Easily Handle the Phoenix College Bears

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
Juan.ysaguirre@srmic-nsn.gov

The Scottsdale Community College Artichokes women's basketball team has been building an impressive 2023-24 season. With a team record of over .500, the Artichokes began February with two losses, against Pima and Mesa community colleges. However, they won their match against Chandler-Gilbert Community College on Valentine's Day.

As they entered their away game against Phoenix College on Saturday, February 17, the Artichokes looked to improve on the road as they gear up for potential playoff basketball later this year.

SCC student-athlete Kristine Scabby has shown herself a proven leader on this year's team. Known for her stunning jump shot and assist distribution, Scabby entered the game in the first quarter and immediately had an impact, stealing the ball from Phoenix College's point guard, which resulted in an easy basket for SCC.

Later, Scabby showcased even more of her lockdown defensive skills by limiting the Bears' guards. During the second quarter, the Bears managed only 8 points.

The Bears tried launching 3-pointers as a way to get back into the game; however, most of their attempts clanged off the rim. During the fourth quarter, the Artichokes began to pull away. The layups for SCC became easier and they added 25 points in the fourth quarter alone, which would be enough for the Artichokes to secure the victory.

When it was all said and done, the SCC Artichokes left Phoenix College with the victory to the tune of 67-49.

The 2023-24 National Junior College Athletics Association Women's Basketball Playoffs will begin on March 18. If the Artichokes advance and earn their ticket to this year's playoffs, they will have a chance to play for the Division II championship game on March 23 at the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center in Joplin, Missouri.



Kristine Scabby lunges for the basketball during the first quarter of the game between Scottsdale Community College and the Phoenix College Bears.



Scabby continually had the Phoenix College Bears running laps around the gym trying to contain her on the court.



An excellent guard with proven knowledge of the fundamentals of basketball, Scabby has shined for SCC this year.



During the second quarter, Scabby absorbed contact in the paint as she drove through the lane for two points.

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SRPMIC, Valley Municipalities Take Action on Unlawful Sober Living Homes

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

For the past few years, many sober living homes across the Valley that were meant to provide behavioral healthcare services for people experiencing problems with substance abuse have been operating illegally.

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS, Arizona's Medicaid insurance program) has determined that these sober living homes are often managed by unlicensed healthcare providers who have not followed through with promised services, leaving many individuals—a disproportionate number of them American Indians—in worse condition than when they arrived.

In many instances, the individuals were still able to abuse drugs while living in the homes, at the same time that the homes were billing the state of Arizona for providing outpatient behavioral health services.

According to Journey to Recovery (JTR) Practice Administrator Nathan "Nate" Velez, PhD, LPC, LA-SAC, as of February 27, approximately 92 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members have been affected by the impact of the unlawful sober living homes.

If you are a victim or aware of a victim of unlawful sober living homes, the state has set up a dedicated hotline for anyone who has been impacted. Call 211 and press 7 to report abuse or obtain more information.

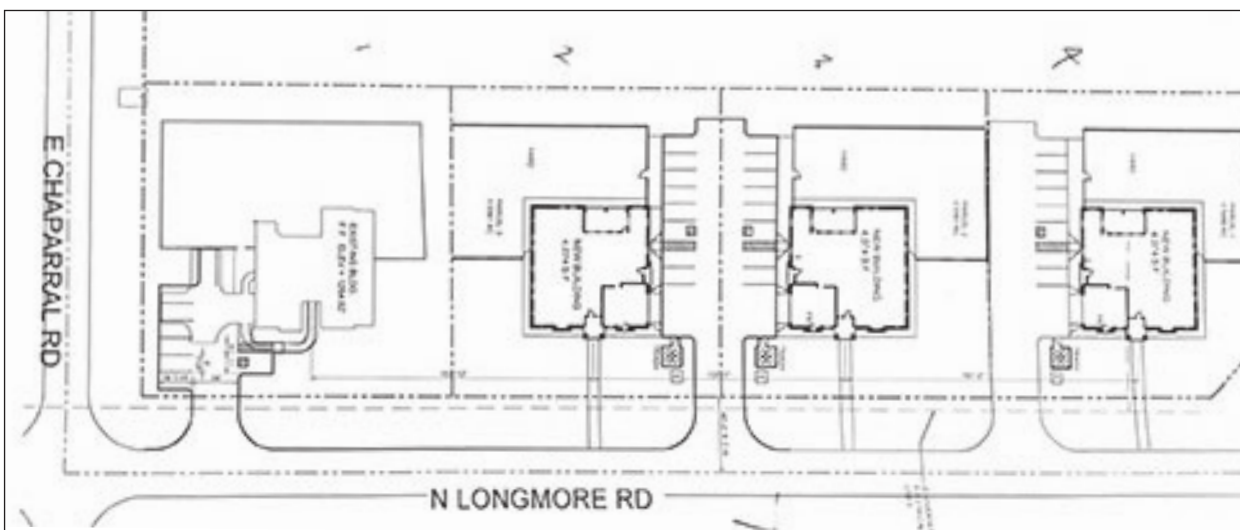
Velez said that the SRPMIC JTR Program has begun the design of the expansion of their sober living home community with the recent approval of three additional sober living homes within the Community.

Two of the homes will begin construction in April and are scheduled to be ready for use by December. This will bring a total of three homes, one for women and two for men, with 24 beds total. According to Velez, a fourth home will be built within the next year or so after that, allowing for an additional eight beds for a total of 32 beds.

Including the recently built Step To Empowerment Program (STEP) transitional homes, once the new homes are built, the Community will then offer 44 complete homes for reentry and sober living.

"Our JTR Continuum of Care has been extremely proactive in designing and launching all-inclusive options for members of the Community to stay home and experience a stable sober living home within our community," said Velez.

When asked about what he believes could have been done to prevent the crisis in the first place, he said a more rigorous vetting of individuals and organizations launching homes and services could have been better provided, in addition to an annual review of levels of care, rates of reimbursement and credentialing.



A rendering of sober living homes that will be built this year off E. Chapparal Rd. and N. Longmore Rd. Photo courtesy of Dr. Nate Velez.

"By doing so, a system of care review could have caught some inconsistencies within the field," said Velez, who believes the need for care is at an all-time high. "I still believe what needs to be done is a system review of needs and an evaluation of the rates for care to include behavioral health residential facilities (BHRF), partial hospitalization programs (PHP), and intensive outpatient programs (IOP)."

The JTR Program's recovery continuum includes detox, residential care, partial hospitalization, medication-assisted treatment, peer support and sober living, which Velez said puts the SRPMIC JTR Program on the cutting edge of self-sustainment.

Valley Municipalities' Responses to Unlawful Sober Living Homes

In January, the Tempe City Council announced that it is exploring the development of several new tools to address sober living homes in Tempe to reduce victimization and protect neighborhoods.

"It's imperative that we protect the most vulnerable in our community and ensure the health and safety of our neighborhoods. We must continue this important work and look at all potential tools that can help," said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods.

These tools include the creation of a general business license, an ordinance to address excessive calls for service, and a new system to track problem properties, according to a press release from the City of Tempe. The release noted that the City of Surprise implemented this tool and has seen a drop in the number of fraudulent sober living providers.

Tempe put forth a resolution in September 2023 to acknowledge and take an active role in helping to fix the situation, which Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren declared a public state of emergency last year. The Navajo Nation launched Operation Rainbow Bridge in May 2023 to mobilize the Nation's response to an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 tribal members who have been displaced or affected by the sober living home scandal.

City of Mesa Communications Director Ana Pereira told O'odham Action News that on October 2, 2023,



Existing sober living home within the Community. Photo courtesy of Dr. Nate Velez.

Mesa Deputy City Manager Candace Cannistraro updated the Mesa City Council on the city's response to reports of sober living homes and described possible actions Mesa has been considering to address the issue.

"Based on Council feedback, we have been highly engaged with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in drafting S.B. 1361 and are working with all stakeholders to ensure the Arizona legislature addresses this pressing issue," said Pereira. S.B. 1361 would regulate sober living homes and address their fraudulent billing practices with Medicaid (AHCCCS).

While there are unlicensed sober homes in the Valley, the City of Mesa points out that there are numerous licensed sober living homes throughout the city that are providing a stable and safe environment to those seeking sobriety.

Velez said that the JTR Program has successfully contracted with two independent sober living homes in Mesa that have been thoroughly vetted to support the Community's needs in the interim.

O'odham Action News reached out to the City of Phoenix and Town of Gilbert to see what those municipalities are doing to help with the sober living home crisis, but no response was received by press time.

WAPA Power Line Repairs Replace Temporary Structures Installed After 2022 Storm

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

Over the next six months, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and contractor Spartan Infrastructure, Inc., will be replacing power lines within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

This will complete the emergency repairs which began after the July 17, 2022, severe windstorm that damaged 3.5 miles of high-voltage electrical transmission line in the Lehi area, according to SRPMIC Senior Construction Manager Tina Sotero.

Preparation work began on January 11, and the work should be completed by June 1.

What will be replaced are the temporary wooden support structures and steel lattice towers on the 230-kV electrical transmission line between McDowell Road and Jackrabbit Road along the Lazona Drive alignment.

The temporary wooden support structures were installed by WAPA as an emergency response when 12 of the original lattice towers were damaged during the storm. The temporary structures ensured that electrical service remained uninterrupted while new steel poles were being manufactured.

"The newer monopole structures are something WAPA is implementing, as they are more resilient to wind than the old lattice towers," said Sotero.

Since WAPA has an established right-of-way, the Community does not directly receive any electrical power from the section of the Pinnacle Peak to Rogers 230-kV transmission line that passes through the Community to serve the power grid for the Phoenix metro area.

Sotero noted that multiple SRPMIC departments are involved and coordinate with WAPA when repairs are needed, including the Community Relations Office, which sends out notices to the Community.

"WAPA submits an application for a construction permit to Engineering & Construction Services (ECS), then the application is routed through the Community Development Department (CDD) Economic Development Division (EDD) and Public Works for review," said Sotero.

WAPA is one of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy whose role is to market and transmit wholesale electricity from multi-use water projects.

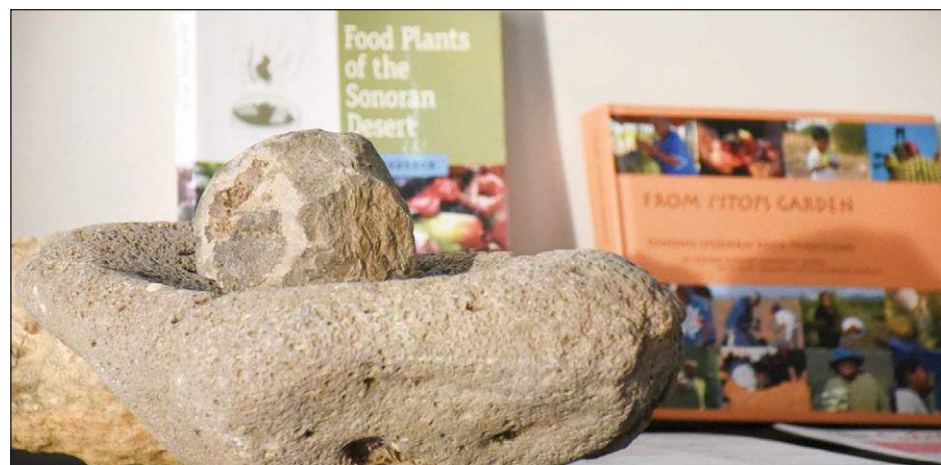
According to WAPA, the administration sells power to preference customers, which include federal and state agencies, cities and towns, and Native American tribes.

For more information on the repairs, contact any of the following at WAPA Desert Southwest Region: Edward Stoll, (602) 615-2525; Curtis Williams, (623) 680-5793; or Shaun Oliver, (480) 645-0477.



An example of a WAPA pole similar to the existing pole in the river. Photo courtesy of Tina Sotero

Salt River Valley Farms Presents A History of Harvesting the Desert



In front of Jonathon Curry's agriculture books sits a grinding stone used for grinding corn and mesquite pods into a fine dust.

BY NALANI LOPEZ
O'odham Action News
Nalani.lopez3@srpmic-nsn.gov

Inside the Way of Life Facility, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member and Salt River Valley Farms co-owner Jonathon Curry took listeners on a history ride of O'odham and Piipaash agricultural ways during his Native Plants Series workshop on February 6.

"I imagine what it would have been like back then [early 15th century], looking down on the valley at night with the stars in the sky, and fire along the river. It warms my heart to think about that distant past and how the land used to look." Said Curry.

Curry's four-part workshop is a collaboration between Salt River Valley Farm and the Salt River Tribal Library. Participants in the class will first learn the history of traditional foodways before engaging in hands-on learning in Curry's farm field in the spring.

Curry began with the role of the Salt and Gila rivers in early agriculture. The

Huhugam, or "those who have passed on," utilized the rivers to form a complex system of irrigation canals, many of which can be seen in and outside of the Community today.

"We want to acknowledge these places, and also acknowledge that it is important for us to maintain and protect these sites, particularly within our Community, but also outside of the Community," said Curry.

Curry then took participants centuries back, starting with the first Spanish contact, particularly Father Kino, an Italian Jesuit priest who briefly interacted with O'odham villages as he made his way through Mexico, Arizona and California in the late 17th century.

In Kino's documentations, he noted that the O'odham had an agricultural economy based on their irrigation practices and the utilization of Ak-Chin farming, a system based around summer rains and flash floods.

This advanced and sustainable system practiced by the Huhugam produced a surplus of various foods such as grains, squash and European-introduced crops

like peas, watermelons, muskmelons, pomegranates and figs.

Curry noted, "These are a lot of foods elders consider traditional foods because they grew up eating them and have been here for so long."

This flourishing period of well-fed villages lasted from the late 17th century to the mid-19th century.

Following this era, as the American West grew, tens of thousands of American settlers came to the northern Sonoran Desert. Passersby such as Lt. William H. Emory, a surveyor with the Army of the West, noted the O'odham to be generous with their "beautiful and fertile basin."

"One of our core values as O'odham is selflessness," said Curry. "For their generosity, we became known as "good Samaritans of the Desert."

However, from the middle to the end of the 19th century, with the passing of restrictive legislation, water-diverting ditches from American settlers, and 60 years of drought, O'odham and Piipaash communities entered an era called the Forty Years of Famine and the Black Decade.

During this time and into the early 20th century, they greatly struggled due to an outbreak of smallpox and an inability to cultivate crops due to lack of water. The last traditional O'odham chief, Antonio Azul, negotiated with the U.S. government to mitigate the ongoing drought.

"I cannot imagine [Chief Azul] seeing in one life a time of such surplus, abundance of crops and prosperity, then to be at the end of his life fighting for his people to have their water returned and to plainly survive," said Curry.

Following this devastating time, Curry shared modern defenders of water



During the four part Desert Plants series at the Salt River Tribal Library, Jonathon Curry from Salt River Valley Farms shared a historical timeline of O'odham and Piipaash agricultural ways.

rights such as former SRPMIC President the late Gerald Antone and the late Rod Lewis, the lead attorney for the Gila River Indian Community.

Curry's next presentation will discuss health disparities regarding diet and traditional foods in Indigenous communities. For more information, follow Salt River Valley Farm on Instagram @srvalleyfarm and the Salt River Tribal Library for educational events @sal-triver_triballibrary.

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Student-Athlete Beau Burns Jr. Helps San Tan Roadrunners Secure 2A Boys' Basketball Championship

points to the Mustangs' 2. Once the Roadrunners saw they were one quarter away from winning their first-ever championship, they gave it everything they had and left it all out on the court.

That proved to be the charm, and the San Tan Roadrunners secured their first-ever 2A boys' basketball state championship by beating the Rancho Solano Prep Mustangs 69-54.

"When the clock struck zero, all I thought of was that trophy," said Burns. "It was exciting. A lot of emotions. All of the years I've been in the gym. And what a way to end it, on my senior year," he added.

Proud mom Michelle Fulwilder was there along with Beau's family and loved ones when he hoisted up the championship trophy. "I'm just so happy for him," said Fulwilder. She added how her son attended early-morning basketball practices while still succeeding in the classroom.

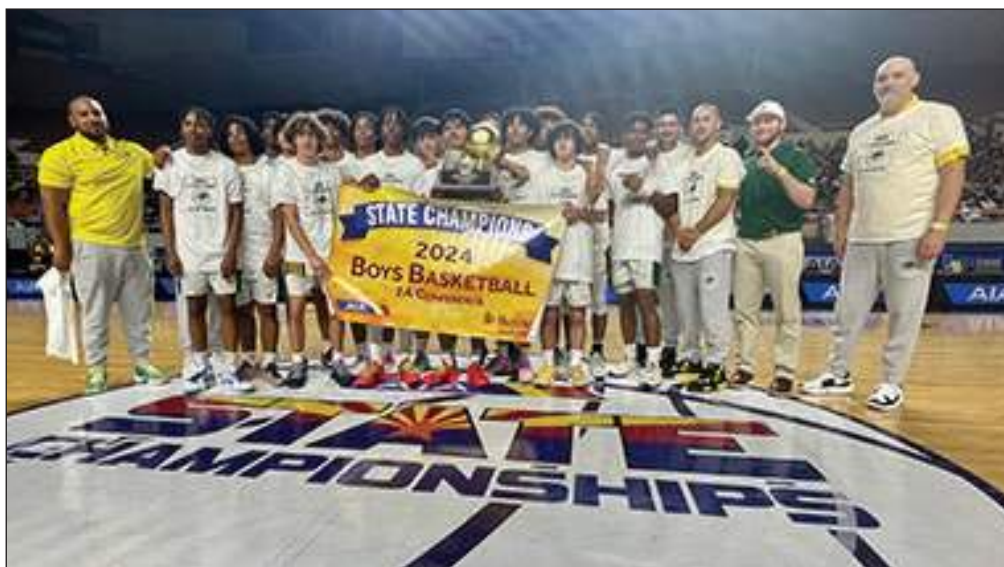
"I'm thinking of playing ball at the next level, but right now I want to see how things develop," said Burns. Listing Arizona State University and Oregon as potential landing sites, Burns still loves the game of basketball but is taking his time in deciding his next move.

In the meantime, you will be able to find him playing in this year's NABI tournament in July.

"He's had a lot of ups and downs, but he's been doing well, pushing his way through school, and he has a good GPA too. I'm very proud of him," added Fulwilder.



It was a family outing for Beau Burns Jr. at the 2A conference championship game at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum as he was surrounded by his family and loved ones.



TOP: Now adding 'state champion' to his list of accomplishments on the court, Beau Burns Jr. soaks it all in as he holds onto the 2A state championship trophy.

LEFT: With his teammates and coaching staff, Beau Burns Jr. helped secure the first ever state championship for the San Tan Roadrunners.



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“Make a Date to Vote” Valentine’s Day Event

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O’odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s Office of Legislative Affairs and the Get Out the Vote Ad-Hoc Committee brought the love for voting to the Round House Café on February 14 for the Make a Date to Vote on Valentine’s Day outreach event.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, staff and committee members handed out swag and were available to help people register to vote.

Aristina Sanchez, Office of General Counsel Tribal Court Advocate and member of the Get Out the Vote Ad-Hoc Committee, said that volunteers also helped people check on their registration status to make sure that their addresses are up to date and that they know about the deadlines for the upcoming elections.

“An important date for voters to circle on their calendar is the Presidential Preference Election (PPE) Day on March 19,” said Sanchez.

Only voters who were registered as a Republican or Democrat by February 20 may cast a vote in the Presidential Preference Election. It replaces a traditional presidential primary in the State of Arizona. Voters registered as Independent are ineligible to vote in the PPE.

After the PPE, delegates vote for their party’s official presidential candidate nominee at their national convention. Those candidates are then placed on the ballot for November’s General Election.

On February 15, the Community erected a billboard on McDowell Road to remind voters about the PPE.

One of the objectives of the February 14 event was to familiarize potential voters with their options for candidates for the two major parties. A large print-out was available to view, which had the names and faces of the candidates.

“We also try to direct people toward online resources that not only have the candidates but also their positions on items of legislation with certain social issues that could affect the Community,” said Sanchez.

With stickers and T-shirts using the hashtag #SKOVOTEDEN and taglines such as “My Ancestors Couldn’t Vote But I Can” and “I Am Onk Akimel



Above: A new billboard campaign on McDowell Road in the Community from SRPMIC OCLA to encourage Community members to vote on March 19.

Right: Ad-Hoc Committee members volunteer at the Make a Date to Vote on Valentine’s Day event at the Round House Cafe.



O’odham and Xalychidom Piipaash and I Vote,” the Committee hopes to continue to engage with and grab the attention of potential Community-member voters.

“A lot of people think that their vote doesn’t affect the Community, or it doesn’t count, but that’s a huge misconception,” said Sanchez.

The U.S. Presidential Election will take place this year on November 5.

SRFD Trains Community Employees on New Digital Fire Extinguisher

BY NALANI LOPEZ
O’odham Action News
Nalani.lopez3@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Salt River Fire Department has introduced its latest training tool, the Lion BullsEye Digital Fire Extinguisher Training System. This state-of-the-art equipment can produce electronically simulated flames that roar, blaze and even smoke just like real fire, and it also comes with advanced laser technology that simulates discharge of a fire extinguisher. The system provides a realistic simulation of how to use a fire extinguisher without the risk and cleanup associated with conventional fire extinguisher training.

The SRFD Prevention Division obtained the Lion’s Bullseye Digital Fire Extinguisher Training System through an education grant from the Early Childhood Development Program. Compared with their previous equipment, the \$30,000 system has made a considerable difference in their fire extinguisher training.

“We are very appreciative of the digital equipment, because before we had older extinguisher props that were outdated and unreliable,” said SRFD Prevention Capt. Robert Scabby. “They were so old that even if we tried to call to replace or refurbish parts, they couldn’t do it. This new electronic system is more realistic, cleaner and can be used indoors. We can train a lot more people on how to properly use a fire extinguisher.”

With the new equipment, SRFD Prevention Staff has begun educational hands-on training with departments and enterprises across the Community. Their largest training session so far, held at Talking Stick Resort in December,

taught more than 400 employees from both Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort.

Before the digital flames were ignited, the SRFD introduced participants to the various fire extinguishers and types of fires. For example, extinguishers marked as Class A are for ordinary combustible fires, Class B for liquid fires and Class C for electrical fires.

“We teach them the P.A.S.S. acronym, which is Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep. You pull the pin, aim the nozzle, squeeze the handle, and sweep the base of the fire. You need to aim at the base because that is where most of the heat is. If you can remember that, you will be successful in putting out a fire with a fire extinguisher at home or work,” said Scabby.

Once in action, the participants then used the laser-driven infrared fire extinguisher to put out the simulated fire. The SRFD Prevention staff could control the intensity and type of fire with a remote-controlled Bluetooth tablet.

The electronic system responded to any movement from the trainee and provided an authentic experience of fighting a fire. With this newfound knowledge and training, the employees will be ready if a fire emergency ever occurs.

“Knowledge is power,” said Scabby. “It’s important to remember that public safety and emergency preparedness are the essential keys to success.”

Interested SRPMIC departments or groups can contact Salt River Fire Department Prevention Capt. Robert Scabby via email at Bobby.ScabbyJr@SRPMIC-nsn.gov to schedule this hands-on training.



The Salt River Fire Department Prevention Team recently introduced a Lion BullsEye Digital Fire Extinguisher Training System to their team of training items.



At the Talking Stick Resort, the SRFD Prevention Team was able to train proper fire extinguisher use to over 400 employees from both TSR and Casino Arizona. Photo Courtesy of Bobby Scabby

Police Chief Karl Auerbach Retires After 32 Years of Dedication to the Community

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Chief of Police Karl Auerbach is now officially retired after 32 years of service to the Community and serving as the 10th chief of the Salt River Police Department for the past eight years.

A day after being honored for his service by SRPMIC leadership in the Talking Stick Resort Grand Ballroom on February 15, surrounded by his family and peers, Auerbach updated his job title on LinkedIn: "I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as Honorably Retired Chief of Police at Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community!"

Auerbach's distinguished career in law enforcement spanned four decades. He graduated from the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy in 1980 and later served with the Tempe Police Department, Show Low Police Department and Apache Junction Police Department before joining the SRPD in 1992.

With the SRPD, Auerbach has served as an officer, field training officer, SWAT team member, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, assistant chief of police and acting chief of police on three separate occasions (2004 to 2006, 2001 and 2016). He became chief in 2016.

Auerbach founded the Indian Country Intelligence Network in 1994 to establish a statewide collaborative partnership between all federally recognized tribes in Arizona to enhance communication and strengthen relationships with neighboring jurisdictions and law enforcement partners.

At the retirement ceremony, the SRPMIC Police/Fire Honor Guard posted the colors and SRPD Commander Anthony Sandoval led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Left to Right: Commander Alejandro McDaniel, Chief Walter Holloway, Retired Chief Karl Auerbach, Commander Jonathan Gann, Commander Michaela Sample, Commander Anthony Sandoval.



Chief Auerbach gives a farewell speech at his retirement ceremony on February 15.

The SRPMIC Employee Choir sang the national anthem before SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard opened with a prayer.

SRPMIC President Martin Harvier gave the welcoming address and thanked Auerbach for his service to the community.

Harvier recalled how Auerbach once asked him and Vice-President Leonard if they knew why the managers in baseball wear uniforms.

"I kind of knew that, because if you play [baseball] on a reservation, sometimes the players don't show up, so the managers had to jump in and play. As coaches, you must be ready," said Harvier, referring to Auerbach.

"The chief once responded to an incident on the freeway which led to him getting into a wrestling match with somebody on the side of the road until help came. Come to find out this was a

wanted individual and a very bad person. The chief wore his uniform, and he came ready to play. It showed that he was ready to take action that day."

Community member, former SRPD Commander and newly appointed Chief of Police Walter Holloway said that while serving as chief Auerbach has demonstrated leadership, integrity and dedication to law enforcement.

"He leaves behind a legacy of innovation, leadership and community service today as he retires from the SRPD," said Holloway.

Vice-President Leonard presented Auerbach with his own honorary Pendleton blanket from Leonard's family to Auerbach's family.

"I've gotten to know Karl since I came into office in 2000. He used to come to my district meetings all the time. He sat and broke bread with our people and let them know what was go-

ing on in the Community," said Leonard.

"I had a point in my life when my son died, and the chief and the SRPD were out there. Auerbach's words helped me through that point in my life. My kids call him Uncle Karl."

Also speaking about Auerbach was Assistant Community Manager Carla Banuelos, Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police Commander Jonathan Gann, Commander Alejandro McDaniel, and Auerbach's son Matt Auerbach, an Arizona state trooper.

"As his son, I stand before you with immense pride and gratitude for the man who is not only my father, but is also an unwavering pillar of strength, guidance, inspiration and leadership," said Matt Auerbach. "You are my hero. I love you, Dad."

SRPMIC Sweethearts Celebrate Valentine's Day at the WOLF

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

Where does Valentine's Day come from? While historians aren't entirely clear about which of several origin stories is the real one, the one most often described has to do with Valentine, a clergyman who lived in about the third century in Rome, Italy, and ministered to persecuted Christians. The emperor at the time, Claudius II Gothicus, decided that young single men made for better warriors in his army. Therefore, he banned all marriages for his soldiers. Disagreeing with the emperor's decision, Valentine continued to perform marriage ceremonies for young lovers in secret. Ultimately, Claudius II discovered Valentine's actions and ordered the clergyman put to death in about the year 270. His body was buried on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of St. Valentine since the eighth century.

On February 14 of this year, inside of the Way of Life Facility, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community sweethearts and their families celebrated Valentine's Day. The event was organized by the SRPMIC Community Recreational Services division's Adaptive Recreation Program. Ethan Larned and Tammy Thomas from Adaptive Recreation decorated the room with red and pink hearts and red balloons to adorn the official Valentine's Day dance floor.

Red punch was served in plastic wine glasses and the menu featured pasta, lasagna and a salad from Olive Garden.

Following the meal, Thomas created a bingo game for everyone to enjoy. The game featured a "punch-out" prize container, similar to the "Punch-a-Bunch" game on The Price is Right, where contestants punch through a number of holes with paper coverings to reveal cards printed with various dollar amounts. Everyone went home a winner and was able to punch out more than a few of the prize containers.

The SRPMIC sweethearts spent the remainder of the event dancing the night away and sharing the love with each other and their families.



TOP: Roanyn Acosta was able to win candy and prizes at the Way of Life Facility Valentine's Day Dance.

RIGHT: Harmony Brown played BINGO with her family during the dance.



RIGHT: Cheers! Thomas Carlisle-Harvier enjoys punch in plastic wine glasses, which was served to all in attendance to help celebrate the day of love.

Malena Manuel Recognized at Casino Arizona Employee Appreciation Awards

statue similar to an Academy Award® but not an actual replica. “It was a full-on Oscar®-themed banquet dinner; it was really spectacular,” Manuel said. SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, members of the SRPMIC Council, as well as directors and managers from SRPMIC’s Enterprises attended the awards.

Manuel noted, “Last year [January 2023], I was awarded Community Member of the Quarter, and then on January 29 of this year, I won Enrolled Community Member of the Year,” she said. “I was surprised, but very appreciative.”

Currently a student in a master’s program at Arizona State University, Manuel expressed her appreciation to the SRP-MIC Council, her coworkers, the Gaming Enterprises’ executive management team and the Community. “I’d like to thank my team in Finance as well as my managers and Director, the ECM Development staff, the Gaming Executive staff and all of the amazing employees at Casino Arizona/Talking Stick Resort,” she added.

Manuel has worked for the gaming enterprise for eight years, initially starting as an Accounts Receivable Clerk. Currently an Accounting Supervisor in the Finance Department, she added, “As a member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, I am proud to be a part of the Gaming Enterprise and the growth and prosperity that it has provided to our community. I am incredibly thankful for all of the opportunities that have been provided to me by both entities.”

She celebrated her award with her family and loved ones. She plans to graduate from ASU this December with a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the WP Carey School of Business.



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Bird Singing and Dancing By the River Wins Second Place in Tohono O'odham Wapkial Ha-Tas Parade



On February 3 in Sells, Arizona, the Birds Singing & Dancing by the River participated in the O'odham Wapkial Ha-Tas Parade. Photo courtesy of KiAna Reina.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
Juan.Ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

This year, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Birds Singing and Dancing by the River traditional group achieved a feat it had yet to accomplish. During the 84th annual O'odham Wapkial Ha-Tas Parade in Sells, the dance group took home second-place honors.

"This was the first time the dance group has placed second," said KiAna Reina, a member of the group. "Throughout the parade, we shared Piipaash bird songs and dances. They also had a performance at the Culture Sharing Circle later in the day."

The festival began on February

3 and ended on February 5. The annual rodeo and parade celebration featured arts and crafts booths, basketball tournaments, a fun run/walk, waila contests, a toka tournament, a ha'a race and much more. The parade theme for this year's Wapkial Ha-Tas was "Celebrating O'odham Resilience, Dancing in the Desert."

Members of the Birds Sing and Dancing by the River representing SRPMIC were the following:

Singers: Lynwood Vest, Cameron Ramirez, Aarick Mack, Jason Mack, Richard French, Datrea French, Tayden French, Silas French, Xavier French, Immanuel Burns, Tobias Hernandez and Alex Reina.

Dancers: Annette Vest, Car-

melita Ramirez, Layla Blackwater, Eziabella Alvanez, Daniella Robles, Shannon Burns, Issela Burns, Maticela Burns, Tirsia Reina, KiAna Reina

Banner Carriers: Arron Mack and LaPrenza Nezz.

Baby Birds: Kire Thomas, Jasmine and Nyla Burns, and Obidias and Maleni Tsosie.

Added singers (during the performance): Pacer Reina and Bruin Reina.

Helper: Rory Thomas.

"The next time the group will be in a parade will be for the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair in March," added Reina. For those interested in joining, the group holds practices Wednesday evenings at Friendship Park.



The weekend was filled with fun runs, waila contests, songs, dances, and much more. Representing SRPMIC, over 10 singers and nearly fifteen dancers attended the parade and participated. Photo courtesy of KiAna Reina.



The Birds Singing & Dancing by the River spent the weekend singing and dancing. They would perform at the Culture Sharing Circle during the parade. Photo courtesy of KiAna Reina.

6th Annual Cecehia Ha Cicwidag Features Toka Debut of Peyton Z. Reina



Once Peyton had a few practices under her belt, she learned how to play toka well and was able to contribute great defense to help her team win it all. Photo courtesy of KiAna Reina.



Celebrating their toka win, the Wipismel (Hummingbirds) were awarded a championship trophy and commemorative t-shirts to celebrate their victory. Photo courtesy of KiAna Reina.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
Juan.Ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

"Peyton has always seen her aunties, family and friends play toka, whether it was at practice, a demonstration or in tournament. So, it was no surprise to me that she would soon start playing on her own," said KiAna Reina, auntie of Peyton Z. Reina.

Peyton made her official toka debut on this year's Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community toka team during the sixth annual Cecehia Ha Cicwidag at the Verna N. Enos toka field in Sells on February 6.

"When she told us she was going to be playing, she was so excited she

made three u'usagas (game sticks)," said KiAna Reina. During the toka games, Peyton went undefeated. "They played four matches, having to win the best out of seven games," she added. Her team's name was Wipismel, meaning "hummingbird."

Peyton's proud mother, Bridget Leonard, added, "Her friend Amaya kept asking her to go to practice with her and try it. So, she went with her friend and she just started playing."

Picking up the game quite quickly, Peyton immediately shined and was a welcome addition to the team. "She was scared at first to get hit, but her friend kept telling her, 'You'll be okay. It will hurt for a bit, but you just have to keep

pushing.' Afterwards, Peyton kept asking to keep going back to practices," Leonard said.

Assigned the role of blocker, Peyton Reina's role is to block the other team's players from going past her. She also plays in the middle, and in that position she helps to move the o'da (game piece) to her team's scoring side of the field.

During the tournament, Peyton Reina gave it her all and competed against some of the best toka players around from the Tohono O'odham Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community and more.

In the championship game, she nearly ran out of energy but tapped into her inner strength and finished the game, playing strong and never giving up.

"When it was over, she cried and was happy she could help her team win," said KiAna Reina. She added, "I am so proud of her for wanting to learn and play the traditional game that has been played for centuries. I hope this tournament inspires her to keep learning more of these traditional teachings."



Caleb Dash Represents Tribal Youth During State of Indian Nations Address

BY NALANI LOPEZ
O'odham Action News
Nalani.lopez3@sprpmic-nsn.gov

Thousands of listeners from across the United States and around the globe tuned in to the State of Indian Nations Address on February 12. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Youth Commission Co-President Caleb Dash was one of the speakers, along with his Co-President Yanenowi Logan, NCAI President Mark Macarro and U.S Representative Mary Peltola to share a message to the American public.

“As a representative on the NCAI Youth Commission, I represent Native youth, and as we know there’s a whole lot of issues we face, so throughout my speech I address substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, funding for infrastructure and a call for unity,” said Dash.

Delivered the same week as the U.S. President’s State of the Union Address, the State of Indian Nations Address is broadcast live from Washington, D.C., and outlines the issues and goals of tribal leaders for the upcoming year. It also commences the winter session of the NCAI conference.

Dash is the 21-year-old son of Christie Dash and the late Carlos Dash. He has served as an ambassador for tribal youth for about 1.5 years as the co-president on the NCAI Youth Commission.

“We [NCAI Youth Commission] represent tribal youth on a national scale, similar to how the NCAI Executive Council represents tribal nations on a national scale. We have our own platforms on the Youth Commission. My platform has been financial literacy and culture revitalization,” said Dash.

Dash’s dedication to tribal youth is apparent in his speech, as is the work he does throughout the Community and Indian Country.

“Speak what you are passionate about. Speak with a passion from your heart, because that brings out the message you want to spread and the change you want. Let your voice be heard,” said Dash.

This upcoming year is an election year for the NCAI Youth Commission. Dash encourages Community youth interested in leadership opportunities to plan on running during the next NCAI Mid-Year Conference.



Caleb Dash stood on the Warner Theatre stage in Washington D.C to deliver a message on behalf of tribal youth to a live audience, as well as thousands streaming the State of Indian Nations session online. Photo Courtesy of Caleb Dash

Transcript of Caleb Dash’s State of Indian Nations Address

Sap Caij, ban ce:gig Caleb Dash, ani amjed Onk Akimel O’odham Xalychidom Piipaash javed.

Hello everyone, my name is Caleb Dash and I come from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in Arizona and I serve as the co-president of the NCAI Youth Commission.

Twenty-one years and five months ago, I came into this world not knowing anything, but learning from my family how to walk, talk and learn. Here I am now, still learning and growing with each passing day, not knowing what the future holds. Although I am 21, I feel the pains and burdens of living in the 21st century and the struggle Native people continue to face from the federal government within our nations. For example, there are approximately 9.7 million American Indians that inhabit the United States. 75% of American Indians graduate from high school and 56% of American Indians are homeowners. 75% of reported suicides of American Indians were under the age of 44. Murder is the third leading cause of death for American Indian women, which is 10 times higher than that of all other ethnicities. These statistics are the world we live in. They are what we, as Natives, have to go through daily. We want the best for our communities, families and friends. But we must receive more funding from the federal government to support all our nations in efforts to build infrastructure that is vitally needed, such as roads, hospitals, gas stations, schools, fire departments and so much more.

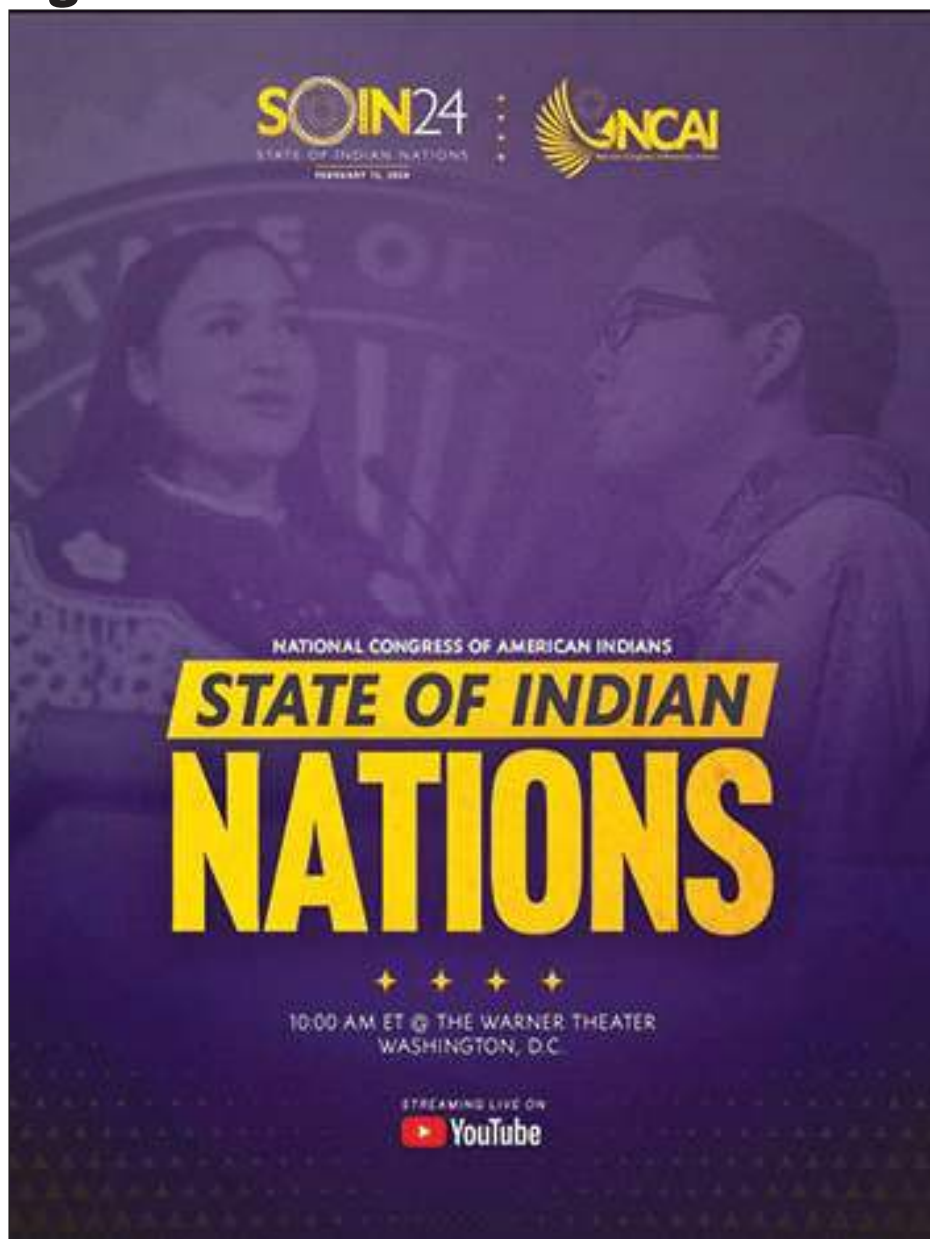
As Indigenous people, we are neglected by the federal government and also put at the far end of the table.

Growing up, my only fear as a child was losing my family. Now that I am much older, I have more, such as losing my culture, language and even that great fear [that] only we as Native people can relate to: losing our tribal sovereignty. We call upon the United States of America to address our concerns for the funding allocations needed in Indian Country and necessary infrastructure, as well as the protection in Indian territories.

In doing so, we need to cooperate more for the safety and security of both our people and the world, conserving and preserving the beauty of our lands and making a sustainable planet for generations to come. It is not only the duty of our people to protect our lands, but that of those that have taken our lands and inhabit them. We ask the United States government to acknowledge on the record the genocide of our people...as they continued to attack our freedom and our nations in an effort to destroy our ways of life.

That said, and being a voice of the youth, we also want to invite tribal nations to ask the United States government to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. It is up to us to continue to preserve and defend our people and help those around the world. Because if it were happening here, I would want as much help as possible for my family. As people of the world, we know that what is happening worldwide also impacts us, and it is our job to help people in need.

Lastly, I want to share a story. It was a few years ago, when I was a Boy Scout. I had some friends, we got along, joked here and there, just like any others. But one day while we were out camping with one of the scout camps, one of my friends, we’ll call him Joe,



The State of Indians Nations flyer featuring National Congress of American Indians Co-President Caleb Dash (right) and Co-President Yanenowi Logan (left) broadcasted to a worldwide audience live on Youtube on February 12. Photo Courtesy of Caleb Dash



NCAI Youth Commission Co-Presidents Caleb Dash (far left) and Yanenowi Logan (far right) pose with NCAI President Mark Macarro (middle left) and NCAI Executive Director Larry Wright (middle right). Photo courtesy of Caleb Dash

and another friend, we’ll call him John, were both talking behind me, along with a few others. When we heard a scream behind us, we looked back and we saw our friend Joe hitting our friend John with a rock. We later discovered [that] they [had been] making fun of each other when it went too far. Joe was a child and product of group homes and had many difficulties controlling his emotions. Our other friend, the provocateur, was not, but we all knew that sometimes he teased too much, and inevitably it was a powder keg between them.

Fortunately, after hearing our friend’s screams, we tackled Joe, and afterwards another friend and I ran for help while the rest watched over our two friends.

When we got help, we immediately took our friend who was beaten to a helicopter landing zone to get him to a hospital.

We were never the same. Our friend lost his memory and forgot about us, while the other one went through the juvenile justice system and we never saw him again.

The reason I bring this story up is to remind everyone here who knows the pains of youth [and] going through things—whether it be bullying, parental issues, drugs, alcohol, suicide and so much more—that we have a

significant problem that we all know. I believe that it begins with our families. They may not be the best, but we must improve and care for one another. The roots of our problems are in our families, but also in the financial hardships that we have [suffered] through the subjugation of our tribes from centuries of colonialization and oppression. We must return to our old ways of living: caring for one another, watching over each other, and helping one another.

Whenever my grandparents would tell me stories from back in their day, they’d always tell me how kind people were to one another, whether it be waving to each other at stop signs, watching each other’s kids, helping each other through addictions or building homes together.

Here’s what we need to do. Always remember to be kind [and] live like it’s your last day. Because we do not know what the future holds, so make the most of it now, and create a future for us that is sustainable, prosperous and beautiful.

Thy hugau, thank you, that is all.



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2024 SPECIAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

POLLS OPEN 6:00AM-6:00PM

A Special Election has been called regarding the “Proposed Constitutional Amendments to the Election Process”.

For details of the proposed amendments questions, go to www.srpmic-nsn.gov

For a Safe Voting Experience for All, please take precautions if voting at the polls, if you are not feeling well.

POLLING SITES:

DISTRICT I (SALT RIVER) voters vote at the
SALT RIVER COMMUNITY BUILDING.

DISTRICT II (LEHI) voters vote at the
LEHI COMMUNITY BUILDING.

ABSENTEE REQUESTS

(PROVIDE NAME, TRIBAL ID #, MAILING ADDRESS)

Deadline for Resident AND Non-Resident Voters to request an absentee ballot.

If you live on OR off the Community and would like to receive and mail in your ballot.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024

HOME VOTING - Deadline for Elderly, or Disabled or in the Hospital and within a 25 mile radius.

If you cannot come to the polls and would like to home vote.

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

WHO IS A VOTER?

You are able to vote in SRPMIC elections if you are:

- 1) an enrolled member of the Community
- 2) 18 years or older on the day of the election, and
- 3) a resident of the relevant electoral district for at least one (1) year; or if you are a non-resident, declared a home district. Persons who are in jail or prison on the date of election, or have been declared to be mentally incompetent are not eligible to vote.

WHAT DISTRICT DO I VOTE IN?

Members who live West of North Mesa Drive are considered to be a District I (Salt River) voter and should vote at Salt River Community Building.

Members who live East of Mesa Drive are considered to be a District II (Lehi) voter and should vote at Lehi Community Building. Non-resident voters must fill out a form to declare their “home district” for voting purposes, and they should contact the Community Development Department (“CDD”) to obtain the form for declaring a home district.

A SRPMIC TRIBAL ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE:

Community members must show a (picture) tribal ID card at the polls before they will be given a ballot. Contact the Office of Membership Services at (480) 362-7330 or 362-7600 if you need a new tribal ID card. The Community membership rolls determine voter eligibility and the district in which you vote in, so please make sure that your name, tribal ID number, and address are up-to-date with the Office of Membership Services in CDD.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

To minimize the risk of Covid-19 or other illnesses, it is HIGHLY recommended that you vote via absentee ballot via mail or drop off.

TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AND/OR QUESTIONS CONTACT Erica Harvier or Ardell Moore at (480) 362-7466, 362-7465 or 362-7400 or by email at Erica.harvier@srpmic-nsn.gov or ardell.moore@srpmic-nsn.gov.

SRPMIC and the Colorado Rockies Host Youth Skills Camp at WOLF

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

Athletes and staff from the Colorado Rockies, as well as their AAA affiliate team, the Albuquerque Isotopes, assisted at each of the stations.

Lucas Gilbreath, a pitcher on this year's Rockies team, headlined the hitting practice drill and tossed baseballs underhand from the mound. As soon as a few of the youth blasted Gilbreath's pitches for doubles, he tightened up his pitching style just a bit but still kept things fun. A professional major league pitcher since 2021, Gilbreath has a career ERA (earned run average) of 3.78, and he said that he looks to improve on his numbers for the Rockies when their regular season begins.

The Rockies spent the remainder of February playing spring training games at Salt River Fields and will continue to do so as they prepare for MLB Opening Day on March 28. Their official home opener will be on April 5 in Denver against the Tampa Bay Rays.



#00 Dinger, the official mascot of the Colorado Rockies, posed for photos with community children leading up to the start of the skills camp.

The Colorado Rockies began the 2024 spring training season on February 23 in a game against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick. As they have done in previous years, the Rockies hosted a youth baseball skills camp in collaboration with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. The camp took place on February 21 at the Way of Life Facility baseball field.

Dinger, the official Rockies mascot, greeted Community members and their families. Many of the children asked Dinger if he knew Barney, the children's television character. True to form, obeying the mascot rule of not speaking, Dinger played along with the children and posed for photos with them instead. SRPMIC Recreation Department staff handed out official Colorado Rockies T-shirts for the kids to wear during the skills camp.

On the diamond, the Rockies set up five skill stations for SRPMIC youth to enjoy: a timed agility course, fielding, a home run derby, pitching and hitting.



The pitching drill station brought out the best of the community children as many of the AAA pitchers were impressed with the accuracy and power the children showcased.



The homerun derby drill station allowed for community children to hit a few wiffle balls out of the ballpark.



In the agility course, children had to run through obstacles and tap nearby cones to complete a lap during the timed event.



During the hitting drill, Harmony Brown made contact and earned a base hit. Later, she made her way around the bases and down to home plate where AA catcher Jose Cordova met her with high fives.



Before the skills camp began, all gathered around home plate for a group photo. The skills camp is a collaboration between the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Way of Life Facility, the SRPMIC Recreation Department, and the Colorado Rockies organization.

Family MATH Night

SALT RIVER
ELEMENTARY

480-362-2400 | SRES.SaltRiverSchools.org

$\sin A + \sin B = 2 \sin$

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

$\Sigma = mc^2$

(x, y, z)

$\Sigma = mc^2$

This event is open to everyone! Join SRES for a night of fun math games, food, and activities! There will be lots of prizes and giveaways! Show off your math skills with fact fluency, place value, time, number recognition, patterns, counting, and more!

Visit the SRES Student Council concession stand to purchase snacks, nachos, popcorn, and soda. All proceeds will help fund SRES Student Council initiatives!

Thurs., March 14 | 5-6:30PM
SRES Courtyard

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

Please call or email Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr at (480) 362-2698 or email kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

Leave your name, number and brief message and she will get back to you

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY 9AM
MAR. 30TH

SALT RIVER BASEBALL FIELD

EASTER KIDS CRAFTS
PHOTOS W/ EASTER BUNNY

AGENDA

- 9:15AM EASTER EGG HUNT
2-3 YRS, 4-6 YRS,
7-9 YRS, 10-14 YRS
- 9:50AM EASTER DRESS PARADE
- 10:00AM FIELD GAMES
- 10:30AM EGG EATING CONTEST
(FIRST 10 ADULTS)

VENDORS
SIGN UP TODAY!!

FOOD VENDORS
(3 SPACES)
\$50 SPACE
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/FASTERFOODS2024](https://tinyurl.com/FASTERFOODS2024)

ARTS & CRAFTS
(5 SPACES)
\$15 SPACE
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/FASTERARTS2024](https://tinyurl.com/FASTERARTS2024)

MORE
INFORMATION
GIVEN ONCE YOU
REGISTER

DEADLINE
FRIDAY MARCH 22
AT 5PM!



COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS - 480.362.7740 - SRPMIC - SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY



2024 SPECIAL ELECTIONS

ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION PROCESS

ELECTION DATE

TUE, MARCH 26

POLLS OPEN

6AM-6PM

DISTRICT I (SALT RIVER)

SALT RIVER COMMUNITY BUILDING

DISTRICT II (LEHI)

LEHI COMMUNITY BUILDING



QUESTIONS CALL ELECTIONS COORDINATOR
(480)362-7466 OR (480)362-7400

SEE MORE INFO AT:
WWW.SRPMIC-NSN.GOV/GOVERNMENT/ELECTION/

WHAT IS SRCCF

The Salt River Community Children's Foundation is a non-profit charitable division of SRPMIC.

The Foundation is devoted to assisting enrolled children of the Community in reaching their fullest potential and find personal success in life.



SEEKING APPLICANTS (1) BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

apply

for a board seat with SRCCF and help us support the youth of our community. The Foundation is a voluntary based board.

more information & application

Contact-*Erica Harvier* 480.362.7466
or Pick up at *Administration*
Two Waters - BLDG. A 3rd Floor

ARE YOU CREATIVE?

ARE YOU RESOURCEFUL?

ARE YOU INNOVATIVE?

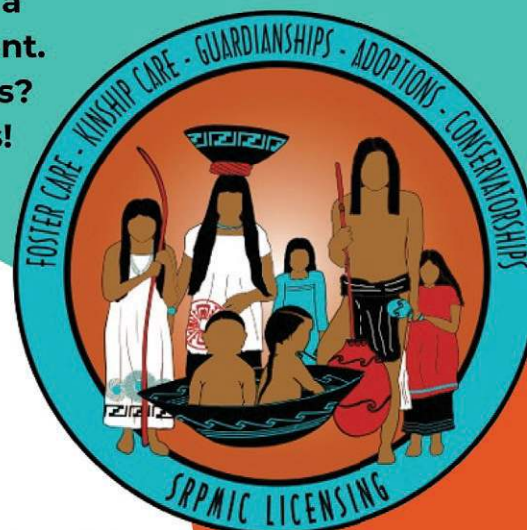
VIRTUAL FOSTER CARE INFO SESSION

Join us to get more information on the process to become a Licensed Foster Parent. You've got questions? We've got answers!

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
5:30PM-6:30PM

2024 Schedule

- 2/14, 3/13,
- 4/10, 5/8, 6/12
- 7/10, 8/14,
- 9/11, 10/9,
- 11/13 & 12/11



SCAN ME!

"We're Known by the Tracks we Leave... Honor our Ancestry."

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster parent or would like to learn more about our services, please contact Social Services at 480.362.5645

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

Please call or email Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr at (480) 362-2698 or email kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

Leave your name, number and brief message and she will get back to you

IF YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL

Dodie Manuel at (480) 362-7731
or email dodie.manuel@srpmic-nsn.gov

Leave your name, number and brief message and she will get back to you



100% AMERICAN™

Salt River Materials Group is a leading supplier of cement, pozzolans and aggregates in Arizona and the Southwest U.S for the over 60 years. SRMG has a wide variety of career positions, and we invest in our employees through extraordinary benefits, training and development opportunities to allow our employees to grow in their careers.

BENEFITS

Life Disability

Long & Short-Term Disability Insurance

PTO (Paid Time Off) & PSL (Paid Sick Leave)

Bereavement Leave - immediately available upon hire date.

Holiday Pay - 7 observed and paid holidays, 2 floating holidays!

Health – extensive medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage.

Supplemental Programs - Everyone Health, Teledoc (24/7 medical/mental heal services), GRAIL - pre cancer screen (based upon eligibility)

Health Club Membership – Health club membership for employee.

401(k) – A retirement savings plan with multiple investment options and **6% matching dollar for dollar** contributions.

Tuition Reimbursement – SRMG will pay up to 100% of tuition and books.

Employee Local and National Discounts - Theme Parks, Sporting Events, Plays & Concerts, Vehicle & Home purchases and much more!

Green Vehicle Program – Employees may receive up to \$1500 each calendar year for 3 years for the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles.

Home Energy Efficiency Incentive – Employees may receive up to \$100 each calendar year for the purchase of energy efficient compact light bulbs (CFL's) and LEDs or an Energy Audit performed by SRP or APS.

Does Salt River Materials Group have preference in hiring?

Yes, Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) is the commercial trade name for marketing activities of Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand and Rock. Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand and Rock are independent divisions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC).

However, all qualified individuals are encouraged to apply. During the hiring process, management will determine a prospective employee's ability, skill, competency and other qualifications needed for the job. When all these are equal between a qualified Community Member, a qualified Native American and other qualified candidate, preference will be given to the qualified Community Member, then a qualified Native American and then other qualified candidate.

CURRENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
VIEW FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND APPLY ONLINE AT SRMATERIALS.COM

Arizona

Cement

- Quality Control Technician I**
Clarkdale, AZ

Aggregates

- Mobile Equipment Operator Night Shift/Batch Plant Differential**
Glendale, AZ
- Maintenance I-Sr**
West Side Plants, AZ
- Scale Operator I-Lead**

Pozzolan

- Facility Operator I-IV**
Tucson, AZ
- Facility Operator I-IV**
Bonanza Terminal, Vernal UT

Check us out at . . .
www.srmaterials.com



Exceptional People...Exceptional Benefits...Exceptional Company
 Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand & Rock,
 dba Salt River Materials Group,
 both divisions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Calendar of Events

ONGOING

YOGA FOR FALL PREVENTION, Mondays 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. at WOLF Senior Room. All Fitness Levels Welcome! Sign up with Celinda Joe at (480) 876-7180 and request transportation if needed.

YOGA FOR FALL PREVENTION, Fridays 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at WOLF Senior Room. All Fitness Levels Welcome! Sign up with Celinda Joe at (480) 876-7180 and request transportation if needed. **Last Fridays of Each Month are YOGA BINGO with prizes!

BEADING CIRCLE AT SALT RIVER TRIBAL LIBRARY, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. alternating Wednesdays. Scheduled to be held 3/20, 4/3, and 4/17.

WATER AEROBICS AT WAY OF LIFE FACILITY POOL, 45-minute sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m. No registration required. Questions? Call (480) 362-6310

VITA TAX PROGRAM, Tax assistance by appointment available until April 18. Seniors/Disabled Priority *NO Filing Back Taxes and Itemized Taxes. Requirements: Must have an appointment, Income of \$58,000 or less, Social Security Card for tax filer & all dependents or any official government document with SS#, Copy of Drivers License or Government ID, All tax documents (W-2, 1099's, etc.), IRS Child Tax Credit letter, if applicable, Bank Account/Routing number (for direct deposits). Contact the Vita Message Line: (480) 362-7540. Leave your Full Name & Phone Number. A VITA Volunteer will promptly return your call with further details.

KUI 'I'IVAGIDAG MAŞAD

XLY'A XMOK MARCH

8 SENIORS NEON MOON WALK, WOLF Baseball Sidewalk, Registration at 5:30, group stretch at 5:50, walk begins at 6 p.m. RSVP for incentive – onsite waiver required. For more information, contact Athletics at (480) 362-6365

9 MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE THUNDER-BIRD POWWOW, 1833 W. Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ. Gourd Dance at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Grand Entry to take place at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Call (480) 461-7931 for more information

9 SUPER SPRING FESTIVAL, Free family event 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Arizona Boardwalk at Talking Stick. Presented by Family Fun AZ. Meet your favorite superheroes, fly on a zipline, enjoy bounce houses and slides, face painting, live entertainment, action-packed performances, raffle prizes and giveaways, and local vendors for shopping! Visit <https://www.azboardwalk.com/event/free-super-spring-festival-3/> for more information

12 MIGHTY TOTS, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at WOLF Room 247. This event repeats on the second Tuesday of each month. This program is offered for children ages 3-6 with their adult caregiver, where participants will be able to learn about healthy habits while engaging in fun physical activity. For more information, contact Karina Watson at (480) 362-3278 or Eric Makil at (480) 362-7320

12 READ TO GROW LITERACY EVENT, ALA Gym Dance Room from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. The Literacy for All program is excited to host Read to Grow with professional Diné artist Deon Mitchell. This public program is free for ALL families with children ages 3-5. You'll have a blast reading, writing, singing, dancing, and making hands-on art! Our

lessons are engaging and culturally based. All children will receive a literary kit to take home. These sessions are filled with literacy-enriched activities and inspired by books written by Indigenous authors. Join us to enhance your young reader's growth! RSVP by March 8 - call or text (480) 878-8604 or email Wendy.Jefferson@Saltriverschools.org.

13 VIRTUAL FOSTER CARE INFORMATION SESSION, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Join SRPMIC Foster Care Licensing to get more information on becoming a Foster Parent. Virtual information sessions held the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Social Services at (480) 362-5645 for more information!

13 K-POP DAEBAK KLUB, Way of Life Facility, Room 56. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join us to celebrate, connect, and embrace the vibrant world of K-Pop, no matter your age or ability. Please contact the Tribal Library at (480) 362-6600 or TribalLibrary@srpmic-nsn.gov with questions

14 ADULT WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) INFORMATION SESSION, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Two Waters Building B-102. Join the Salt River WIOA Program for an information session on how the program offers support to individuals toward their career goals through education and training. For questions, contact Illeana Ray, WIOA Specialist at (480) 362-3071

15 WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL POWWOW, 945 W. Rio Salado Pkwy Mesa, AZ 85201. All Drums welcome! Grand Entry at 3 p.m. Clear bag policy will be in place, bring your own chairs. For more information, contact Kristen Lee at (480) 472-4660 or krlee@mpsaz.org

15-17 MUL-CHU-THA FAIR AND RODEO, Sacaton, AZ. Celebrating 60 years of unity, the fair & rodeo will include a carnival, parade, chicken scratch battle of the bands, food and art vendors, and so much more!

Keep up with all of the latest for Mul-chu-tha by visiting www.mulchutha.com

16 HORNE LANE TATTOO'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY, Tattoos from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. and party to follow. Featuring a guest tattoo artist and music by DJ Apetight. 755 E McKellips Rd. #5 Mesa, AZ 85203. For more information, follow @homelanetattoo on Instagram.

19 ARIZONA'S PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION, for voters registered as either Republican or Democrat

20 MISS SALT RIVER COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT Q&A, 3 pm at Two Waters A 301 (Sivilik/Whirlwind) enrolled SRPMIC members 13-16 years old for Jr. Miss SR and 17-24 years old for Miss Salt River. RSVP or for more info contact missaltriver@srpmic-nsn.gov

23 HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM'S ANNUAL TORTILLA FESTIVAL, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Demonstrations, Tortilla History, Tortilla Making, Chicken Scratch Band, Food Vendors, Games & More!

26 SPECIAL ELECTION ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION PROCESS, Vote at your respective district! District I (Salt River) Voters - Vote at Salt River Community Building, 1880 N. Longmore Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256; District II (Lehi) Voters - Vote at Lehi Community Building, 1231 E. Oak Street, Mesa, AZ 85203; Polls Open: 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. SRPMIC Tribal ID Required. Questions, contact: Council Secretaries at (480) 362-7466 or (480) 362-7465.

27 K-POP DAEBAK KLUB, Way of Life Facility, Room 56. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join us to celebrate, connect, and embrace the vibrant world of K-Pop, no matter your age or ability. Please contact the Tribal Library at (480)362-6600 or TribalLibrary@srpmic-nsn.gov with questions

28 ADULT WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND

OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) INFORMATION SESSION, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Two Waters Building B-102. Join the Salt River WIOA Program for an information session on how the program offers support to individuals toward their career goals through education and training. For questions, contact Illeana Ray, WIOA Specialist at (480) 362-3071

28 PRE-DIABETES BINGO NIGHT, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at WOLF Room #247. Bring your friends and family for a night of knowledge, "Know Your Numbers", and helpful resources and tips for your health. Prizes will be awarded to the lucky bingo winners! For more information, contact Karina J Watson Community Health Educator at (480) 362-3278 or karina.watson2@srpmic-nsn.gov

30 COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT, see ad on page 18 for more information.

KUI HIOSIG MAŞAD XLY'A CHMPAP APRIL

5-6 PIIPAASH MATASHEEV M COMMUNITY SOCIAL, 12 p.m. at Lehi Gathering Area. All bird and O'odham singers and dancers are invited to join us for dinner (while supplies last) and dancing. For questions, please contact piipaashmatasheevm@srpmic-nsn.gov

10 K-POP DAEBAK KLUB, Way of Life Facility, Room 56. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join us to celebrate, connect, and embrace the vibrant world of K-Pop, no matter your age or ability. Please contact the Tribal Library at (480) 362-6600 or TribalLibrary@srpmic-nsn.gov with questions

13 PROBATE AND WILL OPEN HOUSE, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Way of Life Facility. Presented by Community Development Department and Legal Services Office. Save the Date, more information to come!