

Giddy up! Casino Arizona **Hosts Annual Team Appreciation Awards** Page 8



"Telling the Stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community"

Joint Venture Between

SRPMIC and De Rito Partners

Acquires Pavilions at Talking Stick

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FEBRUARY 20, 2025



A Home Run for **SRPMIC** Representation



Arizona Indian Festival





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SRPMIC

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SRPMIC Membership Services Provides Updates on Tribal IDs Page 6

HR Service Awards Banquet Celebrates Milestones



Dozens attended the Human Resources Department service awards at Talking Stick Resort.

BY KARI HAAHR

O'odham Action News kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

As one of the best ranked employers in Arizona, it is no surprise that the service awards banquet presented by Human Resources Department of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community continues to reveal a pattern of commitment among employees.

For this year's banquet honoring employees who reached milestones in 2024, held at the Talking Stick Resort Ballroom on January 24, a total of 296 staff were honored for their years of service in spans of 5-year increments. This year, the first group recognized for 5 years of employment was larger than ever at 125 employees. On the other side of that, those who achieved over 25 vears numbered more than 30 individuals.

Community Manager Bryan Meyers shared his thoughts on this achievement, saying it's proof of SRPMIC being an incredible employer for all career

Council member Michael Dallas Sr. delivered the opening prayer followed by an address from President Martin Harvier, in which he reflected on his start in the Community as a soil tester in 1996 and the changes he's seen since.

"Everything we do in tribal government is to serve the Community," said Harvier. "Salt River is looked at as a leader in Indian Country, and it's because of the workers we

Continued on page 11

Matt Riena Lets the Music Do His Talking

"I would like to play at the Community Building one day," said Matt Riena, SRPMIC musician

Continued on page 12

Custodial Staff Achieve Environmental Services Certifications

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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

At the beginning of the year, Public Works Custodial Department staff at the River People Health Center completed a six-week course in advanced cleaning techniques and are now considered Environmental Services (EVS) Technicians, on top of their existing titles.

Cleaning products supplier and chemical manufacturer Buckeye International Inc. was instrumental in the success of training the custodians, said Pedro Gutierrez, custodial manager, Training and Support.

"[Buckeye International's] training focused on the optimal cleaning techniques that are more in-depth for health care facilities," said Gutierrez.

In 2023, Gutierrez and facilities manager Donovan Duwyenie attended a Certified Healthcare Environmental Services Technician (CHEST) course from Buckeye International that educates all custodial staff on how to prevent healthcare associated infections (HAI) by specific cleaning techniques designed for health care facilities.

That experience and their good working relationship with Buckeye International led to the idea of specific EVS training for Custodial staff.

"Thankfully, it was also wellreceived, and Buckeye was happy to collaborate and help develop and execute the program," said Duwyenie. "Attending and receiving of the CHEST certification enabled a clear understanding of advanced techniques required of the EVS process within a health care facility."

CHEST is the next step for EVS



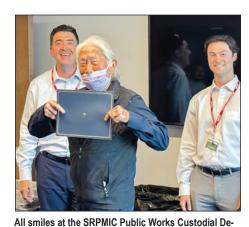
Newly certified EVS technician Isabel Macias is congratulated by facilities manager Donovan Duwyenie (middle) and custodial manager Pedro Gutierrez (right).



Public Works Custodial Department staff completed a six-week course in advanced cleaning techniques.

Technicians, and they will be working toward that certification in September.

Gutierrez and Duwyenie both agreed that the EVS course is a game changer for the Community as "front-line defenders" against pathogens associ-



partment as Wilson Bradley received their certificate.

ated with health care facilities, keeping patients, visitors, and staff safe.

This level of environmental service training has not previously been utilized or implemented within SRPMIC operations, Duwyenie said.

NEW EVS TECHNICIANS

Bryant Montano-Covarrubias

Isabelle Macias

Jessica Stacey

Rozenna Flores

Vincent Wood

Michelle Leyba-Hill

Carmen Rivas

Jessica Kahdot

Marie Jones

Priscilla Lewis

Rena Mitchell

Samia Waters

Wilson Bradley

Alfo Robledo - EVS Supervisor

Rudy Balderaz, Jr. - Floor Crew Technician/EVS Technician

Robert Galindo - Floor Crew Technician/EVS Technician

"Moving forward it is critical these practices become 'the standard' requirements met to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all," said Duwyenie.

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Emergencies and Walk-Ins seen on the same day!

2 February 20, 2025 O'odham Action News



In the Salt River Fields team stores, fans can purchase exclusive merchandise created by Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members.

A HOME RUN FOR SRPMIC REPRESENTATION BY NALANI LOPEZ O'odham Action News Nalani.lopez@srpmic-nsn.gov

Here to clear the bases and the shelves of Salt River Fields' team shops is three Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member-designed team merchandise.

Community member artists: Levi Johnson Sr., Tamar Ramos, and Marissa Johnson each have designs representing the Community.



The designs created by the Community artists intersect the collaboration between the two tribes: O'odham and Piipaash and the Salt River Fields ballfield.



The Salt River Pima-Marcicopa Indian Community's colorful culture is embroidered onto the New Era caps. Hat design by Marissa Johnson.



Although New Era is known for their iconic baseball caps, the brand is also featuring t-shirts, magnets, pins, and bottle insulators for purchase.

New Era Cap, the official baseball cap brand for Major League Baseball, will feature the merchandise as t-shirts, hats, pins, magnets, and bottle sleeve insulators starting on spring training's Opening Day, Friday, February 21. First pitch is scheduled for 1:10

Last season, the ballfield brought in 292,255 attendees during its 30-game season - more than any other spring training venue. The award-winning ballfield is celebrating its 15th year in 2025.

The slogan of Salt River Fields: "Two Tribes, Two Teams, One Home" is reflective of the two tribes of the Community: The Onk Akimel O'odham and the Xalychidom Piipaash and the two Major League Baseball teams: the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies. Both teams share the field throughout spring training and regularly face off during the first game of the season. The opening game traditionally

features special guests from the Community throwing out the first pitch during SRPMIC Day.

With attendance in large numbers, there is an opportunity for authentic O'odham and Piipaash representation in a mainstream field. Salt River Fields General Manager Dave Dunne and Merchandise Manager Bethe Belle reached out to the three Community artists to create artwork.

This is the first time official SRPMIC member-designed merchandise is available in Salt River Fields Team Shops since its opening in 2011.

"As an O'odham graphic designer.

creating artwork that represents the Community in a mainstream sports community is an honor that carries deep meaning," shared Levi Johnson. "It's more than just a logo or a design - it's a reflection of our history, resilience, and culture. Every line, symbol, and color tell a story of who we are, where we come from, and the strength of our people."

Levi Johnson's design holds the silhouette of an O'odham traditional Burden Basket, representing the strength of O'odham women in the Community. On either side of the basket, eagle feathers symbolize the

delicate, yet powerful nature of O'odham women. In the center is Red Mountain, a sacred mountain in the Community encased by a baseball diamond-like shape. Amidst the warm hues of a sunrise is a figure of the Man in the Maze, a symbolic figure of life's

"This design is more than an emblem; it is a living testament to the beauty, strength, and unbreakable spirit of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community," said Johnson.

The second design by Marissa Johnson features a silhouette of a diamond baseball field. Within it, Red Mountain, basketry, and pottery fill the field. Along the borders, yellow wild grass pokes out, nodding at the agricultural history of the Community and the name Salt River Fields.

The third design by Tamar Ramos reflects her cultural ties to the Community. Ramos shares the O'odham basket designs and Piipaash pottery designs she chose are designs she grew up seeing around the Community.

In addition to representing the two tribes, Ramos portrayed the partnership between the Community and the Salt River Fields with the three figures on the

"It can be seen as representing the two tribes and Salt River Fields, or the two teams and the SRP-MIC," said Ramos.

The Community artists hope spring training visitors will see their designs and catch a glimpse of the rich culture and history of the Onk Akimel O'odham and Xalychidom Piipaash.

"The opportunity to create a design that showcases Salt River on a t-shirt in the mainstream sports community is a source of immense pride," shared



SRPMIC President Martin Harvier supports the Community member-designs, wearing a tshirt by Tamar Ramos and a baseball cap by Marissa Johnson. Photo by Community Relations

Ramos. "It feels like a step toward greater representation of the SRPMIC, and I couldn't be more grateful for that "

To purchase the merchandise, visit any of the three official team shops at Salt River Fields starting February 21. The shops are located at Home Plate. D-Backs (Left Field), and Rockies (Right Field) gates.

Games at Salt River Fields go through Monday, March 24, when the Rockies close out the season against the Milwaukee Brewers. For a complete schedule, check out the Salt River Fields website. Both teams hope to improve on last year's regular season records. The Diamondbacks finished 89-73, while the Rockies won 61 games and lost 101 games.

Natural History Museum Collaborates with SRPMIC in 'THRIVE' Exhibit



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

With a new exhibit in collaboration with representatives from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Gila River Indian Community, the Arizona Museum of Natural History in Mesa took what they consider a "vital step" in their commitment to co-authoring narratives with Native communities.

The exhibit, THRIVE – The First People: Yesterday, Today, and Forever, explores the "deep historical, cultural and environmental connections between the ancestral Sonoran Desert dwellers, their modern O'odham descendants and their homelands in the Sonoran Desert," according to a press release from the museum.

25 and will remain on

display until August 17. The museum is south of the Community, near Country Club Drive.

A few Community members were interviewed and featured in the exhibit by the museum, including Cultural Resources Director Kelly Washington, Council member Jacob Butler, Community Garden Technician Jared Butler and Community Garden Coordinator Stetson Mendoza.

"I'm happy that the museum is reaching out and that they are asking actual O'odham and Piipaash for their input before making an exhibit and not just going to the textbooks," said Jared Butler, who was interviewed by museum staff at the SRPMIC Community Garden for the project.

As you enter the hallway of the entrance to THRIVE, you will notice it is not your average mu-

Every step of the exhibit was crafted carefully, including state-of-the-art interactive media displays, artifacts and videos and quotes about the traditions and sustainable practices of the O'odham and the Piipaash.

"[The museum] wanted [the story] to come from us as traditional farmers with traditional foods," said Mendoza. "I felt I needed to be a part of [the project] for the reason of passing the culture along," he said,

> highlighting the importance of sharing the Community's culture with visitors who may not know much about it.

Both Jared Butler and Mendoza have hands-on experience in farming and gardening using traditional techniques and are a crucial part of maintaining the Community's access to seeds in the Community Garden program.

"[As Akimel O'odham] we are the people who make our Himdag [way of life in O'odham] off the river," said Butler. "We experienced our Himdag being interrupted when the canal systems that our ancestors made and farmed with...was forever changed [by settlers]," he continued.

Butler said that with the collaboration, he hopes to show both Natives and non-Natives different perspectives and ways to take care of your food when you grow it, preserving traditional teachings and farming techniques to incorporate into modern

It is important to him to grow more food from nutritional traditional seeds to help get Community members to make better, healthier choices that align with the Community's Himdag.

The Arizona Museum of Natural History is located one block north of Main St. at 53 N. Macdonald in Mesa. Admission is free to anyone with a valid Tribal ID.

Arizona Indian Festival Features Many From SRPMIC

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

The sunlight peeked through the clouds to give a dash of sunshine to attendees of the 31st annual Arizona Indian Festival, held the first weekend of February at the Scottsdale Civic Center.

The festival and tourism event featured several booths from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, in addition to many more from Arizona's 22 tribal nations. Each year, the goal of the festival is to continue to uplift and spotlight the cultures, traditions, and languages of the tribes in Arizona, as well as developing Indigenous tourism for

The emcee for this year's event was James Bilagody (Diné).

Festival-goers were treated to a basket weaving class taught by SRPMIC mother and daughter duo, Alice Manuel and Raeann Brown. At the next booth over, Cody Achin, Cultural Outreach coordinator, held a presentation where he demonstrated the traditional construction of sandwich houses and how the SRPMIC came to be many generations ago.

Staff from Discover Salt River gave away gifts to all who visited their vendor booth as they detailed the many enterprises located in the SRPMIC/Scottsdale area.

Additionally, SRPMIC member and owner of Beaded Plume, Maricela Hinojosa, sold her elegant jewelry at her booth while sharing stories about her artistic process and Community with buyers.

Later in the day, the SRPMIC Basket Dancers also performed.

Throughout the festival, U.S. Marine Ira Hayes was honored, as 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of one of the most recognizable photographs in U.S. history, "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima." The late Hayes is from

the Gila River Indian Community.

"Before we start, we just want to recognize Ira Hayes for his duty to his country," said Maxwell Talahytewa, a member of the Hopi Dance Group, prior to their performance. Moments later, applause was heard. "As Natives, it's important we recognize all of those who served," he added.

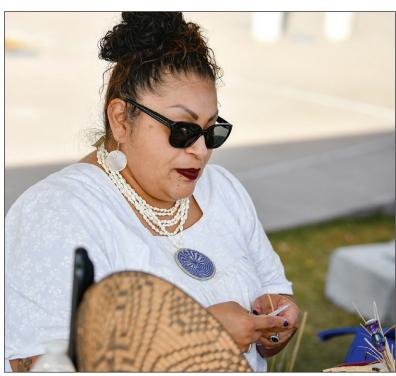
The Pascua Yaqui Deer Dancers, Yavapai-Apache "Little Warriorettes," and more rounded out the two-day weekend festival with performances.

For information on next year's festival, interested individuals can contact the Arizona American Indian Tourism Association directly at 602-299-9576 or by emailing azindianfestival@gmail.com.





SRPMIC member and owner of Beaded Plume. Maricela Hinojosa, happily showcased her jewelry as well as detailed her artistic inspirations to auests.



Alice Manuel (left) and her daugther Raeann Brown (right) facilitated a traditional basket weaving class during the 2025 Arizona Indian Festival.

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SRPMIC Membership Services Provides Updates on Tribal IDs

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier released a message to the Community on January 24 regarding the presence of increased federal law enforcement in Arizona and across the country.

The message came as tribes across Indian Country offered similar guidance in response to encounters with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

To help ensure all membership continue to remain well-supported, the SRPMIC extended the hours of the membership services department to allow enrolled members additional time to obtain/update their tribal IDs.

The department extended hours on nine days in February from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., which included a Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. This was in addition to their regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday.

'There is no expiration date on our current tribal ID," said Alexandra Andrews, SRPMIC community development department membership supervisor. Andrews sat down with O'odham Action News to detail some of the finer points of the SRPMIC tribal ID process for membership.

Andrews continued, detailing that newborns and toddlers are eligible to receive their tribal IDs as well. "We let the parents and guardians know it is at their discretion," she said. She added that she and her team have created

tribal IDs for newborn babies in the Community.

During the first day of the extended hours on February 4, Andrews shared that many families brought in their children to obtain their tribal IDs. "Our first day of extended hours, families came in together with their children and we took updated photos of everyone," said Andrews.

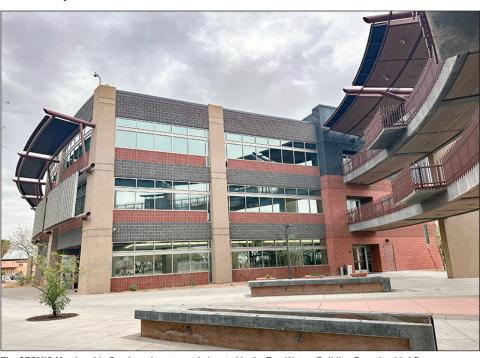
She also mentioned membership can provide the department with the most current and up-to-date information such as their address while they obtain their tribal IDs. "If their information is up to date, that makes everything a lot easier," she said. "We have them complete our form; it takes 5 minutes."

For membership that do not live in the Community, mail-out services are also available to them. "We just want to offer a lot of options to the Community," she said.

For more information, membership can contact the Community Development Department Office of Membership directly by dialing (480) 362-7330, emailing EnrollmentHotline@SRPMIC-nsn.gov, or visiting the department directly located in the Two Waters Building B on the 3rd Floor at 10079 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

The upcoming extended hours/dates for the SRPMIC membership services department are:

- February 20, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- February 25, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- February 27, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Community Development Dept 2

The SRPMIC Membership Services department is located in the Two Waters Building B on the third floor.

Continued from front

Joint Venture Between SRPMIC and De Rito Partners **Acquires Pavilions at Talking Stick**



At the east entrance to the Pavilions at Talking Stick shopping center is a welcome sign for SRPMIC. Across the street is a De Rito Partners leasing sign.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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

The Pavilions at Talking Stick shopping center, located within the Talking Stick Entertainment District on the northwestern edge of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, was acquired by Pavilions SRPMIC De Rito JV, LLC, a new joint venture between the SRPMIC and De Rito Partners Development, Inc.

The purchase was officially completed January 16 when the SRPMIC closed on the transaction.

"The Community's ownership will provide solid financial investment returns each year and allows us to diversify some of our long term returns from our typical equity and fixed income investments," said SRPMIC Treasurer Doug Patterson.

"I am very excited that the Community acquired such an important asset, and I am looking forward to watching the property continue to thrive and

improve over the years," he added.

Two of the major anchor stores of the Pavilions are Target and Home Depot; other stores in the Pavilions include David's Bridal, Hobby Lobby, PopStroke, Roadhouse Cinemas, iFly, Mavrix and Guitar Center. Other destinations near the Pavilions include Medieval Times, and two enterprises of the SRPMIC, Salt River Fields at Talking Stick and Talking Stick Resort.

In a press release on January 29, the company said that the acquisition of the 1.3 million-square-foot Pavilions will "strengthen its position as a leader in the Arizona commercial real estate market."

While the financial details of the transaction are not available at this time, the Community acquired a large majority ownership share, with De Rito Partners continuing as a minority

A goal of the company is to continue the day-to-day operations as is with no major changes.

The opportunity to acquire an ownership in the Pavilions was brought to the Community by De Rito Partners a little over 2 years ago, according to Patterson.

He explained that the majority owner was a real estate investment company based in California called Pacific Coast Capital Partners (PCCP). PCCP acquired the majority ownership interest from GE Capital in 2015.

PCCP decided to sell the asset, and because of the importance of the Pavilions to the Community and to the

Talking Stick Entertainment District,



The east entrance to the Pavilions at Talking Stick shopping center.

Patterson said that Council decided that they wanted to pursue the acquisition.

The Community felt that the financial returns were positive, and the acquisition allowed the Community to control the future of the Pavilions.

"Obviously, an asset of this size takes a lot of due diligence from financial, environmental, risk mitigation, legal, etc.," said Patterson.
"A lot of people did a lot of work

over the last 2 years to get to this point.

That included Council, Admin, the Office of General Counsel, Treasury and our Salt River Devco team." Planning for the Pavilions began

in 1986 with the Vestar Development

Company, in partnership with the Hor-

lacker Family, and was developed in the mid-1990's with the original name the Scottsdale Pavilions.

In 2008, Marty De Rito with De Rito Partners Development, Inc. bought the Pavilions from the Horlacker Family for \$88 million and announced an investment of \$25 million in upgrades. At that time, the Pavilions was 1 million square feet and 46% leased.

Today the Pavilions boasts a 96% occupancy rate.

Stay tuned in a future issue of O'odham Action News for continued coverage of the purchase of the Pavilions focusing on the history of the land.

O'odham Action News February 20, 2025





Locally owned and caringly operated by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



APRIL 2025

Giddy up! Casino Arizona Hosts Annual Team Appreciation Awards

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

The Talking Stick Resort Salt River Grand Ballroom was transformed into an old Western saloon from the cowboy days as Casino Arizona hosted its annual team appreciation awards ceremony on February 3.

Each year, executive staff, management and directors recognize casino staff for their hard work all year with the awards ceremony. This year, awards were given out in the following categories for the 2024 year:

- Safety Committee Award
- Life Saver of the Year Award
- Recognition Committee Excellence Award
- Supervisor of the Year Award
- Team Member of the year Award
- Enrolled Community Member of the Year Award

With the theme "Denim and Diamonds," the event was star-studded, with many staff showing off their finest denims and cowboy/girl hats. Ramon Martinez, Casino Arizona director of public relations, served as emcee of the event.

During the guest speaker introductions, Martinez happily introduced a dear friend he grew up with in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Vice-President Ricardo Leonard. "We went to school together. We used to hang out when my dad had his hay business," said Martinez, smiling. "This gentleman would come over to come help us load the trucks. Then we used to get on our horses and go to a place called Evergreen."

Leonard then made his way to the lectern, shaking hands with Martinez before delivering the welcoming address. He read a prepared speech written by SRPMIC President Martin Harvier.

"In a small, close-knit community like ours, every contribution matters.



From L to R: Casino Arizona General Manager Trenni Martinez, Security Officer Chad Goodyear, Security Officer Andrew Cutter, Security Officer-EMT Jesus Torres, and Casino Arizona General Manager Christian Geier.

We are deeply grateful to the positive care and excellence you all bring to your roles. Thank you for all you do, truly it makes a difference," said Leonard.

Following his remarks, Brian Garza, chairman of the board for the Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises, echoed similar remarks and added that this year's "Denim and Diamonds" Western theme was a personal favorite. "I love, love, love this event. I love this Western theme," he said, sporting his own 10-gallon cowboy hat and a smile. "You all really do make Casino Arizona the premiere destination and employer for our Community and the Valley. Thank you so much and congratulations."

The Lifesavers of the Year award went to Jesus Torres (Security Officer-EMT), Claudia Mendez (Security Officer), Chad Goodyear (Security Officer), and Andrew Cutter (Security Officer). The four staff members saved a woman's life after she was found not breathing in late November.

"They administered lifesaving care to the woman and acted swiftly as

Salt River police, fire, and paramedics shortly arrived," said General Manager Trenni Martinez, joined on stage by General Manager Christian Geier. "We were told that had it not been for the quick action of our response team, there would've been a much different ending."

The Recognition Committee Excellence Award went to Claudia Carrillo, Human Resources generalist. Later, Anthony Morales, warehouse supervisor, received the award for the Supervisor of the Year. "We all did it together, not just me," said Morales during his brief acceptance speech.

Gabrielle McNally, coordinator IV for Events-Catering Resort Sales, received the award for Team Member of the Year.

The last and final award of the night was Enrolled Community Member of the Year. This year's nominees were Kamilah Gonzalez, Abalino Garza, Cynthia Flores and Tessa Lewis.

"She is pretty much known by everyone at TSR," started Casino Arizona Chief Hospitality Officer Braxton Myers as he began leaving clues regarding

who won. "She completely got behind the new direction of a new leadership and she did an amazing job."

Moments later, Myers revealed Flores as this year's winner and she received a standing ovation by her colleagues and members of the SRPMIC Council, who were also in attendance.

After receiving her award, Flores immediately hoisted it up in the air as she was overcome with joy. Returning to her seat, Flores was showered with hugs and applause.

As the event neared its end, John Dinius, president and CEO, voiced his appreciation to all staff and made it a point to highlight the support they receive from Council.

"This is now my second year with the gaming enterprise, and I can tell you that in my 33 years, I've never experienced the level of support that we have from tribal leadership. Thank you for everything you do for our entire organization."

With the tip of his hat, Dinius exited the stage the cowboy way as emcee Martinez opened the dancefloor up and invited all to dance the night away.

Enrolled Community Member of the Year Award Winner 2024 Casino Arizona Awards: Cynthia Flores, Retail Supervisor

What was the first thought that came to your mind when you heard you won the award?

I felt very thankful and blessed. Very blessed.

What's your favorite aspect of working for Casino Arizona?

All the knowledge I have learned from the beginning. My manager at that time, Cheryl Fulwilder, started showing me the ropes of retail-the back of the house and all of the different parts. It made me stronger as a leader and as a supervisor. I am thankful for all of them and their trust in me.

How do you stay motivated at work?

A lot of people ask me that because I've been in retail so long and didn't switch to slots or change to the cage. For the longest time, I was buying the jewelry and merchandise for the gift shop. I loved that part of the job. Over the years I've had so many employees who worked for me, and a lot of them have gone on to work in finance and other areas. That keeps me motivated. Now that I have a new manager, we're

involved in some exciting things.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? Who gave you the advice?

When my father passed away, my former manager, Michael Pieterick, was there for me. His advice was, "Just keep moving, you'll figure it out. You're not alone doing this. I want you to learn and get the knowledge."

What advice would you give to someone starting at the casino?

We have two tribal members that have just started. I told them both, "This is a great opportunity here, take advantage of it. Take advantage of the opportunities the casino offers." They deserve it as tribal members. It's a lot of fun.

Anything else you'd like to share with the Community and our readers?

When I was asked to write the bio for the Casino Awards, it made me think a lot about where I've been and what's happened to me. I'm very thankful. I'm thankful for the tribe. My mom



Cynthia Flores (middle), winner of this year's Enrolled Community Member of the Year award during the 2024 Casino Arizona Awards was congratulated by Chief Operating Officer Don Ayers and Chief Hospitality Officer Braxton Mevers.

passed away when I was young, she enrolled me and was there for me, even though I didn't grow up out here. I am very thankful for the opportunity the tribe has given me. Thank you to my family, friends and especially my daughter, Jasmine Cruz.

As the winner of the 2024 Enrolled Community Member of the Year Award, Flores received a monetary gift, a custom plaque and additional accolades from Casino Arizona executive management and staff for her achievement.

2025 Native Youth Identity Conference Brings Excitement

O'odham Action News Andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

Nearly 100 Native youth took part in an identity conference in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community this

On February 1, Youth Services hosted its 8th annual Native Youth Identity Conference at the Accelerated Learning Academy. The conference was open for registration to all youth in grades 7-12. A little under 100 registered and participated in workshops and activities planned throughout the day, including members of the Akimel O'odham Peeposh Youth Council from the Gila River Indian Community.

"I was really pleased with the turnout, especially considering it was a busy Saturday. The youth could have been anywhere, but they chose to attend the conference," said Youth Council Advisor Janyse Salinas.

The day was filled with an itinerary that included breakout sessions. The first was culturally based, where students had the opportunity to choose between Shell Necklace Making, O'odham Basket Making and a Chicken Scratch Demo. Two of the workshops were taught by Young River People's Council President Jizelle Juan and member Aarick Mack.

Outside, in the center of campus, was a canopy where traditional O'odham games Komai and Gins were taught and played. Girls played Komai



Conference participants learn about finances in a workshop during the second breakout session of the day.

and guys played Gins which is known to become intense at points.

"As you can see the excitement of these kids playing it, that's what we are looking for; that intensity and that excitement, the laughter and the enjoyment," said Youth Department Specialist Isaac Lopez. He taught students how to play Gins.

"I think that's very important for these young ones because we don't usually see this type of stuff, so, it's always good to bring them to [play]," Lopez added.

After lunch, a second session consisted of financial and educational workshops. Students were taught about resources available within the Community, which included higher education and scholarship opportunities. Financial Resources and Literacy, and Investment Basics were also workshops that were available for students.

After both sessions ended, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier, alongside Tribal Council, were part of a panel discussion.

YRPC Clerical Secretary Tizoc

Lopez, and Treasurer Amelia Lasiloo asked each member of the Council questions about governance, leadership, and community engagement. It was an opportunity for students to learn more about what it is like being a Community leader. Those in attendance were Council members Mikah Carlos, Jacob Butler, Deanna Scabby, Cheryl Doka and Su:k Fulwilder.

"Each of you here I would consider a leader... each of you are leaders within yourself and I hope that you recognize that," Fulwilder said while addressing the audience. "You are a part of keeping [our] culture alive."

A basketball tournament was played on the outside courts of the campus. At the same time, traditional games and art activities were available as an alternative.

The day concluded with a general assembly where raffles and closing remarks were made before everyone was dismissed.

"It feels incredibly rewarding to create a space where our youth have access to the resources and positive support they need to thrive and be their authentic selves," said Salinas.

"YRPC is deeply grateful for the opportunity to come together and offer all of our youth the knowledge and resources that will benefit them now and in their early adult years. Our goal was to ensure they left with a plan for their future."



SRPMIC Council during a panel discussion at the Youth Identity Conference on February 1.

BY JORDAN DAVID BUTLER JR. Submitted by Salt River Schools

Have you ever had to face something so terrifying that it took every ounce of courage to move forward? I never thought a simple school night could turn into one of the most nerve-wracking experiences of my life. It was one of those perfect evenings in Arizona cool air, the sound of water flowing in the Verde River, and the fading colors of the sunset as me and my friends, Kota and Jozef, sat on the banks, fishing. As we chatted, Kota told us about his family's tradition of hiking to the top of Red Mountain every Thanksgivmountain. As if on cue, a thick band of dark clouds began to form behind it, swirling ominously like the start of a storm. A chill ran down my spine, and I could feel my heartbeat faster as I exchange glances with Jozef. It wasn't just the mountain that was intimidating- it was the idea of what lay ahead.

The hike was going smoothly at first, the air thinning as we ascended, but as we neared the top, things took a turn. We reached a section of the trail where the path disappeared into a sheer rock face. To get to the summit, we had to descend a 15-foot drop—nothing but jagged rocks beneath us. The thought

Sometimes, it's about facing your fear with the knowledge that you can overcome it, one step at a time.

ing, a trek he'd been doing since he was a kid. Little did I know that story would be the beginning of my own journey into the unknown.

Kota drove his truck to the start of the trail, and as we climbed out, Red Mountain loomed before us. I had seen it countless times before, but it never looked bigger in my life. The jagged rocks reached into the sky, and the trail seemed to disappear in the shadows. The sun was starting to dip below the horizon, casting an eerie glow on the

of climbing down, only to climb right back up, was daunting, but what terrified me more were the steep drops on either side of the rock wall. There was nothing but empty space, the ground so far below it felt almost impossible to fathom. My hands were clammy, my stomach churned with nerves, and my heart raced, but I knew I couldn't back down. I had to be brave, not just for myself, but for my friends who were

My friends had already made it to

The Summit of Courage

Editor's note: Jordan is currently enrolled at the Accelerated Learning Academy and is expected to graduate in the fall of 2026. With a strong passion for entrepreneurship, he is determined to pursue a career in this field while also honing his skills as a recording artist. Aside from his leadership and great energy at the ALA, he consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a positive, driven attitude in all his pursuits. In the upcoming school year, he will be attending EVIT to further develop his talents and career prospects.

the summit, and they were waiting for me, calling out directions from above, guiding me as I sat at the edge of the rock face. I hesitated for a moment, looking down at the empty space beneath me. My heart pounded in my chest as I reached down with my foot, searching for a foothold. The drop on either side felt like it could swallow me whole. My mind raced with doubt, but I silenced the noise with a simple thought: Don't think, just do. I took a deep breath and lowered myself, my hands gripping the rough stone, my foot finally finding a ledge. Inch by inch, I climbed down, my body trembling but steady, until I was safely on the ground below. The hardest part was over, but there was still the climb back up to face I paused for just a second before pushing myself forward again, focusing on my friends' voices guiding me to the summit. With each move, I felt more sure of myself, and soon enough, I reached the top,

breathless and proud. As I stood at the summit, looking out over the valley below, I felt a rush of accomplishment. My legs were sore, my heart still racing from the climb, but in that moment, I realized something bravery isn't always about charging headfirst into danger. Sometimes, it's

about facing your fear with the knowledge that you can overcome it, one step at a time. I had been terrified, but I had also trusted myself, and my friends had been there, guiding me through it. That night on Red Mountain, I learned that courage isn't the absence of fear, but the decision to keep moving forward despite it. It wasn't just the climb that made me brave—it was everything that came before, every moment where I could have turned back but didn't. And that made all the difference.



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Selena Espinoza Launches Blue Star Dispensary Management

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

After the recreational cannabis initiative Proposition 207 (the Smart and Safe Act) passed in Arizona in 2020 with 60% of the vote, the first legal and state-licensed sales began in January 2021.

As Arizona cannabis operations picked up steam, Selena Espinoza, a Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member, saw the challenges faced by cannabis companies after talking with her oldest daughter, who works in a cannabis lab. It prompted her to do something about it.

Espinoza began to research and visit cannabis operations and engage with Indigenous leaders already active in the cannabis industry, as well industry researchers, compliance experts and cannabis professionals who own dispensaries, cultivation facilities and testing labs.

In 2022, Espinoza founded Blue Star Dispensary Management to assist in the establishment of tribal cannabis ventures in Arizona and began actively engaging with Arizona tribes in the fall of 2024.

"Currently, we are meeting with various Arizona tribes to hold discussions, and we are thrilled to play a role in launching tribal cannabis businesses in Arizona," said Espinoza, who expressed that exciting times are ahead. "With Arizona as our home, it's a privilege to contribute to the successful development of these businesses."

Espinoza is a mother of six adult children and grandmother to "a loving bunch of grandchildren." Her parents are Garnet Gates (Lehi), a Marine Vietnam veteran and home building contractor, and Ramona Loring (Salt River), a former SRPMIC Juvenile judge.

"Growing up in Salt River was a



Blue Star Dispensary Management founder and SRPMIC member Selena Espinoza. Photo courtesy Selena Espinoza

blessing," said Espinoza.

She raised her children in the Community and emphasized the importance of staying engaged and supporting one another in the Community, "for the benefit of all."

Espinoza, who will turn 55 this year, wanted to build opportunities for her family and people, creating work experiences and environments that foster growth, education and career development.

The Blue Star Dispensary Management team is a 50/50 balance of non-Native and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community members.

As the business grows, a priority for Espinoza will always be to hire, educate and promote Community

members and Indigenous people, not only within Blue Star Management, but also in the tribal cannabis business developments she hopes to help establish in tribal nations.

Espinoza said that her team has broad and extensive experience in cannabis manufacturing, law, retail, cultivation, management and banking in Arizona. The team's legal director, Thomas Dean, is a lifetime member of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) whom Espinoza refers to as one of the top cannabis lawyers in the U.S.

The professional backgrounds of the team also include tribal environmental

regulation and sustainability, disaster recovery, planning and zoning, travel and tourism, solid waste, gaming and real estate.

"Our professional consortium... allows us to collaborate with tribes to build strong and sustainable cannabis enterprises," said Espinoza.

Because each tribe has its own set of laws, values and vision for their members, Espinoza said there is no "one size fits all" template to assist tribal nations in entering the cannabis market. Blue Star Dispensary Management aims to support tribes in every phase of development, implementation and management of cannabis businesses.

"We aren't in the business with tribes to just grow and make money," said Espinoza. "It's about building perpetual relationships with tribal nations. And it goes deeper than that, because we must take care of that which takes care of us."

Espinoza said that in addition to developing new tribal partnerships, Blue Star Dispensary Management is preparing for the next evolution of cannabis, which she says is the rescheduling of cannabis on the federal level from Schedule I to Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act. This would reclassify cannabis as having a lower potential for abuse than substances in Schedules I and II.

As more patents, partnerships and sponsored clinical trials come to fruition in the cannabis industry, Espinoza is excited to develop new tribal partnerships through her company to build "healthier medicines for treatment for tribal nations and beyond."

Espinoza concluded, "We are honored to be a part of growing and harvesting the future of tribal cannabis."

If you would like to learn more about Blue Star Dispensary Management, visit their website at www.bsdmservices.com.





NAGI Back at Puppy Bowl with SRPMIC Pup



BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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

Local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization the NAGI Foundation has been off to an exciting new year, providing the usual health services to SRPMIC dogs and spotlighting a rescued pup found on the Community, Akimel, who participated in Puppy Bowl XXI, which broadcast on Animal Planet on February 9.

"...We don't know too much about her life before the elder in SRPMIC found her lost in her yard," said NAGI Foundation founder Sheila K. Iyengar (Apache/Mexican), whose foundation helped bring Akimel back to good health after having serious medical conditions.

Akimel has since been adopted by a new family.

To coincide with the Puppy Bowl, NAGI announced Akimel's breed after holding a contest on social media with SRPMIC members to see who had the correct guess.

Akimel's breed was revealed to be a mix of Chow Chow, American Pitbull Terrier and Labrador Retriever. Kaitlin Donahue guessed all three and won a \$100 gift card to Chewy.



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Council Member Michael Dallas Travels to Washington for Donald Trump's Inauguration

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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

SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the 60th U.S. presidential inauguration and second overall inauguration of President Donald Trump on January 20, but Mother Nature had other plans.

Like most other people with a ticket to the inauguration, Dallas withstood sub-freezing temperatures outside the U.S. Capitol for some time to watch the inauguration on outdoor screens. When he arrived at the site, he said security were not letting people into the inauguration.

"I ended up getting coffee at a Starbucks in a nearby Marriott to warm up," Dallas told *O'odham Action News*.

Just days before the inauguration was set to be held outside on the West Front of the Capitol, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) announced it would honor Trump's request to move the ceremonies inside the U.S. Capitol to the Rotunda, due to the lowest Inauguration Day temperatures (in the low 20s) since Ronald Regan's inauguration in 1985. The Rotunda holds about 600 people

According to the JCCIC, over 220,000 color-coded tickets were printed for the event by the Government Publishing Office, which were distributed to the constituents of members of Congress. Every person who would have attended the inauguration was required to have a ticket.

At the Marriott, Dallas said, was a bar near the lobby where many people



Tribal leaders meet up in Washington. Left to right: Morongo Band of Mission Indians Council member Ryan Martin, SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr., Colorado River Indian Tribes Deputy Attorney General Travis Nez, Oneida Nation Council member Jonas Hill, Morongo Band of Mission Indians Chairman Charles Martin, Pechanga Band of Indians Council members Michael Vasquez and Marc Luker.

Below, a crowd gathers in Washington to be around for the inauguration of Donald Trump. Photos courtesy SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr.



were watching the private swearing-in on television. He was moved by the experience watching country music singer Carrie Underwood sing "America the Beautiful" as a part of the ceremonies.

"What was interesting is, all the people and the kids and the people from all over were there, and they started singing [along with Underwood] a cappella," Dallas recalled.

"And so, everybody in the lobby just started singing it. Everybody knew the words and had their hands on their hearts just singing it," he said.

Dallas met with other tribal leaders while in town, including Morongo Band of Mission Indians Tribal Chairman Charles Martin and Council

member Ryan Martin, Oneida Nation Council member Jonas Hill, Colorado River Indian Tribes Deputy Attorney General Travis Nez and Pechanga Band of Indians Council members Michael Vasquez and Marc Luker.

"The reason why I wanted to go, the way I'm looking at it is that, to me, it's not about the [political] party," said Dallas, noting his responsibility from the oath that he took as a tribal leader.

"...there are going to be people who are appointed to these positions... and the tribe here at Salt River, we get federal funding," he continued.

Dallas gave an example of former North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum's support from tribal leaders across Indian Country, who at the time of the inauguration was awaiting approval of his nomination for his current role as secretary of the Interior Department.

During Burgum's confirmation hearing, Montana Sen. Steve Daines, Republican, presented to the committee a letter the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) in support of Burgum, due to his working relationship with some tribes

"It's very important as a tribal leader to be at the table to address some of your issues and concerns," said Dallas.

Dallas said that a former SRPMIC president once told him, "If you're not at the table, then you're on the menu."

He said that the Community relies on federal funding for certain programs related to education and diabetes, among others.

"It's important to raise our concern that we don't need the cuts in those areas, that we need that money here."

Continued from front



have and the talents they bring."

Council then lined up on the stage to greet and thank the honorees as their names were read by Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson and Human Resources Director Steven Haydukovich.

The names of those celebrating 35 years kicked off with rousing applause from the audience as the recipients made their way across the stage, followed by those who had reached 30 years, and then 25 and 20 years of service. The focus then turned to the audience, as employees who had 15, 10, and 5

years of service were asked to stand and given a round of applause for their respective groups.

Following the presentation, lunch was served, and guests had the opportunity for photographs with Council.

All recipients received awards and were entered for a door-prize drawing and a financial incentive.

SRPMIC Employees with 20+ Years of Service...

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Michelle Schurz

Christine Pacheco Paul Bolger Axan Kuauhtli Alejandro McDaniel Eric Mitchell Christopher Morin Mirna Ramirez Michael Albers **Bradley Garrison** Pedro Gutierrez Alice Manuel Jessica Garcia Regina Baca Eldra Fred Felicia Panana Steven Frederick Blossom Maldonado

Melissda Haskie

Rosa Soto James Osife **Sharon Carl** Joseph Percy **Terry Dooley** Karria Silver Krista Noonan **Scott Thigpen** Jewel Waters **Daniel Angulo** Mikaela Jones Steven Pokrzywka Adrianannie Pinto **Beverly Stanley** Robert Scabby Adrian Garson Melanie Lake **Anthony Sandoval**

Jamie Lomay
Kathy Kline
Michael Byrd
Marcus Begay
Adam Landin
James Regan
Theresa Antone
Susan Nayatewa
Melinda Thomas
Jody Smith
Verna Williams
Debra James
Johnny Acosta
Steve Wood
Dinah Miguel









Years of Service	Number of Recipients
5	125
10	81
15	22
20	35
25	24
30	4
35	5

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Matt Riena Lets the Music Do His Talking

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News

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Matt Riena is from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and cares deeply about the music he creates. His band, Necrambulant, is a slam/brutal/death-metal band on the rise and primed for major success.

Slamming brutal death-metal is a musical genre which features a strong emphasis on speed, heaviness, and complex rhythms. The genre originated in the 1990's out of New York's death metal scene thanks to bands like Internal Bleeding, Pyrexia and Afterbirth.

Riena is Necrambulant's drummer and contributes to the band in other ways by collaborating on the songwriting aspects. Along with bandmates Andy York, Ron Clark, and Trent Pittard, the band has been active since 2008 but took a break in 2015. Riena joined the band in 2011 after the group contacted him thanks due to a Craigslist posting he published. A few years later, Reina was removed from the band and the remaining bandmembers would ultimately break up soon thereafter.

However, fate intervened a few years later.

"In 2021, I ran into Ron at a show," said Riena. "We exchanged contact info and maybe a few weeks after talking, I brought up the idea of, 'Hey, what if we got the band back together?' Clark said to me, 'Wow, I never thought I would bring the band back," shared Riena.

With Riena on drums and Clark on guitar, it was easy for the duo to pick up where they left off and restart the new era of Necrambulant. "He and I both decided, 'why not?" said Riena.

The rejuvenated era of the band allowed for Riena to showcase his other artistic talents even further. For their latest music video, "Sentenced to a Gluttonous Pit," Riena not only is in the video playing the drums, but he also created the pre-production music video notes which feature the band playing live in SRP-MIC. "We filmed around by the Beeline gas station," said Riena.

The gritty, black and white video showcases the band playing their slamming, brutal, death-metal style of music they're famously known for. The video has already garnered thousands of views since its debut this January as their legion of dedicated fans continue to grow with each project and video they release.

Recently, the band accomplished a major feat by signing to a major independent music label, Gore House Productions. By signing to the label, the band's music can now be purchased in compact disc or cassette-form via the label's website directly.

A self-taught musician, Riena remains as humble as he is talented. He remains focused on the music first, an attribute he's had since he was an air-drumming teenager with the desire to play music. "I didn't have anybody teach me [how to play music]. I didn't look at any books. It wasn't perfect the first time I started playing, but over the years, the more and more I played, the better I got," he added.

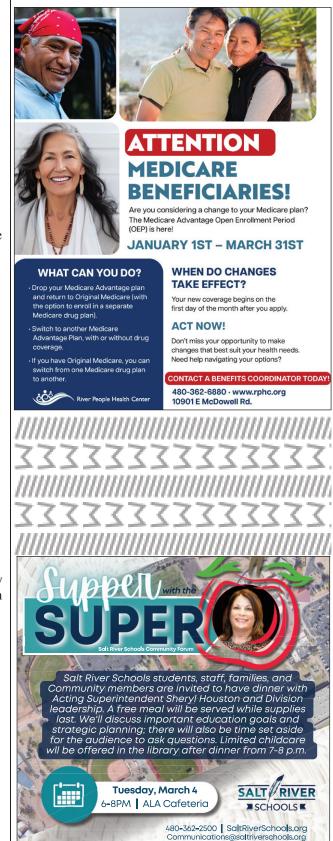
As he looks towards the future, Riena has his eyes set on continuing to play the type of music he loves while simultaneously being proud of SRPMIC roots. "I would like to play here in Salt River," he shared. Riena has a goal of one day creating a music festival here in the Community, which could allow for his band and similar acts to rock the stage, potentially inside of the Community Building.

Mentioning "The Day the Rez Stood Still," an annual horror-themed event that featured a record-setting turnout of attendees last October, Riena envisions musical acts performing during a future event or perhaps one day creating a separate festival unto its own in the Community. "They [Woodenhead Collective] had a huge turnout at the Community Building. I went to the first one they had," said Riena.

He also shared that he would like to see more Indigenous musicians experiment with different musical genres.

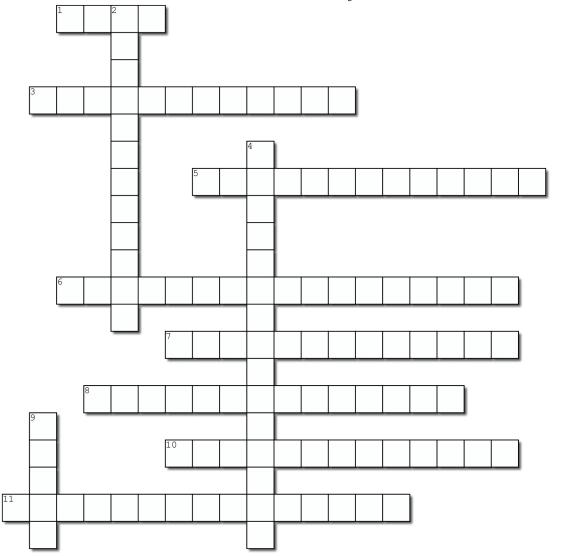
"I would like to see more members, really just Indian people across the country, play some more heavy stuff that we're doing. There's a lot of bands in Indian communities out there that play in other genres, like hardcore. I hope that people in the Community and elsewhere, listen to our stuff, like it and I hope it inspires them to play some heavy stuff too."

Necrambulant's latest album, "Upheaval of Malignant Necrambulance," releases on March 7 via Gore House Productions. Reina and the band will be performing at an all-ages album release concert on April 26 at the Nile Theater in Downtown Mesa.



Can you solve the crossword puzzle?

The answers to this crossword puzzle can be found in the stories throughout this issue of O'odham Action News. Enjoy!



Dow

- 2. The name of Matt Riena's slamming/ brutal death metal band
- 4. The day THRIVE concludes
- 9. Traditional O'odham Game (Girls)

Across

- 1. Traditional O'odham Game (Boys)
- 3. When was the first day of extended hours held for SRPMIC tribal IDs?
- 5. SRPMIC Treasurer
- 6. The day THRIVE was opened to the public
- 7. Emcee of the 2024 Arizona Indian Festival
- 8. The founder of Blue Star Dispensary Management
- 10. Winner of Enrolled Community Member of the Year at the 2024 Casino Arizona Awards
- 11. Who Sang 'America the Beautiful' during the 60th Presidential Inauguration

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ANDREEA MIGUEL NEWS REPORTER - TEMP

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KARI HAAHR **NEWSPAPER ASSISTANT** (480) 362-2698

kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS MAIN LINE (480) 362-7750 (Leave a message with your name and number

and we will return your call)

ADVERTISING

Call O'odham Action News for advertising info. (480) 362-2698 / www.oodhamnews.org

PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE

SRPMIC Council has approved the nightly closures of the Salt River and Lehi Cemeteries due to continued vandalism.

The Salt River and Lehi Cemeteries will be closed from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Memorial Services at (480) 278-7050

SALT RIVER CHURCH LISTINGS

LEHI CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1452 E. Oak St. Mesa, AZ 85203 Pastor Merrill Jones (480) 234-6091

SERVICES Visit us on Facebook Live and in person. Search for Lehi Church of the Nazarene. Sun. School, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

Sun. Night Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. Wed. Devotion Night 6:30 p.m. SOAR Group 2nd & 4th Friday, 7 p.m. Mon. night Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m. Singspiration, last Sundays at 6 p.m.

FERGUSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

1512 E. McDowell Rd. Mesa, AZ 85203 Pastor Neil Price (480) 278-0750 SERVICES

Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m. Now available through the Zoom app. Call church for Zoom ID.

LEHI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1342 E. Oak Mesa, AZ 85203

Pastor Annette Lewis annette.f.lewis@gmail.com (480) 404-3284 SERVICES Sunday Services 10 a.m. Communion First Sundays at 10 a.m. Birthday Sunday Potluck- Last Sunday of the Month, after services. Youth Devotion/Music (bring your instruments!) last 2 Saturdays of the month

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST PAPAGO WARD

at 4 p.m.

2056 N. Extension Rd. Scottsdale AZ, 85256 (480) 947-1084 SERVICES Sunday service begins at 10 a.m.

PIMA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

12207 E. Indian School Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256 Pastor Marty Thomas (480) 874-3016

Home: (480) 990-7450 **SERVICES** Sunday service 11 a.m. Lord's Supper very first Sunday of the month (potluck after)

SALT RIVER ASSEMBLY OF GOD 10657 E. Virginia Ave. Scottsdale, AZ

85256 Rev. WinterElk Valencia (480) 947-5278 saltriveragchurch.com **SERVICES** Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Thursday Bible Study 6pm

SALT RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST 430 N. Dobson Rd. Suite 105

Mesa, AZ 85201 (720) 626-2171, Josh Austin SaltRiverChurchofChrist.com SERVICES Bible Class 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Class 6 p.m. Bible Study Wednesdays 7 p.m. Local transportation available, please call phone number above

SALT RIVER PRESBYTERIAN **CHURCH**

P.O. Box 10125 Scottsdale, AZ 85271 E: SaltRiverPresbyterian@gmail.com Visit us on Facebook Pastor Charlotte Fafard **SERVICES** Sunday Service, 1 p.m. Communion first Sunday of the month

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC MISSION

3090 N. Longmore, Scottsdale, AZ (602) 292-4466 (cell) Administrator: Deacon Jim Trant Parish President: Cindy Thomas Father Peter McConnell and Father Antony Tinker SERVICES Sunday Mass 12 p.m. Holy Hours 1 p.m.

SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTER-NATIONAL (SEMI)

Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250 Apostle Edward Chance apostleeac@gmail.com (480) 516-6509 SERVICES 10 AM on Sundays Visit us on Facebook Live. Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

VICTORY CENTER

1231 E Oak St Mesa, AZ 85203 Senior Pastor Danny Cruz 480-427-4678 **SERVICES** First and Third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Follow us @vomsrvictorycenter on

VICTORY OUTREACH CHURCH MESA 5610 E. Main St. Mesa. AZ 85205 Senior Pastor Danny Cruz

SERVICES Sunday 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Youth Nights Tuesday at 7 p.m. visit vomesa.org for more service times. life group locations, and events Follow us @vomesachurch on

MORNINGSTAR APOSTOLIC

com/msactruth

3263 E Guadalupe Rd, Gilbert, Arizona 85234 Bishop Daniel Lizarraga and Pastor Jason Lizarraga **SERVICES** Sunday 2:30 p.m. Wednesday 7:15 p.m. Bible classes Wednesdays Visit msactruth.com for more Follow us @morningstarapostolic on Instagram and on Facebook at facebook

Please call the Church ahead of time to confirm information. Information was correct at the time of print, however, services may have changed since then.

Salt River Public Works Department

Memorial Services & Cemeteries

"Providing a hospitable place to honor loved ones at the end of life's journey."

> Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Main Office Located at: Memorial Hall 9849 East Earll Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85256

For Any Questions Call: (480) 278-7050

CONTRACTED MORTUARIES

Bunker Family Funerals & Cremation (480) 964-8686 Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home (602) 840-5600

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES DEADLINE AT NOON

MARCH 6 MARCH 20 APRIL 3

FEBRUARY 21 MARCH 7 MARCH 21

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SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov For more information please call (480) 362-7750.

O'odham Action News February 20, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT ADDRESS: 10040 EAST OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 CONTACT: (480) 362-6315 ALL JUVENILE COURT CASES REPORT TO COURTROOM #3 ON THE 1ST FLOOR. FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR **RIGHTS**

Antone Sr., Nicholas Levi -Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-24-0218 Court Date: March 6, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Baptisto, Nathaniel – Permanency Hearing and QRTP Hearing Mother: Carolynda Namoki (DOB 04/07/1991) Minor: F.P.V (DOB: 11/12/2010) Case: J-13-0087, Court Date: March 31, 2025 9 a.m.

Valencia, Victor - Permanency Hearing and QRTP Hearing Mother: Carolynda Namoki (DOB 04/07/1991) Minor: A.S.V (DOB: 03/30/2008) Case: J-13-0086 Court Date: March 31, 2025 9 a.m.

Wahpeta, April Francine - Permanency/Review Hearing Case: J-23-0027/0028/0029 Court Date: February 25, 2025 at 9 a.m.

CIVIL COURT JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA **INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT** ADDRESS: 10040 EAST OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 CONTACT: (480) 362-6315 CIVIL COURT CASES REPORT TO COURTROOM #1/#2 ON THE 1ST FLOOR. **FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS**

Alvarez-Gage, Analisha Rosa Mae - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0597 Court Date: March 13,

Evangelista, Raphael Daniel and Howard, Mollie Christine - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0789 Court Date: March 24, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Gutierrez Carlos, Samantha Helen Martinez - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0593 Court Date: March 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM Hayes, Ariana Persuasia - Entry of Default Judgement

2025 at 10 AM

1st Quarter 2025 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE March 31, 2025

Must be eighteen (18) years old, enrolled, and living to be eligible for the April 2025 Per Capita Payment.

DEADLINES FOR CHANGES

Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes: Thursday, March 27 at 5:00 PM. This

10:30 AM

deadline is for new start-ups for direct deposit or changes to existing information. All forms MUST be submitted with a "VOIDED" check or statement from the bank with the Routing and Account Numbers. Forms received by this date will be effective for the APRIL 2025 payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the JULY 2025 payout.

Andreas, Marie Leann - Civil Complaint Hearing Case:

Bandin, Elleno - Initial Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-

Curtis, Bryan Frank - Restraining Order Hearing Case:

CV-25-1346 Court Date: March 17, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Case: CV-24-6558 Court Date: March 17, 2025 at 9 AM

Jackson Sr., Adam Brian - Vehicle Forfeiture Hearing

Case: CV-25-0338 Court Date: March 13, 2025 at

0763 Court Date: March 17, 2025 at 10 AM

CV-25-0605 Court Date: March 10, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Discontinue Direct Deposits: Thursday, March 27th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is to discontinue an existing direct deposit.

***Failing to notify the Per Capita department when an account is closed may delay your Per Capita payment.

Per Capita Eligibility: Monday, April 14th at 5:00PM. This deadline is for submitting the Adult SRP-MIC Member's Per Capita Information Certificate. Forms received by this date will be effective for the APRIL 2025 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of MAY 2025

Lewis, Kaylene Littledove - Child Support Modification

26, 2025 at 10 AM

Hearing Case: CFCS-22-0046 Court Date: February

Lewis, Maria Ernestina - Civil Complaint Hearing Case:

CV-25-0782 Court Date: March 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM

CV-25-0783 Court Date: March 13, 2025 at 9:15 AM

Case: CFCS-20-0024 Court Date: March 11, 2025 at

Ray, Calvin Evans - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-

Smith, Tracy Serina - Initial Visitation Hearing Case: CV-

Surprise T1 LLC, Pag - Vehicle Forfeiture Hearing Case:

CV-25-0338 Court Date: March 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM

25-0854 Court Date: March 24, 2025 at 9:30 AM

24-6345 Court Date: March 12, 2025 at 10 AM

Loring, Dexter Darcy - Civil Complaint Hearing Case:

Ludlow, Ryan - Child Support Modification Hearing

Tax Withholding Changes: Monday, April 14th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is for making changes to "Additional" tax withholding percentage or amount.

Tax forms are available on the Finance Per Capita Intranet Site and can also be requested by e-mailing FINPERCAP1@srpmic-nsn.

If you have any questions regarding:

-Tribal ID, Eligibility & Change Forms: Membership Services @ (480) 362-7600

-Tax Withholding & Direct Deposits: Finance-Per Capita @ (480) 362-7710

DEFAULT NOTICES

HAYES, ARIANA CV-24-6558 **DEFAULT NOTICE**

Sari Torres v. Ariana Hayes

To: Ariana Hayes, RESPONDENT

- 1. A Complaint has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
- 2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
- 3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
- 4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
- 5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are

served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted

6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default)

DATED: February 11, 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

MARRUFO, JUDY CV-24-4198 NOTICE OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT:

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-24-4198

Notice of Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Judy Marrufo is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Respondent Judy Marrufo, shall pay \$11,250.07 to Petitioner, Country Club Cars. Payment shall be made to Petitioner within thirty (30) days of this Order. This order is final and shall be served on Respondent in accordance to Rule 5-20(c).

SALT

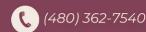


FEBRUARY 3, 2025 TO APRIL 15, 2025

> SENIORS/DISABLED PRIORITY

NO FILING BACK TAXES AND ITEMIZED TAXES

CONTACT



Leave your Full Name & Phone Number.

promptly return your call with further details.

LOCATION

IT'S TAX TIME!

Tax Assistance Program

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 Driver License or Government ID (tax filer & spouse)
- All tax documents (W-2, 1099's, etc.)
- IRS Child Tax Credit letter, if applicable
- Bank Account/Routing number (for direct deposits)

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE Two Waters Building A, 3rd Floor, Suite 300

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER

O'odham Action News dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

Navajo Nominated for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

A familiar name under the first Trump administration has been nominated to serve as assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

William "Billy" Kirkland III is Navajo and has previously served as special assistant to the president and deputy director of Intergovernmental Affairs from 2017-2021.

The secretary role focuses on assisting the Interior secretary in fulfilling the treaty and trust responsibilities to tribes. The nomination was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Aftairs in early February.

Champions for Change Includes O'odham Woman

Lourdes Pereira was named to a 2025 cohort by the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute. Pereira is Tohono O'odham and Hia-Ced O'odham.

Champions for Change launched in 2013 and selects five inspirational young people, age 14 to 24, from across the country. This year's focus includes increased access to justice resources in Native communities.

Pereira is 24 and a graduate of Arizona State University. The other four Champs are from Hawai'i, Alaska, Michigan and Oklahoma.

Katie Hobbs Appoints Arizona **Supreme Court Judge**

An Arizona judge with experience in tribal court will serve on the Arizona's highest court.

In a historic move, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs appointed Judge Marie Elena Cruz in January to fill the vacancy on the state Supreme Court. Cruz previously served on the Arizona Court of Appeals and previously served on the Yuma County Superior Court and on the Cocopah Indian Tribal Court.

Cruz, a Yuma County resident for more than 30 years, will be the first ever Latina and Black Arizonan to sit on the high court.

She fills the vacancy left by the retirement of Justice Robert Brutinel.

Tohono O'odham Nation Signs Co-Stewardship

The Tohono O'odham Nation signed a co-stewardship agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in December for federal lands with cultural and religious ties for the tribe

The co-stewardship is for the Baboquivari and Coyote Mountains, including the Baboquivari Peak Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness areas near the eastern edge of the tribe's land.

The agreement allows the tribe and the federal agency to collaborate on conservation and management efforts for the wilderness area, according to AZ Mirror.

February 20, 2025 14 O'odham Action News

What is Radon?

Submitted by Health and Human Services

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), it is defined: "Radon is a radioactive gas that is as natural as air and water, but it cannot be detected by our senses. You cannot see, smell or taste radon. Radon gas is formed by the natural decay of radium, which results from the decay of uranium. Both radium and uranium are very common elements present in Arizona soils and rock."

Are we immune to it? Do we have radon here? As stated in the definition above, radon is present in Arizona soils and rocks, one home could possibly have slightly elevated radon levels but the close neighbor next door could have zero. To be sure your home does not have radon, testing would need to be done. It is estimated that one in fifteen homes here in Arizona are above the minimal levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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But what does that mean to us here at Salt River and Lehi Communities?

What illness could radon cause?

If radon is present in one's home, it has been linked to lung cancer, but smoking remains to be the highest risk for lung cancer. If radon is present in a home at thresholds above the minimum recommended level, it is equivalent to smoking eight cigarettes a day! When radon is tested in a home, it is recommended the level be 4 pCi/L or lower (pico-curies per liter). According to radon zones here in

Arizona, the EPA has listed Arizona as a Level Two which falls into "Moderate Potential", of where there are three levels, low, moderate and highest. The average for this indoor radon levels may be between 2 and 4 pCi/L. In Arizona, the levels average to 1.6 pCi/L.

That is up to the homeowner or resident. The ADHS does offer "free" radon test kits but you have to request one online, www.azdhs.gov then enter "radon" in the search window. There are instructions on how to set up the canister for testing, follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer. When conducting home radon testing, the canisters should not be placed in at-

So should your home be tested?

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tics or crawlspaces, it needs to sample the living areas. You are also advised not to place close to the floor or near open windows or doors. Normally only one testing device is sufficient. There are also private contractors who will conduct the testing for a fee. There is a short term test and a long term test. The short term takes approximately 48-hours, the canister is returned to an approved lab and they provide you the results in about one week. The long term test can take 30-91 days under normal living conditions.

If you do order a free test kit and would like assistance, please contact our office, Environmental Health, and a staff member will provide you support. The office phone number is 480-362-5706.



What is Radon? According to the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), it is defined: "Radon is a radioactive gas that is as natural as air and water, but it cannot be detected by our senses. You cannot see, smell or taste radon. Radon gas is formed by the natural decay of radium, which results from the decay of uranium. Both radium and uranium are very common elements present in Arizona soils and rock."

To be sure your home does not have radon, testing would need to be done. It is estimated that one in fifteen homes in Arizona are above the minimal levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- When radon is tested in a home, it is recommended the level be 4 pCi/L or lower (pico-curies per liter)
- Radon can enter your home through cracks in the foundation.
- Should your home be tested? That is up to you, AZDHS offers "free" radon test kits at "azdhs.gov"
- If you order a free test kit and would like assistance, please contact us for assistance.



CONTACT

Public Health - Environmental Health (480) 362-5706 EnvironmentalHealth@srpmic-nsn.gov

Senior Services Celebrated the Completion of First Hula for Heart Health Session



Senior Services celebrated the completion of its first Hula for Heart Health session on Dec. 2, complete with a luau-inspired lunch. Watch for a new session in the spring!

Senior Services Health & Wellness Manager Celinda

Joe thanking facilitators Celina Mahinalani Garza and Alicia Ku'uleinani Garza with a Toby Toodles towel.

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR SERVICES

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Senior Services celebrated the completion of its first session of Hula for Heart Health with a luau-inspired luncheon on Dec. 2.

Facilitators Celina Mahinalani Garza and Alicia Ku'uleinani Garza led a final class and then demonstrated other hulas and led a hands-on sharing of traditional Hawaiian instruments, including how each is made and when it is used.

Each class member was presented with a certificate of completion and treated to a Hawaiian-favorites lunch served by the Garza sisters.

The class was part of the Senior Services Health & Wellness programs.

"Celina reached out, and after I heard the benefits of the program for our seniors and that they had a chair option for our seniors who have challenges standing for longer periods of time, it seemed a great fit for our program," said Celinda Joe, Health and Wellness manager. "In addition to the many health benefits, there is a great interest among our seniors in Hawaiian culture,

so we knew it would be popular."

Hula for Heart Health uses traditional hula movements and meaning to increase physical activity, lower blood pressure and stress, and calm the mind and spirit.

"We were excited to bring our program to Salt River. We wanted to bring Native elders back into the community after Covid and back to their health. Many developed a habit of staying at home, but studies show that being around others and learning helps them feel happier," said Mahinalani Garza. "Because this community is more active than some of our other Native communities, with activities like yoga and tai chi, they were eager to learn something new and moved more quickly through the steps because they were so excited."

The class participants were the first among all the groups to learn a complete

"I wasn't sure what to expect when they first said hula, but I tried it, and I'm sure glad I did. The instructors were so good, and they were so knowledgeable. Very patient. We went over it a few steps at a time and if we wanted to go over it

five times, they would go over five times," said Esther Moyah, participant. "My favorite part was learning the culture, the hand movements, and what they mean—how you wake up in the morning and move your body as you bless everyone and everything. I still do it every morning even though class is over, and I know a few of the other ladies are as well," she said.

Joe and class members hope to continue the program in the spring or summer.

"We are always looking for ways to add interest and variety to our fitness offerings, which also include Enhance Fitness, tai chi, yoga, and aquatic fitness," said Joe. "This was a wonderful introduction to hula and a sharing of culture. The class really enjoyed it, and we hope to continue with the program in some form in the spring."

The program is funded by a grant from the Strong Heart Study.

To learn more about Senior Services Health & Wellness activities, contact Celinda Joe at 480.876.7180 or celinda.joe@ srpmic-nsn.gov.



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.

CURRENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

VIEW FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND APPLY ONLINE AT SRMATERIALS.COM

Cement

Electrical Technician I

Clarkdale, AZ

Electrical Engineer

Clarkdale, AZ

Project Engineer

Clarkdale, AZ

Pozzolans

Facility Operator I-IV

Huntington, UT (Huntington Facility)

MISSION

Creating Opportunities and Solutions with Quality Products and Exceptional People

VALUES

Profitability the Right
Way...Integrity, Accountability,
Excellence

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 employees.

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.

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

www.srmaterials.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in room 3104 (Cloud), 3rd floor of RPHC. This free, confidential, and safe group of individuals support one another by utilizing their collective experiences and learned wisdom. This gathering is for adults diagnosed with diabetes. For more information, contact (480) 362-3355

SENIOR BOOK CLUB, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 at the Tribal Library at WOLF.

TAI CHI FOR SENIORS, Tuesdays 9-10 a.m. at WOLF Senior Room and Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Senior Services North Annex. Join Senior Services for tai chi, an ancient Chinese martial art used today as an effective moving meditation that improves the health of the mind and body. All abilities and fitness levels are welcome. For community seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs. Questions? Call 480.362.6350.

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!

WATER AEROBICS AT WAY OF LIFE FACIL-ITY 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

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP, First and Third Wednesdays of each month from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. at RPHC 3rd Floor, Room 3104. Contact (480) 362-6948 for more information.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP,

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at RPHC. Women's meetings held on Tuesdays, men's meetings held Wednesdays.

WELLBRIETY 12 STEP AND MEDICINE

wheel, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Wellbriety is a Native American recovery fellowship that blends spiritual practice with the 12-Step program. Its approach to recovery focuses on healing and is rooted in the Teachings of the Medicine Wheel, the Cycle of Life, and the Four Laws of Change. Wellbriety emphasizes creating new thought patterns, attitudes, and feelings about sobriety based on traditional concepts and Native American teachings.

TALKING CIRCLE FOLLOWING WELLBRI-

ETY, Wednesdays and Fridays 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Following the Wellbriety session, participants are invited to join the Talking Circle to share insights and experiences related to living in recovery and honoring traditional practices, including fellowship, community, and connection. Talking Circle sessions also take place every Wednesday and Friday, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

WARRIOR'S SUPPORT CIRCLE, 2nd Thursday Warrior's Support Circle is a talking circle aimed at offering our Veterans a safe space to meet and share their life experiences, challenges, and successes. The circle offers a free, confidential space for members to take steps towards recovery by gaining insight from others and learning more about PTSD, adjustment issues after reintegration into the civilian world, and to discuss general challenges that accompany service in the military.

CRAFT COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING, Support group for families of loved ones battling substance

abuse/addiction/dependance. Fridays 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at RPHC Room 3106 (3rd Floor) For More Information please contact Shea Hinton at (480) 362-2739

SALT RIVER VOCATIONAL REHABILITA-

TION ORIENTATION, Bi-weekly on Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Human Resources, Two Waters Building B. Walk-ins welcomed! Contact (480) 362-2650 for more information.

PRESBY PICKINS' FLEA MARKETS, 1st

Saturday of Nov, Dec, and Feb – April from 8am-2pm at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 13001 Fountain Hills Blvd. 50+ vendors, food carts, & music. Shop for toys, collectibles, household items, jewelry, art, crafts, & more! Visit www.fhpresbyterian. info/fleamarket, call 480-779-8115.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OPEN ENROLL-

MENT, through March 31. Are you considering a change to your Medicare plan? Need help navigating your options? Call River People Health Center at (480) 362-6880 for more information.

'AUPPA 'I'IVAGIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XVIK FEBRUARY

20 CM SCABBY / CM DALLAS DISTRICT F

& G MEETING, 6 p.m. at Lehi Community Center. Please visit https://tinyurl.com/ SRPMICDMs for more information.

21 ANNUAL VETERANS OPEN HOUSE, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Round House Café 100

p.m. – 4 p.m. at Round House Café 10047 E Osborn Rd Scottsdale, 85256. Call 480-362-7884 for more information.

MENT, See ad on page 18 or call (480) 362-5785 for more information. 22 SRPMIC FREE FARMER'S MARKET, 9

21-22 JR. HIGH BASKETBALL TOURNA-

a.m. – 12 p.m. at Helping Hands parking lot 10213 E Osborn Rd Scottsdale, 85256. Fresh vegetables available for first 200.

24 CM DOKA DISTRICT C MEETING, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. Please visit https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs for more

information.

25 AND 27 EXTENDED TRIBAL ID HOURS CM, Community Development Department - Office of Membership is offering

extended hours, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Call (480)

362-7330 for more information. 26 WALK-IN WEDNESDAYS WITH WIC,

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at SRPMIC WIC Office. Whether you're a current WIC client or curious about how WIC can support your family, our friendly team is ready to help! Join us for Walk-In Wednesdays and get the resources you need, including nutrition support, breastfeeding resources, and much more to help your family thrive. Questions? Call us at (480) 362-7300 or email WIC@srpmic-nsn.gov

27 CM BUTLER / CM FULWILDER COM-BINED DISTRICTS A & D MEETING, 6

p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. Please visit https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs for more information.

28 CHICKEN SCRATCH DANCE, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Salt River Community

 9:30 p.m. at Salt River Community Building. Featured band: D Faktion Nye.
 Free and open to all. Call (480) 362-6600 for more information.

MARCH

1 READ ACROSS SALT RIVER, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Early Childhood Education Center Playground 4. Join the Early Childhood Education Center for the second annual literacy event. Free and open to all. Lunch will be provided for the first 200 people. Call (480) 362-2200 for more information.

4 SALT RIVER SCHOOLS COMMUNITY

FORUM, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at ALA Cafeteria. Supper with the Super event. Salt River Schools students, staff, families and Community members are invited to have dinner with Acting Superintendent Sheryl Houston and Division leadership. A free meal will be provided while supplies last. Call (480) 362-2500 for more information.

12-14 ECHOES OF THE AKIMEL MURAL

FEST, the three-day Youth Services event takes place at the Way of Life acilitiy and various locations in the Community. Call (480) 362-6390 for more information.