



SRPMIC, Other Tribes Attend Appropriations Subcommittee Public Witness Hearings in D.C.



President Martin Harvier speaks at the American Indian and Alaska Native public witness hearings in Washington, D.C., in February.



LEFT: President Martin Harvier with U.S. Rep. David Schweikert from Arizona. RIGHT: Council member Michael Dallas Sr. with U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Photos Courtesy of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.



BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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The Committee on Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies subcommittee hosted American Indian and Alaska Native public witness hearings in Washington, D.C., on February 25 and 26.

The hearings brought together tribal leaders to testify on issues and policy priorities for fiscal year 2026.

In a press release, House appropriations committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK), who is Chickasaw, and subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) reiter-

ated their commitment to working towards upholding the country's trust and treaty obligations and ensuring strong investments to address critical needs.

"As the first Native American to lead the House Appropriations Committee, Tribal issues and America's trust and treaty responsibilities remain central to my policy decisions," said Cole. "...the testimony spoke to the heart of strides made and challenges that remain throughout Indian Country. Sharing these perspectives educates members and the public, and I have also been in contact with the administration on central facets and duties to Tribal

communities."

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier represented the Community at the hearings and spoke about a variety of funding priorities for the FY 2026 federal budget. Harvier focused on programs serving tribal governments including the Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, along with other granting agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency.

In one recommendation offered for consideration for FY 2026 appropriations for the IHS, Harvier

Continued on page 2

**Tribal Communities
Unite Together for Two
Spirit Powwow**

Page 6

**Salt River Schools
Hosts Community
Forum**

Page 8

**Vah'ki Art Gallery
Opens in Phoenix**

Page 10

And more!

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Calls for Action at Vigil Honoring Emily Pike

Editors Note: This story contains sensitive subject matter that readers may find upsetting.

BY KARI HAAHR
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"Justice for Emily," they demanded as the group marched down a busy street, their unified chants carrying over the background of car horns honking in support in north Mesa, Arizona. At the front of the group, a large flag read, "No more stolen sisters."

They gathered the evening of March 4 to remember 14-year-old Emily Pike through a vigil and walk, just south of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. The young San Carlos Apache girl was last seen alive in January at that intersection of Mesa Drive and McKellips Road near her group home.

Continued on page 13



ABOVE: A memorial was set up for Pike at the intersection where she was last seen. RIGHT: Candles, stuffed bears, messages of prayer and other gifts were laid down at the memorial.



SRPMIC Celebrates Glen Law

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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Glen Law's legacy in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community extends far beyond his office on the third floor of Two Waters Building A.

He began working as the budget officer for SRPMIC in 2007 and would later receive director of Administration responsibilities. It was a role that resulted in Law being involved in every budget aspect in the SRPMIC. "I got [budgets] from the [SRPMIC] president to a temporary secretary, and everything in between," he shared in a January sit-down interview with *O'odham Action News*.

Fast forward 18 years, Law's final day of employment was on February 28, and he now enjoys retirement with his family and loved ones. Community member Rueben Malin took over Law's Administration duties for the SRPMIC.

Even as he was on the doorstep of retirement, Law still fondly remembered his first week of employment with a hearty smile and detailed how it would ultimately become a preview of the next 18 years for him and his family. "It was administrative professionals week, and I could not believe how well we were treated. [We went to] lunch at Monti's La Casa Vieja by the Community. That feeling of gratitude and thanks continues today."

He continued, "I learned a great deal working with all departments and Administration staff. Assisting with the programming, planning and management of the many and varied programs while always trying to use appropriate (other) financial resources first and conserve Community funds was a very rewarding experience."

Working for SRPMIC wasn't just a career or a job, it was where he discovered his destiny. So much so that Law admitted that last 18 years went quickly. "I still feel like I'm the new guy because there's so much left to do."

When asked if he could start over again, what would he do differently? "I would have sought out opportunities to work for the Community sooner," he admitted.

But like all good things, they must

Continued on page 11



Glen Law and Emily King embrace each other at Law's retirement ceremony in February.

SRPMIC, Other Tribes Attend Appropriations Subcommittee Public Witness Hearings in D.C.

urged Congress to make it clear that the IHS must be permanently exempt from across-the-board funding freezes, hiring freezes, workforce reduction efforts, sequestrations and rescissions.

“Most recently, we understand that the IHS may be included in efforts to trim the federal workforce by terminating employees still in their probationary period,” said Harvier. “This would be devastating to Indian Country and comes at a time when there is already a more than 30% vacancy rate in critical positions across the IHS.”

The IHS is the only federally funded service providing direct patient care that is not exempt from sequestration, which are automatic spending cuts that occur through the withdrawal of funding for certain government programs. (Indian Health Service is an agency under Health and Human Services.)

“...Chronic underfunding of the Indian health system has had detrimental impacts on our communities,” said Harvier, noting that American Indians

and Alaska Natives are disproportionately affected by preventable chronic health conditions.

Harvier continued, “In our Community, these impacts directly result in an average life expectancy of just 55 years. Just across the reservation border in Scottsdale, Arizona, the average life expectancy is 85 years. We can, and must, do better.”

Regarding the Department of the Interior efforts, the SRPMIC made several recommendations, including that Congress should provide additional funding for Indian land consolidation efforts and that the BIA must acknowledge staffing issues and reduce realty transaction approval delays.

Due to staffing shortages, the local BIA Agency Office, the Salt River Agency (SRA), is covering two agencies (Pima and Salt River) and is present at SRA only one day per week, according to Harvier.

As a result, approval for rights-of-way regularly exceeds the 60-day

timeframe required under 25 CFR § 169.123, causing significant delays for infrastructure and economic projects.

“Wait times have significantly worsened since mid-2020, with no clear justification from BIA for the excessive review timelines,” said Harvier.

Harvier recommended a renewed support for the Land Buy-Back Program (LBBP), which ended in 2022, leaving tribes without a dedicated federal funding source for land consolidation efforts.

“The SRPMIC has over 1,000 active allotments within the Community boundaries, with almost half being considered highly fractionated (50 or more owners),” said Harvier.

“Without continued land consolidation, fractionation will increase, complicating land management and probates.”

While in Washington, Harvier met with U.S. Reps. Greg Stanton (AZ-04) and David Schweikert (AZ-01).

SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr. also met with newly appointed Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The two were photographed with Kennedy holding a hat that says, “SRPMIC ‘5 In 5,’” referring to the Community’s goal to increase the average lifespan of the Community by five years within five years.

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis also represented O’odham by testifying the GRIC’s needs, which include legislative language to support expansion of a school, funding for the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Section 105(l) Lease Program and \$5 million to implement the Gila River Indian Community Federal Rights-of-



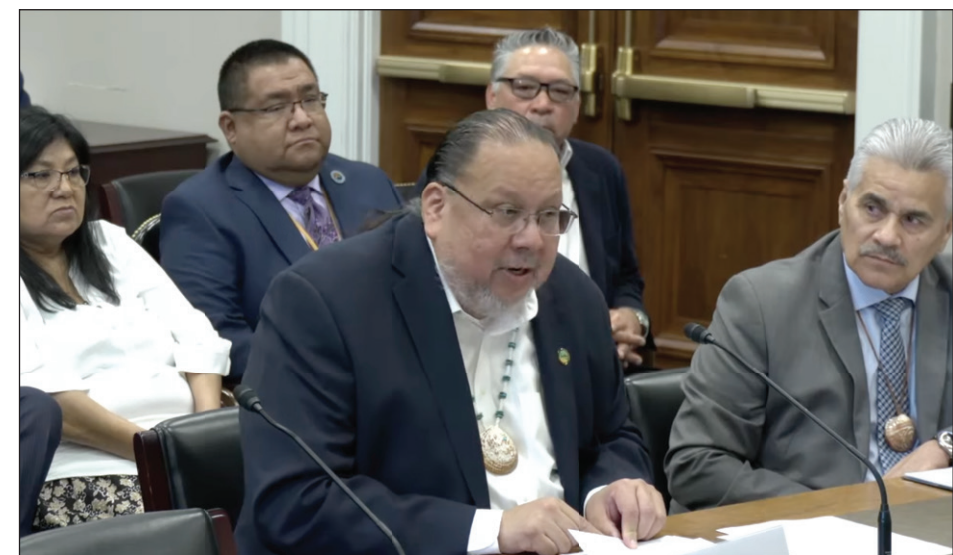
President Martin Harvier with U.S. Rep. Greg Stanton in Washington, D.C. Photo Courtesy of Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Way, Easements and Boundary Clarification Act.

In his conclusion, Lewis addressed the Committee about the recent freezes within the U.S. Government under the Trump administration.

“The community would also like to take this opportunity to note for the committee the substantial turmoil that the recently announced and unannounced freezes on federal funding have had on our community and Indian Country as a whole,” said Lewis.

He continued, “Funding for tribal programs is statutorily authorized and appropriated and upholds the federal trust responsibility for tribes. Our relationship with the federal government is a political one, government-to-government, and we hope that the Committee can take such steps as are appropriate to ensure that the turmoil and confusion that has resulted from the freezes that were announced or implied, is ended and funding that you appropriate is delivered timely to the tribes for which it is intended.”



Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis also testified in February.

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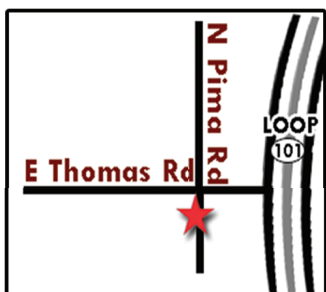
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Meldon Fulwilder (front, far right) gathered with friends and supporters on February 22 to celebrate the release of Leonard Peltier. Photos courtesy of Su:k Fulwilder.

Community Members Moved by Leonard Peltier's Call at Gathering

was to stand before a parole board, Fulwilder and other supporters gathered to hear speakers and traditional singers with a prayer potluck.

This time around, there is something for supporters to celebrate. Even if Peltier is not free to travel outside of his home, there was a sense of relief among supporters in the Community.

Louise "Gurley" Shaw said she could feel the energy of all the people who were at the gathering.

"They had a powwow drum. That was powerful and strong," said Shaw, who felt empowered by seeing and hearing Peltier on the phone.

Other performances at the gathering included O'odham singers (social), San Lucy Dancers, Pascua Yaqui Deer Dancers, Grupo Yolloincuahutli "Heart of the Eagle", Aaron White and Keith Secola.

SRPMIC member Orleen Mercado was delighted to see children on the ground at the event being "just dusty, dirty and so full of fun and acceptance."

Mercado said that something special happened to her at the gathering. She saw how the dogs interacted with the kids and how wildlife existed in the space.

"I don't know if anyone noticed how many times hawks were circling above us during that time," said Mercado. "It was a complete unity of people and the land. A lot of times I go to gatherings, and [you] see people there... talking in little groups here and there... but at this event, everyone was sitting in a common area."

Her son Koda Mercado said that hearing Peltier speak to Community members was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "It was a pretty significant event for me. Very eye-opening," he said.

Peltier was convicted of aiding and abetting in the murder of two federal officers during a shooting on the Pine



A child stands in front of an altar dedicated to Leonard Peltier.

Ridge Indian Reservation on June 26, 1975. To this day, Peltier has maintained his innocence.

The shootout was a continuation of political violence that gained steam because of the circumstances leading up to the 71-day Wounded Knee occupation of 1973. When Richard Wilson was elected as tribal chairman, many members of the tribe criticized his leadership and what they felt was corruption. Wilson formed a private militia called Guardians of the Oglala Nation (GOONs), who clashed with tribal members and AIM members on the reservation.

In 1975, Peltier and a small group of AIM members were asked by members of the Reservation to set up camp on a ranch owned by the Jumping Bull family, where the shooting took place.

Salt River Connection

Many people in the Community and in the Phoenix area may not be aware of the close connection Peltier has with Salt River, SRPMIC elder Meldon Fulwilder said.

When they were younger, several elders from the Community were involved in American Indian Movement activities that occurred before the incidents that led to Peltier's imprisonment.

Fulwilder and many other elders have known Peltier on a personal level for decades. The other elders include Angelo "Angel" Martinez (bot), Spencer "Bone" Fulwilder, Jeremiah Eschief (bot), David Montiel, Alida "Earth Feather" Montiel (bot), Leon Manuel, Valentino "Buddy" Burns and Brandon "Chatham" Scott (bot).

Fulwilder said he met Peltier while traveling to a sun dance in the 1970's. Fulwilder had just stayed at Camp Red Wind in California with a medicine man who helped provide a sober space and educate young Native Americans on traditional ways.

"From Camp Red Wind, we were able to go to different places like sun dances and traveled to as far as Washington to help set up places for gatherings," recalled Fulwilder. "...during that time, I don't even know how, but I ran into Leonard, and we just became part of his group of guys that he had with him."

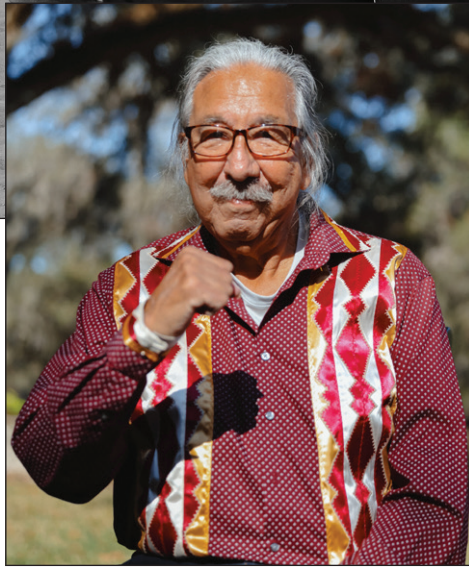
Fulwilder remembers Peltier sticking up for him and other people he was with while they were both at Leonard Crow Dog's camp.

"I got to know him because we were traveling together. I would talk to him and all that," said Fulwilder.

Fulwilder said that he didn't get to talk to Peltier at this recent gathering because so much was going on that he didn't even think about it.

But he understood Peltier's message that it's the youth's turn to step up and get an education so they can make a difference in their communities.

"It's going to be even rougher now, with who we've got in office," he said, referring to the Trump administration. "If they're going to go after mineral rights, and they're going to be hitting the reservations, then there might be another Standing Rock somewhere."



Native American activist and member of the American Indian Movement (AIM) Leonard Peltier is home in North Dakota after serving two consecutive terms of life imprisonment. Photo courtesy of NDN Collective.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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Native American activist and member of the American Indian Movement (AIM) Leonard Peltier is finally home, after two consecutive terms of life imprisonment commuted to indefinite house arrest by President Joe Biden on January 20, in one of Biden's last acts of his presidency.

AIM is a grassroots movement founded in 1968 to address systemic issues facing Native Americans.

According to a statement from Biden, "The commutation enabled Peltier to spend his remaining days in home confinement but will not pardon him for his underlying crimes."

Peltier is from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota near Manitoba, Canada, border. He was released from federal prison in Florida on February 18 after nearly 50 years.

A celebration of Peltier's release was held a few days later on February 22 at Meldon Fulwilder's residence in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Peltier called in on Facetime to surprise supporters who were at the gathering.

"I want to say to you, thank you very much. I heard every word you all [said] to try to get me out. I'm very, very grateful," Peltier told supporters. "I can't express that enough. You're good people. You're good allies. We all love you as brothers and sisters. I can't say enough."

Activist Norman Brown (Diné) spoke at the gathering about Peltier's years behind bars.

"What an incredible spirit that is to wake up each day knowing that you can't see the stars or see the sunrise," said Brown. "You can't feel the rain. You can't feel that wind. You can't walk on Mother Earth. Regardless of all that, he stood strong for us. Now, it's our turn to continue with that fight for our lands, for our way of life, for our [languages]."

Over the years, Peltier's supporters in the SRPMIC have held prayer gatherings for Peltier's release. On June 9, 2024, the night before Peltier

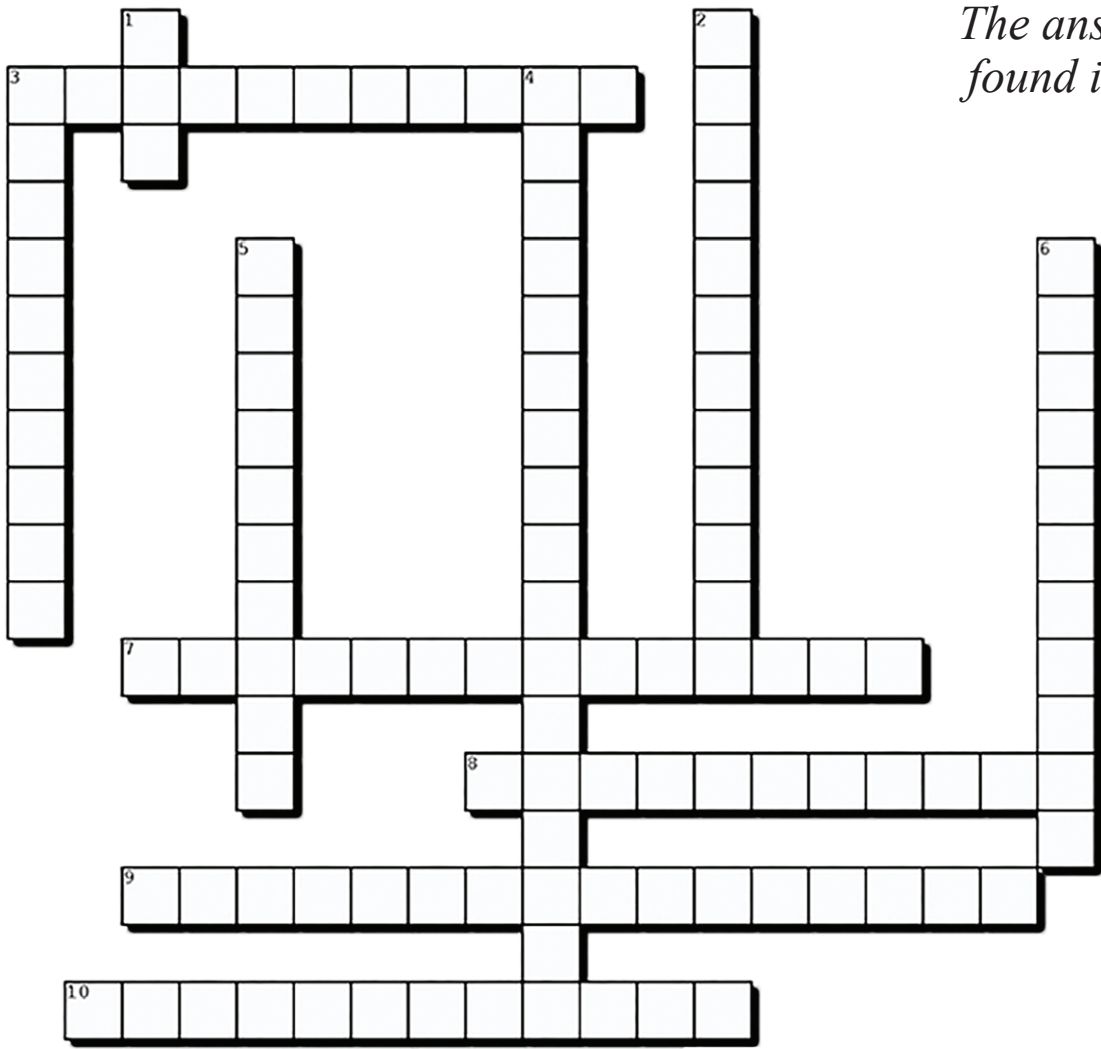


Community members wave at Leonard Peltier during a surprise Facetime call.

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!



Across

3. Name of the location of the Vah'ki gallery
7. Native American activist and member of the American Indian Movement
8. SRPMIC Roads Maintenance Supervisor
9. SRPMIC Public Health Nurse
10. Tohono O'odham Nation artist who created "Aci:m Tohono Toka Ha-Ciciwidam"

Down

1. Number of community colleges in Maricopa County
2. The first Indigenous educator to be named Arizona's Teacher of the Year
3. Total number of NABI teams this year
4. The name of Shannon Reina's dish
5. Received an honorable mention from the Heard Museum in a basket category for their work called 'Free Flowing.'
6. Founder of the Two Spirit Powwow

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Tribal Communities Unite Together for Two Spirit Powwow

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

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Before colonization, Two Spirit people were held in high regards. Originating from the Ojibwe words, "niizh manitoag" (two spirits), Two Spirit people have been respected as fundamental components of ancient teachings, cultures and traditions within tribal communities across Indian Country since the beginning of time.

The phrase Two Spirit is believed to have originated in 1990 in Winnipeg, Canada, during the third annual Native American/First Nations Gay and Lesbian Conference. It was chosen to distinguish Indigenous/First-Nation peoples from non-Natives as today's societal standards are rooted in colonization and look down upon feminine males/masculine females.

The term continues to be reclaimed by Indigenous people across Turtle Island. Honoring and embracing the words Two Spirit and its people is an act of decolonization.

Another way is through celebrations like powwows.

On February 22, the concepts converged as the Phoenix Indian Center held its fourth-annual Two Spirit Powwow on the campus of South Mountain Community College. Officially the oldest Indian center in the United States, Jolyaya Begay-Kroupa, its chief executive officer, welcomed guests and families to the powwow. The event brought together many individuals, committees, local colleges, pageant royalty, businesses and food vendor booths throughout the Phoenix Valley and Indian Country.

"We're so happy to be in partnership with our relatives, community organizers and supporters who are passionate and want to be allies to our LGBTQIA2 community," she stated. "From an Indigenous lens, we are all relatives, it's important we support each other all the time," she finished as she bid farewell in her Navajo language.

Following the welcoming, Travis May, an academic dean for South Mountain Community College, thanked everyone in attendance and stated how proud he was that the college was able to host the event. "Our staff worked really hard to get everything setup, we really appreciate the collaboration," he said. May also gave his appreciation to the college's American Indian Student Center for assisting with the event.

This year's head staff for the powwow included:

- Co-Chair: Navi Ho
- Founder: Sheila Lopez
- Arena Director: Buffalo Barbie
- Head Elder Dancer: Trudie Jackson
- Head Dancer: River Webb
- Head Dancer: Mylyle Ethelbah
- Head Drums 1: Maswadae (Northern)
- Head Drums 2: Heartland Express (Southern)
- Co-Emcee: Ryan Miguel
- Co-Emcee: Landa Lakes

"I am a mom, I have three children and in 2009 my two oldest came out as gay when they were in high school and I had no understanding of the community," said Sheila Lopez, founder of the Two Spirit Powwow. "When I found out, I wasn't welcoming. I didn't understand, I had lots of questions and was confused. This hurt my children. My children were ready to educate me on how they felt, and how they feel in their hearts," she said. "I am so grateful for my children; they brought me to this beautiful community."

With her newfound perspective on life thanks to her children, Lopez created a chapter for Native PFlag in 2010. The national non-profit is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQIA2+ people and those who love them.

"There was no Native American-focused chapters," said Lopez to the audience. "I'm filled with so much emotion to see we have created a safe space for everyone. You are safe, you're in a good space, you're a part of our community and we love you."

Representing the Tohono O'odham Nation, Dwight Francisco introduced himself in O'odham and then English. He was given an opportunity to share a few words regarding the importance of a united community. "I said in my language, how happy I am to be here," he began. "To be able to come here and celebrate this way of life we get to live, it's a beautiful experience. I want to acknowledge the land we stand on; I want to acknowledge the Akimel and Piipaash too," he said. "None of us would be here without our Huhugam canal system. When we talk about celebrating this way of life, it takes water of life to allow us to live."

After introductions, Troy Truax, a representative from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Veterans Department, and other veterans led the Presentation of Colors, which included the Salt River flag.

Later, the powwow opened the grounds for dance contests for all ages, which included tiny tots, juniors, teens, adults, and a Two Spirit special.

For information on next year's powwow, interested individuals can contact Katie Morales, Phoenix Indian Center grant development officer, by calling (602) 264-6768 or by emailing kmorales@phxindiancenter.org.



The weather provided ample sunlight throughout the day as many from Indian Country came out to dance, sing, and perform.



The powwow grounds were opened for everyone of all ages to participate following the presentation of colors.



The powwow provided a wonderful opportunity for many relatives to see and visit amongst one another.



Jolyaya Begay-Kroupa, chief executive officer of the Phoenix Indian Center, thanked all for attending the annual powwow.



Dancers and performers from Indian Country attended the powwow to showcase their talents.



Sheila Lopez, founder of the Two Spirit Powwow.



The Two Spirit Powwow saw many Indigenous royalty from throughout Indian Country.

The Two Spirit Powwow has seen an increase of visitors and attendees with each passing event.

Mel Willie, International Two Spirit Ambassador, thanked all for attending and vowed to represent Indian Country proudly.

Co-chair of this year's Two Spirit Powwow, Navi Ho, shared their appreciation to families and loved ones.



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Salt River Schools Hosts Community Forum

BY DALTON WALKER
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Kuamoo said ECEC is “near the finish line” in its expansion as the school operates 17 classrooms - 10 that serve toddlers called Early Head Start and seven Head Start classrooms.

“Before the pandemic we were operating at 22 classrooms,” Kuamoo said. “Our goal for the next school year is to hopefully expand to that pre-pandemic operation level of 22 classrooms.”

The expansion adds six new classrooms, renovations and more office space. A ribbon cutting is planned for May 1. Kuamoo said another goal is to expand to 28 classrooms in the next two years depending on staffing.

McCleney said all teachers are taking an 18-month science and reading course. Once completed, each will get a literacy endorsement on their teaching certificate.

“It’s really to make sure that we refine and have a common language, a common knowledge of how children learn language and learn how to read,” he said.

New language arts curriculum will be implemented next school year, McCleney said.

ALA Principal Barbara Wilkinson said the school has partnered with the East Valley Institute of Technology, or EVIT, which offers Career and Technical Education programs. Students split their day at ALA and EVIT with transportation provided by ALA.

“To put things in perspective, two years ago we had one student attend, this year we had three students attending and for the upcoming school year, we already have seven students that have signed up. So that’s also very exciting in terms of providing that exposure beyond the ALA to help with post-secondary and student interest once they graduate.”

Wilkinson also said students had art and photography work in the annual Heard Museum art market and both pieces sold.



Salt River Schools Superintendent Sheryl Houston.

Get Involved

Superintendent Stakeholder Committee

“The Superintendent Stakeholder Committee isn’t just another meeting: Its where real decisions happen. As Salt River Schools embarks on a new era of strategic planning, we need your input. We need collaborators. We need action. We need you.”

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ECEC Policy Council

The ECEC Policy Council is a group of Head Start and Early Head Start parents/guardians and Community members who help lead and make decisions about their program. Policy Council members are elected by the parents/guardians of children enrolled in the program. Meetings are open to all ECEC families and Community members and held the second Monday each month starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Education Board room.

Early Childhood Education Center expansion project

When: Thursday, May 1

Time: TBD

Where: ECEC

Ed Board Appoints New Superintendent

BY SALT RIVER SCHOOLS

The Salt River Schools Education Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Sheryl Houston as the new Superintendent/Director of Education. Mrs. Houston’s official start date is Sunday, Feb. 23. She has spent more than a year in the board-approved role of Acting Superintendent.

Prior to joining Salt River Schools as the Assistant Superintendent in July 2023, Mrs. Houston spent 23 years in K-8 education as a classroom teacher, middle school assistant principal, principal, and curriculum director, including more than a decade of diverse administrative leadership experience for public and private schools in districts across Illinois, Georgia, Virginia, and Arizona. Mrs. Houston earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Western Illinois University and a Master of Education in educational leadership from George Mason University.

Mrs. Houston’s extensive knowledge of education policy and strategic planning—as

well as her dedication to the day-to-day operations of Salt River Schools and the care she gives to the concerns of staff, families, and the Community—are a few of the many qualities that make her the ideal Superintendent/Director of Education.

“The Education Board is honored that Mrs. Houston has accepted to continue her journey with Salt River Schools,” said Education Board Chair Kyland King. “We are eager for Mrs. Houston to continue to bring Salt River Schools into a brighter future as she updates systems and continues to be an advocate for students, staff, and families. We have seen that Mrs. Houston has the knowledge and compassion to be a difference in the lives of all stakeholders of Salt River Schools.”

Please join the Education Board in welcoming Mrs. Houston to her official role as Superintendent/Director of Education. If you have any questions, please call Salt River Schools at 480-362-2500.

Salt River Schools has new leadership as it navigates through the final months of the 2024-25 school year, and beyond.

Sheryl Houston was named Salt River Schools superintendent in February after serving as acting superintendent for more than a year. Houston hosted a school forum called, “Supper with the Super” at the Accelerated Learning Academy cafeteria on March 4.

“This year,” Houston said, “we have structured them as ‘Supper with the Super’ so that we can come together and enjoy some food and talk about our four focus areas for education, talk about feedback that we received last time from the community forum and to hear from you about what you would like to see moving forward.”

Houston shared the four focus areas for education this school year:

- Cradle-to-Career Services:

“We focus on the academics of your child’s success... How can we work together to provide family support to get kids to school, to get them the resources and support that they need and really tailor and design programming that meets the needs of the students and the families.

- Student and Staff Engagement:

“This is another important focus area for us as well as community engagement.”

- Student and Staff Safety:

“This is a focus area we have been working on.”

- Language and Culture:

“Looking at how can we weave that through the full education experience for our children as well as the staff.”

The Early Childhood Education Center and Salt River Elementary School each have relatively new leadership as well. ECEC Leader Michelle Kuamoo started her role in November and Salt River Elementary School Acting Principal Bryan “Coach” McCleney started his role earlier this year. Kuamoo and McCleney each shared updates at the forum.

Hire EDU
CAREER & EDUCATION Fair

We're in the business of educating futures.
Here, your brilliance shines.

SALT RIVER SCHOOLS

Want a job in education? Salt River Schools has openings for teachers, tutors, bus drivers, and more! **If you are someone with experience or interest in EARLY CHILDHOOD, this career fair is for you!** Several SRPMIC departments will also be on-site recruiting for open positions.

Job Seekers
1-3:30PM

COMPETITIVE PAY & BENEFITS
RESUMÉ & COVER LETTER ASSISTANCE

ON-SITE SCREENING
REVIEW BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

INTERVIEW W/ HIRING MANAGERS ON-THE-SPOT
PROFESSIONAL PORTRAITS

Students & Families
4:30-7:30PM

More than 50 education, Community & business partners will showcase resources & activities, plus a special **Soam Bavi Bowl** will be served for dinner while supplies last.

WIN PRIZES: Youth 18 & under are invited to play “Career BINGO” & “Career Cosplay” (dress as your dream job - get creative)!

Adults: Give your best 30-second elevator speech for a chance to win passes to nearby entertainment, restaurant, or resort venues!

480-362-2500 • SaltRiverSchools.org

THURSDAY APR 3
1-7:30PM
ALA Gymnasium
park in the Highland Ave. lot south of the football field

Diverting Per Capita Revenue to Meet Community Needs

Editor's note: Marley Dallas is in 11th grade at the Accelerated Learning Academy and enjoys graphic design. He is a member of the Young River People's Council, is active in cultural singing and dancing, and is working with the ALA to establish the school's first-ever student culture club.



Marley Dallas.

BY MARLEY DALLAS
SUBMITTED BY SALT RIVER SCHOOL

capita payments also fuel stereotypes that undermine tribal sovereignty.” (Crepelle, 2021) Although people think the reduction of per capita is wrong because people say that they need it, the redistribution in per capita money will help with housing, infrastructure, and economic development.

Many years ago, people lived in mud houses, but eventually, people wanted to move toward brick houses and discouraged this type of building material houses, which they thought were uncivilized. (Cohen Diehl & Diehl, 1996) Today, the housing shortage has devolved to a degree, Native Americans now resort to living in RVs and sheds that they build from scrap wood or a ready-made shed. This type of housing is causing more problems. The community shouldn't overlook the reasonable needs of its members, like housing, for those who need it and have already applied to housing lotteries. The main problem is that having a lottery and housing list still isn't enough to meet the needs of the community. (Ysaguirre, 2024) One benefit of meeting the people's needs for new homes is that it can bring city natives back to the tribal land which would make the tribe prosper.

Lack of infrastructure in tribes is common but making the per capita lower in payments to tribal members would make developing these tribal infrastructures possible. For example, the tribe could build a hospital instead of just a clinic. In addition, convenience stores which sell Native American owned foods, clothing, and essentials for the tribe could be expanded. The tribe could also use per cap money to make roads more accessible to those who don't have them. Furthermore, including more tribal government offices across the community would better fit the people's needs since in just a minute's walk tribal members can attend programs and gain more traditional understanding and learning, and more job access.

Some say that community members need all of the per-cap money for their needs, and tribal members who have per capita should spend their money towards essential needs and responsibilities, but often it's the opposite. (Crepelle, 2021) Some tribal members take advantage of how much money they receive and spend it like there is no tomorrow. For most the good that the money could do is overshadowed by the stereotype of spending it on irresponsible things like alcohol, drugs, gambling, parties or family members who ask for money.

In a recent council meeting members proposed that per capita could be increased and paid monthly, which would have a devastating effect on housing and infrastructure. (Crepelle, 2021) The increase may even collapse the government and the tribe as a whole. Finally, instead of increasing per cap, diverting money away from it could actually allow the tribe to expand its borders by buying surrounding land, which would let the tribe create more opportunities for its members.

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SRS Teacher Inducted into Grand Canyon University's Hall of Fame



Hall of Fame Inductee Lynette Stant (left) poses with College of Education Dean Dr. Meredith Critchfield. Photo courtesy of Grand Canyon University.

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
O'dham Action News
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fame along with three other alumni and an athletic team.

Stant serves on multiple school and district leadership committees, according to a press release.

“Indigenous teachers aren't always asked to sit at the table when it comes to decision making,” Stant said in a statement. “Because I have an advanced degree from GCU, I have been able to walk through some doors that were previously closed for me.”

She continued, “I am truly honored to be in the alumni hall of fame. What it means to me is I am seen — and not just me, but my class work as an Indigenous teacher.”

Honoring Native Vietnam Veterans



A photo from the 2024 Native Vietnam Veterans Memorial Program. Photo by Chris Picciuolo.

SUBMITTED BY SRPMIC VETERAN SERVICES

Vietnam Veterans Day is a significant occasion to honor and remember the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War. In our community, we have about 70 Vietnam veterans whose sacrifices and contributions have shaped the fabric of our community. Their stories of courage, resilience, and dedication deserve to be highlighted and celebrated.

As we honor the upcoming day celebrated annually on March 29, this year marks the 52nd anniversary. It is essential to acknowledge the unique experiences of our Native Vietnam veterans. From their time spent in the jungles of Vietnam to their return home, each veteran carries a story that illustrates the complexities and

challenges of war. By sharing these stories or listening to them, we not only pay homage to their service but also educate future generations about the significance of honoring those who have served. If you know a Vietnam veteran, please take a moment to express your gratitude and encourage them, reminding them that we are still here to support and celebrate their contributions.



Vah'ki Art Gallery Opens in Phoenix

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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Vah'ki features artwork from over 20 Native artists (more than half are O'odham), including Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members Dwayne Manuel and Penrose Fulwilder, SRPMIC resident Thomas "Breeze" Marcus and SRPMIC employees Amy Davila, Chandra Narcia and Natasha "Rezmo" Martinez. Some of the artwork is for sale.

According to Breeze, the space is owned by local 501(c)(3) organization ArtLink. The space was not going to be used during the month of March, so he timed it just right and asked if he could open a temporary gallery.

Breeze and Manuel had been kicking the idea of the gallery around for a while and both took the wheel and handpicked local artists to coordinate with.

"I'm the curator, the installer and the janitor," joked Breeze.

The timing of the opening of the gallery was intentional, he said.

"What I noticed going to the Heard Market and a lot of Native market fairs, you don't see a strong O'odham representation there," said Breeze, acknowledging the handful of talented O'odham artists who participate at Heard each year.

As Vah'ki opened its doors officially, many familiar faces began arriving through the entrance. There was a comforting sense of family that resonated around the room.

The vibe was chill; and cumbia and Peruvian chicha-inspired instrumental band LA LOM could be heard over the speakers as people congregated.

One piece of art that stood out was "Aci:m Tohono Toka Ha-Ciciwidam" by Tohono O'odham Nation artist Seneca Ortega.

The canvas is rich in purple and blue colors, representing the Tohono O'odham Nation flag. Four toka players are the main focus, with past toka players looking down from the stormy sky. Toka is a traditional game played by O'odham females.

Ortega is a student of Manuel's at Tohono O'odham Community College, where Manuel is an art instructor.

"He's inspirational because, knowing that he's O'odham and who he is in the art world, all the stuff he's done as I've gotten to know him, I thought to myself, 'I want to do something like that,'" she said. "I want to carry that 'O'odhamness' about yourself out there and show people this is who I am, this is who we are. We're here."

Ortega said she's pretty much a self-taught artist. This was one of her

first times working with acrylics and canvas. She usually uses graphite, markers, pencils and pens.

"I'm still diving in headfirst," said Ortega, who has been in recovery from drugs and alcohol for a little over three years. "This is a part of my wellbeing. Just the power that it gives me. That's what I want to express. This is a tribute to my Tohono O'odham toka sisters. This is for them."

Vah'ki is available to view through March 30.

Vah'Ki Artists

~
Dwayne Manuel
Audrey Pekala
Penrose Fulwilder
Missy Mahan
Jivik Siiki
Joshua Yazzie
Zachary Justin
Cora Quiroz
Jetsonorama
Gloria Martinez-Granados
Savage Skins
Antoinette Cauley
Marco Albarran
Amy Davila
Chandra Narcia
Martin Moreno
Natasha "Rezmo" Martinez
Bobby "Dues" Wilson
Seneca Ortega
Douglas Miles
Piersten Doctor
Thomas "Breeze" Marcus

While the Heard Museum was gearing up for the 67th Annual Indian Fair & Market on traditional O'odham land in Phoenix, a strong O'odham presence was felt just a few blocks away at the opening reception for the new gallery called Vah'ki, on February 27.

Vah'ki (ancient house or pit house) is an O'odham word that refers to specific ancestral villages that once flourished throughout the Valley. The Vah'ki was a place of gathering for ceremony, trade, games, politics and more.

The gallery is in Phoenix at the Mood Room on 3121 N. 3rd Ave. Suite 100 (inside Park Central).



Dwayne Manuel (left) and Seneca Ortega (middle) posing for a photo with one of the many pieces of art on display at the Vah'ki Art Gallery.

Stay Safe and Healthy with the Public Health Care Kiosks

BY NALANI LOPEZ
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Curious to know what's inside of the large black and yellow kiosks around the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community?

The Public Health Care kiosks provide a wide range of health and safety items, free of charge for Community members.

Items inside the kiosk include condoms, sharp bins, fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips (a tranquilizer in some illegal drugs), Narcan (Naloxone) and Test My Drink (tester for date-rape drugs).

Two new items: pregnancy tests and COVID-19 and flu tests are now available.

"We take recommendations on what Community members would like to see in the kiosk," said Public Health Nurse Lynesha Armstrong. "The last I checked; our most popular item was the COVID-19 self-test."

With the recent addition of the COVID-19 and flu test, users can now test for all three viruses: Influenza A, Influenza B, and COVID-19, through a self-collecting nasal swab.

Since the first public health kiosk in May of 2024, the kiosks have spanned to four outdoor locations: the Two Waters A Roundabout, the Wellness Center, the Accelerated Learning Academy and the Lehi Community Center.

The 24/7 access to the free-of-cost health items allow for flexible and confidential use.

But who has access to the health kiosks?

Kiosk access is available to enrolled Community members registered with an active access code. Access codes are obtained through calling the SRPMIC Public Health Office or by visiting the Wellness Center.

Armstrong says the Public Health's current goal is to increase the amount of people signed-up.



The Public Health Care Kiosks provide an accessible and convenient source of health items for SRPMIC members. Above kiosk is located at the Two Waters A Government Complex Roundabout.

Over the phone, basic demographic information, such as name, date of birth, address and phone number are exchanged. In person paperwork available at the Wellness Center is needed to complete the process and receive the physical access code.

Access codes are non-expirable and can be replaced if lost at the Wellness Center.

How do I use the kiosks?

Once registered, users can visit any of the kiosks throughout the Community.

1. On a touch screen, the "Get Started" button will show the list of available health items (as listed above) in the kiosk.
2. Select the item of choice.
3. In the box labelled "Enter ID Here," type the unique access code.
4. Kiosk will dispense the item of choice below.
5. Once retrieved, select "Got It."
6. Be sure to properly read and follow instructions of item of choice.

*Though products like Narcan nasal spray are equipped to treat suspected overdoses, one should always call 911 for any suspected overdoses.

Community members interested in protecting their health and the Community's health as a whole, can sign up for the Public Health Care kiosks at (480) 362-2603. Stay healthy and on the lookout for in-person table events hosted by Public Health in the future.



After signing up with the Public Health Department, Community members will be given a physical tag with their unique access code (printed on opposite of card).

come to an end. Law's decision to retire was an emotional reveal as many staff and membership in the Community have gotten to know Law and his family very well.

"I learned so many things about the Community and was blessed to spend that time with an amazing group of people," said Law. "It was the 'Right Seat on the Bus' for me. I would encourage the staff to seek out opportunities for professional and personal development for themselves – and get after it – time goes fast! Go talk to people whose opinions you value and trust to help you make good decisions."

On February 25, Law was given a retirement party at the Marriot Banquet Hall. In attendance was Law's father, wife Susie, daughter Rebecca who is a math teacher at the Accelerated Learning Academy, and other family members. SRPMIC Council, directors, management and distinguished guests were also in attendance to bid Law farewell and happy trails.

President Martin Harvier was absent as he was testifying in Washington D.C. before the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee regarding federal funding. He filmed a farewell video to Law and wished him and his family well as the video was played on the ballroom screen. "You're honest and sincere. I hate to see you go, but at the same time, I want to wish you well. Just remember you're always welcome here to the Community. God Bless you," said Harvier.

During the retirement party, SRPMIC Community Manager Bryan Meyers revealed how Law took it upon himself and began educating his colleagues and staff on how to improve their own personal budgets and

finances during lunch. "I didn't tell him to do any of that, he did that all on his own. I think I even took one of your lunch and learns," said Meyers as Law nodded yes.

Throughout the farewell celebration, photos of Law and his administration staff throughout the years played on the ballroom screen which showed their adventures and field trips to Red Mountain, the Casa Grande National Monument, the Verde River area, as well as the Heard Museum.

"It's not a sad day, it's a good day," said Meyers during his speech. "Words escape me. I can't begin to describe how important you've been to this Community. My hat's off, I salute you, my friend. I wish you the very best."

Law received a ceremonial blanket which showcased his years of service and was draped over his shoulders by SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard and Council member Mikah Carlos.

Later, SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler presented Law with a traditional calendar stick he made. The symbols on the staff detail Law's most significant moments in his life, which include his birth, marriage, his daughter's birth and employment with the SRPMIC. "It was my honor to make this for you," shared Butler.

Additional guest speakers included staff from the SRPMIC Veteran's Department, Administration, former SRPMIC Fire Chief Daryl Dash, Dr. Nancy Mangieri, Elisa Pongyesvia and more. Law was continually showered with gifts from guest speakers, colleagues and staff.

When came time to say a few words, Law did what he has been known to do for the past 18 years, he spoke from the

heart and gave his utmost appreciation to the SRPMIC. "It's an honor to be with you here today," he said.

Throughout his speech, Law detailed his personal and professional histories, which included his first year working for SRPMIC being the inaugural year the Community hosted a Veterans Day celebration. "The president and vice-president [at the time] presented us with a medal from the Community. I've never forgotten that," he shared.

As he neared the conclusion of his speech, Law reiterated that he is still one phone call away.

"Today is a great day to reflect to see if you're in the right seat on the bus. If you're in the right seat, great, you nailed it. Use that to see what you can do to help your staff and help the Community. If you're not in the right seat, see what you need to do to get in the right seat. It could be going to school; it could be you want to learn something different; it could be you maxed out where you're at. All that is okay. There are plenty of seats on the bus available here and we need the right people on the bus."

Law will now travel, starting with a trip to Roosevelt Lake with his father, and then a visit to Canada and Alaska with his wife.

The farewell ceremony ended when Leonard performed a traditional send-off song, "Going Home." After his performance, all in attendance shook hands and took group photos with Law, his family and staff.

"Thank you. I wish you all the best of health and I'll see you later," finished Law as he then received a standing ovation from all in attendance.



Glen Law's family were in attendance to help celebrate his achievements. From L to R: Law's daughter Rebecca, Glen Law and wife Susie.



Glen Law was gifted a traditional calendar stick, made by SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler.



SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard and Council member Mikah Carlos draped a ceremonial blanket over Law during his celebration gathering.

Walking in Tradition, Anchored in Culture: 2025 National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

**National Native
HIV/AIDS
Awareness Day**

MARCH 20, 2025

Walking in Tradition, Anchored in Culture

#NNHAAD2025

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

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O'odham Action News continues to remain at the forefront of helping end the public stigma against HIV/AIDS, especially in Indian Country.

This year, National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day takes place on March 20, the first day of the spring season. The commemorative day was established in 2007 by three collaborating agencies: the National Native Capacity Building Assistance Network, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center.

The first day of spring was chosen after many discussions and a national survey was sent out to members in Indian Country. This year's theme is: "Walking in Tradition, Anchored in Culture."

"This year's theme highlights the resilience and healing that come from being deeply rooted in our cultures as Native people," said Devona Bradford, of the National Native HIV Network, via press release. "When we walk in tradition and anchor ourselves in cultural values, we strengthen our com-

munities and move closer to ending the HIV epidemic in Indian Country."

HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, is a virus that affects the body's immune system. If not treated, HIV can lead to a diagnosis of AIDS. The only way for people to know their HIV status is to get tested. People don't "catch AIDS," they "contract HIV."

The virus can be spread through blood-to-blood contact. Simple gestures like handshakes and hugs do not spread the virus.

In 2022, the Center for Disease Control published statistics that showed for every 100 Indigenous people living in the United States, 77 of them know their HIV status, leaving 23 individuals that do not. In comparison to other groups, such as Hispanic/Latino/white, the Indigenous population have the least number of individuals that know their status.

Due to statistics, prevention has been considered as the number one component of ending HIV. To help remain safe, it is recommended that individuals follow the ABCs of HIV prevention.

A – Abstinence: avoiding sexual contact prevents sexually transmitted diseases

B – Be faithful: Monogamy or keeping sexual activity within a group of tested and trusted individuals.

C – Condom usage – A properly used condom is 97% effective

Additionally, the River People Health Center in the SRPMIC provides free public health kiosks that carry an assortment of public health-approved items such as condoms, fentanyl test strips, an RX destroyer (disposes of any medications in pill form), test strips for xylazine (a harmful tranquilizer found in illegal drugs), COVID-19 antigen tests, Narcan (naloxone HCl) and "Test My Drink," which tests for the presence of date-rape drugs in beverages. The health kiosks are not monitored, but the SRPMIC does maintain an inventory of all supplies inside the kiosks.

Furthermore, individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Pinal and/or Maricopa County are eligible to receive services from PositivelyYou, an Arizona-based organization that is trying to eradicate HIV by 2030.

The organization was highlighted in the January 2024 edition of O'odham Action News when Josmar Escobar shared his story with staff and membership during a SRPMIC Health and Human Services Suicide Prevention and Intervention webinar session hosted by Community Health Educator Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty.

PositivelyYou helps those living with HIV/AIDS by connecting them with health/medical services, case management, dental coverage, transportation, medication assistance programs, and more. The organization assists in rent and utilities assistance, in addition to testing services throughout Pinal and Maricopa County.

Services by PositivelyYou are assisted by the Ryan White Program. Ryan White was an Indiana teenager who was

exposed to contaminated blood during treatment and later became a spokesperson for HIV/AIDS education. The program provides HIV/AIDS medical and support services to people living with the disease that cannot afford treatment, are uninsured or under-insured. White died in 1990 and the program is named in their honor.

Thankfully, living with HIV is not a death sentence. There are resources, healthcare providers, and support available in Arizona. More information on resources for HIV/AIDS is available at the PositivelyYou website, <https://positivelyyouaz.com>.

Open your camera on your mobile phone/tablet to scan the QR codes below for additional information.

Ryan White Program:
electronic registration form.



Ryan White Program:
paper registration form.



Gilbert Road Bridge is Opened After Years of Construction



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jesse Gutierrez, director of Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Mesa Council member Rich Adams, SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr., SRPMIC Council member Deanna Scabby, Mesa Mayor Mark Freeman, and Ed Zuercher, executive director of Maricopa Association of Governments.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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After more than two years of construction, the Gilbert Road Bridge is open.

Funded by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the city of Mesa, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Salt River Project and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation Highway User Revenue Fund, the bridge was given a ceremonial opening on February 28.

The bridge opened to traffic a few weeks prior, and remained open during the ceremony which saw guest speakers from the SRPMIC Council, Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and Mesa.

Before the ceremony began, SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr. provided a prayer that included a blessing for all the workers and staff that helped complete the bridge.

Afterwards, SRPMIC Council member Deanna Scabby provided a brief history of the bridge, which was originally built in 1990.

"I remember before I was a Council member, I'd sit in the audience and listen to former [SRPMIC] President Ivan Makil and their Council as they spoke and what was going to happen for the future. This was in the late 90's. From that time until now, it's taken this long to get done," she said.

Scabby continued to detail the bridge's origins, noting that in 2017, the design concept for the Gilbert Road Bridge was presented to Community. "Then, in November of 2022, the construction began," Scabby stated.

She continued, saying that while plans were still being developed between 2017 and 2022, representatives from MAG and MCDOT visited with Community seniors

to listen to how they wanted the bridge to be built. "I really appreciated that," she said.

Following her remarks, Chairman Thomas Galvin, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, District 2, visited the lectern and addressed all in attendance. "Today, is an extraordinary day for our entire region, it is a day that symbolizes progress, partnership, and prosperity," he said.

Later, newly elected Mesa Mayor Mark Freeman spoke a few words as he looks towards the future. "It's important that this bridge stands the testament of time, and I appreciate the foundation of it," he stated.

Before the renovation, the original Gilbert Road Bridge was frequently damaged when heavy rainfall and flooding impacted the area, resulting in massive closures and detours. "Whenever the floods come, this bridge will still be here for perpetuity," said Freeman, proudly.

The newly redeveloped bridge includes two additional lanes for each direction, a new street signal at the intersection at nearby Thomas Road, a new storm drain, improved roads to and from the bridge and a new 36-inch waterline to continue Salt River Project's water delivery system.

Nearing the conclusion of the opening ceremony, the SRPMIC group, Birds Singing and Dancing by the River, performed. Attendees to the opening ceremony were given stickers commemorating the bridge's official opening, as well as additional commemorative items, which included sugar cookies with a traditional basket design etched in icing.

The 1,500-foot-long Gilbert Road Bridge is located south of the Salt River Landfill, between State Route 87 (Beeline Highway) and the Loop 202 Freeway. According to the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, the Gilbert Road Bridge is expected to carry 30,000 vehicles per day by 2035. In 2019, about 13,000 vehicles crossed the bridge daily.

Three New Bus Benches Installed in SRPMIC

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
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There are three locations where bus benches have been installed: 92nd Street and Oak Street, Indian School and Longmore Road, and Camelback Road and Center Street.

Bench locations were determined by the number of buses that stop at the intersection, the number of students that wait for the bus at a location and field observations conducted by Public Works staff. In some intersections, the nearby landscape makes it difficult for installations due to ditches, culverts and traffic signs.

There are no current plans to install any additional benches, but residents can request a bench by calling the Public Works' Customer Service Section at (480) 362-5600.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Public Works Department installed three bus benches around the Community for students who use school buses as their main transportation to school.

The Public Works Department, Utilities and Roads Division Roads Section were approached by a resident regarding placing benches at high traffic bus stops, according to Roads Maintenance Supervisor Gregg Bacome. "We evaluated the request, recognized the need and proceeded with purchasing and installation," said Bacome.



One of three bus benches installed throughout the Community, this one located on Indian School and Longmore Road.

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER
O'odham Action News
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SRPMIC Member at Heard Market

The competitive Heard Museum Indian Fair and Market attracts dozens of artists to Phoenix each year.

The fair was held March 1-2.

August Wood received an honorable mention in a basket category for their work called "Free Flowing."

Artist Leona Romero of the Tohono O'odham took first place in that category for "Warrior in the Desert."

Acoma Pueblo artist Rebecca Lucario won Best of Show for her pottery work called "Four Seasons and North Star."

Best Practices Features Salt River Schools

For National School Breakfast Week in March, the Center for Best Practices spotlighted Shannon Reina of Salt River Schools.

Reina's dish called Olas Pilkan Parfait was featured via a video. It includes a recipe.

Four other talented school meal professionals were also featured. To see the video, check the Center for Best Practices website.

GRIC Cancels Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo

The Gila River Indian Community has imposed a curfew for safety concerns.

The curfew on juveniles is due to a rise in crime across Gila River. The curfew lasted multiple weeks.

The Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo celebration set for March was canceled over safety concerns.

Tribes, Students Sue Trump Administration

Three tribes and five Native students have sued the United States Department of Interior, Office of Personnel Management, and Office of Indian Affairs.

The suit challenges the staff reductions at the Bureau of Indian Education and the BIE-run schools, Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

The Native American Rights Fund is representing the plaintiffs and filed the suit in federal court.

Firings at the two colleges as part of the Trump administration's cuts to federal agencies, have left students and staff with unsafe conditions, canceled classes, and delayed financial aid, according to the Native American Rights Fund.

Native American Basketball Invitational is Set

A record 200 teams have committed to play in the summer Native American Basketball Invitational in Phoenix July 22-26.

The popular weeklong tournament attracts dozens of boys and girls teams from across the country. Players from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community regularly participate.

NABI also offers an educational youth summit.

The semifinal and championship games will be played at PHX Arena in downtown Phoenix and will be broadcast live on AZFamily Sports.

Calls for Action at Vigil Honoring Emily Pike

Red handprints covered mouths, prayers sent with thin columns of smoke rose to the sky and signs calling for change loomed overhead on this Tuesday night. People of many nations approached the fence, on which hung balloons, yellow ribbons, and a banner with Pike's smiling face and red cups spelled "Justice for Emily." They offered songs, prayers and stories as news crews and cameras stood by documenting the response.

The tragic loss of Pike brought an echo of lingering pains for many members of SRPMIC and beyond who have felt the disproportionate impact of violence on their relatives. The vigil and walk were not sponsored or organized by SRPMIC, but it struck a nerve in Salt River such that many members, including those from faith groups like Victory Outreach were inspired to send the call out for support.

A statement from SRPMIC President Martin Harvier shared in the grief and put to words the feelings of many, "[W]e are all connected- our families, our communities, and our struggles- they are all intertwined. When one of [us] hurts, we all hurt."

On that March 4 night, a man in a motorcycle jacket shared a memory of Emily from a few years ago, "... [W]ith my motorcycle club through Native Health we were able to purchase Christmas gifts [for Emily's group home]. I actually got to meet her on Christmas Eve, and I remember that big smile she had as she got those Christmas gifts ... I say that this hits me hard, it hits me hard also that I found out she's my relative."

SRPMIC Council member Su:k Fulwilder, former Council member Wi-Bwa Grey, White Mountain Apache Princess Oceaonna Little Star and Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis were amongst the hundreds of people at the vigil.

By the end of the evening, attendance had grown so much that Mesa police closed the road and helped manage traffic as the crowd overflowed into the street. Other vigils have since taken place in Mesa and across Indian Country.

One vigil on March 6 at the Encounter AZ Church had a greater emphasis on Emily herself. The service and vigil that evening were broadcast to the overflow of attendees outside, who held their candles close to keep the flames burning against the lashing winds.

The loss of Pike has been felt well beyond Arizona with many national organizations sharing social media posts that include an image of Pike and hashtags #JusticeforEmily and others.

At the time of publishing, efforts were being made through legislature to address systemic shortfalls. *O'dham Action News* will continue to follow updates as they become available.



ABOVE: Many who spoke with news teams at the vigil voiced their frustration with the systems that foster an environment of violence for their relatives.

BELOW: A group of supporters sang a prayer for Emily Pike and the countless other relatives who have been lost.

BOTTOM: An expression of the frustrations felt by people presented itself on nearby property in the form of a mural. Current laws prohibit "tagging" and defacing property is not encouraged.



BELOW: The crowd grew well beyond the capacity of the small corner where the memorial was held. Photo courtesy of Gilbert Garza.



Indian Country Heavily Impacted by Education Threats

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'dham Action News

juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

Universities and colleges across the country are scrambling to make changes amid threats from the Trump administration. Some schools are also feeling the heat from the state level to make changes or lose funding.

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has signed several executive orders aimed at deconstructing diversity, equity and inclusion policies known as DEI.

In a February 15 press release, the U.S. Department of Education instructed educational institutions to cease what they consider to be "racial preferences and stereotypes" as a factor in their admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, sanctions, discipline, and more.

Arizona Senate Bill 1694 is threatening similar measures. The bill withholds state funding towards any higher education institution that offers one or more DEI courses. The bill was introduced on February 10 and is sponsored by Arizona Sen. David Farnsworth, a Republican representing District 10, which includes areas of north Scottsdale and east Mesa. It passed the Republican-led Senate at the end of February and was introduced in the Republican-led House of Representatives on March 4.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education put educational institutions on notice that funding may be removed if they did not implement the changes by February 28. Similar laws in Florida and Texas have been proposed since the publication of the department's press release.

At stake is nearly \$1 billion in state funding for Arizona educational institutions, which include

Arizona's higher education and universities.

Arizona State University removed DEI language in their policies last year and the University of Arizona removed its webpage and language that showed the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion in February, as well as updating their land acknowledgement to remove the terms.

Because of this, the ripple effect has now begun to spread amongst Arizona schools.

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) has cancelled DEI programs, policies, clubs and graduation-related ceremonies over fear of losing funding.

In a press release on March 4, Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said he was "incredibly disappointed" in MCCCD cancelling the American Indian Convocation because of DEI-removals. He added, "Our students have worked too hard to have this significant and very necessary event cancelled."

MCCCD is one of the largest community college systems in the state. Over 100,000 students attend classes within 10 separate community colleges, including Scottsdale Community College.

SCC, which sits on the western edge of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, has a special relationship with the Community and offers Community members a tuition waiver. It's unclear if or how Trump's executive order, or any state level laws, would impact that program.

Trump's executive order calling for the removal of DEI policies and programs has uprooted many advancements in policies, procedures, clubs, and ceremonies that provide support to Indigenous students.

O'dham Action News will continue to monitor this issue.

SALT RIVER VICTORY CENTER

SALT RIVER REVIVAL
NIGHT OF MIRACLES

APRIL 29TH
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
4827 N COUNTRY CLUB DR,
SCOTTSDALE AZ 85256
PHONE: 480-427-4678

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 – Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-24-0218 Date: April 30, 2025 at 9 AM

Francisco, Marissa Martina – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: March 24, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Lewis, Robi Corey – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: March 24, 2025 at 10 am.

Mora, Andrew Joeseph – Initial Termination of Parent-Child Relationship Hearing Case: JV-25-0026 Date: April 9, 2025 at 10 AM

Mora, Andrew Joeseph – Permanency Hearing Case: JV-24-0105/JV-25-0026 Date: April 9, 2025 at 10 AM

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

Andrews, Dracy Devon – Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-1348 Court Date: April 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Arviso, Zachary Williams – Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-1348 Court Date: April 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Chiago, Rosalinda – Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-24-6344 Court Date: March 31, 2025 at 10 AM

Flores, Lance Eagle – Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0859 Court Date: April 1, 2025 at 10 AM

Goodwin, Heather – Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0900 Court Date: April 21, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Harrison, Jasmine Alexandria – Entry of Default

Judgement Hearing Case: CV-24-5850 Court Date: April 10, 2025 at 9 AM

Kavoka, Balen Kelly – Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: April 7, 2025, at 10 AM

Kavoka, Michael Elwood – Initial Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: March 27, 2025 at 9 AM

Kavoka, Michael Elwood – Initial Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: March 27, 2025 at 9 AM

Kavoka, Michael Elwood – Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: April 7, 2025 at 10 AM

Parchcorn Jr., Ellis – Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0899 Court Date: April 21, 2025 at 11 AM

Ramirez, Gabriel Mark – Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0901 Court Date: April 21, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Ramirez, Martin – Divorce Hearing Case: CV-25-0378 Court Date: April 22, 2025 at 9 AM

Ray Sr., Gary Frederick – Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-23-4289 Court Date: April 21, 2025 at 10 AM

Santo, Amber Christina – Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-0607 Court Date: April 15, 2025 at 10 AM

Smith, Tracy Serina – Annual Guardianship Review/ Order to Show Cause Case: CF-22-0073 Court Date: March 27, 2025 at 10 AM

Spex, Vanessa – Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: April 7, 2025, at 10 AM

Spex, Vanessa – Initial Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: March 27, 2025 at 9 AM

Triplett Jr., Bruce Kevin – Order of Protection Hearing Case: CV-25-1840 Court Date: April 15, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Vasquez, Rosalina Maria – Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CIVAC-23-1736 Court Date: May 16, 2025 at 1:30 PM I court room #5.

Walker, Blaineden Wayne – Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0856 Court Date: April 3, 2025 at 10 AM

Ware, Tiffany Sharron – Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0901 Court Date: April 21, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Zahgotah, Roberta – Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-24-0246 Court Date: April 15, 2025 at 9 a.m.

DEFAULT NOTICES

MELENDEZ, NICOLE PATRICIA
CV-24-5856
DEFAULT NOTICE

Country Club Cars v. Nicole Patricia Melendez

To: Nicole Patricia Melendez, RESPONDENT

1. A Civil 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: March 12, 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

Order to Show Cause Notice

TO: Gary Frederick Ray Sr.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 21st day of April 2025 at 10 a.m. in Court Room #2, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to obey Default Judgment Order ordered February 26, 2024.

FAILURE TO APPEAR will result in a Bench Warrant issued for your arrest for Contempt of Court from (§6-41) of the Code or Ordinances.

ORDERED: March 12, 2025.

JUDGE ANTHONY LITTLE - SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

SMITH, TRACY SERINA
CF-22-0073
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF: Y.F. DOB: 02/16/2012; J.J. DOB: 11/25/2016

TO: Tracy Serina Smith

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for Order to Show Cause hearing on the 27th day of March 2025 at 11:00 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for an Order to Show Cause and Annual Guardianship Review Hearing on October 21st, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. after being duly noticed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR will result in a Bench Warrant issued for your arrest for Contempt of Court from (§6-41) of the Code or Ordinances.

ORDERED February 19, 2025

JUDGE JANAYA L. JOHNSON - SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

RAY SR., GARY FREDERICK
CV-23-4289

Main Street Motors v. Gary Frederick Ray Sr.



ATTENTION SRP-MIC



SALT RIVER VITA TAX PROGRAM

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

FEBRUARY 3, 2025 TO APRIL 15, 2025

SENIORS/DISABLED PRIORITY

NO FILING BACK TAXES AND ITEMIZED TAXES

IT'S TAX TIME!

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)

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.

LOCATION

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Two Waters Building A, 3rd Floor, Suite 300

MARICOPA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

ROAD CLOSURE



MCKELLIPS ROAD, CLOSED BETWEEN 92ND STREET AND LONGMORE ROAD

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) continues construction of the McKellips Road improvement project located within the Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). The project necessitates a full closure of McKellips Road between 92nd Street and Longmore Road starting at 5 a.m. Monday, March 24, 2025, continuously for sixty (60) days until Friday, May 23, 2025 at 5 p.m. to accommodate a box culvert installation on both sides of McKellips Road.

Alternative travel around the McKellips Road closure will be provided via detours in the area. Detour signage will be in place to direct travel in the area. Access to Dobson and Longmore Roads from McKellips will be closed. Local access to Dobson Road and Longmore Road will be open from McDowell Road as shown in the map above. Motorists are encouraged to find alternate routes to their destinations.

Please watch for work crews, obey all traffic control signs and follow reduced speeds in the work zone. For more information on the project and the latest on travel restrictions, please visit the project website at: <https://www.maricopa.gov/5938/McKellips-Road>.

Participating Agencies

WORK SCHEDULE:

Where: McKellips Road from Alma School Road to the SR101L.
 When: Monday, March 24, 2025, through Friday, May 23, 2025.
 Weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Occasional weekend or holiday work may occur if required.

Questions: ☎ 602.506.3342 ✉ MCDOTprojects@maricopa.gov

Schedule is subject to change for reasons beyond MCDOT's control, including: weather, equipment failure, illness or other circumstances.

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 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.

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.

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.gov.

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**

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
APRIL 3	MARCH 21
APRIL 17	APRIL 4

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

7 STARS OF ARIZONA, LLC
Concrete & Masonry construction, General contracting ROC#26357. Angela Willeford, (602) 889-7290 angelawilleford@sevenstarscompany.com

AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING RMG MECHANICAL
Community Member owned business. One job done right the first time! We service all makes and models. #ROC310871. Bonded & Insured. Rebecca Gonzales, (480) 334-1257/ (480) 823-2802 Rmgmechanical@gmail.com

ART & MAX'S LANDSCAPING
Free estimates mowing, service, sprinkler, repair, trimming tree clean up, maintenance. Max, (480) 667-9403 art&maxlandscaping@gmail.com

A'S FAMILY LANDSCAPING
Lawn Maintenance, Shrub/Tree Trimming and Debris/Trash Removal. FREE ESTIMATES. L. Azule, (480) 467-8449

AU-AUTHUM KI, INC.
Commercial construction. Margaret Rodriguez, (480) 250-7566

BOXING BEARS PHOTOGRAPHY
Boxing Bears Photography is a photography business based in Scottsdale, Arizona. We specialize in portrait photography and photo booths. Cody Wood, (480) 272-4035 boxingbearsphotography.com cody@boxingbearsphotography.com

DAJ NATIVE DESIGNS
Printing, DTS, sublimation for drinkware and engraving www.dajcreations.com 480-584-0401 dajnativedesigns@gmail.com

DALIA'S LANDSCAPING
Yard maintenance / tree trimming, sprinkler repairs and service. Sherry Harris, (480) 580-0501/ (623)-282-0902 daliaresendiz0815@icloud.com

DALLAS PROFESSIONAL PAINTING
Commercial Painting Company. Licensed, Bonded, Insured, ROC#250102 David Dallas, (623) 337-4070 david@dallaspropainting.com

DESERT'S EDGE, LLC
Professional Landscaping Services and Maintenance Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Monthly, Clean Ups, Trimming, Sprinkler Repair & Grass Seeding. For a free estimate, call or text 480-646-2587

ERNIE'S CATERING
Food catering for all your needs Ernie Lopez (chef and owner) (480) 907-8945 erniescateringbusiness@yahoo.com

GOODLIFE NUTRITION
Healthy cafe offering plant-based juices and smoothies, meal-replacement options and event catering. Order online by visiting instagram! @goodlifeaz goodlife.nutrition@yahoo.com (480)274-3306

HEAVENLY TOUCH CLEANING
SRPMIC Member Owned and operated specializing in residential and commercial cleaning services; get a quote by phone or emailing contact information below. Yesika Saldivar-Zotigh, Owner (602) 301-9832 Heavenlytouch08@yahoo.com

KI: PROPERTY SERVICES
Fully Licensed. Grading, Lot Clearing, Gravel Spread, Trash Haul, Landscaping, General Home Repair. Call for Per Cap Specials! 480-369-2018 ki.property.services81@gmail.com

LB's HAIR SALON
For all your hair needs. Over 30+ years of experience specializing in trending haircuts, color, highlighting, perms, blow dry's and also manicures, pedicures and facial waxing. Linda Baptisto, (602) 525-9142 hairbylindab@yahoo.com

MOQUINO'S BODY & PAINT LLC.
Auto Body Work and Paint LLC. Community Member 15% discount. Pete Moquino, (480) 236-3033 moquinoscstompaint@yahoo.com

NATIVE CREATIVE APPAREL, LLC
Native American themed clothing for babies, kids and adults. Design your own custom shirts Isaac Lopez, (480) 410-8685 / (562) 761-9341 nativecreativeapparel@gmail.com

NATIVE GROUND COFFEE
A Native American coffee company from Salt River. Winter Wood, (480) 522-8393 www.nativegroundcoffee.com

NATURES DEFENSE
Do it yourself pest control. All organic, non-toxic, chemical free. Safe/effective against roaches, scorpions, fleas/ticks, beetles, bed bugs and more! JB Cortez, (480) 453-9371 saltriverjb@gmail.com

PIMA AWARDS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS, INC
Promo items, silkscreen/embroider apparel, custom awards and printing services. 15610 N 35th Ave Ste #7 Phoenix, AZ 85053 www.pimaawards.com Ron Lee, (623) 271-8311

PIMARA CONSTRUCTION
Civil & structural engineering. Virginia Loring, (480) 251-6849 vlpimara@cox.net

PIPASH SHELL
4001. N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale, AZ Michael Smith- Owner Piipash LLC (480) 947-6400 (store) piipash@hotmail.com

RED CACTUS PHOTOGRAPHY
Professional Photography for all occasions: business, commercial, extreme adventure, family gatherings, portraits, real estate, social media, sports, and weddings. D. Gonzales, (480) 828-5863 redcactusphotography480@gmail.com

REZHAWK TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC
Please call for appointment. Lock out available Eric Schurz, (480) 735-9730 rezhawktowingandrecovery@yahoo.com

SALT RIVER HOSPITALITY
Food service, bar, janitorial equipment and supplies. J.B. Cortez, (480) 945-0062 saltriverjb@gmail.com Location 1: Phoenix Park-N-Swap Location 2: The Spot on Camelback

STAYSHONS CHEVRON
Community Member owned business since 1994. Boyd Chiago, (480) 990-2004

THE MAIN INGREDIENT
Home and commercial quality kitchen supplies, open to the public. J.B. Cortez, (480) 945-0062 themainingredientaz@gmail.com

THE SPOT ON CAMELBACK
An Open Air Market And Multicultural Gathering! Handmade arts, crafts, and jewelry, clothing, tools, kitchen supplies, and more. JB Cortez (480) 945-0062 11514 E. Camelback Rd. Scottsdale, 85256 thespotoncamelback@gmail.com thespotoncamelback.com

VMK ENTERPRISES, INC
Janitorial supplies. Sheryl@vmkenterprises.com

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 at 4 p.m.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST PAPAGO WARD
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 saltriveragchurh.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 INTERNATIONAL (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 instagram

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 Instagram

MORNINGSTAR APOSTOLIC CHURCH
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 msacruth.com for more Follow us @morningstarapostolic on Instagram and on Facebook at facebook.com/msacruth

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

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 Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Community Regulatory Agency/Office of Alcohol Beverage Control

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the SRPMIC Code of Ordinances, Ordinance Number SRO-355-2010, a public hearing on a Liquor License Application for Bam Kazam located at 8999 E. Talking Stick Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85250, shall be held at the SRPMIC Community Regulatory Agency (CRA) on April 09, 2025, at 10:00 am, at 8840 E. Chaparral Rd., Suite 165, Scottsdale, AZ 85250 (Conference Room). Petitions and testimony will be heard from persons in favor of or opposed to the issuance of a liquor license that reside in the Community, or own or lease property located within the Community that is in close proximity to the proposed premises. To request for additional information regarding this application, contact Special Investigator Rolanda Reuter at (480) 362-5499.

If we CANNOT contact you by phone or email, your business will be removed from the listing. Call O'odham Action News at (480) 362-7750 to have your business put back on the listing.

O'odham Action News is published bi-weekly by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Editorials and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude or philosophy of O'odham Action News or the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

O'odham Action News encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. However, letters must be typed or printed clearly, and should include the writer's name, address and phone number. This information is for verification only. Other submission of articles, artwork and photos are encouraged. O'odham Action News does not assume responsibility for unsolicited materials and does not guarantee publication upon submission.

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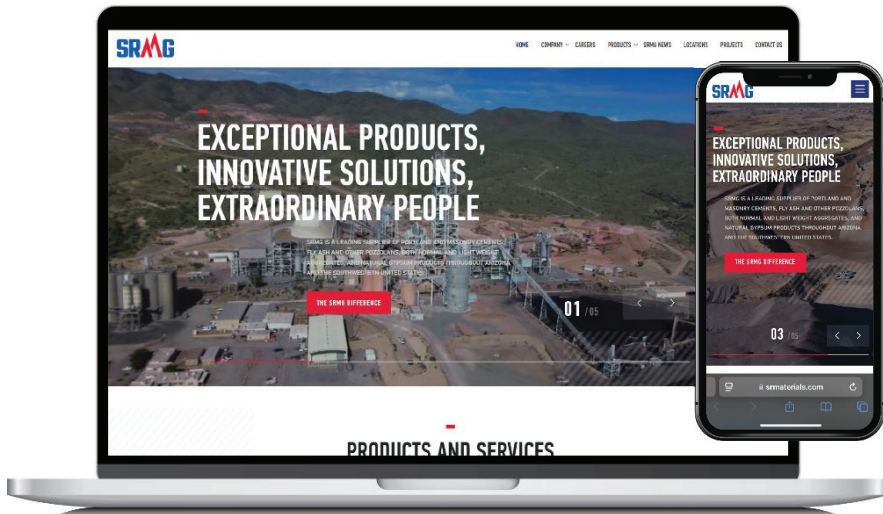
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Please contact Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr at
(480) 362-2698 or email kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov
Leave your name, number and message and they will get back to you.



Salt River Materials Group Unveils New, Enhanced Website

SCOTTSDALE, AZ – Salt River Materials Group (SRMG), a leading supplier of cement, pozzolan, and aggregates in the Southwest, is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website, www.srmaterials.com, along with a refreshed, modernized version of its company logo. These updates reflect SRMG's commitment to innovation, customer service, and brand evolution while maintaining its strong foundation and heritage.



THE REVAMPED WEBSITE FEATURES:

- Modern, User-Friendly Design** – A clean and intuitive layout that makes it easier to navigate and find key information.
- Enhanced Product & Service Information** – Detailed insights into SRMG's high-quality materials, sustainable solutions, and industry expertise.
- Improved Accessibility** – A responsive design optimized for desktop and mobile devices, ensuring a seamless browsing experience.
- Careers Center** – A dedicated section to explore the benefits of working at SRMG.

"As an industry leader, we recognize the importance of keeping up with digital advancements to better serve our customers," said Charlie Zahari, VP of Sales & Marketing at SRMG. "Our new website enhances accessibility, provides key product insights, and ensures our customers have the resources they need at their fingertips. Additionally, our modernized logo represents the evolution of SRMG while staying true to our heritage and mission."

The launch of the updated website marks another step in SRMG's ongoing mission to support the construction industry with high-quality materials and environmentally responsible solutions.

Visit www.srmaterials.com to explore the new site, view the updated branding, and learn more about SRMG's products and services.

NEW LOOK, SAME COMMITMENT

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

- 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 Ce-linda 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 Ce-linda 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 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
- 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 WELLBRIETY**, 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 REHABILITATION 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 ENROLLMENT**, 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.
- KUI 'I'IVAGIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XMOK MARCH**
- 22 CM SCABBY/CM DALLAS QUARTERLY LEHI MEETING**, to be held at Evergreen Community Center, 10 a.m. Contact Council secretaries at 480-362-7469 for more information.
- 22 HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM'S ANNUAL TORTILLA FESTIVAL**, Save the date! More information to come.
- 24 HALF-OFF DAYS AT HELPING HANDS**, entire store is 50% off! Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 10213 E Osborn Rd. Now accepting cash and credit cards!
- 27 CM BUTLER DISTRICT A MEETING**, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. Contact Council secretaries at 480-362-7469 for more information.
- 29-APRIL 6 NEW BEGINNING MINISTRIES CAMPMEETING**, Tent dedication March 29 at 10 a.m., tent located directly south of Talking Stick Resort. Guest ministers at

7pm nightly as well as planned children's church and gospel jam. Contact Pastor Norman Enas for more information at 480-526-0043

KUI HIOSIG MAŞAD XLY'A CHMPAP APRIL

- 1 CHALK-N-WALK**, 5 p.m. at Friendship Park. Family Advocacy Center presents a day of action in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We invite you to draw or write encouraging and positive messages with chalk then show your support by joining a mile walk. Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948AF29A0FAC25-54902118-sexual> or call the Family Advocacy Center at 480-362-5425.
- 3 SALT RIVER SCHOOLS CAREER FAIR**, 1-7:30 p.m. at ALA Gymnasium. See ad on page 8 for more information!
- 4-5 PIIPAASH MATASHEEVM**, see flyer on page 4 for full details!
- 5 COMMUNITY VEHICLE AUCTION VIEWING DAY**, beginning at 8 am at vehicle storage lot by Dialysis Center. Bids will be accepted on viewing days or between 8am and 5 pm at the Dept. of Transportation office. Tribal members only, tribal ID required, sold as is, must be 18 or older to bid. Last day to bid will be April 14. Contact DOT at 480-362-7315 for more information.
- 8 HIGHER EDUCATION ORIENTATION PROGRAM**, 10-11 a.m. at Salt River Schools Education Board Room. Got higher ed plans? Let us help you meet your goals AND our scholarship program application deadlines! Contact 480-362-2547 or see ad on page 11 for more information.
- 8-10 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING SESSIONS**, Training is open

- 11 AMERICAN INDIAN DISABILITY SUMMIT**, 8:30 - 4 p.m. at Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85040. For more information, contact Rosalie Perry at 602-980-0286 or visit ability360.org/american-indian-disability-summit
- 12 COMMUNITY VEHICLE AUCTION VIEWING DAY**, beginning at 8 am at vehicle storage lot by Dialysis Center. Bids will be accepted on viewing days or between 8am and 5 pm at the Dept. of Transportation office. Tribal members only, tribal ID required, sold as is, must be 18 or older to bid. Last day to bid will be April 14. Contact DOT at 480-362-7315 for more information.
- 14 LAST DAY FOR COMMUNITY VEHICLE AUCTION BIDS**, Bids must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the final day. Bids will be accepted on viewing days or between 8am and 5 pm at the Dept. of Transportation office. Tribal members only, tribal ID required, sold as is, must be 18 or older to bid. Last day to bid will be April 14. Contact DOT at 480-362-7315 for more information.
- 18 GOOD FRIDAY**, SRPMIC Offices Closed. Please plan accordingly.
- 19 COMMUNITY EASTER PROGRAM**, 9 a.m. at Salt River Ballfield. See ad on page 4 for more information!
- 20 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**
- 29 SALT RIVER REVIVAL: NIGHT OF MIRACLES**,