O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

"Telling the Stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community" www.oodhamnews.org MAY 1, 2025

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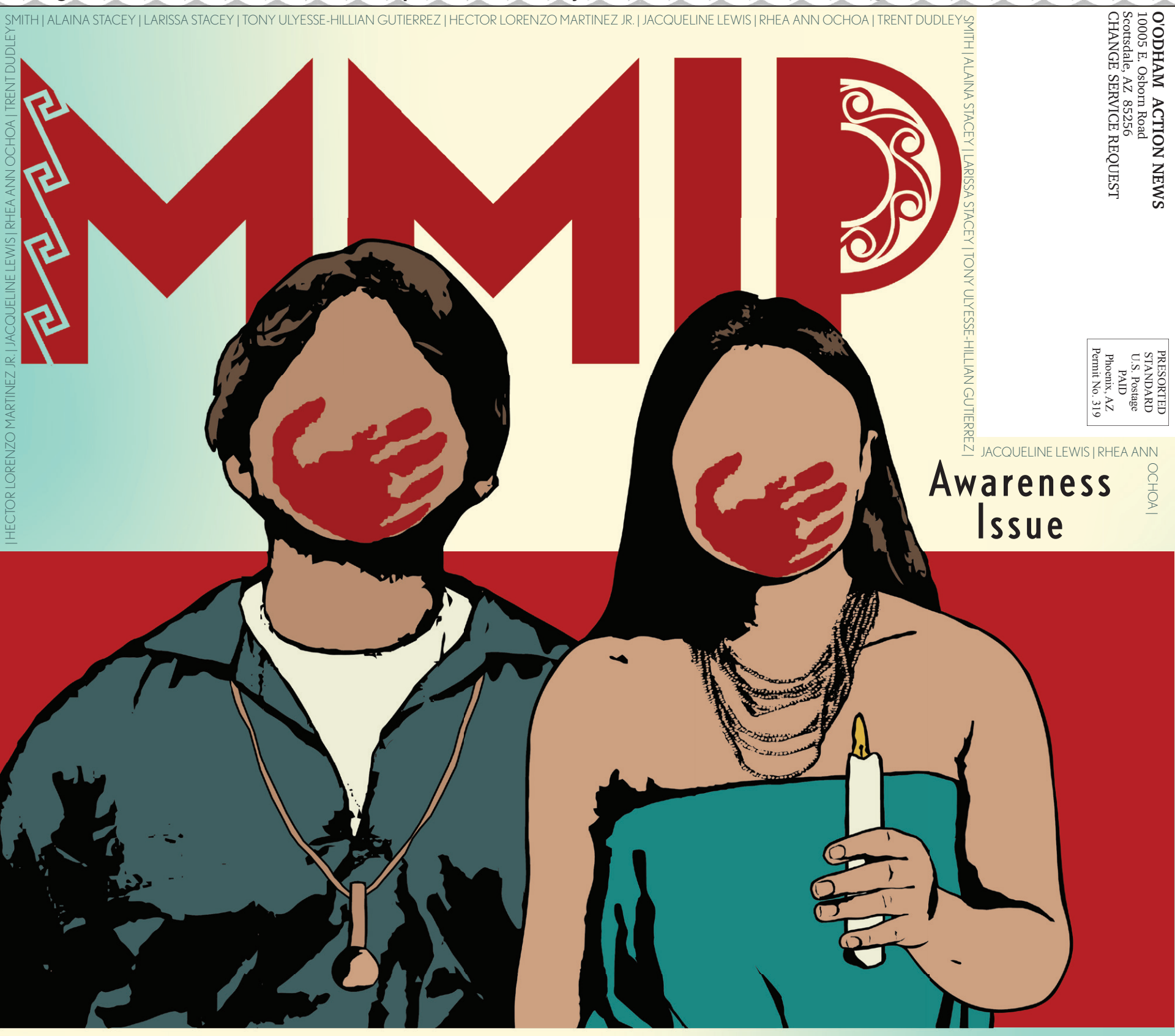

Awareness Issue

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Month

A month to honor, remember, and raise awareness

PROCLAMATION
PR-008-2024

A PROCLAMATION OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TO DECLARE MAY OF EACH YEAR AS MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, Article VII, Sections 1(c)(4) and (5) of the Constitution of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("Community") authorizes the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council ("Council") to protect the public health and morals, and to provide for the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Onk Akimel O'Odham and Xalychidom Piipaash have experienced the same loss, sorrow, mourning, and trauma that all Native Americans have too often experienced: that of murdered or missing family members and loved ones without adequate answers or support; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing violence, murder, or of going missing; and for far too long, this crisis has been overlooked, underfunded, and ignored; and

WHEREAS, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs established by Executive Order the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Task Force on March 7, 2023, and two Community representatives are serving on the task force; and

WHEREAS, The bipartisan Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People issued its first report in 2020, and it found that 160 murders of Indigenous women were recorded in Arizona from 1976 to 2018 — and that murders among Indigenous women and girls have steadily increased over the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Justice found that 84% of Indigenous women experience violence in their lifetime, compared to 71% of white women; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, the CDC found that homicide was reported as the fourth-leading cause of death among Indigenous women under the age of 19 and the sixth-leading cause of death for ages 20 to 44; and

WHEREAS, Analysis of the sparse available data found that more than 25% of murders involving Indigenous women in Arizona go unsolved, and the Murder Accountability Project found that one in three murders of Native Americans in Arizona goes unreported to the FBI; and

Continued on page 10, with more MMIP coverage on page 8-9-10-11

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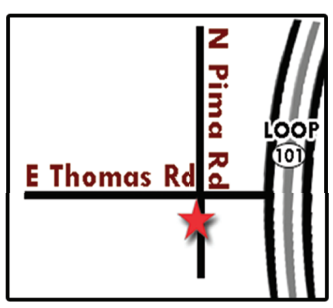


Emergencies and Walk-Ins seen on the same day!

Talking Stick Resort Turns 15

ABOVE: SRPMIC members enjoy a day at the pool for Talking Stick Resort's 15th anniversary bash.

Miss Salt River Sialik King and 2nd Attendant to Jr. *Miss* Salt River Aiyanna Toya enjoy snow cones at the Talking Stick Resort's 15th Anniversary bash.

An event attendee holds a cute, smiling baby.

SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler chats with Community members who were about ready to chow down on some food.

Themed treats were available at the celebration.

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

"15 Years. Well played!"

Talking Stick Resort's slogan for 15 years in business says it all. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's successful enterprise celebrated in style during the month of April with epic giveaways and a special event for Community members.

As a "thank you" to Community members, the resort's main pool opened for a Community member-only pool party on April 12. The earlier than usual warm weather was perfect for a nostalgic afternoon at the pool, sharing hot dogs, hamburgers and snow cones with family and friends.

"Today is a very special day," said Ramon Martinez, director of Public Relations for Talking Stick Resort. "We put together this party for the Community. It's quite a spread, a lot of good food."

It didn't take long for Community members to work up a sweat in the pool, throwing beach balls in all directions and with the younger kids swimming with floaties on their arms.

Shaded tents with cooling stations were set up around the pool. Salt River Police Department Officer Erica Jakupi was positioned inside of an ice cream truck, taking requests for the Community's favorite chilled treats.

A commemorative t-shirt was given away to all who attended the party, which was rounded out by a special musical performance by five-time Grammy award-winning Tejano artist Little Joe Y La Familia.

"We're grateful for our Council and our boards who have supported us all these years and we're grateful for all the Community members that come here and who work here and contribute to the overall community," said Martinez.

During April, some of the anniversary specials and promotions included: a chance to win a 2025 Corvette or a share of $20,000 (for Salt River Rewards card holders), poker promotions in the Arena Poker Room, complementary cupcakes and dining specials at restaurants across the resort.

"We are excited to celebrate this milestone by giving back to the guests who have supported us for the past 15 years," Martinez added. "Their loyalty has fueled our success, and these events are our way of showing appreciation. We look forward to the next 15 years of unforgettable experiences."

50 Years of Tribal Self Governance

Sommer Lopez and Janye Salinas represented the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Young River People Council and shared its positive impacts its had on themselves and the youth.

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

During a speech delivered to Congress on July 8, 1970, U.S. President Richard Nixon said it best, "Let Indian tribes govern themselves."

He added, "We must assure the Indian that he can assume control of his own life without being separated involuntarily from the tribal group."

Nixon's speech proved to be a turning point regarding tribal nations having greater autonomy, or the right of self-government. His speech encouraged tribal self-determination and rejected America's outdated policy of termination.

Five years later, the "Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975" was enacted.

The act allowed tribes to establish contracts with the federal government to administer programs and services such as healthcare, education and housing. The ISDAEAA of 1975 gave tribes greater control of how federal funds are used.

Following the act, tribes could hire their own staff, curate culturally significant programs and allocate resources according to need.

Nearly two decades later in 1994, tribal leaders from across Indian Country gathered for the inaugural "Tribal Self Governance Conference," a multi-day event that features workshops, networking opportunities, panel discussions and more.

The conference allows for tribal leaders, councils and federal partners the opportunity to learn more about the specific needs of Indian Country and how to establish plans that will improve tribal communities.

O'odham Action News was at last year's conference which saw Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Nancy Mangieri and Health and Human Services Director Joseph Remitera facilitating their presentation entitled "Five in Five: Increasing the Average Age of Mortality of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Members by Five Years in Five Years."

This year's conference began on April 7 and was hosted at the Gila River Indian Community's Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino in Chandler, Ariz. The first day saw presenters and speakers which included: Michael Silvas, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo governor, Delia Carlyle, Ak-Chin Indian Community vice chairman, Candice Skenandore, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut director of Self-Governance and Grants, Mark Rogers, Osage Nation CEO and many more.

On day 2, Janyse Salinas, SRPMIC Young River People Council supervisor, and Sommer Lopez, SRPMIC youth development specialist, served on the "Developing the Next Generation of Tribal Leaders" panel. Joined by Rudy Pina from Tribal Unite, Salinas and Lopez shared their expertise on the impact the Young River People's Council has in the SRPMIC as well as what the future holds.

Heather Washington, SRPMIC Self-Governance director, served as the moderator for the panel discussion which was held outside on the Wild Horse Pass Resort event lawn. SRPMIC Council member Su:k Fulwilder was seated in the crowd and would later congratulate Salinas and Lopez on a job well done following their presentation on the panel.

"Our youth council, they're the voice of the youth of the SRPMIC," began Salinas. She would go on to detail for attendees that the YRPC is like SRPMIC's tribal council as both have a president, vice-president, correspondent secretary, clerical secretary and a treasurer. "Then we have our at-large members, we're not broken up into districts, we just represent the Community as a whole," she said.

Lopez has been involved with the YRPC since she was 12 years old. "Basically, all of middle and high school," she said with a smile.

She continued, "[YRPC] has helped me a lot, just not only in my professional development but in my personal confidence and connections. It's something I really encourage all teens and middle schoolers to at least try out and to get out of their comfort zones," she said.

Salinas and Lopez reiterated that the YRPC has helped many youths, including themselves, find their purpose as well as refine their skillsets while representing their community. Additionally, being involved with the YRPC also allows for Community members to learn more about their own traditions, cultures and language.

Lopez shared, "When the youth get into learning these different parts of our culture, they help the rest of their peers take interest and I think that's pretty awesome."

The YRPC also attends the annual United National Indian Tribal Youth, or UNITY, conference which brings together tribal youth from Indian Country to continue to empower our next generation of leaders.

When you look at it one way, one could determine that youth who attend U.N.I.T.Y. will undoubtedly be involved with future tribal self-governance conferences, just like Salinas and Lopez were at this year's conference.

"We do need leaders that are going to make some hard decisions for our Community," said Salinas. "But we want to make sure they're ready, not just educational wise, but physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We want them to do well."

Interested individuals looking for more information on joining the Young River People's Council can follow YRPC on Instagram and on Facebook.

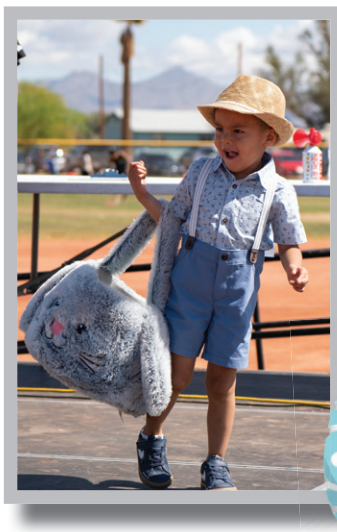
Easter Celebrated at Salt River Ballfield

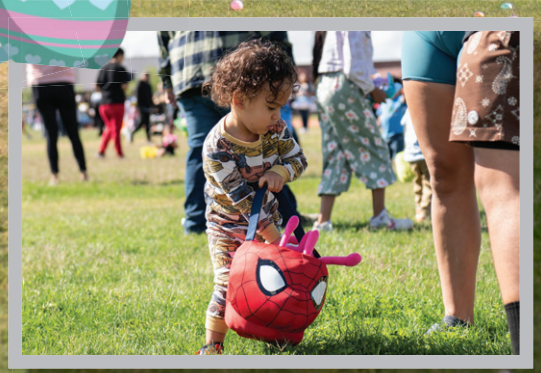
BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
O'odham Action News
Andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt celebration on April 19 at the Salt River Ballfield. Four separate egg hunts were available for children ages 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-14. Participants raced for goodies and plastic eggs that were scattered across the outfield of the ballfield along with the Von Hayes Field while attempting to locate special golden eggs. Those that found the golden eggs could trade it for prize.

There was no worry if you didn't find the golden egg. Plenty of opportunities to win special prizes were available by participating in field games and an Easter Dress Parade, judged by Miss Salt River Sialik King and Jr. Miss Salt River 1st Attendant Tiare Begay-Smith.

Photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny were available and a petting zoo along with a bubble station were also available for little ones to enjoy. Last on the agenda was an adult egg eating contest where participants raced each other to see who could eat 10 hard-boiled eggs the fastest. The winner, Vincent Ramierz, received a $200 gift card to Harkins Theatre by beating two-time winner Derrick Osif.





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Prevent an Outbreak, Save a Life

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

A measles outbreak is hitting the United States.

For the safe-being of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Dr. Nancy Mangieri, from Health and Human Services, recommends everyone to get vaccinated for measles.

"The measles vaccine is essential for protecting individuals and communities from this serious disease," said Mangieri. "It is safe, effective and plays a vital role in preventing measles outbreaks."

As of late April, there were no confirmed measles cases in Arizona. However, the spread of measles in neighboring states is increasing—especially in Texas and New Mexico.

As of early April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 607 measles cases from 22 states.

While measles cases do appear every year, this outbreak is concerning because of the size and frequency of outbreaks in relation to the decline in vaccinations.

Vaccination

According to Dr. Mangieri, the MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella) will offer strong protection with two doses.

In addition to measles, there are five other vaccines every adult needs: Tdap, MMR, Chickenpox, Hepatitis A and B, Influenza and Pneumococcal.

In the past, the Community has been responsive to Covid-19 and Influenza vaccination efforts.

SRPMIC Public Health puppet friends River, Rainn and Blu have been central to spreading awareness to the importance of vaccinations.

However, many families struggle to find the time to get vaccinated, says Dr. Mangieri. Luckily, SRPMIC Public Health is a resource SRPMIC families can work with.

Measles Symptoms

Early symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Two to three days after the initial symptoms, kolpik spots, tiny white spots, will appear in the mouth. By three to five days of the symptoms, a measles rash of flat red spots will appear on the head, then spread to the rest of the body.

"Measles is caused by a virus found in the nose and throat of an infected child or adult," said Mangieri. "When someone with measles coughs, sneezes, or talks, infectious droplets spray into the air, where others can breathe them in."

If infected, measles can complicate to an ear or lung infection and even inflammation of the brain.

A lack of vaccinations in the Community will leave children, elders and immunocompromised people at risk.

Through a Community-wide effort, vaccines can prevent a potential outbreak. Limit the outbreak by vaccinating your family soon.

SRPMIC Public Health is a resource available for questions and information regarding vaccinations. Contact a health professional if you experience any symptoms of measles.

For uncertain Community members, Dr. Mangieri cleared some common vaccination misconceptions:

Myth: Vaccine-preventable diseases are just part of childhood. It is better to have the disease than become immune through vaccines.

Fact: Vaccine-preventable diseases have many serious complications that can be avoided through immunization. Vaccines stimulate the immune system to produce an immune response like natural infection, but they do not cause the disease or put the immunized person at risk of its potential complications.

Myth: I don't need to vaccinate my child because all the other children around them are already immune.

Fact: Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community is immunized against a contagious disease, reducing the chance of an outbreak. Infants, pregnant women and immunocompromised people who cannot receive vaccines depend on this type of protection. However, if enough people rely on herd immunity as the method of preventing infection from vaccine-preventable diseases, herd immunity will soon disappear.

Myth: Since I already had COVID-19 and recovered, I do not need to be vaccinated.

Fact: There is not enough information available to determine how long immunity against the SARS-CoV-2 virus will last after recovering from the infection. Studies are ongoing to determine how long natural immunity lasts, however, there is some evidence that immunity may not last long. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends that you receive a COVID-19 vaccine when you are eligible regardless of whether you already had COVID-19.

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

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

US Health and Human Services Leader Visits Phoenix

The top decision maker for Indian Health Service was in the Phoenix Valley in April.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. attended the Tribal Self-Governance Conference in the Gila River Indian Community and Native Health in Phoenix. Kennedy expressed his concern with ultra-processed foods.

Indian Health Service is a federal agency under HHS and remains without a director.

Diné College Damaged By Fire

The Student Union Building at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation, was destroyed by fire on April 14.

The fire also destroyed records and graduation materials.

The campus was closed days after the fire, but virtual classes were held.

New Mexico Creates 'Turquoise Alert'

New Mexico is the fourth state to create an alert system to help find Native people who have gone missing.

The Turquoise Alert system was signed into law earlier this year. Colorado, California and Washington have similar systems. Arizona is also working on a version.

Tribal Regalia Graduation Toolkit

The Arizona Department of Education's Office of Indian Education has released its 2025 graduation toolkit for tribal regalia.

The Toolkit was created to inform students and families of their legal rights as tribal members to wear tribal regalia and items of cultural significance under Arizona law.

A second toolkit was also released specifically for administrators and governing boards.

The toolkits can be found on the state Department of education website under Office of Indian Education.

New Travel Guide Highlights Tribal Experiences

"The Travel Guide to Tribes Along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail" launched in April and it features Arizona and California tribes.

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association and the National Park Service's Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Program teamed up to create the guide.

The trail is a 1,200-mile corridor from Nogales, Arizona, to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The nearly 100-page guide can be found on the association's website.

'North of North' hits Netflix

Follow the journey of a young Inuk woman in a tiny Arctic village in "North of North."

The new Netflix comedy premiered in Canada to renew reviews, and now the show is available for viewers living in the U.S.

The eight episode show takes place in Canada's northernmost territory called Nunavut.

The show features Anna Lambe, who is known for her role in the television series "Trickster" and "True Detective: North Country."

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Sexual Assault Survivors Supported with Encouraging Words at Chalk N' Walk

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

Editor's Note: This story contains sensitive subject matter that readers may find upsetting.

"I believe you."

"You are not alone; there are countless others standing with you."

"You are resilient."

These are just a handful of the many messages of hope, strength and belief for victims of sexual assault that people wrote on the basketball court blacktop with an assortment of chalk colors at Friendship Park on April 1.

They were there for the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Chalk n' Walk event, led by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Family Advocacy Center (FAC), to shine a light on an issue that often remains in the dark.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, about 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police – the most underreported crime in the U.S.

Stand in a room full of people and you'll most likely be next to someone who has experienced some form of sexual assault.

The reality is that one in five women in the U.S. have been raped or experienced attempted rape during their lifetime; and Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped than non-Native women, according to Amnesty International. One in three Native women will be raped in their lifetime. At least 86% of perpetrators of these crimes are non-Native men.

FAC director Nagisa Kondo said that the event encouraged open dialogue and offered support to survivors, sending a strong message that the Community will not tolerate sexual violence in any form.

MIDDLE LEFT to RIGHT: 2nd Attendant to Jr. Salt River Aiyanna Toya, FAC Director Nagisa Kondo and 1st Attendant to Jr. Salt River Tiare Begay-Smith lead the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Chalk n' Walk on April 1.

"The Sexual Awareness Walk is more than just a tradition – it's a powerful symbol of the Community's dedication to ending sexual violence and fostering a culture of respect and safety," said Kondo. "I think this event served as both a reminder of the ongoing need for education and advocacy, and as a testament to the strength of this Community."

ABOVE: Encouraging chalk art with a rose and a message that says, "your life matters."

LEFT: SRPMIC Council member Su:k Fulwilder gives a speech to the gathered crowd at Friendship Park.

While School Resource Officer Daniel Brown was stationed at the grill providing food for participants, you could hear chalk grazing the blacktop as supporters of sexual assault survivors knelt to add their messages.

Kondo said that the "chalk" part of the event was for survivors who have been silenced in the past to feel like they are not alone.

"I saw a lot of messages showcasing emotional support and compassion," said Kondo. "These messages validate survivors' experiences, helping them feel understood, seen, and heard, which can be a powerful tool in healing."

She continued, "Also, it can serve as a visual sense of community and connection that can help break the sense of isolation that often accompanies trauma. They foster a sense of shared experience and support from the broader community."

President Martin Harvier and Council member Su:k Fulwilder both spoke at the event. Harvier offered support for victims and Fulwilder talked about her own experiences and focused on how sexual assault isn't talked about enough among families in the Community.

When it was time for the walk, Jr. Miss Salt River 1st Attendant Tiare Begay-Smith and Jr. Miss Salt River 2nd Attendant Aiyanna Toya led the way with Kondo, holding a supportive sign as they kept the pace nearing sundown for a mile around the government complex, from Friendship Park to Osborn Road to Helping Hands and back to Two Waters.

Arizona Bike Week Events Go Beyond Acknowledging MMIP

BY KARI HAAHR
O'odham Action News
Kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

For people unfamiliar with the machines, motorcycles can bring to mind an image of aggression: toughness, leather and loud engines. More often than not, that exterior is less of a wall t be broken and more of a gate to be opened, which was exemplified during Arizona's Bike Week events focusing on missing and murdered Indigenous people. Native riders and allies opened themselves up to the Community to share resources, raise funds and bring awareness to the epidemic through a presentation by Medicine Wheel Ride on April 4 and the Thunderbird Throttle Motorcycle Ride on April 5.

Medicine Wheel Ride

Medicine Wheel Ride is a group led by Indigenous women motorcyclists who connect resources and provide support for families affected by the MMIP crisis. Formed in 2019, the group has participated in large-scale events like Sturgis as well as keeping close connections with families and individuals facing related challenges through grassroots fundraising. Most recently, Medicine Wheel Riders provided an escort for the funeral service in the Gila River Indian Community of Karen Peter.

The event packed a long conference room at Talking Stick Resort on Friday, April 4, for a presentation that included guest speakers, a documentary viewing, skill-building exercises focused on prevention and a wealth of resources. Tables lined the hall outside with information booths from outreach organizations such as the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Native Health, Three Precious Miracles and more.

Darlene Gomez, an attorney and owner of the Law Offices of Darlene Gomez, spoke about the legal landscape and considerations families and loved ones have when faced with such situations. Barriers can appear in unexpected ways, but she emphasized that the most powerful resource is support from their community, whether that means a person's tribe providing a letter of support, or a team of loved ones sharing the emotional labor during court dates, attorney meetings, vigils and interviews.

Another important element of the teaching was centered on prevention. Jim Schmidt, whose stepdaughter Gabby Petito was murdered by her partner, shared the work of the Gabby Petito Foundation and how assessing threats early in interpersonal and romantic relationships can save lives. Situational awareness and de-escalation techniques were also shared by Ratah Weeks of Native Health Phoenix as ways of building resiliency and instilling methods of violence prevention.

The event closed with prayer and a talking circle to discuss maintaining a balance of care for our community and for ourselves while working through trauma, hardship and grief.

Thunderbird Throttle

For the second year, Thunderbird Throttle had a thunderous presence at Casino Arizona during Arizona Bike Week for their annual awareness ride. This is the third year the Thunderbird Throttle has taken place, and attendance was double that of last year.

Kickstands were up at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, as almost 300 bikes pulled out of Ride-Now Peoria headed to their first stop at the Huhugam Heritage Center in Gila River. The riders were greeted by Gila River Basket Dancers and singers from Chi'chino Spirit lining the road in to welcome them where they stopped for a performance and remarks from Gila River Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis before heading to lunch at Casino Arizona.

As the roaring engines pulled in, the first to arrive got right in line for lunch. Once the lot was filled with motorcycles and riders were settled in, youth from Phoenix Indian Center could be heard calling for 50/50 raffle donations while their signs bobbed overhead.

As the guests ate and cooled off before the final leg of their journey, they heard words from guest speakers including SRPMIC Council members Cheryl Doka and Su:k Fulwilder. Each shared the impact they've personally felt from the MMIP crisis and the meaning of gatherings such as this to bring awareness and drive change, with Fulwilder discussing how difficult it was to move forward after no one spoke up when her brother was murdered, but how necessary it is for people to be open and kind with one another. "You never know what anybody is going through," she said.

In her remarks, Doka thanked Fulwilder for sharing her story. She expressed the importance of these events making it into the national news media but shared that it is a struggle knowing that stories like teenager Emily Pike's death are the tipping off point, "It's unfortunate that that's what it takes to get MMIP out there. So, I appreciate the news being here because there does need to be a lot more awareness for this cause."

After a hoop dance performance from Keya Hunts-In-Winter, a youth representative from Phoenix Indian Center, riders geared back up and took off for Westworld Scottsdale, where the ride may have ended, but the journey for justice did not.

Arizona Capitol Protests: 'NO MORE STOLEN PEOPLE. NO MORE STOLEN BENEFITS'

Supporters and frustrated citizens gathered at the state capitol to draw attention to the layered problem of MMIP.

STAFF REPORTS
O'odham Action News
oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov

Editor's Note: This story contains sensitive subject matter that readers may find upsetting.

A grassroots organization is drawing attention to some of the major systemic shortfalls they say enables the cross-generational abuse for Native relatives.

"Stolen People Stolen Benefits" coordinated several days of peaceful protest at the Arizona state Capitol to draw attention to how systems meant to help those in need are instead exploited, and how it's happening across generations.

Every generation faces some form of threat: children placed into abusive group homes, adults seeking help become trapped in fraudulent sober living programs, and elders face cultural erasure in assisted living facilities; all systemic problems that cannot be solved unseen.

A large part of the problem, according to Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, is in the "vulnerabilities inherent in the fee-for-service billing model."

Essentially, these programs leave an open door for fraudulent providers to bill inflated or inaccurate amounts to healthcare programs, regardless of whether any services were even provided. When combined with poorly vetted care facilities, it became a rampant source of fraud in the system and amplified trauma in the people.

The impacts of the Fraudulent Sober Living Home crisis not only affected the individuals and their families but became a part of the greater awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous people as the nightmarish practices removed more and more people from their homes.

It's possible the same principles are also a factor in what many are perceiving as an extension of the crisis as children are placed into "congregate care" or group homes that are either unequipped or unconcerned with maintaining care of the children. This became a more pronounced part of the conversation after 14-year-old Emily Pike went missing from her group home in Mesa, only to have her partial remains found later.

It only takes one accusation of abuse to uproot an entire family. Once the children enter the system, the barriers to reuniting the family are abundant and can feel impossible to surmount for someone who is already facing the trauma of their family being divided.

At one event on March 18 at the Arizona Capitol grounds, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Christa Miles shared her fears that this is impacting all generations. Her father is in assisted living, and she was horrified to learn that the facility charged with his care held no consideration for his identity and cut his hair without

consent, claiming it was becoming too difficult for them to manage.

Miles joined other SRPMIC members, including Sonya Gonzales and Sophia Villalpando, in a fierce and fearless walk around the Arizona Capitol grounds, drawing attention to these issues with a large group of other people holding signs and chanting, "No justice, no peace," "Justice for Natives" and "No more stolen people. No more stolen benefits."

"I know a lot of people who were out here looking for help and they didn't receive that. They ended up getting scammed and thrown into the streets and nobody came and saved them," Miles said. "That's what makes me mad. You can go to any bus stop and they're [Native people in need of help] out here with no ride, no phone, no contacts, no way of getting back home."

Miles also said that it shouldn't have taken the Native American community to lose Pike for this issue to pick up steam.

"It could be your own daughter. It could be your own niece. Your sister. Your mom. It could be anybody. It's not fair what happened to [Emily]," Miles said. Fighting back tears, Miles recalls a message she tells her own kids.

"If I ever go missing, just know that I'm missing," she said. "I would never just walk away from my family. I tell my kids, if that ever comes, I hope they look for me."

Villalpando is no stranger to the #MMIW cause. She is an organizer for the yearly Red Dress Walk in the SRPMIC. The idea for the Red Dress Walk was sparked during a class discussion in 2019 when she was a student. Now, she looks forward to the walk being in the Community three to four times a year. Being at the Capitol walk among Community members was especially important to her.

"I'm just trying to get the word out there and be supportive," she said.

For Gonzales, it's personal. She said that her boyfriend went missing from a treatment home some time ago.

"We're here because we're also hurting," said Gonzales, who is showing her support for Pike, her family and the San Carlos Apache Tribe. "When we found out that Emily was taken from Mesa, so close to our reservation at Salt River, our children go to school in Mesa. We felt very attacked. We felt it close to home. It could have been any of our children."

Gonzales said that she isn't going to stop showing up and speaking up until there is justice for her people.

"We want some acountability," she said.

MISSING PEOPLE IN SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Salt River Police Department lists five Community Members as missing in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as of publication. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of the following people, call the Salt River Police Department at (480) 850-9230.

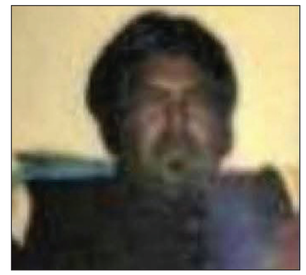
**The last two people are listed as missing by the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). Each are identified as enrolled members of SRPMIC.

Jacqueline Lewis

Jacqueline Lewis was last seen in August of 2019 in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. She was 55 years old when she was reported missing. She is described as a Native American female, 4 feet 11 inches tall, 165 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Rhea Ann Ochoa

Rhea Ochoa was reportedly last seen on June 17, 1997, in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. She was 28 years old when she was reported missing. Rhea Ochoa is a Native American female, 4 feet 10 inches tall, 150 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.



Trent Dudley Smith

Trent Smith was reportedly last seen on November 25, 1995, in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Smith was 46 years old at the time he was reported missing. Smith is a Native American male, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 170 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Alaina Stacey

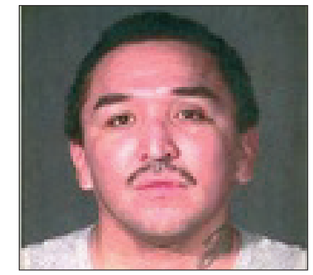
Alaina Stacey was last seen on February 8, 2025, in Phoenix, where she left her group home. She was 17 years old at the time she was reported missing. Alaina Stacey is a Native American female, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 160 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Larissa Stacey

Larissa Stacey was last seen on February 8, 2025, in Phoenix, where she left her home. She was 16 years old at the time she was reported missing. She is a Native American female, 5 feet 4 inches tall, 170 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.

**Tony Ulyesse-Hillian Gutierrez

Tony Gutierrez was last seen September 1, 2022, in Laveen, Arizona. He was last seen walking away from his Laveen residence and his girlfriend believed he was going to Mesa. He was 37 years old at the time he was reported missing. He's 5 feet 9 inches tall, 300 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.



**Hector Lorenzo Martinez Jr.

Hector Martinez was last seen August 12, 2008, in Mesa, Arizona. He was 32 years old at the time he was reported missing. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall, 250 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

MMIP Events

May 1-May 8

May 5 is known as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day across the U.S. Many events are planned throughout the country leading up to May and after; some are virtual, and many are in-person walks. Here is a list of events happening locally, online or in Arizona.

Thursday, May 1
Exploring the intersection of domestic violence and MMIR
StrongHearts Native Helpline
Virtual: Zoom, 12-1 p.m.

Friday, May 2
Closing Prayer and Artie's MMIP Awareness Walk
Scottsdale Community College
9 a.m.
Contact: (480) 423-6531

Saturday, May 3
MMIP Awareness Walk 2025
Phoenix Indian Center (F.I.N.A.L Youth Council)
8-11 a.m.
Contact: Email YouthPrograms@phxindcenter.org

Sunday, May 4
Arizona Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day
Arizona state Capitol, Phoenix
4-8 p.m.
Contact: Email honwungsics@gmail.com

Monday, May 5
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
8:30-10:30 a.m.: Two Waters Amphitheater Red Wrap
6 p.m.: Light Up The Night: A night of Hope and Healing, Accelerated Learning Academy Football Field
Contact: (480) 362-7740

Wednesday, May 7
Awareness Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons
Winslow, Arizona
5-7 p.m.
Contact: (928) 289-3003

Thursday, May 8
Writing to Heal Workshop
SRPMIC Family Advocacy Center
Space is limited
5:30-7 p.m.
Contact: (480) 362-5425

Arizona MMIP Task Force Begins Third Year of Service

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

During a recent April 1 webinar in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Memory Dawn Long Chase, an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and domestic violence response director for National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, explained it best.

"If you are dealing with any human being in a tribal community, you are dealing with a victim of something."

Sadly, the ongoing traumas regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in Arizona continue to weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of many.

In 2023, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, authorized the creation of the Arizona Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force. The task force is currently in its third year of inception as has taken on the responsibility of advocating for the end of MMIP, as well as addressing barriers and challenges at the local and national level.

The task force is responsible for creating and submitting an annual report to Hobbs every December. *O'odham Action News* was able to obtain a copy of the AZ MMIP Task Force 2024 report.

In June of last year, Hobbs' office was contacted by Native Public Media, President/CEO Loris Leslie, who proposed establishing a Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code (MEP). Later, the Federal Communications Commission joined the collaborative efforts and in August, Hobbs and members of the Office on Tribal Relations welcomed the MEP code to be shared with the AZ MMIP Task force.

"Our goal is to help families who unfortunately experience anguish of not knowing where their loved ones are, and by establishing the missing and endangered persons alert code will also help address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous persons which has afflicted Native communities for far too long," said Anna Gomez of the Federal Communications Commission.

Additionally, late last year, the Arizona task force met with other task forces and local agencies across America for the inaugural MMIP National Coordinator Gathering. During the gathering, MMIP coordinators shared information as well as resources to further refine collaboration efforts.

The Arizona Medical Examiner/Identification Coordinator was recognized for improving the necessity of cultural sensitivity and awareness when working with Indigenous communities regarding the identification and return of remains.

Plans for the 2025 National MMIP Coordinator Gathering are already underway.

Entering its third year, the Arizona MMIP Task Force continues to send staff officials into tribal communities to advocate for change, meet with tribal officials to propose recommendations, and organize community efforts to one day bring an end to MMIP.

Be on the lookout for a second O'odham Action News story on the task force report.

The Arizona MMIP Task Force Members are:

- Alane Breland, chief prosecutor, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Wi-Bwa Grey, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Monica Antone, community advocate, Gila River Indian Community
- April Ignacio, co-founder, Indivisible Tohono
- Capt. Paul Entire, Arizona Department of Public Safety designee
- Alfred Urbina, attorney general for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Rachel Hood, tribal liaison, Arizona Attorney General's Office
- Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Navajo Nation Council
- Corey Hemstreet, legislative specialist, Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care Health Professional
- Theresa Hatathlie, Arizona state senator
- Bruce Pankow, chief of police, Hualapai Tribe Law Enforcement Professional

Continued from front

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Month:

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Proclamation PR-008-2024

WHEREAS, A 2017 study from the Urban Indian Health Institute found that Arizona has the third-highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in the country; and

WHEREAS, In total, BIA estimates there are approximately 4,200 missing and murdered cases that have gone unsolved, often due to a lack of investigative resources; and

WHEREAS, The Community finds this rate of violence, sexual assault, and trauma unacceptable and unconscionable, and will neither accept nor tolerate this "norm" within our Onk Akimel O'Odham and Xalychidom Piipaash homelands; and

WHEREAS, The Community Council is committed to working with law enforcement(including federal, state, and surrounding agencies), survivors, and impacted family and loved ones, to be a resource to provide answers, closure, and services to help heal with the eventual goal being to end the cycle of trauma; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the Community to raise awareness and bring attention to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People every day, but especially during the month of May of every year, so that we can stop this vicious cycle of violence, sexual assault and trauma.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council declares the month of May as a Month of Awareness of the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and calls upon all levels of Community, federal, state, nd local governments, educational institutions, volunteer groups, churches, Community members and their families, commercial partners, employees, and the public to join together to both remember and advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People so that the Onk Akimel O'Odham and Xalychidom Piipaash, and all Native people, can raise their families and future generations in a safe, secure and healthy environment.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article VII, Sections 1(c)(4) and (5) of the Constitution of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (as amended), ratified by the Tribe on February 28, 1990, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 19, 1990, the foregoing resolution was adopted this 3rd day of April, 2024, in a duly called meeting of the Community Council at Salt River, Arizona, at which a quorum of 7 members was present, by a vote of 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 abstaining; and 2 excused

Earth Day Celebrated with Environmental Fair and Household Hazardous Waste Event

Senior Environmental Specialist CDD-EPNR Brian Gewecke teaches a young person how to care for an animal at the Earth Day event on April 12 at ALA.

Environmental Response, Inc. provided disposal services to the Community for household hazardous waste on April 12.

Check out this breakdown of HHW numbers:

HHW Item Breakdown

Pounds (lbs.) Safely Removed & Properly Disposed

eWaste 500
Flammable Aerosols 1000
Corrosive Liquids (Acidic) 500
Corrosive Liquids (Basic) 500
Paint Related Materials 1000
Flammable Liquids 850
Pesticides (Liquid) 1000
Pesticides (Solid) 500
Medical Waste (Sharps) 300
Non-DEA Medicine 300
Refrigerators for Recycle 200
Batteries (Wet, Filled with Acid) 550
NiCad Batteries 720
Li-Ion Batteries 60
Incandescent Bulbs 60
Fluorescent Tubes 480
Used Oil 3000
Used Antifreeze 400
Latex Paint 3000
Propane Cylinders 105

TOTAL POUNDS: 15,065
TOTAL TONS: 7.5
33 tires safely removed and properly disposed.
5,160 lbs. (2.6 tons) of paper shredded for recycling.

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

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. An emerging public awareness of air, water and land pollution led several individuals, including peace activist John McConnell, Arthur J. Hanson, former Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and many others, to organize the day after witnessing devastating damage to the environment and holding teach-ins at college campuses across the country.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 20 million Americans demonstrated in different cities on the first Earth Day to force the issue of little-to-no regulation to protect our environment. In December 1970, with support from President Nixon, Congress authorized the creation of the EPA.

Thanks to support from Council, for the last 21 years the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has made it a priority to recognize Earth Day with annual events around the week that it falls on.

This year, on April 12, a total of 173 cars and households participated in the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event held at the SRPMIC Justice Center parking lot.

"The purpose and objective of the HHW is to encourage all SRPMIC households to properly dispose of and safely manage such waste," said CDD-EPNR Senior Compliance Specialist Amy Miguel. "Many HHW items have labels and are regulated to be properly disposed of due to the type of waste and what the waste contains such as certain hazardous chemicals that do not belong in regular trash or on the ground."

According to Miguel, common HHW within the Community can range from medical waste such as biohazard (sharps) containers, medications, used oil and antifreeze. The medical sharps and non-DEA (the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's scheduled drugs) medications are sent out of state for treatment and/or disposal. The used oil and used antifreeze are transported and recycled into new antifreeze and new petroleum products.

For the proper and safe transportation, management, and disposal of the waste was provided through Environmental Response, Inc. (ERI) and the paper shredding was provided by PD Shredding for recycling.

While the HHW event was going on, across the Community at the Accelerated Learning Academy was the Earth Day Environmental Fair. This was just the second time that the event has been held at ALA since 2009. Miguel said that a total of 479 people participated in the fair, which included 47 exhibits focused on Earth Day and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) that encouraged the participants to think about how we can better care for the planet.

LEFT to RIGHT: Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S) Community Seed Programs Coordinator Sterling Johnson, NS/S Farm Manager Joel Johnson and NS/S Chair Jacob Butler (SRPMIC Council member) hang out at the NS/S booth at the Earth Day event.

In addition to several Community departments offering information to Community members, tables were populated by organizations such as the S'edav Va'aki Museum, Native Seeds/SEARCH and Logan Simpson.

Round House Café staff, who began their day at 3 a.m. preparing food, served meals to hungry attendees. A Community member-owned food vendor, Tweety's Frybread, provided another tasty option. And of course, there was plenty of candy to go around at the booths.

Miguel said that this event and its previous events have been made possible through the collaboration of multiple Community departments. Several teams that helped CDD/EPNR and kept the school grounds safe included the ALA Security team, Emergency Management and First Aid/First Responder teams.

Funding for the biannual HHW events in April and October including the Earth Day and upcoming Fall Overhaul events are provided by various and generous enterprises and organizations such as Salt River Landfill, the US EPA's Tribal Pesticides Programs, and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP).

"A special kudos is extended to the ALA's Security team for their tremendous support and cheering the planning team on in getting the small and big items ready for the event; as well as the Public Works Department for event set up and tear down and for creating the fun and popular obstacle course," said Miguel.

Earth Day event attendees get involved in some of the activities provided by participating agencies and SRPMIC departments.

Tribal Veterans Meet with Arizona Governor to See Removed Flags

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

The flags representing Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes were removed from the Carl T Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Phoenix on March 18, but now they have a new home at the Arizona Capitol rotunda in downtown Phoenix.

According to a news release by the Department of Veteran Affairs, the flags were originally removed due to a newly implemented policy that is "…intended to establish consistency across the department and aligns with longstanding Department of Defense guidelines."

In an online exclusive published on March 20, *O'odham Action News* reported that all 22 flags from the VA facility had been transported to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community temporarily.

On March 25, five days after the SRPMIC agreed to house the flags in the Community, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs made the decision to accept the 22 tribal flags to the Executive Tower Rotunda inside of her office in Phoenix.

"The Community is grateful that we had the opportunity to receive the tribal flags and to have them for the short time and we are thankful Governor Hobbs has agreed to take the flags to display them at the Arizona Capitol, a more prominent and appropriate place for them to be located," SRPMIC President Martin Harvier said in a statement at that time.

Recently, on April 8, tribal veterans and leaders met with Hobbs on to see the flags in person and to engage the governor with appreciation.

Hobbs and director of Tribal Affairs at the Arizona Governor's Office and enrolled Tohono O'odham Nation member Jason Chavez walked around the Capitol rotunda to personally greet each tribal veteran one by one.

"When I learned about the unceremonious removal of the flags from the VA honoring all our tribal members' service to our country, we wanted to make sure that we could pay honor and tribute and take care of them for you all until they are rightfully returned," Hobbs told the veterans. "Really happy to have you all here to see them."

John F. Scott, director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, told those in attendance that he received the first phone call to pick up the flags from the V.A. on a Saturday. "[They] said, 'we have an issue and need you to take care of it,' and I said, 'Yes ma'am, Roger that. We're going to make this happen,' and we made it happen and that's in support of all of you [Native veterans in the room]," recalled Scott.

Scott mentioned that Native Americans serve five times the rate of non-Natives, which he said, "…truly is a testament to your patriotism and your commitment to serving."

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs (MIDDLE) poses with tribal leaders and veterans at the Arizona Capitol rotunda, on March 18, in front of the flags representing Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes.

SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard (MIDDLE RIGHT) speaks directly with Gov. Hobbs, flanked by a Native veteran to his left and former SRPMIC President Delbert Ray and Pacer Reina to his right.

SRPMIC member Pacer Reina was present for the greeting at the rotunda. When he woke up that morning, he was excited to see the flags after having seen the photos posted online.

Reina told the governor that he received so many texts, emails and phone calls asking about these flags, because they knew [the flags] were in Salt River. He said they expressed their gratitude that Salt River was able to house the flags until they were received at the Capitol.

"When it comes to Arizona, for us [O'odham, Piipaash and other tribes] it's common knowledge that we were the first Arizona National Guard," Reina told *O'odham Action News*. "So, when the flags were removed from the V.A., I felt that blow. I felt that disrespect."

However, Reina expressed a slight sense of relief knowing that the flags are still in good hands. "Being here and standing with all those veterans, veterans' representatives, families of veterans and with the governor and their representatives, it seems like some of that respect was returned to us," he said.

Also at the meeting from the SRPMIC was Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, who has been vocal about his disapproval of the removal of the flags from the V.A. along with former SRPMIC President Delbert Ray and the entire SRPMIC Veterans Representatives Department staff.

Jordan Manuel, Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, and Dwayne Manuel mingled with fellow artists as they shared their artistic insight with art dealers and buyers who attended the Scottsdale Ferrari Art Show.

Scottsdale Ferrari Art Show Features O'odham Talent

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

During the week of March 20 at Westworld of Scottsdale, the diet sodas were $4, but the art was priceless.

The inaugural Scottsdale Ferrari Art Show featured a who's who of local artists from the Valley of the Sun, which also included Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community artist Dwayne Manuel, as well as Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, an artist from the Tohono O'odham Nation and resident of the SRPMIC.

Official organizers of the art festival boasted the inaugural showcase as the first art fair in America to have an emphasis on an Indigenous expression.

The four-day art festival included art from artists who work closely with Manuel and Marcus, fellow artists Frank Gonzales and Matt Dickson. Together, the artists showcased their work in collaboration with Earth Maker Gallery and showcased their latest and greatest artistic creations.

Manuel's work was showcased inside of the Gyagyagya Gallery, a brother and sister art collective from Tokyo, Japan. The sister, Ramu Ataku, personally knows Marcus and Manuel and became friends with Marcus during a 2024 exhibit.

"I exhibited with him [Marcus] in Miami, Florida last December," said Ataku. "We became really good friends and then he [Marcus] said to me, 'Oh, I can introduce you to another friend of mine.'"

That friend? Dwayne Manuel. Once the trio met, they quickly became friends and colleagues.

During the showcase, Ataku provided space in her exhibit for Manuel's work to be showcased along with the work she creates with her brother. Ataku told *O'odham Action News* that she enjoyed having Manuel's work showcased along with hers and her brothers because of the optics it provides.

"It makes my gallery interesting," she said.

"It's good. Not only to have Japan art, but art from Scottsdale too, they all are welcome," she said with a smile.

Later Ataku added, "I'm trying to get them both to come out to Japan one day."

Marcus was in-person for all four days as he created and finished a multi-colored desert landscape mural as part of his exhibit. He was interviewed by local news stations as well as many out-of-town visitors who approached him while he was working.

Manuel and his brother Jordan spent time visiting different art exhibit galleries, soaking in the atmosphere and networking with fellow artists.

A small array of finger foods and other delicious treats were available for purchase.

Nearly 2,000 individual art pieces were on display during the inaugural art showcase, some created via paint, photography, and various mixed media formats.

Additionally, programs included: highlighting fashion by designers who are Indigenous, navigating the local Phoenix arts scene, an update on the Arizona Latinx art movement, as well as a panel involving artificial intelligence and the role it currently plays in today's contemporary art scene and more.

Interested individuals looking to showcase their work during next year's art week can reach out to the Scottsdale Ferrari Art Show staff by emailing at info@scottsdaleartweek.com or call by dialing (480) 423-1414.

Dwayne Manuel had several pieces of his art showcased for purchase inside of the Scottsdale Ferrari Art Show in collaboration with his collegue and friend, Ramu Ataku, from the Gyagyagya Gallery from Japan.

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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 moquinoscustompaint@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

PIIPASH 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

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

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.

SALT RIVER CHURCH LISTINGS

LEHI CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1452 E. Oak St. Mesa, AZ 85203
Pastor Merrill Jones
(480) 234-6091
SERVICES
Visit us on Facebook Live and in person. Search for Lehi Church of the Nazarene.
Sun. School, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
Sun. Night Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Wed. Devotion Night 6:30 p.m.
SOAR Group 2nd & 4th Friday, 7 p.m.
Mon. night Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m.
Singspiration, last Sundays at 6 p.m.

FERGUSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
1512 E. McDowell Rd. Mesa, AZ 85203
Pastor Neil Price
(480) 278-0750
SERVICES
Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m. Now available through the Zoom app. Call church for Zoom ID.

LEHI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 E. Oak Mesa, AZ 85203
Pastor Annette Lewis
annette.f.lewis@gmail.com
(480) 404-3284
SERVICES
Sunday Services 10 a.m.
Communion First Sundays at 10 a.m.
Birthday Sunday Potluck- Last Sunday of the Month, after services.
Youth Devotion/Music (bring your instruments!) last 2 Saturdays of the month 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
saltriveragchurch.com
SERVICES
Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study 6pm

SALT RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST
430 N. Dobson Rd. Suite 105
Mesa, AZ 85201
(720) 626-2171, Josh Austin
SaltRiverChurchofChrist.com
SERVICES
Bible Class 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Class 6 p.m.
Bible Study Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Local transportation available, please call phone number above

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

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

SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES 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 8-11 a.m.
Bible classes Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Visit msactruth.com for more
Follow us @morningstarapostolic on Instagram and on Facebook at facebook.com/msactruth

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.

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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

DALTON WALKER
MANAGING EDITOR
(480) 362-3281
dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

CHRIS PICCIUOLO
NEWS REPORTER
(480) 362-6626
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

JUAN YSAGUIRRE
NEWS REPORTER
(480) 362-7323
juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

ANDREEA MIGUEL
NEWS REPORTER - TEMP
andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

NALANI LOPEZ
NEWS REPORTER - TEMP
nalani.lopez@srpmic-nsn.gov

KARI HAAHR
NEWSPAPER ASSISTANT
(480) 362-2698
kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

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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 Public Works Department

Memorial Services & Cemeteries

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

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00AM – 5:00PM

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

For Any Questions Call:
(480) 278-7050

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

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
MAY 15	MAY 2
JUNE 5	MAY 16

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

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

Francisco, Marissa Martina – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: May 12 ,2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Lewis, Robi Corey – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: May 12,2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Mora Jr., Joesph - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: JV-24-0105 Court Date: June 9, 2025 at 11 AM

Vega, David – Permanency Hearing Case: JV-25-0044 Date: June 11, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Weaver, Nicole– Permanency Hearing Case: JV-25-0044 Date: June 11, 2025 at 9 a.m.

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

Alvarez-Gage, Analisha Rosa Mae - Entry of Default Judgement Hearing Case: CV-25-0597

Court Date: May 12, 2025 at 9 AM

Carlisle, Andrew - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-2295 Court Date: May 15, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Conger, Melinda Arlene - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-1902 Court Date: June 2, 2025, at 10 AM

Diaz, Melissa Marie - Annual Guardianship Review Case: CF-22-0029 Court Date: May 7, 2025 at 9 AM

Flores, Lance Eagle - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0859 Court Date: June 2, 2025 at 11 AM

Gloria, Valerie Gail - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-1511 Court Date: May 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM

Hayes, Ariana Persuasia - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-24-6558 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Kavoka, Balen Kelly - Probate Status Hearing Case: CV-25-0169 Court Date: June 17, 2025 at 9 AM

Lewis, Roxanne Christina - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-25-0784 Court Date: June 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM

Lopez, Monica - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-1458 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 11 AM

Ludlow, Ryan - Child Support Modification Hearing Case: CFCS-20-0024 Court Date: May 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM

Mix, Prendy - Evidentiary Custody Hearing Case: CV-25-1601 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 10 AM

Mix, Prendy - Evidentiary Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-1601 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 10 AM

Parchcorn Sr., Ellis - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-24-5858 Court Date: May 19, 2025 at 9 AM

Paul, Romelia Nicole - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-1896 Court Date: May 21, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Ray, Calvin Evans - Entry of Default Judgement/OTSC Hearings Case: CV-25-0854 Court Date: May 7, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Smith, Tracy Serina AKA Tracy French- Annual Guardianship Review/Order to Show Cause Case: CF-22-0073 Court Date: May 20, 2025 at 10 AM

Triplett Jr., Bruce Kevin - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-1840 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Walker, Blaineden Wayne - Entry of Default Judgement/ Order to Show Cause hearings Case: CV-25-0856 Court Date: May 27, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Ybarra, Carlos Alejandr - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-1511 Court Date: May 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM

Zotigh, Jeremiah Jimmy Taylor - Annual Guardianship Review Case: CF-23-0054 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 9 AM

Zotigh, Sosha - Annual Guardianship Review Case: CF-23-0054 Court Date: May 22, 2025 at 9 AM

Zotigh, Sosha - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CF-23-0054 Court Date: May 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

DEFAULT NOTICES

GONZALES, ANTONIO
CV-24-5850

Notice of Default Judgment:

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-24-5850.

Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Jasmine Harrison and Antonio Gonzales, is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Grandparent's Rights of Visitation is hereby given to Lisa Rangel and is hereby ENTERED on the 10th day of April, 2025. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Lisa Rangel. is awarded visitation of minor E. G DOB: 04/02/2015. Lisa Rangel shall have visits for the entire summer break and every other for entire Christmas break beginning in 2025. This order shall be served on Respondent in accordance to Rule 5-20(c). For a copy of this Order please contact the Salt River Court at 480-362-6315.

HARRISON, JASMINE
CV-24-5850

Notice of Default Judgment:

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-24-5850.

Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Jasmine Harrison and Antonio Gonzales, is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Grandparent's Rights of Visitation is hereby given to Lisa Rangel and is hereby ENTERED on the 10th day of April, 2025. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Lisa Rangel. is awarded visitation of minor E. G DOB: 04/02/2015. Lisa Rangel shall have visits for the entire summer break and every other for entire Christmas break beginning in 2025. This order shall be served on Respondent in accordance to Rule 5-20(c). For a copy of this Order please contact the Salt River Court at 480-362-6315.

HAYES, ARIANA PERSUASIA
CV-24-6558
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE
SARI CELINE TORRES V. ARIANA PERSUASIA HAYES

TO: Ariana Persuasia Hayes; Respondent,

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for Order to Show Cause Hearing on the 22nd day of May 2025 at 10:00 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for Civil Complaint Hearing on January 16, 2025 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.

You are entitled to subpoena witnesses on your behalf and to be represented by counsel.

ORDERED this 17th day of March 2025.

PRESIDING JUDGE RAYMOND L. DEER - SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

RAY, CALVIN EVANS
CV-25-0854
DEFAULT NOTICE

Country Club Cars v. Calvin Evans Ray

To: Calvin Evans Ray, RESPONDENT

1. A Complaint has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response, and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted.
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default)

DATED: 24th day of March 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

RAY, CALVIN EVANS
CV-25-0854
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE (AMENDED)

Country Club Cars v. Ray, Calvin Evans

TO: Ray, Calvin Evans

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for Order to Show Cause Hearing on the 7th day of May 2025 at 9:30 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for Civil Complaint Hearing on March 24, 2025 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.

You are entitled to subpoena witnesses on your behalf and to be represented by counsel.ORDERED this 24th day of March 2025.

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

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

Country Club Cars v. Tracy Smith AKA Tracy French

TO: Tracy Smith AKA Tracy French

P.O. Box 682
135 N. Center St.
Mesa, AZ 85211

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 20th day of May, 2025 at 10:00 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for a Annual Guardianship Review Hearing that was heard on March 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM after being duly notice.

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 this 27th day of March, 2025.

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

WALKER, BLAINEDEN WAYNE
CV-25-0586
DEFAULT NOTICE

Country Club Cars v. Blaineden Wayne Walker

To: Blaineden Wayne Walker, RESPONDENT

1. A Complaint has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default)

DATED: 3rd of April 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

WALKER, BLAINEDEN WAYNE
CV-25-0856
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Country Club v. Blaineden Wayne Walker

TO: Blaineden Wayne Walker

9256 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 27th day of May 2025 at 9:30 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for a Civil Complaint Hearing that was heard on April 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM after being duly notice.

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 this 03rd day of April 2025.

JUDGE ARISTINA SANCHEZ - SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

SALT RIVER
PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY
Community Development Department
Environmental Protection & Natural Resources
10005 EAST OSBORN ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 (480) 362-7500 EPNR@srpmic-nsn.gov

Notice of Public Meeting for Comments

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

2024 Air Monitoring Network Plan
5-Year Network Assessment

Purpose of Meeting:

To provide an opportunity for public to comment on Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community's (SRPMIC) Air Quality Program's (AQP) 2024 Air Monitoring Network Plan and the 5-Year Network Assessment.

Summary

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 40 Part 58.10, the network plan is made available to the public for review and comments for at least 30 days prior to being submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9. During that time, the Air Quality Program will hold a meeting to provide a summary of the document including: network design, monitoring data collected, and proposed changes to the network, and take any verbal comments. The document is available for review at: www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/aqhome/.

Public Meeting

AQP will host the meeting on Monday, May 26, 2025 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Two Waters, Building B, 3rd Floor, B305-Xmshe (Stars) Room10005 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256

Submitting Comments

Any member of the public can submit written comments by mail to CDD/EPNR, 10005 E Osborn Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 or e-mail them to epnr@srpmic-nsn.gov. The comment period is May 12, 2025 through June 13, 2025.

Public Input Requested on Roads Program

The Community has a Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP) showing the road projects planned over the next 5 years. The plan includes new roadway construction, reconstruction, safety improvements, pedestrian facilities, pavement rehabilitation and road maintenance. A copy of the TTIP can be found on the Community's website at https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/public-works/roads/#Planning. A hardcopy is also available for pick up at the Public Works Utilities and Roads office located at 9010 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256. Please contact Jennifer Jack, Public Works Department, Roads Section Manager, with any questions at 480-362-7747 or jennifer.jack@srpmic-nsn.gov. Comments may be submitted at the address or email indicated above. The deadline for comments is May 2, 2025.

Public Comments on Proposed Amendments to Community, Enterprises, Divisions, and Boards Ordinance – Chapter 1, Article II, Division 13
Comment Period: April 16-May 15, 2025

On April 16, 2025, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council authorized a thirty (30) day public comment period on amendments to the Community's section on Community, Enterprises, Divisions, and Boards ("Ordinance"). The amendments to the Ordinance do the following:

- Establish Salt River Shared Services as a new division within the Community to manage the financial accounting and similar services for some of the Community's smaller enterprises.

The thirty (30) day public comment period lasts until May 15, 2025. The Office of General Counsel and the Treasury Department will collect comments.

Please submit all comments in writing either to the Community's intranet "Ordinance Public Comment" page, or via standard mail or email to the following:

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
The Office of the General Counsel
10005 East Osborn RoadScottsdale, Arizona 85256
OrdPublicComment@srpmic-nsn.gov

Senior Services Seeks Male Mentors

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR SERVICES

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Senior Services is seeking male elders to serve as mentors in its new Male Mentorship collaboration with Youth Services. The program was developed to strengthen the Community's male youth so that they can become positive role models for their future families and the Community.

"We have a few existing mentors but are looking for a few more men who are willing to work with the youth to share their experiences and wisdom," said Celinda Joe, Senior Services vitality manager. "Having more mentors would allow us to provide more personalized attention and a broader spectrum of experiences and advice to our participating youth."

Joe stresses that men do "not have to be perfect."

"Those who have overcome life challenges and developed new habits have valuable experience and advice to share," said Joe.

Kent Andrews, one of the program's charter mentors, agrees and encourages other senior men to become mentors.

"Your life experience can help someone. They can learn from people whose life experience is, been there and done that," said Andrews.

Andrews enjoys working with the young men.

"A lot of seniors have varying thoughts and opinions about today's youth. In the few sessions I have attended, I find these young men to be a combination of shy, curious and goofy but always respectful," said Andrews.

He continued, "Right now, it's about building trust and confidence for these young men to communicate and ask questions about decisions they may be facing, and I think the bigger picture is to give them a sense of direction, thoughts, or pointers about things that can happen in the future and how the decisions they make now can affect them later in life."

The program is the brainchild of Celinda Joe and Brian Yazzie, assistant Youth Services director.

"Celinda and I were talking about ways to get more seniors and youth involved and bring these two groups together. We had a need with the teens—some don't have a dad or male role model, and I grew up in a single-parent home, so I know what it's like," said Yazzie. "I believe in intergenerational relationships."

Some of Yazzie's best friends growing up were a group of older men.

"When I was 14, I wanted to learn to play golf. I'd go to the range every day and practice. One day, an older gentleman noticed me struggling, and he came over to show me how to properly hold a club and position my body. He became my swing coach," said Yazzie.

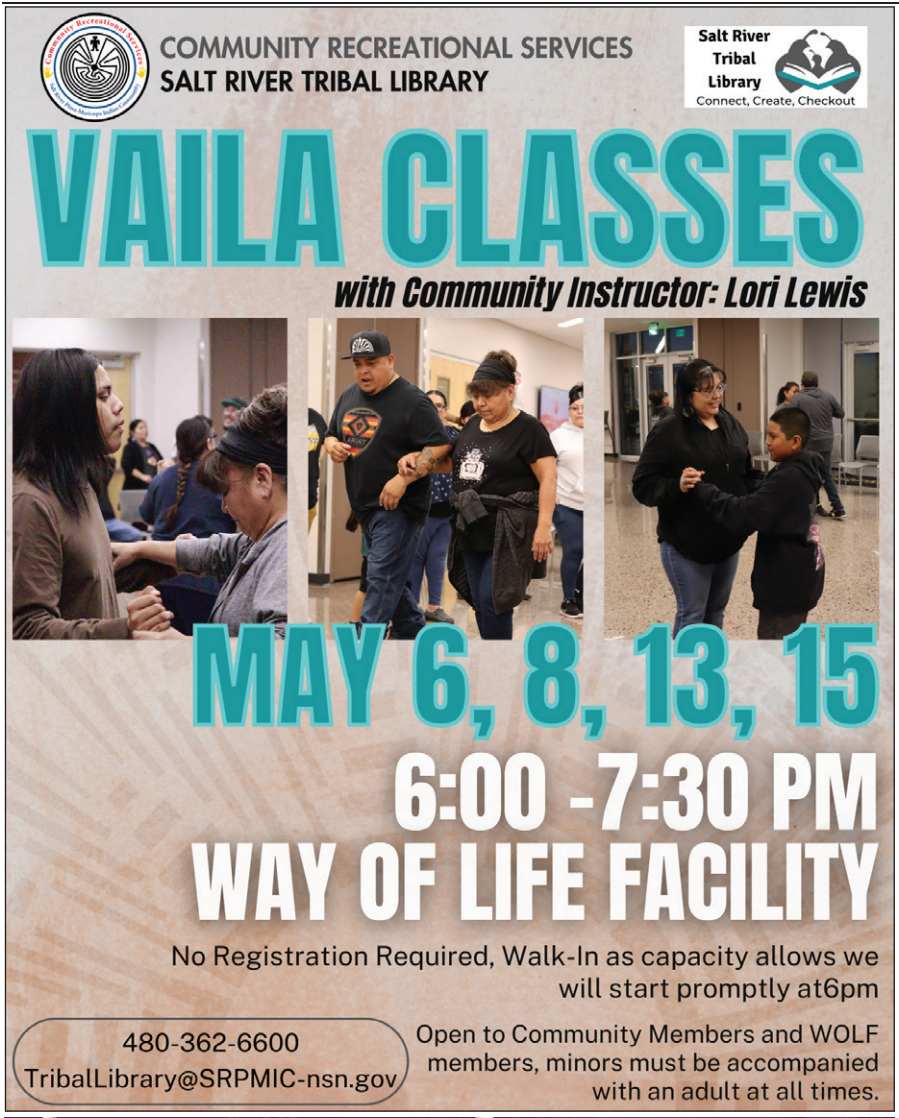
The man was part of a group of six that played every day at 11 a.m. They asked Brian to join them, and they all became good friends.

"All through high school, these six gentlemen befriended me. They came to my football games, and one went to my church, so if I had trouble or questions in life—they had a lot of advice that helped me," said Yazzie. "Celinda and I want to give that experience to our young men. Having more mentors would allow us to expand the number of young men we serve and give them a greater depth of experience and advice to draw on."

Currently, the program serves 15-20 boys, but Joe and Yazzie would like to include more young men, including those of a younger age and those who are not currently participating in Youth Services.

Senior men who are interested in becoming mentors can contact Celinda Joe at celinda.joe@sprmic-nsn.gov or (480) 876-7180.

Senior and Youth Services seek male elders to mentor the Community's young men. *Current mentors include. Front, Left to Right: Kent Andrews, President Martin Harvier, Victor John Wiki and Brian Yazzie. Back, Left to Right: Jordan French, Eleuterio Garcia and Nick Armenta. Photo Credit: Isaac Torres, Senior Services.*



Eagles Club visits Community Relations

STAFF REPORTS
O'odham Action News

Digital photography students from Salt River Schools made a special April visit to Community Relations at the Two Waters Government Complex.

The elementary school students take part in a digital photography class as part of the Eagles Club after-school program.

Students toured Community Relations and met with staff, including *O'odham Action News*. The students brought their digital cameras and took all kinds of photos. The students even got to tour the Creative Ki studio, where they got to learn about using green screens for video, audio work and received photo-taking tips.

Besides OAN, Community Relations is home to the Communications, Events and Multimedia divisions. The students left their visit with a goodie bag that included a special replica of an OAN front page with photos by the students taken during this school year.

The Salt River Elementary School's Eagles Club visited Two Waters in April..

The students practiced their photgraphy skills inside the Creative Ki: Studio.

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

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

www.oodhamnews.org

APRIL 8, 2025

Coolest Cat
Pages 8-9
Centerspread

Salt River Schools' Eagles Club SOARS to O'odham Action News

BY NALANI LOPEZ
O'odham Action News
nalani.lopez@srpmic-nsn.gov

A group of Salt River Elementary School students stopped by the Community Relations Office at Two Waters to learn about O'odham Action News.

The 10 students are members of the popular Eagles Club program.

The Eagles Club provides afterschool and summer activities for SRES students in grades K-6. Classes and activities are designed to promote 21st Century skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Activities are evidence-based and align with Arizona State Standards. The Eagles Club is made

Continued on page 4

How do SRES Students Express Themselves?

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
O'odham Action News
andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

A typical day for afterschool students includes a snack, homework help or tutoring, and activity. Activities may vary each semester, because they are designed based on student interests and academic need. A few examples of prior and current activities include O'odham and Piipaash Culture, Creative Crafts, Sports Camp, Chess Club, and Media/Film Class. Transportation is provided for SRPMIC resident students.

Continued on page 6

Culture Day
Learning about O'odham and Piipaash traditions

Continued on page 6

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Tips for the Court
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Interviews with the Staff
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Who had the best costume?
Page 5

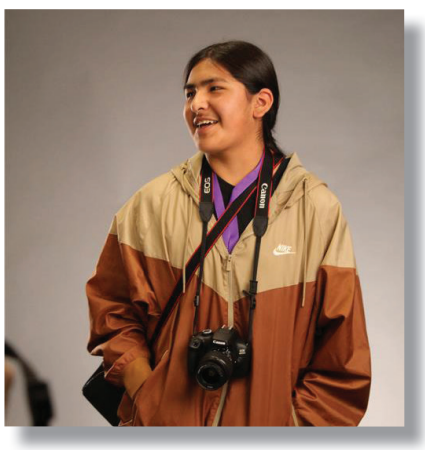
Snapshots from the Fun Run
Page 5

Best Books of 2025
Page 6

What's Inside the SRES Eagles Club's OAN Replica?

- **Original photography by SRES Eagles Club Photography students**
- **Three mock articles: *Salt River Schools' Eagles Club Soars to O'odham Action News, How do SRES Students Express Themselves?* and *Culture Day***
- **Mock sidebar featuring mock articles like *Interviews with the Staff* and *Snapshots from the Fun Run***

BOTTOM: Salt River Eagles Club Photography students took one another's headshots in the Creative Ki: Studio.



SRPMIC Members, Employees Participate in Pat's Run

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

Pat Tillman was a star Arizona State University (ASU) linebacker who had an exceptional football career. Tillman was named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year in 1997 after leading his team to a Pac-10 championship and the Rose Bowl the previous year. He was selected by the Arizona Cardinals in the seventh round of the 1998 NFL Draft as the 226th pick.

After four years of playing professional football, Tillman enlisted in the military shortly after the September 11 attacks in New York City. While on deployment he tragically lost his life. Over the years, his family and loved ones have held an annual run and walk celebrating his life and honoring him as a man who put his professional career on hold to serve his country.

Pat's Run is a 4.2 mile run and walk that honors Tillman and his legacy here in Arizona. The annual run is held in the streets of Tempe and ends at the 42-yard line in Mountain America Stadium (formerly Sun Devil Stadium). Thousands of participants are split into different groups with each starting at different times to avoid heavy foot traffic.

Participants waiting for the sound of the air horn to begin the 4.2 mile run/walk.

Every runner who registers is given a runner's bib with their own individual number and a running shirt with the number 42 on the back and 40 on the front. Both were Tillman's jersey numbers from his college career (42) and his career with the Arizona Cardinals (40). However, many pay tribute to Tillman's legacy by completing the run in their service uniforms, while others carry flags of the different branches of the military along with the U.S. flag.

Every year the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Veterans Affairs Department gives Community members and employees who are veterans and their families the opportunity to participate in the run, which was held on April 12 this year.

"This event is not only an opportunity to honor the legacy of Pat Tillman but also provides several personal and community advantages such as commemoration [and] honoring veterans' sacrifices and fallen comrades," said Veterans Services Representative Amanda White.

Pat's Run, for many, is a celebration for participants to promote physical fitness, wellbeing and raise awareness in challenges veterans face in civilian life. Profits from the run go to a supporting program that assists veterans.

"Once again, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the Community members, employee veterans and their families who participated in the 21st Annual Pat's Run or Walk. Together, we celebrate Pat's legacy and proudly showcased the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community," White added.

"Pat's legacy is one of unwavering devotion. The man gave up playing in the NFL to serve his country in a major time of need. He also gave the ultimate sacrifice with his life. Something he could have easily avoided by deciding not to enlist. His story had inspired me when I was younger to enlist into the Marine Corps," said SRPMIC member Daniel Smith Jr.

Daniel Smith Jr. and family pose for pictures after completing the run.
Photo courtesy of Daniel Smith Jr.

Smith enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps in 2017 and spent three months in San Diego, California in Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego (MCRD). He was then stationed for two years in Okinawa, Japan and relocated to MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms in California for an additional two years.

"There was a great sense of pride as a veteran and as a native to Arizona while at Pat's Run. Seeing so many people come together for an event reminds me just how great it is to be an American. Having the freedoms and liberties that we take for granted at times. It also showed what can be accomplished when we start working together instead of trying to find everything that divides us." Smith said.

"I am very grateful for the Community taking care of my entry fees for the race. It was a great experience for my family and myself. I hope to continue running and to participate in Pat's Run again."

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.

2901 W Durango Street : Phoenix, AZ 85009 : (602) 506-3342 : maricopa.gov/transportation : @maricoparoads

2nd Quarter 2025 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE June 30, 2025

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

DEADLINES FOR CHANGES

Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes: Thursday, July 3rd 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 **JULY 2025** payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the **OCTOBER 2025** payout.

Discontinue Direct Deposits: Thursday, July 3rd 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: Tuesday, July 22nd 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 JULY 2025 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of OCTOBER 2025.

Tax Withholding Changes: Tuesday, July 22nd 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 & Chang Forms:
Membership Services
@ (480) 362-7600

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

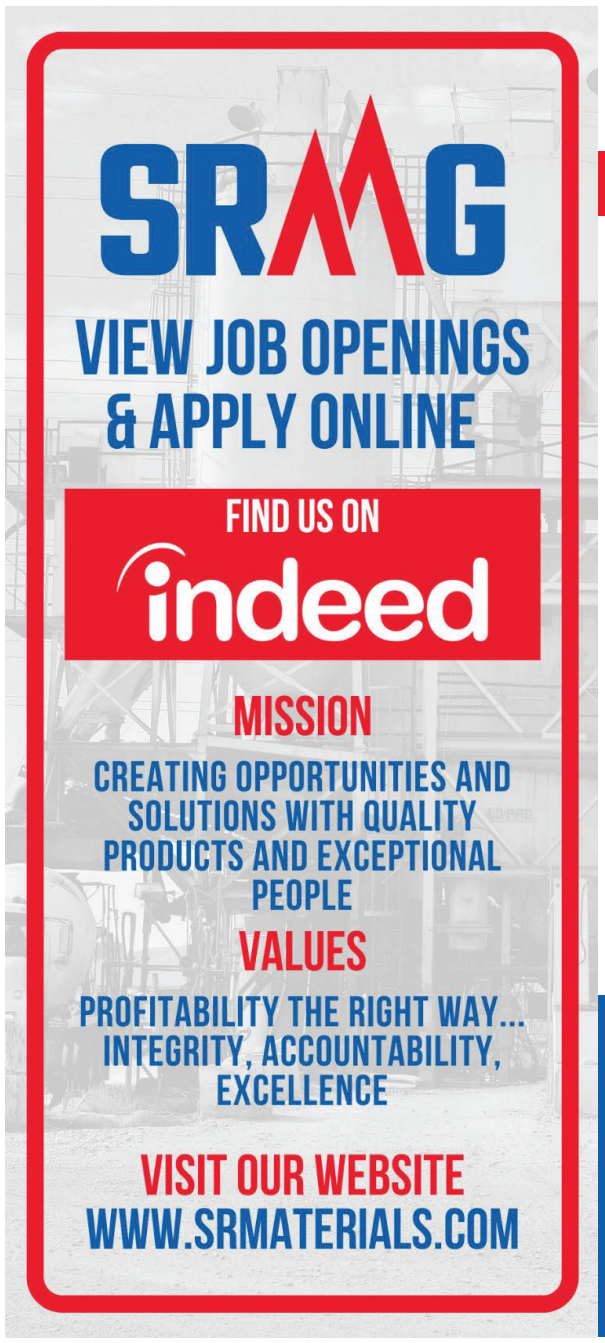
O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

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.

This Public Service page is sponsored by:

SRMG



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

BENEFITS

Life Disability

Long & Short-Term Disability Insurance

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

Bereavement Leave - immediately available upon hire date.

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

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

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

Health Club Membership – Health club membership for employees.

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

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

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

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

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

Does Salt River Materials Group have preference in hiring?

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

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

WATER AEROBICS AT WAY OF LIFE 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.

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1 LAW DAY AT SRPMIC JUSTICE CENTER, 4pm - 6pm at Justice Center. Celebrate the importance of law in our community at this special event!

1 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 8:30 a.m. at Two Waters Courtyard

2 SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MMIP WEEK, Closing Prayer and Artie's MMIP Awareness Walk. 9 a.m. at ICC Gathering Space.

2 AMERICAN INDIAN CONVOCATION FOR MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.

3 BRIDGE TO WELLNESS, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Salt River Ballfield. Be part of an empowering community health event! The River People Health Center, in collaboration with Diabetes Prevention, invites you to a day filled with fun, education, and community engagement. For more information, contact Judy Santeo at (480) 274-7982 or judy.santeo@srpmic-nsn.gov

5 MMIP AWARENESS DAY, Join the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as we come together to honor and remember Missing & Murdered Indigenous People. This meaningful day is about raising awareness, standing in solidarity, and seeking justice for our loved ones.

6 8 13 15, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Way of Life Facility. No registration required, walk-ins as capacity allows. Open to Community members and WOLF members, minors must be accompanied with an adult at all times. For more information, call (480) 362-6600.

13 COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS, held at Salt River Senior Services. Community Seniors 55+ are welcome to attend the computer basic classess provided by SRPMIC Information Technology Department - Customer Care Division. Classes are held once a month from 9:00AM - 11:00AM. No computer experience is required. We will see YOU there! You can contact the Senior Services Department for transportation to the Two Waters class at: (480) 362-6350

15 HIGHER EDUCATION ORIENTATION PROGRAM, 4p.m.-5 p.m. at Salt River Schools Education Board Room. The Salt River Higher Education Program offers early college outreach, financial assistance, and education and career advising to enrolled SRPMIC members. Questions? Call (480) 362-2547 or email HigherEducation@saltiverschools.org.

19 KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATION, 9:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at the Accelerated Learning Academy lecture hall. Celebrate Salt River Elementary School students. For more information, call (480) 362-2400.

20 COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS, held at Two Waters Building A - Red Mountain Computer Lab. Community Seniors 55+ are welcome to attend the computer basic classess provided by SRPMIC Information Technology Department - Customer Care Division. Classes are held once a month from 9:00AM - 11:00AM. No computer experience is required. We will see YOU there! You can contact the Senior Services Department for transportation to the Two Waters class at: (480) 362-6350.

20 ECEC PROMOTION CEREMONY, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Accelerated Learning Academy gym. Celebrate our Head Start students rising to kindergarten next year. Park in lot south of the football field along Highland Avenue. For more information, call (480) 362-2200.

21 SIXTH GRADE PROMOTION, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the Accelerated Learning Academy lecture hall. Celebrate Salt River Elementary School students. For more information, call (480) 362-2400.

22 PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL, Beginning at 8 a.m. at the Two Waters Courtyard. Join your Salt River Police Department as we honor our falen officers.

24 FLAG PLANTING, Beginning at 7 a.m. We are requesting volunteers to help us with placing American flags on the gravesites of our communities fallen warriors to honor their sacrifice and commemorate their service to this nation. For more information, call (480) 362-7884.

27 SUMMER KICK OFF, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Lehi Aquatic center. Come join us for games, a raffle, a photo booth, Community Recreational Services food truck and movie featuring Surf's Up. For more information, call (480) 362-6310.