



Special SRPMIC Ceremony Celebrates Native Community College Graduates
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See insert for photos!



ECEC Celebrates Expansion with 'Blooming' Ceremony

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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The Salt River Early Childhood Education Center's (ECEC) long-awaited expansion project, which took over two years to plan and build, was unveiled on May 1 for a grand opening "blooming" ribbon cutting ceremony.

Originally built in 1998, the facility was about 53,000 square feet. It was a single level building with seven individual single-story buildings attached in a radial pattern.

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ECEC Ribbon Cutting ceremony on May 1. From L to R: Council member Su:k Fulwilder, Superintendent/Director of Education Sheryl Houston, Council member Jacob Butler, Program Manager Pamela Prasher, Assistant Program Manager-Preschool Barbara White, Council member Mikah Carlos, ECEC leader Michelle Kuamoo, Council member Deanna Scabby and ECEC Policy Council member Kimberly Manuel.



Kevin Patron and his father David were all smiles after winning during the traditional games breakout session held at the Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort in California on April 26.

SRPMIC Hosts California Meeting with Membership

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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ANAHEIM, Calif. — Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members living in the Los Angeles area had the opportunity in April to take part in a membership meeting organized by SRPMIC.

Council members, department directors and other staff members traveled 380 miles west to California on April 26 for a day dedicated to members living in the area.

California members were eligible to obtain their tribal ID's, as well as provide membership updates to the on-site

administration team, as well as Council. Additionally, the trip was also a time to reflect and catch up with loved ones as many throughout the trip shared hugs and handshakes.

"Salt River represents two tribes, the O'odham and Piipaash. The vice-president speaks O'odham, I felt it was fitting this morning to give the prayer in the Pima language," began President Martin Harvier during his welcome address.

Harvier began the conference by detailing the primary focal point of the California meetings. "There's a lot of things that are going on in the Community and our country. We always felt it was important to keep our members here in California

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Salt River Fire Department Breaks Ground on Station 295



SRFD Chief Tsosie Wood, with Deputy Chief Mike Mink, speaks to the crowd at the Station 295 groundbreaking ceremony on May 12.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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The Salt River Fire Department's tagline "Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow" was especially appropriate for a groundbreaking ceremony on May 12 at the future home of the new Station 295/Resource Center that will be built on 92nd Street and McKellips Road.

Project partners for the build include Perlman Architects, Au' Authum Ki/Kitchell and Fleming West. Station 295 is scheduled

to open during summer 2027 in the southwestern part of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

At the ceremony, two fire engines strategically parked in a slight chevron pattern at the site extended their ladders in the air and held up the largest American flag called the Garrison flag. The flag hung tall over a ceremony billboard designed by the Multimedia team at the Community Relations Office.

Community members, stake-

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The 2nd Annual 'Light up the Night' MMIP Event Commemorates All



Families and loved ones dedicated their time to commemorate relatives lost to the tragedies of MMIP by completing two laps on the Accelerated Learning Academy track on May 5. Photos by Andreea Miguel.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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The unfortunate and ongoing atrocities of missing and murdered Indigenous people continue to weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of many. Recent MMIP tragedies such as the Emily Pike case further amplified the need for individuals

to unite and show solidarity with each other as we commemorate the relatives we have lost while also working towards one day bringing them home.

In the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, two events were held on May 5, the official day in Arizona designated to honor and remember the lives impacted by MMIP.

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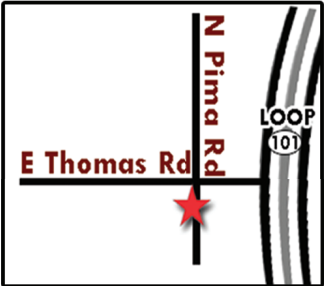
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Uniting the Community Through Law

BY NALANI LOPEZ
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The law is an important part of a well-functioning community. It provides framework for safety, order, fairness and overall civility.

Each year, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community hosts Law Day, a day to celebrate the importance of law within the Community.

On May 1, community families filled the SRP-MIC Justice Center to learn and connect with the various departments that work within the law.

Some of these departments included the Defense Advocate Office, the Legal Services Office, the Office of General Counsel, the Office of the Prosecutor and other departments.

Through interactive booth games and thoughtful conversation, attendees learned about the various aspects and procedures for legal matters. Additionally, resources for the services were provided, if Community members are ever in need of the law.

Earlier in the day, a mock trial was hosted for the SRPMIC youth. Through hands-on experiences with the law in safe and educational settings, the event showed students the law is here to serve, not intimidate them.

Attendees left the event with t-shirts with the slogan "United Community through Law," free bags of popcorn, and plenty of knowledge about the law in their community.



Students learned about the law through fun activities.

(Right, Bottom): At each department booth, attendees received educational materials and goodies.



Correction

In the previous edition of *O'odham Action News*, the photo below was incorrectly captioned, misidentifying one of the individuals. The photo depicts Josie Duarte holding the flowers. Online editions have been corrected, and *O'odham Action News* sincerely apologizes for this error.



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Session 3: June 23rd - July 3rd	10:10 - 10:40AM
Session 4: July 7th - July 17th	10:45 - 11:15AM

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Inaugural 'Bridge To Wellness' Event Showcases Community Support

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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The inaugural "Bridge to Wellness" event was held at the Salt River Ballfield on Saturday, May 3. The Community-wide event featured vendor booths from many of the SRPMIC departments and was a collaboration between the River People Health Center and the Diabetes Prevention Services and many other programs.

Throughout the day-long celebration, families were given resources and activities to help educate and inform all on what a healthy lifestyle entails. From staying hydrated during the summer months to learning truths about sugary foods, the inaugural event was nearly at maximum capacity as many attended.

While membership, families and staff mingled out on the baseball diamond, raffle giveaways, carnival games, prizes, and

much more were provided for all to enjoy. Additionally, several bounce houses were established in the outfield for children to enjoy.

Wolf Brown (Gila River), standup comedian, provided a 10-minute comedy routine which showcased his razor-sharp humorous wit.

"It's good to see staff from the River People Health Center here today," began Brown. "Yeah, it's time to get my Ozempic prescription refilled," he added. "I can't make it rain [with dollar bills]," Brown began. "But I got coins on me, I can make it hail."

Later, SRPMIC Health and Human Services Director Joseph Remitera spoke a few words and expressed his appreciation to all in attendance for coming out and showcasing Community-wide support the SRPMIC is known for.

"It means so much to me to see all of you here, thank you all for coming out," Remitera said.



Vendor booths from many of the SRPMIC departments and programs filled the baseball diamond and outfield of the Salt River Ballfield.

SRPMIC Hosts California Meeting with Membership

Continued from Cover

updated on what is happening in our Community,” he said.

He continued, “I hear your concerns.”

Last held in 2023, this year’s one-day meeting was hosted at the Sheraton in Anaheim and featured four classes for membership to attend that showcased traditional songs, food, basket making and games. The classes were a welcome and new addition to the California meetings as membership had requested more of a cultural aspect during the gathering.

During his speech, Vice-President Leonard stated the California meetings date back to the mid 1990’s.

All Council members were in attendance, and each provided a brief introduction of their personal and professional achievements to membership as well as showcased their appreciation to all for making the trip to Anaheim. Around 350 SRPMIC members are believed to live in the area.

Each member in attendance received an official Nike duffel bag outlined with a traditional water design and a commemorative t-shirt from the recent Talking Stick Resort and Casino 15-year anniversary celebration held in May.

Electronic tablets were on display for membership to complete a survey regarding the Community. Harvier echoed the importance of having membership detail their opinions and complete the survey as Council would later review the submitted answers as a guide to improve SRPMIC departments and the resources they provide.

Later, video presentations were played on the banquet-hall projector screen. The first video was hosted by Community Manager Bryan Meyers and featured past Community leadership in Tom Largo Sr., Delbert Ray,

Eric Schurz Sr., Ivan Makil, Chief of Police Walter Holloway, and many more providing heartfelt greetings and well wishes. During his segment, former President Makil encouraged membership to stay in touch and be aware of current happenings in the SRPMIC and the U.S.

Afterwards, the second video provided an overview of the SRPMIC gaming revenue allocation plan, which was narrated by Pacer Reina.

After introductions, Council opened the floor for Community member questions. Lasting over 2 hours, membership asked questions regarding establishing a petition to reclaim land from the federal government, cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous people, housing, potential ways California members can participate online during future Council meetings, educational resources for higher education, employment opportunities for members, feedback regarding the redesigning of the Community’s website and much more.

Before membership asked Council their questions, all provided their utmost appreciation for hosting the meeting. “Thank you all for making this trip over,” said Paul Versi.

“I want to start by expressing my gratitude for holding this space,” began Fantasia Painter. “This is my first year here, I moved from District E, shout out Council member Carlos,” she said with a smile.

Council would later spend more time answering additional questions from membership.

Following a catered lunch, the four traditional classes were offered.

Leonard and Aarick Mack facilitated the traditional songs class. “I’ve been a singer since 1994,” began Vice-President Leonard during his traditional

songs welcoming. “We still dance to O’odham songs, we learned them from our elder, Leonard Carlos (bot).”

SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler and his brother Jared provided samples of traditional and nutritious foods grown in the Community. Together, the duo shared the different locations some of the foods can be purchased, whether it be in-person or online. They also mentioned the prices on the foods may vary.

Alice Manuel and SRPMIC Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui detailed the steps on how membership can create their own traditional baskets. “The weaving that we do is foundation coiling, which is done around the world. It’s just specific to where you live that makes it ours. We gather our materials on our land, we gather it all from our scratch,” Manuel said as Sinoqui worked on her basket creation.

Lastly, Cody Achin and Kelly Washington explained how to play the traditional games, gins and kinse. “We thought this would be fun and interactive for teams of 2,” Achin explained. Near the conclusion of their presentation, attendees walked away with the proper knowledge of how to play both games.

All four classrooms were nearly at maximum capacity as the cultural component was one of the major cornerstone adjustments SRPMIC enacted for the gathering. Each class lasted nearly an hour.

After sessions came to an end, all were invited to dance as Leonard sang “The Going Home Song.”

“Take these songs with you, and I will see you again,” finished Leonard as all participated in the round dance and shook hands, bringing the gathering to an end.



Above: Roxanne Zepeda, Jacqueline Magana, and Candace Toscano spent time together in between attending the four cultural demonstration classes.

Below: Reginnia Holiday, a welder, asked SRPMIC Council about the resources available to membership for employment as well as other program services.



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Join us Tuesday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Scottsdale Community College's Indigenous Cultural Center for our fun, engaging & informational youth conference that's all about navigating this incredible journey!

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER
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SRPMIC Youth Named Earth Ambassador

Jizelle Juan of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has been named a 2025-26 Earth Ambassador by UNITY. She represents the western region.

Juan was one of 10 young people to be named ambassadors by the popular nonprofit.

UNITY said, “Jizelle brings a powerful blend of cultural knowledge, environmental action, and peer leadership to the national platform, honoring her roots while protecting her community’s natural future.”

Indian Housing Block Grant Funding Announced

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will benefit from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding announcement.

HUD’s Indian Housing Block Grant funding will deliver \$1.1 billion dedicated to affordable housing activities in Indian Country. Eligible activities include housing development, operation and modernization of existing housing, housing services to eligible families and individuals, crime prevention and safety and model activities.

Nearly all tribes in Arizona were awarded funding.

SRPMIC Employee Named Flinn-Brown Fellow

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community employee Joseph Urrea has been selected as a 2025 Flinn-

Brown Fellow by the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership at the Flinn Foundation.

Urrea was one of 30 civil leaders from around the state to be selected. He’s the SRPMIC Emergency Management Coordinator and has multiple certifications, including FEMA-related.

To learn more about the fellowship, check the Flinn Foundation website.

Native Caucus Leadership

The Congressional Native American Caucus has named its leadership for the 119th Congress.

U.S. Reps. Tom Cole and Sharice Davids are again chairs of the caucus. Cole is Chickasaw representing Oklahoma and Davids is Ho-Chunk representing Kansas.

Reps. Nick Begich of Alaska and Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico were named vice chairs.

The caucus is a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers that work to advance nation-to-nation relationships and uphold our federal trust responsibilities through the legislative process.

FNX Launches Streaming Platform

First Nations Experience, or FNX, celebrated its launch of its Indigenous-led streaming platform.

The app is free to download and free to use. It features 24-hour all Native streaming platform for Smart TVs and Apple and Android devices.

On May 1, FNC hosted a gala and concert in California that featured Native actors and performers.

To learn more about FNX, visit their website.

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Continued from Cover

Salt River Fire Department Breaks Ground on Station 295



SRPMIC and SRFD leadership join Station 295 project managers in a groundbreaking ceremony for the station on May 12. LEFT to RIGHT: SRFD Chief Tsosie Wood, Assistant Community Manager Carla Banuelos, Assistant Community Manager Doran Dalton, Council member Cheryl Doka, President Martin Harvier, Council member Deanna Scabby, Ken Powers, Architect, LEED AP from Perlman Architects of Arizona, David Brown, Project Director from Au' Authum Ki/Kitchell, Council member Michael Dallas, Sr.

holders and Community leaders shuttled over to the site from the Casino Arizona parking lot and endured a warm, windy and sunny morning.

The SRFD Pipes and Drums Band piped in the flags from the east. There was no posting of colors due to the Garrison flag's post.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Mink said that Station 295 has been on the department's strategic plan for many years.

"In 2016, Chief [Daryl] Dash and his executive team built a plan to improve emergency services to the Community and ultimately meet the national re-

sponse coverage standards in all districts within the Community's borders," said Mink.

"The strategic plan has been developed to provide more emergency services resources to all the families and guests, resulting in faster response times and a safer environment for all."

Mink continued, "Now, under the leadership of Fire Chief [Tsosie] Wood and the support of the Community, the Station 295 project and mission must continue. [The project] has been quite the undertaking, spanning two fire chiefs in several years.

President Martin Harvier said that with improvements to Pima

Road and with the wide use of Loop 101, the station will be important to the Community to improve response time for people who need help.

"The decisions that leaders have made over the years to set us up to where we're at to have economic development [have] been a blessing to the Community," Harvier told the crowd. "But with that comes a responsibility, and building this new station is a part of that responsibility that we have."



ABOVE: The SRFD Pipes & Drums band performs in front of a fire engine at the Station 295 groundbreaking event.



LEFT: A rendering of the aerial view of Station 295 and the surrounding property.

Identifying and Eliminating Invasive Stinknet is Everyone's Responsibility

If you have questions about managing invasive stinknet, please contact Community Development Department/Environmental Protection & Natural Resources at (480) 362-7500.

BY KARI HAAHR
O'odham Action News
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Allergies aside, the first half of the year is a time of beautiful blooms as the world wakes up and plants emerge from the earth. There is one uniquely unwelcome among them, a noxious weed known as stinknet, or globe chamomile, which is invasive and destructive to the environment.



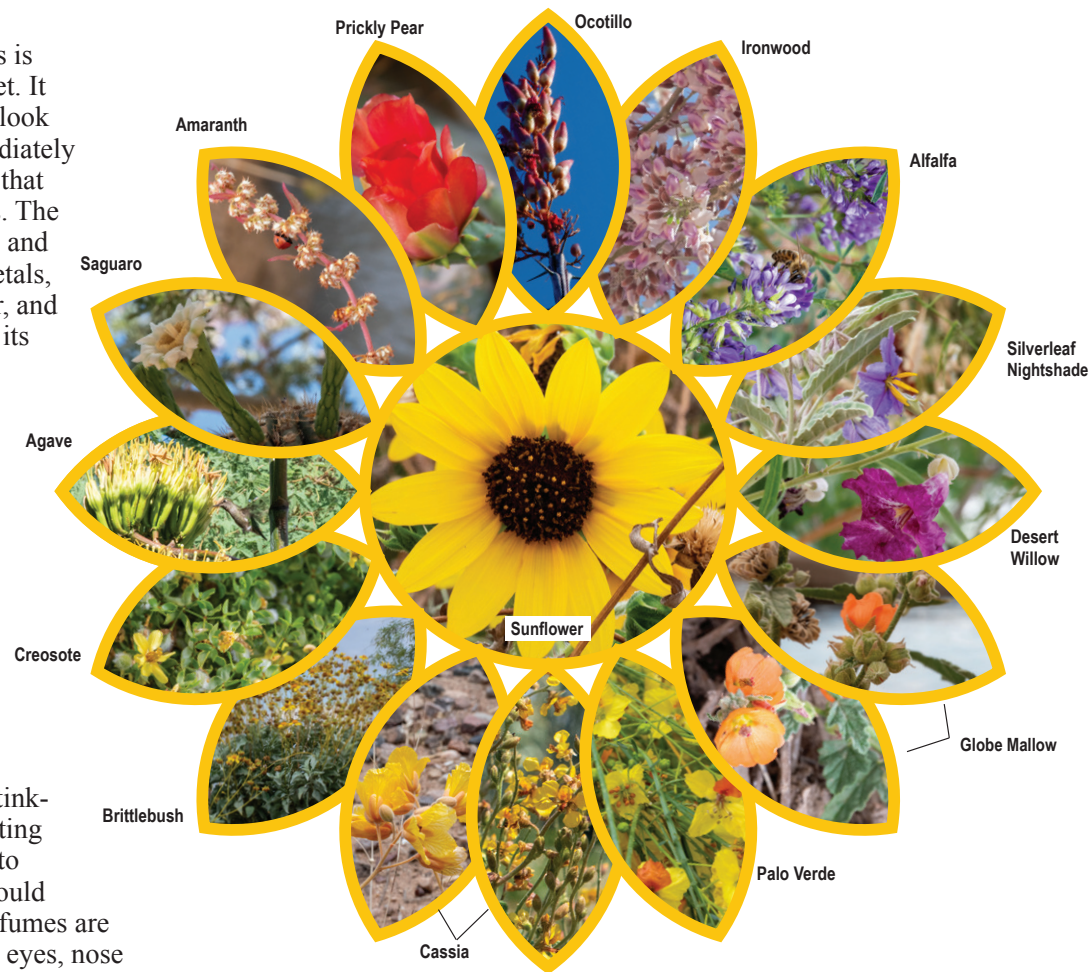
Stinknet is characterized by its distinctive, yellow blooms.

Noxious weeds are a specific designation given to weeds that are especially hazardous to the environment and need community effort to address because of their invasive nature. Originally from South Africa, the plant was first seen in Arizona in the 1990's and in 2020 was added by the Arizona Department of Agriculture to their list of noxious weeds.

Stinknet is noticeable for bright yellow blooms that bring to mind

fields of wildflowers, but this is one of many tricks of stinknet. It begins with dark leaves that look almost carrot-like, not immediately recognizable as other weeds that have spiky leaves and thorns. The bright blooms appear yellow and round like a daisy without petals, typically beginning in winter, and carry a pungent smell that is its namesake.

Once you can recognize stinknet, the next challenge is getting rid of it. An important thing to remember is that stinknet should NOT be burned because the fumes are corrosive and can irritate the eyes, nose and lungs. The best option is to immediately pull it, bag it, and send it off to the trash. Once stinknet has been established for two years, a professional is needed to provide chemical control. Even if the plant has died, it should be



removed to prevent further spreading of seeds. In the event of a wildfire, stinknet is especially dangerous as the dried patches form "bridges" that allow for fires to spread further, faster.

The next time you stop to smell the flowers, get to know them. Stinknet is not our friend.



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SCAN ME

ECEC Celebrates Expansion with ‘Blooming’ Ceremony

The new expansion includes two main complexes with an additional 5,200 square feet, one-story expansion to Building A, along with two additional classrooms. A 12,000 square foot, two-story addition was added to Building B, which is made up of offices, a break room and a meeting space. The expansion project was built by Maydall Construction.

ECEC Assistant Program Manager Barbara White said the project was quite a process. “We had multiple meetings with the architects. We had Community members and policy council members looking at the different designs and plans that were presented to us, until we could get a vote for the final design,” said White.

The project goals included increasing services for children and guardians and to recruit and retain a highly effective workforce. The project increased services for children by adding six classrooms to the facility. The new meeting rooms filled a need for guardians and parents to gather to talk.



ECEC leader Michelle Kuamoo introduces the agenda for the center's ribbon cutting ceremony.



Program Manager Pamela Prasher (LEFT), Barbara White-assistant program manager-preschool (RIGHT), give a brief overview of the changes and additions to the ECEC campus.

The agenda for the program included a prayer offered by Council member and Salt River Schools Board member Deanna Scabby and a land acknowledgment written by Angela Garcia Lewis and read by Mandaree Garcia. It also included tours of the new space.

“It is my honor and privilege to welcome you here today for our ribbon cutting of this amazing facility and the final completion of our construction project at this ceremony,” said ECEC leader Michelle Kuamoo in her welcoming address.

Representatives from the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe and the Gila River Indian Community were also present for the ceremony.

May 1 was also International Workers Day. Kuamoo took time to honor everyone involved in the process of making the ECEC expansion a reality.

Child Care Development Fund Program Manager Pamela Prasher gave special recognition to SRPMIC Council members, the Education Board, the ECEC Policy Council and Superinten-

dent Sheryl Houston for their leadership.

“It is difficult to be in a leadership role, and to kind of help us guide our vision here with the Community’s input,” said Prasher.

“We want to thank you for all of what you do so that we can move forward with our plans in the Community, for this community.”

Council member Jacob Butler briefly spoke about an art piece he is having installed alongside the expansion. Butler was chosen for the project before he had been voted onto Council.

In the middle of a presentation, a large group from Head Start classrooms arrived and filled the room to sing a good morning song in unison.

After the kids departed, it was time for the official ribbon cutting. With the

ribbon cut, ECEC staff offered tours in groups of five people to take a look and learn about the new additions.



Education Specialist Tina Pekovitch shows staff and guests around during a tour of the new ECEC facilities.



A conga line of kids from the Head Start classrooms arrive mid-ceremony from outside to sing a morning song for everyone in attendance.

Special SRPMIC Ceremony Celebrates Native Community College Graduates

Check out Graduation Insert for photos of the event!

BY NALANI LOPEZ
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A halt to diversity, equity and inclusion ceremonies at the Maricopa County Community College District did not stop one Native community from celebrating Native American graduates.

On May 2, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community proudly hosted the American Indian Convocation at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.

A procession line of 56 graduates, some dressed in traditional regalia while others wore graduation gowns, marched onto the field to the drumbeats of an honor song by Maswadee, a drum group from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Graduates represented Native nations from all over, including the Southwest and the SRPMIC.

On the baseball diamond, 22 tribal flags representing the Native nations in the state waved as families, friends and supporters welcomed the graduates into the ballpark stands. The flags were borrowed from the University of Arizona.

Only weeks before, Maricopa Community College District Native graduates anticipated no tribal celebration for their educational achievements.

“We were told we wouldn’t have the honor of sitting alongside our fellow Indigenous classmates,” said graduate Molly Sanchez. “But thanks to the swift action of SRPMIC, we are here today, and that speaks to the resilience that our community embodies.”

The quick action taken by the SRPMIC allowed for graduates from the district’s 10 colleges to celebrate

their achievements and tribal identities with other Native students in a smaller, more intimate ceremony, surrounded by culture and community. In past years, such events were hosted by one of the community colleges.

District schools include Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Estrella Mountain Community College, Gateway Community College, Glendale Community College, Mesa Community College, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix College, Rio Salado College, Scottsdale Community College and South Mountain Community College.

The college district was among institutions across the country to cancel ceremonies honoring historically oppressed groups because of threats of federal funding cuts by the Trump administration.

SRPMIC, along with the support of the Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O’odham Nation, volunteered to host the event to uplift Native students.

“When we first heard this convocation was cancelled, it was really disheartening and I really felt for our students,” SRPMIC Council member Mikah Carlos said. “We put an emphasis on education in the Community, so we wanted to stand by that and make sure that we did the right thing. This is the right thing to do: to celebrate our students.”

Carlos is a past graduate of Scottsdale Community College, which is located on the western edge of the Community and is believed to be the only community college in the U.S. to reside on tribal lands.

To begin the ceremony, Jacob Moore, vice-president of Office of University Affairs at Arizona State Univer-

sity, emceed the event and welcomed all in attendance. Moore is from the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Pima County Recorder Gabriella Cazares-Kelly of the Tohono O’odham Nation was the keynote speaker and SRPMIC President Martin Harvier also shared words. SRPMIC Council members David Antone, Michael Dallas and Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis were among those to recognize the students on the field.

An honorary visit was made by Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, who delivered congratulatory remarks.

“To you, the class of 2025, let me say this loudly and clearly: the state of Arizona values you, your heritage, your contributions, and your traditions. Despite the rhetoric from the federal government, know that as long as I am governor, your identities will not be erased - they will be celebrated,” she said.

Following the tradition of past MCCCCD Native convocations, three exceptional students were selected to present their unique college experience.

Student speakers included Molly Sanchez from Scottsdale Community College, Collin Skeets (Navajo) from Mesa Community College, and Niyah Joaquin (Gila River, Apache and Tohono O’odham) from Chandler Gilbert Community College.

Sanchez, a SRPMIC member, shared her journey of balancing motherhood and work, and eventually higher education.

“I encourage each of you to promise yourselves that you will work hard but also take the time to enjoy where you are in life,” said Sanchez. “Remember, Creator wouldn’t have put a dream so big in your heart if it wasn’t achievable.”

Following the speakers, a presentation by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Traditional Dancers displayed the basket and gourd songs of the Onk Akimel O’odham. Vice-President Ricardo Leonard provided the song.

After much anticipation, the recognition of the graduates began.

Instead of a traditional graduate stole, each graduate was bestowed a shell necklace with a Man in the Maze engraved pendant after their names were announced. A congratulatory message was also on the back in O’odham and Piipaash to remind the graduates of their journey of strength and celebration.

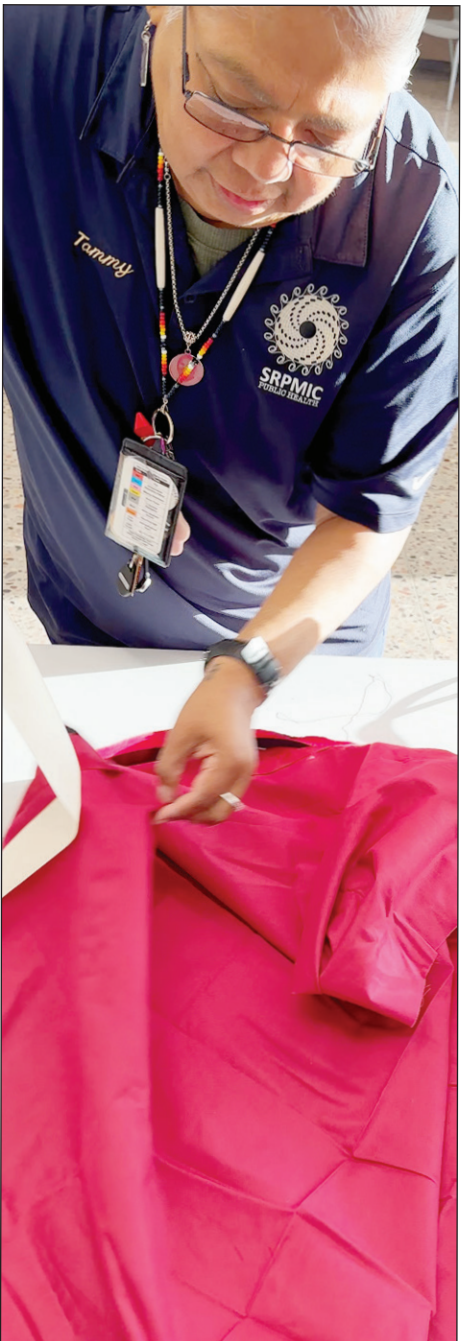
One by one, graduates of all ages, tribal backgrounds, and walks of life crossed the field as families, friends and supporters cheered.

The ceremony served as a reminder of not only academic achievement, but the power of tribal communities uniting to support their future leaders. In a time when recognition of Indigenous students was under threat, the Community and supporting tribal communities sent a stronger message instead: Native students matter, and their success will always be celebrated.

For many, the journey to this moment was not easy. Many obstacles had to be overcome. But through strength, support and many late nights, the Native students finally made it to the finish line. Surrounded by their Native student peers, each made their respective tribal community proud.

“Congratulations, Class of 2025. We are the new generation of hope,” said student speaker Niyah Joaquin. “We are the future our ancestors dreamed of.”

O’odham Skirt Workshop for Teens Brings Awareness to MMIP



Tammy Walker places paper tape onto the ribbons that will go on the skirts.

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

The hardworking sound of Singer sewing machines filled the room on this late April evening as the setting sun sprayed its light through the windows of a classroom at the Way of Life Facility.

To bring awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Day, the Salt River Tribal Library and Community Recreational Services provided an O’odham skirt workshop for teens ages 13 to 17 on April 28-29.

The teens had an option to wear their dresses on MMIP Day on May 5 at the ALA Football Field for Light up the Night: A Night of Hope & Healing.

“As you can see, the red [fabric] represents missing and murdered Indigenous women, children and families,” said Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member and instructor Tammy Walker, who led the workshop.

“I always volunteer for something for the teens and elders in the Community. Whatever it takes to keep the traditions going.”

The workshop provided a space for teens to learn sewing techniques and to fulfill a major goal for the teens to become immersed in culture, healing and remembrance of O’odham history and of MMIP.

“Are we going to zig-zag? Are we going to do a regular stitch? Are we going to do the wide stitch?” Walker asked the teens after ironing the ribbons to the skirts using sticky tape glue made of paper.

Regular glue sticks don’t work as well to hold the ribbons down.

The handful of teens listened intently as Walker floated from table to table,

offering her hands-on expertise and direct transfer of knowledge to Community youth.

“It’s their first skirts and I would like for them to continue learning.”

Library assistant Josefina Vasquez said that both MMIP awareness and cultural programs like the O’odham ribbon skirt making are close to her heart and to her family.

“When Tammy [Walker] came to me and told me she wanted to teach the class, I was all for it and ready,” said Vasquez. “She was one of my mentors growing up and I’m glad we could do this for the teens.”

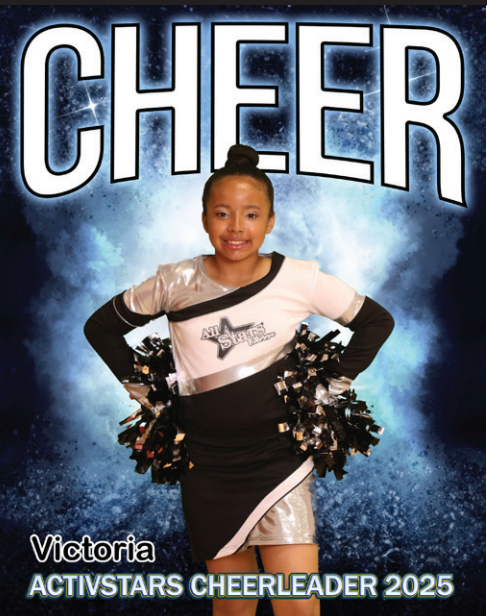


A participant in the O’odham skirt workshop for teens learns how to sew stitches using a Singer sewing machine.

RIGHT: Tammy Walker uses a ruler as she irons ribbons onto a red dress.



AROUND THE COMMUNITY: CHEERLEADER VICTORIA ELMER PLACES 2ND



BY OAN STAFF
O’odham Action News

Superstar cheerleader Victoria Elmer placed second in her state cheer competition in May. She is part of the cheer club ActivStars and received a medal and pin for her hard work. “They did such a great job nailing their lifts and being together as one with their cheer routine, the team as a whole did so well. I want to congratulate her on winning the State Cheer Competition and just beginning a new activity this year. For her being her first year, she’s only going to get better and just kill it next year,” Elmer’s mother, Deborah Stoneburner said.

Photo Courtesy of Deborah Stoneburner

The Supreme Court Rejects Appeal to Hear Oak Flat Case

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

In this whirlwind of a political climate under the Trump administration, if you blink, you might miss something big.

That is the case with news pertaining to Oak Flat (Chi’chil Bildagoteel in Apache); the federally owned land in Arizona’s Tonto National Forest that contains a large copper deposit 7,000 feet below the surface. The Apache have gathered at Oak Flat for centuries to conduct religious ceremonies and pray. The site is also culturally significant to the O’odham and other tribes.

Chinese majority-owned mining company Resolution Copper is waiting in the wings, hoping to begin drilling into Oak Flat in a land exchange agreement with the federal government. 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization Apache Stronghold filed a lawsuit against the federal government in 2021 seeking to halt the proposed mine at Oak Flat and has been in courtroom battles since.

On April 17, the feds announced it would forge forth with turning the site into a massive crater, even though the case was under consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court, according to Becket Law, who represents Apache Stronghold. The handoff would happen as early as June 16.

On its last breath, the outcome of the lawsuit was up to the Supreme Court to review.

The Supreme Court announced May 27 that it would not hear the case.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, joined by Justice Clarence Thomas, dissented from the denial.

“Apache Stronghold asks us to review the Ninth Circuit’s extraordinary conclusion. But the Court today turns aside the group’s request. Respectfully, that is a grave mistake,” said Gorsuch. “Before allowing the government to destroy the Apaches’ sacred site, this Court should at least have troubled itself to hear their case.”

In a matter of weeks, from April to May, the federal government: charged ahead with a plan to destroy Oak Flat, Apache Stronghold made an emergency appeal to save Oak Flat, the feds announced it will publish a final environmental impact statement, and a federal court blocked the U.S. government from handing over Oak Flat to Resolution Copper.

Apache Stronghold’s emergency motion landed them a court date on May 7 before Judge Steven P. Logan, in the Sandra Day O’Connor United States Courthouse in Phoenix.

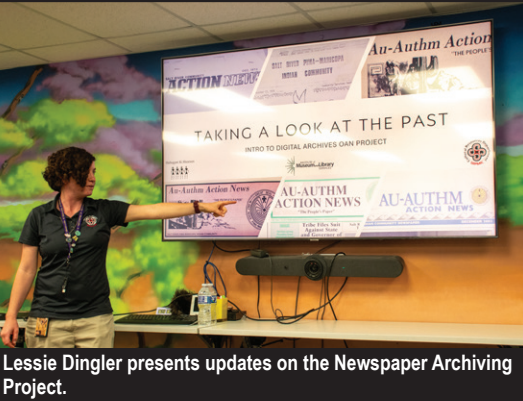
Judge Logan concluded, “There is no close question in this matter. It is abundantly clear that the balance of equities ‘tips sharply’ in Plaintiff’s favor, and ... they have presented serious questions on the merits that warrant the Supreme Court’s careful scrutiny.”

“The federal government and Resolution Copper have put Oak Flat on death row—they are racing to destroy our spiritual lifeblood and erase our religious traditions forever,” said Wendsler Nosie Sr. of Apache Stronghold.

This story is part of O’odham Action News’ ongoing coverage of Oak Flat.

REPOSITORY PREPARES ARCHIVES FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS

Soon, the work of the team at Cultural Resources Department and beyond will be visible for the Community as they prepare to share a tool developed for researching archived issues of O’odham Action News. Museum Digital Archivist Lessie Dingler presented the outcomes of the project in the CRD Classroom on May 6 where guests in attendance got a first-hand look at how older newspapers are being preserved physically and digitally so that past generations can be connected to the present and the future. The preview offered attendees the opportunity to search through archives for family, places and events that had otherwise been lost to memory and immediately showed results.



Lessie Dingler presents updates on the Newspaper Archiving Project.

The crux of the project was centered on preservation as well as accessibility, with plans forthcoming to host an open house where Community members can see for themselves where everything fits together from the past and for the future.

The 2nd Annual ‘Light up the Night’ MMIP Event Commemorates All

Red Wrap
During the morning, Community membership, staff and their loved ones were invited to wear red or traditional attire to help wrap the Two Waters Amphitheater with the official symbol of MMIP, a red handprint. Together, individuals were provided a space for reflection and remembrance as all they placed their hands on the Community mural.

Light Up the Night
In the evening, SRPMIC hosted the second annual MMIP Community Walk

on the track of the Accelerated Learning Academy campus. Pacer Reina served as emcee of the event which featured a performance by Bird Singing and Dancing by the River, in addition to special guest speakers.
SRPMIC Council member Cheryl Doka provided the blessing to all families in attendance. She thanked staff for putting together the event and asked for continued blessings for all.
After, SRPMIC Council member Suk Fulwilder provided a few words. “Today, we gather in unity to observe Missing

and Murdered Indigenous People’s Day. This day is a solemn reminder of the epidemic of violence that continues to disproportionate Indigenous communities,” she said.
During her speech, Fulwilder highlighted the SRPMIC’s history of continuing to commemorate and honor the lives lost to violence as well as those who remain missing.
“I want to thank all of you for being here. Our hearts are with those who have lost loved ones, which I think includes a lot of us here. We offer unwavering

support and prayers to the families who continue to search for answers and justice,” she said.
Families were invited to create posters commemorating their loved ones as Miss Salt River Sialik King led the initial lap for the walk. Battery-powered lanterns outlined the track as many opted to complete more than a few laps while the sun set into the evening sky.
The walk was not timed as it was about healing, hope and honoring the relatives we have lost as we all hope for the day MMIP officially comes to an end.



Families and their loved ones were able to complete laps out on the ALA track on May 5. The event brought out many Community membership, staff, and their loved ones as all continued to generate support to one day end MMIP.



Participants of the second-annual MMIP Walk at ALA were encouraged to complete laps at their own pace. Though the official walk involved completing two laps, many families decided to complete additional laps.



Using the supplies provided by the Community, many participants created their own posters and signs to honor the loved ones they have lost to the tragedies of MMIP and to also ensure that we will never forget them.

Seilah Smith Commits to Play Indoor Volleyball in California

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

Fountain Hills High School senior Seilah Smith is a three-sport student-athlete, and an exceptional one at that. Graduating and closing out her senior year as a basketball, volleyball and beach volleyball player. Her hard work and dedication to her respected sports led her to gaining some recognition. As “Co-Defensive Player of the Year” and “All Conference Honorable Mention” in volleyball along with being named “Defensive Player of the Year” in beach volleyball. In basketball, she was “All Region 1st team player,” “Region Player of the Year,” and “All Conference Honorable Mention.” Not to mention being the first female to score 1,000 career points. Smith’s accomplishments earned her the title of “Outstanding Senior Female Athlete of the Year” by Fountain Hills High School. Being a three-sport athlete is never an easy task, however, for Smith it’s been no challenge because she’s no stranger to having an active schedule. She explains growing up she was used to jumping from one sport to the next. “But my mom is a big help in the pressure moment[s], reassuring me that it’s just a game. Win or lose,” said Smith. So where does Seilah get all of her motivation to balance school and sports? “My mom and older sister have an incredible work ethic and determination to do anything, whether it’s sports or work. They always gave it their all, even on days they didn’t want to,” said Smith. Now, all her hard work and under waving dedication has paid off as she prepares for graduation. In May, Smith made the decision to continue her education and volleyball career at Cerro Coso Community College in Ridgecrest, California, with a volleyball scholarship. “It’s a great opportunity to play after high school,”




Seilah Smith during a beach volleyball match. Photo courtesy of Shayla James.

said Smith. “I’m so excited and nervous for this new chapter in my life [and] ready to advance my skills at the next level.” Smith’s mother Shayla James told *O’odham Action News* that “growing up I am sure everyone expected her to go on and play basketball at the next level because she is so good, but this is what she said she wants to do so I am in support of her decision and beyond excited for her. “I just want her to know that I am so proud of her and I know she is gonna crush it at Cerro Coso.”




THE SRPMIC VETERANS OFFICE IS CURRENTLY COLLECTING ★ UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS ★



IF YOU HAVE FLAGS THAT ARE NO LONGER SERVICEABLE AND NEED TO BE DISPOSED OF, PLEASE CONTACT US AT (480) 362-7884 OR VIA EMAIL AT [VETERANSERVICES@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV](mailto:veteranservices@srpmic-nsn.gov).

WE ARE HOSTING AN UPCOMING FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY, DURING WHICH WE WILL RESPECTFULLY RETIRE AND BURN THE FLAGS. THIS CEREMONIAL ACT SYMBOLIZES THE CONCLUSION OF A FLAG’S SERVICE. WHEN A U.S. FLAG OR ANY FLAG BECOMES UNFIT FOR DISPLAY, IT SHOULD BE DESTROYED IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER, IDEALLY THROUGH BURNING.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE CEREMONY’S LOCATION AND TIME WILL FOLLOW.



STAY TUNED OR CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Cultural Resources Department | Tribal Historic Preservation Program

34TH ANNUAL REBURIAL CEREMONY

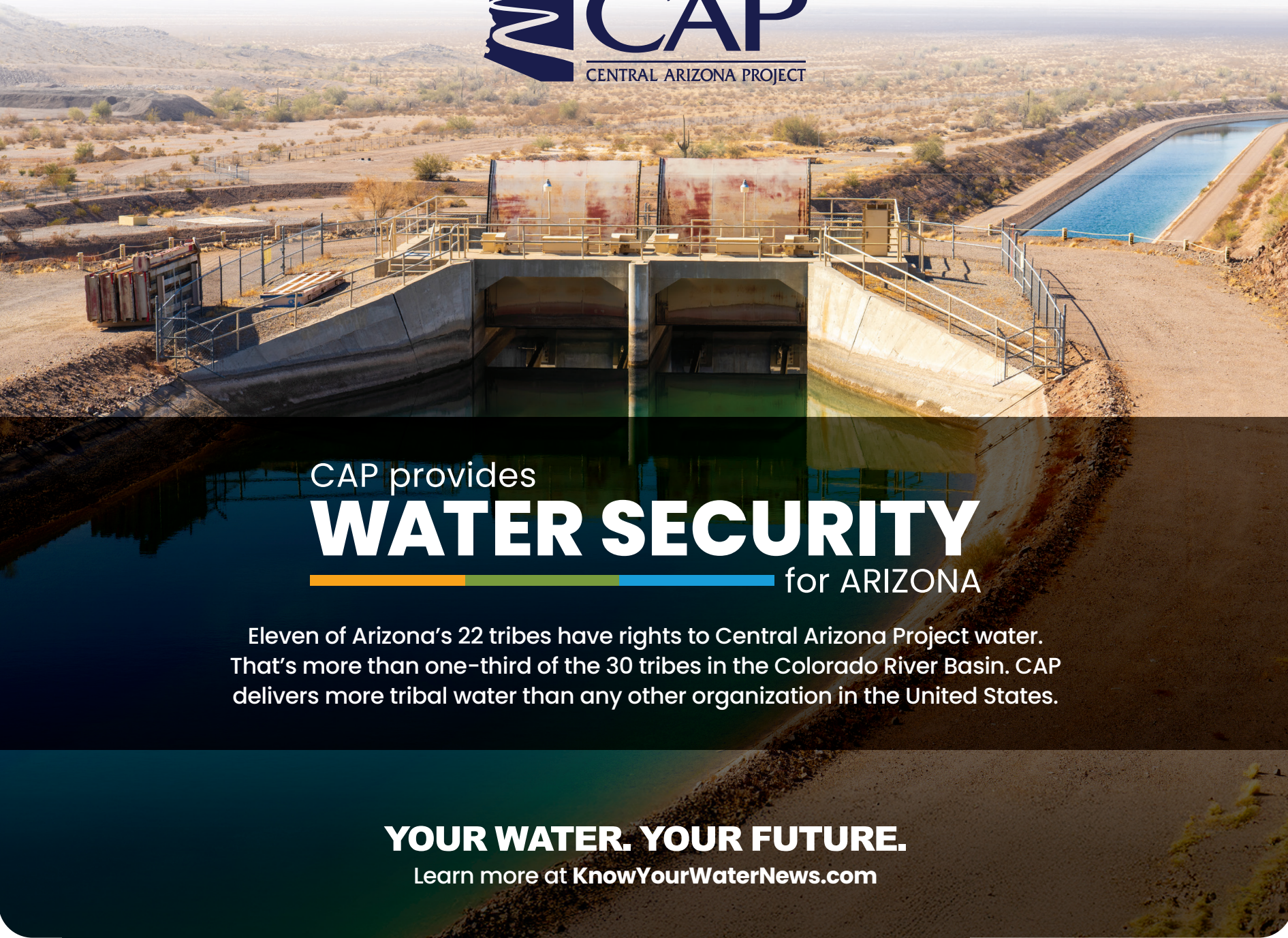

JUNE 6, 2025

Procession will begin at Sundown at Center Street & Thomas Road
Traditional dinner following the Ceremony at the Memorial Hall

Please be respectful by observing the following:

- o Open to SRPMIC & other Native American only
- o Recording of any kind is strictly prohibited (no pictures, no voice recording, no video)
- o No alcohol, drugs, firearms, or weapons
- o No gang activity or attire.
- o No posting to social media.

Please contact Martha Martinez | 480.362.7954 | www.saltrivercrd.org | @saltriverCRD



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Attend a free information session to learn more.

The SRPMIC Tuition Waiver pays for tuition and fees for enrolled SRPMIC members.



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**SCOTTSDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

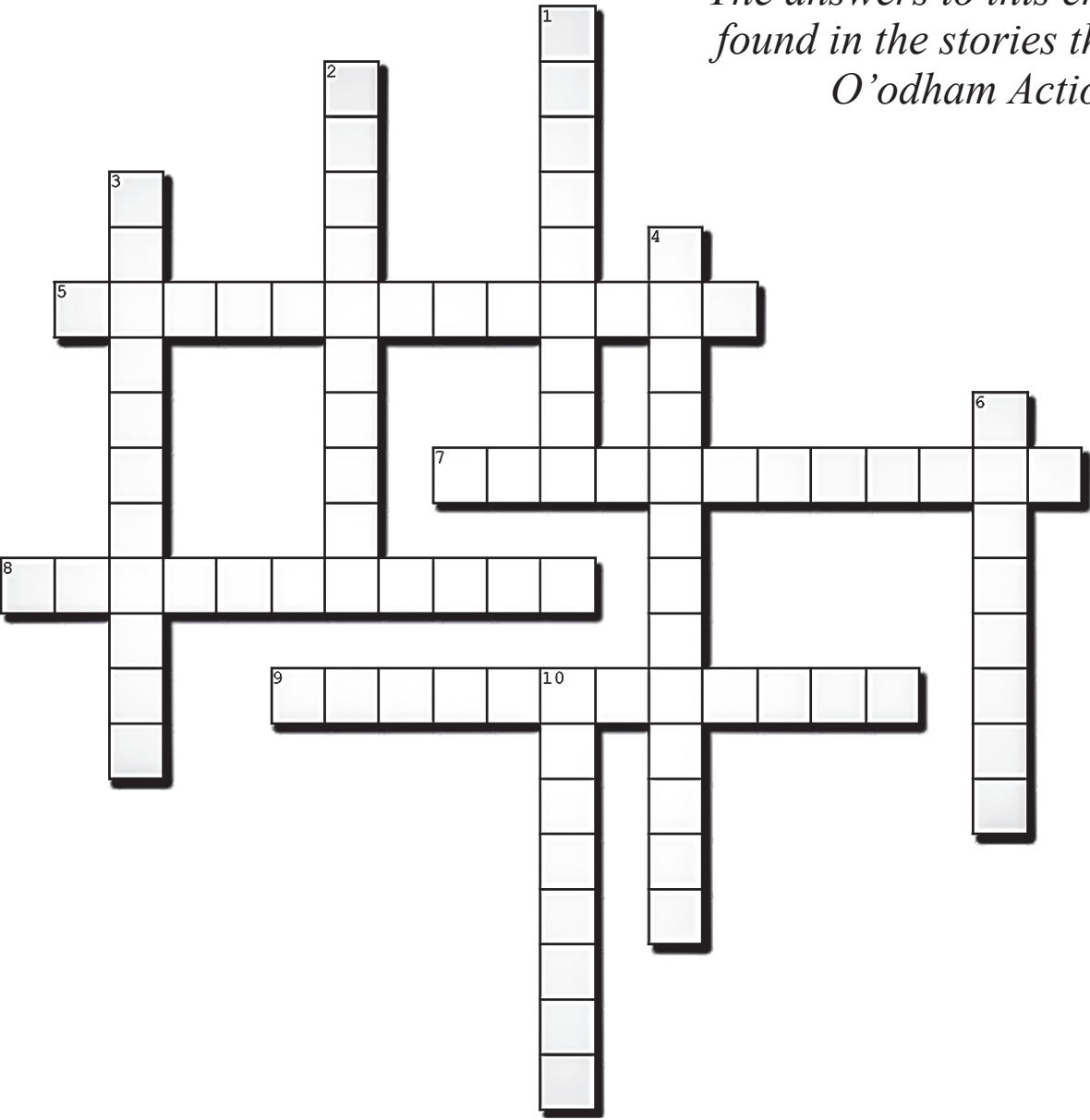
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination.



Can you solve the crossword puzzle?



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

Across

- 5. SRPMIC superstar cheerleader who placed second in their state cheer competition in May.
- 7. While attending a ceremony, the largest-sized American flag is normally called this.
- 8. SRPMIC member and instructor for the MMIP O’odham Skirt Workshop.
- 9. SRPMIC member and recent graduate of Scottsdale Community College who spoke at the American Indian Convocation on May 2.

Down

- 1. Last name of SRPMIC Council member who provided a speech to guests at the MMIP Walk at the Accelerated Learning Academy on May 5.
- 2. Narrator of the SRPMIC Gaming Revenue Allocation Plan video which was played to California membership.
- 3. Recent Fountain Hills HS graduate who will play volleyball at Cerro Coso Community College in Ridgecrest, California.
- 4. SRPMIC Museum Digital Archivist.
- 6. The month/day in which SRPMIC hosted its annual ‘Law Day’ celebration.
- 10. A noxious weed which is invasive and should not be burned due to the corrosive fumes it gives off.



INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

**\$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS.
THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.**

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government. \$38 million is available to pay heirs and awards could be significant.



Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by **June 30, 2025**. More details are available on the website.

Here’s what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or
- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.

A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate’s Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds may be released to

the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

You must act quickly.

The deadline to file is June 30, 2025.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

LEARN MORE

CobellSettlement.com

800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement
c/o Kroll Settlement Administration
P.O. Box 5324
New York, NY 10150-5324

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: July 8, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Lewis, Robi Corey – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: July 8, 2025 at 1:30 p.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

Andrews, Dracy Devon - Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-1348 Court Date: June 10, 2025 at 9 AM

Careaga, Michelle Yvette - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-0822 Court Date: July 7, 2025 at 10 AM

Carlos III, Justin Samuel - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-25-0598 Court Date: July 8, 2025 at 10 AM

Goodwin, Heather - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-1968 Court Date: June 17, 2025, at 9:30 AM

Goodwin, Heather - Civil Complaint/Order to Show Cause Hearings Case: CV-25-0900 Court Date: June

GOODWIN, HEATHER
CV-25-0900
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Michelle Dyan Baptisto v. Heather Goodwin

TO: Heather Goodwin; Respondent,

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for Order to Show Cause Hearing on the 11th day of June 2025 at 9:00 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 April 21, 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 21st day of April 2025.

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

MARTINEZ SR., MARIO
CV-25-0853
DEFAULT NOTICE

Country Club Cars v. Mario Martinez Sr.,

To: Mario Martinez Sr., 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: 24st of April 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

11, 2025 at 9 AM

Grey, Frances Elsie - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CF-23-0001 Court Date: June 13, 2024 at 10 AM

Hill Sundust, Julie Isabelle - Review Hearing Case: CV-25-0604 Court Date: June 12, 2025 at 10 AM

Lewis, Robi Corey – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: July 8, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Martinez Sr., Mario Ruben James - Entry of Default Judgement/Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-25-0853 Court Date: June 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM

Melendez, Nicole Patricia - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-24-5856 Court Date: July 8, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Osif-Thomas, Daniel Matthew - Initial Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-1935 Court Date: June 11, 2025 at 11 AM

Parchcorn Jr., Ellis J. - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-25-0899 Court Date: June 11, 2025 at 9:30 AM

RAMIREZ, GABRIEL MARK
CV-25-0901
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

Ramirez, Gabriel Mark - Entry of Default Judgement/ Order to Show Cause Hearings Case: CV-25-0901 Court Date: June 11, 2025 at 10 AM

SAMPSON, CHRISTOPHER
CR-22-0160
BOND FORFEITURE HEARING

Sampson, Christopher - Bond Forfeiture Hearing: CR-22-0160 Court Date: June 18, 2025 at 10 AM

SANTO (BURKE), CARMELITA IRIS
CV-25-0820
PATERNITY HEARING

Santo (Burke), Carmelita Iris - Evidentiary Paternity/ Order to Show Cause Hearings Case: CV-25-0820 Court Date: July 8, 2025 at 11 AM

SANTO, CHARNELE MARIE
CV-25-0853
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

Santo, Charnele Marie. – Entry of Default Judgement/ Order to Show Cause Hearings Case: CV-25-0853 Court Date: June 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM

URIARTE JR., RENE
CV-25-0901
CHILD SUPPORT HEARING

Uriarte Jr., Rene - Evidentiary Child Support Hearing Case: CFCS-13-0032 Court Date: June 27, 2024 at 9 AM

WARE, TIFFANY SHARRON
CV-25-0901
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

Ware, Tiffany Sharron - Entry of Default Judgement/ Order to Show Cause hearings Case: CV-25-0901 Court Date: June 11, 2025 at 10 AM

GOODWIN, HEATHER
CV-25-0900
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Michelle Dyan Baptisto v. Heather Goodwin

TO: Heather Goodwin; Respondent,

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CV-25-0853
DEFAULT NOTICE

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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: 21st of April 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

SANTO (BURKE), CARMELITA IRIS
CV-25-0820
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Dustin Richardo Alvarez v. Carmelita Iris Santo (Burke)

TO: Carmelita Iris Santo (Burke)

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 8th day of July, 2025 at 11:00 AM, in Court Room #2, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for an Initial Paternity Hearing on May 1, 2025 at 9:30AM.

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 12th day of May, 2025.

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

SANTO, CHARNELE MARIE
CV-25-0853
DEFAULT NOTICE

Country Club Cars v. Charnele Marie Santo,

To: Charnele Marie Santo, 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: 24st of April 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

SANTO, CHARNELE MARIE
CV-25-0853
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Country Club v. Charnele Marie Santo

TO: Charnele Marie Santo,

4318 N. Alma School Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 10th day of June 2025 at 10:30 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 24, 2025 at 9:00 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 24th day of April 2025

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

WARE, TIFFANY
CV-25-0901
DEFAULT NOTICE

Michelle Dyan Baptisto v. Tiffany Ware

To: Tiffany Ware, RESPONDENT

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.

If you have any questions regarding:

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

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



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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the SRPMIC Code of Ordinances, Ordinance Number SRO-355-2010, a public hearing on a Liquor License Application for Target #0363 located at 9000 E. Talking Stick Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85250, shall be held at the SRPMIC Community Regulatory Agency (CRA) on June 25, at 10:00 am, at 8840 E. Chaparral Rd., Suite 165, Scottsdale, AZ 85250 (Conference Room). Petitions and testimony will be heard from persons in favor of or opposed to the issuance of a liquor license that reside in the Community, or own or lease property located within the Community that is in close proximity to the proposed premises. To request for additional information regarding this application, contact Investigator Supervisor Josette Martinez at (480) 362-6396.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO CODIFY THE COMMUNITY’S PROCESS FOR OBTAINING A WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Comment Period: May 8 – June 22, 2025

On Wednesday May 7, 2025, the SRPMIC Council approved a 45 day public comment period for the following proposed ordinance. This ordinance would memorialize in writing the Community’s long-standing process for obtaining a waiver of sovereign immunity from the SRPMIC Council. A waiver of sovereign immunity is used in certain contracts and agreements to identify the process the parties will use to resolve a dispute, if one should arise. By codifying this long-standing process, the Community is doing two things: 1) providing the ground rules to other parties who may contract or do business with the Community, and 2) holding staff accountable to follow the process to ensure that the Council has thoroughly reviewed and approved any waivers of sovereign immunity that may be granted.

Please submit all the comments in writing to either the Community’s intranet “Ordinance Public Comment” page or via standing mail or email to the following:

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community The Office of the General Counsel
10,005 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, Arizona 85256
OrdPublicComment@srpmic-nsn.gov

14

O’odham Action News

June 5, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DALIA'S LANDSCAPING
Yard maintenance / tree trimming,
sprinkler repairs and service. Sherry
Harris, (480) 275-9934 /
daliarezendiz0815@icloud.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOQUINO'S BODY & PAINT LLC.
Auto Body Work and Paint LLC. Com-
munity Member 15% discount. Pete
Moquino, (480) 236-3033 moquinoscu-
stompaint@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 nativecre-
ativeapparel@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/effect-
ive 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 Mi-
chael Smith- Owner Piipash LLC (480)
947-6400 (store) piipash@hotmail.com

RED CACTUS PHOTOGRAPHY
Professional Photography for all occa-
sions: 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 themainingre-
dientaz@gmail.com

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

VMK ENTERPRISES, INC
Janitorial supplies. Sheryl@vmkenter-
prises.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Salt River Public Works Department Memorial Services & Cemeteries

*“Providing a hospitable place to honor loved ones
at the end of life’s journey.”*

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

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

For Any Questions Call:
(480) 278-7050

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

PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE

SRPMIC Council has approved the nightly closures of the Salt
River and Lehi Cemeteries due to continued vandalism.
The Salt River and Lehi Cemeteries will be closed from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.
**If you have any questions, please contact Memorial Services at
(480) 278-7050**



**DO YOU NEED
TO UPDATE YOUR
NEWSPAPER
SUBSCRIPTION?**

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

GOT A STORY IDEA?

Email us at **oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov** or call
(480) 362-7750

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.

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10,005 E. Osborn Road,
Scottsdale, AZ 85256



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kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov**

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MAIN LINE (480) 362-7750**
(Leave a message with your name and number
and we will return your call)

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

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JUNE 20*	JUNE 6
JULY 3	JUNE 23*
JULY 17	JULY 7*

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

**Please note adjusted schedule due to holidays*



From all of us at SRMG, We want to congratulate the **Class of 2025!**

Your hard work and perseverance have led you to this amazing milestone. We are proud to celebrate your achievements and wish you continued success as you embark on the next chapter of your journey.

The future is yours!



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/dependence. 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.

HA:ŞAÑ BAHIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XAMXUK JUNE

6 HELPING HANDS HALF-OFF SALE, 50% off entire store! Visit Helping Hands at 10213 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, 85256

7 SUMMER READING PROGRAM STORY TIME: BABY STORY TIME, 1 p.m. at Salt River Tribal Library. Ages 0-24 months. Stop in to enjoy delightful stories, lively songs and engaging rhymes! Contact (480) 362-6600 or email TribalLibrary@srpmic-nsn.gov

9 CM FULWILDER DISTRICT D MEETING, 6 p.m. at ALA Lecture Hall 4827 N. Country Club Rd. Scottsdale, 85256. Questions can be directed to the Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469

12 CM DOKA DISTRICT C MEETING, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers, 10091 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, 85256. Questions can be directed to the Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469

13 SRPMIC DAY - OFFICES CLOSED, Please plan accordingly. Essential Services will remain operational.

14 SRPMIC DAY CELEBRATION & HUHUGAM KI: MESQUITE PANCAKE BREAKFAST, Full details on the ad to the right!

17 CM SCABBY/CM DALLAS LEHI DISTRICT MEETING, 6 p.m. at Lehi Community Building 1231 E. Oak St. Mesa 85203. Questions can be directed to the Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469

18 HELPING HANDS BAG PROMO DAY, Buy

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

SRPMIC DAY '25

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

MESQUITE PANCAKE BREAKFAST
8:00am - 11:00am While supplies last
Huhugam Ki: Museum Open: 9:30am-2:30pm

SRPMIC DAY CELEBRATION
Join us! | 5:00pm-9:00pm
SR Gym/Community Building & Parking Lots

COMMUNITY MEAL - WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
O'ODHAM & PIIPAASH SOCIAL SINGING & DANCING
ARTS & CRAFTS/VENDORS
DEMONSTRATORS/SRPMIC DEPT. BOOTHS
MISS & JR MISS SALT RIVER PERFORMANCES
CHICKEN SCRATCH DANCE - MOLINA MUSIC
CUMBIA DANCE CONTEST

Arts/Craft Vendors Needed! Register at:
tinyurl.com/SRPMICDAY25 or scan QR code

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS • 480.362.7740 • f SRPMIC • @SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY

a bag for \$5 and fill it for \$5! Visit Helping Hands at 10213 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, 85256

19 JUNETEENTH - OFFICES CLOSED, Please plan accordingly. Essential Services will remain operational.

21 SUMMER READING PROGRAM STORY TIME: FAMILY STORY TIME, 1 p.m. at Salt River Tribal Library. Theme: COLORS! Stop in to enjoy delightful stories, lively songs and engaging rhymes! Contact (480) 362-6600 or email TribalLibrary@srpmic-nsn.gov

21 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING, 9 a.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers, 10091 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, 85256. Questions can be directed to the Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469

27 CM BUTLER DISTRICT A MEETING, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers, 10091 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, 85256. Questions can be directed to the Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469