



## Arizona Diamondbacks Inter-Tribal Tournament Showcases SRPMIC Talent

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

*O'odham Action News*

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The best and brightest baseball and softball athletes from Indian Country made their way to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for a multi-day intertribal tournament organized by the Arizona Diamondbacks the week of June 2.

Known as the only Native American baseball tournament sponsored by a Major League Baseball team, the annual Diamondbacks Inter-Tribal Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament featured an all-star cast of athletes, including many from the SRPMIC.

Looking to duplicate last year's winning ways, AZ Sons from the SRPMIC proved why they are

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The defending champions of Single-A baseball, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's very own AZ Sons, took first place honors once again in this year's Arizona Diamondbacks Inter-Tribal tournament. Photos by OAN Staff

## Community Day Celebration

BY DALTON WALKER

*O'odham Action News*

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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Day on June 14 started with mesquite pancakes and ended on the dance floor.

The day traditionally acknowledges the history of the Community.

It is also a day of celebration.

The Huhugam Ki: Museum held a mesquite pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. and stayed open until 2:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., the doors opened at the Community Building for a packed agenda that included a meal. The evening featured O'odham and Piipaash social singing and dancing, arts and craft vendors, food vendors, Community department booths, Miss Salt River and Jr Miss Salt River Court dance performances and a live chicken scratch band. Pacer Reina was the emcee.

SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard delivered a welcome address and read the SRPMIC Day proclamation, which explained some of the Community's history with the federal government. Leonard was also a guest singer later in the evening.

*Photos and proclamation on page 3*



SRPMIC Members enjoyed live music and dancing in the Salt River Community Building.

## Jonathon Curry Helps Facilitate Saguaro Harvesting Series

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

*O'odham Action News*

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With collaboration between the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the library, and a land trust, Jonathon Curry was joined by many for the annual saguaro harvesting on June 10.

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## O'odham Action News Wins Multiple Awards



Playing the traditional game of *Toka*, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community membership participated in tournament matches held at the Accelerated Learning Academy on November 16. Nalani Lopez's photo won first place, earning an Indigenous Journalists Association award.

### STAFF REPORTS

*O'odham Action News*

[oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov)

A national Native American journalism organization has recognized *O'odham Action News* for its work.

OAN staff won 13 Indigenous Journalists Association awards and will be recognized in August at its national conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The association will present

250 awards recognizing outstanding coverage of Indigenous communities on August 15 at the 2025 Indigenous Media Conference at the Isleta Resort and Casino. IJA received a record number of 871 entries.

OAN was selected as the 2025 IJA Elias Boudinot Free Press Award recipient. The special award recognizes a publication that has shown dedication and

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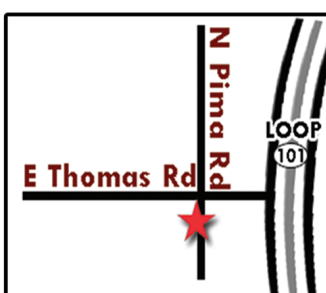
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## Emergencies and Walk-Ins seen on the same day!



Continued from cover

# Community Day Celebration



**Proclamation - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Celebration Day**

WHEREAS, On January 10, 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes by executive order established the Salt River Reservation to include the Salt River on the west, the San Carlos reservation on the east; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed an Executive Order reconfiguring the Salt River Indian Reservation, reducing the land base by thousands of acres to a recorded size of 52,600 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was established for the benefit of the Onk Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Xalychidom Piipaash (Maricopa); and

WHEREAS, the peoples of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community have overcome many obstacles throughout history only to remain strong and unified; and

WHEREAS, we continue to recognize and honor our ancestors; and

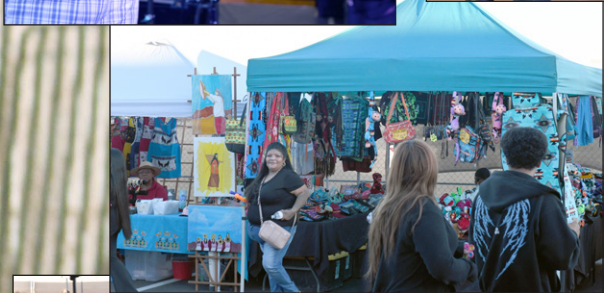
WHEREAS, the culture and traditions remain vital to the people and will assure that the culture and traditions of our ancestors and our people are passed on to the children; and

WHEREAS, today, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's enrolled membership population is over 9,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council does hereby proclaim the 14th day of June as: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Celebration Day

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that throughout the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community that all Community Government Departments and Programs, organizations, schools, places of worship and members of our Community commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Celebration Day. To include, for example, community service, volunteering, cultural exhibits, performances and other education and public awareness activities in order to help recognize this historic day.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article VII, Section 1(c)(10) 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 proclamation was adopted this 9th day of June, 2010, in a duly called meeting of the Community Council at Salt River, Arizona, at which a quorum of 9 members was present, by a vote of 9 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 excused.





# Day School Construction Milestone Met With Topping Out Ceremony



Above: SRPMIC Council members Su:k Fulwilder, Deanna Scabby and Michael Dallas Sr. are among the first to sign the wood beam at the former Day School site. The beam signing is a construction milestone in the next phase of the campus, which is planned to be operational by the end of 2025.

Left: Dallas Construction President David Dallas stands at the lectern and points to the names of Community member-owned businesses and Community members who have been involved in the construction project at the former Day School site.



“Now to have a list of those who helped restore [the former Day School site], 100 years from now, people are going to know that these individuals were a part of this.”

- President Martin Harvier



SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard tells a couple of stories, including one about two jet fighters that used to be near the BIA building.



O'dham-Piipaash Language Program Outreach Coordinator Cody Achin signs the ceremonial topping off beam.



Cultural Resources Department Director Kelly Washington emceed the topping off ceremony and informed those in attendance about what to expect when the cultural center opens up.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'dham Action News

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The Cultural Resources Department (CRD) and Dallas Construction, a business owned by Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member David Dallas, celebrated a construction milestone with a “topping out” ceremony on June 9 at the former Day School site now known as the Kavad/Kushov Cultural Center. Kavad (O’odham) and Kushov (Piipaash) translate to “shield” in English.

Located on the corner of Longmore and McDowell Roads, the Day School site operated as a school for SRPMIC children for over 70 years and served as a gathering place for a variety of Community functions over time.

Community members who were in an apprenticeship training program at the Phoenix Indian School between 1934 and 1935 built the Day School.

Once the project is fully completed by the end of 2025, the Cultural Center will house CRD offices and will include public classrooms and gathering spaces, such as a fiber weaving classroom, a demonstration kitchen, separate O’odham and Piipaash language classrooms, grass courtyards and more.

The ceremony occurred in the reconstructed auditorium on the center’s south end. A large beam of wood sat at the end of the stage. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Community leadership and ceremony guests signed their names on the beam. The last poles had already been placed in a previous construction phase, making the beam signing symbolic.

Next to the beam was a sign with the names of Community members and Community member-owned businesses that helped in the construction of the project.

“Now to have a list of those who helped restore

[the former Day School site], 100 years from now, people are going to that these individuals were a part of this,” President Martin Harvier said.

“Seeing the pictures of the auditorium being occupied immediately brought back a flood of emotions,” wrote one Community member (Chalice Schurz) in a comment on the Cultural Resources Facebook page.

Memories of the Day School tend to range from negative to positive, depending on the Community members’ experiences and perspectives.

CRD Director Kelly Washington noted that the ceremony was a blend of traditions. As a tribal community, its celebrations are historically rooted in the traditions of the O’odham and the Piipaash. However, as Washington explained, the topping out ceremony originates from a Scandinavian ceremonial practice of placing the last pine tree timber atop the roof.

“For one, that was to kind of appease the tree-living spirits that they had displaced,” Washington explained.

“From what I read, it also had practical purposes, that when the needles would fall off that tree, then they knew that the frame had cured, and it was time to roof it.”

Vice-President Ricardo Leonard made a surprise appearance at the lectern.

“I just want to remember all those people who passed through [the former Day School site]. Many people have passed on,” Leonard said.

He recalled a couple of stories about the site, one about tiny urinals at the Day School and another about two fighter jets that used to be housed near the site.

“It’s a big milestone for the project,” Dallas said. “All we have left is doors and we’re 100% closed. We’re already moved on to finishes.”

After the site is completed, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and event for Community members to attend and celebrate.



After the beam signing, ceremony guests attend a tour of the whole campus.



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**SENIOR SERVICES**  
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## News and Events In and Around Indian Country

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

### Special Arizona Election

The seat to fill the vacancy of long-time Democratic Congressman Raúl Grijalva is up for grabs. Grijalva represented Congressional District 7 since 2003 before his death in March at age 77. At least eight candidates are seeking the seat in southern Arizona that includes six counties, including a part of Maricopa County. Early voting started in June, and the July 15 primary election will send the winner of the Republican primary and Democratic primary to a general election in September. For the latest information on elections, check the Arizona secretary of state's website.

### Ak-Chin Clinic Transitions to Indian Health Service

Healthcare at the Ak-Chin Clinic in Maricopa, Arizona, will look a little different come October. Gila River Health Care announced that the clinic will transition from their care to Indian Health Service and will be staffed by the Phoenix Indian Medical Center starting October 1. Patients with questions about Gila River Health Care can call its transition team at (602) 528-1212. For questions about services after October 1, call (602) 263-1695.

### Native Man Sworn in As Senior Advisor to Health and Human Services Secretary

Mark Cruz was sworn in last month as senior advisor to Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Cruz is a citizen of the Klamath Tribe in Oregon. Cruz served under the

Trump administration's Interior Department during Donald Trump's first term. "HHS is committed to supporting Indigenous communities. Together, we can achieve our shared goal to Make America Healthy Again," read a statement posted on the department's Facebook page.

### O'odham Baseball Player Competes in National Showcase

At least one O'odham baseball player was selected to play in the Native American Athletic Foundation's baseball showcase in June. Jordan Lesley played ball at Tucson High School in southern Arizona. He represents the Tohono O'odham Nation. He was one of around 50 prep players selected to play in the 4th Annual Native American All-Star Showcase held in Atlanta, Georgia, in the stadium home to the Atlanta MLB team.

The 3-day event featured players from 31 tribes, 22 states and Canada. Players played a game on Truist Park on June 22.

### New Movie Has Salt River Connection

The producer of a new thriller called "The Dead Thing" is Monte Yazzie, the Injury Prevention coordinator in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Yazzie is a longtime film critic and Phoenix Film Festival director. "The Dead thing" features actor Blu Hunt and is Yazzie's first full-length feature film he's produced. The movie is available on Shudder and had a special showing at a Tempe, Arizona, theater in June.





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# Outstanding Students Honored At Banquet

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

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community recognized more than 30 students for their success in the classroom during the 2024-25 school year.  
SRPMIC School & Community

Relations held its Student Achievement Banquet on June 12 at the Lehi Community Building. Students who maintained perfect attendance and/or academic excellence – averaged an A or B during the school year—were invited to attend.  
The banquet included guest speakers, dinner and shirts and plaques for

the students. Education Board Chair Kyland King and School & Community Relations Education Program Manager Miranda Johnson-Moya were among the speakers. King's daughter and Miss Salt River 2024-25 Sialik King shared a blessing.  
Johnson-Moya thanked the students for their hard work and parents for

their support of students and the Community.  
“They do say it takes a village to raise children, to ensure they stay on a straight path, and they achieve all they can in life,” Johnson-Moya said. “This event, every single year, is a true testament to that.”

### Student Award Winners:

Kira Sky Andrews  
Rosemarie Antone  
Evelyn Atone  
Melody Brown  
Trista Burke  
Bobby Cisneroz

Jayden Frederick  
Izaya Garza  
Yezenya Gutierrez-Moquino  
Valeria Gutierrez-Moquino

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- Priority will be given to SRPMIC- enrolled students, students enrolled with other tribes may receive supplies depending on availability

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# Artist Douglas Miles to Speak at Youth Conference



## SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Logo courtesy of Scottsdale Community College, located in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

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

Representation matters. Especially for Indigenous students, no matter the campus size or classroom location. Having students surrounded by successful Indigenous people is a cornerstone benchmark that the staff of Salt River Schools in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has consistently strived for.

By surrounding community students with positive role models who worked hard to achieve their dreams, the lasting impacts can ripple outward for generations to come.

In collaboration with the School & Community Relations Team, Salt River Schools will host an upcoming Youth Conference entitled "Journey Through the Middle School Maze" on July 22.

Scottsdale Community College will hold the one-day conference inside of the Indigenous Cultural Center.

The conference will help students who have recently graduated from elementary school as they get ready to navigate their middle school years. Staff from Salt River Schools, SCC and more will be on hand and ready to answer questions from students to help ease

their transition from the middle to high school classrooms.

Beginning at 10 a.m., students enrolled in the SRPMIC will also have the opportunity to meet and spend time with Douglas Miles, a professional artist who was once a middle school student, just like they are.

Miles hails from the San Carlos Apache Tribe and will be one of the featured guest speakers during the conference.

An artist, photographer, curator, writer, muralist, and more, Miles founded Apache Skateboards in 2002 and is one of the premier artists in Indian Country, creating work that showcases Indigenous realities in modern times.

Apache Skateboards is one of the oldest skateboarding companies owned by an Indigenous person. Additionally, Miles also runs and leads the Apache Skate Team, a group comprised of Indigenous skaters who visit tribal nations to showcase their talents through hosting skateboard workshops, concerts, public speaking breakout sessions and more.

The conference will help bridge the gap and answer any questions students and their families or guardians may have.

Families can register their superstar students to attend the "Journey Through the Middle School Maze" youth conference by dialing (480) 362-2534 and speaking with a representative from Salt River Schools.



Open your mobile phone/tablet to scan the QR code to register to attend the July 22 Youth Conference at Scottsdale Community College. See below for more information!

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SCAN ME



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Continued from cover

# Annual AZ DBacks Inter-Tribal Tournament Showcases SRPMIC Talent

one of the best Single-A teams. Showcasing their team-oriented play on both sides of the ball, AZ Sons won five straight games in this year's tournament, including the championship game.

**Single-A**  
AZ Sons played all three games at the Salt River Recreation ball field in the Community, where they received ample hometown cheers from baseball fans. In their first game, AZ Sons dominated the NM Sundevils 10-1. Playing in the daytime heat proved not to deter the players as AZ Sons continued to dominate, defeating TC Kings 12-0 and Team Underdogs 15-0. AZ Sons defeated the NM Sundevils 7-1 in the championship game. Also competing in the Single-A division from the Community were

the Desert Dingers. Coached by Whitney Grey, the Dingers showcased tenacious defense and textbook offense as they battled fierce competition. The Dingers packed the bleachers at the Salt River Recreation ball field in the morning game on June 3, as the team is known as one of the fastest-rising teams in Single-A. The Dingers lost their initial game against NM Pack, 3-8; however, they finished strong with two massive wins against The Goat and AZ Stronghold. Unfortunately, they could not punch a ticket to play in the championship game, just barely coming up short in pool play. **Double-A**  
Coach Grey continued molding the future all-stars of Major League Baseball as the Desert

Dingers also competed in Double A pool play. With the team featuring slightly older players, all games were played on the practice fields at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick. In their initial game on June 3, the Dingers easily handled Top Dawgz 14-5. Later that same day, the Dingers clinched the victory against TC Kingz 6-5 in a well-contested and attended game. During their third and final pool play game, the Dingers faced another SRPMIC team, the AZ Sons. The game proved to be a miniature version of the World Series, as many from Salt River attended the game to see which SRPMIC team would come out on top. In what was viewed as one of the fan-favorite games of the entire tournament, the AZ Sons won 3-2.

AZ Sons played well throughout the Double-A tournament, defeating TC Kingz, Desert Dingers and the NM Sundevils. After earning the tiebreaker against the Dingers, the AZ Sons advanced to the elimination playoff bracket against another SRPMIC team, the AZ Heat. The eventual champions, the AZ Heat, defeated AZ Sons 2-1 in the win-or-go home game on June 5. Going undefeated and never letting their foot off the gas, AZ Heat proved to be the team to beat. In their three pool play games, AZ Heat shutout The Goat, Four Corners Pride and the Pueblo Strikers. They beat NM Pack 10-3 to secure the championship. **Triple-A**  
Coming out of the dugout with their bats and gloves at the ready, AZ Heat's Triple-A team battled

high school-aged athletes looking to continue their play at the collegiate level. In their first game, the AZ Heat defeated the Chinle Jayhawks with ease, 20-0. They also beat NMS and Hustle Gang Baseball. As they made their way into the semifinals, they would get a taste of some fierce competition as AZ Savages made it close. However, with a refined approach on the pitcher's mound and stellar defense, AZ Heat beat AZ Savages 6-2, advancing to the championship game. Unfortunately, the AZ Heat stumbled in the championship game against the eventual winner of the division, the Tribe of Gad Warriors. Rounding out the division for the SRPMIC were the Desert Dingers. They suffered an early

loss to the Tribe of Gad Warriors, and thus, they were eliminated from semifinal play. They tied the NM Sundevils and defeated the FMT Rebels 4-3, bringing their overall standings in the tournament to one win, two losses and one tie. With a record number of teams entering this year's tournament, the Arizona Diamondbacks continue to remain ahead of the curve when it comes to celebrating future superstars of the baseball and softball diamonds. This year's tournament came after Native American Recognition Day at Chase Field, meaning tournament participants had a chance to walk the Diamondbacks' field before playing a game. For full baseball tournament results, check the Diamondbacks website.



Photos by OAN Staff





Klinton Kauakahi knew the steps on how to create a kuipad and immediately got to work with a hatchet and additional tools.



Continued from cover

## Jonathon Curry Helps Facilitate Saguaro Harvesting Series

“I’m glad everybody is here,” began Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Jonathon Curry. “It’s always been my goal to do community organizing and build community. I think we can get a lot done with that mindset of working together, sharing openly.”

On June 10, a few days before O’odham New Year, many SRPMIC members and staff joined Curry as the group ventured out to Post 6 by the Old Ranger Houses near the Fort McDowell area to embark on the annual saguaro harvesting.

The series was part of a several-day Community event hosted by the SRPMIC Tribal Library. The series allowed interested SRPMIC membership and staff to team up and learn more about the O’odham and Piipaash traditions. Most class attendees opted to carpool to the site in the library van.

A basecamp was set up in the Post 6 area with water, tents and chairs for all guests and presenters. They served a meal to all.

Picking of the baidaj, or saguaro fruit, is an annual summer tradition for O’odham and Piipaash people. Every year, rainfall produces fruit atop the saguaros, which makes them perfect for consumption.

Curry helped facilitate the class, answering questions from attendees. SRPMIC tribal library staff and additional individuals helped with the set-up and tear down of the base camp at the conclusion of the trip.

“Our songs, stories, language, we should openly share that with each other,” Curry said. “Think about it. One hundred and fifty years ago, all of the things that are extremely rare these days in terms of cultural beliefs and practices, everyone knew. Everyone understood it, everyone spoke the language, everybody sang songs.”

He added, “For O’odham people, it doesn’t matter if you’re 1% or 100%, if you’re O’odham, you’re O’odham. When you say you’re O’odham, what that essentially entails, is how you treat others. You take care of yourself and others.”

As the group reached their destination on foot, Curry began the presentation by revealing a saguaro that had fallen and had begun to naturally decompose. “We can still use this,” shared Curry as the group started to create a kuipad, a stick made from the saguaro ribs to help pick the fruits atop a saguaro.

“Just take the skin off the base using a shovel,” he said. “It’s very soft wood, it’s easy to shave down and work it. I use it to make gourd handles.”

The group began to break apart pieces of the saguaro, using shovels to break apart the ribs and skin, blades to remove any broken pieces and wire ribbon to tie the sticks together.

“I’m here to openly share what I know. I want to see these [traditions] normalized,” Curry told the

group. “The goal is to take it back and bring it to all of us.”

The group worked as one collective team to create several kuipads as many SRPMIC members helped the staff who were in attendance on their own.

As the group completed making their kuipads, Curry shared a social song, “The Ant Song,” to commemorate the outing.

The group will embark on more saguaro fruit harvesting in the early morning of July 5 and 6. To help ensure everyone’s safety during the July weekend trip, Curry suggested individuals get acclimated to the summer sun now and begin hydrating days before the trip.

“Once the saguaro starts fruiting, as a traditional way of practicing sustainability, in O’odham belief, that first fruits, those are for the animals—The doves, bats, and woodpeckers. When the fruit falls, it feeds the kangaroo rats and whatever it may be. This is further enforced in the stories of creation.”

The group will head back to Post 6 at 5 a.m. and finish by 11 a.m to avoid the severe heat. The expected temperature for both days will likely exceed 105 degrees.

“We’re not the only ones that live off this food,” finished Curry. “We’re just a factor of that in this world.”

## Community Connects at Rainbow Gathering Hosted by Phoenix Indian Center



Tara Begay and Rita DeMornay

BY KARI HAAHR  
O’odham Action News  
kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Student Union at South Mountain Community College was filled with warmth, connection, and celebration on June 12 as the Southwest American Indian 2SLGBTQIA+ Rainbow Gathering welcomed attendees from across the region.

Hosted by the Phoenix Indian Center, this year’s gathering carried the theme, “Weaving Tradition: Past, Present & Future” and brought together elders, youth, healthcare advocates and allies.

Elder Curtis Davia opened with a heartfelt blessing, inviting everyone to begin the day, “in a good way.” Phoenix Indian Center CEO, Jolyana Begay-Kroupa, followed with welcoming remarks, recalling the first gathering in 2011 and emphasizing the importance of continuity.

“We gather here right now to find strength, to find solidarity, and weave a stronger fabric so that we can hold on together,” Begay-Kroupa said.

The day included a moment of silence in remembrance of the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, a solemn acknowledgment of the violence still facing 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Keynote speaker Charlie Amaya Scott delivered a moving address on her journey as a trans Indigenous scholar. She shared advice she described as dreams and encouragement:

- “Listen with your heart and carry your relatives.”
- “Embody joy.”
- “Tell your stories, share and be generous with your knowledge.”
- “Lastly, please be safe and vigilant. I want all of us to survive this.”

In a discussion following her talk, Scott reflected on evolving traditions. “Traditions are meant to live and reflect also who we are and where we are going. The thing that is supposed to remain is the teaching, the lesson, not the specificity.”

Later, elder Curtis Davia returned with Albert McLeod to offer insights into the role of elders in the community and how the HIV/AIDS epidemic created a gap in community knowledge. McLeod also traced the history of the term Two Spirit, noting that many communities have their own words in their own languages that describe our identities, a further reminder that these are not new concepts.

The gathering honored two community members with awards for work done in service to the community. The Basket Award, presented to an individual or organization who is identified as an ally of the community through extensive work, went to Tara Begay (Diné), a Family Nurse Practitioner and HIV advocate involved in ensuring access to treatment through Arizona’s Rapid Start initiative.

The Dream Catcher Award, which is awarded to an Indigenous person who identifies as Two Spirit and has displayed commitment to serving the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, was presented to Rita DeMornay (Akimel O’odham, Gila River), Miss Phoenix Pride 2025 and the first Indigenous titleholder since 2007.

DeMornay, whose advocacy includes the Gila River group H.O.P.E. (Helping O’odham Pursue Equality), shared a vulnerable and honest reflection of the work that led her here, and the challenges she faced along the way. She recalled first seeing a drag performer and thinking, “I seen her, and I said, I want to do that. I want to represent my tribe and take this very seriously, because I want to be able to take this back to my reservation and inspire kids who may be confused themselves.”

When self-doubt and a sense of invisibility arose, she felt the spirit of her drag mother and leaned on

the support of her community and her mother.

“I said to myself, if I could quit now, I’m telling those Native kids to quit on their dreams, and that’s something that I was not going to do,” Demornay said.

After lunch, Rainbow Gathering founder Trudie Jackson led a health-focused session, followed by a roundtable discussion and closing blessing. The day affirmed the strength of community, the importance of cultural survival, and the healing power of shared stories.

### Monthly Salt River 2 Spirit Club Meeting

DALTON WALKER  
O’odham Action News  
Dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Salt River 2 Spirit Club provides a safe space each month in form of a meeting in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

The club’s message reads: “Join us to gather and support each other and share resources, YOU are not alone.”

For Pride Month, the club gathered close to the Community Building to post 2SLGBTQIA+ flags along the fence line north of McDowell Road. Cody Makil, one of the club’s founders who posted the flags, also posted a note on Native American actor Jonathan Joss’ death. Joss was shot and killed in San Antonio, Texas, in early June in what many suspect was a hate crime against his sexual orientation.

Joss and other issues that impact 2SLGBTQIA+ are discussion topics at the meeting. Some club members rallied at the “No Kings” protest in Phoenix on June 14.

At June’s meeting, club members also discussed the Southwest American Indian 2SLGBTQIA+ Rainbow Gathering held on June 12 at South Mountain Community College. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Ske:g Himdag Ki Library. For the latest information about the club, check their Facebook or Instagram page.



Arizona’s Monsoon Outlook Shows Potential to Bring in Above Normal Precipitation



Heavy monsoon clouds making their way into the Community. OAN FILE PHOTO

to experience a 33-50% increase in above-normal precipitation. The cities that may experience an increase in rainfall this monsoon season are Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, Prescott, Kingman, Globe, Show Low, Nogales and Douglas. Yuma doesn’t expect to see an increase of rainfall this monsoon season.

On average, Flagstaff receives the most rainfall during every monsoon season, with the city’s annual average precipitation at 7.63 inches. Comparatively, Phoenix receives an average of 2.43 inches. Yuma also continues to hold its title as being one of the sunniest places on Earth, averaging less than one inch of rainfall per monsoon season.

Weather officials also announced that Arizona temperatures may see a slight decline compared to previous years. Officials continue to encourage residents to stay indoors and stay hydrated as much as possible.

The summer months can also be a trying time for our four-legged pet friends. For those who like to take pets on walks, it’s important to know that any temperature over 90 degrees Fahrenheit can cause damage to a pet’s paws, as well as increase the chances of heat exhaustion, stroke and other heat-related illnesses.

Officials suggest implementing the “7-second Rule”: If you can’t hold the back of your hand on the pavement for 7 seconds without experiencing discomfort, it’s too hot for dogs’ paws. To combat the heat, officials suggested going out for walks in the early morning before the sun reaches its daily peak temperature.

Here, in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Emergency Management Team has already begun promoting the various ways to stay safe. The team has been actively promoting the locations of Community hydration stations, as well as providing information on how to stay prepared for any situation during this monsoon season.

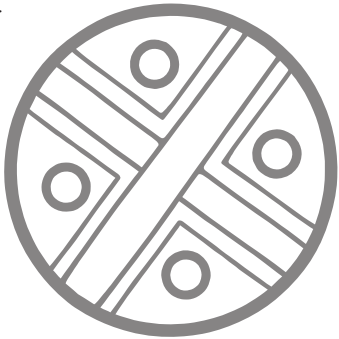
Additionally, the team has also encouraged Community members to ensure their family’s emergency kit is well-stocked and up to date with the correct medical and other life-saving items.

Emergency kits help ensure a family is kept safe if they find themselves experiencing a power outage or any other emergency.

If Community families find themselves in need of assistance this monsoon season, the SRPMIC emergency management team is available to help.

Families can email emergency.management@srpmic-nsn.gov or call (480) 850-9230 to speak to a representative from the Emergency Management team for assistance on the different ways to stay safe and aware this monsoon season.

For emergencies, please always dial 911.



Continued from cover

O’odham Action News Wins Multiple Awards

commitment to upholding freedom of the press, information and transparency within Indigenous communities.

OAN also took third place in best layout and general excellence categories. Reporter Juan Ysaguirre’s story on the Accelerated Learning Academy at Salt River Schools receiving an “A” letter grade in November took second place.

Reporter Chris Picciuolo won first, second and third place in the best feature video story category and part-time reporters Nalani Lopez and Andreea Miguel each won three awards in the student category.

To read and watch the award-winning content, visit the O’odham Action News website.



ALA staff celebrated its “A” grade in November. OAN Reporter Juan Ysaguirre won an award for his coverage.



Nalani Lopez.



Andreea Miguel.



Standing: O’odham Action News Managing Editor Dalton Walker, reporters Juan Ysaguirre and Chris Picciuolo, Sitting: OAN Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr and Community Relations Director Bernice Cota-Gann.

**Professional Division I – Print and Online**  
**-General Excellence Third Place**  
Telling the stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community O’odham Action News  
**-Best layout Third Place**  
Telling the stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community O’odham Action News  
**-Best Feature Story Second Place**  
Juan Ysaguirre: It’s an ‘A’ for Salt River’s ALA; O’odham Action News

**Associate Division I & II – TV**  
**-Best Feature Story First Place**  
Chris Picciuolo: Community Garden and Day Labor Staff Work Together to Plant Traditional Food at Farm Plot; O’odham Action News  
**Second Place**  
Chris Picciuolo: Beaded Plume Brings a Taste of Salt River to Santa Fe; O’odham Action News  
**Third Place**  
Chris Picciuolo: Salt River Recycling Center Open for Business; O’odham Action News

**Student Division – Print and Online**  
**-Best News Story Third Place**  
Nalani Lopez: Boys & Girls Club Red Mountain Branch Youth of the Year Inspires Hope; O’odham Action News  
**-Best Sports Story First Place**  
Nalani Lopez: Learning the O’odham Women’s Game of Toka with Jessica Ruiz; O’odham Action News  
**Second Place**  
Andreea Miguel: Southwest Baseball Tournament Celebrates 60-Year Legacy; O’odham Action News

**Third Place**  
Andreea Miguel: Lehi Raiders Take to the Road in Parker Tournament; O’odham Action News  
**-Best Sports Photo First Place**  
Nalani Lopez: O’odham Piipaash Day Celebrated in Salt River; O’odham Action News  
**Second Place**  
Andreea Miguel: Lehi Raiders Take to the Road in Parker Tournament; O’odham Action News



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



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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](http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination).



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

Schurz, Passion – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-21-0126/0127 Court Date: July 8,2025 at 10 a.m.

Villar, Oscar – Protective Custody Hearing Case: J-25-0095 Court Date: July 8,2025 at 3 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

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

Conger, Melinda Arlene - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-25-1902 Court Date: August 4, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Hayes, Alyssa Ann - Visitation Hearing Case: CV-25-1670 Court Date: July 28, 2025 at 10 AM

Lackey, Debbie Jean - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-2858 Court Date: August 4, 2025 at 11 AM

Lackey, Wendell- Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-2858 Court Date: August 4, 2025 at 11 AM

Lewis, Dustin - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-24-4144 Court Date: August 1, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Lewis, Geoffrey Maurice - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-24-4145 Court Date: August 1, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Lopez, Monica - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-1458 Court Date: July 21, 2025 at 10 AM

Loring, Renae - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-3160 Court Date: July 14, 2025 at 4 PM

Osif-Thomas, Daniel Matthew - Initial Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-1935 Court Date: August 19, 2025 at 9 AM

Scabby, Adrienne - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-3389 Court Date: August 11, 2025 at 11:30AM

Spex, Vanessa - Annual Guardianship Review/ Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CF-17-0248 Court Date: July 28, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Stacey, Jeffery Arthur - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-3159 Court Date: July 14, 2025 at 4 PM

Stevens, Orlando Gene - Initial Paternity/Custody/Child Support Hearings Case: CV-25-2409 Court Date: July 15, 2025 at 11 AM

Ybarra, Carlos Alejandro - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-1511 Court Date: July 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DEFAULT NOTICES

CONGER, MELINDA ARLENE  
CV-25-1902  
DEFAULT NOTICE  
COUNTRY CLUB CARS V. MELINDA ARLENE CONGER,  
To: Melinda Arlene Conger, 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: 2nd of June 2024

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

CONGER, MELINDA  
CV-25-1902  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE  
Country Club Cars v. Melinda Conger  
TO: Melinda Conger; Respondent

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 4th day of August, 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 on June 2, 2025 at 10am after being duly noticed.

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

ORDERED this 2nd day of June 2025.

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

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: 2nd day of June 2025

CLERK OF THE SRPMIC TRIBAL COURT

PARCHCORN SR., ELLIS J.  
CV-24-5858

Notice of Default Judgment:

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-24-5858

Notice of Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Ellis J. Parchcorn Sr. is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that Respondent, Ellis J. Parchcorn Sr. shall pay \$3,268.59 to Petitioner, Country Club Cars. Payment shall be made to Petitioner within thirty (30) days of this Order. This order is final and shall be served on Respondent in accordance to Rule 5-20(c).

SPEX, VANESSA  
CF-17-0248  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

In the matter of: A.E. D.O.B.: 11/02/2013

TO: Vanessa Spex; Guardian

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 28th 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 a Guardianship Review Hearing on May 21, 2025.

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 21st day of May, 2025.

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

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](mailto:FINPERCAP1@srpmic-nsn.gov).

If you have any questions regarding:

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

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

ATTENTION	
IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THIS LIST; PLEASE CONTACT THE SALT RIVER PIMA- MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ROW OFFICE AT 480-362-6870.	
1. ANDREWS, BURDINA AMY	29. NORRIS, DYLAN JOSEPH
2. APODACA, DAMIKA DARLENE	30. NORRIS, JASON DANA
3. CARMEN, CONRAD	31. NORRIS, SOPHIA MARIE
4. CLARK, MARIE C	32. OCHOA, RHEA
5. COOPER, DOREEN	33. PABLO, NICHOLAS
6. COOPER, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER	34. PABLO, ANGELA M
7. COOPER, ELAINE BEATRICE	35. PATTON, RAYNA
8. ENAS, JOSEPH	36. RIVERS, SHERWIN
9. ENAS, RICHARD	37. RIVERS, JULIAN
10. ENAS, RICHARD RANDOLPH	38. SMITH, JAMESINA
11. ENAS, JOSEPH	39. SMITH, KIMBERLY
12. GALINDO, JR. ROBERT	40. SMITH, CHARLOTTE LYNN
13. GAXIOLA, GONZALO	41. SMITH, RHONDA
14. GAZULA, ANDRA SHIRLEY	42. SMITH, PATSY A
15. HOWARD, ANTONIO ALOYSIUS	43. TAHMAHKERA, ROELENE LINDA
16. JENKINS, MICHAEL DEAN	44. TASHQUINTH, ALEX
17. JOSE, ALONZO	45. TASHQUINTH, ANTHONY
18. JOSE, KENNETH VICTOR	46. TASHQUINTH, JAMES C
19. JOSE, KATHLEEN	47. TASHQUINTH, JOSEPH FRANCIS
20. KING, ANTHONY JOEL	48. TASHQUINTH, KATERI ANN
21. LEE, ALEXANDER RONALD	49. TASHQUINTH, MARY MARGARET
22. LEMUS, LILIA ROSE	50. TASHQUINTH, MICHAEL ERVIN
23. LEWIS, LARRY	51. VALENZUELA-MARRIETTA, LETA
24. LEWIS, TRAVIS	52. WAHNETAH, KAMI ELLA
25. MARIN, LINDA MARIE	53. WHITE, RAMONA LEE
26. MIGUEL, GERALD	54. WHITE, GERALD THOMAS
27. MILDA, JEANETTE LUCILLE	55. WOOD, DORIS JEAN
28. MONTOYA, KATHLEEN ALICE	56. YUCUPICIO, BERNALEEN REBECCA

Salt River Public Works Department

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July 3, 2025

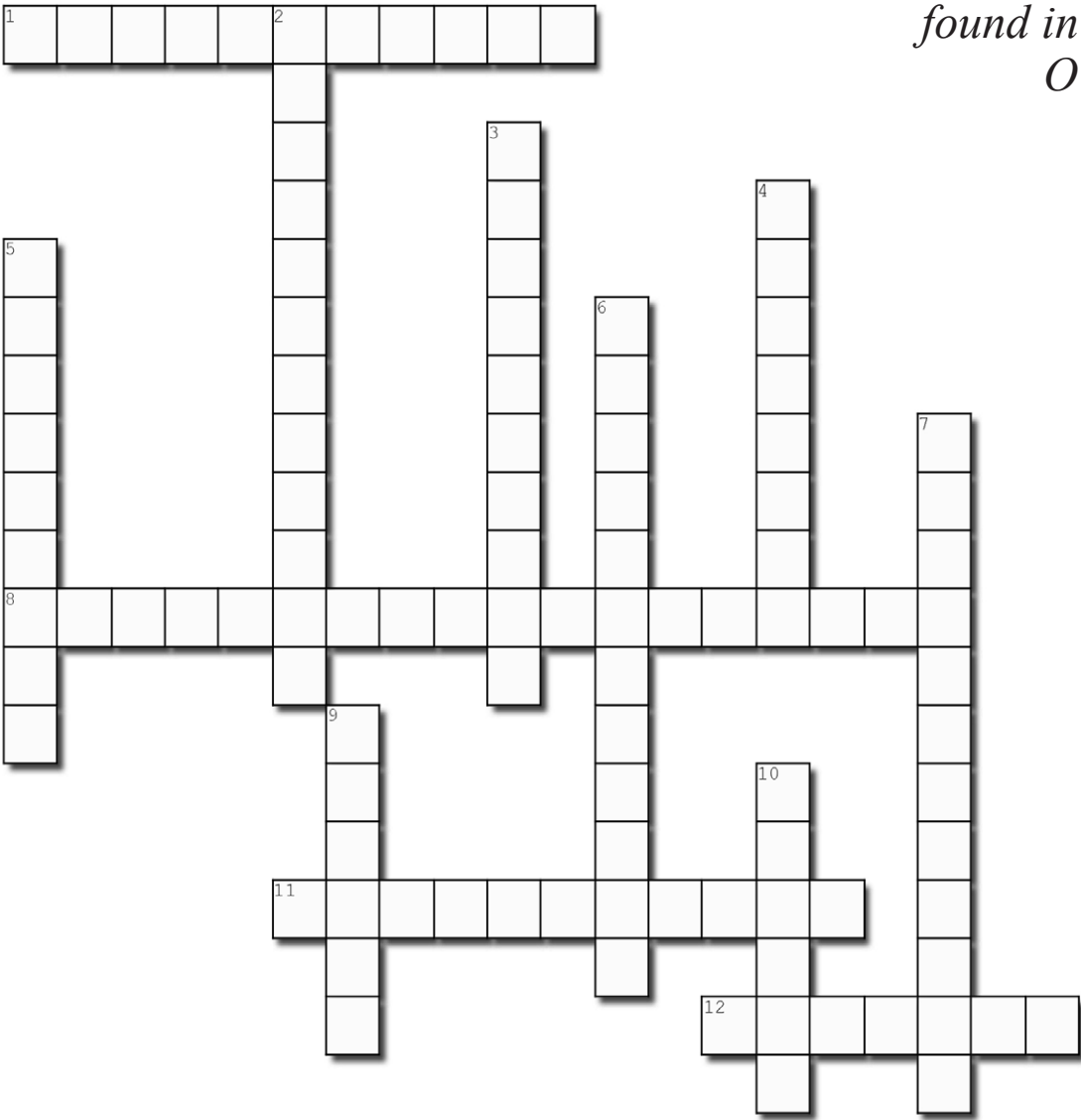
O’odham Action News

15





# 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

1. Name of the business owner of Dallas Construction, the company which assisted with the construction of the SRPMIC Day School.

8. SRPMIC Emergency Management coordinator.

11. Movie producer for the film, ‘The Dead Thing.’

12. Last name of the Congressman who visited the SRPMIC Early Childhood Education Center in May.

Down

2. The Apache Artist who will be speaking at the Youth Conference on July 24.

3. Current SRPMIC Education Board Chair.

4. The number of awards OAN won in this year’s IJA Awards.

5. One of the founders of the SRPMIC2 Spirit Club.

6. Winner of The Dream Catcher Award at the two Spirit LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Gathering.

7. The ACESDV domestic violence response coordinator who facilitated the webinar on adult abuse.

9. First Place Winner of the Single-A Inter-Tribal Baseball Tournament.

10. A stick created from the saguaro ribs to help pick fruits atop a saguaro.



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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JULY 17	JULY 7*
AUGUST 7	JULY 18

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

SALT RIVER CHURCH LISTINGS

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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 PAPAPO 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  
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Apostle Edward Chance apostleac@gmail.com (480) 516-6509  
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SERVICES  
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**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 msacruth.com for more Follow us @morningstarapostolic on Instagram and on Facebook at facebook.com/msacruth

**REDEEMER APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
200 E First St Mesa, AZ 85201  
Pastors Santos and Andrea Navarrete  
SERVICES  
Sunday 11 a.m. English, 1:30 p.m. Soanish Wednesday 7 p.m.

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.

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.



NOTICE OF  
COMMUNITY HEARING

The Council has scheduled a Community Hearing. You may or may not be a landowner in this area; however this special invitation is extended to all Community Members and Landowners with ownership interest within a ½ mile radius.

Joe Murray with JCM Design Group, as the applicant, requests a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a kennel use for Camp Bow Wow within The Pavilions at Talking Stick shopping center. The proposed business will be located within Suite B2 at 8930 E. Talking Stick Way. This property is zoned C3 (General Commercial) and a CUP is required for a kennel per the SRPMIC Zoning Ordinance.

This notice is made under Article I., Section 17-4, Sections 7-95 (d), 17-97 (a) and 17-97 (e) along with the SRPMIC Code Ordinance.



**Date:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** SRPMIC Council Chambers (Longmore & Osborn)

You may also view the pre-recorded video and audio presentation of the Community Hearing starting July 24, 2025. To view the video, please visit: <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/>.

Public comments can be made via email at [public\\_hearing\\_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov), by phone at (480) 362-7470, by text at (623) 282-5757, or by mail CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale AZ 85256.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
SADDLEBACK-CULBERTSON DESIGNATION OF LAND USE (DOLU)  
AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP), CASE NUMBER 23-CUP-08

Saddleback Communications is requesting a Designation of Land Use (DOLU) and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Type 4 Wireless Communication Facility (WCF) to be located at 9060 East Jackrabbit Road. The proposed DOLU premises is approximately 2.351 acres, being part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 2 North, Range 5 East of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County. This WCF would provide additional wireless cellular services to the surrounding area, including Scottsdale Community College, and other developments in the immediate vicinity. Approval of a CUP is a requirement for Type 4 WCFs per Article 7.1 of the SRPMIC Zoning Ordinance (SRO-467-2015).



**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, July 23, 2025  
**TIME:** 5:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** SRPMIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256

You may view the recorded presentation starting Tuesday, July 24, 2025. To view the video, please visit:

<https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/> Public comments can be made by email at [public\\_hearing\\_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov), by phone at (480) 362-7470, by text at (623) 282-5757, by survey (follow web link above), or by mail to CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale AZ 85256.

For more information about the project, contact Rick McAllister, CDD Principal Planner at (480) 362-7655.

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SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY



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FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE: 480-362-7884

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# Webinar Reveals Methods To Help Eradicate Adult Abuse



## LATER IN LIFE ABUSE: SUPPORTING OLDER SURVIVORS

Andreah Gomez  
(she/her/hers)  
[Andreah@acesdv.org](mailto:Andreah@acesdv.org)

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

*O'odham Action News*  
[juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov)

The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) facilitated an online webinar on June 17 for membership and staff from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Andreah Gomez (she/her/hers), ACESDV Domestic Violence Response coordinator, hosted the webinar. It detailed a sensitive topic, adult abuse later in life.

Defined as willful abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of an older adult over the age of 50, Gomez highlighted that in some cases, the perpetrator is someone within the family circle. Whether it be a spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver, adult abuse includes sexual, emotional, spiritual as well as stalking.

Throughout her presentation, Gomez provided the Community with impactful and eye-opening statistics. In a

study conducted by Maricopa County in 2023, the Department of Economic Security revealed a 20% increase in adult abuse reports in the state. Nearly 18,000 individual reports of adult abuse were submitted to the state.

On the National level, about one in 10 people over the age of 50 have experienced some form of adult abuse. Gomez stated that two-thirds of adult abusers are adult children or spouses, and close family members committed nearly 60% of elder abuse cases.

Unfortunately, there are cases of adult abuse that go unreported. In such cases, the victim may fear the perpetrator, which may prevent them from submitting a report to local authorities. Similarly, after abuse occurs, the victim may begin to self-blame or deny the abuse, which causes mental strife and negatively impacts a healthy lifestyle.

Thankfully, Gomez began detailing the different ways survivors and their families can enact positive change. As a society, we must hold the perpetrator

accountable, not the victims. To do this, individuals must avoid victim blaming.

Victim blaming is a hostile act defined when someone incorrectly implies that the victim played an active role in the harmful/traumatic event.

Additionally, taking time out of our lives to understand the different ways we can heal can also be beneficial. By learning how to be present and mindful, we can integrate traumatic memories, Gomez said. Practicing mindfulness can help reduce the severity of trauma by allowing time for individuals to process and find closure with the past.

Gomez provided a quote from Cheryl Richardson, an author of best-selling self-improvement books, to the webinar group: “People start to heal the moment they feel heard.”

She added, “Feeling listened to and understood changes our physiology, being able to articulate a complex feeling. Having our feelings recognized lights up our limbic brain and creates an ‘ah-ha moment’ for us.”

The limbic part of our brain features a group of structures that regulate our emotions, behaviors, motivations, and memory.

Simply put, hearing victims tell their stories while providing a safe space helps eradicate abuse, especially for adults over the age of 50 who may feel that they cannot change.

Providing a shame-free and non-judgmental space takes genuine effort. Gomez stated that she believes while we all can help others, pets can also help engage in positive realities for

older adults impacted by abuse.

Gomez stated that our four-legged friends can do more than just fetch and bark at the delivery drivers. Pets constantly create comfort and provide stress relief, thus helping support an individual’s effort to be more mindful.

The Community webinar neared its end as Gomez detailed ways we can love our older adults. “We can listen to them, be proud, patient, and respect them,” she said. Gomez would also encourage webinar attendees to joke around with them and have a laugh.

Gomez ended her webinar with a quote from author Akshay Dubey. “Healing doesn’t mean the damage never existed; it means the damage no longer controls your life.”

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-799-7233

Strong Hearts Native Helpline 1-844-762-8483

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673

ACESDV AZ Map detailing programs/resources by county  
<https://arizonasurvivors.org/support-for-survivors/map-of-services/>



# Congressman Tim Walberg Visits Early Childhood Education Center



SRPMIC President Martin Harvier discusses the Community's needs with Congressman Tim Walberg at ECEC.



ECEC Leader Michelle Kuamoo gives Congressman Walberg a tour of the ECEC facility.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

*O'odham Action News*  
[chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov)

U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, a Republican from Michigan and chairman of the House of Education and Workforce Committee, visited the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on May 27.

When SRPMIC President Martin Harvier testified in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 4 at a Congressional hearing of the U.S. House of Natural Resources Committee, he extended an invite to Walberg to visit the Community if he was in the area. Walberg took Harvier up on the offer.

Walberg met with SRPMIC and Salt River Schools leadership at the Gathering Place conference room to learn more about what the tribe is doing with self-governance funds from the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Program, but also where the gaps are.

Also discussed were funding needs at ECEC and the tribally—and federally—funded services at ECEC, as well as proposed changes to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). The ECEC receives federal funding from CCDF, which, among many things, is used to subsidize the Extended Day program at the ECEC and the Certificate Program. Salt River Schools held an April 17 hearing to inform the Community about this.

The leadership at the table included SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, SRPMIC Council and ECEC Policy Council Representative Mikah Carlos, Superintendent of Salt River Schools Sheryl Houston and ECEC Leader Michelle Kuamoo.

Salt River Schools Native Culture Coordinator Ipa Dutchover presented an overview of the Community and shared information about the tribes that make up the Community.

Leadership discussed with Walberg the uncertainty of available future expansion grants from the federal government to help the tribal school system and how boundaries affect Head Start services available to Community members. Carlos mentioned that many Community members are frustrated that their children are not eligible for services that could be provided to them.

“How do we have self-determination when we can’t say who we can provide services to?” Carlos said to Walberg.

Carlos said that the way that self-governance funds are distributed is based on a formula. For the SRPMIC, Carlos said, the formula hasn’t really changed since the Community became a self-governance tribe.

“We’ve still been getting essentially the same amount of money, which worked for us back then when we had a tribe of like 100 employees and maybe 4,000 members,” Carlos said.



Congressman Walberg listens to SRPMIC Council member Mikah Carlos talk about a variety of subjects, including access to tribal childcare services.

“Now we have almost 3,000 employees and over 11,000 members, so trying to show that as the gap in self-governance grows, it puts a bigger burden on the Community and the tribal government budget to cover those things like law enforcement, education, fire, those kinds of things we use those funds for.”

The group adjourned from discussion to take a tour of the recently expanded ECEC facilities.



# Salt River Public Health Donates Expired PPE for Training

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

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Public Health team and Emergency Management arrived early at 6 a.m., June 12, to unload a large Conex storage box full of large pallets of expired PPE (personal protective equipment) that will be donated for training and exercises.

“After the COVID-19 pandemic, we retained a PPE cache for the Community, so we’re never caught off guard with logistical supply chain issues again,” said Emergency Management Coordinator Kirsten VanDeventer MPA, CEM. “At this point, we have several items that are expired that we cannot push out to the Community from the tribal government, but we can share those goods with agencies and universities that are willing to do training to educate the next generation [of first responders].”

The Public Health & Emergency Management team donated a few pallets, which included hazmat suits, goggles and face masks, to Arizona State University for training and exercises supplies. The teams are currently looking to distribute an additional five pallets of material.

“We hope to continue to building relationships with our local universities,” said VanDeventer.

“It’s mutually beneficial because they bring their training programs here to Salt River.”

The most recent program offered to the Community was on biological hazard response.

If you are interested in PPE or have a connection that could use expired material please reach out to Kirsten. [VanDeventer@srmic-nsn.gov](mailto:VanDeventer@srmic-nsn.gov)



Colette Winter, Kayla Dugger, Sophia Perez, Jennell Clark, and Kirsten VanDeventer pose for a photo in front of expired PPE to be donated to ASU and other locations.



Expired PPE and other emergency equipment on pallets and loaded into a Salt River Emergency Management vehicle to be donated to ASU and other locations mainly for emergency training purposes.



## SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

# MENS 61ST ANNUAL SOUTHWEST ALL INDIAN BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



## JULY 24TH - 26TH

### 20 Native American Baseball Teams

### Registration June 16<sup>th</sup> - July 15<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> 20 Teams to sign up
- Team Fee: \$300 (non-refundable)
- Registration code given after payment is completed

- Awards: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- MVP & All Tourney
- Tournament Giveaways
- 4 Baseball Fields

**Call CRS Atheltics for payment & registration - 480-362-6365**

**For additional information contact Kimberly Whitelock - 480-742-9472 or email [kimberly.whitelock@srmic-nsn.gov](mailto:kimberly.whitelock@srmic-nsn.gov)**

# VOICES OF SUMMER

## SALT RIVER SPEAKER SERIES

Engaging Talks That Reflect Our Past, Shape Our Future

### 2025 Salt River Summer Speaker Series

- Last Tuesday of every month (June-Sept)
- Tuesday, June 24th . . . .SRPMIC elders panel
- Tuesday, July 29th . . . .Young River People’s Council panel
- Tuesday, August 26th . . .Genealogy (TENTATIVE)
- Tuesday, Sept 30th . . . .Salt River Project, A Water Story

### Salt River Council Chambers

10091 E Osborn Rd  
Hosted by ACM Lena Jackson  
Dinner: 5-6p  
Presentation: 6-7p  
45min presentation, 15 min Q&A

Open to the PUBLIC  
**All are welcome**

Questions:  
email [SummerSpeakerSeries@srmic-nsn.gov](mailto:SummerSpeakerSeries@srmic-nsn.gov)





SRMG

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& APPLY ONLINE

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MISSION

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND  
SOLUTIONS WITH QUALITY  
PRODUCTS AND EXCEPTIONAL  
PEOPLE

VALUES

PROFITABILITY THE RIGHT WAY...  
INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY,  
EXCELLENCE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
WWW.SRMATERIALS.COM

**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.

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[www.srmaterials.com](http://www.srmaterials.com)



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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ONGOING

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

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

**TAI CHI FOR SENIORS**, Tuesdays 9-10 a.m. at WOLF Senior Room and Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Senior Services North Annex. Join Senior Services for tai chi, an ancient Chinese martial art used today as an effective moving meditation that improves the health of the mind and body. All abilities and fitness levels are welcome. For community seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs. Questions? Call (480).362.6350.

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

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

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

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

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP

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

## WELLBRIETY 12 STEP AND MEDICINE

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

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

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

**CRAFT COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING**, Support group for families of loved ones battling substance abuse/addiction/dependance. Fridays 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at RPHC Room 3106 (3rd Floor) For More Information please contact Shea Hinton at (480) 362-2739

## SALT RIVER VOCATIONAL REHABILITA-

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

## JU:KIABIG MAŞAD XLY'A PKXYEE JULY

**4 INDEPENDENCE DAY**, SRPMIC offices closed in observance. Please plan accordingly. See ad on page 17 for details on Community celebration!

**7 COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST**, 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Salt River Community Building (1880 N. Longmore Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85256) All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those who wish to submit unspoken prayer requests can do so by emailing: srpmicprayerbreakfast@gmail.com.

**8 DANCING WITH DEANNA SUMMER FITNESS SERIES**, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Ske:g Himdag Ki/WOLF Court 3. Each week, Councilwoman Deanna Scabby, along with various instructors, will bring the heat with a vibrant mix of Zumba, traditional dance, and an exciting variety of dance styles and classes. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just looking to try something new, there's something for everyone in this joyful, judgement-free space. All ages welcome. Open to SRPMIC community members, family of SRPMIC community members (enrolled SRPMIC members can bring up to 3 guests), and SRPMIC Employees. Bring water, bring friends, and bring your best dance moves! Dance strong. Dance proudly. Dance with Deanna. Dance Type: Line Dancing.

**10 DANCING WITH DEANNA SUMMER FITNESS SERIES**, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at

Lehi Gym. Dance Type: Traditional Dancing. Closing session bird dancing.

**10 CHILDRENS FOUNDATION BENEFIT: TIP A C.O. AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE**, Salt River Department of Corrections will be having a fundraiser for the Salt River Children's foundation. Salt River DOC Officers will be serving food, bussing tables, cooking and hosting with the staff of Texas Roadhouse. 10% of food sales, and all tips will go to the Salt River Childers Foundation. This will be amazing event as we will be in uniform serving and supporting the community.

**10-12 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**, 6-8 p.m. at Salt River Church of Christ. See ad on page 17 for more information!

**11 HIGHER ED ORIENTATION PROGRAM**, noon at Salt River Schools Education Board Room. Learn about assistance available to help you reach your goals! Contact (480) 362-2547 with questions.

**14-19 TEEN TORTILLA CAMP**, 6 a.m. - 8 a.m. at Huhugam Ki: Museum. See ad on page 9 for more details!

**18-19 MY FUTURE IS BRIGHT YOUTH CONFERENCE**, Courtyard Scottsdale Salt River. See ad on page 8 for full details and registration information!

**22 JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MAZE**, Are you a rising middle school student and an enrolled member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community? Don't get lost in the Middle School Maze! The journey from elementary to middle school can feel like a dizzying labyrinth, but it can also be ahh-MAZE-ing! The School and Community Relations team is here to help you along your journey to the junior high environment. Join us on Tuesday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our fun, engaging, and informative youth conference that's all about navigating this incredible journey! Questions? Contact the School and Community Relations office at

480-362-2534.

## 26 O'ODHAM NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Come join us at Friendship Park on Saturday, July 26, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM, and celebrate a season of tradition, gratitude, and togetherness. The O'odham New Year Celebration is a gathering that honors one of the most sacred times in the O'odham calendar—the baidaj season, marked by the harvest of the saguaro fruit. Traditionally, this time of year signifies renewal, prayer, and preparation for the coming seasons. Our celebration will take place late in the summer to give the community another opportunity to come together in that same spirit of renewal and gratitude. This event offers a space to honor our traditions, reconnect with one another, and celebrate our cultural teachings through music, food, and dance. Enjoy: Live Waila music performed by Molina Music; Free food for the first 100 attendees; Traditional Dancing, O'odham and Piipaash. This celebration is hosted by the Young River Peoples Council and is open to the entire community—tribal members, families, guests, and youth of all ages are welcome.

## 29 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES: YOUNG RIVER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL PANEL

Join us for the Voices of Summer Salt River Speaker Series for engaging talks that reflect our past to shape our future. Sessions held the last Tuesday of each month through September at Salt River Council Chambers. Dinner served starting at 5 p.m. and 45 minute presentation at 6 p.m. followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. All are welcome! Questions? Contact summer-speakerseries@srpmic-nsn.gov