



Young River People's Council share Bird singing and dancing during their Piipaash showcase.

Young River People's Council  
Hosts O'odham New Year  
Celebration

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ  
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The summer sun set as the gourd rattles filled the air. The Young River People's Council held an O'odham New Year Celebration at the end of Ju:kiabig Maşad, July. The celebration included food, a saguaro fruit demonstration, O'odham socials, bird singing and dancing and a waila.

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Play Ball!

DESERT DINGERS PARTICIPATE  
IN INAUGURAL BASEBALL  
TOURNAMENT

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE, ANDREEA MIGUEL AND ZOE HERNANDEZ  
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Today, families can use their cell phones and tablets to record their baseball athlete swinging for the fences, which helps increase the likelihood of the video going viral online. More importantly, this helps get them noticed by teams at the collegiate level, with the ultimate goal of making it to the pros. Former Major League Baseball pitcher Daniel J "D.J." Carrasco is looking to ensure this happens for the next generation of baseball stars, specifically from Indian Country. Carrasco was born in Safford, Arizona, and attended Pima Community College before turning pro. He made his MLB debut as a pitcher in 2003 for the Kansas City Royals. He finished his career with the New York

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ARCHIVING AND DIGITIZING THE SALT  
RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Learn the inner workings of how the SRPMIC is maintaining a digital and ongoing archive of four-plus decades worth of photos and articles for future generations to come.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE  
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"Since 1982, the Community Relations Office has been documenting the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community," began Janet Johnson. "We documented through photo and video." The collection is her life's work. She and former SRPMIC President Ivan Makil were the first two employees to work in the Community Relations Office (CRO), believed to be the first-ever public relations office created in Indian Country. "In 1984, the newspaper came under Community Relations," Johnson added. "Since that time, the office was documenting the entire Community, versus the newspaper [staff] were taking pictures solely for the newspaper." Johnson recalled that during the 1990s, Dodie Manuel joined O'odham Action News as managing editor. The duo began creating a plan to archive the content for future generations. "During that time, we decided to put both photograph collections together," said Johnson.

This plan ensured CRO still documented the Community while O'odham Action News captured the event coverage for its publication. "Sometimes, we both would be at the same event, but the CRO staff would always take additional photos for documentation," Johnson recalled. Although both have since retired, Johnson still dedicates her time to the Cultural Resources Department by helping with archive work. According to Johnson, photography for the newspaper and documenting the Community are two different processes. Due to the number of stories published in an edition of O'odham Action News, standard event coverage could potentially only have room for one or two printed photos in its final publication. Documenting the Community generally involves taking multiple photos, compared to standard newspaper coverage. This involves capturing close-ups of individuals, behind-the-scenes footage, event's landscape and more. Many of the photographs in the CRO collection are black and white because color photographs contain different ink com-



Coming soon, the Research Room located in the SRPMIC Repository. The room contains four computers for membership to browse digital archives of photographs, video, and more, dating back to the 1960s. ponents that can separate and erode over time; that is not the case with monochrome photos. In addition to the photographs taken by staff, Johnson recalled how CRO received items from the members, departments and staff. "In the 1980s, one of the teachers from the Day School had passed on, so her son

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NABI  
Nation

SALT RIVER  
PLAYERS  
SHINE IN NABI  
TOURNAMENT

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# Young River People’s Council Hosts O’odham New Year Celebration

Council Supervisor Janyse Salinas shared how important this event was for the YRPC. “Of course, as the youth council, they’re very interested in learning more about their culture, who they are, and where they come from,” Salinas said. “So, they wanted to host this event to kind of help bridge the gap that a lot of Community members that have that disconnect to their culture, and so this was one of their efforts to try and bring them in and help.”

YRPC President Jizelle Juan expressed her thanks to everyone who came out to support and celebrate. Members of the YRPC also spoke and shared their gratitude with the attendees. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Royalty were in attendance, including Miss Salt River Emma Scabby and Jr. Miss Salt River Tiare Begay-Smith, sharing their excitement during their introduction as they are YRPC members.

YRPC member and O’odham and Piipaash Language and History Technician Aarick Mack shared Bird songs and information on the *ha:şań baidaj*, the saguaro fruit, along with the significance of the O’odham New Year.

“The O’odham New Year signifies our cycle of a new beginning, a new planting season as they would call it. This is when the saguaro fruit starts to ripen and the Ju:kiabig Maşad which is the Rainy Month, and this is when the monsoons come and the rain come,” Mack said.



Young River People’s Council and attendees join for O’odham socials during sunset.

Traditionally, the O’odham New Year takes place during the summer solstice at the end of Ha:şań Bahidag Maşad, or the Saguaro Fruit Month, in June. The YRPC event was held on the evening of Ju:kiabig Maşad 26 at Friendship Park. “We’re a little late, but it’s really important that we’re doing this again to bring back the significance of being in the Community and being with one another,” said Mack.

“On first we had the bird the Piipaash side representation,” said Mack. He said it is “important to show both tribes here and we have the O’odham singing going on.” The YRPC felt it was essential to incorporate O’odham singing and dancing, as there are ceremonial songs that go with *haşań baidaj*. Salinas said this is “their effort to bring back and acknowledge this time of year just like back when our ancestors celebrated this time of year, and the rains and the harvesting of the *baidaj*.”

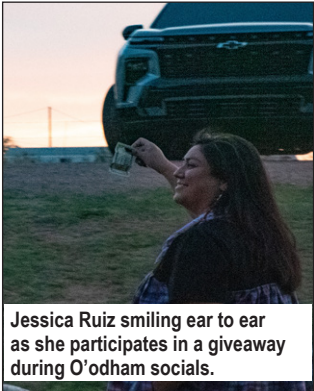
The night ended with a waila by Molina Music. “The waila is really big in our culture right now,” said Mack. He sees it as a form of resistance, “We took something and adapted it for ourselves.” Molina Music had everyone on their feet dancing and smiling ear to ear throughout. YRPC hosted an astonishing event, and they look forward to next year’s.



Male bird dancers Marley Dallas (left) and Datrae French (right) hop tin can.



Young River People’s Council participating in Piipaash bird singing and dancing.



Jessica Ruiz smiling ear to ear as she participates in a giveaway during O’odham socials.



Young River Peoples Council member Aarick Mack assisting in sharing information with families and attendees on saguaro fruit harvesting.

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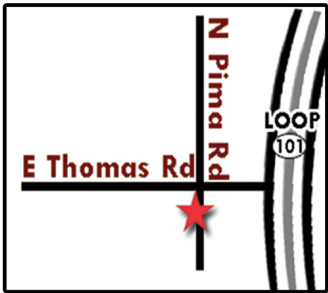
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# Summer Speaker Series Continues with Words from the Youth

BY KARI HAAHR  
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Much like their elders before them, the youth of Salt River have a lot to say. Four young leaders had the opportunity to share their views and dreams for Salt River on July 28 as the Summer Speaker Series continued at the Council Chambers. The panelists for this session were Young River People's Council President Jizelle Juan, Council Correspondent Secretary Myson Galindo, Council Treasurer Amelia Lasiloo and Council member Aarick Mack.

The experience of speaking in front of a large group isn't entirely new for the panelists, but doing so at a significant event inside the chambers is enough to make anyone feel a little nervous. After dinner and prayer, the soft-spoken young adults showed they were also well-spoken Community advocates.

In the first question of, "What is one word to describe how you feel about our Community?" all four participants shared different answers explaining what led them to those feelings. The answers centered on the connections we

have with one another as families and as a Community of two distinct tribes. Further questions explored where they would take someone on their first trip into the Community, what people might not know about the youth, and reminders that the kids are capable but are also learning and may need to take a couple of tries to get things right.

When asked to share memories and favorite foods, their answers echoed those of their elders in many ways. Stories of swimming in ditches, steering the car from grandma's lap, and eating lazy bread had the audience laughing as they too related to these experiences.

The seated crowd listened intently as the panelists went on to discuss what they see as opportunities to support and uplift youth. Ultimately, they all agreed that there needs to be space for youth to come together and share their experiences safely. Having a sense that you belong is key to feeling safe in expressing your identity, especially at a young age. When kids don't feel like they belong, they can turn to negative influences that create an artificial sense of belonging through gangs and substances to replace the missing sense of identity. The discussion of how to



The panelists gathered at the Council Chambers for the second installment of the Summer Speaker Series. Pictured: Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert, Young River People's Council President Jizelle Juan, Correspondent Secretary Myson Galindo, Treasurer Amelia Lasiloo, and Aarick Mack.

create those spaces was bigger than the setting allowed for, but it was the start of a meaningful conversation.

The panel opened up the discussion to the audience, where attendees, both in-person and several from online, asked questions and received feedback from the panelists. The youth encouraged people to always learn and use every resource available, including using FaceTime and technology to connect to one another online if unable to do so in person.

A full recording of the evening's presentation is available on the Community's Facebook page, where it was live-streamed. The next event is scheduled for August 26. It will feature a presentation by Katie Gertz, president of the Family History Society of Arizona, exploring the importance of family history and identity and tips and tricks to get started. The series is open to all and includes a light meal before each presentation.

## One word to describe our community...



Jizelle Juan

# FAMILY

"...Our youth are very powerful, we have strong voices... something I keep hearing is that we're not the future. We're the now."

"[What] feels like home is the people, our people are so loving and caring. They'll always be there for you with open arms... I was at a friend's house to drop off something, and her mom was making popovers... they packed up some chili for us even though we didn't ask for any of that, she still thought to do that. That is a good example of how our people are so caring and loving."

"I try to stay connected as much as possible, but we go to school outside the city so doing little things to reclaim spaces just by simply just wearing jewelry. I try to wear shells as much as possible whenever I can, I always have a shell bracelet with me. I know shells are for protection, but it's balancing and [I try] to do little things different ways or sharing any information that I can as well."

"I hope to see [Youth Council] bigger, bigger than it is now, and way more... I don't know, how to say it, but I just hope for a bigger group and I hope to see some of us are in council now to be on Tribal Council one day. That would be awesome."

"...No matter how much we as a community change, people change, [the land is] always something to come back to. And I'm glad that when I'm away, out of state or wherever, I know I always have a home to come back to."

# CHANGE

"...Our community is shifting and growing, especially with the amount of youth involved in our culture and wanting to share more and the amount of benefits our community has now that they didn't have decades ago."



Myson Galindo



Amelia Lasiloo

# CONNECTED

"...Something we all really focus on as youth council [is] trying to heal through culture... As Native people, we have a lot of generational trauma too. So I think just trying to, not revert but go back as much as we can to the way we used to do things with our songs, our dances, our food, our traditions and ceremonies, I think that could really help a lot of people."

"I know it's kind of scary or feel like everyone's judging you sometimes, but I feel like you shouldn't let that get in the way of what you want to do or what makes you happy. So just try not to focus so much on what other people want for you or what they think of you and just try and go for it."

"A lot of people overlook mental health, substance abuse or gang violence that's going on in the community. It may not seem as big of a deal on the outside looking in, but I can see it all around me. Youth are kind of lost with who they are, what they're doing and they're resorting to a lot of bad things to feel like they belong somewhere, like they have support... So we need to feel connected or have a place where we can feel safe and welcome."

# UNITED

"After all, we are two tribes. Recently, I'm seeing a lot of both cultures being recognized and acknowledge as well as just in general everybody coming together and starting to bring things back or starting to gather again."

"...Two different elders, have told me... one of them said, 'You know you're home when you see Red Mountain. That's how you know you're home.' And another one said, 'The connection to the land here, as adults we're not taking care of the land for us. We're taking care of the land for the future.'"

"[The youth] really want to learn the culture, you know, a lot of people say that [youth are] either on their phone, or they're too involved in technology, but there's a lot of us who aren't or who would rather be out doing things, whether it be language or harvesting or learning songs, anything to do with our culture... that's something that people underestimate about us."



Aarick Mack



Elaina Osife Continues to Ascend

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE  
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Elaina Osife recently traveled to Maricopa, Arizona, to participate in the Moonshot Pitch Competition, held on June 21 at Butterfield Elementary School.

The competition was hosted by Moonshot Arizona, a nonprofit dedicated to helping entrepreneurs in the Valley take their dreams to the next level. They host workshops, lab space for networking opportunities, networking meetings, competitions and much more.

Moonshot Arizona created the pitch competition akin to the ABC television show, “Shark Tank.” This competition format puts entrepreneurs face-to-face with influential executives who can help transform their business idea into a thriving, multi-million dollar enterprise.

Osife is the proud owner and operator of Mesquite Butterfly Trades, LLC, an online marketplace that features handmade goods, jewelry, and a variety of natural wellness products. “Think of it as an Indigenous Etsy where creativity, storytelling, cultural pride, and entrepreneurship meet,” Osife said.

She continued, “This marketplace is built with storytelling at its core, presenting authenticity. Every product holds a message. Every artisan carries wisdom. As the business grows, I

plan to introduce multiple vendor categories and featured sections. One of them is ‘Open Market Chic,’ which will highlight Indigenous artisans whose work may not be cultural in appearance, but is deeply creative, high-quality, and deserving of space.”

Being in the presence of many Valley entrepreneurs and sharing her ideas was a difficult challenge she was able to overcome thanks to the Creator, Osife said.

“There’s always fear, especially for Indigenous women, of being overlooked, misunderstood, or copied. I grounded myself in purpose. This vision was given to me by Creator, and I carry it with humility and passion. No one can replicate what’s infused with spirit, love, and a lived experience. That truth became my power.”

Utilizing the resources and support provided by Moonshot, Osife was awarded a \$3,500 grant and spoke with financial and legal advisors to get guidance on how to launch Mesquite Butterfly Trades, LLC properly.

Osife added, “I plan to return for future pitch opportunities. For now, I’m focused on building quietly and powerfully so when I return, I can show up with full execution, intention, and impact.”

In the meantime, Osife continues to refine her talents as she begins to expand her horizons and her business acumen with two additional projects.

“In addition to the marketplace, I’m also developing two sister brands that



Elaina Osife in the Creative Ki: Studio. Photo by the Community Relations Office staff.

complete the ecosystem,” she said. “[One is] Love & Joy Butterfly Co. and [the other is] Level Up Podcast.”

Love & Joy Butterfly specializes in holistic candles, natural beauty goods, prayers, mantras, and other self-care tools. Her podcast series will feature stories about people overcoming obstacles and ‘leveling up’ in different aspects of their life, whether it be emotionally, spiritually or financially.

“All three brands, the marketplace, the candle company, and the podcast, are connected by one mission: Healing through story, creation, and reclamation,” Osife said.

As she continues to ascend, Osife remains motivated and humble with her eyes set on the ultimate prize, healing the people.

“This vision is original, spirit-led, and rooted in love for my people and

all those who have been silenced, unseen, or underserved,” said Osife. “I believe storytelling is medicine. I believe healing is wealth and I believe entrepreneurship, when done with soul, can change generations. We’re not just trading products. We’re trading power, truth, and legacy.”

Mesquite Butterfly Trades is currently in development with plans for a full launch to come at a later date.

Osife was also selected for the 2025 Arizona State University Thunderbird Dreamcatcher Cohort for Native American women entrepreneurs. She graduated from the program in early August.

Be on the lookout in a future edition of *O’odham Action News*, which will spotlight Osife following her graduation from the program.

“There’s always fear, especially for Indigenous women, of being overlooked, misunderstood, or copied. I grounded myself in purpose. This vision was given to me by Creator, and I carry it with humility and passion.”

Human Resources Kicks Off Quarterly Employee Recognition Program

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s Human Resources department kicked off its inaugural quarterly employee recognition program on July 14 at Scottsdale Community College’s Indigenous Cultural Center.

The program honored hard-working employees from the third quarter of fiscal year 2025 who demonstrated the values of the O’odham and Piipaash Community through services to the people.

“[The program] is meant to show senior leaders that there’s a lot of people out there doing good things every day in this Community, and it’s great for them to connect with you and see that,” HR Director Steve Haydukovich said.

Directors from their respective departments recommended each employee who was honored. Each honoree received a certificate of their achieve-



A group photo including Human Resources staff and recognized employees from the quarterly employee recognition program on July 14 at the SCC/ICC.

ment and shook hands with the Community leadership.

See sidebar for the complete list of recognized employees.

SRPMIC President Martin Harvier and Vice-President Ricardo Leonard were in attendance, and Harvier had a few words to say to the employees.

“Congratulations to all of you for being recognized in the different areas of the government,” Harvier told the employees.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by the director of your department. I’m sure all your departments have large groups of employees, but it’s you that are here.”

Additional leadership in attendance included Council members Deanna Scabby, Jacob Butler, Cheryl Doka and Mikah Carlos, Community Manager Bryan Meyers, Assistant Community Managers Carla Banuelos, Doran Dalton, Lena Jackson-Eckert and Dawn Sinoqui.

“Look around you. Look at those people next to you. These are the peers. These are the employees that are making a difference to this Community,” Haydukovich told the employees.

“Your work matters and what you do every day matters to this Community, whether you did something mundane or super important.”

Recognized Employees

Michael Hundley	Thomas Montanez	Anita Perez
Antonio Jim-Montoya	Jon Yazzie	Arletta Wehrspann
Seniesha Sekaquaptewa	Rita Longoria	Jessica Parrish
Nathan Kehr	Vona Pablo	Eniketi Voss
Holly Barton	Francies Edwards	Laura Cox
Blanche DeHorney	Gina Greene	Teah Hopkins
Kris Wills	Jose Roman	Andrew Weiler
Omar Rodriguez	Eli Johnson	William Esplin
Marissa Salazar	Crystal Banuelos	Mayra Garcia
Crystal Leonard	Ki-Ana Loring	Angel Santiago



Nathan Kehr accepts his employee recognition certificate.



Crystal Leonard shows off her employee recognition certificate.



Coworkers Anita Perez and Ki-Ana Loring pose for a photo with their certificates.



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# A Journey Through the Middle School Maze

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ

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Transitioning from being the “top dog” in elementary to a brand new middle school environment can be tough.

To help ease this transition, Salt River School and Community Relations hosted Journey Through the Middle School Maze Youth Conference over the summer. The conference took place on July 22 at Scottsdale Community College – Indigenous Cultural Center.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community students transitioning from elementary school to middle school attended three workshops throughout the day, along with a cultural activity and a social song and dance. The Youth Council was also in attendance and shared some valuable insight on their program.

Ipa Dutchover, Salt River Schools’ Education Native culture coordinator, served as the master of ceremonies for the event. Many of the students know him as Mr. Ipa. He kept the room lively with jokes, and you could hear the students’ laughter throughout. Mr. Ipa reflected on his journey and transition from elementary school to middle school and said, “Who transitioned me? Who got me ready to go to junior high? I didn’t

really have that, it was just, like, all right, summer’s over.”

Heaven Sepulveda shared some words about the conference, “This conference is about supporting you as you navigate middle school while staying connected to who you are as O’odham Piipaash.” Dutchover and Sepulveda both expressed to the students that middle school can be scary with a lot of changes. “Some days will be exciting, but some will also be tough, but one thing that will never change no matter what is our connection to one another,” she said.

The keynote speaker, Mora Reina, shared her five steps to success, each accompanied by a story to go with. First, “lead with empathy,” followed by, “feel it, then do it anyway,” “focus on what you can control,” “your choices over their choices,” and finally, “keep going.” Reina made school a place she wanted to be, and she expressed to the students that whatever they were going through, they can always turn it around.

The workshops throughout the day featured artist Douglas Miles from Apache Skate Company, Talibah Begay, and School and Community Relations staff. Miles’ workshop highlighted the importance of unconventional jobs, such as being an artist. Students helped

Miles to create a life-size portrait on a poster board. The students were hesitant at first, but began drawing. Their sheepish grins soon turned into excitement.

In Begay’s workshop, she spoke on the importance of one’s health and wellness. Students shared the first thing that came to mind when they thought about wellness; their answers included “healthy,” “running,” “get better at something,” and many more. Within the workshop, students were served blue corn mush. Some students beamed with excitement while others had a sour look on their face awaiting to try the blue corn mush.

The students created an “all about me” sharing their names, favorite food, favorite color, hobbies and families, and staff provided information on what to expect as well as financial services.

To conclude, the conference students made shell necklaces with pony beads and participated in “The Going Home Song.” The day began with little to no talking from the students, but by the end of the day they were laughing, smiling and even friends. These future middle schoolers are now ready to make their way through the middle school maze.



Taking notes is the best way to remember. This future middle schooler takes notes on Reina Mora’s 5 steps to success.



Students creating an “all about me” to share with their peers.



Future middle schoolers create art work with Douglas Miles.



Students try blue corn mush.

# The Class of 2038 Begins the School Year

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

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To finish something, you must start.

On August 1, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community came together to officially welcome the little ones who began their academic journeys at the Early Childhood Education Center.

Education Board Chair Kyland King, educator Ipa Dutchover, SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler, Council member and board member Deanna Scabby and many more, greeted families and students at the entrance to the ECEC building on the first day of the school year.

The students happily walked down the “Welcoming Row” established by staff at the building entrance, while Dutchover sang traditional gourd songs.

High-fives, handshakes, hugs and a few tears, but not many, were had by the students. Sporting their brand-new backpacks, shoes and clothes, the students arrived prepared for their first-ever day of preschool. Parents and families were allowed to escort their students into their classrooms, as some wiped away happy tears making their way back to their vehicles in the parking lot.

The students will now begin their academic journeys, hopefully culminating in them graduating from high school in the year 2038.

The students are also members of Generation Alpha, which includes children born between 2010 and 2024. Most of the students have millennial parents, who were children born between 1981 and 1996.

Generation Alpha has never known a world without the internet and advanced technologies, such as cell phones and tablets. This means when the students enter the workforce, they’ll be able to comprehend and use technological advancements that will help improve the Community and society around us.

In around 4,650+ days, or roughly 12 years



During the early morning of August 1st, parents, families and guardians happily escorted their superstar students into the SRPMIC Early Childhood Education Center for their first ever day of school.



Students wore their finest clothes and happily high-fived many of the ECEC staff as they made their way into their classrooms.

and 9 months, the students will hopefully graduate from high school and venture out into the world, whether it be attending college, enlisting in the military or joining the workforce.

Whatever the students decide to do, it is apparent that the SRPMIC will unequivocally support and provide them with the resources and guidance they need to succeed.



The next generation of SRPMIC students will now embark on their academic journey which will hopefully culminate in them all graduating from high school roughly 12 years from now.



# ‘My Future is Bright Conference’ Empowers Youth to Heal

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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Young eyes and ears absorb everything adults say and do. The way adults speak, act and handle challenges can leave a lasting impact on each child.

Witnessing and being directly affected by drug addiction can potentially lead to a similar path that was set for them by their parents.

The Salt River Strategy Team N team recognized a need and developed their Youth Drug Prevention initiative, which was formed by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council to address increasing substance use and overdoses among Community youth.

The result: a two-day youth conference called My Future is Bright. “[Strategy Team N] is charged with improving, communicating, and enhancing services that support proactive drug prevention for Community youth, and in particular with increasing education and supports at a younger age and expanding protective factors,” said SRPMIC Community Prosecutor Alane Breland.

Breland and the Community Prosecutor’s Office are on Strategy Team N, along with Council members Cheryl Doka and Mikah Carlos, SRPMIC Court, Administration, Health and Human Services/Behavioral Health Services, Education, Youth Services, Defense Advocate, Recreation and Social Services.

The conference was paid for with Opioid Abatement funds.

From July 18-19, the conference was attended by several Community member youth and featured presentations from motivational speakers and some of the Community’s youth-oriented programs in Salt River’s Eagle Mark Ballroom at Courtyard by Marriott.

While attendees ate a buffet-style breakfast, Allen King shared his powerful journey of healing after addiction, incarceration and loss.

“I was a young kid when I started doing drugs and alcohol. I hid that very well. I was very functioning. I passed my grades. I did the things that

I needed to do,” King began. “But in the meantime, I was huffing gas, and I was huffing markers, doing all the rez things. Because remember, on the rez, there’s no store that’s two minutes away. We had to compromise as an addict.”

Youth sitting at their round tables listened intently to his story, which included a chapter about his resentment toward his mom and her trauma, and how affected him.

Community member Markus Carlisle, 13, felt connected to King’s story.

“The fact that he felt the way about his mom, I kind of felt the same way too. I’m not with my mom. I’m with my grandparents,” he said. “I don’t hate my mom. I love her, but she can’t take care of me because she won’t fix herself. My dad, he tried, but he just went back to that same old. I thought one of my parents were going to fix themselves, but he didn’t.”

Community member Saul Leyva, 16, was also moved by the talk.

“I think hearing someone actually speak on it, you know, their own struggles and what they’re going through, I think a lot of people in here, including me, could relate in different ways,” he said.

“Not just about how their struggles are, but how he accomplished and how he kept going. I think it was inspirational. I know for a lot of people it was hard to hear or hard to hold back tears, but it was nice to hear, knowing that you’re not the only one going through those struggles, that everyone else is there with you.”

The first day continued with a presentation by Lynnette Gray Bull about the opioid crisis and human trafficking, especially in Native communities. She also shared information on how to break the cycle.

Later, Salt River Schools educators and behavioral health experts guided participants through six prevention theories, techniques and hands-on, research-based exercises.

Before the end of the day, there were two more sessions: a presentation from Behavioral Health Services on talking with your kids about substance use, and a cultural session from the Cultural

Resources Department about healing and resilience through culture.

The second day of the conference began on a Saturday morning with an informative and introductory presentation about SRPMIC’s Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court, and how the court’s approach to treatment, education and Community involvement empowers young people to make positive changes.

After a morning break, Youth Services and Recreation provided an update on the current activities at Ske:g Himdag Ki: and offered an overview of the Echoes of the Akimel Color the Rez initiative, which utilizes graffiti immersion to engage youth in positive and creative activities.



## Protecting Our Youth Against Drugs and Violence

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL  
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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community held a special presentation on human trafficking and exploitation on July 17 that was open to members and employees at the Council Chambers.

Lynnette Greybull, founder of the nonprofit organization NotOurNativeDaughters, shared the presentation. She dedicated her nonprofit to address-

ing the missing, murdered and exploited Indigenous women and girls crisis. It’s mission is to end human trafficking and exploitation by providing education and coalition building.

“A lot of these topics that we cover for our tribal communities are heavy, they can be filled with strong statistical reality, and I’m a strong promoter of trauma informed care,” Greybull said.

This event was part of the Council’s strategy to bring education and resources across the Community on the

realities of opioid use and human trafficking within Indigenous populations.

The presentation showed regional and tribal data that gives an understanding of the crisis of opioids and human trafficking in Indigenous communities and how the two are interconnected. It also highlighted how both issues affect Native youth and women.

### What are opioids?

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, opioids are a class of drugs that include prescription medications such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, codeine, fentanyl and others, along with illegal drugs like heroin. They are primarily used for the treatment of pain. Once entered into the bloodstream, they interact with specific molecules called opioid receptors that help control pain, regulate breathing and help with stress relief.

Unfortunately, in addition to pain relief, opioids can trigger a euphoric feeling throughout the body, often leading to misuse. This can lead to addiction and a possible overdose, even death.

### What is human trafficking?

According to Homeland Security, human trafficking is the act of using force, fraud or coercion to obtain a type of labor, or commercial sex acts.

Millions of people each year are trafficked worldwide, and unfortunately, it can happen to anyone anywhere.

### How are they connected?

Greybull explained how oftentimes, traffickers exploit substance use as a method to manipulate and control victims. Substance use, in most cases, increases vulnerability to a point where traffickers use addiction as a tool of manipulation and control.

Culturally responsive solutions with an emphasis on prevention strategies and trauma support systems were shared, which included community engagement, traditional healing and youth mentorship. Greybull highlighted these ways in in her presentation to help support one’s healing journey.

“Identifying trauma is such the key tool here on helping our young people and helping our tribal communities to heal from opioid use, drug use, depression, mental health, even trafficking, even issues we face...,” Greybull said.

The presentation was held a day before the My Future is Bright youth conference, where Greybull was a guest speaker.

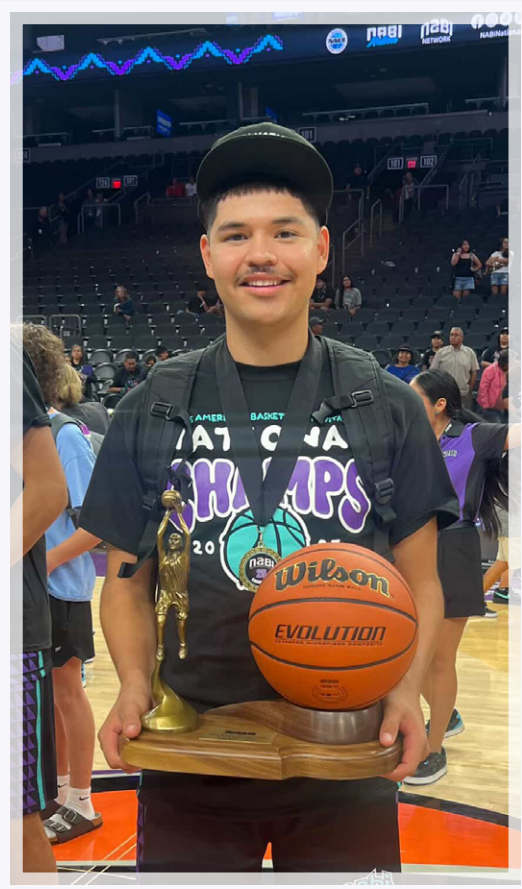
“I would say that most of us agree that we all want the same thing, and that is for our communities to have a strong sense of safety.”



Lynnette Greybull presenting to a room full of attendees.



# SALT RIVER PLAYERS SHINE IN NABI TOURNAMENT



Izzy Loring and his team Young Gunz won the NABI championship. Photo courtesy Izzy Loring.



A team photo for coach Rito Lopez and his Salt River Ba'ag 2028 team.



Izzy Loring in action.



Salt River Ba'ag player Tizoc Lopez races for the offensive rebound.



Unconquered looking tough for their team photo.



FMD player Joseph Smith tries to get open for a pass.



NWT player Mikayla Smith goes for a bounce pass around two defenders.



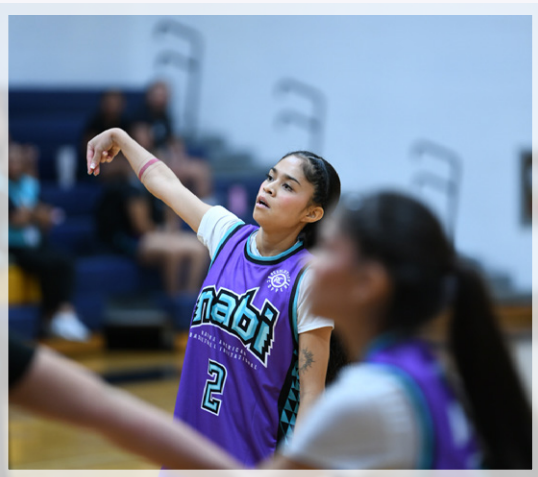
Seilah Smith gets fouled driving to the hoop and lands against the wall when a teammate helps her up.



Julian Crowley - AZ Warriors



NWT player Saedee Smith sets up an offensive play, looking for a teammate to pass to or take a shot.



NWT player Seilah Smith follows through her shot as she watches the ball sink into the basket.



FMD player Jacob Smith dribbles the ball between his legs, hoping to fake out his opponent.



LEFT: Girls team NWT poses for a team photo.

Seilah Smith #2  
Saedee Smith #4  
Mikayla Smith #20

RIGHT: The River player Jacob Baptisto making his way toward the basket against a defender.



AZ Lady Warriors player Mani Williams passes the basketball down court.



Mani Williams



The River player Josh Hood in the paint playing some lockdown defense.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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The O'odham Action News team endured another sweltering July this year, driving from gym to gym across Phoenix to catch a glimpse of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community hoopers representing their people on their traditional lands in the 22nd Annual Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI).

From July 22-25, 204 teams comprised of Native boys and girls from more than 130 tribal nations competed in intense pool play and bracket games. The top teams went on to play in the semifinals and championship

games, which were broadcast live on AZFamily Sports from PHX Arena, home of the Phoenix Mercury and Phoenix Suns.

NABI also streamed the games live from its very own Nabi Network online.

Salt River's Izzy Loring and his team, Young Gunz (AZ), took the 2025 NABI Boys Division Championship trophy home. They defeated Rezbombers (AZ) in the finals.

"I think the message we're trying to send, and the tone, is just play basketball. Nothing but the game. We don't go for any of that talking stuff or any of that. We're just here to play," said Loring.

OAN was at the first Young Gunz

game of the tournament.

"First game of NABI, I think we kind of wanted to go out and show the other teams what we do and what we're made of," said Loring.

Teammate John Mattingly won the 2025 MarJon Beauchamp MVP award for the tournament.

In the girls bracket, Oklahoma-based team Legendary Elite (OK) fell to defending champions Rezbombers in the final. Rezbombers picked up where they left off last year and rolled right through the pool play, winning the tournament 58-47. Sydney Benally was named the MarJon Beauchamp MVP for the second straight year.

Two SRPMIC member brothers, Jacob Smith (a senior) and Joseph Smith

(a sophomore going into his junior year), played for the FMD squad, who finished the tournament 0-4.

Jacob Baptisto, Josh Hood, Noah Lasiloo and Peyton Lalo were all players from the SRPMIC who were on The River team. Due to injuries and having to play some tough teams who went on to play deep in the tournament, The River finished the tournament 0-4 as well.

O'Shea Bonner, from the SRPMIC, was the lone player from Salt River Ba'ag who played in the tournament for the stacked 6-1 Unconquered team.

The boys Salt River Ba'ag 2028 squad, coached by Rito Lopez, featured members of the SRPMIC. The team included SRPMIC members

Tizoc Lopez and Leiland Thomas.

"Family on three!" Coach Lopez encouraged his team after their first loss to the MN Elite at Arizona Lutheran Academy.

"It's the little details. To control our destiny, we have to execute on our end. You guys gotta lock in a little bit more. I want to be 1-1 by the end of the night."

The pep talk must have worked. Later that night, the team was 1-1 after defeating Team Valley. Ultimately, Ba'ag ended up 2-2 in the tournament.

The boys team AZ Warriors, featuring SRPMIC member Julian Crowley, rocked the tournament, going 5-1. Unfortunately, they ran into the eventual champion Young Gunz, who knocked

them out of the bracket.

When the girls team, AZ Lady Warriors, played their July 23 evening game at Central High School, our crew was there to capture the action. The Lady Warriors are led by coach Phillip King.

Thanks to stellar play from SRPMIC member Mani Williams, they bounced back in their second game vs. GRIC Mustangs 56-17 after losing the first to 509 Roadwarriors from Washington state.

"The first game was really tough. That was an early morning game. I feel like that was a game for us to wake up for this game," Williams said.

"After playing that team, I feel like it helped all of us knowing what we

need to work on for our next game and learning how to play together, because some of us are new."

Williams' personal goal is, "to keep shooting and not be scared and to drive it in and just to have a better mental mind for each game, no matter win or lose."

The Lady Warriors ended the tournament with a 2-2 record.

NWT featured three SRPMIC members, all Smiths: Seilah, Saedee and Mikayla.

"This is my first year at NABI. I just finished my freshman year. Our team has been pretty good and have been holding ourselves together," Mikayla said after their third game, which was played at Bourgade High School.

The team did quite well, going 3-2 across the tournament.

"We came back hard and had a couple of ups and downs. Everybody did good. We've been playing pretty good so far," said Seilah Smith, who had hoped to make it to semis along the way.

Her sister Saedee Smith felt that the team's aggressive play and pace were good. She's always working on how to keep her composure in [high] pressure situations. "I do have some ups and downs, everyone does. My coaches are there for me and they help me," she said.



Continued from cover

# ARCHIVING AND DIGITIZING THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

had donated her photo collection to us,” Johnson said.

“Essentially, we were the catch-all,” admits Johnson. “The people knew we were documenting the Community and also had the newspaper, so people would just give us their photos. We have some photos from the late 1960s, 70s, 80s, and all the way up until 2000s.”

As the collection continued to grow, the need for a proper plan to store and archive the photos became not only a necessity but a requirement.

Before Johnson’s tenure with CRO ended, she met with Kelly Washington, Cultural Resources director. She updated him on the vision she had for the collection, which included allowing membership to have access to the items. The two agreed on a plan and would later ask Daniel Martinez, CRO Multimedia manager, to find a vendor that could digitize copies of the entire collection.

In September of 2024, the digital items were officially turned over to the SRPMIC Cultural Repository and was officially named the Community Relations Office Digital Photograph Collection. The collection has more than 4,000 folders and contains over 102,000 images.

## The Historical Importance of OAN

“In 2008, in conjunction with the Huhugam Ki: Museum, I met with the late Lee Thomas who was with the tribal library, and also Janet,” began Gary Owens, Huhugam Ki: Museum manager.

He continued, “They were going to turn over their issues of *O’odham Action News* to us, the tribal library and keep a copy for themselves.”

“We started making a catalog of different issues from the 1980s, 90s, and 2000s. This was in tandem with the library,” Owens said.

During those early years, museum staff would grab a copy of *O’odham Action News* and manually type headlines of the story from within the publication.

“We did it all in an Excel spreadsheet, we started this in 2012 with the staff,” Owens recalled. “[The software] we used was called FileMaker Pro.”

Staff assigned to assist with cataloging the collection would then work backwards from the current issue and repeat the process for older editions of *O’odham Action News*, dating back to 2004.

Later, additional staff would repeat the process of cataloging old newspaper editions, transcribing every edition from 2008 to 2016. “We did it in increments. We wanted the documentation of all the articles and photos that were in there,” explained Owens.

During that time, as the staff worked diligently and as a unified team, Owens noticed a trend within the older editions.

“We started finding historical references to the growth of the education department, the beginning of the language program, housing developments, water rights, the high school groundbreaking, Two Waters being built, the gaming compacts, and more. This became an important source of historical documentation,” Owens said.

Utilizing the “3-2-1 method” of storage and archiving, the team maintains and operates a digitized collection of old OAN editions. “We have three copies, on at least two different devices, one of them being in a different geographical location,” explained Lessie Dingler, SRPMIC museum digital

archivist. She said this archival method is working towards federal guidelines.

Within the archive, staff catalog every publication and folder for the respective decade. “[An example of this] is we have a synopsis of the year 1999 in photos within this archive,” recalled Johnson.

“Each file contains a description. We identify who is in the photo, when it was taken, and more. If we don’t know when a photo was taken, we highlight it. We include anything we know in the descriptions,” Johnson said.

The metadata is created within spreadsheets, enabling staff to collaborate as a team during the archival process.

## Getting Support

The repository, in partnership with Community Employment, developed a pilot program of support clerks to assist the team due to the massive scale of the archival project. Three clerks assist the repository staff and do not receive assignments to work in other departments. “It’s a spin-off from the Day Work program, they’re placed into the repository, under the direction of the museum, for six months,” Johnson said.

The clerks digitized old editions of *O’odham Action News* from the mid 1980s to 2005. “I digitized the 1970s and 80s, and they took it from there,” Dingler recalled.

Owens, Johnson and Dingler provided their kudos to the first group of four clerks, as their hard work and dedication to the project were invaluable. “We told them, ‘You don’t have to get to the finish line, we’ll do that. You’re going to help us get there,’” explained Owens. “This is the second group of support clerks we have worked with. The first team, Ms. Marcias, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Donahue and Mr. Manuel laid the groundwork for the current team and this new group have hit the ground running.”

Dingler also thanked the SRPMIC Information Technology Department for their assistance in setting up the equipment while providing the repository team with terabytes of data space for the images to be saved in high-quality file formats, such as TIFF.

## Thanking Those Who Came Before

With all the different functions and processes needed to conduct digital archiving, Owens made sure to acknowledge those from the 1950’s, 60’s and 70’s who paved the way for the processes and systems the Community benefits from.

“People see Two Waters and think that’s the end result. But it continues with the work being done for the Community by the current department staff and administration. In the past, there was a lot of work put in [at the time] by Community members who were managers, directors and supervisors,” he said. “Tribal council members, present and especially the past, played a determined role in building this Community.”

Owens continued, “We need to make sure the people know the people who helped us get here. Bob Scabby, Robin Enos, Adeline Tracy, Gene Andreas, so many, these are the people. They always wanted something good for Salt River because they felt the Community deserved the best for themselves. That’s how it was in the 1960’s when they rewrote the tribal constitution. It laid the plans for future growth and development.”



In addition to archiving and maintaining the Community’s digital archive collection, the SRPMIC Repository team have also been digitizing previous editions of *O’odham Action News* to ensure the Community’s history is properly preserved for generations to come.

He enjoyed seeing old newspaper editions that featured the first graduating class of Community firefighters, veterans who served, and many more items listed in previous editions. “Those names were put there for a reason,” Owens said. “They were contributing to the Community.”

## The Big Picture

“Everything boils down to allowing the people to access this,” Dingler said.

The end goal of these projects is to finalize a research center where Community members can access files and conduct their research within the repository.

Dingler added, “We can put as much description and time into these projects, but if we have no way for Community members to have it available to them, then it’s not really useful for its intended purpose.”

She continued, revealing plans for the Community to create and maintain an intranet-based website containing digitized images and information transcribed by the team.

An intranet is a private network that only users within a specific organization can access. The Internet, in contrast, is a public network that anyone can access.

The team has been conducting additional outreach by appearing in the Community and providing updates and examples to the membership regarding the status of these archival projects.

Recently, the team attended a Senior Breakfast and presented updates to attendees as well as a montage slideshow of the photos in the collection.

## The Future

“This collection is owned by the tribe,” said Johnson proudly. “It’s the

largest that the repository has received to date. We want to share it with the Community and let them know that we have these items.”

To help educate the Community about the digital archiving process, the team hosted presentations earlier this year explaining the steps, as well as showcasing old editions of *O’odham Action News*.

Owens added his own insight. “When you get to a certain point, you need to figure out how you got there. It’s always been the struggles that have helped this Community, to get the enthusiasm to go out and make sure that they are secure by building a solid infrastructure. This is where we take care of ourselves. But importantly, that the grandchildren and the future generations will be secure.

“That’s what the elderly did in the 1960s. They picked these people and said, ‘You need to lead us.’ Because of that, we have a tribal government that other tribes come to see and gather information about how we’ve achieved this. It was the Community members, with help from others, that did this, they worked together. People like Mrs. Hilda Manuel, Mrs. Margie Brown, Mr. Francis Makil, Mr. Billman Hayes Sr., Mrs. Christine Owens, Mr. Royal Schurz, Mr. Herschal Andrews, Mr. Johnson Enos, Mrs. Myra Rice, Mr. Filmore Carlos, Mr. Paul Smith. This is just a small list of people that recognized this. They and many more pushed for a good life for the people. That is history and that’s what our team here in the repository is trying to do, get the history of Salt River out to the Community.”

# Connecting Stories to Images

Thursday, August 28th  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Lehi Community Building  
1231 E. Oak Street

480-362-6320

HuhugamKiMuseum@srpmic-nsn.gov



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**SCOTTSDALE  
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# Scottsdale Community College To Host American Indian Program Open House

SUBMITTED BY SCOTTSDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Scottsdale Community College invites students, families and community members to attend its American Indian Program Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Indigenous Cultural Center (ICC 221/222) on campus.

The open house is free and open to the public, offering prospective and current students an opportunity to connect with SCC staff, explore campus services, and learn about the academic, cultural and communal resources that support American Indian student success--both on campus and through local urban Native organizations.

During the event, attendees will:

- Meet SCC faculty, staff and student support teams.
- Learn about academic advising, tutoring, transfer pathways and early college programs.
- Get information on scholarships, internships and student leadership opportunities.
- Connect with local partners like Native Health and the Phoenix Indian Center, who will share wellness and social support services available in the broader community.

SCC's American Indian Program serves as a cultural hub and student service center for Indigenous students, helping foster a

sense of belonging and community for all students. AIP works closely with faculty, staff, and administration to provide academic, cultural, and personal support to ensure Indigenous students are adequately prepared for college, their voices are heard, and their experiences are valued.

For more information, contact [AIP@scottsdalecc.edu](mailto:AIP@scottsdalecc.edu) or visit the American Indian Program page. Please RSVP at [bit.ly/aip-open-house-f25](https://bit.ly/aip-open-house-f25)

*Scottsdale Community College acknowledges the land on which we are situated today as the traditional land and home of two distinct nations: the Onk Akimel O'odham (Pima) and the Xalychidom Piipaash (Maricopa) people. We take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land, the Huhugam. We offer our respect to all O'odham and Piipaash of the past, present, and future.*



**SCOTTSDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

# News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER

*O'odham Action News*  
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## Native Candidates From Arizona Seek Congressional Seat

Three Native men are running for Congress to represent Arizona: Chris James, Jonathan Nez and Eric Descheenie.

James is Eastern Band of Cherokee and serves as president and CEO of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. He is seeking to secure the Democratic nomination and win the 5th Congressional District in Arizona, which includes parts of Phoenix and Mesa.

Nez and Descheenie are both Navajo and have experience in elected positions. Both are running in the 2nd Congressional District race, which includes the Navajo Nation.

Arizona's primary election is set for August 4, 2026, with the general election later that year in November. A win for any of the three in the general election would be historic, and they can potentially be the first Native Americans to represent Arizona in Congress.

## Arizona Diamondbacks Draft Native Player

Brian Curley, a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, is one of the newest members of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Curley was selected 92nd overall in the third round of the 2025 MLB Draft.

Curley starred as a pitcher at the University of Georgia and earned second-team all-conference honors.

Curley is expected to start his professional career in the Arizona Complex League, which is a rookie-level circuit operated by Minor League Baseball.

## Native Rights Advocate Dies

Thomas Jones, a Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation elder, has died on July 13 at age 79.

Jones was a former council member and was known for his tireless work in his community. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation celebrated his life on July 22.

AZ Central published a detailed obituary on Jones that can be found on its website.

## Tohono O'odham Young Voices Podcast

The Tohono O'odham Young Voices Podcast, a podcast dedicated to sharing tribal topics and stories of southern Arizona within Indigenous communities, is approaching its 50th episode.

Valentina Andrew, Napoleon Murrietta and Breanne Harvey lead the podcast team of three. Episodes of the podcast are readily available online.

## Shadow Wolves Improvement Act Advances

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee advanced the Shadow Wolves Improvement Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego to strengthen border security and expand career opportunities for Native American law enforcement.

The act codifies key recommendations from the Government Accountability Office to enhance and expand the Shadow Wolves program. Shadow Wolves are members of the Tohono O'odham Nation who patrol the 76-mile stretch of land it shares with Mexico.

The bill now heads to a full Senate vote.

# TOP INDOOR THRILLS TO BEAT THE HEAT

The Pavilions at Talking Stick is your ultimate playground for summer fun!



*Located in the heart of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Entertainment District, The Pavilions at Talking Stick is a must-visit destination for families, foodies, and thrill-seekers alike.*

### iFLY Indoor Skydiving

Fly like a pro—no plane needed! Perfect for kids, adults, and adrenaline junkies alike.  
[iFlyWorld.com/Phoenix](https://iFlyWorld.com/Phoenix)

### Bam Kazam

Escape rooms + obstacle zones + arcade vibes = unbeatable adventure  
[BamKazam.com/Scottsdale](https://BamKazam.com/Scottsdale)

### Slick City Action Park

Dry slides, big speed. Zoom through Tailspin or take the Fast Lane—no swimsuit required.  
[SlickCity.com/AZ-Scottsdale](https://SlickCity.com/AZ-Scottsdale)

### Pickleball at The Picklr

Join a league or just swing by—this indoor pickleball facility is a dream for players of all ages and skill levels.  
[ThePicklr.com/Scottsdale-North](https://ThePicklr.com/Scottsdale-North)

### Bounce, Skate, and Tumble at KTR

A massive indoor playground for active kids and teens—and There's even a toddler zone with dedicated mini zones.  
[KTR-Centers.com/Scottsdale](https://KTR-Centers.com/Scottsdale)

### Bowl in Style at Mavrix

Mavrix combines modern bowling with upscale dining. This family-friendly venue offers a summer season pass with perks.  
**Mavrix Summer Season Pass**

### Octane Raceway

Octane Raceway is a high-speed dream. Enjoy electric kart racing, axe throwing, virtual reality gaming, and more. It's high-speed, high-stakes action.  
[OctaneRaceway.com](https://OctaneRaceway.com)

### Take a Swing at D-Bat Scottsdale

Swing into summer with batting cages, camps, and lessons for all ages. [dBatScottsdale.com](https://dBatScottsdale.com)

### Mini Golf with a 3D twist!

For something different, head indoors to a glow-in-the-dark, immersive mini-golf course that's perfect for families.  
[Imagine3dMiniGolf.com](https://Imagine3dMiniGolf.com)

### PopStroke

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AT TALKING STICK

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Heavenlytouch08@yahoo.com

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**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  
saltriveragchurch.com  
SERVICES  
Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Thursday Bible Study 6pm

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

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

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

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

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.

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


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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES	
ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
SEPTEMBER 4	AUGUST 22
SEPTEMBER 18	SEPTEMBER 5
OCTOBER 2	SEPTEMBER 19
SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS at <a href="mailto:oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov">oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov</a> For more information please call (480) 362-7750.	



Salt River Public Works Department

# Memorial Services & Cemeteries

*“Providing a hospitable place to honor loved ones  
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LEGAL NOTICES

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

Francisco, Marissa Martina – Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: J-23-0026 Court Date: September 23, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

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

Schurz, Passion – Review/Evidentiary Guardianships Hearing Case: J-21-0126/J-21-0127 Court Date: September 15, 2025 at 11 a.m.

Villar, Oscar – Protective Custody Hearing Case: J-25-0095 Court Date: September 15, 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 - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-1348 Court Date: September 17, 2025 at 10 AM

Careaga, Michelle Yvette - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-0822 Court Date: September 4, 2025 at 10 AM

Carlos, Laila Athena - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-3178 Court Date: August 28, 2025 at 9 AM

Enos, Sahlene Candice - Order to Show Cause/Bond Forfeiture Hearing Case: CR-20-0462, CR-22-0160, CR-23-0114 Court Date: September 3, 2025 at 10 AM

Perez, Anita Louise - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-3176 Court Date: September 15, 2025 at 11 AM

Phillips, Alexander Demetrius Will - Initial/Evidentiary Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-3064 Court Date: August 13, 2025 at 9 AM

Warrell, Michael Edward - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-4128 Court Date: September 16, 2025 at 4 PM

Washington, Edward Lynn - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-3181 Court Date: August 28, 2025 at 9:00 AM

DEFAULT NOTICES

HILL SOUNDUST, JULIE ISABELLE  
NOTICE OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT:

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-25-0604

Notice of Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Julie Isabelle Hill Sundust., is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that Respondent, , Julie Isabelle Hill Sundust shall pay \$18,771.23 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).

MANUEL, MORNING STAR  
NOTICE OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT:

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-24-5855

Notice of Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Morning Star Manuel, is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that Respondent, Morning Star Manuel shall pay \$11,351.84 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).

Public Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Workers’ Compensation Ordinance  
Comment Period: July 9, 2025 – October 10, 2025

On Wednesday, July 9, 2025, the SRPMIC Council authorized a ninety (90) day public comment period for the proposed amendments to the Community’s Workers’ Compensation Ordinance. The draft ordinance does the following:

These amendments contain three (3) separate provisions with the primary purpose of providing additional workers’ compensation benefits to Firefighters and other first responders focusing on cancer diagnoses, heart issues and mental health counseling after exposure to traumatic events. The amendments are as follows:  
**Option 1:** A presumption would be added to the law allowing firefighters to qualify for workers’ compensation benefits when they are diagnosed with certain cancers that result in disability or death. Certain criteria must be met in order to prove it is a work-related injury.

**Option 2:** A heart or perivascular injury is presumed to be an occupational disease and is deemed to arise out of employment for first responders only if it can be fairly traced to the employment as the proximate cause.  
**Option 3:** A program would be established to provide first responders who are exposed to a traumatic event while in the course of duty up to twelve (12) visits of licensed counseling fully paid by the Community. Additionally, there would be no loss of pay and benefits to the employee if a licensed mental health professional determines the employee is not fit for duty. The employee would not be required to use leave for these counseling sessions. You can find the full text of proposed ordinance amendments and presentation materials at: <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/ogc/proposed-ordinances/>

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

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

Public Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Guardianship/Conservatorship Ordinance  
Comment Period: July 9, 2025 – October 10, 2025

On Wednesday, July 9, 2025, the SRPMIC Council authorized a ninety (90) day public comment period for the proposed amendments to the Community’s Guardianship / Conservatorship Ordinance. The draft ordinance does the following:

These amendments are fairly minor and the primary purpose of the amendments are to change the government department that manages the guardianship program. The specific amendments are as follows:  
Changes the “Health and Human Services Department” to the “Social Services Department” with respect to the government department that manages the Guardianship Division. The reason for this change is because the Health and Human Services Department is primarily focused on health services and public health initiatives whereas the Social Services Department is best suited to handle case management type of services. The Guardianship Division is primarily a case management function. A guardian provides for the daily needs of vulnerable adults including but limited to: food assistance, housing assistance, life skills training, scheduling medical care, and providing transportation for various needs.

Currently the code mandates that the director of the Health and Human Services Department and the director of the Finance Department are solely responsible for managing the Guardianship Division and the Conservatorship Division. These code amendments will add language of “or his/her designee” as it relates to these directors. This change will allow those respective directors to delegate the duty to one of their employees which will allow for flexibility and better service to Community members. Currently the code requires that an audit be conducted every year for the Conservatorship Division. These code amendments would change that requirement to every other year which gives the government more flexibility and aligns with the current practice of the government wide external audits which occur every other year. You can find the full text of proposed ordinance amendments and presentation materials at <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/ogc/proposed-ordinances/>

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

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The Office of the General Counsel  
10,005 East Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256  
OrdPublicComment@srpmic-nsn.gov  
Jeff.Harmon@srpmic-nsn.gov

3rd Quarter 2025 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE: September, 2025  
Must be eighteen (18) years old, enrolled, and living to be eligible for the October 2025 Per Capita Payment.  
DEADLINES FOR CHANGES

**Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes:** Thursday, October 2nd 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 OCTOBER 2025 payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the JANUARY 2026 payout.

**Discontinue Direct Deposits:** Thursday, October 2nd 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, October 21st 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 OCTOBER 2025 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of NOVEMBER 2025.

**Tax Withholding Changes:** Tuesday, October 21st at 5:00 PM. This deadline is for making changes to “Additional” tax withholding percentage or amount.  
Tax forms are available on the Finance Per Capita Intranet Site and can also be requested by e-mailing FINPERCAP1@srpmic-nsn.gov.

If you have any questions regarding:

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

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



**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**

What is West Nile Virus

SUBMITTED BY SRPMIC PUBLIC HEALTH – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**What is West Nile Virus?**  
West Nile Virus is a disease that was first discovered in Uganda in 1937. Over the years, it has spread to many parts of the world, including North America. The virus is mainly found in areas with warm climates and is especially prevalent during the summer and early fall.

**How do you get West Nile Virus?**  
West Nile Virus is primarily spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on birds that carry the virus. Once infected, mosquitoes can then transmit the virus to humans and other animals through their bites. The virus goes through a life cycle that involves both birds and mosquitoes, making it a complex process.

**Symptoms and how to know if you have it**  
Most people who get infected with West Nile Virus do not show any symptoms. However, about 1 in 5 people

might develop mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or a rash. In rare cases, the virus can cause severe illness affecting the brain and spinal cord, leading to conditions like encephalitis or meningitis. If you experience severe symptoms such as a high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, or confusion, it’s essential to seek medical attention immediately. Doctors can diagnose WNV through blood tests.

**West Nile Virus in pets**  
While West Nile Virus primarily affects birds and humans, it can also infect dogs and cats. Pets usually show mild symptoms or none at all, but in some cases, they might develop fever, lethargy, or neurological signs like tremors or difficulty walking. If you notice any unusual symptoms in your pets, it’s best to consult a veterinarian. Vets can diagnose WNV in pets through blood tests and provide supportive care to help them recover.

**How to protect yourself and your pets**  
Preventing mosquito bites is the best



way to protect yourself and your pets from West Nile Virus. Here are some tips:

- Use insect repellent with DEET or picaridin on exposed skin and clothing.
- Wear long sleeves and pants, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Keep windows and doors closed or use screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Eliminate standing water around your home where mosquitoes can breed, such as in flowerpots, bird baths, tires, and gutters.
- Use mosquito netting over pet beds and outdoor areas where your pets spend time.

Communities also play a crucial role in controlling mosquito populations through measures like spraying insecticides and removing standing water in public areas.

**What to do if you get sick**  
If you suspect you have West Nile Virus, it’s important to rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take over-the-counter pain relievers to reduce fever and relieve symptoms. In severe cases, hospitalization may be required to provide supportive care, such as intravenous fluids, pain management, and nursing care. There is no specific antiviral treatment for WNV, so care focuses

Continued on page 17



# What is West Nile Virus

on relieving symptoms and supporting the body’s recovery.

### Conclusion

West Nile Virus is a significant health threat that can affect both humans and pets. By understanding how the virus spreads, recognizing the symptoms, and taking preventive measures, you can protect yourself and your loved ones. Remember, prevention starts with simple actions like using insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, and eliminating standing water around your home. Stay vigilant and proactive in your community’s efforts to control mosquito populations.

If you suspect an infection, don’t hesitate to seek medical advice. Early detection and supportive care can make a crucial difference. Together,

we can reduce the impact of West Nile Virus and create safer, healthier communities. Your awareness and actions are key to combating this virus and safeguarding SRPMIC public health.

For more information, call or email (480) 362-2603 Environmental. Health@srpmic-nsn.gov.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CARTIQUE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, 24-CUP-15 & 25-CUP-01 AND USE VARIANCE, 25-UV-02**

The Applicant, Vibe Lot 6, LLC has requested two Conditional Use Permits (CUP) and a Use Variance (UV) to develop an 81,198 square foot entertainment venue branded as “Cartique” on a 20.86 acre lot within the Riverwalk Master Development. This project is to house a museum-style entertainment venue featuring auto-themed art. The proposed facility will include virtual racing arcade simulators, a restaurant, a speakeasy, a bar, and an event space. A small portion of the art and automobiles on display will be available for purchase by patrons. Proposed events will include corporate and private events, public car clubs, car launch conventions, and auctions.



**DATE: WEDNESDAY, August 27, 2025**  
**TIME: 5:00 P.M.**  
**LOCATION: SRPMIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256**  
You may view the recorded presentation starting Thursday, August 28, 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 Noah Katt, CDD Planner II at (480) 362-3269.



# NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

**Roundhouse Café  
11am-1pm**

- DJ Reflekshin
- Harkins Popcorn Truck - (300 Free Small Bags)
- Red Bull Truck
- Special Roundhouse Café Hawaiian Menu - \$9.50
- Live Printing

**Two Waters Courtyard  
6pm-9pm**

- Traditional Dance Groups
- Artisan Market
- Promo Giveaways
- Free Hawaiian Meal (While Supplies Last)

**This is a NO Alcohol/Drug/Gang & Tobacco/Vaping Event.**  
**NO Pets, Firearms or Outside Ice Chests/Grills/Food/Glass Allowed.**

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS • 480.362.7740 • SRPMIC • SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE

FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

HIMDAG KI

FUN FAIR

Friday  
SEPT. 19  
5pm - 8pm

Water Slides

GAMES

MUSIC

Ske:g Himdag Ki  
Formerly the Way of Life Facility  
11725 E Indian School Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85256

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER SCOTTSDALE

FOOD

YOUTH SERVICES  
A'al ha Ve:mtadag

MORE INFORMATION

(480) 362 - 6390 Youth Services Front Desk









# Southwest Baseball Tournament

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

As baseball season reached its peak this summer, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Recreation Services hosted its 61st annual Men's Southwest Baseball Tournament. From July 24-26, 20 teams from across the Valley and beyond went head-to-head in the summer heat to compete for the championship.

Teams played games at four different fields in the Community: the Salt River ballfield, Lehi Ballfield and the Accelerated Learning Academy baseball fields.

Every year, teams return to play in the popular three-day tournament. Many teams have gone through generations of players, while also having the newer, upcoming talents on display.

This year, Salt River had one team representing the Community in the

Lehi Raiders. For the past two years, they have gone on to win back-to-back championships and hoped to go for a third this year.

They started the tournament on a relatively good note but unfortunately lost their first game on the final day of the tournament, which brought them into the consolation bracket. Shortly after, they were defeated by the Mesa Rays in a nail-biting game, falling short by one run.

At least one other team had Community members playing for them in the Mesa Indians, who were knocked out of the tournament on the second day.

The tournament concluded with the championship on Saturday. The Mesa Rays and Guadalupe Chiefs competed for the trophy, only for Guadalupe to finish on top. The tournament ended with the presentation of awards and trophies, with pictures taken to create lasting memories until next year's tournament.







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

## BENEFITS

### Life Disability

### Long & Short-Term Disability Insurance

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

**Bereavement Leave** - immediately available upon hire date.

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

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

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

**Health Club Membership** – Health club membership for employees.

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

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

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

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

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

## Does Salt River Materials Group have preference in hiring?

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

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

Check us out at. . .

[www.srmaterials.com](http://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 Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the Tribal Library, 2nd floor of the Ske:g Himdag Ki (WOLF). For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

**TAI CHI FOR SENIORS**, Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Room of Ske:g Himdag Ki (WOLF). This ancient Chinese martial art uses slow and continuous movements to improve the mind and body. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

**YOGA FOR FALL PREVENTION**, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m., Senior Room of Ske:g Himdag Ki (WOLF). Standing or chair options available. Guided movements improve strength, balance and flexibility. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

**SENIOR AQUATIC FITNESS**, Fridays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., pool at the of Ske:g Himdag Ki (WOLF). Guided exercises in water improve strength with less stress on joints. Bring a towel and wear comfortable swim attire. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

**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.

**SENIOR SACRED STRIDERS**, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1:30-2 p.m., Ske:g Himdag Ki track. Walking sticks available. Prizes based on participation. Walking after a meal boosts digestion and lowers blood sugar so join us for a feel-good and good-for-you stroll. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

## ŞOPOL E'ESBIG MAŞAD XLY'A SAPXUK AUGUST

**21 THRIVING WITH DIABETES**, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at RPHC Teaching Kitchen. Do you or a loved one have diabetes? Join us for "Thriving with Diabetes" – a FREE 4-session workshop designed to help you live a healthier, more empowered life! Learn how to: Lower your risks; Understand medications; Manage your emotions; Make healthy food choices; Decode lab results; Stay active & much more! Virtual options are available. Call 480-362-3355 to register. Spaces are limited!

**21 ADULT WIOA ORIENTATION**, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Two Waters Building B Room B102 - X'aa (Cottonwood). Connect with Us! Learn about WIOA eligibility requirements; program services for enrolled participants; guidance toward obtaining career goals through education & training. Contact Salt River WIOA Program @ (480) 362-7950

## 21 WIC BREASTFEEDING MONTH

**CELEBRATION**, You're Invited! Join us in Honoring Moms and Their Village during our WIC Breastfeeding Month Celebration from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at River People Health Center Lobby. This special evening will feature: Informational Tables, Exercise Demos & Try-Outs, Snack Demo & Tasting. Come connect with local programs and support for new and expecting mothers—because every family deserves the tools to thrive. Questions? Call 480-362-7300 Or email WIC@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV

**25 CM CARLOS DISTRICT E MEETING**, 6 p.m. at a location to be determined. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: <https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs>

**26 SALT RIVER SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS: THE BASICS OF GENEALOGY**, Join us for another engaging talk at Salt River Council Chambers. Dinner served at 5 p.m., presentation begins at 6 p.m. All are welcome! Questions? Please email [summerspeakerseries@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:summerspeakerseries@srpmic-nsn.gov)

**28 CM BUTLER DISTRICT A MEETING**, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: <https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs>

**29 JOURNEY TO RECOVERY NEW FACILITY GRAND OPENING**, Join us for the Grand Opening of the new Journey to Recovery facility! August 29, 2025 6:30 AM – 10:30 AM 10901 E McDowell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256 McDowell Rd & Country Club Dr (West of River People Health Center) Tours start every 15 minutes beginning at 8:30 AM Limited to 10 people per tour Be part of this special morning as we open the doors to hope, healing, and community.

## VAŞAI GAKIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XAMXMOK SEPTEMBER

**1 LABOR DAY - SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED**, please plan accordingly.

**13 9TH ANNUAL SALT RIVER FIRE FIGHTERS 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB**, at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick. The stair climb is not a timed race event and is open to participants of all levels. Registration begins onsite at 5 p.m., opening ceremony at 6:30 p.m. and climb beginning at 7 p.m. Questions? Visit [saltriverstairclimb.com](http://saltriverstairclimb.com)

**19 SKE:G HIMDAG KI: FUN FAIR**, Join us for an evening of fun and community at the Himdag Ki Fun Fair on Friday, September 19th, from 5 PM to 8 PM! The event will take place at the ballfield located at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: (Way of Life Facility). The Ske:g Himdag Ki: departments have planned an exciting night for youth and families, filled with activities and entertainment. For more information, please call the Youth Services Front Desk at (480) 362-6390. We can't wait to see you there!

**23 NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY CELEBRATION**, The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community invites Community members, employees, and the general public to join us for Native American Recognition Day (NARD)—a day to celebrate and honor Indigenous culture, identity, and community. Roundhouse Café (11 AM – 1 PM) and Two Waters Courtyard (6 PM – 9 PM) Everyone is welcome—come celebrate with us! For more information, contact Community Relations – Events Division at (480) 362-7740.