



# 2025 Apprentices Earn Journeyman Certificate



Journeyman graduates pose for a group picture.

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ  
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Showing up matters.  
"Ninety percent of succeeding in your life is just showing up and staying working at it. Just show up, and the rest comes pretty easy," said Scott Thigpen, director of Engineering & Construction Services and chairman of the Apprenticeship Program Committee in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.  
The Apprenticeship Program held a ceremony on August 12

Continued on page 8

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## Catching Up with Thosh Collins

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Thosh Collins (Onk Akimel O'odham/Osage/Seneca) has been staying busy since he and his wife Chelsey Luger (Anishinaabe) released their 2022 book *The Seven Circles: Indigenous Teachings for Living Well*.

If you scroll through Collins' Instagram, you'll see an abundance of well-produced videos showing traditional-inspired workout routines and topics such as Indigenous fatherhood, decolonizing time, connecting to land and more.

He plans to share more long-form video on YouTube to connect with people

about finding healing and balance as an Indigenous person.  
Recently, Collins has been quite busy on the big and small screens. From 2023 to 2024, he appeared in four episodes of the Marvel Studios series *Echo* as an Ancestor character. He even appeared in an episode of the critically acclaimed show *Reservation Dogs* on FX in 2023.  
Collins has a recurring guest role in the upcoming Netflix reboot of the television series *Little House on the Prairie*, which is based on the book series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The original series lasted from 1974 to 1983.  
He plays a character named Louis, a somewhat successful Native farmer who is the cousin of the wife in the show's main Native family. He has one scene

Continued on page 8



O'odham Action  
News Staff Attends  
Indigenous Media  
Conference  
Page 3  
\*\*\*

'The Unbreakable  
Code That Saved  
America'  
Page 3  
\*\*\*

Melanie Nosie  
Facilitates Workplace  
Resiliency Webinar  
Page 10  
\*\*\*

Four Sibling Tribes  
Update  
Page 10  
\*\*\*

How Piipaash and  
O'odham Gave Rise to  
the Arizona National  
Guard  
Page 11  
\*\*\*

Congressman Greg  
Stanton Visits with  
SRPMIC  
Page 12  
\*\*\*

A Message from  
SRPD  
Page 13  
\*\*\*

News and Events In  
and Around Indian  
Country  
Page 14  
\*\*\*

Legal Notices  
Page 16  
\*\*\*

The Heat is On! Tips  
for Staying Hydrated  
Page 16  
\*\*\*

Salt River Eagles Soar  
In Water  
Page 18  
\*\*\*

## Elaina Osife Graduates from Thunderbird DreamCatcher Program

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE  
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Elaina Osife is officially a Thunderbird.  
The Thunderbird School of Global Management is a business school at Arizona State University's downtown Phoenix campus. The school gets its name from a decommissioned World War II-era Army Air Force base in Glendale, Arizona, which was called Thunderbird Field No. 1.  
The school's origins date back to April 1946, when it was originally founded as the American Institute for Foreign Trade. For nearly eight decades, the school developed future generations of business leaders and executives. In December 2014, Thunderbird became part of ASU, which expanded its resources and opportunities available to entrepreneurs and business leaders alike.  
On August 15, Osife completed the Thunderbird DreamCatcher Program, which is a week-long business development program specifically



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

designed to provide networking opportunities, resources and support to Indigenous women entrepreneurs. The program is a collaboration between the Thunderbird School of Global Management and the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. The initiative began a decade ago in 2015.  
Alumni who graduate from the business program, just as Osife has, are referred to as "Thunderbirds."

Continued on page 4



Council member Deanna Scabby watches the other dancers around her as she participates in the cultural dances.

## 'Dancing with Deanna' Series Combines Culture with Exercise

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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Diabetes Prevention Services and Public Health/HHS, in a partnership with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council, held the ultimate summer dance fitness series, "Dancing with Deanna," over a period of six weeks in June and July.  
"Dancing with Deanna" was the latest offering in the Leadership in Motion series, which presented the "Moving with Martin" fitness series last year with SRPMIC President Martin Harvier.  
Each week, Council member Deanna Scabby from District 2,

Continued on page 4



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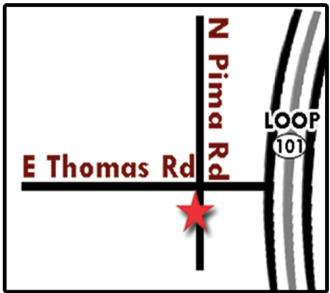
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# O’odham Action News Staff Attends Indigenous Journalists Association Conference

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE  
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The Indigenous Journalists Association is a national organization composed of Indigenous and non-Indigenous journalists who emphasize Indian Country news. The IJA’s 2025 conference was held August 13-15 on the lands of Isleta Pueblo at the Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

*O’odham Action News* staff members Chris Picciuolo, Juan Ysaguirre and Kari Haahr attended this year’s conference. The theme was “Sovereignty Equals Free Press,” and almost 50 breakout sessions were offered throughout the three-day event.

## The Conference

Throughout the conference, journalists were provided with ample opportunities to network and share insights into how they accurately report on the news happening in Indian Country.

On day one, a room was nearly full as many decided to attend the “Social Media, Research and Sovereignty” breakout session, which detailed how journalists can continue to center Indigenous voices in storytelling.

Panelists at the session were Mvs-koke Media Director Angel Ellis (Muscogee), *Tulsa World* reporter Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton (Cherokee), *Arizona Mirror* Indigenous Affairs reporter Shondiin Silversmith (Diné), University of Kansas faculty member Melissa Greene-Blye (Miami Tribe of Oklahoma), University of Cincinnati educators Ben LaPoe and Victoria LaPoe (Cherokee), and KOSU Indigenous Affairs reporter Sarah Liese.

Furthermore, there was a live broadcast taping of the popular New Mexico radio show “Native America Calling,” hosted by Shawn Spruce (Laguna Pueblo), inside the resort’s Manzano banquet room. Spruce fielded questions from special guests and attendees as he discussed the impacts of truthful storytelling in an era of made-up facts.

The Associated Press, ABC News, Comcast NBCUniversal and Hulu were a few of the additional national sponsors that also hosted breakout sessions during the conference.

## A Record-Breaking Year

This year, *O’odham Action News* earned a record-breaking 12 awards across three category divisions in the annual IJA Indigenous Media Awards competition.

Additionally, *O’odham Action News* also received the Elias Boudinot Free Press Award, one of the three major honors to be presented during the awards dinner.

Boudinot’s traditional name is Gallegina “Buck” Watie. He was born in 1802 on the Cherokee Nation, in

modern-day Georgia. In 1828, he was selected to be the first editor of the *Cherokee Phoenix*, the first-ever Indigenous-owned newspaper. During his tenure as editor, Boudinot published articles in both English and Cherokee to help preserve his people’s language and ensure his community remained up to date on local and federal news.

The Elias Boudinot Free Press Award recognizes a publication or media outlet that has shown dedication and commitment to upholding freedom of

the press, information and transparency on Turtle Island.

OAN’s three staff members accepted the Elias Boudinot Free Press Award on behalf of the SRPMIC. The trio received a rousing round of applause and were congratulated by many former elected officials, editors, directors and journalists from throughout Indian Country.

According to the organization, the 2026 IJA Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, from July 22 to 24.



## O’odham Action News 2025 IJA Indigenous Media Awards

Professional Division I – Print and Online	Associate Division I & II – TV (Non-Indigenous)	Student Division – Print and Online
<b>General Excellence</b> <b>Third Place:</b> “Telling the Stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community” <b>Best Layout</b> <b>Third Place:</b> “Telling the Stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community” <b>Best Feature Story</b> <b>Second Place:</b> “It’s an ‘A’ for Salt River’s ALA,” by Juan Ysaguirre	<b>Best Feature Story</b> <b>First Place:</b> “Community Garden and Day Labor Staff Work Together to Plant Traditional Food at Farm Plot,” by Chris Picciuolo <b>Second Place:</b> “Beaded Plume Brings a Taste of Salt River to Santa Fe,” by Chris Picciuolo <b>Third Place:</b> “Salt River Recycling Center Open for Business,” by Chris Picciuolo	<b>Best News Story</b> <b>Third Place:</b> “Boys & Girls Club Red Mountain Branch Youth of the Year Inspires Hope,” by Nalani Lopez <b>Best Sports Story</b> <b>First Place:</b> “Learning the O’odham Women’s Game of Toka with Jessica Ruiz,” by Nalani Lopez <b>Second Place:</b> “Southwest Baseball Tournament Celebrates 60-Year Legacy,” by Andreea Miguel <b>Third Place:</b> “Lehi Raiders Take to the Road in Parker Tournament,” by Andreea Miguel <b>Best Sports Photo</b> <b>First Place:</b> “O’odham Piipaash Day Celebrated in Salt River,” by Nalani Lopez <b>Second Place:</b> “Lehi Raiders Take to the Road in Parker Tournament,” by Andreea Miguel

# ‘The Unbreakable Code That Saved America’

BY DALTON WALKER  
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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier was a guest speaker in Phoenix recently for a special event that honored the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers.

Navajo Code Talker Thomas Begay was in attendance for the Navajo Code Talkers Day event, held on August 14 outside the Arizona Capitol next to the Navajo Code Talkers Monument. Begay and former Navajo Nation Chairman Peter MacDonald are the last living Navajo Code Talkers.

“I’m grateful on this beautiful day of freedom to stand here with all of you to acknowledge a special group of warriors who stepped up to protect our homeland, the Diné, the People,” Harvier said. “These warriors had heart and courage. They were fighting for all Natives ... and the privileged democracy [of] the United States of America, its lands and citizens. It is my humble honor and privilege to recognize the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II and recognize the symbolic memorial to honor their contributions.”

Harvier was among those to pay tribute to the code talkers with his words and share some of the history that explained how the code talkers were “the backbone of World War II” and how the Navajo language was “the unbreakable code that saved America.”



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier shakes the hand of Navajo Code Talker Thomas Begay on August 14 in Phoenix on National Navajo Code Talker Day.

The gathering was hosted by the Phoenix Indian Center and featured a number of speakers, including Jason Chavez, director of tribal affairs in the office of Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, and descendants of code talkers. Around 100 people attended the public ceremony.

Chavez introduced Begay, who received a standing ovation. Begay, who is approaching 100 years old, fought in two wars. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the Pacific. He was honorably discharged in 1946 only to join the U.S. Army and fight in the Korean War in 1950. He was again honorably discharged in 1953 and received numerous medals for his tours of duty.

SRPMIC veteran Al Charlie, U.S. Army, participated in the posting of the colors and brought in the SRPMIC flag. Army veteran Broderick Antone and Marine veteran Meldon Andrews, both SRPMIC members, were also in attendance, along with staff of the Salt River Veterans Representative Office.



Thomas Begay, a Navajo Code Talker that served in World War II in the Pacific.

The Navajo Code Talkers are the most well-known Native code talkers, with books and movies produced in their honor. At least a dozen other tribal nations used their Native languages to help the United States win World War II.



Navajo Code Talker Thomas Begay and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier stand for a photo on August 14 in front of a row of flags and the Navajo Code Talkers Monument outside the Arizona Capitol.



Sierra Malin, Amanda White, both of the Salt River Veterans Representative Office, Marine veteran Meldon Andrews, Navajo Code Talker Thomas Begay, Army veteran Al Charlie and Troy Truax Jr., also of the Veterans Representative office.



# Elaina Osife Graduates from Thunderbird DreamCatcher Program



Elaina Osife (Top row, far right) with her fellow Thunderbird DreamCatcher Program Class of 2025 graduates. Photo courtesy of Photography by Roshan.

Osife now joins the impressive list of Thunderbird alumni, which includes Christopher Campbell, former assistant secretary of the United States Treasury; Halla Tómasdóttir, the president of Iceland; and Ramon Laguarta, the CEO of Pepsi. To date, the Thunderbird alumni network includes roughly 50,000 graduates across 150 countries.

Locally, in 2023, chef Denella Belin (Diné) from Tuba City launched her Indigenous food business, Nella’s Innovative Kreations, with the help of the DreamCatcher Program.

“When I learned I was accepted, it felt like Creator had placed a clear confirmation in my hands that the vision I carry is not just mine to hold, but mine to grow and share,” said Osife.

She added, “I was deeply honored and humbled. This program is more than a professional opportunity; it is a sacred chance to build something

that uplifts Indigenous voices, preserves our stories and creates space for future generations to thrive in both culture and commerce.”

*“We weren’t just learning how to make a profit; we were learning how to create impact, protect cultural integrity and lead with our values at the center.”*

During the program, Osife networked with fellow DreamCatcher alumni as they provided the newest graduating class of Thunderbirds with the expertise to help take their businesses to the next level. “What made it especially meaningful was how it honored Indigenous perspectives. We weren’t just learning how to make a profit; we were learning how to create impact, protect cultural integrity and lead with our values at the center,” revealed Osife.

One of the program highlights came when Osife and her fellow DreamCatcher colleagues attended a

workshop at the Women’s Business Center and engaged in peer-to-peer learning with local business leaders and executives.

“DreamCatcher is an investment in our growth as Indigenous women entrepreneurs, equipping us with the tools, network and confidence to turn our ideas into sustainable, community-driven realities.”

Osife continues to refine her business acumen as she prepares for a full launch of her three businesses: Mesquite Butterfly Trades, Love & Joy Butterfly Co. and Level Up Podcast.

As she looks back on her latest accomplishments, which include her participation in Moonshot Arizona’s pitch competition this past July, Osife remains as humble as ever and ex-

tends her appreciation to the people of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

“Entrepreneurship is more than business; it is giving service. Every product created, every story told, and every connection built is an offering to our ancestors and a gift to the generations yet to come.”

She continued, “The greatest lesson for me is that leadership requires balance, protecting your vision while staying open to new knowledge and collaboration. I realized my business is more than a marketplace; it’s a living community of artisans, storytellers and healers. When your work is rooted in culture and guided by Creator, the path forward opens in ways you could never imagine.”

## ‘Dancing with Deanna’ Series Combines Culture with Exercise



Participants in the final session of Dancing with Deanna pose for a group photo inside of the Lehi gym.

along with a variety of instructors, brought easy-to-follow fitness classes with a “twist” of music for people of all fitness levels to locations throughout the Community.

If you attended a session, you might have experienced line dancing, Zumba, vaila, traditional dance and more.

“It’s been an amazing six weeks. I love the exercise and the camaraderie with everyone who came,” Scabby told *O’odham Action News*.

“When we were organizing [the series], we wanted to begin with the cultural component, so we started with the O’odham. We learned the basket dance and other dances and we had a pretty good turnout—maybe 15 [people] showed up the first day.”

Karina Watson, a community health educator with Diabetes Prevention Services, said that Scabby wanted to do something a little bit different from “Moving with Martin.”

“So, we homed in on dancing,” said Watson. “[Deanna] really liked that part of the activity. She wanted to do different kinds of dances that brought happiness.”

As the series progressed, the turnout more than doubled.

SRPMIC Chief Public Health Officer Nancy Mangieri said the high turnout has to do with Scabby’s enthusiasm and how she has been with the people. “[Participants] just keep coming back and they love it,” said Mangieri.

O’odham Action News was at the final session on July 10 at the Lehi Gym for traditional dancing and bird dancing.

Young Community members danced with their families, absorbing the rhythms of the cultural songs and dance. Scabby smiled as she danced with the people around her in traditional dress.

“Bird Dancing and Singing by the

River have trained, taught and led the children to learn the songs and the culture of who they are, their identity,” said Scabby. “The children love the songs and feel the movement. It’s absolutely important to have the cultural dance.”

Scabby said that the COVID-19 pandemic timeframe kept Community members sedentary for a while. “Here

we are five years later, and we are still moving,” she said.

“We want to increase the longevity of our members’ lives, and if [we can accomplish that through] moving and dancing and exercising through Zumba, then so be it.”

Traditional dance was the theme of the final session of Dancing with Deanna.





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# Catching Up with Thosh Collins



Collins (left) takes a group selfie with the “flashback” cast of *Reservation Dogs*, a show that Collins appeared on. Pictured: Thosh Collins, Isaac Arellanes, Quannah Chasinghorse, Mato Wayuhi, and Nathan Alexis. Photos courtesy of Thosh Collins.

in the first episode (release date to be determined). He was told he was also going to appear in episode 7 and possibly another.

“I’m still not sure when I go back because they don’t tell you much when you work on these productions. You don’t know much until the last minute, unless you are one of the main casts,” said Collins.

He said it’s a cool character to play and he has already filmed one scene, but he can’t say yet what it entails. The show is filming in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

In the storyline, in addition to the settler family (the Ingalls), there is a Native family included this time. Collins said that in the story, the Indigenous people are Osage, currently of Oklahoma.

“That’s actually where my mom is from,” said Collins. “For me it’s cool to portray someone on that side, because I grew up on my O’odham

side in Arizona. I believe the Osage people would be glad to see that one of their own is portraying a character who is depicted as Osage in the story.”

Collins set the scene for the new show.

“The settlers of course come in, and there’s Indigenous people living there. The Indigenous family already has experience with settlers and trade and such, but there’s still a bit of hostility and hesitation between [them].”

Collins said that one good thing about being a Native person growing up with the Native experience and being cast to play Native roles is that it’s easy to pull from your own experience or characteristics of other people you know in your family or Community.

“I’ve always been knowledgeable of history through oral tradition, but also through reading historic written accounts, and so I have my idea of how a Native person in the 1700-1800s would act in terms of their etiquette and their speaking,” said Collins.

“You pull from those types of things, and you embody that character. It’s like you’re playing another version of yourself. I always think about it as it’s me in the multiverse, so I develop a special relationship to that character.”

The first big camera action Collins ever had was the 2005 feature film *The New World*, which starred Colin Farrell, Christian Bale and Michael Greyeyes (Plains Cree), whom *O’odham Action News* interviewed in July 2021.

“I spent a lot of time with Michael on set when we filmed that summer and fall of 2004,” said Collins.

“It was so cool to meet Michael because I’d seen him on *Dance Me Outside* (a 1994 movie) as ‘Gooch,’ and that was like a rez classic still to this day!”

“You pull from those types of things, and you embody that character. It’s like you’re playing another version of yourself. I always think about it as it’s me in the multiverse, so I develop a special relationship to that character.”

Greyeyes also performed in contemporary Indigenous dance, and Collins worked with him in that capacity. Collins said that Greyeyes is someone that he would love to get more acting coaching from.

The idea of having some sort of drama club or acting resources in the SRPMIC for young Community members intrigues Collins. As he gains more experience and notoriety as an actor, the idea could become a reality. One of his buddies, Martin Sensmeier, works in the industry and has talked about doing some acting workshops with Collins on the rez.

“As a Community health educator and someone who understands generational trauma, one of the reasons why there might be a prevalence of substance abuse in the Community is that many of our people have not found things to aspire to, to help them heal and keep them focused and keep up their energy,” Collins shared.

Collins also has a small speaking role coming out in the upcoming HBO/MAX horror series *It: Welcome to Derry*.

“I still don’t even know what episode I’m in, and of course I can’t

say anything about the storyline,” said Collins.

“With a series that big, as an actor in a small role the production doesn’t even give you the full story. All you get is a script for the episode you are in to read and give you context.”

Being on camera was no accident for Collins. He said he has always had a vision for himself.

“I come from the same Community and have generally had the same opportunities,” he said. “I had to try to pave a way because there was no blueprint for someone who is trying to do what I’m trying to do, as someone who endeavors to be an artist, to be an actor [and] to be an Indigenous wellness consultant.”



Thosh Collins in visual effects makeup for his role in the series *Echo*.

# 2025 Apprentices Earn Journeyman Certificate

at the Courtyard by Marriott to recognize new journeyman graduates. Along with the graduates, friends and family members beamed with joy. Laughs bounced off the walls as people let out a joke or two. The room was filled with love and best wishes.

The Community’s Apprenticeship Training Program offers several different areas of study. The mission for the committee is “very simple: It’s to put people in jobs, jobs that they enjoy and that give them the opportunity to support their families, themselves and the Community,” said Thigpen.

The graduates represented six different career programs: IT help desk technician, medical billing and coding, dental assistant, medical assistant, pharmacy technician and HVAC technician. Each graduate earned a certificate and a keepsake in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the pro-

gram.

Juan Acosta Jr., 2025 IT help desk technician journeyman graduate, said he learned new skills throughout his apprenticeship, such as “being able to provide quality customer service to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and its employees.”

To earn journeyman status, students must complete many hours of on-the-job training. For many of these students, graduation is a big deal.

Acosta added, “[The recognition luncheon] means a lot. It means the Community saw a need and created these apprenticeship programs for Community members to learn and grow. I am grateful to be a part of it. I would like to thank [the] SRPMIC Council, Human Resources and IT Department for making this possible.”

For 2025 dental assistant journeyman

graduate Teya Johnson-Tiger, the goals for graduation were remarkable. “I didn’t have an O’odham person on my care team, so being able to be that for future generations [is significant], and also [for] previous generations to know that we deserve to be in these spaces,” said Johnson-Tiger. She also shared “helping people, getting them out of pain, doing the patient education – it’s really changing someone’s life.”

Council member Jacob Butler shared some encouraging advice for the new graduates as they continue in their careers. “Showing up day in and day out putting in the good work will help you in your professional career, but also in your own life,” he said. “We wish nothing but the best for the journeyman graduates!”

Apprenticeship Program Journeyman Graduates	
<b><u>IT Help Desk Technician</u></b>	
Juan Acosta Jr.	
Anthony Castaneda	
Marrissa Flores	
Alaina French	
Israel Harvier	
Christopher Miles	
Brienna Myore	
Philip Thomas	
Cheyenna Wallen	
Mel Watuema	
Kenneth Young	
<b><u>Medical Billing and Coding</u></b>	
Tasha Cashoya	
Charline Manuel	
Tillie Miles	
Deanna Stacey	
Taneasha Thomas	
<b><u>Dental Assistant</u></b>	
Teya Johnson-Tiger	
<b><u>Medical Assistant</u></b>	
Haley Bodmer	
Alea Davis	
Rayleen Matinez	
Chantel Miles	
Victoria Ruiz	
Deysi Salazar	
<b><u>Pharmacy Technician</u></b>	
Alina Antone	
Veronica Flores	
Lisa Thompson	
<b><u>HVAC Technician</u></b>	
Angel Lopez	



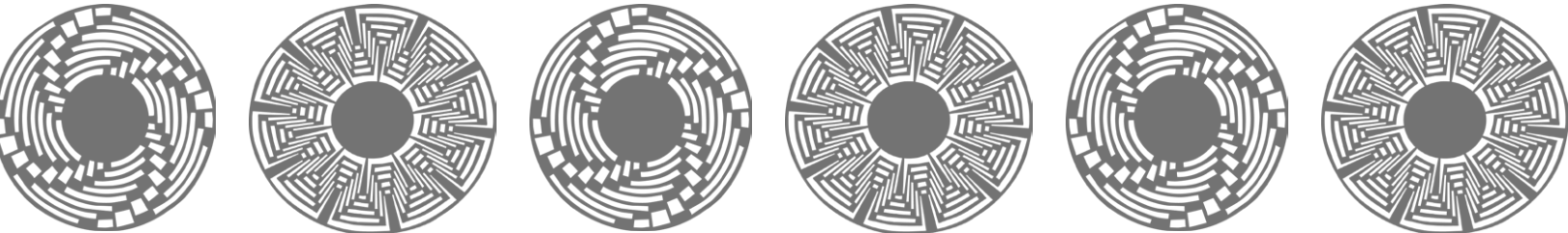
James Smith provides new graduates with words of wisdom.



Journeyman graduate Juan Acosta Jr.



Journeyman graduate Teya Johnson-Tiger.





# Wilderness in Lapland, Finland Home to SRPMIC Mustangs Nube and Akimel



It's meal time for Nube and Akimel. Nube is Akimel's dam, or mother. Photos courtesy of Tinja Myllykangas.



Akimel with Nube at home in Lapland, Finland.



Nube coming as last, lead by BLM mustang Taifuun with Kaisa and BLM mustang Snow with Leena. "Riders are all our friends, people who love and work in nature and they come every year to ride with us. Leena comes monthly," - Tinja Myllykangas



Elna riding Nube through the wilderness.



Myllykangas training Nube in the water with Elna on horseback.

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

Tinja Myllykangas and Alex Schwarz operate Wilderness Huskies, an off-grid Alaskan huskie mushing and horse-riding tourist destination in the Muotkatunturi wilderness area within the Inari municipality of northern Lapland, Finland. Inari is the traditional homeland of the Indigenous people called the Inari (*Aanaar*) Sámi, who still reside to this day near Lake Inari.

"This land is reindeer herding area, where the only native people in Europe, the Sámi people, keep reindeer," said Myllykangas, who has a special connection with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Since late 2020, an SRPMIC wild horse named Nube ("cloud" in Spanish) has been thriving with Myllykangas, Schwarz and their family of more than 50 huskies in the wintry white wilderness. They also house a few mustangs from the wild.

If you might recall, Nube traveled from Arizona across the Atlantic Ocean to Finland while she was pregnant with Akimel, who was born on April 23, 2021, in Lapland. SRPMIC members voted in an *O'dham Action News* social media post to name the foal Akimel, which means "river" in O'dham.

Nube and Akimel are still together, but Myllykangas said there could be some changes this autumn, as several people are interested in providing a new home for Akimel.

"I would love to keep them together, they are a perfect match, so we will see how it goes," she said.

Myllykangas and Schwarz offer huskie mushing adventures for tourists. Trips can last a few hours or several days. They also offer wilderness rides on their mustangs.

A description of the mustang rides on their website reads: "Our mustangs come from the wild and are trained with respect, patience, and deep connection—allowing you to experience the land as it was meant to be felt: close to the Earth, in rhythm with a true companion."

Akimel has been getting in her first rides recently, while Nube has been enjoying long trail rides in the wilderness.

"Nube's moving is truly beautiful. She's absolutely got some [of the] most stunning moves, like dancing in trot, and her gallop is very soft. Actually, all her moving is so soft and balanced. She is [such a] good horse!"

Other mustangs available for their trail rides came from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Nube's big eyes enticed Myllykangas' friend Laura, who recently joined with other riders on BLM horses for a five-hour ride.

"Laura got to choose from the mustangs living with us which horse she would ride, and she immediately knew: Nube!" said Myllykangas. "The riders are all our friends, people who love and work in nature, and they come every year to ride with us."

The group saw a lot of reindeer during the ride.

Myllykangas noted that reindeer come during the winter to eat her mustangs' hay. She said that many reindeer were skinny out in the wild, but after spending several months eating at their residence, "they look good again, and that made those reindeer survive over the cold period of winter."

"Many reindeer die in nature because of lack of food. Overpopulation of reindeer is huge here."

Recently, Nube was able to train in the water with Myllykangas and a young woman named Elna, who is Sámi.

"Nube absolutely loves water," she said. "That is amazing how she is so deeply connected to [the] water element as she lived in your area! I've never seen any other horse loving water and snow as much as she does."

Nube training in the water in the Muotkatunturi wilderness area within the Inari municipality of northern Lapland, Finland, with Elna, who is Sámi. The Sámi are Indigenous to Inari (Aanaar).





# Melanie Nosie Facilitates Workplace Resiliency Webinar

Over 120 Community members and staff attended the presentation, which detailed the steps on understanding and improving resiliency in the workplace

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

Melanie Nosie, community health educator for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Health and Human Services Department, returned with another impactful webinar for Community members and staff to attend on August 19.

"Who here can tell me about resilience in the workplace?" began Nosie. Many guests began sharing their definitions, with Nosie disclosing information she uncovered while doing her research on the topic.

According to a study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nosie revealed that 25% of all people in the workforce say their job adds to their stress.

What about the other 75%? Those are the resilient people.

"Resilient people are not the people who have never failed. In fact, they're the ones who consistently *have* failed," said Nosie. "They come back tougher, stronger and more informed. They learn from challenges. They assess things and are better able to handle things."

Simply put, resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, or the ability to bounce back from adversity.

Guests could unmute themselves throughout the webinar to participate in the discussion. Nosie consistently ensured guests had ample time and a supportive space to share a part of themselves with the group. This style of presentation has resulted in increased attendance for the SRPMIC HHS Community webinars this year.

"Our health is greatly impacted if we're not resilient," said Nosie. "Some people stay stuck there; it's hard for them. If someone says something that offends you, it's not the end of the world. We are always going to interact with those who challenge us. Resilient people are present in each moment. Resilient people are realistic."

For those who struggle with being resilient, that's okay, she added. Like all things, time plays a crucial role in allowing space for individuals to gather themselves and process their troubles. Over a long-enough stretch of time, humans have shown the ability to overcome any traumatic obstacle thrown at them.

Learning how to be resilient takes time, and everyone has their own style of how they process challenges in the workplace and at home.

Revealing the five main characteristics of resiliency, Nosie explained how self-awareness, acceptance, mindfulness, being realistic and having mental



agility all impact our health.

"Not being resilient impacts our physical health. If we stay stuck there and don't rise from our challenges, that can be physically draining and increase our stress. It can make everything difficult for us and impact those we work with," she said. "The way we think, how we react – all of those are negatively impacted if we are not resilient. The quality of our work may suffer, as well as our relationships."

She also stated that resilience in the workplace is valued because management and directors want their employees to achieve their goals and to be able to handle challenges in the workplace. This results in employee retention as well as creating a team that can effectively adapt to changes.

For employees, resilience keeps them committed and focused on their goals while promoting a more stable work environment for all.

The most important element of resilience is knowing oneself, because we are all responsible for our own mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, Nosie explained. Once we begin

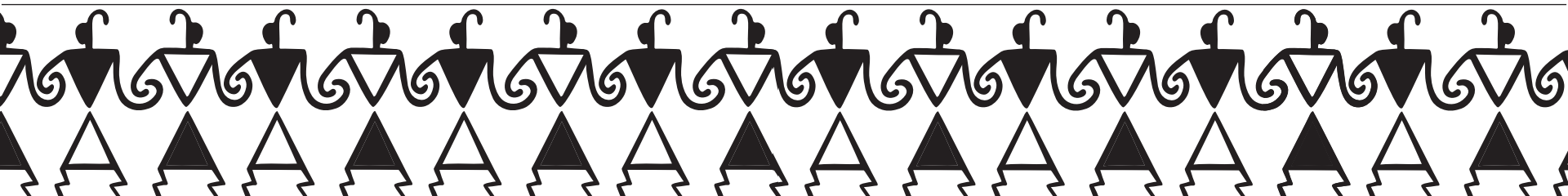
to truly respect and appreciate ourselves and all the qualities that make us special, only then will personal growth occur, such as resiliency.

Nosie continued, "Stress is a part of life; it's in everything we do. We all experience it every day. Resilient people allow themselves to feel it, say 'It is what it is,' and move on."

She added, "Believe it or not, there are a lot of people who struggle with this. It can be challenging for some people to find the light."

Alternatively, some webinar attendees disclosed that their job in the SRPMIC does not add to their stress. In fact, they stated that being here at work calms them down because their stresses are at home. It was then that Nosie echoed that though we are similar, all people have differences that make us unique.

Nosie ended the webinar by summarizing her presentation. "Being able to make the best out of challenges and coming out with a positive mindset is the goal of being resilient. We can only take care of ourselves," she said.



## Four Sibling Tribes Update



BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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*Editor's note: Per guidance from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, O'odham Action News uses "sibling" rather than "sister" as a descriptor, since the O'odham are patrilineal.*

The Four Sibling Tribes, also known as the Four Southern Tribes or Four Sister Tribes, last gathered for their periodic meeting on June 20 at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), the first gathering since the tribes met for their annual meeting at Talking Stick Resort on March 22 on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

The GRIC, SRPMIC, Ak-Chin Indian Community and Tohono O'odham Nation all comprise the Four Sibling Tribes.

During these meetings, tribal council members and other leaders reach



across the table to work together on common issues and keep communication active among the leadership.

SRPMIC leaders proposed bringing the tribes back together in a regular forum after a lengthy hiatus, according to SRPMIC Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs Gary Bohnnee.

"Clearly, there are very dynamic changes taking place in the federal government that will have an impact on all tribes, so it is important for the [Four Sibling Tribes] to continue to communicate and work together where feasible," said Bohnnee.

"Similarly, there are state and local issues that arise where there could be cooperative action. Most importantly, the meetings are opportunities to catch up and socialize face to face."

Reorganization of the federal government, federal budget issues and the impact on tribes were topics of concern among the leaders, according to Bohnnee. One of those concerns from the SRPMIC regards funding through the Self-Governance Compact.



Funding for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs is a concern that initiated an SRPMIC effort to travel to San Francisco to meet with tribes and EPA officials in July.

The GRIC leaders noted there was increased attention for law enforcement funding, while representatives from the Ak-Chin Indian Community voiced concerns about growth and environmental issues.

Collectively, according to Bohnnee, there were concerns at the University of Arizona with the government reorganization that is taking place and what the potential impact is to Native students.

"While there were no recommendations at the time, [tribal] leaders were going to monitor [the issue], and some were going to have discussions with U of A leaders," said Bohnnee.

The tribes took extra time to discuss the evolution of "prediction market" activity, which Bohnnee said poses a threat to tribal gaming because it is unregulated, and states and tribes have



no role in this format. People place trades on the outcomes of various future events, such as election results, album sales or sports games. Tribes say that these services, offered by companies such as Robinhood, Kalshi and Crypto.com, are an economic threat to their own gaming enterprises and also operate without respect to state taxes and regulations.

"Litigation is ongoing across the country," and tribes also are "challenging the federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which has jurisdiction over commodity markets, to take appropriate action and work with states and tribes," said Bohnnee.

It will be the Ak-Chin Indian Community's turn to host the next meeting. Details on the meeting are to be determined. As the meetings evolve, Bohnnee hinted that there may be more participation by the O'odham Youth Councils as well as a cultural resource workgroup.



# HOW PIIPAASH AND O’ODHAM GAVE RISE TO THE ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD



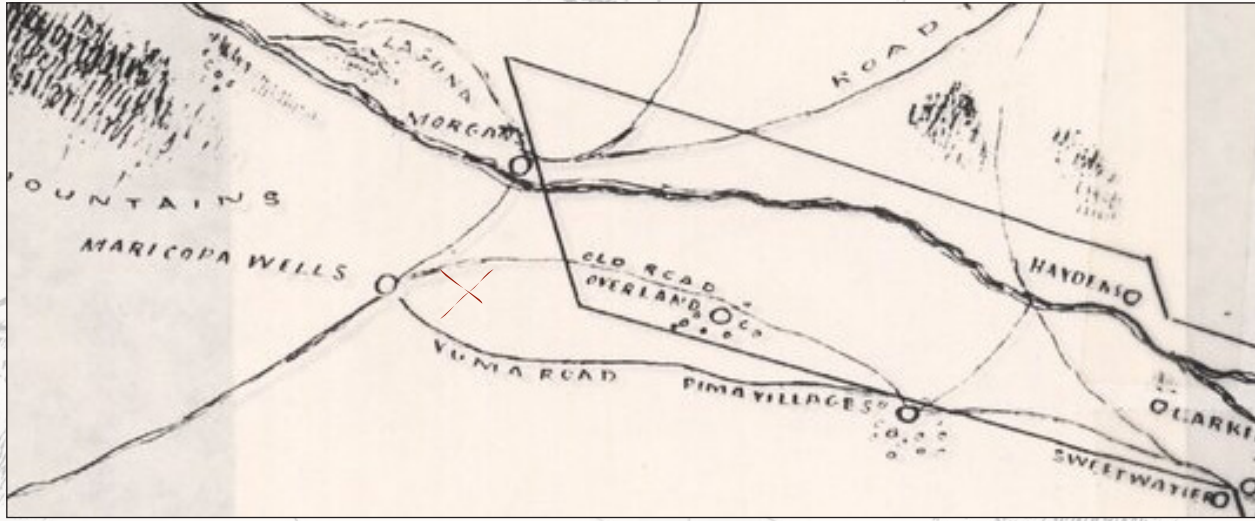
BY KARI HAAHR  
O’odham Action News  
Kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

*“It’s common knowledge that we were the first Arizona National Guard.”*

Military veteran Pacer Reina of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community shared those words in *O’odham Action News*’ coverage of the removal of tribal flags from the Phoenix Veterans Affairs building earlier this year.

The story behind that National Guard fact ties together several threads of history in this region when the outcome of a large battle left a huge impression on military leaders of the time hoping to grow their forces. It takes us back to 1857, when the federal government considered this area part of the New Mexico Territory, after a long-standing feud between the Piipaash and the Quechan came to its final encounter.

When a new leader of the Quechan named Chief Francisco emerged, he sought to make a name for himself by organizing a campaign against the Piipaash. After raising a party of around 400 warriors, including Mojave, Yavapai and Tonto Apache fighters, they followed the Gila River eastward, ignoring every bad omen they encountered on the way.



A map from 1878 shows some of the villages along the Gila River near where the battle took place. Map courtesy of Arizona Memory Project.

On August 30, 1857, they raided and burned the Piipaash village of Sacate, killing many women and children. Survivors fled to nearby Pima Butte and sent word to nearby villages to raise the alarm. The attackers had not expected the strength and rapid response from the O’odham and Piipaash alliance. The two groups, long known for their peaceful nature, had well-trained men with quality weapons who were skilled protectors ready to defend their homeland.

Led by Juan Chavarria (Piipaash) and a teenage Antonio Azul (O’odham), a combined force of approximately 1,200 was mobilized. Because of their relationship with the U.S. government, they had access to horses and iron tools, allowing them to arrive at the battlefield swiftly on September 1.

At that point in battle, numbering just around 100, the Quechans were quickly overwhelmed when many of their allies fled at the sight of the approaching force. Within 30 minutes, the battle was over, with nearly all Quechans fallen. According to one witness, the battlefield was so thoroughly covered with the dead that even years later, bones and weapons still littered the ground.

The battle demonstrated the strength, the military discipline and organization of the O’odham and Piipaash. Their tactics left American military observers, including an influential officer named Enoch Steen, astonished and impressed. Steen advocated for incorporating these Indigenous fighters into U.S. military operations.

When the Civil War began in 1861 and U.S. troops were pulled from the region, this call was answered. After the Civil War ended, in 1865, the U.S. Army formed companies B and C of the First Arizona Volunteer Infantry, composed entirely of Piipaash and O’odham men, respectively. This unit is recognized as the foundation of the Arizona National Guard.

The battle site is still largely unmarked today. The abandoned village of Sacate was never resettled by the O’odham and Piipaash, as it was considered spiritually contaminated by the bloodshed.

The O’odham and Piipaash were never aggressors. They lived peacefully, cooperated with missionaries, protected travelers, and contributed to the economy by selling surplus crops to the U.S. Army. But when attacked, they defended their people with honor and skill. Their battle was not one of conquest, but of survival, and it left an impression that helped to change history.

## NATIVE-LED RESEARCH FOR NATIVE HEALTH

MACOA Health is enrolling Native Americans for research studies on:

- Heart Disease • Diabetes • Asthma
- COPD • Obesity • Liver disease
- Past heart attack • Past stroke
- Vascular claudication

Studies are compensated for time and travel. Your voice in research matters and can help improve prevention, care, and treatments for our people.



Feel free to email or call Tribal Liaison Che Grey at [cgrey@macoa-health.com](mailto:cgrey@macoa-health.com) or 623-887-2555



# Congressman Greg Stanton Visits with SRPMIC

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

- 3 Takeaways:**
- Stanton's visit was part of efforts to continue improving relationships and understand the needs of the Community.
  - While here he discussed working with Rep. Schweikert to effectively represent constituents across Arizona as well as visited the Family Advocacy Center for updates on the MMIP Taskforce.
  - Council members asked questions and shared concerns about federal government restructuring, life expectancy, heat risks, and Oak Flat.

On August 21, U.S. Congressman Greg Stanton entered the Whirlwind conference room in Two Waters Building A and was greeted by Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Council members, executive staff, directors and managers.

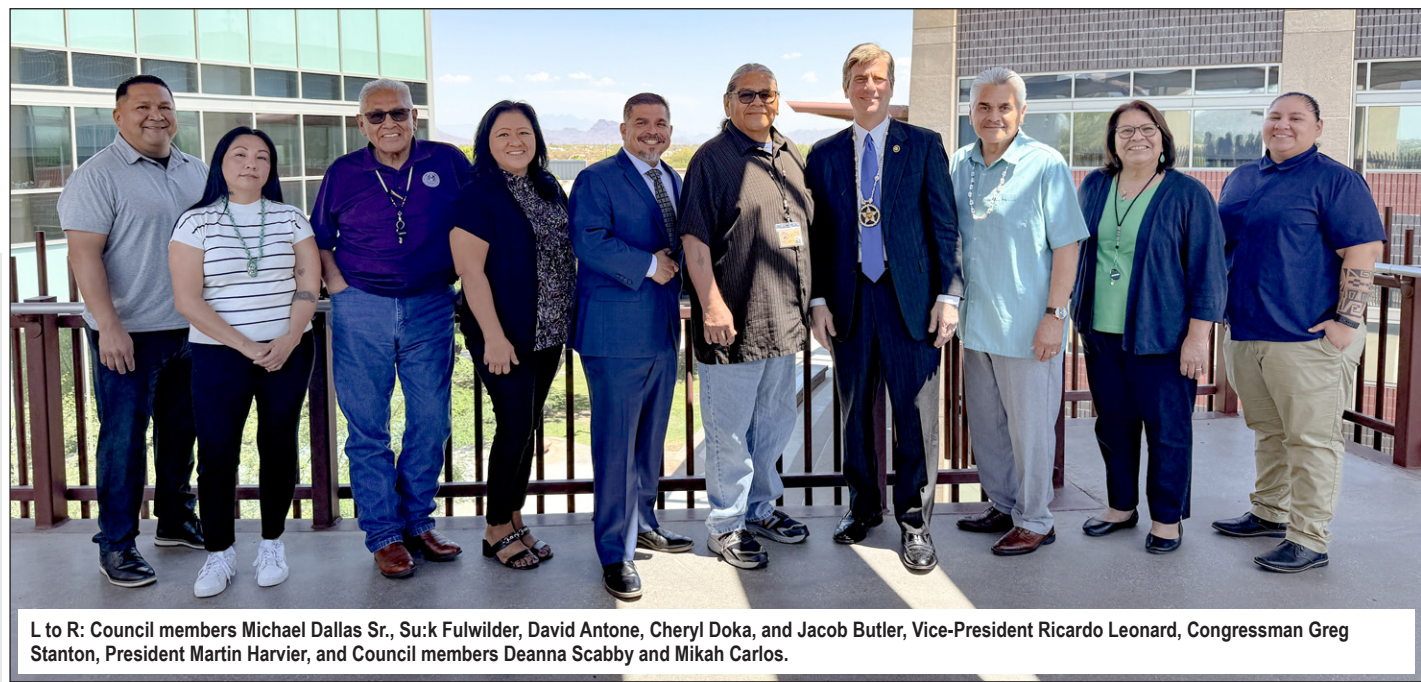
The visit was part of Stanton's efforts to continue to improve his relationship with the SRPMIC and get a better understanding of the needs of the Community.

"I just want to welcome you, especially since you're [technically] not our representative," began SRPMIC President Martin Harvier during the introductions.

Congressman David Schweikert represents Arizona's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes the SRPMIC and parts of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Paradise Valley and Fountain Hills.

Stanton replied to President Harvier, "Every time you invite me, I'll be here."

The visit was the third time Congressman Stanton has visited the Community. He represents the 4th



L to R: Council members Michael Dallas Sr., Su:k Fulwilder, David Antone, Cheryl Doka, and Jacob Butler, Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, Congressman Greg Stanton, President Martin Harvier, and Council members Deanna Scabby and Mikah Carlos.

Congressional District, which includes parts of Maricopa County, the cities of Tempe and Mesa, and parts of Chandler.

Stanton was positive when he discussed how he and fellow Congressman Schweikert work together. "On issues when we need to come together as 'Team Arizona,' including supporting our tribal communities, for the most part we work together on that," Stanton said.

He added, "That's a part of politics; you have to get the job done for the people you represent. My feeling is, if you're a congressional representative for Arizona, you represent the tribes. It's part of the honor to serve in federal office."

Throughout his meeting, Congressman Stanton provided key insight from his time in Washington, D.C., and continually asked how he and his office can better help the Community.

President Harvier then began discussing important topics with Congressman Stanton, which included the possibility of a federal government shutdown. "The question is, 'Is there a government shutdown?' The answer is yes, there is a possible government shutdown," said Stanton.

"We have voted on a budget, and yet the current administration keeps asking us to do rescission packages," he added.

A rescission package is a formal request by the president to Congress to cancel previously approved funding.

Stanton continued, "Our Republican friends, they're in charge of everything: the White House, Senate and the House of Representatives. They have a big decision to make. Do they want to make a bipartisan decision or go at it alone?"

Congressman Stanton read a prepared speech to the SRPMIC in which he shared his appreciation for the opportunity to visit the Community and meet with executive staff and management.

"Thank you for having me back and inviting me; it's an honor. Though I don't represent the Community, we're next-door neighbors and I love working with you and your professional team. I am concerned with the 'Big Beautiful Bill' that just passed; however, the SRPMIC did a great job at carving out some exceptions for tribal communities, which will have somewhat of a lesser impact here on the Community," he said.

President Donald Trump signed the bill, officially named the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, into law on July 4. The "Big, Beautiful Bill," as it is called, drastically cuts funding from communities across the country, both tribal and non-tribal communities, by cutting programs like Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and clean energy programs.

"Our food banks don't know where their food is going to come from," said Stanton. "The fact we're taking away healthy meals for kids—I can't even believe we are doing it."

Additionally, Stanton reiterated to the SRPMIC that he would like to partner with the Community when it comes to protecting water rights and being able provide support during the ongoing drought occurring throughout Arizona.

"We can defeat this drought, but it's going to take a lot more money and recycling. Better conservation is the better approach right now," shared Stanton.

*Continued on page 19*

# SAVE THE DATE

## HIMDAG KI

### FUN FAIR

**Friday**  
**SEPT. 19**  
**5pm - 8pm**

**FOOD** **GAMES**

**FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

**MUSIC** **Water Slides**

**YOUTH SERVICES**  
A'al ha Vemtagdag

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF GREATER SCOTTSDALE

**Ske:g Himdag Ki**  
(Way of life Facility)  
11725 E Indian School Rd,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

**MORE INFORMATION** **(480) 362 - 6390 Youth Services Front Desk**

## SALT RIVER DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# COMMUNITY VEHICLE AUCTION

**VIEWING DAYS** 10/18 & 10/25  
**8AM-NOON**

**ACCEPTING BIDS** **STARTING 10/18**  
LAST DAY TO BID 10/27 @ 5PM

**BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON VIEWING DAYS OR BETWEEN 8AM-5PM AT THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION**

- **TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY**
- **TRIBAL ID'S WILL BE REQUIRED NO EXCEPTIONS**
- **ALL VEHICLES & AUCTION ITEM ARE SOLD AS-IS**
- **MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD TO SUBMIT BID NO EXCEPTIONS**

**CALL: 480.362.7315**

**VEHICLE STORAGE LOT**  
(BY DIALYSIS CENTER)





# THE POWER OF PARENTING

STRENGTHENING PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Register today to attend the first-ever conference hosted by the Child Care Development Fund, a program of the Early Childhood Education Center at Salt River Schools!

This FREE, day-long event will focus on building relationships within families with children ages birth to 12 years old. Childcare and/or alternative childcare will be available.

## LEARN HOW TO:

- ✓ Manage Challenging Behaviors in Children (& Adults!)
- ✓ Practice Culture & Language Skills at Home
- ✓ Identify Quality Child Care
- ✓ And so much more!



Scan the QR code with your phone (or follow the link) to register for the conference.



[tinyurl.com/CCDFPowerParent25](https://tinyurl.com/CCDFPowerParent25)



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- [CertificateProgram@saltriverschools.org](mailto:CertificateProgram@saltriverschools.org)
- [ecec.saltriverschools.org/services/ccdf](https://ecec.saltriverschools.org/services/ccdf)

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 20**  
**7:30AM to 3PM**  
**TALKING STICK RESORT**  
9800 E. Talking Stick Way,  
Scottsdale AZ 85256



SAVE THE DATE



The SRPD wants to ensure the community understands the Salt River Ordinance regarding windshield requirements and obstructions. Our goal is to promote safety on the road and provide resources to help everyone comply with the law.

Key points of the ordinance include:

- Every passenger vehicle (except motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and golf carts) manufactured or modified before June 17, 1998, as well as every motor truck or truck tractor (excluding fire apparatus), **must be equipped** with an adequate windshield.
- No person shall drive with any sign, poster, or other material on the front windshield, side wings, or side or rear windows that obstructs the driver's clear view of the highway or any intersecting road.
- Every motor vehicle (except motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, golf carts, or motor-driven cycles) must have windshield wipers that can clean rain, snow, or moisture from the windshield. These devices must be operable by the driver and maintained in good working order.

By following these guidelines, we can all contribute to safer roads for the entire community. If you have any questions or need more information about the ordinance, please feel free to contact the Salt River Police Department.



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Central Arizona Project supplies Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona and delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.

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## Free Animal Health Event

For Dogs and Cats

In partnership with:  
SRPMIC Dept of Environmental Health

**Salt River Ballfields**  
1839 N Longmore Rd

SRPMIC members and residents of the Community are eligible with Tribal ID or proof of residency

Pets must be brought by legal owner, age 18+  
Cats must be in their own carrier  
Dogs must be on leash

info@nagifoundation.org  
(602) 730-2092



facebook.com/nagifoundation  
@nagifoundation

\*Dates & location subject to change



Friday & Saturday 9/5 - 9/6

BY APPOINTMENT

Exams, Vaccines, Flea/Tick Treatment, Microchipping,  
Heartworm Prevention, Health Screening, Medical Concerns

Book with QR code, or visit: [nagifoundation.org/appointment](https://nagifoundation.org/appointment)



One appointment required for each pet.

For litters of kittens/puppies, or general assistance with  
scheduling, call or text (602) 730-2092.

# News and Events In and Around Indian Country

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

## Gathering of Nations to End

One of the largest powwows on Turtle Island has an end date. Organizers of Gathering of Nations announced in August that the 2026 powwow will be the last one.

The annual powwow in Albuquerque, New Mexico, takes place in April and attracts hundreds of dancers and attendees. Next year will be the 43rd year.

The final powwow will be held on the weekend of April 24.

## Native Health Opens New Building in Phoenix Valley

The Walupe Health Center is now open in Guadalupe, Arizona. The health facility, known as Walupe Inetene Kari, opened in August and provides pediatric and adult sick and well visits, immunizations, flu shots, sports physicals, well-woman exams and chronic care management.

The facility is located at 6725 S. Priest Drive and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. People may walk in or make an appointment. The facility is Native Health's fourth location in the Valley.

Leaders from nearly all 22 tribes in Arizona met at the facility on August 18, including Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier.

## Indigenous Games No Longer Heading to Calgary, Canada

The popular North American Indigenous Games will no longer take place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The North American Games Council retracted the hosting rights from the Calgary Host Society, according to an August news release. As of late August, it remains unclear who will host the games.

The games are essentially the Olympics for Indigenous nations, as hundreds of athletes from across Turtle Island compete.

The games usually take place every few years in host cities across Canada and sometimes in the United States. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, hosted the most recent games in 2023.

## Tribal Advisory Committee Nominations Sought

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations of people to serve on the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee. Four appointments will be made by Agriculture Secretary Brooke L. Rollins and Ranking Member Angie Craig of the House Committee on Agriculture, according to the USDA.

The committee provides advice and guidance to the agriculture secretary on matters related to Native people and tribes.

Nominations will be open through September 22. Additional details can be found on the USDA's website, [www.usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

## Chickasaw Artist Wins Best of Show

Oklahoma artist Regina Free took the top spot at the popular Santa Fe Indian Market in August. She is Chickasaw.

Her multimedia bison sculpture titled "Windswept" was named Best of Show. The 8-foot art piece was made out of reclaimed driftwood, weathered metal sheeting and materials like foam and paper towels, according to the market's website.

Each August, Indian Market takes over downtown Santa Fe and attracts top Native artists from across the country and Canada. Hundreds of vendors show off their work and compete for top prizes in various art classifications, as well as Best of Show. The market also includes a fashion show and other activities.

# 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

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[iFlyWorld.com/Phoenix](https://iFlyWorld.com/Phoenix)

### Bam Kazam

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[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.  
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### 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

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#PavilionsFun Just off the 101 & Indian Bend—all the cool fun's at The Pavilions.

THE PAVILIONS  
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Just off the 101 & Talking Stick Way | Visit [PavilionsAtTalkingStick.com](https://PavilionsAtTalkingStick.com)



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

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(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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Scottsdale, AZ 85250  
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(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  
Follow us @vomesachurch on  
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**MORNINGSTAR APOSTOLIC  
CHURCH**  
3263 E Guadalupe Rd, Gilbert, Arizona  
85234  
Bishop Daniel Lizarraga and Pastor  
Jason Lizarraga  
SERVICES  
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Wednesday 8-11 a.m.  
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**REDEEMER APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
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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

O'dham Action News is published bi-weekly by the  
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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE

DEADLINE AT NOON

SEPTEMBER 18  
OCTOBER 2

SEPTEMBER 5  
SEPTEMBER 19

SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS  
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For more information please call (480) 362-7750.



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.  
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Andrews, Dracy Devon - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-1348 Court Date: September 17, 2025 at 10 AM  
Cooper, Tyler Allen - Evidentiary Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-3584 Court Date: October 6, 2025 at 10 AM  
Lackey, Wendel - Probate Status Hearing Case: CV-25-2858 Court Date: October 6, 2025 at 9 AM  
Miles, James Spotted Hawk - Initial Paternity Hearing Case: CV-25-3633 Court Date: October 9, 2025 at 10:30 AM  
Perez, Anita Louise - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-3176 Court Date: September 15, 2025 at 11 AM  
Pilcher, Floyd - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-3624 Court Date: October 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM  
Scott, Delores Ann - Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-4371 Court Date: October 7, 2025 at 9 AM  
Warrell, Michael Edward - Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-4128 Court Date: September 16, 2025 at 4 PM

### 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.

**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**

### 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.

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

**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/>

### 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.

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

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/>

# The Heat Is On: Tips for Staying Hydrated

SUBMITTED BY SRPMIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Heat is ON!  
*Yes, it sure is! Did you try to solve the crossword puzzle about DEHYDRATION? Give it a try; all the answers will be somewhere in this article.*

Phoenix natives and those who have lived in the Valley for many years have become acclimated to the summer heat. “Acclimate” means to adapt to an altitude, climate, environment or situation. Even so, that does not mean we are immune to the effects of the heat, although new Phoenix-area residents are more likely to suffer from heat illness.

Causes of heat illness include exposure to high temperatures, particularly when there is also high humidity, and strenuous physical activity in the heat. Heat exhaustion is a condition that happens when your body overheats. Here are some common signs to watch for: dizziness, thirst, heavy sweating, headache, weak but rapid pulse, leg and muscle cramping and fatigue. If someone has recently spent time outside and develops any of these symptoms, they may be suffering from heat exhaustion. Help them drink water and seek an air-conditioned place to recover.

Without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion can lead to heatstroke, a life-threatening condition. Signs of heatstroke include the absence of sweating, extremely high body temperature, and severe fatigue or collapse. Of the stages of heat injury, heatstroke is the most serious. It is most common in the summer months and can happen if body temperature rises to 104°F (40°C) or higher.

Heatstroke requires emergency care.

If it’s not treated, heatstroke can quickly damage the brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. This damage gets worse the longer treatment is delayed, which increases the risk of serious complications or death, according to the Mayo Clinic.

When it’s very hot, stay inside if you can, take it easy and avoid outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day. If you must be outside, wear loose clothing and take plenty of breaks someplace cool where you can rest and recuperate. If you can’t make it to the pool at the WOLF (now Ske:g Himdag Ki:), one place to go is The Cool Place at the SRPMIC Wellness Center, located at 10295 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale, next to the Dialysis Center. The hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To prevent dehydration, get good sleep, drink plenty of water and avoid drinks that have caffeine, as they tend to dehydrate you. Some drinks have charged minerals called electrolytes that can help, but be cautious about the amount of sugar in them. Eating water-rich fruits and veggies such as oranges, watermelon, lettuce, celery and cucumbers can also help to hydrate you. Consider adding fruit slices to your water to add some zest!

Remind your family members, especially younger children, to drink water, a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended. Also check on elderly folks to ensure that they are doing well in the heat. Insist that they use their air conditioning; sometimes they hesitate to turn on the AC because they fear high energy bills. But tell them that their health needs to come first.

Only a few months to go!

## Dehydration Crossword Puzzle

Down:

1. Side effect of dehydration

2. Local Tribal facility that has swimming pool

3. Charged minerals

5. Life-threatening condition when body cannot cool itself (2 words)

8. Who to contact for more information (2 words)

13. Fruit to help hydrate a person

Across:

4. Place to seek when hot

6. Minimum recommended number of glasses of water to drink

7. Avoid drinks that contain \_\_\_\_\_

9. What happens to legs when dehydrated

10. Side effect of dehydration

11. Get plenty of this at night

12. How your body cools itself

14. Body craving liquid

15. When your body overheats (2 words)

16. What happens if you don't drink enough water

17. Side effect of dehydration

18. Best to drink daily

Answer key can be found on page 19.

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

Source: Mayo Clinic. (April 2023). Heat Exhaustion. Updated. Retrieved from: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/heat-exhaustion/symptoms-causes/syc-20373250>

16

O'odham Action News

September 4, 2025





**Fall Into Reading**  
OLDIES BUT GOODIES



**GENERATION OF LEADERS**  
Community | Education & Literacy | Culture

Cosplay Contest!  
Games! Food!  
Community Resources!  
All ages welcome!  
Plus, Diné author  
Daniel Vandever will  
sign books for fans!



**Open to ALL!**  
THURS  
Sept. 18  
5:30-7:30PM  
ALA Gymnasium  
480-362-2023  
Literacy@saltriverschools.org



# Beading Circle

Every Wednesday  
5:30PM - 8:00 PM  
Salt River Tribal Library

(480) 362-6600 / TribalLibrary@SRPMIC-nsn.gov  
Open to enrolled SRPMIC members and Ske:g Himdag Ki: members



**O'ODHAM**  
ACTION NEWS

**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

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY



# 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 Native American Menu - \$10.00
- 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



## Love and Harmony Couples Group

Tuesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm




**The Couples Group is a psychoeducational group designed for partners seeking to enhance their relationship.**  
Based on the principles outlined in John M. Gottman, Ph.D.'s The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work, the group focuses on providing practical strategies to understand, repair, strengthen, and improve committed relationships.


Participants will learn effective techniques for resolving conflicts, fostering mutual understanding, and increasing intimacy. The program also offers resources to address various relationship challenges related to intimacy, sex, communication, money, religion, work, and family commitments.

**Where Gottman meets the Community**  
**When:** Tuesdays from 4:30pm to 6:00pm  
**Where:** Behavioral Health Services, at the River People Health Center

**GROUP SESSION STARTING SOON!**  
Call BHS at (480) 362-5707 for more information.






Health & Human Services



River People Health Center

## READY? SET? LEARN!

**Welcoming Parents & Families to a New School Year with Support & Safety**


Parents and guardians with SRPMIC-enrolled children attending any school are invited to this FREE, special event co-hosted by School & Community Relations and Safe Schools & Security.

We'll share essential information from your child's school, such as attendance expectations, important events, and academic resources, as well as critical safety tips to prepare families for the upcoming school year.

**JOIN US FOR ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES & PRIZES!**

**Tuesday SEPT. 30**  
**5:30-7:30PM**  
**ALA Cafeteria**  
4827 N. Country Club Dr.

480-362-2534  
saltriverschools.org/departments/scr





# Salt River Eagles Soar In Water

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

Before getting into the swimming pool for his race, Maizen Brown, 8, hears his coaches tell him, “You got it, you can do this, Maizen. You’re strong!”

He is. Those words gave him the motivation to go on and place in the 25-meter breaststroke race on July 26 at the McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center.

Maizen is part of the Salt River Eagles Swim Team and has been since he was five. The youth swim team at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: is coached by Emma Gordon and Holland Jesclard. The season typically begins during the beginning of the summer, about two weeks after school lets out.

“The swim team is an opportunity for SRPMIC youth ages 5-17 to participate in a recreational swim team,” said Community Recreational Services Aquatics Manager Kyle Stephens.

The team participates in meets in Scottsdale. The aquatics admin team, Stephens and Devyn Mennenga, coordinate with the City of Scottsdale leadership for aquatics regarding participation, Stephen explains. “We participate as our own team against their teams. They have hundreds of swimmers; we have a handful.”

As the season goes on, swimmers practice drills that enhance performance in each type of stroke along with correct kicking and body position, Coach Jesclard said. “Towards the end of the season, we fine tune under-waters and the more advanced skills,” she explains. The team practices from Monday-Thursday during the season to perfect their skills in time for races, where their hard work and dedication is put to the test and paid off.

“Seeing the kids do well in their races and come up and show their ribbons and what they place they got, its genuinely one of the best feelings ever,” Jesclard said.



Peytyn Manuel racing in the 100-meter breaststroke.

*Photos courtesy of Salt River Recreation Services.*



Dinedeseo Zavala competing in the 100-meter freestyle.



TOP: Maizen Brown gets set for his 50-meter breaststroke.



LEFT: Dinedeseo Zavala competes in the 100-meter breaststroke.



Maizen Brown competes in his 50-meter breaststroke competition.



Community Recreational Services  
**ADAPTIVE RECREATION**

# KICK OFF & CONNECT

**FRIDAY  
SEPT 5  
6:30PM-7:30PM  
SR COMMUNITY  
BUILDING**

JOIN US FOR A FUN FAMILY  
GATHERING TO WELCOME ALL  
NEW AND CONTINUING  
PARTICIPANTS WITH FUN  
FAMILY ACTIVITIES, FOOD AND  
INFORMATION ON SCHOOL  
RESOURCES!

**RSVP AUG 20-29**  
<https://sugeni.us/VyDw>

**MORE INFO CALL: (480)362-3390**

Adaptive Recreation Program is intended for individuals with a documented disability and to serve community members who may need additional support to participate in other CRS Recreational Activities  
\*Ages 3 and Up





Got **HIGHER ED** plans? Let us help you **meet your goals AND** our scholarship program **application DEADLINES!**

**#AimHigher**

**Tuesday, Sept. 9  
10-11AM**

Salt River Schools  
**Education Board Room**  
4836 N. Center St.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

**SALT RIVER**  
HIGHER EDUCATION

480-362-2547  
HigherEducation@saltriverschools.org

The Salt River Higher Education Program offers early college outreach, financial assistance, and education and career advising to enrolled SRPMIC members through our new Orientation Program!

# ORIENTATION PROGRAM



# Congressman Greg Stanton Visits with SRPMIC

## SRPMIC Council Member Questions to Congressman Stanton

**David Antone**  
When it was time for SRPMIC Council members to ask questions, David Antone spoke first and asked Congressman Stanton about the tariffs and their impact on the economy.  
“With many of the countries, the tariffs are in place. As far as us as consumers, we have yet to experience the full effect of the tariffs,” said Stanton. “Inflation is going to start to go up.”  
He added, “I’m very much opposed to the tariffs. I think it’s backward economic policy. And they’re illegal. The reason why they’re illegal is because under our Constitution, the Congress, which I serve in, we get to set the revenue and taxes. What President Trump did is he declared a national emergency, so he gets to set the policy. He’s taken the power away, and my Republican friends are just giving it to him.”

**Jacob Butler**  
Council member Butler had two topics he wanted to discuss with Congressman Stanton: keeping safe from the sun and hydration. “I appreciate the fact that you’re working on both of those. To see you work on the heat wave and water, I appreciate that you’re making progress on that,” said Butler.  
He continued, “A lot of our people around the Valley suffer from the sun in their own homes from lack of air conditioning and especially from the concrete jungle that we have in Arizona. That daytime heat comes out in the middle of the night, so people can’t escape the heat even in the darkness.”  
Stanton agreed. “I appreciate you saying that. We made huge mistakes, like cutting trees down in urban areas. We want people to take public trans-

portation, but the benches don’t have shade, and we need to consider heat inside all of our buildings and how it impacts our infrastructure.  
“Communities in high-heat areas need to be taken into account. It is sad, having a senior living alone, they have air conditioning, they just keep [the temperature] too high and not cool enough thinking they’ll save a few bucks because they’re on a fixed income. [They’re] not realizing the toll it will take on their bodies [and health, especially] if they have comorbidities. It’s not acceptable.”

**Mikah Carlos**  
Council member Mikah Carlos asked Congressman Stanton about the restructuring of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department and its future impact on communities including the SRPMIC.  
“I feel like we made progress with consultations with the federal government, but now it feels like we’re taking steps back,” said Carlos. “Also, in those HHS restructurings, we have a lot of concerns with the federal government. We’re efficient on our end, but when we send grant proposals to the federal government, we get a delay and essentially our people are suffering because the [agency] staff has been slashed, restructuring to the point where the program is inefficient.”  
Stanton wholeheartedly agreed with Carlos. “In the history of the United States, we’ve done a lot of dumb things. One of the dumbest was DOGE.”  
The Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, was established on January 20 of this year. The initiative’s goal was to cut excess regulations and spending within the federal

government. DOGE is responsible for the surge of recent immigration crackdowns as well as massive layoffs in departments and agencies within the federal government.  
“There was a recent report [stating] that the entire DOGE process ended up costing more money than it saved,” stated Stanton.  
**Suk Fulwilder**  
“I just want to mention Resolution Copper and Oak Flat,” began Council member Suk Fulwilder. Once she began speaking, Stanton turned to give her his undivided attention.  
“We’re talking about water, and [Resolution Copper] is the biggest threat to our water right now. This is something that is very concerning to me.”  
Stanton nodded in agreement. “I appreciate you telling me that,” he said. “I know there’s an ongoing court case, and it looks like it may reach the Supreme Court,” he said.  
At the conclusion of his one-hour meeting, Stanton received gifts from the Community, which included a shell necklace. He also posed for photos with the SRPMIC Council team on the third-floor complex bridge of Two Waters before embarking on a field trip on foot to the SRPMIC Family Advocacy Center.

During his visit to the center, Stanton met with Nagisa Kondo, director of the center, and Alane Breland, prosecutor for the SRPMIC Justice Center. They shared with him the inner workings of the FAC program and updated him on the progress of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People task force in Arizona.



Congressman Stanton then took a field trip to the SRPMIC Family Advocacy Center where he received a tour and had a sit down meeting with Nagisa Kondo (above), director of the FAC, as well as Alane Breland (below), prosecutor for the SRPMIC Justice Center.





Community Recreational Services  
**SOCIAL DIVISION**

**L.I.N.K.**  
LEARN. INSPIRE. NAVIGATE. KNOW

**TEEN PROGRAM**  
Ages 12-17 years - 25 slots open

**In-person registration August 19th**  
at CRS Social Building - 1880 E. Longmore Rd.  
6:00PM-7:00PM

**Group starts September 2nd**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month  
6:00PM-8:00PM

- ✓ Life Skills
- ✓ Budgeting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Cooking Basics

- ✓ Social Engagement
- ✓ Inclusive Environment
- ✓ Diverse Opportunities
- ✓ Community Impact

**CONTACT US** Community Recreational Services - Social Division  
480-362-6360 or Vanessa Lechuga 480-937-8823



**Dehydration Crossword Puzzle Solution**

W

C O L

L H

C A F F E I N E

P

F A T I G U E

B

S W E A T I N G

C

H E A T E X H A U S T I O N

D E H Y D R A T I O N

L

W A T E R

H

D I

Z Z

E L

E I G H T

C

A T

S

S L E E P

O

T H I R S T Y

R

G

H E A D A C H E

S

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY





**O'ODHAM WALK FOR PIIPAASH**

**2 MILE WALK!**

**7AM:**  
• CHECK-IN  
• PICK-UP T-SHIRT

**7:30AM:**  
• PRAYER  
• STRETCHING  
• BEGIN WALK

**END**  
• MUSIC  
• BRUNCH

**FREE T-SHIRT**  
For First 300 to Register

Pre-Registration REQUIRED (Online Only):  
<https://wkf.ms/4nNBkd6>



**FRIDAY SEPT. 26 2025**

**START FROM LEHI GATHERING GROUNDS**

The Walk for O'odham Piipaash is not a test of Endurance, it is prayers for our O'odham/Piipaash Past, Present & Future.

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 • f SRPMIC • @ SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY





# MEET OUR SUMMER YOUTH WORKERS

Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) partnered with the SRP-MIC WIOA Program to provide local youth with valuable on-the-job experience. This summer, SRMG welcomed two high school seniors: Analayah, who is interested in journalism, and Evan, who has an interest in football.

During their time at SRMG, Analayah and Evan worked with the Administration and Finance departments, where they gained experience in receptionist duties, entering invoices into company software, and filing important documents.

Evan shared that the opportunity gave him insight into what it takes to start and manage a business. Analayah said she developed skills in communication, time management, and adaptability that will serve her well in the future.

Both interns encourage their peers to keep a positive attitude and stay open to learning new things. SRMG thanks Analayah and Evan for their hard work this summer and wishes them a successful school year ahead!



**ANALIAH J.**

"I think it helped give me a taste of what it's like to work in an office space. SRMG helped me figure out what I enjoy about it."

**EVAN H.**

"I joined the WIOA program for experience and to connect with others."



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. at Senior Room of Ske:g Himdag Ki (WOLF), and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., at Senior Services North Annex. This ancient Chinese martial art uses slow and continuous movements to improve the mind and body. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

**LOVE AND HARMONY COUPLES GROUP**, Ready to strengthen your relationship and build deeper connection? Join our Couples Group, based on Dr. John Gottman's The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work. Tuesdays | 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM | Behavioral Health Services, River People Health Centerb 10901 E McDowell Rd. Scottsdale AZ 85256. Learn practical tools to: Improve communication; Resolve conflicts; Deepen intimacy; Navigate challenges around family, work, and more. Call (480) 362-5707 to learn more or sign up today.

**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. at the Ske:g Himdag Ki (WOLF) pool. 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. at RPHC. 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

**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.

### VAŠAI GAKIDAG MAŠAD XLY'A XAMXMOK SEPTEMBER

**5 ADAPTIVE RECREATION KICK OFF & CONNECT**, 6:30pm-7:30pm at Salt River Community Building. Join Community Recreational Services Adaptive Recreation Team for a family gathering to welcome all new and continuing participants with fun activities, delicious food and information on school resources! . For more info call: (480)362-3390 or see ad on page 18 for complete details.

**5 & 6 FREE PET CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS**, by appointment for SRPMIC members and Community residents. See ad on page 14 for full details on how to register.

**9 HIGHER EDUCATION ORIENTATION**, The Salt River Higher Education Program offers early college outreach, financial assistance, and education career advising to enrolled SRPMIC members through our new orientation sessions! Got Higher ED plans? Let us help you meet your goals and our scholarship program application deadline! Join us at the next orientation session on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 10-11 a.m. in the Education Board Room. 4836 N. Center St. Scottsdale, AZ 85256. Questions? Call Higher Ed at 480-362-2547 or visit [www.he.saltriverschools.org](http://www.he.saltriverschools.org).

**11 CM DOKA DISTRICT C MEETING**, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. SRPMIC Council Information: <https://tinyurl.com/MeetingsCouncil> SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: <https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs>

**12 CHRISTMAS ANGELS PROGRAM BAKE SALE**, 9 am - 1 pm or until sold out at Roundhouse Cafe. All proceeds benefit the

annual SRPMIC Christmas Angels Program. Hosted by Salt River Police Department

**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)

**18 FALL INTO READING**, Theme: Oldies but Goodies! This year's Cosplay event highlights books, theatre, TV, and music from the 1950s through the 1970s. The events during this time period were significant and we would like to emphasize the importance of literacy, traditional language, and culture. There will be fun games and activities during the event to keep children and families engaged. A special guest author and other fun literacy activities are promised. Activities, games, prizes, resources, and food will be available see ad on page 17!

**18 ADULT WIOA ORIENTATION**, Salt River Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program CONNECT WITH US! Learn about WIOA eligibility requirements, program services for enrolled participants, guidance toward obtaining career goals through education & training. ORIENTATION INFORMATION: DATE: September 18, 2025 TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00a.m. LOCATION: Two Waters, Building B, Room B102 - X'aa (Cottonwood) Any questions please contact the SRPMIC WIOA team (480) 362-7950

**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.

**20 CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT FUND 2025 FAMILY CONFERENCE: THE POWER OF PARENTING**, Register today to attend the first-ever conference hosted by the Child Care Development Fund, a program of the Early Childhood Education Center at

Salt River Schools. See ad on page 13 for complete details!

**20 SPOOKTACULAR ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Salt River Community Building. See ad on page 6!

**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, see ad on page 17.

**26 NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY - SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED**, Please plan accordingly.

**26 WALK FOR O'ODHAM PIIPAASH**, this year's walk will begin at Lehi Gathering Grounds. For full details, see ad on page 19.

**30 VOICES OF SUMMER: A WATER STORY**, 5-7 p.m. at Council Chambers. A light meal will be provided. The Salt River Speaker Series, Hosted by ACM Lena Jackson presents: Salt River Project – A Water Story, A presentation by Leslie Meyers, Chief Water Executive, Salt River Project, focused on the region's water history and stewardship. Open to the public – all are welcome. Questions: [SummerSpeakerSeries@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:SummerSpeakerSeries@srpmic-nsn.gov)

**30 READY? SET? LEARN! FAMILY SUPPORT AND SAFETY NIGHT WITH SALT RIVER SCHOOLS**, Parents and guardians with SRPMIC-enrolled children attending any school are invited to this FREE, special event co-hosted by School & Community Relations and Safe Schools & Security. We'll share essential information from your child's school, such as attendance expectations, important events, and academic resources, as well as critical safety tips to prepare families for the upcoming school year. JOIN US FOR Activities, RESOURCES & PRIZES! The event is Tuesday, SEPT. 30, in the ALA Cafeteria from 5:30-7:30PM! See ad on page 17 for more information.