

The Rez Stands Still for **Third Consecutive Year** Page 9



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

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OCTOBER 16, 2025



culture, traditions and achievements.

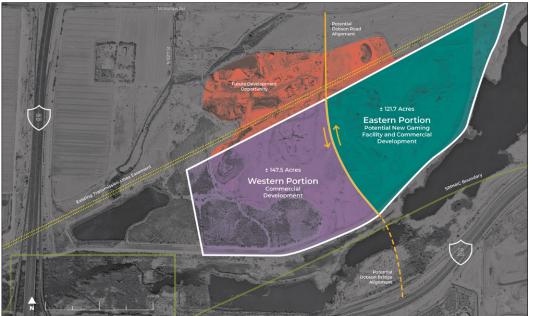
"Native American Recognition Day is not specifically for SRPMIC because we have SRPMIC Day. [For] Native American Recognition Day, we try to celebrate all the Southwest tribes," said Community Relations Events Division Assistant Adrian Sixkiller.

"We started off with the lunchtime event. We had a Harkins food truck here, [and] Red Bull came and dropped off cans of Red Bull to pass out to the [Community] employees," said Sixkiller. There were 300 of each item available, along with the option to purchase nachos or a bigger bag of popcorn.

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Evaluating the Future of the SRMG Dobson Site



Aerial map of the SRMG Dobson site and the potential future development of the land. The map shows land south of the intersection of McKellips and Dobson Roads and includes the SRPMIC boundary at the Salt River where a potential Dobson bridge would align at the Loop 202 interchange north to McKellips near a future development opportunity. Potential development is split into a western portion for commercial development and an eastern portion for a potential new gaming facility and commercial development. Photo courtesy of SRPMIC CDD.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has begun outreach to inform the Community about efforts to explore opportunities for growth, revenue and sustainability around the southwestern edge of the Community.

These efforts are related to land use on and around the 250-acre Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) Dobson site, located on Dobson Road, south of McKellips Road, between Longmore Road and 92nd Street.

SRMG is an enterprise of the SRPMIC that supplies high-quality sand and rock products such as cements, fly ash, aggregates and natural gypsum products to customers throughout Arizona and the Southwest.

When it became clear in 2019 that resources were nearing depletion at the Dobson site, an opportunity opened for the site to be evaluated for future land use. The new

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Honoring Veterans Together: Community and Employee Veterans Day Event



SUBMITTED BY VETERANS AFFAIRS

This year, we are proud to bring the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members and employees together for a special Veterans Day event. The celebration will be held on Friday, Nov. 7, at the Two Waters government complex starting at 10 a.m.—four days prior to the nationally recognized holiday on Nov. 11.

By hosting this joint gathering, we aim to create a meaningful day of recognition, reflection and gratitude for all who have served. This will be both an exciting and heartfelt event that unites our employees and Community members in honoring our veterans.

We warmly invite all Community members, whether or not you are a veteran, to join us on Nov. 7. We also encourage you to contribute by sharing updates or personal stories about your veteran loved ones. These narratives enable us to honor the lives and sacrifices of those who served and allow us to recognize them during our program and future events in a manner that genuinely reflects their service and legacy.

We look forward to celebrating this day with all of you as we honor the courage, sacrifice and dedication of our veterans. Save the Date!

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Water slides! O'odham bingo! Ring toss! These are just some of the many fun and creative outdoor games and activities that Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community families experienced at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: (formerly the Way of Life Facility) Fun Fair on Sept. 19.

The evening event was possible thanks to a multi-department effort led by Community Recreational Services, Youth Services, Diabetes Prevention Services, Senior Services and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale.

Many departments and divisions set up booths and tents on the baseball field to hand out information, host activities and give away prizes.

There was also delicious food!

Diabetes Prevention Services had a game at their booth for people to win healthy snacks. The Salt River Police Department had a booth that included hoops to jump through, while the Salt River Fire Department gave out pencils and a book titled "A Trip to the Fire Station."

The Office of the Prosecutor had a "pet adoption" activity where people won stuffed animals.

River People Health Center dental office team members demonstrated tooth brushing with a fake set of teeth that kids could brush to get an idea of how much detail is needed for a good brushing. The team supplied free bags containing toothpaste, a toothbrush and dental floss to kids.



Summer Speaker Series Wraps Up with Water Story

3 Takeaways

- The health of the river, forest, and land are connected and all need to be in balance for large-scale sustainability.
- Because river levels are variable year to year, dams are used
- to help store water during times of lower inflow.
- Full recordings of the Summer Speaker Series are available on the SRPMIC website.

BY KARI HAAHR

O'odham Action News kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

At the final gathering for the inaugural Summer Speaker Series hosted by Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members and guests had the opportunity to learn about Salt River Project's role in managing

The presentation offered a forward-facing perspective of how delicate the balance is when water is diverted from the Salt River to be delivered to the Community and beyond.

Invited to speak was Salt River Project Associate General Manager and Chief Water Executive Leslie Meyers. She shared a perspective on how knowledge of the river's past influences the present and future of water use in the Salt River Valley. After sharing some statistics on water use and explaining how water on this scale is referred to as "acre-feet" rather than gallons, she shared some of the beginnings of Salt River Project, or SRP.



Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert introduces Leslie Meyers of Salt River Project, who presented the final installment of the Summer Speaker Series.

The general footprint of the canals and water systems in the Valley largely follows one laid out by those who came before, the Huhugam, who were referred to in the presentation as "engineering visionaries" for their work. Meyers said that the reason these systems didn't last is because the water levels are variable, meaning they aren't always consistent year to year. Meyers explained that creating the Salt River dams helped to divert and develop water when it is there and store it for future use. This project was part of larger governmental work in 1902 after U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt established the Bureau of Reclamation, leading to Roosevelt Dam being built on the Salt River in 1903.

The Salt and Verde rivers are a vital source of life and power for all who call this area home, but Meyers made sure to include the broader context of Arizona as a whole being a hotbed of discussion for water rights. She explained that another project, Central Arizona Project, or CAP, is focused on the Colorado River. She provided some insights into how much larger and more complicated that system is because of the multiple states involved.

Importantly, she discussed how happenings upriver lead to large impacts downriver, using as an example how fluctuating weather can cause snow in Wyoming to evaporate before it can melt and join the inflow of the river, lowering the water levels and thus water resources for that year overall. Similar challenges on the Salt and Verde rivers have led to suggested infrastructure improvements, like building a new dam to better store large amounts of water and avoid needing to release and therefore waste it, as was done in 2023. For the Salt and Verde rivers, this is tied heavily to the health of the surrounding forests; work must be done to ensure enough trees are growing without drawing too much from the water supply, keeping it in balance with the river's health.

After more insights on the complicated workings of water rights and allocations, the session was opened for questions from the audience online and in person. Community members asked questions about how the Community can ensure its interests are well represented in these decisions, such as having appointments to boards. One suggestion from the audience was that a planned new dam have Community input for naming it, offering Huhugam Dam as a possibility.

Other questions centered on how collaboration with tribes can be coordinated to ensure the health of the land is maintained using the traditional knowledge of the people who have been here, giving the example of other states having agreements for controlled burns facilitated by local tribes as part of their land management plans.

The story of water in this region is one that is ongoing, and by knowing the history and connections between the water and the land we can ensure it continues for generations beyond ours. The presentation proved to be a natural conclusion to this year's Summer Speaker Series as an end where life begins:

The series is planning to return next summer. To view the sessions from this year, visit https://srpmicnsn.gov/events/voices-of-summer-salt-river-summerspeaker-series/.



Community members and guests listen as Leslie Meyers shares some of the history of Salt River Project.



During the question and answer portion, several Community members agreed that representation was needed either on governing boards or through involvement in naming upcoming projects.

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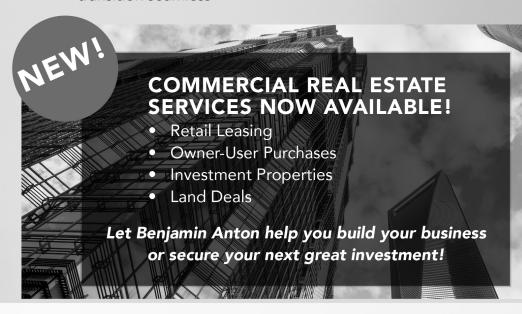
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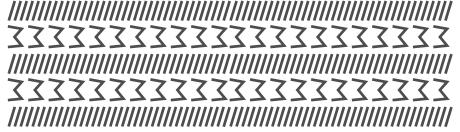
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News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER

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

Democrat Adelita Grijalva Elected to Congress

Adelita Grijalva won a special election in September to fill the seat left by the March death of her father, Raúl Grijalva, who had represented Arizona's Congressional District 7 for more than 20 years.

With the win, Adelita Grijalva becomes the first Arizona Latina elected to Congress. She beat Republican Daniel Butierez with 69% of the vote.

The district is located in southern Arizona, stretches over six counties and includes tribal land.

Republican David Schweikert Enters Arizona's Governor's Race

U.S. Rep. David Schweikert wants to remain in elected office, just not in Congress. The longtime Republican will not seek another term in Congress come 2026 and will instead focus his reelection time attempting to capture his party's ticket to take on Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs in the general election.

At least two other notable Republicans are seeking the party's ticket.

Schweikert's Congressional district includes the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. He announced his run for governor in late September. His Congressional seat will be up for grabs in the same 2026 general election.

Wounded Knee Massacre Medals to Remain

U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the 20 soldiers who received the Medal of Honor for their actions in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890 would keep their medals.

Hegseth made his announcement on his social media page on Sept. 25, stating the Biden administration concluded in 2024

that the soldiers should keep their medals. No announcement was made by Joe Biden or the review panel.

More than 300 Lakota people were killed at Wounded Knee, including women, children and elders on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Hegseth referred to the killings as the "Battle of Wounded Knee."

Indian Gaming Association Leader

Ernie Stevens Jr., the longtime chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, died on Sept. 26. He was 66.

Stevens, who was from the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, was re-elected as chairman in April to his 13th term. He also served on a variety of boards and was often seen in the Phoenix area at events like the Native American Basketball Invitational.

Multiple reports say his death was sudden and came only weeks after he was honored for his legacy at a gaming event in Milwaukee.

22 Native American Film Productions Receive Funding

Vision Maker Media is funding 22 Native American film productions that focus on Indigenous cultures and history.

One of the films has an O'odham connection. "Whose Land? O'odham Land!" was one of the films selected. The film explores the impact of the U.S.-Mexico barrier wall on O'odham living in the area.

Each awardee received up to \$205,000 in public media funding toward the completion of their film or for broadcasting on public television. The funds come from Vision Maker Media's Public Media Fund, which has been supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting since 1976. Vision Maker Media is based in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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October 16, 2025 O'odham Action News



SRMG site will be located along Arizona State Route 87, or North Beeline Highway, in the Community.

SRPMIC government departments and enterprises are actively evaluating future plans for the vacated site, exploring potential new uses that align with the Community's strategic goals, according to a video from the Community.

"The Salt River Indian Community remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainability, self-governance and creating new revenue sources to support future generations," the SRPMIC said in a statement.

"The SRMG Dobson Road redevelopment symbolizes a bold step forward, blending innovative strategies with Community values to shape a vibrant and sustainable future for all."

The SRPMIC Gaming Enterprise is participating in the land evaluation process as they explore the potential of building a new Casino Arizona which would replace the current property to the north. Casino Arizona is now 26 years old, and the gaming floor is at full capacity after undergoing numerous renovations.

The Community's 2021 renegotiation of its gaming compact with the state of Arizona made possible new opportunities for gaming expansion.

Back in 2019, the Community hosted outreach meetings to gather input on potential development along the McKellips Road corridor. Sixty-seven percent of attendees supported development in the area.

In addition to future gaming and commercial development at the site, a potential Dobson Road bridge is in the preliminary engineering phase. Next would be the design phase, which has not started yet. The bridge would connect over the Salt River from developments on Dobson to the Loop 202 interchange.

"This is something we have been looking at for a few years," said Public Works Roads Section Man-

ager Jennifer Jack.

Proposition 400, a half-cent sales tax in Maricopa County, was approved by voters in 2004 and expires in 2025. Voters last November passed Proposition 479, a continuation of the half-cent sales tax. The Dobson Road bridge is on the list to receive funding.

Traffic patterns have been modeled at the intersection of Dobson and McKellips to ease and prevent outside traffic from moving deeper into residential areas in the Community.

Now, the Community will focus on a request for proposal (RFP) to be sent out to developers, which will outline objectives, scope, requirements and evaluation criteria, allowing the Community to assess realistic proposals and determine the highest and best use for the tribal land.



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The Rez Stands Still for Third **Consecutive Year**

Learn how Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community artists Dominic Martinez, Raeann Brown, Dwayne Manuel and Seneca Silverhorn, known as Woodenhead Collective, turned the SRPMIC Community Building into the 'Marketplace of Madness' for their' Day the Rez Stood Still 3' event.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

To quote a line from the movie "Jaws," the team over at Woodenhead Collective is "going to need a bigger boat" for next year's horror festival, as this year's drew hundreds of horror fanatics inside the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Building.

Woodenhead Collective is composed of Dominic Martinez, Raeann Brown, Dwayne Manuel and Seneca Silverhorn. Since 2022, they've hosted the frightfully fun horrorthemed "The Day the Rez Stood Still" arts festival here in the Community, to the delight of many.

On Sept. 27, the group hosted the third annual free event, which saw record attendance. Though the costumes looked terrifyingly real, it was a family-friendly event for all to enjoy.

Getting its name from the popular 1951 science-fiction film "The Day the Earth Stood Still," directed by Robert Wise, which is based on the 1940 short story "Farewell to the Master" by Harry Bates, the event featured a laundry list of horror businesses and artists from the Community and around the Valley such as Tiffany Enos Designs, Millie's Creations, Cult Creep and more.

This year's event allowed for many artists to showcase their talents, network with local artists, as well as collaborate with others on upcoming spooky and horror-themed events and projects held throughout the state.

Additionally, the team from the Scaredycast podcast attended in person and assisted Woodenhead Collective with announcing various prize winners and special guests throughout

the day. Scaredycast is an Arizona-based podcast hosted by Kelsey Dickerson, Tony Gautier and Brian Young. The trio focuses on the paranormal, creepy, strange and weird things that go bump in the night.

The SRPMIC Library team was also in attendance and featured a Halloween arts and crafts station for the children.

Arizona cosplay artists dressed as Art the Clown from "Terrifier," Jason from "Friday the 13th," "Killer Klowns from Outer Space" characters, Leatherface from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," "The Babadook" and many more happily posed for photos with families at the official photo booth.

Fat Dog Foodz sold Sonoran hot dogs and other delicious goodies to customers in a lengthy line. The line was also long for delicious drinks sold by Dank Drank Lemonade.

The "spooktacular" event concluded with a "Monster March" at 5:30 p.m., in which those who dressed up as their favorite characters marched inside the Community building.

Celebrating its third year, Woodenhead Collective's event proved that the SRPMIC is at the forefront of Arizona's local horror scene.

To stay up to date on Woodenhead Collective, check out www.facebook.com/woodenhead.collective for more information.





Dominic Martinez walked laps inside of the Salt River Community building as he quizzed horror fanatics and gave away top prizes throughout the event.



Ghostface, from the "Scream" movie franchise, was a popular photo booth guest attendant.



The Community building was near capacity as many from the SRPMIC and neighboring cities traveled to Salt River to experience The Day the Rez Stood Still 3.



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS · 480.362.7740 · 🖪 SRPMIC · @ SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY



Community Members Trick-or-Treat **Address Sign Up**

The Community Relations Office is bringing back our list of houses that would like to participate in trick-or-treating this year! Join the list today!

Deadline to sign up: Oct. 22, 2025



Submit your address:

tinyurl.com/srpmictreats

Find the final list after October 22 through Community Relations or on the SRPMIC website.

Questions? Contact the Community Relations Office at 480-362-7740

Native American Recognition Day Celebrated in Salt River

Continued from front page

Festivities continued as a special meal was provided in the Round House Café, and DJ Reflekshin provided the music. Representatives from the Diné-owned fashion label OXDX provided a live on-site screen printing experience, printing O'odham and Piipaash designs on 300 bags. The design was a creation of the Community Relations Multimedia Division. The bags were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. A large paint-by-numbers mural was also set up onsite for a fun interactive activity.

After a break, the celebration kicked off again in the evening at 6 p.m., again at the Two Waters Courtyard. The evening was filled with performances and a free Hawaiian-style meal. Roughly 20 vendor booths were set up around the courtyard, selling Native crafts and clothing. The paint-by-numbers mural was set up again for attendees to finish, since it wasn't quite finished during the lunch festivities.

Music and dance performances were provided by the O'odham dance group Chi'Chino Spirit from Gila River, Orohena's Polynesian Luau and the Yolloincuauhtil Aztec Dancers. Ending the night, Gertie and the T.O. Boys played popular chicken scratch music. Gertie was a fan favorite, and many in the crowd yelled for an encore as they finished their set.

The wide variety of performances highlighted different cultures in the Southwest, giving them a spotlight in the Salt River Community.

"We want to focus on other Native American groups, so we went out to search for [those] different groups Our focus was outside SRP-

MIC," said Sixkiller. In previous years the Events team has invited Apache crown dancers and Hopi traditional dancers to the Community for a chance to perform in the NARD festivities.

Promotional items were also available under a big tent off to the side of the celebration. Clear bags, screen cleaners, plush key chains and seat belt covers with the NARD logo were given out to Community members and friends. All items were gone before the night ended.

"I felt it was a good event. Native American Recognition Day is always really fun just because it has two separate parts, the lunchtime event mainly for employees, then the evening event," Sixkiller said.





BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

The rain clouds arrived at the Lehi Gathering Area at about the same time participants of this year's Walk for O'odham Piipaash did.

A record number of individuals signed up to participate in this year's walk on Sept. 26, which featured a one-mile track down Stapley Drive and a two-mile track that included Stapley and Thomas Road, Horne street and Oak Street. Over 500 participants registered for this year's walk, which is a new record.

"Thank you all for this blessed day and for being here as we enjoy the beautiful weather that has been bestowed upon us this morning by Creator," began Martha Ludlow-Martinez as she provided the event's opening remarks.

She continued, "It's truly a blessing to come together for this walk here in the Community, where we are blessed with two tribes and having them be represented here."

Additionally, Ludlow-Martinez asked for blessings for the participants and their families, as well as for the O'odham and Piipaash who have yet to

be born, "but are on their way here."

At the conclusion of the morning's prayer, Ludlow-Martinez also asked for blessings to be given to those individuals experience tough and challenging times: "Creator, remind them that your love is everlasting."

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier then provided a few words before participants began the walk.

"This isn't a race," he began. "This is a walk and an opportunity to reflect and think about things that are going on in your life and our Community."

He added, "As an elected official,

I see things that are happening in the Community. As we walk today, let's think about our families and how we can better our Community. When I first got in office as vice-president in 2006, one of the first events I went to was this one, so this event has been going on for nearly 20 years.

"The change starts with each and every one of us. We have a blessed Community."











On Sept. 26, generations of O'odham and Piipaash families gathered in God's Country, also known as Lehi, for the 2025 Walk for O'odham Piipaash. According to the SRPMIC events department, this year's Walk for O'odham Piipaash received a total of 573 official registered participants, a new record. Photos by Zoo Hornardoz









Participants of this year's walk were treated to a delicious mesquite pancake and sausage breakfast provided by Ernie's Catering. Additionally, a heavy rainstorm blessed the Community roughly one hour after the walk officially concluded.

et's Chat About Al 🌣

O'odham Action News kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

Whether artificial intelligence, or AI, is a part of your life or something you've only heard about, it's only getting more important for all of us to understand how it works and how it will likely impact the future. When you look something up online you may see an "AI Overview" as the top result or read a headline about an "AI actor" and wonder how those things are connected. AI is a broad term, and as an industry it's still pretty new. That can make much of it seem scary and ominous as so much remains unknown. With curiosity and caution, AI can be understood as simply another tool. It's not perfect, it's not all-knowing, and it seems like it's not going anywhere.

How It Works

If something is made using AI, that means it was created with a machine that recognizes patterns in large amounts of data to learn and make predictions, mimicking how a person would look at and interpret that information. The set of information or data might be more specific, like pictures of people, or very broad, like public websites. If you were using an AI tool to edit some pictures and wanted to change a person from sitting to standing, you would type in the specific outcome you would like (called a prompt) and the system would be able to look at the picture and know, based on what it has learned from recognizing patterns, how that picture should look if the person was standing and then create that image.

If we approach this type of tool with curiosity, it could make for some fun images and playful results. But this is where caution becomes key. It's just as easy for that same program to create a picture of you giving a thumbs-up as it is for it to show you making a much more offensive gesture, when in reality you have actually done neither.

How to Spot AI Creations

So, how can we tell when a photo or video has been made with AI, which is what's called a "deepfake"? It's not easy, but it's possible. There are some clues that may be obvious in an image, like extra fingers, a "fuzzy" face on a person in the background or teeth out of place, but it's becoming increasingly difficult to catch the details that AI gets wrong. In general, if something looks "off," the image may have been created or manipulated using AI.

There also are some "tells" to help spot AI-generated text, like excessive use of em dashes—like these, which have been inserted as an example—or shifts in word choice that aren't in line with how an author usually communicates. Using words that are more academic or formal rather than casual when it doesn't fit the context can also be an indication that AI was used to write the work. There are programs that claim to be able to read text, like student essays, and determine if it was written using AI, but they aren't always accurate; they can incorrectly flag text as being generated with AI even if there was no AI used in the writing process.

Unique Risks in Indian Country

AI systems have some inherent biases because of the data sets they trained on. Cultural contexts unique to each tribe may not be in publicly available data, and this causes AI systems to view tribes as a monoculture, reinforcing colonial stereotypes of a singular inaccurate representation of a Native

On the other side of that, if sensitive cultural information is shared with the system it can have implications for tribal data sovereignty. The information that goes into the system in this case is not theirs to share, and it can be exploited by other users or even be inaccurate and further harmful stereotypes.

To combat these risks, new roles have emerged for data stewards among organizations and communities. A data steward is responsible for ensuring information is protected and accessed appropriately for decision-making by authorized parties. In the case of the Chickasaw Nation, for example, they have designated a director of data stewardship who also ensures that the tribe's values and culture are reflected in the data ecosystem, or how the data is managed, stored, interpreted and accessed.

Environmental Impacts

The data that goes into AI systems lives on massive servers stored in large warehouse-sized data centers. The servers require significant amounts of water to cool the hardware, sometimes more than the communities in which they're housed. They also require enormous amounts of energy to train and operate the systems, significantly more per task than general computing operations. The amount of energy required can thus strain power grids and water resources, and as more systems develop and more people use them, the energy costs drastically increase.

3 Takeaways:

• With curiosity and caution, artificial intelligence, or AI, can be understood as simply another tool to help humans achieve their goals, not an end solution to problems.

Many free chat-based AI tools are trained to respond favorably so that users keep

coming back and providing input for the system to learn from, which can be dangerous.

The creativity of the human spirit that connects us can never be replaced by AI, so we must continue to nurture our connections with our authentic selves and with one another, whether we use AI or not.

Further Notes and Best Practices

Many items and applications people use every day have AI components to them, including voice-automated features in cell phones, smart speakers and other devices. Some software and programs that utilize AI also offer contract agreements with users, providing a degree of security for the user's data. By entering enterprise agreements with software companies, large organizations can ensure that the data that is used within that system by enterprise users is protected and does not leave the scope of the agreement, meaning no other system will have access to that data. Locally, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community continues to evaluate the different ways AI can be responsibly used without replacing staff or people's knowledge.

Understanding the opportunities and possibilities, both interesting and intimidating, is essential to successfully navigate the uncertainty of AI's role in our future. Conferences like Wiring the Rez, hosted by Arizona State University's Indian Legal Program, are taking note, with this year's theme being "Artificial Intelligence in Indian Country." The conference, which took place on Sept. 26, created space for people to connect and discuss how AI is being used in their environments. By keeping communication open, tribal communities can ensure they have a seat at the table when discussions turn to data sovereignty.

If you choose to use AI for any number of tasks, there are risks to be aware of. In a free-to-use program, the data you enter will be taken and used to train the model or could be sold to train other models. These systems are designed to encourage the users to keep using them, so they'll respond positively to prompts in nearly any case. This has led to serious consequences where human connections are replaced by artificial connections to the AI machine. This is a slippery slope for some people who may not have many opportunities for real-life social connections. In one grim instance, a young person found themselves depressed and isolated, and when they communicated their thoughts of self-harm, the program did as it was trained: it encouraged it.

This is yet another reminder that AI should be used as a tool for enhancing what we each bring to the table, not as a replacement for the human elements that create and innovate. With systems that use generative AI, artists can describe their vision to create outlines and then build out from there using their own skills and unique styles. Largescale programs can create customized picture books to encourage kids or adults with special needs to face common fears like having blood drawn using their own interests or even likeness. Other systems can create simulations of outcomes based on projects designed by teams of human engineers who connect to communities to solve problems. Without the humans, who will ask the questions?





(BY DIALYSIS CENTER)



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Back-to-School Safety and Wellness Fair

3 Takeaways:

- The Accelerated Learning Academy hosted the Back-to-School Safety and Wellness Fair for Salt River Elementary School students in September.
- SRPMIC Injury Prevention Coordinator Monte Yazzie was the guest speaker.
- Plans for November's and December's gatherings are already being finalized.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

It was that time again for Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community families and guardians to ensure their students succeed while they attend Salt River Elementary School.

On Sept. 30, Salt River Schools and the Community Relations staff of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community collaborated with the Salt River Safe Schools and Security team for the Back-to-School Safety and Wellness Fair.

The event was held to detail the ins and outs of this year's school year, as well as to keep parents and guardians aware of the safety precautions the school implements to ensure all students remain in a safe and supportive environment where they can thrive.

Miranda Johnson-Moya, program manager, welcomed families while dinner was served inside the Accelerated Learning Academy cafeteria. Tara Peshlakai, school security officer, joined Johnson-Moya and provided a few words.

"This is our first parent night of the school year," said Peshlakai. "This is also the first time we've ever had a collaborative event [with Community departments] like this. We're really excited."

The wellness fair was partnership between the school staff and the Community. School staff members visited with families and answered questions they had regarding the school year and the upcoming fall break.

After dinner was served, Monte Yazzie, SRPMIC Injury Prevention coordinator, conducted a presentation titled "Public Health Approach to Opioid Safety."

"I'm sometimes known as 'the car seat guy,' and that's okay with me," said Yazzie with a chuckle as he introduced himself.

Yazzie specializes in vehicle occupant safety and drug abuse prevention, as well as home assessments and yoga classes to help with fall prevention in the Community. He is also a certified tai chi and yoga instructor.

He informed families that the Injury Prevention team is constantly looking for ways to improve their methods to better serve the Community.

One of those methods is the new medication lockbox, which is free for members and families living in the Community. "I give you a code for the lockbox and I'll come to your house; it takes two bolts [to install it]," Yazzie said.

Utilizing a medication lockbox ensures that the medication is taken only by the prescribed user.

Continuing his presentation, Yazzie promoted the four health kiosks located in the SRPMIC. "They are always open. If we have a power outage, the kiosks have backup generators, which can last for days," he said.

Community families were then given information regarding fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is extremely dangerous when not utilized for medical purposes. According to a study conducted by the California Department of Public Health, fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

Yazzie noted, "Our security team and police department are constantly bringing up how dangerous fentanyl is because it only takes a little dose, a tiny speck, to harm someone very badly."

He then detailed how Narcan, an over-the-counter nasal spray which can reverse an opioid overdose, can be used to save someone's life.

"Narcan strips, COVID-19 tests, 'test my drink' strips and much more are [available] in the Community health kiosks," said Yazzie.

As he neared the end of his presentation, Yazzie encouraged families to reach out to him, even if it's to discuss the latest movie they watched.

"Give me a call. You want to tell me what movie you just watched? I love movies; I would love that too. My whole goal with the Injury Prevention program is to be the best advocate. I am here for you."



TOP: Monte Yazzie, SRPMIC Injury Prevention coordinator, facilitated his presentation inside of the ALA Auditorium.

BOTTOM: Miranda Johnson-Moya (RIGHT), Education program manager, and Tara Peshlakai (LEFT), school security officer, welcomed and thanked families and guardians for attending the first Safety and Wellness Fair of the school year.



Salt River Schools Cool Cats Attend Fall Into Reading Event!

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
O'odham Action News

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Salt River Schools transported students and families as far back as the 1950s at their Fall Into Reading event on Sept. 18.

The theme for this year's event was "Oldies but Goodies." Families dressed up in their best outfits from the '50s, '60s and '70s. Attendees were able to participate in a costume contest to win gnarly prizes and show off their rad outfits.

The event took place in the Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA) gym, which was transformed into a sock hop and open to all. Resources from education and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community departments were available. Tables lined the gym walls with information, interactive games and promotional items.

Fall Into Reading was geared to students of all ages, and there was something for everyone to participate in. After visiting all the tables, students and families had the opportunity to pick out a book. The books ranged from pre-K to young adult.

Students and families also had the opportunity to win prizes by going up on stage and introducing themselves in O'odham or Piipaash.

In O'odham, students said Añi añ ap ce:gig (insert name) (my name is).

In Piipaash, students said Nyaa (insert name) 'iim mmulyk (my name is).

Diné author Daniel Vandever was in attendance and spoke about his children's book "Herizon" and his road to becoming an author. He read his book to attendees and showed the pages through a projector.

Toward the end of the event, staff members taught students some dance moves straight out of the 1950s. Students also had the chance to earn a prize by participating in a hula hoop challenge; two young girls ended up going head-to-head for the prize.

Fall Into Reading was a major success, with many families attending. The gym was filled with cool cats laughing, twisting and sharing their newfound knowledge. For upcoming events, check the Salt River Schools website at www.saltriverschools.org.



RIGHT: Staff and students learn new dances.

LEFT: A student introduces themself in O'odham.

BELOW: Community resources provided students with fun promo items and helpful tools.



RIGHT: Everyone gets a good laugh in watching students compete in a hulahoop contest.



Student wins a prize for best dressed. Students share their excitement at the event.





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Read. Explore. Achieve. Discover.

October 16, 2025 O'odham Action News





One of the Three Bears sits as a witness during the ALA Civics Day mock trial on Sept. 25.

"Guilty!" "Not guilty!" ALA students get to be the jury for the mock trial.

Students Participate in Mock Trial at ALA Civics Day

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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Students from the Accelerated Learning Academy at Salt River Schools had a unique opportunity to participate in a courtroom mock trial for ALA Civics Day at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Courthouse on Sept. 25.

Staff members from SRPMIC Legal Services and the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) took the reins for this event.

Over the course of a couple of hours, students took turns either participating in a mock trial session or taking a tour of the jury room to learn what it's like to serve on a jury.

In the mock trial, a handful of students volunteered to be on the jury for the trial of Goldilocks and her famous hungry encounter with the Three Bears.

"They asked who wanted to be on the jury and I raised my hand," said senior Marcus Johnson, who enjoyed interacting with the characters.

Johnson thought Goldilocks was guilty at first, but as the trial went on, he thought she could be not guilty. "It's 50/50," he said.

"[Courtroom staff] showed in a mature and respectful way how to go about a mock trial," Johnson added. "They threw a few skits out there and their acting was really good."

Guilty and innocent signs were handed out to the students, who seemed to enjoy participating and waving the signs when asked, while courthouse staff members, dressed up as the many characters in the fairy tale, stuck to the script.

After every scene, staff members paused to teach the students about what just took place.

"The courtroom was very nice. It was cold. But I liked the story, especially about the bears," said senior Jack Butler.

Butler was asked whether Goldilocks was guilty or innocent.

"She did it. She did the crime. She's going to do that time. Don't fall for it. She did it," he said.

Jane Barnes, a senior, agreed and disagreed at the same time.

"I was kind of in the middle. I couldn't really decide," said Barnes.

She added, "My experience today was 10 out of 10. It really brought me out and I started learning more about the system and the courts."

Once the mock trial was over, the students enjoyed a spread of food in the jury room before heading across the street for a tour of the SRPMIC Council Chambers led by OCLA representative Gary Bohnee.



This jury is engaged in the storyline. Is Goldilocks guilty or innocent?



Courthouse and Legal Services staff dress up for the mock trial of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



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

SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTER-NATIONAL (SEMI)

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

VICTORY CENTER 1231 E Oak St. Mesa. AZ 85203 Senior Pastor Danny Cruz 480-427-4678

SERVICES: First and Third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Follow us @vomsrvictorycenter on instagram

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 Tues-

VICTORY OUTREACH CHURCH MESA

visit vomesa.org for more service times, life group locations, and events Follow us @vomesachurch on Instagram

MORNINGSTAR APOSTOLIC CHURCH 3263 E Guadalupe Rd, Gilbert, Arizona 85234

Bishop Daniel Lizarraga and Pastor Jason Lizarraga SERVICES: Sunday 2:30 p.m., Wednesday 8-11 a.m., Bible classes Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Visit msactruth com for more Follow us @morningstarapostolic on

Instagram and on Facebook at facebook

REDEEMER APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



Please call the Church ahead of time to confirm information. Information was correct at the time of print, however, services may have changed since then.

4th Quarter 2025 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE: **December 31, 2025**

Must be eighteen (18) years old, enrolled, and living to be eligible for the January 2026 Per Capita Payment.

DEADLINES FOR CHANGES Per Capita Eligibility: Tuesday, January 20th

Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes: Friday, January 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 JANUARY 2026 payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the APRIL **2026** payout.

Discontinue Direct Deposits: Friday, January 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.

at 5:00PM. This deadline is for submitting the Adult SRP-MIC Member's Per Capita Information Certificate. Forms received by this date will be effective for the JANUARY 2026 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of APRIL 2026. Tax Withholding Changes: Tuesday, January

20th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is for making changes to "Additional" tax withholding percentage or amount.

Tax forms are available on the Finance Per Capita Intranet Site and can also be requested by e-mailing FINPERCAP1@srpmic-nsn.gov.

If you have any questions regarding:

-Tribal ID, Eligibility & Change Forms: Membership Services @ (480) 362-7600 -Tax Withholding & Direct Deposits: Finance-Per Capita @ (480) 362-7710

Salt River Public Works Department

Memorial Services & Cemeteries

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

> Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

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

For Any Questions Call: (480) 278-7050

CONTRACTED MORTUARIES

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Goodwin, Heather-Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0900 Court Date: November 3, 2025 at 9:30 AM

RIGHTS

Goodwin, Heather-Status Hearing Case: CV-25-1968 Court Date: November 3, 2025 at 9 AM

GARZA, ISAIAH ELIAS, and his spouse, JANE DOE GARZA;-Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-4155 Court Date: November 10, 2025 at 9 AM

Goodwin, Heather-Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-0900 Court Date: November 3, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Goodwin, Heather-Status Hearing Case: CV-25-1968 Court Date: November 3, 2025 at 9 AM

Hamalowa, Anthony-Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-4634 Court Date: October 20, 2025 at 4 PM Hayes, Ariana Persuasia-Order to Show Cause Hearing

Case: CV-24-6558 Court Date: October 22, 2025 at 11

Miguel, Michael Wayne Jr.-Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CF-21-0015 Court Date: November 20,

Nahsonhoya, Damien Ray-Probate Hearing in the Matter of Juanita Kay James Case: P-21-0007 Court Date: November 14, 2025 at 2 PM

Parchcorn, Ellis J. Jr.-Evidentiary Child Support Hearing Case: CV-25-4084/CV-24-4577 Court Date: November 5. 2025 at 11 AM

Pesis, Neaveh-Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-4580 Court Date: November 18, 2025 at 11 AM

Pesis, Nevaeh-Leilani Cheyanne-Seanoa-Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-4505 Court Date: November 18, 2025 at 11 AM

Raphael, Roxanna-Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-3811 Court Date: November 20, 2025 at

Salazar, Gabriel-Restraining Order Hearing Case: CV-25-4848 Court Date: November 20, 2025 at 4:00PM

Williams, Bryann Lynn-Probate Hearing in the Matter of Juanita Kay James Case: P-21-0007 Court Date: November 14, 2025 at 2 PM

Public Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Divorce Ordinance -Chapter 10, Article 2, Division 1

Comment Period: September 25-December 23, 2025

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, the SRPMIC Council approved a 90-day public comment period for the following proposed amendments to the Community's Divorce Ordinance ("Ordinance"). The changes to the Ordinance are summarized below:

- Add no-fault divorce and legal separation;
- Provide more guidance on actions the Community Court can take, along with issuing a divorce order (e.g., property distribution, name change, etc.);
- More guidelines surrounding alimony and child support; and,
- Allow parties to create their own separation agreement to be approved by the Court.

The public comment period lasts until December 23, 2025. The Legal Services Office and Office of General Counsel will attend district meetings within the Community to discuss the Ordinance, answer questions, and collect comments.

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

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

The full text of the proposed ordinance can be found by visiting https://srpmic-nsn.gov/government/ogc/proposedordinances/ or by scanning the QR code at right:



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

DEFAULT NOTICES

BAPTISTO, AMBER NOTICE OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT CV-25-0897

MICHELLE BAPTISTO V. AMBER BAPTISTO To: Amber Baptisto

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-25-0897

Notice of Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Amber Baptisto, is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Respondent, Amber Baptisto, shall pay Petitioner, Michelle Baptisto. Payment shall be made to Petitioner within thirty (30) days of this Order in the amount of \$2,200.00. This order is final and shall be served on Respondent in accordance to Rule 5-20(c). For a copy of this Order please contact the Salt River Court at 480-362-6315. SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

HAYES, ARIANA PERSUASIA ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CV-24-6558

SARI CELINE TORRES V. ARIANA PERSUASIA HAYES

TO: Ariana Persuasia Hayes; Respondent,

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for Order to Show Cause Hearing on the 22nd day of October 2025 at 11:00AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for Civil Complaint hearing on January 16, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. and for hearing on March 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. after being duly noticed.

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

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

ORDERED this 25th day of August 2025

Raymond L. Deer. Presiding Judge

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY



COURT

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



Can you solve the crossword puzzle?

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

Across

1. Location of this year's Walk

3. Organizer of the Halloween

Arts and Craft sale event held

in the SRPMIC Community

NARD event to a close...with

9. Director of the 1951 film, 'The

7. The band who brought the

many guests calling for an

Day the Earth Stood Still.'

for O'odham Piipaash.

Building

encore.

Down

- 1. Salt River Project Associate General Manager and Chief Water Executive who spoke at the Summer Speaker Series finale.
- 2. The word 'Past' in the O'odham language, also the name of the Indigenous art collective featuring SRPMIC members and staff.
- 4. The theme for this year's 'Fall into Reading' event.
- 5. Longtime chairman of the Indian Gaming Association.
- 6. The team that defeated the Diamondbacks during their season finale game. 8. The Diné-owned fashion label
- that provided a live on-site screen-printing experience during NARD.

October 16, 2025 O'odham Action News

Getting to Know the ACESDV Team

Learn about the team behind the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and how they collaborate with management and staff in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

For quite some time now, the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) has been providing valuable information and resources to members and staff of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

From their webinars to inperson trainings, the coalition has shown that it truly cares about the well-being of everyone, especially survivors and their families. It is composed of many but locally features three staff members who have helped the SRPMIC improve survivors' mental, physical and spiritual well-being.

Domestic Violence Response Coordinators Andreah Gomez and Carrie Eutizi, along with Bilingual Victim Service Specialist Diana Rangel, shared how their work impacts their daily lives and what drives them to help others.

Andreah Gomez

With a decade of direct service working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence, Gomez has a wealth of knowledge to provide to survivors and their families. Additionally, she also provides resources and assistance to survivors who have experienced sex trafficking. "We provide technical assistance and trainings across the state to different agencies

and programs. My co-worker Lauryn has done a lot of work with on a couple different reservations," she said.

Gomez also works closely alongside SRPMIC Health and Human Services Community Health educators Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty and Melanie Nosie. She has completed three trainings here in the Community, with plans for a return presentation sometime later this year.

Providing support is a huge motivating factor for Gomez. "[E]very person deserves safety and dignity, moments of crisis are moments of transformation, systemic change starts with individual care, and resilience is inspiring," she said.

"I would like to thank Vurlene and the SRPMIC Community for always welcoming ACESDV and continuously trying to learn about how to support victims of domestic and sexual violence."

Carrie Eutizi

"ACESDV has about 25 staff members all together," said Eutizi. "Our Domestic Violence Team has five people, and our Sexual Violence Team has five as well. We also have a Helpline Team of five who take calls from survivors and service providers every day, plus administrative staff who keep everything running behind the scenes. It really takes all of us working together to make

3 Takeaways:

- The coalition has been working closely with members and staff in the SRPMIC to provide confidential and resourceful training to survivors of violence and their families.
 The team is composed of 25-plus individuals who provide services,
- training and resources for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

 Domestic Violence Response Coordinators Andreah Gomez and Carrie Eutizi, along with Bilingual Victim Service Specialist Diana Rangel, share their insights and explain their "why."

the coalition strong."

Similar to Gomez, Eutizi had nothing but positive remarks when discussing the time she has spent providing trainings and support to individuals in the Community. "We've had the privilege of working with SRPMIC Health and Human Services a number of times, and I really value that collaboration," she said.

She added, "Vurlene and Melanie are incredible partners, and we're always glad to work with them whenever the Community identifies a need."

According to Eutizi, in her work, "no two days are the same." However, the work she does with her fellow ACESDV staff is invaluable. "Even in the hardest circumstances, people show so much courage. My job is to make sure they don't go through it alone, and that they feel seen, supported and respected. Everyone deserves that."

Eutizi continued, "I want to thank SRPMIC Health and Human Services for being such strong partners in this work. I'd also like to recognize our member organizations and advocates across Arizona who show up every single day for survivors. None of this would be possible without those collaborations."

Diana Rangel

"I started in this field from my internship, as I was trying to figure out what route to go with this specific degree," shared Rangel.

She continued, "The beginning of my internship was at a domestic violence shelter as a case manager, and then after graduation I transitioned as a full-time case manager."

Like her colleagues Gomez and Eutizi, Rangel joined the coalition to further ensure that survivors of violence heal from their traumas.

Rangel also shared that the ACESDV team has been partnering with other coalitions in the United States. "Our director and response department administrator are in collaboration with the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence to share best practices and resilience focus approaches for survivors through our helpline," she said.

The coalition offers volunteer opportunities for those interested in helping survivors heal. For more information, email info@acesdv.org or call (602) 279-2980 or (800) 782-6400.

ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence:

(602) 279-2980 or (800) 782-6400

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Dating Abuse Hotline: 1-866-331-9474

StrongHearts Native Helpline:

1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) or 988 for suicide/crisis helpline

National Maternal Mental Health Hotline:

Call/text 1-833-TLC-MAMA (1-833-852-6262)

The Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386

Crisis Text Line: Text "HOME" to 741741

National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN):

1-800-799-7233

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Dial 988 nationwide

> River People Health Center Public Health Hotline:

(480) 362-2603

Patient Advocate: (480) 362-3470

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SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

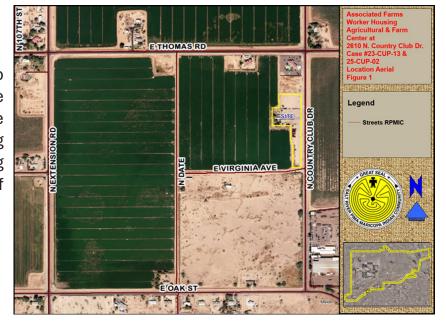
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Two Waters Building B, Third Floor, 10005 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 Phone: 480-362-7600 | Email: Planning@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING

Associated Farms – Conditional Use Permits (23-CUP-13, 25-CUP-02)

The Applicant, Associated Farms has requested two Conditional Use Permits (CUP) to renew an agricultural lease (Lease B-232) located at 2610 North Country Club Drive. The two Conditional Use Permits (CUP) are for Worker Housing Agricultural and a Farm Center. A community Hearing is being held by the Community Council as required by Code of Ordinances Chapter 25 Article 2.8.4.



DATE: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: SRPMIC Council Chambers | 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256

You May view the recorded presentation starting Thursday, October 23, 2025. Public comments can be made by email at <u>public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov</u>, by phone at (480) 362-7470, or by text at (623) 282-5757.



Rianna Tate and her father Joe "Tomahawk" Tate pose for a photo at Falcon Field at the Spartan Invitational 19.



Tate (left) overpowers her opponent as she takes her down on the mat.



Joe hypes up Rianna as she enters the cage

Rianna Tate Wins Match at Spartan Invitational 19

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

With a hulking black helicopter parked behind them and the Superstition Mountains in the background, the Rezdogs Jiu Jitsu team from the Wa:k San Xavier District on the Tohono O'odham Nation joined Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Rianna "Ona Bear" Tate in a circle and stacked their hands in the middle: O'odham cheering on O'odham.

"One, two, three, skoden!"

They were at an airplane hangar at Falcon Field in Mesa for the Spartan Invitational 19 caged submission grappling super fight event on Sept. 20, organized by Spartan Nation Combatives and Fitness.

In a submission grappling super fight setting, there are multiple matches on the bill but only one match per fighter. All submissions such as triangles, arm bars and rear naked chokes are legal and agreed upon by oppo-

The Rezdogs had their own wins, including those from Eric Havier and Cyrus Vance. But that night, the cheers that vibrated throughout the hangar felt the loudest for Tate, who trains out of Van Buren Jiu Jitsu in Chandler.

Tate's match versus Alex Bollman was her first time competing in a cage. It's something that she is going to get used to soon; by next summer, Tate plans to make her mixed martial arts (MMA) debut as an amateur.

"This was my first match as an 18-year-old adult and my debut as a purple belt," said Tate.

With the hangar door open at sundown, a breeze swept through the thick, sweaty air, colliding with the brutal sounds of an ongoing match.

In the quiet before the storm, Tate wrapped her ankles in tape and listened to wise words from her father and coach, MMA fighter Joe "Tomahawk" Tate.

"Don't rush it. Let her take it where it needs to be," he said, standing by her side as she calmly paced in place in anticipation of her

In a blink, Bollman and then Tate entered the cage, and they locked arms and eyes and began to grapple.

Tate secured the first takedown within seconds and forced Bollman to the fence before another takedown.

"Sapo! Sapo!" exclaimed Joe Tate from outside the cage. In this context, sapo means 'good" in O'odham. He interchangeably communicates with his daughter in O'odham, Apache and Navajo mid-match.

After a reset, Rianna Tate took Bollman to the mat and applied pressure, dominating from

That's when Tate switched gears and went for the submission. After an armbar attempt from the top, Bollman submitted to a triangle choke into an armbar from the guard position.

Tate was 15 when she fought Bollman last.

"I was injured when I went against her [previously], and I had multiple submission attempts but just couldn't finish it," recalled

"And now I came out in the cage, and I thought, 'I am going to get the finish. I am going to get it done. I am going to make her tap."

Tate's father is immensely proud of his daughter.

"Rianna's a wrestler," he said.

"In this match, we had different plans. But she decided to go and tell me what she wanted to do. So, I said, 'Okay, go then. Go out there and get it."

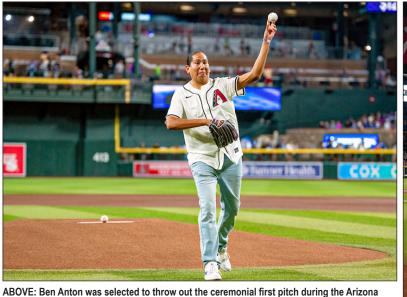
Tate now continues to focus on her main objective: to become "the first full-blooded Native to win the UFC.'

For a video of Rianna Tate's fight in the Spartan Invitational, check our website at www.oodhamnews.org.



Rianna interviewed by the announcer after her submission win vs. Alex Bollman at Falcon Field in Mesa for the Spartan Invitational 19 caged submission grappling super fight event on Sept. 20, organized by Spartan Nation Combatives and Fitness.





Diamondbacks regular season finale game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Photos courtesy of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

RIGHT: After throwing an impressive strike, Anton was joined by his three children, Naomi,



Ben Anton Throws Out Ceremonial First Pitch at Diamondbacks' Season Finale

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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

Throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game is a fantastic way to celebrate your birthday.

A few months ago, Casino Arizona held a raffle contest for their staff. The winner of the raffle would be selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch during the home-season finale game on Sept. 25 between the Diamondbacks and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The winner also received admission to the game, along with a prize pack that included three additional tickets for guests, free parking, a customized replica No. 24 Diamondbacks jersey, as well as field admission passes to watch both teams warm up during batting practice.

"We had 472 entries," revealed David Brewer, Casino Arizona Team Engagement manager.

Benjamin Anton, slot key employee at Casino Arizona and a Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member, was revealed as the winner on Sept. 22. Anton has been employed by the casino for 15 years and is also a commercial real estate agent. Additionally, he also serves on the board of the Talking Stick Golf Course.

He is also pursuing a doctor of science degree in construction management at Arizona State University.

Anton was joined by his children on the field as his name was announced over the Chase Field sound system.

"I wasn't nervous at all. I get to do pretty fun things already with the life I have, so I was more nervous about making sure I got it to the plate," he

Earlier this year, Anton performed during the Arizona Diamondbacks' Native American Recognition

He added, "I practiced with my daughter the day before the game. They told me [to practice for] 60 feet. But when I got there, it threw me off because they said I couldn't go on the pitcher's mound. So, I didn't throw it as hard, but I still made it [over the plate]."

Anton also admitted that wearing his customized Diamondbacks jersey added to the special occasion. "The jersey fit like a glove," he said.

A few days later, Anton celebrated his birthday. As far as the game, the Diamondbacks suffered a tough blowout loss to the Dodgers to the tune of 8-0. The Diamondbacks finished the 2025 season with an overall record of 80 wins and 79 losses and didn't make the postseason.

October 16, 2025 18 O'odham Action News

Day.



BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO O'odham Action News

chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov The Indigenous art collective Hekiu

(meaning "past" in O'odham), featuring members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, has been busy advising, consulting and providing resources for local collaborators, which include municipalities and tribal enti-

Hekiu members help bridge the gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous cultural knowledge and art to tell the story through their lens and in their own way on their own traditional lands.

In the consultation section of their website at www.hekiu.org, the group says it strongly believes in self-representation in art and culture and notes that "not all information in regards to culture needs to be shared with the world, and we stand by that."

Besides consultation, speaking on panels and advocating, the collective offers art-for-hire services including multimedia, canvas painting and murals.

"Hekiu projects are [an investment that can take years], and each member continues to produce art and participate in projects and events independently," said Hekiu member Amy Davila (O'odham/Wasco).

Most recently, Davila and Hekiu members Helema Andrews (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community) and Chandra Narcia (O'odham/Laguna Pueblo/Hopi) helped create a land acknowledgement video commissioned by the Tempe Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Hekiu collaborated on the project with Tempe Fire, Rescue and Medical Services and the SRPMIC Cultural Resources Department.

The video, which is scheduled to premiere on Thursday, Oct. 16, will be shown before every Tempe City Council meeting and will be featured at other city events.

Tempe is also home to a bus shelter design project by Hekiu members Joshua Yazzie (Gila River Indian Community) and Jacob Butler (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community). The project is in the fabrication phase and has a planned installation for spring 2026, according to the collective.

The bus shelter design was commissioned by Tempe Arts & Culture and Tempe Public Art.

Hekiu is currently under contract with Scottsdale Public Art for a project at Vista del Camino Park along the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt, an 11-mile section of parks, lakes, paths and golf courses in Scottsdale.

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EXCITING NEWS

We've redesigned our website and we're upgrading how we communicate!



To ensure you don't miss out on important updates, events, and community news, please opt in to receive emails and text messages from SRPMIC.



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AND ENGAGED.



AN INFORMED COMMUNITY, IS A STRONG COMMUNITY

Communications@srpmic-nsn.gov | 480-362-7740

A 'Fang-tastic' Time at Halloween Arts and Crafts Sale

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL

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

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Sandra Rodriguez brought the Halloween spirit on Sept. 20 by hosting a 'spooktacular" Halloween arts and crafts sale.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Salt River Community Building, visitors explored different craft items designed by local artists.

Walking in, visitors were greeted with spooky tunes and smiles. The artists had their own tables where they set up their crafts for display and purchase.

Craft items included decorative wreaths, tote bags, beaded jewelry, and crocheted characters and animals. Also tempting was an array of baked goods that were "eerie-sistible."

Rodriguez loves crafts and Halloween, and she wanted to share her love for both by hosting



LEFT: Tawny's Kreations offered a variety of spooky

> RIGHT: Some of the eerie-sistable baked goods available for purchase.

BELOW LEFT: Halloween tote bags were a popular item for sale, perfect for loading with halloween candy.

a Halloween-themed arts and crafts sale for the Community.

"I think most people generate stuff towards Christmas, but I'm a Halloween fanatic," said Rodriguez. "I decided last year, 'Why don't we have a sale?' That led me to [one] at [the] Lehi Community Building. I put an ad in, and next thing I knew, I had 25 vendors. This year I have 35 vendors.'

Rodriguez explained what the process was like setting up the sale and making prepara-



tions. "The process basically was letting my vendors know maybe six months to a year in advance and having them create all the different types of items that they want to showcase at the sale," she said.

She said she plans on hosting another sale next year.

"It's always fun to have something that brings us [out] to enjoy ourselves, and I think this is one of those things that people come [to]. They laugh and they have a good time, and they buy all the creations that everybody's selling. I just think it's a good thing," said Rodriguez.

'It's just a fantastic and awesome feeling to have people, you know, really interested in Halloween."

This spooktacular sale was only the beginning of the Halloween-themed events that are coming up around the Community.

RIGHT: In addition to unique crafts, some vendors had craft supplies for sale. tapping into another market.

BELOW RIGHT: DAJ Native Designs offered custom printed glassware, keychains, stickers, and more.







Crocheted gifts and beaded earrings make excellent gifts in any season.



Sandra Rodriguez (left) laughs with a customer visiting her



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SRMG

SRMG SERVES AS

PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR 2025 SALT RIVER ARTS FESTIVAL

Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) proudly served as the **Presenting Sponsor** for the inaugural Salt River Arts Festival, held on Saturday, October 4, at Roadhouse Cinemas in the Pavilions at Talking Stick Entertainment District.

The festival celebrated Indigenous peoples and their creative talents, featuring art exhibitions, local vendors, and live entertainment by artists from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and other Indigenous communities across Arizona.

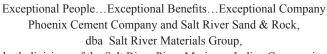
We are passionate about supporting opportunities that give artists a platform to share their creativity in all its forms. We encourage individuals to continue developing their craft and expressing the cultural identity that makes their art so unique.

SRMG extends our heartfelt thanks to the **Discover Salt River** team for organizing such a vibrant event that highlighted the incredible artistry within our community and beyond.



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





both divisions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community







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.

REZ READERS, Third Thursdays through December. Looking for a good book and a nice place to talk about it? Then come join Community Recreational Services and Salt River Tribal Library for the new Rez Readers Book Club. A club where we will focus on native authors and themes for fiction to some non-fiction reads and engage in some great conversations a we all share our insight, thoughts and experiences throughout each book. Starting October 16th, Rez Readers will meet every 3rd Thursdays, October December from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Copies of the books will be available for check out (while supplies last). Questions Contact 480-362-6600/Triballbrary@SPRMIC-nsn.

TAI CHI FOR SENIORS, Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., Ske:g Himdag Ki: Senior Room. 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,

Tuesdays | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | Behavioral Health Services, River People Health Center 10901 E McDowell Rd. Scottsdale AZ 85256. 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. 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 meet-

ings held on Tuesdays, men's meetings held Wednesdays.

WELLBRIETY 12 STEP AND MEDICINE

whereL, 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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CRAFT COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND

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

MENDS HALF OFF FOR SRPMIC MEMBERS, Every Friday Community members get 50% off at Helping Hands. Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch at 10213 E. Osborn Rd. Call

. 480-362-5625 for more information. **BEADING CIRCLE**, Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Salt River Tribal Library inside Ske:g Himdag Ki:. Open to enrolled SRPMIC members and Ske:g Himdag Ki: members. Call 480-362-6600 for more information.

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP, Every 1st Thursday of the Month, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Lehi Community Building Room 109. In partnership with SCC, Creative Writing Group provides a creative environment to learn and explore prompt writing, literary discussion, and guest writers/authors. All genres and levels welcome. Open to adult Community Members and Ske:g Himdag Ki: members. For more information, call 480 362-6600.

VOICES OF SURVIVORS: SEXUAL ASSAULT

SUPPORT GROUP, Mondays 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we will be kicking off a support group for anyone who has experienced sexual assault. Join us to promote strength, resilience, and knowledge of ways to prevent victimization. Program scheduled until November 24 at 10177 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. To register or reserve a spot, contact 480-362-5425 or email Jacqueline.Urrea@srpmic-nsn.gov

S'HE:PIJIG MAŞAD XLY'A SHAXUK OCTOBER

16 ADULT WIOA ORIENTATION, Learn about WIOA eligibility requirements; program services for enrolled participants; guidance toward obtaining career goals through

education & training. ORIENTATION INFOR-MATION: October 16, 2025 @ 9:00a.m. - 10:00a.m. Two Waters, Building B, Confer-

ence Room B102 - X'aa (Cottonwood)

17 HIGHER ED SCHOLARSHIP ORIENTA-

TION, 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 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Education Board Room. 4836 N. Center St. Scottsdale, AZ 85256. Another session will be held virtually via MS Teams on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 4-5 p.m. Call the Higher Education Program at 480-362-2547 for the link.

17 TEEN HORROR MOVIE NIGHT, Join Community Recreational Services and the Salt River Tribal Library for a thrilling evening full of spooky surprises on Thursday, October 17, 2025, at 5:00 PM! This special Teen Horror Movie Night is open to ages 12–17. In-person sign-ups begin Tuesday, October 8, at 4:00 PM at the Salt River Tribal Library. Parent/guardian permission is required. For more information, contact the Salt River Tribal Library at 480-362-6600.

17 CM FULWILDER DISTRICT D MEET-

ING, 6 p.m. at ALA Lecture Hall, 4827 N. Country Club Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85256. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs | SRPMIC Council Information: https://tinyurl.com/MeetingsCouncil | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

18 COMMUNITY VEHICLE AUCTION, See page 12 to learn more!

18 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING, 9

a.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs | SRPMIC Council Information: https://tinyurl.com/MeetingsCouncil | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

18 QUARTERLY LEHI DISTRICT MEETING,

10 a.m. at Evergreen Neighborhood Center 12275 E. Fairmount Avenue, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs | SRPMIC Council Information: https://tinyurl.com/MeetingsCouncil | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (180) 262, 7469

Office: (480) 362-7469.

21 PATHWAY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP, 5:30 p.m. at Two Waters Building B, Room B-106. Pathway to Homeownership is an orientation to the SRFSI Homeownership Program. This class is open to SRPMIC Community Members that would like to learn about the program requirements and how to prepare financially to apply for a mortgage loan with SRFSI. To register,

Email Gracie.briones@srpmic-nsn.gov

21 CM DALLAS/CM SCABBY DISTRICT F & G
(LEHI) MEETING, 6:00 pm Lehi Community Building – 1231 E. Oak Street, Mesa,
AZ 85203. For the district meeting agenda,
please visit the SRPMIC Council District
Meeting information website: https://
tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs | SRPMIC Council
Information: https://tinyurl.com/MeetingsCouncil | SRPMIC Council Secretaries
Office: (480) 362-7469.

23 CM BUTLER DISTRICT A MEETING, 6

p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: https://tinyurl.com/ SRPMICDMs | SRPMIC Council Information: https://tinyurl.com/MeetingsCouncil | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

25 FALL FESTIVAL AND TRUNK OR TREAT, 6 p.m. at Salt River Ballfields. See page 9 for full details!

SOAM MAŞAD XLY'A SHAXUK MAYK SHENTH NOVEMBER

7 VETERANS DAY PROGRAM, Save the date and see page 2 for more information!

8 LEHI COMMUNITY YARD SALE, 8 am - 1 pm Call RSVP for SPOT to sell!! Bring your own canopy, tables and chairs!! Travis (480)-622-6917 Gloria (480)-532-5996