



BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
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It was a "tree-mendous" time at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Christmas Program and Light Parade.

The annual event took place on Dec. 6 at the Two Waters Courtyard. The day included a visit and photos with Santa where attendees could share their holiday wishes, a toasty flame for roasting marshmallows to create s'mores, senior bingo, karaoke and so much more holiday fun.

Throughout the day guests enjoyed live performances from the Ballet Arizona Native American Youth Hoop Dancers, Ballet Folklorico Ollin Yoliztli and Michael Patrick Gallagher Irish Dancers.

Lined up in between the Huhugam Ki:

Museum and Two Waters Building A, six food and goodie vendors, along with 32 arts and crafts vendors, displayed their delicious treats and beautiful artwork in different mediums. Attendees browsed the booths shopping for themselves, a family member or even a special someone.

Leading up to the event, the Huhugam Ki: Museum hosted its annual gingerbread workshop. Participants learned how to make gingerbread "sandwich houses" to display in an O'odham Piipaash gingerbread village.

After the Community Christmas Program wrapped up around 4 p.m., it was time to light up Salt River with the annual Light Parade.

As the warm sun set and the night grew colder, friends and families gathered along

Longmore Road from the Salt River Ballfields to Two Waters, equipped with chairs, blankets and hot cocoa. The parade route started at the ballfields and headed north.

The parade featured 21 floats escorted by the Salt River Police Department. Floats featured colorful holiday characters along with the Grand Marshal, SRPMIC's own Miss Indian Arizona, Sialik King. Judges eventually selected seven floats to receive a prize.

Last—but not least—in the holly jolly light parade was Santa Claus on the fire truck, signifying the end of the parade. 'Tis the season for holiday cheer.

Both the Christmas Program and Light Parade were planned and organized by SRPMIC's Community Relations Office.

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SRPMIC Children's Foundation Golf Classic



The SRPMIC Children's Foundation celebrates its annual golf classic, raising money for the betterment of our Community youth on Dec. 1.

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
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The Salt River Community Children's Foundation recently hosted its 22nd Golf Classic at the Talking Stick Golf Club for the benefit of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community youth.

The Golf Classic is an event dedicated to providing more opportunities for Community youth and is the perfect way to give back for the holidays.

The sold-out Dec. 1 tournament started with raffles and laughter as participants waited for the 10 a.m. start. Music was provided by DJ Reflekshin. Two signed Arizona Diamondbacks jerseys were raffled off, those of legends Randy Johnson and Luis Gonzalez. Baxter the Bobcat mascot was also in attendance, bringing good vibes to all and offering to take photos with everyone.

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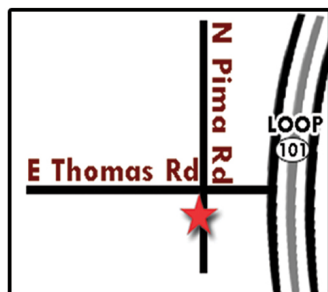
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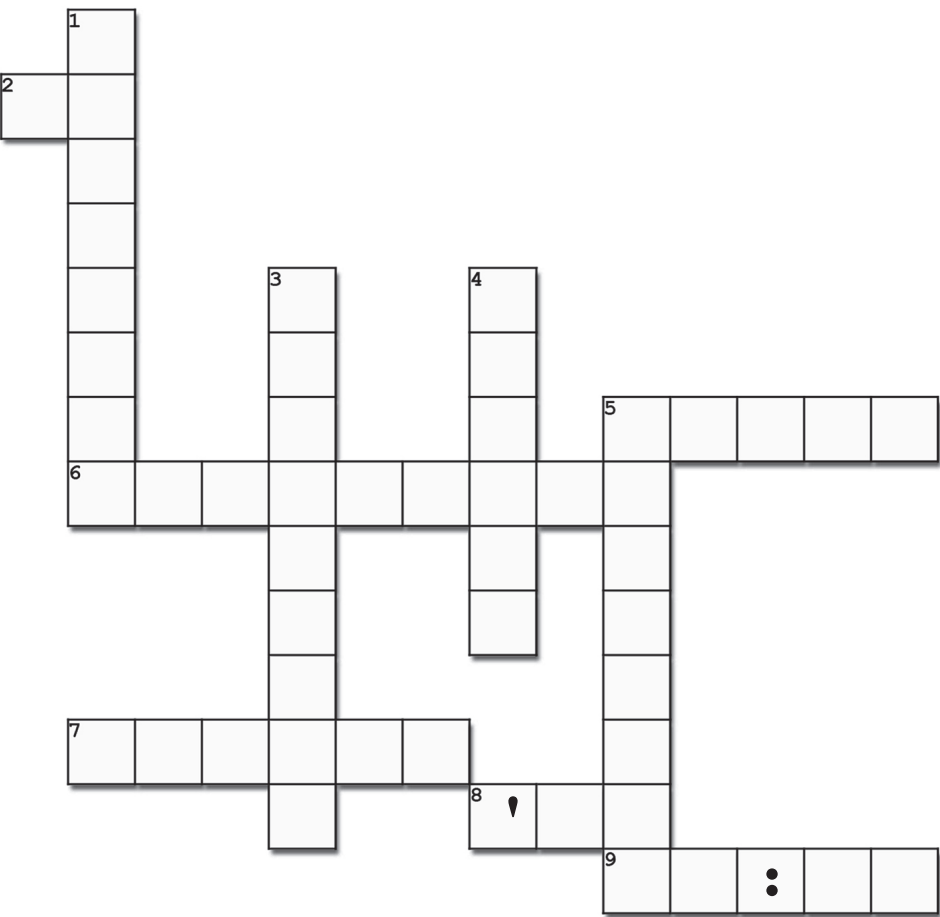
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Can you solve the crossword puzzle?



Across

- 2. The Piipaash word for snow
- 5. The O’odham word for sick
- 6. The O’odham word for socks
- 7. The Piipaash word to be cold
- 8. The Piipaash word for wood
- 9. The O’odham word for coffee

Down

- 1. The O’odham word for coat
- 3. The Piipaash word for winter
- 4. The Piipaash word for matches
- 5. The O’odham word for scarf

O’odham Words

- Ko:vi (coffee)
- Kakalsido (socks)
- Moñjelic (scarf)
- Vagdalik (coat)
- Mumku (sick)

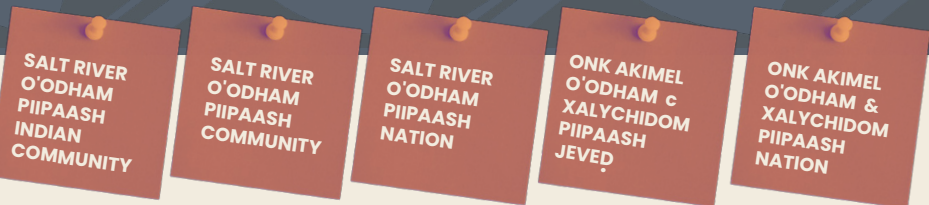
Piipaash Words

- Xchurk (be cold)
- Nyaa xchur (winter)
- Sa (snow)
- Shqiir (matches)
- ‘ii (Wood)

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News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER
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Arizona Tribe Gifts Christmas Tree to State Capitol

The Hualapai Tribe in northwestern Arizona gifted a 30-foot pinyon pine tree to the state of Arizona that is now on display at the state capitol during the holiday season.

The tribe, in partnership with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, harvested the tree on Native land.

The official tree-lighting ceremony in Phoenix took place at the executive tower on Dec. 1.

Arizona MMIP Task Force Hosts Listening Sessions

The Arizona Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force hosted three Survivor and Family Listening Sessions this fall.

Two sessions were held in Phoenix in November and a third was held in Flagstaff in December. Each was scheduled for seven hours.

The sessions were an opportunity for the task force to meet with Native communities to hear from families and individuals impacted by MMIP.

Office for Indian Veterans Support Established

The federal Indian Health Service has created a new Office for Indian Veterans Support to improve federal coordination and services for American Indian and Alaska Native veterans.

The office will be led by Capt. Carmen “Skip” Clelland, who is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. He will serve as the primary liaison among IHS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, tribes and tribal organizations.

More information about the support office can be found on the IHS website, www.ihs.gov.

Justice Department Shares Update on Violent Crimes

The U.S. Department of Justice announced the results of its latest deployment under Operation Not Forgotten, an initiative to help investigate violent crimes in Indian Country.

The FBI sent 64 personnel, rotating in 30- to 90-day temporary duty assignments over a six-month period, to support field offices across 10 states. The FBI worked in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions.

The FBI’s initiatives netted 1,123 arrests, recovered 304 weapons, and identified or located 458 children who were victims of crimes, according to the Justice Department.

Phoenix Suns Arena Installs Land Acknowledgment Plaque

The Mortgage Matchup Center, home to the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury, now has a permanent land acknowledgment plaque.

The plaque was installed near the tribal flag wall.

The Suns hosted a Native American heritage night on Nov. 16, when the plaque was revealed. The Suns posted a photo of the plaque on social media.

HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. Tours Journey to Recovery Facility



United States Health and Human Services Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. visited the Journey To Recovery facility at River People Health Center.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. made his second stop this year at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on Nov. 19 for a private roundtable discussion and tour of the new Journey to Recovery (JTR) residential treatment facility on the River People Health Center (RPHC) campus.

Kennedy's first visit to the Community this year, on Aug. 30 at the RPHC, was an impromptu gathering with SRPMIC leadership and SRPMIC Health and Human Services staff which came to fruition that weekend while Kennedy was in town visiting his son, who lives in the Phoenix area.

This time, Kennedy was able to visit the JTR facility, which he called "an extraordinary model, a success story" in an exclusive interview with O'odham Action News.

When asked about the importance of behavioral health and recovery treat-

3 Takeaways:

- This was the secretary's second visit to the SRPMIC in 2025 to learn more about the Community's health and addiction recovery facilities.
- A roundtable of SRPMIC, Journey to Recovery, HHS and U.S. HHS leaders met to talk about the health needs of the Community.
- Kennedy commented on nutrition and processed foods in Indian Country, the Community's "5 in 5" initiative, and Journey to Recovery being a model for addiction-recovery services in Indian Country.

ment in Native American communities, Kennedy said that it is "important for our whole country" but also that "the crisis is most acute in Indian Country."

"It's now the largest killer of young people. We're losing close to 80,000 kids a year," said Kennedy. He could have been referring to provisional data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which estimated that about 80,000 people in the United States died from drug overdoses in 2024, a 27% decline from 2023. Available data from the CDC shows that firearms are currently the leading cause of death for U.S. children and teens, accounting for about 18% of deaths in that data pool.

In 2023, the leading cause of death among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people ages 10 to 34 was unintentional injury, followed by suicide, according to the CDC.

After the private tour with JTR staff, Kennedy said that he was impressed with the facility and what it offers to Community members and Native Americans in need of addiction treatment.

"I think if we can figure out how to crack the code in Indian Country, we

can deal with the issue everywhere.

This is one of the models for how to do it right," said Kennedy.

The focal point of the roundtable was mental and behavioral health issues, substance abuse recovery efforts, sober housing, traditional healing and how the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can improve these areas in tribal communities.

In 2024, the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved 1,115 waivers for AI/AN traditional healthcare practices to be covered under Medicaid in Arizona and three other states. These waivers are now in effect.

"We're going to look at how it performs," said Kennedy. "But for the first time, we're allowing traditional healing to get compensated under those federal programs."

The roundtable included Kennedy, SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr., U.S. HHS senior advisor Mark Cruz, Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Gabriel Lopez, SRPMIC Chief Behavioral Health Officer Dr. Nathan Velez, SRPMIC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Amy Beiter, Native American Connections Clinical Assistant Professor Christopher Sharp, Native Health Director of Behavioral Health Joy Golden, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation Director of Wassaja Family Services Tamara Tuia, and Indian Health Service Acting Deputy Director for Management Operations Rose Weahkee.

Kennedy said that one big preoccupation for him is nutrition for Native Americans across Indian Country.

"Ultraprocessed foods are killing all Americans. They now have the worst health of [people in] any country in the world. But in Indian Country, once

again it's more pronounced. Ultraprocessed food is bad for everybody, but it's absolutely poisonous for American Indians," said Kennedy.

"I remember 20 years ago being on the Hopi Reservation, and I'm talking about white as white flour, white sugar, white grease, and how that was the sort of coup de grâce of the just continuing genocide."

Kennedy continued, "And the Pima Indians are, you know, a really good example, almost like a natural experiment. Because on this side of the border, Pima Indians, ... used to be among the longest-lived populations in North America—they talk about them as being expected to live to 104 years old—and now they are the shortest lived. They have the highest diabetes rates, highest obesity rates, terrible cardiac problems. But if you go across the border to Mexico, other Pima Indians, they're still slim and long lived and have very, very little diabetes or heart disease. And it's all because of diet."

The Community's "5 in 5" health initiative to increase Community members' average life expectancy by five years within five years particularly impressed Kennedy.

"I think it's a really important ambition, and just saying '5 in 5' and explaining to people what it means is important to educate," said Kennedy.

"Why did they lose so much lifespan? And what is that robbing us of? And a lot of it has to do with kids dying young because of addiction and overdoses. It also has to do with adults being sicker and living less fulfilling lives. And, so I think, you know, that it's the spear tip of a problem that if we can solve that problem, a lot of other things will fall into place."

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Deb Haaland served as the secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2021-2025. She is now running for governor of New Mexico.

Deb Haaland Delivers Lecture at ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

3 Takeaways:

- Deb Haaland served as the 54th U.S. Interior secretary during the Biden administration.
- The annual lecture promotes tribal sovereignty and self-governance for students at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.
- Former speakers at the annual William C. Canby Jr. Lecture include Kristen Carpenter, director, American Indian Law Program, University of Colorado Law School (2021-2022); Herb Yazzie, chief justice, Navajo Nation Supreme Court (2010-2011); and Diane Enos, former president of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (2008-2009).

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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On Nov. 26, lawyers, law school students, current and former tribal officials,

and many more made their way to the W.P. Carey Foundation Armstrong Great Hall at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University's downtown Phoenix campus for a special lecture.

The annual lecture is named after William C. Canby Jr., a founding faculty member of ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and the Indian Legal Program. The lecture gives current and upcoming lawyers and leaders an opportunity to connect with policymakers while ensuring the perspectives of Indian Country are upheld.

Patty Ferguson Bohnie, faculty director of the ASU Indian Legal Program, welcomed guests to the annual lecture.

This year's invited guest speaker was Deb Haaland, who served as secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2021 to 2025. Her lecture was titled "A Path to A New Era: Indigenous Leadership."

Born in Winslow, Arizona, Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) is running for governor of New Mexico as a Democrat in next year's election. She was one of the first Indigenous women to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives prior to her role at the Interior Department.

"It's such an honor to be back in Arizona, the state where my grandparents spent 45 years working on the railroads because of America's forced assimilation policies, which led to my birth in Winslow," began Haaland.

She continued, "We're also a stone's throw away from the Gila River Indian Community, the location where the the president of the United States apologized for our country's role in the federal boarding school era."

During her prepared remarks, Haaland paid respects to Judge Canby, who was in attendance with his wife, Jane. "When Indian Country relied on our allies, Judge Canby was there, fighting the good fight, making fair and good decisions. Judge Canby, your life's work has changed our country for the better. Thank you."

Haaland also addressed the law students who will one day graduate and become lawyers. "In my view, leadership quality matters even more than just having ego or self-interest. Good leadership is imperative—those who care about the many and not just the privileged.

"Native people are our country's first land stewards. Leadership in our communities requires genuine care. Indigenous leadership should ensure the adults in the room work hard to leave generations to come with a sustainable future that nurtures the values of community and prosperity that our ancestors held dear."

She later detailed that her pueblo is a matrilineal one. When she was growing up, she said, her mother oversaw the household. "Even if my dad thought he was in charge," said Haaland with a smile.

"Indigenous leadership is not about the individual," added Haaland, "but

rather our people collectively and the power we have when we work together. Indigenous people do not work to exclude people; instead, we strive to fight for everyone, the land and our non-human relatives. Because we know that we are more capable to tackle the challenges we face if we work together."

Haaland received a standing ovation from the crowd as her speech came to an end.

Later, during a question-and-answer panel discussion, Haaland fielded questions about water rights, artificial intelligence and the status of the national Native American Boarding School coalition under the Trump administration.



Diane Enos, former Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community president, asked Haaland about artificial intelligence and its impacts on the Earth. Enos previously served as a guest speaker at this event.

Artificial Intelligence and Its Impacts on the Environment

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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Though "6-7" was officially declared the Word of the Year for 2025, when you look at it one way, the word "prompt" had a chance to achieve that designation as well.

A prompt is a user-submitted command generated when creating an image, file, document or project within an artificial intelligence (AI)-based app, such as Microsoft's Copilot or Chat-GPT.

Sadly, every prompt takes away precious water from Mother Earth because it activates processes at a data center. A data center is a room or building that houses computer servers and related equipment. As part of their operation, data centers rely on cooling systems which utilize fresh water from their local communities and cities.

According to a study conducted by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, a medium-sized data center consumes roughly 110 million gallons of water per year, or 300,000 gallons of water per day, to cool its estimated 2,000 to 10,000 servers.

To put it into perspective, a company of 2,000 individuals requires an estimated four to 12 servers, if their servers reside on the company's premises. If they are cloud-based servers, which can be offsite, on average 10 to 25 servers are needed for the 2,000 employees.

Metro Phoenix is the fourth-largest data-center market in the United States, with 154 data centers. Companies establishing major data centers in Arizona include Microsoft Azure, Aligned Data Centers, Digital Reality and phoenixNAP.

3 takeaways

- A medium-sized data center uses 300,000 gallons of water per day.
- The closest larger data center to the Community is Liquid Web Phoenix, located on at Scottsdale Road and Indian Bend.
- Arizona ranks fourth in the nation in the data-center market.

The larger data center located closest to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is Liquid Web Phoenix, located west of here at Scottsdale Road and Indian Bend. In hotter climates, like here in the Southwest, data centers need to use more water to cool their buildings and equipment.

The Uses of AI

Artificial intelligence can help reduce human errors in, for example, accounting, data management and medical scans. When humans are overworked and exhausted from the daily grind, AI can readily assist with mundane and repetitive tasks.

Similarly, AI can assist with data-entry tasks and report generation, freeing up humans to start and complete complex tasks and projects.

An example of positive AI use are the operating systems found inside all Waymo vehicles seen throughout Metro Phoenix and other major cities. Waymo's fleet vehicles use machine learning to ensure all navigation on busy streets remains safe and up to date. The real-time data the vehicles receive while on the road helps refine vehicle sensors and radars to ensure a safe ride to and from various destinations.

All this information must be processed at data centers. In addition to water resources, data centers use a great deal of electricity. For example, in the United States, Meta (Facebook/Instagram) owns and operates 14 data center campuses, totaling 34.2 million square feet at a price tag of \$16 billion. Their largest data center is in Prineville, Oregon, a city 150 miles southeast of Portland.

How This Impacts Arizona's Water Supply

Arizona ranks fourth in the U.S. data-center market because of its more favorable housing market, tax incentive programs and lower power costs compared with other West Coast markets in Silicon Valley and Los Angeles. Additionally, Arizona's location between California and Texas means the state acts as a connecting bridge between markets on the West Coast and in the South.

Data centers utilize various types of water. In hotter climates, such as Arizona's, local water resources already may be scarce to begin with, which can ultimately lead to data centers utilizing potable water, which is clean water from local utilities that humans can drink.

Centers can also use reclaimed water, which is treated sewer water, and gray water, which is untreated water from showers, sinks and laundry that is re-used for irrigation or toilet flushing.

Groundwater is water that comes from rain and snow and is stored underground in layers of mountains, sand, gravel and rock. Replacing groundwater takes time, sometimes thousands of years in warmer climates.

Raw river water, or water from rivers, lakes and canals, can be used to cool data centers. However, there are minerals and sediments in this type of water, so before it can be used in data centers, it must be treated.

Climate change and population increases have also resulted in Arizona receiving less water from its main source of surface water, the Colorado River. The water from the river is distributed to Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California, as well as part of Mexico. The current regulations covering how much water Arizona receives from the Colorado River are set to expire next year. Currently the Colorado River is responsible for 40% of Arizona's water supply.

A Coalition Speaks Up

The No Desert Data Coalition is a group composed of business owners, union members, data scientists, medical professionals, Indigenous land advocates, photographers, researchers, environmentalists, artists and writers, teachers and students, parents and youth, community and labor organizers, and concerned citizens.

Members of this coalition volunteer their time to represent Arizona as a whole and provide accurate statistics as to why data centers negatively impact public health, water security, tribal sovereignty and much more.

Earlier this year, the coalition, as well as other individuals from the city of Tucson and Pima County, rallied to say no to the construction of a massive data center near the Pima County Fairgrounds, known as Project Blue, led by the Beale Infrastructure Group, the developers behind Amazon's data center plans. On average, a single golf course in Arizona utilizes 450,000 gallons of water per day. If completed, the 290-acre Project Blue data center would use more than four golf courses' worth of water.

The Tucson City Council unanimously voted no, and Amazon pulled out of the project. However, Beale is proposing to build another data center in nearby Marana. A public hearing seeking input from citizens was scheduled for Dec. 10.

Massive data centers are a focal point for the digital infrastructure we use every day. Regardless of whether data centers utilize reclaimed water as opposed to fresh, the massive amounts of water needed to cool these centers negatively impact the natural resources Mother Earth has provided us with.

Which poses the question to all of us: Is using AI and the resources that go into it for our various projects worth our future generations' water supply?

*S'he:kig vecij 'ahidag!
Mataam mpisxaayk nyshnyaash xotk!*



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY



WED. DECEMBER 31st, 2025

SR COMMUNITY BUILDING/GYM
1880 N LONGMORE RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

4pm-12am - FIREWORKS AT 12AM

DJ REFLEKSHIN • MOLINA MUSIC

10AM: New Year's Eve Pie Drive-Thru - Must have SRPMIC Tribal ID

10AM: Wristband Sales Tent Opens: \$5 Cash & Debit Accepted

4PM: Midway/Arts & Crafts/Food Booths Open

6PM: DJ Reflekshin - GYM

8PM: Molina Music - GYM

8PM-12AM: O'odham Piipaash Social - SR Comm. Bldg.
(Doors Open at 7pm)

9PM: Free NYE Party Favors Hand Out

12AM: Fireworks Show/Balloon Drop

This is a NO Alcohol/Drug/Gang & Tobacco Free Event. NO Pets, Firearms or
Outside Ice Chests/Grills/Food/Glass Allowed. Security & Bag Checks.

Rain or Shine:
All Riders
Must Have
Wristbands,
All Sales Final.
NO REFUNDS!

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

SALT RIVER COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

New Year's Eve
2026

MIDWAY WRISTBAND SALES

**\$5 CASH & DEBIT
ACCEPTED**

BUY 3 GET ONE FREE while supplies last Compliments of Messinger Mortuaries

NOVEMBER 21ST 7:30AM-9AM
ROUNDHOUSE CAFE 11AM-1:30PM

DECEMBER 23RD 5PM-7:30PM
SKE:G HIMDAG KI:

NOVEMBER 22ND 9AM-1:30PM
TWO WATERS BLDG. A LOBBY

DECEMBER 29TH 1PM-4:30PM
TWO WATERS BLDG. A AKIMEL RM

DECEMBER 6TH 9AM-1PM
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 30TH 1PM-4:30PM
TWO WATERS BLDG. A AKIMEL RM

DECEMBER 9TH 5PM-7:30PM
SKE:G HIMDAG KI:

**DECEMBER 31ST 10AM - UNTIL
NYE CELEBRATION SOLD OUT**

RAIN OR SHINE
ALL RIDERS MUST HAVE A WRISTBAND
ALL SALES FINAL NO REFUNDS



FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY.

Christmas Time



*Merry Christmas
"She:ki
Merry Christmas
"Yoo Xumay Ng*

Holiday Light Parade

Best Overall Department:

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Department of Transportation

Best Overall Community Group/Family:

RMG Mechanical

Best Theme:

Return of the Cookie, Johnson Family

Most Original: **Flu Fighters**,
SRPMIC Public Health



Best Walking:
"Christmas Angels"
Miles & Moore Family



e in Salt River



as in O'dham a Lismas"

as in Piipaash yshnyaash Xotk"

ade Category Winners

- Most Festive: **Saddleback Communications**
- Best Walking: **Christmas Angels**
Miles & Moore Family
- Best Use of Lights: **Shh'was the Night Before Christmas**
ECS Residential Services



*Best overall - Department
"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
Department of Transportation*

*Best Use of Lights:
"Shh'was the Night Before Christmas"
ECS Residential Services*



*Best Theme:
"Return of the Cookie"
Johnson Family*



Food Bank, Emergency Management Step Up to the Plate for SNAP Benefits Relief



Left to right: Food Program assistant Vernetta Montano, dayworker Jason Rodriguez, Food Program coordinator Helena Garza, Food Program assistant Jennifer Smith, dayworker Gregory Johnson, dayworker Placido Valencia.

3 Takeaways:

- Salt River Food Bank, Emergency Management and other SRPMIC departments partnered with Walmart to provide food to those affected by that pause in federal government SNAP benefits.
- Funds for the donation came from the Food Bank's annual budget.
- Walmart staff assisted in loading up the goods and helped the Food Bank plan out quantities of food and macronutrients for Community members.

Reduction and Emergency Management divisions drove to Walmart Supercenter #2112 on Community land to load up food into two cargo vans borrowed from Salt River Transportation's fleet inventory, which took two trips.

Regional Walmart distribution centers in Casa Grande and Buckeye delivered the items to the store to be picked up.

Walmart became involved in the effort after a conversation that SRPMIC Emergency Manager Chuck Kmet had with their store manager about what the Community was wanting to accomplish for families who rely on SNAP benefits.

"From the Council's Strategic Priority A – Food Storage & Preparedness, we knew that Walmart was going to be a partner in the Community that we would leverage in times of crisis," said Kmet.

"From initial conversations with the Emergency Management staff at Walmart Corporate in Arkansas, I was told that local store managers of Walmart have a lot of autonomy when it comes to local assistance within the communities that they serve."

Funds for the donation came out of the Food Bank's annual budget. The Community purchased the food at retail cost minus taxes.

Walmart staff assisted in loading up the goods and brought empty boxes to fill at the Food Bank. They also helped the Food Bank to figure out appropriate quantities of food and the correct macronutrients to achieve as balanced a diet as possible for Community members.

Food Bank staff and on-duty fire crews from Station 291 helped unload the food. Food Bank staff handled the workload from there.

"We were like Instacart on steroids!" said Kmet.

Valencia said that this event, although unfortunate that it had to occur, allowed for collaboration and partnerships to be formed and strengthened.

"Chuck's help should not go unnoticed, as he helped secure the food which also opened the door of partnership with Walmart," noted Valencia.

"Food Bank coordinator Helena Garza was key in providing a final list of nutritious items, volume and distribution."

The Salt River Business Owners Association (SRBOA) also acted quickly in October as a response to the temporary withholding of SNAP benefits. On Oct. 28, SRBOA members presented a check to the Food Bank in the amount of \$6,000 to supplement donations, which will be used to distribute food to Community members throughout the year. Valencia said that SRBOA also helped with a recent food and clothing drive.

Valencia also noted that the casinos will be supporting the Food Bank soon with another food and clothing drive.

"We are also able to help Via Linda Behavioral Hospital with clothing donations," said Valencia.

"There is a lot happening this season. Thanks be to God for His provision through donations and partnerships."

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

The Salt River Food Bank and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community partners are picking up slack in a major way, providing additional food for Community members on a few occasions after Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits were paused by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in October.

SNAP funding to 42 million low-income individuals nationwide, and as many as 500,000 tribal citizens, was threatened and delayed due to the government shutdown on Oct. 1. After

back-and-forth court rulings denying and approving benefits well into the second week of November, the shutdown ended on Nov. 12 and full funding was restored to the USDA.

Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson and Social Services Director Stephen Hudson played a major role in keeping Council updated on the situation, according to Social Services manager Winterelk Valencia.

With the uncertainty that a record-breaking 43-day federal government shutdown brings, Community leadership took no chances waiting for a resolution. They took action.

On Nov. 12, staff from the Salt River Fire Department's Community Risk



Community Thanks Employees For Their Service at Holiday Luncheon

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News

chris.picciuolo@srbmic-nsn.gov

3 takeaways:

- Hundreds of employees attended the luncheon, which was held at the Talking Stick Resort Ballroom Dec. 2 to 3.
- Employees enjoyed a plate (or two) filled with holiday meals, sides and desserts.
- Chicken scratch dancing and musical chairs participation gave employees a chance to work off their midday meal.

As a thank-you for their service to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, on Dec. 2 and 3, tribal government employees were treated to a buffet-style meal courtesy of the Community government at the Employee Holiday Luncheon, which was held at the Talking Stick Resort Ballroom. The celebration was held over two days to accommodate the size of the employee population.

A total of 2,040 employees were registered for the luncheon over the course of the two days, depending on which date department directors selected. Officially, 1,458 employees were counted at the venue with 529 to-go meals served to employees who were unable to attend.

The agenda was about the same both days, so attendees had relatively similar experiences, except for different presenters. The Administration holiday message on day 1 came from SRPMIC Council member Cheryl Doka, while the message on day 2 was from SRPMIC President Martin Harvier.

"I've come to realize how blessed we are as a Community to even have an event like this," began Harvier. "I just want to say to all of you, thank you for the work that you do for our Community. I know a lot of times ... we don't feel we get recognized for the work that we do, but I want you to know that the Council administration appreciates everything that you do in the departments that you represent and the Community members that you serve."

SRPMIC Community Manager Bryan Meyers left his famous rock star costume at home this year, opting for providing a welcome message on day 2 instead.

Salt River Fire Department firefighter/paramedic Malcolm Rankin led a blessing and prayer before employees filled their plates with salad, chicken, steak, pasta and all the holiday side dish staples. Some even grabbed a slice or two of pie if they had room.

Emcees Ipa Dutchover, Education Native Culture coordinator, and Recreation Athletics Program Manager David Willis provided lunch table instruction, introductions of the speakers and performers, and comic relief throughout the program.

During mealtime, the Serenade Events String Quartet performed versions of holiday classics. Bird Singing and Dancing by the River also performed traditional O'odham and Piipaash dances and songs during the program.

While employees stuffed themselves with good food, SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard shared a holiday greeting before Santa stopped by the microphone to do the same.

As part of the fun, employees participated in a few holiday-themed games like the "pass the present" table game, musical chairs and cumbia dance contests. The music for these games was performed by Molina Music, a chicken scratch band that played as employees finished their pie and coffee.

SRPMIC's Community Relations Office led the effort in planning and organizing. One new addition to this year's event were special centerpiece gourds placed at each table. The gourds were painted by the SRPMIC Day Worker program under guidance of CRO.

Employees also were treated to ZooLights tickets. Each employee could have up to four tickets for the popular holiday event hosted by the Phoenix Zoo.



SALT RIVER RODEO COMMITTEE'S 2026 SPRING HORSE CAMP



March 13, 14 & 15, 2026

Application Pick up: Round House 11am 1/20/2026

Deadline return: Round House 11am 2/3/2026

Contact Angie Silversmith 480-242-1432

**or
Andrea Stepp 480-232-3485**

Limited to 35 Participants

Jonathon Curry Brings O'odham World & Song Trails Program to Ske:g Himdag Ki:

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News

chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Recreational Services Leisure Education Program at Ske:g Himdag Ki: brought the Community together for a special evening of season-appropriate cultural stories and songs on Nov. 4 with a program at the Salt River Tribal Library called O'odham World & Song Trails, hosted by Jonathon Curry.

Curry works for environmental planning firm Logan Simpson on their ethnography team as a tribal cultural specialist. He also has a passion for growing food and plants.

His focus of the evening was to inform the Community about their vast traditional land known as Akimel O'odham and the immense knowledge of the land that the Community carries.

"If we were to take our known knowledge of places, whether they be tied to stories of creation, songs or general knowledge of land, and we put it on an equivalent globe, that's how I picture it in my mind," said Curry.

The land he talked about ranged from the SRPMIC to Mount Graham in the east, along the Colorado River to the west, and down to the Sea of Cortez in Mexico to the south.

"You could be fooled—and I was—thinking that our understanding, our existence solely exists within these invisible borders of our tribal land, but it's far more extensive than that," said Curry.

"We are truly from this land. Meaning we are straight from the soil. Our roots grow deep here. Literally."

Curry pulled up a map of 533 O'odham place names put together by Harry J. Winters Jr. in his book *O'odham Place Names: Meanings, Origins, and Histories, Arizona and Sonora from across Arizona and the Southwest*. Curry talked about 10 of them during the program.



Jonathon Curry performs a traditional O'odham song.

Later he talked about the four things every O'odham singer should know: songs originate in dreams; there is a such thing as a song language; the order of the songs is four long/four short (sing the song all the way through four times); and songs are associated with stories of creation.

"These songs are essentially poems. There is beauty within them," said Curry.

One of the songs talked about was the Song of the Oriole, *Jeved Makai Am Na:to Heg Huhu'u*. He took a deep dive into the process of translating the song. Here is his free translation of the Song of the Oriole:

Jeved Makai the creator of the Earth, he emerges alone. With a hand full of stones, he begins to crush them between his teeth. With these stones he tosses them one by one into the sky above, thus creating all the stars in the Universe.

Curry said that the types of specialty dances and songs include dance, social, ceremonial and curing. He shared proper etiquette and protocols for participating in O'odham song culture, which includes being on time and shaking hands and acknowledging each other before and after the song.



What does Health & Wellness mean to you?

The **5-in-5 Initiative**, created by SRPMIC in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, is a Community-wide effort to increase the quality of life, and life expectancy for SRPMIC members by five years.

To begin, we want to hear from you. Tell us what health & wellness mean in your daily life. Your insights will guide future programs, services, and outreach designed to strengthen the wellbeing of all Community members, and future generations to come.



Volunteer for a focus group

(honorariums and refreshments will be provided)



Take the short survey

(participants will be entered into a raffle for a gift card)

Every voice helps. Every voice matters.

ANNOUNCING NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



BASIC WILDLAND TRAINING

This **40-hour** training program provides essential knowledge & skills for aspiring wildland firefighters.



BASIC WILDLAND TRAINING

40 Hour Training

Training Dates:

January 12th – January 16th

Monday – Friday; 8 AM – 5 PM

- Must prepare and pass test modules to receive Certification
- Monetary Award for Successful Completion

Courses Include:

- Basic Wildland Firefighter Training (S-130)
- Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior (S-190)
- Introduction to fire leadership (L-180)
- Hands-on field exercises to apply classroom skills

Use these skills & certifications to apply for future job opportunities

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled SRPMIC Members
- 18-24 Years of age
- HS Diploma/GED
- Limited spots – Get your application in early

Application:

• **Application Available:** Wednesday, December 3, 2025

• **Application Due:** Friday, December 19th by 4 PM

• **Required Documents:** Completed application, Tribal ID & copy of HS Diploma/GED.

In partnership with the Salt River Fire Department & Community Employment

For further information, please contact
Community Employment at 480-362-7950



LEGAL NOTICES

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

Spex, Brittany Arless- Adjudication Hearing: JV-25-0209
Date: February 5, 2026 at 9 A.M.

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

Carlos III, Justin Samuel - Order to Show Cause Hearing

Case: CV-25-0598 Court Date: January 28, 2026 at 9:30 AM
Goodwin, Heather - Entry of Default Judgement/Order to Show Cause Hearings Case Case: CV-25-0900 Court Date: January 12, 2026 at 9 AM
Goodwin, Heather - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-25-1968 Court Date: January 15, 2026 at 10 AM
Ludlow, Samuel II - Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-26-0374 Court Date: January 21, 2026 at 11 AM
Nahsonhoya, Damien Ray - Probate Status Hearing In The Matter of Juanita Kay James Case: P-21-0007 Court Date: January 30, 2026 at 2:30 PM
Pesis, Neaveh - Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-4580 Court Date: January 22, 2026 at 11 AM
Pesis, Nevaeh-Leilani Cheyanne-Seanoa - Initial Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-4505 Court Date: January 22, 2026 at 11 AM
Robles, Connie Lorene - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-25-4927 Court Date: January 15, 2026 at 10 AM
Williams, Bryann Lynn - Probate Status Hearing In The Matter of Juanita Kay James: P-21-0007 Court Date: January 30, 2026 at 2:30 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/proposed-ordinances/> or by scanning the QR code at right:

2025 Tax Season 1099-MISC/NEC

Important: Update Your Address to Receive Your Tax Forms

If you receive a quarterly **Per Capita payment**, you will be issued a **1099-MISC** tax form. **Day Laborers** will receive a **1099-NEC** tax form. Both forms are required for your annual income tax return.

Ensure your tax forms are mailed to the right place!

- **Deadline:** Update your address with the Enrollment Office by **December 12, 2025**.
- **1099 Forms are mailed:** By January 31, 2026.

If you have questions regarding your address, call the Enrollment Office at 480-362-7330.

For tax form questions, call the SRPMIC Finance Department at 480-362-7799 or email: FinTaxForms@srpmic-nsn.gov.

Fax your Information
Verification form to
480-362-7714
EMAIL: EnrollmentHotline@srpmic-nsn.gov

SRPMIC ENROLLMENT OFFICE
Two Waters B-3rd Fl
10005 E. Osborn oad,
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
480-362-7330
M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm

In-person: Fill out an
Information Verification Form
at the Enrollment Office

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'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JANUARY 2*	DECEMBER 19
JANUARY 15	JANUARY 2
FEBRUARY 5	JANUARY 16

SEND INFORMATION TO O’ODHAM ACTION NEWS
at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov
For more information please call (480) 362-7750.
*Please note adjusted date due to Holiday

DEFAULT NOTICES

GOODWIN, HEATHER
DEFAULT NOTICE
CV-25-0900

Michelle Baptisto v. Heather Goodwin
To: Heather Goodwin, RESPONDENT

1. A Civil Complaint has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default)

DATED: November 7, 2025

CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

GOODWIN, HEATHER
DEFAULT NOTICE
CV-25-1968

Trinity Manuel/Lance Grey v. Heather Goodwin
To: Heather Goodwin, RESPONDENT

1. A Civil Complaint has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.

2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default)

DATED: November 3, 2025

CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

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

Michelle Baptisto v. Heather Goodwin
TO: Heather Goodwin; Respondent

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 12th day of January, 2026 at 9:00 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for a hearing on Monday, November 3, 2025 after being duly served.

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

ORDERED this 3rd day of November, 2025.
ARISTINA SANCHEZ, JUDGE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

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

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.

Per Capita Eligibility:

Tuesday, January 20th 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

SALT RIVER BUSINESS LISTINGS

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

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

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

ASTROS DETAILING LLC
Interior & exterior car detailing, deep cleaning, stain & pet-hair removal. Mesa, AZ • Tribal Member Owned Call/Text: Brandon Malin, 480-388-7964
Instagram: @astrosdetailaz
Book Online: astrosdetailing.setmore.com

A&M VALLEY LANDSCAPING LLC
Professional residential and commercial landscaping, including lawn maintenance, tree trimming and removal, bulk item removal, bush and hedge trimming, irrigation maintenance and repair, and general yard care. aandmvalleylandsc@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

DALIA'S LANDSCAPING
Yard maintenance / tree trimming, sprinkler repairs and service. Sherry Harris, (480) 275-9934 / daliaresendiz0815@icloud.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOQUINO'S BODY & PAINT LLC.
Auto Body Work and Paint LLC. Community Member 15% discount. Pete Moquino, (480) 236-3033 moquinoscustompaint@yahoo.com

NATIVE CREATIVE APPAREL, LLC
Native American themed clothing for babies, kids and adults. Design your own custom shirts Isaac Lopez, (480) 410-8685 /(562) 761-9341 nativecreativeapparel@gmail.com

NATIVE GROUND COFFEE
A Native American coffee company from Salt River. Winter Wood, (480) 522-8393 www.nativegroundcoffee.com

NATURES DEFENSE
Do it yourself pest control. All organic, non-toxic, chemical free. Safe/effective against roaches, scorpions, fleas/ticks, beetles, bed bugs and more! JB Cortez, (480) 453-9371 saltriverjb@gmail.com

PIMA AWARDS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS, INC
Promo items, silkscreen/embroider apparel, custom awards and printing services. 15610 N 35th Ave Ste #7 Phoenix, AZ 85053 www.pimaawards.com Ron Lee, (623) 271-8311

PIMARA CONSTRUCTION
Civil & structural engineering. Virginia Loring, (480) 251-6849 vlpimara@cox.net

PIIPASH SHELL
4001. N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale, AZ Michael Smith- Owner Piipash LLC (480) 947-6400 (store) piipash@hotmail.com

RED CACTUS PHOTOGRAPHY
Professional Photography for all occasions: business, commercial, extreme adventure, family gatherings, portraits, real estate, social media, sports, and weddings. D. Gonzales, (480) 828-5863 redcactusphotography480@gmail.com

RED MOUNTAIN ENGINEERING, LLC
Full service civil engineering, surveying and consulting firm. Patrick D. Dallas, (480) 237-2708 www.redmntengineering.com

REZHAWK TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC
Please call for appointment. Lock out available Eric Schurz, (480) 735-9730 rezhawktowingandrecovery@yahoo.com

ROUGH COUNTRY HANDYMAN AND REMOVAL SERVICE
Lester Loring 480-512-2262, RoughCountryHRS@gmail.com Mon-Sat, 7 am-6 pm (message after 6) Minor Home Repairs, doors/knobs maintenance, screens, small concrete installation/repair, small DIY projects, TV Mounting, Junk Removal Services, Debris Hauling, etc.

SALT RIVER HOSPITALITY
Food service, bar, janitorial equipment and supplies. J.B. Cortez, (480) 945-0062 saltriverjb@gmail.com Location 1: Phoenix Park-N-Swap Location 2: The Spot on Camelback

STAYSHONS CHEVRON
Community Member owned business since 1994. Boyd Chiago, (480) 990-2004

THE MAIN INGREDIENT
Home and commercial quality kitchen supplies, open to the public. J.B. Cortez, (480) 945-0062 themainingredientaz@gmail.com

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

VMK ENTERPRISES, INC
Janitorial supplies. Sheryl@vmkenterprises.com

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

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

LEHI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 E. Oak Mesa, AZ 85203
Pastor Annette Lewis
annette.f.lewis@gmail.com
(480) 404-3284
SERVICES: Sunday Services 10 a.m., Communion First Sundays at 10 a.m. Birthday Sunday Potluck- Last Sunday of the Month, after services.
Youth Devotion/Music (bring your instruments!) 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 every first Sunday of the month (potluck after)

SALT RIVER CHURCH LISTINGS

SALT RIVER ASSEMBLY OF GOD
10657 E. Virginia Ave. Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Rev. WinterElk Valencia
(480) 947-5278
saltriveragchurh.com
SERVICES: Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Thursday Bible Study 6pm

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

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

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

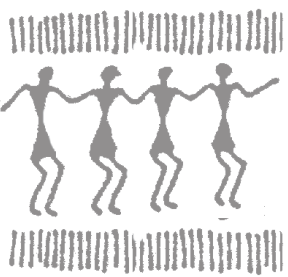
SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SEMI)
Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Apostle Edward Chance
apostleaac@gmail.com
(480) 516-6509
SERVICES: 10 AM on Sundays
Visit us on Facebook Live, Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

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

VICTORY OUTREACH CHURCH MESA
5610 E. Main St. Mesa, AZ 85205
Senior Pastor Danny Cruz
SERVICES: Sunday 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday 7 p.m., Youth Nights Tuesday at 7 p.m.
visit vomesa.org for more service times, life group locations, and events
Follow us @vomesachurch on Instagram

MORNINGSTAR APOSTOLIC CHURCH
3263 E Guadalupe Rd, Gilbert, Arizona 85234
Bishop Daniel Lizarraga and Pastor Jason Lizarraga
SERVICES: Sunday 2:30 p.m., Wednesday 8-11 a.m., Bible classes Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Visit msactruth.com for more
Follow us @morningstarapostolic on Instagram and on Facebook at facebook.com/msactruth

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.

O'odham Action News is published bi-weekly by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Editorials and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude or philosophy of O'odham Action News or the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

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PROPOSED TRUANCY CODE CHANGES

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council has approved proposed changes to the Truancy Code to move into the public comment period. This document explains what these changes accomplish and how they could benefit Community Members and families. Clean and redline copies of the changes are available for review.

1. THE NEW CODE FOCUSES ON SUPPORT, NOT PUNISHMENT.

This keeps kids in school by addressing problems early and supporting families.

 - Current code relies mainly on fines issued to youth and/or parents.
 - New code requires schools to offer supportive services first: mentoring, counseling, tutoring, transportation help, and more.
 - Emphasizes positive reinforcement, not punishment.
2. THE NEW CODE CREATES SHARED RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN PARENTS, SCHOOLS, AND STUDENTS.

 - Current code places most responsibility on the youth and parents.
 - New code adds clear duties for parents and Education.
 - Clarifies definitions and requirements so that families become partners in solving attendance issues, not targets of blame.
3. THE NEW CODE REQUIRES EARLY, SUPPORTIVE INTERVENTION.

Helps children and families before issues get worse.

 - Currently, action typically happens after violations occur.
 - New code begins support (not citation) after 3 unexcused absences.
 - Requires creation of an Attendance Support Plan (ASP) with the family.
4. THE NEW CODE INCLUDES SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR PARENTS.

Provides practical and cultural support to strengthen families. Examples include:

 - Parenting workshops
- Cultural parenting circles
 - Family counseling
 - Help accessing benefits, childcare, and healthcare

5. THE CODE ADDS REASONABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR PARENTS, BUT ONLY IF SUPPORTS ARE REFUSED OR INEFFECTIVE.

Consequences are fair and tied directly to helping children succeed.

 - Support always comes first.
 - If a parent refuses support, or if the supports are not effective in solving the attendance issue, the Court may order:
 - Community service
 - Parenting classes
 - Weekly check-ins
 - Fines
 - Education-related service projects
 - Other consequences connected to school attendance

6. THE NEW CODE STRENGTHENS CULTURAL VALUES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

Reflects Community values and promotes collective responsibility.

 - Encourages elder mentorship, community service, and cultural workshops.
 - Increases connection between families, schools, and tribal programs.

7. THE GOAL: BETTER ATTENDANCE, STRONGER FAMILIES, AND SAFER FUTURES.

Improves student success and family stability across the Community.

 - Reduces barriers to school attendance.
 - Encourages trust between schools and families.
 - Promotes healing rather than punishment.
 - Ensures fairness and due process.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC COMMENT
Community Members are invited to read the proposed laws and submit comments or questions. Public Comment Period ends March 3, 2026.
How to Comment: You may access draft ordinance materials and make your Comments to the Office of the General Counsel at the following link: <https://srpmicnsn.gov/government/ogc/proposed-ordinances/>. Additionally, the ordinances will be presented at several Council district meetings, and comments can be provided in person. Finally, you can email your comments directly to Chief Prosecutor Alane Breland at Alane.Breland@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

Attention Winter Graduates

We want to celebrate your achievement in our June 2026 Graduation Issue!

Email us at oon@srpmic-nsn.gov with your name, photo, school attended and field of study (if applicable) to be included in our Special Graduation Issue.

Open to graduating Community Members and their immediate families. Further deadlines and details for *O'odham Action News* Graduation Issue will be shared at a later date.

More Than 1,000 Thanksgiving Meals Distributed

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

With the holidays upon us, it is the time to give thanks and come together as a Community. This year, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community embraced a heartwarming initiative, sponsoring a drive-through where turkeys and other foods were distributed. Aimed to ensure everyone had a warm meal for their families this Thanksgiving, the drive was held at Salt River Schools' Accelerated Learning Academy on Nov. 24, a few days before the holiday. From 9 to 11 a.m., about 200 SRPMIC employee volunteers

distributed just over 1,000 turkeys to families in need, many from the Community. The event was hosted by St. Mary's Food Bank, which provided the turkeys, fresh produce and canned goods such as corn and green beans. SRPMIC's Community Relations Office coordinated with the food bank on the turkey give-away. "Anything helps during the holidays, especially sharing a warm meal," said Community Relations Events Assistant Kym Tyler. "Having a nice turkey dinner with family, or helping other families in need, helps to spread positivity and hope to [families]." Vehicles lined up along Chaparral Road before the event's open-

ing. Zones were established in the parking lot to help everything run smoothly. Volunteers had jobs that ranged from traffic control to collecting information and loading the food boxes into cars. One turkey and one food box were distributed per household. "Being able to aid in feeding the families in the Community means a lot because not everyone gets to look forward to a meal during the holidays. But being able to provide them food to fill their bellies is very rewarding in itself," said Events Specialist Adrian Sixkiller. "Thank you to all the SRPMIC employee volunteers who came out and helped!"



INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS REFERENDUM ELECTION

Amendment to Change Taxable Gaming Per Capita Payments to Tax-Free General Welfare Payments

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 | 6:00PM-7:30PM
SALT RIVER COMMUNITY BUILDING - 1880 N. LONGMORE ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 | 6:00PM-7:30PM
LEHI COMMUNITY BUILDING - 1231 E. OAK STREET, MESA, AZ 85203

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 | 9:00AM-10:30AM
SALT RIVER COMMUNITY BUILDING - 1880 N. LONGMORE ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

SALT RIVER TRIBAL IDS REQUIRED

Join us for an informational presentation about the upcoming Referendum Election regarding the proposal to designate gaming per capita payments as tax-free general welfare payments. The presentation will be led by Community staff members: Doug Patterson (Community Treasurer) and Theresa Rosier (General Counsel).

PRESENTATION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN AT THE JANUARY 2026 DISTRICT MEETINGS.

ELECTION QUESTIONS
(Regarding voting or election day matters)
Erica Harvier 480.362.7466 | Ardell Moore at 480.362.7465
Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov

SPECIFIC GENERAL WELFARE QUESTIONS
Office of the General Counsel
Niccole King, Simon Goldenberg or Theresa Rosier at 480-362-7450

SRPMIC Children's Foundation Golf Classic

Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King offered a warm welcome to all. She explained how the foundation helped her and her basketball team by sponsoring them in high school. As a result, her team was able to purchase jerseys and cover registration fees. She expressed her thanks and gratitude to the foundation and all who have donated to support it.

“Those are little things that really help our Community’s youth. [We] wouldn’t have been able to do that without their support, and all of your support,” said King.

Volunteers from the SRPMIC Social Services Department, Salt River Police Department and Information Technology Department, along with other government programs, set up booths for sharing information and goodies.

“Collaborating with the children’s foundation feels incredibly meaningful,” said Talking Stick Golf Club Group Sales Manager Nicholas van Vuuren. “it’s partnering with people who are deeply dedicated to making a difference for kids who truly need support...It’s fulfilling to know that the work we put into the event directly contributes

to real impact—supporting programs, providing resources, and creating opportunities for children.”

The Salt River Community Children’s Foundation, a nonprofit that started in 2003, aims to help children in the Community achieve their potential and give youth opportunities to succeed.

“Seeing SRCCF’s passion, the community’s generosity, and the golfers’ enthusiasm all come together on event day is a reminder of why these partnerships matter. It’s a privilege to play a role in something that reaches beyond the course and touches lives in such a meaningful way.” van Vuuren added.

The foundation is also raising money by selling \$5 wristbands for the rides at the Community’s New Year’s Eve celebration. Wristband sales are taking place at multiple locations through Dec. 31. On New Year’s Eve, a booth will be set up onsite at the celebration at the Community Building, starting at 10 a.m. until the bands are sold out. Rides open at 4 p.m.

More information about the foundation can be found on the SRPMIC website under Community Resources.



Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King poses for a picture with D-backs mascot Baxter.



Baxter the Bobcat showing off the winning number in the ball drop raffle.



OAN PODCAST

Have you heard about OAN's Podcast?

We're back in the studio bringing you the stories of Salt River! Listen now on your favorite app or head to our website to get behind the scenes interviews and hear directly from special guests about all the exciting things O'odham Action News is covering.

Listen Now!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY: ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Rough Riders of Roosevelt Elementary School in Mesa received a special presentation for Native American Heritage Month. The Native American Education Program at Mesa Public Schools invited O’odham Action News to the school on Friday, Nov. 14, to speak with students and share the lively stories coming from their neighbors in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. The day began in the library, where third-graders learned what it’s like working for a tribal community and the similarities and differences when it comes to storytelling in a tight-knit community. The focus then shifted to the NAEP students, who got the full rundown on the many ways to tell a story, from setting the scene with writing and taking photos to diving deeper gathering footage and even speaking directly into the microphone. The hands-on experience gave the young learners a chance to take photos and tinker with camera settings before they took turns speaking introductions into the OAN mic for a potential OAN podcast episode. The kids saw that while journalism is a lot of work, work can be enjoyable when you’re proud of what you do.

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 Schools Second-Graders Rediscover the Senses at Cottonwood Wetland

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

A school bus filled with eager second-graders from Salt River Elementary School traveled on Nov. 6 to an unassuming area of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community tucked away just north of the Salt River near the Loop 101/202 freeway interchange.

Their destination was the Cottonwood Wetland, a man-made water treatment wetland constructed in 2003 with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Cottonwood Wetland utilizes the natural functions of wetlands to improve the quality of water going into the Salt River channel by filtering pollutants and controlling erosion.

This particular group of kids had previously visited the wetland as kindergarteners for a class activity. Now, they came back to experience the place a couple years wiser for a day of mindfulness and culture.

The kids kicked up dust from the winding dirt road while exiting the bus and gathered in a circle around Community leaders to learn about their day.

"This area right here, the vegetation that you see, the trees and everything here, we put it here for the purpose of letting our Community members, especially [the kids] today, to see what it was like a long time ago when our ancestors used to live here," said SRP-MIC President Martin Harvier, addressing the second-graders. Harvier stayed for the day alongside the youth.

Four stations were set up for the kids: journaling with staff members from Environmental Protection and Natural Resources; a mindful activity with Thosh Collins; a mindful nature walk with SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler; and yoga with SRES educator Dawn Burstyn-Meyers.

"I love taking my class, Music and Movement, out into the Community," said Burstyn-Meyers. "What a positive experience that the students will always remember! It is who they are. My *ibdak* is *se:kik*."

Sounds the kids would have heard at the wetland include the faint echoes of highway traffic, flowing water, rustling leaves and branches, many varieties of birds and insects, and the roaring airplanes coming into and leaving Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Out of all these sounds and sights came lessons of introspection and reflection. The students experienced all the senses a human can perceive.

Butler gained the kids' attention as

he recognized the scent of the creosote bushes ('iivse in Piipaash and *šegoí* in O'odham) and the arrowweed (*u'us kokomagí* in O'odham) along the trail.

"You guys smell this [arrowweed]?" Butler asked the group. "If you were to put this around your house, mice don't like that. And so they stay away, and so we would make baskets out of this to keep the mice away."

When the activities were wrapped up, before taking the bus back to the classroom everyone met under a large tent to eat fresh and nutritious tepary bean hummus, fruits and vegetables prepared by Salt River Schools Food Service Program Manager Shannon Reina.



Salt River Public Works Holiday Trash Schedule

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25th in observance of Christmas and Thursday, January 1st in observance of New Years Day.

CHRISTMAS 2025

All residential domestic trash will be serviced as scheduled on Tuesday, December 23rd & Friday, December 26th.

All residential recycle will be serviced on Wednesday, December 24th.

NEW YEARS 2026

All residential trash and recycle will be serviced as scheduled.

No change to schedule.

Please have your containers out in your designated pick up area by 6:00 AM for servicing.

Thank you & have a wonderful & joyous holiday season!

SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

📞 480-362-5600

✉️ PWCustomerService@srpmic-nsn.gov



"ROCKIN" AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

with you this holiday!



From us at **SRMG**,
We wish you a joyful holiday season and a
Happy New Year!

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



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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.

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/Triballibrary@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

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.

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.

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.

HELPING HANDS 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. 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

DECEMBER SKO:MAĞI MAŞAD XLY'A SHAXUK MAYK XVIK

20 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING, 9 a.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. 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 CHRISTMAS DAY, Offices closed. Please plan accordingly.

26 DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, Offices closed. Please plan accordingly.

31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION, starting at 4 p.m. at Salt River Community Building. See ad on page 9 for full agenda, and a list of where to get your wristband to attend!

JANUARY 'AUPPA HIOSIG MAŞAD XLY'A SHENTHIK

1 NEW YEAR'S DAY, Offices closed. Please plan accordingly.

10 SENIOR SERVICES OPEN HOUSE, Calling all Community seniors 55+ and their family members! Join us for a fun, interactive tour to explore the many services available to you. Meet our friendly staff and learn how we can help support your goals for healthy, happy living! Meal for the first 200 guests. Seating will be outside, so bundle up! Sat., Jan. 10 | 9 am - 1 pm Salt River Senior Center Parking available in rear and dirt lots. Questions? 480.362.7386

19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, Offices closed. Please plan accordingly.

24 SRPMIC O'ODHAM PIIPAASH DAY, Save the date! Additional details will be shared as the event date gets closer.

FOR THE LATEST DISTRICT MEETINGS SCHEDULE, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:



Heads Up!
Publishing Schedule Change
O'odham Action News will be published on Friday January 2, 2026 due to the New Year's Holiday