



O'odham Piipaash Day 2026

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No Clownin' Around: Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises Hosts Recognition Celebration



Julia Paul (middle) was selected as this year's winner of the Enrolled Community Member of the Year award. Chief Operating Officer Don Ayers (left) and Chief Hospitality Officer Braxton Meyers (right) presented Paul with the award on Feb. 2 during the annual Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises Recognition Celebration.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
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3 Takeaways:

- The annual team member recognition celebration was held inside the Salt River Grand Ballroom at the Talking Stick Resort and Casino.
- Awards such as the Enrolled Community Member of the Year, Supervisor of the Year and many more were presented.
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier and Vice-President Ricardo Leonard provided remarks and blessings.

As the saying goes, when you work hard, you must also play hard.

Every year, leaders of the Salt River Gaming Enterprises take time out to celebrate the staff members who make Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort one of the finest hospitality venues in the country.

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Early Childhood Education Center Takes Salad to the Next Level



The young chefs learned to ask "Sa: 'o ka:k," or "What does it taste like?" in O'odham. Photos by Andreea Miguel.

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
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The little ones chopped and mixed ingredients together on a recent morning at Salt River Schools. Their tiny hands were busy, and the smiling was contagious across the room.

The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) took salad to the next level with the Blue Watermelon Project and Salt River Schools Food Services Manager Chef Shannon Reina.

The Blue Watermelon Project is a nonprofit group of chefs, community partners and volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to helping students create a healthier relationship with food. The group was established in 2016 and partners with 50 schools in four different counties within Arizona. The project's goals are to provide more local and seasonal foods for students, get them involved in cooking and encourage them to try new foods.

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Troop 2516 scout opens shop for delicious cookies outside a store. Photos courtesy of Troop 2516.

Cookie Season Is Back for Girl Scout Troops

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
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Around the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, many folks have been raving about tasty Girl Scout cookies. Where can you get these? you might ask. Well, you're in luck, because Troop 2516 has them right here in the Community.

Troop 2516 is a multi-level troop of girls ages 5 to 18. The troop consists of 25 Girl Scouts, five troop leaders and five volunteers. The troop's goal is for the girls to grow their voices and practice the life skills that will set them up for success. Through a variety of scouting activities, they build courage and confidence, learn about themselves and their community, and develop leadership skills.

The annual cookie sale is designed to teach goal setting, decision-making, money management, business skills and people skills. Funds raised are used for supplies, uniforms, badges, event fees, meals and

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Salt River and Las ChicAZ Team Up for Skate Clinic

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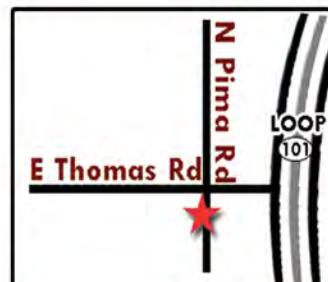
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Early Childhood Education Center Takes Salad to the Next Level

Blue Watermelon Project staff gathered with around 60 students and their family members in the ECEC multipurpose room on Jan. 16 to provide a hands-on cooking lesson with students ages 3 and 4. Before the lesson began, Chef Reina greeted the students and shared some appropriate O'odham vocabulary words with them. She said, "Where's your *ciñ* (mouth)? You're going to use your nose to smell, which is *da:k*. We're gonna use our ears, *na:k*. All throughout this lesson you are going to be looking at me, looking at Chef Charleen [Badman], looking at your teachers, looking at the fruits we are going to be working with. Looking at your hands and we're using our *wi'*, our eyes. We are also going to be [asking] *sa: o ka:k*, what does it taste like."

Badman, a James Beard Award-winning chef and founder of the Blue Watermelon Project, started off the class with a coloring sheet. Throughout the lesson, the students picked, chopped and mixed their



ingredients together to create their dish, a kohlrabi and green apple salad.

Dominique Garcia, Head Start teacher for the Bear Judaam classroom, was pleased with the experience for her students. "The children had so much fun—they loved being helpful and working together to achieve a shared goal," said Garcia.

She also shared how the ECEC values Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community culture and traditions: "Understanding where ingredients come from feels like the first step in honoring those traditions." After the Blue Watermelon Project visit, Garcia bought a plant for the classroom. She said, "We now have a daily helper who waters it every day, and the children are so proud of that responsibility."

Tina Pekovitch and Monique Garcia are the garden keepers for ECEC. They started the garden in 2021 and have help from the ECEC groundskeeper and Community Garden staff Jared Butler and Stetson

Mendoza.

"We officially introduced the ECEC garden during a Grandparents Day event, where the Community Garden team graciously joined us to share their knowledge and some goodies—including traditional seeds from plants grown in the Community Garden," said Pekovitch. She added, "We have the pleasure and privilege of working with Shannon Reina and the Blue Watermelon crew, who continue to teach and inspire us."

The event with the Blue Watermelon Project is a step in the right direction. Pekovitch said, "This continuous garden journey is a passion that I truly believe will come full circle through the children and families we serve as we continue to build meaningful connections and collaborations."

Photos by Andreea Miguel.



O'odham Piipaash Day Celebrated

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL

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The sound of sticks hitting the ground echoed throughout the Salt River Community Garden, a song was sung as women and girls took turns hitting sticks from the bottom with a rock into the circle formation they created, and behind that were spectators watching as they learned how the game is played.

This is the O'odham women's game called komai. And it was one of many traditional games played at the garden, located near McDowell and Longmore roads, during the annual O'odham Piipaash Day in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

The Community celebrated O'odham and Piipaash culture on Jan. 24 in the form of a three-hour event open to the public. Traditional games like komai, gins and toka were taught and played along with O'odham/Piipaash bingo. Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui instructed everyone on the rules of toka, and CRD Education Specialist Isabella Dockerty taught komai. Gins is a game traditionally played by men and was considered a gambling game.

"Culture is integrated into our everyday lives, and I think it's really important to celebrate that," said Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King. "It's really exciting to see and celebrate with everyone out here [and] show that we are still here. That we know our culture, that we know our languages."

SRPMIC government departments had information booths with goodies set up for attendees to visit and learn about various cultural resources available in the Community.

At the Community Garden, technician Jared Butler led tours and the Cultural Resources Department shared samples of traditional foods such as tepary beans, quail, mesquite smoothies, and chia seed pudding with pomegranate. Mesquite flour was also available.

During the garden tours, Butler taught visitors about the traditional seeds planted by O'odham and Piipaash ancestors and what they were used for.

"I'm very happy and fulfilled at the end of the day that I'm helping to preserve the teachings of my ancestors and helping to keep these seeds," Butler said. "They are only alive, and we only have them today, because we're still farming them."

To end the day, traditional bird dancers and singers performed near the games field. A few feet away, people gathered in O'odham round dances, joyful as they moved in unison.

"[This celebration] shows that we are doing great work here, still revitalizing our culture," said King.



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August Antone, Chairman of the Salt River Gaming Enterprises Board of Directors, thanked staff for their hard work all year.

This year was no different.

On Feb. 2 at the Talking Stick Resort and Casino, inside the Salt River Grand Ballroom, the Salt River Gaming Enterprises held its annual team member recognition celebration.

Awards were handed out in the following categories:

Lifesaver Award

Supervisor of the Year

Team Member of the Year

Enrolled Community Member of the Year

Safety Committee Award

Additionally, the recent 2025 graduates of the Pathways to Success program were honored during the luncheon. The program provides enrolled SRPMIC members training to prepare for line-level, managerial and executive roles in the gaming and hospitality industry.

The Speeches

Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort President and CEO John Dinius spoke first. Upon his arrival, he looked at the packed crowd of gaming employ-

ees in attendance and jokingly asked his management team, "Do we have enough people out there on the floor taking care of our guests?" He was informed by directors that both casinos were appropriately staffed during the luncheon.

Dinius said, "We celebrate our team members, who turn our core values into visible actions throughout the year. I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the leadership, dedication and courage you all bring to the SRPMIC Gaming Enterprises. Your

work contributes directly to the strength and prosperity of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community."

Later, SRPMIC President Martin Harvier provided some additional words.

"I just want to say how grateful I am to be here," began Harvier. He revealed that Salt River Gaming Enterprises is a major financial contributor that ensures the continued ascension and improvement of the SRPMIC.

Following Harvier's remarks, August Antone, chairman of the Salt River Gaming Enterprises Board of Directors, spoke for a few minutes.

"Whether your contribution was visible on the floor, behind the scenes or in a quiet moment of mentorship, it all adds up," Antone said. "Every interaction, every extra hour, every thoughtful decision has helped shape the experience our guests enjoy and a culture we are proud of."

Antone also expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Pathways to Success graduates. "This program is more than training; it's an investment in our future

leaders.

"Let today remind you that your efforts matter," Antone concluded.

Later, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer Patricia Tate announced the graduates of the Pathways to Success program.

"Pathways to Success is a launchpad to our future careers. I'm incredibly proud this year of the graduates and all they have achieved [while] balancing demanding careers, families, responsibilities and personal commitments, often at a great sacrifice. Their perseverance speaks volumes about the character and determination of each graduate."

Last year, nearly 20 Community members graduated from the program.

The Awards

Representing the Safety Committee, general managers Christian Geier and Trenni Martinez announced two departments as the winners of the Department Safety Awards: Food and Beverage and the Security team. "These teams took ownership, helped one another and proved safety is a team sport," said Geier.

Martinez then announced the two winners of the Safety Committee Excellence Awards, Retail Supervisor Cynthia Flores and Maintenance Supervisor Noel Mills. Each came up to the podium and received a commemorative plaque.

Flores was last year's winner of the enrolled Community Member of the Year award.

The Lifesaver Award was presented to line cooks Idalia Gaspar, Jessica Wahpete and Jesus Garcia. "On May 29, a team member began choking at Casino Arizona. Wahpete immediately did the Heimlich maneuver while Garcia stabilized the coworker and Gaspar

provided support while additional help was on the way. Their teamwork may have saved a life," Martinez said.

Senior Vice-President of Marketing Toni Ineson and Human Resources Vice-President Diane McMahon announced the winner of the Team Member Recognition: Food & Beverage Analytics Specialist Katie Parra.

Lead Kino Shift Supervisor Margarita Robles was named Supervisor of the Year.

Chief Hospitality Officer Braxton Meyers and Chief Operating Officer Don Ayers handed out the award for Team Member of the Year, which went to Multimedia Marketing Designer Philip Grosvenor II.

Lastly, the award for the Enrolled Community Member of the Year was given to Human Resources HRIS Specialist Julia Paul. "Over the past eight and a half years with [Salt River] Gaming Enterprises, Julia has become an indispensable contributor [with] human resources and a partner with our operational leaders," said Meyers.

Paul received a roaring round of applause from the attendees.

Paul's fellow nominees for the Enrolled Community Member of the Year Award were Tamara Hayes, Lead Rewards Club Representative for Player Development; Adria Hill, Environmental Services EVS Attendant; and Qua-Tavaish "Blossom" Loring, Concession Attendant in Food & Beverage.

"Thank very much for everything that that you do," said Dinius as he made some concluding remarks. "Remember, everything we do on a daily basis contributes to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. I couldn't be more proud of you all."

Q&A with 2025 Enrolled Community Member of the Year, Julia Paul



Julia Paul (right) with SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler (left).

1. What was the first thought that came to your mind when you heard you won the award?

"Honestly, my first thought was, 'Wow, really?' I was surprised. We have so many exceptional team members who work incredibly hard, so I know it couldn't have been an easy decision. I'm truly honored."

2. What's your favorite aspect working for Casino Arizona?

"One of my favorite aspects of working for Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises is the opportunity to collaborate with different departments. I really enjoy taking on complex challenges because they push me to learn new processes and better understand how everything connects to support the company's growth."

3. How do you stay motivated at work?

"I stay motivated by organizing my work by priority and focusing on one task at a time. I make sure to take short breaks in between to reset and stay energized. I also set aside time to

dive into new projects or ideas, which keeps my work engaging and helps me continue learning."

4. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? Who gave you the advice?

"The best piece of advice I've ever received came from my mother. She always told me to treat everyone the same—with respect—and to always conduct myself professionally. Even when respect isn't given, she reminded me to remain professional."

5. What advice would you give to someone starting their career with the SRPMIC Community Gaming Enterprises?

"My advice to someone starting their career with Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises is to take full advantage of the diverse environments and learning opportunities available. Embrace each experience and network within the enterprise to better understand the various roles and departments. Ask for feedback, listen more than you speak to gain a deeper understanding of how the business operates, and don't be afraid to ask questions."

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with the Community and our readers?

"My employment with Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises has been rewarding. I've had the opportunity to continue growing in my Human Resources career while also contributing to and supporting our Community. It's meaningful to be part of an organization that makes a positive impact."

Continued from front page

Cookie Season Is Back for Girl Scout Troops



Girls Scout Troop 2516 pose for group photos.

celebrations. Troop 2516 is, for the most part, self-funded. The cookies are on sale for about six weeks from January to March; boxes are available both online and at booths and pop-up shops around the Community.

This year the troop is collaborating with Ske:g Himdag Ki: and will be present their facility during sporting events like the Valentine's Day Classic on Feb. 14 and the Jr. High Basketball Tournament.

For links to buy some delicious cookies from your Community Girl Scouts, visit oodhamnews.com or scan the QR Code below:



SRPMIC Girl Scout Troop 2516

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Della Rae Johnson
Leilani Leonard
Ariyah Manuel
Kniah Reina
Penelope Schurz
Wini Yazzie

Brownie

Candice Buckholz-

Lewis

Gracie Leyvas

Mitzi Miller-Jefferson

Junior

Harmony Brown

Arianna Molina

Aubree Williams

Cadette

Ambrielle Herrera

Skye Spencer-Redhouse

2025 RECOGNITION AWARDS

Congratulations on your accomplishments, and thank you for your contributions to the success of the Salt River Community Gaming Enterprises!



LIFESAVER AWARD

Jesus Garcia, Jessica Wahpeta
& Idalia Gaspar (not pictured)



ENROLLED COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Julia Paul



TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Philip Grosvenor II



SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Margarita Robles



RECOGNITION COMMITTEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

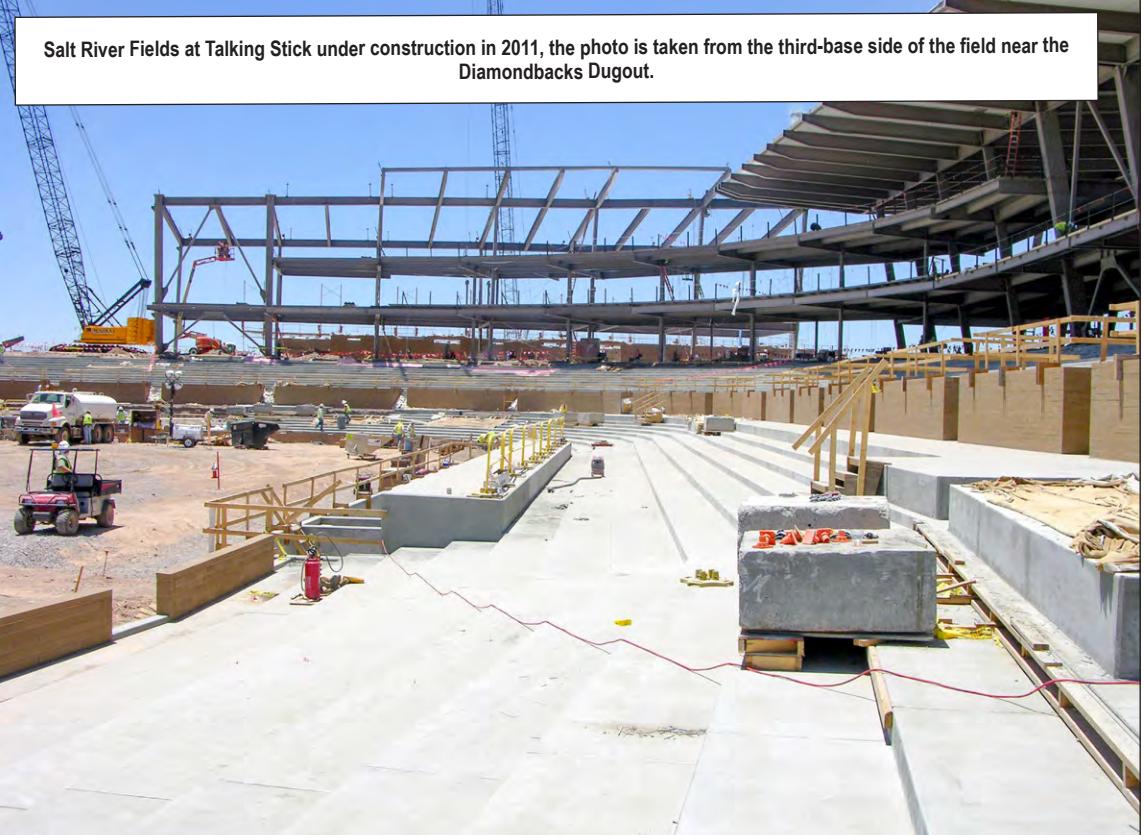
Katie Parra



SAFETY COMMITTEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Noel Mills & Cynthia Flores

Salt River Fields at Talking Stick under construction in 2011, the photo is taken from the third-base side of the field near the Diamondbacks Dugout.



Members of the Bird Singing and Dancing by the River perform a Piipaash social song for the VIP grand opening of Salt River Fields in 2011.



The Salt River Traditional Dancers performed the basket dance near home plate to a crowd of 4,000 spectators; the performance was televised live on MLB-TV during the World Baseball Classic in 2013 where Team Mexico and Team Italy went head to head.



La'Zensiah Vest participates in Larry Fitzgerald Football ProCamp held at Salt River Fields along with other SRPMIC Youth in 2018.



Over 40 Salt River Elementary School students perform the national anthem in O'odham during the 2013 opening ceremony of the spring training game featuring the Colorado Rockies and Oakland A's on March 3.



Talking Stick Entertainment District ambassadors welcome, educate, and direct visitors who rode the complimentary spring training trolleys at the Pavillions at Talking stick. Picture taken in 2014.

World series champion Jacoby Ellsbury participates in group exercises on Jan. 11, 2014 at the Jacoby Ellsbury Baseball Camp at Salt River Fields.



Current SRPMIC President and former Vice-President Martin Harvier and former President Diane Enos joined distinguished guests for the opening game in 2011.



SRPMIC former President Diane Enos and Current President Martin Harvier throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Dbacks and Rockies game in 2012.



SRPMIC President and former Vice-President Martin Harvier threw the first pitch, signifying the start of the ball game in 2014.

Look Back In Time! WHEN SALT RIVER BEGAN ITS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH MLB

BY ANDREA MIGUEL
O'odham Action News
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Major League Baseball is back. It all kicks off with spring training in Arizona and Florida. Half of the teams play in Arizona's Cactus League, while the other half play in the Grapefruit League in Florida. For a little over two months, baseball teams play in exhibition games throughout the Valley. What makes the Cactus League so special is that all the venues are within driving distance from one another, some less than 30 minutes.

The award-winning Salt River Fields at Talking Stick held its grand opening on Feb. 11, 2011, as the first and only Major League Baseball spring training

facility built on Native land. This year Salt River Fields will be celebrating 15 years as a premier venue for baseball and many other special events that take place in the Community. Feb. 20 marks the first spring training game, a cross-field battle between the two host teams, the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies. The Feb. 20 game also will be SRPMIC Day at Salt River Fields.

The 11,000-seat ballpark spreads across 140 acres and makes a positive impact on the Community as a SRPMIC enterprise. Let's look back to the unique history of Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.

DIAMONDBACKS VS. ROCKIES FIRST GAME SCORES

INAUGURAL GAME 2011 DIAMONDBACKS 7 - ROCKIES 8

2012 DIAMONDBACKS 10 - ROCKIES 7

2013 DIAMONDBACKS 2 - ROCKIES 11

2014 DIAMONDBACKS 0 - ROCKIES 11

2015 DIAMONDBACKS 6 - ROCKIES 2

2016 DIAMONDBACKS 5 - ROCKIES 6

2017 DIAMONDBACKS 4 - ROCKIES 8

2018 DIAMONDBACKS 5 - ROCKIES 2

2019 DIAMONDBACKS 3 - ROCKIES 7

2020 DIAMONDBACKS 0 - ROCKIES 3

2021 DIAMONDBACKS 2 - ROCKIES 5

2022 DIAMONDBACKS 3 - ROCKIES 5

2023 DIAMONDBACKS 5 - ROCKIES 12

2024 DIAMONDBACKS 0 - ROCKIES 3

2025 DIAMONDBACKS 8 - ROCKIES 12

SALT RIVER AND LAS CHICAZ TEAM UP FOR SKATE CLINIC



Nearly 20 skateboarders attended the SRPMIC and Las ChicAZ free skate clinic on Jan. 23 at the SRPMIC skate park, located at the Ske:g Himdag Ki:.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Adaptive Recreation Coordinator Ethan Larned is always looking for new ways to get Community youth involved in fun and exciting activities and games.

Late last year, Larned met with Natalie Krishna Das, who is the owner of Las ChicAZ, an Arizona nonprofit that promotes the basics of skateboarding as part of a healthy lifestyle. The two began chatting and eventually began brainstorming on how they could collaborate on future projects and events.

Weeks later, their brainstorming conversation turned into reality.

On Jan. 23, with the help of Las ChicAZ, Community children spent the evening learning how to become the next great skateboard legend like superstar skateboarder Tony Hawk and the first-ever female pro skateboarder, the late Patti McGee, a.k.a. "the First Betty."

Nearly 20 skateboarders and their families attended the clinic, which was held at the Salt River Skate Park and included a coloring book cool-down session. Helmets, skateboards, safety pads, dinner and more were provided to ensure the safety and protection of all skating participants.

"Las ChicAZ is a conglomerate of women, and some guys too, and we take lots of fun trips together to plan epic skateboard events," said Das.

To date, Las ChicAZ has traveled throughout Arizona, California and Mexico to educate and share how skateboarding can contribute to a healthy

and positive lifestyle.

She continued, "We're excited to be here. We've also created a custom coloring book; we're excited to share that."

The skateboard-themed coloring book featured black-and-white designs by local children who participate in events hosted by Las ChicAZ. Each completed art submission was sent to Das for the creation of the coloring book.

Das also said that each clinic they host features a word or theme of the day. The theme for this skate clinic was "perseverance."

"We'll teach the kids about the word 'persever-

ance,' have them use it in a sentence and then share different stories about how we persevere," said Das.

Additionally, Das and her fellow skate clinic team members presented each skateboarder with friendship beads as a token of their appreciation. "For any good deed we see them doing, or if they do any special tricks, we give them one of these special beads."

Das stated that the Community was "very nice" to her and the Las ChicAZ team, and the nonprofit looks forward to returning to the SRPMIC soon.



The clinic offered 3 levels of skating instruction: brand new to skateboarding, beginner and expert.



Girls ages 5-16 spent the evening showing off their newly-learned tricks.



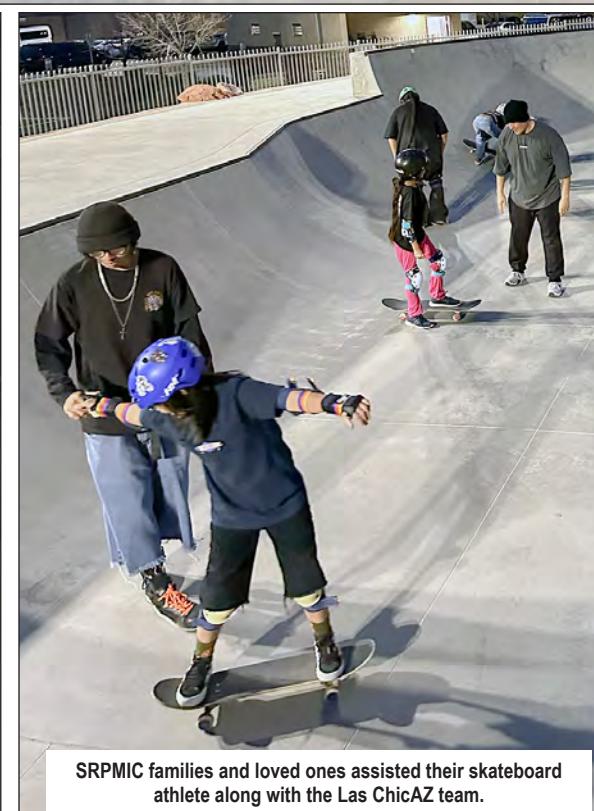
Free helmets and safety equipment were handed out to each child.



Smiles aplenty were had by children as they learned the ins and outs on how to become the next great skateboarder.



For a cool-down session, children were provided free skateboard-themed coloring books and supplies.



SRPMIC families and loved ones assisted their skateboard athlete along with the Las ChicAZ team.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS IF CONTACTED BY ICE

- Stay Calm
- Be respectful
- Do not argue or resist

IF APPROACHED OR DETAINED

- Do not resist
- Do not sign anything
- Ask for a lawyer

You do not have to answer questions. You may say:

"I am a U.S. Citizen and a member of a federally recognized tribe. I choose to remain silent and request legal counsel."

Do not consent to searches. You may say:

"I do not consent to any searches."

IDENTIFICATION

- You are not required to carry documents
- Copies may help (Tribal ID, CIB, State ID)

WHEN ID IS REQUIRED

- If lawfully detained or arrested
- When driving
- Entering secure facilities
- By court order

NEED HELP?

PD Non-Emergency: 480-850-9320

This flyer is for information only. Not legal advice.



2026 SRPMIC REFERENDUM ELECTION RESULTS

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



YES 825



NO 604

Questions? Please contact Council Secretaries
Office at (480) 362-7469

UNITY Midyear Conference Focuses on Service and Justice for Emerging Leaders

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News

chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

UNITY hosted its three-day midyear conference over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend from Jan. 17 to 19 at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown.

Headquartered in Mesa and founded in 1976, UNITY is a national network organization that promotes personal development, citizenship and leadership among Native American youth. UNITY stands for United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.

More than 600 Native youth from tribal communities throughout the United States attended the conference, which combined organized training with community-building events, cultural programming and spaces that strengthen identity, belonging and leadership across regions. The Young River People's Council of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was among the many youth councils to attend.

The conference celebrated Dr. King's legacy by building real-world action plans rooted in service, justice and community power.

"Our goal for this conference was to equip young people with tools for change. Our youth-led, adult-supported curriculum was designed so that attendees could finish a full 10-step plan to take home and implement in their communities," said Mary Kim Titla, UNITY executive director, in a statement.

"The top issues were mental health and wellness, social justice, cultural revitalization and climate action, the importance of which was also addressed by our keynote speakers."

The finalized 10-step action plans from attendees were presented for peer affirmation and strengths-based feedback. One group per track was selected to share at the General Assembly.

To begin the conference, the Arizona Science Center partnered with UNITY for a free screening of the documentary "Remaining Native."

A Q&A session was held after the screening with director Paige Bethmann and Native American runner Ku Stevens, Nike N7 Ambassador and the subject of the film.

Saturday's keynote speaker, Olympic champion Billy Mills, challenged youth to lead with discipline, purpose and community responsibility. On Sunday, Indigenous leader Judith LeBlanc's keynote focused on leadership, advocacy and civic engagement.

Attendees also benefitted from college and career workshops sponsored by Arizona State University.

The weekend included time for attendees to unwind and enjoy dancing and listening to UNITY O'odham cu:dk and waila (chicken scratch) music, as well as participating in a UNITY inter-tribal round dance.

Registration is now open for UNITY's National Conference at the Oklahoma City Convention Center from July 10 to 14; advanced registration rates are available through Feb. 28. The conference will celebrate UNITY's 50 years of empowering and serving American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

Visit www.unityinc.org for more information.

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
Landscaping and yard work services Navin Wood 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 dajnatedesigns@gmail.com

DALIA'S LANDSCAPING
Yard maintenance / tree trimming, sprinkler repairs and service. Sherry Harris, (480) 275-9934 / daliarendis0815@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

JOLYN'S HEALING HANDS, LLC

Jolyn, a licensed massage therapist, provides relaxation, healing & wellness services. Jolyn S has been in the healing industry since 2009. Visit our site to book now! <https://www.vagaro.com/jolynshealinghands>

Phone: (480) 819-6831

Address: 1800 E Rio Salado Pkwy

Building 170 Suite #150, Tempe, AZ 85288

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 moquinoscottpaint@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

RE HAZHAWK 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

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

saltriveragchurch.com

SERVICES: Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Thursday Bible Study 6pm

SALT RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST

430 N. Dobson Rd. Suite 105

Mesa, AZ 85201

(720) 626-2171, Josh Austin

SaltRiverChurchofChrist.com

SERVICES: Bible Class 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Bible Class 6 p.m., Bible Study Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Local transportation available, please call phone number above

SALT RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 10125

Scottsdale, AZ 85271

E: SaltRiverPresbyterian@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook

Pastor Charlotte Fafard

SERVICES: Sunday Service, 1 p.m., Communion first Sunday of the month

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC MISSION

3090 N. Longmore, Scottsdale, AZ (602) 292-4466 (cell)

Administrator: Deacon Jim Trant

Parish President: Cindy Thomas

Father Peter McConnell and Father

Antony Tinker

SERVICES: Sunday Mass 12 p.m., Holy Hours 1 p.m.

SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SEMI)

Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Apostle Edward Chance

apostleec@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

NON-LEASE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY LIST

Monetary Property

Pursuant to SRO-503-2019, the Finance Department is required to publish a periodic list of individuals for which the Community has unclaimed property. Please note, due to the nature of the property, lease property is handled differently than non-lease property. Please see below for detailed lists and instructions.

Below is the most recent list of NON-LEASE property:

SRPMIC Unclaimed Non-Lease Property List as of 2/9/2026 (see link below)

<https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/finance/#FinanceUnclaimedProperty>

To claim unclaimed property (lease and/or non-lease), begin by completing this form and following the directions therein:

Claim for Unclaimed Property (see link below):

https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Unclaimed-Property-Claim-Form__Rev030624.pdf

For further questions, please contact the Community Unclaimed Property Division at (480) 362-7225. Or visit <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/finance/#FinanceUnclaimedProperty>

COMPANY	PROPERTY ID	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID	
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PROPERTY ID
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF	001142A	CHIAGO	Mary Edwina	042644M	JACKSON	Thomas	082424T	PINTO	Rosemary	081346R	
ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE	004791A	CHIAGO	Tatum Ann	036545T	JACKSON JR	Louis M	049924L	PORTEE	Raymond Melvin	058071R	
CANAR	030661C	CHIAGO	Theresa A	043000T	JACKSON JR	Victor E	053603V	PRIETO	Ricky E	087751R	
CHABOT COLLEGE	070563C	COLBERT	Chloe Anne	047080C	JANIS	Jaden Wayne	066776J	RABAGO	Summer R	003369S	
COUNTRY CLUB VERANDAS	058050C	COLBERT	Deanna	046265D	JAUREGUI	Angelica L	058635A	RAGLAND	Delaina Danae	057406D	
DITECH FINANCIAL LLC ATTN PAME	050486D	CONGER	Aaron Tyrone	033547A	JOHNSON	Bernadette Lois	035232B	RAMIREZ	Gabriel Mark Jr	0G1	
INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY A	052326I	COOPS	Celeste J	004134C	JOHNSON	Craig	0CR	RAMIREZ	Ryan Alexander	071305R	
LUNA BEAR 454 WEST LLC	006071L	COOPS JR	Marvin Leonard	011217M	JOHNSON	Leland	057674L	RAY	Haze Alexander	083731H	
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIA	043787S	CROSS	Robert Milo	087028R	JOHNSON	Wilma R	085372W	RAY JR	Jonah F	023762J	
WALMART STORES INC - 2112	015188W	CUMMINGS	Scott	0S	JOSE	Alonzo	0A	RAYBON	Virginia Louise	050103V	
WIND DOWN ESTATE	050486W	DAVIS	Lloyd D	022614L	JUAN	Jordan	008002J	REED	Alyssa-Ann Havier	0ALY	
		DELACRUZ	Laney	057706L	KEENE	Teresa	0TE	REED	Cassara Marrie	022868C	
		DIAZ	Victoria	093329V	KELLY	Daniel A	015678D	REINA	Hostin J	049142H	
ADERONMU	Jessica	0JE	DOCKERTY	Christian Daniel	KEY	Frances A	048832F	REYES	Lakay S	025773L	
AGUNDEZ III	Raul	082908R	DOCKERTY	Randy Nephi	KING	Denes P	076946D	RIVERS	Amanda Ellen	010669A	
ALVAREZ-PILGER	Chrissa N	021658C	DOCKERTY	Victoria Elisabeth	KING	Germain Dean	012995G	RIVERS	Lynda A	090137L	
ANDERSON JR	Austin	020920A	DOMINGO	Manuel Chiago	KING	Matthew E	063341M	RODRIGUEZ	Jesse	072052J	
ANDREWS	Janet F	040250J	EASCHIEF WHITMAN	Izabella	KING	Nayland	044022N	RODRIGUEZ	Obed	016927O	
ANDREWS	Kiara	013974K	ENAS	David Elwin	KING	Rayanna Lorraine	061398R	RUIZ	Julia Anne Serena	081501J	
ANDREWS	Spencer D	049320S	ENAS	Kayzehn David	KING	Sialik S	044666S	SABORI III	Aaron J	005770A	
ANTON	Forrest James	099005F	ENAS	Ella M	KING SR	Delbert Floyd	056255D	SAMPSON	Chantel Jovann	087099C	
ANTON	Melvin Cheerless	048886M	ENOS	Preston E	KISTO	Mariah Claudine	047125M	SANCHEZ	Isabella A	089694I	
ANTONE	Andrew D	048521A	ENOS	Yolanda D	LANDIS	Michael John	018481M	SANCHEZ - SMITH	Yasmin Citaly	065370Y	
ANTONE	Claudette Michelle	068463C	ENOS JR	Truman Claude	LARGO	Anthony Benjamin	007679A	SANTO	David	078656D	
ANTONE	Eveninghawk	079319E	FIGUEROA	Alexander P	LEONARD	Alyssa E	069810A	SANTO	Lisa Christina	089939L	
ANTONE	Michael Ee'kum Ha'hak	033420M	FLORES	Elonzo A	LEWIS	Eric	090158E	SCABBY	Kristine P	027594K	
ANTONE	Nathaniel William	029791N	FRANCISCO JR	Domingo Rey	LEWIS	Jissell Raven	045102J	SCHURZ	Brandon Joshua	056816B	
ANTONE	Nicole S	076528N	FRANCO	Consuelo	LEWIS	Marc T	094630M	SCHURZ	Royal A	042237R	
ANTONE	Sivilano Lee	087047S	FREDERICK	Brittani Alyia	LEWIS	Shannon Tara	002597S	SCOTT	Damian Anthony	006736D	
ANTONE JR	Gary Eric	094077G	FREDERICK	Joseph Steven	LEWIS	Valerie A	062782V	SCOTT	Joseph Lyle	024861J	
APODACA	Patricia F	0PA	FREMOUW	Alexis Kaya	LEWIS	Wayne Douglas	083897W	SHAW	Gary Alfred	097013G	
ARTEAGA	Liliana	097582L	FRENCH	Ananita Carmen Eduarda	LEWIS JR	LEWIS	031625E	SHAW	Kionah Tara	025780K	
BARRAZA	Michelle Ann Marie	066219M	FRENCH	Windsong	LIMA	Lilianna V	032079L	SHAW	Louise A	013188L	
BAKEDDY	Angelina Y	020043A	FULWILDER	Gilland Leland Olan	LOPEZ	Abel Eschier	071700A	SHULL - LE COMPTE	Destin Cree	092518D	
BAKEDDY	Angelina Yvonne	020043A	FULWILDER	Tyler Joseph	LOPEZ	Devon Avery	019143D	SINE	Toni Cimmaron	059669T	
BONI	Andrew Daniel	061457A	GALLEGOS	Christina M	LOPEZ	Monica Marie	095654M	SMITH	Ashley Amber	087822A	
BONI	Sophia Leslie	027422S	GARCIA	Daniel	LOPEZ	Shealee A	093621S	SMITH	Garvin Lavere	075212G	
BONI III	Arnold	092893A	GARCIA	Rocynthia G	LOPEZ	Darcy Sylvester	056611D	SMITH	Kristen C	068426K	
BRIONES	Rebekka A	039400R	GARCIA-BRAZIL	Isac Anthony	LOMING	Jake	022826J	SMITH	Michael James	054932M	
BROWN	Hailey E	089995H	GOODWIN	Guy Gabriel	LOMING	Lynette	036513L	SOLIZ	Miguel E	002411M	
BROWN	Marlene Nelma	013524M	GREEN	Everett	LOMING	Szazen Samuel	024722S	STEVENS	Amanda Cleo	067974A	
BURKE	Cecil D	028285C	HANCOCK	Jay L	LUDDOW	Joseph M	056910J	STEVENS	Jordan Christopher	017639J	
BURKE	Claudina A	048130C	HARRIS	Ambrose	MARSHALL	Brenten Tyresse	094621B	STEVENS JR	Milford Tony	092798M	
BURKE	Norene Iris	005422N	HARRISON JR	James	MARSHALL	Agatha	076025A	TAYLOR	Shawn Brandon	007642S	
BURKE	Veronica Jean	088023V	HAYES	Brianna Kellene	MARSHALL	Jacob Ian	049716J	THOMAS	Emmanuel P	011203E	
BURNS	Donna K	078334D	HAYES	Deborah J	MARSHALL	Laurice J	094119L	THOMAS	Holyan Ricardo	028967H	
BURNS	Sandra Louise	072812S	HENDRIX	Joseph Jordan	MARSHALL	Miles	062747G	THOMAS	Irene J	007420I	
BUTCHER	Kevin W	095286K	HERNANDEZ	Juanita Lorena	MARSHALL	Ricardo Robert	006882R	THOMAS	Marcia D	087105M	
BUTLER	Cheryl D	0CH1	HERRERA	Carlos	MARSHALL	Geneva Ann	059420A	THOMAS-HARVEY	Tobias Guy	046502T	
BUTLER	Jeffrey Lynn	071586J	HIGHT	Nicholas Dylan	MARSHALL	Anna M	059420A	TOBLER III	John Darwin	024004J	
CAMPOS	David Joaquin	020184D	HILL	Kathleen Monique	MARSHALL	Gregory	0G	UPSHAW	Michelle	012111M	
CARD	Denise	027567D	HILL	Nahemah	MARSHALL	Adrian Isaiah	091993A	VALENCIA	Claudelle J	051291C	
CAREAGA	Rafael	082278R	HOLLOWAY	Divandre Z	MARSHALL	Hector Lorenzo	051457H	VALENZUELA	Lucille E	056415L	
CARLOS	Laurice E	092008L	HOLLOWAY	Divandre Zion	MARSHALL	Cheyenne L	000433C	VALENZUELA	Raymond	083465R	
CARLOS	Leonard	023911L	HOOD	Maurice T	MARSHALL	Juan E	041120J	VARELA	Francisco Javier	019558F	
CARLOS	Marinita Bernadine	086810M	HOWARD	Jennifer Ardell	MARSHALL	Zamain Verleen	060742Z	VAVAGES-LEWIS	Mateo Littlecreek	031380M	
CARLOS	Tara	034231T	HOWARD	Jonas C	MARSHALL	MILES	006882R	VEST	lia	007070I	
CARLOS III	Frederick Earl	023476F	HOWARD	Leatrice	MARSHALL	Ricardo Robert	057616D	VICTORIAN	Anita F	032417A	
CARMEN	Mreanna Marie	092901M	HOWARD	Nadine Autumn	MARSHALL	Donna Jean	057616D	VILLA	Sierra Maryhelen	087765S	
CASHOYA SR	Harold A	0H	HOWARD	Norman Lester	MARSHALL	MOORE	033264A	VILLALOBOS	Emaline Etta	077919E	
CASSADORE	Jordan	042677J	HOWARD	Sylvester Sullivan	MARSHALL	MORATAYA	002470M	WASHINGTON	Freida M	031892F	
CHARLEY	Kaycee Lorene	018861K	IBARRA GUTIERREZ JR	Ricardo Renee	MARSHALL	MORENO	046062G	WASHINGTON	Christina Maria	014836C	
CHIAGO	Auneesa Antoniee	029351A	JACKSON	Davis Jerel	MARSHALL	MORGAN	004966B	WATTS	Justine Maria	014837J	
CHIAGO	Bennett Leroy	065734B	JACKSON	Rosa J.	MARSHALL	NAHSONHOYA	037005H	WELLER	Jasmine Yasenia	008373L	
CHIAGO	Emmett	098750E	JACKSON	Rosa J.	MARSHALL	NAHSONHOYA	026235M	WHITE	Jaselyn J	026153J	

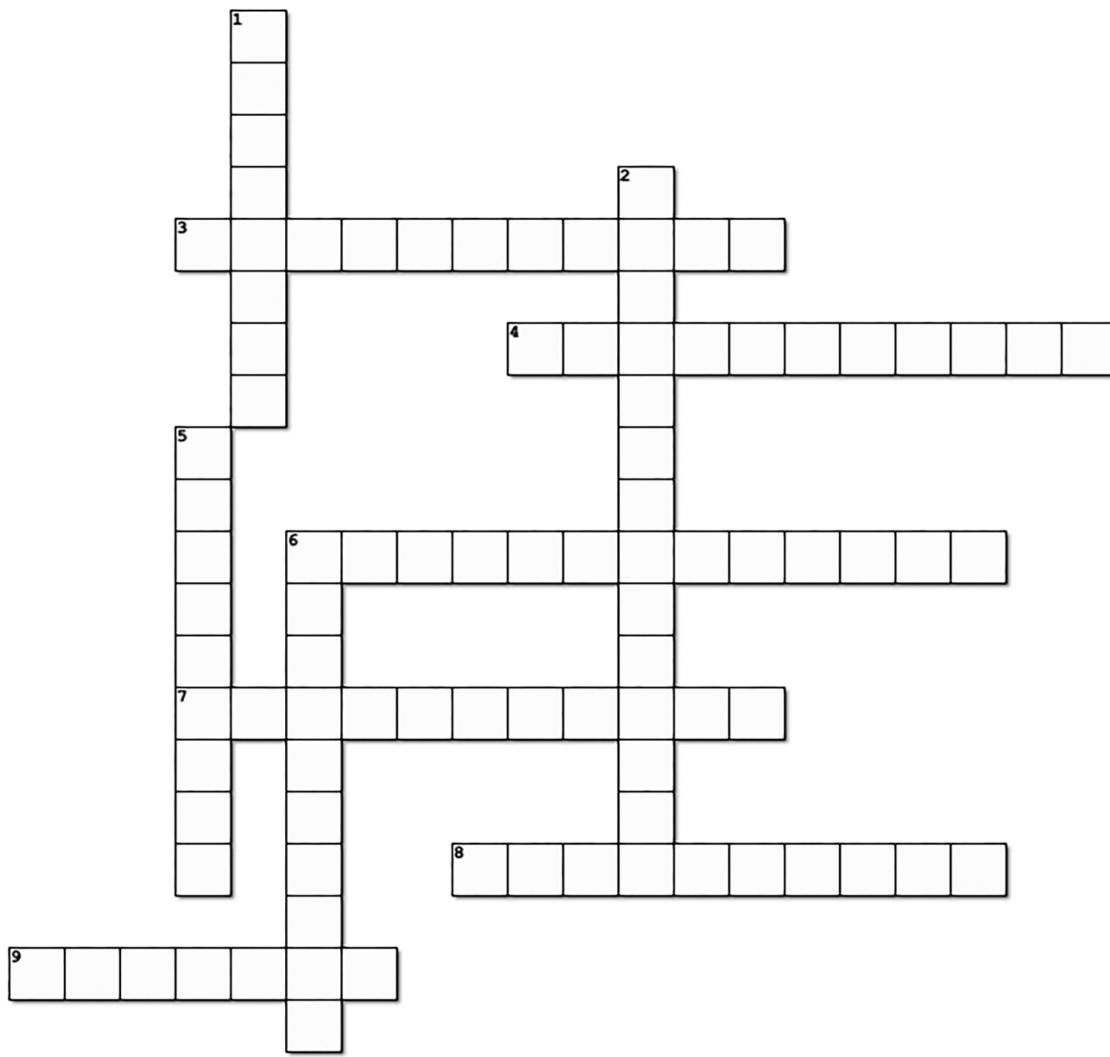
PROPOSED TRUANCY CODE CHANGES

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.

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

3. SRPMIC CRD Garden Technician.
4. The 3-N-1 Golf Tournament happened on this day in January.
6. The director of the film, "Remaining Native."
7. SRPMIC Assistant Human Resources Director.
8. The number of girls in Girl Scout Troop 2516.
9. The number of years Salt River Fields celebrated in 2026.

Down

1. The individual who introduced Dawn Sinoqui to pickleball.
2. This project is a non-profit comprised of chefs, partners and volunteers that help educate students on healthy foods.
5. Winner of the 2025 Enrolled Community Member of the Year Award at the SRPMIC Gaming Enterprise Team Recognition Awards.
6. Skateboard legend known as 'The First Betty.'

New HRA Benefit Provided by SRPMIC

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

Retirees age 55 and older who have worked for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community are now eligible for a new employer-funded tax-advantaged health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) benefit.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, the HRA, administered by HealthEquity, helps retirees offset qualified healthcare expenses, including insurance premiums, copayments and deductibles.

The HRA complements the other employee benefits the Community provides, such as a 401(k) and health savings account (HSA).

"These benefits really help employees transition into retirement and reward them for their commitment and dedication to serving the Onk Akimel O'odham and Xalchidom Piipaash," said Assistant HR Director Patty Powers.

Powers said HRA benefit amounts are based on cumulative years of service with the Community government. Retirees with 10 years of service receive \$20,000, those with 15 years receive \$30,000, and those with 20 or more years receive \$40,000.

"The HRA is designed to provide meaningful financial support for healthcare expenses throughout retirement, reflecting SRPMIC's commitment to employee loyalty and long-term financial well-being," said Powers.

All employees are eligible for the HRA, including those covered under the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System and the Arizona State Retirement System. Council

3 Takeaways:

- A new HRA benefit administered by HealthEquity is available to SRPMIC employees effective Oct. 1, 2025.
- HRA benefit amounts are based on cumulative years of service with the Community government.
- Two key features of the HRA include tax-free reimbursement for retirees' qualified medical expenses and the annual rollover of unused HRA funds.

members are also eligible for an HRA.

Two key features of the HRA include tax-free reimbursements for retirees' qualified medical expenses and the annual rollover of unused HRA funds. Upon the member's death, any remaining balance transfers to a qualified dependent.

Powers noted that reimbursements are applied in the following order: flexible spending account (FSA) first, HRA second and HSA last.

"This approach maximizes the value of healthcare savings by using the most restrictive funds first while preserving the most flexible and valuable funds for future needs," said Powers.

HSA funds are often used last because balances roll over indefinitely and do not expire. The funds may be invested and grow tax-free, and after age 65 they can be used for nonmedical expenses, though withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income. Using more restrictive funds first preserves more flexible savings for future needs.

SRPMIC employees, to learn more about how your HRA works, head to www.healthequity.com.

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

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

SRPMIC Receives Recycling Grant Award

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality named the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community among the recipients of its Recycling Grant Awards.

The 14 grants go toward the advancement of statewide circular economy efforts and reducing materials sent to Arizona landfills, according to the department.

SRPMIC was awarded \$62,000, which will go toward its Community Garden composting system project.

Missing GRIC Member Identified Through DNA Tests

Gila River Indian Community member Glenn Thomas Tate Jr. went missing in July 2020 and was last seen in Sacaton.

ICT is reporting that skeletal remains were found in 2024 in a desert area near Sacaton, and DNA testing has now identified them as Tate.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Murdered Unit and the Pinal County Medical Examiner's Office teamed with the Othram forensic genetic genealogy company to use DNA testing to identify the remains, according to ICT. Read the full news report on ICT's website.

IHS Pushes for More Hires

The Indian Health Service announced in January the launch of the largest hiring initiative in the history of the federal agency, which is under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

IHS is placing a strong emphasis on early-career professionals and veterans. A news release said IHS has a near-30% vacancy rate.

Openings include physicians, nurses, dentists, community health roles, health

administration and more. You can find the list of openings on the IHS jobs website.

2026 Two Spirit Powwow in Phoenix

The Arizona Two Spirit Powwow is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21, at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix.

The powwow is hosted by the Phoenix Indian Center and is free and open to the public. Grand entry is scheduled for 1 p.m.

The powwow was founded in 2019 by Native PFLAG, and since then, the Phoenix Indian Center and 2SLGBTQ+ community members and allies have helped organize it. More information can be found on the center's website.

Native Sports Hall of Fame Announces New Class

The North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame named its next class of inductees in January.

This year's class features athletes, teams, coaches and members of the sports media. You can find the list of names on the hall of fame website.

The hall is hosting a celebratory banquet in May on the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin.

Interior Department Expands Wildland Fire Training for Native Youth

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced a new partnership in February between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education to prepare Native students for careers in wildland firefighting.

Through the Native Youth Firefighter Training Program, high school and postsecondary students receive hands-on instruction, mentorship and technical training.

More information about the program can be found on the Interior website.

Pickleball Finds a Home in the SRPMIC



SRPMIC Council member Mikah Carlos and Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui volley a pickleball back and forth before the sun comes up at Ske:g Himdag Ki:.

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

You've heard of pickle slushies, a favorite local crushed-ice treat using pickle juice as the syrup. But have you heard about pickleball?

The fastest-growing sport in the United States has made its way to the Community. *O'odham Action News* talked with Community pickleballers to find out what the big dill is.

But first, let's start with the basics. According to USA Pickleball, the sport's national governing body, pickleball is a paddle sport blending tennis, badminton and table tennis which can be played indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court with a slightly lower net.

A pickleball court typically measures 20 feet wide by 44 feet long for singles and doubles (two players per team). The net is 36 inches high at the sidelines and 34 inches in the center. Each

side has a 7-foot non-volley zone called "the kitchen," which adds strategy and placement to play.

SRPMIC Council member Mikah Carlos and Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui have been known to frequent the pop-up pickleball court in the middle of the main basketball court at Ske:g Himdag Ki: at 6 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The early birds have been playing together for a little over a year.

Other players have been invited, but so far there haven't been many morning people available.

Employees and Community members can play pickleball at Ske:g Himdag Ki: Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. If you miss the early morning weekday kickball, courts are available to play on Saturdays.

Sinoqui said that she became hooked on the sport thanks to former Council member Tom Largo. The two used to play at Scottsdale Community College

3 Takeaways:

- Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.
- The sport is a mixture of different sports such as tennis, badminton and table tennis.
- Community members play pickleball at Ske:g Himdag Ki: and other locations throughout the SRPMIC.

with his family. Largo and Sinoqui inquired with Ske:g Himdag Ki: staff about bringing the sport over to the courts, and official equipment was purchased shortly thereafter. Former Assistant Community Manager Kent Andrews and Community member Angela Willeford have also been known to join for a match.

What keeps Carlos and Sinoqui coming back to play?

"It's easy and it's moderately low impact," said Carlos, who, along with Sinoqui, used to play basketball as well.

"You're more prone to injuries playing basketball. [Pickleball] is a little bit less intense, but you still get some good movement in. I think for us, with our stressful jobs, we just want to move."

Sinoqui always wanted to play tennis when she was younger, but she never had the chance to play.

"I'm too old to play tennis now, so I figured why not play pickleball," joked Sinoqui. "It's less intense than tennis, but still fun. And you can play inside!"

Both described what it's like to hit a pickleball with a paddle. Sinoqui said a pickleball "has a different feel when you hit it."

Carlos, who used to play tennis, said a tennis ball has more "give," which means you can hit it harder and there will be more velocity on the ball.

Hitting a pickleball feels similar to making contact with a Whiffle ball using a bat.

"You hit these [pickleballs] and they don't go through the air as quickly," said Carlos.

"My favorite thing to do are the 'spins' and the 'drops,'" she said.

When Carlos and Sinoqui play, there is plenty of playful trash talk to go around.

"Once in a while we'll just do crazy shots to each other," said Sinoqui.

"I think we're both competitive and we will be volleying back and forth. Then, out of nowhere, one of us will just 'slam' it to the other. That sets the tone for a couple minutes," Carlos laughed. "Then we just tone it back down."

Neither of them keeps score or follows the official pickleball rules. It's strictly a good time.

There are other places to play pickleball on tribal land if you're out and about. PURE Pickleball & Padel is located near Loop 101 and Via de Ventura.

The Orchard at Jigsaw Health, located at 9035 E. Pima Center Pkwy., Suite 15, also has indoor pickleball courts. There is no membership needed at this location.

The Orchard indoor pickleball club is a welcoming indoor pickleball and community space for all ages and skill levels," said general manager Amy Ricciardi, who added that pickleball is for everyone.

"[Pickleball] is also one of the few sports where teens play alongside seniors, and men and women regularly compete together. People become addicted because of the new challenge, the fun and friendships that pickleball provides to their life!"



Superstar-athlete Chase Thomas uses all of their power to kick a homerun while out on the baseball field at the Ske:g Himdag Ki:.

'Parent and Me' Kickball Series Is a Home Run

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
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During January, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Recreational Services team at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: hosted a free "Parent and Me" kickball clinic for children ages 3 to 5 and their parents/guardians.

Nearly 20 children participated in the Jan. 30 clinic.

All month long, children learned the basics of kickball as their families

and loved ones cheered them on. The family-friendly clinic also allowed parents/guardians to assist the Community athletes as they made their way around the bases.

After playing a handful of innings, the SRPMIC Ske:g Himdag Ki: team distributed official certificates of achievement at home plate to the Community children.

To stay up to date on all the events happening at the Ske:g Himdag Ki:, call (480) 362-6800.

Salt River Fire Department Hosts Annual 3-N-1 Firefighter Golf Challenge

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
O'odham Action News
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The Salt River Fire Department hosted the second annual 3-N-1 golf challenge at the Talking Stick Golf Club on Jan. 26 in the name of helping charities. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members, Community partners, first responders and supporters came together for a fun day of golf.

The challenge for the golfers was to play from the back tees, known as the professional tees. Playing from the professional tees forces golfers to cover more distance, making the game more difficult.

The goal for the Salt River Fire Department was to raise funds for two

charities: Struggle Well—Posttraumatic Growth Training and AZ L.A.S.T. (Arizona Local Assistance State Team). Struggle Well focuses on normalizing everyday struggles of service members and first responders dealing with post-traumatic stress. They help people learn how to handle challenges in a healthier way and strive to transform them into growth for the betterment of the person. The objective of AZ L.A.S.T. is to aid the grieving family after a line-of-duty death. They also help with filing for federal, state and local benefits.

To learn more about Struggle Well, visit <https://bouldercrest.org/program/struggle-well/>. To learn more about AZ L.A.S.T., visit www.azfirechiefs.org/page/AZLAST or call (800) 781-8520.



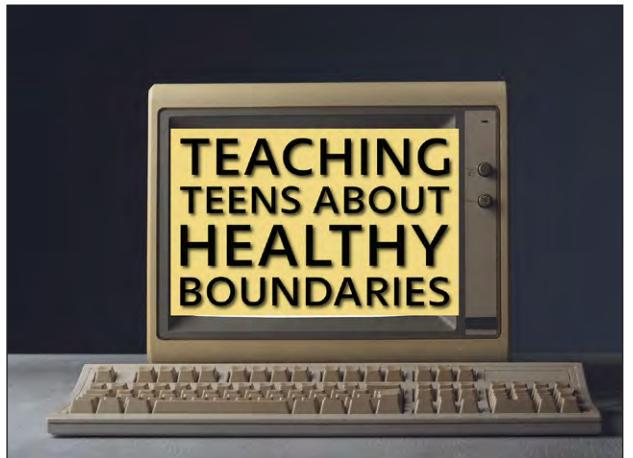
SRPMIC member Michael Thomas participates in the 3-N-1 Golf Challenge.



Fire Chief Tsosie Wood mingles with attendees after a fun day out on the course.

SALT RIVER HOSTS WEBINAR ON TEEN DATING BOUNDARIES

As part of the continuing efforts to improve the well-being of parents/guardians and children in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Community Health Educator Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty facilitated a webinar on teen dating boundaries.



BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
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3 Takeaways:

- *Boundaries are acts of self-care, not selfishness.*
- *Implementing and refining boundaries can help teens improve their time management, develop empathy and more.*
- *Not all teenagers are the same; it's important for parents/guardians to listen and learn what their teens' likes and dislikes are.*

How do you raise a teenager? One day at a time. Boundaries are defined as personal limits that define acceptable behaviors. They help protect an individual's physical, emotional, mental and overall well-being. These guidelines can be implemented at any time and benefit children, teenagers, adults and elders.

It's important to understand that boundaries are acts of self-care, not selfishness.

On Feb. 2, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Community's Health and Human Services Department facilitated a webinar on how parents/guardians can help their teenagers implement boundaries as they continue their personal journeys toward adulthood.

SRPMIC Community Health Educator Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty presented the webinar to over 100 individuals, an audience comprising Community members and staff.

"We need to make sure we teach our children [about] what boundaries are. It shows how much we care about them as parents and grandparents. We want to also make sure they're safe," shared Notsinneh-Bowekaty.

The four types of boundaries are physical, time, emotional and social. These help teens understand the consequences of their actions, develop empathy and build independence.

Discussing how fast time can pass by, Notsinneh-Bowekaty shared that helping and supporting teenagers as they grow up can arrive quickly for some, including herself. "I have three teen granddaughters. I can't believe it; they were just babies and now they're growing up."

Boundaries are crucial for teenagers because they help them be independent and establish a sense of self-worth. Also, boundaries can help teens manage their time better while becoming more responsible.

A person with no personal boundaries can be easily targeted and manipulated by others. They potentially may develop a victim complex, which is a learned negative psychological mindset in which an individual consistently views themselves as a helpless victim of circumstances while denying their own experiences and decisions.

When it comes to teen dating, one example of a healthy boundary is when a teen opts for a fist bump instead of a hug. "When I see the teens I work with, they'll put out their fist to me [for a fist bump]. I respect their boundaries by doing a fist bump with them. If a teen [creates] this boundary, that is a good thing," shared Notsinneh-Bowekaty.

Of course, there can be challenges in establishing and maintaining boundaries, especially for those who did not grow up with a supportive family circle.

When children are raised by two adults who co-parent in different homes, that can be potentially challenging for teens who try to implement their personal boundaries in different homes with separate rules.

"The teen might tell their mom, 'But dad lets me do this all the time, why can't you?' and that causes a disconnect," said Notsinneh-Bowekaty.

Children are not born knowing how to navigate life. Rules and boundaries must be set, learned, adhered to and improved upon. When a parent/guardian doesn't help their teen with boundaries and says, "Well, nobody taught *me* how to set boundaries," that adds to a family's generational trauma.

Additionally, comparing a teen to siblings/relatives can also cause a disconnect and could result in the teen giving up on establishing their own personal boundaries.

Notsinneh-Bowekaty added, "Avoid saying, 'If I were you...' or 'Why can't you be like your siblings?'" because we are all different and teens need to learn how to solve their own problems."

It is also imperative that parents/guardians model the behavior they want their children to showcase. If parents/guardians are unsure how to do that or where to start, learning together side-by-side with their teen as a united family can be extremely rewarding with many positive results.

One attendee commented, "Be their parent, not their friend."

Another piece of advice that came in was "Don't fall through on promises."

If a parent/guardian voices to their teen that they would do anything for them, but their actions fail to match their words, that can confuse the teen, who could possibly develop additional troubles and personal conflicts with boundaries and communication later in life.

Therefore, it's imperative that parents/guardians continue to get to know their teens as they grow up, even if it seems like they were newborns in diapers just yesterday.

The webinar neared its end as Notsinneh-Bowekaty allowed the group to reflect and openly discuss healthy coping skills they implement at home. Many opted to share their wisdom and helpful tips on how they've managed to stay connected with their teens in today's ever-changing society.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
18+ EVENT

Curious about what really goes on behind the badge?

The SRPD Citizens Police Academy is a hands on, weekend-long experience. Participate in scenarios, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of policing today.

Spots are limited, register now!

SRPDcet@srpmic-nsn.gov

APRIL 10TH - APRIL 12TH
ACADEMY IS OPEN TO SRPMIC MEMBERS, SRPMIC EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESS PARTNERS
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 27TH

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

EASTER EGG HUNT

SAT., APRIL 4, 2026 • 9-11AM

EGG HUNT CONTEST DRESS PARADE GAMES	9:15AM EGG HUNT (2-3 YRS)
	9:30AM EGG HUNT (4-6 YRS, 7-9 YRS & 10-14 YRS)
	9:50AM EASTER DRESS PARADE (0-1 YRS & 2-3 YRS BOY & GIRL)
SALT RIVER BALLFIELD 1897 N. LONGMORE RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256	10:00AM FIELD GAMES
	10:30AM EGG EATING CONTEST (FIRST 10 ADULTS)

This is an NO Alcohol/Drug/Gang & Tobacco/Vaping Event.
NO Pets, Firearms/Weapons or Outside Ice Chests/ Grills/Food/Glass Allowed. Bags Subject to Search.

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

Hinojosa, Mary Jane Azule - Truancy Disposition Hearing
Case: JV-26-0036 Court Date: April 16, 2026 at 3 PM.

CIVIL COURT
JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA
INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
ADDRESS: 10040 EAST OSBORN RD.
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256
CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

CIVIL COURT CASES REPORT TO COURTROOM
#1/ #2 ON THE 1ST FLOOR.
FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR
RIGHTS

Andrews, Elijah Wade - Entry of Default Judgement/
Order to Show Cause Case: CV-25-4582 Court Date:
March 23, 2026 at 9 AM

Encinas-Apodaca, Mariah Lynn - Restraining Order
Hearing Case: Court Date: February 17, 2026 at 11:30
AM

DEFAULT NOTICES

FLORES, LANCE EAGLE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CV-25-0859

TO: Lance Eagle Flores; Respondent

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the
above-entitled court on the 25th day of February 2026
at 9:00 AM, in Court Room #2, and show cause why you
should not be held in contempt for failing to adhere to
Default Judgment order 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 9th day of January, 2026.

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

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Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Editorials
and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors,
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Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

O'odham Action News encourages the submission
of letters to the Editor. However, letters must be typed
or printed clearly, and should include the writer's name,
address and phone number. This information is for
verification only. Other submission of articles, artwork and
photos are encouraged. O'odham Action News does not
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DISTRICT C COUNCIL MEMBER	LEHI DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER
Cheryl Doka	Michael Dallas, Sr.
DISTRICT D COUNCIL MEMBER	
Suk Fulwider	

Flores, Lance Eagle - Order to Show Cause Hearing
Case: CV-25-0859 Court Date: February 25, 2026 at 9
AM

Flores, Lance Eagle - Restraining Order Hearing Case:
CV-26-0906 Court Date: February 27, 2026 at 4 PM

Gonzalez, Alfredo - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing
Case: CV-25-4938 Court Date: March 6, 2026 at 9 AM

Kilgore, Adriana Michelle Lee - Adjudication/Review
Hearing Case: JV-26-0008/0009 Court Date: February
26, 2026 at 10 AM

Ludlow II, Samuel - Initial Guardianship Hearing (1 hr)
Case: CV-26-0374 Court Date: March 10, 2026 at 11
AM

Lyons, Randall - Order of Protection Hearing Case: CV-
26-1358 Court Date: March 6, 2026 at 4 PM

Martinez Jr, Richard - Probate Hearing Case: CV-24-
3424/CV-24-3652 Court Date: June 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Miguel Jr., Michael Wayne - Evidentiary Guardianship
Hearing Case: CF-21-0015/CF-14-0060 Court Date:
March 9, 2026 at 9 AM

Pesis, Neaveh - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case:
CV-25-4580/CV-25-4505 Court Date: March 17, 2026
at 10:30 AM

Robles, Connie Lorene - Civil Complaint Hearing Case:
CV-25-4927 Court Date: March 12, 2026 at 11 AM

Thomas, Elizabeth - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-
26-0669 Court Date: March 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM

PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE

SRPMIC Council has approved
the nightly closures of the Salt
River and Lehi Cemeteries due
to continued vandalism.
The Salt River and Lehi
Cemeteries will be closed from
8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

If you have any questions,
please contact Memorial
Services at
(480) 278-7050

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MAIN LINE (480) 362-7750
(Leave a message with your name and number
and we will return your call)

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(480) 362-2698 / www.oodhamnews.org

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

Contact **Newspaper Assistant
Kari Haahr** at

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Leave your name, number and message and they will get back to you.

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Email us at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov or call
(480) 362-7750

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE

MARCH 5

MARCH 19

SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS
at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov
For more information please call (480) 362-7750.

DEADLINE AT NOON

FEBRUARY 20

MARCH 6

4th Quarter 2025 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE: March 31, 2026

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

DEADLINES FOR CHANGES

Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes:
Friday, March 31 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 **APRIL 2026** payout. Forms received after
this date will not be effective until the **JULY 2026**
payout.

Discontinue Direct Deposits: Friday, March
31 at 5:00 PM. This deadline is to discontinue an
existing direct deposit.

***Failing to notify the Per Capita department
when an account is closed may delay your Per
Capita payment.

If you have any questions regarding:

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

Salt River Public Works Department Memorial Services & Cemeteries

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

MAIN OFFICE LOCATED AT

Memorial Hall
9849 East Earll Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Monday-Friday
8 AM- 5 PM

CONTRACTED MORTUARIES

Bunker Family Funerals &
Cremation
(480) 964-8686

Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home
(602) 840-5600

For Any Questions Call: **(480) 278-7050**



I am glad that Senior Services
has this program for us seniors
who can't manage everything
for ourselves... They are a great
asset to us.

- Wanda White Eyes

Home Care Assistance

For safety and independence

Our compassionate, professional team
offers three levels of in-home care for
qualified community seniors and adaptive
adults to help them remain comfortable,
safe, and independent in their own homes.

To learn more, and to schedule a free
intake assessment, call

480.362.7990



what is AUTISM?

Find out at this early identification & intervention event!

Join Child Find and the
Southwest Autism Research
& Resource Center on
Thursday, March 19, from
5:30-7 p.m. for an informative
session about Autism
Spectrum Disorder in young
children and the diversity of
the diagnosis.

The event will be held in the
Gathering Place at the Early
Childhood Education Center.
We'll discuss the latest
research on evidence-based
practices for individuals with
autism, along with helpful
resources.

A light meal will be served at
5:30 p.m. The presentation
will begin at 6 p.m.



Call 480-362-2257 or email childfind@saltriverschools.org to ask questions
and register. Childcare is available with advanced registration.





TEAM PUZZLE-ON

RETURNS FOR WINTER PUZZLE FUN

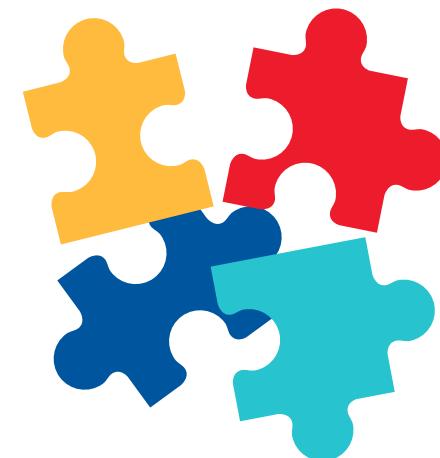
On January 27th, Team Puzzle-On returned to the Roundhouse Café for the Winter Puzzle Contest, ready to take on another 350-piece challenge in just 30 minutes! Lavine Cummings, Nadine Nguyen, Arlena Moreno, and Bryce McGertt regrouped for another exciting round, determined to improve their time and build on their previous experience.

Since competing in Fall 2025, the team has been practicing back at their Chaparral office using puzzles as a fun and energizing break during the workday. With each practice session, the team focused on strategy, communication, and finding ways to place even more pieces before time runs out.

Competing in the 8 a.m. session this time around, Team Puzzle-On brought great energy and teamwork to the table. They finished with just 55 pieces remaining and were 3rd in their session, a big accomplishment and clear sign of progress!

Although they didn't crack the top 15 overall, the team walked away proud of their improvement and motivated to make an even bigger leap next time. Once again, the contest highlighted the power of teamwork, strategy, and collaboration.

Awesome job representing SRMG, Team Puzzle-On! we can't wait to see what you accomplish next!



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

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

REZ READERS, Third Thursdays through April. 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 as we all share our insight, thoughts and experiences throughout each book. Starting February 19th, Rez Readers will meet every 3rd Thursdays, February - April 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.

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.

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.

ELEVATING ELTERS, Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., Ske:g Himdag Ki: Senior Room. Physical Fitness Specialist Nevelle Howard leads a fun, energizing class that boosts strength using body weight and light dumbbells. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

YOGA FOR FALL PREVENTION, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m., Ske:g Himdag Ki: Senior Room. Standing or chair options available. Guided movements improve strength, balance and flexibility. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

AUPPA 'I'IWAGIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XVIK FEBRUARY

20 SRPMIC VETERANS SERVICES OPEN HOUSE, Join us for our 2026 Veterans Open House at the Round House Café on Friday, February 20th at 2PM-4PM. We will be having a lot of amazing vendors (including the VA, HHS, etc.), surprise snack vendor, and raffle prizes! This event is open to Community Veteran, Employee Veteran, and their families. For any questions or more information, please contact Veterans Services at 480-362-7884 or veteranservices@srpmic-nsn.gov

21 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING, 9:00 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/SRPMICCouncil> | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

23 CM FULWILDER DISTRICT D MEETING, 6:00 pm at ALA Lecture Hall 4827 N. Country Club 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/SRPMICCouncil> | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

23-25 YOUTH TAKEOVER AT SALT RIVER TRIBAL LIBRARY, Explore the realm of DIY Mini Comics and Mini Zine making! Youth ages 5-17 years old join the Salt River Tribal Library to learn the basics and create your own zine using a blend of art, collage, and writing. The creative possibilities are endless! Stop by anytime February 23rd through February 25th, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. to create your own!! 1 per person while supplies last.

24 SODA WITH SECURITY, Join the Safe Schools & Security Team in partnership with Native Health and Salt River Schools for an informative session about healthy relationships. This session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the ECEC Gathering Place. Childcare will be available for families. Questions? Call: (480) 292-5870

24 LEHI DISTRICT MEETING, Council Members Michael Dallas, Sr. and Deanna Scabby at 6:00 pm at 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/SRPMICCouncil> | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

26 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/SRPMICCouncil> | SRPMIC Council Secretaries Office: (480) 362-7469.

28 CULTURE STORY TIME AT SALT RIVER TRIBAL LIBRARY, Join Community Recreational Services at the Salt River Tribal Library for Culture Story Time! Enjoy a fun and engaging story time centered on Native American culture and language. Children ages 5 and under, along with their families, are invited to experience stories written by Indigenous authors, followed by a special craft, hands-on activities, and snacks. Reading together supports early learning and helps Native children grow strong in language, identity, and imagination. Story Time begins at 1:00 PM at the Salt River Tribal Library, located on the second floor of Ske:g Himdag Ki:

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

