



## Chandler Police Department Honors Tamara Silversmith for 35 Years of Service

SUBMITTED BY TAMARA SILVERSMITH

*Editor's Note: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Tamara Silversmith was honored in February by the Chandler Police Department for her 35 years of service. The following is a submission from Silversmith in her own words. It has been lightly edited for style and length.*

*"In a world that moves at lightning speed, the days often feel like a race against the clock. Yet, for many successful individuals, the early hours are not a time of chaos, but a sanctuary for focus and creativity."*

—Unknown

How true, with improvement and enhancement throughout the years, I am truly thankful for all that has been

bestowed upon me and the experience I gained in this milestone. In truth, my whole life has been [spent] in a career in law enforcement, with a combined experience of 40 years.

[However], I did not intend on doing [that]. I was going to college, I was a new wife to Gary Silversmith, [and we were] starting our family and already blessed with a beautiful daughter.

We met in high school. Yet our first

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Left to Right: Chandler Council member O.D. Harris, Tamara Silversmith, Chief of Police Bryan Chapman and Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke.

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Arick Mack and Cody Achin headlined the Circle of Nations O'odham/Piipaash Night at Mountain Pointe High School.

## Circle of Nations Program Hosts O'odham/Piipaash Night

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE  
O'odham Action News  
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Circle of Nations, an all-new pathway program geared to help students catch up on credits and find their journeys after graduation, hosted an O'odham/Piipaash celebration at Tempe's Mountain Pointe High School on Feb. 26 featuring a who's who of leaders, speakers, performers and more from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Gila River Indian Community.

The new program is open to any student but is geared toward Indigenous students. It's a special learning track that combines strong academics with opportunities to learn from tribal elders, community partners and cultural projects in the subjects of English and social studies.

The night celebrated the cultures, traditions, songs and dances of the O'odham and Piipaash. It was organized with the help of Mountain Pointe High

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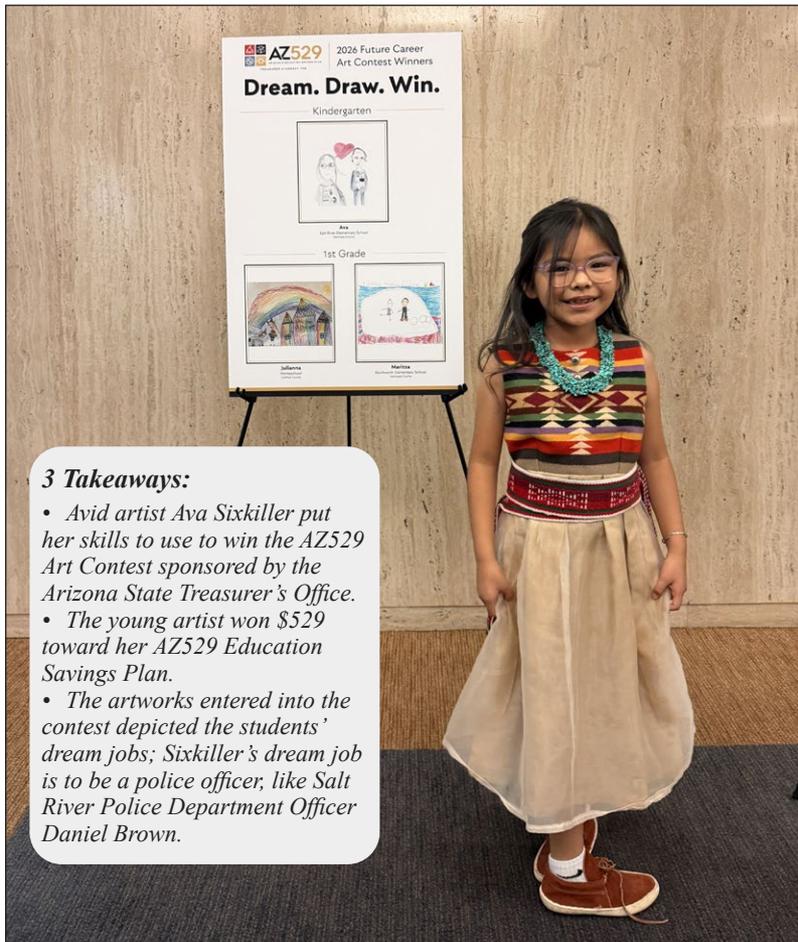
## Fountain Hills Falcons Varsity Girls' Basketball Team Has Much to Celebrate



Fountain Hills player and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Saedee Smith begins a drive to the basket during the AIA 2A State Championship Game vs. St. Johns on Feb. 28. Photos courtesy of Emily M The Photographer.

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## Salt River Elementary Student Ava Sixkiller Wins A529 Art Contest



### 3 Takeaways:

- Avid artist Ava Sixkiller put her skills to use to win the AZ529 Art Contest sponsored by the Arizona State Treasurer's Office.
- The young artist won \$529 toward her AZ529 Education Savings Plan.
- The artworks entered into the contest depicted the students' dream jobs; Sixkiller's dream job is to be a police officer, like Salt River Police Department Officer Daniel Brown.

Ava Sixkiller stands proudly in front of the drawing that made her a winner of the AZ529 Art Contest from the Arizona Treasurer's Office. In the photo, her drawing is the first one on the top. Photos courtesy of Marcella Valencia.

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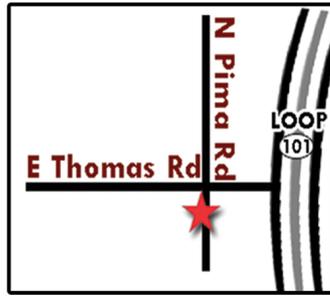
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## Salt River Project Holds Upcoming Election



### 3 Takeaways:

- Salt River Project is holding an election for leadership positions on April 7.
- SRP officials set water and electricity rates, create the utility's policies and more.
- Landowners within SRP's water and power service boundaries may cast votes.

To check your eligibility to vote, scan the QR code to the right:



Salt River Project, which provides water and electricity services throughout the Valley, will be holding an election in April for leadership positions including president, vice-president, and board and at-large council members.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE  
O'odham Action News  
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Have you noticed the campaign signs around Lehi for the upcoming Salt River Project election? Every other year, the utility elects people to serve as president, vice-president, and board and council members for four-year terms.

Signs have been posted around Lehi and neighboring areas in the East Valley for the last few weeks as the April 7 election nears.

Salt River Project is a private utility company with a service area comprising about 240,000 acres spanning Maricopa, Gila and Pinal counties. It is composed of two organizations, the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (the "Association," founded 1903) and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (the "District," formed in 1937). Both organizations hold an election every other year to fill open seats among their leadership and board/council positions.

As members of the board of directors, elected officials can approve budgets, create policies, authorize price increase/decreases and more. The water association will fill 24 seats this year, and the power district will fill 22 seats.

Presently, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is in SRP Voting Area 7. The current District and Association board member representative is Nicholas R. Brown. The current District council members are Eric L. Gorsegner, Barry E. Pacey and Colleen Resch-Geretti.

Gorsegner, Pacey and Geretti also represent Voting Area 7 for the Association.

Mesa is located in SRP Voting Area 9. The District and Association board member representative is Robert C. Arnett. The Association council members are A. Allen Freeman, Mark A. Freeman and Adam S. Hatley. The District council members are Freeman and Hatley.

### How to Vote

Community members must meet eligibility requirements to cast their votes in the upcoming SRP election.

Both SRP's Association and District share the same voter eligibility guidelines, with a slight difference in the eligibility requirements for the District. Those casting votes for SRP District leaders must reside in and be a registered voter in the state of Arizona. The SRP Association does not carry that registered voter guideline.

The voting system is based on land ownership. To

be eligible to vote in Salt River Project elections, you must be 18 or older and own eligible land (or be appointed to vote eligible land held in a qualifying trust) within the SRP boundaries. Land ownership must have been established at least 100 days prior to April 7.

For situations where more than one person is a trustee over a qualified trust, the trustees must agree who will be authorized to cast their vote for the trust.

Requests for early ballots can be submitted to the SRP Corporate Secretary's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, ending March 27.

Eligible voters may vote in person at the SRP Voting Center, 1500 N. Mill Ave. in Tempe. The voting center will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., through April 6, and from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 7.

Early ballots may also be dropped off at this location during these times.

Questions about the SRP election and voter eligibility may be directed to (602) 236-3048 or [election@srpnet.com](mailto:election@srpnet.com).

Scan the QR Code below to see the candidates in this year's election.





Dr. Heaven Sepulveda (middle left) was congratulated by many during the Meet the Leader event on Feb. 23. Photo courtesy of Dr. Heaven Sepulveda.

Additionally, she served on the Salt River Schools Education Board for eight years. She recently completed a three-year term as vice-chair, which concluded in November of last year. Dr. Sepulveda remained on the board for additional time until her replacement was selected.

"I'm still learning a lot," Dr. Sepulveda said with a smile in between shaking hands and chatting with Community members during her meet-and-greet on Feb. 24.

Now in her new ECEC position, which began on Lunar New Year in February, she is committed to ensuring that children's academic success remains a priority because she knows the positive impacts that the ECEC has had on its students and the Community.

She said, "My two children went here [to ECEC]."

Dr. Sepulveda also taught at ECEC when she was completing her master's degree program.

She will now oversee ECEC's upcoming campus developments, which include ongoing maintenance for playgrounds, classroom improvements and more.

She will also ensure that the ECEC faculty and staff are supported with the resources and tools they need. More scheduled ECEC events featuring Dr. Sepulveda will be announced in the coming months.

Following her meet-and-greet on Feb. 24, Dr. Sepulveda spent the morning visiting each classroom and officially introducing herself to current ECEC students.

"I want ECEC to be a place where future generations can succeed," she added before embarking on her classroom visits.

# SRPMIC Youth

## Do You Have an Interest to work at Early Childhood Center as a Class Aide in Summer 2026?

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## ECEC Welcomes Dr. Heaven Sepulveda

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

A new leader has started at the Early Childhood Education Center at Salt River Schools.

Dr. Heaven Sepulveda was recently announced as ECEC's new leader. To help ensure that parents, guardians and families could have the opportunity to meet her, ECEC held two welcome gatherings on Feb. 23 and 24 inside the ECEC Gathering Place in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Across both days, Dr. Sepulveda, a Community member, was congratulated on her new position. Former students with siblings attending ECEC, like Rihanna Tate, attended the event to extend their congratulations.

Previously, Dr. Sepulveda worked in the SRPMIC Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. She completed her dissertation in May 2025 and earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Arizona State University.

Continued from front page

## Circle of Nations Program Hosts O'odham/Piipaash Night



The well-attended celebration provided the Circle of Nations team a snapshot of how the O'odham and Piipaash live and celebrate their cultures.

### 3 Takeaways:

- The Circle of Nations pathway program is available for Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community students enrolled in the Tempe Union High School District.
- Mountain Pointe High School will host Circle of Nations during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Aarick Mack and Cody Achin headlined the O'odham/Piipaash celebration.

School, the Tempe Union High School District, the SRPMIC and GRIC, and students' families/guardians.

From the SRPMIC, Aristina Sanchez, Marley Dallas, Jizelle Juan, Jorge Gonzales and many more attended the night's celebration.

Federal Programs Director Charlotte Windsor and Circle of Nations Program Lead Valerie Molina served dinner to the many guests in attendance. To make the night truly memorable, Windsor and Molina

made sure to blast a music playlist featuring nothing but chicken scratch.

With the dinner menu curated by Ernie's Catering, everyone had enough squash and cheese to eat. Additionally, the menu featured tepary beans with homemade *cemait* and O'odham corn cookies for a sweet dessert treat.

Following dinner, Aarick Mack and Cody Achin served as the judges for O'odham/Piipaash bingo. Each contestant received a bingo card which featured names of O'odham and Piipaash foods.

"Let me hear you say, 'Nyaaa Mark!'," said Achin.

"Everyone say, 'He:m Ge:g Ant!'," said Mack.

While Mack and Achin reviewed the bingo cards from each of the winning contestants, vendor booths were set up out in the campus' auditorium lobby. Staff from the

Salt River Schools Community Relations Office, Tohono O'odham Community College, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and more greeted families and guests and informed them about the many ways they can assist their students.

The team at Circle of Nations will continue working with Tempe Union High School District counselors and administrators to help identify which students may benefit from Circle of Nations' ample list of resources, guidance and tutoring to help ensure they experience successes inside and outside the classroom.

The Circle of Nations program will be held at Mountain Pointe High School in the 2026-2027 academic year. Marcos de Niza will host the program in the following school year.

For more information, email [circleofnations@tempeunion.org](mailto:circleofnations@tempeunion.org).



## PIIPAASH MATASHEEVM

Friday, April 3

5pm-10pm

Saturday, April 4

8am-11pm

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- O'odham Dancing
- Elder Honoring
- Veterans Recognition
- Bird Singing and Dancing
- Food and Arts/Craft Vendors
- Kids Play Area
- Raffles
- Light meal (while supply lasts)

[Piipaash Matasheevm-Lehi](https://www.facebook.com/piipaashmatasheevm-lehi)

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# BIA Assistant Secretary Kirkland Meets with SRPMIC Leadership



SRPMIC and BIA leadership take a photo at the Two Waters bridge with Red Mountain in the background. Left to right: SRPMIC Council members Deanna Scabby, Michael Dallas Sr., David Antone, BIA Assistant Secretary William "Billy" Kirkland, SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, BIA Western Region Director Jessie Durham, SRPMIC Council members Jacob Butler and Su:k Chu:vak Fulwilder.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO  
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Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary William "Billy" Kirkland met with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community leaders on Feb. 17 to discuss priority operational and administrative matters identified by the Community.

SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, a few Council members and leaders from the Social Services, Community Development and General Counsel departments represented the Community at the meeting.

The roundtable discussions centered on federal service delivery, staffing capacity and program administration.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BIA Western Regional Office (WRO) closed the Salt River Agency, located on the corner of McDowell and Longmore roads, and eliminated its superintendent position. Because of that, Salt River Agency activities have been managed out of the Pima Agency in Sacaton, down in the Gila River Indian Community.

The Community said that current staffing levels at the Salt River Agency do not align with the workload required to effectively support SRPMIC programs and operations.

"From my understanding, we have one individual that's at the Salt River Agency. And unfortunately, if [they become] sick or something happens—and it happens a lot of times—nobody is there," Harvier told Kirkland.

"Some of our staff have to drive down to the Gila River Indian Community to try to get signatures on papers that need authorization. And so, it's been difficult for our staff to get things done."

Kirkland later remarked, "If we're not efficient getting back to you all, ... that's time you're not getting back, that's time you're losing. So, I think that's something that we have to get better on. Hopefully, you can help us point out those areas where you think we can work better and we can try to work with you and do that."

The SRPMIC has also been working with the BIA since April 2025 to resolve issues related to the Welfare Assistance Grant (WAG).

### 3 Takeaways:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs staff, led by Assistant Secretary William Kirkland, met with SRPMIC leadership to discuss a variety of topics.
- The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is waiting for a resolution to issues related to the Welfare Assistance Grant.
- Probate backlogs dominated the conversation; followed by proposed recommendations to streamline the probate process.

SRPMIC group home staff salary expenditures are documented by the Community as a line item of the Foster Care Program consistent with Financial Assistance and Social Services Report (FASSR) instructions, with no recent issues.

However, after submitting the FY 2024 FASSR in October 2024, the Office of Indian Services Department of Health Services issued a correction notice stating that approximately \$3.1 million in group home expenditures was deemed unallowable under 25 U.S.C. § 13d.

After discussions with BIA staff in 2025, the Community said that as of the Feb. 17 meeting, the matter remained unresolved.

Another core issue addressed by the Community during the meeting is the current backlog in the probate process. Since 2025, the Community has provided testimony to Congress, participated in BIA consultations and engaged in multiple discussions with the BIA regarding probate processing delays and backlog issues.

"It's horrible to hear about the millions and millions of dollars stuck in probate that is someone else's money," said Kirkland.

Under its self-governance authority, the SRPMIC has compacted the probate function from the BIA, which means that the tribal government has taken over responsibility for handling probate matters.

To streamline the process and eliminate duplicative review levels at the WRO, the Community is proposing that the BIA grant authority for completed probate packages to be transmitted directly to the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

After the meeting, a group photo was taken on the third-floor Two Waters bridge. The group then took a tour of the Salt River Police Department's Communications Center.

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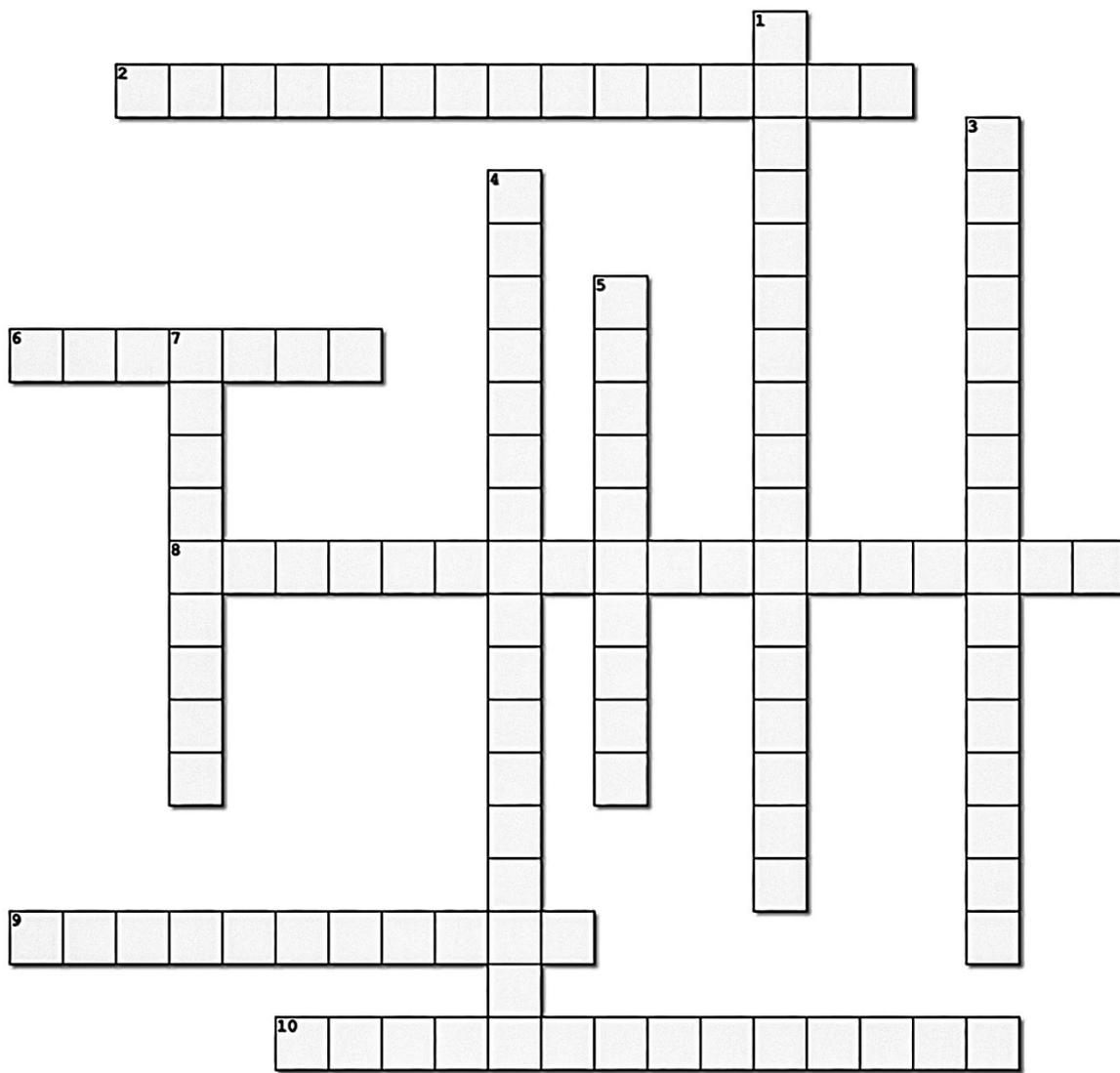
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# Can you solve the crossword puzzle?

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

Enjoy!



Across

- 2. The current Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary.
- 6. The mascot for Fountain Hills High School.
- 8. The local Arizona skateboarding crew that has been around for nearly 3 decades.
- 9. The current state treasurer for Arizona.
- 10. The SRPMIC Social Services Manager for Licensing.

Down

- 1. The SRPMIC member who was honored for 35 years of service with the Chandler Police Department.
- 3. The private utility company with a service area that includes Maricopa, Gila and Pinal Counties.
- 4. ECEC's New Leader.
- 5. The person who assisted Cody Achin during the O'odham Piipaash Night at Mountain Pointe.
- 7. The city location of the Horses Help Camp.

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Continued from front page

# Fountain Hills Falcons Varsity Girls' Basketball Team Has Much to Celebrate

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

The Fountain Hills High School Falcons varsity girls' basketball team had quite a ride this season. Featured on the team are Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members Saedee Smith, Anaya Lewis and Tayla Rogers.

Overall, the Falcons went 25-4 in the season and a perfect 7-0 in their 2A Central division, landing in first place.

After defeating San Carlos High School, 62-57, on Feb. 26, the Falcons moved on to the Arizona Interscholastic Association 2A State Championship against St. Johns High School on Feb. 28 at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix.

Having lost twice earlier in the season to St. Johns, the Falcons knew what they were up against. Unfortunately for the Falcons, St. Johns showed no signs of slowing down.

St. Johns came out on top, 41-36, meaning the Falcons finished as the state runner-up.

"It was a fun and unexpected experience, and while it wasn't the ending we had been dreaming [of], I wouldn't trade this journey with this team for anything," said Smith.

Her teammate concurred.

"It was such a big accomplishment to make it to state," said Rogers. "Even though we came up short, I am still proud of the whole team, and I couldn't have asked for a better team."

It was Lewis' freshman year on the team. She said her teammates helped her grow more confident with every game.

"They always lifted me up when I got in my head. Even though we fell short in the championship, I'm so proud of this team. I couldn't have asked for a better freshman season or a better family," said Lewis.

Photos courtesy of Emily M The Photographer.



Saedee Smith



Anaya Lewis



Tayla Rogers

Skaters were invited to hang out and shred with the Cowtown Skateboards Crew at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: on Feb. 28.

Photo courtesy of Kasey Kauakahi.



Skaters of all levels were instructed how to properly perform skateboarding tricks by the legendary Arizona skateboarding crew. Photo courtesy of Kasey Kauakahi.

## Cowtown Skateboards Hosts Honor Roll Skate Clinic in Salt River

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

techniques to bolster our local skateboarding programs," said Larned.

He added, "The team from Cowtown also joined the clinic, providing expert mentorship to ensure our volunteers felt fully confident in their ability to instruct others. Through their support, our new instructors gained the technical skills necessary to break down complex tricks for beginners in a safe, encouraging environment."

Cowtown Skateboards hosts a roster of skateboarders which includes John O'Neal, Nick Papa, Riley Johnson and others.

"This collaboration bridged cultural leadership with professional expertise,

creating a well-rounded experience for everyone involved," shared Larned. "We are now better equipped than ever to provide a safe, inclusive and thriving space for our Community's young skaters."

Skateboarding continues to be a popular sport here in the SRPMIC. Last month, Las ChicAZ, an Arizona-based skateboarding organization, held a skateboarding clinic for girls ages 5 to 16.

On March 21 and 22, Cowtown Skateboards will host the 24th Annual Phoenix Amateur Street Skateboarding Contest at the Desert West Skateboard Plaza in Phoenix. The annual event is

for skateboard artists looking to get sponsorships and make the leap from amateur status to the professional league.

Visit [www.cowtownskateboards.com](http://www.cowtownskateboards.com) to find more information about the PHXAM contest.

Larned and the rest of the Recreation and Adaptive Recreation team continue to seek out healthy and exciting programs and events that Community children can enjoy.

# Scenes From Opening Day

STAFF REPORTS  
PHOTOS BY RAYANN JOHNSON  
*O'odham Action News*  
oan@srpmic-nsn.gov

Here, we've included more photos from Rayann's time covering the Spring Training opening game at Salt River Fields. This work is an example of the talents and skills Salt River students have to offer, and shows that when students have support for their hobbies and interests, incredible things can happen.

Last issue, *O'odham Action News* shared that Salt River Elementary School sixth-grader and Eagle's Club member Rayann Johnson had an exclusive opportunity to put their skills to use on the field and behind the lens.

Below Left: Bird Singing and Dancing by the River shared a performance on the field as part of the opening ceremony festivities.

Below Center: Raeann Brown and Alice Manuel share traditional O'odham basket weaving with guests.

Below Right: Salt River Fields Board Members and guests were recognized on the field prior to the start of the game.

Bottom: Bird Singing and Dancing by the River and Salt River Traditional Basket Dancers share the Going Home Song to close out their performances.

**Check out the Video!**

This story included video coverage. Scan the QR code below to see more!

**Watch now on YouTube**




## SRPMIC Children Enjoy Horsemanship Program

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

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community children spent Saturday, Feb. 28, at Horses Help, a Cave Creek-based nonprofit where riding and working with horses helps those with physical, cognitive or developmental disabilities learn skills that enrich their daily lives. With the help of trained specialists, Community children learned proper horse grooming, feeding and walking exercises.

The SRPMIC Recreation Department, including the Adaptive Recreation program, has visited Horses Help six times already this year, with three field trips in January and three in February. The Feb. 28 field trip was the sixth and final one, but the department is planning additional trips for later this year.

Children participating in the Adaptive Riding and Horsemanship program at Horses Help experience a variety of benefits. Physically, riding horses improves strength, flexibility, balance and coordination. Kids also build their confidence and independence, improve their communication skills and learn to manage their emotions.

### 3 Takeaways:

- The Adaptive Riding and Horsemanship Program is offered at Horses Help, a Cave Creek-based nonprofit that offers people of all abilities recreational and therapeutic activities centered around caring for and riding horses.
- The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community received the opportunity to send Community children to Horses Help thanks to a sponsorship by the NB3 Foundation.
- Children spent the day grooming, walking and training the horses and had the chance to saddle up for a ride out on the ranch.

Studies have shown that horses can react to and mirror human emotions. According to a 2025 study published in the professional journal *Animals*, horses can decode emotions in human voices. Working with horses helps youth alleviate depression, anxiety, and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The day began with a brief educational overview of horse anatomy and a rundown of proper horse-riding safety protocols. Later, the children practiced proper horse grooming, which requires calmness, patience and attention to detail.

Afterward, with assistance from the Horses Help staff, the children got the chance to ride a horse for a few laps out on the ranch.

Adaptive Recreation Coordinator Tammy Thomas brought ample water and snacks for the children to enjoy.

Throughout their visit, the children learned more about their new equine friends while also learning more about themselves.



Zaylyla Medina-Lewis spent her Saturday morning of Feb. 28 hanging out with her new equine friends, with the help of the Horses Help staff.

# Chandler Police Department Honors Tamara Silversmith for 35 Years of Service



Tamara Silversmith (middle) was surrounded by her family, friends, loved ones and colleagues during the achievement ceremony.

encounters were as children, our grandparents were life-long neighbors.

I received all my clerical training in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community through the Neighborhood Youth Corps. and Internship programs. I learned it all and had many mentors.

I started at the old administration building; it was really a mobile trailer. We had a telephone switchboard back then. Dorine Andrews and Shirley Cantor supported my training to operate this. They taught me all I know in the clerical field.

One day, in October of 1985, I received a call from Karen Schurz, the executive secretary of the Salt River Police Department. She asked me if I would like to fill in as a temporary employee, until the Records Clerk position was filled.

I [worked at the SRPD] for five years, from 1985 to 1990. During that time, I was employed under the direction of Chief Edward Reina and Capt. Bert Andrews.

I was referred by the late Angie Washington. Being there, I learned the tasks of this position. It was Capt. Andrews who encouraged me to apply [for the job full-time]. I thank him and Angie Washington, for her referral to Karen, to this day. I am truly grateful and thankful for their trust and the confidence they had in me.

In coming to Chandler, it was my husband, Gary, who encouraged me to apply for the Chandler Police Department. This was 1990.

During that time, we did not have internet or cell phones. Our Sunday was making sure we had the Sunday paper! Gary came across a job description for a Records Clerk position for the Chandler Police Department in the classified ads. He encouraged me to apply. My response was not optimistic; I was terrified. I had never been outside my realm, working outside the reservation and leaving the people I worked alongside.

Through his continued efforts, I finally applied for the City of Chandler Police Department, just days before the closing date.

Later, I received a notice that I got the position. My start date was set for Dec. 23, 1990, just before Christmas. I asked if I could extend my start date; I wanted to spend Christmas with my family. We had three children at the time. I started on Jan. 7, 1991.

I have served under five chiefs of police during my tenure for the Chandler Police Department.

finished his race here on Earth, and he is reunited with our family in Heaven, in God's presence.

It has been very hard for us all as a family. I thank my children for their encouragement. Their father lives within our children. Through them, I believe, he was encouraging me, once again. I accepted.

I am dedicating my recognition award to Gary Silversmith. He created this milestone for me. If it were not for him, I would not have taken this direction or be where I am today.

would not have come together with the friendships I have today.

I would also like to acknowledge my long-lasting friends of the Salt River Police Department. They have always supported my family and me in more ways than one. From their families babysitting our girls so we can continue to work, to their support and friendship—and for always being there—I am sincerely thankful to have you as my friends.

My heartfelt appreciation [goes] to Karen Schurz, Margaret Miles, Jeryle Reina, Dixie Padilla, Theresa Harney, Leticia Dalton, Raymond and Doris Osife, Veronica Tashquith, Judy Pasqual, Lonita Jim, Dorine Andrews, Shirley Cantor, the Flo and Buddy Gates family, the Laverna Manuel family, the Toni Valencia family, and Mr. Bert and Roxie Andrews and family, whom I have the deepest respect for and am eternally grateful to.

[Also] Angelia "Angie" Washington, who started the connection in the beginning. Always the deepest most respect for her. God bless her and her family. We are all forever SRPMIC government first family and I am a proud employee of the Salt

River Police Department.

[Thank you] to our mothers, Janice White Eagle and Josephine Enos, for your love and support, for giving us a foundation. For all your teachings, your prayers, and the unity, love and support from both sides of our families. There were many times my second home was my workplace.

I am most proud of my children and grandchildren; you are in this journey with me. As you got older, you stepped up to the plate for mom, caring for our home and each other. You had to be our latchkey kids.

We sure have come a long way. You are us: strong willed, never giving up. You are our beautiful children. I love you very much.

Head to [www.oodhamnews.org](http://www.oodhamnews.org) to read comments from her supervisors!



A staff photo of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Police Department from 1987. Photo courtesy of Tamara Silversmith.

In 1991, the city of Chandler's population was 95,000. We are now at 280,000. I've been through the transitions, as time transforms.

We are now in the digital information era, where everything is processed electronically. I am a true witness to this and proud to be a part of it. I am considered a veteran; there are very few of us left.

On Jan. 7, 2026, I completed 35 years of service.

My recognition [event ended up being] extended to Feb. 2, 2026. It was not my intention to attend. Gary was planning to come to Chandler for the initial recognition, [which had been planned to take place] in January. It was his plan to bring our children. He was very happy for me, knowing he had something to do with this. Sorrowfully, it did not happen. He has

Through him, I gained my knowledge and training in the police government industry. I am skilled in public safety government and emergency management. My current position is Administrative Discovery Representative. I am the liaison between the Chandler Police Department and all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

My primary responsibilities are gathering material for all federal, county and state agencies through the Arizona Rules and Criminal Statutes. My accomplishments are the job tasks I handle; I love what I do and keeping busy. I have received many awards, from Employee of the Year to merit awards, individually and as a division, and many commendations. I have met many people internally and externally throughout my tenure. If not for Gary, I

# Salt River Elementary Student Ava Sixkiller Wins A529 Art Contest



Salt River Elementary School student Ava Sixkiller holds a check for \$529 towards her own AZ529 Education Savings Plan. She is pictured with Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee, SRS teacher Mrs. Valencia, her family and SRPD Officer Brown.



Ava's 2026 Future Career Art Contest-winning drawing. Ava's drawing was chosen as the winner for all kindergarteners who submitted for the contest.

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

Salt River Elementary School student Ava Sixkiller is the winner of the AZ529 Art Contest, Kindergarten division.

"I like to draw all the time," said Sixkiller, who is always excited to get the opportunity to draw at school.

She will receive \$529 toward her AZ529 Education Savings Plan, a college savings plan named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code sponsored by the State of Arizona.

Over 900 students participated in the art contest.

State Treasurer Kimberly Yee challenged Arizona students in kindergarten through sixth grade to submit artwork depicting their dream jobs.

Sixkiller told O'odham Action News that her

dream job is to be a police officer, working for either the Salt River Police Department or for a police department on the Navajo Nation or Hopi Reservation.

Her drawing depicted her and SRPD Officer Daniel Brown together. In the middle of the two subjects was a blank "thought bubble" in the shape of a heart, as if she were speaking to Officer Brown.

What words belong in the bubble?

"I would love to be a police officer someday," said Sixkiller, after putting some thought into it.

She said her family feels happy about her winning the award.

Sixkiller, her parents, teachers and Officer Brown attended the contest's award ceremony on Feb. 26 at the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix. After the ceremony, her parents let her choose where to eat, at Dave & Busters, which she was excited about.

# ATTENTION

## NATIVE AMERICAN DESIGNATION ON STATE ID NOW AVAILABLE



The designation appears on the front of the ID below the photo.

Enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe can now choose to have "Native American" printed onto their Arizona drivers license, instruction permit, or ID card.

### WHAT IS NEEDED TO OBTAIN AN UPDATED ID?

A new application photo and proof of enrollment in federally recognized tribe including one of the following:

- Enhanced Tribal Card
- Tribal Identification Card
- Tribal Certificate of Indian Blood
- Tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs Affidavit of Birth

Visit [azdot.gov](http://azdot.gov) or go to any Arizona MVD location to begin the process of obtaining your updated ID.

# 2026 COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD AT LEHI COMMUNITY BUILDING

1231 E. OAK STREET, MESA, AZ 85203

OPEN SESSIONS BEGIN AT 5PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2026



# 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@srbmic-nsn.gov](mailto:SRPDcet@srbmic-nsn.gov)

**APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**

ACADEMY IS OPEN TO SRPMIC MEMBERS, SRPMIC EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

**APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 27TH**



## NOXIOUS WEED ALERT!

# Stinknet

Also known as Globe Chamomile

Scientific name: *Oncosiphon piluliferum*

It looks like a pretty flower, but it is a highly invasive weed.

And it is spreading quickly!

Appearance, you ask?

Leaves appear "carrot-like" and dark green. They have a strong odor. Flowers are bright yellow and ball shaped.

Most Importantly!

**DO NOT BURN**  
**STINKNET!**

Smoke from burning stinknet is **corrosive and can be irritating to the eyes, nose, & lungs.**

Stinknet, as an allergen, can cause skin irritation, including rashes and burns.

Stinknet can and should be **pulled or manually dug out** as soon as possible.

For more information: <https://www.srbmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/compliance/#weeds>  
Or call the EPNR hotline: 480-362-7500

# MARCH 21: 8AM-2PM

JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENTS!

- ✦ TORTILLA CLASSES
- ✦ FOOD VENDORS
- ✦ TORTILLA ETIQUETTE
- ✦ GAMES
- ✦ NATIVE FOOD SAMPLES
- ✦ TORTILLA BASICS
- ✦ KITCHEN CRAFT ARTISTS
- ✦ TORTILLA MAKER OLYMPICS
- ✦ TORTILLA DEMONSTRATIONS FROM THE 4 SOUTHERN TRIBES
- ✦ CHICKEN SCRATCH BAND: WAILA STYLE 87

COME & SEE THE SUNRISE LIGHTING OF THE FIRES.



## Tortilla Festival

CEMAIT/MODIILY 2026

10005 E. OSBORN RD, SCOTTSDALE 85256  
(Southeast Corner of Longmore & Osborn)



HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM  
480.362.6320  
WWW.HUHUGAMKI.ORG

@HUHUGAMKI

@HUHUGAMKIMUSEUM

# 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)

10:00AM FIELD GAMES

10:30AM EGG EATING CONTEST (FIRST 10 ADULTS)

SALT RIVER BALLFIELD

1897 N. LONGMORE RD.  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

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.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS · 480.362.7740 · SRPMIC · SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY

# 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
- Entering secure facilities
- When driving
- By court order

## NEED HELP?

PD Non-Emergency: 480-850-9320

This flyer is for information only. Not legal advice.

# Salt River Foster Care Program Seeks Native Mentors



The SRPMIC Licensing and Foster/Kinship team is Social Services Manager (Licensing) Norma Hernandez (bottom left) and Foster Care Licensing Specialists Eldra Fred (bottom right), Christina Prichard (top left) and Becky Carino (top right).

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

The Salt River Foster Care Program is looking for Native mentors to support the Community's youth involved in the foster care system as part of the new Our Relatives Mentorship Program.

Social Services Manager (Licensing) Norma Hernandez said mentored youth in foster care are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

"As a mentor, you offer consistency, encouragement and a trusted connection, helping young people feel supported, valued and connected to their culture and community," said Hernandez.

The SRPMIC Foster/Kinship Unit, composed of Hernandez and foster care licensing specialists Becky Carino, Eldra Fred and Christina Prichard, has recently held outreach events to engage the Community. There were two mentorship orientations on Feb. 5, one in-person and the other in a virtual setting. The first mentorship event of the year was on Feb. 20 at the Social Services building.

"[At the event], the mentees got to meet with some of the Community members that volunteered," said Prichard.

### 3 Takeaways:

- The new Our Relatives Mentorship Program is looking for Native mentors to connect with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community children in foster homes monthly.
- Foster Care staff are providing outreach events in the Community to entice people to volunteer.
- It takes about 90 days to be licensed as a kinship or foster parent in the Community.

"Meals and fun ice-breakers were provided. So, the kids got to know their mentors a little better."

Prichard and her team have also hosted recruiting tables in the Community recently to attract potential mentors.

"We were in the Round House Café seeking Indigenous individuals that would be willing to commit to monthly meetings with our children in care here at the group homes in the Community," said Prichard.

Prichard said that the goal for the Mentorship Program is to connect Community children that are placed in group homes with Indigenous individuals who can be good examples to them and encourage and motivate them.

Besides running the Mentorship Program, the Foster Care Program recruits and licenses foster non-relative families that help care for Salt River children.



"We also license our kinship families, who are related to the children, and they go through a similar process as our foster non-relative families," said Hernandez.

Carino specializes in foster care and kinship homes.

"For licensing and kinship, we help with training, go into their [foster and kinship] homes to do home assessments, and conduct background checks," said Carino.

"It usually takes 90 days to become licensed. Some families are licensed sooner."

As a licensing specialist, Fred works directly with kinship families.

"I really enjoy working with kinship families, because a lot of the families that are assigned to me are grandparents raising their grandchildren or great-grandchildren," said Fred.

"I enjoy working with them because I get to hear their stories and [hear them] reminisce about their childhood and how times have changed from their child-rearing days to today's methods."

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a child in foster care, reach out to Norma Hernandez at (480) 242-0963.

## SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

# NOTICE

## ROAD CLOSURE

### LONGMORE ROAD AT MCDOWELL ROAD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 TO MID-APRIL 2026

**TRAFFIC CONTROL NOTICE**

Dallas Construction will be implementing traffic control beginning Monday, February 23rd, for ongoing Longmore Water Line Improvements.

The Community will be advised of upcoming road restriction as construction progresses.

What to expect during this phase:

- Local access to homes and businesses will be maintained.
- Northbound and Southbound lanes on Longmore Rd will be closed at the south side of the McDowell Rd intersection
- No through access on the south side of the intersection
- Detour routes will utilize Lehi Road and Belleview Street
- Traffic control signage will be in place

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we complete these improvements.

For questions, please contact:

<p>Dallas Construction Contact Clay Tower 602-550-7426 ctower@dallasconstructionllc.com</p>	<p>SRPMIC Public Works Contact Mike Jensen 480-362-3507 michael.jensen@srpmic-nsn.gov</p>
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**SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**480-362-5600**    **PWCustomerService@srpmic-nsn.gov**

# Help Name Our Newest Subdivision!

A new housing development is coming to Chaparral and Dobson. We want you to name it!

Enrolled Community Members ages 16+ are encouraged to submit ideas beginning **February 20 - March 20, 2026**

**Theme Expectations:**

We want a name that shows our lasting bond with water, soil, and the crops that have supported us for generations.

**First 200 submissions will receive two RoadHouse Cinemas tickets.**

**One grand prize winner will receive a movie party for up to 20 guests.**

**Scan QR code to enter your name idea(s)!**

[www.tinyurl.com/HousingNameContest](http://www.tinyurl.com/HousingNameContest)

Questions? Please call 480-362-6960 or email [WelcomeHome@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:WelcomeHome@srpmic-nsn.gov)

**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**  
**Andrews, Dracy Devon**- Adjudication Hearing (reset) Case: JV-26-0039 Court Date: May 4, 2026 at 1:30 PM  
**Baptisto Sr., Angelo Terry** - Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-26-0027 Court Date: April 27, 2026 at 11 AM

**Gonzalez, Denise Michelle** - Initial Termination of Parental Rights Hearing, Case: JV-26-0025, Date: April 15, 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**

**Casias, Lisa Anne** - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-0675 Court Date: March 26, 2026 at 10 AM  
**Gonzalez, Cherysh** - Motion Hearing Case: CV-25-4184 Court Date: April 7, 2026 at 10 AM  
**Jefferson, Ryan Reed** - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-25-4937 Court Date: May 19, 2026 at 9 AM  
**Lewis, Roxanne Christina** - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CF-11-0001/ CF-11-0127 Court Date: April 2, 2026 at 10:30 AM  
**Leonard, Rose** - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CF-22-0048 Court Date: April 8, 2026 at 9:30 AM  
**Lewis, Roxanne** - Evidentiary Support Modification Case: CF-11-0089 Court Date: April 7, 2026 at 10 AM

**Manuel, Leah** - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-4620 Court Date: April 20, 2026 at 9 AM  
**Manuel Sr., Sampson Eric** - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-4620 Court Date: April 20, 2026 at 9 AM  
**xRenteria, Jose** - Evidentiary Dissolution Hearing Case: CV-26-0444 Court Date: April 27, 2026 at 11 AM  
**Webster, Crystal** - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-25-4594 Court Date: April 21, 2026 at 9:30 AM  
**Wood, Adia** - Probate Hearing Case: CV-25-4620 Court Date: April 20, 2026 at 9 AM

**DEFAULT NOTICES**

**BAPTISTO SR., ANGELO SUMMONS JV-26-0027**  
 In The Matter of: John Doe (D.O.B.: 7/26/2012)  
 TO: Angelo Baptisto Sr., parent  
 A Dependency Petition has been filed in this Court alleging that you neglected or abused a child or that the child is otherwise a dependent child.  
**THEREFORE YOU ARE ORDERED to APPEAR** for a dependency Adjudication Hearing and respond to the allegations in the Petition before the Honorable Judge Heath, the Salt River Juvenile Court on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 11:00 AM, in Court Room #3.  
 Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14-0004, effective August 4, 2014, legal counsel, parties, and their respective witnesses shall be present in the courthouse at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to any proceeding.  
**WARNING:** Failure to attend any hearing without good cause shown may result in a finding that you have waived your legal rights to be present and defend against the allegation(s) in the petition. The hearing may go forward without you and may result in a finding of dependency, and the Court could make permanent orders by motion. Further, failure to appear at Court hearings or to participate in services may result in the termination of your parental rights or the establishment of a permanent guardianship.

Failure to appear at any Court hearing after receiving notice of the hearing may result in a bench warrant being issued for parent's/guardian's/custodian's immediate arrest.  
 NOTICE: Violation of this Order is Subject to Proceedings for Contempt of Court Pursuant to Salt River Community Code Section 6-42. The Court May Find the Parent, Guardian or Custodian in Contempt for Failure to Appear at a Court Hearing or For Failure to Follow Court Orders.  
 COURT CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

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: February 19, 2026  
 CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

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: February 3, 2026  
 CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

**JEFFERSON, RYAN REED DEFAULT NOTICE CF-11-0001/CF-11-0217**  
 Christina Lopez v. Ryan Reed Jefferson  
 To: Roxanne Lewis, 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)

**LEWIS, ROXANNE DEFAULT NOTICE CF-11-0001/CF-11-0217**  
 Yvonne Washington v. Roxanne Lewis  
 To: Roxanne Lewis, RESPONDENT  
 1. A Civil Complaint has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent

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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 10,005 E. Osborn Road,  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85256



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 Call O'odham Action News for advertising info.  
 (480) 362-2698 / www.oodhamnews.org

**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**

**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**

**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.  
**Per Capita Eligibility:** Tuesday, April 21 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 April 2026 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of May 2026.  
**Tax Withholding Changes:** Tuesday, April 21 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

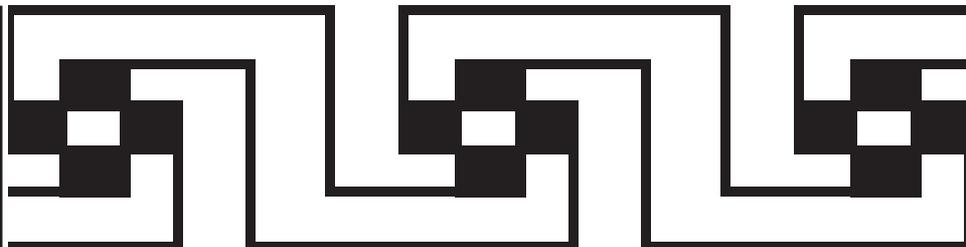
<b>SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Martin Harvier	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> Ricardo Leonard
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<b>DISTRICT D COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Su:k Fulwider	

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 Contact **Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr** at  
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 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**

**O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES**

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
APRIL 2	MARCH 20
APRIL 16	APRIL 2**
MAY 7	APRIL 17
MAY 21	MAY 8

SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS at **oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov**  
 For more information please call (480) 362-7750.  
 \*\*Note: schedule adjusted due to holiday\*\*



**7 STARS OF ARIZONA, LLC**  
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**ART & MAX'S LANDSCAPING**  
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**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**  
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**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

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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**  
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**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

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

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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**  
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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

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

**RED CACTUS PHOTOGRAPHY**  
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Please call for appointment. Lock out available Eric Schurz, (480) 735-9730 rezhawktowingandrecovery@yahoo.com

**ROUGH COUNTRY HANDYMAN AND REMOVAL SERVICE**  
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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

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**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. Singpiration, 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.l.fewis@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 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 apostleeac@gmail.com (480) 516-6509 SERVICES: 10 AM on Sundays Visit us on Facebook Live, Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

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

**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 msacruth.com for more Follow us @morningstarapostolic on Instagram and on Facebook at facebook.com/msacruth

**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.

## News and Events In and Around Indian Country

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

### A New Native American Cabinet Member?

President Donald Trump said he plans to nominate U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin as the next U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mullin is a Cherokee Citizen from Oklahoma and has served in Congress since 2013, first in the U.S. House before becoming a senator in 2023.

Trump announced the decision on social media in early March and said Mullin would start in the new position on March 31. However, Mullin can only serve as acting secretary until he is confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The announcement also means that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has been removed. Trump said she will be assigned to a new security role.

If confirmed, Mullin would be only the third Native American to serve in a presidential cabinet. The last one was Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo), who served in the Biden administration as Interior secretary.

### NCAA Recognizes Two Native Leaders

The 2026 NCAA Legends and Legacy Community Awards honor two Native women based in the Phoenix area.

Jolyana Begay-Kroupa (Navajo) and Chelsa Seciwa (Zuni Pueblo) will be recognized at the NCAA Women's Final Four April 3 and 5 at Mortgage Matchup Center (formerly PHX Arena) in downtown Phoenix.

Begay-Kroupa and Seciwa were two of five people selected to be recognized for their community work. Begay-Kroupa is CEO of the Phoenix Indian Center and Seciwa is the project director at the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition.

"The NCAA honors the recipients for their community involvement and impact, including their time commitment to civic endeavors and with local residents; influence and investment in their city; and dedicated resources provided

to enhance or improve their surrounding areas," read a news release.

### 'Medicine Ball' Documentary Coming This Year

A new basketball and Indian boarding school documentary that follows two young Native athletes will be released later this year.

The film is called "Medicine Ball" and is set at the University of Minnesota Morris in Morris, Minnesota. Parts of the campus used to be an Indian boarding school.

The film was produced by Twin Cities PBS and a trailer is available on its YouTube page. A screening is planned on the college campus at the end of March.

### Upcoming Youth Basketball Tournaments

Two premier basketball tournaments for Native youth take place in the Valley this summer. Both tournaments attract teams from across Turtle Island.

The Native American Junior Nationals is scheduled for June 25-28 in Mesa at the Arizona Athletic Grounds. This tournament includes athletes as young as elementary school up through high school; all games are played in the same building. More information can be found at www.tribeathleticssports.com.

A few weeks later, the Native American Basketball Invitational returns during the week of July 14. Game locations haven't yet been determined, but in the past, games were spread out to multiple gymnasiums in Phoenix. This tournament is for high school students. More information can be found at www.nabination.com.

### Native Fashion Week Set

The Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA) announced the return of its popular SWAIA Native Fashion Week, scheduled for May 8-9 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The event features Native creators and all things fashion. It also includes a market, reception and fashion gala.

Most of the event is free and open to the public, but some events, such as the gala, are ticketed. Details can be found at www.swaia.org.

If we CANNOT contact you by phone or email, your business will be removed from the listing. Call O'odham Action News at (480) 362-7750 to have your business put back on the listing.



# SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Residential containers WILL BE SERVICED as regularly scheduled on these holidays:

- ☑ New Year's Day
- ☑ MLK Day
- ☑ President's Day
- ☑ Good Friday
- ☑ Memorial Day
- ☑ SRPMIC Day
- ☑ Juneteenth
- ☑ Independence Day
- ☑ Labor Day
- ☑ Native American Recognition Day
- ☑ Veteran's Day

\*and any other council proclamations that may occur

The SR Public Works Department will be **closed** on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Please contact PW Customer Service for their schedules.

☎ 480-362-5600 ✉ PWCustomerService@srpmic-nsn.gov



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

## BENEFITS

**Life Disability**

**Long & Short-Term Disability Insurance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





**VIEW JOB OPENINGS & APPLY ONLINE**

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**MISSION**

**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS WITH QUALITY PRODUCTS AND EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE**

**VALUES**

**PROFITABILITY THE RIGHT WAY... INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, EXCELLENCE**

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[WWW.SRMATERIALS.COM](http://WWW.SRMATERIALS.COM)

Check us out at...  
[www.srmaterials.com](http://www.srmaterials.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FOR THE COMPLETE SRPMIC CALENDAR, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:**



## 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. 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. This 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 ELDERS**, 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.

## KUI 'I'IVAGIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XMOK MARCH

**18-19 YOUTH SERVICES ECHOES OF THE AKIMEL MURAL FESTIVAL**, Join us this Spring Break from 8am-1pm both days for 2 Days of Youth Art Camps for those age 11-18 spray painting murals with guest artists across the Salt River Community. Registration begins Now!-don't miss out! Stay tuned for more details, and let's make art together! For More Information (480) 362 - 6390 Youth Services Front Desk

**19 CHILD FIND WITH SOUTHWEST AUTISM RESEARCH & RESOURCE CENTER**, from 5:30-7 p.m. held in the Gathering Place at the Early Childhood Education Center for an informative session about Autism Spectrum Disorder in young children and the diversity of the diagnosis. 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

**20 FAMILY ART FESTIVAL TO WRAP UP ECHOES OF THE AKIMEL**, 5pm-7:30 pm at Ske:g Himdag Ki:

**21 ANNUAL TORTILLA FESTIVAL**, Come celebrate all things cemitait and modiiily with us from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Huhugam Ki: Museum. Contact the museum for more information at 480-362-6320

**24 CM DALLAS/CM SCABBY LEHI DISTRICT MEETING**, 6 p.m. at Lehi Community Building. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: <https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs>

**29 LEHI VETERANS MEMORIAL REVEALING CEREMONY**, 8 a.m. at Lehi Cemetery, Join us for our Lehi Veterans Memorial Revealing Ceremony, a special event honoring the brave men and women who have served our nation. The Veterans memorial wall stands as a lasting tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of our veterans. This ceremony is an opportunity for the community to come together in gratitude and reflection, recognizing the service of those who defended our freedoms and ensuring their legacy is remembered for generations to come. All are welcome to join us for this meaningful moment of remembrance and appreciation.

## KUI HIOSIG MAŞAD XLY'A CHMPAP APRIL

**2 SALT RIVER EDUCATION FAIR**, 5 - 7:30 p.m. at ALA Gymnasium. Explore and engage with 40+ resource and activity tables! The highlight of the event will be student science fair demonstrations and contests, plus a tradish-ish O'odham dinner and dessert by award-winning Chef Shannon Reina! Visit [saltriverschools.org](http://saltriverschools.org) for more information.

**3 GOOD FRIDAY - GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED**, Please plan accordingly.

**4 SPRING PIIPAASH MATASHEEV**, to be held at the Lehi Gathering Area. Save the date, more details to come!

**4 COMMUNITY EASTER CELEBRATION AND EGG HUNT**, Join us for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt at the Salt River Ballfield! See flyer on page 13 for complete details!

**10-12 CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**, an opportunity for participants 18 and older to get a deeper understanding of policing today. See flyer on page 13 for full details!

**26 THE BREAKTHROUGH WITH SRPD**, 5:30PM at Ske:g Himdag Ki: classroom #56

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

