



'To Be Put On a Shelf Is Not Where They Belong'

SRPMIC Relative Comes Home After Resting For Over a Century in a Museum in Edinburgh, Scotland

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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Editor's Note: This article contains culturally sensitive information.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community relatives, along with a relative from the Gila River Indian Community, has come back home to rest after over a century across the Atlantic Ocean in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Recently, the University of Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum invited representatives from

the SRPMIC and the Gila River Indian Community to travel to their institution for a repatriation ceremony, as the museum wanted to return remains of O'odham ancestors kept on their premises that they believed to be from both communities.

Representatives from SRPMIC's Tribal Historic Preservation Office traveled to Scotland with Community leaders in April to bring the relatives home safely. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office operates under the Cultural Resources Department.

The Native American Graves

Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a federal law that provides for the protection and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony to the tribal communities from which they came.

However, NAGPRA only applies within the United States. With no international repatriation law, Indigenous communities and countries around the world looking to repatriate their cultural artifacts and ancestral remains are usually at the mercy of an institution's voluntary

return and ethical framework.

"It's just a matter of one entity, the international community, a museum and whatever tribe having an agreement," said Assistant Cultural Resources Department Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Shane Anton.

Anton said that the historic preservation offices of sibling tribes often work closely together due to their proximity and relationship to each other.

According to Anton, the non-profit Association on American Indian Affairs did much of the

Continued on page 3

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Shield Raised With First Look at Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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The Shield of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has officially been raised.

Generations of Community members convened for the grand opening of the Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center on May 2, experiencing a significant moment in time. The center is located across from the Community Building, north of McDowell Road.

The name given to the cultural center, Kavaḍ/Kushov, carries weight and purpose for the Community. The function of the

facility is to protect, defend and perpetuate the histories, languages and cultures of the O'odham and Piipaash. To reflect this intention, Kavaḍ (O'odham) and Kushov (Piipaash) both mean "shield."

A ribbon-cutting took place with Cultural Resources Department staff and Community leaders at the center's entrance as eager Community members applauded and made photographic memories of the milestone.

The entire campus used to be the home of the Salt River Day School, which opened in 1935. It was built by Native

Continued on page 4



Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui addresses the Community during the grand opening of the new Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center on May 2.

Mrs. Burstyn-Meyers tells the unique history of "The Healthy Chair"
Page 4

Council Members Host Resource Fair and Meet & Greet
Page 6

Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition Hosts Webinar: 'A Talk with Male Survivors'
Page 6

News and Events In and Around Indian Country
Page 6

Senior Services Encourages Seniors to Bloom Where They are Planted with Expo
Page 9

Fun in the Taş
Page 10

Everyday Environmentalism at Earth Day 2026
Page 12

Rooted in Tradition, Rising Together at Law Day 2026
Page 13

Şgoi Oidag: A Subdivison Built by SRPMIC, for SRPMIC
Page 13

Legal Notices
Page 14



The Community came out to support each other at the ALA Football Field on May 5 and raise awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day.

Light Up the Night: A Night of Hope & Healing at Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community united in support on May 5, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day, to show solidarity and honor, and to remember and raise awareness.

Earlier in the day, the Community gathered at Two Waters Amphitheater for a Red Wrap event, where people wrapped the amphitheater in red and added their handprints on its outside wall to raise awareness. The handprint image, which is often

painted over a mouth, symbolizes the silence of victims.

The evening event, Light Up the Night: A Night of Hope & Healing, took place at the Accelerated Learning Academy football field. A warm welcome was extended to families affected by the MMIP crisis. Families set up booths with photos, banners and signs with information about their loved ones.

Pacer Reina was the emcee and helped usher speakers to the stage. The speakers included family members of those in the Community who have been affected by MMIP.

Continued on page 8



Senior Chair Volleyball athlete Pat Nahee and many more superstars showcased their chair volleyball talents during the annual Ske:g Himdag Senior Chair Volleyball Tournament, which began on April 30.

Ske:g Himdag Senior Chair Volleyball Tournament Brings Out the Best

It's back! One of the biggest sports tournaments in Salt River returns with 30-plus chair volleyball teams.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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Here in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, chair volleyball is serious business.

Laughter, applause and some competitive but friendly yelling filled the Community Building during the annual Ske:g Himdag Senior Chair Volleyball Tournament, which was held across two days beginning on April 30.

This year's tournament saw

more than 30 teams, many local, some traveling from across Arizona, Washington state, California and New Mexico, battling it out on the gym floor.

The SRPMIC was well-represented in this year's tournament. The local teams included Mavericks, Lightning & Thunder, SR S'gevk Strong, Salt River Elite, Onk Akimel Tadaí, Nyaa Thosh, SR Players, SR Serv-ivors and the SR Steppers.

Additional teams participating

Continued on page 9



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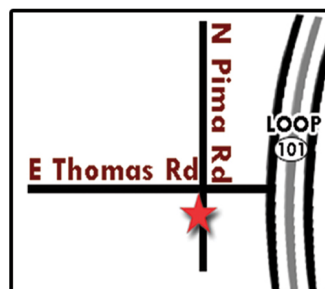
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'To Be Put On a Shelf Is Not Where They Belong'



Representatives from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, in April for a repatriation ceremony. The group, along with Gila River Indian Community staff and University of Edinburgh staff, pose for a photo outside of a university building. Those in photo from SRPMIC include Council members Jacob Butler, Mikah Carlos and Su:k Fulwilder, SRPMIC NAGPRA Coordinator Martha Martinez, Cultural Compliance Supervisor Angela Garcia and Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui. Photo courtesy of Martha Martinez.

3 takeaways:

- The University of Edinburgh in Scotland has returned remains of two relatives back to O'odham sibling tribes after over a century.
- An SRPMIC envoy of leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff traveled to the United Kingdom for the repatriation ceremony in April.
- Although frustration remains over why the ancestors were taken and held, SRPMIC Council member Su:k Fulwilder emphasized that the return is also part of a broader effort toward healing.

legwork, contacting museums throughout Europe ahead of the university's recent repatriations.

Professor Tom Gillingwater, chair of anatomy at the University of Edinburgh, shared the following statement:

"Repatriations are an important part of our efforts to address the University's historical and contemporary legacy.

We work with many communities around the world to engage with our collections and to facilitate the return of remains and artefacts. Rather than being viewed as a diminishment of the University's collections, repatriations represent truly meaningful opportunities for us to build new relationships and deepen our understanding of our past. We are honoured to have been able to play a part in returning these ancestral remains."

The first repatriation from the University of Edinburgh was to Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka) in 1947. Since 1990, the university has had a formal policy in place to work with Indigenous communities around the world to engage with their collections and facilitate the return of ancestral remains and cultural artifacts.

This repatriation with the SRPMIC and GRIC is believed to be the second-ever international repatriation of ancestral remains to tribes in the mainland United States. The first was the return of six relatives to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma, which took place during a formal ceremony in Edinburgh on Jan. 23. There has since been a third repatriation this year, to the Chickasaw Nation, according to the Anatomical Museum's website.

This was the SRPMIC's first international repatriation.

Building a Positive Relationship

With an unprecedented opportunity for relationship-building, SRPMIC Council members were presented with an open invitation to attend the museum's April repatriation ceremony in Scotland. Mikah Carlos, Jacob Butler and Su:k Fulwilder represented Council.

Butler's understanding of pottery and other cultural items and how they're constructed was valuable in helping all

parties understand some of the items in the museum's collection. He was proud to be part of the repatriation.

"We were there more as dignitaries to show that this repatriation has value and meaning to the people, and that it's the responsibility of the Community [to] bring home our ancestors," said Butler.

SRPMIC NAGPRA Coordinator Martha Martinez, Cultural Compliance Supervisor Angela Garcia and Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui were the Cultural Resources Department representatives for the Community.

"The relationship between [sibling tribes] and university representatives was refreshing because it was even more welcoming than we get sometimes in the States," Martinez said of the Scottish university's staff.

"It was [a relief], because we don't know what's all going to happen in a whole different country, how they're going to act, how they're going to take us. But that relationship we built helped give us a good starting point to what international repatriation should look like."

This was Fulwilder's first time flying out of the country. She didn't think she would get as emotional as she did when the parties met.

"I was just realizing, [these are] our relatives, and they've been gone from our Community, our homeland, for so long," said Fulwilder.

"It's kind of weird being off the reservation and going to a whole other country, but, like, willingly. Just thinking about how our relatives were taken and stolen."

During the closing ceremony with Edinburgh university staff, Carlos had an overwhelming feeling to express. She spoke with O'odham Action News about it when she returned home.

At the ceremony, she felt, "I've been here (in Scotland) not even a full week at this point, and my yearning to go home is so strong, I can't even imagine being here for hundreds of years. A hundred years and being so far away from home," said Carlos.

Carlos said it was an honor to be able to bring these ancestors home and give

them a dignified resting place. While she said the university took great care of the relatives, "to be put on a shelf is not where they belong."

Tracing a Journey to Scotland

A pseudoscience called phrenology gained popularity in the early to mid-1800s among some individuals in Europe and the United States. The practice involved feeling the contours of a person's head, using the characteristics of an individual's skull to supposedly predict their mental traits and character. Phrenology played into racist theories of inferiority that were being spread at the time.

"The two major countries that [practiced] phrenology were Scotland and the United States," said Anton. "[The remains of] a lot of Native people were given by museums or archeologists to Scotland."

Although phrenology was founded in the late 1700s by German physician Franz Joseph Gall, the world's first phrenological society, the Edinburgh Phrenological Society, was established in 1820. The society closed in 1886, and items in its collections were transferred to the Department of Anatomy at the University of Edinburgh.

"Phrenology was never proven. It was always disavowed," said Anton.

The university maintains that while not officially taught as an academic subject at Edinburgh, phrenology was supported by several influential figures, whose connections with the university gave it legitimacy and prestige.

And while the university believes phrenology played a role in how the relatives ended up in the museum, they maintain that the person who sent the remains to the university did so of his own accord.

We can start with a doctor born in Austria named Julius Silberstein, who worked at the Pima Agency in Sacaton for the U.S. Office of Indian Affairs during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

According to the university, Silberstein wrote to university staff in Edinburgh asking if they were interested in remains to be used for research. This is likely how the relatives ended up across the pond.

The Standard Medical Directory of North America of 1902 places Silberstein in Sacaton at that time.

To put his job into context, records found in the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center dated Aug. 1, 1899, show that Silberstein was actively practicing medicine on tribal members when he signed off on medical records that cleared the transfer of eight children and young adults from the SRPMIC to the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Silberstein died in Sacaton in 1913.

Coming Home in Healing

Over a century later, the SRPMIC and GRIC are reclaiming their story and people on their own terms.

While there is a lingering feeling of frustration about the relatives being at the Edinburgh university in the first place, Fulwilder said that the repatriation was also about healing.

"We're here for a reason and not to be angry about those things, because the past is the past. We can't change how it is or what happened. But we're here to try to make it right."

After the repatriation took place, the focus was on making sure the relatives and Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff escorting them made it home safely through ports of entry and customs both abroad and at home.

When it comes to culturally sensitive information, Martinez said the Tribal Historic Preservation Office often must balance between sharing with the Community what it can to educate them and following traditional practices protecting ancestors.

"When people ask for details, we can't always give that to people, but it's really not because we don't want to," explained Martinez. "It's for their protection. Because [Community members] may not have bad intentions, but other individuals do. People are still looting, still seeking to take the remains of our ancestors and their belongings."

What we do know, according to Anton, is that very detailed archeological work made the identification of the remains possible. We also know that history is patient. What disappears from sight is rarely lost forever.

Shield Raised With First Look at Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center



3 takeaways:

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony signified a new beginning and new memories for the Cultural Resources Department and Community members.
- Kavaḍ (O’odham) and Kushov (Piipaash) both mean “shield.”
- The cultural center was built by many Community members.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony signified the grand opening of the Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center. LEFT TO RIGHT: Jr. Miss Salt River Tiare Begay-Smith, 1st Attendant to Jr. Miss Salt River Aiyanna Toya, Council members David Antone, Su:k Fulwilder and Jacob Butler, Cultural Resources Director Kelly Washington, Council member Mikah Carlos, Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King and owner of Dallas Construction, David Dallas.



The new komal at the Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center being used by Community member Tammy Walker as Museum Manager Gary Owens looks on.

vocational students from the Phoenix Indian School, many of whom are believed to be Community members. The Day School transitioned into Salt River Elementary School in the 1990s, and on May 23, 2007, that Salt River Elementary School held its final day of classes.

“When this building came to the end of its former life as a day school, we wanted to make sure that we continued the stories and history because this is the day school that served our Community in the longest capacity,” said Cultural Resources Department Director Kelly Washington.

“For better or for worse, either happy or sad times—it depends on when you went here and your experiences, and what teacher you had at the time—it shaped our lives for a lot of generations here.”

With the ribbon cut, a program was held in the courtyard, a place that seems to evoke memories in many Community members. It is a gathering space in the middle of the campus with a stage. Surrounding the courtyard are the offices and cultural classrooms of the Cultural Resources Department. CRD staff such as language program employees, leadership and historians moved their offices from near Two Waters to the new campus.

Martha Martinez, the Community’s



CRD Director Kelly Washington talks at the lectern during the grand opening program.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) coordinator, emceed the program. Martinez and the rest of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff now have offices at the old teacher’s dormitory that was located alongside the Salt River Day School.

“We welcome everybody to this campus that we are all going to be able to enjoy,” began Martinez.

O’odham Education Specialist Malia Garcia gave the morning blessing. Council member Jacob Butler shared his gratitude for the new cultural center, as he was a big part of that department before serving on Council.

Construction of the center began in 2024 with Public Works Department

senior project manager Dwayne Wilson overseeing the architectural plans. It was also Dallas Construction’s first vertical project.

David Dallas, owner of Dallas Construction, was proud of all the Community members and Community-owned businesses who had a hand in resurrecting the center. Dallas said that the whole project at Kavaḍ/Kushov was built by as many Community-member hands as possible.

“It means something to all of us that we’re building our own Community,” said Dallas.

As people filtered into the walkways and halls of the center, one could hear them talking about how past experiences came back to life and about all the little details of the building that they recall.

Assistant Community Manager Dawn Sinoqui shared those memories.

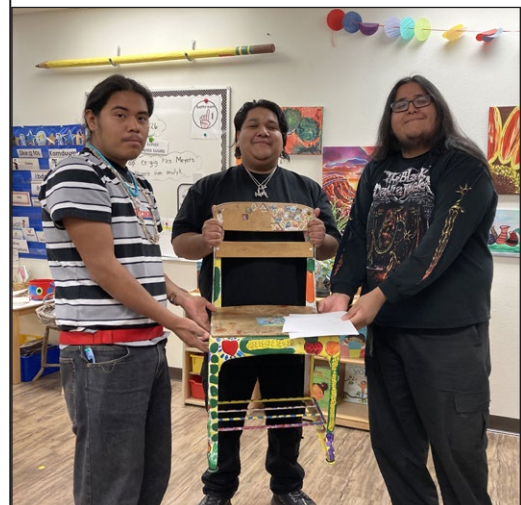
“As you walk the halls, it feels so good because your memories come back and you think about the good times, and maybe you had some bad times,” said Sinoqui.

“But I think in the bad times, those are the times that we are learning and going through life. It’s not going to be easy. It’s hard sometimes, but that’s when we grow and learn the most.”

The grand opening ended with a traditional meal and fresh cemaat/modiily made on the new komal outside. Vendors and artisans had their items for sale while social dances took place. Among the sounds of the traditional songs were new memories being formed in a new era for the Community.

Although still undergoing some construction in areas, Washington said that the cultural center is available for certain culturally relevant tours. If you are interested in inquiring about a tour, you can reach out to CRD customer service assistant Nicole Carlos at crd-customerservice@srpmic-nsn.gov.

Mrs. Burstyn-Meyers tells the unique history of "The Healthy Chair"



Mrs. Burstyn-Meyers' former students Antonio Valencia, Lamar Lopez and Sighman Schurz carry the chair from the former Salt River Day School to its new destination at the Repository.

“Before moving to the SRES campus in 2007, I was teaching at the Salt River Day School site. I happen to find an old chair that was ready to be thrown out. I kept the chair in my classroom, and it was brought to the new SRES in 2007. During the school year of 2010-2011, there was going to be a Wellness Night at the Salt River High School. My kinder class turned the chair into 'The Healthy Chair.' We talked about healthy foods to eat, exercise, drinking plenty of water etc. Each student painted either a design or healthy food on the chair. Then, they all signed the seat of the chair. The chair was displayed at the Wellness Night event, and we even did a 'Can Aerobic' routine on the stage in front of parents and visitors. I have kept the chair in my classroom, and former students have stopped by to see the chair. I decided to reach out to the Huhugam Ki: Museum to see if it could become part of the collection since the chair came from the Salt River Day School. With documentation of the 2010-2011 Class picture, Wellness Night agenda, and photos of former students visiting the chair it was accepted to become a part of the collection. On Friday, March 13, 2026, the Repository came and picked up the chair. Former students, Antonio Valencia, Lamar Lopez and Sighman Schurz came to carry the chair out so it can become a part of Salt River Day School history.

Thank you to Franak Hilloowala, Collections Manager, for coming to pick up the chair, and taking part in the excitement for this historical moment.

To celebrate we all went to The Roundhouse for pizza. We ran into Council Member Jacob Butler who congratulated the students. It was a perfect day.”

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BY DALTON WALKER
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Federal Task Force Launched to Combat Crime in Indian Country

The U.S. Department of the Interior has launched a new Indian Country Violent Crime Task Force.

Its goal is to strengthen law enforcement coordination, protect families in tribal communities and crack down on violent crime and drug activity. The order directs the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services to lead a coordinated effort with federal, tribal and state partners.

"By working closely with tribal communities, federal law enforcement and local partners, we are honoring victims, strengthening public safety and helping prevent future crime by improving coordination, early intervention and community-based protection initiatives," Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Billy Kirkland said in a statement.

Tohono O'odham Member Seeks Arizona House Seat

Naomi Miguel wants to represent an Arizona state House of Representatives district that includes part of her tribe, the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Miguel is seeking a seat in the state's 23rd Legislative District. Arizona's primary election is on July 21, and so far, four Democratic candidates are seeking two spots on the general election ballot.

Miguel's experience includes serving in the Biden administration as executive director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Education Equity for Native Americans and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

New Ms. and Mr. Indigenous Arizona State University

Arizona State University has a new Indigenous court. Candice Joe was crowned Ms. Indigenous ASU 2026-27 and Zach Ander Thomas was named Mr. Indigenous ASU 2026-27. Joe and Thomas both are from the Navajo Nation.

Gila River Indian Community member Evelyn Enos was named Ms. Indigenous ASU 1st Attendant and Wydell Slim was named Mr. Indigenous ASU 1st Attendant. He is from the Navajo Nation.

The court was announced at ASU's annual powwow in April.

Stewart Indian School Reunion

Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada, is hosting a reunion on June 20. The event includes a brunch, followed by a powwow.

The old boarding school closed in 1980 and is now the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Many of the original buildings remain.

To RSVP, or for more information, call (775) 687-7611.

Sacred Site Near Mexico Border Destroyed

A sacred site located in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge near the Mexican border was destroyed by a federal contractor during border wall construction, according to the Tohono O'odham Nation.

In a statement, Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Verlon Jose called it a "devastating and entirely avoidable loss."

The site is on traditional O'odham lands about 60 miles west of the Tohono O'odham Nation.



SRPMIC membership and their loved ones visited with Council members Deanna Scabby and Michael Dallas Sr. on April 18 at the Evergreen neighborhood center.

Council Members Host Resource Fair and Meet & Greet

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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It's always a good time to fire up the grill and cook hot dogs on a Saturday afternoon in Lehi.

On Saturday, April 18, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council members Deanna Scabby and Michael Dallas Sr. hosted a resource fair at the Evergreen neighborhood center, which is located east of Indian School Road on the south side of Olive Street.

The community area is located on Fairmont Avenue and features a neighborhood park in the cul-de-sac as well as two community buildings which allow for meeting space and gatherings.

One of the main points Scabby and Dallas wanted to get across is that the Evergreen neighborhood is part of the Lehi District they both represent.

"Thank you all for coming out," said

Dallas during his opening remarks. Throughout his speech, he invited members and their families to approach him and have a conversation about any concerns they might have, or to simply to catch up.

Members received an O'odham Piipaash tote bag as well as snacks and a meal. A tent was set up to help keep everyone comfortable under the unseasonably warm springtime sun.

During the fair, Dallas grabbed an extra flyer off the table and folded it in half. On the back, he wrote down each comment and concern he received from members and then shared his handwritten notes with Scabby.

It is crucial and beneficial for people to feel represented by their Community officials. This resource fair showed that SRPMIC Council members remain committed to improving the lives of Community members and their families.

Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition Hosts Webinar: 'A Talk with Male Survivors'

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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Editor's Note: This story contains sensitive subject matter that some readers may find upsetting.

On April 21, six Indigenous men shared their stories as survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

It was an online webinar presentation facilitated by the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition recognizing the month of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Lenny Hayes, Jeremy Nevilles-Sorell, Whirlwind Bull Yellow Bear, Tim Ruise, Waylon Pahona and Dwight Francisco all openly discussed the various forms of sexual assault they experienced and how they have attempted to overcome the trauma.

Nevilles-Sorell (White Earth Nation/Winnebago) helped facilitate the webinar, asking each panel member to introduce himself to the webinar's audience, which was composed of nearly 200 individuals.

Lenny Hayes

Lenny Hayes (Sisseton Wahpeton-Oyate) stated that he found himself at a crossroads when his longtime friend of 13 years said they were fed up with Hayes not taking care of himself and not getting help to process and overcome being sexually abused as a child. "After that, I attempted suicide and almost succeeded. My trauma was so heavy, and I did want to die. When my friend said that to me, that's what got me into therapy. I went through 10 years of extensive therapy," Hayes said. Hayes mentioned how masculinity

can be viewed incorrectly by society, especially in Indian Country. "When I look at masculinity, I just say, 'I can carry wood,'" said Hayes with a chuckle. "In my life, I grew up in a family with so much dysfunction that by the time I was 6 years old, I knew something was wrong. I didn't have any supportive adults around me to teach me about my identity. Nowadays, I am thankful for all the gifts that I have been given."

Waylon Pahona

Waylon Pahona (Piipaash/Hopi/Tewa) is a yoga and fitness instructor with nearly two decades of experience. During their presentation, they detailed how exercise provided them relief and a way to overcome their childhood traumas.

"Being from the reservation, I thought I was at fault. Assimilation and colonization teach us that our traditional ceremonies are witchcraft; I had to unlearn that," began Pahona. "I was sexually abused from 6 to 9 years old by a female. I was raped by a male friend [at] around 12 years old. It took me to a place where I attempted to take my own life and ended up in the hospital. In 2007, I officially expressed myself at PIMC (Phoenix Indian Medical Center). When I shared, I went through counseling, and I saw a psychologist. That's when I started.

"I didn't question if I was gay; I went the opposite [way]. I treated women badly, sexually," he admitted.

He continued, "Now, I'm opening up and sharing more because my mom recently passed away. Back then [when she was alive], I was too ashamed to share an in-depth feeling of what I went through, because I didn't want others

to talk badly about her. I didn't want people to ask, 'Why didn't she help her son?'"

Pahona added, "Being a trainer and understanding the body, I teach people that it's our mind that gets us out the front door to be able to handle life's challenges. From there, I relate to openly helping people get through their traumas and then helping them exercise."

Jeremy Nevilles-Sorell

When it was time for Jeremy Nevilles-Sorell to share his story, he started off by saying, "When I was younger, my mom was nearly murdered four times, so I felt my own traumas were minimal in comparison," he said.

Moments later, he added, "This is why it's important to not compare traumas, ever."

Comparing traumas minimizes the individual experience, invalidates emotional pain and hinders healing. When a person listens to another sharing their traumas and the listener then begins talking about themselves and their own traumas, that often leads to the sharer feeling shame, isolation and reluctance to seek additional help.

Simply put, trauma is not and should never be viewed as a competition. If someone shares their traumas with you, listen to them and help them receive support and services from trauma-informed medical professionals.

Dwight Francisco

Dwight Francisco (Tohono O'odham) has been sober for 11 years and has been living in Phoenix for a decade.

"Why didn't I speak up? It happened when I was a boy, up to age 5 years old. It happened when I was living with my great-grandmother and grandmother," said Francisco. "I felt a lot of shame; I didn't want to shame my family. I didn't want people to talk bad about my

family in the community. The fear is what keeps us sick for a long time."

He added, "Someone with unhealed trauma handed down the trauma to me. But because I got help, I am not passing down the trauma to others. When I switched from victim to survivor mode, I was comfortable enough accepting the truth that it wasn't my fault. Then I was able to share my healing with others. That abused boy [I used to be]? I'm saving him. He doesn't have to live hurting in the past."

Whirlwind Bull Yellow Bear and Tim Ruise

Whirlwind Bull Yellow Bear (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation) and Tim Ruise (Cahuilla Band of Indians) echoed similar remarks.

"Silence doesn't help anybody. I don't blame myself for not speaking up," admitted Yellow Bear. "When I speak with a men's group, we usually minimize our own traumas. I minimized mine; I assumed I was okay. I only told a few people about what happened. But today, I feel strong enough to share with the people here. We have to encourage our children to speak up."

Ruise spoke about how family and school life can contribute to a survivor not wanting to speak out.

"Like in my family on my dad's side, who is a strong cultural Indigenous person, we didn't talk about it. Then at school, the kids bullied me, and the teachers don't have enough training to help me in that way," he shared. "I'm thankful I walked the hard life that I have today because it taught me a lot. The only person I trusted as a male in my family was my grandfather. I didn't trust my uncles, cousins or any of them. We need to educate our men."



Beep, Beep!
Win, Win!

JUNE PROMOTIONS



Jeep, Jeep, Riches Giveaway Shift into Winning - 2 Jeeps!

Wednesdays, June 24 & July 29 • 6PM - 8PM

Win up to \$10,000 cash or 1 of 2 Jeeps! Earn 1 entry for every 100 points earned beginning June 1. Plus, earn 2x entries every Monday and Wednesday. Win up to 500 bonus entries on select Thursdays.

Vehicle pictured may not be exact model or color in giveaway. The physical display vehicle may not be the exact model or color, but the value will not change.

Fortune Fridays

Boost Your Day!

Fridays in June • 11AM - 1PM

Earn 1 entry for every 100 points earned to be 1 of 8 winners to win \$250 cash! Plus, earn 2x entries every Monday and Tuesday!

Cash is King

Power Up Dad's Day!

Sunday, June 21 • 2PM - 4PM

Be 1 of 8 lucky winners for up to \$1,000 cash! Earn 1 entry for every 100 points earned PLUS get 3x entries on Wednesday, June 3, 10 & 17!

Calling All Seniors 55+

Icon Member Exclusive

Sundays in June • 6AM - 6PM

Icon members (Seniors 55+) can win up to \$1,000 Free Play!

Blazing Bucks • Bingo

Win a Share of up to \$15,000!

Saturdays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27 • Evening Sessions
Sundays, June 14 & 28 • Matinee sessions

Begin earning entries June 1. Get 1 entry for every 3 bingo points earned. Swipe and win up to 500 bonus entries daily. Play 1 kiosk game for every 90 bingo points earned. Limited to 3 plays per day. Earn 1,000 entries for every 60 bingo points earned on Saturday drawing days from 9:45am until 7:30pm and Sunday drawing days from 9:45am until 1:30pm.

Military Appreciation

Get \$15 FREE PLAY + 15% off Dining

Visit Salt River Rewards and present your Valor card to claim your \$15 Free Play. Redeem this one-time offer any day of the month. PLUS, receive 15% off dining anytime, all month!*

*Must show a valid Military ID or Valor card to redeem dining offer. Offer valid for up to four covers. Alcohol and gratuity not included. Restrictions apply. See Salt River Rewards for details.

It's a Pho-nomenon!
Thursdays at
THE EAGLES BUFFET™

Warm up your week with
Pho-nomenon Thursdays at
The Eagles Buffet!

THURSDAYS

11AM-2:30PM

\$19.95

(Full Buffet | Pho Featured Thursdays)



**Celebrate
Dad in Style**

T-Bone Steak | \$50

SUNDAY

JUNE 21

5PM - 10PM

Cholla
STEAKHOUSE & LOUNGE™



Limited availability • Dine-in only.

UNIQUELY ARIZONA

There's more to explore at **casinoarizona.com**

Locally owned and caringly operated by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Must be 21 years of age or older to participate. Management reserves all rights. Problem gambling? Call 1-800-NEXT-STEP, text NEXTSTEP to 53342 or visit problemgambling.az.gov.



Light Up the Night: A Night of Hope & Healing at Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day

“Like in a lot of other communities today, there are other events that are being held in Arizona, as well as across the country. We are glad you are here,” Reina told the crowd.

Dozens of similar events took place across the United States and Canada on this day, some over the previous weekend.

The Young River People’s Council gave the opening blessing at ALA.

Ariel Antone is the mother of Elijah Andrews, who has been missing since Dec. 17, 2025. She was invited to the stage to say a few words about her son.

“We’re still out there looking for my son. I’m never going to give up hope,” said Antone.

“If anyone knows anything about his last whereabouts, please don’t be scared to say anything.”

Anna Anderson talked about her daughter, Passion Schurz, who went missing earlier this year.

“My daughter, Passion, went missing on March 19 and was found nine days later. Unfortunately, she was not found alive. My family carries a pain that no one can describe,” said Anderson.

“I ask that you keep not only my daughter in your prayers, but also everyone that is also living life every day with unsolved answers.”

SRPMIC Council member Su:k Fulwilder also went up on the stage. She held up a picture of her brother, Mateo Sandoval, whose life was taken in 2004. The case remains unsolved.

“This issue is close to my heart, and I know it is close to all of our hearts because we are all relatives in one way or another,” said Fulwilder.

After the speakers left the stage, walk participants gathered on the track around the football field. O’odham and Piipaash

3 Takeaways:

- The evening portion of SRPMIC MMIP Awareness Day was a walk to promote hope and healing among Community members.
- Community members who have lost loved ones took to the stage to share about their family members.
- The walk around the ALA football field track was lit by luminarias to provide light and honor those who are lost.

songs echoed throughout the field as the walkers began their trek.

Luminarias around the track provided light and honored those who are lost.

Dinner was provided to participants after they were finished walking. Participants also received shirts from the SRPMIC-sponsored event.



“Justice For Dexter” signs held up by Community members and supporters. Families of missing and murdered community members joined the walk to bring awareness to their loved ones.



Council member Su:k Fulwilder stands on the stage behind the microphone to let people know about her brother Mateo Sandoval, whose life was taken in 2004.

You are not alone.

There are many SRPMIC advocates and staff ready to assist if the unthinkable should happen. We are all in this together.

More information: <https://srpmic-nsn.gov/government/srpd/missing-persons-welfare/>

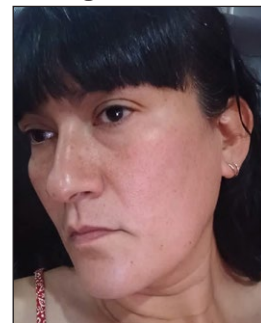
SPRD Non-Emergency: 480-850-9230



Recent Missing Persons in SRPMIC



Elijah Andrews
Last Seen: 12/17/2025
Age: 19
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 170
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Black
Elijah was last seen in the area of Stapley Dr. and Oak St.
Det. Penunuri #403
480-362-7737



Marian Barragan
Last Seen: 1/31/2026
Age: 46
Height: 5'0"
Weight: 120
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Black
Marian was last seen in the area of Stapley Dr. and Thomas Rd. in Lehi.
Det. Guerra # 411
602-921-8853



Lilianna Hadley
Last Seen: 3/28/2026
Age: 17
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 135
Eyes: Black
Hair: Brown
Lilianna was last seen leaving her group home within the City of Maricopa.
Det. Lombardi #125
480-362-7969

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

Graduate Shout Outs

Scan the QR Code to fill out the form or email us at oan@srpmic-nsn.gov with your name, photo, school attended and field of study (if applicable) with a 30-word message to be included in our



Special June 4, 2026 Graduation Issue.

DEADLINE:
May 27, 2026 6 p.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/OANGradShout26>

Open to graduating Community Members and their immediate families. Email oan@srpmic-nsn.gov with questions!



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Memorial Day Ceremony



Let Us Never Forget

Monday, May 25, 2026

★★★
7AM | Lehi Cemetery

3660 N Horne Rd. Mesa, AZ 85203

Reception at the Lehi Community Building following ceremony. First 200 receive a T-shirt and meal.

Any questions please call 480-362-7884 or email veteranservices@srpmic-nsn.gov

OAN PODCAST

Have you listened to OAN's Podcast?

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



Listen Now!

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Memorial Day

Flag Planting

Saturday, May 23, 2026

★★★
7AM | St. Francis Cemetery

Flag Planting will begin at St. Francis, then SR Cemetery, and ending at Lehi Cemetery.

Requesting volunteers to help with Flag Planting

No registration required, hope to see you there!

Any questions please call 480-362-7884 or email veteranservices@srpmic-nsn.gov



First Place - Team Pala 1



Debra Cachora gave it her all and showcased all-star playmaking skills.



Lupita Ray brought her A-game on both tournament days.

in this year's tournament were the Gila River O'dhams, Semalulukut, Boston Bosses, CRIT United, and four Pala Turtles teams from the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

Pool play began on Thursday, when all teams were given a brief overview of the official rules and guidelines. Staff from Ske:g Himdag Ki: politely reminded the volleyball superstars to stay seated while they're playing by keeping at least "one cheek" on their chair at all times.

Players received snacks and a meal throughout the tournament, as well as coffee and other drinks to prevent muscle aches and pains. Though the volleyball nets were set at 5 feet, many seniors still tried their best to spike one over the net while staying seated in their chairs.

Additionally, a professional massage therapist and staff from the Salt River Fire Department were on site, waiting to

provide support and aid to any of the athletes who needed a moment to catch their breath.

Thursday's games allowed for the teams to warm up and establish their game plans in preparation for Friday's daylong playoff and championship games.

On Friday, teams competed against one another in a three-game series. Each game was played to at least 15 points. But because the official rules called for the winning team to win by two points, some games lasted longer than others.

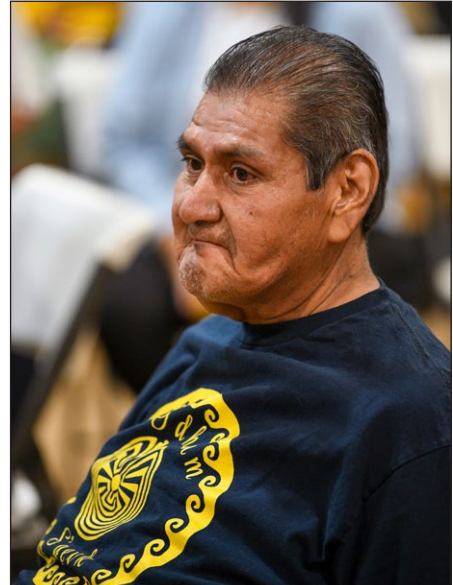
The tournament also was an opportunity for family, friends and loved ones to catch up. Jewelry and clothing vendors filled the lobby as music from the 70s, 80s and 90s played from the gym speakers, providing the perfect atmosphere for one of the Community's most prized tournaments.

When it was all said and done, team Pala 1 from California took home the

top honors, securing first place and earning bragging rights until next year's tourney.

Team Uhs Kehk Ba'Ban earned second place and team Saboba 1 rounded out the top three rankings.

The well-attended tournament proved once again that if any chair volleyball athletes in Indian Country claim to be the best, they'll have to travel to Salt River and compete in next year's Ske:g Himdag Senior Chair Volleyball Tournament to prove it.



Eric Grijalva had his eyes set on bringing home the championship trophy all tournament.

Want to see more photos?
 visit our website at www.oodhamnews.org

Senior Services Encourages Seniors to Bloom Where They are Planted with Expo

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Services recently held its Bloom Where You Are Planted Senior Expo & Fitness Walk at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: on April 15. The event was meant to inspire seniors to take steps on their wellness journey and to inform them about the many programs available to help through Senior Services and the community. Nearly 100 seniors attended.

"We wanted to put on an event that encouraged our seniors and caregivers to take care of

themselves and while learning about the services and programs available to help them," said Coordinator Celinda Joe, who oversees the Health & Wellness and Caregiver programs. "It was exciting to be outdoors and to include a fitness walk this year."

About 35 seniors participated in the walk, which included warm-up exercises led by Dion Begay and Nevelle Howard from Diabetes Prevention Services. Members of the Salt River Police and Fire Departments accompanied the seniors on the walk.

Carmelita Osif, who had part of her leg amputated in March 2025, was among the seniors who participated.

"I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it and show others who may be in my situation that they could do it too," said Osif. "I believe you are only as limited as you limit yourself, and I hope I inspire others to push themselves so they can see what they are truly capable of."

Adding to the fun were visits from Toby Toodles and Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King, who visited with the seniors and cheered them on during the walk. Several seniors also received flower bouquets as raffle prizes and each senior received a potted succulent to take home. Those who visited all the vendors also received an insulated mug.

"It was inspiring to see our seniors come out this year, including those who participated in the fitness walk, though they had some physical limitations," said Joe. "The seniors really look forward to the information every year, and we wanted to inspire them to bloom where they are and take those steps on their journeys to improve their health and wellness."

To learn more about other Senior Services Health & Wellness and Caregiver activities, contact Celinda Joe at 480.876.7180 or celinda.joe@srpmic-nsn.gov.



In addition to leading the seniors on the fitness walk, staff from Salt River's Police Department served the seniors breakfast.



Carmelita Osif participated in the fitness fun walk to prove to herself that she could do it and to inspire others. She believes, "You are only as limited as you limit yourself."



Diabetes Prevention Services Fitness Specialist Dion Begay (center) photo bombed Toby Toodles and Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King, who added to the fun morning by visiting with the seniors.

Fun in the Taş

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
O'odham Action News
 zoe.hernandez@srpmic-nsn.gov

and eye health; vitamin C to strengthen the immune system; potassium, which can help lower blood pressure; and vitamin B6. Like *miliñ*, *wua'amakam* has multiple benefits. The most notable benefit is beta-carotene, which is what gives it its distinct *soam* (orange-yellow) color. The body will convert the beta-carotene into vitamin A, an antioxidant that supports a healthy immune system and eye health. *Wua'amakam* also has several other useful ingredients: vitamin C, folic acid, fiber and potassium. Both *miliñ* and *wua'amakam* were introduced into Arizona between 1870 and 1912, and they made their way to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. They make for a delicious summer snack.

The recipe for *miliñ* popsicles has just four simple and healthy ingredients: *miliñ*, strawberries, lime and

honey. To make the popsicles, blend the ingredients together and pour the mixture into a mold of your choice. Pop the mold into the freezer for four to six hours. The *miliñ* popsicles will last in the freezer for two to three months.

Wua'amakam popsicles also contain four healthy ingredients: *wua'amakam*, Greek yogurt, honey and vanilla. For these popsicles, combine all the ingredients and blend until smooth. Pour the mixture into your desired mold and freeze for four to six hours. The *wua'amakam* popsicles will also last in the freezer for two to three months.

These popsicles will keep you cool, whether you're at home or enjoying a fun day at the *akimel* (river). As the days get longer and hotter, it is important to stay hydrated.

When swimming, whether it be at the *akimel*, in a pool or even in a horse

trough, it is important to remember swimming safety. Make sure children are supervised by an adult, never swim alone, and use proper life vests and flotation equipment.

Don't forget *taş* (sun) protection—wear a *vonam* (hat) and use sunscreen. This lowers the risk of sunburn, premature aging and skin cancer. A sunscreen with a minimum of SPF 30 is recommended; choose one with SPF 50 or higher for prolonged sun exposure. Check the label to see how often you should reapply it.

With these tips in mind, you can create not only a fun summer, but a safe one too. Be sure to cut out the recipes for *miliñ* and *wua'amakam* popsicles for a tasty way to cool off your hot summer days!

Summer Popsicles

Miliñ Pops (Watermelon Pops)

Wua'amakam Pops (Cantaloupe Pops)

Ingredients

Miliñ Pops

- 4 Cups *miliñ*
- 1 Cup Strawberries
- 1 Tablespoon Lime
- Honey to taste

Wua'amakam Pops

- 4 Cups *Wua'amakam*
- 1 Cup Greek Yogurt
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla
- Honey to taste

Instructions

Miliñ Pops

1. Add ingredients to blender
2. Blend until smooth
3. Pour mixture into a mold
4. Freeze two to three hours

Wua'amakam Pops

1. Blend the *wua'amakam*
2. Add remaining ingredients to blender
3. blend until smooth
4. Pour mixture into a mold
5. Freeze two to three hours

Miliñ and *wua'amakam* popsicles will last for two to three months in the freezer



Nothing is impossicle!



Miliñ and *wua'amakam* popsicles are so sweet they will make your heart melt!



These fun popsicles will make for a delicious treat!

Podcasting the SRPMIC

Learn how the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's podcasts connect with Community members as another avenue to keep them informed.

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

Have you had the chance to like and subscribe to Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community podcasts? If not, now would be a good time, because exciting plans are on the horizon.

The SRPMIC has been working hard toward connecting members with Community managers, directors and staff by utilizing the Creative Ki: Studio to record and produce podcast episodes that cover the ins and outs of the Community.

Since 2023, the Creative Ki: Studio, located at Two Waters, has played an important part in helping SRPMIC departments produce content for employees and Community members, such as President Martin Harvier's video messaging, photo portrait space and podcasting.

The Community currently has five official podcasts that cover a wide array of topics: addiction recovery; complex legal matters; local, state and federal issues affecting the Community; an inside look at the SRPMIC with Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert; and the *O'odham Action News* podcast. Each podcast was launched over the last year or so.

Lena's Lens

Jackson-Eckert's podcast, "Lena's Lens," takes listeners on a deep dive into the programs, services and people that shape the SRPMIC. On a recent episode, Salt River Business Development CEO Michael Mainwold joined Jackson-Eckert to explain how the business development entity was created, its inner workings and future outlook.

Pathways to Spirit

Dr. Troy Melendez and Dr. Nate Velez work at Journey to Recovery, near the River People Health Center. Their podcast, "Pathways to Spirit," offers an inside look at the people, practices and purposes behind a culturally grounded approach to treating addiction.



Multimedia Podcast Production Editor Jessica Joaquin in the Creative Ki: Studio.

Melendez and Velez also interview Journey to Recovery staff about the services they provide.

Asked & Answered

"Asked & Answered" is hosted by SRPMIC Chief Prosecutor Alane Breland and Legal Services Director Kierstin Anderson. The dynamic duo breaks down complex legal matters and discusses judicial matters that affect life here in the Community.

OCLA Ki:

A podcast that offers insight into local, state and federal issues is the "OCLA Ki:" podcast. Hosted by Gary Bohnee, with SRPMIC Congressional and Legislative Affairs, the podcast recently had Arizona Rep. Brian Garcia on the show to talk about Garcia's career and how tribal priorities factor into his work. Garcia is from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and represents a district that includes the SRPMIC.

O'odham Action News

Lastly, the *O'odham Action News* podcast, which received a reboot last year, has been providing news episodes and spotlights on Community member achievements, as well as highlighting the voices and experiences that shape the Community.

Producing each podcast episode takes time, moving through writing, recording, editing, review and final publication. Multimedia Podcast Production Editor Jessica Joaquin is deeply committed to the craft, continuing to refine her skills even outside the studio.

Joaquin originally launched the *O'odham Action News* podcast in 2020, running it consistently for a full year before leaving the department in 2021. When she returned to the Community Relations Office, she revived the podcast, and it has been running strong since 2025.

Before shifting to her new podcast role this year, Joaquin worked as a multimedia graphic designer in the Community Relations Office, where she assisted *O'odham Action News*' podcast relaunch. When the producer/editor position opened in the tribal government, she stepped into the role with the goal of elevating the Community's podcast programming and sharing her expertise in recording, editing, producing and promoting audio content.

Joaquin emphasized that each episode is possible only because people work together. Staff members across Community departments collaborate to ensure every episode is completed with care and delivered to listeners at a high standard.

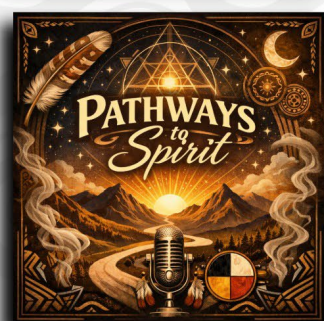
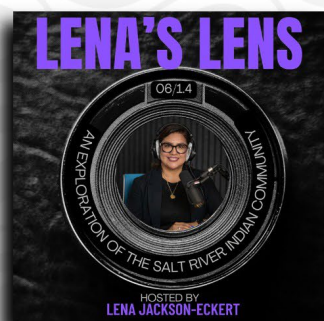
"It's definitely a team effort," said Joaquin proudly.

In the coming months, the SRPMIC podcast team will ask the Community and listeners to reach out with their feedback, which can include ideas for potential episodes and programs. "We do want that kind of feedback," encouraged Joaquin.

"We're going to try to take those ideas to the next level throughout the year. What we want for Creative Ki: Studio and the SRPMIC is that we want these shows to be informative, engaging, accessible and community driven. We want to develop the podcasts that talk with the Community and reflect the voices, interests and needs of the Community. That's our goal."

To learn more or to subscribe through Apple Podcasts or Spotify, please visit srpmic-nsn.gov/podcasts.

NEW SRPMIC PODCASTS



Scan the QR code to explore all SRPMIC podcasts



podcasts available on spotify and apple podcasts

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?
EMAIL: PODCASTS@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV

This event is open to **SRPMIC-enrolled students** only. Students registered for the 2026-27 school year in grades K-12 are eligible, including students attending public, private, charter, parochial, or BIE schools.

MONDAY, JULY 27
5-7PM
ALA GYMNASIUM
4827 N. Country Club Dr.,
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Park south of the football field
along Highland Ave.

480-362-2534
SaltRiverSchools.org

The service project involved creating seed balls, planting trees, painting rocks as well as a tour of the Cottonwood wetlands area, provided by SRPMIC Community Development Department staff.



After a morning of touring the Cottonwood Wetlands area in the Community, the group finished the day painting rocks.

who was not in attendance. Afterward, the group was shuttled over to the Cottonwood Wetlands, where they toured the area and created and plated seed balls within the wetlands. The seed ball mix consisted of two spoonfuls of potting soil, three spoonfuls of clay, cat litter, water, and five to seven native plant seeds all contained in a cup with a popsicle stick for mixing purposes. During the field trip, SRPMIC Wildlife Environmental Specialist Emerson Milam revealed that a beaver has been hard at work creating a dam in the wetlands area. “A misconception is that beavers remove water from the waterways, but what happens is that they momentarily slow it down. The water is still staying here, and it still has time to make its way to our aquifers,” said Milam.

Arizona’s Earth Day Proclamation Read in the SRPMIC

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O’odham Action News
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It was time to celebrate Mother Earth. On Earth Day, April 22, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs’ Office on Tribal Relations collaborated with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Department for a service project, a first for the office. SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, directors, managers and Enviro-Lad (originally known as Enviro-Kid, but who has since grown up) attended the Earth Day celebration. For the service project, department staff and Hobbs’ staff visited the Community’s cottonwood wetlands to learn more about the

area and plant trees while continuing to improve Mother Earth. The day began in the Council chambers with welcoming speeches from Harvier and Office on Tribal Relations Tribal Director Jason Chavez. “We welcome you all here. This is a special day. It is an honor that you have chosen our Community to read the proclamation today,” said Harvier. “As a tribal community, we’ve been celebrating Earth Day, I believe this is our 22nd year, in being stewards of Mother Earth,” Harvier said. He also recognized staff from the SRPMIC Community Development Department and its division of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. Afterward, Harvier gave a brief overview of Earth Day and extended an invitation to everyone to also attend the Community’s Earth Day celebration, which was held a few days later, on April 25, at the Accelerated Learning Academy. During his introduction, Chavez recognized the distinguished guests in attendance from the Governor’s office.

He also shared the importance of the Governor’s office selecting the SRPMIC for the Earth Day proclamation. Deputy Chief of Staff Tracy Lopes, Deputy Director Angela Willeford, MMIP Coordinator Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, Executive Assistant Davina Haskins, Policy Advisor EJ John and Project Coordinator Cissimarie Juan all joined Chavez for the service project in the Community. Willeford is from the SRPMIC. Additionally, Community Outreach Coordinator Sheril Steinberg, Energy Grants Program Manager Gabriel Sanchez Muñoz and Solar Access and Resilience Program Manager Jeremiah Dean attended the celebration. Steinberg, Muñoz and Dean serve in the Arizona Governor’s Office of Resiliency. “We’re so excited to do this on tribal lands here in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community,” said Chavez. “Thank you for hosting all of us and having us today.” Following the speeches, Chavez read aloud the official 2026 Arizona Earth Day Proclamation, signed by Hobbs,

An aquifer is an underground layer of permeable rock, gravel, sand or silt that stores and transmits groundwater. Later, the group stopped near a willow tree, where they received some expert insight as to how people can improve their green thumbs at home. “You grab a tree branch, cut off all the leaves, stick it in a moist area and it starts to grow. It skips one year of its lifespan, and it’ll just shoot up,” said Environmental Specialist Balthazar Cooper. “Just be sure not to stick the branch in upside down—I’ve seen it happen,” warned SRPMIC Senior Environmental Engineer Regina Leverette-Mason with a laugh. To help put a final smile on the day, the group ended their service project visit by painting rocks. These were distributed throughout the wetlands area, joining the other collection of painted rocks housed in the wetlands.

Everyday Environmentalism at Earth Day 2026

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

For many, Earth Day brings to mind thoughts of recycling, picking up litter and planting trees. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community celebrated Earth Day on April 25 by showing how environmental awareness can be brought into our everyday lives. The day featured two main events: a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection at Two Waters and a fair at the Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA) gymnasium and courtyard. For the 162 vehicles that participated in the drive-through HHW collection at Two Waters, the process was a breeze. Staff took a systematic approach, directing vehicles to park on a large plastic sheet where they emptied the batteries, paint buckets, light bulbs and other hazardous waste into the appropriate receptacles. If there was paper to shred, it was another quick stop to have it unloaded before receiving some Earth Day goodies on the way out. An additional nine pickup requests were made for HHW as well. Meanwhile, the ALA saw incredible turnout, as roughly 700 attendees visited the 40-plus vendors. Vendors covered a wide range but were all united in the goal of bringing information and awareness to Community members about how to be environmen-

- 3 Takeaways:**
- This year’s Earth Day celebration featured a household hazardous waste collection at Two Waters and a fair at the ALA.
 - A wide variety of informational booths were present, approaching Earth Day from multiple perspectives, including home maintenance, government infrastructure and actions people can take to help protect the environment.
 - Guests were encouraged to consider how their everyday activities can be made more sustainable.

tally conscious throughout their day-to-day lives. Interactive tables showing natural water filtration systems and astounding wildlife ambassadors drew crowds as they highlighted the relationship between land and wildlife management and rescue efforts. Many Earth Day fixtures and favorites were found throughout the event as well, like invasive weed management and water conservation booths, plus Emergency Management buckets for Community members to fill so their homes can be prepared for anything. Also present were several state government departments seeking input on a variety of environmental and sustainability efforts meant to address the human impact on the environment, such as how roadways

can be updated and how park amenities can help families connect to the natural world both safely and easily. Representatives from DRIVE Electric Arizona were onsite offering test drives for licensed adults interested in learning about electric vehicles. The final counts for the HHW program showed it successfully diverted 5,675 pounds of hazardous waste from landfill disposal, removed 75 tires, shredded 2,800 pounds of paper, and properly disposed of a large amount of electronic waste and other hazardous waste such as lithium-ion batteries, fluorescent bulbs and vehicle batteries. When it all came together, attendees found themselves thinking about different ways environmentalism ties into all aspects of life, from daily commuting to recreation to how we approach completing chores. We all have a part to play in making every day Earth Day.

Want to see more photos?
Visit our website at www.oodhamnews.org



Hazardous waste was collected via drive-through at Two Waters.



A youngster marvels at how small hummingbird nests are.



A turkey vulture was one of the wildlife ambassadors at ALA. These birds play an important role in keeping ecosystems balanced.

Rooted in Tradition, Rising Together at Law Day 2026



"Ignore the Evidence!" a sign is held up in the courtroom as a part of the dramatic court scenario involving Zootopia characters. Salt River Schools students were audience members and jurors.

One of the characters was a sloth that moved slowly around the courtroom. His movements elicited a few laughs from the audience.

"The sloth was ready. It was a great character. So the kids had fun at the same time," said Deer. "They're learning the different ways of the law, and hopefully one day they're going to be our featured judges, lawyers, clerks and bailiffs."

During the evening, the public was invited to an informative event which provided education about a variety of law topics. SRPMIC departments supplied swag, games and prizes to people in exchange for delivering information about the legal-related services they provide to the Community.

The Multimedia Team at Community Relations worked together with SRPMIC Associate Judge Aristina Sanchez to construct a large temporary photo

3 takeaways:

- Law Day's theme this year was "Rooted in Tradition, Rising Together."
- The all-day event explored a variety of law-related topics.
- Salt River Elementary School sixth-grade students participated in a mock courtroom trial based on the Disney movie "Zootopia."

wall in the court lobby for visitors to see. The photos were of the people who helped build the Salt River Court into what it is today.

Court Services Supervisor Darren Manuel gave O'dham Action News a tour of some of the items in the photos that are still used to this day, including an SRPMIC seal, a typewriter and a chair.

"This chair is probably 30 years old," Manuel said, pointing to the wooden chair in one of the courtrooms.

"It used to sit in Courtroom 1 in the old building."

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'dham Action News
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and an opening ceremony in the court lobby with a blessing and traditional singers and dancers.

Shortly after, court employees gathered for a mandatory ethics training session in the Jury Assembly Room.

In Courtroom 5, the annual mock trial entertained and educated sixth-graders from Salt River Schools. This year, court employees acted out a courtroom drama loosely based on the Disney movie "Zootopia." Some of the students were selected to be jurors.

"There's a scenario where we as court staff and other legal departments dress up as Zootopia characters, and they have a scene where someone stole something and they go to the court and play it out," said Deer.

Deer said court staff paused throughout the play to teach the students the legal definitions of what's happening in real time, "but in a fun way."

The Salt River Justice Center was a popular place to be on May 1, but not because the courtrooms were full of real cases. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members and tribal government and court employees were there to take part in the annual all-day Law Day event.

Each year on May 1, court systems around the country participate in the nationwide Law Day with their own themes. The Salt River Court's theme this year was "Rooted in Tradition, Rising Together."

"With all of the people that came out and showed up, we're rising together as a court family," said SRPMIC Presiding Judge Raymond Deer. "We're so grateful for the turnout this year."

The day began with breakfast outside



Law Day participants packed the entranceway to the Salt River Justice Center, gathering swag and information from Community departments at booths. Guests took time to look at the temporary photo installment on the wall made by CRO Multimedia in partnership with Associate Judge Aristina Sanchez.



Şegoi Oidag: A Subdivision Built by SRPMIC, for SRPMIC

3 Takeaways:

- Nearly 500 entries were received in the contest to name the new subdivision, showing great pride and participation from SRPMIC members.
- Submissions were encouraged to focus on themes of farming, land and irrigation to honor the history of the site.
- The new subdivision will have 82 homes for sale, walking paths and shared spaces to support connection and create an engaging place to live.

SUBMITTED BY SRPMIC ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is leading the development of a new subdivision at the northwest corner of Chaparral and Dobson roads. The Community has complete control over every step, from planning to construction to move-in. This ensures that the subdivision will reflect SRPMIC values, culture and long-term goals. The subdivision has officially been named Şegoi Oidag, with the Piipaash translation of 'Ivse Mat.

Pat King shared enthusiasm for the response from tribal members. "When we asked the Community to help name this subdivision, people really showed up," King said.

Community member Kelly Washington submitted the winning name, securing the movie package prize.

Entries were blindly judged, and points were awarded for cultural significance and alignment with themes of farming, land and irrigation. Committee member Crystal Banuelos shared, "I was proud to see so many tribal members participate [in the naming contest] and to see the beauty and thoughtfulness in the names that were submitted."

The meaning of the name also reflects the history of the land. Şegoi refers to the creosote or chaparral bush, a plant known for cleansing and renewal. Committee member Alice Manuel explained, "The Şegoi is an important part of our culture. It is medicine." Oidag means "fields" and honors the area's farming history, along with the irrigation ditches that will continue to support nearby agriculture.

Şegoi Oidag will feature 82 homes, walking paths and shared community spaces. Committee member

Tom Largo emphasized how these features help create a connected and supportive environment. The location also provides convenient access to Scottsdale Community College for classes and fitness amenities.

Homes in Şegoi Oidag are expected to be available for sale to Community members in winter 2027.

The naming of Şegoi Oidag reflects SRPMIC values, leadership and vision. Every decision from naming to design to construction comes from the Community itself. Built on SRPMIC land and shaped by SRPMIC priorities, this new subdivision honors the past while cultivating a strong future for the Community.

Public meetings for the Land Board and Council are forthcoming. Please follow the website for updates at <https://srpmic-nsn.gov/community-resources/tribal-housing/segoi-oidag/>.

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, Teresa - Review Hearing Case: JV-26-0041 Court Date: June 23, 2026 at 9 AM

Kavoka, Jessica Ann - Initial Termination of Parental Rights: JV-26-0095 Court Date: June 17, 2026 at 9 AM

Salazar Jr., Jose - Initial Termination of Parental Rights: JV-26-0095 Court Date: June 17, 2026 at 9 AM

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

Bryant, Mawu E. Sr. - Petition for Name Change Case: CV-26-2941 Court Date: June 16, 2026 at 10 AM

Casias, Lisa Anne - Entry Default Judgement Hearing Case: CV-26-0675 Court Date: June 4, 2026 at 9 AM

Gonzalez, Alfredo - Evidentiary

Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-25-4938 Court Date: June 22, 2026 at 9 AM

Gonzalez, Cherysh - Motion Hearing Case: CV-25-4184 Court Date: June 9, 2026 at 11 AM

Leonard, Arrick - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CF-22-0048 Court Date: June 8, 2026 at 9 AM

Lewis, Christina Lanae - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-2424 Court Date: June 3, 2026 at 9 AM

Ochoa, Jade Philana Ranz - Evidentiary Child Support Hearing Case: CV-26-2939 Court Date: June 9, 2026 at 9 AM

Talamantez, Rachele Rae - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-24-2773 Court Date: June 18, 2026 at 9:30 AM

DEFAULT NOTICES

CASIAS, LISA ANNE
DEFAULT NOTICE
CV-26-0675

COUNTRY CLUB CARS V. LISA ANNE CASIAS

To: Lisa Anne Casias, RESPONDENT

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

DATED: March 26, 2026

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



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



DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

Contact **Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr** at

(480) 362-2698 or kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

GOT A STORY IDEA?

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

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JUNE 4	MAY 22
JUNE 18	JUNE 5
JULY 2	JUNE 18*
JULY 16	JULY 2*

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

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

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community wants your input on transportation safety!



The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) is updating the Tribal Transportation Safety Plan (TTSP) to reduce, and eventually eliminate, life-altering crashes within the Community. The goal of the TTSP is to identify and implement transportation safety solutions that create a safer, more comfortable transportation network for all Community members.

The TTSP will:

- 📋 Assess previous strategies to identify refinements that will help prevent future fatalities and serious injuries
- 📍 Establish emphasis areas to guide the development of effective crash countermeasures
- 🗣️ Recommend high-priority projects that are informed by feedback from Community members



Do you have specific concerns along the Beeline Highway (SR 87) or McDowell Road? The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is conducting the SR 87 Corridor Study along these two corridors in SRPMIC.

For more information visit MAG's website here: <https://tinylink.net/TgSp1>

We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code to provide your input on the interactive map and take our project survey.

<https://engage.publiccoordinate.com/project/srpmic-ttsp>



Love and Harmony Couples Group

Tuesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm



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

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

Where Gottman meets the Community

When: Tuesdays from 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Where: Behavioral Health Services, at the River People Health Center

All Native Tribes Welcome

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



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Instagram: @astrosdetailaz
Book Online: astrosdetailing.setmore.com

A&M VALLEY LANDSCAPING
Landscaping and yard work services Navin Wood aandmvalleylandsc@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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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
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

HONEYBRAIDZ N SPA, LLC
Licensed Cosmetologist specializing in luxury protective styling and natural hair wellness. We provide expert braiding services, including knotless and feed-in styles, along with handcrafted botanical scalp and hair care products. Ricsawn Johnson: (480) 781-7867 (text only), booking site: vagaro.com/honeybraidznsppall1

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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NATIVE CREATIVE APPAREL, LLC
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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

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PIMARA CONSTRUCTION
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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

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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.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 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

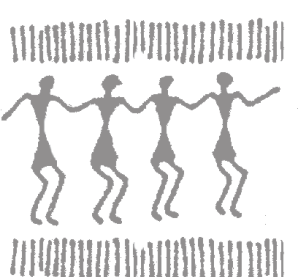
VICTORY CENTER
1231 E Oak St. Mesa, AZ 85203 Senior Pastor Danny Cruz 480-427-4678 SERVICES: First and Third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Follow us @vomsrvictorycenter on instagram

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.

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY
Community Development Department
Environmental Protection & Natural Resources
10005 EAST OSBORN ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 (480) 362-7500 EPNR@srpmic-nsn.gov

Notice of Public Meeting for Comments
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

2025 Air Monitoring Network Plan
Comment period
May 12, 2026, through June 13, 2026

Purpose of Meeting:
To provide an opportunity for public to comment on Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community's (SRPMIC) Air Quality Program's (AQP) 2025 Air Monitoring Network Plan

Summary
In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 40 Part 58.10, the network plan is made available to the public for review and comments for at least 30 days prior to being submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9. During that time, the Air Quality Program will hold a meeting to provide a summary of the document including network design, monitoring data collected, and proposed changes to the network, and take any verbal comments. The document is available for review at: www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/aqhome/.

Public Meeting
AQP will host the meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Two Waters, Building B, 1st Floor, B106 - Anaaly (Mesquite), 10005 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256. Upon request EPNR will provide a link to the meeting through Microsoft Teams. Please contact Ben Davis @ Benjamin.Davis@srpmic-nsn.gov. Lunch will be provided.

Submitting Comments
Any member of the public can submit written comments by mail to CDD/EPNR, 10005 E Osborn Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85256 or e-mail them to epnr@srpmic-nsn.gov and Benjamin.davis@srpmic-nsn.gov. The comment period is May 12, 2026, through June 13, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WENTWORTH STORAGE - USE VARIANCE

Mills Brown with MainSpring Capital Group, representing Wentworth Storage as the applicant, is requesting a use variance to allow an indoor mini-storage facility within The Block, which is located at the northeast corner of Pima Center Parkway and Via de Ventura. This site is within the C3 General Commercial zoning district. Per Table 4.1 of the SRPMIC Zoning Ordinance, indoor mini-storage facility uses are not allowed within the C3 General Commercial zoning district. Approval of a use variance through the Community Council would allow this use at this location.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026
TIME: 5:00 P.M.
LOCATION: SRPMIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256
You may view the recorded presentation starting Thursday, May 28, 2026. To view the video, please visit: <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/> Public comments can be made by email at public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov, by phone at (480) 362-7470, by text at (623) 282-5757, by survey (follow web link above), or by mail to CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale AZ 85256.

For more information about the project, contact Rick McAllister, CDD Principal Planner at (480) 362-7655.

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.

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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 assume responsibility for unsolicited materials and does not guarantee publication upon submission.

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CEMENT PLANT TOUR WITH SRPMIC LEGAL SERVICES

On Thursday, April 17, Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) welcomed the SRPMIC Legal Services Office for a tour of the cement plant located in Clarkdale, AZ.

The day began at the Chaparral Office, where the Legal Services team was greeted by SRMG's administrative staff before departing for Clarkdale. Each participant received a drawstring bag filled with goodies for the bus ride, helping create a welcoming and enjoyable experience for the group.

During the ride, **Scott Palmer, Director of Business Development**, **Jeff Hearne, Senior Vice President of Quality Assurance**, and **Erik Brewer, Quality Control Supervisor** shared commentary about the history of SRMG and explained how the cement plant became part of the Community's business enterprises.

Upon arriving at the plant, the team was divided into two groups and welcomed by **Brett Lindsay, Vice President of Cement Operations and Environmental**. He shared his experience working within SRMG and the cement industry while providing insight into the day-to-day operations of the facility. Throughout the tour, participants visited the laboratory, clinker operations, plant grounds, and the area where cement sacks are manufactured.

Staff remained engaged throughout the experience, asking questions and learning more about the processes that keep the facility operating efficiently. Following the tour, staff gathered together for lunch before being welcomed by **SRMG CEO Ruben Guerrero Jr.**, who thanked the Legal Services team for the important work they do in support of the Community.

The visit served as a valuable learning experience and reinforced the connection between SRPMIC departments and enterprises working together toward the shared goal of serving the community.



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



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



ONGOING

AAR AFTERNOONS, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., Ske:g Himdag Ki: Senior Room. Engaging games, crafts and events for community members ages 18-54 with intellectual, physical and emotional needs. Questions? SSDAdultAdaptiveRecreation@srpmic-nsn.gov

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.

'U'US VIOHOGTALIG MAŞAD XLY'A SARAP MAY

21 PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL, Ceremony at Two Waters, will include prayers and a rifle salute (non-live ammunition). Begins at 9 a.m.

23 SRPMIC MEMORIAL DAY FLAG PLANTING, 7 a.m. Planting begins at St. Francis, then Salt River Cemetery and ending at

Lehi Cemetery. See flyer on page 8 for more information.

25 SRPMIC MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, 7 a.m. at Lehi Cemetery. Reception at the Lehi Community Building following ceremony. See flyer on page 8 for more information.

25 OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

27 VIA LINDA BEHAVIORAL HOSPITAL SYMPOSIUM - INNOVATIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF TRAUMA: THROUGH THEIR EYES, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 27 at the Showroom at Talking Stick Resort: 9800 E Talking Stick Way | Scottsdale, AZ 85256. This event is a trauma-informed care symposium designed to educate healthcare workers in the community, so that we can make waves of positive change with empathy, compassion and innovation. We will have guest speakers sharing personal stories on the importance of trauma-informed care (TIC), teaching the principles of T.I.C., educating members on new technological innovations designed to treat trauma (VR headsets to deliver exposure therapy), Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation, and neurofeedback therapy. In addition to this being an educational event offering guests Continued Education Units (CEUs), this event is also a demonstration of Via Linda's dedication to sharing empathy and T.I.C. values with the public. To reflect our mission, we are encouraging all attendees to donate to Not Our Native Daughters as well as Salt River Community's Children Foundation. To RSVP, email the Name/Title/ Employer of all parties in your guest list to VialindaRSVP@uhsinc.com

HA:ŞAÑ BAHIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XAMXUK JUNE

1 COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST, 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Reminder: For those who wish to submit unspoken prayer requests can do so by emailing: srpmicprayer-breakfast@gmail.com. Location: Salt River Community Building (1880 N. Longmore Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85256)

8-11 D-BACKS INTER-TRIBAL YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT, Native youth age 9 to high school senior will be competing in multiple divisions. Games will be held at baseball fields throughout SRPMIC. For questions, email efigueroa@dbacks.com.

13 SRPMIC DAY EVENT

15 OFFICES CLOSED - SRPMIC DAY

19 JUNETEENTH SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED

19 JR. MISS SALT RIVER PAGEANT, 6 p.m. at Talking Stick Resort Ballroom. See who is crowned the next Jr. Miss and thank outgoing Jr. Miss Salt River Tiare Begay Smith. For questions, call (480) 362-7474.

20 MISS SALT RIVER PAGEANT, 2 p.m. at Talking Stick Resort Ballroom. See who is crowned the next Miss Salt River and thank outgoing Miss Salt River Emma Scabby. For questions, call (480) 362-7474.

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

