



This year, Community Day celebrated the people who make SRPMIC by offering Salt River Spotlight, a talent show which left everyone in awe of the abilities in this Community.

Talent Comes Out to Play at SRPMIC Day

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was established on June 14, 1879. The 52,600-acre parcel of tribal land is surrounded by the cities of Scottsdale, Mesa, Tempe and Fountain Hills. With over 11,000 tribal members, the Community

gathered on Saturday, June 13, at the Community Building to celebrate its culture, identity and history.

The celebration brought out fashion, fun and, of course, talent.

Vendors were set up throughout the parking lot, with artists showcasing their work for sale. The items included jewelry, T-shirts, kitchenware, traditional attire and

much more. Nearby, Community government departments were lined up, providing information on resources that are accessible to Community members.

The evening was packed with an itinerary of O'odham and Piipaash socials, and a photo booth and tables and chairs were set up for guests.

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Salt River Represents at D-Backs Native American Recognition Day



SRPMIC Traditional Dancers showcase their cultural songs and dances for fans as they enter the rotunda at Chase Field for Native American Recognition Day on June 7.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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The Arizona Diamondbacks honored members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and other tribal communities from across the state on June 7 at Chase Field in Phoenix with their annual Native American Recognition Day, also known as NARD.

Before the Diamondbacks players took the field, Native Americans were placed in the spotlight, proudly showcas-

ing their talents, traditions and cultures as fans walked the concourse and made their way to their seats. O'odham Action News reporters were on the field and in the photo wells along the first and third base lines to cover the action before and during the game.

At this year's NARD game, the D-Backs bested the Washington Nationals by a score of 5-1. In a bit of déjà vu, the D-Backs also defeated the Washington Nationals in the 2025 NARD game, with a score of 3-1.

Continued on page 10



SRPMIC member and AZ Sons third baseman Dax Andrews smashes a single to get on base during the D-Backs Intertribal Tournament.

Native Youth Compete in D-Backs Inter-Tribal Tournament at Salt River

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Days after parading around the warning track at Chase Field for a pre-game Native American Recognition Day celebration, Native American youth athletes took to the diamond to compete in the D-Backs Inter-Tribal Youth Baseball & Softball Tournament, presented by Talking Stick Resort, from June 8 to 11.

All games were played in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community at either Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, the Salt River Recreation baseball fields or the softball fields at the Accelerated Learning Academy.

Divisions were split into single-A baseball for youth ages 9 to 12, double-A baseball for youth ages 13 to 15, and triple-A baseball and softball for high school students.

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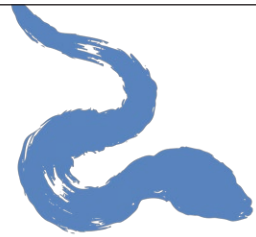
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Saddleback
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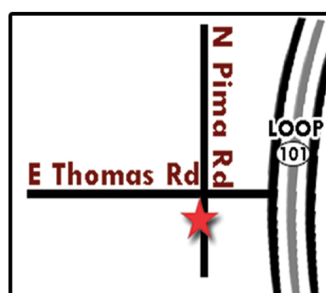
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Discover Salt River Celebrates Tourism and O'odham New Year at Great Wolf Lodge

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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Discover Salt River, the tourism division of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, invited Community partners to Great Wolf Lodge on June 9 for their annual meeting and Salt River New Year celebration.

The event marks the beginning of the O'odham New Year, or Ha:sañ Bahidag Maşad ("saguaro fruit harvest moon" in O'odham), which occurs in June during summer solstice. In Piipaash, this month is called Xly'a Xamxuk, or "sixth moon."

During the O'odham New Year, mesquite beans, palo verde seeds, ironwood seeds, cattail and willow are ready to begin harvesting.

With the O'odham New Year approaching, it was also time for the Community to reconnect with its tourism partners.

"It was a privilege to gather with partners and reflect on our shared journey this past year," said Discover Salt River Tourism Manager Maleena Deer.

Deer and guest presenter Kiva Couchon, Arizona Office of Tourism director of strategic initiatives, delivered recaps from both offices with highlights and insights into industry trends from 2025.

Deer highlighted new presentations, cultural sensitivity trainings, festivals, social media giveaways and a new interactive website that allows you to take a photo of a QR code on a poster and view the video inside the poster from your phone.

3 Takeaways:

- The Salt River New Year celebration at Great Wolf Lodge had a dual purpose: celebrating the O'odham New Year and gathering with Community tourism partners.
- Discover Salt River and the Arizona Office of Tourism gave presentations on highlights from 2025.
- Huhugam Ki: Museum Manager Gary Owens brought mesquite-flour cookies for guests to try during a presentation on harvesting during the O'odham New Year.

According to Couchon, in 2025, Arizona ranked fifth out of the 50 states in international visitation. The AOT forecasts an 8.5% growth in international visits from 2019 to 2030. Couchon also highlighted new marketing personas and campaigns that were rolled out over the past year.

Huhugam Ki: Museum Manager Gary Owens gave a closing presentation which went into further detail about traditional harvesting during the O'odham New Year. Owens gave a lesson on the different types of mesquite trees you might see out around the Community. He brought mesquite-flour cookies for guests to try after finishing their buffet-style lunch.

Community member-owned business Pretty Party Planners provided the table decorations.

S'he:kig Vecij 'Ahidag
O'odham
(Happy New Year)

The Summer solstice during Ha:sañ Bahidag Maşad marks the beginning of the O'odham New Year.

Check out page 12 for help with pronunciation!

Mataam Mpisxaayk Nyshnyaash Xotk
Piipaash
(New Year's Day Is Good)



The Salt River New Year Celebration, held at the Great Wolf Lodge Ballroom, marked the beginning of the O'odham New Year and a new year of renewed relationships with Community partners.



Huhugam Ki: Museum Manager Gary Owens details traditional harvesting during the O'odham New Year, for all in attendance at the event.



Discover Salt River Tourism Manager Maleena Deer welcomes Community partners to the Salt River New Year Celebration.



Mesquite cookies brought by Gary Owens.



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Salt River Firefighter Oscar Merritt Retires

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News

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After 26 years of service with the Salt River Fire Department as a firefighter/paramedic, Oscar Merritt has retired.

The SRFD held a retirement gathering for Merritt on June 1 at the new fire department headquarters on Chaparral Road. Merritt's family members sat beside him as he listened to the many members of his Salt River family speak highly about his time working for the Community.

SRFD Chief Tsosie Wood, who met Merritt in about 2000, said that for more than two decades, Merritt answered the call whenever the Community needed help.

"Through emergencies, long shifts, challenging incidents and countless hours of service, Oscar consistently demonstrated compassion and commitment [to the Community]," said Wood. "Oscar has made a difference to countless citizens and earned the respect and friendship of everyone fortunate enough to serve alongside him."

3 Takeaways:

- Oscar Merritt retired on June 1 after 26 years of service with the Salt River Fire Department.
- SRFD Chief Tsosie Wood and retired Captain Velasquez "Vel" Sneezy, among others, spoke about their time working with Merritt.
- Merritt received a ceremonial ax and shadow box before taking his last call on the radio.

During the gathering, Merritt received a ceremonial ax engraved with his name and a shadow box, which is a traditional personalized retirement gift for fire service personnel. The shadow box included commemorative coins, Merritt's service badge and a paramedic badge.

Merritt asked recently retired SRFD Captain Velasquez "Vel" Sneezy to speak at the lectern.

"I want to thank you, Oscar, for asking me to come up and speak on your behalf. It speaks volumes of how you feel about me, and the feeling is mutual. Much respect," said Sneezy. "My brotherly love for you is out of this world."

One of the things that Sneezy loves about Merritt is his "cool voice."

"You can't tell 'the Oscar story' without using that voice," Sneezy said, playfully imitating Merritt with an exaggerated gritty voice, which caused a few laughs from crewmates.

Merritt was a member of Sneezy's team before Sneezy retired in 2025.

"One of the things about Oscar is that he was dependable. He took the jobs that no one wanted to do and he



Firefighter/paramedic Oscar Merritt takes his last call on the radio during his retirement ceremony on June 1.

did them well with no complaints," said Sneezy.

Before everyone was ready to dig into the barbecue, Merritt was handed a radio to make his last call.

After his last call, a voice on the radio channel resonated throughout the gathering space:

"The fire department, along with the police department and the alarm room, would like to extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to firefighter Merritt on his retirement. Firefighter Merritt has built a commendable, multi-decade career with the Salt River Fire Department since June 2000. As an EMT and paramedic and serving on the technical rescue team, he has continually exemplified compassion, commitment and lifesaving dedication to the Community and its members. For 26 years, Firefighter Merritt has

provided dedicated, honorable and faithful service during emergency incidents, stepping up when citizens faced their toughest moments. But his service runs beyond the emergency lights; whether he was managing special event coverage, engaging in public relations or taking on the massive responsibility of the driver operator to get his crew safely to the scene, he did it with pride. To the crews, he was a reliable brother on the line. To the citizens of this Community, he was a trusted protector. From all the members of the SRFD, the SRPD, the Salt River alarm room and citizens of the SRPMIC, we appreciate your dedicated service. You will be missed. Congratulations on your retirement."



Oscar Merritt received a ceremonial ax and a shadow box to commemorate his years of service.

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Saddleback Communications Launches Salt River Connect for Business Customers

3 Takeaways:

- Salt River Connect serves commercial organizations in the SRPMIC and across the greater Scottsdale area.
- Business technology solutions for Salt River Connect customers include managed connectivity, networking, cybersecurity, cloud solutions and AI-enabled services.
- Saddleback Communications' residential services remain unchanged.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

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Saddleback Communications, a business enterprise of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, debuted Salt River Connect as its new dedicated brand for services to its business customers.

Salt River Connect serves commercial organizations in the Loop 101 business corridor and across the greater Scottsdale area. Customers served by Salt River Connect include SRP, the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Colorado Rockies, Scottsdale Community College, Walmart, Topgolf, Home Depot, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and more.

The most important thing for Community members to know, according to Justin Catlett, president and CEO of Saddleback Communications and Salt River Connect, is that Saddleback's residential services remain unchanged.

"Residential internet and voice customers will continue to receive the same service, billing and local support through Saddleback Communications, under the same name," Catlett told O'odham Action News. "In fact, our updated internal alignment will allow for more dedicated focus on bringing additional services and support to residential customers as well."

SRPMIC government buildings, schools and Community facilities will continue to receive the same care, support and service.

Catlett said that the decision to launch Salt River Connect was about creating a clearer and more focused identity for the business services side of Saddleback Communications.

"Saddleback has long been known for reliable voice and internet services in the local Community. Over time, the needs of business customers have grown beyond traditional communications into a broader set of technology needs, including managed connectivity, networking, cybersecurity, cloud solutions and AI-enabled services," said Catlett.

Ownership and accountability remain rooted in the Community, according to Catlett, who said the same engineers, operators and support staff who built and manage the current infrastructure are helping to carry this work forward into Salt River Connect.

"This transition reflects continued investment in technology infrastructure, business services and economic development while keeping the organization's commitment to the Community at the center," said Catlett.

For more information about the new brand, head to www.saltriverconnect.com.

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER

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O'odham Tribe Sues Feds over Border Wall

The Tohono O'odham Nation in southern Arizona has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, saying that the federal government plans to use its water and land to construct a border wall.

The tribe announced the lawsuit on June 17 and said it is acting because the department plans to award contracts soon for wall construction. The Tohono O'odham Nation straddles about 62 miles of Arizona's border with Mexico.

Details about the lawsuit and the tribe's fight against a border wall can be found on its website.

Gila River Community Member Honored with Gaming Award

Gila River Resorts and Casinos Chief Information Officer Robin Villareal was honored with the Indian Gaming Association's 2026 Matriarchs of Indian Gaming.

The award honors Native women whose leadership and dedication have strengthened tribal government gaming. The matriarchs were recognized during April's Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention in San Diego.

Villareal is from District 6 in Gila River and is the first woman to hold the chief information officer role there, according to Gila River Indian News. Read more about Villareal on the GRIN website.

Deb Haaland Releases Memoir

Former U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) published a book in June titled "A Voice Like Mine: A Memoir."

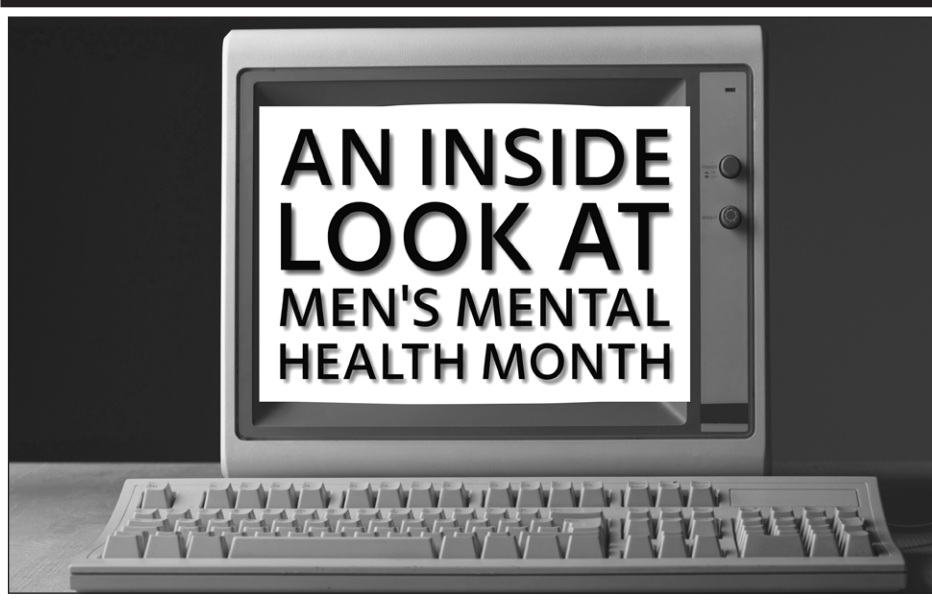
Haaland continues to make history. In 2019, she was the first Native woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, along with Kansas' Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk). Haaland then became the first Native woman to serve in a presidential cabinet. She can make more history in November if she is elected governor of New Mexico, a race in which she is the favorite.

The book is described as Haaland sharing what it means to be "the first." You can find the book online or in a bookstore near you.

NCAI Hosts Mid-Year in Tennessee

The National Congress of American Indians held its mid-year convention in mid-June in Memphis, Tennessee.

The gathering regularly attracts Native leaders from across Indian Country. NCAI is the largest Native advocacy organization in the U.S. It holds two conventions each year that focus on tribal governance, federal legislation and advocacy priorities. Learn more about the convention on NCAI's website and social media pages.



June is Men's Mental Health Month. Read more on how to navigate life's many journeys and find resources for members and their loved ones in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

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Now that the graduation tassels have been turned to the left and the real summer heat has arrived, it's also time for men to take a little bit of extra time out of their daily lives to ensure they are doing okay.

June is Men's Mental Health Month. According to a study conducted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1 in 5 adult men experience mental illness. Though physical health is important, mental health is equally important, particularly now as much of the world seems to be experiencing uncertain times.

Mental illnesses include anxiety, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, bipolar disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder and more. It's important to understand that mental illnesses can negatively impact people's day-to-day lives, therefore it's important they receive support, resources and treatment, not just from health professionals, but from their family and loved ones as well.

Deciding to allow mental illnesses to go untreated puts individuals at a higher risk of developing physical illnesses—heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, obesity and more. In the same study conducted by NAMI, it was revealed that, compared with their peers, high school students with depression

are two times more likely to drop out.

So how do we make sure the men in our lives are okay? In some cases, by simply starting a conversation with them. That helps reestablish a genuine connection with them. Questions such as "How are you?" and "How have you been feeling?" are examples of how individuals can start.

Sometimes men just need someone to listen to their stories. However, it's important to avoid a common misstep: comparing traumas. Trauma is not a competition, and there is no value in trying to convince others that one person had it worse than another. Furthermore, comparing traumas minimizes a person's pain by redirecting attention away from them and invalidates that person's right to heal.

Starting a conversation and inquiring about how someone is feeling reduces the negative stigma that treating mental illness carries. A conversation can help eliminate the common and incorrect stance of "We don't talk about that subject in this family."

This is where the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community continues to lead the way.

O'odham Action News continues to report on the many SRPMIC Health and Human Services online webinars held in the Community throughout the years that promote healthy living, both physical and mental.

These webinars, though they may be a few months to a year old, still contain valuable information on how individuals, including men, can improve their overall mental well-being. Additionally, the SRPMIC webinars frequently feature Indigenous guest speakers, thus providing culturally sensitive and cor-

rect treatment to members, something not commonly encountered by other Indigenous people out in the city looking for the same treatment.

Attending Community webinars, openly discussing what ails them without judgment and checking in on the men in our lives helps create a supportive space for them. This is how we can end the stigma associated with talking about personal mental health.

This month, take a moment and check in on the men in your lives. When they tell you they're doing fine, ask them again, just to make sure they're truly doing okay. If they open up to you, be sure to listen and not compare your trauma to theirs. Because it may be the first time ever that someone has asked them how they are doing.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Resources for Mental Well-Being

- National Domestic Violence Hotline, (800) 799-7233
- StrongHearts Native Helpline, (844) 762-8483
- National Sexual Assault Hotline, (800) 656-4673
- Salt River Crisis Line, (480) 850-9230
- Salt River Behavioral Health, (480) 362-5707
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Visit our website and search "webinar" to view past coverage in this series and find more mental health resources.

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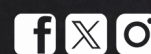
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Talent Comes Out to Play at SRPMIC Day

“I know the majority of these people, so it always makes me feel good to see everybody again and come and have a good time, to come out and dance with the Piipaash or the O’odham,” said SRPMIC Vice-President Rictardo Leonard.

In another room a talent show was being held, Salt River Spotlight, followed by cumbia dance contests and chicken scratch music and dancing with Molina Music.

Salt River Spotlight offered Community members the opportunity to showcase their special talents on stage. Many people signed up to perform, and it was a reminder that there are many talented people here. Those who courageously stepped on stage were rewarded with prizes and praise, and even treats—Bogo the dog, a special entry, showed just how much of a good boy he was by doing his special tricks in front of the full house.

“My favorite part was the talent show and the cumbia contest because they were really [interactive]. I’m kind of glad they brought the talent show because it shows that Community members out here have talent and they’re willing to come out and show what they have,” said

attendee Carmen Scott.

Prizes were given out to the first-, second- and third-place winners: hoop dancer Tizoc Lopez, Omar Villipando giving an acoustic guitar performance, and the duo of Mia Ruiz and Zoe Loring dancing to popular music hits while wearing inflatable baby costumes.

More Community members were able to show off their dancing talents at the three cumbia contests, which featured contestants sorted by age.

As the night began coming to an end, attendees got their last dances in, made last-minute decisions to buy those earrings, or visited the photo booth one last time. It was a reminder that the Community is rich in culture and life.

“[I like it because] I get to be around all my family. I don’t say nobody’s not my family. Everybody is my family here, and I enjoy being a member here, and I like being part of this Community,” said Scott.

“It makes me feel really happy that people get to enjoy themselves. Seeing them having fun makes me really happy,” beamed Miss Salt River Emma Scabby.



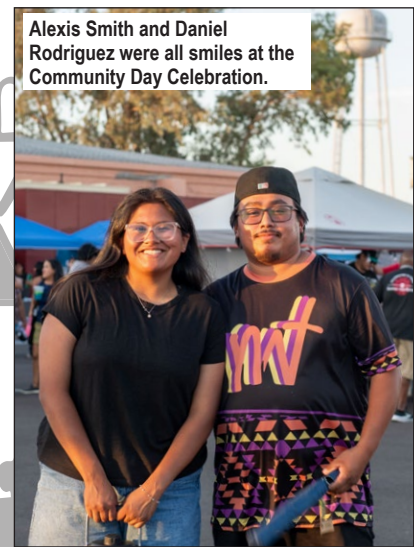
A variety of treasures were available from vendors in an outdoor market.



Public Health staff Sophia Perez and Tammy Walker had goodies ready to hand out.



SRPD made sure to bring good energy to their work for the event.



Alexis Smith and Daniel Rodriguez were all smiles at the Community Day Celebration.



Salt River Spotlight contestant and local King of Country Brian Smith performs his rendition of George Strait's The Chair.



Tizoc Lopez came in first place after sharing a hoop dance.



Salt River Royalty served as judges during the talent show.



Down the hall, social dances took over the room.



O'odham and Piipaash songs and dances filled the evening, a reminder that the Community is rich in culture and life.



Salt River Represents at D-Backs Native American Recognition Day



Desert Dingers proudly carry the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community flag around the warning track.

About a week before NARD, enrolled SRPMIC members queued up at the Salt River Senior Services Main Campus, Two Waters Building A and the Lehi Community Center for a chance to get free tickets to the game.

Pre-game excitement radiated from outside the ballpark as Native American baseball fans filled the plaza. As fans filed into the stadium, the SRPMIC Traditional Dancers were the first in-stadium performers, dancing in the rotunda. Other notable pre-game performance groups located throughout the stadium included Native All-Stars from the Tohono O'odham Nation, D7 Bird Singers & Dancers from the Gila River Indian Community and One Way Sky.

As a NARD tradition, players participating in the D-Backs Inter-Tribal Baseball Tournament paraded around the warning track before the game, displaying the flags of their tribal nations while Native dancers from multiple tribes danced in the outfield in unison.

When the dancers left the field, SRPMIC Council member Mikah Carlos tossed a strike from the pitcher's mound to home plate for the ceremonial first pitch.

Continuing with the SRPMIC representation on traditional O'odham/Piipaash land, Community member Sistine Lewis sang the national anthem in O'odham.

Game-Worn Cleats Designed by Native American Artists

Baseball cleats commemorating NARD and worn in-game by Diamondbacks players were designed and hand-painted by Native artists from the Phoenix Indian Center in a collaboration between the artists and the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation.

The cleats were worn by players before the NARD game and were sent off to auction, where net proceeds will benefit the Phoenix Indian Center.

You can check out the auction site at www.dbacks.auctions.mlb.com.

SRPMIC member Teniya Salazar, also known as 3Tribez, was one of the artists who worked on the cleats. Besides being Onk Akimel O'odham, she is also from the Navajo Nation in Fort Defiance and Sinaloa, Mexico. Salazar's creativity shines through a

3 Takeaways:

- The Arizona Diamondbacks celebrated Native American Recognition Day on June 7 at Chase Field, showcasing traditional dancing and music on and around the field.
- Native American artists, including SRPMIC member Teniya Salazar, designed game-worn cleats for a charity auction.
- The Diamondbacks defeated the Washington Nationals 5-1.

variety of projects with her art business MissSalazarCreations, including pop-culture beadwork, traditional and vibrant outfits, silversmithing, and a wide variety of art pieces inspired by living in Two Worlds.

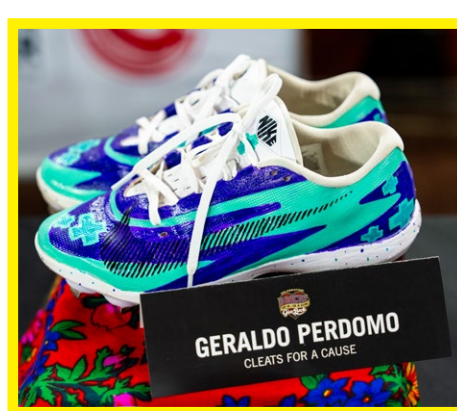
D-Backs all-star shortstop Geraldo Perdomo wore the pair of Nike cleats that she designed.

Salazar and her mom "fangirled" over the fact that they had his cleats and later found out that they fit both of their feet. She only had a couple of weeks to implement the design work on the cleats after finding out about the opportunity from her Alpha Pi Omega Sorority Inc. sorority sister Andrea Denny.

"I can't thank my good sister enough, because if she didn't share the information, I would have never gotten this opportunity in the first place," Salazar told *O'odham Action News*.

After reaching out to Native shoe designer Chris Murphy for advice with painting on these specific shoes, Salazar went with Angelus leather paint. She used her own paint brushes, Sharpies and a finishing gloss.

Salazar is a fan of the different designs the D-Backs have used over time. She loved the deeper meanings behind the designs and how "powerful" the purple and turquoise looked on the players. The bottom rim of Salazar's cleats has a "splat" design in purple and turquoise.



Cleats worn by Diamondbacks player Geraldo Perdomo were redesigned by SRPMIC artist Teniya Salazar.

According to Salazar, in Navajo culture, turquoise is worn as a protection; it also represents healing and harmony.

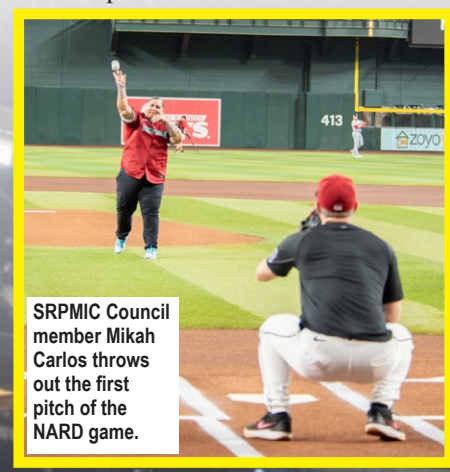
"Seeing the purple means a lot to me in many ways. The purple represents one of the Diamondbacks colors, a national awareness for health conditions and social causes, my favorite color and many other powerful stories, one being my cancer story. Purple has represented my story since I can remember," said Salazar. "So, in hopes to keep showcasing how powerful purple can represent, I not only established purple as my signature business color, but [I used it] in these cleats as well."

All together, 22 coyote tracks are painted on the cleats, which Salazar said represents the 22 federally recognized tribes in the state of Arizona. The tracks also represent how fast D-Backs players run around the field and back home, "scoring one for the Valley of Arizona."

Two coyote tracks are placed on the tongues of the cleats, which is a traditional symbol in her tribes.

Salazar plans to have a "table telling" with the Woodenhead Collective for The Day the Rez Stood Still: The 4th Kind, taking place on September 26 at the Salt River Community Building. You can follow Salazar on Instagram @MissSalazarCreations.

Photos by O'odham Action News Reporters Andreea Miguel, Juan Ysaqure and Chris Picciuolo.



SRPMIC Council member Mikah Carlos throws out the first pitch of the NARD game.



SRPMIC Traditional Dancers after sharing their culture for visitors as they entered the stadium.



Sistine Lewis sings the national anthem in O'odham before the NARD game.



Jr. Miss Salt River 2025-2026 1st Attendant Aiyanna Toya and Miss Salt River 2025-2026 Emma Scabby walk the track with other royalty.



Bowie Leonard, his nephew Juakin Juk Rodriguez and SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard shared traditional songs with visitors to the ballpark.



NWT softball team featuring SRPMIC member Emily Stacey holds their team's sign as they walk in the parade of teams from the Inter-tribal tournament.



The SRPMIC recognized on-field pre-game. LEFT to RIGHT: SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard and Council members David Antone, Jacob Butler, Mikah Carlos, Michael Dallas Sr. and Cheryl Doka, Gaming Enterprise Board members Agust Antone, Gloria Bright, Ryan Andrews and Robb McCreary.

Native Youth Compete in D-Backs Inter-Tribal Tournament at Salt River

AZ Sons Win Third Single A Championship

3 Takeaways:

- The annual Arizona Diamondbacks Inter-Tribal Youth Baseball & Softball Tournament provides opportunities for athletes from Indian Country to participate and refine their skills as they compete for championships.
- The tournament featured many teams and players from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
- The SRPMIC single-A team AZ Sons won the tournament championship.

Softball

A triple-A softball team, Natives with Talent, lived up to their name all tournament. Called NWT for short, the team featured SRPMIC superstar athlete Emily Stacey as she and her fellow teammates from the Hopi, Pascua Yaqui and other tribes showed why they're one of the premiere softball teams in Indian Country.

NWT started off strong, dominating their pool-play games against San Lucy, Texoma, FD Mariners (Navy) and Maraunders. During three of their four pool-play games, which were hosted at the Accelerated Learning Academy, NWT blanked their opponents, putting up wins to the tune of 7-0, 11-0 and 18-0. Texoma was able to finally put points on the board against NWT, but they still lost, 3-1.

Stacey's family, friends and supporters cheered her on from the sidelines of ALA's softball field. As the pool-play games continued across three days, several college recruiters from California and New Mexico looked on and took notes, trying to discover their next great softball student-athletes.

Sadly, NWT ran into some stiff competition during Thursday's championship game. In a hard-fought battle, which saw the best of the best going at it, NWT fell just short of securing the championship trophy, losing to the Bravettes, 3-4.

The Bravettes went undefeated during this year's triple-A Diamondbacks inter-tribal tournament, finishing 6-0.



SRPMIC Triple-A NWT softball player Emily Stacey sets in her batter's stance as a left-handed hitter during pool play at the Accelerated Learning Academy field.

LEFT: AZ Sons third baseman Dax Andrews (SRPMIC) stands in front of the Salt River Water Tower as he holds his Championship trophy.

BELOW: AZ Sons Single A team holds three fingers up for three championships in a row. Dax Andrews (front, third from left) poses with his teammates and SRPMIC coaches (back right) Justin Andrews, Marcus Lasiloo and Arnold "Zookie" Thomas.



Single A Baseball

Led by head coach Whitney Che Grey Jr., the single-A Desert Dingers were yet another team participating in this year's inter-tribal tournament.

During their first game, the Desert Dingers and their new green and orange uniforms took to the Salt River ballfield on June 8 to battle it out against the Na7ive Na7ions national team. A group of ballplayers ages 9 to 12 years, the Dingers had their work cut out for them as the Na7ive Na7ions team put up some fierce competition. The Dingers lost 17-1.

The following day, the Dingers once again packed the Salt River ballfield bleachers while still learning and developing their skills on the diamond. In their game against NM Pack, the Dingers lost 9-0.

In their third and final game, the Dingers played local team AZ Stronghold. Though both teams had fun, one team must win. AZ Stronghold cruised to victory to the tune of 10-2.

Native Clash was an SRPMIC team coached by Sabrina Lopez and Micah Butler. The team lost all three of their games, but they played hard out in the heat against some tough teams.

The AZ Sons baseball team, coached by SRPMIC member Arnold "Zookie" Thomas, once again dominated their pool play this year. Also coaching the squad were SRPMIC members Dante Davis, Marcus



Native Clash pose for a group photo after a game at Salt River Ballfields.

Lasiloo and Justin Andrews, whose younger brother Dax Andrews was on the team at third base.

AZ Sons cruised through their first three games against the Sells Giants, Pueblo Warriors and Apache Scouts, winning each game.

Dax Andrews played a key role in helping the AZ Sons get runs. His patience at the plate and solid contact helped him get on base and drive in a few runs during the tournament.

This team was built for domination, and the weight of the single-elimination quarterfinals bracket did not faze them. AZ Sons beat Casa Grande 12-2 in the 7:30 a.m. game. As the morning grew hotter, AZ Sons kept up the battle, taking on a tough Na7ive Na7ions national team. The Sons tore apart their pitching staff with a final score of 10-2, handing Na7ive Na7ions their only loss in the tournament.



Wazzie Fulwilder runs to first after making contact with the ball during a game.

A back-to-back-to-back morning led the Sons to an extra-innings championship game showdown vs. Guadalupe on June 11. The game was scoreless through the fourth inning, when the Sons put up two runs. Dax Andrews was hit by a pitch and did not return to the game. Guad climbed back, but they were no match for the Sons, who held their lead while securing their third championship on a game-ending double play.

Dax Andrews talked with O'odham Action News about his experience and his team's win.

"It feels great to represent where I'm from [Salt River] and play with my friends," Andrews said after the game. "I felt confident."



Third base coach Justin Andrews puts the brakes on younger brother Dax Andrews as he barrels into third.

Double A & Triple A Baseball



Dingers players gave their all on the field during the tournament.

The double-A AZ Sons also rocked their tournament. The team was coached by the same staff as the single-A team.

Left fielder Marco Lopez was the only player from the SRPMIC.

In their first game at Salt River Fields, they routed NM Bangarang 28-0. They continued to soar with wins against Warriors

Baseball Club and Top Dawgz Blue.

In the semifinals, the team ran out of steam against the 475 Boyz, who won 6-4. AZ Sons finished the tournament with a third-place trophy, winning their consolation game vs. NM Sundevils II.

Desert Dingers were coached by SRPMIC member Whitney Grey. They ended the tournament 1-2, finishing strong in their last game vs. Arizona 108, winning 5-3.



AZ Sons group shot from Salt River Fields.

Indigenous Women Collaborate for Day of Golf

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ

O'odham Action News

zoe.hernandez@srpmic-nsn.gov

On May 28, I attended the annual Drive and Thrive event hosted by Indigenous Community Collaborative and Matriarch Mixer at Talking Stick Golf Club. The day included a network mixer, lunch with the keynote speaker, a Q&A followed by a golf clinic, and a round of golf. The day was geared toward networking with women in Indigenous spaces while also learning collaboration.

Indigenous Community Collaborative is a community-rooted social organization that believes that economics are built on cultural values. They also work heavily in trying to build relationships that better the communities rather than making a transaction. The collaborative is composed of Indigenous professionals, entrepreneurs, cultural practitioners and community members.

“The intention for this experience is just to connect us to each other. I think a lot of us are navigating in different spaces, and sometimes that means we are the only Indigenous person in that space, so we just want to offer a space where we could all connect with each other,” said Indigenous Community Collaborative founder and CEO Melody Lewis (Fort Mojave Indian Tribe). Lewis also shared the importance of being able to go out onto the golf course and conduct business. “[The golf course] is where business happens. I got my first partnership, long-time partnership, on that course,” said Lewis.

Being able to participate in the Drive and Thrive event as a reporter for O'odham Action News and as a Salt



Zoe Hernandez was excited to share her love of golf as she made meaningful connections at the Drive and Thrive event.

River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member was a very exciting opportunity. Through this experience I was able to network alongside 40 other women who are Indigenous or work within Indigenous fields. As someone who also has developed a love for golf, it was exciting for me to not only share that love but also share the knowledge I hold with ladies who may have never touched a golf club before. Attending this event, I met many new people who had wonderful stories to share.

Whether women are working in an Indigenous space or in a non-Indigenous space, it can be difficult to network, so having events like this is important. I'd like to thank the hosts for giving so many ladies this opportunity.



Nearly 100 students qualified for the academic celebration event, with more than 25 families attending. Photo courtesy of Cathy Mangels, Salt River School and Community Relations.

Salt River Schools Celebrates School Year

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

The tassels continue to turn to the left side in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

After working hard all school year, superstar students from the SRPMIC finally got their time in the spotlight at the Lehi Community Building on June 11 for the Salt River Schools' End of the Year Celebration for the 2025-2026 school year.

The event honored students who have maintained a B or higher grade for the entire school year, in addition to recognizing a student who achieved perfect attendance.

Nearly 100 students qualified for the academic celebration event, with more than 25 families attending.

Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King provided the opening blessing, and her father, Salt River Schools Education Board Chair Kyland King, offered a welcome message.

Celesia Lewis from Salt River Schools handed out certificates of achievement to students as they were showered with gifts and well-wishes from their families and loved ones in recognition of the hard work they have accomplished in the classroom.

Education Board member Patricia Rush asked for continued blessings to the students, their families and loved ones while celebrating another great year in the classroom.



Language With O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

Learning the orthographies of the O'odham and Piipaash

O'odham		Piipaash	
a	father	ch	chair
b	big	d	there
c	chip	f	fish
d	this	k	kiss
ḍ	but	kw	queen
ḍ	dam	ky	cute
e	earth	l	land
g	go	ly	million
h	hot	m	man
i	machine	n	name
j	job	ng	song
k	kiss	ny	canyon
l	rolling "l"	p	spin
m	miss	q	like k further back in the throat
n	no	qw	like kw further back in the throat
ñ	canyon	r	rolled r
o	all	s	salt
p	pot	sh	share
s	see	t	talk
ṣ	ship	th	thousand
t	thin	v	victory
u	brute	w	win
v	vine	x	like the German ch in bach
w	what	xw	x with rounded lips
y	yes	y	yes



POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS

Anyone can report a concern regarding a vulnerable elder or adult with adaptive needs:

Phone
Ask for Adult Protective Services at **480.362.6350**

Email
AdultProtectiveServices@srpmic-nsn.gov

In-Person
Ask for the APS team at **10510 E. Osborn Rd.**



SENIOR SERVICES
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

'Steel Across America' Tour Makes a Stop in Salt River

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE

O'odham Action News

juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

History once again repeated in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as a rare piece of U.S. history made a stop here. This time it took place on June 17 at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River Fields.

An event designed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Steel Across America is a nationwide tour hosted by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The foundation honors the sacrifice of New York firefighter Stephen Siller and all those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, by facilitating events, creating programs and working closely with fallen first responders and their families.

Siller was assigned to Brooklyn's Squad 1 and had just finished his overnight shift on the morning of 9/11. Upon hearing the news of the attacks, Siller told his wife he was going back and returned to his Squad 1 to suit up and begin helping those in need. Sadly, Siller lost his life saving others that day.

On June 17, Steel Across America brought an authentic 21-foot-long steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center attack to the Community at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens. They are touring the beam across the country for public view.

Guests and visitors were able to touch the beam as it rested on a flatbed semitruck. The steel beam weighs approximately 16,000 pounds.

The stop in the Community was the 16th for Steel Across America. By the end of the tour in September, Steel Across America will have visited 35 cities across 21 states in roughly three months.

"Each life lost was a story interrupted," said Brad Blakeman, board member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, during the visit's opening ceremony. "Today, we remember those that we've lost, not only on that tragic day, but right here in Salt River."

Blakeman served in the Bush administration. He also served as a consultant to the offices of the U.S. president and vice president from 1980 to 1993.

Later, Blakeman and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation gave their condolences to fallen SRP-MIC police officer Clayton Townsend. "Officer

Townsend was an Arizona native, a husband, father and a five-year veteran of the department. Like all the brave men and women that we honor today, we vow to never forget their sacrifice," said Blakeman.

Following the moment of silence, chants of "USA! USA!" broke out among the crowd.

Later, Blakeman revealed that their stop in the SRPMIC is the tour's only stop on Indigenous land. "As we stand here next to the physical reminder of the tragedy, I'd like to mention that the ground we stand on today belongs to the men and women of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community."

He continued, "It's also worth mentioning that Native people make up the highest number of servicemen and women per capita of any [ethnic] group in our nation."

The ceremony continued as SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard provided remarks.

"For many of us, the memories remain. We remember where we were when we first heard the news [of 9/11]," he said. "We know that memory is not simply about looking back, it's about ensuring that future generations understand their sacrifices."

Leonard also detailed the importance of Steel Across America being held at the USS Arizona Memorial Grounds. "On Dec. 7, 1941, America was attacked. On Sept. 11, 2001, America was attacked once again. Separated by six decades, both moments tested our nation. The heroes we honor today come from different generations, but they are connected to a common service to something greater than ourselves."

At the conclusion of his speech, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation presented Leonard with a commemorative custom-built steel plaque created from steel taken from the Twin Towers.

Following the presentation of the plaque, Leonard sang the basket dance song while the Salt River Traditional Dancers performed.

3 takeaways:

- The Steel Across America event was sponsored by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.
- The event transports an authentic steel beam from the World Trade Center; recovered after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, across the country in a series of public stops.
- Steel Across America began in May and will make 35 stops across the U.S. when it concludes in September.

Steel Across America will continue its tour with upcoming stops in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Chicago and West Point, New York.

For more information, check out the Tunnel to Towers Foundation at www.t2t.org.



SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard was presented with a commemorative custom plaque created using steel taken from the wreckage of the Twin Towers.



The 21-foot long steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center rests on a flatbed truck.

Can you solve the crossword puzzle?

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

Enjoy!

Across

- The President and CEO of Saddleback Communications.
- The SRFD firefighter who recently retired after 26 years.
- The Single-A winner of the Arizona Diamondbacks Intertribal Tournament.
- The name of the event hosted by Indigenous Community Collaborative and Matriarch Mixer at Talking Stick Golf Club.
- The Arizona Diamondbacks player who wore custom cleats designed by Teniya Salazar.

Down

- Board Member of the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.
- The Discover Salt River Tourism Manager.
- What plant was implemented in the 1930's to stabilize cattle populations.
- The location of the SRPMIC Community Day event.
- The Salt River Schools staff member who handed out the award certificates in Lehi for the end of the year education awards.
- The month designated for Men's Mental Health Month.

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

SEATS UP FOR ELECTION



Martin Harvier
President



Jacob Butler
DISTRICT I



Mikah Carlos
DISTRICT I



Ricardo Leonard
Vice President



Cheryl Doka
DISTRICT I



Michael Dallas, Sr.
DISTRICT II

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 28

Nomination Meeting for PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Promptly at 6:00PM – Salt River Community Building

President & Vice President Nominees must accept or decline their nomination no later than 5PM within two business days. Nominees can contact the Council Secretary to receive the Accept or Decline Form

JULY 30

Nomination Meeting for COUNCIL MEMBERS

Promptly at 6:00PM, at each voting district:

- District I (SR) – Salt River Community Building
- District II (Lehi) – Lehi Community Building

Council Member Nominees must accept or decline their nomination no later than 5PM within two business days.

Nominees can contact the Council Secretary to receive the Accept or Decline Form

**4 WEEK
PROCESS**

Background check process for nominees who accepted their nomination.

Per the amended SRPMIC Constitution, candidates must have not been convicted of a felony during the ten (10) years preceding the date of the election. A felony is any criminal offense punishable by more than one (1) year incarceration in the jurisdiction the person was convicted.

AUG 04

Election Board certification of President and Vice-President Nominees

Per SRPMIC Code of Ordinances, Section 3-5(c)(1)(c) Certification of candidates shall be determined by the Election Board based upon the qualification of the candidates as provided in Article IV, Sec. 2

AUG 06

Election Board certification of Council Member nominees

Per SRPMIC Code of Ordinances, Section 3-5(c)(1)(c) Certification of candidates shall be determined by the Election Board based upon the qualification of the candidates as provided in Article IV, Sec. 3

OCT 01

Deadline for Eligible Voters to request an Absentee Ballot for Primary Election

Eligible voters may request an absentee ballot to vote by mail. Requests can be made via phone, email, or fax by contacting the Council Secretary.

OCT 15

Deadline to make request for Home Voting for Primary Election

Eligible home voters (disabled or bedridden and within a 25 mile radius) may request to have (2) Election Board Members deliver a ballot for home voting at your location. Requests can be made by contacting the Council Secretary.

OCT 20

SRPMIC PRIMARY ELECTION DAY POLLS OPEN: 6:00AM – 6:00PM

Results will be presented after Election Board tally's onsite and absentee ballots for Council certification.

President: Top 2 vote getters move on to the General Election

Vice-President: Top 2 vote getters move on to the General Election

District I (SR) Council Members: Top 5 vote getters move on to the General Election

District II (Lehi) Council Members: Top 2 vote getters move on to the General Election

OCT 29

Deadline for Primary Candidates who are not advancing to the General election to take down their campaign signs. (Within 7 business days) Per Section 3-5(b)(4)(e) of the SRPMIC Code of Ordinances.

Contact the Council Secretary at (480) 362-7466 • SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov for forms, ballots, and information.

SALT RIVER CHURCH LISTINGS

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

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

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

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.

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

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

LEHI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 E. Oak Mesa, AZ 85203
Pastor Annette Lewis
annette.l.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.

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

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST PAPA GO WARD
2056 N. Extension Rd. Scottsdale AZ, 85256
(480) 947-1084
SERVICES: Sunday service begins at 10 a.m.

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

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.

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)

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.



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 BUSINESS LISTINGS

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

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

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

AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING RMG MECHANICAL
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A&M VALLEY LANDSCAPING
Landscaping and yard work services Navin Wood
aandmvalleylandsc@gmail.com

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.

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Mon-Sat, 7 am-6 pm (message after 6) Minor Home Repairs, doors/knobs maintenance, screens, small concrete installation/repair, small DIY projects, TV Mounting, Junk Removal Services, Debris Hauling, etc.

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

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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

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

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

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ANDREEA MIGUEL NEWS REPORTER - TEMP
andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

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(480) 362-7323
juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

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(480) 362-3281
dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

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(480) 362-6626
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

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andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

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zoe.hernandez@srpmic-nsn.gov

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KARI HAAHR NEWSPAPER ASSISTANT
(480) 362-2698
kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

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SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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VICE-PRESIDENT Ricardo Leonard

DISTRICT A COUNCIL MEMBER Jacob Butler
DISTRICT E COUNCIL MEMBER Mikah Carlos

DISTRICT B COUNCIL MEMBER David Antone
LEHI DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER Deanna Scabby

DISTRICT C COUNCIL MEMBER Cheryl Doka
LEHI DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER Michael Dallas, Sr.

DISTRICT D COUNCIL MEMBER Su:k Fulwilder

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JULY 16	JULY 2*
AUGUST 6	JULY 17

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.

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
JULY 16	JULY 2*
AUGUST 6	JULY 17

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.

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

Contact **Newspaper Assistant Kari Haahr** at (480) 362-2698 or kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov
Leave your name, number and message and they will get back to you.
GOT A STORY IDEA?
Email us at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov or call (480) 362-7750

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

SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

- ✓ New Year's Day
 - ✓ Juneteenth
 - ✓ MLK Day
 - ✓ Independence Day
 - ✓ President's Day
 - ✓ Labor Day
 - ✓ Good Friday
 - ✓ Native American Recognition Day
 - ✓ Memorial Day
 - ✓ Veteran's Day
 - ✓ SRPMIC Day
- *and any other council proclamations that may occur

The SR Public Works Department will be **closed** on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Please contact PW Customer Service for their schedules. 480-362-5600 PWCustomerService@srpmic-nsn.gov

Salt River 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
(6

LEGAL NOTICES

DEFAULT 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

Becerra, Oscar Garcia - Review Hearing and Initial Termination of Parental Rights hearing Case: J-15-0043 Court Date: September 1, 2026 at 9 AM

Burton, Armetta - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-3458 Court Date: July 13, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Gonzalez, Denise Michelle - Evidentiary Termination of Parental-Child Relationship Case: JV-26-0025 Court Date: July 14, 2026 at 11 AM

Kavoka, Jessica Ann - Default Judgement Hearing Case: JV-26-0095 Court Date: September 28, 2026 at 10 AM

Martinez, Daniel Frederico - Disposition Hearing Case: JV-26-0041 Court Date: July 21, 2026 at 9 AM

Salazar, D'Angelo - Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-26-0112 Court Date: July 27, 2026 at 10 AM

Salazar Jr., Jose - Default Judgement Hearing Case: JV-

26-0095 Court Date: September 28, 2026 at 10 AM

Santo, Carmelita Iris - Review Hearing and Initial Termination of Parental Rights hearing Case: J-15-0043 Court Date: September 1, 2026 at 9 AM

Sermeno, Benjamin Fredrick - Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-26-0118 Court Date: July 21, 2026 at 10 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

Barker, Mary - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-3597 Court Date: August 4, 2026 at 9 AM

Dalton, Zoey Nadia - Probate Hearing Case: CV-26-3598 Court Date: July 29, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Sine, Tony - Evidentiary Hearing Case: CV-26-3525 Court Date: July 27, 2026 at 10 AM

Webster, Crystal - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-25-4594 Court Date: August 3, 2026 at 9 AM

BECERRA, OSCAR GARCIA
SUMMONS
J-15-0043

In the Matter of Termination of the Parental Rights of: JOHN DOE – D.O.B.: 07/01/2011
 TO: Oscar Garcia Becerra, parent

A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed in this Court against you which alleges grounds for the termination of your parental rights of the above captioned child(ren). You may obtain a copy of the petition by calling (480) 362-6315.

THEREFORE YOU ARE ORDERED to APPEAR for an Initial Hearing for Termination of Parental Rights before the Honorable Judge Heath, the Salt River Juvenile Court on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in Court Room #3.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14-0004, effective August 4, 2014, legal counsel, parties, and their respective witnesses shall be present in the courthouse at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to any proceeding.

NOTICE: Violation of this Order is Subject to Proceedings for Contempt of Court Pursuant to Salt River Community Code Section 6-42. If Good Cause is Not Shown, the Court May Find the Parent, Guardian or Custodian in Contempt for Failure to Appear at a Court Hearing or for Failure to Follow Court Orders. Further, the Parties Should be Advised that the Hearing for Termination of Parental Rights May Proceed Without the Parent or Necessary Respondent Present. Failure to Appear May Result in the Hearing Being Held Without the Parent and the Parental Rights of the Parent may be Terminated.

CLERK, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

SANTO, CARMELITA IRIS
SUMMONS
J-15-0043

In the Matter of Termination of the Parental Rights of: JOHN DOE – D.O.B.: 07/01/2011
 TO: Carmelita Iris Santo, parent

A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed in this Court against you which alleges grounds for the termination of your parental rights of the above captioned child(ren). You may obtain a copy of the petition by calling (480) 362-6315.

THEREFORE YOU ARE ORDERED to APPEAR for an Initial Hearing for Termination of Parental Rights before the Honorable Judge Heath, the Salt River Juvenile Court on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in Court Room #3.

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CLERK, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

CASIAS, LISA
NOTICE OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT:
CV-26-0675

Country Club Cars v. Lisa Casias
 TO: Lisa Casias

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, State of Arizona, Maricopa County original jurisdiction court case number CV-26-0675

Notice of Default Judgment is hereby given ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that default judgment against Respondent, Lisa Casias, is hereby ENTERED. It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Respondent, Lisa Casias, shall pay Petitioner, Country Club Cars in the amount of \$9,431.41. Payment shall be made to Petitioner within thirty (30) days of this Order. This order is final and shall be served on Respondent in accordance to Rule 5-20(c). For a copy of this Order please contact the Salt River Court at 480-362-6315.

WEBSTER, CRYSTAL
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CV-25-4594

Country Club Cars v. Webster, Crystal
 TO: Webster, Crystal

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 3rd day of August 2026 at 9:00 AM in Court Room #2 and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to adhere to the Court's Default Judgment Order.

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

ORDERED this June 2nd, 2026
 JUDGE ANTHONY LITTLE, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

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

Summer Word Search *Find the O'odham and Piipaash words from the list below!*

D J T Y O I N Y D X U U M I F P B F D G
 H M X Z L Z C D B P X V D H U U K G A H
 T A S Z R Y R U I K C I G V Z H J R J M
 D B Q H V Q B X Z B W M P I L Y K F A J
 Z H D B S A K L I X H O X L O G P E C J
 Z N U S R J M E C U C A U J Z S O J I C
 I Y U J I U T O F B A C I M U W M A H U
 I A C Y U X H I K M T N A K S E L G G N
 M A A J M K U U K A Z E M G D O J G I J
 A S W Y T Q I P X T N H R X E U E I G V
 A H U V H Q F A Z X D Y E H V E G O I O
 T P U N X B M O B I W F A H W S O P D N
 M A M Y A J R Q I I N W A A E N S B K A
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 S X U P O G X U J W E M V B N I V M M E
 V O U N S K A A V E G I A Y V W L Z S I
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 S S W W L I M E S K C F C S A S C S S Q
 R H J A D L U L S I C I D N S D Y B K S
 C H O H K R W T L E T Y X Q B Y S H W L

O'ODHAM
JUKIABIG MASAD, July
IBHAI, prickly pear
LULSI, candy
GIGIDKAM SUSK, sandals
VONAM, hat
HE'HEM, laughing

VAMOK, mosquito
NAKSEL, scorpion
TAS, sun
JEGOS, dust storm
PIIPAASH
NYIP 'NAW, my friend
NYAA SHPAK XOTSH, it's a good morning
MPILYK, are you hot?

IIMAATM TSVE, towel
XVSHUUK, blue/green
XASM, greasy
MTHXA, wind
MATXIJKWER, whirlwind/dust devil
'UUC'AWUUM DUU, will it rain?
NYAA PILY, Summer

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE
JULY 2026

Meeting Date/Time	Agendas	Location
CM Butler District A Thursday, July 23, 2026 6:00 PM	*General Welfare Ordinance *Providence First Trust (tentative) *Community Member Comments	SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256
CM Antone District B Saturday, July 18, 2026 9:00 AM	*General Welfare Ordinance *Community Member Comments	SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256
CM Doka District C Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:00 pm	*General Welfare Ordinance *Kavad / Kushov Cultural Center *River Area Gate House Project *Community Member Comments	SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256
CM Fulwilder District D Monday, July 20, 2026 6:00 pm	*Kavad / Kushov Cultural Center *General Welfare Ordinance *Community Member Comments	ALA Lecture Hall 4827 N. Country Club Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256
CM Carlos District E Tuesday, July 14, 2026 6:00 pm	*SR Community Children's Foundation *General Welfare Ordinance *Community Member Comments	SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256
CM Scabby / CM Dallas Lehi District Tuesday, July 21, 2026 6:00pm	*General Welfare Ordinance *Providence First Trust (tentative) *Community Member Comments	Lehi Community Building 1231 E Oak Street Mesa, AZ 85203
CM Scabby / CM Dallas QUARTERLY Lehi District Meeting Saturday, July 18, 2026 9:00 AM	*General Welfare Ordinance *Providence First Trust (tentative) *Community Member Comments	Evergreen Neighborhood Center 12275 E. Fairmount Ave Scottsdale, AZ 85256

JULY - DECEMBER 2026

COMPUTER CLASSES

For Community Seniors 55+

Come have fun learning the Microsoft Office applications such as Word and PowerPoint, including other technology topics. No computer experience is required.

WHERE: Salt River Senior Center Annex Building
TIME: 9:00AM - 11:00AM

- 07 JUL** → **MOBILE DEVICES**
MOBILE APP REVIEW
- 11 AUG** → **DIGITAL ART**
ONLINE ART APPS
- 15 SEP** → **PHOTO EDITING BASICS**
ONLINE PHOTO APPS
- 13 OCT** → **CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS**
IT DEPT PRESENTATION
- 10 NOV** → **KEYBOARD & MOUSE**
ONLINE TYPING GAMES
- 08 DEC** → **MICROSOFT WORD**
CREATE A GREETING CARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION
(480) 362-7431



SRPMIC IT DEPARTMENT
CUSTOMER CARE DIVISION

SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT SALT RIVER TRIBAL LIBRARY

PRIZE PICK UP DAY!



Pick up your prizes while you grab something sweet featuring custom ice cream & Iced coffee treats

JULY 20TH 2026

3PM - 7PM SALT RIVER TRIBAL LIBRARY

still need to log your points?

Stop in! Staff will help you log your points!



Contact: 480-362-6600
TribalLibrary@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

MENU

Little Foots - Scoop of Vanilla or Chocolate Ice Cream, Dot Sprinkles

Goldenzilla - Iced Vanilla Caramel Latte, Oat Milk, Vanilla Ice Cream, Cold foam

Dino Dot Cake - Iced Caramel Mocha, Oat Milk, Chocolate Ice Cream, Cold Foam, Dot Sprinkles

The Dr. Sattler - Iced Vanilla Caramel Latte, Oat Milk, Cold Foam

The Dr. Grant - Iced Caramel Mocha, Oat Milk, Cold Foam



HOSTED BY THE

Community Risk Reduction Division



OPEN TO ALL SRPMIC COMMUNITY MEMBERS & EMPLOYEES

UPCOMING TRAININGS 10AM-11AM
TWO WATERS, BLDG. A ROOM 109

July 7

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

2026 Weather Overview and Awareness class for the general public.

Aug. 4

SALT RIVER PROJECT

Electrical Awareness training for the general public.

Sept. 8

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Salt River Emergency Management: Personal, Home, and Community Preparedness training.

For more information contact: Fireprevention@srpmic-nsn.gov | 480-362-SRFD

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING

The Community Council has scheduled a Community Hearing. You may or may not be a landowner in this area; however, this special invitation is extended to all Community Members and Landowners with ownership interest within a ½ mile radius.

Greg Charbeneau, representing Paradise Gateway, LLC, is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for the development of a 92,716 square foot indoor wildlife exhibit called Paradise Earth within the Paradise Gateway development. This property is zoned C3 (General Commercial) and a CUP is required for an indoor wildlife exhibit per the SRPMIC Zoning Ordinance.

This notice is made under Article I., Section 17-4, Sections 7-95 (d), 17-97 (a) and 17-97 (e) along with the SRPMIC Code Ordinance.



Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: SRPMIC Council Chambers (Longmore & Osborn)

You may also view the pre-recorded video and audio presentation of the Community Hearing starting July 16, 2026. To view the video, please visit: <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/>.

Public comments can be made via email at public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov, by phone at (480) 362-7470, by text at (623) 282-5757, or by mail CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale AZ 85256.

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING

The Community Council has scheduled a Community Hearing. You may or may not be a landowner in this area; however this special invitation is extended to all Community Members and Landowners with ownership interest within a ½ mile radius.

Courtney Crump, representing Caliber HS Riverwalk Holdco LLC, is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for the development of a 122-room, 4-story extended stay hotel on 3.49 acres of land within the Riverwalk master development. Per the SRPMIC Zoning Ordinance and Map, this property is zoned C3 (General Commercial) and a CUP is required for an extended stay hotel to be constructed.

This notice is made under Article I., Section 17-4, Sections 7-95 (d), 17-97 (a) and 17-97 (e) along with the SRPMIC Code Ordinance.



Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: SRPMIC Council Chambers (Longmore & Osborn)

You may also view the pre-recorded video and audio presentation of the Community Hearing starting July 23, 2026. To view the video, please visit: <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/>.

Public comments can be made via email at public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov, by phone at (480) 362-7470, by text at (623) 282-5757, or by mail CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale AZ 85256.

Do you have information or knowledge on the history of the Salt River Water Tower?

We want to hear from you!

Reach out at 480-362-7750 or email oan@srpmic-nsn.gov

Scenes from the Land Over the Past 250 Years

Sonoran Desert plants and wildlife have seen a lot of change since 1776. Learn about the shifts in our natural environment that have helped shape Arizona as we look toward the next 250 years.

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

A lot has changed here since the founding of the United States in 1776.

People living on O'odham and Piipaash land 250 years ago would have woken up to a vibrant song in the morning as cardinals, wrens, great-tailed grackles, curve-billed thrashers, red-winged blackbirds, house finches, verdin, Gila woodpeckers and mourning doves were all happy as could be, chirping away in their desert homes.

Depending on the season, Canada geese, cedar waxwings, orioles or yellow-rumped warblers may have been visiting or passing through, adding their voices to the song. In the summertime, cicadas would have buzzed loudly in the background. Those living here back then might have looked on a turkey vulture, wings outstretched, warming in the sun to greet the day, and maybe done a big stretch themselves. They would have prepared for rough seasonal weather, what we call

monsoons and haboobs, and made time to maintain waterways, including canal systems that had been in place for centuries. Coyotes would call to each other at sundown.

The land that would eventually become Arizona was then home to the northernmost population of jaguars on the continent. At that time, javelina began moving northward from Central America, successfully establishing themselves throughout the Sonoran Desert. This was decades before Phoenix was settled and decades more before Arizona blossomed from territory to state.

Elsewhere in the developing United States, house sparrows were brought to North America as a way of controlling caterpillar populations. Russian thistle was introduced, and the resulting tumbleweeds quickly made their way west, where they became a symbol that echoed what the settlers perceived as a region of vast emptiness.

It was only about 140 years ago that European starlings, with their impres-

sive vocal range, were introduced, creating competition for resources that spanned the continent. Shortly after that came bullfrogs, also eager to compete. The soundscape of the place was changing.

Arizona plant life has seen its share of changes in the last 25 decades. Buffelgrass was introduced in the 1930s to stabilize cattle populations, and in a few decades, it became one of the most notorious invasive species. The first time the invasive weed called stinknet (globe chamomile) was seen in the States was 45 years ago, and the first recorded sighting in Arizona was in 1997, 15 years later. By the 2020s, stinknet was a regular feature on the news; the seas of yellow blooms, despite appearing picturesque, took over large parts of the desert, choking out native plant species and posing a massive threat to the ecosystem.

The jaguars that had been here for centuries were all believed gone, with the last recorded kill in 1964 by a hunter from the U.S. government. Throughout the 1980s, a "feral" population of a type of African parrot known as the rosy-faced lovebird was established in Tempe, perhaps by accident. The birds acclimated quickly, and colonies of them can be found in neighbor-

hoods across the Valley. In the 1990s, what was believed to be the oldest documented saguaro cactus in Arizona, living in Saguaro National Park and estimated to be over 300 years old, died of a bacterial infection. The landscape was changing, too, but the river and canals continued to provide water for all the living things in the Valley.

In 1996, an unexpected sighting of a jaguar ignited a spark of hope for the conservation minded. Ample video evidence reveals that the jaguars are taking their land back.

On any given day in 2026, the canals still carry water, coyotes still call to the sunset and birds still sing to the sunrise. Some new voices have joined in, but the original song is still there amidst the cacophony of ongoing life. Many migratory birds still use the same path on their journeys today, called the Pacific Flyway, so you can also expect them to make an appearance when the season is right.

The desert's wildlife is deeper in the wild now than before, but our desert home is still full of life. Life was here 250 years ago, it is here now, and it will be here beyond the next 250 years.

Still, a lot more will change by 2276.

SRPMIC AT AMERICA'S 250

Content gathered by Juan Ysaguirre
Design by Kari Haahr

In the Beginning: Our ancestors developed the most advanced canal system in North America. Hundreds of miles of canals were engineered and dug by hand to provide irrigation water to villages that were located great distances from the river channels. Historically, the O'odham and Piipaash maintained this tradition of canal farming, and our ability to produce an abundance of food was an important contributing factor in shaping relations with other tribes and non-Natives early on.

Early Contact Early Spanish, Mexican and United States contact was generally cordial. Therefore, written history has largely recorded us as being docile farmers who never warred with anyone. In reality, the O'odham and Piipaash confederation had one of the most formidable military forces in the area. Such a force was necessary to protect our fertile and bountiful riparian farmland. Early Americans relied on our military confederation for protection as they traveled through the area. Two hundred O'odham and Piipaash warriors were among the first to enlist for federal service with the inaugural Arizona Volunteer Infantry. By the 1870s, however, the population of Americans in our territory dramatically increased, as did the competition for natural resources.

1694-1854 Hispanic Period: The Akimel O'odham and Piipaash, although different in language and custom, form a more formal alliance. O'odham and Piipaash villages are concentrated along the Gila River due to increasing conflicts with the Quechan, Mojave, Yavapai and Apache. We continue to utilize areas along the Salt River for fishing, hunting, gathering and farming, but the area is too dangerous to maintain villages at this time. Spanish missionaries and subsequent Mexican settlers arrive in small numbers.

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: The Mexican-American War ends. The U.S. annexes territory formerly claimed by Mexico. The annexed area includes the Salt River.

1877 Mormon Companies Daniel Jones leads a small party of Mormon settlers from Utah and sets up camp along the south side of the Salt River in what is today north Mesa. The area in which Camp Utah was built would eventually be called Lehi, or "God's country."

1871-1872 Reclaiming the Salt River: Akimel O'odham and Piipaash villages along the west end are completely dry at times due to water diversion by settlers. Annual reports to the Commission of Indian Affairs record that many O'odham and Piipaash are leaving the Gila River area to resettle along the Salt River. Some O'odham and Piipaash are now suggesting war against the American settlers. Although Akimel O'odham and Piipaash tribal leaders realize their military force is powerful enough to forcibly remove the new settlers, they make every attempt to seek a peaceful resolution.

1865-1866 Fort McDowell: Piipaash and Akimel O'odham warriors serve as the first Arizona Volunteer Infantry at Ft. McDowell to assist the U.S. in the "Apache Wars." Company B is composed of 103 Piipaash volunteers. Piipaash traditional leader and medicine man Juan Chivaria assumes the highest rank of all Native volunteers (captain). Company C is composed of 94 O'odham volunteers. Traditional leader Antonio Azul serves as the highest-ranking O'odham (second lieutenant). Our participation in this campaign served two purposes: to secure our own villages from increasing Apache raids and maintain positive relations with Americans.

Feb. 28, 1859 Gila River Reserve: The original Gila River Reserve is established by Congress, and \$10,000 in gifts are allocated to the Akimel O'odham and Piipaash for loyalty to the U.S. government. This reserve, however, does not include traditional farming, hunting and gathering territories, nor does it include all existing Akimel O'odham and Piipaash villages. At this point in time, some Akimel O'odham and Piipaash begin to grow suspicious of American intentions as a result of unkept promises and a government survey conducted in our territory that suggests possible future encroachment.

1853 Gadsden Purchase: The U.S. purchases additional lands claimed by Mexico to establish the U.S.-Mexico border as we know it today. The purchased area includes the Gila River and lands occupied by Akimel O'odham and Piipaash villages. The Akimel O'odham and Piipaash continue to assist civilian travelers and now provide food supplies for the U.S. military as well. Relations with Americans remain cordial and there is seemingly little threat to our autonomy and territory.

1878 Attempt to Steal Native Farms: Non-Native settlers attempt to make legal claim to lands on the north side of the Salt River that have been cleared, fenced and worked for years by the Onk Akimel O'odham. The U.S. government is urged to legally recognize and preserve water and land rights for the O'odham and Piipaash settled along the Salt River.

January 10, 1879 Original Salt River Reserve: President Rutherford B. Hayes, by executive order, establishes additional reserve lands for the O'odham-Piipaash to protect the Salt River villages and farmland. It encompasses approximately 680,000 acres (estimated), including the Salt River along its entire length eastward to the Apache Reserve. This order causes a public outcry among the roughly 5,000 settlers and speculators claiming land within the boundaries of this reserve.

June 14, 1879 Revised Salt River Reserve: President Hayes, by executive order, dissolves the previous Jan. 10 executive order and establishes a much smaller Salt River Reserve, consisting of just 46,627 acres (the current SRPMIC consists of approximately 54,585 acres). The Akimel O'odham and Piipaash now live on two separate reserves that eventually become the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). The Phoenix metropolitan area develops and expands upon land that once was O'odham and Piipaash traditional territory and was once protected as the Salt River Reserve.

1917 - 1920s (Exclusion from Water Projects): The federal government opens the Salt River Project (SRP) infrastructure but completely excludes Indian lands from the service area. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the U.S. Interior Secretary approves agreements allowing non-Native irrigation districts to intercept seepage water, further starving tribal lands of their natural water supply.

The 1940s The SRPMIC formally reorganizes under the Federal Indian Reorganization Act. It adopts its own constitution and bylaws, establishing a sovereign, democratically elected government consisting of a president, vice president and tribal council. Decades of water theft and complex federal land allotment systems force tribal members to largely abandon traditional farming, as it becomes economically impossible to survive. The Community shifts to leasing its fertile lands to commercial, non-Native agricultural operations to secure an income.

Now Today, many consider SRPMIC a leader in Indian Country with foundational physical and organization structures. The Community has its own tribal police force and fire department, opened health care facilities to meet Community member needs and built a bustling business corridor on the western edge of the Community that includes its flagship Talking Stick Resort, Salt River Fields and a number of entertainment options. SRPMIC also has a school system and a rich cultural system that includes a museum and repository.



INFO COURTESY OF: [HTTPS://SRPMIC-NSN.GOV/ABOUT/HISTORY/](https://srpmic-nsn.gov/about/history/)



River People Health Center

Help Shape the **FUTURE** of *Healthcare.*

Join the River People Health Center **Patient Advisory Committee**



River People Health Center is **seeking SRPMIC community members who are patients, parents, and caregivers** who are interested in helping improve healthcare services and the patient experience.

As a member of the Patient Advisory Committee, you will:

- ✔ Share your experiences and perspectives
- ✔ Provide feedback on services and programs
- ✔ Help improve communication and access to care
- ✔ Support patient-centered healthcare initiatives
- ✔ Represent the voices of patients and families

**Must be 18 or older to participate*



Committee meetings are held every other month.



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- SRPMIC Community members
Preference may be given to:
- Patients with an RPHC Primary Care Provider
 - Parents of pediatric patients
 - Individuals who have used RPHC services within the past year



APPLY TODAY!

Application Deadline:

July 17th:

[HTTP://BIT.LY/4G1CX5Q](http://bit.ly/4G1CX5Q)

or scan

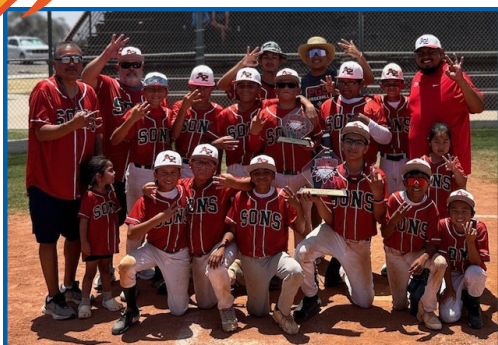
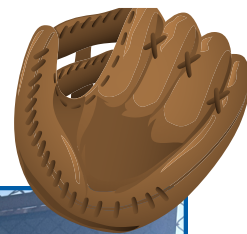


Questions or need assistances with application?
480-362-3470

River People Health Center
10901 E. McDowell Rd. Scottsdale, AZ, 85256
www.rphc.org



SRMG CELEBRATES AZ SON'S SUCCESS AT 2026 INTER-TRIBAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



The Arizona Diamondbacks hosted their annual Inter-Tribal Baseball Tournament from June 8-11, bringing together Native youth baseball teams from across the region for several days of competition, sportsmanship, and community. Games were held throughout the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, including the baseball fields at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.

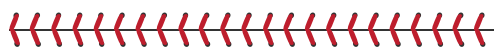


This year, Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) was proud to sponsor the **AZ SONS** baseball teams as they represented their community with determination, teamwork, and heart. Both teams delivered outstanding performances throughout the tournament.



The Double A team, consisting of players ages 13-15, battled their way to an impressive third-place finish. The Single A team, made up of players ages 9-12, capped off an exceptional tournament by earning the championship title and bringing home the first-place trophy.

SRMG extends its congratulations to the **AZ SONS** players, coaches, and families on an incredible summer season and their outstanding accomplishments.



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 Wednesday of each month from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. at RPHC 3rd Floor, Room 3203. Contact (480) 278-7742 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.

JU:KIABIG MASAD XLY'A PKXYEE JULY

4 COMMUNITY 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION, Join us in celebrating the Fourth of July at the ALA Football Field 4827 North Country Club Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85256 from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Elderly/disabled parking at main football field parking lot - golf cart shuttles will be available! Free hot dog meal (while supplies last), Food trucks on-site, Fireworks 9:00 pm, Music, Dunk tank, Games and more! Bring your lawn chairs! This is a NO alcohol/drug/gang/tobacco/

vaping event. Bags will be subject to search. NO pets, firearms/weapons, or outside ice chests/grills/food/glass will be allowed.

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

7 SENIOR COMPUTER CLASSES, This session will cover apps and mobile devices. See flyer on page 16 for full details!

7 RISK REDUCTION TRAINING, Hosted by the Community Risk Reduction Division, this free monthly training is open to all SRPMIC Community members and employees. This session will cover the National Weather Service. For more info, contact: fireprevention@srpmic-nsn.gov or 480-362-SRFD Check out the flyer on page 17 for full details.

11 CERT TRAINING 2 OF 3, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at SRFD Headquarters Training Room, 8860 E. Chapparal Rd. Suite 110 Scottsdale, AZ 85250. This Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course provides students with information about personal preparedness and practical skills through a variety of topics to better prepare for disasters or significant events taking place in your community. The following course topics are included as part of the curriculum: Disaster Preparedness, CERT Organization, Disaster Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology, Fire Safety & Utility Controls, Light Search & Rescue Operations, Terrorism and CERT. Must attend all three class dates to successfully complete the course. To register for the upcoming CERT training, please call Terry Nelson at 480-362-7929 or email EmergencyManagement@srpmic-nsn.gov.

18 CERT TRAINING 3 OF 3, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SRFD Headquarters Training Room, 8860 E. Chapparal Rd. Suite 110 Scottsdale, AZ 85250. This Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course provides students with information about personal preparedness and practical skills through a variety of topics to better prepare for di-

asters or significant events taking place in your community. The following course topics are included as part of the curriculum: Disaster Preparedness, CERT Organization, Disaster Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology, Fire Safety & Utility Controls, Light Search & Rescue Operations, Terrorism and CERT. Must attend all three class dates to successfully complete the course. To register for the upcoming CERT training, please call Terry Nelson at 480-362-7929 or email EmergencyManagement@srpmic-nsn.gov.

18 CM DALLAS / CM SCABBY QUARTERLY LEHI DISTRICT MEETING, 10:00 am at Evergreen Neighborhood Center 12275 East Fairmount Avenue Scottsdale, AZ 85256. Agenda: General Welfare Ordinance, Providence First Trust Company, Community Member Comments.

22 JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MAZE, Are you heading into middle school next year? Mark your calendar for Wednesday, July 22! This aMAZE-ing conference hosted by the School & Community Relations team will guide new middle schoolers through the journey ahead. RSVP by July 10 by contacting us at 480-362-2534.

28 NOMINATION MEETING FOR PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT, See flyer on page 14 for complete details.

30 NOMINATION MEETING FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS, See flyer on page 14 for complete details.

FOR THE LATEST DISTRICT MEETINGS SCHEDULE, SEE PAGE 16 OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:

