



## SRPMIC Hosts Second American Indian Convocation for Graduates

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

It was time to officially turn the tassels. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community once again hosted the American Indian Convocation at Salt River Fields for all Indigenous students graduating from the Maricopa County Community College District. The convocation took place at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.

The district schools are Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Estrella Mountain Community College, GateWay Community College, Glendale Community College, Mesa Community College, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix College, Rio Salado College, Scottsdale Community College and South Mountain Community College.

In 2025, the community college district was forced to cancel its convocation ceremonies due to federal funding cuts. Thankfully, the SRPMIC stepped up to host the inaugural convocation.

This year, the SRPMIC, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community and Tohono O'dham Nation collaborated to help celebrate Indigenous graduates on May 13.

Sixty-plus students participated in the ceremony, which saw many graduates dressed



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member James Schaaf was selected as one of three student speakers during the American Indian Convocation for all Indigenous students graduating from the Maricopa County Community College District, held on May 13 at Salt River Fields. See the insert for more on graduations!

Continued on page 8

## Spinning into History

Kennise McGertt captured a State Championship and Winter Guard International World Championship Glory



Kennise McGertt shows off her state championship medal in the Creative Ki: Studio.

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

Kennise McGertt continues to ascend. The superstar Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member has achieved yet another

milestone, securing a spot on the Oasis Ensembles World Class Winter Guard team.

Winter Guard is an international organization that produces competitions in indoor color guard, percussion and winds mu-

Continued on page 9

## Dynamic Duo Back in Action

SRPMIC members Angelina Montoya and Nyeese Jones continue their careers at Park University



As a South Mountain Community College student-athlete, Nyeese Jones attempts a free throw during one of her season's games. Photo courtesy of Nyeese Jones.



During her season at Scottsdale Community College, Angie Montoya was a bright spot on this year's Artichoke women's basketball team. OAN FILE PHOTO.

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

Following an exceptional basketball career at Westwood High School, Scottsdale Community College and South Mountain

Community College, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Nyeese Jones is now taking her talent to Park University in Gilbert.

She'll be joined by a familiar teammate.

Continued on page 10

O'DDHAM ACTION NEWS  
10005 E. Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST  
PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit No. 319



Public Works Week Celebrated with Annual Community Outreach Event  
Page 4  
\*\*\*

WellPath Awarded Platinum Recognition from American Heart Association  
Page 6  
\*\*\*

News and Events In and Around Indian Country  
Page 6  
\*\*\*

SRPMIC Breaks Ground on Café Conference Center  
Page 9  
\*\*\*

I Have a Will – Do I Also Need a Trust?  
Page 12  
\*\*\*

National Day of Prayer Gathering Held in Salt River  
Page 13  
\*\*\*







Community Holds Peace Officer Memorial  
Page 13  
\*\*\*

Legal Notices  
Page 14  
\*\*\*

Notice of Public Comment Meeting - 2025 Air Monitoring Network Plan  
Page 15  
\*\*\*

## THE FUTURE OF SRPMIC JUST GOT FASTER!

Your Internet just caught up to your life! 1-Gig service is now live in Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Ultra-fast, Ultra-simple and Ultra-reliable.

-  **100x Faster** than the national average
-  **Pro-grade Gaming** zero-lag lobbies
-  **Crystal Clear** 4K streaming on all TVs
-  **Work From Home** seamlessly without "frozen screen" face



**Claim your spot in the fast lane. Don't just keep up - call support today and lead your family to the future.**

### Support

Mon-Friday  
8AM-5PM  
480.362.7150  
Option 2

## Family, Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry



### OPEN SATURDAYS

No out of pocket cost to you!

### FREE ORTHODONTIC CONSULTATION

Call to make appointment.

## NO WAIT FOR EMERGENCY DENTAL NEEDS

- SAME DAY TREATMENT, GUARANTEED!

**SRPMIC Employees pay \$0 dollars w/ Humana Insurance on the following services:**

- Exam/All X-Rays
- Cleanings
- Dental Implants Consult
- Fillings
- Extractions
- Periodontal Treatment (NON-SURGICAL Gum Treatment)
- Whitening
- Bonding
- Tooth Colored Fillings
- Root Canals

### A101 DENTAL CARE

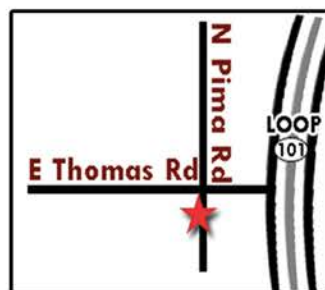
101 & THOMAS

**480-423-1000**

2899 N. 87 St.

Scottsdale (Thomas Rd. Exit)

[www.scottsdaldentaloffices.com](http://www.scottsdaldentaloffices.com)



**Emergencies and Walk-Ins always welcome!**



# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

O'odham Action News was honored to celebrate the accomplishments of the SRPMIC again this year. Take a look at the insert to see the joy, hear from students, and celebrate another year of milestones met!

If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic or sexual violence, StrongHearts advocates offer culturally honoring support and advocacy.

Call | Text | Chat | 24/7



**STRONGHEARTS**  
Native Helpline

**844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**

[www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)

Safe | Confidential | Anonymous | 24/7



We envision a return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe, violence is eradicated, and sacredness is restored.

This advertisement was produced by StrongHearts Native Helpline with Grant No 15POVC-23-GK-01582-TVAG, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this ad are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Public Works Week Celebrated with Annual Community Outreach Event

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ

O'odham Action News

zoe.hernandez@srpmic-nsn.gov

who plan, design, build, manage and maintain the infrastructure that supports quality of life in communities across the United States. "In May, National Public Works Week is celebrated, which recognizes the men and women that work for public works organizations throughout the United States to celebrate the services we provide," said SRPMIC Public Works Director Joshua Sciacca.

This year's theme is "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community," chosen by the American Public Works Association (APWA), which sponsors National Public Works Week as part of its public awareness and education activities. According to the APWA, the chosen theme "reminds us that public works professionals are motivated to serve the communities that they love and that power them to always do their best."

SRPMIC Public Works Customer Service Administrator Crystal Leonard said, "I think [the theme] is very on point for Salt River because we are rooted in the Salt River Community. I think this is a good time for us to sit back and show appreciation for one

another and our appreciation for the Community."

SRPMIC Public Works has several divisions: Administration, Community Services, Facilities, Utilities and Roads. The department has more than 350 staff members who work daily to keep vital services running. Sciacca said, "I am extremely humbled and proud of the work [the Public Works Department] does day in and day out. They always have a Community mindset, and they are proud of the work that

they do."

During Sciacca's time with Public Works, he said, he has felt like it's a family. "We all know each other, and everyone's got everyone's back. We work together!"

To reach SRPMIC Public Works, call (480) 362-5600, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (480) 850-9230 for after-hours services. The department can also be contacted through email at [PWCustomerService@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:PWCustomerService@srpmic-nsn.gov).

Families, friends and guests joined the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Public Works Department as they showcased their different divisions on May 12. The event was held at the Salt River Community Building and featured water and light demonstrations, a free planting activity, big wheels and so much more!

Public works encompasses those



Reynaldo Miranda and Ian Bizardie shared fun facts about water.



Besties! Bobby Davis and Jon Lee excitedly waited to share their knowledge with guests.



The Lopez family had a blast at the Public Works event.



SRPMIC big wheels were showcased for guests to take a closer look.

Discover the Fun at The Pavilions at Talking Stick

# SHOP. PLAY. DINE. DISCOVER.

## Retail Therapy, We've Got You



## Next-Level Entertainment Awaits



## Bites & Sips to Fuel The Fun



The Pavilions at Talking Stick is located in the heart of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Entertainment District.

Just off the 101 & Talking Stick Way  
Visit [PavilionsAtTalkingStick.com](http://PavilionsAtTalkingStick.com)

# THE PAVILIONS

AT TALKING STICK

**NEW YEAR, NEW BENEFITS...TAKE ADVANTAGE TODAY!**

# PIMADENTAL.COM



DR. BRET STANDAGE

**DR. BRET STANDAGE**  
**DR. CRAIG STANDAGE**



DR. CRAIG STANDAGE

**For Humana/AmeriBen holders**

**IN NETWORK! LOWEST COST  
FOR OUR SALT RIVER PATIENTS!**

## Increase Your **Smile Power**

- EMERGENCIES seen the same day (Root Canals & Extractions)
- ROOT CANALS
- Wisdom Teeth Extractions
- IMPLANTS to replace Missing Teeth
- INVISALIGN Orthodontic teeth straightening for Teens & Adults.
- Family, Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry
- Mercury free fillings & ceramic restorations
- Digital X-Rays (Less Radiation)
- FREE DENTURE CONSULTS (Humana covers a new set every 5 years)

**WE NOW OFFER  
3rd Molar Extractions  
With Sedation**

**3 Hygienists  
available to  
clean your teeth**

**COME VISIT OUR NEW  
STATE OF THE  
ART OFFICE!**

**INVISALIGN**  
**\$1000 off**  
for Salt River Patients  
**FREE CONSULTATION**

**FREE CONSULTATION**  
\*WISDOM TEETH  
REMOVAL  
\*IMPLANT TOOTH  
REPLACEMENT

**Hours Open:**

**Monday - Thursday  
7:00 am-6:00 pm**

**Friday  
7:00 am-4:00 pm**

GO TO  
**www.PIMADENTAL.COM**  
to see for yourself.

**480.657.6357**

PIMA Dental Center for Family,  
Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry

10850 N 90th ST | Scottsdale AZ 85260



# WellPath Awarded Platinum Recognition from American Heart Association

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

The American Heart Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, awarded the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's WellPath program with its platinum-level recognition for reaching high scores on its 2026 Well-being Works Better Scorecard.

WellPath is a health and well-being program offered by the SRPMIC that is tailored to the health and wellness needs of those enrolled in the SRPMIC Employee Health Care Plan.

"At the heart of every thriving organization is a workforce that feels valued and supported," said American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown. "We're honored to recognize the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, which has made employee well-being a cornerstone of their culture through the Well-being Works Better Scorecard."

The AHA said in a statement:

"Included in SRPMIC's Mission and Vision is to create a leadership that cares for employee welfare and accountability, and a Healthy Community in mind, body and spirit. The WellPath Wellness Program is an expression of this vision using a holistic view of wellness to provide programming which improves wellness and reduces costs of illness. In WellPath's 15th year, the American Heart Association bestows its highest recognition for workplace well-being and for outstanding commitment to creating a workplace culture where health and well-

### 3 Takeaways:

- The American Heart Association awarded the SRPMIC WellPath program its highest level of recognition (platinum) based on the AHA's 2026 Well-being Works Better Scorecard.
- WellPath exceeded the benchmark scores for all categories measured by the scorecard.
- Organizations can earn a recognition levels of completer, bronze, silver, gold or platinum.

being are prioritized and every employee is empowered to reach their full potential."

According to the AHA, the Well-being Works Better Scorecard helps assess WellPath's health and well-being strategy based on its adherence to the AHA's recommended practices. Organizations can earn a recognition levels of completer, bronze, silver, gold or platinum.

SRPMIC Wellness Program Supervisor Andrew Weiler told O'odham Action News that WellPath is proud to have received the highest recognition from the AHA, noting the organization's credibility.

"WellPath's scores can be benchmarked against other wellness programs completing the scorecard," said Weiler.

"So, even though WellPath reached platinum status, we can continue to look at our scores and compare against other wellness programs to continue to develop and improve. WellPath wants to reflect the Community's commitment to employees and to provide programming to help SRPMIC follow the stated vision and mission."

WellPath exceeded the benchmark scores for all categories measured by the scorecard.

"WellPath is evidence-based and data-driven, so it was gratifying to see that WellPath received all the points for reporting outcomes, exceeding the benchmark score by 4 points, and for programs and interventions, exceeding the benchmark score by 6 points," said Weiler.

Visit [www.wellbeingworksbetter.org](http://www.wellbeingworksbetter.org) to learn more and view the full list of recognized employers.

# News and Events In and Around Indian Country

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

## Greater Chaco Cultural Landscape Named Among Most Endangered Places

The ancestral homeland of Pueblo people in northwestern New Mexico is among the country's 11 most endangered historic places.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation released the list in May, and it includes the Greater Chaco Cultural Landscape. The area stretches beyond New Mexico into Arizona, Colorado and Utah. It's also home to the federal Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The area is also sacred to the Hopi people. Pueblo and Hopi people have worked for years to stop mineral extraction there.

## Pascua Yaqui Tribe Official Wins Lifetime Award

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Vice-Chairman Peter Yucupicio received the Lifetime Leadership Award from the Tribal Leadership Council.

He was recognized for his more than 20 years of service to his tribe. Three other Indigenous leaders were also recognized.

The awards were presented on June 3 at the Tribal Leadership Conference at Wild Horse Pass in Chandler.

## Indigenous Tourism Association Call for Nominations

The submission deadline for

the American Indigenous Tourism Association's annual Excellence in Indigenous Tourism Awards nominations is July 17.

These awards celebrate achievements in travel and cultural tourism across nine categories, which include Destination of the Year and Artisan of the Year.

The 2026 recipients will be formally honored as part of the 28th Annual American Indigenous Tourism Conference scheduled for October in Tulalip, Washington.

Additional details can be found on the association's website.

## Indigenous Hockey Player Wins Championship

An Anishinaabe hockey player helped lead her team to the Professional Women's Hockey League championship in May.

Abby Roque is from the Wahnapiitae First Nation in Ontario, Canada, and played a key role in the Montreal Victoire's first PWHL championship. The team beat the host Ottawa Charge 4-0 in front of 12,362 fans at Canadian Tire Centre. Montreal is the first Canadian team to win the Walter Cup.

Roque scored twice and finished the playoffs tied for the postseason scoring lead. Roque was born in the United States and has played for Team USA during international competitions.

Another Indigenous player competed in the game. Jocelyne Larocque is Red River Métis and plays for the Charge.



# UNITED IN PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WATER FUTURE

COALITION FOR  
**PROTECTING ARIZONA'S LIFELINE**

Arizonans depend on the Colorado River, which is threatened due to drought and a desire by Upper Basin states to use more water from a shrinking river. **Join mayors, along with business and tribal leaders, to protect and defend Arizona's lifeline.**



Ak-Chin Indian Community – Chairman Gabriel Lopez | City of Apache Junction – Mayor Chip Wilson | Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Arizona Water Company | City of Avondale – Mayor Mike Pineda | City of Buckeye – Mayor Eric Orsborn | Town of Carefree – Mayor John Crane

City of Casa Grande – Mayor Lisa Navarro Fitzgibbons | Town of Cave Creek – Mayor Robert Morris | City of Chandler – Mayor Kevin Hartke

City of Coolidge – Mayor Jon Thompson | East Valley Partnership | City of El Mirage – Mayor Alexis Hermosillo | City of Eloy – Mayor Andrew Sutton | EPCOR

Town of Florence – Mayor Keith Eaton | Town of Fountain Hills – Mayor Gerry Friedel | Town of Gilbert – Mayor Scott Anderson | City of Glendale – Mayor Jerry Weiers

City of Goodyear – Mayor Joe Pizzillo | Greater Phoenix Leadership | City of Peoria – Mayor Jason Beck | Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

Town of Litchfield Park – Mayor Thomas Schoaf | Town of Marana – Mayor Jon Post | City of Mesa – Mayor Mark Freeman | Town of Oro Valley – Mayor Joe Winfield

Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Chairman Julian Hernandez | City of Phoenix – Mayor Kate Gallego | Pinal Partnership | Town of Queen Creek – Mayor Julia Wheatley

Town of Sahuarita – Mayor Tom Murphy | Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community – President Martin Harvier | City of Scottsdale – Mayor Lisa Borowsky

Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce | Southern Arizona Leadership Council | City of Surprise – Mayor Kevin Sartor | City of Tempe – Mayor Corey Woods

Tohono O'odham Nation – Chairman Verlon M. Jose | City of Tucson – Mayor Regina Romero | Valley Partnership | Town of Youngtown – Mayor Michael LeVault

West Valley Regional Chamber | WESTMARC

Learn more about the Coalition for Protecting Arizona's Lifeline at [ProtectingArizonasLifeline.com](http://ProtectingArizonasLifeline.com)



# TALKING STICK RESORT

## June PROMOTIONS



### Sizzling Progressive

**Thursdays in June • 6PM - 9PM**

**Where Sunshine Meets Big Wins!**

5 winners each week! Earn 1 entry for every 200 points earned. Swipe for 500 bonus entries every Wednesday. Plus, earn 250 points to win up to 5,000 entries on Thursdays!

### TGIF Giveaway

**Fridays, June 12 & 26 • 3PM - 5PM**

**Catch the Summer Hot Steak!**

Earn 1 entry for every 200 points earned. Plus catch the hot streak and swipe at the kiosk for 300 bonus entries on Wednesdays! 5 winners each drawing day.

### Tash Father's Day

**Sunday, June 21 • 5PM - 10PM**

**A Father's Day Worth Savoring at Tash**

Father's Day feature includes a 10oz American Wagyu New York Strip served with roasted corn ribs, delicately dressed in lemon garlic aioli and accented with crisp bacon. Priced at \$52 per person.

### Summer to Play Giveaway

**June 1 - August 29**

**Dive Into Daily Poker Action!**

A series of promotions with giveaways held on Saturdays. Hot seats, high hands, Hold'em, Omaha and more! See Arena Poker Room for details.

### Icon Kiosk Earn N' Win

**Sundays in June • 6AM - 6PM**

**Calling all Seniors 55+**

Earn 1,000 slot points & activate the kiosk game to win up to \$1,000 Free Play.

### Military Appreciation

**Once, Any Day in June**

**Get \$15 FREE PLAY + 15% OFF DINING**

Present your Valor card at Salt River Rewards to claim \$15 Free Play once a month. PLUS, get 15% off dining anytime with valor card or military ID!\*

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



**ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL**  
JUNE 12



**TAJ FARRANT**  
JUNE 25



**ANDREW DICE CLAY, JON LOVITZ, BILLY GARDELL**  
JUNE 27



**L.A. GUNS**  
JUNE 30



**3 SPA TREATMENTS.  
2 POOL DAYS.  
1 PERFECT SUMMER PACKAGE.**

Enjoy three 50-minute spa services, two pool day passes & a complimentary pool tote, all redeemable within 90 days of purchase.

**\$375 per person**  
Reserve at 480-850-4065

**LIFE. WELL PLAYED.**

Explore more at [talkingstickresort.com](http://talkingstickresort.com)

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

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



Continued from front page **SRPMIC Hosts Second American Indian Convocation for Graduates**

in their traditional regalia. The SRPMIC was well represented as several Community-member graduates participated.

Melody Lewis (Fort Mojave Indian Tribe) served as the mistress of ceremonies for the event. "This moment represents more than academic success; it reflects sacrifice, support, identity and the enduring strength of our community," she said.

Drum group Comanche Red shared a song as part of the welcoming blessing and Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King performed the national anthem.

After her performance, Tohono O'odham Chairman Verlon Jose sang "The Honor Song" and provided a few words. In his remarks, Jose offered his congratulations to the graduates and their families. He added, "I do want to also acknowledge the O'odham tribes, [SRPMIC] President [Martin] Harvier and his administration, because together we are stronger. When this happened and they called the O'odham leaders together, we united, for you, the people."

The convocation keynote speaker was Jacob Moore, associate vice-president of tribal relations at Arizona State University. From the Tohono O'odham Nation, Moore expressed gratitude for being selected.

"It's good to be here with my relatives," began Moore. During his speech, Moore described how he turned his life around after first being academically ineligible when he began his college career.

"Your path doesn't have to be straight," he said. "As you probably already know, confidence builds with every small victory and every step, one at a time. A strong foundation matters when it comes to academics and pursuing goals and dreams. Having a support system with those around you changes lives in a good way."

South Mountain Community College graduate Rigoberto Tavena (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) served as one of the three featured student speakers. "Choosing col-

lege wasn't always clear for me. I faced moments of doubt. There were times where I questioned whether I should be here or not. Because when you're from south Phoenix [like I am], college can be a step into the unknown. But my Yaqui culture guided me. I'm not here by accident," he said.

on my journey," he said.

His speech highlighted how valuable his grandmother, Patricia King, is to him because of the O'odham traditions and values she provided to him while he was growing up. Schaaf will continue his education at Arizona State University.

Later, the SRPMIC performance group Bird Singing and Dancing by the River sang three songs which called for the blessings to the graduates, their families and loved ones.

Each graduate received a shell necklace when their name and degree were announced. Candace Hamana (Hopi/Navajo), director of tribal relations at Arizona State University, read aloud the names one by one. Tribal leaders, distinguished guests and Indian Country representatives all created a receiving line near home plate to congratulate each graduate.

Once back in their seats behind home plate, the students were instructed to turn their tassels over to the left side, signifying that they have completed a milestone achievement, graduating from college.

The night was capped off with a fireworks show, with many families taking group photos in different locations around Salt River Fields.

This year's event proved that though there may be uncertain times happening throughout the United States, here in the SRPMIC and in Indian Country, tribal officials and leaders do their best to ensure that future leaders are supported and recognized for their hard work and achievements in and out of the classroom.



Graduates were celebrated during the American Indian convocation held at Salt River Fields.

Following Tavena's words, Mesa Community College graduate Nizhoni Shandin Smith (Diné) also expressed key insights from her academic journey thus far. "Back in the early 2000s, my mother enrolled at Mesa Community College. I figured, maybe being a second-generation Thunderbird would not hurt after all," she said. "At first, it was a difficult pill to swallow. But my mother told me, 'We are all living this life for the first time and mistakes are inevitable.' Those words reminded me that changing direction is not failure, it is growth."

The third and final student graduate speaker was James Schaaf, a Community-member graduate of Scottsdale Community College. He spoke from the heart at the lectern while his parents, Yvonne and Michael, proudly watched him with tears of joy. "Having such a strong support system of family and friends made me grateful for the opportunity of having these people in my life and giving me confidence

*Check out the insert for more photos and content from this year's graduation season!*

**AROUND THE COMMUNITY**



A saguaro with flowers at the southeast boundary of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community near the Salt River. Temperatures continue to rise as summer nears. This is usually the time for gathering saguaro fruit. For the O'odham, this marks the beginning of a new year. June is Ha:sañ Bahidag Maşad "Saguaro Fruit Month" / Xly'a Xamxuk "Sixth Moon." Photo by Daniel Martinez, Community Relations

**OAN PODCAST**

**Have you listened to OAN's Podcast?**

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

**Listen Now!**

**THE Cool Place**  
A Safe Space to Cool Down

Wellness Center: 10295 E OSBORN RD SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

- Cool Environment**  
Step inside for air conditioning and a calm place to rest.
- Hydration Support**  
Stay hydrated with access to cold water.
- Cooling Resources**  
Cooling towels and fans available to help lower your body temperature.
- Heat Safety Tips**  
Learn how to stay cool and recognize signs of heat-related illness.

Questions? 480-362-2603

**Wellness Center**

**OPEN Mon-Fri 8am-5pm**

**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

# SRPMIC Breaks Ground on Café Conference Center

BY DALTON WALKER

O'odham Action News

dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

The River People Health Center's campus on the southern edge of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will have a new place to grab a hot drink and a bite to eat, perhaps as soon as late next year.

A short ceremony took place May 19 on the campus' south side to break ground on a café conference center. The new 22,423-square-foot building will sit just south of the health center near the outdoor walking track, east of Journey to Recovery. It is scheduled to open in about 18 months.

The building will have a café and cafeteria with features similar to the Round House Café at Two Waters. It will be operated by Aramark. The building will also house three conference rooms, office space and a teaching kitchen. The largest conference room has space to hold 100 to 120 people, with the flexibility to open into the cafeteria's space. The other two conference rooms will have space for 12 seats and 20 seats, respectively.

SRPMIC Health and Human Services Director Joe Remitera counted down the days until the groundbreaking and will likely continue to count down until the opening. At the groundbreaking, he thanked SRPMIC leadership, tribal government staff and all the others who have contributed to the project.

"I've been waiting for this day for four years, four days and eight minutes—because that's when we opened up the River People Health Center, and from that time, I've been asked when we will build a cafeteria," he said. "I'm happy to say that we are building it now, so this is a very significant day for us."

The groundbreaking included a traditional song and blessing. SRPMIC President Martin Harvier also shared a few words.

SmithGroup, the Phoenix architectural design company that designed the River People Health Center and won awards for its effort, also designed the new building.



A rendering of the new cafe conference center from the outside.



A rendering of the new cafe conference center interior.



LEFT to RIGHT: SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, Council member Cheryl Doka, President Martin Harvier, Council members Mikah Carlos and Jacob Butler break ground on a new cafe conference center on May 19.

**Conference Rooms**  
 - 1 large flexible conference space  
 - 1 medium conference room  
 - 1 small conference room  
 Teaching Kitchen

### Café Conference Center Features:

**Facility Engineers**  
 Operations Space  
 - 3 offices  
 - 16 touch-down spaces  
 - 1 small conference room  
 Facilities and Grounds  
 Storage Room

**Café & Cafeteria**  
 - Operated by Aramark  
 - Open to the public, similar to RHC  
 - Outdoor Seating  
 - Areas with tables and gathering spaces

Continued from front page



Kennise McGertt remains focused on her goals as she continues to etch her name into the record books one performance at a time.

sical performances. Oasis Ensembles was founded in 2016 when the organization was a small Winter Guard team based out of Mesa High School. Over time, Oasis Ensembles has grown and expanded its community outreach to include the entertainment ensemble DareVite Entertainment Group, in addition to hosting several classes and training programs, like summer spin, the trainee program and superstition dance.

The ensemble collective houses three specific groups of performers: the World Team, National A Team and Local A Team.

Last September, McGertt auditioned and was selected to join the Oasis Ensembles World Team. The prestigious performance collective currently lists McGertt on their 2026 cast member roster on their website.

The audition process was fierce, but McGertt rose to the occasion, an attribute she has shown time after time, whether in and out of the classroom or now on the stage.

# Spinning into History

"This is my first year being on Oasis Ensemble," McGertt said. "I decided to audition because I wanted to start spinning again."

With nearly a decade of performing experience, McGertt expressed how she experienced moments of stress and nervousness at the beginning of her career when she was a freshman in high school. However, when her big brother Bryce taught her tips and tricks on how to successfully perform a routine, that proved to be a crucial turning point for her.

"With [him helping me], he helped me find my confidence in spinning," she said.

She continued, "When I was 19, I was on the Oasis A Class. Now being 21 on the World Team, it was a big stepping stone," she said. Her audition for the World Team was a two-day process, she said.

McGertt said that it was the support of her family that helped ease her mind and helped her understand and refine her talents during that time. "I didn't know if I was going to catch on fast enough. But, hearing encouraging words from my family telling me, 'You were born for this' and 'You're okay,' that really helped me," said McGertt with a smile.

The World Team practices for most of the day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, putting in more than 30 hours of training over those three days. McGertt said she was able to juggle the long hours of practice by learning that "[Performing] is more of mental game, instead of a physical one. Having to be locked in during rehearsals is a need."

Those long hours of rehearsal, combined with her motivation and drive to succeed, were well on display in March when her Oasis World Team won the 2026 Winter Guard Arizona State Championship.

What was the first thought she had when it was announced that her team had won the state title? A shock, followed by validation. "It took my breath away," she admitted. "Just the amount of hard work we put in, it was very rewarding to win." In fact, McGertt's team didn't only win the state championship, they etched their names into the history books too, as it was the first time Oasis Ensemble had ever won a state title.

"Our show was called 'Live, Breathe, Meditate.' Our show that we put out there was to replicate what goes on in our brains," she said.

However, heavy is the head that wears the crown. The day after winning the first-ever state championship, McGertt and her team went to practice, reviewing film and learning how they could get better.

The winning ways continued the following month as well.

Traveling to Dayton, Ohio, in April, McGertt and her team performed at the Winter Guard International World Championship. "It was 30 or 40 degrees there. Everyone told me there, 'It's so nice outside,' but I was freezing."

Her mom Sonya and brother joined her in Dayton, supporting her along the way as her team advanced to the semifinals in the World Class division, another first for the ensemble group.

So, what's next for McGertt? More performances, more routines, as well as potentially auditioning for two out-of-state ensemble teams.

"I want to go out to California," she said. "There is a team out in San Diego called Vox Artium. I really enjoy their shows. One of my dreams is to go and audition for them. I just want to experience what their teaching is like. That's the biggest thing for me, learning from different people."

McGertt said that there is also a performance group in New Jersey that she would like to audition for.

With the world still at her fingertips, McGertt remains committed to her goals as she works on turning her dreams into reality.

What would she say to those looking to start working toward accomplishing their dreams like she has? "Don't limit yourself," she said. "As long as you know what you want, go chase it. Your family will also be your biggest supporters."

For more information related to upcoming Oasis Ensemble performances, check out their website at [www.oasisensembles.org/winterguard](http://www.oasisensembles.org/winterguard).

Community member Angelina Montoya is also headed to Park University. Both have played side by side for years and will continue to do so as they enter this new journey.

Jones and Montoya have been sharing the spotlight on the basketball court since 2018 at Westwood High in Mesa. Together, they pushed each other to play better and, with shared motivation, had exceptional high school careers.

“We have been playing basketball together since 2018,” Jones said. One memory that stands out to her is “when I scored 1,000 points and she (Montoya) was jumping around before the shot went in.”



Nyese Jones poses for picture at her Westwood High School gym. Photo courtesy of Nyese Jones.



Angie Montoya's career with Scottsdale Community College before graduating in May 2026. OAN File Photo by Juan Ysaguirre.

Most recently, Jones and Montoya played together at Scottsdale Community College. Jones also played at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix.

“Our chemistry on the court is unspoken connection, anticipating each other’s moves. We have each other’s back, celebrating wins and pushing through rough losses together,” Jones said.

After a long history of basketball, both are finally back on the court as a dynamic duo, with their season set to start later this year.

“I’m most looking forward to pushing my limits, learning and growing from challenges in this new chapter,” she added.

**SENIOR SUPER DAD LUNCHEON** For Seniors 55+

**Thurs., June 18 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
Salt River Community Building  
10 a.m. Doors Open | 11 a.m. Lunch

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

**THURSDAY JUNE 25 6-8PM**  
Talking Stick Resort Ballroom

*Graduation Recognition*

**Dinner & Awards Banquet**

The SRPMIC and Salt River Schools offices of School and Community Relations and Higher Education will recognize all SRPMIC high school and postsecondary graduates from the Class of 2026. **This includes any graduation from high school, GED, trade school, or college/university occurring from July 2025 through June 2026.**

**Find applications at**  
[HE.SaltRiverSchools.org](http://HE.SaltRiverSchools.org)  
or call 480-362-2500

This event is free for SRPMIC students + two guests - but **you MUST REGISTER** in order to attend and be recognized. Fill out our application by **Thursday, June 11.**

**SALT RIVER HIGHER EDUCATION** | **SALT RIVER SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE THURSDAY JUNE 11**

**PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS**

- Complete event application
- Copy of SRPMIC tribal ID
- Copy of diploma or transcript showing confirmed degree
- Proof degree or certificate earned July 2025-June 2026

**VOICES OF SUMMER SALT RIVER SPEAKER SERIES**  
Engaging Talks That Reflect Our Past, Shape Our Future

**2026 Salt River Summer Speaker Series**  
Hosted by Lena Jackson-Eckert, SRPMIC Assistant Community Manager

Last Tuesday of every month (June-Sept)

**June 30th . . . . Honoring the Journey Home-**  
A panel discussion on SRPMIC's recent repatriation effort in Scotland

**July 28th . . . . Substance Use & Recovery-** A Community Conversation

**August 25th . . . The Science of Happiness & Habits**

**Sept 29th . . . . Food, Culture and Identity**

Salt River Council Chambers  
10091 E Osborn Rd  
Dinner: 5-6p  
Presentation: 6-7p  
45min presentation, 15 min Q&A

**Open to the PUBLIC**  
**All are welcome**

Questions for our panel, or about the series, please email [SummerSpeakerSeries@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:SummerSpeakerSeries@srpmic-nsn.gov)

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

**SRPMIC DAY 2026**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 • 5PM-9PM**  
**SR GYM/ COMMUNITY BUILDING PARKING LOTS**

**COMMUNITY MEAL 5:30PM - WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**  
**O'ODHAM & PIIPAASH SOCIAL SINGING & DANCING**  
**ARTS & CRAFTS/VENDORS**  
**SRPMIC DEPT. BOOTHS**  
**FAMILY PHOTO STATIONS**  
**CHICKEN SCRATCH DANCE - MOLINA MUSIC**  
**CUMBIA DANCE CONTEST**

**SALT RIVER SPOTLIGHT (COMMUNITY TALENT SHOW)**

# Community Garden Debuts New Chicken Coop

### 3 Takeaways:

- The new chicken coop was built over an existing structure in the Community Garden.
- Garden staff members look forward to providing eggs to elders or children as a demonstration project.
- While not an O'odham tradition, raising chickens is a modern tradition practiced by Community-member elders.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News

chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov



ABOVE: Three of the chickens at the Salt River Community Garden stand inside of the new chicken coop built over an existing structure. SRPMIC Engineering and Construction Services built the coop.



RIGHT: One of the chickens takes a break to eat a meal made of grain.

To get the ball rolling on a new structure, Community Garden Coordinator Stetson Mendoza reached out to SRPMIC Engineering and Construction Services, who provided the labor to put the new structure in place to house the chickens.

Sadly, during Easter weekend in April, either dogs or coyotes found a way inside the coop and enjoyed a big chicken dinner.

"They ripped the cage back and got into the coop. There were chickens here and there all over the garden, so [the dogs] must have had a good time chasing [the chickens] around," said Butler.

The wire around the coop has since been reinforced.

Upon entering the coop's swing door, you'll step on fresh straw, which helps the chickens to nest and keep cool. There are also 10-foot, two-level nesting areas on both sides.

Garden staff provide the chickens with fresh water and chicken feed, which is a pellet mixture of grain and corn. Butler explained his routine with the chickens.

"You've got to come and check on them. You've got to make sure that their feeder is filled with water," said Butler. "I always get an extra pan of water so that they can walk in it, sit in it or drink it."

Mendoza keeps pigs at his own residence and has brought them to the garden for educational purposes. Most recently, the pigs were featured alongside the chickens during an Early Childhood Education Center visit to the garden.

## NEW SRPMIC PODCASTS



Scan the QR code to explore all SRPMIC podcasts



podcasts available on spotify and apple podcasts



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?  
EMAIL: [PODCASTS@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV](mailto:PODCASTS@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV)

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

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

**480-362-2534**  
[SaltRiverSchools.org](http://SaltRiverSchools.org)

# I Have a Will – Do I Also Need a Trust?

Dear Savvy Senior,

My wife and I were recently talking about updating our will and wondered if we should also set up a trust. How do we know if we need one?

--Planning Ahead

Dear Planning,

That's an excellent question. A will is one of the most important tools in estate planning, but many people wonder if it's enough, or if adding a trust makes sense. The answer depends on your finances, your family situation, and what you want your plan to accomplish. Here's a simple way to think about it.

A will spells out who gets your assets after you pass away. It also names an executor to carry out your wishes and can designate a guardian for minor children.

The downside is that a will must go through probate, which is the court process that validates it and oversees distribution. Probate can take months and, in many states, becomes part of the public record.

A trust works a little differently. A revocable living trust holds your assets during your lifetime and directs how they'll be distributed after your death, without going through probate. Unlike a will, it stays private and lets a successor trustee step in immediately if you can't manage your finances, which is useful in cases of illness, injury, or dementia.

Trusts can also help with complicated family situations, like blended families or children with special needs, giving you more control over who gets what and when.

The biggest challenge is that you have to move your accounts and property into the trust yourself, which takes time and care. Most people who create a trust also keep a simple "pour-over will" to catch anything that wasn't transferred.

Because trusts are more complex, they usually cost more than a will. Attorneys typically charge \$1,000 to \$3,000 for a trust versus \$300

to \$1,200 for a will, although costs vary depending on the estate and location. You can use do-it-yourself options like Quicken WillMaker & Trust, Trust & Will or LegalZoom to save money, but they're generally best for simple situations. If your finances or family circumstances are more complicated, hiring an attorney is usually worth the cost.

You might benefit from a trust if you own real estate – especially in more than one state – want to avoid the costs and delays of probate or prefer to keep your estate matters private. It's also helpful if you have a larger estate, a blended family, or want to ensure someone can manage your finances if you become incapacitated.

If your estate is relatively small, your family situation is simple, and most of your assets already have named beneficiaries – like life insurance, IRAs, or bank accounts with pay-on-death or transfer-on-death designations – a will may be all you need. Some states also offer simplified probate for small estates, which can make the process quicker and cheaper.

You don't need a trust just because you have a will. But if avoiding probate, protecting privacy, or managing assets during incapacity is important to you, a trust is worth considering. Even a modest estate can benefit from a clear plan.

If you don't already have an attorney, a good estate-planning professional can help figure out what's right for you. Two trusted resources are the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (naepc.org), both of which let you search for local professionals. Taking the time to put a plan in place, whether it's a will, a trust, or both, can protect your loved ones, ease stress, and give you peace of mind now and in the future.

Send your questions or comments to [questions@savvysenior.org](mailto:questions@savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.



## POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS

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

**Phone**

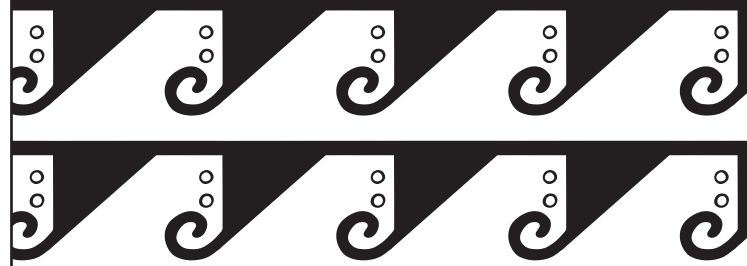
Ask for Adult Protective Services at **480.362.6350**

**Email**

[AdultProtectiveServices@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:AdultProtectiveServices@srpmic-nsn.gov)

**In-Person**

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



# HEAD START SELF-ASSESSMENT

**WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 24  
8-11AM  
ALA GYM**

Members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community are invited to participate in the Early Childhood Education Center's annual Head Start Self-Assessment to help us reflect on our program's strengths, identify areas for growth, and ensure we provide high quality services to children and families. Community input is essential to help us evaluate our practices and plan effectively for continuous improvement.



- Review Program Data
- Discuss Key Service Areas
- Gather Feedback to Plan Future Programming

Breakfast and snacks will be served; please let us know if you'll be attending. To access the ALA gym, park in the lot south of the football field (11355 E. Highland Ave.).

Can't make it? Your perspective is still important! Take a survey (anonymous!) on your own time by emailing [Tina.Pekovitch@saltriverschools.org](mailto:Tina.Pekovitch@saltriverschools.org).

**480-362-2200 • ECEC.SALTRIVERSCHOOLS.ORG**



# National Day of Prayer Gathering Held in Salt River

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

This year, the National Day of Prayer recognized its 75th year, with the first event taking place in 1951. This year's observance was held on May 7, and the theme was "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations."

The official verse for this year was "Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." 1 Chronicles 16:24.

Locally, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community held a gathering on May 7 in the Two Waters Courtyard. The gathering saw SRPMIC President Martin Harvier welcoming all.

The featured speakers were John Kingsley, Sandra Brandt, Pastor John Austin from Salt River Church of Christ, Tom Largo Sr., Pima Christian Fellowship Pastor Marty Thomas, Pastor Len Andrews, SRPMIC Council member Michael Dallas Sr., Lehi Church of the Nazarene Pastor Merrill Jones, Gilbert Garza Jr. from Victory Outreach Church of Mesa and Salt River Assembly of God Pastor WinterElk Valencia.

The distinguished speakers led special prayers for families; the incarcerated; churches; members of the military; police, fire and medical professionals; and national, state and tribal governments. There also were prayers for the youth, elders and the Community.

The well-attended morning gathering proved that many individuals and families here in the Community look toward the Lord for continued guidance and teachings during times of amplified uncertainty and strife.

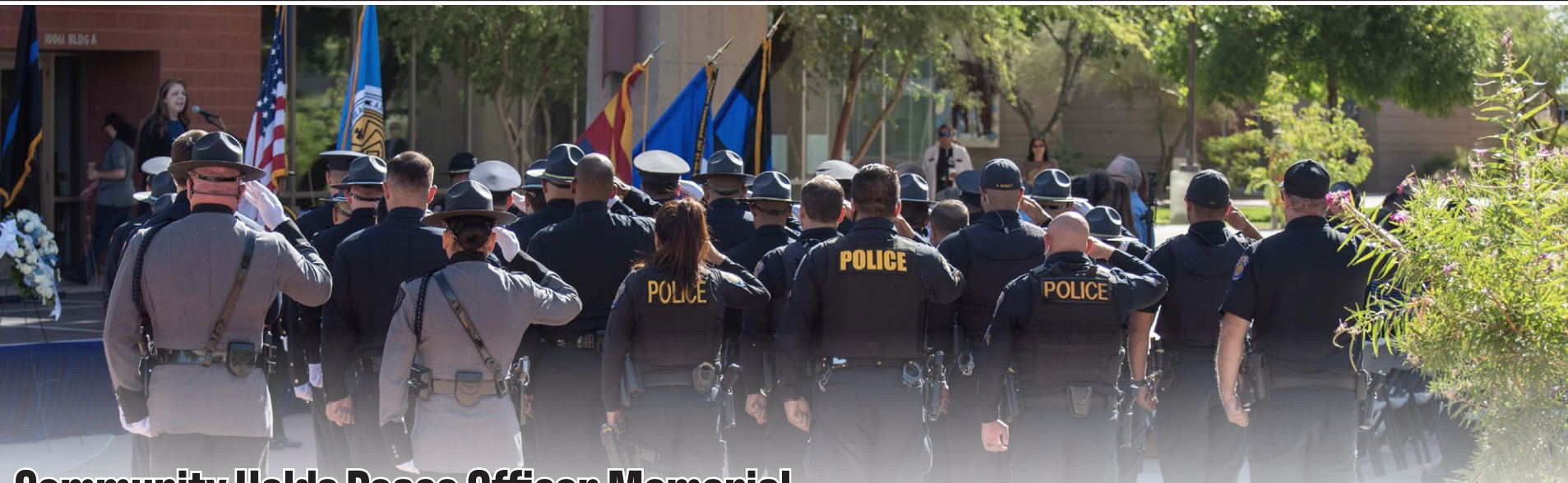
*Photos courtesy of Community Relations Office.*



The official verse for this year was "Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." 1 Chronicles 16:24.



The distinguished speakers led special prayers for families; the incarcerated; churches; members of the military; police, fire and medical professionals; and national, state and tribal governments.



## Community Holds Peace Officer Memorial

BY KATERINA THOMAS  
*Community Relations Office*

Members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community gathered in the Two Waters Courtyard on the morning of May 21 to remember and honor fallen Salt River Police Department Officer Clayton Townsend (End of Watch, Jan. 8, 2019) and Officer Jair Cabrera (End of Watch, May 24, 2014).

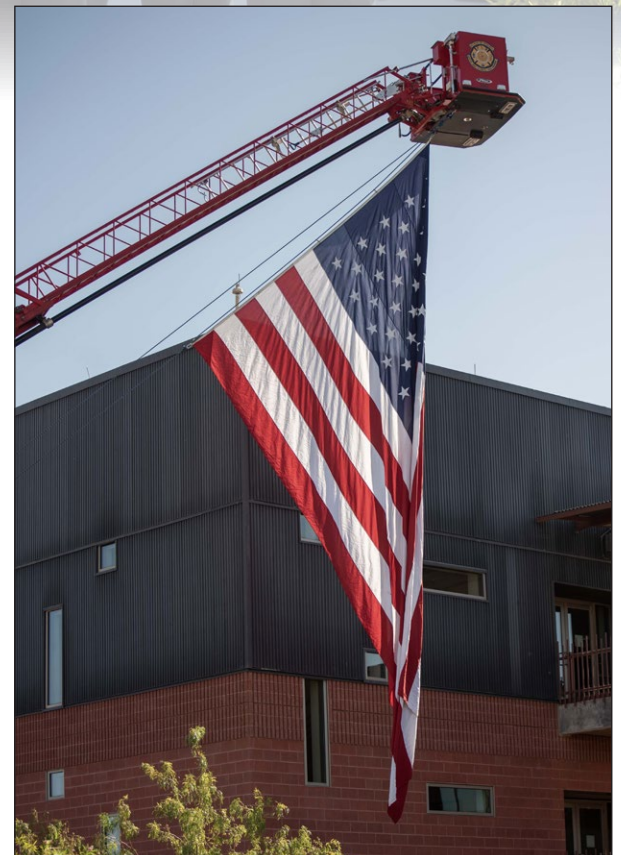
The program was led by Sergeant Orlando Calzadillas as the morning sun shined upon the uniformed personnel lined up facing the stage. The SRPD

Honor Guard posted the colors, and the national anthem was performed by Sandra Brandt. A moment of silence was observed to show respect for and mourn the brave officers who lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting the Community.

The morning was filled with prayers for the officers. First, the Peace Officer's Prayer was recited by Commander Alejandro McDaniel, followed by a prayer from SRPMIC President Martin Harvier.

SRPD Chief Walter Holloway shared encouraging words: "As we honor them today, let us do more than remember—let us live in a way that reflects the values they stood for. Let us support one another, serve with purpose and remain committed to the ideals that guided them. Though their watch has ended, their impact endures, in the communities they safeguarded and in the example they set for all of us."

The Salt River Fire Department played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes, and SRPD Honor Guard Officer Edimar Quintana played the ceremonial Taps. The memorial concluded with SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard singing a traditional honor song and some closing remarks from Holloway.



The U.S. flag flies high from the ladder of a firetruck in honor of fallen heroes.



Sgt. Orlando Calzadillas led the program during the Peace Officer's Memorial Ceremony.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

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

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

**Becerra, Oscar Garcia** - Review/Initial Hearings for Termination of Parental Rights Case: J-15-0043 Court Date: August 27, 2026 at 10 AM

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

**Santo, Carmelita Iris** - Review/Initial Hearings for Termination of Parental Rights Case: J-15-0043 Court Date: August 27, 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**

**Estate of Frank Avila**, - Probate Hearing CV-26-2082 Court Date: June 18, 2026 at 2 PM

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

**Castro, Damian Shane** - Divorce Hearing Case: CV-26-3249 Court Date: July 13, 2026 at 9 AM

**Garza Sr., Raynaldo Cecilio** - Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-26-0157 Court Date: July 1, 2026 at 10 AM

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

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

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

**Olivas, Dwayne Anthony** - Probate Hearing Case: CV-26-1419 Court Date: July 2, 2026 at 9:30 AM

**Thomas, Challyce** Revocation Hearing Case: CF-23-0011 Court Date: July 15, 2026 at 10 AM

**Timer, William** - Probate Hearing Case: CV-26-1419 Court Date: July 2, 2026 at 9:30 AM

**DEFAULT NOTICES**

**WEBSTER, CRYSTAL**  
**DEFAULT NOTICE**  
**CV-25-4591**  
**COUNTRY CLUB CARS V. CRYSTAL WEBSTER**

To: Crystal Webster, RESPONDENT

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

DATED: December 8, 2025  
 CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

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

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

- ✓ New Year's Day
  - ✓ 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  
 (602) 840-5600

For Any Questions Call: (480) 278-7050

**2nd Quarter 2026 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE:**  
**June 30, 2026**

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

**DEADLINES FOR CHANGES**

**Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes:**  
**Friday, July 17th at 5:00 PM.** This deadline is for new start-ups for direct deposit or changes to existing information. All forms **MUST** be submitted with a "VOIDED" check or statement from the bank with the Routing and Account Numbers.

**Per Capita Eligibility: Tuesday, July 21st at 5:00PM.** This deadline is for submitting the Adult SRP-MIC Member's Per Capita Information Certificate. Forms received by this date will be effective for the July 2026 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of August 2026.

Forms received by this date will be effective for the **JULY 2026** payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the **OCTOBER 2026** payout.

**Tax Withholding Changes:** Tuesday, July 21st at 5:00 PM. This deadline is for making changes to "Additional" tax withholding percentage or amount.

**Discontinue Direct Deposits: Friday, July 17th at 5:00 PM.** This deadline is to discontinue an existing direct deposit.

Tax forms are available on the Finance Per Capita Intranet Site and can also be requested by e-mailing FINPERCAP1@srpmic-nsn.gov.

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

**If you have any questions regarding:**

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

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



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

**The TTSP will:**

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

**ARIZONA 87 CORRIDOR STUDY**

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

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

**We want to hear from you!**

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

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



**Survey closes Friday, June 5!**

**Love and Harmony Couples Group**

**Tuesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm**



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

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

**Where Gottman meets the Community**

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

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

**All Native Tribes Welcome**

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



**SALT RIVER BUSINESS LISTINGS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**JOLYN'S HEALING HANDS, LLC**  
Jolyn, a licensed massage therapist, provides relaxation, healing & wellness services. Jolyn S has been in the healing industry since 2009. Visit our site to book now! https://www.vagaro.com/jolynshealinghands  
Phone: (480) 819-6831  
Address: 1800 E Rio Salado Pkwy Building 170 Suite #150, Tempe, AZ 85288

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ROUGH COUNTRY HANDYMAN AND REMOVAL SERVICE**  
Lester Loring 480-512-2262, RoughCountryHRS@gmail.com Mon-Sat, 7 am-6 pm (message after 6)

Minor Home Repairs, doors/knobs maintenance, screens, small concrete installation/repair, small DIY projects, TV Mounting, Junk Removal Services, Debris Hauling, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

**LEHI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
1342 E. Oak Mesa, AZ 85203 Pastor Annette Lewis annette.f.lewis@gmail.com (480) 404-3284  
SERVICES: Sunday Services 10 a.m., Communion First Sundays at 10 a.m. Birthday Sunday Potluck- Last Sunday of the Month, after services.  
Youth Devotion/Music (bring your instruments!) last 2 Saturdays of the month at 4 p.m.

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

**PIMA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
12207 E. Indian School Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256  
Pastor Marty Thomas (480) 874-3016/ Home: (480) 990-7450  
SERVICES: Sunday service 11 a.m. Lord's Supper every first Sunday of the month (potluck after)

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

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

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

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

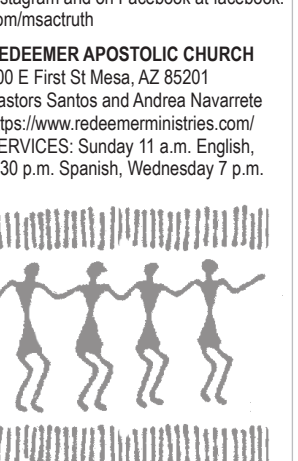
**SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SEMI)**  
Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250  
Apostle Edward Chance apostleec@gmail.com (480) 516-6509  
SERVICES: 10 AM on Sundays  
Visit us on Facebook Live, Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

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


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

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

**REDEEMER APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
200 E First St Mesa, AZ 85201  
Pastors Santos and Andrea Navarrete  
https://www.redeemerministries.com/  
SERVICES: Sunday 11 a.m. English, 1:30 p.m. Spanish, Wednesday 7 p.m.



**Please call the Church ahead of time to confirm information. Information was correct at the time of print, however, services may have changed since then.**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES</b>	
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DEADLINE AT NOON</b>
<b>JUNE 18</b>	<b>JUNE 5</b>
<b>JULY 2</b>	<b>JUNE 18*</b>
<b>JULY 16</b>	<b>JULY 2*</b>
<b>AUGUST 6</b>	<b>JULY 17</b>

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

**PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE**  
SRPMIC Council has approved the nightly closures of the Salt River and Lehi Cemeteries due to continued vandalism. The Salt River and Lehi Cemeteries will be closed from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.  
**If you have any questions, please contact Memorial Services at (480) 278-7050**

**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.**

O'odham Action News is published bi-weekly by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Editorials and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude or philosophy of O'odham Action News or the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.  
O'odham Action News encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. However, letters must be typed or printed clearly, and should include the writer's name, address and phone number. This information is for verification only. Other submission of articles, artwork and photos are encouraged. O'odham Action News does not assume responsibility for unsolicited materials and does not guarantee publication upon submission.  
O'odham Action News reserves the right to reject any advertising, material or letter submitted for publication.  
Advertising rates are available on request. O'odham Action News does not endorse any product or services accepted as advertising on these pages. All contributions or information may be sent to:  
O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS  
10,005 E. Osborn Road,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256



**DALTON WALKER**  
**MANAGING EDITOR**  
(480) 362-3281  
dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

**CHRIS PICCIUOLO**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
(480) 362-6626  
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

**JUAN YSAGUIRRE**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
(480) 362-7323  
juan.ysaguirre@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

**ZOE HERNANDEZ**  
**NEWS REPORTER - TEMP**  
zoe.hernandez@srpmic-nsn.gov

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

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

**ADVERTISING**  
Call O'odham Action News for advertising info.  
(480) 362-2698 / [www.oodhamnews.org](http://www.oodhamnews.org)

<b>SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Martin Harvier	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> Ricardo Leonard
<b>DISTRICT A COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Jacob Butler	<b>DISTRICT E COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Mikah Carlos
<b>DISTRICT B COUNCIL MEMBER</b> David Antone	<b>LEHI DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Deanna Scabby
<b>DISTRICT C COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Cheryl Doka	<b>LEHI DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Michael Dallas, Sr.
<b>DISTRICT D COUNCIL MEMBER</b> Su:k Fulwilder	



To each scholar, we celebrate you and your achievements!

Your hard work and dedication have paved the way for a bright future ahead.

We wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.



Check us out at... [www.srmaterials.com](http://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 we all share our insight, thoughts and experiences throughout each book. Starting February 19th, Rez Readers will meet every 3rd Thursdays, February - April from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Copies of the books will be available for check out (while supplies last). Questions Contact 480-362-6600 / TribalLibrary@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

**TAI CHI FOR SENIORS**, Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., Ske:g Himdag Ki: Senior Room. This ancient Chinese martial art uses slow and continuous movements to improve the mind and body. For seniors 55+ and adults with adaptive needs.

**LOVE AND HARMONY COUPLES GROUP**, Tuesdays | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | Behavioral Health Services, River People Health Center. Ready to strengthen your relationship and build deeper connection? Join our Couples Group, based on Dr. John Gottman's The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work. Learn practical tools to: Improve communication; Resolve conflicts; Deepen intimacy; Navigate challenges around family, work, and more. Call (480) 362-5707 to learn more or sign up today.

**NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP**, First and Third Wednesdays of each month from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. at RPHC 3rd Floor, Room 3104. Contact (480) 362-6948 for more information.

**WELLBRIETY 12 STEP AND MEDICINE WHEEL**, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at RPHC. Wellbriety is a Native American recovery fellowship that blends spiritual practice with the 12-Step program. Its approach to recovery focuses on healing and is rooted in the Teachings of the Medicine Wheel, the Cycle of Life, and the Four Laws of Change. Wellbriety emphasizes creating new thought patterns, attitudes, and feelings about sobriety based on traditional concepts and Native American teachings.

**TALKING CIRCLE FOLLOWING WELLBRIETY**, Wednesdays and Fridays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Following the Wellbriety session, participants are invited to join the Talking Circle to share insights and experiences related to living in recovery and honoring traditional practices, including fellowship, community, and connection.

**CRAFT COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING**, Support group for families of loved ones battling substance abuse/addiction/dependence. Fridays 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at RPHC Room 3106 (3rd Floor) For More Information please contact

Shea Hinton at (480) 362-2739.  
**HELPING HANDS HALF OFF FOR SRPMIC MEMBERS**, Every Friday Community members get 50% off at Helping Hands. Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch at 10213 E. Osborn Rd. Call 480-362-5625 for more information.

**BEADING CIRCLE**, Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Salt River Tribal Library inside Ske:g Himdag Ki: Open to enrolled SRPMIC members and Ske:g Himdag Ki: members. Call 480-362-6600 for more information.

**CREATIVE WRITING GROUP**, Every 1st Thursday of the Month, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Lehi Community Building Room 109. This Group provides a creative environment to learn and explore prompt writing, literary discussion, and guest writers/authors. All genres and levels welcome. Open to adult Community Members and Ske:g Himdag Ki: members. For more information, call 480 362-6600.

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

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

**HA:ŞAÑ BAHIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XAMXUK JUNE**

**6 ECEC SAFETY TOWN**, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Accelerated Learning Academy Gymnasium (11355 E. Highland Ave.); park in the lot south of the football field. Families with children enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Center and CCDF programs are invited to have fun learning important safety and wellness tips, plus you'll get to take home valuable resources! Questions? 480-362-2200 | ECEC.SaltRiverSchools.org

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

**9 VOCATIONAL REHAB ORIENTATION**, 10:30 a.m. at Two Waters - Building B. If you have a disability or diagnosis and want to work, join their Walk-In Orientation to learn about employment support and services. Questions? Contact: (480) 362-2650

**13 SRPMIC DAY EVENT**, See ad on page 10 for complete details!

**15 OFFICES CLOSED - SRPMIC DAY**

**18 SENIOR SERVICES FATHER'S DAY SUPERHERO LUNCHEON**, See ad on page 10 for more information!

**19 JUNETEENTH SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED**

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

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

**23 VOCATIONAL REHAB ORIENTATION**, 10:30 a.m. at Two Waters - Building B. If you have a disability or diagnosis and want to work, join their Walk-In Orientation to learn about employment support and services. Questions? Contact: (480) 362-2650

**24 HEAD START SELF-ASSESSMENT**, Members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community are invited to participate in the Early Childhood Education Center's annual Head Start Self-Assessment on Wednesday, June 24, from 8:00 - 11:00 am in the ALA gym. Help us reflect on our program's strengths, identify areas for growth, and ensure we provide high quality services to children and families. Community input is essential to help us evaluate our practices

and plan effectively for continuous improvement. Breakfast and snacks will be served; please let us know if you'll be attending. To access the ALA gym, park in the lot south of the football field (11355 E. Highland Ave.). Can't make it? Your perspective is still important! Take a survey (anonymous!) on your own time by emailing Tina.Pekovitch@saltriverschools.org. Questions? 480-362-2200 | ECEC.SaltRiverSchools.org

**25 GRADUATION RECOGNITION DINNER**, The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Salt River Schools offices of School and Community Relations and Higher Education would like to recognize all SRPMIC high school and postsecondary graduates from the Class of 2026. This includes any graduation from high school, GED, trade school, or college/university occurring from July 2025 through June 2026. This annual honor takes place with a special dinner and entertainment at Talking Stick Resort - FREE for SRPMIC 2026 graduates and two guests! Questions? Email GradRecognition@saltriverschools.org or call the Higher Education program at 480-362-2547.

**30 VOICES OF SUMMER SALT RIVER SPEAKER SERIES**, at Salt River Council Chambers. Dinner served at 5 p.m. followed by 45-minute presentation and 15-minute Q&A from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. See ad on page 10 for more information!

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

