



On June 30, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Summer Speaker Series returned for its second year. From L to R: SRPMIC Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert, SRPMIC Council members Jacob Butler, Su:k Fulwilder and Mikah Carlos, as well as SRPMIC NAGPRA Coordinator Martha Martinez and Assistant Cultural Resources Department Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Shane Anton.

COMMUNITY SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS

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

The gentle murmur of conversations wafted within the walls of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Council Chambers on June 30. It was the return of the Summer Speaker Series, featuring a panel discussion regarding the Community's recent repatriation efforts in Scotland. The series started last summer. Cultural Resources Department staff members Martha Martinez and Shane Anton and Council members Jacob Butler,

Mikah Carlos and Su:k Fulwilder served on the panel, while Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert served as the host. This past April, representatives from the SRPMIC traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, for a repatriation ceremony to retrieve items of cultural significance that had been housed in a museum there for many years, namely the remains of several ancestors. Individuals from the Gila River Indian Community joined SRPMIC representatives on the trip for the same reason. "Thank you all for joining us

for our second annual Summer Speakers Series event," began Jackson-Eckert. "Some of you might be wondering, like I was, What is repatriation? It is the process of bringing back or returning remains to their place of origin, meaning back to a Community like ours."

3 Takeaways:

- The Summer Speaker Series returned with a panel discussion regarding the SRPMIC's recent repatriation efforts in Scotland.
- Having a "nation-to-nation" connection with Scotland helped bridge the two together.
- The next Summer Speaker Series event will happen on Aug. 25.

Continued on page 9

O'odham Action News Wins Journalism Awards



Andreea Miguel, Chris Picciuolo, and Zoe Hernandez each took home awards from the Indigenous Journalists Association for their work. Photo by Juan Ysaguirre.

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

O'odham Action News was once again recognized for its storytelling. News staff combined to win seven awards from the Indigenous Journalists Association. The awards were announced in early July and presented at IJA's national conference, held this year in Portland, Oregon, in late July. Each year, IJA selects the best journalism done by Native outlets and Native journalists in categories for media and article type. Last year, OAN received a batch of awards, including the Elias Boudinot Free Press Award.

This year was a first for Zoe Hernandez. She's a student worker at OAN and captured first place in the Student Best Editorial/Column category for her coverage on a cultural teacher gathering in October. "The moment I found out that my work had been chosen for first place for the Best Editorial/Column in the student category was very exciting for me," Hernandez said. "It is a reminder that the passion I have for working with O'odham Action News shows in the work that I do. I look forward to seeing what growth I make as a reporter for OAN." News reporter Chris Picciuolo's video coverage of a missing and murdered Indigenous people

Continued on page 19

SRPMIC Members Compete in Lori Piestewa National Native American Games



Desert Dingers pitcher Wazzie Fulwilder winds up for the pitch during the Lori Piestewa National Native American Games in July.

Continued on page 10

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O'odham Veterans Celebration Brings Resources to SRPMIC	Page 3
SRFD and National Weather Service Team Up for Severe Weather Training	Page 3
Mesquite Pancake Breakfast Celebrates 20 Years	Page 4
Highlights of Proposed Amendments and Code Changes	Page 6
News and Events In and Around Indian Country	Page 6
Emma Smith Honored with Presidential Scholar Award	Page 8
Ballers, Buckets and Braids!	Page 11
Crossword Puzzle, Word Search, and Language Corner	Page 12
Family and Friends Fill Need for School Supplies	Page 14
Superstar Employees Celebrated at Third-Quarter Awards	Page 14
Community Gaming Enterprises Hosts Donation Drive for Helping Hands	Page 14
Legal Notices	Page 16
Stewardship and Shared Vision Drive Partnership	Page 19



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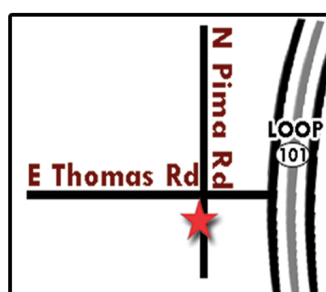
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O’odham Veterans Celebration Brings Resources to SRPMIC

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
O’odham Action News
andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

Established in 2010, the O’odham Veterans Celebration committee is dedicated to providing information and services to Native American veterans in Arizona. These efforts are important because they help not only veterans, but their families too.

On Saturday, July 11, the O’odham Veterans Celebration held a Veterans Stand Down at the Salt River Community Building. A stand-down, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, is an event that provides services like clothing and military benefit information to unhoused veterans.

The event provided resources for Veterans Affairs eligibility and enrollment, disability claims processing, toxic exposure screenings and more for veterans around the Valley. In addition, gear was also distributed to veterans.

“It’s to get all the veterans who are needing services what they need,” said O’odham Veterans Celebration Chair Troy Truax Jr. “And for camaraderie,” he added.

Events like this bring together veterans seeking resources and kinship. Many of the attendees are friends who use these events as a way to catch up with and stay in touch with one another, forming a unique community of support and friendship.

“We come together like this for our community; it keeps us all informed about what is currently available to us veterans,” said attendee Raymond Gonzales.

The Veterans Stand Down is an event that highlights the importance of community, especially when it comes to showing up for our veterans who benefit from the resources provided. It also encourages veterans to become more informed about the support and resources that are available to them.



Above: Veteran attendees share smiles and camaraderie.

Below right: Information was available for veterans who may have had medical outcomes from their time in service.

Below left: Veterans gathered in the Salt River Community Building to connect with resources, and each other.



Held in Two Waters Building A, the July 7 severe weather training provided expert analysis from National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Tom Frieders.

Salt River Fire Department and National Weather Service Team Up for Severe Weather Training

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

Salt River Fire Department Captain Bobby Scabby smiled from ear to ear as guests slowly made their way into Room 109 inside Two Waters Building A on the morning of July 7. It was time for a safety training.

Guests filed into the room for the debut class of a three-part Community safety training that covers the monsoon, electrical awareness and Community preparedness during emergencies.

National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Tom Frieders provided tips on how families can stay safe this monsoon season as a Super El Niño continues to inch its way toward Arizona bringing high winds and ample rainfall.

“We received a lot of feedback from

the Community on this training,” said Scabby before the presentation began. “We’re happy to host this one and also the next two. There is some good information here.”

Frieders began by acknowledging a microburst storm that ripped through Lehi in July 2022. “I know the Community was hit hard [in] that microburst Power lines came down, and a lot of challenges came after that event,” he said.

During his presentation, Frieders detailed how he collaborates with local aviation, police and fire authorities, as well as the public. “If a plane leaves New York and tries to land in Phoenix in the afternoon [during monsoon season], the pilots want to know what the weather is going to be like.”

He also added that his work monitors potential wildfire outbreaks. “Currently, we have some really dry vegetation out

3 Takeaways:

- A training session on severe weather was held on July 7 at Two Waters.
- SRFD Fire Captain Bobby Scabby welcomed guests, who included Tom Frieders from the Phoenix branch of the National Weather Service.
- Additional free training sessions are scheduled in the coming months.

there that’s ready to burn. Any kind of significant hot, dry and windy conditions that develop, we keep an eye on that and coordinate with our fire partners,” he said.

Revealing to the group that he has been working and living in Phoenix for the past six years, Frieders said the recent monsoons have been causing unfathomable destruction to property and homes, which also brings expensive repair costs. “On average, nationwide we experience around \$20 billion in annual damage from disasters,” he said. “In the early 2000s it was around \$7 billion.”

The increase can be attributed to the severity of storms. Though they may not last that long, recent storms have been statistically more powerful, with more severe winds and rainfall.

Later, Frieders discussed lightning strikes and how to stay safe if you find yourself outdoors during a thunderstorm.

“A lightning bolt is 50,000 degrees instantaneously, so do not stand under a tree,” advised Frieders. “If you’re outdoors and caught in a lightning storm, the safest location to seek shelter is inside your vehicle. If it’s struck, the car’s cage will redirect the electricity from the lightning bolt into the ground.”

He mentioned that a National Weather Service colleague of his had to seek shelter inside his car during a lightning storm and thankfully survived. “He told me it wasn’t a pleasant experience to go through, but he’s here to tell others about it,” he said.

Frieders said lightning occurs when a positive charge is created inside the clouds 10,000 to 12,000 feet above us. The positive charge searches for a negative charge on the ground or on a tall object, like a tree or building. “It’s similar to when you rub a balloon on your arm. Ice particles and raindrops rub against each other inside the clouds, and they develop a positive charge at the base of a thunderstorm.”

He continued, “As those opposite charges start to attract more, if you’re in that vicinity, your hair is going to start to stand on end because it’s being attracted to that pull. That’s a good indication of a lightning strike that’s nearby.”

Frieders suggested finding shelter or a safer area and waiting until the storm passes through.

Frieders also talked about flash floods. “If you ever see water flowing across the road, we use the phrase ‘Turn around, don’t drown.’ One foot of water can wash away a vehicle.”

He suggested that individuals avoid using corded house phones during lightning storms. “If the house is struck, that electrical energy could go through the wires and into the phone receiver. The same applies to certain plumbing as well. Don’t take showers during a thunderstorm.”

Scabby thanked Frieders for his presentation and added that Community members can ensure they and their loved ones are prepared by contacting Fire Prevention: email fireprevention@srpmic-nsn.gov or call (480) 362-7733.

The next class will be for National Preparedness Month on Sept. 8 at Two Waters Building A, Room 109.

Mesquite Pancake Breakfast Celebrates 20 Years

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

June on the O'odham calendar is known as Bahidag Masad, and for the O'odham, it is the beginning of a fresh new year. This time of year is for harvesting saguaro fruit and mesquite pods.

The Huhugam Ki: Museum gathers mesquite pods in preparation for their annual Mesquite Pancake Breakfast. This year's event, held on July 11, marked the 20th anniversary of the breakfast, as the first one was held in December 2006.

"It was cold [then], and at the time we didn't have a vato over the museum patio" said Huhugam Ki: Museum Manager Gary Owens.



Huhugam Ki: Museum staff and day workers alike were hard at work preparing the pancakes for guests.

"There was a reason why we started doing this, we needed to keep the tradition, the way of life, the Himdag going, because the elderly would tell us in the language program (when we were working with them in the '90s) if we don't use it, then Se:he (Elder Brother) would take it back."

"If you're not going to use it, then it will go away," they said.

Owens explained that the idea came about from visiting Desert Harvesters, a local cooperative in Tucson, who were grinding mesquite pods into flour to make mesquite pancakes for their community.

"We learned from them, we learned how they ground the flour using a huge machine, and how to do their mesquite pancakes; we got the recipe from them and we modified it We wanted to show people that this is what you can do with traditional foods in a fusion cooking sort of way," said Owens.

On July 11, museum staff and volunteers had an early 6 a.m. start to their day to cook the breakfast for visitors. Prep began on Thursday, July 9. The menu included scrambled eggs and bacon, mesquite pancakes with a prickly pear fruit syrup, and pineapple juice.

"It came back to let's celebrate the mesquite pod and the mesquite tree. And that's when we started doing the pancake breakfast. We would do it in June because that would kick off the mesquite pod gathering season," Owens explained.

As the sun rose, people gathered in a line at 8 a.m. to receive their meals. They were invited to the museum grounds under a cozy setting of canopies with tables and chairs. The Community Garden crew, led by Stetson Medoza, gave samples of mesquite

flour, recipes and handouts. While people were in line for food, a treat of mesquite ice cream was handed out to sample. It was a full day as it was the museum's second Saturday event as well. The exhibit gallery was open, along with the gift store, for the public to visit. Inside, Tasha Silverhorn demonstrated the traditional art of basketweaving, demonstrating the technique and giving information to visitors.

"Celebrating this occasion brings the community together while also reminding us that we can still utilize traditional ingredients for contemporary use..."

"When we were starting out doing these classes and such events, 20 years ago, there were still a lot of people that grew up with these foods who were still around, but that's getting less and less. [Today, people] are not as familiar with it. But these are good foods. These are what fed [us as a people]. They weren't high in sugars necessarily, they weren't high in fats, they have protein, they have carbohydrates, and they have vitamins and so that's why we did this," said Owens.

To keep these traditional foods part of people's meals today, the museum is more than willing to help. Workers gather the pods and take them back to the museum, where they have their own hammer mill that crushes the pods into



A delicious mesquite pancake breakfast with prickly-pear syrup is a twice-yearly tradition at the museum.

flour. From there they use the mesquite flour for various recipes and give it to elders or Community departments that are wanting to learn and teach about it. Community members also can collect their own mesquite pods and bring them to the museum to be ground into flour to take home.

The museum encourages people to learn more about their way of life and it holds classes on some of the traditional processes. The pancake breakfast is held twice a year, at the beginning of the season and at the end, so, mark your calendar for the fall event.

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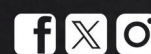
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SRPMIC Member Emma Smith Honored with Presidential Scholar Award

Emma Smith wears her Salt River Higher Education stole with the SRPMIC seal for her graduation photo. Photo courtesy of Emma Smith

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

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Emma Smith was selected as the recipient of the Western Washington University College of Business and Economics' Presidential Scholar award.

The award honors graduates for their "exceptional scholarship and service to the university and community," according to the president's office at the university.

Smith said she is from the Paul Smith family in the SRPMIC. She was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, by her parents, Lonnie and Shawna Smith, and has four siblings: Kylie, Hannah, Carter and Hayden Smith. Her grandfather Gerald Smith is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and his mother was from the Pueblo of Jemez. Gerald Smith's grandmother is Amy Carlos of the SRPMIC.

"My grandpa remains close to all three of his tribes and encourages his grandchildren to do the same," said Smith.

During Smith's first quarter at Western Washington University, she was taught managerial accounting by one of her professors, Steve Smith, whose teaching ignited her interest in accounting. He nominated Smith for the award.

"I wanted to reciprocate his enthusiasm in the class, which led to long hours of studying alone and with classmates to ensure I was as prepared as I could be for the class," she said.

Steve Smith's nomination read as follows:

Emma Smith exemplifies the qualities recognized by Western Washington University's Presidential Scholar Award: academic achievement,

meaningful engagement with multi-cultural communities, and sustained service to others. As a student-athlete, scholar, mentor, and cultural leader, Emma has consistently balanced demanding responsibilities while contributing to the success of those around her. Whether in the classroom, on the track team, or through Native student programming, Emma approaches leadership as an opportunity to strengthen community and support others. Her record at Western reflects not only individual accomplishment but also a consistent commitment to helping others grow and succeed.

Smith's professor was so impressed by her that he recommended her for a position as an accountant for a local electrical company, a job Smith said she's held now for three years.

"Dr. Smith became my mentor, helping me with obstacles in my degree, applying to my internship, nudging me to do more and helping me say no when my plate was too full," said Smith. "I wouldn't be the graduate I am today without his guidance."

This spring, Smith completed her bachelor of science degree in accounting with a concentration in management information systems, earning a 3.9 grade point average.

While in school, Smith stayed quite busy. She was a member of the cross country and track teams, including in 2023, when she competed and scored in the NCAA Division II West Region meet, where the team placed first.

"In track, I placed third in the 10K in our conference meet in 2023," she said.

Smith was also involved in the university's College of Business through their volunteer income tax assistant (VITA) and peer mentor program. VITA is an IRS-sponsored service that provides free,

3 Takeaways:

- SRPMIC member Emma Smith was selected for the Western Washington University College of Business and Economics Presidential Scholar award.
- Smith fell in love with accounting while at school after being taught by her professor and mentor, Steve Smith, who nominated her for the award.
- She kept busy in school on the cross country and track teams, as well as serving as a council member for the Native American Student Union.

reliable tax preparation to the Bellingham, Washington, community, according to Smith.

Would you believe Smith also served as a council member for the Native American Student Union?

"While on council, I helped plan our weekly meetings, fundraisers and re-cruiting," said Smith. "I was also on the Powwow Committee, working from about October to May planning, fundraising and facilitating our annual Spring Powwow, the biggest student-led event on campus."

Most recently, Smith became a mentor at a nearby high school in their tribal language classroom. Smith said that Bellingham is close to the Lummi Nation, and that this high school has about a 5% Indigenous population.

"I was in the classroom during their free period and was available for homework help," said Smith. "When not helping students directly with homework, I was answering questions about college as well as learning more from them and their teachers about the Coast Salish traditions."

In September, Smith will begin an audit position in Portland, Oregon, with Deloitte, a professional services firm. Until then, Smith said, she is studying daily for the certified public accountant (CPA) examination as well as doing trail runs in Bellingham and around Mount Baker.



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Community Summer Speaker Series Returns

"For us, in our Community, we've never had the opportunity before to do an international repatriation," said Carlos.

They shared with the group that having a "nation-to-nation" connection with Scotland helped bridge the two together.

Anton reminded the attendees of the origin of the word "repatriation."

"Repatriation is actually a term that was more prevalent [during wartime] with other countries," he began. "We would take prisoners, they would take prisoners, and there was usually some sort of political issue going back and forth in this."

He continued, "[During those times], they would repatriate the individuals back to their country. So even though [our ancestors], they're deceased, we still see them as people and individuals. That's why it's important that we repatriate those individuals back to the Community with the respect, dignity and honor that they would deserve [as] a living individual here within the United States."

Antone discussed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a federal law that provides for the protection and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony.

NAGPRA only applies federally, not internationally. Foreign countries are not bound under NAGPRA to return culturally significant items to their tribes of origin, although institutions in some countries, like Scotland, will do this because it's the ethical thing to do.

The panel explained their use of specific words and terms, such as "roster" instead of inventory, "escorted" instead

of moved, "housed" instead of stored, and others.

"When someone visits you, you don't 'store' them, you 'house' them," said Anton.

Members of the panel discussed how the Scotland trip impacted them both professionally and personally. Fulwilder said she spoke with her father, Meldon, about the repatriation process before boarding the flight to Scotland. She said that her father worked on repatriation efforts many years ago.

"I feel like it was a historical event; it's something that's going to bring healing to our Community," said Fulwilder. "I felt that it was important that we were there. I'm grateful to be a part of that."

After Fulwilder's words, Martinez provided some insight into how the trip came about.

"The Association on American Indian Affairs [searches] throughout the U.S. and internationally [for auctions that may contain items of Native American origin]. We get notifications [from them], and AAIA has conferences that Shane and I attend as well. They're the ones that notified us [about the items in Scotland], because they had done all the work for that," she said.

The University of Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum and AAIA began repatriation discussions. "The university let AAIA know that they would be willing to repatriate. In Scotland, it works differently. It's not just the university [we were working with], it's under the government," Martinez added.

The seats inside the Council Chambers were filled with guests who displayed heavy hearts and watery eyes as the panel continued to provide insight regarding the Scotland trip.

"We're dealing with death," said Carlos. "That's taboo for us. You have to be in the right mind space to do this. For myself, I have to make sure I'm equipped and ready to support those who are escorting [the remains]. This is a very heavy thing. It's something that happened, but we're getting to do a good thing by getting [the ancestors] back in a good way and giving them the respect they deserve."

Battling the time-zone difference in Scotland, Carlos mentioned that the group routinely called back home and used Facetime to speak with their family and loved ones.

"One ancestor was escorted to Gila River, and the others came home to Salt River," Butler said. "Being away from our families was hard. The time differences were so long. But that's what helped a lot, knowing we left in a good way and knowing this work was for a bigger reason. I think that's what helped me."

Butler said he was asked to prepare the remains to be housed for escorting. "It was hard for me ... to know these people were taken from their place, when they never should've been disturbed, and [moved] thousands of miles from their home to be left on the shelf and essentially forgotten. Some of those remains could've been remains of young adults or children. I couldn't help but think, What if this was my daughter?" he said.

He added, "That's what's important. To humanize the remains of our ancestors to the people who only treat them as items in a collection."

Fulwilder echoed similar remarks. "I had to prepare myself and put myself in a better mindset. Although death is sad, it also is healing for our Community to bring our relatives home."

She added that the university team

joked with the group upon their arrival. "They told us we brought the sun with us," said Fulwilder with a grin. "We flew in at about 6 a.m. and it was really beautiful; the sun was shining. They told us Scotland is usually cold, dark and cloudy."

As the presentation neared its conclusion, the group provided their closing remarks. "I'm glad we were there to do that work but also very frustrated [that the remains were] there in the first place," said Carlos. "Also, [it was difficult] seeing [the museum's] collection [of items] from many cultures around the world and knowing it has been probably hundreds of years since they've been visited by their own people. It was a lot."

Martinez said, "It is a heavy thing to deal with. Having the camaraderie between all of us made the trip easier. We looked out for one another. Even though it's hard and heavy, we're doing this work for the Community. I won't be here in 100 years, but hopefully the work we do sets the standard. Because if something were to happen to me, I hope someone has the inclination to bring me home. I don't want to be in another country, especially one that's so cold. I want to be home. I love my desert."

The event concluded with a question-and-answer session featuring questions from in-person guests and online spectators watching the livestream feed.

On Aug. 25 at 5 p.m., the Summer Speaker Series returns with "The Science of Happiness & Habits," again held at the Council Chambers. Another presentation had been scheduled for late July, but that event was canceled.

To submit questions to speaker panels or inquire about upcoming sessions, please email summerspeakerseries@srpmic-nsn.gov.



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

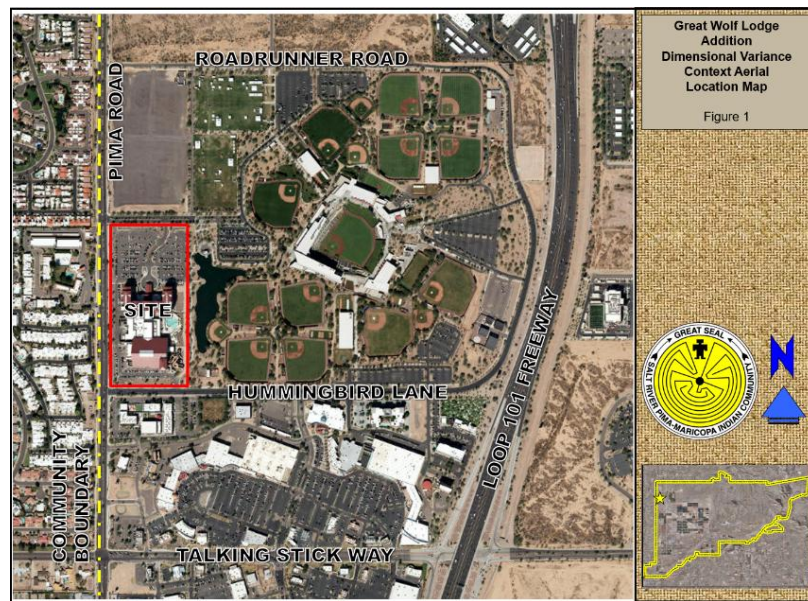
Two Waters Building B, Third Floor, 10005 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256

Phone: 480-362-7600 | Email: Planning@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING

Great Wolf Lodge – Dimensional Variance (26-DV-04)

Great Wolf Lodge is requesting a Dimensional Variance (DV) to increase the maximum allowable Floor Area Ratio (F.A.R.) from 0.50 to 0.54 for their existing property located at 7333 North Pima Road. This variance would permit the development of an additional six-story suite tower connected to the existing building, providing twenty-four (24) additional guest suites and increasing the total number of suite rooms from 350 to 374. Each additional guest suite is proposed to have three bedrooms in order to accommodate large families.



DATE: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: SRPMIC Council Chambers | 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256

You May view the recorded presentation starting Thursday, August 20, 2026. Public comments can be made by email at public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov, by phone at 480-362-7470, or by text at 623-282-5757.

For more information about the project, contact Noah Katt, Planner II at 480-362-3269

SRPMIC Members Compete in Lori Piestewa National Native American Games

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO AND JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O’odham Action News
chris.picciuolo@srpmic-nsn.gov

More than 4,000 athletes representing 27 tribes competed in five different sports at the 2026 Lori Piestewa National Native American Games, which was held at the Arizona Athletic Grounds in Mesa from July 10 to 12.

The Piestewa Games are named in honor of Lori Piestewa (Hopi), who was the first Native American woman to die in combat while serving in the U.S. military.

A handful of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member players and coaches participated in the games, which included baseball, basketball, fast-pitch and coed slow-pitch softball, men’s and women’s overnight softball, and wrestling.

The most action for SRPMIC players came on the indoor basketball court and outside in the scorching July heat on the artificial-turf baseball fields.

BASKETBALL

The annual Lori Piestewa basketball tournament featured some of the best and brightest hoopers in the country. With more than 200 teams across several boys and girls age divisions, the annual basketball tournament also featured a few of the well-known hoopers and impressive student-athletes from the SRPMIC.

Native Clash

During this year’s Piestewa Games, the SRPMIC ballclub Native Clash played well in the boys’ seventh-grade division. The club squeaked out a nail-biting victory during their first game of the tournament, defeating Northern Thunder by a single bucket. Native Clash then was defeated by the Wookies; however, the team earned the right to play in their divisional championship, against Four Directions. Sadly, Native Clash lost by two points.

The River

One thing is certain about The River: their legion of fans and supporters travel well, regardless of a tournament’s location. In their first game, against New Era, they dominated and cruised to the easy victory, winning 55-16 in front of many fans. The River notched two additional victories against the Rattlers and Jellyfish Jammers, which resulted in the SRPMIC ballclub securing a ticket to the boys’ varsity championship. Sadly, the OVO Nephs bested The River with a score of 52-61.

NWT

Always living up to their team’s name, Natives With Talent (NWT) showed why their team-oriented play has established their reputation as one of the premiere basketball clubs in the state. Playing in the girls’ varsity division, NWT defeated Dreamsnatchers 48-33 and garnered an impressive win against Lady Hoa Nad: O Kam, 80-8. NWT advanced to the championship game on Sunday but fell short to Rez Made, 52-36.



Elias Johnson and his Native Clash teammates played well against some stiff competition.



Desert Dingers team photo in the blazing sun after a game during the Piestewa games.



Superstar student-athlete Angie Montoya helped rally her NWT teammates in the adult women’s bracket.



Zaila Lee made her fair share of 3 pointers during her game against Team Dreamsnatchers.



Chance Williams showed why they’re one of the fastest rising ballers in the Valley of the Sun during the Piestewa games.

3 Takeaways:

- The popular Piestewa Games featured more than 4,000 athletes.
- SRPMIC athletes participated in basketball and baseball.
- Teams from the Community included Desert Dingers and AZ SONS (baseball) and basketball teams Native Clash, The River and NWT.

BASEBALL

Baseball teams kept a healthy supply of water handy to beat the heat. The shade was prime real estate.

The Desert Dingers

The single-A Desert Dingers are coached by SRPMIC member Whitney Grey. Don’t let their 1-1 record in the tournament fool you. They won their first game 7-3 and only lost by two runs in their second game. Their hard-fought, consistent play led them to the championship bracket, where they blanked TC KINGZ 3-0 and eventually lost to the AZ SONS.

AZ SONS

SRPMIC member Arnold Thomas coaches the single-A and double-A AZ SONS teams, which sometimes have a member or two from the Community on the squad. They even have some assistant coaches from the Community. The program is on fire lately, placing high in most recent tournaments.

During the Piestewa baseball tournament, the single-A squad went undefeated in their two pool games and won their first championship tournament game vs. the Desert Dingers 6-3. Guadalupe put a stop to the Sons’ run, as they came out on top in the championship game 7-4.

The Sons’ double-A team also made it to the championship bracket, winning the first three games they played. However, the team ran out of steam by the time they could face Hitters Paradise, who defeated the Sons 8-1.



Marco Lopez waiting for a pitch during the Piestewa baseball tournament.

Ballers, Buckets and Braids!

BY O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

O'odham Action News
oan@srpmic-nsn.gov

It was once again time to battle it out on the hardwood in Mesa.

Continuing to be one of the premiere youth basketball tournaments in the country, the 2026 Native American Junior Nationals basketball tournament boasted several teams from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

This year saw nearly 600 boys' and girls' teams participate across several age groups at the Arizona Athletic Grounds, a large facility with multiple basketball courts in southeastern Mesa, from June 25 to 28.

The talent was well on display at this year's event, commonly known as "the Nattys" by the participants and supporters.

Layla Curtis, a fast-rising superstar student-athlete from Tuba City, played on team Run n Gun in the girls' high school division. At each game, Curtis and her team filled the bleachers, forcing many spectators to catch barely a glimpse of her playing while standing shoulder to shoulder across the sidelines. The gym space allows for multiple games to take place at the same time, but when one court is packed by fans, it can make that small space somewhat awkward.

Curtis made an unofficial visit to Arizona State University in the days after the tournament, proving that the Nattys continue to elevate Indigenous ballers to the next level.

Locally, the SRPMIC fielded several

teams this year. Whether it was helping to fill out other teams with vacant roster spots or playing with friends and family, the SRPMIC hoopers earned plenty of buckets during this year's tournament.

The SRPMIC teams that participated were Team FMD, Natives with Talent (NWT), Tribal Force, The River, Native Clash, Salt River Renegades and Tribal Dynasty.

Native Clash

A young Native Clash team participated in the boys' middle school rising seventh- and eighth-grade division. The team was scrappy and battled hard all weekend but unfortunately couldn't win a game. Native Clash played three pool-play games and one tournament game before bowing out on the weekend. The team fell to the Red Bears and the Buffalo Runners, and to the Native Arrows twice, once in tournament action.

Natives with Talent

Coach Jay Jones had his NWT team ready for some stiff competition. Sporting their white jerseys with the official NWT logo on the front, the team displayed all the teachings instilled by Jones, on and off the court. NWT impressed many with their easy victory against Lady Thunder during their morning game on June 27. Later that afternoon, they came up just short to some out-of-state competition, New Mexico's Swish City.

Tribal Force

With their legion of fans and supporters cheering them on from the sidelines, Tribal Force showed why they're one

of the rising teams in the boys' fifth- and sixth-grade division. They began their pool play with victories against Pikunii 406 from Browning, Montana; the Chinle Bad Boyz; and Chosen Ones. In their final game, Tribal Force finally met their match and suffered their only loss in the tournament, to OK Warhoops from Oklahoma.

The River

Another fan-favorite team, The River, brought their A-game over the tournament's weekend. The River came out strong, winning two games, against Shooting Stars and WM Apache Boyz. However, during their first game on Saturday, they might've needed some Wheaties in their cereal bowls for breakfast that morning, because they lost a nail-biter to Northern Elite, 38-35. The River added one more victory against Unconquered before being defeated by NAZ Soldiers, ending their tourney run.

Tribal Dynasty

With head coach Wi-Bwa Grey at the helm, Tribal Dynasty played well, securing tough victories while experiencing their fair share of heartbreaking losses in the final moments. Grey's daughter, Mani Williams, was joined by many other shining student-athletes on this year's team. Their thrilling matchup against Lady Thunder proved to be one of the highlights of the tourney, as the game went into triple overtime. Sadly, Lady Thunder defeated Tribal Dynasty thanks to a sudden-death jump shot that received a friendly bounce off the rim and into the net.

Team FMD

In the boys' fifth- and sixth-grade bracket, Team FMD and their new

jerseys put many other young teams on notice. Team FMD had an enjoyable weekend, earning a tough win against AZ Nations in front of many fans and supporters. Later in the tournament, Tunesquad still bested Team FMD in a close one, 38-26. Team FMD also lost to Zia Starz and Hinjirawi, representing the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

Salt River Renegades

The fifth- and sixth-grade girls on the Salt River Renegades team once again showed why understanding and performing basketball fundamentals can take players and teams far. The Renegades started the tournament on a high note, defeating Rio Grande Elite 31-22. Their first game showed how much they've improved their offense as well as revealing a stronger defensive output. Unfortunately, they suffered a tough loss to Native Elite and then tied the Sota Girls team from Minnesota, 24-24.

Hosteen Smith

Recent Northern Arizona University graduate and SRPMIC member Hosteen Smith was on hand throughout the tournament, providing medical support to players and personnel. Smith recently graduated with a master of science degree in athletic training.

Across several age groups and various levels of basketball talent, this year's Native American Junior Nationals proved why it's one of the top basketball tournaments in Indian Country.

O'odham Action News Managing Editor Dalton Walker contributed to this report.



Caesar Martinez was cool, calm and collected while at the free throw line.



Coach Wi-Bwa Grey kept her players focused, even when suffering tough losses.



Zavion Lee impressed many with his jumpshot.



Team FMD played well as a unified front.



Serenity Thomas battled hard in the paint for NWT.



The Salt River Renegades were a fan favorite, packing many of the venue's seats.



Hosteen Smith was on-location saving lives and administering medical attention to athletes.



Tony Macias of Native Clash proved to be one of the fast-rising players on the court.



Landen Felix went up against some colossal talent.



Ava Silas brought her WNBA-ready jumpshot to the tourney.



The Salt River Renegades continued to improve and grow as a team.

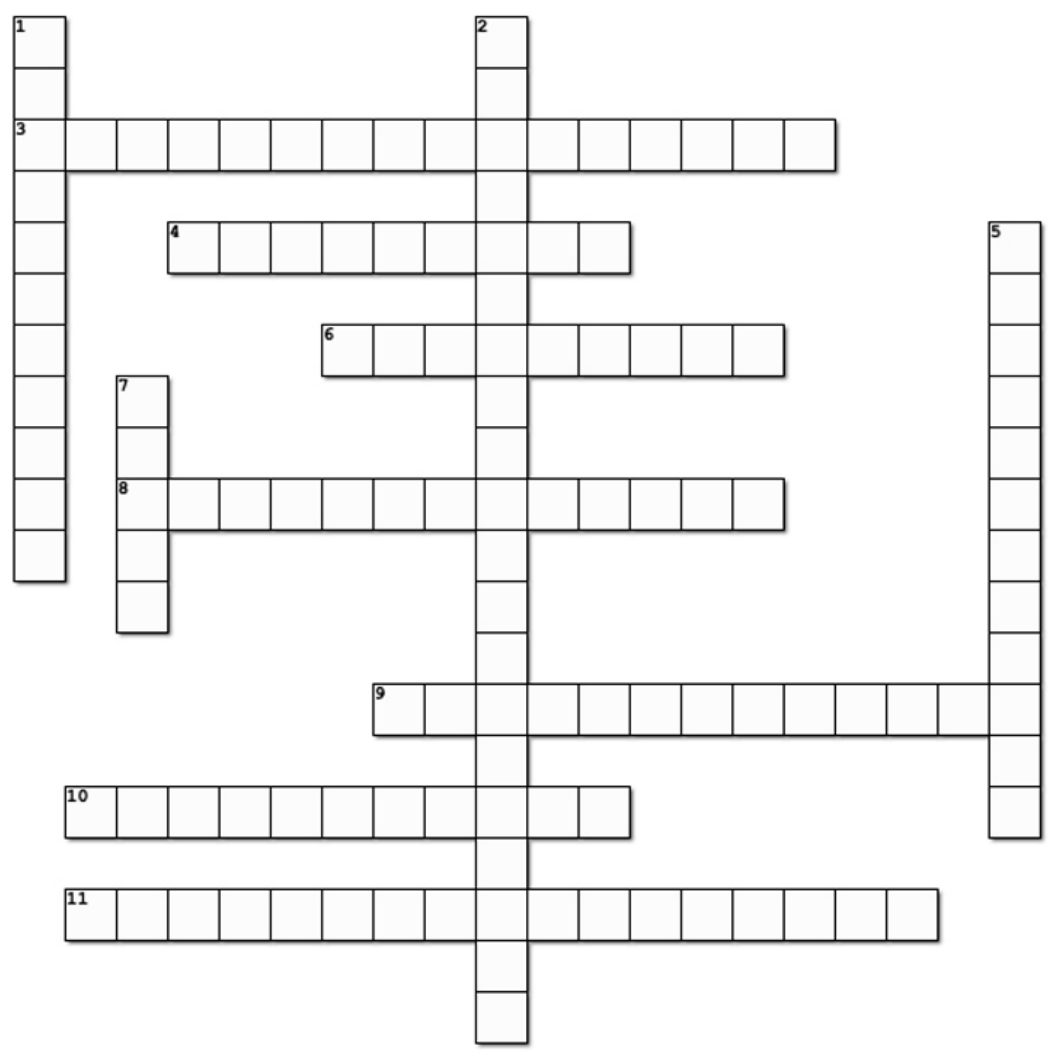


Mani Williams shined on the court for Tribal Dynasty.



Can you solve the crossword puzzle?

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



- Across**
- 3. The number of backpacks donated to the Back to School drive, hosted by Millie’s Creations and Wooden-head Collective.
 - 4. The number of bags collected by the SRPMIC Community Gaming Enterprises for their Helping Hands Clothing Drive.
 - 6. The city in Scotland in which SRPMIC council and representatives traveled to for repatriation efforts.
 - 8. The singer of the national anthem during the SRPMIC 4th of July Celebration.
 - 9. Over 200 players and countless tribes participated in this July tournament for overnight softball, baseball and basketball.
 - 10. The Tuba City basketball player who played on team Run n’ Gun during this year’s Nattys.
 - 11. The university Emma Smith attended.
- Down**
- 1. The name of the O’odham Veterans Celebration Chair.
 - 2. The name of the room at the Talking Stick Resort Golf Course which held the third quarter employee awards.
 - 5. The month of June in the O’odham Calendar.
 - 7. The number of awards OAN earned in this year’s Indigenous Journalists Association contest.



Language With

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

Learning the orthographies of the O'odham and Piipaash

O'odham

Diphthongs

ai aisle
ei gooey
oi poi
ui oui

Breve

ĭ

Diphthongs: In O'odham words when two vowels occur together the second vowel is always "i". This produces a new sound

Breve: A breve is only found at the end of a word. It will often sound like an aspiration

Piipaash

Diphthongs

oy boy
aw cow
ew
ay cayenne
uy 'chop suey'

Glottal Stop

ʔ

Diphthongs: In Piipaash when one vowel glides into another vowel

Glottal Stop: The glottal stop signifies the the throat is closed on that specific part of the word. This creates a pause in the word.

Parts of the Body Word Search

Find the O'odham and Piipaash words from the list below!

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

O'ODHAM	IBDAK , Heart	PIPAASH	KSHMTHO , Knees
MO'O , Head	HONŞPADAG , Body	II'E , Hair	MSHKILY , Shoulders
WI' , Eye	NO:Vİ , Arm	IIDO , Face/eyes	IIDOO , Teeth
DA:K , Nose	KAIYO , Leg	YAXLYME , Cheeks	MS'IILY , Thigh
CIÑ , Mouth	TA:T , Foot	MIIPUK , Neck	MUUVAAALY , Calf
NA:K , Ear		SHLYMAK , Back	

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

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or call **(480) 362-7750**

Fireworks, Hot Dogs, Waila and More at Fourth of July Celebration

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

Community members lined up with their lawn chairs in hand outside the Accelerated Learning Academy Football Field on July 4 as they waited to attend the patriotic celebration put together by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

The aroma of sizzling hot dogs filled the air as people entered the gate and spread out onto the field, flocking to a large stage, several inflatable games and a dunk tank to begin the festivities. The games kept people busy while they waited for the 15-minute fireworks show at the end of the evening.

“What I believe makes our event popular is the fact that the SRPMIC hosts a safe fireworks show that is literally right above our heads,” said Community Relations Office Events Manager Yvonne Schaaf. “Fireworks Productions of Arizona always provides a great display with an exciting opening, and the grand finale is always a spectacular closing!”

Schaaf said 820 people attended the event this year, and more than 600 free hot dog meals were provided. Food trucks were also on site selling food and drinks.

In between Council member Jacob Butler and SRPMIC member Rito Lopez taking turns getting soaked in the dunk tank, a program took place on the stage. The program began with Community member Vii Washington singing the national anthem, SRPMIC royalty reciting the pledge of allegiance and prayers, and the Pee Posh Veterans Association parading the colors. DJ Jermatik was the emcee/DJ.

Rousseau Farms donated watermelons again this year to be used for the Community watermelon bust and watermelon-eating contests. Families also participated in a water balloon toss to stay cool.

While Tohono O’odham Nation waila band D Faktion Nyne took the stage, the Events team prepared for the big hot dog-eating contest that everyone within a 100-foot radius huddled around for.

The fireworks at the end of the celebration could be seen from across the Community. Folks also sat outside along sparsely lit Country Club Drive in their lawn chairs and in the backs of trucks to catch the action in the sky.

- 3 Takeaways:**
- The Community celebrated the Fourth of July with a fireworks show by Fireworks Productions of Arizona.
 - Tohono O’odham Nation waila band D Faktion Nyne provided entertainment throughout the night for more than 800 visitors.
 - Community members participated in watermelon- and hot dog-eating contests, as well as a water balloon toss game.



More than 600 free hot dog meals were provided to Fourth of July Celebration attendees.



Family and Friends Fill Need for School Supplies

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

When Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members see a need, they show up and take action.

That's just what Christina Lopez and her daughter Milagros Quintero, also known as Millie of Millie's Creations, did this summer when they recognized a need for school supplies throughout the Community before the beginning of the school year.

The two put together a back-to-school kickoff event at the Community Building on July 12, which was hosted by Quintero's friends Dominick Martinez and Seneca Silverhorn from the Woodenhead Collective, a self-described "Indigenous collective of unhinged individuals geared to support the arts."

In under a month, the event went from concept to securing 112 backpacks filled with school supplies for all ages thanks to donations from across the Valley.

"It blew my mind knowing that we had gotten so many donations," said Lopez.

Donation boxes were placed in the Community at Discover Salt River, the Defense Advocate's office, the Salt River Food Bank and in Mesa at Horror Monger.

"Our goal was to simply give back to the Community and just do something different as Community members," said Quintero.

With a line out the door, Quintero felt



that the turnout was great. The event was open to the public.

Families had fun interacting with Sesame Street- and Woodenhead Collective-themed photo opportunities and participating in both horror and kid movie-themed trivia.

Event guests shopped at vendor booths held by local vendors Mina's Savage Delights, Malachi Namoki, krazymeltsbymelz, dajcreations, bitter-waterdesign and Ce:dagi Hiosig Designs by Christina, the latter being Christina Lopez's business.

There were some people at the event in need of school supplies who were non-Native and from outside of the Community, and that was just fine, according to Lopez.

Lopez was touched by one mother in particular who was grateful for the supplies.

"She really was in need of getting backpacks for her kids," said Lopez, who said the mother's gratitude hit home for her. Lopez is the mother of seven children herself.

"When my kids were younger, we would go to the Community schools and

get backpacks. We would get home and check everybody's supply list that they needed, and we would divvy it up. It was a relief for me to not have to spend so much on things that they were able to get help with from the tribe."

In a full-circle moment, Lopez and her family gave back to the Community when they could.



3 Takeaways:

- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members Christina Lopez and daughter Milagros Quintero put on a back-to-school supply event in July.
- More than 100 backpacks filled with school supplies were given away to families in need thanks to donations.
- The event was hosted by the Woodenhead Collective.

Quintero is already excited for round two next year.

"We are looking forward to bringing this back next year bigger and better!"

Below: Families in need of school supplies line up for backpacks at a back-to-school kickoff event at the Community Building, put on by Christina Lopez, Milagros Quintero and members of the Woodenhead Collective. Photos courtesy of Millie's Creations.



On July 13, nearly 30 staff were recognized for their hard work they provide to the SRPMIC.

Superstar Employees Celebrated at Third-Quarter Awards

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

The Employee Appreciation Breakfast for the third quarter featured a who's who of employees who help make the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community one of the best places to work.

On July 13, more than 25 employees were celebrated at the Talking Stick Resort Golf Club for their hard work.

The appreciation breakfast occurs at the end of each quarter in SRPMIC's fiscal year. Management and directors team up to submit employee award nominations to Human Resources.

"This gives us a chance to pause during the quarter and recognize what you all did in quarter three," said SRPMIC Human Resources Director Steve Haydukovich. "There were a lot of different types of submissions that came in. Some of them were really good."

SRPMIC Tribal Council and Administrative staff members recognized the employees inside the Red Mountain Event Hall at the Talking Stick Resort Golf Course.

Before breakfast was served, SRPMIC President Martin Harvier spoke about how important these awards are to the Community. "I really appreciate our HR department for putting this quarterly recognition program together. Sometimes you feel that nobody sees the work you do, as if nobody appreciates it. But today, you're here because somebody recognized it."

SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard then provided a few words and revealed how staff from Public Works and Animal Control assisted him and his family during a tragic time involving their family dog.

3 Takeaways:

- Each quarter, SRPMIC managers submit award nominations for employees who they feel have gone above and beyond their standard job duties.
- The third-quarter employee awards were presented at an appreciation breakfast held at the Talking Stick Resort Golf Course on July 13.
- Staff members from the Community Relations Office, Public Works, Police, Fire, Youth Services and other departments were recognized.

"I called Public Works, who said they'd call Animal Control. Animal Control doesn't work the weekends; I didn't know that. But they got a couple of officers and moved our dog out of the road. That meant something to me far beyond [just doing a job]."

Emotions continued to fill the room as Community Manager Bryan Meyers emphasized how important it is that the Community take time to recognize its employees.

"I saw on my Outlook calendar today 'Employee Quarterly Appreciation Breakfast,' and that filled my heart. It's something I think is so important that we do to recognize our wonderful employee pool," he said.

He continued, "I also want to take this time to thank all my assistant community managers for all the stuff they go through on a day-to-day basis to make this a place that we love to serve."

Meyers concluded his speech with his trademark motto, asking individuals to remain positive and to "be a nice human."

After breakfast, SRPMIC Council members and staff members from Administration formed a receiving line to congratulate each of the honored employees.

Community Gaming Enterprises Hosts Donation Drive for Helping Hands

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

Sometimes, it does take a village.

Thankfully, here in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, there are always individuals looking to help others.

Recently, the SRPMIC Gaming Enterprises department held a donation drive and invited their staff members to drop off new or gently used items to be donated to the Community thrift store Helping Hands.

Gaming Enterprises staff set up collection boxes at the main entrances of their buildings. After a few days, the boxes were stuffed with shoes, shirts, pants and many other donated items.

"We plan two drives each year," said David Brewer, engagement manager for Casino Arizona. In all, 54 bags of items were collected and delivered to Helping Hands.

Each item will be processed and cleaned by Helping Hands staff before being placed out on the sales floor.

Gaming Enterprises' next donation drive will occur this winter.

Helping Hands Thrift Store is located at 10213 E. Osborn Road in the Community. For more information, call (480) 362-5625.



Recently, over 50 bags were dropped off to the SRPMIC's community thrift store, Helping Hands, compliments of the SRPMIC Community Gaming Enterprises.

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.

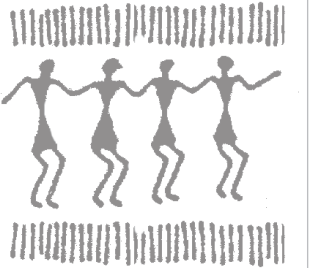
SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SEMI)
Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Apostle Edward Chance
apostleeac@gmail.com
(480) 516-6509
SERVICES: 10 AM on Sundays
Visit us on Facebook Live, Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

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

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

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

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.



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

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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

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

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Landscaping and yard work services
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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

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

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(480) 907-8945
erniescateringbusiness@yahoo.com

SALT RIVER BUSINESS LISTINGS

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
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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. Ricshawn Johnson: (480) 781-7867 (text only), booking site: vagaro.com/honeybraidznsallc1

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

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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

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Auto Body Work and Paint LLC. Community Member 15% discount. Pete Moquino, (480) 236-3033 moquinoscustompaint@yahoo.com

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

PIMA AWARDS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS, INC
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.redmtneengineering.com

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

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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

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

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

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.

O'dham 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'dham Action News or the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

O'dham 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'dham Action News does not assume responsibility for unsolicited materials and does not guarantee publication upon submission.

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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 SPECIALIST
(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'dham Action News for advertising info.
(480) 362-2698 / www.oodhamnews.org

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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES	
ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
AUGUST 20	AUGUST 7
SEPTEMBER 3	AUGUST 21
SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov For more information please call (480) 362-7750.	

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

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



SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

✔ New Year's Day

✔ MLK Day

✔ President's Day

✔ Good Friday

✔ Memorial Day

✔ SRPMIC Day

✔ Juneteenth

✔ Independence Day

✔ Labor Day

✔ Native American Recognition Day

✔ Veteran's Day

*and any other council proclamations that may occur

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

Please contact PW Customer Service for their schedules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harrison, Aliyah Aryanna - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-4221
Court Date: September 8, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Loring, Jezlyn - Evidentiary Paternity/Custody Hearings Case: CV-26-3911
Court Date: August 24, 2026 at 10 AM

Parker, Damien - Evidentiary Hearing Case: CV-26-4284
Court Date: September 8, 2026 at 9 AM

Perez, Janelle - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-25-4593
Court Date: August 24, 2026 at 9 AM

Smith or Antone, James - Probate Hearing Case: CV-26-3370
Court Date: August 12, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Talamantez, Rachelle Rae - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-24-2773
Court Date: August 13, 2026 at 9 AM

Webster, Crystal - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-4228
Court Date: September 10, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Webster, John James - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-4228
Court Date: September 10, 2026 at 9:30 AM

DEFAULT NOTICES

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

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

TALAMANTEZ, RACHELLE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CV-24-2773

Erica Talamantez v. Rachelle Talamantez
TO: Rachelle Talamantez,
YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 13th day of August 2026 at 9:00 AM, in Court Room #1, and show cause why you failed to adhere to court order on December 17, 2025, after being duly notice.

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 18th day of June 2026.

JUDGE ARISTINA SANCHEZ, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

NOTIFICATION TO DWAYNE OLIVAS:

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court, trial division, issued a final judgment on July 2, 2026, in a probate proceeding entitled In re Probate of Byron Timer, DOD 08/06/25, CV-26-1419. Interested parties may obtain a copy of the decision by submitting a written request to the Clerk of Court, 10040 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256.

SR-R. Civ. P. 5-13(e)(2): "The Process Server or Clerk shall have published a summary . . . at least twice in the Community newspaper (or with the tribal newspaper of the defendant if the defendant's tribal affiliation is known and such publication is possible), and at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in Maricopa County for non-Community residents. Also, the summary shall be posted at the Court, PHS Clinic, administration building, Lehi Community Center, and at least one other bulletin board within the Community."

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.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14-0004, effective

NOTIFICATION TO WILLIAM TIMER:

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court, trial division, issued a final judgment on July 2, 2026, in a probate proceeding entitled In re Probate of Byron Timer, DOD 08/06/25, CV-26-1419. Interested parties may obtain a copy of the decision by submitting a written request to the Clerk of Court, 10040 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256.

SR-R. Civ. P. 5-13(e)(2): "The Process Server or Clerk shall have published a summary . . . at least twice in the Community newspaper (or with the tribal newspaper of the defendant if the defendant's tribal affiliation is known and such publication is possible), and at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in Maricopa County for non-Community residents. Also, the summary shall be posted at the Court, PHS Clinic, administration building, Lehi Community Center, and at least one other bulletin board within the Community."

NOTIFICATION TO CARLOS A. YBARRA:

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court, trial division, issued a final judgment on August 28, 2025, in a probate proceeding entitled In re Probate of Ethel M. Gloria, DOD 11/29/10, CV-25-1511. Interested parties may obtain a copy of the decision by submitting a written request to the Clerk of Court, 10040 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256.

SR-R. Civ. P. 5-13(e)(2): "The Process Server or Clerk shall have published a summary . . . at least twice in the Community newspaper (or with the tribal newspaper of the defendant if the defendant's tribal affiliation is known and such publication is possible), and at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in Maricopa County for non-Community residents. Also, the summary shall be posted at the Court, PHS Clinic, administration building, Lehi Community Center, and at least one other bulletin board within the Community."

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

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



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CREATED BY INDIGENOUS ARTISTS.

SALT RIVER

ARTS festival

2026

CALL FOR ARTISTS & VENDORS



ARTISTS APPLY HERE



VENDORS APPLY HERE

APPLICATIONS CLOSE SEPTEMBER 14 • LIMITE SPACES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 • 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ROADHOUSE CINEMAS AT THE PAVILIONS AT TALKING STICK

FOR MORE INFORMATION: DISCOVERSALTRIVER.COM/ARTS-FESTIVAL

Tethering Your Dog?

Keep Them Safe!

Dogs may be tethered to keep them from roaming, fighting, or getting hurt, but tethering can become dangerous in heat, storms, and around loose animals.

Here are a few ways to help keep your pets safe:

• Provide shade all day in an area with good airflow.

• Keep fresh, cool water available at all times.

• During monsoons, bring pets inside or move them to a safe, covered area away from high winds, dust, rain, and lightning.

• Use a proper collar or harness that will not choke, pinch, tighten, or tangle.

• Make sure your dog can stand, sit, lie down, turn around, and reach shade and water safely.

• Protect tethered dogs from loose dogs, wildlife, and other threats by bringing them inside or into a secure fenced area when possible.

• Check often for heat stress, injuries, tangled lines, spilled water, or signs of distress.

A tethered dog cannot protect itself from heat, storms, or other animals. Check often and bring them inside when conditions are unsafe.

16

O'odham Action News

August 6, 2026



Do you have information or knowledge on the history of the

Salt River Water Tower?

We want to hear from you!

Reach out at
480-362-3443 or email
andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov



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



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Two Waters Building B, Third Floor, 10005 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256
 Phone: 480-362-7600 | Email: Planning@SRPMIC-nsn.gov

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING

The Land Management Board has scheduled a Community Hearing. The SRPMIC Planning Services Division of the Community Development Department is proposing a General Plan Map Amendment Resolution and Zoning Text/Map Amendment Ordinance as further defined below:

General Plan Map Amendment Resolution

The General Plan Map provides allocation and distribution of different land uses in the Community. Application #26-GPA-01 is proposing land use changes to Tribal owned lands to allow for potential future Community government projects. One land use alignment change is proposed to allotted land with permission from the landowners as the property has split land use designations.

Zoning Text/Map Amendment Ordinance

The Zoning Ordinance provides standards and regulations that apply to land and buildings in the Community. Application #26-ZN-01 is proposing to repeal and replace the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, Chapter 25 of the SRPMIC Code of Ordinances. The Ordinance was updated to support community projects and design flexibility, modify land use permissions, provide clear application procedures, accommodate technical changes, and address development trends. The Zoning Map includes changes to Tribal owned lands and one allotted land to comply with the proposed General Plan Map.

DATE: Monday, August 24, 2026

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: SRPMIC Council Chambers | 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256

You may view the recorded presentation starting Tuesday, August 25, 2026. Public comments can be made by email at public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov, by phone at 480-362-7470, or by text at 623-282-5757.

For more information about the project, contact Debbie Pfeil, Senior Planner at 480-362-7385

The meeting presentation and proposed supportive documents to include all maps are available on the Community website at <https://srpmic-nsn.gov/government/1879-phc/>.

You may also scan this QR Code with your phone for easy access to all Community Hearings:





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*

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

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



**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



APPLICATION DEADLINE **EXTENDED!**

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATION TROUGH JULY 31!



IMPORTANT UPDATE

If you previously submitted an application before **July 10**, please submit it again using the updated QR code or link below to ensure your application is received.

THANK YOU!

SCAN TO APPLY

Please use
this updated
QR code or
link.



<https://tinyurl.com/ypjnmhy3>

Continued from front page

O’odham Action News Wins Journalism Awards

rally at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix was awarded third place in the Best Feature Story/Television category. In the near-three-minute video, Picciuolo interviewed Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members advocating for change.

“Any time the *O’odham Action News* newsroom can be recognized for our hard work just reaffirms our dedication to lifting the voices of SRP-MIC members,” Picciuolo said. “I’m grateful for the

opportunity to have the story amplified; however, I wish that MMIP was a topic that I, or anyone else, didn’t ever have to cover.”

Student reporter Andreea Miguel won first place in Best Sports Coverage for her profile of basketball player Kristine Scabby. Miguel also won second- and third-place awards in the Student Sports category and second- and third-place awards in the student Best Editorial/Column category, for a total of five awards.



Zoe Hernandez took home first place for Best Editorial/Column. Photos by Juan Ysaguirre.



Chris Picciuolo’s video earned him third in the Television Best Feature category.

Student Category Print and/or Online: Best Sports Coverage First place: Andreea Miguel, O’odham Action News <i>Kristine Scabby Takes Her Basketball Talents to California</i> Second place: Andreea Miguel, O’odham Action News <i>Spring Training Opening Day Celebrates SRPMIC</i> Third place: Andreea Miguel, O’odham Action News <i>SRPMIC Members, Employees Participate in Pat’s Run</i>	Print and/or Online: Best Editorial/Column First place: Zoe Hernandez, O’odham Action News <i>Culture Teacher Gathering 2025</i> Second place: Andreea Miguel, O’odham Action News <i>Huhugam Ki: Museum Celebrates Tortilla Festival</i> Third place: Andreea Miguel, O’odham Action News <i>Salt River Arts Festival Soars</i>
Associate Division Television: Best Feature Story Third place: Chris Picciuolo, O’odham Action News <i>“Justice For Emily” MMIP Rally March 18 at Arizona State Capitol</i>	



Andreea Miguel will need a bigger space to house her whopping five awards.

Stewardship and Shared Vision Drive Partnership

Majestic Realty Co. and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community announce landmark ground lease partnership for light industrial development.

SUBMITTED BY MAJESTIC REALTY CO.

Majestic Realty Co., the nation’s largest privately-held industrial real estate development company, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community announced a historic partnership and 99-year ground lease agreement that will serve as the foundation of a new, best-in-class light industrial project serving the Community and the greater Phoenix metro area.

The agreement, Majestic’s first ground lease with a tribal community in the United States, is the result of a thoughtful and strategic partnership between Majestic and SRPMIC , and certain Allotted Landowners of Land within the SRPMIC. Through an inclusive process, the partnership brought community voices to the table early, helping shape a shared development vision that balances economic growth with cultural stewardship. On the Majestic side, the partnership was led by Brett Tremaine, Tanner Tremaine, Tom Simmons and Brandon Kline, who worked closely with Community leadership over several years to shape an agreement grounded in a collective, long-term vision. On the SRPMIC side, this effort includes the Community Council, Allotted Landowners, and SRPMIC staff.

“This agreement reflects years of thoughtful planning, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the future of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Community. Throughout this process, it was important that the voices of our Community and Allotted Landowners helped shape the vision for this project. We appreciate Majestic’s willingness to build a relationship founded on trust and mutual respect and look forward to creating new economic opportunities that will benefit our Community for generations to come,” said Martin Harvior, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Located at the northeast corner of North Pima Road and East McDonald Drive and with easy access to the Loop 101 (Pima Freeway), the 59-acre project is currently in the planning and predevelopment phase. The development will emphasize thoughtful site integration while maximizing regional connectivity, logistics efficiency and employment growth. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

With an anticipated groundbreaking in 2027, the development is expected to feature up to eight Class-A light industrial buildings totaling just under one million square feet. With building sizes up to 200,000 square feet and divisible to approximately 20,000 square feet, each building will feature dock-high doors and the latest amenities and safety features found in today’s best-in-class light industrial product. A first-of-its-kind development in the SRPMIC, the project will be designed and built to the highest institutional standards and engineered for long-term adaptability,

supporting a wide range of tenants and uses not previously available within the Community. The project is positioned to generate long-term economic benefit and employment opportunities for the Community and the broader region.

For Majestic, the approach to the project reflects its long-standing philosophy of being a responsible steward and a trusted partner in every community where it builds. For nearly eight decades, Majestic has prioritized thoughtful planning, sustainable development practices and enduring relationships with stakeholders.

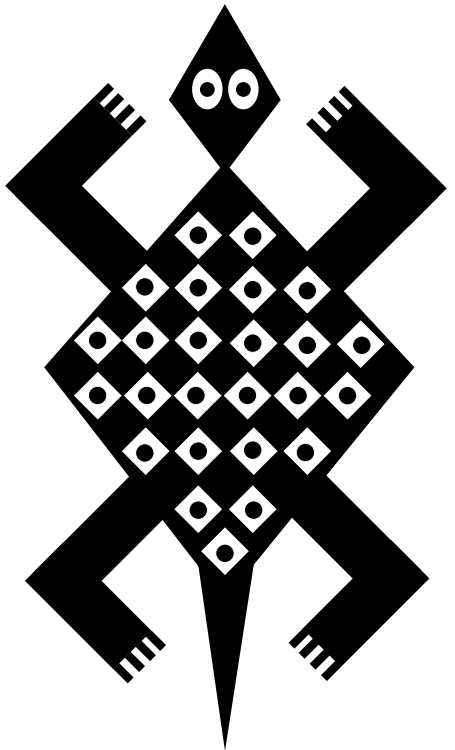
“For nearly 80 years, Majestic has built its business on long-term relationships and projects designed to outlast us - a philosophy that aligns naturally with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s vision for this land,” said Tanner Tremaine, Vice President at Majestic Realty Co. “We’ve been working alongside the Community leadership for several years to bring this ground lease to fruition, and it’s been a process defined by alignment, trust and a shared vision. We’re incredibly honored to be part of what comes next and to deliver a development that creates lasting value for the Community and the region for generations to come.”

About Majestic Realty Co.

Headquartered in Southern California, Majestic is the nation’s largest, privately-held industrial developer with regional offices in Atlanta, Austin, Dallas – Ft. Worth, Denver, Las Vegas, Laredo, Phoenix, Portland and Bethlehem. The company’s 92-million-square-foot portfolio includes more than 400 buildings that are home to 825 tenants.

About the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) is home to two tribes, the Onk Akimel O’odham and Xalychidom Piipaash, more commonly known as the Pima and Maricopa. Located east of Phoenix and bordered by Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, and Fountain Hills, the Community encompasses more than 52,000 acres, 19,000 of which are held as natural preserve. Guided by strong leadership, cultural values, and a vision for future generations, SRPMIC is a recognized leader in economic development, operating successful enterprises in gaming, hospitality, retail, communications, construction, and other industries.





SRMG YOUTH WORKERS

NATALIA ANDREAS & JORDAN PATRICK

BY: ARLENA MORENO, ADMINISTRATION

In June, Salt River Materials Group participated in the SRPMIC **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** (WIOA) Summer Youth Program. Through this program, Community teens **Natalia Andreas** and **Jordan Patrick** had the opportunity to work alongside SRMG staff at our Chaparral and Dobson locations.

During their first week on the job, Natalia and Jordan toured the aggregate plants located within the Community and in Glendale, as well as the cement plant in Clarkdale, Arizona. Throughout the tours, they learned about the history of Salt River Materials Group, the process of producing aggregates and cement, and the importance of quality control. These experiences gave them a better understanding of how SRMG contributes to construction projects throughout the Community and surrounding areas.

While working at the Chaparral office, Natalia and Jordan assisted the administrative team by answering phone calls, entering freight invoices, filing documents using OnBase, and learning about sales and marketing. At the Dobson location, they gained hands-on experience with the use of heavy equipment, assisted staff in the mechanic shop, and worked closely with the lab technicians to test materials collected from the plant sites.

They also partnered with the Safety Team to learn to identify potential hazards to help ensure a safe work environment for employees. To round out their experience, Natalia and Jordan spent time with the Pozzolan team at the Lower Buckeye facility, where they helped load and unload railcars and trucks. They even had the opportunity to ride in the Rail King.

Natalia and Jordan shared how much they enjoyed working alongside the SRMG team, saying everyone made learning enjoyable and encouraged them to help with every task they were given.

Salt River Materials Group enjoyed having Natalia and Jordan as part of the team and wishes them all the best in the upcoming school year. SRMG would also like to thank the staff of the WIOA Summer Youth Program for allowing us to participate in this year's program.

*Because of this successful collaboration, Salt River Materials Group is proud to share that **Jordan has been hired as a Lab Intern with our Quality Control Team.** Congratulations, Jordan, and welcome to the SRMG team!*



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 a 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.
- ŞOPOL'E'SBIG MAŞAD XLY'A SAPXUK AUGUST**
- 8 FREE PET WELLNESS CLINIC FOR CATS AND DOGS**, Held at Salt River Ballfield, open to SRPMIC members and residents with Tribal ID or proof of residency. Pets must be brought by legal owner, aged 18 or older. Cats must be in their own carrier and dogs must be on leash. Offering: Exams, Vaccines, Flea/Tick Treatment, Microchipping, Heartworm Prevention, Health Screening, Medical Concerns, and Nail Trimming. Contact info@nagifoundation.org or (602) 7302092.
- 10 CM FULWILDER DISTRICT D MEETING**, 6 p.m. at ALA Lecture Hall. Topics to include: General Welfare Ordinance, Providence First Trust Company, Kavard/Kushov Cultural Center, and Community Member comments.
- 13 CM DOKA DISTRICT C MEETING**, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. Topics to

- include: From Idea to Business: Community Member Business-Owner Experiences, Community Member comments.
- 15 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING**, 9 a.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. Topics to include: Mental Health Code update, Senior Home Repair and Replacement Program, and Community Member Comments.
- 17 SRPMIC PRIMARY ELECTION PRESIDENT FORUM 1 OF 2**, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Salt River Community Building. For election information or to request an absentee ballot, home voting, or general election information contact Erica Harvier or Ardell Moore. Phone: (480) 362-7466 or (480) 362-7465; Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov
- 18 CM DALLAS/CM SCABBY DISTRICTS F&G LEHI MEETING**, 6 p.m. at Lehi Community Building. Topics to include: Higher education information, SR Schools-School and Community Relations Office, Ready Alert System, and Community Member comments.
- 20 SRPMIC PRIMARY ELECTION PRESIDENT FORUM 2 OF 2**, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Lehi Community Building. For election information or to request an absentee ballot, home voting, or general election information contact Erica Harvier or Ardell Moore. Phone: (480) 362-7466 or (480) 362-7465; Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov
- 21-22 FREE PET SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC**, Held at Salt River Ballfield, open to SRPMIC members and residents with Tribal ID or proof of residency. Pets must be brought by legal owner, aged 18 or older. Cats must be in their own carrier and dogs must be on leash. Offering: Surgery, Vaccines, Flea/Tick Treatment, Microchipping. Contact info@nagifoundation.org or (602) 7302092.
- 24 SRPMIC PRIMARY ELECTION VICE-PRESIDENT FORUM 1 OF 2**, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Salt River Community Building. For election information or to request an absentee ballot, home voting, or general election information contact Erica Harvier or Ardell Moore. Phone: (480) 362-7466 or (480) 362-7465; Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov

- 25 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES: THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS & HABITS**, Join us at SRPMIC Council Chambers for a presentation featuring Dr. Jyoti Patel. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - ALL ARE WELCOME. Dinner: 5:00 - 6:00 pm; Presentation: 6:00 - 7:00 pm, 45min presentation, 15 min Q&A
- 26 WIC WALK-IN WEDNESDAYS**, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at SRPMIC WIC Office - River People Health Center 10901 E. McDowell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256. WIC is here to help families thrive through nutrition support, education, and resources for healthy living. Questions? 480-362-7300 | WIC@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV.
- 27 SRPMIC PRIMARY ELECTION VICE-PRESIDENT FORUM 2 OF 2**, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Lehi Community Building. For election information or to request an absentee ballot, home voting, or general election information contact Erica Harvier or Ardell Moore. Phone: (480) 362-7466 or (480) 362-7465; Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov
- 28 CM BUTLER DISTRICT A MEETING**, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. Topics to include: Mental Health Code Update, (tentative) National Wellness Month Information, Community Member Comments.

SRPMIC PRIMARY ELECTION COUNCIL FORUM DATES:
MONDAY, AUGUST 31 - 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm at Salt River Community Building
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm at Lehi Community Building

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

