



Leadership Says Prediction Markets Negatively Impact Tribal Gaming and Sovereignty

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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Prediction markets launched in the past decade like Kalshi and Polymarket are relatively new markets where people can place bets on future outcomes like weather patterns, military conflicts, sports matches, legislative results and much more.

To put this in perspective, Kalshi's website has a search feature where they claim you can "trade on anything."

However, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and other tribal communities are concerned about the effect that prediction markets have on tribes, in partic-

ular on tribal gaming and sovereignty.

"What prediction markets are doing is coming in and taking; they are not actually providing anything to the tribes or even to the state where these prediction markets are happening," SRPMIC President Martin Harvier told *O'odham Action News*.

"As tribal leaders here in Salt River, we're going to do our best to get out and voice our concerns about it. And it's not just us; I think all tribes are concerned about the prediction markets."

SRPMIC leaders and lobbyists are currently engaging Congress and other tribal leaders about this topic. In July, Harvier and Legislative Affairs Assistant Gary Bohnee

from the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs joined tribal leaders from across the country to urge Congress to act on the sports-betting activity of the prediction market industry.

"The latest report that we [saw indicates that the prediction market] was over a \$1 billion hit to tribal gaming," said Harvier.

If gaming operations lose money to these markets, Harvier said this could impact infrastructure and programs for Community members that otherwise would have to be provided through grants.

Harvier said Arizona tribes that have gaming have worked hard to secure agreements

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Fire Department Marks Topping-Out Ceremony



Attendees gather to listen to opening remarks as the Salt River Fire Department topping out ceremony in August.

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
O'odham Action News
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The Salt River Fire Department celebrated a huge milestone in the construction of Fire Station 295. The new station is located at 92nd Street and McKellips Road and is set to open next summer.

On Friday, Aug. 7, a topping-out ceremony was held to signify the placement of the highest beam in the construction process. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council members, dignitaries and those who have collaborated on the project attended.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Mink

gave opening remarks.

"Today's ceremony marks another significant milestone in this project that has been years in the making. It reflects our Community's continued investment in public safety, its firefighters and the future amongst the services here within the Community," said Mink.

During his remarks, Mink pointed out a wall on the south end of the building especially for guests and those who have helped in the process of building the station. Guests had the opportunity to use the wall to write heartfelt messages to the future firefighters who will work in the

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Glove-ing Every Minute of It

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
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How do you celebrate making history as a member of the first-ever all-Indigenous team to win the prestigious Babe Ruth World Series?

You go to Texas Roadhouse with the family. For Naomi Anton, this summer has been one of ascension.

The next time you say hello to Naomi Anton, be sure to address her as champion. Photos courtesy of Ben Anton.

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Community Makes a Historic Hire

Patricia Tate has made history becoming the first ever woman and tribal member to serve as C.E.O. of Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resorts.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community continues to set the standard, not only in Indian Country, but also in the United States.

On Aug. 1, Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort and Casino announced Patricia Tate as their newest CEO.

Tate's selection serves as two historic benchmarks: She is the first Community mem-

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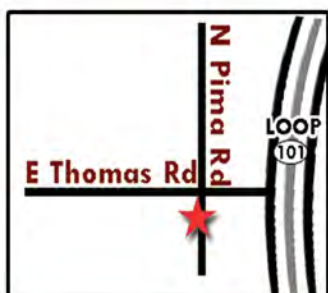
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Mark Cruz Confirmed as New IHS Director



New Indian Health Service Director Mark Cruz visits SRPMIC's Journey to Recovery in November 2025. OAN file photo.

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

Mark Cruz, a citizen of the Klamath Tribes of Oregon, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Aug. 7 as the new director of the Indian Health Service.

Cruz was nominated by President Trump on June 1. The position, which has a four-year term, had been vacant since January 2025. Cruz served in the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. before his Senate confirmation. Technically, he'll remain in that department, but in a different capacity, as the IHS is a branch of HHS.

"I want to thank President Trump and Secretary Kennedy for their trust in me, and I appreciate the U.S. Senate's confirmation. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve American Indian and Alaska Native communities as the new director of the Indian Health Service," said Cruz in a statement.

"I look forward to working closely with tribal leaders, urban Indian organizations, our dedicated workforce, and partners across Indian Country to strengthen tribal consultation, improve access to high-quality and culturally appropriate healthcare, hire health professionals our communities need, and modernize the Indian health system."

Cruz joined Kennedy during their Nov. 19 visit last year to the Journey to Recovery facility on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Gilbert Road Pipeline Across Salt River Now Operational

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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A pipeline built about two years ago is now transporting water across the Salt River under the Gilbert Road Bridge.

Suspended underneath the Gilbert Road Bridge is the newly completed Gilbert Road Pipeline, which is operated by Salt River Project, the largest water provider in the greater Phoenix metro area. SRP provides 260 billion gallons of water each year to about 2.5 million Valley residents.

The pipeline project was a challenging feat for engineers, according to SRP. It required installation of 3.5 miles of 36-inch pipeline to transport approximately 20,000 gallons of water a minute uphill from SRP wells and an underground storage facility, south of the Salt River, to the Arizona Canal.

SRP said the project strengthens Valley water reliability and responds to changing water demand across the region.

In a July 30 SRP news release, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier shared his thoughts on the importance of delivering water to the region with the new pipeline:

"Water has always been essential to the O'odham and Piipaash people, and thoughtful stewardship remains one of our greatest responsibilities. Projects like the Gilbert Road Pipeline demonstrate what is possible when strong partnerships are built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to planning for future generations. We are proud to work alongside SRP and our regional partners to help strengthen long-term water reliability for our Community and the Valley."

Five new high-capacity water production wells will be installed near the Granite Reef Underground

Storage Project, or GRUSP, which was completed in 1996. Operated by SRP, GRUSP is one of the largest water-banking facilities in the state.

GRUSP is located near Mesa in the bed of the Salt River about four miles downstream of the Granite Reef Diversion Dam. According to SRP, a collaborative effort involving the SRPMIC, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, SRP and other organizations resulted in a land-lease agreement in late 2013 which extended the life of GRUSP until 2033.

SRP operates GRUSP in partnership with the cities of Scottsdale, Mesa, Phoenix, Gilbert, Chandler and Tempe.

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation constructed the Gilbert Road Bridge, which opened for public transportation last year. The pipeline project was a partnership between the SRPMIC, SRP and MCDOT.

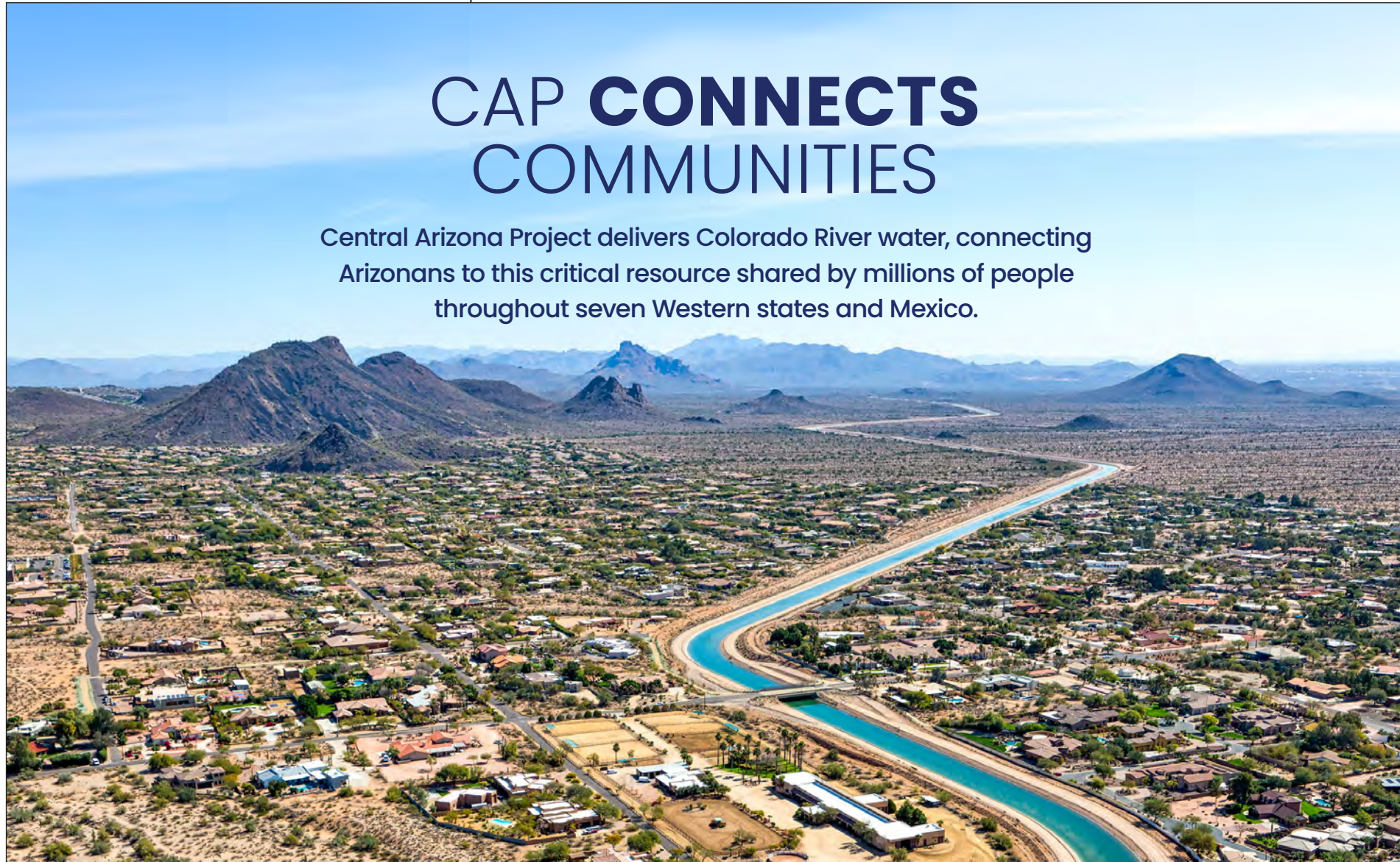
The water flowing through the pipeline from GRUSP includes Colorado River water and reclaimed wastewater that has been stored underground beginning in the 1990s.

On Aug. 21, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation finalized the 2027–2028 Operating Guidelines, cutting 1.25 million acre-feet of Colorado River water annually to the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada in 2027 and 2028.

Arizona faces a mandatory reduction of 760,000 acre-feet of water per year, about a 31% reduction in the state's usual allotment of Colorado River water. Lake Mead, an artificial reservoir of the Colorado River, currently is at its lowest water level on record at only 27% full.



A portion of the Gilbert Road Pipeline is secured underneath the Gilbert Bridge that crosses the Salt River. Photo courtesy SRP.



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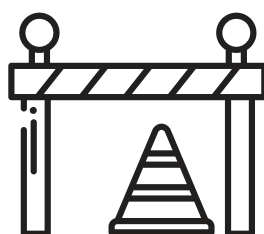
CONSTRUCTION & TRAFFIC NOTICE

RPHC COUNTRY CLUB ENTRANCE CLOSED

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As part of the RPHC Café & Conference Center Project, the Country Club entrance and access drive will be closed for the removal and construction of entry and access drive improvements.

During this time, there will be no vehicle access to RPHC or JTR from Country Club Drive.



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All vehicles accessing River People Health Center and JTR must enter and exit using the McDowell Road entrance.



TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

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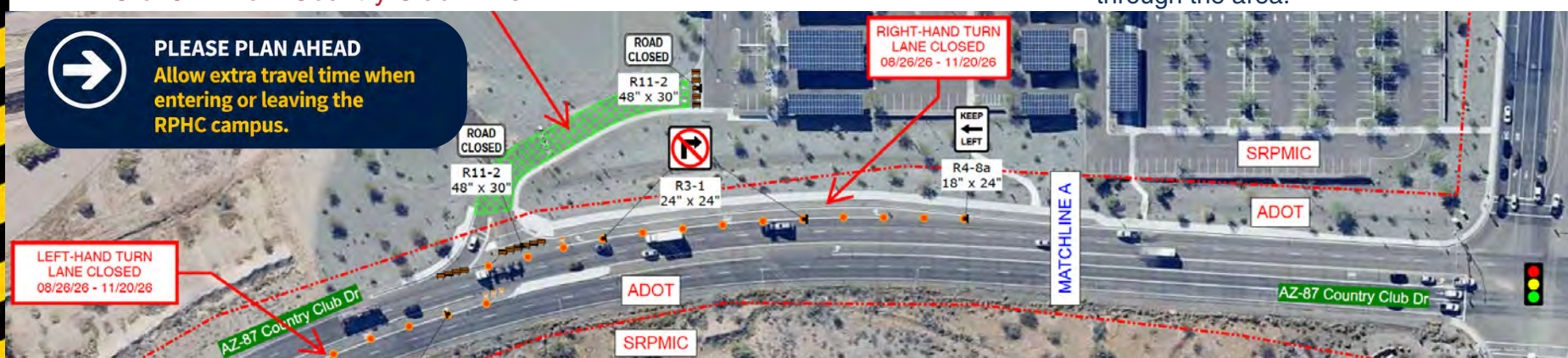


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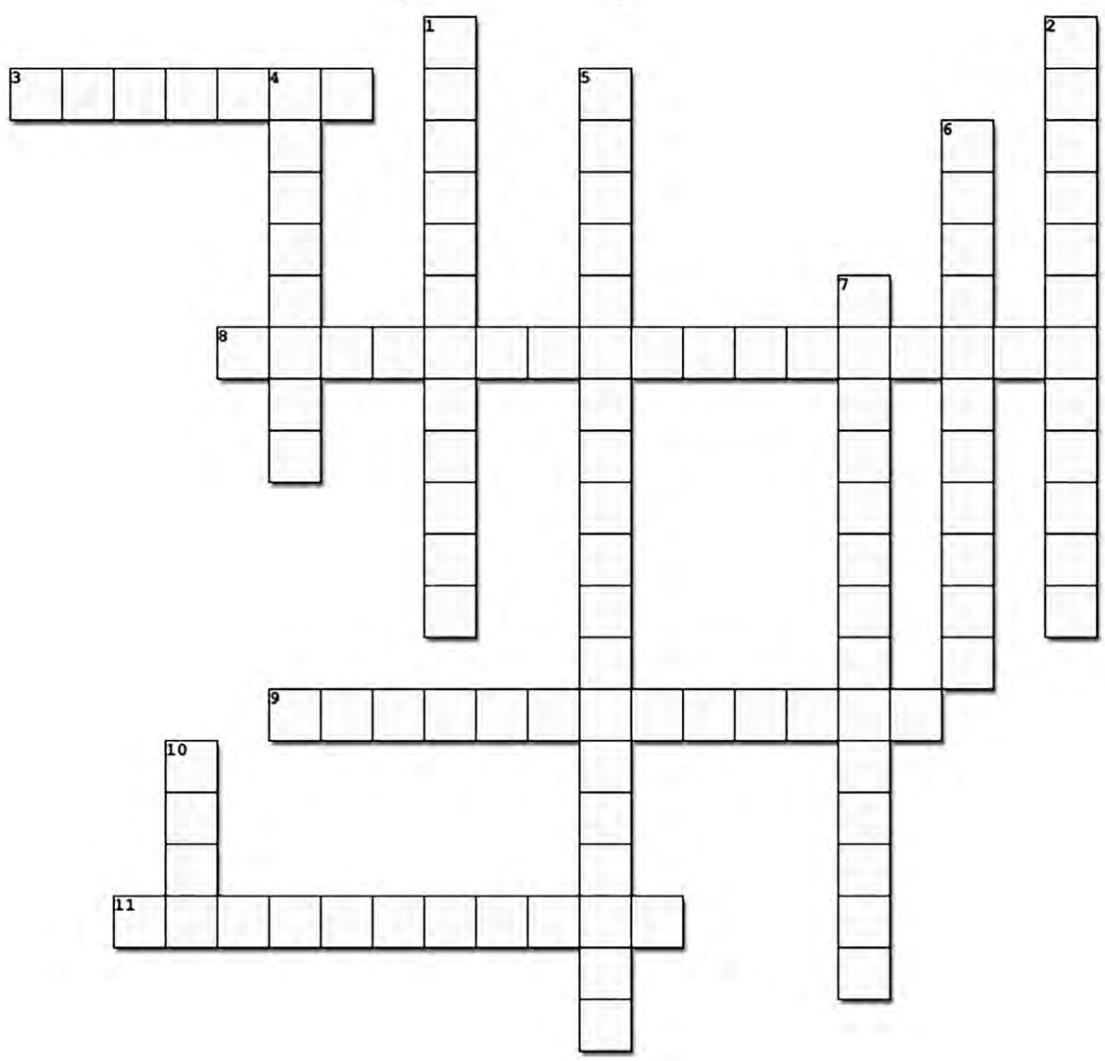
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Can you solve the crossword puzzle?



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

Enjoy!

Across

- 3. The state where Naomi Anton won the 2026 Babe Ruth World Series.
- 8. Kalshi and Polymarket are known as these types of new markets.
- 9. Editor of the Ak-Chin Runner newspaper.
- 11. The SRPMIC member and licensed barber who provided free haircuts to kids going back to school.

Down

- 1. Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort’s newest C.E.O.
- 2. The SRPMIC recreation coordinator who helped host the Back to School basketball tournament.
- 4. The new director of Indian Health Service
- 5. The tribal health organization that is creating a M.D.-granting program with the University of Arizona.
- 6. SRPMIC’s Injury Prevention Coordinator
- 7. Casino Arizona’s General Manager for Operations
- 10. The number of high-capacity water wells that will be installed near the Granite Reef Underground Storage Project in Mesa.

Flashback to last issue! O’odham Action News misidentified the winner of the 2026 Men’s Southwest Baseball Tournament in our Aug. 20 edition’s crossword. The Guadalupe Chiefs won the championship. As a result, our Aug. 20 newspaper crossword puzzle, No. 7 across, is incorrect and lists the second-place winner “Ice Boys”.

Nice work keeping us on our toes and letting us know, crossword puzzlers!





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Emotions and Actions Word Search

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

O'ODHAM	NE'E , Singing	PIPAASH	SIIM , Bring
SEKIK , Happy	MED , Running	V'AWM , Stand	KSHKWEK , Ask
SOIKCUD , Sad	VAILA , Dancing	PAAM , Lie down	YUUK , See
SOAK , Crying	I'IHOK , Coughing	SHMAAM , Sleep	NOAMM , Touch
HE'HEM , Laughing	TAC'CU , Want	SHMAAK , Dream	SHMMUSK , Smile
BAGAT , Mad		MAAM , Eat	

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Leadership Says Prediction Markets Negatively Impact Tribal Gaming and Sovereignty

3 Takeaways:

- SRPMIC leaders are engaging with Congress and other tribal leaders about how prediction markets are harming tribal communities.
- President Harvier says the markets, which operate in Arizona with different rules than gaming tribes, are an attack on tribal sovereignty.
- States and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission battle over the legality of prediction markets.

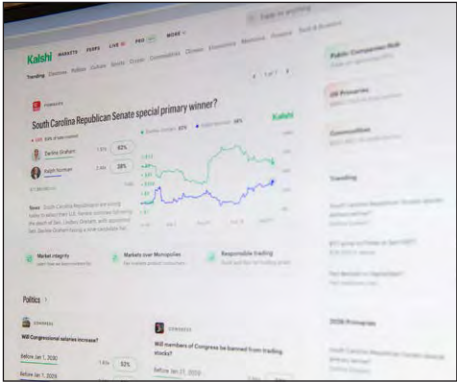
and compacts with the state.

“When an individual can actually be on our reservation around our tribal community and be able to get on their device and place a bet, we don’t allow it as a tribal government. Anything that we’re allowed to do as far as gaming has to be approved through the compacts that the tribes agreed to,” said Harvier.

“For that to happen, that really is an attack on tribal sovereignty.”

Under the Arizona Tribal-State Gaming Compacts, tribes with casinos contribute a percentage of their gaming revenue each year to the state, cities, towns and counties for community services and public safety programs for local governments. The SRPMIC 12% Gaming Grant Program is a requirement of the compacts.

In March, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes filed criminal charges against the companies behind the Kalshi prediction markets platform, claiming they are operating an illegal gambling business in Arizona without a license, as well as operating election wagering.



Landing page for Kalshi.com, a prediction market website where people can bet on a variety of topics.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Department of Justice in turn sued Arizona in April to stop the state from criminally prosecuting Kalshi. President Trump’s appointed chair of the CFTC, Michael Selig, has sided with prediction markets versus states, filing lawsuits against Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, New York and Wisconsin.

The attorney general’s case was blocked by a federal judge who concluded that, because the prediction market companies and event contracts are exclusively regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, federal law preempts state law.

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER
O’odham Action News
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Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation and Arizona Sign MOU

Two tribes in the Southwest and the state of Arizona have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance economic resilience in the Four Corners region.

Hopi Tribe Chairman Lamar Keeyama, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs signed the MOU in August.

The agreement is expected to increase intergovernmental coordination, facilitate local and regional dialogue, and enable collaborative research and analysis toward improved economic and workforce development opportunities.

Gila River Health Care Launches Medical School Branch

Gila River Health Care in the Gila River Indian Community has partnered with the University of Arizona to establish the nation’s first M.D.-granting medical school branch located in Indian Country.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix Regional Medical Branch in Sacaton, Arizona, is designed to educate students within a tribal healthcare system while strengthening access to care in tribal, rural and medically underserved communities.

Beginning in July, 10 students will be admitted annually to the three-year M.D.-granting Primary Care Accelerated Program at the Gila River branch. Students will receive full-tuition scholarships funded by Gila River Health Care.

FBI Targets Violent Crime in Indian Country

This summer, the FBI initiated Operation Trusted Trails to identify, dismantle and hold responsible gangs and organizations that have trafficked illegal drugs on reservations.

The operation surged FBI investigative and intelligence resources to 11 field offices and resulted in 86 arrests, 62 drug seizures and 156 weapons recovered, according to an August news release.

The FBI works closely with tribal, state, local and federal law enforcement agencies on FBI-led Safe Trails task forces.

Peggy Flanagan and Mary Peltola Could make Senate History

Two Indigenous women could become members of the U.S. Senate with wins in November.

Peggy Flanagan (White Earth Nation) and Mary Peltola (Yup’ik) secured the Minnesota and Alaska Democratic Senate primaries, respectively. Both will be on the ballot in November in races that are expected to be close.

If either one wins, she will make history as the first elected Indigenous woman in the U.S. Senate. Flanagan serves as Minnesota’s lieutenant governor and is the favorite to win in a state where a Democrat hasn’t lost a statewide race in more than a decade. Peltola, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, has a fight ahead of her in a state that routinely elects Republicans.



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Glove-ing Every Minute of It

In July, she was selected to join the all-star Na7ive Na7ions softball team as they traveled to Florence, Alabama, to participate in the annual Babe Ruth World Series, held from July 26 to Aug. 1.

“It was my first time ever in Alabama,” said Anton. “It was very humid. But it wasn’t too hot like to where you couldn’t bear it, like ... here,” she added.

Anton’s father, Ben Anton, joined her in Florence as the Na7ive Na7ions team made easy work of several teams during the tournament, finishing 8-0 during pool and playoff play. In the championship, the all-star Indigenous team defeated Puerto Rico, 6-4.

Former Major League Baseball pitcher DJ Carrasco served as the coach

of the championship team.

“He really put his sense into the game and made sure that we did the little things as well as the big things, because little things are what make us do the big things,” Naomi Anton said.

She continued, “He was very well-rounded when it came to how we felt after we made a mistake or a good play. He was very approachable because he knew exactly how we felt and how we need to move on,” she said.

Anton said that she and her Na7ive Na7ions teammates participated in the tournament’s opening ceremony, which included the national anthems of all the participating teams.

Luckily, the Antons also had some time to rest, relax and sightsee a bit, learning what Florence has to offer

visitors.

“We went to a place called Indian Mound,” said Ben Anton. “It’s basically a North American version of the pyramids,” he said.

“We also went to this ice cream shop that’s more than 100 years old. [Florence] also has a huge dam there, so we went to the waterfalls,” she added.

They also visited the world-famous Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, where artists such as Aretha Franklin, Etta James, the Rolling Stones, Paul Simon, Cher and more recorded some of their biggest hits.

In fact, the Rolling Stones recorded their 1969 song “Brown Sugar” at Muscle Shoals.

Now back home with a championship to add to her already-impressive

student-athlete résumé, Naomi Anton said she feels blessed to represent not only the United States on the national level, but also the SRPMIC.

“It feels great and amazing,” she began. “Like, astonishing to be a part of that and have that opportunity to play with these girls and go to Babe Ruth. It was so amazing. I can’t wait to see what we do next.”

She added, “I’d like to thank my mom, dad and my siblings for always being there and being able to take me to these things. Also, I’d like to thank Autumn [Lopez], DJ Carrasco, Chris Summers, Nic Pouaka-Gregg for seeing me and having this opportunity. I’d also like to thank all my previous coaches for helping me get to [a place] where I can do things like this.”



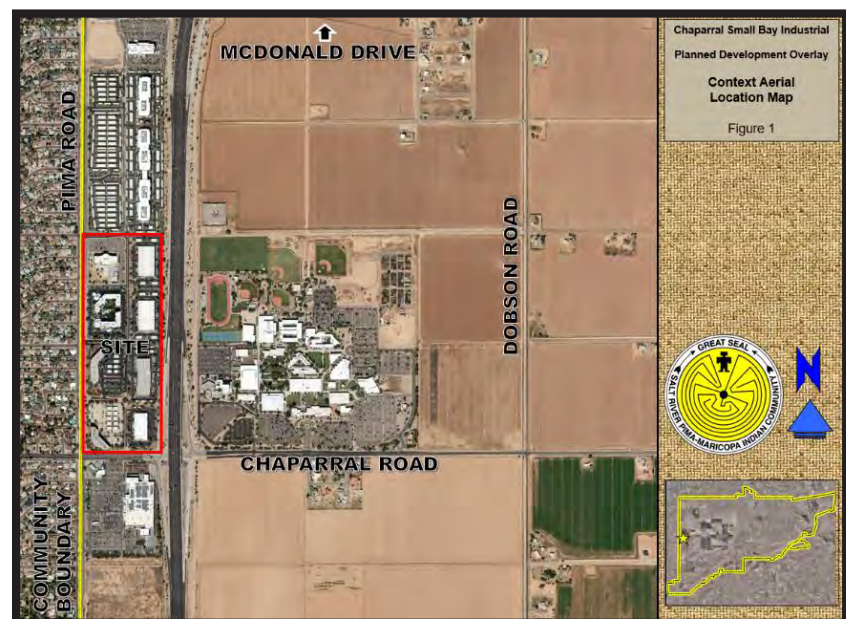
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

Chaparral Small Bay Industrial – Planned Development Overlay District (26-ZN-03)

Salt River Devco is requesting to establish Planned Development Overlay District (PD) to expand the range of permitted land uses to allow for the adaptive reuse of vacant office buildings into small bay industrial tenant spaces. The subject property is located at the northeast corner of Pima Road and Chaparral Road and includes six office buildings, two hotels, and a school.

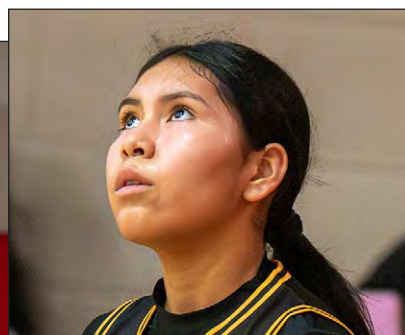


DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2026
TIME: 5:00 P.M.
LOCATION: SRPMIC Council Chambers | 10091 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85256

You May view the recorded presentation starting Thursday, September 17, 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

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work for Youth Basketball



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

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community youth gathered for one last hurrah before the school season began. On the weekend of Aug. 7, students headed to the Ske:g Himdag Ki: gymnasium for the Back to the School Yard Youth Basketball Tournament, hosted by Community Recreational Services Athletics.

The tournament featured 16 co-ed teams of players ranging from second grade to eighth grade. Each court was packed with families and friends who were excited to cheer on their star athletes.

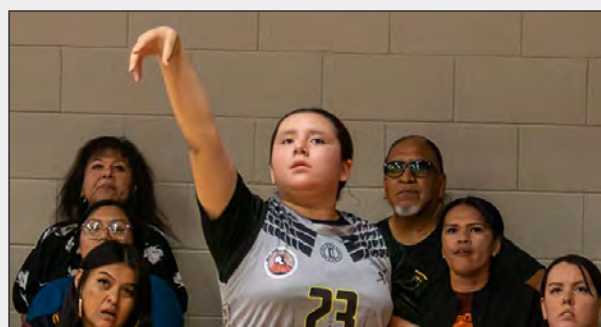
Recreation Coordinator 1 Joseph Schurz explained why it was important to host this event for the youth. "We are always focused on creating a safe, healthy, fun and family atmosphere where kids can recreate," he said. Throughout the year, teams practice not only basketball skills but also teamwork and proper sportsmanship. "[The tournament] was an experience to have fun, socialize and compete with friends.

Also, it's a great way to show off the skills they have been practicing to family and friends," said Schurz. He shared that his favorite part of the event was "watching the families enjoying the kids playing, and their smiling faces."

The team called And 1 took the title as champions of the second and third grade division. WMB swept their division and were the fourth and fifth grade champions. Double R showed up and cleared out the competition, taking the champions title for the division of sixth to eighth grade.

Recreation Services staff members received amazing feedback from families, such as the friendliness of the staff and the good prices at the concession stand and at the door. Families also expressed their appreciation for how accommodating the building was for an event this size.

Community Recreation Services hopes to host this event again for many years to come. They would like to thank all the teams and families for attending.






Want to see more photos?

visit our website at www.oodhamnews.org



When discussing her historic

The new CAZ Cash Corner is now open!

September 3, 2026



NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

TWO WATERS COURTYARD

10061 EAST OSBORN ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- HARKINS POPCORN TRUCK
- RED BULL MINI COOPER
- SPECIAL ROUND HOUSE
CAFE MENU – \$10
- LIVE MUSIC –
SIR HARRISON BAND
- FREE SAMPLES FROM THE
RANCH MOBILE EATERY

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

- TRADITIONAL DANCES
- ARTISAN MARKET
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(FREE HOT DOG MEAL W/ RED CHILI, BEANS,
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**LIVE MUSIC BY:
TWO RIVERS**

THIS IS A NO ALCOHOL/DRUG/GANG & TOBACCO/VAPING EVENT. NO PETS, NO FIREARMS/WEAPONS
OR OUTSIDE ICE CHESTS/GRILLS/FOOD/GLASS ALLOWED. BAGS SUBJECT TO SEARCH.

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
saltriveragchurc.com
SERVICES: Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Thursday Bible Study 6pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

O'odham Action News is published bi-weekly by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Editorials and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude or philosophy of O'odham Action News or the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
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Scottsdale, AZ 85256

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(Leave a message with your name and number and we will return your call)

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Contact **Newspaper Specialist Kari Haahr** at
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Leave your name, number and message and they will get back to you.

GOT A STORY IDEA?
Email us at oan@srpmic-nsn.gov or call **(480) 362-7750**

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

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

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aandmvalleylandsc@gmail.com

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

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

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erniescateringbusiness@yahoo.com

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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/ honeybraidznsppalc1

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

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



SALT RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Salt River Public Works Department Memorial Services & Cemeteries
"Providing a hospitable place to honor loved ones at the end of life's journey."

MAIN OFFICE LOCATED AT Memorial Hall 9849 East Earll Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85256 Monday-Friday 8 AM- 5 PM	CONTRACTED MORTUARIES Bunker Family Funerals & Cremation (480) 964-8686 Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home (602) 840-5600
--	---

For Any Questions Call: (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

Barker, Mary - Entry of Default Judgement Case: CV-26-3597 Court Date: September 29, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Burns, Jessica Danilynn - Annual Guardianship Review/ Order to Show Cause Case: CF-23-0054 Court Date: October 20, 2026 at 9:30 AM

DOE, JOHN - Mother: Michelle Johnson (DOB: 05/18/1984) Child: K.O. (DOB: 04/26/2024)

Termination Trial/Evidentiary Hearing, Case: JV-26-2029 Court Date: October 21, 2026 at 11 a.m.

Makil, Samantha - Truancy Fine Review Hearing : JV-26-0151/JV-26-0153/JV-26-0154 Court Date: September 17, 2026 at 3 PM

Pete, Karen R. - Probate Hearing Case: CV-26-4706 Court Date: September 16, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Salazar, D'Angelo - Default Hearing Case: JV-26-0112 Court Date: October 8, 2026 at 9 AM

Toney, Kaneesha - Truancy Adjudication Hearing : JV-26-0183 Court Date: September 17, 2026 at 3 PM

Van Winkle, Nesha - Truancy Hearing Case: JV-26-0188 Court Date: October 1, 2026 at 3 PM

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

Castro, Damian Shane - Default Judgement Hearing Case: CV-26-3249 Court Date: September 14, 2026 at 9 AM

Gonzales, Vanessa – Civil Complaint Hearing CV-26-4233 Court Date: September 14, 2026 at 9 am.

Johnson, Brandi – Civil Complaint Hearing CV-26-4231 Court Date: September 8, 2026 at 9:am.

Lewis, Dustin Blake Sr. – Restraining Order Motion Hearing Case: CV-24-4144 Court Date: September 28, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Lewis, Geoffrey Maurice - Restraining Order Motion Hearing Case: CV-24-4145 Court Date: September 28, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Lewis, Maxina - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-2425 Court Date: September 14, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Nahsonhoya, Damian – Probate Hearing P-21-0007 Court Date: September 18, 2026 at 2 PM

Notice -Unclaimed Property (Firearms) - Disposition Hearing Case: CV-26-4765 Court Date: September 28, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Smith, Karilyn D. - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-4566 Court Date: September 21, 2026 at 10 AM

Wesley-Howard, Aristen Jared - Entry of Default Judgement/Order To Show Cause Case: CV-26-4227 Court Date: October 13, 2026 at 9 AM

Williams, Bryann – Probate Hearing P-21-0007 Court Date: September 18, 2026 at 2 PM

DEFAULT NOTICES

the unclaimed items listed with their Petition be forfeited to the Community to be properly disposed of.

The Petition and list can be found at this link: <https://srpmic-nsn.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2026/08/Non-Monetary-Unclaimed-Property-List-8-18-2026.pdf>

On September 28, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. the SRPMIC Court will hold a hearing before Judge A. Little to address the firearms listed in the Petition. Any individual claiming ownership of any property in the list is required to attend the hearing.

SALAZAR, D'ANGELO
CV-26-0112

In The Matter of: A.M.S. (D.O.B. 9/28/2015)
To: D'Angelo Salazar, RESPONDENT/PARENT

1. A Complaint / Petition has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default) Call 480-362-6315 for copy of documents.

DATED this 27th of July, 2026.
CLERK OF SALT RIVER PIMS-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

WESLEY-HOWARD, ARISTEN
CV-26-4227

Country Club Cars v. Aristen Wesley-Howard
To: Aristen Wesley-Howard, RESPONDENT

1. A Complaint / Petition has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default) Call 480-362-6315 for copy of documents.

DATED this 6th of August, 2026.
CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

WESLEY-HOWARD, ARISTEN
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CV-26-4227

Country Club Cars v. Aristen Wesley-Howard
To: Aristen Wesley-Howard, Respondent

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 13th day of October, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to abide by Default Judgment Order.

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

ORDERED: August 21, 2026.
JUDGE ARISTINA SANCHEZ, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

BARKER, MARY
CV-26-4227

Southwest Mobil Storage v. Mary Barker
To: Mary Barker, RESPONDENT

1. A Complaint / Petition has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default) Call 480-362-6315 for copy of documents.

DATED this 4th of August, 2026.
CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

BURNS, JESSICA
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CF-23-0054

In The Matter Of: K.R.Z. (D.O.B.: 2/19/2018)
To: Jessica Burns - Guardian

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 20th day of October, 2026 at 9:30 A.M. in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for hearings on May 21, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. and June 30, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.

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.

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

CASTRO, DAMIEN
CV-26-3249

Jaden Castro v. Damien Castro
To: Damien Castro, RESPONDENT

1. A Complaint / Petition has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.
2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.
3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.
4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.
5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted
6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default) Call 480-362-6315 for copy of documents.

DATED this 13th of July, 2026.
CLERK OF SALT RIVER PIMS-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

NOTICE - UNCLAIMED PROPERTY (FIREARMS)
DISPOSITION HEARING: SEPTEMBER 28, 2026
@ 1:30 P.M.

SRPMIC COURT - JUDGE LITTLE
TO: Anyone who may have a claim of ownership in a firearm in the care and custody of the Salt River Police Department.

On June 10, 2026 the SRPMIC Office of the General Counsel on behalf of the SRPD filed a Petition for Forfeiture of Abandoned Firearms to the Salt River Police Department, ("Petition") requesting to have all

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

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


INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SRPMIC IT DEPARTMENT
CUSTOMER CARE DIVISION

3rd Quarter 2026 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE:
September 30, 2026

Must be eighteen (18) years old, enrolled, and living to be eligible for the **October 2026** General Welfare Payout.

DEADLINES FOR CHANGES

Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes: Friday, October 16th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is for new start-ups for direct deposit or changes to existing information. All forms **MUST** be submitted with a “VOIDED” check or statement from the bank with the Routing and Account Numbers. Forms received by this date will be effective for the **OCTOBER 2026** payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the **JANUARY 2027** payout.

Discontinue Direct Deposits: Friday, October 16th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is to discontinue an existing direct deposit. ***Failing to notify the General Welfare department when an account is closed may delay your payment.

General Welfare Eligibility: Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00PM. This deadline is for submitting the Adult SRP-MIC Member’s General Welfare Information Certificate. Forms received by this date will be effective for the October 2026 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of November 2026.

If you have any questions regarding:

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

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
SEPTEMBER 17	SEPTEMBER 4
OCTOBER 1	SEPTEMBER 18
OCTOBER 15	OCTOBER 2
NOVEMBER 5	OCTOBER 16
NOVEMBER 19	NOVEMBER 6
DECEMBER 3	NOVEMBER 20
DECEMBER 17	DECEMBER 4
SEND INFORMATION TO O’ODHAM ACTION NEWS at oodhamactionnews@srpmic-nsn.gov For more information please call (480) 362-7750.	

Report Illegal Dumping

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SRPD Dispatch (480) 850-9230

Emergency Response Team Welcomes Class 9

BY TERRY NELSON

SRPMIC Emergency Management Coordinator

The Salt River Fire Department's Emergency Management Division continues to support the coordination of the Salt River-Community Emergency Response Team (SR-CERT) program and has continued offering the CERT Basic Course within the Community where they recently graduated its ninth class. Class 9 completed 20 hours of training, and all passed the required test to become Basic certified. All CERT members continue to receive training on disaster preparedness; fire suppression, light medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, and team organization.

The program has grown and consists of 62 trained individuals comprised of Community members, SRPMIC employees, enterprise and business employees and other citizen volunteers from outside the Community. Because our SR-CERT is a nationally recognized program our instructors can certify all members of these groups within the fire department.

A small handful of our SR-CERT members have successfully integrated into exercises and events throughout the Community. Examples of these events include filling volunteer roles during Earth Day and Fall Overhaul; supporting traffic wayfinding during SRFD planned events; and playing actor/victim roles during exercises involving first responders. These events and operations require a large staffing footprint where members are easily augmented into various roles; provided on-the-job training and augmented into Incident Command structured teams.

The program also continues to provide on-going training to its members in various areas to include weather preparedness, electrical safety, personal preparedness, and incident command to further create resilience. The goal is to provide opportunities to educate individuals on how to care for themselves, individual families, and neighbors during times of significant emergencies experienced within their communities.

SR-CERT members not only become part of a locally recognized team but are in large part connected to a network of volunteers who are tied into information sharing through the CERT program where they have access to ongoing education and training through established partnerships.

For additional information related to SR-CERT and how to get involved in disaster volunteer opportunities contact SRPMIC Emergency Management at (480)362-7929 or at Terry.Nelson@srpmic-nsn.gov.



Above: Members of the SR-CERT program.

Below: Salt River-Community Emergency Response Team graduates nine. Courtesy photos.



Emergency Management Highlight: National Preparedness Month 2026

BY TERRY NELSON

SRPMIC Emergency Management Coordinator

September is National Preparedness Month, and this year's theme is "Americans Stand Ready," where the focus is on celebrating and encouraging American resourcefulness and civic responsibility. This campaign is aimed at having individuals taking charge of their own readiness.

The following are shared ideas that capture how we can take pride in our ability to protect ourselves and our families by working together to recover from disasters:

- **Americans stand ready to uphold our patriotic duty:** When individuals are prepared and self-reliant, we can bolster the work our brave first responders do to help people on their worst day.

- **Americans stand ready to protect our family and friends:** We know best how to keep our loved ones safe when things go wrong.

- **Americans stand ready to help our communities:** Taking a proactive approach to get your community ready contributes to the nation's resilience.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and your SRP-

MIC Emergency Management team encourage you to take steps to stand ready and protect yourselves and your families as you prepared to respond and recover from disasters by working together.

For more information about National Preparedness Month or to obtain additional resources related to this year's campaign please feel free to visit www.ready.gov or contact SRPMIC Emergency Management at (480) 362-7927 or by emailing Emergency.Management@srpmic-nsn.gov.



Community Recreational Services
Salt River Tribal Library



Culture

STORY TIME

Salt River Tribal Library
Culture Story Times
featuring children's
books written by
indigenous authors!

beginning at 1:00pm
Salt River Tribal Library at Ske:g Himdag Ki:

August 22, 2026
Book: *Firefly Season*
Story time, craft and special snack

September 19, 2026
Book: *Nimoshom and His Bus*
Story time, craft and special snack

October 17, 2026
Book: *All Around Us*
Story time, craft and special snack

480.362.6600
TribalLibrary@SRPMIC-nsn.gov



Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Staging @ 7:00am | Parade Starts @ 9:00am

Join us along Longmore Road to cheer on the Veterans! You're invited after the parade at the Salt River Community Building for the Veterans Day Program and the announcement of the parade winners!

5 JUDGING CATEGORIES

- Most Patriotic
- Best Overall
- Most Veterans Representation
- Most Creative
- Best Walking

Applications must be submitted by Friday, October 16, 2026 at 5:00pm or until filled.

To register, scan QR Code or visit tinyurl.com/VetsParadeSR

PARADE THEME
*Honoring Heroes,
Strengthening
Communities.*

PARADE ROUTE

SR COMM. BLDG.
PARADE END DIRT LOT
LONGMORE RD.
PARADE START SR JUSTICE CENTER PARKING LOT



Fire Department Marks Topping-Out Ceremony

station, serving the Community.

“This wall will permanently recognize those who helped make this project possible and represent the partnership, dedication and craftsmanship required to transform an idea into facilities that will serve for generations,” Mink explained.

Council member Cheryl Doka provided some remarks about the project.

“Projects don’t just happen because of one team; they happen because of the many who are working toward a common goal,” said Doka. “Today’s ceremony is about recognizing the people behind these projects We appreciate the effort each person has contributed, and we are proud of what we accomplished together.”

The 94,538-square-foot campus will provide the SRFD with a modern facility that is designed to support emergency response, provide firefighter wellness and host ongoing training for years to come.

And now that the top beam is in place, the construction process will

transition to the next phase, which includes roof installation, interior walls, windows, mechanical and fire protection systems, and interior finishes.

Andrew Michel spoke on behalf of Perlman Architects, which handled project design. He explained that, when combined, Station 295 and the Resource Building next door will handle emergency response, command, special operations, fire prevention, logistics, maintenance and long-term readiness in one location.

“This facility represents one of the most significant investments in the public safety infrastructure in the history of the Salt River Fire Department,” said Michel.

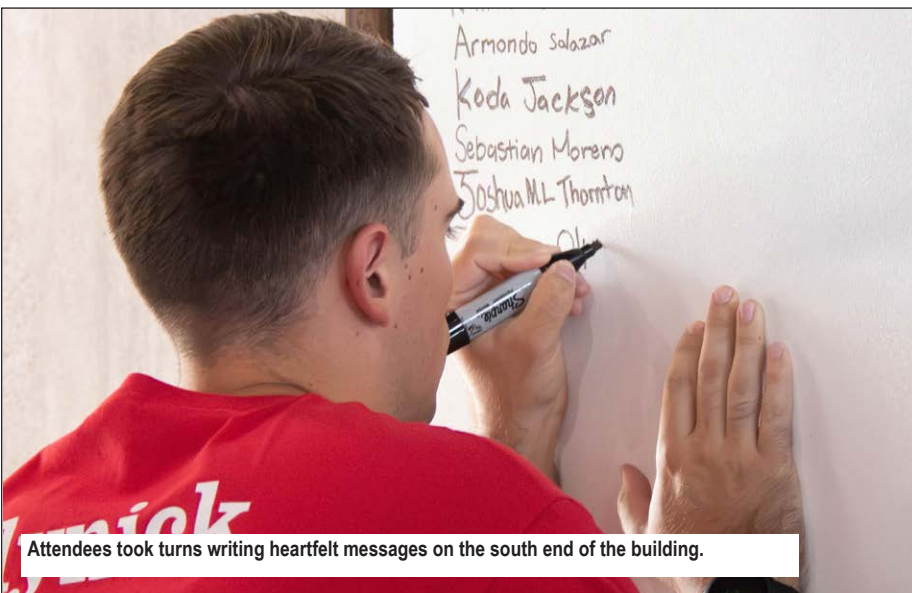
“It is designed to improve emergency response, protect our members, preserve Community assets, strengthen readiness and position this department’s immediate needs of the Salt River Community.”



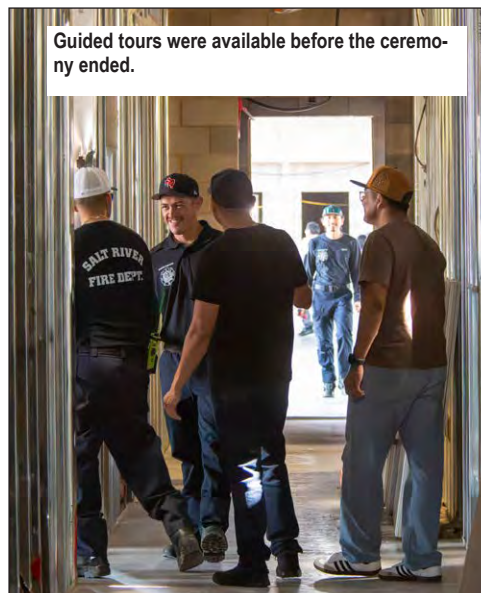
Salt River Fire Department Chief Deputy Mike Mink shared opening remarks.

After the ceremony, guests took guided tours through the construction site. Markers were available for those who wanted to sign and write messages

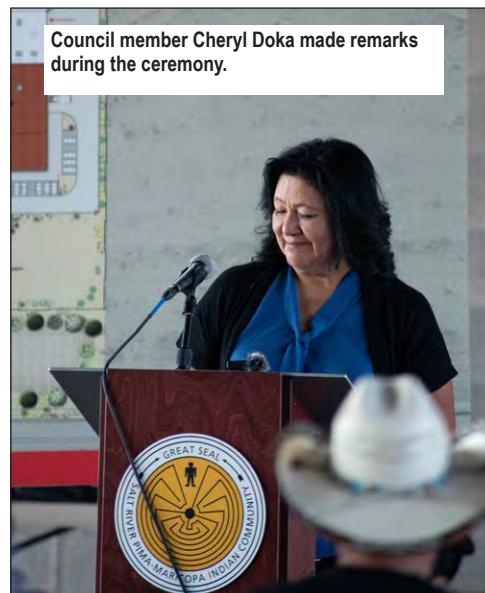
on the designated wall on the south side of the building.



Attendees took turns writing heartfelt messages on the south end of the building.



Guided tours were available before the ceremony ended.



Council member Cheryl Doka made remarks during the ceremony.

Back-to-School Haircuts Offered to Students

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL

O'odham Action News

andreea.miguel@srpmic-nsn.gov

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Jesse Thomas works as a licensed barber in Queen Creek. The idea of pursuing that career came to him from his own barber when Thomas was fresh out of high school in 2022.

The process began with a talk with his mother about the idea. Together, they visited Salt River Higher Education to take the necessary steps. Higher Education is a program designed to aid Community members in pursuing college, university and vocational education.

Giving back to the Community was something Thomas had always wanted to do. So, he decided to offer free haircuts to the kids going back to school in the Community.

“I knew that there was something I had to offer [in return for the Community] investing in me,” said Thomas.

The haircuts idea struck Thomas in July of last year. However, instead of rushing to get things in order for the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, he decided to take a step back and prepare an event for the next year, offering the haircuts in August 2026.

The event was held Aug. 9-11 at the Courtyard Marriott in Scottsdale. And, as an addition, Thomas also donated school supplies and backpacks.

About the haircut event, Thomas said, “It was super fulfilling. I felt



A fresh cut is a great way to start a fresh school year. Photos courtesy of Jesse Thomas.

really good about it. It made me feel a sense of happiness that I’m able to do something like this for [Community kids].

“Just seeing the looks on their faces after I cut their hair was really fulfilling, and so were the smiles on their parents’ faces. To be able to give back in this way means a lot to me because it’s something I always wanted to do, and for it to be happening was so surreal.”

Thomas hopes that offering free haircuts is something he can continue for many years to come.

“I can’t wait to do it again,” he said.



Jesse Thomas gave free hair cuts to elementary school students starting the new school year.

Ak-Chin Runner Visits O’odham Action News

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

Staff from O’odham Action News, Gila River Indian News and the Ak-Chin Runner have been discussing plans to enhance collaborations between the four sibling tribes.

During the annual Indigenous Journalists Association conference, this year held in Portland, Oregon, in July, staff members from the three newsrooms began brainstorming various ideas and plans for how the newsrooms can collaborate.

A fourth O’odham newspaper publication, The Runner, began as the Papago Runner in September 1976 and covered the Tohono O’odham Nation. They changed their name to The Runner in the early 1990s before publishing their final issue on Dec. 17, 2021. As of August 2026, that community doesn’t have a regular newspaper.

On Aug. 13, staff from the Ak-Chin Runner traveled to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for a daylong training that included a brief tour of the Two Waters complex, the Council chambers, the Round House Café and the Huhugam Ki: Museum.

Ak-Chin Runner Editor Raychel Peters; photojournalists Robert Miguel, Megan Quintero and Kristen Villegas; and graphic design artist Eliza Santiago spent the day with OAN staff, learning the inner workings from the department while spending hands-on time with some of the equipment and tools OAN utilizes.

Quintero and Villegas also recorded a podcast episode with OAN news reporters Chris Picciuolo and Juan Ysa-guirre. Be sure to check OAN’s podcast feed for the episode.

Later, the Ak-Chin group was treated to lunch from the award-winning The Stand, a first for many from the Ak-Chin team.

As the Ak-Chin group began to travel back home, Miguel ran into his friend, SRPMIC President Martin Harv-ier. The two men gave each other hugs and spent a few moments catching up. Miguel served previously as chair of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

In the coming months, the three media outlets will continue to network and share resources to help create a stronger and more united front when covering O’odham and Piipaash rela-tives in their respective newspapers.



From L to R: Front Row: Robert Miguel, Raychel Peters, Eliza Santiago and Megan Quintero. Back Row: Juan Ysaguirre, Kristen Villegas and Chris Picciuolo. Not pictured: O’odham Action News staff Dalton Walker, Andreea Miguel, Zoe Hernandez and Kari Haahr.

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Take control of your health with our

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

Learn how nutrition, movement and reducing stress can impact the way you feel

Create your own unique action plan to help manage your condition

Tuesdays, Sept. 8 - Oct. 13 | 5-7p.m. with light meal

Six Weeks | Ske:g Himdag Ki: Senior Room

Must attend 4 of the 6 sessions to complete the program. Those who do are entered to win a prize and receive a delicious program-end meal.

Who is Eligible?
Community seniors 55+, adults with physical and adaptive needs, caregivers and those with chronic conditions.

Only 20 spots. Sign up by Sept. 3!
Register through your assigned social worker or at
480.362.6914

SENIOR SERVICES
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

SEPT DISTRICT MEETINGS WEEKLY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE • WORK SESSIONS Thursdays @ 10am • REGULAR MEETINGS Wednesdays @ 5pm • EXECUTIVE SESSIONS Wednesdays @ 3pm	2026	24 THU CM BUTLER DISTRICT A, District I 6:00 pm SRPMIC Council Chambers	21 MON CM FULWILDER DISTRICT D, District I 6:00 pm ALA Lecture Hall
	19 SAT CM ANTONE DISTRICT B, District I 9:00 am SRPMIC Council Chambers	17 THU CM CARLOS DISTRICT E, District I 6:00 pm Ske:g Himdag Ki: Rm #56	
	10 THU CM DOKA DISTRICT C, District I 6:00 pm SRPMIC Council Chambers	15 TUE CM SCABBY/CM DALLAS DISTRICT F&G (LEHI), District II 6:00 pm Lehi Community Building	
	SRPMIC Council District Meetings website: https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs Council Secretaries Office: 480-362-7469 https://tinyurl.com/CouncilSRPMIC District Meeting dates, times, locations and agenda items are subject to change or cancellations.		

Language With O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

Learning the orthographies of the O'odham and Piipaash

O'odham

Months	
Haşañ Baidag	June
Maşad	
Jukiabig Maşad	July
Sopol E'esbig	August
Maşad	
Vaşai Gakidag	September
Maşad	
Sepijig Maşad	October
Soam Maşad	November
Skomagı Maşad	December
Aupa l'ivagidag	January
Maşad	
Aupa Hyosik	February
Maşad	
Kui l'ivagidag	March
Maşad	
Kui Hyosik	April
Maşad	
Kai Cuklig	May
Maşad	

Piipaash

Months	
Xly'a Shenthik	January
Xly'a Xvikk	February
Xly'a Xmokk	March
Xly'a Chmpapk	April
Xly'a Sarapk	May
Xly'a Xamxukk	June
Xly'a Pxkeek	July
Xly'a Sapxukk	August
Xly'a Xamxmokk	September
Xly'a Shaxukk	October
Xly'a Shaxuk	November
mayk shenthik	
Xly'a Shaxuk	December
mayk xvikk	



HIGHLIGHTING YOUTH WORKER KYLEE ROMAN

Can you tell us a little about yourself? Tell us about your hobbies, activities, and goals.

My name is Kylee and I am 14 years old. I love to draw and paint. I also enjoy spending time with my family. My goal in school is to succeed and get good grades.

Why did you decide to participate in the WIOA Program?

I joined the WIOA program to gain knowledge and experience working for a tribal enterprise.

What skills have you learned from working with SRMG?

The skills I learned working with SRMG are communication, customer service, and teamwork. At SRMG I saw how everyone helped one another to get the job done, they are always working together to keep the company going.

How do you think this experience will help you with your future career goals?

My experience with SRMG helped me improve my interpersonal skills by working closely with the staff and customers. Having this skill will help me in my future career as a tattoo artist because I will be interacting closely with my clients and fellow coworkers.

Do you have any advice for other young people who come to SRMG?

Enjoy the field trips because they will help you understand the business. The staff are nice and funny, which made going to work entertaining.



SRMG THANKS
KYLEE FOR HER
HARD WORK THIS
SUMMER!



THANK YOU!

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? SSDAAdultAdaptiveRecreation@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](tel: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.

VAŞAI GAKIDAG MAŞAD XLY'A XAMXMOK SEPTEMBER

4 GRANDPARENTS DAY AT ECEC, The Early Childhood Education Center believes grandparents are special and important. Join us on Grandparents Day Friday, September 4, from 10:00 - 11:30 am in your students' classroom. A light meal and resources will be available in the Gathering Place for grandparents.

7 LABOR DAY - SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED, Please plan accordingly.

8 FREE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION, Hosted by the Community Risk Reduction Division, this free monthly training is open to all SRPMIC Community members and employees. Two Waters, Building A, Room 109 10:00 am - 11:00 am Salt River Emergency Management: Personal, Home, and Community Preparedness training.

10 SAFE-TALK SUICIDE ALERTNESS TRAINING, Two Waters, Building A, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. SRPMIC HHS Public Health invites community members and tribal employees to participate in safeTALK, a 3.5-hour suicide alertness workshop designed to help you recognize individuals with thoughts of suicide and safely connect them with support resources. Eligibility: Open to Community Members & Tribal Employees. Requirement: A minimum of 10 participants is needed to hold the session. To reserve your spot, please contact either: Melanie Nosie: melanie.nosie@srpmic-nsn.gov | (480) 362-6678 or Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty: vurlene.notsinneh-bowekaty@srpmic-nsn.gov | (480) 362-2706

15 HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM ORIENTATION SESSION, Join Salt River Higher Education Program at our next scheduled orientation session on Tuesday, September 15, from 4:00 - 5:00 pm in the Education Board Room (4836 N. Center St., Scottsdale, AZ 85256). The Salt River Higher Education Program offers early college outreach, financial assistance, and education career advising to enrolled SRPMIC members through our orientation sessions! Let us help you meet your goals and our scholarship program application deadline! Call the Higher Education Program at 480-362-2547 or email HigherEducation@saltriverschools.org with any questions. Visit HE.SaltRiverSchools.org for the latest Higher Education Program information.

16 ACCELERATED LEARNING ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE, The foundation of the Accel-

erated Learning Academy is built on a sense of belonging, continuous improvement of student achievement, and preparation of post-graduation student outcomes. The Accelerated Learning Academy will host its annual Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Families will meet ALA teachers and staff, learn from school and Community departments, receive valuable resources, and join students for a delicious lunch! We'll have prizes and giveaways while they last, so get there early! Topics Presented by ALA Leadership: • Attendance, • Incentive Program, • School Expectations. Questions? [480-362-2130](tel:480-362-2130) | ALA.SaltRiverSchools.org

18 SKE:G HIMDAG KI: FUN FEST 2026, Join us for an evening of fun and community at the Himdag Ki Fun Fair from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm! The event will take place at the ballfield located at the Ske:g Himdag Ki: (Way of Life Facility). The Ske:g Himdag Ki: departments have planned an exciting night for youth and families, filled with activities and entertainment. For more information, please call the Youth Services Front Desk at (480) 362-6390. We can't wait to see you there!

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

