



Art Is Personal for Patricia Woody in Chicago

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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Patricia Woody has landed in the Windy City. Look out, Chicago.

Woody chose the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to further her education. The institute is a private art school of the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. Her current major is art education, but she said she is planning on switching majors to art therapy.

Going to Chicago wasn't always her plan, Woody told *O'odham Action News*.

"I like to say it was a gift," said Woody.

She was always set on going to a community college, but portfolio day at school changed everything. On portfolio day, students displayed a collection of their work to different schools. Woody booked an appointment with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

- 3 Takeaways:**
- SRPMIC member Patricia Woody is going to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to focus on her art therapy education.
 - Woody reflects on her time in high school and how her busy schedule, service work and personal experiences inspired her to further her education.
 - Self-expression through art is something she values and encourages those with mental health struggles to explore.

"They were in awe of my artwork and how my voice was," said Woody. "They could see my voice in this artwork."

The school encouraged her to apply, and after talking with her family, she sent the application. "Let's just see where this takes us," her family agreed. Two weeks later, she was accepted with an \$84,000 scholarship for all four years.

Before the Second City

Woody is O'odham, Piipaash and Diné. She is the proud daughter of Elmerson Woody and Laina Easchief. Her paternal

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Patricia Woody stands outside of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois during her first week on campus. Photos courtesy of Patricia Woody.

The Importance of Seed Saving at the Sharing Our Way Gathering 2026



SRPMIC Community Garden Supervisor Jeffrey Wilson addresses a room full of participants of the Sharing Our Way Gathering 2026 at the Kavađ/Kushov Cultural Center.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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The Kavađ/Kushov Cultural Center was the perfect place for the Sharing Our Way Gathering 2026, a full day of community partners sharing the importance of seed saving and cultural strategies for seed stewardship.

Native Seeds/SEARCH, a seed bank and conservation nonprofit, was welcomed to the Community on Aug. 28 in a continued partnership with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Cultural Resources Department.

Participant support for the event was provided by the Arizona State University Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems.

The agenda for the day was packed with opportunities for participants to learn about a variety of cultural practices that might be helpful to one another.

"This is a gathering that brings together stakeholders who are involved in seed stewardship, including other tribal entities, the University of Arizona, Community members, anybody that's involved in preserving, stewarding and working with traditional seeds

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National Tribal Health Conference Makes a Stop in Salt River



Several public health officials made a stop in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to get a better understanding on how the Community implements their procedures.

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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Public health officials from across the country traveled to the Phoenix Valley for the National Tribal Health Conference, held from Aug 16-21 in the Gila River Indian Community. The conference featured a stop in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community with SRPMIC public health officials and staff from the Community presenting.

The conference covered a wide array of topics involving public health, including extreme heat and tribal disaster preparedness, strengthening tribal behavioral health systems, updating policies and public approaches to the missing and murdered Indigenous peoples crisis.

Additionally, the conference also featured a stop in the SRPMIC with Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Nancy Mangieri and SRPMIC Emergency Management coordinators Terry Nelson

and Kirsten VanDeventer serving as representatives for the Community.

Various staff from the Gila River Health Center, Center for Disease Control, Indian Health Service, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and many more health agencies attended the conference's tour stop in the Community to get a deeper look at how the SRPMIC takes care of their own during emergencies.

The Tour

VanDeventer began the tour at the Community Building with background and history of the Community, which included the Community's sheltering efforts during emergencies, how the community's Cool Place helps membership stay safe and how several health departments collaborate to enhance the lives of SRPMIC membership.

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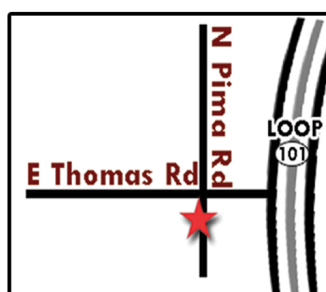
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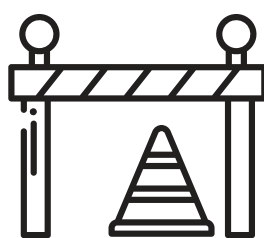
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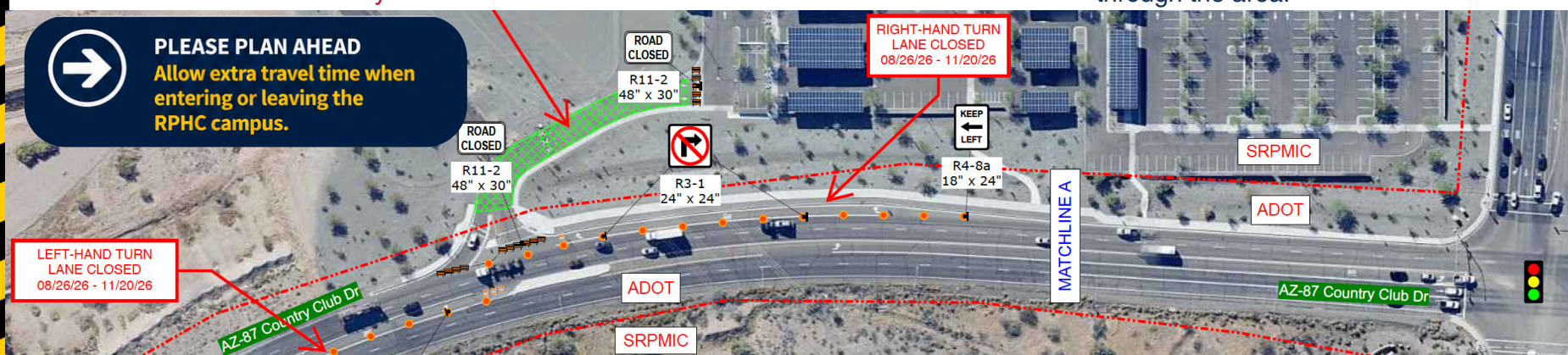
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River People Health Center

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

OCLA HOSTS VOTING RIGHTS MOVIE NIGHT



A still from the documentary “Your Voice. Your Power.” as it played in the SRPMIC Council chambers.

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
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As the Nov. 3 general election fast approaches, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) has been staying busy informing Community members about their voting rights. On Sept. 1, OCLA, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and the ASU Election Protection Project gathered to screen a documentary in the SRPMIC Council chambers. The documentary is called “Your Voice. Your Power.” The night focused on answering voting questions and presenting a shared history of the Native vote. According to the presenters, it is important to educate people that even though Natives were the first to live on the land, they were the last to receive citizenship. To learn more about the Native vote, visit the ITCA website at <https://itcaonline.com/programs/other-programs-and-projects/voter-education/>. You can find the documentary on the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/itcaonline or by scanning the QR code below.



TRIBAL ADVOCACY PATHWAY PROGRAM RECAP



Donna Ray was one of the presenting staff who shared her insights as a Deputy Defense Advocate with attendees.

BY ZOE HERNANDEZ
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On Aug. 24, the Tribal Court’s Advocate Pathway Program held an information night in Two Waters Building B. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community program is paid training to help members further explore an interest in advocacy and law. This program is available to Community members who are 18 years or older and have earned a high school degree or a GED. In a packed room, Community members received information on what the program is and what to expect. The Tribal Court team also shared a presentation on what a tribal advocate does. To complete an application, visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/srpmic or by scanning the QR code below.



GIRL SCOUTS HOLD INFORMATION MEETING



Parents and youngsters were encouraged to attend in-person to get to know their future troops.

BY ANDREEA MIGUEL
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Preparations have been made for the 2026-2027 Girl Scouts season. At the Social Suites at the Community Building on September 1, Recreation Services of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community hosted a registration night for the Girl Scouts. Parents and their future scouts gathered for an informational meeting where registration, trips, event planning and, of course, cookie sales were brought to the table. Make sure to keep an eye out for cookie season, which is approaching in January 2027. For more information and to register your girls, visit www.girlscoutsaz.org/en/get-involved.html or by scanning the QR code below.



Editor’s note: The Sept. 3 article Gilbert Road Pipeline Across Salt River Now Operational misstated the share of Arizona’s Colorado River allocation affected by the current reductions. The figure is approximately **27%** under the 2027–28 plan. The web article has been updated.

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Oct. 11 - Pastor Ralph Holmes

Oct. 12 - Pastor Sampson Hinton

Oct. 13 - Rev. Dennis Massey Jr

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Oct. 15 - Bishop Johnathan Goseyun

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Oct. 17 - Pastor Ramson Taylor

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September 17, 2026

O’odham Action News

3

THE DAY THE REZ STOOD STILL, PART 4: A Frightfully Fun (and Free) Festival

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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They're back!
Raeann Brown, Seneca Silverhorn, Dominic Martinez, Dwayne Manuel and Dushane Manuel, known throughout the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as the Woodenhead Collective, have announced the plans for this year's spook-tacular festival, the Day the Rez Stood Still: The Fourth Kind.

The daylong celebration, now in its fourth year, welcomes horror enthusiasts and fanatics to share their love of the genre.

Whether it be dressing up as their favorite ghoulish icon, participating in the Monster March or spending some of their cold, hard cash at some of the artistic vendor booths, there's something for everyone at the event, especially for those who enjoy a good scare.

The festival's popularity has extended far beyond the Community. Currently, several well-known horror art vendors and businesses from Mesa, Tempe, Chandler and Phoenix now circle the day on their calendars when the Woodenhead Collective announces the date of their next annual festival.

This year's event will be happening on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Community Building. As plans are almost set and finalized, the anticipation continues to grow around the Community.

"This all started as a small get-together," admitted Silverhorn. "And it's grown so much," he said with a proud smile.

It's true. Every year, the Woodenhead Collective's event has seen an increase in attendees, participating artists and food truck vendors. The group holds meetings at the house of Brown's mother, Alice Manuel,



Dominic Martinez (aka Bigg D. Evol, left), Raeann Brown (aka Lady Rae, center), and Seneca Silverhorn (aka Spike the Warlord, right) and the rest of Woodenhead Collective invite everyone to The Day The Rez Stood Still: The Fourth Kind, happening on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Community Building.

to brainstorm and develop plans for making each year bigger and better. By the looks of it, those meetings seem to be paying off handsomely as they seemingly provide the perfect environment for the group to come up with many new ideas, such as the Monster March and cosplay meet-and-greets.

"The coolest part about last year was the new element that we put into play, which was our cosplay and meet-and-greets," said Martinez. "And the Monster

3 Takeaways:

- The Woodenhead Collective includes Raeann Brown, Seneca Silverhorn, Dominic Martinez, Dwayne Manuel and Dushane Manuel.
- The Day the Rez Stood Still: The Fourth Kind is scheduled for Sept. 26 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Salt River Community Building.
- The festival will have a horror market, cosplayers, a Monster March and more.

March, which came from an idea from Professor Possessor (Dwayne Manuel). He also leads the march."

Last year, local horror cosplay artists such as Art the Clown from "Terrifier," Jason from "Friday the 13th," "Killer Klowns from Outer Space" characters, Leatherface from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "The Babadook" spent the day in Salt River, mingling with fans and posing for photos with families and fans underneath the official TDRSS3 banner.

As each cosplay horror icon posed for photos last year, the Woodenhead Collective played the character's theme song as well, providing a perfect moment for all.

Additionally, the Monster March was a new attraction during last year's fest. Fans marched along with their fellow monsters inside the Community Building. The march was one of Brown's favorite moments during last year's fest and is now widely considered one of the highlights of the event. "Just to see how many people came out and dressed up last year, that was really cool. That's my favorite part because I get to be in it too," she said with a smile.

Of course, participation is highly encouraged at this year's event.

"We want you to get up there and showcase what you got!" said Martinez excitedly.

For the Woodenhead Collective, hosting the event is as much about community as it is about celebrating the spooky and horrifying characters that make the Halloween season an enjoyable one for many.

"We bring it home, we bring it here to the Community," said Silverhorn. "It's completely free; you don't have to worry about paying anything. Just come out, have a good time and see what kind of spooky gifts you can get."

Donations to Tohono O'odham Nation Collected at Salt River

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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Members of activist and land protector groups came together at the Salt River Ballfields parking lot in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on Aug. 11 to gather and take donations to the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The nation is experiencing an ongoing legal battle with the Trump administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which are moving forward with building a 62-mile border wall across their sovereign traditional lands.

T.O.N. leadership is currently consulting with their legal team to determine what can be done to deescalate the situation, remove unauthorized individuals from their land and move forward with appropriate legal filings.

In a public service announcement on Aug. 25, the T.O.N. said armed federal agents and contractors entered T.O.N. land illegally, stating that tribal members should remain vigilant, avoid escalation and prioritize personal safety.

"Protectors on the line, protect the land, protect the people. O'odham strong!" T.O.N. Chairman Verlon Jose said on Aug. 10.

To address the situation, T.O.N. tribal members like Amy Juan are taking this personally and spreading the word to relatives and allies.

"A ceremonial fire was lit today at Koli Ki:jig (San Miguel Gate) by the Hemajkam for the next four days and nights," Juan posted to her Facebook page on Aug. 9.

"We scouted the entire border, made observations and briefly met with Chairman Jose. We have his support to assist in joining prayer for the land and people."



People from around the Community and the Valley showed up on Aug. 11 at the Salt River Ballfields parking lot to donate to the Tadaí Me:I Prayer Camp at Koli Ki:jig on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Koli Ki:jig is a gate at the modern U.S.-Mexico border at the Tohono O'odham Nation where members of the nation historically can cross the international boundary freely. The donations are specifically for the Tadaí Me:I (Road Runner Fire) Prayer Camp at Koli Ki:jig.

Juan also requested help with donations of supplies such as banners, plywood signs, food, water, ice, Gatorade, canopies, camping chairs and wood.

"We were told, 'If you're waiting for the Nation to save you, you'll be waiting forever. So do what is needed and what the government can't do'. So, we do what we do best. We pray and we be with the land, to protect her as she does us," Juan said in her post.

"To those who have fear in your hearts, what is there to be afraid of? Be more afraid of losing a vital piece of who we are."

Members of the grassroots land pro-

teCTOR group O'odham Solidarity, Hòzhò Protectors and the American Indian Movement (AIM) chapter of Central Arizona answered the call to collect donated items. One by one, cars lined up to unload goods at the Salt River Ballfields.

Matilda Martinez lives in the SRP-MIC. She is a co-founder of Hòzhò Protectors, which began about a year ago to spread awareness about land protection.

"I feel the need personally to be out here for the O'odham, the T.O.N., because of what's happening. We have a member from our group who is from that area, and she is telling us what they are going through," said Martinez.

"It's really horrible, the Border Patrol and how they're treating people down there. My heart goes out to them."

Edwina Francisco and her 10-year-old daughter Mia Ackerman are both Tohono O'odham and Navajo. Francisco had difficulty holding back tears as

she talked with *O'odham Action News* about why she donated.

"This hits home. This hits the heart of where my grandpa Tony Francisco originated in Topawa, Arizona," Francisco said.

"Just miles away from the border, growing up, I spent a lot of time down south and I remember crossing over the Mexico border and seeing my family doing some sort of exchange. The exchange wasn't negative [as some might think]. It was more the families on the Mexico side and the O'odham side trying to make ends meet and provide for their families."

Donating to the cause in person sets an example for her daughter, according to Francisco. She pointed on the map to Ackerman where the crisis is happening.

"This is a huge example for her. I talk to her about the issues that are going on right now in today's world, and it's not good. It's definitely not good, because it's reached home for us," said Francisco.

"I want her to know it's going to affect our family. This is happening and it's real. It shouldn't be happening, but it's happening."

Another donation collection for the prayer camp occurred on Sept. 10 at the Salt River Ballfields parking lot. This time, items such as beans, flour, rice, small pillows, cots, and electrolyte packets were specifically requested.

This is a developing story with updates occurring to the situation daily. O'odham Action News will continue reporting on this topic.

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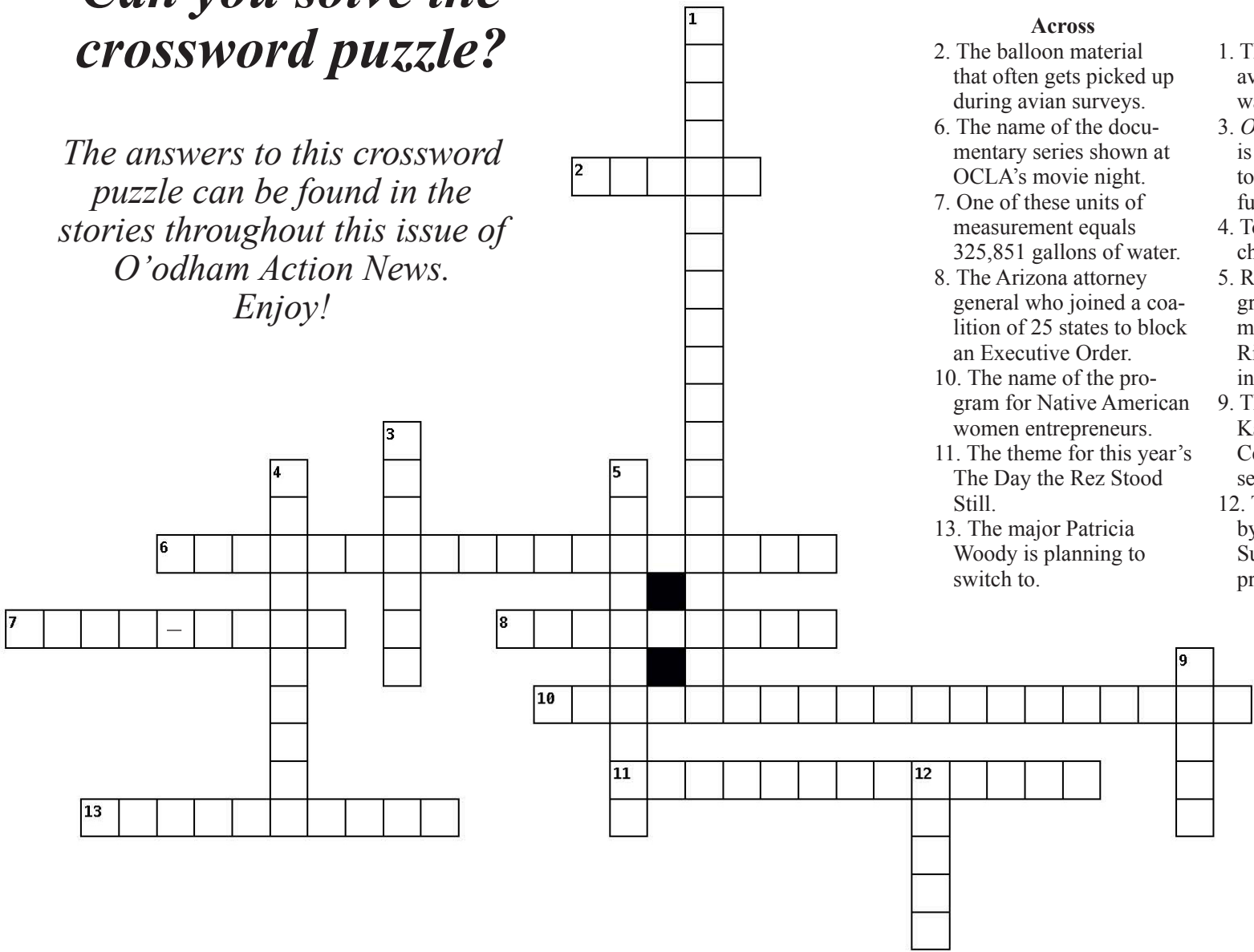
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Can you solve the crossword puzzle?

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



- Across**

 - 2. The balloon material that often gets picked up during avian surveys.
 - 6. The name of the documentary series shown at OCLA’s movie night.
 - 7. One of these units of measurement equals 325,851 gallons of water.
 - 8. The Arizona attorney general who joined a coalition of 25 states to block an Executive Order.
 - 10. The name of the program for Native American women entrepreneurs.
 - 11. The theme for this year’s The Day the Rez Stood Still.
 - 13. The major Patricia Woody is planning to switch to.
- Down**

 - 1. The career opportunity available through a pathway program.
 - 3. *O’odham Action News* is seeking these people to share their work in a future edition.
 - 4. Tohono O’odham Nation chairman.
 - 5. Registration for this group was possible at a meeting held at the Salt River Community Building.
 - 9. The gathering at the Kavaḍ/Kushov Cultural Center focused on preserving these.
 - 12. The acronym shared by Dr. Jyoti Patel at the Summer Speaker Series presentation in August.

News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER
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Voices Not Forgotten
The FBI has highlighted six cases involving unsolved casework in Indian Country, including some with ties to Arizona.
The cases are part of a recent push by the federal agency as part of its Voices Not Forgotten initiative. The FBI is seeking public assistance and information to help solve the cases.
The new Voices Not Forgotten webpage includes a searchable and interactive map that links posters seeking information about violent crimes affecting Native people.

Power of Native American Women Entrepreneurs
Project DreamCatcher is expected to announce its next cohort in the coming weeks. The popular program is offered at no cost Native American women entrepreneurs.
The program targets tribal members in Arizona, specifically members of the Hualapai Tribe, Navajo Nation, San Carlos Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe and Tohono O’odham Nation.
The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation created the program in partnership with Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University. This year’s program is Nov. 1-6.

Native Forward Scholars Fund Receives Massive Financial Gift
Native Forward Scholars Fund recently received a \$50 million gift from MacKenzie Scott, marking her second major gift to the organization.

The gift is believed to be the largest given to a Native organization, according to Native Forward.
The scholarship program, which was founded in 1969, helps 22,000 students from more than 500 Native nations across all 50 states. Learn more about Native Forward on its website.

California Awards Millions for Tribal Stewardship and Other Projects
California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced \$44 million for 15 projects across the state that support tribal stewardship, salmon recovery and desert protection.
One notable project is the purchase of land by the Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance to serve as an outdoor learning space for Indigenous-led ecological restoration. The project also expands job training and cultural programs for local tribal communities.
“Whether it is restoring Native practices to the lands, improving salmon runs and safeguarding eel populations, or expanding protections for desert wildlife, these awards represent Californians’ shared commitment to stewarding the abundant biodiversity of the place we all call home,” Tribal Affairs Secretary Christina Snider-Ashtari said in a statement.

Phoenix Indian Center to Host Arts Showcase
The Phoenix Indian Center’s Community Arts Showcase and Open Mic Night is scheduled for Sept. 26 in Phoenix.
The event’s goal is to create kinship, practice healthy ways of healing, and honor our connection to our culture, lifeways and arts.
The event will take place at Sagrado Galleria from 5 to 8 p.m.

Around the House Word Search

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



<i>O’ODHAM</i>	<i>ŞUDAGİ</i> , Water	<i>PIPAASH</i>	<i>CHAMASH THXNAPAASH</i> , Refrigerator
<i>KA:LIT</i> , Car	<i>EÑIGA</i> , Clothes	<i>XLYOQY SHUUPET</i> , Window	<i>ILYTHUURAV</i> , Stove/oven
<i>YAVİ</i> , Key	<i>VAKOA</i> , Gourd	<i>THA’UR</i> , Chair	<i>VA SHUUPET</i> , Door
<i>U:S</i> , Wood	<i>HYOSIK</i> , Flower	<i>LAMES</i> , Table	<i>KXAVK</i> , Come in
<i>VAİÑOM</i> , Knife	<i>TOVAŞ</i> , Handkerchief	<i>NYIPAV</i> , Bed	<i>VA</i> , House
<i>ŞOIGA</i> , Pet		<i>LYACHIIRQ</i> , Bathroom	

Do you have information or knowledge on the history of the



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The Importance of Seed Saving at the Sharing Our Way Gathering 2026



Above: A plate of traditional foods such as squash with cheese, wheat berries, cemit/modiily and rabbit. The food was cooked by staff from Cultural Resources and the Nutrition Services team.
Right: Native Seeds/SEARCH Seedbank Manager Helena Gonzales shares about the importance of seed-saving and the cultural meaning of seeds in Tribal communities.



Continued from cover

and Indigenous culture is basically here today networking, getting to know each other better and seeing how we can work together as a community,” said SRPMIC Community Garden Supervisor Jeffrey Wilson, who later gave a brief tour of the garden in the sweltering heat.

Wilson said this is hopefully the beginning of a larger partnership with more potential gatherings in the future. Native Seeds/SEARCH staff brought different topics and perspectives, including new things happening at their location in Tucson and seed saving.

“Seed saving is a community effort,” said Native Seeds/SEARCH Seedbank Manager Helena Gonzales.

“A lot of seed-saving projects happen when people share and get together. These kinds of events are exactly where collaboration and that spark for community growth and inspiration comes from.”

SRPMIC Council member and NS/S Chair Jacob Butler, who previously worked at the SRPMIC Community Garden, welcomed participants to the event. He talked about the importance of the Commu-

nity having its own seed bank and how partnerships like the one with NS/S can help save vital cultural seeds passed down from past generations.

“We were talking about how NS/S and Salt River can do more, how we can collaborate and how we can get some of their expertise up here in the Valley, and how NS/S doesn’t just represent a small locality, but the whole Southwest and even into Mexico,” Butler explained.

“How do we reach people and how do we make meaningful contributions and connections so that it’s not just NS/S, it’s all of us working together to create a better, stronger more protected community that’s dedicated to the care and preservation of these seeds?”

CRD Director Kelly Washington followed Butler with more information about the history of the Community. Other NS/S speakers included Interim Director Alexandra Zamecnik, Conservation Programs Coordinator Teresa Pereira, Farm Production Coordinator Cora Greenisen and Conservation Farm Director Joel Johnson.

ASU Swette Center speakers were Deputy Director and Research Associate Christopher Neubert and Assistant Research Professor Sara El-Sayed.

Later, participants divided into small groups for discussions about the opportunities for (and barriers to) community seed saving.

By the end of the day, hungry bellies were full of delicious traditional food like squash, white tepary beans and rabbit, brown tepary beans and quail with wheat berries, and *cemit/modiily*. Staff from Cultural Resources and the Nutrition Services team helped cook the food. Fig leaf tea and passion-flower tea were served as refreshments.

Birding is More than a Hobby for EPNR

BY KARI HAAHR

O’odham Action News

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On a warm August morning, as the soft glow of daylight gently reached for the horizon, staff members from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s Environmental Protection and Natural Resources division laced up their boots and packed their water, GPS, binoculars and clipboards as they set off for the first of many scheduled stops to do some gathering within the Community boundaries.

Specifically, they were gathering data.

This trek was for one of their quarterly avian surveys, an important part of measuring changes in the environment over time. On this morning, the team spotted a coyote, rattlesnake and other critters, and of course, birds. The heat didn’t seem to be much of a factor to those that call nature home.

The surveys, which monitor local bird populations, take several days to complete and involve visiting many specific points within the Community, from by the rushing river to by the flowing freeway. Each quarter they visit the same sites, set the same timer, then look, listen and document. The only thing they’ll physically take from the sites is any waste they come across (often, it’s fallen mylar balloons that would be slow to break down). By mid-morning, the team has empty water bottles and a full clipboard of shorthand codes for each species of bird they spotted, alongside how many were seen and what behaviors were recognized.

That data will then go on to reveal emerging patterns which help tell the story of the ecosystems throughout the Community, including changes

in migration and population growth. It’s one part of the bigger task of land stewardship.

If you look at it one way, it’s numbers and jargon and science. But for the team at EPNR, it’s another service the Community provides in line with the mission and vision of SRPMIC:

- An environmentally responsible Community that protects the land;
- A Sovereign Community Government that provides quality, essential services where departments work together through collaboration and effective communication;

The environmental aspect may be more obvious, but tribal sovereignty and collaboration are crucial parts of the work they do. When a project involving multiple internal and external agencies runs into delays because of environmental factors, EPNR’s involvement makes sure corners aren’t cut and the needs of the Community and the land are met, regardless of convenience. It can be a challenge with folks visiting the Community, too. When data is recorded on tribal land, that information belongs to the tribe—no matter how well-meaning a citizen scientist or environmental organization may be.

That’s led to uncomfortable but necessary conversations with some such individuals and outside organizations, conversations that Senior Environmental Specialist Vicki Olmstead isn’t afraid to have.

“We brought the breach of tribal data sovereignty and the associated trespass issues to the attention of [the organization’s] staff,” shared Olmstead. “It’s been a long discussion that has ultimately proven fruitful. [The organization] is now aware of our concerns. We’ve jointly devised short-term



Staff from SRPMIC Environmental Protection and Natural Resources wrap up at one of the many sites where they conduct their quarterly avian surveys. Left to right: Jason Myrand, Emerson Milam and Vicki Olmstead.

adjustments and we’re working together to find long-term solutions which should benefit the Community as well as other tribal nations.”

It’s all part of the job. The staff members at EPNR may not be installing playgrounds or fixing a senior’s roof, but whether they’re out in the field monitoring wildlife or presenting at a conference on conservation best practices, each day is spent working for the betterment of the Community.

At the end of even the longest days, the care that goes into their work shows in more than the dusty boots and bags of trash picked up along the way.



A bald eagle perched atop a light pole within one particular survey radius was counted.



A mix of turkey vultures and black vultures roost together. How many can you count?

Interior Department Finalizes Southwest Water Plans for Next Decade

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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During this time of long-standing drought in the Southwest, water rights continue to be a frequent conversation topic, especially in Arizona.

Recently, the U.S. Department of the Interior finalized plans for Colorado River water allocations and how reclamation efforts will be conducted in seven western states: the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada, and the Upper Basin states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico. All seven will be subject to new water-sharing agreements, which will act as guidelines instead of one fixed rule.

For the next 10 years, water reclamation efforts will be based on snowpack and reservoir levels. According to their study, each year, reclamation efforts will increase or decrease, creating an adaptive plan for states. This allows for the Interior Department and states to flexibly respond to challenging conditions, such as climate change and its impact on water levels, for the next decade.

According to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in a statement, “We are grateful for the seven basin states, the 30 basin tribes, Mexico, and many other basin stakeholders who have provided the feedback and voluntary arrangements necessary for the development of the 2027-2028

Operating Guidelines. Forty million people, millions of acres of farmland and ranchland, industries that power the American West, and some of our nation’s fastest-growing metropolitan areas depend on the Colorado River.”

Drought conditions have negatively impacted water levels, resulting in this 10-year adaptive plan. As the West continues to experience one of the worst droughts in history, officials found it challenging to pinpoint how climate change and other factors will alter water allocations in the future. A fixed-number allotment of water could be disastrous if a mega-drought occurs, or wasteful if we experience a rainy and wet year.

Being flexible over the next 10 years will ensure officials respond to each individual state’s situation.

Next year, the proposed sharing agreements will reduce Arizona’s Colorado River water allocation by 760,000 acre-feet. Comparatively, California will be reduced by 440,000 acre-feet while Nevada will be reduced by 50,000 acre-feet.

An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons of water, enough to sustain two to three single-family homes for an entire year or to cover a football field with one inch of water.

The Local Impact

The 336-mile-long Central Arizona Project canal diverts water directly from the Colorado River across the western half of the state to central and

3 Takeaways:

- In August, the U.S. Department of the Interior finalized a 10-year plan for operational guidelines that will dictate how Colorado River water is allocated among the seven Upper Basin and Lower Basin states in the West.
- Colorado River water originates from snowpack and the Lake Powell and Lake Mead reservoirs, which are currently at historically low water levels.
- According to the finalized 10-year plan, Arizona will see a reduction of Colorado River water in 2027 of 760,000 acre-feet.

southern Arizona, serving the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas.

The canals in the Valley, operated by Salt River Project, also carry water from snowpack and reservoirs in the Salt and Verde River watersheds. A watershed is an area of land that channels rainfall and snowmelt downhill into a shared body of water, such as a stream, lake, river or ocean.

SRP officials then treat the water using underground pipes before it can be used in homes, schools and businesses.

Climate change continues to impact the amounts of snow and rain we receive throughout the year. Hot and unseasonably warm fall and winter seasons this year could result in less snow and rain, meaning less water in our dams and canal systems. However, this season’s El Niño is expected to bring wetter conditions to the Valley, potentially providing some relief to the state’s current drought.

Conservation: Do Your Part

Considering the Interior Department’s report, Arizonans may be asked to start conserving water at home over the next few years.

Here are some helpful ways to conserve water at home:

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and while lathering up in the shower.
- Run monthly tests on your toilets to ensure there are no hidden leaks.
- Replace outdated showerheads, faucets and sprinklers with modern, energy-efficient hardware.
- Plant drought-tolerant trees and plant species native to Arizona.
- Collect water you use to rinse fruits and vegetables and use it to water your houseplants.
- Wash dark-colored clothes in cold water to save both water and energy. Cold water also helps retain the color of fabrics.
- Leave lawn clippings on your grass. This cools down the ground while holding in moisture.

It’s also important to understand that staying hydrated in the Arizona heat is different from conserving water. Individuals are still expected to remain hydrated, with health officials suggesting drinking anywhere from two to three liters of water per day, depending on one’s overall health and exercise level.

Global warming and lengthy droughts will continue to have a huge impact on water, especially for us here in Arizona. When you add the topic of artificial intelligence data centers utilizing massive amounts of water to cool down their facilities, water rights and conservation will undoubtedly continue to weigh heavily on the minds of many.

O'odham Action News will continue to monitor this topic.



AZ Secretary of State Adrian Fontes: ‘Nothing Has Changed’ Amid Mail-in Ballot Uncertainties



BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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Voting remains one of a few ways individuals can let their voices be heard locally and nationally.

With election season already underway, Arizona officials have been busy clearing up some recent proposed changes from the Trump administration.

The proposed changes began earlier this year in March, when the Trump administration issued an Executive Order attempting to establish a national list of eligible voters while directing the U.S. Postal Service to transmit ballots only to voters on the list. During a speech in July, President Trump called mail-in ballots “inherently corrupt.”

The following month, President Trump voted by mail in Florida. He also voted by mail in Florida during the 2022 election.

Fontes Tells Arizonans ‘Nothing Has Changed’

Locally, Arizona officials have repeatedly stated no changes will be made to the state’s mail-in ballot system. In August, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes joined a coalition of 25 states in filing a lawsuit to block the Executive Order that disenfranchises voters.

Disenfranchisement is when political decisions and actions are made and implemented which prevent people from voting or having their votes counted. One example of disenfranchisement is gerrymandering, which is when election officials divide and rearrange land into election districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage in elections.

The 15th amendment prohibits disenfranchisement. “The Constitution is crystal clear: states run their elections – not the postal service and not the President,” said Mayes via an Aug. 26 press release.

Additionally, Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes echoed similar remarks, stating no changes will be made to Arizona’s election system.

“There is going to be a lot of noise around this issue,” Fontes said in a Aug. 24 press release. “Don’t let rumors determine how you participate in our elections. Get your information from trusted sources. And if you vote by mail: receive it, vote it and return it.”

He added, “The most important thing for Arizona voters to know today is simple: nothing has changed.” On Aug. 31, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) submitted a letter to Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer David Steiner due to his office receiving an email from a whistleblower at United States Postal Service. Blumenthal serves as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Investigations.

In the letter, the whistleblower revealed the USPS’s plans of creating a potentially unlawful mail portal which restricts mail-in voting by gatekeeping and allowing the USPS to be able to refuse to mail ballots that state election officials have approved and determined to be sent out.

These efforts are considered unlawful because a court order required the USPS to not interfere with individuals’ right to vote, including by mail. However, the USPS continued creating their mail portal on Aug. 26, against court orders.

3 takeaways:

- In March, President Trump issued an Executive Order attempting to establish a national list of eligible voters and directing the U.S. Postal Service to transmit ballots only to voters on the list.
- In August, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes joined a coalition of 25 states in filing a lawsuit to block the rule that disenfranchises voters.
- “Disenfranchisement” is when political decisions and actions are made and implemented which prevent people from voting or having their votes counted.

United States Postal Service’s Federal Ballot Mail Portal

According to the whistleblower, the efforts conducted by USPS to create the new Federal Ballot Mail Portal are “rushed,” because of an impossible timeline. In the whistleblower’s disclosure to Blumenthal, Postal Regulatory Commissioner Tom Day commented the standard process for an effort of this complexity “could take one year or more to complete.”

The USPS began creating the mail portal system on June 15, 2026, about five months before the Nov. mid-term elections.

As a result of the rushed process, the USPS has been unable to conduct quality control tests to ensure the portal’s accuracy or proper functioning. In Senator Blumenthal’s letter, he revealed the new USPS portal has undergone zero basic checks.

“Put plainly: this process will likely lead to chaos, confusion and the inability of many Americans to have their vote counted,” said Blumenthal.

Additional court hearings and litigation will continue throughout Sept., as coalitions and election officials continue clearing up confusing changes led by the Trump administration.

As it stands right now, Arizona should not see any changes made to their mail-in voting system for this November’s election. Both Mayes and Fontes have stressed time and time again Arizona voters will still be able to vote by mail in this upcoming Nov. election.

O'odham Action News will continue to monitor this topic.



Patricia Woody graduating from the New School for the Arts & Academics in Tempe. Photos courtesy of Patricia Woody

Art is Personal for Patricia Woody in Chicago

grandparents are Elmer Woody and the late Bessie Roanhorse. Her maternal grandparents are Joni Andreas and the late Patrick Easchief. Her great-grandparents are the late Ahenabah Teller Lady Standing Rock and the late Ford Teller Tall School Boy.

Fresh out of the New School for the Arts & Academics in Tempe, Woody is used to staying busy. At NSAA, she wore many hats. Besides being heavily involved in the National Honor Society for all four years, she engaged with many different clubs and was the first to start a Native American/culture club, after some encouragement from her principal.

"I wanted to show off my culture and what it's like to be a Native girl," said Woody.

At least once a month, Woody would participate in service work at Feed My Starving Children Foundation, where she and others would help make prepackaged food for people in need. She would also go to nursing and retirement homes to spend time with the elders. The list could go on and on, but doing good deeds like that inside and outside of her community warms her heart, Woody said.

Art Therapy Is Personal

These healing experiences of service without a doubt contribute to Woody's interest in art therapy. She said she wants to come back from school as an art therapist and advocate for mental health for the Community.

"Growing up, I struggled with mental health on my own. I was very scared to reach out to anyone to talk about my feelings," said Woody.

"But over the years at my high school, I slowly found comfort in a safe space in the art world."

Woody said that growing up seeing family members who were struggling with mental health started a growing passion within her to have a more open, broader conversation about mental health.

"I'm one of those people who don't really like talking about how I feel most of the time, but I can



Above, below and lower left: A showcase of Woody's artistic talents from paper to print to fabric and more.

express my emotions through art. And if I'm someone in this Community who expresses in that way, I know there's many people out there in our Community who might feel the same," said Woody.

"As O'odham, we are very creative. We're very artsy people."

Woody is getting settled in at her new school after the first couple of weeks. She has art history on Mondays and a six-hour printmaking class on Tuesdays. Other classes include an English class and introductory art topics like research studios and core studio practice.

But Woody is particularly looking forward to the printmaking class.

"It's a nice, relaxing craft. It just takes a lot of patience and is time-consuming," said Woody.



Healthy Chair on Display at Huhugam Ki: Museum

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO

O'odham Action News
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If you talk to enough Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members of a certain age about "the Healthy Chair," they will know exactly what you are referring to. You are bound to evoke a reaction similar to "I remember that chair!"

You could be learning about the chair for the first time right now and wonder if you might have sat in it in one of its previous lives.

Now, the Healthy Chair has its own front-row seat as part of the Huhugam Ki: Museum's "Good Morning Class. A History of Salt River Day School" exhibition, which is open for visitors to experience.

Salt River Elementary School teacher Dawn Burstyn-Meyers, known by her students as Mrs. Meyers, found the "old chair" in 2007 at the Salt River Day School when it closed and brought it to the new SRES location. The chair was destined for the landfill, but the whimsically wise Meyers had the foresight and an idea to later repurpose the chair.

In the 2010-2011 school year, Meyers pulled the chair forward for a kindergarten lesson on developing good eating habits.

"The chair became their piece of art with healthy foods, vegetables and fruit on it and hopefully inspired them to maintain healthy eating habits throughout their lives," said Meyers.

Memories remained strong for Meyers when she reminisced about the conversations with students, which included topics like healthy foods to eat, getting your exercise and drinking plenty of water. Each student painted

either a design or healthy food on the chair and signed the seat. The chair was displayed at a Wellness Night event at Salt River High School.

Displaying a Team Effort

Visitors can check out the yellow-painted school chair on display at the Huhugam Ki: Museum during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The museum is in the Community at 10005 E. Osborn Road.

On March 13, Museum Collections Manager Franak Hilloowala and Museum Collections Assistant Phillip Raphael picked up the chair from Meyers' classroom. In a symbolic gesture, former students Antonio Valencia, Lamar Lopez and Sighman Schurz helped carry the chair out.

"Mrs. Meyers played an important role as well in preserving the chair's story, history and provenance for us," said Raphael. "Before it made its way to the Huhugam Ki: Museum, she took care of the chair at the SRES and provided us with photos and documentation showing the chair with her students and information regarding the chair's history. These are important for us in properly documenting the object's history for the generations to come."

Once it arrived at the Cultural Repository, Raphael assisted in bagging the chair so it could be treated for possible insect or mold contamination. Then the team catalogued the chair, took photos of it and housed it in the museum's permanent collections. He even assisted Museum Archivist Steve Hoza with installing the chair in the gallery.

Raphael said it was meaningful to be involved from beginning to end.

"This was a good example of the



"The Healthy Chair" on display now at the Huhugam Ki: Museum. Photo courtesy Mrs. Meyers.

work we do behind the scenes when acquiring an object in general and putting an object on display," he said.

The exhibition was curated by Museum Archivist Assistant Elisa Pongyesvia, who wanted to celebrate the children who attended the Day School, which was recently resurrected as the Kavaq/Kushov Cultural Center.

"Working in the archives, I utilized photography, audio and video recordings as just one part of telling their story, but I felt the Healthy Chair is a noteworthy piece to include as it is reflection of the children's resilience and creativity," shared Pongyesvia.

Hoza repainted the exhibit case

3 Takeaways:

- "The Healthy Chair," rescued by SRES teacher Mrs. Meyers in 2007, came in handy for a 2010-2011 kindergarten lesson on healthy habits.
- A team effort led to the display of the chair in the "Good Morning Class. A History of Salt River Day School" exhibition at the Huhugam Ki: Museum.
- Former students helped museum staff carry the chair to the Repository to be cleaned and inspected.

base and Pongyesvia had a new acrylic top for the case made for the chair. Pongyesvia wrote the label text and Hoza created the label mount and secured it to the case.

Like Raphael, Pongyesvia gave props to Meyers for serving as the caretaker of the chair.

"In working with Mrs. Meyers, she has always been an advocate for self-expression in our Community's youth. Thanks to her passion, we have another piece of Community history that serves as a tribute to many children's fond memories of days spent learning," said Pongyesvia.

The Repository is hoping to grow its collection of items related to the Salt River Day School. If anyone is willing to donate or share items or experiences, please reach out by email to Huhugam-kiMuseum@SRPMIC-nsn.gov.

National Tribal Health Conference Makes a Stop in Salt River

The tour also included a stop at the Cool Place.

“We have a new public health authority, its only three years old. We’re in the process of building a team and we work very closely with our Emergency Management department,” began Mangieri during the introductions as she stood next to VanDeventer and Nelson. “We got to know each other a great deal during Covid.”

Later, VanDeventer discussed with the group the sheltering efforts the Community implements during an emergency. “From June 15 to Sept. 30, during that important time, we receive our highest

temperatures and the greatest amount of moisture. This becomes a risk threat, specifically to our elders and our senior population within the Community. So, we’re trying to make sure those populations, and more are protected,” she explained to the group.

Throughout the tour stop, VanDeventer, Nelson and Mangieri allowed for guests to look at the Community Building, the gymnasium, the shelter management kits the Community utilizes, as well as the cots the Community can utilize in the event of an emergency.

The SRPMIC presenters further detailed

how the Community can implement medical, feeding, shower, pets/livestock, mental health, social, senior and family reunification services during an emergency.

Nelson also shared with the group that the Community has partnered with the American Red Cross and other emergency services to provide sustainable programs and services for the Community. “Our plans are developed, not only by best practices, but we look at what the Red Cross and FEMA put together. Then we make sure we get those plans added to our emergency operations plan.”

3 takeaways:

- The National Tribal Health Conference was held in August.
- The conference connects health officials from across the country for a week-long showcase of policy creation, networking and hands-on training.
- Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Nancy Mangieri, SRPMIC Emergency Management coordinators Terry Nelson and Kirsten VanDeventer represented the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



SRPMIC Emergency Management Coordinator Terry Nelson provided insight regarding how the Community Building can offer shelter and house additional emergency services, in the event of an emergency.



As a way to show conference guests how the Community has taken the lead to prevent heat-related illnesses, the conference's tour featured a stop at the SRPMIC's Cool Place, where the group was given free popsicles and water.



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARING

The Community Council 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: Wednesday, September 30, 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, October 1, 2026. Public comments can be made by email at public_hearing_comments@srpmic-nsn.gov, by phone at 480-362-7470, by text at 623-282-5757 or by mail CDD, Attn: Public Comments, 10005 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256.

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

The meeting presentation, recordings 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:



Salt River Summer Speaker Series: The Science of Happiness & Habits



SRPMIC Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert introduces Dr. Jyoti Patel and talks about the Summer Speaker Series.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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On the last Tuesday of each month this summer, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert has hosted the Voices of Summer Salt River Speaker Series: Engaging Talks That Reflect Our Past, Shape Our Future. The series takes place at the Salt River Council Chambers.

The most recent talk in the series was the Science of Happiness & Habits, which was presented on Aug. 25 by Dr. Jyoti Patel, a senior associate consultant/instructor of integrative medicine/general internal medicine at Mayo Clinic Arizona.

"Before we leave today, I hope you take away one simple word: Habit. Because happiness isn't something we find. It's something we build through our daily habits," Patel told the audience.

HABIT is also an acronym for a science-backed habit framework used by Patel.

H – Honor Your Body
A – Awaken to the Present
B – Be Grateful
I – Invest in Connection
T – Treat Yourself with Kindness

The first of the five habits explored the science of movement by honoring your body. Patel explained that happiness isn't only about what happens to us, it's also about how we experience our lives. Movement is one of the ways we can influence that experience.

Patel involved the audience in a breathing activity



Patel takes questions from participants in the Voices of Summer Salt River Speaker Series presentation called The Science of Happiness & Habits.

that had the whole Council Chambers at peace. Then, she presented the science of mindfulness.

When you awaken to the present, you change where you place your attention. Closing your eyes and noticing your breath can be a place to start. From there, notice how your body rests: your shoulders, your jaw, the temperature in the room. When you gently turn your attention inward, simply noticing what you feel, taking a slow breath and opening your eyes is enough to bring you back to the present.

There is also a science of gratitude. Patel says that our minds give more attention to life's difficult moments than the good ones, so be grateful for the good things in life.

"Gratitude doesn't change our circumstances. It changes how we experience them," said Patel.

For the next exercise, Patel got people out of their comfort zone and invited them to invest in connection with others around them. She said that while connection may not change our circumstances, it reminds us that we don't have to face them alone.

The final habit is one we often find the hardest, according to Patel. That's why treating yourself with kindness and compassion matters. She pointed to research by psychologist Dr. Kristin Neff, who found

3 Takeaways:

- The Voices of Summer speaker series hosted by Assistant Community Manager Lena Jackson-Eckert featured a presentation by Dr. Jyoti Patel about building well-being through daily habits.
- **HABIT** is an acronym Patel uses to explain the science and practice of happiness: **H**onor Your Body, **A**waken to the Present, **B**e Grateful, **I**nvest in Connection, **T**reat Yourself with Kindness.
- Patel engaged in interactive activities with the audience.



Above: Patel interacts with participants who shared their experiences with happiness and habits in their own lives.

Below: Participants "invest in connection."



that self-compassion is associated with greater resilience, emotional well-being and psychological health.

Talk to yourself like someone you love.

The next topic in the Voices of Summer speaker series on Sept. 29 is about food culture and identity.

Hosted by Family Advocacy Center

EMPOWERHER HEALING CIRCLE

Women's Support Group

Every Tuesday Evening
Starting 9/29 to 11/3
5:30PM - 6:30PM

Location will be sent to
registered participants.
(Near Two Waters area)

LIGHT REFRESHMENT AND CHILDCARE OFFERED
DURING THE GROUP DURATION.

18 years old and up only.

Sessions will include educational discussions,
creative projects, and gentle therapeutic exercises
to promote grounding and empowerment.



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Scan QR Code to register or visit: www.tinyurl.com/healingcircle2026

MEET THE CANDIDATES OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026
10AM-1PM

SALT RIVER GYMNASIUM
1880 N. LONGMORE RD., SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

Join us for a Meet the Candidates Open House
and get to know the candidates running for:

PRESIDENT • VICE PRESIDENT • COUNCIL

This is an opportunity to meet the
candidates, ask questions, and learn more
about those seeking office.

**COME MEET YOUR CANDIDATES AND
GET INFORMED BEFORE YOU VOTE.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE (480) 362-7740

O'odham Action News Seeks Submissions for Art-Focused Special Edition



BY KARI HAAHR
O'odham Action News
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You don't have to look far to find creative talent in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. There are mural festivals and art showcases, creative writing groups and podcast series showcasing poetry. Community members have had their work worn by athletes and printed in hardcover. At *O'odham Action News*, we love covering the creativity of the Community so much that we want to dedicate a space for it.

In January 2027, we are planning to publish a special edition dedicated to the artistry of the SRPMIC. Until Nov. 20, OAN will be accepting submissions of either written or visual artwork from enrolled Community members, who can then say they have the distinction of being formally published.

For some folks, this could be their first opportunity to have their work recognized. Getting a foot in the door is a challenge, and by creating this opportunity for Community members, we hope to help make that first step easier.

For this first edition, several guidelines were agreed upon for submissions. Writ-

ten works including short stories, poems and personal essays need to be limited to 1,000 words. For visual art, we are asking for either a digital copy or a photo of the work. Upon confirmation that it will be included in the special edition, we plan to invite the artist and their piece to the Creative Ki: studio for a professional photo shoot. This will ensure the highest-quality representation of the artwork is available.

There are some restrictions, as this is only open to enrolled Community members. It's also important to note that we are asking for content that is appropriate for all age groups, and we will reject submissions deemed offensive. We also are not accepting AI-based submissions.

Community members can submit up to three pieces each. Submissions may be in the same category or in different mediums as long as the total number of works submitted does not exceed three.

The deadline to submit work is Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. After closing, we will review the entries and reach out to the artists to let them know if their work was selected. At that time, we will address any further steps.

To review the full entry guidelines and submit your work, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/OANArtMag>.

We are seeking Community Member Artists to have their work featured in a future edition of O'odham Action News.

Deadline: Friday, Nov. 20 at 5 p.m.



Visit <https://tinyurl.com/OANArtMag> or scan the QR code to review the full submission guidelines and enter your artwork. Selected artists will have their work published in a special edition of O'odham Action News.

Feeling old fashioned? You can also mail in physical copies to 10,005 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256 Attn: O'odham Action News, or visit us in the Community Relations Office at Two-Waters Building A.

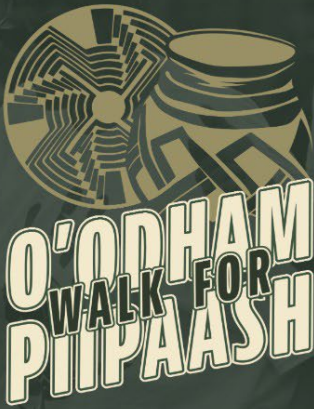
Questions? Contact: 480-362-7750 | oan@srpmic-nsn.gov

CATEGORIES

Visual	Literary
Photography	(max 1000 words)
Digital Art	Poetry
Traditional Art	Short Fiction
Other	Personal/Narrative Essay

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A MAXIMUM OF THREE ENTRIES TOTAL PER PERSON
- MUST BE AN ENROLLED SRPMIC COMMUNITY MEMBER
- SUBMISSIONS MAY BE IN ANY CATEGORY



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 | 6:30-9AM

10061 E OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE AZ, 85256
START FROM TWO WATERS COURTYARD

THE WALK FOR O'ODHAM PIIPAASH IS NOT A TEST OF ENDURANCE. IT IS PRAYERS FOR OUR O'ODHAM/PIIPAASH PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE.

This is a NO Alcohol/Drug/Gang & Tobacco/Vaping Event. Bags Subject to Search. NO Pets, Firearms/Weapons or Outside Ice Chests/Grills/Food/Glass Allowed.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS • 480.362.7740 • [SRPMIC](#) • [SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY](#)

Language With

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

Learning the orthographies of the O'odham and Piipaash

O'odham	Piipaash
Days of the week	Days of the week
Lunas	Nyaa luuns
Monday	Monday
Go:k taş	Nyaa xvik
Tuesday	Tuesday
Vaik taş	Nyaa xmok
Wednesday	Wednesday
Gi'ik taş	Nyaa
Thursday	Thursday
Vialas	chmpap
Friday	Nyaa sarap
Şavai	Friday
Domik	Nyaa elsaav
Sunday	Saturday
Hemako	Nyaa Mshray
One week	Sunday
Domik	

HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM

MUSEUM CLOSURE

OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 30

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED FOR INVENTORY AND EXHIBIT CHANGES. STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING NORMAL HOURS VIA PHONE.

Join us for our reopening on November 2nd and our Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, November 7th. More info coming soon!

HUHUGAM KI: MUSEUM
480.362.6320
WWW.HUHUGAMKI.ORG

@HUHUGAMKI@HUHUGAMKIMUSEUM

September 17, 2026

O'odham Action News

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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.

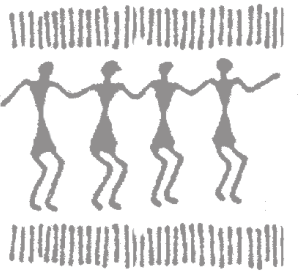
SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SEMI)
Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Apostle Edward Chance
apostleeac@gmail.com
(480) 516-6509
SERVICES: 10 AM on Sundays
Visit us on Facebook Live, Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

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

VICTORY OUTREACH CHURCH MESA
430 N. 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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RED CACTUS PHOTOGRAPHY
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RED MOUNTAIN ENGINEERING, LLC
Full service civil engineering, surveying and consulting firm. Patrick D. Dallas, (480) 237-2708 www.redmtneengineering.com

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

O'odham Action News encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. However, letters must be typed or printed clearly, and should include the writer's name, address and phone number. This information is for verification only. Other submission of articles, artwork and photos are encouraged. O'odham Action News does not assume responsibility for unsolicited materials and does not guarantee publication upon submission.

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Scottsdale, AZ 85256



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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES	
ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
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.	

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

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

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION?

Contact **Newspaper Specialist Kari Haahr** at **(480) 362-2698** or **kari.haahr@srpmic-nsn.gov**

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

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

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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

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

Termination Trial/Evidentiary Hearing Case: JV-26-0209 Court Date: October 21, 2026 at 11 a.m.

Fair, Edward Glen – Adjudication Hearing: Mother: Adriana Kilgore (DOB 09/02/1995) Minor: E.A.B (DOB: 07/10/2016) Case: JV-26-0008, Court Date: November 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Fair, Edward Glen – Adjudication Hearing Mother: Adriana Kilgore (DOB 09/02/1995) Minor: P.B (DOB: 10/31/2018) Case: JV-26-0009, Court Date: November 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

CIVIL COURT
JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

ADDRESS: 10040 EAST OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256
CONTACT: (480) 362-6315
CIVIL COURT CASES REPORT TO COURTROOM #1/ #2 ON THE 1ST FLOOR.
FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS

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

Carrillo, Daniel Renee - Evidentiary Hearing Case: CV-26-5245 Court Date: October 19, 2026 at 9 AM

Casias, Lisa Anne - Order to Show Cause Hearing Case: CV-26-0675 Court Date: November 2, 2026 at 10:30 AM

Frederick, Avis Guardianship Review Case: CF-22-0073 Court Date: October 19, 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

Lovelace, Raylee James - Annual Review Hearing Case: C-16-0041 Court Date: October 20, 2026 at 10 AM

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

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

DEFAULT NOTICES

BARKER, MARY
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

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

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 of Ordinances.

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

CASIAS, LISA
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CV-26-0675
COUNTRY CLUB CARS V. LISA CASIAS
To: Lisa Casias

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 2nd day of November, 2026 at 10:30 A.M. in Court Room #1, and show cause why you should not be held in contempt for failing to obey Default Judgment and making payments.

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

ORDERED: September 8, 2026.
JUDGE JANAYA JOHNSON, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY 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 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.

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: September 8, 2026.
JUDGE ARISTINA SANCHEZ, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

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.

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**

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.

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

13
OCT

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS
IT DEPT PRESENTATION

10
NOV

KEYBOARD & MOUSE
ONLINE TYPING GAMES

08
DEC

MICROSOFT WORD
CREATE A GREETING CARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION
(480) 362-7431



SRPMIC IT DEPARTMENT
CUSTOMER CARE DIVISION

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



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



FROM YOUTH WORKER TO STUDENT INTERN MEET LUCIANA OSARIO

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

Hello, my name is Luciana and I will be a senior in high school. I like to spend time with my family doing crafts and playing games. My goals in life are to graduate high school and college and have a successful career.

Why did you decide to participate in the WIOA Program?

I joined the WIOA program to keep myself busy for the summer.

What skills have you learned from working with SRMG?

The skills I learned at SRMG are honesty and to be efficient in your work. I also learned that safety is important in this type of business because it keeps people safe. The staff that I met taught me that respect is earned by working hard and being dependable because it will help me move up in my career.

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

My experience at SRMG taught me that showing up, working hard, and having a positive attitude will help me be successful in my future career goals. It also taught me how to work with others in a professional setting.

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

Be open to learning from the staff, they have interesting and great stories that can teach you a lot. The people here are awesome, which makes the workplace amazing.



Salt River Materials Group is proud to share that Luciana has joined our team as an Administrative Assistant Intern at our Chaparral office.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, LUCIANA!



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.

VAŠAI GAKIDAG MAŠAD XLY'A XAMXMOK SEPTEMBER

18 SKE:G HIMDAG KI: FUN FAIR, Join us for an evening of fun and community at the Himdag Ki Fun Fair on Friday, September 18th, 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.

19 CCDF FAMILY CONFERENCE, Register today to attend the 2nd Annual Family Conference hosted by the Child Care Development Fund, a program of the Early Childhood Education Center at Salt River Schools! Learn great information and take home amazing resources! Visit here to register: <https://tinyurl.com/CCDFcon26> The Power of Parenting is a FREE, day-long event that will focus on building parenting relationships and is open to all families that have children 12 and younger who are enrolled (or are eligible to be enrolled) in a federally recognized tribe. The event is Saturday, Sept. 19, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Talking Stick Resort. Limited childcare is available; more information will be shared with those who register before August 19.

22 NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY (NARD), Celebrate Native American Recognition Day with the SRPMIC! Tuesday, September 22, 2026 Two Waters Courtyard, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm day program featuring: Harkins Popcorn Truck, Red Bull Mini Cooper, Special Round House Cafe Menu - \$10 (made-to-order posole stew with red chili beef or green chili pork, hominy, all the toppings, and frybread), Live Music by Arizona Blues Hall of Fame inductees, the Sir Harrison Band, Free Samples from the Ranch Mobile Eatery. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Evening program featuring: Traditional Dances, Artisan Market, Promo Giveaways, Salt River Rez Dog (free hot dog meal with red chili, beans, cheese, and other toppings), Live Music - Two Rivers. Please note: all giveaways, including food, will only continue while supplies last. This is a no alcohol/drug/gang & tobacco/vaping event. No pets, no firearms/weapons, and no outside ice chests/grills/food/glass allowed. Bags subject to search. Questions? Please contact the Community Relations Office at 480-362-7740 or send an email to Events@srpmic-nsn.gov

25 WALK FOR O'DHAM & PIIPAASH, Go on a Community walk to honor our O'odham & Piipaash past, present, and future. Choose the two-mile walk or one-

mile option. Free T-shirt for the first 400 registered. Vans will be available to pick up walkers as needed. Water stations available along the route. SRPD onsite for support for safety. Earn StrongLife and SRPMIC Wellness points. Friday, September 25, 2026 Start In Two Waters Courtyard 10061 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ, 85256 The Walk for O'odham & Piipaash is not a test of endurance, it is prayers for our people. Register at [TINYURL.COM/26WFOPREGS](https://tinyurl.com/26WFOPREGS) Please note: This event is rain or shine.

25 NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY OBSERVED, SRPMIC Offices will be closed and essential services will remain open. Please plan accordingly.

26 SALT RIVER ARTS FESTIVAL 2026, Join Discover Salt River for the 2026 Salt River Arts Festival on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Roadhouse Cinemas at The Pavilions at Talking Stick. Celebrate Indigenous artistry by exploring a variety of works from talented Native artists and vendors. Admission is free. For more information, visit: www.discoversalriver.com/arts-festival

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

