O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

"Telling the Stories of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community" www.oodhamnews.org NOVEMBER 5, 2026



Glow Together, Stand Together, Heal Together
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# Sibling Tribes Unite at Tohono O'odham Nation Border

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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T-wem' o ba'ic e s-ge:wpk.
("Together we are stronger" in O'odham.)

Four sibling tribes bonded by kinship and reverence for their land since time immemorial stood as one at the southern Tohono O'odham Nation border on Sept. 25 to answer the call for unity at a critical time as the Nation fights against continued cultural desecration.

The call was akin to receiving a distress message from a traditional O'odham runner traveling for miles in the Sonoran Desert, and it was heard loud and clear as far as the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the northernmost of the Four Southern Tribes.

Delegations from the SRPMIC, the Gila River Indian Community and the Ak-Chin Indian Community traveled a familiar path south to strengthen the enduring bond as the Tohono O'odham Nation filed an emergency injunction with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to stop the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from removing thousands of Ha:sañ (saguaros) on Tohono O'odham land for the construction of a controversial border wall.

Ha:sañ are highly safeguarded and protected on private and state lands; however, the federal government maintains that contractors are legally allowed to remove or destroy them under the REAL ID Act of 2005 within the 60-foot border zone created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907

*Continued on page 3*

# A CLOSER LOOK AT PUBLIC SAFETY AT FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY DAY



Fire station 291 was quick to action and treated the drill as an active emergency, showcasing their quick response time and process for controlling the situation.

BY KARI HAAHR
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After last year's weather-related cancellation, the return of Safety Day to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community offered a memorable night showcasing all the ways public safety is ensured.

On Oct. 9, the Salt River Fire Department and the Salt River Police Department joined forces and filled the Salt River Ballfield parking lot with first responder vehicles, including a fire truck, an armored SWAT van, a police command truck, undercover police cars, and several drones, which could be seen buzzing overhead throughout the event. Each of the police vehicles showcased the new SRPD logo, a modified basket design featuring a blend of water (representing the river) and a whirlwind (representing force or power from the Creator), created by Community artist Dwayne Manuel.

*3 Takeaways:*

- *The annual event is a celebration of first responders in the community, including police and fire.*
- *The event included firefighting and police K-9 demonstrations.*
- *Drones showing heat signatures were an example of the importance of technology in managing public safety.*

At the start, the SRPMIC Honor Guard presented the colors before the Salt River Traditional Dancers took to the field and shared a basket dance, warming up the crowd and bringing smiles to all.

A constant stream of visitors moved between the ballfields and parking lot, with many pausing to grab a hot dog and peach cobbler in between. Over on the field, tables and booths were set up by SRPMIC departments, enterprises and vendors sharing information and resources related to services

*Continued on page 19*

**Language Corner**
Page 3
***
**Can You Solve the Crossword Puzzle?**
Page 6
***
**News and Events In and Around Indian Country**
Page 6
***
**Fall Word Search**
Page 6
***
**SRPMIC General Election Candidates**
Pages 10-12
***
**Salt River Helps Mother Earth with Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event**
Page 15
***
**Warrant Resolution Day Offers Opportunity to Address Outstanding Warrants**
Page 16
***
**Legal Notices**
Page 16
***

# New Miss Indian Arizona Crowned; Sialik King Bids Farewell




Miss Indian Arizona 2025-2026 Sialik King from the SRPMIC crowns the new 2026-2027 Miss Indian Arizona Shavaughn Titla from the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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Royalty and families from tribes across Arizona celebrated strength in sisterhood and the unifying power of Indigenous women at the 65th annual Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program on Oct. 10 at the Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Sialik King, the 64th Miss

*Continued on page 19*



The Piipaash Matasheevm Community Fall Social celebration saw many singers, dancers, performers and royalty soak up the good medicine in Lehi.

'This was the Elders' vision and it's their dream come true'

# Piipaash Matasheevm Community Fall Social

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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"It's a real privilege to be here on this beautiful day," began Deanna Scabby, a member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council.

It was time for the annual Piipaash Matasheevm Community Social, which was held on Saturday, Oct. 5 in Lehi, also known by the people as God's Country. This year, as at previous gatherings, Pacer Reina served as emcee, sharing his trademark sense of humor and photogenic smile. The fall social is on one day, compared to the spring's popular Matasheevm, which usually takes place over two days in early April.

Scabby was joined by Council member Michael Dallas Sr., and the duo helped welcome guests to the celebration, which saw many bird singers and dancers, both local and those who traveled to attend the event.

"This place is where songs and dances happen," said Scabby. "It teaches our young people. This was the elders' vision and it's their dream come true. It's here right now."

She continued, "I recall a couple of years back when my mother was here. She said, 'I remembered a lot of the words when I was growing up. I under-

*Continued on page 18*

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*Continued from front page*

# Sibling Tribes Unite at Tohono O'odham Nation Border

called the Roosevelt Reservation.

To the O'odham, Ha:sañ are literally relatives.

"Trespassing on our land to remove the sacred saguaros is like having masked men break into your house and take away your children," said Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Verlon Jose.

"The Ha:sañ are our family, as much a part of us as any blood relative. To destroy them by the thousands carves a wound in our hearts that will not heal. We call on all people for solidarity as we work to protect our culture and our land from this useless, destructive wall."

**Salt River Leaders Travel to Border**

SRPMIC leaders who weathered the rugged, rocky back roads and washes to the meeting site included President Martin Harvier, Council members Deanna Scabby, Mikah Carlos, Su:k Fulwilder and Jacob Butler, and Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs Assistant Gary Bohnee.

"Being there firsthand to see the potential impacts [of the border wall] was eye-opening and concerning, but we are proud to stand with our O'odham relatives, and we left a Salt River flag along the border as a show of our support," Harvier said in a statement on Oct. 8.

Carlos said that it was an emotionally heavy visit. While most of her visits to the Nation have been to see family or to celebrate at the fair, this one was different in that the delegation knew they were going into a difficult situation.

"In the four years I've been on Council, I've had an opportunity to work alongside various members of [the Tohono O'odham Nation] Council, and how this was weighing on them was hard to see," said Carlos.

"At the same time, I have immense gratitude for them and the work they are doing to fight for their lands and their people. While there were moments of laughter and even a celebration of a birthday, the overall atmosphere was somber."

Carlos stressed the importance of being vocal with support for the Nation.

"I've been saying this is a test case by the federal government to see how far they can erode sovereignty and to see how the tribes will come together to support each other," she said.

She left with a sense of responsibility to stand with "our hajuñ (family) to the south."

Scabby recalled some of the notable sights as the car drove closer to the border where the Tohono O'odham Nation and Mexico meet. It didn't dawn on her just how far south the drive was until she began to see what she described as barbed-wire fences that looked like they were from a Normandy Beach battlefield scene in World War II.

"That caught my attention. To me it was kind of harsh," said Scabby. Amid the wartime setting was a lush desert backdrop.

> "...We call on all people for solidarity as we work to protect our culture and our land from this useless, destructive wall."
> - Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Verlon Jose

"The trees were full. Everything was green. The saguaros were huge. The ocotillo, I mean, we see them around [the Valley]. You see people build [ocotillo] fences around their homes, but these are just beautiful," said Scabby.

Although the landscape was something to behold, when Scabby got to the top of the mountainside with other leaders, she had a moment of reflection with her panoramic view. There are plans for contractors to build two walls along the border.

"I said, 'Okay, this fence is still here. What are they going to do?' They said they want to blast this. They want to blow up this mountain and put the wall through," said Scabby.

"I was stunned. I could not believe any kind of a plan or anybody's logic to blow up Mother Nature to put up a fence. I got angry. I thought, 'Excuse my words, but this is the stupidest thing I have ever heard that somebody could think to do this. There's nobody out here," said Scabby.

She asked Tohono O'odham Nation leaders if there has been a problem in that area with illegal immigration and if it is considered a nuisance. She was told no, that nobody really comes through there.

**Grandmother Tree Toppled**

Near a prayer camp in Lochiel, Arizona, on Oct. 5, a centuries-old cottonwood tree defended by land protectors called the "grandmother tree" was knocked down by contractors clearing room for the walls. Video from the scene widely shared on social media shows the tree's booming fall juxtaposed with the sounds of shrieking and mourning from land protectors and Community members.

***3 Takeaways:***

- *Tohono O'odham Nation continues fight with federal government over border wall as sibling tribes answer call for support.*
- *SRPMIC delegation included President Martin Harvier, Council members Deanna Scabby, Mikah Carlos, Su:k Fulwilder and Jacob Butler, and legislative affairs assistant Gary Bohnee.*
- *"Grandmother" cottonwood tree toppled by contractors; SRPMIC joins amicus curiae brief with Ak-Chin Indian Community in support.*

**Amicus Curiae Briefs Filed by SRPMIC, Ak-Chin and Others**

In support of the Tohono O'odham Nation's legal appeal to halt border wall construction, amicus curiae briefs were filed by sibling tribes and allies. An amicus curiae brief is written and submitted by an individual or organization that is not a party to a legal case but may assist by offering information, expertise or insight relevant to the case.

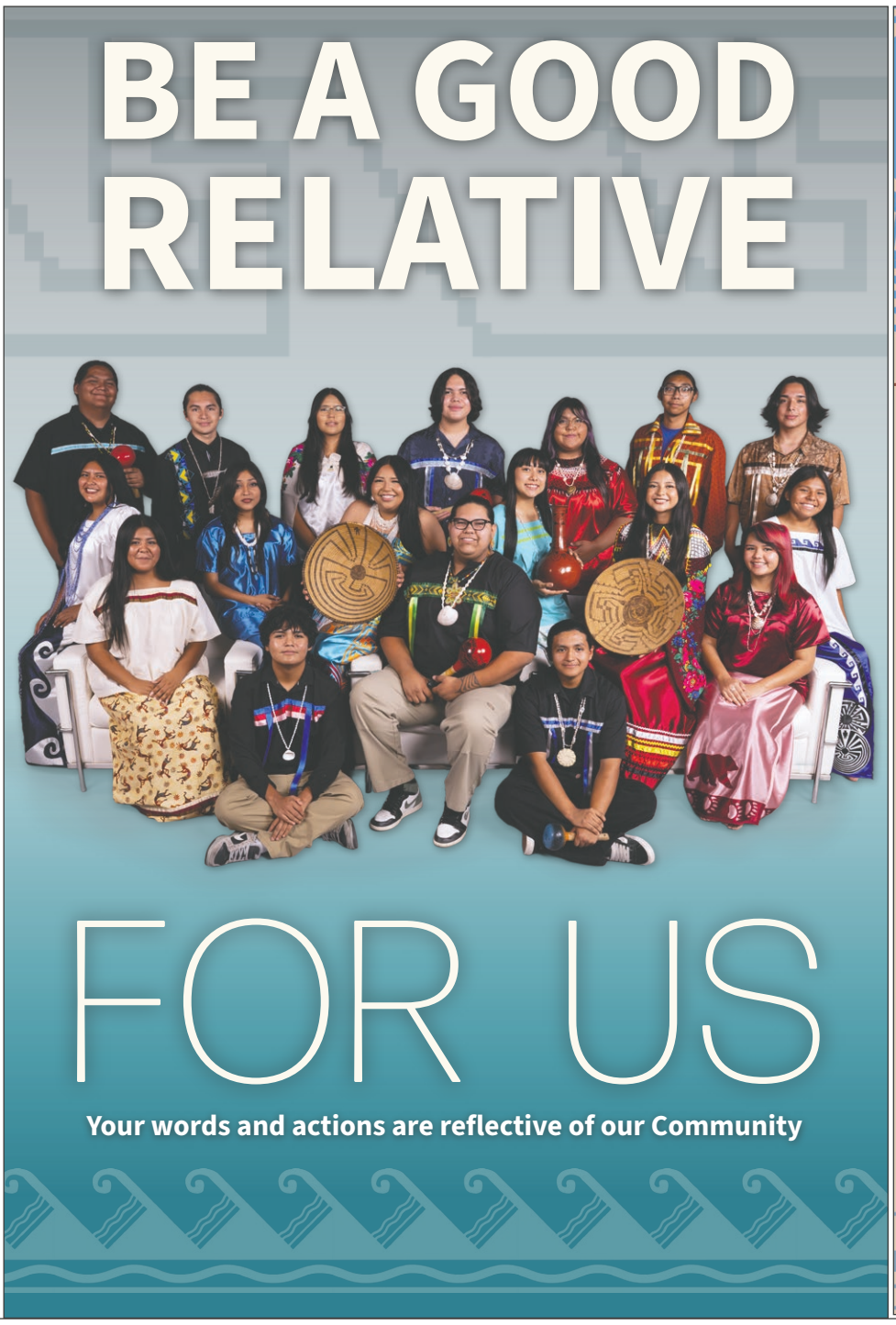
"With federal contractors continuing to conduct unauthorized pre-construction work on our lands, the widespread support for the Nation helps us as we seek an expedited appeal to stop the wall. We are grateful for these distinguished individuals and organizations' decision to stand with us in favor of tribal sovereignty and common-sense border policy," Jose said in a statement.

The SRPMIC and the Ak-Chin Indian Community filed a joint amicus curiae brief on Sept. 24 focusing on two interrelated issues: "(1) the irreparable harm that the proposed border wall will inflict upon both amici's sister tribe, Appellant Tohono O'odham Nation, and the broader O'odham people whose heritage is shared by amici's members; and (2) whether the public interest in building the wall outweighs those harms."

The brief goes into detail describing the historical and cultural importance of the land at the border wall construction sites, including Quitobaquito Springs being a stopping point for O'odham men during the Salt Pilgrimage, and the Ma:lina Pilgrimage starting at Cedagi Vehai.

An oral argument is scheduled for December.

Other briefs were filed by Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs (representing the state of Arizona), the National Congress of American Indians, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona and the Native American Rights Fund.




## Language With O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS

Learning the orthographies of the O'odham and Piipaash

### O'odham

**Greetings**

| | |
|---|---|
| Añi añ ap ce:gig | My name is |
| Ṣap cegig? | What is your name? |
| Ṣapi cui'ig? | How are you? |
| Api hik? | What about you? |
| Sape | It's good |
| Heñ noavoc | My Friend |

### Piipaash

**Greetings**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nyaa (name)'iim mulyk | My name is |
| Kadok m'iim mmulyk? | What is your name |
| Kamduum | How are you? |
| Mansh kamdothpathk | And how are you? |
| 'xothik | Good |
| Nyip 'naw | My Friend |

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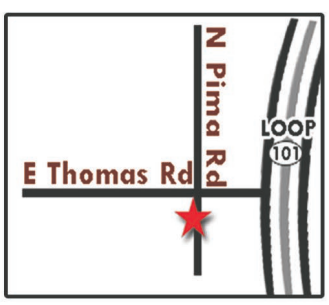
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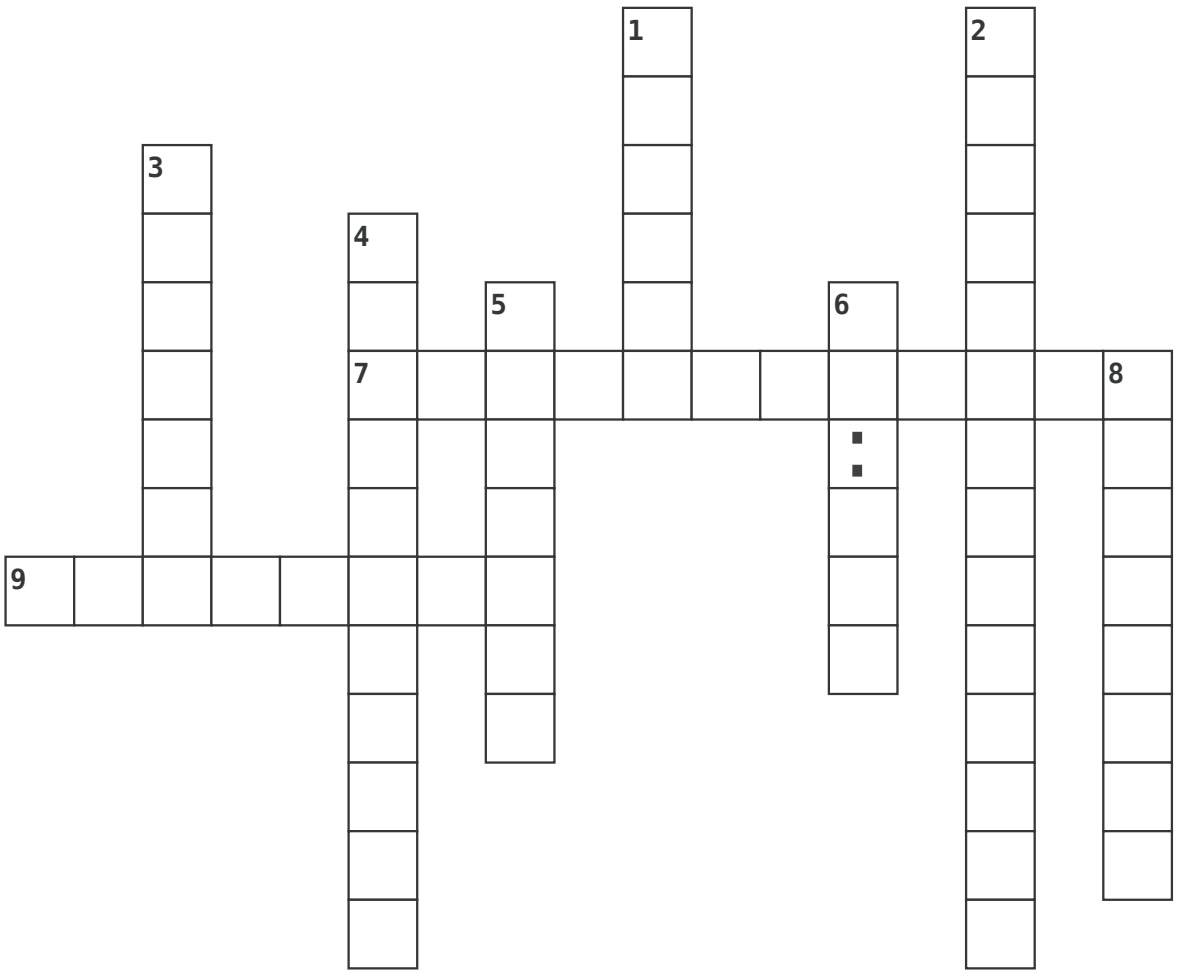
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# *Can you solve the crossword puzzle?*



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

**Across**

7. The artist whose design was used in the new SRPD logo
9. The home of the North American Indigenous Games planned for 2028

**Down**

1. The number of candidates moving on to the SRPMIC General Election on November 17
2. The newly crowned Miss Indian Arizona
3. The number of years SRPMIC has held the Glow Walk
4. The name by which Lehi is often known
5. An outstanding one of these may be addressed voluntarily at a Resolution Day in January
6. The O'odham word for saguaro
8. The destination from which 6,817 pounds of waste was diverted

# News and Events In and Around Indian Country

BY DALTON WALKER
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### Arizona Tribes Oppose Rollback of Cultural and Historic Preservation Protections

Tribes in Arizona, along with Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, sent a joint letter last month to President Trump's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation asking to conduct meaningful consultation with states and tribes.

The letter also called on the council to withdraw a federal proposal that would significantly weaken protections for treasured landmarks, sacred places and ancestral sites.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier signed the letter, along with 16 other tribal leaders from Arizona.

### IRS Warns of Tax Credit Scams in Indian Country

The Internal Revenue Service warned Native communities about promoters selling fake "Tribal Tax Credits" that do not exist under federal law.

Promoters are falsely claiming that these credits can reduce federal tax liabilities or generate refunds, according to the IRS.

Promoters market these fake credits generically as "Tribal Tax Credits," "Native American Tax Credits," "Sovereign Tribal Tax Credits" or similar names. Taxpayers who claim them may face civil and criminal penalties, according to the IRS.

### Indigenous Games Find New Home for 2028

The North American Indigenous Games will take place in Manitoba, Canada, in 2028.

The games were awarded to Norway House Cree Nation and the Southern Chiefs' Organization, with events taking place in Winnipeg, Manitoba's largest city, from July 9 to 23, 2028. The games were originally scheduled for next summer in Alberta, Canada, but those hosting rights were withdrawn.

The games attract more than 5,000 athletes, coaches and team officials from across Turtle Island and feature traditional and contemporary sports. The games were last held in Nova Scotia, Canada, in 2023.

### BIE Announces Student Advisory Board Members

Tohono O'odham Community College student Thurman Lynch was among the students selected for the Bureau of Indian Education's new Student Advisory Board.

Five other students from schools in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Kansas were also selected to be on the board. The student board will help shape BIE's policy and programs. Members will serve through next year.

### 'Free Leonard Peltier' Film Streaming on Netflix

An award-winning film on Leonard Peltier's life and journey to clemency is now on Netflix.

Netflix released "Free Leonard Peltier" on Indigenous Peoples' Day in October. The film documents the Ojibwe man's 49-year struggle for freedom.

President Joe Biden granted Peltier clemency as one of his final acts as president in 2025.

Peltier was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences after being convicted of aiding and abetting the killing of two FBI agents in 1975. He is serving out the remainder of his sentence at his home in Belcourt, North Dakota.

# Fall Word Search

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | Q | D | W | H | E | H | S | L | N | S | M | O | D | I | L | L | Y | W | Ñ |
| S | H | A | X | X | T | A | D | C | B | G | O | E | : | Q | D | M | H | P | N |
| X | J | Y | S | O | A | M | M | A | ṣ | A | D | R | P | : | Y | A | U | O | Y |
| C | : | ṣ | R | C | T | K | W | T | H | S | I | I | L | Y | I | ṣ | Ñ | D | A |
| G | H | U | S | N | M | R | R | A | Y | B | A | : | B | A | S | A | E | I | A |
| P | U | M | H | M | ’ | X | A | O | D | P | J | D | L | R | B | ṣ | Y | Ñ | ’ |
| ’ | P | E | M | I | I | M | V | : | U | N | I | O | O | ’ | V | ’ | ’ | M | X |
| C | L | R | A | O | K | H | L | P | G | M | Y | I | K | T | C | S | L | V | C |
| P | L | T | A | P | W | U | Y | T | A | S | M | A | R | I | I | K | R | X | H |
| I | : | C | S | S | L | ’ | U | I | H | S | D | X | A | W | V | Y | Q | Ñ | U |
| A | K | X | H | D | ṣ | O | U | U | A | W | X | M | L | Y | U | S | : | X | U |
| I | M | S | X | H | M | Y | L | Y | M | Q | E | X | L | E | U | O | N | Z | R |
| O | : | I | O | V | T | A | Y | N | O | T | E | C | X | T | E | U | M | X | K |
| U | K | U | T | C | L | R | R | M | N | H | R | H | A | F | H | Ñ | S | T | ṣ |
| L | Z | H | K | X | I | T | ṣ | B | A | M | S | U | X | ’ | W | Q | Ñ | H | V |
| Y | ’ | P | A | I | G | X | ṣ | C | : | O | T | R | : | T | Q | ṣ | L | U | K |
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*O'ODHAM*

**HUÑ,** Corn
**U:S,** Wood
**SOAM MAṢAD,** November
**HA:L,** Squash
**HAMON,** Ham
**BA:BAS,** Potato

*PIPAASH*

**MARIIK,** Beans
**MVAR,** Flour
**RAV LYUULY,** Chili stew
**MODILLY,** Tortilla
**NYAA YUUSHK,** It is fall
**MXCHURK,** Are you cold?
**NYAA 'XCHUURK,** I am cold
**KWTHSIILY,** Blanket
**'UUROTH,** Turkey
**KDIIK KUUMAAVK,** Come eat (to a group)
**SHQIIR,** Matches
**SHMAASH XOTK,** Good luck
**SHAX,** Onion

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## 2PM & 4PM

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## 11AM - 2PM

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**POST TRIBUTE ENTERTAIMENT | Fridays & Saturdays • 10PM - 2AM**
**No Cover | Reverse Happy Hour • 10PM - 12AM | Showroom only**

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RAWHIDE EVENT CENTER

# INDIAN FRYBREAD & ARTS FESTIVAL



**NOV 21ST**

**12pm -8pm**

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Prices increase at the door

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High-energy indigenous artist blending alt-rap, R&B, and pop

### TRADITIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCES

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# 2026 SRPMIC COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

## PRESIDENT



JACOB BUTLER



RICARDO LEONARD

## VICE-PRESIDENT



MICHAEL DALLAS, SR.



CHERYL DOKA

## DISTRICT I - SALT RIVER, 3 SEATS



MIKAH CARLOS



WI-BWA GREY



THOMAS LARGO, SR.

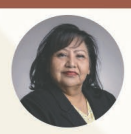


HENRY OSIF



DENELLE PRIETO

## DISTRICT II - LEHI, 1 SEAT



CARLA BANUELOS



KIMBERLY MANUEL

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 26 & 29 -** President Forums
- **October 29 -** *Deadline for Absentee Ballot Requests*
- **November 2 -** *Deadline for Change of Address*
- **November 3 & 5 -** Vice-President Forums
- **November 9 & 12 -** Council Forums
- **November 12 -** *Deadline for Home Voting Requests*
- **November 17 -** General Election Day

***Questions*** can be directed to the Council Secretary Office: (480) 362-7466 Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov | www.srpmic-nsn.gov

SRPMIC TRIBAL ID REQUIRED

# 2026 SRPMIC COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION DAY

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026

## POLLING SITES OPEN 6AM-6PM

**DISTRICT I - SALT RIVER COMMUNITY BUILDING**
**DISTRICT II - LEHI COMMUNITY BUILDING**

SCAN ME

**QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE**
Council Secretary Office (480) 362-7466.
SRPMIC Administration
10005 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85256
SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov
www.srpmic-nsn.gov

# GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUMS

**MEALS SERVED AT 5:30PM | ALL FORUMS FROM 6PM-8:30PM**

| | |
|---|---|
| ***PRESIDENT*** | Monday, October 26, 2026<br>Salt River Community Building<br>Thursday, October 29, 2026<br>Lehi Community Building |
| ***VICE PRESIDENT*** | Tuesday, November 3, 2026<br>ALA Auditorium<br>Thursday, November 5, 2026<br>Lehi Community Building |
| ***COUNCIL*** | Monday, November 9, 2026<br>Salt River Gymnasium<br>Thursday, November 12, 2026<br>Lehi Community Building |

FORUM INFORMATION
Community Relations Office CALL (480) 362-7740
***https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICElections***

# PRESIDENT

## Jacob Butler



Ṣa:mai cu'ig,

My name is Jacob Butler, and I have accepted the nomination to run for the office of President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

I have worked for our community for 24 years. As the Cultural Resources Specialist, I served as a government-to-government consultant for the Tribe. Throughout my career and personal life, I have worked with Tribal, state, and federal governments and built relationships that I continue to maintain today. I believe those relationships are important as we work to protect our sovereignty, our culture, and our future.

I have always believed we can protect what is important to us while also creating opportunities for our people. Protecting our ancestral lands and cultural resources must remain a priority, but we also need to be thoughtful about responsible development and the opportunities it can bring to our community.

My service has also included working with organizations and boards outside of the Tribe, including Native Seed Search. These experiences have given me a broader understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Native communities.

As your District One A Council Representative, I have worked to listen to different perspectives and make decisions based on what I believe is best for the community. I know that not everyone will always agree with every decision, but I believe leadership means listening, being willing to have difficult conversations, and standing by what you believe is right.

Our community is facing important decisions about our future. We need leadership that understands where we came from, recognizes where we are today, and is willing to prepare for where we are going.

I want to help create more opportunities for our people while making sure our elders are respected, our youth are prepared for the future, and our culture remains at the center of who we are.

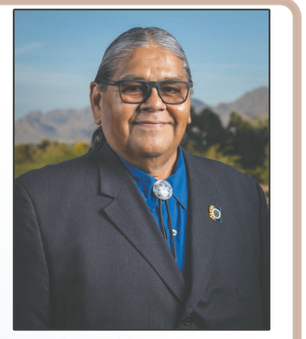
This decision is not one I made lightly. I understand the responsibility that comes with serving as President, and I am prepared to put in the work.

I am asking for your support and your trust. Together, we can continue building a stronger future for our community.

The decision lies with you.

Dova ep em nei.

## Ricardo Leonard



Ricardo Juan Leonard (also known as Brusha) is a respected Community leader, Army veteran, traditional singer, and current member of the Office of Vice President. As a candidate for President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for the 2027–2030 term, Ricardo offers a distinguished record of service, cultural knowledge, and dedication to Community families.

Ricardo is the son of the late Louella B. Leonard and brother of Vickie (Leonard) Andrews, the late Anthony Leonard, and the late Terrance Leonard. He is married to Annette (Manuel) Leonard and is the father of five children, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of one.

His education includes earning his GED, graduating from Motorcycle Mechanics Institute, and completing two years at Scottsdale Community College, where he studied American Indian Policy and Law.

His leadership is grounded in tradition, responsibility, and respect. As a traditional singer who speaks O'odham Ñiok and carries knowledge of the Community's cultural past and present, Ricardo recognizes the importance of preserving song, dance, ceremony, language, and teachings for future generations. His service to families through traditional ceremonies reflects an enduring commitment to the values and responsibilities that strengthen the Community.

As an honorably discharged Army veteran, Ricardo embodies the values of discipline, sacrifice, and service. He served four years in the United States Army, with duty stations in Garlstedt, Germany, and Fort Hood, Texas. He is a life member and past commander of American Legion Post #114 Bushmasters and was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Ricardo currently serves on the Saddleback/ReInvent Communications Board, the 12% Committee, the Tempe Desert Conservation Commission, and the SRPMIC Audit Committee, as well as Council Representative for NAGPRA and on the Facilities Appropriations Advisory Committee for the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service through ITCA.

Ricardo is seeking office to address priorities that directly affect Community families, including education for youth and young adults, improved housing availability, open communication, and an additional youth-focused wing at the new Journey to Recovery–Detox facility. His campaign is centered on listening to Community concerns, preserving culture, strengthening support for veterans, and providing respectful, community-centered leadership.

Throughout 26 years of service on Council, Ricardo has made decisions with the youth of the Community in mind. He is committed to showing respect to all, upholding the Constitution to the best of his ability.

# VICE-PRESIDENT

## Michael Dallas, Sr.



Michael W. Dallas, Sr. is a lifelong member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and currently serves as the Council Representative for District II, a position he has held since December 2014.

Raised in the Lehi District by his grandmother, former Vice President Merna Lewis, Michael grew up with strong core values centered on faith, prayer, service, respect, and accountability. Those values continue to shape the way he lives, leads, and serves the Community. Michael is a man of faith, and prayer remains a strong foundation in both his personal life and his approach to leadership.

Before being elected to Council, Michael worked for the Community's Senior Services Department, where he advanced through several positions before becoming Assistant Director. His experience gave him firsthand knowledge of Tribal government operations and the importance of providing dependable, respectful service to Community members.

Michael is a first-generation college graduate who earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Management and a Master of Science in Leadership from Grand Canyon University. He has also pursued a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Organizational Development. Throughout his time on Council, he has represented the Community through local, regional, and national boards and committees involving economic development, education, health and human services, federal budgeting, and Tribal policy.

Michael has been married to his wife, Berlene Dallas, for 28 years. Together, they have six children and two grandchildren. His family remains one of the strongest influences in his life and reinforces his commitment to creating opportunities and a strong future for the next generation.

Michael believes every Community member has a stake in Salt River's development and progress. He is seeking the office of Vice President because he believes leadership should be grounded in respect, transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and service to the people.

As Vice President, Michael is committed to strengthening the voice of Community members in major decisions, improving the efficiency of Tribal government, protecting Community resources, supporting fairness and accountability, and strengthening Salt River's advocacy at the state and federal levels.

His guiding principle is simple: "Honor the seat, serve the People."

For Michael, those words reflect both the responsibility of leadership and the standard he intends to uphold as Vice President.

Isaiah 6:8

## Cheryl Doka



Hello, my name is Cheryl Doka, and I am a proud member of Salt River and a candidate for Vice President. I was born and raised here in the community, my mother is Rebecca Collins, and my father is Fredrick Doka Jr. I have four children and eight grandchildren. I must mention my wonderful, great grandparents Ben and Cecelia Collins who had instilled in me the traits, values, and morals that I have valued throughout my life.

It has truly been a pleasure serving you, the people of Salt River as your Council Representative for District C for the past eight years. I am so grateful for the support, encouragement, and the trust that was provided to me to be your voice.

My education consists of and A.A.S in Business, B.S. in Business with a Minor in Human Resource Management, and an MBA with an emphasis in Management. In my professional career, I had the privilege of being employed within the Community at On-Auk-Mor, the Tribal Government, Salt River Fields Project, and Talking Stick Resort. These wonderful opportunities allowed me to work with many Community members pertaining to employment.

Currently, I am the Council Representative on the Salt River Gaming Enterprise board, 12% Gaming Grant Committee, Salt River Materials Group, and the Salt River Financial Services Institute. I was previously the Western Region Representative for the Indian Gaming Association and on the Land Management board prior to being elected to Council. Possessing years of experience and knowledge in management, gaming, gaming regulatory, accounting, human resource, and land management, it has helped tremendously in decision making both on the boards and Council. I always focused on solutions that are positive, fair, and consistent on various issues.

My priorities since 2018 have been Mental Health, Youth Drug Prevention, and Higher Education. I am grateful to the strategy teams who have worked hard to provide so many new resources, activities and opportunities. I am a true believer in investing in our people.

Some areas I would like to review are the hiring preference, termination process, timeline for community projects, education and communication. From the youth to the elders and everyone in between who live in the Community and the ones who do not, you all are important and your voice matters.

Let's aim for a healthy, strong community together!



# COUNCIL CANDIDATES, DISTRICT I SALT RIVER

## Mikah Carlos



Ske:g tas. Añi an ap ce: gig Mikah Carlos. Añi ap viak o gami go:k aidagï. Añi an oḍ Onk Akimel O'Odham, Tohono O'Odham, Piipaash. Eñ je'e oḍ Amelia Carlos. Eñ o'g oḍ Michael Carlos baḍ. Eñ gaga'a oḍ Angelita Carlos baḍ. Eñ vosk oḍ Frederick Carlos baḍ.

My name is Mikah Carlos, and I am honored to have the opportunity to be considered for re-election for a seat on the SRPMIC Tribal Council for District I.

I graduated from Arizona State University with my Bachelors degree in American Indian Studies with a concentration in tribal legal policy, community and economic development. My minor was in psychology. After graduation, I was fortunate to work for the Community on substance abuse prevention for youth and to serve as Assistant Director for Youth Services, where it was my goal to incorporate as many cultural activities as possible with the youth to implement protective factors and build strong, healthy youth who will continue to help this Community grow. During my first term serving on the Council, I have learned a great deal and I am grateful for the experience and growth. I have had the opportunity to serve on boards for the Community, including Education, Gaming and the 12% Committee.

Additionally, I have pursued opportunities to represent the Community on a national level by serving on the National Indian Health Board, the Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, and the National Indian Child Welfare Association. As a result of my demonstrated leadership and advocacy, I have had the opportunity to testify before Congress on two separate occasions on behalf of the Community.

The ability to represent the Community on a tribal, city, state and federal level is not a responsibility that I take lightly. My Community and people have given so much to build me into the person I am today and it would be an honor to continue serving on their behalf in this capacity.

If re-elected to Council, I look forward to building on what I have learned and will continue to serve with dedication and a commitment to our community. I will continue to do the work to provide resources for substance abuse prevention and harm reduction, education and career opportunities for our people, and I will continue to advocate for the best interest of our people.

Dai hegai.

## Wi-Bwa Grey



Skeg Tas!

My name is Wi-Bwa Grey, and I am asking for your vote to serve as your Tribal Council Representative.

I am married to my childhood friend, Antonio Cachora, and I am a proud mother of two children who keep me busy, grounded, and inspired every day.

I am currently employed with Student Transportation at Salt River Schools. Before taking on this role, I served for 15 years as the Security Manager at Salt River Schools. My career journey began at age 14, working for different departments throughout our Tribal Government. I am no stranger to serving our people, and I am no stranger to hard work.

I currently represent our Community as a sitting member of Governor Katie Hobbs' Arizona Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Task Force. Through this important work, we have focused on policy and legislative changes in Arizona while collaborating with Tribes throughout the state.

I have also served our Community as a member of the Landfill Board, Education Board, and Donation Committee. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of our Community's needs and deepened my commitment to our people.

My most valuable education has come from meeting and speaking with you, my fellow Community members. You have shared your experiences, struggles, ideas, visions, and possible solutions. I value what you have taught me, and I will carry your voices with me.

It is clear that we still have much to accomplish. We need greater accountability from our leaders, enterprises, and departments. We must preserve our culture, history, and sacred lands. We need to hire qualified people, improve Community services, and provide stronger support for our veterans, especially those living with the unseen scars of battle.

We must believe in our people—not judge them by who they once were but recognize their potential and who they can become. We need honesty, fairness, and truth instead of changing the rules as we go. Most importantly, our leaders must listen to and understand our people.

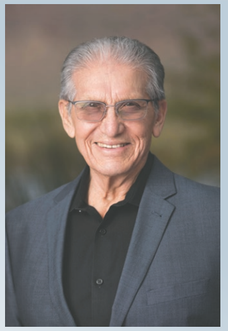
Every Community member deserves respectful leadership, equal opportunity, dependable services, and confidence that their concerns will be taken seriously.

Our Community has many needs, but meaningful change can happen when we work together. I encourage you to continue sharing your opinions, ideas, concerns, and solutions. Let your voice be heard.

I will work for you and with you so that we can make a lasting difference in our Community.

## Thomas Largo, Sr.

Statement not provided at time of printing.



## Henry Osif



I am Henry Osif, candidate for Tribal Council, my Mother is Elizabeth "Lip" Osif -Abel (Ba:t) and my Father is Anthony "Tony" French (Ba:t), my immediate family consist of Lori Stevens, my nephews Adrian, Christian and Curtis Lopez, and Aristina, the mother of my great-great nephew Noah. I am excited to take this step into Tribal Government where I have lived and served for over 20 years.

My educational background, combined with extensive professional experience in tribal government, has provided me with the knowledge, leadership skills, and practical expertise necessary to serve effectively on Tribal Council. My Business Administration studies established a foundation in organizational management, budgeting, strategic planning, and operational oversight, while my Bachelor of Science in Public Administration strengthened my understanding of public service, governance, policy implementation, ethical leadership, and community development. NAU's Public Administration program has specifically provided me with the skill set to effectively and ethically serve in the public service fields.

Throughout my career, I have gained experience across multiple departments and levels of responsibility. My position in the Recreation Department as Assistant Director, I developed experience in community engagement, program administration, youth and family services, and staff leadership. As Customer Service Section Manager within Public Works, I strengthened my abilities in constituent relations, problem-solving, service delivery, and departmental operations. As the Project Manager for the Department of Transportation, I am responsible for coordinating projects, managing resources, ensuring compliance, and working collaboratively with stakeholders to achieve objectives.

In addition, I served as an Education Board Member and in the Board Chair position which has provided valuable governance experience, including policy development, strategic decision-making, fiduciary responsibility, meeting deadlines, and advocacy for educational advancement. These roles have reinforced my commitment to accountability, transparency, and making decisions that reflect the best interests of the community.

Collectively, my education, professional experience, and public service leadership have prepared me to contribute effectively as a Tribal Council member. I possess a comprehensive understanding of tribal government operations, community needs, infrastructure development, public services, and educational initiatives. Most importantly, I am committed to serving with integrity, promoting responsible governance, and supporting policies and programs that strengthen the Tribe.

# COUNCIL CANDIDATES, DISTRICT I SALT RIVER (CONTINUED)

## Denelle Prieto



My name is Denelle Lynn Manuel-Prieto, known to many as Girssy. I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for tribal council. I come from the Manuel, Wellington, Andrews and Phillips lineages.

I am happily married to Rudy R. Prieto, together we have three sons–Rudy, Ryan, and Ricky Prieto–our cherished daughter-in-law, the late Laurice Carlos-Prieto.

My purpose is to advocate for the voices of our people and champion a dedicated seat centered on the well-being and health of our community. I am committed to ensuring our community, those living within urban areas, including our California relatives, have representation that protect, strengthens services and honors our Himdak.

I bring many years of volunteerism, and extensive years of professional experience both within and outside Salt River. Through these years I have worked alongside youth, families, leaders and elders in understanding the needs of our community. Most importantly, our culture and traditions. These experiences strengthened my commitment to listen and address your concerns connected to health, mental wellness and the well-being of our people, most important land.

EDUCATION:

- Arizona State University -Bachelor of Science - American Indian Studies-Policy
- University of Oklahoma -College of Law - Master's in Legal Studies – Indian Law
- Scottsdale Community College – Associate in Art- General Studies - Certification in Tribal Court Advocacy

COMMITTEE BOARDS/ VOLUNTEERISM:

- Judicial Conduct Disciplinary Commissions Salt River Representative
- Law Enforcement Commissions – Community-At-Large
- Election Board –District I Clerk
- Reentry Services (Program Development)
- Domestic Violence Committee
- Self-Governance
- Pipaash Veterans Committee

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Executive Office Intern
- Youth Case Manager
- Higher Education Program Advisor
- Career Service Coordinator

I encourage every Community member to exercise their right to vote. Your voice matters for the future of our people. When we vote, we strengthen our Himdak to grow in unity and resilience.

Should I be honored to serve, I will represent our community with respect, accountability and integrity. "Our future, starts with your voice."


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2026

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

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# COUNCIL CANDIDATES, DISTRICT II LEHI

## Carla Banuelos



Hello,

I am Carla J. Banuelos and I am a candidate for Council Representative for the Lehi District.

I have lived almost all of my life in Lehi and I come from a large Piipaash family. My mother is the late Lauretta Gates, and I am the proud granddaughter of the late Ike & Sienna Frances Gates.

I've held many positions within the Community as well as outside our boundaries. I have been in my current position for approximately 20 plus years. I have also served as a Tribal Court Associate Judge, as well as a Tribal Court Advocate representing Adult Community Members charged with a crime and Juvenile's when charged with an offense.

I am the mother three children, Crystal, Renee, and Grant, and I have one beautiful and amazing granddaughter, Isabelle.

I am seeking the position of Council Representative to serve our Community. As our Community continues to grow in enrollment, there must be a commitment as a Council to being financially forward-looking, strategically planning, reviewing our objective values and missions, and setting clear and achievable goals in order for our Community to continue to provide necessary services to our members.

If elected, I commit to being an active contributor, without bias, personal opinion, or gain; to weigh each decision with fairness and what is in the best interest of the Community. I assure you I will represent all of our Community and not just those of select few, as I believe a good leader makes decisions that benefit the common good.

Thank you, and I hope I earn your vote as Lehi District Council Representative.

## Kimberly Manuel



Statement not provided at time of printing.

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### BEAR GREASE THE MUSICAL
NOV 21 | Ballroom

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NOV 20 | Showroom



### LARRY OMAHA
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AAA Four Diamond Award

# Glow Together, Stand Together, Heal Together

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

*3 Takeaways:*

- *The 2026 SRPMIC Glow Walk commemorated its 15th year in October.*
- *The walk brings awareness to suicide, sexual assault and domestic violence.*
- *This year's course was one lap around the Two Waters campus, ending near the Helping Hands thrift store.*

"This event is getting bigger and bigger," began Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Health Educator Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty as she looked at nearly 250 guests attending the annual Glow Walk.

She continued, "Fifteen years ago, when this walk started, it started out as just a suicide awareness walk done by one of my coworkers, Marylynn Marshburn. She lost her nephew to suicide, and she wanted to do a walk in his memory and honor."

The walk now raises awareness about suicide, sexual assault and domestic violence.

For this year's walk, which occurred on Oct. 13, participants walked one lap around the Two Waters campus, ending near the Helping Hands thrift store.

Various vendor booths from tribal government departments packed the Two Waters Courtyard near Friendship Park. Additionally, local collaborators such as Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV), the Phoenix Indian Center and others were also on hand to provide support, resources and more for those in need.

"I have family who are victims of sexual assault, and I lost a brother to suicide," said SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler during his opening remarks. "People say 'Time heals all wounds.' Really, that wound is always with you. You just learn to cope with it a little better. Things like this for me are really meaningful. I appreciate every one of you here."

Following Butler's opening remarks and prayer, Tribal Council member Su:k Fulwilder also provided some words.

"There's a lot of us struggling; a lot of mental health things are going on right now," said Fulwilder. "Thank you all, and [especially] you young people who are here to move your legs with us. Be healthier together, be united."

During her speech, Fulwilder disclosed the loss of her son Joaquin to suicide. "We're going on four years; [the anniversary] is coming up at the end of the month. I mention it because I know I'm not the only one who's hurting. We need all of us to join together and be unified in these times. My condolences to everybody who's been affected."

Just before the walk started, additional words were provided by the SRPMIC Royalty court. Miss Salt River Jizelle Juan, Miss Salt River First Attendant Ella McGilbary, Miss Salt River Second Attendant Cherish Vavages and Jr. Miss Salt River Lanae Medina all provided inspirational messages to the people.

"It's so important that we're here for one another; you never know what one is going through," said Juan. "Something simple as saying 'Hello' and 'How are you?' can mean so much to someone, so please check on your loved ones. For those that are going through something, you are seen, you are loved, you are heard. We love you so much; the whole Community is here for you."

As far as the walk, participants completed the official lap as daytime slowly turned into nighttime under the mid-October moonlight. The Salt River Police Department and additional staff ensured participants remained safe, navigating traffic away from the course lap.

If you or anyone you know is dealing with domestic violence or experiencing thoughts of suicide, please refer to these telephone numbers. Help is available. Do not suffer in silence.

**Resources:**

Emergency: 911
Suicide Emergency Line:
988 (voice or text)
Salt River Crisis Line: (480) 850-9230
Salt River Behavioral Health:
(480) 278-7742
24-Hour Crisis Hotlines
1-800-273-8255 (nationwide)
1-800-631-1314
(602) 222-9444 (Maricopa County)
(844) 534-4673 (State of Arizona)
Non-Crisis Warmlines (a "warmline" allows you to speak to a peer)
(602) 347-1100 (Maricopa, Pinal and Gila counties)
(520) 770-9909 (Pima County)
(888) 404-5530 (Northern Arizona)

*Regarding terms used when discussing sexual assault, the term "victim" is used when someone has experienced a sexual assault. The term "survivor" is used to describe someone who has been sexually assaulted and is attending or has gone through a recovery process and has regained a sense of peace. Both terms are needed as they serve different purposes. These terms change depending on individual preference.*




From left to right: Miss Salt River First Attendant Ella McGilbary, Miss Salt River Second Attendant Cherish Vavages, Jr. Miss Salt River Lanae Medina and Miss Salt River Jizelle Juan.

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**PLAY** *Escape rooms, skydiving, racing, mini golf, and more*

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**DINE** *From quick bites to sit down feasts–plus dessert*

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101 & TALKING STICK WAY

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SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85250
THEPAVILIONSATTALKINGSTICK.COM

THE PAVILIONS AT TALKING STICK

## SALT RIVER CHURCH LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

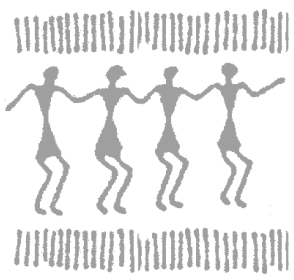
**SOARING EAGLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SEMI)**
Marriott Courtyard, 5201 N. Pima Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Apostle Edward Chance
apostleeac@gmail.com
(480) 516-6509
SERVICES: 10 AM on Sundays
Visit us on Facebook Live, Wednesdays at 7 PM for Voice of Truth

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

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

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

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



**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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O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS
10,005 E. Osborn Road,
Scottsdale, AZ 85256



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

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


## NOTICE REGARDING AI FLYERS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Please Note: O'odham Action News will no longer accept submissions and flyers that are believed to be AI-generated. Paid advertisements that appear to be made with AI will be subject to our design fees, which are based on ad size and available on our website.

## O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

| ISSUE | DEADLINE AT NOON |
|---|---|
| NOVEMBER 19 | NOVEMBER 6 |
| DECEMBER 3 | NOVEMBER 20 |
| DECEMBER 17 | DECEMBER 4 |

**SEND INFORMATION TO O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS at oan@srpmic-nsn.gov**
**For more information please call (480) 362-7750.**

## SALT RIVER BUSINESS LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COTA INTERIOR DESIGN GROUP**
Commercial and Residential Interiors, FF&E Procurement, Five-Hour Design Advisory, and Real Estate Staging. Serving Phoenix, Scottsdale, New York City, and Working Globally. LORENZOCOTA.COM | INSTAGRAM: @LORENZOCOTA

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

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

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

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

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

**FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**
Pressure Washing, tree trimming/removal, junk removal, etc. Premium monthly service package comes with free pressure wash.
(480) 434-3307
tyking_7@outlook.com

**GREY ALLIANCE PARTNERS (GAP) LLC**
Bridging the GAP, Building the Future Tribal consulting; business liaison for Community members and outside organizations on various collaborative topics including sports and development
greyalliancepartners@gmail.com

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

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

**HONEYBRAIDZ N SPA, LLC**
Licensed Cosmetologist specializing in luxury protective styling and natural hair wellness. We provide expert braiding services, including knotless and feed-in styles, along with handcrafted botanical scalp and hair care products. Ricshawn Johnson: (480) 781-7867 (text only), booking site: vagaro.com/honeybraidznspallc1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ROUGH COUNTRY HANDYMAN AND REMOVAL SERVICE**
Lester Loring 480-512-2262, RoughCountryHRS@gmail.com
Mon-Sat, 7 am-6 pm (message after 6)
Minor Home Repairs, doors/knobs maintenance, screens, small concrete installation/repair, small DIY projects, TV Mounting, Junk Removal Services, Debris Hauling, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Salt River Helps Mother Earth with Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

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

How do you save Mother Earth? One day at a time. Or, in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, one household hazardous waste drop-off event at a time.

This year's annual waste drop-off event was held on Oct. 10 and served close to 200 vehicles and trucks across a six-hour time window. The event was coordinated by the SRPMIC Environmental Protection and Natural Resources team.

ENPR Staff Archaeologist Asa Andreas and EPNR Senior Environmental Engineer Carol Hibbard provided *O'odham Action News* with the official stats from this year's SRPMIC household hazardous waste drop-off:

- 178 vehicles and 12 community pickups visited the drop-off station.
- 6,817 pounds of waste was diverted from landfill disposal.
- 50 tires were dropped off.
- 1,400 pounds of paper were shredded. (For comparison, one ream of paper weighs 5 pounds.)
- The event disposed of large amounts of electronic waste and other hazardous waste such as lithium-ion batteries, fluorescent bulbs and vehicle batteries.

For more information on EPNR, email epnr@srpmic-nsn.gov or dial (480) 362-7500.



# LEGAL NOTICES

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

**Andrews,** Teresa – Permanency Hearing Case: JV-26-0041 Court Date: December 14, 2026 at 9 a.m.

**Reed,** Kevin Dale - Mother: Jessica Schurz (DOB: 09/19/1994) Children: D.D.S. (DOB: 06/04/2023); C.R.C.S. (DOB: 06/04/2023) Review Hearing Case: JV-25-0198/0199 Court Date: December 3, 2026, at 10 AM

**Sharp,** Jason Lawrence - Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-26-0229 Court Date: November 10, 2026 at 9 a.m.

**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**

**Corporate Audio Visual Labor Inc.,** - Civil Complaint Hearing Case: CV-26-5389 Court Date: December 2, 2026 at 10 AM

**Rivera,** Andrew Michael - Evidentiary Guardianship Hearing Case: CV-26-5533 Court Date: November 18, 2026 at 10 AM

**Parker,** Damien - Evidentiary Hearing Case: CV-26-4284 Court Date: November 9, 2026 at 9:30 AM

**Sharp,** Jason Lawrence - Adjudication Hearing Case: JV-26-0229 Court Date: November 10, 2026 at 9 a.m.

**Silversmith,** Alyse Charlene Blessing- Initial Probate Hearing In the Matter of Gary Lawrence Silversmith Case: CV-26-5787 Court Date: December 2, 2026 at 1:30 PM

**Silversmith,** Davina Helene- Initial Probate Hearing In the Matter of Gary Lawrence Silversmith Case: CV-26-5787 Court Date: December 2, 2026 at 1:30 PM

**Silversmith,** Kimberlee Spring Blossom - Initial Probate Hearing In the Matter of Gary Lawrence Silversmith Case: CV-26-5787 Court Date: December 2, 2026 at 1:30 PM

**Spex,** Vannessa - Annual Guardianship Review/Order to Show Cause Case: CF-17-0248 Court Date: January 7, 2027 at 9:30 AM

**Stevens,** Lisa Faylene - Status Hearing Case: C-12-0066 Court Date: November 10, 2026 at 10 AM

# DEFAULT NOTICES

**BARKER, MARY ELLEN**
**CASE #: CV-26-3597**

Notice of Judgment and Order Granting Retrieval of Property:

Judgment and Order Granting Retrieval of Cargo Container – Container ID no: 45-450015-8 is hereby ORDERED AND ADJUDGED and is hereby ENTERED on the 29th day of September, 2026

It is further, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Southwest Mobile Storage has authorization to retrieve the property at issue after October 29, 2026. All obstacles shall be removed to allow for retrieval of the property and any/all personal belonging shall be removed from the container prior to October 29, 2026.

**SMITH, KARILYN D.**
**CV-26-4566**
**DIANE NOLINE V. KARILYN D. SMITH**

To: Karilyn D. Smith, 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 22nd of September, 2026.

CLERK OF THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT

**SPEX, VANNESSA**
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**
**CF-17-0248**

In The Matter of A.E. (MINOR)

To: Vannessa Spex

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the above-entitled court on the 7th day of January, 2027 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 the hearing on August 31, 2026 at 9:30 A.M., after being duly noticed.

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: October 22, 2026.

JUDGE JANAYA JOHNSON, SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

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

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

- ✓ New Year's Day
- ✓ 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

## YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Your vote helps shape decisions that impact:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Tribal and local partnerships
- Federal and state policies affecting Native communities

Every election—primary and general—plays a role in determining leadership and priorities.

### SRPMIC Elections

Important Election Dates

- Nov. 12: Deadline to Request Home Voting (General Election)
- Nov. 17: General Election

For election information or to request an absentee ballot, home voting, or general election information visit https://srpmic-nsn.gov/government/election/#voter or contact Erica Harvier or Ardell Moore.

Phone: (480) 362-7466 or (480) 362-7465
Email: SaltRiverElections@srpmic-nsn.gov

# Warrant Resolution Day Offers Opportunity to Address Outstanding Warrants

**SUBMITTED BY OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTOR**

Individuals with outstanding tribal warrants issued by the Salt River Community Court are encouraged to take advantage of an upcoming opportunity to address their warrants voluntarily and avoid an unexpected arrest.

On Friday, Jan. 22, 2027, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Salt River Community Court will host a Warrant Resolution Day, providing individuals with outstanding warrants an opportunity to self-surrender and begin resolving their legal matters.

Outstanding warrants do not simply disappear with time. Ignoring a warrant can result in an arrest during a traffic stop, at home, at work, or during another encounter with law enforcement. These arrests can be disruptive, embarrassing and stressful for individuals and their families.

Warrant Resolution Day is intended to provide a more proactive alternative. Rather than waiting to be arrested, individuals can voluntarily appear at the Community Court to address their outstanding warrants and take steps toward resolving their cases.

The event also reflects a broader commitment to encouraging personal responsibility while reducing unnecessary involvement with law enforcement. By providing a designated opportunity for individuals to come forward voluntarily, the Court hopes to help participants address unresolved legal matters before they result in additional complications.

Warrant Resolution Day will take place at the Salt River Community Court on Jan. 22, 2027, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

For additional information, contact the Defense Advocate Office at 480-362-5660 or the Office of the Community Prosecutor at 480-362-5400.

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

## 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**



## SRPMIC Community Announcement Boards
# Under Construction

The announcement boards listed below will be out of use until further notice as they are prepped for the Youth Services-Teen Program to complete murals on the boards.

Locations: Canalside, VA I, VA II, & Lonely Cactus

**13 community announcement boards have been placed throughout Salt River and Lehi for community departments and public use. These boards are ONLY used for flyers & announcements. Please use the clips provided on each board.**

**Out of respect for all utilizing the boards, DO NOT REMOVE ANY POSTED FLYERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. If you find no available empty clips please overlap flyers.**

**Please refrain from using the following items on boards as they are prohibited:**

- **Any kind of tape**
- **Any kind of glue**
- **NO SCREWS OR NAILS**
- **HEAVY DUTY STAPLES (STAPLE GUN)**

Questions/Comments/Concerns call: Community Relations Office 480-362-7740



# Nurture Naturally:

## Unlock the Benefits of Breastfeeding

Come learn about breastfeeding and other programs to keep your family well. Discover resources and support for new and expecting mothers, ensuring every family has the tools to thrive.

### MORNING SESSIONS

**NOV. 17**
**DEC. 15**
**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

### AFTERNOON SESSIONS

**NOV. 18**
**DEC. 16**
**2:00PM-4:30PM**

**NEW LOCATION** 8800 E. Chaparral Rd Suite 110 Scottsdale, AZ

WIC

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**
**CALL 480-362-7300 OR EMAIL WIC@SRPMIC-NSN.GOV.**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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

SRPMIC TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

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

**Review the proposed safety improvements!**

Previous community feedback helped develop recommended safety improvement projects for roads, sidewalks, lighting, and other transportation facilities throughout the Community.

**Scan the QR code below to review the proposed projects and share your feedback to help guide transportation safety investments and priorities.**

ARIZONA 87 CORRIDOR STUDY

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

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

**We want to hear from you!**
Scan the QR code to provide your input on the interactive map.

*tinyurl.com/SRPMICTTSP*

**Feedback deadline: November 20**

# To American Indian or Alaska Natives on AHCCCS, **your coverage is not changing.**

New AHCCCS rules will start in 2027. But if you are American Indian or Alaska Native, under federal law, these requirements do not apply to you, and your coverage will stay the same. To ensure no coverage gaps, AHCCCS needs information confirming you are American Indian or Alaskan Native – through information on an application, documents you've submitted, or electronic verification.

YOU MAY get a letter about these changes. Everyone with AHCCCS coverage gets one – it doesn't mean anything has changed for you or your family. For more information, visit **KeepMyAHCCCS.com**.

Talk to someone you trust. Your tribal health program or Community Health Representative can answer your questions. You can also call AHCCCS at (855) 220-0903.

Learn more at KeepMyAHCCCS.com

KEEP MY AHCCCS

*Continued from front page*

# Piipaash Matasheevm Community Fall Social

stood what they were saying and what it all means.' That really touched me because I thought, you know, my mother was a very quiet person, but she had a remembrance, and this special place brought it back to her. I'm grateful for the elders and their vision to have this wonderful spot here."

Later, Dallas provided additional remarks, including sharing his appreciation for the many staff and departments that help get the fall celebration underway. "It's a beautiful morning today. I was talking with the guys this morning from Public Works. I just want to thank them for everything they do."

Dallas mentioned that a rainstorm in September ripped through Lehi and toppled one of the massive mesquite trees near the Gathering Area. Thankfully, the Public Works team worked together to properly inspect and remove the tree while trying to save it. Dallas noted his appreciation for their efforts.

He continued, "We've also had some visitors from different tribes that came by, and they liked to know how we went about things. I told them to come by and visit. We can share what we've done and how we do things here. Today is a good experience to do that, socialize and talk with people."

One of the cornerstones of the social is the open-door invitation, which encourages performers from across Indian Country to share their culture, songs and dances with the people in Lehi.

As his speech neared its end, Dallas provided his appreciation to Garfield Nish for performing the sunrise blessing, which is a staple of both the fall and spring Matasheevm gatherings as the world seemingly continues to be experiencing turbulent and uncertain times.

During the performance portion, SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, a band member of the Bird Singing and Dancing by the River group, talked about the importance of coming together to share the songs and dances with the people.

"It's always a good thing to get together as one tribe," said Leonard. "[We have] two differently distinct languages and different ways of looking at things. But we're one when it comes to the harder parts. Let's dance."

In between songs, Leonard also gave special recognition to one of his fellow singers who was casually sitting underneath the shade, Meldon Fulwilder.

"We've been singing together for the last 40 years or so," said Leonard. "He's one of the gentlemen that actually sang with Mr. Leonard Carlos (baḍ) and Mr. Felix Richards (baḍ). Me and him are probably the last ones to actually be singers from those two teachers. I wanted to introduce him to you all."

Fulwilder flashed a small grin and gently nodded. Leonard then waved to Fulwilder before beginning the next song and said, with his trademark wit, "Sorry to embarrass you," adding, "I'm just a singer in a band."

The celebration also featured the White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers, dancers from the Hopi Tribe, and many more performers and singers.

Later in the night, the SRPMIC Royalty court also made an appearance in Lehi.

Miss Salt River Jizelle Juan, Miss Salt River First Attendant Ella McGilbary and Jr. Miss Salt River Lanae Medina introduced themselves and shared a special message. During the Matasheevm, the royalty queens of Salt River hosted a "tiny tot" special for the little ones to bask in the good medicine that comes from the songs and dances of the people.

Additionally, in one of her final moments wearing the crown before handing it down to the next honoree, Miss Indian Arizona Sialik King made an appearance and joined her fellow "sash sisters" to dance the night away. Her reign ended in October.

The songs, smiles and support that were on display continued to prove why these songs and dances are so important to many. There are healing elements within the songs, dances and culture, not only from the Piipaash, but from other tribal nations as well.





**Want to see more photos?**
visit our website at
www.oodhamnews.org




SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving

Hosted by St. Mary's Food Bank

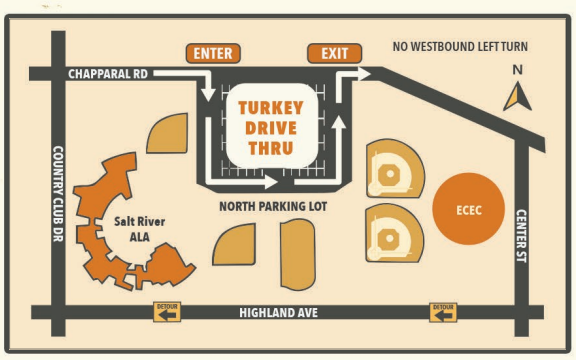
Drive-Thru Turkey & Food Box Event

NOVEMBER 23, 2026 | 9AM-11AM

SALT RIVER ACCELERATED LEARNING ACADEMY • NORTH ATHLETIC PARKING LOT

FREE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

ITEMS TO BE GIVEN:
- WHOLE FROZEN TURKEY
- FOOD BOX
- HOLIDAY PRODUCE




REQUIRED TO RECEIVE ITEMS:
- Must be 18 and over.
- One Turkey/Food Boxes, Holiday Produce items per household.

INTAKE QUESTIONS (while you wait in line)
Name, Address, Date of Birth, How many in the household?

MUST SHOW ONE PROOF OF RESIDENCY:
AZ State Driver's License, AZ state ID or SRPMIC Tribal ID OR Mail with your name and address on the front.

No proof of income required.

THERE WILL BE A DEDICATED SENIOR (55+) ONLY LINE.
MUST BE IN VEHICLE. NO WALK UPS. NO OVERNIGHT PARKING.

St. Mary's Food Bank

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SRPMIC.
ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS | 480-362-7740 | SRPMIC | SALTRIVERINDIANCOMUNITY

COMMUNITY
Thanksgiving Celebration

Two Waters Courtyard | 11AM - 2PM
10061 E. Osborn Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85256



SAT, NOVEMBER 21, 2026
11:30am - Turkey Dinner Served!

TURKEY CALLING CONTEST | ENTERTAINMENT MOLINA MUSIC | KIDS ZONE

Come Enjoy a Meal with Family and Friends!

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - EVENTS • 480.362.7740 • SRPMIC • SALTRIVERINDIANCOMMUNITY

*Continued from front page*

# New Miss Indian Arizona Crowned; Sialik King Bids Farewell

***3 Takeaways:***

- *Miss Indian Arizona and SRPMIC member Sialik King crowned the next Miss Indian Arizona, Shavaughn Titla of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.*
- *There were five contestants in the October pageant: Titla, Priya Simpson (White Mountain Apache Tribe), Corina Collateta (Hopi Tribe), Dayhenoa Yazzie (Navajo Nation) and Kylie Kenton (San Carlos Apache Tribe.)*
- *Participants took part in several different showcases and reflections for which they were judged by a panel at the Phoenix event.*



Miss Indian Arizona 2026-2027 contestants from left to right: Priya Simpson (White Mountain Apache Tribe), Corina Collateta (Hopi Tribe), Shavaughn Titla (White Mountain Apache Tribe), Dayhenoa Yazzie (Navajo Nation) and Kylie Kenton (San Carlos Apache Tribe).

Indian Arizona, reigning from 2025 to 2026, crowned the new Miss Indian Arizona at the end of the evening.

"When I was younger, I never thought in a million years that I would run for the Miss Indian Arizona title, but when reflecting back on my reign I knew that I wanted to continue my service to our people and extend the goodwill of the O'odham and Piipaash … to our beautiful state and all the strong people within," King said in her farewell address. Earlier in the program, she sang the national anthem in O'odham. King's platform as a contestant last year was "Promoting Cultural Learning in Our Youth Through Traditional Singing and Dancing."

Pete Imus (Hualapai Tribe) was the master of ceremonies for night. Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Vice-President and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona President Paul J. Russell provided the welcome. Also, the program featured an invocation by Miss Indian Arizona 2025-2026 First Attendant Chloe Eskey (Navajo Nation) and dances from the Colorado River Indian Tribes River Dance Group.

There were five contestants this year: Priya Simpson (White Mountain Apache Tribe), Corina Collateta (Hopi Tribe), Shavaughn Titla (White Mountain Apache Tribe), Dayhenoa Yazzie (Navajo Nation) and Kylie Kenton (San Carlos Apache Tribe.)

Each contestant took part in a series of showcases and reflections for which they were scored by judges sitting at a table in front of the stage. One of the judges was former Miss Indian Arizona Sistine Lewis, who is from the SRPMIC. The contestants engaged in dance, modern reflections, a talent showcase and traditional reflections with oral presentations. Simpson took home the Miss Congeniality Award from her peers, as well as the Community Service Award. The audience voted for Kenton for the People's Choice Award. Titla won the Evening Wear Award, Talent Award and Oral Presentation Award. Titla showcased the Apache cradleboard and its importance to the White Mountain Apache.

Before the judges tabulated their results with help of the auditors, King made her farewell walk featuring O'odham and Piipaash dances with fellow SRPMIC members and a blessing from SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard. It was a moment to remember on traditional O'odham land.

"It was 10 years ago that I started my journey in the world of tribal pageantry, and it fills me with great pride and gratitude to stand here today as I share my final moments in the pageantry circle with you," King said.

Next, it was time for the top three contestants to be crowned as Miss Indian Arizona royalty for the next year. Kenton was named second attendant, followed by Simpson as first attendant.

After a moment of silent, suspenseful anticipation, Titla was named the 64th Miss Indian Arizona. King gave her the crown. Titla will serve as a goodwill ambassador for all 22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona.

Titla's mother, Hersha G. Titla, was Miss Indian Arizona 1995-1996.

"First, I would like to say thank you all for being here and supporting all the amazing girls," Titla began during her acceptance speech.

It was nothing but laughter and singing all week with her peers, she said before delivering her final message.

"Always remember, if you are struggling or if you are going through a hard time, please know that you are not alone. You matter, you are loved, and the world is a beautiful place with you in it. Thank you."



Miss Indian Arizona 2025-2026 Sialik King (front left) is joined by fellow traditional dancers from the SRPMIC (from left to right) Tiare Begay Smith, Diondria Pilger and Zoe Hernandez. This was King's farewell dance before she crowned Shavaughn Titla.

*Continued from front page*

# First Responder Safety Day

and public safety. Many booths kept the whole family engaged with carnival-style games; there was even a balloon-animal station. Also on the field was an inflatable obstacle course and a fire department-themed bouncy house with a dalmatian on the front.

The evening was peppered with fire and police demonstrations, including police K-9 officers sniffing for illicit substances and a structure that was intentionally lit on fire.

For the police, demonstrating how K-9 officers like Kapi do their job can be tricky. Rez dogs were seen at the event participating in their own ways, waiting in line for cobbler or sneaking into the bouncy house, but it was all work for the K-9. An officer tossed several bags on the ground, and it was up to the hard-working "good boy" to identify which contained the illicit substance. Kapi's cute face didn't betray the serious nature of the work, and it was an important reminder that these dogs are very, very good at their jobs as he quickly discovered the substance and communicated with his handler.

The fire demonstration showcased the technique and response time of firefighters as they ran the scenario like a drill. The flames spread quickly on the makeshift structure and were put out with precision by the team at Fire Station 291. The brave firefighters showed how they work quickly together to move the hose and have all eyes on the objective, noting any points where the flames spread or weren't suppressed. This demonstration also showcased the advanced technology in some of the drones, as one captured the heat signature from the fire, highlighting the importance of technology in keeping the public and our first responders safe.

The return of Safety Day was a success in many ways, and attendees left with insights into how the operations of the SRPD and SRFD are always improving and working toward a safer tomorrow.



Heat signatures captured by the drone give more info about potential risks as the fire demonstration was carried out.




Police K-9 Kapi and his handler demonstrated his powerful sniffing skills to attendees.




Balloon animals, bouncy houses, and info booths made sure the event had something for everyone.




Drones were seen buzzing overhead and swooping in to land throughout the event.

This Public Service page is sponsored by:

SRMG

# VETERANS DAY

## November 11th

This Veterans Day, Salt River Materials Group proudly recognizes the veterans among our employees, throughout the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and across the nation who have answered the call to serve.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your courage, dedication, and the sacrifices you and your families have made. Your service continues to inspire us and strengthen the communities we call home.

*Happy Veterans Day!*



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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.

**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/dependance. 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,** Join Community Recreational Services every 1st and 2nd Tuesday of the month for a community writing circle, from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm!

Upcoming dates:
Lehi Community Building Rm 109: Tuesday November 3, 2026; Tuesday December 1, 2026; Tuesday January 5, 2027
Salt River Tribal Library: Tuesday November 10, 2026; Tuesday December 8, 2026; Tuesday January 12, 2027.
All genres and levels are welcome to express themselves in a safe and welcoming environment while listening to other's stories in writing. Questions? Contact Recreation Education Division staff at 480-362-6695

**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.

## SOAM MAṢAD XLY'A SHAXUK MAYK SHENTH NOVEMBER

**5 SRPMIC VICE-PRESIDENT FORUMS (GENERAL ELECTION),** Lehi Community Building from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. See flyer on page 9 for more information.

**7-8 RED MOUNTAIN EAGLE POW WOW,** Salt River Ballfields.
Grand Entry Schedule:
Saturday, November 7: 1PM and 7PM
Sunday, November 8: 1PM
Gourd Dancing:
Saturday, November 7: 10AM and 5PM
Sunday, November 8: 10AM

**9 NOVEMBER COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST,** 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. at Salt River Community Building. Reminder: For those who wish to submit unspoken prayer requests can do so by emailing: srpmicprayerbreakfast@gmail.com.

**9 SRPMIC COUNCIL FORUMS (GENERAL ELECTION),** Salt River Community Building from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. See flyer on page 9 for more information.

**11 VETERANS DAY - SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED,** Please plan accordingly.

**11 SRPMIC VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AND PARADE,** Parade begins at
Program begins after parade concludes, around 11:30 at Salt River Community Building.

**12 SRPMIC COUNCIL FORUMS (GENERAL ELECTION),** Lehi Community Building from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. See flyer on page 9 for more information

**14 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING,** 9 a.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs

**16 CM DOKA DISTRICT C MEETING,** 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers. For the district meeting agenda, please visit the SRPMIC Council District Meeting information website: https://tinyurl.com/SRPMICDMs

**17 SRPMIC GENERAL ELECTIONS,** SRPMIC Identification Card Required To Vote:
6:00 am - 6:00 pm
District I (Salt River): Salt River Community Building
District II (Lehi): Lehi Community Building

**19 5-IN-5 INITIATIVE FRAMEWORK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK EVENT,** 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Kavad/Kushov Cultural Campus. You are invited to join us for a community conversation where we will come together to review the 5 IN 5 Initiative Framework and provide an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts, questions, and recommendations. Your participation is an important part of this process. We want to hear from the community and ensure that the Initiative Framework reflects the priorities, experiences, and perspectives of our community. Dinner provided for the first 50 guests. To RSVP Email: FiveinFive@srpmic-nsn.gov OR Call: Senior Project Managers at 602-785-1982 or 602-502-3128

**21 COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION,** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Two Waters Courtyard. Gather together with the Community for a thankful meal! Enjoy time with family and friends. Turkey Calling Contest, Entertainment: Molina Music, Kids Zone. This is a no alcohol/drug/gang/ & no tobacco/vaping event. No pets, weapons/firearms, or outside ice chests/grills/food/glass allowed. Bags subject to search. Questions? Please email events@srpmic-nsn.gov

**26-27 SRPMIC OFFICES CLOSED - THANKSGIVING,** Please plan accordingly. Essential services will remain operational. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, November 30, 2026.

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