

Taylastina Perkins-Weryackwe
Graduates from
U.S. Naval
Academy
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SRPMIC Day Laborers Recognized at Luncheon

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O'odham Action News
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Day laborers are valuable temporary employees utilized by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in various departments for staffing needs. The Day Laborer Program allows Community members to work at entry-level positions within the various departments in the Community, which could ultimately lead to full-time employment.

All day laborers are required to attend mandatory training and submit necessary paperwork in order to receive work assignments by the SRPMIC's Human Resources Department. Once they are verified to begin working, SRPMIC day laborers help ensure departments in the Community continue to operate without any stoppages.

To celebrate their hard work throughout the year, SRPMIC hosted the inaugural Day Laborers Luncheon at Friendship Park on November 20. The hour-long celebration featured a catered lunch prepared by Vickie Andrews, raffle prizes and a beanbag-toss tournament with a \$6 cash prize.

SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler served as emcee for



Assistant HR Director Crystal Banuelos.



Justine Cooper and Marilyn Burke.



Byron Hernandez.



SRPMIC President Martin Harvier.



Victoria Carlos.



Kurt Montano.

the luncheon. "I want to thank the workers working today, especially the ones who were delivering turkeys with me 8 minutes

ago," said Butler, referring to the Thanksgiving Turkey Give-away at the Accelerated Learning Academy, which had utilized

many day laborers earlier that morning. "The program doesn't

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CRS Social Division Accredited Afterschool Program Receives Award



CRS Social Division Accredited Afterschool Program Team celebrates receiving the 2023 Out-of-School Time Quality Award of Excellence. Photo courtesy of Senior Multimedia Specialist Kasey Kauakahi.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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A few days after receiving accreditation from the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE), the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Community Recreational Services (CRS) Social Division's Accredited After School Program was notified that it was a finalist for the 2023 Out-of-School Time Quality Award of Excellence.

At the 35th annual School's Out, Make It Count Conference on October 28 at the Phoenix Convention Center, the SRPMIC program staff found out that they won the award.

Present at the conference to accept the award were Serapha-



nia Gould, CRS Social Programs manager; Kevin Riding-In and Ephraim Sloan, recreation coordinators II; Gabriel Penunuri, Karria Silver and Jerri Thomas,

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FEMA Continuity Planning for Tribal Governments Course Held at SCC



Front row (left to right): Tim Zientek, Citizen Potawatomi Nation; Vincent Martinez, FEMA Region 9; Mike Fila, Cocopah Indian Tribe; Faith Power, FEMA ONCP; Ku'uipo (Kaye) Khabir-Harvey, Monacan Indian Nation; Rachel Nutter, FEMA Region 6; Christine Borgognoni, FEMA Region 9; Michael Graham, Miccosukee Tribe. Middle row (left to right): Josue (Josh) Garcia, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Tribe; Holly Mann, FEMA ONCP; Cathy Bachhuber, Oneida Tribe; Christine Gregorek, FEMA ONCP; Paige Sprague, Passamaquoddy Tribe; Nora Kennedy, Blackfeet Nation; Charles Kmet, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Back row (left to right): Joseph Urrea, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Nelson Andrews Jr., Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Adrian McDonald, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Ashley Cox, FEMA Office of National Continuity Programs (ONCP); Steve Duryea, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation of Kansas; Nicole Ishmael, Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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As students and faculty attended their classes at Scottsdale Community College (SCC) on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on November 1 and 2, little did they know that at the college's Indigenous Cultural Center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of National Continuity Programs (ONCP) was holding a training course for representatives from 15 tribal nations from across the country. The ONCP guides the plan-

ning, implementation and assessment of continuity programs that enable federal, tribal and territorial governments to continue performing essential functions and delivering critical services to citizens during an emergency, according to FEMA.

The two-day pilot training course focused on continuity planning for tribal governments.

Representatives from the tribal nations contributed their feedback and expertise to help the ONCP update content for their recently developed tribal Continuity of Operations (COOP)

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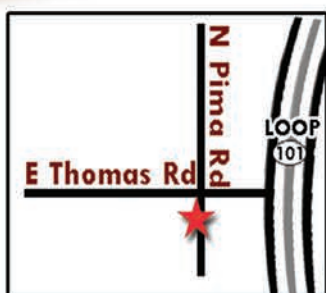
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Continued from front pg
SRPMIC Day Laborers Recognized at Luncheon

stop!” he said.
 SRPMIC President Martin Harvier then shared a story about how, years ago, he took his older brother to work on a job site laying asphalt in Scottsdale. “I was late picking him up, so he took the bus and ended up at the Denny’s there on McDowell Road,” said President Harvier. “I saw his check; he got paid \$8 for working eight hours in the sun.” He added that the asphalt company charged his brother for every job expense, which included all of the appropriate safety equipment that he needed in order to perform his job. “Because of his situation, that was all he could do. It bothered me. I remember talking about this with our Community Manager and I said, ‘I wish we could have something here,’” said President Harvier.

The Day Laborer Program has graduated many alumni who have worked their way to full-time employment with the Community. Back in 2017, Luis Bejarano began as a day laborer, and now he is employed with SRPMIC Public Works. He was invited to speak to share his thoughts on the program and its impact.

“It was fun. I was picking up trash; I didn’t mind it. But my higher-ups [saw] me out there,” Bejarano said. “Next thing I knew, I put in an application and I was hired. I was surprised. But when I started [full-time], they told me they [saw] me out there when I was a day laborer picking up trash. If it wasn’t for the Day Laborer [Program], I don’t know where I’d be. Just stick with it,” he said.

Byron Hernandez, another graduate of the Day Laborer Program, also spoke at the luncheon. Now currently working

in the mailroom, Hernandez shared the triumphs and tragedies he’s experienced in his life and how the Day Laborer Program helped him.

“I wasn’t holding myself accountable. I didn’t mean to, but I struggled with it,” said Hernandez. “Then I’d wake up in jail again.” Hernandez continued to detail how he was offered an opportunity to join the Day Laborer Program once he was released. “Through the day work program, I was introduced to different jobs in the Community,” he said. Hernandez continued to improve his life, completing treatment and focusing on his health. “I prayed about it. I finished rehab. I got honest with myself, my family and children. I came back to the [Day Laborer] Program and [Human Resources] put me in [the] finance [department]. January will be my first official year,” said Hernandez proudly.

The SRPMIC Day Laborer Program is a pathway to help assist Community members and their families. Whether it be cleaning up after a celebration of life service, tending to the Community Garden or any of the other job duties day laborers are known to perform in the Community, there are always employment opportunities available. “The path is there, you’ve just got to take it,” said Butler.

For more information about the Day Laborer Program, call SRPMIC Human Resources at (602) 362-7925

SRPMIC Community Member Showcased on Local Television News

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
O’odham Action News
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On November 7, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community member Christopher Leslie was interviewed by AZ Family TV (KTVK-TV) news at the newly opened Huhugam Ki: Museum.

Suffering from kidney disease for the past four years, Leslie had been placed on a waiting list to receive a new kidney. Thanks to a donor and the medical providers at the Mayo Clinic, Leslie was fortunate enough to receive his kidney transplant in October.

Leslie was interviewed by Mickaela Castillo of TV news, and a representative from the Mayo Clinic was also in attendance to photograph Leslie and his daughter playing together on the slide at Friendship Park while Leslie answered Castillo’s questions.

Now a recipient of a new kidney, Leslie stated he has gained a new perspec-



Christopher Leslie wants his daughter to have the opportunities he didn’t, including learning their tribe’s culture.

tive on life and has chosen to dedicate his life to teaching his daughter about their culture. Leslie specifically chose to be interviewed at the Huhugam Ki: Museum because of the museum’s recent re-opening and to show his daughter the history of their people and where they originate.

“It’s important to me to lay the groundwork so people who come after us know who we are,” said Leslie.



The interview was conducted at the Huhugam Ki: Museum.

Continued from front pg
CRS Social Division Accredited Afterschool Program Receives Award

recreation coordinators; Tammy Thomas and Ethan Larned, adaptive recreation coordinators; and Teresa Masayesva, CRS assistant director.

“This award shows the dedication, connection and commitment from our social and adaptive teams to the [youth of the] SRPMIC,” said Gould.

Masayesva said that it came as an exciting surprise when the CRS team found out they won the award at the event.

“It was both emotional and exciting for me to see the staff excited to walk on the stage and receive the award that has been a long time coming, and they all deserve the recognition,” said Masayesva.

At the conference, the Social Division team produced a new workshop session called “Connecting With Culture” that highlighted how the After School Program incorporates the O’odham and Piipaash languages in modern games, activities and teachings. The team demonstrated how to bridge the gap between

modern society and cultural traditions.

“This has been a longtime goal for our staff to get up there [at the podium] and share what they do best. Not only does this highlight our programs, but it also helps each of our staff [members] to grow professionally in presenting and public speaking,” said Masayesva. “Now that they got their first taste of presenting statewide, they have said that they are ready to present nationally, which we totally support and will help to guide them.”

After three years of hard work and training, Masayesva said that the social program can now say that it is “inclusive,” meaning that the staff members have gone through a variety of trainings that, with the guidance of the adaptive coordinators, have prepared them to make space for all types of students to participate in recreation programs side by side.



If you have a story idea, please call or email **Dodie Manuel** at (480) 362-7731 or email dodie.manuel@srpmic-nsn.gov

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School & Community Relations Hosts Parent Information Night



Parents and guardians talk with SCR Program Staff at the SCR Parent Information Night.

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
O'odham Action News
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Parents and guardians of school-age students gathered at the Accelerated Learning Academy on November 14 for a Parent Information Night hosted by School & Community Relations (SCR).

The SCR Department consists of education behavioral health counselors, attendance officers and an attendance technician who collects department data.

SCR Education Program manager Miranda Johnson-Moya said that the event is the program's way of sharing information with parents and guardians about important topics for the benefit of their students.

Some of the topics shared with parents at the different 10-minute breakout sessions were the importance of self-care, regular attendance for students, and the academic, attendance and incentive programs available to students.

"SCR really focuses on engaging

parents," said Johnson-Moya. "We want to ensure that their students are supported in any school district that they attend. We also want to ensure they have everything that they need to be successful academically."

Pamphlets about the SCR program were given out at the event, which also talked about the different kinds of counseling services that the program provides and how the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community enforces truancy laws.

While parents and guardians had parent talk with SCR program staff, the students had fun with crafts in an adjacent room, where they made turkeys and other holiday-themed art.

"We want to encourage our families to be well invested in their students' education," said Johnson-Moya. "Bringing these types of events to the Community is our way of really ensuring that our families are aware of what resources are out there and how they can better support their students."

'Read to Grow' Program Celebrates the Youth Literacy

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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Inside the Education Board Room on November 15 the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) Literacy for All team invited Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members and their tiny loved ones ages 3 to 5 to take part in the "Read to Grow" program.

"That's the fun part with literacy," began Deon Mitchell of K'aalgi i Kisses (Beautiful Kisses), her art production company. She was the curator for the Read to Grow program. "It's singing, dancing, talking and having conversations. It's a beautiful way for them to be engaged."



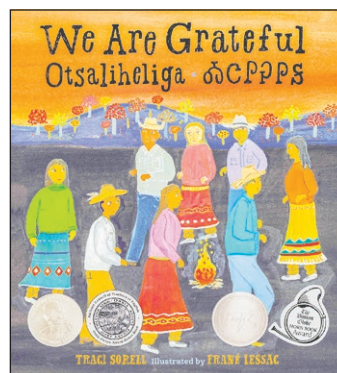
Charissa and lyla Tanner were all smiles as they enjoyed the program.

her life to showing Indigenous communities the beauty of art and education.

The Read to Grow program helped educate Community families about the importance of literacy and the different ways children can be encouraged to read. "There are magazines, audiobooks, comic books— here are a lot of free books too," said Mitchell as she encouraged nighttime book reading before bed. "One way you can support [your child's literacy] is to ask questions. Instead of saying, 'Did you like the book?' which will lead [the child] to a [simple] yes or no answer, ask 'What did you like about the book?' That forces them to think a bit more."

During the program, the group read *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Sorell writes fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats for young children. In this book, Sorell looks at the modern-day lives of people of the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee word Otsaliheliga translates to expressing gratitude; the book details one year of Cherokee customs, traditions and celebrations. A free copy of the book was given out to all families in attendance.

"All we want to do is support them and guide them," said Mitchell.



"We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga" was read and given to families in attendance.

Mitchell is an educator, artist, storyteller and singer from the Phoenix area. According to her biography, she is Tl'aashchi'i (Red Bottom People-mother), born for Naahilii (African American-father). Her cheii is T'abaahi (maternal grandfather is Water's Edge) and her nali is Naahilii (paternal grandfather is African American). She is originally from the heart of the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Arizona. A former teacher, Mitchell stated that she is proud to have dedicated

Continued from cover pg

FEMA Continuity Planning for Tribal Governments Course Held at SCC

curriculum that will be accessible to all tribal nations through the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

Along with the SRPMIC, tribal nations represented at the course were the Blackfeet Nation, the Choctaw Nation, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Miccosukee Tribe, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Monacan Indian Nation, the Oglala Lakota Tribe, the Oneida Tribe, the Pas-samaquoddy Tribe, the Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation of Kansas, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Tribe.

SRPMIC Vice-President Ricardo Leonard provided a blessing to the visitors, and Dr. Eric Leshinskie, president of SCC, welcomed everyone to the campus.

The SRPMIC was represented at the course by Charles "Chuck" Kmet, emergency manager, and Joseph Urrea, emergency management coordinator.

The FEMA Tribal Liaison for Arizona contacted the Emergency Management program and asked if the SRPMIC would be interested in hosting the course. Emergency Management agreed to host, coordinating with FEMA in September and partnering with SCC, which Urrea said has been a great partner in the past.

"ONCP is thankful for the opportunity to work closely with the diverse tribal nations that participated in the pilot and greatly appreciates the support from the SRPMIC and Scottsdale Community College to help improve training materials and better serve our tribal partners,"

said Ashley E. Cox, Continuity Training Branch chief/Regional Stakeholder Branch chief (A), ONCP Policy, Plans, and Evaluation Division.

Urrea said that the training also provided ways in which tribal COOP planning can be accomplished while ensuring that tribes' cultural and natural resources are respected and included.

"The greatest takeaways for me included seeing much-needed updates to the existing curriculum, as well as how receptive the FEMA team was to all of the recommendations that were being made by the attendees," said Urrea. "I think the final product will be very helpful to tribes and will ensure that they are better prepared to help their members" during times of emergency.

The SRPMIC Emergency Management program will be hosting two more FEMA courses over the next six months.

"This is not only a reflection on the training efforts that we are making, but also the positive impression that the SRPMIC continues to make on all the emergency management professionals who visit," said Urrea.

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Fiesta Bowl Football Clinic Scores a Touchdown with Community Youth

BY JUAN YSAGUIRRE
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The last time Matt Ware and Hamza Abdullah were on the same football field together was when they were teammates on the Arizona Cardinals from 2009 to 2011. As part of the Fiesta Bowl Charities program, Ware and Abdullah reunited on the football field on November 8 for the annual Fiesta Bowl Football Camp at the Accelerated Learning Academy campus. However, instead of sacking their opponents, they dedicated their time to teaching Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community youth important lessons that can be applied to life as well as football.

The SRPMIC proudly hosted the football skills clinic for Community youth on the ALA campus field. The former Cardinals defensive duo took questions from the youth regarding their NFL careers as well as how to continue living a healthy lifestyle after retiring. Ware was asked what his 100-yard dash time was presently, and with a smile he quickly replied, “48 seconds.”



Matt Ware (left) and Hamza Abdullah (right) sit with the children who attended the camp.



A young girl practices her footwork through the course.

how to withstand and overcome adversity. “Football was something that brought me and my family closer together,” he said to the kids. “[My stepfather] wanted me to learn how to overcome obstacles and to become a better man. Football was the way.”

Members of the Mesa High School varsity football team were also in attendance helping the Fiesta Bowl staff with the football clinic drill stations. There were eight stations total, all featuring a football activity, as well as a squatted huddle with Ware and Abdullah. There was a tackling station using real-life tackling dummies, a 5-on-5 scrimmage drill, a footwork course, a fumble recovery drill and running-back drills for the younger children.



5-on-5 scrimmages had the youth grouped in teams for an exhibition match.



The tackling station proved to be one of the most popular drills for the children to participate in.

Though they both played defense while playing for the Cardinals, Ware and Abdullah showcased their offensive skills by playing the role of quarterback so the youth could focus on running slant routes toward the endzone. The defensive duo ended up throwing a good number of touchdown passes during the football camp clinic, much to the delight of the Community children.

A two-sport athlete drafted to play both professional baseball and football, Ware shared with the Community why he chose football over baseball. “Two reasons. Number 1, when there’s 11 guys and we’re all on the same page and the play all comes together, it’s a beautiful thing,” he began. Then he added, “And number 2, I like to hit people.”

Abdullah then shared how he was one of 12 siblings and his stepfather wanted to him to learn



Community children gathered with Fiesta Bowl Staff, Mesa High School's Varsity football team, Ware and Abdullah for a photo during the camp.

St. Mary's Food Bank Gives Away Turkeys at SRPMIC

BY CHRIS PICCIUOLO
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food bank to other Tribal Nations such as the Navajo Nation, Hualapai Tribe and the Hopi Tribe.

St. Mary's and the SRPMIC distributed holiday meals to 971 households at the event, according to St. Mary's Food Bank Mobile Distribution manager Lauren Tomlinson-Handwerk. Overall, St. Mary's distributed more than 20,000 holiday meals to Tribal Communities in Arizona and at events in Phoenix and Surprise.

"We want everybody to be well fed and happy for their Thanksgiving," said SRPMIC events coordinator Adrian Sixkiller.



Cars lined up and followed instructions to receive food boxes from St. Mary's Food Bank.



A variety of healthy foods were included in the donated boxes.

St. Mary's Food Bank made a stop at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Accelerated Learning Academy parking lot on November 20 to distribute turkeys, tribal food boxes and fresh fruit to Community members.

The event was a collaboration between St. Mary's and the SRPMIC, with SRPMIC day workers, government employees and Council members volunteering to help with traffic control and food distribution.

SRPMIC was the eighth stop for St. Mary's during the month of November, taking the



Volunteers and employees alike came together to coordinate the distribution.



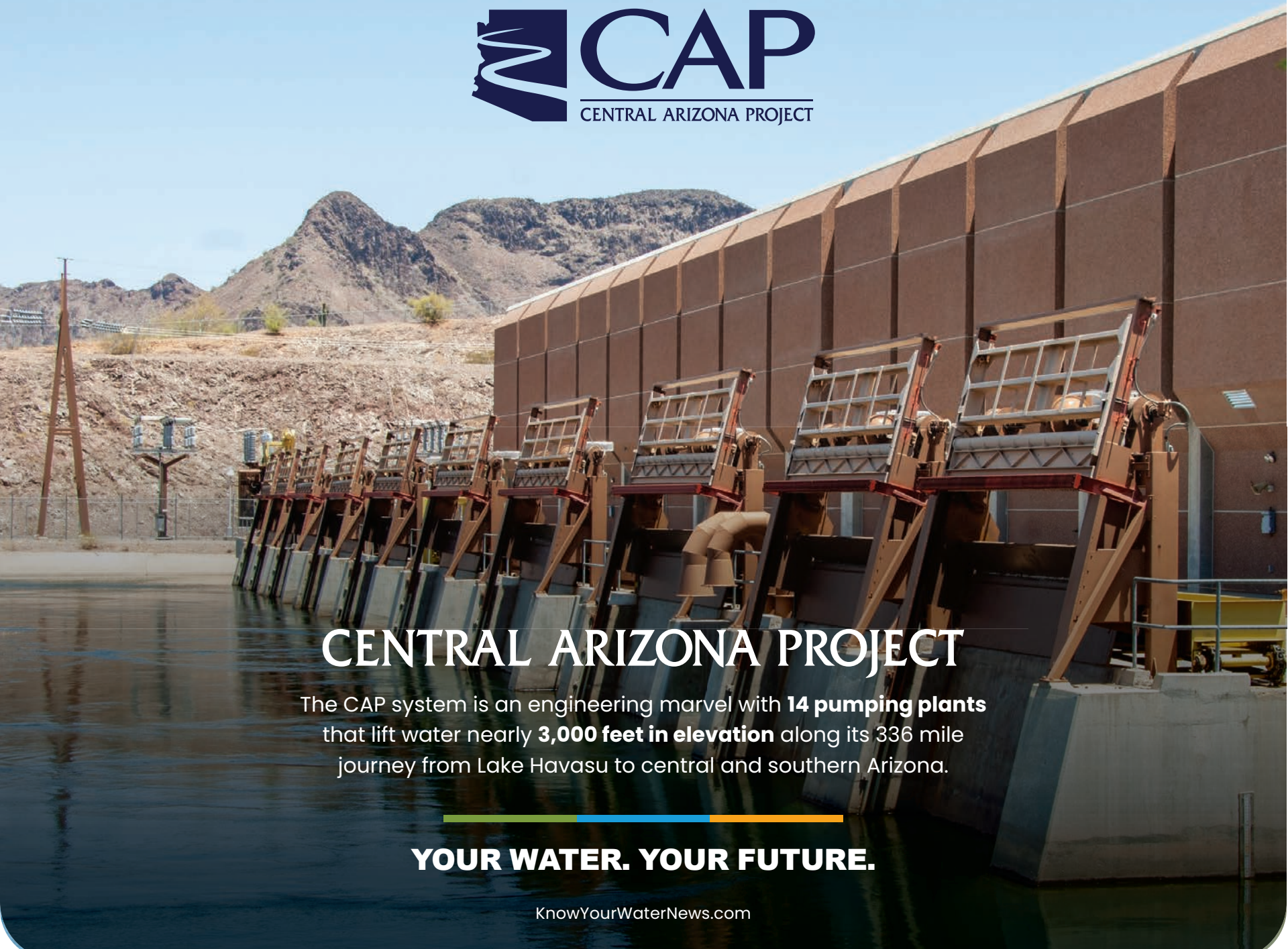
A box from St. Mary's filled with healthy Indigenous ingredients.



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Assistant Community Manager Doran Dalton worked alongside Council Members Mikah Carlos and Jacob Butler to distribute the food boxes.



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SRPMIC Commemorates World Aids Day 2023



WORLD AIDS DAY 35

REMEMBER & COMMIT

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

tribute to those we have lost to the virus. The red ribbon is universally recognized as the official symbol of HIV/AIDS. Since 2007, World Aids Day has been commemorated by a 28-foot red ribbon hung from the front portico of the White House in Washington, D.C.

To help increase awareness, eliminate the stigma against HIV/AIDS and show support, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community commemorated World Aids Day on December 1 at the Round House Café. Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty and Melanie Nosie from SRPMIC Health and Human Services Suicide Prevention and Intervention Program met with the Community during the day and handed out information on HIV/AIDS detection, prevention, treatment and available resources.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States has lost nearly 700,000 people to the virus since 1981, an average of 1,600+ HIV/AIDS-related deaths per year. The previous four U.S. presidents, including current President Joe Biden, have vowed to help eliminate the virus through additional funding, resources, prevention and treatment. This and more fully commemorates this year's World Aids Day theme of "Remember and Commit."



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SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

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SRPMIC Ends 2023 on List of Valley's Healthiest Employers

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

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community continues its streak as one of the Healthiest Employers in the Valley in 2022 and 2023 according to the Phoenix Business Journal.

"It's validation that we are doing wellness right," said SRPMIC Wellness Program supervisor Andrew Weiler.

The Phoenix Business Journal partners with the awards program Healthiest Employers and posts a list of awarded wellness programs in their publication each year.

WellPath, the Community's wellness program, has been on the list since 2020 and was also previously recognized as one of the Healthiest Employers from 2011 to 2017.

"The only employers who beat us are those that have much larger wellness teams and who use 'sticks and carrots' to incentivize participation," said Weiler. "Sticks are negative consequences for not participating, of which the most common is higher premiums to employees for health plans. WellPath doesn't do that."

Weiler said that the SRPIC's health plan went nine years

without a premium increase to employees.

With a focus on maintaining or improving the participants' health status, WellPath provides a total wellness approach for employees.

WellPath has also been recognized by other award programs, including the Healthy Arizona Worksites Award from the Maricopa County Department of Health's Healthy Arizona Worksite Program (HAWP) and an Official Gold Seal of Good Health Keeping from the Wellness Council of Arizona. The HAWP award uses an evidence-based scorecard from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"SRPMIC performs well because we have programs and interventions which reflect the needs of WellPathians," said Weiler. "WellPath is always interested in how we can best serve the Community's employees and their dependents on the health plan. We are constantly trying to find out what barriers exist for participants so we can mitigate or remove those barriers."

This year, WellPath will break a record for the number of employees who earn incentives by completing the annual Know Your Numbers activity, according to Weiler.

In 2024 WellPath will roll out new self-management courses and will continue to address all areas of health and wellness, including mental health and work-life balance.

The Valley's
HEALTHIEST
employers

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2020 2021 2022 2023

AWARDED HEALTHIEST EMPLOYER AGAIN IN 2023 BY

PHOENIX Business Journal

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



There was ample macaroni and cheese to be enjoyed in the Two Waters Courtyard Complex to help celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday season. In collaboration with Courtyard by Marriott Salt River and Salt River Devco, staff from Marriott Salt River happily handed out free macaroni and cheese to all Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Members and employees during the afternoon of November 14. Marriott Salt River plans on appearing more in the Community with more giveaways and delicious treats for Community members and employees. It is all part of their way of giving back and celebrating the holiday season and new year.

Salt River Food Bank

Holiday

Ham Giveaway

Tuesday December 19

10 AM - 3 PM

First come, first served!

Each person/Family will receive
1 Ham or 1 Voucher for \$0, while
supplies last

Requirements:
-Person receiving must be present
-1 Ham or Voucher per household/physical address

For more info, contact Salt River Food Bank at (602) 727-7277

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Taylastina Perkins-Weryackwe Graduates from U.S. Naval Academy

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

This year, Taylastina Perkins-Weryackwe has been working toward accomplishing her goal of graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She was sworn into the Navy this summer and completed her basic training (Navy A School) this fall.



Taylastina Perkins-Weryackwe. Photo courtesy of Perkins-Weryackwe Family.



Airman Perkins-Weryackwe and her family are photographed at her graduation from boot camp. From L to R: Great-Grandma Loretta Baptisto, Taylastina Perkins-Weryackwe, Uncle/Dad David Weryackwe and Grandma Toni Weryackwe. Photo courtesy of Perkins-Weryackwe Family.

It was the time she spent in Pensacola, Florida, that would help shape her career and prepare her for serving her country and dedicating herself to service.

"We would start our day early, at 4:00 a.m.," said Perkins-Weryackwe. "The weather was perfect. I loved it," she said.

Being on campus in Pensacola has had a huge impact on Perkins-Weryackwe, as she had to undergo rigorous physical training as well as attend classes. "We'd have PT [physical training], go back to shower, then go to our classes at around 7 a.m.," she said while describing a usual day.

Perkins-Weryackwe was educated and trained on aircraft while at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. "We had to learn what the aircraft do, how they work, and even the cleaning," she said. Her favorite part was learning the ins and outs of the aircraft and how they operate. "They're called Sea Dragons," she said.

Sea Dragons are Navy planes which are responsible for transporting relief supplies into disaster areas, performing med-evac operations, flying search and rescue, providing ground support, clearing mines and much more. "[Sea Dragons] look out into the sea and make sure there aren't any mines in the ocean," she said.

Airman Perkins-Weryackwe was able to spend Thanksgiving 2023 with her family in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. At the conclusion of the holiday, she will be shipped to the East Coast of the United States, where she will be stationed for three or four years. Next spring, her ship is scheduled to travel to Japan.

With her naval career in now in full swing and the world at her fingertips, Perkins-Weryackwe has had ample time to reflect on how much she has grown as a person.

"Whatever you set your mind to, you can do it. I didn't think I'd make it this far. But it's really fun once I got into it," she said.

NAS Pensacola is home to the renowned Blue Angels, officially known as the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. In early November, NAS Pensacola hosted the annual Pensacola Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow. According to its website, NAS Pensacola is located in Escambia County and employs more than 1,000 military and 7,000 civilian personnel.



Airman Perkins-Weryackwe and her instructor, Chief Byron, at her Navy A School Graduation. Photo courtesy of Perkins-Weryackwe Family.

ADULT WIOA ORIENTATION

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act



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Learn about WIOA eligibility requirements; program services for enrolled participants; guidance toward obtaining career goals through education & training.

Orientation Information

December 14, 2023

Two Waters, Building B

Room: B102 - X'aa (Cottonwood)
9 am - 10 am

Contact: Salt River WIOA Program at: 480-362-7950



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4th Quarter 2023 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE

December 31, 2023

Must be eighteen (18) years old, enrolled, and living to be eligible for the December 2023 Per Capita Payment.

DEADLINES FOR CHANGES

Direct Deposit Start-Ups and Changes: Thursday, December 28th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is for new start-ups for direct deposit or changes to existing information. All forms MUST be submitted with a "VOIDED" check or statement from the bank with the Routing and Account Numbers. Forms received by this date will be effective for the **January 2024** payout. Forms received after this date will not be effective until the **April 2024** payout.

Discontinue Direct Deposits: Thursday, December 28th at 5:00 PM. This deadline is to discontinue an existing direct deposit.

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

Per Capita Eligibility: Tuesday, January 16th at 5:00PM. This deadline is for submitting the Adult SRP-MIC Member's Per Capita Information Certificate. Forms received by this date will be effective for the January 2024 payout. Forms received after this date will not be processed until the first week of April 2024.

Tax Withholding Changes: Tuesday, January 16th at 5:00PM. This deadline is for making changes to "Additional" tax withholding percentage or amount.

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

If you have any questions regarding:

-Tribal ID, Per Capita Eligibility & Change Forms:
call Membership Services
@ (480) 362-7600

-Tax Withholding & Direct Deposits:
call Finance-Per Capita @ (480) 362-7710

Outdoor Recreation Services Hosts Final Kayak of the Season

BY NALANI LOPEZ
OAN Intern
nalani.lopez@srpmic-nsn.gov

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members filled the blue waters of Saguaro Lake on November 25 for the final kayaking session hosted by the Outdoor Community Recreation Program. Regardless of participants' skill

levels, they could count on having a fun and safe time in the water surrounded by other Community members and with the supervision of trained CRS staff.

"I wanted to kayak because I love being around water, and it's nice to be able to enjoy the nature as well," said participant Kerstin Johnson.

The next kayaking season hosted by

Outdoor Recreation Services will take place in the fall of 2024. Follow the Way of Life Facility on Facebook for updates as next year's season comes closer at <https://www.facebook.com/SRPMIC.WOLF?mibextid=LQQJ4d>.



(L-R) Teegan Smith, Kerstin Johnson, and Nalani Lopez rest their paddles to socialize with one another.



Melissa Jackson and Kori Valencia work together.



Kerstin Johnson soaks in the sun and good weather while out on the water.



With a look of determination, Noah Lasiloo paddles his way into the depths of Saguaro Lake.



Shane Monte Jr sports a joyful pose with Salina Sampson.

DEC DISTRICT MEETINGS

- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:
Wednesdays @ 3pm
- REGULAR SESSIONS:
Wednesdays @ 5pm
- WORK SESSIONS:
Thursdays @ 10am

CM GREY District D District D

CANCELED

CM DOKA District C

6:00pm | SRPMIC Council Chambers
10091 E. Osborn Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

CM SCABBY/CM DALLAS Lehi District

CANCELED

CM CARLOS District E

CANCELED

CM ANTONE District B

9:00am | SRPMIC Council Chambers
10091 E. Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

CM BUTLER District A

CANCELED

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SATURDAY
DEC 16TH
12PM-8PM

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MORE INFO



2023

COUNCIL ACTIONS CORNER

Welcome to the Council Corner. Here you will find a recap of the weekly Council Meeting actions and other important information. During Phase IV of the Return to Work Plan the SRPMIC Council is continuing business by holding Council meetings in-person (adhering to COVID precautions). Regular Sessions and Work Sessions will be available for a delayed viewing at <https://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/> click on Tribal Government, Virtual Council Meetings.

October 18, 2023 – Council Meeting Items:

Mesa Public School District – An overview of the Bond and Override Continuation was provided for Council and Community information and support.

Lehi Service Area Designation of Land Use (DOLU) – Council approved a resolution to provide for the designation of certain Tribal lands for use as the Lehi service area (northeast corner of Oak Street and Spencer alignment.)

Pima Road and Granite Reef Watershed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) – Council approved a resolution to approve the IGA between the SRPMIC and the City of Scottsdale regarding the final design, construction and long-term maintenance of improvements to Pima Road from McDowell Road to the intersection of 90th Street and Via Linda and flood control improvements within the Granite Reef Watershed.

Administrative Reports: Department and operational reports and updates were given by the Community Manager, OCLA Special Assistant, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Vice-President, and President. The Community Manager presented a letter of resignation from Ariia Holloway from the Salt River Community Children’s Foundation.

Community Member Comments: 1) Community member voice support of the NAGI Foundation and the services they provide. Community member also requested an executive session after the meeting. Council approved. 2) Community member commented on the Pima Road presentation. Requested to utilize the Council Chambers for a per capita meeting. Council referred Community member to Public Works to request use of Lehi Community Building. 3) Community member gave concerns with the Early Child Enrichment Center and the Salt River Elementary School being open during the Salt River Landfill fire incident. Felt it was not a safe environment. Council informed based on the report by CDD the students were kept inside.

Executive Session Agenda Items: Gaming Enterprise Monthly Report, Business Update, Minor’s Trust, SRPD, Board Application Review (Saddleback, Gaming Regulatory, JCDC), RMEP, Council Schedule, SHRRP Committee, Education Update, Office of General Counsel Legal Matters

October 19, 2023 – Council Work Session:

Sober Living – Council was presented an overview of the current state of Journey to Recovery and sober living at SRPMIC for discussion.

Executive Work Session Agenda Items: SRPD, Strategy R Update (SHRRP Update), Strategy T Update (Blood Quantum Assessment and Planning), Strategy E & J Update (Reduce Government Yearly Budget Growth and CIP Funding and Prioritization).

October 25, 2023 – Council Meeting Items:

Agave Cantina at the Residence Inn – The reopening of the Agave Cantina at Residence Inn was announced for Council and Community information.

Agricultural Leases – Council approved resolutions for Ag Lease A-633, Ag Lease B-230, and Ag Lease B-232.

First Things First Family Support Coordination Grant – Council approved a resolution for a Tribal government agreement to provide families at risk with understanding, navigating and accessing services that promote family well-being.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State of Arizona – Council approved a resolution for a MOA to provide guidance and interpretation in the applica-

tion of the ICWA.

Special Use Permit – Council approved a SUP for the TGen Step N’ Move 5k at Arizona Boardwalk which is near OdySea Aquarium to be held on November 5, 2023.

USDA Forest Service Wild Fire Defense Grant – Council approved a resolution to authorize application for grant funding through the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service through the Community Wildfire defense grants.

Administrative Reports: Department and operational reports and updates were given by the Community Manager, OCLA Special Assistant, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Vice-President, and President

Community Member Comments: 1) Community member voiced concerns of food and water storage. Council informed there is a strategy addressing these issues and will be reporting to Council in the near future. Community member also expressed concerns of the bee attack at the Fall Overhaul. 2.) Community member informed that Africanized bees are a hybrid of a normal honey bees and bees from Africa. For FYI only.

Executive Session: Gaming issue, Employee EIP Discussion, Agricultural Leases, GIS Information, Sex Offender Notice, OGC Legal Matters.

October 26, 2023 – Council Work Session Items:

Council Training – Council were provided a training regarding trauma informed, healing, social harmony, and healthy relationships.

Building Code Changes – Amendments to the Salt River Building Code, plumbing code amendments, SR Residential Code Amendments, and Salt River Fire Code Amendments were presented and discussed.

Move-In Ready Subdivisions – Options and cost for this type of housing was presented to Council and possible next steps were discussed.

Group Homes (Kids in Care) and Independent Living Programs – Group Home Program Services and strategic changes were provided and discussed. Program for adult living skills (PALS) and Independent Living Program (ILP) were also presented and discussed.

November 1, 2023 – Council Meeting Items:

Exclusion – Council approved a resolution for an order by the SRPMIC Council to uphold the decision of the SRPMIC Exclusion Committee to permanently exclude Fernando Jesus Muniz from the territory and boundaries of the SRPMIC.

Special Use Permit (SUP) – Eagle Nestwatcher’s – Council approved a SUP for Annual Monitoring of Bald Eagles in the Red Mountain Area from January 31, 2024 to June 5, 2024.

SRPMIC-SRP Benefit Crediting Agreement – Council approved a resolution to approve the third agreement of Benefit Crediting Contract with the SRP Agricultural Improvement and Power District and the USA, acting by and through the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).

SRPD Grant Application, AZ Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) – Council approved a resolution to authorize application for, and receipt and implementation of, Grant funding through the Arizona General Justice Commission (ACJC), Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program (AzSCIP).

Administrative Reports: Department and operational reports and updates were given by the Community Manager, OCLA Special Assistant, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Vice-President, and President. Community Manager announced that Council approved a non-member burial request from Bruce Manuel for his mother Clairee G. Rovee (non-member). Acting Fire Chief Tsosie Wood congratulated the Paramedicine graduates, Alicia Randall, Ramo Wood, and Esiquiel Guerrero.

Community Member Comments: 1) Community member requested an update on the SRPD investigation report that he requested. He was informed by Council that the investigators have not reviewed the footage yet that he submitted. 2) Community member voiced concerns of hazards of farm

equipment being driven on the roads.

Executive Session Items: Exclusion, SR Devco/Digital Billboards, SR Devco Update, SRPMIC-SRP Benefit Crediting Agreement, (2) Community Member Requests, Board Appointment (SRLF), Office of General Counsel Legal Matters.

November 2, 2023 – Council Work Session Items:

Procurement – Information was presented on the DRAFT Procurement and Preferred Vendor policies.

Housing Discussion – Information was presented on the concept of combining all Residential operations and services into one department.

Pageant Committee – Council was requested to provide feedback and recommendations for the 2024 Royalty duties, pageant, and vehicle request.

November 8, 2023 – Council Meeting Items:

Public Hearing: Talking Stick Resort-Replacement Freeway Pylon (22-DV-01) – Information was presented, item to return on the November 29th agenda.

Public Hearing: HHS Sober Living Homes Project – Designation of Land Use (DOLU) – Information was presented, item to return on the November 29th agenda.

Veteran’s Day Events – Staff presented information on the Veteran’s Day activities

12% Gaming Grant Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA’s) – Council approved the 12% IGA’s for cities, towns, and municipalities.

Land Sale Resolution – Council approved a resolution to amend SR-3995-2022 to purchase certain parcels of SR allotted land.

Board Appointment (Salt River Landfill) – Council appointed Meldon Andrews for a 3-year term.

Administrative Reports: Department and operational reports and updates were given by the Community Manager, OCLA Special Assistant, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Vice-President.

Community Member Comments: 1) Community member requested an Executive Session. 2) Community member voiced concerns of temporary “shack” lodging being used in the Lehi district.

Executive Session: Gaming Enterprise Monthly Report, Beeline Highway Pit Stop Update, Land Sale Resolution, Board Application Review (Gaming Professional Rep), Tribal Seal Request, Office of General Counsel Legal Matters.

November 9, 2023 – Council Work Session Items:

Archaeology Deep Dive – Information was presented on the proposed rezoning parcels with known archaeological sites.

Seniors Building – Information was presented on the proposed new Senior Center Facility.

Zoning Map – Information was presented on tribally owned land parcels that could be used for government services.

McDowell Road Jurisdiction – Information was presented on the concerns, traffic enforcement, and jurisdiction of McDowell Road.

No Council Meetings this week of November 13, 2023.

No Council Meetings this week of November 20, 2023.

General Schedule:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: Wednesdays at 3pm
REGULAR SESSIONS: Wednesdays at 5pm
WORK SESSIONS: Thursdays at 10am

Council may enter Executive Session as necessary. District meeting dates, times, locations, and agenda are subject to change or cancellation. For questions, contact Council Secretaries at (490) 362-7469

Community Comes Together for Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

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

After a wet and rainy morning, the clouds parted over the Two Waters Courtyard just in time for the annual Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Thanksgiving Dinner to begin, which brought family and friends together for a special day on November 18

Jr. Miss Salt River 2023 2024 Izelle Juan emceed the event and provided a blessing before dinner was served to Community members.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, performed by the Young Warriors, SRPMIC President Martin Harvier welcomed those in attendance.

"Where we're at in this world, I know for a lot of Native Americans it's hard to say 'Have a Happy Thanksgiving,'" said Harvier, talking candidly and suggesting "Giving Thanks Day" as an alternative.

Harvier continued, "I'm grateful, as the current president, to look back on leadership that we had in the past to get us to where we are today. Our responsibility as members of Council is to make sure that those kids who are running around today [pointing around to the kids in the Courtyard] say the same thing about us: 'I'm grateful for the decisions that they made.'"

SRPMIC Council members joined other volunteers in serving the turkey dinner inside the Round House Café while the Lopez Band provided music.

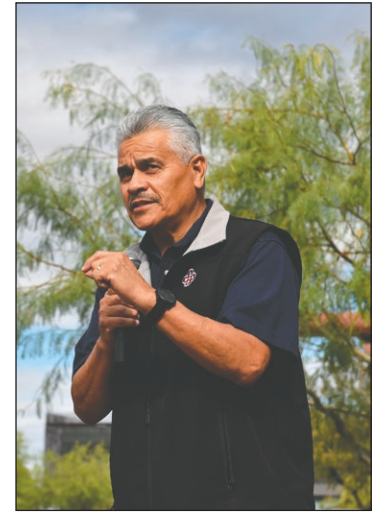
"We served over 1,500 meals," said SRPMIC Events Manager Yvonne Schaaf. "We're really pleased with the turnout! Going from the rain to this great sunny weather, it's been an awesome time."

While families ate their meal, they enjoyed a turkey-calling contest in which SRPMIC Council member Jacob Butler made an appearance dressed up as a turkey. Other entertainment included a performance by the 9 Dragons Lion Dance group and the magic act Magic by Robbie.

There was a designated kids' area near the basketball courts with inflatables to jump around on and oversized games to play with. Within the kids' area, door prizes were given out and the Young River People's Council held a "Goodie Walk."



Thanksgiving meals were served to the Community.



Welcoming remarks were given by President Martin Harvier.



Jr. Miss Salt River provided a blessing before the meal.



SRPMIC Council Members and volunteers set up a feast inside the Round House Cafe.



Salt River Community Children's Foundation was onsite to provide information about their services.



Council Member Jacob Butler had a lot to gobble about during the turkey call contest.



Guests excitedly line up to fill their plates.



Guests danced and celebrated after the meal.



The 9 Dragons Lion Dance Group Performance included an unveiling of a special message for those in attendance.



The turkey calling was regularly interrupted by bursts of laughter.



The Lopez Band provided music during the dinner.



Lettuce was thrown to represent incoming wealth during the 9 Dragons Lion Dance.

Enchant Brings Holiday Magic to Community

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

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community members, employees and their families enjoyed two special nights at Enchant, the holiday-themed live entertainment concept being held at the main ballpark at Salt River Fields this holiday season.

The SRPMIC hosted Community Night there on November 8 and SRPMIC Employee Appreciation Night on December 5. Guests were able to shop at The Village, a marketplace around the concourse, before heading down to the field for ice skating and entering the Light Maze.

The Light Maze is a long and winding pathway that tells the story of a mischievous elf named Eddie and his pal Sparky the Reindeer. They have misplaced eight toys meant for children on Santa's list.

At the entrance of the maze were "snow" machines that filled the Christmas tree-lit air with excitement and brought smiles to children's faces.

"I really like the quests and finding the toys," said 11-year-old guest Robin Lewis. "The lights are so pretty, especially the big tree."

Seven-year-old attendee Brinleigh Byrne said she found all eight toys.

"We checked off each toy as we found them," said Byrne. "I really liked the ballerina, airplane and the teddy bear."

At every corner of the maze was a new surprise and an opportunity to take a family photo. Hired actors dressed up as elves, dancers and guardians of the different segments of the maze.



Children were also able to meet Santa Claus at Santa's Landing and take a photo with him.

Enchant, The Mischievous Elf is open at Salt River Fields through December 31. For more information and ticket prices, visit <https://enchantchristmas.com/scottsdale-az-salt-river-fields/>.



Photos by OAN staff

CHURCH LISTING

SALT RIVER BUSINESS LISTINGS

LEHI CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 1452 E. Oak St.
 Mesa, AZ 85203
 Mailing Address:
 PO Box 4628
 Mesa, AZ 85211
 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 at church, 6:30 p.m.
 -SOAR Group 2nd & 4th Friday every month at the church 7 p.m.
 -Mon. night Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m.
 -Singspiration, last Sunday of the month at 6 p.m.

FERGUSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
 1512 E. McDowell Rd. (Lehi)
 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 Sunday of every month 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 very first Sunday of the month (potluck after)

SALT RIVER ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 10657 E. Virginia Ave.
 Scottsdale, AZ 85256
 (480) 947-5278
 saltriveragchurch.com
 Rev. WinterElk Valencia
SerVICES
 -Sunday Morning Prayer 10 a.m.
 -Worship 11 a.m.
 -No Evening Service till further notice.
 -Thursday Bible Study 6pm

SALT RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST
 430 N. Dobson Rd.
 Mesa, AZ 85201
 (720) 626-2171
 SaltRiverChurchofChrist.com
SERVICES
 -Bible Class 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.
 -Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
 -Sunday Bible Class 6 p.m.
 -Bible Study Wednesdays 7 p.m.
 -Provides transportation services for Community members call phone number

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, AZ85256
 (602) 292-4466 (cell)
 Administrator: Deacon Jim Trant
 Parish President: Cindy Thomas
 Father Peter McConnell and Father Antony Tinker
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 -Holy Hours 1 p.m.

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 Margaret Rodriguez, (480) 250-7566

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 Cody Wood, (480) 272-4035
 boxingbearsphotography.com
 cody@boxingbearsphotography.com

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 daliarendiz0815@icloud.com

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 david@dallaspropainting.com

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 Ernie Lopez (chef and owner)

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 erniescateringbusiness@yahoo.com

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 7607 E. McDowell Rd. Ste. 103
 goodlife.nutrition@yahoo.com
 (480)274-3306

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 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

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

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

PIMA AWARDS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS, INC
 Promotional products, silkscreened and embroidered apparel, custom made 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
 vipimara@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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



NOTICE
2024 Agricultural Lease Payment

The 2024 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.

On Friday, January 19, 2024, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729

(staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:a.m. to 5 p.m. Arizona time)
 The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 11, 2023.
 Please call as soon as possible.

Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 19, 2024. To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 11, 2023.

Payments less than \$15.00. All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 19, 2024.

Questions? Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.

*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 2, 2024.

O'dham Action News is published bi-weekly by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Editorials and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude or philosophy of O'dham Action News or the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
 O'dham Action News encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. However, letters must be typed or printed clearly, and should include the writer's name, address and phone number. This information is for verification only. Other submission of articles, artwork and photos are encouraged. O'dham Action News does not assume responsibility for unsolicited materials and does not guarantee publication upon submission.
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 O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS
 10,005 E. Osborn Road,
 Scottsdale, AZ 85256



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

ADVERTISING
 Call Dodie Manuel for advertising info.
 (480) 362-7731 / www.oodhamnews.org

O'ODHAM ACTION NEWS DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE AT NOON
December 21	December 8
January 4	December 22

SEND INFORMATION TO DODIE MANUEL at dodie.manuel@srpmic-nsn.gov
 For more information please call (480) 362-7750.



Salt River Materials Group is a leading supplier of cement, pozzolans and aggregates in Arizona and the Southwest U.S for the over 60 years. SRMG has a wide variety of career positions, and we invest in our employees through extraordinary benefits, training and development opportunities to allow our employees to grow in their careers.

BENEFITS

Life Disability

Long & Short-Term Disability Insurance

PTO (Paid Time Off) & PSL (Paid Sick Leave)

Bereavement Leave - immediately available upon hire date.

Holiday Pay - 7 observed and paid holidays, 2 floating holidays!

Health – extensive medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage.

Supplemental Programs - Everyone Health, Teledoc (24/7 medical/mental health services), GRAIL - pre cancer screen (based upon eligibility)

Health Club Membership – Health club membership for employee.

401(k) – A retirement savings plan with multiple investment options and **6% matching dollar for dollar** contributions.

Tuition Reimbursement – SRMG will pay up to 100% of tuition and books.

Employee Local and National Discounts - Theme Parks, Sporting Events, Plays & Concerts, Vehicle & Home purchases and much more!

Green Vehicle Program – Employees may receive up to \$1500 each calendar year for 3 years for the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles.

Home Energy Efficiency Incentive – Employees may receive up to \$100 each calendar year for the purchase of energy efficient compact light bulbs (CFL's) and LEDs or an Energy Audit performed by SRP or APS.

Does Salt River Materials Group have preference in hiring?

Yes, Salt River Materials Group (SRMG) is the commercial trade name for marketing activities of Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand and Rock. Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand and Rock are independent divisions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC).

However, all qualified individuals are encouraged to apply. During the hiring process, management will determine a prospective employee's ability, skill, competency and other qualifications needed for the job. When all these are equal between a qualified Community Member, a qualified Native American and other qualified candidate, preference will be given to the qualified Community Member, then a qualified Native American and then other qualified candidate.

CURRENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

VIEW FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND APPLY ONLINE AT SRMATERIALS.COM

Arizona

Cement

- **Production Assistant I**
Clarkdale, AZ

Aggregates

- **Utilityperson I-Sr | 2nd Shift**
West Side Plants, AZ
- **Maintenance Technician I-Sr | 2nd Shift**
Glendale, AZ
- **Night Shift | Batch Plant | Mobile Equipment Operator**
Glendale, AZ

Pozzolans

- **Facility Operator I-IV – Coronado**
St. Johns, AZ

Check us out at . . .

www.srmaterials.com



Exceptional People...Exceptional Benefits...Exceptional Company
Phoenix Cement Company and Salt River Sand & Rock,
dba Salt River Materials Group,
both divisions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Calendar of Events

ONGOING

ONGOING - 1/14/24 - ZOOLIGHTS. It's the Valley's favorite holiday tradition – ZooLights, 455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ! Shining bigger and brighter than ever with nearly four million lights, hundreds of dazzling displays, brand new Wildlife Lanterns and the return of the tallest floating tree in North America showcasing ORIGINAL music and a synchronized light show! For more info. go to <https://www.phoenixzoo.org/events/zoolights/> or call 602-286-3800.

ONGOING - 12/24/23 - CHRISTMAS AT SCHNEPF FARMS, 24810 E Rittenhouse Rd. Queen Creek, AZ. Experience a winter wonderland like no other with seasonal food, fun and festivities for the whole family. Catch a ride on the World of Illumination Express, hop on a hayride to visit Rudolph or journey through Santa's magic workshop. For more info. go to <https://schnepfchristmas.com/>

ONGOING - 12/31/23 ENCHANT CHRISTMAS, Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, 7555 N Pima Rd. Experience a world of adventure with awe-inspiring animated light sculptures, and discover our charming Village offering ice-skating, live entertainment, interactive games, dining, holiday shopping, Santa & Mrs. Claus, and so much more. For more info. go to <https://enchantchristmas.com/scottsdale-az-salt-river-fields/>

ONGOING - NATIVE ART MARKET, every Sat. and Sun., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Pavilions at Talking Stick. Every weekend this cultural event features Native American artists from various tribes. With over 300 Native performers and vendors registered The Market is ever changing, giving frequent visitors a fun and different experience every time. For more information, go to <https://www.discoversaltriver.com/event/native-art-market/>

DECEMBER

SKO:MAGÍ MAŞAD XLY'A SHAXUK MAYK XVIK

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER DISTRICT MEETINGS FOR DISTRICT C AND LEHI.

8 O'ODHAM PIIPAASH CHRISTMAS ART AND FOOD FUNDRAISER, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Cultural Resources. Shop handmade art and enjoy O'odham Burgers and Piipaash Dogs at this fundraiser event! Please note, some vendors may be cash only. Questions? Contact Cultural Resources at (480) 362-6325

9-10 46TH ANNUAL S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM INDIAN MARKET AND YOUNG ARTISTS MARKET, 4619 E Washington St, Phoenix, AZ. The Indian Market will take place on Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10, 2023, from 9 am – 4 pm. Cost: \$5 (entrance to the museum included) and the market is free to Indigenous peoples, military personnel (active and retired), S'edav Va'aki Museum Foundation members. For more info, please visit <https://svmfoundation.org/Indian-Market>

9 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Two Waters Courtyard. Featuring entertainment, vendors, holiday treats, a kid zone, senior bingo in the Roundhouse, and opportunities to visit with Santa (no photobooth, bring your own camera!). For questions, contact Community Relations – Events Division at 480-362-7740

9 HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE, begins at 5:30 p.m. from SR Baseball Fields on Longmore North to end at Two Waters Complex. Staging will begin for registered participants at 3 p.m. at the Salt River Baseball Fields. For online registration, visit <https://wfk.ms/3u1hgwq>

11 CM DOKA DISTRICT C MEETING, 6 p.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E. Osborn Rd. Topics: Holiday Safety Tips from SRFD, Update on Alma School Water Main Construction, and Community Member Comments. Please contact Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469 for questions and to confirm council meeting details.

12 READING ALL THE WAY DRIVE-THRU HOLIDAY EVENT, 6 p.m - 8 p.m. at ALA North Parking Lot. Decorate your sleigh (vehicle!) and join Salt River Schools and the NYCP Literacy For All team for a drive-thru holiday celebration filled with literacy, merriment, and holiday cheer. The theme is "The Twelve Days of Christmas in Arizona," based on the book by Jennifer J. Stewart. There will be lots of gifts and prizes awarded for best car decorations! Call 480-362-2500 or visit www.SaltRiverSchools.org for more information.

12 BEADED EARRING WORKSHOP, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at WOLF. This is one of two beginner workshops, and is perfect for those adults who would like to create gifts for the holidays. Registration begins December 4 at: <https://sugeni.us/4mgn>

14 BABY'S FIRST INDIGENOUS FOODS, Join the Early Childhood Education Center and our partners from WIC and SRPMIC Public Health Injury Prevention to learn how to use traditional/cultural ingredients in baby food. The class is Thursday, Dec. 14, from 5-6 p.m. in the ECEC Gathering Place; it is open to expectant moms, ECEC infant families, and ECEC Home Base families. Please RSVP to Melinda Hansen (call or text 602-706-9024).

14 ADULT WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) INFORMATION SESSION, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Two Waters Building B-102. Join the

Salt River WIOA Program for an information session on how the program offers support to individuals toward their career goals through education and training. For questions, contact the WIOA Program at (480) 362-7950

14 BEADED EARRING WORKSHOP, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at WOLF. This is one of two beginner workshops, and is perfect for those adults who would like to create gifts for the holidays. Registration begins December 4 at: <https://sugeni.us/4mgn>

15-16 JINGLE JAM YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, Held at WOLF Court 1 & 2 and Lehi Gymnasium. Featuring co-ed divisions, K-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th. For more information, contact Robin Hendricks at (480) 362-5785

16 CM ANTONE DISTRICT B MEETING, 9 a.m. at SRPMIC Council Chambers 10091 E. Osborn Rd. Topics: Pesticide Program and Homesite Compliance Program, Community Member Comments. Please contact Council Secretaries Office at (480) 362-7469 for questions and to confirm council meeting details.

16 O'ODHAM ARTIST MARKET, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m., at The Shelde Building, 5718 W. North Loop Rd., Chandler, AZ. Artists incl.: Allen Lewis, Amber Moristo, Angelo Garcia, Chadwick Pasqual, Cissimarie Juan, Dwayne Manuel, Furious Art, Ivey Penunuri, Nox, Ones, Kyle Milda, Melissa Yazzie, Mitchell Cruz, Rachel Espinoza, Rulkel Reno, Rogue One, Russell Blackwater, Sr., Sara Lucas, Sophia Vilalpando, Thomas Breeze Marcus, Tiffany Enos and Zachary Justin.

16 OXDX HOLIDAY MARKET, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Tempe Center for the Arts. Now in its 4th year, this annual gathering unites Native artists from across Arizona, showcasing a diverse array of art, jewelry,

apparel, crafts, home goods, and self-care products. Visit culturalcoalition.com for more information.

18 CRAFTING FOR ADULTS: CROCHET BASICS, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Lehi Room 109. This class will result in participants crafting their own crocheted ornament. Registration is required, visit <https://sugeni.us/4Mqm> or call (480) 362-6600 with questions.

19 HOLIDAY HAM GIVEAWAY, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Salt River Food Bank. First come, first served! Each person/Family will receive 1 Ham or 1 Voucher for \$20, while supplies last. Requirements: Person receiving must be present, 1 Ham or Voucher per household/physical address. For more info, contact Salt River Food Bank at (480) 362-7277

25-26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, Tribal offices closed, please plan accordingly.

31 COMMUNITY NEW YEAR'S/MIDWAY CELEBRATION, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. at SR Gym/Community Building Parking Lots. Featuring One Way Sky, Southern Scratch, and DJ Jermatik. \$5 Wristband sales to be held in the weeks leading up and morning of. Contact Community Relations - Events for more information at (480) 362-7740.

JANUARY

'AUPPA HIOSIG MAŞAD XLY'A SHENTHIK

5 BINGO & PIZZA WITH CRS ADAPTIVE RECREATION, 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. at WOLF Room 56. Enjoy bingo and cap it off with some pizza on first Fridays at the WOLF! Drop off is available for those able to participate on their own. Questions? Contact Tammy Thomas or Ethan Larned at (480) 362-7965