

Wa:k Newsletter



VOLUME 35 ISSUE 12

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

December 2025

Ge'e S-he:pijig Masad/Big Cold Month

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Chairman/Vice Chairwoman Updates	Pg. 2
--	-------

SXD Event Calendar	Pg. 3
-----------------------	-------

Council Calendar	Pg. 4
------------------	-------

I.T Department	Pg. 5-6
----------------	---------

COVID Department	Pg. 7
---------------------	-------

Natural Resources	Pg. 8
-------------------	-------

Community Christmas Dinner	Pg. 9
-------------------------------	-------

Job Openings	Pg. 10
--------------	--------

Himdag Events Coordinator	Pg. 11
------------------------------	--------

S.A.W.R.S.A	Pg.12
-------------	-------

Planning Department	Pg. 13
------------------------	--------

O'odham Ap'edag Ki	Pg. 14-15
-----------------------	-----------

Wa:k Royalty	Pg. 16-18
--------------	-----------

C.V.C Committee	Pg. 19-21
-----------------	-----------

Wa:k Spirit	Pg. 22- 26
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

*The San Xavier District Health and Wellness Committee appreciates your support this year with our Community Swap Meets. **There will be no swap meet for the month of December.** We will be back in January 2026.*



Report & Highlights

NOVEMBER 2025

<p>11/4/25 – Met with staff holiday planning committee. -Staff met to plan for food assistance and other resources i.e., clothing, financial assistance; discussed a plan of action due to SNAP benefits pause during the government shutdown. -Chaired evening SXD council meeting.</p>	<p>11/5/25 – Met with the Land Assignment Committee on the status of assignments and pending matters. -We attended a tribal engagement meeting along with David Tenario, NRD Director with Freeport McMoRan, Sierrita Mine regarding cultural resources protection.</p>
<p>11/6/25 – Chairwoman conducted a welcome at the 2025 Diabetes Health Fair at the SX Rec Center hosted by HOPP; posted notice for community members that TON Health Center would be providing COVID and Flu vaccinations at the fair.</p>	<p>11/7/25 – Staff provided transportation to the OEM food box distribution event at the Coop Farm and the Rangers provided traffic control. -TON Health Care again provided COVID and Flu vaccinations in the council chambers after hours.</p>
<p>11/11/25 – Holiday – Veteran’s Day 11/12/25 – SXD and TON ARPA Teams provided our monthly update; all projects are on course. -Attended Planning and Housing Committee meeting regarding one land assignment change request; the committee took the opportunity to ask us questions.</p>	<p>11/13/25 – We met with SXD Planning staff and Pima County Flood Control staff who assisted with the park project; discussed future contractors. -Met with the Roads Crew, Planning, Natural Resources, Maintenance Depts. for projects update, traffic data, and paving project.</p>
<p>11/14/25 – Chairman Jose scheduled a virtual informational meeting with the TON District Leadership regarding the Emergency Financial Relief (EFR) PSA.</p>	<p>11/15/25 – Chairman attended Save the San Rafael Valley Rally on the US/MX border, offered a blessing, spoke about the need to prevent the wall from being built there so that animals can continue to migrate between the US and Mexico, especially the Jaguar.</p>
<p>11/16/25 - The Medicine Bow Journey departed at 6am for their first leg of the run. The young men participating were at S-cuk Duag from Wednesday through Saturday fasting and attending sweat lodge.</p>	<p>11/17/25 – Discussed preparations with OEM for a second food box distribution in SX on 11/21; flyers were posted. - Chairman met with the Cultural and Natural Resources committee and community members regarding the annual A’atha ceremony.</p>
<p>11/18/25 – Attended Managers meeting. -Cemetery Wash Project Coordination meeting -Chaired this evening’s SXD Council meeting</p>	<p>11/19/25 – Vice Chairwoman attended the District Chairs meeting hosted by Hikiwan District -Chairman attended the wake services for M. Rovie to offer NAC songs for the family. -Evening O’odham Storytelling Class</p>
<p>11/20/25 – All staff prepared the meal and served at the Wa:k Community annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. -Chairman attended a first meeting of the River Refuge Coalition -Chairman presented on a panel in Tucson at the Sacred Water Dialogue event.</p>	<p>11/21/25 - Provided transportation to OEM’s food box distribution event at the Coop Farm. 11/22/25 – Attended the San Xavier Cooperative Association Annual Allottees meeting at the Coop Farm Admin Building.</p>
<p>11/25/25 – Chaired Special SXD Council meeting 11/26/25 – Staff assisted with the TON EFR check distribution in the Community Building</p>	<p>11/27 – 28/2025 – Thanksgiving Day Holidays 11/29 – 30/2025 – Thanksgiving Native American Arts & Crafts Market held at the SXD Plaza area</p>

December District Events

THURSDAY

04

SXD CLOSED
ST. FRANCISCO XAVIER
FEAST DAY

MONDAY

08

PATRIARATO COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THURSDAY

11

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
PARTY
4PM-7PM

SATURDAY

13

CVC HOLIDAY EVENT

THURSDAY

18

SXD CLOSED
11AM-5PM
STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

MON & TUES

22 & 23

SAN XAVIER EDUCATION
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WED - FRI

24-26

SXD CLOSED
III OBSERVANCE FOR
CHRISTMAS

THURS & FRI

1 & 2

SXD CLOSED
III OBSERVANCE FOR
NEW YEARS

SXDC Committee December Meetings



Elections

- 12/3
- 12/17

@ 5:30

Health & Education

- 12/9
- 12/23

@ 5:30

Planning & Housing

- 12/10
- 12/17

@ 5:30

Finance

- 12/10
- 12/17

@ 5:30

Culture & Natural Resources

- 12/1
- 12/15

@ 5:30

SXDC/TOLC Vacancies

TOLC Alternate (1)

SXD Council Alternate (1)

SXD Council

- 12/2
- 12/16
- 12/18- Community

@ 6:00

SXDC Committee Vacancies

Culture and Natural Resources (2)

Finance (1)



Holiday Scams and How to Protect Yourself

From the SxD IT Department

The holiday season is a busy time for shoppers, families, and unfortunately scammers. To help everyone stay safe, we are sharing the full article **“Holiday Scams” from the FBI**, which offers clear guidance on how to protect yourself while shopping online this season.

Below is the complete article text from the FBI.

Holiday Scams

When shopping online during the holiday season or any time of the year, always be wary of deals that seem too good to be true. Don't become a scammer's next victim.

Every year, thousands of people become victims of holiday scams. Scammers can rob you of hard-earned money, personal information, and, at the very least, a festive mood.

Scams include:

- Non-delivery scams, where you pay for services you find online, but you never receive your items
- Non-payment scams, where you ship purchased goods or services, but you never receive payment for them
- Auction fraud, where a product your purchase was misrepresented on an auction site
- Gift card fraud, where a seller asks you to pay with a pre-paid card

According to the Internet Crime Complaint Center's (IC3) 2023 report, non-payment and non-delivery scams cost people more than \$309 million that year. Credit card fraud accounted for another \$173 million in losses.

The IC3 receives a large volume of complaints in the early months of each year, suggesting a correlation with the previous holiday season's shopping scams.

Protect Yourself

Whether you're the buyer or seller, there are a number of ways you can protect yourself and your wallet. Remember: If it seems too good to be true, that's because it is.

Practice good cybersecurity hygiene.

- Don't click any suspicious links or attachments in emails, on websites, or on social media. Phishing scams and similar crimes get you to click on links and give up personal information like your name, password, and bank account number. In some cases, you may be unknowingly download malware to your device.
- Be especially wary if a company asks you to update your password or account information. Look up the company's phone number on your own and call the company.

Know who you're buying from or selling to.

- Check each website's URL to make sure it's legitimate and secure. A site you're buying from should have "https" in the web address. If it doesn't, don't enter your information on that site
- If you're purchasing from a company for the first time, do your research and check reviews.
- Verify the legitimacy of a buyer or seller before moving forward with a purchase. If you're using an online marketplace or auction website, check their feedback rating. Be wary of buyers and sellers with mostly unfavorable feedback ratings or no ratings at all.
- Avoid sellers who act as authorized dealers or factory representatives of popular items in countries where there would be no such deals.
- Be wary of sellers who post an auction or advertisement as if they reside in the U.S but then respond to questions by stating they are out of the country on business, family emergency, or similar reasons.
- Avoid buyers who request their purchase be shipped using certain method to avoid customs or taxes inside another country.

Be careful how you pay.

- Never wire money directly to a seller.
- Avoid paying for items with pre-paid gift cards. In these scams, a seller will ask you to send them a gift card number and PIN. Instead of using that gift card for your payment, the scammer will steal the funds, and you'll never receive your item.
- Use a credit card when shopping online and check your statement regularly. If you see a suspicious transaction, contact your credit card company to dispute the charge.

Monitor the shipping process.

- Always get tracking numbers for items you buy online, so you can make sure they have been shipped and can follow the delivery process.
- Be suspect of any credit card purchases where the address of the cardholder does not match the shipping address when you are selling. Always receive the cardholder's authorization before shipping any products.

Open Monday-Thursday, Closed Fridays

Covid Office Provides...

- Covid Tests
- Covid Box (if you test positive) includes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for your household.
- PPE for community events, funerals, and anniversaries, when requested.

The Covid Office will be CLOSED...

Friday, December 19 to Tuesday, December 22nd.

During this time, please call the SXD front desk for any assistance.

The Covid Office will reopen Monday, December 29th at 8am

Covid News

According to the CDC Data, an increase in transmission of the new Stratus strain of Covid. This has been detected in Arizona and other western states. This is part of the end of summer uptick in Covid cases across the country. Hospitalizations due to Covid are on the rise for all age groups.

CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines, these reduce risk and serious complications. The 2025-2026 Covid Vaccine is expected to be released this fall.

DIAPER & MENSTRUAL PRODUCT MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

December 15-18 and December 29-31

For a Diaper Emergency outside of the giveaway dates, please call!

Items Available:

- Diapers
- Pull Ups
- Adult Incontinence Products (Diapers)
- Menstrual Products

For (children of) SXD members Availability varies! Limit per month!

For any questions, reach out to the Covid Office:

520-573-4010 or covid@waknet.org

Greetings Wa:k Community! We would like to take this time to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas! Due to the holiday season our office will be closed on the following days (12/25/2025, 12/26/2025, 1/1/2026, & 1/2/2026.) Please stop by our office if you have any questions or need information on your allotment(s); please ask for Miranda.

Both of our Natural Resources Specialist, Morgan Parsons & Ulrick Francisco, wanted to share the following information with you.

Recently, the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) Natural Resources Department announced that starting on October 31st, 2025, the TON will no longer inspect fresh or unhealed brands for sale or transport as a proactive step in preventing the potential spread of the New World Screwworm (NWS) until further notice. Before the Covid pandemic, NWS was effectively contained at the Isthmus of Panama via sterile insect technique. The pandemic caused supply line issues which decreased the consistent supply of sterile insects used in containing the spread of NWS. In September it was reported that the NWS had been tracked as close as seventy miles from the US border, although it is closer to Texas than it is Arizona. NWS lays its eggs within fresh wounds like fresh brands, by burrowing in the animal's flesh and can kill a warm-blooded animal within seven days if left untreated. Treatment requires a medical professional to remove each worm individually, sometimes surgically. It is recommended not to do at home on your own, as removed larvae could continue to spread in your area. Therefore, the TON is taking a proactive approach to cease inspections of fresh brands on livestock, which includes cattle, horses, and burros in order to limit the potentially devastating effects on NWS on both our beloved animals, the livestock industry within the TON, as well as our beloved community members. We understand that this could present a burden to brand holders and we want to offer support from both the District and TON to lessen this potential burden. We would like to remind our community members that the TON's Range Management Office offers various means of support and assistance.

Assistance offered by the TON's Range Conservation and Management Program:

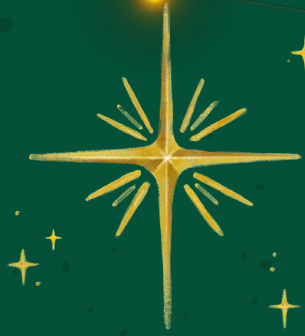
- Assistance to community members, Districts, associations, and other land managers to achieve their range conservation and improvement goals.
- Drought relief supplies and materials.
- Reestablishing the lower elevation TON boundary fence line.
- Education and outreach about range conservation and management.
- Invasive species planning and management (Feral horses, burros, Stinknet, Buffelgrass, etc.)
- Natural Resources Workforce Development.
- Building and repairing watershed function on the range lands of the TON including charcos, berms, and small-scale erosion control structures.
- Clearing brush for fence lines and clearing woody tree encroachment in historic grassland areas.
- Repairing roads for access to the range lands (this does not include road maintenance.)
- Small-scale engineering for erosion control (berms) and surface water access (charcos.)
- Mapping and GIS services
- Fencing materials to assist with the upfront financial burden for ranchers applying for EQIP.
- Provided guidance on range management plans and resources available.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please don't hesitate to contact us: David Tenario (520) 573-4056, Geena Johnson (520) 573-4055, Morgan Parsons (520) 573-4057, Ulrick Francisco (520) 573-4054, or Miranda Flores (520) 573-4053.

We look forward to assisting you and the Wa:k Community in 2026! Be safe and Happy New Year!



HOSTED BY
SAN XAVIER DISTRICT




COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 11th 2025
4pm-7pm
Community Building

The San Xavier District will be
distributing Toys 4 Tots on this day.





WE ARE HIRING!!

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT



FULLTIME POSITIONS



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
HYDROLOGIST
CUSTODIAN
HOME HEALTH TECHNICIAN
WELLCASE MANAGER

HIRING PAY RANGE

\$25.59 - \$31.99
\$18.04 - \$23.82
\$30.98 - \$38.00
\$15.00 - \$16.88
\$15.56 - \$17.89
\$24.02 - \$28.82

BENEFITS

90% Employer-paid benefits (Medical, Dental, & Vision)
4% Employer match on 401k
Annual Leave, Sick Leave, & Wellness Leave available
after probationary period



More info



Himdag

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Himdag Haicu ‘A:ga Ge’e S-he:pijig Maşad December/ Big Cold Month

A:ñi ‘añ hab ce:gig Michael David Anthony Enis. Ñ amjed i:ya Wa:k tab, D o añ Wa:k Himdag Events Coordinator. Here is some information to share. There are many ways O’odham Himdag is shared and understood. Let this be one source for you as you read and even listen.

During this month, O’odham gather in different ways to keep many traditions. Some traditions have been kept for generations, and some are new.

Ho’ok A:gida (O’odham Legends) are usually shared during cold nights. O’odham long ago would listen as an older family member shared the Ho’ok A:gida and reminded everyone of the stories and the lessons learned from them.

A person could hear the same story the same way, but might have a different viewpoint or understanding over time or as they age.

Below is a QR code to a short O’odham story of Ban (Coyote) and the Cuwī (Jackrabbit). Feel free to listen, learn, and share.



In closing, as we approach the end of another calendar year, celebrate yourself and what you have achieved and accomplished. You have made it this far.

Not too long ago, Ñ-Wosk (My Grandfather) would share with me that during New Year’s Eve, before midnight, the community would celebrate with Waila until midnight. Then the music would stop, and the traditional singers would gather in front of the Rock House to sing, and the people would dance until morning.

I believe what our Elders and Ancestors did before us is what positive energy we are living off now. We should plan for the energy we are leaving for those after us. No one is perfect; we can only keep trying each day. Remember that you are important and you are needed in our community.

I look forward to creating and collaborating with you all in the near future on cultural and community events and potential ideas. If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to reach out by email at menis@waknet.org or by phone at (520) 573-4005. Pegi ‘Oig.

S.A.W.R.S.A

SOUTHERN ARIZONA WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT

As mentioned in the October 2025 Wa:k Newsletter, the following multi-agency teams contribute to the implementation of the San Xavier Cooperative farm (SXCA) rehabilitation and extension, as authorized under the Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act (SAWRSA) and the Arizona Water Settlement Act Amendments (AWSA).

The Tohono O’odham Nation Legislative Council (TOLC) authorized the San Xavier District (District) to plan and design the farm rehabilitation and extension project by TOLC Resolutions #2000-349 and 22-331. The current Resolution #22-331 states, “Affirming the Tohono O’odham Nation’s Consent to San Xavier District Being Treated as a Tribal Organization for Self-Determination Contracts...”.

The SXCA staff and board members are the primary decision-makers for the farm development, using research data on irrigation methods, crop productivity, and hydrology. Research data was obtained from contracted agriculture engineers, BOR, and SXCA’s farming practices.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is the lead agency for designing and constructing the farm rehabilitation and extension. They must comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), collect data, and evaluate the environmental impacts of the projects, including archeological and historical sites and biological resources (plants, animals, and endangered species).

The Nation’s Natural Resources Department’s Cultural Affairs and Ecologist Offices are consulted to protect the natural (plants, animals, endangered species) and cultural resources. The Nation’s Realty Office oversees development on tribal property within the project areas.

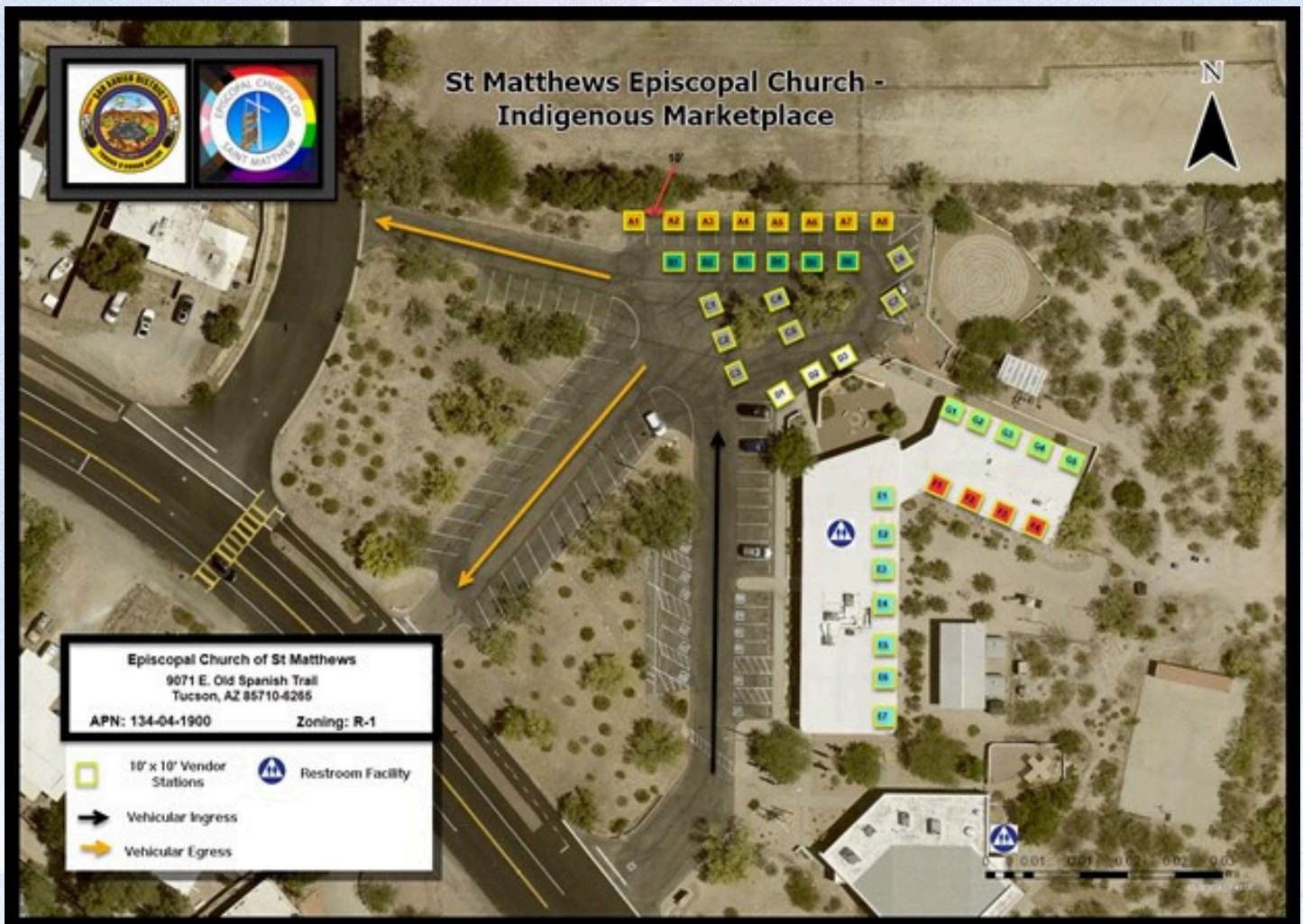
The San Xavier Allottee Association (SXAA), along with the SAWRSA Office, ensures that the allottees within the project footprints are updated and are following the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ procedures.

This is a lot of information. Should you have any questions about the agencies or the authorizations, please call Maggie Alvarez or Velma Begay at (520) 573-4000.

PLANNING *Department*

Indigenous Marketplace at Episcopal Church of St. Matthews:

The Planning Department would like to announce a collaboration with the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew. Beginning on Saturday, November 29th, and continuing into December, tribally enrolled members will be allowed to set up on the church grounds to sell their goods. This Indigenous Marketplace will be open every Saturday for our community members to set up shop free of charge, with spots available for reservation on a first-come, first-served basis. Community members are expected to describe what they will be selling along with their reservation. Those who are interested in participating must contact the Planning Department at planning@waknet.org. We look forward to hosting this event as a fantastic opportunity to bring our community together and anticipate a great turnout.





O'odham AP'EDAG KI:

Greetings Wa:k Community,

I hope all had a fun filled Halloween and the opportunity to visit the Voices of Our Youth Haunted House which the students did an outstanding job, "GREAT JOB STUDENTS". People Wellness House (PWH) program hosted a game called "Zombie Eyeball Toss" where we handed out candy and prizes. This fun game was a hit with participants of all ages! We also participated in the Breast Cancer Event held on October 22nd which was very informative, and it was great to see our male community members in attendance as this disease can and does involve all genders.



Because of District closures and the SUSD Fall Break (October 6-10), our after-school sessions were limited. The students enjoyed creating Halloween art projects/decorating of our building inside and out, but sad to say the wind blew their hard work down. October birthdays were celebrated, and O'odham language continues to be part of our sessions. (See Photos).

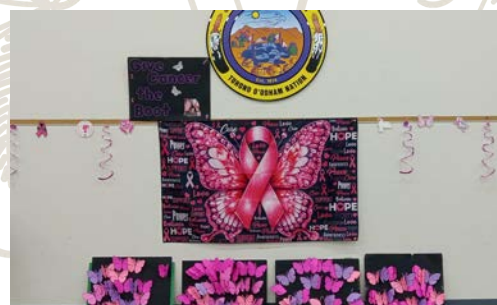


I continue to visit the SUSD schools on a bi-weekly basis or as needed to support our students who may need extra support in different areas. Our Parent/Guardian get-togethers have been going well and will be continued.



As the holidays approach, take care of yourselves, and remember that It's ok to say No, and to give yourself permission to enjoy the Holidays by asking family members to help in making the day a joyous one for all. Thank You.

Margaret Unito- Case Manager





**O'odham Ap'edag Ki:
Will Host
Their Sunday**



White Bison - White Buffalo Woman Bi-Monthly Wellbriety Meetings

**Strengthening
Your
Spiritual
Wellness**



**Foster
Personal
Awareness
Growth &
Development**

**All Are Welcome
to Attend**

**10:30—12 noon Sunday
November 9th & 23rd
December 4th & 21st**



For Information:

**Jim Funmaker,
People Wellness House
2039 W. San Xavier Rd.
Tucson Az.**

**PWH San Xavier District
520-807-8663
PWH@waknet.org15**

Wa:k ROYALTY

We would like to introduce our new 2025-26 Wa:k Ceksan Royalty for this year. The young ladies did a great job showcasing their talents. Continue to give them your support throughout the year and fundraisers.

Leilani Preston, Miss Wa:k Ceksan

Parents: Luke Preston & Late Shereen Canner

Maternal Grandparents: Phyllis Valenzuela & late Roland Canner

Paternal Grandparents: Late Donnie Preston & late Consuela Mendoza



Airra Lopez

Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan

Ava Lopez

1st Attendant, Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan

Parents: Misty Saunders & Avery Lopez

Maternal grandparents: Arlene Raymond & Samuel Saunders

Paternal grandparents: Nona Encinas & Late Brian Ortiz

Noelle Tenario

2nd Attendant, Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan

Parents: Joseph Tenario & Rayvonna Campillo

Maternal grandparents: Marlene Jose & Randall Campillo

Paternal Grandparents: Nancy Garcia & Robert Tenario

Jaylina Lawson, Jr. Miss Wa:k Ceksan

Parents: Jonathan Lawson & Solina Marcus

Maternal Grandparents: Joanne & Harold Marcus

Paternal Grandparents: Myra & John Lawson



Marianna Valles, 1st Attendant, Jr. Miss Wa:k Ceksan

Parents: Jose Valles & Mariajuana Celaya

Maternal Grandparents: Marthalene Gonzales-Antone & Mario Celaya, Sr.

Paternal Grandparents: Teddy & Laura Valles

Royalty Contd.

S-ke:g Tas!

Añi añ ap ce:gig Reyna Pablo. Añi gamai-gigi lik ahidak. Ñe mashcmakud Ombudsman High School. N-je'e 'o hab ce:gigGenna Pablo, N-hu'ul 'o hab ce:gig Sally Pablo, N-ka:k 'o hab ce:gig Patsy Ramon, N-wosk 'o hab ce:gig Ervin Antone. Añi Miss Wa:k Ceksan First Attendant 2024-2025.

Good day! My name is Reyna Pablo. I am 18 years old. I attend Ombudsman High School. My mother's name is Genna Pablo; my maternal grandmother is Sally Pablo; and my paternal grandparents are Patsy Ramon and Ervin Antone. I am the Miss Wa:k Ceksan First Attendant 2024-2025.

To begin, my first appearance of the summer was the Miss & Jr Miss Salt River pageant. This pageant was one to enjoy. I sat alongside my sash sisters as we watched the girls present their talents. I enjoyed listening to Jr.Miss Salt River, 1st attendant.

For the next summer appearance, our court was asked to share a few songs for a cultural exchange with students from the University of Arizona.

On July 27, 2025, Arianna and I attended the WEWIN (Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations) National Conference. This was a four-day appearance; throughout the conference, I listened to many people who spoke proudly of their origins. I encountered people from California, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Carolina, and Alaska. I gathered a lot of information about other tribes, organizations that support indigenous people, and indigenous entrepreneurs.

In August, my court and I attended the Miss White Mountain Apache Pageant, which is one I will always cherish. I love how each girl showed their representation with their talents. Their regalia are so beautiful to see. I loved the weather there and hope to visit again soon.

My next appearance was at the SX Mission School open house. On September 6, 2025, my court and I attended the Miss & Jr. Miss Pascua Yaqui Pageant. I'd never been to their pageant before, and this was a different experience for me. I thought it was unique how they presented tortilla-making and traditional cooking. I even got to taste one of the contestants' foods.

Lastly, my final appearance during my reign was the 64th Annual Miss Indian Arizona Pageant. I would say this is one of my favorite appearances. I loved seeing the diversity in their talents and regalia. I have had a great year alongside my sash sisters, and I continue to treasure every memory I have spent with the girls. I appreciate everyone who has helped me throughout the year. Thank you to the parents, guardians, and community.

Mas-p'o, Thank You



Royalty Contd.

Three-month Final Report – Danaliah Clarissa Miguel, former Jr Miss Wark Ceksan

Our royalty attended the All Things Tucson Service at the Cathedral for the 250+ Birthday Celebration of Tucson. It was a nice mass; Chairman Nunez gave a blessing. We participated in the All Things Chuk Son Celebration at the Presidio Museum. It was hot but lovely, and Gertie played that evening. We had a booth there to showcase our duties and travels.

We had our Farewell Celebration on Sept 20th. We were busy getting everything ready, and we would like to thank everyone for attending.

We started working with our pageant contestants, and it was fun to see our future royalty practice.

I enjoyed this year's experiences. I learned new things, such as traditions, different beliefs, celebrations, and differences between my community & others. I got to experience beautiful pageants & understand that everyone has their own specialty and what others enjoy about them.

I learned more about myself, how to hold a conversation, how to speak in front of crowds, and how important it is to keep our traditions & cultures alive.

My experience of what it is like to meet new people and learn more about their different cultures & traditions. Overall, I met many new people and learned new things, and this was an experience I won't waste. I encourage more girls to run and show how much they know about their culture, and I wish the best for our incoming royalty. Thank you.



CVC COMMITTEE

Wa:k Ceksan Tas 2025

Hi everyone! We want to thank the community for your participation in this year's Wa:k Ceksan Tas 2025. We want to commend the Estrada and Corella families for honoring their late family members in our parade. The theme was "Celebrating the Legacy of our Strong O'odham Women." The Estrada family honored the late Sally Estrada, and the Corella Family honored the late Judge Sarah Corella. We had 17 entries for the parade, and it was great. Thank you for your participation.

It would be nice if the family provided a bio in the newsletter, as part of a history of our community leaders who have shaped what our community is today and who we have done so much for. The committee was proud of the community's participation.

The committee honored our co-Grand Marshalls this year: Ms. Carmen Mattias, for her leadership as 1st Chairwoman of our District, an election board member, and the Miss Papago/Miss Tohono O'odham Nation Committee, as well as many others. On that note, we now have four women from our community who have made a presence as Miss Tohono O'odham Nation. We wanted to honor them for stepping up and honoring not only their family, our District, and our Nation. We hope to have future contestants who will represent our community.

We will include their bios in the newsletter, including what they have done as Miss Tohono O'odham Nation, what it has done for them, and where they are now.

We spoke with feast committee groups and other vendors, and they all sold out; every group did really well. That is what we want for the community.

As mentioned, the parade was a success. Here are the results.

3 rd Place Jr. Miss Wa:k Ceksan 25-26	Most Colorful- Jr Miss Wa:k Ceksan	3 rd Place Overall- San Xavier Mission School
2 nd Place- Miss Wa:k Ceksan 25-26	Most Traditional- Wa:k Seniors	2 nd Place Overall- Wa:k Seniors
1 st Place- Mr & Miss Santa Rosa Ranch School Royalty	Best Entry- The Late Sally Estrada	1 st Place Overall- The Late Sally Estrada

We want to thank Councilmen Mikey Enis and Manny Martinez for their help during the entertainment section, and all our volunteers who helped during the event.

Thank you for your participation. As we have said, we are always looking for members; you may have your own ideas. We have a monthly meeting; you're welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vivian Mae Miguel
CVC Coordinator



Miss Tohono O'odham Nation 1996-97

My name is Victoria Pablo. My parents are Alfred and Juanita Pablo. I am Tohono O'odham and Salt River Pima.

I was Miss Tohono O'odham Nation in 1996-97. I am very proud to be the first from the San Xavier District to hold this title. I am also very pleased to share this with all those who have followed.

As a young woman, my goals were to get a college education and work with the youth of our Nation. I worked with the San Xavier District and the Tohono O'odham Nation Recreation Departments for over 20 years. In 2018, as an older adult, I decided to return to school to get that college education. I attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and earned an associate degree in Recreation Administration and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

I am now employed with the Tohono O'odham Nation's Education Assistance and Higher Education Program. I encourage all those who are even thinking about continuing into higher education, whether locally or out of state, to go for it. You will not regret it. Education does not always take place in the classroom.

Personally, I have been married for 10 years. We are parents and foster parents of 11 children. This was not something I envisioned doing as an adult. I have learned much about myself and the path I was meant to take in this life. Taking advantage of unexpected opportunities has been as challenging as it has been rewarding. I am grateful for everything I have experienced in this life.

My goals now are to continue working on my education by completing my master's in organizational management, and to provide my kids with love, security, and stability so that they are confident enough to take risks and know that it may take five steps or twenty steps to achieve their goals. Forward or backward, they are all essential steps.



Holiday Tamale Orders

\$24/DOZEN

YEAST BREAD/ \$10 AND TORTILLAS/ \$12

CONTACT:

KARLETTE @ (520)784-3475

WYNONA @ (520)834-7643

MAE @ (520)954-0901

AGATHA @ (520)444-5629

MARK @ (520)235-9758

THANKSGIVING DEADLINE: NOV 22ND

CHRISTMAS DEADLINE: DEC 20TH

Wak Spirit

GE'E S-HE:PIJIG MASAD



S-ke:g Tas Wak Community,

Welcome to December! It is amazing how quickly the month of November went by. I hope everyone found some time to enjoy family and friends during the Thanksgiving Break. For us here at the San Xavier Education Center, we are thankful for the students and families whom we share and celebrate our work with.

As you know, we have four more weeks of learning and working until the next holiday break. Our goal at the San Xavier Education Center is to use this time to really move each and every student to the next level of learning. Please support this goal by ensuring your child is doing their homework every day and thank you for all your efforts at home to get your children into the routine and swing of school.



12/01- Noji Wuino Nenei (Christmas Caroling Rehearsal) @ SXD Ed. Center- 5:30-7:00 P.M

12/04- St. Francis Feast Day San Xavier District Offices Closed

12/08- Noji Wuino Nenei (Christmas Caroling Rehearsal) @ SXD Ed. Center- 5:30-7:00 P.M

12/09- SXD Education & Health Committee Meeting

Noji Wuino Nenei (Christmas Caroling Rehearsal) @ SXD Ed. Center- 5:30-7:00 P.M

12/11- Christmas Caroling @ SXD Christmas Community Dinner 3:00-7:00 P.M

12/17- LAST DAY for After School Program for 2025

12/19- SUSD Records Day- No School!

12/22-01/02: WINTER BREAK FOR SUSD, TUSD & MORE

12/22 & 12/23 SXD COMMUNITY CAROLING- 5:00-8:00 P.M

12/24-12/26- Christmas Day Observed. ALL SXD Offices Closed

12/31- Tuition & Books Grant application and required documents must be completed and turned into the Assistant Supervisor no later than 5 P.M for January 13, 2026 SXD Ed/Health Committee Meeting

This month is surely one of the exciting months of the year for most of us . It is another season to be thankful for.

For many, this time of year is associated with family celebrations and long-held traditions. I would like to wish all of the families a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, lots of love and good health.

As always, thank you for your commitment and supporting your child's education. Look forward to serving you and everyone else as you continue your education.

Carmen H. Martinez, Program Administrator



The Learning Center

GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH A BLESSED NEW YEAR

The library continues to be on an upswing!

We had another successful Family STEM Night on Wednesday November 5th. Thank you to everyone who came and participated. Shout out to all the sponsors who came out and shared their stem projects with our community.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Sister Rosalyn Muraskie from the San Xavier Mission for assisting our K-2 graders with homework help. In addition, we'd also like to give a big thank you to Mr. Howard Guralnick and his dog Libby for visiting us and having our students read to Libby. The students enjoy their visits!

Pima County bookmobile will be at the Education Center on Wednesday Decemeber 3, 2025 from 3-4 P.M.

Wishing you all blessed Holidays

Gertrude Lopez- Learning Center Coordinator

Elissa Encinas- Learning Center Aide



Education Outreach Coordinators

S-ke:g Tas Wa:k Community,

As winter approaches and the year ends, we take this time to reflect, give thanks and honor the teachings that have guided us through the seasons. December reminds us to slow down, gather close, and celebrate the strength and beauty of our community.

This month in our After School Program (ASP), we'll be focusing on gratitude, storytelling, and winter traditions. Students will learn about the importance of caring for one another, sharing kindness, and listening to the wisdom of our elders. We'll create winter crafts, share traditional stories, and talk about how our ancestors stayed connected through generosity and respect.

Our Voices of Our Youth (VOY) students will be attending the University of Arizona for the Native American College Day, and they will have an outing during winter break. We thank VOY for all their recent hard work, helping tear down the haunted house and helping with the Family STEM Night held on Wednesday, November 5th. We appreciate the difference they are making in their schools and the community.

We want to express our deep appreciation to our families and community members for walking this journey with us. Your support, encouragement, and presence help our children grow strong in both knowledge and spirit. Together we continue to build a space where culture, learning, and identity come together.

As we prepare for winter break, we wish everyone warmth, rest, and good spirits. May this season bring you peace, laughter, and time with loved ones. Let us carry the light of our traditions into the new year with hope and gratitude.

With Respect and Good Thoughts,
Anna Butler & Delissa Romero
Education Outreach Coordinators



CULTURAL

Language Teacher

S-ke:g Taş Wesig 'Em Wui,

This past October, the students in the After-school Program have been listening to me read the San Simon Book, “S-he:kig A'al”, the book describes the red ball. The children are playing with the red ball together with the dog and cat, and they are happy. With the 12 vocabulary words, the students are creating their own story using the S-he:kig A'al. The students are creating their own drawings and continuing to write in the small book I made for them. It is a good practice in comprehensive writing.

K-2 Graders are also listening to stories, singing songs in O'odham, and I am teaching them how to dance the Four Directions song. The 3-6 graders are using flashcards of objects in O'odham, working in groups, and teaching each other the words.

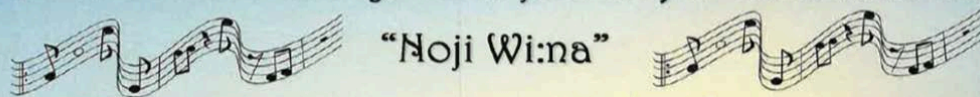
On November 5, 2025, Family STEM Night was held at the beginning of the month, with the theme Technology. The SXD Community member families learned to develop and build an imagination car, tank, or plane using technology. It was really lovely to see the parents/guardians sit with the child and help them put the pieces together. Several parents enjoyed putting the little pieces together, and once the model had been completed. The batteries were installed, and seeing the child's eyes, with their families, is overwhelming joy. Great Job!!

A flyer has been posted for Christmas Caroling applications; come and join us.



Noji Wuino Nenei

Welcome!! Wa:k Community, come join us for Christmas Caroling!!



Share the Holiday Spirit with the Community!!

Rehearsal Days

Monday, December 01, 2025

Monday, December 08, 2025

Tuesday, December 09, 2025

5:30pm—7:00 pm

San Xavier District Education Center

Christmas Caroling

SX Community Christmas Dinner

December 11, 2025

4:00pm-7:00pm

Community Caroling

Monday, December 22, 2025

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

5:00pm—8:00 pm

For More information contact:

San Xavier District Education Center

Front Desk: (520) 807-8620

Lisa Ortega: (520) 807-8626



SXD Books and Tuition Grant

What is needed for a Book and Tuition assistance?

- Completed application
- Tribal Enrollment/ OR a Family Tree if not San Xavier enrolled
- Verification of school enrollment
- Grades from previous semester, if applicable
- Billing statement
- Summary of education goals
- FAFSA/Award letter
- General Welfare Law (GWL)
- W-9

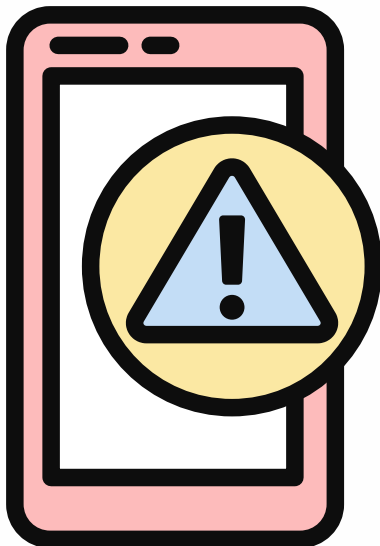
The Education and Health Committee will review all applications on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (time and dates are subject to change.)



**San Xavier District of the
Tohono O'odham Nation
2018 W. San Xavier Road
Tucson, Arizona 85746
Phone: (520) 573-4000
Fax: (520) 573-4089**



[Facebook.com/sanxaviardistrict](https://www.facebook.com/sanxaviardistrict)



Don't miss out on what's happening!

**Get updates on community events,
news, projects, and emergency alerts-
straight to your phone by text or voice
messages.**

Call (520)573-4000 to sign up