

Wa:k Newsletter



VOLUME 36 ISSUE 09

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

September 2026

Wasai Gakidag Masad/Dry Grass Month

Under the Stars
Swap Meet

Drug and Alcohol Free Event
RAIN OR SHINE
FREE ADMISSION

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
5:00 - 10:00 P.M.

San Xavier Mission
1950 W. SAN XAVIER ROAD

LIVE WAILA MUSIC

Vendor Fees
COMMUNITY - \$15
NON-COMMUNITY - \$30

Registration Starts
Sept. 1
LIMITED SPACE


<https://forms.office.com/r/ekgsdeDqH7>

Find Unique Treasures
HOME GOODS/DECOR
ARTISAN/HANDMADE PRODUCTS
JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES
FOOD/CONFECTIONS

Organized by: SXD Health and Wellness Committee

Persons attending and participating in the Under the Stars Swap Meet assume all risks, including but not limited to illness, injury, death, or property loss, and agree not to hold the San Xavier District, the San Xavier District Health & Wellness Committee, San Xavier Mission, its agents, event sponsors, and volunteers liable.

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you can expect:

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September District Events

september

TUES

01

ASP FY27
Parent Orientation

TUES

08

Missed Bus Program
Begins

THURS

10

VOY Student/Parent
Orientation

SAT

12

"A Live Animal
Presentation & Storytelling
9 AM- 12 PM
Education Center

MON

14

After School Program
Begins

THURS

17

Voices of Our Youth
Begins

SAT

26

Community Swap Meet
5PM-10PM

NATURAL *Resources*

Greetings Wa:k Community! You've probably noticed the sun coming up a little later these days, signaling the start of fall. Hopefully, it'll cool off some, and we get a few more days of rain. There's so much going on these days that we hope you're able to get out and enjoy your favorite activity. Also, just a friendly reminder that our office will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

Last month, all our Groundskeepers attended the "Managing Pests That Impact the Health of the Community" workshop at the Hanam Ke:k Recreation Center. Topics included Ticks and Animal Care, Household Pesticide Use and Safety, an Introduction to Food Safety and FSMA rules, New World Screwworm, and Indoor Air Quality. We were also fortunate to host a few visitors from the Southwest Native American Fish & Wildlife Society at the Wa:k Hikdan, and we will be closing out our end-of-fiscal-year items to usher in Fiscal Year 2027, set for October 1st.

Quick reminder to please do your part and help keep our community free of litter. We've received several complaints about trash building up around our community, especially around bus stops. These bus stops are for adults and youth. Please be mindful of others and dispose of your trash properly. Together as a community, we can keep our home clean.
– G. Johnson.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us: David Tenario (520) 573-4056, Geena Johnson (520) 573-4055, Morgan Parsons (520) 573-4057, or Ulrick Francisco (520) 573-4054.

Thank you & enjoy your Labor Day Holiday!

NR Director

HIMDAG EVENTS COORDINATOR

WAŞAI GAKIDAG MAŞAD DRY GRASS MOON

A:ñi 'añ hab ce:gig Michael David Anthony Enis. Ñ amjed i:ya Wa:k tab, Ð 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 listen.

During this month the O'odham would continue to maintain their fields and begin the pre-tasks for fall harvesting. The rain begins to slow down, and the wild grass begins to thin out and dry up. This is one of the reasons this month is called **Waşai Gakidag Maşad**

Here are some O'odham Songs for the month of September

As we prepare for our Wa:k Cekşañ Taş (Wa:k District Day), below are QR codes that will take you to YouTube videos. These four songs tell of the Wa:k Community. There are memories that are attached to these songs. The purpose of having these songs available is to have you become familiar with the rhythm, melody, and some of the words. It does take further time and practice to understand the songs. Especially the stories and meaning of why the song is sung.



Rainbow over Wa:k Jewed



White birds over Wa:k

HIMDAG EVENTS

COORDINATOR

Ali Akimel – Santa Cruz River



Evening Rainbow



In O'odham singing, we try to sing in sets of fours, if there are enough songs to do so. For example, the above community songs. Four songs about Wa:k. The songs would be sung, then move onto a different set of four. A new set could be about a mountain near the community or something. Sometimes there are not enough songs, so you might hear just one song about a place or mountain, and then the singers continue singing. This could also be due to time. Different singers from the other communities do their sets differently.

Other singers used to identify where the songs were from when they heard them. This was due to the terms used, rhythm and melody, and dialect.

Using the QR code below, you will hear how the songs would sound with the rattle and box. Some groups will use a drum or cowhide basket. Some elders would use a box because it has a similar sound to a willow basket. Willow baskets were used to keep the beat. Please note that there are two additional songs in the video recording. These songs are telling of Babad Do'ag (Mount Lemmon) or the Catalina mountain range.



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 and send me an email to menis@waknet.org or phone call at (520) 573-4005. Pegi 'Oig.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The SxD COVID Office is entering the final month of operation. On September 30, 2026, this department will cease operations, including all associated programs. This month, be on the lookout for updates regarding the COVID Department on the SxD Facebook page.

Food Distribution

Thursday, Sept 3rd
Thursday, Sept 10th
Must sign up

Cleaning Supply Distribution

Wednesday,
September 23
Begins at 7am

- Must be an ENROLLED SxD Member to receive a box.
- MUST have TRIBAL ID/Enrollment Available
- Letters are required if you are unable to retrieve your own food (with tribal number and home address)
- MUST be 18 years old

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.

Water Filters & Replacements

Pur Plus Filter systems are available; it screws right onto the spout!

Small amount of replacement filters for the iSpring Countertop System and the Zero Water Pitcher. Please call

DIAPER PROGRAM UPDATE

June 2026 marked the end of our partnership with the Arizona Diaper Bank, we thank them for their partnership for 3+ years. The diaper program will continue with available stock. Unfortunately when a size is out of stock, it will not be restocked. Please call for available sizes.

Open Monday–Thursday, Closed Fridays

For any questions, reach out to the Covid Office:

520-573-4010 or covid@waknet.org

Wa:k Senior Services Welcomes New Director

KAREN BLAINE, MSW

Wa:k Senior Services is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Director, who officially began serving the community on August 5, 2026.

Originally from the Schuk Toak District and the community of Fresno, the new Director brings both a strong educational background and extensive experience in elder services. She attended Arizona State University, where she earned a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.

With 12 years of experience working with Elders, she has dedicated her career to supporting the health, well-being, and quality of life of senior community members. Her knowledge, compassion, and commitment to service make her a valuable addition to the Wa:k Senior Services team.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in the San Xavier community,” she shared. “I look forward to building upon the excellent work already being done and continuing to support programs and services that honor our Elders.”

The new Director would also like to express her sincere appreciation to the current Wa:k Senior Services staff for their dedication and hard work. Their continued efforts in providing meaningful programs, resources, and support have made a positive difference in the lives of Elders and families throughout the community.

“I want to thank the staff for their commitment to our Elders and for the outstanding programs they provide,” she said. “Together, we will continue to strengthen services, support healthy aging, and ensure our Elders remain valued, respected, and connected within the community.”

Please join us in welcoming our new Director to Wa:k Senior Services. We look forward to her leadership as she works alongside staff, Elders, and community members to continue serving the San Xavier community with care and dedication.

Planning Department Update



Wa:k Ki:kam Park Update:

The Planning Department would like to provide some updates regarding our ongoing Wa:k Ki:kam Park Construction progress. Installation of playground equipment has begun, including both a regular and large wheelchair accessible swing set for community members to enjoy. The playground area will continue to be expanded upon in the coming weeks, with wood chips to be utilized surrounding the playground area. Additionally, our TOKA field space has been cleared out and graded for further optimization to be made moving forward.

San Xavier District Bus Shelter Project Update:

Regarding our Bus Stop Shelter Project, the Planning Department remains in frequent contact with the U.S Department of Transportation. We are pending approval on our submittal for grant funding to construct four bus stop shelters at vital locations on District roadways. Several months ago, the San Xavier District applied to receive funding for this endeavor via the 2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund. According to the U.S Department of Transportation, we can expect to have a response by mid-September. The Planning Department is excited to improve and expand our roadway infrastructure and will remain in touch with the U.S Department of Transportation as we await this approval.

Wa:k Ceksan ROYALTY



Wa:k Ceksan Royalty
Applications Available
Deadline-Oct 5, 2026
5pm

Age for each category:

Lil Miss Wa:k Ceksan 5 yrs - 9 yrs
Jr. Miss Wa:k Ceksan 10 yrs - 13 yrs
Miss Wa:k Ceksan 14 yrs - 21 yrs

If you are interested in becoming a
contestant, this maybe for you. You will
learn about your O'odham himdag & make
new frienships.

For more information you may email
wakroyalty@gmail.com



WA:K CEKSAN TAS
OCTOBER 16 & 17, 2026

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!
ARTS & CRAFTS, SWEET BOOTHS, SWAP
MEET VENDORS

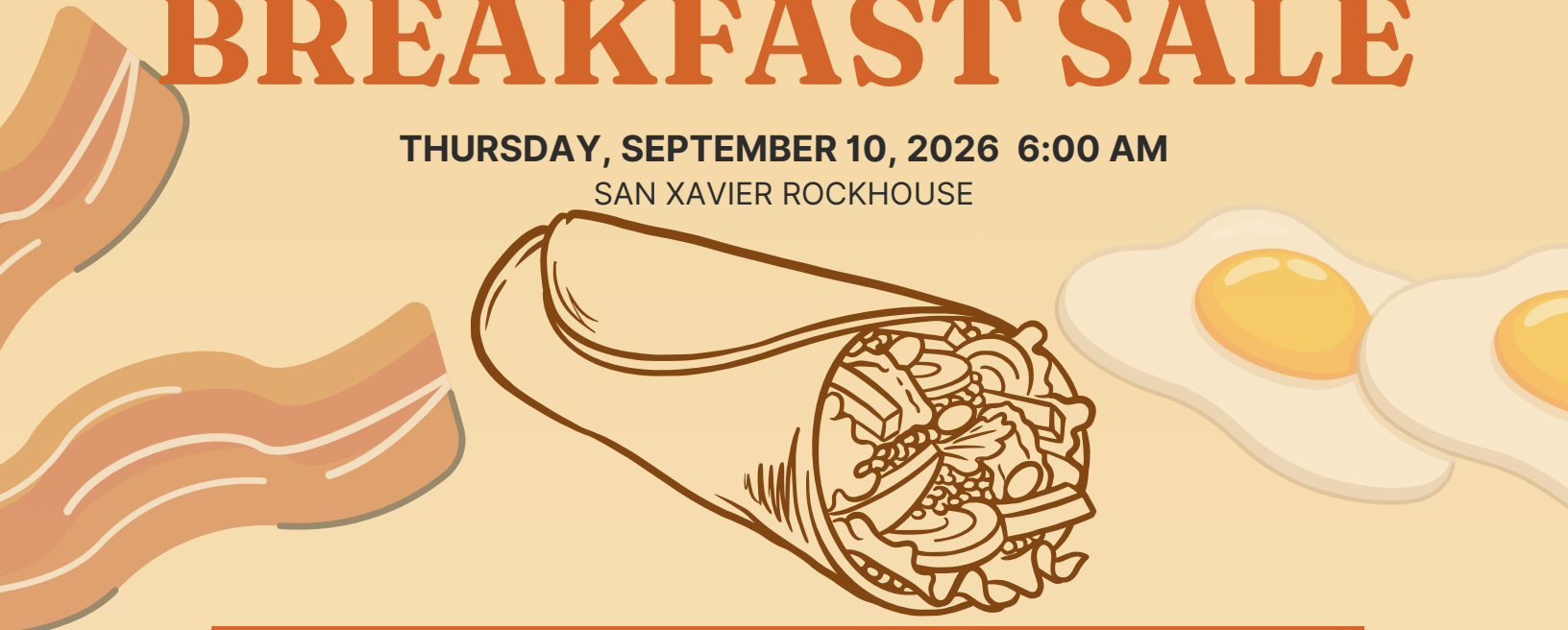
We are limiting only 20 booths for this years
WA:K CEKSAN TAS
Due to limited space for the youth activities
Payments will be required prior to the
event date.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE
SEPT 21, 2026- SXD OFFICE
PAYMENT WILL GUARANTEE YOUR SPOT.
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.
You may contact CVC member for more
information.



SAN XAVIER COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE BREAKFAST SALE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 6:00 AM
SAN XAVIER ROCKHOUSE



BURRITOS

EGGS

BACON
POTATOES

SAUSAGE
CHORIZO

SPAM
POTATOES & CORN BEEF

\$8.00

RED CHILI

\$9.00

EXTRAS \$1.00

Cheese
Green Chili

OTHER OPTIONS

Menudo w/ Yeast Bread

\$8.00

Tortillas (Cecemait)

\$12.00/DOZ

Pre-Order Deadline: Sept 8, 2026

**Proceeds benefit the
Wa:k Ceksan Tas October 16 & 17, 2026**

CONTACTS

Mae @ 954-0901
Mark @ 235-9758
Brandon @ 409-4316
Elliott @ 336-8720

Agatha @ 444-5629
Thelma @ 505-0821
Alda @ 809-3108

IMPORTANT LABORATORY INFORMATION

Tohono O'odham Nation Healthcare
San Xavier Health Center



CHECK IN PROCESS

CHECK IN

South Window on the 1st Floor (SX-1)
Front Desk in the Outpatient Clinic

SIGN IN

Provide information requested on the
clip board located on the lab door and
ring the door bell.

HAVE A SEAT

Have a seat in the waiting room, a lab
staff member will call your name.



CONTACT US



520-547-8140
Press 3 for Family Practice
or 0 for the Operator

FAQ'S

What option do I push when scheduling labs, following up on results, or need more information?

- Selecting option #3 will send you directly to the Call Center. Here, our staff can schedule, send messages to your doctor, and provide answers to any questions you may have.

Do I have to be an established patient to have labs completed?

- Yes, you must be an established patient at the San Xavier Health Center to have labs completed, even if ordered by an outside provider.

Do I need an appointment for laboratory services?

- Yes, an appointment is required for laboratory services. Orders must be entered by your provider, or turned in at the designated check-in area if written by an outside provider. For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.



WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

OPEN POSITION

- Accountant
- Cook – Senior Services
- HVAC Technician
- Transporter – Senior Services

APPLY NOW

- Applications/Job Descriptions available at: www.waknet.org or The San Xavier District offices
- All positions require a High School Diploma or GED
- All positions require a valid Driver's License with no major traffic infractions in the past 3 years
- Contact the San Xavier District Human Resources office at (520)573-4019/4016 with any questions



O'odham Ap'edag Ki: PEOPLE WELLNESS HOUSE

Greetings Wak Community,

In recognition of Recovery Month this September, People Wellness House warmly invites individuals and families of all ages to participate in our Walk for Life, honoring all pathways to recovery.

As we walk together, we remember those whose lives have been touched by addiction, celebrate those in recovery, and offer support to families and loved ones. Through unity, compassion, and hope, we send a powerful message:

No one walks alone. Recovery is possible, and together we are stronger. ❤️ 🚶 🚶 🚶
We look forward to walking beside you.

O'odham Ap'edag Ki: People Wellness House



PEOPLE WELLNESS HOUSE
OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Join Us to See Our Newly Renovated Building!

**2039 W. San Xavier Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85746**

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- Learn About Available Services
- Meet Community Members & Staff
- Tour the Facility
- Discover Wellness Resources

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

People Wellness House supports community wellness through connection, education, and healing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Funmaker
(520) 807-8663
jfunmaker@waknet.org

OR

Warren Fayuant
(520) 807-8662
wfayuant@waknet.org



SEPTEMBER IS RECOVERY MONTH
Celebrate. Support. Recover.

People Wellness House WALK FOR RECOVERY

Join us in celebrating National Recovery Month and supporting recovery, wellness, and hope in our community.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18
TIME: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come Walk With Us! ❤️

- CELEBRATE RECOVERY
- PROMOTE WELLNESS
- SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER
- STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

Recovery is Possible. Recovery is Worth Celebrating.

WALK START LOCATION
1960 W. 1st Ln.
Tucson, AZ 85746

Join us as we walk together in support of recovery, healing, and community. The walk begins at 1960 W. 1st Ln. and concludes with fellowship and wellness activities hosted by People's Wellness House.

HOSTED BY
People Wellness House
2039 W. San Xavier Rd.
Tucson, AZ

We are here to support wellness, recovery, and a stronger community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Warren Fayuant
(520) 807-8662
wfayuant@waknet.org

People's Wellness House
WELLNESS • HOPE • COMMUNITY

Everyone is Welcome!

TOGETHER WE WALK • TOGETHER WE HEAL • TOGETHER WE RISE

Wak Spirit September

WASAI GAKIDAG MASAD/DRY GRASS MONTH



S-ke:g Tas Wak Community,

Welcome back to another exciting year! As we begin this new academic year, I want to extend a warm, heartfelt welcome to everyone in the San Xavier District. We, at the San Xavier District Education Center, are thrilled to open our doors once again and create a nurturing environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and a strong sense of community. We believe that every student has unique talents and potential, and our dedicated team of educators is committed to helping each individual shine bright and achieve their educational goals.

This year, we have exciting plans and initiatives to enhance our students' overall learning experience through our programs. We will continue to focus on developing a well-rounded education, providing ample opportunities for students to excel not only academically but also in extracurricular activities and character-building endeavors.

As always, we encourage parents and guardians to be actively involved in their child's education. We firmly believe that a strong partnership between the school and families greatly contributes to a student's success. Open communication and regular engagement with teachers and school staff are vital to fostering a supportive and thriving learning environment.

Throughout the year, we will keep you informed about various events and important updates through our flyers, Wak newsletters, and more. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in every way possible.

Carmen H. Martinez
Program Administrator



THE LEARNING CENTER

GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY



The library will be in full swing this month with our library reading time
Head Start library is on Tuesdays from 9:45–10:15.

Infant Toddler begins on Tuesday, September 8th from 10:30–11:15. Ages 0–3.

After School Program begins on September 14th on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:00
–5:00 and on Wednesdays from 1:00–5:00.

The Pima County Bookmobile will be at the Education Center every 1st Wednesday of
the month from 3:00–4:00.

For more information call Gertie or Elissa at 520-807-8621

ALRIGHT! LET'S HAVE AN AWESOME SCHOOL YEAR!



Gertrude Lopez—Learning Center Coordinator
Elissa Encinas—Learning Center Aide



Education Outreach Coordinators Corner

S-ke:g Tas Wa:k Community, Relatives and Friends far and near.

As September begins, we welcome a new month filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed. Whether this school year is just beginning or already underway, remember that every day is a fresh chance to discover something new, overcome challenges, and build confidence.

To our families: Thank you for being your child's biggest supporters. Your encouragement, patience, and involvement make a lasting impact on their success. Together, we can help our children build confidence, develop resilience, and develop a lifelong love of learning. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your children. Together we are helping them become confident learners, caring friends, and future leaders.

We look forward to another wonderful month of learning, laughter, and making memories together.

Have a safe, happy, and successful September!

With appreciation,
Delissa Romero
Anna Butler
Education Outreach Coordinators



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

*Missed Bus Begins- Aug 31

*After School Program Begins- Sept 14

*Voices Of Our Youth Begins- Sept 17

Cultural Language Teacher



S-ke:g Taş N-hajun,

Welcome back, community members, to an exciting new school year! "The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you." B.B. King

This month, I will be collaborating with SUSD on O'odham Culture, Language, history, and hands-on arts & crafts, as well as a Ribbon Skirt/Shirts class with students. Several activities will be in the evening. I recommend checking upcoming events flyers with SUSD. This will be an enjoyable semester!

During this month in September, the After-school Program will begin on Monday, September 14, 2026. In the O'odham language class, the students will learn how air flows differently to produce letters and where the airflow is blocked by the tongue, teeth, or lips. They will learn these first (long vowels, short vowels, consonants, and phonetics). Also, the alphabet. This is very different from English. Students will explore language differences through hands-on arts and crafts activities.

Elizabeth Ortega,
San Xavier Education Center
Culture Language Teacher





SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

VOY

★ VOICES OF OUR YOUTH ★

SAN XAVIER STUDENTS 7TH-12TH

BE INVOLVED IN:
 COMMUNITY SERVICE~GROUP
 FUNDRAISING~WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS~YOUTH
 CONFERENCES~EDUCATIONAL GROWTH~FAMILY
 NIGHTS~COLLEGE TOURS~GROUP OUTINGS~CULTURE
 LEARNING~POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT~SOCIAL OUTINGS

VOY BEGINS: SEPTEMBER 17th

SIGN UP WITH THE SXP EDUCATION CENTER @ 520.807.8620

San Xavier District-Education Center

Missed Bus Program

AN APPLICATION MUST BE ON FILE PRIOR TO YOUR CHILD BEING PICKED UP!

Morning transportation: Will be provided for those students who miss their school bus, including the Van Tran and City Bus. The limits are:

- 3 times per month for K-5th
- 2 times per month for Middle and High School students.

Calls: Calls may be made between 7am & 9am. Transportation calls after 9am will not be accepted

Applications available:
August 3rd

Transportation begins:
September 1st, 2026

Transportation **WILL NOT** be provided if the scheduled pick up time for student has not passed according to school bus and Van Tran schedules.

Missed bus transportation **WILL NOT** be provided for students who are suspended from riding the bus.

Transportation for parents without a vehicle who need to attend parent meetings, parent-teacher conferences, parent night, local conferences, school board meetings, town hall meetings, etc.—as it relates to their child/ren and education. **WE ASK FOR 72-HOUR NOTICE!**

Transportation can be provided to those students who may need to register, follow-up on registration, testing, intake, and/or to do campus tours. Campus tours may be planned to involve more than one student.



Applications available at the San Xavier Education Center 520.807.8620





**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**

