

Wa:k Newsletter



VOLUME 36 ISSUE 01

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

January 2026

Gakimdag Masad/Animals Lose Their Fat

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Chairwoman
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Drug and Alcohol free event

Under the **SUN**
Swap Meet

FREE
ADMISSION

SAN XAVIER MISSION | 1950 W. SAN XAVIER ROAD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

12:00 - 6:00 P.M.

LIVE WAILA MUSIC



Vendor Fees:
Community - \$10
Non-Community - \$20

Find Unique Treasures:

HOME GOODS/DECOR
ARTISAN/HANDMADE PRODUCTS
JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES
FOOD/CONFECTIONS





Organized by: **SXD Health & Wellness Committee**

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



Report & Highlights

DECEMBER 2025

<p>12/1/25 – We assisted staff with opening boxes and organizing the Toys for Tots by age groups and labeling contents. -Chairman attended an evening planning meeting for the 2026 Young Men’s Gathering Winter Camp.</p>	<p>12/2/25 – We met with the TON Planning Roads Program and consultant for an update on our Gok Kawulk and Wa:k Lane roads pavement projects. Road surveys and designs to be completed in July 2026, and construction phase will then be initiated.</p>
<p>12/3/25 – Chairman attended the Tucson Indian Center’s Holiday event at Casino Del Sol, along with our Senior Services staff and clients.</p>	<p>12/4/25 – Holiday - St. Francis Xavier Feast Day -Chairman provided a Blessing for the Santa Cruz Watershed Coalition’s Fall seminar at Rincon Valley. -Chairman attended a retirement event for Ms. Joan Timeche, Native Nations Institute at UA; she assisted the District Chairs with technical support in the past.</p>
<p>12/5/25 – We attended a kickoff meeting regarding SXD’s application to the US Dept. of Transportation’s Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTGSF) with Admin, Planning staff, and our contracted grant writer. The project is for bus stop shelters. 12/6/25 – Chairman provided a Blessing and Welcome for the Four O’odham Tribes meeting at Desert Diamond Casino.</p>	<p>12/7/25 – Chairman attended a meeting with the owners of the No Name Sanctuary in the Sierra Mountains. They are safeguarding the beargrass plant used for basketmaking and have had O’odham provide workshops on basket and pottery making. 12/8/25 – Held an informational meeting with SXD Counsel and Council members regarding internal matters.</p>
<p>12/9/25 – Chaired this evening’s Council Meeting. 12/10/25 - Attended General Welfare Law Training conducted by TON Attorney General for Admin, SXD Departments, Council, and Committees who handle financial matters.</p>	<p>12/11/25 – Vice Chair attended a second meeting with Planning staff and our grant writer on the TTGSF application for bus stop shelters. -We, along with the SXD staff prepared for and hosted the Community Christmas Party, Toys for Tots, and Games and Activities in the Community Building.</p>
<p>12/12/25 – SXD ARPA Team met with TON ARPA Team to provide a monthly update and answered questions on our projects.</p>	<p>12/15/25 – Vice Chair attended the Young Women’s Gathering planning committee for the 1-Day Retreat and the 4-Day Gathering in 2026.</p>
<p>12/16/25 – Attended the monthly Cemetery Wash Project coordination meeting.</p>	<p>12/17/25 - Chairman attended the monthly District Chairs meeting hosted by Pisinemo District. -Vice Chair attended the TON Senior Services Christmas Gathering</p>
<p>12/18/25 – All Staff Meeting/Christmas Party 12/24/25 – Administrative Leave 12/25 – 26/25 –Holidays Christmas Day and Day after.</p>	<p>12/31/25 – Administrative Leave – 4 hours <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i></p>

January District Events

THURS & FRI

1 & 2

SXD CLOSED
HAPPY NEW YEARS
FROM SXD

SATURDAY

17

SXD HEALTH & WELLNESS
SWAP MEET
12 PM - 6 PM

MONDAY

19

SXD CLOSED
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A New Year of
Adventure

SXDC COMMITTEE JANUARY MEETINGS

ELECTIONS

- 01/07
- 01/21

HEALTH & EDUCATION

- 01/13
- 01/27

PLANNING & HOUSING

- 01/14
- 01/28

FINANCE

- 01/07
- 01/21

CULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

- 01/05

SXD COUNCIL

- 01/06
- 01/20

Happy New Year

NATURAL Resources

-David Tenario
Natural Resources Director

Greetings, Wa:k Community! We hope you enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends, and wish you a healthy & joyous 2026! First off, we would like to recognize Marlon Parra, Monica Valenzuela, Miranda Flores, Dwayne Salway, Michael Lake, and Hunter Bothof for taking an interest and providing their time to assist with picking up the toys for the Toys for Tots distribution last month. Their help was greatly appreciated!

Also, last month, our partnership with EcoTruths for the Indigenous Youth Fall session came to a close with a “Community Knowledge Sharing Event” held in the Council Chambers on December 7th. The EcoTruths Youth Group spent much of their time at the Hikdan respectfully taking in the sights and sounds of the various forms of vegetation and wildlife they encountered. The group seemed to really enjoy the 15-minute “grounding sessions.” This relaxing, silent activity helped some group participants find balance and connect with Jewed Ka:cim (Mother Earth). While walking around at the Hikdan, most of the youth would stop to feel the moist soil with their hands, and during this, it was mentioned that it was a form of therapy to touch and feel the earth.

The EcoTruths Youth group also made a couple of site visits to Madera Canyon & the San Pedro River this session. These visits offered the youth places where they could make connections with the water, mountains, and sky. While out at Madera Canyon, the youth visited the hummingbird sanctuary and took many photos of the colorful hummingbirds feeding, as well as trying to identify other bird species found at that elevation. Later in the session, the group was invited to visit a protected O’odham ancestral site along the San Pedro River. Some of the ground evidence suggested that this site was contemporaneously occupied by Hohokam and later by Sobaipuri O’odham. This is a fraction of the group’s past activities, a good part of the program focused on Native poets & poetry. In the end, at our sharing event, the youth shined for the parents, grandparents, friends, and guests. One participant shared 3 of her poems, another young person shared his photos & experience at Hikdan, there was an art piece presented that was anti-border wall, another person shared their art piece of the San Pedro River, and the last youth shared her environmental statement and closed the event with a Native children’s song.

Currently, the EcoTruths Youth group is taking a short break, but will start up again for their Winter Session in mid-January with a winter activity. The group is then scheduled to provide an update on their assigned project to the SX District Council in February 2026.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please get in touch with 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.

Thank you.

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.

Water Filter & Replacements



Our office still has Pur Plus Filter system available; it screws right onto the spout! We have a small amount of replacement filters for the iSpring Countertop System and the Zero Water Pitcher.

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 expected uptick in respiratory illness during the winter and holiday season. Ensure to keep your families' safe this holiday season

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

Himdag

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Gakimdag Maşad

Month when animals lose their fat

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 would share the Ho'ok A:gida and remind everyone of the stories and the lessons learned from them.

Wi'ihin 'A:gia (Flood Story) we hear that I'toi floods the world, having everything restart again. The Ban (Coyote) does not want to be washed away and killed, but he knows the life he was living was not right. He was ashamed to go up to I'toi, but he does, and in the story, we hear about the journey the Ban takes and the help he receives. We can learn from Ban and this 'a:gia. We can know that we can be given second chances, and we, too, can give them.

Below is a QR code for a version of the O'odham Flood story.



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

I look forward to creating and collaborating with you all in the near future regarding 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

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

San Xavier Cooperative Farm Rehabilitation

Final Environmental Assessment



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Phoenix Area Office
Phoenix, Arizona

July 2005

[San Xavier Cooperative Farm
Rehabilitation Final Environmental
Assessment](#)

While authorizations were being obtained from the Tohono O'odham Nation (Nation), the San Xavier District (SXD) and San Xavier Cooperative Association (SXCA) spent countless hours meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to plan and design projects. As discussions progressed, BOR's engineering, environmental staff and their consultants worked to collect data that would help complete the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) document.

The NEPA process is required for major federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the environment. Prior to any ground disturbance, the NEPA document was sent to Federal, state and local agencies, along with holding public meetings in the District Center. The public and agencies were able to comment on the environmental impacts. The SXCA Farm Rehabilitation – Final Environmental Assessments (July 2005) link is attached.

Further, the authorization allowed the District to enter into a contract with the Federal Government, specifically with the BOR. Under Public Law 93-638 - Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq), the District was able to contract for some of the work and created the SAWRSA Office.

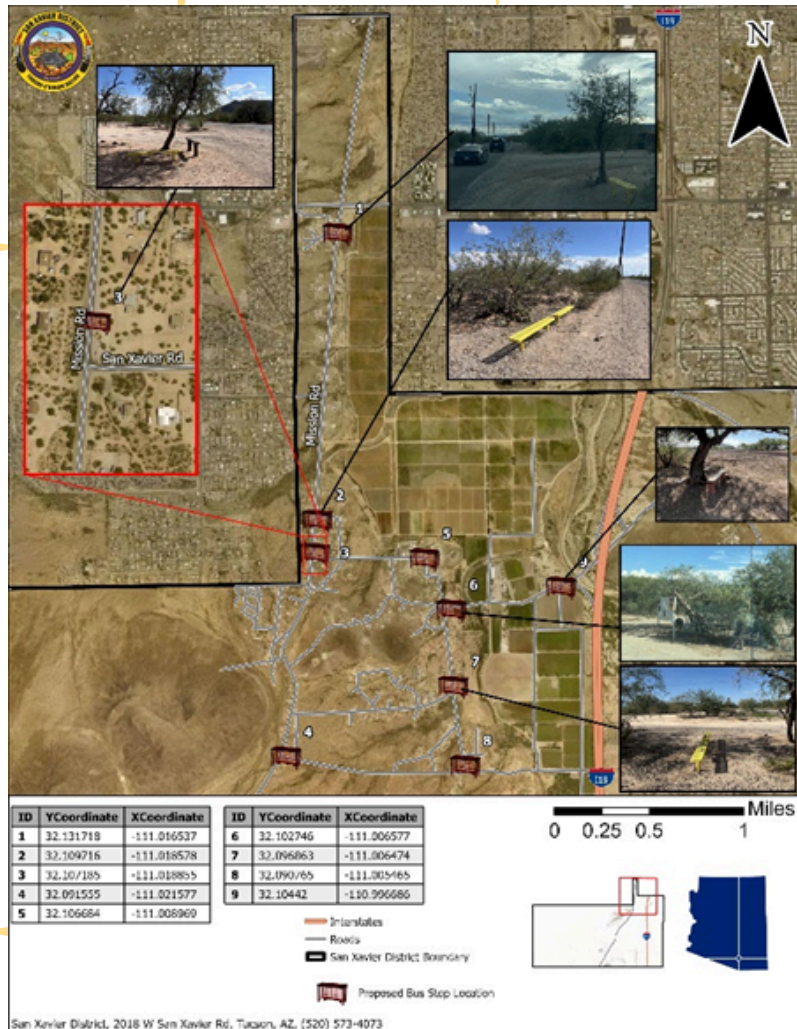
Before any terms were agreed upon, a scope of work, cost estimates, and timelines had to be developed. Once everyone agreed, a contract was signed between the Federal Government (BOR) and the District. SAWRSA staff ensured contract regulations, statutes, and reports were submitted to BOR.

Funding for the projects were appropriated under the Southern Arizona Water Settlement (SAWRSA) and Southern Arizona Water Settlement Act (AWSA) Amendments. The Secretary of Interior acting through BOR is responsible for overseeing the funds for the projects, providing technical assistance and training to ensure we followed the terms and conditions of the contract.

There are many steps, discussions, and approvals that lead to starting and finishing all the projects. At times, there were many activities happening at the same time. In the next newsletter, we hope to provide information on the projects followed by information on the Water Management Plan.

This is a lot of history and 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



Bus Stop Shelter Project:

The Planning Department would like to announce the beginning of an exciting new Bus Stop Shelter Project. We have recently started a collaboration with a grant-writing firm in hopes of securing funding from the 2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund provided by the Department of Transportation for nine bus stop shelters throughout our roadways. These shelters will include sun shading and more comfortable seating for our public transit users. This area is no stranger to hot summer days, and these shelters will help to prevent potential heat-related injuries whilst waiting for transportation. Additionally, a more substantial bus stop infrastructure will enhance the safety of many children and the elders by providing a more visible pick-up/drop-off location. This will provide a safety measure against traffic fatalities for years to come. Many of our community members rely on Sun Tran and local school bus services as a mainstay in their day-to-day life, and this initiative seeks to serve that interest. If community members have any questions regarding this project, they should contact Planner Camden Walsh at cwalsh@waknet.org. The Planning Department is committed to improving the overall quality of life and roadway safety of our community's public transit users.



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

For Information:
Jim Funmaker,
People Wellness House
2039 W. San Xavier Rd.
Tucson Az.

PWH San Xavier District
520-807-8663
PWH@waknet.org





Wak Spirit Gakimdag Masad January

S-ke:g Tas! Wa:k Community,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I WISH ALL SAN XAVIER FAMILIES A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH HOPE AND PROMISE!! Welcome back to the San Xavier Education Center. Hoping everyone had the time to relax and rest up. As we embark on this new year, rest assured that the Education Center will continue working tirelessly to provide the best possible assistance for your children. Our dedicated staff is committed to cultivating an enriching and nurturing environment where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

Our After School program, Infant/Toddler program, and Voices of Our Youth program will continue to run throughout the rest of the school year and will start up again. As always, if your child needs help with their homework, whether it is Math, English, Science, or any projects they are working on, please do not hesitate to give us a call. We are here to help!

High school students, please know that if you did not pass a class last semester, you do have opportunities to catch up and avoid falling behind on credits. Most importantly, for SENIORS, you can graduate on time! Students, remember to study and stay on top of their homework; every little bit counts in the end, so make the most of it and get plenty of rest.

We understand the importance of a strong community and its impact on your child's educational journey. Together, we can empower our students to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

Once again, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering support. We are privileged to have such wonderful parents and students like you, and we look forward to the incredible year ahead.

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

Wishing you all the best in 2026!

Warm regards,

Carmen H. Martinez – Program Administrator

Happy
New Year

The Learning Center

**GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!**



Jeepers Creepers! Where has time gone!

We continue to serve the Wack Community with our library reading programs.

We are also happy to announce that Jesscia Redhouse from Pima County will be teaching a basic computer class here at the Education Center. For more information about computer classes, please get in touch with Gertrude Lopez at the Learning Center at 520-807-8621.

The Pima County bookmobile will continue to arrive at the Education Center on the first Wednesday of every month. So, for this month, it will be here on Wednesday, January 7th, from 3 pm to 4 pm.



Our infant/toddler will also resume every Tuesday from 10:30–11:15 starting on Tuesday, January 13th.

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

Education Outreach

COORDINATORS

Welcome to a New Year of Learning!

Happy New Year to all our families, students, and community members! As we step in January, we welcome a fresh start filled with opportunities to grow, and renewed energy. The new year gives us a chance to set intentions, celebrate how far we've come, and look forward to the learning adventures ahead.

Here at the Education Center, we are excited to reopen our classrooms with new lessons, hands-on activities, and spaces that encourage curiosity and confidence. January is a time when students often come back with new goals and a stronger sense of who they want to become and were honored to help guide that journey.

Thank you to our parents, guardians, and caregivers for your continued partnership. Your support, whether through communication, encouraging your children at home, or simply showing up makes a meaningful difference. Together, we create an environment where children feel seen, supported, and capable.

As the year begins, we invite everyone to move forward with hope, patience, and an open heart. May January bring warmth, learning, and many moments to celebrate.

Wishing you all a wonderful month ahead!

VOY Recognition

We would like to recognize our Wa:k traditional dancers and singers whose movements carry the stories, prayers and teaching of our ancestors. Their continued dedication keeps our culture alive, reminding us of who we are and where we come from. Through these dances and songs, they bring strength, healing, and unity to our community, ensuring that these traditions continue to guide future generations.

Anna Butler & Delissa Romero
Education Outreach Coordinators

This Month's Focus:

- *Building positive habits and routines
- *Strengthening reading and math skills
- *Encouraging creativity through winter-themed projects
- *Practicing kindness, gratitude, and responsibility

Upcoming Highlights:

- *Jan 5th After School Program first day back.
- *Jan 19th No After School Program (MLK Day)
- *VOY Meetings- Jan 8th, 22nd, and 30th
- *Jan 30th VOY Outing—ASU Recharge Conference

Family STEM Night

Wed., Feb. 11th
6pm to 8pm
SXD Ed. Center

All families are welcome to come enjoy a night of fun!

STEM activities focusing on ENGINEERING provided by:

- *AZ Sonoran Desert Museum
- *Kitt Peak National Observatory
- *SXD Education Center
- *Many Nations Team of the Pima County Library
- *TON Special Needs Program
- *SXD People Wellness Dept.
- *San Xavier Mission School and more.....

Free Food,
Snacks &
Drinks

For more information, contact the SXD Education Department at 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



[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