

Jan. 9 PCFYI: Monitoring rain, Health's relay race, expanded Transition Center services

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Friday, Jan. 9, 2026 — Vol. 11, No. 1



Exploring Flood Control's countywide rain monitoring system

When the cold winter rains start to fall, the Pima County Regional Flood Control District is on the alert – literally.

Anyone who has ever tried to drive home through a thunderstorm understands how important it is to be aware of local rain patterns. That's where Flood Control's ALERT stations come in.

ALERT is a network of 134 sensors that are strategically placed throughout the County to capture as complete a picture as possible of when – and how much – it rains here. The gauges let Flood Control know how much rain is falling in different areas, and they even allow them to monitor how high the waters are rising in washes.

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Health Department walks the walk at RunAround Tucson Rat Relay Race

The Pima County Health Department team kicked off the new year by quite literally hitting the ground running, participating in the annual RunAround Tucson Rat Relay Race on the Chuck Huckelberry Loop on Jan. 3. This year the Rat Relay helped raise money for Youth On Their Own, a nonprofit organization that supports young people who are unhoused. The team wore matching purple shirts as they completed the 54-mile relay around The Loop.



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New County programs will equip youth with green infrastructure knowledge, skills



Like flowers blooming after the rain, Pima County's stormwater parks are springing up in one neighborhood after another.

Built by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District, these innovative parks take parcels of vacant or unused land inside neighborhoods and transform them into vibrant community spaces.

Now, Flood Control is launching two programs that will make it easier for communities to understand and benefit from these parks – and help the County find qualified individuals to work on them and similar projects.

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Green Geek takes on Christmas trees, grease and javelina-proof composting

Is there a green-friendly way to dispose of your Christmas tree? Can used cooking grease really be recycled? Is there a way to discourage pesky and persistent javelinas from digging their way into your compost? The Green Geek is ready to answer your questions about all things green!



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County expands Transition Center operations with opioid settlement funding



The Pima County Board of Supervisors approved funding that will allow the County to expand operations at its Transition Center to seven days a week, increasing support for people leaving the County jail and helping reduce re-arrests.

The Transition Center, which is run by the County's Justice Services department, provides peer navigation support to people being released from jail. Navigators connect individuals with the resources they need in an effort to avoid returning to jail — sometimes as simply as providing court reminders or helping secure a bed for the night.

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Board selects new chair, vice chair; changes meeting times

In case you missed it, the Pima County Board of Supervisors at its Jan. 6 meeting [voted in a new Chair and Vice Chair](#) for 2026. District 3 Supervisor Jennifer Allen will serve as Chair and District 2 Supervisor Dr. Matt Heinz will serve as Vice Chair. The Board also will begin meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month effective May 12.



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Tips from PACC for keeping stray pets safe



More than 130 people turned up to PACC's Tales and Tails reading event to keep pups calm on New Year's Eve, when they're most likely to be spooked by noisy holiday celebrations.

Those fireworks may be festive to some, but our four-legged friends generally aren't fans. Indeed, PACC has taken in 241 dogs and 97 cats since New Year's Eve, a good portion strays who got out while their families were ringing in the new year. PACC has advice for anyone who may have lost a pet or needs advice on what to do if they find a

stray.

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Kino expands pickleball hours, adds online reservations

More hours. Easy reservations. Game on. Kino Sports Complex is stepping up its pickleball game with expanded court hours and a new online reservation system designed to make playing easier than ever.

Here's what players need to know before they head to the courts.



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Pima County Wastewater collecting grease Jan. 10

Don't forget about this weekend's grease collection event! The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department will be out collecting used cooking grease and oil Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Keeping grease out of the drain helps protect residents from plumbing problems, discourages pests, keeps the sewer system running properly, and reduces the risk of sanitary sewer overflows. All grease will be recycled into clean-burning diesel fuel. Click the link below to find a drop-off location near you.

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