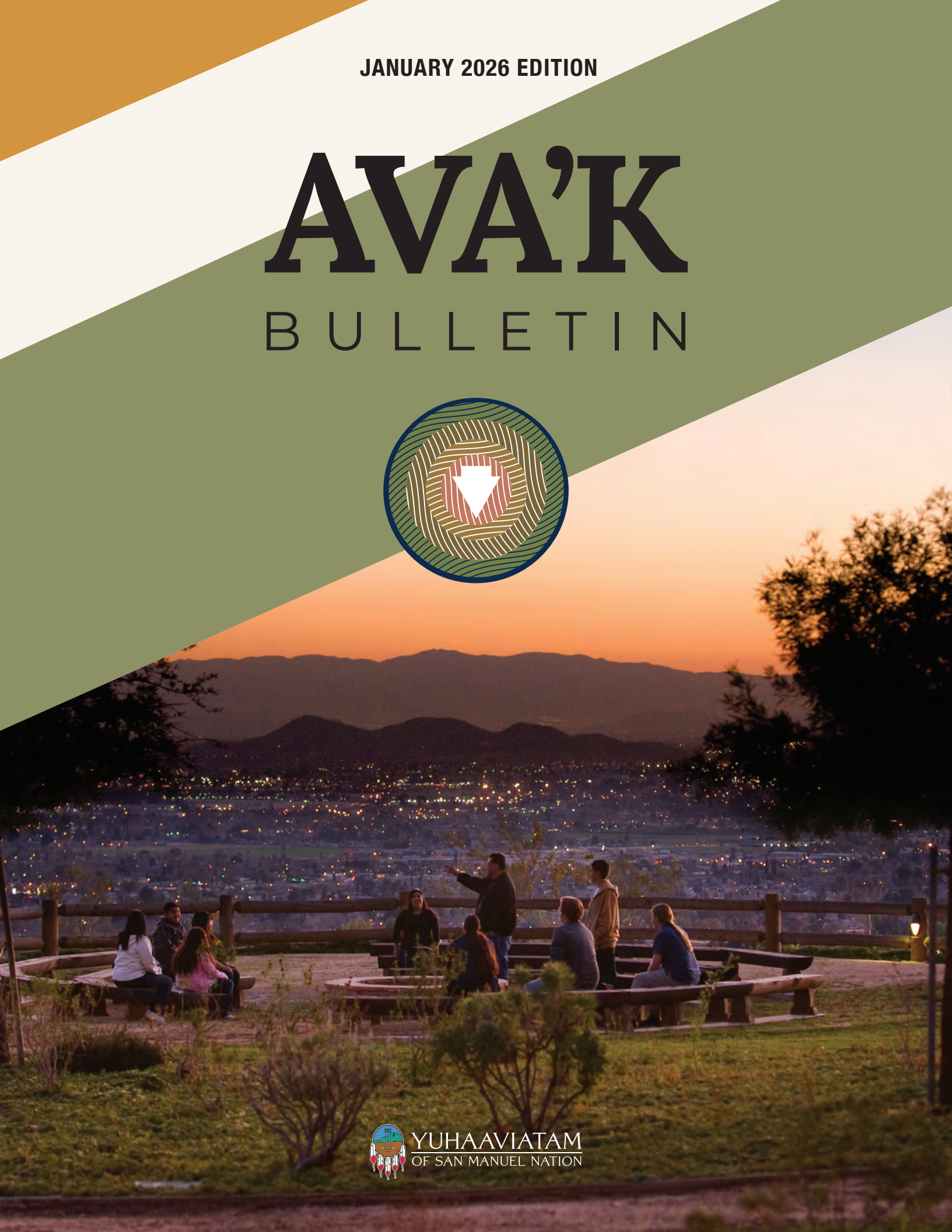
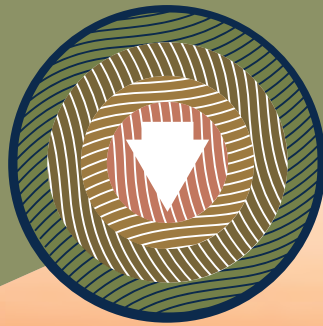


JANUARY 2026 EDITION

# AVA'K

## BULLETIN



**YUHAAVIATAM**  
OF SAN MANUEL NATION



## A Place of New Beginnings

The San Manuel Indian Reservation began as a refuge for survival. In 1866, after a series of militia raids in the San Bernardino Mountains, only about 30 tribal members remained. Led by Santos Manuel, namesake of the Reservation, they moved from the valley to the foothills—pushed progressively by growing communities onto land that offered little promise. Originally less than a square mile of steep, rocky terrain, the Reservation lacked the resources needed to sustain a community, yet it became the foundation for rebuilding.

Established officially in 1891 under the federal Act for Relief of Mission Indians, the Reservation was small and isolated compared to the Tribe's vast ancestral territory, which once spanned millions of acres. For decades, life here was marked by hardship. Limited water, poor soil, and lack of infrastructure made life and prospects for a future difficult.

Guided by Yuhaaviatam Elders, through the hard work of its members and helped by friends in the community—among them the Highland service clubs, Loma Linda University, and San Bernardino City leadership—the Tribe persevered. Two critical acts of support stand out: Loma Linda doctors traveled to the distant San Manuel Reservation to provide healthcare to tribal citizens early in the 20th century, and in the 1960s, Mayor Al C. Ballard worked with Tribal Elders to repair the pump that supplied the Reservation’s only source of drinking water.

The Tribe has always held to remembering who they are and where they came from, while building lasting relationships for a strong and sustainable future—not just for the Tribe, but for communities across its ancestral lands.

## **DPS Patrols: Protecting & Connecting**

Enhanced patrols are a vital part of the Department of Public Safety’s (DPS) commitment to keeping neighborhoods near the Reservation safe and connected. These patrols go beyond Tribal properties, designed to build trust, deter crime and ensure that residents feel secure in their community. By increasing visibility and fostering open communication, DPS officers create a reassuring presence that strengthens the bond between the Reservation and surrounding neighborhoods.

“When the patrols began, the residents weren’t sure what to think,” said longtime DPS Team Member PSO II Edward Nerey. “Now, when the residents see the Patrol Unit they wave and smile and say, ‘Thank You!’ ”

PSO II Nerey exemplifies this mission every day. His experience and passion for community engagement shine through as he approaches each patrol as an opportunity to connect with neighbors, answer questions and address concerns. PSO II Nerey demonstrates how proactive engagement can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.

“The patrols have made a noticeable difference in our neighborhood,” said George Saliba, a longtime resident of Lynwood Drive. “Seeing DPS officers regularly gives us peace of mind. They’re approachable, listen, and they’ve built a real sense of trust.”

As part of its security function, DPS communicates directly with law enforcement agencies under contract with the Tribe—including the Sheriff's Department and San Bernardino Police Department—when calls for service are required. This collaboration ensures that neighbors benefit from a unified approach to law enforcement and overall public safety.

Positive interactions between DPS and the community are essential for building trust and cooperation. When neighbors see us as approachable and invested in their well-being, it creates a safer, more unified environment for everyone. Enhanced patrols are not just about security, they're about partnership. By working together, we can ensure that neighborhoods remain welcoming, vibrant and protected.

**DPS Director Rob Young addressed residents at a recent neighborhood meeting**



## Working Together for a Safer Community

The Tribe's Department of Public Safety conducts regular patrols and communicates with the San Bernardino Police Department, which is responsible for policing and supporting emergency service calls.

If you see something suspicious or have a concern, call the SBPD Non-Emergency Dispatch at 909-383-5311. When the area of suspicious activity is in a county area, the dispatcher will connect you with the right contact.

You can report non-emergency matters in the Eastern District—which includes the Kiika' neighborhood—through the Go SB City mobile app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play:



APPLE APP STORE



GOOGLE PLAY

**Residents can report issues, including graffiti and illegal dumping.**

**To do so:**

1. Select "City of San Bernardino" on the GO SB City app homepage
2. Scroll to "Police"
3. Click "Contact Eastern District Commander"
4. Report Issue

**AS ALWAYS, IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1.**



**WE VALUE YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.**

Call the neighborhood hotline number/email:  
(909) 425-3483 | [Neighborhood@sanmanuel.com](mailto:Neighborhood@sanmanuel.com).