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# The Yellow Sheet

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## WESTERN FUN RIDES IN WITH THE 70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLD RUSH DAYS FEBRUARY 9-11, 2018, Julie Brooks

This event celebrates the town's origins as a ranching & gold mining center in the days before there was a Phoenix. The heritage event was founded 70 years ago, and today Gold Rush Days draws tens of thousands of visitors, during the 3 ½ days of activities.

Festivities begin on Thursday, February 8, with the Brown's Amusements Family Fun Carnival opening at 4:00 p.m., in the downtown district. Joining us in Wickenburg for special concert performances is the multi-talented 3 Red Neck Tenors, Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> the show starts at 7:30 p.m. sponsored by the Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts. To purchase tickets only for the Webb Center concerts call 928-684-6624.

The official opening gets underway on Friday, February 9 during the Opening Ceremonies on Frontier Street at 10:00 a.m. with western entertainers, and gold rush officials kicking off the event. Friday is the only day you will be able to see beautiful classic cars on Frontier Street from 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

The main festival area on Valentine Street in the historic district will see exhibitors at the Wickenburg Art Club artisans' fair, & juried fine art show at Stone Park and in the public library; at the community center you'll find daily activities such as gold panning, arts/crafts, and food court from 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., with the carnival running throughout the evening. Nearby the free stage entertainment area is set-up for live music each day starting at 12 Noon, other activities such as telescope viewing and live music at various locations with local businesses is scheduled.

One of the highlights on Friday is the first show of the Desert Stagers old fashioned melodrama, held in the historic Saguaro Theatre at 7:00 p.m., \$10 nightly throughout the celebration. The second concert performance at The Webb Center is again at 7:30 p.m.

The parade is on Saturday at 10:00 a.m., and one of the largest in Arizona with more than 80 entries including horses, historic wagons, classic auto's, floats, marching bands, and youth groups. Spectators line the street as one of the largest parades in Arizona passes by. The parade theme is: **"Ropin' the West"**, with grand marshal PRCA World Champion Cowboy, Cody Custer.

On Saturday the main event activities are the same, but include the additions of a Western Barbeque sponsored by the Wickenburg Saddle Club at 11:00 a.m., and the first performance of the National Senior Professional Rodeo & Open Rough Stock, held at 2:00 p.m. at the Everett Bowman Arena, located at 935 Constellation Road, just one mile east of the downtown area. Admission: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$5 students & children (6-17), 5 & under are Free. Gates open at Noon.

Saturday night you'll find another Old Fashioned Melodrama performance from the Wickenburg Desert Stagers, held in the historic Saguaro Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday the activities include arts/crafts area, gold panning, family carnival, rodeo performance, melodrama, and special day events such as the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. inside the Community Center; the traditional mining contests – Mucking & Drilling at 10:00 a.m., and the Arizona Gold Panning Championship, where contestants compete for money and prizes while panning for gold starts at 1:00 p.m.

The second performance of the Senior Pro Rodeo at the Wickenburg Rodeo Grounds is at 2 p.m., and at 7:00 p.m. is the final performance of the Wickenburg Desert Stagers Melodrama.

The Chamber invites you to enjoy and discover our community attractions, shop and dine with our local merchants and return again for great activities throughout the year.

The Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce is the proud producer of the celebration each year, along with the Town of Wickenburg, partners and sponsors. Joining us as co-presenters again is m3 Companies & Wickenburg Ranch, featuring a Trilogy Resort Community, and Crescent Crown Distributing – Coors.

For more information, and tickets call (928) 684-5479 or visit online at: [www.visitwickenburg.com](http://www.visitwickenburg.com) or [www.facebook.com/WickenburgAZGRD](https://www.facebook.com/WickenburgAZGRD)

