

PINAL COUNTY LIFESTYLES
FEBRUARY 2012

What's so special about February? Any number of things: an occasional (every fourth year) extra day, the shortest month of the year, Umbrella Day (February 10th), Susan B. Anthony's birthday (February 15, 1820), Random Acts of Kindness Day (February 17th), and the birthdays of Charles Dickens (2/7/1812) and Laura Ingalls Wilder 2/7/1867).

More importantly – at least around here – on February 14, 1912 Arizona became the 48th State in the United States of America! Now I can't believe that this Big Event is really a secret to you, Gentle Reader. Susan Randall and Brian Kramer have been sharing wonderful vignettes from Casa Grande's history in the pages of the *Casa Grande Dispatch* for the past year as their part in the celebration of our 100th year as a state. [N.B. The *Dispatch* has published a book of those articles – a “must have” for anyone with a yen for local history and a steal at \$10 a copy!]

Naturally our Casa Grande Valley Historical Society has a full slate of events and exhibits for this month and the Centennial celebration. And yes, they've been hard at it this past year as well. In November, they were responsible for enticing the Union Pacific Railroad to include Casa Grande on UP's memorable western tour for Steam Engine #844: this incredible piece of history and engineering was the last steam engine built for UPRR. If you weren't able to get to a place near their main rail line on November 15th to see this monster engine, you missed a memorable sight indeed.

For more information on who's doing what when and where as part of Arizona's Centennial, go to <http://www.cgvhs.org> (or call 520.836.2223) for a run-down on locally sponsored events and to <http://www.az100years.org> for data on statewide events and news about our 100th Birthday.

Last month, I spent some time providing you with information concerning the Senior (Property Valuation) Freeze and Widow-Widower's & Disabled Persons Tax Exemption programs. Unfortunately, some of the financial limiting data I cited was last year's and not the current year's data. So, with my apologies, here's the accurate information.

If you're applying for the Senior Valuation Freeze, all sources of income from all owners (including Taxable and Nontaxable monies) cannot exceed \$35,054 per year per single owner; \$41,880 per year for two or more owners. If you're applying for the Widow-Widower-Disabled Persons Property Exemption, your total Net Assessed Valuation in Arizona cannot exceed \$23,991; your income (from all sources, excluding Social Security) cannot exceed \$29,421; and if children under 18 years of age reside in the household, the household income cannot exceed \$35,305.

On Thursday, February 9th, the Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (CAREDF) will hold its annual luncheon and celebrate their accomplishments this past year while looking forward into the new year. Their keynote speaker will be Jeremy Schoenfelder with AZ Sourcing Inc. who will be talking about the

Phoenix Mart mega-project. For more information, call CAREDF at 520.836.6868 or go online at <http://www.caredf.org>.

February 18th is a busy day: it starts with the 67th Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising – a truly wonderful military parade (and B-17 flyover) at 9:00 a.m. kicks off a day's worth of ceremonies in Sacaton. It's sponsored by the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post #84 & Auxiliary Unit # 84. After the parade's conclusion, there is a ceremony Ira H. Hayes Memorial Park honoring veterans and a Pow Wow that afternoon.

Finally, the 6th Annual Seeds of Change Gala – set for Saturday, February 25th is an Against Abuse, Inc. fundraising event in Maricopa. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Province Town Center (the site of the first two Gala events) in Maricopa. This formal fundraiser is quite an affair with a plethora of silent auction items and a gaggle of live auction goodies for your consideration. Profits from the event are earmarked for construction of a shelter in Maricopa for victims of domestic violence and/or child abuse. For more information about tickets or donations, call 520.836.1239 or go to <http://against-abuse.org>.

And, finally (I mean it this time!) – as we all celebrate our state's Centennial birthday, don't forget that there's another element of happiness attached to February 14. That's right – it's Valentine's Day!! So order something nice for your sweetie early and avoid the big rush for flowers and candy.

I hope to see you around the County this month,

David Snider

Pinal County Supervisor, District 3