

PINAL COUNTY NETWORK NEWS

Featuring items of special interest to organizations and individuals working to improve the lives of people in our County. Published and emailed by Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA), with support provided by Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Community Assistance and Development.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PG #
• Project Connect Event Scheduled	1
• Services for Homeless With No Mailing Address	
• About This Newsletter	
• Social Security Column	2
• The Longest Day - Bringing Awareness to Alzheimer and Dementia Fundraiser	3
• Research for Life	4
• Mayor and City Council to Host Annual State of City Address	
• Central Arizona Aging and Pinal County Public Health Hosts Caregiver Workshop	5
• Social Security Column (Continued)	6
• Project Connect Event Scheduled for March 21, 2025 (New Date)	7
• Mammograms Made Easy - Part of the Project Connect Event—March 21, 2025	8
• State Commissioner Talks About Commitment to Agency Transparency and Protecting Social Security Benefits and Information	9



UNSHELTERED SIGN UP TO RECEIVE MAIL - Service for the Unsheltered With No Address



Mail can be received at the following locations:

- CG Helps, 350 E. 6th St., Casa Grande, AZ 85122 (Register with Johnnie to begin service at 520-483-0010)
- Genesis Project, 564 N. Idaho Rd., Suite 5, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 (Register with Trinity to receive service at (480-225-7757))

Let lrushing@cahra.org know if other agencies also offer mail service for those who are homeless with no address.

PROJECT CONNECT EVENT SCHEDULED

Project Connect, originally scheduled for March 7, has been re-scheduled to March 21. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Family Event Center, First Presbyterian Church, 702 E. Cottonwood Lane, Casa Grande.

About 40 agencies will set up tables to discuss their services. The public is invited to learn about these agencies and their offerings. The goal is to simplify the process for individuals and families with limited income or those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness to connect with essential services.

Free mammograms will also be available. Appointments for the mammograms can be made with Nallely Chavez at CAHRA 520-466-1112.

For many facing limited income, navigating various organizations can be challenging. Visits may need to fit around work shifts or involve finding transportation. Gathering all these resources in one place saves time and reduces stress, making the process significantly easier.

The participating agencies aim to provide information on meeting their needs and offer long-term solutions. They will meet with guests one-on-one, giving them direct attention and actively listening to their needs. Additionally, guests may receive important documents such as driver's licenses and contact info where to apply for birth certificates or social security cards.

Vendors or agencies wishing to participate are encouraged to sign up by contacting Nallely by phone or email nchavez@cahra.org. Arizona Complete Health is a major sponsor of the event and is also sponsoring the mammograms. Credit also goes to the agencies whose staff work on the event. They are CAHRA, United Way of Pinal County, City of Casa Grande Community Development Department and St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event and can sign up at www.VolunteerPinal.org.

See Flyers on Page 7 and 8.

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER



The Pinal County Network News is a monthly publication. If you wish to advertise meetings, events, items of interest, etc., please submit material by the 25th of the previous month to: lrushing@cahra.org.

SOCIAL SECURITY COLUMN

Articles submitted by Jack Burns, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, SSA Administration, johnpburnes@ssa.gov



SOCIAL SECURITY AND SCAM AWARENESS

Social Security imposter scams continue to be widespread across the United States. Scammers use tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money. If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email, or call, do not respond.

We will NEVER:

- Text or email images of an employee's official government identification.
- Suspend your Social Security number.
- Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.
- Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Mail or email "official" letters or reports containing your personal information.

We only send text messages in limited situations, including:

- When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.
- As part of our enhanced security when accessing your personal *my Social Security* account.

If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. Social Security employees do not contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, the agency calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, are already receiving payments and require an update to their record or have requested a phone call from the agency. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, Social Security will typically mail a letter.

We encourage you to report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the OIG's website at oig.ssa.gov/report. You can find more information about scams at www.ssa.gov/scam. Please share this information with your friends, family, and colleagues to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS TOOLKITS



We've released new resources to help you better understand Social Security benefits. We've designed easy-to-use toolkits to provide education about our programs for children and our benefits for families after the death of a loved one. Our toolkits (**School Professional** and **Survivor Benefits**) are downloadable PDFs that include ready-to-go communications, such as sample email blasts, newsletter articles, handouts, and social media posts.

The **School Professional Toolkit** at

www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/toolkit-ss-benefits-and-ssi-payments-for-children.pdf is for teachers, school counselors, and other educators. The purpose of this toolkit is to educate parents and guardians about the financial help we provide. We make payments to students with disabilities and to those who have experienced the loss of a parent or have a parent who is receiving retirement or disability benefits.

The toolkit discusses:

- Eligibility requirements.
- How to apply.
- How to respond to requests for school records and forms.
- Evidence we need from school professionals to determine whether a child with a disability may be eligible for SSI.

The **Survivors Benefits Toolkit** at

www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/toolkit-ss-survivors-benefit.pdf is for funeral homes, care facilities, and other organizations working with people who have lost a loved one. This toolkit increases awareness about survivors benefits for eligible family members. We make monthly payments to surviving spouses, minor children, adult children with disabilities, and dependent parents of workers who paid Social Security taxes before they died.

The toolkit discusses:

- Eligibility requirements.
- How to apply.
- Evidence we need to process applications.

For more information about our toolkits, visit the blog post titled *New Resources for School Employees and Survivors* at blog.ssa.gov/new-resources-to-educate-school-employees-and-survivors.

Please feel free to spread the word about the toolkits with colleagues and others who may find them helpful.





Seniors Helping Seniors®

The Longest Day Bringing Awareness to Alzheimer's & Dementia Fundraiser

Date: March 19, 2025 | Time: 9 AM – 12 PM

Location: Palm Creek Resort & Residences – Cottonwood Complex Room
1110 N Verbena Henness Rd, Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Hosted by All About You Placement & Seniors Helping Seniors East Valley®

Education & Awareness Featured

Speakers & Sponsors:

- Jan Levine, RN, MSN, FNP-BC – MD First Research



- Elaine Poker-Yount, CDP – Aging & Dementia Care Specialist, Successful Aging AZ, LLC



Ms. Katie Lambert – Reign Health & Wealth Management

- Kassie Kennaugh – Exec. Vice President, UBC Insurance



- Martha "Tita" Bender – Public Education Officer & AHA Instructor, Casa Grande Fire Dept.

- Hope & Jeff Morris – Cactapaws



Free Lunch
Provided
Lunch proudly
sponsored by
Just the Tip BBQ
& Salad and Go



Raffle Prizes

- Special Fundraiser Raffle!
- Tickets: \$5 each or 4 for \$20
- Prizes range from \$50 – \$200

Support Our Cause

Help make a difference! Donate today via this link or QR code:
http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=18274&pg=personal&px=24740496



RESEARCH FOR LIFE

A Meaningful End-of-Life Option Through Whole Body Donation

End-of-life planning is an important decision, and choosing **whole body donation** is an honorable way to make a lasting impact. **Research for Life** provides individuals with the opportunity to contribute to medical advancements, while also easing the financial burden on their loved ones through a **no-cost cremation**.

Why Whole-Body Donation Matters

Medical education and research depend on the generosity of donors to improve healthcare, develop new treatments, and train current and future physicians. By choosing whole body donation, individuals play a vital role in shaping the future of medicine and helping others in need.

A No-Cost Alternative to Traditional Funerals

Funeral expenses can be costly, adding stress to families during their time of grief. Through Research for Life's donation program, families receive free cremation, ensuring their loved one is honored with dignity and respect while eliminating financial strain. Cremated remains are respectfully returned to the family or spread at sea after the donation process.

A Thoughtful End-of-Life Option

Whole body donation is a meaningful choice for those who wish to leave a legacy of generosity and scientific progress. Additionally, it provides peace of mind, knowing that your final act is one of purpose and contribution.

Visit Our Facility

We welcome those interested in learning more to visit our facility for a tour and educational session. Join us on **Saturday, March 22, 2025, or Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 11 AM**. Please RSVP to the phone number below.

For more information, visit researchforlife.org or contact us at **480-940-1310**.



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO HOST ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Lisa Navarro Fitzgibbons and the Casa Grande City Council invite the community to attend the annual State of the City Address on Wednesday, March 5, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Casa Grande Community Recreation Center (1905 North Peart Road).

This year's theme, "Building a Better Community," reflects the city's ongoing commitment to progress, innovation, and quality of life for all residents. The address will provide important updates on Casa Grande's financial outlook, business growth, quality of life initiatives, infrastructure improvements, civic pride projects, and public safety investments.

Event Schedule:

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- Pre-Event Reception featuring live music by the Casa Grande High School Band. Lobby Experience – City departments will showcase their projects and programs.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

- Mayor's Address highlighting Casa Grande's continued growth and achievements.

This event is an opportunity for residents to learn more about the city's progress and future plans while engaging with local leaders. The event is free to the public; however, space is limited.

For more information contact:

Heather C. Kennedy
Public Information Office
(520) 421-8600 ext. 2530

PIO@CasaGrandeAZ.gov





A MATTER OF BALANCE

A FALL PREVENTION CLASS



Join us

for our **8-week** fall prevention program. *A Matter of Balance* is an award-winning program designed to manage and help decrease falls and increase activity levels for individuals age 60 years or older.

YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- view falls as controllable
- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength and balance



10:30A.M. - 12P.M.

TUESDAYS, MARCH 26TH-MAY 13TH



Location Vista Grande Library

**1886 N. ARIZOLA RD.
CASA GRANDE, AZ 86122**

REGISTER NOW

Contact us

SPACE IS LIMITED!



MARYO@CAAAGING.ORG



(520)836-2758 OR 1(800)293-9393



This project was supported by the Administration of Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the State of Arizona Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and non-governmental source(s). The contents are those of CAA and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor are an endorsement of any funders.

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, Central Arizona Aging (CAA) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact CAA 520-936-2758 or 1-800-293-9393. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the CAA has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

Continued from Page 2 Social Security Column...

OUR TOP SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

We strive to provide the public with accurate and helpful information. In addition to the resources available on our website at www.ssa.gov, we post useful information on our social media channels. We invite you to learn about our programs and services on our social media pages:

- Our Social Security Blog – Here we post articles about our program, current events, and online services. We respond to general questions and comments people share. You can read our articles and subscribe at blog.ssa.gov. Our blog is now available in Spanish at blog.ssa.gov/es.
- **Facebook** – www.facebook.com/socialsecurity. Facebook is our primary page for sharing information about our programs and services with our vast network of followers and advocacy groups.
- **Administración del Seguro Social** – www.facebook.com/segurosocial. Our Spanish Facebook page shares information about our programs and services.
- **X** – www.x.com/socialsecurity. @SocialSecurity is our official account. This page to provide timely information and updates about our programs and services with our followers and advocacy groups.
- **Seguro Social** – www.x.com/segurosocial. On this page we share information about our programs and services in Spanish.
- **Instagram** – www.instagram.com/SocialSecurity. On this page we share stories and resources that can help you and your loved ones.
- **YouTube** – www.youtube.com/SocialSecurity. We have many informative videos on this page. Our videos cover online services, applying for retirement and disability benefits, Social Security-related scams, and much more. We also offer some of our videos in Spanish and other languages.

You can find a full list of our social media channels at www.ssa.gov/socialmedia. Connect with us on social media to learn helpful information and ask general questions. **But remember, you should never post personal information on social media.**



SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCES FOR SICKLE CELL WARRIORS



Are you a sickle cell warrior or do you know someone with sickle cell disease? At Social Security, we're committed to supporting sickle cell warriors and the people who care for them. An adult or child with sickle cell disease may be eligible for benefits through Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

SSDI benefits are based on earnings and are not subject to income and resource limits. SSI is a needs-based program that provides payments to people who are age 65 or older, blind, or have a disability and have limited income and resources.

Our publications provide information, examples, and tips to help you understand the disability application and evaluation process. You can learn more by reading:

Sickle Cell Disease and the Social Security Disability Evaluation Process for Adults at

www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-003.pdf.

Sickle Cell Disease and the Social Security Disability Evaluation Process for Children at

www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-004.pdf.

Our publication, *Sickle Cell Disease: A Guide for Health Professionals on Providing Medical Evidence for Social Security Disability Claims* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-005.pdf, explains the medical evidence we need to make medical decisions for people with sickle cell disease. For more information about our disability programs and related topics, visit our blog article titled *Understanding Social Security Disability Benefits* at blog.ssa.gov/understanding-social-security-disability-benefits. These resources help ensure timely, equitable, and accurate disability evaluations for people with sickle cell disease.

CAHRA'S MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement

Our mission is to build relationships and empower people by identifying and eliminating social and economic barriers for all community members. Together we embody hope, strengthen resilience, and advocate for stability and self-sufficiency for the residents of Pinal County.

Vision Statement

Since 1981, Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA) has been dedicated to serving the poor and disadvantaged. We strive to help low-income individuals become self-sufficient and independent of public programs. By eliminating poverty conditions and creating opportunities, we envision a community where residents thrive, are resilient, and live with dignity and security.



Project Connect



Friday, March 21, 2025
9:00am - 2:00pm

First Presbyterian Church
702 E. Cottonwood Lane
Casa Grande, AZ 85122



Project Connect is a one-day, one-stop event to provide access to free services, resources, and referrals for community members.

Free Community Event

An event brought to you by CAHRA, CG HELPS Coalition, Faith Alliance, United Way of Pinal County and Casa Grande Community Development Division

- Free Haircuts
- Employment Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Health Screenings
- Identification Cards
- And Many More!

Lunch Sponsor:



arizona complete health.

Vendors Only Need to register by Friday, March 14 by calling Nallely at CAHRA 520-466-1112 or email her at nchavez@cahra.org

Ending Poverty
In our community one day at a time.



Mammograms *made easy!*

Las mamografías, se realizan fácilmente!



March 21, 2025 • 9am - 2pm

First Presbyterian Church

702 E Cottonwood Lane
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

**Call to Schedule:
520-466-1112**

*Llama al 520-466-1112
Para programar una cita*

Screening services provided by:



a Rezolut company

No Insurance? You can receive a **FREE SCREENING** courtesy of:

No tiene seguro? Usted puede recibir un EXAMEN GRATUITO cortesía de:



To qualify for free mammogram screening you must:

Los requisitos para obtener una mamografía gratuita debe:

- **Be 35 years of age or older**
Tener 35 años o más
- **Not be breast feeding or pregnant**
No tiene que estar lactando o embarazada
- **Have no current breast complaints or concerns**
No debe tener molestias o preocupaciones actuales de los senos

This event is also open to insured patients! We accept all major insurances.
Este evento también está abierto a pacientes con seguro médico! Aceptamos todos los seguros principales.

STATEMENT FROM LEE DUDEK, ACTING COMMISSIONER, ABOUT COMMITMENT TO AGENCY TRANSPARENCY AND PROTECTING BENEFITS AND INFORMATION

"I am honored and humbled to be appointed Social Security's Acting Commissioner pending Senate confirmation of Frank Bisignano to be SSA's next Commissioner. I accepted the position because I strongly believe in the agency's mission and the hardworking and dedicated employees who serve America.

Openness, transparency, and accountability are tenets of good government and demonstrating them begins with me. To that end, I want to share several points to reassure the public and our employees that I will continue SSA's history of transparency and protecting benefits and information.

I have experienced firsthand the impact that Social Security benefits have on family's lives. Since joining SSA in 2009, I have had the opportunity to work across multiple parts of SSA, and especially appreciated my experiences working alongside frontline employees in the Cambridge, MA field office.

Transparency begins with me: My first call as Acting Commissioner was to our Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to provide them an opportunity to oversee and review any and all agency activities, including my actions past, present, and future. I trust in the People to be informed, and I am making available my agency personnel and performance files to the OIG.

The law matters and we will follow it: I have invited the Government Accountability Office, the non-partisan and independent agency that works for Congress, to observe how we conduct agency business.

Good government means finding ways to do better: The Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE, is a critical part of President Trump's commitment to identifying fraud, waste, and abuse, and better ways for the government to function to support its people. I want to be very clear about the DOGE personnel who are now working at Social Security.

- Our continuing priority is paying beneficiaries the right amount at the right time, and providing other critical services people rely on from us.
- DOGE personnel CANNOT make changes to agency systems, benefit payments, or other information. They only have READ access.
- DOGE personnel do not have access to data related to a court ordered temporary restraining order, current or future.
- DOGE personnel must follow the law and if they violate the law they will be referred to the Department of Justice for possible prosecution.

I also want to acknowledge recent reporting about the number of people older than age 100 who may be receiving benefits from Social Security. The reported data are people in our records with a Social Security number who do not have a date of death associated with their record. These individuals are not necessarily receiving benefits.

I am confident that with DOGE's help and the commitment of our executive team and workforce, that Social Security will continue to deliver for the American people."

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on X [@SSAPress](https://twitter.com/SSAPress).

Mark Hinkle, Press Officer
press.office@ssa.gov

"Social Security offers free workshops. Readers can find the workshop schedule at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org under the "Calendar" tab. Using search term "Medicare" will list all workshops for 2025."

