

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 .

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NEW APPOINTMENT PROCESS

After many years of scheduling appointments by geographical area, Monday through Friday, Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA) has changed its appointment process.

We believe the new appointment process will allow us to serve more households more efficiently.

Individuals in Pinal County needing assistance with utilities or rent, should call the CAHRA office Monday – Thursday from 8am – 5pm to learn about the new process and to obtain an Intake Packet. The Intake Packet consists of two items: 1) Intake Form (also referred to as the application), 2) a list of Required Documents.

Applicants may obtain an Intake Packet in several different ways including by US mail, email, or fax or by picking up a packet in person at CAHRA at 109 N. Sunshine Blvd, Eloy AZ.. The packet may also be downloaded from our website at www.cahra.org under CAHRA Forms.

Once CAHRA receives the completed Intake Packet an interview will be scheduled. Interviews will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis, so it's very important that the applicant complete and returns the Intake Packet as quickly as possible.

Intake Packets can be returned in the same manner as it was received via US mail, email, or fax or it can be dropped off in person at CAHRA at 109 N. Sunshine Blvd, Eloy AZ. The Intake Packet cannot be returned through CAHRA's website.

Again, once CAHRA has received the completed Intake Packet and all the Required Documents, an interview will be scheduled. Please note that if your Intake Packet is missing some information you will be notified via phone and asked to provide the missing information. Failure to provide a complete Intake packet may result in a denial of your application.

The interview process takes approximately 90 minutes. Applicants are asked to reserve the entire 90 minutes for the interview and must be prepared to answer all the questions that are required. For more information about the new appointment process please call the office at 520-466-1112.



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 4280-225-7757)

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



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

By Jack Burns, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, SSA Administration



SOCIAL SECURITY SERVES THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

For nearly 90 years, Social Security's programs and services have been a lifeline to people throughout the United States, including the Hispanic community. Our retirement, disability, and survivors benefits are just as important for Hispanics. Our Spanish-language website, Seguro Social at www.ssa.gov/espanol, provides information for those whose primary language is Spanish. People can learn – in their preferred language – how to get a new or replacement Social Security card, plan for retirement, apply for benefits, manage their benefits, and much more.

We also provide many publications in Spanish at www.ssa.gov/espanol/publicaciones. Popular topics include:

- Retirement, Disability, and Survivors benefits.
- Medicare.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Social Security cards.
- Fraud and scams.
- Appeals.
- Benefits for children.
- Payments outside the U.S.

Customers who prefer to conduct business in Spanish can reach a Spanish-speaking representative by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213. For more information on how we support the Hispanic community, visit our Social Security and Hispanics webpage at www.ssa.gov/people/hispanics.



SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORTS TEACHERS

A well-informed instructor can have a powerful influence on their students. That's why we created the Educator Toolkit.

This toolkit is easy to use and provides shareable online resources that teachers can use to engage students and educate them about Social Security.

The Educator Toolkit includes:

- Lesson plans with objectives.
- Infographics and handouts for each lesson plan.
- Links to Social Security web pages.
- Talking points.
- Quiz questions and answers.

We value the efforts all teachers make to educate America's young people. As Social Security approaches its 90th anniversary in 2025, we want to help spark important discussions with students about Social Security. You can download the Educator Toolkit at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/educators.html.



COMBATING ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is the intentional mistreatment or harming of an adult over age 60. This abuse can take many forms – physical, emotional, sexual, and financial exploitation, as well as neglect. In the United States, an estimated 1 in 10 adults over the age of 60 experience some form of abuse each year. That number is likely much higher because elder abuse is often underreported – especially in underserved communities.

Abuse victims typically show emotional and behavioral red flags, such as depression, unusual fear or anxiety, or intentional isolation. Many victims are abused by someone they know or trust. It's important to look for unusual changes in behavior around:

- Family members.
- Staff at inpatient facilities.
- Hired or volunteer caregivers.
- People in positions of trust like doctors or financial advisors.

You can help make a difference by checking in with older loved ones. The first step to preventing abuse is to look for signs of mistreatment or physical harm, including bruises, burns, and other unexplained injuries.

There may also be signs of neglect such as:

- Hunger and poor nutrition.
- Poor appearance or hygiene.
- Lack of necessary medical aids like glasses or medications that a caretaker should be providing.

There may also be indications of financial abuse, including:

- Unpaid rent or other bills.
- Sudden changes to a will.
- Unusual changes in money management or habits.
- Large, unexplained financial transactions.
- Allowing someone new to access bank accounts.

If you suspect that a person is a victim of elder abuse, please report it. If you or someone you care about is in a life-threatening situation, call 911. If you suspect possible abuse – but see no immediate danger – contact:

- Your local Adult Protective Services at www.napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area.
- The National Center on Elder Abuse at 1-855-500-3537 (ELDR).

You can also find additional local resources by searching the Eldercare Locator for your community at eldercare.acl.gov/Public/index.aspx.

Take some time to call or visit an older adult. Ask if they are OK and listen to what they tell you. Pay attention to signs of abuse or unusual behavior. Most of all, don't be afraid to report suspected abuse. For more information about elder abuse visit www.ssa.gov/payee/elder_abuse.htm.

See more information about Social Security on the next page.

SEPTEMBER IS PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

This year men are encouraged to be proactive not reactive when it comes to their prostate health. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men.

I need your help promoting this very important event. The UA Cancer Center will be hosting a prostate cancer presentation on Thursday, September 26th at 6pm at the Mondo Anaya Community Center.

Unfortunately, Pinal County had the highest rates of cancer among their five catchment areas (Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Yuma County) so it's vital we're educating our community regarding the importance of screenings and healthy lifestyle factors to reduce their risk.



LET'S TACO 'BOUT CANCER!

LET'S TACO 'BOUT CANCER: MEN'S HEALTH

You are invited to enjoy a conversation with health professionals about men's health and cancer! Please join us for this opportunity to learn more about cancer and men's health and what the University of Arizona Cancer Center does for a **#CANCERFREEAZ**



SAMRAT SANGHVI, MD
Radiation Oncologist
Cancer & Blood Specialists of Arizona



ALEJANDRO RECIO-BOILES, MD
Clinical Oncologist
University of Arizona Cancer Center



BILL WARD
Prostate Cancer Survivor

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

MONDO ANAYA COMMUNITY CENTER
1487 N Crane St, Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Use Link or QR Code to Register
tiny.cc/LTBCMensHealth

You can also register with Mary Gonzales
at marygonzales@arizona.edu



QUESTIONS? COE-Community@arizona.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cancer Center
Community Outreach & Engagement



Cooperative Extension

MORE ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY.....

Social Security offers a free workshop every second Tuesday of each month. Readers can find the workshop schedule at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org under the "Calendar" tab. Using search term "Medicare" will list all workshops for 2024."

We'll continue to offer the [free, monthly retirement planning educational series on Social Security and Medicare](#), provided in partnership with *The Area Agency on Aging Phoenix* (Arizona's State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or SHIP) and hosted by *The Phoenix Public Libraries*. Click on the link below to register or call the library at 602-262-4636 for a phone-in option.

Medicare y el Seguro Social - this month's Medicare and Social Security workshops are EN ESPANOL, both topics combined on Saturday, Sept 14th at 11:00 A.M.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Santa Cruz Valley Food Pantry is seeking VOLUNTEERS.

Volunteer hours are Mondays and Fridays from 7:30am to 10:30am Or
Second Tuesday of each month from 8am to 12pm

Bring a friend and volunteer with us once a month, once a week or whenever you can!

Primary duties include set-up, stocking shelves, filling up
food boxes, distributing boxes and clean-up

Please contact Lucy at 520-466-1112 or via email at lrangel@cahra.org

Come join our dedicated team and give back to your community



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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 5:30 PM

Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night

Paul Mason Sports Complex

Event by Silent Witness Casa Grande AZ

Paul Mason Sports Complex

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook



Join us Sept. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for a family-friendly event featuring vendors, food, raffle prizes and more! Raffle prizes include a Nintendo Switch, \$500 cash, a TV and more!

Casa Grande, Arizona

SENIOR PROPERTY VALUATION PROTECTION INFORMATION

The **Senior Property Valuation Protection Option (Senior Freeze)** is available to residential homeowners, 65 years of age or older, who meet specific guidelines based on income, ownership, and residency (Arizona Constitution, Article 9, Section 18.) Please be aware, that the program will **freeze the Limited Property Value of your property** for three years, **regardless if future property values increase or decrease.**

If you are applying for the first time, please submit [your application \(PDF\)](#) in person to the Assessor's Office. The valuation freeze is for three years and is renewable after that time period, if the property owner still qualifies. This does not freeze your property tax bill but does freeze property valuation. Please carefully read the information below and contact our office if you have any questions about the process.

Application Deadline: March 1st through September 1st, 2024

Important to Note

It is important to understand, that should you qualify for the program your **property taxes are not frozen.**

The freeze applies only to the **Limited Property Value** of your property and will remain frozen even in the event of a declining real estate market. Any changes to the property such as new construction or demolitions that will change your **Full Cash Value** will result in the removal of the freeze.

Age: At least one property owner must be the minimum qualifying age of 65 at the time of application.

Residence: The property must be the owner(s) primary residence. A "**primary**" residence is that residence which is occupied by the property owner(s) for an aggregate of **nine months** of the calendar year. A qualified owner can have only one primary residence and must have resided in the residence for two years at the time of application. This protection includes **up to ten acres** of land including the primary residence identified by one parcel number. Please bring your Arizona Driver's License. If your license is less than 2 years old, please bring supporting documentation that shows at least two years of residency at your current address; voter registration card, utility statement, vehicle registration, etc.

Ownership: If the property is held in trust, provide proof of trustees along with the application to determine ownership eligibility. **Any** change in ownership may result in the loss of the Freeze.

Income Limit: **All gross income**, taxable and non-taxable, of **all owners** will be used to determine eligibility.

- \$45,264 - One Owner
- \$56,580 - Two or More Owners

- **Age:** At least one property owner must be the minimum \$45,264 - One Owner
- \$56,580 - Two or More Owners
- **Income Verification:** When applying for property valuation protection, documentation (W-2's, 1099's, and tax returns) to verify **all gross income**, residency, and age **must be submitted** with the application. Applications must be submitted in person to the Assessor's office; **no** applications by mail will be accepted. The following list offers examples of acceptable income verification forms.
- Federal Income Tax Return
- Dividends and Interest
- Business/Farm Income
- Veteran Disability Pension Ins
- Alimony/Welfare Payments
- Social Security Benefits
- Capital Gains/IRA Income
- Rent and Royalty Income
- Workman's Compensation
- Retirement/Pension and Annuity
- Wages/Salaries/Tips
- Disability Compensation
- Railroad Retirement
- AZ Unemployment

Qualifications

Requalification: Once qualified, the freeze is in effect for a three-year period, unless otherwise indicated by law. The Assessor will notify the property owner(s) six months prior to the expiration of the current period, reminding them they must re-qualify for the protection to continue.

Read article at: <https://www.pinal.gov/687/Senior-Freeze>



ARIZONA ADULTS WHO HAVEN'T GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL CAN GET THEIR DIPLOMAS FOR FREE

Author: Troy Lynch Published: August 27, 2024

<https://www.12news.com/mobile/article/news/education/new-program-offers-free-high-school-diplomas-arizonan-adults-excel-high-school/75-270dc98c-d4d2-4bf8-89b5-67abd0d67475>

According to the Arizona Department of Education roughly about 11% of adults in the state haven't graduated, Getting that diploma can become harder and harder, as the pressures of life stack up.

One group is trying to fix that and is allowing individuals to work online, at their own pace and free. These are the three main characteristics touted by the online Excel Adult High School program.

According to Diana Doetzel a program spokesperson, "the program is built for adults and offers academic coaching". "People can do it at midnight. They can do it at 5 a.m. They can do it any time they want."

Excel Adult High School came to Arizona in April 2024 through the Workforce Diploma Program. The only requirements to enroll are being over 21-years-old, living in Arizona, and not having a high school diploma.

"I thought at first this is too good to be true," said Casa Grande resident Dean Cassidy. Cassidy is the first of eight in-state graduates in the program. As of now, 75 Arizonans are currently enrolled, and over 200 are in the prerequisite courses. Cassidy graduated from a charter school when he was younger, but with the school being resold multiple times the DOE didn't have records of him graduating.

"Over the years it started eating at me," Cassidy said. "They keep saying they can't verify that. I get a hold of the department of education and they're like, 'we don't have any record of you graduating from that school', Cassidy added. "Even though I've taken college courses at the University of Phoenix. I got a diploma from them. They were like, 'nope'; you don't have a high school diploma."

Cassidy went on Google and found Excel Adult High School. Two days later he was enrolled. One month later he completed the 21.5 credits and graduated with his nationally accredited diploma.

"It really works to bring those people back into an educational experience that works for them," Doetzel said.

There are over 650,000 Arizonan adults who don't have a high school diploma which costs taxpayer dollars over time.

"A high school dropout costs taxpayers like \$575,000 over their lifetime. So, it's economically great for the state," Doetzel said. "Those who don't graduate will have considerably lower income than people who do have a high school diploma. Additionally, I think an estimated 94% of jobs by 2031 will require a high school diploma."

The free program is funded through the end of June 2025 and takes the average student about seven months to graduate. GED credits are transferrable and with the 24/7 access to classes those enrolled can graduate quickly.

"I was so worried I was going to have to be on a class at this time and that time. I can't really do that when you have a kid at home," Cassidy said.

Those who are interested can enroll at <https://excelhighschool.com/arizona-online-high-school-diploma>



PINAL COUNTY SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION 2024 CONFERENCE

This year's conference will focus on the resources and needs for survivors of human trafficking in Pinal County. We will hear from experts in the field as we examine the intersection of domestic and sexual violence along with human trafficking. We will discuss with a group of panelists where we start and how we work together for the survivors in our community. And lastly, we will hear survivor voices that have been most impacted by human trafficking and how they view the movement and the work that can be done in Pinal County.

Conference will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2024 from 8am-5pm at Robson Ranch - Room 1, 3750 N. Robson Ranch Blvd., Eloy

Tabling opportunities are also available.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Wendy Lloyd at wllloyd@casagrandeaz.gov

To register, copy and paste this link in your browser.

[Eventbrite.co/e/pinal-county-sexual-and-domestic-violence-coalition-2024-conference-tickets-943706139467](https://eventbrite.co/e/pinal-county-sexual-and-domestic-violence-coalition-2024-conference-tickets-943706139467)

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