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WESTERN FUN RIDES IN WITH THE 72nd ANNUAL GOLD RUSH DAYS FEBRUARY 14-16, 2020

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 72 years ago by members of the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce to invite visitors to celebrate with residents the ranching and mining heritage of the Town. Today Gold Rush Days draws tens of thousands of visitors, during the 3 ½ days of activities.

Festivities begin on Thursday, February 13th, 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 Nashville artists The Gatlin Brothers, Thursday, February 13th and Friday, February 14th 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 14th at 10:00a.m during the Opening Ceremonies on Frontier Street with acts by western stuntman Will Roberts 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 vendors, and a food court from 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., with the carnival running throughout the evening. Nearby is the free stage entertainment area is set-up for live music each day starting at 12 Noon.

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. nightly (\$12 each) throughout the celebration. The second Gatlin Brothers performance at The Webb Center will take place at 7:30pm.

The parade is on Saturday at 10:00 a.m., and one of the largest in Arizona with 75 entries including horses, historic wagons, classic automobiles, floats, marching bands, and youth

groups. Spectators line the street as one of the largest parades in Arizona passes by. The parade theme is: **“ALL THE GOLD”**

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 (13-17) & \$3 children (5-12), children under 5 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. The Wickenburg Community Center will be the location from 8:00 p.m. – Midnight for the popular Rodeo Dance, with music by The Outlaw Brothers. Advance tickets are \$10, at the door price is \$12.

On Sunday the activities include arts/crafts area, gold panning, family carnival, rodeo performance, melodrama, and special day events such as the Arizona Gold Panning Championship, where contestants compete for money and prizes while panning for gold starts at 1:00 p.m. The traditional mining contest, Mucking and Drilling, will resume at 10:00 a.m.

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

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 Crescent Crown Distributing – Coors, and Wickenburg Ranch featuring a Trilogy® Resort Community.

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

