

*Graham County*  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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1111 Thatcher Boulevard • Safford, Arizona 85546  
Phone: (928) 428-2511 or 1-888-837-1841 • FAX: (928) 428-0744  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

For release: Upon receipt

Contact: Graham County Chamber of Commerce -- Phone/(928) 428-2511; Toll-free/1-888-837-1841; Fax/(928) 428-0744; e-mail/[info@graham-chamber.com](mailto:info@graham-chamber.com)

**Graham County Fair is pinnacle event; must-see for visitors**

Safford, AZ – Every October, an entire community heads about five miles south of Safford to experience the lights, entertainment and excitement of the Graham County Fair.

All week children and adults alike build their excitement as they watch the rides go up at the fairgrounds, anxiously anticipating Thursday night, when the fun begins.

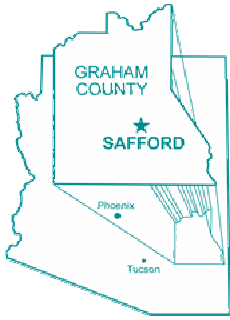
On October 5, the fair opens in the evening for the first group of thrill seekers and curious residents to see what the event has to offer for one price. From 6 p.m. to midnight, event-goers can pay one price and take in the excitement of the fair.

The next day, Friday, October 6, children are out of school and officials take the day off to participate in and view the parade, which travels down Main Street. The official kick-off of autumn in the Gila Valley, the parade features floats that portray the treasures of the area including copper, cotton and children. The parade begins at 10 a.m., and after it is over, the fair is open to all but rides and exhibits don't open until noon. Visitors then have until 10 p.m. to experience the event.

Many locals display their collection, crafts and other talents in the exhibit buildings of the fair.

(more)

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These are available for viewing on Thursday and Friday, though the midway rides continue through the weekend.

On Saturday, the fair opens at 9 a.m. and allows people more time to experience all the rides and entertainment, and the fair grows every year, making it necessary to visit the event more than once. Saturday morning features an instrumental talent show displaying the skills of Gila Valley residents of all ages that will wow any visitor.

Though the Graham County Fair gets a late start on Sunday by not opening until 2 p.m., it the pay-one-price day. Those who want to relive the excitement of the midway rides one more time should stay Sunday.

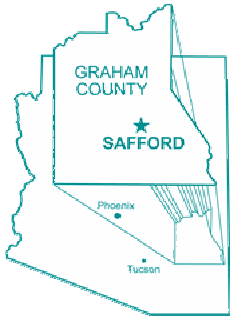
Safford is a short two hours from Tucson or three hours from Phoenix and offers plenty of accommodations for weekend visitors, including primitive campgrounds, state-of-the-art RV parks, major hotel and motel chains, conference facilities, a bed and breakfast, a guest ranch and more.

Travelers can also enjoy the best Sonoran-style Mexican food in the state and visit a number of historical sites around the county.

For driving directions or more information about Graham County, contact the Graham County Chamber of Commerce at (928) 428-2511, toll-free at 1-888-837-1841, email for information at [info@graham-chamber.com](mailto:info@graham-chamber.com) or visit the Web site at [www.visitgrahamcounty.com](http://www.visitgrahamcounty.com).

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