



Change a Child's Story

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

JUNE 2025

SPRING ADOPTION DAY!

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YAVAPAI COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

Coordinators' Corner



We are so grateful to the following CASAs and their family members who volunteered to help with Adoption Day!

Lisa Avalos
Elli Martin
Nancy and Larry Taylor

Janice Mauz
Greg Byrum

Pat McKay

Rita Dennis
Carol Hinrichs

Ken Reinstadler

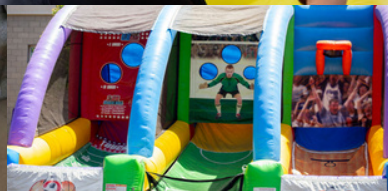
Roberta and Steve Hatch

Kathy Lucas

Ann Michael

Tricia Crean and Briseida

Patricia Bradford and Riley



CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

To receive information about an upcoming CFT with:

CFSS: please email: dawnr@cfssinc.com

Polara Health: please email: whenthecft@polarahealth.com

Spectrum: please email: susans@spectrumhg.org

Please give the clinics 48 hours to reply to your email

Welcome

Amy!



I'm excited to join the team and bring my passion for supporting others into this next chapter of my professional journey. I've spent the majority of my career in public service, working in roles centered around advocacy, crisis response, and community engagement. I'm also currently completing my master's degree in victim services management, which has deepened my understanding of trauma-informed care and strengthened my commitment to collaborative, meaningful work.

Outside of the office, I enjoy spending time with my husband and our three pups: Charlie, our sweet and loyal rescued chocolate Lab who is all Labrador all the time; Higgins, our gentle and loving chocolate Labradoodle rescue; and Eden, our joyful Goldendoodle who keeps us on our toes. We love camping and spending time with family, and I especially enjoy relaxing with a good craft project when time allows. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and being part of such a dedicated and dynamic team!

Prescott

JUNE

2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

2

3 **FTC 2:00**

4

5

6

Hearings

FCRB

9

10
Hearings

11 **9:00**
CASA
Connecting

12

13

FCRB

FCRB

16

17 **FTC 2:00**
Hearings

18

19

20

23

24

25

26
Tele-CASA
9:00

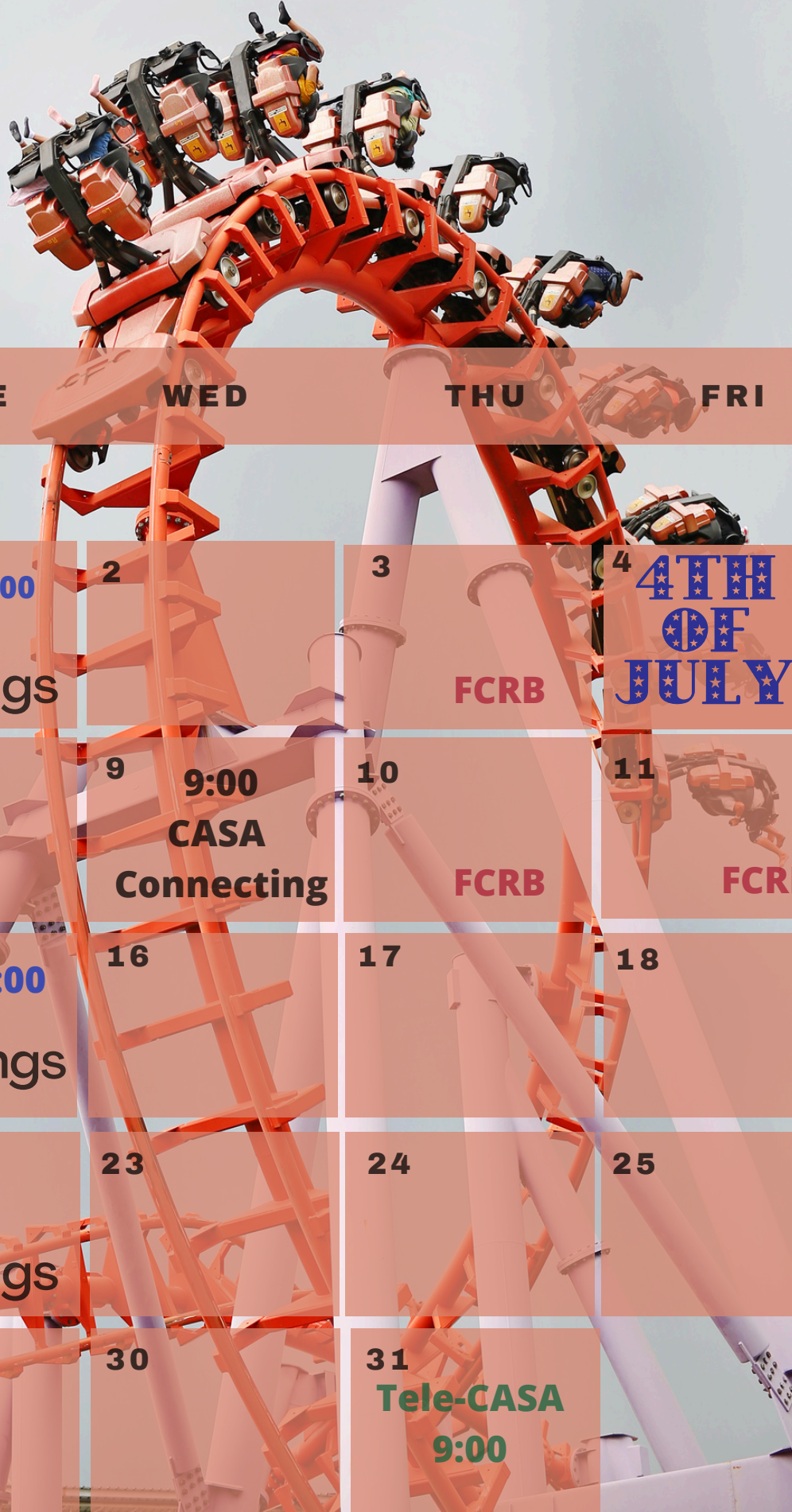
27

30

Prescott

July

2025



MON

TUE

WED

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FRI

1 **FTC 2:00**

Hearings

2

3

FCRB

4 **4TH OF JULY**

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9 **9:00
CASA
Connecting**

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FCRB

11

FCRB

14

15 **FTC 2:00**

Hearings

16

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21

22

Hearings

23

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31

**Tele-CASA
9:00**

Verde

JUNE

2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

2

3 **FTC 2:00**

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Hearings

12
9:15AM CASA
CONNECTING
COTTONWOOD
LIBRARY DEDE
EWALD RM

13

16

17 **FTC 2:00**

18

Hearings

19

20

23

24

25

26
Tele-CASA
9:00

27

30



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy
ANNIVERSARY


JODY MCCABE 10 YEARS

RENEE OSTWALD 2 YEARS

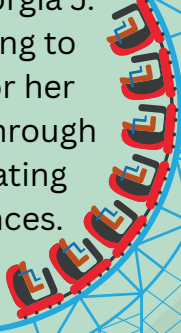
LISA AVALOS 1 YEAR AMY EDWARDS 1 YEAR

EMILY HARDER 1 YEAR RON STOEHR 1 YEAR


CASA Kudos




Kudos to Debbie T. for taking two cases at once, even as a brand-new CASA!




Kudos to Georgia J. for continuing to advocate for her CASA child through very frustrating circumstances.



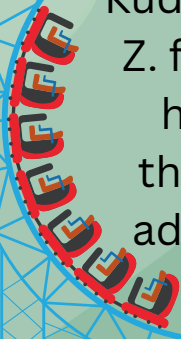
Kudos to Lisa A., Tricia C., Lauri D., Rita D., Sue F., and Don O. for knocking out their required 12 hours of training for the year!



Kudos to Diane J. for seeing her case through to adoption 😊




Kudos to Terri Z. for seeing her case through to adoption 😊



Kudos to Terri Z. for seeing her case through to adoption 😊



Kudos to Laura P. for recruiting another new CASA!



Kudos to Elizabeth S. for completing back-to-back court reports for two complex cases!



Kudos to Miranda F. for tackling her first court report!

Regulate, Relate, Reason: Tools for CASA Volunteers



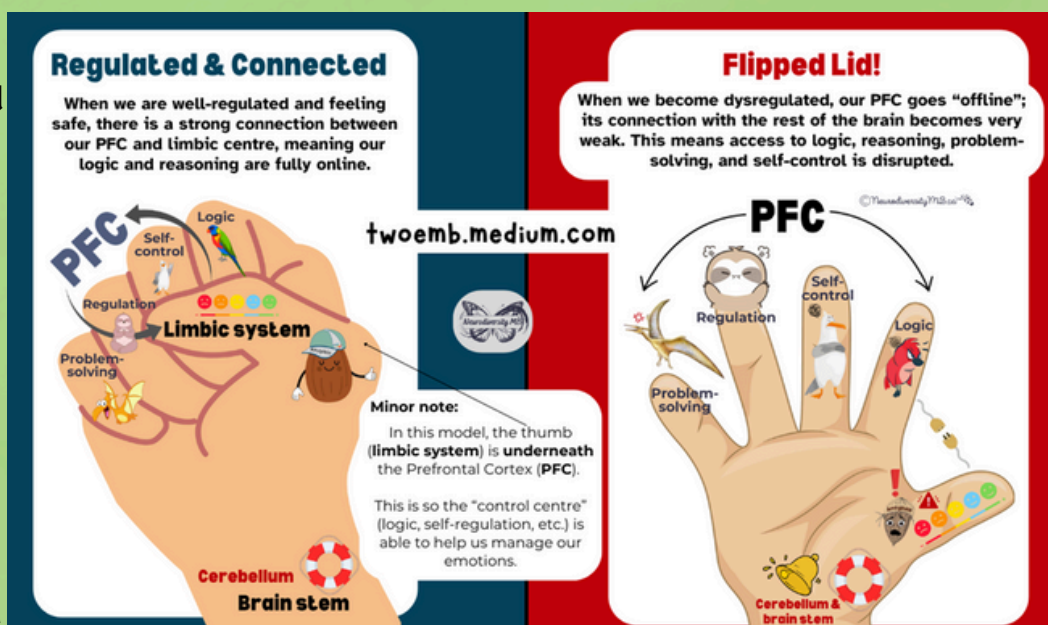
As CASA volunteers, your role in advocating for the well-being of children in the foster care system is vital. Many of these children have experienced trauma, which can affect how they respond to stress, relationships, and decision-making. Dr. Bruce Perry, a leading expert in childhood trauma, has developed key principles that help us understand and support these children more effectively. One of the most practical tools he offers is the "Regulate, Relate, Reason" sequence, which outlines how to engage with children in a developmentally and neurologically sensitive way.

Dr. Perry emphasizes that before a child can think clearly or respond appropriately, they must first feel safe and regulated. "Regulate" means helping a child calm their body and emotions - this could be through rhythmic activities like walking or breathing exercises. Once regulated, you can "Relate" - offering empathy, safety, and connection. Only after those first two steps can a child begin to "Reason," or engage in logical thinking and conversation. This sequence is grounded in how the brain develops and processes stress.

A helpful way to visualize this process is through Dr. Dan Siegel's "hand model of the brain," which aligns closely with Perry's work. Imagine your hand as the brain: the wrist represents the brainstem (our survival center), the thumb tucked in is the limbic system (our emotional center), and the fingers folded over the top are the prefrontal cortex (our thinking and reasoning center). When a child is triggered by trauma, they "flip their lid," meaning their prefrontal cortex shuts down and they operate from the lower parts of the brain focused on survival and emotion.

Understanding this model reminds us that a dysregulated child is not being defiant - they are overwhelmed.

Trauma-informed care means meeting children where they are neurologically, and using the Regulate, Relate, Reason approach helps you do just that. Your compassionate presence can create the connection and safety needed to guide a child toward healing and growth.



CASA Spotlight

How long have you been a CASA and how many kiddos have you advocated for?

I have been a Casa since June of 2023 and I have only been an advocate for 1 child/teen.

What drew you to volunteer for the CASA Program?

I have always enjoyed volunteering to help with anything involving kids. I had thought about being a CASA for quite a while but could not make a long term commitment because of my husband's travel and our moves. Once we settled in Prescott and decided it wasn't likely we would move again, I began training for the program.

What has been your biggest challenge since becoming an advocate?

I think the biggest challenge for me has been the feeling of helplessness when things happen slowly or when things do happen that aren't necessarily in the best interests of the child, but can't be avoided. My teen was placed in a group home because there was no alternative placement available and it was not a good environment for her.

CASA
Renee
Ostwald



What is most rewarding about being a CASA?

Happily that is not the end of the story. She is in a kinship placement now with the family of one of her best friends from school, and she will soon be adopted by them. That, to me, is proof that miracles do occur! And it's so rewarding to play even a small part in anything that makes life better for our most deserving kids!

What training (besides Academy) has been most helpful for you in your work as a CASA?

The class that was the most helpful to me was about extended foster care and all of the various benefits available to kids who are transitioning once they turn eighteen. Teens can begin the program at 17 and a 1/2 years of age and continue right through college if they are in the extended program. Although my teen will be adopted before she turns 18, we did not know that when I took the class. Anyone who is working with a teenager should take this class so that you and your teen are aware of all the benefits they will be eligible to receive, even before they turn 18.

What advice would you give a new CASA?

As a new Casa it's easy to be a little overwhelmed. Just remember you have so many resources... and always ask your coordinator ! 😊



DEPENDENCY ATTORNEY TRAINING

YAVAPAI COUNTY

Brought to you by the Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Improvement Program and the Superior Court of Yavapai County

WHO CAN ATTEND:

JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, CASAS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN THE JUVENILE DEPENDENCY PROCESS.

LEAD JUDICIAL FACULTY
HON. ANNA YOUNG

DATE/LOCATION

JUNE 6, 2025

TIME: 8:30 A.M. — 4:30 P.M.

YAVAPAI COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
1100 PRESCOTT LAKES PARKWAY
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA 86301

TOPICS

EFFECTS OF EARLY TRAUMA ON INFANTS AND TODDLERS
EVIDENTIARY RECORD
REPRESENTING CLIENTS IN RURAL AREAS
CASE LAW UPDATE
MUCH MORE

REGISTRATION

- No cost for registration or materials.
- Registration required for attendance.
- Deadline is June 3, 2025
- To Register, click the Register button below:

If you can't remember your password please do not create a new profile. Click on "forgot password" link at the log in screen to reset your password. **Click on the links below for step-by-step instructional videos on**

REGISTER

- how to set up a new user account
- reset a password
- retrieve a certificate or transcript.

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS SEEKING CLE/COJET CREDIT.

Please join us Friday, June 6th

10 am to 12 pm

3298 N Bob Drive, Prescott Valley

The monthly Yavapai Best for Babies meeting brings together child welfare professionals and community members to discuss what we can do to **ensure best outcomes for infants and toddlers in foster or kinship care.**

Topic:



Who Should Attend? Child Welfare Professionals * Foster Parents and Kinship Families * Foster Parent Licensing and Training Personnel * CASAs * DCS/DDD Supervisors and Caseworkers * Parent Aides * Visit Coaches * Court Personnel * Attorneys * Guardians ad litem * Behavioral Health Professionals * Early Care / Education Providers * Providers of Services to Families * Anyone who works with or cares for young children

Ideas for future topics? Email meghan@pcaaz.org
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona | 928.445.5038 | pcaaz.org



EXPERIENCE THE THE THRILL & ELEGANCE OF THE DERBY

*Champions for Children:
A Triple Crown Affair*

JUNE 7TH, 2025



1PM-5PM || FAIRWEATHER SOCIAL CLUB & COURTYARD PRESCOTT, AZ

- Benefits Foster Children in Yavapai County
- Streaming the Belmont Stakes
- Auction, Games, Prizes, Food, & Drinks

Get Your Tickets

YAVAPAIASAFORKIDS.ORG/ANNUAL-GALA





2024-2025 Schedule

10:00am - 12:00pm
One Saturday every month

Park Rangers and community partners will lead child-centered play events at a different family friendly park and trail each month. At every Nature Niños event there will be take-home items, a healthy snack, creative nature activities, story time, and little fun lessons on Appreciate AZ Leave No Trace and Healthy Choices. Nature Niños events are led by Park Rangers and community partner staff with a strong understanding of child development and experience leading child-centered outdoor programs.

October 5th Fain Park 2200 N. 5th Street Prescott Valley, AZ 86314	November 2nd Acker Park 421 S. Virginia Street Prescott, AZ 86303	December 7th Santa Fe Station Park 6751 E Santa Fe Loop Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
January 4th Vista Park 1701 Sarafina Drive Prescott, AZ 86301	February 1st Watson Lake Upper Ramada 3101 Watson Lake Drive Prescott, AZ 86301	March 1st Pioneer Park Brownley Area 11 Commerce Driv Prescott, AZ 86305
April 5th Community Nature Center 1980 Williamson Valley Rd Prescott, AZ 86305	April 19th Prescott Earth Day Courthouse Square	May 3rd Goldwater Lake Upper 2900 S. Goldwater Lake Road Prescott, AZ 86303
July 5th Antelope Park 6933 N. Cattletrack Road Prescott Valley, AZ 86314	August 2nd West Granite Creek Splash Pad 350 N. Montezuma Street Prescott, AZ 86301	June 7th Granite Creek Park 554 6th Street Prescott, AZ 86301
		September 5th Thumb Butte Prescott National Forest 2285 W. Thumb Butte Road Prescott, AZ 86305



These organizations are equal opportunity providers



Let's Talk: So You Think You Know about Vaping?

MATFORCE Community Education Series

Tuesday, June 10, 2025
9:00 am to 10:00 am

- OR -

Saturday, June 21, 2025
9:00 am to 10:00 am

HUSD District Office | 6901 E Panther Path, Room 122, Prescott Valley

Even in today's regulated market, there continues to be a lot of confusion and misinformation surrounding e-cigarettes and vaping. Join us for a brief presentation that will help clarify this trend attracting our youth.

Review a brief history of the e-cigarette market, highlighting surprising gaps in regulation

- Hear about the physical and mental health concerns for both nicotine and marijuana vaping
- Learn about what youth are being exposed to through vape culture and youth use trends
- Discover simple ways to talk to youth about the harms of vaping and resources to help them quit
- See what parents and caregivers should look for in a child's room with an interactive display of vapes and other items

Registration is required for this free event.

Register now with these easy options.

Call (928) 708-0100

- Email info@matforceaz.org
- Visit qrco.de/bfzmE5
- Scan the QR code on the right

SCAN ME



LAW DAYS 2025

FREE LEGAL CLINICS!

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025 – COTTONWOOD

WHERE: Cottonwood Public Library
100 South 6th Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326
WHEN: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025– PRESCOTT VALLEY

WHERE: Prescott Valley Library, 3rd Floor
7401 E. Skoog Boulevard, Crystal Room, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
WHEN: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 – PRESCOTT

WHERE: Yavapai College
1100 E Sheldon St., Bldg 4, Prescott AZ 86301
WHEN: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

*****BRING ALL LEGAL ISSUES*****

What is Law Day about?

People need legal advice, but lawyers aren't cheap. If you can't afford an attorney you may not be able to obtain the legal advice you need. Law Day provides FREE LEGAL ADVICE! Community Legal Services and the Yavapai County Bar Association sponsor "Law Day." Attorneys who specialize in different areas of the law come together in one place to help answer any questions you may have. This is a service to the entire Yavapai County community. While the event is aimed at lower-income individuals, anyone can come! Please come and take advantage of the services offered FREE OF CHARGE!

Sponsored by: Community Legal Services

AND

The Yavapai County Bar Association



Does your CASA case feel like a roller coaster?

Attend **CASAs Connecting Peer support group** to help you be **successful** on your case. Because the work of a **CASA is confidential**, it is important to have a **safe** place to talk about your case. **ALL CASAs are highly encouraged** to attend a **CASA support group**. This support group provides **lively and informative discussions**. The attendees include a mix of **veteran and new CASAs and CASA staff**.

These discussions can **help you understand system issues, procedures, identify needs and solve unanswered questions**.

CASAs Connecting

6/11/25

9 am
• to •
11 am

in person
• at the JJC

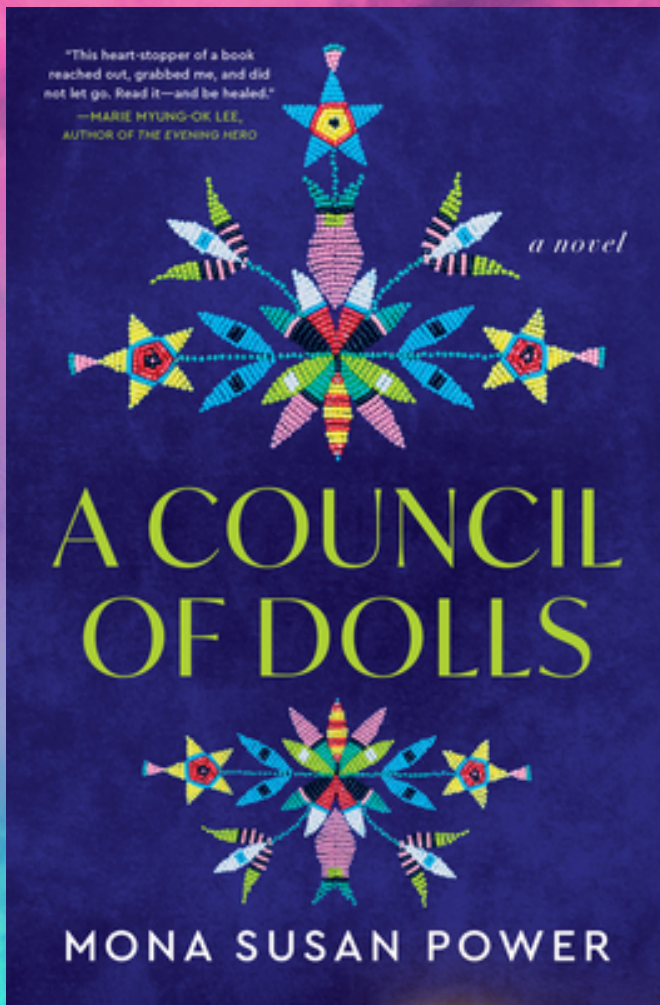
Tele-CASA
(on-line)

6/26/25
9 am - 11 am

The link for this meeting will be sent via email the Tuesday before the meeting.

✧ Book
Club ✧

June 23 at
9:30 am
JJC



*From the mid-century metropolis of Chicago to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, *A Council of Dolls* is the story of three women, told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried.*

**Books
Available**

IN THE CASA OFFICE



FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Camp Verde

CASA PRESENTATION

Camp Verde Courthouse, Room 219

TUESDAY, July 15

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

- Meet Judge Repp in person
- Learn about the benefits of FTC
- See staffing firsthand
- Attend the hearing to see it all come together

RSVP TO KRISTI NEWMAN AT

knewman@courts.az.gov



HERITAGE PARK
ZOOLOGICAL
SANCTUARY

summer

ZOO CAMP

Monday - Friday

8:30am - 3:00pm Daily

7 Weeks June - July!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Week 1: June 2 - 6

Week 2: June 9 - 13

Week 3: June 16 - 20

Week 4: June 23 - 27

Week 5: July 7 - 11

Week 6: July 14 - 18

Week 7: July 21 - 25

Register Here!



Apply for a Yavapai
CASA for Kids
Foundation Grant
Here!



SUPPORT A CHILD

CHANGE A LIFE

Blue Plume Studio

Chino Valley Summer Day Camps are here!

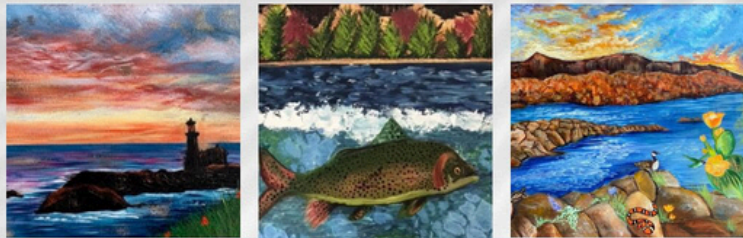
Join us this year for FULL day camps featuring art, outdoor play, meet and greets with animals and garden time featuring food and flowers! Your creative nature lover will not want to miss this camp!!! Hurry over to register!

Limited Space available!

Registration here: [Blue Plume](#)

or call (253) 905-2842

Grants available to offer classes to foster children



Summer Paradise!

SUMMER

Art & Farm DAY CAMP!



\$285 PER WEEK

5-12 years old
June 16 - 20 8 am-3:30
Bring lunch & water bottle



[BLUE PLUME STUDIO.COM](http://BLUEPLUMESTUDIO.COM)



Oh Arizona!

SUMMER

Art & Farm DAY CAMP!



\$285 PER WEEK

5-12 years old
June 2 - 6 8 am-3:30
Bring lunch & water bottle



[BLUE PLUME STUDIO.COM](http://BLUEPLUMESTUDIO.COM)



Into the Wild West!

SUMMER

Art & Farm DAY CAMP!



\$285 PER WEEK

5-12 years old
June 23 - 27 8 am-3:30
Bring lunch & water bottle



[BLUE PLUME STUDIO.COM](http://BLUEPLUMESTUDIO.COM)

More dates in July available also

SUMMER CAMPS Are Back!!

Week 1 June 2-6, Week 2 June 14-18,
Week 3 June 16-20

Week 4 July 7-11, Week 5 July 14-18,
Week 6 July 21-25

For more details check out gripstoneclimbing.com
Or contact us at (928)458-7579

Sign-ups Available Today!



Apply for a Yavapai
CASA for Kids
Foundation Grant
Here!

Rise Above the Clouds Presents:

FREE SUMMER CAMP



JOIN US FOR OUR TRAUMA-
INFORMED SUMMER CAMP
FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN
YAVAPAI COUNTY



WHEN?
JULY 22ND -
JULY 26TH

AGE RANGE?
12-14

WHERE?
A BEAUTIFUL CAMP
IN THE PRESCOTT
NATIONAL FOREST



Activities

- ✓ Art
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Cooking Classes
- ✓ Flow arts
- ✓ Kayaking
- ✓ Ropes Courses
- ✓ Sex Education
- ✓ & so much more!



To register:



riseabovetheclouds8@gmail.com



Rise Above the Clouds 501c3 (928) 925-9559

@rise.abovetheclouds



Summer 2025 Lego® Camp

Join us this Summer for our Lego® Camps!

At John's Box of Bricks we are excited to be offering our popular LEGO® Camp in the Summer! We will host several different camp sessions during June and July. Every camp session will be led by a professional Instructor and Camp Helpers that are knowledgeable in LEGO® products, and will assist Campers with their building!

Our LEGO® camps are STEAM-based and will include guided play and a variety of LEGO® building activities. Additionally, campers will engage in creative "free style" building using an extensive array of available building bricks, gears, wheels, Technic parts, and more. Participants will complete age-appropriate challenges using building concepts taught by the instructor, with assistance available from the instructor and/or assistants as needed.



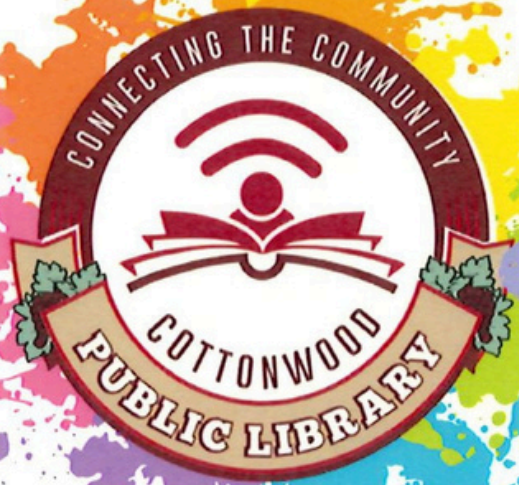
[John's Box of Bricks Lego Camp Link](#)

220 West Goodwin Street

Prescott, AZ 86303

[\(928\) 277-8870](tel:9282778870)

LEGO
CAMP



Color our World!

Come join the Cottonwood
Public Library Summer
Reading Challenge!
June 2nd to July 14th

Register Now!

cottonwoodpl.beanstack.org

OPERATION Back to School



**Saturday July 26th
9am to Noon**

*Kids must be
present*

Old Town Mission

116 E Pinal St. Cottonwood

Everything is FREE!

Backpacks ~ Food ~ School Supplies

*Kids must be
present*

**With your help we can send kids back
to school ready to learn!!**

we are collecting...

- Paper
- Pens
- Binders
- Pencils
- Glue
- Notebooks
- Index Cards
- Crayons
- Highlighter

- Backpacks
- Lunch Boxes

Donate Today at oldtownmission.org

CELEBRATION!

Gift Cards



Does your CASA kiddo have a birthday coming up? Get a great report card or improve in a class they were struggling with? Successfully complete potty training? Any other event or milestone? Stop by the CASA office to pick up a Celebration Gift Card! Thank you YCFKF!

WRAPPED IN LOVE



The Wrapped in Love (WiL) Diaper Bank provides diapers and supplies to struggling families across Yavapai County. Diapers are given to families through their affiliation with a service agency in the community. WiL promotes health and wellness by providing Yavapai County participants with diapers, wipes and referrals to local services. The overarching goal of WiL is to alleviate the cost of diapering and strengthen access to resources for struggling families in Yavapai County. The staff and volunteers at WiL coordinate with community agencies and family programs to ensure that needy families have access to the resources available to assist them in raising healthy children.

Yavapai County CASA Volunteers can request diapers for their foster or kinship families who are struggling to buy diapers.

If you would like to order diapers for your CASA baby's family, please contact your coordinator.



CASA

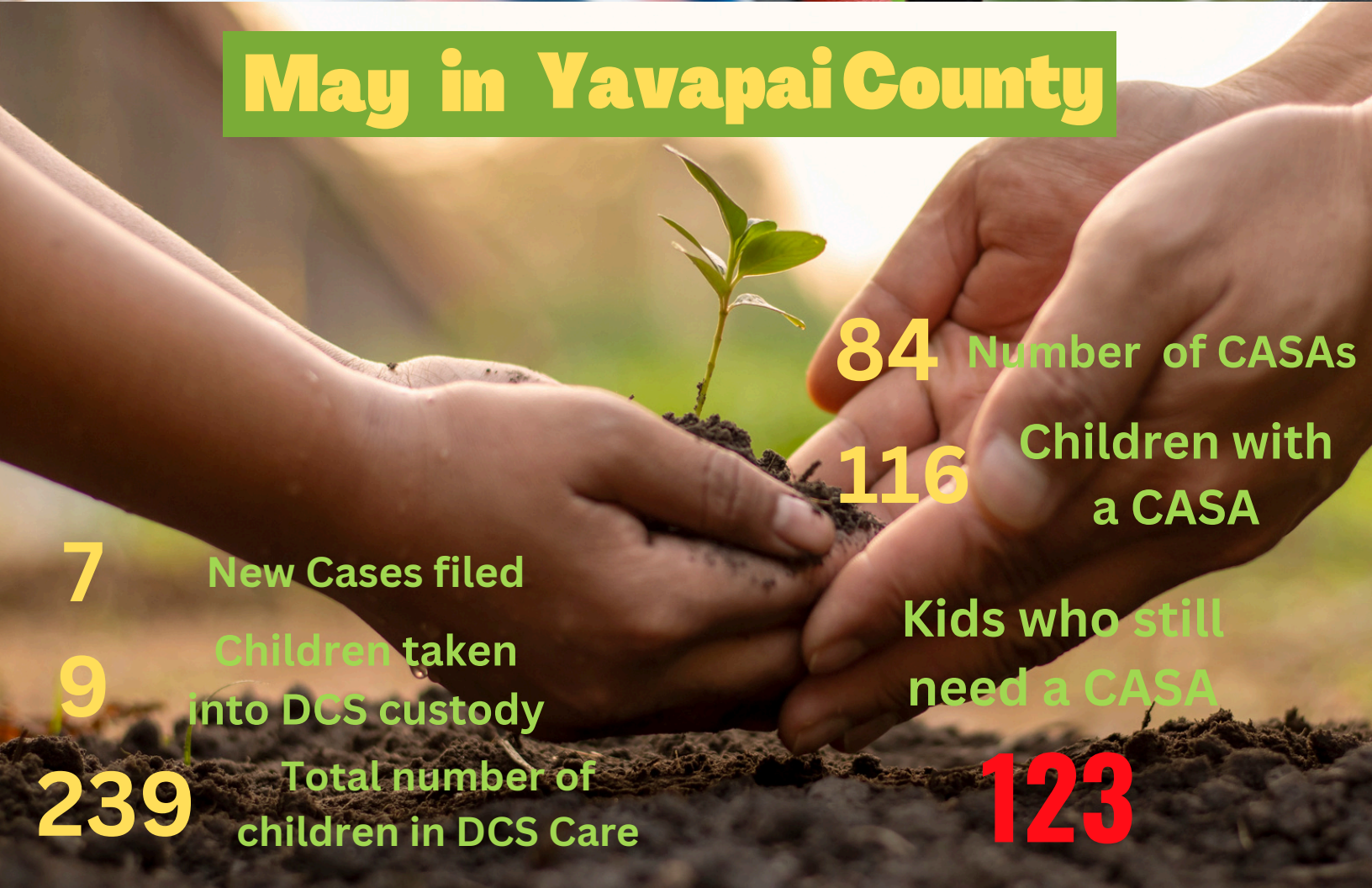
OF YAVAPAI COUNTY



LIKE US!

 FOLLOW US!
facebook

May in Yavapai County



7 New Cases filed

9 Children taken into DCS custody

239 Total number of children in DCS Care

84 Number of CASAs

116 Children with a CASA

Kids who still need a CASA

123

Contact Information

www.casaofyavapaicounty.org

Prescott Office

(928) 771-3165

Amber Martin, Dependency Court Manager

email: amartin@courts.az.gov

Jessica Hines, Program Coordinator II

email: jhines@courts.az.gov

Brie Gallegos, Program Coordinator II

email: bgallegos@courts.az.gov

Amy Fillingim, Program Coordinator II

email: afillingim@courts.az.gov

Kathy McCormick, Mediator

email: kmccormi@courts.az.gov

Evelyn Hurtado, Admin Assistant I

email: ehurtado@courts.az.gov

Robin Fernandez Ames, Support Staff

email: rfernanzesames@courts.az.gov

Kristi Newman (928) 771-3398

Family Treatment Court Coordinator

email: knewman@courts.az.gov

Camp Verde Office

(928) 554-8900

Jen Bahr, Dependency Program Manager II

email: jbahr@courts.az.gov

Laura Gray, Admin Assistant I

email: lagray@courts.az.gov



www.YavapaiCASAforKids.org

P.O. Box 28070

Prescott Valley, AZ 86312

(928)445-0800

Board Members:

Lisa Watts, President

Vacant, Vice President

Greg Byrum, Secretary

Luke Lewis, Treasurer

Cheryl Micholofki

Barbara Fox-Thomas

Eileen Bond, Emeritus Member

Jayne Schwantes

Yvonne Bartlett, Executive Director

Mona Stephens, Development

Sara Tillman, Grants for Kids Program

Questions about YC4KF?

email:

info@yavapaicasaforkids.org

