

# Prescott Valley CARES

FALL/WINTER • 2020-2021

FREE!

**Family's Monumental Gift to  
add to Prescott Valley's Art,  
Parks & Recreation Offerings**

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# FAMILY'S MONUMENTAL GIFT



Ed Reilly (Bronzesmith, owner and artist) speaking to Nancy Smith (Arts & Culture Commissioner) and Town Manager Larry Tarkowski next to a moquette and drawings of his sculpture at the October 3rd Council meeting.

## Family's monumental gift to add to Prescott Valley's art, parks & recreation offerings

Late this spring the Town of Prescott Valley was informed that it would be receiving a generous gift from the Raymond A. Jenkins estate. Ray was a pilot in WWII and continued flying until he was 85 years old; he was also a master sculptor and artist, fisherman, cowboy and so much more. Ray and his wife Jeanne, who passed before him, were community members in the truest sense of the word. Their gift to the Town will bring to fruition several long-awaited projects for the betterment of the community.

Upon receiving this information, a joint session of the Arts & Culture Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission was organized. The meeting to discuss which long-lasting, community projects would be best suited for this bequest convened on July 7. The goal of the Commissions is to use the approximately \$500,000 gift to complete projects that will stand the test of time and best honor the Jenkins family.

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# TO PRESCOTT VALLEY

By Hope Hooper,  
Recreation Supervisor  
Town of Prescott Valley

The Commissions determined it would be best for the community to split the gift evenly between parks projects and cultural projects. The Parks & Recreation Commission is working together with staff to determine how best to use their portion of the Jenkins gift. The Arts & Culture Commission already had the perfect project in mind for this opportunity, a monumental sculpture that has been in the planning process for almost two decades. The original plan called for two monumental sculptures that would be the center of roundabouts on the East and West corners of what is now Skoog Boulevard and Lakeshore Drive. When the roundabouts were removed from the infrastructure plan, the sculptures were then set to be located on the South corners of the Civic Center campus on Lakeshore Drive. A Call to Artists was published in 2015 and although an artist was chosen, the project did not move forward due to concerns from the Arts & Culture Commission and Town Council.

Over the last few years, the Arts & Culture Commission has been working on ways to raise funds for a monumental sculpture that would speak more to our community. In the summer of 2019, Ed Reilly, owner of Bronzesmith Fine Art

Gallery & Foundry, brought a moquette of a potential sculpture to the Commission in hopes that they were still considering a monumental artwork for the Civic Center grounds. The Commissioners were thrilled with Mr. Reilly's product and decided to move forward with his project.

The piece is an obelisk which will stand approximately 20 feet tall, with the inclusion of a base. While creating the model, Mr. Reilly considered the building blocks of our community; railroads, mining, nature, and the prospect of a bright future. He created a piece that speaks brilliantly to all these elements. The obelisk he created will be made of bronze and will feature a lighting element on the southwest face of the work. This sculpture will be located at the southwest corner of the Civic Center campus. Once installed, community members will be able to enjoy the obelisk up close and personal from all angles. Isabella Chewning, the Arts & Culture Coordinator for Prescott Valley Parks & Recreation and lead for this project, has been working with the artist, Commission, and other staff to finalize a contract now that funds have been secured. The Town is looking forward to the completion of this project in spring 2021.

With one sculpture resolved, the Arts & Culture Commission sought advice from staff and members of the local arts community to determine the best way to seek submissions for the second sculpture. Thanks to input from the Commission and Mrs. Chewning, it was determined that a Call to Artists would be appropriate for this project. The Call to Artists for the 2020 Civic Center Bronze Sculpture Project was released at the beginning of August and applications close October 2, 2020. Mrs. Chewning has already met with several interested artists to hold site reviews. Submissions will be reviewed by a committee, once an artist is chosen they will go under contract to complete the second monumental sculpture in late fall 2021.

Anyone interested in learning more about the projects stemming from the Jenkins bequest can find information on the Town website at [www.pvaz.net](http://www.pvaz.net) or contact the Parks & Recreation department by calling 928-759-3090. Mr. Reilly will also have a Facebook page available for the sculpture being erected on the southwest corner. If you'd like to see the piece in person, you can schedule a tour of the Bronzesmith foundry, a world-class facility, by contacting them at 928-772-2378.

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# HELPING SENIORS HELP THEMSELVES



Take a new approach to your Medicare Plan shopping this year. Secure Options for Seniors is sponsoring a no-cost retirement

education center featuring information from Medicareful, an online comparison and enrollment tool, as well as an extensive library of CMS approved educational materials offered on Medicare.gov, and the expertise and advise of highly trained individuals who have been working in the field for years.

Joni Zeroles-Solon is the owner and lead agent of Secure Options for Seniors and the creator of The Retirement Education Center (The R.E.C.) program beginning this Fall. In her years of working as an agent she noticed a gap in typical senior care and the information being made available to the average client in a sale.

There are roughly 10,000 people a day turning 65 in America. Unlike in the past most of them will continue to work after they turn 65. Based on recent research gathered from firsthand experiences, information on SSA.gov and Medicare.gov, as well as discussions with the HR departments directly related to her clients, Joni discovered that finding information is not an easy task for the average person. In addition, employers do not always seem to be well informed either due to the ever-changing nature of the insurance industry it is difficult to stay informed.

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# SECURE OPTIONS FOR SENIORS

already over 65, and their employers, on how to deal with all of the options available to them through a brand-new Retirement Education Center booth located in the Prescott Gateway Mall.

Visit The R.E.C this fall for free information on when and how to sign up for Social Security, Medicare, and take a benefits checkup all at no cost and no pressure to enroll.

Through The R.E.C you will have access to the materials and information you need to plan your retirement. You can get all the information you need all in one place with no sales pitch and no

pushy sales agents. They are here to help you help yourself as you navigate your way through your retirement planning. For more information on The R.E.C (coming this fall) or upcoming events with Secure Options for Seniors check out their website or look for them on Facebook.

So, before you find yourself lost in the sea of Medicare options set up a free consultation at The R.E.C. Simply call Secure Options for Seniors at 928-777-2379 or visit their website www.SecureOptionsForSeniors.com to set up your appointment.

For those who would rather no meet

in person, secure online meetings are available as well.

For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic Secure Options for Seniors will be following the guidelines set in place by the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control. These actions will be taken to ensure the safety of their clients and the general public. Agents will wear masks and abide by social distancing guidelines. All surfaces will be regularly wiped down and sanitized. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer will be made available to those who may not have their own.



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## WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBOR, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?

It began with a lady who had a dream, a vision, and a plan. With over 7 years of experience, her dream - to have her own rescue - became reality with the generous donation of ten acres and the active support of her team, volunteers, and family. Located in Poland Junction (Mayer) AZ, AARF broke ground for

the first “doggie bunkhouse” in August 2018 and received non-profit status in March of 2019.

Like our property, our vision is large and coming into focus. A western-themed

Out of the Shelters Ranch or “dog town” with groupings of bunkhouse

units to house two or more dogs, each with a generous play yard. Yes, we are a rescue but imagine a place with no kennels, a warm bed (our bunkhouses are heated and air conditioned), a place to run free or nap, be loved and walked by volunteers six days a week, with good meals every day.

To-date, we have rescued and rehomed over 200 dogs. Our goal is 30-40 residents, all victims of

life circumstances. Strays, shelter transfers, owner-surrenders, they all have stories. We call them our “mixed blessings” and their lives begin “now”.

We share their stories and tell their tales on our Facebook page.

We were able to build our amazing Big Sandy’s Puppy Palace in 2019 with a generous donation and it has seldom been vacant, housing moms with litters or just orphan puppies of all ages. It is why we promote, and stress spay and neuter.

AARF is volunteer-based with a small staff of dedicated caretakers. We exist solely on donations, fundraisers and grants. Monthly donations of any amount are extremely helpful and appreciated.

Our volunteers are amazing in how they socialize and transition new dogs and nurture and teach the puppies. Everyone can make a difference and no action is too small to be a voice for the animals. That voice, together with action, will save



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and improve many lives.

AARF depends on the commitment and dedication of volunteers and supporters to achieve our goals of saving and caring for animals. ALL skill levels are welcome! There is a comfort zone for everyone. We promise your life and theirs will be enriched by your efforts. Call **928-899-5254** for information to see where you fit!

## LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? ADOPT or FOSTER

You will change an animal's entire world. You always have a choice but we ask that you at least consider a rescue. AARF will provide you with a profile of each animal's behavior.

**Come to meet our dogs or view them on [Petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com).**

Rescue is a circle: a link that never ends but grows with each save. Each adoption adds another link and on and on. Join our circle. Pets are and should be our family members, our companions, and our trusted friends.

It is why we always do home visits prior to adoption to insure the best fit for everyone.

## JOIN OUR MISSION of Saving One by One Until There Are None

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

Our vision includes the community so we will act as a resource for

education and awareness and a sanctuary when needed.

AARF has two new programs: "Vets Get Pets" and "Golden Paws" Senior to Senior. Both are for companion animals. Please call for information.

Call **928-925-7219** for a tour. It is the only way to meet our dogs and "feel" our special rescue. We want everyone to experience what we enjoy every day.



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## In a sea of uncertainty, the Yavapai County Preparedness Team/Oath Keepers of Yavapai County is ready to help.

My journey began as I became increasingly concerned over the direction of our country. Many issues facing our nation left me feeling alone and unsettled. In hopes of finding answers, I started attending meetings held by the Yavapai County Preparedness Team/Oath Keepers of Yavapai County. I immediately

found myself surrounded by people who are caring, well informed, and prepared.

Allow me to clarify a few things before I continue. This group is not a militia; they do not discriminate; nor are they a political action group. Everyone is invited and warmly welcomed.

Many thought we would never see another episode of shortages in this country; however, recent events proved us wrong. The need for being prepared is essential to avoid panic

and to ensure the safety of our families. What better way to be prepared for the unknown than taking advantage of the many offerings made available by this informative group?

They provide a number of classes on subjects such as home remedies, preparedness, and beginner radio communication. There are also teams for those with specific skill sets such as engineering, intelligence, medical, and security. My personal favorite is the preparedness class which covers a multitude




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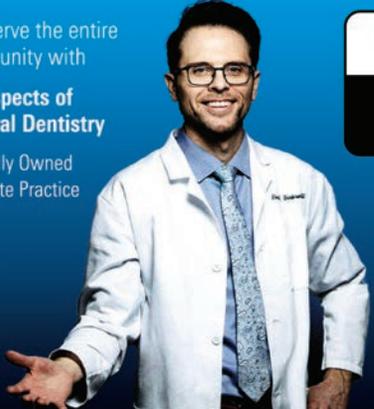
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of topics such as pantry prep; making/purchasing long term survival foods; water collection; family evacuation planning; how to assemble a bug-out bag; basic survival skills; bartering tips; and much more. Promoting a healthy lifestyle and good eating habits allowing the body's immune system to do its job is one of their most important mantras, which proves to be very important with the Covid 19 situation. Special sessions are also offered periodically such as "Stop the Bleed" which can be applied in a severe open wound scenario. After classes, the general meeting is held where a number of topics are discussed such natural and man-made disasters; economic unrest; and other pertinent current events.

There is an obvious demand for these resources, as I observe an ever-increasing number of new faces at the gatherings

each month, and they are from all over the quad-city area. Many feeling the same way I did. I am proud to be part this community and hope I can help others in their quest for knowledge.

There are no membership dues and classes are free! So, I urge everyone to come out and learn life-saving tactics while connecting with others in this great community.

*Marsha Seymour,  
 member since November 2019*

The Chino Valley group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, at 2:00pm, at the First Southern Baptist Church, 1524 N State Route 89, Building "C", Chino Valley

The Verde Valley group meets on the 1st Saturday of each month, at 1:00pm, at the Faith Tabernacle Church, 1438 S Camino Real, Cottonwood (behind the Fry's center at the intersection of 260 and 89A)

**For any questions,  
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# the PRESCOTT VALLEY CARES

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

Time: Doors Open at 4pm  
Bingo Starts at 6pm  
Location: 6245 E. 2nd St  
Prescott Valley  
Cost: Varies  
Open to the public 18 & Older

### PATRIOT WEEK AND HEALING FIELD

DATE: SEPTEMBER 4TH - 11TH  
Location: Civic Center Campus  
7501 E. Skoog Blvd.  
Cost: Free  
Come in and see all of our flags on display.

### BANDS & BAGS

DATE: SAT, SEPTEMBER 19TH  
Time: 3pm to 8pm  
Location: 7501 E. Skoog Blvd  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314  
Cost: Register online at [www.pvaz.net](http://www.pvaz.net)  
Description: Competitive corn toss tournament followed by live music from Atomic Surf at 7pm.

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

DATE: SEPTEMBER EVERY SUNDAY  
Time: 8am-12pm  
Location: 3101 N. Glassford Hill  
Description: Farmers Market vendors with items to purchase.

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FINE ART SHOWCASE

DATE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH  
Time: 5:30pm to 7pm  
Location: Prescott Valley Public Library, 3rd floor, Crystal Room

### RUN FOR THE HILL OF IT

DATE: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH  
Time: 7am line up  
Location: 5K fun run up Glassford Hill Summit Trail  
Description: Register online at [www.pvaz.net](http://www.pvaz.net)

## OCTOBER

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
Time: Doors Open at 4pm  
Bingo Starts at 6pm  
Location: 6245 E. 2nd St  
Prescott Valley  
Cost: Varies  
Open to the public 18 & Older

### BRONZESMITH FOUNDRY TOURS

DATE: EVERY THURSDAY  
Time: 11am to 12pm (MST)  
Location: Civic Center Area  
Cost: \$10 per person  
Description: Tours of the foundry. Lost wax process and art sculpture cast in bronze / step-by-step demonstration of a bronze pour. Please call ahead and make your reservation. 928-772-2378.

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

DATE: OCTOBER EVERY SUNDAY  
Time: 7am-1pm  
Location: 3101 N. Glassford Hill  
Description: Farmers Market vendors for purchase.

### PUMPKIN FEST & CORN MAZE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18TH - NOV 1ST  
Time: Check online  
Location: Mortimer Farms Dewey

Cost: Varies (Check online)  
Description: Pumpkin Fest & Corn Maze, pumpkin patch. Daytime activities, hayride farm tours, barrel train rides, pig races, circus shows, grain train rides, tetherball, zip lines, dog races, farm to table food, & rope course races! At sunset, fire dancers, karaoke, and barn dances (some activities are weekends only)!

### BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER

DATE: OCTOBER 21ST  
Time: 5pm to 6:30pm  
Location: The Event Spot  
6520 E. 1st St  
Cost: Free

### SAFE TRICK OR TREAT

DATE: OCTOBER 31ST  
Time: 4pm to 7pm  
Location: Findlay Toyota Center 3201 N. Main St  
Cost: Free

## NOVEMBER

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
Time: Doors Open at 4pm  
Bingo Starts at 6pm  
Location: 6245 E. 2nd St  
Prescott Valley  
Cost: Varies  
Open to the public 18 & Older

### COMIC BOOK CLUB EVERY WEDNESDAY

Time: All Day  
Location: Prescott Valley Library  
Cost: Free  
Description: Collectors and Enthusiasts of all ages come and enjoy club time.

### PUMPKIN FEST & CORN MAZE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18TH - NOV 1ST  
Time: Check online  
Location: Mortimer Farms, Dewey  
Cost: Varies (Check online)  
Description: See Description above.

### 2020 GENERAL ELECTION DAY

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD  
For voting locations, times, deadlines & information go online to: [www.yavapai.us/electionsrv](http://www.yavapai.us/electionsrv)

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

DATE: NOVEMBER EVERY SUNDAY  
Time: 7am-1pm  
Location: 3101 N. Glassford Hill  
Description: Farmers Market vendors with items to purchase.

### FLYING HIGH TURKEY DRIVE

DATE: NOVEMBER 23RD  
Time: 12pm to 6pm  
Location: Fry's Food & Drug Store Glassford Hill Rd  
Description: Turkey Drive

### VALLEY OF LIGHTS 2020

DATE: NOVEMBER 26TH - DECEMBER 30TH  
Time: 5pm -9pm  
Location: Fain Park  
Cost: \$5 donation suggested  
Description: Walk through of light displays

# LENDAR *of* EVENTS

## DECEMBER

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

Time: Doors Open at 4pm  
Bingo Starts at 6pm  
Location: 6245 E. 2nd St  
Prescott Valley  
Cost: Varies  
Open to the public 18 & Older

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

DATE: DECEMBER EVERY SUNDAY

Time: 7am-1pm  
Location: 3101 N. Glassford Hill  
Description: Farmers Market vendors with items to purchase.

### COMIC BOOK CLUB EVERY WEDNESDAY

Time: All Day  
Location: Prescott Valley Library  
Cost: Free  
Description: Collectors and Enthusiasts of all ages come and enjoy club time.

### VALLEY OF LIGHTS 2020

DATE: NOVEMBER 26TH- DECEMBER 30TH

Time: 6:00-9:00pm  
Location: Fain Park  
Cost: \$5 donation suggested  
Description: Walk through of light displays

### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

DATE: FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH

Time: 5pm-9pm  
Location: Civic Center, 7501 E. Skoog Blvd  
Cost: Free  
Description: Activities include: Pictures with Santa (Prescott Valley Public Library, 3rd floor, Crystal Room), the Light Parade, the lighting of the Civic Center and the opening of the Create-A-Tree display at the Library.

### SANTA AT THE FARM

DATES: DECEMBER 5TH & 12TH

Time: 10am to 3pm  
Location: Mountain Valley Splash Park  
Cost: At the Door: \$10.00 per person. Online Tickets: \$8.00 per person. 2 & under are free.  
Description: Admission to the Farm park, hayrides, visit with Santa, cookie decorating, and ornament making.

### ACKER NIGHT

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

Times: 5:30pm-9pm  
Location: Courthouse Plaza, Prescott  
Description: Enjoy over 100 musicians performing all around downtown area shops. Fundraising event for Art & Music Scholarships. Opening Ceremony start at 5pm on Gurley Street

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

DATE: THURSDAY DECEMBER 31ST

Time: 7pm to Midnight  
Location: Findlay Toyota Center parking lot (North End)  
Description: Family friendly games/activities, bonfire, and fireworks finale at midnight.

## JANUARY 2021

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

Time: Doors Open at 4pm  
Bingo Starts at 6pm  
Location: 6245 E. 2nd St  
Prescott Valley  
Cost: Varies  
Open to the public 18 & Older

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

DATE: JANUARY EVERY SUNDAY

Time: 7am-1pm  
Location: 3101 Glassford Hill Rd  
Description: Farmers Market Vendors, items for purchase.

### COMIC BOOK CLUB EVERY WEDNESDAY

Time: All Day  
Location: Prescott Valley Library  
Cost: Free  
Description: Collectors and Enthusiasts of all ages come and enjoy club time.

### POLAR BEAR SPLASH

DATE: JANUARY 9TH

Time: 10am to 12pm  
Location: Mountain Valley Splash  
Cost: Free  
Description: breakfast, games and contests (with prizes), and polar bear splash finale (must be 18 years or older to jump in the pool, ID required to verify age)

## FEBRUARY 2021

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

Time: Doors Open at 4pm  
Bingo Starts at 6pm  
Location: 6245 E. 2nd St  
Prescott Valley  
Cost: Varies  
Open to the public 18 & Older

### PRESCOTT VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

DATE: FEBRUARY EVERY SUNDAY

Time: 7am -1pm  
Location: 3101 Glassford Hill Rd  
Description: Farmers Market vendors with items to purchase.

### COMIC BOOK CLUB EVERY WEDNESDAY

Time: All Day  
Location: Prescott Valley Library  
Cost: Free  
Description: Collectors and Enthusiasts of all ages come and enjoy club time.

### PRESCOTT VALLEY CAR CRUISE

EVERY THURSDAY

Time: 5pm  
Location: Culver's Ice Cream  
Description: Any car enthusiast is well come. Bring your car down and enjoy the evening.  
Cost: Free

### DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

Time: 6pm to 9pm  
Location: TBD  
Registration is required for this event, register online at [www.pvaz.net](http://www.pvaz.net) starting January 1st, 2021

\*\*\*Information subject to change due to Covid 19\*\*\*



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# HERE COMES DOUBLE TROUBLE

Fall is here. Typically, the fall season brings leaves changing colors, school starting, high school football, city soccer and cooler weather. In addition, the cold and flu season looms around the corner. Adding to the anticipated burden of illness due to Influenza, this year, 2020, is gearing up for double trouble with the addition of the pandemic due to Coronavirus 19.

Each fall, the medical community recommends that everyone eligible should get a flu shot. This year, that recommendation is even more important and imperative. The

medical community is preparing for the challenge of managing illnesses from influenza AND coronavirus at the same time. Both viruses present with similar clinical signs and symptoms making it difficult to tell them apart. Although a rapid test does exist for testing for influenza and, in some cases, for coronavirus, the accuracy and availability of those tests is not always fool proof. One option to decrease the occurrence and severity of influenza is to get the vaccine.

An interesting comparison of numbers shows a perspective regarding the impact of vaccination as well as a comparison of influenza

versus coronavirus. The worst recorded influenza pandemic was in 1918. That year, 50 million people worldwide died from influenza (675,000 of those deaths in the United States.) It is estimated that the world population in 1918 was 1.8 billion, making the death toll that year from influenza 2.7%. Comparatively, 101 years later in 2019, 650,000 people died worldwide from influenza (34,200 of those deaths were in the United States.) The world population had grown to 7.8 billion people. Not only was the total number of deaths due to influenza markedly less, the death toll from influenza was less than 0.01%. Although many factors play

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# FLU & CORONAVIRUS

*Shelly Klein, MD*

a role in decreasing the death toll from a particular illness, one major intervention has been the influenza vaccine.

At the time of publication, COVID 19 has accounted for 850,000 deaths worldwide with 187,000 of those deaths in the United States. In reviewing the accompanying graph, the toll of both diseases hitting our community and world at the same time could prove to be devastating.

As the COVID 19 pandemic continues to sweep across the world, the influenza season is going to start. The two diseases have similar presentations and complications. Both diseases more seriously affect

the very young, the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. Just as high numbers of COVID 19 cases initially overwhelmed the medical community early in the pandemic, ongoing COVID 19 cases PLUS newly emerging influenza cases could again overwhelm the medical community and lead to serious complications for those who contract either flu or coronavirus infections.

Many reports in the medical literature, including a recent article in Pediatrics vol 146, July 2020, state that vaccine hesitancy, particularly for influenza vaccine, is prevalent in the United States. Many adults

claim they get "sick" from the flu vaccine, mistaking mild reaction from the serum for actual "flu"-like illness. Others state they "never get sick so why get the vaccine?" Many parents (1 in 4 parents in the United States) are hesitant about influenza vaccine and less than that believe the influenza vaccine is not effective. Despite the hesitations and inaccurate and nonscientific ideas in the community, currently, in addition to good hand washing, social distancing, and potentially the use of masks, the influenza vaccine is our only defense to decrease the occurrence of influenza and slow the potential for "double trouble." GET YOUR FLU SHOT.

**Any drug use damages developing teen brains.**

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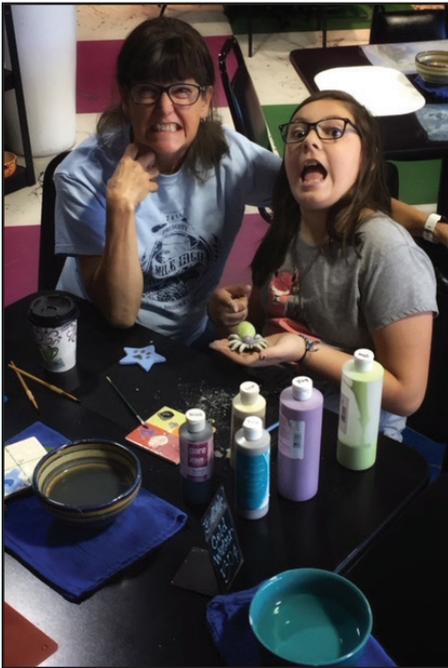
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# BEING A BIG

By Coleen Stivers  
For Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters



It is probably impossible to be twins with a 12-year-old girl when you are 62 and retired, but I am pretty sure it is happening to me. Being a Big Sister is amazingly easy, and for Katie and I, it is just magic.

I moved to Prescott in May 2017, and in a flurry of civic virtue, contacted Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters. I had seen Katie posted on Facebook and immediately felt drawn to her. After a few formalities we both agreed we would give the relationship a try. It helped a lot that there were so many commonalities between us. We like nothing better than spending the day eating Nearly Naked Popcorn and playing Farkle. The depth and breadth of board and card games we enjoy is unending; Sequence, Uno, Sorry, Yahtzee, and Gin. We love them all.

Sometimes we play one of the games in my closet, sometimes she brings one.

There is only one problem. When Katie is not winning, she has been known to cheat. She is not a sneaky cheater. She is an obvious cheater. She does it because it is funny, and it really is. I firmly reprimand her, and we get to laughing. We have been known to laugh so hard we cannot stop. When we manage to pull ourselves together, she does it again. That girl knows how to have a good time. And when I am with her? I am as happy as I ever am.

When I read Katie's biography, I noticed she loves dogs. Now I do not want to say I love dogs more than people, but it is close. My dog had been approved enthusiastically by the agency, so I

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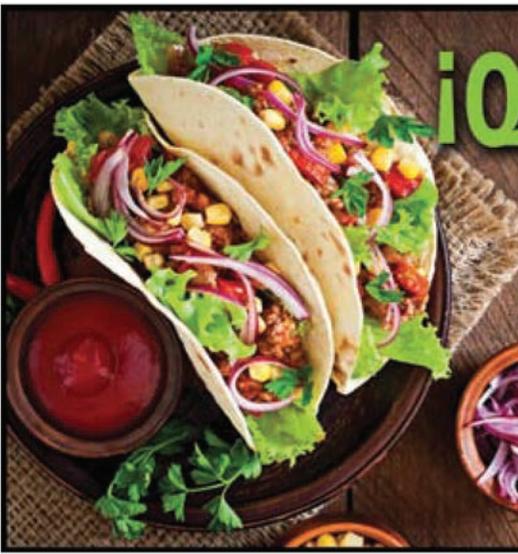
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introduced her to Dare to Love on our first visit. She likes him so much; she asks me to bring him with me when I pick her up or drive her home. We talk about her dogs, my dog and every subject related to canines. We have gone to the dog park



which was a big hit. My dog is not good at catching a ball, and we are not all that good at throwing one, but it just does not matter. It is more fun than you could ever imagine. Dare makes her giggle because he is the goofiest dog ever, and that makes me smile.

I cannot tell tales, but Katie and I have the deepest conversations ever. She is bright and very wise. We share our feelings and our frustrations. It is a no judgement zone, but we are very honest. I could not ask for a better conversationalist or companion.

I wish we could spend more time together, but Katie has a busy life. I feel lucky if I can see her twice a month or



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more. I check in with her mom and try to fit her schedule to mine. I am always wishing we could see each other longer and more often, because she is the greatest kid ever. I know if you have a "Little" you will feel the same way!

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# THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS:



This year has been exceptional with the need to navigate through unprecedented times, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona has navigated alongside each and every one of our neighbors. Our local Clubs are proud to not only keep the doors open, but to provide instrumental support to families in light of the school district closures and evolving hybrid learning schedules. While parents work to provide for their families during these difficult times, the Clubs bring stability by offering a place for their children to learn and grow.

BGCCAZ navigated the challenges of the pandemic quickly, only closing for six days to reassess the need in the community after the local school districts were forced to shut down. The Essential Services Program was born to include fun activities to help members cope with the stress caused by the pandemic, with an emphasis on opportunities to reinforce academic success and development during the time away from school. This program was offered at the Prescott location and provided a full service of care—including breakfast and lunch. Most importantly, BGCCAZ provided consistency and safety for members and their families who had no options for their children during this difficult time. This unique initiative included 19 different activities and accounted for 1,131 Club visits during its almost three months of operation.

As the Essential Services Program came to an end, the Clubs continued to operate a full-time Summer Program in both of the Prescott

and Prescott Valley Clubs. Now, as we move into the 2020/2021 school year with schools adjusting to various distance and hybrid schedules, BGCCAZ continues to invest in offering expanded hours from the typical after-school hours to full-time service. The Clubs have also deepened partnerships with the school districts to offer distance learning at both the Prescott and Prescott Valley Clubs, operating from 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. The main goal is to aid in addressing the challenges that our community's

educators, children and families are facing at this time.

At the Prescott Valley Club, now named the Fain Family Branch, significant progress has been made toward a multi-year comprehensive campaign to expand and renovate the PV and Prescott Clubs. In 2019,



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# A Safe Haven to Thrive During Challenging Times

a full-size gymnasium was added to the existing Club site, providing new and exciting athletic and recreational opportunities for both Club kids and community in a high quality, beautiful space. The new gym was the first step in creating additional programming space to increase the number of children and families served.

Moving forward, with the support of valuable community partnerships, the Clubs are moving into the next phase to remodel the Fain Family Branch original building. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. The building will be remodeled

to deliver unique advantages in programming by designing spaces to optimize the Club experience. Ultimately, the remodeled space will promote a wide variety of programs and create a brighter, safer and more inspiring place for kids to thrive.

While the Boys & Girls Clubs have pivoted to offer unique services during this year, they continue to deliver influential programs to our community's youth. The Clubs offer a broad range of educational and recreational activities, all of them designed to drive positive outcomes and provide life-changing opportunities. Clubs not only ensure that development opportunities are accessible for every young person who walks through their signature blue doors, but also step up in a unique way to empower families by putting economic success within reach.

As we face new challenges as a community, Club members bring us hope of a better tomorrow as they rise to the occasion in demonstrating kindness, leadership and growth. After being gone for several months, Jordan\* returned to the Prescott Valley Club this school year. In the past, he struggled to adapt to the Club environment, and now he is blossoming in an incredible way! He has developed healthy relationships with peers and staff, all while respecting social distancing guidance and new regulations. Upon his return, he emphatically shared how much



he missed the Club and loves being here! (\*member name has been changed).

The Clubs simply cannot do what they do without the generosity and support of our community, who have empowered BGCCAZ to become an important resource in the area, now more than ever. You can provide life-changing opportunities to young people around you. By supporting our local Clubs, you are investing in the future of our community - our youth! No matter the amount of your gift, it makes a priceless positive difference in the lives of young people around you. Visit [www.bgccaz.org](http://www.bgccaz.org) to learn more about the Clubs mission and how you can help us build great futures!



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# GROWING CONCERN FOR PARENTS AS YOUTH MARIJUANA VAPING ON THE RISE

**According to the latest state and national surveys, youth who vape marijuana (THC concentrates) is on the rise. THC concentrates are an oil extract consisting of THC, the chemical in marijuana that produces the high feeling. These concentrates are highly potent, with a range of 60% to 99% THC. Compared to the average joint from 30 years ago containing 4% THC, this increase in potency should raise concern for parents.**

Studies have shown that regular marijuana use can lead to many negative outcomes for youth including lower grades, decreased likelihood to graduate from high school, decreased likelihood to go to college, loss of IQ points, decreased motivation, and health problems. Unfortunately, vaping marijuana is so new that studies are not as prevalent about the harms. But, that does not mean we are not seeing negative health effects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 82% of people hospitalized last year with the mysterious lung injury had vaped THC products. Plus, addiction rates and episodes of marijuana-induced psychosis are increasing with the higher potency marijuana.

Knowing the harms of marijuana and THC concentrates, and seeing first-hand the families devastated from legalized marijuana in other states, the MATFORCE Board of Directors recently came out against legalization in Arizona. "As leaders in drug

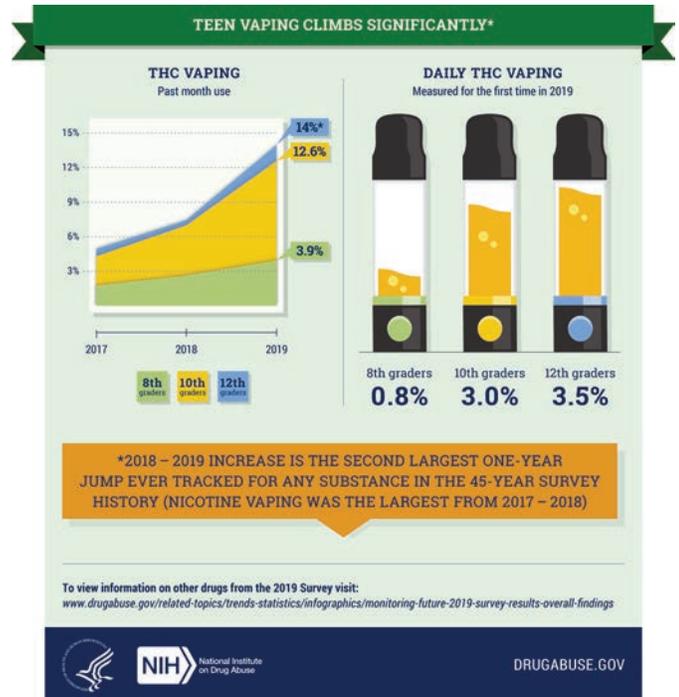
prevention and education, MATFORCE opposes the legalization of marijuana because we believe use threatens the health, welfare and safety for all people, users and nonusers alike."

Parents might not be aware of the changes that marijuana has seen over the past several years. THC concentrates are relatively new products made more available and popular through the Arizona Medical Marijuana program. According to the Arizona Youth Survey, 1 in 4 youth in Yavapai County who use marijuana get it from a medical marijuana cardholder. But this is only one of the ways youth are getting their hands on this potent drug. Social media apps are another increasingly popular way for youth to get marijuana. Often times, it can be delivered to their front door. Of course, friends, family, and relatives are still the most frequently cited ways that youth obtain marijuana.

This is all disconcerting news for parents and caregivers. What can we do to combat this new information? As Surgeon General Jerome Adams once said, "The best way to address drug use in your child is to prevent it." Talk to the youth in your sphere of influence about the harms of any drug use on the developing

brain. Discuss ways they can keep their brain and body healthy.

The good news is that there are resources and support to start this important conversation. Find links to more information and resources on our website at [matforce.org](http://matforce.org). To learn more about the harms of marijuana visit [MarijuanaHarmlessThinkAgain.org](http://MarijuanaHarmlessThinkAgain.org).



According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the THC vaping increase from 2018 to 2019 is the second largest one-year jump ever tracked for any substance in the 45-year survey history.

# A-1

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**BOYS VARSITY GOLF**

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Oct. 20	@ Mingus	2:00 PM

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Oct. 20	@ Flagstaff	6:00 PM
Oct. 22	@ Lee Williams	6:00 PM
Oct. 26	@ Prescott	6:00 PM
Oct. 27	@Mohave	6:00 PM
Oct. 29	vs Mingus	6:00 PM
Nov. 3	@ Youngker	6:00 PM
Nov. 4	vs Deer Valley	6:00 PM
Nov. 5	vs Greenway	6:00 PM

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Dec. 8	vs Mingus	7:00 PM
Dec. 11	@ Desert Edge	7:00 PM
Dec. 15	vs Lee Williams	7:00 PM
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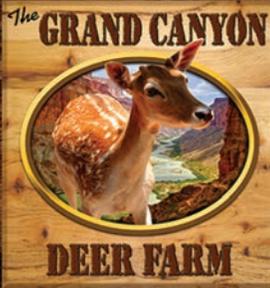
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