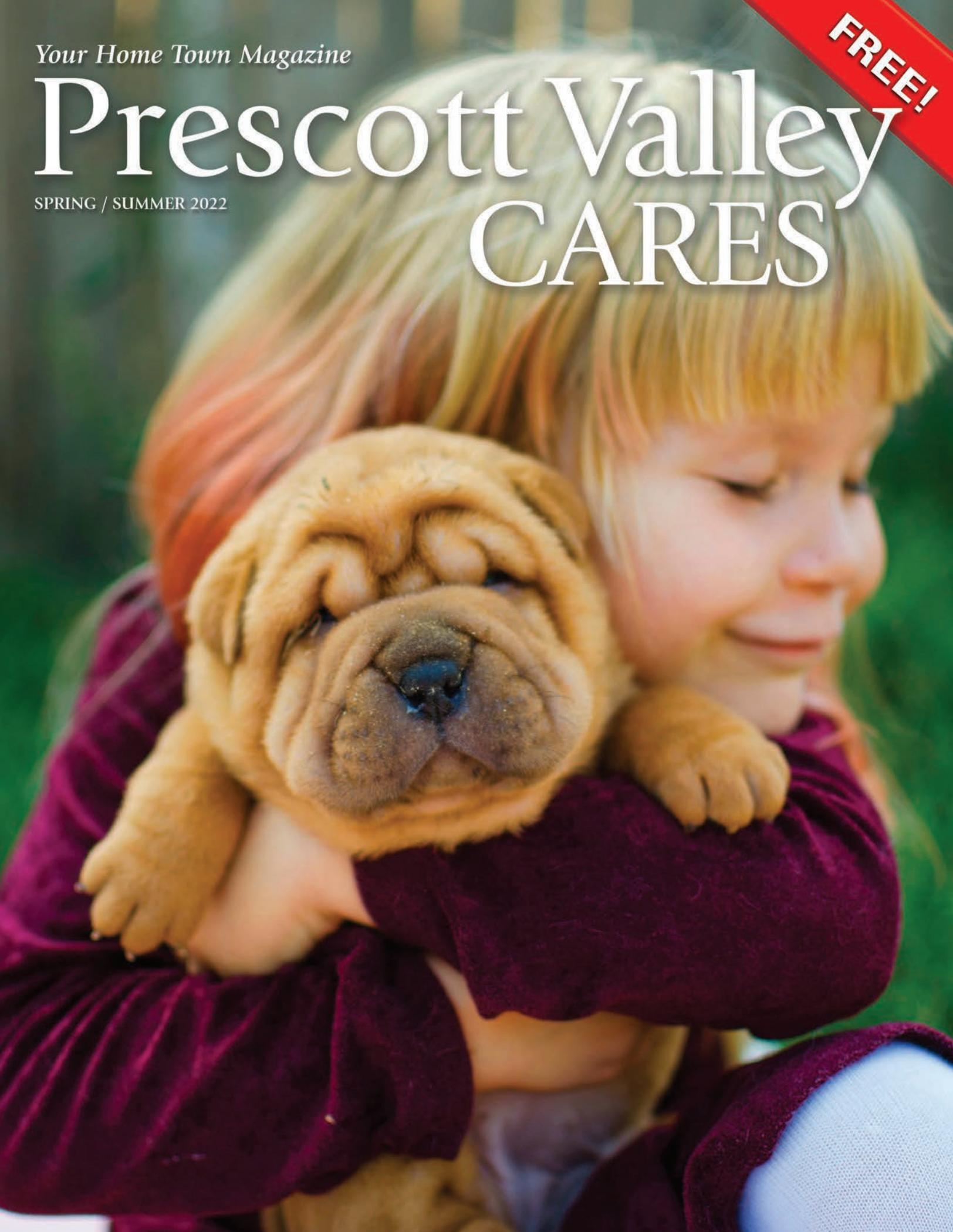


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# A PRETTY HAPPY CREW OF PEOPLE



**Yavapai Exceptional Industries (YEI!) is truly an exceptional organization. Founded in 1974, this nonprofit agency provides job training, employment, volunteer placements, and support services to local adults with disabilities.**

The “Developmental Employment” program at YEI! includes the award-winning “Community Contribution Corps” and has been continually accredited at the highest level of service by the National Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities since 1978.

More than certifications and programs, the faces of YEI! are what make it special.

“This is a pretty happy crew of people,” said Charity Bishop, an Employment Coordinator at YEI’s Ruger Airpark Industries location. “And that’s uncommon these days.”

“YEI! is the ultimate safe space,” said Brad Newman, the organization’s Executive Director. “It’s safe to be fun, to have fun, to be yourself. And of course, nobody dwells on your disability or your challenges. The whole focus is on your abilities and aspirations.”

Although YEI! focuses on normalization, Brad said, helping provide YEI! guys and gals with a “normal life, normal schedule, normal role for adults in the community and the economy,” the YEI! approach is unique, and it brings out the best in every member of the YEI! community.

It’s all about fun.

“It’s a culture. There’s a language. There are costumes,” Brad said.

With employees who have a deep devotion to the YEI! crew, and a culture that emphasizes fun, people come out of their shells and genuinely enjoy being there.

“It’s all the right things,” Brad said. “More of the world should be like us.”

Recently, six YEI! women shared what they love about YEI!

## **Laurie Boaz, Member of the YEI! Board of Directors**

**Length of time at YEI:** two and a half years.

**YEI! Favorites:** “I just love that this is the happiest place on earth. These friends are the hardest-working and happiest people anywhere.”

She called YEI! “an amazing support system—but one that is not without competition, and very enthusiastic competition.” She said, “It just catches you up in it.”

She also loves that YEI! guys and gals are productive members of society.

## **Charity Bishop, Employment Coordinator at Ruger Airpark Industries, and Staff and Community Instructor**

**Length of time at YEI:** nine years.

**YEI! Favorites:** “I love being around the people we support. I get a lot of

# Some of the Women of Yavapai Exceptional Industries Share What Makes it 'The Happiest Place on Earth' *By Hilary Dartt*



value and satisfaction going to work every day and interacting with the people. These are honest, earnest relationships."

Charity said she appreciates that YEI! is inclusive to everyone who needs support—regardless of whether they have government funding. "People need community regardless of circumstances," she said.

**Lisha Mueller, Front Desk Receptionist and Production Technician**

**Length of time at YEI:** five years.

**YEI! Favorites:** "I never knew I had the job skill of answering a phone, and YEI! proved to me that I do. I'm happy to talk to people."

Lisha also collates as part of her work at YEI! and she said, "I'm just glad to be there."

**Anna Pisano, Employment Coordinator at Washington Avenue Industries**

**Length of time at YEI:** 19 years.

**YEI! Favorites:** "I just love it all. I enjoy coming to work. Sometimes you get up feeling bad, but seeing

the smiles and joy of these guys makes it all go away."

It's fun to see the YEI! guys and gals feel proud of what they're doing, she said.

**Kara Warrick, Production Technician**

**Length of time at YEI:** 30 years.

**YEI! Favorites:** "Just being with everybody—my YEI family ... and my boyfriend, Justin."

In addition to working at YEI! Kara works at Wendy's, and said, "I've been lucky to have two jobs. My co-workers and bosses are good to me, and I like meeting new people."

**Cynthia White, Member of the YEI! Board of Directors**

**Length of time at YEI:** three years.

**YEI! Favorites:** "It's amazing to see how happy everyone is here, and how hard they work." She loves the organization's expanded activity schedule, and the fact that all the YEI! guys and gals get to participate.

"When you visit YEI," she said, "you can't help being happy and impressed by the facilities."

YEI! is a charitable organization founded in 1974 to support adults with disabilities living in the Central Highlands by providing them with job training, employment, volunteer placements, and support services, as well as hosted family-style group homes. For more information, visit [www.yeiworks.com](http://www.yeiworks.com) or call **928.445.0991**.



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## THE PRESCOTT VALLEY EARLY BIRD



The Prescott Valley Early Bird Lions Club continues to be a vibrant, active club in the town of Prescott Valley and surrounding area. The club members promote the many activities that make the Lions a community resource for helping to improve the lives of the visually impaired as well as those with hearing loss.

The PVEB Club actively engages in the cause and every year helps children and adults with free eye exams and eyeglasses.

According to PVEB Lion John Agan, his club has donated more than \$83,000 in free eye exams and glasses for the working poor in Prescott Valley and the surrounding area. The club helps close to 100 individuals each year.

The club also recognizes the Student of the Month from the local Humboldt Unified School District and is proud of its standing in the community - not to mention the annual Food Drive that contributes meals to families needing a helping hand.

The popular White Cane event also brings

awareness to the club's endeavor to help blind citizens achieve independence. Many folks in the town and quad-cities area have learned to recognize the white cane's significance in advancing independence and each year on October 15th "White Cane Safety Day" has become one of many events bringing people together.

The annual Christmas Tree sales tradition continues in Prescott Valley and for the past two years, the trees have sold out in record time.

The Prescott Valley Early Bird Lions Club also collects canned food for the Hungry Kids Program. Let's not forget the annual Prescott Valley Days Parade that features a special theme whereby citizens come out and enjoy a morning of floats and fun

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# LIONS CLUB

- a great way to promote the club and its many contributions to the community.

What makes the PVEB Club unique is the special guest speaker that is typically showcased each week. For example, a representative from First Things First spoke at a recent PVEB Lion's meeting and the topic was Arizona's early childhood agency catering to children from birth to age five.

In addition, the non-profit Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary featured at a morning meeting and the speaker explained how this local attraction sits on ten acres in Prescott overlooking Willow Lake. This zoo is home to many animals that have either been injured, abandoned or are unable to be released back into the wild.

Miss Yavapai County 2020 Alexes Niekamp spoke at a PVEB meeting as well and explained that the Miss Yavapai County is a scholarship organization for young women in Arizona that encourages leadership and community awareness. Ms Niekamp enjoyed the opportunity to spread the word about the scholarship program and even became a PVEB member last year!

Membership tops the list as one of the many goals of the club and reaching out to the youth in the community is always foremost as the younger generation brings renewed energy into the club.

The ability to view the meetings from the comfort of home also became a reality with the weekly Zoom meeting opportunities for those club members

wanting to keep a comfortable social distance when needed.

For more information about the Prescott Valley Early Bird Lions Club, visit the website at [prescottvalleylions.org](http://prescottvalleylions.org).



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## “THE MOTHER LODGE OF ARIZONA”



“The Mother Lodge of Arizona”, Elks Lodge #330 of the B.P.O.E., is located in Prescott Valley at 6245 E. 2nd Street. They were given this name

as they were very first lodge to hold a meeting in Arizona. Their charter began in 1896 and their national motto is “Elks Care, Elks Share.”

The Lodge is a place where neighbors can come together to share a meal, enjoy a holiday celebration, or sit and visit in the lounge. Bingo games are held twice a week to help raise funds for many of our programs. We also maintain an RV park on the premises for traveling Elks from all over the country who enjoy a stay in the area.

Community programs is high on the list of members and, since we have quite a large veteran population in in the quad-city area, our Lodge has chosen to be highly active with veteran’s assistance programs through the US Vets program and the Prescott VA Medical Center. Each December, the knitters and crocheters in our Lodge donate their beautiful hats, scarves, and neck warmers to programs for homeless veterans.

Another big priority of the Lodge is providing clothing for school children. Each fall, members take kids shopping for new school



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# ELKS LODGE #330 OF THE B.P.O.E

clothes with their Clothe-A-Child program, where each child gets to spend up to \$100 on new outfits. The kids love that they can shop for items they like, and the members really enjoy spending the day with the kids. The Elks also offer several scholarships each year to high school students and are active in helping the local schools promote healthy lifestyles through the drug awareness program.

In December, the Lodge hosted a Children's Christmas Party, supplying lunch, games, crafts, and gifts to over 40 children from the quad-city area. Santa made his big entrance and all the kids got to sit on his lap, whisper

their Christmas wishes in his ear and go home with a stocking full of goodies.

The Elks is a fraternal organization committed to improving their local communities and offering fellowship and fun activities for their members. To be eligible for membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, you must be a citizen of the United States over the age of 21 who believes in God. Prospective members can be sponsored by any member in good standing from any lodge in

the country. The Prescott Lodge can be reached at (928) 772-8660 or [bpoelk330@gmail.com](mailto:bpoelk330@gmail.com).



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# The PRESCOTT VALLEY CARES COMMUNITY CAL

## MARCH

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

Every Wednesday & Friday

Time: Doors open at 4pm

Bingo starts at 5:30pm

Location: 6245 E. 2nd Street

Prescott Valley

Cost: Varies

### ANNUAL YOUTH ARTS MONTH

Date: All March Long

Location: Arts and Culture

Civic Center

Description: Come to the Arts and Culture Civic Center to see the display of amazing art by our community youth

### THE VOICES OF DANCE

Date: March 5th

Time: 7:00 pm- 9:30 pm

Date: March 6th

Time: 3pm-6:30pm

Location: Yavapai College Performing Arts Center, 1100 E. Sheldon St., Prescott AZ 86301. (928) 776-2000

Cost: Tickets from \$25; Youth Tickets \$10

Description: Ballet Victoria's Carmina Burana with the Yavapai College choral ensembles, to celebrate Borodin, Vivaldi, and a host of classical composers in a grand spectacle of music and dance!

### FRAUD & SCAMS PRESENTATION

Date: March 24th

Time: 12 noon

Location: VFW Post 10227 located at 2375 N 5th Street

Cost: Free

Description: Fraudulent scheme attempts are becoming commonplace in our society. The more you know, the better you can protect yourself from becoming a victim of one of these terrible crimes. Victims in our community have lost thousands of dollars to the criminals. Help stop these crooks in their tracks by learning more about how they operate

Host: The VFW, The Prescott Valley Police Department and The Arizona Attorney General's office.

### PINK MARTINI

Date: March 24th

Time: 7pm-9:30pm

Location: Yavapai College Performing Arts Center, 1100 E. Sheldon St., Prescott AZ 86301. (928) 776-2000

Cost: Tickets from \$35

Description: Twelve-member orchestra

with the Big Band style gleefully crosses musical genres -- from classical, jazz, pop and world music -- to bring you the greatest songs from here, there and everywhere!

### MIKE SUPER: MAGIC & ILLUSION

Date: March 26th

Time: 7pm

Location: Yavapai College Performing Arts Center, 1100 E. Sheldon St., Prescott AZ 86301. (928) 776-2000

Cost: Tickets from \$35; Youth Tickets \$10.

Description: Meet the only Illusionist ever to win a magic competition on live U.S. TV! "America's Got Talent" finalist Mike Super blends an everyman approach with astonishing stunts for an evening of easy laughs and jaw-dropping reveals!

## APRIL

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

Every Wednesday & Friday

Time: Doors open at 4pm

Bingo starts at 5:30pm

Location: 6245 E. 2nd Street

Prescott Valley

Cost: Varies

### PUBLIC LIBRARY ART DISPLAY

Date: All Month Long

The Prescott Valley Public Art Display is a rotating showcase of art by both professional and amateur local artists. This show is located on the first and second floor walls at the Prescott Valley Public Library, and it is free for the public to view during regular library hours. (Library hours: Sunday 11am-3pm; Monday-Thursday 9am-7pm; Friday 9am-5pm; Saturday 9am-3pm)

### 6TH ANNUAL PRESCOTT VALLEY POLICE FOUNDATION BALL DROP

Date: Sunday April 24th

Time: 8am

Location: Stoneridge Golf Course

Cost: Varies

Contact Kay @ (928) 775-4002 after 2pm

### EGGSTRAVAGANZA & FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL

Date: April 9th

Time: 9am-12:30

Location: Civic Center Lawn

Cost: Free

Description: Egg hunt, Family fun, Arts Vendors, Inflatables and more

### ANNUAL ARBOR DAY EVENT

Date: April 29th

Time: 10am

Location: TBD

Description: The Living Tree and Commemorative Bench Donation Program lets you celebrate life in tribute to a wedding, birth of a child, anniversary, or to honor the memory of a loved one in a very special way. As an added remembrance, a plaque can be installed by the tree or on the bench. The Living Tree and/or Commemorative Bench will be purchased from funds donated to the FRIENDS of Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation, a 501c3 organization, whose mission is to "Put Our Community in Motion by Enhancing the Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Experience!"

## MAY

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

Every Wednesday & Friday

Time: Doors open at 4pm

Bingo starts at 5:30pm

Location: 6245 E. 2nd Street

Prescott Valley

Cost: Varies

### THANK THE BLUE

Date: Wednesday, May 18th

Time: 7pm

Location: Theater on the Green @ Prescott Valley Civic Center

Cost: Free

Description: Community event to show appreciation for our Prescott Valley Police.

Contact: Kay (928) 775-4002 after 2pm for questions.

Family fun for all ages.

### WHISKEY OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT & FESTIVAL-PRESCOTT

Date: May 1st

Time: 7am

Location: Whiskey Row

Description: The Whiskey Off-Road Mountain Bike Event & Festival Ride the Whiskey Off Road: Choose from three different distance options ( 15-, 30- or 50-Mile Courses) Each crafted from a carefully curated set of trails in Historic Prescott Arizona.

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# ENDAR of EVENTS

## JUNE

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

Every Wednesday & Friday

Time: Doors open at 4pm

Bingo starts at 5:30pm

Location: 6245 E. 2nd Street

Prescott Valley

Cost: Varies

### 2022 ELEVATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

3-day music festival

Date: June 24th – 26th

Time: 7pm

Location: Findley Toyota Center

3201 N Main St

Description: Elevate Music Festival will be held on June 24-26, 2022. Come enjoy live quality Christian music.

### BOZ SCAGGS- CITY OF PRESCOTT

Date: June 8th

Time: 7pm

Location: Yavapai College Performing Arts Center

Cost: \$59.00 Tickets in advance

Description: Look out for that low-down! The coolest voice of the '70s is back with a new tour, a new album and a set list full of memories like "Lido Shuffle" "Jojo" "Lowdown" and "We're All Alone." Tickets from \$59.

### PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS 50TH YEAR

Date: June 28th- July 4th

Times: Vary

Location: Prescott Fair Grounds

Description: 135th World's Oldest Rodeo, since 1888. Prescott's Most anticipated event of the year

Celebrating 50 Years "Junior Bonner," the

1972 classic western film featuring Steve

McQueen and filmed in Prescott

Rodeo Performances: June 28th, 29th, 30th,

July 1st, 2nd, 3rd @ 7:30PM / July 2nd, 3rd

& July 4th 1:30 PM also.

Tickets & Schedules at

[www.worldsoldestrodeo.com](http://www.worldsoldestrodeo.com) or

928-445-3103

## JULY

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

Every Wednesday & Friday

Time: Doors open at 4pm

Bingo starts at 5:30pm

Location: 6245 E. 2nd Street

Prescott Valley

Cost: Varies

### PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS 50TH YEAR

Date: June 28th- July 4th

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Tickets & Schedules at

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### 4TH OF JULY PRESCOTT VALLEY

Date: July 4th

Time: 4-9:30pm

Location: Mountain Valley Park

8600 Nace Lane

Cost: Free

Celebrate Independence Day with us! Live music, food trucks and the best fireworks in Northern Arizona.

### THEATER ON THE GREEN 2022 CONCERT SERIES

Date: Saturday, July 30st

Time: 7pm

Location: Theater on the Green

Prescott Valley Civic Center

Cost: Free

Description: Join us for our FREE outdoor concerts at our Theater on the Green.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for an

enjoyable evening of music on the rolling

green lawns of the Civic Center campus. For

questions, contact Community Services at

928-759-3090 or email [arts&culture@pvaz.net](mailto:arts&culture@pvaz.net)

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## AUGUST

### PRESCOTT ELKS LODGE BINGO

Every Wednesday & Friday

Time: Doors open at 4pm

Bingo starts at 5:30pm

Location: 6245 E. 2nd Street

Prescott Valley

Cost: Varies

### THEATER ON THE GREEN 2022 CONCERT SERIES

Date: Sunday, August 6th

Time: 7pm

Location: Theater on the Green

Prescott Valley Civic Center

Cost: Free

Description: Join us for our FREE outdoor

concerts at our Theater on the Green. Bring

your blankets and lawn chairs for an enjoyable

evening of music on the rolling green lawns of

the Civic Center campus. For questions, contact

Community Services at 928-759-3090 or email

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### 35TH ANNUAL PRESCOTT FINE ART AND WINE FESTIVAL

Date: August 6th

Time: 9am to 8pm

Location: Prescott Court Square

Description: The 35th Annual Prescott Fine

Art & Wine Festival takes place on the

Yavapai Courthouse Plaza on Aug. 6-7, 2021.

Presented by the Mountain Artists Guild, this

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Contact Info. :

Mountain Artists Guild

Phone: 928-445-2510

Website: [www.mountainartistsguild.org](http://www.mountainartistsguild.org)

[www.vermillionpromotions.com](http://www.vermillionpromotions.com)

### THEATER ON THE GREEN 2022 CONCERT SERIES

Date: Saturday, August 20th

Time: 7pm

Location: Theater on the Green

Prescott Valley Civic Center

Cost: Free

Description: Join us for our FREE outdoor

concerts at our Theater on the Green.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for an

enjoyable evening of music on the rolling

green lawns of the Civic Center campus. For

questions, contact Community Services at

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### THEATER ON THE GREEN 2022 CONCERT SERIES

Date: Saturday, August 27th

Time: 7pm

Location: Theater on the Green

Prescott Valley Civic Center

Cost: Free

Description: Join us for our FREE outdoor

concerts at our Theater on the Green.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for an

enjoyable evening of music on the rolling

green lawns of the Civic Center campus.

For questions, contact Community Services

at 928-759-3090 or email [arts&culture@pvaz.net](mailto:arts&culture@pvaz.net)

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# OUR COMMUNITY IS IN CRISIS



The Quad Cities are facing an ambulance transport crisis. There is only one provider licensed by the state to provide transport when you dial 9-1-1, and that is American Medical Response (AMR), owned by Global Medical Response (GMR), who is owned by a private equity company (KKR) out of New York.

Over six years ago, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA) began expressing concerns to AMR and the State regarding extended ambulance response times. We have had numerous conversations over the years with AMR representatives, the Bureau of EMS, and community stakeholders. When we first began expressing concern, AMR staffed eleven paramedic ambulances in our area. Today, we only see three to four with paramedics, and on some days an additional two or three with only basic life support capabilities.

The City of Prescott and CAFMA cover 420 square miles and a resident population of 156,000. In comparison,

the Verde Valley has a population of approximately 75,000 and a much smaller geographic area. Between fire-based ambulance transport and the not-for-profit private ambulance provider, they typically have eight to nine paramedic staffed ambulances each day. Their residents do not experience the delays we see in the Quad Cities.

CAFMA has filed over 1100 complaints with the Bureau of EMS, including five for untoward outcomes (deaths), and still nothing has been done. In June of 2021, the situation reached crisis levels leading our agency to borrow Rescue vehicles from other Arizona agencies. Prior to obtaining the Rescues, we had

been transporting and treating patients in their own private vehicles or in our fire engines.

Between July 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, AMR went Level Zero, no ambulances available, at least 760 times. Level Zero does not just last for seconds or minutes; in fact, we have recorded phone calls between AMR's dispatch and the Prescott Regional Communications Center (PRCC) in which the AMR dispatcher is notifying PRCC that as many as four calls are stacked up with no units to send. In at least one of those, the patient was in cardiac arrest in Prescott Valley.

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# CAFMA needs your help!

Our engine crews are routinely told that they have no ambulance assigned to their call, or that the ambulance assigned is 30 minutes to an hour and 15 minutes away. Some of the ambulances are being pulled from Wickenburg, Williams, or other places around the valley to try and backfill the Quad Cities. This creates a cascading effect in other parts of the state.

How did the situation get this bad? Quite simply, the Bureau of EMS under the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) has failed to act or provide any real checks and balances where ambulance response is concerned.

In 1999, the Arizona Auditor General issued a scathing report regarding the regulation used to license ambulances in the state. The auditor described the system as unnecessary regulation that prevents competition and fails to meet its goal of ensuring adequate transport services across the state. He also found that the Bureau did not have sufficient procedures in place to monitor and assess response times and response time reporting. These are just a few examples of what is in the report. In nearly a quarter century, no action has been

taken to update the licensing statute, or oversight, within the Bureau.

What can we do? The Arizona Fire Service has worked with Representative Judy Burges to run legislation this session to update the statute regarding ambulance licensing and oversight.

CAFMA has worked with another private provider who is seeking their Certificate of Necessity (CON), the ambulance transport license, to operate in our area. Additionally, CAFMA has submitted our CON application to operate ambulances as a supplement to the 9-1-1 system. We have also requested temporary authority to operate ambulances as a stop gap, however the state has declined.

What can you do to help? Call the Governor's office and request that CAFMA be granted temporary authority to operate and that our CON application be expedited. Additionally, contact local



and state elected officials to express your support for legislative change. We are looking for people who would be willing to share their ambulance transport stories during committee hearings at the Capitol, and/or with the news media.

Together, we can fix the problem and ensure appropriate ambulance transport services are available for our communities.

If you have a story to share, please email [ambulance@cazfire.org](mailto:ambulance@cazfire.org). For more information, visit our website at [cazfire.org](http://cazfire.org), and our social media platforms.



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# THANK THE BLUE!

You are invited to a free community event to show appreciation for the Prescott Valley police officers. The Prescott Valley Police Foundation is hosting our third annual Thank The Blue event at 7:00 PM on Wednesday May 18, 2022 at the Theater on the Green at the Prescott Valley Civic Center. We are planning a patriotic concert in honor of our Police Department. We welcome the community to join us in showing support for our police officers. The event takes place on the lawn so bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. This event has been greatly appreciated by the people attending as well as the police officers.



## SPONSORS NEEDED.

The Police Foundation would greatly appreciate businesses, individuals, organizations, and others who would be able to help sponsor this event. The only expense for the event is professional sound which costs from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Our normal funds are not available for this event so we appreciate everyone who can help us. If you are interested in helping sponsor this free event, please call Kay at 928-775-4002 after 2 p.m. or email us at [pvpolicefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:pvpolicefoundation@gmail.com). Thank you for considering our event!

## Prescott Valley Police Foundation

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that raises funds to provide non-budgeted resources for the Prescott Valley Police Department, including equipment, training, and other projects. We have special emphasis on safety-related items that help keep our officers safer or enable them to keep residents and our community safer.

Founded in 2008, we have helped fund many projects some of which include Mobile Command Center, K-9 equipment/training/dogs, vests, paint/repair of SWAT vehicles, rifle racks, tasers, Bike Patrol bicycles/equipment, trauma kits, heavy-duty flashlights, push bumpers, and other special projects.

We apply for grants, have fundraising activities, and accept donations anytime during the year from individuals, businesses, organizations, churches, etc.



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Donations can be in any amount and can be a general donation that we can use for whatever the Police Department needs, or can be designated for a special purpose such as Thank The Blue, K-9, SWAT, etc.

We accept checks or cash. Make checks to Prescott Valley Police Foundation. If you want it to be used for a special purpose such as Thank The Blue or K9, etc., write the purpose in the notes at the bottom of the check. Any checks that do not have a designated purpose at the bottom will go into our general fund for whatever the Police Department needs. Cash donations should include a note saying what special purpose you want them used for, otherwise they will go into the general fund. Donations can be put in an envelope addressed to Prescott Valley Police Foundation and left with

the staff in the lobby of the Police Station, or they can be mailed to:

**Prescott Valley Police Foundation  
P.O. Box 27532 Prescott Valley, AZ  
86312**

## Ball Drop

Our Ball Drop will be on Sunday April 24th along with our annual Golf Tournament. The Ball Drop is an event that is open to the public - anyone, anywhere. It is not limited to golfers but we have it at the Golf Tournament because golfers buy a lot of the balls. We sell golf balls for \$10 each with a maximum of 500 balls sold. At Stoneridge during the tournament, the Central Arizona Fire and Medical ladder truck sets up at a special hole. The firemen carry the bucket of purchased golf balls to the top of the ladder truck and drop them onto the hole. The ball first in the hole or closest to the hole wins. The prize is 50% of the proceeds that we make on Ball Drop sales. The winner need not be present to win. Anyone who wants to watch the Ball Drop



needs to call Kay at **928-775-4002** so she can give them instructions on when/where to attend. The prize in the past has been as high as \$940. Buy as many balls as you want by April 22.

## Country Dinner Dance

We plan to hold our annual Country Dinner Dance in the fall. The event includes a live band, dinner, dancing/line dancing, raffle, and silent auction. Join us for a great, fun evening.

## Volunteers

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the work of our events, please call Kay at **928-775-4002** after 2 p.m. or email [pvpolicefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:pvpolicefoundation@gmail.com). We would welcome people who can help beforehand and/or during the events.

Whether you are interested in attending, sponsoring, or helping with any of our events, or making donations, we greatly appreciate you joining with us to help support the Prescott Valley Police Department and its officers. Thank you very much!



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# PHONES CAN BE A DANGEROUS

**In 2020, 5 teens in our county died of a fentanyl overdose. The youngest of them was 14-years-old. A total of 10 teens have died of a fentanyl overdose since 2018.**

The majority were not seeking the lethal opioid drug fentanyl. They thought they were taking a much less potent painkiller, like Oxycodone® or Percocet®, or the anti-anxiety medication Xanax®. But they unknowingly took a counterfeit pill laced with fentanyl.

As parents we often ask why they chose to use drugs? A lot of these teens came from “good homes,” and “good families.” But, as substance use prevention professionals we know, and have seen time and again, that drug use does not discriminate.

The 2020 Arizona Youth Survey revealed that the top 3rd and 4th reasons youth in Yavapai County use drugs is to deal with stress and emotions they don’t know how to cope with, like sadness and anxiety.

Teens often find ads listing a menu of drugs available and posted on social media apps, like Snapchat, Instagram, and TikTok, to order drugs. Everything is handled online, including the exchange of money, usually right within the app. But, the scariest part of this drug transaction is that it is then delivered right to their front door, often faster than pizza delivery.

Several of the teens that died used social media apps to get the counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl. At least three of those teens purchased the pills from a “trusted dealer” they had purchased marijuana from previously.

But, there is hope! Preliminary data from 2021 found that teen overdose deaths decreased 80% from 2020 to 2021 in Yavapai County. Though even one teen death is heartbreaking, it shows progress in keeping our youth healthy.

What can you do to help continue this positive trend with our teens? Talk to your children, your children’s friends, and any child you interact with regularly. Visit [TalkNowAZ.com](http://TalkNowAZ.com) to learn how to talk to youth in your sphere of influence about the dangers of taking a pill not prescribed to them.

We should also be addressing youth mental health. Every child in our county should know that there is a trusted adult available to listen. Sadly, this is not always the case. So, how can we make sure that every child has access to a trusted adult to talk to? Let them know about the resources available for youth.

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# CONNECTION FOR OUR KIDS

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- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline | (800) 273-8255
  - They do not have to be in crisis to call this number.
- Text **HOME** to **741741** to connect with a crisis counselor 24/7.

Working together to keep the youth in Yavapai County healthy is a community's responsibility. When our youth are dying from drug overdose it becomes a pressing responsibility. Visit [TalkNowAZ.com](http://TalkNowAZ.com) today to learn more.

**Talk**

Teen Lifeline	800-248-8336 (TEEN)
Teens Helping Teens	800-TLC-TEEN
Suicide Prevention Hotline	800-273-8255
Northern AZ Crisis Line	877-756-4090
NAMI Help Line	800-950-NAMI (6264)

**Text**

Text **ABOVE** to **741-741**  
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**Substance Abuse Resources**

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Resources & Information:	<a href="http://samhsa.gov">samhsa.gov</a> <a href="http://drugfree.org">drugfree.org</a>
Support Groups:	<a href="http://al-anon.alateen.org">al-anon.alateen.org</a>

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# CHILDREN AND ALLERGIES

***“Oh, my goodness! Little Johnny has developed a runny nose and itchy eyes. Is this a cold? The flu? A new strain of COVID or something worse???”***

Raising a child is a challenge; they get into everything, put anything and everything they can find into their mouths, and seem to be the perfect reservoir of germs. When your child gets sick for the first time it can be quite scary. There are a lot of different reasons for a child to get sick and that can be overwhelming, even for a trained professional. Having a team on your child's side when you need it the most is critical for the inevitable time in your child's life when they get sick.

Spring is just around the corner and, during this time of year, seasonal allergies are often the culprit of your child's new “cold like” symptoms. Despite the current pandemic, “cold like” symptoms that are prolonged, may be allergies. Take note, however, that seasonal allergies are typically only seen in children older than two years of age. This is important to note so that if your child is under two years, the symptoms are potentially more concerning. Young children need time to develop sensitivities to environmental allergens, usually allergies develop after at least one season of a specific allergen.

**The typical allergens include:**

- pollen from trees, grasses, weeds, or mold spores which grow in damp environments, and/or

- insects such as dust mites and cockroaches, and animal dandruff from the family dog or cat.

*(Food allergies are a topic for another article).*

Children often do not understand what is happening to them, nor do they know how to tell you about it. It is imperative to understand the signs and symptoms of seasonal allergies so you can help your child as soon as possible. You might notice your child developing a runny nose, a sore throat, or see them rubbing their eyes or ears, sneezing, wheezing, or waking up during the night when they are typically good sleepers. These symptoms often last a long period of time, weeks to months, and come back on an annual basis. The symptoms, especially if related to sleep, can

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## What Should New Parents Look For?

By Dr. Shelly Klein & Alex Schlangen, MS-III

lead to worsening concentration at school or decreased abilities in sports.

If you are concerned your child may be suffering from seasonal allergies, you should bring your child to their pediatrician for a physical examination and possible allergy skin testing. Allergy skin testing is not a required step, but can help the doctor figure out what could be causing your child's symptoms. The test involves the physician and their team putting a small amount of a common allergen on your child's skin and watching to see how the skin reacts. If your child does have seasonal allergies, there are several ways to offer relief. Your pediatrician can suggest salt water nose rinses, steroid nose sprays, antihistamines, allergy shots, or allergy drops to place under the tongue. In order to find out how to best help your child, it is important

to get your child evaluated and together, as a team, you can discuss the pros and cons of each treatment. At home, there

are also several ways to help minimize your child's symptoms—especially, if you know what the common triggers are. You can keep the car and house windows closed and use the air conditioning during the summer, have your child take a bath or shower before bed to rinse pollen off of their hair and skin, try to keep the dog or cat out of the house if possible, and use a vacuum with a special HEPA filter to keep indoor air as clean as possible.

Seasonal allergies are likely something your child will deal with for the remainder of their lives and can be managed easily once one knows what they are looking for, when to look for it, what to avoid and who to go to for help.

### References

Doctors and Editors of UpToDate. "Patient Education: Seasonal Allergies in Children (The Basics)." UpToDate. ([https://www.uptodate.com/mwu.idm.oclc.org/contents/seasonal-allergies-in-children-the-basics?search=seasonal%20allergies&source=search\\_result&selectedTitle=2-148&usage\\_type=default&display\\_rank=2](https://www.uptodate.com/mwu.idm.oclc.org/contents/seasonal-allergies-in-children-the-basics?search=seasonal%20allergies&source=search_result&selectedTitle=2-148&usage_type=default&display_rank=2)). Accessed 16 Jan. 2022.)



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To order a print copy of the guide, call the AARP Family Caregiving Resource Line at **1-877-333-5885** and request the Arizona Family Caregiver Resource Guide. Or, order the guide online at [aarp.org/caregiverresources](http://aarp.org/caregiverresources).



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