

DATE: June 28th, 2024
TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Tom Whitmer, Acting City Manager
SUBJECT: Acting City Manager's Report – Week Ending – 06/28/2024



Dark Sky Event Tonight– The City of Cottonwood will be hosting a Star Party on June 28, 2024, from 8:30-10:00pm at Bent River Ranch, 725 Bent River Road, Clarkdale. Join us for an enjoyable and informative evening viewing the stars through telescopes provided by volunteer astronomers and enthusiasts! Please see the flyer attached.

Missoula Children's Theatre Program Tomorrow – On Saturday June 29th there will be two performances of Treasure Island featuring children of all ages. The first performance is at 3pm and the second is at 5:30. Tickets are available online at <https://secure.rec1.com/AZ/cottonwood-az/catalog> and will also be sold at the door. Adults are \$10 and children tickets are \$5. If you have any questions please call us at (928) 639-3200. Please see attached flyer.

July 4th Closure – Administrative offices & the Cottonwood Library will be closed in celebration of Independence Day. The Cottonwood Recreation Center will remain open on July 4th but will have adjusted hours of operation. Please see the attached flyer.

Cottonwood Police Department:

Successful Rescue Operation on Verde River Demonstrates Interagency Cooperation –

Cottonwood Police Department and the Verde Valley Fire Department joined forces for a successful rescue mission on the Verde River near the Bignotti river access. YCSO requested assistance in locating a mother and her 8-year-old daughter who had become separated from their family while floating the river. The distressed mother had called 911 from her cell phone, reporting that they were stranded on a large rock. Officer Schoemaker contacted the Fire Department, who had successfully located the mother and daughter. In a commendable display of selflessness, Officer Schoemaker carried the young girl on his back in sweltering heat to a designated rally point, while a fireman and Sergeant Huibregtse assisted in escorting the mother safely back to reunite with her family along with their boat. Please see press release and photo attached.

Public Safety Commendation – On June 26th, 2024 Cottonwood Police Department responded to an urgent call regarding a missing child near the Verde River. Showing exemplary professionalism and commitment to their oath, the Cottonwood Police and Fire Departments worked alongside the Yavapai County Sheriff's Officers and after extensive and efficient investigation, the missing child was located safely with their family. Additionally, the Cottonwood Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue team deployed on standby until further orders were received. This is truly an example of expert coordination, communication and dedication. We wish to thank all of our Public Safety heroes for showing the true meaning of service and sacrifice. Please read the full details in the attachment.

Cottonwood Public Library:

Summer Splash – The Cottonwood Public Library hosted a fantastic Summer Splash and Mess-tival at Garrison Park! Our Storytime kids enjoyed messy crafts, face painting, and playing in the kiddie pool. A big thank you to the Cottonwood Fire Department for bringing their fire truck and setting up a fire hose activity. The kids loved learning about fire safety in a fun way. Thank you to Parks and Rec for the use of the Park! Please see attached photos.

30th Anniversary – Cottonwood Public Library celebrated its 30th anniversary on Friday with a black-and-gold-themed birthday party. Over 100 attendees, including community partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, Yavapai County Health, and Mayor Elinski, enjoyed a self-guided display of the library’s history and services. Guests were treated to cake, punch, and door prizes. The event received enthusiastic compliments from patrons, reflecting their appreciation and love for the library. During the celebration, Christian Oliva del Rio of the Chamber of Commerce presented Jamie Shea, the library manager, and her team with a certificate honoring 30 years of community service. Please see photo attached.

Paws & Pages – On July 21st, 2024 the Library held a therapy dog read-a-thon. 70 patrons were able to read and interact with 9 dogs and their handlers from Paws with a Cause. This event was set up to help children improve their confidence with reading.

Cottonwood Recreation Center – On June 28th, our aquatics team completed one of their biweekly summer in-service trainings by going over updated American Red Cross lifesaving materials which included: shallow water spinal back boarding, escapes techniques while rescuing distressed and active drowning persons, and two person CPR for infants and children. Our aquatics team is committed to continual training to ensure safety in, on, and around water. Please see attached photos.

Public Works – AZ Lines successfully completed the edge line striping on Groseta Ranch Road (picture attached). This initiative was made possible due to remaining funds from the annual street striping project. By painting edge lines on Groseta Ranch Rd, we aim to address speeding concerns by effectively narrowing the roadway. This strategic measure not only enhances safety but also promotes better traffic management in the area.

Elevate Cottonwood – This week, the City of Cottonwood (Economic Development) and the Greater Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce hosted a very well attended Lunch and Learn that focused on the deeper dive of the City’s economic development plan. And also the unveiling of the business video series under the new economic development umbrella of Elevate Cottonwood that featured 6 local businesses who enjoy having a business in Cottonwood. The article may be accessed via this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c20aqlVM3adXt2dAfAd8nsgVDrTmZQjV/view?usp=drivesdk>

The first phase was a success, and we hope to keep this video series going. If business owners want to be included, they can simply send an email to pio@cottonwoodaz.gov.

Also, Cottonwood was named the Destination of the Year by Phoenix Magazine, as part of their inaugural Arizona Travel Awards series.

“Congratulations on being an [Arizona Travel Awards](#) winner for Destination of the Year! Your winning submission of Visit Cottonwood will be featured in [PHOENIX magazine's July/August issue](#), which hits newsstands this week. We will also promote the winners through the Arizona Travel Awards website and social media channels.”

Adult Softball League – Registration is open for our 2024 Adult Softball League until July 31st! The cost is \$400 per team. Men's League will play Monday & Wednesday nights and the Co-Ed League will play Tuesday & Thursday nights. Sign up online at <https://secure.rec1.com/AZ/cottonwood-az/catalog>. Want to play but don't have a team? Contact Travis at the REC to be placed on a waitlist for a team! Travis can be reached at 928-639-3200, via email at twilson@cottonwoodaz.gov, or in person at the REC (150 S. 6th Street). Please see attached flyer.

TW/hr

Attachments:

Flyer – Star Party

Flyer – Missoula

Flyer – July 4th REC

Article – CPD Press Release & Photo

Article – CPD
Pictures – Summer Splash
Pictures – CTWPL 30th Anniversary

Article – Paws & Pages
Picture – Groseta
Flyer – Adult Softball



THE CITY OF

COTTONWOOD

INDEPENDENCE DAY

CELEBRATING FREEDOM

The City of Cottonwood administrative offices will be closed on July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day.

Las oficinas administrativas de la Ciudad de Cottonwood estarán cerradas el 4 de julio de 2024 en observancia del Día de la Independencia.



COTTONWOOD



REC CENTER

INDEPENDENCE DAY

CELEBRATING FREEDOM

The Cottonwood Recreation Center will remain open on July 4, 2024 and will operate according to the following adjusted schedule:

Fitness Center: 4:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Indoor Pool: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Outdoor Pool: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Group Exercise Classes: Canceled



City of Cottonwood Presents



The Farm at Bent River Star Party

JUNE 28, 2024 • 8:30 - 10PM

**BENT RIVER RANCH
725 BENT RIVER ROAD, CLARKDALE, AZ**

**JOIN US FOR AN ENJOYABLE & INFORMATIVE EVENING VIEWING
THE STARS THROUGH TELESCOPES PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEER
ASTRONOMERS & ENTHUSIASTS!**

**LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL DARK
SKY COMMUNITY AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO PRESERVE OUR
BEAUTIFUL ARIZONA NIGHT SKIES!**



AUDITION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Missoula Children's Theatre is returning **June 2024 to Cottonwood, AZ to present **Treasure Island!****

Participation is **FREE & youth in **grades 1-12** are encouraged to participate!**

AUDITIONS

**June 24
10 am**

**Cottonwood Community
Club House**

REHEARSALS

**June 24-28
10 AM-12 PM
12:15-2:15 PM**

***Dates & times dependent
upon role assigned**

SHOWTIMES

**June 29
3 pm & 5:30 pm**

**Cottonwood Community
Club House**



**MISSOULA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE**

A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.



"Inspiring a Vibrant Community"

Press Release

Successful Rescue Operation on Verde River Demonstrates Interagency Cooperation

Cottonwood, AZ - June 23, 2024

Yesterday afternoon, the Cottonwood Police Department and the Verde Valley Fire Department joined forces for a successful rescue mission on the Verde River near the Bignotti river access, located within the Prescott National Forest and the Cottonwood City limits.

The incident began when YCSO requested assistance in locating a mother and her 8-year-old daughter who had become separated from their family while floating the river. The distressed mother had called 911 from her cell phone, reporting that they were stranded on a large rock and her phone battery was critically low.

Dispatchers at Cottonwood Police Department promptly gathered crucial location details and relayed them to responding officers, including Officer Schoemaker. Fortunately, Verde Valley Fire Department personnel, engaged in a training exercise nearby, were able to swiftly respond to the Bignotti area.

Sergeant Huibregtse and Officer Schoemaker coordinated efforts with the family and utilized information that the family had launched their excursion from Black Canyon Bignotti river access, becoming separated en route to Thousand Trails Bignotti river access. Officer Rafferty was directed to initiate search efforts from the Black Canyon Wash area, enhancing collaboration with fire department teams.

Approximately three-quarters of a mile upstream from the point of separation, Officer Schoemaker made contact with the fire department, who had successfully located the mother and daughter. In a commendable display of selflessness, Officer Schoemaker carried the young girl on his back in sweltering heat to a designated rally point, while a fireman and Sergeant Huibregtse assisted in escorting the mother safely back to reunite with her family along with their boat.

Despite experiencing minor injuries and dehydration, both the mother and daughter were in stable condition. The incident underscored the importance of seamless interagency cooperation and effective communication among emergency responders, including dispatchers, law enforcement, and fire personnel.

"I am proud of Officer Schoemaker and the entire team for their swift and decisive actions," stated Chief Dowell. "This operation exemplifies the dedication and professionalism of our department and our partners at Verde Valley Fire Department."

Attached to this release is a photograph capturing Officer Schoemaker's role in the successful rescue operation.

For further information, please contact the Cottonwood Police Department Public Information Office at [email address].

Photo Caption: Officer Schoemaker (right) assisting in the rescue operation on the Verde River.

End of Press Release





POLICE REPORT & COMMENDATION

Yesterday on 06-26-2024 and approximately 1714 hours we were dispatched to the report of a female acting erratically and stating her child was missing. (W24004368) Upon our arrival we contacted the reporting party, who was also the park manager, who advise the female appeared to be intoxicated and was acting erratic however, she also stated that she had a 4 1/2 year-old child who was missing somewhere along the river. The female provided the RP a description of the child and stated he was last seen carrying a basketball. Further, the RP advised while she was walking the river she observed a basketball floating down stream.

Officers contacted the female and quickly identified that she was heavily intoxicated and suffering from possible mental health issues. She provided officers the same story that her four year-old child was missing along the river and provided a description of the child. Officers tried to get more information from her but she was resistant and uncooperative and would only provide limited information. Inside the vehicle we observed a car seat which would've been the appropriate size for a 4 year old as well as children toys on the floor. Even though the female appeared to be having mental health issues and was providing conflicting stories about the child being missing or not there was enough physical evidence between the items located in the car and the consistency with the child's description and the basketball being observed by the RP to make it possible that we were indeed looking for a missing child . While attempting to identify other possible family members and the child's father to contact them and see if they knew where the child was currently located we began setting up and coordinating efforts to search along the river for the child incase the report was true.

Several agencies, including the Yavapai County Sheriffs Department and the Cottonwood Fire Department responded to assist in this effort. I requested YCSO deputies to give us more manpower to search along the river and there was no hesitation from YCSO. Very quickly a Deputy showed up on scene and begin getting relevant information from me and immediately started searching YCSO records to try to find information that we did not have available in our in house system. Sergeant Eller and Sergeant Hooten arrived a short time later and proved additional valuable resources. Deputies were able to assist in searching their records and located a possible address for the father in Spring Valley. Once a location for the child's father was determined, YCSO sergeants sent deputies to that address without hesitation to assist in locating the child. Thankfully, upon their arrival the child was located with his father and was not in danger. While talking to the child's father it was discovered that his elderly father was now in fact a missing person as he was with the female and was no longer answering his phone or communicating with anybody for approximately an hour. YCSO sergeants again assisted by staying on scene and assisting in coordinating efforts to locate the grandfather. Sgt Eller went as far as provided me his personal phone to communicate with the deputy on scene with the father to try to get

information as quickly as possible. Shortly after Sgt Eller left the original missing child scene I received a phone call from him advising they had located the elderly subject walking on SR 89A near Cornville Rd. When I arrived on scene I observed Sgt. Eller, Sgt Hooten and the unknown deputy acting in a professional and compassionate manner. Deputies had provided the elderly gentleman water and placed him inside their own vehicle in the air conditioning to cool him down while we were waiting for EMS to arrive. I begin coordinating efforts to get the elderly gentleman home if he was not going to be transported to the ER. During this time, Sgt. Hooten further provided assistance and YCSO resources and advised me they would provide the subject a ride back to his house in Spring Valley if I was unable to coordinate to get him home. Ultimately the subject was transported to the ER so this was not needed.

I believe this incident shows a great partnership and cooperation between local agencies . The assistance from YCSO deputies in this incident was invaluable and was a huge part to the successful resolution of locating the missing child and then missing grandfather. I would like to commend Sgt Hooten, Sgt Eller and the other unknown deputies who provided their assistance and their compassion throughout this entire incident. YCSO's assistance in this incident was invaluable and without it would've made our effort to locate the child much more difficult and much more time consuming.

I would also like to commend our communication employees for their assistance and efforts in this incident. As you can imagine there was a lot of tension when you are looking for a missing four year old child who was last seen in the river as the outcome to that could definitely be grave. During the incident there was lots and lots of radio traffic and lots of request for dispatch to perform tasks. At no point did any dispatcher give any attitude or any resistance when officers were repeatedly making transmissions and at times coving each other. I requested Dispatch to make several phone calls and several information request back to back to back and all of these request were carried out without issue and the information was provided to me as soon as possible. Furthermore, during it, Dispatch did not hesitate to offer additional resources which they knew would be available to officers. Once again their assistance in this incident was Paramount to a successful resolution and again goes to show everyone's roles in the incident are invaluable and help lead to a successful resolutions of a potentially grave situation.

Cottonwood fire ended up not being utilized however they were requested to respond to the scene and stage for a Swiftwater rescue if needed. Upon the crews arrival on scene we had just gotten information that the child was with his father so they were advised their services would not be needed. Even given this information, they advise they would not leave the scene and we're gonna stay in gear with the ability to quickly enter the water if needed until YCSO deputies physically put eyes on the child and insured that the information we were getting was correct. This kind of dedication and willingness to assist our efforts is again invaluable and commendable.

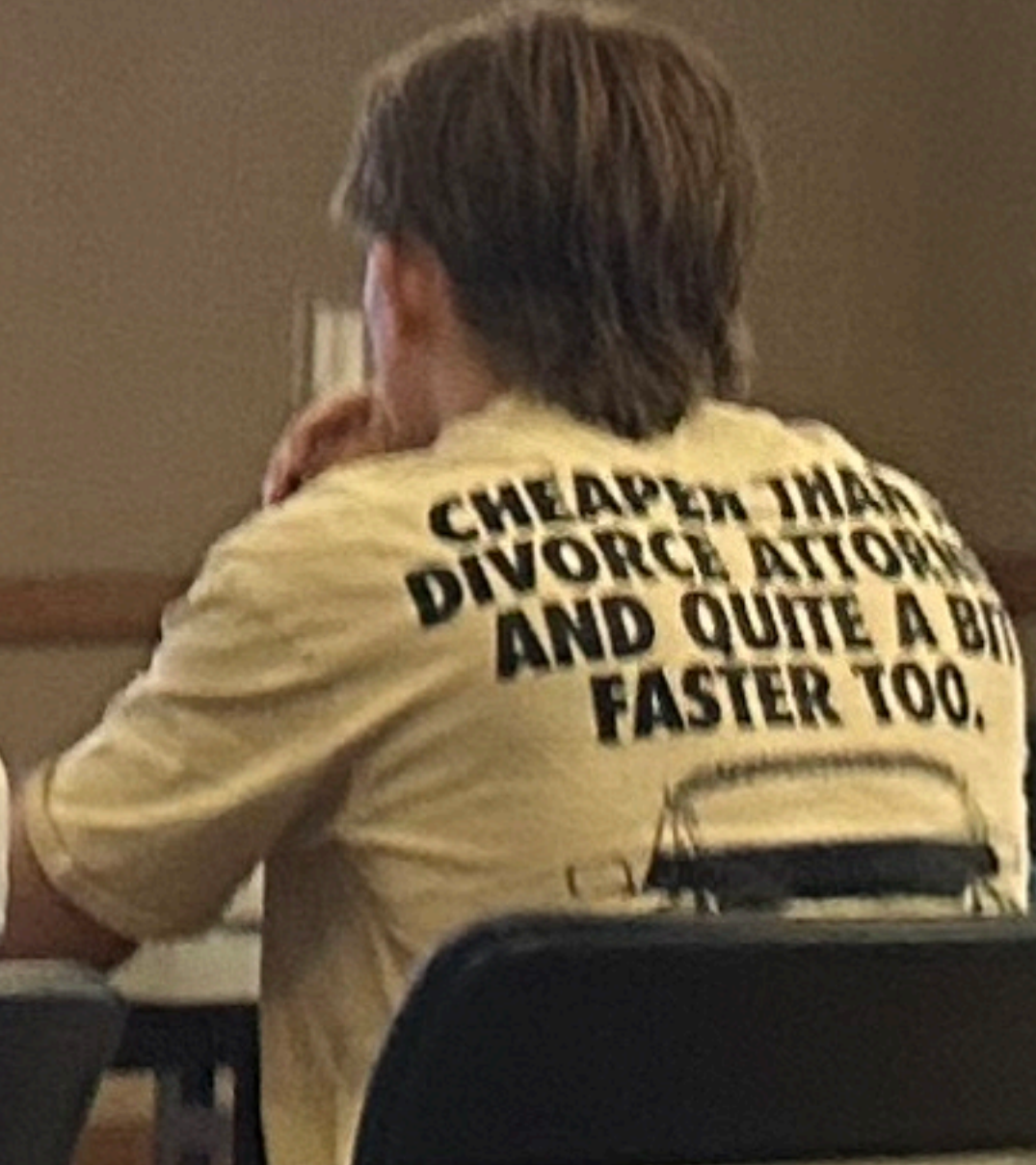
In addition to all of the outside resources our officers who responded were quick and professional in their response and did not hesitate to begin searching and providing assistance as they could. This incident had many challenges due to the limited information and the condition of the mother but that did not deter any of our employees response. During the entire incident, up until YCSO put eyes on the child, officer remained dedicated to the search for the missing child. I would like to commend Ofc. Holdsworth, Ofc. Wilson, Cpl Repp, Ofc. Olofson, Det. Long and PA Fimbres for their efforts.

If you could forward this appreciation onto the appropriate supervisory contacts you have within these agencies.

Thank you,

Sergeant R. Gibson #629
Training Sergeant
Verde Valley SWAT-TL
Cottonwood Police Department
199 South 6th Street
Cottonwood, Az 86326
T 928-634-4246 Ext: 2271







SOMEONE
IN
CHICAGO
LOVES ME.

Cottonwood Public Library

NOT TIME FOR A
CHECK QUESTION?
got an idea for a
... and want to
... at you think
... APPRECIATE
... OWNED FILE
THIS SURVEY



June 21, 2024
The Cottonwood Public Library held a therapy dog Read-a-thon
70 patrons were able to read and interact with 9 dogs and their handlers from Paws for a Cause







CITY OF COTTONWOOD

**2024
ADULT MENS & COED
SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

COST : \$400 / TEAM

MENS - MON & WED NIGHTS

COED - TUES & THURS NIGHTS

**GAMES WILL
START - AUGUST
27TH**

REGISTRATION

MAY 1ST - JULY 31ST

**[HTTPS://SECURE.REC1.COM/AZ/COTTONWOOD-
AZ/CATALOG](https://secure.rec1.com/az/cottonwood-az/catalog)**



**SCAN ME TO
SIGN UP TODAY!**



**QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL
TWILSON@COTTONWOODAZ.GOV**