



Career fair big hit with kids in PCJCC Detention Center

On July 24, the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center sponsored its eighth Career Fair.

We had representatives from the Goodwill Metro and Good Futures programs here as well as folks from AFNI, Job Corps, Las Artes, Teen Cuisine, Tucson Urban League, Tucson Youth Development, Pima Community College and other local organizations.

“It’s a really important event because it puts youth in touch with community resources, both education and vocational, that they may not be aware of,” said Guy McLee, juvenile detention alternatives specialist.

Trevor, 17, and Shayna, 16, said they were surprised and glad the event was offered. “I think it’s a good opportunity,” Shayna said. “Some people are lost and they don’t know what to do. They can ask for help here.”



Inside This Month’s Issue

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One of a kind study to dig at reasons behind reactivations

During the first six months of this year, 111 Pima County families who were reunited after going through months and months of counseling, parenting classes and drug tests were torn apart again.

A judge determined that, once again, the children in the family were being neglected or abused and would be safer in the custody of strangers or kin.

It's a national problem. In Pima County and nationally, roughly 15 percent of parents who get their children back lose them again.

Pima County Juvenile Court Judge K.C. Stanford wants to know why. So, in May he created a workgroup to study the issue.

"We're a national model court. We are supposedly at the top of our game in this field. We work with our community partners and we use evidence-based practices, but we're not impacting reactivations," Judge Stanford said.

"I want to know what it is that is causing cases to reactivate. We are a workgroup that is focused. We intend to dig down in the data and see what is demographically and systemically different between the 15% who reactivate and the 85 % who do not."

"We want to know if there are any policy changes or court practices that we can make to reduce our numbers and discuss our results with others," Judge Stanford said.

The workgroup has many stakeholders and at present is comprised of University of Arizona psychology professor Connie Beck, several of her social science research students as well as PhD. Candidates. The workgroup also has representatives from the court, Department of Child Safety, Office of Children's Counsel, contract counsel, behavioral health care providers and the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Office. Judge Stanford also has his law clerk and summer college intern at work on the project.

Over the course of the last few months, the workgroup has discovered there are few studies on reactivations and those that do exist looked at small sample sizes.

What the workgroup will do has never been done before. It will be studying 18 years' worth of data about children, families and services. The workgroup will compare families who were reunited in 1997 and 2007. They'll identify what factors the families shared at three critical stages: when the children were removed the first time, when the families were reunited and when the children were removed the second time.

The workgroup is fortunate to have access to the Court data, court files and the corresponding DCS data and files. (Contd. Page 3)

The data mining and analysis will be segregated so that no identifying information of a child or parent will be known. Researchers will not know the identities of the families; all of the identifiable data found in the records will be redacted, Judge Stanford said.

Among the data available to be analyzed will be the ages of the children, the agencies involved with the families, the services that were provided, the employment status of the parents, types of substances abused, family support systems, the onset of individual counseling, the timing of case flow events, the continuity of care after reunification, the shifts in poverty or income levels and a myriad of other details. Every detail is based on a suggested theory for why cases reactivate.

Chris Swenson-Smith, director of the Court's Children and Family Services division, is a member of the workgroup. There are several theories about why families wind up back in the system, but no conclusive proof, she said.

It could mean the family should never have been reunited in the first place, someone missed a service the family needed or the services they were provided weren't enough. It could also mean the family didn't have the support they needed from the community once their case was closed.

The fact reactivation rates remain consistent despite fluctuations in reunification rates proves the issue is a complex one, Swenson-Smith said.

Reactivated cases are simply heart-breaking, Judge Stanford said.

If 150 families wind up back in the system in a year and each family has an average of three children, that's 450 children who are decimated, Judge Stanford said.

"The children really suffer. They shift from having a positive outlook of the world to having a negative one. They come to believe that people are powerless to effect change in their lives," Judge Stanford said. "Reactivations have a profound impact on their world view and on their resiliency. Everything in their life is now colored by the reactivation."

Judge Stanford hopes PCJCC staff members and community partners will supply him with their theories on what causes reactivations. The workgroup wants to compare the various theories with what the data shows.

The workgroups believes it's going to take about three years before any results are known.

"Gathering the data is the easy part, analyzing it is the exciting and challenging part," Judge Stanford said. "This is an adventure to find evidence so that we can create evidence-based practices."

Judge Stanford welcomes your ideas on the subject and can be contacted via his judicial assistant, Alene Martinez at alene.martinez@pcjcc.pima.gov

Detention Center kids treated to healthy, good food

You won't find any gruel being served in the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center. Nor will you find any Twinkies or Hostess cupcakes.

The 30 to 40 kids who spend their days in the detention center are all being fed under strict guidelines imposed by both state and federal authorities.

Sound boring and bland?

Not at all, say Sandy Biggs and Robbin Miranda.

Biggs is in charge of the center's kitchen and Miranda is a senior cook. Both women say they take pride in experimenting and finding foods that are filling and nutritious, but, equally important, loved by the kids.



The experimenting comes in because the Arizona Department of Education tracks carbs, sodium, sugar and calories. The kids receive three meals a day, plus three snacks, like crackers and cheese, popcorn and pretzels. Only twice a week are they permitted a dessert.

The kids' top three favorite meals at the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center are enchilada pies, tacos and shredded beef. The staff prides itself on finding nutritious substitutions to lower sugar content and calories.

The kids are offered a lot of fruit during their stay, but what they don't know is the sweetness of their other food doesn't come from sugar, but from carrots, sweet potatoes and creamed corn, Biggs said.

Miranda also makes a special point of introducing new foods to the kids, such as Asian pears.

Because the kitchen staff delivers the food to the children in their living units, they get to know them, Biggs said. The kids are encouraged to voice their likes and dislikes, offer up suggestions and ask questions about nutrition, recipes, etc.

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"It keeps them involved. Kids just want to be heard and as long as they are heard, and they feel like you're respecting them, and listening to them, and honoring, sometimes, what they asked for, it just makes things easier," Biggs said. "They take that as an example. They learn by that."



The Pima County Health Department inspects the kitchen twice per year and it routinely receives an "Excellent" rating.

For some, the detention center is the only place where they've been exposed to healthy foods, Miranda said. She remembers one child telling her she grew up eating sandwiches and Ramen noodles. Another teenager told her he was homeless and typically only ate convenience store food.

The staff always has four-months of meals planned in advance. If a child doesn't like an entrée, they can request a peanut and jelly, ham or turkey sandwich instead, Biggs said.

During the holidays, the kids also get to vote on their favorite meals.

The staff enjoys the interaction with the kids.

"My view is we are not here to judge. We're here to take care of these kids. We're here to nurture them," Biggs said. "My philosophy in the kitchen is to prepare meals that the youth are comfortable with, they're used to having at home, it's in their environment, we try to prepare it in a nutritious way."

"I've engaged in conversation with them and found out there is a lot in common with my own kids when they were growing up," Biggs said. "They are confused and I do get attached, but I do that with all children. That's my background I'm very much a nurturer."

Miranda thinks the kids enjoy chatting with them as much as they enjoy chatting with them.

"The staff asks them how their day is going, and they like to know how our day is going, and you can see it just kind of lifts their spirits during the day. It's really nice," Miranda said.

"Food is a universal language so when the kids see us coming, they have big smiles on their face. Because no matter where you go, you know food is the center of it. It's a comfort to them I think. I think it makes them feel better."

Kids with behavioral health issues can turn to MIKID

Growing up in today's world is tough. Imagine growing up and dealing with a mental, emotional or behavioral health issue.

Susan Moreno and the other folks at MIKID are determined to help children with such issues and their families. MIKID is a non-profit, licensed outpatient clinic that has a contract with various mental health providers throughout the state.



Susan Moreno

They help children diagnosed with such things as Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity, Bipolar, Obsessive-compulsive, autism spectrum and Post-traumatic stress disorders, depression and schizophrenia.

In general, 1 percent of the population suffers from a serious mental illness and one in four families is affected by a mental illness, Moreno said.

One of the programs at MIKID is called ACERS or the Awareness Change Education Recognition Support Youth Advisory Council. Members of ACERS tell their stories so they can educate the behavioral health system and community about the challenges they face.

But, it also gives kids a chance to support each other and gain confidence about their futures.

MIKID staff members also help kids develop living skills, such as how to ride a bus, cook, socialize and take care of their personal hygiene.

A lot of emphasis is also placed on helping young people transition into adulthood, Moreno said.

“We want to empower them so that they can take control of their treatment and continue on their road to recovery,” Moreno said.

MIKID also offers parents assistance navigating their way through various systems, Moreno said. So many times, parents feel overwhelmed dealing with schools, mental health agencies, Social Security, Department of Economic Security, health care providers and the Division of Child Safety.

In addition, MIKID offers parent mentoring and support groups for kids and their families.

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If MIKID can't help a family with a particular issue, they will find someone who can, Moreno said. Extra emphasis is now being placed on finding agencies that offer trauma informed care, Moreno said.

"We've got children who are falling through the cracks and the only way we can have an impact on that is to create awareness. Treatment works, but they've got to get it," — Susan Moreno

Many of the kids in the behavior health care system have been traumatized in some way and require specialized therapy, Moreno said.

Moreno, who is the assistant site director at the Tucson MIKID branch, said fear and stigma remain tough obstacles for kids to overcome.

Education is the key, Moreno said.

Moreno and other MIKID staff members go to schools throughout Tucson to talk about depression and suicide prevention. She is always saddened to hear from students who tell her they know they need help for depression, but are told by their parents that what they are feeling is a normal part of being a teenager.

Other times, she hears about children who resist getting help because they are afraid of the medications they may have to take.

"We've got children who are falling through the cracks and the only way we can have an impact on that is to create awareness," Moreno said.

"Treatment works, but they've got to get it."

People need to be taught about the signs of behavioral health issues, what resources are available to them and that there is hope, Moreno said.

"People need to know that recovery is possible with the right type of treatment," Moreno said. "They need to know that they can have a happy and productive life that's perfect for them. We want to give them a sense of inclusion and participation."

"By working with children, educating them, preparing them, giving them guidance and direction – just like we would with children who have diabetes – we can help them manage their illness, Moreno said.

Did You Know?

- One in 20 kids suffers from an emotional disorder?
- Of every 5 kids who has a mental illness, only one will seek treatment?
- Three kids commit suicide every month in Arizona?

For more information on MIKID, call 882-0142 or visit www.mikid.org

Children in detention center among those with highest needs

Over the past decade, Pima County Juvenile Court has worked hard to lower the number of children it keeps detained in the detention center. The court has made tremendous strides in doing so, but the news is not all good.



Between 2003 and 2013, the average daily detention population fell from 173 to 40.

Unfortunately, the 40 who spend their days in the detention center tend to be children who need a great deal of help – help that isn't readily available in Pima County.

“We are finding that the acuity of needs in the youth we detain is high, and the higher the needs of these youth, the harder it is to find appropriate placement and specialized treatment for them,” said Beverly Tobiason, Pima County Juvenile Court’s clinical director.

Back in the late 1990s, the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center was packed. The 86-bed facility was roughly 100 children over capacity at times. Kids were sleeping in the gym, assaults were up and tensions were high.

Voters approved a \$42 million bond issue in 1997, allowing the county to add six courtrooms and expand the detention center to 306 beds.

Everyone thought the beds would be filled. Voters were told to expect a wave of super predators. They passed the bond issue. They also passed laws that enhanced punishments and transferred violent teens into the adult system.

Around the same time, however, studies began showing that detaining children actually produces worse outcomes.

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As a result, instead of punishing children, the focus returned to rehabilitating them. Juvenile court officials and community partners began creating alternatives to detention.

Naysayers thought releasing children would result in higher crime rates. In actuality, the number of cases being referred to the court fell more than 56 percent between 2003 and 2013 -- from 15,237 to 8,592.

Many of the children who are now being housed in the detention center are accused of violating their probation or are wanted on warrants. Others are flight risks or likely to commit a new crime before their next court date.

"Some of these kids would be released if there was a proper placement, but it's not just a matter of having a bed; services need to be in place" — John Schow

Especially troubling is the fact a significant portion of them were abused and neglected and are wards of the state. They are called cross-over youth.

Earlier this month, 12 of the 35 children in the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center were cross-over youth. All of them were already on probation and, on average, had been referred to the court 12 times before.

Three of them had at least 20 past referrals.

None of them lived in a foster home prior to their arrest. They all lived in group homes.

Pima County doesn't have enough foster homes for abused children who haven't broken the law, let alone children who have, said John Schow, director of Juvenile Court Services.

"Very few foster homes want to take teens with legal issues," Schow asks. "It takes a very unique individual to open their home to teens with these kinds of issues."

Unfortunately, research shows a significant correlation between group home placements and further juvenile justice involvement, Tobiason said.

Placing children who have emotional and behavioral issues together is not advised, especially when they only have limited access to specialized treatment, Tobiason said.

"Many of the ongoing court referrals are due to the chaotic nature of group home living," Tobiason said. "They tend to run away or act aggressively with their peers and group home staff members."

The fact is, a lot of the kids aren't high risk kids, they are merely high needs kids, Schow said.

"Some of these kids would be released if there was a proper placement, but it's not just a matter of having a bed; services need to be in place," Schow said.

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Many of the children in the detention center have been traumatized, are lower functioning, are sexual offenders or have substance abuse issues. As a result, they need specialized psychotherapy interventions by Master's level trained therapists and family therapy interventions, Tobiason said.

Unfortunately, Pima County's mental health providers have few Master's level trained therapists and don't offer family therapy interventions by trained and licensed family therapists. Consequently, some of our children are being sent outside the county for help.

Right now, more than 40 Pima County children are in residential treatment centers located around the state, said lead probation officer Lynn Parente.

"The best practice is to serve kids in their homes and in their communities. It's not best practice to send kids to residential treatment centers, but we are because we lack trained professionals and a full continuum of treatment options. Instead, behavioral health providers only have an abundance of para-professionals," Tobiason said.

It's incredibly difficult to have family therapy interventions when children are placed several hours away and transportation and work schedules are an issue, Tobiason said.

Those sex offenders who require treatment in residential treatment centers are often there for nine to 12 months; kids with substance abuse can be away from home four or five months.

Sometimes, the only support these children get is from their probation officer or, if they are in the foster care system, their CPS case worker.

"Sometimes you become the one consistent positive support," said Parente, the probation supervisor. "Most of the kids don't look forward to visits from their probation officer, but these kids do."



New culinary program offers teens skills and left-overs

When two young brothers on Ron Sereno's caseload signed up for Teen Cuisine, the probation officer had his doubts they'd be able to finish the brand-new 12-week program. Still, he knew it was a chance for the boys to develop positive relationships and skills.



Teen Cuisine graduates showed off their newly acquired skills by serving their probation officers, friends and family green chile enchiladas, refried beans and Spanish rice.

The boys were among 11 who graduated July 17. Sereno and the other teenagers' probation officers joined family members and friends as they celebrated the event with dinner and an awards ceremony.

"I think they are both feeling a sense of accomplishment and that's huge for them right now," Sereno said. "It was important to show them there are positive, productive activities out

there instead of being out on the street engaging in criminal activities."

Teen Cuisine was created by Pima Prevention Partnership and is funded by a grant from the California-based Metro United Methodist Urban Ministry. According to its website, it's the non-profit, faith-based organization's goal to "overcome poverty and to achieve self-sufficiency through employment, education, social services and leadership development."

Every child involved in the program is either on probation or has been on probation within the past year. Only children who live within specific census tracts could be selected to participate.

Twice a week, the teens gathered at 4:30 p.m. for 90 minutes, said Cindy Corona, Teen Cuisine manager. They not only learned their way around the kitchen, but they worked on communication skills, teamwork and dealing with anger and anxiety. Each participant also received stipends totaling \$400. (Contd. Page 12)

“Seeing them open up and change has been amazing,” Corona said. “Some of them were totally disenfranchised. They weren’t in school and they were getting a lot of court referrals. Many of them told us the program was the first time they’d been engaged in anything positive.”

The class started out with 12 students, but one dropped out because he returned to school.

“Anybody who hires these kids will appreciate them,” — Chef Rodriguez

“I feel like pinching myself over the retention rate,” Corona said. “Everyone told us that we’d have a 50 percent drop-out rate. I think the fact we’re

giving kids practical skills they can use now keeps them coming back.”

The teens learned their new kitchen skills under Chef Armando Rodriguez. They went from learning how to mop and properly clean their kitchen to learning about nutrition, preparing a large selection of entrees, designing artful food presentations, and carving fruit into beautiful peacocks, quails, swans, etc.

At the beginning of the course, the teens were asked what skills they wanted to learn, Rodriguez said. They were even asked what meals they wanted to prepare.

“At the beginning they were shy, they weren’t wanting to participate, but once we gave them the freedom to develop their own class, they ran away with it,” Rodriguez said. “We empowered them.”

The teens made such things as sushi, enchiladas, steak, fajitas and various soups, including pozolé and menudo. They also baked and decorated a great number of desserts with frosting they made and colored themselves. They were often allowed to take the left-overs home, too, Rodriguez said.

The hope is these kids will realize the importance of school, but put their newly gained skills to use in the culinary field.

“Anybody who hires these kids will appreciate them,” Rodriguez said. “They know not only the aspect of cooking, but they know about responsibility and taking initiative. They’re fast learners and they ask questions.”

Someday, Corona said, she’d like to expand the program so foster children and more children on probation can participate

Teen Cuisine’s second class, which has 15 students currently, is scheduled to graduate in the middle of August.

PCJCC loses its Princess of Power after short bout with cancer

Compassionate, vivacious, brilliant, joyful. Those are just a handful of the words people used to describe Pima County Juvenile Court mediator Terry Dalke, who died after a short battle with cancer June 26.



Terry Dalke

Dalke, an attorney, became a fixture at the courthouse in the 1990s when she was representing children and parents involved in the child welfare system.

In August 2005, she became the court's second mediator, sharing an office with fellow mediator Susan Parnell. The two had their own styles of mediating, different personality traits and different organizational skills. (Think Oscar and Felix from *The Odd Couple*). Still, the two became close friends.

"We used to joke that if I had to live her life I'd die of exhaustion within two weeks and she'd say that if she had to live my life for two weeks, she'd die of boredom," Parnell said. "She just loved life. She was the poster child for being an extrovert. She got her life force from people."

Dalke was the sort of person who had to schedule down time for herself, Parnell said. When she wasn't at work, she was with her family, attending church activities, belly dancing, going on trips and attending parties.

Dalke had a "delightfully irreverent" sense of humor, but she was also a deeply spiritual person, Parnell said.

"She lived her spirituality in how she lived her life, with everyone she met," Parnell said. "She never met a stranger."

She will never forget the moment Dalke told her she had cancer, Parnell said.

She didn't want anyone to pity her, Parnell said. Instead, she thrust her fist into the air and loudly proclaimed "She-Ra!"

She-Ra was an incredibly strong 1980s superhero who was also known as the Princess of Power.

"I told her 'Oh, is that how you see yourself?' and she said, 'This is how I want everyone to think of me,'" Parnell said.

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As a mediator, Dalke used her knowledge of the law to her advantage. She was the go-to person when it came to cases involving refugees and mental health issues.

“Whether you were talking to Terry about a case or something personal, you always felt like you had her complete attention,” said Stacey Brady, mediation program supervisor. “She had a way of empathizing with people. It made her a great friend to people and an amazing mediator.”

Rebecca Manoleas is the assistant director for Pima County Juvenile Court’s Children and Family Services. She first met Dalke while working as a caseworker with Child Protective Services.

“I knew that no matter who she represented they were going to get a tireless advocate in Terry,” Manoleas said. “She just had a thing for the underdog, for those who were less fortunate and I loved that about her.”

As a mediator, Manoleas said Dalke made sure everyone in the room had a voice.

Chris Swenson-Smith, Children and Family Services Director, was also a CPS caseworker when she met Dalke.

“When I first met her, she was a guardian ad litem for a mom on one of my cases,” Swenson-Smith said. “She was a brilliant lawyer and at the same time, so compassionate. I thought ‘How lucky is this mother to have a GAL who knows so much about the law and mental health and is as compassionate as Terry?’”

Later on, Swenson-Smith was sitting on Dalke’s interview panel when she was trying to get hired as a mediator.

“It was a no-brainer, really,” Swenson-Smith said. “We couldn’t believe she’d be willing to leave her practice and do this kind of work. But, her career was measured on the impact she could make in children and families’ lives, not on position or money.”



During one of Children and Family Services' Fun Friday potluck lunches the unit celebrated Halloween. Terry Dalke threw herself into the festivities.

Odds & Ends

Milestones

Margaret Felix, Calendar Services, 5 years

Fred Grijalva, bailiff, 5 years

William Kitt, bailiff, 10 years

Manuela Martinez, probation, 15 years

Vicky Rynda, probation 15 years,

Laura Darian, detention, 15 years

Detention Employee of the Month

Senior Officer **Lisa Fontaine** was selected as the June 2014 Detention Employee of the Month. Her co-workers say she is a joy to work with. In addition, she was selected because “she takes initiative in supporting the team, and when she sees a greater need in Detention she steps up to the plate...She has built a great working relationship with both staff and youth. She is also a good coach, role model and an exceptional leader.”



The Bravo team awarded five Gems and one Team award this month. **Adela Linares** from Probation was awarded a Gem for stepping in after a sign language interpreter cancelled. She helped communicate with a family so they wouldn't have to re-schedule their appointment. **Alexandra Barton** and **Eddie Muzquiz** from Detention were honored for helping train a new staff member and being excellent role models for him. **Joy Johnson** from Detention was given a Gem for going above and beyond when organizing retirement celebrations. She “truly makes the occasion special.” **Karil Yamamoto** from Detention was also singled out for ironing 20 gowns for the community GED Celebration June 19. **Karil, Joy, Rachael Long, Guy McLee, Jessica Morales, Jennifer Vemich, Shayla Campos, Courtney Haymore and Sandy Biggs** were given the Team award for making sure the GED Celebration was a “successful and meaningful event.” They made and sent invitations, baked cakes, decorated the training center, contacted families and presided over the annual event.

PCJCC Bulletin survey reveals mostly positive reactions

Last month, we asked all of you to participate in a survey about Pima County Juvenile Court's monthly bulletin. We emailed the survey to 853 people directly and it was also accessible on the Court's Facebook and Twitter pages.

We would like to thank the 141 people who responded to the survey and to share some of the results. We appreciate your taking the time. Rest assured we will be taking your comments into consideration as time goes on.

Before we get to the results, we thought it might be helpful to talk about the purpose of the bulletin. Although the PCJCC has a long tradition of publishing internal newsletters, the decision was made last year to make a concerted effort to educate the families we serve, members of our community and the media about the many ways we are helping families in crisis. Rather than wait for external sources to share our success stories and our struggles, we opted to take a more pro-active approach via the bulletin, Facebook and Twitter.

Judging from the survey results, it appears as though most of you are pleased with the results. However, there is always room for improvement. Please continue to call or email Kim Smith, the court's public information officer, with your suggestions.

Here are some of the results:

- 67% of respondents read the bulletin each time it is published.
- 58 % said the cover attracts their attention to the articles inside.
- 53 % read four or more articles in each bulletin.
- 72 % indicated the articles are a good length.
- 83 % like the number of articles in the bulletin.
- 72 % believe the bulletin length is just right.
- 60 % indicated they prefer receiving the bulletin monthly.
- 78 % of respondents view the Court more positively after reading the bulletin.
- 98 % of respondents indicated reading the bulletin increases their knowledge of the court.
- 86 % of respondents said they had greater respect for the work of the Court after reading the bulletin.

Voices

Since the PCJCC is here to help strengthen kids and families, it seems only appropriate the kids in our Detention Center have a platform from which to speak. We'll be asking them questions periodically and printing some of their unedited answers here.

Why is it important to get your diploma or GED?

If you have your high school diploma or GED it shows that you put in the effort to get a education and that you should have a decent education. Earning your high school diploma or even your GED can open so many doors to a successful life. You would unlock so many career opportunities that can lead to earning a honest living. For an example, you might want to join the military, but one of their requirements is you got to have a least your GED to join any branch of the military. For myself, I would like to become a mechanical engineer, but without at least a GED I wouldn't even be able to get my associate in arts degree. I'm planning on at least getting my bachulors degree in mechanical engineering. If I'm lucky I would be able to get the work experience to help me be a good mechanic -- Issac

It's important to go to school and get your GED because like personally I don't care much for skool but I'm having a kid and I want my kid to go to skool because I want the best for them and it's important because if you get your GED or your HD then you can get a job or a better job than people that don't have them -- Majestic

It's important to get your diploma and your GED because you can get a better job. It looks good on you and reflects on how serious you are about going to college. After your high school diploma if you wanna make bank you'll have a chance to go to college and plan your carrer out. It makes the people you love proud. It's something you've achieved and it will always be a part of you - Johnathan

So that you have some kind of education.
So that you can put something on a resmue. So you can make a living for yourself. So that you can be edugacted.
So that you can be someone in life - Bryce

It's important to get a diploma or a GED so you can have a good future. It can help you get a better job in life. With a diploma, it would be easier to get a scholarship. For my sake, it would make my parents happy. It's just good to get a diploma or a GED - Rafael

It is important to get your GED or your high school diploma because it will help you in the long run. It will help you look for a job and it will make it easier to get a job. It will help to get a good career that pays you a good amount of money. I want a high school diploma or a GED because I don't want to have to rely on somebody else who's not going to help me anyway. I want my children to have a GED or high school diploma because they are gonna need good paying jobs when they get older - Julian

Month in Photos



The Court Appointed Special Advocates program began hitting the streets in July in an effort to recruit more CASAs. The Coffee with CASA program is being held at the Speedway Beyond Bread on Aug. 14 at 3 p.m. and the Campbell Beyond Bread on Aug. 27 at 9 a.m.



The Pima County Juvenile Court celebrated three graduations in July. Judge Jane Butler chats with a Youth Recovery Court graduate in picture at left. On the right, Director of Juvenile Court Services John Schow congratulates one of two teens who obtained their GED.

Did you know?

All of our Detention Center children created cards and posters to honor our veterans on July 4th.

Probation Dispatcher Michael Miller and his wife, an associate chief at the Veterans Administration, are both veterans themselves. They took the cards and posters to the VA hospital where they were distributed via a concierge cart.

“Our veterans love getting letters and pictures from young people,” said Deborah Brookshire, from the VA’s Volunteer Services Office. “It means a lot to know they’ve not been forgotten and that young people understand that there’s a legacy there. It’s important and a lot of times those who aren’t in the military don’t understand that.”

By the way,..

The Pima County Juvenile Court has entered a new era.

As of July 25, we have five videos posted on our very own YouTube channel. You can search for Pima County Juvenile Court on YouTube.com or you can simply go to our website and click the YouTube icon at the bottom of our home page.

While many more videos featuring the court are in the works, the five videos posted so far introduce folks to Adoption Day, YARDS, Recovery Support Specialists, the Detention Center kitchen and the Detention Center library.

Work is underway on orientation videos for the juvenile justice side of the court and the Court Appointed Special Advocates program.

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