



THE PINWHEEL POST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF GREATER WEST TEXAS

VOLUME 1, EDITION 4: JUNE

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GO FISH!

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GOLF TOURNAMENT

Over \$36,000 raised
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to Summer!

Summertime is such a great time to build extra memories with family, friends, and new experiences. We hope you and your family have a fun activity or trip planned to get you outside, together, and interacting during the annual "down time" we all look forward to.



CAC is wrapping up the third quarter of the Fiscal Year and we are continuing to see our services and awareness going strong. We are navigating the different aspects of our response to child abuse, including topics of Child Sex Trafficking, the immediate services to those victims, and how the CAC will help collaborate with our community partners on local, state, and federal levels to advocate for victims of this vicious crisis we see growing not only in our state, but in our country.

CAC is here to help meet all your prevention needs. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our prevention efforts, please share our information with them. Secondly, Summertime brings a time to serve others. Our CASA Program is beginning to see an increase in case referrals which means we will be encouraging local individuals to join our team as a CASA Volunteer. CASA Volunteers dedicate 15-20 hours a month to help advocate for a child whose home is determined by a court of law. These children need a voice during some of the most uncertain times in their journey, and this voice could be you!

Contact the CAC today if you have some "free time" to give the children & families we serve. Don't forget to make those special memories with those you love and remind the kids in your life how loved they are! Make it a great summer!

Stay cool,

Justin M. DeLoach



SCHOOL IS OUT! BUT WHY?

A Look at the History of Summer Vacation

While kids rejoice and teachers breathe a sigh of relief when the final bell before summer break rings, most don't take a moment to wonder- why do we have a summer vacation? Some might venture to guess that it has to do with America's agricultural roots, however; it has less to do with farming than you think.

According to a PBS article by Saskia de Melker and Sam Weber, "Kids in rural, agricultural areas were most needed in the spring, when most crops had to be planted, and in the fall, when crops were harvested and sold." For this reason, children actually used to attend school during the summer and winter months.

So what changed to lead to our modern school schedule? During the sweltering summer heat, many middle and upper class families would flee the urban cities of the 19th century for cooler areas, meaning their children were missing school. This, combined with a push for standardization, led to the school calendar we know today.



Though it was decided that children needed a break to travel with their families and rest their minds and teachers needed to train during the summer months, researchers are now wondering if another educational calendar reform is needed to combat an issue known as "summer slide," in which kids lose a month of knowledge while school is not in session. Some schools have adjusted their calendars to combat the phenomenon, however; no major conclusions have been made.

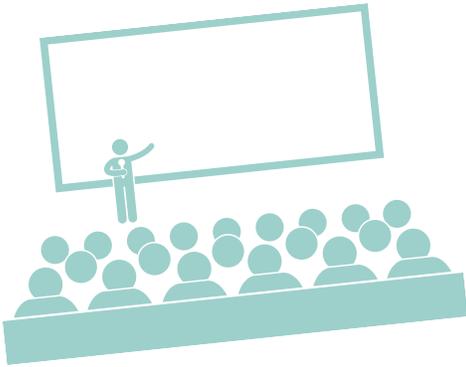
For now, summer vacation is a coveted time of the year for many. Book your trips, hit the pools, or just sleep in because school is out!

To learn more, check out these articles!

[Click the link to read](#)

[Click the link to read](#)

- Source (pbs.org/newshour/education): Saskia de Melker and Sam Weber, "Agrarian roots? Think again. Debunking the myth of summer vacation's origins," September 7, 2014.
- Source (historynet.org): Sean Cunningham, "The History of Summer Vacation," June 30, 2022.



CAC EDUCATION

The CAC is proud to offer several trainings to the public. Learn more about each of our educational programs and what they offer to our community!

TRAININGS

RECOGNIZING & REPORTING CHILD ABUSE TRAINING

This training provides the tools to recognize signs of child abuse. Through the presentation, you will learn proper reporting protocol, how to make a report, and understand the importance of your role as a mandated reporter. We also cover ways to prevent child abuse. Our R&R training is statistically proven to make 10 children safer for every 1 adult trained.

HUMAN/CHILD TRAFFICKING TRAINING

This official training is offered from the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Team in San Angelo, which partners with: local law enforcement, federal law enforcement, child protection court officials, medical professionals and other community leaders. This training will give insight into the many faces of trafficking, what to do if trafficking is encountered, and how the risk of trafficking can be reduced today. We will also take a look into current topics that involve trafficking.

NOT A NUMBER

This curriculum is an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. (8th Grade - 12th Grade)

TRAININGS CONTINUED

PLAY IT SAFE!®

This child abuse awareness and prevention program uses age-appropriate materials to educate children Pre-K through Middle School on how to reduce the risk of sexual and physical abuse by recognizing potentially abusive behavior, responding appropriately to threatening situations, and reporting abuse to a trusted adult. Some of the program topics include safe, unsafe, and confusing touch for elementary-aged children and sexting, peer pressure, and maintaining healthy relationships for middle school children. (Pre-K - 7th Grade)

For more information, please contact Michael Cuellar, mcuellar@cacgreaterwtx.org or call (325) 653- HOPE.



CASA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

The CAC is proud to announce our 2024 CASA Volunteer of the Year, Jordan House!

We celebrated Jordan and all of our CASA Volunteers on June 11 with a dinner and program at the LeGrand Alumni Center.

Thank you again to all of our incredible CASA volunteers. For more information on becoming a CASA, please visit cacgreaterwtx.org/casa or call 325-653- HOPE.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Cryslyn Shelby Family Advocate

What's your favorite:

- Vacation Spot: Colorado
- TV Show: Bates Motel
- Sweet Treat: Cookie Dough Ice Cream
- Animal: Monkey
- Season: Autumn



Cryslyn has been with the CAC for 6 months as a Family Advocate in Hope House. She also recently completed training to be a Forensic Interviewer. Cryslyn says the most meaningful part of her job is getting to be a voice for the children who feel like they are not being heard and being there every step of the way for families to provide services in an attempt to make a difference in the world.

**JOIN THE CAC FOR
BUSINESS
@ Happy
HOUR**

**in the Hope House:
LeGrand Family Facility
AUGUST 27, 2024**

FEEL GOOD FEATURE

Hope House: LeGrand Family Facility-
Business at Happy Hour

The CAC is happy to invite you to attend Business @ Happy Hour in the Hope House: LeGrand Family Facility! Join us for drinks, charcuterie, prizes, and a school supply drive! Help us prepare to serve the children in our community by providing school supplies. Take a tour of our beautiful campus and learn more about the CAC and Hope House.

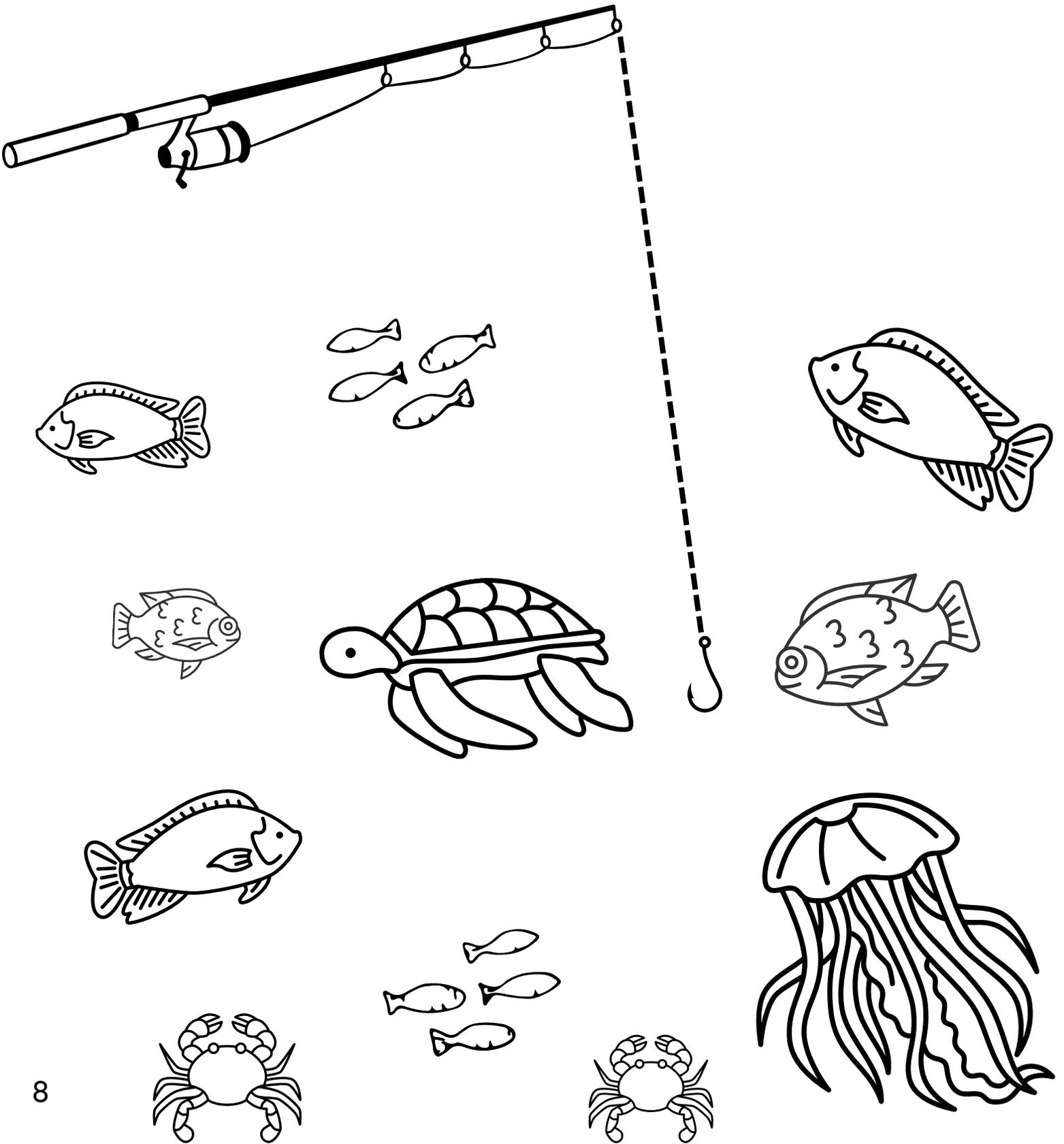
CHAMPIONS ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Over \$36,000 raised!



GO FISH!

Trace the fishing line, then color the ocean scene!
What will you catch?





UPCOMING EVENTS

CASA Volunteer Trainings July 8, 10, 15, and 17, 2024 | 5:30- 9:00 P.M.
August 12, 14, 19, and 21, 2024 | 5:30- 9:00 P.M.

Group Connections- Keeping Fit as a Family..... July 17, 2024 10:30- 11:30 A.M. International
Water Lily Collection

Group Connections- Recreation and Enrichment
for Families with Young Children..... August 1, 2024 3:00 P.M. Mayer Museum

Business @ Happy Hour- Hope House: LeGrand
Family Facility..... August 27, 2024 5:30 P.M. CAC- Hope House

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

For more upcoming events, visit: <https://cacgreaterwtx.org/news-events/>



CONNECT WITH US

325.653.HOPE • WWW.CACGREATERWTX.ORG

