

THE
BOISE



MAY 2023

FRONT

The official newsletter of the Boise VA Medical Center

2023

Practice Greenhealth

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

AWARDS

The Boise VAMC has earned this year's Partner Recognition Award. This award recognizes our organization's ongoing commitment to improving its environmental performance and your efforts to build sustainability and resiliency into the operations and culture of your institution.



JOIN US



BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER

VETERAN APPRECIATION FAIR

JUNE 23, 2023 ★ 11A to 2P

Boise VA Parade Grounds
500 W. Fort St. Boise, ID

Event is free to attend and family friendly. Event will include: representatives of veterans organizations, dunk tank, live music, lawn games, BBQ food, prizes, and MORE!

*For questions, to volunteer, or to have a booth contact Tammy at
(208) 422-1175*

FREE



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center

Hello's



Goodbye's

THE BOISE VAMC WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW
EMPLOYEES WHO CAME ABOARD IN MAY 2023:

Jennifer Aguilar, Primary Care
Robert Alexander, Specialty Care
Daniel Babcock, Education
Regan Boultinghouse, Research
Kimberly Brasseur, Mental Health
Kelly Cricks, Primary Care
Hilary Davis, Connected Care
Michael Diller, Facilities Management
Seth Friedrich, Mental Health
Vicken Garabedian, Imaging
Elizabeth Gonzalez, Nursing
Dorothy Holzum, Connected Care
Matthew Johnson, Nursing

Kristy Kelley, Connected Care
Mon-Ning, Kilborn, Laboratory
Gregory Leighton, Nursing
Seme Longoro, Nursing
Donna McKenzie, Nursing
Michelle Overby, Primary Care
Kyle Peterman, Primary Care
Alicia Richards, Nursing
Jessica Rodgers, Nursing
Kathleen Stanley, Nursing
Charee VanOrder, Rehab
Tyler Worden, Facilities Management
Cong Zhi Zhao, Specialty

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING AT THE BOISE VA



Story submission by Jennifer Bonhome

The Boise VA Sections of the University of Washington Division of General Internal Medicine participated in a UW-sponsored “reconnection event” on Monday, May 1st. In recognition of Arbor Day (and reconnecting after the arduous work of clinical care from the CoVID pandemic), 10 local UW faculty and chief residents planted a tree on the VA campus. The tree is a beautiful red oak donated by the City of Boise and Treasure Valley Canopy Network – faculty planted it between the UW-Boise Internal Medicine residency offices and the entrances to the hospital and the VA Silver team resident teaching clinic. The event had amazing support from the VA head of groundskeeping Rick Schlage, who met with Bill Weppner (UW Boise

DGIM Section Chief), Mike Andrews (Boise City Forester) and Lance Davisson (Treasure Valley Canopy Network Executive Director) to select an appropriate location for this tree. It is next to the location of a large aging tree that had to be removed. In this location, the red oak tree will grow to shade an outdoor space and bring beauty and benefits to the campus and staff for the next 60+ years.

On the day of planting, Boise City Forester and Treasure Valley Canopy Network joined VA faculty and families, read an Arbor Day Proclamation by Boise Mayor Lauren McLean, and enjoyed a conversation about how this tree and the collective urban forest across Boise helps mitigate the impacts of urban heat and climate change while creating a thriving environment for the long-term health of residents across Idaho's City of Trees - Boise. This tree will also be counted as part of the Elaine Clegg City of Trees Challenge - a local climate action initiative that pledges to plant one urban tree for every resident in Boise by 2030. In addition to this event providing a wonderful opportunity for Boise VA and UW faculty to engage in a community tree planting, this provides the opportunity for the UW and VA to join the Treasure Valley Canopy Network efforts to support conversations and action across Idaho that help raise awareness about how trees and the urban forest are critical components to healthy environments in our cities and on our hospital campuses.

To learn more about the impact of these urban forestry efforts in Boise, Idaho, visit www.TVCanopy.net and www.CityOfTreesChallenge.org



Hello's



Goodbye's

THE BOISE VAMC WOULD LIKE TO SAY GOODBYE TO
THE EMPLOYEES WHO LEFT US IN MAY 2023:

Margaret Blandford, Mental Health

Wendy Lane, Primary Care

Christina Ortiz, Nursing

Hannah Russo, Nursing

Jason Tomaloff, Nursing

Kethia Washington, Connected Care

Ryan Wisecarver, Community Care

★★★ YOU ARE INVITED ★★★

BARBECUE PARTY

JUNE
28
1100
-
1300



BOISE
VA
PARADE
GROUND

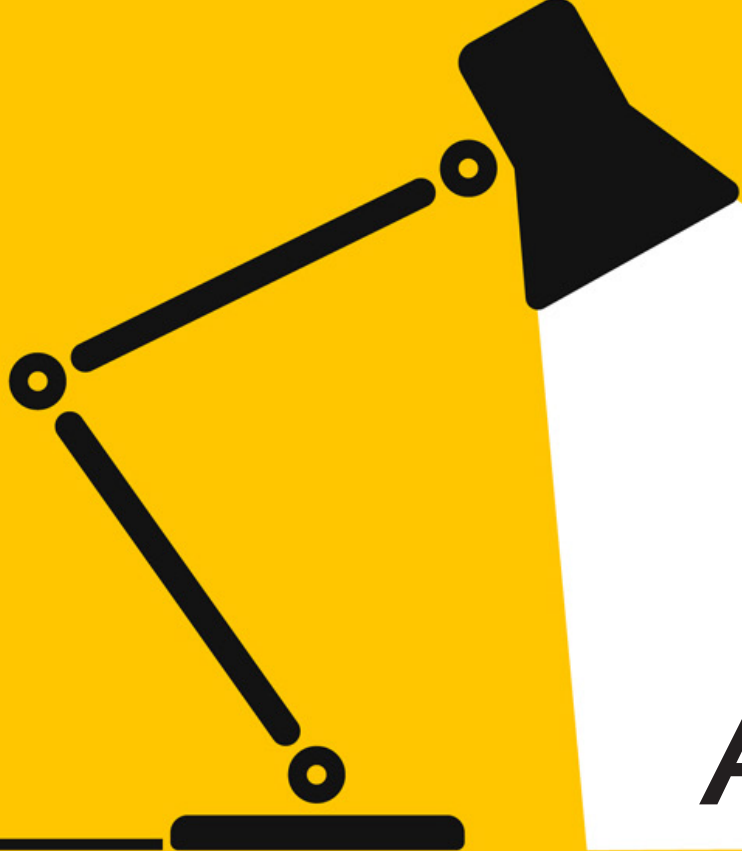
BURGERS - DOGS - CHIPS - SALAD - COOKIES - DRINKS



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center





VA | Boise VA
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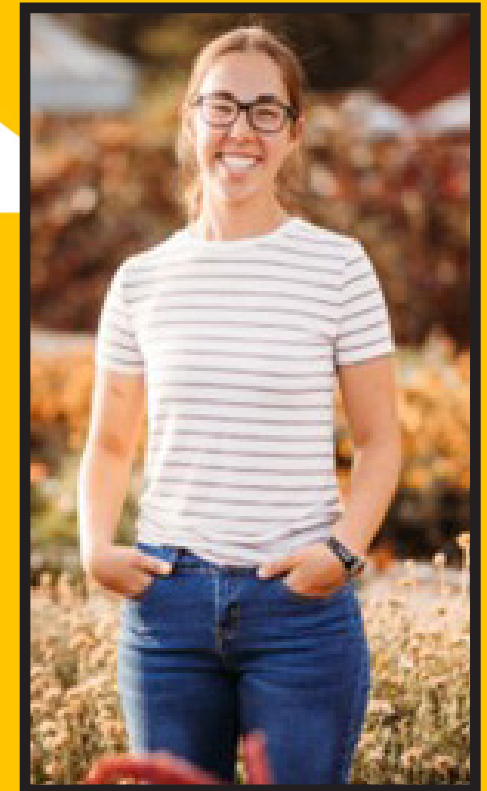
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

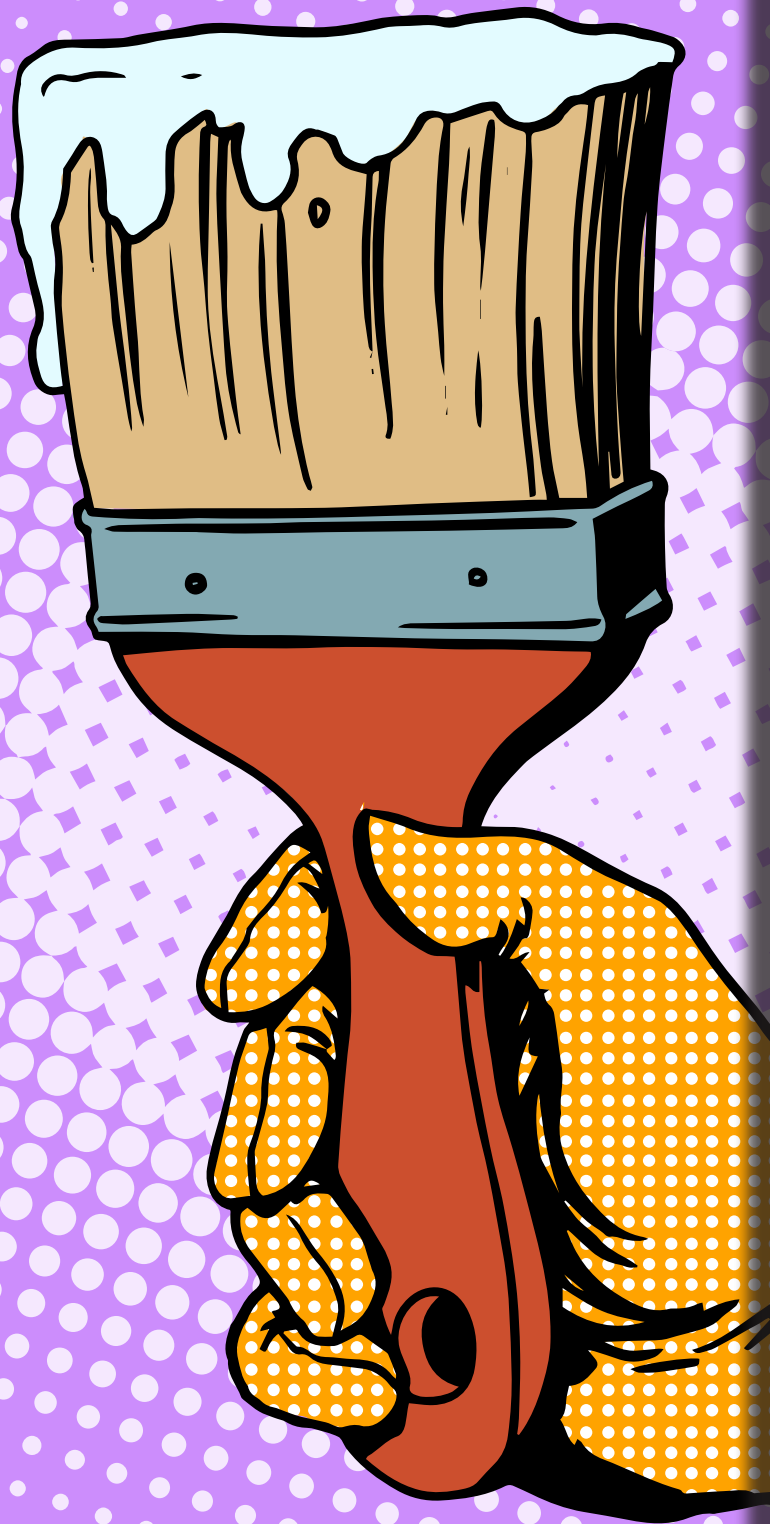
Abi Elam

I am not a veteran, but I greatly appreciate their service!

I am the oldest of 6 girls from Fruitland, ID. I'm currently a Biology-Psychology student at BSU and hope to attend medical school in 2 years to become a psychiatrist! I love to spend my free time with other people, playing games, watching plays and movies, paintball, and going on little adventures with my friends and family. But nothing beats a campfire and good company!

I enjoy volunteering at the Boise VA because it allows me to appreciate and understand the sacrifices veterans make more. They are amazing people and have the best stories to share! I've only been volunteering as an escort for about 2.5 months, but I've always loved and been amazed at the amount of positivity and laughter shared in the hospital! I've met some amazing people and have found some great friends and am very grateful that I started volunteering at the Boise VA.





VA | Boise VA
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VETERANS ART★CLASS

'GUIDED ACRYLIC ART CLASS'

1st Wednesdays of the month from 1630 to 1800 in
Bldg 54, room 127 at the Boise VA. Starting June 7th.

Veterans chosen on first come - first serve basis.

Class is limited to 10 veterans.

Art supplies are provided - no prior art experience needed.

To sign up email mongina.cole@va.gov

**To see examples of Gina's work go to
www.ginacoleartworks.com**

BOISE is HIGHLY RELIABLE

HRO PRINCIPLES & VALUES

THEME OF THE MONTH

Deference to Expertise

May 2023 | National Safety Poster

Diverse Group of Experts Address Burst Pipe

C

CONTEXT

In early November 2022, a 10-inch water line burst at the Robley Rex VAMC. The breakage released thousands of gallons of water; cut off use of toilets, sinks and showers; impacted the availability of drinking water; and obstructed access to the VAMC's emergency water supply. The Executive Leadership Team quickly empowered those with specific expertise to manage and resolve the situation.

A

ACTION

The Supply Chain Management Team arranged bottled water for Veterans and staff members. The Environmental Management Services Team bagged fixtures to avoid damage from water bursts. Meanwhile, the Engineering Team fixed the broken water line. The team also expertly reconfigured the control systems and replaced a second water line to prevent the problem from reoccurring.

R

RESULTS

Employing a Deference to Expertise, the teams with applicable knowledge led their portions of the recovery and repair efforts and had the trust of executive leadership to do so. As a result, they minimized damage and restored full water pressure the following day, ensuring the best possible care to Veterans.



*John Denny, PE
Chief of Engineering*



*Remi-Rose Martin, RN, BSN
Patient Safety Specialist*

"By engaging and empowering a variety of experts during this time of need, our medical center was able to get back up and running to support our staff and prevent harm from reaching our Veterans."

*Remi-Rose Martin, RN, BSN
Patient Safety Specialist
Robley Rex Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Louisville, Kentucky*

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/HighReliability_sp

Internal VA Use Only

VHA'S JOURNEY TO
**HIGH
RELIABILITY**

Your Care is Our Mission.

Veterans and Violence Risk: Separating Fact from Fiction

WVPP Overview

The WVPP promotes a culture of safety and the use of evidence-based, data-driven processes for assessing, mitigating, and managing human behaviors that compromise the safety and effectiveness of VHA health care workplaces.

Promoting patient and employee safety involves reporting events using the Disruptive Behavior Reporting System and using processes for behavioral threat multidisciplinary team review.

WVPP Consultation

VHA Workplace Violence Prevention Program Consultation Team

WVPPConsultation@va.gov

U.S. Health Care Workplace Violence

Health care workers face significant risks of violence on the job.



While under 20% of all workplace injuries happen to health care workers ...

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Health care workers suffer 50% of all assaults.

Relevant Legislation, Regulatory Requirements, and Standards

- Public Law 112-154, section 106, "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012"
- 38 Code of Federal Regulation, section 17.107, "VA Response to Disruptive Behavior of Patients"
- Occupational Safety and Health Act, section 5(a)(1) (aka "General Duty Clause")
- The Joint Commission's Environment of Care and Leadership Standards

For More Information

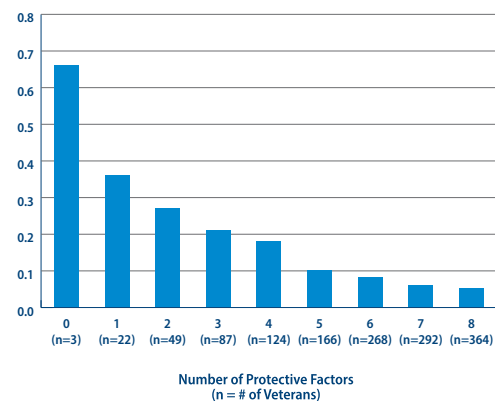
<https://dva.gov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAWVPP/SitePages/Home.aspx>

<https://dva.gov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAPMDB/default.aspx>

Most U.S. Military Veterans Integrate into Civilian Life WITHOUT Violence

- Although a Veteran may have risk factors for violent behavior, the existence of protective factors dramatically reduces the likelihood of violent behavior in a one-year period.
- Most Veterans have numerous protective factors in their lives.
- The more protective factors a person has, the lower their risk of violence.

Predicted Probability of Severe Violence as a Function of Cumulative Protective Factors in a Sample of Veterans



Elbogen, Johnson, Wagner, Newton, Timko, Vasterling & Becham. Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, 2012

Protective Factors That Matter Most for Veterans

- Resilience
- Meeting Basic Needs
- Employment
- Living Stability
- Social Support
- Spiritual Faith
- Ability to Care for Oneself
- Perceived Self Determination

Using VHA To Increase Protective Factors for Veterans

- Form trusting relationships with health care providers to address health care concerns such as healthy sleep and pain management.
- Provide education regarding Veterans' benefits, including financial, employment, and housing support programs.
- Reduce stigma to promote accessing behavioral health care services to increase resilience, positive coping skills, and social supports.



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **APRIL**



Lisa Hines

I am honored to nominate Lisa Hines for the Employee of the Month Award in recognition of her exceptional leadership and dedication to nursing staff education and patient care. As a Clinical Nurse Leader/Nurse Educator for Stepdown, 2MS and float pool inpatient units, she has consistently demonstrated the highest principles of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence.

Despite facing a myriad of challenges from multiple inpatient units and different roles, she remains steadfast and is committed to excellence in all aspects of her work. I strongly recommend Lisa for the Employee of the Month award in recognition of her clinical excellence, outstanding leadership and dedication to patient care. Her commitment to the principles of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence makes her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

A comic book panel showing Batman slapping Robin. Batman is on the right, wearing his blue and grey suit and mask, with a stern expression. He is slapping Robin on the back of the head. Robin is on the left, seen from the back, with dark hair and wearing a yellow shirt. The background is a solid red color with some motion lines. Two speech bubbles are present: one from Robin at the top left and one from Batman at the bottom right.

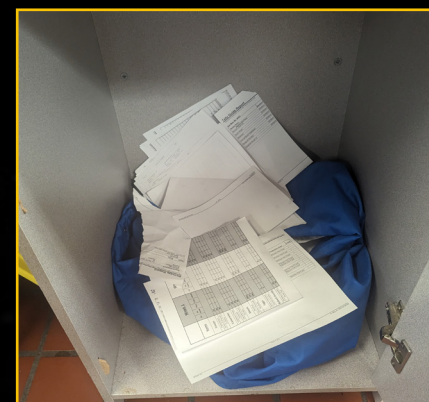
**I...I....JUST ACCIDENTALLY
DROPPED MY PAPER IN THERE**

**WE'VE TALKED
ABOUT THIS!
YOU NEVER,
EVER PRY OPEN A
SHRED BIN!!**

I PREVIOUSLY SENT OUT A MESSAGE REGARDING STAFF PRYING OPEN SHRED BINS, THIS HAS HAPPENED ONCE AGAIN AS YOU SEE IN THE ATTACHED PHOTOS, THIS TIME THE BIN WAS LEFT OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE.

THIS IS A SERIOUS PRIVACY CONCERN! IF YOU NEED TO RETRIEVE A DOCUMENT, PLEASE CONTACT HOUSEKEEPING AT EXT. #1232 FOR RETRIEVAL OF DOCUMENTS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00AM AND MIDNIGHT, AND BETWEEN MIDNIGHT - 6:00AM, YOU CAN LEAVE A MESSAGE AND THEY WILL COME UP AS SOON AS THE SUPERVISOR ARRIVES IN THE MORNING. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOUSEKEEPING WILL BE PLACING SIGNS ON THE SHRED BINS WITH INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO CONTACT THEM FOR RETRIEVAL OF DOCUMENTS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON THIS, FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO ME, OR ANY OF THE HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISORS AT #1232.



GINA THRUSTON, PRIVACY OFFICER
(208) 422-1031



FREE TO ATTEND!

2023 VETERANS LEGAL CLINICS

June 15
July 13
Aug 10
Sept 14
Oct 12
Nov 9
Dec 14

Legal clinics are free & open to veterans and spouses.

Clinics are held from 2PM to 4PM at the Boise VA Medical Center, Bldg. 54. Located at 500 W. Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

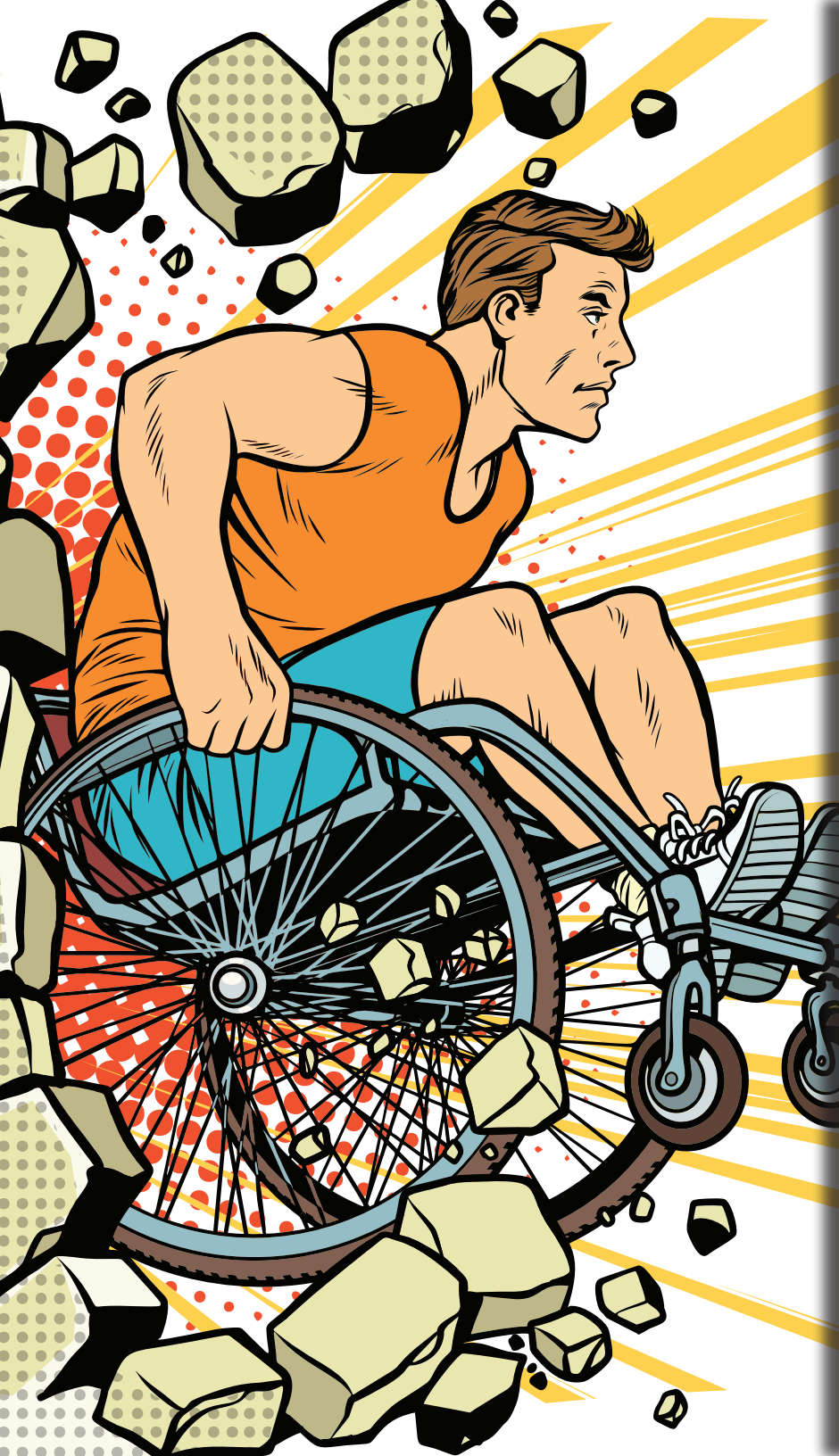
Estate Planning and Wills are not included at these Legal Clinics.

Please contact Amanda Pentland, LCSW at (208) 422-1064 for additional information.



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center



GET PUMPED FOR PORTLAND

ATHLETE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Registration is open from February 1 - April 5, 2023



42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games

July 4 - 9, 2023 Portland, Oregon

All skill levels are welcome from novice to expert!

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for military service Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or other neurological disorders.

For many of the athletes, the Wheelchair Games is their first exposure to competitive wheelchair sports.

Registration Process

Online Registration is different this year, please don't skip any steps.

- Registration Process Overview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dB0_5lh1w0
- Athlete Registration: <https://wheelchairgames.org/athletes/registration/>
- Team: Tri-State (Oregon, SW Washington, and Idaho)

Athlete Registration
QR Code



Registration Process
QR Code



Need assistance or have questions about equipment or training opportunities?
Contact Tri-State Coaches: Kathleen.Zabrocki@va.gov and Kiersten.Smith5@va.gov

COMPLIANCE CORNER

I OCCASIONALLY ASKED ABOUT EMPLOYEE PERSONAL USE OF GOVERNMENT TIME AND EQUIPMENT. THIS SUBJECT IS ADDRESSED IN YHA DIRECTIVE 6001 WHICH ESTABLISHES GUIDELINES FOR LIMITED PERSONAL USE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICE EQUIPMENT. THIS YHA DIRECTIVE, STATES: THIS PRIVILEGE IS EXTENDED TO EMPLOYEES, NOT AS A MATTER OF RIGHT, BUT INSTEAD, AS A MATTER OF MANAGEMENT'S RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE'S PERSONAL AND FAMILY NEEDS. ACCORDING TO 5 CFR § 2635.705(A), UNLESS AUTHORIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW OR REGULATIONS TO USE SUCH TIME FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AN EMPLOYEE SHALL USE OFFICIAL TIME IN AN HONEST EFFORT TO PERFORM OFFICIAL DUTIES. USING GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT FOR PERSONAL USE MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- INVOLVES MINIMAL ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING ELECTRICITY, INK, TONER, PAPER, ELECTRONIC MAIL MESSAGES, TIME ON THE INTERNET)
- IS PERFORMED ON THE EMPLOYEE'S NON-WORK TIME (AUTHORIZED BREAKS, LUNCH, BEFORE AND AFTER HOURS AND WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS IF PERMITTED)
- DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH VA'S MISSION OR OPERATIONS -AND-
- DOES NOT VIOLATE STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES
- ACTIVITY MUST NOT RESULT IN LOSS

OF EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY OR INTERFERENCE WITH OFFICIAL DUTIES

ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

- COMMUNICATING WITH A VOLUNTEER CHARITY ORGANIZATION
- BRIEF INTERNET SESSIONS
- MANAGING YOUR THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) ACCOUNT
- SCHEDULING MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

UNACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDES:

- ANY ACTIVITY THAT WOULD CAUSE A DELAY, OR DISRUPTION OF SERVICE TO GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS
- USING GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS AS A PLATFORM TO GAIN UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO OTHER SYSTEMS
- CREATION, COPYING, TRANSMISSION, OR RETRANSMISSION OF CHAIN LETTERS OR OTHER UNAUTHORIZED MASS MAILINGS REGARDLESS OF THE SUBJECT MATTER
- USE FOR ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ILLEGAL, INAPPROPRIATE, OR OFFENSIVE TO FELLOW EMPLOYEES OR THE PUBLIC (I.E., HATE SPEECH, OR MATERIAL THAT RIDICULES OTHERS ON THE BASIS OF RACE, CREED, RELIGION, COLOR, SEX, DISABILITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION)
- CREATION, DOWNLOADING, VIEWING, STORAGE, COPYING, OR TRANSMISSION OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT OR SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATERIALS

- CREATION, DOWNLOADING, VIEWING, STORAGE, COPYING, OR TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS RELATED TO GAMBLING, ILLEGAL WEAPONS, TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AND ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, OR ACTIVITIES OTHERWISE PROHIBITED

- USE FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR IN SUPPORT OF "FOR PROFIT" ACTIVITIES OR IN SUPPORT OF OTHER OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS ACTIVITY

- USE FOR POSTING AGENCY INFORMATION TO EXTERNAL NEWS GROUPS, BULLETIN BOARDS, OR OTHER PUBLIC FORUMS WITHOUT AUTHORITY

- THE HATCH ACT PROHIBITS EMPLOYEES FROM ENGAGING IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY USING FEDERAL E-MAIL

THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION IF YOU NEED SPECIFIC GUIDANCE RELATED TO THIS SUBJECT OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN CONTACT THE INTEGRITY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER AT (208) 422-1268 OR BY EMAIL TO STEVEN. WALTARI@YA.GOV



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **APRIL**



Matthew Custer

Matthew Custer has been an exceptional member of the Supply Chain Management team and has demonstrated the ICARE value of commitment. He created over 630 equipment records for the IT cell phone refresh that occurred in April. He accomplished this while our immediate section was understaffed and produced the needed records to meet a tight deadline. Due to his efforts, our IT department was given the maximum amount of time to meet their suspense for this tasking. Mr. Custer has also taken the lead in the procurement of multiple massage chairs for our Whole Health program. He has faced multiple challenges with these orders but has overcome them all. He has dealt with numerous defective units and worked to return and exchange them all in a timely manner to ensure the maximum comfort and stress relief for our staff. Along with these duties, Mr. Custer has also juggled various other tasks that have been assigned with the utmost professionalism and diligence.