

## Great Plains Veterans Services Center

"Veterans helping Veterans for a better future"



July NEWSLETTER

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Veterans Outreach Case Managers

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Graphic Designer Amber Lewis

## G.P.V.S.C BOARD MEMBERS

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Robert Belcourt Board Vice President

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Marlene Kay Azure Member-at-Large

Brandi King Member-at-Large



At Northern Winz Casino 11275 US-87, Box Elder, MT 59521

> Tuesday July 11th 6:00pm

### Support the Great Plains Veterans Services Center and Donate



Non- Veteran-\$19.00

> Veteran-\$18.00

American Legion Post Member-\$17.00



Follow us on Social Media



visit our website at www.greatplainsveterans.org

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES FOR UPCOMING BBQ'S AND OTHER EVENTS.

## WARRIOR WEDNESDAYS MEET 'N' GREET BBQ'S

Check out our Facebook page for dates and more details.

Meet 'n' Greet Barbeques are great way to enhance communication and foster bonds among Veterans and others in the community. They are a place to meet friends, find resources, and have fun with other Veterans and community members.

ALL VETERANS EAT FREE

## Warrior Wagon Food Truck

Now opened Tuesday- Friday

Follow us on Facebook @rockyboyveteransfoodtruck for updates and menus

GPVSC OFFICE-46 Veterans Park Rd.

Visit our website to purchase tickets online and to find out more information about the upcoming news and events.

www.greatplainsveterans.org



#### JULY IS NATIONAL SARCOMA CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Sarcoma is a rare cancer in adults (1% of all adult cancers), but rather prevalent in children (about 20% of all childhood cancers). It is made up of many "subtypes" because it can arise from a variety of tissue structures (nerves, muscles, joints, bone, fat, blood vessels – collectively referred to as the body's "connective tissues"). Because these tissues are found everywhere on the body, Sarcomas can arise anywhere. Thus, within each site of the more "common" cancers there is the occasional surprise sarcoma diagnosis (e.g., breast sarcoma, stomach sarcoma, lung sarcoma, ovarian sarcoma, etc.). The most frequent location are the limbs since this is where the majority of the body's connective tissue resides. They are commonly hidden deep in the body, so sarcoma is often diagnosed when it has already become too large to expect a hope of being cured. Although a lot of the lumps and bumps we get are benign, people should have them looked at by a doctor at an early stage in case it is sarcoma.

Sarcomas are cancers that arise from the cells that hold the body together. These could be cells related to muscles, nerves, bones, fat, tendons, cartilage, or other forms of "connective tissues." There are hundreds of different kinds of sarcomas, which come from different kinds of cells. Sarcomas can invade surrounding tissue and can metastasize (spread) to other organs of the body, forming secondary tumors. The cells of secondary tumors are similar to those of the primary (original) cancer. Secondary tumors are referred to as "metastatic sarcoma" because they are part of the same cancer and are not a new disease.

Soft tissue sarcomas are a group of cancers that come from the fat, muscles, blood vessels or nerves of your body. Sarcomas form when normal cells in these tissues change and become cancerous. Sarcomas that start in the bone are different from soft tissue sarcomas and are not reviewed here. Unlike some other cancers, the cause of most sarcomas is unknown. Exposure to cigarette smoke, alcohol and diet have not been associated with any sarcomas.

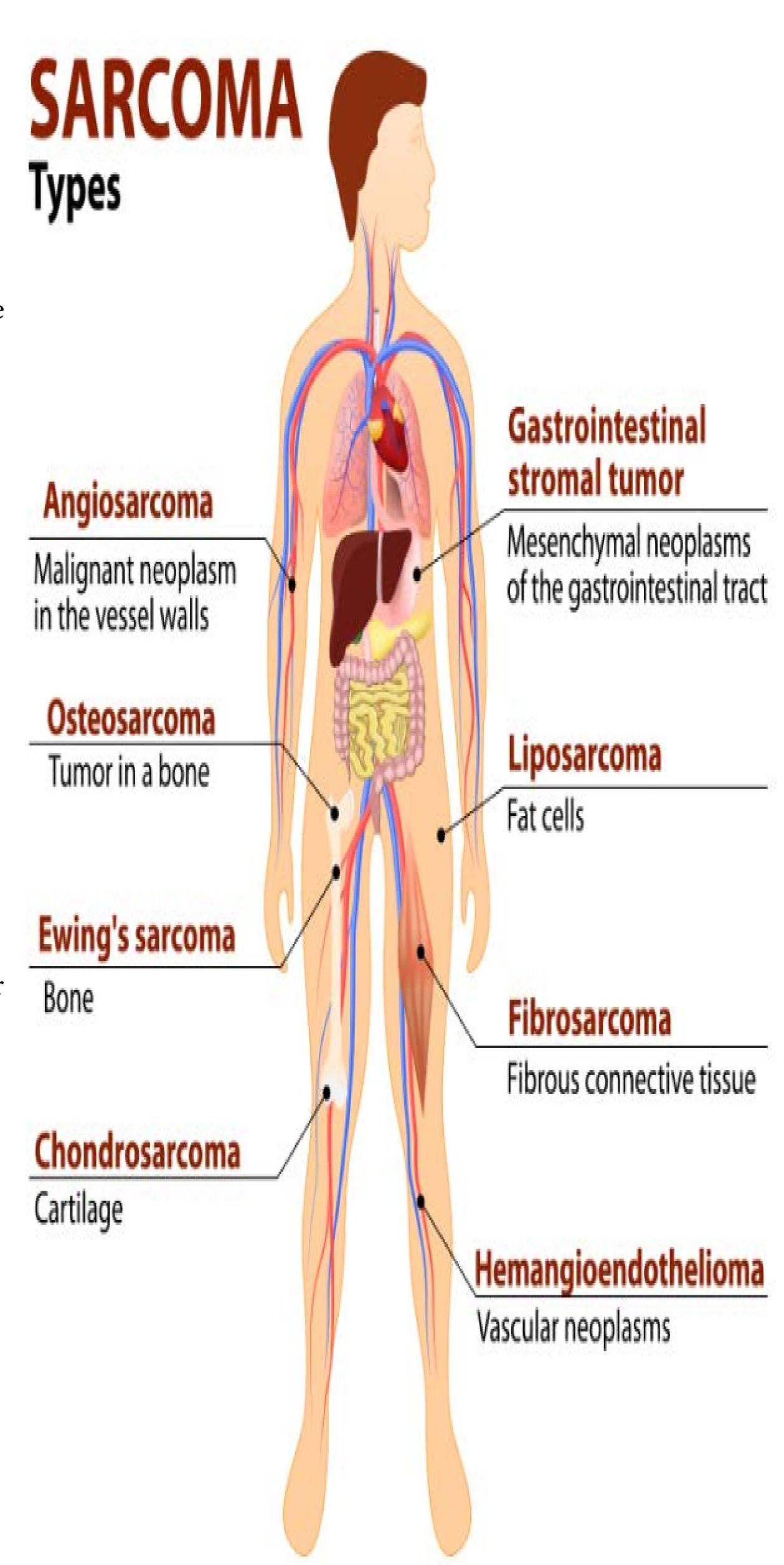
Many sarcomas are first noticed by patients as a "lump" or "bump" (called a tumor). While most tumors are not cancers, it is important to have them looked at early by a doctor. If a tumor or an area of concern is large, quickly growing or painful, it may be a sarcoma.

Sarcomas can form anywhere in the body. The most common locations for sarcomas to form are in the arms or legs, but they can also form in the abdomen, chest or head and neck. Some more rare types of sarcoma can even form in the skin.

There are over 100 different types of soft tissue sarcoma. However, a few types make up most cases:

- Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) a cancer that happens in the or the intestines.
- Liposarcoma a cancer that starts in fat cells, usually in the arms, legs, or abdomen
- Leiomyosarcoma a cancer that is from muscle cells, usually in the arms, legs, or abdomen.
- Synovial sarcoma a cancer that looks like cells of the tissues of the joints, such as the elbows or knees. This type most commonly develops in young adults.
- Angiosarcoma a cancer that forms from blood vessel cells. These can form anywhere in the body. Very rarely, these can form in the breast many years after prior radiation therapy.
- Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNST) a cancer that forms from nerve cells. About half of cases of MPNST occur in patients with the disease neurofibromatosis type 1, which is inherited condition.
- Undifferentiated/unclassified sarcoma a sarcoma that cannot be classified as some other type. These are common and, they used to be called "malignant fibrous histiocytoma", but that term is no longer used.
- Desmoid tumors while they are not technically sarcomas, desmoid tumors are soft tissue tumors that are often treated by the same doctors that treat sarcomas.

by surgery with chemotherapy and/or radiation (another 50-55%), but about half the time they are totally resistant to all of these approaches—thus the extreme need for new therapeutic approaches. At any one time, more than 50,000 patients and their families are struggling with sarcoma. More than 16,000 new cases are diagnosed each year and nearly 7,000 people die each year from sarcoma in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, there will be an estimated 13,400 new cases of sarcoma in 2023. Sarcomas are very rare, making up less than 1% of new cancers. Adults and children can develop a sarcoma, but it is most common in adults.







### JULY IS MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition.

Mental health conditions do not discriminate based on and substance-use treatment services. race, color, gender or identity. Anyone can experience the challenges of mental illness regardless of their background. However, background and identity can make access to mental health treatment much more difficult.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities

COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for racial and of color have provided support to each other. This can ethnic minority groups to get access to mental health

2021 Theme: Strength in Communities This year's theme is Strength in Communities, where we will be highlighting alternative mental health supports created by BIPOC and queer and trans BIPOC (QTBIPOC), for BIPOC and QTBIPOC. It focuses on three topic areas: community care, selfdirected care, and cultural care.

Community care refers to ways in which communities

include things such as mutual aid, peer support, and healing circles.

Self-directed care is an innovative practice that emphasizes that people with mental health and substance use conditions, or their representatives if applicable, have decision-making authority over services they receive.

Cultural care refers to practices that are embedded in cultures that are passed down through generations that naturally provide resiliency and healing.

#### face regarding mental illness in the United States. The MULTICULTUR **Does Mental Health Matter?** Mental health is part of overall health. Mental health directly and indirectly impacts all of us. Mental health conditions cause changes in thoughts, feelings and mood. 1 in every 5 adults Mental health conditions can affect in the U.S. experiences a mental health condition. many areas of your life including: home, work, school, relationships with others, l in every 5 children sleep, appetite, decision making and ages 13-18 have or will have a serious mental may worsen other medical problems. health condition. Does Mental Health Affect My Community? Mental health affects everyone regardless of culture, race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Rate of Suicides in the U.S. by Age 28.3 Percentage of Adults per 100,000 People (2007) with Mental Health Conditions by Race (2012)At 28.3%, American 19-29 Indians and Alaska 18.6 Natives have the 30-44 highest rate of mental health conditions 45-59 among all communities. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth. LGBTQ individuals are 2 or more times more likely as straight individuals to have a mental health condition. \*American Indian/Alaska Native



mental health provider to

integrate your culture into

your treatment plan

successful life. Culturally competent

care can improve access to and quality

of treatment and services. This means

better outcomes.

### SURVIVE AND THRIVE

YOU MATTER • YOU ARE NOT ALONE • HELP IS AVAILABLE

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION COLUMN:

SUICIDE: WHY TALKING ABOUT "IT" IS ESSENTIAL

Suicide touches all of us. Most of us have known or loved at least one person who took their life or who lives in the aftermath of losing a friend or family member to suicide. After cancer and heart disease, suicide accounts for more years of life lost (1.5 million each year) than any other cause of death. However, unlike cancer and heart disease, most of us feel very uncomfortable talking to someone about whether they are having thoughts about harming themselves.

Many of us grew up believing people who took their lives were crazy, selfish or morally defective. Medical research has proven suicidal thoughts are usually the result of psychiatric conditions such as depression, anxiety or schizophrenia, but this hasn't helped us feel more comfortable talking about suicide.

People who experience suicidal thoughts often don't want to die but desperately
want to escape unbearable suffering. A suicidal person can't see any way out of their
excruciating pain except through death. Despite their desire for the pain to stop,
they are deeply conflicted about the act of suicide and wish there was an alternative. When you are talkin
Most people who die by suicide talk about ending their lives prior to taking action.

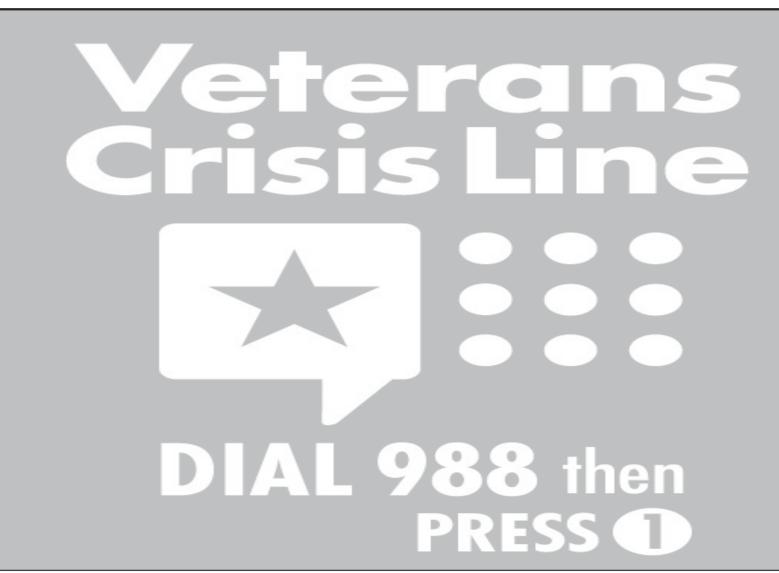
\* Be yourself. Let the
Thus, any mention of suicidal thoughts or plans should be taken seriously.

\* Listen. Let the

Studies also show that hopelessness is a strong predictor of suicide. People who feel hopeless talk of unbearable feelings, a bleak future and having nothing to look forward to.

#### Tips for Talking about Suicide

Suicide prevention starts with recognizing these warning signs and taking them seriously. However, talking to someone about these signs or symptoms can be extremely difficult. If you are unsure whether someone is suicidal, the best way to find out is to ask. You cannot make a person suicidal by showing you care. In fact, giving a suicidal person the opportunity to express their feelings can provide relief from loneliness and pent-up negative feelings and may prevent a suicide attempt.



Ways to start a conversation about suicide:

- \* I've really been feeling concerned about you lately.
- \* Recently I've noticed some differences in you, and I'm wondering how you are doing.
- \* I wanted to check in with you because you haven't seemed yourself lately.

If the individual you are talking to admits to suicidal feelings, you can continue the conversation by inquiring:

- \* When did you begin feeling like this?
- \* Did something happen that made you start feeling this way?
- \* You are not alone in this, you know. I'm here and I want to be helpful. How can I help you right now?

When you are talking to someone who is feeling suicidal, DO:

- \* Be yourself. Let the person know you care and they are not alone.
- \* Listen. Let the person unload no matter how negative the conversation seems.
- \* Be sympathetic, non-judgmental, patient, calm and accepting.

When talking with someone who feels like harming themselves, DON'T:

- \* Argue or say things about how much they have to live for.
- \* Act shocked or lecture them on the value of life or the wrongness of suicide.
- \* Promise confidentiality. A life is at stake and you may need to speak to someone in order to keep the suicidal person safe.
- \* Offer advice or make them feel they have to justify their feelings.
- \* Blame yourself.

### THE CORRELATION BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND SUICIDE

Alcohol and suicide have a tragically close relationship. Individuals with suicidal thoughts often turn to alcohol, and alcohol increases suicidal thoughts.

The Relationship Between Alcoholism And Suicide For many, suicide is a difficult topic to broach. Culturally, it is considered taboo and often the language we use is both polarizing and stigmatized. It is important to make the space to discuss thoughts and feelings as they relate to suicide so those suffering from its weight might seek the help they need more easily. This is especially important in cases where an individual might be suffering from an addiction to alcohol as well as suicidal thoughts.

If you are contemplating suicide, please stop reading and call 1-800-273-8255. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is open 24/7 and allows anyone to speak openly and anonymously.

How Are Alcohol And Suicide Connected? In today's world, unfortunately, many people have a relationship with suicide. Whether a close personal relationship or that of a friend, suicide claims the lives of thousands each year. In 2019 alone, 47,500 Americans lost their lives to suicide. While there is rarely one reason behind a person's death by suicide, it has been found that nearly 1/3 of suicide deaths have been linked to alcohol consumption.

Many people use alcohol as self-medication. Whether they suffer from anxiety or other mental illness, some kind of mood or personality disorder, or are trying to cope with a trauma, many people turn to alcohol in an attempt to forget their problems. The chronic use of this substance, however, can mean that someone builds a tolerance, dependence, and eventually an addiction.

What once might have been considered an aid, is now another (if not greater) strain on their life, harming relationships, jobs and responsibilities, and even the body. Alcoholism has the power to devastate a person who previously had no history of health issues; consequently, when someone who does have underlying health conditions experiments with alcohol as a crutch or coping mechanism, in time, they might become more likely to take their own life.

Although alcohol may provide temporary relief from suicidal ideation (thoughts of suicide), in reality, it makes the issue exponentially worse. In most cases, mid-to-long-term alcohol abuse makes suicidal ideation both more frequent and more powerful, subsequently increasing the likelihood of suicide attempts. Additionally, alcohol abuse generally makes other contributing factors to suicide worse. For example, alcohol exacerbates the symptoms of many mental health conditions such as bipolar disorder,

borderline personality disorder, and depression, all of which can contribute to suicide.

The Implications Of Alcohol And Suicide
The pain felt by family members and loved ones of
someone who has taken their own life is often harder
to deal with than if they died by another means. Often,
those who lost someone feel some level of guilt or
responsibility. It is important to note that suicide is
not something that gives blame or points fingers, it is
powerful and greedy and takes ruthlessly.

However, it is equally imperative to seek help immediately if you notice changes in mood or signs of suicidal thoughts in yourself or a loved one. Those feelings may be indescribably heavy and suffocating, but finding a professional to work through that darkness might be the beginning of a brand new life.

#### Getting Help For A Loved One

If someone you love has a problem with alcohol, or you have noticed them acting out of the ordinary, it's important not to jump to conclusions. Throwing around unfounded accusations could make them feel attacked and escalate the situation. Instead, contact a treatment provider today. They can help you determine a course of action and make sure you have all the tools necessary to get the help you or your loved one need.

#### Instructions:

Suduko puzzles require you to find the missing numbers in a 9x9 grid, with that grid itself divided into 9 square grids of 3x3.

You can't just add any numbers though. There are rules that make solvingo the puzzle challenging.

To solve a Suduko, look for open spaces where its row, colomn and square already have enough other numbers filled in to tell you the correct value. The more squares you fill in, the easier the puzzle is to finish!

#### A number can only occur once in June's Answers a row, column, or square.

									-
9	8	1	3	6	5	2	7	4	+
7	6	5	4	8	2	3	1	9	
2	4	3	1	7	9	8	5	Ь	h
1	9	2	6	3	4	7	8	5	
4	3	7	5	2	8	9	6	1	L
8	5	6	9	1	7	4	3	2	Γ
3	2	4	7	5	6	1	9	8	
5	1	8	2	9	3	6	4	7	
6	7	9	8	4	1	5	2	3	

Junes Answers									
5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2	
6	7	2	$\neg$	9	5	ന	4	8	
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7	
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3	
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1	
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6	
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4	
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5	
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9	

## July's 2023 Suduko Puzzle

Answer in August's Newsletter

9		6		1	3			8
	5	8					9	
	3		7		9		1	
	6		8			9	2	
		3	4		9	1		
	4	9			6		3	
	9			5			8	
	1					6	7	
4			9	6		3		1

#### CHECK CASHING SERVICES

Unload Debit Card, Bill Pay, Buy Bitcoin



#### DEBIT CARD SERVICES

Cash withdrawal fees: Post 67 Member: \$1 Veterans: \$1.50 Non-Veteran: \$2.50

#### CHECK CASHING SERVICES

Fees:

Post 67 Member: 1% Veteran: 1.5% Non-Veteran: 2%



#### BILL PAY SERVICES

Fees Veteran: FREE Non-Veteran: \$3.50 Same Day Venders: Hill County Electric Triangle Communications

Other venders allow 1-3 days posting time to your account

#### CHECK CASHING POLICIES

- NO MONEY ORDERS
- ✓ WE CASH CANADIAN CHECKS UP TO \$500
- ✓ US GOVERNMENT CHECKS CAN ONLY BE CASHED BY THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM THE CHECK IS ISSUED

CHECK CASHING HOURS:

MON-FRI: 8:30am - 4:00pm SAT-SUN: CLOSED



#### "BECAUSE I WANT TO KEEP MY **CULTURE AND TRADITIONS ALIVE"**

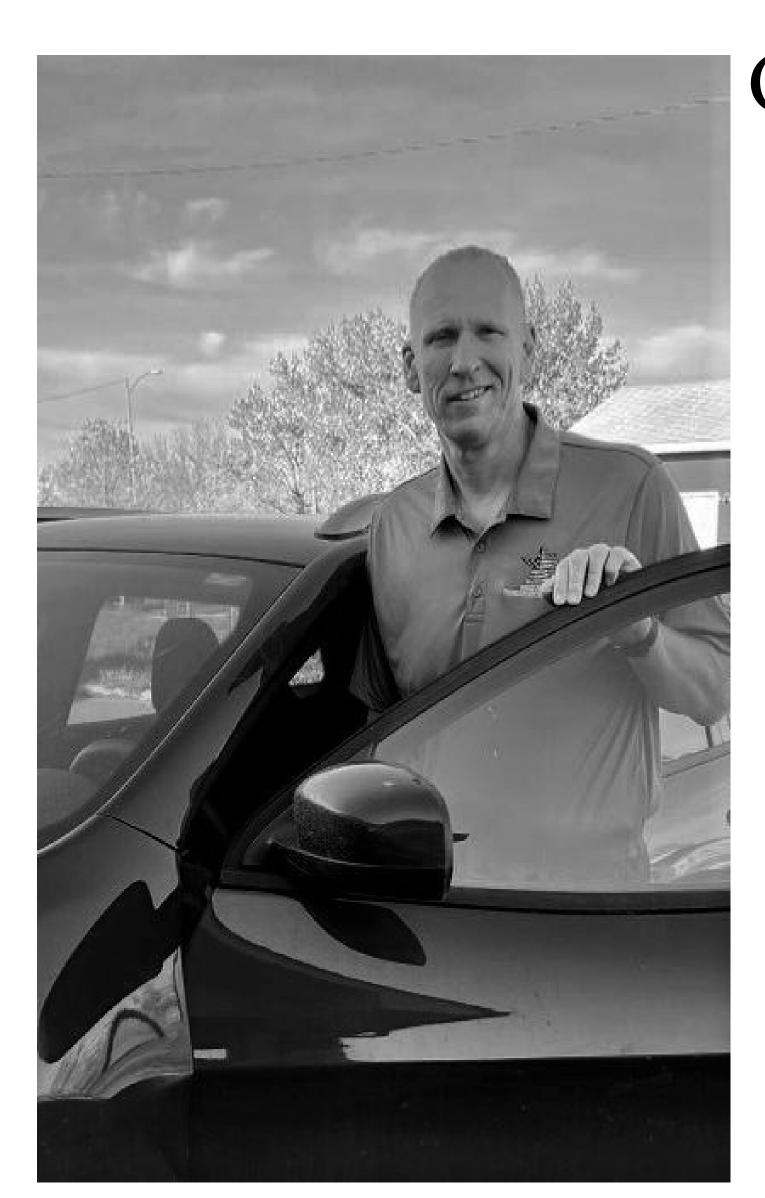
ALWAYS BUCKLE UP AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

When you don't buckle up, you endanger more than just your own life. Drivers and passengers often don't consider how unbuckled occupants can be threwn at high speed. during a crash and can cause serious harm or even death, not only to themselves but to others in the vehicle. That's why it's so important to backle up and ireist others do the same



/ SafeOnAllRoads

### HRTG GRANT NEWS



Congratulations
to
Francois for
your recent
promotion to
the Veterans
Transportation
Manager.
We appreciate
all your hard
work and
dedication to
GPVSC!



CONNECT TO OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE NEWS AND UPDATES
ABOUT THE 2ND ANNUAL
VETERANS STAND DOWN
AND THE UPCOMMING POW



## Saturday July 22nd

This year we are floating from Dearborn River Landing, MT (Mid Cannon FAS) to Hidden Canyon Lodge.

Transportation is available from the Veterans Center and will be leaving at 0530. Rafts will launch at 0800 from Dearborn River Landing, MT. You can follow us in your own ride, or we can provide you with GPS coordinates. The float is around 6 to 8 hours long.

Please contact Veteran Case Manager Jeff Jones @ (406) 399-5185 if you are interested or have any questions.

## FOLLOW US FOR NEWS AND UPDATES WWW.GREATPLAINSVETERANS.ORG



# THE GREAT PLAINS VETERANS SERVICES CENTER IS PROUD TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP OF THESE FOUNDATIONS.



CHARITABLE TRUST



BlueCross BlueShield of Montana



Wells Fargo Foundation











July 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						HAPPY 4TH OF JULY VETERAN POW WOW IN BROWNING
2	All GPVSC Offices Closed	All GPVSC Offices Closed	VET CENTER 10am-3pm	6	7	8
9	10	American Legion Post 67 Meeting 6pm	Warrior Wednesday's Meet-N-Greet BBQ 10am-2pm  VET CENTER 2 10am-3pm	13	GPVSC Weekly Ruffle Drawing	15
16	17	18	Warrior Wednesday's Meet-N-Greet BBQ 10am-2pm	20	GPVSC 21 Weekly Raffle Drawing	22
23	24	National Hire a Veteran Day	VET 26	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day GPVSC STAND DOWN  All GPVSC Offices Closed Happy Birthday Matthew	National Buffalo Soldiers Day	Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary
30	31					

# Community Events

Month of the Military Caregiver

National Military
Appreciation Month

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)- First Full Week

National Correctional
Officers Week- First Full
Week

National Nurses Week-May 6th- May 12th

Armed Forces Week- May 13th- May 20th

A representative from the Great Falls Vet Center will be at the office a couple times a month to answer any VA related questions, aid in enrollment, and offer counselling services for eligible Veterans. The representative will also be available to answer questions about benefits and services.

For more information or to schedule and appointment Call Rich or Becky at (406) 452-9048

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# Social Media Giving Day JULY 15th 2023

check out our Facebook page for more details

## \$ GPVSC Weekly Raffle \$



## WARRIORS CURRENTIY SERVINGIN THEARMED FORCES

Royce Bird Forest Doney Richard Lujan Justin Murphy Small Orion Wolf Chief Shane Ketchum Leo Johnson

**NAVY** 

Jessica Stump

Trey Henderson Maia Henderson

NATIONAL GUARD/ RESERVE

Dominic Pullin

## ATTENTION!!!

Guard and Active Duty members or family members please contact the GPVSC to update your status.



@GREATPLAINS VETERANS



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING AND ADVERTISING WITH GPVSC.... CONTACT REBECCA LEWIS FOR DETAILS 406-395-5610