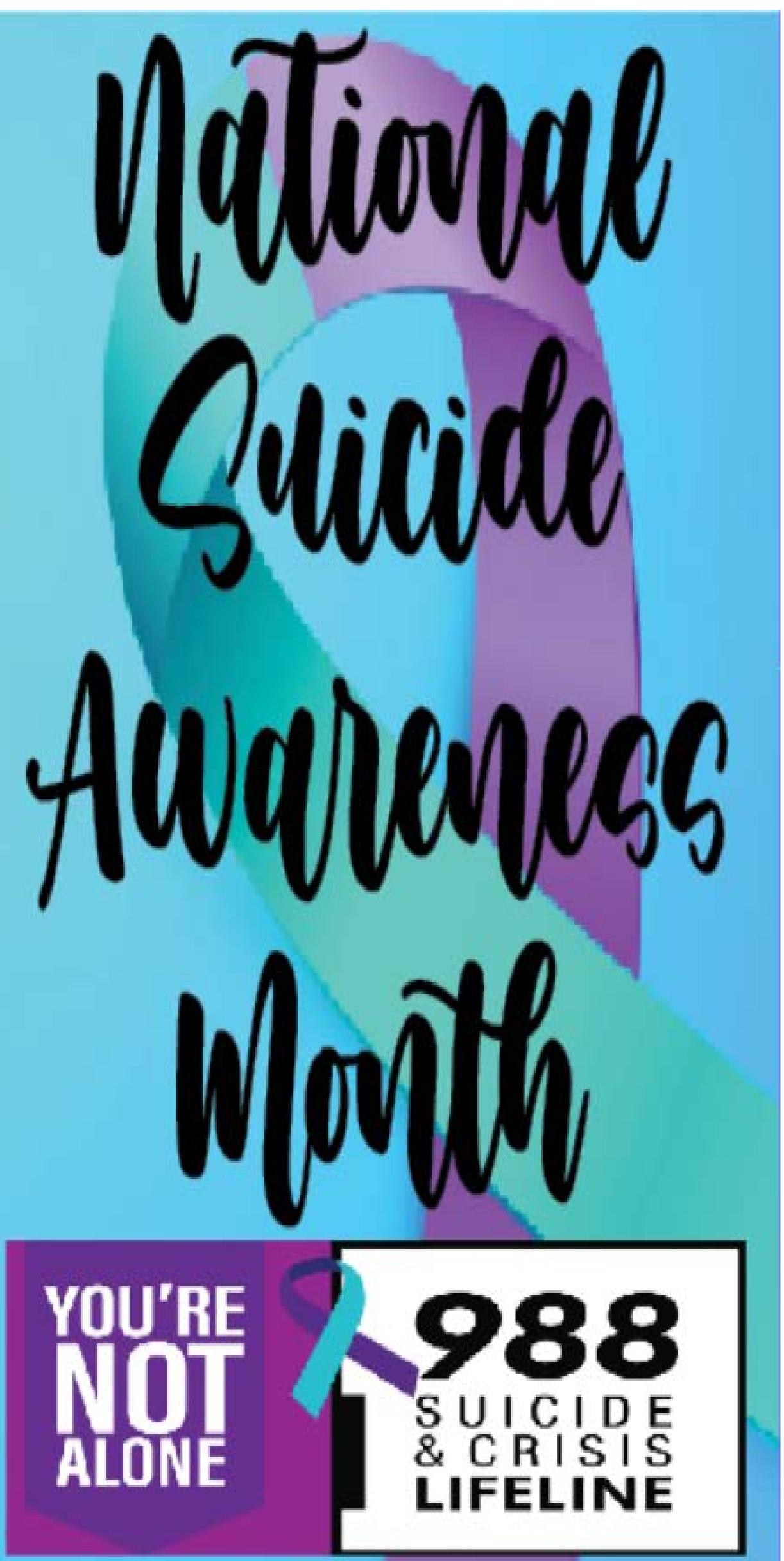


# **Great Plains Veterans Services Center**

"Veterans helping Veterans for a better future"





September NEWSLETTER
2023

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# 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.

# FALL DRIVING TIPS... HAZARDS TO PAY SPECIAL ATTTENTION TO

Autumn can lull drivers into inattentiveness, but it has hazards that need special attention.

Now that fall has arrived, it's time to shift gears on driving safety. It's easy to think of autumn as a gentle time, benign for drivers — easy, but very wrong. Fall brings its own set of hazards that can result in damage or injury if you're inattentive when behind the wheel.

Here are nine things that require special attention in this season.

1. Kids - Maybe you're used to all the back-to-school traffic. But maybe the kids aren't, especially new student drivers not yet overcoming their own lack of expertise and that of their peers.

So, stay wary in school zones not only for kids walking, but also for young, inexperienced drivers leaving the premises and picking up friends or siblings.

Remember that most states require you to halt in most situations for a school bus with its red flashers on.

That is violated often enough that buses are beginning to use cameras to catch people who drive by when the "Stop" arms are extended and the lights are flashing.

2. Darkness- "When Daylight Saving Time ends, many people will find themselves spending more time driving in the dark," the National Safety Council warns. "Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision can be compromised in the dark, and the glare of headlights from an oncoming vehicle can temporarily blind a driver."

Though just 25 percent of our driving is at night, 50 percent of traffic deaths occur then, according to the council, a nonprofit founded in 1913 to reduce preventable deaths.

safety council says. And at 60 and older, we generally see road signs less clearly, have more trouble judging speed and distance, and are bothered more when headlights glare, according to the American Optometric Association.

3. Critters - You're 3.5 times as likely to hit an animal, especially a deer, in November as at any other time of the year, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety says. Deer is likely to be mating in November, and that's why you see more of them.

West Virginia, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Iowa had the highest proportion of collision claims with animals between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, according to the institute and State Farm Insurance. An adult deer, the smallest of several breeds of hoofed mammals, can weigh 300 pounds or more, so that's like hitting two adult men.

About 1 in every 100 drivers will hit a deer during the driver's life behind the wheel, animal-rights group PETA says.

4. Leaves - As the foliage falls and winds blow, leaves litter the road.

They can cause motorists to park farther from the curb to accommodate piles, create puddles as they block drainage, hide potholes and pavement markings, prompt bicyclists to stray from their designated lanes and turn into a slick mess when they coat the road during rain. That's because wet leaves create a mat that reduces traction no matter how new your tires are.

Then come the leaf peepers. You're familiar with these tourists if you live in some areas of the country, but even locals can be prone to slowing down if an especially beautiful display of color catches their eyes.

With both leaf peepers and fallen foliage, make sure you have plenty of stopping distance to avoid a rear-ender.

5. Tires - Tires perform better on rainy surfaces if they have enough tread. And they stop faster and steer better on dry ones.

Also, proper tire pressure helps keep you rolling smoothly and safely. Expect your tires 7. A first aid kit to drop at least 1 pound per square inch (PSI) of pressure each month, no matter the weather.

When the air cools in the fall, that accelerates. Tires will drop another pound per square inch of pressure for every 10 degrees of temperature drop.

Check tire pressure with a good handheld gauge from an auto parts store when the car's been sitting two or three hours. Correct pressure will be noted on a decal pasted on the driver's side door jamb or the door itself and in the owner's manual.

The pressure inscribed on the tire sidewall itself is maximum and not the recommended inflation — though it might coincidentally match the recommended PSI for your car.

6. Dampness - We think of big puddles as dangerous — and they are — because front wheels can float, and you can lose steering. That's called hydroplaning.

But even before the puddles accumulate, rain can pool on the dust, grime and oil that are on all roads and make the pavement slick. That's especially true if your area hasn't had rain in a while.

Slowing your speed helps. If you're on a busy road, you can drive in the tracks of cars ahead of you where the road is driest.

7. Glare - The blinding distraction of sun glare waxes as summer wanes.

Sounds wrong, but it's logical because the sun moves closer to the horizon. That points it straight into your eyes and makes it more likely to reflect at low angles off buildings, other cars and windows.

Have your sunglasses handy. Don't look directly into the lights of oncoming traffic when you drive at night.

And keep your windshield clear, so dirt streaks don't contribute to the glare.

A 50-year-old driver might need twice as much light to see as well as a 30-year-old, the 8. Fog and frost - Those harbingers of winter are fall hazards in some areas. Otherwise refreshing chilly fall mornings can trigger fog, reducing your vision and distance perception. This is when you're supposed to use those fog lights that many cars have. They shine wide, low beams along the road and onto the edges of a street, which also is helpful for critter spotting. Don't use them instead of your regular headlights but rather in addition to low-beam headlights.

> Don't click on your high beams. Those make visibility worse because the bright light bounces off the fog and right back into your eyes.

When temperatures have been cold enough that moisture on the road has turned to ice in spots, slow down.

Pay special attention to bridges and overpasses. All those "bridge freezes before road" signs are serious.

9. Inexperience- You live where it's temperate and dry, you say, so thanks, but no thanks.

But hold on. Common sense suggests that you sometimes take a trip, driving your own vehicle or rental.

And when you do, you're out of your depth, beyond your normal driving experience. That means the fall challenges listed here can be even more daunting because you seldom face them and don't have the muscle memory to react smoothly.

#### CAR EMERGENCY KIT FOR FALL

Here are items you should have in your car's emergency kit this season:

- 1. A cellphone, charged and with the appropriate cord
- 2. An orange plastic safety triangle and flares, which allow you to be seen on the side of the road
- 3. A flashlight with extra batteries
- 4. Rain poncho and ice scraper for nasty weather
- 5. Jumper cables
- 6. A multipurpose tool or a toolkit

# A FREE BENEFIT FOR VETERANS September 15th & 16th

Sept. 15th 10am-5pm | Sept. 16th 10am-3pm

Mercantile Building at Montana ExpoPark in Great Falls FREE SERVICES

- Veteran service officers and Social Security reps to handle claims issues
- Job service help
- Legal advice, financial advice & family services
- Psychological and addiction counseling
- Medical services & health screenings including dental, hearing, blood pressure/blood glucose, and vision (Friday only)
- · Physical therapy consultations
- Haircuts, chair massage
- Burgers and dogs, chili, Pepsi products, and Starbucks for coffee and pastries

CEREMONY: A dedication ceremony will begin at 10 am on Friday 9/15 The Stand Down theme for 2023 is Honoring the Fallen Member of Vets4Vets

## Vets4Vets

Military veterans advocating for homeless and incarcerated veterans as well as those in need of assistance reintegrating into the community when returning from deployment and separating from active duty of fighting for the security of guaranteed freedom in the United States of America.

A Great Big THANK YOU to the Red Horse Squadron from Malmstrom and these supporters:

OPPORTUNITIES INC. • GREAT FALLS COLLEGE • MSU • SAMS CLUB
MSU SCHOOL OF NURSING • PEPSI COLA OF GREAT FALLS
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STAYBRIDGE SUITES • NORTH 40 • CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
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FALLS PRINT WORKS - ACME BODY SHOP

Wally (406) 868-4764



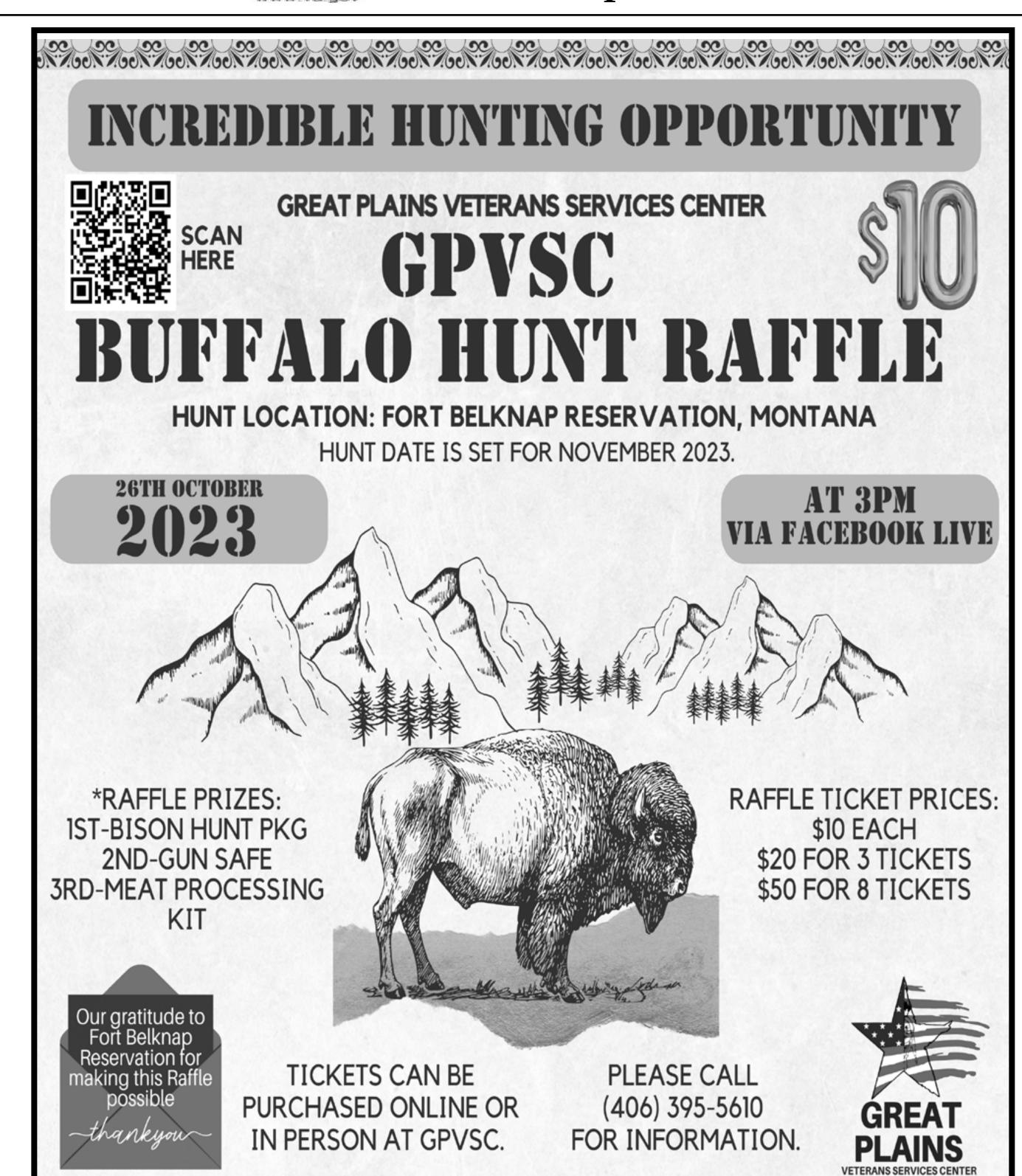


Toby (406) 750-0414



Vets4Vets of Montana





\*FOR DETAILS & TO PURCHASE ONLINE GO TO WWW.GREATPLAINSVETERANS.ORG





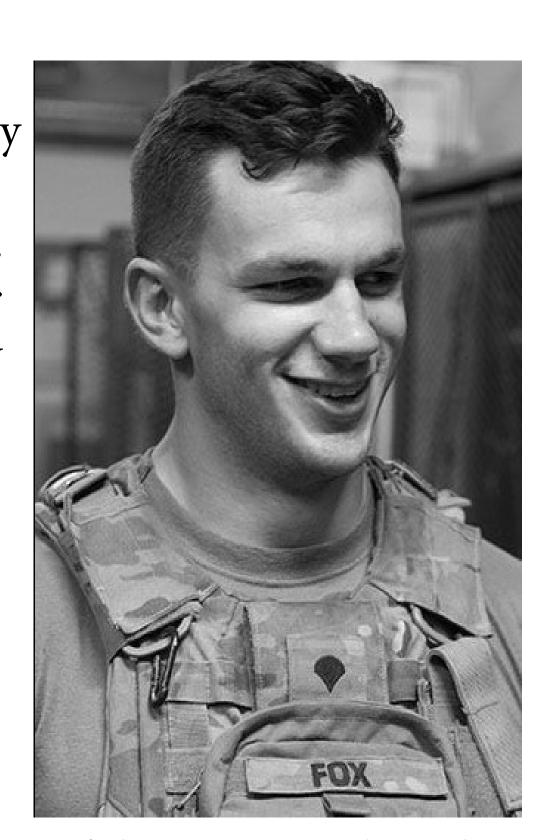
# GPVSC AND SSG FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT UPDATES

The Staff Seargeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) enables the VA to provide resources towards community- based suicide prevention efforets to meet the needs of Veterans and their families through outreach, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources. In alignment with the VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veterans Suicide (2018), this grant program assists in further implementing a public health approach that blends community- based prevention with evidence based clinical strategies through community efforts.

SSG Fox SPGP honors Veteran Parker Gordon Fox who joined the Army in 2014 and was a sniper

instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was known for a life of generosity and kindness to others in need.

SSG Fox died by suicide on July 21, 2020, at the age of 25.

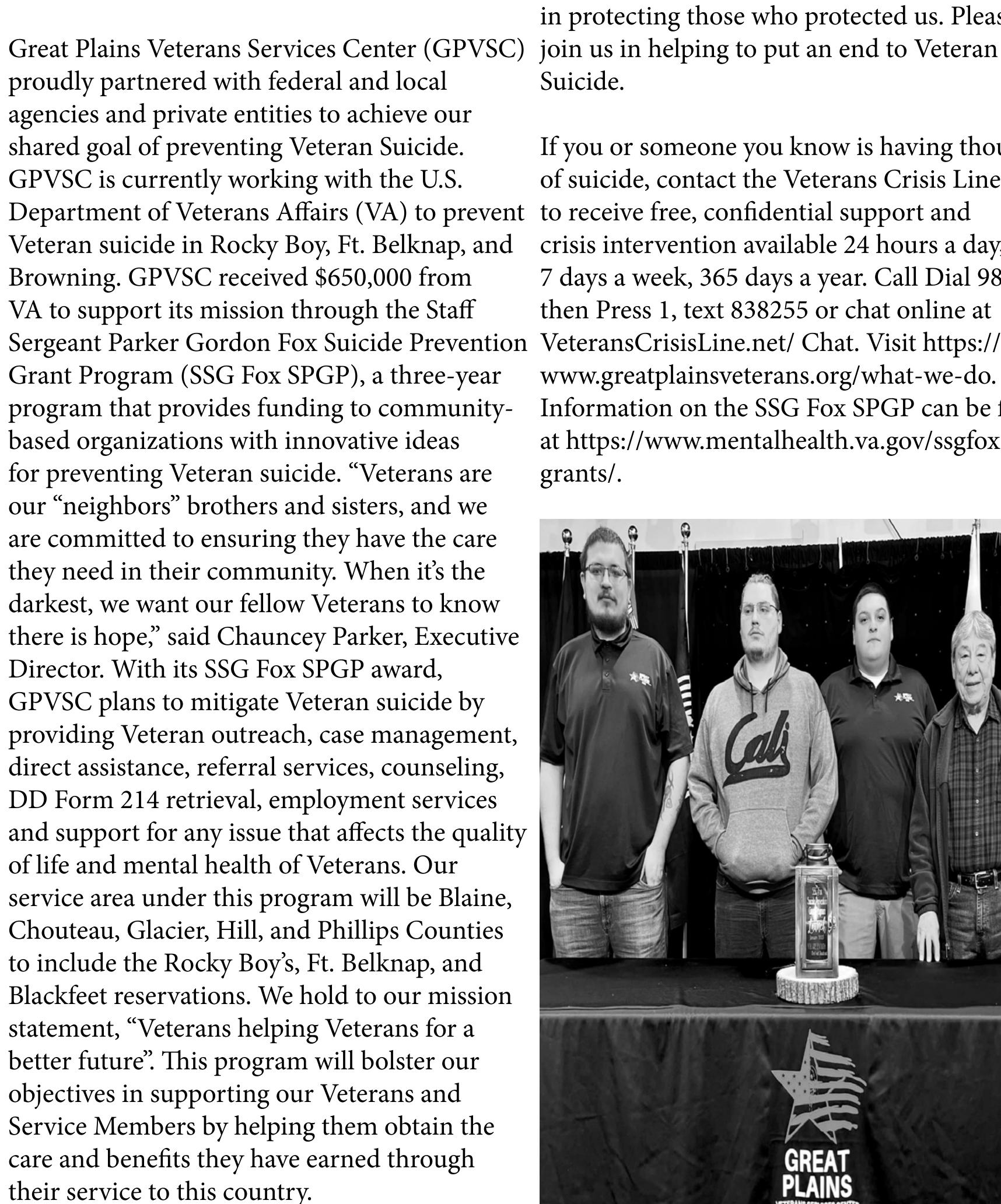


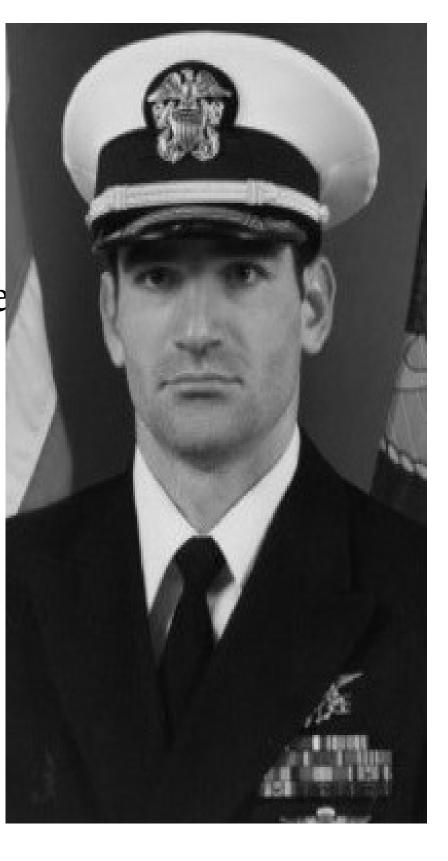
This program is part of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 (Hannon Act), which there is hope," said Chauncey Parker, Executive broadens mental health conditions for Veterans. Director. With its SSG Fox SPGP award, This was signed in to law on October 17, 2020; the Hannon Act's 34 sections build upon VA's existing mental heealth services and will improve access options for Veterans. The VA is committed to the men and women who have served our country and continues to advocate for better mental health and early intervention services.

The Hannon act was inspired by the service of Commander John Scott Hannon, a decorated Veteran who retired to his family home in Helena, Montana after a 23-year career with the Navy SEALs. Commander Hannon believed in giving back to his community by mentoring at-risk youth, involement with animal resuce,

rehabilitaion organizations and the Montana chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) where he spoke candidly about his wartime injuries.

Commander Hannon died by suicide on February 25, 2018, at the age of 46.





At the end of January, the GPVSC launched its SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program both in Rocky Boy and Browning, MT. We are honored to bring this program to our communities. With this new program, we plan to provide or coordinate providing suicide prevention services to eligible Veterans and their families. This VA program is to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic and to let our fellow Veterans know; suicide is preventable, there is hope. Everyone can be part of the solution by checking in with the Veterans in their life and encouraging them to reach out if they need help. We all have a role in protecting those who protected us. Please Suicide.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call Dial 988 then Press 1, text 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/ Chat. Visit https:// www.greatplainsveterans.org/what-we-do. Information on the SSG Fox SPGP can be found at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfoxgrants/.



# YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

# SURVIVE AND THRIVE

YOU MATTER • YOU ARE NOT ALONE • HELP IS AVAILABLE

# SUICIDE PREVENTION COLUMN: ABANDONMENT ANXIETY:

# DIAL 988 then PRESS 🛈

Veterans Crisis Line

# UNDERSTANDING AND OVERCOMING YOUR FEARS

The fear of abandonment is a common and deeply distressing form of anxiety that can significantly impact our relationships and overall well-being. It often stems from past experiences or emotional traumas, making it challenging to form secure connections with others. However, it is possible to work through abandonment anxiety and develop healthier coping mechanisms.

Here are some practical strategies to help you overcome the fear of abandonment and build more fulfilling relationships:

- 1. Recognize and Validate Your Emotions The first step in overcoming abandonment anxiety is to recognize and validate your emotions. It's normal to feel fear or insecurity, especially if you've experienced past traumas or abandonment. Acknowledging your feelings and accepting them without judgment is essential for starting the healing process.
- 2. Identify the Root Cause Take time to explore the root cause of your fear of abandonment. Reflect on past experiences or relationships that

might have contributed to these feelings. Understanding the origin of your anxiety can help you gain insight into why you feel this way and guide your healing journey.

- 3. Challenge Negative Thought Patterns Abandonment anxiety often leads to negative thought patterns and selfdoubt. Challenge these thoughts by asking yourself if they are based on evidence or past experiences. Replace negative thoughts with more balanced and realistic affirmations to shift your mindset.
- 4. Practice Mindfulness and Grounding Techniques

Engage in mindfulness and grounding exercises to stay present and reduce anxiety. Breathing exercises, meditation, or focusing on your senses can help you stay centered in the moment and prevent your mind from wandering into fears of abandonment.

5. Communicate Openly with Your Partner or Loved Ones If you're in a relationship, communicate openly with your partner about your

fears and anxieties. Sharing your feelings can foster understanding and create a supportive environment. A caring and patient partner can play a crucial role in helping you work through your abandonment anxiety.

- 6. Set Boundaries and Practice Self-Care Establish clear boundaries in your relationships to ensure that your needs are met and respected. Practicing self-care is essential for building selfconfidence and reducing anxiety. Engage in activities that bring you joy and prioritize your well-being.
- 7. Seek Professional Support Overcoming abandonment anxiety may require professional guidance. Consider seeking support from a therapist or counselor experienced in anxiety and relationship issues. Therapy can provide a safe space to process your emotions and learn effective coping strategies.
- 8. Engage in Positive Affirmations Repeat positive affirmations regularly to reinforce feelings of self-worth and security. Remind yourself that you are deserving of love and that you can build

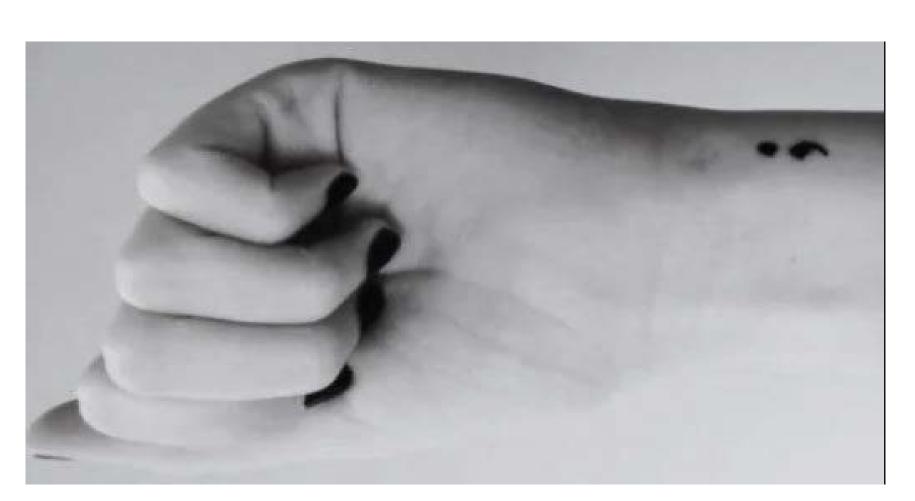
trusting and lasting relationships.

9. Take Small Steps Towards Vulnerability

Overcoming abandonment anxiety may involve gradually opening yourself up to vulnerability. Take small steps to share your feelings and emotions with trusted individuals, allowing yourself to experience the support and understanding that you need.

10. Be Patient with Yourself Healing from abandonment anxiety is a process that takes time and effort. Be patient and compassionate with yourself as you navigate through your fears. Celebrate your progress, no matter how small, and remember that healing is a journey, not an overnight transformation. Overcoming the fear of abandonment anxiety is a courageous and transformative journey. By addressing the root causes, seeking support, and practicing self-compassion, you can build healthier and more fulfilling relationships while developing a stronger sense of self-worth and security.

# WHY THE SEMICOLON TATTOO RESONATES WITH MILLIONS



tattoo has emerged In recent years, the semicolon as a powerful symbol that has touched the lives of millions of people across tthe globe. What was once a simple punctuation mark has transformed into a profound emblem of resilience, hope, and solidarity within the realm of mental health and personalstruggles. Let's explore the reasons why the semicolon tattoo has resonated so deeply with countless individuals from different walks of life.

#### A Symbol of Continuation

In writing, the semicolon is used to connect two related but independent thoughts. Symbolically, the semicolon tattoo represents the idea of continuation in life's journey, even in the face of adversity. It serves as a reminder that life does not end with a period but rather continues with the strength to move forward

and grow.

Empowering Conversations about Mental Health Mental health issues have historically been surrounded health and the challenges faced by millions worldwide. by stigma and silence. However, the semicolon tattoo has become a catalyst for change. By displaying this symbol on their skin, individuals encourage open conversations about mental health, breaking down barriers, and fostering a more compassionate and understanding society.

A Sense of Belonging and Unity

The semicolon tattoo has created a global community of individuals who share a common understanding of life's struggles and the challenges posed by mental health issues. Those who wear the tattoo find a sense of belonging and unity with others who have experienced similar hardships, creating a supportive network that spans borders and cultures. Personal Empowerment and Resilience Getting a semicolon tattoo is an act of personal empowerment. It signifies a declaration to overcome obstacles, to face life's difficulties head-on, and to embrace resilience. The tattoo serves as a constant reminder of the wearer's inner strength and their ability to persevere through tough times. Visibility and Awareness

The visibility of the semicolon tattoo is an essential aspect of its impact. When worn openly, it sparks

curiosity and interest, prompting conversations and raising awareness about the significance of mental A Tribute to Personal Journeys

Each semicolon tattoo carries a unique story, representing a personal journey of growth, healing, or acceptance. It symbolizes a moment of triumph over adversity and serves as a tribute to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

Global Movement for Mental Health

The semicolon tattoo has transcended borders and cultural boundaries to become a symbol of a global movement advocating for mental health awareness and support. Its popularity has been driven by social media, allowing the movement to reach millions of people, inspiring positive change and empathy worldwide.

Conclusion

The semicolon tattoo's ability to resonate with millions all over the world lies in its representation of hope, resilience, and unity. It has become a powerful tool for breaking the silence around mental health issues and fostering a supportive global community. By wearing the semicolon tattoo, individuals not only share their own stories but also become part of a larger narrative, one that promotes understanding, empathy, and acceptance for all those facing life's challenges.

# 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 Alloust'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	6	h
1	9	2	6	3	4	7	8	5	П
4	3	7	5	2	8	9	6	1	L
8	5	6	9	1	7	4	3	2	
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	

Augusts Answers									
5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2	
6	7	2	$\neg$	9	5	ന	4	80	
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7	
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3	
4	2	6	8	5	ദ	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	

# September's 2023 Suduko Puzzle

Answer in October's Newsletter

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

# 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 firrewn 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

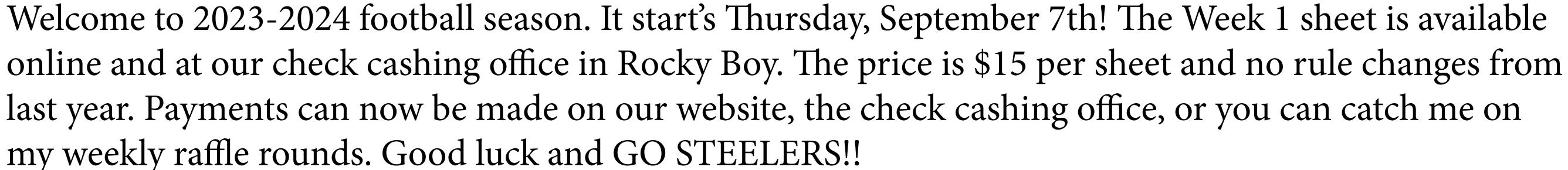
# JOIN US FOR THE 2023-2024 U PICK 'EM FOOTBALL RAFFLE SEASON

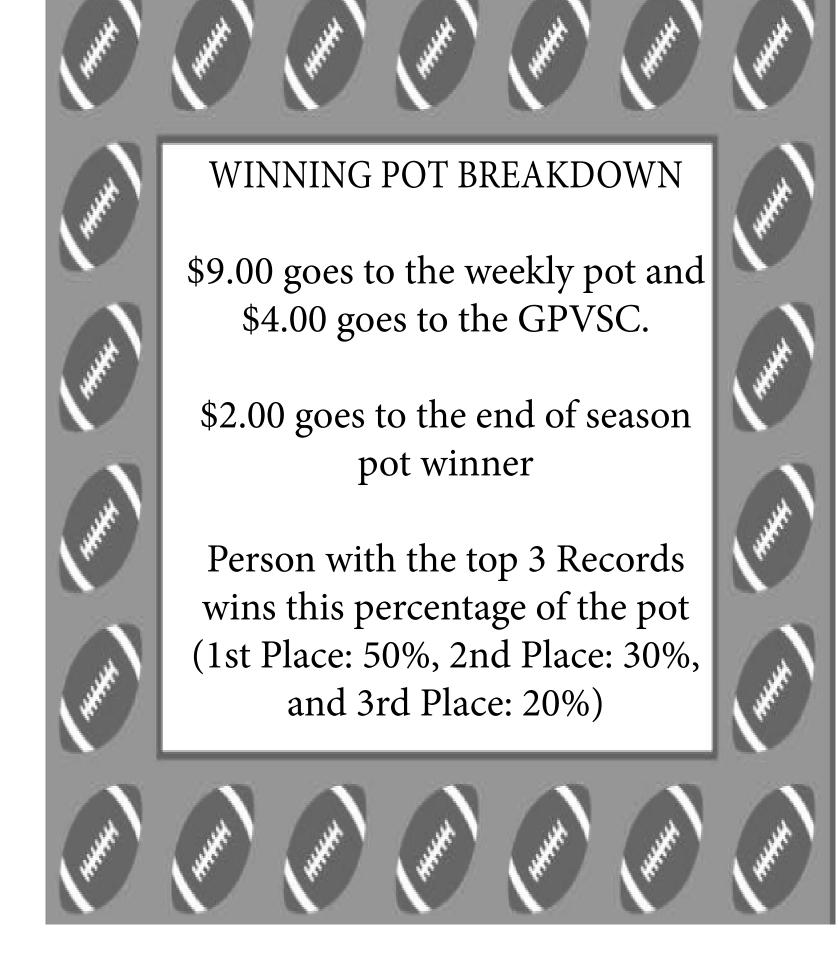
GPVSC is hosting their U Pick 'Em Football Raffle. Check out our website for more information and weekly game sheets. Please contact John "The Raffle Man" Gardipee Sr. at GPVSC VIA email at jsrgardipee@gpvsc.org or by phone 406-395-5010.

## OFFICIAL RULES

- Entry fee is \$15 per game sheet/per week
- Check or circle the team that you think will win
- Enter the final score of Monday Night's Game to help break any possible ties.
- Individual with the best record wins
- If there is a tie, the closest score without going over wins.
- In the event that bothe of your scores go over, the difference between your score and the actual score will be used to calculate the tie breaker. (5 points for going over and 1 point for being under)
- You can purchase as many game sheets as you want but you must include a sheet number behind your name, the record will go towards that game sheet.
- All game sheets must be paid by 4:30PM on Friday each week.
- Thursday's game must be picked and submitted by 4:30PM on Thursday each week.
- There are 17 weeks, but only 15weeks are selected for the best record, Your worst two weeks will be removed.

A message from John "the Raffle Man" Gardipee-





# GPVSC U PICK 'EM FOOTBALL RAFFLE PICKS OPEN 9/4/2023 NFL SEASON BEGINS 9/7/2023



# GPVSC BURGER BOX IS OFFICALLY OPENING SEPTEMBER 18TH

SAME GREAT FACES... NEW MENU

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.



Follow us on Facebook

@BURGERBOX

RBFOODTRUCK

For updates and menus

WARRIOR WEDNESDAYS
MEET 'N' GREET BBQ'S
ALL VETERANS EAT FREE

GPVSC OFFICE- 46 Veterans Park Rd.









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



CHARITABLE TRUST



BlueCross BlueShield of Montana



Wells Fargo Foundation











September 2023



# Community Events

National Suicide Prevention Month

	National Service Dog						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Month
27	28	29	30	<b>31</b>	GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing		Constitution Week- Sept 17th - 23rd
					3pm  VJ Day- Victory over Japan		Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15th- Oct 15th Native American Week
3	All GPVSC Offices Closed  Purple Heart Day	5	Warrior Wednesday's Meet-N- Greet BBQ 10am-2pm	Veterans Sweat 6pm	GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing 3pm  13th Anniversary of GPVSC Weekly Raffle	9	Sept 23rd-30th  Buffalo Raffle- Purchase tickets now Hunt is October
10	9/11 Rememberance Day 8:46am Patriots Day	Suicide Prevention Walk and Community Feed 6pm	Meet-N-	14	GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing 3pm  Great  Stand  National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Down	A representative from the Great Falls Vet Center will be at the office a couple times a month to answer any VA related questions,
17	\$5 Original Cheeseburger Meal for Suicide Prevention Day in Honor of GPVSC Burger Box's Opening  Airforce USAF Birthday		20 LENTER 10am-3pm Haircuts by Gary Warrior Wednesday's Meet-N- Greet BBQ 10am-2pm Board Meeting	21	GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing 3pm	23	aid in enrollment, and offer counselling services for eligible Veterans. The representative will also be available to answer questions about benefits and services.
24  Gold Star Mother's Day	25	26	Warrior Wednesday's Meet-N- Greet BBQ 10am-2pm	GPVSC Native American Week ervent and Feed	29 Special GPVSC Weekly Raffle  Native American Week Parafe  VFW Day	30	For more information or to schedule and appointment Call Rich or Becky at (406) 452-9048

FOLLOW US FOR NEWS AND UPDATES WWW.GREATPLAINSVETERANS.ORG

# WARRIORS CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

ARMY

<u>AIRFORCE</u>

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

Trey Henderson Maia Henderson

NATIONAL
GUARD/
RESERVE

**NAVY** 

Dominic Pullin

Jessica Stump

# ATTENTION!!!

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

