

The

June 2018

BOISE



FRONT

The official newsletter of the Boise VA Medical Center

SURGEON'S QUARTERS
Constructed in 1863-1864 as part of Fort Boise and occupied for years by military and VA doctors.
First occupied by Veterans Affairs and 2013 by VAMC



FCC Chairman Ajit Pai visited VA telehealth programs in Boise, ID on June 21st.



NEW! INDOOR ADVENTURE PARK



SAVE ON ROARING SPRINGS, WAHOOZ & TRIPLE THE FUN TICKETS

\$7 off with Online Discount Club

Roaring Springs Full Day Ticket (3 & under FREE)
Triple the Fun Roaring Springs/Wahooz Combo Ticket
Wahooz Ultimate Unlimited Fun Pass
Wahooz Jr Ultimate Unlimited Fun Pass

\$24.99^{+tax} (**\$7 off**)
\$49.99^{+tax} (**\$5 off**)
\$36.99^{+tax} (**\$8 off**)
\$31.49^{+tax} (**\$6.50 off**)

Buy Roaring Springs tickets at

www.roaringsprings.com

Click on Roaring Springs, then
Groups > Discount Club > Buy Now

Group Name: **vamedical**

Password: **familyfun** (all lower case)

Print confirmation (or show on phone).

Take to turn stile & enter waterpark.

Buy Wahooz tickets at

www.wahoozfunzone.com

Click on Wahooz, then
Groups > Discount Club > Buy Now

Group Name: **vamedical**

Password: **familyfun** (all lower case)

Print confirmation (or show on phone).

Take to Wahooz ticket counter.

For more information please visit www.roaringsprings.com or www.wahoozfunzone.com

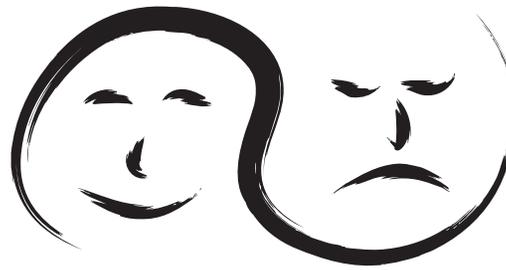
(208) 884-8842

I-84, Meridian exit

(208) 898-0900



Hello's



Goodbye's

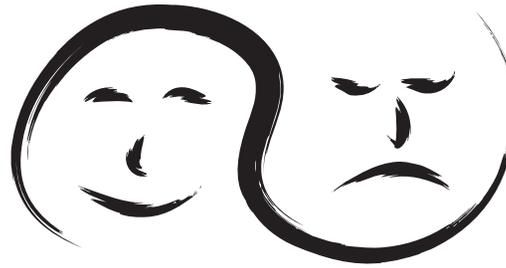
The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our
new employees who came aboard:

New Employees:

Chris, Stacy – Nursing
Christian, Connie – Nursing
Clausen, Charity – Nursing
Costello, Ashley – HAS
Craig, Sheri – Surgery
Fogg, John – Nursing
Hilke, Ashley – VCS
Holyfield, Kaitlyn – Pharmacy
Izzi, Marina – Pharmacy
Jensen, Catlin – PMRS
Jones, Gene - FMS
Kamp, Stacia – Nursing
Kenworthy, Mary – Nursing
Kerr, James – Nursing
Lambert, Megan – Nursing
Lambert, Sarah – Nursing

Mackie, Joshua – AS
Middleton, Jon – FMS
Munson, Kimberly – HAS
Murphy, Neil – HAS
Phillips, Heathe – VCS
Randall, Chad – FMS
Rehnstrom, Jackie – Nursing
Rodriquez Cruz, Sandra – PMRS
Rovelsky, Suzette – Pharmacy
Steenon, Marla – Surgery
Tambling, Phyllis – HAS
Tracy, Amanda – FMS
Valle, Carlos – FMS
Visscher, Paul – MSO
Walser, Heather – Pharmacy
Webb, Erin – Nursing
Yavruian, Rick – BH

Hello's



Goodbye's

The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to
the employees who left us:

Aarnink, Sydney
Abbott, Lindsey
Aresco, Christopher
Balbas, Jerusha
Balentine, Rose
Beeman, Sheila
Bolinger, Sheila
Burgess, Ted
Byrd, Stephen
Carnes, Robert
Cichoracki-Johnson, Janet
Curtright, Sarah
Davilla, Brandon
Drake, Gregory
Ellerd, Taylor
Entringer, Jeffrey
Erickson, Katheryn
Griffiths, Patrice

Hawkins, Nicholas
Leonard, Deborah
Lowman, Jodi
Magadia, Chad
Manning, Kevin
Meyer, Larry
Moad, Pete
Neff, Randy
Poore, Carla
Raw, Tamara
Sandoval, Carlos
Smith, C. Scott
Stanek, Travis
Thomas, David
Walker, Melody
Whitmore, Gregory

NEW CALL CENTER

The Office of
Community Care now
has a new call center to:

Assist with non-VA care billing issues.

Research OCC Claim discrepancies.

*Provide assistance routing veterans to
appropriate office.*

*Escalate high priority calls for
resolution.*



VA | Boise VA
Medical Center

(877) 881-7618



2018 DISABLED VETERANS ATV RIDE



15 Disabled Veterans who are rated at 30% or above are invited on a one day, all-expense paid ATV/UTV ride in the mountains of Idaho on Saturday, July 21, 2018

Veterans will be chosen first-come-first serve. Disability does not need to be combat related.

To sign up or volunteer to help/ride call Steve at (208) 283-8021

Sponsored by the Boise ATV Trail Riders





Julie Goodman

Behavioral Health
'Employee of the Month'
June - 2018



Julie has been a solid part of our program in the TRC for over 10 years. She has an exceptional way of thinking with being so compassionate and kind; she thinks of the bigger picture first and always has an idea to navigate through obstacles and barriers. She is honored and acknowledged by veterans daily and we observe this in our morning community meetings. Veterans constantly talk about her wisdom and how she carries out the philosophy in attachment and recovery; she not only talks about the importance of these connections in recovery, she advocates and models inclusion; she has a strong sense of self that allows her to show her vulnerability; this is seen when we staff veterans or when problem solving with veterans. Her wisdom in group facilitation and process is incredible; this has been mentioned by our students and her group numbers show her focus of connection and emotional safety. She is able to help veterans really understand what they are feeling in a way that everyone should learn by. I would like everyone to know how much Julie does by helping everyone in our program. She tirelessly meets with vets, staff, and students who are not assigned to her and does this when she doesn't have to. Julie has not been recognized for her awesome mentorship and has helped me develop the women's group by her knowledge of women issues and group facilitation. She has been an integral part of the success of this group and has been a huge part in helping me develop my group facilitation skills. She has a beautiful soul and isn't recognized enough.

Please join us in congratulating her for her willingness to always go above and beyond in her work, and the ways in which she interacts with our Veterans.



Service Pin Award Ceremony
10 Years of Service



Service Pin Award Ceremony
15 Years of Service



Service Pin Award Ceremony
20 Years of Service



Service Pin Award Ceremony
25 Years of Service



Service Pin Award Ceremony
30 Years of Service



Service Pin Award Ceremony
35 Years of Service



Service Pin Award Ceremony
Special Recognition Awards

**Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoE)
presents:
Trainee-Led Quality Improvement Projects
Awards**

This year seven interprofessional trainee teams took on tough clinical issues and applied their quality improvement skills to our systems of care. Here are the three award winners for the categories:

“Another Clinical Reminder, Please”

“Interrupt Me, Please” &

**“Support My Clinical Decision-Making,
Please”.**



**Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoE)
presents:
Trainee-Led Quality Improvement Projects Awards**

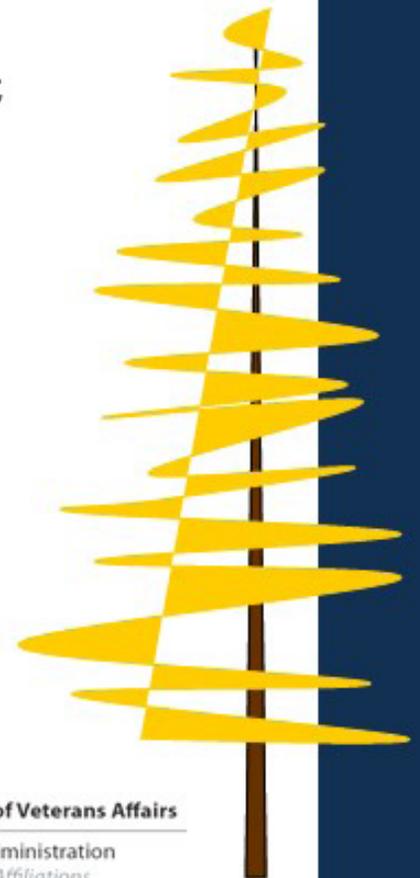
Award for “Another Clinical Reminder, Please”

Nobody, nobody wants another clinical reminder. This group found a way.....

Prospective interventional quality improvement study to increase access to naloxone in primary care settings.

Erica Eisele, Josh Hollabaugh, Sam Patton, Farah Vega

Mentors: Andrea Winterswyk, Elaine Nguyen



**Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoE)
presents:
Trainee-Led Quality Improvement Projects Awards**

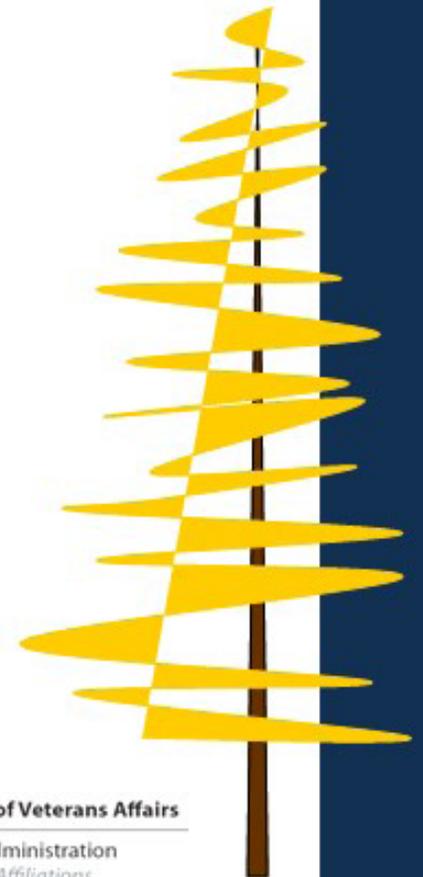
Award for Best “Interrupt Me, Please”

We don't like to knock on closed doors in clinic. This group not only encouraged it, but DEMANDED it.

Improving warm handoffs

Shawn Good, Megan Turner, Shelby White, Jordan Wisner

Mentor: India King, Sarai Ambert-Pompey, Kelsey Smith



**Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoE)
presents:
Trainee-Led Quality Improvement Projects Awards**

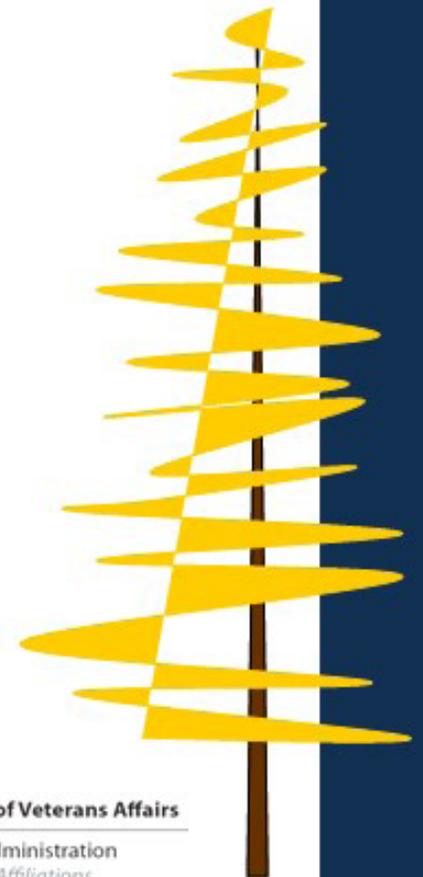
**Award for Best “Support My Clinical
Decision-Making, Please”**

*We all like good clinical decisions. This group made us all
smarter... with fewer clicks*

ASCVD Risk Tool

Jeremy Griffin, Michael Pestotnik, Michelle Wilkin

Mentors: Lindsey Hunt, Alicia Carrasco, Garret Smith



**Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education (CoE)
presents:
Trainee-Led Quality Improvement Projects Awards**

Honorable Mentions

Improving Access to ambulatory procedure clinic in Silver team.
Kristy Crownhart, Irvin Huang, Kyle Severinsen
Mentor: Neil Argyle, Bill Weppner

Gut Don't Need It: Deprescribing proton-pump inhibitors
Michael Cobretti, Thomas Dudrey
Mentor: Sarah Naidoo, Elaine Nguyen

Improving usefulness of pain management consult menu
Tyler Birch, Rebekah Kintzing, Jan Nguyen
Mentor: Lisa Inouye

Health benefits of exercise. Increasing Provider Awareness of VA Resources
Ianitza Bankova, Lindsay Rautman, Martine Troy, Audra Wilson
Mentor: Ann Hansen

Big thanks to all
the project
mentors!





Boise VA employees donated personal time and money to the Meal's for Wheels fundraiser on June 27th. VA employees pictured are: Beth Pierce, Colette Manning, Dr. Scott Christensen, El Dawson and Ray Saiz.

Caring for ALS Veterans at the Boise VAMC



Veterans have a higher incidence of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a progressive, fatal neurological condition which results in muscle weakness affecting the arms, legs, speech, swallowing and breathing.

Over 2 years ago our VA began to form an ALS team to meet the needs of our veterans with this complex, devastating disease. Many of our veterans were being followed by a community ALS team, but after receiving feedback from them it was determined that we could provide these same services here in a timely, efficient, and veteran-centric environment. This dedicated team gradually grew and includes Pulmonology/Sleep lab/R.T., Neurology, Speech, Nutrition, Social Work, Psychology, O.T., Pharmacy, Prosthetics, and a Home



The HBPC team has been instrumental in helping us care for our veterans afflicted with ALS.



The ALS team was developed after receiving feedback from David and Darla Burge (pictured in yellow)

Based Primary Care representative. The team members provide their time in addition to their regular work duties. The team meets together with the veteran, caregiver and family on a quarterly basis. Our goal is to address any issues within a 60-75 minute appointment. The HBPC team has become an important part of the ALS team. HBPC has prioritized these veterans and admits these veterans to HBPC as the disease progresses. The ALS team is still a work in progress and we are hoping to add additional team members in the near future. The possibility of connecting via video on demand is also being pursued.

Recently Dr. Paula Carvalho submitted an application to the VHA Shark Tank competition entitled "ALS: An efficient and integrated multidisciplinary model for patient care." Her submission was selected as one of 100 semi-finalists. The competition is intended to identify and share practices across VHA.

Representatives from the ALS association and PVA have recently recognized the effectiveness of our unique approach to our ALS veterans. A Senior National Service Officer from PVA in Portland attended a recent team meeting, he would like to see other ALS teams adopt the Boise VA ALS team model.

September 22nd is the local Walk to Defeat ALS. The ALS Team and the HBPC team plan to participate in the walk. We are hopeful that other VA employees will join us for this walk to support our veteran population. There will be a special appearance by Dr. Carvalho and Dr. Brotman as their band will be performing at the fundraiser. An email with further details will follow.