

Resident Standouts

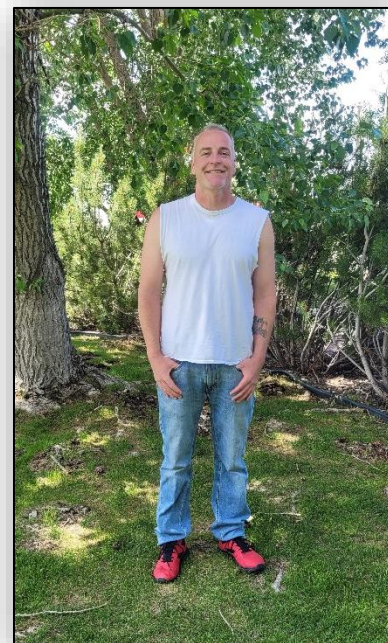


Leonard Stanley

Leonard Stanley (left) is nearing the end of a successful program. Leonard shares that he is focusing on staying sober, getting his freedom, and helping other people. Sounds like the essence of a standout to me!

Jeffrey Adamson

Jeffrey Adamson (right) has demonstrated a strong commitment to his program and continues to make meaningful progress in all areas of his treatment and recovery. He consistently works hard, follows program expectations, and approaches his responsibilities with maturity and accountability. Throughout his participation in groups, he has displayed a remarkable level of resilience, remaining engaged, even when discussing difficult topics

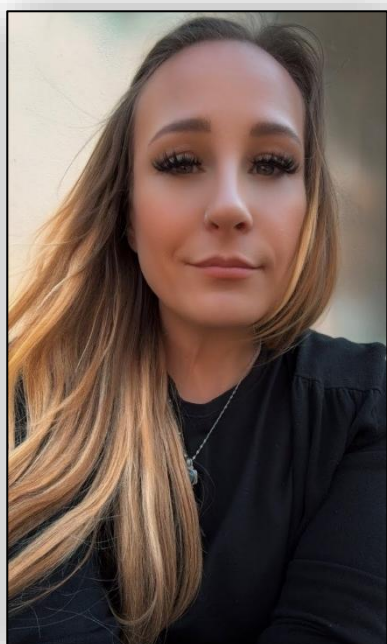


or facing personal challenges. He is steadfast in his efforts to tackle everything asked of him with determination and professionalism. Overall, resident Adamson's continued dedication and resilience reflect his commitment to personal growth and long-term success.



Karma Personette

Karma Personette (left) is ready to help out whenever needed. She is walking the straight and narrow through all of her efforts and is always positive and upbeat.



Amanda Wagner

Resident Wagner (right) is doing very well in her program and is super pleasant to be around. She wants to do whatever is required of her to really change her past. I think she is most deserving of being recognized as a standout resident. Nice work Amanda!



Katelen White



Katelen White (left) has shown significant improvement over the last couple of months and is working an excellent program. Her progress has been fantastic and we cannot wait to see what more she can do!

Jaime Milsten

I'd like to nominate resident Jaime Milsten (right) from the Women's Campus. She is doing wonderfully in her program and is a joy to be around. She is IR-free and is a positive role model to her fellow residents. She is excited to get back to her son and the rest of her family full time!



Jordan Thompson

I would like to give a big shout out to WC Jordan Thompson (right). He is doing amazingly in his program, but most of all, what catches my eye, is the big brother vibe he has. He is always trying to make sure friends and other residents are doing well and taken care of. He keeps them on their toes and it's most appreciated. Nice work, Jordan, for being nominated for the second month in a row!



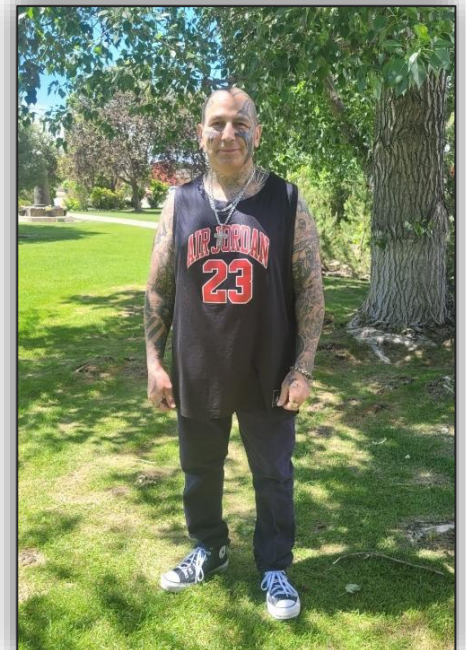
Kyle Brown

Kyle Brown (below) has been doing an awesome job in his program and has maintained all positive feedback from his employer while here. I just spoke with his manager today and she remarked that he shows up on time, doesn't involve himself in any negativity, and has been a remarkable employee.



Morgan Pitsch

When Morgan Pitsch (left) arrived at the Center, he was nervous about the rules and being able to gain employment. He has shown a steadfast attitude, has become employed, and follows the rules and procedures in stride. Morgan is not afraid to ask a question and stays focused on doing the best job that he can. His employer has remarked that he has been willing to learn new things and gives his best efforts in his current position. I spoke with his CTS who agrees that Morgan has been exemplary.



Andrew Kruse – Honors Member

By Sonja Roberts



With only a couple of months left at the Center, our newest Honors member, Andrew Kruse, can't wait to get back to his six daughters, who patiently await his return. Although this is not Andrew's first time in the Pre-Release program, he feels he has finally figured it out.

Even though he comes from a religious background, Andrew fell into drugs pretty hard, ultimately landing him in the system. When he was here previously, back in 2009 and 2011, he explains he wasn't ready to quit. But, now, he has children, a girlfriend, and a house to get back to. He is excited to get back to his home in the mountains.

Most recently, he spent nine months at Nexus, where he progressed without issue. He is now continuing that positive path at the Center and has remained free of write-ups since his arrival. When asked what has changed this time, Andrew explains that it feels different from the way it used to feel. He doesn't have negative thoughts and the triggers that would formerly want to make him use. He has had his challenges while being here, but he has found encouragement when interacting with CO's in particular. He appreciates when they keep their attitudes up beat and keep things real.

Andrew is not a huge fan of the chores and is looking forward to when he doesn't have to wake up at 7:00 am to complete his. He is ready to be able to come and go freely without having to plan every detail of his weeks. The Honors program is helpful for him because with the passes he gets, he can put his requests on his schedule and does not have to request them a week in advance. He explains it is more like when you go to work; you don't have to do call-ins.

When you follow the rules, your life actually becomes a little more flexible and you are able to get out and about more easily. Andrew, we are so glad you have figured it out. You are on your own personal pathway to being back with your daughters, with all of the people you love, and in the environment you want to be in. Congratulations to you and to all of your future successes in life!



Alicia Frank

Sometimes people take a wandering, windy path to get to their destination, whatever that might be, and they may not even know the first thing about where they are going. This cannot be said of our newest CTS, Alicia Frank, who has been steadfast in her pursuit of the career she wanted and in which she is now able to fully engage. Alicia had a plan to enter the field of criminal justice and corrections and she implemented it with commitment and compassion.

During Alicia's studies of criminal justice, one of her professors put her in touch with Shellie Babinecz, Deputy Director here at the Pre-Release Center. From this meeting, Alicia was able to begin her hands on experience by becoming an Intern for the Center. She visited with various members of staff, including CO's and CTS's, and watched and listened to their day-to-day activities. During her final semester in college, she became employed at the Center as a Compliance Officer. Thus, her career had officially begun.



Alicia explains that she loved being a CO and the responsibilities that come with holding people accountable. While you may not know the depth of what the residents have been through and are going through, you can be a light on their journey. You can make someone's day just by asking how they are doing. If someone looks down after coming back from work, you can ask about what might have happened. Showing that you care can help influence how they choose to go about the rest of their day. Or, offering a positive expression of praise can be just what is needed to change the trajectory of their life.

Now that Alicia has transitioned to her current position as CTS, or Case Manager, she feels she contributes more to the long-term success of the residents. With the knowledge she has about the residents she supports, she is able to help steer their activities and progress so that it is in their best interests. Alicia appreciates that she can do the utmost to help make things right for a resident, even if they can't fully see it for themselves right away. She recognizes, for example, that many of our residents never had any structure in their lives. By providing this, it can be tough at first. No one wants to have someone having control over everything you do. However, by setting a good example and living and operating in ways that you want others to emulate, the transition can be seen as maybe not that bad after all. Even though residents may not have complete control over their lives yet, they still deserve to be treated with respect and dignity while on their journey.

Alicia admits that she herself came from an erratic background, affected by family members who she lost to addiction and by those who are still bound by it. This was truly the inspiration for the path she decided to take. Alicia comes to us from Hawaii, which tells us that addiction knows no borders and that

anyone can be affected. Because she came from similar circumstances, she has the personal experience to help others move beyond their past. She feels that this is what gives purpose to what she does and is the driving factor for why she wants to support people. Even though she had these challenges in life, she had sports and a community around her who helped her move beyond her chaos and into a life of meaning. She wants to fill that void for other people who maybe don't have the kind of support system that she had.

Alicia shares that one of the best parts of being a CO was seeing people get out to be on their own. She feels that she was a small part of the journey of residents towards a brighter future and that it was super fulfilling. When someone is about to get out on their own, you want to demonstrate a positive energy that they can adopt, which makes their reentry just a little more assured. Now that she is a CTS, seeing someone get out, even after only working with them for a short time, has been rewarding. She helps them to think and write about their future and all of the good things they are going to do. To this end, they begin to adopt the plan they've laid out for themselves. They begin to get excited about having a good home and job and being with their families.

Alicia admits that being a CTS is not easy. "Give us grace," she says. There is so much to keep track of and there are always new things to learn, over and over again. Thank you Alicia, for walking the good walk and being such a wonderful, positive inspiration for all of us. We are so glad you're here!



By Sonja Roberts



Great Falls Pre-Release Center Law Day Award

May 1st is recognized as Law Day in the United States, and in 2005, the Great Falls Pre-Release Center awarded their first Law Day award to Thomas McKittrick, District Court Judge. Since then, this award has been given to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in various fields such as Corrections, Education, Law Enforcement, and Community Support.

The Great Falls Pre-Release Center is proud to announce that the Great Falls Police Community Foundation has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Law Day award. The Great Falls Police Community Foundation was established in 2007 as an independent, non-profit organization. The purpose of the Foundation is to support and promote public safety through partnerships that provide resources to help the GFPD perform at its highest level of service to the community.

The Great Falls Pre-Release Center has been offering re-entry services to those making the transition from incarceration to living in the community since 1984. We are very proud of the work we do to help people make real changes in their lives so they can remain free of the criminal justice system. We are very aware that we do not, and cannot, do this alone. Thank you to the Great Falls Police Community Foundation for everything you do to support all of us.



Good-bye to a Colleague and Friend



Cassandra Hall joined the Pre-Release team as a Treatment Specialist and turned out to be a perfect fit! Though she is embarking on a new chapter because duty calls in another part of the country, in her words, “thank all of you for the support, teamwork, and friendships I've experienced during my time here. It's been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group of people, and I've learned a great deal from each of you.”

The feelings are most definitely mutual. In the words of one her colleagues, “You have been the most amazing co-worker - always super organized and ready for all the therapy groups that you ran. All the residents in house and all the community program participants have been much better off for having you as their facilitator. We had some amazing breakthroughs with our community folks and I will always remember the progress and insights that we experienced. You made a very positive difference in the lives of many people.”

A final good-bye wish for Cassandra was to have a Last Day-Sports Team jersey/shirt Day.” Her wish was happily granted. Thank you, Cassandra, for the opportunity to share something personal and fun about ourselves with you. We wish you all the happiness and success

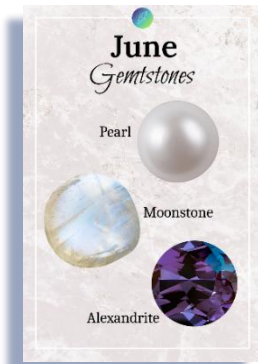
in your future. Thank you for your wisdom and for all of your personal insights that you shared with us and our residents. You will be missed!



Ray's Trivia and Fun Facts to Know Spotlight

Named after the Roman queen of the gods and protector of marriage and childbirth, Juno, June remains the most popular month for weddings globally.

A Trio of Birthstones: June is unique as one of only two months associated with three birthstones: the pearl, moonstone, and alexandrite



Unique Calendar Quirks: In both common and leap years, no other month begins on the same day of the week as June

Birth Signs: Babies born this month are either the adaptable Gemini (May 21 – June 20) or the nurturing Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

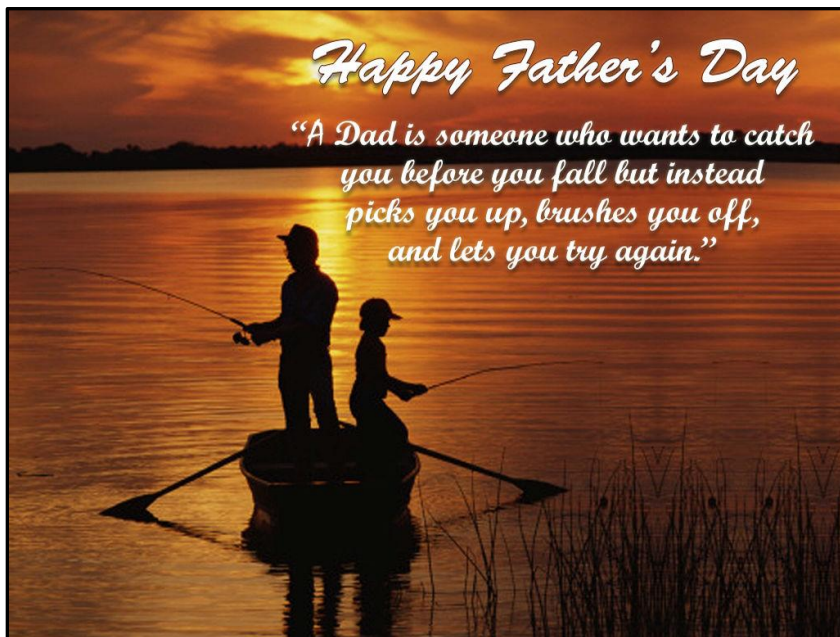
June 6 is D-Day, a historic invasion that was considered the turning point to end World War II.

June 19 is Juneteenth (also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day). On this day in 1865, Union General Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation aloud in Galveston, Texas,

effectively liberating enslaved people in the state, which had thus far been beyond the control of the Union Army.

June 21 is the summer solstice, which heralds the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the day with the most hours of daylight. In the Southern Hemisphere, winter begins at this time.

June 21 is Father's Day this year.



Ray McClelland

Kordell Anthony Valenzuela

Sep 19, 1996 — May 28, 2026

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Kordell Anthony Poncelet-Valenzuela, a former resident who will be dearly missed.

Kordell Anthony Valenzuela, 29, of Great Falls, Montana, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Kordell was born in Havre, Montana on September 19, 1996, to Kathy Valenzuela and Richard Nicholson. He was very proud of his Hispanic and Native American heritage.

He attended C.M. Russell High School but wanted to provide more structure in his life, he went to Montana Youth Challenge at the age of 16 and received his diploma. Kordell worked very hard to earn shift supervisor positions in any job he had. He worked as a shift lead at Sonic until his passing.

When he wasn't working, he could be found spending time with his son, Vincent, who he loved unconditionally. He could also be found cruising around town with his friends. He enjoyed listening to music and always had headphones in his ears. He hated being stuck at home and wanted to be out enjoying life to its fullest.

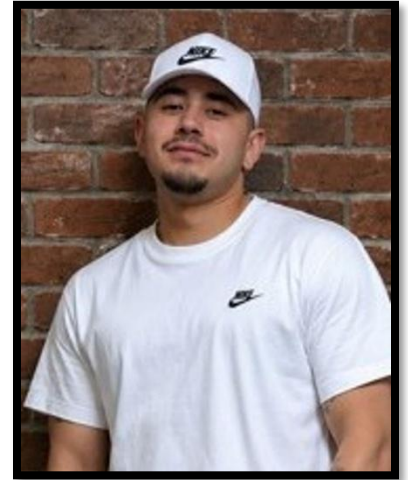
Kordell was always well dressed; he could be found cleaning his shoes and stocking up on Magic Erasers. He always looked incredible.

Kordell had an upbeat sense of humor and was witty with his words. He used his words not only for communication but entertainment as well. He uplifted those around him by dropping punchlines and jokes. His teasing was good natured because his words could perfectly capture an individual's personality.

He touched so many people with his kind and huge heart. He always supported, encouraged, and gave his time to friends, family, and even strangers. He always made everyone feel "seen" by never judging and treating them like family.

All this was entirely natural for him "this is who he was."

Excerpts from [Kordell Anthony Valenzuela Obituary May 28, 2026 - O'Connor Funeral Home](#)



Fun & Games

Name: _____ Date: _____

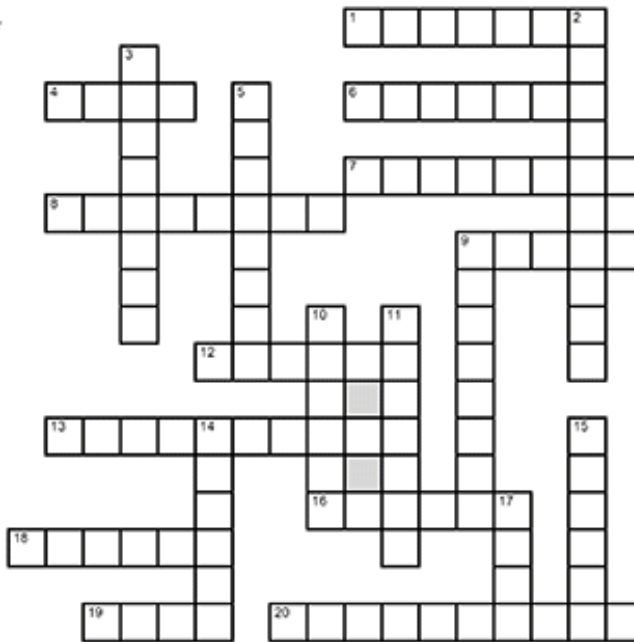
ACROSS

1. Marriage ceremony.
4. Celebrated on June 14th in the US: _____ Day.
6. Certificate presented at a graduation ceremony.
7. Cook outdoors on a grill.
8. Opposite of indoors.
9. June is the _____ month of the year.
12. Astrological sign for the start of June (twins).
13. Celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the ending of slavery.
16. Astrological sign for the end of June (crab).
18. He is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.
19. June 6th, 1944.
20. Red berry that is in season in June.



DOWN

2. Ceremony marking the end of the school year.
3. Time off from school.
5. Drink made from a yellow citrus fruit and sugar.
9. Longest day of the year: Summer _____.
10. Meal eaten outdoors.
11. Sport using a rod and a reel.
14. Number of days in June.
15. Season that begins in June in the Northern Hemisphere.
17. Birth month flower for June.



- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Barbecue | Outdoors |
| Cancer | Picnic |
| D-Day | Rose |
| Diploma | Sixth |
| Father | Solstice |
| Fishing | Strawberry |
| Flag | Summer |
| Gemini | Thirty |
| Graduation | Vacation |
| Juneteenth | Wedding |
| Lemonade | |

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PRE-RELEASE PRESS

Editor: Sonja Roberts



TRANSITION CENTER
GREAT FALLS PRE-RELEASE SERVICES INC.

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