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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **VA Black Hills Health Care System hosts Veterans Stand Down and Benefits Fair**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System will host a Veterans Stand Down and Benefits Fair on Friday, June 10. The event will be open to all Veterans from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the High School Gym in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

The Stand Down and Benefits Fair, according to Rodger Woeppel, at VA Black Hills Health Care System, is intended to serve homeless and needy Veterans from the Pine Ridge Reservation. There is no charge for any of the services. “It is a hand up, rather than a hand out, extended by a caring community in tribute to all warriors of the Oglala Sioux Tribe,” said Woeppel.

The Information and Benefits Fair, held on June 10th is an outreach effort to bring information regarding services and benefits available to Veterans. The event is a collaborative effort between the VA Black Hills Health Care System the Oglala Sioux Tribe and numerous Veteran organizations.

A variety of personal care items will be available to anyone wishing a hand up, and a complimentary snack provided by the Crazy Thunder Family will be served. Staff will be available to hear issues, answer questions, and provide information on VA benefits, programs and health care enrollment opportunities. Veterans who have not previously enrolled with the VA are requested to bring a copy of their military discharge papers, DD 214, to the Benefits Fair.

For more information about the Stand Down at Pine Ridge, contact Rodger Woeppel at (605) 745-2000 Ext. 9-2114 or Frank Marshall at (605) 867-5577.

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