



Bridge City POST

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Games to Begin on Legendary Bridge



The Roberto Clemente Bridge

Derek Coughenour, Games Kick-off Chair

To launch the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games, athletes from last year's Games will showcase their amazing talent and grit on the historic Roberto Clemente Bridge. This event will take place Monday, Aug. 1.

In the slalom event, athletes navigate an obstacle course, displaying their ability to balance and tackle doorways, ramps, stairs and other challenges. The objective: to make it through the

course in the quickest time possible with the fewest mistakes.

Now imagine this event outdoors, as a two-lane race down the west side of Clemente Bridge and a finish line next to PNC Park. Wow is right!

Incredible and unbelievable are words often used to describe wheelchair slalom. Come experience the excitement and cheer on the Veterans! ■

Getting Down to Business

We at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System are rolling up our shirtsleeves to get ready for the Games!

After an intensive inventory of all the Games equipment we are now identifying the various needs, such as repairs, for each event, says Jason Fay, who is part of VA Pittsburgh's events committee.

"It's a lot of planning and preparation," Fay says. "We want to make sure everything is in excellent condition for the first week of August."

Fay, a VAPHS rehabilitation supervisor, did his part on a recent morning: He slipped into our vast warehouse to paint slalom obstacles. ■



Fay hard at work, painting for the slalom event.



Chow Down

*Jamie Leuthold,
Special Events
Co-Chair*

The Special Events Committee has been hard at work to make this year's Midnight Chow a fun event for athletes and their families.

We've reserved the Westin Hotel's Grand Ballroom for Tuesday, Aug. 2, and Friday, Aug. 5, for theme nights filled with free food and

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Pittsburgh Games on the Web

NVWG 
www.wheelchairgames.va.gov

VAPHS 
www.pittsburgh.va.gov/NVWG

Facebook 
www.facebook.com/VAPHS

Twitter 
twitter.com/VAPittsburgh

Attention!

Veterans planning to participate in the handcycling and track events can store their equipment in a secured specialty wheelchair area at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Stored equipment will be held there until the day of your event (Friday, Aug. 5, for track and Saturday, Aug. 6, for handcycling). Handcyclists will be able to check out their equipment for the tune-up clinic on Thursday, Aug. 4. After the

tune-up session, equipment will once again be secured until race day. **Once athletes check in their handcycles and racing chairs, they will not be able to check them out before their scheduled events.**

To avoid giving anyone an unfair edge in the competition, the location of the handcycling racecourse will not be revealed until Aug. 6.

We look forward to seeing you compete this August!



Chow Down continued

entertainment. In a slight departure from the much later meals of military tradition, we will serve up our mid-night chow earlier in the evening.

The Grand Ballroom also will be

open on Thursday, Aug. 4, as a space to relax and socialize. Guests can take advantage of a cash bar or just sit back and listen to area blues musicians, courtesy of the Blues Society of

Western Pennsylvania. This treat was arranged with the help of VAPHS Vocational Services Program Manager John Erskine, a drummer and treasurer of the society. ■



Mark Your Calendars

Games Week Events

Games Kick-off

Monday, Aug. 1

Midnight Chow

Tuesday, Aug. 2, and Friday, Aug. 5

Tuesday: Enjoy a taco bar and the classic rock of acoustic guitarist Andy Mangini. Cash bar.

Friday: Grab your cowboy hats and mosey on over for a Western-themed appetizer buffet and cash bar—and local country-western band Stone Street Station. The group is led by Henry Vincent, a volunteer van driver for Disabled American Veterans.

Fly-fishing

Tuesday, Aug. 2, and Thursday, Aug. 4

Take a trip to Seven Springs, Pa., for some fly-fishing with Project Healing Waters. Up to 15 athletes may go each day. Tackle provided.

Block Party

Wednesday, Aug. 3

Climb aboard the Gateway Clipper for a scenic glide across the water to Heinz Field, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers. The ride is a prelude to a night of live music, magic and more!

Pirates vs. Cubs at PNC Park

Thursday, Aug. 4

See the Pittsburgh Pirates—and a magnificent city view—at the famous PNC Park.

Handcycling Race

Saturday, Aug. 6

Come cheer on the athletes racing through the streets of Pittsburgh on a route featuring some of the city's highlights!

