



Something seasonal

Junction City Little Theatre offers 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

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Fort Riley Post

Signalmen win tournament

Teams battle to 3-point spread

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Wednesday, November 24, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 47

Around The Army

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Oct. 28 that Crayola has picked a new shade for its boxes of colors. "Fort Knox Gold" was selected in the manufacturer's "Share Your Color" crayon campaign. The color was submitted by Sarah Harcourt, a native of LaGrange, Ky., east of Louisville.

"I thought of Fort Knox Gold when I was trying to think of a less common crayon color," said the 19-year-old Transylvania University student.

"Gold is something special. Fort Knox has instant national recognition, and it is something Kentucky is proud of," she said.

For more about this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thenewsenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Sill:

The Cannoneer reported Nov. 18 that more than 30 mobilized crew chiefs from a National Guard helicopter battalion began door gunnery qualifications on a newly constructed target area at Falcon Bombing Range Oct. 8.

Each of the 32 Black Hawk crew chiefs from Companies A and B, 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation, fired more than 300 rounds with an M60D machine gun.

For more about this story and other Fort Sill news, visit www.lawton-constitution.com/ on the Web.

Fort Bliss:

The Monitor reported Nov. 18 that El Paso veterans toured 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade to learn about the newest air defense systems in the Army inventory.

It was the second tour conducted by 6th Bde. with invitations extended to local veterans groups in addition to Team Bliss members.

The brigade wanted to show appreciation to veterans for their service in honor of Veteran's Day and to show how much the Army has changed over the years.

For more about this story and other Fort Bliss news, visit www.lavenpublishing.com/ on the Web.

Fort Lee:

The Traveller reported Nov. 18 that a Short Pump, Va., resident had donated her children's unwanted collection of Beanie Babies and others gathered as part of her Operation Compassionate Heart stuffed animal drive for children in Iraq.

Soldiers of the 49th Special Troops Battalion helped Pam Brady unload the stuffed animals she had collected and offered to Soldiers who wanted to stick one in their uniform cargo pockets to carry with them when they deploy and later give them to children there.

For more on this story and other Fort Lee news, visit www.lee.army.mil/pao/travellerarchives/2004/nov_2004/traveller_2004_11_18.pdf on the Web.

1st BCT welcomes commander



Col. 'Buck' Connor



Col. Bart Howard

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Fort Riley welcomed a new 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, commander Nov. 18. Col. Bart Howard succeeds Col. "Buck" Connor as commander of the Devil Brigade.

"I've seen so many familiar faces with whom I've had the privilege of soldiering with in

the past. These great Soldiers have written a new and unparalleled chapter in the history of the U.S. Army, and I pledge to uphold the traditions of this great unit in the years to come," Howard said during the change of command ceremony in Hangar 817 at Marshall Army Air Field.

This is Howard's second tour to Fort Riley. He formerly served as commander of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, which deployed to Kuwait in 2001. He also served as the G3 for the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) from 2002 to 2003.

Howard comes to Fort Riley after recently graduating from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Before that, he served in a variety of troop positions.

He served as a tank platoon leader and scout platoon leader with 5th Battalion, 73rd Armor, and as troop executive officer with 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry, 194th Armored Brigade, at Fort Knox, Ky.

He served as battalion adjutant for 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor, 2nd Infantry Division, in Korea, and assistant brigade S3

See Howard, Page 3

Standouts



Post/Heronemus

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander of 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, presents a plaque to Staff Sgt. Mario A. Gomez of Btry. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA. Gomez was honored Nov. 18 as Fort Riley's 2003 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a formal dinner at Riley's Conference Center. Presentation of the award was delayed a year because Gomez deployed to Iraq shortly after being named the post's top NCO last year. Command Sgt. Maj. of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) Gilbert Canuela (second from right) waits with the Army Commendation Medal Gomez earned for being selected the post's top NCO. Sgt. Mark A. Vallem (second from left) of 331st Sig. Co. was honored as the post's 2003 Soldier of the Year.

Post honors top Soldiers of 2003, 2004

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley leaders, fellow Soldiers and friends saluted the 2003 and 2004 Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Year Nov. 18 during a formal dinner at Riley's Conference Center.

Staff Sgt. Mario A. Gomez, an ammo team chief with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, was named 2003 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Sgt. Mark A. Vallem was named 2003 Soldier of the Year. The 331st Signal Company Soldier was subsequently promoted to sergeant while serving in Iraq.

The two Soldiers deployed to Iraq before the post could arrange a dinner to honor them, so they joined the 2004 honorees at the dinner.

Two Medical Department Activity Soldiers earned the post's top honors for 2004. Staff Sgt. Gerson I. Jimenez was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Corporal Braden D. Nemechek was named Soldier of the Year.

Although Gomez and Vallem missed a chance to be wine and dined at a dinner like the one Nov. 18, "I had more important things to think about, like taking care of Soldiers and making sure they come

See Top Soldiers, Page 4



Staff Sgt. Gerson Jimenez, 2004 NCO of the Year



Cpl. Braden Nemechek, 2004 Soldier of the Year

Piece of history lives again Floridian restores '56 Fort Riley commo van

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A piece of Fort Riley surplus received a lot of attention during a Veterans Day parade in Florida Nov. 7.

Roger Francis, a resident of Orlando, Fla., has restored an old Fort Riley motor pool vehicle and outfitted it with old Army Signal Corps equipment. He entered the

1956 Chevrolet Suburban Carryall in the parade and set up a display around the vehicle after the parade.

The result: He's been invited to display the Carryall during an upcoming ceremony dedicating a local park in honor of a local war hero.

It's not the first time the vehicle has been displayed for public attention, Francis said. He set up the van and the Signal Corps

equipment in October at a World War II and Korean War air show in Deland, Fla.

Francis' research uncovered that the van was shipped new to Fort Riley in August 1956. It was used as a motor pool vehicle through 1972, when it was sold as government surplus.

Francis said the town of Donelson, Kan., bought the Carryall

See Carryall, Page 3



A curious spectator looks at the 1956 Chevrolet Carryall that once served as a Signal Corps vehicle at Fort Riley. The refurbished van was displayed at a WWII airshow in Deland, Fla.

Photo by Roger Francis





Santa's elves build float

Toy drive helpers plan to take part in parade

By Cassidy Hill
Community Relations

Santa's elves have been busy helping volunteers wrap presents during this year's Operation Santa Claus, but they have also been busy preparing for Junction City's annual evening Christmas parade Nov. 26.

Last week, the elves began working on a float. Pvt. Justin Scuka of 1st Maintenance Battalion said a fireplace, a Christmas tree and Mrs. Claus are some of the features that will be displayed on the float.

Scuka, who is one of the 15 elves helping with Operation Santa Claus, said he has enjoyed working on the float and the annual toy collection effort.

"The program helps the com-

munity give back to everyone," Scuka said. "Giving something back to them is just awesome."

Staff Sgt. Marcos Felan of U.S. Army Garrison said Santa's elves participate in the parade every year because the parade helps promote the Operation Santa Claus program.

Felan, who is the noncommissioned officer in charge of Operation Santa Claus, said the elves plan to pass out fliers about the program during the parade. Additionally, the elves will hand out candy to children and stuffed animals to infants.

Felan said the elves have been busy building the float because they hope to win one of the six categories in the parade. Felan said any money that is won from the parade would be donated to

the program to buy more presents and supplies.

Pfc. James Bannon of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, said he and the other elves began working on the float Nov. 18. Bannon, who is also one of Santa's elves, said the float should be completed Nov. 24 and then the elves would begin the decorating process.

"Our biggest thing right now is the float and I have enjoyed working on that," Bannon said.

The parade, which is featuring "A Kansas Christmas" theme, will depart the Junction City High School parking lot at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26.

The parade will travel east on Sixth Street from Eisenhower Drive to the Water's True Value parking lot at Sixth and Franklin Streets.

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Post news in brief

Simpson sets employee talks

Col. John Simpson, U.S. Army Garrison commander at Fort Riley, will speak with civilian employees on post at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Riley's Convention Center.

Employees need attend only one of the sessions. Parking is available but carpooling is urged.

Club to induct members

The Fort Riley Sergeant Audie Murphy Club plans to induct new members at 2 p.m. Dec. 1, during a ceremony at Barlow Theater on Custer Hill.

Soldiers inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club have been nominated for membership based on demonstration of superior leadership qualities

exemplified by Sergeant Audie Murphy, the most decorated Soldier of World War II.

Hospital seeks volunteers

Irwin Army Community Hospital Community Health Nursing, in conjunction with the University of Missouri-Kansas City, seeks volunteers to participate in a 90-minute discussion about smoking.

Focus groups will meet beginning at 11:30 a.m., Dec. 13 at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

For more information, call Capt. Jennifer Fenti at 239-7323.

Special Forces seeks members

The Army's Special Forces is a strategic, multi-purpose force

capable of rapid response to various contingencies around the world.

Soldiers who think they can qualify to be a Green Beret should call Sgt. 1st Class Kris Ball at (719) 524-1461 or (877) 840-8502.

Hospital offers more flu vaccine

Irwin Army Community Hospital recently received limited amounts of flu vaccinations to medically high-risk individuals only in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and Department of Defense directive.

Appointment times and dates are 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7 at Primary Care Clinic No. 3.

Call 239-DOCS (3627) for an appointment.

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Howard

continued from page 1

for 1st "Tiger" Brigade, 2nd Armored Division, at Fort Hood, Texas.

During Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1991, he commanded Company B of the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor, 1st "Tiger" Bde.

Howard subsequently commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd "Greywolf" Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. He later served as regimental adjutant, 1st Squadron executive officer and regimental executive officer in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Howard enlisted as an Infantryman in the Army National Guard in 1981 and was commissioned as an armor lieutenant in 1984. A distinguished military graduate at Santa Clara University in California, Howard received his bachelor's degree in history in 1984. He holds a master's degree in military science from American Military University and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

He also is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Australian Army Command and Staff College.



Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (right), commanding general of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, passes the 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div., colors to its new commander, Col. Bart Howard, during a change of command ceremony at Hangar 817, Marshall Army Air Field, at Fort Riley Nov. 18.

Post/Blackmon

Connor assumes new job

By April Blackmon

Staff writer

Col. Buck Connor may be leaving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, but he's not leaving Fort Riley. Connor is now the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) assistant division commander for maneuver.

"It's not easy hanging on to former brigade commanders, but the Army has acquiesced in this particular case. So, ... we're not turning you very far and certainly not turning you loose," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, during a 1st BCT change of command ceremony Nov. 18 in Hangar 817, Marshall Army Air Field.

Connor succeeds Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney who has moved to a position as the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) assistant division commander for support and is preparing for a six-month special operations assignment.



Photo by Roger Francis

The restored Fort Riley motor pool vehicle and old Army Signal Corps equipment sit on display at an air show in Deland, Fla., in October.

Carryall

continued from page 1

to use as a fire support vehicle. Francis bought the van in 1998 from its owner in Donnelson.

The truck still had its original Army green paint, the original interior and original engine in 1998, Francis said.

Francis uncovered the vehicle's number (1C 2214) when he began sanding the vehicle for repainting. He kept the number as part of the

vehicle's painted identification and said he hopes to retrieve more of the vehicle's history using the ID number.

"I've been told that Gen. Douglas MacArthur rode in the vehicle when he visited Fort Riley sometime in the late '50s,"

Francis said, but he hasn't been able to confirm that piece of history.

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Medic platoon learns city ops

Training changes focus on medical aid provided

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

As the National Training Center at Fort Irwin shifts its focus from major tank battles to urban, squad-sized missions, units that might traditionally not have seen much combat are preparing for anything.

The medic platoon of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, has been training for Military Operations in Urban Terrain as diligently as their armor crewman counterparts, in full expectation of participating in combat operations later in the rotation and, potentially, in Iraq.

"NTC used to have a very distinct mission with a linear battlefield," said 1st Lt. Jerry Silvers, who was moved into Observer Control from the medical platoon.

"Now they're moving away from that with civilians on the battlefield, more cities and a lot less force on force. The enemies are getting smarter, not attacking just the combat units anymore, but now going after the support elements. We have to be ready for it," he said.

"While we're here, the company plans on entering and clearing a building ourselves," said 2nd Lt. Ben Doorink, medic platoon leader.

"Even if the building's already been cleared, we have to make sure and do it again before we set up a collection

point, so it'll be good training for us," he said.

In order to prepare for this increased need for combat skills, the Soldiers have been performing more intensive training even at Fort Riley, Silvers said.

The platoon is also practicing different standard operating procedures in order to be more combat effective.

"We're trying to focus more on medical aid bags, so the Soldiers can be mobile and react to fire easier," Doorink said.

"They're also getting some of the training that has previously only been available to higher level medics."

Silvers looks forward to this rotation at NTC being a more practical exercise of skills than anything the platoon has experienced before.

"This is going to be 100 times better than previous rotations because it's so realistic," he said. "It won't be exact, it never is, but it'll be better."

This rotation is meant to assist 1st Bn., 13th Armor, better execute their mission in Iraq sometime next year, officials said.

"The task force will be doing reconnaissance sweeps, supply routes, training the Iraqi police and rebuilding," Doorink said. "This medic platoon will be their liaison to the civilian doctors in the area, but we're going to be right there with them."

Blood drive exceeds goal

By James Tamez
19th PAD

While some people scurry about hunting for that perfect gift to get someone for the holiday season, more than 90 Fort Riley civilians and Soldiers stopped by King Field House Nov. 16 and 17 and gave the greatest gift anyone can give - their blood.

The American Red Cross-sponsored blood drive barely exceeded the goal that had been set, however.

The donation goal for the two-day blood drive was 90 units. After a slow start on the first day, the second day turnout nearly tripled and brought the total donations up to 101, exceeding the goal by 11 units, said Kristy Reif, American Red Cross Blood Services donor/recruitment representative.

"Every two seconds, someone in the United States is in need of blood and one in three people will need blood at some time in their life," Reif said. "I think that it is very important that we do our part because somebody needs it."

Reif also said traditionally there is a difficulty getting enough donations during the holiday seasons, which puts hospitals in Kansas and northern Oklahoma in a bind.

"We are on contract with over 100 hospitals to supply them with a certain amount of blood," Reif said. "Each day we set a total goal of 500 units so that we can ensure to supply all of the hospitals."

That means the Red Cross must conduct 15 blood drives daily in Kansas and northern Oklahoma to meet the necessary requirements.

"What many people do not understand is that the shelf life of whole blood is at most 42 days," said Chris Blanton, American Red Cross donor services specialist. "Because of the high demand, the vast majority, if not all, of the blood is used before its shelf life ends."

Blanton and Reif said that the process of giving blood is simple and usually doesn't take long. However, people must be screened in order to donate.

"The person must be at least 17 years old and in good health,"



19th PAD/Tamez

Renee Brubaker, donor service technician, American Red Cross (standing), uses iodine to sterilize the arm of Michael Marks, a Public Works employee, during the post blood drive at King Field House, Nov. 17.

Blanton said. "Most importantly, they must meet the additional criteria."

"When they first come in, they read over the information to make sure that they are eligible," Reif said. "Once they are done with that, they fill out a donor history form and we make sure that any

ly takes somewhere between seven to 10 minutes," Reif said. "Once they are done donating, they are escorted over to the canteens to eat cookies and crackers and drink water."

Reif hopes with additional publicity and information, people will understand just how important it is to donate blood regularly.

"A lot of people don't know that it takes 48 hours to process the blood," Reif said. "Many people may think that they will just give blood when a family member needs it. That is good, but if it is needed because of a car wreck or some other emergency, the blood that they donate won't be available for two days."

"Also, for every five units of blood that are received at Fort Riley, one free unit is given to Irwin Army Community Hospital," Reif added. "It is a special deal that we have worked out with IACH."

Due to the large number of Soldiers on post who were recently deployed overseas, the overall number of eligible donors is smaller than in past years. However, many civilian workers on post give blood as often as possible.

"To date, I've been able to give about 27 pints," said Mike Cook, Fort Riley's fire department chief. "I try to donate as often as possible, and I believe that this is one way that I can give back to the Soldiers."

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THE MARTIN AGENCY
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Top Soldiers continued from page 1

back," Gomez said.

Gomez and Vallem have been back at Fort Riley for about two months and just recently returned from leave.

"This is great; you start out the year on the right foot," Gomez said.

Vallem advanced to sergeant in May after having been in Iraq about seven months. He wasn't in charge of troops as a specialist, but said he had learned a lot about what it would take to transform into a leader while going through the Soldier of the Year boards and paying attention to the wisdom of

command sergeants major.

"A great example was all the help I received from everybody in my unit, and I really hope I can do the same for a Soldier someday," Vallem said.

Each honoree received an Army Commendation Medal a

several awards presented by post organizations and local businesses, including use of a new vehicle for one month, several U.S. Savings Bonds, trips, watches and special mementoes, including plaques with mounted cavalry revolver replicas and bald eagle figurines.

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Reserve MPs head for home – again

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

After nearly a year at Fort Riley, the 342nd Military Police Company bid farewell to the post Nov. 17.

The Columbus, Ohio, reserve unit arrived in January to assist with various law and order duties, including road and bike patrols and Soldier Readiness Training.

"I think what stands out mostly is what you have done for our active component as well as the reserve component as far as training," said Col. Michael Okita, 24th Infantry Division (Mech)

chief of staff.

"And while you were training others, you remained ready yourself. ... This particular outfit boasts an operational readiness rate of 95 percent," he said.

This is the second time in three years the unit has been on active duty.

The unit participated in Operation Enduring Freedom from January to December 2002, helping move detainees from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Several Soldiers received awards during the demobilization ceremony.

Four Soldiers received Merito-

rious Service Medals, 19 received Army Commendation Medals and 31 received Army Achievement Medals.

Eleven Soldiers received 924th Military Police Battalion certificates of achievement and 12 Soldiers received 924th MP Bn. certificates of appreciation.

All the Soldiers received Minuteman pins. The pins symbolize the efforts of the Minutemen - citizens called to arms to defend the nation during the Revolutionary War.

"You are the citizen Soldiers, patriots that personify the images of Lexington and Concord, Valley

Forge, the beaches at Normandy and the sands of Iraq," said Lt. Col. Anthony Zabek, 924th MP Bn. commander.

"In the true meaning of volunteerism, when your country called, you answered. You left your families and loved ones behind. And now, you're returning home to resume your civilian careers and transition back to the lives you left behind," Zabek said.

Soldiers like Sgt. Derek Pfeifer and Sgt. Shannon Wertman said they were looking forward to returning to civilian life and reuniting with loved ones.

"I'm looking forward to going

home and starting college and going home and being with my family," Pfeifer said. "I have a 5-month-old daughter I've only seen two weeks after she was born."

"I have a girlfriend at home and she has a daughter, so I want to go home and pursue that relationship and see where it goes; the deployment's been real hard on her," Wertman said.

"As far as career-wise, I'm going to go back to working and pursuing my education through my job," he said.

Wertman said he works as an estimator at a car dealership body

shop.

Pfeifer and Wertman said they were going to miss Aggieville (the college district of Manhattan) as well as the people they've met at Fort Riley.

"I enjoyed being here and making new friends," Pfeifer said.

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W 11/23, 24 & 26



Post/Heronemus

School Age Services associate Renda Smith (left) talks about the tree worms kept for children to watch and learn from. Parents Jon and Jamey Sprague (holding 1-year-old Logan) look at the worms during the open house Nov. 16 while their other son, Zack, was watching a movie in another room.

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Schneider/11-23, 24 & 26

Facility gets 15 computers

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

School Age Services opened its doors Nov. 16 to parents of the 140 children enrolled in its programs.

"We wanted to show the parents the programs we offer and the new computer equipment we have," said School Age Services Director Ayanna Francis.

The computers, a scanner, a digital snapshot camera and a video camera came to Fort Riley through an Army effort to upgrade technology offered in child services programs, Francis said.

"I also got a Best Buy grant for \$2,836 and used that money to buy another scanner and digital camera and a movie camera," she said.

Children at School Age Services will use the grant equipment and computers to create special Boys and Girls Clubs projects that will then be entered into national competition, Francis said.

The December project will be a music presentation and the January project will be a digital art presentation, she said.

The computers have new software that teach children through

sports, life skills, arts and recreation and mentoring.

Besides the technology-based Boys and Girls Club program offered by School Age Services, children can participate in 4-H Club activities daily, Francis said.

Those activities teach such things as sewing, wood working, science and fine arts.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

Tree lighting planned Dec. 2

The annual holiday tree lighting ceremony is planned for 4-4.5 p.m. Dec. 2 at Ware Parade Field in front of the post headquarters building on Huchner Road. Children are invited to the ceremony.

A reception is planned immediately after the ceremony.

Post teachers earn honors

Alice Curry-Johnson, a physical education teacher at Custer Hill Elementary School, was named the 2004 Dance Educator by the Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The award recognizes excellence for the use of dance in physical education instruction and curriculum.

Curry-Johnson will be entered for consideration as Central District Dance Educator of the Year. If she wins there, she will be entered in national competition of the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Morris Hill Elementary School teacher Heather Douthitt has been nominated for a 2005 Kansas Horizon Award. The award goes to someone in the infancy of his or her career who shows great promise to become an outstanding teacher, said Morris Hill Principal Greg Lumb.

Team building classes offered

Four Army Family Team Building classes will be offered at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City, Dec. 3. Classes are titled "Family and Military Expectations," "Impact of the Mission of the Family Life," "Basic Problem Solving" and "Supporting Your Child's Education."

Classes are taught from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and free childcare is available for those who pre-register.

For more information or to register for a class, call 239-1347 or 239-9435

Family groups plan holiday

The Exceptional Family Member Program and New Parent Support Program will host their annual holiday celebration from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 7 at Riley's Conference Center. Santa Claus will visit just in time to hear each child's Christmas list.

The event offers a time for families to meet one another and to socialize while giving the children time to play with one another and to make crafts.

All military families enrolled in either the EFMF and NPSF programs are invited to attend. Families must call 239-9435 by Nov. 29 to R.S.V.P. to the Exceptional Family Member Program or New Parent Support Program representative.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Good grades buy PX discounts

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley students in grades one through 12 can receive discounts for Army and Air Force Exchange System merchandise if they make a least a "B" average on their report cards.

The AAFES program called "You Made the Grade" offers students a coupon book worth more than \$50 in discounts and free merchandise, said Kathleen Trask, a public relations spokeswoman for the Fort Riley facilities.

Students should take their report cards to the customer ser-

vice desk in the Main Post Exchange to obtain the books. The coupons offer money off on certain purchases as well as offering some things, such as Baskin Robbins ice cream treats and items served at Popeye's Chicken, for free, Trask said.

Students can receive the

coupon books for each grading period, she said.

Students who achieve at least a B average will also be entered into a quarterly drawing done at AAFES headquarters in Dallas.

Only one entry is allowed for each student during each quarter, even though some students might

receive two report cards in a quarter because his or her school has six-week grading periods.

Three winners are selected in the drawing each quarter. The first prize is a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Second prize is a \$3,000 bond. Third prize is a \$2,000 bond.

Crafty outing



Shoppers Keri Mullins (second from left), Melanie McGrath (left), 7, Shara Parthemore (holding candle) and Joanna McGrath, 6, smell one of the scented soy candles offered by Tartan Glass vendor Beverly McVey (right) at the Fall Crafts Bazaar Nov. 20 in Hangar 817 at Marshall Army Air Field at Fort Riley. The Enlisted Spouses' Club and Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club hosted the second annual event to raise money to support post community activities and programs.

Bazaar rings cash register for clubs

Joshua Field, 3 1/2, tries his hand at making a puppet walk while his mother, Sabrina Field (right) and Furry Puppets vendor Evelyn Brady offer encouragement.

Furry Puppets was one of 49 vendors who set up booths in Hangar 817 at Marshall Army Air-Field Nov. 20 for the Fall Crafts Bazaar.

Post/Heronemus



By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Forty-nine vendors offered Fort Riley shoppers a chance to purchase craft items and other wares Nov. 20.

The vendors came from small towns in western Kansas, all around Fort Riley and even from Nebraska, said Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club Second Vice President Chrissy Pribyla, who coordinated the

second annual Fall Crafts Bazaar.

Her club and the Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses' Club co-sponsored the second annual event as a way to make money for their scholarship programs.

"We made about \$4,000," Pribyla said Nov. 22.

Several unit Family Readiness Groups sold food during the bazaar, which was again set up in Hangar 817 at Marshall Army Airfield, to make money for their projects.

Kim Wagenblast with the 101st Forward Support Battalion's Family Readiness Group for Headquarters Company and Company A paints a strawberry on the cheek of 12-year-old Christina Valentin.

Valentin said she wanted a strawberry because that's what her Fort Riley Middle School basketball teammates call her.

Post/Heronemus



Air Force spouses recognized for support

By Doug Sample
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders unveiled a new pin at the Pentagon Nov. 8 to recognize the contributions of military spouses.

The pins are part of the Air Force's Your Guardian of Freedom program that aims to create awareness and support for the Air Force mission.

Air Force Undersecretary Peter B. Teets said the Air Force Spouse Pin program is designed to honor and recognize spouses of active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen, as well as the spouses of Air Force civilians, "for the sacrifices they are making in supporting the ongoing war on terrorism."

Kathleen Westbrook was so proud to receive the award that she had tears in her eyes as her

husband attached the special pin on her lapel.

She said she is happy to be married to a servicemember and called the event "a very big honor and a very proud moment."

With her support, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Westbrook, a reservist with the 459th Air Refueling Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, volunteered for duty at Royal Air Force station Mildenhall, United Kingdom. There, he

served as a C-141C loadmaster during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Like she has done for the past 11 years, Kathleen said she has no regret being married to the military. She said she stands by her husband and the men and women of the armed forces.

"I'm here to support my husband and the rest of the military that are out there protecting our country," she said.

She also pointed out that sup-

porting her husband's career has meant being understanding. "I try to be there for him," she said. Westbrook added that he is thankful she is.

He could never do his job without her, he emphasized. "They (spouses) are part of the Air Force team," he explained.

He said he appreciates the fact that his wife is "there for me, that she loves me, and when I get back home, she's there waiting for me."

Store wins display contest

By Rick Brink
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — In a competition dubbed "Produce — A World of Variety," five commissaries in locations spanning the globe from New Jersey to Guam beat out 250 other stores to win the Defense Commissary Agency's Fifth Annual Produce Merchandising Contest.

Fort Riley's store and its produce manager Robin Vincent won the Small Store in the United States competition.

Other winners by category and their produce managers were:

Superstore — McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., Jo-Helena LeMire.

Large Store in the United States — Fort Rucker, Ala., Deborah Mundt.

Overseas Large Store — RAF Lakenheath, England, Rhonda Smith.

Overseas Small Store — Marianas Support Activity, Orote Point, Guam, Rose Castro.

Stores competed during two weeks in June using "Produce — A World of Variety" as a theme that promoted the tremendous variety of fruits and vegetables commissaries offer to meet the various demands of an ethnically diverse customer base.

Participation in the competition has grown to an all-time high of 255 stores this year compared to 239 last year, and stores and customers alike are benefiting from it, said Carroll Allred, DeCA's produce category manager.

This year's competition saw store staffs showcasing and demonstrating how to pick and prepare more of the less popular fruits and vegetables, he said.

The competition also produced some very creative displays, and store staffs reported that they enjoyed taking part in a venture that created excitement among their customers.

The Fort Leavenworth, Kan., commissary reported sales of mangoes went up 50 percent, pistachios went up 75 percent and blueberries skyrocketed to 120 percent, Allred said.

"When you build exciting displays and offer more variety and let your customers sample some new fruits and vegetables, it builds sales and ensures repeat business," Allred said.





Community news briefly

Scholarships available

The fifth anniversary year of Scholarships for Military Children began Nov. 2. Applications for the 2005 program are available at all 273 commissaries worldwide or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

A link to the application is available on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the Web site for the Defense Commissary Agency.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military retirees, active duty and Guard and Reserve servicemembers. Eligibility and additional information is available at the program Web site.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are due at a commissary by close of business Feb. 16. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

Crafts center slates classes

Nov. 28 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrapbooking get-together

Nov. 29 - 6 p.m., basket weaving

Nov. 29 and 30 - Intermediate/advanced stained glass

Nov. 30 - 6:30 to 8:30, wood class project (cedar chest)

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center slates activities

Nov. 26 - Closed for Christmas parade

Nov. 27 - 6 to 10 p.m., family potluck dinner

Dec. 1 - 7 to 11 p.m., movie night

Dec. 4 - 8 p.m. to midnight, basketball

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

BOSS schedules meeting, trip

Dec. 1 - 3:30 p.m., meeting at Custer Hill Golf Center

Dec. 4 - 8 a.m., free Christmas shopping trip to Kansas City

For more information, call 239-8147.

Care provider class offered

A Family Child Care orientation is offered the first Thursday of each month for people interested in becoming an FCC provider. The orientation is given from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Building 6620.

FCC providers are being recruited to replace providers who will soon leave Fort Riley and to meet demands for infant and hourly care.

For more information, call the FCC director at 239-9892.

VFW offers scholarships

Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and their Ladies auxiliaries are seeking applicants for college and vocational school scholarships.

Applicants must have a parent or grandparent actively affiliated with a VFW Post or Ladies Auxiliary in Kansas. An active member is either a life member or a member whose dues are paid for the current membership year or were so at the time of his or her death.

Applications should be submitted through the VFW Post or Ladies Auxiliary that can verify the membership affiliation of the parent or grandparent.

Applications are available through local VFW Posts or Ladies Auxiliaries. The deadline for submission of applications is

Feb. 1, 2005.

In 2004, the VFW Endowment Association had \$55,000 in scholarship commitments. These scholarships ranged from \$500 to \$4,000 for durations of one-to-four years.

Youth Services sets activities

Dec. 3 - 4 to 5 p.m., Parent Advisory Council meeting

For more information, call 239-9173

Thrift Shop open to everyone

No military ID is needed to shop at the Post Thrift Shop in Building 267 on Stuart Avenue, next to the stables.

Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

Consignments are accepted 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month. The store allows 15 items per consignment, but only seven items of clothing. All consignments must be clean and in good condition. The store is not accepting consignments of summer clothing.

Consignments are available for pick-up on Tuesdays and Thursdays when signing an ID.

For more information, call 784-3874.

Commissary hours set

Dec. 20 - Open Monday normal hours

Dec. 24 - Open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 25 - Closed for the holiday

Dec. 26 - Open normal hours

Jan. 1 - Closed for the holiday

Holiday hours

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation has announced holiday hours for the Thanksgiving weekend:

Facilities Closed Nov. 25-28:

Information, Tickets and Registration

Child Development Center

School Age Services

Soldier and Family Support Center

Riley's Conference Center

Morale, Welfare and Recreation headquarters and offices

Holiday operating hours:

King Field House - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 25-28

Custer Hill Golf Course - 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26-28

Auto Crafts Center - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26-28

Eyster pool - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 26-28

Arts & Crafts Center - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 27-28

Outdoor Recreation Center - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 27

Strike Zone Grill - Closed for lunch Nov. 26; open noon to midnight Nov. 27; and open noon to 8 p.m. Nov. 28

Bowling - 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Nov. 26; noon to 1 a.m. Nov. 27; noon to 8 p.m. Nov. 28

Skating Rink - 8 to 10 p.m. Nov. 26; 6 to 10 p.m., Nov. 27; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 28

Teen Center - 2 to 10 p.m. Nov. 27

Is your organization doing something? Call 239-8854 to talk about Post coverage.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Sports news in brief

Teams set scrimmages

The Lady Jays and Blue Jays of Junction City High School will begin their basketball season with blue/white team scrimmages sponsored by the Fastbreakers.

The freshman girls play at 4:45 p.m. and the junior varsity faces the varsity at 6 p.m. in the school's Shenk Gym.

The freshman boys play against the sophomores at 4:30 p.m. and the freshmen split up for another game at 6:30 p.m. in Fille Gym.

The boys' junior varsity faces the varsity squad at 7:30 p.m. in Shenk Gym.

The Fastbreakers are a Kansas State University athletics support organization. Members will be selling a brat, chips, cookie and a soda from 4 to 8 p.m. during the scrimmages to raise money for their activities.

Middle school wrestlers win

Fort Riley Middle School wrestlers competed against Marysville Nov. 17. The Troopers won eight of 18 matches.

Dalton Wagonblast won two matches.

Single matches were won by Sammy Quintas, Jonathon Spurlock, Lance Harlow, Brya Jimenez, Jason Chun and Jerry Jordan.

The Troopers competed in Topeka's Northern Hills Wrestling Tournament Nov. 19.

Cody Merritt won a gold medal at 85 pounds and Armo-gen Walker captured gold in the 134-pound weight class.

Larry Mitchell placed second at 180 pounds, and Regis Bigness placed third at 75 pounds.

Hancock placed fourth in the 110-pound class. Wagonblast placed fourth at 148 pounds.

Jeremy Herman, Chun, Spurlock and Harlow won a match each but did not place in the tournament.

Begin new year at bowling lanes

Authorized users can ring in the New Year at the Custer Hill Bowling Center from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The evening will include bowling, music, food and fun. DJ Big Daddy will be mixing it up for bowlers' enjoyment. Each lane will get party favors and a bottle of champagne (for those parties of legal drinking age) to toast in the new year as the ball drops.

Breakfast will be provided. The kitchen will be serving S.O.S., scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits, coffee and orange juice. For those who make reservations, lanes of up to six people can party for \$75. For those who pay at the door, the cost of the evening is \$90.

For more information or to reserve a lane, call Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Post schedules wrestling bouts

The 2004 Fort Riley Post Wrestling Tournament will be Jan. 10-12 at King Field House. Competition starts at 6 p.m. nightly. A battalion may organize one men's team and one women's team, each consisting of 10 wrestlers.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Early champs



Ryan Moran (8) of Btry. C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, tries to block a shot by Joseph Calhoun (32) of 331st Sig. Co. Watching the play develop are John Lewis (24) and Aaron Costa (10) of 331st Sig. Co. and Eric Scarnegie (30) of Btry. C. The 331st Sig. Co. won the preseason company level tournament 52-49.

Other games:

- 172nd Chem. Co. defeated Co. C, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, 37-29
- 523rd MP Co. defeated HHC, 1st Eng. Bn. 40-21
- Btry. C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, defeated Btry B, 1st Bn., 5th FA, 52-41
- MEDDAC defeated Co. C, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor 37-31
- 331st Sig. Co. defeated 15th PSB 49-33
- HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, defeated Co. B, 101st FSB, 43-37
- Trp. D, 4th Cav., defeated HHB, 4th Bn., 1st FA, 33-25
- HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, defeated 172nd Chem. Co. 50-26
- Btry C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, defeated 523rd MP Co. 55-51
- 331st Sig. Co. defeated MED-DAC 41-33
- HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, defeated Trp. D, 4th Cav., 51-33
- Btry. C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, defeated HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor 51-42
- 331st Sig. Co. defeated HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor 36-25

Signalmen outshoot Artillerymen, win tourney

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

The 331st Signal Company won four games – one more than Battery C, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery – to win the Fort Riley Preseason Company Level Basketball Tournament played Nov. 19-22 in King Field House.

The Signalmen handed the Artillerymen their only loss, 52-49, in the championship game Nov. 22.

The tipoff went to the Signalmen but the first points went to the Artillerymen on a full-court sprinting layup by Jayson Thomas.

Neither team could manage more than a four- or five-point lead throughout the game. The Artillerymen were up 21-16 about 12 minutes into the first 20-minute half, but the Signalmen closed the gap to 26-24 at halftime.

The Artillerymen were better marksmen from a distance in the first half with Eric Derheimer and Ryan Moran hitting two each. They also led their team's first-half offensive effort with 8 points each.

The Signalmen couldn't hit from a distance but managed to worm their way close to the basket for a solid scoring effort led by John Lewis and Aaron Costa.

The Artillerymen started the second half like they started the game – with the first points on the scoreboard.

But the Signalmen again responded with a field goal of their own then went ahead 29-28 on a free throw.

The Signalmen caked ahead of the Artillerymen 37-34 on a trey about 8 minutes into the half.

The Artillerymen stayed hot outside and reclaimed the lead 49-45 with a lit-

tle more than five minutes left in the game.

Fouls got them into trouble frequently throughout the second half and the Signalmen combined those charity points with some hot inside shooting by Lewis, Eddie Flournoy and Derald Jones to close on the leaders with about three minutes left in the game.

Lewis found a little hole in a sea of waving arms under his basket to hit a field goal and earned a trip to the foul line.

He missed the foul shot but teammate Joseph Calhoun rebounded the shot and went right back up to the hoop for two points and a 49-49 tie.

Flournoy later hit one of two charity shots to put the Signalmen ahead 50-49 with 2:30 left in the game.

Costa iced the game in the final five seconds by hitting two more free throws.

Leading scorers

331st Signal Company

Aaron Costa – 12
Joseph Calhoun – 10
John Lewis – 8

Battery C, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery

Thomas Dawson – 14
Jayson Thomas – 12
Eric Derheimer – 10
Ryan Moran – 8

Missing limbs fail to stop Soldiers

By Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

NEW YORK CITY – One year from the day Capt. David Rozelle started learning to run on a prosthetic leg, he and a handful of other Soldiers who came home from Iraq with missing limbs took their mark for the New York City Marathon.

In the company of more than 37,500 participants, Rozelle ran -

and, at times, walked - the 26.2-mile course Nov. 7 on a prosthetic decorated with the American flag. The marathon, he said, seemed an appropriate way to mark his anniversary.

"When you start a high intensity physical therapy program, you set goals for yourself," Rozelle said. "Then you find yourself meeting and surpassing them, and setting new ones. This just seemed like a good one."

A land mine explosion took Rozelle's right foot and part of his leg below the knee in June 2003 while he was commanding a 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment troop in the western Iraq city of Hit.

Now leading a cavalry headquarters troop at Fort Carson, Colo., Rozelle is preparing to redeploy to theater next year. In the meantime, he has dedicated himself to setting an example for other injured Soldiers by remaining

active in sports. He's also written a book about his experience that is scheduled for release in March.

Feeling the burn

He ran the Army 10-Miler in October as a warm-up for the New York City Marathon, maintaining a 10 minute-mile pace for a race time of 1:38. Going into the marathon, Rozelle said he expected a "turtle pace" to carry him

through.

He crossed the finish line with a time of 6:46.

"At 13 miles, I felt like a million bucks," Rozelle said. "Then between 14 and 16 miles, my body started to feel the trauma."

Rozelle wore extra socks over his stump for a snug fit in the socket of his prosthetic, but had to stop several times to take them off and put them back on to compensate.

See Amputees, Page 11

Some birds ruffle feathers against cold weather

By Carla Hurlburt
DES Conservation Office



Carla Hurlburt

It is rapidly approaching the season when the chilly air and shorter days send our feathered friends south for the winter.

However, not all birds elect to make this annual migration. Some choose to endure the harsh Kansas winters.

Most of the time, they fare fairly well, but if there's snow cover or

heavy ice, it may be difficult for birds to find food.

Many people find enjoyment tending to these creatures' needs via a birdfeeder.

However, during the winter months, extra maintenance, upkeep and care is needed to provide maximum comfort and utility for these birds.

There is much to consider when setting up birdfeeders, stocking the feeder and keeping a birdbath from freezing.

There are several things to consider when placing a birdfeeder. The primary thing is cover.

When a bird is visiting your feeder, you don't want it to succumb to its enemies, such as birds of prey or cats.

Thus, place the feeder among the same cover that the birds naturally use, namely the canopy of trees.

To offer extra protection, you might consider placing a cage around the feeder. This adds the extra benefit of preventing raccoons or squirrels from eating the seeds.

If you seem to have a popular avian hangout, you may want to consider adding more feeders in order to reduce competition and overcrowding.

See Wildside, Page 10

On the Wildside: News About Nature





Whirlwind blows Wildcats away

Sproles improves records in spite of loss to Iowa Cyclones

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

It was a gloomy day in Manhattan after the Cyclones swept through Nov. 19.

Despite the sunshine and a 23-9 fourth-quarter lead, the Wildcats walked off Wagner Field with a dark cloud over their heads after the Cyclones blew them away with a 28-point rally and 37-23 victory.

"I'm really shocked," said K-State sophomore quarterback Alan Webb. "Everything just happened so fast. I don't know what happened. Iowa State played a good game, obviously, because they came out with the win. It was pretty disappointing."

The Cyclones' whirlwind fourth quarter comeback began with a blocked extra point kick after Webb made a touchdown run. Eleven plays and 60 yards later, Iowa State quarterback Bret Meyer scored and brought the Cyclones within a touchdown of the Wildcats.

After two unsuccessful Wildcat drives, the Cyclones struck again, tying the game at 23-23 with a 3:24 left in the game. Less than a minute later, Webb fumbled and gave the Cyclones possession on K-State's 35-yard line.

A 20-yard run by Cyclone Steve Hicks gave Iowa State a 30-23 lead. Iowa State went on to seal the victory with a 40-yard interception return with 1:48 left to



Post/Blackmon

Kansas State University defensive back David Rose (left front) and linebacker Maurice Thurmond struggle to pull down Iowa State tailback Steve Hicks while Cyclone quarterback Bret Meyer (far back) looks on Nov. 20 in Manhattan, Kan.

play. "I'm just really pleased with the victory," said Iowa State Head Coach Dan McCarney. "It's just an unbelievable show of courage and resolve in the fourth quarter by my football team. They never gave up. It was 23-9 and it didn't look real good at that point, but the kids just found a way to make plays and come back and win it. It was just an outstanding team victory for us."

This victory keeps hope alive for Iowa State to win their first Big 12 North title. They must beat Missouri next week in their regular-season finale to play Oklahoma in the conference championship.

Conference champions a year ago, the Wildcats finished with their worst record and first losing season since 1992.

Despite K-State's disappointing defeat, senior running back

Darren Sproles finished the season and his K-State career on a bright note.

Sproles rushed for 167 yards on 21 carries with a touchdown. He also caught two passes for 13 yards and returned four kicks for 80 yards, totaling 260 all-purpose yards.

Sproles now owns most of K-State's rushing records, including season and career 100-yard rushing games. His 167-yard performance on Saturday gave him 10 100-yard rushing games for the season and 20 in his career.

A 41-yard run on Saturday was his 48th career touchdown, giving him 292 points for second place on K-State's all-time list.

Moving up in the K-State record book wasn't Sproles' only accomplishment Saturday. He managed to write himself in on the NCAA record books as well.

He jumped to fifth in career all-purpose yardage with 6,812 and also into the top 10 for career rushing yardage with 4,979.

His performance and the "Darren Sproles" chants from the crowd as he left Wagner Field for the final time didn't ease his disappointment in the team's defeat and losing season.

"My four years here have been fun, but we went out with a loss today and that isn't good," he said. "I was mainly more hurt than I was mad, but that is the way it has been all season."

Got a suggestion about improving sports coverage in the Post? Call the editor at 239-8854.

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BLZE/October 2004

Wildside continued from page 9

ing. If you have an attractive yard placement of a birdfeeder coupled with choice plants should add beauty to the area and protection and food for the birds.

The storage of food for the birds is not too demanding. It's actually not necessary to keep your feeder completely full during the winter months, as birds still are mostly able to forage for their natural food source.

The main consideration is to ensure that the feeder is cleaned regularly and that the seeds are

not wet, moldy or clumped together. Seeds in these conditions often lead to disease, which can easily spread to other birds.

Providing water, on the other hand, takes a small effort during the freezing months. Some folks empty out their birdbaths at these times; however, birds still need water to drink and to clean and fluff their feathers.

An alternative to emptying out the bath is to purchase a small heater from a local pet store. These heaters aren't too expen-

sive and don't use much electricity.

During the winter months, there may not be enough natural cover for the birds to take shelter in, so you may opt to create a birdhouse. These offer ample warmth, comfort and protection during the cold nights.

Additionally, the birds may decide to create their nest inside of it, adding to the enjoyment of observing the return of spring.

With the variety of color that nature provides for them, birds

are a joy to watch.

By providing a suitable locale, maintaining adequate storage of food and water and providing a cozy habitat, you'll be sure to have an attractive home for your feathered friends, even in the coldest of months.

For more information, contact the Conservation Office, building 1020 or 239-6211.

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Amputees continued from page 9

sate for swelling. A few days after the race, he was nursing a monster blister on his thigh.

Navy medic Jose Ramos, who lost part of his left arm to a rocket-propelled grenade while patrolling with Marines near Fallujah a couple of months ago, also ran the marathon as part of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center contingent.

He finished in 6:23.

Making it personal

Others competed on hand-crank bicycles, some adding personal flairs to the experience. Spc. Alex Leonard dyed his black hair blue on the top of his head and

fashioned it into a Mohawk. The blue was for the infantry, the Mohawk for the 101st Airborne. Leonard was with the 101st when an artillery shell exploded next to the door of a Humvee he was driving near Mosul, Iraq, last year, taking off his right leg.

He clocked a time of 2:29 in the marathon.

First Lt. Melissa Stockwell lost her left leg above the knee in April when an improvised explosive device hit her vehicle during a convoy she was commanding in Baghdad. She posted a sign on the back of her bicycle with a message to her Soldiers in Iraq: "B Co., 27th MSB, 1st Cav. Div. Come Home Safely."

Her husband, 1st Lt. Dick Stockwell, also of the 1st Cavalry Division, showed his support by riding a hand-crank bicycle beside his wife in the marathon. She finished in 2:55; he did it in 3:01.

Runners offer support

The Achilles Track Club, a non-profit organization made up of athletes with varying challenges and ability levels, sponsored the Soldiers' involvement in the marathon. The club has a chapter at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, headed by Mary Bryant, a cancer survivor and former model.

"I'm doing more now than I ever did before getting injured," Stockwell said. "A lot of it is because of organizations like Achilles. I want to show that I can still get out there and do things."

For some, the course was much more difficult than they expected. It took them over five bridges and through the city's five boroughs, beginning in Staten Island and delivering them to Central Park. Beyond the finish line, they snacked on fruit cups, soup and warm drinks while nursing aching shoulders and arms.

Staff Sgt. Hilbert Caesar of the 4th Battalion, 27th Infantry, based in Baumholder, Germany, was the first Soldier to cross the finish

line. In a field of 83 hand-crank bicyclists, Caesar finished in 17th place with a time of 1:53.

"It was exactly what I thought it would be - challenging," said Caesar, who lost his right leg in April when an improvised explosive device hit the howitzer he was riding in near the Baghdad airport.

"The toughest part was the Verazano and 59th Street bridges. I just downshifted and kept going, psyching myself out and asking God to help me," Caesar said.

Irony not lost

Capt. Lonnie Moore, voted most likely to wipe out or tumble

off the side of a bridge, completed the race without a spill in 2:24.

A rocket-propelled grenade tore through his Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle in April while going through Ramadi, Iraq, taking off his right leg above the knee. Moore was with the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, from Fort Riley, Kan.

A runner before the injury, Moore finds it ironic that he never attempted a marathon until now.

"It's kind of funny, having a serious injury like this and doing a marathon," he said. "It makes you realize what you missed out on before."

See Amputees, Page 12



ANS/Jewell
Capt. David Rozelle grabs a cup of water during the Brooklyn stretch of the New York City Marathon.

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Amputees continued from page 11

Moore has his sights set on playing recreational basketball and football again. He has no doubts he'll do it.

"I'm doing as much or more than ever before, and this is only six months out," Moore said. "It's not a bad life at all. In fact, it's pretty amazing."

Flat tire, no problem

At least one Soldier had to deal with more challenges than having a missing leg. Staff Sgt. Dan Metzendorf, who lost his leg in January to a roadside bomb in south Baghdad, had a flat tire six miles from the finish line.

"I was not stopping," he said, grinning. "I decided to just ride the crap out of the rim."

Metzendorf, of the 82nd Airborne Division, wasn't aiming for a spectacular finish anyway.

"I'm just doing it to have fun and to show the good news - hey, we got injured, but check us out. We're doing a marathon," said Metzendorf, who ended the race with a time of 2:15.

Staff Sgt. Joe Bowser was the second Soldier to finish, with a time of 2:06. A member of the 283rd Transportation Company, a Connecticut Reserve unit, Bowser's right leg was severed when a 122mm Chinese rocket hit his Balad, Iraq compound in April. He had just hung up from a call home when it happened.

No quitters

Bowser ran the Army 10-Miler three times and had always thought about trying a marathon.



1st Lt. Melissa Stockwell taped a message to her Soldiers back in Iraq to the back of her hand-crank bicycle before heading to the start line of the New York City Marathon.

He just never thought he'd do one with one leg. It was harder than he anticipated, but giving up was never an option.

"If I can get my leg blown off and make it, this is nothing," Bowser said. "There are no quitters here."

The first eight miles of the course were a breeze for Staff Sgt. Christopher Cowing, who finished it in 2:31. The hardest part was near the end, when spectators were yelling that it was "all down

hill from here."
"And then it looked like the road was climbing up into the clouds!" he said, grinning. "I just kept telling myself not to listen, not to look at the crowd. But then I saw some cheerleaders, they were so cute, so it was hard not to look."

Cowing, of the 5th Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas, lost his leg in April when an IED exploded under his vehicle in southern Baghdad.

Firefighters help

From the time they arrived in the Big Apple a few days before race day, the Soldiers were joined by about 80 New York City firefighters who volunteered to "buddy up" with them during their stay at the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen Club in midtown Manhattan.

Fire Chief Dan Daly, who coordinated the firefighter's involvement, said his guys connected right away with the Soldiers. Several called their stations, asking for more time off to spend with the Soldiers.

"Because of our duties at Ground Zero, we feel a need to be here for these guys. They're still paying the price," Daly said. "It's really an honor and a privilege to be part of their welcoming committee."

Same time next year

Gormley hopes to see the Soldiers at next year's marathon. Cowing said he's game to do it

again. Others weren't so sure. "We'll see," Stockwell demurred.

Rozelle isn't sure he'll repeat it, either. He'll have to figure out a way to make his prosthetic fit better before he takes another shot. For now, he's looking forward to hitting the snowy slopes of Colorado.

Despite the pain, Rozelle and the others returned home knowing they accomplished an important mission. They didn't just run for themselves but for those with fresh injuries and their comrades who won't be returning.

"I ran it for the Soldiers who couldn't," Rozelle said. "It really hit me about mile 25. I started thinking about all the Soldiers who are at Walter Reed and other hospitals, or those who have fallen. The last mile and a half became incredibly emotional for me. I remembered who I was representing."

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 Cottonwood TF 03545072 ar

TYME OUT LOUNGE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 TYME OUT PARTY RM 03545141

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
2x5.5SET03544825

DAILY UNION
6 x 13"
Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTORY





Leisuretime ideas

McPherson:

What: Christmas at the Vaniman Mansion. The 1920s Vaniman Mansion is decorated for Christmas.

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday Dec. 1-31

Where: 1130 E. Euclid, McPherson Museum

Phone: (620) 241-8464

Admission: Free

Abilene:

What: Seelye Mansion Christmas Tour. Trees, poinsettias, and beautiful decorations are used throughout the home. Featured on HGTV Christmas Castles in 2000.

When: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday Dec. 1 through Jan. 4

Where: 1105 N. Buckeye

Phone: (785) 263-1084

Admission: \$5 to \$10

Morrowville:

What: Nanninga's Christmas Joyland. Thousands of lights decorating one acre of rural farmstead. Animated scenes, music and lighted driveways.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. daily Dec. 1-30

Where: 913 15th Road

Phone: (785) 263-3538

Admission: Free

Wichita:

What: Illuminations. Holiday lights, seasonal music, children's crafts, food and beverage, visits with Santa.

When: 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 26-27

Where: 701 Amidon, Botanical, The Wichita Gardens

Phone: (316) 264-0448

Admission: \$5 and \$2.50

Rantoul:

What: Memory Lane Display and Christmas Tree Farm. View over 36 figures and scenes, some animated, while winding through the Christmas tree farm.

When: 5:30 to 10 p.m. Nov. 26 through Dec. 28

Where: 2710 Vermont Road

Phone: (785) 878-3793 or (800) 296-6745

Admission: \$3 per car

Paola:

What: Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa comes to join special dignitaries in a tree lighting after which he visits with the children.

When: 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26

Where: Paola Park Square

Phone: (913) 294-4355

Admission: Free

Belleville:

What: Christmas on the Square. Downtown holiday lighting festival takes place on the courthouse square complete

with carriage rides, Santa Claus, retail window guessing games.

When: 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 26

Where: Downtown

Phone: (785) 527-2310 or (866) 527-2355

Admission: Free

Salina:

What: Smoky Hill Contra Dance. Music and Caller to be announced. All dances taught.

No partner or experience necessary. Wear comfortable casual clothing and soft-soled shoes.

Bring water to drink.

When: Lessons at 7 p.m., dance 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Nov. 27

Where: 146 S. Santa Fe, Dance Elite Studio

Phone: (785) 819-3292

Admission: Adults \$6, students \$4 w/ID, under 16 \$2

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Scandia:

What: Victorian Christmas Lighting Festival. Shopkeepers in Victorian costume, carriage rides, games, guessing games, numerous contests, silent auction, music, refreshments and Santa Claus.

When: 4 to 10 p.m. Nov. 28

Where: Downtown

Phone: (785) 335-2247

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Onaga:

What: Christmas Frenzy. Stores open with specials and refreshments. Hayrack rides, bonfire and cocoa at the park, tree lighting and carols.

When: 4 to 8 p.m. Nov. 28

Where: Downtown and City Park

Phone: (785) 889-4648

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Emporia:

What: 27th annual Christmas parade. One of the largest nighttime Christmas parades in Kansas welcomes the holiday season and the arrival of Santa Claus.

When: 6:30 p.m. Nov. 30

Where: Downtown

Phone: (620) 342-1600 or (800) 279-3730

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Admission: Free

Garnett:

What: 34th annual Evening of Lights Christmas Parade.

When: 6:30 p.m. Nov. 27

Where: Town Square

Phone: (785) 448-6767

Admission: Free

Classified
4 x 21.25"
Black Only

THE COLUMBIAN
2 x 6"
Black Only
2X6 COLUMBIAN THEATRE CHRISTMA





Travel & Fun in Kansas

Leisuretime ideas

Kansas City:

What: The Information, Ticketing and Registration office at Fort Riley is organizing a holiday shopping and sightseeing tour to Kansas City. Bus transportation provided. Enjoy a dinner theater performance of "The Foreigner" and an overnight stay in Overland Park.

When: Dec. 4-5
Cost: \$50 deposit, total cost of \$100 includes round-trip transportation, one night hotel accommodations in Overland Park, dinner theater ticket and meal, continental breakfast Dec. 5.
Phone: 239-5614.

Abilene:

What: Lebold Mansion Christmas Tours. Christmas décor of 1880s Victorian home.
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 2
Where: 106 N. Vine
Phone: (785) 263-4356
Admission: \$10

Cottonwood Falls:

What: Music at the Emma. Weekly acoustic jam sessions playing country, gospel, bluegrass and rock and roll. Musicians and audience welcome.
When: Fridays at 7:30 p.m. through Dec. 31
Where: 317 Broadway, Emma Chase Café
Phone: (620) 273-6020
Web site: www.emmachase-cafe.com

What: Chace County annual country Christmas lighting of historic Chace County Courthouse. Events and activities throughout the day.
When: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 27
Where: Downtown
Phone: (620) 273-8469 or (800) 431-6344
Admission: Free

Beloit:

What: Isle of Lights. Illuminated action and still displays donated by local businesses and individuals to represent a Noel theme.
When: 6 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 30
Where: Chautauqua Park
Phone: (785) 738-3338
Admission: Free

Argonia:

What: KLOUDBusters Rocket Launches. High-Powered Large Model Rocketry Club hosts local, national, and international competitions and fun-fly launches almost every month at their launch site.
When: Monthly year-round

Where: 8 miles south and 1 1/2 miles east of Argonia
Phone: (620) 435-6417
Web site: www.kloubusters.org

Benton:

What: Christmas at the Prairie Rose. An old-fashioned holiday evening. You're treated to a one-of-a-kind cowboy holiday outdoor light display, a Roy Rogers movie at the Happy Trails Theatre and, when weather permits, a cozy horse-drawn wagon ride. Great BBQ dinner and then the stage show with a visit from the Wrangler Santa Claus. Classic cowboy songs as well as timeless Christmas classics. Reservations required.
When: 5-9 p.m. through Dec. 23
Where: 15231 SW Parallel Road
Phone: (316) 778-2121
Web site: www.prairierosechuckwagon.com
Admission: Adults \$25, Children 6-12 \$15, under 12 always free

When: Through Dec. 31
Where: Town Square
Phone: (620) 625-3235
Admission: Free

Yates Center:

What: Christmas Open House. Christmas lights outlining town square and courthouse, carriage rides, merchant window displays, carolers and open houses.
When: Through Dec. 31
Where: Town Square
Phone: (620) 625-3235
Admission: Free

Topeka:

What: Winter Wonderland. Drive through Lake Shawnee's campground with a million lights on 30-plus displays decorating the park. New displays annually.
When: 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 31
Where: Lake Shawnee
Phone: (785) 267-1156
Admission: \$5 donation

At the movies:

The Barlow Post Theater Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for Children 5 to 11 years old and free for children under age 5, except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.
Nov. 26 - Team America: World Police (R)
Nov. 27 - Surviving Christmas (PG-13)
Nov. 28 - Team America: World Police (R)
Nov. 29 - Shark Tale (PG). Free movie for Military Family Appreciation Week
Dec. 2 - Surviving Christmas (PG-13)
For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Must see fare



Mother Bradley (center), played by Megan Myrick, tries to break up a squabble over a doll being used as baby Jesus. Two of the unruly Herdman children, Ralph (left in hat), played by Kyle Smith, and Imogene, played by Courtney Goetch, were tugging at the doll. Two more of the Herdman children, Ollie (front left), played by James Carmichael, and Leroy (lying down), played by Dustin Nangle wait to continue rehearsal of the church Christmas pageant Mrs. Bradley is trying to direct. *Post/Heronemus*

'Christmas Pageant' one of best

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

If you go:

Where: Junction City Little Theatre, 335 W. 18th St.
When: 8 p.m. Dec. 2-4, 2 p.m. Dec. 5
Cost: \$10 for adults, \$7 for students

The lure of free sweet treats bring the six unruly Herdman children to church just in time to be cast in major roles as Mary, Joseph and the angel, much to the chagrin of Mrs. Bradley and most of the other children in the Sunday school classes at church.

Everyone is sure this year's annual Christmas pageant will be a disaster. After all, Imogene (Mary) spends a lot of time smoking cigars in the girls' bathroom,

most of her brothers are interested in little except shuffling their feet through another rehearsal and Gladys (the Herald Angel) runs across the stage shouting "Shazam! Unto you this day a baby is born and his

name's Jesus and he's in the barn. Go see him!

Nothing can restrict the swelling of hearts and the warmth inside that comes on pageant night.

The Herdman children play their roles well, even though the Herald Angel wakes up all the shepherds with her boisterous "Shazam!"

Some of the congregation even notice the rough-shelled Imogene quietly wiping away a tear as the choir sings one beautiful Christmas carole after another.

This is "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and a show no one should miss.

Cast and crew of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

Father Bradley - Tim Stuck*
Mother Bradley - Megan Myrick*
Charlie Bradley - Tyler Barnes*
Beth Bradley - Ashley Thomas*
Ralph Herdman - Kyle Smith
Imogene Herdman - Courtney Goetch
Leroy Herdman - Dustin Nangle*
Claude Herdman - Spencer Laster
Ollie Herdman - Jameson Carchichael*
Gladys Herdman - Lizzie Petite
Alice - Kaellyn Marrs
Mrs. Slocum - Jeri Houk
Mrs. Clausing - Melissa Nangle*
Maxine - Sarah McMillan-Beckman
Elmer - Jordan Ball
Hobie - Nicholas Thomlin*
Beverly (Bible reader) - Chatherine Carmichael*

Shirley - Whitney Peck
Rev. Hopkins - John Luce
Mrs. Armstrong - Carolyn Zumburnn
Mrs. Clark - Cheryl Ball
Mrs. McCarthy - Julie Stuck*
David - Eric Luce
Doris - Haley Kohlmann
Firemen - Randy Dykstra* and Cheryl Ball
Shepherds - Christian Zumburnn, Nicholas Heath, Jordan Biggs, Ammon Borjas*
Angels - Cecelia Henson*, Justin Bolt, Nolan Rothfuss, Anna Johnson*, Cassidy Nangle*, Delonderia Jones*, Augheana Reaves*, Michael Strecker*
Choir - Sawyer McDaniel*, Hannah Custer, Kristen Graham, Christian McKim, Anna Sosa, Kyler Langvardt,

Emily Regan*, Mariah McAntee, Madeline Bess*, Marissa Biggs, Jordan Heath*, Lisa Wilson, Marissa Ascher*, Ashley Locklear*, Jeanie Rogers, Chandler Custer, Amanda Fink, Jenna Ball, Daniela Gonzales*, Samantha Bess*, Mary Borjas*, Sharon Glaser, Cara Glessner, Laura Borjas*
Director - Deb Barnes*
Production manager - Colleen Smith*
Music - Laura Marrs, Sandy Wong*
Stage manager - Henrietta Withee*, Connor Klamer*
Lights - Kyle Glessner, Brittany Marrs
Sets - Randy Smith*, Kacy Smith, Kyle Smith, Kim Smith

*Indicates a cast or crew member contacted to Fort Riley

Have you been somewhere interesting, exciting or unique in Kansas? Call the editor at 239-8854 and suggest a future travel feature.

NETQUEST
3 x 4.5"
Black Only
3rd, 5/Salute/11-19626, 12-3-04

GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
3 x 5.5"
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3X5.5 GCH KHOURY 03545419 SR

