

IN BRIEF

Warren East Child Development Center has opened. Hourly care is available for children 6 weeks through kindergarten from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 6981 Warren Rd. Call 240-0822 to schedule.

Parents can schedule up to 20 hours per week, and reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance. Special Army Family Covenant rates are available to Families of deployed Soldiers.

Registration with Child, Youth and School Services is required. Call 239-9885 or 239-5440 for more information.

The Middle School Teen Center is open for morning care from 5:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday; open recreation from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; open recreation from 1 to 11 p.m. Friday and 2 to 11 p.m. Saturday. For more information about the teen center, call 239-9222.

Nominations are now being accepted for Fort Riley's 2009 Yard of the Month program. One home from each Fort Riley neighborhood is selected for Yard of the Month. Nominated yards will be judged on the first Friday of each month.

To nominate a yard or for more information on criteria for the program, residents can call their neighborhood offices or Crystal Bryant at 717-2200.

Volunteers are needed to help abused and neglected children in the Central Flint Hills Region. Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, is looking for board members who can give about two hours a month and advocate volunteers who give about 10 hours a month. For more information, call 785-761-4841 or e-mail christinarose75@gmail.com.

Get on the Fort Riley Middle School Teen Center's e-mail list and stay in the loop on activities coming up at the center. The teen center will send an e-mail each month to parents and youth in grades six through 12 with teen center events and projects. Call 239-9222 for more information or to be added to the list.

Rock Springs 4-H Center will host five sessions of its annual Family camp this summer.

The 2009 camp dates are: July 31-Aug. 1, Aug. 14-16, and Sept. 4-6. Family camp presents an opportunity for parents and their children to attend a fun-filled adventure set in the natural beauty of Rock Springs 4-H Center. Housing options for each session range from rustic cottages to air

conditioned suites, giving each Family the opportunity to personalize their camp experience.

Each session's agenda may vary slightly, but typical activities include: swimming in Rock Springs' Olympic-sized pool; horseback riding on an authentic trail ride with one of Rock Springs' famous palominos; archery, trap or rifle shooting; arts and crafts; canoeing and campfires.

Rock Springs is located 12 miles south and west of Junction City. For more information about Rock Springs or Family camp, call 785-257-3221 or send an e-mail to administration@rocksprings.net.

Current thrift shop hours are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday with consignments from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Saturday of each month with consignments from 10 a.m. to noon. The Dollar Bag Room will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon the first and third Saturdays of each month.

Wednesdays youth are invited to attend Deployment Group Meetings at 4 p.m. at the Middle School Teen Center. The meetings provide youth an opportunity to talk with specialists and meet other youth who may be struggling with current or past parents or other Family members deploying. For more information, call 239-9222.

USO Fort Riley is seeking volunteers to help with its various programs and services, including support for its United Through Reading program, Operation Care Package and future program development. Hours are flexible.

Anyone interested in becoming a USO volunteer should contact April Blackmon at ablackmon@uso.org or 757-709-3814.

Quit a job to PCS with your active duty sponsor? **You might be entitled to unemployment benefits.** Go to www.uibenefits.dol.kg.gov to put in an unemployment application today, then call Fort Riley's Employment Readiness Program at 239-9435 to start looking for your next job opportunity.

Need an income, but don't want to or can't afford to put your children into day care? **There are at home job opportunities that you can take advantage of** to earn some extra income to help out the family or just some extra spending money. Please call the Fort Riley Employment Readiness Program for details at 785-239-9435 on how to get started.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Total economic impact just over \$1.8 billion

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Fort Riley and the Central Flint Hills Region welcomed the "Big Red One" home in 2006 after its 10-year stint in Germany. At the transfer of authority ceremony in August 2006, Fort Riley was home to approximately 12,000 Soldiers and 15,000 Family members, with a promise to the community more would follow.

Fort Riley's economic impact summary for 2008, which was just completed by our Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, shows just what the growth at Fort Riley has contributed to the community in terms of money and population growth in the area.

In 2005, the year of the Base Realignment and Closure announcement that the 1st Infantry Division would return to Fort Riley, we had 10,060 Soldiers and 12,714 Family members living on and off post. As of Sept. 30, 2008, that number had grown to 15,634 Soldiers and 19,422 Family members.

Including Family quarters, bachelor officer quarters and our total barracks



Col. Kevin Brown

more than 9,400 civilians who work to support our mission.

Within those seven counties, Fort Riley's Soldiers, Family members and civilians live, work, relax and shop. Overall, Fort Riley has had a total economic impact of just more than \$1.8 billion. While the largest chunk, \$1.1 billion, of that fell into the payroll category, almost \$180 million was spent on supplies, services and contracts. Almost \$400 million went into construction, almost \$14 million for education and around \$74 million for health care.

Compare last year's economic impact to that of 2005 and there has been a growth of more than \$880 mil-

lion. That is a lot of money and as we continue to see growth at Fort Riley, that number will continue to grow.

If you look past the economic impact, however, I think Fort Riley has contributed something even greater to the Central Flint Hills Region – our Soldiers and Families. Soldiers live by the Army Values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Each of our Soldiers has volunteered for service to their country. It takes a special person to do this and those people are living in the Central Flint Hills Region.

Those values that the Army and its Soldiers uphold are transferred to the community when our Families volunteer in schools and churches, with scouts and for other community organizations. Since such a small percentage of our population volunteers for service, our community members get a chance to say something that many in our country can't. "I know a U.S. Soldier." Those Soldiers helping build communities in Iraq and Afghanistan aren't just Soldiers; they are our neighbors. Our children play baseball together. Our Families sup-

port each other.

Besides the everyday interactions of our Soldiers, Families and community members, our units have partnered with towns across the Central Flint Hills Region. From these partnerships, our communities have built relationships with units and our Soldiers have often learned civic lessons to take with them when they deploy to help build communities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many Soldiers and Families acknowledge Fort Riley as their favorite duty assignment. The reason for this is because of the great communities around the installation and the great relationships our Soldiers, Families and civilians have within those communities. As we continue to work together, economically and personally, within the Central Flint Hills Region, more and more Soldiers will want to call Kansas home while on active duty and after.

The economic impact summary can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/economicmpact>.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an e-mail to rlc.post.newspaper@comus.army.mil.

Home wanted

Charlie

This is Charlie. Charlie is a two-year-old male cat who likes to play and needs to find a new home soon.



Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday
Phone: 239-6163

AT THE MOVIES

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Tickets cost \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

July 24 - The Taking of Pelham 1, 2, 3, R
July 25 - Year One, PG-13
July 26 - The Taking of Pelham 1, 2, 3, R
July 30 - Year One, PG-13

For more information, call Barlow Theater at 239-9574.

HOUSE FILL AD