

COMMUNITY CORNER

Survey to evaluate new 5-4-9 schedule

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

During January, many U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley offices completed their first month on the trial 5-4-9 schedule. The trial will continue through March, and we want to know how it's going.

The 5-4-9 schedule allows employees to build up hours by working five nine-hour days one week. The next week, employees work three nine-hour days and one eight-hour day. By Friday of the second week, employees will have worked their 80 hours and Friday becomes a Garrison Energy Conservation Day.

The purpose of the adjusted schedule is to get at Fort Riley's and the 1st Infantry Division's goals of building resiliency and sustainability in our Soldiers. Families and civilian workforce and provide a predictable schedule for those groups.

To find out what our employees think of the 5-4-9 schedule we are going to implement a survey. In the upcoming weeks keep an eye on the newspaper, Riley TV, www.rileyarmy.mil or our page on Facebook for further survey instructions.

Some of the questions we will ask will include:

- Do you feel you have more opportunity for flexibility in your scheduling of personal appointments?
- Do you believe the new schedule has had an impact on customer service?
- Has this schedule had a positive impact on your commute?

These questions, among others, will help garrison leaders determine if the new schedule is fulfilling our intent.

While many on post may not notice any change at all, an example of where it may be more noticeable is the Directorate of Emergency Services' Vehicle Registration Office. The office is open between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on alternating Fridays when it is closed. On the Thursday before the day off, the office will close an hour earlier. Coming up, the office will be closed Friday, Feb. 12 and 26, and close at 4:30 p.m. Thurs-



Col. Brown

day, Feb. 11 and 25. If there's any confusion about what Friday is Garrison Energy Conservation Day, the newspaper publishes the next day in the lower left-hand corner each week.

While offices, such as Vehicle Registration, are operating under adjusted hours, the 5-4-9 schedule doesn't apply to everyone. Emergency responders, child care workers and those staffing recreation facilities are some of the employees who don't fall under this plan.

Did you know that Fort Riley pays more than \$1 million each month for its utilities? By completely closing down numerous garrison buildings at least two extra days per month, the post's energy bill should drop by thousands of dollars. While the energy will be used for an extra hour on other days, the cost for the extra hour versus a whole day should be significant.

Employees at the Directorate of Public Works are monitoring our energy use closely during our trial run. I ask you all to do what you can do to help us achieve some cost savings. Turn off the lights when you no longer need them, log off your computers every night before you go home, and bring a blanket instead of a space heater if you get cold in your office. Together I believe we can make a difference in the energy bill at Fort Riley.

I look forward to seeing the results of our survey to see if our employees are enjoying their time off. I suspect they are. The 5-4-9 schedule – if implemented for the long run – will provide the garrison with 21 extra days of energy savings each year.

When the survey is released, I ask everyone to provide their input to help us determine if the 5-4-9 schedule is something we should continue. Keep an eye out for survey instructions.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@comus.armymil.

Teen's motivation makes her stand out

By Deikya Greer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

With the New Year underway, Fort Riley's Middle School Teen Center has named its first Youth of the Month for 2010, Tasia Phillips.

Phillips is a 13-year-old, seventh-grade student at Fort Riley Middle School, where she has a 4.0 GPA. She loves music, and she plays the flute, piano and guitar.

"At a recent dance at the teen center, Tasia's band served as our entertainment" said Kristopher Beals, homework tech.

Tasia is really talented, during the winter break she participated in "Rock Band Camp" at the teen center, Beals said.

"Tasia stands out because she is very motivated," Beals said. "She is a leader amongst her peers, and she always tried to get other youth to participate in activities and to do the right thing."

Winners of the Youth of the Month award are chosen by the teen center staff. This is the third Youth of the Month award to be given out.

"Throughout the month, we watch for youth who have shown that they are

trying to live by the 'Character Counts' model," Beals said.

The program is based on a similar model the Boys and Girls Club of America uses. It focuses on leadership skills, decision-making and contributing to community. The teen center program, however, has been modified to fit the needs and expectations of the teen center.



Tasia Phillips

"Once four winners have been chosen we will have a banquet in their honor," Beals said. "They can invite their parents and other close Family members to come see them accept their Youth of the Month plaque."

The winners of the Fort Riley Teen Center's Youth of the Month have their name and picture in the paper, and they also have their name on a plaque that is hung in the lobby of the teen center. Recipients have their pictures and essays hung up in the homework lab, and they are offered the opportunity to decorate their own bulletin board if they choose.

ACS program helps with job hunting

ERP

The Army is full of programs to help Soldiers and Family members. But did you know there's a program that provides local employment opportunities right here on Fort Riley? A program that assists in resume writing? A program that provides classes for professional growth? Did you know this program can be found at Army Community Service?

The Employment Readiness Program is one of the best kept secrets in the Army. Due to growing concerns regarding Family member employment mentioned at every Army Family Action Plan since 1983, the ERP was established in 1985. ERP, back then known as Family Member Employment Assistance Program, was modeled after a 1982 volunteer organization called

Education and Employment Resource Center, which was established by local Army wives to meet the needs of spousal education and employment at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The AFAP III initiative mandated that a program be developed to provide employment information at each new duty station for Family members moving with their Soldiers. Effective Oct. 1, 1986, employment information was available at ACS, and thus employment readiness assistance became one of the basic services provided by ACS.

When the ERP program was initially established its primary goal was to specifically assist Family members; however, over the years the program has expanded and evolved to offer complete employment assistance services to active duty members, Department of the Army civilian employees, spouses, retir-

ees, surviving spouses and their Family, including children.

The ERP program has grown to become a one-stop shop designed to assist with all professional employment assistance needs for Family members and Soldiers. ERP services are available at 95 Army installations worldwide. Their services include assistance in resume development, job search, work-at-home opportunities, interviews, job application assistance and more. There are many classes available on topics such as RESUMIX, the online government resume format, Non-Appropriated Fund applications, dressing for success, employment seminars and employment events such as job fairs and this February's Exploring Employment Conference. Mark your calendars as this is sure to be an event you don't want to miss. Local subject matter experts will

be available to discuss questions about:

- At-home businesses
- Educational advancement and specialty career and financial aid information.
- Other important educational information about employment and business.

The Exploring Employment Conference will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at Riley's Conference Center on Fort Riley's historic Main Post. Lunch will be provided.

The Employment Readiness Program's hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except federal holidays. ACS is located at Building 7264 on Normandy Drive. Those interested in learning more can call 785-239-9435 and make an appointment.

Storyteller creates 1860s scene at Fort Riley Elem.

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Dressed in 1860s-period attire, playing a banjo and singing songs from the 1860s, Rosie Cutter, storyteller, entertained students Jan. 27 at Fort Riley Elementary School.

The storyteller performed at Fort Riley Elementary School as part of its Kansas Day celebration.

"High ho, the boatman go, up and down the river, on the O-hi-o," Cutter

sang in her opening number while playing the banjo. "High ho, the boatman go, up and down the river, on the O-hi-o."

She taught the students the chorus for them to join in with her.

Cutter told the students about the songs and music people sang while settling in Kansas in the 1860s.

Kansas gets its name from the Kansas Indians who first settled in the area, she explained.

The state animal is the buffalo,

which also is Fort Riley Elementary School's mascot. Cutter showed the students a buffalo skull and hide.

"They used every part of that buffalo," she said. "Some people called the buffalo the pertinent store because you could get everything you need from this buffalo."

Early pioneers could get meat from the buffalo. From the hide they could make a blanket or a rug. They could even make a coat, hat or gloves from the hide. The bones could have been used

to make utensils, tools or a pair of ice skates, she said.

A brief history lesson was worked into her program telling the students the important dates of the Homestead Act and the Civil War.

Students helped Cutter tell a folk tale by acting out the parts.

Fifth graders T.J. Bradford, Natalie Vanaken, Nathaniel Olivia-Wlycoff and Carly Schrouf along with fourth grad-

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