

COMMUNITY CORNER

Garrison commander says seeking help sign of strength, not weakness

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

I've said before that the most valuable resource at Fort Riley is you – Soldiers. Families and civilians are what make Fort Riley a great place to live, work and play. Because of that, we must work every day to protect this resource. The loss of just one life is a tragedy.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and the theme for the Army's observance is "A healthy force is a ready force." This reflects the Army's awareness that healthy people and the mission go together – that protecting our force is a priority.

According to the Army's Suicide Prevention Program website, the program rests upon

proactive, caring and courageous people who recognize the imminent danger and then take immediate action to save a life. Active engagement of everyone can help minimize the risk of suicide within the Army and stop this tragic and unnecessary loss of human life.

Throughout September, Fort Riley will host display booths at the Exchange, Commissary and Irwin Army Community Hospital. Leaders will participate in a leader's professional development seminar. Some Soldiers will participate



Col. Clark

in ASIST – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, while some spouses will participate in the Resilient Spouse Academy. The post also will observe a suicide stand-down day Sept. 28, where normal activities will cease, and we will focus on suicide prevention.

While the Army continues to take steps to mitigate suicide risks, like personal problems, occupation and operation issues, everyone must be involved in protecting our force.

Part of the Soldier's Creed is, "I will never leave a fallen comrade." I ask you to take that to heart when you consider the mental health of your battle buddies and Families.

Our Soldiers and Families are resilient in the face of pro-

longed conflict, and the Army is committed to enhancing that resiliency, but we do need your help.

If you know someone who may need help, remember the ACE acronym:

- Ask your buddy – Have the courage to ask the question directly, "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"

- Care for your buddy – Remove means which could be used for self-injury, calmly control the situation and actively listen to produce relief.

- Escort your buddy – Never leave your buddy alone. Escort them to the chain of command, a chaplain, behavioral health professional or a primary care provider.

If you feel you may need

help – seek it.

Army Community Service has programs designed to help with many issues that may add to one's stress. Information about these programs can be found by calling 785-239-3435.

Family Life Ministries, our chapel programs and Strong Bonds program help Soldiers and Family members stay in touch with their spiritual sides. For more information on these programs, call 785-239-3426 or 785-239-3359.

Remember, asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.incom.mbc.post-newspaper@gmail.com.

SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES

Local

- Chaplain Helpline: 785-239-HELP
- Behavioral Health Crisis/Outreach: 785-239-7209

National

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
- Army Suicide Prevention Program: www.preventsuicide.army.mil
- Military Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, Press 1
- Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.com

New mule training exhibit opens at Cavalry Museum on post



Pamela Redford | POST

A donation of photographs from retired 1st Lt. Jimmy Handford of New York made Fort Riley Museum Division's newest exhibit possible. Visitors can see how mules were trained at Fort Riley and used to bring supplies and food to the frontlines in Europe and Africa during World War II on terrain too rough for mechanized vehicles.

By Pamela Redford
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Fort Riley's Museum Division opened a new exhibit Aug. 16 thanks to a generous donation of photographs from retired 1st Lt. Jimmy Handford of New York.

Handford contacted Robert Smith, museum director, Fort Riley museums, about one year ago and described his time at Fort Riley as a lieutenant during World War II.

His job, now documented in an extensive display of photographs and captions, was to train mules using pack saddles.

During WWII, some of the terrain in Europe and North Africa was too rough for mech-

anized vehicles, so mule trains served to bring food and supplies to Soldiers fighting overseas.

"What they would do is they would take the heavy weapons and supplies up on the mules during day to supply the Soldiers and bring the wounded back at night, so the mules had a dual purpose," Smith said.

Mules were used in WWII in countries such as Italy, Burma and Tunisia.

The Phillips pack saddle, developed in 1924, enabled the mules to carry a heavy load of weapons and machine guns into rough terrain where vehicles could not go.

"The revolutionary thing about the Phillips pack saddle is

that you did not have to have an experienced packer to pack the saddle because it would equalize the load on the horse's back. It was also contoured to fit the horse's back," Smith said.

At the center of the new exhibit, visitors will see a Phillips pack saddle, flanked by Handford's treasure trove of photos.

"(Handford) asked if he donated (the photos), would we do something with it, and we said absolutely," Smith said.

The mule training exhibit is currently open. To learn more about the Museum Division at Fort Riley, call 785-239-2737 or visit <http://riley.army.mil/UnitPage.aspx?unit=DPTMS.Museum>.

Picerne to launch new resident e-newsletter beginning Oct. 1

PICERNE MILITARY HOUSING

Picerne Military Housing recently announced that, beginning Oct. 1, on-post residents of Fort Riley receive their monthly newsletter via e-mail. Prior to the digital newsletter, hard copies were distributed door-to-door of each on-post home.

Picerne's newsletter is going digital as a result of on-post resident feedback. It is also part of company-wide efforts to minimize its use of natural resources, like paper and ink. "Not only will the environment benefit from this, but so will our residents," said Alison

Birney, community management director, Picerne Military Housing at Fort Riley. "Our newsletter will now be readily accessible on the Internet, whether our residents are on the go or at home."

In preparation for the switch to a digital newsletter, Picerne Military Housing distributed a Resident Communication Survey to all on-post residents. Feedback collected from this survey will be incorporated into the new e-newsletter, in addition to neighborhood event details and seasonal reminders.

Previously, each residence received only one copy of the

monthly newsletter. With the switch to digital, residents can now choose to have the newsletter emailed to more than one person in their household. Picerne will continue to supply hard copies of the newsletter available for pick-up at each Neighborhood Office. Each newsletter also will be posted on the Picerne website, should residents miss its arrival in their inbox.

On-post residents are encouraged to contact their Neighborhood Office with any questions they may have about the e-newsletter and to ensure the email address associated with their account is accurate.

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sporting and cultural arts events, holidays, testing days, meetings and other school events.

Parents can even use the portal to make convenient credit card payments on fees for enrollment, labs, band and extracurricular activities. Free and reduced lunch applications are accessible through the system, and there's no need to wonder what happened to the milk money – just log in to check the food service balance and deposit funds for the week.

A mobile portal option was just unveiled by the information management company – making it easier for parents to stay on top of their student's progress this year. Anyone with a wireless mobile device capable of HTML can download the new Infinite Campus app – free – and have instant access wherever and whenever they choose to pick up their phones.

This new level of convenience could prove useful in a number of scenarios, from accessing emergency contact information during a critical moment to checking grades before the weekend roll-around.

"(Infinite Campus) is really a window into how that parent's child is doing in school. It's very important because, hopefully, parents are invested and interested in what their child is doing. This is a very easy and convenient way for parents to find out," said Matthew Blomberg, communications coordinator, USD 475.

Although the portal provides a wealth of information to parents, the district is hoping parents also will use Infinite Campus to provide the district with useful information, Blomberg said.

Taking a few moments to enter a current phone number, email and physical address can make a difference in how well the school year goes for a student, he said.

"This is really how we stay in touch with parents and how they collect information from us ... It sounds really simple, but those are the things that we need to establish two-way communication with them," Blomberg said.

Infinite Campus also allows teachers and administrators to manage student information more effectively and efficiently, he added.

With the state of Kansas requiring increased reporting efforts through various collections during the year, student information can be extracted from the system and sent to the state much more quickly than in decades past. Typical collections include the initial start of school enrollment information and district scores on state assessments.

"Every one of our students are, upon enrollment, put into the Infinite Campus system ... This is a very important system to making sure that everything is accurate," Blomberg said.

Although Infinite Campus holds an incredible amount of

information, Blomberg said the system is pretty user friendly as long as parents follow a few simple steps to get started.

After enrollment is completed, parents should get an activation number from their student's school. With that number, they can register with Infinite Campus, log in and enroll online.

Once those steps are completed, parents should be able to download the free mobile application.

"The more you use it, truly, the easier it gets," Blomberg said.

Although every student in the district is registered in Infinite Campus through the school district, not every student's parents have registered at home, he said.

"We're hoping through education and things we're sending out, parents will use it more this year," Blomberg said. "It's not like the old days when parents had to wait for the report card to come in or go see the teacher to communicate. With Infinite Campus, it's all very black and white. Student can't hide their grades between report cards."

For more information, call 785-717-400, visit www.usd475.org or www.facebook.com/usd475.

To access Infinite Campus mobile portal, visit <http://media.infinitecampus.com/public/html/mobile/index.html>.



Calun Reece | POST

A group of JCHS students bow their heads in prayer before beginning their meal Aug. 21 during a BLT event at the First Southern Baptist Church, Junction City. The church is within walking distance of the school.

JCHS students participate in Bible Lunch Tuesdays

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Bible Lunch Tuesdays kicked off for the year with its first free lunch for high school students Aug. 21 at the First Southern Baptist Church in Junction City.

BLT is for Junction City High School students to enjoy free food, fellowship and a short devotional during their school lunch period.

The church is a block away from the school, making it accessible for students to walk or drive to the weekly event.

"I think that it's great, not only is there free food but we get a great lesson from the area youth pastors," said Dayton Schmalzried, senior, JCHS. "It's really uplifting – and the food's good."

The lunches are provided by six local churches in the area and Fort Riley's Club Beyond

Youth Ministry. The churches rotate on a weekly basis to provide the free lunch and devotional for the students.

The BLT speaker for the first week was Rick Hernandez, community director, Fort Riley Club Beyond.

Hernandez gave a devotional about two men with bad reputations who had the opportunity to start fresh. In the same way, students have an opportunity for a "do over" as they begin a new school year, he said.

Matthew and Zacchaeus each had bad reputations they could not get away from, but when they met Jesus He radically changed their lives, and they got a do over, Hernandez said.

"I cause messes for myself all the time – the difference is when I see my mess I just give it to Jesus because He sees my mess," he said. "The only thing

you have to do in this process is to turn away from your sin and see Jesus."

He's going to meet you exactly where you are, Hernandez added.

Hearing about the difference BLT has been making in student's lives through the years has been encouraging, said Gabriel Hughes, associate pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Junction City.

"We started hearing from people who had formerly been a part of BLT years ago who had been in high school and talked about how it made a difference in their lives, and it reinforced for us the importance of it and to keep going," he said.

For more information about BLT contact Don Ericson, director, Religious Education, Religious Services Office, Fort Riley at 785-239-0979.



If you smoke, you must be 50 feet away from building entrances on post.