



No. 10 was No. 1
Michael Williamson scored 20 points to lead 1st Bn., 16th Inf., past 4th Finance in a company-level match-up Feb. 10.
See Page 9

Fort Riley Post



Girl Scouts 'travel'
About 200 Girl Scouts toured 17 nations without leaving Fort Riley. It was all about "thinking."
See Page 7

FRIDAY

February 13, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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'05 Army budget covers more living costs

By Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army's proposed \$98.5 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2005

covers average pay raises of 3.5 percent for Soldiers and 1.5 percent for civilians and eliminates out-of-pocket expenses for living off-post, according to a senior Army official.
The budget also funds the fifth

Stryker Brigade in Hawaii, improves Humvee armor, expands the Rapid Fielding Initiative and calls for 5,000 military positions to be converted to civilian jobs.
Pay increases and other personnel costs claim the biggest chunk

— about 39 percent — of the FY 05 budget, which would take effect Oct. 1, 2004, following approval by Congress.
The proposed budget maintains a force of 482,400 active duty Soldiers; 350,000 National Guard

members; 205,000 reserve Soldiers; and 229,000 civilians.
The Soldiers magazine 2003 almanac reported a 2002 end strength of 485,000 active duty Soldiers, 199,000 Army civilian employees and a 2001 end

strength of 352,000 National Guard and 206,000 Army reservists.
The FY 05 budget doesn't include money to pay for continuing

See Budget, Page 2

Going again



Soldiers from the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) stand inside their hangar at Marshall Army Air Field Feb. 9, during a deployment ceremony held in their honor.

82nd Med. Co. Soldiers returning to Iraq

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Here today, deployed tomorrow. It's a fact of military life these days and Fort Riley's 82nd Medical Company is going again.

The post welcomed the air ambulance company home in June from four months duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and now the unit is leaving for Iraq again.

Family, friends and well-wishers gathered Feb. 9, in the company's hangar at Marshall Army Air Field to say good-bye and good luck.

The unit chose a ceremony date other than its deployment date to lower the stress level of the Soldiers and their families.

"The last time we deployed, we had a ceremony the morning of our departure, and I found that to be extremely stressful, not only for myself but for my Soldiers as well," said Maj. James Schwartz, 82nd Med. Co. commander. "It was extremely emotional for everyone because a lot of times the gravity of a situation doesn't sink in until you have a ceremony that wishes you farewell. Having the ceremony now will give the Soldiers and their families a little time to let it sink in, and the hope is they will be better prepared for when it comes time to leave," he said.

"Some people at the ceremony felt the Soldiers' time at home went too quickly. "It just seems like the other day we were welcoming them home, and now here we are, eight months later, saying good-bye again to these great Soldiers," said Col. John

Simpson, garrison commander. "It is the commitment of this great organization to be able to turn around after their last deployment, recover their equipment and be able to go back into that dangerous environment to do their mission. It's a great testament of the Soldiers."

Some 82nd Med. Co. Soldiers expressed confidence they will be able to get their job done.

"I think, given the circumstances, the morale of the company is high. I think the Soldiers are at the point right now where they are ready to go there and do their mission," said Schwartz. "I feel that I have the best air ambulance company in the Army. I feel the wealth of experience we have, based

See 82nd Med., Page 3

Army lengthens time at stations

Soldiers may stay at same post for six to seven years

Army News Service

New soldiers can expect to stay at their first continental United States installation assignment for six to seven years as a result of force stabilization measures announced Feb. 9 by Department of the Army.

A new home-basing strategy announced the same day will keep families on the same continental United States installation for six to seven years.
Department of the Army plans to implement the new soldier stabilization programs in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004 - July through September 2004.

Under the Home-basing strategy, Soldiers can expect to be stationed at one installation through squad leader or company command or equivalent positions. Leaders will attend leader development schools, such as the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and the Captain's Career Course, in a temporary travel status and return to their stabilized family at their Home-base installation.

During the Home-basing period, the Soldier remains stabilized with his or her family at one installation. The Soldier and his unit will deploy to meet Army requirements, return to their home station and refit the unit based on

Good reasons

Synchronizes Soldier assignments with normal unit cycles.

Higher degree of weapons proficiency because Soldiers have same weapon longer.

Better-trained units when needed for deployment.

normal personnel attrition.

Once a noncommissioned officer becomes qualified as a squad leader or equivalent, assignment to other duties to include drill sergeant, recruiter and other career enhancing positions is more likely.

Similarly, officers will qualify as leaders at company-level command or equivalent at about the seven-year mark. Following this, they will leave the installation to assignments such as ROTC or recruiting or to attend advanced civil schooling.

Under Home-basing, some Soldiers may not be able to remain in their current organization based on unit structure and

See Longer stays, Page 2

Recruits will face longer first term

Basic, AIT added to contract

By M. Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army began adding some Basic and Advanced Individual Training time to new recruit enlistment contracts in December under provision of a new Force Stabilization initiative.

Nineteen jobs, mainly combat-arm specialties, fall under the Variable Enlistment Length program. Under VEL, Soldiers can enlist for three- to five-year options. After arriving at their first unit, they are stabilized for at least three years.

A smaller number of troops - 125 - have enlisted under the congressionally mandated 15-month pilot program, National Call to Service. Like VEL, National Call to Service doesn't include training time for a limited number of specialties as part of the new Soldier's time-in-service.

National Call to Service was adopted by each of the other ser-

Quick facts

Only 19 specialties, mainly in combat arms, qualify.

Recruits must finish basic and advanced individual training before enlistment contract period begins.

Three-year stabilization promised at first unit assignment.

VICES. The 15-month pilot program coincides with VEL because they kicked off about the same time, said Lt. Col. Harry Garner, chief of Enlisted

Accessions Division, Department of the Army. They keep initial-term Soldiers stabilized at their first duty station, but the National Call to Service is not part of the Army's stabilization plans, Garner said.

The mission of Force Stabilization is to provide ready, deploy-

See Recruit time, Page 2

Fort Riley honors fallen comrade in arms

Moreno remembered for his sense of duty, personal strength

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

"People sleep peacefully in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf," wrote George Orwell.

"Pfc. Luis Antonio Moreno was one of these rough men," said Lt. Col. George Gezcy III, commander, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. "We do all sleep better because of him, because of his sense of duty and because of the personal strength he forged in our post 9-11 world."

Moreno, of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was honored with

a memorial service at the Morris Hill Chapel Feb. 10, following his death while on duty in Iraq.

"Brothers and sisters of the gunner family, we gather today to pay tribute to a young man, a son, a brother, an immigrant, a New York City resident and an American who has died in the service of his country," Gezcy said. "Pfc. Luis Antonio Moreno, a volunteer soldier, has died serving alongside his fellow brothers and sisters in harms way against this determined enemy attacking present and future democracies of the world."

"We have come to honor Pfc.

See Moreno, Page 3



A soldier renders a salute in honor of Pfc. Luis Antonio Moreno of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, who died in Iraq. Soldiers, family and friends attended a memorial ceremony for Moreno Feb. 10.

Post/Selmek



Post news in brief

30th Brigade set to deploy

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Nearly 5,000 Soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division's 30th Heavy Separate Brigade in North Carolina begin deploying to Iraq this month.

The National Guard Soldiers and their families were recognized for their service to the country during a deployment ceremony Feb. 12 in Fayetteville, N.C.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander of the 24th Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, attended the ceremony.

The brigade's activation marks the largest call-up of North Carolina National Guard soldiers since World War II.

The 30th HSB is the first full National Guard combat brigade activated and deployed for service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Headquartered in Clinton, N.C., with armories in communities from Wilmington to Charlotte, the brigade includes soldiers from West Virginia, New York, Illinois, Alabama, Ohio, Minnesota, Texas and California.

JC Chamber recognizes PAO, Noble

The Junction City Chamber of Commerce awarded their Military Advocate of the Year Award to the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office at post headquarters Feb. 9.

David Bossemeyer, Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce director, and Deborah Johnston, chairman of the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program, presented the award to Maj. Jeff Buczkowski, Fort Riley public affairs officer.

The Public Affairs Office was cited for its efforts to educate area businesses on the military in order to help them better meet the needs of their military customers.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Noble was also presented with an award by the chamber as this year's runner-up.

Noble is a recent graduate of the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program, which teaches innovative leadership skills while fostering relations between community and business leaders.

His award was presented for his awareness of regional strengths, resources and economic development and for the leadership and discipline he provides to Fort Riley.

Army recruits warrant officers

The U.S. Army wants highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airman to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for those who qualify. For more information and all forms and documents required to apply, visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call DSN: 536-0484, 536-0458, 536-0488, 536-0478, 536-0271 or 536-1860.

Recruiters seek new recruits

Soldiers who volunteer for recruiting duty have the option of selecting assignments at nine recruiting battalions under the New Assignment Incentive Program.

Recruiters receive \$450 per month in Special Duty Pay upon assignment to a recruiting battalion and receive up to \$75 in reimbursement per month for expenses.

Recruiter briefings have been scheduled at Fort Riley for 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. March 16 and 17 in building 7626.

The briefing will elaborate on the challenges, benefits and opportunities to become recruiters.

For more information, go to www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter on the Internet. For information about the briefing, call Fort Riley Post Retention Office at 239-4215.

Budget continued from page 1

ued operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the official noted.

Those expenses will be covered with an expected supplemental allotment, he said.

Congress authorized a supplement of nearly \$39 billion for the current fiscal year.

The proposed budget focuses on keeping the Army relevant and ready as Soldiers continue fighting the Global War on Terrorism, while maintaining other campaigns and commitments around the world, the official said.

At the same time, the Army continues to transform itself into a future force capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century with a joint expeditionary mind set, he added.

"You can't put a price on our freedom and way of life," the official said.

About one-third of budget covers operations and maintenance, including:

- Flight School 21, which puts potential pilots in their "Go-to-War" aircraft for training on new state-of-the-art systems.

The emphasis is on producing more experienced pilots and get-

ting them to their units in less time than before.

- Converting 5,000 positions from military to civilian personnel.

- Increasing the number of training enablers for battle simulation centers.

- Maintaining the Army's Depot Maintenance Program.

- The Army plans to spend \$10.4 billion - about 11 percent of the total budget - for procurement. The same amount is programmed for research, development, testing and evaluation. Planned procurement includes:

- The fifth Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 25th Infantry Division (Light), Hawaii.

- 818 up-armed Humvees.

- Rapid Fielding Initiative, with emphasis on adding improved night vision devices and small, hand-held radios.

- Family of 2,425 medium-heavy tactical trucks.

- The future combat system, one of the Army's highest priorities which is a multi-functional, multi-mission, reconfigurable system of systems.

- Force development test and

experimentation and limited user test for the Comanche helicopter.

- Nineteen Longbow Apache conversions; eight new Black Hawks, upgrades for five Black Hawks to UH-60M model; 16 CH-47 conversions to F and G models, and 160 new, higher powered CH-47 engines.

- Continued procurement of Patriot Advanced Capability 3 and Abrams M1A2 System Enhancement Program.

- Warfighter Information Network - Tactical, known as WIN-T, a tactical digital communications system that provides advanced commercial-based networking capabilities to the future force.

- That planned spending includes:
- Continued progress in destroying U.S. chemical warfare material.
- Formal closure of the Johnston Atoll facility and disposal operations at Tooele, Utah; Anniston, Ala.; Umattila, Ore.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Aberdeen, Md.; and Newport, Ind.
- Design, permitting and construction activities for alternative technology pilot plants at Pueblo, Colo., and Lexington, Ky.

- The budget sets aside \$2.1 billion about 2 percent - for military construction and \$1.6 billion - another 2 percent - for Army family housing.

- Those amounts provide funding to:

- Continue the Flight Communities Initiative, which will turn housing over to private entities at eight more installations, bringing the program to 71,000 units at 34 installations.

Recruit time continued from page 1

able, combat forces, and to do that units have to first be manned, said Col.

Michael Harris, the deputy director of military personnel policy, GI. However, VET isn't just about manning units, it's also about stabilizing Soldiers, he said, referring to the fact that Soldiers under VET would stay at their first unit for at least three years.

Soldiers who fall under the selected job specialties will initially be assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La., which is scheduled to begin converting to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team in October.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment is a combat unit, which is why Human Resources Command selected specialties such as infantry, cannon crew member and cavalry scout for the program, Garner said.

Some of the non-combat-arms jobs that fall under VET are human resources specialist, 42A; administration specialist, 42L; and supply specialist, 92Y.

"VEL will be used to man all of the maneuver brigade combat teams, to include one of the brigades in the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. It will transform into a Stryker unit by 2005," Harris said.

"Under Force Stabilization, we will synchronize Soldiers' assignment cycles with units' operational cycles." Most units' operational cycles are on a 36-month schedule, Harris said.

Before VET, many Soldiers enlisted for only 36 months, but their initial-entry training took from three months to a year. So when they arrived at their unit, they were not there for a full 36 months.

"If you synchronize the schedules, and all the Soldiers come in together, train, deploy, fight, win and return together, you will get a more deployable and ready force," Harris said.

Another example Harris cited to reinforce the push for stabilization was that Soldiers could get more familiar with their weapons.

"If you're assigned an M16 at an installation, and you're there for three years and you take that same M16 to the range - you're going to be more proficient with your weapon."

"In contrast, if you go to 2.3 installations over a three-year period... and touch three different weapons, you'll probably be less proficient with your weapon."

Force Stabilization is one of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's 16 focus areas. "How the Army mans its force

was an immediate area that the chief of staff wanted us to look at," Harris said. "We've developed two programs under Force Stabilization. One is 'Home-basing' and the other is 'Unit Focused Stability,' previously known as 'unit manning.'"

Home-basing would require initial-term officers and enlisted Soldiers to stay at their first duty station for an extended tour of up to six or seven years, Harris said.

He said VET directly supports stabilization because initial-term Soldiers report to their unit at the same time and spend at least three years at that unit.

While some Force Stabilization initiatives will likely begin this summer, the specific units and installations to be affected will not be announced until next month after the Army reviews the current VET, officials said.

Fort Riley journalists earn region awards

Staff report

The Fort Riley Post, several writers who contribute to it, the Post's Web page, Fort Riley's In Step TV program and broadcasters who contribute to it won recognition for excellence this week. The recognition was from the Installation Management Agency, Northwest Region, competition for the 2003 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards.

Fort Riley entrants were among 97 print and broadcast entries submitted for competition.

First place winners will be forwarded to the Department of the Army Public Affairs for consideration in the Army-wide competition.

Fort Riley winners were:
 Metro-Format Newspaper - Fort Riley Post, third place
 Story Series -- 2nd Place:
 Spc. Jamie Bender, second place; Spc. William Biles, third place

Single/Stand Alone Photograph -- Spc. William Biles, second place

Web-based Publications -- Fort Riley Post newspaper, second place

TV Information Program - Apple Day Special 2003, Scott Rhodes, second place (contributors: Scott Rhodes, Gary Skidmore, Spc. Faith Vazquez, Spc. Brian Boles, Spc. Tim Hanson)

TV Report (News/Features/Sports) -- Spc. Faith Vazquez, second place

Local TV Newscast -- First Place: In Step with Fort Riley, first place (contributors: Scott Rhodes, Gary Skidmore and Spc. Faith Vazquez)

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Longer stays continued from page 1

professional development needs. These Soldiers will be reassigned on the installation if possible, or fill other Army CONUS or overseas requirements if no vacancies exist at their installation.

The Army will continue to rotate Soldiers to Korea for one year. After completion of that tour, they will return to their Home-base installation.

Home-basing reduces moves and provides predictability for Soldiers and families. It also provides the basis for expanding Unit Focused Stability, a manning process which synchronizes the

Soldier's assignment cycle to the unit's operational cycle.

Under Unit Focused Stability, Soldiers will arrive, train and fight together. It sets the conditions for the Army to build better and more deployable combat units.

Soldiers assigned under Unit Focused Stability will serve in a unit for the duration of the unit's operational cycle of about 36 months.

During that time, they can expect to complete an operational deployment or rotation of six to 12 months.

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Post/Cooke

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, praises Soldiers of the 82nd Medical Company about to depart for their second tour of duty in Iraq. The unit's departure ceremony was held Feb. 9.

82nd Med. Soldiers continued from page 1

on our previous deployments, will only help us achieve the mission's success."

That wealth of experience stems from the fact that the majority of the unit is made up of the same Soldiers who deployed to Iraq the first time the unit went. That experience, Schwartz believes, will give them an added advantage.

"We have retained many of the Soldiers who deployed with us the last time, so we will be able to rely on their experience from the first deployment - lessons learned since being back, which helped us to improve the unit and the way we operate - will have an added advantage for us by having those experiences," Schwartz said.

Soldier anxiety about leaving appears reduced from the first Iraq deployment the Boomer Dust Off team made.

"I think, due to our last deployment to Iraq, this deployment will go easier because the Soldiers know a little bit of what to expect. We are going there with a lot of the same crew that went there the last time, so there is a lot less anxiety this time over the deployment," said 1st Sgt. Michael Mears, the company's senior enlisted man.

"I believe the Soldiers' morale is high despite this deployment. These Soldiers are very accepting; they understand this is what we are supposed to do," he said.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, expressed the pride he feels for the unit and the confidence he has in them as they embark on another tour of

duty to Iraq. "Barely one year ago this very same outfit, the Boomer Dust Off, deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It's not a much different place, and in many ways not different times," Hardy said.

"I think as you look at these Soldiers, these warriors standing before you today, understanding that the majority of this team was on that first deployment, (you see they) are well-prepared to perform their lifesaving mission.

"I am extremely proud of Boomer Dust Off because they have already fought in this war for over 1,000 hours in combat, risking their lives during hostile fire, bringing all of their Soldiers home alive and now scarcely seven months later to be able to turn around, reset their formation and are ready to go again," Hardy said.

Hardy reminded those attending that deployments such as this one is not just about Soldiers. It's about their families, their kids, loved ones, spouses, parents and it's about the community.

Mears agrees that it is as hard on the families as it is for the Soldiers.

"This is hard on the families," he said. "You come back from a deployment and six to eight months later you have to go back again. It's hard on the families, and it's hard on the Soldiers too, because nobody likes to leave their family behind."

To help the Soldiers' families while they are deployed, the unit's Family Readiness Group will be available to help find answers to whatever questions arise while the

Soldiers are deployed.

"We have an outstanding Family Readiness Group. We had a great one the last time we were deployed, and they have only gotten better," Schwartz said.

"The families have endured quite a bit over the last several years because of our deployments.

Moreno continued from page 1

Moreno and his service to his country and the U.S. Army," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel Jenks. "His friends and family can be very proud of his service, and they come here today to honor all he did."

Moreno was born in La Romana, Dominican Republic on June 8, 1984. When Moreno was 7, he and his parents emigrated to the United States and settled in the Bronx, N.Y.

"Pfc. Louis Antonio Moreno enlisted in the Army on Jan. 26, 2003," said Capt. Steve Tautkus of the 5th Gun Section, 2nd Platoon, Battery A. "Following completion of his basic training, he attended AIT at Fort Sam Houston in order to be a food inspector. While at Fort Sam Houston Pfc. Moreno decided he was not satisfied with his choice of MOS, so he decided to transfer into combat arms and serve in an artillery unit.

Upon completion of his AIT at Fort Sill, Okla., he was assigned to 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, at Fort Riley."

Moreno arrived in southwest Asia on Oct. 8, 2003, and was assigned to the 5th Gun Section,

2nd Platoon, Battery A. "I met Pfc. Moreno for the first time on Oct. 8, 2003, at our forward operating base in central Baghdad," Tautkus said. "Whenever I would spot check soldiers, Pfc. Moreno was always in the proper uniform, on-time and ready for any mission. His contributions to Alpha Battery were insurmountable, and he made a difference in Baghdad by spreading freedom to the oppressed people."

"He kept me positive," said Spc. Rick Moser of 4th Bn., 1st FA. "He was excited about being a Soldier when sometimes I wasn't. We got here from AIT on the same day, and I was looking forward to seeing him again. He had a very positive influence on me."

"He was jovial and he was a conscientious person," Gecezy said. "Pfc. Moreno was there for Soldiers when they needed to be cheered up or when they needed a boost of energy to get through some tough times. Pfc. Moreno paid the ultimate sacrifice long before his time was due, and hopefully it was not in vain."

Moreno constantly displayed

mental toughness, motivation and dedication to excellence, others recalled. His goals included becoming a noncommissioned officer and, after serving his country, he hoped to become a New York City police officer.

"He participated in fixed-site security missions, search missions, raids, patrols and would volunteer at the drop of a hat for any additional mission," Tautkus said. "Pfc. Moreno was motivated, aggressive and gave nothing less than 100 percent regardless of what the mission was. He volunteered to pull duty if Soldiers were sick or burned out and never asked anything in return. He was a Soldier's Soldier."

He is survived by his mother and father, Francis and Manuel Moreno Sr. of the Bronx, N.Y., and by his sister, Michel Moreno, and brother, Manuel Moreno Jr.

To Moreno's parents, Gecezy said, "We thank you for your sacrifice, your constant reminder why being an American is such a wonderful opportunity not to be wasted."

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Pfc. Brad Hoopergarner, a cook with 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, creates pieces of salt dough for the Fort Riley Culinary Arts team will use to decorate a centerpiece on one of its entries. The team travels to Fort Lee, Va., Feb. 24 for the annual competition.

Post/Biles

Cooks create fantasy fare

Small team strives for big medieval theme

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Seven Fort Riley soldiers are cooking up a medieval fantasy for the annual Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va., Feb. 28 through March 12. The feast spreads out beneath a winged dragon emerging from a wishing well, the way team leader Sgt. 1st Class Lance Anttila envisions Fort Riley's entry.

Sgt. Carlos Quiles, Sgt. Matthew Schlagel, Pfc. Johnnie Booker, Pfc. Rustam Gorelov, Pfc. Yance Nunez and two apprentices not yet named will accompany Anttila and Master Sgt. Leroy Heyward, the installation food services supervisor, to Fort Lee Feb. 24 after practicing their food presentation and displaying a finished product for the post at 2 p.m. Feb. 20 in the old commissary, Bldg. 229.

Most of the team has spent every day the past 30-plus days

turning their medieval ideas into reality - to include small figures of mice which will be scattered on the 20-foot by 20-foot table displaying the entries Fort Riley's cooks will prepare.

Fort Riley's entries will include a meat platter with two meats appearing to be on a dragon's back and separated by flames created by cut peppers seemingly spewing from a dragon's mouth. Anttila and his team also envision a buffet of stuffed turkey for 10 people who must be nutritious and cost less than \$10 a serving as its second entry.

The team's third entry will serve up three three-course meals - one American, one international and one vegetarian - which must be 700 calories or less. They also must create entries containing six plated appetizers, six plated desserts and a dessert platter. One entry includes soup served in a bread bowl.

Anttila entered Schlagel in the ice carving competition, the final

category the Fort Riley team will enter.

Anttila knows details can make the difference between winning and losing at Fort Lee. He has one soldier practicing a classic eight-sided cut on potatoes and carrots every day. Everything Fort Riley's team will prepare will demonstrate the basic skills of an excellent cook as well as the team's creativity, he said. All of it will be edible, of course, and delicious, he added.

Fort Riley will not enter the field kitchen event because it is sending less than a full team to this year's competition, Anttila said. A full team numbers 12 cooks. Fort Riley is sending about half that number and got special permission to compete because it could not send a full team, Anttila said.

The post faced problems finding enough cooks to form a team because so many soldiers are serving in Iraq, Anttila said. The Army cancelled last year's competition because of widespread commitments to the war effort, Heyward said.

Despite the reduced number of team members, Anttila refuses to admit early defeat. His team has worked long hours each day without any holidays except for Valentine's Day coming up.

Anttila made the all-Army culinary team twice while assigned to U.S. Army Europe, so he knows what it takes to win, even though he won't be cooking himself. Team leaders cannot take part in the food preparation.

Quiles also knows what it takes to win. He made the all-Army team while stationed in Korea. Heyward pushed to re-establish Fort Riley's participation in the Army Culinary Arts Competition when he came to the post.

The 2001 team placed second in the field kitchen competition and first, second or third in other categories. The 2002 team returned to Fort Riley with 34 awards and commendations.

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Army horse units meet

Post hosts third annual equine conference

By Cassidy Hill
Staff Writer

Several representatives from different forts gathered at Fort Riley Feb. 3-5 for the third annual Equine Conference.

Capt. Joel Graham, commander of the Fort Riley Honor Guard, said the annual Equine Conference is an event that gives unique mounted units an opportunity to consult first-hand with their peers on various issues.

Graham said participants from the eight mounted units in the United States meet annually to discuss topics such as budgets, equipment, veterinarian care, legal aspects for mounted unit shows and operating procedures.

Representatives from Forts Sill, Hood, Irwin, Myer, Carson, Sam Houston and Huachuca, and members of Fort Riley's mounted unit met during the three-day conference.

Graham said the representatives had a reunion on the first day, toured Fort Riley on the second and toured Kansas State University on the third.

The kickoff reunion allowed all the mounted units to explain their specific operations. Graham said the reunion provided an opportunity for the representatives to see what each mounted unit had in terms of horses, facilities and equipment.

While at Fort Riley, Graham said the representatives received a guided driving tour of historic Fort Riley, a tour of the Regimental Museum, U.S. Cavalry Museum and a tour of the U.S. Cavalry Association Museum and Library. The group also toured the post stables and the ferrier shop, where Soldiers put shoes on their horses.

In the U.S. Cavalry Association

"I learned more in 15 minutes watching this demonstration than I have in the past 20 years."

—Ron Smith
Director, USCA

impressed with the treadmill study.

"I thought that seeing a horse gallop on a treadmill was absolutely fascinating," Smith said. "By having a horse run a treadmill, it allows someone to focus on how a horse breathes up close. I learned more in the 15 minutes watching this demonstration than I have in the past 20 years."

Professors of the College of Veterinary Medicine Dr. David Poole and Howard Erickson and Danielle Padilla conducted the treadmill demonstration. Poole said the demonstration is a wonderful teaching tool for veterinary students and is used to study a variety of medical problems in horses.

He added that K-State is one of very few research facilities in the world capable of making breath-by-breath measurements of ventilation and oxygen utilization in the running horse. Poole explained the procedures and said the participants were very interested about the study.

"The thing that struck me was that these people had such an interest in horses," Poole said. "They were very attentive and were full of enthusiasm. Their questions were probing and led to a lively discussion of horse physiology and health."

While at the university, the group also saw K-State's horse detachment, which is part of Agriculture Science College. The horse detachment offered information on how to analyze a horse based on its composition (physical appearance). Graham said this was valuable information he could use when buying horses.

"I think it was a success," Graham said. "It was one of the newest opportunities to showcase Fort Riley and its lineage."

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS
3 x 11"
Black Only
CHARTER COMM/3X11/MAIN NEWS

Commentary

Grunt *By Wayne Unden*



Upcoming holiday deserves extra effort to keep everyone safe

By Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Commanding General

President's Day celebrates the leadership of our first president, George Washington, and our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. Our tradition honors both men, as they were instrumental in shaping the course and quality of the life we live today. Both men led the nation in time of war and left a legacy of freedom and democracy that deeply enriches the republic to this day.

While we commemorate the American values these men embodied, I remind you that our Fort Riley Soldiers are involved in the ongoing fight to preserve these same values. These selfless men and women must be at the forefront of our minds during our time of reflection.

Fort Riley, we must continue to be aggressive in regards to safety. Many soldiers, civilians and family members use long holiday weekends to visit friends and family. Ensure they have developed safe travel routes, coupled with appropriate rest periods. Leaders and directors, ensure that soldiers and civilians are briefed prior to the holiday weekend on the potential hazards of the winter season, with special emphasis on privately owned vehicle operations. Stress the avoidance of excessive speed on icy and wet roads and

the effects of fatigue and alcohol. Furthermore, brief motorcycle operators on proper operation and protective gear.

Continue to be aggressive concerning suicide prevention. Telltale signs and hints enable caring and observing individuals to react to prevent most suicide attempts. Leaders and directors should remain alert and aware of soldiers and civilians who display behavioral changes or talk of ending their life and take the appropriate steps to get that individual help.

I wish all Fort Riley soldiers, civilians and family members a safe and enjoyable President's Day holiday weekend.

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3, Cottonwood / Post

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 apart's ad

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 FEBRUARY TP

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
SETH CHILDS THEATRE FORT RILEY

Votes matter; they state what America thinks

By Steven J. Cooke
19th PAD

In these times of elections, political campaigns, terrorism and war, you can't help but be bombarded with messages of voting. How important is it? How pointless is it? It is the right and duty of every red-blooded American to get out and "Rock the Vote."

But really, does voting make a difference? Does your one check mark dramatically change the practices of the government? Are we political superheroes with the power to jump in a booth, draw a curtain, swiftly move a couple of levers and magically bring about world peace?

In my opinion, the answers are yes, yes and yes.

When we, as American citizens, exercise our right to vote, we make our leaders and government sit up and take notice to what is really important to us.



Steven Cooke

When we vote, we tell the politicians on Capitol Hill, "if you want to stay there, you better focus on our issues."

When we vote, we tell our lawmakers we care, so you better do the same.

Non-voting Americans need to realize that while one vote in a sea of millions probably means nothing, when you vote you are making one powerful collective voice stronger - a stronger voice that can bring about positive change.

Your one vote does not just speak for yourself but for your family, your community and the groups and organizations you care about.

When we vote, we are doing more than electing government officials. We are letting current officials and "wannabe" officials know who and what is important.

Elected officials are all about getting votes. So when they campaign, they focus on people who vote. They make promises to do what we want them to do. But if you don't vote, not only do they not know what you want, they don't even know or care you exist.

Do you want better pay and benefits for Soldiers? Do you want equal opportunities for women and minorities in the work place? Do you want true marriages for gay men and women? Do you want American farmers to get better prices for their crops? Do you want more money for our schools and less to Iraq? Do you want justice for the Dung Beetle?

If so, then every check-cashing, job-seeking, vow-exchanging, crop-cultivating, school-attending, insect-loving American

should be voting. When campaign time comes, candidates are only looking for those who statistically put them in office. If history shows only a small percentage of the voting population cares about homelessness, but a large percentage of the voting population cares about the preservation of the dung beetle, guess who's getting money for "The National Home for the Aged Beetle" and whose getting money for no-frills canned chicken broth.

Many people have labored tirelessly, fought vigorously and died so we could have the right to vote. But I won't tell you about your right to vote or how it's your duty as an American to vote because truthfully, just as you have the right to choose to vote, you have the right to choose not to vote.

I will tell you though, either way, as a voting American — as a voting American Soldier — I will continue to protect your right to choose.

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Fort Riley Community

February 13, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

Trash schedule changes for holiday

Refuse collection will change for the Feb. 16 holiday - Presidents' Day - as follows:
Feb. 16 -- No Collection
Feb. 17 -- Colyer Manor, Main Post Housing, Marshall Air Field Housing
Feb. 18 -- Ellis Heights, Montith Heights, Peterson Heights, O'Donnell Heights
Feb. 19 -- Burnside Heights, Warner Heights
Feb. 20 -- South Peterson, South Warner, McClellan Heights, Meade Heights.

The Shoppe closes doors during move

The Shoppe will be closed until further notice. It will reopen as soon as possible in its new location in the Fort Riley U.S. Cavalry Museum.
A grand celebration will be on Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The public is invited to the grand celebration to share refreshments and see the variety of antiques, handmade items, collectibles and new lines The Shoppe offers.

Club Beyond sponsors dinner

Fort Riley's Club Beyond is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner at Morris Hill Chapel from 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 14. Watchcare will be provided. Tickets are available in advance from any club member or at the door.
Please contact Jason Grogan at (785) 537-2606 or Andy Boston at (785) 717-3174 for more information or a reservation.

Hospital offers self-care classes

The Self-Care Program is a new service offered at Irwin Army Community Hospital to instructing attendees about preventive health care.
It focuses on individual wellness and taking responsibilities for one's own good health.
Those who complete a self-care class are eligible to receive three free over-the-counter medications per family member every 30 days at the IACH Outpatient Pharmacy or the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic Pharmacy.
They must present a military ID and the card showing they finished the class.
Capt. Jennifer Fentz of Preventive Medicine Service will teach the classes. Classes will be held every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the hospital.
Fort Riley beneficiaries may schedule an appointment to attend a self-care class by calling the TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200.
Class attendees also will receive a self-care manual for future reference in making decisions to seek medical care or access the self-care process.

In Step With Fort Riley

See it on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., and 10 p.m.

Passport, please



Girl Scouts from Junior Troop 536, in Greek costumes, reach for favors from one of many booths at the Girl Scout Thinking Day on Feb. 7.

Post Girls Scouts share learning journey

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

About 200 Girl Scouts spent Feb. 7 thinking at Fort Riley Middle School. The 17 post troops and one Junction City troop gathered to observe the Scouts' annual "Thinking Day."
World cultures resided in all corners of the school's gym with Scouts and leaders wearing costumes and setting up displays related to the culture assigned to their troop.
"I think it's good that they get the knowledge of other countries," said Brownie Troop 527 Leader Heather Gowens. "It's also good for them just to be a part of a social event like this."

Scouts moved with their troops from table to table, visiting each country and receiving a passport stamp at each location.
"We have to get this passport stamped for every country we visit," said Victoria Bonsteel, 5, of Daisy Troop 501, "and that's how we do it. I want to learn about all these countries as we go around."
The Scouts collected souvenirs from many of their stops, including baseball cards from the United States and miniature flags made with popsicle sticks.
"I'm going around countries and looking at stuff, and we're getting things in our bag," said Sabrina Self, 6, also of Daisy Troop 501.
Keepsakes were not the only motivation for the journey. The Scouts could sample foods from the various nations.
"We had shortbread, Spanish rice, Fig Newtons from Egypt, fruit in Fiji and popcorn balls in America," said Brittany Littler,

See Thinking Day, Page 8



Girl Scouts from Brownie Troop 310 do a Bahamas style dance for their presentation during Girl Scout Thinking Day Feb. 7, at Fort Riley Middle School.

Taking part

- Junior Troop 530 studied Germany
- Brownie Troop 301 studied Egypt
- Junior Troop 307 studied Italy
- Brownie Troop 527 studied the U.S.A.
- Brownie Troop 310 studied the Bahamas
- Junior Troop 536 studied Greece
- Brownie Troop 309 studied Ireland
- Brownie Troop 532 studied the Virgin Islands
- Brownie Troop 517 studied Holland
- Junior Troop 522 studied Colombia
- Junior Troop 515 studied Scotland
- Daisy Troop 501 studied Spain
- Junior Troop 543 studied Iceland
- Brownie Troop 528 studied the Congo
- Junction City Brownie Troop 385 studied Jamaica
- Brownie Troop 370 studied Fiji

Ware pupils count to 100

Activities put number into practical contexts

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

Ware Elementary School proved Feb. 3 that learning doesn't have to be tedious and painful when it celebrated the 100th day of school.

"We're doing different activities to help the first-graders get the concept of what 100 is," said teacher Kelly Hoover. "It's a fun extension of what we've been learning in class."

To celebrate, students took part in activities with Hula Hoops, jump ropes, dribbling and shooting basketballs, tossing coins, reading, building and walking.

All activities were based on some concept of 100.
For example, students had to spin a Hula Hoop, dribble a basketball or jump rope for 100 seconds.

Other students walked down a hallway counting 100 steps.
Basketball players from Junction City High School supervised each event.
"It allows for a positive interaction with our players and the young kids," said Felix Grimmer, head coach of the high school's varsity basketball team.

The coach said the day's activities helped his players.
"My players learn to communicate and learn how to listen. Some of our players want to be teachers or coaches. Regardless of what they want to do, it's a good learning experience for the players," he said.

"I'm having fun volunteering with the children," said JCHS junior Michael Draper, 18. "Getting out of school and playing with the kids, it's like recess."
Lea Cruz, 7, said her favorite activity was the Hula Hoops. "I do it all the time at home."
"I think it's really nice," said Betty Solis, a paraprofessional with special education students at Ware Elementary School.

"The kids are enjoying it a lot. They are learning the concept of 100. It's really neat to watch them count to 100," Solis said.

Kids count to 100

See photos of activities on page 8

Red Cross schedules next post blood drive

Staff report

American Red Cross officials urge everyone who can donate blood consider doing so during the next blood drive in their area.
Fort Riley, the next blood drive will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 18 at Craig Gym.
A recent American Red Cross poll determined most Americans overestimate the availability of blood. Each year, blood shortages become more common.
About 60 percent of the country's population is eligible to donate but only 5 percent actually give blood, said Diane Elder, chief operations officer of the Red Cross Central Plains Region Blood Services.
The Red Cross Central Plains Region serves more than 100 hospitals in Kansas and northern Oklahoma, including Irwin Army Community Hospital, Geary Community Hospital in Junction City and Manhattan Mercy Health Center, said Kristi Reif of

Want to donate?

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 18
Where: Craig Gym.
Donors should:
Eat and drink plenty of water before donating
Be at least 17 years old
Weigh at least 110 pounds
Be in general good health.
Will receive a free T-shirt.
For more information or to make an appointment: Call (800) 448-3343.
Walk-ins are welcome.

the American Red Cross. "Because many Fort Riley soldiers cannot donate blood due to overseas missions, we are asking civilians to consider donating on their behalf," Elder said.



Soldiers, families able to vote from anywhere

Absentee ballots mean voices heard at home

Primaries

Feb. 17 — Wisconsin Presidential Primary.
Feb. 24 — Utah Democratic Presidential Primary.
March 2 — California Presidential Primary, Connecticut Presidential Preference Primary, Maryland Presidential Primary, New York Presidential Primary, Ohio Presidential Primary, Rhode Island Presidential Preference Primary, Vermont Presidential Primary.
March 9 — Florida Presidential Primary, Louisiana Presidential Preference Election, Mississippi Presidential Primary, Texas Presidential Primary.
March 16 — Illinois Presidential Primary.
April 27 — Pennsylvania Presidential Primary.
May 4 — Indiana Presidential Primary, North Carolina Presidential Primary.
May 11 — Nebraska Presidential Primary, West Virginia Presidential Primary.
May 18 — Arkansas Presidential Primary, Oregon Presidential Primary.
May 25 — Idaho Presidential Primary.
June 1 — Alabama Presidential Primary, New Mexico Republican Primary, South Dakota Presidential Primary.
June 8 — Montana Presidential Primary, New Jersey Presidential Primary.

Robyn Haynes
K-State Intern

Soldiers Fort Riley and overseas who cannot make it to the polls can still have a voice in presidential primary elections through absentee voting.

"We want to publicize the election dates to provide our soldiers with every opportunity to make their vote count," said 1st Lt. Jamie Peer, installation voting officer.

The Army's Voting Assistance Program aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families and DoD civilians on post and overseas can exercise their right to vote," said Jim Davis, the Army's voting action officer.

Absentee ballots can be applied for by filling out the federal postcard application, which can be found at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site, Davis said.

"Not only does this register them for an absentee ballot, but it also registers them to vote in federal and local elections," Davis said.

"I recommend that Soldiers send in the federal post card application every year because they might have had an address change since the last election," he said.

Absentee ballots are mailed to citizens 30 to 45 days before an election.

Most states require the absentee ballot be received by close of business on the day of the election.

If Soldiers do not send in their request for an absentee ballot in sufficient time, they can use the Federal Write-In Application Ballot found on the program's Web site. This form allows Soldiers to write in their votes and send it in by the deadline electronically.

Absentee ballots and Federal Write-Ins are counted in the same way as regular votes.

"Our goal is to encourage everyone to vote," Peer said. "This includes spouses of military personnel and those living in the household who are of voting age."

The Army requires every unit to have a voting assistance officer. The voting assistance officers get training at Federal Voting Assistance Program workshops.

Voting assistance officers can answer questions and provide resources to Soldiers, their families and civilians voting in upcoming elections.

"Voting is how you influence who is in charge of your quality of life. It is your entitlement as an American citizen," Davis said.

He advises people to educate themselves on the issues before voting. "If necessary, do research before you vote," he said.

Not all states allow the public to vote in presidential primary elections. Instead, some states host caucuses to allow political party members to choose their candidate.

For more information on state voting policies or to contact a brigade representative, call Peer at 239-0448.



Photo provided

Girl Scouts earn Bronze Award

For the past seven months, Junior Troop 530 (The Red Roses) have worked hard to achieve the highest award for Junior Girl Scouts. The Bronze Award shows that a Scout has made a promise to help others, improve her community and the world and become the best she can be. Red Roses recently earning their Bronze Awards were Mariah Clark, Errin Gyuran, Emily Hottinger, Kayla Smart, Katlin Smart and Cassie Townsend.

Thinking Day continued from page 7

11, of Junior Troop 515. "My favorite was the shortbread, and Scotland was my favorite country for that reason."

"I really liked the gummy bears and German chocolate for the Greeks peanut bread," said Katlin Smart, 10, of Junior Troop 530. "There was spaghetti and shortbread, and the Spanish rice was really good."

The table hosted by Daisy Troop 501 received several comments from Girl Scouts for their elaborate costumes, display and the pot of Spanish rice available to Scouts and parents alike.

"The Spain table is really good," said Marisa Jones, 9, of Junior Troop 536. "It was my favorite because my cousin was a bullfighter and because the food is good."

"I have learned that Spain has very good rice and very poofy dresses," said Brittany Lavalley, 11, of Junior Troop 522.

Other Scouts linked themselves with countries for reasons learned while visiting them.

"Egypt is my favorite because we're doing it," said Rachel Martin, 8, of Brownie Troop 301. "I learned that they have nametags and they're called cartouches and they put them on their clothes."

Islands because I'm from there," said Teniquah Francis, 11, of Junior Troop 522.

Parents with Scouts in Troop 527 said they were pleased with the event and look forward to its continued success.

"It lets them know that the United States is not the only country and to taste the foods and learn a little bit about culture," said Belinda Terry, co-leader of Brownie Troop 527.

"This is for them to learn about other countries," said Sandy Pryor, parent volunteer for Brownie Troop 527. "That's what Girl Scouts is all about, opening them up to new experiences."

How much is 100?



First-grade students at Ware Elementary School have fun hula-hooping for 100 seconds during the school's "100th Day of School" celebration Feb. 3. The celebration featured several activities based on the value of 100 to help reinforce the value for the young students.



Above: First-graders Jesse Lucero, 6, and Alex Mueller, 7, build a pyramid with 100 wooden blocks Feb. 3.



At right: With some coaching from Junction City High School basketball coach Felix Grimmert, a first-grader tries to sink 100 baskets.

Post photos by Steven Cooke

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"

RED/February 04

DAILY UNION
3 x 3"
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Alma Antique Ad



Fort Riley Sports

February 13, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Infantry advances

Williamson leads team's spurt against 4th Finance

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Michael Williamson scored 20 points, including six in a key second half spurt, that helped propel Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, past 4th Finance 48-27 Feb. 10, at King Field House.

Williamson also had four key assists in the stretch, setting up teammate Ronald Lee for some easy buckets. Lee finished with 13. Orlando Reid scored the most points for 4th Finance with 14.

"I think I played pretty good," Williamson said, "but you see there's still a little rust. This is only our second game as a team, so we're still learning to play together. I think the more we play, the better we'll get."

The win brings HHC's record to 4-5, good enough for sixth place in the Fort Riley Company Basketball League standings. The loss leaves 4th Finance near the bottom of the league with a 2-8 record.

The score stayed close the first five minutes of play with each team trading baskets. Reid kept the game close with some tough lay-ups in the lane. At the 10-minute mark in the first half, the score was 13-7, with HHC in the lead because of good defense and easy baskets from Lee and Williamson.

However, it wasn't close after that. HHC went on an 11-7 run to end the half at 24-14.

"We just started to get more comfortable out there," Williamson said. "The shots we normally hit were finally starting to go down for us."

During the intermission, 4th Finance talked about playing tougher defense and hitting the middle with Reid, but HHC came out with the philosophy that if they stopped Finance's big man, the game would be over.

"I told them at the half that they had to continue playing the big man hard," said Robert Caldwell, HHC coach. "He was getting all the points, and we knew he was going to get them, but we just had to keep getting a body on him."

The second half turned into a blowout as HHC went on a 16-7 stretch in the first seven minutes. With 10 minutes left in the game, the score was 40-21 due in part to some tough shots in the lane by Williamson and good team defense that caused 4th Finance to turn the ball over six times.

"We played some really hard defense in the second half," Caldwell said. "We dug down and got some turnovers. I was a little concerned in the first half with a few of our own turnovers, but we're learning to play together and we're looking good going into the playoffs."



Michael Williamson, HHC 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, scores two of his 20 points, leading to a 48-27 win Feb. 10 at King Field House.

Finance took a timeout late in the game to form a strategy for getting back in the game, but HHC was too much in the paint and the trailing team couldn't get any closer.

"It was a great team effort," Williamson said.

"I have some teammates who are always looking for me to be open. In turn, as the point guard, I try to hit them with good passes as often as I can. Everyone just came out

to play tonight," he said.

HHC's team took the place of the 82nd Medical Company scheduled for a rotation to support Operation Iraqi Freedom this month. HHC is 2-0 since joining the league.

In other action Feb. 10, Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, beat the 15th Personnel Services Battalion 69-41, and the 6025th Garrison Support Unit beat Task Force Dependable 43-28.

Wildcats climb to ninth in poll

KSU women blister Buffaloes

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

You could feel the heat coming off the floor Feb. 8, at Bramlage Coliseum. It was a sure sign that Big 12 women's basketball was fired up.

The Kansas State Wildcats hosted the Colorado Buffaloes. The two teams have been sparring for the No. 10 spot on national polls. Going into the game, The Associated Press had the Cats in front. USA Today listed the Buffs ahead.

The first match-up between the two teams this season was a close game. The Cats managed to pull off a 76-69 win in that January

match-up, but both teams have been improving since.

"Defensively I think we've grown a lot. We defended extremely well tonight," Wildcat Head Coach Deb Patterson said. "We were able to build from what we learned in that first match-up and grew defensively over that period of time."

"In my opinion, we've grown in all phases of the game," Patterson continued. "You should improve from your first conference road game to a game in February. I'm really happy for our team for the improvement and the strides they continue to make."

The Buffaloes struggled from

See Wildcats, Page 10

Cornhusker fans beat foul weather

Game gives freshmen good excuse for mid-week road trip

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

Slushy snow pours down. The temperature is frozen at nine degrees above zero and the wind chill sends it below zero. Radio and TV announcers issue winter storm warnings and travel advisories frequently. It's the perfect time for a 135-mile road trip.

At least, Jordan Runnels and eight of his friends thought it was Feb. 4.

Runnels and his University of Nebraska classmates made the trip from Lincoln, Neb., to Manhattan to cheer on the Cornhusker men's basketball team against the Kansas State Wildcats.

"It was a good trip down, only about two and a half hours," Runnels said. "We weren't worried about anything at first, but as we got closer to Manhattan the roads got a lot worse."

The group, adorned in red T-shirts, looked unfazed at the Kansas State fans' reaction to them and their "Beat K-State" signs.

"These signs are left over from the K-State-Nebraska football game," Jake Wawrzynkiewicz

said. "We're hoping they bring us some luck this time. Last time they didn't work so well."

When the group stands to cheer for a Husker basket, the row of purple-clad Wildcat fans in front of them turns around, checking on the cheer's.

All nine Nebraska freshmen are majoring in business administration. They live in a residence hall and belong to an academic study cluster group. That's where the idea for the road trip hatched.

"There's nothing like a college road trip during the middle of the week," Jeremy Grzywa said. "We were just sitting around talking. None of us had been to Manhattan before. We thought this would be a good way to see another campus and support the Huskers at the same time."

"The campus is really nice. It looks like Lincoln (Neb.) right now, white," Wawrzynkiewicz said. "Bramlage is impressive. It looks bigger than the sports center we have."

Wawrzynkiewicz and Grzywa hail from Papillion, Neb., and have been friends for a long time.

"We all really enjoy hanging

See Freshman fans, Page 11

Soldiers use soccer balls to make friends, ease trouble

Impromptu game with kids boosts morale

By J.H. French
82nd Airborne Division

AR RAMADI, Iraq -- Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, use soccer balls to make friends and bring a little more peace to the Ar Ramadi area.

The Soldiers recently began going to local soccer fields to give away balls and play with the local children in an effort to improve community relations.

"We have given away 10 soccer balls in a couple of days," said Spc. Daniel A. Lewandowski, a gunner with Co. C. "We were trying to get a team going."

"Some of the kids are really good," said Pvt. Edward A. Clark, a rifleman with Co. C.

"They have a lot of potential, given their situation," said Pvt. Jason O. Demisson, also a Co. C.

"We were getting our butts

kicked, but we were weighted down," Demisson said.

The Soldiers played against local children while burdened with their rifle, body armor, ammunition and Kevlar helmet.

Even so, the Soldiers gamely ran up and down the field chasing the ball and 12 year-old kids.

"I was smoked. Next time, I want to do it without all of my gear on," Trotter said.

"It is nice playing with the kids," said Spc. Keith N. Hayter, another Co. C. gunner. "It shows that we are doing some good here."

The games provide more than a good time to the people in the area. They give the locals a chance to interact and talk with Soldiers in a friendly situation.

It is a way to reach out to the public and establish better relations in the community, Demisson

said. "It gives them a taste of freedom they never had before," Clark said. "It is a taste of freedom, not tyranny."

"Operations like [this] define the war," Clark said. "It is better to make friends than enemies. Hopefully, this will help set them on the right path."

The soccer games benefit Soldiers, too. "We built up a lot of morale today," said Spc. Nicholas R. Summers, a team leader with Co. C.

"A lot of the Soldiers have kids. It isn't the same, but it is a substitute for playing with their own kids," he said.

The war has come a long way, said Spc. Eric S. McNeill, a radio and telephone operator with Co. C. "When we first got here, we were shooting. Now we get to do things like this."



Spc. John D. Trotter, a gunner with Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and two local children hustle after a soccer ball during an impromptu game near Ar Ramadi.



Beaver builds ecosystem

By Carla Hurlbert

The beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is the largest rodent of Northern America, belonging to the family Cestoidae. They range across North America except in the extreme northern regions of Canada, the deserts of southwest United States, Florida, and Mexico. On Fort Riley, they live in our streams and rivers.

The beaver is a bulky animal with a large, black scaly, paddle-shaped tail.

Adult beavers weigh 40 to 50 pounds, but some may weigh more than 90 pounds. Historically, beavers weighing more than 100 pounds were common.

The front feet are two to three inches long and have four long, sharp, curved toenails while the hind feet are six to seven inches long with five webbed toes.

The eyes of a beaver are small and dark. The body fur is usually dark brown above and lighter below. They have two upper and two lower teeth located at the front of the jaws that are called incisors.

They are primarily nocturnal, laboring from dusk to dawn on their latest project and are only occasionally seen during the day.

To protect them from heat loss, beavers are well-insulated with a pelage that consists of long over-fur and dense under-fur.

Also, they use an oily substance which comes from glands to groom their fur. That gives the fur its waterproof qualities called castoreum.

Beavers prefer habitat near water, such as streams, rivers, marshes and lakes.

They are vegetarians, eating various foods, such as cattail shoots, parts of pond lilies and other aquatic vegetation and trees.

Their favorite trees, which they use for building material as well as for food, are aspen, birch, willow, cottonwood, basswood and poplar. They don't really eat the wood, just the inner bark.

To prepare for winter, beavers slash trees underwater. They will drag a limb down and plant the heavy end in the mud at the bottom of the pond. When the pond is frozen over and it is hard to find

On the Wildside: News About Nature



Photo provided

The beaver is a valuable contributor to expanded habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and plants.

food, they can take advantage of this slash.

Beavers are well-known for their engineering skills as the builders of dams and lodges. Their long incisor teeth help them to cut down trees by gnawing their way all the way around the tree trunk.

Beaver dams back up the water into ponds, which change the habitat of that area. The ponds create marshy areas, which allow certain trees to grow. These, in turn, support different species of wildlife that can live in a riparian environment.

Native Americans called beavers the "sacred center" of the land because this species creates rich habitat for various species of fish, birds and other mammals that feed on the fish.

A dam can be built to more than 100 feet in length and five feet or more in width, depending on the length of the stream. The pond behind it may grow to cover many acres. The water behind the dam is generally backed up to a depth of four to six feet.

Beavers maintain their dams so that the pond water level stays up. If a dam breaks, they will frantically rush to repair it before all the

water rushes away. In preparation for winter, they will work to ensure that the dam is sufficiently high and the pond deep enough to prevent the water from freezing to the bottom.

Beavers construct bank dens or lodges for shelter and to raise their young. If the stream has suitable banks for construction, beavers prefer to build bank dens. Lodges are dome-shaped and built in the water.

Lodges are built with wide bases, sometimes up to 20 feet wide, and a top that can stand 10 feet high. Lodges are constructed from wood, mud, grass, twigs, stones and logs. The material is woven together with mud plastered on the upper surface to make it watertight.

The living area is well-insulated by the lodge and surrounding water, so the temperature is considerably warmer inside the lodges than outside. Lodges can have several entrances that are usually underwater for protection from predators.

Beavers form monogamous pairs, which means they mate for life. After they mate, the female has kittens after a gestation period of about 128 days. The kittens are

born in May and June. Litter size is two to six kittens. If the mother beaver has had good nutrition and an abundance of food, a larger litter size is possible.

The mother will nurse them for six weeks to three months. The kittens are born fully furred with their eyes partially open and the incisor teeth erupted. Kittens can swim, but it may take them a month or more to figure out how to hold their breath and swim underwater. When they get tired, they catch a ride on their mother's back.

Large lodges have several family groups. Family life is cooperative; all help with the hard work of gathering food, building and repair. Families are territorial and defend against other families.

When a group becomes too large, the young are forced to leave the family once they reach two years of age, and will often move downstream of the original pond to start a life on their own.

The main predators of beavers are foxes, owls, otters, hawks, bobcats and coyotes. To warn other beavers of danger, the tail will be brought down flat against the water to make a loud slapping sound called the "tail slap."

Adult beavers are good fighters, and most predators leave them alone.

Beaver pelts are thick and lustrous, which led to extensive trapping of beavers for their pelts and their meat. The fatty tail, which supposedly tastes very good, was considered to be a delicacy.

In many areas, because of the heavy trapping, the number of beavers had been drastically reduced by the 1900s. Trapping regulations were enacted to protect beavers, and that drove up the price of beaver pelts, making them unaffordable to most people.

Beavers are important to the ecosystems of North America. They have an impact on the tree species composition of their communities because they feed on bark and leaves, and often fell large trees to obtain food.

Also, they modify the lakes and streams with their dams and provide habitat for other mammals, fish, turtles, frogs, birds and ducks.



Post/Robinson

Kendra Wecker tries to get control of the ball for the Kansas State University Wildcats after a rebound in the second half of their game with the Colorado Buffaloes.

Wildcats continued from page 9

the start Feb. 8, hitting only 38 percent from the floor during the first half.

"I don't think I had a good enough offensive plan to get good shots from my players," Colorado Head Coach Ceal Barry said. "I think K-State had us well-scouted, and their coach had a better plan for their players than I had for my players."

The Wildcats hit nearly 70 percent from three-point range and assembled 22 assists. Four Wildcats scored in the double digits, pushing K-State to the front.

Kendra Wecker posted a double double with 10 rebounds and 23 points added to her stats.

"It was fun. I knew there were a lot of people coming, and my high school coach brought 80 girls down, so that was awesome," Wecker said. "They were all sitting in a little section, so I tried to throw a shirt to them."

The Cats posted a decisive 79-53 against Buffs, making their record 17-3 overall and 8-1 in the Big 12. The win boosted the Cats to No. 9 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll released Feb. 9.



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Freshman fans continued from page 10

out together. This has been great so far. I just wish we were winning the game," Grzywa said. The Wildcats sent the Cornhuskers home after a 78-61 drubbing.

The crew even made up some cheers for their team.

"We're in the nose-bleed seats, so I'm sure they (the players) can't hear us," Runnels said. "But at least they can look up and see the red."

"We don't really have a

favorite player," Wawrzynkiewicz said.

"Yes we do," Runnels interrupted, "anyone that can actually score."

The entire group laughed.

"We're not too worried about getting home. We'll just take it slow," Runnels said. "We don't have anything going on tomorrow, well you know, class, but that's nothing."

"I slept on the way down, so

now going back I need to be the navigator," Wawrzynkiewicz said.

"This has been a lot of fun. On the way back, we are going to plan the next road trip, maybe to an Iowa State game."

Despite the group's cheering, the Huskers lost to the 'Cats.

The travelers' spirits remained high. Grzywa said he had really enjoyed himself. "I'm disappointed we lost, but oh well, the game was really just an excuse."



Post/Robinson

Nine freshmen from the University of Nebraska cheer for the Cornhuskers during a game against the Kansas State University Wildcats, which Nebraska lost. Back Row from left are Jeremy Grzywa, Sean Christensen, Alex Hardt and Jake Wawrzynkiewicz. Front Row from left are Joel Barjeneruch, Andy Auch, Nate Peterson, Craig Stork and Jordan Runnels.



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Change in tax law saves Soldiers money

By **Christie Vanover**
Staff Writer

Soldiers and their families can save more this tax season, because of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, but only if they take time to prepare their taxes properly.

Traditionally, Soldiers are required to pay state taxes on their military income for the state where they claim residency. However, if they moonlight in Kansas or their spouse works in Kansas, they are required to pay Kansas state taxes, as well.

For years, this has required preparers to calculate the tax rate on the total income, including their military income, even though it is often taxed in another state. The preparer then had to calculate the percentage of Kansas income earned compared to the overall income. This percentage was then multiplied by the total taxes owed based on the higher overall income.

This year, however, Soldiers who are not residents of Kansas will see some relief which may save them hundreds of dollars.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act that went into effect on Dec. 19, 2003, prohibits states from using military income of

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Tax Benefits		
	Without Relief Act	With Relief Act
Married Filing Joint		
Soldier's Gross Income	\$25,000	\$25,000
Spouse Kansas Income	\$15,000	\$15,000
Taxable Income	\$40,000	\$15,000
Tax Computation	\$1,677	\$526
Nonresident Percentage	38%	100%
Total Taxes Due	\$637	\$526 (\$111 less)
Single Soldier		
Soldier's Gross Income	\$25,000	\$25,000
Soldier's Kansas Income	\$15,000	\$15,000
Taxable Income	\$40,000	\$15,000
Tax Computation	\$2,109	\$527
Nonresident Percentage	38%	100%
Total Taxes Due	\$1,181	\$527 (\$654 less)

nonresidents to increase tax liability.

This prohibition is not clearly stated on the Kansas Individual Income Tax form K-40; however the Kansas Department of Revenue Web site provides a detailed description on how to file using the military relief.

To make the adjustment, Soldier's should fill out Schedule S

of the Kansas Individual Income Tax form. The Soldier's gross military income should be listed on line A10. This will result in an increased net modification listed on line 2 of form K-40.

The modification of the Federal adjusted gross income could substantially decrease the tax due on line 8, and respectively line 10. For example, if a Soldier who

is not a resident of Kansas made \$25,000 and his or her spouse made \$15,000 working in Kansas, the taxable income would be \$15,000. The 2003 tax tables state the couple would owe \$526.

Without the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, the taxable income would have been based on the total gross income of \$40,000. Based on the 2003 tax tables, the taxes would be \$1,677.

From there, the percentage of income earned in Kansas is figured, which is 38 percent. Therefore, the family would be required to pay \$637, an increase of \$111.

For a single Soldier who made \$25,000 in the Army and \$15,000 in a second job in Kansas, the Soldier would owe \$527 under the relief act.

However, under the old law, the Soldier would owe \$1,181, a difference of \$654.

These examples are approximations and do not take into account other deductions and exemptions.

Fort Riley's Tax Center is aware of the new law and its preparers are implementing the procedures when filing taxes.

"What we're seeing is an actual tax refund where in the past, people owed money," said Capt. Henry DeWoskin, tax attorney.

Prior to the relief act, 14 states taxed against a family's entire gross income similar to Kansas. However, each state is different; therefore, DeWoskin recommends Soldiers take advantage of the Fort Riley Tax Center.

The tax center offers free tax assistance and preparation for Soldiers and their families. They

will prepare federal and state returns and electronically file Federal and Kansas returns with refunds.

The center accepts walk-ins; but appointments will be taken first. To make an appointment, call 239-1040.

For more information, visit www.ksrevenue.org/formssi.htm

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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



Fort Riley Travel & Fun

February 13, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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What's happening?

Lipizzaners to perform

The World Famous Lipizzan Stallions are scheduled to appear Feb 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bi-Centennial Center in Salina.

Tickets are available through Information/Ticketing/Reservations.

Florida resorts offer discounts

Three Universal Orlando resorts - Portofino Bay, Hadd Rock Hotel and Royal Pacific Resort - offer discounted military rates. Discounted attraction tickets also are available for Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure.

Space at home on the prairie

Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, is becoming the most comprehensive space museum in the world - not what you'd expect to find on the open prairies of Kansas.

From the Hall of Space Museum and IMAX dome theater to the million-dollar multimedia Planetarium, the Cosmosphere is an all-day, all-ages adventure. Discount tickets are available.

Stampede rides again

Country Stampede returns to Tuttle Creek State Park June 24-27 featuring Brooks and Dunn, Rasca! Flatts, Clay Walker and more. Advance tickets are now available.

For information, tickets or registrations services on these and other leisure time attractions, visit the Fort Riley ITR office in Bldg 6918 across from the main Post Exchange.

ITR is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays.

Or call ITR at 239-5614 or 239-4415.

ITR services and discount attractions tickets are available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard, Reservists, Department of Army Civilians and family members.

Check out the Department of Army Leisure Travel Web site at www.offdutytravel.com for more great deals on travel.

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m.; shows begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children 11 and younger. Children younger than 5 are admitted free except during children's matinees or expected sellouts.

Feb. 14 - *House of Sand and Fog* (R)

Feb. 15 - *The Return of the King* (PG-13)

Feb. 19 - *House of Sand and Fog* (R)

Feb. 20 - *Chasing Liberty* (PG-13)

Feb. 21 - *Disney's Teacher Pet* (PG)

Feb. 22 - *Chasing Liberty* (PG-13)

Feb. 26 - *Disney's Teacher Pet* (PG)

Feb. 27 - *Along Came Polly* (PG-13)

Junction City Arts Council sponsors exhibit, recital

Staff report

Junction City Arts Council hosts two events this month - one an art exhibit, the other a trumpet recital.

Two Kansas State University professors, Duane Noblett and Gary Woodward, have combined their works for a show that runs

through Feb. 28. The Gallery at 107 W. Seventh St. is open Feb. 14, 21 and 28 from noon to 3 p.m.

Noblett teaches drawing and serves as head of KSU's Department of Art. His specialty is graphite, a traditional drawing medium. Woodward is the former department dean. He serves as

head of foundations and teaches design and digital imaging.

Among Woodward's interests are perfecting his skills on a Macintosh computer and making efforts to be creative with a variety of software packages such as Photoshop and Aldus Freehand. His work has been widely exhibited, including the Smith-

sonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Rick Fulk will entertain at 2 p.m. Feb. 29 at the First Presbyterian Church, 113 W. Fifth St. in Junction City. Fulk describes the numbers he selected for his recital as "haunting...sonorous. Fulk's fee hour-long program features four pieces, including

"Sonata in F" by Baldassare, "Sonata" by Flor Peeters and the Hummel Trumpet Concerto, which he has been studying for four years.

Fulk favors Baroque music. He has been playing trumpet since he was 9. For the past 11 years, he has studied with Craig Parker of KSU.

Dining dialogues



Post/Heronemus

Junction City Little Theatre cast members, from left, Paula Jarnot, Marcus Field, Carolyn Zumbunn, Jennifer Stuck and Randy Dykstra act out a young child's birthday party during dress rehearsal of "The Dining Room," an 18-scene, two-act play by A.R. Gurney. The entire show takes place in one set -- a dining room -- that fills with vignettes of family life in America.

Little Theatre play serves an 'Army' course

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

When the Junction City Little Theatre raised the curtain on its 282nd production Feb. 12, Fort Riley and the Army were represented among the cast members of "The Dining Room," which plays again at 8 p.m. Feb. 13 and 14 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 15.

The cast of 11 actors playing 57 characters includes:

Randy Dykstra, whose wife, Spc. Jodi Dykstra, is serving in Iraq with the 331st Signal Company;

Marcus Field, a retired first sergeant who last served with the 12th Chemical Company that was stationed at Fort Riley;

Kathy Triplett, a branch chief with the Southwestern Civilian Personnel Operations Center at Fort Riley;

Tom Jameson, who served with the 16th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital when it was at Fort Riley from 1987 to 1989; and

Paula Jarnot, the wife of a retired soldier who now helps design military aircraft.

Theater is almost old hat for Dykstra. He graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1986 with a degree in theater arts. He is no stranger to the Junction City Little Theatre stage, either. "The Dining Room," by A.R. Gurney, is Dykstra's fifth production with the little theater group.

He earlier played roles in "Pride and Prejudice," "1984," "Fools" and "The Importance of Being Ernest." He deems the latter play as his most memorable one with the little theater group because it was the only classic production he's been in and he particularly enjoyed his role as Algernon.

Dykstra's connection with the theater crowd in Junction City seemed destined to be. "Before I even came here, my wife

See Play Page 14



Marcus Field reads his morning newspaper during one of the early scenes in "The Dining Room," which plays at the Junction City Little Theatre after through Feb. 15.

Post/Heronemus

About the play ...

A.R. Gurney's "The Dining Room" takes place in a single stage setting - a dining room that represents many dining rooms belonging to many different characters, 57 to be exact. Through 18 scenes, the Junction City Little Theatre's 11 cast members present a range of family and interpersonal relationships bounding from comedy to social commentary, from little boys to stern grandfathers and from giggling teen-age girls to housemaids. When the final curtain falls, the audience has witnessed the myriad patterns of American life.

Playwright A.R. Gurney explained the genesis of "The Dining Room" this way: "I soon found myself writing this strange play which kept wanting to take place in a dining room."

"This was the room where my parents used to give their sparkling dinner parties, the laughter from which I could hear echo-

ing up the stairs long after I had shaken hands and been sent to bed.

"Yet just as I used to squirm in my seat at the strictures of the dining room, so did my rebelliousness assert itself against these rules of drama."

Director Eric Stahl and the Junction City Little Theatre group decided on "The Dining Room" for one of its productions this season because "it provided a good acting challenge. Our actors each play many characters, from very young to very old and everything in between," he said.

Scenes in the two-act play overlap quickly, with new scenes beginning while the previous one is nearing its end. They cover the course of an imaginary day, beginning with breakfast and ending with a formal dining party after sunset. Each poignant vignette introduces a new set of family members and events.

'Will Rogers' to speak his mind

Staff report

Will Rogers claimed he never met a man he didn't like, and all he knew was what he read in the newspaper. Native Oklahoman Will Rogers was America's most beloved humorist and reached millions with his radio shows, vaudeville performances and movies.

Visitors to Topeka will have an opportunity to meet Will Rogers in person Feb. 19 in the lobby of the historic Columbian Bank and Trust at Seventh and Kansas Avenue.

Doug Watson, a veteran re-enactor and fellow Oklahoman, will give a first-person portrayal of Will Rogers. Watson has extensively researched Rogers' life and times and uses Rogers' own words and stories in his performance.

During the roaring 1920s and the depressed 1930s, Rogers poked fun at politicians and dispensed antidotes for what he considered misguided public policy. He once drawled, "We'll be the first nation to go to the poor house in an automobile," noting the disparities he saw between the rich and the poor during the Great Depression.

According to Watson, there is a renewed interest in Will Rogers. In his own Oklahoma drawl, Watson quipped, "Some people also believe there are interesting similarities between our times and the period Will was talking about."

The event will be from 5 to 7 p.m. with a reception preceding. Live music will be provided by Morey Sullivan and the Green Country Boys. The Will Rogers performance gets under way about 6 p.m. in the bank lobby.

The public is invited. A donation of \$35 for one adult or \$50 for a couple is suggested. Reservations are recommended but not required.

For more information, contact the Kansas Humanities Council at (785) 357-0359 or by e-mail at info@kansashumanities.org.

'On Golden Pond' plays in Wamego

Staff report

"On Golden Pond" take the stage at the historic Columbian Theatre, 521 Lincoln in Wamego, Feb. 14-15, 19-22 and 26-29.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday dinners before the show will be served at 6 p.m. The show on those days starts at 7:30 p.m. Dinner for the 2 p.m. Sunday matinee will be served at 12:30 p.m.

The show, made popular as a movie starring Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda, is a study of a family's interaction and especially of the companionship of a man and wife as the aging patriarch fears losing his memory.

For ticket information, call (785) 456-2029 or (800) 899-1893.



Randy Dykstra (second from left) leans closer to hear his father, played by Joseph Miller, outline what he wants done for his funeral, when the time comes. Playing in another intruding scene, Kathy Triplett (left) and Angie Irvine set the dining room table during a dress rehearsal for the Junction City Little Theatre production of "The Dining Room."



Above: Kathy Triplett and Marcus Field talk over tea just before being their liaison is interrupted by Triplett's son coming home unexpectedly. At left: Tom Jameson prepares to take a photo of his aunt setting a dining table in true W.A.S.P. fashion as part of a college assignment delving into cultures.

Photos by Mike Heronemus

Play continued from page 1

bought a house just two blocks away from the theater," he said. She later played a lead role in "1984."

Field feels comfortable on the little theater's stage, too. He counts 11 shows to his credit since retiring in 1994. Field said he enjoyed most doing the stage version of "M*A*S*H," in which he played the dentist who fell victim to a sham suicide ritual set up by fellow doctors.

Triplett's association with the Junction City Little Theatre stretches back to the mid-1970s. She returns to the stage in "The Dining Room" after a six-year hiatus. Early on, however, she performed in many of the theater's productions, including "The Gazebo," "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Picnic."

Her only previous acting experience came with a part in her Ellsworth High School presentation of "The Curious Savage."

Jameson auditioned for a part in "The Dining Room" after Field suggested he give it a try. He read once, then again for director Eric Stahl and got the part, he said. He'd never been interested in being in a play before, but after this experience, "I'm thinking about trying it again," he said.

Jarnot undertakes her largest role to date in "The Dining Room." She played supporting roles in earlier productions of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and "A Curious Savage." Despite the inevitable nervousness that comes with being on stage, Jarnot

Other cast members

Jennifer Stuck
Len Rhodes
Carolyn Zumbrunn
Joseph Miller
Angie Irvine

said the chance to do "something just for me," something other than being a wife, mother and teacher's aide at St. Xavier School, provides her a special, personal reward.

Beyond that, Jarnot said being able to act out a character like the senile woman she plays in one scene of "The Dining Room" in such a way as to make the audience laugh, if just for a moment, gives her added joy.

All five actors said the familial relationships they have experienced because they have been part of the Junction City Little Theatre shows mean a lot to them. "It's a lot of fun," Field said.

"It's a way for me to connect with the community," Jarnot said. Her family came to Junction City from another post about five years ago. "This is our home; I'm not moving any more," she said, thinking back over all the moves her family made while spending 20-plus years in the Army.

Some of the actors have played opposite each other in several productions. "Some of us come back for the same type of plays," Field

'The Dining Room'

Where: Junction City Little Theatre, 18th Street

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 13 and 14, 2 p.m. Feb. 15

Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$3 for students, available at the door or by reservation

Reservations: Call 238-6220. Reserved tickets can be picked up at the theater box office before each performance.

said. He said they prefer to do comedies rather than serious plays. Dykstra prefers to play characters he can get into no matter the genre, and he thinks about trying to do some summer Shakespeare in Manhattan.

Jarnot views the theater as similar to movies for audiences. They come to escape their worries for a while, she said, and "if I can act silly or senile and make the people forget (those worries), then I've done my job."

"It's great to have Junction City Little Theatre here," Triplett said. The little theater group boasts the longest continual existence of any theater group in Kansas. "I would like to see more people involved. We need more young adults," she said.

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