

Fort Riley Community



In Step on Channel 2

6:30 a.m. In Step
8 a.m. In Step
Noon In Step
6 p.m. In Step
10 p.m. In Step

May 16, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Red Cross distributes goodies to family readiness groups

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

The American Red Cross has been inundated with care packages for overseas troops.

In April, the organization's Quality of Life Program asked for donations of everything from baby wipes to food items to send to deployed soldiers. The response was huge, said Kelly Sutton, Fort Riley station manager.

It was so huge that the national office called for a moratorium and no more packages were accepted, she said. At the

time, there were enough packages to send 280 boxes a week for four months.

"There are now enough packages in the pipeline to send 9,400 boxes just in the month of May, and that's not all the packages," Sutton said. "Because of the congested pipeline, we needed to find a way to get the donations to deployed soldiers."

Fort Riley family readiness groups will be used for that task.

Because of the public's overwhelming desire to support troops overseas, some of the surplus items are being shipped to the Fort Riley Red Cross station. Those items will then be distributed to family

readiness groups for families to send to their soldiers overseas.

"The items we have, include toothpaste, toothbrushes, books, suntan lotion and baby wipes and we have so much popcorn that it is coming out of our ears," Sutton said. "Soldiers still need these items overseas, and now spouses can mail more items to them directly."

At this point, care packages from the chapter in Auburn, N.Y. have been distributed to the 82nd Medical Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group family readiness group leaders.

Jemie Gibson, 82nd Medical Compa-

ny family readiness group leader, said these items are definitely appreciated and help ease the costs of sending care packages to the Central Command area of responsibility.

She said she personally sends at least one box a week to her husband, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Les Gibson, 82nd Medical Co., and that can get very expensive.

"I try to make it fun every week. He especially likes me sending him snacks like summer sausage and cheese. That is always a big hit," she said. "But it gets pretty expensive when wives send a lot of packages. For me, postage alone is \$20 a

week." While the American Red Cross is supplying the free goodies to send to soldiers, Gibson said families would still have to pay for postage.

However, it still helps with some of the costs of putting a smile on a soldier's face, Sutton said. And it is another way for the Red Cross to send packages to support American troops overseas, where the items are needed, Sutton said.

"Rumor has it that baby wipes are still like gold over there," she said. "Some people have said there are no showers in some places, so these items are needed and will be used."

Body Walk teaches kids about good health

By Ryan Wood
Staff Writer

Students from Fort Riley Elementary School not only learned about the right foods to eat, they became them on May 7.



Dawn Boehnke volunteered her time to help teach children the proper way to brush and floss their teeth at the mouth display of the Body Walk exhibit.

As part of Body Walk, a traveling 11 station mock up of the human digestive system, students were assigned different types of food and then "eaten." When the students entered the gym, a giant head about six feet

tall met them.

"You start in the brain, where you are thinking about the decisions that you will make. Then, you become a food and you go into the mouth and get swallowed and chewed. Then, you go

through the digestive system," said Tami Meiners, manager, Body Walk. "What we are doing is following the path of the nutrients."

Students walked into one ear, learned about choices in nutrition and then walked out the other ear to move into the mouth and then down into the digestive system. Each different area of the body had its own instructor and hands on interactive learning stations. Students were able to see how the nutrient that they were playing was able to help the body part they were in.

Some of the displays were graphic depictions of the outcomes of health decisions that the children would make in their lives. When in the mouth, a large mock up of a mouth with missing teeth, cavities and extensive damage was shown. Further into the display, children were shown a blackened lung from a smoker and warned of the dangers of tobacco.

"We learned about muscles and lungs and how they can get bad if you smoke," said Samantha Conyers, 9, a third grader who went through the display. "You should not smoke because it will make them black, and your lungs are supposed to be pink."

"There are a lot of hands on activities, and that's a lot of the reason that they remember

See Body Walk Page 10

Cheap Trick concert scheduled on post

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Fort Riley is hosting the 2003 Army Summer Concert Series Memorial Day weekend on Marshall Army Airfield. The concert will feature Cheap Trick and Night Ranger on May 24. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m., and Night Ranger, the opening act, will kick off the concert at 8 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Cheap Trick has been together since 1973 and released their first album, "Special One," which is due to be released on July 8.

Cheap Trick performs songs that can appeal to a large population of people.

"We write our songs on a number of different levels," said Rick Nielson, lead guitarist for the band. "Songs where you can sit back and listen with headphones and try to figure them out, and ones where you can forget about the day-to-day grind in life and just have fun."

This is not the first time Cheap Trick has played for a military audience.

They're (military personnel) a wild bunch, and we like that," said Nielson.

During one tour, where they played on an installation, the band was impressed by the dedication the men and women of the military had and felt they learned a lot about them, he said.

"It was kind of fun. They gave us the rank of GS15. We couldn't get anybody to get down and give us 20 or anything like that, but it was fun," Nielson said.

The band appreciates the men and women of the services and like to play for them.

"I think it's great when you can play for them. They're probably one of the better audiences we've ever played for, even if they don't like the music — they still come to watch us, which is great," he stated.

The band has a plan to show its appreciation to all of the deployed Fort Riley soldiers.

"Come home safe, come home soon," said Nielson. "We'll get some Fort Riley rain checks printed up and make it so that everyone who is deployed will be able to go to a Cheap Trick concert when they return."

Tickets for the concert are currently on sale and are \$12 per person in advance or \$15 dollars per person at the gate. A group rate is also available at \$25 for groups of four.

Tickets can be purchased through the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office, at participating local Dillon's grocery stores or by calling 239-5614.

Fund drive exceeds goal

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

The 2003 Army Emergency Relief Fund Drive, which started last month, has been successful, said Kaye Moseley, AER program coordinator.

As of May 1, the drive had collected \$38,000, exceeding this year's monetary goal by \$8,000 with 13 days left in the drive.

"The drive seems to be going very well," said Moseley. Being at half strength with the deployments, AER set their monetary goals lower this year, but Moseley said the war might have actually helped their efforts.

"We have been able to reach a lot of people that are still here at Fort Riley," said Moseley. "Soldiers are really anxious to help the soldiers that are deployed and their families."

Soldiers seemed more interested in the AER program this year as well, said Moseley. The office has received many calls from soldiers with questions about the drive and services offered by AER.

"Soldiers were more focused this year on how AER will help their fellow soldiers," said Moseley. AER provides emergency financial assistance to soldiers in the form of interest-free loans, grants or a combination loan and grant, depending on the soldiers' ability to repay. Most of the assistance that has been given this year at Fort Riley has been for emergency travel, said Carol Bondurant, assistant AER officer.

This year, more services have been provided to reservists that have been mobilized to Fort Riley, said Moseley. AER has helped a number of Reservists with emergency leaves.

AER has also helped spouses of deployed soldiers in emergency situations.

"We have helped with emergency travel expenses, basic living essentials, some auto repairs and other emergencies," said Moseley.

Another benefit of the AER drive is that it inspires families to prepare a plan for emergency situations, according to Moseley. "With the deployments, there is a heightened sense of money management and how to resolve a crisis," said Moseley, "and the AER drive has helped that, because it makes people think about it." In previous years, Moseley said a big turn-in during the final week of the drive is normal, but this year may be different because of how quickly the drive started.

The last day to contribute to the drive was Tuesday, but Moseley said if soldiers do not make the deadline and want to contribute, AER accepts contributions throughout the year.

For more information about AER or the annual fund drive, call 239-9435.

Police use post facilities to save money

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

In a time of budget cuts and staff reductions, civilian law enforcement agencies are looking for any help they can get to train economically.

The Junction City Police Department has been working together with Fort Riley to do just that.

For years, Fort Riley has allowed civilian police to use ranges and training areas free of charge to stay up to date on train-

ing techniques and qualification.

"We've never had a range available to us (in Junction City)," said Capt. Tim Brown, chief of detectives for Junction City. "The military allows civilian law enforcement to come out and use military facilities. We've always taken advantage of that and have done so since I've been in, and that's been 25 years."

Officers are required to qualify with their weapons at least twice a year. The first qualifications held this year were at Train Fire 9 on post. Training consisted of a 54

round combat course where officers had different time limits to fire their rounds at distances from one and a half yards out to 25 yards. Officers needed a 70 percent accuracy rate to pass. As in the Army, failure to pass leads to retraining and retesting, said Brown.

According to Brown, officers from the department handle all range cadre functions. The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and the National Rifle Association certify officers running the ranges.

Officer are allowed to use a range as long as it is not needed for military training and they reserve it through range control, said Brown.

"They (the Army) are building a new pistol/rifle range, which will be state of the art," said Brown. "That's stuff that civilian agencies can't afford to build. It's going to be one of the best anywhere. There is no civilian agency besides maybe the FBI that can afford to do something like that, not in Kansas anyway."

With financial constraints causing police and other civilian law enforcement agencies to tighten up on budgets, Junction City relies heavily on those opportunities, which allow them to train for free at top-notch facilities.

"For local entities like Junction City, Geary County and the Highway Patrol, these budget cuts have come down to us and we are laying people off," said Brown. "We laid off a dispatcher and clerks last year and when the next budget cuts come around, it could be officers."

In the future, officers plan to do additional combat training on Fort Riley out of their patrol cars according to Brown. Officers will exit their cars, fire rounds from their shotguns and then move and fire with their pistols. Additional training will be arranged with other weapons based on needs and range availability.

"We use whatever we can, whenever we can, to give us better training opportunities," he said.



Junction City Police Officer Charles Gwaltney lines up for the next round of qualification at Train Fire 9 on Fort Riley. The police have used post facilities for many years to train and qualify the officers on their force.

Poster returns after trip to space

By **Jamie Bender**
Staff writer

Students at Custer Hill Elementary School received a visit from Solar System Ambassador Tibi Marin May 2. Marin came to the school to return a poster that took a trip into space. Students from the school had signed the poster last year. As part of her trip to Custer Hill Elementary School, Marin also spoke to the students about what astronauts do and how they

function in space. Many of the students were surprised by what they learned. "I was surprised at how [astronauts] eat," said Gabriel Oliviera. "I didn't know water could float. I think it is exciting that [the astronauts] float in space." Timothy Rogers said he found it most interesting that the arms of the astronauts float when they sleep, and Aramis Wright said he was surprised to learn about the special drawers that they keep their things in to keep them from

floating away. The ambassador program has almost 300 ambassadors in 50 states, Puerto Rico and Japan, said Marin. "This is a program in which you travel all over the country to present NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) programs and space exploration," she said. "It is to get kids interested in math and science and technology and to inspire the kids to go into space as astronauts or to be engineers or to be teachers."



Post/Bender

Solar System Ambassador Tibi Marin presents students at Custer Hill Elementary School the poster signed last year that traveled into space. Marin also gave students a NASA presentation about astronauts and space.

Armed forces boxing televised

The 2003 Armed Forces Boxing Championships will be aired on ESPN2 on Saturday, 7 p.m. The fights were originally taped on Feb. 21, at the finals of the boxing championship hosted by Naval Base Ventura County, Calif.

The Armed Forces Boxing Championship features many of the top ranked boxers in the United States to include: Marine Corps' Lance Cpl. Jacob Garretson, currently ranked 6th in the nation (lightweight), Army's Spc. Keith Mason, ranked 3rd as a light welterweight, Navy's Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Spencer, ranked 5th as a Super Heavyweight and Air Force's Airman Hector Ramos, ranked 10th in the lightweight division.

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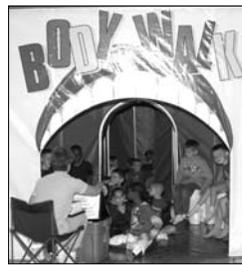
Body Walk

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what's going on. Each station has an activity that healthy for their all around well being. Hopefully they get to participate in," said Meiners.

The Body Walk display and learning experience is part of the ongoing nutrition and health education that the school offers for the children, said Janelle Carmichael, physical education teacher, Fort Riley Elementary and Jefferson Elementary. Carmichael brought the display to the school to help a program that is needed more and more with the children that she teaches, she said.

"Poor nutrition is really affecting a lot of children in the United States who are overweight, so we are trying to educate them," said Carmichael. "It's so important that they keep their bodies



Post/Wood

Children sit in the mouth of the Body Walk display and learn about brushing their teeth.

The Body Walk display is presented by the Department of Education with Nutrition Services based out of Topeka. The display has been to about 140 schools so far this year and will finish its tour this month. There are 30-40 schools are already on the waiting list for the display next year according to Meiners. Further information on the display is available at www.body-walk.org

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Fort Riley Sports

May 16, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Riverwalk, local trails offers variety of hiking options

By Justin Vinje
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

It's a real trick, sometimes, finding the proper avenue into a greener place where real light shines, and voices carry on wind unhindered by concrete. The tarmac jungle can be left behind, its man-made shadow forgotten for a quiet spell. Some find the way.

One Army National Guard unit, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 734th Transportation Battalion, Kearney, Neb., holds company runs on the Riverwalk Trail, just south of the Washington Street entry to Fort Riley. Almost five miles one way, the winding trail is good maintenance for their seasoned marathoners and a healthy start for novices. The trail is open from dawn to dusk for walking, running, horseback riding and snowmobiling in the winter.

"We've got a lot of runners in our unit," said Pfc. Ryan Carlson, a multimedia specialist, 734th Trans. Bn., and a distance runner in college. "It's a good trail and a change from pavement on post-more going on the knees."

As the soldiers' hurried foot-falls pass into silence, the path opens up to the studious walker. Here, the trees are alive, more crowded and less encroached upon. The occasional plant on this trail has been awarded its own nameplate: poison ivy's home is thickly identified a brief five minutes in a portable small dirt path veers off the well-maintained trail. A few steps up and a few steep steps back down again lead to the soft, duned banks of the Republican River. Subdued at present, the Republican murmurs to those listening, content to let the deer cross toll-free. Memorials to its glory days, huge old logs are strewn about in the sand, providing warm, if unyielding, rest for the weary-footed.

Day hiking needn't be a solitary experience, however. Always think of those who can't make it out into nature on their own. Kids and pets enjoy the outdoors as much as adults, but they lack the means to get there. But, to protect yourself and those with you, it's good to plan out hikes in advance, according to Alan Hynek, supervisory fish and wildlife biologist. Simple forethought can help prevent sun-

damaged skin, Hynek said. "The sun gets pretty intense during the summer here," Hynek said. "Most burns happen on the tops of the ears and the shoulders."

Begin with a hat to shade the nose and ears, Hynek said. Wear sunblock over uncovered skin and wear at least a tee shirt to protect shoulders from the sun.

Clothing choice is up to the wearer, but keep in mind sharing the outdoors with the not-so-pleasant critters, Hynek said. Ticks and mosquitoes may be thwarted by repellent, and will be easier to see against light-colored clothing. Another concern is poison ivy, he said. For treks through thick foliage, long pants and sleeves should be worn to avoid noxious plants.

Certain animals should be watched out for as well. "Copperheads are fairly common around Fort Riley," Hynek said. The snakes aren't aggressive, and most people are treated for bitten hands. "Just keep away," he said. Units can schedule hazardous plants and animals classes through Hynek's office, 239-8579.

It's a good idea to plan out a packing list as well, according to Rick Eyestone, post outdoor recreation manager. Water is a must-have, Eyestone said. Fill a canteen or plastic bottle and throw it in a backpack.

On long hikes, bring some trail mix or candy for quick energy. For inclement conditions a weather report will often suffice, but bring a jacket in case of stormy weather, Eyestone said. Capture the day on film with an inexpensive disposable camera.

"Plus, if you're new to the area, one of the first things you'll want to get is a map," Eyestone said. Outdoor recreation has maps, though they are more geared toward hunting and fishing, Eyestone said. Outdoor recreation can be reached at 239-2249.

Four-point-eight miles later, the end of the Riverwalk's limestone path is not necessarily the end of the line, as it meets up with the Old River Bluff Trail and eventually winds its way into the Milford State Park system of trails.

For more details on how to plan a hike in the area outside Fort Riley, call the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800)528-2489 or (785)238-2885/2846.



The Republican River runs very near the Riverwalk Trail.



Spec. Brian Kish, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 734th Transportation Battalion, runs on the Riverwalk Trail on Fort Riley.

Local Trails

- Junction City** (call Junction City Parks and Recreation Department 238-7529)
 - Riverwalk Trail - 4.8 miles of ground limestone path, for walkers, bicyclists, horseback rider and, seasonally, for snowmobiling
 - South Park Trail - 1.2 miles of cement for bicycling and walking
 - Homer's Pond-0.9 mile cement trail bordering a wetland area
 - Milford Lake** - Corps of Engineers Park Trails 238-5323
 - Tall Grass Trail - short hike behind the Nature Center and Fish Hatchery
 - Spillway Trail - a more challenging hike with a less developed pathway
 - Milford State Park** - 238-3014
 - Crystal Trail - 2.2-mile trail along which small geode rocks can be found. Deer are frequently seen on this path
 - Eagle Ridge - recent additions to this path have created a 14-mile hike over diverse terrain
 - Fort Riley** - 784-5535
 - 1.75 - mile trail running along the Kansas River. Located next to the First Territorial Capitol
- Courtesy of the Geary County Convention and Visitor's Bureau*

Bowling center will offer new scoring system, additional food choices

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

Extensive renovations of the Fort Riley Bowling Center are underway as the Strike Zone Snack Bar gets a new look and a new taste.

The \$65,000 renovation will take about one and a half months to complete. Improvements will include a new facade for the snack bar and new menu. A \$194,000 updated scoring system for the lanes will also be installed, said Tom Pettegrew, chief of business operations,

Directorate of Community Activities.

These changes will cause some alterations to the current lunch and dinner offerings until the renovations are completed. The Strike Zone Pub will remain open during the entire renovation period. Food offerings from the pub will be limited to prepackaged items and traditional bar food, said Pettegrew. Hours of operation will be Sunday, 4 - 10 p.m., Monday - Thursday, 5 - 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. - 1 a.m.

A lunch menu will be offered through the Strike Zone, but due to construction it has been moved to the Custer Hill Golf

Course clubhouse for the duration of the remodeling. Hours for the clubhouse lunch are Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

"After the work is finished, the snack bar will offer a wider Primo's style menu."

"The new menu will consist of homemade pizzas, burgers, buffalo wings, chicken platters, chef's salads, chicken salads, catfish and more," said Floyd Washington, food and beverage manager for the Strike Zone.

"We've always had very good lunch business here," said Pettegrew. "I think that when people find that we are having

it over here (at the golf course) it will be popular."

The bowling lanes will be closed June 2 - 17 while the new computer scoring system is installed.

"(The new system) is a little more glitchy than the one that we previously had. It has a few more options that we can put on the screen and operates a little faster and a little more efficiently than the one we have right now," said Pettegrew.

"The back office computer is more elaborate, being able to track leagues and individual play, where now we have to enter a lot of that stuff manually."

Funding for the project is taken directly from the operational profits from DCA operations.

"Everything from the golf course, the bowling center and Rally Point is strictly non-appropriated funds. That means the products we buy and the products we sell to the soldiers are all from soldier dollars.

There are no appropriated funds whatsoever in any of these projects," said Pettegrew.

Renovations are tentatively scheduled to be completed in mid-July, at which time new hours of operation will be announced.

Cowbirds pass off dirty work to other species

By Gibran Suleiman
DES Wildlife Biologist

Raising a nest of screaming hungry baby birds can prove to be a very daunting and significant operation. One common bird on Fort Riley decided to let someone else do the dirty work. The brown-headed cowbird, one of the most common grassland birds on Fort Riley, is known as a brood parasite. They don't build nests, incubate their eggs or even feed their young, they let other birds do it all for them.

A single female cowbird can deposit 40 or more eggs in a single breeding season. One to several eggs is laid into the host's nest. They do not specifically target any particular one species to leave their eggs over. Over two hundred different species are known to fall victim to the cowbirds strategy. Female cowbirds typically will try to place their eggs in nests of smaller species, so that the cowbird chicks will have a competitive advantage when being fed by the host mother.

Unlike other types of brood parasites, newly hatched cowbirds

On the Wildside: News About Nature



A single female cowbird can deposit 40 or more eggs in a single breeding season.

Species of birds have evolved to fight back. They can actually recognize when a cowbird egg has been deposited in their nest. They will typically abandon the nest and cowbird egg or they will simply destroy the egg or even bury it with nesting material and let it go bad.

The impact that cowbirds have on other birds varies. For some species there seems to be little to no impact, while in others there is

a large impact, to the point that extinction becomes a threat.

The brown-headed cowbird has greatly expanded its range in the last one hundred years.

As the name implies, the cowbird is known to follow mammals and eat the insects that the hooves of the animals disturb. As thousands of acres of forested land was cleared and turned into grazing land for cattle, the brown-headed cowbird expanded its range. This was especially bad news for forest nesting songbirds that not only lost considerable amounts of habitat but also had this new species of bird destroying their broods.

One such species is the endangered Kirtland's warbler. This type of warbler has been impacted to the point that part of its recovery plans includes physical removal of cowbirds. Typically, cowbirds are seen in grassland habitats on Fort Riley. They are smaller than most blackbirds. Males are a metallic greenish black with a brown head and neck. Females are a drab gray with brownish wings and a streaked breast. During the summer months, cowbirds dine on insects and switch to grain during the winter months. The majority of cowbirds leave Fort Riley in the winter.

The brown-headed cowbird is indeed a fascinating bird. By being a brood parasite, it has gained many advantages. A single female is able to produce many offspring while expending very little energy.

Another advantage is since cowbird pairs are not tied down to the nest and raising the young they can always be on the move. This was thought to be extremely useful during times when cowbirds would follow the great bison herds as they roamed the prairie.

Royal's games good summer entertainment option

By Jennifer Aune and Billie Jo Lorus
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A bead of sweat rolls down the pitcher's cheek and meets its final resting place as it plops onto the royal blue and white baseball jersey. Loyal fans gather together in the massive stadium and form a horseshoe-shaped cheering squad, with hope that their cheers will bring good luck to their favorite team.

As the bat connects with the ball, a loud crack echoes throughout the stadium, the baseball game has begun. The roar of the crowd, the smell of stadium food tempting taste buds and the larger-than-life feeling of the stadium all become part of the experience that some might call the greatest American sport of all time.

A time-honored baseball stadium can seem a bit overwhelming, but it is its expansiveness that is the most remarkable. Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., debuted in 1973 and has aged well. Reminders of the past in its walls are complemented by its ever-changing modern amenities, which include: comfortable seats, a variety of food choices and baseball fans are now able to purchase tickets over the Internet.

In addition to excellent seats and a fun afternoon or evening, Kauffman sports stadium offers unique mouth-watering Kansas City specialties including famous Kansas City barbecue, thirst

See Royals Page 12

Military Police dogs train hard, earn respect of soldier partners

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Sniffing out drugs is like a game for Fort Riley K-9s.

Military Police dogs train everyday, finding heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, hashish, marijuana and ecstasy that their handlers plant in buildings and vehicles at Fort Riley.

"It's all fun for them," said Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wilson, 523rd Military Police Company. "Everything they do on the job is fun. We choose different buildings and vehicles to hide drugs, and we also do random gate checks every day with the dogs. Then, it is their job to find the drugs."

On April 30, the handlers planted five small amounts of narcotics in Building 405, and Orson and Barron, two K-9s from the 523rd Military Police Company, had to sniff them out. And their handlers tried not to make it too easy for them.

"When we plant the drugs, we try to let them sit for awhile so the smell is not as distinct," he said. "That way we are training them for a real search."

"As far as the dogs are concerned, this is not training. All they know is that when they sniff out the drugs, they get their toy. So, this is the real thing for them."

Orson, a Belgian Malinois, and Barron, a German Shepherd,

scoured the building one dog at a time. Their handlers lead them through the building, encouraging them to search desks, bookshelves and other items in the rooms.

When they smelled narcotics, the dogs would do what they were trained to do, sit. After each successful find, each dog would get his toy. In a real situation, the MP would then have probable cause to search the area.

Both dogs went five for five,

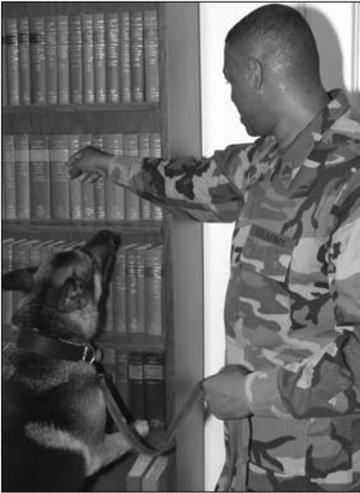
with very little hesitation.

"These dogs are very highly trained," handler Sgt. Clarence Franklin, 523rd MP Co., said. "For training, what we try to do is a minimum one hour of detecting in a building or vehicle, and another hour of patrolling."

It is still training, but Wilson said he knows that the dogs have fun. Orson and Barron are both hyperactive dogs that like to work hard. But it is not all work and no

play.

"Our dogs get a lot more attention than most family pets," he said. "They are more than just dogs, they are our partners."



Paul Watson

Sgt. Clarence Franklin, 523rd Military Police Company, leads Barron, a Fort Riley narcotics dog, through an office in building 405. Five different drugs were planted in the building, and it was Barron's job to find them.

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quenching beverages and a tasty Italian treat, to name a few.

The average person looking to attend a game can expect to spend at least \$30-\$40 with the cost of a ticket, parking and a snack or two. Tickets range from \$5 to \$100 or more, depending on what attendees want to spend on seats, but don't forget to ask about the military discount. Parking is easily accessible off of the interstate and costs about \$6. With the \$18 dollar ticket you can get some pretty good seats close enough to get a good picture of the players on the field.

The Information, Ticketing & Registration office, located across from the PX on Fort Riley, offers great assistance in getting individual or group rated tickets to the Royals Baseball games. Just let them know how many tickets are needed, what section is preferred and they will order them you.

For ticket and other entertainment information, contact the Information, Ticketing and Registration office at 239-5614.



12th APRIL 2003

The Red Sox' Shea Hillenbrand swings at a pitch from the Royal's Albie Lopez during a game at Kauffman Stadium.

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The Information, Ticketing and Registration Office is located in building 6918 (across from the PX). The hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and the office is closed on federal holidays. For further information call ITR at (785)239-5614 or 239-4415. Check out the Department of Army Leisure Travel website at www.offdutytravel.com for more great deals on travel. ITR services and discount attractions tickets available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard, Reservists, Department of Army Civilians and family members.

Operation Salute

Anheuser-Busch announced that it will give single-day admission to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guardsmen and as many as four of their direct dependents, beginning the Friday of Memorial Day weekend and concluding Veterans Day, Nov. 11. "Operation Salute" will give free admission at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Diego, SeaWorld San Antonio and Sesame Place, Langhorne, Pa. Tickets available at gate only. Let ITR put together a vacation package to include other attractions and hotel accommodations.

Vacation Planning?

Discount military attraction tickets are available to Walt Disney World, Disneyland and Uni-

versal properties. Stop by and pick up brochures and let ITR assist you with your dream vacation. Many tickets are not dated, so it's easy to set up a payment savings plan.

Heartland Park Topeka

Welcome to the most intense, earth-shattering sport on the planet! Nowhere else can you actually see your favorite drivers as you stroll through the pits, hear the thunder of 6,000-horsepower machines and get a taste of what it's like living life in the fast lane. O'Reilly Summer Nationals is coming to Topeka Thursday through May 25.

Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center

They lost it. They found it. We restored it. Now it's in your hands. In this interactive exhibit for the whole family, you'll go on a virtual ride with Mercury astronaut Gus Grissom 118 miles into space and then go three miles below the ocean's surface to rescue Liberty Bell 7, untouched for decades. You'll get to pilot a Mercury capsule, take a ride in a centrifuge, operate a deep-sea ROV and much more. See it. Live it. Just don't lose it. At the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson through May 26. Discounts are available through ITR.

Worlds of Fun

It will leave you screaming for more! Worlds of Fun is now open for the season with Spring Spe-

cial discounted tickets through ITR. Hurry, the special discount ends June 30. Get ready for another season of your favorite fun-filled rides and attractions at Worlds of Fun. As you make your way through 175 acres of excitement and family entertainment, you're sure to find that Worlds of Fun will always leave you screaming for more! Those looking for intense thrills will be sure to head to the world-famous Mamba and Boomerang roller coasters. After going 75 miles-per-hour on one coaster, then riding through another completely backwards, you'll learn the real meaning of, "Open up and say AAAAGH!" Straight out of the pages of the world-famous comic strip, everybody's favorite beagle and his friends are hosting an exciting collection of family rides and attractions at Camp Snoopy, Worlds of Fun's family play land. Camp Snoopy is over one acre and home to rides and attractions designed especially for families.

Country Stampede

Have you ever attended a party with thousands of friends, national recording artists and four days of non-stop music and fun? Country Stampede is a weekend country music and camping festival June 26-29 at Tuttle Creek State Park, Manhattan. The weekend is fun filled and action packed with great performers, including: Kenny Chesney, Martina McBride, Chris LeDoux, Sawyer Brown and many more. There will also be fantastic food, colorful crafts and much, much more! Early bird discounts are still avail-

able through ITR until May 1.

Union Station

Kansas City Union Station is now featuring "American Originals and Freedom's Journey" through May 4. American Originals showcases documents that represent milestones in America history, including the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Edison's patent application for the electric lamp

and John F. Kennedy's handwritten notes for his inaugural address. Union Station is just one of eight stops on this national tour bringing some of the rarely seen treasures of the National Archives to people across the nation. Freedom's Journey traces American history back to its very beginning, using written records, portraits and artifacts to vividly illustrate the revolutionary ideas and actions that laid the foundation for

the America we know today. Discounted Science City and Combo tickets are available through ITR.

Kansas State Baseball

Kansas State Baseball "Make the Connections" now offers special military discounted tickets for the remainder of the season. Grab some friends, take the family, for only \$1 per person. Show your Military I.D. at the gate for discounted tickets.

Army Summer Concert Series offers fun for music fans

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

The 2003 Army Summer Concert Series is bringing Cheap Trick and Night Ranger, two popular rock bands, to Fort Riley May 24.

Around 6,000 people filed in the gates and onto Marshall Army Air Field for last year's concert.

To make the security process go smoother and the day more enjoyable for everyone, concertgoers should remember some simple rules before coming on post.

Please enter Fort Riley at exit 301, off of I-70. Free parking will be available within that gate.

The gates to the concert will open at 6:30 p.m. Those who purchased group tickets must enter

together. Tickets will be sold at the gate as well, for \$15 per person.

Six concession stands will be available within the gates, selling food and beverages.

No outside food or beverage will be allowed within the gates. Cameras, recording devices, pets, coolers and glass are also not allowed within the gates.

Seating is festival-style, so concertgoers can bring chairs and blankets.

Night Ranger will take the stage at 8 p.m., followed by Cheap Trick at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are still on sale through the Information, Ticketing and Registration office, 239-5614, and at local participating Dillon's grocery stores. Tickets bought in advance are \$12 per person or \$25 for a group of four.

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Letters to the Front

"Wish I could have been there with you all. Good job, keep your head up and stay motivated. See you soon." - *Sgt. James P. Folger, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.*

"Wish I was there with you. You guys and girls did one heck of a job. Be safe." - *Spc. Shawn Gray, 295th Ord. Co.*

"I wanted to say we miss our soldiers from the 125th FSB, Company B. I just want them to know that we are very proud of them, and we want them to come home safe to their families. To my husband, Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Phillips, I miss you and love you so very much. Thank you for the job you have done for us." - *Sheila Phillips, military, Fort Riley, Kan.*

"To Spc. Christopher Strozier, Bravo Co., 1st Bn., 13th Armor: Chris, we are so proud of you, and we miss you so much. Wesley and Melissa are doing fine. Everyone back in Georgia is okay, too. Stay safe, and know that we love you! Write to me! Love, Mom" - *Carol Dzurenko, military mother, Powder Springs, Ga.*

"I would like to say I support the troops that are in Iraq, and I especially support my twins that are over there. To my oldest twin, Cpl. Aaron Ennis, with the 173rd Airborne, I love you and miss you. To his brother, Pfc. Adam Ennis, I love you also, and hang in there. We will all be waiting for both of you and your safe return." - *Tammy Reid, Farmer City, Ill.*

"Spc. Jeremy Dawson, HHC, 937th Eng. Group, is my nephew and one of my favorites! Just wanted to let him know that his 'no bake Oatmeal Cookies' are on the way!!! And when he comes to

Toledo, the Peirogies will be ready! So come home safe! We love you and are supporting the troops. We are praying every night! Be safe! Love Aunt Bean and the whole family!" - *Eva Linver, Toledo, Ohio*

"I would like to let my husband, Pvt. Gregory Pierson, HHB, 4th Bn., 1st FA, know that we miss and love him, and are very proud of him." - *Summer Pierson, military spouse*

"To Staff Sgt. Lance A. Williams, 4th Bn., 1st FA., who's been in the Army for 13 years and loved every minute of it. I want you to know your family waits for your return. You are doing the job you were, and have, trained to do during your entire military career.

I'm very proud of you. You are my "HERO." We miss and love you, baby. Be safe, be strong, and we will continue to pray for you and your fellow soldiers until you're back in the arms of the USA. I love you, Lance, and can't wait to see you back here at Fort Riley, Kansas." - *Lynn Williams, military spouse*

"I would just like to say how extremely proud I am of my son, Spc. Castillo, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, and how appreciative my family, co-workers and friends are to all of our military men and women out there risking their lives for our country. There are not enough words to express our feelings of gratitude for these men and women; however, I would like to send a message to all of them that we pray for their safe return to their loved ones back home, and that we support them 100 percent in their efforts." - *Penny Castillo, Los Angeles, Calif.*

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Paper or plastic, groceries bags have long history, many uses

By Herb Greene
DECA

Paper or plastic? The choice between the two is about all the thought commissary shoppers give to grocery bags. And that's typical, but the humble grocery bag, tote or sack has quite a history. There was a time when there were no bags to carry groceries or anything else.

The people of Crete are thought to be the first to use the concept of a bag or pouch about 2000 B.C. These bags were probably made from leather and later from cloth. They were large, about the size of grain sacks. The first reference to the use of paper bags to hold groceries was in 1630 in Europe. The use of sacks didn't take off until 1700 and 1800 when the Industrial Revolution and its new mechanized manufacturing processes made sacks affordable.

A man named Hermann

Holscher invented a machine in 1869 that manufactured paper bags at the rate of 40 per minute. Paper became less expensive and the use of paper bags in retail

expanded. Soon after, Margaret Knight invented a machine part that would automatically fold and glue paper bags with square bottoms. Knight received her first patent at age 30 and went on to receive 25 more with inventions like the numbering machine and the rotary engine, earning the nickname of "the female Thomas Edison." Her process to make flat-bottomed paper bags assured her place in history as the mother

of the modern grocery bag.

Paper grocery bags reigned supreme in supermarkets without any rivals until 1977 when the plastic bag was introduced to the grocery industry. Ever since, grocery shoppers have had to choose paper or plastic. By 1996, four of five grocery bags used were plastic.

Defense Commissary Agency stores offer its shoppers both types of bags. Commissary shoppers use more plastic bags than paper, but that's like comparing apples to oranges. It takes about two-and-a-half plastic bags to carry the same amount of gro-

ceries a paper bag can carry. When you make the comparison using quantity of groceries carried, patrons seem to favor paper (57 percent) to plastic (43 percent). Only a very small percentage of commissary shoppers bring cloth grocery bags for their groceries.

"Many of our patrons still prefer paper because of its durability and ease of handling. Also, because the transaction size of DeCA's customers is so high they prefer paper because you can pack more groceries into paper bags," said James E. Smith, supervisory commissary management specialist with DeCA headquarters operations directorate.

Each year, commissary shoppers tote away their groceries using 601,278 bales of paper bags at an estimated cost of more than \$8.5 million and 434,300 cases of plastic costing an estimated \$6.9 million. And that's not the end of it for the bags when you get them home. Both paper and plastic gro-

cery bags can be recycled and each type has unlimited uses around the home.

A paper bag can be used as a book cover by cutting it and taping it over a book to keep it new looking and scuff-free. They can be used to ripen fruit such as peaches and plums. Just place the fruit inside a paper bag, close it and place it in a warm place. The fruit ripens in no time.

Paper bags can also be used as gift-wrap. Use crayons to draw pictures on the bag and wrap up your gift using paper with designs no one else has.

A plastic bag can be used to line wastebaskets and trash cans; to put shoes in before packing them in a suitcase or to protect breakables for shipping. Roll up plastic bags and place them under, around and over fragile objects when packing them for shipment.

There are thousands of uses for paper and plastic grocery bags, and that's not even counting carrying groceries home from your

commissary. So the next time you choose paper or plastic at the checkout, remember the indispensable, ubiquitous grocery bag and its long, long history.



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Chicago (PG-13)

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$3
Children - \$1.50

Kansas Food Program offers help to older adults

K-State Research, Extension

The Kansas Food Assistance Program, also known as the Food Stamp Program, is helping low-income older adults make ends meet.

During a recent survey of older, program-eligible Kansans using the food program, many reported how helpful it has been to them, said Mary Meek Higgins, K-State Research and Extension nutrition specialist.

One participant put it this way: "When I first got on this program, I was surprised at the amount I qualified for. It is providing me the help I need to eat better."

"I couldn't get by without this little bit of extra help," said a man who responded to the survey. "I'm so glad that I was encouraged to apply for food assistance by my senior center manager," one woman said. "I get \$112 a month on my Vision card to help buy

food, and now I can afford to pay for my car repairs. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program through SRS has also been a blessing."

"The Kansas Food Assistance Program promotes health and wellness by providing money for food for qualified low-income people, including older adults. The easy-to-use program also can help seniors maintain their independence while living on a fixed income," Higgins said.

Participants receive an electronic debit card, called the Vision card, that they can use to buy food; seeds and plants for a vegetable garden and reduced-cost food packages from Heartland SHARE, a food program that is available to many Kansas volunteers. Vision cards can also be used to make donations for senior center and home-delivered meals.

"This program helps me very much. The Vision card is easy for me to use when I buy food. I feel good," said another beneficiary of the program.

For more information on the Kansas Food Assistance Program or other possible assistance, call the local SRS office.

For free information on gardening, nutrition and stretching

your food dollar, call your local county Extension office.

To learn more about services available to older adults, call your County Coordinator on Aging or the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. at 1-800-432-2703.

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Guard troops help Midwest recover from tornadoes

By Bob Haskell
Army News Service

National Guard troops answered the call to help civil authorities deal with the devastation of violent tornadoes that hammered the Midwest and flooding in Alabama during early May.

Nearly 200 Army Guard soldiers were on duty in Missouri, Kansas and Tennessee by May 6, after a massive tornado tore through those states May 4. Six more served in Alabama, according to reports from the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

A National Guard soldier guards a building hit by a tornado in early May.

Missouri fielded the largest force of 173 citizen-soldiers after the severe weather system killed 18 people in that state and at least 40 in all, according to newspaper

accounts.

One of the victims was Wanda Sue Handley, 46, the wife of Missouri Army Guard Spc. William Handley.

She was killed in her home in Monett, Mo., Guard officials reported. Spc. Handley is a member of the 203rd Engineer Battalion that is on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., after being mobilized in March.

Handley was talking with his wife on his cellular phone, the Associated Press reported.

"She told him 'I see it,' and then the phone went dead," said Company C 1st Sgt. Randy Mackey. "He was in shock."

Handley received immediate approval to return to his home.

The Missouri tornadoes badly damaged Guard armories in

Pierce City and DeSoto.

President George W. Bush issued federal disaster declarations for 39 counties in Missouri and seven counties in Kansas, according to Guard and press reports.

Guard soldiers from the 110th Engineer Battalion in Kansas City, Company A, 735th Main Support Battalion, Nevada, Mo., and Company C, 935th Division Aviation Support Battalion, Aurora and Springfield, Mo., were sent to badly damaged Pierce City, Gladstone and Stockton.

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Holbrook reported that Guard troops initially set up generators to provide power for water pumps and about 70 then helped police patrol streets in hard-hit Pierce City, an historic railroad town in Missouri's southwest corner.

Guard soldiers delivered four large generators to Pierce City and seven to Stockton to help generate electricity for emergency needs, said 2nd Lt. Jamie Melchert.

About 125 of the 203rd's soldiers were allowed to leave Fort

Leonard Wood to help their families and communities recover from the damage.

They were expected to return to the fort on Thursday to await their deployment to Iraq within the next two weeks.

Several of the 203rd's soldiers had seen nature's wrath while serving in Honduras in 1999 to help that country recover from Hurricane Mitch, the Associated Press also reported.

"That was a cakewalk compared to what happened here," said Staff Sgt. Ed Hatfield. "This is unbelievable."

Staff Sgt. Ray Stockton said "it looks like one of those old movies with the Germans with all of the destruction."

"Our equipment is on a boat [going overseas] right now, so we're using our hands," Mackey said. "But we'll get it done."

Guard aviation personnel also helped in the recovery effort, and Missouri Guard soldiers served in Gladstone and Battlefield City, said Holbrook, a Missouri Guard spokesman.

One civilian man who was

seeking shelter in the Pierce City armory, that was built in 1941, was killed when a tornado tore down a wall and caused some of the storm system's worst devastation in that community.

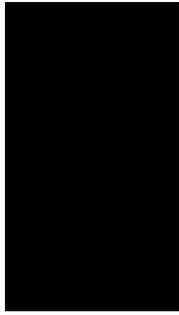
The armory was home to Detachment 1, C Company of the 203rd.

No injuries were reported at the DeSoto armory.

Fifteen Guard troops remained on duty in Kansas May 8, but nine who had served in Tennessee and the six in Alabama completed their missions on May 7, said a Readiness Center spokesman in Virginia.



Army News Service Photo/Melchert



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