

Fort Riley Sports

June 6, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Attendees practice their yoga skills at King Field House. Classes are offered two days a week at noon.

Post-Review

Yoga: Maximum workout with minimum stress

By Kim Levine

Staff Writer

Yoga classes are now being offered at King Field House Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon - 1 p.m.

First Lt. Rachel Taylor, who teaches the classes, said she finds yoga helps relieve stress throughout the day. "I wanted to find a way to share that with the military community," said Taylor.

Yoga is a 6,000-year-old discipline originating from India. The word "yoga" means "balance." Taylor said she teaches a form called Hatha yoga, focusing on the physical aspects of the body.

Other aspects of yoga include finding a spiritual, meditational and physical balance.

"Before I started yoga, I felt like my workouts were working against each other," Taylor said. "Now, through my practice of yoga, I have been able to balance my body without losing any of the

benefits that my cross training offers." Taylor said she has been practicing yoga since September, and teaching since April. She said in that amount of time she has improved her Physical Training test scores by almost thirty points.

"Yoga helps create a balance in your body. You build strength while, at the same time, increase flexibility and balance," said Taylor.

The classes are open to everyone, but those with an open mind who are interested in trying a different approach to

working out should attend, said Taylor. The classes are free, and participants do not need to register. Taylor suggested wearing comfortable, form-fitting clothing, and come with a good attitude.

For more information, call King Field House, 239-3868.

Editor's Note: On June 17, yoga class times will change. The class will then be taught from 11:45 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.

Turkey hunters compete for best

By Ryan D. Wood

Staff Writer

Turkeys beware! The annual Fort Riley turkey beard contest was held on a split season from April 9 - 30 and May 1 - 18. On May 24, the winners of this year's contest were announced, with a Mossberg 500 Camo-Turkey shotgun going to the top winner. Other prizes included a shotgun sling, decoys, a turkey hunting vest, hats, calls, a chest pack, waist pack, stock cover and a turkey blind.

The contest was open to anyone who drew a turkey permit for hunting on Fort Riley during the spring season. Each hunter could take up to two turkeys with their permits. Out of the 140 permits that were issued, 40 hunters had entries in the contest.

The contest was based on the turkey's "beard," a long hair-like growth on the turkey's chest that looks like a beard. Both male and female turkeys sport beards, but males tend to have longer more distinguished growth. Judging was based first, on length, and in case of a tie, on spur length. If, after measuring spur length, there was still a tie, a flip of the coin would determine the final winner.

This year, first place was determined on spur length, as the top two hunters both brought in

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'THE SARGE:' Army auto racing with Tony Schumacher

By Marvin Baker

129th MPAD

TOPEKA - Tony Schumacher loves his job officially representing the soldiers of the United States Army. He personifies the "Army of One" concept.

The 33-year-old Illinois native drives a racecar in the Top Fuel circuit that is sponsored by the Army and is appropriately named "The Sarge."

"It's incredible representing the soldiers of the U.S. Army," Schumacher said during the National Hot Rod Association's O'Reilly Summer Nationals Memorial Day Weekend in Topeka's Heartland Park. "There's nothing else like it. I explain to soldiers that it's like being airborne, you have to experience it. Look around here. Nobody comes close to the U.S. Army."

Schumacher admitted he really enjoys being part of the unique partnership between the Army and his racing team. "The Sarge," with a 500-cubic-inch TFX aluminum hemi engine, delivers blazing

speed, from zero to 200 miles per hour in 2.2 seconds. In four years of racing the car, Schumacher's top speed peaked at 333.08 mph. Measuring 25 feet of aluminum, steel and rubber, "The Sarge" is all Army.

"It's an incredible recruiting tool when you see 150,000 people in the stands and the crew working on the car," Schumacher said. "I have total trust and faith in my crew. It's the Army of One. It's a simple concept."

His pit crew of 10, sometimes including several veterans, has a great work ethic, which is why he wants them on his staff.

"Some veterans rotate in and out," he said. "Anyone can get in, but you have to be willing to work, and soldiers are the hardest working people in the world."

But it's not just about "The Sarge" and the race track. Schumacher and his team always wear clothing with the Army logo. The Army's brand is strategically located in several spots on the highly shined racecar and the squeaky clean

semitrailer in which the crew works on parts, also has the logo boldly attached. There's even a semitrailer that doubles as a gift shop where fans can pick up Army Racing clothing and merchandise.

"We're buddies with the Army. Obviously, it's about dollars and cents, but we show teamwork, and probably one of the reasons they picked me is I'm 100 percent behind the soldiers. I'm part of the team that is, in essence, the Army of One."

Schumacher, the first racecar driver to break the 330-mile-per-hour plateau in a quarter-mile strip, said he is completely comfortable when he is going down the track, despite the intense gravitational force of such rapid acceleration. According to Schumacher, the G force is 5 1/2 times the normal rate of gravity as he tears down the track.

He added, the incredible roar of the engine doesn't bother him as he is always traveling ahead of the sound.

"It's like a facelift every time," he said. "We always joke about it, but it is

intense. Some ask me what it's like to go 50 (mph). I don't think we go 50. It's zero to 100. This thing is like a rocket. You react, and that's why we train and retrain." The car is fueled with nitromethane and 14 gallons is burned every time "The Sarge" flies down the track.

Schumacher, who isn't a soldier himself, has gone out of the way to learn as much as he can about the military, since he actually works for the Army. He has been several posts in the United States, including Fort Riley and Fort Carson, Colo., and has visited troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

"I get to meet them and I get to see what they are doing," he said. "But, there is no way to understand what they do."

Schumacher said he started racing when he was 16, but always wanted a faster car, so he kept building them. At 22, he was hired to drive a jet car, and that's when he first topped 300 miles per hour. In 1999, he became the Top Fuel champion and has been rated in the top 10 since.

His father Don, a.k.a. "The Shoe," a great racer in his own right, as well as his father's colleagues, also inspired Tony. He said he learned at an early age that racing isn't all glamour, however, after weighing the good vs. the bad and what the good offers, he was convinced he would eventually become a world champion.

"My dad quit racing when I was 5. But it's not about him driving," Schumacher said. "It's about being surrounded by good racers and learning from them."

He added, it's easy to become a bum if you are surrounded by bums, but it's equally as possible to become a world champion if you are surrounded by world champions.

Schumacher calls racing "a big sport," and said he will continue working hard toward another championship for the soldiers of the U.S. Army.

"TV can't capture this, you have to see it live," he said. "This car is like a mix-cam. There's no reason to camouflage it. You want them to see it coming."

Fort Riley prime habitat for several species of woodpeckers

By Gibran Saleman

DES Biologist

While there are over 200 different species in the woodpecker family worldwide, five of those species can be found fairly easily on Fort Riley. Woodpeckers are characterized by having a sharp chisel shaped beak, with a long spear shaped tongue that can protrude from the beak and excavate insect from wood. They typically have four toes, two in the front and two in the rear. Their toes are equipped with extremely sharp claws, which are excellent for climbing.

One of the most striking of the woodpeckers on Fort Riley is the red-headed woodpecker. Both the male and females have brilliant red colored heads and necks. The rest of the bird is solid white or black. When compared to other woodpeckers, red-heads are quite omnivorous. They eat a variety of items, from insects to small mammals to fruit. They can typically be seen sitting on a perch taking insects that fly by or are on the ground. They are known to actually cache or store their food in

crevices in trees. This species has suffered large decline throughout North America due to introduction of non-native species and also habitat destruction.

Red-bellied woodpeckers are one of the larger woodpeckers on Fort Riley. They are most easily recognized by their zebra striped back and bright red nape. As the name implies, they have a patch of red on their belly. This species of woodpecker can be commonly seen at bird feeders in the winter-time. They will eat grains right out of hoppers and they love suet feeders. In the summer, they primarily feast on insects. Woodpeckers, in general, can be spotted in a variety of different habitats on post. They are not found on post in the winter.

The Northern flicker is another common large woodpecker on Fort Riley. It prefers more open habitats compared to other woodpeckers. It is recognized by a gray brown barred back and a white rump that becomes visible when they fly. The eastern form has yellow coloration under the wings, while the western form has more orange coloration under the wings. Flickers are the most ter-

restrial of all of the woodpeckers. Their preferred food is ants. They have suffered an overall decline in abundance. Competition with non-native birds is a large contributor for the decline.

On the Wildside: News About Nature



DES Saleman

Woodpeckers are characterized by having a sharp chisel shaped beak, with a long spear-shaped tongue that can protrude from the beak and excavate insects from wood.

Hairy and downy woodpeckers are fairly similar in appearance to each other. They are mainly black and white in color, with a small patch of red on the back of the head. The easiest way to distinguish the two woodpeckers is their size. The hairy woodpecker is the larger of the two and it also has a larger bill. Both woodpeckers are common on Fort Riley. They typically inhabit woodlands on Fort Riley, but are regulars at wintertime bird feeders. Their food of choice is suet. During the summer, they acquire most of their food by picking out insects from dead trees.

There are several other species of woodpeckers that could potentially be found on Fort Riley, but finding one would be a rare occurrence. The first one is the pileated woodpecker. This is the largest woodpecker found in most of the United States, reaching fifteen inches in length. It somewhat resembles the cartoon character Woody the Woodpecker in its looks. It has a long stout beak that is very efficient at excavating cavities. They occasionally will cause problems by making holes in the side of people's homes. They pre-

fer large tracts of woodlands. One of the most likely areas to look for them on the fort is in Training Area 2. They mainly eat ants and beetle larvae, but do eat some nuts and fruits. Many time people hear their very loud territorial drumming on dead trees before they actually see them. Another occasional species for Fort Riley is the yellow-bellied sapsucker. As the name implies, they do have a yellow belly and even drink sap from small wells they drill into live trees. They also eat some bark and some insects. They are typically found in the same habitat as hairy and downy woodpeckers.

For being in a state that didn't have many trees at one time, Fort Riley has a nice diversity of different woodpeckers. Luckily, Fort Riley doesn't have the Federally listed red-cockaded woodpecker that has caused restrictions on training on many bases in the southeast United States. So, if you are feeling up to a challenge, see how many species of woodpeckers you can find on Fort Riley. If you have any questions or rare birds to report, contact the Conservation Division, 239-6211.

ITR

The Information Ticketing & Registration Office is located in building 6918. Check out the Department of Army Leisure Travel website at www.offduty-travel.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.

Cruise Packaging

Authorized patrons can start taking advantage of special military discounts and bargain cruises. Stop by ITR and pick up brochures or call 239-5614 and make an appointment with the cruise counselor.

Kansas Cosmospere and Space Center

Located in Hutchinson, the Cosmospere is quickly becoming the most comprehensive space museum in the world. It is not what you'd expect to find on the open prairies of Kansas and that's the point exactly. From the jaw-dropping Hall of Space Museum to the million-dollar multimedia Planetarium, the Cosmospere is an all-day, all ages adventure.

Discounts are available through ITR.

Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun is now open for the season with a "Spring Special" discounted ticket through ITR. Hurry, special discounts end June 30.

Get ready for another season of your favorite fun-filled rides and attractions. 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 AAAAAHHH!"

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 playland, Camp Snoopy is over one acre and home to rides and attractions designed especially for families.

Oceans of Fun

Oceans of Fun is located next to Worlds of Fun. Guests of Oceans of Fun will be surrounded by the tropical excitement of Paradise Falls, debuting this year. Paradise Falls brings increased playability to the 60-acre water park. You won't be able to miss the 1,000-gallon bucket located at the top of the water playhouse. Every five minutes, it fills and empties, as water gushes on anyone and everyone below. Paradise Falls is overflowing with fun for children of all ages and is sure to keep everyone busy and soaking wet for hours. Discount tickets available through ITR.



Six Flags Over Texas

Staying true to its promise to

mark its 40th anniversary, Six Flags officials announced a Texas-size expansion of its family and children's section, featuring major new rides and attractions.

This coincides with the mounting excitement over their newest addition to the power-packed thrill arsenal; the mighty Titan extreme. Summer special tickets are now available for only \$200, that's a 50 percent savings. Hurry, tickets must be purchased before June 20. Tickets can be used through July 31.

Country Stampede

Have you ever attended a party with thousands of friends, national recording artists and four days on non-stop music and fun? Country Stampede is a weekend country music and camping festi-

val 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 more. Great early bird discounts are still available through ITR until May 1.

Silver Dollar City

Silver Dollar City is having Military Days through Oct 26. Purchase a discounted 2-day adult ticket through ITR and get a complimentary child ticket by showing your pre-purchased tickets at the Silver Dollar City ticket booth. There'll be new thrills in the hills! The tales of a peculiar Ozarkian inventor will resound through the hills, more than 100 years after the glorious era of Dr. (Doc) Horatio Harris. While many believe the good Doctor's sad obsession with powered flight to be but a tale, others say there's some truth to this colorful history. His story may well be part imagination and part suspected truth, but his prized invention-WILD-FIRE-will soon be very real. Let ITR put together a Branson pack-

age for a weekend get-a-way or family vacation.

Six Flags, St. Louis

At Six Flags, St. Louis, Mo. your kids can lead the way to more than a hundred rides and attractions inside the family theme park. A 5,000-foot wooden coaster called the "BOSS" joins the Hurricane Harbor Water Park as two of Six Flags' most recent additions. Purchase the Six Flags, St. Louis, ticket and get free admission to Hurricane Harbor.

Summer Slam the Dam

Summer Slam the Dam will be Wednesday at noon at Dedication Point, Milford Lake. The event will be presenting Foreigner lead singer, "Lou Gramm," with a special appearance by Head East, Bad Company, with former lead singer Bam Howe, The Band That Saved the World and many more. The event will have festival type seating. No food or coolers will be allowed in concert area. Drink and food vendors will be on hand. Discount tickets are \$25 at ITR and \$35 at the gate.

ITR offers deals to soldiers, families

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

With the limited income available to most military families, it can sometimes seem like a full-blown vacation is out of reach. Offering soldiers a helping hand and some great deals, the Information Ticketing and Registration office, located in building 6918 across from the PX, is helping find low cost vacations and can even help soldiers find free tickets to some attractions.

ITR offers an incredible array of options for servicemembers looking for information on vacations and entertainment. "We are a one-stop vacation spot," said Teresa Mayes, manager, ITR. "We handle military discount tickets, hotel reservations and more. Even people who are not sure of what they want to do can come in and we will get them maps and guides and help tailor a vacation around what they want to do."

Over the May 30 weekend, a trip was put together for the BOSS program. The trip cost soldiers \$250 and included airfare to Orlando, accommodations in a suite hotel, admission to all four major area theme parks or a number of other parks and attractions. "This (ITR) is probably one of the best vacation values that active duty can do. Even with a limited income, they can get many tickets complimentary or more than 50 percent off," said Mayes. A family of four can visit the Orlando area for seven days with hotel, receive a 5-day pass to the Disney resorts, a three-day pass to Universal Studios parks and a 1-day pass to SeaWorld for under \$600, plus airfare, she said.

Many parks and hotels are holding "salutes" for military members. This means that they offer free or greatly discounted products to active duty military members. Some hold limited days, such as free admission to the Dallas Zoo on Flag Day. Other attractions, such as Sea World, offer free admission to servicemembers all summer long.

Examples of just some of the many offers that ITR has are: Walt Disney World offers one complimentary 5-day ticket for active duty soldiers, and up to 5 for family and friends at \$99 per ticket. Normal gate prices are \$304 per ticket. This ticket may be obtained only at the Walt Disney World Theme Park ticket windows once during the period. This ticket expires and may not be used after December 19.

Universal Orlando is offering a complimentary 5-day pass to active duty soldiers and up to three passes for family or friends for \$50 per pass. Gate prices are \$116.55 for a 3-day pass.

Silver Dollar City is offering a 2-day pass for \$37.09 and free admission to children under 11. Regularly these tickets are \$39.21 for one day.

Sea World, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place all offer free admission to servicemembers, with heavily discounted family member tickets.

FREE-TO-KNOW
2 x 5"
Black Only
Free-to-Know

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
June times

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beards measuring 10 5/8 inches. First place went to Richard Frye, with a spur length of 1 inch. Second place went to Chase Moergeli, with a spur length of 7/8 inch. Third place,

with a beard length of 10 1/4 inches and a spur length of 7/8 inch, was Tom Hill. For information on other events sponsored through Outdoor Recreation, call 239-2363.



Top 10 Hunters

- 1st Place Richard Frye
- 2nd Place Chase Moergeli
- 3rd Place Tom Hill
- 4th Place Retsae Miller
- 5th Place Dan Key
- 6th Place Shawn Wangerin
- 7th Place Ricky Scott
- 8th Place James Walmann
- 9th Place Scott Arcuri
- 10th Place Ryan Smith

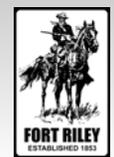
USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"

RSD/Post June 2003



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

Fort Riley Community



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Kansas has unclaimed property belonging to Fort Riley soldiers

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

There are 2,600 people with unclaimed property at the state treasury with Fort Riley listed as the last known address. Claiming that property is now a little easier, and State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins said people should call the treasury's toll-free number, (800) 432-0386, or visit www.kansascash.com to see if they have unclaimed property. She said people could enter any name or even search the unclaimed property database by a certain city. She said it is an easy way for Kansans to discover whether there is property that has been forgotten about and has been turned over to the state by a bank or another organization. "It happens all the time," Jenkins said. "For instance, there are

people who have payroll checks that are misplaced, and they forget to go back to their employer to have a replacement check issued. After a certain amount of time, the employer is then required to turn the money over to the state." Each year, Kansas takes in \$16 million from lost wages, dormant checking accounts, forgotten stock shares and other property. Jenkins said \$300,000 of that money is from soldiers or civilians who live at Fort Riley, or did at one time. "There is no way of knowing where these people are right now," she said. "They could still be at Fort Riley, or they could have moved. We have tried to contact the owners, but it has been difficult to find them. We would really like to return this property to its owners." It could be a small amount of

money, or it could be a large amount, Jenkins said. One soldier has a \$18,000 coming to him. In addition to money, there could be items that have been locked up in safe deposit boxes. One box that was opened up contained an old wedding band and a bag of old coins. "Any time you open up a safe

deposit box, you are looking into somebody's life," Ryan Wright, assistant to the state treasurer said. "There are often wedding bands and old photographs. For soldiers at Fort Riley, some boxes have served a purpose. We would really like to return these items to the heirs or the

owners themselves." However, those types of heirlooms cannot be kept at the state treasury forever. If they are not claimed within a certain period of time, the items are liquidated. The items are auctioned and the cash received for the items is then kept for the owner. "The people will still get money for grandma's wedding ring," Wright said, "but that's not the same. That's why we really want to track down the rightful owners." Jenkins said that is a little easier to do nowadays. "At one point, you needed to provide the death certificate to claim the property for family members who had passed away," she said. "But we found that people were not claiming the property. If it was a small item, they

might not have thought it would be worth the trouble. Now, it's a little easier. People just have to provide an obituary or anything else that can link them to the family." While some items are liquidated, the treasury is now starting to keep some items longer. Military medals are items that are priceless, so while they used to be auctioned, Jenkins said they are being kept longer now. "We want to return these items to their owners," she said. "So people need to log on to the website, www.kansascash.com, to see if they have property that needs to be claimed. It is so easy." Soldiers and civilians who came to Fort Riley from another state can also try looking at the treasury home page for other places they have lived.



Post Graphic/Watson



Father David Fitz-Patrick, U.S. Air Force Catholic Chaplain, awaits the communion cup, while U.S. Army Sgt. Casey Schwab, a military police officer with the 300th Military Police Company takes communion during a Catholic Mass at the Convoy Supply Center in Scania, Iraq, on May 13.

Seat belts important part of summer travel

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

Memorial day has come and gone and the heavy summer driving and PCS months are just beginning. With the increase in travel, many states and individual posts around the country have instituted increasingly active seat belt and automotive safety checks. Thirty states and many military posts, including Kansas and Fort Riley, have adopted the "Click It or Ticket" campaign as one way to help improve automobile safety. The Click It or Ticket program is a nation-wide mobilization of forces to "intensively enforce" seat belt use, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. With the first major push of the campaign occurring over the Memorial Day weekend, some numbers are already in on the effect of the program. According to the NHTSA, states saw seat belt use increase up to 19 percent over the previous year.

Fort Riley instituted increased seat belt checkpoints and advertising to help promote the program as many soldiers took the first long weekend of the summer to travel across the country. The program is scheduled to continue throughout the next month, with individual states and agencies deciding on how to best enforce the program. On post, fines and tickets will be given to anyone in a vehicle who does not have a seat belt on while the vehicle is moving. Fines for not wearing a seat belt start at \$10 per person. Having an unsecured infant in the vehicle will cost \$20. But safety belt use is more important than just not getting a ticket. According to Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., administrator of the NHTSA, in an address to the House of Representatives, safety belt use cuts the risk of death in a crash in half. The 25 percent of vehicle occupants who failed to use safety belts cost themselves and America 6,800 preventable deaths and

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Post honors fallen military policeman

By William Bites
Staff Writer

Another Fort Riley soldier was remembered Monday during a memorial service at Morris Hill Chapel. His fellow soldiers from the military police community honored Pvt. David Evans Jr., 977th Military Police Company, 924th Military Police Battalion. The mood of the service was a somber one, as heads hung low and tear-filled faces could be openly seen, while those attending remembered Evans and grieved of the loss. Evans deployed to Iraq on April 4 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was killed on duty May 25 while in Ad Diwaniyah. "Throughout his career, he served with professionalism and dedication," said 1st Lt. Twila Khouri, rear detachment commander, 977th MP Co. He was dedicated to protecting the soldiers, family members and civilians of Fort Riley. "Evans was a bright soldier who would go out of his way for his fellow soldiers, and he was loved and appreciated by all. He was willing to lend a helping hand and support where it was needed to others," she said. Evans was best known for always having a smile on his face, regardless of the situation he was in. "We had a IASO inspection on a Saturday, and we had just returned from the field. He was one of the few people I saw that were smiling. I asked him, 'Pvt. Evans, what are you smiling about?' He said, 'I'm just happy to be here.' That is what we all need to be - happy to be here," said Staff Sgt. Willie Russ, acting 1st Sergeant, 977th MP Co. "That's just the way he always looked at things." While Evans was assigned to the 977th MP Co., he participated in numerous training exercises and faithfully served the Fort Riley community as a military policeman, said Khouri. "Pvt. Evans served in 3rd Platoon, where his knowledge and skills in law enforcement greatly benefited the platoon he served with and protected," she said. Evans' awards include an Army Achievement Medal, Good

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Armor soldier laid to rest at Post Cemetery

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

Through tears of pride and pain, friends and family gathered May 22, at Morris Hill Chapel on Fort Riley, to honor Master Sgt. William Lee Payne, the third soldier from Fort Riley to die during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Payne, the intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge for 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, was killed in Haswah, Iraq, on May 16. He was examining unexploded ordnance when the ordnance exploded, causing his death. "We gather because a comrade in arms no longer stands in our ranks," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Timothy Willoughby, United States Army Garrison. "Soldiers perhaps better than others understand how fragile life really is. Death is not an abstract concept or an academic exercise. We are constantly reminded that we have a dangerous profession. Soldiers therefore appreciate life and care for one another." "When you open yourself up to care," said Willoughby, "you open yourself up to the pain that we are feeling this morning. But all of us know that it is worth it to love." "He was a loving husband, father and a caring soldier," said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hearron, command sergeant major, 24th Infantry Division

(Meeh) and Fort Riley. "He was one of those rare individuals that you could assign a mission to and forget about it because you knew that the mission was going to get accomplished to standard, the first time." "I want to say thank you personally to him and his family for everything he has done for our soldiers, our army and our country," said Hearron. "After a soldier's tribute highlighting the career achievements of Payne, 1st Lt. Jay DeShazo, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, spoke of soldiers and their special place in the hearts of freedom. "Soldiers are a rare and honor-

able group of men - the people dedicated to preserving liberty and freedom, not for themselves but for others, selflessly sacrificing relationships between family, friends and loved ones, which we all hold so dear," he said, "occasionally paying the ultimate price so that other generations may enjoy a better life all in the name of freedom." "There is no nobler person than a soldier," he added. "We should not be remembered for the way we die, but for the life that we led. I know that Master Sgt. William Payne was a very honorable man." DeShazo directed his final

remarks to the family of the fallen soldier. "No one could have said it better than Abraham Lincoln (when he) wrote to Mrs. Bixby concerning the loss of her sons, 'I pray that our heavenly father may soothe the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of loved ones lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid this ultimate sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.'" "As Willoughby closed the memorial, he spoke of not only the sacrifice of Payne, but of the great example he was for soldiers and family alike. "We are a nation like no other," Willoughby said. "This nation was founded by men and women with strong values for liberty and freedom. It is perpetuated by the kindred spirit adopted by a man like Master Sgt. Payne." "I think that people can see that Master Sgt. Payne died while on a mission, which was fired by high ideals and lofty goals," Willoughby said. "He died demonstrating the Army value that I think is most like God's nature himself - the value of selfless service." I hope that we can all be inspired by the faithful example of selfless service given by Master Sgt. Payne," he added. Payne is survived by his wife Karin and sons John and Nicholas Payne of Fort Riley, Kan.



Post/Slakom

Soldiers fold the American flag at Master Sgt. William Lee Payne's funeral service May 30. Payne, intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, was killed May 16, in Haswah, Iraq.



Readjustment may take time for children

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Children can get angry about their soldier parent being gone for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and that anger could be present when parents and children are reunited as soldiers begin returning home.

Chap. (Maj.) James Paulson, Family Life Ministries Chaplain, said that is one reason it is important for families to adjust slowly when reuniting after deployments.

"Not every family will experience all of the stressors referred to in the reunion brochures. The brochures are a compilation of what could happen, that families need to be aware of," he said. "The best advice is to take things slowly and give everybody in the family time to readjust."

This necessary transition period is different for all soldiers and their children. It is shorter for some and longer for others, depending on the age of the children and the status of the relationship among loved ones, Paulson said.

After being gone for an extended amount of time, some soldiers would be able to run right up to their children and give them a big hug and kiss as soon as they return home from the war. However, he said other soldiers would not be able to do that.

"When soldiers are gone for a period of several months, younger children might not recognize them when they return," Paulson said. "For those young children, soldiers shouldn't force affection on the child too soon. They need to let the child set the pace. The soldier might want to sweep the child off his feet and give him a big hug. But the child might not be prepared for that, Paulson said.

"Take it slowly."

There will also be adjustments around the house for family with older children, he said.

Teenagers, for instance, might have had more responsibilities around the house while the soldier parent was deployed, Paulson said. Returning parents should not criticize the way things were done

while they were away. They should thank the spouse and child for what they did to keep things going.

"Things will change around the home when the soldiers return, and that's why communication is important - patient, open communication," he said. "Families need to talk about their expectations. If not, there could easily be misunderstandings, resentment, frustration and anger."

The 82nd Medical Company and the 205th Area Support Medical Company were the first active duty units to return to Fort Riley. They were welcomed by family and friends at Hangar 817 on June 1. With tears rolling down their cheeks, the families were reunited.

Maj. James Schwartz, commander, 82nd Med. Co., was welcomed home by three sons who were clinging to him the moment his unit was turned loose. The reunion with his family was something he had been looking forward to ever since he deployed, he said.

While none of the soldiers at the redeployment ceremony seemed to have trouble reuniting with their families, Schwartz said they were told that families might have trouble readjusting.

"The soldiers received some reunion-type training in theater to let soldiers know what to expect when they come back to a household where the mom has been the mom and the dad," he said. "The Army knows that reunions between soldiers and their children can be tough, and it has implemented a reunification process so that soldiers don't set their expectations too high when they go on their two-week block leave."

After he out-processes, Schwartz said he is looking forward to going camping with his three sons Paul, 9, Joe, 7, and David, 4.

"We are going camping," he said. "After months in Iraq, you would not think that I would want to go camping. But my sons want to go camping, and I am just happy spending time with them."

Activities offered for soldiers, spouses

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Child and Youth Services have teamed up with the Soldier and Family Support Center to give spouses of deployed soldiers a break.

The two organizations have set aside Mondays, noon - 3 p.m., to give spouses relief and time with others. Offering free childcare, each Monday will bring a different form of free entertainment, ranging from cooking classes to style days.

On Monday, there will be a class giving information on brain development of infants and toddlers, sponsored by the Geary Country Infant and Toddler Service. Attendees will also

discuss activities to do with young children.

Other activities during the three-hour period include Bingo, discussion of stress management tips, craft instruction, facials, massages, open discussion and much more.

Childcare is on a first come, first serve basis for up to 20 children. No registration is required, but parents must bring the child's shot records. Snacks will be provided.

Activities will be held every Monday in June and two Mondays in July at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264.

For additional information, call the Soldier and Family Support Center, 239-9435.

Outdoor Chapel good setting for events

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Overlooking the Main Post off a side street on Custer Hill is a small, stone walkway leading to a thick stone cross.

Also known as the Outdoor Chapel, it is a place of peace for the Fort Riley community.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Karl Kuckhahn, deputy command chaplain, said it is a place of reflection where people often go for meditation.

Traditionally, the Outdoor Chapel hosts the Easter Sunrise Service. Other special services, such as the Sept. 11 Remembrance, have also been held at the stone overlook.

Being surrounded by nature, the beauty and simplicity of the area make it a good place for events. Kuckhahn said occasionally weddings are held at the Outdoor Chapel.

The chapel can be reserved for specific events. To inquire about reservations, contact the Command Chaplains' Office, 239-3359.



The Outdoor Chapel offers a view of post from the top of the Flint Hills. Photo by Levine

Seat belt continued from page 9

170,000 preventable injuries, resulting in \$18 billion in medical costs, lost productivity and other injury related expenses.

In conjunction with the Click It or Ticket program, Irwin Army

Community Hospital offers free car seat inspections by certified inspectors. To schedule an inspection, call the community health nursing office, 239-7325.

Evans continued from page 9

Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon and Army Service Ribbon.

"Pvt. Evans will be remembered for his loyal friendship, for his commitment to duty and for his service to his country," Khouri said.

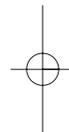
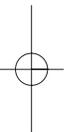
Evans will also be remembered for his constant smile.

"David always had a smile on his face. It didn't matter if he was being yelled at — no matter what the situation was," said Pfc. Jere-

miah Stone, military policeman, 977th MP Co. "David Evans was an absolute stellar young man who was always willing to learn more to become a better soldier. Fort Riley won't feel the same without him here, and the world is a much sadder place now that he is gone."

Evans is survived by an infant son, David C. Evans, his mother, Esther Macklin and his father, David Evans Sr.

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