

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

June 27, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Campers learn cheering, dance

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

A cheerleading camp began June 16 at the Fort Riley Teen Center. The camp is being held 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. for five to eight year olds and 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for nine to 14 year olds. The instructor for the camp is Michelle Wangerin, a former Classy Cat from Kansas State University.

Wangerin teaches the fundamentals of cheering in the class. "They learn the fundamentals like the arm motions and jumps," said Wangerin. "They learn a cheer, a few chants and a short dance routine."

day they get to perform for their parents, and I think that gives them an incentive to work harder," she said.

Cheerleading students learn more than just jumps and cheers. "They learn by working together," said Wangerin.

"As a cheerleading squad, they have to be able to be in unison and work together as one. We work on learning the different motions and getting them together. We work on the timing of the cheer and the timing of their jumps," she said.

"With the pyramid, they all build together. If they are not working as a team, the pyramid will fall. It's kind of like a life lesson. That's how I like to look at it."

For each age group, the challenges are different.

"For the younger ones, it's probably getting the timing together," she said. "They all work really well together, and they help each other out if someone forgets something. The older girls are definitely working on team building."

Wangerin said the older girls are the most challenging for her. "I need to come up with something new for them to do each day



Michelle Wangerin reviews arm movements with her students during Cheerleading Camp at the Fort Riley Teen Center.

because they catch on really well, everyday and are excited, and they are always anxious to learn something new. I revise my notes everyday. They come in

summer, but is planning to implement a class this fall as well. "We hold four sessions throughout the summer," she said.

There will be camps the second and fourth weeks of July. Call CYS, 239-4920, for more information.

Eisenhower Center in Abilene not just another museum

By Tim Erhardt
129th MPAD

For those expecting just another museum, a surprise is waiting in Abilene.

First of all, the Eisenhower Center has much more than a museum. Within more than 22 acres, guests can browse the Visitor Center, Place of Meditation, Eisenhower Library and the family home, as well as the Eisenhower Museum. All were built to honor Dwight D. Eisenhower, Abilene's hometown hero.

Established in 1945, the Eisenhower Foundation acquired the Eisenhower family home in 1946 and dedicated the museum in 1954. Both buildings were given to the federal government in 1966. The "Friends of the Eisenhower Foundation" was organized in 1990 to financially assist the Eisenhower Library.

The Visitor Center is a good first stop. Restrooms and a gift shop are located there. A variety of items related to presidents and World War II are sold there. A short film spanning the life of the 34th president is shown in the auditorium on a daily schedule. According to Jean Page, clerk at the center, 75,000-80,000 people visit the center annually.

After exiting the south door, visitors can take a short walk to the Place of Meditation. The name applies to this structure, for it contains the final resting

place of President Eisenhower, Mamie Eisenhower and their first-born son. The stained-glass windows and trickling water add to the soothing atmosphere of the chapel.

President Eisenhower was interred there April 2, 1969. Three of his quotes are etched in the chapel. One reads "Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and sacrifices of his friends."

Mrs. Eisenhower was laid to rest beside her husband on Nov. 3, 1979.

Going past an expansive, circular water fountain, visitors can take a leisurely walk to the Eisenhower Library.

The Eisenhower Library is one of 10 presidential libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration. The library contains more than 23

million pages of information dating from the 1890s to present. Anyone wishing to do research at the library should call for further information.

Between the library and the museum is an 11-foot bronze statue of Eisenhower depicted as the General of the Army, stately and commanding, with hands on his hips, surveying the grass-covered grounds.

An admission fee to tour the museum is the only cost for visitors to the center. For adults 16-61, the cost is \$5, seniors \$4.50, children \$1, but children seven and under are free.

The museum covers 26,500 square feet and offers 38,500 artifacts, according to Dennis Medina, museum curator. "Visitors see only about one-tenth of what we have here," said Medina. He added many visitors come from Fort Riley. "It's a learning experience for history. We try not to make it dull," said Medina. "We have games and interactives in the new presidential gallery."

The museum is divided into five galleries. The Introductory Gallery provides an overview of Eisenhower's life from his boyhood in Abilene to his burial at the center. There are family photos, a classroom chair he used while attending high school, his West Point uniform and numerous items tracing his military career.

The Temporary Gallery exhibits change periodically, illustrating a variety of themes. In May the gallery displayed Korean War-era artifacts. A full-size tent

covered one corner. Numerous weapons afford up-close scrutiny.

In the Mamie Eisenhower Gallery, the China sets and gowns can be impressive, but what jumps out is the 1914 Rauch and Lang electric automobile often driven by Mamie's parents and often owned by her husband. For the doll collector, there is a colorful display of First Lady dolls.

The Military Gallery is the largest gallery at the museum, with displays illustrating World War II from D-Day to VE-Day. Uniforms, documents, models and videos bring that historical struggle to the present. An inflatable airborne parachutist used to confuse enemy ground troops is suspended there. There are also straw boots that were worn by German soldiers deployed to the Russian Front. A model of a "Whale" is just a short walk farther through this gallery.

The "Whale" is a structure of steel bridges spanning the gap from the pier to shore used to deliver supplies. Anyone interested in the weaponry of that era shouldn't be disappointed. Several display cases contain weapons such as the Browning M1917A1 .30 caliber water-cooled machine gun, the Bazooka 2.36 inch M1A1 rocket launcher and an assortment of grenades.

Just past a vast array of swords and medals given to Eisenhower is a lower

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The Place of Meditation at the Eisenhower Center.

Soldier show will entertain audiences at two shows in Manhattan

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

The Army: An entity known for strength, determination and...dancing? That's right, dancing, and the 2003 Soldier Show will be in town July 5 to show what the Army can do in "Legacy."

Legacy has all of the music, dance and entertainment that the Soldier Show has been famous for since Irving Berlin first started the program for the USO in 1918.

The curtain goes up for two performances at McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free and are available at Information, Ticketing and Registration through today for military personnel and their families and are then available to the public through July 5.

The musical medley of Legacy ranges from classic Motown standards to girl band favorites, popular country to current dance club hits. Show tune adaptations from Aida and Chicago, as well as a non-stop nod to the music legacy of Native American, Latin, classic

and angst-filled rock and roll drive the show. Legacy also rejoices with contemporary gospel, featuring show-stopping soloists.

According to Victoria Palmer, Army Community and Family Support, the soldiers selected for this year's show, though fewer in number due to Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments, understand how important their artistic contribution is, especially during wartime.

The troupe is on a six-month tour, during which they will perform 103 shows at 57 locations in 21 states, the District of Columbia, Korea and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The cast and crew include active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component soldiers from 11 states, Japan, Korea and Germany.

The civilian artistic staff guiding the performers and technicians includes full-time Army Entertainment Division staff member Victor Hurtado, a Latin recording artist who performed with the Soldier Show while he was on active duty from 1986 to

1989; musical director and Soldier Show alumna Dennis Buck Gibson-Clark.

Today's U.S. Army Soldier

acclaimed choreographer Tanya Show cast carries on the tradition of "entertainment for the soldier, by the soldier," first established

during World War I by Berlin. He is famous for standards such as "White Christmas" and "God Bless America," which he wrote for the first U.S. Army Soldier Show while on active duty at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York in 1918.

During World War II, Berlin created another Soldier Show for Broadway, "This is the Army," which became a 1943 film featuring a military cast including Ronald Reagan and Joe Louis. At the request of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the show toured for three years, performing for the troops stationed in Europe and the Pacific.

Today, the Army is the largest producer of non-commercial live theater entertainment in the world.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show, an Army Entertainment Division production, is one of more than 50 Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs that the Army provides soldiers and families to enrich their lives, allow personal growth and creative expression, foster self-reliance, enhance physical fitness and promote well-being.



Spencer Devon Lynch, center, a member of the California Army National Guard, leads the cast in "All That Jazz" during the 2003 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

Lions, tigers, bears gather at Rolling Hills Zoo near Salina

By Tim Erhardt
129th MPAD

Dorothy didn't have to leave Kansas to find a wonderland at the end of the yellow brick road. All she had to do was follow Interstate 70 to Salina. There she would find a land of adventure called Rolling Hills Zoo.

may not fly, but visitors will be just as astonished seeing Raja, the white tiger or Sergei, a rare Amur leopard. With 145 acres, 65 open to the public, the zoo offers more than 85 species of animals on exhibit. Many are listed as threatened or endangered in the wild.

The idea of a zoo near Salina was the brainchild of Charlie Walker, a Salina businessman. It began as Belgian horse breeding

operation. "He built a large barn that sits just south of the park today and would allow school children to come through hoping to enhance the educational experience of the school children," said Kathy Tolbert, director of marketing at the zoo.

As the tours became more popular, animals were added until they outgrew the ranch, and in 1990 the idea to develop a zoo began. The Rolling Hills Zoo opened to the public in October 1999.

One of the newest additions to the zoo is place for people to eat if they bring lunch. "We opened up a picnic area last summer which has been a very popular addition, especially for school groups and families," said Tolbert. "It's a great popular addition."

Tolbert said that funding is currently in progress to build a new exhibit for the zoo's three bobcats.

The zoo is also in the process of building a wildlife museum which is scheduled to open fall 2004. She said that they want to have a place that blends the importance of animals with culture.

The zoo is operated as a non-profit organization and is a mem-

ber of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the channel through which the zoo exchanges information and obtains animals.

The animals are under the watchful care of Kirk Nemecek, general curator. He said that the zoo has a resident veterinarian who works there four days a week.

Feeding of the animals is also carefully monitored. Most supplies are bought locally. Some animals require special diets though. "The big cats are fed a special feline diet, not raw meat," said Nemecek. "They need lots of protein, and meat is not as healthy for them." A grown male tiger consumes 14 pounds of feline diet a day.

Restaurant grade produce is given to animals requiring that type of diet. The zoo feeds approximately 2000 square bales of brome hay and 800 bales of alfalfa per year.

The number of visitors to the zoo has grown over the years, and continues to grow. Tolbert said that nearly 96,000 people visited the zoo last year. Visitors should allow about three hours for the mile and a half route through the zoo. For those desiring a quicker, but no less educational experi-

ence, a tram offers guests a narrated ride through the zoo.

Along the tour visitors can see and learn about the big cats, chimps, rhinos, giraffes, kangaroos and ring-tailed lemurs. Pronghorns, deer and Rocky Mountain goats make up the North American Exhibit. Black bears and three African lions are also along the way. One favorite stop for children is "Kids Country." There they can feed and pet a variety of farm animals including pot-bellied pigs, sheep, goats, miniature cows and llamas.

"We have an incredible collection of animals and beautiful landscape," said Tolbert, "but what we hear the most is that it is such a peaceful setting. She said people enjoy coming out, getting away from work — just relaxing and enjoying a very beautiful rural setting with some incredible animals."

Rolling Hills Zoo is located six miles west and two miles south of Salina at 625 North Hedville Road. Take Exit 244 off Interstate 70.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 2 to 12, and \$7 for senior citizens. The tram ride is \$2. Zoo hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The zoo is open the year around except for Christmas Eve, Christ-

mas Day and New Year's Day. Food such as hot dogs and other treats are available at the zoo. Strollers and wheelchairs can be rented and gifts purchased in the gift shop.

For more information, call 785-827-9488.



129th MPAD/Erhardt

One of the favorite attractions at the Rolling Hills Zoo is the giant anteater exhibit.

Barlow Theater

Tonight:
7 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Saturday:
4:30 p.m.
Daddy Day Care (PG)

7 p.m.
Terminator 3: The Rise of the Machines (R)*

Sunday:
7 p.m.
Terminator 3: The Rise of the Machines (R)*

Thursday:
7 p.m.
Daddy Day Care (PG)

July 4:
Theater closed

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$3
Children - \$1.50
* Premiere showing

Local events scheduled to celebrate Independence Day

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

There are many events scheduled locally for Fourth of July weekend.

The Independence Day celebration in Junction City begins July 3 with the opening of the Sundown Salute. The activities kick-off in the early evening with a free hamburger feed at City Hall at 5 p.m., followed by a Kiddie Parade. The parade is for children 2 to 11 years of age and there is no entry fee.

On July 4, the day begins at

7:30 a.m. with the annual Coors 10K Freedom Run.

Throughout the day, several sites in Junction City have events scheduled.

The fireworks display can be seen from Heritage Park and Seroma Park at 10:30 p.m. Seating will not be provided, so it is recommended that you bring a blanket or lawn chair.

At Fort Riley, in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence, a Salute to the Nation will be fired at noon on Independence Day, July 4, at Cavalry Parade Field. The public is invited to attend.

Sundown Salute activities

- July 3**
- 5 p.m. Free hamburgers - first 500 people
- 6 p.m. Kiddie Parade for ages 2 - 11
- 6 p.m. Wrist band night at Jefferson St. carnival
- 9 p.m. Car light parade
- 11 p.m. Free movie in Heritage Park - Grease

- 11 a.m. Mud Bog on Grant Ave.
- 11:30 a.m. Veterans' Ceremony
- 11:30 a.m. Hendrick's Petting Zoo and Pig Races
- 9 p.m. Water's parking lot
- 9 p.m. Loverboy - free concert at Heritage Park
- 10:30 p.m. Fireworks display

- July 4**
- 7:30 a.m. Coors 10K Freedom Run
- 8 a.m. Auto Zone Car Show - Jefferson St.
- 9 a.m. One Mile Fun Run
- 10 a.m. Proud to be an American parade
- Richard Seitz and Merrill Wertz

- July 5**
- 7:30 p.m. Magical Illusion - Eric Vaughn
- 8:30 p.m. Liverpool - Free concert tribute to the Beatles
- 11 p.m. Movie in the park - West Side Story

Eisenhower continued from page 9

level in the Military Gallery. A 57-mm anti-tank gun, a quarter-ton 4X4 truck, a Cadillac staff car and an armored utility car, M-20, are on display.

The last gallery is the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Gallery and Reader's Digest Foundation Education Center. This area details the history of the Eisenhower administration from 1952-1961. History becomes interactive with the many computerized displays and learning centers. "I like Ike," the catchy slogan of Eisenhower's campaign, is on signs there.

"There is no victory in any war, except through our imagination,

through our dedication and through our work to avoid it." These inspirational words linger with visitors as they finish viewing the museum.

A tour of the Eisenhower family home rounds out the tour. Near a linden tree planted by Dwight's father, sits this typical 19th century home. Bought by the Eisenhowers for \$1,000, it is white with two stories. The Eisenhowers lived there from 1898 until 1946. The house was officially dedicated and opened to the public in 1947. Stabilization, renovation and restoration were done in 1951, and extensive structural repairs were made in 1956.

Clara Hollub, a tour guide at the house, has been educating visitors for 21 years. "In the summer we average 300-800 visitors a day," she said. Hollub is an encyclopedia of knowledge about the Eisenhower family and house. She said the furnishings are original, but the wallpaper has been reproduced.

The Eisenhower Center is located two miles south of the

Abilene exit off Interstate 70 at 200 SE 4th Street. There's plenty of free parking and all buildings are handicapped accessible. The center is open daily 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. From Memorial Day to mid-August the museum and Visitors Center are open 8 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. To contact the center, call toll free 1-877-RING IKE.

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2 x 2'
Black Only
seniors service 2 ads running

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2 x 5'
Black Only
2x5, JUNE KANSAS WIRELESS

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2 x 5'
Black Only
Overseas Opps/359739, 40, 41& 42

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Black Only
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KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2'
Black Only
CFT/6-24 & 6-27

ACTION TIRE
2 x 6'
Black Only
2x6, action tire

SALINA POWERS SPORTS
1 x 3'
Black Only
1x3 BEST PRICES IN KS

Fort Riley Sports

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America's Warfighting Center

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Acacia team has long history on post

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

The Fort Riley Slow Pitch Softball Women's League moved into its second day of competition play on June 18 with the Acacia #91 Champs pulling out a last inning thriller against the Meadowlark Hills' team, with a 7-4 win.

Both teams came into the game confident of the win, but the Champs had history on their side. Traci Perkins and Coach Annette Roberts have been playing together for years and have built up quite a record.

"We have been playing out here since 1991, and we have taken the league every year that we have played together. We're definitely going to take it all this year," said Roberts.

A confident Kassie Collins of the Meadowlark Hills team seemed to think they had a shot as well.

"We're going to continue to hit the ball," said Collins, "and whoop the champs into the ground."

Meadowlark Hills seemed to have the Champs number right off the bat. With a show of precision hitting, the Meadowlark squad threaded balls in between the Champs' defense to load the bases with the first three hitters. The Champs averted early disaster by standing the Meadowlark's runners with a solid defensive stand and three quick outs, but the Champs seemed off balance after the quick attack.

The Champs were not able to match the first inning hitting of the Meadowlarks and were quickly smothered by three quick outs. With only a few minutes rest, the Champ defense was again on the field.

Meadowlark opened the next inning with another flurry of hitting. After a driving stinger over second base, Meadowlark Hills dribbled a hit into the waiting mitt of the Champs' third baseman. The ball was quickly caught up, but the throw to first was off the



Meadowlark Hills' player Tracy Wahlert races the ball home as the Acacia Champs catcher, Brenda Holland, tries for the scoop during the Champs 7-4 victory June 18.

mark and the first base runner put on the jets and turned for home. The Champs did not get the ball back in play fast enough to challenge the run, but they were able to hold the hitter to a double. With the first blood drawn by the Meadowlark squad, the Champs pushed the defensive effort into high gear. The Meadowlark's next three batters all popped flies into the air and the Champs swatted them down for three fast outs.

The Champs went into the bottom of the second needing some help to tie the score, and Champs' pitcher Becky Ngirmethaet was there to answer the call. After the first batter popped a fly ball into the glove of the Meadowlark's left fielder, the Champs' pitcher took the plate. Swinging at a high ball on the outside, Ngirmethaet rifled a shot into left center field. The throw to first was high and Ngirmethaet cashed in the free

base with a sprint down the line. The Champs' Sonya Dixon felt the power on her first good pitch and sent a high ball out into right field. Ngirmethaet seemed almost indifferent as she rounded third and rubbed a bit of dirt in the Meadowlark team's faces as she walked in from halfway down the base line, tying the score at 1-1.

Even with the run, the Champs seemed to want a bit more out of the inning. The next batter was forced out at first on a ground ball to the pitcher. With a runner now on second, Barbara Pease crunched a ball over the shortstops head. Dixon made the turn into home, but the Meadowlark Hills team was waiting. With a hard throw from Adolphus, the catcher only had to wait for the runner to come to her for the last out of the inning.

Meadowlark Hills opened the third inning with a pop fly into

center by Adolphus. The following batter flied out and Meadowlark third baseman, Nicole Ream, put a grounder past the pitcher allowing Adolphus to dart home. Two quick outs followed, leaving the score 2-1, Meadowlark Hills.

The Champs turned up the heat in the bottom of the third. After placing their first batter on first, and suffering two quick outs, the Champs started popping points on the board like a kettle of hot popcorn. A single by Carolyn Baudry placed runners at first and third. The score was tied, 2-2.

Linda Ward showed some power by cracking a double into left field for the Champs. Adol-

See Softball Page 12

Fort Riley softball standings as of June 21

Company Level League

Team	Wins	Losses
B, 101st FSB	8	0
HHC, 1/34 AR	8	2
A, 1/5 FA	8	4
D, 1/5 FA	7	0
A, 1/16 Inf.	6	2
HHC, 2/34 AR	6	3
1st Troop Bn.	5	1
B, 2/34 AR	5	3
331 Signal	5	4
HHC, 24 Inf.Div.	4	0
HCB, 1/5 FA	4	10
D Troop, 4th CAV	3	1
MEDDAC	3	2
A, 1st EN	3	2
4th Finance	3	5
346th MP CO.	3	5
HHC, 1/16 Inf.	3	5
3/382nd LSB	3	3
3/383, 75th Div.	2	3
D Det., 15th PSB	2	4
HHC, 1st Bde.	2	4
1st Maint. Co.	2	4
1/383 FSB	2	4
B, 1st EN	1	3
HHC, 1st EN	1	5
B, 1/5 FA	1	7
B, 1/34 AR	1	7
568 CSE	0	8

Battalion League

Team	Wins	Losses
HHC, 24 Inf. Div.	5	1
2/34AR	4	0
1/16 Inf.	3	1
1/34 AR	3	3
101st FSB	3	3
MEDDAC	2	2
924 MP	2	2
1/383 TSB	0	4
1/5 FA	0	6

Women's League

Team	Wins	Losses
Acacia #91 Champs	2	0
101ST FSB	1	2
Meadowlark Hills	1	2

Freedom Run will kick off Fourth of July celebration in Junction City

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

The 4th of July turns the mind to barbecues, fireworks, parades and don't forget, running. This year is no different, as the 27th Annual 10K Coors Freedom Run kicks off at 7:30 a.m. on July 4.

This year's event will begin on Washington St., between 5th and 6th Streets, and will end at Heritage Park. There will also be a free one-mile run beginning at 9

a.m., which begins at Heritage Park and is open to all runners after signing a release waiver. Walkman headsets and small bikes will not be allowed in the races for safety reasons.

The overall winner of this year's race will receive a \$200 prize. First place winners in each individual division will receive a plaque. Second through fourth place finishers in each division will receive medals. The masters category, which consists of runners 40 years and older, will have

a monetary prize for the first 3 places respectively. Any runner who breaks an event record will receive a monetary prize as well.

Competitors in the one-mile run will be grouped into a single division, with the top 50 runners receiving prizes.

"We just want to get people involved," said Jerry Frakes, owner of the event sponsor, Junction City Distributing. "Last year we had 77 volunteers, and they all had smiles on their faces. We had runners from 33 different

towns and seven states. It's just neat to be able to meet new people, and it's a great challenge."

The 10K requires an entrance fee of \$12, which includes a run T-shirt. Runners can enter by picking up information forms at any gym on post or at J.C. Distributing, 2005 North Jackson St., Junction City. Entrance forms will be accepted until Thursday. No entries will be accepted on the day of the race.

Race packets may be picked up at the city park, 5th St. and Jeffers-

Freedom Run records

Overall race records	
31.40 2000 Male Category	Brian Jenson - Lawrence
35.15 2002 Female Category	Sara Wells - Salina
Masters records	
35.15 2000 Male Masters	Steve Riley - Lawrence
40.52 1999 Female Masters	Marla Rhoden - Topeka

son St. on race day prior to 6:30 a.m. and at J.C. Distributing. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Sundown Salute

Celebration, the Junction City YMCA, Junction City D.A.R.E. Fund and the Geary County Benevolent Fund.

Several mammals, including armadillos, rarely found on Fort Riley

By Gibran Suleiman
DES Biologist

While mammals such as squirrels and deer are quite common on Fort Riley, there are a handful of mammals that are rare finds. One such animal is the armadillo.

Several armadillos have been confirmed on Fort Riley, and they are more common in areas to the south. Two have been found dead on roads on post.

Armadillos are omnivorous and primarily eat insects throughout the warm part of the year. They are expanding their range northward, possibly due to the stretch of mild winters in the area.

Porcupines have not been found on Fort Riley, and in the area they are very rare. One was recently discovered dead on Anderson Ave near Keats. Another porcupine was found hit on the road within the city limits of Manhattan around ten years ago. The range of the porcupine in Kansas is throughout the state, except the southeast portion. In the winter, they eat the inner bark of trees. Their diet in the summer consists

of various plant materials. Porcupines are notorious for gnawing on things, and they are particularly fond of gnawing on deer antlers.

Mountain lions likely occurred on Fort Riley when it was originally founded, but have since become extirpated from this area. While there have been several people to report a sighting on Fort Riley in recent times, none of these have been confirmed. A relative of the mountain lion, the bobcat, is quite common on the fort. Fort Riley offers some of the best mountain lion habitat in this region due to its large size, off limits areas and abundant deer and turkey populations. A wild mountain lion body was recently recovered from the Kansas City area after the large cat was stuck by a vehicle.

Mule deer have been found on Fort Riley, and some have even been harvested. In 1984, three mule deer were taken during the firearms deer season. Mule deer can be distinguished from white-tailed deer by their larger size, different coloration, large ears and "Y" shaped forks on the antlers.

They are primarily found west of Fort Riley.

The southern bog lemming is a small rodent that very few people have likely never heard about.

They are about the size of a baseball and have goldish brown hair mixed with black and gray. They start breeding in the spring and have several litters throughout the

On the Wildside: News About Nature



Mule deer can be distinguished from white-tailed deer by their larger size, different coloration, large ears and "Y" shaped forks on the antlers.

Feral swine is one mammal that could be on Fort Riley that is

not native to North America. They were discovered on Fort Riley in 1993. In 1995, a law was passed in Kansas that made it illegal to possess or harbor feral swine. Feral swine can spread disease to commercial hog facilities. They also can do a lot of damage to native wildlife and their habitats. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has implemented a removal program on Fort Riley that has accounted for the removal of over 400 swine. It is thought today that the majority of swine have been removed. Unfortunately, since they can seek refuge in the impact area, it is difficult to get a good count. There have been several sightings in recent years, but it is believed by officials that there are few, if any, hogs remaining on post.

Catching a glimpse of a rare or unusual animal in the wild can be one of the most exciting aspects of being outside. Fort Riley has its share for those who want to venture out to find them.

If you would like to report a rare or unusual animal, call the Conservation Division, 239-6211.

ITR

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office is located in building 6918 (across from the PX). ITR hours of operation are Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and the office is closed on Federal holidays. For further information, call ITR, 239-5614 or 239-4415. ITR services and discount attraction tickets are available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard soldiers, reservists, Department of Army civilians and family members.

Union Station

Union Station in Kansas City has 'Bugs' in 3D, a movie about bugs starring real bugs. It is a bug's eye-view of the fascinating universe of insects magnified up to 250,000 times its normal size and in 3D on the giant screen. The movie focuses on the life cycles of a praying mantis and a butterfly from their birth to their inevitable encounter in the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia where predator meets prey. Bugs is recommended for ages 8 and up. Other fun bug events include watching the bug artist at work; joining in kid activities and viewing bug specimens from local institutions. Science City and

Union Station combo tickets are available through ITR.

Colonial Williamsburg

At Colonial Williamsburg, the restored capitol of 18th-century Virginia, they diligently work each day to bring the nation's cultural and historical legacy to life. But during the 2003 "Honoring Service to America's Veterans" tribute, they also want to proudly recognize the men and women who work so hard to protect the American way of life today. If you are active-duty, retired or Reserve military personnel, you and your family are invited to visit Colonial Williamsburg on two patriotic holiday weekends, Independence Day, July 4-6, and Veterans Day, Nov. 7-9. You can receive complimentary admission to the historic area and museums. Come and be inspired by all the sights, sounds, tastes and experiences that gave birth to the nation.

For more details on admission and specially discounted hotel stay, call (800)-History or go to www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Wet'n Wild Orlando

Operation: Get Wet! at Wet'n Wild, Orlando, offers a free 1-day

admission to active duty, reservists and National Guard members and 50 percent off regular gate admission for up to four accompanying family and friends. Tickets are available at the gate only. For additional information, call (800) 992-WILD or go to www.wetnwildorlando.com

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 Cosmosphere and Space Center

Located in Hutchinson, the Cosmosphere is quickly becoming the most comprehensive space museum in the world. It is not what you would 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 Cosmosphere is an all-day, all ages adventure. Discounts are available through ITR.

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 the bucket fills and empties, and 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.

Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun, Kansas City, will leave you screaming for more. Worlds of fun is now open for the season with a "Spring Special" discounted ticket through ITR. Hurry, because the special discount ends Tuesday. 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 AAAAAH!" 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.

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 \$20. That is a 50 percent savings.

Today is the last day to purchase the special discounted tickets. Those tickets can be used

through July 31.

Country Stampede

Have you ever attended a party with thousands of friends, national recording artists in four days of non-stop music and fun? Country Stampede is a four-day country music and camping festival that started last night at Tuttle Creek State Park, Manhattan. Performers will include Kenny Chesney, Martina McBride, Chris LeDoux, Sawyer Brown and many more.

There will also be fantastic food, colorful crafts and much more! Tickets are available through ITR.

Silver Dollar City

Silver Dollar City, Branson, Mo., is having Military Days through Oct. 26. You can purchase a discounted two-day adult ticket through ITR and get a complimentary child's ticket by showing your pre-purchased tickets at the Silver Dollar City ticket booth.

Let ITR put together a Branson package for a weekend get-a-way or family vacation. Discount tickets available to numerous attractions in Branson.

Softball continued from page 11

plus made a diving effort, but could not come up with the ball. Both base runners brought it home, tacking two more points on the board. A fly ball to left was smothered by Adolphus for out number three, but the damage had already been done.

The Meadowlark team needed some help to come back, and the Champs seemed happy to give it to them. After a quick out to start the fourth inning, a single by the center fielder, Becky Hobbs, a double by roaming fielder Bette

Ingle and a single down the third base line loaded the bases. The Champs pitcher, Ngrimthaet, then proceeded to throw four straight balls and walked in the Meadowlark's third run.

The next batter put a high one into a waiting Champ's mitt and the race for home was on. The runner, the ball and the catcher all arrived at home plate at the same time. After the dust had cleared, the ump called the runner safe and the score was tied again, 4-4.

Neither team seemed able to

break the deadlock over the next two innings. With time getting short, the Champs had to make something happen in the sixth, and they did. As the Champs stepped up to the plate, little did the Meadowlark Hills team know that a hitting clinic was about to be given and they could do nothing but watch.

Three almost identical grounders to left field loaded the bases with the first three hitters. A chance for an out was missed when the next batter put one into

play, but the throw to first was dropped. Taking the chance to move ahead, Linda Ward came home to bring the score to 5-4.

A quick fly to left was caught for the first out, but the Champs wanted a bit more padding on the scoreboard. Tapping her base, Toni Giguere made a dash for home plate and put the score at 6-4. A pop to second field took Ngrimthaet home, and as the scoreboard was changed to 7-4, the game was called for time.

"We were pushing for time,

and we are sore losers," said Ngrimthaet explaining the last inning push. "We just wanted to win, that's all. In the first part of

the game we were kind of warming up. As the game was getting closer to the end, and we were still tied, we gave 100 percent."

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