



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

July 18, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Olivia Huerta learns archery during the annual Exceptional Family Member Program Summer Camp at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch.

Kids enjoy outdoors at camp

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

On July 15, youth from the Exceptional Family Member Program took part in a day of learning and adventure at the annual EFMP Summer Camp at the Rock Springs 4-H Camp.

EFMP is a program for children with special needs, and the children took the opportunity at the camp to participate in social and recreational activities.

The variety and adventure-sport like setting of the Flint Hills allowed the children to walk nature trails surrounded by trees and fish-filled brooks. They participated in horse-back riding, canoeing, archery and swimming and learned about Native American lore.

"Social events, such as the summer camp, enhance social and personal skills, along with educational growth," said Laura McCauley, EFMP program

manager. "It is an opportunity for kids to have fun and learn."

The children participating in the EFMP program come into the system with different needs, challenges and levels of learning, said McCauley. The different activities the children were able to take part in at the camp were designed to allow each child to be able to feel comfortable at his or her own individual level of participation.

The summer camp is just one of many educational and developmental activities that EFMP offers.

The EFMP works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, educational, housing, community support and personnel services to families who have special needs family members.

According to the Army regulation on EFMP, an exceptional family member is a family member with a physical, emotional, developmental or intellectual disability that requires special

treatment, therapy, education, training or counseling.

Special needs can range from asthma conditions, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, learning disabilities, medical conditions and/or mental health conditions, such as anxiety disorder and depression.

The mission of the program is to ensure medical and educational needs are accessible and appropriate to accommodate these individuals' needs.

The program is designed to provide comprehensive services and educational and social support — personnel type service — that enhances the readiness and quality of life for families with special needs, McCauley said.

The next EFMP event will be the Special Needs Rodeo tomorrow, prior to the Junction City Rodeo. For more information on the EFMP program or upcoming activities, call 239-9455.



Andrew Russell and Justin Arogast ride horses during the Exceptional Family Member Program Summer Camp. The horses are being lead by camp staff at Rock Springs 4-H Camp.

School Age Services program receives national accreditation

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

In another step forward for the Child and Youth Services program, the School Age Services program has been evaluated and accredited by the National School-Age Care Alliance.

SAS is a program for children kindergarten through 5th grade. The program provides educational and developmental activities to enhance school age children's growth in their environment today. Accreditation means that the program has met the professionally recognized standards set for children this age, according to Maxine Williams, director, School Age

Services program. Those standards include appropriate human relationships, indoor and outdoor environments, activities, safety, health and nutrition and administration.

The two-year process of improvement involved all facets of the program and it's instructors. Many different requirements were met and improvements were made to the building and the education of the staff and parents.

"The staff had to become knowledgeable of the standards and relay those standards to the community of parents and post officials to prepare them for the upcoming process of change. The administration then developed an action plan to

work with the staff and post officials to improve the physical setting, both in and outdoors, and improve the qualifications of the staff and improve the curriculum," said Williams. "Safety, health and food requirements also had to be improved. This was accomplished through a process of self-evaluation and then implementing changes where needed," said Williams. "When they felt they were ready, they applied for accreditation."

"Officials from the NSACA came to evaluate and endorse the program," she said. "Recommendations were made, and then the staff awaited the decision."

"Luckily, the Fort Riley SAS program received their accreditation on the first

endorsement visit," Williams said.

For many years, the SAS was using standards meant for younger children, said Williams. The new accreditation recognizes the different developmental needs of older children and provides program standards that meet those needs.

"The children should find an environment and activities that are more suited for them, and a staff that understands their needs and level of social and emotional development," said Williams. "The building was made more attractive and conducive to the types of activities for children in this age group. More equipment and furnishings were purchased to facilitate the changeover and the staff

received formal training in childcare and safety. Parents, and the children in care, were asked to provide input for improvements, so they should see their own ideas being implemented."

The new accreditation is important because it gives benchmarks for quality care, said Williams. It spells out in specific terms what one should find in a setting where school age children are receiving care. Outside observers will be regularly visiting the program to make sure that all the guidelines are being followed and that the standards are being maintained.

The accreditation is good for three

See Accreditation Page 12

Battle of the Bands 2003 raises roof at Fort Riley's Rally Point



The Mathematics rock Rally Point during the Battle of the Bands Friday night. The first place winner of the event was Wicked Spectrum. The second place band was Buck Snort, and third went to Addictive Behavior.

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

Six bands from local areas competed in the Battle of the Bands 2003 at Rally Point Friday.

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program coordinated the battle. This is the second year that the event has taken place at Fort Riley.

"They have done it in the past and for some reason it faded away in about 1999," said Jason Dunlap, BOSS president. "In 2002, we started it up again. We decided that there wasn't enough live music around, and we wanted to do one big event a year. We give some of the local bands a chance to come in and let every one see them perform." Five soldiers with musical backgrounds were selected from several volunteers to judge the competition.

"The bands are judged on originality, stage presence, crowd response, musicianship and vocals," said Dunlap. "The bands did play original music, but that was not a requirement."

The bands played varying forms of rock music. "They play everything from west coast alternative through heavy metal," said Dunlap.

Selecting which bands were going to compete was one of the biggest challenges the planners faced in setting up the contest.

"We had 16 submissions this year, and we had to cut that down to six," said Dunlap. "We had a selection committee that did that. They were different from our judges, so we had no one coming in with a biased opinion on which one is the best."

The first place winner, Wicked Spectrum, received \$600. The second place band, Buck Snort, took home \$300 and Addictive Behavior was awarded \$100 for third place.

The five-dollar cover charge covered outstanding expenses that weren't taken care of by the sponsors, said Dunlap. "The remaining balance will go toward future BOSS programs," he added.

Troops to Teachers program puts soldiers into classrooms

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

"Men and women of the United States military, you answered the call to serve your country in the finest armed services in the world, so, as you prepare to leave the military, we ask you to turn your attention to the home front, to Uncle Sam's classrooms, where we need your services as teachers... You're tremendous role models with a sense of duty, honor and country that our children would do well to emulate... America's school children need you."

Laura Bush
First Lady of the United States

A Chinese proverb states "Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere." Learning in the military is no different, and for some, passing that learning on to the children of this nation is a goal for life after the military. The Troops to Teachers program is one way that soldiers can take the learning they have amassed in the military and pass it

on to others. Troops to Teachers was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program. Reflecting the focus of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, TTT's primary goal is, according to Joe Morgan, western regional director of the Troops to Teachers program, to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low income families throughout America. TTT also strives to relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high-need areas. Finally TTT assists military personnel in making a successful transition to a second career in teaching.

Benefits of the program can be huge for transitioning soldiers who may not know the educational system and its ins and outs. Along with counseling, referral and placement services, a network of individuals has been established throughout the U.S. to help Soldiers with regional help and information. According to Morgan, pending availability of funds, financial assistance may be also be provided to eligible individuals as a stipend up to \$5000 to help pay for teacher certification costs. A \$10,000 bonus may also

be available for soldiers who work in high needs schools.

One of the obstacles that many people find when trying to transition into the teaching field is each state has different requirements for teachers, said Morgan. "People just don't understand how to break into the system so we are there to assist them to get into the classroom," he said.

According to Morgan, each college or university has different programs based on the state that they are in. Many times those requirements don't match if a soldier takes classes in a state other than the one he intends to teach in. The TTT program is there to help Soldiers bring together the information they need to teach in the state of their choice and how to work that into the classes or licensure program they need.

"The major misconception people have is that the most important part of our service is the bonus or stipend assistance," said Morgan. "It's really not. I believe that the most important part is the counseling and the placement assistance. Soldiers should understand that one glove doesn't fit all hands. We answer the

questions concerning how they can fit into public education and how to transition and become a public school teacher. There are a lot of different ways to do that."

Soldiers wishing to participate in the program must be active duty personnel who retire or separate with at least six years of service on or after Oct. 1, 1990 or be current members of the reserve or guard with six or more years of credible service towards retirement. Soldiers must also hold a baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution or the equivalent of one year of college with six years of experience in a vocational or technical field.

According to Morgan, Soldiers have skills taught by the military that become very valuable in the public school system, making soldiers highly sought after teachers.

"Soldiers are team players. In the military they learn the propensity for public service and they take those qualities that they live every day in the military and they bring them to their life as public school teachers. They become fantastic role models for the children of America,"

he said. Not only do soldiers bring skills, they also bring longevity in a profession which burns out many professionals at a very early age, said Morgan.

Morgan placed the national average of teachers still in the classroom after three years at around 52 percent. Countering that number, he said that 80 percent of soldiers placed through the TTT program are still in schools after eight years with a significant portion of the 20 percent that left the classroom in administrative roles such as principals.

"We have a very positive public image," said Morgan summing up the qualities of the teachers that TTT produces, "because so many of our teachers have become teachers of the year or received other awards in their school district. Just through their natural qualities, which they learned in the military or that they bring with them through their life experiences, they become successful teachers."

For more information on the troops to teachers program, contact your local education center on post or visit the TTT web site at www.proudtoserveagain.com

Joy of homecomings tempered by post-deployment stress

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

At a time when soldiers are coming back home to friends and family, it can be hard to remember that along with the happiness of homecoming comes the stress of returning from a combat area and a life unlike anything those who have not experienced it can ever know.

As soldiers return home, the specter of debilitating stress hangs over the otherwise joyous occasion. There are, however, things that can be done to help soldiers and families deal with these issues before they become serious problems.

Chaplains, mental health counselors and the Soldier and Family Support Center all offer help to those who are returning and to families awaiting the return of their soldiers. To better help families, the SFSC has been offering briefings on, among other topics, Combat Stress Reaction and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and how to support soldiers as they return. A booklet entitled "Redeployment Resource Manual" is also available with much more information on the redeployment process and help that soldiers or families may be in need of.

In the manual, combat stress

reaction is defined as a reaction to abnormal, stressful situations caused by combat, handling remains of soldiers or civilians, dealing with POW's, witnessing homes or villages being destroyed or other battlefield stressors.

The common physical reactions to this stress are sweating or trembling hands, a racing heart, and a need to use the bathroom frequently. Common psychological reactions to CSR can include repeatedly seeing images of the battle, hyper-vigilance, nightmares and being overwhelmed by everyday situations.

PTSD symptoms are similar to CSR but remain longer than a month after removal of the stressful situation and are stronger in intensity. While there are similarities between the two, one should not assume that they have PTSD because they have the symptoms of CSR.

Happily, in most situations a stress reaction is normal and short lived, according to Pearl Speer, Army Community Service Family Program manager. Speer has been briefing families about redeployment needs as units are redeployed and said that there are many misconceptions about CSR and PTSD fostered by the media.

"Combat stress is fairly short



Soldiers return from their deployment to Southwest Asia.

lived. All of them (soldiers) are going to have a startle reaction to loud sounds; are not going to be awakened well and are probably going to be light sleepers. They had to be constantly on alert in that environment to save their lives and it takes a while for some of that to wear off. It's not PTSD," said Speer.

Signs of a soldier suffering from PTSD can be subtle, but Speer says that families really don't need to be overly concerned about their soldier having PTSD.

"If other things get really out of hand, meaning if the soldiers can't get along with fellow soldiers, can't get along with their families,

are excessively moody or are excessively prone to high risk behavior, then they need to talk to somebody," said Speer. "Around here, that can be the chaplains, that can be the community mental health people...there are lots of resources," said Speer. "What we have told the spouses is that in most cases, given a little time, the soldier will adjust back, but not to come at them too quickly and not to come at them with big noisy things, meaning a big family reunion or something with a lot of hairy scary stuff to it, because they need some time to decompress and get their feet back under them. But almost all of them will

come back after a few weeks." Speer recommends that spouses don't attempt to pry into the returning soldier's experiences if the soldier doesn't wish to talk about them. "I've tried to help the spouses understand that if they (soldiers) don't want to talk to them about it, it's okay because they really want to talk to people who truly understand, and some of them will not want to bring their war experiences into their home," said Speer.

Speer offered three simple steps for those with returning family members to help soldiers adjust to being home.

"One is go slow," said Speer.

"Two is to give the soldier some time and space to get his feet down, and try to remain positive. The third is, don't start comparing who had it worse, because each side will think they had it worse. Specifically, be open to listen but don't push."

Units have also built a schedule for returning soldiers that is meant to help ease them back into a home environment.

"After the initial honeymoon period, there seems to be the need for a time of clearing the air and then they go back to a normal situation. We have specifically built in time for light duty time when they first get back, about seven

days, half days, before they go on block leave. A couple of reasons for that is, yes they do have things they need to get done, but also, they need some time to decompress before they get on the road. After one or two days back home, you pile your family and your dogs and everything in an automobile and take off on a long drive. That is mentally and physically exhausting and risky. So one of the reasons that we're keeping the soldiers here for a while is to accomplish these tasks but it's also to give them some mellowing out time before they hit the road and do things," said Speer.

One of the best therapies for these returning soldiers, Speer said, was merely to talk to other soldiers who have been in the same situations.

"The Army is probably the world's best support group for combat stress reaction because one of the best things that you do is you talk about it. You talk about it with people who understand it, and who better than the unit that you went to combat with?" said Speer.

For more information on briefings, stress assistance or to receive a Redeployment Resource Manual, contact the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

Public Works Self-Help School offering several classes

Self Help Release

Did you know that every company, battery and troop is required to have an NCO and three school trained members on their self-help team? These teams are an essential part of the installation's facility maintenance team. They free the Public Works employees to work on those repairs that only they can do.

The Public Works Self-Help School can help units establish a good self-help program. The course is scheduled every month, and the next is scheduled to start Monday. They also have classes scheduled for Aug. 18 and 8 Sept. 8.

For more information visit the PW web site on the Intranet or call 239-3757. The course is taught in conjunction with Barton Commu-

nity College and provides soldiers the opportunity to obtain advanced education credits.

The self-help course also incorporates the installation's energy conservation class, which is taught on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m., the week of the self-help class. You do not have to attend the self-help class to come to the energy class. This class is mandatory for Energy Awareness Offi-

cers/NCOs. To enroll a soldier, the unit needs to submit a request for an on-post school space to the self-help school. The school is located on main post on the upper floor of building 307, on the corner of Holbrook and Carter Ave. The On Post School request can also be faxed to 239-8188, Attention: Public Works Self-Help School.

The hours of operation for the

school are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday; however, the self-help class itself runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The school is closed on federal holidays and training holidays.

If you need to pick-up self-help supplies, the Troop Self-Help Store, building 372, is open from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The store is closed on all federal holidays.

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years. To keep accreditation valid, NSACA will have to be informed of changes in the program's location and site director. The program is also required to file annual interim reports, Williams said. If all requirements are not met in a timely manner, accreditation could lapse.

"This accomplishment was

hard-earned and is well-deserved for the Fort Riley School Age Services program," said Williams. "The former director, Michael Payne, was mostly responsible for seeing that the accreditation process was begun and remained on track. Previously, the program and Child and Youth Services administration had acknowledged

that there were some major deficiencies that needed to be addressed. With the guidance and

perseverance of many people, the program consistently moved forward and made the transformation

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CAPPUCINO JUNCTION
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Red Cross needs help during shortage

Civilian and military personnel at Fort Riley are being asked to roll up their sleeves to help with the current blood shortage. The possibility of not having blood available for accident victims and hospital patients has prompted the American Red Cross to ask Fort Riley to host an additional blood drive.

Donors who give in May on post will be eligible to donate again at the blood drive scheduled today, at Craig Gym. Donations can be made from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursday and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on July 18. Donors are especially encouraged to set an appointment for Thursday.

Appointments can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Walk-in blood donors are also welcome.

Everyone who comes in to donate will receive a free T-shirt.

Members of the military community who received the smallpox vaccine on or before May 17, and had no complications, are now eligible to give blood. Others may still be unable to give blood because of restrictions related to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or vCJD (the human form of Mad Cow Disease). The vCJD restriction applies to those who lived in the

United Kingdom for more than three months and parts of Europe for more than six months.

Prospective donors who wish to determine their eligibility for donating can call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Donations given from the Fort Riley community help provide blood to more than one hundred hospitals throughout Kansas and North-ern Oklahoma, including Irwin Army Community Hospital.

Within the Central Plains Region of Red Cross Blood Services, five hundred units of blood are needed daily. The blood supply is currently threatened by low donor turnout. Everyone who meets eligibility requirements is asked to give.

Donors must be seventeen years of age or older, weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good general health.

Prospective donors are asked to prepare for their donation by eating regular meals and drinking plenty of water prior to donating. The entire process for donating blood takes about 90 minutes, with the potential for one unit of blood to save as many as three lives.



New ePIN feature goes live for Army myPay users

Army personnel can now obtain their myPay personal identification numbers (PINs) by using a new online feature called ePIN. myPay is an online system operated by Defense Finance and Accounting Service. ePIN is available to active, reserve, guard, civilians and military retirees with Army Knowledge Online accounts.

"We are constantly looking for ways to make myPay even more user friendly," said Pat Shine, director of DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services. "ePIN will make this valuable pay management tool more accessible to our Army customers."

ePIN greatly simplifies the process of gaining access to myPay. Personnel can visit the myPay Web site, <https://myPay.dfas.mil> and click on the "New PIN" button. The system will verify the identity of the user through their Social Security Number. The user can elect delivery of the PIN by e-mail or regular mail. E-mail delivery takes place within 48 hours.

No Call lists can prevent annoying telemarketer calls at home

By W. James Stamper
Legal Assistance Attorney

If you are tired of telemarketers, there is something you can do about it. The State of Kansas and Federal government have created laws to protect you from unwanted solicitations.

The Kansas No-Call Act is a state law that allows Kansas residents to register their home telephone number as being "off limits" to most types of sales calls. Any telephone solicitor that calls a telephone number on the list is subject to civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation. Any consumer who wishes to register on the Kansas No-Call list may do so for free by calling toll-free, 1-866-362-4160.

In addition to the Kansas No-Call list, the Federal Trade Com-

mission started the National Do Not Call Registry on July 1. The National Do Not Call Registry is similar to the Kansas No-Call list, but it is different in some respects. For example, the federal list includes cell phones, while the Kansas law prohibits only calls to residential phones.

The FTC has published a number to call to put yourself on the National Do Not Call list, 1-888-382-1222 or go to www.donotcall.gov on the Internet. If you sign up for or have already signed up for the Kansas No-Call list, your number will automatically be forwarded to the National Do Not Call list. Users of cell phones may wish to register with the National Do Not Call list separately.

It can take up to 130 days from the time you register until tele-

marketers are prohibited from calling you. This is because the lists are only given to telemarketers on a periodic basis.

Registering on the lists will not end all telephone solicitations. These laws do not prohibit calls from groups such as political and charitable organizations. In addition, companies you have expressly asked to call you, as well as companies with which you have or have previously had an established business relationship within the past 18 months (36 months for Kansas list), are exempted from the requirements of the law. However, you have the right to tell the company to stop making consumer telephone calls to you.

Your registration on both lists is valid for five years. You will be responsible for re-registering your name and phone number at the end of the five-year period if you wish to remain on the lists. Be sure to register all of your home phone numbers if you have more than one line.

If you experience a violation by a telemarketer, you should contact the Kansas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division office, 785-296-3751 or 1-800-432-2310.

There have been some reports of offers to "pre-register" you on No Call lists by private companies or by people claiming to represent the FTC. These people usually ask you to confirm your registration and attempt to charge a fee or get your personal information. You only need to call the official Kansas number to register, and it is free.

Remember, there will be a delay between the date you sign up and the date the calls are required to stop. If you have further questions, call your Legal Assistance office, 239-3117.



Getting phone calls from telemarketers can be frustrating.

Hays House adds historic flavor to Main Street Council Grove

By Tim Erhardt
129th MPAD

Walk down Council Grove's Main Street and a distinctive building immediately stands out from the other businesses. It's evident this is no ordinary restaurant. Climb the carpeted stairway with the thick, polished wooden banister. Pull a chair up to one of the meticulously set tables. Relax, and you'll begin to experience history firsthand.

Legend has it Jesse James hid out here. Lt. Col. George Custer ate here and bought land nearby. Settlers following the Santa Fe Trail drove past its front door. This is the Hays House, the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River. Daniel Boone's great-grandson, Seth Hays, built a cabin near this site in 1847. Hays built the present structure in 1857. His ghost still hovers in the restaurant at night, or so the story goes.

The rough and tough pioneers used it as a hotel, restaurant, church, courthouse and makeshift post office. Frontier actors performed dramas, and journalists published a newspaper here. It was said to be the best place to sleep, eat and drink between Kansas City and New Mexico.

The covered wagons crawling along the Santa Fe Trail have transformed into SUVs. The trail has become a network of blacktop. The Hays House is still the place to have a special meal and drink. Progress has spurred some modernization. The sleeping rooms upstairs have been transformed into meeting rooms. Credit card swipes have replaced the clink of gold pieces at the cashier.

From 1974-1975, owners

Helen and Charlie Judd completely restored the Hays House. An architect advised them to tear down the building, sell the wood and rebuild. They got a different architect. In 1988, ownership passed to Rick and Alisa Paul, who continued the tradition of mingling quality service with the historical atmosphere. In the fall of 2002, Galen and Lori Fink along with Bill and Debbie Miller, purchased the business, and the legacy continues.

Although ownership has changed over the years, the basic structure of the building, and much of the furnishings and fixtures remain. The original 1857 Trail is still in the Cellar, which is used as a local service club's meeting room. The brick in the floor was once part of Council Grove's streets. Native walnut, oak and the stone construction of the original building are also visible.

In the Main Dining Room is a fireplace constructed of native stone. A collection of Kaw Indian arrowheads is on display and the

floor is wood brandished by the ranchers' boots and tourists' sandals. If you look closely at the chairs, you'll notice the diamond wood leg supports.

On the second floor, a sparkling collection of antique and new crystal highlights the Crystal Room, a formal dining room. Also on the second floor is the Seth Room, where one wall is covered with hand hewn cottonwood lath. Even though the beams were charred in a fire, they are still as strong enough to support the ceiling. Ten guest rooms were in use on the second floor until the mid 1940s. Carpet and wallpaper, heavy wooden chairs and tables and lantern light fixtures all still retain the atmosphere of the Wild West during the 1800s. Even the claw-foot bathtub and pull-chain toilet are still in the ladies restroom.

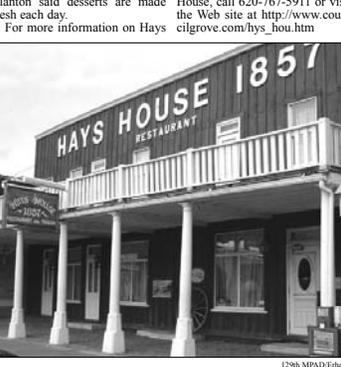
"We want to keep the history, the nostalgia of the restaurant. We go to antique shops and estate sales and get the perfect pieces," said Michelle Blanton, general manager of the house. She said

the table in the Crystal Room and the piano in the Cellar date to pre-1900.

With one kitchen on the main floor, how do you get hot food to the Cellar and the second floor? Answer: a "dumb waiter" lowers or elevates the food to the Cellar and the second floor, where the staff can serve it still hot. "Swank for rural Kansas," said Blanton quoting a critique printed in the Kansas City Star. "We want to create a more romantic atmosphere up here (the second floor) and a more rustic atmosphere in the Cellar. Downstairs is more family dining."

Something that hasn't changed is the food. Meals are made from scratch. The menu boasts a variety of unique dishes. For a special evening meal, the skillet-fried chicken is a popular choice, according to Blanton. Fresh chicken is dipped in egg and milk, then in crunchy mix, and fried in cast iron skillets.

The bread is baked fresh using a special Hays House recipe and served right out of the oven and



The Hays House is on Main Street in Council Grove.

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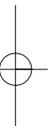
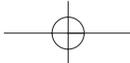
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Fort Riley Sports

July 18, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Armor beats Infantry 12-8

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor softball team increased its record to 11 - 4 Monday, defeating Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 12 - 8.

The game was close until the last inning, when both the teams' bats came alive for a barrage of hits and runs.

"That last inning was crucial for us," said Kyle Fuchs, HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor. "They are one of the top teams in the league, and we needed this win."

The infantry team was trying to break a five-game losing streak and was looking strong at the beginning of the game.

"We've been in the field and are coming into these games cold and trying to get back into it," said Jason Weatherholtz, Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. The infantry team dropped five games in a row during a series of doubleheaders played to make up for games missed while they were in the field.

Despite the losing streak, the team's spirit was still up.

"Our spirit is still good. As long as we still get to come out here and play and have the unit's support, we're happy," said Weatherholtz. "Plus, it is good to get out here and be with the people you work with, outside of the military atmosphere, and have

fun."

The HHC team found themselves trailing, 5 - 2, early in the game, but didn't let that deter them. Shouts of, "It's only three runs," and "Come on, we can do this," could be heard coming from their dugout.

The HHC team pushed the game to a tie, but lost the lead in the top of the fifth inning to the infantrymen, 8 - 5.

In the bottom of the fifth, with a man on first and one out, HHC's Nate Donham stepped up to the plate a sent a frozen rope screaming over the outfield fence.

"The home run by Donham was a good motivator for us and helped wake up our bats," said Fuchs.

The runs didn't stop there. With a series of base hits placed in the outfield, the infantrymen found their lead evaporating in front of their eyes.

"They didn't have a downfall. We were just able to have the ball drop in for base hits," Fuchs said.

With the HHC bats springing to life, they kept rolling along, keeping the lead while allowing the one-hour time limit on the game to expire.

"They didn't start hitting until late in the game," said Jason Verrett, second baseman, Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., "and that kind of hurt us because we weren't expecting them to keep hitting them just over our infielders' heads."

Fort Riley softball standings as of July 11

Company Level League

Team	Wins	Losses
A, 1/5 FA	16	6
HHC, 1/34 AR	14	3
HHC, 24 ID	13	1
B, 101st FSB	13	4
MEDDAC	12	2
3/383, 75th DIV	12	2
HHC, 2/34 AR	12	4
331 Signal	12	6
HHC, 1/16 Inf.	12	11
D, 1/5 FA	10	6
D Troop, 4th Cav.	10	7
B, 2/34 AR	7	4
1st Maint. Co.	7	11
1st Troop Bn.	7	11
HHC, 1/16 Inf.	7	11
A, 1st EN	6	2
A, 1/16 Inf.	6	8
1/383 TSB	5	12
4th Finance	5	12
346th MP Co.	4	8
3/382nd LSB	4	10
HHC, 1st BDE	4	13
568 CSE	4	15
D Det., 15th PSB	3	9
B, 1/5 FA	3	9
B, 1/34 AR	3	11
B, 1st EN	2	4
HHC, 1st EN	1	10

Battalion League

Team	Wins	Losses
MEDDAC	8	2
2/34 AR	7	1
HHC, 24 ID	7	3
924 MP	7	3
1/16 Inf.	5	3
1/34 AR	5	5
101st FSB	3	9
1/383 TSB	2	8
1/5 FA	0	10

Women's League

Team	Wins	Losses
Acacia #91 Champs	6	0
101ST FSB	2	5
Meadowlark Hills	2	5



Post Biles

Nate Donham, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, hits a foul ball just before he hits one out of the park.

Snakes seek refuge from summer heat

By Gibran Suleiman
DES Biologist

Fort Riley in July has the reputation of having brutally hot temperatures. Most of us prefer to spend as much time as possible in an air-conditioned environment to escape the heat. This is also the time of year when wild critters, especially snakes, also seek refuge from the heat. Unfortunately, snakes sometimes find this refuge in our garages, basements and yards. One of the most commonly reported wildlife incidents on Fort Riley is a snake in the housing areas. There are 30 species of snakes that are likely to exist on Fort Riley. They are found in nearly every type of habitat, making it nearly impossible to avoid conflict altogether. However, there are certain things that you can do to minimize the chances of an encounter with a snake.

Snakes seek out shelter both for protection from predators and to regulate their body temperature. Some common objects that have been known to harbor snakes include woodpiles, toys, doghouses and plastic swimming pools. These items should be picked up or minimized to reduce the

On the Wildside: News About Nature



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Photo

The copperhead is the only venomous snake known to be on Fort Riley, although rattlesnakes have been found in the area.

chances of a snake seeking shelter under them. Also, be sure to check the plastic/rubber weather stripping on the bottom of your garage doors and other doors leading to the garage. A good seal not only helps out with the winter heating bills, it also can help prevent snakes from gaining access to the garage in the summer.

Although about 99 percent of the snake encounters on Fort Riley involve a harmless snake, there are a few rare encounters with a venomous snake.

The copperhead is the only venomous snake known to occur

threatening unless there is an extreme allergic reaction to the venom, which is considered very rare. Remember that most snakebites occur when snakes are handled, stepped on or cornered. All too often, people are bitten while trying to kill the snake!

If you find a snake in your yard, the chances are that it will leave on its own if you leave it alone. If you find a snake in your garage or basement, call the service order desk, 239-0900, and a Wildlife Specialist will be dispatched to safely remove the snake.

Many people do not like snakes for different reasons, but the fact that they are very beneficial to man cannot be denied. They are highly efficient predators of rodents, serve to keep nature in balance, and their presence indicates a healthy environment.

If you happen to encounter a snake this summer, remember that they are not trying to threaten you, they are likely trying to escape the heat.

For more information on snakes or any other natural resources topic, contact the Conservation Division, 239-6211, or stop by their office, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Soldier wins fifth chess championship

By Tim Hipsps
Army News Service

FORT MYER, Va. — It seems nobody in the U.S. Army can figure the chess strategy of Sgt. Rudy Tia Jr., who recently became the first five-time winner of the All-Army Chess Championship.

Tia, 38, of Fort Hood, Texas, won his fifth overall and fourth consecutive championship June 21-26 in Army-wide competition at Fort Myer, Va. Sgt. Michael Fletcher, the only other four-time winner of the event, owned the All-Army crown from 1979-1982.

Sgt. Kenneth Davidson came all the way from Karsi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan — just north of Afghanistan — to get a rematch with Tia, the ultimate commander of an Army of 16 chessmen.

"I was trying to get him this

year," said Davidson, who lost to Tia in the first round. "I thought I had him beat last year, but I just missed my winning move. This time I was trying to get my revenge, but he's tough."

Only by defending against opponent's threats can chess players successfully exercise their own strategies. Once they figure out what their opponent is plotting, attempts are made to nip those plans in the bud.

"He has a strong, solid game and he doesn't beat himself," Davidson, 36, of Fort Myers, Fla., continued of Tia. "The small things you overlook, he never seems to overlook. He can pretty much run the table on anybody."

Staff Sgt. Vidal Carvajal, Jr., of Camp Stanton, Korea, was humbled by finishing 12th in the 43rd annual, six-day, round-robin tournament.

"I thought I was good until I

got here," said Carvajal, 44, a native of Fort Sill, Okla. "I've lost more games in this tournament than I have in the last two years. I play a lot, but I don't have the chance to play this caliber of chess players."

Although everyone wants to know Tia's secrets to chess success, he won't offer any clues.

"I don't know what it is," Tia said with a smile while rubbing his head. "I think it's about being aggressive. I don't care about the opening. What I care about is the middle game and the end game, and being aggressive."

Tia entered the tourney with a United States Chess Federation rating of 2,109. A master's rating ranges from 2,200 to 2,399.

The top six finishers in the tournament will represent the Army in the Interservice Chess Championships Aug. 4-8, at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Master anglers sought

By Jamie Bender
Staff Writer

One of the many joys of summer is hooking a fish and successfully landing it on the bank or the boat. For the many that "get away," there is usually that one big one you bring home.

At Fort Riley, if you catch a fish that meets or exceeds the minimum weight requirements listed, you can receive a Master Angler Award.

Bring your fish to the Conservation Division, building 1020, to be weighed and measured before you clean it. Official applications can be picked up there. For more information, call 239-6211.

Master Angler Award Species Minimum Weight

Largemouth Bass - 4 pounds
Kentucky Bass - 3 pounds
Bluegill - 1 pound
Channel Catfish - 10 pounds (set line at 20 pounds)
Flathead Catfish - 30 pounds (set line at 30 pounds)
White bass - 2 pounds
Crappie - 2 pounds
Green Sunfish - 1 pound
Bullhead - 2 pounds
Carp - 15 pounds
Bigmouth Buffalo - 15 pounds
Smallmouth Buffalo - 15 pounds
Drum - 10 pounds
Gar - 15 pounds

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.

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 Veterans Day weekend, 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.wetwildorlando.com

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.

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.

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 are available through ITR.

Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun, Kansas City, will leave you screaming for more.

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.

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.

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-away or family vacation. Discount tickets available to numerous attractions in Branson.

DefenseLINK web site revamped

American Forces Press

Defense officials have revamped their public face on the World Wide Web. From now on, visitors to the department's homepage, www.DefenseLink.mil, will see a completely new page.

"We're trying to make the public Web site more attractive and more user-friendly," said Chris Wilcox, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public liaison.

The revamped homepage highlights more news, features and photographs by Defense Department writers and photographers, often from the military services.

Wilcox noted that a source of concern with the old homepage is

that it contained so many different links people often wouldn't know where to begin. It was helpful for individuals who were looking for something specific, but contained no focal point to capture the interest of the casual browser.

"There are so many interesting people and missions in the Department of Defense, we wanted a homepage that would showcase them," Wilcox said.

People should look at the new homepage as a "book cover" to entice people to go deeper into the site, said Harold Heilsnis, DoD Public Affairs' interim director for Internet operations.

Heilsnis, who is overseeing the improvements, said the current

changes to the homepage are the first of many to come on the overall Defense Department site. Some enhancements will be obvious; others will not, such as a better content management system.

"All will have better usability and service as their goal," Heilsnis said.

Because the new homepage is an interim step, visitors familiar with DefenseLINK will still be able to see the old page, if they wish, simply by clicking on the DefenseLINK logo on the top right of the new homepage.

Heilsnis also encourages visitors to the site to make use of the "Contact Us" feature to ask questions or provide feedback.

Hunter Education classes scheduled

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, is hosting a Hunter Education three session class.

The first session of the class will begin Thursday, 5:30 p.m., and will last approximately four hours.

The second session will begin on July 25, 5:30 p.m., and last approximately four hours as well.

The last session will begin on July 26 at 8:30

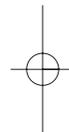
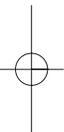
a.m. and will last four hours.

Students must register in person at the Outdoor Recreation Center. There is a \$10 deposit for each student, which is refundable when the student attends class. Class size is limited to the first 40 students.

For more information on Hunter Education classes or hunting on Fort Riley, call 239-2363.

DAILY UNION
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Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTORY

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



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