

www.riley.army.mil

Weather Forecast	Today High:49 Low:26
	Saturday High:50 Low:24
	Sunday High:52 Low:33

Wednesday

Fort Riley Post




Home on R&R
Finally, after seven months the young specialist from West Virginia, was headed back to Fort Riley, to see his family. For more about Spc. Matthew Bailey and his R&R trip home see Page 7.

November 26, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 48

Filth, bombs cleared for school to reopen

Lee Hill Kavanaugh
Kansas City Star

Abu Ghraib, Iraq—The white-washed building of the Abu Ghraib kindergarten sits like an oasis among the muddy, colored buildings in this city.

Gold-colored curtains dress up shiny glass windows. Green rugs cover the floors. Bullet holes in the walls have disappeared, muddled over and painted green and blue. Swings, slides and toddler-sized tables are neatly arranged in three rooms, where overhead fans whirl and crystal chandeliers sparkle - when the electricity is working, which now is at least several hours a day.

In the United States, the opening of a new school for 4- and 5-year olds would not be a big deal. But here, months after a war in which schools were used as weapon caches by Saddam Hussein, the opening of this school for kindergartners is extraordinary.

"There were no windows, no doors. Trash everywhere," said Afaf Abdul Aziz, the school's principal, speaking through an interpreter. "Many trash from Saddam."

Trash such as piles of bullets and weapons: AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds. Some of these school weapon caches even held Scud missiles and land mines. Whatever Hussein's loyalists didn't take, Aziz said,

the looters did. Almost everything was stolen in this little school, from the smallest toddler chair down to the wires in overhead lights.

What was left was simply a shell of a building filled with filth and unexploded, forgotten bombs.

Last week, after months of work organized and paid for by the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, the kindergarten opened its doors. The school welcomed dozens of Iraqi businessmen, the tribal leader of this city, and American and Estonian soldiers. The teachers wanted to thank them by introducing the men to some of Abu Ghraib's youngest citizens: 150 students who now have a place to be a child.

"All of this is wonderful," said Aziz, pointing to the electric fans and the drinking fountains with clean water pumped from newly installed water pipes. "We would not have this without the military. We wanted them to come to say 'thank you, thank you, thank you.' We are beginning to have hope."

Aziz is a small woman who wears a black Muslim head covering, a Western business suit and perfectly applied eye makeup and lipstick. She said she had cried many tears throughout the war for the children of her school.

Recently, one 5-year-old boy's legs were blown off when he came across a cluster bomb dropped by coalition forces during the war.

Aziz wants to hear laughter again here.

As she spoke, several other teachers nodded their heads in agreement, placed hands over their hearts and blew kisses to the soldiers standing nearby. The children listened but few smiled. Fewer still looked into the eyes of the soldiers. The bulk of the work for this school fell on the shoulders of the military, soldiers from the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division based at Fort Riley, Kan. They traveled to this city to dismantle the left-over bombs in dozens of the city's schools, lobbied the coalition administration for money, hired Iraqi contractors and provided armed security for the construction people who worked on the war as at war.

See 3rd Bde. Page 2

Long days routine for Soldier

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

CAMP JUNCTION CITY, Ar. Ramadi, Iraq—The day begins at 5 a.m. for Pfc. Ajita Curry, administrative specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade. Her day ends at 8 p.m., when the showers open for females.

For almost two weeks, Curry, an Anderson, S.C. native, was the only S-1 personnel on the ground at Camp Junction City.

Her duties included briefing Col. Buck Conner,

"We have to make sure that we have accounted for everyone. Since I don't have a computer right now, I add up the numbers by hand and come up with a total number of how many people we have."

Pfc. Ajita Curry

brigade commander, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, on the number of personnel on the ground. She also helped the sergeants major of the different brigades brief the engineers and quartermaster companies on the number of people to build showers and laundry facilities for. She also kept the cooks informed of how many soldiers they would be providing meals for. She kept the outgoing mail for the soldiers and distributes incoming mail to the brigades and the sections of HHC, 1st Bde.

As the soldiers arrived at Camp Junction City, Curry made contact with their sergeant major and

See Clerk Page 2

Native Kansan, Fort Riley's 16th Soldier killed

The Department of Defense announced that Spc. Joseph L. Lister, 22, of Pleasanton, Kan., was killed Nov. 20 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Lister was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He joined the Army in August 1999 and has been stationed at Fort Riley since July 2002. He was assigned to the unit as an armor crewman and deployed to Iraq in September.

Lister died when the convoy he was traveling in was hit by an improvised explosive device. The incident is under investigation.

He is the 16th Fort Riley Soldier who has died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fort Riley commanders, Soldiers, civilian employees and Family Readiness Groups are providing ongoing assistance to all families of Soldiers supporting the war effort and are prepared to continue around the clock assistance throughout this operation.



Spc. Joseph Lister



More than 20 Soldiers from various units on Fort Riley, form a chain to speed up the process of downloading the semi-truck full of 6,000 care packages.

Washington residents donate thousands of presents to Soldiers

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Fort Riley soldiers unloaded thousands of care packages Nov. 17, at the Camp Funston Transportation Center. The packages will be shipped to the Fort Riley soldiers deployed to Iraq.

The presents, valued at more than \$210,000 were sent from Kirkland, Wash., thanks to the efforts of Ruth Ann Young.

"This all began from a single lady's desire to do something patriotic for the Soldiers," said Ted Hayden, executive director, Armed Services Young Man's Christian Association.

"Ruth told me if I could help with getting the packages shipped, she will let me chose what post to send them to," he said. "She asked me how many troops from here were deployed and when I told her, she said she could probably do that. Then the whole community of Kirkland got behind it by donating money, items and even the boxes."

Hayden said Young had found Junction City's Armed Services YMCA on a national Web site and contacted him about ways she could do something for the Soldiers. He then served as the local contact for Young who had originally wanted to send packages to 1,000 deployed Soldiers. He had told her that if she gathered the boxes, he would take care of getting them shipped from Washington to Kansas.

With the help of local residents, Hayden contacted Warren Hollis, owner of a trucking company con-

Valley Falls.

Hollis and a transformer disposal company out of Oklahoma agreed to see to the shipping needs.

Hollis, a veteran himself, said he was happy to donate his services for America's war fighters.

"I was in the Army for six years and I have a chance to donate and help the Army," said Hollis. "I feel this is real important for the troops overseas because I was in their type of situation and if we didn't receive a card or letter from anybody when we were over there we wouldn't have been able to make it," he said. "I think this will mean a lot, they will know that people back home are thinking about them."

Each box contains a Christmas card with a message of thanks to the soldiers, candy, coffee, beef jerky, eye drops, lip balm, DVDs, videos and CDs.

"This was one detail the tasked Soldiers didn't mind doing as they unloaded the 60-foot trailer with smiles on their faces."

"This makes me feel great. Anything that we can do here to help Soldiers have a better holiday is worthwhile," said Sgt. 1st Class Wade Greif, G4, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech).

"This is a tremendous importance to the troops who are over there. Many of them don't have any contact with anybody back home and this is just fantastic for those young Soldiers who don't have fam-

See Care Page 2

Spc. Medina honored at memorial

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

"Although I did not know this young man, I feel particularly close to him," said Lt. Col. George Geecy, III, commander, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. "He, like my father, immigrated to this country with his family, and like Irving, chose to serve in our Army while the nation was at war."

"My father, throughout my childhood, would genuinely be amazed and confused by how Americans took for granted our basic liberties, our way of life and opportunities," he continued. "He rarely punished his four boys, but if we did not stop and stand still for retreat, or know the words to the pledge of allegiance or Star Spangled Banner, it would greatly upset him. To him, and I understand now, they were indicators that we, his own children born of this land, were taking for granted this wonderful idea. The idea that freedom can lead to such good fortune to the common man and woman, an idea so simple that families would risk everything they had just to live in a land where people fought and pursued ideas like 'all men and women are created equal, they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'"

Spc. Irving Medina, formerly of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was killed in action in Iraq on Nov. 14. A memorial service was held Nov. 20 at Morris Hill Chapel, where various soldiers and civilians gathered in his memory and to honor his example.

"Irving Medina was God and is a child of God," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel Jenks. "Here and now we are all God's children. We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss; may God grant us grace that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope and in death

See Medina Page 3



The memorial service for Spc. Irving Medina, Service Battalion, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, who was killed in action in Iraq on Nov. 14, was held on 20 Nov. at the Morris Hill Chapel.

Clerk continued from page 1

received a by name roster of the soldiers.

"We have to make sure that we have accounted for everyone," said Curry.

"Since I don't have a computer right now, I add up the numbers by hand and come up with a total number of how many people we have."

Sending and receiving mail is important to the soldiers' morale. Mail must be picked up from 82nd Airborne Division's base camp and brought to Camp Junction City.

"The mail clerk would go to [Camp Champion] to pick up the mail with a ...convoy," explained

Curry.

"The personal security detachment team escorts... and once the mail is picked up, we sort it. The next day, the battalions come and pick it up. Each battalion has already received their first shipment of mail."

Because mail must be kept secure, there must be a place to keep it before outgoing mail is sent out or incoming mail is distributed.

"The engineers are building a mailbox to hold the mail," said Curry.

"Until they are done, I have an ammunition box in a room in the [tactical operations center] and I

am the only person who goes in there. When the mail goes to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company soldiers, it is picked up by the section's mail clerk, and then distributed by section. That cuts down the traffic."

There are many things that Curry enjoys about her job.

"I really like the people who I work with," she said.

"I also like being a Pfc. and being able to tell sergeant major and colonels and other officers that their work isn't correct. It's a little bit of power I wouldn't normally have."

Curry also had many challenges being the only S-1 soldier

in camp.

"It was difficult when I didn't have a computer or any help," she said. "Another hard part for me is keeping up with the casualties. It's hard because you know everybody who is hurt and you don't necessarily want to know. But, I also get to keep track of the babies born, that's the good news. So it kind of balances out."

Curry has been in the Army for nine months. She arrived at Fort Riley on Aug. 12, for her first duty assignment from Advanced Individual Training.

She arrived in Iraq on Sept. 5, and had her 22nd birthday four days later.

"I'm having a heck of a year," said Curry. "I've been in [the Army] nine months and I'm already briefing a colonel."

From a close-knit family of six, with a total of six nieces and nephews and 15 close cousins, Curry has received much support from her parents.

"My mom didn't like the idea much, but as long as I'm happy and okay she supports me," said Curry.

"My father was in the military himself and I am the only female in the family serving in the military, so he is proud of me. It was kind of a shock to the family, but I told them I was going to do it so

they knew I was going to."

Curry said she has wanted to join the military since she was 16.

"I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself," she said. "I came into the Army in 2003 knowing what was going in the world. I knew I would eventually end up here."

Curry's co-workers are impressed with her work and her discipline.

"She is the best soldier I have had so far," said Cpl. Patrick Looney, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge for S-1.

"She is always where she is supposed to be and always let's someone know where she is."

3rd Bde. continued from page 1

building and the nearby markets and banks.

Every time soldiers drive here - even for a celebration - they are risking their lives.

This city of some 800,000 people is nicknamed "the Wild West" by the 3rd Brigade. Just two miles west of Baghdad, it is one of the poorest areas.

It was not part of Baghdad's infrastructure, and Hussein kept the populace in submission by shutting off their mesger electricity, which also shut down their water.

"When we arrived at Abu Ghrab, their marketplace was unbelievable," said Maj. Mark Crisman of Buffalo, Mo., who is the 3rd Brigade's intelligence officer. "The merchants had compressed the four-lane highway into one lane because their stalls were right on the roadway. These

were open-air stalls where they sold anything, including grenades and weapons. Trash was everywhere: human feces, animal carcasses and entrails because they slaughter goats, sheep and chickens right here.

"And with the heat baking everything, this place reeked of sewage and death. It made me gag."

The military cleaned up the area by bulldozing environmental hazards. It also built 400 6-foot by 10-foot stalls off the highway. Another 120 stalls will soon be in place.

The city, mostly an agricultural area, is also home to one of Iraq's most notorious prisons, where Hussein ordered tortures of those who disobeyed him.

The men taken prisoner here usually were never seen again. The prison remains, but the coalition

has painted its walls and destroyed its torture chambers.

Many of the crops cannot be harvested or planted because of cluster bombs that remain in vegetation.

Cluster bombs, although extremely dangerous, dismantling the homemade bombs found daily along the highways throughout Baghdad.

Soldiers who drive to Abu Ghrab encounter grenades, sniper fire and homemade bombs. One soldier died weeks ago when a rocket-propelled grenade hit him in the back.

Another was killed when a homemade bomb exploded under his Humvee. The guerrilla warfare has been steady in recent months, but now the crimes are also injuring Iraqi civilians.

While escorting civilians to the kindergarten's grand opening cer-

emony soldiers caution everyone in the vehicle: "If we seem calm and am smiling but say the word 'Go,' get back to the Humvee as fast as you can. And do not take off your vest or helmet."

On this day of celebration there was no confrontation. Most of the children quietly stared wide-eyed as the soldiers entered the building, wearing full battle gear: bullet-resistant vests, helmets, Kevlar goggles and M-16s slung over their shoulders.

A few children were frightened and wailed, trying to hide from the men.

Their teachers shushed them, giving these children extra hugs and attention. An interpreter explained that at least one of the children had horrible experiences from the war.

One 4-year-old girl named Mena, with large doe eyes, could

not stop crying.

Dressed in her finest dress, a pink and red satin, a plastic flower peeking from her dark hair, she hid from any soldier who attempted to talk with her. Then an Estonian soldier bent down on one knee and offered her a colorful ball.

She stopped crying, accepted the ball and tried to eat it thinking it was candy.

For almost an hour, men in trib-

al robes speaking Arabic mingled with soldiers in flak vests speaking English, as they shared cake and Iraqi pizza, a bread pocket with tomato sauce and bologna.

The men sat on children's tiny plastic chairs. Some of the American soldiers passed out coloring books and posters in Arabic warning children to stay away from strange objects. *Reprinted with permission of the Kansas City Star.*

Care continued from page 1

ilies," said Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz (Ret).

"This is amazing, that people as far away as Washington would put these care packages together and ship them down here to the Soldiers of Fort Riley - it's just fantastic and heart warming to see something like this happen," Seitz stated.

It is not just important for the deployed Soldiers; it will also have an impact on the community.

Hayden was inspired to help Young make this operation a success because it will help the area gain time to replenish its supplies that are constantly being sent to Fort Riley's deployed soldiers.

"What inspired me to do this

was I started seeing the people around here get depleted on what they keep sending there all of the time, and this was a way to defer the continual need to send the troops stuff from this area to that area (Kirkland)," he said.

This may be an on-going relationship between Young, Hayden and Fort Riley.

"I don't think this is going to be a one time shot with Ruth. She is already asking me what can we do for the Soldiers on Easter," Hayden said.

"She is very patriotic, and I don't see this being the end of our relationship with her at all," he concluded.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 4"
Black Only
1Q/11-25 & 11-28

PARAMOUNT-ARMED FORCES
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
#407649/Follow-up-Timeline

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"
RED/Post/November



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Commentary

A Day at Baltimore Airport: Seats given to returning Soldiers

By Will Ross

I had been attending a conference in Annapolis and was coming home on Sunday. As you may recall, Los Angeles International Airport was closed on Sunday, October 26, because of the fires that affected air traffic control. Accordingly, my flight, and many others, were canceled and I wound up spending a night in Baltimore.

My story begins the next day. When I went to check in at the United counter Monday morning I saw a lot of soldiers home from Iraq. Most were very young and all had on their desert camouflage uniforms. This was as change from earlier, when they had to buy civilian clothes in Kuwait to fly home. It was a visible reminder that we are in a war. It probably was pretty close to what train terminals were like in World War II.

Many people were stopping the troops to talk to them, asking them questions in the Starbucks line or just saying "Welcome Home." In addition to all the flights that had been canceled on Sunday, the weather was terrible in Baltimore and the flights were backed up. So, there were a lot of unhappy people in the terminal trying to get home, but nobody that I saw gave the soldiers a bad time. By the afternoon, one plane to

Denver had been delayed several hours. United personnel kept asking for volunteers to give up their seats and take another flight. They weren't getting many takers. Finally, a United spokeswoman got on the PA and said this, "Folks. As you can see, there are a lot of soldiers in the waiting area. They only have 14 days of leave and we're trying to get them where they need to go without spending any more time in an air-

port then they have to. We sold them all tickets, knowing we would oversell the flight. If we can, we want to get them all on this flight." We want all the soldiers to know that we respect what you're doing, we are here for you and we love you." At that, the entire terminal of cranky, tired, travel-weary people, a cross-section of America, broke into sustained and heartfelt applause.

The soldiers looked surprised and very modest. Most of them just looked at their boots. Many of us were wiping away tears. And, yes, people lined up to take the later flight and all the soldiers went to Denver on that flight. That little moment made me proud to be an American, and also told me why we will win this war. Will Ross is an Administrative Judge, United States Department of Defense.

Medina continued from page 1

resurrection." Medina was born in Mexico City, Mexico, on July 14, 1981, according to Capt. Casey Maxfield, commander, Service Battery, 4-1 FA. He enlisted in the Army on Aug. 23, 2001. Throughout his active military service, he constantly displayed mental toughness, leadership and strict adherence to military professionalism. Fort Riley was Medina's first duty assignment and he left an indelible mark on all the soldiers of Service Battery, 4-1 FA Regiment.

After graduating Advanced Individual Training in December of 2001, Medina was assigned to Service Battery, 4-1 FA as an ammunition handler. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April of 2003. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Spc. Medina will always be remembered for his love and dedication to the United States Army and to the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery," said Maxfield. "With a twin brother, Ivan, serving at Fort Stewart, and a sister, Jenny, serving in Florida, Essy came from a family dedicated to serving the United States through military service. Spc. Medina's commitment to helping Iraqi children, love for soccer and genuine concern for his fellow soldiers made a positive and long-lasting impression on all he came into contact with. He will be sorely missed by all those associated with the Gunner Family."

"I can only imagine what Irving and Ivan, twin brothers serving in Iraq, one a cannon crew member and ammunition handler with the first armored division, the other as a sapper soldier with the 3rd Infantry Division, talked about when they were able to briefly meet in Baghdad," wondered Gezzy. "I know the prevailing comment among soldiers in my outfit was 'you do not understand how important freedom and liberty are until you live among people without it'. These two brothers probably said, after hearing these comments from their

friendship with him goes so far back," said Campbell. "I'm just glad that I knew him." "He was a good person, he loved people," Campbell continued. "He was very proud of what he was doing, he struck me as a young man who never really got a chance to grow up, but he believed in what he was fighting for." Campbell said he believes that everybody over there is trying their best to support each other, and to stay positive despite the negativity that often comes around them. "He was my partner over there," said Spc. David Marin, another member of Medina's platoon allowed to attend the service. "If not for him, I might have died over there, I'm sure of it. You could never get his spirits down, he was always smiling about something." Jenks' last words before the final roll call and playing of taps struck a chord among the congregation, moving some to tears while others simply stood and remembered. "Most of us did not join the Army because we wanted to become killers," said Jenks in his final speech. "We joined the Army out of love, for our freedom, out of love for our country and out of love for the way of life that we all enjoy. Spc. Medina died defending that freedom; and we can all be thankful for the honor of having known him," he said. "We are grateful, Irving, for your service," he finished. "God bless the Medina's, our Gunner families and Soldiers, God bless America."

several soldiers were on hand who knew Medina personally while he was alive, including Spc. Kenyatta Campbell, Service Battalion, 4-1 FA, who was with Medina in Iraq and flew in for one day to attend the service. "I served with him in basic training, and I'm very proud that

Talk Around Town

"What can deployed Soldiers do to celebrate the holidays?"



"Write their moms, send cards."

CW4 Stephen Bernard
148th Medical Company



"For the Soldiers with time, they could play a holiday game of flag football. They could also participate in secret Santa if they are close enough to the PX."

Sgt. Fareedah Grafton
Det. E, 4th Finance Company



"If time allows, take a little time off and have some good food."

Sgt. Brad Henry
778th Transportation Company

OMNI FINANCIAL CORPORATION
3 x 3P
Black Only
Christmas/Post/11-28-03

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 3"
Black Only
ONLINE.COM

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
November 2003 TP

DAILY UNION
2 x 6"
Black Only
Radio Antigua Block

RUGGED CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH
1 x 2"
Black Only
ROP Church Serv.Ad

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1X3,COTTONWOOD



Chaplain provides guidance, encouragement when necessary

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

When Soldiers are in combat situations they may find themselves calling on their faith more than usual. In doing so, they may need extra guidance. Army chaplains can provide such guidance. Chaplain (Capt.) David Schnarr, chaplain, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, provided such guidance to his Soldiers while they were deployed in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Schnarr said as chaplain he takes several roles and provided different services for Soldiers. Schnarr, a Southern Baptist, performed several Christian worship services as well as one on one counseling to soldiers of other faiths.

As a chaplain, Schnarr said he is part of the aide station team treating casualties. During down time Schnarr said he makes sure to visit and talk with Soldiers to get a good sense of what they are feeling. Schnarr takes what he learns and advises his units command in making decisions. Schnarr said he likes to think of himself as a liaison between the lower enlisted soldiers and the command. Schnarr said before his unit left Kuwait for Iraq, they were very focused on preparing for the mission. "I did eight [worship] services before moving forward into Iraq," said Schnarr. "I did some counseling but most of the soldiers were busy thinking what they needed to do to get ready. They were very prepared, very mentally focused."

Schnarr said he used this time to visit with the soldiers even though they didn't show signs of distress. "Generally [there was] very little display of fear and apprehension," said Schnarr. "But you go to where the soldiers are. I handed out bibles, rosaries and medallions." Schnarr said he remembers the first time he felt the shift in the mood of the unit. "The pucker factor went way up when the SCUD alerts went up," said Schnarr. Schnarr said his unit turned to each other for support. "We're all working through this together," said Schnarr. "We're all taking care of each other. Soldiers are trying to take care of each other."

As his unit went further and further into Iraq, Schnarr said he continued to provide worship services. "As often as I could make worship services available," said Schnarr. "I performed Christian worship services. We had a pretty good turnout. Sometimes Soldiers of other faiths would attend." Another part of Schnarr job is treating casualties. As a chaplain Schnarr is on the aide station team. Schnarr said he remembered a time when the Marines brought in an Army unit that had been in an ambush. "I had to provide critical incident briefings," said Schnarr. "It's a technique used to help manage the stress level for people who have been exposed to a traumatic

event. I take them from a cognitive level to a gut level back to the cognitive level." As the chaplain working with casualties in such a situation, Schnarr said he couldn't help but be affected. "You absorb a lot of it, a lot of the emotion," he said. "You try to keep your distance but it's hard." Schnarr said what helps keep him focused on counseling the casualties is sticking to the critical incident briefings model. "I know my plan," said Schnarr. Sticking with my plan, that helps me." Another big moment, Schnarr said, was the loss of his unit's first soldier. "That was a reality check for Soldiers," he said. "More Soldiers began to come and talk to me.

They wanted to talk about not just death but other issues they had." The unfortunate death brought about another example of the chaplains duties, advising the command when they should do the memorial service. Schnarr said he advised command that it was better to focus on the current mission and have the memorial service later. "It knocked the wind out of everyone but we went right back to focusing," said Schnarr. Schnarr said that despite making himself available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to Soldiers, it still important that soldiers look after each other. "I try to encourage leaders and Soldiers to raise each other's morale."

Military Family Tax Relief Act doubles death gratuity

By Frances Walsh
Legal Assistance Attorney

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003, signed by President Bush on Nov. 11, 2003, increases the death gratuity to \$12,000 and provides for the exclusion of the entire amount of the death gratuity from the gross income of the recipient. Prior to enactment of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003, a death gratuity of \$6,000

was paid to the next of kin of service members who die on active duty or within 6 months of retirement if death was service-connected. Of this \$6,000, \$3,000 was tax free pursuant to Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 134, and \$3,000 was considered taxable income to the recipient. With enactment of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003, the amount of the death gratuity payable under 10 USC 1478(a) is increased to \$12,000. The Act also amended Section 134 of the

IRC to exclude the entire amount of the death gratuity (\$12,000) from the gross income of the recipient. The increase to the death gratuity and the exclusion from gross income were made retroactive to deaths occurring after September 10, 2001. In these instances, income tax returns for the year the gratuity was received should be amended to exclude the \$3,000 of the death gratuity that was included in income for that year. The Defense Finance and

Accounting Office (DFAS) will automatically send checks to those families who have applied for payment of the death gratuity for deaths occurring after September 10, 2001. DFAS will also include a notice to the family member that the income tax return for the year the initial gratuity amount was received should be amended. If you have further questions or need assistance in amending a tax return, please contact Legal Assistance Office at 239-3117.



KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
AW Lung/11-25 & 11-28

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
of New Program/11-25 & 11-28

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Scrapbook Garden/11-25 & 11-28

PIONEER MILITARY LENDING
6 x 11"
Black Only
purchase power-gifts

Briefs

Holiday Tree Lighting

The post Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Dec. 5, 4:45 p.m. at Ware Parade Field, in front of Building 500. Santa Claus will visit and there will be light refreshments.

Thanksgiving Service

There will be a post-wide Ecumenical Worship Service today, 11:45 a.m., at Kapaun Chapel. The service is for Soldiers, family members and civilian workers on Fort Riley.

Meal Hours

The hours at the post dining facilities for Thanksgiving Day are: Main Post DFAC - Breakfast, 6 - 7 a.m.; Lunch, 12 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Dinner, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.; 1st Brigade DFAC - Breakfast, 6 - 7 a.m.; Lunch, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Dinner, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery DFAC - Breakfast, 6 - 7 a.m.; Lunch, 12 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Dinner, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop has a large selection of previously owned articles, from clothing to house wares to furniture. There will be a 50 percent off Christmas Sale on donated Christmas items Dec. 2 - 18. Visit building 267, Stuart Avenue (next to the stables) Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items for consignment are accepted on Tuesdays; donations are accepted everyday. For more information on needed items or to schedule a pickup for large items, call 784-3874.

The Shoppe

The Shoppe will be hosting an open house on Dec. 12, 4-9:30 p.m., in conjunction with the Fort Riley Tour of Homes. Bill Wedekind will be the special guest.

The Shoppe is a gift shop located in building 259, Stuart Avenue. It offers antiques, hand-made items and collectibles for every occasion.

The Shoppe has new hours for the holidays: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday - Friday, 4-8 p.m., Thursday night and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

Holiday Celebration

The Exceptional Family Member Program Holiday Celebration will be held on Dec. 9 at the Ogden Community Center, 220 Willow Street, Ogden, 6 - 8:30 pm. Families will need to bring a salad or dessert.

All military families who have a special needs family member are invited to attend. Operation Santa Claus will provide a gift for all children attending. Families need to R.S.V.P. to the EFMP office, 239-9435, Dec. 2.

Families need to be enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Tour of Homes

The Fort Riley Historical and Archeological Society Holiday Tour of Homes will be held on Dec. 12, from 4:30 - 8 p.m. The Tour will be begin at the Custer House on Sheridan Avenue at 4:30 p.m. Cost for this event is on a donation basis. The tour will be a driving tour and there will be 18 homes involved, so please plan your time accordingly. Please no children at this event as you will be walking through the homes. Child care reservations are available at the Armed Services YMCA. To reserve your childcare slots, please call Susie Jones at 784-2019. Canned goods donations are requested for the Helping Hand Charity as well.

The Historical Society will have its Ways and Means gift items available to purchase that evening at Quarters 1. The Shoppe will also be open for shopping that evening until 9:30 p.m. and will offer a 10 percent discount that evening to anyone who completes all the stamps on their participation card.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Auctions/11-25 & 11-28

CHURCH OF CHRIST
2 x 2"
Black Only
worship times

HOMEMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
2 x 2"
Black Only
ARTS & CRAFT SHOW

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Leathers/11-25 & 11-28

HOUSE ADS
2 x 6.5"
Black Only
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

FAITH FURNITURE
2 x 17"
Black Only
Ad Run #1 11/26

Mail Classes
An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" classes will be offered on Dec. 3 and 10, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in building 319. Pre-enrollment is required, call 239-5411.
DOD 4525-6-M, Vol II, DOD Postal Manual, requires each commander who has a unit mailroom to appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer. Each mailroom must also have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates. Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (30 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers (if not involved in mail handling duties) only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. If unit postal officer is involved in mail handling duties, then they must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail clerk test. Prior to rotations, commanders should ensure they have sufficient personnel appointed to perform necessary mail handling duties.

GEICO- ARMED FORCES COMM
3 x 24"
Black Only
Called Up/#408297

Author visits Fort Riley, talks about being POW in WW II



Photo: Selmek

Bob Dowding visited Fort Riley and spoke about being a POW.

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

Bob Dowding, a World War II Prisoner of War from Seward, Neb. and author of the book "A Few Survived" spoke at Barlow Theatre and Normandy Chapel Nov. 13 about growing up in the 30's and his experiences during the war.

"I want to remind the people here today that there was a gener-

ation before you that had to go through the same process of fighting for our country," said Dowding at the beginning of his speech, "and that being a prisoner of war is not easy."

Dowding's unit landed on the island of Mindanao, one of the southern Philippines Islands, on Thanksgiving Day in 1941, days before the famous attack on Pearl Harbor and America's launch into the War.

"America was not prepared for World War II," he said. "They kept promising that supplies would arrive on the next boat, but the next boat never came. Finally, someone found some old rifles from the Spanish-American War, and we cleaned those up and carried them around, but there wasn't even enough for one apiece."

Dowding was assigned to the Headquarters Squadron of the 5th Airbase, which was no more than a large field. The unit did not have adequate supplies to begin construction, nor would they gain the needed supplies during their time in the Philippines.

The unit persisted in the jungles of Mindanao for nearly three months, unable to complete their original mission, the construction of the 5th Airbase

"The Japanese didn't bother us until about Christmas Day," he said. "Then they began air raids and we thought it was the Americans so we were all standing out in the fields watching as the Japanese fighters flew in behind us. They killed a couple of us then and of course we had no way to fight back, because we didn't have any weapons. They didn't bother us much more after that was because they knew we weren't any kind of threat."

On March 1st, 1942, General MacArthur gave an order for all remaining forces in the Philippines to surrender, in an attempt to prevent casualties once it became apparent that the Americans would not be able to maintain control of the islands.

"One evening we received orders to meet the Japanese the next morning about a mile down the road and they were all lined up waiting for us when we got there," he said.

During the time Dowding spent with the Japanese he was given two bowls of plain white rice a day, with an extra bowl at noon if he worked.

"The most difficult thing was when you were working for the Japanese you had to walk a very

fine line," he said. "You wanted to do enough to keep from getting a beating, but you didn't want to do enough to help the Japanese war effort. We walked a pretty close line most of the time, but some men were beat very badly."

Dowding said that the idea of escape did occur to them.

"One thing we were told is that we had been given a direct order to surrender, and we didn't know how strict that would work out," he said.

"The other thing we were smart enough to know was that it was 1000 miles from where we were to Australia, and we didn't have a boat and the Japanese controlled all of that area. So, we would have had to go through the jungles, and the jungles are swampy and muddy and mosquito infested, with snakes and even a native tribe that delighted in cutting off heads. So, we decided we would have a better chance to survive if we went to the prison."

Dowding estimates he worked one year in the rice fields before the prisoners were sent to Japan, which included a three-month long boat trip in the cargo hold of a ship, with not enough room for all 600 men to lay down at the same time.

"Once we were in Japan it was all to help the war effort," he said, "which I suppose was against the rules, but they didn't seem to care much for the rules. There was no choice, none at all."

Dowding says that he received no word of the outside world from the moment he was captured until the day the Americans picked him up in mid September of 1945.

"They wouldn't let the American troops in until the peace treaty was signed, which was September 2nd, and after it was signed it took a couple of weeks for the Americans to come pick us up."

"They took most of us to the Philippines first, I think because they were to embarrassed to bring us back home in the condition we were in, and they fed us anything we wanted 24 hours a day. Finally

"I got to go back into San Francisco, and it was almost four years to the day from the day we left to the day we returned."

Opposite what one might expect from the experience, Dowding says that he always has a positive outlook and optimistic attitude today, even towards his former captors.

"I never did want to hold a grudge, against the Japanese or anybody," he insists. "I feel that

holding resentment like that eats you up, more than it does the enemy."

The idea for the book came when Dowding's wife, who he met after returning from his overseas duty, wanted him to tell his grandchildren about the war. He found it difficult to talk about, so he contacted a writer for the local newspaper named Julie Liska, and together they put together his book about growing up in a small town and it's sharp contrast with the POW experience.

"Memories of war are not soon forgotten," he added. "But, I think it's my job to talk and to let people now how lucky they are, and how many people had to die to protect them, so that they could have a free country."

"I'm sure that the men and women in uniform are thinking the same things today, and I hope they're a lot better prepared than we were."

"If you haven't been a prisoner of war you just can't imagine how God has blessed this country," he said.

"I've spoken over a hundred times in the last several years, and I don't charge a nickel. I just do it for God and country."

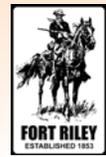
CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
P/U OCT ADS

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
McPherson/11-25 & 11-28

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Holiday Inv/11-25 & 11-28

HOUSE ADS
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSA--IF POSSIBLE

Fort Riley Community



November 26, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Page 7

Custer Hill Elementary garners Blue Ribbon award

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The Custer Hill Elementary School was presented with the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award Nov. 18. The school was one-of-four Kansas schools to receive the national award for achieving the standard of excellence on assessment tests. "I always like to relate win-

ning this award to a basketball team winning the state championship - that is really what you have done. This is a very high standard that you have reached, and it is outstanding that you have done so well," said Leland Sharpe, president, Geary County Community Schools Foundation. The school isn't a stranger to the Blue Ribbon Award. "Last years fourth grade students were also outstanding in

the fact that they reached the standard of excellence on the state assessment test in math," said Sharpe. "We have decided instead of providing an additional banner this year, we will provide a ribbon, which we will add to the banner you have up here, and it will show that you have made it in the two years. Hopefully, we will keep adding these ribbons each and every year," he said. During the ceremony, children

from the various grades spoke on why they feel their school is a Blue Ribbon school. "I love Custer Hill," said Jordan Alexander, fifth grader. "It is a Blue Ribbon School because B is for believe that all kids learn. L is for the learning that is going on everywhere. U is for unity - we are like a family. E is education, which is our priority. R is for what is right. I is for integrity, and our students have a lot of it.

B is for bravery, we have to use "I" messages. B is for beautiful - thanks to the Owl Committee. O is for organization to make personal best clubs, and N is for national recognition school. That is why our school is a Blue Ribbon School," he finished. Although it was the students' grades that earned the award, it wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the hard work given by everyone within the school

community. "It's pretty obvious why this is a Blue Ribbon School after hearing the students explain it up here, and I don't think I can add anything to that," said Lamont Godsey, school board president. "But I would like to recognize some groups - you know it takes a lot of different groups to make up a school community, and it takes some that we don't think

See Blue Page 8

Student wins contest

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

Olivia Herrera, an eighth grader at Fort Riley Middle School, was honored for her participation in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest Tuesday night at the First Presbyterian Church in Junction City.

Members of the Sundowners Lions Club selected Herrera's poster at a previous meeting for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme, and will now advance to the Multiple District 17-K-6 level of judging.

"I feel so honored as a parent to have such a wonderful daughter," said Staff Sgt. Sharon Salas, 101st Forward Support Battalion and mother to the contest winner. "I'm so proud of her. For her poster to be selected is incredible."

Herrera's poster depicts God smiling down on the joined flags of the United States, England, Iraq, Korea and France and, according to the artist, is intended to show that world peace is pleasing to God and beneficial to all mankind.

"The flags in the poster are all countries that have fought before," said Herrera. "I thought it would be really great if they could all be united. It also shows that God is with us."

A large part of the motivation for this piece, according to Herrera, also stems from the fact that her father is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"My father is in Iraq," she said. "So, I thought that if all the countries of the world could be united, he could be here with me right now. I was thinking of my father when I drew this."

Herrera says she intends to be a math teacher when she gets out of school and has no intention of creating more work of this nature, although the theme and message of this particular contest inspired her to make the attempt.

"I'm not used to drawing like this," she said. "I liked the theme of this contest and thought it would be a good thing to do, but I don't think I'll be doing any more after this."

Herrera was presented at the ceremony with a certificate of achievement, a \$100 savings bond, a bouquet of flowers and a bud vase with Lions Club pencils. She then cut the cake and began to serve out punch to the members of the Lions Club gathered there.

Pasquel was particularly impressed by the expression and creativity of the winning poster.

"It is obvious to me that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them," he said. "I'm so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."



Just three days before returning to Iraq, Spc. Raymond Bailey, 70th Engineer Battalion, enjoys a moment he never expected to be a part of -- the birth of his daughter. Bailey and his wife, Julie, pictured with their newborn daughter, Cassandra, and their son, Matthew, are excited and anxious about parenthood.

Perfect timing

Soldier on R&R makes it home for daughter's birth

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

As she sat in her room, at the Irwin Army Community Hospital, Julie Bailey had very little to say. She sat quietly with her husband's arm around her, admiring the newest member of their family, Cassandra Nicole.

While Julie said little, her silence and tears told a story. It is a story of a young family's happiness and uncertainty. It is a Soldier's story about duty to country and to family.

Over the past nine months Julie and her husband, Spc. Matthew "Raymond" Bailey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, have experienced countless emotions. Some have filled their hearts with anguish, others with indescribable joy.

On April 27, along with his fellow Soldiers, Bailey boarded a plane to Iraq, leaving Julie and their 2-year-old son, Matthew, Jr. behind. It was time for the Soldier to perform his role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bailey endured the sadness of parting with his family and the anxiety of entering Iraq. He focused on the pride he felt for serving his country.

Both Raymond and Julie knew adjustments to daily life would need to be made. But the day before deployment, they found out life was going to change significantly. Julie had a positive result on a home pregnancy test.

"My first day in Iraq I received a letter from Julie telling me it was official," said Bailey. "She had been to the doctor and was due in November."

time was a lot better. It was so good to see her and Matthew."

Bailey was offered a break from the rigors of OIF, in October. However, he stayed in Iraq and postponed his rest and relaxation until November.

"My First Sergeant helped me a lot," said Bailey. "He knew the baby was due in November and how much I wanted to be home, with Julie, for the big day."

Finally on Nov. 4, after seven months of sand and loneliness, the young specialist from West Virginia, was headed back to Fort Riley, to see his family. He was one of a group of ten Soldiers, from his unit.

"It took two very long days to get here. I couldn't sit still," said Bailey. "I thought I would be suffering from jet lag, but I

haven't had time for that."

According to Bailey, he has enjoyed his time home visiting with his family on the telephone and in person. His mother, Helen Bailey, and mother-in-law, Gladys Browning, came to Kansas, to see him.

"These R and R visits are so important to the Soldiers, we are all worn out," said Bailey. "Two weeks in Iraq can stretch on, but two weeks home zips by."

Without a doubt the highlight of the Soldier's trip home occurred Nov. 19, at 7:02 p.m., just three days before his slated return to Iraq. This is when a dark haired, bright eyed, little one was welcomed into the world by her overwhelmed, proud parents.

"You can't imagine, you just can't know how it feels," said Bailey, holding his daughter, his eyes welling up.

"I am so thankful. I'm thankful to be here, to have a healthy, beautiful baby girl," According to Bailey, he has family pictures displayed all around his cot, in Iraq. He wants his family to be the first and last things he sees everyday.

"Now I have a new picture," said Bailey. "This is just so unbelievable to me. This is going to keep me smiling for a long time."

"I never thought I would be here for this, I didn't let myself get worked up over it," said Bailey. "Some Soldiers in Iraq have never seen their new babies, and some..." Bailey didn't finish his comment. He didn't need to. Everyone knew what he was thinking, the same thing they were all thinking. The mood of the family quickly went from heartfelt joy to great concern and heartache.

After a few moments of silence the conversation began again. It focused on the little girl, wrapped in the blanket, just opening her eyes.

"I am so thankful for all the support given to me, to help get me here," said Bailey. "Everyone has been so nice, since I've been back in the U.S. A lot of people have made this possible, people I don't even know."

The family had been looking at photos from Iraq, catching up on news and admiring the 9-pound bundle of joy when the topic of Raymond's departure came up.

"I don't want to leave. I don't want Julie to be alone right now," said Bailey. "But I know my job, I have to go back, we both know I have to go. "I need to be in Baltimore by 10 a.m., Sunday, to go back to Iraq," said Bailey. "I haven't left and I already can't wait to come back to them." "We can't wait for you to be home...to stay," said Julie, is a soft whisper, with tears once again filling her eyes.

"This is just so unbelievable to me. This is going to keep me smiling for a long time."

—Spc. Raymond Bailey
70th Engineer Battalion

Military families honored

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Fort Riley honored the military family Nov. 17-21 with free movies and lots of giveaways during this year's annual Military Family Appreciation Week.

Betsy Young, Installation Volunteer Coordinator and Community Life Officer, said that this is the second time the post has held this event and it's only getting bigger. She added that military families are thanked for their service during this special week.

"It's more important this year to say thank you to our military families," she said. "We have so many of our soldiers deployed and our families are back here. It's a very worrisome time for families. This gives them a chance to come and see a movie and forget what's going on around them."

Throughout the week, there were many things for the family members to see and to win, according to Young. Each day offered the family member something different to do around Fort Riley.

"Monday night was 'Finding Nemo,' and was sponsored by the Enlisted Spouses Club and we had 253 people in the theater," Young said. "Tuesday was Commisary day where we gave away 12 turkeys throughout the day and the Commissary gave away a \$100 shopping spree and 11 certificates for money off turkeys."

"Wednesday night, we had 'Spy Kids III' at the theater that was sponsored by Fort Riley National Bank and they gave away free magnifying glasses and key rings. We had 407 show up for that one," she added.

"Thursday night we showed 'Santa Claus II' and at 6:20 p.m. we had to close the doors because the theater was to capacity. That movie was sponsored by Pioneer Lending (Friday) we were at the PX with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation) booth and the (Installation Travel and Recreation) giving away trips and free items such as coloring books and buttons, as well as other great things."

Teresa Mays, who works with the Directorate of Community Activities and ITR, said that's important to help out family members this time of year and to get the word out about trips that are available for military families.

"It's a great opportunity for us to visit the families and active duty soldiers and give them information on area sites of interest for the holidays," Mays said. "A lot of people aren't able to go home, and we're here for that purpose to let them know about discounts that are available to them. We've had several opportunities for soldiers to give away 200 free tickets to the K-State Women's Basketball game so as well as a drawing for a Worlds of Fun package for families."

"It's not that we don't appreciate military families all the time,

See Week Page 12



Teen center offers after school programs geared to help children develop, grow

By William Biles
Staff Writer

On Fort Riley, children can go to the Fort Riley Teen Center to learn dancing, martial arts, gymnastics, cheerleading or play a piano.

The Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program, through the Directorate of Community Activities, features a variety of after school programs that children can attend in a safe environment to socialize and have fun in, while developing their skills.

"All of the programs are geared to help children develop mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally," said Kay Forman, school liaison officer and instructional programs manager, Child and Youth Services.

The programs offered are a good way for children to spend their time and helps to keep them preoccupied while they have parents deployed, but their parents don't have to be deployed for children to partake in the pro-

grams offered. "Some of the parents have told me that they signed their children up for the classes, so that their time would be occupied while their mother or father is gone," said Forman. "However, these classes are popular when the military parent is still at Fort Riley."

There are reasons why the programs are popular and have a good attendance record.

"I think the parents want their children to be healthy, physically fit, and active - or to possess certain skills, such as being able to play the piano as a part of their childhood development, and to make them well-rounded and more socially outgoing," Forman said.

The Teen Center has computers the kids can use during the center's "power hour."

"We also have a computer lab at the Teen Center where kids can go to do any homework where a computer would be helpful during Power Hour," Forman said.

To have a child participate in a

program requires a fee. Children must initially register in the Child and Youth Services system, located in building 6620.

There is a yearly fee of \$15 for each child and \$35 maximum fee for families with three or more children. Some programs, such as youth sports like soccer and baseball, require an additional one-time fee to play. Other activities, such as gymnastics, dance, piano, cheerleading and martial arts, require a monthly fee because they are on going monthly class.

There are also a few prerequisites they must complete before joining a program.

"For the sports related classes, they must turn in a health assessment and a sport's physical," said Forman. "They must meet the age criterion for the class. They must also have a family member of a qualifying military or civilian sponsor. In other words, their parent or sponsor must be active duty, Reserve, National Guard, or retired military or Department of

Defense civilian," she said.

Most of the classes run approximately one hour, one evening per week. Martial Arts and the gymnastics exhibition team run a little longer for some of the classes.

The CYS plans to expand their programs to include pre school children.

"We are planning to offer a Parent and Child sports prep program in the spring for children 3 to 5-years of age, who are still too young to play soccer, basketball, basketball," Forman stated.

"These classes will develop muscles and skill sets in the pre-school children that will get them ready for the actual sports later on. The skill building activities will not focus so much on rules and competition as it will on having fun and learning the basics, such as how to kick a soccer ball, how to swing a bat, how to dribble or bounce a basketball," she said. "A parent will be required to participate one on one with their child, and a facilitator will lead the class."



Babette Ingles, gymnastics instructor, watches as Liberty Rocheleau, 4, hits the mark on a spring board during a gymnastics after school program at the Fort Riley Teen Center.

Post/Biles

Blue continued from page 7

about sometimes," he said. "It takes people like your parents, all the support people from the Administration Center, your teachers, the people that work here in the building, and last but not least, you the students. You are the ones that it is all about."

Godsey asked for all the groups he mentioned to raise their hands high in the air.

"Now keep them up until I tell you what to do next," he said. Then he asked for them to raise their hands a little higher. "Isn't that amazing - I asked you to do that because you all have really achieved a lot and have reached very high, but we can always reach just a little bit higher," said Godsey.

The teachers' goals weren't focused on winning the award, which was just an added bonus that came along with their original goal.

"Winning this is exciting because we weren't working because we weren't working toward the goal of teaching all of the children," said Sierra Jackson, principal.

"When in turn you are recognized for your efforts - that makes it even more exciting, because that wasn't our goal... our goal is to ensure that all of the kids get a good education," she stated.

The ceremony was a way for the children to realize the monumental task in which they had

achieved.

"I think today really brought it home to the students, that they are being recognized because of their hard work," said Larry Dixon, associate superintendent, Geary County School District.

"We can give them the opportunity, but they are the ones that have to step up. The students and their parents are bringing it (achievement through hard work) to a higher level."

Sharp told the students even

though it was the fifth graders the award was directed at, it is all of the grades that help earn it.

Today we are here to present the fifth grade with an award for their outstanding achievement," said Sharpe. "This reflects on the

work that all of you are doing, because in order for the fifth graders to do this well, they have to be learning all the way from kindergarten up to the fifth grade."



DICK EDWARDS-JC
6 x 10.5"

RED-OPEN HOUSE-HALF PAGE



Fort Riley Sports

April 14, 2000 America's Warfighting Center Page 9

K-State drops one at classic

Kansas State Wildcats experienced a 79-69 loss against the Perdue Boilermakers, Sunday at the State Farm Women's Tip-Off Classic in West Lafayette, Indiana, despite a record-breaking career point count by Wildcat Center Nicole Ohlde in the second half.

This, the first game of the women's regular season, was played before 10,313 fans at the Mackey Arena and came as a slight disappointment to those who had witnessed the teams climb to number five in pre-season exhibition play.

"By far, Kansas State is one of the best teams we'll face all year," said Purdue head coach Kristy Curry. "Someone had to walk out of here with a loss, and we're excited on our win. Hats off to a very, very good team."

"Certainly our expectation every time we play is that we will establish a post game first and always, and we never really did that tonight," said K-States head coach Deb Patterson. "Credit Purdue's defense but also credit the fact that we did not do a good job at all either on the perimeter or in the paint today to do that. It was an inside-outside issue for us. We just didn't take care of Kansas State basketball today. They dictated how we were going to play the game today, so credit them and hopefully we'll be smarter and better for this experience."



Cody Merritt, Troopers, battles with Tim Pacha, Marysville Bull pups, during a wrestling match at Fort Riley Middle School Nov. 19.

See K-State Page 10

Hypothermia can kill if precautions aren't taken

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

With winter making its frigid fingers felt around Fort Riley, cold weather injuries such as hypothermia are quickly becoming an increased risk. For Soldiers and civilians alike, hypothermia can be more than an inconvenience, it can be a killer.

"Severe hypothermia can result in death," said Maj. Todd Vento, chief, Preventive Medicine, USA MEDDAC.

"Further, in addition to predisposing you to future cold weather injuries, the category of freezing injuries can result in permanent loss of tissue and function in affected areas such as fingers, toes, etc."

According to Vento, hypothermia is a clinical syndrome that results from reduced core body temperature, typically defined as below 95° F (35° C). It occurs as a result of either dry-land whole body exposure or cold-water immersion. Freezing temperatures are not required to produce hypothermia.

Hypothermia is just one example of a

general category of conditions defined as Cold Weather Injuries. CWIs also include frostbite, trench foot, and other conditions.

The key to prevention of hypothermia, said Vento, is proper planning and knowledge.

"Hypothermia is a preventable condition that is also a reportable illness through the Army's Medical Surveillance Activity," he said. "Unit leaders have responsibility for ensuring appropriate measures are taken to prevent cold weather injuries in their soldiers, just as they do for heat injuries and other disease and non-battle injuries. Commanders and unit leaders conduct risk assessments prior to cold weather training and combat to ensure adequate preparation, proper uniform use, appropriate work-rest cycles, and additional protective measures to minimize the risk of cold weather injuries while accomplishing unit missions."

Exposure to cold temperatures is the major risk factor for hypothermia. Risk factors also include a previous cold weather injury, inadequate nutrition, use of alcohol and/or nicotine, dehydration,

poor clothing and equipment and the type of activity during exposure.

"Preventive measures are essential in avoidance of cold weather injuries," said Vento. "In addition to adequate and proper uniform wear such as layers worn loosely, individuals who will be exposed to cold weather should eat properly, drink warm liquids, maintain hydration, keep active outdoors, stay dry, and get plenty of rest."

Additionally, said Vento, individuals who have prolonged cold exposure should not do so alone. If an individual works outdoors in the cold, for example, a buddy system will help in early recognition of cold weather injuries and prevention of more severe conditions.

Special attention should be paid to those people who may have suffered CWIs in the past, as the risk for those with past injuries increases the chance of future injuries.

Specific symptoms to watch for depend on the type of cold weather injury.

For hypothermia, initial symptoms include shivering, withdrawn behavior, irritability, possible confusion, and

drowsiness, said Vento. In severe stages, shivering may stop and patients may have a desire to sleep, associated with decrease in respiration and heart rate, followed by possible unconsciousness. For frostbite injury which is an actual freezing of skin tissue, there is initial redness of the skin which may be grayish in dark-skinned individuals, tingling or numbness, followed by skin stiffness and possible blister formation. The areas of greatest risk are often exposed or less-protected areas, such as fingers, toes, ears, chin, and nose.

"The first treatment step is to prevent further cold exposure and heat loss by removing the affected individual from cold weather elements and placing them in a warm environment," said Vento.

"Wet clothing should be removed as long as this will not risk increased cold exposure. Constricting clothing and jewelry should be removed to prevent further skin damage if frostbite is a concern. Patients with cold weather injuries in a field setting will typically be evacuated for more definitive care. Medical care in a clinic or hospital will be dictated by the type and severity of injury; more aggressive

re-warming measures may be required, depending on core body temperature."

Some other factors must also be taken into account when trying to plan for extreme environments and outdoor work.

"In addition to temperatures, people who will be working or exposed to outdoor elements should be aware of the effect of wind," said Vento.

"Wind chill factor tables have been revised in the past few years to more accurately predict risks to exposed individuals. These should be consulted prior to outdoor activities in order to increase the awareness of actual risks based on time of exposure. Work activities can also be modified to allow for these conditions and minimize exposure to outdoor workers."

For more information on hypothermia, refer to FM 21-11. Information can also be found at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: www.cdc.gov, search on hypothermia prevention and at the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine site at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>.



Wildcat fans wrapped up in blankets to watch their team wrap-up the Big 12 North Championship title Saturday night in Manhattan.

Wildcats maul Tigers for 'North' title, Sooners waiting to battle for 'Big 12'

By Deb Skidmore
Media Relations Officer

A brisk fall evening with wind chill in the 30s Saturday didn't stop the K-State Wildcats. Coming off a 38-9 win from the Nebraska Cornhuskers, the 18th ranked Wildcats sent the Missouri Tigers home in defeat. The Cats clawed the Tigers 24-14.

K-State's win over the Huskers put the Cats to the top of the Big 12 2003 North Division standings. It also tied KSU with Nebraska in the league's all time standings.

With K-State win against Missouri, they will now face Oklahoma in a show down for the Big 12 title in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium on Dec. 6.

KSU's Running Back Darren was the star of this show. He carried the ball the majority of the time and was noted for being the 10th highest rusher in a single game in the conference.

He plowed head first into a den of Tigers to put the Cats' first points on the board. In a

matter of six plays, the Cats went 47 yards to take the lead 7-0. Kicker Joe Rheim was responsible for adding the point after.

Sproles averages 120 yards per game and during this game set records in career, season and single game rushing.

Sproles also danced his way down the sidelines for KSU's second TD. In nine plays, the Cats went 66 yards to make the score 14-0 with Rheim's point after.

However, the pendulum swung in favor of the Tigers when they kicked the ball away. Downing the ball on the Cat 9 yard line, KSU was penalized for a false start. This pushed the ball back to the 5 yard line.

Then, a fumble by Quarterback Eli Roberson was recovered by MU sealing the Cats' fate. A TD pass by MU Quarterback Brad Smith gave the Tigers their first score. The score was 14-7.

Recovering from their errors, the Cats used Sproles and Roberson to score one more time before the half. Rheim added the finishing touch making the halftime score 21-7.

MU tried a 62 yard field goal in the closing

seconds of the half only to hit the upright.

The second half found the Cats moving the ball until Roberson threw an interception that was caught by Nino Williams II of MU. The Tigers took advantage of the Cats' error and were in TD range.

However, a pass by Smith was picked off by Cat Louis Lavender stopping the MU drive.

The pendulum had swung the other way - allowing the Wildcats to get back in field goal range before the third quarter closed out. KSU drove back but the clock ran down before the Cats could get the ball in from the 8 yard line.

Many of the 49,685 fans began to celebrate. The Wildcats had made another mark in the school history books with a chance for bragging rights in the Big 12 and an upcoming bowl game yet to be announced.

Commentary

Writer doesn't understand what fans see in NASCAR

By Bill Putnam
ARNEWS

If seen live, NASCAR is beautiful. I didn't always think that. In fact, I likened the sport to watching a dog chase his tail on television. What's the point?

But I was excited when I went to Florida to cover the last race of the NASCAR season. I'd never been to a race and was very curious about the sport.

What makes this sport all the rage? Why are the drivers so popular and how crucial are they to a successful season? What about the mechanics and pit crews, how much did they contribute to it all? How much does the car itself contribute to a good season?

As many of you know, NASCAR is the fastest growing sport in the country. Racing is so popular that it help recruit new Soldiers the Army sponsors two teams in different aspects of the sport: the

drag racing National Hot Rod Association and NASCAR.

Racing is also in my family. My uncle Frank races. He's a huge fan and we've talked off an on over the years about how well he's done or what car he's driving. Frank just guessed I was never a fan of racing like I am of hockey.

Then I realized last week why this sport has so many rabid fans.

I was entering the track on Friday, the qualifying day, when the drivers were putting the cars through their paces driving around the oval track at 175 miles per hour.

I looked up and saw four or five cars zooming around the curves. The sun glistened off the bright rainbow of the cars' paint jobs, the engines literally purred and hummed, and the drivers effortlessly drove the sleek-looking cars around the course's curves. Wow, the cars are beautiful, I thought.

But that sight still didn't explain why

it's becoming so popular.

I went around Homestead track and talked to people about the sport. The answers they gave varied. Some said it was more fun to watch live or on TV, more exciting than football or basketball even.

One man I talked to said racing has family connections. His dad raced in Connecticut, he raced some too and got his own son involved in racing go-carts. But why did his son pick Jeff Gordon, the circuit's "pretty boy" from California? Simple, he said, he liked Gordon's paint scheme on his car.

It goes beyond that for his son. He'd never pick another driver ever no matter what. Why? "Loyalty," the son said.

If all the cars are essentially the same, why do some finish in the top five more consistently than others? Money was the overriding answer.

A team mechanic I talked to said teams have wind tunnels, simulators and their

own shops. That takes lots of money. The more it has, the better "craftsmanship" they can buy in, say, an engine.

That mechanic, though, wasn't clear on why the sport has exploded in popularity. "I think you could tell me, I'm looking at it from the inside. I just know I've been real busy the last few years," he said.

How crucial a driver is to the equation of a successful team also varies from person to person. One fan said the driver wasn't that big a deal. The mechanic said he was very crucial, probably 75 percent of a car's success.

But why is he so popular? Because people can identify with a person better than a car everyone said.

Far enough, I thought, I'll wait until race day to come to my own conclusion.

I hung out in the Army team's pit and watched. I have to admit I was excited. The first few laps of the race were great. Then it became routine. Around and

around they went and it seemed a little cartoon-ish. Not quite real and not quite fake either.

By far the most exciting part of the race was the pit stop. The seven-man pit crew replaced four tires and topped the car's gas tank in five seconds. Yeah, five seconds. Then it became routine. Around and around ...

So here's my conclusion after seeing a race. Yeah, NASCAR is a beautiful sport to watch.

I mean, to be totally honest, it's primal to see the competition of colorful steel beasts driven by men of flesh race around a track at break-neck speeds. Adrenaline just pumps through your body when the 45 cars race past you.

I felt excited and nervous just seeing it. Why? I'm not sure. Remember, it's primal.

Those facts alone won't draw me to a track next season though. I still think it's like a dog chasing its tail.

K-State continued from page 9

Wildcats trailed 41-35 at half-time, but pulled together to take an 11-point lead five minutes into the second half. It was then that Purdue seized control of the game by scoring 21 of the next 26 points to forge a lead that would not be reversed for the duration of the contest.

"I think a lot of times we weren't getting to spots and running our offense like we should," said Ohlde, who broke the previous K-State career-point record of 1,705 points somewhere in the second half. "Definitely give credit to Purdue for coming out and really being the aggressor and taking that away from us, but that's just something we need to get better at it and stay true to

what we normally do." Ohlde incurred three personal fouls early in the game, setting her back further than expected, but with 7:13 left in the game she hit a turnaround jumper in the lane to break the record.

Still, it wasn't enough to compensate, as the team shot just 21 percent from the 3-point distance.

"We didn't string together enough stops on the defensive end, and I think we can contribute the majority of our loss here," said Wildcat forward Kendra Wecker. "We didn't establish a post presence in the low block. We let them step in front of us, and we weren't able to keep the momentum going. If we scored on offense they came right back

down and jammed it down our throats on defense."

Purdue, in contrast, shot 53 percent from the field, including 56 percent from beyond the arc. Purdue players Shereka Wright and Erika Valek each scored 16 points during the game, and Beth Jones had 12 points on 4-of-4 shooting from 3-point range.

"I thought Purdue did a great job of being the aggressor at both ends of the basketball court, and that obviously was significant in every respect," said Patterson. "Big time step up basketball by Purdue, and they definitely were the aggressors today."

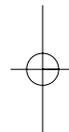
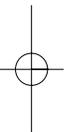
Editor's Note: From K-State and Staff Reports.



After securing the Big 12 North Title, K-State team members circled the field, giving autographs and exchanging high fives with ecstatic fans.

DAILY UNION
6 x 12"
Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTORY

Classified



Native Americans celebrated

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Fort Riley celebrated Native American Heritage Month with an observance, complete with a guest speaker, traditional Native American entertainment and a buffet of Native American dishes, Nov. 20, at Barlow Theater.

With the theme of "strengthening the spirit of our nation," the event highlighted Native American history and the Indians' importance in the creation of modern-day America.

"Native American people have played an integral part in the forming of our nation before the concept of America even existed," said Maj. Mike Bell, Equal Opportunity program manager.

Bell said that he hoped attendees would gain a better understanding of Native American culture and their impact on the nation.

The Fort Riley Proclamation of Native American Month 2003 states, "during Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich cultural traditions and proud ancestry of American Indians and Alaska natives, and we

recognize the vital contributions these groups have made to the strength and diversity of our society."

The proclamation, signed by Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, also recognizes Sacagawea for her assistance on the Lewis and Clark expeditions, and the Navajo and Comanche code-talkers for their military participation in World War II.

"A generation of Native Americans have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom, and no segment of our population has sent a larger percentage of its young men and women to serve in our Armed Forces," reads the proclamation.

Ray Farve, a member of the Choctaw Indians and a professor with the Haskell Indian Nations University, was the guest speaker at the observance.

Focusing on Native American history, Farve pointed out that the first Americans learned how to survive on the new lands and learned what changed them from Europeans to what became Americans from Indians.

"It was the Indians who gave

the Americans the idea of freedom and liberty," said Farve, "and from that eventually came America."

Farve also spoke about the Native Americans' relationship with the military.

"American Indians are very, very proud of this country," he said.

"Per capita wise, more American Indians join the military than any other group. We have veterans all over the country."

Farve said he enjoys speaking at events such as this one, because he can breakthrough the stereotypes that most people know and tell the Indians' story.

The event was concluded with a food tasting of traditional Native American cuisine.

The Native American observance, and all other cultural observances held throughout the year, gives the Fort Riley community an opportunity to learn, said Bell.

"It gives you an understanding and appreciation for who

we give out our fall guides so they know what's available to them"

Burchfield also was letting families know about Family Night Fridays at the Rally Point, Saturday Extreme Bowling and Sunday's Family Skate.

Young worked weeks in advance to make sure that family members knew that Military Family Appreciation Week was fast approaching and what fami-

Week continued from page 7

lies could expect during the week.

"We let people know about the movies through the Family Readiness Groups and a lot of mayors picked up flyers and distributed them throughout the communities," she said.

"We put the word out on Channel 2, and word of mouth. A lot of people remember the movies from last year so they were standing in line at 5:30 p.m. for a movie that started at 6:30 p.m."

Mays wanted to make sure that family members were aware of what the ITR office offered.

"We're already starting to work on packages that offer military discounts, such as cruises. It's

kind of an opportunity for the families to plan something when the soldier comes home. We're also shipping a lot of our brochures to that area so they have something to look forward to when they get home."

Burchfield added that Military Family Appreciation Week is needed more now than ever before.

"It's definitely important to have Military Family Appreciation Week, especially right now when so many soldiers are deployed and they need to know that they're appreciated," she said.

"I'm part of a military family so you need to know that the work you do is appreciated and that somebody's out there for you."

"We're really involved with family members," she said.

"We're already starting to work on packages that offer military discounts, such as cruises. It's

but it's a way to say a special thank you, you know, and the kids," Young added. "You say thank you to a kid and their face lights up and that's what it's all about. I told a kid thank you, and the little boy said 'my daddy is a soldier and I'm proud of him,' and that was it, I didn't have to hear anything the rest of the week."

Lynn Burchfield, marketing assistant with MWR, offered drawings for free hats and fleece blankets at her booth in the Post Exchange. She also wanted to make sure that people were aware of MWR had to offer.

"We're out here today to try to show people what we have available," she said.

"A lot of people don't know what MWR offers so we have some giveaways for Military Family Appreciation Week and we give out our fall guides so they know what's available to them"

Burchfield also was letting families know about Family Night Fridays at the Rally Point, Saturday Extreme Bowling and Sunday's Family Skate.

Young worked weeks in advance to make sure that family members knew that Military Family Appreciation Week was fast approaching and what fami-

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
ROTAIE 4 ADS

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 4.5"
Black Only
FLAF/SOLDIERS

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
FTC/11-25 & 11-28

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Laksh/11-25 & 11-28

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
CFI/11-25 & 11-28

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Gan & Knife Show/11-25 & 11-28

AMERICAN LEGION
2 x 4"
Black Only
HEU ad/November-Ft. Riley Post

THE MARTIN AGENCY
4 x 10"
Black Only
Alltel/#310220064/11-26 Post

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
NOVEMBER TIMES