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|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| Weather Forecast | | Friday |  | High:58 Low:31 | |
| Saturday | WINDY | High:52 Low:28 | Sunday |  | High:65 Low:36 |

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post



Boxers thrill crowds

Boxers from units across post battled for bragging rights and a chance to show their prowess in the ring Nov.28-29.

See Page 9

December 7, 2001

Proudly serving the Home of America's Army

Vol. 44, No. 49

Line of Duty: J.C. police officer, former soldier slain

From Staff and Wire Reports

Funeral services for slain Junction City police officer, and former Fort Riley soldier, Wilson "Alex" Johnson, 56, are planned for 11 a.m. today at the Junction City Municipal Building. Burial will follow the funeral at 12:15 p.m. at the Fort Riley Cemetery.

Johnson, who retired from the Army as a staff sergeant more than 18 years ago, was killed in the line of duty Monday at 127 W. 17th St. in Junction City. He was responding to the residence to retrieve two children following a domestic disturbance.

Johnson was the first officer killed in the line of duty in Junction City in more than 100 years. The Geary County Historical Society Museum said two police-

men were killed outside a drugstore Nov. 18, 1901.

Rev. John A. Cannon will officiate at the funeral. Johnson will be buried in the Fort Riley Cemetery with honors performed by Fort Riley.

At the burial Fort Riley will provide pallbearers and an honor guard, a 21-gun salute and presentation of the flag to Johnson's spouse. A police honor guard from Kansas City will provide a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace," a bugler will play Taps and make the last call.

A visitation was scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday night at Mass-Hinitt Funeral Chapel, Junction City. Mourners also attended a candlelight vigil Thursday evening honoring Johnson at the flagpole outside the police department.

Officials are expecting more than

1,000 mourners to attend the funeral and burial, including police from around the country.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Hermine Johnson, of Milford, Kan., and two sons, Riley County Police Lt. Michael Quintanar and David Quintanar, who works as a parole officer in Salina, Kan.

A spokesperson for the Kansas Bureau of Investigations, Kyle Smith, said a man identified as Carlos A. Cobbs, 22, shot Johnson and later killed himself.

Police officials said officers had responded earlier Monday to a dispute between Cobbs and a woman at a nightclub.

Cobbs left the scene and apparently picked up the woman's two girls, ages 1 and 3, from a babysitter after the disturbance and took them to his apartment.

Johnson was dispatched to retrieve the girls from Cobbs residence.

Johnson arrived at the Washington Court Apartments at approximately 4:45 a.m. and was shot soon after entering the apartment.

After shooting the officer, Cobbs exited the building and fired at least one shot at another policeman who had just arrived on the scene as a backup for Johnson. Cobbs then returned to his apartment, and police set up barriers and evacuated surrounding buildings.

Junction City Police, and a tactical response team maintained a perimeter around the building for approximately three hours before Cobbs shot and killed himself.

The tactical response team, the from Kansas Highway Patrol, entered the

apartment at 7 a.m. and retrieved the children, according to the KHP.

Johnson and the suspect were dead when the team entered the apartment. Smith said Johnson was wearing a bullet resistant vest, but was shot more than once including a wound to the head.

Because there are no witnesses to the shooting, police are still trying to piece-together what happened in the apartment.

"We have no idea what happened in there," said Smith. "It was a one-on-one situation, and they're both dead. We may be able to piece some things together with the autopsy, but there aren't any witnesses."

Johnson had been working at the Junction City Police Department as a detective before returning to street patrol 18 months ago.

Stop-loss affects soldiers

By Christie Vanover

Staff Writer

Fort Riley soldiers are affected by Army Stop-loss.

The Department of the Army announced an Army-wide stop-loss program Dec. 4 to keep soldiers in selected military occupational specialties, mainly special operations and aviation, from leaving active duty.

The stop-loss affects approximately 30 Fort Riley warrant officers who pilot UH-60 Black Hawk or CH-47D Chinook helicopters and two enlisted CH-47 Chinook helicopter repairers.

Stop-loss was last implemented Army-wide during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and was recently employed by the Air Force and Navy in October.

The Army uses stop-loss as a tool to manage the force and ensure its readiness to support ongoing operations. Requirements will be reviewed on a monthly basis and other military occupational specialties and career management fields may be affected.

Friendly fire leaves 3 dead, 19 wounded

By Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON—Three Special Forces soldiers were killed and 19 wounded north of Kandahar, Afghanistan, when a 2,000-pound U.S. bomb missed its target and hit in close proximity to friendly forces Wednesday.

The Department of Defense has identified the three U.S. Army ser-

See Deaths Page 6



A crew from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor engages targets down range on Tank Table VII at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex Nov. 28.

Tankers tune up gunnery skills

By Jeremy Heckler

19th Public Affairs Det.

Athletes push themselves beyond their limits in preparation for championship-caliber competition.

Most athletes subscribe to the notion that a person must walk before they can run. Following that old adage, tankers of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor began the process of ramping up to their final test before Gauntlet begins in January.

Last week, they were well past the walking stage and were moving toward their goal when they

arrived at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex and Tank Table VII.

"This week and next are like the playoffs, with Tables IV through VII serving as the tune up for tables VIII and XII," said Sgt. Scott McCartney, Co. B., 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

Qualification began on Table IV where crews honed their skills with their tanks using MILES equipment and practiced the teamwork it takes to succeed on the range.

"The goal is to ensure crews get a good vibe," said 1st Lt. Phillip LaCasse, platoon leader

Company B, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor. "Gunnery is about crew interaction, everyone must be in sync in order to be successful."

"The crew is the heart of the tank without the crew functioning the tank won't," said Sgt. Scott McCartney, Co. B.

LaCasse said crews practice that rhythm with each engagement.

"Each tank commander has his own expectations and style," said LaCasse.

"We've practice a lot of crew fire commands so that each member of the crew knows what the others will do," said Sgt. Wesley

Watson, a gunner with Co. B.

After getting it down in practice on Table IV, the crew practiced with crew-served weapons before heading off to Table VII.

"Tank Table VII concentrates on the main gun and troop targets and is the final exercise before qualifying at Table VIII," said LaCasse.

"Table VII is much, much harder than Table VIII," said Watson. "The targets are three quarters the regular size and require a faster reaction time."

While the practice may be

See Gunnery Page 6

Top soldier, NCO named

By Jeremy Heckler

19th PAD

Fort Riley's top soldier and noncommissioned officer were recognized Nov. 29 at Riley's Conference Center by the post's commanding general and local community members.

Spec. Alicia Bodie and SSgt. Mark Powell were announced as Soldier and NCO of the Year respectively.

"The NCO and soldier here met the standard and rose above their contemporaries to be honored here today," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley, who presented the keynote address.

"Tonight is a special night," said Powell, 977th Military Police Company. "It's good to be here and be recognized by Fort Riley."

"Winning Soldier of the Year means a lot to me," said Bodie, 1st Finance Battalion. She added that she owed a lot of her success to the mentorship of her chain of command.

"Command Sergeant Major Toney pushed me through my first board and things just snowballed from there," she said. "I went to my first board in March and I did-

See Top Soldiers Page 6



Holiday and patriotism fill the air as Pvt. Beverly Martin and PFC Michelle Graham, 24th Infantry Division, fold the American flag during retreat at Fort Riley's annual holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bundled in Charles Dickens costumes, the Main Post Chapel Choir looks on.

Tree lighting opens Christmas season

Santa arrives on fire truck to talk with kids

By Jeremy Heckler

19th Public Affairs Det.

Fort Riley kicked off the holiday season Friday amid the sounds of children and Christmas carols during the post Tree-Lighting Ceremony at Ware Parade Field.

Christmas revelers took in cookies and coffee and for those who were quick enough, a little hot cocoa.

Elves from Operation Santa Claus passed out candy canes to lucky youngsters.

Before and during the program,

the Main Post Chapel Choir and Bell Choir provided the sounds of Christmas at Ware Parade Field while wearing Dickens-era costumes.

"I thought that it would be fun to bring the past into the present,"

said Sandra Norris, Main Post Chapel music director.

"It's a great atmosphere with carolers," said Theresa Donohoe, whose husband is deployed.

As the flag lowered for retreat, crowds of children sat around the tree waiting for the

moment that the tree would be lit. Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley and Joseph Jarrard flipped the switch bringing the tree's lights to

"This is the most important time of the year for family."

Capt. Robert Ramsey
3rd Brigade Combat Team

"The best part was when they lit up the tree because it's a big tree and it looks good lit up," said Matthew Norton, age 10.

"This is the time of year when people are thinking of family and many soldiers and civilians have their families at a distance," said

Chap. (Maj.) Karl Kuckhahn, chaplain of Main Post Chapel. "The holiday season instills a giving kind of environment when we join together in special ways."

The lighting of the Christmas tree goes back several centuries when candles were placed on trees. Most Christmas trees in America appeared in the mid 1800s, cut from nearby areas and the decoration of trees evolved to what people see today.

For families, Christmas is the time of year to bring them closer.

"This is the most important time of the year for family," said Capt. Robert Ramsey, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. "We don't get to see them as often during the year and it just makes it a special time for us and our children."

See Tree Page 2

Soldier invents training aid, earns \$2,500

By Jeremy Heckler

19th Public Affairs Det.

It has been said that, "Necessity is the mother of invention." For many soldiers that invention could save them some time and earn them some money from the Army Ideas for Excellence Program.

One combat engineer developed an idea simulating their mine clearing line charge training by using some PVC pipe and a model rocket motor.

"When I was the operations sergeant in the 70th Engineer Battalion, the S-3 wanted to develop a sub-caliber trainer for a more realistic training," said Sgt. Major Scott Cieslak, Public Works Sergeant Major. "I put one together with some PVC pipe and a hobby rocket motor and the first try proved to be successful."

Cieslak said that the charge replicates the characteristics of the miclic charge by power-

ing 165 meters of engineer tape, which simulates an explosive line charge that lands over an obstacle when it is fired. When a live miclic is fired, it carries the line charge over the obstacle, where it explosively clears the obstacle and allows the rest of the task force to pass through.

"The rocket lets them get realistic training of the whole process," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Mason, Company B, 70th Engineer Battalion. "They go through the whole setup procedure, without it we wouldn't do anything involving the miclic." He said that all through the training, the soldiers are instructed to treat it as a live round.

The trainer has evolved since its first incarnation in 1996.

"The first rocket was fired using a hand wired battery charge and fired," said Cieslak. After an initial rejection by the Army Ideas for Excellence Program in 1996, Cieslak moved on to Fort Leonard Wood where members of

the engineer school modified and demonstrated an improved rocket.

"Through trial and error we came up with a better way to train," said Cieslak. The plans were made available to all of the Army's engineer units so that they will be able to implement it in their training arsenal. The training aid is one of many ideas that he has submitted to AIEP program.

Throughout the engineer corps, the rocket, dubbed the Watson rocket after the operations officer who made the request, gives soldiers another training option.

The Corps of Engineers estimates that if all engineers who use the miclic, implement the training aid, the Army could see a savings of \$18 million dollars annually. For the work that Cieslak did to develop it, he received \$2,500. Still there is more to it than money.

"It is good to know that you made a difference in one small piece of the Army," said Cieslak.



Post/Heckler

Sandra Norris, Main Post Chapel music director, leads the Main Post Adult Choir in a Christmas Carol during the post tree-lighting ceremony. The group dressed in Dickens' era outfits to enhance the Christmas spirit.

Tree continued from page 1

"When soldiers are away from family the Army family gathers around them and helps them to usher in the holiday season," said Kuckhahn. He added that the holidays call together a large portion of the community

from all walks of life as one family.

"Christmas usually means our family celebrating together and hopefully this year my husband will be able to make it home for Christmas," said Donohoe.

For many children, it was an opportunity to visit Santa Claus. This year, he arrived on a fire truck.

"I want to see Santa Claus and ask him for a teddy bear," said Robbie Ramsey, 3.

Servicemember mail programs revamped

The Department of Defense announced last week an alternative to the "Any Servicemember" and "Operation Dear Abby" programs, which were suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks.

The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative to benefit members of all Services.

The program can be reached at the Navy LIFELines Services Network at www.lifelines2000.org or <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

Those who want to send a message of support or holiday greeting to military servicemembers will find a simple process for delivering messages at these sites. The "Any Servicemember" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military.

To receive a message of support, servicemembers will log

onto the Web site and choose messages for their branch of Service and home state. Those sending a message who wish to receive a response may include a return e-mail address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular e-mail service is not affected.

"Operation Dear Abby" was founded by the newspaper advice columnist and has delivered mail to servicemembers overseas during the holiday season for more than 17 years. The "Any Servicemember" mail program began during Operation Desert Storm in 1990, and continued to grow during operations in Bosnia, starting in 1995.

Other alternatives for supporting deployed servicemembers were announced in an Oct. 30 news release, available at www.defenselink.mil

Web-based servicemember mail

www.lifelines2000.org
<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

Ring in New Year with Fort Riley fun

By Jerry Brecheisen

DCA

New Year's Eve Parties for all ages will be offered in four settings on Fort Riley Dec. 31.

Sports U.S.A. will feature its "New Year's Eve Bash 2002," from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Entertainment will include a "Battle of the DJs" show, food, games, dancing, party bag, complimentary champagne at midnight and breakfast buffet.

Tickets at the door are \$5 and an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be served for \$3.95. Information is available by calling 784-5434.

Party shuttle bus service will be provided.

Custer Hill Lanes will continue its popular New Year's Eve bowling tradition for 2002 with its party set for 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Entertainment will include unlimited lineage, Xtreme bowling, live DJ entertainment, special contests, party favors, complimentary champagne and breakfast buffet.

Tickets are \$50 per lane, up to six bowlers per lane with 40 lanes available. Early reservations for the Custer Hill Lanes New Year's Eve event are encouraged. Stop by the bowling center or call 239-4366.

For the first time, Riley's Conference Center will host the annual Celebrate Sober New Year's Eve party, welcoming 2002 in an "alcohol-free, family setting."

The party is planned from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and features children's games, amusement machines, treasure chest, Live DJ music, Karaoke, food, a Mystery Tour and balloon drop.

Tickets are \$5 for singles and \$10 for families. Information and reservations are available by calling 239-5614.

Finally, the Child and Youth Services Teen Center will ring in the new year with a party and lock-in from 8 p.m. New Year's Eve to 6 a.m. Entertainment will include a live DJ, dance, games and a balloon drop.

For information on the Teen Center party call 239-9222.

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FORT RILEY POST

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Garrison Commander speaks . . .

Practice safety during holidays

The holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving has put us in the holiday spirit and Christmas is rapidly approaching.

Everyone, including me, enjoys spending time with family and friends and eating turkey and deserts. And yes, I do a little cooking and help with decorations.

All of this can be fun and enjoyable and yet is a dangerous time in a house. In order for all of us to have a wonderful holiday season, there are measures to take that will ensure a safe holiday season.

The kitchen is one of the most dangerous areas on post. Since the beginning of this year, we have had six kitchen fires in family quarters, all caused by unattended cooking. Taking the wrong action can make the situation worse not better.

Do not attempt to put out a grease fire with water. Burning grease is easily spread by water and will only cause the fire to spread. In the event you do have a kitchen fire, immediately turn off the stove and cover the pan, if it safe to do so, and evacuate the quarters.

Then call 911 from a neighbor's quarters. The most effective means of preventing kitchen fires is to never leave cooking food unattended. Most residents have been found responsible for the fires and have had to pay for the cost of repairing the damage. I highly recommend all families living in quarters or renting off post obtain Renter's Insurance.

Besides covering the losses you suffer as the result of a fire, they will generally pay the cost of repairing the quarters.

Time and time again I hear of

families losing property as a result of fire, which they cannot replace due to lack of insurance.

We have had several close calls where toddlers have knocked pots and pans off of the stove.

They could easily be scalded by boiling water or burned by hot foods. If possible keep toddlers out of the kitchen but if they must be there, keep them in high chairs or play pens and remain in the room with them at all times.

Many families have put up or are in the process of putting up their Christmas lights and Christmas tree. The beautiful light displays are one of the ways that make the holiday season come to life on Fort Riley.

Townhall Message:

By Col. Philip Pope Garrison Commander

Christmas lights however are potentially dangerous unless we follow safety procedures. Everyone needs to ensure that Christmas lights are Underwriters Laboratories approved which is easily checked by looking for the UL sticker.

This marking shows that the lights are approved and been tested by a certifying agency. Never use decorative light strings marked "For Indoor Use" outdoors and don't use more than three standard sets of lights per outlet.

Be sure to check the manufacturer's instructions before setting up your lights. Finally before you hang your lights inspect them for cuts, breaks and burned out bulbs.

If extension cords must be used do not place them under rugs or

furniture. People walking on them and furniture placed on top of the cord can pinch the wires causing a short and a fire. Always turn off your Christmas lights before going to bed.

Also, help us to conserve energy by leaving your lights on only from 5-10 p.m. through Jan. 3. All holiday lighting must be taken down by Jan. 15.

If you're planning on having a live Christmas tree remember to select a fresh tree as dry trees are a fire risk.

A fresh tree will still smell like pine, and its needles will be hard to pull off its branches. Remember to saw about two inches off the bottom at an angle to help the tree absorb water and keep plenty of water in the stand.

A tree can easily use one gallon of water per day. When placing your tree in your home, keep it at least five feet away from any heat sources (vents/radiators etc); these can rapidly dry your tree out.

Avoid decorations that are sharp, easily breakable, very small and edible when young children are near. Avoid trimmings or decorations that resemble candy or food. Children could mistake them for the real thing.

Additionally keep candles well away from Christmas trees, decorations, curtains and other combustibles and never put candles in windows or near exits. Don't leave candles burning unattended or with in the reach of small children and blow them out before you leave the room or go to sleep. I urge everyone to follow these recommendations.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

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Commentary

Straight talk on Ecstasy trend

By Mark R. Bruins

Tripler Army Medical Center

There have been a number of articles and commentaries concerning the drug Ecstasy. These articles appear to be sincere attempts to discuss the dangers of Ecstasy use. However, some of the statements are incorrect or misrepresented. Some have confused Ecstasy with methamphetamine, while others have presented an extreme and unrealistic view of the dangers of the drug.

It's time for some straight talk and information regarding Ecstasy and the dangers it presents to soldiers, NCOs, and commanders.

First, Ecstasy is not methamphetamine.

The two are members of the amphetamine family of drugs but are structurally different. Methamphetamine is known by street names such as "ice" or "crystal meth," while Ecstasy has been called "E," "X," "XTC," or "ADAM."

Ecstasy and methamphetamine are central-nervous-system stimulants that work by increasing release of certain chemicals in the brain or prolonging their action. Ecstasy and methamphetamine cause some of the same effects, but there are a few important differences.

First, Ecstasy has more of an effect on a chemical in the brain responsible for pleasure and sensory perception. Ecstasy users report that colors and sounds come alive and they feel more sympathetic and loving towards

others. It is referred to as the "love or hug drug" because it promotes social interaction or as users like to say "PLUHry" - peace, love, unity, and harmony.

Ecstasy is popular because it is cheap, easy to use (swallowed and doesn't require needles or pipes), and it produces a long-lasting high.

The drug easily fits into the "rave" scene where groups of people come together to socialize, dance, and have a good time.

A couple of hits of Ecstasy can be cheaper than a night of heavy drinking and, unlike alcohol, it allows the user to participate in the party for hours on end.

Addiction to Ecstasy is uncommon because repeated use does not prolong the pleasurable effects.

The brain runs low of chemicals affected by Ecstasy and needs time to produce more.

Methamphetamine on the other

hand can be smoked, ingested, or injected and is addictive. Since methamphetamine affects the brain in a slightly different way, some experienced users will prolong their high by taking this drug when they start coming down from Ecstasy.

Coming up positive for both Ecstasy and methamphetamine may be one sign to commanders and NCOs that a soldier is more than just a casual Ecstasy user.

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Shopper News

The Shoppe has many holiday items for your home or gift giving. Lots of smalls for those holiday host and hostess gifts and your Christmas ornament exchange parties. Stop by and visit The Shoppe Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Shoppe is located at Bldg. 259 Stuart Ave. Phone 785-239-2783. The Shoppe will be open the first three Mondays in December and then close for the holiday break from Dec. 22 until Jan. 8.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop will be having a Bag Sale through Dec. 13. Come in and fill your bag from a special selection of merchandise. Brown paper grocery bags will sell for \$2 and plastic grocery bags for \$1 each.

The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 267 on Stuart Avenue near the stables. Store hours are 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The next open Saturday is tomorrow. For information, call 784-3874. The Thrift Shop now has an e-mail address, thrift@oz-online.net, for customer questions or concerns.

Office Closure

The Child and Youth Services Central Enrollment Registry, Bldg. 6620, Normandy, Custer Hill, will close Dec. 17-21 to enable its staff to participate in training. Community and Family Support Center contractor will be providing the Child and Youth Management System automated registration and data collection program training for CYS employees.

Reward Offered

A \$5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for a structural fire on Fort Riley and the subsequent death of a Fort Riley military family member.

The incident occurred Feb. 4. Person(s) unknown by unknown means lit a fire in the garage of 6762-1 Burnside Loop, Fort Riley. After the debris cleared, the body of Scott Nichols was discovered in the remains of the garage. Nichols was apparently inside the garage at the time the fire started.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should contact Special Agent Bobbi J. Miles-Belding of the Fort Riley Criminal Investigation Division at (785) 239-3931/8441, or Special Agent Michael Harrigan of the FBI at (785) 235-3811. Your identity can remain confidential.

Christian Praise Band

Christian musicians are needed for a contemporary Christian praise band at Normandy Chapel's Contemporary Protestant service.

Musicians needed are a drummer, bass player, and electric guitar player and A back-up piano player. A drum set and bass guitar are available to play, but no electric guitar. The band rehearses Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Service is at 11 a.m. Sunday morning. If interested, contact Chap. (Maj.) Jim Paulson

at 239-3436.

Bowl for Temperature

Custer Hill Lanes will offer a unique open bowling promotion tied to the Kansas winter weather during the Fort Riley half-day holiday schedule Dec. 20 through Jan. 1. Bowlers will pay \$1 rate for their first game during open bowling sessions and games after that will cost whatever the outside temperature is that hour. The colder the better for games of bowling after the first one.

Sports U.S.A. Music

Sports U.S.A., 2600 Trooper Drive, Camp Forsyth, is adding two new special DJ music programs to its entertainment line-up. "Late Night" featuring Urban and Hip-Hop with DJ Monroe is scheduled Saturdays, Dec. 15 and 29 starting at 10 p.m. "Late Night" dates for the following two months are Jan. 12 and 26 and Feb. 9 and 23.

Sports U.S.A. is also adding "Latin Music Nights" the next three months. Dates are Sunday and Dec. 22; Jan. 5 and 19 and Feb. 2 and 16. The "Latin Music Night" program begins at 8 p.m.

Golf Course Sale

The Custer Hill Golf Course Pro Shop Holiday Sale is underway and runs through Dec. 15. The Pro Shop will offer 20 percent discounts on its quality line of golf clubs, clothing, hats and shoes during the sale period. As a special offer, customers who spend \$750 or more in Pro Shop purchases during the sales period will receive a free \$150 annual membership to the Custer Hill Golf Course.

Holiday Reservations

Riley's Conference Center continues to book reservations for the upcoming holiday season. Units, groups and organizations are encouraged to plan ahead and make reservations now for catered parties, functions and events.

Riley's catering hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and appointments can be made for Saturday. Information on catering, banquet and party options is available by calling 784-5999.

OCS Board

The Officer Candidate School board will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. at 1st PSB, Bldg. 7806 in the PERSTEMPO office.

Fire Calls

The following are the responses for the Fort Riley Fire Department for the week of Nov. 22-28.

8:32 p.m., Nov. 24; Responded to Camp Forsyth area for an individual who had fallen approximately 15' from a ladder. Fire Department assisted Ambulance personnel with patient care and transportation to Irwin Army Hospital.

9 p.m., Nov. 24; Responded to a sparking oven element in the Custer Hill Housing area. Power to the appliance was cut at the fuse box.

7:12 p.m., Nov. 25; Responded

to Camp Forsyth area for smoke in quarters. Occupants had food cooking on the stove and left the quarters. The food burned and caused the smoke.

8:22 a.m., Nov. 26; Responded on a medical emergency in the Custer Hill troop area for a patient with respiratory distress. Patient was transported by Ambulance to Irwin Army Hospital.

2:03 p.m., Nov. 27; Responded to a report of a suspicious powder found in the Custer Hill motor pool area. Investigation determine that the powder was from the material used in packaging the product.

Tumbling Classes

Tumbling gymnastics classes will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-9:50 a.m. beginning Tuesday. Children 3-5 years old are eligible for the class. Sign up for either day or both. The cost of the class is \$20 a month. Classes will take place at the Teen Center gym in Bldg. 5800 at the corner of Thomas and Longstreet. For information and registration, call 239-4847 or stop by Central Enrollment Registry Office in Bldg. 6620 Normandy Dr.

Quilting Project

Learn how to machine piece and machine quilt. You can make a Christmas table topper or tree skirt. Stop by the Arts and Crafts Center and see the pattern and ask for more information or call 239-9205.

Self Help

Every unit is required to have an NCO and three school trained members on their Self-Help Team. 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 Dec. 10-14 and Jan. 7-11. For information, visit the PW web site or call 239-3757.

Museum Hours

The U. S. Cavalry Museum's hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Until further notice, the museum will be closed on Sunday's. The Fort Riley Regimental Museum (Bldg. 207) remains closed due to exhibit renovation.

Groups interested in arranging tours of Custer House may do so by contacting the Public Affairs Office or by calling the U. S. Cavalry Museum at 239-2737/2743.

Official Mail Class

The Postal Operations Center will conduct the next Official Mail Class on Wednesday at the Digital Training Center, Bldg. 7285. Hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact Michael Moore at 239-5411. Pre-enrollment required.

Coat Drive

Medical Department Activity staff donated more than 110 winter coats and approximately 20 other winter clothing items for needy families in local communities. A local business in Manhattan will clean the items free of

charge. The clothing will be taken to several local non-profit organizations for distribution.

Commissary News

The Fort Riley Commissary Christmas holiday schedule is open Dec. 23-24. The Commissary will be closed Dec. 25-26, but will reopen Dec. 27-30.

The Commissary is also expanding hours during the holidays. It will open one hour early and close two hours later on Sundays from now until Christmas. The expanded hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Dec. 9, 16, and 23.

The Commissary will hold a Mystery Sale Dec. 14 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Unit Mail Course

The Postal Operations Center will conduct the next Unit Mail Service Training Course Dec. 12 at the Digital Training Center, Bldg. 7285. Class hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m.. Pre-enrollment is required. Attending all individuals assigned as Unit Postal Officers or Unit Mail Clerks. You need to possess 20 days on the Job Training and at least an Interim Secret Clearance if you are going to be a Mail Handler and responsible for handling Accountable Mail.

Contact Michael Moore at 239-5411 to sign-up.

Protestant Women Meet

Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays 7-9 p.m. at Morris Hill Chapel. Watchcare is provided. For information, call 239-3359 or 784-4926.

Worship Service

A Protestant Liturgical Worship Service has resumed at St. Mary's Chapel every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. For information, call 239-5313/5711.

Catholic Soldier Service

Fort Riley is now hosting a new Catholic Soldier Service at 6 p.m. Sunday evenings at Kapaun Chapel Bldg. 7806.

Volunteers are needed to help with the service. For information, call 239-2818/6684.

Store Relocates

The Public Works Operations Center, which includes the Self Help Store, has relocated to Bldg. 372 to better serve the community. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed on federal holidays. The Self Help Store can be reached at 239-8205.

Jewish Services Start

Jewish religious services are being held at Normandy Chapel for anyone desiring to attend at 6 p.m. Friday nights.

Trash Collection

Due to the upcoming holidays, refuse will be collected from residences as follows: During the week of Christmas—Dec. 24, Colyer Manor, Main Post Housing, Marshall Army Air Field; Dec. 25, No pickup due to Christmas; Dec. 26, Petersen Heights,

Post hunting policies updated

Fort Riley hunting, fishing and fuelwood permits and firearms registration can be acquired by both Department of Defense ID cardholders and non-DoD ID cardholders at the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 9011 Rifle Range Road.

Firearms must be registered before they are brought onto the installation. Firearms deer carcass tags can be acquired at the Fort Riley Conservation Division Office, Bldg. 1020 Huebner Road.

Permits, tags and registrations are no longer available at Fort Riley's Range Control Annex, Bldg. 9001.

The Outdoor Recreation Center is open Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (except federal holidays) and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Conservation Division is open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (except federal holidays).

For more information, contact the Conservation Division office at 785-239-6211 or email afznesn@riley.army.mil

Montieth Heights, O'Donnell Heights and Ellis Heights; Dec. 27, Warner Heights and Burnside Heights; Dec. 28, South Petersen Heights, South Warner Heights, Meade Heights and McClellan Heights. Due to the holiday schedule there will not be any large item pickups scheduled. Have carts at curbside by 7:30 a.m.

During New Year's Week, the schedule is as follows: Dec. 31, Colyer Manor, Main Post Housing, Marshall Army Air Field; Jan. 1, No pickup due to Christmas; Jan. 2, Petersen Heights, Montieth Heights, O'Donnell Heights and Ellis Heights; Jan. 3, Warner Heights and Burnside Heights; Jan. 4, South Petersen Heights, South Warner Heights, Meade Heights and McClellan Heights.

2 p.m. For more information or to register for the class, call 1-800-211-6452. In Junction City, a community First Aid and safety course is set for Wednesday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information or to register for the class, call 238-3163.

Red Cross Volunteers

The Red Cross will not have a volunteer orientation class in December. The next class is 9 a.m. Jan. 23 in the fourth floor training area at Irwin Army Community Hospital. BAT training is set for Jan. 24 in the same locations from 7:45-11:30 a.m. for information, or to register, call 239-1887.

CIF Closure

The Central Issue Facility will be closed for annual inventory from Dec. 17- Jan. 2. Normal business will resume Jan. 3. Hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dietician Appointments

Due to the loss of the primary Nutrition Clinic dietitian, IACH Nutrition appointments and classes will be substantially limited for the months of December and January. Family Member Weight Control and Cholesterol Control Classes will be cancelled until further notice. Individual appointments are limited to acute and 72 hour consults.

Active Duty Weight Control and Prenatal classes will be provided. Primary care providers, the TRICARE Service Center, and the Nutrition Clinic have specific guidelines for which appointments are available.

For more information or questions, please call the Nutrition Clinic at 239-7644.

Couples Classes

Want to make a good marriage better? Want a little help with your communication?

Then come to the Couple Communication Class offered by Fort Riley's Family Life Chaplain. Classes will be held Tuesday at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Rm. 29 from 6-8 p.m. Free child care will be provided.

To register call 239-3436 by close of business Monday.

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Veterans recall Pearl Harbor attacks

By Scott Price

Community Relations Officer

For a small group of Army veterans it seems almost impossible to believe that 60 years have passed since their military bases on Oahu were suddenly and without warning attacked.

On that quiet Sunday morning they found themselves thrust into a world war, that arrived on the wings of wave after wave of Japanese aircraft.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the Japanese Empire's attack on the United States Pacific Fleet on Dec. 7, 1941, a "day of infamy."

Few Americans know that when Japanese naval pilots and crews flew over Oahu to attack Pearl Harbor and Wheeler Army Airbase, they were taken under fire by soldiers from the newly organized 24th Infantry Division.

Some of the first shots fired in defense of America on that fateful day were fired by soldiers wearing the Taro Leaf patch.

James D. Mack, a 19-year old PFC, was attached to the communications platoon with the 19th Infantry Regiment that day.

He and his friends had just finished breakfast and were choosing up sides for a softball game in the unit quadrangle when they noticed airplanes flying low through Kole Kole Pass.

"Some of the planes began strafing and dropping bombs, that's when we realized it was an attack," Mack said. "One of the planes returning from the attack on Wheeler strafed our area and that old red meatball stood out on its wings like a new \$10 bill."

"It was chaos," Mack continued. "We broke the locks off of the rifle racks and got our 1903 Springfields but we couldn't get any ammunition. It was a couple of hours before the officers and NCOs returned and issued ammo

he and his friends accomplished during the Second World War's Pacific Campaign.

"We did what we had to do," he said. "We all knew that we had something worth fighting for."

Evert "Moose" Hoffman was a 21-year old gun commander with the 64th Coastal Artillery's anti-aircraft section when Japanese planes began strafing American positions.

The tired soldiers in his unit had just returned from a grueling two weeks in the field practicing

flew "right over" his barracks and he saw the Japanese red sun insignia. "Then I said to myself, oh my God, we're at war!"

Hoffman credited his unit first sergeant Pat Bryles, a grizzled old 30-year man and former boxer, with getting his unit together almost immediately and moving to its fighting positions on Pearl Ridge near Aiea.

When the soldiers crested the ridge and saw the wreckage of the American fleet some burst into tears while most were so angry they felt like "hitting something."

Hoffman recalled that he and his unit remained in place for over eight months waiting for an invasion that never occurred.

Then he set sail on a cargo ship for a five-month cruise as a pom-pom gunner and fought the Japanese again on Guam.

During the Korean War he received a battlefield commission and retired in 1963 as a major.

Hoffman said he sees similarities between the attack on Pearl Harbor and the modern terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"The attacks of 9-11 came as more of a surprise and shock than Pearl Harbor," he said. "From all the alerts and news bulletins we knew something was going to happen with Japan but when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked, the world was supposedly at peace."

"The attacks of 9-11 came as more of a surprise and shock than Pearl Harbor."

—Evert "Moose" Hoffman
Veteran of Pearl Harbor Day

and gave us orders to move out."

Mack later went to flight school and took the war to the enemy in the air, scoring four confirmed kills while flying a P-38 Lightning.

He assisted in downing two additional Japanese aircraft but since his squadron did not split credit for "kills," he lost both to a toss of a coin and a cut of a deck of cards.

Mack said he is proud of what

its battle drills during the latest of

numerous "phony" attack alerts.

"It was just after breakfast when we heard small arms fire," he said. When we went outside we could hear and see the airplanes. There were black bursts around them and at first we thought the navy was having maneuvers."

Hoffman recalled that he called out to a buddy, "Hey, what's gong on?"

It was then that a Zero fighter

CFC surpasses goals

By Jerry Brecheisen

DCA

The Fort Riley Combined Federal Campaign soared past its 2001 goal with contributions and pledges of \$209,474.

The campaign was launched in early October with a goal of \$163,000 dollars.

The final reporting period was Nov. 29 and the contributions and pledges for this year represent 128.5 percent of the goal.

CFC is the annual fund-raising drive conducted by Fort Riley federal employees in their workplace each fall.

Fort Riley Federal employees and military personnel raise thousands of dollars through the CFC that benefits non-profit charities.

The mission of CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the

quality of life for all. The Directorate of Community Activities is responsible for oversight of the Fort Riley CFC campaign. The DCA is located at 253 Stuart Ave., Main Post Fort Riley, KS 66442 785-239-3467.



Security clearances set to expire soon

By Pete Paras

Security Division

Soldiers and DA civilians need to be aware of a date, looming in the future, which will have a dramatic effect on their careers.

That is the day when SECRET security clearances with a date of investigation older than 10 years will expire.

The U.S. Army Central Clearance Facility, located at Fort Meade Md., has directed that all investigations for SECRET clearances, older than 10 years, will be considered outdated, with all access terminated effective June 30.

Investigations for TOP SECRET clearances are only good for five years from the date of investigation, and SECRET clearances are good for only 10 years from the date of investigation.

Currently on Fort Riley, there are approximately 1,440 military and civilian personnel whose investigations for a SECRET clearance are older than 10 years.

The Fort Riley Directorate of Security, Bldg. 509, is hot on the case.

Security personnel have already notified all unit S-2's and

civilian security mangers, and have provided them with rosters of those soldiers and civilians who need to re-do their investigations before the June 2 deadline.

The Fort Riley DSEC has access to Central Clearance Facility and Defense Security Services databases. They can instantly check to see the status of a clearance or of a pending investigation.

Soldiers and civilians whose clearance is about to expire should already have been notified by their S-2 or security manager to re-do their investigation. If you think your clearance may be out of date, check with your security manager or call the Fort Riley DSEC.

Tony Hunt, chief of Personnel Security Division at 239-6323, or Pete Paras, at 239-3607 will assist personnel in determining the status of their clearances.

The key is to take action now, and submit a new investigation packet for an updated clearance.

A security clearance affects access, as well as promotions, schools, and key assignments.

It is incumbent upon each soldier and civilian to ensure their investigation is up to date. Don't wait until access is terminated.

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Deaths

continued from page 1

vicemembers who were killed by ordnance from a B-52 aircraft north of Kandahar, Afghanistan Wednesday.

They were MSgt. Jefferson Donald Davis, 39, Tennessee; SFC Daniel Henry Petithory, 32, Massachusetts; and SSgt. Brian Cody Prosser, 28, California.

All three deceased soldiers served in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

A B-52 that was called in to provide fire support to ground forces who were under fire, reportedly dropped its ordnance about a football field away from two Special Forces teams and Afghan opposition fighters, officials said.

Two soldiers were pronounced dead at the scene, the third died while being transported to a medical facility in the region. Five Afghan opposition fighters were also killed and an unknown number wounded, officials said.

"A close air-support strike is one of the most potentially hazardous types of missions used," officials said. "Simultaneously calling in air strikes on your own position and the enemy's position that you're engaged with takes very fine control, coordination and precision. Unfortunately, it doesn't always happen without causing our own casualties."

Officials said they would not speculate on the reason the precision-guided bomb missed its target, whether the wrong coordinates were given, wrong coordinates were entered on the plane or the system malfunctioned.

In an unrelated incident, an infantryman from the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. died Nov. 29 in Uzbekistan. Pvt. 2 Giovanni Maria, 19, was a native of Camden, N.J., and had enlisted in the Army in May.

The incident is under investigation.

Top Soldiers

continued from page 1

n't realize I would go this far." Bodie said she prepared for the board by studying the manuals as well as her unit's study guide, added with a little bit of perseverance.

"It took a lot of determination," said Bodie. "Whenever obstacles came up, I made up my mind and did what it took to succeed."

Bodie covers all aspects of a soldier, capturing second place in the 24th Infantry Division boxing tournament and a fourth place in the 937th Engineer Group's squad stakes competition.

Working in a customer service position in 1st Finance's Debt Management section, Bodie puts the customer first.

"I try to connect with the customer and keep a good sense of humor and a positive attitude," she said. She added that some-

times because of the workload that can be difficult.

"All in all, you have to put yourself in the other person's shoes," said Bodie.

For Powell, winning NCO of the Year came in addition to being named to the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

"I started going to the battalion board so that I could prepare for the Sgt. Audie Murphy board," said Powell. "I won at battalion and group and just kept on winning."

Powell said that he prepared for the boards by first studying questions that he would ask if he were on the board himself as well as covering the basics.

"The biggest part is that I don't let the board members intimidate me and that helps me with the answers," said Powell.

As a platoon sergeant with 977th MP Co., Powell embodies the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer.

"SSgt. Powell is like a father to us," said Spec. Nathaniel Lake, 977th MP Co. He said there is nothing he asks them to do that he wouldn't do himself.

"He is the only NCO who knows what he's doing and can brag about it," said Lake.

Bodie, who possesses a bachelor's degree of business administration in marketing and management, hopes to continue her board winning ways with the Officer's Candidate School board. Her next destination is the Primary Leadership Development Course.

Both soldiers can look forward to their future, with memories of being the best on Fort Riley for 2001.

Gunnery

continued from page 1

more difficult than the actual qualification.

"Table VIII is where you earn all of your money," said McCartney.

The crew training is one of many tasks the unit is doing as they prepare for a rotation to the National Training Center.

"This is the beginning of a two and half month intensive NTC train up which involves a Brigade Battle Simulation, live-fire gunnery and a deployment for platoon-level training," said Maj. Tim Marshall, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor operations officer.

"Gunnery is all about crew lethality," said Capt. Joe Clark, commander, Co. B.

"It's nice to come out here and earn our pay doing what we're paid to do," said Watson.

Not only is gunnery the time to qualify the battalion, but also about bragging rights.

"Tankers either gain or lose bragging rights at Table VIII," said Clark. "Each crew in the battalion is evaluated and the goal is to be high tank in the battalion, high tank company and to have the top platoon streamers on our guidon."

House Ad Please Fill

Celebrate holidays in Fort Riley community

By Jerry Brecheisen

DCA

The Directorate of Community Activities, Recreation Adventures for Tomorrow Team is sponsoring Holiday Decoration Contests in the Fort Riley community.

Fort Riley military units, directorates, and activities within directorates are invited to participate in the Holiday Card Contest. The cards are large, handmade displays placed in prominent areas outside facilities, headquarters and main offices.

The theme of the card must be in good taste and should express fun, excitement, holiday cheer and joy.

Proper size dimensions, entry rules and entry deadlines are

available at the Arts and Crafts Center, Bldg. 6918. Arts and Crafts Center personnel can assist with holiday card construction guidelines and provide wood kits appropriate for the project.

In addition to the outside holiday card displays, Fort Riley Housing Area residents are invited to decorate individual homes.

Judging and awards for each of the housing area communities is planned. Those who wish to participate in the Holiday Home decoration contest may also pick up entry forms at the Arts and Crafts Center.

Holiday card and home holiday decoration judging is scheduled Dec. 17-18.

Winners will be announced Dec. 19. The Holiday Card con-

test winner will receive a traveling trophy for display. The home decoration winner will receive a holiday basket including gift certificates.

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Fort Riley Community

December 7, 2001

Proudly serving the Home of America's Army

Page 7

Fort Riley implements new customer survey tool

By James B. Pritchett
Editor

Fort Riley is the first Army post to stand up a new customer survey system that may eventually be implemented at all military installations.

From housing to healthcare, dining to driver's licenses, a fledgling computer program called Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE for short, is now in place at Fort Riley to open the channels of communication between those who use and those who provide products and services.

The military, in an effort to reach consumers at bases around the world, is implementing this system to ensure

members of the military family can express their individual and collective voices in a more influential way.

Anyone who uses a service of the military or buys something from an affiliated activity will soon be able to communicate with managers responsible for customer satisfaction. Even services members receive as a benefit of service, such as gymnasiums, are covered under the new program.

It's a bit like comment cards — with a twist.

Customers can now send their comments online and ensure someone with the authority to act on them reads their comments.

To access the system on the Internet,

visit the Fort Riley homepage at www.riley.army.mil and click on the ICE logo. Visitors are greeted in a new window with a list of Fort Riley services they can comment on. Direct access to ICE is also available on the Internet at ice.disa.mil.

Customers can click on the ICE program link from their base's Internet homepage from any computer; at the site, at the workplace or from home.

Along with standard information such as the service phone number, location and hours of operation, they'll view a form that starts with six standardized questions and continues with questions the local manager has included. Fort Riley customers can now comment on

service in 75 areas.

Once a customer fills out the survey, with a click of the mouse, they can send it immediately to the manager of the service and to the Department of Defense server in Washington D.C.

The system is set up so that if a customer's survey responses are a bit negative, the system requires that the manager of the activity respond to the customer within three days of receiving the survey, provided the customer enters contact information on the form.

If the customer has not received a response in that time, the customer will receive an e-mail with the manager's phone number so that they can speak to the manager directly.

At Fort Riley, Betty Banner, program manager for ICE, said the post is taking that a step further. When contact information is provided, managers are asked to respond in three days no matter whether the comment is positive or negative.

"We encourage our customers to give us an e-mail address so that we can let them know we received their comments and that their ideas are important to us," she said.

Fort Riley is the 12th installation to implement the system, according to Banner.

Officials expect approximately 50 more installations to join the ICE system in the next year.

Focus groups gauge patrons' satisfaction

By Kevin Robinson
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va.—When customers talk, commissaries listen. The resulting feedback helps store directors gauge customer satisfaction and improve their stores.

One of the most popular methods for store directors to solicit customer feedback is by talking to a cross section of patrons in focus groups. Through this forum, customers can offer opinions, viewpoints and perceptions about a topic under the direction of a moderator.

A focus group seeks a variety of customers who reflect the store's patron demographics. A focus group is not an advisory council, where unit representatives meet to talk about issues affecting their organization's use of a commissary or military exchange. Focus group participants don't represent anyone but themselves. There are no "permanent" members because patron participation changes with each meeting.

Store directors are expected to exercise "the art of listening" through focus groups each quarter. However, they may do more sessions if major changes in their store warrant customer feedback, or if the store director, zone manager or region director feels such a meeting is necessary.

At the Scott Air Force Base, Ill., commissary, focus groups are considered one of the ideal ways to "mingle with the community," said Jo "Josie" McKinney, the product coordinator at the store and a moderator during the meetings. "You know the saying about how many friends an unhappy customer will tell ... well, it works both ways. When our focus group participants leave here they leave with the feeling that somebody really does care, and they do tell their friends."

Often, focus group participants will talk about the products that are, or are not, in the commissary, McKinney said.

They may question a policy, and the meeting is an opportunity for the store to explain why the policy exists.

"You sometimes find out the smallest things that you overlooked that seem like big things to your customer ... something simple like where the hand baskets are located. Until customers tell us that the hand baskets are located inconveniently, we think we are doing a good job. We never lose sight of the fact that this commissary belongs to our patrons and we are only the caretakers," said McKinney.

To ensure the meetings reach their full potential, store directors act with a sense of urgency to develop action plans in response to patron comments and suggestions. Within seven days, commissary staffs address every issue "with attention to detail and a commitment" to improve their stores, said Pat Nixon, DeCA deputy director.

"Holding case lot sales on reserve unit training weekends and promoting commissary sales and events at the dining facilities are suggestions that came out of focus groups that have been picked up by other stores," said Ann Brown, focus group coordinator, Midwest Region.

Listening to customers is also at the top of the itinerary for Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr., the Defense Commissary Agency director, when he tours commissaries worldwide. He sees focus groups as an "important customer service tool."

"They talk, we listen and they get answers — right away," Courter said. "Listening to our customers gives us important information which we can use to determine whether the products and services offered at a specific location are truly responsive to the needs of that store's customer demographics."

If you would like to be a member of your commissary's focus group, call the commissary and tell the store director you want to do your part in making it the best commissary in the region.



Post/Flegle

Santa joins the gift-wrapping festivities after the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Dec. 4, by putting candy canes on a gift wrapped by Col. Art Wallace, commander, MEDDAC.

Santa opens workshop

By Lillian Flegle
Contributing Writer

The air at Operation Santa Claus' workshop was charged with electricity in anticipation of Santa's arrival for the annual ribbon cutting ceremony at his Fort Riley workshop. The scene was set with Christmas music and lots of gaily-colored lights filling the room with Christmas cheer. Colorful garlands adorned each pole. Tables were packed with toys and wrapping paper in anticipation of the gift-wrapping frenzy later. Tasty holiday treats and cool drinks were on hand to re-energize the guests attending this momentous holiday occasion. Guests ranged from kindergarten aged Daisy Scouts to the commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley.

Sgt. Maj. James Sands, head elf and garrison sergeant major, said this was an exceptionally special ribbon cutting ceremony for him because he and his soldier elves established this new workshop facility from scratch. "In the past, we were building on someone

else's ideas," said Sands. "This is special because it's something I've helped build from the ground up. It's my legacy and feels more personal. Also, what makes it so special is that the commanding general is a part of it."

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech.) and Fort Riley, said he was a brigade commander here several years ago and remembered OSC when it was located at Camp Funston.

He said it had already been in operation for 24 years, and now, nine years later, it is still going strong.

"I thought, what a wonderful opportunity it was then and I certainly recognize it now for us in uniform to finally have the opportunity to give something good back to that wonderful community that's always doing good things for us," stated Metz.

Metz then shared some of the OSC statistics from last year's program with the guests attending the ceremony.

"Just to give you an appreciation for their good-

ness," he said, "they collected 13,800 new toys, distributed them to 1,028 military families and 2,500 civilian families across eastern Kansas and western Missouri. That's four presents per child who probably weren't going to get anything for Christmas. I'm very, very proud of all the effort that goes into making this happen," Metz concluded.

Just before Santa arrived, Metz explained that when he realized that Operations Santa Claus' headquarters was located where the old Class VI store used to be, he jokingly commented that he knew this was going to be a very spirited place.

With that comment, Santa arrived and sauntered down the aisle to a snappy, upbeat version of "Here Comes Santa Claus." All the guests young and old were tapping their toes and clapping their hands to the irresistible rhythm of the song, while Santa wished everyone a Merry Christmas as he merrily made his way through the crowd.

Santa, Metz and Sands were joined by CSM Richard Hearron, division

Tax Center to help soldiers file returns

By Brian W. Underdahl
Legal Assistance Attorney

Fort Riley will again operate the Tax Center during the 2002 tax-filing season.

The Tax Center will provide free federal and state income tax preparation and electronic filing for soldiers, retirees and their family members.

Tax operations begin Feb. 1, and end April 15.

There are a number of things taxpayers should do before visiting the Tax Center next year.

First, locate 2001 tax returns.

Second, if you have changed your name in the last year you must also change your name with the Social Security Administration, so that your new name matches your social security number. Electronically filed tax returns are often rejected because the name does not match the social security number.

There is a Social Security Administration office located in Manhattan.

Third, anyone who has divorced since the last tax season and has children in their custody, and those who are single parents and wish to claim their children, must prove (by divorce decree, custody order or other means) that the children are in their custody.

Finally, bring social security cards, military identification cards and W-2s to the Tax Center.

The Tax Center will not process tax returns for individuals who have unfiled taxes from previous years.

The IRS has a roving Tax Assistance Program to help file taxes. This service also offers help to those who have particularly difficult tax problems.

The Tax Center will be hiring civilians to fill paid positions again this season.

Among other duties, those who are hired to fill these positions will prepare tax forms, schedules and returns using an automated tax preparation program.

Preparers will also advise customers regarding the proper procedures, formats and information required to complete the tax preparation process.

Parents deck the halls with children's artwork

By Jeremy Heckler
19th Public Affairs Det.

Parents and teachers from Ware Elementary School brought an early Christmas surprise to the students during Deck the Halls Night Dec. 4.

Deck the Halls Night was a chance for parents and teachers to get together as well as show off holiday masterpieces.

"We invited the parents to come out to decorate the school with their child's artwork," said Deena Kitchen, parent volunteer coordinator.

As Christmas music played throughout the school a variety of Christmas ornaments and artwork came out, turning the school into a gallery of student art.

"Every teacher was asked to do a Christmas art activity that could be displayed in each pod," said Kitchen.

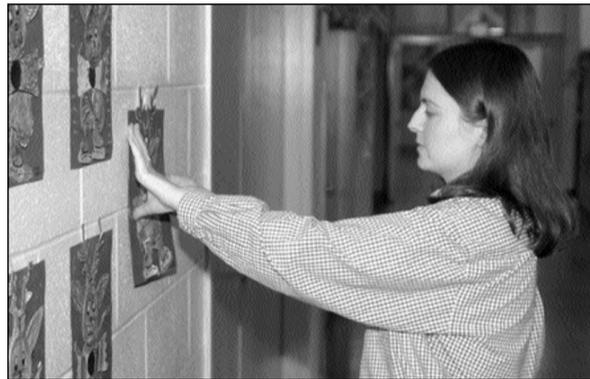
Projects varied from the simple snowman seen each winter season, to paper cut poinsettias.

"Two classes grouped together and made a Christmas tree with hands they cut out of the paper called 'Hands all around the Christmas Tree,'" said Kitchen.

"Our class designed their own gingerbread houses," said Mandy Clengin, second grade teacher.

In addition to the artwork, two large Christmas murals with class pictures lined the entrance of the school, where students could find their picture.

The goal of Deck the Halls night is to encourage more involvement in the school.



Post/Heckler

Mandy Clengin, a second grade teacher at Ware Elementary School decorates the wall of her pod with student reindeer artwork during Deck the Halls night at the school.

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| Sept. 29* | BC | (L)10-31 |
| Oct. 6 | Houston | (W)28-14 |
| Oct. 13 | ECU | (L)49-26 |
| Oct. 20* | TCU | (L)38-20 |
| Oct. 27 | Tulane | (W)42-35 |
| Nov. 3* | AF | (L)34-24 |
| Nov. 10 | Buffalo | (L)26-19 |
| Nov. 17* | Memphis | (L)42-10 |
| Tomorrow | Navy | (W)26-17 |

*Away games

Fort Riley Sports

December 7, 2001

News about Fort Riley Sports, Fitness and Pastimes

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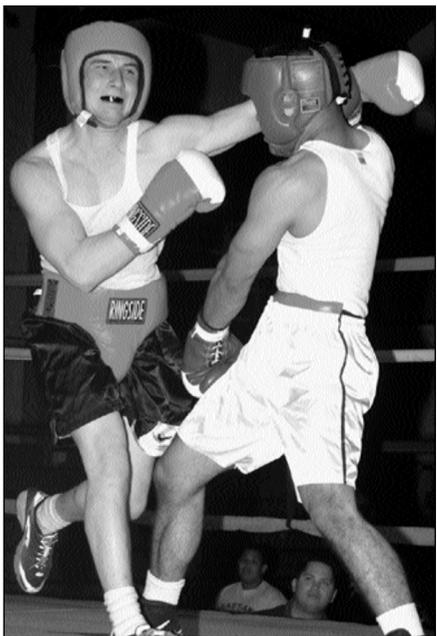
Boxing After Dark

Fort Riley soldiers battle for bragging rights in squared circle



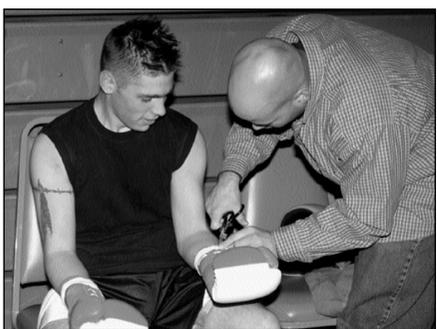
Post/Doheny

Arsenia Ledbetter raises her hand in victory as the winner of the 100-pound fight.



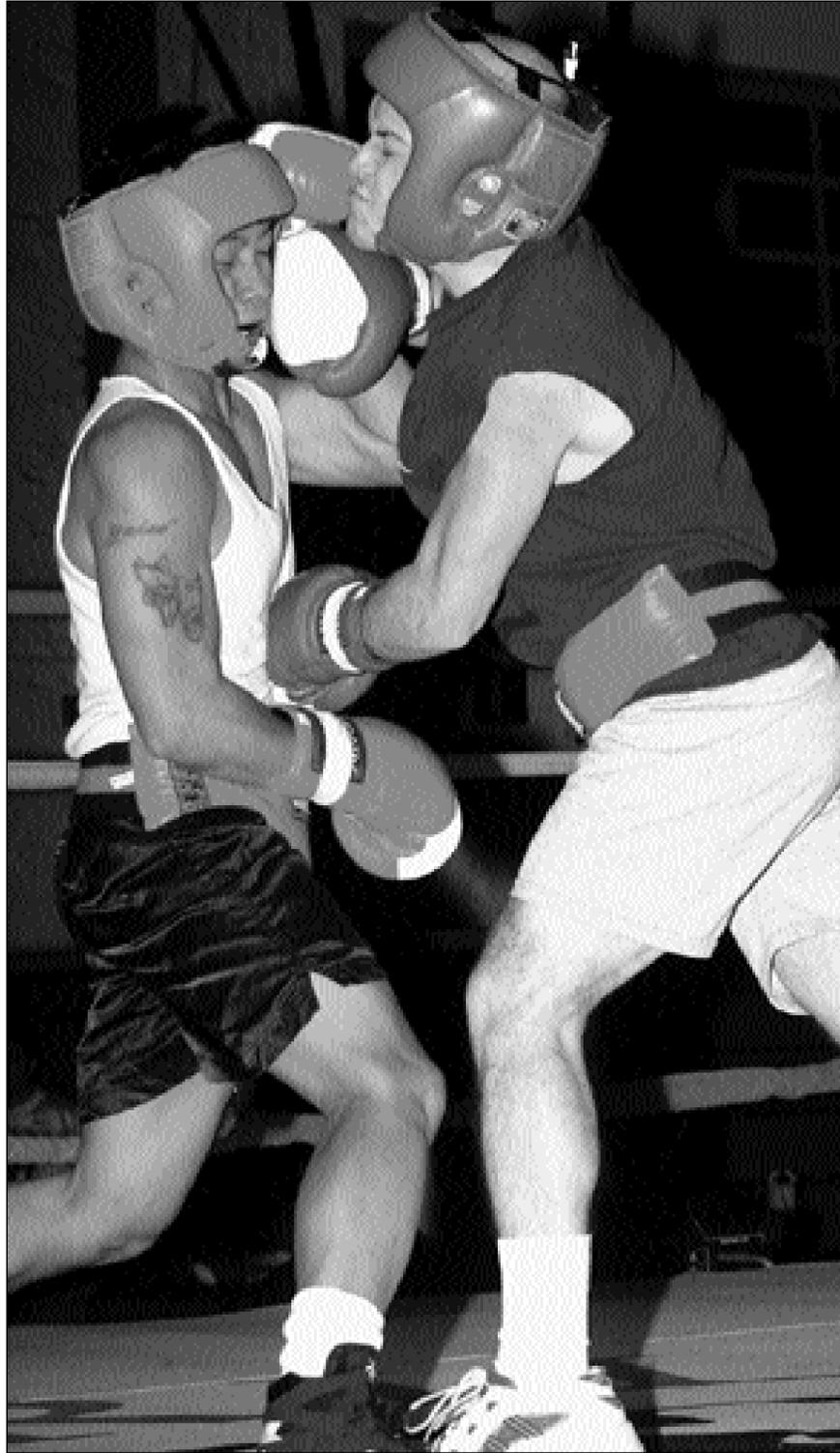
Post/Doheny

Eddie Castaneda dodges a punch from Benjamin Derksen in the 139-pound title fight. Castaneda won the bout.



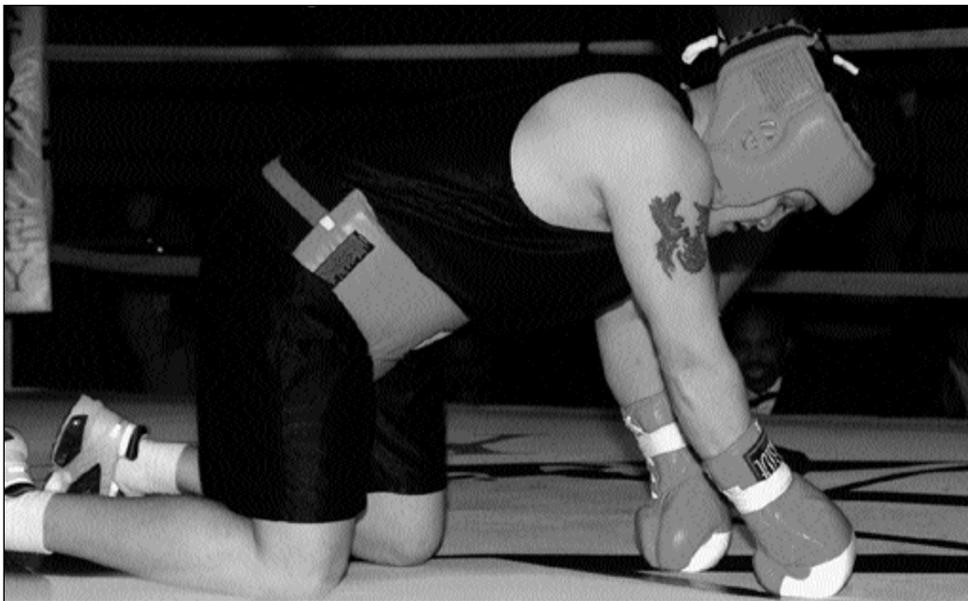
Post/Doheny

A boxer gets assistance from his coach in the after-fight staging area.



Post/Doheny

Javier Ruiz throws a right hand into the face of Rodel Yadao during the 125- pound title fight at the 2001 Fort Riley Post Boxing Tournament.



Post/Doheny

Arturo Anzaldua gets up after being knocked down during the 156-pound first-round fight. The first night of boxing action featured the fighters boxing for a chance at the title Nov. 29.

By Kevin Doheny

Sports Editor

There have been many big nights in boxing history. Muhammed Ali versus Joe Frazier, "Sugar" Ray Leonard versus "Marvelous" Marvin Haglar, Rocky Marciano versus Joe Louis and Mike Tyson versus Evander Holyfield.

Nov. 28-29 was also a big night for Fort Riley. The night was no different to boxing fans here because lefts, rights, jabs, hooks and uppercuts were a recurring theme during the 2001 Fort Riley Post Boxing Tournament at King Field House.

The boxers stepped into the ring trying to become the post champion and wear the first-place medal.

They competed against one another furiously round after round taking each other's best punches.

The stands were full with eager fans trying to get a peak of the action going on inside the squared circle. They often reacted when a fighter would land a big punch or one fighter would stumble to the floor.

"The night was a great night," said Bill Brooks, ring announcer for the tournament. "It was a good night for Fort Riley patrons to come out and enjoy themselves."

There were eleven bouts each night, including fights between female soldiers on Fort Riley.

The female soldiers received a big welcome from the crowd as they entered the ring.

Safety was also a big issue at the event.

There were medical personnel including soldiers from the 125th Forward Support Battalion standing by in case of emergency.

After each match, both boxers were examined by a medical staffer in the staging area near the ring.

As the fighters exited the ring, they seemed joyous and exhausted at the same time.

"I did only as good as my opponents did," said an exhausted Alexander Herrera, Company B, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor. "They pushed me as hard as I've ever been pushed. They did well and I did well, but it was just a matter of points."

Some of the boxers felt very pleased with their efforts in the ring.

They felt their preparation and fundamentals helped them from being the hunted inside the squared circle.

"It's really like boxing," said Herrera, winner of the 156-pound class. "You have to use fundamentals and know what to do when you step into the ring."

Herrera also said the boxing was very difficult.

"I'm happy, glad and excited that I did it, but it was very hard and I did well. This is just another I have done while I've been in the Army to succeed. I joined the Army to push myself further, and now I'm here and I try to push myself harder everyday. This is just one of those things you get to do while your in the Army."

"The tournament was set up smoothly," said Sunstrom. "We received great support from the personnel working in Craig, Leonard, Long, Robinson Fitness Centers, as well as the staff

here at King Field House. The individuals who help set up two days prior to the event deserve a hand. Also, there is a lot of behind the scenes chores these people had to do, they also deserve a thank you."

Neither Tyson nor Ali stepped into the ring during the tournament, but the action wasn't hurt due to the lack of the big names in the sport of boxing.

Boxers from all the different units competed as if it were the last chance they would have to prove themselves against one another.

In the line of danger, the boxers put on a show for the entire post to see. The fans showed their support as well.

2001 Fort Riley Post Boxing Tournament Results:

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| WOMEN: | | |
| 100 pounds: | 1. Arsenia Ledbetter-MEDDAC | |
| 125 pounds: | 2. Susan Rice-MEDDAC | |
| 165 pounds: | 1. Esperanza Delgado-DENTAC | |
| 185 pounds: | 2. Linda Williams-568th CSE | |
| MEN: | 1. Sharella Brown-24th Trans. | |
| OPEN: | 1. Elena Calabrese-125th FSB | |
| 165 pounds: | 1. Tommy Jones-B 1-5 FA | |
| NOVICE: | | |
| 125 pounds: | 1. Javier Ruiz-MEDDAC | |
| 139 pounds: | 2. Rodel Yadao-C 4-1 FA | |
| 147 pounds: | 1. Eddie Castaneda- A 4-1FA | |
| 156 pounds: | 2. Benjamin Derksen- C Co 1-16th Inf. | |
| 165 pounds: | 1. Jason Ferguson- A 4-1 FA | |
| 175 pounds: | 2. William Compton- C 1-4 ADA | |
| 185 pounds: | 1. Alexander Herrera- AB 1-13 Armor | |
| 195 pounds: | 2. Johnathon Aranda- B-125th FSB | |
| 205 pounds: | 1. Harvey Shaw- C Co. 1-16 Inf. | |
| 215 pounds: | 2. Jeremy Smith- 568th CSE | |
| 225 pounds: | 1. Jessie Speed- HHC 937th Eng. Grp. | |
| Over 225 pounds: | 2. Carlos Velaquez- 24th Trans. | |
| | 1. Terrance Thomas- C 1-4 ADA | |
| | 2. Christopher Riley- HHB 4-1 FA | |
| | 1. Ricky Hutchison- 568th CSE | |
| | 2. John Foor- HHC 937th Eng. Grp. | |
| | 1. Idris Jackson- SVC 4-2 FA | |
| | 2. William Northcutt- B Co. 1-13 Armor | |
| | 1. Maverick Tufulu- B 4-1 FA | |
| | 1. Larry Graham- C 1-41 ADA | |
| | 2. Miguel Mauras- MEDDAC | |
| | 1. Michael Saina- A 4-1 FA | |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| TEAM RESULTS: | |
| WOMEN: | 1. MEDDAC/DENTAC |
| | 2. 541st Maint. |
| | 3. 125th FSB |
| MEN: | 1. 4-1 FA |
| | 2. 541st Maint. |
| | 3. C 1-4 ADA |
| | 4. MEDDAC/DENTAC |
| | 5. HHC 937th Eng. Grp. |
| | 6. 1-13 Armor |
| OUTSTANDING BOXER: | TERRANCE THOMAS, C 1-4 ADA |

Army sinks Navy after pep talk from President Bush

By Peter Chadwick

19th Public Affairs Det.

There wasn't bowl game con-tender hype at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, Pa., Saturday.

There was no talk of which football player from the two teams would be jumping to the National Football League.

The Heisman Trophy wasn't even mentioned as a potential prize for the gridiron gladiators representing two storied institutions on the 100-yard battle-ground.

Not that the United States Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy haven't had their share of clefted standouts.

The last Army cadet to hold the posturing statue was Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Peter Dawkins who hoisted the coveted award in 1958.

The left-handed stalwart, who led the West Pointers in an undefeated season, went on to command troops in both the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions during his 24 years in service.

Roger Staubach, Navy, was the fourth junior to pick up his bronze hard ware from the Downtown Athletic Club. But Staubach was more than a 1963 football trophy winner and Super Bowl most valuable player for the Dallas Cowboys. Before he joined the National Football League in 1969, he served four years on active duty—one of those in Vietnam.

U.S. President George W. Bush met with each team in their respective locker rooms before the

game. But it was the world situation, not the game that, he spoke of.

"Whatever theater you end up in, I can assure you the cause is just," said President Bush. "It is right and we'll win. Thanks for your commitment to your country."

The cadets and "middies" said they were aware of what their real reason for being at the academies was.

"We're here just to play football for a few years," said Brian Shultz, center, Navy. "Soon as we graduate we'll be put in harms way, serving our country at a higher level."

"I had a graduate assistant job, here (with the football team)," said Chad Jenkins, quarterback, Army. "I turned it down. I think I can help the Army more being out there."

That being said — there was still a game to play.

President Bush tossed the coin at the beginning of the game, a tradition started by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1901.

The Navy won the coin toss to begin the contest.

It proved to be one of few things that would go their way that afternoon.

From the outset, Army played as if they were in Navy's huddle all afternoon.

Ed Malinowski, one of the Midshipmen seniors, was given the honor to start the game at quarterback.

But his runs were stuffed and

his pass attempts were knocked down. After punting to Army, it took two plays for Black Knights to score on a 60-yard run to the end zone by Plebe Ardel Daniels. The freshman had a paltry 25 carries all season and this was his first touchdown.

Halfway through the same quarter, the Army showed they had an air assault to go with their ground pounding.

Jenkins threaded a pass to Brian Bruenton for a 40-yard strike leading to six more Army points. Derek Jacobs gave the

Navy a bit of hope when he missed the point after.

The two squads swapped field goals before the half and went to the break with Army up 16-3.

At the opening kick-off to start the second half, Omari Thompson faked out Navy's coverage team and took the ball 96 yards to score another Knight T.D.

It was a near perfect game for Army. Jenkins was intercepted by Navy four times but they could only muster two more field goals.

Finally, Navy's third string QB, Craig Candeto tossed a four-yard

touchdown pass to Steve Mercer with 23 ticks left on the clock. Navy managed a two-point conversion to make the score a bit more respectable but it was too little, too late.

The Navy's leaky offensive line and inability to stop the big play did them in.

With the fall classic complete, Army Tight End Clint Dodson put it all in perspective.

"We fought a war amongst ourselves," said the senior. "Soon we'll be serving with each other for the common good."



U.S. Army photo Michael Rautio

Cadet Brian Bruenton sprints past several midshipmen, after catching a pass from quarterback Chad Jenkins, on his way to 42-yard touchdown on Army's second possession of the game.

Troopers lose three

By Kevin Doheny

Sports Editor

On the mat, the Fort Riley Middle School wrestling team battled Wamego, Chapman and Rock Creek Middle Schools, but came up short in all three.

The score from the Wamego match was 36-52.

The winning wrestlers from the Wamego match were David Watson, Chris Tonner, Andrew Stanley, Wil Gaskins, Steven Lillard, Paul Clark, Chris Bertucci, Hector Font, Sean Stanley and Chandler Holt.

During the Chapman meet, which the Troopers lost 18-94.

The winners were Toner, Gaskins, Rodney Hutchinson, Holt, Font, Reshean Uzzle and Anthony Wegworth.

In the third Match, the Troopers fell to Rock Creek 21-75.

The winning wrestlers were Holt, Stanley, Bertucci, Andrea Vierra, Drew Harrison, Jeff Sheehan and Chris Williams.

The Troopers' travel to Salina South Saturday.

HOUSE ADS
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Information, Ticketing and Registration

Information, Ticketing & Registration is located in the Leisure Travel Center, Bldg. 6918 (across from the PX) and has current information and tickets to surrounding area attractions, dinner theater, concerts, stage productions and movie theatres. Before making vacation plans, check out the maps and travel brochures from across the U.S. ITR also assists in group travel plans.

Active/retired military, Department of Army Civilians and family members are authorized to use the ITR Office for leisure travel services. Call 239-5614/4415 for further information.

Tickets are available for purchase with cash, check, MC, VISA and AE. Prices are subject to change.

Hours of Operation: Mon-

day-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. closed on Sundays and holidays.

Bicentennial Center—“Collin Raye” Christmas in the Heartland is coming to the Salina Bi-Centennial Center Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. The Original “Harlem Globetrotters” are coming to the Bi-Centennial Center Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.. Founded in 1926, the Harlem Globetrotters have played before more than 120 million fans in 115 countries and are known as America’s “Ambassadors of Goodwill.” A donation for every mile traveled in the U.S. during the upcoming season by the team buses will be contributed to the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund. Reserved tickets are now available through ITR.

Discount Movie Tickets—are available for Carmike Theater in

Manhattan and Westside Twin in Junction City at discounts. Buy several as they can be used within a year of purchase.

Kansas City Chiefs—Tickets are still available for the following game. Cost is \$55 without transportation and \$65 with transportation. Get a group together and tailgate before the holidays Dec. 23 against the San Diego Chargers.

Ski Colorado—Looking for the perfect Colorado mountain experience? Look no further than Winter Park Resort, a haven for skiers and snowboarders hungry for great terrain and the deepest powder of any major Colorado resort. When it comes to snowfall, nobody gets more than Winter Park.

Can anything top their mountain? Probably not, but their lodging and lift packages make Winter

Park more affordable than ever. ITR will assist you with “Ski Colorado” packaging for Winter Park, Keystone/Breckenridge, Vail and Silver Creek. Discounted military lift tickets are available.

Armed Forces Vacation Club—Resort condominium rentals for only \$234 throughout the U.S. and overseas locations. Great idea for holiday giving. How about Florida or California?

Discount attraction tickets are also available for both destinations. Gift certificates are available. Call ITR for further information.

Vacation Planning—More choices and greater discounts for a variety of attractions/shows for Central Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Branson, Mo., Las Vegas, California, Illinois, Geor-

gia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Carolinas, and Virginia areas.

Topeka Scarecrows—In action against the Rochester Mustangs on Dec. 14.

Discount tickets are only \$7.50. Tour cost of \$15 includes ticket and transportation. Limited seats available.

In action against the Rochester Mustangs on Dec. 14.

Discount tickets are only \$7.50. Tour cost of \$15 includes ticket and transportation. Limited seats available.

Holiday Tours—Starting off with Great Mall of the Great Plains Holiday Shopping on 15 Dec. 15, Stanford & Sons Comedy Show- Dec. 21 and Crown Center and Country Club Plaza Lights -Dec. 22. Must register

prior to tour departure.

Snow Creek—If you ever wanted to try a sport of skiing or wanted a friend to learn...now is the time. Jan. 14 and Feb. 11 ski in historical Weston, Mo. located 15 minutes from KCI airport. Snow Creek has 100 percent snowmaking capabilities.

Cost is \$15. This includes a special rope-tow ticket (valid for beginner areas only), complete set of rental equipment, beginner lesson and transportation.

Skiers wishing to use the chairlifts can purchase a discount lift ticket through ITR.

Limited space, so make reservations early. Tour is free to BOSS members (single soldiers only). Space limited so sign up early. ITR also sells discounted ski lift tickets for other ski dates.

Follow food safety tips for happy holidays

By Beth Settle

DeCA

If there's one thing the Defense Commissary Agency knows, it's food.

They also know food can be dangerous if not handled correctly. Midwest Region Food Safety Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Greg Burnham, and the Partnership for Food Safety Education offer some great tips on how to stay healthy and fight bacteria throughout the holiday season.

“The holiday season, though full of fun and festivities, is a time of year that there are increased reports of illnesses caused by food,” said Burnham.

“Because food is often a part of the holiday fun, there is an increased potential for mishandling, resulting in illness,” he said.

As well as the information below, remember this simple rule, “Keep hot foods hot (140°F or above) and cold foods cold (40°F or below), to ensure you have a “food-safe” holiday.

Food Safety Tips

Don't forget to wash your hands with soap and warm water before and after preparing raw meat, poultry, and seafood.

Use a clean food thermometer to make sure raw meat and poultry have been cooked to a safe internal temperature. Wash the food thermometer in hot, soapy water between uses.

S-e-p-a-r-a-t-i-n-g is essential! To prevent raw juices from contaminating ready-to-eat foods, separate raw meat, poultry, and seafood from other foods in your grocery store shopping cart and in your refrigerator.

Consider using one cutting board for raw meat, poultry, and seafood products and another one for fresh fruits and vegetables. In addition, don't forget to wash your hands with soap and warm water and your cutting boards, dishes, and utensils with hot, soapy water after they come in contact with raw meat, poultry, and seafood.

Place cooked food on a clean platter. If you put cooked food on

an unwashed platter that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood, bacteria from the raw food could contaminate the safely cooked food.

To prevent juices from raw meat, poultry, or seafood from dripping onto other foods in your refrigerator, place these raw foods in sealed containers, plastic bags, or on a plate or tray. Then store them on the bottom shelf, so they don't drip onto foods below them.

Don't use sauce that was used to marinate raw meat, poultry, or seafood on cooked foods, unless you boil it before applying. Never taste marinade or sauce that was used to marinate raw meat, poultry, or seafood unless it was heated to the boiling point first.

Washing raw poultry, beef, pork, lamb, veal, or seafood before cooking is not necessary. Although washing these raw foods may get rid of some of the pathogens on the surface of these foods, it may allow the pathogens to spread around the kitchen. Cooking these foods to a safe internal temperature will destroy

any bacteria that may be present in the food. Use a clean food thermometer to make sure food has reached the proper temperature.

The color of cooked meat and poultry is not a sure sign of its degree of doneness. For instance, hamburgers and fresh pork can remain pink even after cooking to temperatures of 160 °F or higher. Smoked poultry remains pink, no matter how cooked it is. Only by using a food thermometer can you accurately determine that meat and poultry have reached safe internal temperatures.

Cook eggs until the yolks and whites are firm.

Don't use recipes in which eggs remain raw or only partially cooked.

Cook fish until it's opaque and flakes easily with a fork.

Avoid eating raw oysters or raw shellfish.

Commissary scholarships open to military children

Don't be like those holiday shoppers who wait until the last minute. Applications and fact sheets for the 2002 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at your local commissary and at www.commissaries.com.

The deadline for filing completed applications for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 5.

More than 5,000 students applied for the scholarships last year. Nearly 400 scholarships were awarded. DeCA anticipates receiving double the applications and even more scholarship awards in 2002.

The \$1,500 scholarships are funded through industry donations and the program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation through a professional scholarship evaluation company.

Fisher House is known for building and donating fully furnished comfort homes near military medical facilities where families of patients receiving medical care can stay at a reasonable cost.

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7:30 p.m.
The Last Castle
(R)
131 Minutes

Dec. 7:

7:30 p.m.
Domestic Disturbance
(PG-13)
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