

FLYING AWAY



An AH-64 Apache helicopter flies farther into the Digital Multipurpose Range Complex at the Douthit Gunnery Complex Dec. 3 while acquiring a target. “That is what we practice here – finding and destroying targets,” said Lt. Col. Travis Habhab, commander of 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division

‘Gunfighters’ train Apache helicopter pilots at Douthit Gunnery Complex

Story and photo by Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

An AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot prepared for take-off by performing his pre-flight checks after visiting the Forward Arming and Refueling Point east of the tower where ground Soldiers were calling in targets. The helicopter took off and training began.

Soldiers from the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, are participating in a gunnery event at the Douthit Gunnery Complex off Highway 77 in the north part of Fort Riley. The unit is scheduled to be at the range until Dec. 17 completing a variety of training.

Lt. Col. Travis Habhab, commander of the 1st ARB, 1st

Avn. Regt., 1st CAB, 1st Inf. Div., said the mission is to keep pilots combat ready, by engaging targets in a realistic wartime scenario using the Apache Helicopter weapon systems while talking to ground guys and other aircraft on the radio.

“The whole goal of our training is to have our pilots ready for combat anywhere in the world,” Habhab said. “We do six different tables out here that pilots go out and shoot. They are practicing engaging with the Apache helicopter weapons systems.”

The training tables used for this event range from beginner to advanced so they can support a variety of experience levels. The pilots are becoming familiar with three weapon systems: the 30mm machine gun, the rocket launcher and the Hellfire missile. The machine gun and rockets are shot live in the field. With

the Hellfire missile every task in the training environment is performed except actual launch from the helicopter.

While the Soldiers focus on being ready for their mission, the complex staff are continuously preparing for the next onr.

Fred Siebe, manager of the Douthit Gunnery Complex, said training with Apaches has its challenges. They begin working with units about six months ahead to allow enough time to build targets to fit the training the unit wants to do.

The Apache pilots were meeting qualifications set by the Army. The biggest difference for preparation of the gunnery is the equipment used to score the pilots.

See GUNFIGHTERS, page 8

‘Big Red One’ pilot team shadows future of finance

By Staff Sgt. Jerry Griffis
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the Army moves military pay to the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army, operated under the Adjutant General Corps, the Finance Corps began transitioning its Soldiers to other jobs within the realm of finance and budgeting.

A team began working on budgeting in October in the 1st Infantry Division's finance department. The team is called the Army Financial Management Optimization, Financial Management Support Operation Center, Wave 2 Pilot Team, or Pilot Team for short.

“Here at Fort Riley, we have begun to pave the way for a ‘new face’ of finance by responding to the request of the assistant secretary of the Army (financial management and comptroller) to implement Army Financial Management Optimization,” said 1st Lt. Michelle Desillier, Pilot Team officer in charge.

Desillier said the goals of the AFMO are to i.e., organize finance while keeping the finance mission going smooth and reduce the cost of financial management operations.

As part of this reorganization, Detachments C and D of the 230th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, provided 10 Soldiers from their ranks to align themselves with the 1st Inf. Div.’s G-8.

“I was very happy with the opportunity, because not a lot of Soldiers get to work in the budget department and get a little hands-on experience of what the future of finance is,” said Spc. Ricardo Escobar, AFMO FMSOC Team member, Det. D, 230th FMSU.

Escobar said the implementation of the Pilot Team helped civilians working in the division G-8 because they were focused on many other tasks.

“We are around a very large knowledge pool that we can use if we need it,” said Spc. John Reynolds, AFMO FMSOC Team member, Det. D, 230th FMSU.

Desillier said the offices were established in a way that allowed the Soldiers easy accessibility to quick help from the experts in the office.

“This team has been provided an excellent opportunity,” Reynolds said. “What we do is important and has large implications and long-range effects.”

Reynolds said the team was working to clear unliquidated obligations from the system for travel-related expenses. Some of the unliquidated obligations are from 2011 and 2012 and became a priority for the team.

“I think this Pilot Team that we are doing is crucial because our civilians have a lot of tasks to do, so to focus on these obligations that were created in 2011 or 2012 due to whatever reason, it helps the service members collect the money that they are owed and it also helps recollect money that the service member owes to the military, which means we are freeing up more money,” Escobar said.

Desillier said the officers in charge have worked on how to measure the progress of the team and how it would affect finance in the Army.

“The pilot goal at the moment is to remove work load from the team currently working ULOs in order to allow them to focus on the other strenuous tasks,” Desillier said.

Desillier said once the team established working standard operating procedures and systems while successfully reducing the workload within the 1st Inf. Div. G-8,

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See FINANCE, page 8

Deputy commanding general for support receives first star

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 1st Infantry Division's deputy commander for support received his first star during a ceremony Dec. 4 at Fort Riley.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank was joined by his wife Jennifer, “the person most responsible for me being here today”; parents Doug and Betty; and brother Lt. Col. Mark Frank for the promotion ceremony at division headquarters.

Frank has served as the deputy commanding general for support since

Sept. 8, coming back to Fort Riley after serving as executive officer to the commander of the International Security Assistance Force-Resolute Support. Frank previously served with the “Big Red One” as the division's operations officer and commander of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team — the “Black Lions.”

“Today is a great day,” said Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. “We get

See FRANK, page 8



Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., right, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, administers the oath of office to Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, Dec. 4 during Frank's promotion ceremony at Fort Riley.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Griffis
1ST INF. DIV.

The next USAG Resilience Day Off will be:

DEC.

24

SAFETY HOLIDAY

As of Thursday, Dec. 3,

056

days have passed since the last vehicular fatality at Fort Riley. Fifty-five more and the post will celebrate with a safety holiday to take place at each unit's discretion.

HIGHLIGHTS



GARRISON CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS UP WARE PARADE FIELD ON HUEBNER AVENUE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, SEE PAGE 11.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



‘BIG RED ONE’ AND FORT RILEY COMBATIVES TEAM PREPARES FOR ARMED FORCES TOURNAMENT, SEE PAGE 15.

‘Devil’ brigade Soldiers train for Expert Infantryman Badge

Story and photo by Spc. Derrik Tribbey
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With qualifications for the Expert Infantryman Badge taking place Dec. 7 through 11, Soldiers with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, trained Nov. 30 through Dec. 4 at Fort Riley.

The weeklong training gave Soldiers the time to receive instructions and prepare to earn a badge that signifies their proficiency in infantry skills.

“This is a rite of passage for the infantrymen,” said Sgt. Cody Greuling, an indirect fire infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “I’m pretty excited and can’t wait. You get three no-gos and on your third you’re done, so it’s kind of intimidating.”

“No-gos” refer to when a Soldier fails to complete one of the many infantry tasks.

The training was combat-focused lane training and consisted of physical fitness, battle drills, medical, marksmanship and communications.

One of the instructors, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Grubb, a platoon sergeant with 2nd Battalion,

34th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, manned the M9 pistol station where Soldiers were required to clear, disassemble, reassemble and ensure the weapon functioned correctly.

“This helps Soldiers by keeping them hands-on with weapon systems they may come across in their career,” Grubb said. “This enhances their ability to conduct field maintenance on the weapon and, if need be, clear malfunctions and do a functions check to get that weapon system back up and get back into the fight.”

After one week of eight-hour training days, Soldiers will be given a small margin of error in order to qualify during the competition.

“I’m doing my best to learn as much as I can to earn my EIB as a private,” Pvt. Thomas Gallagher, an indirect fire infantryman with the 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Regt., said. “From what I heard, it’s pretty hard to earn it as a private, but I’m not going to let that hold me back from getting it. It’s all in the mind. The biggest challenge is going to be getting hands on with equipment I didn’t see in basic training. So it will be a challenging experience, but it will be worth it in the end.”



Sgt. Cody Greuling, an indirect fire infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, throws a practice grenade during Expert Infantry Badge training Dec. 2 at Fort Riley. The weeklong training gave Soldiers the time to receive instructions and prepare for the opportunity to earn the badge that signifies their proficiency in infantry skills. The training was combat-focused lane training and consisted of physical fitness, battle drills, medical, marksmanship and communications.

Fort Riley building exemplifies what it means to be green

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Riley are committed to building energy efficient and environmentally friendly buildings throughout the post to conserve natural resources.

Air Force personnel of the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron contribute to that commitment while using the Air Support Operation Center, building 585. The building was completed by the Corps of Engineers in 2012, and features two simulators Airmen use for training.

“Two simulators — one for the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, JTAC, and the other is the ASOC — which are both housed in that building,” said Lt. Col. Jason Grubaugh, commander of the 10th ASOS. “They are located in the same vicinity with a shared mission planning room in between them.”

The JTACs are the Airmen terminally controlling attack aircraft while the ASOC is the principle command and control node for integrating air power into Counterland Operations, which directs, coordinates and integrates air component assets supporting the ground combat element.

Personnel working in the ASOC support the 1st Infantry Division with close air support requirements.

“We are an Air Support Operations Squadron first and foremost,” Grubaugh said. “A big part of the ASOS is our ASOC. It sits in that building and requires two separate simulators. It all supports the ground scheme of maneuver for the aligned Army unit and the ASOC is aligned at the Division level.”

Grubaugh explained the unit needs both simulators because the ASOC is for procedural control of air assets up to the forward lines. Once those aircraft are controlled by the ASOC, they get in contact with JTACs on the ground.

After construction in 2012, the building was certified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design in May of 2014. To earn LEED certification, building projects must meet prerequisites and earn points toward different levels of certification.

For the designers and builders at the Corps of Engineers, LEED certification is a requirement. There are four levels of certification. Certified is the lowest level a building can achieve, which includes 40 to 49 points. Silver is the next level with 50 to 59 points, followed up gold with 60 to 79 points. Platinum is the highest level of certification with 80 or more points. The Corps of Engineers designers and builders must receive the lowest level — certified.

“It’s a combination of design and construction



COURTESY GRAPHIC

A self-contained campus sits on Carpenter Avenue at Fort Riley for the Soldiers of the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron. The Air Support Operations Center, building 585, sits to the far left of this image. “It’s pretty state-of-the-art — this whole facility is,” said Lt. Col. Grubaugh, commander of the 10th ASOS. “Out of all the bases I’ve been to, this one far surpasses a lot of the buildings on most bases.”

credits that go into the final documentation,” said Russell Williams, civil engineer technician. “They kept track of how much of the building materials are wasted and how much was recycled and how much was taken to the landfill.”

According to documentation from the Corps of Engineers staff

at Fort Riley, the ASOC building received 52 of 59 points and earned Silver LEED certification. The building was recently recognized at the 2015 LEED Recognition at the U.S. Green Building Council Chapter of the Great Plains.

Chief Master Sgt. John Hansen, 10th ASOS, said during the building process,

the consultants at the Fort Riley Corps of Engineers office listened to what the unit wanted for the simulators to work as needed.

“It is nice to have a building that was designed for us for a change,” Hanson said. “Normally we get buildings that are hand-me-downs from the Army ... The building we have here

is specifically built for those simulators, which is really nice.”

Grubaugh is also impressed with the functionality of the building.

“It’s pretty state-of-the-art — this whole facility is,” Grubaugh said. “Out of all the bases I’ve been to, this one far surpasses a lot of the buildings on most bases.”

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HOUSE
AD

Soldiers should think about safety resources available

By Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

No matter where Soldiers and family members go to celebrate this holiday season, if they've been drinking there are ways to get home at the end of the night without driving.

"Have a plan before you go out," said Sgt. Maj. Paul Milius, Provost Marshall Office, Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division.

Milius emphasizes that it's important to put a plan into place soberly before going out. But he said that like any plan, sometimes those can fall apart. And that is why programs such as Riley Ride and the Drunk Driving Prevention Program exist.

Riley Ride is available from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. It runs past nine pick-up and drop-off

points on post and Aggieville in Manhattan. See the Riley Ride Schedule below for times and stops available. Tickets for two rides is \$5 and five rides cost \$10. These must be paid in cash. Soldiers and their dependents are permitted to use this service.

Also in Aggieville is the Courtesy Patrol, which is staffed by Soldiers who volunteer to help keep Soldiers safe. These Soldiers can help people find a safe ride home.

For those who drive somewhere and then decide they want to drink, they can call DDPP, a non-profit and non-military affiliated program at 785-210-4412. Two volunteers will come out — one to drive them back to post, and one to drive their vehicle back. The DDPP office is at

7305 Apennines Drive. The program came to Fort Riley in in the summer of 2015 and so far 92 individuals have used it.

"If all else fails, there's staff duty," said Master Sgt. Tom Niederquell, Provost Marshall Office, Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division.

Every unit has a staff duty officer-in-charge and a noncommissioned-officer-in-charge. As part of their preparation for an evening out, Soldiers should find out the number of the staff duty office for their units, know the contact information for this office and keep it with them when they are out celebrating.

Niederquell said that the other option is also for Soldiers to call their first line supervisor.

Being under the influence can ruin the holiday season

By Andy Massanet
1ST INF. DIV. POST

At this time of year the number of safety messages for drivers and users of the nation's highways are plenty. Some might say it's more than enough.

But it's not too much to emphasize that keeping folks safe on highways continues to be a challenge, especially during the month of December. Which is why December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

The messages on safety during the holiday season are well known to nearly all, said Christopher Bowman, prevention coordinator for the Army Substance Abuse Program office at Fort Riley.

"We don't want to sound preachy," Bowman said, "but

at the same time they bear repeating."

Looking at the latest statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, www.nhtsa.gov/, the messages still need reiteration. For example, drunk driving crashes continue to represent roughly one-third of fatalities, resulting in 9,967 deaths in 2014.

With that in mind, Bowman has a few tips to help readers avoid finding themselves among these numbers.

- Always use a designated driver. Decide who will be the designated driver before going to a party.
- Do not make alcohol consumption the sole purpose of a party. Serve non-alcoholic beverages as well.
- Offer safe rides if alcohol is being served.

- Serve food before serving alcoholic beverages.
- Do not serve alcohol to minors.
- Do not use illegal drugs, or misuse prescription drugs. Driving while under the influence of alcohol "gets a lot of attention," Bowman said, "but drugs, both illegal and prescription continue to be a problem."

Bowman's reminds that "just because you are taking a drug that is prescribed to you, you are still breaking the law if you drive while under the influence of that drug."

Also, he reminds all to avoid operating machinery while using alcohol or taking medications.

Following these tips will ensure a happy holiday for you and yours.

For more information, call ASAP at 785-240-6267.

Riley Ride Schedule

Looking for a safe ride on **Friday** or **Saturday** night to Aggieville? Pick up a ticket at Leisure Travel or bring cash (exact change only) to the bus. Tickets are \$5 for two rides in either direction or \$10 for five rides in either direction. For more information, call 785-239-5614.

Building 7003	10 p.m.	10:30 p.m.	3:07 a.m.
Bowling Center	10:03 p.m.	11:33 p.m.	3:04 a.m.
Warrior Zone	10:05 p.m.	11:35 p.m.	3:01 a.m.
Building 7000F	10:10 p.m.	11:40 p.m.	2:59 a.m.
Building 7000G	10:12 p.m.	11:42 p.m.	2:54 a.m.
Building 7000A	10:15 p.m.	11:45 p.m.	2:52 a.m.
Rally Point	10:20 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	2:48 a.m.
Building 210	10:25 p.m.	11:55 p.m.	2:45 a.m.
WTB Barracks	10:32 p.m.	12:02 a.m.	2:38 a.m.
Building 694	10:37 p.m.	12:07 a.m.	2:33 a.m.
12 th and Bluemont (Aggieville)	11 p.m.	12:30 a.m. Bus waits until final return	Departs at 2:15 a.m. for final return to Fort Riley



←NEW STOP!!

TOUGHEST ‘HELLRAISER’ COMPETITION



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Albright | 1ST INF. DIV.
Sgt. Andrew Fontenot and Spc. Eddie Riles of Headquarters Support Company, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, evaluate a casualty during the Toughest Hellraiser competition Nov. 25 on Fort Riley. The two Soldiers competed in five stations to determine who was the most proficient and foster esprit de corps.

Home wanted

Minnie-Mouse is a 7-month-old “Miniature” Boxer. Minnie will do better with an experienced adopter as she needs a lot of socialization. She is good with kids, dogs and cats. She is smart and doing her best to learn doggy manners. Minnie enjoys cuddling with people and getting affection. She just discovered that toys are great and she prefers rope toys.

Puppy classes are a must for her. Minnie is also not potty-trained, but will likely learn this skill fast.

She is spayed and up-to-date with shots, Minnie-Mouse will be ready for her new home Nov 23 and we are accepting applications for her now.

Minnie Mouse’s Adoption Fee is \$162, which includes: spay, microchip, vaccines for distemper and rabies, heartworm test and deworming.



If interested, call 785-239-6183. If no one answers leave a message. You can also contact us via email at nicole.p.storm@us.army.mil

Other shelter animals can be seen on www.facebook.com/fortrileypets.

All stray animals on Fort Riley are picked up by the Military Police and brought to the Fort Riley Stray facility. The animals are held for three business days to allow owners to claim their pets. After this time, the animals may be adopted out or euthanized.

Animals are usually only euthanized in the cases of severe aggression or life-threatening illness. Animals must be registered, microchipped, and up to date on vaccines before being released to owners.

Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post
10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through Friday
785-239-6183 or 785-239-3886

DRIVE ENCRYPTION COMING TO FORT RILEY COMPUTERS

The 7th Signal Command, Theater will be deploying BitLocker Drive Encryption to strengthen computer security. BitLocker is a security feature that provides disk encryption to the primary Windows hard drive.

BitLocker will be placed on computers at Fort Riley:

- Dec. 14 — 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Sustainment Brigade and Division Artillery
- Dec. 15 — 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team
- Dec. 16 — 1st Combat Aviation Brigade
- Dec. 17 — U.S. Army Garrison and Partner Organizations
- Dec. 18 — Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion and Command Group

Once deployed, users will be required to create an 8 digit PIN for their computer. Remember this PIN as it will be required each time the computer is rebooted.

Group or common PINs are approved for use on classroom, conference room and multi-user computers; however, any Personally Identifiable Information or sensitive information stored on these shared systems must be stored or saved within an Encrypted File System. EFS remains enabled on all Ft Riley computers.

Computer encryption will commence in the background and takes between 1 to 6 hours to complete depending on the size of the hard drive. Users will continue to be prompted to encrypt their hard drive until the PIN is created. Work can continue on the machines while this process performs.

For machines that fail to receive or properly load BitLocker software, no intervention is required by the user or by the Information Management Officer. The Network Enterprise Center will identify and troubleshoot such issues remotely. For any incident after BitLocker has installed and the hard drive has been encrypted, users will coordinate with their IMO or S-6 to submit a trouble ticket in Information Technology Service Management Remedy.

If users get locked out of BitLocker because they forget their PIN they can use the Self-Service Army Portal to regain access to Windows without having to request support from their IMO or S6.

Elevated privilege users will have the ability to suspend BitLocker. They will not be required to enter a user’s PIN in the event they need to restart machines for troubleshooting, patching or software application install.

An AtHoc popup notification will be sent to all users informing them of the upcoming BitLocker deployment.

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Dec. 8 was “Where do I find resources to include a “Brigade Modifiable Alcohol SOP and link to “That Guy website?”

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/Services/SoldierServices/ArmySubstanceAbuseProgram.aspx.

This week’s winner is Spc. Justin Frost from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Justin is pictured on the right with 1st Lt. Shawn Dolan.

CONGRATULATIONS JUSTIN!

FORT RILEY POST LIBRARY

You better watch out, You better not cry,
Better not pout, I'm telling you why, Santa
Claus is coming to the Post Library!

SANTA WILL BE GIVING OUT CANDY AND PRESENTS, YOU CAN ALSO GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH SANTA AND ENJOY HOT COCOA AND COOKIES!

DECEMBER 19 / 1-3 PM

INFORMATION : 785-239-5305

TRAFFIC REPORT

CONSTRUCTION ON RIFLE RANGE ROAD CONTINUES

Construction on Rifle Range Road will affect traffic flow. The work started in September and has been contracted for 374 days. As a result, the work will affect travel to the schools in the area. School officials have been briefed and can offer guidance. There are detour and guidance signs posted, including detour routes along tank trail purple and through the Forsyth Housing area. Motorists are asked to exercise patience and follow all guidance posted on signs.

ALL SCHOOL ZONES IN EFFECT

School zones are in effect. Tickets will be issued. Be vigilant. Some school zones have lights and others have posted times.

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS OF OPERATION

Until further notice, the Estes Access Control Point is closed permanently every Saturday and Sunday, but will remain open Monday through Friday to all traffic including commercial vehicles. Also until further notice, 12th street ACP is closed to privately owned

vehicles on Saturdays. The commercial side remains open Saturdays. 12th St. ACP is closed to all traffic Sundays. 12th street ACP is open to all traffic Monday through Friday. Effective Dec. 12, Grant Street ACP closes permanently every Saturday and Sunday but remains open Monday through Friday to all privately owned vehicle traffic. Motorists wanting access to Fort Riley on Saturday or Sunday should use Ogden, Henry or Trooper gates.

The access control point hours are now as follows:

- Four Corners/Trooper/Ogden:** Open 24/7
- Henry:** Open 24/7
- 12th Street:** Effective Dec. 5, open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed to non-commercial traffic Saturdays; closed Sundays and federal holidays.
- Rifle Range:** Closed to all traffic.
- Grant:** Until further notice, open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.
- Estes:** Until further notice, open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

Fort Riley weekend and Holiday Dining Facility Schedule

Two of Fort Riley’s three dining facilities will run on a holiday schedule through December. Take note of updated hours.

Dec. 12-13: Devil’s Den, open 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.

Dec. 19-20: Devil’s Den and Demon Diner, open 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.

Dec. 24-27: Devil’s Den, open 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.

Irwin Army Community Hospital’s DFAC will be open regular hours through the holidays.

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

Why are team-building events important?



"You get to meet new people you don't work with every day."

ASHLEY POWELL
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Resident Service Specialist
Wife of Sgt. Henry Chubb



"It helps us to keep growing and better serve the Army community."

DANI MARTINEZ
WICHITA, KANSAS

Resident Service Specialist
Wife of Spc. Will Martinez, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade



"It builds up the camaraderie."

ERIC WHITTAKER
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

Corvias Maintenance Technician



"You get to work with people who work in different neighborhoods and different jobs."

KELLY MCKENZIE
PARKERVILLE, KANSAS

Corvias Technician



"It helps you learn more about your co-workers and it's fun!"

LISA FISCHER
WEST FALL, KANSAS

Corvias Contract Insurance Accounting Administrator

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and phone number. Letters may be edited for space, but never for content. Send a fax 785-239-2592 or e-mail usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil

FROM DANGER 6

Happy Holidays to the 'Big Red One' community

Happy Holidays!

Let's reflect on what this time of year means: peace, joy and happiness. And it also enumerates the blessings enjoyed by the whole world. Let's recognize the miracles in our daily lives as this is a time of sharing.

It really means a lot to Cynthia and me to be a part of the "Big Red One" and Fort Riley family. You, the Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who serve so proudly in our ranks are all part of this large family. Many of you are away from your family and loved ones, but remember we are all family, so let's make each moment special. Take every opportunity to make this holiday season memorable as it is all about making memories. During this holiday season, renew your spirits of hope

and joy and celebrate your faith. Cherish the gifts you give and receive every day, and remember you give the gift of selfless service and you receive the gift of lasting gratitude from those who enjoy the freedom your service protects and defends.

Let us not forget our brothers and sisters serving in harm's way this holiday season. They can't be with their loved ones, but they are with their Big Red One family in locations around the world. As you celebrate and enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation, do not forget safety and the importance of being



Maj. Gen.
Wayne W. Grigsby Jr.
1ST INF. DIV. AND FORT
RILEY COMMANDING
GENERAL

good neighbors. Leaders must take the lead and emphasize safety in every way during this holiday.

Executing engaged leadership during this holiday is still important — taking care of our Soldiers and family members

as they are and always will be our Nation's Blood and Treasure.

Remind Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees of the hazards associated with this season and how to apply the composite risk management process to control hazards. Also, as representatives of the

United States, we owe the surrounding communities the utmost respect, and we must do all we can to act as good neighbors.

It is a great honor and privilege to serve alongside each of you. I could not be more proud as the commander of such a great division and installation. With genuine pride and appreciation, I extend my heartfelt thanks and prayers for your tremendous sacrifices and service to the people of America and to the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a blessed, prosperous new year. Stay focused, think before you act and come back home safely. We need you on the team.

Duty First!

Wayne W. Grigsby Jr.
Maj. Gen., USA
Commanding General

SAFETY CORNER

Safety, security in the home during the holiday season

Dawn J. Douglas
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and friends — Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose

But burglars stealing all your Christmas gifts in the middle of the night? Celebration spoiled.

According to the FBI, 400,000 burglaries occur in the U.S. during November and December each year. December is the month when burglaries take place more than any other time of the year. The primary reason is families leave their homes empty during the holidays, making robbing homes an easy task. Another reason unoccupied homes are easy to identify is the severe storms that often occur in the winter. If the snow around homes is not shoveled, burglars are likely to make it a target.

What are some of the ways you can avoid being easy picking for opportunistic robbers? Here are a few tips to keep your home safe and secure during the holidays:

- **Social Media.** Social media is a wonderful way to share photos of family dinners, parties and vacation fun. Unfortunately, it is also the way you advertise to the cyber community you are not home. Not only adults, but also children should avoid sharing your travel plans and location tags on such sites as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the entire world to see.
- **Lighting.** High-wattage exterior lighting, set on timers along with indoor lamps, help neighbors spot suspicious activity at night while giving your home that lived in look. Additionally, new technology allows lights and other appliances to be controlled via smartphones.

This might be a worthwhile investment prior to holiday travel.

- **Home security.** Burglars have been known to case neighborhoods in broad daylight dressed as contractors in order to fit in. They actually jiggle doorknobs in search of cheap, breakable locks. Protecting your home's main entry points is crucial. Prior to travel consider upgrading your dead bolt locks and installing locking screen doors for double security.

- **Garage Door Openers.** Powerless garage door openers cannot be hacked with a universal remote, so unplug them when traveling.
- **Snow removal.** Arrange for removing snow from the pavement and sidewalks near your home and keep walkways clear by laying down rock salt.

- **Opened Boxes.** How does everyone in the neighborhood know you purchased a shiny new TV? The boxes you toss

in the trash and leave by the curb. Cut up boxes and put them in a big black trash bag, disposing only the day of trash pickup.

- **Secure Your Valuables.** When leaving for an extended holiday, pick a hidden safe place to secure valuables such as jewelry, computers and small electronics. Burglars tend to take low hanging fruit, or items easily carried and in plain sight.

- **Hold Mail Deliveries.** For extended vacations either have someone check your mail every day or request a hold on your mail until you return back home. Also, avoid having items ordered online delivered when you are not home to receive them.

We want you to have a safe and happy holiday season so "Lock it Up Tight." For more information, contact the USAG, Fort Riley Garrison Safety Office for more information, 785-240-0647.



Full Integration of Women in the Army

4 December 2015

Yesterday the Secretary of Defense directed the full integration of women in the Armed Forces following a thirty-day review period required by Congress. The purpose of allowing all Soldiers, regardless of gender, to serve in any Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) for which they are qualified is to increase our military effectiveness. The Army will provide our final, detailed implementation plan to the Secretary of Defense no later than January 1, 2016. Subject to his approval, we will begin implementing our integration plan to open all MOSS, career fields, and branches for accession by women as soon as practicable following January 2, 2016, but not later than April 1, 2016.

Our best qualified, regardless of gender, will now be afforded the opportunity to serve in any MOS. Our detailed and deliberate implementation plan will maintain the readiness of our force and ensure we remain a standards-based Army. This methodical plan will establish and enforce MOS-specific and gender-neutral standards based on the rigors of ground combat. Done properly, the integration of women into all MOSs will improve combat readiness and make our Army better. Readiness is our top priority.

Our Army exists to fight and win the Nation's wars. An incremental and phased approach by leaders and Soldiers who understand and enforce gender-neutral standards will ensure successful integration of women across the breadth and depth of our formations. We are honored to serve with all of you who have taken an oath to support and defend our Constitution and demonstrate the values which make our Nation great.

ARMY STRONG!

Daniel A. Dailey
Sergeant Major of the Army

Mark A. Milley
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Eric K. Fanning
Acting Secretary of the Army

SUICIDE
PREVENTION

THE POWER OF 1





FRANK

Continued from page 1

to promote Col. Pat Frank ... simply amazing.”

Grigsby said less than one percent of lieutenants who enter the Army will become general officers — “It takes a unique blend of talent, hard work and, I know from personal experience, a lot of luck to reach this amazing achievement.”

“But not for this young man,” Grigsby said of Frank. “No luck involved.”

Frank’s prior assignments include serving as executive officer to the Army vice chief of staff; commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, the “Spartan” brigade; aide to the secretary of the Army; and various positions within the 10th Mountain Div., 101st Airborne Division and 3rd Infantry Division. He has deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Operation Iraqi Freedom I and V, Operation Enduring Freedom XII-XIII and XVII and Operation Freedom Sentinel.

“So he has the combat experience,” Grigsby said of Frank. “He has what it takes to be a general officer today. He didn’t sit on the sidelines. He was the man in the arena.”

“He’s got it all. Can you see that? But most importantly,

you know what he is, right? He is a Big Red One Soldier.”

Grigsby said Frank exemplified what it meant to be brave, responsible and on point.

“He’s got it all. (Frank) has what it takes to be a general officer today. He didn’t sit on the sidelines. He was the man in the arena.”

MAJ. GEN. WAYNE W. GRIGSBY JR., 1ST INF. DIV. AND FORT RILEY COMMANDING GENERAL

Frank said there were several reasons he stayed in the Army for 26 years: Sept 11 and the emergence of what he called the “next greatest generation of American Soldiers” who stepped forward after that catastrophic event. He stayed in because of the sacrifices of Soldiers like Spc. Camy Florexil, a Black Lion who lost his life to an explosively formed projectile attack in Baghdad, Iraq, and 1st Lt. Tim

Steele, a Spartan killed by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

He stayed in because of the warrior spirit demonstrated by Soldiers like Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford Dockter, the Black Lions’ senior noncommissioned officer, who was injured during an EFP attack, pushed through recovery and physical therapy at Fort Riley and returned, on Christmas Day, to his troops in Iraq, and retired Col. Greg Gadson, commander of the 4th IBCT’s 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, who lost both his legs following an IED attack and continued to serve and inspire – a “model of resiliency and strong leadership in our Army.”

He stayed in because of Army families who endured multiple nine-, 12- and 15-month deployments in 14 years of combat.

“It’s amazing the resiliency and endurance of our families,” Frank said. “And we can’t take that for granted.”

He stayed in because of the warrior ethos — Soldiers who have taken the fight to the enemy and established security to influence future generations of Iraqi and Afghan children, giving them freedom that they hadn’t experienced in decades.

“That’s why I’m in the Army,” Frank said, “to serve with heroes like this.”



Staff Sgt. Jerry Griffis | 1ST INF. DIV.
Jennifer Frank pins her husband, Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, with his first star Dec. 4 during his promotion ceremony at Fort Riley.

GUNFIGHTERS

Continued from page 1

“We have to bring in the Aerial Weapons Scoring System,” Siebe said. “They set up ground sensors that pick up the rockets for scoring the shots. That has to be scheduled well in advance. The equipment arrived last week.”

There are four sets of this equipment in the Continental U.S. and weather conditions play an integral part in aircraft training.

“Because if we have a low cloud ceiling they are unable to fly,” Siebe said. “Serious inclement weather, fog, snow — those types of things. Weather can play a very key role in their ability to perform the gunnery.”

Habhab said the training environment at Fort Riley is mostly favorable to the helicopter training because of the staff and land available in the area.

“With the resources that Fort Riley has — not only the land and the ranges but the military and civilian personnel that run these areas – all of them are very easy to work with,” Habhab said. “This range gives us the ability to engage during the day and at night, it gives us the ability to engage with one aircraft at a time or multiple aircraft at a time and the hours are pretty flexible.”

Habhab said the deployment of his Soldiers would look similar to the training environment. Soldiers on the ground would call in targets to the helicopter pilots and the pilots would then have to acquire the target and destroy it.

“That is what we practice here — finding and destroying targets,” Habhab said. “It is very similar to what we would do if we deploy. It practices the same skill set of how to acquire targets and then engage them.”



Maria Childs | POST
An Apache helicopter hovers while the pilot acquires a target at the Fort Riley Douthitt Gunnery Complex Dec. 3.

FINANCE

Continued from page 1

their offices will open to assist with the workloads from I Corps, III Corps and the Joint Readiness Training Center.

“We work at division, which is a huge honor and privilege,” Reynolds said. “We are setting the stage for Soldiers that will be working finance later.”

Reynolds said the General Fund Enterprise Business System, the software the Army uses for budgeting, is similar to Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing, which

is used by numerous civilian companies.

“When we leave the Army profession, the knowledge we gain here can be used in a civilian job,” Reynolds said.

Escobar said the team was required to take numerous courses on GFEBS and the Defense Travel System to prepare for the required tasks they.

“As a pilot team, you could say that we are learning through the trials and errors,” Escobar said. “Having those civilians that have done this

before and having the DTS experts next to us really helped us because we work both with GFEBS and DTS and we have to kind of work both systems and research through both systems.”

Escobar said the future of finance lies in moving away from military pay and moving to more budgetary missions.

“Since the Finance Corps is heading that way, towards the budget department using GFEBS, we are kind of already ahead of the game,” Escobar said.

WWW.TWITTER.COM/FORTRILEY

HOUSE AD

IN BRIEF

TRAFFIC UPDATES

For traffic updates, see the Traffic Report on page 4 or visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "Advisories."

SOLDIER FOR LIFE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EVENTS

Jan. 4: 1 to 2:30 p.m., Employer Workshop, Fort Riley Transition Center, building 212, room 201, Fort Riley.

Jan. 21: 10 a.m. to noon, Law Enforcement Industry Workshop, Education Center, Custer Ave, building 217, room 202, Fort Riley.

Feb. 1: 1-2:30 p.m. Employer Workshop, Fort Riley Transition Center, building 212, room 201, Fort Riley.

Feb. 15 to 19: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Project Management Professional Transition Boot Camp, Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Manhattan, Kansas Register at www.vets2pm.com.

Feb. 18: Industry Workshop, Trade and Vocational, 10 a.m. to noon, Education Center, Custer Ave, building 217, room 202, Fort Riley.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Visitors are reminded that a temporary Fort Riley Access Badge or Pass is required for anyone without a Department of Defense ID card. If you know the exact date of your visit, it is recommended to get a temporary badge or pass early at the Visitor Control Center, calling 785-239-2982 or emailing usarmy.riley.imcom-central.mbx.des-vcc@mail.mil.

There are longer wait times for passes during periods of higher traffic especially weekday mornings and weekday afternoons.

If you're unable to get a pass early, make sure to allow extra time the day of your visit to get through processing at the Visitor Control Center.

Please visit our website at www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/EmergencyServices/AccessInformation.aspx.

SANTA AT THE LIBRARY

Don't miss Santa at the Fort Riley Post Library Dec. 19.

Santa will be giving out candy and presents from 1 to 3 p.m. You can also get your picture taken with him. For more information, call 785-239-5305.

CHILD, YOUTH AND SCHOOL SERVICES

The CYSS fees for the 2015 to 2016 school year scheduled to go into effect Nov. 1 will be delayed. The fees are now scheduled to be implemented Jan. 1.

LAST DAY FOR HOLIDAY MAIL

Dec. 15 - Standard Post

Ground service for less-than-urgent deliveries and oversized packages.

Dec. 19 - First Class Mail

Service for standard-sized, single-piece envelopes and small packages weighing up to 13 ounces with delivery in 3 business days or less.

Dec. 21 - Priority Mail

Domestic service in one, two or three business days based on where the package starts and where it's being sent. Includes variety of Flat Rate options.

Dec. 23 - Priority Mail Express

Fastest domestic service, with guaranteed overnight scheduled delivery to most locations.

Tour of Homes shares historic charm of post

Annual event starts holiday season by putting officers' homes on display

Story and photo by Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

For the Grigsby family, Christmas started in October this year.

That is when Cynthia Grigsby, wife of Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, began decorating their home for the 32nd annual Historic Tour of Homes.

The four-hour event was held Dec. 5 and featured the homes of not only Grigsby, but also Brig. Gen. John Kolasheski, deputy commanding general for maneuver, as well as historic homes of other division officers. The event was

sponsored by the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley, and the event reflects the society's commitment to sharing the historic preservation of the installation.

"It's very special," Cynthia said about living in a historic home. "I feel very blessed to be here. The house has its own life and charm. I really love that."

Cynthia explained her decorating choices were made for various reasons. For example, a train engine sat under the Christmas tree on their front porch as visitors entered the home. The train set was given to Grigsby when he was 7 years old.

Last year, Aiden, their grandson, got into the Christmas ornaments. That inspired her main Christmas tree in the living area of their first floor.

"He totally crushed my colored ornaments so all I was left with was



Phyllis Fitzgerald, team leader at the Fort Riley Mission Training Complex and city commissioner for Junction City, and Shayla Dean, visitor from Junction City, Kansas, admire the ornaments on the Christmas tree in the home of Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. and Mrs. Cynthia Grigsby.

See TOUR, page 12

LIGHTING THE WAY



A children's choir sings a Christmas carol the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 3 at Ware Parade Field in front of building 500 on Huebner Road.

Tree lit, now time to celebrate holidays

Story and photos
by Andy Massanet
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley official holiday tree was introduced with a tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3 and, with it, the holiday season was in full swing.

Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, served as the main speaker.

"I want to welcome everybody to the 2015 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony," Grigsby said. "This is a great family event that reminds us just how important our friends, family and most importantly, our community are. Fort

Riley and the Flint Hills are a great place to live as I've said many times. Fort Riley is the best place to live, the best place to train, the best place to deploy from, and the best place to come home to in the entire United States Army, as you can see from the community strength here today."

Grigsby then recollected two historical events from the 1st Infantry Division's past around the holiday period.

"In Christmas, 1917, World War I, the lines of communication had failed. The only shoes available were a size six and would not accommodate the Soldiers' cold, swollen feet.

See LIGHTING, page 12



Jolly Old St. Nick with his list of good boys and girls stopped by during the Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 3 at Ware Parade Field. He came in courtesy of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard Mule Team, greeted the throng, then went about visiting with the children in attendance.



Military Police run for a holiday cause



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Bryan Teneyck, 287th Military Police Company, 97th MP Battalion, collects toys to donate to Operation Santa Claus Dec. 5 after the battalion participated in a fun run around Custer Hill.

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

It may have been dark and cold, but jingle bells and Christmas sweaters were the theme of the battalion fun run for the 97th Military Police Battalion Dec. 4 on Custer Hill.

The Soldiers of the battalion collected toys for Operation Santa Claus before the run. After the run, Sgt. Bryan Teneyck from the 287th MP Company, 97th MP Battalion, and other Soldiers dropped the toys off at Operation Santa Claus headquarters at 261 Stuart Ave.

"The reason I became an MP is to better the overall community," Teneyck said. "It was for us to be able

to help the Fort Riley community have a better Christmas for the families and the children."

Lt. Col. Alexander Murray, commander of the 97th MP Bn., said battalion Soldiers enjoy a rich partnership with the local surrounding community as well as the community on post.

"Operation Santa Clause is one of many ways we enjoy giving back to our Soldiers and their family members," Murray said. "We hold an annual toy drive where we encourage our Soldiers and their family members to donate toys to those families in need."

Murray explained the command team allowed the Soldiers to modify

their physical training uniform to include ugly holiday sweaters, Santa hats and holiday lights for motivation.

Teneyck said being able to donate to Operation Santa Claus and make a difference in the Fort Riley community really stood out during this event.

"It shows people care," Teneyck said. "We're supporting everybody regardless of the situation you are in. We're always going to be there to take care of each other and make sure everything is covered. The holiday is either going to be a really happy time or a really low time for many different reasons. With this, we can try to make everyone a little happier and try to make the holiday season better."



COMMUNITY CORNER

Federal Benefits Open Season about to conclude — don't miss out

Col. Andrew Cole Jr.
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Have there been changes to your family — having a new baby, retirements, or dependents finishing college? Do you have the correct amount of insurance for your health care needs? One great reason to be civilian employee for the federal government is the benefits. This is the time of year for employees to make sure they have the right

health, dental or vision insurance coverage. You have until Dec 14 to make changes to insurance plans and flexible spending accounts. Even if you already have a plan, you should review it. There may be benefit and rate changes that could affect what you pay or what the



Colonel Cole

provider will cover. Some plans may no longer be available in your area. Physicians or dentists may change their status as preferred providers of a specific company. If you do nothing and your plan is not changing in the federal benefits options for 2016, your coverage will remain the same. If plans are being dropped and you don't choose another provider, you will not have benefit coverage during 2016. Once Dec. 14 passes, you will not be able to choose or

change plans until the next open season at the end of 2016. The only time you can change out of open season is when there is a qualifying life event. There are several different situations that qualify and information for those is available at opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/life-events. A flexible spending account can save money by using lower tax withholdings. The account is funded with pre-tax contributions and the account is used to pay out-of-pocket health care

costs for yourself or dependents. These can be useful if you have a known amount of medical expenses each year. Information is available to help with your choices at the Office of Personnel Management website: www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/. The site contains links to fact sheets, plan and premium information, plan reductions and changes, plan comparisons and enrollment information. If you need assistance or have a question you can also

contact the Civilian Army Benefits and Entitlement Center at 877-276-9287. It is easy to say you don't have time to evaluate your benefits, but it is a good idea to verify each year so you don't get caught by surprise. Be proactive. — To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil or visit my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortrileygc.

Amazing Race event fosters teamwork

Teams from Corvias Military Living work on building cohesion

Story and photo by Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Team members of Corvias Military Living hurriedly put together towering sculptures made of boxes, string and aluminum to the sounds of the timeless “YMCA” to win the Amazing Race. The staff broke into color groups starting at the Forsyth Gym and then made their way around Fort Riley based on clues at each station. They made stops at places such as Garrison headquarters, Warrior Zone and the Cavalry Museum. At each place they would receive a bag filled with some type of supplies, which they would need at the end to create their final project of the scavenger hunt. “It’s amazing!” said Sarah Fellows, Corvias Resident Service Specialist. “We’ve had so much fun today. It’s great to work for a company that does so much for their employees and our residents. We didn’t know that this was going to be so involved or so well planned or so fun.” The team-building event was planned to bring together the employees across the installation that Corvias has in every neighborhood.



Members of the green team work to pull together their Christmas tree sculpture during the final challenge of Corvias Military Living's team building activity Dec. 4. Teams competed in an Amazing Race style competition and ended at Riley's Conference Center where they competed in building sculptures out of boxes and supplies received along the way.

“I liked networking with team members that I don't really get to interact with on a daily basis and seeing a lot more of the installation,” said Kelly Karl, Corvias director of construction. “Usually every-

one is in their little pockets of their neighborhoods and it's got everybody spread out, and they are seeing parts of post they don't usually get to see.” Karl was part of the green team. He said he was excited about their tower which was a Christmas tree that was decked

out with all the bags and supplies they received at each stop. The final stop, and project location, was Riley's Conference Center. Teams got creative with their sculptures, building replicas of national monuments or attempting to build the tallest tower. However, once they were done building, they were asked to destroy it in a clever way that Community Management Director Alison Birney had in mind. “The tower has blocks and each of the blocks has either a department in our company or a division in our company or our partners names on them,” Birney said. “So it's symbolic of the building blocks that it takes to build a team. It also takes all of us working together to build the tower. We're going to make them remove blocks of the tower that are named certain positions ... symbolic of team-building in that by removing certain pieces of the tower, it's going to crumble.” Staff was treated with lunch at Riley's during the event, which included a year in review video and wrap-up by Birney and Jim Champagne, Corvias Business Director, before everyone was released to prepare for their Holiday Party.

NOW SHOWING

Barlow Theater is now in digital!
Tickets cost \$6.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children
Tickets for 3-D and first-run movies cost extra.
Children younger than 5 are admitted free.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

• Crimson Peak (R) 7 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

• Studio Appreciation Advance Screening – Daddy's Home – Free Admission (PG-13) 2 P.M.

• Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension (R) 7 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

• Burnt (R) 5 P.M.

For movie titles and showtimes, call
785-239-9574

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Soldiers continue volunteer efforts

Take on tasks at ReStore and Ronald McDonald House

Story and photo by Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers took time last week to volunteer in surrounding communities. Soldiers went to Ronald McDonald House Dec. 1 where they helped clean up the yard

DID YOU KNOW?

• Participants with **Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers** volunteer once a month at the ReStore in Manhattan.

and organize a storage room so staff could give more attention to the people using the facilities. “Volunteering with the Ronald McDonald house is satisfying ... you are directly helping an organization that puts up families of sick children,” said Spc. Gabriel Bradley, BOSS

treasurer. “A lot of the work that we do there is simple, but it keeps the house looking good and creates less work for the individuals that manage it.” Soldiers went to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Manhattan Dec. 4 to help clean up donations and assist with other tasks around the building. Sgt. Matthew Bolsinger, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division said they were sorting out trash and setting aside appliances the staff at ReStore could sell for

cash. They loaded a trailer with unusable items and trash to be taken away. “I’m amazed at how much they accomplish here,” said Rachel Motley, Director of the ReStore. Motley said Soldiers from BOSS come to help once a month and always get so much done for them. “It is important for BOSS (members) to volunteer because it’s not only a good thing to do, but also creates a positive image of our organization and the Army as a whole,” Bradley said.



Soldiers from Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers help load a trailer with unusable donations at Habitat for Humanity ReStore Dec. 4. The Soldiers of BOSS volunteer there once a month with whatever is needed so that employees can get a chance to catch up on their tasks.

WWW.1DIVPOST.COM

Enjoy a German holiday tradition with family and friends at Fort Riley's 7th annual Christkindl Market!

Christkindl MARKET

RILEY'S CONFERENCE CENTER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

10AM-4PM

- OVER 50 VENDORS
- FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA
- GERMAN FOOD AND GLUHWEIN
- CHAINSAW SCULPTING DEMOS
- FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

\$1 EACH

REINDEER
TRAIN RIDES
FROZEN BOUNCE HOUSE

INFORMATION: 785-239-8990



LIGHTING

Continued from page 9

There was just barely enough food. Soldiers were in torn uniforms, without gloves. There was no forage for the animals, just the bitter cold and ceaseless maneuvers at this point in time. Many compared the Big Red One's conditions to winter of Valley Forge and General George Washington. Yet the children were not forgotten. Each village had a Christmas tree and a party organized and financed by Big Red One American Soldiers."

He went on to say, "in Christmas 1944, during World War II, the division printed special cards for Soldiers to send home. Staff Sgt. Johnny Kovac sent one home to his sweetheart, Virginia, who was in the Air Corps, telling her about his Christmas present: He found his brother, Mike, on a road in Belgium and the two were able to take a picture and spend a few hours together before moving on with their units."

Grigsby added that Soldiers today, "still take care of the less fortunate and they value their families." He urged everyone to remember those who do not have or are not close to their families. An example, Grigsby said, was 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the 1st Infantry Division, or "Dagger" Brigade.

"Sometimes this is a difficult time of year," Grigsby said. "We think it's very joyous but sometimes we got to look at each other and when we are suffer-

ing through certain things as individuals and we need to be there for each other. Give what you can to those who are less fortunate."

Grigsby then reminded everyone of holiday events happening locally including the Christkindl Market 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 12, at Riley's Conference Center, the 1st Infantry Division Band Holiday Concert 7:30 to 9 p.m., Dec 18 and 19, at the C.L. Hoover Opera House, Seventh and Jefferson streets in Junction City, and the Christmas Eve services on post, including that at the Victory Chapel, 4:30 p.m., and one at midnight at the St. Mary's Chapel.

In addition, there will be a service at 9 a.m. and noon Dec. 25 at St. Mary's Chapel.

Traditional and contemporary combined Christmas Eve services will be held Dec. 24 at the Main Post Chapel, with refreshments and carriage rides available at 3 p.m., and a service at 6 p.m.

Finally there is a gospel watch night service, 10 p.m. Dec. 31, at the Morris Hill Chapel.

"From the bottom of my heart, and from my family, I want to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," Grigsby concluded. "And I want to personally thank each and every one of you for what you do for the greatest Division in the greatest Army in the world. God bless each and every one of you and have a great holiday."

Eyster Pool staff hosts teen pool party

Story and photo by Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Eyster Pool staff hosted a Nightmare Christmas Teen Party Dec. 5.

Nearly 40 Fort Riley teenagers participated in the event. The Fort Riley teen center covered the entry fee for teens from the teen center who wanted to come to the pool party.

Hedy Noveroske, aquatics director at Fort Riley, said her favorite part was being able to make it teen specific, from the games to the prizes and even the snacks. The staff provided pizza to teens in at-

tendance as well as games like ring toss and the inflatables in the pool.

Noveroske said it is typical for Eyster Pool to have family oriented events, but a teen specific pool event was new this year.

"What made this event unique was that we put a twist on the regular Santa pool party and themed it more to the "Nightmare Before Christmas" plot, with 'darker' decorations and a little bit of Christmas to grab the teens attention," Noveroske said.

Noveroske said the staff partnered with Warrior Zone

to give away an Xbox One and several gift cards.

Alexis Gullett, 13, said her favorite part of the teen pool party was hanging out with friends and playing basketball.

Joshua Allen, 14, and one of Gullett's friends said his favorite part was the rock climbing wall.

"Because I made it to the top and touched the flag," he said.

Noveroske said she was pleased with the turn out and she is definitely looking forward to the next event at Eyster Pool – the Winter Wonderland Pool Party Jan. 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Alexis Gullett, 13, swims toward the ball during the Nightmare Christmas Teen Party at Eyster Pool Dec. 5.

For more information about Fort Riley aquatics, call 785-239-9441 or visit rileymwr.com.

TOUR

Continued from page 9

white and silver," Cynthia said.

The Historic Tour of Homes is HASFR's longest running event. The homes on the tour were constructed between 1855 and 1910 and each has a unique architecture.

Jan LaGrange, wife of retired Col. Gary LaGrange, said she enjoys being able to visit the Fort Riley Tour of Homes after being stationed here with her husband.

"I like seeing how things have been improved since I lived here," LaGrange said. "The kitchens are all modern now with stainless steel appliances. The first time we were here in 1981 there was window air conditioning."

Half of her previous home was open this year, Quarters

17A. They lived in 17B, but she said it is interesting to see how different people decorate their homes.

Tara Lemay, Tour of Homes co-chair, said this event is a good opportunity for the community to see the past and the present.

"Being able to walk through these historic homes and see the architecture as well as the modern look of how people are decorating ... is a great opportunity," Lemay said.

Stacey Uhorchak, Tour of Homes co-chair, said this event is a great example of HASFR's mission to preserve and share the history of Fort Riley.

"I think this is a great way to do it because homes are not like this at each base," Uhorchak said.



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Sports & Recreation

★ DECEMBER 11, 2015

HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE

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IN BRIEF

BOWLING SPECIALS

Wednesday through Friday: From 1 to 6 p.m., \$2.50 games and \$2 shoes.

Wednesday: From 6 to 9 p.m., \$1 games and \$1 shoes.

Thursday: From 6 to 9 p.m., \$5 cover, which includes shoes and 50¢ games.

Friday: From 6 to 9 p.m., \$15 for unlimited bowling for up to six people, shoes not included.

Saturday: Extreme bowling from 6 p.m. to midnight. \$9 for shoes and up to three hours of bowling.

Sundays: From noon to 6 p.m., family fun, \$35 per lane, which includes two hours of bowling, one large two-topping pizza, two pitchers of soda, and shoes for up to six people.

PLAN TO BE MORE FIT IN 2016

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has a comprehensive offering of options for health- and fitness-minded individuals on post.

Contact one of the following MWR fitness department professionals to get started:

Vincent Spencer, Fitness Coordinator, vincent.j.spencer2.naf@mail.mil, 785-239-3146.

Jocelyn Heminitz, Fitness Specialist, jocelyn.n.heminitz.naf@mail.mil, 785-239-2616

Choose between the following rates:

- One person, one-hour training session — \$25
- Two people, one-hour training session — \$40.
- Three people, one-hour training session — \$48.

Personal training sessions can be purchased at Whitside Fitness Center Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 to 11 a.m.

You can also purchase a session of massage therapy:

- 30-minute session — \$30.
- 60-minute session — \$60.
- 90-minute session — \$90.

For more information call 785-239-2573.

EYSTER POOL CLOSING TEMPORARILY

Eyster Pool will close for renovations beginning Dec. 18, and will remain closed until approximately Jan. 13.

During this time, all programs — including physical therapy supported by both IACH and WTB, pregnancy PT, lap swim and recreational swim — will be held at Long Pool, inside Long Fitness Center. Because this pool is not equipped with a computer point-of-sale system, all daily entry fees and pool passes will need to be paid using cash or check.

For unit PT, requests for Thursdays only will be accepted during this time; this is in order to decrease maximum occupancy with the early-morning lap swim program.

The Aquatics Office at Eyster Pool will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call the aquatics program manager at 785-239-9441.

YOUTH SPORTS OFFICIALS

Child, Youth and School Services staff are looking for officials for youth outdoor and indoor soccer, flag football, basketball, baseball and softball.

Volunteer and paid positions are available. Training provided and experience is not necessary. A background check is required.

For more information, call CYSS Sports at 785-239-9223 or 785-240-5207.

ISPORTSMAN SYSTEM

Fort Riley has an automated check-in and check-out out system, iSportsman. Individuals can register at the Fort Riley iSportsman website at www.fortriley.isportsman.net.

Everyone recreating in a Fort Riley training area must use the iSportsman website. Check-in and Check-out may be done with any personal device with Internet access or visit the iSportsman Kiosk at 1st Division and Vinton School roads or the Environmental Division Office, building 407, during normal business hours.

For more information, contact the Environmental Division at 785-239-6211.



Frank Portillo, civilian combatives trainer, gives Sgt. Malcolm Coulter, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and Capt. Jonathan Jordan, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st CAB, 1st Inf. Div., tips during a training session Nov. 19 at Fort Riley's combatives training facility. Coulter and Jordan are representing the "Big Red One" and Fort Riley at an Armed Forces tournament this week at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Armed forces combatives tournament is back

Story and photos by Amanda Kim Stairrett
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the first time since 2012, the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Combatives Team is competing at an Armed Forces tournament.

The yearly all-Army competition was halted in 2012, and since, the team's Soldiers have only gotten to compete at the U.S. National Pankration Championships in May 2014 in California. And compete they did. The team brought home the title, topping fighters from 29 Palms, California; the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York; and others from civilian teams across the country.

The "Big Red One" competitors are hungry for more. Fourteen will represent the division and post in seven weight classes at the 2015 Fort Bragg Combatives Tournament — which is open to all U.S. Armed Forces. Weigh-ins were Dec. 9, preliminary and semi-final rounds were Dec. 10 and today and the finals are set for 7-10 p.m. Dec. 12.

The Soldiers are ready, said Staff Sgt. Ryan Hunt, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley combatives noncommissioned officer in charge.

"As a team, we're super excited to be able to get there and represent Fort Riley at what is considered the national-level tournament for the Army now," he said.

Training for the event has been intense, with gut-busting cardiovascular, technique and fighting sessions early each morning.

Hunt is familiar with this level of competition, having participated in the 2011 All-Army competition at Fort Hood, Texas.

"It's a great experience," he said. "A lot of Soldiers that get to that level get really

See COMBATIVES, page 14

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY COMBATIVES TEAM TRAVELS TO FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA FOR COMPETITION

In the first such event since 2012, 14 "Big Red One" competitors will represent the division and post in seven weight classes. Weigh-ins were Dec. 9, preliminary and semi-final rounds were Dec. 10 and today and the finals are set for 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday.



Staff Sgt. Ryan Hunt, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, spars with another member of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley Combatives Team during a practice Nov. 19 at the post's combatives training facility. Hunt, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley Modern Army Combatives Program's noncommissioned officer in charge, is one of 14 Soldiers from the "Big Red One" and post to fight in this week's 2015 Fort Bragg Combatives Tournament, an event that was halted in 2012.

'Durable' Soldiers help golf team hit the mark

Experience shows golf, weapons skills are surprisingly similar

By Sgt. Takita Lawery
1ST INF. DIV. SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Kansas State University women's golf team visited the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade Dec. 2 to participate in a simulated weapons range at Fort Riley as part of the "Durable" community partnership program.

Soldiers from 1st Support Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde., and members of the golf team learned that firing a weapon and swinging a golf club were similar — the Army teaches four shooting fundamentals: steady position, aim, breath control and trigger squeeze, while golf calls for a good grip, posture and stance, backswing and downswing to master the sport.

"We focused on teaching the team basic weapon safety and handling by explaining each weapon type and how it is operated," said Sgt. 1st Class Russell L. Atchison, the noncommissioned officer running the range. "Once the players had an understanding, they were able to fire the weapons, engaging multiple targets, and they saw similarities on aiming the weapons and playing golf."

While the computer loaded the next scenario, Soldiers gave the players pointers like controlled breathing to improve their aim.

"I pause my breathing before I putt, too," said Chloe Weir, a freshman K-State golfer from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

It wasn't the first time the team's coach saw the similarities between firing a weapon and driving a ball down the fairway.

"I know controlled breathing is a must when firing a weapon, as well as hitting a golf shot," said Kristi Knight, the golf team's coach. "That is something my dad taught my brother and me growing up deer and dove hunting."

The Durable community partnership with the golf team is only a year old, but both sides have taken the opportunity to develop a strong relationship. In September, Soldiers volunteered at the team's home tournament.

"The team was excited to visit Fort Riley," Knight said. "Most of them had never been inside the gate. We always hear the gunfire and explosions while we are at Colbert Hills and we see Soldiers in town. "Hopefully it helps the team have a better understanding of what life is like on Fort Riley and humanizes it a bit more."

Durable Soldiers are set to host the team again in the spring to conduct physical training and will join the team at Custer Hill Golf Course at Fort Riley.

'Dagger' Soldiers take part in first accredited Kuwaiti marathon

By Sgt. Dana Moen
2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — Fitness is an Army staple, with physical training conducted most mornings, even while deployed to Kuwait. The ability to complete a 26.2-mile marathon with short notice speaks volumes about the fitness level maintained by 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Soldiers.

A dozen "Dagger" Soldiers conducting theater security cooperation operations at Camp Buehring participated in Kuwait's first accredited full road race, known as the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, Nov. 14. The Association of International Marathons and Distance Races certified the 10Km, 21Km and 42Km courses so that any world records achieved can be recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Yantis, an intelligence officer with Company D, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., is no stranger to running marathons, but knows that it takes time to prepare for one.

"I usually do a 12-week train-up for a marathon," Yantis said. "Before receiving the invite, I was running only 5 to 6 miles once to twice a week."



Twelve Soldiers with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, show off their awards after participating in the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon Nov. 14 at Kuwait City, Kuwait. The run began at Souq Sharq —The Mall— proceeded along Gulf Road, past the Kuwait Towers, Souq Mubarakia —Market Al-Mubarakia and other prominent historic and cultural landmarks.

The run began at Souq Sharq — The Mall — proceeded along Gulf Road past the Kuwait Towers, Souq Mubarakia — Market Al-Mubarakia and other prominent cultural and historic landmarks. The date of the race coincided with World Diabetes Day to raise aware-

ness of how exercise and fitness play a role in combating the growing problem of diabetes in Kuwait.

"Running a marathon is one of the most physically challenging things I've ever done," said 1st Lt. Chase Scheidemantel, executive officer with Co. D, 82nd

Eng. Bn. "You've got to keep your body fit to keep your mind fit."

Yantis and his fellow runners were grateful for the opportunity to compete in a foreign country.

See MARATHON, page 14

Intramural basketball: Close games mark Fort Riley action on the court



Pfc. Travis Ricks, 258th Human Resources Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division goes for the lay up while Pfc. Lawrence Phoenix, Medical Department Activity tries to block his shot. The teams played each other in a close game at Whitside Fitness Center Dec. 3, ending with MEDDAC winning 46 - 44.

Story and photo by Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The first week of basketball intramurals was exciting to say the least. Teams from different companies across post came together for some friendly competition.

“Intramural sports on post helps build unit cohesion,” said Renee Satterlee, intramural sports coordinator. “They build trust with each other.”

Many of the Soldiers have different reasons for joining an intramural sports team and participating in their free time.

“I just do it for the exercise,” said Sgt. Joshua Jackson, Medical Department Activity. “And Renee is always so great.”

Soldiers of MEDDAC and 258th Human Resources Company of 1st Sustainment Brigade faced off in a nail biter Dec. 3 at Whitside Fitness Center for the 7 p.m. game of the evening.

During the first half the score stayed pretty even. The teams were tied 20–20 at half time. After the break, teams came back into the second half playing harder. Within the final two minutes, MEDDAC scored a basket, bringing them ahead by two points. Players from 258th AGHR made a few attempts at tying the score with hopes of overtime, but were unsuccessful. MEDDAC ended the game 46–44 to bring their first week of intramural basketball

to a close. But 258th AGHR has plenty of time left in the season to come back for a rematch.

“I like to see the teams build on each other and build that relationship,” Satterlee said. And at the end of the season you get that ‘Cinderella team’ that comes back and starts winning.”

Intramural basketball games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6 p.m. at Whitside Fitness Center. Find out more about intramural sports and tournaments at www.rileymwr.com.

NET RESULT

Maria Childs | POST

Liz Infante, human resources specialist at Fort Riley and member of Ace in Yo Face intramural team, spikes the ball during a Dec. 2 volleyball game at Whitside Fitness Center. The team, Ace in Yo Face, faced the team, I Got It on Dec. 2. I Got It won the match. “The Fort Riley volleyball league is competitive, but it’s also fun,” Infante said. “We have fun as a team but also joke and have fun with the teams we play. My favorite part of volleyball is the teamwork. It takes the whole team to serve, bump, set and spike. Volleyball is just an overall fun sport and a great stress reliever.”



COMBATIVES

Continued from page 13

nervous, and it’s a real eye-opener to compete at that level and to see the level of competition that is out there Army wide. It’s been said by many actual pro (mixed martial arts) fighters that have been there to witness that tournament that it’s one of the hardest tournaments that they’ve ever seen.”

Maj. Carl Johnson, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley combatives officer in charge, isn’t intimidated. A seasoned competitor, Johnson said the team is looking good. He took first place in his weight class – 220 pounds – in the pankration championships.

“This team is deeper, talent wise, than that team,” he said of his fellow pankration teammates. “It’s not to say that we’re going to go and winning’s automatic. The tournament we’re going to this time is deeper, as well, so we’ve had to adjust accordingly.”

“We’re going to compete very well against other installations who are larger, maybe have more numbers of Soldiers competing for spots on their team, but we like to think that our training is what sets us apart from other competitive teams that go there, and we’ll show that when we go there and do well.”

This is Capt. Jonathan Jordan’s first big tournament, though he has competed while stationed at other installations. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., officer has never been on a structured team with a professional-level coaching staff and organized training.

“Here, everyone is progressing,” Jordan said. “Coaches are more focused on building our strengths, focusing on how we’re going to win — mental toughness, physical conditioning. Everyone works together to make everyone better.”

“Training is usually as hard as we can go without injuring each other. That’s the goal: to push each other to the limit, make each other better, but, we can’t break each other or we can’t compete.”

Jordan is trained in jiu jitsu, and the Soldiers have used their own styles and strengths to help prepare their teammates. Learning how to best compete with fighters of differing styles, whether they have martial arts or wrestling backgrounds, has helped prepare each member.

“When they train with me, they know I’m a jiu jitsu guy,”

Jordan said of his teammates. “They know they’re going to want to fight my guard and look out for sweeps. When I’m rolling with wrestlers, I’m looking to push my wrestling against them and to benefit as much as I can from them.”

Training for the tournament has been a hard regimen, he said.

“You kind of have to come to a realization that if you want to win, you’re facing a professional-level mixed martial arts fight,” Jordan said, “so you need to train accordingly. Some people are going to be training all day, every day — pushing it. You need to not just be training, but increasing your level of technique every day.”

There won’t be any easy fights, Jordan said, adding no one will just scrape through, luck out and win the tournament.

“Either you’re going to be at a very high level and compete well or you will not make it far,” he said.

Johnson said being part of the team, being around the “right cut” of Soldier was something special.

“We try to breed a Warrior Ethos here — maintain

the Warrior Ethos here at the combatives fight house,” Johnson said. “It’s certainly a joy. It’s very rewarding ... the benefit I get out of it is being around troops that are training for all the right reasons.”

The training and competition is fierce, but Hunt said it wasn’t about hurting the other fighters.

“Even when we get to the tournament, we realize that we’re still part of the bigger Army team when we’re competing against those guys,” he said. “It’s more just to show that our program here at Fort Riley rivals any program in the Army, but at the end of the day, we still know those Soldiers from other installations, still have a job to go down-range and be warfighters.”

The target is simple: compete against the best fighters throughout all the service branches and bring another trophy back to Fort Riley.

“That’s our goal,” Johnson said. “You would be amazed when you see how much effort is put forth when you get all of these types of Soldiers who are cut from the same cloth training their butts off every single day ... simply for the sake of winning and representing the Big Red One.”

MARATHON

Continued from page 13

“It was great to have the chance to run a marathon outside the U.S.,” Yantis said. “It was an awesome course and we had a lot of fun run-

ning past many of the Kuwaiti historic and cultural landmarks.”

Yantis finished the marathon in 29th place with a


time of 4:22. Four other Dagger Soldiers completed the full marathon, with the rest running in the 10K due to limited slots being available.

“A marathon is 50 percent physical and 50 percent mental,” Yantis said. “The hardest part is forcing yourself to keep going.”



Travel & Fun in Kansas

Story and photos by Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

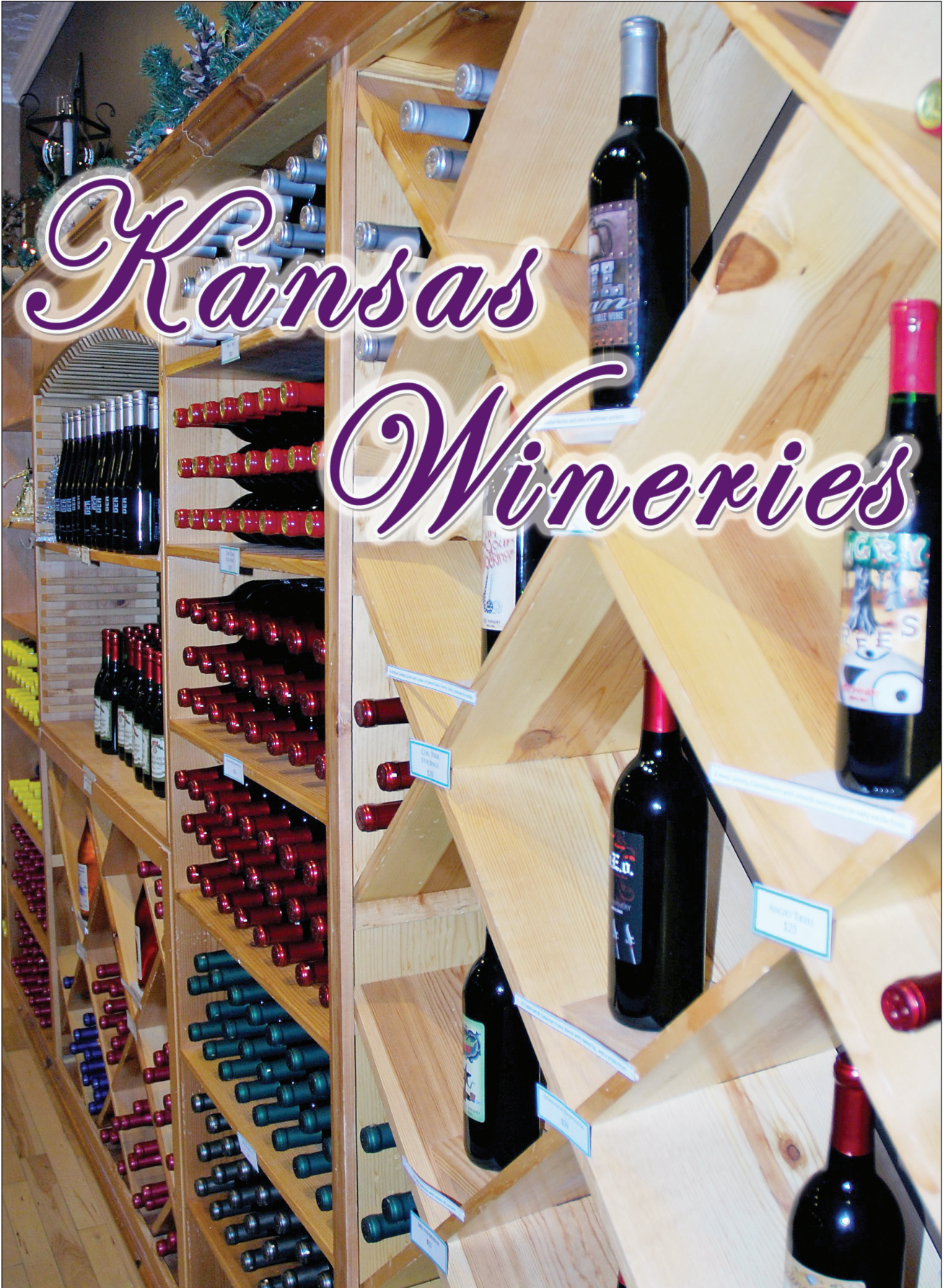
 hile California and Oregon are considered the kings of wine country in the United States, Kansas is a growing spot for vineyards. And the wineries of this fly-over state are worth a visit.

Drive down I-70, exit 330, near Paxico, Kansas, to get to Wyldewood Winery for one of their daily tastings. The winery is managed by Tammy Matthews, who been helping to renovate the building so it can be used as an event space. The main vineyard is in Mulvane, Kansas and is the largest Kansas winery. In addition to wine, they have jams and butters for sale. Wyldewood offers a military discount on their products.

In the heart of Wamego, Kansas sits Oz Winery, complete with Wizard of Oz themed wine and kitchen décor. Daily tastings consist of a flight of either three or five glasses filled with dry or sweet wines with whimsical names such as Angry Tree and Squished Witch. The managers are helpful when it comes to pairing the different cheeses they have with the wine samplings. Oz Winery also offers military discounts.

In the spring of 2016 a new winery will open closer to Fort Riley. It will be located on Wildcat Creek Road in Manhattan, Kansas. The winery, Liquid Art, will have a tasting room and event space suitable for weddings and parties.

There are many other wineries in the state. Starting in Kansas City, visitors can travel The Wine Trail, which is a two-day trip that loops 70 miles past nine wineries. There is something to enjoy for wine enthusiasts and novices alike. Not only do you get to taste wines from several Kansas and Missouri vineyards, but there are also a variety of scenic things to see in the countryside and urban areas. Make plans to stop overnight at the Albion Country Inn and Winery, which includes breakfast and a serving of innkeeper hospitality.



Celebrating its 20 year Anniversary, Wyldewood Cellars Winery has won more than 500 awards both nationally and internationally. The largest winery in Kansas has taken its place on the world stage of fine wines.

Oz Winery is in the heart of downtown Wamego, Kansas. All wines are made on-site. The winery opened in July 2007 and has been growing ever since.