

## THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



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FORT RILEY, KANSAS

## 'Big Red One,' Wildcats renew partnership



Maj. Gen. John Kolasheski, left, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and Richard Myers, Kansas State University president, sign a renewal of a partnership agreement between the two institutions at the K-State Alumni Center Aug. 29.

Story and photo by Chad L. Simon  
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A decade ago, the 1st Infantry Division and Kansas State University entered into a partnership that would mutually benefit both organizations and the Central Flint Hills Region of Kansas.

That partnership was renewed and reaffirmed Aug. 29 as Maj. Gen. John Kolasheski, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commander, and Richard Myers,

Kansas State University president, during a signing Aug. 29 at the K-State Alumni Center, next to Memorial Stadium.

According to Art DeGroat, K-State Office of Military and Veterans Affairs executive director, the partnership is centered on five key principles including enhancing quality of life, offering diverse experiences and perspective, enhancing education, professional development opportunities and more.

As the partnership continues into its second decade, K-State hopes to be recognized as the most military-inclusive public research university in America by 2025, DeGroat said prior to the re-signing.

According to the agreement, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley will continue to create opportunities to connect with and learn from the U.S. Army's experience. The "Big Red One" will continue

See PARTNERSHIP, page 7

## Centering Pregnancy clinic celebrates accreditation

By Kimberly Green  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Irwin Army Community Hospital welcomed dozens of former patients, spouses, staff and members of the Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division command to the unveiling of the Centering Pregnancy clinic accreditation award Aug. 30.

According to the Centering Healthcare Institute's website, Centering Pregnancy programs empower patients, strengthen patient-provider relationships and build communities through three main components; health assessment, interactive learning and community building. Each element is meant to help expectant mothers and their significant others understand their pregnancies better in order to involve mothers and fathers more fully in their own care. They do this by providing the one-on-one attention from a healthcare provider while also engaging in classroom and group discussions allowing participants to ask questions and form relationships with one another.

Maj. Gen. John S. Kolasheski, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, was present for the ceremony and in his opening remarks he explained the importance of programs like Centering Pregnancy was empowering Army communities by helping each other.

"... this is about people and it is about networking," he said. "This is a venue to do that. Spouses that are getting ready to deliver can really take an active role in their prenatal care and then have a support network that is there to help them through the pregnancy and then post pregnancy. This is just a wonderful opportunity for us to come here and celebrate this significant milestone for this department and for the hospital at large."

According to IACH hospital commander Col. Theodore Brown, the Centering Pregnancy program on Fort Riley is one of only eight in the Army and is the only centering program accredited in Kansas.

For expectant mothers and their families, this means they have access to the quality prenatal care and they can interact with other families going through the same phase of life with them.

Of prenatal patients on Fort Riley, 25 to 30 percent of them are choosing Centering Pregnancy for their care and expectant mothers in the program are receiving more than "1,200 minutes, over the span of that pregnancy, of group prenatal care, education, opportunities to ask questions and opportunities to form really strong social connections," Brown said.

See PREGNANCY page 7

## Snowball Express: charity for fallen heroes visits Fort Riley

By Kimberly Green  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division leaders, Soldiers, families, guests and Gold Star families welcomed the arrival of the Snowball Express volunteers Aug. 27 during a ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield.

One of the purposes of the organization is to memorialize the lives of service members so that they are never forgotten, said Snowball Express representative and volunteer pilot James Kaiser. In order to accomplish that goal, Kaiser and fellow volunteer Rob Bowen — both retired American Airlines captains — donate their time flying the "We Remember" airplane, a light, twin-engine Beechcraft Baron B55, to numerous locations drumming up support for the families of fallen service members.

Along the sides of the plane are printed the 171 names of 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers killed in action since Sept. 11, 2001 along with the other 7,529 who have been lost.

"It is so moving ... When you go out to see the airplane

and see the names," Bowen said of the responses visitors and families have seeing the names of their loved ones on the sides of the plane. "You have to reach out and touch them and feel them, and then the next thing is to take a picture. That's almost universal."

The charity began after a letter, written by U.S. Army Pfc. Jesse Givens to his wife before his deployment to Iraq, was published in Los Angeles in 2006. With the letter were simple instructions, "Don't open this unless I don't come back."

"He didn't come back," Bowen said. "In the letter Givens wrote, 'I love you. I love the kids. I never got the chance to take them to Disneyland ... and so I wish for you take them.'"

After the letter's publication, military service members formed a group to start taking their own children and the children of fallen service members to Disneyland. The idea snowballed, and ever since, the Snowball Express volunteers and partners have been "serving the children of our fallen heroes" by providing interactive events and support services



Will Ravenstein | POST

Sgt. 1st Class Russell Wilson, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, searches for a name painted onto the Snowball Express that landed at Fort Riley. While searching for Sgt. 1st. Class Henry Bacon, he also found another name he recognized — Pvt. Matthew Bush.

for the families left behind, Bowen said.

The charity, which became an official program of

the Gary Sinise Foundation in January 2018, gives the

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## Medal of Honor recipient visits Fort Riley sees Soldiers, hospital

By Will Ravenstein  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

On Aug. 27, Medal of Honor recipient Col. Donald "Doc" Ballard visited Fort Riley as part of the Snowball Express stop at Marshall Army Airfield. Ballard, who retired in 2000 from the Kansas Army National Guard, was a Hospital Corpsman Second Class assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, during the Vietnam War.

Ballard was nominated for the Medal of Honor for his actions on May 16, 1968, in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

Ballard wished to visit Irwin Army Community Hospital while on Fort Riley, as he spent time working at the hospital in 1999. While there he requested time to speak to the Warrior Transition Battalion assigned to IACH. To visit with the Soldiers and hopefully make them aware people not affiliated with the Army cared about them.

"I hope that they know that there are people out here that still care about them and what they did for this country," Ballard said. "That we are not going to forget. Our biggest fear in combat is that we are going to be left behind and that we gave our life for what. Post-Vietnam we said, 'what the hell were we there for. Why did we go.' There was a lot of negativity within the ranks. It was even worse in the civilian sector, because of how they treated us when we came home. The Soldiers today can thank the Vietnam era Soldiers for having the ability to change the public sentiment."

The chance to meet a Medal of Honor recipient was too much to pass up for Sgt. 1st Class. Jeff Haight, squad leader, WTB, IACH.

"I've always wanted to," Haight said. "I had to go. I didn't know if that was going to be a question and answer session. After that I said I had to go get my picture taken with him. I've been in for a long time and have done a lot of good stuff, but not nearly as valued as what he's done."

Haight said he was familiar with Ballard's story and was pleased to put a face with the historical information he

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## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE



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## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



COUNTRY MUSIC FILLS THE AIR AS HUSBAND-WIFE DUO ENTERTAIN SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES AT RALLY POINT

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# Remembering the day Danger 6 went down

By Gail Parsons  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Friday, Sept. 13, 1968 – Ted Englemann was a young Air Force radio operator at Lai Khe Base Camp, Vietnam; Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, was observing the fighting from a helicopter near Loc Ninh, close to the Cambodian border.

Some moments of the day are fuzzy to Englemann, something he chalks up to the “fog of war.” Other moments are deeply seared into his memory. At Lai Khe, the Army and the Air Force shared a building. On that day, he was in the building and his job was to keep track of the pilots.

“We were making calls, checking in with people,” he said. “Our job mainly was just to make sure nobody bumps into each other and everybody keeps it clean and straight, so we don’t hurt each other and hurt other innocent people on the ground.

“We would have about a five-minute radio check on all the pilots airborne,” he added. “We would have maybe three or four pilots doing different things at the same time. Sometimes, we were twisting buttons for different channels turned to talk to different people, pick up their conversations with the jets. ‘What’s going on? Where are you?’ Things like that. With one radio it was, at times, kind of hard to keep track of everybody and all the things that were going on.”

The Tactical Operations Center was partly underground. It was a rectangular building; Air Force was on the south side, Army was on the north, but each could hear what the other side was doing, he said.

When he noticed a sudden commotion on the Army side, he tried to continue his work while also trying to hear what the buzz was about.

“I’m perking up my ears trying to figure out what’s going on,” he said. “All of a sudden, the words come in, ‘Danger 6 is down.’”

At that moment, no one knew for sure what happened.

Was the helicopter shot down? Did it crash? Were there survivors? No one knew, Englemann said.

Danger 6 is the call sign for the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division.

They would soon learn the full scope of the situation. The aircraft had crashed in the dense jungle. There were no survivors. General Ware, three staff officers and a crew of four perished.

The 52-year-old was the fourth American general killed in the Vietnam War; the first for the Army.

According to several published accounts of Ware’s history and time in service, he was drafted in 1941 during World War II.

On December 26, 1944, then-Lt. Col. Ware was in command of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

The Military Hall of Honor website states, “Ware’s battalion was attacking a heavily fortified German hilltop position. Finding one of the assault companies stalled and digging in under heavy fire, Ware went forward past their position and made a close reconnaissance of the German positions, deliberately drawing their fire in order to determine their location. After two hours, he returned to the company and brought back a small force — 11 men and a tank — in order to renew the attack; leading the advance personally, he disabled four machine-gun positions before the hill was secured.”

Ware’s actions earned him the Medal of Honor.

When World War II ended, Ware remained in the Army becoming a career Soldier.

“He arrived in Vietnam shortly before the outbreak of the Tet Offensive in early 1968, serving as the Deputy Commander of II Field Force,” said the Military Hall of Honor website. “Dispatched to Saigon immediately after the start of the Tet attacks, he assumed control of the American forces in the area, forming Task Force Ware. After several days of heavy fighting, he had stabilized the situation and the task force was dispersed. Fol-



Courtesy photo

Ted Englemann operates a radio at the Tactical Operations Center in Vietnam.

lowing this, Ware was assigned to command the 1st Inf. Div. March 1968.”

Englemann said he met the general a few times in passing and was keenly aware of Ware’s history. The moment he heard “Danger 6 is down” his life changed, although the rest of that day is a blur.

“It was within days, a day, or two, or three, or four I started realizing that I was angry,” he said. “I was acting in a passive-aggressive behavior, or maybe more aggressive than passive.”

It would be a while before he would realize why he was changing. In World War I it was called shell shock. In World War II it was battle fatigue. Today, it’s been identified as Post-traumatic stress disorder, but there was no name and no treatment during Vietnam for the emotional stress Soldiers were under.

He was angry, hurt and didn’t understand why, he said.

“Later, I realized it was because I was on radios,” Englemann said. “We were ready to call up for tactical air. Those would be the jets that would be supporting the general when he was in a C and C, his command and control chopper. He had his group of people, his executive officer, the chopper pilot and co-pilot — all those that were with him — they were up there trying to get his troops out of an ambush, and/or potential ambush, and we were calling up TACAIR to support him for troops in contact. Which means, we know what

sort of ordinance to bring into the game to help the ground troops the most.”

They were waiting for the call from either the ground or Danger Six to know what was happening. There were so many unknowns.

“What do they need? What do they want? Where is it? What’s going on? What’s the coordinates? Things like that,” Englemann said. “I felt responsible for their death, for his death. Basically, nobody dies on my watch. That’s what I was thinking. Right? And especially not a general – damn right. Especially not Maj. Gen. Keith Ware. It would have been bad enough if some private had been blown away, but you know – the major general of the division. Holy mackerel. That sort of stuff just doesn’t happen.”

He carried that guilt 16 years, it was especially difficult whenever a Friday the 13th would roll around. Finally, one day in 1984 he went to a veterans’ center in Denver, Colorado and someone told him, “You are not responsible for that,” Engleman said. “Finally, somebody said I was not responsible. That set me on a new path. I took myself off the hook for his death.”

Although the intensity of the guilt has passed, when the anniversary rolls around, he knows to be prepared for a wave of emotion.

“In 2002, I was back in Hanoi and I realized it was Wednesday, Sept 11. I said,

‘Oh sh\*\*’ Sept. 13 was two days away,” he said. “I got scared. I called two of my Vietnamese friends in Hanoi. One was in the Army. One was an academic. I called them up and said, ‘I have a problem. Can we go out? I need to be with somebody friendly.’ They got a room for the three of us. We drank beer, got buzzed. All of us had been through this stuff on one side or another.”

Englemann continues to hold Ware’s memory close to his heart and strives to ensure the general’s legacy is remembered for more than just being a name on a school or a ceremonial parade field. Today, he tells the story of veterans and war through his photography. In 2008, he was embedded with Soldiers in Afghanistan, documenting their experiences.

He shares his photography of war and conflict in the U. S., Vietnam, South Korea and Australia, and is working on a photo compilation.

Progress on his upcoming book, ‘One Soldiers Heart,’ can be seen on his web site at [www.tedenglemann.com](http://www.tedenglemann.com).

He describes the photo essay book as “a life-long effort, perhaps obsession, to understand the emotional effects of the American War in Vietnam that my generation and others experienced.”

## MAJ. GEN. KEITH L. WARE’S MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION:

Commanding the 1st Battalion attacking a strongly held enemy position on a hill near Sigolsheim, France, on 26 December 1944, found that one of his assault companies had been stopped and forced to dig in by a concentration of enemy artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire. The company had suffered casualties in attempting to take the hill. Realizing that his men must be inspired to new courage, Lt. Col. Ware went forward 150 yards beyond the most forward elements of his command, and for two hours reconnoitered the enemy positions, deliberately drawing fire upon himself which caused the enemy to disclose his dispositions. Returning to his company, he armed himself with an automatic rifle and boldly advanced upon the enemy, followed by two officers, nine enlisted men, and a tank. Approaching an enemy machine-gun, Lt. Col. Ware shot two German riflemen and fired tracers into the emplacement, indicating its position to his tank, which promptly knocked the gun out of action. Lt. Col. Ware turned his attention to a second machine-gun, killing two of its supporting riflemen and forcing the others to surrender. The tank destroyed the gun. Having expended the ammunition for the automatic rifle, Lt. Col. Ware took up an M1 rifle, killed a German rifleman, and fired upon a third machine-gun 50 yards away. His tank silenced the gun. Upon his approach to a fourth machine-gun, its supporting riflemen surrendered, and his tank disposed of the gun. During this action, Lt. Col. Ware’s small assault group was fully engaged in attacking enemy positions that were not receiving his direct and personal attention. Five of his party of 11 were casualties and Lt. Col. Ware was wounded but refused medical attention until this important hill position was cleared of the enemy and securely occupied by his command

## ‘BRO’ SPOTLIGHT SPC. IAN THOMPSON



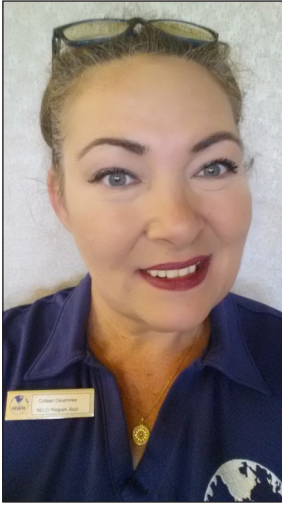
Sgt. Ian Thompson represented Company C, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, at the Best Medic Competition for Regional Health Command-Central hosted at Ft. Riley, Aug. 14 through 17.

The competition – which included Soldiers from 10 installations – comprised of a fitness assessment, obstacle course, weapons qualification, stress shoot chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear lane, medical lane, day and night land navigation, 5k run, written test, and a 12 mile ruck march.

Thompson won the competition through individual excellence and discipline, earning the opportunity to compete at the Army Best Medic Competition in Joint Base San Antonio in September.

Thompson’s success reflects a brigade and division environment cultivating professional responsibility for his craft and personal accountability and discipline.

## GARRISON SPOTLIGHT COLLEEN DAUPHINEE



Colleen Dauphinee is a new program assistant with the Relocation Program for Army Community Service.

She consistently demonstrates individualized attention, enhancing the

quality of lending closet services. Her attention, engagement and creative effort create opportunities to uniquely and specifically support each Soldier and his or her family.

She also communicates relevant community opportunities, creating opportunities to enjoy and engage with the community.

Dauphine strengthens Soldiers and families across Fort Riley daily through her deliberate care. Connecting them to the community and improving their quality of life directly enhances personnel readiness and resilience within the Big Red One.

By Gail Parsons  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The annual 9/11 ceremony started in 2003. There are no new names to add to the list of Soldiers from Fort Riley who have died in the Global War on Terrorism.

The list is compiled and the names added to the GWOT monument are those who lost their lives in the previous year.

At 10 a.m., Sept. 11, a commemoration ceremony will remember those killed 17 years ago, and those who died in the years to follow in the GWOT. The ceremony will be at the GWOT monument in front of the U.S. Cavalry Museum. Col. Stephen Shrader, Fort Riley Garrison Commander will give remarks prior to the 1st Infantry Division Band playing “America

the Beautiful” and “Hymn to the Fallen.” After a prayer and moment of silence, Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew T. Bristow II will lay a wreath during a three-round volley and the playing of Taps.

The 25-minute ceremony is just one of several commemorations happening on Tuesday and throughout the week. Several schools also have planned events.

### KEITH L. WARE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students at Keith Ware Elementary School will start their commemoration at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7 with an assembly in the gymnasium. In addition to recognizing the anniversary of 9/11, the children will learn about the man whom their school is named for. Sept. 13 will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the former com-

manding general of the 1st Infantry Division.

Following the presentation and a sing-a-long, the students along with members of the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard and the 1st Infantry Division Band will participate in a Freedom Walk around the McClellan neighborhood. There will be red, white and blue popsicles waiting on them when they return.

### LT. GEN RICHARD J. SEITZ ELEMENTARY

Students at Seitz Elementary School will have their commemoration on Sept. 14. The day’s events will begin at 9 a.m. with an all-school assembly where the students and the school’s supporting unit, which is Irwin Army Community Hospital will sing patriotic songs.

The students will then parade around the neighborhood and parents are invited to watch.

### MORRIS HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Morris Hill Elementary School will begin its commemorative activities with a sing-a-long in the gymnasium at 11:15 a.m., Sept. 11. Following the sing-a-long, parents are invited to join their students for a walk around the neighborhood.

### FORT RILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students will gather in the gymnasium at Fort Riley Elementary School at 1:45 p.m., Sept. 11 to commemorate the events of 9/11. Parents are invited to join them as children continue the remembrance with a walk around the school.

# FIND YOUR FUN

9/7	Explore Kansas	KC & The Sunshine Band
9/8	Poll & Stroll	Dan + Shay
9/9	Kansas Salutes	Josh Abbott Band with BlackHawk
9/10	Dillons Dollar Day	Demolition Derby
9/11	Foodie Fest	Roots & Boots Tour with Sammy Kershaw, Aaron Tippin & Collin Raye
9/12	Kansas Cares	for KING & COUNTRY
9/13	Makers Day	Bret Michaels
9/14	Ag Innovation	Trace Adkins
9/15	Team Spirit	The Beach Boys
9/16	Go Big or Go Home	Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pull

## KANSAS STATE FAIR

## Fall Planting Days

15% off Perennial Grasses Sept. 9-15

### Trees, Shrubs, Perennials Cole Crops, Pansies 5 Star Grass Seed, Fertilizer

## Fall Decor

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# Garden Center

Since 1970

# Donation helps keep USO Fort Riley on road

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

Briggs Auto Group in Manhattan, Kansas, has helped the staff at USO Fort Riley keep on truckin'.

Literally.  
Dick Young, Briggs Auto Group director of military affairs, and Talia Mundt from the company's marketing department, delivered a 2017 Nissan Titan truck to Scott Payne, Center Director, USO Fort Riley, Aug. 30, at the USO headquarters at Fort Riley.

The donation comes in the form of a four-year lease of the vehicle.

The vehicle will be put to good and extensive use, Payne said.

"We will use it to transport equipment, food items, grills (and) outdoor games to all of our events and services that we provide here at Fort Riley and off of Fort Riley," Payne said. "We have our four no-dough dinners that are off post and we do different types of community engagement programs and service as well with both Manhattan and Junction City."

"We worked with their marketing team (at Briggs)," Payne said. "Dick Young was the primary point of contact I worked through



Dick Young and Talia Mundt hand keys to a 2017 Nissan Titan truck to Scott Payne, center director, USO Fort Riley Aug. 30 at the USO headquarters at Fort Riley. The donation came in the form of a four-year lease courtesy of the Briggs Auto Group. The vehicle will help USO Fort Riley staff transport equipment and materials to the various events on- and off-post that support Soldiers. Pictured are: Traci Taylor, center operations program manager, left, USO Fort Riley, Theresa Guadagno, center operations supervisor, USO Fort Riley, Payne, Young, Mundt and the USO Pathfinders team of Crystal Bryant-Kearns, Lauren Kovaleski, Vance Zimmer and Elizabeth Edwards.

as well as their marketing department."

Young is, and has been for many years, a familiar face at Fort Riley. He, a former command sgt. major at Fort Riley, and his spouse have been involved with lending their personal support to Soldiers and their families.

"The Army was my profession," Young said. "Age is what caused me to get out of the military and Betsy

(his spouse) and I have always been a part of the military organizations that have helped military families. And the USO reaches out to the families. I was here at the grand opening of the USO . . . and I've seen it grow and I've seen it get better. And the little things we can do to bring a smile to the kids' faces makes this all worth it. The no-dough dinners were the first things we got

involved with and it's just grown from there."

Briggs Auto Group has been a valuable partner to USO Fort Riley and Payne is grateful.

"Briggs also sponsors the food services at the snack bar at the USO a couple days a week, and really anything we need in terms of support, Briggs is there, and they are there throughout the entire year," Payne said.

# Fort Riley aids troubled flight

By Gail Parsons  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Air Traffic Controllers at Marshall Army Airfield work to maintain a good working relationship with their counterparts in Kansas City, Missouri. The importance of that relationship was evident Aug. 29 when the two facilities worked together to help a pilot in trouble.

That morning, Drew J. Jensen, Lincoln, Nebraska, was piloting his Beechcraft Bonanza with a destination of Emporia, Kansas.

"He was not intended to land at Manhattan Airport or Marshall Army Airfield," said Emmily Smith, Department of the Army air traffic controller. "He was supposed to fly over top of our airspace. He wasn't supposed to fly at an altitude that we normally would even see the aircraft. We only have 6,000 feet in altitude. He was supposed to fly at 7,000 and (Kansas City) Center was supposed to talk to him the whole time, we would never see him."

When an aircraft descends below 7,000 feet the data-tag of the aircraft will flash on the radar screen, she explained. If someone clicks on the flashing data-tag, they assume responsibility for the plane, which is what David Ristau, Air traffic control specialist, did.

In a normal situation the pilot would change frequency from the Kansas City sector to Fort Riley's Ground Controlled Approach facility at Marshall Army Airfield so they could communicate. When that did not happen Ristau contacted the Kansas City Center.

"They weren't sure of the status of the aircraft," he said.

However, in a few moments the pilot was able to relay to Kansas City that he was experiencing a fuel emergency and did not believe he could make it to the Manhattan airport.

At Fort Riley the ATCs watched the radar screen. Ristau saw another plane, also a Beechcraft Bonanza, on a similar trajectory.

"As I saw the imperiled aircraft turn toward the airport I turned the one that was ahead of him away and put him in a holding pattern to clear the space for the imperiled aircraft," he said.

On Ristau's request the pilot of the plane he turned away would later make a pass over the area. He reported he saw the Jensen's Bonanza on the ground and it appeared to be fine.

The last word the Fort Riley ATC's heard before losing Jensen's plane on radar was that he was looking for a place to set the plane down.

"He saw a gravel road that he was going to try to land on," Smith said. "That was the last information we got about his flight intention."

When Jensen went under 1,000 feet he dropped off the radar.

At Fort Riley they didn't know if he had successfully landed or crashed. They immediately notified

the Pottawatomie Sheriff's Department and gave the coordinates of where they last had radar contact – and then waited.

"In your mind as a controller you're wondering if the pilot is OK and if they are OK are they going to be capable of communicating that to anyone," Smith said.

They soon learned the pilot was able to contact the Flight Service Station and said he was in a field and he and his passengers were safe.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported the 1976 aircraft had a defective fuel selector causing it to run out of fuel. The emergency landing was in a grass meadow just west of Lake Elbo and Noel Road, about 12 miles east of Manhattan.

"A couple hours later he was back in the air and on his way back to Nebraska," Ristau said. "At the end of the day, any landing you can walk away from is a good one."

# Civilian air traffic control team visits post



Galen Davis, air traffic controller at Marshall Army Airfield, explains to (from left) Richie Godinez, Bernard Links IV and Abigail Goslin how tower operations work at Fort Riley, while Pfc. Danielle Lynn watches the movement of helicopters down below.

Story and photo by Gail Parsons  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Several air traffic controllers from Olathe, Kansas spent the morning of Aug. 30 at Marshall Army Airfield to learn what operations are like at Fort Riley.

The Kansas City Center and Fort Riley's Ground Controlled Approach facility have a close working relationship, but staff seldom have the opportunity to put a face with the voice or the person behind a computer screen, said Emmily Smith, Department of the Army air traffic controller.

"If we want to continue providing the services that we provide here, having a good working relationship is important," Smith said. "We have air traffic controllers come and see what we do and we go and visit them as well. Just hearing a voice over a line is very impersonal. We like to take that a step further and bring some personal interaction to the people we deal with sitting in the Kansas City Center performing at their workload while we perform ours. It's great to see the faces of the voices that we hear."

Her sentiment was echoed by Patricia Eggers, air traffic control specialist at Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center. With 30 years' experience, Eggers was the senior member of the team, which included an Air Force veteran, who served six years before becoming a civilian air traffic controller, and three people who had recently graduated from the Federal aviation Air Traffic Control Academy in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and were in training.

"It's nice to know what happens on the other end of the radio," Eggers said. "It helps us do our job better. We want to keep good relationships up so the military can continue the training they need to do and we can make sure that training fits in with our traffic."

Not all air traffic controllers do the same job. Understanding each other's roles leads to better cooperation and efficiency in a field where everyone shares the goal of aircraft safety, Eggers and Smith said.

"It's set in stone how things are supposed to go," Smith said. "We have required altitudes that we send the aircraft to, then we hand them off to the (Kansas City) Center controller and they continue them on their way outside of our airspace. On the other side, coming into our airspace we have prescribed altitudes if they are sending them into our jurisdiction."

Smith believes the visits are important to helping everyone learn the complexities and differences between the Kansas City Center and the GCA and everyone's jobs.

"If they are high altitude air traffic controllers once (the plane has) left the airport and have climbed to a safe or higher altitude they are just pointing them in the direction of the next terminal environment," Smith said. "With them working enroute they don't get to see aircraft descend into an airport. They don't get to hear, 'You're cleared for takeoff' or 'You're clear to land.' They never work with any of that."

Their visit started in the radar room at the airfield where they shared experiences and those who have been in the industry longer spoke about the changes in the equipment.

Before they moved on Steve Crusinberry, director, of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, took a moment to express his appreciation to the air traffic controllers at Kansas City and those at Fort Riley.

See CONTROLLERS, page 6

WHEN FLOODED  
TURN AROUND  
DON'T DROWN

Learn more about  
Flood Safety at:  
[www.weather.gov/floodsafety](http://www.weather.gov/floodsafety)

NOAA  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Financial Aid  
Workshop

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# New fitness test measures combat readiness, says Army secretary

By David Vergun  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — “If you can’t pass the Army Combat Fitness Test, then there’s probably not a spot for you in the Army,” said Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper.

“That doesn’t mean you’ll immediately get kicked out,” he added. “It means there will be some sort of remedial program, the details of which are still being worked out.”

Esper addressed a range of issues, from recruiting and acquisition to offering a tribute to the late Sen. John McCain, during a Defense Writers Group breakfast Aug. 29.

The current Army Physical Fitness Test, which has been around some 40 years, is flawed, Esper said.

“I grew up in the Army with the APFT and I personally never thought it was a good indicator of combat physical fitness, nor did many of my colleagues. The testing has proved that out,” he said.

The secretary said studies done by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command show that the APFT captures “maybe 30 or 40 percent relevance of what you demand in combat ... the ACFT is upwards of 80 percent.”

The main purpose of the ACFT is two-fold, he said. First, the test ensures Soldiers are ready for combat. Second, preparation for the test improves physical fitness as it relates to injury prevention.

Losing Soldiers to injuries during PT or field exercises contributes to decreased readi-

ness, he added, because injured Soldiers can’t deploy.

At one point, upward of 15 percent of Soldiers were categorized as non-deployable, he said. That’s about 150,000 Soldiers across the entire force. Now, that figure has been reduced to nine percent, and there are vigorous efforts underway to lower that percentage even more.

“If you’re not physically fit for combat, then we’re not only doing you an injustice, we’re doing an injustice to your colleagues and peers as well,” he said, explaining that if a Soldier can’t deploy, that means someone else has to deploy twice as much.

“At the end of the day, we need Soldiers who are deployable, lethal and ready,” he emphasized.

Beginning October 2020, all Soldiers will be required to take the ACFT, which TRADOC fitness researchers term “gender- and age-neutral.”

## NOT LOWERING STANDARDS

There’s a need to grow the active Army to at least 500,000, with associated growth in the Guard and Reserve, Esper said.

To do that, the Army is planning a modest annual increase spread out over the next several years to get to that number, he said. The additional Soldiers will be used to fill current units that are undermanned and grow additional capabilities.

Asked if he’d consider lowering standards to meet the end-strength goal, the secretary said the Army is not

lowering standards, and will not.

“We’ve raised standards, such as limiting Category IV accessions from the DOD higher end of four percent to the Army higher end of two percent, putting more stringent requirements on issuing waivers and making sure we truly take into account the holistic person to ensure persons who receive waivers are high-quality recruits,” Esper said.

As to attaining higher end strength, Esper said the Army needs to do a better job of recruiting.

One step being taken includes letting Soldiers go home for a number of weeks to assist recruiters by doing outreach, he said.

This is particularly important in areas without a military

presence, he added. The Army has increasingly become “a family business.” Almost all of the Soldiers he’s spoken to have told him they have veterans in their immediate family. And most senior Army leaders have or have had sons or daughters in the military.

Fewer and fewer young people know someone who’s served, he said, and so to them, the Army is unknown.

Other efforts to attract quality recruits include putting more recruiters on the street — an effort that began in the spring — and moving recruiting stations to more optimal locations, he said.

Some other approaches include better utilizing Army public relations assets like the Golden Knights and Army bands, he said.

# Army researchers hope to lighten Soldiers’ battery load

By David Vergun  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Across all six of the Army’s modernization priorities — long-range precision fires, next generation combat vehicle, future vertical lift, network, air and missile defense, and Soldier lethality — there has been a dramatic increase in demand for power as a result of the introduction of new system capabilities and prototypes that are energy hungry, said an Army lead engineer.

Of particular concern for Soldiers is the increase in energy demand in the areas of Soldier lethality, including augmented reality, said Julianne Douglas, Energy Harvesting Technology lead with the Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Douglas spoke at a National Defense Industrial Association-sponsored Army Science & Technology Symposium and Showcase, Aug. 22.

Increased energy demands will soon result in an increase in the quantity of batteries Soldiers must carry on dismounted patrols, Douglas said.

Based on her discussions with the Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team, which is in charge of overseeing the progress for that particular modernization priority, Douglas said a rifleman today requires an average of 12 watts of power in the form of AA and conformal wearable batteries. That means the weight requirement of batteries for a standard 72-hour patrol is about 15 pounds.

That includes batteries for such things as night

vision goggles, weapon optics and communications devices.

It doesn’t sound like much weight, but it adds to the other things Soldiers are hauling like weapons and ammunition, protective gear, and food and water, she said, adding that Soldiers are always trying to be better prepared, so their battery load for a 72-hour mission is probably closer to 25 pounds.

All that added weight means Soldiers can get fatigued much more easily, are more susceptible to injury and are less able to maneuver nimbly, she noted.

By 2025, the wattage and battery weight is expected to roughly double, she said, citing discussions with the Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team and Augmented Reality Cross-Functional Team.

That estimate is based on anticipated power requirements of such gear as new augmented reality equipment and a next-generation squad weapon, she said.

On top of that, discussions are taking place in the Army about the possibility of doubling the duration of the standard 72-hour patrol, said her colleague, Noel Soto, a systems engineer with Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command.

It’s come to the point that Soldiers are losing their battlefield readiness as a result of all of the weight they carry and they are functioning more like “pack animals,” he said.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Douglas said Army researchers are experimenting with ways to make batteries more powerful and last

longer so fewer need to be carried.

To do that, the researchers are trying to make batteries more energy dense by doing such things as replace graphite in batteries with carbon and fluorine gas, and in hybrid batteries use manganese dioxide.

However, the high temperatures required for that process have made them prohibitively expensive, so the researchers are looking for ways to bring the cost down, even as they experiment with other chemicals, she said.

Another solution would be to “add power consumption decision point to acquisition programs,” she said, noting that requirement is currently absent.

Soto said his team in Natick, Massachusetts, is working on a number of experiments to bring down the weight and number of batteries Soldiers must carry. They include:

- Wearable solar panels that are comfortable and flex with the body
- A backpack frame kinetic harvester that produces energy for rechargeable batteries from slight movements of the Soldier’s rucksack during dismounted patrols
- A kinetic knee harvester that produces energy for rechargeable batteries from movements of the Soldier’s legs.

The kinetic knee harvesters have received favorable reviews from Soldiers doing user testing, he said. They’re most efficient when Soldiers are moving downhill.

The backpack frame kinetic harvesters are more efficient when Soldiers are going uphill, he said, as that’s



Courtesy photo

A Soldier tests a backpack frame kinetic harvester during an energy-harvesting technology demonstration at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

## TRAFFIC REPORT

### ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS

Those with a valid DOD ID card, or who have an access pass or badge, wanting access to Fort Riley on weekends should use Estes, Ogden, Henry or Trooper gates.

For more information about Fort Riley access procedures, visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil).

The access control point hours are:

### Henry/Trooper/Ogden/Estes:

Open 24/7. Commercial traffic at Estes is required to have an access pass or badge prior to trying to access. **12th Street:**

Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, closed weekends and federal holidays. This gate will have inbound commercial vehicle lanes only. Although personally owned vehicles will be allowed access, there is no designated POV lane.

Outbound traffic is not authorized. Badges and passes may be issued to commercial drivers prior to access at the gate.

### Grant:

Grant Gate is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.

### REPAIR PROJECTS

Seitz Drive Repair, Huebner Road to Riley’s Conference Center: Sept. 10 through Sept. 12. *Work to be performed during normal working hours.*

### FUTURE PROJECTS CHECK APP FOR MORE DETAILS

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### JIMI

*My Yoga Journey:*

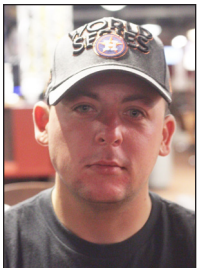
The path of my life has always drawn me to older and more “broken” people. I say broken with love as I consider myself physically broken too after suffering many injuries that still require slow, deliberate rehab. Emotionally, I find peace on the mat that is missing in much of my day. The yoga mat is my clinic, therapy coach & retreat. As a “mature” adult myself, I have a keen sense of physical and emotional limits and work to make yoga accessible to everyone. I have always been a clutz, but yoga provides me access to the grace in my heart. I love teaching yoga therapy & restorative classes! - Jimi

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is your favorite tip when saving money for the holidays?



"Stay home. If you don't go out, you don't spend money."

PVT. BAILEY HODGES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

1st Replacement Company, 1st Infantry Division



"Stay off the internet, because I can find all kinds of things to spend money on."

PVT. MARK CASSITTI  
ELBERFELD, INDIANA

1st Replacement Company, 1st Infantry Division



"Don't go to bars, I spend way too much money at bars."

PVT. GARRETT ECKARDT  
TENINO, WASHINGTON

1st Replacement Company, 1st Infantry Division



"I start shopping early. I don't know if I necessarily save, but I don't spend it all at once."

KORIE CUSHION  
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wife of Sgt. Patrick Cushion, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"Shop early. You can find some good deals."

LEAH HAYES  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

Wife of Sgt. Domoniq Hayes, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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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 an e-mail usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil

ASK DR. JARGON

High-speed, low-drag starts in air

Dear Doc Jargon:

I keep hearing the term, "high-speed, low-drag," when one of the Soldiers is talking about a high performer or a piece of equipment that runs well and does what it's supposed to do.

I get that it means good stuff for people and equipment but can you tell me where the term comes from?

I bet there's a cool story behind the term's origin.

Sincerely,

Word sleuth

Dear Sleuth,

You are right that term comes from the early days of the Army Air Corps and the inception of bombs delivered from above. Originally,

bombs were cylindrical and were strapped below the wings. Aerodynamically speaking, they created drag on the aircraft as it flew. The design has since been perfected on munitions, including our own artillery, that make them faster and reduce the drag on the aircraft that carries them or the resistance they encounter when airborne.

When you apply that to equipment and people,

the same concept applies. Someone or something considered high-speed, low-drag, is an asset to the unit and doesn't cause delays in accomplishing the mission.

The opposite is low-speed, high-drag and you can guess that isn't a desired term to get pinned with.

Sincerely,

Doc

Suicide: it's not just an adult issue

Sara Nash, LMSW and Teresa Nelson, PhD, LCMFT  
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, IACH

Our Fighting Force will never be effective if they know their families are not cared for back home. This month Fort Riley focuses on the Value of Life – a campaign that includes children. This month highlights many programs within the military that bring awareness to the issue of military suicide and the multitude of assistance available to our military families, including teens and adolescents.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's latest data shows suicide to be the second leading cause of death for 10-24 year olds. Another report indicates 157,000 adolescents are seen in emergency departments

each year for self-inflicted injuries. Though these statistics can be frightening, there are some warning signs to look out for. Signs that warrant immediate action include: talking about death, changes in personality that are more than being "moody," significant changes in sleep or eating patterns/ habits, or when a teen expresses feeling out of control.

Today's youth struggle with different issues than prior generations. The widespread use of cell phones, computers, and other media have generated electronic bullying and increased individual isolation. Long periods of separation can impact the parent-child relationship. These social changes heighten risk for youth making them susceptible to suicidal ideation.

But there is hope when it comes to teen and adolescent suicide. Talking to your child about suicide can be uncomfortable, but it is an essential way to address concerns they have even if they are contemplating it. More than likely they have already been exposed to the subject through social media and/or their school and have questions that are best answered by a parent or professional. As a parent, tell them how much you love and care for them and how important they are to you. Talk about your concern for the changes you see without being accusatory or defensive. Finally, put yourself in their place and imagine the stressful experience of today's ever-changing world to an adolescent.

At Irwin Army Community Hospital,

the Child and Family Behavioral Health Service clinic, in the Department of Behavioral health, is staffed with dedicated providers who work with children and families of service members. In addition, the CAFBHS also has a School Behavior Health Program with clinical therapists assigned to on-post schools. This service is an extension of the Behavior Health Department, not an additional school service. These providers conduct individual and group therapy with students within the schools, the same therapy these youth would receive if they scheduled an appointment at the hospital. All CAFBHS and SBH providers are providers qualified to treat adolescents and teens for suicidal ideation and behaviors.

Fort Riley honors retirees

The following individuals were recognized Aug. 29 at Victory Park during the monthly retirement ceremony on Fort Riley.

First Sgt. Jason A. Therkelsen, Commanding Generals Mounted Color Guard, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, after 26 years of service.

First Sgt. Francis Saroglou, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, after 25 years of service.

First Sgt. Kenneth J. Person, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troop Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, after 25 years of service.

Sgt. 1st Class Carol S. Harris, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, after 20 years of service.

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan B. Surprise, Signal Intelligence Service Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, after 24 years of service.

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Lopez-Valle, Signal Intelligence Service Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, after 20 years of service.

John M. McGee, Directorate of Public Works. U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley, after 35 years of service.

**FORT RILEY ACCESS TRUSTED TRAVELER PILOT PROGRAM**

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Who can serve as a sponsor for visitors?	Active Duty military, dependent age 18+, retirees and DoD civilian professionals. DoD ID card holder driving a vehicle	Eligible ID card holder riding as a passenger	Contractor with DoD ID card containing green stripe	Driver under the age of 17	Other passes such as installation passes or U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs
YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
How many visitors can I sponsor?	One Vehicle with 7 or fewer guests	One Vehicle with 8 or more guests	A 15-passenger Van full of guests		
YES	NO	NO			
Where can my guests go?	Any non-restricted area when accompanied by the sponsor	Into restricted areas with or without escort	Any location unescorted by the sponsor		
YES	NO	NO			
Who is required to show a government issued photo ID?	Anyone 16 years of age or older	Anyone under the age of 16			
YES	NO				
What form of ID must guests provide?	Government issued photo ID cards for residents of states and territories	U.S. Passport	Foreign Passport	ID cards issued by non-government entities such as school, work, etc.	
YES	YES	NO	NO		

**U.S. ARMY**

For additional information on the Trusted Traveler Pilot Program — visit <http://www.riley.army.mil/> Click on the yellow "Accessing Fort Riley" button or call DES Security Branch at 785-240-0630.

**FORT RILEY HOUSING RESIDENTS PET POLICY**

Only cats, non-aggressive breeds of dogs, caged animals (such as birds, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc.) and fish are allowed in on-post housing.

Authorized number of pets is per the Corvias Resident guide, pending Army policy revisions currently under consideration.

No pets are authorized in barracks.

For more information see the Corvias Resident Responsibility Guide:

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## CONTROLLERS Continued from page 3

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## PREGNANCY

Continued from page 1



Kimberly Green | POST  
**Mothers and Soldiers** Staff Sgt. Cortney Moore, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, left, and 1st Lt. Sarah Hoyt, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., brought their sons, Mark, 3 months old, and Peyton, 4 months old, to the Centering Pregnancy clinic accreditation ceremony at Irwin Army Community Hospital on Aug. 30. The Soldiers became good friends during their time in the clinic and remained supportive of one another after their sons

At the heart of the program is the tenet that families are stronger when they work together and normalizing the hardships of pregnancy and parenting is a large piece, said Centering Pregnancy coordinator and registered nurse Amanda DeDonder.

“Having moms who talk to one another and compare the milestones of life with each other” is what makes the program so important, she said. “When you have someone relying on you to show up for that group, you’re going to get out of the house ... you’re guaranteed that social interaction.”

DeDonder said if a mother is suffering from anxiety or depression, that social interaction is crucial because other mothers may be experiencing the same symptoms and sharing those feelings helps them get the care they need and normalizes their worries.

“Fort Riley’s geographical isolation can be difficult for many Soldiers and their family’s,” Brown said. Programs that encourage community are “essential for making sure that we support and sustain family readiness here at Fort Riley.”

The operations tempo on Fort Riley is high and with so many Soldiers away at training or on deployments, expectant mothers often return to their families rather than stay at Fort Riley to deliver, DeDonde said.

For first-time mother Stephanie Smrcka, the information she received and the relationships she built through the centering program she said helped quell her fears about giving birth and taking her daughter home after delivery.

“Prior to the centering class, I was absolutely terrified of giving birth and about the first couple of weeks home with her,” she said. “When I was in the centering class — just because it was such an open environment — no one ever judged you for asking the same question a hundred times.”

Smrcka and her husband Sgt. 1st Class Steven Smrcka, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, welcomed a healthy baby girl into their family

October 2017. Smrcka credited the prenatal group setting for the strong bonds she has formed with other mothers and for the continued support she has on Fort Riley.

“I still keep in touch with certain women from those classes,” she said “We go to lunch all of the time. We have playdates. We formed a very, very good relationship ... it feels amazing. My husband had to make an emergency trip to California for the NTC (National Training Center) training, and with him being gone and my daughter teething, sometimes I just need a break and I contact one of the other moms. They are always willing to get together with me and go to lunch, and just let me vent, get me out of the house and help whenever they can.”

Smrcka said these friendships are what have kept her rooted at Fort Riley.

“He (Steven) leaves so frequently for his job if I didn’t have those friends and those relationships I formed in class, I probably would be going home every single time he’s gone,” she said.

And while building a strong Fort Riley community has a positive effect on Army readiness, the benefits of a centering program on mother and baby are also significant. Brown said centering programs have better breastfeeding outcomes, mothers have fewer trips to the hospital and infant birth weights are higher than with traditional prenatal care.

Smrcka agrees with Brown and has seen the benefits first hand.

“I feel like with breastfeeding, I would never have even attempted breastfeeding if I hadn’t gone to that class and I hadn’t learned the importance of something as simple as breastfeeding my child,” she said.

Now that the Centering Pregnancy clinic is fully accredited, the staff are already looking into ways to continue to support families on Fort Riley by opening a Centering Parenting clinic that will follow the families after birth through the first several years of parenthood.

## PARTNERSHIP

Continued from page 1

to expand access for K-State educators, students and professionals to the installation and community.

The partnership is most noticeable through the K-State athletic teams. Each team at the university is partnered with a unit of the 1st Inf. Div. This is most evident with a partnership between 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., and the K-State football team and university as they host Fort Riley Day at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. This year, the game is slated for Sept. 15.

The partnership worked last summer as students from Manhattan, Kansas, toured parts of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., and used flight simulators as they participated in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics summer program offered by K-State.

Kolasheski was a member of the 1st Inf. Div. command staff three years ago during the last renewal signing.

“To see some of the initiatives discussed — in my case three years ago — come to fruition today is pretty exciting,” Kolasheski said. “It really makes me look forward to the future.”

Myers is a K-State graduate and was the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff before he retired from the Air Force in 2005 and became the university president in 2016.

“When you sign up to be a university president ... the added benefit is that I can stay connected to the military I love so much,” Myers said. “This is a dream come true in many ways.

## HEROES

Continued from page 1

children of Gold Star families the “opportunity to bond with the only people who can truly understand their loss: one another,” said the GarySinisefoundation.org website.

The most remarkable event the charity offers is an annual, four-day trip for members of Gold Star Families to Disneyworld. The event takes place in December, and this year, Kaiser expects 1,800 to 2,000 family members to be flown to Orlando for the occasion. The park completely shuts down to anyone other than the Gold Star Families for two days, Kaiser said.

Every part of the trip is free for the families and is only possible through monetary donations and the contribution of time by volunteers including counseling services to aid surviving spouses.

“We bring in all the experts of military affairs,” Kaiser said. “We have life insurance people who come down. Medical benefits people come there. Education benefits people are there. Financial counseling people are present. USAA, Navy Federal Credit Union — all

these supporters come, and we make sure that families are getting all the benefits they’re supposed to get. Some of these families moved away after their loss — moved back home — and they may not be anywhere close to a military base and may not be getting everything available to them. We make sure that they are getting everything available.”

Aside from visiting Disneyworld, the families are given the chance to meet with each other and share their grief, something Kaiser and Bowen said is immensely important for helping families heal.

“The whole idea of the Disney trip is what we call ‘communal healing,’” Kaiser said. “These kids that lost their parents know exactly what these other kids who lost their parents are going through because they really do know how that other family feels. They don’t have to put on any airs. They don’t have to make up a story about their mom or dad. The other kid gets it, and so they learn from each other.”

To ask about services or to learn how to get involved visit [www.garysinisefoundation.org](http://www.garysinisefoundation.org).



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Navy Federal NFCU 10487 (8-18)

TOUR Continued from page 1

learned prior to becoming an instructor with the Basic Leader Course.

“The crazy thing is that I spent the last six years teaching BLC in Camp Ashland, Nebraska,” he said. “During the oral briefs we have to give to be BLC qualified, you get stories of people that won different things. So you get the story of many that never get to met or put a face with. Never thought I would, so that’s why this means a lot to me. I had to go over and say hi and shake his hand. That’s what we all emulate to be, to give everything. That’s why I’m still in the Army after 33 years.”

Prior to visiting the WTB, Ballard was treated to a small lunch meet and greet with some of the hospital staff where they spent time talking about his experiences and he learned how IACH has progressed since moving into the new facility 18 months ago.

“I think they actually consulted with someone that actually worked at a hospital,” he said. “They designed it, got the architect and engineers involved because it’s a tremendous facility that fits the needs of staff and patient load. I was really impressed with the effort that the new architects that designed it make it more plausible and more usable with the patient in mind.”

Ballard was given a tour of the hospital where he was saw several of the hospital rooms including the labor and delivery suites and the medical floor. Each room he joked was larger than what he used to working in the old hospital.

Ballard was impressed during his time on the labor and delivery floor when he learned the medical professionals there had access to an elevator which linked directly to the emergency room and to the helicopter pad to get patients up to

the floor or to get expectant mother to a different treatment facility fast.

Ballard said the advancement of medical technology impressed him.

“If you reflect back on our time, we were better trained than the Korean and second world war guys,” he said. “The kids today are better trained than we were in Vietnam. The advent of procedures, techniques and equipment — like QuikClot®. We didn’t have QuikClot®, man could we have saved more lives if we had QuikClot®. I’ve been to the school at Fort Sam (Houston) and I’ve audited some of their classes and I’m very impressed with the level of mannequins and the level of training they receive, in comparison to in Vietnam and post-Vietnam when I was still in. I fought that training for a long time.”

After his time at IACH, Ballard wanted to see what had changed on Fort Riley. He requested to see several locations to learn about them. He wanted to know what the Outdoor Adventure Park was and joked when he learned the facility was the former golf course. He also spent some time at the Warrior Zone seeing what today’s Soldiers do to relax when not on duty.

MEMORIES OF VIETNAM

Ballard carries around with him a heavy weight, he said. He talked about his time in Vietnam and how the 1968 Tet Offensive saw a great loss of Marines.

“In combat you put the people in body bags,” he said. “We lost 71 percent of our battalion during the Tet Offensive in 1968 and hill fights around Khe Sanh. We made a promise, one was thankful that one would give their life so we could live. What kind of better feeling than to give back. I had a wife and two

children when I was there. I could easily see myself ... in a body bag.”

Ballard shared a story the he was pronounced dead, by an untrained person, and left on a pile of bodies to be recovered.

“As a matter of fact they found me on the body pile the last time they medevac’d me out,” he said. “I was pronounced dead by a Marine, but they don’t know anything. Thank God a corpsman came by, and was about to stick my dog tags in my teeth when he felt the exchange of air and heard me gurgling. He decided to investigate that a little further and pulled me off the pile. He threw me over his shoulder and ran me up to the helicopter — doing chest compressions all the way up bouncing me up and down. I threw up all over him and he laid me in the helicopter, and I’m here today.”

With that experience, and the grief of putting others in body bags, Ballard wanted to give back.

“On the battlefield I wanted to remember the guys that saved my life and the guys I had to put into body bags,” he said. “Just wanted to give something back. You put someone in a body bag to never to see them again and you’re thinking you wish there is more you could do for this. Maybe reach out to the families and tell them how sorry I am that I couldn’t save them. I had guilt. I was being a medic and letting somebody die on your watch, you feel some guilt there. I get it — I had some guilt.”

As part of the Medal of Honor Foundation, Ballard has been doing just that. He also joined forces with the Gary Sinise Foundation’s Snowball Express after learning about the program.

At the end, Ballard felt his time with the Gold Star



Will Ravenstein | POST  
ABOVE: Ret. Col. Donald “Doc” Ballard, Medal of Honor recipient, speaks to Soldiers at the Warrior Transistion Battalion Aug. 27 while taking a tour of Irwin Army Community Hospital. INSET: Medal of Honor recipient Ret. Col. Donald “Doc” Ballard was the guest speaker at the We Remember Tour ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield. Ballard spoke of his experience as a combat medic in Vietnam and the importance of remember the fallen Soldiers who, “payed the ultimate sacrifice for us.” After the ceremony concluded attendees were invited to see a special plane waiting outside the hanger with the names of every service member killed since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.



Families and Soldiers at the WTB was important.

“I’ve spent most of my life circling the Army posts and active-duty installations and thanking the guys and gals that want to serve today,” he said. “The motivation that was in the ‘60s was because of

the draft. Today they serve. It was equally important, no doubt. Our mission today was to support the Gold Star Families which was the utmost importance to recognize their sacrifices. I met one women there. She came to me, and we knew

each other from Snowball. I had visited with her and her kids when they came to participate in an event. Some new families were added. I think that was our primary mission and we didn’t lack anything there. It was well received.”

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“Whether it be dove, duck, pheasant or deer, it just brings back the tradition of getting out into the field and getting to bond with the people you are out there with ...”

SGT. BLAKE CYRUS | COMMANDING GENERAL'S MOUNTED COLOR GUARD, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



G.T. Rollins, 8, calls out dove location to his dad, Staff Sgt. Gary Rollins, Warrior Transition Battalion, Irwin Army Community Hospital, Sept. 1, during the opening day of dove season. Gary Rollins said it was important to have his son out there learning the basics of gun and hunter safety.

## a bird's-eye view

### Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group's ninth annual dove hunt calls out to area families



Sgt. Blake Cyrus, Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, takes aim at passing doves Sept. 1 at a sunflower field west of the Field Landing Strip during the opening day of dove season.

#### NEXT EVENT

- The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group's next event will be the **Youth Deer Hunt Oct. 6 through 8**, and reservations must be made by Sept. 29. To RSVP, contact FROG on Facebook through Messenger.

By Kimberly Green  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The opening day of dove hunting season was Sept. 1, and those in the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group were more than happy to host their ninth annual Fort Riley dove hunt the same day.

“To be out here on the first day of dove season really brings back the tradition with my family on the opening day of whatever season it is,” said FROG guide Sgt. Blake Cyrus, Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, 1st Infantry Division. “Whether it be dove, duck, pheasant or deer, it just brings back the tradition of getting out into the field and getting to bond with the people you are out there with, and being able to show something for it at the end of the day and to be able to feed your family.”

Twenty hunters met at the trap and skeet range on post and were briefed on the basic rules for the evening. Game wardens were on hand to answer questions and explain Kansas hunting regulations to the participants.

See HUNT, page 10

#### CLOCK'S TICKING

- If a vehicle is confirmed to be either abandoned or a mechanical hazard, military police will place a **72-hour notice** to have the vehicle removed if it is not imposing an immediate hazard to Fort Riley personnel.



## Keep your vehicles in tow, or else

### Post policy calls for towing abandoned, broken-down vehicles

By Will Ravenstein  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

When a vehicle breaks down on the road or it is involved in an accident it is subject to be towed away.

Unless you make arrangements to have the vehicle moved, the Directorate of Emergency Services, and the military police will have the vehicle towed to keep Fort Riley safe from hazards.

“First thing that happens is we either get a call of a vehicle abandoned or there appears to be one abandoned, or that a vehicle is in poor state of disrepair and is a mechanical hazard,” said Will Paskow, Fort Riley police chief and deputy director DES. “We go out and actually confirm that, OK, even though it looks like a dilapidated vehicle, is it properly registered? Is it parked someplace that is legal to park? Or, on the flipside, the vehicle is no longer registered. It's sitting on two flat tires and somebody has dropped the transmission and it's sitting on the ground.”

If a vehicle is confirmed to be either abandoned or a mechanical hazard, military police will place a 72-hour notice to have the vehicle removed, if it is not imposing an immediate hazard to Fort Riley personnel.

“If it's a vehicle that's truly abandoned or is some sort of hazard, we put a orange sticker or marker on it to indicate it's abandoned,” Paskow said. “It does two things. It lets the public know we are out there checking on stuff. It also lets the person know that (they) should make arrangements to get the vehicle moved. That flag will stay on there for 72 hours. After the 72-hour window, if the vehicle has not been moved or

See TOW, page 13

## No time like month of September to prep for disasters

### National Preparedness Month about being prepared for hazards

By Will Ravenstein  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Natural and man-made disasters can happen with little to no warning, recent events in the neighboring community of Manhattan, Kansas, prove that with the flooding Sept. 3.

Chis Hallenbeck, emergency management coordinator, wants to make sure Fort Riley personnel are safe and prepared in case events happen around them.

“National Preparedness Month is a focused national call to action to learn more about the hazards that may threaten our workforce, families, installations commands and organizations,” Hallenbeck said reciting a Department of Defense memo. “The campaign, led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is an opportunity for all to prepare for emergencies we may encounter and to ensure we have the capabilities in place to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the threats that post the greatest risk where we live, work and visit.”

See MONTH, page 11

## Principal doubling down on work

### Educator to lead Morris Hill, Jefferson elementary schools

Story and photo by Téa Sambuco  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Junction City native and longtime educator Melanie Laster will venture into this school year as the principal for Morris Hill, and Jefferson elementary schools.

Laster said she graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, and then went to Kansas State, where she received a master's in curriculum instruction with a reading specialist license. In 2003 she received her administrative license.

“I've lived here all my life,” Laster said. “This is my 38th year in education.”



Melanie Laster helps children with their schoolwork at Morris Hill Aug. 26. Laster is the Principal for Morris Hill and Jefferson elementary schools.

She began teaching at Forsyth Elementary. When Forsyth closed she moved to Ware Elementary School, it was not long before her potential showed.

“I had an administrator, Dr. Ferrell Miller at the Middle School, who saw that I might

have a gift for being a leader,” Laster said. “He asked me if I would like to be the school improvement coordinator.

She said the position for school improvement coordinator allowed her to be a teacher and gain experience in school administration.

“I've always had a love for working with adults. I care about kids being taught well, and I enjoy working with adults to ensure that all students learn.”

MELANIE LASTER  
PRINCIPAL, MORRIS HILL, JEFFERSON ELEMENTARIES

“I've always had a love for working with adults,” Laster said. “I care about kids being taught well, and I enjoy working with adults to ensure that all students learn.”

See PRINCIPAL, page 12

# FORT RILEY POST-ITS

## BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS

**BOSS and Warrior Zone Barbecue** — Come to the Warrior Zone every Friday throughout the summer for mouth-watering barbecue. Begins at 11 a.m. and lasts until the food is gone, so don't be late.

**Warrior discipleship Bible study** — Second and fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Warrior Zone conference room.

**Your BOSS needs representatives!** To continue the great activities planned and to plan more.

In addition to the fun stuff, BOSS has your back for your career too. Several times each month the group gathers to prep you for your next board.



## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARK

Check out the disc golf course, the foot golf course, the climbing wall or zip across the air on the zip line.

Outdoor Adventure Park hours — Sunday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday — Closed

Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit the food truck from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends. The snack bar will also be available after the food truck leaves.

Book the family obstacle course and zipline tower online at [webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/rileycyms.html](http://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/rileycyms.html).



## BLUE STAR PROGRAM

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers the Blue Star Program to family members who are geographically separated from their service member. The benefits are also open to Gold Star families and Soldiers in the Warrior Transition Battalion. Discounts and events are available to those enrolled in the program. For information about eligibility, call 785-239-2172 or email [bluestar@rileymwr.com](mailto:bluestar@rileymwr.com).



## MEET AND GREET PLAYTIME

Brought to you by the New Parent Support Program, Meet and Greet Playtime offers parents with young children (up to age 3) a chance to get together, and children get the opportunity to build skills and socialization through play. Kings Field House, 10 a.m.

## TACO TUESDAY AND PASTA WEDNESDAY

Stop by Riley's Conference Center for lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Taco Tuesday features an all-you-can-eat meal with a choice of meat, hard and soft shell tacos, salsa bar, rice, beans, salad bar and dessert.

Pasta Wednesday features pasta main dish, green beans, focaccia and Greek salad.

The buffet costs \$9.95, which includes a drinks. A salad bar only is available for \$5.95. For more information 785-784-1000.

## FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER SCHEDULE

**Friday, Sept. 7**  
Mission Impossible: Fallout (PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 8**  
The Meg (PG-13) 2 p.m.  
Mission Impossible: Fallout (PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 9**  
Slender Man (PG-13) 5 p.m.

Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing. For more information, call 785-239-9574.

Regular Showing: \$6, children are \$3.50, children 5 and under are admitted free.

3D Showing: \$8, First Run: \$8.25, 3D; First Run: \$10.25

## TRIVIA NIGHT: SPORTS THEMED

Participants will have the opportunity to compete against other individuals or teams by answering various trivia sports themed questions. The first place team will receive a themed prize. There will also be door prize giveaways, appetizers and a cash bar. Open to ages 18+ only. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and doors open at 7 p.m. Purchase tickets online at [riley.armymwr.com](http://riley.armymwr.com) or at the door.

## FORT RILEY LEISURE TRAVEL

Discount tickets are available for events in the surrounding area as well as major theme park destinations.

**K-State Wildcat Football** — Tickets for all home games, \$22-\$55

**Chiefs home games** — \$50 to \$115 depending on location and game

**Great Wolf Lodge** — **Kansas City Hotel:** Blackout dates apply. Water park tickets included for all guests.

**B&B Junction City Gem Theater:** \$30 value gift card for \$25 good for movie tickets and concessions.

**Kansas State Fair - Sept. 7 through 16** — Dan and Shay concert, plus admission - \$35; Adult fair admission, any day, \$6; child or senior admission, \$4

**And much more!**

For more information on tickets and travel packages available through the Leisure Travel Center, call 785-239-5614/4415.

## FREE AUDIO BOOKS

All military branches will get to take advantage of this service at no cost. Thousands of audiobook titles are available instantly on demand or have the CD shipped for free.

This service is open to all veterans, service members and their families residing in Kansas.

For more information, visit [www.Kansas.3LeafGroup.com](http://www.Kansas.3LeafGroup.com).

## HUNT

Continued from page 9

Ollie Hunter, trap and skeet instructor and board member for FROG, said guides would be spending as much time helping hunters as they needed. Guides spent the week before the hunt observing the birds to make sure they knew where to place the hunters to ensure that they remained safe had a good chance for shooting a bird. After the hunt, FROG guides taught new hunters how to clean the birds.

“FROG is a very good program,” Cyrus said “It offers hunting and fishing opportunities for people that generally wouldn't or might not have the opportunity to go out with someone. Being a guide out here today really gives me the opportunity to show the people — that normally wouldn't have a spot to dove hunt — to give them a spot to get in and what a love they can actually grow for the sport of hunting.”

Staff Sgt. Gary Rollins, Warrior Transition Battalion, Irwin Army Community Hospital, brought his 8-year-old son, G.T., out for the hunt after reading about it in a flier at the Exchange in the fire arms section. He said that including his son in the hunt was very

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Soldiers and families new to Fort Riley may not realize that Fort Riley owns **110,000 acres of land**, and of that, 71,000 acres are managed for multiple uses. That includes 29 stocked fishing ponds, eight sunflower fields, hiking and biking trails and more.

important to him for several reasons including understanding firearm safety.

“It was the first introduction to hunting and gun handling and safety,” he said. “I figured it would be a good introduction to bird hunting.”

Rollins felt strongly that informing children about hunting and firearm safety early is the best policy.

“It's very important to teach them at a younger age, they are going to be handling them in the future,” Rollins said. “If you want them to handle the weapons in the future they have to learn today. It's just something that you pass on.”

Besides being a family-oriented event for hunters, the purpose of the dove hunt and having all of the guides on hand was to “introduce folks to hunting in Kansas, the regulations and introduce folks to hunting on Fort Riley because

there are some tricks to it,” said Hunter.

Hunter explained that regardless of the activity on post, whether it be mushroom picking or elk hunting, all visitors must have an online account through the iSportsman website. The account requires an outdoorsman to log in and log out of the grounds. As well as logging in and out, videos for specific activities must be viewed and short tests have to be passed before gaining access to the training areas.

Soldiers and families new to Fort Riley may not realize that Fort Riley owns 110,000 acres of land, and of that, 71,000 acres are managed for multiple uses. That includes 29 stocked fishing ponds, eight sunflower fields, hiking and biking trails and more, according to Hunter.

“For many (Soldiers) the fact that they are doing something out in the training areas

on Fort Riley, getting introduced to the availability of them and seeing the land (is most important),” Hunter said. “Some of them have never driven out there. Many have been out there for training, been out to the ranges, but have never gone out and seen the 110,000 acres that we have, and I think that is the biggest thing for them. They say, “My gosh. You have elk here. You have deer here. You have dove here. You have ducks. You have pheasant. You have quail. You have prairie chicken. You have coyotes.” And that opens the door. This hunt, for many, opens the door for them to Fort Riley.”

The dove hunt, as with all FROG events and membership, was free for participants.

“This is great,” Rollins said of his day hunting with his son. “It was very family friendly. It was perfect. It wasn't hard to get to. It was a good introduction to hunting. This is a good event. I'm glad they put it on.”

The next FROG's event will be the Youth Deer Hunt Oct. 6 through 8 and reservations must be made by Sept. 29. To RSVP, contact the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group on Facebook through Messenger.

**READY ARMY**

**Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification System Smartphone App**

The Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification system now includes a mobile notification smartphone application.

The AtHoc Notifier is a smartphone app which displays as a purple globe on your main mobile phone screen. It is available for iOS and Android smartphones.

**Be Army ready - Stay informed**

**For more information and installation instructions visit [www.riley.army.mil/Community/Ready-Army/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Community/Ready-Army/)**

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**Worship Opportunities**

**Protestant Services**

<b>Victory Chapel</b>	239-0834
ChapelneXt Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1100
Children's Church.....	1105-1200
<b>Morris Hill Chapel</b>	39-2799
Gospel Protestant Service	
Sunday School.....	0900
Sunday Worship.....	1100
<b>Main Post Chapel</b>	239-0834
Traditional Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1030

**Catholic Services**

<b>Victory Chapel</b>	239-0834
Sunday Mass.....	0845
Sunday Catechism.....	1000
<b>Saint Mary's Chapel</b>	239-0834
Confession (or by appointment).....	1100
Sunday Mass.....	1130
Mid-day Mass- Mon., Wed., & Fri.....	1200
<b>IACH Chapel</b>	239-7872
Mid-day Mass- Tue. & Thur. ....	1200

**Jewish Service**

For Sabbath Services please contact the Senior Chaplain at 240-6268/910-273-0767.

**Pagan/Wiccan Service**

<b>Kapaun Chapel</b>	239-0834
Fort Riley Open Circle- SWC	
1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly.....	1800

**Wednesday Family Night**

Weekly classes from 1900-2000 at Victory Chapel 785-239-0875. Watchcare provided for birth-4yrs. **Kick-off 12SEP18**

**Club Beyond - Faith Based Youth Program**

Grades 6th - 12th, Meets Sundays

Combined MS/HS Youth 1830-2015 at Victory Chapel 785-370-5542

\*Club Beyond is a Non-Federal Entity and is not part of the DoD or any of it's components and it has no government status.\*

**AWANA**

Meets Sundays, 1400-1600 at Victory Chapel 785-239-0875. **Kick-off 9SEP18**

**Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)**

Weekly Tuesday Meeting 0900-1130 & Evenings at 1830-2000 at Victory Chapel.

For more information email [rileypwoc@gmail.com](mailto:rileypwoc@gmail.com) or Facebook "Fort Riley PWOC"

**Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)**

Weekly Wednesday Meeting 0900-1130 at Victory Chapel.

Childcare provided. **Kick-off 5SEP18**

For more information email [fortrileycwoc@gmail.com](mailto:fortrileycwoc@gmail.com) or Facebook "Fort Riley CWOC"

\*\*Check for schedule over Training Holiday weekends\*\*

**Jewish High Holiday Schedule**

Services will be held at Main Post Chapel 6 Barry Ave. Fort Riley, KS

**2018**

**September 10**

**Rosh Hashana service at 1000. followed by lunch**

Please RSVP to [shmuel.felzenberg.mil@mail.mil](mailto:shmuel.felzenberg.mil@mail.mil)

**September 18**

**YOM KIPPUR EVE SERVICE 1930**

**September 19**

**Yom Kippur Services at 1100 & 1930**

**Followed by a break the fast meal**

**September 24**

**Sukkah Party at 1130**

**17-B Forsyth Ave. Fort Riley, KS**

POC: Chaplain (COL) Shmuel Felzenberg  
(785) 239-3359 or (910) 273-0767

PosterMyWall.com

# Country duo ‘pay it forward’

Thompson Square  
wows Fort Riley crowd  
with acoustic concert

Story and photo by Téa Sambuco  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The halls of Rally Point were filled with the sound of acoustic music Aug. 30, when Thompson Square performed for the families on Fort Riley.

The event was offered by Army Entertainment, and supported by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“Army Entertainment is awesome,” the DFMWR Special Events Coordinator, Taylor Ferrarin said. “They’re all about bringing entertainment out to different installations.”

Ferrarin said the tickets were \$15 and the DFMWR welcomed the opportunity to have a low-cost, country concert.

“We’ve got a lot of country music fans around post,” Ferrarin said. “That’s the kind of music that they ask for. This band is pretty popular, and we’re excited to be able to provide this opportunity for them (the families).”

Ferrarin said the inside event was all acoustic.



Thompson Square, the husband-and-wife duo of Keifer and Shawna Thompson, performs an acoustic concert for the families at Fort Riley on Aug. 30. The event was offered by Army Entertainment and supported by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“Thompson Square came from acoustic music. It’s always fun to get back to our roots,” said Shawna Thompson, vocalist for Thompson Square.

Shawna was accompanied by her husband, who played the acoustic guitar. The duo said that while military tours were only a small part of what they do, it was something that was very important to them both.

“Both of our fathers served in the Army,” Shawna said. “Any time we get to do something like this, we do it. It’s our way to pay it forward, so to speak.”

The military tours that Thompson Square performs are not just limited to the United States, Shawna’s husband, Keifer Thompson said.

“It’s a very patriotic feeling,” Keifer said, “to be on foreign soil and see so many Americans together doing the same thing.”

Thompson Square’s performance that evening included songs from their new album, “Masterpiece.”

Sgt. Jason Shick of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division,

“Both of our fathers served in the Army. Any time we get to do something like this, we do it. It’s our way to pay it forward, so to speak.”

SHAWNA THOMPSON  
VOCALIST,  
THOMPSON SQUARE

vision, and his wife, Julie, both long-time listeners, were excited from the moment they learned Thompson Square would be coming to Fort Riley.

“My parents love country music ... and I grew up as a teenager listening to them,” Julie said. “When I saw their name (Thompson Square), I said we have to come see them live.”

Jason said he told his Soldiers about this opportunity, saying it was “good for morale.”

The couple enjoyed being able to walk to Rally Point to see the band play, and hoped there will continue to be family friendly events held in the area.

## MONTH Continued from page 9

Fort Riley faces numerous potential for disaster situation from tornados, flash flooding, wild fires and severe winter weather to train accidents with chemical release or spill.

Hallenbeck said the greatest thing Soldiers, families and Fort Riley employees can do is make an emergency plan.

An informational flier created by Ready Army lists the steps needed to create such a plan:

In the event of an emergency on Fort Riley, the Fort Riley Operations Center will send out alerts via the “Giant Voice” system, alerts through the at hoc alert system on cell phones and instant messages onto government networked computers. An automated call will also call every landline associated with Fort Riley to ensure notifications are sent out and received.

Four radio stations will also broadcast updated information about Fort Riley when it becomes available Hallenbeck said; KJCK-AM, 1420; KMAN-AM, 1350; KQLA-FM, 103.5 and KXJB-FM, 104.7.

“Families, Soldiers and civilian workforce members should be proactive and take the necessary steps to minimize the impact of a disaster,” Hallenbeck said.

### BE INFORMED

- Find out what disasters are most likely to happen in your area.
- Stay informed of any specific instruction or information you may need to know regarding these disasters.

### ESTABLISH AN EVACUATION PROCEDURE

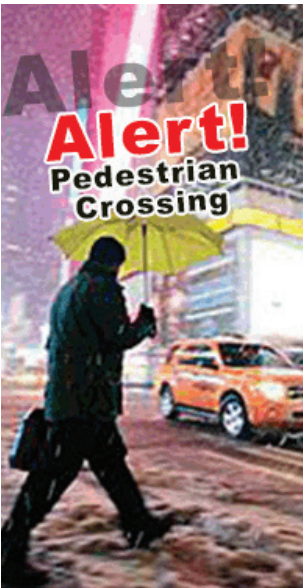
- Know your installation’s evacuation plan.
- As a family, discuss where you will go in the event of an emergency.
- Discuss where your children will go if they are in school at the time of the emergency. Make sure they understand where you intend to be.
- Be aware that in the event of an emergency, phone lines and cell phone towers may be out. It may be necessary to have a contingency plan for reaching each other – consider using text messaging if normal communication options are not available.
- Plan how you will evacuate family members with special needs.
- Include pets in your family plan.

### DEVELOP A FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE

- Develop a comprehensive procedure as a family for communicating in the event that you are separated during an emergency.
- Create a sheet or card with all the phone numbers and information every individual in the family may need, including an in-case-of-emergency name and number.
- Make sure every member of the family has a copy of the communications procedure.
- Save the ICE information in everyone’s cell phone.
- Be aware in the event of an emergency, phone lines and cell phone towers may be out. It may be necessary to have a contingency plan for reaching each other.

### PRACTICE YOUR PLAN

- Set up practice evacuations or shelter-in-place drills for your family to ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency.
- Keep your emergency supply kit up to date, replacing water and perishables periodically. Make sure everyone knows where it is and to take it when sheltering or evacuating.
- Check your smoke alarms regularly.



1<sup>st</sup> Encounter

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TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST

The question for the week of Sept. 4 was:  
Where do I find updated road-condition information that will let me know if roads are closed due to weather or other issues?

Answer: [www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Advisories/](http://www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Advisories/)

This week's winner is Denise Velasquez, spouse of Spc. Juan Velasquez, Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Pictured above are Denise and Juan Velasquez.

CONGRATULATIONS DENISE!

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FORM MATTERS



LOWER-BODY STRETCHES

Public Health Nurse Capt. Eddie Murray demonstrates one of his favorite lower body stretches.

He said the cool down and stretch period after a workout is as important as the workout itself.

1. Lie flat on your back and pull your right knee to the chest.
2. Take the bent knee over the left side of the body.
3. Straighten the leg, hold this position for a few seconds.
4. Bring the right knee to the right shoulder.
5. Lifting yourself onto your left hip, grasp your right ankle and fold your leg behind you, use your left foot to apply pressure to your right leg to help with the stretch. Repeat on the opposite side.

# Trooper runners face first competition

Story and photo by Will Ravenstein  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

MANHATTAN, Kans. — The Fort Riley Middle School Troopers cross country teams competed in the Manhattan High School Cross Country Invitational Sept. 1, for their first meet of the season.

The seventh-grade girls and eighth-grade boys' teams both finished fifth in their respective age groups.

"Honestly, I didn't know what to expect coming in, so that was good to see," said first-year head coach Sarah Davis.

The Lamar, Missouri, native said she was proud of her athletes and their efforts facing the competition and a course in the style of the one at Manhattan.

With long hills in several locations throughout the course, Davis said that the teams has been working on tackling hills during practice.

"We've been working on hills once or twice a week,"



Fort Riley Middle School seventh-grader Cheyanne Roman (704) pushes past a Topeka-Seaman Middle School runner down the final stretch toward the finish line. Roman finished the race inside the top-10 earning her a medal at the Manhattan High School Cross Country Invitational Sept. 1 at Warner Memorial Park.

she said. "We will continue to work on hills — it's super important."

The hill aspect is important due to the teams hosting the

course and the large one coming to the finish.

Davis credits the recent Blue-White Time Trials held by the Junction City High School cross-country team to help prepare her athletes for their season.

"I think it helped a lot knowing kind of what to expect and getting out on a course does affect how they race," she said.

She said the team will work on managing the start to conserve energy for the kick in the final stretch prior to their next event.

"We've talked about it, but it is something we will continue to work on," Davis said. "It will take some time to get the start down."

Two Troopers earned individual medals on the day with their placing in the top-15.

Cheyanne Roman closed out the seventh-grade girls race in eighth place crossing the line in 7:39.8 and Teagan Roberts finished the eighth-grade boys race in 6:31.7 in 12th place.

## RESULTS

- **7th-Grade Boys** — 1. Ethan Bryant, EIS, 6:12.3; 2. Lucas Phelps, SEA, 6:35.2; 3. Blake Spellman, EMP, 6:43.2; 4. Landon Brunner, EIS, 6:45.2; 5. Elijah Strawn, EIS, 6:49.5.  
**Also:** 34. Ryan Despasquale, 8:28.0; 37. Alexander Cook, 8:35.8; 50. Zachariah Dailey, 9:54.5.
- **7th-Grade Girls** — 1. Taylin Stallbaumer, SEA, 6:13.3; 2. Hailey Henningson, 6:36.9; 3. Sofia Ruvalcaba, EMP, 7:04.1; 4. Micah Sheffy-Harris, EMP, 7:13.2; 5. Maggie Dixon, ANT, 7:17.9.  
**Also:** 8. Cheyanne Roman, 7:39.8; 35. Ella Fidler, 9:49.6; 36. Veronica Hokirk, 10:10.3; 37. Jordan Lampe, 10:11.5; 38. Paige Oscarson, 10:23.5.
- **8th-Grade Boys** — 1. Jonathan Laudie, EMP, 5:49.4; 2. Landon Stuke, SEA, 5:51.5; 3. Garren Marshall, ANT, 5:51.6; 4. Colin O'Rourke, SEA, 5:58.6; 5. Adonis Vanleeuwen, SEA, 5:59.8.  
**Also:** 12. Teagan Roberts, 6:31.7; 21. Collin McQueen, 6:54.9; 22. Noah Chavalier, 7:04.7; 23. Devin Simmons, 7:06.8; 32. Josiah Gonzales, 7:42.9; 43. Kale Martin, 8:43.9.
- **8th-Grade Girls** — 1. Gili Johnson, EIS, 6:11.8; 2. Amelia Knopp, ANT, 6:20.0; 3. Elizabeth Wolhite, EMP, 6:27.9; 4. Jillian Harkin, EIS, 6:36.4; 5. Audrey Cook, EIS, 6:55.5.  
**Also:** 30. Tazmin Gonzales, 8:28.9; 40. Trinity Jefferis, 8:57.9; 42. Abigail Ticknor, 9:29.4; 50. Mackenzie Rom, 10:36.7.

## PRINCIPAL Continued from page 9

She said she is "always up and moving." The duties of being a principal to two different schools provides its challenges.

"I have a hard time giving things up," she said. "There's going to be moments where I think, 'Oh no, where will I be?' I'm going to want to spend 50 percent of the time at one school and 50 percent at the other."

Laster said despite the hardships of not being able to be at each school full time, she has an assistant that will be there when she isn't.

"I thank all the parents for being patient during this transition, because I know many of them were not excited

### MELANIE LASTER

- Graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in elementary education
- Received a master's degree in curriculum instruction with a reading specialist license from Kansas State University.



about hearing that they will not have a full-time principal," she said. "I just hope they will get to know me and realize that my doors are open for any other problems or concerns, and that I will do my best to support them and their children's education."

Laster said this year her school students will work on socially emotional character development standards, and each school will have a designated Calming Room.

"We have so many children who have anxiety in their lives," she said. "We're lucky that the

district saw a need to have counselors, so at Jefferson we have a full time counselor and I'm ... working with our student support monitor so she can do those things as well."

Laster compared her teaching environment from the 1980s to today.

"Now, the family structures are so much different because the Soldiers might miss half of their kids' elementary years," she said. "It's every other year they're deploying. I think that's another reason we're focusing on social and emotional aspects this year. We rise by lifting others," Laster said. "It's all about the people and treating them with kindness."

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- Games
- R2 Meeting

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## TOW Continued from page 9

somebody has made arrangements, we go ahead and turn in the tow packet to the MWR folks. The MWR, through the Auto Care Center, runs a tow service and they will tow the vehicle.”

Once the vehicle is towed to the impound lot, two things can happen, Paskow said.

“If it’s your vehicle and you are actually here and want your vehicle back, you can go pay the impoundment fee at the lot and the fee for towing, and you can get your vehicle back,” he said. “If it’s Pvt. Paskow and he was here and PCS’d to Korea and has no intention on getting his vehicle back, they (MWR) go through the process of clearing the lien and auctioning off the vehicle. That funding goes back to the MWR program.”

Paskow said there have been instances where people have scraped off the sticker in attempts to fool the military police. He said those efforts are futile as they annotate when and where the vehicle was marked.

“We write down the location,” he said. “You can see a vehicle that we tagged a couple of times and people come out and scrape the sticker off, thinking no-

body will notice. But we keep records on it, of where the vehicles are and when it was tagged. Unfortunately, it’s not instantaneous that the vehicles are towed. There is only so many throughputs that the MWR can do when you only have one wrecker and the guy is doing 12 other things. Because of that, there are times when a vehicle will be there more than a couple days.”

### HELP DURING DEPLOYMENTS

Paskow said Fort Riley has a facility called the Personally Owned Vehicle Lot, where Soldiers can take their vehicle if they are deploying, going down range for an extended time or PCSing overseas and are unable to get the vehicle off Fort Riley.

“Your unit makes the coordination and you have a block window to put your vehicle into the privately owned vehicle storage lot,” he said. “It’s safe and secure. When you come back you get your vehicle back. For some reason, there are Soldiers that for whatever series of circumstances, opt not to do that. That, or nobody tells them that’s an option and their vehicle gets left out there.”

If a Soldier fails to get their vehicle in the lot and they let their tags expire, the vehicle could end up towed.

### EXTRA VEHICLES IN HOUSING

Paskow said they often get calls to remove excess vehicles for the housing units though there are options to avoid that as well.

“Oftentimes, we see in housing that people want to have their boat, their camper or their utility trailer with their four-wheelers on there,” he said. “Well, the housing regulation precludes having those items in housing. From time-to-time, we’ll get into a situation where we will be asked to tow those vehicles. Again, not the POV storage lot, but MWR has, for a fee, an RV, trailer or overflow parking (area).”

### COMMUNICATION KEY

Regardless of the situation that a Soldier is in with regards to their vehicle, Paskow said that DES will work with people to avoid the vehicle getting towed.

“Let’s say you were involved in a car accident today, for whatever reason, the insurance you have does not

pay for towing,” he said. “And, we are in the middle of a pay period and you don’t have the money to pay for your car. If your vehicle is not in a place where it will be an immediate hazard, we will probably work some sort of arrangement with you. Get some buddies and get it off the road into a parking lot and get it towed within the next pay period. Then we will keep a note of that. Then if I get into a situation where, ‘Hey, Sgt. Paskow has had this conversation with us and it’s a pay period past and it’s still sitting there with no intention to move,’ — generally the next step is (that) I call somebody’s sergeant major.”

“If you have a situation with your vehicle and you are making good intent to get it rectified, let us know,” he added. “We want to help you work through the situation. This is not out here to penalize anybody, but the installation still has to maintain safety and has to maintain good order and discipline.”

Just like the flow of Fort Riley goes from fast-paced to stagnate, so does the efforts to keep abandoned vehicles cleaned up, Paskow said.

“We want to help you work through the situation. This is not out here to penalize anybody, but the installation still has to maintain safety and has to maintain good order and discipline.”

**WILL PASCOW**  
FORT RILEY POLICE CHIEF

“It’s continued to be a post policy and law on how you can store things,” he said. “Sometimes, we don’t always have the time to focus on this effort continuously or at the depth we are doing it right now. We can’t have it turn into a ‘Sanford and Sons’ junkyard with vehicles stacked up because somebody hasn’t made a plan. That’s what we see a lot of times, a Soldier or somebody hasn’t made a plan.”

## Grant to fund new resilience program for military teens

By Gail Parsons  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Fort Riley Child and Youth Services received a \$10,000 grant in June, from its parent organization, U.S. Army CYs, to start a new program for teens.

Sandy Johnson, school liaison officer, said the R2 Teen Resilience program is based on the Army’s Master Resilience Training Soldiers are required to go through.

“But the teen’s program will be more hands-on, more active and more fun,” she said.

The two Rs in R2 stand for ready and resilient. The goal is to help young people in grades six through 12 find ways to cope and handle everyday situations that arise, with a focus on the unique challenges military children face.

“They are affected by different cycles of deployment and moves and the transitions that are expected for careers in the Army,” Johnson said. “But it’s not their career, yet they are affected as all military family

members are. This plan is to try and help them consider different responses to different situations and explore how to have a better understanding of themselves.”

Although people generally learn appropriate response tactics as they grow and mature, teens often don’t realize the different ways they can approach situations, she said.

The R2 Teen program will begin with a family night orientation on Sept. 20.

“After the teen family night, on the 21st, we plan on going to the Adventure Park,” she said. “For the kids that participated in the family night they can learn to overcome obstacles — literal obstacles.”

### WHAT TEENS CAN EXPECT

The program is in the development process and is expected to be fluid — always changing dependent on the youths attending. Once it starts, on Oct. 1, the teens will have a say in how it is presented and what activities they will do.

“We are going to find out what they want and what they

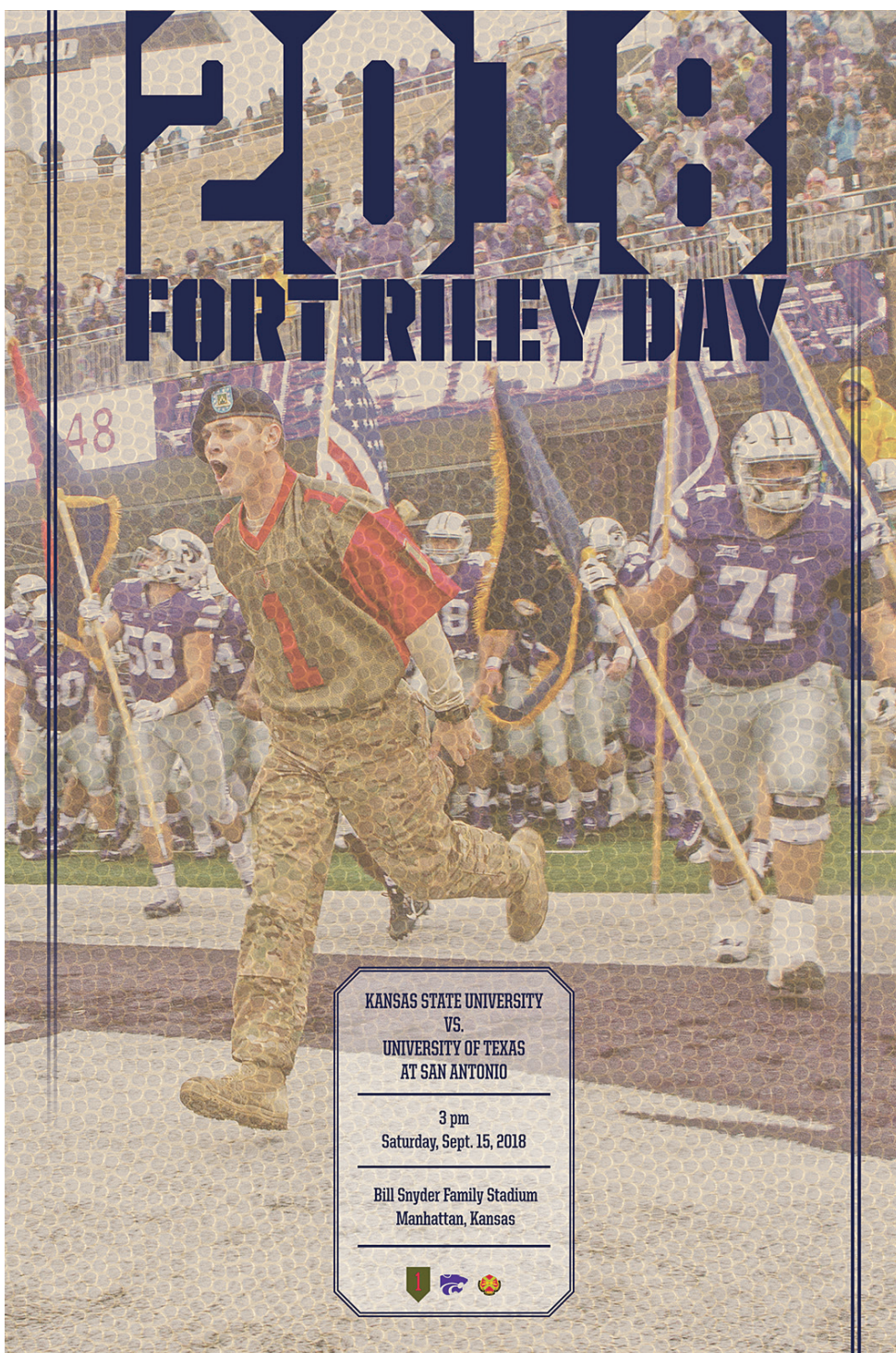
expect,” Johnson said. “It will be a little education and a lot of fun. They are going to help us make this a good program.”

There are several guidelines the staff will follow taken from a list of standard resilience and performance skills. Staff will expand on each of the skills and provide active participation ways of teaching them.

“It will be an ongoing thing,” Johnson said. “Because of the movement of families, we will have new youth coming and going all the time. We’ll go over (the resilience and performance skills) but as time goes on we’ll revisit them to learn again and get some new ideas from some of the existing users that are there.”

Participants will meet from 4 to 5 p.m. on Mondays and monthly field trips will be planned by the staff and the teens. Each semester will end with a party, which will include giveaways.

Parents are invited to volunteer and if there is interest, the R2 Teen can lead to a program for parents, she said.



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<div>TymeOut</div> <div><div>101 Continental Dr JUNCTION CITY (785) 238-7638</div></div>		September 9th	September 10th	September 11th Homemade Schnitzel \$9.99 <i>Serving German Beer</i>  10:30am-1:30pm 4pm-9:30pm	September 12th Bison Burger \$9.99  10:30am-1:30pm 4pm-9:30pm	September 13th 6oz Steak \$8.88  10:30am-1:30pm 4pm-9:30pm	September 14th 8 oz Surf 'n' Turf \$19.99 16 oz KC Strip \$24.99 10:30am-1:30pm 4pm-10pm	September 15th 8 oz Surf 'n' Turf \$19.99 16 oz KC Strip \$24.99 4pm-10pm
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<div>IHOP</div> <div><div>321 E. Ash St. JUNCTION CITY (785) 238-4800</div></div>		<div>CATERING AVAILABLE</div> <div>Catering Available (Contact Crystal) 785-238-4800</div>						
<div>Munson's Prime</div> <div><div>426 Goldenbelt JUNCTION CITY (785) 238-1135</div></div>		Sunday Brunch \$15.00 per person <small>Kids under 6 eat FREE 11AM TO 2PM</small>	Bierocks \$8.00	TexMex Tuesday \$8.00	Wings Wednesdays 50¢	Lasagna \$8.00	Meatloaf \$8.00	Prime Rib 12oz \$22.00 16oz \$28.00 5pm - Close
		<div>Contact Tim Bailey to book private events. 785-238-1135</div> <div>ON SALE: QUALITY GROUND BEEF FOR COOKING &amp; GRILLING</div>						

Check **Dinin' Deals** each Friday in the  
**1st Infantry Division Post** and each Sunday in **The Daily Union**  
for upcoming specials and coupons for your favorite local restaurants!

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**Imagine Your Dinin' Deals Here!**  
Contact your sales representative at 785-762-5000. **Online at [jcdailyunion.com](http://jcdailyunion.com)**

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



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**Miscellaneous 270**

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! There's a cheaper alternative than high drugstore prices! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 855-850-3904

DISH TV – BEST DEAL EVER! Free Voice Remote & DVR Included! www.dish.com Referral Code VCD0019117934

Were you an INDUSTRIAL or CONSTRUCTION TRADESMAN and recently diagnosed with LUNG CANCER? You and your family may be entitled to a SIGNIFICANT CASH AWARD. Call 866-409-2142 for your risk free consultation.

**Help Wanted 370**

FULL TIME Patrol Officer, City of Council Grove. Apply in person at 204 Union St., call 620-767-5200 to have application mailed, or visit cityofcouncilgrove.com.

The Manhattan Mercury is looking for an independent contractor for newspaper delivery in the Junction City, Clay Center, Green, and Wakefield areas. Reliable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance, and a phone number are required. Contact *The Manhattan Mercury* at (785) 776-8808.

**Misc For Sale 530**

40' Grade A Steel Cargo Containers \$2550.00 in Solomon Ks. 20s' 45s' 48s' & 53s' also available Call 785 655 9430 or go online to Chuckhenry.com for pricing, availability & Freight estimates

**Business Prop. For Rent 730**

Fully-equipped, Newly painted restaurant. excellent for retired military chef. Call (785) 479-7567 or (785) 280-0498

**Rooms, Apts. For Rent 740**

**1 bedroom** apt, at 239 S Jefferson, Junction city. Rent \$ 4 7 5 . 0 0 , deposit \$250.00. Washer and dryer available. Very clean and great location! Water and trash paid, tenant pays electric. Call 785-375-3117

1-2-3 Bedroom Apartments, Duplexes and Houses in Junction City, Rents vary from \$400 to \$900. Call 785-210-0777, 785-202-2022 or 785-375-5376.

**Rooms, Apts. For Rent 740**

**Low Income residential space for rent.** Available for individual apartments, assisted living, dorm style residential apartments. Unique opportunity in a newly re-modeled school with access to gym and more. Call 409-998-9030 for more details.

Open house Sunday 1-3pm 810 W 4th Street Junction City Move in ready, two bedroom, one bathroom, two car garage, Fenced backyard, And newly re-modeled Rent \$750 monthly.

**Real Estate For Sale 780**

**Open House for sale by owner:**  
301 Susan Lane Junction City. September 8 From 1-4 PM

**Sale by owner**  
114 acre farm with a very nice home and other excellent buildings on a paved road. Will consider Home and small acreage. Please call Larry at : (785) 776-2022 or (785) 532-8862 For more information.

**Help Wanted 370**

**NEWSPAPER & ONLINE**

## MEDIA SALES

We have a full time position in our advertising department.

**DO YOU HAVE:**

- An outgoing personality?
- Desire to succeed?
- Self-motivation?
- Good communication skills? (written & verbal)
- Media Sales Experience? (not required)
- Marketing/Website Sales Experience?
- Successful Sales Track Record?
- Time Management Skills?
- The ability to multi-task?

Our organization publishes newspapers in Junction City, Wamego, and Manhattan. We also publish the *1st Infantry Division Post* on Ft. Riley. Additionally, we publish two annual magazines and three websites providing news and information to the area.

**WE PROVIDE:**

- Salary plus commission
- Benefits include:  
medical insurance, 401K, paid vacation/holidays

Send resume and cover letter to:  
[sales@themercury.com](mailto:sales@themercury.com)

**THE JUNCTION CITY DAILY UNION.**  
222 W 6th Street • Junction City, KS 66441  
EOE

No Phone Calls Please

**Personals 320**

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Absolute Devotion, Adoring Successful Professional, Loving Family, Travel, Opportunities Await 1st Baby. Expenses Paid \*1-800-966-3065\*

**Help Wanted 370**

**District Manager**

The Junction City Daily Union is currently looking for a District Manager in the Circulation Department. Duties include working with carriers of all ages, delivering routes as needed, increasing circulation through sales and promotions, and assisting customers. Must be able to work independently and have strong people and communication skills. Reliable transportation required. Afternoon, Evening and Sunday hours.

This is a full-time salaried position with a competitive benefits package.

Applications accepted at:  
222 W 6th St  
Junction City

The Junction City Daily Union is looking for an independent contractor for newspaper delivery in the southwest side of Junction City. Reliable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance, and a phone number are required. Contact Bonnie at (785) 776-8808, ext 260 for more information.

The Junction City Daily Union is looking for an independent contractor for newspaper delivery in the Chapman area. Reliable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance, and a phone number are required. Contact Bonnie at (785) 776-8808, ext 260 for more information.

**Help Wanted 370**

## REPORTER NEEDED



The Junction City Daily Union has an immediate opening for a reporter who can build sources and dive into local issues. Duties include general assignment, feature writing, coverage of local government boards and copy editing.

The successful candidate will have sharp reporting instincts, outstanding news judgment, an ability to report and write quickly in a fast-moving atmosphere. A curiosity about the community and its people is vital.

This person must have the ability to work productively in a team setting.

The person must be aggressive and adept at setting priorities and reordering them as needed, particularly under deadline pressure or as circumstances change. The person should have strong writing and editing skills, and experience with Multimedia journalism is a must. We use video and social media to tell our stories.

Send resume with references and writing samples to Editor Shane Ersland by email at [editor@jcdailyunion.com](mailto:editor@jcdailyunion.com) (put reporter position in the subject line)

## su | do | ku

	3	2			8	4		
	4			5		8	2	
	8				6	9		
	1	3		2				
				7	3			
		6	9		4		7	
5					2	1		
								4

Level: Advanced

## What Is su | do | ku?

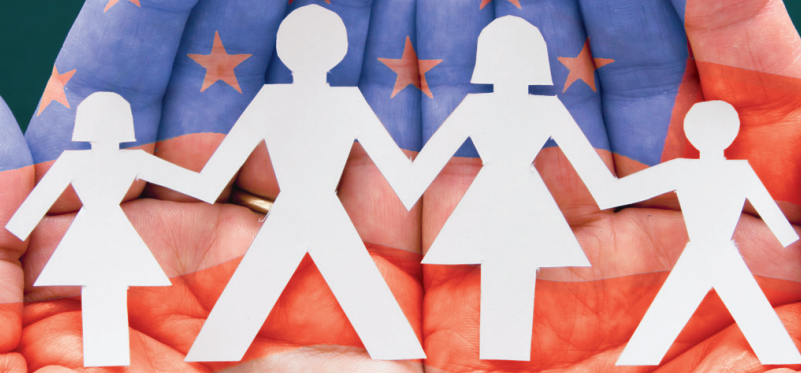
The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

Last Sudoku's Answers

5	1	8	3	2	7	4	9	6
3	6	7	9	5	4	2	8	1
9	2	4	8	1	6	3	7	5
8	7	6	4	3	1	5	2	9
4	5	3	2	8	9	1	6	7
2	9	1	6	7	5	8	4	3
6	8	9	5	4	3	7	1	2
1	3	2	7	6	8	9	5	4
7	4	5	1	9	2	6	3	8

## WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

# Travel & Fun in Kansas

★ SEPT. 7, 2018

HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE

PAGE 16 ★

Join Spc. Shell as he tries to walk the line at local breweries.



## Walk the streets of Paxico



**TOP:** Antique shopping is a must in Paxico, with several stores providing a unique small-town experience. **LEFT:** Antique stores have filled the once-vacant downtown business area in Paxico, allowing shoppers to find a variety of items. **RIGHT:** The depot in Paxico was built in 1886 and wears the painted names of all of the depot workers on the inside back wall.



Visit the different shops and stores in Paxico and experience what life was like in the past. Ask to sit in the old barber chair and imagine an old-fashioned shave.

Story and photos by Téa Sambuco  
1ST. INF. DIV. POST

### HISTORY

According to Steve Hund, the owner of Mill Creek Antiques, Paxico found its beginnings in 1886 when a depot was planted alongside the railroad tracks. Starting out with just two settlements, a church and a mill, business soon began to gravitate to where the depot was. German immigrants settled in the area and built Paxico into a bustling farming and ranching community.

However, Hund said, following World War II the community began to die, with many of the people moving off into the cities looking for work. Paxico became one of Kansas's most infamous ghost towns, with multiple buildings left abandoned.

Steve Hund said, that in 1973, he opened an antique store. Shortly after, another store opened and another after that.

"I woke up one morning and looked down the street," he said. "All the stores were being restored and antique stores were moving in."

Working with 45 years in tourism, Hund said that the beginning of Paxico's progression started with the antique stores.

"The real attraction is small-town America," he said. "That's what people want to see. They want to get a little slice of it. They're not going to move here, but they think it is idealistic to be a little slower paced of life — a charming little town with antique stores."

### WINERIES

Along with antique stores, Hund said that Paxico is home to two wineries, Prairie Fire Winery and Wyldewood Cellars.

According to prairiefirewinery.com, Prairie Fire Winery is a "dirt to glass" operation, and was founded in 2008. With more than 17 labels, they say there is something for everyone to enjoy. Their vineyard, on Hudson Ranch Road in Paxico, is open daily for wine tasting and sales.

Wyldewood Cellars, according to wyldewoodcellars.com, is a family-owned business that specializes in elderberry wine. With

more than 20 years in business, Wyldewood started 2015 with more than 500 international awards and titles. Free wine tastings are available daily at their location on Grapevine Road in Paxico.

### RAILROAD SIGNIFICANCE

The railroad not only brought with it German immigrants, but also African Americans who found employment working on the railroad and farms, Hund said. The railroad depot, built in 1886, still stands next to the train tracks today. Now used for storage, the original building has been preserved, including the names of each depot agent from 1886 on, painted on the walls. The depot is now owned by the recreational vehicle campsite in Paxico, and is available to view.

### HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Paxico is a historical district, Hund said, and that aspect makes it an attractive stop to people.

"They love looking at the old buildings," he said. "Just to walk through an old building and listen to the floor creak, they think that's really cool."

He said that along with the historical antique stores, Paxico also has an old dance hall, built in the late 1870s. The building is now used as an events center and when town festivals take place.

Another attraction, Hund said, are the homes in the area. When the Germans arrived in 1886, they had to build with what was readily available — limestone. To this day 176 limestone buildings still stand in the surrounding area, one of them in Paxico.

### BLUES FESTIVAL

This year, Paxico will hold its 15th annual Paxico Blues Festival on Sept. 15, according to paxicobluesfest.com.

The festival, the website reads, "unites world class music with small town culture to create a one of a kind community." The festival began when Marvinne McKeithen and Hund came together over a love for blues music in 2004.

"Ever since the initial year," the website said, "the festival has continued to draw increasingly larger crowds, establishing itself as one of the premier events of Wabaunsee County and helping to put Paxico on the map."

According to the festival website, this year, bands include acts such as Heather Newman Band and Tas Cru and his Band



Woodman Hall is one of the many original buildings built in Paxico. Previously a dance hall, it is now used to hold events.

of Tortured Souls, performing from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the main stage.

Along with blues music, various local food trucks will on site and the opportunity to dance will also be available.

The event is free.



Antique shopping is a must in Paxico, with several different stores providing a unique small-town experience.