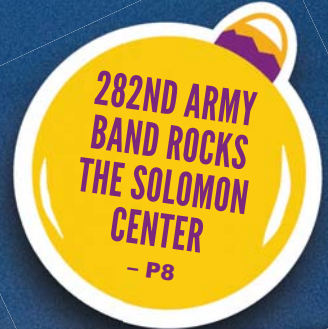


THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 2018

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY STARTS HERE."



ALSO INSIDE

POST PREPARES FOR
VICTORY BLOCK
LEAVE, P3

SOUTH CAROLINA
NATIONAL GUARD
HONORS
FALLEN, P6

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS

FORT JACKSON KICKS OFF THE
HOLIDAY SEASON - P12-13

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NEWS

Road closures

From staff reports

Semmes Dam Replacement

The Semmes Dam Replacement Project will begin shortly and last through December 2020. The work to replace Semmes Lake Dam is expected to take 24 months. The Prime Contractor is Husman Environmental & Construction, LLC out of Jackson, Mississippi.

The contractor will be fencing off the following areas. The Marion Avenue entrance to the Semmes Lake Recreation Area will be closed at the Semmes Road intersection. Warehouse Road will be closed on both sides of Semmes Road. There will be no access to the parking area at the south end of the Recreation Area. The Semmes Lake Recreation Area will remain open as well as the public bathrooms at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Semmes Road. There will be no access to the fishing pier.

The parking lot across Semmes Road from Pershing Road will be closed as will Semmes Road. There will be no interruption of traffic along Pershing Road.

The Directorate of Public Works apol-

ogizes in advance for any inconvenience these closures may cause.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston Engineer District, will manage the project.

The project was designed by the Wilmington Engineer District.

Any questions concerning this project can be sent to the Charleston District Public Affairs Office at cesac-pao@sac.usace.army.mil.

Hill Street

Hill Street from Sumter Avenue to the south end of Building 4243 will be closed from Dec. 14 to Jan. 7, 2019 to allow workers to resurface the roads. There will be traffic signs in place for detours.

Hartsville Guard Road

Hartsville Guard Road from Range 19 on Wildcat Road will be closed between Dec. 17 and Jan. 7, 2019 to allow the Directorate of Public Works to resurface the road. Personnel that usually access this road should take another route.

Drivers are asked to obey all traffic signs and flagmen.



Photo by CHARLES CLARK

Ho-ho-hooah

Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander and his wife Pamela pose with Santa Claus during the Commanding General's Holiday Reception at Victory Hall Dec. 2.

ON THE COVER

Santa and Mrs. Claus greet excited children who rush up to meet them Dec. 7 during the Fort Jackson Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony held at Patriots Park.

SEE PAGES 12-13



Photo by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Garrison Commander.....Col. Stephen Elder
Garrison Public Affairs Officer.....Patrick Jones
Command Information Officer.....Robert Timmons
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Volunteer.....Ron Lester
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Leader file photo

Holding down the fort Post prepares for Victory Block Leave

Above, trainees from Fort Jackson load buses taking them to nearby airports last December as they leave the installation for Victory Block Leave. VBL happens each year as training takes a two week pause so Soldiers and cadre can be with their Families during the holidays.

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson's population is about to dwindle – at least temporarily. Victory Block Leave is right around the corner. Many Soldiers will be heading home next week to celebrate the holidays.

Trainees and drill sergeants alike have the opportunity to take leave from Dec. 19 to Jan. 2.

A few will remain to hold down the fort.

Everyone will take a break from training to have some fun before the new year kicks off.

Holdover activities for Soldiers staying behind will include ice skating, laser tag, pizza parties and more. Local churches will “adopt”

some Soldiers on Christmas day.

Pvt. Trent Ashton Williams, recent Basic Combat Training graduate from the 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, is one Soldier heading out for the holidays.

Williams is flying to his hometown of Mansfield, Ohio next week.

“I’m excited,” he said. Having graduated Nov. 29, he hasn’t seen his siblings for more than 11 weeks.

Williams said he is looking forward to spending Christmas, his favorite holiday, with friends and Family before leaving for Advanced Individual Training.

Soldiers remaining on post will be staying at 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, this year’s holdover unit.

“We’re going to have a bunch of Soldiers that are staying with us,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Ausbun from the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment.

Fort Jackson is making sure they get to join in the festivities, too.

That’s important, since many are facing their first holiday season away from their Families.

See LEAVE: Page 15

EVENTS

Community Calendar

DEC. 13, 20, 27

Walk-in Blended Retirement System Calculations

The last day to opt into the new Blended Retirement System is Dec. 31. For the month of December, each Thursday from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program is offering one-on-one walk-in counseling sessions to review individual BRS calculations. For more information contact ACS Financial Readiness Program at 751-5256.

SATURDAY

Jingle Bell 5K Fun Run/Walk

8 a.m., Semmes Recreational Area, next to Marion St. Station (4522 Marion Ave). Come kick off the holiday season with the Fort Jackson community. Free family run open to all ages. First 50 to sign up online get a free T-shirt.

Reindeer Games Skeet Competition

2 p.m.-4 p.m., Aachen Range on Golden Arrow Road. 12 & 20 gauge will be used and are available for rental for \$15 with shells. Age groups 18+, 14-17, 9-13, youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Prohibited are release triggers, ventilated rib greater than 2 inches in height or width and shotguns larger than 12 gauge. Call 751-3484 for more information.

DEC. 17

TSC closure

The Training Support Center will be closed Dec. 17 -21 to conduct inventory and perform other administrative functions. Customers should make arrangements prior to Dec. 17 to coordinate any pick-ups and drop-offs. For more information con-

tact Stacy Boatwright at 751-7767.

JAN. 4

Leader Training Brigade

Change of Responsibility ceremony

1 p.m. NCO Club. Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Blaisdel, Leader Training Brigade senior enlisted leader with relinquish responsibility of the brigade to Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Knicely during a ceremony. The event will render honors to Blaisdel and officially recognize Knicely. For more information contact Staff Sgt. Athiambo Onyango at 751-7173.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sportsman Advisory Council

Are you interested in learning more about the Fort Jackson Sportsman Club? Come to a meeting of the Sportsman Advisory Council Working Groups. The Cycling Working Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at Magruder's Pub. The next Hunting and Angling Working Group meeting will take place 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Alpine Lodge.

Thrift Shop holiday hours

The Fort Jackson Thrift Shop will be open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The store will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 1. During December the store will have all formal gowns on sale 20 percent off, and a brown bag sale every Wednesday. Fill a bag of clothes for \$5. (The sale excludes formal wear, military gear and uniforms and coats). The thrift shop is also looking for volunteers. If you would like to contribute, stop by 4713 Lee Road or call 803-787-2153.

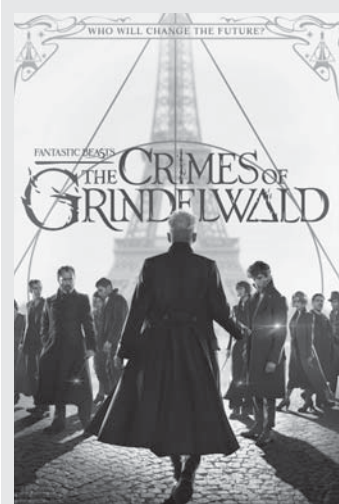
**SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
FJLeader@gmail.com**

Deadline for events to be included in the calendar or Happenings is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible. With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names.

Questions? Call 751-7045.

Those wishing to purchase an annual mailed subscription for The Leader should contact the Camden Media Company at csmith@chronicle-independent.com or 803-432-6157.



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

FRIDAY

- The Girl in the Spider's Web (R) 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Studio appreciation Advance screening. Tickets available at Exchange food court. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to showtime.

SUNDAY

- Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (PG-13) 1 p.m.
- Instant Family (PG-13) 5 p.m.

TICKETS

Adult: \$6 / Child (6 to 11): \$4

3-D TICKETS

Adult: \$8 / Child (6 to 11): \$6

- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM

HOLIDAY MEAL SCHEDULE

Holiday meal rates are \$9.05 (standard) and \$6.80 (discount). The discount rate is for spouses and dependents of enlisted personnel in pay grades E-1 through E-4. All others pay the standard rate. For more information, call 751-7371, 751-2329 or 751-5556.

DATE	TIME	UNIT		
Dec. 25	6:30-8 a.m.	1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment	Bldg. 11900	Breakfast
Dec. 25	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment	Bldg. 11900	Lunch
Dec. 25	12:30-2 p.m.	1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment	Bldg. 11900	For retirees, Family and guests
Dec. 25	HOT A	1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment	Bldg. 11900	Dinner

MILITARY STAR cardholders get double the value Dec. 24

Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

MILITARY STAR card shoppers will get double the bang for their holiday buck with double rewards points on Dec. 24. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service retail card,

which typically earns cardholders 2 points for every \$1, will earn last-minute shoppers 4 points per \$1 on every present and purchase made at Exchange locations, including *Shop-MyExchange.com*. Shoppers automatically receive a \$20 rewards card every 2,000 points.

Travelers who fuel up at Fort Jackson Ex-

presses will also receive the double points, in addition to the everyday savings of 5 cents off per gallon. Shoppers who do not have a MILITARY STAR card can sign up at the Fort Jackson Exchange or online at *MyECP.com* and save 10 percent on all purchases made the first day.



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

WWW.FORTJACKSONMWR.COM



BLACKLIGHT BOWLING

December 15, 8:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Century Lanes Bowling Center - 4464 Gregg St.

Blacklight Bowling at Century Lanes is when bowling meets music and party lights for a fun experience all can enjoy. \$10 cover charge per person includes bowling and rental shoes.

Blacklight Special: \$1.50 Nachos

Call (803)751-6138 for more information

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS

SANTA'S BIG CASH SUNDAY

at VICTORY BINGO

Sunday, December 23, Doors open at 9:30 a.m.
12500 Huger St.



- » Doors open at 9:30 a.m.
- » Fun Games start at 11 a.m.
- » Early Bird Games start at 1 p.m.
- » Regular Games start at 2 p.m. and pays: (8) \$1,000, (1) \$2,000, (1) \$5,000

Call (803)751-3411 for more information



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS

BIGGEST LOSER CHALLENGE



Monday, January 7 - Monday, April 8

Choose one of these categories:
Fitness, Weight Loss or Total Lifestyle Change.

Our staff will help you reach your goals with personal training, healthy eating consultations, and group exercise. And remember, all classes are free!

Call (803)751-3700 for more information

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS



Palmetto Trail Hike

Saturday, January 19, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
4522 Marion Ave.

Come join Outdoor Recreation to learn the basics of hiking to include backpack essentials, hiking gear and leave no trace concepts while hiking the Palmetto Trail!

Participants will meet at Marion Street Station for bus transport to the trail hike. The hike is approximately 2 miles and all hiking essentials will be learned along the Palmetto Trail Hike!

Call (803)751-3484 for more information



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS



For Family and MWR Holiday Hours, go to

www.FortJacksonMWR.com or [Facebook.com Fort-Jackson-FMWR](https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Jackson-FMWR)

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Photo by 2ND LT. JORGE INTRIAGO

Army Brig. Gen. Brad Owens, director of joint staff for the South Carolina National Guard and Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Lambe, assistant adjutant general for air, South Carolina National Guard, place a wreath at the South Carolina Armed Forces Memorial at the South Carolina State House, Dec. 10. The wreath is placed to honor the service men and women who served in the Armed Forces and made the ultimate sacrifice.

South Carolina National Guard honors fallen over holidays with wreath-laying

By LT. COL. CINDI KING
South Carolina National Guard

While this time of year is traditionally a time to celebrate, there are military families with heavy hearts who are missing a loved one deployed far away or who paid the ultimate price and won't be coming home.

Community leaders and military personnel joined for a wreath-laying ceremony at the South Carolina Armed Forces Memorial at the South Carolina State House in Columbia Dec. 10. The annual event provides an opportunity to remember the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who served and to honor

their sacrifice during the holiday season.

Army Brig. Gen. Brad Owens, Director of Joint Staff for the South Carolina National Guard, joined Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Lambe, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, South Carolina National Guard, in placing an evergreen wreath adorned with small flags from each branch of service at the memorial. This was the 11th year for the ceremony at the State House and part of a nationwide simultaneous event.

"The wreath represents our commitment as a united America to not only remember the fallen, but to symbolize our commitment to those who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our great nation, and to their families

who endure sacrifices every day on our behalf," said Carol Davis, South Carolina State Representative and leader for Wreaths Across America, Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

Members of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard provided an Honor Guard team to present the colors and bugler to play taps during the ceremony.

"We embrace these opportunities to teach important values to our children about things that have made our country great," Owens said. "We encourage all South Carolinians to remember our fallen heroes. The holiday season is especially hard for their families and they need to know they are not forgotten."

Fort Jackson: HOUSING NOTES

Updates from Housing Services

■ **Mayors Needed:** The Mayoral Council is looking for volunteers to serve as mayors for the Fort Jackson Housing Communities. Becoming a part of the council allows you to be a voice for the community. Your voice can bring ideas and suggestions to residents for improving the quality of life while residing on Fort Jackson. In addition to receiving credit for volunteer hours, you will get to meet new people and receive valuable training. Child care is provided at no cost while performing mayoral duties. Interested residents should contact Vickie Grier at usarmy.jackson.imcom-atlantic.mbx.fort-jackson-dpw-housing@mail.mil, or 751-7567.

■ **Juvenile Curfew & Supervision of Children and Resident Guide Review:** The housing office encourages residents to take time to review the Juvenile Curfew & Supervision of Children Policy and Resident Guide to ensure policies and guidelines are adhered to (i.e. wading pools, unattended children at the playgrounds, etc.) The resident guide can be viewed at www.fortjackson-familyhomes.com. You may pick up a copy of the Juvenile Curfew & Supervision of Children Policy from the Housing office located at 4514 Stuart Ave.

■ **Voice Broadcast:** We would like to remind our residents to ensure our management office has your most current phone number and email address. Our One-Call system is used to deliver emergency weather updates, reported utility outages, scheduled maintenance that may interfere with your day-to-day plans, and weekly event updates. If you have opted out or changed your phone number and would like to receive them again, please contact our office at 803-738-8275. Don't forget to like us on Facebook at *Fort Jackson Family Homes*.

■ **Refer a Friend:** Unlimited Refer-a-Friend Rewards. If you are a current resident with Balfour Beatty Communities and you invite a friend to live with us, we will take \$500 off your next month's rent. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call 803-738-8275.

■ **PCS Rewards:** Save time and money by staying with Balfour Beatty Communities. Our residents are number one, and we want to reward our loyal customers. If you are a current resident relocating to a community where Balfour Beatty Communities manages the housing, choose to stay with us and we'll offer you a \$250 reward. Contact our office for details and to view our locations.

Commentary: Understanding the Qualitative Management Program

By **CAPT. SAMUEL GIRWARNAUTH**
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

There are many ways to get out of the Army. When the Army determines a Soldier should be involuntarily separated then that Soldier may be put through the Quality Management Program process. Some people want this outcome, but for others this means involuntarily losing their chosen career. Soldiers facing the QMP (getting “QMPed”) need to determine whether they wish to fight the separation or to go quietly. Here is some information and guidance on the QMP to help Soldiers when they speak with their legal assistance attorney.

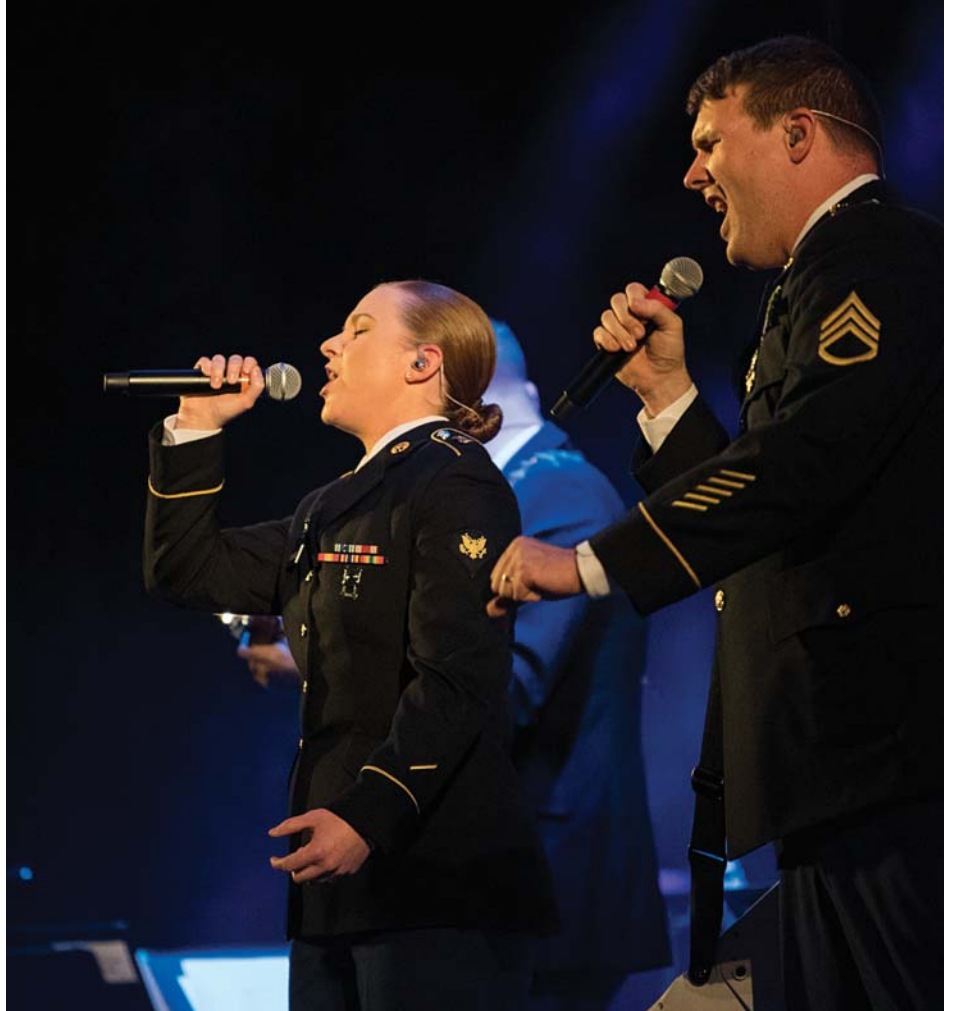
The QMP. The QMP program is based on the premise that reenlistment is a privilege for those whose performance, conduct, attitude, and potential for advancement meet Army standards. The QMP is a board that meets and makes a determination, currently twice during the fiscal year. If a Soldier is “QMPed” then they have received a Department of the Army bar to reenlistment. The QMP is not intended to be a rehabilitative program; the purpose is to remove a Soldier from the Army because they were identified through a DA screening program as failing to meet the standards for performance, conduct, attitude, and potential for advancement. Every year the Army updates its QMP guidance through a MILPER Message. Slight changes may occur from year to year. This article contains the updated information for fiscal year 2019.

Triggering the QMP. The QMP currently applies to senior non-commissioned officers in the rank of staff sergeant through command sergeant major, in both the Active Army and the Active Guard and Reserve. These NCOs will be considered by the QMP board for denial of continued military service under the following three circumstances:

(1) Human Resources Command receives material for filing in the NCO’s Army Military Human Resource Record that is based on the performance or conduct in the Soldier’s current grade. The NCO will not be separated for matters that occurred prior to the Soldier’s most recent promotion. The following trigger a QMP:

- Any General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand, also known as a GOMOR;
- Conviction by a court-martial or non-judicial punishment under Article 15, UCMJ;
- A Non-commissioned Officer Evaluation Report that is a Relief for Cause; has an annotation of “no” under Part IV, block a (Army Values); has a Senior Rater rating of 4 (fair) or 5 (poor) in the overall performance or potential blocks; has an annotation of “Did Not meet Standard” in block c (character); or an annotation of “Not Qualified” in Part V, block a (Rated NCO’s Potential);
- An Academic Evaluation Report indicating Non-commissioned Officer Education System course failure.

See **QMP**: Page 11



Photos by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

Home for the Holidays

Fort Jackson’s 282nd Army Band presents Home for the Holidays, a community concert Dec. 6 celebrating the season with music at Patriot Hall in Sumter, S.C. The 40-piece band split the concert into two acts titled ‘Remembering Home’ and ‘Bringing Home to You,’ and was joined for several songs by the choirs of Crestwood and Lakewood high schools.



NEWS



RAISING SPIRITS

Photos by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

The holiday season isn't complete without a performance by Fort Jackson's 282nd Army Band, which staged a morale concert Dec. 9 at the Solomon Center for Soldiers with 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment.





America's game

West Point fans, including the Fort Jackson commanding general Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr., and his wife Pam, cheer a big play during the annual Army/Navy football game Dec. 8 at Magruder's pub on post.

Photo by
NICHOLAS SALCIDO

FORT JACKSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

CATHOLIC

- Sunday**
- 7:30 a.m., Confessions, Solomon Center
 - 8 a.m., IET Mass, Solomon Center
 - 8:30 a.m., Anglican/Liturgical Service, Lightning Chapel
 - 9:30 a.m., CCD, Education Center
 - 9:30 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel
 - 10:30 a.m., Reconciliation (after Mass or by appointment), Main Post Chapel

- Monday through Thursday, First Friday**
- 11:30 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Sunday**
- 10:30 a.m., Worship Service, Magruder Chapel

EASTERN ORTHODOX

- Sunday**
- 9 a.m., Worship and Liturgy, Hospital Chapel

JEWISH

- Sunday**
- 9:15 a.m., Worship, Anderson Street Chapel
 - 10:15 a.m., Fellowship, Anderson Street Chapel

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

- Sunday**
- 10:30 a.m., Worship Service, Anderson Street Chapel

ISLAMIC

- Friday**
- 12:45 p.m., Jumah Services, Main Post Chapel

- Sunday**
- 8 a.m., Islamic Studies, Main Post Chapel

PAGAN

- Sunday**
- 11 a.m., Pagan Circle Sacred Well Congregation worship and study, Magruder Chapel

HISPANIC PROTESTANT

- Sunday**
- 9 a.m., Worship Service, Magruder Chapel

PROTESTANT

- Sunday**
- 8 a.m., Worship Service, Main Post Chapel
 - 8:30 a.m., Anglican/Liturgical, Lightning Chapel
 - 9 a.m., Service, McCrady Chapel (SCARNG)

- 9:15 a.m., Adult Bible Study, Main Post Chapel
- 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, Main Post Chapel
- 10 a.m., Gospel Worship Service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m., Service, Main Post Chapel
- 11 a.m., Chapel Next, Lightning Chapel
- 5 p.m., Aspire! Protestant Youth, Chaplain Family Life Center

- Monday**
- 7 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel Woman's Bible Study, Lightning Chapel

- 7 p.m., Protestant Men of the Chapel, Bible Study, Chaplain Family Life Center

- Tuesday**
- 9 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Main Post Chapel

- Wednesday**
- Noon, Protestant Bible Study, SSI Library
 - 7 p.m., Gospel Bible Study, Daniel Circle chapel

- Thursday**
- 11:45 a.m., Fresh Encounter Bible Study, Chaplain Family Life Center

ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

- **Anderson Street Chapel**, 2335 Anderson St., 751-7032
- **Lightning Chapel**, 9476 Kemper St., 751-4101/4542
- **Chaplain Family Life Center**, Bldg. 5460, 751-4961
- **Daniel Circle Chapel**, 3359 Daniel Circle, 751-1297/4478
- **Education Center**, 4581 Scales Ave., 751-5341
- **Fort Jackson Garrison Chaplain and Religious Support Office**, 4356 Hardee St., 751-3121/6318
- **McCrady Chapel**, 3820 McCrady Road at McCrady Training Center, 751-7324
- **Magruder Chapel**, 4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- **Main Post Chapel**, 4580 Scales Ave., 751-6469/6681
- **Warrior Chapel (120th Adjutant General Battalion)**, 1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427

'I BECAME A SOLDIER ...' 2ND BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

PVT. TAQURESHA JENNINGS, 19
Charlotte County, Virginia



I was influenced to join the Army because "I wanted a better life and a stable career. I wanted to look in the mirror and see something I earned and be completely proud of myself."

The Army is "not at all" what I expected it would be. "All of the movies completely baffled me, and I got here and it was completely different than the movies. I didn't think that it'd be like school. I thought it was all physical workouts 24/7."

"Teamwork" was the most difficult part of Basic Combat Training. "If one falls, the whole team falls. Some people aren't as disciplined as others."

My MOS is "92Y — Unit Supply Specialist. I picked something because I didn't know what to expect, but being in Basic Combat Training made me realize that I eventually want to change my MOS to something cooler."

"I look forward to moving up in rank, being able to travel the world, and providing a better life for my brother."

PVT. CREOSNA WASHINGTON, 25
Marshall, Texas



Being able to "go back to college at no cost" is what influenced me most to join the Army.

The Army was "much easier" than I thought it would be before I joined.

"The Army Physical Fitness Test was the most challenging part of Basic Combat Training — having the discipline to surmount any obstacle I took on, including the Confidence Course ... and the ruck marches."

My MOS is 92Y — Unit Supply Specialist. I chose it because "making sure Soldiers have supplies will make their days easier."

I learned it's true that "there is always a drill sergeant there to help guide you."

PVT. JANESSA NEFF, 19
Lancaster, Pennsylvania



"My friends were in the service, and I always admired the respect (they received) and the (Army) lifestyle, so I decided to get out of my comfort zone and join (the Army)."

"The Army is not what I thought it would be before I joined. I envisioned it like the movies, and in some ways it is similar, but so far the Army is so much more of a team" than I expected it would be.

"Getting along with all of the different personalities and backgrounds of fellow trainees" was the most challenging part of Basic Combat Training.

My MOS is "92Y — Unit Supply Specialist. I chose it so I could do online school for free and eventually transfer into a civilian job."

"I'm glad I decided to join. I've learned a lot, and I can't wait to start the rest of my military career."

PVT. BRIANT HENRY, 18
Miami



"Before joining the Army, I never knew what I wanted to do with my life. The Army sounded like a good choice."

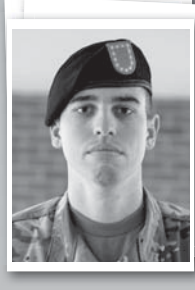
"The Army is exactly what I thought it would be" before I joined.

"I found the physical training test to be the most challenging thing about Basic Combat Training — mostly the two mile run. I used to think I probably wouldn't make it to graduation and that I'd get recycled."

"My MOS is 91A — M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer. I really wanted to be a 91B — Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic, but I missed an open training date because I had braces on at the time; I chose the next best thing."

"So far in my experience, I can say that teamwork can make a big difference in Basic Combat Training. Without teamwork, it can get difficult and lonesome."

SPC. RYAN MOBLEY, 24
Tampa, Florida



"The stories my father told me about his time as an Army pilot influenced me most into joining the Army. He made me familiar with general Army values and expectations. He instilled those characteristics in me at a young age. The Army always felt like a natural career path for me."

"What I found most challenging about Basic Combat Training was having to learn to cooperate with people from all walks of life. It is very difficult to learn to deal with many personality types and varying levels of discipline."

"My MOS is 09W — Warrant Officer Candidate. I chose to be a warrant officer so I could fly helicopters. I have wanted to be an aviator my whole life, so the Army warrant officer program seemed like the best path for me."

"I'm very excited for my Army career. I feel very fortunate to have been selected for the warrant officer program. I am looking forward to flying helicopters and pursuing my lifelong career goal of being an aviator."

SPC. SHASHWAT DAVE, 28
Clifton, New Jersey



"I had always wanted to serve my country, but time and circumstances had not permitted me to do so earlier. I was at a point in my life where I needed a change from the routine ... The Army benefits, such as healthcare and college tuition reimbursement also influenced me (to join)."

"In certain aspects" the Army is what I thought it would be before I joined. "I knew it would be physically and mentally challenging."

"The isolation from the outside world was by far the most challenging aspect of Basic Combat Training. Being a little bit older and having to adjust to younger trainees was also a bit challenging at first."

My MOS is "09S — Commissioned Officer Candidate. My experiences as an attorney and the skills I have acquired influenced (my choice)."

"Basic Combat Training was both a challenging and a rewarding experience. The training I acquired in these 10 weeks has instilled in me a newfound respect for members of the military. I am both humbled and proud to be part of this great Army."

QMP

Continued from Page 7

(2) Referral of an NCO to the QMP screening board based on a request from a general court-martial convening authority to the commander of HRC; and

(3) NCOs who fail to qualify for promotion to the next grade because they have not completed training. This applies to staff sergeants who have 48 months of time-in-grade but have not graduated from the Advanced Leader Course. This also applies to sergeants first class who have 48 months of time-in-grade and have not graduated from the Senior Leader Course.

Exemptions from the QMP. The QMP does not apply to NCOs who fall into one of the following four categories. First, those who have an approved retirement. Second, those previously retained on active duty by a prior QMP board, so long as they have not triggered a new basis for QMP consideration since that time. Third, those command sergeants major and sergeants major who are within two years of their retention control point. Fourth, those who are promotable to the next higher grade or who have been selected to attend the Sergeants Major Course.

Options for the QMP. Soldiers facing a QMP will be informed by their chain of command through a memorandum. HRC will also send an email notification with instructions identifying the specific board reviewing the case and suspense dates. The Soldier is given sufficient time and opportunity to submit rebuttal and mitigating matters to the board. The rebuttal is considered by the board alongside the triggering documents and the contents of the Soldier's Army Military Human Resource Record. Soldiers with at least 19 years of active federal service on the date the board is set to convene may request voluntary retirement in lieu of the QMP. Both RA and AGR Soldiers with 18 years of qualifying service are eligible for "sanctuary protection" and afforded the opportunity to contract with the Reserve Component for a period of up to three years in order to finish their 20 years of service and become eligible for retired pay. The Soldier can also elect to not send any rebuttal matters, in which case the board will consider only the contents of the AMHRR. This last option is not recommended.

Rebutting the QMP and Legal Assistance. The Army provides little guidance on how the rebuttal and mitigation matters

should be presented. This is the area where a legal assistance attorney can greatly assist. A rebuttal is attempting to convince the board that the Soldier should be retained, despite the derogatory information. A rebuttal should be a single document, either mailed in or emailed in .pdf format. It should not contain the adverse information or other documents already in the Soldier's AMHRR. It is important to have the final document completed and sent to the board president in advance of the final suspense date, especially if sending by mail. Work with the legal assistance attorney, follow their guidance, and do not push off working on rebuttal matters to the last minute.

Appealing the QMP. Soldiers who have already received notice of an adverse QMP board decision have a final chance to appeal. If an appeal is not made, the Soldier will be separated no later than 90 days of being notified of the adverse QMP decision. Soldiers denied continued service will be honorably discharged. However, in lieu of accepting an involuntary discharge the NCO may, within seven days of receiving notice of the board's decision, request a voluntary retirement, if eligible, or appeal and request retention on active duty. Appeals must be based on newly discovered evidence, the subsequent removal of documents from the Soldier's AMHRR, or material error in the Soldier's record that was reviewed by the QMP board. See AR 60-8-19. It is important to note that letters of support or other accolades do not count as new evidence for appeal purposes. Once appeal is selected, the Soldier must submit the appeal matters within 30 days of their receipt of the adverse QMP memorandum. This is a tight timeline, so it is important for the Soldier to be proactive and also speak with a legal assistance attorney as soon as possible.

The QMP and DES. NCOs facing the QMP may also be eligible for or are currently undergoing the Disability Evaluation System process. DES includes the Medical Evaluation Board and the Physical Evaluation Board. An NCO already in the DES process, but facing the QMP, may consent to be retained in order to complete the DES evaluation. If this option is chosen, HRC will defer the Soldier's QMP separation date. If the PEB determines that the Soldier is unfit for duty, the QMP actions will cease and the Soldier either retires or separates for disability. However, if the MEB returns the Soldier to duty, or the PEB determines that the Soldier is fit, the QMP action will resume.

Taking Proactive Steps. If a Soldier is notified of a pending QMP, or suspects that

that they will face a QMP, they should take immediate proactive steps to better their chances of retention. First, perform a full review of the AMHRR and seek to have adverse information removed. At the same time ensure that supportive documents and an updated DA Photo is included. Adverse information in the AMHRR can be appealed to the Army Suitability Evaluation Board for removal. Directions for this are found in AR 600-37. Matters triggering the QMP are presumed to have administrative finality and to have been properly filed, administratively correct, and filed pursuant to an objective decision by competent authority. Note that an appeal to DASEB may take several months to a year to be adjudicated. Second, a person should reach out for character letters in their favor from persons fa-

miliar with the underlying triggering matters. Third, if there are other matters that reflect badly, such as failing the most recent APFT, take steps to correct those matters. Finally, collect all information and documents relevant to the case so that the assisting attorney can review them.

The Army offers legal resources for Soldiers with questions. Feel free to contact the Legal Assistance Office here at Fort Jackson if you have questions or concerns. Remember, seeking legal assistance is not a silver bullet. Merely speaking with an attorney will not solve your problems – you must do your part. Whether you are retained in the Army or not depends upon your level of effort. The Fort Jackson Legal Assistance Office is located at 2600 Lee Road, and can be reached at 751-4287.

Searching for

Community Resource Guides
Q

?

Do you find Army resources confusing and overwhelming?
There are many resources at your disposal, and the online Community Resource Guide can help you quickly and easily find exactly what you need!


YOUR Installation has a CRG at:
<https://crg.amedd.army.mil/guides/tradoc/jackson/Pages/default.aspx>

What is the Community Resource Guide (CRG)?

- Inventory of community services at more than 50 Army installations worldwide
- Mobile-friendly index of services
- Referral resource for commanders, community leaders, and program managers

What can CRG do for me?

- Provides descriptions and contact information on hundreds of programs and services.
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Tree and smiles light up for the holidays



A child make a snow angel in the artificial snow during the Fort Jackson Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Photo by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

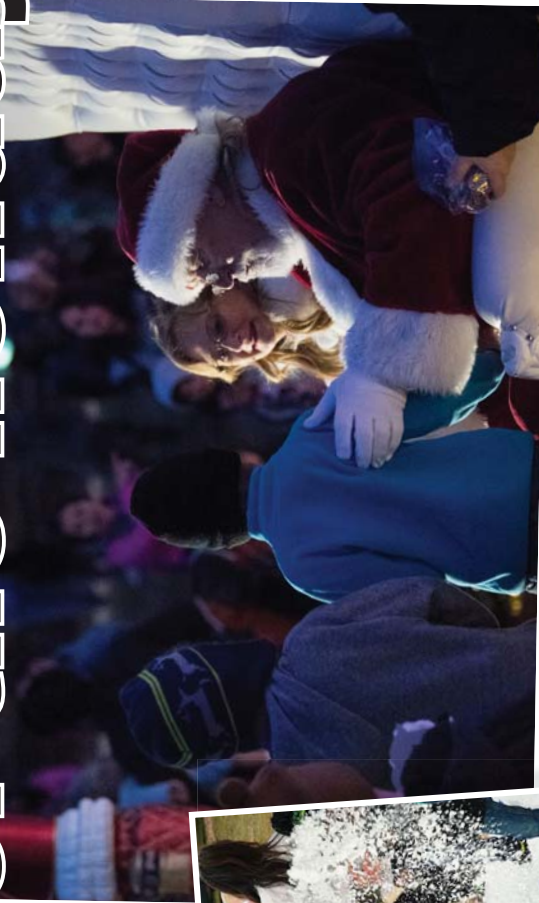


Photo by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

Above, Santa and Mrs. Claus greet excited children who rush up to take photos Dec. 7 during the Fort Jackson Holiday Tree Lighting celebration held at Patriots Park. Left, attendees were awarded with games, food, and even snow to play in before the tree was lit and Santa arrived.



Photo by ELYSSA VONDRA

Post kicks off the holiday season

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

Patriots Park was brought back to light just after the sun set Dec. 7 when the post lit its Christmas tree during this year's annual Fort Jackson Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, enlisted the help of the Family of the Year to do the honors.

The Conley Family — Staff Sgt. Ronald Conley, wife Jade and their two kids, 13-year-old Sydney and 12-year-old Amandelle, 12 — was named Fort Jackson Family of the Year last month.

Before the lighting, Beagle spoke to the community off the cuff just got to let your heart do the talking. "If I don't say something that needs to be said, charge it to my head and not to my heart."

He said he wanted to make it quick because he was "the only thing standing between (the kids) and Santa."

He commended the Fort Jackson community and thanked members for their support.

"Regardless of how you celebrate the holidays ... when somebody gives you a hug, when somebody gives you a smile, return that," Beagle advised. "We're very fortunate to do what we do to defend this great nation."

See HOLIDAY: Page 16



Photo by ELYSSA VONDRA

Fort Jackson's holiday tree shines, above, after being lit by Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, and the Family of the Year Dec. 7.

NEWS

Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



Staff Sgt. Chaquetta Cook
Alpha Company
2nd Battalion, 60th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Mariah Stein-
bock

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Jae Won Chang

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Michael Stevens

HIGH APFT
Spc. Mariah Stein-
bock

COOK



Staff Sgt. Pierre Gabriel
Charlie Company
2nd Battalion, 60th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Justin Shrontz

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Liam McFadden

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Kyle Wilkinson

HIGH APFT
Spc. Tyler Patterson

GABRIEL



Staff Sgt. Rodolfo Escusa
Delta Company
2nd Battalion, 60th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Aaron Myrick

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Bretton Orr

HIGH BRM
Spc. Aaron Myrick

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Jaquelyn
Ramos

ESCUSA



Staff Sgt. Kayla Rowan
Echo Company
2nd Battalion, 60th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Matthew Vanlo

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Elias Kemp

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Adrian Banaga

HIGH APFT
Spc. Robert Webb

ROWAN



Leader file photo

Trainees load buses in January at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport to head back to Fort Jackson after returning from Victory Block Leave.

Leave

Continued from Page 3

They will be able to make some new traditions with their adopted Army Family this year.

"The strength of the Army is the Soldier, and the strength of the Soldier is the Family," Ausbun said.

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Recreation and Welfare coordinates with the holdover battalion to plan holiday events for the Soldiers staying behind every year.

The USO is another activity partner.

Soldiers will have access to games and gaming systems at the company provided by FMWR.

On Dec. 20, Soldiers can visit Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia.

The next day is dedicated to ice skating in Irmo.

A "Winter Wonderland" camp day will

be held Dec. 22. Hay rides, flag football and dinner will be included.

Laser tag at the battalion is set for Dec. 23.

Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 mark two unit pizza parties.

A lunch with residents of Epworth Children's Home — children from broken family systems — is scheduled for Christmas day.

Other Soldiers will have dinner in the homes of their "adopted" Families Dec. 25.

Local churches have partnered with Fort Jackson to pair Soldiers remaining on post with families in surrounding communities. Soldiers will celebrate with them in their homes for the day.

On Dec. 28, River Bluff High School will host a party for Soldiers, complete with a DJ and food.

"We try to take care of the Soldiers during the holidays," Ausbun said.

It's an ever-continuing effort, he added, but it's especially important this time of year.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY ELYSSA VONDRA



Photo by NICHOLAS SALCIDO



Photo by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

Above left and center, children throw snowballs at each other in the artificial snow during the Fort Jackson Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Above right, Fort Jackson elementary school children sing the Twelve Days of Christmas during the opening ceremony.

Holiday

Continued from Page 13

The tree lighting was another way volunteers were able to get involved in the community.

Park decorating began weeks before.

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the Directorate of Public Works, and Post Detail all played roles.

Angie Russ, a Columbia, South Carolina native and parks and trails manager at Fort Jackson said final preparations began Nov. 20.

This was Russ's third year on decoration detail. She is a landscaper by trade.

"I just love what the spirit brings ... what it does for our troops and Families," Russ said.

The tree takes the longest to set up, she said. "We have to have a lift to get into (the tree)," she added.

Prior to the ceremony, The 282nd Army Band and the Child, Youth & School Services choir performed. "Frosty the Snowman," "Twelve Days of Christmas," and "Jingle Bells" were on the evening's playlist.

Dr. Kezia Curry, wife of Chap. (Maj.) Randall Curry, was the guest vocalist.

She sang "Grown-Up Christmas List"

Kids played games, jumped in bounce houses, made arts and crafts and frolicked in fake snow — slipping, sliding, making snow angels and having snowball fights.

The "snow" was created using an instant snow mix and water. It's close enough to the real deal that in Japan, it's used for indoor winter sports.

One local Fort Jackson artist sculpted a Christmas tree out of ice for the occasion.

Colin Henderson of Fort Jackson's marketing division does ice sculpting as a side job. He has been practicing for seven years.

After the live demo, he rushed off to a surrounding community event to make another masterpiece.

Kids filled up on snacks, and the evening ended with more candy provided by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who showed up for a visit.



Photo by NICHOLAS SALCIDO

Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle, Jr., Fort Jackson commanding general, provides opening remarks Dec. 7 at the Fort Jackson Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony held at the installation.

Thanksgiving food drive supports the Columbia community

By 1ST LT. MADELINE BUSH
3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

The sad reality is that many in our community went without this Thanksgiving while others enjoyed a turkey dinner. However, one company took it upon themselves to organize a food drive this Thanksgiving.

Spearheaded by the Delta Company 'Dogs' from 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, the food drive collected canned goods from Drill Sergeants and cadre for local families. Over the course of two weeks, the River Raiders collected food items that were donated to St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Columbia, South Carolina.

Lt. Col. Randall Wenner, the 3-60 battalion commander lauded his Soldiers.

"I have long known how professional and generous our cadre are," he said. "This holiday, however, they surpassed even my expectations. Our drill sergeants are setting an incredible example for their trainees on what it means to serve."



1st Lt. Brian McCarthy, Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment commander, and 1st Lt. Madeline Bush, deliver food donations to the community.

Courtesy photo

NEWS



#SelfieWithaSoldier

There are places where you should keep that cell phone under wraps: at the dinner table, during a briefing, while watching a movie and when flying in an airplane. But most Fort Jackson community members don't know the one way they can use their mobile device to help the Army. It is the Selfie with a Soldier campaign begun by the U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Just take out that phone, not during official duty mind you, and snap a selfie with Soldiers around you and post it to social media using the #selfiewithasoldier. It's as easy as pose, photograph and post.

This is a great opportunity to show the world what the Army does every day.

**FORT JACKSON
SCHOOL MENUS**

Dec. 6-12

Thursday

Breakfast: Assorted cold cereal, biscuit, applesauce/juice cup, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: Sloppy Joe, tater tots, vegetable blend applesauce/juice cup, assorted milk.

Friday

Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, banana/diced peaches, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: Assorted pizza, seasoned corn, seasoned broccoli, fruit cocktail/bananas, assorted milk.

Monday

Breakfast: Breakfast on a stick, apples/mandarin oranges, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: Cheese-stuffed breadsticks with marinara sauce, celery sticks with dip, mandarin oranges/fresh apples, assorted milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast: French toast sticks with syrup, juice cup/orange wedges, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: Turkey hot dogs, french fries/baked beans, juice cup, orange wedges, assorted milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast: Assorted yogurt, assorted muffins, sliced peaches/pineapple chunks, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: French toast sticks with

sausage, hash browns, baby carrots with dip, diced or sliced peaches/pineapple chunks, assorted milk.

Menu subject to change without notice.

BREAKFAST PRICES

Month: \$35 / Per day: \$1.75

Reduced: **Month: \$6 / Per day: \$.30**

LUNCH PRICES

Month: \$57 / Per day: \$2.85

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