Missile Ranger*

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January 2019

Winter storm hits White Sands | Torres Small visits WSMR



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CHUCK ROBERT

It arrived a bit late for Christmas, but residents were still in holiday mode four days later when a weekend winter storm dropped about 3 inches of snow on White Sands Missile Range. See more photos on page 6.



Xochitl Torres Small, representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, visited White Sands Missile Range Dec. 18, 2018. WSMR leaders were proud to show her the critical role WSMR plays in national defense and to talk about how important the installation is to Southern New Mexico and the Borderland. Here, she meets the WSMR leadership team at Cox Range Control Center.

WSMR pharmacy places first in Army for customer service

By Adriana Salas de Santiago Staff Writer

White Sands Missile Range McAfee Health Clinic pharmacy, a two-person run team, recently delivered a 100 percent satisfaction rating based on a recent Joint Outpatient Experience Surveys report and recognized by the Military Health System as best in the Army. Aaron Wilson, pharmacist in charge for three years and Va-

nessa Campos the pharmacy technician for the past two years, make up the dream team that was awarded Best of the Best in Ancillary Service in U.S. Army Medical Command and number three throughout Army, Air

Force and Navy pharmacies in 2018.

"We are proud that our pharmacy team is recognized for customer service and their hard work," said McAfee Deputy Commander for Nursing, Maj. Maria Pescatore. "Mr. Wilson and his pharmacy team take pride in caring for our WSMR and extended communities. It's all about your health, our mission."

Pescatore said patients have less than a four minutes wait time for prescriptions and are known to the pharmacists on a first name basis. Wilson was recognized by Garrison Commander Col. Christopher Ward and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Parker in October of

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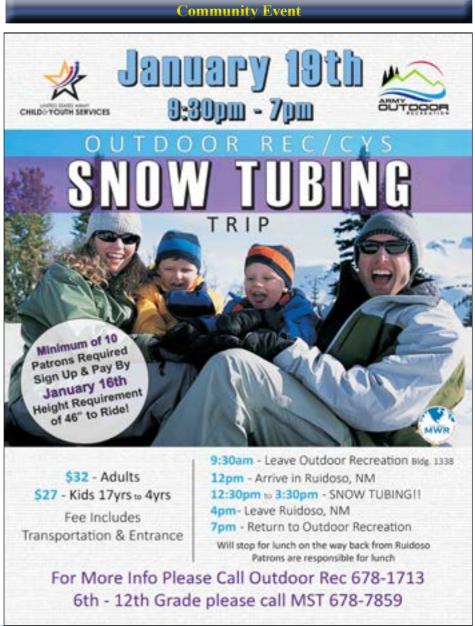
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Missile Ranger Second Front -

Keep a wary eye during New Mexico winters

By Chuck Roberts Staff Writer

As New Mexico settles into wintertime, residents can enjoy a temporary respite from scorching summer sun, gale force winds and the unexpected deluge during monsoon season.

Wintertime in the Land of Enchantment offers cold winter nights followed by pleasant sunny days in the 50s and 60s when jackets become optional depending upon personal preference. Snowbirds swoop down from the frigid northeast.

Enjoy, but keep a wary eye for sudden and unexpected dramatic climatic changes.

"You can be lulled into a false sense of security," said Anthony Brown, a meteorologist at White Sands Missile Range.

That may have been the case in February 2011 when the coldest recorded day in White Sands history saw the thermometer plunge to minus 23 degrees on the northern part of the test range at Stallion Wit.

And again in December 2015 when unseasonably balmy weather and warm temperatures suddenly plunged as a result of a Pacific cold front, bringing with it wind gusts exceeding hurricane force on the test range.

That same storm system also dumped over 5 inches of snow that



This turned over trailer is just one example of the damage that can be caused by high winds at White Sands Missile Range.

caused a blackout at White Sands, requiring generator support at the Youth Center, Frontier Club and Bell Gym to restore heat and electricity.

That amount paled, however, compared to December 1987 when 20 inches of snow dumped on White Sands in only one day, and more than 27 inches for the month.

"It's wise to keep in mind, it can snow here, and it can snow big," said Brown.

Adding to the historical meteorological December woes, a fierce wind gust of about 80 mph ripped off twothirds of an office building at White Sands in December 2009, and in December 2012, wind gusts up to 86 mph blew out at least 75 vehicle windshields because of the dramatic change in air pressure.

But enough with the wintertime news of gloom and doom. The main message here isn't to be worried about winter, but to be prepared for the unexpected.

Sometimes weather will vary depending on where you are and where you're going. For example, Brown said temperatures can vary as much as 15 degrees as you drive from main post to range locations such as Stallion Wit which is located at 4.500 feet and rests in a bowl.

And even if you never leave main post, there are wintertime precautions that White Sands employees and residents should keep in mind, said Skip Stuck, Chief of Safety for White Sands Missile Range.

"High winds are our biggest threat," said Stuck, who recently found his heavy-duty barbecue grill deposited into his neighbor's yard after a sudden windstorm. "If it means something to you, put it away."

Dec. 12 of this year is a good example of sudden changes in WSMR weather. The day began with the gentlest of breezes, but soon after lunch there were gusts up to 32 mph, and by nightfall Brown had issued a weather warning with gusts up to 55 mph.

Batten down the backvard, but when it comes to your car, you do so by cracking the windows. When winds begin exceeding around 50 mph, Stuck recommends cracking your car windows to help prevent them from blowing out.

In certain situations, you can apply to the legal office for compensation, which will be discussed in further detail below.

Your car is another source of winter safety. Before pulling out of the driveway on mornings when temps are around freezing or below, Stuck recommends letting the car idle long enough to give hoses and seals sufficient time to warm up and expand.

Those same cold temps also affect your tires by reducing pressure up to about 5 pounds, so start out slow and allow them time to reflate due to the friction of movement on the road.

So with all this in mind, Stuck recommends giving yourself an extra 10 or 15 minutes to get to work. And while you're driving, always be aware of children's activities, especially during the holiday. Distracted drivers with too much on their minds is a top hazard during the

holidays, said Stuck.

And remember that when opening and closing car doors on windy days, be mindful of the impact that wind can have on the door, causing harm to your arms or side of a neighboring car.

Inside your house, verify that your heat, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are charged and working. And if you're using gas appliances, ensure there is sufficient free air space around them.

And if you're heading out for the day for a hike or other activities, Stuck advises following the Check-in/Check-out system to make sure someone knows where you're going, what your itinerary is, when you'll be back.

And before heading out, dress for success and pack sufficient water and supplies. "Dress for current and potential conditions. Temps can drop fast in wintertime," said Stuck.

For claims related to wind damage and other unusual occurrences, the Staff Judge Advocate Office offer the following guidance:

Army guidance provides that most vehicle damage is payable only if caused by fire, flood, hurricane or other unusual occurrence. The Personnel Claims Act provides limited protection for extraordinary hazards, broadly categorized

as losses due to abnormal climactic conditions. High winds and blowing sand, however, are common in the White Sands area. Thus, damage to the paint or exterior trim of a vehicle caused by sand and debris blown by the wind are not generally payable, as it is considered "gradual deterioration" rather than the result of an unusual occurrence.

Army regulations and Federal law specifically identify who may be compensated for damage to property. Proper claimants are Soldiers on active duty, civilian employees of the Department of the Army, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and NAF employees (payable through NAF channels).

The White Sands JAG Office will also accept claims from service personnel with the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps and forward them for consideration to their respective claims authorities. Note that employees of government contractors are not proper claimants.

If your vehicle or other personal property is damaged by high winds, you can obtain a claims packet from the Staff Judge Advocate Office. For more information or assistance in filing a damage claim, please contact Lori Fergie at the Staff Judge Advocate Office at 678-1263. **

McAfee-

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

2018 during an "On the Range" segment that is conducted through a live-stream on the U.S. Army Garrison Facebook page.

"Mr. Wilson is one component of our organization but a very large component...it is because of Mr. Wilson's and Vanessa's ability to treat patients with dignity and respect to ensure it's all about their health and our mission," said McAfee Health Clinic Commander Lt. Col. Kristen Swanson during the livestream.

Patients are asked to fill out a JOE survey after their interaction with the clinic. The 100 percent approval rating was based solely off of the pharmacist's interactions with their patients.

"We did pretty well for a two-person team," Wilson said. "We just try to provide them with good customer service. Ninety-nine percent of the time they're a bunch of fun. We just treat everyone like family and take care of the patients. Our lack of wait time makes a big difference."

Wilson has worked as a pharmacist in the commercial sector for 27 years before retiring and heard about an opening at WSMR through a friend. He said he thought it would be the perfect job for him to take after having recently retired.

"This is an ideal position for me because it's more clinical and you don't have to deal with the merit of different insurances. It makes it easier to work with clinicians who are just down the hall," he said. "I can talk directly to providers and get their feedback to let them know if there's an issue."

More patients have been coming in to refill their prescriptions from the surrounding areas as far out as Lordsburg, New Mexico, and Hillsboro, Texas. The pharmacy is available for military, military dependents or retirees who are TRI-CARE beneficiaries.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY ADRIANA SALAS DE SANTIAGO

Aaron Wilson, left, and Vanessa Campos, right, were recently recognized for receiving a 100 percent satisfaction rating based on patient surveys. Wilson and Campos placed first in the Army and third in Tri-Service.



WSMR establishing restoration advisory board

By Benito Avalos Environmental Division

The Department of the Army is seeking input from interested parties regarding environmental restoration activities being conducted as part of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR).

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a forum comprised of representatives of the Department of Defense (DoD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), state and local governments, tribal governments, and the affected community. RAB members provide their advice to the DoD concerning environmental restoration at military installations. The RAB

provides stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the restoration process, monitor restoration progress, and make community views known to the decision makers. The purpose of the RAB is to promote community involvement by giving the public the opportunity to regularly review progress and participate in dialogue with the decision-makers on WSMR environmental restoration process.

If the RAB is established, the Army will not provide financial support to the public members for their services nor will members be compensated for work hours lost or time invested.

Local community members interested in creating a RAB should be willing to establish and jointly chair RAB and attend all RAB meetings (which could last between two to four hours each) and be willing to devote ample time to review WSMR environmental restoration documents within prescribed time frames. To express your interest in participating in a RAB, please contact the person below within 30 days of this notice to obtain a Community Interest Survey questionnaire.

Benito Avalos Installation Restoration Program Manager

U.S. Army White Sands Environmental Division: 163 Springfield Street WSMR, NM 88002-5000

(575) 678-5359

Benito.avalos1.civ@mail.mil *

Childhood suicide on the rise

By Miriam U. Rodriguez

With the holidays behind us, the start of a new year is a good time to focus on mental health, especially with the focus for this year being on child suicide.

Kirt Davis, ASAP Program Manager, said many parents are unaware that childhood suicide is becoming a growing issue, especially here in New Mexico

"The suicide rate, especially in New Mexico, is skyrocketing," Davis said.

Suicide rates among 10 to 24 year-olds has increased by 37.9 percent in New Mexico according to a New Mexico Department of Health report dated October 2018.

"Children nowadays have to deal with a lot more than we did when we were growing up," Davis said.

They have to deal with things like cyberbullying, drugs and alcohol and also includes those confused about their sexuality.

Davis said he is working to educate parents to make sure they are watching their children and being more attentive, to include taking the time to listen and talk to them.

"Many parents treat their children like adults." Davis said. "But (the reality is) they can't handle it. They can't handle things adults have to handle."

On top off all this pressure. Davis said there is a lot of information on the



Childhood suicide rates have grown in recent years especially in New Mexico. Parents need to take the time to talk and listen to their children and teens.

Internet on how to commit suicide

"When I was eight vears old I had no idea how to commit suicide," Davis said. "They do. As parents you have to be very careful what they are watching and talk to them cide about it."

Many children and teens don't know how to cope and they think there is no way out. Kids look at everything going on at home and they take on that stress

"Suicide is glamorized," Davis said. "You see it everywhere."

Davis said it is very important that parents don't dismiss what children say or do as a way of just getting attention.

"If you hear them say they want to commit suicide in any way - you have to stop and have a conversation with them," he said.

In talking to them make sure to go through the reasons they feel the need to do that and get them the help they need - whether it is talking to a counselor or anything they need to address the issues.

Potential Warning Signs

They talk about sui-

They talk about feeling guilty or hopeless

They start writing songs, poems, or letters about death and loss

They start giving away their favorite things

There are changes in their eating or sleeping habits

They retreat to themselves a lot more

* They change the way they dress (i.e. Gothic or revealing)

* They start acting out * School grades go

"If you have watched your child grow then you should know your child's habits. So if any of these things change drastically then it is something that

needs to be addressed." Davis said

"You need to make time to sit down with them, give them your undivided attention and listen to what they have to sav."

Davis said there are also many challenges online taunting children and teenagers to commit suicide and many parents don't even know they ex-

He said parents need to be more involved on what is going on in social media. He suggested parents create a social media account just to see what is out there and know what their children may be exposed to.

He said parents can check out Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat, and see what people are commenting and see the conversations they are having.

"Don't ever approach vour child with the mentality of "I caught you", use it as an opportunity to talk to them and have a conversation about the topic."

Davis said it is important for parents to be more involved in their child's life and find ways to get help if they won't talk.

Resources on post for both you and your child

*Army Substance Abuse Program (575) 678-1957 or (575) 678-2112

*Army Community Service

McAfee Clinic

Directorate of Emergency Services. *





Missile Ranger Submission Policy

Submissions to the Missile Ranger are accepted anytime for publication in the following issue, space permitting.

All submissions will be edited for style, content and propriety. Submissions must include a point of contact identified by first and last name and a telephone number for that point of contact.

Submissions can be made by e-mail to the following usarmy.wsmr.atec.list.ranger@mail. mil; also in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1782; or call (575) 678-2716.

Winter storm leaves blanket of snow



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CHUCK ROBERTS

A weekend winter storm left a blanket of snow covering the exhibits at the White Sands Museum.



The weekend winter storm covered up this exhibit at the White Sands Museum. A groundbreaking ceremony at the museum is scheduled for Jan. 15 at 4 p.m.



May 5th & 19th November 3rd & 17th June 2nd & 16th December 1st & 15th

Call 678-1068 for more information

White Sands Missile Range

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24/7 Hotline 575-993-0589













WSMR Hall of Fame nominations due by March 31

WSMR Public Affairs

White Sands Missile Range is now accepting nominations from all sources until the end of March for its Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame was established in 1980, and the purpose is to give appropriate and perpetual recognition to those members of the WSMR workforce, military and civilian, who have made singularly significant contributions to the mission on the Range and to the surrounding communities. It is the highest award the missile range can bestow on one of its own.

Past honorees include such individuals as Wernher von Braun, the famous German rocket scientist, and Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, the astronomer who discovered Pluto. But you don't have to be a world-class scientist to be recognized in the hall of fame.

If anything, Tombaugh and von Braun are the exceptions.

The hall of fame includes 54 members. It contains both men and women, both civilian and military personnel, both government and contractor employees and a huge mix of professions – everything from chaplain to missile flight safety to public affairs to professional engineer to equal employment opportunity to "mover and shaker." It is the embodiment of "Team WSMR," the phrase missile range leaders have thrown



The White Sands Missile Range Hall of Fame is located inside the WSMR Museum.

around for decades.

The Army Research Lab has had a few inductees to include Jov Arthur. Donald Hoock and Joseph Trammel.

For information on nomination procedures or to request an updated copy of the White Sands Hall of Fame Guide, call the WSMR Public Affairs Office, (575) 678-1134. The guide contains the forms, guidelines and procedures for nomination.

To get into the Hall of Fame a nominee must have been responsible for significant and lasting deeds or achievements during their career at WSMR. The contribu-

tions may be in various areas such as research. innovations, cost savings, technological advances, safety, public relations, equal opportunity or heroic deeds.

All former military, civilian and contractor personnel who have served at White Sands are eligible for nomination. No one currently working at the range is eligible.

Suggestions for submitting a nomination By Jim Eckles

Suggestion #1. Get help. Some nominations are submitted by loved ones or friends who don't have a deep understanding of what the nominee

did.

You need information about the person's accomplishments and why they were meaningful.

The person's personnel file will help if you have access to it – asking the nominee for his records is one way to get accurate data.

You need to find the nuggets of excellence and put those in the package.

It is highly recommended to work closely with the nominee's colleagues who may be able to strengthen the nominee's package with technical information and quantifiable statistics and information on the impact of work accomplished.

Suggestion #2. Remember the intent of the program—the WSMR Hall of Fame recognizes past WSMR employees who went above and bevond.

Thousands of great people have worked at the range in its 70-year history, but this honor is for those who made significant contribution while at WSMR.

Suggestion #3. The nominee should have made accomplishments individually, since the honor is not presented to a group or a couple.

If a nominee "collaborated" or "contributed" to a project then they can't solely take credit for the accomplishment.

On the other hand, if the nominee "spearheaded," "led" or "single-handedly accomplished" a project, they would comply with the intent of the honor.

Suggestion #4. Do not include obscure documents, evaluations. award certificates, etc. In fact, if you look at the latest rules you will find that the board limits the narrative submission to four pages.

Suggestion #5. Find the good stuff - grab it and jettison the rest. It is in the mountain of paper you want to submit but won't. Take the real examples of the nominee's great work and succinctly write up what he or she did, how it made a difference, and support it with a quote from an evaluation or an award certificate.

If John Doe designed a new camera widget or lead an effort to save millions of dollars, explain what it was. The quotes from the evaluation or award are then the proof that he or she did them and that they are, indeed, important.

Suggestion #6. Make sure everything is specific. I've seen a lot of packages where nominators sought an endorsement from their congressman thinking it would impress.

Those letters don't help but the key facts from those who worked with them carry much more weight.

Community Calendar

Community Calendar submissions are compiled by the Public Affairs Office. Any WSMR organization wishing to publicize an event on this calendar should submit information to usarmy.wsmr.atec.list.ranger@mail.mil.

Frontier Club Lunch Specials

Monday, Jan. 7

Frontier Club - Teriyaki chicken

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Frontier Club - Green chile enchilada

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Frontier Club - Lasagna

Thursday, Jan. 10

Frontier Club - Green chile meatloaf

Friday, Jan. 11

Frontier Club - Smothered burrito

Monday, Jan. 14

Frontier Club - General Tso's chicken

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Frontier Club - Carne adovada

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Frontier Club - Chicken spiedini

Thursday, Jan. 17

Frontier Club - Chicken fried steak

Friday, Jan. 18

Frontier Club - Specials from the Grill

Monday, Jan. 21

Frontier Club - Closed for MLK Holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 22

Frontier Club - Red chile enchilada

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Frontier Club - Chicken angelo

Thursday, Jan. 24

Frontier Club - Barbeque

Friday, Jan. 25

Frontier Club - Nachos

Closed Saturday and Sunday

January

- Jan. 15 WSMR Museum Groundbreaking Ceremony 4 p.m.
- Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday



Frequently Called Numbers

Aquatic Center 678-1068

Army Community Service 678-6767

Arts and Crafts Center 678-5321

Auto Crafts Center 678-5800

Bell Gym 678-3374

Bowling Center 678-3465

CDS 678-2059

Community Center 678-4134

Commissary 678-2313

Frontier Club 678-2055

Library 678-5820

McAfee Army Health Clinic 674-3500

Museum 678-2250

Post Chapel 678-2615

Post Office 541-7429

Outdoor Recreation 678-1713

White Sands Schools 674-1241

Youth Services/SAS 678-4140

IHG Army Hotel, WSMR 678-1838/4559