Horse Cav Det rides in Rose Parade



LIVING

NEWS

Historic town claims infamous outlaw, eclectic boutiques



Securing critical minerals vital to defense industrial base, official says A7

Thursday, January 16, 2025



Photo by Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental

Kylie Dean, 7, lights up as she peers through the lens of a spotting scope and catches a glimpse of a northern harrier during a community outreach event held in conjunction with the installation's annual Christmas Bird Count Dec. 17, 2024, at a training area at Fort Cavazos.

Flocking together:

83rd Year, Issue 02

Cavazos biologists host ninth annual Christmas Bird Count

BY CHRISTINE LUCIANO DPW Environmental

Birds Unlimited-Temple embarked on a birdpossible in a single day.

Each year, the Fort Cavazos Adaptive and Integrative Management Team participates in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, helping to contribute valuable avian data.

As part of Fort Cavazos' ninth annual CBC, the AIM Team hosted a community outreach event Dec. 17, 2024, followed by the official count on Dec. 18, 2024.

"Outreach events are so great, especially for Community volunteers, biologists and Wild those who have never birded before," said Kyshawn Pinkett, bat biologist for the AIM ing adventure across Fort Cavazos' training Team. "It gives people an opportunity who areas. Their mission? To count as many birds as don't have access or time to do them — a moment to see local avian species and what flies through the area."

For Vicki Dean and her family, the outreach event was an opportunity for her daughters, 9-year-old Anna and 7-year-old Kylie, to create lasting memories and learn about area birds, as well as those migrating through the area.

"Our girls really enjoyed it and asked if they could do it again next year," Dean said. "Initially, they weren't really into it, but after they learned how to use the binoculars, and we started seeing birds, they got into it more."

During the outreach event, Dean and her family, along with 20 others, identified 24 species and 126 individual birds.

The count aimed to identify and record every individual bird encountered within a defined 15-mile circle, relying on both sightings and sounds to document the species.

See Flocking together, A6

NEWS BRIEFS

www.CavazosSentinel.com

Fort Cavazos hosts town hall

Fort Cavazos leaders invite area ranchers, landowners, community leaders and neighbors to participate in a town hall and community outreach meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 23 at the San Saba Civic Center at San Saba, Texas. The event is an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and discuss concerns regarding Fort Cavazos helicopter training in the Western Training Area with installation leaders and pilots. The civic center is located at 1190 S. Thomas Stewart Dr., San Saba, Texas.

To RSVP for the town hall, visit einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim. cfm?i=972075&k=0B6640097C52.

For more information on the town hall, call the Fort Cavazos Public Affairs office at 254-286-5139 or 254-288-7625.

TAP hosts Mega Career Fair

The Transition Assistance Program will hold a Mega Career Fair 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Lone Star Conference Center. Jobseekers can meet with local, state, national and international employers at this event. It is open to everyone. Those without a Department of Defense ID will need to acquire a visitor's pass.

Parking is limited. Carpooling or using the Cavazos Connector is recommended. For more information, call TAP at 254-288-2227 or 254-288-5627.

Scholarship applications open

The Fort Cavazos Family Scholarship Fund application period is open through Feb. 17. High school students and military spouses seeking undergraduate and/or graduate degrees are eligible to apply. Visit fortcavazosscholarship. org for more information.

Veterans ride free in CenTex

The Central Texas Vet-Ride Program offers veterans, their spouses and dependents free transpor tation through The HOP for uses including medical appointments, government offices, grocery stores, school and shopping.

For more information, visit ctadvrc.org/programs/veterans/ central-texas-vet-ride-program.

Installation bird team takes part in international survey

BY SCOTT SUMMERS

DPW NCRMB

Although a majority of the people in the bird-science world are aware of the annual citizen science Christmas Bird Counts across the U.S. and beyond, some probably do not know about MoSI bird surveys also monitoring bird populations.

MoSI stands for "monitoreo de sobrevivencia invernal," or in English, "Winter Survival Monitoring (of migratory passerines)." Passerine is a formal name for perching birds.

The MoSI research goals include bird demographics, movements and habitat use, and the season runs from November 2024 to March 2025, consisting of four international surveys.

In November 2024, 15 trained bird scientists from Dallas to Austin, Texas, converged at Fort Cavazos to assist Directorate of Public Works Natural and Cultural Resources Management Branch field ornithologist Nick Glover, who organized a MoSI conservation bird project, to collect data about local birds.

In the early morning, four members of the 15-member team organized the fielddata collection site by spreading out bird measuring tools. Tools included banding pliers, bird leg bands, mist nets, bird bags and scales to weigh birds along with data sheets to record the measurements and molt observations.

Traversing afoot, two teams of five separated to sample birds in two habitat types: upland and bottomland. One team went northward toward the creek

bottom, and the other team headed south toward the higher upland to open or unfurl the bird mist nets they had preset earlier.

Songbirds are daytime creatures with many becoming active after sunrise. They create a nature-made matinee that lasts until early afternoon when the activity winds down.

While rotating 10 respective 30-minute net checks from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the science team brought the captures back in bird bags to the data collection site for data, recording bird leg-band data — band size and unique number along with weight, wing length, tail length, molt, etc. — before they get released.

"We used 16 nets to capture, measure and examine, then release, 30 birds across two half days of field effort," Glover said about the team's efforts. "One female ruby-crowned kinglet was banded on March 20, 2024, at 9 a.m. and recaptured in the same net at the same time on Nov. 20, 2024."

He explained in the eight months between, the kinglet, a bird that weighs 0.2 ounces and is about 7 inches wide from wingtip to wingtip in flight, would have flown to somewhere in the Rocky Mountains, Canadian shield or Alaska and at least attempted to raise a brood of young before returning to the exact same patch of scrub on Fort Cavazos' West Range area.

Another interesting bird catch was a yellow-shafted northern flicker, the second largest woodpecker in the U.S.



Photo by Arwen Nuanez, DPW NCRME

Nick Glover, field ornithologist, Directorate of Public Works Natural and Cultural Resources Management Branch, holds a yellow-shafted northern flicker his team caught in a mist net near Table Rock Creek Nov. 20. 2024, at Fort Cavazos. Fine-gauge mesh makes the mist nets virtually invisible to the birds.

See Survey, A6

Great minds think alike:

Anson Stephens

Jimmy Carter built upon MLK's messages, values

BY COL. ANSON STEPHENS

3ASOG Commander

This January we are simultaneously mourning as a nation the loss of President Jimmy Carter while reflecting on the great contributions made by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to our society. This gives us a unique opportunity to consider how the legacy of one great American built on that of another to improve the lives of our citizens and how we can continue to

honor their work to form a more

perfect union.

Carter's efforts to oppose racial segregation and improve integration in the United States military were deeply rooted in the legacy of civil rights leaders like King.

Carter, who was heavily influenced by King's message of nonviolent resistance and equal rights, built on the progress made by King and other civil rights leaders to create a more inclusive and equitable military.

During his presidency, Carter took significant steps to address the lingering effects of segregation and discrimination within the military. He was particularly drawn to King's vision of a desegregated America, where people of all backgrounds could live and work together in harmony. Carter recognized the military as a key institution in achieving this vision, and he worked tirelessly to promote integration and equity within its ranks.

One of Carter's actions was to issue Executive

Order 12086, which consolidated Equal Employment Opportunity requirements under the Department of Labor and mandated federal contractors or subcontractors adhere to equal opportunity principles.

This order built on the progress made by King and other civil rights leaders, who fought for years to end segregation and discrimination in all aspects of American life. Carter's executive order furthered a clear and comprehensive framework for rectifying discrimination within the military.

Carter also drew on King's legacy by promoting diversity and inclusion within the military's leadership ranks. He appointed more Black and minority officers to senior positions, including the first Black person to serve as a four-star general. This helped to break down barriers and create opportunities for underrepresented groups to advance within the military. Carter saw this as a key

step in creating a more inclusive and equitable institution, and he was inspired by King's vision of a desegregated America where people of all backgrounds could succeed and thrive.

In addition to these efforts within the military, Carter worked to address the broader social and economic issues that contributed to racial segregation and inequality.

He launched initiatives to improve education and job opportunities for minority communities, and he also worked to strengthen laws and policies aimed at protecting civil rights.

These efforts were deeply rooted in King's legacy, which emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality to achieve true equal rights.

Carter's commitment to integration and equity was also reflected in his approach to military personnel policy.

He worked to promote a culture of inclusion and respect within the military, and he encouraged military leaders to prioritize it in their decision-making. This approach was inspired by King's message of love and compassion, which emphasized the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect.

The impact of Carter's efforts was significant across the military.

During his presidency, the number of Black officers in the military increased significantly, as did the number of minority personnel in senior positions. The military also saw a decline in incidents of racial harassment and violence, and there was a significant improvement in morale and cohesion among military personnel.

Carter's efforts to oppose racial segregation and improve integration in the United States military were deeply rooted in the legacy of civil rights leader King.

His commitment to integration and equal rights helped to create a more inclusive and equitable institution, ultimately contributing to the strength of the military we have defending our nation today.

Let us use this time to gain an understanding of those who came before us and how we can build upon their legacies.



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GREAT PEOPLE AT THE GREAT PLACE



Photos by Ayumi Davis, Sentinel Editor

Oscar Rios, manager of the Classification Unit, Directorate of Public Works, poses for a picture in a forklift Oct. 3, 2024, at the CU at Fort Cavazos.

BY AYUMI DAVIS Sentinel Editor

Anywhere there's a lot of people, there's always waste, whether it be old items to get rid of during a move or cleaning supplies that were unused. Here at Fort Cavazos, people like Oscar Rios, manager for the Classification Unit, Directorate of Public Works, are here to

collect and manage waste at the installation.

The Classification Unit collects residential waste from those living on base, such as electronic items including TVs, phones, computers and nonvehicle batteries, along with household products containing chemicals, like paints, detergents and pesticides. The unit will then dispose of or reuse the items. Installation residents can come and take unused products for free as well.

"It's a good job," Rios said. "We've got a great team here that actually assists a lot of Soldiers."

Rios has worked with DPW since 2021, starting out as a contractor for the CU, then moving to the Environmental Compliance Assessment Team as an environmental protection specialist before becoming the CU

manager in February 2024. Rios said he enjoys the camaraderie within the directorate.

"It's like a family away from the family," he expressed. "I like how when something does arise, everybody just pitches in. It doesn't matter. If it's a spill, then you got the spill response coming in, then you got the CU, and then you got P2 (Pollution Prevention Services). Everybody just helps each other, and that's a good thing. We're not just here to do our jobs, we actually are here to help out the Soldiers ... so that they could actually continue their (mission) successfully as well."

Prior to becoming manager for CU, Rios was in the Army as a mechanic for 25 years, serving both as an active-duty and Reserve Soldier. When deciding where to work, looking for a challenge motivated him to work for the Army as a civilian.

"Everything that has to do with helping



Oscar Rios, manager of the Classification Unit, Directorate of Public Works, moves a large box using a forklift Oct. 3, 2024, at the CU at Fort Cavazos.

my fellow Soldiers, I'm all in for," Rios said. "I just like challenges. I've been a mechanic. I was also a HAZMAT, which is a hazardous material handler. So when I found that there was positions open here (Classification Unit) as a contractor, I jumped on board because that's something that I'm more familiar with. And since then I just stayed, and I'm planning to stay until I'm 60." Rios said his three boys are his motivation

"Everything I do I try to lead by example, not only for the people that are actually seeing me around here, but, actually, my kids as well," he said. "And it feels nice when my teammates or coworkers or my friends actually meet my kids, and then they (my coworkers)

have nothing but good things to say about me, so I see my kids' faces, and they just light up and be like, 'Man, my dad is pretty cool." As he continues in his career, Rios plans

to learn as much as he can from not only his program, but others as well. "I don't like to be stagnant in just one

position," he explained. "If I feel that I reach the level that I'm not learning anymore from this job, then I'll find another job that's similar to this one — let's say, the Clean Water Team or the Air Quality Team that could actually benefit me as an individual. And then later on, just keep on moving up as a (GS) 12, 13, 14."

In his free time, Rios enjoys carpentry, working on cars and spending time with his children.

www.CavazosSentinel.com



NEWS

Photos by Sgt. Lyca Williams, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

From right, Spc. Ronaldo Mendez poses with Pvt. Doc Holliday, assigned to the Horse Cavalry Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, before the Rose Parade Jan. 1 at Pasadena, California.

Horse Cav Det rides in Rose Parade

BY SGT. LYCA WILLIAMS 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

PASADENA, Calif. — Troopers assigned to Horse Cavalry Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, participated in the Tournament of Roses Dec. 29, 2024-Jan. 1 at Pasadena, California.

"The Tournament of Roses Parade is a long-standing tradition for the Horse Cavalry Detachment's participation in it," said Capt. Daysha Wells, commander of Horse Cav. Det., 1st Cav. Div. "We've been participating in this parade since 1996."

The detachment kicked off their week by participating in Equestfest Dec. 29, 2024. The event allowed the detachment to showcase its horses alongside other equestrian groups in preparation for the main event, the Rose Parade.

"We did a performance at Equestfest, part of the Tournament of Roses, one of their leading up events," said Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Minor, Horse Cav. Det. first sergeant. "We did a drill and ceremony routine, about eight to nine minutes of formation riding, calling the commands and stuff like they would have done back in the late 1800s."

Rounding out the week, Horse Cav. Det. rode in the Rose Parade Jan. 1, marking a significant milestone.

"The Horse Cavalry Detachment participated in the Rose Parade 2025," said Wells. "We led the Army float for the Army's 250th birthday."

The detachment involvement in the Tournament of Roses Parade continues to honor the



Troopers assigned to the Horse Cavalry Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, pose in front of the U.S. Army Tournament of Roses parade float during the Rose Parade Jan. 1 at Pasadena, California. Being the oldest horse unit in the United States, the Horse Cav. Det. has participated in the Tournament of Roses parade almost every year since 1996.



From left, Spc. Ronaldo Mendez and Staff Sgt. Micheal Rivas, troopers assigned to the Horse Cavalry Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, drive the wagon before the Rose Parade Jan. 1 at



city of dallas

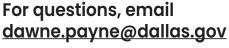
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Fort Cavazos garrison civilian leadership program returns



Eighteen U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos employees graduate from phase one during the Civilian Leadership Development Program graduation ceremony Dec. 17, 2024, at the Copeland Soldier Service Center at Fort Cavazos. The program is broken down into two phases from October to December and January to March when garrison employees learn how to become transformational leaders.

BY DERIKA UPSHAW

Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

he reestablished Fort Cavazos Civilian Leadership Development Program graduated 18 participants on Dec. 17, 2024, at the Copeland Soldier Service Center at Fort Cavazos.

CLDP started in 2009, working to provide an overview of garrison operations to develope basic leadership and management skills through exercises, discussions with garrison leaders and a capstone project. CLDP paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic but restarted October 2024, with the Workforce Development team, Directorate of Human Resources, redesigning the concept with the course consisting of two phases, October to December and January to March.

During this recently completed iteration, participants from the DHR, Directorate of Public Works and the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office learned to become transformational leaders.

"Phase one focused on the garrison, as far as the operation of the garrison," said Shelley Tippens, chief of Workforce Development. "Each director discussed how their directorate operates within the garrison. And then also within phase one, we talk about the elementary characteristics of a transformational leader."

For the graduation, the graduates decided to do a skit to showcase what they learned throughout the three-month course. They focused on effective communication, knowing the team and self, adapting to change and culture of innovation.

"I think one of the most important things that we learned was adapting to change," said Kiersten Sheahan, education specialist, DHR Education Services Division. "We've recently had a lot of changes come through for tuition assistance and prevention assistance policy, and it's new for service members (and) it's new for everyone. So (we're) taking the ability to adapt to change, helping our

team members change, but also helping our Soldiers adapt to the changes, so that everything happens in a positive way, where no one feels scared or overwhelmed by what's happening."

Sheahan enjoyed opportunity to hear from different directors on their challenges and leadership philosophies. While most participants were not in supervisory positions, the course showed them how they could display transformational leadership qualities within their positions.

"I would just use these skills to better the inner team, to make my supervisors work a little lighter," said Brian Nelson, human resources technician with the Deployment Readiness Center. "I think I can incorporate what I learned here as a leader into just my little

25-meter target — into my internal team — to run better will overall improve the garrison mission."

Nelson explained the program was beneficial by dismantling the misconception of what a leader is and how to lead.

"The overall goal was to take the middle-range model that says a transformational leader is the most effective type of leader, so to take that model and transition it to where we can focus on the individual characteristics of each leader, and so that when they do decide to apply for supervisory



Kiersten Sheahan, education specialist, Education Services Division, Directorate of Human Resources, and Justo Andaluz, specialty shop supervisor, Operations and Maintenance Division. Directorate of Public Works, show how an effective leader handles conflicts in the workplace during the Civilian Leadership Development Program graduation ceremony Dec. 17, 2024, at the Copeland Soldier Service Center at Fort Cavazos.

positions, even in their leadership role, they can use those

characteristics to grow," said Tippens. Tippens said if any civilian wants to participate in the program, they can sign up for it in September. Those who wish to continue to phase two will start in January.

"I would say if you have the opportunity to take this course, even if you don't necessarily have an aspiration to be a leader, I think you can take the knowledge that is given in this course through the curriculum to better yourself and just be a better employee," Nelson said.





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Jan. 9 will operate on weekend hours. 69th ADA Food Advisor: 254-368-9214

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Old Ironside & 33rd St.



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Division Food Service: 287-3134

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West Fort Cavazos

www.CavazosSentinel.com January 16, 2025

Community members, AIM Team spot various birds at outreach event on post

Flocking together: Continued from A1

With binoculars in hand and a spotting scope strategically positioned, participants counted the American pivot, northern harrier, merlin, sandpiper and greater yellowlegs among the species observed during this year's count.

Brad Burden, research and monitoring coordinator for the AIM Team, encouraged those interested in birding to participate in a community science initiative like the CBC.

"Many people who live in cities are only familiar with the birds commonly seen in their local housing areas," Burden said. "Coming to Fort Cavazos and exploring its training areas, which consists of undeveloped land, provides an opportunity to experience the diverse bird species we have here in Central Texas."

Dean echoed Burden's comments, encouraging Soldiers and families to explore, learn more and connect with nature.

"The bird count is a great opportunity to get out in an environment you may not get to enjoy normally and learn from the wonderful Fort Cavazos professionals," Dean expressed. "Whether you're a seasoned birder or just starting out, like us, the count is a way to connect and appreciate nature."

During the official count, the AIM Team identified 98 species and 3,251 birds.

For those interested in birding and contributing to bird data, another opportunity is the Great Backyard Bird Count, scheduled for Feb. 14-17. To participate, choose a location to watch birds, observe for at least 15 minutes during the four days, count all the birds seen or heard and use tools, like the Merlin Bird ID app or *eBird.org*, to share the sightings.

For more information about the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, visit audubon.org/join-christmas-birdcount. Details on the 2025 Great Backyard Bird Count can be found at birdcount.org.



Community volunteers, biologists and Wild Birds Unlimited-Temple members scan the skies to count and identify birds as part of the annual Christmas Bird Count Dec. 17, 2024, at a training area at Fort Cavazos.



Almost two dozen participants of the Fort Cavazos ninth annual Christmas Bird Count community outreach event gather for a group photo Dec. 17, 2024, at a training area at Fort Cavazos.

DPW NCRMB collects bird data on post for conservation project

Survey: Continued from A1

2024, at Fort Cavazos.

"Although they are common on Fort Cavazos in the fall and winter months, this is the first time a northern flicker has been

banded here," Glover said. The MoSI science program has scientists staffing stations from the southern U.S. to the tip of South America. The intent is to to study the molt patterns on wintering and migration routes.

Twenty years ago, less was known about where birds wintered. Two decades of data collected by MoSI helps complete the story of migratory birds' journeys so that preserves and other protected lands can be established along these migration routes.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer program limits encroachments and other constraints on military installations as it pertains to military training, testing and operations partnering with nonfederal and nonprofit organizations.

This is increasingly important for birds and other wildlife on protected training lands due to the exponential developmental increases, especially as it pertains to Fort Cavazos and its surrounding areas.

Futhermore, an excellent habitat exists on

Fort Cavazos and other development-free landscapes to accommodate the needs of these bird species.

It is the team's hope these birds will stay off any threatened and endangered lists, which can lead to military training restrictions. Though training is not currently restricted due to threatened and endangered species, the MoSI team's effort is one important step to keep restrictions at bay.





Field Ornithologist Kellene Collins furls a mist net at the end of the half day of netting birds Nov. 20, 2024, at Fort Cavazos. Nets are furled to prevent birds from being entrapped when biologists aren't checking them every 30 minutes.

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NATION January 16, 2025



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Jovante Johnson, 2nd Bomb Wing

A B-52H Stratofortress bomber from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, parks on the runway in support of a U.S. Strategic Command bomber task force April 17, 2021, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

Securing critical minerals vital to defense industrial base, official says

BY DAVID VERGUN DOD News

WASHINGTON — Secure sourcing of critical minerals is vital to the defense industrial base, which uses them to produce virtually every Department of Defense system, from unmanned aerial systems and fighter jets to submarines, said Adam Burstein, technical director for strategic and critical materials in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy.

Burstein spoke Friday at the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island.

"Recent disruptions (due to) adversarial actions have underscored what we have long recognized, that it is more urgent than ever to build capability and resilience in supply chains for critical minerals," he said. To do so, the DOD must address challenges. Besides adversarial disruptions of critical miner-

als, there are other problems related to critical minerals including insufficient labor and training in the U.S. to meet defense production demand, and inadequate U.S. and allied sourcing for key materials and production, Burstein said.

An example of disruption vulnerabilities, he said, has been China's attempts to impose export bans on key materials such as gallium, germanium and antimony.

"(This has) demonstrated China's willingness to cause such a disruption to critical U.S. supply chains and highlights the urgency of securing our supply chains against such tactics," he said.

Industrial-based policies focus on increased domestic mining and processing and align with broader DOD objectives to secure critical supply chains, he said.

For example, since 2020, the DOD has awarded more than \$439 million to establish domestic rare earth element supply chains, he said.

There are 17 elements on the periodic table referred to as rare earth. The DOD needs nearly all of them in some capacity, he noted.

To address this critical need, the department has embarked on a five-year rare earth investment strategy to build domestic capacity. There is only one rare earth mine currently active in the United States, he noted.

Partnering with allies is also key to success, he said. Earlier this year, Congress added the United Kingdom and Australia as domestic sources, in addition to Canada, for purposes of the Defense Production Act.

"This means we can now make direct investments in our closest partners and reflects the enduring commitment of the U.S. government to partner with key allies over the long term," Burstein said.

For instance, last year, the U.S. issued multiple DPA awards to projects based in Canada, which also received joint funding from the Canadian government. These projects are targeted to increase the secure supply of key materials, including cobalt, graphite and tungsten, he said.

"By partnering with our close allies, we can capitalize on opportunities to leverage each other's strengths to mutually reinforce our domestic and allied defense industrial bases," he said. This includes 19 security supply cooperation arrangements the U.S. has with partner nations,

which allow the DOD to request priority delivery for DOD contracts, subcontracts and allow the signatory nations to request the same of the United States, he said.

"These agreements further demonstrate DOD is committed to strengthening and expanding existing alliances and forging new partnerships that increase capabilities and strengthen defense industrial bases," he said.

Stockpiling of critical minerals is another DOD strategy that reduces risk from unanticipated



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Victoria Mejicanos, USS Emory S. Land

A Sailor assigned to the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii stands watch while the ship undergoes maintenance from submarine tender USS Emory S. Land during a scheduled port visit



VA helps Veterans live life to the fullest after service.

January 16, 2025 NEWS www.CavazosSentinel.com





LOOKING FOR ARMY RESOURCES?



Location-specific information and personnel to assist you with your benefits at military installations in the U.S. and abroad



https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Resource-Locator

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FCSF scholarship application window openB3

DPW OMD spreads holiday cheerB6



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Historic town claims infamous old west gunfighter, eclectic boutiques



Photos by Heather Ashley, Sentinel Assistant Editor

A postcard on a sales display inside the Billy the Kid Museum is one of many depictions of Old West outlaw Billy the Kid found at Hico, Texas. The Central Texas town of roughly 1,300 is believed by many to be the home of the man who was known as Ollie L. "Brushy Bill" Roberts, but who later claimed to be Billy the Kid, for the last 17 years of his life. The museum in Hico has artifacts and writings to illustrate the reasons and proof Brushy Bill actually was Billy the Kid.

BY HEATHER ASHLEY

Sentinel Assistant Editor

HICO, Texas — A small city of just over 1,300 people in Hamilton County, Hico sits at the junction of state Routes 281, 6 and 220. It is what is often considered a "pass-through" community, with a mix of modern conveniences for the highway travelers and quaint mom-and-pop shops, but Hico is also at the center of a legend involving the outlaw known as Billy the Kid.

My family discovered Hico a few years ago the same way many others have — we were driving through on our way to the Dallas area, but we stopped, our curiosity piqued by the small town charm of locally-owned businesses occupying old buildings whose exteriors bear old and new murals.

Since that first unplanned stop, Hico has become an infrequent travel destination for a quick day trip.

A recent Saturday found all of us together with no scheduled plans, so we set out for the scenic drive from Gatesville to Hico. The 45-minute drive is relaxing, full of winding, two-lane country highways bordered on both sides by hills and pasturelands.

Our first stop was lunch at The Chop House, which is located inside the Midland Hotel, a historic boardinghouse that dates back to 1891 and has 14 rooms, each of which is furnished to reflect on a different

aspect of Hamilton County's history.

After our meal, we made our rounds of shopping. For those who enjoy retail therapy, Hico has a decent selection of stores. For those who are only there to accompany the shoppers, there are benches all over the downtown district.

With a few exceptions, all of the town's bustling retail is located within a few blocks along and adjacent to Pecan Street. In less than two hours we covered the entirety of downtown, stopping into each of the eclectic shops.

I picked up two of my favorite candle scents and some clothing at Hico Mercantile, a collection of shops housed in a two-story 1895 opera house. This shop also houses a bar area with TVs for those who would rather sit out any spending

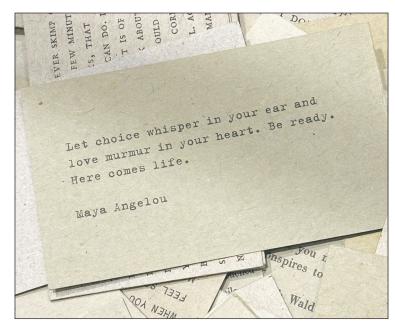
At Blue Star Trading, we perused kitchen items, clothing, furniture and home décor and checked out the historical museum on the shop's sec-

ond floor. The museum features a bank vault and an old post office setup, but there was a special event going on so we could not go into the area with the

postal items.

Our next stop was Hico Popcorn Works and Fudge across the street where they pop and flavor all the popcorn right there in the shop. More clothing was purchased at Punchy Vaquera, a bohemian and western boutique.

A few storefronts from Punchy Vaquera is the Billy the Kid Museum, which contains a collection of items detailing the anecdotal evidence Billy the Kid spent his last days in Hico. The museum asserts Billy the Kid spent his later years in Hico living under the name Ollie L. "Brushy Bill" Roberts. He only admitted his true identity in hope of finally obtaining a full pardon promised to him by New Mexico Governor Lee Wallace in 1879.



Notecards printed with quotations from famous writers, philosophers, poets and world leaders, past and present, are displayed in a vendor's booth in Hico Mercantile, a collection of shops in an old opera house.

According to history, Sheriff Pat Garrett shot and killed the outlaw in 1881 near Fort Sumner, New Mexico, but, as Hico's Brushy Bill's story goes, Billy the Kid escaped and was eventually discovered to be residing in Hico in the late 1940s under the Roberts alias. The museum builds an interesting case for Brushy Bill being the Kid and is definitely worth a visit

Roberts died Dec. 27, 1950, in Hico and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery near Hamilton, Texas. His gravesite is marked with a granite arch inscribed "Billy the Kid."

The town's most famous resident is also memorialized further down Pecan Street with a bronze-colored fiberglass statue that depicts Billy the Kid firing his pistol. A plaque at the statue's feet states "We believe his story," referring to Roberts' claim.

The Billy the Kid lore is intriguing and the old-meets-new charm of the shops that dot this small town make for a decent day trip and worth the 90-minute drive from Fort Cavazos.



The sign for the Billy The Kid Museum on Pecan Street at Hico, Texas, features a life-sized cutout of the outlaw who might have escaped death in New Mexico and fled to Hico, where he lived until 1950.



Book guides readers to be more creative in daily life

BY SAMANTHA HARMS Command Information Chief

Here we are in another new year. It feels almost impossible to believe it is 2025, as, sometimes, I still find myself thinking it's 2020. And, as with any other new year, I reside squarely in the pro-resolutions/intentions camp. There is just something about reflecting on a previous year and taking the opportunity to be honest with yourself about the joy you felt, along with the sorrow and every emotion in between, and where you want your next year to go.

Whether you choose to set more specific goals or simple intentions on how to show up in your daily life, that is up to you. This year, I went with a bingo card — choosing to put goals to accomplish or things that would simply bring me joy into the squares.

Several of the things I selected are related to living life a little more creatively: start a book club, learn to sew, take a dance class, etc. Because of this, when I went to select January's book for my column, I wanted to be intentional in the self-improvement book for the year. I often find self-improvement books are just someone saying if you only do this one thing, it'll change your whole life, while just giving ridiculous examples of how it worked in their own



Rick Rubin

life. As I scanned the shelves in a bookstore, I stumbled very quickly onto "The Creative Act: A Way of Being" by Rick Rubin, published in January 2023.

"The Creative Act: A Way of Being" by Rick Rubin

Rubin is a prolific, nine-time Grammy-winning music producer. He started Def Jam Recordings out of his college dorm room in the '80s and launched the careers of hip-hop legends like Run-DMC, Public Enemy and LL Cool J. He is the founder of American Recordings and the former co-president of Columbia Records. He has also produced with stars including Beastie Boys, Adele, Johnny Cash, Kanye West, Lady Gaga, Kesha, Green Day and the Chicks.

The purpose of his novel, according to the book's description, is "helping people transcend their self-imposed expectations in order to reconnect with a state of innocence from which the surprising becomes inevitable. Over the years, as he has thought deeply about where creativity comes from and where it doesn't, he has learned being an artist isn't about your specific output, it's about your relationship to the world. Creativity has a place in everyone's life, and everyone

can make that place larger."

As I began reading this novel, I found myself pulled in, wanting to tab pages or write notes in the margin, something I am profoundly against. Yet, the way this book is written, it simply asks for you to be fully invested.

It is more of a collection of thoughts than anything that simply flow through how you can encourage yourself to show up more creatively in your own life. Most of the chapters are only two to four pages, with nuggets throughout the book that can offer something for anyone. It does not have to be read in order, though I have found it may be a little easier to read in order simply because of the terminology Rubin sets up in the beginning.

Yet as always with self-help books, I have a few bones to pick. At one point, Rubin mentions his appendix bursts, but he then reads a book by a medical doctor which says you should not have body parts removed, so Rubin kept his appendix. This story instantly made me feel uncomfortable, as I recognized how dangerous of a story this may be. Please seek and take medical advice from a medical doctor, not just a random page on a random book you flipped to.

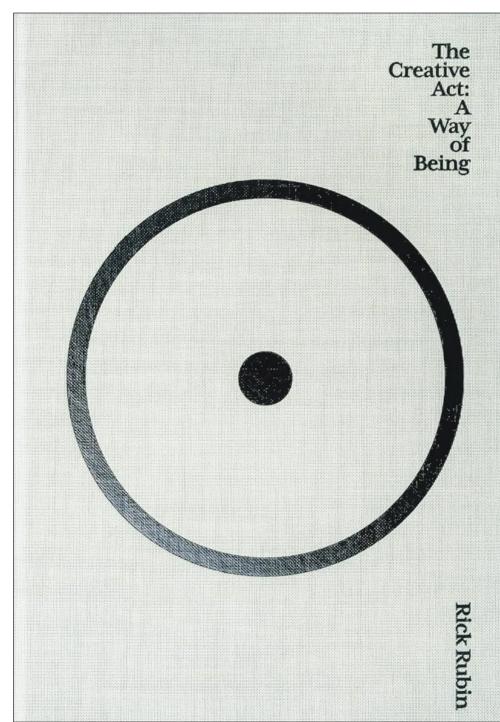
This book is rather expensive for having many pages that are either completely blank or mostly blank. While I can appreciate a great quote

that sums up what you're trying to say, sometimes it almost felt as though Rubin should have just put the quote in and skipped the entire chapter.

Plus, as most self-help books do, there are quite a few thoughts or examples already floating around out there, with this book leaning heavily on what seems like ideas of Zen Buddhism. Perhaps, as people often say, there are no original

From my perspective, this book is the perfect gentle guidance and support to understanding how your life is a work of art and how you should treat it as such; nothing more,

nothing less. Three out of five stars. Available at major booksellers and the Casey Memorial Library.



Fort Cavazos nal Facility/Adoption

Open 9a.m.-8p.m. everyday

4902 Engineer Dr., Fort Cavazos, TX 76544, 254-287-4675



Jangle

2-yr, 1-mo-old, boxer mix, brown brindle, male.



Velma

9-mo-old, border collie/ pit bull, black & white, female.

ADOPTED



Brownie

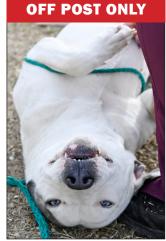
1-yr-old, border collie mix, brown, female.



Cookie

6-mo-old, pit bull, brown brindle & white, female.

ADOPTED



Kitty Sapphire

2-yr-old, pit bull mix, white & gray, female.



Richard

brown, male.

3-yr-old, domestic short-haired tabby,



George

14-yr-old, domestic medium-haired tabby, brown & orange, male.



Jingle

3-yr-old, pit bull mix, tan, male.



Louise

9-mo-old, border collie/ pit bull, black & white, female.



Valentine

2-yr-old, domestic short-haired calico, tricolor, female.



Spencer

3-yr-old, pit bull mix, white & black, male.



Pumpkin

1-yr, 8-mo-old, domestic short hair, gray & white, female.

FCSF scholarship application window open

BY BLAIR DUPRE

Sentinel News Editor

As students move into the second half of the academic year it is time to consider scholarship opportunities.

Luckily, the Fort Cavazos Family Scholarship Fund provides that opportunity for high school seniors and spouses that are a part of the Fort Cavazos community.

Founded in 1985, the FCSF endeavors to break down barriers to educational achievement by offering academic scholarships to high school seniors and spouses who are dependents of active-duty, veterans and Gold Star families. Their reach spans Bell, Corvell, McLennan, Travis, Williamson and Lampasas Counties.

"Military spouses and children sacrifice a great deal to support their service member," said Jennie Campbell, FCSF president. "Frequent moves make it difficult to establish roots in a community that might lead to opportunities for support. Despite these obstacles, our military families are resilient, and contribute a great deal to supporting the communities they

"The FCSF offers an opportunity for the Fort Cavazos and surrounding communities to recognize those hard-working family members and demonstrate our support," she continued. "Scholarships to support educational opportunities have the potential to make a huge impact in the lives of a high school senior and military spouse."

The scholarship application period is now open through 11:59 p.m. Feb. 17. Those who wish to apply must turn in an original 500 - 700 word essay based on a question, provided by the FCSF, along with other required documents. If all of the application requirements are met, the essay moves through a blind judging process.

"Scholarships are judged by our esteemed selection committee made up of local community members and school leadership," said Melissa Sims, FCSF vice president. "All judging is blind and scored based on the following categories: academic, community contribution and letters of recommendation. We then take the scores and award accordingly."

This year not only can high school seniors and spouses who are pursuing their first degree apply, but spouses seeking a

graduate degree can now apply

"In order for spouses to have competitive jobs and careers, most require further education or a graduate degree," Sims said. "We asked the community, 'How can we better serve?' and the overwhelming majority asked that we open up the eligibility to spouses seeking a graduate degree. We listened, spoke with some of our sponsors, like the Fort Cavazos Spouses Club, who advocated for the inclusion as well."

This year's essay questions are



Sentinel file photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Center, Mary Decker, a 2023 FCSF scholarship recipient, receives a \$5,000 scholarship from the Fort Cavazos Family Scholarship Fund, during the scholarship award ceremony May 11, 2023, at the Main Post Chapel at Fort Cavazos.

different for each applicant category in an effort to have applicants answer a question that better fits their experiences.

"We wanted to make them think a little bit more," Sims said. "Everyone's at different stages in their education process. You have the babies that are getting ready to

> classes. You have the undergrad spouses, who maybe they've had a big break in time since school, so they're at a different stage in their life. Then you

go to college or are taking part in college

have the graduates who may be already working in their field, but in order for them to progress further they need to take that next step."

Sims offered some words of encouragement for those who choose to apply.

"Take your time," she said. "Think of your answer. Take time and read the essay (questions). That's usually one of the biggest scoring things. That essay can make or break whether your score falls into this category of an amount of money or that category of money, or whether it qualifies you to even be in one of the categories to begin with."

The FCSF will be accepting donations for the 2024-2025 scholarship recipients through April 20. "We are definitely accepting donations," Sims said. "Our

ability to offer scholarships is only possible with the support of donations from our community." Campbell agreed, adding 95% of all donations fund the

scholarships while 5% goes to minimal administrative costs. Tax-deductible donations can also be mailed to Fort Cavazos Family Scholarship Fund at P.O. Box 5299 Fort Cavazos, Texas, 76544. Those interested in a direct sponsorship opportunity can reach out to Campbell via email at president@ fortcavazosscholarship.org.

"Every donation is deeply valued and appreciated," she said. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting the educational pursuits of military children and spouses."

The FCSF is also looking for volunteers, as they have three board positions open for the 24-25 board year, and they are looking for volunteers to fill positions for the 25-26 board year.

To apply for a scholarship, visit fortcavazosscholarship.org/ apply. Visit fortcavazosscholarship.org for more information about FCSF, donating and how to volunteer.



Graphic courtesy of FCSF

FORT CAVAZOS CHAPEL SERVICES



Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Main Chapel, facebook.

com/FtCavazosRomanCatholic

Noon Mass, Monday through Friday, Main Chapel

Confession after Mass or by appointment, call 254-286-6749, Main Chapel

PROTESTANT

St. George Parish (Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopalian), Sunday, 9 a.m., Old Post Chapel, facebook.com/SaintGeorgeFortCavazos

SPANISH PROTESTANT

Alcance, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Veterans OIF Chapel.

GOSPEL CONGREGATION

Gospel Service, Sunday, 11 a.m., Memorial Chapel, facebook.com/ComamcheHappeningsNow

TRADITIONS

Traditions Service, Sunday, 10 a.m., Ironhorse Chapel, facebook.com/groups/fhtpws/

CHAPEL NEXT

Contemporary Service, Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Main Chapel, facebook.com/ Fort Cavazos Chapel Next

OPEN TABLE

All-Inclusive Christian Chapel, facebook.com/ Open Table Chapel

WFC PROTESTANT

Non-Denominational Protestant, Sunday, 11:00 a.m., West Fort Cavazos Chapel

JEWISH Shabbat Service, Friday, 6 p.m., Lucky 16

MUSLIM

Friday Jummah Prayers at 1:30 p.m., 25th Street Chapel

OPEN CIRCLE

Camp Finlayson, contact Linn Vodisek, vodiseklinn@gmail.com

BUDDHIST

Soku Gakkai International (SGI) Nichiren, Online, contact Martin Bonner, 254-258-0844 Theraveda, Thursday, 10:00 a.m., Rugged Spirit Chapel, Contact Chap. Guan Zhen, 213-281-1927

NORTH FORT CAVAZOS

Call 254-286-5223 for service schedule and Bible

ADDITIONAL SERVICES/STUDY

Children in the Middle, call 254-288-1913 to reserve, Family Life Chaplain Training Center Men of Honor, Contact Ken Wooten, 254-466-

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC), Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., Main Chapel, facebook.com/ FortCavazosPWOC

Mothering Bluebonnets, facebook.com/ Fort Cavazos Mothering Blue bonnets

Club Beyond-High School, Contact Frank Ayala, fayala@clubbeyond.org

Club Beyond-Middle School, Contact Frank Ayala, fayala@clubbeyond.org

Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC), Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., bimonthly Thursday 5-7 p.m., Main Chapel. Facebook: Fort Cavazos CWOC (Catholic Women of the Chapel) Catholic Youth Ministry-Crusaders, 8-12 grades,

Contact Maria Fuavia, 573-842-8181 Catholic Religious Education-CCE, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Main Chapel, Contact Maria Fuavai, 254-287-0241

* Holiday hours and events are posted on the Garrison Chaplain's Facebook page, facebook.com/ FortCavazosChaplain*

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Religious Support Operations office at 254-288-6545.





Spread the word about VA benefits to help the Veterans in your life.



Taxes are just one of the many items financial readiness counselors can help Soldiers and their families with on installations.

U.C. America Orientale his Miles Chinese

www.CavazosSentinel.com

Army provides financial programs to Soldiers, families

BY SHANNON COLLINS

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – As the new year begins, Soldiers and their families have a fresh opportunity to take charge of their financial well-being. With a variety of free programs offering education and counseling services, the Army is equipping families with the tools they need to achieve financial readiness and support mission success throughout the year.

Financial Frontline

Financial Frontline is a service that provides Soldiers and their families comprehensive support, including access to financial education and free counseling services.

Through their services, Soldiers can find specific information based on milestones such as pre- and post-deployment, permanent change of station, divorce and marriage, promotions, new child, continuation pay and disabling sickness or condition pay. They can also see the policies for blended retirement, the Transition Assistance Program, the Financial Readiness Program, pre-separation counseling and more. There are also links to the MilSpouse Money Mission with advice for how Army families can share money advice with their children and to the Army Survivor Outreach Services program.

The site also includes information about the Thrift Savings Plan, combat zone tax exclusion, paying off student loans, estate planning, free credit monitoring and understanding credit. Visit *financialfrontline.org* to learn more.

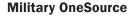
Financial Readiness Program

The Financial Readiness Program offers information, finance calculators, online training and other tools on this site run through Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The site also has fact sheets and links to federal, state and territory benefits as well as a resource locator to find locations where benefits services are provided in each state and territory.

The Financial Readiness Program is available at every installation through Army Community Services. They offer Soldiers classroom training and individual counseling sessions on several topics, including how to save and invest money, how to establish savings goals, debt elimination strategies and saving for emergencies. Visit cavazos.armymwr.com/programs/acs/financial-readiness for more information.

MilSpouse Money Mission

The goal of *milspousemoneymission.org* is to educate and empower military spouses to help them make financial choices. The team provides certified financial planner professionals. They provide free financial education and resources through blogs, financial tips, videos and more.



Through Military OneSource at *militaryonesource.mil*, all service members and their families, regardless of service branch, can receive personal financial management counseling. This includes National Guard and Reserve.

Counselors can go over finances and suggest ways to pay down debt. They can also teach savings techniques, checking account management, investing and making a family budget. They can provide information on consumer rights and make appropriate referrals to military and civilian resources responsible for resolving credit report complaints. They can provide support and information on the Savings Deposit Program and TSP.

Military Wallet

The Military Wallet is a personal finance and benefits



The Financial Readiness Program is located inside of the Army Community Service building on Army installations. Fort Cavazos ACS is located on the second floor of the Shoemaker Center and can be reached at 254-553-3101.

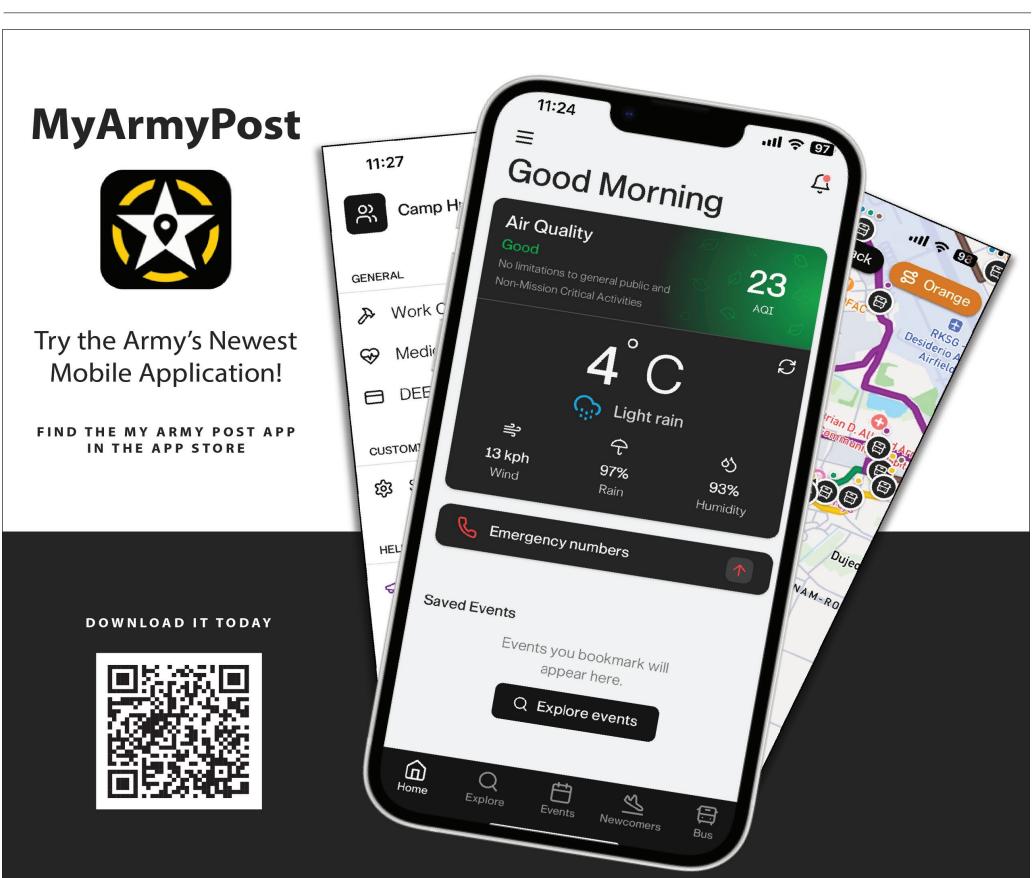
website for military members, veterans and their families. It has information about Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation, veterans benefits guide, TSP, VA home loan and post-9/11 GI Bill.

The site, *themilitarywallet.com*, also has links to VA disability pay charts and Social Security disability for veterans.

Army Family Web Portal

The Army Family Web Portal, olms.armyfamilywebportal. com, hosts a variety of computer-based courses for Soldiers and their families that offer insights into consumer affairs and personal financial management.

For more information on the Army's financial readiness resources, Soldiers and their families are encouraged to visit myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Resource-Locator and armyemergencyrelief.org/assistance.



www.CavazosSentinel.com LIVING January 16, 2025

Live in West Region? Provide payment information to TriWest now

BY TRICARE COMMUNICATIONS

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Beneficiaries living in the West Region, including the six states (Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin) that moved to the West Region on Jan. 1, for TRI-CARE and pay for their TRICARE coverage using a bank electronic funds transfer, credit card or debit card, must now securely give their recurring payment information to the West Region contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

The Dec. 31, 2024, deadline to provide payment information has passed. This means beneficiaries now have a limited window to avoid losing their coverage.

"TRICARE's goal is to make sure that everyone maintains their coverage in 2025, without any gaps," said Malcolm Jones, enrollment specialist, TRICARE Health Plan, Defense Heath Agency. "To keep your TRICARE coverage, you must take action and provide your payment information to TriWest."

Beneficiaries don't need to take any action if:

- They have already set up their payment method with TriWest. If they wish, beneficiaries can log in to the TriWest portal to ensure their payment method is current.
- They have TRICARE For Life, the US Family Health Plan or a TRICARE health plan overseas. The new contracts don't affect these
- They live in a state that's staying in the East Region — they don't need to do anything. Humana Military has kept their current payment information on file. If beneficiaries live in the East Region and have questions for Humana Military, call 800-444-5445. (Note: If beneficiaries live in the Missouri carveout area that's moving to the East Region, and pay for their TRICARE coverage via EFT, credit card or debit card, they must provide their payment information to Humana Military. Beneficiaries can do this by visiting humanamilitary. com/beneficiary/be/paymentoptions or by calling Humana
- They don't pay enrollment fees or premiums for their TRICARE coverage. Examples include active-duty service members and their family members.
- They pay by military pay system allotment. Allotment payments have transferred automatically. If beneficiaries don't already pay by allotment, consider switching for the future. With allotments, beneficiaries won't need to worry about updating their TRICARE payment method during any

Missed the payment deadline?

If you live in the West Region, you will have a limited window in January to make a payment to TriWest.



Photo courtesy of TRICARE

future contract changes, or if they get a new credit or debit card. To learn how to set up payment by allotment, visit dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/manage/allotments/.

TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select

If beneficiaries have TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, they must provide their payment information to TriWest before Jan. 30.

If they do not pay before Jan. 30, beneficiaries will be disenrolled, retroactive to Jan. 1.

The easiest and fastest way to set up recurring payments with TriWest before Jan. 30 is by visiting the TriWest Portal at tricare-bene.triwest.com/signin.

- 1. Visit the TriWest portal.
- 2. Select the "New User? Sign Up Now" option.
- 3. Beneficiaries will be asked to input their email address. A verification code will then be sent.
- 4. Beneficiaries should check their email for the verifica-

tion code. Then, enter it to continue. Please ensure to enter the correct benefits number when asked. Beneficiaries can obtain their benefits number from the back of their uniformed service identification card. Enter the benefits number without dashes.

- 5. Complete the information requested (name, address, etc.) in the secure forms.
- 6. Select a payment method.
- 7. Complete all fields.
- 8. Submit.

Beneficiaries can also download an automatic monthly TRICARE payment set up request form at tricare.mil/west. Complete the form and mail it to the address on page 2. This form is for recurring monthly payments.

If beneficiaries run into any issues with these options, they can call TriWest customer service at 888-874-9378 and provide the payment information over the phone. Call volume is heavy now, so please be patient.

National Radon Action Month: Learn to manage risk



or move the occupant

Graphic courtesy of USACE Public Works Technical Bulletin ABOVE, The amount of radon or activity of radon is reported in units of picocuries, otherwise known as pCi, per volume (in liters) of air. This table provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommendations on how soon action should be taken for various levels of radon concentration. BELOW, The Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month.



DHA-PH graphic illustration by Joyce Kopatch

BY GERALD FALO

t's January 2025, and a new year has begun. It's a time of new beginnings and new resolutions. How about resolving to test homes for radon? The Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has chosen the last week of January as Radon Awareness Week. This is the perfect time to think about testing

DHA-PH

Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas from the soils and rocks beneath homes, is in the air — usually in very small amounts. Radon is invisible, odorless and tasteless, and it can build up in a home unnoticed and possibly put families at risk.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements estimates about one third of all radiation exposure to the U.S. population is from radon. The EPA estimates high levels of radon are present in about one in 15 homes in the U.S. For most people, where they spend their time indoors is the primary factor that determines the extent of their radon exposure. Many people spend most of their time indoors at home, and that's where they are

most exposed to radon.

The EPA estimates radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who don't smoke, and it is the second leading cause of cancer for people who do. Smokers, with a lung cancer risk 10 times greater than for nonsmokers, are especially vulnerable to radon. However, not everyone who is exposed to radon, or smokes,

will develop lung cancer. For those who do, there is no way to tell if radon, smoking or something else was the cause. To find out if there is a radon problem in their home, the home needs

The U.S. surgeon general and the CDC recommend all homes get tested for radon. Home radon tests are simple and inexpensive — and can help save lives.

People can test their home with a simple kit. Radon test kits are available from many retailers; hardware stores usually sell them. Alternatively, people can hire a radon professional to perform the tests and evaluate the results. States may be able to provide residents with information on getting a test kit from a radon measurement professional. The National Radon Program Services also offers information on radon and how to get a test kit by calling 1-800-767-7236.

If high levels of radon are present in the home, take action. Residents can manage their risks, and radon problems in homes can be fixed. If residents smoke, they should stop.

and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has chosen the last week of January as Radon Awareness Week. This is the perfect time for residents to think about testing their homes for radon. A qualified radon professional can help residents understand the results; here are a few things to keep in mind. The amount of radon in the air is typically measured in picocuries per liter, otherwise known as pCi/L. In the U.S., the average indoor radon level is about 1.3 pCi/L, and the average outdoor level is about 0.4 pCi/L. The EPA recommends taking action to reduce radon in a building when levels are at or above four pCi/L and urges people to consider taking action to reduce radon in a building when levels are between two and four pCi/L. If the test results are between four and eight pCi/L, actions to reduce the radon levels should be taken within five years. The higher the level, the sooner action should be taken. However, immediate action most likely won't be needed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides recommendations on

how soon action should be taken. The Department of Defense has adopted the EPA guidelines for remediation of radon in living quarters. Those living in military housing should contact their housing office for more information on local radon testing and remediation efforts.

Systems to reduce the level of radon homes can decrease radon levels by about 99%. Preventing radon from entering the home, or controlling the air flow in the residence with good ventilation, will reduce exposure. The EPA recommends methods that prevent radon from entering the home. Qualified radon professionals can advise and fix a radon problem. Read the EPA's Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction for an overview of radon reduction methods by visiting epa.gov/ sites/default/files/2016-12/documents/2016_consumers_guide_to_ radon_reduction.pdf.

January is the month to learn about the risks of radon, what residents should do if they have a problem and, importantly, to encourage family, friends and neighbors to test their homes. Finally, it's a good idea to retest homes every two years to verify the levels are acceptable.

For more information about National Radon Action Month, visit epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-month-information. To learn more about radon, visit cdc.gov/radon or epa.gov/radon.





LIVING

notos by Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental

Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division team members gather around a tower of gifts that will fulfill the wish lists of 17 children Dec. 18, 2024, at the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse at Killeen, Texas.

DPW OMD spreads holiday cheer for youth

BY CHRISTINE LUCIANO
DPW Environmental

KILLEEN, Texas — The holiday season is a time to give back, spread kindness and come together as a community to support and uplift one another. Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division team members took acts of generosity and care during the holiday season hoping to create moments of joy.

With a shared mission to spread holiday cheer, the DPW OMD Business Team, Services Branch, West Shop, Central Shop, East Shop, Specialty Shop and Roads and Grounds partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas to fulfill the wish lists of 17 children.

Melvin Gray, supervisor of the Business Team for DPW OMD, was among the more than 25 DPW team members who made their way to the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse Dec. 18, 2024, in downtown Killeen, Texas.

"We appreciate our director, Mr. Dosa, for supporting our efforts to embrace opportunities to assist those in need," Gray said. "DPW OMD is a team of teams that is united in our purpose to give back to our community. Without them, today would

We appreciate our director, Mr. Dosa, for supporting our efforts to embrace opportunities to assist those in need. DPW OMD is a team of teams that is united in our purpose to give back to our community.

- Melvin Gray, supervisor, Business Team, DPW OMD



not be possible."

Tiana Quick, chief executive officer for Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas, expressed her sincere gratitude to DPW for the meaningful impact the team makes for both the children and parents.

"Our parents are struggling to pay their

bills, put gas in the tank and food on the table; buying Christmas gifts is not an option," Quick

said. "Because of each of you from DPW, know that when you wake up Christmas morning, you also made it possible for someone else to experience the holiday as well."

Angela Williams, unit director for the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse, worked with her team to help the children create wish lists. Each child shared a list of their favorite things that included a snack, color, hobby, restaurant, movie and store; shirt, pants and shoes sizes; three items needed;

and three items wanted.

"When DPW fulfills the wish lists of our kids, year after year, they are also delivering hope, joy and care to our families who struggle during the holidays," Williams said. "Seeing the smiles on our kids' face is a reminder of DPW's kindness."

Once the wish lists were received, DPW OMD sprang into action and coordinated efforts to check off each child's wish list of needs and wants.

Jose Ancira, supervisor of Maintenance and Sustainment for DPW OMD, has played a role in making the holidays brighter for the children at McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse since 2022. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to DPW leadership, OMD Business Team and five area shops.

"With the incredible support of our leadership and DPW OMD team, their willingness to go above and beyond reflects the true spirit of giving," Ancira said. "It is a reminder of the impact we can have in our community."

Quick's remarks echoed Ancira, sharing her appreciation to DPW for embracing the season for giving and making the holiday wishes of 17 children come true.

"Thanks to DPW, our kids get to wake up with the excitement and joy of gifts under the tree," Quick said. "To see the tears stream down the face of our parents when we tell them DPW is going to help bring gifts, shows our families they are not alone and our community cares."



Colby Armstrong, a lead facilities management specialist with the Directorate of Public Works, Operations and Maintenance Division, unloads a truckload of gifts Dec. 18, 2024, at the parking lot of the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse at Killeen, Texas.



Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division team members unload gifts onto the tables Dec. 18,

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2024, at the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse at Killeen, Texas.

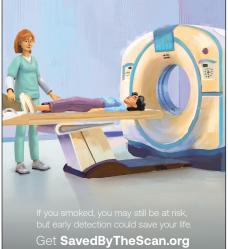


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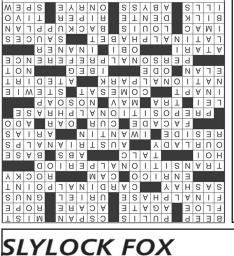
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LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1929 Ford roadster hot rod new motor/transmission radiator chromed accessories etc for sale/inter-FOR SALE: 18ft Suntracker Walmart, High school or Coldown for Harley panhead.. local car near post Cavazos call for appointment to viewmark, Call (254) 370 7973.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Used machine shop anvil \$400. Georgetown. 512-970-0003.

FOR SALE: Frankoma Pot- 213-1830. tery, Mcoy Pottery, Avon collection, Hotwheels. Collectibles: sports cards, albums,

weights equipment. More col- TX 76542; First Month's Rent Diana, Beanie Babies, and (757) 805-4611. Star Wars. Please TEXT ONLY 254.479.8471.

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WANTED: Senior Lady in Need of honest, mature, dependable, responsible person to help with light household cleaning, Covid Tested 2x a month @ \$50.00 9820 for four hours service. (254)

REAL ESTATE

zines. Miscellaneous: tools, residence, 410 Ali Dr. Killeen, 6886.

lectibles: Elvis, Princess free. \$1,900 a month after.

FOR RENT: Quiet country

esting trades or will trade Pontoon Boat- 75 hp \$18,500 lege. 2 story 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on 2nd floor. 2 living areas & fireplaces. Kitchen and Pantry built into hill create your own storm shelter. Electronic gate controls privacy. Available January 15, \$2500 per mo. 3004 Oaklawn Dr. Belton Tx Call: 254-760or Email: bgnurse.1946@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: House for Sale- 5 Bedroom 5 Bath, 3 Car garage 4500 sq. ft. Patriots toys, pottery, racing maga- FOR RENT: Single family Bluff Temple, Tx 254-295-

INTERJECTIONS

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Q P N S K O O Z D A G L P M K

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UTRBTMMHQPOGOML

unlisted clue: BOO

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Friday's unlisted clue hint: WHAT AN UMPIRE HEARS

Crikey Eureka Gadzooks Gesundheit

Gosh **Great Scott** Hmm

COETI

CUKLC

SJDUAT

NCNOAN

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Golly gee

Oops Phew Shazam Whoa Yuck

Sheesh

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Holy moly

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. Just remember that every customer is our best customer. much money they have with us-the are all important.

WHETHER SAVINGS, CHECKING, ETC., THE BANK MANAGER SAID EVERY ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

manager said every — ACCOUNT COUNTS Answer: Whether savings, checking, etc., the bank TSULGA Jumbles: OCTET CLUCK

FREE Classified to Fort Cavazos personnel and retirees

Classifieds Tort Cavazos enume.

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SCAN HERE

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43 Shows again

44 Tube spot

49 Well driller

51 Plane flier

53 In - (as

54 Hearth

found)

refuse

58 Part of AKC

61 Relief sound

62 Boxing win,

64 And others:

67 Chips away

tapping tool

72 Anxiety over

not taking

73 Old West's

79 Uncreative

Wyatt

76 Drs.' gp.

part, for short

68 Do again

69 Tablet

71 Bric-a-

in brief

Abbr.

50 Cut with light

52 Sonny boys

WITH APOLOGIES

Andean

87 Funny Mort

88 So to speak

signs of hope

92 Noisy clamor

93 Space ball

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99 Opted for

100 "Bill" penner

Jerome

101 Crater's edge

102 Facial spot?

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109 "Fear Street"

110 One carrying

111 Litigants

113 Venerated

114 Roman

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116 "That is -

115 Sheep's coat

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writer R.L. -

103 Rodent of

108 "Tell me

65 Singer Grant 104 That, in Peru

95 Viking pirate

90 Non-Rx

91 Show no

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo **TO THE 4 SEASONS** 42 Neighbor of **ACROSS** 2 Hello, in Hilo 86 Early

5 Parts of

goalposts

J.S. Bach

8 Give for a bit

9 ZZ Top, e.g.

12 "Cold Pursuit"

14 Virginia city

15 Like candy

16 Thorough

readings

17 Taking after

18 Cutting-edge

26 No, in Essen

28 Be supine

34 Kolber of

ESPN

29 Actor Butler

33 The one here

near D.C.

star Neeson

6 The "J" of

7 Bakery

10 Graf of

tennis

11 Modus -

13 Re

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47 Designer 95 Explorer Hernando 1 Devastation Claiborne 3 Sinful habits 6 Electricity bits 4 Jack of old 48 Toyota de -96 Tristan's title films 11 Name of five Camry

56 Eggs, to Ovid 105 Gibson of

97 Kids around

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118 Frontman for

Twisted

Sister

120 Of the sun

123 Kin of "me

neither"

dance

125 Solitary type

126 "I've — had!"

122 "Jane

viscid threads 124 Oktoberfest

121 Link together

107 Helps out

112 What I am

98 Cheese-

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106 Soul

Norse royals competitor 15 Time stretch 53 Smart-alecky 19 "Are vou 55 Low-cost calling me carrier of

Malaysia

57 Slalom gear

59 Ear-piercing

60 Exam for a

63 Concept

66 Erstwhile

future atty.

anesthetics

70 Actor Ziering

71 Morning diner

active: Abbr.

"Master of

77 Owl's sound

78 Bluish green

options

74 No longer

75 Aziz of

None"

79 Forming

80 Wise men

84 Change the

decor of

82 Swab

20 In plain sight 21 Leaning Tower site

22 700-mile African river 23 Very successful, in

old slang 24 Skater Sonja 25 Not consuming cooked food

27 H.G. Wells novel 30 Acclimates gently

31 Flight safety org. 32 Novel events 35 Israeli prime

minister before Naftal Bennett 41 Somewhat.

informally deposit 46 Isuzu pickup

truck

42 43 44

59 70

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105

#2,229

118 119

86 Singer Hayes 89 Grand rapper

100

Canyon site 94 "One Mic"

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113 114

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101 102

124

128

Average time of solution: 67 minutes

106

DOWN 1 Speediness

128 VIP roster

127 Grab (onto) 129 Big pitchers

36 Actor Pesci 37 Skill 38 Office note 39 Envoy's bldg. 40 Frat letters

41 Gorsuch replaced him

learning style 81 Venerated one 83 El —, Texas

ask" 117 Tibetan 85 Uppercase letter

bovines 118 Girl coming out in society 119 Iris locale

103 104 108 |109 |110 |111

92 93

107

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Cassandra Cat has stolen a fancy handbag from a store. Two witnesses saw her board one of two city buses to escape. One witness always tells the truth, while the other always lies. Slylock Fox asked a single question to determine which bus Cassandra boarded. What

Solution -- Slylock asked one witness: "If I were to ask the witness which bus Cassandra boarded, what would he say?" Then Slylock method works because the liar and the truth-teller cancel each other out, ensuring the correct bus is identified.

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YOUR DRAWING Today's terrific artist Lane, age

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

DO YOU KNOW THE BIG CHEESE'

> What is the largest documented snowfall recorded in a 24-hour period? a) 25 inches

b) 57.3 inches c) 75.8 inches

d) 104.2 inches

Answer -- c) On April 14-15, 1921, 75.8 inches of snow fell at Silver Lake, Colorado.





Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at www.slylockfox.com





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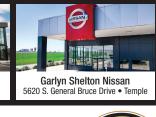
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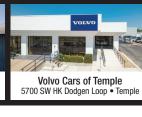




















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