The Joint Retiree Appreciation Day is rescheduled for Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Special Events Center.

**INSIDE**

- **Clark becomes 4ID CSM**

  **Story and photo by Sgt. Antony Lee**
  **International Security Assistance Force, Regional Command-South**

  **KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** — Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark assumed responsibility as the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson senior enlisted adviser during a ceremony Sunday at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

  Several commanders and command sergeants major serving in Afghanistan attended the ceremony to welcome Clark and congratulate Command Sgt. Maj. Brian M. Stall on his nearly 30 years of service as he prepares to retire. Family members and friends tuned in to the ceremony from Oklahoma, Colorado, Kuwait and Hawaii via video teleconference.

  Clark, a Knoxville, Tenn., native, also takes over as the senior enlisted adviser for Regional Command-South, which the 4th Infantry Division currently commands.


  LaCamera welcomed Clark to the 4th Infantry Division command group, saying he “brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and energy to the team.

  “The only thing I’ve ever promised our Soldiers and our Families is good leadership,” LaCamera said. “I’ve chosen you for that reason and that reason alone. I know you are up to the task, and I look forward to serving alongside you.”

  Clark addressed the servicemembers in attendance, noting the “wisdom and patience” of noncommissioned officers he has worked with helped him develop as a leader.

See Division CSM on Page 4

- **Message board**

- **Operation Happy Holidays**

  More than 800 Soldiers and Family members of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, carry canned goods, blankets, winter clothing and toys down Tejon Street to the Marian House, during the 4th annual Operation Happy Holidays ruck march in Colorado Springs, Dec. 3. See pages 18-19 for story.

Photo by Sgt. Antony Lee
### Home for the holidays

By Lori Yerdon

**U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center**

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — Released in 1987, the movie “Planes, Trains and Automobiles” illustrates the extreme lengths people will go through to get home during the holiday season.

In reality, most people aren’t as ambitious as the characters portrayed in the movie. But the unexpected could still awaits the thousands of Soldiers and Family members who will soon trek home to celebrate the holidays.

No matter the mode of transportation, prior planning and preparation will make for a safer trip.

“Many of us will be traveling home for the holidays, and safety might be the furthest thing from our minds,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Harvey, director, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Driving Directorate. “However, safety is a state of mind that we all need to embrace constantly, especially while driving.”

Road conditions can drastically change during winter, with sunny days quickly giving way to an impromptu snowstorm. However, if individuals plan their trip beforehand and check the weather forecast, they should be prepared for Mother Nature.

“The Traffic Risk Planning System is a great tool for leaders because it lets them know where their Soldiers are going and how they’re planning to get there,” Harvey said. “TRIPS affords the opportunity for discussion, and it’s important that everyone’s on the same page.”

In addition to filling out a TRIPS assessment, Harvey said it’s crucial that Soldiers conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on their private motor vehicles, same as they do on military vehicles.

“Winterizing a vehicle is often an afterthought,” he said. “But if Soldiers are proactive and ensure their vehicles are ready for frigid temperatures, snow, ice and other inclement weather conditions, they’re setting themselves up for success.”

Soldiers should also be mindful of the hazards of impaired and distracted driving. During 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-related driving crashes — one every 51 minutes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. On average, 25 people were killed in alcohol-related accidents every day during December that year.

“We reiterate ‘don’t drink and drive,’ yet Soldiers are dying because they choose to drive impaired,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard D. Stidley, USARAC/Safety Center. “Doing the right thing on duty should be carried over to our off-duty activities. There’s not an on-and-off switch associated with safety.”

Distracted driving is an emerging trend that’s plaguing America’s roadways. During 2011, according to NHTSA, 3,331 people were killed in distracted driving crashes, up from 3,267 reported in 2010.

“Drivers have their hands full with driving safely and responsibly,” Harvey said. “With distractions like texting, manipulating a GPS or anything that diverts a driver’s attention from the road and other motorists, the chance of a crash happening greatly increases.”

“Soldiers learn teamwork and use it every day on duty,” Stidley said. “It’s my hope that they use it off duty as well, to protect themselves and their loved ones as they hit the road this holiday season.”

Road conditions can drastically change during winter, with sunny days quickly giving way to an impromptu snowstorm. However, if individuals plan their trip beforehand and check the weather forecast, they should be prepared for Mother Nature.

### What makes me Iron Horse Strong?

Spc. Matthew Ohrum

Food service specialist, 59th Quartermaster Company, 43rd Sustainment Brigade

I joined the Army Nov. 1, 2010, to make something of myself, to serve our great nation and to see the world.

To me, serving my country means making sacrifices to keep our country great and free.

I continue to serve because there is no other honor greater than to serve. I will continue to serve as my Family has done before me.

What makes me Iron Horse Strong is the continued support from my Family for all the sacrifices that I make while serving my country.
By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

KABUL, Afghanistan — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel spent a full day Sunday with two sets of people he seldom sees in Washington: deployed U.S. troops and Afghan military leaders.

Hagel left Afghanistan’s capital Sunday morning and flew south — first to NATO International Security Assistance Force’s Regional Command-Southwest, which includes Helmand and Nimroz provinces, and then to Regional Command-South, which encompasses Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan and Daykundi provinces.


Hagel brought holiday wishes, thanks and reassurance to troops at both Camp Bastion in Helmand and at Kandahar Airfield. Both places, he noted in his talks, have consistently been combat hot spots during the long war here.

“I want you to know how much President (Barack) Obama and our country appreciate what you’re doing,” he said in Helmand. “I know more than occasionally you wonder if anybody’s paying attention, whether anybody cares — but we do. Our country cares. We do know what you’re doing, and we appreciate it very much.”

Hagel told the men and women in uniform standing in ranks before him in both hard-frame tents — the “Camp Leatherneck town hall” in Helmand and the “fest tent” in Kandahar — that they’ve made an astounding difference to Afghanistan’s fight against terrorism.

Warm weather and sandy terrain disguise the season down south, but both of the expansive, yet austere, bases the secretary visited were decorated with Christmas trees, lights and other holiday decorations amid the plywood and aluminum buildings that mark a U.S. outpost.

“I know this is a tough time, especially (with) the holiday season coming,” the secretary said. “You’re away from your Families and your home, so I know it’s ... particularly

See Hagel on Page 4

Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark, left, senior enlisted leader, Regional Command-South and 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, and Maj. Gen. Paul J. LaCamera, commanding general, Regional Command-South and 4th Inf. Div. and Fort Carson, greet Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Kandahar Air Base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Sunday. Hagel visited the troops to thank them for their service during the holiday season.

Photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo
Division CSM

from Page 1

“I credit my success to the Soldiers and leaders who supported me along the way,” he said.

He also recognized and thanked his Family for their support and love throughout his Army career.

“I want to say a special thanks to my Family, for your steadfast dedication to our Army team,” he said as his Family listened from Hawaii.

Stall thanked his fellow servicemembers and his Family — who watched from Fort Carson — for supporting him.

“It has been an honor serving with all of you,” he said. “I will depart this great division, this great responsibility, with one priority. They’re sitting right there in room 107 — my Family. And I love you unconditionally.”

LaCamera, who has served with Stall for almost a year, did not mince his words in praising and thanking Stall for his service.

“Sgt. Maj. Stall your dedicated and selfless service is a model for all Soldiers,” LaCamera said. “You have shouldered the weight of responsibility with professionalism and pride, and I cannot thank you enough for the support and counseling you have provided.”

The general recognized Stall’s Family for the years they contributed to as he served on various overseas deployments.

“Selfless service is in his Family gene pool,” LaCamera said, adding that “between his father, brother and himself, they have over 87 years of service to this nation.”

Hagel

from Page 3
difficult. I want you to tell your Families how much we appreciate their work, their sacrifices and their service, as they support you.”

During both visits, servicemembers asked Hagel about the military’s budget. He responded that he sees some hope for progress from Congress.

“There is some speculation in Washington that there may be a budget deal … when both the House and the Senate come back into session, which may well give us two years of budget certainty and reduce the current level of sequestration,” he said in Helmand.

The secretary noted that currently, the military faces a second sequestration cut of more than $50 billion this fiscal year, following a $32 billion reduction previously programmed into this fiscal year’s allocation.

No matter the cuts the military faces next fiscal year and beyond, Hagel said, the department’s leaders will prioritize people, readiness and combat power.

“You will get everything you need to do your mission,” he said.

In Kandahar, he told his audience they and all of America’s forces are the most talented and motivated, best-educated, best-trained, best-equipped and best-led military the world has ever seen.

“That requires a commitment from the nation,” he said. “Are they willing to pay for that? Are they willing to pay for the best and the brightest?”

The secretary also discussed the stalled bilateral security agreement that is intended to set conditions for a follow-on mission when ISAF concludes at the end of 2014.

“I know this is a time of great uncertainty for you,” the secretary said, noting that the degree of U.S. and international involvement in Afghanistan in 2015 and beyond is unclear until that agreement is in place. Hagel said he knows that uncertainty leaves troops wondering, “Will we be here? How long will we be here?”

Those unknowns can make the troops’ jobs harder, he acknowledged. “I want to reassure you we will work through this,” he pledged.

“We are making huge investments here for the future of this country,” Hagel said. “Thank you for your continued focus on your jobs (and) what you’re doing for your country. It matters, (and) it will continue to matter.”

The secretary said the Afghan national security forces have been doing “a very good job of transitioning to their full capabilities and responsibilities.” Valid and important missions nonetheless remain for U.S. troops and coalition partners in sustaining the still-fragile Afghan forces, he said: countering terrorism and training, advising and assisting the Afghan forces.

“There is a role for our coalition partners and the United States here, but that depends on the people of Afghanistan,” the secretary said.

A senior defense official who accompanied Hagel on Sunday’s travels told reporters on the road with the secretary that the Afghan military commanders Hagel spoke with all said they still want help in sustainment — particularly, learning to manage maintenance: supply chains, ordering, distribution and scheduling.

The Afghan national security forces have developed remarkably rapidly over the summer fighting season and show significant improvement, the official said, “but they still have some needs.”

“Every Afghan the secretary spoke to was crystal clear,” the official said. “It’s time to sign the (bilateral security agreement).” And all Afghans who Hagel saw Sunday similarly expressed confidence that their president, Hamid Karzai, will sign the agreement in a timely manner, he said.

“I certainly hope they’re right,” the senior official said, noting that planning any future contributions in the absence of that accord is extremely difficult for the United States and its allies.

Hagel, who traveled Monday to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, wrapped up his remarks to troops at Helmand with a holiday wish.

“I hope Santa stops in Afghanistan,” he said. “I know you’ve all been good. We’re very proud of you, and we’re proud of your Families.”

Standards & Discipline

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The unit commander may direct the wear of the central issue facility’s basalclava under the advanced combat helmet during periods of extreme cold weather. The green fleece cap can also be worn under the ACH.

The green fleece cap will not be worn with the Army Combat Uniform while in nontactical environments. Authorized locations for wear of the green fleece cap with ACUs include motor pools, airfields and extended work details under the direct supervision of a senior noncommissioned officer.

Fort Carson Standards Handbook
Whitson takes reigns of 43rd SB

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Joe Stone
43rd Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office

Col. Anthony K. “Kirk” Whitson assumed command of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade during a ceremony at the Special Events Center, Dec. 5, replacing Col. Todd Heussner.

When Heussner deployed with the brigade command in February, Whitson assumed provisional command, as Brig. Gen. Michael Bills, acting senior commander, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, noted in his speech.

“It is rare that an incoming brigade commander has spent time in command as Col. Kirk Whitson has done this past year,” said Bills. “Kirk stepped up, willing to meet the needs of the brigade and the division.”

After assuming command, Whitson addressed the attendees and gathered Soldiers.

“Brig. Gen. Bills, thank you for the passing grade on phase one of the operation; it allows me to go on to phase two,” said Whitson. “I want to thank ‘Iron Horse 6’ for giving me the amazing opportunity and privilege to command our nation’s greatest treasure; you see them standing before you today. I will do everything in my power to give them the leadership they deserve.”

Whitson, a prior enlisted Soldier, received his commission in 1990. He holds a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies. He has deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

During a recent deployment to Kandahar Afghanistan, Heussner and his team served as headquarters of the U.S. Central Command Material Recovery Element mission. The CMRE closed more than 150 U.S. bases while eliminating almost 5,000 20-foot containers of excess equipment backlog. The “Rough Riders” Soldiers also safely conducted more than 175 combat patrols on some of the most dangerous routes in Afghanistan.

“In Afghanistan, we had about 4,000 folks,” said Heussner. “Two engineer battalions, and our (68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion), and all the associated Soldiers, and we brought every one of them back home safely. If you ask me what I’m most proud of, that would be it.”

Following nearly 30 months in command, Heussner moves on to his next assignment as the chief of the logistics division at CENTCOM in Tampa, Fla.

“(The) 10th Special Forces Group continues to meet today’s challenges and tomorrow’s uncertain conflicts with responsiveness, innovation and lethality by outfitting our Soldiers with the equipment, providing the most realistic and relevant training, and ensuring the selection of the best qualified Soldiers and leaders. Both Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Krider and Command Sgt. Maj. Lou Pauka are stalwart examples of this commitment,” said Col. George Thiebes, commander 10th SF(G)A.

Krider, who joined Special Forces in 1987 after tours with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 3rd Armored Division, thanked the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of 10th SF(G)A for the privilege of serving them over the past two and a half years.

“You, our people, are what make this such a storied group,” Krider said.

A veteran of 14 named operations during his 26 years as a Green Beret, Krider earned the Bronze Star Medal for Valor for his actions during combat operations in Desert Storm.

Thiebes recalled his six shared assignments with Krider: “I have truly benefited from and greatly appreciated his sage advice and insightful perspective.”

The 10th SF(G)A is the oldest U.S. Army Special Forces group. The official lineage and colors go back to the creation in 1942 of the First Special Service Force, a joint U.S. and Canadian Army force, intended to conduct winter commando-type operations in Europe. The group was officially established in June 1952 to conduct partisan warfare behind Red Army lines in the event of a Soviet invasion of Europe. Today, 10th SF(G)A continues to support ongoing contingency operations in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Afghanistan.

Photo by Spc. Timothy Clegg


By Capt. Aram Donigian
10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Public Affairs Office

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NO PROBLEM!
Story and photos by
Sgt. William Smith
4th Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office

The Sergeant Audie
Murphy Club added two non-
commissioned officers into its
distinguished ranks, during an
induction ceremony at the 4th
Infantry Division Headquarters
building, Dec. 6.

Staff Sgt. Sean Aimbiz,
maneuver and mobility sup-
port noncommissioned officer,
759th Military Police
Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Jason
Patruno, cannon crewmember,
Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd
Field Artillery Regiment, 1st
Armed Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division,
became the newest members
of the SAMC Fort Carson
chapter during the event.

The Soldiers were inducted
into the club after a long
process of recommendations
and qualification boards to set
them above their peers.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael
Dills, noncommissioned officer
in charge, Iron Horse Family
Medical Center, Evans Army
Community Hospital, said that
it was not easy for them to
become members, but all of
the hard work and determin-
ation they put forward helped
them achieve their goals.

“They have had to show a
level of leadership that is on
par with what Sgt. Audie
Murphy was thought to be,”
Dills said. “They gave their
time; their leadership and
 mentored their Soldiers above
what is commonly seen. They
have led from the front in
all aspects of what they do
in the military.”

Patruno said that it was
one of the best feelings in the
world to have his wife and
daughter see him become part
of the honored society.

“It took me three years to
be able to get to this day,” he
said. “I tried as a young
sergeant, and I had some more
developing to do. It means a
lot to finally be here. I have
been working on it for three
years — improving myself as
well as (always) striving to
become a better section chief,
and turning my weaknesses
into strengths.”

Aimbiz said joining the
club is an honor and means
stepping up to new levels and
helping to change the Army
in the future in accordance
with the 2020 plan. He said
he can’t wait to help lead the
future Army.

Patruno and Aimbiz both
said that anyone can become
a member of the club with hard
work and dedication.

“Stick with it; don’t
doubt yourself,” Patruno said.
“It is not about the fact of
being perfect when you get
here. It’s the fact of developing
and showing the dedication
that you want to improve
yourself and help others.
Even when it gets hard, just
stick with it; have absolute
determination, and you will
achieve any goal you set.”

Left: Sgt. Maj. Richard Joyce,
left, senior enlisted leader,
4th Infantry Division and Fort
Carson, puts the Sergeant
Audie Murphy medalion on
Staff Sgt. Jason Patruno,
cannon crewmember, Battery
B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field
Artillery Regiment, 1st
Armed Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division, and on
Staff Sgt. Sean Aimbiz, below,
maneuver and mobility support
noncommissioned officer, 759th
Military Police Battalion, during
an induction ceremony, Dec. 6.

Left: Sgt. Maj. Richard Joyce,
left, senior enlisted leader,
4th Infantry Division and Fort
Carson, puts the Sergeant
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Staff Sgt. Jason Patruno,
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Artillery Regiment, 1st
Armed Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division, and on
Staff Sgt. Sean Aimbiz, below,
maneuver and mobility support
noncommissioned officer, 759th
Military Police Battalion, during
an induction ceremony, Dec. 6.
Alcohol abuse prevention
Laughter best medicine

Story and photo by Andrea Stone
Mountain staff

They could’ve gotten alcohol abuse and suicide prevention training through a PowerPoint presentation. Instead, more than 450 Soldiers had the opportunity to learn the lessons through laughter when comedian Bernie McGrenahan spoke at McMahon Auditorium, Dec. 5.

McGrenahan’s personal tragedy and mistakes have become inspiration for the comedy routine he shares with servicemembers.

“I want Soldiers to know I care about them. I’m proud to know them. I appreciate my freedom and just give them an insight into some activities I want them to avoid that I lived and that my brother lived,” he said.

His alcohol and drug abuse began at a young age and culminated in a six-month prison sentence for driving under the influence. His younger brother committed suicide at the age of 19.

“Every time I hear a Soldier took his life . . . I feel it,” he said. “I pray you men and women — stay focused, stay strong, and if you’re ever vulnerable like my brother and I, break that stigma that you’re weak if you go talk.”

McGrenahan was invited by coordinators from Army Substance Abuse Program as part of ASAP’s Drunk and Drugged Driving Campaign which runs through Dec. 31 and aims to educate Soldiers on the dangers of impaired driving.

“He came in April for alcohol awareness month, and it was such a hit that we asked him to come back,” said Susanne Watts, ASAP prevention coordinator. “I really think it’s worth it. He reaches a greater number of Soldiers on a completely different level. You can only hear the same thing from your sergeant so many times, but he’s able to connect with them.”

Pfc. Keith Hathorn appreciated what McGrenahan had to say.

“He got the point across very well, put some laughter into it. I was able to connect with him very well because I had similar incidents,” said the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Soldier.

In addition to his time with servicemembers, he’s appeared on late-night talk shows and opened concerts for musicians such as Jewel, M-atchbox 20 and Luther Vandross.

“If hang out with troops because I love our troops,” he said. “I wouldn’t have the life I have if you guys didn’t do what you do.”

A major message in McGrenahan’s routine is the importance of seeking help.

“Every one of us has options and resources at ASAP Army Community Service, places to go and talk,” he said. “Talking is not a sign of weakness. It’s a sign of courage. It takes courage to confide in someone that maybe you’re not 100 percent lately, maybe you’re under stress, maybe your relationship at home is not what you want it to be.

“My message to you is not don’t drink, because I know most of you are responsible. You have a plan. You don’t let it affect work, mission, relationship, but if you find out that it is, don’t deny the signs I laid out for you that it’s a problem. Talk to somebody, make the change,” he said.

Comedian Bernie McGrenahan performs his comedy routine at an Army Substance Abuse Program, Dec. 5. The show at McMahon Auditorium focused on alcohol and suicide prevention.
Cyberspace warriors graduate with newest MOS

By Wilson A. Rivera
Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office

FORT GORDON, Ga. — The network is under attack! Cyber attacks are a daily reality and are growing in sophistication and complexity. How does the Army keep pace with this evolving threat and defend its network?

Fifteen Soldiers made history when they were awarded the newest Army military occupational specialty, 25D, cyber network defender, during a graduation ceremony Nov. 27, held in Alexander Hall at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Soldiers completed a 14-week course, considered rigorous for its curriculum, to learn the skills needed to meet the demand for cyber warfare.

“Cyberspace is composed of hundreds of thousands of interconnecting computers, servers, routers, switches, fiber optic cables which allow our critical infrastructure to work,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald S. Pflieger, regimental sergeant major for the U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon, and guest speaker for the first graduating class for the Cyber Network Defender course. “A functional and healthy cyberspace is essential to our economy and national security.

“With the need for educated individuals to defend our network, so does the need to engage cyberspace,” Pflieger said.

Through the establishment of the new cyber network defender, there were changes made to the classification and structure among the 25 career management field series for communications and information systems operation with other MOS revisions of information technology specialist, 25B; radio operator-maintainer, 25C; and telecommunications operator chief, 25W.

Significant changes to the 25 career management fields identify the positions and personnel to perform duties with cyber network defense, and selected functions for cyber network defender MOS positions transferred from previous MOS positions associated with cyber network defense.

Major duties a cyber network defender will perform include protecting, monitoring, detecting, analyzing and responding to unauthorized cyberspace domain actions, and deployment and administration of computer network defense infrastructures such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems and more. Soldiers are also tasked to take action to modify information systems, computer network configurations in regard to computer network threats and collect data to analyze events and warn of attacks.

Cyber network defenders will be trained to perform assessments of threats and vulnerabilities within the network environment, conduct network damage assessments and develop response actions.

Increases in cyberspace operations training continue in key Army leader education programs.

“A gap was identified within the noncommissioned officers’ career field,” Pflieger said. “The next step was to identify the right Soldiers.”

Staff sergeants interested in becoming a cyber network defender must meet the requirements, such as having a minimum of four years information technology experience and an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery of 105 in both General Technical and Skilled Technical scores. They must be a U.S. citizen, complete an in-service screening and have a recommendation from their battalion or higher.

Photo by Bill Bengston

Graduates of the Cyber Network Defender course wait to receive their certificates and be awarded the newest Army military occupational specialty, 25D, during a ceremony Nov. 27 at Alexander Hall, Fort Gordon, Ga.
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<th>Saturday-Sunday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stack</td>
<td>Breakfast: 7-9 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf</td>
<td>Breakfast: 6:45-9 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildflower (Wilderness Road Complex)</td>
<td>Breakfast: 7-9 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette 10th SFQGA</td>
<td>Breakfast: 7-9 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Operations briefings are held Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. Special Operations briefings are held Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m.

Breakfast: 7-9 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m.

For after hours, holidays and weekends is 526-0051.

For initial and partial issues — Fort Carson Commanding General has directed all Soldiers of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) who are 105, 110 or 125 must attend a Casualty Assistance Officer Training Orientation at the Freedom Performing Arts Center, building 1129, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. For personnel who are being reassigned stateside is at 3 p.m., with the briefing starting at 1:30 p.m. Soldiers are required to bring Department of the Army Form 5118, signed by their physician or labor therapist, and complete forms. Call 526-4730/4583 for details.

Army ROTC Green-to-Gold briefings — are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the education center, building 1117, room 120. Call University of Colorado-Colorado Springs Army ROTC at 262-3475 for more information.

The Fort Carson Office of Information is located in the Patient Administration Division hours of operation — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center, building 1117, 526-2124, hours are as follows:

- Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Army Management Branch — The DPW Work Management Branch, responsible for processing work orders. The Mountain Post Work Requests, DA Form 4283 — is open for processing work orders and other in-person support from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. AAfter hours support is by appointment only, call 526-2900. The Work Management Branch is located in building 1219.

Medical Activity hours of operation — The Correspondence (Release of Information) Office in the Patient Administration Division hours are Monday- Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Above: Soldiers and Families look at Christmas trees at Trees for Troops, Dec. 5. The two-day event — a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, FedEx and the National Christmas Tree Association — provided more than 450 live Christmas trees to Fort Carson Soldiers and their Families. Left: Staff Sgt. Giffry Eldridge carries the Christmas tree his wife, Patricia Eldridge, and children, Annabeth and Hudson Eldridge, have chosen at Trees for Troops, Dec. 5.
Monthly crime information

November

The following crimes were committed on post or by Fort Carson Soldiers off-post — as of Dec. 9.

Crime statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Prior 30 days</th>
<th>Current 30 days</th>
<th>Average 30 day rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons crimes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated assault, kidnapping, murder, homicide, robbery, rape, sexual assault, threats, harassment, simple assault</td>
<td>32 42 40.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property crimes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson, auto theft, housebreaking, wrongful destruction, larceny, shoplifting</td>
<td>49 38 60.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrongful use, wrongful possession, wrongful distribution</td>
<td>19 7 41.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI, DWAI, DUIM</td>
<td>12 14 97.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military crimes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWOL, desertion, military misconduct (including some drug, alcohol or weapons offenses)</td>
<td>33 20 29.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common traffic violations/fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Admin fee</th>
<th>Total due</th>
<th>November totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speeding</td>
<td>$70-$200</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$95-$225</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper parking</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$40 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspended/revoked driver license</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>MCA 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell phone</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$75 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disregard traffic control device</td>
<td>$70-$100</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$95-$125</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* MCA = Mandatory court appearance

Total 260

Crime prevention: Assault

- Walk along well-lit and busy streets. Walk with friends. Avoid shortcuts, dark alleyways, deserted streets and wooded areas.
- Know your neighborhood. Identify police and fire stations, libraries, schools and hours of operation of local stores and restaurants.
- Always park in well-lit places and lock your doors.
- Before entering your vehicle, check for offenders hiding in the back seat or on the floor.
- If harassed or assaulted, scream and attempt to run to safety.

Report suspicious activity:

- Call dispatch: 526-2333
- Text "CARSONPD plus tip" to 274697 (CRIMES)
- Online via facebook http://www.facebook.com/fctcd
HIGH-PAYING JOBS IN	THE OIL INDUSTRY
FREE SERVICE TO
RETURNING SOLDIERS
CAN PLACE
3 PER DAY
WHO HAVE A CDL
go to ACAP center or
check out BootsToEnergy.com

GREAT CHINA
BUFFET
Super Buffet Voted Best in the Springs
Featuring All You Can Eat Chinese,
American and Japanese Cuisine
- Beef
- Chicken
- Pork Ribs
- Seafood
- Shrimp
- Lentein
- Sushi Roll
- Pizza
- Soup
- Fresh Fruit Bar
- Salad & Dressing Bar
- And much much more!

WE NOW OFFER TAKE-OUT FROM OUR MENU & BUFFET* 
*Charge per person

572-8009
628 South Academy Blvd.
LUNCH
Monday-Sunday 11:00am-3:45pm
DINNER
Tuesday-Sunday 4:00pm-9:30pm

Train to Become a:
- Personal Trainer
- Automotive Technician
- HVAC-Refrigeration Technician
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Computer & Network Systems Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Medical Assistant

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- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Computer & Network Systems Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Medical Assistant

Community
Dec. 13, 2013 — MOUNTAINEER

THIS WEEKEND ONLY
30% OFF STOREWIDE™

30% OFF™
ALL HEARTBEAT DIAMOND PENDANTS
With every beat of your heart, the Heartbeat Diamond is brought to life.
When this pendant is worn, the diamond is in a constant state of motion.

$18
Twice Monthly* 
NOW $652
Org. $932
Additional styles available.

YOUR CHOICE

$39
Twice Monthly* 
$1,497
Org. $1,132
Also available in 1/4 CT. TW.

$18
Twice Monthly* 
$589
Org. $999

COLORADO SPRINGS
THE CITADEL MALL
719-577-1000
INSIDE US DISCOUNTERS
300 South Academy Blvd.
719-332-2797

Fletcher’s
JEWELERS

Mr. Fletcher’s classic crown is an icon of the American wilderness. With a timeless elegance, it is designed to endure the test of time and the elements. A simple yet bold piece, it is perfect for any occasion.

Good for Students.
Good for Employers.
Good for Life!

15Dec. 13, 2013 — MOUNTAINEER
Santa's Workshop brightens holidays

Story and photos by Ally Cooley
Special to the Mountaineer

This week, 790 Fort Carson Families completed their Christmas shopping, thanks to Santa's Workshop. Santa's Workshop is a need-based nonprofit that allows military Families to "shop for free" for their children, 6 months to 12 years old. The Mountain Post Spouses' Club as well as the 60 donors and donor organizations worked hard to ensure this year would be their most successful year yet. The MPSC received more than $40,000 in gifts and monetary donations for its 10th year of Santa's Workshop.

"We asked how we could help out, found some sponsors and assembled shoe boxes to donate with two gifts, a book and some stocking stuffers," said Ryan Barnes, Helping Veterans out of Denver, who donated to Santa's Workshop for the first time.

This year, Santa's Workshop spread holiday cheer to 1,456 children. "It's very fun and rewarding to be able to help out children," said John Kowall of Toys for Tots, who has been donating toys and books to Santa's Workshop for six years. Being retired, Kowall spends more than a thousand hours each year volunteering to ensure children have something under their tree.

It costs $35 to sponsor a child, but the MPSC members ensured the money went as far as possible by shopping on Black Friday, braving the crowds and getting some great deals on toys, said Erin Schoenfeldt, MPSC. They also used coupons and tried to shop when toys were on sale.

Lilla Newton has been involved with Santa's Workshop through the MPSC for the past three years. "I love being a part of Santa's Workshop because it's wonderful to help Soldiers who are so appreciative and smiling while shopping." Soldiers are given a time slot to shop for their children to keep their participation anonymous. They are assigned an "elf," or personal shopper, to assist them and to help pick out gifts for their children. Each Family gets to pick out two presents, a book and stocking stuffers for each child and a game for the Family.

Gifts vary from stuffed animals to scooters and dolls to basketballs. The donated gifts are separated into categories for boys and girls as well as different age groups to make it easier for parents to find the perfect gift.

"Our goal is (to ensure) that no child goes without a toy for Christmas," said Lisa Kosek, MPSC.

Although it's no small task, the members of the Mountain Post Spouses' Club transform the building into a small store. Each room holds different categories of toys, and they have a storage room as well to replenish toys as shoppers come through. This year, they've introduced a scanning system to keep track of inventory and make restocking easier.

"I love volunteering for Santa's Workshop, because it's great to be able to give back to the community and take care of our Army Family who are the heart of the community," said Amy Chaffin, MPSC.

Michelle Lewis adds items to the stocking stuffer section prior to Santa's Workshop opening Tuesday.
Military Times ranks CTU as the #1 BEST FOR VETS in 2013.

At Colorado Technical University, our strong support of the military is evidenced by the policies we have in place to help you pursue your education and achieve your personal, professional and academic goals.

- 88% of active duty alumni and veteran alumni were satisfied with their CTU experience
- 3 out of 4 active duty alumni would be very likely to recommend CTU

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1 2012 Champion College Services Alumni Survey of CTU graduates from designated years between 2002 and 2011.
Find disclosures on graduation rates, student financial obligations and more at www.coloradotech.edu/disclosures. Not all programs are available to residents of all states. CTU cannot guarantee employment or salary.
‘Operation Happy Holidays’
Soldiers reach out to those less-fortunate

Story and photos by Spc. Andrew Ingram
1st Armored Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office, 4th Infantry Division

With full packs on their backs and, in some cases, literal bells on their heels, more than 800 Soldiers marched down Tejon Street from Dorchester Park to the Marian House in downtown Colorado Springs, during the 4th annual “Operation Happy Holidays” ruck march, Dec. 3.

With uniforms and packs decked out in holiday regalia, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, troops delivered canned goods, blankets, winter clothes and toys to the soup kitchen, where many of the city’s less-fortunate citizens waited.

“Many of these Soldiers have just returned from the Middle East, where we had a long hot summer, and all we could think about was this nice cool walk downtown,” said Col. Joel Tyler, then commander of 1st ABCT.

Getting more serious, Tyler thanked all of the community members who supported the event, and stressed the importance of a strong relationship between the Soldiers of Fort Carson and the citizens of Colorado Springs.

“With all of the demands of your work and Family, you have once again taken the time to gather essential items for those most in need. These items will help our neighbors brave what will surely be a tough winter. On behalf of those we serve, I want to express our gratitude.”

— Chap. (Maj.) Matthew Stuart, brigade chaplain, 1st ABCT

Raiders helped recipients sift through the mountainous piles to find a coat in the right size, much needed foodstuffs or even the perfect Christmas gift for a 6-year-old boy.

“I’ve enjoyed this a lot,” said Spc. Kerry Lightner, intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st ABCT. “We’ve taken a ruck march, something work related, and turned it into something fun and good for the community. I’m very glad I got to come out and support the event this year.”

“We are America’s Army, and that means we serve — whether that is in the Middle East or right here downtown ...”

— Col. Joel Tyler

Col. Joel Tyler, second from left, then commander of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Edison M. Rebuck, second from right, senior enlisted leader, 1st ABCT, lead more than 800 “Raider” Soldiers from Dorchester Park to the Marian House in downtown Colorado Springs, Dec. 3.

Spc. Kerry Lightner, intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, helps a Colorado Springs citizen pick out winter clothing at the Marian House during the 4th Annual “Operation Happy Holidays” ruck march, Dec. 3.

More than 800 Soldiers and Family members of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, unloaded packs full of canned goods, blankets, winter clothing and toys at the Marian House Dec. 3, during the 4th Annual “Operation Happy Holidays” ruck march in Colorado Springs.
Keeping you connected.
MWR Fort Carson

OUT & ABOUT
December 13 - December 19, 2013

Visit us on the web for more information. Follow Fort Carson MWR on Facebook & Twitter!
Scan the QR codes on the right with your smartphone or subscribe to our blog via e-mail/RSS feed at FtCarsonNOW.com

Snowshoeing
Take a trip with Fort Carson Adventure Programs and Education!

Dates: January 4, February 8 & 22, March 8.
Cost: $30 with snowshoe rental, $23 without snowshoe rental
Call 719-526-5198 for information and 719-526-5366 to sign up.
The Outdoor Recreation Complex is located at 7093 Specker Avenue, building 2429.

Winter Wonder Swim
At the Iron Horse Pool • Dec. 19 • 6-8:30 p.m.

Watch The Polar Express on the BIG screen! FREE tickets!
Pick up your tickets at the Iron Horse Pool. Call 719-526-4093 for information.
Tickets are required for admission and are available on a first come, first served basis. The Iron Horse Pool is located at 6415 Specker Avenue, building 1925.

WINTER YOUTH CAMP
Ages 11-16! Only $160!
Snowshoeing, Ice Climbing, Skiing and Snowboarding!

Cost includes instruction, transportation, lift ticket and equipment, excluding charges for ski or snowboard rentals.

Dates: January 1-3, March 24-26, March 26-28
Call 719-526-3907 for information and 719-526-5366 to sign up.
The Outdoor Recreation Complex is located at 7093 Specker Avenue, building 2429.

Cheyenne Shadows Golf Club Christmas Sale
Nov. 28, 2013-Jan. 5, 2014
Located at 1050 Titus Boulevard, building 7800.

5% to 30% off all Proshop items or special orders totaling $25 or more combined. Get holiday specials on punch cards, trail fees and annual fees! Call 526-4102 for more information.
Gold Star holidays

‘Tis the season to clear the clutter from your closets and DONATE.

- Donate by December 31 for a 2013 tax deduction.
- Your donations to Discover Goodwill change lives!

Visit us for holiday hours and locations.

DiscoverMyGoodwill.org
635.4483

Photos by Andrea Zinns

Left: Members of the Patriot Guard Riders from as far away as Denver deliver gifts, Dec. 3, for a holiday party at Survivor Outreach Services. This is the first year they’ve donated gifts for the event. “I think it’d be a cool idea to have it every year,” said Patriot Guard Rider Ken Clarke. Above: Alana Siebert, 8, gets her face painted at the SOS party, Dec. 6. Below: Magician Bruce Black performs a magic trick with help from the audience at the SOS party. Children were able to visit with Santa, decorate ornaments, meet a skunk from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Animal Outreach Program and dress up in crazy clothes, and get their photos taken. More than 40 survivors attended the party.
Celebrate Christmas!

Community Christmas Caroling & Professional Fireworks!

Celebrating the Birth of the Savior!
December 24th at 5:30 pm

Southwest corner of S. Marksheffel & Bradley Rd.

For more info call 596-4461 or go to www.cdb.org
Claims to the Estate

Spc. Jonathan David Clark III — With deepest regret to the Family of the deceased. A nonever having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact L.T. Pedro Muniz at 503-1658.

Spc. Brynmore Griffiths — With deepest regret to the Family of the deceased. A nonever having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact L.T. Matthew Ryan at 524-9221.

Upcoming events

Santa Parade — The antique firetruck will drive through the villages while Santa passes out candy canes and takes pictures from 1:45-4 p.m.

Medical Assisting Training Course — The Red Cross will offer an introduction to medical assisting training course from April 21-January 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or clinic affiliation in TOL does not automatically apply to Defense Medicaid. Appointments, healthy cooking classes, commissary education opportunities, including individual appointments, frozen yogurt, sports nutrition, cholesterol management, weight management and dietary supplement classes. For more information, call 526-7290.

Snow removal on installations of military or civilian government facilities are responsible for clearing snow and ice on sidewalks leading from their doorstep to the first main sidewalk along parking lots or roads. Information is available from Fort Carson Support Services warehouse, building 214. For information, call 526-9271. On-post Carson Support Services warehouse, building 214. For information, call 526-9271. On-post Carson Support Services warehouse, building 214. For information, call 526-9271. On-post Carson Support Services warehouse, building 214. For information, call 526-9271.

Payday loan complaints — The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is accepting complaints from borrowers encountering problems with payday loans. To submit a complaint, consumers can visit http://www.consumerfinance.gov.

Mountain Post Running Club — The club will meet every Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. at the Exchange. There will be giveaways and stamps for runs over 3.6 miles. Information is available from Balfour Beatty Communities.

Influenza vaccinations — Homeowners, renters, business owners and employees affected by the recent floods and landslides in several regions and landslides that were federally declared a major disaster on Sept. 14 can receive updated information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To be added to the mailing list, put “subscribe” in the subject line to Brandi.Briones@fema.dhs.gov, Kendra.Eul@fema.dhs.gov or Chad.McCool21@fema.dhs.gov.

New hours — The pediatric immunization clinic located within pediatrics on the second floor of the Woods Soldier Family Care Center has new hours. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 526-7653 for more information.

Voting assistance — The Voting Assistance Office, located in building 1218, room 212, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 526-3967 for assistance, or additional information can be found at http://www.fvap.gov.

Seeking volunteers — Cub Scout Pack 164 needs Scouts and adult volunteers who enjoy the outdoors, camping, climbing, sports, helping the community and more. Contact Sara Ehrhart, committee chair, 526-0267, troop164 scoutmaster@164.yahoo.com.

School lunch and breakfast program — School District 4 authorized applications for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. Application forms are being provided to all homes with a letter to parents. Additional copies are available by going online. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year.

Community Hospital Family Medicine Clinics, Internal Medicine Clinic and Pediatric Clinic are operating under an appointment model called “Open Access,” offering same day appointments. Beneficiaries may not be offered the exact hour they want. Call the Access to Care Line, 526-2273, to make an appointment.

Homes offered to wildfire victims — Tierra Vista Communities on Schriever AFB Base is offering six to 12 month leases to Colorado residents displaced by the wildfire. Call 683-3660 for more information.

Transfer military hospital or clinic when relocating — TRICARE Online users must update their military hospital or clinic affiliation in TOL online each time they relocate. Transferring military hospital or clinic affiliation in TOL does not automatically transfer to your new enrolment in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Library program — Tutor.com for military families offers homework and studying help from a professional tutor, any time of day or night, free for K-12 students in military families. Expert tutors are available online 24-hours to help students in more than 16 subjects, including math, science, English and social studies. Tutor.com can also help with standardized test prep, Advanced Placement exams and with college essays. Visit http://www.tutor.com/military for more information.

Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey — Patients may fill out and return the PLLS to help minimize their treatment, education, and care. Evans Army Community Hospital receives funding based on patients seen and customer satisfaction factors, so surveys returned can bring in up to $800. Help keep providers and departments and clinics fully functional. Call 526-7266 for more information.

Seeking volunteers — Cub Scout Pack 264 needs volunteers for den leaders and committee members. No experience is needed. Training will be provided by Boy Scouts of America staff. Training is at no cost for new volunteers to fill positions or just help out at various activities.

Contact the committee chair, Johnathon Obston, j Tobston@gmail.com or the Cub Master, Robert J. Ewepen, rjepen@us.army.mil, and put Scout Volunteer in the subject line.

Triple Threat expands — The Southeast Family Center and Army Services YMCA hosts Triple Threat meetings for Family members of military personnel dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. Groups meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at the YMCA located at 2190 Jet Wing Drive in Colorado Springs. Contact Lary Palma at 559-376-3839 or larya.palma@us.army.mil for more information.

Thrift shop accepts credit cards — The Fort Carson Thrift Shop is now accepting debit and credit cards. The shop, located in building 305, is open Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact Gail Olson at 526-9566 or thriftshop@email.com for more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities. Donations may be dropped off during normal business hours or at the recycling center located near the main exchange.

Share-A-Ride — A free online car pool can be found at http://www.fvap.gov.

Operation Mentor — Big Brother’s Big Sisters seeks children ages 9-16 from military families to participate in their mentoring program, which matches children with adult volunteers who serve as positive role models. Visit http://www.big-brother-colorado.org for more information.

Ambulance service — Fort Carson officials urge community members to contact emergency personnel by calling 911 instead of driving personal vehicles to the emergency room. In the event of a life- or limb-threatening emergency, skilled paramedics and ambulance crew will be able to administer critical care and aid. Contact the Emergency Department at 526-7111 for more information.
Advent: season of ‘something more’

The trick seems to be how do I get in on this “something more” in a way that is not just glitter and packages, lights and ornaments. How do I get in on the story behind the lights and the parties and the exchanges of “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays.” And here is the rub, because I don’t find this “something more” just by myself. I find it in the context of a community traveling toward Advent. I find “something more” when I take time to worship among a community of people who remind me that God is the one who is reaching out to each of us behind all the glitter and the packages.

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Intramural sports turned to the indoor comfort of Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center Dec. 2, but the frightful weather in the Colorado Springs area still played havoc, forcing cancellations of the preseason basketball tournament.

The first day of the tournament went off as scheduled, but as the arctic air that blanketed the nation hit Colorado, it forced cancellations of the games scheduled Dec. 3-4. Because the tournament was supposed to be played in a round-robin format to decide which teams would play for the title, the cancellations of the games forced intramural officials to alter the way the tournament champion would be decided.

“We felt it would be the fairest thing for all teams if we allowed every team to play in the round that will determine the preseason champion so we have scrapped our first plan and will allow each team to play. This will expand the second half of the tournament beyond what we previously expected, but we feel this is in the best interest of the teams playing in the tournament, so it was an easy call to make,” Amber Zurita, intramural sports director, said.

The preseason tournament has seen a lot of athletes making great plays and teams getting ready for a regular season that should be quite interesting, according to intramural sports officials.

A few units have already served notice they will be tough to beat this year and will bring talent and unity to the court. Two years ago, the intramural division wanted to emphasize people playing within their unit more than had been done in the past, and it is showing in the unit pride teams are displaying.

“We have been very happy over the past two years because we are seeing a lot of unit pride in the intramural program. I think it means a lot more to the athletes when they win with members of their unit than it does to put together an all-star team,” Zurita said.

The intramural basketball preseason tournament was scheduled to conclude Thursday at Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center.

Story and photos by Walt Johnson
Mountaineer staff

Post hoops tournament underway

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Mountaineer staff

Post hoops tournament underway

Intramural sports turned to the indoor comfort of Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center Dec. 2, but the frightful weather in the Colorado Springs area still played havoc, forcing cancellations of the preseason basketball tournament.

The first day of the tournament went off as scheduled, but as the arctic air that blanketed the nation hit Colorado, it forced cancellations of the games scheduled Dec. 3-4. Because the tournament was supposed to be played in a round-robin format to decide which teams would play for the title, the cancellations of the games forced intramural officials to alter the way the tournament champion would be decided.

“We felt it would be the fairest thing for all teams if we allowed every team to play in the round that will determine the preseason champion so we have scrapped our first plan and will allow each team to play. This will expand the second half of the tournament beyond what we previously expected, but we feel this is in the best interest of the teams playing in the tournament, so it was an easy call to make,” Amber Zurita, intramural sports director, said.

The preseason tournament has seen a lot of athletes making great plays and teams getting ready for a regular season that should be quite interesting, according to intramural sports officials.

A few units have already served notice they will be tough to beat this year and will bring talent and unity to the court. Two years ago, the intramural division wanted to emphasize people playing within their unit more than had been done in the past, and it is showing in the unit pride teams are displaying.

“We have been very happy over the past two years because we are seeing a lot of unit pride in the intramural program. I think it means a lot more to the athletes when they win with members of their unit than it does to put together an all-star team,” Zurita said.

The intramural basketball preseason tournament was scheduled to conclude Thursday at Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center.
The Caruso Middle School girls’ basketball team opens its season with three home games beginning Jan. 8, when it hosts Cheyenne Mountain.

The homestand continues with The Classical Academy Jan. 13 and Falcon Jan. 15. The team plays its first road game Jan. 21 at Fountain before returning home to meet Skyview Jan. 22. It will then have a three-game road swing at Cheyenne Mountain Jan. 27, TCA Jan. 29 and Falcon Feb. 3. The team’s last home game of the regular season will be Feb. 5 when it hosts Falcon and closes out the season Feb. 10 at Skyview.

The Fountain-Fort Carson Trojans boys’ basketball team won two of its first three contests.

The Trojans fell to Palsides in the opener of the Grand Junction Warrior Challenge and then defeated Fruita Monument and Central Grand Junction. The Trojans conclude play in the Fairview Festival tournament Friday and finish the month at the Cherry Creek tournament Dec. 21. The team’s first home game is Jan. 7 when it hosts Mountain Vista.

The Lady Trojans will compete in the Fruita Monument tournament Friday-Saturday.

The Lady Trojans’ first home game is Tuesday when it meets the Pueblo South Lady Colts at 7 p.m.

DFMWR offers a group exercise class designed to target the training needs of active, aging people at Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center.

The class, designed to help active, aging people increase their flexibility and strength and improve and maintain cardiovascular health, is held Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. Officials said Department of Defense identification card holders of all ages or fitness levels are welcome to participate in the class. For more information, call 526-2706.

Child, Youth and School Services officials are looking for people interested in volunteering as youth sports and fitness coaches.

Anyone interested in being a coach must pass a background check, attend a mandatory three-hour preseason training session and be available two to three hours a week for practices and games. CYSS officials said anyone interested in being a coach must have good communication skills with the CY SS sports staff and parents of the players.

According to CYSS officials, youth coaches receive discounts on sports enrollment for their children, promotion points for active-duty Soldiers, volunteer hours and resume building and will make a definitive positive impact on the community. Contact the Youth Sports Office, 9500 Ware Street, to pick up an application or call 526-4425 for more information.

DFMWR sports officials are looking for people interested in being volunteer coaches for varsity sports teams.

Coaches are needed for soccer, softball and volleyball league. Officials said the teams will be comprised of the best active-duty players assigned to the post and will be eligible to compete against varsity sports teams from other military installations in the area.

Resumes are being accepted at Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center for men’s varsity softball through Jan. 27 and men’s soccer through Jan. 6. Contact Amber Zurita, intramural sports director, at amber.zurita.naf@mail.mil for details.

DFMWR officials are looking for people interested in playing in the 2014 intramural volleyball league.

The registration dates are Jan. 2-March 2. The league will have three divisions — men’s, women’s and coed, and games will be played Tuesday and Thursday at Iron Horse Sports and Fitness Center at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. A coaches meeting will be held April 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the fitness center. The post championship tournament will be held May 20-22. For more information, call 526-3972 or 526-5772.

The Climbing High program the couple does to get in family exercise time. Kathleen Lewis said the couple got its delay certification after arriving at the Mountain Post and enjoy the benefits the workout gives them.

Climbing High

James Lewis is guided down the climbing wall by his wife, Kathleen Lewis, during a wall climbing aerobic exercise program the couple does to get in family exercise time. Kathleen Lewis said the couple got its delay certification after arriving at the Mountain Post and enjoy the benefits the workout gives them.

Cheyenne Shadows Golf Club holds its annual Christmas sale through Jan. 5.

The sale features 5- to 30-percent off purchases in the pro shop or special orders with a combined value of $25 or more. The golf course will also have golf punch cards, trail fees, annual fees, range punch cards and frequent rider cards on sale.


Camp organizers are offering children on post, kindergarten through ninth grade, a $10 discount per skill camp — hitting, fielding, pitching and catching. For more information, contact Laurie Franklin Nichols at 866-622-4487, extension 101.

—— Compiled by Walt Johnson
Dec. 13, 2013 — MOUNTAINEER

The Air Force Academy Band presents free performances at 7 p.m. Sunday through Thursday in McMahon Auditorium. For free tickets go online at http://www.usafacademyband.af.mil. A Navy-Army Football TV party is at the Fox Purple Pub, 3103 New Center Point, during the U.S. Military Academy-U.S. Naval Academy football game Saturday, beginning at 1 p.m. A donation of $25 is suggested for adults attending and $10 for children for hors d’oeuvres, drinks and a donation to the scholarship fund. Anyone is welcome, reservations are not required. Call 471-8527 for information.

“A Christmas Carol,” presented by academy concerts, will be in Arnold Hall Theater at the U.S. Air Force Academy Friday. The Broadway-style production has a cast of 17 and live music. Tickets start at $25; call the box office at 333-4497.

Hammond’s Candies Factory in Denver holds a Candy Cane Festival Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival includes a horse-drawn carriage, a trolley ride, face painting, hot cocoa, cookie decorating, food, games and a visit from Santa. To reach the candy factory, take Interstate 25 north to exit 215, head east on 58th Avenue and turn right on Washington Street. Hammond’s Candies Factory is at 5735 Washington St.

“The Wizard of Oz” is in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., through Dec. 29. Productions are Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Call 634-5983 for tickets that start at $25 for adults and $20 for students.

The 4th Infantry Division Band presents a free Holiday Concert Friday at 7 p.m. in Sand Creek High School Auditorium, 7005 N. Carefree Circle. Concerts will be repeated Monday and Tuesday but will be open daily, starting Thursday in anticipation of Christmas Eve. Admission for active-duty or retired military members with military identification is $14.50 per person and for Family members, but anyone 10 or older must have a military ID card. Regular admission is $19.50 per person except there is free admission for those under age 2 and older than 60. Keep in mind the park is at 7,500 feet elevation and dress warmly. Santa’s Workshop at North Pole is at 5050 Pikes Peak Highway; call 684-9432 or go online at http://northpolecolorado.com.

Santa’s in the cabin in Bancroft Park in Old Colorado City Saturday-Sunday through Dec. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. He’ll also be there Dec. 23-24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get a child’s picture made with Santa for a $10 fee.

Ride the Santa Express train on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway the first three weekends in December. The train goes halfway up Pikes Peak and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on board. Call 685-5401 for train times and to make reservations. Children are served hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets are $25. The railway depot is at 515 Ruxton Ave., in Manitou Springs. In downtown Manitou Springs, take Manitous Avenue west to the traffic circle and make a left onto Ruxton Avenue. Go 3/4 mile to the depot and parking lot.

“Blossoms of Light” is Denver Botanic Gardens’ holiday lighting, open 5:30-9:30 p.m. A donation is $12 for adults and $8 for ages 3-11. Ages 2 and under are free. The Zoo is brightly decorated with lights and animal sculptures. The Zoo is at 2300 Steele St., in Denver’s City Park, just blocks east of downtown; call 720-337-1400 for information.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park hosts a Holiday Open House Dec. 21, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Visitor Center at the park. Refreshments will be served and there will be crafts and stories. Visitors will learn about animals in the winter and get a 20-percent discount in the gift shop. No park pass is required for this event.

The Denver Christkindl Market runs through Dec. 21. The German-style Christkindl Market has hot spiced wine, brats and music. Christmas ornaments and handmade gifts are available. In Skyline Park at a rapahe and 10th streets on the 16th Street Mall, it is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Skyline Park Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday. There is no admission fee.

The Georgetown European Christmas Market is Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Georgetown is 435 miles northeast of Denver via Interstate 70; call 303-569-2888 for information. The Christmas Market is in the historic downtown area. Horse-drawn wagon rides are available. Events include carolers and a visit from St. Nicholas.

— Compiled by Nel Lamep
Holiday activities available in local communities

**Nearby communities have events and activities open to the public during the holidays.**

Included are activities in Pueblo, Cañon City and Woodland Park, and all are within an hour’s drive.

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### Pueblo

Located 40 miles south of Colorado Springs on Interstate 25, Pueblo has special holiday activities.

**Budii Children’s Museum, 215 Santa Fe.**

Budii Children’s Museum, 215 Santa Fe, has an exhibit, “Bake Me a Story,” that is a celebration of holiday culture, with storytelling, music, dances, art and cooking from countries all over the globe. It’s in the award-winning children’s museum through Jan. 4. It’s open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. The Kid’s Café is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. A donation is $4 for adults and $3 for children. Santa will visit the museum Saturday, from noon to 2 p.m., along with Mrs. Claus. Santa returns Dec. 22, noon to 2 p.m. There’ll be elves, a teddy bear tree, a collection of nutcrackers, Rudolph and cookies from around the world will be baked in the museum. Italian pizzelles will be made in the museum Saturday, noon to 2 p.m., and spritz cookies will be made Dec. 23, from noon to 2 p.m. Penguin cookies will be made Dec. 28, noon to 2 p.m. and orange drop cookies will be on the agenda Jan. 3, from noon to 2 p.m. The museum will be closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

**The Pueblo Zoo presents “Electric Critters.”**

Electric Critters will present 150 magical creations with 250,000 lights. The Candy Cane Café is open as is the Wild Things Gift Shop. Electric Critters is open Friday-Sunday, Dec. 20-23. The event is included in admission, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit http://www.plzoo.org for information. Tickets at the door are $6 for adults and $4 for children under 3 are admitted free with each paid adult admission. Marc Straub of “Cool Science” will demonstrate his experiments, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit http://www.wildthings.org for information.

### Cañon City

Cañon City is about 40 miles from Fort Carson, via Highway 115 to the town of Penrose, then Highway 50 west about 12 miles.

The Santa Express train on the Royal Gorge Route leaves from the depot in Cañon City. The decorated train stops at the “north pole” to pick up Santa who visits with children and gives each child a gift. Cookies and hot chocolate are served on board and elves tell stories and lead families in singing holiday songs and games. The train runs at noon and 6 p.m. Thursday-Sunday through Dec. 22 and additional trains are added Dec. 23-24 and Dec. 26. Tickets start at $33; call 719-724-5748 for reservations. The train station is at 330 Royal Gorge Blvd. in Cañon City.

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Pueblo’s Budii Children’s Museum has a Victorian-era mansion. Photo by Nel Lampe

Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

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Santa visits with Holland twin on board the Royal Gorge Route Railroad Santa Express.

**By Nel Lampe**

Mountaineer staff

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Santa’s “north pole” to pick up Santa, who then visits with passengers. The Royal Gorge Route Railroad Santa Express train stops at the “north pole” to pick up Santa, who then visits with passengers.
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